December 1977/January 1978

THE 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, OBE

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 1**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

When the Services assumed major responsibilities for the National fire-fighting commitment in November, few would have anticipated that the related industrial dispute would be prolonged. But so it proved to be and, in the best traditions of the Service, both the organisation and training aspects were quickly and efficiently implemented. In undertaking this exceptional role, the Corps played its full part and our cover picture from 8 Sig Regt reflects, in some measure, what it was all about

A NOTABLE PUBLIC RESPONSE

Early in the New Year, a very dear old lady called at our offices in Chelsea and insisted on handing over a small sum of money, as a token of her great admiration and esteem for all those in the Services involved in fire-fighting duties. In passing the sum to SSAFA (Appeal Fund), we were impressed to discover that more than £128,500 had been received from many thousands of people, many of them elderly. Let there be no doubt of the high respect which the Services command in the country.

We must also acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the judgment of Mr Winston Churchill, MP, Mr Ian Gilmour, MP, Mr Jo Grimond, MP, and Lord George Brown for so accurately sensing the climate in which to launch their national appeal, prior to Christmas.

A NEW POSTURE

It is disappointing that an industrial dispute precluded a smooth transition from monthly to bi-monthly publication. As a consequence we have combined the issues planned for December and January and go to press with a copy of 'The Wire' of exceptional proportions. For the future, we look forward to a well-regulated cycle of publication every other month and remind our contributors of the latest dates by which 'copy' must be received by the Editorial staff.

April 12	**for May issue**
June 12	**for July issue**
August 12	**for September issue**
October 12	**for November issue**
December 12	**for January issue**

—From our "In" Tray—

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE
Maj Gen P. A. M. TIGHE, CB, MBE



ON November 25, 1977, **Maj Gen 'Tony' Tighe** handed over as Signal Officer-in-Chief; he retired from the Army in December after 37½ years' service. **Tony** was educated at Christ's Hospital, leaving at the beginning of the war to enlist under-age in the Royal Air Force for training as a pilot. After being grounded from flying in Rhodesia, because of poor night vision, he transferred to the Army and joined Royal Signals.

He was commissioned in 1942 and from Catterick joined 59 (Staffordshire) Div Signals in Northern Ireland. Promoted Captain before his 21st birthday, he was appointed Signal Officer of 176 Inf Bde and with that unit went to Normandy. After the Orne battles 59 Div was broken up and, after a short time as the Radio Officer at 12 Corps Headquarters for the advance into Holland, **Tony** became OC 'A' Troop in 3 Div Signals, where he remained until VE-Day.

Older readers of the Journal may recall his description of an 'Encounter at the Summit' on the Rhine, when one of **Tony's** cables nearly decapitated the Prime Minister—an incident which prompted **Tony's** only conversation with the great man which consisted of Churchill saying: 'Better my hat than my head'!

Tony remained with 3 Div when it went to Palestine and was promoted to take over 3 Sqn. He remained overseas for the next four years, firstly as an Instructor at the Middle East School of Infantry and then in Ceylon, the first of his several tours in the Far East. In Ceylon he was granted his regular commission and married **Capt Elizabeth Frazer-Stewart** (WRAC).

Returning to the UK in 1950 he spent three years at the War Office Selection Board, where some 2,000 candidates passed through his hands, followed by a spell in Cardiff as Adjutant of 53 (Welsh) Div Sig Regt. He then went to the Staff College, Camberley, where he discovered a latent talent for pitching at soft-ball, and devised the Staff College pantomime. Staff College was followed by another Far East tour as DAA and QMG of 99 Gurkha Bde on operations in Malaya, during which he was awarded the MBE. He then returned to the UK for a tour of duty in the War Office as GSO2 in Signals 5; during this tour he devised a new system of numbering for the units of the Corps, allocating Regimental, Squadron and Troop designations which are still in use today. After attending the Joint Services Staff College **Tony** went out to BAOR, firstly as OC 2 Sqn and then as Second in Command of 1 Sig Regt; then, in 1963, he was posted for the third time to the Far East, to be MA to CBF Hong Kong. His promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel took him straight from Hong Kong to Borneo as Force Signals Officer and CR Signals 17 Div during the confrontation with Indonesia. For his work during these successful operations he was Mentioned in Despitaches.

The two years in Borneo were followed by what he considers to be the most valuable period of his service, his appointments in the Ministry of Defence, firstly as AMS MS1 and then as AAG AG11. During these tours he became personally acquainted with and a good friend to large numbers of the Corps, very many of whom have cause to be grateful to him for the work he did then.

On promotion to Brigadier in 1970 **Tony** was appointed to command the Training Brigade, traditionally regarded as one of the 'plum' appointments in the Corps. His tour there coincided with a period of great change in Catterick, including their amalgamation of 8th and 24th Regiments and the opening of the new Trade Training School by the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, together with the re-starting of our Junior Entry. The only sadness of his tour in Catterick was the death in 1971 of his wife, **Elizabeth,** who was a friend of so many members of the Corps during their 22 years of marriage.

In 1973 **Tony** was appointed Inspector of the Intelligence Corps, an appointment he held until becoming Signal Officer-in-Chief in November 1974. These last two appointments gave him the distinction, which is probably unique, of being Head of Arm of two Corps in succession.

The last three years have been a period of particular challenge, for the restructuring of the Army following the Defence Review of 1974 included major organisational changes to the command and control system in field formations involving the elimination of the traditional brigade level of command. At the same time plans have been coming to fruition for the introduction into service of the next generation of signal equipment—Clansman, the new family of field radios over the next year or two, and Ptarmigan, the next trunk communications system in the early 1980s. And, of course, throughout these years the Corps has been required to take on, with diminishing resources, a succession of emergency operational commitments; the Northern Ireland commitment continues unabated, and there are other important, though less publicised commitments, too, in Belize, in Cyprus, and elsewhere. So it has been a busy and testing time, and the Corps has been fortunate indeed to have an officer of **Tony's** outstanding ability to guide its fortunes during this difficult period. He was appointed CB in the Jubilee Honours List. Despite the pressure of work at his desk, **Tony** has made a particular point of getting out and about—there can be very few soldiers of the Corps who have not seen him on one or more of his frequent visits to our units throughout the world. If, as has been said, it is one of the marks of the best senior officers that a visit from them leaves their units with heightened morale and in a better and more confident frame of mind than before, then **Tony** must be one of the very best; for even a short visit from him acted like a tonic! His American wife, **Princine,** who must sometimes have found British Army ways somewhat curious, has not spared herself either, accompanying **Tony** everywhere, and we are extremely grateful to her, too.

Within a few days of handing over as Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Tony** and **Princine** left for Hong Kong where he is taking up a three-year appointment with the Hong Kong Land Company. We are assured that he will be returning regularly to the UK, and will not be out of touch with the Corps; and as he has been appointed a Colonel Commandant we shall enjoy the benefit of his wisdom, his experience, and his enthusiasm for the Corps for many years to come.



ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET XI 1925

From: **Brig (Retd) R. H. O. Coryton, CBE, BA**

Dear Sir,

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS CRICKET XI 1925

I was very interested to see on the Cover Page of THE WIRE for October 1977 a photograph of 8 Sig Regt cricket team—winners of the Army Major Units Cricket Cup played at Aldershot in September 1977.

This brings back to me many nostalgic memories as it is exactly 52 years ago (1925) that a Composite Royal Corps of Signals played the Royal Engineers at Lords and, I think, it was the last time the Corps played a Representative match there. I enclose a copy of the team photographed after the game, which I am sure we won!

I am afraid that out of the 12 names only three of us still survive. I am happy to record that **Gen Rawson,** who captained the team still lives in London. The names of the remainder as far as I can remember are:

Left to right. Back row: Sgt Carpenter, Capt Pavey, Lt Power (Brig), Lt Scott (Col), Lt Coryton (Brig), Lt L. C. Boyd (—?—). *Front row:* Maj Hardy-Parsons, Maj Cobb, Maj Phillips, Lt Col Rawson (Maj Gen), Capt Mathews (Brig).

Yours faithfully,
R. H. O. Coryton,

Wybrants,
The Long Road,
Rowledge,
Farnham, Surrey.

From: **Brig N. C. King, MBE** (Retd)

Dear Editor,

The story of The Women's Royal Army Corps has just been published by Leo Cooper Ltd in their Famous Regiment Series.

The story starts with the forerunner of the WRAC in 1917 but naturally the largest part is taken up with the ATS in the 1939–45 War.

A large number of ATS and more recently WRAC married soldiers and might be interested in this book.

It is being sold by Leo Cooper for £8·50, but copies can be obtained from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey, for £5·95.

If you have a spare corner to fill and think that the wives of your readers might be interested we would be grateful for your help in contacting ex-members of the ATS and WRAC with this special offer.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. King,

Corps HQ WRAC,
Queen Elizabeth Park,
Guildford,
Surrey.

From: **Mrs K. Matthews (ex-Sgt K. Jones, ATS)**

Dear Sir,

Could you help trace a person, a LCpl Jimmy or James Kennedy, attached to the (43 T/P Section) Royal Signals BAOR, who used to be stationed at Brussels and Bad Oeynhausen, Germany.

Hoping to go to Dundee soon (where his home was) and would like to meet some of them; I was with them for two years and have lost touch.

He was discharged October or November 1946.

Hoping you can help me.

Yours sincerely,
K. Matthews,

85 Monthermer Road,
Cathays,
Cardiff CF2 4QY.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Subject to various factors still to be confirmed, it is hoped to hold our 1978 Reunion with the Regiment in Germany over a long weekend during the latter half of May.

Any ex-member of the Regiment who might be interested in attending should get in touch with me immediately for further details.

Maj (Retd) K. N. Smartt,
Imber,
Millway Road,
Andover, Hants SP10 3EU.



We are indebted to Mr W. M. Cotterell of 3 Osborne Close, Sompting, Lancing, Sussex, for sending us this 1924 photograph of the Canteen staff at Maresfield

From: **Maj M. R. Stephenson**

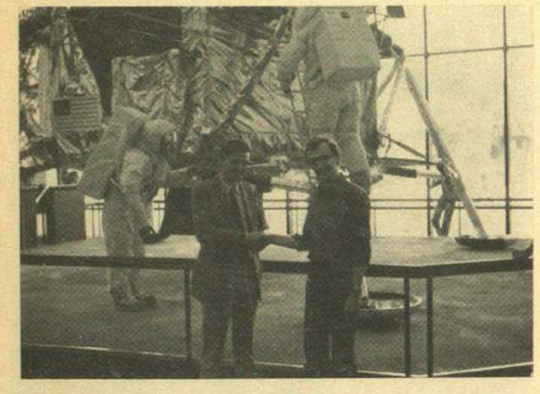
Dear Sir,

The attached photograph may be of interest. Maj Tony Hunt and I were both on duty (independently) in the USA. We were both in the Air and Space Museum in Washington DC, walking around in amazement wondering at what must be one of the best museums in the world.

While looking upwards at the real missiles, space-capsules and so on these two Englishmen bumped into one another, appologised, stood back when the other spoke with an English accent and almost succumbed to shock when they discovered that 'the other man' was an old friend.

Before adjourning for a reviving beverage, the event was recorded in front of the real (although reserve) Apollo capsule.

Yours sincerely,
M. R. Stephenson



From: **Maj (Rtd) F. P. Stewart**

Dear Editor,

I attended 33 Corps Signals Association Annual Reunion Dinner on October 29. As we have been doing for many years, we held the reunion in the Horseshoe Hotel in Tottenham Court Road. About 35 members and guests attended. Many had travelled from considerable distances to be there. The main reasons for the continued success of the dinner are the indefatigable industry and enthusiasm of the Association Secretary, **Ken Brown,** who devotes much time and energy to organising this and other Burma Association functions.

We were delighted when **Ken,** after giving an account of the Association and messages from absent friends, finished up by reading out one of his own poems. I attach a copy of it. I think it gives a very good picture of a Royal Signals unit at war. I hope you may find room in THE WIRE to print it.

Yours sincerely,
Freddie Stewart,

Ministry of Defence,
London SW1A 2EU.

The Signals of Thirty-Three Corps

by Ken Brown

When you sit in your chair by the fireside
When you're home from the office, or job,
Does your mind ever wander to countries out yonder
Where you soldiered on in the 'Mob'?

Perhaps it is only but seldom
Your thoughts may chance idly to roam,
To those days, long before, spent in Thirty-Three Corps
When a Chevrolet truck was your home!

Home, they say, is the place where the heart is,
And our hearts travelled over the earth
As we trod 'terra firma', from Mid-East to Burma,
Many miles from the land of our birth.

The homes that we lived in were legion
On our way from UK to Rangoon;
From the back of a truck, to a hole in the muck—
Rather damp in the annual monsoon!

Lines we laid covered miles by the thousand,
And so did our DR's, of course;
Ops, Wireless and Line, tapped away, rain or shine,
And filled up the ether with Morse!

Our signals, encoded by Ciphers,
The Tele-Ops typed on the wires,
Whilst electric distresses were fixed by ES's
And IM's with Meggers and pliers!

And, with all of our heavy equipment
There was no telling where we would be
Without transport; our Drivers were truly no 'skivers'—
And nor were the staunch LAD.

When you think of those days in 'The Unit'—
Those days now remote as a dream—
We owed our success to one thing, I guess,
—We worked as a tightly-knit team.

From the Colonel and Company Commanders,
The Majors, and Captains, and 'Lieuts',
And, well to the fore, the Tiger of yore,
With Sam Browne and highly-shone boots!

To the WOs, Sergeants and Corporals
And the Signalmen, every one,
We worked side by side with a feeling of pride
In getting the 'job to do'—done!

So, whether you'd 'pip's on your shoulder
Or if you were one of the 'ranks',
One thing can be said for those days that are dead—
They gave us a reason for Thanks.

'Thanks'—for all of our friends of the present,
'Thanks'—for all of the friends gone before,
And 'Thanks' for the tether that holds us together—
The 'Signals' of Thirty-Three Corps!

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Movements

Officers

DECEMBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. O. C. Alexander	ACGS (OR)
Lt R. A. Baker	233 Sig Sqn
Lt H. J. Bardell	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. Blake	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj W. G. Cunningham	School of Signals
Lt Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	HQ AFCENT
Maj R. Dransfield	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Capt A. H. G. Elford	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Ford	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Maj M. J. C. Galloway	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Capt P. A. Hallett	HQ 1 Div
Capt R. P. Harrison	HQ Trg Gp and Catterick Garrison
Capt R. G. L. Hill	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col M. L. W. Jennings	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Col H. A. Johnstone, OBE	IMS Brussels
Capt A. M. Jones	22 Sig Regt
Lt R. A. Jones	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj I. R. Knock	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Lawson	9 Sig Regt
Capt T. P. Mountford	Defence NBC School
Capt (Tfc) D. F. Reed	8 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. F. Reynolds	Army School of Mech Tpt
Lt Col E. L. Rogers	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Capt D. M. Rutherford	38 Sig Regt (V)
Maj G. C. Saunders	10 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. R. West	30 Sig Regt
Col J. Westlake	BAAT Nigeria
Maj K. A. C. Wilson	School of Signals (Held Strength)
Maj R. A. Wright	MOD DAT

JANUARY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt (QM) A. S. R. Alfred, MBE	Scarborough Sig Trg Centre
Capt (TOT) C. N. Armitage, MBE	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Maj G. J. Barrett	DSS (A)
Capt (QM) H. Bell	608 Sig Tp
Capt P. J. Bonser	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. C. Breese	11 Sig Regt (Ouston)
Capt (TOT) J. V. Bridgeman	CPA Royal Signals
Capt (QM) A. Burns	40 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. M. Burrows	BDLS Canberra (HS)
Lt T. W. Canham	8 Sig Regt
Col D. B. Carnie, MBE	BAS Washington
Maj S. R. Carr-Smith	ACGS (OR)
Maj A. F. Carter	Gurkha Fd Fce HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj W. R. Clare	School of Signals
Lt N. J. Corbin	7 Sig Regt
Maj H. A. Culley	HQ UKLF
Capt C. J. Dakin	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Maj P. J. K. Dickinson	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Capt R. G. Drake	234 Sig Sqn
Lt N. J. R. Ferriman	11 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) M. J. Gilyeat	8 Sig Regt
Lt P. K. Gorford	11 Sig Regt
Maj H. Grenville-Jones	RAC Centre
Capt A. J. Griffiths	11 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) J. D. Griffiths	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Capt D. K. Hadden	BDLS (A) Ottawa (HS)
Maj J. F. Higton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2 Lt J. E. Hogan	8 Fld Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt P. S. Holden	7 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Lance	5 Fd Fce HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt F. Laverick, BEM	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Lawson	21 Sig Regt
2 Lt S. J. Leach	22 Sig Regt
Maj P. A. Lenthall	8 Sig Regt
Maj T. C. McCoy	38 Sig Gp RAF
Maj J. G. McK McLuckie	RCB
Maj M. J. MacKlin	DSS (A)
Capt T. R. Manders	28 (BR) Sig Regt
2 Lt D. P. Mankin	7 Sig Regt
2 Lt S. J. May	16 Sig Regt
Maj E. Mulley	NDC
Maj D. S. Mullineaux	NDC
Maj J. P. Munnery	AWRE MOD (PE)
Capt I. A. Noble	HQ British Gurkhas Nepal
Capt J. T. Noon	4 Signal Group
Lt T. C. O'Brien	11 Sig Regt
Maj D. G. M. Overton	DGGWL (A) MOD (PE)
Maj W. H. H. Parkes	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Capt D. S. Pawlow	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Lt Col M. A. Petheram	HQ AFCENT (BAE)
Lt T. P. Rimell	30 Sig Regt
Lt P. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Snowdon	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. A. Spooner	SANGCOM
Capt J. W. Stabler	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) V. Stephens	7 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) G. A. Stephenson	21 Sig Regt
Capt J. D. Stokoe	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj J. F. Storr	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. E. Truluck	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt R. Vasper	APSG RSC Sutton Coldfield
Lt G. W. Wilton	RMP Trg Centre
Maj R. M. Yolland	RSRE

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

DECEMBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 H. G. Arnold	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 C. Moore	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 (Y of S) A. O. Harkins	HQ UKLF
WO1 D. L. McCluskey	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
WO1 J. W. L. Frost	MOD DSS (AD)
WO2 (F of S) C. E. Napier	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) D. C. Snowdon	17 Port and Maritime Regt RCT
WO2 E. J. P. Kellett	38 Cadet Trg Team
Ssgt (Y of S) N. J. I. Cox	633 Sig Tp
Ssgt B. J. Beadle	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Ssgt N. R. Cox	7 Sig Regt
Ssgt D Remmer	241 Sig Sqn
Ssgt P H. M. Toovey	11 Sig Regt
Ssgt D. I. Wilcox	249 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) R. J. Wherry	LSP Oman
Ssgt B. F. Williams	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt R. J. Duffy	HQ 4 Sig Gp
A/Ssgt C. G. Bellamy	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Mason	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt W. J. M. Kemp	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. J. T. McLean	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. E. Williams	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Sgt A. L. Denne	20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt M. S. Goatley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. P. Rock	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Young	Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. Hancock	School of Signals
Sgt P. Forshaw	School of Signals
Sgt S. Gane	30 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Higman	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt T. J. Squire	School of Signals
Sgt P. V. Davies	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt B. D. M. Green	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt A. W. Lythaby	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. H. Loates	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Hopkins	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. E. Berry	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Hagan	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. I. Scott	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt G. M. Whelan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Hough	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt M. Rogerson	40 Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Hooper	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Hughes	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt W. McKenna	HQ Dhekelia Gar/3 Sig Gp
Sgt I. C. Chant	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Mead	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt D. R. Eastmond	13 Sig Regt
Sgt I. J. Jones	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) for att to 233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. J. Lander	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. McCormick	28 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. Toye	229 Sig Sqn

JANUARY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 M. G. Springer	7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 (F of S) N. C. Cowell	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 (Y of S) A. D. Harkins	HQ UKLF
WO2 (F of S) J. MacDonald	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (F of S) J. A. Murphy	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) D. G. Lunn	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) E. P. Mahoney	227 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. Adam	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 A. M. Boyle	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
WO2 T. J. Friend	13 Sig Regt
WO2 C. S. Gledhill	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 P. Kearns	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) J. R. Meehan	28 Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) J. Hindle	4 Sig Gp
Ssgt (Y of S) D. Lomas	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) M. J. Tivenan	School of Signals
Ssgt D. McGimpsey	13 Sig Regt
Ssgt J. P. Shergold	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt J. C. Matthews	19 Airptbl Bde Sig Sqn
A/Ssgt T. D. Fulton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Millar	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt W. O. Airlie	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. C. A. French	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. P. Hewitt	602 Sig Tp
Sgt I. M. Duncan	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Parker	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt G. H. Wharton	School of Signals
Sgt J. G. Carnegie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Kerr	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. Kidd	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. G. Kingdom	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. B. Wyllie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. O'Neill	CPA
Sgt M. R. Buckley	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. D. Morrissey	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt F. W. Gardiner	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. K. McKay	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Ramsay	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Wooff	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Davies	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. E. Dickinson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. R. Bachelor	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt K. J. Bradley	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. H. Coleman	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. A. Ellis	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Morley	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Sgt A. Coates	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Forshaw	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Dalquen	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. R. Smith	CPA
Sgt M. Eaton	CPA
Sgt D. L. Butchers	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt J. C. Ellis	School of Signals
Sgt J. M. Nicholson	School of Signals
Sgt S. Williams	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. Swan	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt D. E. Palmer	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. G. Barnes	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. Craggs	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Hampton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Beddow	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Henderson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. F. Simpson	22 Sig Regt
Sgt C. E. Williams	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt B. W. Pollard	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt C. J. Conroy	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Garvie	22 Sig Regt
Sgt M. P. Reynods	11 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Bean	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Freudenfeld	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. M. Burton	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt N. A. J. Worth	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Spink	8 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Toothill	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt E. Gough	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Frost	562 Rear Link Det
Sgt J. McManus	576 Rear Link Det
Sgt M. Pettis	579 Rear Link Det
Sgt B. L. Eckett	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Sgt D. S. Berry	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt D. J. Walker	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Constantine	10 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Snaith	22 Sig Regt
Sgt L. J. Hyde	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt N. P. Stevenson	ADP Development Team

Welfare

OCTOBER 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**25**
Number of clothing parcels	**58**
Amount spent	**£918·98**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£50·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

WIDOW of a Corporal, who served in Royal Signals 1925–36 and 1939–45, died earlier this year. During his long terminal illness, various commitments had piled up, and the Association made the widow a grant of £100 to clear them and put her straight. Her letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

WHEN I read your letter, I can't tell you how thankful and grateful I was for the kindness and generosity of your Committee in granting me £100 to clear all my outstanding problems. I was so touched I must admit I shed a few tears of gratitude. I had never had these sort of problems before, and they had certainly laid heavily on me at a time when I could not cope so well, but now I feel as if a weight had been lifted from me, and such a relief that I can clear things up and keep my home going as my husband would have wished. I am sure that this also will help me to feel better in health and make a go of life again. It is good to know there are people who care so much.

THANK YOU

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

Leeds Branch, Royal Signals Association; Mrs J. M. Crowder; The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt; Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer; Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole; Col R. A. Chell; Mrs K. N. Smartt; Sgt A. W. Lythaby; Maj Gen and Mrs J. M. Sawers; Capt and Mrs D. M. Maxted; Lady Scott; Lt Col D. A. Dickson.

NOVEMBER 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**40**
Number of clothing parcels	**58**
Amount spent	**£1,681·14**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£93·32**

THANK YOU

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

Maj T. F. Jenkinson, Mrs J. Fraser, Maj R. O. Edwards, Maj and Mrs A. F. Carter, Mr and Mrs J. Adlard, Lt Col J. Bayfield, Lt Col and Mrs D. A. Dickson, A. W. Smith, Esq, Maj and Mrs F. Iveson, Mrs E. Fladgate, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

ANNUAL DINNER 1978

The Aldershot Branch Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3, 1978, at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants. Full particulars and reservations from A. V. Ient, MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3SQ, or Telephone Aldershot 23658.

Assembly is at 7.15pm. Dinner at 8pm.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1977:

	£
Secretary, Blandford Garrison Welfare Committee	50·00
Maj C. A. M. Robertson, HQ 12 Sig Group	30·00
OC 10 Sig Regt	25·00
Chaplain, St Alban's Church, Hildesheim	24·75
Memorial Service for the late Lt Col R. W. Atkinson, OBE	30·15
Capt Keith Beaumont	25·00
Maj E. D. Shilton	10·00
Capt B. T. Lord	7·50
OC Gurkha Sig Sqn	4·16
W. G. J. Kidson, Esq	3·00
OC 83 (London) Sig Sqn (V)	2·00
L. G. Toogood, Esq	1·00
Miscellaneous donation	50
In memory of the late Brig W. C. V. Galwey, OBE, MC	105·00
	£318·06

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1977:

	£
HQ Mess, Royal Signals	35·15
OC, 224 Sig Sqn	10·00
In memory of the late Brig W. C. V. Galwey, OBE, MC	12·50
F. C. Wilson, Esq	15·40
Capt (QM) T. Keany	12·50
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe	5·00
J. Johnston, Esq	5·00
A. F. Morgan, Esq	5·00
Capt N. G. Stevens	5·00
E. C. Partridge, Esq	3·00
P. A. Tulley, Esq	2·90
G. W. Cook, Esq	2·90
Mrs J. Power	2·50
E. Whiffen, Esq	1·90
P. M. O'Mahoney, Esq	1·90
H. Liley, Esq	1·90
J. Power, Esq	1·60
G. A. Jenkins, Esq	1·50
P. B. Cairns, Esq	1·15
F. Veness, Esq	1·00
J. H. A. Potter, Esq	1·00
Miscellaneous Donations	10·20
	£139·00

We gratefully acknowledge this cartoon from Ron Rigby Jnr, 8 Sig Regt.



Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month preceding publication.

DEATHS

Mathew—Brig Felton Arthur Hamilton Mathew, OBE, MC, JP, was commissioned in the Royal Engineers from Cambridge University in 1914. He went to the Western Front in 1915 when he was awarded the MC and French Croix de Guerre. He was wounded in 1917 and returned to the Front in 1918 when he was twice Mentioned in Despatches and appointed OBE. After the war he was with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine and also in Silesia, when he transferred to the Corps. Between 1923 and 1930 he served with the STC at Maresfield and 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot, then for four years in Egypt before returning to the UK in 1934, where he commanded a Tank Brigade Signal Squadron, and later a Mobile Divisional Signal Squadron. At the outbreak of the war in 1939 he was commanding a Mobile Divisional Signals Squadron in Egypt which later became 7th Armoured Divisional Signals. In 1940 he became CSO Western Desert, then moved to Greece where he was involved in a serious traffic accident necessitating his hospitalisation in Egypt. After recovering he became CSO 9th Army until 1944, when he was posted to Scotland as CSO. His last appointment before retiring in 1946 was CSO Allied Forces Norway, where he was awarded the Order of St Olaf. In his youth he was an outstanding cricketer and rugby player in both of which sports he represented the Corps. After retirement he settled in Somerset where he became a JP and joined the Civil Defence Corps as Senior Signal Officer. He died at his home on December 9, at the age of 84.

HERE IS A WEEKEND WITH A DIFFERENCE!

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RETURN: SUNDAY 7 MAY 1978 (23.30 hrs.)

Full details from:
ALAN E. FOOT, 96 CHILTERN CRESCENT, EARLEY, READING RG6 1AN

Muscat—It is with great regret that we record the death of Sig Alfred Muscat whilst on duty at Siggiewi on November 15. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his widow and son, Josef.

Meiklejohn—Col Ian Forbes Meiklejohn was commissioned in the Corps from the RMA Woolwich in 1927. He retired in 1955 and, of his 28 years' service, the majority were spent in various staff appointments, mainly at the War Office and in the Middle East. He commanded 1 L of C Sig Regt from 1946 to 1948 and 5 Training Regt from 1949 to 1950. His last appointment was as CSO Singapore Base District. He spent over three years in the Antarctic as Wireless Officer with the British Grahame Land Expedition of 1934–37 for which he was awarded the Polar Medal. He was a keen sailor and, after retirement, kept a small yacht at Dartmouth, when he was living at Bayards Cove. He died at his home in Forres on December 26, at the age of 70.

Nelson—Maj George Craig Nelson was commissioned from the RMA Woolwich in 1931. He served at Tidworth and Bulford before going on to India in 1936. At the outbreak of World War II he moved to North Africa and served in Egypt and the Sudan till 1942 when he returned to India. He retired in 1944 on medical grounds and died on January 25 at the age of 66.

Robertson—Ex-Cpl Alec Robertson died in hospital in Surrey on January 2. 'Jock' completed 22 years in the Corps prior to retiring in late 1976, having served his last tour with 21 Sig Regt. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Mrs Ann Robertson, who currently resides at 60 Florentine Court, Hemlington, Middlesbrough TS8 9LQ, Cleveland.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Handyman/Caretaker required for National Services Charity in Knightsbridge. One-bedroomed self-contained flat, free gas and electricity provided and up to £2,000 per annum for the right couple. Possible employment for wife. Apply to: The Secretary, 122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE.

FOR SALE

Mess Jacket, with Staff sergeant's chevrons. Height 6ft, Chest 39in. Telephone 01-788 3026.

Sultanate of Oman ARMY APPOINTMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified officers of the British Army Royal Signals, recently retired or due to retire very shortly, to fill an *immediate* vacancy on the Headquarters Staff of the Oman Army as

STAFF OFFICER GRADE 2 (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) (Major)

Applicants must have proven staff experience, and should have completed either the TEM or the TE course at the School of Signals. Preference will be given to officers who are qualified PSC, PSC(W) or SQ.

This is a uniformed appointment of 3 years duration initially, unaccompanied (although short family visits to Oman may be possible) and the age limit is 47.

Conditions of service include annual emoluments commencing at the equivalent of £10,000 at the current rate of exchange (tax free); an end-of-contract gratuity of £6,000 plus; normal Service mess facilities with air-conditioned bachelor accommodation and services free of charge; and 60 days home leave annually (usually taken in two periods of 30 days) with air passages paid. Interviews for this post will be held in UK very shortly and applicants are therefore asked to write immediately for further details, quoting reference 51/H, to:

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	—	**Maj J. J. Ventham** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt D. F. M. Collyer** (Royal Signals)
QM	—	**Capt (QM) J. E. Ient** (Royal Signals)
Admin Officer	—	**Capt (QM) A. Beveridge** (RCT)
OC 'A/TM' Troop	—	**Lt H. A. R. Hancock** (Royal Signals)
OC 'B' Troop	—	**Lt R. J. Turnbull** (Royal Signals)
OC 'D & E' Platoon		**Capt M. D. McMahon** (RPC)
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) M. C. K. Smart**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) R. M. D. Collins**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) J. Francis**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) W. S. Balding**
MTO	—	**WO2 B. Hudson**
ORSQMS	—	**Ssgt (ORSQMS) G. C. P. Moloney**



Signal Officer in Chief meets the lads
Cpls Pete Young, Jack Lawler and Colin Savage

FAREWELL VISIT

ON Wednesday, October 5, 1977, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** paid his farewell visit to the Squadron in Portadown. Like all well-organised and planned occasions and after some of the very poorest weather the clouds disappeared and out came the sun. It was in this very pleasant and relaxed atmosphere that the SO in C was able to meet all but a few of the Squadron personalities. Break was taken in 'The Huntsman', a popular meeting place well known for 'old ale' and 'good company' but on this occasion 'old ale' was replaced by coffee.

AROUND THE TROOPS

'A' and 'TM' Troop

Although it is very quiet operationally the comms battle still goes on. PRE has come and gone—rumour has it that **WO2 (F of S) John Francis** achieved his excellent result by issuing all the U/S equipment to Beleek, Co Fermanagh (on the border—much too dangerous for Tels Inspection teams).

Our usual home electrical installation and repair service has been busy. **Cpl John Findlay** installed hi-fi cassette/radios in Crossmaglen and Forkhill. These had been presented to the roulement companies by civil servants in PSA London. **Sgt Tony Salter** and an antenna rigging team were scrambled to Belcoo, Fermanagh, by the CLF—they now have BBC1, UTV, and RTE (sort of). We have been reinforcing various units for particular jobs. **Sigs Eddie Key, 'Birdie' Hurlow** and **Lcpl Chris Wills** (REME Tels Section) turned out to help the local roulement Bty control football fans returning from supporting Armagh in the Gaelic Football Final. They lost (the football team, that is) and were very docile. The only damage was two broken windows at the station. The only things thrown were a handful of gravel and a light bulb.

We were glad to see the SO in C, **Maj Gen Tighe,** during his visit to Northern Ireland. **Cpl 'Blue' Baker** showed him our latest exotic antenna—a C42 Yagi. **Cpl Dennis Corser** showed him that a Tele Mech can be an R Tech, and **Sgt Tony Salter** and **Sig Keith Williamson** managed to avoid falling off a Rasmussen mast in front of him.

'Bravo' Troop

We welcome aboard **Sigs Dave Bunning, Ralph Campbell** and **Billy Monahan** (who has returned to the fold after a brief spell in Cyprus—heaven help us all!). And we say farewell to **Sig 'Jock' Duncan** who leaves us to 'exercise' his talents in BAOR.

STOP PRESS! . . . congratulations to **Cpl John Mullen** on his recent promotion . . . **Sig 'Geordie' Teasdale** is now back on *terra firma* after his free-fall course . . . **Lcpl Ollie Bowerbank** is still trying to dry out after his canoeing course in Wales . . . !

0900hrs . . . and amid the pounding of boots DMS, groans and gasps for breath, the dreaded morning ritual once again takes place. Under the merciless eye of **Lt Bob Turnbull** reluctant volunteers step forward to undergo Basic Fitness Test Training. Needless to say, OC Squadron and the RSM have both claimed passes. However, the officials suspect foul and dastardly play and a re-run will soon take place. Our MT section, with its fair share of 'Jimmy' representation, continues to do battle against the ever increasing demand for transport. Our faithful disciples line up as follows:

WO2 Brian Hudson
(I want some leave)

Sig John Cleese Dewis	**Lcpl Steve Balance**		**Lcpl 'Scouse' Goater**
(I'm getting married . . . .)	(Annie Oakley in disguise)		(?)
Cpl Dave Burbridge	**Sig Mark Roberts**	**Sig John Horrocks**	**Sig Jerry Foster**
(Our secret weapon)	(Red is the colour . . .)	(Our SDS man)	(Our 'Enry)

With a line-up like that, we just can't lose (I hope).

PROVIDERS OF ALL

Since last appearing in print the QM Department has undergone a little 'surgery'. Two sturdy characters have moved on in the form of **Ssgt George Bray** (WRF) off to LOA land in Germany, and **Sgt Roy Willoughby** (RRF) to England prior to retirement. We wish them well and in their place we welcome **WO2 Brian Canderton** (RHA) and **Csgt John Wardle** (PWO). Another new face is that of **Sgt Ron Roberts** to assume the post of Estate Warden for the Portadown area.

Like all integrated Brigade Headquarters, we have a mixture of Regiments and Corps working side by side. Communication and Technical equipments are managed by **Sgt Jim Neil** assisted by **Lcpl John Dixon** and **Sig Trevor Potter** and with one of the largest areas currently operationally active they are kept busy. **Sgt Dave Cook** (RAOC) supplies the 'goodies' for FAMTO and FATSO and **Cpl David Crabbe** (RAOC) is in the boots and socks department. A mixed bag if ever there was one and not forgetting **Lcpl Dave Roberts** and **Pte 'Snowball' Tumilson,** both RAOC. Although PRE is over, there is still the Annual Inspection due in late November so the pace of life in the

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12/77 Printed in Great Britain

SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE ONE

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QMs Department, 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, BFPO 809
Left to right. Back row: Lcpl D. Roberts (RAOC), Cpl D. Crabbe (RAOC), Sgt J. Neil, Sgt D. Cook (RAOC), Sgt R. Roberts, Lcpl J. Dixon, Pte Tumilson (RAOC)
Front row: J. Burns, Csgt J. Wardle (PWO), WO2 B. Canderton (RA), Capt (QM) J. E. Ient (Royal Signals), WO2 (RQMS) R. M. D. Collins (Royal Signals), WO2 J. Mowe (WRAC), Sgt R. Willoughby (RRF)
Absent on leave: Mrs Pat Mooring, Sig T. Potter

Province is maintained at its fast and sometimes hectic rate.

This hardworking, undaunted and motley crew are joined in their efforts by **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Collins** and the QM, **Capt John Ient.** A noble band, providers of all things from married quarters to dry batteries.

IN THE KITCHEN

On Wednesday, October 26, 1977, the fifth competition in our 'Cook of the Month' competition took place in the Community Centre of the Westacre Estate Craigavon. Ladies from the Wives Club including **Mrs M. Woodford**, wife of the Brigade Commander; **Mrs Fill** and **Mrs Lawler** adjudicated. A simple task it seemed, to select from nine entries in the 'Cold Sweets' class a winner. After considerable deliberation it was **Lcpl Steve Ibbotson's** 'walnut coffee eavour' that took the honours. It is our hope to repeat the competition just before Christmas for the traditional Christmas cake, and making it an open event must—create a stir.



Cook of The Month
Lcpl Steve Ibbotson wins in October

SERGEANTS MESS

WO1 (RSM) M. C. K. Smart is now firmly in the chair and indeed never gets off it. Mess entertainment has been plentiful and varied and there is no truth in the rumour that Mr Healey was contracted to help out with the Mess bills. Highlights of the month were Friday, October 21, when the Officers Mess were challenged to a games evening. The trophy, in fact, was a 'po' which had never been used, which the Sergeants Mess retained over a narrow margin of 6 points. The games were enjoyed by all, although the draughts (for ½ pints) was a killer to say the least. After the games were over a 'cabaret' swung into action performed by Sergeants Mess members which included a male vocalist and an illusion act which did not confuse anyone except the performers.

The following night, October 22, 1977, the ladies of the Mess were dined with husbands waiting on; this went off very well although many ladies spent the following Sunday in bed with severe headaches. The 'cabaret' from the evening prior was shown to the ladies but was heavily censored by the RSM.

The month culminated in the Dining in of the Deputy Commander, **Col Edelsten,** and the Brigade Major, **Maj Deverell.** This took place on Friday, October 28. This excellent evening brought a most successful month to a more dignified end with all Mess members looking forward to November with anticipation and worried bank managers.

SPORTING SCENE

A high spot in the sporting calendar was the first ever Brigade Autumn Golf Meeting which took place on October 5, 1977, at the local Portadown Golf Club course. An encouraging entry of 24 took part in what proved to be a most enjoyable and competitive day. Honours in the morning went to **Capt Tony Patrick** (RAOC) of the Brigade Staff with 36 points in the Stableford, and **Capt Andrew Harrison** (RAOC) took the bogey prize after lunch. The team prize going to 6 UDR.

Although difficult, the Squadron takes part in all the recognised games and figures prominently in the Northern Ireland soccer, rugby, and hockey leagues. However, the current craze is ski-ing and at least three times a week devotees gather on the dry slope outside Lurgan to collect the standard quota of limps and bruises. I am pleased to report no broken bones yet.



Instructor's 'Nightmare'
Instructor (*unknown*) with broken binding
Pte Corran (RPC), WO2 (RQMS) Collins, Cpl Newman (Int Corps), Sig Latham, Pte Tilley (RAOC)

FAREWELL

Having opened with one we now finish with one—**Cpl Duncan Matthews** recently posted to 1st Division only to learn he was mentioned in Phase III and is to retire in August 1978. We wish you and yours luck and happiness. A fond farewell also to **Cpl 'Blue' Baker** on his way to 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.



Although slightly hampered by the 'local situation', social life does prosper in Ulster. Our picture shows the cast of a Combined Services Show being taken for a ride by 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

SPECIAL GUESTS

SINCE we last appeared in the Corps magazine a lot of water has gone under the bridge. Our FFR (ARU?) went off very well and our build up to the many Christmas functions went well. The Wives Club have been well and truly wined and dined in the WOs and Sergeants Mess, for which the RSM must be credited, and all his members, for an excellent evening. Thanks, too, to the Squadron officers who waited on.

In the sporting world the Squadron keeps its head above water with **Sgt Paul Tippetts,** our Pay Sergeant, running the rugby, **RQMS Ron Collins** running the squash, **Capt Mike McMahon** the hockey, and **Lt Bob Turnbull** the soccer. Our Community Centre waltzes along under the guiding influence of **Sgt** and **Mrs Dave Cloake,** although some of the 'pads' seem to find it hard work getting back to their quarters.

'SHQ' Troop, under the guiding influence of the Squadron Admin Officer, **Capt (QM) 'Boots' Beveridge** (RCT), gives us not only excellent service in the administrative field, but also cash from the PRI. His staff do a great job, sometimes under arduous conditions (in between cups of 'Oxo'). Our Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Gerry Moloney,** and gang keep the system turning over although **Cpl Stan Stanley** was heard to remark: 'Chief, what's a bass broom?' when he found himself on area cleaning.

'QM' Troop bash along amazingly under the slogan 'we've got it, you can have it, but not today we have a heating problem'. It is rumoured that the QM and his staff are to be issued with 'Porsche 924' and magic wands so as to live at the pace at which they operate. Well done, Molar Division—you do a great job.

'MT' Troop in the MT world—It is rumoured that 'D & E' Platoon will break off diplomatic relations with MT if **WO2 Brian Hudson,** our MTO, does not allow them to win a football match. Here again with all the trials and tribulations of Northern Ireland we have an excellent service and no problem is too great—well done, 'MT' Troop. 'Snoopy' going on 'leave' again?



The quickness of the hand . . .'
Capt A. T. B. Kimber (Royal Signals), Brig D. M. Woodford, CBE, WO1 (RSM) M. Smart (Royal Signals)



FAREWELL TO THE BRIGADE COMMANDER

On Monday, December 5, 1977, the Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn bade farewell to the Brigade Commander, Brig D. M. Woodford, CBE, by ceremoniously towing him through the barracks at Portadown, complete with champagne. On behalf of the Brigade we wish him and Mrs Woodford *bon voyage* and every good wish for the future

BREEDING GROUND FOR TARZANS

'Alpha/TM' Troop has had weather-beaten month. The autumn gales were late this year but were stronger to make up for it. **Lcpl 'Geordie' Marrs, Sigs 'Jock' Gregory** and **George Poole** spent a chilly week on a mountain top swinging on the masts, catching falling antennae and re-deploying others. They are now on the short list for the Irish remake of Tarzan—no ropes (think about it). It has been a month of 'It's a knockout' with antennae.

Cpl Colin Savage, Lcpl Steve Griffiths and **Sig Adrian Waters** hung one antenna 30ft below a helicopter for one job while for another **Cpl John Lawlor, Lcpls Trev (Courses) Smith** and **Paul Kinsley-Smith** had to build a special scaffolding for a monster C42 Yagi.

One of our Landrovers, having become fed up with abuse from the British Army, developed Republican sympathies and threw its back door at **Cpl Pete Younger** and **Sig Adrian Petchey.** The Northern Ireland yellow cards, blue cards, pink cards, white cards with red print, white cards with green print, and orange cards were all consulted for guidance. Finally, the Rover was given an Internment Order (1045) and incarcerated in the LAD for rehabilitation.

Our other criminal is 'Katie' (**Cpl Pete Younger's** canine pride and joy) who has been served with an Exclusion (from camp) Order. She lifted a string of sausages from the Guardroom rations and did what comes naturally to a dog with a full stomach on finding a suitable patch of grass (outside the OC's office!). But not for these heinous crimes is she excluded. The circumstantial evidence surrounding the disappearance of the OC's packed lunch was the telling blow—despite counter-claims of a 'frame-up'. 'Katie is innocent—OK?!'

We congratulate **Lcpl Steve Lodge** on the recent birth of his second daughter, and we wish him and his family well in their forthcoming posting to Germany. We welcome **Cpl Malcolm Rose, Sigs Steve Farr, Richard Ling, Michael McGough** and **Steve Norfield** and hope that they enjoy their tour.

'BRAVO' TROOP

We welcome aboard **Cpl Phil Stevens, Lcpl Stan Robinson** and **Dvr 'Geordie' Leslie,** who have swelled yet again our RCT contingent of drivers—all 'Jimmies' beware! And we say farewell to **Cpl Harry Dransfield** after 16 years' service (he didn't really want to go!), and **Sig Brian Latham** who has left on transfer to the Sappers—Good luck!

Stop press . . . Congratulations to **Sig 'Beastie' Clare** on his recent marriage . . . **Lcpl 'Scouse' Goater** has passed the Institute of Advanced Motorists Test, while his wife has increased the **Goater** household by one! (There must be a connection somewhere . . . !)

Rumour has it that one can now apply for a B1 Fire Fighters course. **Lcpl 'Jock' King** and **Sig Barry Blain,** having completed Day 1 of their B2—B1 upgrading course, have been spotted in the North Yorkshire wilds posing as firemen (who's kidding who?).

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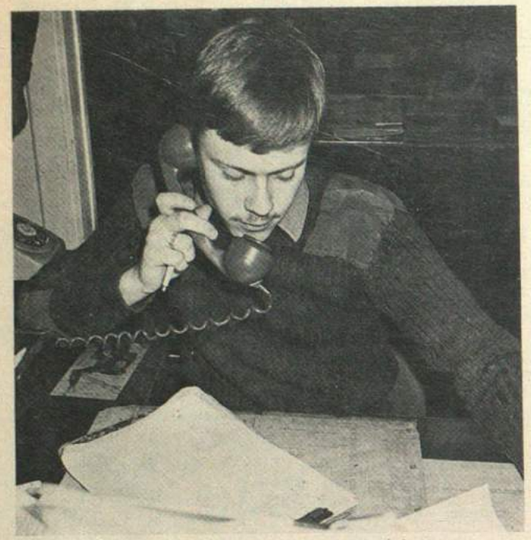
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Nr. DONCASTER

Our men in the Commcen continue to work wonders under their taskmaster, **Ssgt Brian Aldridge.** The ceaseless chatter of teleprinters and the scurry of SDS drivers produces a hectic life, serving 16 units and handling many thousands of messages per month!

Our photographs show two of our intrepid Commcen ops hard at work—**Sig Steve Grantham** on the 'phone and **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** at the keyboard.



Sig Steve Grantham at the Commcen 'phone



Cpl 'Vince' Vincent clearly enjoying his work

STOP PRESS

Despite having said so much already, one must mention the 'D & E' Platoon, an intricate part of the Squadron, who bash along (literally) on duties day and night. A special Christmas thanks from them to 'A/TM' Troop who are constantly repairing their telephones/TVs, although one tech was heard to say, 'Do they really eat them?'

Our next issue will have all the tales of Christmas and the parties to write about. Who's Who; who was invited; who dropped a clanger; who said what, why and when.

Well, that will be another tale—but from all of us here in 3 Bde, we say 'stag on', and if you want a good posting—come to Portadown.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

WATERATS RULE—OK?

THE 'Waterats', the pet name for our tame Squadron rugby side, are having a very successful season to date. Having beaten all minor units challenged including our Signals rivals at the blunt end of the province, we await with baited breath the start of the Northern Ireland knock-out competition. The 'Rats' are supremely confident this season. As is iterated in their motto 'feared throughout the province', donated to the 'Rats' by **Lt James Shaw** as he was carried from the field last season. The 'Rats' were very unfortunate in the early part of the season in losing their skipper, **Capt Tony Dalby-Welsh** (RAOC), with a severe achilles tendon injury. The unanimous committee decision was that injured skippers were a bad omen for the club. **Capt Roy Lennox,** another ex-Army player, was promoted skipper and **Tony** assumed the responsibility of OIC one-legged cheer leaders.



The 'Rats' set the standard for entertainment recently, in the form of a Ladies' Night. Over one hundred players, supporters, and their better halves made the Gramsby Club hum until the early hours of the morning. The euphoria of good food, flowing drink and female company seemed to influence a number of senior officers, who disappeared in the twilight hours to the Officers Mess to try their hand at the roulette table. The PMC of the 2 Bn Coldstream Guards we are informed 'was not amused'. Situation normal. The 'Rats' have now launched themselves into the big band scene and are busy organising a 'Bavarian Night' for the end of November.

Sgt 'Scouse' Davies, one of the three organisers of the 'Rats' left for Berlin this month. Our thanks to him for all his sterling work, and hope that **Ssgt Ray Duffy** and **Lt Mike Fisher,** the remaining survivors, continue the action. The photograph shows **Ray Duffy** being grossly obstructed by a member of 233 Sig Sqn (a typical tactic) whilst **WO1 (RSM) Ian Buckley, Lcpl 'Johnno' Johnstone** and **Capt Roy Lennox** (RAOC) rush to **Ray's** aid. The ball had a very quiet game.

STOP PRESS

Waterats win Northern Ireland Minor Units Cup

Last month's notes featured an article on the Squadron rugby team; better known as the Waterats. We are pleased to report that they have just won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Final, beating 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn by 9 points to 6.

A fuller report will be included in next month's notes.

SO in C's FARWELL VISIT

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** paid a flying visit to the Squadron recently to bid farewell to all before his retirement and departure to Hong Kong. Among the many departments he visited was Communications Troop. Since his last visit, the SO in C was delighted to see two elements of Comms Troop. The new Radio Room featuring Console 3000 and the Commander's Rover Group garages now complete and fully operational. The pictures show the SO in C on his tour of Comms Troop.



The SO in C signs the visitors book for the last time, the Officer Commanding and OC Comms Tp act as witnesses



Lcpl Green explains the functions of Console 3000 to the SO in C

NORTHERN IRELAND PAY AND ALLOWANCES

During his visit, **Maj Gen Tighe** was most interested to learn from the serving soldier in Ulster what effect the recent pay and allowances scheme has had. For those serving outside Northern Ireland it may be of interest to note the impact. In brief, the single man in the permanent garrison will be relieved



The SO in C meets members of the Brigade Commanders Rover Group



'Well one of you must be right'. The Officer Commanding and Cpl Walker the Rover Group Commander putting different versions to the same theme

of food charges (93p a day) during his tour. The married accompanied man will receive the same rate of daily food allowance (50p a day) as is paid to members of the UDR called out for duty for days when food is not provided by the unit. Single men will also be relieved of accommodation charges and for married accompanied men occupying official quarters, accommodation charges are abated by the amount appropriate to a single man's accommodation charge. These changes have helped appreciably to offset the high cost of living in Northern Ireland.

In conclusion, a fond farewell to **Ssgt Carl Bellamy** and his wife, **Ann,** who have given so much to Comms Troop and the Squadron in their two years here. Good luck as an SQMS in 7 Sig Regt. We welcome **Ssgt Ian McGrindle, BEM,** and his wife.

8 *Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn unit notes continued on page* 73.

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

FINAL VISIT BY GEN TIGHE

MAJ GEN TIGHE paid us a brief visit during his farewell tour of the Province. His main aim was to meet as many soldiers as possible, and this he did, seeing not only Royal Signals but RCT and RPC members of the Squadron in their places of work. His visit coincided with our annual technical inspection, and so there was much *genuine* vehicle and communications equipment maintenance going on! Among other things he watched **Pte Mick Brennan** (RPC) adroitly fire a baton round through the window of the bedding store, followed by **Lt Col Ian Shapter,** C Royal Signals, 'quelling' with one round an ugly riot composed of a 6ft GS table leaning against the fence of the tennis court. We are told that the table and the window are both fully recovered.



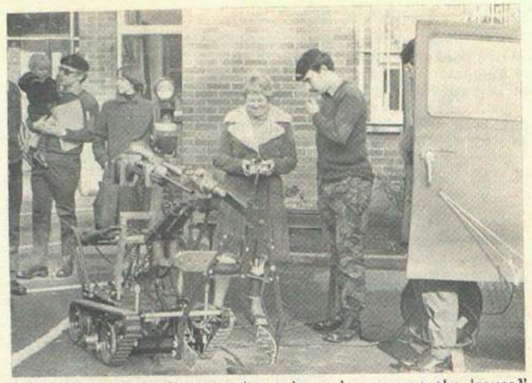
The SO in C presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to WO1 (RSM) R. Harris in the WOs and Sgts Mess. He also presented LS and GC Medals to WO2 (RQMS) R. V. Huxtable and WO2 (AQMS) R. Chapman (REME)

OPEN MORNING

We suspect some skulduggery over the breakfast table in the **MacMillan** household, since **Brig John MacMillan,** Commander 39 Inf Bde, committed himself to allowing his wife, **Belinda,** to bring all the Squadron wives in to the Headquarters on Wednesday, October 12, to see what their men got up to during the day. In the event it was a tremendous success, raising over £43 for the Lord Roberts' Appeal. The ladies held a bring-and-buy sale, visited various parts of the Squadron and finally met together for a sherry before lunch.



This is a vital piece of Commcen equipment—Sig McGreevy's head WO2 (Y of S) Phil Castle, Sig Dave McGreevy and several wives



'I know it's a wheelbarrow, but where do you put the leaves?' ATO demonstrating their equipment. In the background Ssgt (ORSQMS) Paul Leniston and his wife, Jan, appear preoccupied with family matters



'Is that how you do it?'
Cpl Trev Cartledge, Lcpl Clive Williams and Capt Alan Poppleton at Long Kesh

THE OPERATIONAL SCENE

As always, the work keeps pouring in. A major landmark of late has been the Firemen's strike, which still goes on. Well over 30 radios were installed in the first week, and we continue to be heavily involved with maintenance and modifications to the radio system. We have recently completed a major redeployment of the Brigade's roulement units which involved much moving of equipment and rebuilding of operations rooms. On top of all this such routine matters as PFTs, technical inspections, regular weapon firing and annual personal weapons tests go on as usual. There is certainly not much opportunity to sit back—but rumour has it we are all enjoying ourselves!



Sgt Pete Ascough, our karting ace, in a different guise

KARTING SUCCESS

Sgt Pete Ascough, our high-speed technician, won the Northern Ireland 125 Class road and track karting championship, having competed in a series of over 20 races. It is his first major success at this sport—but we are not expecting any great things from him in the next year or so, as he has gone to Belize, where, by all accounts, karting has not got a large following.



The charred skeleton of the Horseshoe Club after the fire. Notice the arrow indicating the way for the smoke to go

ASHES TO ASHES

AT what could hadly have been a worse time, the Horseshoe Club was burned to the ground on the night of November 23/24. Not only was the Christmas period almost on us, but the renovation of the club was almost complete, and an enormous amount of hard work has now come to nothing. All our sympathy is with **Capt 'Paddy' Henry** and **Lcpl Hamish Burgess** who had put so much into the improvements; we only hope that before too long we will have rebuilt and be back in proper business. For the time being we are running a temporary bar in Squadron Headquarters.

HOCKEY SUCCESS

A conspicuous victory was celebrated by the hockey team on Friday, December 2, when they defeated 233 Sig Sqn 4—1. All the benefit of the exercise was lost by the players after the match in the temporary club on its opening night. This is the first time that 233 have fallen to us for four seasons. **Cpl Sid Hayward** scored three of the goals and **Capt Robin Burrows,** in his farewell match, scored the other.

RUGBY

We shortly play 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the Northern Ireland Minor Units Final having defeated 233 Sig Sqn 4—0. Distinguished players were **Capt Hugh Young** (scrum half)—a Brigade watchkeeper who leaves shortly, **Sgt Ian Higgerson** (wing forward)—a tough tackler, and **Cpl Geoff Ford** who lends a little maturity and experience to the pack.



Capt Robin Burrows in his underwater busking hockey referee's outfit

FAREWELLS

Capt Robin Burrows leaves us in early December for the Australian School of Signals. During his two years as OC Comms Troop he has regularly baffled us all with his high-speed approach and his jet set cars and sports. His commercial acumen has brought the Comms Troop Fund almost into the VAT bracket, and his administrative mark is indelibly left on the Squadron. Our very best wishes go with him and **Caroline** (and Bilges the dog).

Maj Tony Meagher, the BEME, left recently. A very fine squash player he captained the Squadron team through two most successful seasons. Our photograph shows him taking his farewell breakfast in the Operations Room—a special treat as it was rumoured that he normally went back to the Mess for a leisurely breakfast after the Commander's briefing.



Maj Tony Meagher, BEME, taking breakfast during the Commander's brief on the last day of his tour. Please note that the rock on the left is not part of the meal, but his presentation from the Brigade Officers Mess

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

SOCIALISING

LIFE in 233 Sig Sqn for the last week of September and the first week in October was very hectic. The fortnight started with the official opening of the building by **Lt Gen Sir David House,** GOC NI, and ended with the Annual FFR inspection by **Brig G. L. Body,** COS NI. Between these, were visits by **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** SO in C (A), and **Brig A. Field,** Hon ADC Director WRAC.



Visiting Commcen Troop: Brig G. L. Body, Capt D. F. Reed and WO1 (Y of S) Moat
'This is where the extra fingers for typing long messages are kept'



Left to right: Mrs G. Horler, Cpl and Mrs Smillie, Cpl and Mrs Cox
'Refreshing themselves in style'



Presenting LS and GC to Sgt Stokes who is escorting an apprehensive OC 'S' Troop—Lt Caroline Lee—before the presentation of her GSM (NI)



Placing the sealed box in the entrance hall of 233 Sig Sqn's new building with OC, Maj N. A. Horler
'Gently does it—notice the golfer's overlap grip and stance'
This box is to be opened on June 28, 2020

LIST OF ITEMS ENCLOSED IN SEALED BOX
233 SIGNAL SQUADRON (NI)

Photographs of original Squadron Building (stable block of Magheralave House)
Photographs of the Squadron Detachment at Balsculloch, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire
Daily Telegraph dated August 31, 1977
Sunday People dated August 28, 1977
Nominal Roll
Families List
Jubilee edition of 'The Visor' (published by Army Information Services).
Plan of Lisburn Camp showing Squadron locations
Map of the Province
List of Squadron responsibilities
Squadron organisation chart
Squadron current establishment
Squadron plaque
Operations brief for period August 26–31, 1977
A selection of current Army Forms
Traffic analysis for July 1977
Squadron forecast of events for August/September 1977
A selection of postage stamps in current use
A thermal printhead (from a NCR EM-T3 Teleprinter)
A mechanical printhead (from a Creed electronic printing and perforating machine)
A specimen of cable in current use
A gramophone record ('Top of the Pops' for September 1, 1977)
Two Corps badges

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—News from Headquarters—

Signal Wing, HQ Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

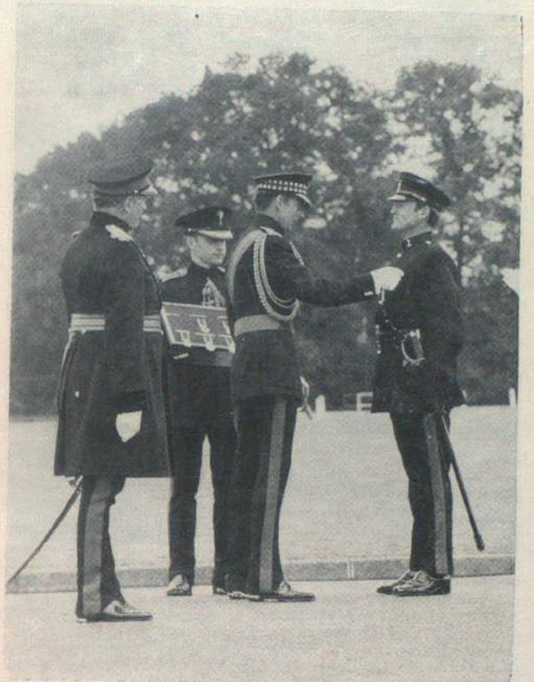


Photo courtesy: Marshalls, Camberley



Photo courtesy: Marshalls, Camberley

ON the last Sovereign's Parade the photographers and TV spent most of their time watching every move of Princess Astrid of Luxembourg as she watched her brother's Commissioning Parade. However, the Press did allow time to capture HRH The Duke of Kent presenting the LS and GC Medal to **WO1 (Y of S) Len Yates** and also to **Ssgt Alan Rutherford.** The Commandant, **Maj Gen Sir Philip Ward,** is also in both photographs together with the ADC, who can be seen making a new drill movement which goes something like 'Down - two - three - up!'

THE SUN, THE SAND, AND THE SALESMEN

Report by Ssgt Mick Carpenter, Signal Wing, RMA, Sandhurst

At a pinch

IN mid-September I had one of my many summons from the RSMI—**WO1 (Y of S) L. Yates** (affectionately known as 'Len the Pen'—guess why?). 'The CI **(Maj Colin Brown)** has been asked for someone to go to the Middle East to assist with a Clansman trial demonstration with the view of selling the range to the United Arab Emirates Military Forces—can you spare the time away from work?' After due consideration and lengthy programme deliberation—which took about a micro second, I told the RSMI that I could probably manage it at a pinch!

Hectic preparations

The following three weeks were quite hectic, as in addition to the usual heavy work load that the 'Q' has (groan, groan), I had to try to get: lightweight uniforms (no chance, where's the authority?), numerous inoculations (certainly—roll up your sleeves!), and quite a substantial advance of pay (think the Pay Staff have recovered!). I also had to know something about the equipments which I gained from a whistle-stop tour of the School of Signals. I was now ready to tell all about Clansman—some heavy, some light, but all green!

Comfortable beginning

On my first visit to MOD Sales (no bargains here) I met **Maj Peter Webster,** of the Defence Sales Organisation, who was to act as co-ordinator and unbiased referee of the team of Salesmen and Technicians who were to make the visit to Abu Dhabi. One of **Maj Webster's** most unenviable tasks was to ensure that events occurred on time—difficult enough in the UK but in the UAE (with respect) quite impossible.

On October 4 **Maj Webster** and I flew from Heathrow by BA Tristar (far more comfortable than the multi-coloured military jobs!) to Abu Dhabi. Fortunately, the weather had cooled down by Middle East standards to a mere 88°F when we landed at 0800hrs! Our accommodation was quite spartan compared to that of the company representatives, we only had a refrigerator, air-conditioning and colour TV in our single rooms. Unfortunately, the hotel had no swimming pool so we had to rough it as we would any normal military exercise! The first four days were spent meeting the company representatives as they arrived and installing the Clansman radios into the four FFR Landrovers as well as the operations room which were provided by the Signal Regiment of the Western Military Region. A day of testing, adjusting, and general 'ironing out' ended with an 'O' Group for the entire team where our individual tasks were allocated.

To parts unknown

The first day of actual trials consisted of the manpacks being used by local operators from section up to Company level. The 349, 350 and 351s certainly satisfied the 'locals' but I think they were more impressed by the following three days' trials away from Abu Dhabi and in the desert.

We managed to start the exercise on the right day if not actually on time when, with scenes akin to Indianapolis(?) we took off in a cloud of dust and European expletives—(we as visitors sat in the back—no operators' seats!)—for various parts unknown. I say parts unknown which is not quite true as we knew we weren't to stray outside the UAE. Maps and compasses were not in evidence at all during the exercise; therefore the only indication to location was by referring to the speedometer. Movement was controlled throughout the exercise by the Commander of the Signal Regiment and his staff. This was by radio to the Arab operators with each detachment, so, knowing that was in the hands of fate and desert experts, I sat back to enjoy the view. I did find it slightly disconcerting at times when I realised my local Warrant Officer was not passing the time of day with the odd traveller on camel back, but asking directions!

Excellent results

On my Detachment the local operators worked perfect voice communications, day and night, with the 321 and the 353 over a range which surprised even the Marconi experts, as we were using just an 8-ft vertical whip antenna. One of the local operators with me was a **Sgt Yusef** who, I understand, is shortly coming over here to attend a year's course at the TTS. I'm sure he will be shown the same hospitality as I received in the UAE (I hope he manages better with a knife and fork than I did with my bare right hand at meal times).

Suitably impressed, the exercise commander called all stations back to Abu Dhabi, where three of the vehicles and the operations room were stipped in record time before we desert amateurs staggered to our hotels to replace three days' worth of lost liquid.

No photographs

On October 14, while the locals respected their Holy Day, the team devoted their time to the rehearsal for the formal presentation which was to be held in the Signal School Theatre, in front of the Commander of the Western Military Union. **Maj Webster** introduced the team, he was followed by a short presentation by each of the company representatives of the Clansman manufacturers together with the complete range on display. Following the presentation, the Commander and his staff were shown the remaining FFR, still fitted with 321 and 353, and an array of antennae. I would like to have taken some photographs of this display and of the areas visited, but they were forbidden.

Immersion

Tanned faces paled slightly when it was pointed out that all trials had been carried out apart from the immersion tests; this really was important as one never knew when a vehicle-borne or manpack set might disappear into a stream, river, lake, etc! (I wonder if Scott took a bucket and spade to the Antarctic?). Anyway, the sets were very dusty so into the vats they went. Only the AMP FR 250W started to bubble so that was quickly rescued, but the remaining equipments soaked for about 14 hours with no ill effect.

Versatile civilians

Sunday, the 16th, and time to leave the UAE arrived all too quickly, hasty farewells were said to the civilian representatives who had been operators, combat powermen and technicians in mufti. Their voice procedure still makes me wince, but their hospitality and good humour took the edge off 'How do you read me please, Over'.

Personalities met on the visit were: **Capt Bill Dukes,** QM of the Western Military Region Sig Regt, late RSM 216 (Para) Sig Sqn.

Marconi:	—	**Col Derek Emley** (late Royal Signals)
		Mr Vernon Tonkin
		Mr Eric Heys
Racal:	—	**Mr Geoff Spurling**
MEL:	—	**Mr Donald Brodie**
Plessey:	—	**Mr Graham Dare**

All of whom pass their regards on to their many friends in the Corps.

Finally, may I say to those who wanted to make the visit from Sandhurst:

WO1 (Y of S) Yates—'You wouldn't have liked it—it was like one great big bunker'!

and to:

WO2 (Y of S) Bob McLaren, currently of HGV 1 fame: 'Even you would have had trouble driving over those sand dunes'.



School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

THE HIGHLANDS FOR ALTITUDE

THE School again sponsored and organised Exercise Diamond Height for 1977, and this year the weather co-operated. The exercise involves moving four aircraft of the Army Gliding Association into the Scottish Highlands, together with their ancillary equipment and a group of pilots, and then using lee wave phenomena to fly at high altitudes. Lee waves occur when a stable airstream strikes a sizeable range of hills, the effect being to produce oscillations in the air rather like the ripples which form downstream of an obstruction in a stream of water. In the case of airmasses, however, the ripples are more dramatic and are known to extend upwards to 30,000ft or more. The expedition was based at Aboyne, on the Dee Valley, and flew the wave produced by the Grampian Mountains. Much flying above 10,000ft was carried out, and four flights are worthy of particular mention.

Climbing high

Lt Col Lombard climbed to 18,000ft in a K6E to win the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) Gold Award for gain of height in excess of 3,000m (10,000ft). **Maj Falla** flew the same aircraft to 20,000ft for an FAI Diamond Award (a gain height in excess of 5,000m—16,000ft), and **Maj Pack-Davison** climbed to 21,000ft in an Astir to win an FAI Diamond Award. All three flights involved the use of oxygen, flight above cloud cover, and were performed in temperatures as low as −38°C. An attempt at the UK National two-seater height record by **Maj Falla** and **Lcpl Jupe** (REME) was broken off when cloud cover completely obscured the ground. At that time the aircraft had climbed to 12,000ft in some 20 minutes and was still rising at 400ft/min.

HQ UKLF, Wilton

Photo report of visit of CSO to 8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn during their JOCOMMEX with HMS *Fearless* on September 15, 1977



'I can't make it work either'

Left to right: Capt Tony Manders, Capt Roy Lloyd-Jones, WO2 (Y of S) David Thomas, Brig D. H. Baynham, GM, ADC, Sgt 'Taffy' Johns, Sig John Nesbitt



8 Fd Force Sig Sqn—Capt Roy Lloyd-Jones tells the CSO what it is all about while Capt Tony Manders and WO2 (Y of S) David Thomas listen in astonishment

Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Catterick

LOOKING BACK ON JUBILEE YEAR

AS summer approached, people all over the country prepared to celebrate HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee. Not to be outdone, the Demonstration Team, under the watchful eye of **Col Derek Sherrard-Smith,** made preparation for a better-than-ever effort for the same purpose; indeed, the Colonel also went to BAOR to assist with arrangements for the Corps Display at Her Majesty's Review of the Forces in Sennelager in July, and our Workshops turned out some suitable displays for shipment to Germany for this great event. Meanwhile, the sky-blue vehicles, of the 'Royal Signals Flying Circus', better known as 'Quicksilver', were made ready for the coming summer tour, and a lot of effort was also devoted to the painting and polishing of the gear to be displayed in our two-tone parasol tent. After the usual nail-biting concern that things would not be ready in time, in fact, we met our target dates.

On the move

Anyone who was about in Hounslow during the early morning of May 7 would have realised that our 1977 Tour had begun as our vehicles, in their distinctive colours, left for the first show at Blackheath in London. This was the moment of truth for the new members of the team and for the four WRAC girls who had recently joined us, since they were going to meet the great British public for the first time. In the event both they and the old hands quickly settled down to the building of the display and making all things presentable. The very next day we travelled North to the Tri-Service Day at RAF Woodvale, illustrating just how apt is our name 'Quicksilver'. Our display here was augmented by a Mobile Radio 'Operate a Radio on the Move' display by 19 Bde Sig Sqn and a mobile air rifle range fitted out by our Workshops in Hounslow.

We then turned southwards to take part in several shows including The Bath and West Show. Here we were invaded by teddy-bears which we later discovered had been won by **Sig Pat Silvester** at the showground. Next stop was Bournemouth where we were visited by our old Foreman, **WO2 Chris Payne,** and his wife. Of course, just to be sociable we returned the visit and drank them out of house and home; many thanks, **Chris** and **Mavis.**

Soon we were in Rushmoor Arena for the Aldershot Army Display, where **WO2 Graham Griffiths** and his staff had been hard at work for some weeks building the setting for the Royal Signals' stand. All their work was not in vain for the show was a great success—although the weather could have been better. Perhaps that is one thing the Colonel and the Sergeant-Major could not arrange.

Meanwhile, **Sgt Joe Fisher** was busy preparing for the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. **Joe Fisher,** in fact, retired from the Army after 33 years' service before the Display was actually erected in Earls Court. Our good wishes to **Joe** in his new career in civilian life and our grateful thanks for the many years he has spent in ensuring that Royal Signals made a good impression at public displays.

From the dust of Aldershot, 'Quicksilver' moved on to the green grass of Plymouth Hoe, where the Royal Engineers Corps Mobile Display challenged us to a game of volleyball, and the prize was a crate of beer (for the next thrilling instalment read 'Hijacked', below).

The middle of July found us moving from Devon across to Kent and thence North via Sheffield to Newcastle. Here we were visited by our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne.** We believe we were the first unit of the Corps to be visited since her appointment. The Princess showed great interest in our display and spoke to all members of the team on duty. After Newcastle, it was a case of South again to Portsmouth, where we put on a show on the seafront at Southsea. After a short rest we moved North again through Coventry and Morecambe to a well-organised KAPE in Glasgow. It seemed that not only were the military preparations for this show well laid but so were the plans made by the victors of Plymouth Hoe.

Hijacked

The first show at Ayr was followed by visits to Greenock, Falkirk and then, finally, Glasgow. On our way to the Glasgow Show **Capt Richard Hoole's** moped was hijacked by the Royal Engineers and held to ransom for the crate of beer that they had not got when we lost the volleyball match in Plymouth. A red-faced OC 'Quicksilver' succeeded in rustling up the appropriate booze which restored both his moped and the good relations between the two display teams.

The winter tour

Preparations were soon made for the forthcoming winter tour during which it is planned that 'Quicksilver' should visit between 70 and 80 schools throughout the United Kingdom. As an additional commitment this year the Team will also be supporting the UOTC Presentation Team when they make their visits to 16 universities throughout the country.

Change of location

At the time of writing these notes, the Team is busy making preparations for its move to Catterick where it is to be co-located with the White Helmets in Gaza Barracks. A small mobile element is already on tour visiting schools whilst the remainder of the Team is occupied in dismantling and packaging of equipment at Hounslow awaiting the eventual shipment of this up to Catterick, where it is hoped we will be back in business after Christmas.

Congratulations

We congratulate **Chris** and **Betty Williams,** and **Jack** and **Barbara Barry** on the recent additions to their respective families. Both were girls, and we offer them and their parents the best wishes for a long and happy life.

Long Service awards

On November 2 the SO in C visited us in Hounslow to review the UOTC Team. The opportunity was too good to miss, and **Gen Tighe** was therefore asked to present some Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to soldiers serving in Hounslow. Of the four medals presented, two were to members of this Team, namely **SSM Graham Griffiths** and **Cpl 'Kayser' Bond.** By way of coincidence two Lieutenant Colonels were in attendance at the presentation, each of whom had been **Griffiths'** OC along the way (see photograph below). It was a great occasion for the Team and was suitably celebrated in an appropriate manner after the formal presentations had been made.



WO2 Graham Griffiths was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on November 2, 1977 by the SO in C. Present on that occasion were Lt Cols Derek Sherrard-Smith (OC Demonstration Team) and Peter Goldney (CO 10 Sig Regt). When Graham Griffiths was serving as a young soldier in Germany soon after his enlistment he came under the command of the then Lt Goldney in 5 Agra Sig Sqn, and later on whilst serving in Kenya he was under the command of the then Maj Derek Sherrard-Smith in 210 Sig Sqn

A coincidence!

Au revoir

This year we have said farewell to **Jim Stirratt, Ozzie Evans** and **'Taff' Carr** who have all left to cross the water to new units in Germany. They will soon be followed by **Barry Watson** and **Gary Shaw,** while **Bill Woodmason** will be going to 5 Fd Force in Osnabruck on his promotion to Sergeant early in 1978. We thank them all for their services to the Demonstration Team and wish them and their families the very best of luck in their new units. A special mention should be made of the girls who served with us during this summer. **Yvonne Stevens** and **Jo Merritt** joined us from 10 Sig Regt, whilst **Jane Torrent** and **Maggie Williamson** came over from Germany. They settled in and worked hard through the summer and are very much missed now that they have returned to the units—nobody makes coffee as well as they did!

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

News from Regiments

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



Photo courtesy: PR HQ 1 Div

Over 220 years' service recognised by the award of 12 LS and GCs, presented by CCR Signals on his recent visit

'AUTUMN SALES' IN EIFFEL

THIS two-week exercise in the Eiffel area of Germany was the major event for us last month. It was an unknown part of the world to us from the communications aspect as we re-enacted Patton's rapid advance to the Rhine with the command elements of our restructured Division. 1 Sqn knew something of the area from the time they had spent down there on their summer camp in early September. After visiting them and seeing the scenery, the CO planned that we all were to go down early to enjoy (?) an extra couple of days before the Staff took up their positions for the Big Advance. Not that Commhead PAPA initially saw too much of the rather splendid countryside: their first location was a railway tunnel and their arrival and departure was in the dark. Commcen Charlie got itself nicely dug in by 45 Fd Sqn RE on the Schneeiffel. In the digging, the Sappers came across the remains of the Siegfried Line which, for **Ssgt Stan Adams,** was an opportunity too good to miss. He posed dutifully for a photograph with his 'washing hanging out on the Siegfried Line'! The officer who took it has not been able to produce the result of this unique occasion and has now been banished to Herford! We may eventually forgive him when he pops up again with the new task force Troop which is moving from there to Hohne in the New Year.

MISSING DETACHMENT

Back to the exercise and Line Troop's part in it. **Lcpl Trevor Skingle** and his detachment including **Sig John Lowden,** went missing for 2½ days, such was the speed of our advance and especially our Rhine crossing. Having reeled in, he properly went to the grid reference of various future locations only to find that the rest of us had 'bugged out'. Quite stumped but still playing for real, he cammed up under an overhanging roof near the main road to Bonn. This may explain why the Commhead OC, out looking for him in a helicopter, didn't actually find him! The LAD chugging along with one of their vehicle casualties were his salvation. He arrived in location just as Endex was being called! **Sig John Matley** made concerted attempts throughout to write off his Bedford. Finally, OC Line Troop, **Lt John Steed,** who has now departed to the Junior Signalmans Wing, Newcastle, commanded his raft of line vehicles in the best traditions of Capt Cook as they crossed the Rhine. From his position forward, he landed on the other side with dignity and was seen tossing those small copper crimps to appease any unfriendly native.

INSTANT EJECTION

As always, incidents which cause momentary panic are the ones always remembered. **Ssgt (Y of S) George Coles** of 2 Sqn won't forget **Sig Dennis Topley's** handling of his Landrover in a hurry. He said it was the first time he actually had to eject from one. We feel that his action in retrospect was reasonable, since the backsliding vehicle had by then gathered some considerable momentum on its reverse journey down a particularly steep hill.

WARM WELCOME IN CHELSEA

On Thursday, October 20, the Commanding Officer attended the annual Reunion Dinner of 1 Armd Div Sig Regt in Africa at the Officers Mess of the Duke of Yorks Headquarters in Chelsea. He was invited on the strength of the announcement that our Regiment is to be redesignated Armoured early next year after restructuring. The 16 officers assembled for their 15th Reunion Dinner gave him a warm welcome and in his after-dinner speech **Brig W. R. Smyth-Windham, CBE, DSO,** spoke on how pleased they were that their old title was once again to be seen in the British Army's Order of Battle and said that he hoped in due course to be able to hand over some of the old Regimental silver to use. In his reply, the Commanding Officer told his hosts something of the life of the Regiment in Germany and invited the Reunion Dinner Club to visit us sometime next year to present personally any silver located in their vaults! We look forward to seeing them here next year and, meanwhile, the Commanding Officer can be seen sporting a handsome tie which was presented to him at the conclusion of the dinner.

2 SQUADRON NEWS

It is with regret that we announce the passing of 'A4' Troop. Known affectionately as Pygmy Troop, they have dispersed to be absorbed into the Troops of their bigger brothers, each man carrying with him a pewter tankard as a commemoration. It is rather sad when one remembers the size the HF Troop used to be here only a few years ago, with the D11s camped all round the perimeter of radio village and yards and yards of HF antenna and mast guys formed a natural defence and early warning system.

Some of the Squadron's steely-eyed soldiers together with an Australian Captain and a New Zealand Gunner spent a few days on the border stopping at predetermined grid references. The patrol worked northwards from Lauenberg and **Capt Shaw** records that it was a 'gentle' three days away from 'normal' Regimental life. All worked vigilantly at the techniques of observation. On occasions, **Sigs Maclean** and **Skelland** apparently frightened certain locals, and indeed their passengers, with their driving and **Sigs Armitage, Miller, Jowitt, Brennan** and **Andrew** all attempted to poison the Patrol Commander with their cooking. A patrol with nothing to report except a far greater awareness by all of the proximity and construction of the Iron Curtain.

Included in this section is the Rugby Club's tour to Malmo since it was arranged and led by the OC Squadron. The team did not actually win the two matches played, but the female supporters of the opposition teams were reported as being fantastically consoling!

AREN'T OUR LADS WONDERFUL?

The 'show must go on' attitude was provided by the White Helmets as the rain dismally teamed down on to the floodlit square and over a large number of spectators who had turned up in anticipation. Straight from the indoor show at the Berlin Tattoo, they actually appeared to take to the water like ducks as clouds of spray masked their precision cuts and the wind threatened to blow **Cpl Mick Palladini** off his ladder-bike. It was a tremendously good show made all the more nail-biting by the conditions under which it was carried out. The team were so well hosted by 1 Sqn that they asked to stay an extra day with us to recover!

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!



Our new GOC Maj Gen R. G. Lawson, DSO, OBE, inspecting part of the Quarter Guard

Left to right: Cpl McCombie, Sig Cawley, Sig Lewis and Sig Robinson

GOC's VISIT

Finally, on November 10, our new GOC, **Maj Gen R. G. Lawson, DSO, OBE,** paid this unit the compliment of being first on the lists of visits he undertook. We think he enjoyed what he saw and with the WOs and Sergeants hosting him at lunch and the Officers at a Regimental Dinner Night, he quite rightly did not include anything too strenuous on his agenda the following day!

RHINE ARMY CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

EDITING the notes submitted by the Squadrons for what was forecast as 'November—a reasonably quiet month' has been difficult in that each claims to have worked harder and to have shone brighter than the others!

However, pride of place at this moment in the sporting field must go to the Regimental cross-country team who (on December 7) achieved their ambition of winning the BAOR Championships. Running at Verden on a particularly frosty afternoon, the team worked up to what looked like second place to 21 Sig Regt at the end of the first lap of three miles. The finish on Caithness playing field proved most exciting as our rivals came in neck and neck with us. Once the 'eight to count' from both teams (there were, of course, other units but they didn't seem to feature) had crossed the finishing line, those adept at mental arithmetic realised we were level with 21 Sig Regt at 105 place points each. We proudly carried off the trophy because the last of our runners to count came in (well) ahead of the last of the opposition. We shall meet them again, and the UK contestants at the Army final at Tweesledown on February 23, 1978.

INTO THE SNOW

Other general news is that our langlauf team has disappeared to Bavaria for six weeks training and **Lt John Ewbank,** who is now down at the Snow Queen Chalet, Mossbach, phoned up recently. He said that snow was good, the team was training hard and members of Triangle Troop, Junior Signalman Wing, 11 Sig Regt, who we have sponsored on a visit are having a splendid time on their 10-day ski-ing exercise. They are using the Chalet there as their base.

REMOTE DETACHMENT

Members of Line Troop, **Sigs K. Smith, A. Smith, Lowdon** and **Clark,** served a few weeks' attachment to 39 Bde Sig Sqn. In Belfast they helped to sort out the catscradle of lines that seem to proliferate everytime new roulement units occupy the bases. We are assured they were in no way responsible for the electrical fault that burnt down the famous Horseshoe Club in Thiepval Barracks just before they left!

CANADIAN LIAISON

We were pleased to receive a visit from **Lt Col Banks,** 1 Canadian Sig Regt, who spent a good day here at Verden. Our CO, **Lt Col Peter Davies,** subsequently mentioned that the two of them sat up well into the night and we now expect at least an affiliation, certainly more exchange visits and a host of spin-offs from the strengthening of our ties!

1 SQUADRON WRITES

The Squadron hosted soldiers of Kompanie Zwei, our opposite numbers in FMBtl 1 to a day of sport in Verden. We included most winter-type sports and a game of baseball to make our Canadian Officer, **Capt Hugh Coyle,** feel at home. The OC Squadron left himself time to work out the correct phrases to describe the day's programme and was aghast to be confronted by the company drawn up one hour early and waiting attentively. Whilst it was clear from the guttural sounds being made by **Maj Peter Pearson** that he had recently been taught German to a colloquial level, it was equally clear from the uncomprehending faces of the Germans that they had not attended the course required to understand him!

The tug-of-war was noted for the lack of equality of the teams. When they lined up for the first pull the Germans (at 124 stone) seemed hesitant, they apparently could not believe that the British team (conforming to an 88-stone limit) and led by the **Mighty Murf Sig Anthony Murphy** at 5ft 4in and 8 stone were not handicapping themselves by kneeling down. For all this, it was a close contest and the Germans eventually won 2 pulls to 1 after a really long and hard-fought battle.

The professional side of our activities was greatly assisted by the close friendship forged earlier. Exercise Happy Union was designed to prove the compatibility of our Bruin system with those of our flanking German formations, and further, to prove the feasibility of a British unit becoming the responsibility of a German one for resupply. Early fears that we would starve when presented with the German ration of one hot meal and a haversack ration for the rest of the day proved groundless. Once the initial shock of black bread and sliced meat for breakfast wore off, most people if not actually preferring it to egg and bacon, at least found it palatable.

PARTISAN NOTES FROM 2 SQUADRON

I am sure that COs of Divisional Signal Regiments know that if something really important is wanted, the Radio Squadron must be tasked. This is particularly true at Verden. First of all, the world's leading exponents on turf cutting and lawn laying, in the shapes of **Maj J. J. Cullen** and **Ssgt Brian Eason,** organised the Regimental Guy Fawkes night, judged the Guy competition, lit the fire and put on a firework display.

During this celebration, **Lt Charles Le Gallais** and the intrepid, **Sgt Denis Parker** were deploying five terminal detachments, two liaison vehicles, two VIP Rovers and four rebros for the Artillery Shoot, Exercise Autumn Gallop. This was the major FTX of the year for the Divisional artillery and in the event even rivalled our own firework display. With a considerable amount of red-hatted brass around, the move of a complete detachment of a mere 10 yards for **Lcpls Heywood** and **Mason,** and for **Cpls Gibbons** and **Crisp** was a mere trifle. Communications on the command nets worked well and the exercise was successfully concluded on November 11.

During the same period **Lcpl Chris Taylor, Cpl Jesse James, Sigs Terry** and **Andrew** were providing control communications at the Divisional Mortar Concentration. One glowing report returned, though who the congratulations were from is open to wry interpretation since the signal was headed 'Brenda for CO'!

During the period November 21–23, the Squadron rolled out a few more of the endless supply of detachments, on a joint Anglo-German radio exercise. The 3 Kompanie of our partner Battalion—FMBtl 1—and ourselves exercised to the east of Nienburg and attempted various communication configurations. **Ssgt (Y of S) Coles** and **Sgt Tony Bowen** commanded one radio village and our compatriots another. Mixed nets practised CW, FSK, Voice and RRB working. Some English soldiers spoke some German, but our German allies proved far more competent at speaking English. **Cpl Phil Davies** and **Lcpl Chris Taylor** were our senior representatives at the German radio village and needed no sign language to communicate with their bosses. **Cpls Steve Fuszard** and **'Bart' Bartholomew** attempted to teach **Sigs Nevill, Salisbury, Andrew** and **Terry** the art of joining a German-controlled net in German, whilst **Capt James Shaw** and **Maj J. J. Cullen** entertained CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** and **Brig Gen Bruhn,** Deputy Commander of the 1st German Division, to lunch.

Straight in from this exercise, we did a 'U'-turn and immediately positioned five detachments to cover the 1st Division Cross-Country Championships.

Then came Exercise Long Haul which was a night convoy training exercise in the area east of Hamburg. The exercise finished with an M2 bridge crossing on the River Elbe. This bridge was probably the longest built for some time in BAOR, consisting of 43 sections.

Cpl Brian Tortice performed the task of LO at the bridge, and **Cpl Harry Crutchley** kept the convoy informed of the bridge's progress through his Rebro. The convoy crawled many miles up to the crossing in dense fog which froze on to the windscreens. The crossing made on the swaying sections in the middle of the fast-running Elbe at 0300hrs was both exciting and, let's hand it to the Sappers, most impressive.

Finally—take one CRA—Brigadier rank; feed and water him regally at his farewell party in the Sergeants Mess; find 432; find crew; place CRA in 432 and drive him (gently) round to his staff car! **Cpl Jesse James** and **Cpl Alan Donaldson** we salute you. It had to be 2 Sqn—we may be good, but can we have some leave as well?!

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

4 (TASK FORCE) SQN REPORT

TIME TO SPARE

EXERCISES in BAOR tend to dominate our lives and Autumn Sales, the Corps CPX in October, was no exception. This large exercise took place in the Mosel and Rhineland and was a headlong advance in Patton's footsteps of December 1944. The stresses of high-powered exercise life came into some sort of perspective when **Cpl John Marriner's** 'exercise notes' appeared on the Divisional engineering net early one morning:

Delta and District Times

Autumn Sales is to finish seven days early. It's all part of MOD's plan to test our reaction to disappointment. Did you know that we are not, in fact, executing a sweeping advance against Soviet Forces, that is pure propaganda, the truth is we are rehearsing a retreat from the Armed Forces of Luxembourg, due to defence cuts we can no longer afford first division enemies.

Certain Staff Officers are, in fact, airing their views on our declining military strength. Maj Malpractis (OC Rhine Area Compo Crate Disposal Unit) told a meeting of NATO top brass at a Rheindahlen 'Tupperware' party last night: quote: 'If these defence cuts continue there's a good chance Great Britain could fail to qualify for World War III' unquote. He then went on to express his bitter disappointment, 'We only needed to win it the third time and we could have kept the trophy'.

The RMP were called in last night when it was discovered that someone had broken into G-Sleeps and stolen two teddy bears, a womble, and a batman suit. **Cpl 'Sandy' Sanderson** has been ordered back to our first location to remove the barn full of sandwiches he left behind.

Loads of lads are asking 'Who is this 4 Div we keep hearing from?' Well lads, so far as we can make out 4 Div is in fact a top comms unit whose place of residence is situated somewhere between Herford YMCA and the Garrison Dental Centre. We will try to find out more about them for you later.

Meanwhile, as our Tels wagon is up to its neck in mud and bumpers, we hear rumours of Charlie Troop's narrow escape from death and destruction. Apparently an ex-SS Suicide cyclist hurled his machine into the rear of Charlie's message centre and succeeded in pushing it into the path of an oncoming bus. Fortunately, no one was injured. Our message centre is not sending so much these days as they are too busy doing recovery missions.

THE SIT REP

Luxembourg's Armed Forces have pushed BAOR back across the Rhine and are now attempting to encircle five Bundeswehr Divisions in the Ruhr area. Their forward patrols are at this moment probing the Lippstadt/Soest area. Considerable delay is being experienced in bringing the whole power of NATO to bear on this front. Military aid from France has failed to materialise due to the sudden appearance of Monaco's Armed Forces on the outskirts of Paris. HQ BAOR stated last night, 'Hold fast lads, this is obviously an attempt to keep us out of the European Song Contest', unquote.

NEWS FROM THE OTHER FRONTS

Escorted by gunboats the Icelandic fishing fleet broke through the Mersey boom-defences last night and proceeded to fish the Manchester Ship Canal as far as Runcorn.

The Welsh Nationalist Army crossed the border last night, shouted 'bang' and threw a bullet through a police station window in Crewe.

The Scottish 'Tartan' Army claimed responsibility yesterday for the 500-lb bomb that exploded at Darlington's football ground last Saturday. Fortunately, Darlington were at home so no one was injured.

The IRA claimed responsibility this morning for sinking the *Titanic*. 'Such is our power', unquote.

In order to impose a threat to Luxembourg's southern flank the Italian Army has made landing and established firm beach heads on the Canary Islands. USAEUR announced last night, 'We cannot legally declar war on Luxembourg until they have bombed Pearl Harbour'.

The Warsaw Pact countries remain silent. According to the Chief of Soxmis in an intercepted signal to the Kremlin: 'Just like any other Friday night except for another Jubilee party in the Lippstadt/Soest area, PS. Who is 4 Div?'

There was much more but we thought you should share some of it. The photograph shows **WO2 (Y of S) Ian Sleightholm** and **Lcpl Dave Pickersgill** trying to think up a suitable spontaneous reply.

BACK IN BARRACKS

Life continues to be as busy as ever with the practical realities of the restructured Division being felt keenly at task force level. We enjoyed a minor success when **Ssgt Ray Vallance's** cricket XI won the Garrison Cricket League in convincing style. There have been some changes in personalities including the departure of the 2IC, **Capt Derek McLuckie,** with his wife, **Jan,** and new addition, to Staff College, and **WO2 (F of S) John Finney** to the School of Signals. We welcome **Capt John Ambrose** and **Anne** to fill the first gap, **Ssgt (F of S) Smith** is still looking for a new friend. We also welcome **Ssgt Tony Morrison** (RCT) of MT Troop, **Lcpl 'Taff' Davies** of TM Troop, **Sgt 'Eric' Nanty** also of TM Troop, and **Sigs Pashley, Yarwood, Quirk** and **Gainey,** who have come to join in the fun, not to mention the un-named signal man who left this letter where the editor could pick it up. . .

Dear Mother,

This Task Force Squadron is really full of promise, **Sgt 'Boggy' Marsh** has promised me tank driving lessons, **Y of S Sleightholm** has promised me a rat-catchers' course, and **Sgt 'Eddy' Winterburn** has promised to jail me. Our OC, **Maj Eastburn,** has a hell of a life, his bicycle is forever being confiscated by **Sgt Maj Didon,** and I know for a fact that **Capt Whipp** is planning to run away to Osnabruck taking Delta Troop with him. Last week I bought an old English sheep dog from **Staff Derwanz** because Staff told me the profits would be used to buy the OC a new bike for Christmas.



TFD Signal Troop on Exercise
Lcpl Pickersgill and WO2 (Y of S) Sleightholm

We have some technicians with us, they are all big and strong like **Harry Corn** and **Sgt Melville, Cpl Bruinsma** said they have to be strong in order to carry all their money home each month. **F of S Smith** was fuming last week, he discovered that one of his lancecorporals was trying to marry a commoner!

Lcpl 'Davy' Neal runs a great bar for us, along with his mate, **'Bob' McCulloch.** They let me sneak in for only half the normal fee. Another great bloke is **'Paddy' Flannagan.** He's in Forward Air Control. I'm not sure what this means but **'Paddy'** reckons he can get me a flight home anytime. **John Douglas** has started a cess pit diving team. I might go with him, but I'm trying to join **Jim Gooch's** public speaking classes as well.

I've still got a lot to learn, like why every time the sun shines **Capt Truluck** takes Charlie Troop out on a scheme, and **Staff Hurel** starts chasing Delta Troop around camp with a stop watch. Nor can I understand why they post all the Lieutenants named Rodney to the same unit.

Must go now, Mother, it's my turn to flush the redundant linemen out of the cellars.

Love Scouse (Your Son)

PS Send more money. **Cpl Vickers** reckons I'm two weeks in arrears on my SLR!

Heart warming isn't it? To prove it's not all beer and skittles a visiting Australian 'Rodney', **Maj Paul Mench,** dedicated this poem to the Squadron as he left:

The 'Step up' 'Step Down' Polka
(Danced without troops)

Around us dark Teuton forest
where tall trees and arials interminglе
Misty moonlight shafts down
on the dank leafy floor,
to cast shadows over murky shapes
who slip past, from tree to tree.

The hum and putter of generators,
the drone of tired voices
the buzz, blip and squawk of radios
violate night's tranquillity.

No birds sing in this forest,

Men huddle in their armoured cocoons;
minds wander as the dark hours pass slowly.

But still the phantom enemy reels
from the **bold** thrust of blue arrows
clever map pincers
catch him unawares
and spill his phoney blood.

To protect us from such misfortune,
we need no skill or luck.
The direct fat for us . . .
is surely to become
notional casualties, of this notional battle
But how different is War?

WIVES CLUB FASHION SHOW

During October our 2 Sqn Wives Club held a very successful



Photo courtesy: Cpl Light 2 Amd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Left to right. Top row: Trish Illingworth, Morag Wilson, Sandy Allen, Cathy Giles, Ingrid Birnstiel, Jan Chambers, Elka Birnstiel, Pat Daniels

Bottom row: Cpl Brough, Pat Large Carol Minter, 'Paddy' Rowe Pauline McMullen June Jennings, Cpl Pape

and professional Fashion Show. There were seven models who wore 150 outfits covering night, day, and evening wear of the latest autumn and winter fashions provided by **Frau Birnstiel** of ELKA Boutique, Bunde. They worked very hard and glamorously for three long hours, but not without the invaluable back-stage help provided by **Mrs Pat Large, Carol Minter, 'Paddy' Rowe, Pauline McMullen,** and **June Jennings.** They dressed and undressed models, made the buffet, built the stage, and decorated everywhere with flowers. **'Paddy'**, wife of **Maj Barry Rowe** (OC 2 Sqn), also did an excellent job of the compering.

Cpls Donnie Brough and **John Pape** must be thanked for coming along and providing the music and lights free of charge. Perhaps their reward was in watching the show!

Well done, ladies. An excellent evening.

LONG LOOK COOK

LAST week we said farewell to **Sgt Robert Moss,** of the Australian Army Catering Corps, who has been attached to us for the past four months on Exercise Long Look. He appears to have thoroughly enjoyed his visit and has managed to visit Bavaria, Holland, and Austria. **Sgt Moss** has found that because of the climatic differences he has had to produce 'heavier menus' for the British soldier whereas in Queensland he often cooked Chinese and Indian dishes and lighter meals such as cold meats and salads. He said, 'I have introduced quite a few sweet and sour dishes and curries and one Australian speciality; steak fingers in mushroom sauce went down very well'!

Sgt Moss has had to ensure jokes about kangaroo meat. He said 'Roo meat is a bit hard to come by in Europe. Though I've tried it myself it's very stringy, and I wouldn't want to inflict it on my customers'. **Sgt Moss** now returns to the UK for a week, where he will go to the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College in Aldershot, to study their training methods, before returning home to Australia. We wish **Sgt Moss** all the best.

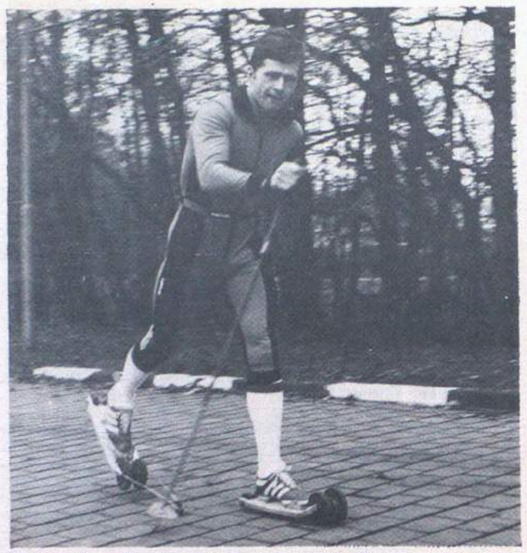


AUSTRALIAN ARMY LONG LOOK COOK
Sgt Robert Moss (*left*) supervises the creation of a jalousie, a pastry confection filled with jam

SIG STEVE LANCASHIRE AIMS FOR BIATHLON OLYMPICS—1980

A switch from cross-country running to cross-country ski-ing has put 20-year-old **Sig Steve Lancashire** in line for a place in the British Biathalon team in the 1980 Winter Olympics. He has already been chosen for training with the British Intermediate Biathalon team and is currently spending two months in Switzerland langlaufing in the Alps.

He is a wiry 5ft 7½in and 11½ stone which, he says, is certainly not an ideal stature for Biathalon. However, having been his school cross-country champion, and then the North of England Schoolboys and Cheshire County Champion this has not deterred him. In the Army, whilst training at Catterick, he kept up his



Sig Steve Lancashire keeps in condition 'langlaufing' round Birdwood Barracks on his roller skis

running and, in 1976, broke the record for the Army 2,000m steeplechase which he still holds. He also won the Combined Services Steeplechase. So, with stamina in abundance, cross-country ski-ing was a natural progression for **Sig Lancashire.**

He first tried ski-ing last winter in Bavaria when he entered for the 2 Armd Div Ski meeting. After only three weeks' ski-ing tuition he won the best novice prize. This performance led him to the attention of the Biathalon team. Already this summer he has spent two 'dry' training sessions with the Biathalon squad in Germany circuit training and roller ski-ing. **Sig Lancashire** says that it is the hardest training he has ever done. They are up by five thirty in the morning and complete four training periods a day, often finishing in the dark at eight thirty in the evening after roller ski-ing up to 45km

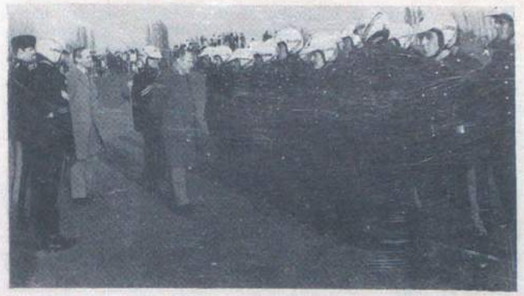
Sig Lancashire is training with an 18-strong squad who are competing for up to eight places in the Olympic team. He hopes to be one of them. His reward, if chosen, for the harsh grind of training, which will go on for the next two years, will be a trip to Lake Placid in the United States, where the next Winter Olympics are being held. We wish him the very best of luck.

THE WHITE HELMETS

On Saturday, November 5, we were lucky enough to have a display by the already famous team 'The White Helemts'. It was their last show of the year and in spite of the very slippery conditions a magnificent display as the photographs show.

We were honoured that they could fit a visit in to us in their busy schedule, having just finished the Berlin Tattoo.





Maj Gen F. E. Kitson, CBE, MC, inspects and talks to the team, accompanied by Capt Mike Prymaka. Lt Col John Halford, CO, looks on

JUBILEE CHARITY MARATHON

What do you get if you cross an Irishman with a Geordie and several pints of beer? Answer: A 26-mile Jubilee Charity Marathon for the over 35s. Well, that was the original idea of **Ssgt Derek Scott** and **SSM 'Paddy' Leggett.** However, after about six weeks of hard selling—the entrants totalled only six and they were diminishing quickly with the usual back ache problems, etc. It was soon realised that to get full support for the event it would have to be open to everybody. Hence the three entrance classes: Under 25s 25–35s Over 35s.

The marathon consisted of two very long 13-mile circuits, which was broken down into 1-mile relays for the Cubs and Scout entrants. The PRI very kindly donated medals (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) for the three classes, and ex-**Ssgt Caie Graham** donated a trophy for the winning team. The great day arrived, the weather being cold, wet, and windy and the first ones away were the Bunde Cubs and Scouts. Then the big rush came at 11 o'clock, as 50 competitors were started off by **Mrs Madelaine Halford,** the CO's wife.

Only 15 failed to make the full distance, and of the remainder who fought the elements and the temptations to stop at the liberally-sprinkled replenishment points; the most amazing team was the RCT drivers, otherwise known as the Wingate Wonders, and the Kamikaze squad. They recommend 'Herforder' as an ideal training method.

However, after this gruelling event the overall winner was big **Steve Lancashire** in the amazing time of 2hr 38min. The last man was home, in under five hours. 4 Sqn were the team winners, for which they received a barrel of beer and the Caie Graham Charity Trophy. The results were:

Over 35s 1. **WO1 Kidd,** 2. **Ssgt Scott,** 3. **WO2 (SSM) Leggett**

25–35s—1. **Cpl Cain,** 2. **Sgt Lovejoy,** 3. **Cpl Graham**

Under 25s—1. **Sig Lancashire,** 2. **Sig Graham,** 3. **Cpl Kerr**

Ssgt Derek Scott would like to know who drank the barrel of beer left by the winning team. It mysteriously disappeared nine-tenths full and then found its way back into Staff's office on Monday morning, EMPTY, with a note 'Ta' written on it! In summary, it was a very successful day with all the proceeds (approx DM4,000) being donated to the Ex-Servicemen's Limbless Association. Congratulations to all those who took part.



Ready and raring to go as Mrs Halford starts them off



The leaders on the first 13-mile circuit. *From left to right:* Sig Kevin Randall, Cpl Bill Cain, Sig John Graham, and Sig Steve Lancashire



WO2 (SSM) 'Paddy' Leggett 'Aaahhh!'



WO1 (F of S) Ray Kidd and Ssgt Derek Scott competing for the Darby and Joan Trophy

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 106

THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN

WITH the exception of the war years and other exigencies of the service, there have been representatives of HQ 3 Div in Bulford Camp from 1907 to 1977. In the 70 years concerned 3 Sig Regt and its Royal Engineers predecessors have served a total of 45 years in the Garrison.

During these years hundreds of members of the Regiment formed close and lasting relationships with the people of Bulford and the surrounding area. Many of these have settled in the area and look upon Bulford Camp as the spiritual home of the Regiment.

To mark this special relationship with the Garrison a brass plaque was placed in the Garrison Church as a permanent memento of all who have served and worshipped there. This was dedicated by **Padre Joe Bell** (CF) (once Royal Signals) at a special service on Sunday, July 31, 1977.



The plaque reads:

'This plate is erected to the Glory of God and to mark the departure from Bulford in 1977 of the 3rd Signal Regiment. The Regiment and its Royal Engineer prêdecessors has worked and worshipped in this Garrison for a total of forty-five years trice leaving for active service in France.

1907–1910 3rd Div Telegraph Coy Royal Engineers
1910–1914 3rd Div Coy Royal Engineers

——— o ———

1920–1922 3 Div Sig Coy Royal Signals
1922–1939 3 Div Sigs

——— o ———

1959–1962 3 Inf Div Sig Regt
1962–1977 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt.'

This constitutes a simple but eloquent tribute to a long and honourable association and is one which all past and present members of the Regiment can be justifiably proud of.

A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Take a dash of Dunkirk, a pinch of Singapore, a twist of Suez, the merest hint of Aden, mix well with the motoring madness of 'The Great Race', add the vaguest trace of military expertise, a liberal helping of the genius for improvisation of all British NCOs, garnish with the stoical good humour of the average soldier and you have the perfect recipe for moving a Divisional Signal Regiment from the UK to BAOR. Our plan for this complex and intricate manoeuvre was a masterpiece of simplicity, 'All this lot here, are to move over there'. Much to everyone's suprprise it appears to have worked. Lonely Bulford, you should now contact JSBC where you will learn something to your advantage.

Amorphous equipment

Having divorced themselves from all things technical, **Capt (TOT) John Bridgeman** and **WO1 (Y of S) Bob Baker** have opened up in opposition to Pickfords as baggage officers and container stuffers. With a single mindedness of purpose they have applied themselves to the task of moving all the Regiment's goods and chattels whilst making the most economical use of the containers available. In their quest for perfection they have developed a veritable genius for making awkward-shaped pieces of equipment fit the spaces available. Any unit interested in acquiring a round TDMS or a conical C42 should contact our QM.

A question of confidence

After an instant quarter mongering course, **Capt (QM) Terry Martin** donned his Arthur English mantle and proved himself to be the Prince of Wide Boys when he took over as QM (T) rear party and proceeded to dispose of the unit's assets in the UK. Like those most fearsome of predators, genteel old ladies at a village jumble sale, unit reps descended on Carter Barracks in search of bargains. Callously they drew attention to every minute blemish and slight imperfection in an effort to beat down the asking price. Many an eye misted and stiff upper lip quivered as members of the Regiment listened to well-loved equipments, which had produced immaculate circuits between the Ski Slope and The Belt over the rugged inhospitable terrain of Salisbury Plain, being held to ridicule. Undaunted, **Terry** showed all the perspicacity and determination of a Jewish camel trader as he wore down all opposition and succeeded in his Herculean task. Friends will no doubt be delighted to learn that his efforts have not gone unrewarded on posting he joins the UDR as QM.

New places—same old faces

Having handed over in the UK, **Capt (QM) Ron Knight, WO2 (RQMS) Les Budworth** and **Sgt 'Brummy' Andrews** made a lightening cross-Channel dash to open up shop almost in the same breath. In no time at all they were suffering from vertigo as they clambered over mountains of kit which had materialised overnight. **Ron** was convinced that one of them was the sorcerer's apprentice who had turned on ordance's magic computer and then found that he could not stop it. Lakes of midnight oil were burned up whilst our unholy trinity strove to stop the flow, account for every last nut and bolt and distribute it as planned.

If their respective wives should read this, take heart, your husbands have not deserted you they are still with the unit. They should qualify for R & R from 12 to 1 on Christmas Day. You will find that they remain quite calm if you allow them to make out a CES for the children's toys before taking them on charge. It would also help if you could join them in singing. The Equipment Regs to the tune of 'White Christmas'. All three, in their brief lucid moments, agreed that it has been an unforgettable experience, then pray fervently in unison that it will never be repeated.

Within these walls

A frenzy of activity is manifesting itself as the hierarchy of 2 and 3 Sqns busy themselves with imaginative schemes designed to make their respective Squadrons comfortable in the old Canadian Prison complex. This building boasts all the more pleasing aspects of Pentonville coupled with the homely atmosphere of Alcatraz. Being already fitted with security lights which illuminate in random order and huge searchlights, it only requires a few tastefully placed watch towers and machine guns to transform it into Stalag St Sebastian.

The SSM of 2 Sqn, **WO2 Pete Dalton,** reports that he is experiencing great difficulty in thwarting a very active and ingenious escape committee. He is convinced that they have succeeded in harnessing the thousands of voles which infest the area to work in concert and produce a tunnel suitable for a mass break out. The CO, **Lt Col Ray Bell,** is endeavouring to borrow a flail tank to negate this scheme and prevent the prison being undermined.

Let the dog see the bunny

OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Lee Tilson,** ably assisted by **Capt Mike Podmore,** has decided to channel his men's surplus energies into cross-country running and participation in Volkslauf organised by the various local communities. These have proved to be very popular, particularly since **WO2 (SSM) Steve Marshall** has introduced his own incentive scheme. The SSM appears to be a keen disciple of the dog track which suggests to him the idea of a quarry to rouse their hunting instincts. The hare he used to produce electrifying results on a recent run was the Squadron's shapely typist, **Mrs June Gibney.** Dressed in brief shorts and a T-shirt which complemented her figure, she was secreted in a wood about two-thirds of the way around a gruelling 5½-mile course.

After the first dozen runners had raced past her hiding place she burst out and ran gracefully down the track behind them. The effect on the remainder of the field was devastating. A miraculous transformation was achieved as faded spirits soared, leaden feet grew wings, aching muscles became sinews of steel, and sagging paunches were drawn up to form bulging pectorals. Even the dedicated sloths were converted into sleek gazelles.

Fortunately, **Mrs Gibney** is also fleet of foot, and she managed to wing home well ahead of a massive pack of Brendan Fosters intent on creating new world records. Since the over-forties have reported that the NAAFI has sold out of Phyllosan, the SSM's demanding saliva tests and seeking the services of a competent handicapper with buckets of wet sand before he organises the next event.

Reading between the lines

On returning from a recent border patrol, **Lt Simon Richmond** and **Alan Choat** reported that their first night RV was 200m inside East Germany. As they had no wire cutters, cold feet, and Len Deighton was not available to chronicle their exploits, they decided that discretion was the better part of valour and chose their own RV. They are now wondering whether this was a genuine typing error or was the CO trying to tell them something.

Silence is golden

This fact was graphically illustrated recently when the members of the Soest Scout Troop took part in a marathon 24-hour sponsored silence. The event organised by Scout Leader, **Sgt Paul Jackson** (RAOC) of 5 Fd Wksp able assisted by **WO2 (Y of S) Tony Lomax** and **Ssgt (F of S) Brian Carter,** was designed to raise money to purchase a colour television set for mentally handicapped German children in Soest. The authorities in charge of the home suggested a target of DM900 for the event.

The Scouts camped out in the Soest Community Centre for the duration of what most parents considered to be, 'Mission Impossible'. They were proved wrong by some very determined boys, over 50 per cent succeeded in maintaining silence for the full period and numerous others only narrowly failed by inadvertently speaking on waking up.

Sgt Carter was full of admiration for one little chap who was sick and in spite of numerous notes urging him to give up he steadfastly refused to abandon his effort. The long night vigil was relieved by a number of sleep walkers who had to be led back to their beds in silence.

The Scouts exceeded all expectations and anticipate collecting approximately DM3,000 for this very worthy cause. A presentation ceremony is planned for December 11 in the Garrison Church at Salamanca Barracks when a television set or the money raised will be handed over to the home.

2 SQUADRON REPORTS

THIS month's notes are contributed by 2 Sqn, which has had a considerable changeover of personalities in the Squadron soon after arrival in BAOR. They are as follows:

OC	—	**Maj Ian Knock**
Admin Offr	—	**Lt Colin Meredith**
OC 'A1' Tp	—	**Capt John Burnage**
OC 'A2' Tp	—	**Capt Tony Elford**
OC 'A3' Tp	—	**Lt Simon Richmond**
SSM	—	**WO2 Peter Dalton**
Y of S	—	**WO2 Tony Lomax**
F of S	—	**WO2 Peter Bruce**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt Ted Fendley**

With the move to BAOR, the changeover of NCOs and soldiers is so great that it would be possible to fill a page of comings and goings, so we just wish to say farewell to all that have left the Squadron and welcome to all those who have joined us. Having said a sad farewell to Bulford, we were all looking forward to our new location. However, on our arrival, the Squadron ended up in jail (our Squadron accommodation is in a former prison). We discovered that we were surrounded by a large wire fence with search lights. Rumour is that it's to keep other people out; however, the USO has already found three of our tunnels and has made us fill them back in! What's that saying again?—'Don't fence me in'! Others just think we are being cagey about what we do! There's no truth in the rumour that the electric chair which is in the OC's office is still in working order and that the Admin Officer, when in his office, throws the switch, just to let the OC know that he is still alive.

FIRST TO GO

As usual 2 Sqn were the first to show the way on exercises and border patrols, having sent detachments out with 6 Bde and on border patrol within a few days of our arrival. According to what we hear all went well. **Lt Simon Richmond** and his merry men had a few enjoyable days, but still blame the other side for the loss of one or two items of kit. No, it wasn't in the GDR!

NEW APPOINTMENT

As you may have noted from the last time we wrote, we have a new appointment within the Squadron, that of an Admin Officer and, true to form, he is helping the world's shortage of paper along (bless him).

SQUADRON MOTTO

With the arrival of our new Squadron Commander the Squadron motto has apparently been changed to 'Don't Knock It'. **Maj Ian Knock** is taking over from **Capt John Burnage** who has been carrying the heavy burden of 2 Sqn for three months.

'JAIL TALK'

Sgt Alan Berry is the Squadron MT Sergeant and at the moment is run off his feet, trying to keep up with the changes to the size of our vehicle fleet and the sizes of our Squadron Tac signs.

Unfortunately, some of our Troop offices have by necessity been located in some of the cells within the prison, much to the dismay of **Sgt Dwight Peart,** as his men keep locking him in every time they get the opportunity. In fact, if it had not been for a sharp-eyed member of the guard recently, he would have spent the whole weekend locked up.

Lcpl 'B to Z' Budkiewicz is our man at the Ministry (Squadron Clerk) and, with all the paperwork the four Troops require, he is just about keeping his head above the paperline.

Apart from the initial turmoil and hard work of settling into our new surroundings, we are still finding time to participate in all the Regimental sports competitions. We provide quite a number of soldiers for the Regimental teams, complete our BE tests, and join in most of the social events.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Capt John Burnage** and his wife, **Pat,** on the birth of their second child, **James Jonathon.**

3 SQUADRON

3 Sqn have taken first blood in the Regimental inter-Squadron Competition, by taking first place in the cross-country race. It must be true what their SSM, **WO2 Steve Marshall,** says: His Squadron are run off their feet. The Squadron also entered and won a German Volkslauf race, but were asked by the organisers to pay for the medals. Never mind—you can't win them all.

HQ SQUADRON

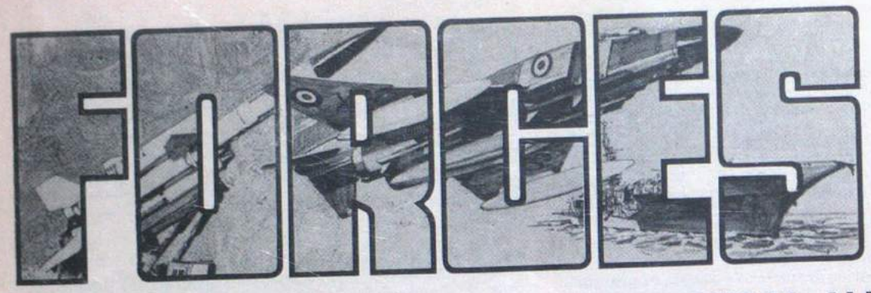
HQ Sqn are feeling the pinch at the moment, especially with all the kit which is coming into the Regiment from all directions. It is said that the QM (T), **Capt Ron Knight, MBE,** and the QM (A), **Maj Gordon Long, MBE,** are both going through their parts lists looking for the part number for soldiers multi purpose. Any offers as to what this part number is would be gratefully received so that a priority demand may be submitted.

SPORT

In two of the BAOR competitions the Regiment have had some limited success at the first attempt. We did quite well in the rugby competition but unfortunately lost to 3 BAPD who were the better side and who have had much more experience in BAOR competitions. Next season may tell a different tale. In the BAOR Cross-country competition we have done quite well, coming second in the Division competition which puts us through to the BAOR finals—well done, **Capt Mike Podmore** and his cross-country team.

WELCOME

Welcome to 1 Sqn, the large part of which is now beginning to arrive from 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. With the formation of the two Task Force Signal Troops, Echo and Foxtrot, and when 1 Sqn are here, the Regiment's new organisation will be complete. They will be contributing their reports in due course.



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_____ am/pm (anytime up to 9pm).

(Don't worry if you're not on the phone. We'll be in touch.)

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

REFLECTIONS

THE snow falls gently over a peaceful Northern Germany but down in Herford something stirs—the CO is back from the CSO Study Period and it's only days to the annual FFR or ARU (amongst other names that only a British soldier could christen this festivity).

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and New Year resolutions will be thankfully broken, the Regiment will be re-structured (or is it resutured), and we will have changed our name to another tongue-twisting title—4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. Rumour has it that we are changing our motto to 'Forewarned is 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt but we're not so sure (even though we're swift enough!).'



Thirsty work this Jubilee parading!

Jubilee Year is over and we rest in the firm knowledge that 1978 just cannot possibly be as busy as 1977—can it? To show you what really went on during the Jubilee parade (7.7.77) we enclose an incriminating photograph taken in the CO's 432. The Adjutant, **Capt John Stokoe,** is pouring a glass of Moet et Chandon (what else?) for the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Frank Worrall.** The CO, doing the knees up in the foreground, wishes to remain anonymous.

INTER-SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION

At the end of September we held the annual inter-Squadron novice boxing competition. It was an enormously successful affair concluding in a win for 3 Sqn. Their trainer, coach, manager and general factotum, **Ssgt Dave Darlington,** whilst being impressed with his own team's performance, heaped praise on the young boxers of the other Squadrons. Methinks there's a bit of talent spotting going on.



HEAVYWEIGHT FINAL

Lcpl Clyde Atherley (*left*) and Lcpl Lloyd Whittaker in action
The general concensus of opinion is that none of us would wish to meet these gentlemen in, shall we say, adverse conditions!



The CO, Lt Col D. C. Whitehead commiserating with Lcpl Lloyd Whittaker (heavyweight) after losing to Lcpl Clyde Atherley (*standing left*)



3 SQADRON BOXING TEAM

Left to right. Back row: Sig Westen, Dvr Harland, 'Q' Darlington (*manager/trainer*), Sig Miller, Cpl Howie, Lcpl Whittaker
Front row: Sig Cook, Sig Gibson, Cpl Dunlop, Lcpl Demster
Winners of Regimental inter-Squadron Boxing Novice Championship



The new GOC 4 Div, Maj Gen R. M. H. Vickers, MVO, OBE, signing in at the WOs and Sgts Mess

CHANGE OF COMMAND

During our first week of Exercise Autumn Sales the command of 4 Div changed hands. **Maj Gen N. T. Bagnall, MC,** departed for the environs of Whitehall. We wish both him and his wife every success in London. **Mrs Bagnall** recently confided that her only worry was having to make him sandwiches for lunch again—such is the price of progress!'

We extend a warm welcome to **Maj Gen R. M. H. Vickers, MVO, OBE.** Having arrived in the middle of an exercise, he got to know the Regiment very quickly. His searching questions, force of personality and his battledress trousers left quite an impression.

Back in Herford, **Gen Vickers** has already beaten several of our better squash players and, to the embarrassment of many staff officers, has passed his BE test!

INTER-SQUADRON SHOOTING COMPETITION

The inter-Squadron SLR shooting competition took place at Senne in late October. One of the surprising aspects of the day was the number of young soldiers who made up the Squadron teams (you, you and you?). 3 Sqn, which was the eventual winner, had in its team no less than six recent arrivals in the Regiment out of eight. The most notable of these newcomers was **Sig Neil Howarth** who came runner-up to **Maj Brian Belton,** OC 1 Sqn, as Best Individual Shot and **Sig Stephen Leather** who only arrived a day or so beforehand. The only shooting both of these soldiers had done previously was during their basic training at 11 Sig Regt—old sweats watch out!

HEADMASTERS VISIT

We recently had pleasure in hosting 24 headmasters from various schools throughout the UK. Although the purpose of the visit was to aquaint them with a more-upto-date view of Army life, it provided an excellent forum for an exchange of views on all educational matters. I think that we enjoyed their visit as much as they did. Our picture shows **WO1 (RSM) Worrall** *(centre)* sharing a joke with **Mr Bruce McGowan,** headmaster of Haberdashers Ashes School, who had the doubtful privilege of being 'senior' head. **Mrs Elaine McKenzie** was not amused.



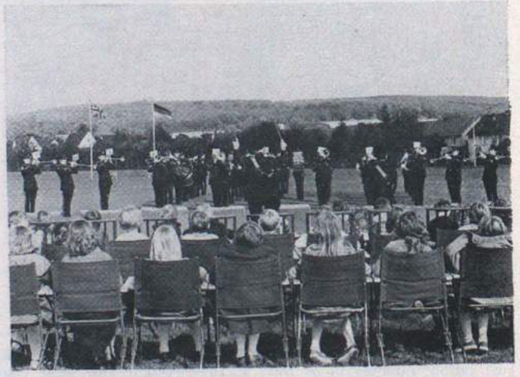
BUFFET SUPPER IN THE WOs and SGTs MESS FOR THE HEADMASTERS

Left to right: Mrs Elaine McKenzie, WO1 (RSM) Wondall, Mr Bruce McCowan

DISPLAYS

During the latter half of the year we have been pleased to welcome the Corps Band and the White Helmets. The Band did us proud on the playing of Retreat and for their rehearsal in the afternoon we invited the children of Lister and Fleming Schools to watch—needless to say they thoroughly enjoyed the performance and an afternoon off school!

The White Helmets put on their usual brilliant performance despite the fact that the Regiment had a 'turn out' in the morning and most of the Regiment didn't get back in time to see it—however, the wives and children enjoyed themselves.



The Corps Band rehearsing to an audience of several hundred children of Lister and Fleming Schools

ETCETERA

Thanks to the Editor for his message of thanks to all contributors. I wonder if the cheque will come with the New Year's card?

Headquarter Sqn Headquarters team won the inter-Troop Besketball Competition by narrowly beating Headquarters Sqn LAD team—congratulations to them.

WO1 Bert Schneider has hung up his rugby boots for the third time in a year. This time he has his ankle in a sling. At least he now has an excuse for stepping out of line. Get well soon, **Bert,** the Sergeants Mess needs the bar profits and the rugby pitch needs rolling.

The snow continues to fall, and it's getting colder—in fact, the only thing that isn't frozen here is the rent. A happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

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

IN RETROSPECT

'COULD you write 400 words on RHQ for THE WIRE before you depart from the Regiment?' asked **Sgt 'Bruce' Forsyth,** with a significant glance towards the blank space on my clearance certificate marked 'Orderly Room Sergeant'. So, with only 48 hours to go, I am still trying to put down on paper my impressions of the organisation and personalities that go to make up Regimental Headquarters.

THE TEAM

At the top (a good place to start), concealed in clouds of cigar smoke, can be found the CO, **Lt Col M. R. Topple,** ably assisted by the 2IC, **Maj Barrie Burke,** who also smokes many cigars, preferably Canadian. The Adjutant's chair has recently been occupied by **Capt Graham Hand, BA (Cantab),** who has resisted taking up cigars but continues to consume rather exclusive, gold band, Fribourg & Treyer No 1 Deluxe, as befits his position. The Adjutant's right-, and left-hand man is **WO1 Barney Hill** who still maintains that angling is classed as a Regimental sport, and a suitable way of occupying Wednesday afternoons (he smokes kippers). Not far down the corridor we meet (or avoid—depending on your status) the Regimental Sergeant-Major, **WO1 J. R. Nicoll** (the next sentence comes under 'intentional deletion'). The RSM is very much the 'navigator' in RHQ and keeps the Regiment on the straight and narrow, ensuring that we never lose our way (the RSM has graduated from 'Tom Thumbs' to 'Castellas'). And so to the workers! ('Silk Cut', 'Woodbines', etc). We recently said goodbye to our Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) Les Wilkinson,** who has been replaced by **WO2 (ORQMS) Brian Dearman** from 40 Sig Regt (V). We shall all miss the 'old' Chief's ready sense of humour and witty sketches, produced for RHQ parties; and welcome the 'new' Chief who is busily studying 'Party tricks for all occasions'. The Orderly Room is run by **Sgt Frank Dawson** who has recently replaced **Sgt 'Paddy' Crooks.** He is suitably hindered by **Cpls Gerry Wells** and **Ron Watson, Lcpls Mel Brooks** and **Steve Jones,** and our 'all powerful' **Sigs 'Dinger' Bell** and **Phil Staddon.** Between them they bear the brunt of the day-to-day administration of the Regiment. They have recently survived a Unit Documentation inspection and a Defence Audit and can be forgiven for appearing slightly jaded and green around the gills. Other RHQ personalities include **Cpl Brian Carter** (District Attorney) who looks after discipline documentation and ensures the successful prosecution of the 'criminals' in our midst (he's totally underemployed). Hot from the Officers Mess, **Sig Roger Charlesworth** now sits in our despatch office learning all about the rudiments of becoming a 'good clerk' (two lumps please).

FINANCE AND OPS

Within our RHQ team we have our financial wizards, the RAPC staff. The leaders of this very efficient bunch is **Capt Basil Holmes, BEM,** and **WO2 Tom Wightman.** The Pay staff look after the Regiment extremely well and provide us with all the necessary financial know-how (including currency speculation). According to **WO1 Barney Hill, 'Q' Wightman** is also an excellent fisherman whose unique technique should be seen to be believed (he beats them to death).

Finally, to the Operations Cell; incarcerated behind the 'grill' we find the Operations Officer, **Maj John Potier** (non-smoker), **Capt (Tfc) Ted Heasman** (non-smoker) and **Capt (TOT) Ray Boulter** ('Silk Cut', 'Woodbines', large cigars, small cigars, boots, etc, etc). Their supporting cast is **WO1 (F of S) Frank Gadman, Ssgt John Lawrence** and **Lcpl 'Diddy' Didcok.** Their main asset appears to be a coffee percolator, and unlimited hospitality in handing out cups of this rather grey and doubtful 'brew'.

AND NOT LEAST

We must not close without mentioning the dear young lady, **Mrs Wendy Wright,** who is going to neatly type these notes, double spacing and all, and send them to the Editor.

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE SO in C

On October 26 the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** and **Mrs Tighe** paid their farewell visit to the Regiment.



The SO in C inspects a very smart Quarter Guard provided by 4 Sqn



The SO in C visits 'shiny 5', accompanied by Lt Col M. R. Topple *Left to right:* Maj 'Bill' Bowen, Sig 'Zambesi' Davies, Sig 'Danny' Daniels, Sig 'Minnow' Minvalla and Sig Pat Reilly

After inspecting a very smart Quarter Guard, and a discussion with our CO, **Lt Col M. R. Topple,** the SO in C visited one of the new accommodation blocks of HQ Sqn. He was very impressed with the 'new look' and congratulated our Quartermaster A, **Maj Clem Palmer, MBE,** on fighting the project through and ensuring that our soldiers get their new accommodation as soon as possible.

The party moved on to visit 5 Sqn, commanded by **Maj Bill Bowen,** who were suitably dressed in their 'Noddy kit' carrying out military training, under the ever watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) 'Tich' Reynolds** (is he still there?). One of the major events of the day was a visit to the Sergeants Mess where the SO in C presented one of our longer serving 'soldiers', **Frau Brose,** with a beautiful carriage clock (25 years at Maresfield and still going strong). Whilst the men were doing their 'thing', **Mrs Tighe** accompanied by **Mrs Topple,** had a most interesting day seeing the historic buildings of Herford, and enjoying 'coffee and cakes' with **Mrs Maggie Bowen** at 'Schloss Bowen'.

In the evening the SO in C and **Mrs Tighe,** accompanied by the CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers** and **Mrs Oehlers,** were royally entertained in the family atmosphere of the Officers Mess where **Capt 'Dicky' Dyer,** suitably disguised, compered a superb 'cabaret'. The 'star' of the show was none other than our very own top 'drag' artist, **Lt Nick Ferriman** (or was it Ferriwoman?).

A most successful visit; we sincerely wish the SO in C and **Mrs Tighe** our very best wishes for their future venture in Hong Kong. . . .

TWO SILVER JUBILEES IN ONE YEAR?

After our success at the Queen's Silver Jubilee parade at Sennelager, we were well prepared and practised for our second Jubilee of the year. **Frau Brose,** our Officer in charge of civil



Lt Col M. R. Topple congratulates Frau Brose

labour, is celebrating her 25th year at Maresfield Barracks. Many ex-members of the Regiment will remember Frau Brose; her memories of the past characters of the Regiment would surely fill two books.

Frau Brose began working for the Royal Signals in Maresfield Barracks on October 12, 1952. Initially she was employed as a motor transport clerk but her flare and ability were quickly recognised and she became full-time Officer in charge of civilian labour. Her team is 53 strong and includes such trades as tailors, storekeepers, vehicle mechanics, clerks, gardeners, labourers and cleaners. Added to her many duties Frau Brose acts as translater, interpreter, and all matters relating to liaison with the local German population. To mark this notable 'jubilee' occasion, the SO in C presented Frau Brose with an inscribed carriage clock as a token of our appreciation for her work over the years. According to Frau Brose this is only the first half; she is now preparing to serve another 25 years at Maresfield (perhaps she will see Ptarmigan).

It is interesting to note that when Frau Brose was 'posted in', the Adjutant was only two, the RSM was still in short trousers, and the QM (A) was only 55!

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison



Left to right: WO1 (RSM) David Hughes, WO1 (ASM) Peter Dolphin, Brig Butler, WO1 (SSM) Bill Leslie and Sgt Bill Page

GOOD ATTENDANCE?

The WOs and Sgts Mess bar was a busy place at lunchtime on October 20, 1977, when four of its members were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by **Brig Norman Butler,** Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison.

No lesser person than the RSM himself, **WO1 David Hughes,** was a recipient as was **WO2 (SSM) Bill Leslie,** SSM of 1 Sqn, and **Sgt Bill Page,** Troop Sergeant of 'M' Troop. **WO1 (ASM) Peter Dolphin** commands the LAD which used to be attached to Headquarters Training Bde but has now been absorbed by 31 Command Workshops, and his support to the Regiment is greatly appreciated.



THE FIRST IN THREE YEARS!

For the first time since 1974 'A' Grading Prizes were presented to Radio Telegraphist Upgraders **Lcpl Mick McIvor,** of 596 Rear Link Det, 8 Fd Force at Tidworth, and **Sig David Appleyard,** of 22 Sig Regt.

Lcpl Mick McIvor was trained as a Radio Telegraphist at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and was posted to 12 Mechanised Bde and Sig Sqn in 1974. A two-year posting to NITAT preceded his present job to which he can return, proud in his achievement of nine 'A' passes and first place out of 15 above-average students.

Sig David Appleyard is also an ex-Harrogate Apprentice whose first posting was 262 Sig Sqn in Cyprus. He happened to be there during the troubles of 1974 and was heavily involved in the evacuation of Famagusta. Late 1974 saw him at 602 Sig Tp followed in 1976 by 22 Sig Regt where he commands a D11 radio detachment. He came second on the course with eight 'A' gradings.

Both of them go back to their units with our heartiest congratulations and best wishes and hope their success may inspire other Radio Telegraphist Upgraders! Good Luck! The photograph shows from left to right: **WO1 (Y of S) Peter Sharpe, Mr Jim Stainer** (SI (Op)), **Lcpl Mick McIvor, Lt Col Gordon Young** (OC TTS), **Sig David Appleyard** and **Maj John Doody** (CI (Op)).

COINCIDENCE?

Is it pure coincidence that with the departure of all four officers of 3 Sqn, the Squadron has had to close down and be integrated with 2 Sqn? All four have contributed a great deal and we are sad to see them go. **Maj John (Huntin', Shootin' and Fishin') Messer-Bennetts** has opted for the 'good life' in Cornwall, out of the hectic life of the Army, and **Capt Mike Crane** has gone to wrap up things in Malta. **Lt Dave (Stand by your beds) Llewellyn** is at present attending the MIOs course at Ashford before posting and **Lt George Wilton** is forsaking the Royal Signals to join the RMPs, obviously with the thought that 'if you can't beat 'em, join 'em'!

MORE FAREWELLS

'Our man in Greenland', **Maj Rod Dransfield,** having survived the Expedition goes shortly to the Apprentices College at Harrogate which suits him, as his home and family are there, but we will miss the energy and enthusiasm which inspired his Squadron on to great athletic and cross-country feats.

Everyone in the Regiment felt very sorry for **Lt Hugh Bardell** when they heard his posting—OIC 2 Div Ski Team! He himself has taken it very well and the fact that he had packed his MFO boxes two days after hearing the news is irrelevant! We wish him the very best of luck in Zermatt, Germany, etc—with gritted teeth of course!

SPORT IN SHORT

Rugby . . . In the first round of the Army Cup our team beat 1 RHA from Topcliffe 15—3. As luck would have it, we now have a bye to the fourth round and await to hear who we play next.

Football . . . In the preliminary round of the Army Cup the team defeated Chester Garrison 5—1 and went on to beat the Queens Own Highlanders 3—2 in the first round. Next time round the opposition is Central Engineer Park, Longmarston.

Hockey . . . Yet again, as luck would have it, we had byes to the third round of the Army Cup and into the second round of the District Cup when we play York Garrison.

FORWARD THE GREEN GODDESS

BEFORE the Firemen's strike, fire to 8 Sig Regt was just something the White Helmets jumped through, now it's a way of life! Since our re-allocation to a fire-fighting force in November, WRAC 'Strippers' with the help of the odd man, have 'de-mothballed' 53 'GGs'; our fire detachments in County Durham have fought 193 fires including 10 serious ones; and one Green Goddess was sadly mutilated in an accident which put one crew member, **Sig 'Staff' Storey,** into hospital for a few weeks.

WIDE DEPLOYMENT

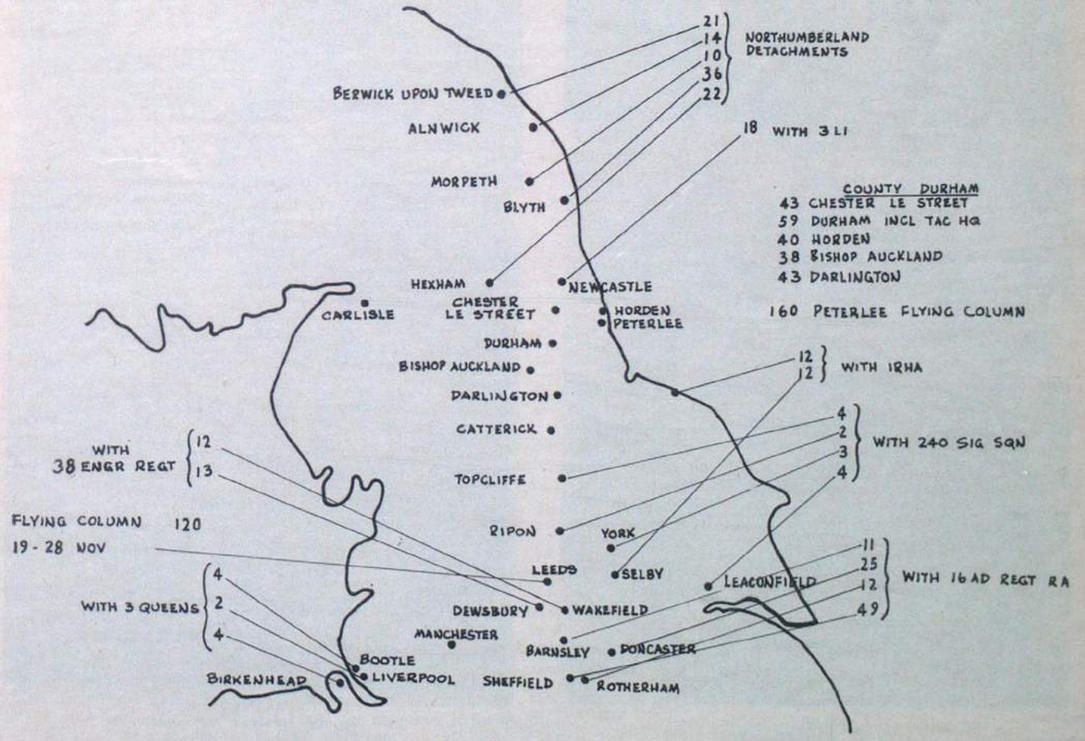
The Regiment has nearly 800 officers and men deployed, including 35 WRAC; this does not include the Rear Party stalwarts who cheerfully meet the many requests from field locations which vary from replacement crews to jelly moulds! Reports from all locations show that everyone is enjoying the challenge of a new experience but still managing to play their sport—the rugby team has moved to the Flying Column at Shotton Hall, Peterlee, where off-duty time is spent in training and perfecting their 'flying' tackles!

Morale is high, but with Christmas nigh, the 'burning' question is leave. However, the County Councils and other civilian bodies have been more than helpful and if their hospitality to date is anything to go by, a good Christmas is assured for those on fire-fighting duties.

PS To all units—please don't worry—fire-fighting courses have not been added to the list of Specialist Courses run by the Trade Training School, though you will be getting some budding Fire NCOs from future outputs!

Amidst sending off nearly 300 soldiers of all ranks to fire-fighting training at RAF Catterick, we were amused to receive a Civilian Staff Bulletin advertising the job of Firemen with the Army Fire Brigade assuring 'generous time off', good pay, etc!

8TH SIGNAL REGIMENT DEPLOYMENT ON FIRE FIGHTING DUTIES (OP BURBERRY)



AS THE CAMERA SAW IT



Preparation
WRAC at Catterick prepare Green Goddesses for issue to detachments



Deployment—November 13
For once it wasn't raining



Crew training at RAF Catterick



The GOC North-East District



'What's gone wrong?'



The waiting game
Standby crews at Darlington



'Fire'
Bishop Auckland



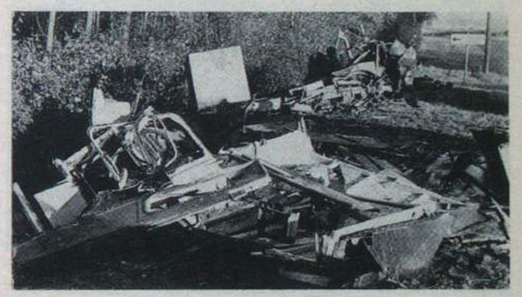
Caught short!



Maj Gen Anderson's first visit as SO in C just happened to be to our fire-fighters in County Durham



The Hexham crew before the accident. Sig Storey (*top left*) was the only casualty—he is now on sick leave



Casualty of war
The Hexham GG after skidding on black ice



Visitors
The Master of Signals

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

SUMMER CAMP IN WSBA

IN the last two weeks of October the second half of Summer Camp took place at Evdhimou in the WSBA. Camp activities included orienteering, sightseeing, boating and ·22 shooting. Some 110 attended over two four-day camps. The success of the camps was largely the result of the effort put in by the administrative staff. Thanks must be given to **WO2 Pete Perrott, Ssgt Charlie Brown, Sgts Des McGonigle** and **Colin Wing, W/Cpl 'MJ' Watson, Lcpl 'Chef' Holgate, Sigs Bob Pinnell** and **Pete Rixon** for their hard work and good humour throughout.

RUGBY REPORT

On Saturday, October 8, 1977, the first 'Keo Cup' competition was held at Ayios Nikolaos. This competition is a knock-out competition for teams of 15-a-side playing for 15 minutes each way; 9 Sig Regt organised the competition and Keo Breweries provided the trophies for the main competition winners and runners-up and a plate winner's trophy.

Nine teams took part and the competition provided some exciting rugby throughout the day, enjoyed by spectators and players alike. 9 Sig Reg 1st XV won the cup, beating Flamingoes (the Akrotiri 'A' team) in the final 9—6; a drop goal by **Cpl Mick Dowd** in the last seconds ending a hard-fought game. 9 Signals Hornets won the plate, beating Episkopi Racasans 6—0; needless to say all players and spectators were well refreshed during and after the matches with Keo Beer from the bar manned by wives of 9 Signals RUFC.



Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Lt Col R. K. Ward, CO 9 Sig Regt, presents the Keo Cup to IX RUFC 1st team captain C/T Al Eddy

NEWS ON TWO

Anyone arriving in the midst of 2 Sqn at the beginning of September would surely have been taken aback at the upsurge in activity. All departments changed gear as the long, hot summer drew to a close and everyone began to atune themselves for the cool-season activities.

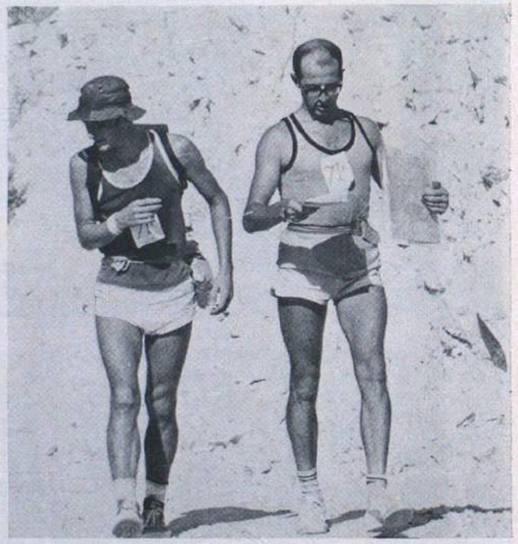
At the Regimental Fete the Squadron involvement was particularly 'heavy' with **SSM Andy (Al Capone) Boyle** hustling a good 'numbers racket' by organising the Grand Draw. It was then up to the 'Godfathers' in the shape of **WO Woodcock** and **WO2's Poole, Honor** and **Groves** to send their soldiers (and airmen) into the field and sell the tickets, with the result that saturation coverage was soon achieved—the fact that Christmas leave was up for consideration had nothing at all to do with it!

WINTER SEASON UNDER WAY

Activity continued unabated through to the start of the football, hockey, rugby, and cross-country season. 2 Sqn were well represented in the team which narrowly lost the Carter Cup soccer final. Excellent performances were also put in by three teams in the Cyprus Walkabout competition. The brave men who ventured the 60 miles-plus round trip were **Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts, Sgt Pete Forster, Cpls Derek Calder, Martin Dullaghan, SAC Dave Bues, Jnr Tech Trev Banks, Lcpl Pete Ridlington, SAC Kerry Gray,** and **Cpl Bob Bell.** On the hockey scene, the Squadron 'A' team narrowly lost the Regimental 6-a-side competition by the closest of margins to 1 Sqn; an unlucky day for **Ssgt Rod Goddard** and his team who had played some fine entertaining hockey throughout the course of the competition.

The Regimental 15-a-side rugby competition drew teams from all over the island and resulted in a win for the Regimental side. Again the Squadron was well represented and **Sig Mick Dowd** was one of the outstanding performers of the day. Unfortunately for **WO2 Dave Poole** and his volleyball team from 'B' Troop, most of the players were also rugby enthusiasts, with the result that their performance in the All Island Volleyball Championships next day was a bit below par, and the team went down fighting after a long and exciting match against 62 Sqn RE.

Scarcely were these events over and Summer Camp was with us again. This time it was the turn of 'B' Troop, under **WO2 Dave Poole,** and 'D' Troop under **WO Harry Woodcock,** who unfortunately had to return to the UK at short notice, and missed the variety of adventure training fare offered by the Training Centre staff. Both Troops claim to have enjoyed the change of routine which included potted sports, orienteering, early morning dips and PT. What with adventure training, and the vast range of sporting activities in progress it actually looked at one time as if the Squadron would have to rely on a ladies' team to compete in the Dhekelia Dash 15-mile relay, but **Cpl Birchall** came to the rescue with a last-minute selection, which, on the day almost pipped the more fancied selections, and finished a close sixth.



TAKING A BEARING—OR FOLLOWING TRACKS?

Navigation by old and new methods as practised by Cpl Martin Dullaghan (*left*) and Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts in the Cyprus Walkabout Competition 1977

COMINGS AND GOINGS

All that remains is to record the departure of **Lt John Morrison** to RHQ and the arrival of **Lt Cherry Hume-Lewis** to take over the appointment of Admin Officer. **WO2 (SSM) Dick Sargent** is in the process of taking over from **WO2 (SSM) Andy Boyle,** who is off to the AAC Harrogate. Also recently posted was **Cpl Jack Carpenter,** to the far-off land of 1 Div at Verden. All will be very much missed, and we wish them well in their new appointments.

As for arrivals of a different kind, we are pleased to record the birth of a girl to **Lcpl** and **Mrs Adrian Tindall,** and a boy to **SAC** and **Mrs Bob Pritchard.**

VISIT OF COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES CYPRUS

ON November 14 the CBFC, **Air Vice Marshal R. D. Austin-Smith,** accompanied by his wife, visited the Regiment. The visit began with the AVM inspecting a Quarter Guard commanded by **Ssgt John Farrell.** The guard was comprised of both RAF and Army personnel trained by **SSM Tony Davies** (who managed to iron out the differences in drill between the two Services quite effectively). The AVM then toured the Regiment with the CO, visiting the gym, TM workshop, and Vals compound before ending in the Community Centre where he performed the 'official opening'. Before leaving the Regiment the AVM and his wife were entertained to lunch in the Officers Mess.



Pictured after the presentation of LS and GCs. *Left to right:* WO2 and Mrs Bob Smith, WO2 and Mrs Bob Smith, Air Vice Marshal R. D. Austin-Smith, WO1 and Mrs Graham Widdowson

ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD

The gym now boasts a large basketball electronic scoreboard designed by **QMSI Pete Perrott** and built by 'TM' Troop under the supervision of **Sgt Pete Strickland.** From conception to installation the task took just under a year.

MILSKILLS COMPETITION

All four Squadrons entered a team in the Cyprus Milskills 77 competition that took place over November 17–18 at Episkopi. 2 Sqn had the best result finishing in sixth place, closely followed by 3 Sqn in eighth place. Those who took part deserve a word of congratulations for all the hard work and effort they put in.

REGIMENTAL GOLF COURSE

The Regimental golf course was finally opened in November. The course was designed by **Majs Alec Taylor** and **Dick Richards** and its construction was mainly due to the advice and assistance of **Tom Thirkall** from PSA and 62 Fd Sp Sqn RE. The course has 9 holes and is about 2,200yd in length. Providing it rains soon there will also be some green fairways. The initial golf competition was held on November 26 and consisted of a men's, ladies' and junior's competition. The winners were **Sgt Alan Grant, Mrs Gillett,** and **Steven Paterson** respectively.



Lt Col R. K. Ward presents the Regimental 'Tie of Merit' to Mr Bob Thirkall for his work in building the Regimental golf course



Lt Col R. K. Ward opens the 9 Sig Regt (Rádio) golf course

NEWS ON TWO

Warm conditions at the beginning of the month matched the tone of the activities for the succeeding weeks as 2 Sqn launched into the work-up for Christmas and the social season. For **Ssgt Tony Buttery** and his small band of eight it was activity with a vengeance as they prepared for the Military Sills competition held at Episkopi in mid-November. Despite an age gap, one half of the team was over 30 and the other half under 20, **Sgts Mo Emmott, Kem Galbraith, Keith Smith,** and **Alan Franklin** all found it a stimulating business to keep up with the younger element in the shape of **Cpl Pete Genge** and **Sigs 'Charlie' Drake, Chris Glasgow, Steve Shannon,** and **Steve Woolard.** Despite a minor drawback at the start of the contest, the team recovered well, and by a sterling series of performances in the 10 military phases, gained a placing of sixth overall, and this against some very experienced opposition.

While all this was taking place, the remainder of the Squadron were indulging busily in the usual wide range of sports available at Ayios Nikolaos. **Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts, Cpl 'Paddy' Dullaghan, SAC Kerry Gray, Sig Julian Quinn,** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Doughty** have all been turning in good performances for the Squadron 'A' team in the Cyprus Joint Services Cross-country League, and maintaining a useful position near the top of the league table as a result. **WO2 John Groves** has been forcing the Squadron 'A' side up the soccer ladder, with **WO2 Clive Honor's** 'B' team hot on their heels. Even SHQ has been caught up in the fitness drive, with **Cpls Derek Calder** and **Steve Swann** turning out on the soccer field, **Lt Cherry Hume-Lewis** playing a starring role in the local tennis competitions, and **Maj Tom Moncur** wondering how to keep up with the stalwarts of the Squadron 'B' Cross-country team. **Capt Stan Brice,** recovering from an ankle injury, has decided that standards on the hockey field are in need of a boost, and is already to be seen swinging a hockey stick with his usual relish. **SSM Dave Sargent** says he's too busy keeping everyone else occupied to have a chance to do anything sportswise.

Movements this month included the departure of **SSM Andy Boyle** and his wife, **Rachel,** together with **Sgt Bob Eastmond** who also returns to the UK. Both will be much missed by the Squadron and the Regiment—we wish them well in their new postings. Among the arrivals were **Ssgt Tony Buttery** and **F of S Dave Armitage,** both renewing acquaintance with Cyprus.

FARAWAY PLACES!

— UNUSUAL JOBS!

SEND US THAT STORY

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

1 SQUADRON ROUND UP

SEPTEMBER, as always, proved to be an active month for 1 Sqn at Wilton.

Several changes in Squadron personnel occurred, we bid farewell to: **Ptes Kathy Clegg, Terry Rhodes** and **Jackie Erdbeer.** And in turn welcomed **Sgt Jeff Battisby, Ptes Sandry Whitney, Karen Sanderson, Jeanette Brew** and **Cpl Peter Smith.**

Two intrepid 'walkers' of the WRAC took part in the Le Marche Val de Marne in Paris. **Lcpl Pam Moss** and **Pte Lisa Barker** being the brave soldiers who joined the UKLF Regimental team for the 30km march. They departed from Wilton on Friday, September 23, and arrived in Paris the following afternoon, Sunday, September 25, being the big day and the Big Walk. **Lcpl Pam Moss** completed 25km but then had to retire due to very sore feet, but **Pte Lisa Barker** completed the distance and is now the proud possessor of a very fine medal.

Wednesday, September 28 saw another marathon attempt, this time a 40-mile bike ride by **Lcpl Mandy Pateman** and **Pte Karen Chubb.** This was a sponsored event in order to raise money for the Senior Citizens of Downside Wilton and The Bone Marrow Research Fund. The route and mileage were checked and the event supervised by **Ssgt (Y of S) Larry Bird** and **Cpl Terry Bain.** Support and cheers were provided by **Ptes Lou Jackson, Val Sharp** and **Mrs Bird.** Forty miles were completed by both participants and a very useful sum of money raised. More sponsored events are planned for October and November and it is hoped to provide a super outing for the residents at Downside.

3 (BIONIC) SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

Nine adventurously-minded members of the Squadron braved the rains of the Brecons for a week. Despite cries of 'I didn't know what I was letting myself in for' and half way up a rock face 'I don't like rock-climbing'. The week was spent hill-walking, rock-climbing and abseiling with die hards such as **Lcpl June (Rigga) Rigby, Ptes Norma Wilkinson, Jill Perring** and **2 Lt Nannette Wilson** going back for more.

One night was spent under canvas with three to a tent in the middle of Wales. In the picture **2 Lt Nannette Wilson** is cooking 'compo' for all, watched by **Lcpl Jackie Oliver** and **Pte Wendy Hodgson.** The following morning **Lcpl 'Rigga' Rigby, Ptes Jill Perring** and **Ann McKenna** woke up to find a sheep on their doorstep. The incident has been recorded by one whose catch-phrase was 'where's my camera?'

3 Sqn have 'invented' a new sport for getting down off mountains, well, what goes up must come down, so down we all went—in a sitting position at some very good speeds. Sliding down,





Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Rigby, Pte McKenna, Lcpl Oliver, Pte Wilkinson, Pte Coppin, Lcpl Taylor, 2 Lt Wilson
Sitting: Pte Perring, Pte Hodgson

much to the amusement of **Mick, Dell** and **Jerry** our AYT instructors (who, we have it on good authority, have recovered!).

Wherever 3 Sqn went the hills were alive with music of one sort or another, mostly led by **Lcpl Lottie Taylor.** One day the weather was too bad to continue so Dan-yr-og of caves had the pleasure of our visit. The photograph is taken outside the caves.

1 Squadron, Wilton

HARD AT IT!

OCTOBER has been its usual busy month for 1 Sqn at Wilton. Involvement in exercises, operations, sponsored events, ARU and documentation inspections, has kept all members, both civilian and military 'hard at it'. Yet humour still prevailed and the following 'poem' reflecting this is enclosed for publication.

An originator who had been taken to task for message writing irregularities, heard that his Commcen had received a Comstar award and mistakenly assumed that this meant promotion for the solo civilian operator. At the Commcen, not a thousand miles from here, the following ditty arrived:

Dear Supervisor of fierce renown
Who 'pon my signals thou dost frown,
What must I do to win thy favour?
What works of mine wilt thou savour?
Must we only speak of war?
Can we not discuss 'amour'?
Please look more kindly at my plea
Accept my signals graciously
Congratulations upon promotion
Cannot cause too much commotion
In your speedy signal cell
Where you work so hard and well
Let us therefore both agree
To conduct our business peacefully.

In keeping with true signals tradition the following reply was despatched:

Upon my desk, what falls next?
T'is a small but poetic text.
Do not bemoan my strict decision
Signals are sent with due precision.
To win my favour and respect
Send only signals that are correct.
I speak not of peace nor of war,
Just labour quiet behind my door.
Stick to the rules my Col-O-nel
Not made by me, but a higher cell.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

This month we say farewell to **Maj Richard Harrison** who is on his way to Catterick Training Group. He has served 2¾ years in Hounslow having been OC Radio Troop, Squadron second in command, Operation/Comms Officer and, finally, the Squadron Commander. In his place we welcome **Maj Graham Saunders** as our new OC who has left the air-conditioned world in ADP at HQ UKLF!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)



A very military (looking) Super-Sub!

or

Baggy Pants & Tight Boots!

November started quietly enough; **2 Lt Stephanie Westall** (Super-Sub) returned in triumph from BOBC Norway, duly qualified to venture out into 'The Wild'; and in the South-East District Badminton Championships, **Lcpl Helen Abbott,** from our switchboard, partnered by **Sgt Nicki Rochelle,** of ASPT, was a runner-up in the Ladies Doubles. **Lcpl Abbott** was also a finalist in the Senior Mixed Doubles and **Pte Annette Jackson** reached the semi-finals in the Ladies Plate competition. Well done each!

Somewhere in the middle of the month, however, there was a sudden flurry of activity, and, much envied by our neighbours, 10 Coy WRAC, the Squadron 'mobilised'. Having cheerfully cancelled all leave, issued warrants, arranged for extra kit issues and organised movements and accommodation, the SSM, **WO2 Carole Austin,** promptly began her 'work-to-rule' when informed that her own imminent leave was also forfeit. Some unkind soul opined that nobody had noticed any difference! Naturally enough, once she got used to the idea, the SSM recovered her composure, as did 10 Coy, who kindly took on extra local duties and helped out with personal equipment issues. Those of us who actually moved away from Aldershot have settled well into new, if temporary, homes—we are hoping that **Pte 'Reamo' Reames** (Super Taff) is treading warily in her new environment! Perhaps the only real casualty of the whole operation was **2 Lt Nannette Wilson** who was told that she could not go to Deepcut to learn to be a Fireperson for the time being.

To further deplete our ranks, if only temporarily, Super-Sub then despatched in a hurry to do her bit for 'Avon Express' by conducting foreign visitors around the exercise area—using to the full her newly-acquired experience, she assures us that she didn't get lost once, and she duly returned a few days later, looking very military, but complaining bitterly that her borrowed New Zealand Army boots (courtesy **Sgt Irene Lockwood**) were too small and that **Capt Celia Stephens'** baggy pants did nothing for her dignity.

Ah well, Happy Christmas, one and all!

10 SIGNAL REGIMENT—'MT' TROOP (HOUNSLOW)

This Troop of much maligned stalwarts is commanded by the MTO, **WO2 Wally Marsden,** ably assisted by **Cpl Brian Biddiscombe.** We have in the Troop a very good track record as far as our accident rate is concerned being the lowest in the Regiment and our mileage is second highest.

No doubt the fact that the MTO organises the football team may have something to do with the fact that out of a Troop strength of only 10 military and three civilians, three of our number turn out for the Regiment's football team: **Sigs Colin Mason, 'Spider Legs' Nicol** and **'Chubby' Sparks** are the offenders all, of course, entered in the Sniffer League.

Comings and goings

Welcome to **Sig 'Sandy' Sanderson** who has recently joined us from Berlin. Farewell to **'Gonzo' Ralph** on posting to AFCENT. The RSM misses you, **'Gonze'.**

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

The Regimental football team is going through a period of change both in management and in players. The team this year is being run by **WO2 (SSM) Marsden** and **Sgt Brian Slavin.** A new star posted in to the Regiment in the guise of **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Nelson** who is proving to be a steadying influence on our younger players. **Geoff** has been selected to play for the Army side this season and together with **Cpl Eddie Gallacher** and **Lcpl Pete Lawlor** for the Corps team, so for a minor unit we are doing well. The London District League is suffering from the Firemen's dispute, so few games have been played. However, we have managed to continue in the Saturday Hounslow District League. Our biggest claim to fame is that we have won through to the London District Minor Unit Cup Final versus the Postal Depot at Mill Hill, which is a repeat of last year's final. Watch for our victory in the next edition.

PA SYSTEMS WORLD WIDE
Report by Sgt Macrae, 'SWS' Troop (Hounslow)

I have been, for want of a better term, tasked to produce an overall look back at our PA commitments for the year 1977, Her Majesty's Jubilee Year. Our commitments have been many and varied—ranging from the London District Cross-Country Championships in January 1977, held in the wilds of Pirbright, to the Military Band Tour of Iran in October 1977.

Our VIP participation list is quite impressive. This includes **Her Majesty The Queen** and other members of the Royal Family, and also the **Crown Prince Teza Pahlavi** of Iran.

London District Cross-country Championships

This commitment deserves a mention because it was a pleasure to work with a commentator who had full confidence in our equipment and also knew how to use a microphone properly. Other PA engineers will appreciate how I felt.

Wembley Musical Pageant

This worked very well indeed using our equipment in conjunction with the studium PA systems. I learnt a great deal about tact and diplomacy in this situation and also enjoyed working with the stadium PA engineers who remained unflappable throughout. What fond memories—the feeding of the two thousand—our Catering Service really surpassed themselves.

The Director of Music who came to our van in the evening asked if he could use it as a dressing room; consent given, our reward was a supply of gin and tonics. Thank you once again.

A high-level 'O' group was held on the side lines at 1205 on Saturday to discuss a run through at 1400hrs only to be interrupted by the question from the PA engineers 'That's OK, but which one of your group is going to sign my overtime sheet?' Deathly silence!

Royal Engineers Open Day—Rochester
What style! A closed-circuit TV review of the previous year's show to highlight the problems they had. Needless to say, when we did it there were no problems.

Old Comrades—Hyde Park
This is one of our standing bookings; at the end of the service we are booked again for the following year. PA subscribers please note the length of notice we are given. The sooner your booking is in (UKLF SI No 11) the better chance you have of our services.

HM The Queen's departure from Greenwich Pier
This commitment I mention to highlight our 'hours of work'.
Set up time—0500–0900.
Test time and fault clearance (if any) 0900–1000.
PA Live time—10 minutes.
Dismantle time—1100–1230.
Even though the live time was only 10 minutes our consolation was in giving full coverage in a difficult situation.
To jog my memory I obviously have had to consult my diary and have now come across the following entry. '48FG38 in for respray'. It is enough to say that my boss, **Capt Murray,** now knows the difference between Brunswick Green and Olive Drab. I still get rather peculiar looks when I drive into location. I'm sure that onlookers expect soldiers in combat kit to jump out of the van and do an attack.

Chester Tattoo
The VIP rehearsing his speech asked what we had done with the feedback that he had to contend with the previous year. On discussion, I was told that previously we had to wear headphones and had made his speech from inside a car. Need I say more!

RA AT Home—Woolwich
A very enjoyable week. The commentator, who I had previously worked with at Greenwich Pier and Wembley, knew what to expect, and therefore had no worries about out side. **Dame Vera Lynn** was the VIP, and sang a number of wartime hits. When she had finished and was departing we played back a couple of bars of 'We'll meet again' which we had only seconds before recorded.

HM The Queen's Birthday Parades—Horse Guards
At the end of 1976 I had a check of all equipment and found that I was a 20-ft pole deficient. Now to lose one of these poles is rather difficult. At the start of the 1977 Birthday Rehearsals I was asked by the RE Warrant Officer, on seeing my poles, if I had ever lost one. On confirming that I had, he showed me my 'lost' pole at the back of 10 Downing Street, saying that he had been asked the previous year what it was, and he had replied that it was a special type of lamp-post!

Presentation of Colours—York Race Course
An ideal situation for PA because the grandstands act as giant parabolic dishes throwing out the sound. On arrival we were given a VIP tour of the Race Course by the head groundsman. I did not know so much went on behind the scenes during a race. For example, how photo finishing is achieved and that each race is video taped in case of a stewards' enquiry. I finished up being weighed-in on the Jockey Scales. The VIP should have been **The Duchess of Kent** but on the day it was announced that all her engagements had been cancelled. As can be understood, a general flap occurred but **HRH The Duke of Kent** stepped in and all went well.

Blue Cone II—Sunbury
An exercise with the Metropolitan Police Display Team. These people really appreciated our help. During the exercise they gave every thought to our comfort and, as a show of appreciation invited us to a cheese and wine party later in the year.

Not forgotten—Buckingham Palace Gardens
This is another standing commitment. On some tasks we come across people who put the system through a thorough test. One such person is **Dame Anona Wynn,** and her test is to give an operatic rendering of the musical scales. Believe me, when she has finished, my equipment has had a better test than I could achieve with an audio generator. On this occasion we have to be 'switched on' as she works with radio and TV artists such as **Ernie Wise, Vera Lynn, Charlie Chester,** etc.

RAF Stafford Open Day—Stafford
What a plum. Another of the Services requiring our assistance. This was one job where we did not want any raspberries so we carried everything bar the kitchen sink. The RAF really know how to live in style; our reception and administration were excellent. On the sites, which measured 600 × 100yd and 100 × 80yd plus two Hangars, we found, once again the usual concern about feedback but when we gave a rendering of 'Bonanza' they were reassured.

Presentation of new Colours by HM The Queen at Birmingham
This was held in the Garden of Remembrance, a small but beautiful setting. This was a bit awkward as the microphones had to be placed in position and retrieved during the service. This required a certain number of 'drill movements' which were duly practised by the team and all went well. The boss turned out for this one. I think he had heard rumours of the party taking place afterwards but lost out as we packed up immediately it was over and headed for Plymouth.

Review of the Royal Marines by HM The Queen at Plymouth
The job was intended to be the finale of a very busy season. On the recce it had seemed to be a small job and we were looking forward to at least eight days' holiday by the sea. Alas, looking at the Hoe in daylight I thought I was having nightmares. The area was still the same but the stands for the public had changed. Wembley seemed small in comparison. An emergency trip to Hounslow soon put thing right and we ended up with 18 poled speakers giving beautiful coverage, and as people who know the Hoe can understand, no feed-back problems. We were hosted by 29 RA Commando whose hospitality was unique. A good time was had by all.

Military Band Tour—Iran
Whilst attending 10 Sig Regt Summer Camp—'God bless the RSM', I say, others state differently—I was asked by the Brigadier HQ 2 Sig Group about my PA jobs and especially if the kit was portable, and what coverage it could give. Of course, I could only tell the truth, that we could cover virtually any situation portable or static!
Later on at an evening at volleyball practice I met up with the boss—who also says—'God bless the RSM'. He muttered to me, 'You've been talking to the Brigadier. For your sins you are now going to Iran on a Military Band Tour to supply PA when and where needed'.
Oh what visions! Harems, Turkish Delight, dusky maidens, etc.
After Summer Camp—no, I'll not say it again, I met up with **Lt Col L. E. Blanc-Smith** who was to be my leader for the three weeks in Iran.
I was told there was no chance of a recce but would have to be prepared to cover anything from park concerts to Tattoos held in Olympic stadiums. There would be PA systems in some locations which I could use but no guarantee as to what the sound reproduction would be like. In conversation, nasty things like, travel 1,000 miles in a day, one hour set-up time and 20-hour days, were casually mentioned. I do not know what sin young **Sig Ian Dyer** was guilty of but he was volunteered to accompany me. Did he also speak to the Brigadier?
Our rehearsals—which took place at South Cerney—were very successful, so on October 11, 1977, we set off on our tour, full of the joys of spring.
We arrived in Iran. Iran. What does one say? I think, to put it in a nutshell, an experience of a lifetime never to be forgotten. Social life was impossible for the majority of the time due to the tight schedule we ran. Food was a problem; prepared by local 'chefs'! I think I spent more time in the toilets than I did at work. I suffered; you name it, I caught it.
Work was an experience. Fortunately, the PA systems I came across were good so all we had to do was operate in liaison with an Iranian engineer!
Language was also a problem. We had the use of interpreters which was a help, but how do you translate FEELING, because one did get frustrated at times. I soon learnt that the thumbs-up sign has a totally different meaning to the Iranians. The Iranians I worked with were polite and very patient although their sense of timings and outlook were totally different from mine.
Everywhere we went we were treated as VIPs. One amusing incident was the day I was given a 'General Salute'. I was leading the advance party into a barracks when out came the Guard of Honour and gave me an immaculate General Salute. I debated whether to stop the vehicle and inspect but thought better of it. Obviously, I paid them a return compliment. What visions of grandeur I had. When entering a stadium, whether it be one or all of us, we were given a standing ovation.

The reception after each show was fantastic. Our hosts just could not do enough for us. Our Grand Finale was in front of a 30,000 audience in Tehran, including the Crown Prince with the tour being completed by a football match between Manchester United and Iran. In the words of the British Ambassador who spoke to us before we left for home, 'The Tour was a fantastic success'. I felt very proud to show our Corps cap badge on such an historic occasion.
Having completed my look back at 1977 I purposely kept the names of characters to a minimum, as I think that they deserve more than a passing remark. I have written this report but none of the jobs could have been completed with such success without the close-knit co-operation of the very expert team of which I have the honour to be a member. This small team of men, in my opinion, has done so much for the prestige of our Corps over the year. In conclusion, my thanks to the whole Troop for their support but in particular the following:

Capt Murray	The boss, whose ear I tend to bend when things are not going my way.
Mr Hatcher	Who guides us when we seem to be losing.
Ssgt Marshall	Who keeps the admin machine ticking over and ensures that we are left alone to get on with the work.
Sig Walker	Whose enthusiasm for the job has to be seen to be believed.
Sig Dyer	Without whose help and understanding in Iran I could not have survived.
Our MT	Who ensured we get 'wheels'. Never mind the engines as long as it moves.
Mr Bird	Last but not least we come to our civilian continuity man, **Mr Cliff Bird. Cliff** has been with the team since 1970. His knowledge and experience is considerable and he is a highly valued member of the team. His loyalty to the team is unquestionable and when we reminisce about the jobs we have done I always come back to when we were setting up for one job where the subscriber kept on coming and expressing his doubts about our equipment and our capabilities until **Cliff** politely mentioned that if our PA was good enough for HM The Queen and family to use it should be good enough for him. We had no further interference.

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

IDEA IS BORN

OUTSIDERS would be excused for thinking that it is madness for a Regiment to attempt to put on a full-scale Tattoo. We, the insiders, know that that is a fair definition but the secret is that it's enjoyable madness.
Those of you who have run down a steep hill will know that there is a time when gravity takes over and there is no way of stopping. It was like that with the Tattoo. It started with the offer of the White Helmets in May to put on a show during their stay with the Regiment on their BAOR tour in October, prior to the Berlin Tattoo appearances. Ah ha! Thought we, in a year when we are flat out on fund-raising activities for a new swimming pool, this could be a chance to expand into a little money-making show—we could put on something like an 'It's a Knock-out' show —perhaps the Corps Band will be available, warming up for the Berlin Tattoo like the White Helmets—maybe we could get a little outside help from the Germans or Dutch or both? The idea of a mini-tattoo was born.

The concept into reality
When would we have it? October 3 was fixed by the White Helmets' visit but that's a Monday. We'll hold it at night. We'll need lighting then (sorry about the statement of the obvious). Where will we get that from? The Sappers and, in particular, the Corps Lighting Troop from 7 Sig Regt—provisional agreement was obtained.
Next question was where will we have it? Well, the square seemed suitable but spectator facilities weren't good and during the investigation to cure this deficiency another couple of ideas were born. The investigation took place during a walk between inspection points during a routine CO's inspection. In this case the 2IC was standing in for the CO.

2IC — 'Staff' (to **Ssgt Boyle** (RE), our PSA representative), 'How would you like to build a castle wall at that end of the square' (vague hand wave towards cookhouse), 'and build stand seating around the other three sides?'
SSGT BOYLE — 'Sir' (readers will understand the variety of intelligence and meaning to this answer).
2IC — 'Yes, we're going to have a Tattoo in October.'
SSGT BOYLE — (Paler now, but assuming logically that this is merely a humorous conversation). 'And I suppose you'll be wanting a musical ride of PSA bicycles in the show, Sir?'
2IC — 'That's a good idea' (meaning it).
RSM — 'In Osnabruck there used to be Castle Walls which are used for Massed Bands' performances.'
2IC — 'Find out if they're still available.'
RSM — 'Sir' (again).

And so the idea developed. Form a PSA bicycle team and get the Osnabruck Castle Walls. Other ideas formed.
The Corps Band was not available but, after a little telephoning round BAOR, the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots and the Military Band of the Cheshire Regt were.

International participation
Rugby memories of Fijian singing produced the idea of a Fijian song and dance turn and, using **Cpl Joe Cagilaba** from nearby 21 Sig Regt as a contact, a troupe was formed.
The thought of producing a Regimental drill team we discarded quickly because of the practice involved but this led to thoughts of a US drill team. As we had **CWO2 John Patton,** of the US Army, as a means of liaison, this made good sense. He offered contacts for two teams, the Heidelberg USAREUR team and the Berlin US Brigade team. We boobed a bit here by booking both in our enthusiasm and had to decline regrettably the use of the Berlin team.
The Regimental cocktail party and a conversation with a Bundeswehr guest from the Raketen Schule der Artillerie, **Obersleutnant Sommer,** created the idea of an act by that unit.
Meanwhile, the Regiment was creating its own little ideas at a prolific rate. **Ssgt Bandy,** one of our Dutch-speakers, had family contacts with the Roermond Post and Telegraph Band who are the Dutch National Champions. He made contact and we engaged them for pre-performance and interval music.
Lcpl Campbell, one of our PTIs, suggested a small trampoline and floor gymnastic show and after a short demonstration was given the go-ahead. In 24 hours he had formed an act with gymnasts from the Cheshire Regt in Minden, APTC in Antwerp, RAF Police at Wildenrath, and **Lcpl King** and himself from this Regiment. He played the part of Freddie the Clown, and also appeared in the PSA bicycling act.
Ssgt Janaway suggested a five-minute display of model aeroplane flying and that was in.
One of the archers thought we should have a quick demonstration of archery since we were the champions of BAOR. That sounded good with archers like **Cpl Rettallick** and **Ssgt Jones** about.
To join this miscellany of small acts we created a little fairy tale of Birgelen and produced two characters. Willy the Wurst, alias **Ssgt McDermott,** and the Red Butcher, alias **Ssgt Garner.** Willy the Wurst, a very friendly sausage, was threatened by the evil Red Butcher who wished to destroy him but who fortunately was easily distracted by other activities, e.g. gymnastics, bicycling, model aeroplane flying, etc. However, despite these distractions the Red Butcher was about to succeed when the PSA bicyclists, this time armed with lances, made a second appearance and channelled the Red Butcher towards a helicopter, piloted by **Sgt Green** (late of Royal Signals) now Army Air Corps, who landed and disappeared again with captive butcher less than 30 seconds later. The show was embellished by an explosives expert ATO from Bracht who enhanced the archers' performance with some powerful bangs.
There still remained the problem of Public Address but 16 Sig Regt were available with their excellent public address system under the skilled hands of **Sgt Cooper** (Royal Signals). Given the system, what about commentary? Was it to be English only

or trilingual? In the end we compromised with bilingual, with the 2IC doing the commentary in English and **Obersleutnant Sommer** once again helping out by giving his services as the German commentator.

The work begins

That was the concept complete. Then the work started. **Capt Burwell,** our Assistant Adjutant, was publicity queen and got on with poster production, ticket selling, programme printing and advertising. **Lt Taylor** was our artist for the posters and programme front. The RSM, **WO1 Jones,** became arena manager, and **Sgt Cooper** (RPC), the Provost Sergeant, got the building of the stands under way.

Ssgt Garner quickly became the Castle construction expert. There was a regrettable withdrawal by the Corps Lighting Troop because of a change in exercise schedule but they lent us an expert in **Sgt Kaye** who welded a team of Sappers from 2 Fd Sp Sqn of Iserlohn into a very professional lighting team although they had never done a show before. **F of S Turner** provided our technical expertise. The show was extended into a two-night performance because it seemed a waste of effort to do it all for just one night. The CO hovered gently overall showing admirable restraint and excellent illustration of the management by exception principle despite a strong desire to get to grips with the task.

Splendid first night

Fingers were crossed on the first night. The weather which had been very suitable for three weeks had suddenly become colder. The acts were being strung together for the first time and, therefore, timings were unknown. Despite this, changeovers went smoothly and a splendidly varied show went on in front of an audience of over a thousand. The Salute was taken by **Brig Moore,** Commander Rhine Area.

On the day between performances, informal competitions were held between the performers on the 10-seat bicycle used in the PSA bicyclists act. It is not an easy machine to ride and requires a fair amount of practice. At least that was what we thought, but the White Helmets made it look ridiculously easy by going off first time. The US Army, Royal Scots and Cheshire Regt didn't find it quite as easy but eventually achieved success.

Rain mars second performance

The second night was much more cruel. Torrential rain poured down shortly after the Fijian troupe did their war dance and the Royal Scots Pipes and Drums got the brunt of it but their music was perfect. The USAREUR drill team, too, must have been badly hampered by the terrible condition but it was not noticeable. The White Helmets gave an immaculate display as usual. Behind the castle walls the door controller, **WO1 Jones,** was doing sterling stuff administering cherry brandy or whisky to performers waiting to go on.

The Salute was taken by **Brig Popham,** BGS Intelligence HQ, BAOR, and afterwards there was a party for the 300 performers involved and the working organisation of nearly 100. A good time was had by all.

—AND IN PICTURES



The first truck arrives



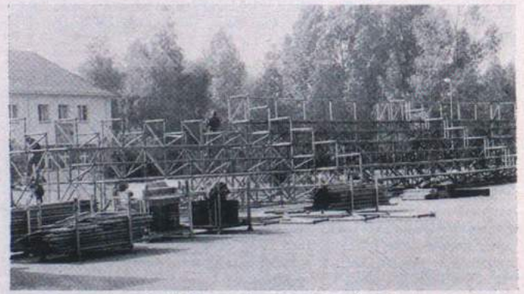
It must go somewhere here



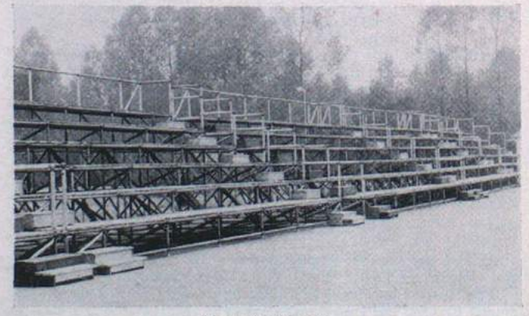
We're nearly there



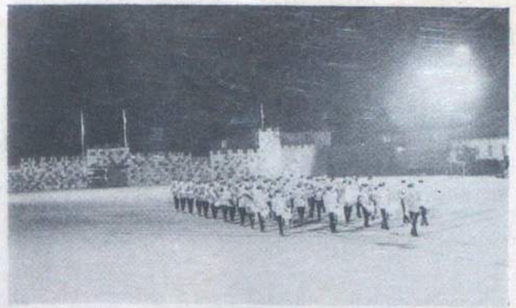
Meanwhile, at the other end of the square



We're nearly there (again)



How about that?



The Cheshires



The PSA Bicyclists



The Royal Scots Pipes and Drums



The White Helmets ready for the off. Easy!



A Fijian Hula by Mrs Masevale (wife of Sgt Masevale)



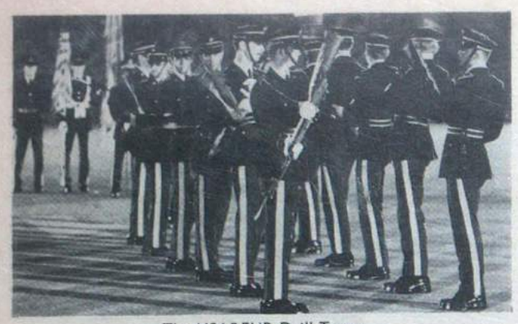
White Helmets ready for the off—again



The Red Butcher and Willy the Wurst



The White Helmets' Fire Jump



The USAREUR Drill Team



Photo courtesy: PR HQ BAOR

A poignant end as Fijian Lei is placed over the head of Lt Col Pickard, the CO (with begarlanded Brig Pipham in the background)

Hectic, exhausting, and worthwhile

The Tattoo will make a profit which as yet we cannot quantify because all costs have not been settled at the time of writing. The profit will be divided between international charities nominated by the US Army, The Bundeswehr, the local Dutch town of Roermond, the Silver Jubilee Fund, and 13 Sig Regt Welfare Fund.

And so it is all over. The Regiment, operating on a shoe-string, had put on a large and quite spectacular show. It was a hectic, exhausting, but very enjoyable exercise. The CO was enthusiastic, 'We must have another Tattoo', said he, 'in about three years' time'!

3 SQUADRON REPORT

Since the Squadron's last appearance in the Corps magazine, the unit has recently undergone the traumatic 'hot seat—winds of change' (excuse the pun) with the arrival of **Maj Ray Windmill,** his wife and family, we hope that they will enjoy their stay in Berlin.

NEW BERET

Unlike so many Signal Squadrons who have few attached personnel, 3 Sqn is liberally sprinkled throughout with many different badges, this fact was highlighted recently with the issue of the green beret to the Intelligence Corps members. This was vividly apparent when a whole batch of lawns suddenly started walking round at heights varying between 5ft 6in and 6ft 4in.

A most welcome visitor to the Squadron was the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** who was asked by a junior member of the unit if there were any plans in the pipeline for the issue of a tricoloured beret in the Corps colours to combat the sudden 'sprouting'. The CSO offered condolences but replied in the negative.

COMMANDER INSPECTS

Our most recent achievements must be the dedication in all departments as preparations for the annual FFR got under way. Although we occupy part of the only hill in Berlin, some figures



The Officer Commanding 3 Sqn escorting the Field Force Commander and his wife from the 33 Club after the 'Pub Lunch'
Left to right: Brig C. R. Grey, Maj R. L. Windmill, Mrs A. Grey

were often seen floating round at about 'Angels ten' definitely trying to emulate our resident 7 Flight Army Air Corps.

The big day finally arrived and our inspecting officer, the Berlin Field Force Commander, **Brig C. R. Grey** was shown life, including zeroing with SLRs on the range. This inspection was terminated by one of our now almost legendary 'Pub lunches', which was held in the 33 Club (a facility we share with 3 Int and Sy Coy). The photographs speak for themselves, we all had a most enjoyable time.



Brig C. R. Grey, Commander Berlin Field Force, talking to Squadron wives and members
Left to right: Mrs Kathleen Clark (*slightly off camera*), Mrs Olivia Ferguson, Mrs Lyn Emery, Brig C. R. Grey, W/Lcpl Sheila Dibben, Mrs Marie and Miss Jennifer Hammond

STRAIGHT SHOOTING

Congratulations were extended to **Ssgt Pete Westwell** and **Sgt Tom McCulloch** on their result in the Berlin Field Force Minor Units tackle skill-at-arms shoot with the 9mm pistol. Their scores now go forward to BAOR and possibly beyond, where, it is hoped, the Squadron will fare well. The ·22 rifle team are also keeping fingers crossed in the hope to better last season's achievement of runners-up in the Field Force Minor Units Trophy small-bore shoot.



Ssgt John Clark, BSAC Club Instructor Joint Services Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor, France Expedition

SUB-AQUA

A lot of emphasis is placed on individuals taking part in many sports, and this is particularly true in a small Suqadron. However, within the Suqadron we are very lucky indeed to have many members taking part in what can only be described as an individual sport. The sport is sub-aqua, and we have two very highly-qualified divers. They are **Ssgt John Clark,** who is a BSAC Club Instructor and Joint Services Supervisor. **John** is also the Diving Officer for the Berlin Sub-Aqua Club; **Ssgt Bill Cooper,** who is a second-class diver and Joint Services Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor. Other keen members include **Capt David Rawlings** (novice diver) and, until recently, the secretary for the Berlin Club, even the old OC, **Maj David Mitchell,** was treasurer until his recent posting. Our divers try and get in at least one expeditionary change every year from the dark and often bitterly cold waters of the Havel in Berlin, where one can find everything from crashed aircraft to old tyres! For the last two years the Berlin Sub-Aqua Club has visited France. The first time to the south of France and this year to Brittany. Next year they are already talking of a venue in Elba. Our photograph shows **John Clark** 'happy—it would appear' in his aqueous element.



Photo courtesy: Karl Tietz, PR Berlin

WO1 Tom Lackenby receives a £25 voucher from Brig Charles Grey, Commander of Berlin Field Force, as first prize in the Berlin Garrison's window box competition. Tom's outstanding display can be seen behind them

CONGRATULATIONS

Sgt Tom McCulloch is to be congratulated for the second time in this magazine on his win in the Berlin Minor Unit men's singles plate tennis tournament.

Another victory of a slightly different nature than sport has also been added to the Squadron's list. The prize this time was a £25 voucher for the owner of the best floral display in the Garrison Window Box Competition. As this is Jubilee year, **WO2 Tom Lackenby** decided on a display which naturally incorporated the the colours red, white, and blue. This he achieved by a very tasteful mixture of asylum, geranium, perlargoniums, lobelia, verbina, petunia, and asters. **Tom** was presented with his prize for the best entry by the Berlin Field Force Commander, **Brig C. R. Grey.**

'OH WHAT A DAY IT WAS'

IT always seems that when it comes round to my turn to write these notes that the previous month is devoid of exciting 'happenings'. I truthfully cannot claim this to be the case this time but certainly the month was dominated by one day, November 24. That was the day of, firstly, the ARU and, secondly, the hand-over of RSMs. The ARU caused some disruption in the Regiment and perhaps the odd heartache or two as well. **Brig J. C. Moore,** Commander Rhine Area, was the inspecting officer, and he made it clear prior to the big day that the Regiment was to be tested rather in the vein of the old FFR. Indeed, all members of the Regiment were to stand to in defensive positions. Nearly all were required to complete the BFT run and additionally perform five half-hour long military tests (NBC, First Aid, Weapon Training, Map-reading, and the BAOR 'Tick Test' for drivers). With the prospect of such tests to come, it was considered prudent that some revision of the appropriate subjects was carried out in the Regiment. Extra military training was thus the order of the month.

The big day came and, true to form, it started fine with large black clouds looming menancingly in the background. The Brigadier was escorted around the camp inspecting those in the defensive sangars. These have recently sprung up out of the ground like giant mushrooms. **Cpl Scott** tested the sense of humour of the inspecting party by having an arrow sticking out of the sandbags behind which he was crouching. I have yet to be told who passed and who failed the test!

This part of the day over, the other more strenuous side began and so throughout the day, squad after squad completed each test or fitness run. It was my intention to accompany this article with photographs but regrettably there was no one left to take them. The end of the day came and the Brigadier wished to address the Regiment to tell us how we had fared. We had achieved the Brigadier's required standard, which was a relief, as rumours (since substantiated) had spread that other units in the area had been required to repeat all or part of the process. We heaved great sighs and a large number of the Officers and Seniors of the Regiment retired to the Sergeants Mess, which neatly brings me on to the next part of this article.

NO MOOR GROUSING—PERHAPS

WO1 (RSM) Tony Jones will certainly be remembered in the Regiment. In particular I believe his mark (or epitaph) will be Golf and Grouse. Dealing with the sporting aspect first (perhaps they both could be classed as sports), it's not that he was so much a low-handicap player, or a stylist but more that his game included much of what is fascinating about the pastime. I recall the following recourse of action adopted by the ex-RSM in an attempt to break '100'. Firstly, putting whilst bent double, hand one inch above the blade, feet facing the hole. The putting didn't improve but his backache got worse. Then the no back-swing phase, where he lined up his shot, the club then flew directly above the head, a swish (as per fly swatting) and the ball again shot into the rough as with the previously-used conventional stroke. However, in all the phases and through all the frustrations **Tony's** sense of humour rarely failed him and, of course, he always had plenty of fellow golfers eager to play a round with (or against) him.

Which particular Grouse do I refer to? The one taken with two fingers of water! This was **Tony's** favourite drink. On the evening of the 24th he was presented with a statue of the famous bird filled with whisky. This being consumed, the story goes that he was given the option of drinking two more bottles or a swim in our outdoor pool (remember November 24). He chose, or was persuaded, to take the latter course of action which, I suspect, had a somewhat sobering effect.



Tony Jones holding his newest ornament—at this stage still full of whisky

From all of us in the Regiment we wish **Tony** and his charming wife, **Margaret,** a very happy future and enjoyable tour in 4 Div Sig Regt.

FAREWELL VISIT OF SO in C

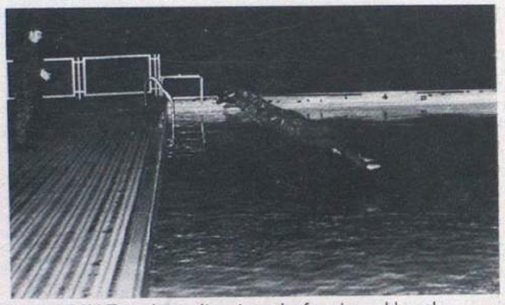
We have, over the past month, been honoured with a visit by **Maj Gen Tighe** to both the Regiment and 3 Sqn in Berlin. We were able to personally wish him well for his future, whilst all members of the Regiment enjoyed his visits to us.



SO in C's Farewell visit to 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt
The picture shows Maj Ray Windmill saying farewell to the SO in C. In the background is WO2 (SSM) Dougie Edmund



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN - NOVEMBER 77



RSM Tony Jones dives into the freezing cold pool



14 Sig Regt (EW) B.F.P.O. 102

THE MANAGEMENT

CO	—	**Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling, OBE**
2IC	—	**Maj A. R. Bushell**
Adjt	—	**Capt C. P. P. Barnes**
RSM	—	**WO1 P. D. Robinson**
OC 1 Sqn	—	**Maj M. W. J. Clowser** (Int Corps)
OC 2 Sqn	—	**Maj C. E. Byrom**
OC HQ Sqn	—	**Maj G. A. Maude**
ORQMS	—	**WO2 I. L. Dudding**

ROUND AND ABOUT

ONE of the rumours currently circulating is that RHQ may remain in its present location for Christmas. For although the Regiment remains split in three locations awaiting the eventual Regimental barracks we have not remained static. Comms Troop moved from Langeleben into the cellar below RHQ at Hildesheim, and subsequently into a disused pig sty. After Exercise Autumn Sales RHQ moved into the Block vacated by the disbanding 1 Arty Bde, while HQ Sqn moved into the old RHQ. As 1 Arty Bde Sig Sqn move out of the accommodation below RHQ, HQ Sqn are moving in there, starting another round of musical telephones. Planning is now under way to move us into a temporary Regimental barracks in Celle some time in the spring.

Some of the temporary accommodation occupied presents its own problems. While moving their stores into the cellars, mentioned above, it became apparent to Comms Troop that the main qualification required for storeman was a height of 4ft 6in. **Cpl Don Blacklaw,** at 6ft 4in, had to bow out to **Cpl Al Brown** who finally managed to organise the stores literally into nooks and crannies.

Despite the continual reshuffling of accommodation, the Regiment has been heavily committed to various exercises. On September 28–29 a war game was played at Langeleben as a prelude to the main October exercise, due to start with a surprise call-out in early October. As predicted by the pundits, Exercise Regal Humour started on October 2 with a move to hide locations by night. Subsequent activity gained the Commanding Officer something of a reputation as an insomniac. The exercise ended a week later on the Luxembourg border, coincidentally the start point for the Corps CPX Autumn Sales which then followed.

VISIT BY SO in C

On October 27, the Regiment, just back in barracks, was visited by the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE.** During his visit **Gen Tighe** spoke to the assembled officers and SNCOs in the WOs and Sergeants Mess at Langeleben, and presented LS and GC medals to **WO2 (SSM) Boag, Sgt Parry,** and **Cpl Rod Fraser.** The medals were duly christened later in their respective Messes. **SSM Neillings** distinguished himself by trying to hasten the SO in C's departure from the Mess, in accordance with the programme, to be met with the cry 'I've been thrown out of better places than this'.

We are pleased to include in these notes a piece of internal recruiting. **Paul Lightfoot,** son of **Capt C. N. Lightfoot,** from 1 Sqn, was recently attested and welcomed into the Corps by the Commanding Officer. **Paul** is destined for the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, as an Apprentice Telegraphist. We wish him well in his chosen career.

SPORTS ROUND UP

On the sporting front our efforts continue in spite of the difficulties of getting team members together from Hildesheim, Langeleben, and Wesendorf. In soccer we are making good progress in the Army Cup, having reached the fourth round by beating 25 Fd Regt RA 3—2 and 14/20 Hussars 2—1. Orienteering is also showing promise with our 'A' team currently heading the 1 Div League. 2 Sqn has also embarked on a gruelling sports programme. The Squadron soccer team, led by **Sgt Kirk,** lies second in the 1 Div Minor Units League despite having to call once on the playing services of **Capt B. C. P. Higson** who then found himself locked in the changing room for the first 15 minutes of the match. Meanwhile, the summer tennis tournament continues. On foggy, winter days the few remaining participants can be seen peering through the mist and splashing across the court in most un-Wimbledon fashion.

AU REVOIR

Finally, we take the opportunity to wish luck to **Capt P. W. Welch** and his wife, **Wendy,** who have left us to go to 13 Sig Regt; and the same to **RQMS O'Brien** and **Ssgt Robertson** who are both leaving the Army.



Left to right: Cpl (Mick) Davies, Lcpl (Steve) Jones, Sig (Al) Holden, Sig (John) Doan
'Smooth, cool and keen we are the RRB boys'



WO2 (Bob) Hartley (Royal Australian Signals). 'OK Blue where is the war?'



WO1 (George) Lile. 'Ready to go when you are—note blue flag!'



Lt Col Ian Sprackling welcoming Paul, son of Capt Terry Lightfoot, into the Corps

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

OCTOBER DIARY

A NUMBER of events occurred this month and they are best documented in the form of a diary.

October 10
The Regiment were treated to an impromptu show by the White Helmets who were accommodated by us during most of their show tour in Rhine Area. On the previous Saturday they had performed at our sister Regiment's (28 Sig Regt) Freedom of St Tonis celebrations.

October 13
Regimental Dinner Night at which a number of officers were dined out. One of those officers, **Maj Ian Stevenson** (RE), was leaving the Army and this was his last Dinner Night in Service and he took the opportunity to present the Mess with a quaich suitably inscribed. This present was particularly appropriate as **Ian** is very much a Scotsman.

October 20–22
KATS put on yet another excellent play, this time the comedy 'Sailor Beware' by **Philip King** and **Falkland Gary.** All the members of the cast performed extremely well and the comedy came over very strongly indeed. Space does not permit a full description of the play, nor plaudits for the entire cast but **Mrs Carol Davey** in the main role performed faultlessly during every performance. To mention only one other, **Lt Sue Rollo,** in the role of a down-trodden yet kind-hearted elderly lady was



similarly expert in her interpretation of the character. The photograph shows **SSM Geoff Northey** and **Lt Sue Rollo** (not in costume) at a rehearsal of part of the play; **SSM Northey** played the sailor.

October 21
The SO in C visited the Regiment for the afternoon only, during which time he visited a couple of patrols of 5 Sqn training at Hülserbruch; later presenting the LS and GC to **Cpl John Brine** and to **Cpl Pete Hopkins.** He ended his visit by taking tea in the Corporals Mess. The photograph shows the SO in C inspecting the Quarterguard outside RHQ on his arrival.



The SO in C, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE, inspecting (*from the right*) Sig Shutt, Sig Carr, Cpl Ferris, Lcpl Brittan, and the Guard Commander, Sgt Fox. Also on parade but out of picture, Lcpl Sloggett, Lcpl Heenan

October 23—Netball
For those readers not aware about our pursuit of netball, I can inform them that the station fields a netball team called the '7 Ups' which plays in a Rhine Area League. The following is a write-up from the team secretary of their latest exploits on October 18 and 23.

The Krefield Ladies Netball Club (7 Ups) have started the season very well with both the 'A' and 'B' teams reaching the



Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Angie Syndford, Mrs Sue Harrison, Lt Col K. S. J. Allwright (CO 16 Regt), Sgt Dave Topp (*Coach*), Cpl Vicky Lewis, Mrs Sue Robinson, Mrs Marie Staines
Front row: Mrs Lyn Coleman, Mrs Jill Steed, Cpl Jenny Thomas, Mrs Sue Hammett, Mrs Jean Booth

finals of their respective tournaments. The 7 Ups 'A' team met Bruggen ladies in their final at RAF Bruggen, and although they fought very hard, Bruggen just had the edge and came through eventual winners with the score at 19—17.

The following week the 'B' team showed the 'A' team how it should have been done, when they reached the final of their tournament in Krefeld on Sunday, October 23. They played some brilliant netball throughout the day and despite a shaky start in the final against Wegberg ladies, emerged as worthy winners with the score at 17—12. Well done the 'B' team. The photograph shows the 'B' team with their trophies which were presented by the Commanding Officer, 16 Sig Regt.

October 27—November 4 — Exercise Plain Sailing
The Regiment was deployed on this exercise in a communicating role and also provided a Command Cell for the Headquarters. As usual the communicating went well and after a slow start the Command Cell was able to inject much communicating expertise into the command system for the information of the Staff. At the same time we were picking up experience of new requirements in the field and consolidating our views about well-known requirements for communications.

October 31
The pre-Yeoman of Signals course held in the Regimental lines begins with an address by the Commanding Officer.

November 5
Naturally we celebrated Guy Fawkes' night with a bonfire and firework display. We took this opportunity to entertain our thriving Anglo-German Society to the demonstration and afterwards to a short get-together in our Village Hall.

November 7
HQ Sqn officers and warrant officers pistol shooting practice. Second-in-Command scores 64 out of 72 points. First time he is a marksman—with a pistol. Well done!

November 10—Rugby
First round of the Army Cup. We played 26 Amphib Eng Regt and won 7 points to 0 (try and penalty).

Forthcoming events
Our very active Sub-Aqua Club departed for Gibraltar on Exercise Rock Dive I on November 17 for two weeks. Nine members of the Regiment are involved and they will provide a report on what promises to be an interesting experience for the next edition of THE WIRE.



WO2 (Y of S) Altham receiving his BEM from His Excellency the British Ambassador in Bonn

FITNESS TRAINING

AFTER our all-out effort in the late summer endeavouring to qualify every person on strength up to BFT standard, the lull has been filled by the November meeting of the Wives Club which concentrated on Keep Fit. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Those brave ones who completed all the exercises suffered in two ways, firstly the comments of those sitting on the sidelines having fallen out and secondly, the stiffness in their muscles which lasted for the following week. The point, therefore, has been made that we can all do a little extra to keep ourselves in trim.

ST MARTIN'S PARADE

The middle weeks of November in the Krefeld area is the time for celebrating the St Martin's Day. There is no particular day for parading and different areas of the City celebrate in their own way. Basically, St Martin, on a white horse and with a large voluminous cloak meets on his travels a beggar who is without clothes and, in the traditional way, shares his food and his cloak with the beggar. These acts are symbolised by the cutting of his cloak into two, by the distribution of bags of food, mainly sweets and fruit, to the children parading, and a small bonfire. For this act of sharing, Martin was canonised. The Regiment were particularly concerned with two such celebrations, the first in the form of the Scout and Cub Scout groups sponsored by the Regiment.

Thurday, November 10—80 members of the 1st Krefeld Scout Group enbus for nearby Stadt Kempen to join approximately 5,000 other boys and girls on their St Martin's Day evening procession. On arrival at Kempen the boys were placed second in line which deemed to be a place of honour in the procession. Amidst the sound of drums and trumpets with lanterns lit they sang their way through the streets of Kempen. At the half-way point (to allow the young ones to rest) the parade halted, at which time a superb display of fireworks was shown. When the end was finally reached all boys who took part received a gift of goodies from St Martin, who was leading the procession. The Scouters who attended enjoyed themselves as much as the boys. Thanks must go to all who assisted in making the Group's visit possible, especially the Headmasters of the schools, the staff of the Regimental Restaurant (for an excellent meal), **Mrs Prof Muelbauer** who did interpretation and liaison for us. A mention must be given to the boys for the hard work they put in by making the fine lanterns used on the parade.

The one for which the Regimental Barracks was used was for our immediate area and approximately two-and-a-half thousand paraders with their lanterns trooped through the premises and celebrated the act of sharing on the square. This one occurred on November 18.

November 18
On this day the officers dined out **Capt Peter Hallett** to Minden, **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** to Aldershot and **Lt Frances Canham** to Catterick. On this occasion each responded to the CO's words on their progress through the Regiment. All were amusing but **Miss Canham's** 'speech' was particularly apt as was her presentation—'The Lost Chord'; and this was a telephone cord from the old Bielefeld exchange which has now been replaced by a cordless variety.

November 22
This evening the new exchange at Bielefeld was opened, although the formal opening of it did not take place until December 7. We await the reaction of the subscribers using this exchange to discover its advances over the old-style board.

November 23
Twenty-one members of the Music Appreciation Society, lately formed by **Maj Vince Collins** (RAEC), went to see 'Hansel and Gretel'. This is the third of such ventures into the Krefeld Theatre and each succeeding date attracts greater numbers of followers. This can only bolster our links with the City and further our aims of the Anglo-German Society—although the two are not yet formally connected.

THE WIRE . . .

WITHOUT IT

YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!



Guild of St Helenas Fair
RSM Bob Vale: 'I know it's for a good cause but that's ridiculous'. Mrs Brenda Barden (*right*) (a GOSH agent): 10 Marks, love! Take it or leave it!

November 26
The local Guild of St Helena branch held a Christmas Fair in in the gymnasium and although many others contributed in hard work and industry to the day, mention must be made of **Mrs Marlene Slegg** as the guiding light for GOSH in sponsoring and organising the Fair. In hard cash terms the profit from this venture was well over DM5,000. Well done, GOSH.

CSO's Dinner Dance
A new venue was chosen for this event on November 30 with 21 Sig Regt negotiating the premises of RAF Wildenrath Officers Mess for the annual CSO's dance. It was a well-organised gathering to which the Regimental officers went in some strength (26 including wives) in our new Regimental bus. The bus was suitably decorated by the MTO's staff, and music courtesy of 'M' Troop plus a hot punch (in a Baby Burco boiler!) served by Father Christmas. Naturally, we arrived the best primed Regimental group and probably the largest, taking up some two-and-a half tables. The evening was very successful and served the purpose of bringing old friends together in BAOR, if no other.

December 3
The third party in the formal programme and this was 5 Sqn Christmas Dance. 5 Sqn are formed as a Prison Guard Force and will be absent from BAOR after December 16. They have virtually completed their training and are in fine spirit for the move off. We all wish them safe and well.

December 6
The Regimental Smoker was held this evening in the gymnasium and this coincided with the visit of OIC Records, **Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE.** The Show producer, **Ssgt Ray Jones,** had a difficult task in co-ordinating the rehearsals for this and, in fact, the dress rehearsal was entirely disrupted by a practice alert. His instructions were to limit the show to 1½ hours; in fact, it ran over by a mere 90 minutes. However, the content was good enough throughout the marathon to keep almost everybody in their seats to see just what would happen next. I cannot single out any particular act, as each in its own way was evidence of the amount of work put in by the casts but with regard to the compere, **Ssgt Jones,** his linking was extremely good, almost professional.

December 7
The Wives Club Christmas Dinner was held in the Village Hall, the event being presided over by **Mrs Valerie Allwright,** and 99 ladies sat down for what was an extremely good meal and very well served by a large number of volunteer Sergeants and Officers. A small cabaret had been arranged but it was evident that the ladies preferred to chat amongst themselves rather than be entertained. However, **WO2 Geoff Northey** mimed to a John (Are You Being Served—TV series) Inman record and had everyone in stitches. He clearly has grease paint in his blood after his successes in the previous KATS production and last month's Regimental Smoker. Overall, the evening was a great success—my wife did not get home until a quarter to twelve.

December 9
Although we have dined out **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** a last mention of her time spent at RAF Laarbruch will not be out of place. She consistently spent weekends and Tuesday evenings at the Flying Club at RAF Laarbruch, and in her time in the Regiment has qualified for her private pilot's licence which achievement is good evidence of her industry—I will mention nothing of the Red Baron. The following contribution tells its own story.

TRIBUTE TO A FLYER

Start time 0900, *Sunday December* 4, 1977. Out of the mist and haze sneaked a Ford Capri, passengers one male, one female. A quick ID check at the gates of RAF Laarbruch, 'Straight on, Sir, they are waiting for you'. A smart salute and the car rolled on, aircraft warming up on the runway, pilot already aboard, a quick handshake from **Sqn Ldr Peter (The Red Baron) Gooding** (RAF), 'Good luck, who's first?'; a female form approached and boarded the aircraft, quick take off, much smoking from those on the ground, was this a secret mission to drop agents in the East! Twenty-five minutes later, aircraft approaches flare path, safe touch down, female disembarks, male embarks, ten minutes later mission completed, passengers and pilot enter lounge, smiles and back-slapping all round 'Mission now completed', states pilot and makes entry into Log Book. First solo flight by **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** (WRAC), passengers **Karen Bresloff** and **Capt Steve Bresloff,** all of 16 Sig Regt. Well done, **Rosemary,** now the proud holder of a private pilot's licence; nice to see what you can achieve in a year, 'thanks for the ride'.



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



3 SQUADRON MANAGEMENT

THIS month we should like to highlight the lads of 3 Sqn. They are the only traditional 'air formators' in the Regiment—the Original 'Hairies'?

OC 3 Sqn	—	**Maj Ivor Amos**
2IC	—	**Capt John Markham**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) Ray Drew**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt John Sells**
OC 'H' Troop	—	**Lt Colin Markie**
OC 'K' Troop	—	**Capt John Thewlis**
OC 'L' Troop	—	**Capt John Worrall**
OC 'N' Troop	—	**Capt Reg Heath**
OC 'S' Troop	—	**Capt Roy Lund**

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
There is no basis in the rumour that **Tanya** commands the Squadron.
What do most readers of this journal know of airfield communications? We think that just as most would be hard-pressed to identify our four basic aircraft types even fewer could recognise our basic equipment. However, airfield communications are alive and kicking as never before. Keeping four active bases up to the standards required by RAF technology means many changes compared with even five years ago. Achieving this with fewer tradesmen than ever before shows impressive improvements in productivity which could justify the whole Corps being treated as a special case in the next round of Government pay talks!
Our basic item is the Key and Lamp Unit (KLU—shown in the photograph). Hundreds of these concentrators are used to provide for the many one to one and omnibus requirements of operations staff. Over a hundred circuits are readily available to a number of desks. Intercom keyboards and telebrief requirements which include terminals in aircraft cockpits add complexity and challenge to our work as well as headaches for our technicians.
Five different types of telephone exchange, rather more 30-channel PCM systems and several CAE telegraph repeater systems add further variety to a selection of more well-known Army equipment which we also use. It is cable, of course, which provides most of our facilities. A total of 650km which comprise over 1,300 cables which include 44,000 pairs are involved.

DIGINET (or DIGIHOLE)
One of this month's panics is called Diginet, entailing the burial of 2·5km of cable. Due to various delays which seem to be the fault of nobody—according to the PSA, FBAs and staff—our cable was late being delivered but the system was still needed for Santa Claus to use in his message to the RAF. Therefore the need was for an instant trench. We called on our friends to help, and men came from the other Squadrons and some from our good friends (so far) in 16 Sig Regt. These instant Telemechs set to work with a will and the trench was dug.
Some relief was expressed during the dig for a failure from the Second World War. This was an unexploded 2-kg bomb which was exposed. The work was stopped for four hours while a disposal team detonated it with spectacular results. Our two photographs show some of the diggers with the bomb followed by the (controlled?) explosion. We should like to thank our friendly trench diggers from 16 Sig Regt and the other Squadrons and confirm that the enterprise went like a bomb!

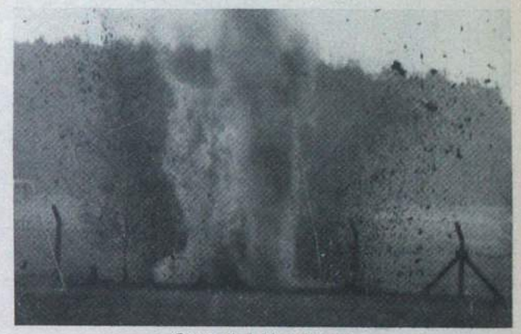
GOODBYE FOD '
This month we say goodbye to **Sig 'FOD' Pluskota.** After three years and hundreds of cable joints, **Pluskota** is off to the sunny climes of Cyprus. **FOD,** as he was affectionately called, hails from Bradford and, as a member of the cable-jointing section, was always at the forefront of any hole in the ground with his jointing test, whatever the weather—usually snow or heavy frost.

VISITORS
The Regiment had its share of visitors during the month. First off was **Col P. S. Davies** from AG11, and many of the officers took the chance to try and convince him of their need for a place in the sun. He was followed by **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** CSO BAOR, for our ARU, who kindly presented LS and GC medals in bulk. The recipients being:
WO2 (RQMS) Joe Chambers, WO2 Gordon Kemp, (RE), **Ssgt Bob Cross** (RE), **Ssgt Lyndon (Taff) Ricketts, Sgt Tony Tai, Sgt Brian Hulme, Cpl George (Spud) Whitfield, Cpl Dave Bowerbank** (REME) and **Sig Roy Parker.**
To round off the month, **Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE,** OIC Manning, paid a visit to the Regiment on December 8, 1977, when it was the soldiers' turn to convince him of their need for a place in the sun!

STOP PRESS
Sadly, we have to admit that the BAOR Cross-country Cup has changed ownership. Following a hard race at Verden on December 7, a tie on points (105 each) was decided in favour of 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt who had their eight men in before ours. Congratulations to the better team (on the day). We will be looking for a win at Tweseldown in February to prove we have not lost our touch.



'The bomb'
Sig Wright, Sig Jones, Sig Eley, Sig Dolan, Lcpl Copley, Sgt Taylo, Capt Worrall



Controlled (?) explosion

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.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

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.





Photo courtesy: RAF Gutersloh

1 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt based at Wildenrath is seen lined up at Gutersloh prior to joining the Harrier force for Exercise Hunt Free. Unfortunately, owing to the height of the hangar and the precarious position of the RAF photographer, to whom we owe our thanks for these pictures, only a half of the Squadron's vehicles are shown.
Left to right: 'G' Troop Commanded by Lt J. H. Richardson, Troop Ssgt: Ssgt Kenny Harlick. 'F' Troop Commanded by Capt D. Conlan. Troop Ssgt: Ssgt 'Gill' France. 'E' Troop Commanded by Lt N. Moore, Troop Ssgt: Ssgt Mick Ambler. *Front:* 2IC: Capt D. Richardson OC: Maj M. Davis

2 'J' Troop of 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt, our other Troop based at RAF Gutersloh is also aircraft orientated, namely it supports 18 (Wessex) Sqn RAF, communications wise in its many roles throughout BAOR. The Troop is Commanded by Capt T. Bushell









3 A Harrier landing at its deployment site on Exercise Hunt Free. Communications from these flying sites, both Bruin and radio (net) are provided by 'E' and 'F' Troops of 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt. In many cases a Corporal commands the communications on the sub site where this picture was taken. From 'E' Troop Cpls Terry Males and 'Taff' Thomas, and from 'F' Troop Cpl 'Paddy' Stewart, now with 7 Sig Regt, and Cpl Dave Ship have the responsibility of carrying out this task

4 This shows a dual-seat Harrier taking off from the concrete Eberhart site on Sennelager ranges during Exercise Hunt Free. Members of the Squadron have had flights in this

5 Cpl Steve Fletcher of 'E' Troop. Besides being an accomplished artist, he is a handy man with the hook on his belt and the Widey Hound give his trade away

6 *Left to right:* Ssgt Ian Collins, Sgt Bill Young (RAF Regt), SQMS Keith Johnson outside the ground defence tent at the Forward Wing Operations Centre (FWOC) site during Exercise Hunt Free. The FWOC site (non-flying) is the Harrier Force Headquarters, and the communications to the flying sites and Corps Commcens are provided by 'G' Troop, 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs
Let's Have That Story!

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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

INSPECTIONS GALORE

WITH the Regiment's ARU due on December 12 the last weeks have been spent in preparation for the various inspections from medical to mechanical and postal to pyrotechnical. Added to this the various Squadron and departmental Christmas parties are now well under way which only goes to show that it's not 'all work and no play' here in Lippstadt.

OLD KING COLE

The Lippstadt Players recently amused a lot of people with their excellent production of Old King Cole. Cole was played by **WO2 Derek Cheesman** (ACC) whose wife swopped jobs to play his daughter. **Mrs Mary Bonaker** was the gay Queen, whilst her husband, **Maj Hugh Bonaker,** scared all the children as the wicked devil. He even had to reassure some that he wasn't wicked all the time. The shapely Princess Sonatinarina **(Capt Chris Durham)** and Albert The Lord Chamberlain **(Ssgt Bob Mapletoft)** kept everybody amused with their antics.

WIVES CLUB

In November the Wives Club had a demonstration of Christmas cake baking and decorations, kindly organised by **WO2 Derek Cheesman** (ACC) and his cooks, who also provided the ladies with a delicious fish supper. This was followed in December by the Christmas Dinner in the WOs and Sergeants Mess where they were waited on hand and foot by the Warrant Officers of the Regiment. Food is obviously high in the thoughts of the Wives Club members as I hear that they are considering taking lessons in the finer points of cookery under the direction of the ACC.

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

FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, October 8, saw the celebration of the first anniversary of the granting to the Regiment of the Freedom of Tonisvorst. Instead of the usual parade, it was decided to hold a less formal affair. The major event of the afternoon was a soccer match between the Regiment and the Stadt. The Regimental team, under the new management of **Capt Bob Hope,** with only half of last season's Army Cup-winning squad, had a very good 2—0 win, with both goals scored by **Sig Andy Edwards.** The Band of The 1st Queens entertained the spectators before and after the match, and during the interval. The highlight of the afternoon was the display by the White Helmets. The driving through the ring of fire was of particular interest as this was performed by two ex-members of the Regiment, **Sigs Colin Young** and **Gary Chalkley.**



Cpl Peter Dignam receiving the winner's trophy from the Bürgermeister of Tönisvorst—Herr Beckers—as the honorary team captain in his last game for the Regiment

RHINE AREA FIRST AID COMPETITION

Knowing full well that the Commander Rhine Area was showing a keen personal interest in the compeition, the Regiment entered two teams this year. The 'A' team consisted of **2 Lt Don Steele, Cpls 'Mash' Calderbank** and **Pat Connelly,** and **Lcpl Pete Ormond**; and the 'B' team: **Sgts Alex Palmer** and **John Nicholson, Cpls 'Rick' Rickard** and **Tony Rae.** Thanks to the vast experience gained by **Cpl 'Mash' Calderbank** as the resident medic on Summer Camp, the 'A' team won the competition with the 'B' team coming a creditable third.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sig Don Ireland on his marriage to **Lynn Donachie,** daughter of **Lcpl John Donachie.**

Sig and **Mrs Derek Birt** on the birth of a baby boy.

Sig and **Mrs Arnie McCullough** also on the birth of a baby boy.

Those who are laughing all the way to the bank after being selected for redundancy!

DIGGING IN

Not being the warriest of units, it came as a bit of a shock to be told by the CO that Exercise Canary Caper 4/77 was not only to be fully tactical, but horror of horrors, we were to dig defensive positions. This came as an even bigger blow to HQ Sqn when Echelon was ordered to deploy. However, to cut a long story short, we were in luck because the training area was very sandy and the trenches were not too difficult to dig. The CO, **Lt Col Terry Eamey,** decided to have a best trench competition and, despite a valiant effort by the workers of 2 Sqn, the shirkers of HQ Sqn won because they had nothing else to do!

The enemy was provided by the Training Platoon of our German sister Regiment—840 Sig Bn, who duly attacked Echelon on the Wednesday evening. On Thursday, 1 and 2 Sqns, co-located for this exercise, stood-to expectantly but nothing happened. As trigger fingers were itching almost beyond control, the gallant OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Barry Cox,** led a small party off to simulate the enemy. Amidst all the chaos and confusion which ensued, the real enemy also decided to mount an attack. They were somewhat startled to find a marauding band of Brits stumbling through the undergrowth. This band were promptly challenged; the gallant Major ran for his life but his SQMS, **Brian Langford,** was captured. The 'Q' had the last laugh though, as the Germans were so pleased to catch a prisoner that they took him back to their camp and poured vast quantities of beer and Sauerkraut down his throat, sending him back some three hours later hic-cupping gently.



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Left to right: Mrs Sybil Armstrong, Mrs Sylvia Atkins, Mrs Jenny Nelson

These three ladies, members of the Regimental Wives Club, recently raised DM1,207 (£300) for the charity 'Action in Distress'. Their fund-raising activities included a sponsored no-smoking week, a bottle collection, and sale, and an Anglo-German barbecue night. To all three ladies we say 'Well done'

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

THE main events in the closing months of 1977 have seen an arduous expedition to Singapore on Exercise Sail Mart, and the AMF(L) Exercise Avon Express.

HQ SQUADRON

Marking the association between the Regiment and the Dyers Company, the CO and **Maj Turney** attended the Swan Dinner held in Clothworkers Hall on October 12.

The Guy Fawkes bonfire and fireworks is customarily organised by the unit Fire Officer; the unfortunate incumbent this year was **Capt Reg (Bonfire) Banham,** who reports:

'Unknown to me, the planning for the bonfire started 10,000 miles away when I was in Hong Kong. It was then that the Regiment was tasked to run the Garrison Bonfire and Fireworks Display, and as I was not there to influence matters I was "volunteered". Another logical argument was that as I was to become the Unit untrained Fire Officer—who better to control the event? July came and off went the order for the fireworks; all PRIs and Messes were very good and provided their share of the cost outlay. Meetings and recces followed and the week leading up to the event dawned. By this time I had completed my master stroke by picking the RSM, **WO1 Robinson,** as my 2IC. With **WO2 Dodson** (IC bonfire), **WO2 Porter** IC goodies), **WO2 Chaloner** (PA and lights organiser), and **WO2 (AQMS) Irwin** (REME) (IC the gunpowder plot), I could not go wrong.

'The bonfire was huge, contributions came from breweries, a school (soiled mattresses), and the PSA (dead elm trees). The fireworks turned up, Training Support Sqn of the School of Signals were ready with the lights, the Pay Office had organised the tickets for the food. Saturday, November 5, was about the wettest day since the Flood (or so it seemed). However, spirits were not dampened (ugh!) and the event proceeded as planned. The publicity campaign verbally conducted by **Lcpl Mathews** ('TM' Troop) appeared to have some effect for one or two people turned up. **Mrs Byng,** wife of the CO, and **Mrs McMillan,** wife of the RSM School Regiment, judged the Guy Competition.

'Although the rain continued, the firework display went rather well. **WO2 Irwin** and his merry band had organised well and their prior preparation was evident. Towards the end of the display came the $64,000 question, would the fire ignite? Oh ye of little faith, with **SSM Dodson** in charge, it ignited in a most spectacular manner.'

2 SQUADRON

For the past couple of months life in the Squadron has been running at an abnormally hectic pace with more than the usual share of overseas 'cabbies' to keep everybody well and truly tied up (or down?). Exercise Sail Mart took elements of 2 Sqn to the Far East (1 Sqn came too, but we don't talk about that), providing an ICS detachment from 'HF' Troop with the chance to sample the delights of down-town Singapore for a few short weeks in October. **Lt Nick Corbin** was sent with the operators from 2 Sqn on the understanding that he was there to keep them out of trouble, but as it turned out they had to spend most of their off-duty time preventing him from buying Bugis Street in a crooked Monopoly game. The crew consisted of (in order ranging from decent to utterly immoral): **Lcpls Jim Graham, Chris Deary, Sigs 'Noisy' Briggs, Dave Kneale Eddie Mooney,** and last but definitely not decent, **'Catsuit' Bungay.**

WIND AND RAIN

The best part of November [*sic*!] was spent with virtually the whole Squadron deployed on Exercise Avon Express exercising on that piece of real estate just north of Salisbury (hated by both man and beast alike). The aim of the exercise was to provide control communications for AMF(L) and 6 Fd Force who were having a bit of a punch-up out in the sticks. In fact, the first week or so of the exercise was spent practicing that age-old sport of chasing 12×12ft tents across field and ditch to the accompaniment of gale-force winds and lashing rain—Oh, the joy and ecstasy of it all. Still, to be serious, we finally managed to get things pegged down and ended up having a good time. It was good experience for all concerned, being able to work with soldiers from other NATO countries, it really is amazing what an American soldier will give you in exchange for a heavy wool jersey, and I don't mean stockings!



Photo courtesy: PR UKLF

Exercise Avon Express

Cpl Foy (1 Sqn), Sig Kneale (2 Sqn), and Sig Hayles (1 Sqn)



Photo courtesy: PR UKLF

Exercise Avon Express

Cpl Spurgeon and Sgt Bayley (3 Sqn) in the Radio Relay SystemControl



Photo courtesy: PR UKLF

Exercise Avon Express

Lcpl Allen and Lt Corbet of 3 Sqn

AND SUN

On a much sunnier note, 'HF' Troop have had crews deployed to exercise areas in Kenya for the last three months or so providing rear links for Infantry Battalions who are using these now up-and-coming training grounds in Africa.

Most recently the Squadron has had the honour to put yet another notch on its operations board, by sending six operators to the trouble area in Bermuda. Ably led by **Lcpl 'Fred' Fry** were **Sigs Stan Hardy, Joe Corfield, Dave Morgan, Pete Mason** and **Dave Nicol**—all masters at the art of the easy suntan.

Departures. On a somewhat sad note (who said that?), we will soon be saying a farewell to our stalwart Squadron Captain—**Dougie Pawlow**—who is off to the sunnier climes of Harrogate (titter!) where he claims that the LOA is now three extra students a term—still, joking apart, we wish him every success in his new job.

3 SQUADRON

Every month has its high spot—that is to say, the period during which all concerned reach maximum altitude. Without doubt, Exercise Avon Express was the high spot for November. For us, the man in the middle was **Capt Graham Elliot,** who spent the month pre-exercise waring a groove in the corridor outside the Ops Room. He has since been nominated for a place in the 'Guinness Book of Records' after successfully melting eight tie-lines on the Garrison Exchange.

The exercise was a triumph for the spirit of international co-operation and friendship. As shown by the Belgian convoy, caught in an ambush, who broke through the language barrier, crossed the frontiers between our two cultures, and demanded of their assailants 'Wot ze 'ell you doing?' Or the American caterers, who generously gave us the full benefit of space technology, in the form of intradental stimulator packs—toothpicks to you and me! Or the Italian Major who, with the spirit of international brotherhood, commandeered a Landrover to looka for 'isa tenta. Not forgetting the German who thought a log periodic was some form of forestry operation on Salisbury Plain. We have not become contenders for the title of 'Most Religious Squadron', having called upon our Gods 'en masse' at least hourly for the duration of the exercise.

The end of November also saw a classic example of 'the swerve' by **Lt Corbet, SSM Fogg,** and **Yeoman Walls,** who unavoidably had to miss the traumas of exercise clean-up by going to Dartmoor. The official line was that they had gone to recce for an exercise next January. The gallant trio braved the tempestuous conditions of the Moor for four days, got lost only once, and retrated to the luxury of the Tavistock Arms Hotel, Gunnislake, when darkness fell. They aren't all *that* gallant!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We have several new members in the Squadron, and to them, welcome: **2 Lt Paul Nicholson-Taylor, Sgt Luck, Lcpls Smart, Tullock, Sigs Lorimer** and **Reed.**

Farewell and best wishes to: **Sigs Hunter, Banor** and **Barrett.**

And, finally, congratulations to **Sig David Seeley,** who has recently become a daddy!

THE WORLD WITH ONE—EPISODE 99—SINGAPORE

THE year 1977 has definitely been the Year of the Beaver, and 1 Sqn appears to have gone from one challenge to another without a pause for air. With only a week's break in Blandford to change from our European uniforms into Olive Greens we were once again battling through a murky October night towards the Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney. Destination—Singapore. Duration—4 weeks. Still raining—who cares! Exercise Sail Mart should have been held in the summer but the emergency deployment to Belize caused a delay and after only a quick 'probable perhaps' from UKCICC and a 'definite maybe' from 1 Signal Group, the venture was re-arranged for the autumn. Even so, we only felt we had actually made it when we arrived at RAF Lyneham and watched the Receiver Cabin being winched slowly out of the persistent drizzle, into the hold of a Hercules knowing it would emerge 10,900km later in the swelter of Singapore. The airlift required three Hercules for the gear and the intrepid communicators and it took over 30 hours of bone-shaking massage, and an unending series of White Knuckle Airways snacks before we arrived at Tengah. A glass of cold beer at Colombo Airport at 9 o'clock in the morning can be partially excused when one realises it was, in reality, only the end of a late night out in Bournemouth! The main party followed some 48 hours later in a VC10 and flew into Paya Lebar with hardly a hair out of place. Rumour has it that **Lt Cdr Bruce Lemonde** was seen buying beer at Bahrein Airport on the way, but the contact report was never followed up and he quickly covered his tracks over the next few weeks.

OUTSTANDING NEW ZEALAND HOSTS

In Singapore, the exercise was accommodated by 1 Bn, Royal New Zealand Inf Regt who have moved from Terendak Camp, Malacca, to Dieppe Barracks in Sembawang. As if the dangers of Singapore were not enough, the thought of our innocent young combat powermen being escorted across the Island by a 'Smile' of Maoris (the only collective name I can think of that suits!) brought the peril sharply into focus. The New Zealand Forces in Singapore, to a man, were outstanding hosts—nothing appeared to be too much trouble and everything was accompanied by a huge grin and twice as much as we needed. It was, therefore, a bad start when most of the Brits appeared to find the Messes and the NAAFI (still in the throes of the 1972 withdrawal!) well before they found a place to sleep. Anchor followed Tiger—Tiger followed Anchor, a few San Miguels to get a flavour of the East and all that extra money from 1977 Pay Rise was gone.

CHANGE OUT OF ALL RECOGNITION

Singapore has changed out of all recognition since 1970. The duty-free hot spot with street traders and characteristic smells of rotting drains has gone, and an ultra-modern city, spotless in every detail, has arisen from the once-decaying swamp. Orchard Road abounds with modern and expensive international hotels, the Bukit Timah is divided by spaghetti junctions and the city bustles as the recently erected high-rise flats disgorge themselves into dual-carriageways which now connect the outskirts of the Island to the City and Jurong. Not all is new and many of the old favourites quickly re-estabilised themselves, Bugis Street is now a fully commercialised tourist attraction but the 'girls' are no longer so obvious and have clearly employed the many techniques of advanced surgery to improve their attraction. 'Freda' and 'Rosemary' were adopted as Sail Mart mascots, much to the chagrin of some of the other regulars, who would offer free beer when allowed to sit next to our regular rep—**Capt Marcia Reid.** As throughout the City, the night atmosphere was always enhanced when the Maoris joined us with their guitars and we Anglo-Saxons harmonised well into the dawn. No blow-by-blow account of Bugis Street would be complete without recording the meeting between **Sig Steve Fugill, Cpl Mick Chapman** and **Rolf Harris** the famous Strine who, from the roof of the Public Lavatory (as yet unmodernised) was persuaded to sing 'Two Little Boys'—an appropriate tune for Bugis. Elsewhere in the town Zam Zams the curry shop flourishes, Fatty's still produces the best Chinese food, and the Pebble Bar is going strong in the Singapura Hotel. Past members of 249 Sqn (the real one) will be sad to know that **Trudi,** the pianist, has gone and the Bar is now described as 'Gay'!—it always was—but not in that way.

VISITS

Col Bob Benbow, Commander 1 Signal Group, visited the Exercise during the Piccolo phase. His days were spent with us on the site and shooting on the pistol range. The nights were spent with the Officers and Seniors in various spots providing local colour. A quick beer in the Tangle Inn, Satay in the Cold Storage Car Park and a handful of Tigers down Bugis Street, saw the evenings and mornings come and go. It must have been a physical relief as he settled down amidst the austerity of an 18-hour trip by British Airways Jumbo bound for Heathrow. Throughout the Exercise we averaged at least one visit a day. It was very good to see the SO2 (Tels) 1 Signal Group and the Operations Officer from the Regiment on October 13, to see **Maj Phil Whitemore** and **Maj Robin Ingram** on the 14th, and the Ops Officer and SO2 (Tels) with one of the Hercules' crews on the 15th. We understand the problems they must have had exchanging the air-conditioning of the Equatorial Hotel for the squalid heat of the communications sites. Rumour had it that they were forced to leave their hotel to off-load the LOA which had gone over the top of their air baggage allowance.

BARGAINS GALORE

Although the demise of sterling has greatly dissipated the power of the pound abroad, there are still many bargains and much junk to be gained in the less-fashionable areas of Singapore. Shopping was also an interesting insight into individual personalities when haggling was required in Transit Road, Nee Soon, or the Sembawang Strip. **Foreman Brian Livesey** was undeniably the meanest man on Sail Mart and a host of Chinese traders went without their daily bowl of rice after listening to **Brian's** lament of living on a Foreman's pay in Blandford. Many got

Camera report on ex Sail Mart.



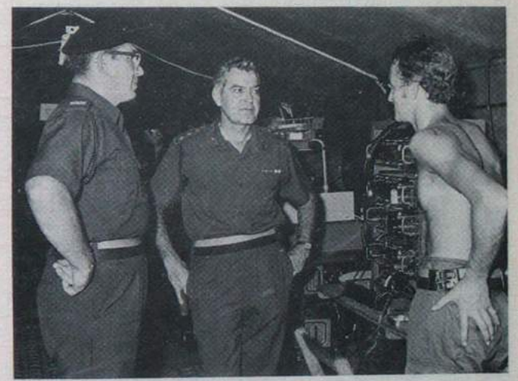
Sail Mart Management
COMBRITEXFORSING, Brian Livesey, 'Taff' Assender, Col Bob Benbow, Capt Marcia Reid, Rupert Halliwell, Keith Eustace, Nick Corbin



Sig Steve Birchenough prepares one of the 200 out messages transmitted each day to Hong Kong



Ssgt Barry Brown and Sig Eddie Mooney with the initial contact station working to Melbourne. The VRC310 (*background*) and the PRC320 were used to great effect



Col Benbow and COMBRITEXFORSING discuss an obtuse operating point with Sig Jim Hunt



Lcpl Phil Wilkinson gets that little bit extra from the R241 diversity receivers



F of S Keith Eustace explains the results of the trial on the Racal piccolo working from Singapore 10,900km back into the UK

excellent suits made almost overnight—**Ssgt Pete Bentley** succeeded in finding yet another pair of trousers—British cloth with custom-built pockets by Chubbs. The only failure to get a bargain appears to have been **Lt Nick Corbin** (2 Sqn) who agreed to pay 80 dollars when offered an 18-dollar deal on the Sembawang Strip. **Nick** must have been suffering from jet-lag.

SAIL MART

The CONCOMMEX itself involved working to Melbourne, the UK, and Hong Kong and, as usual, we exchanged liaison parties. **Foreman Ken Suckling** and **Cpl Brian Coombs** went to Australia via Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang and Sydney. They came back to Singapore the same way with tales of hospitality galore. Much of this exercise was routine three-way shift practising our profession. The occasional visit, however, by grass cutters who slashed our cables, and lightning storms which struck all around our 80-ft masts, did much to enliven the day. Towards the end, a black cobra—huge and vicious—gave **Lcpl Mick Babb** the fright of his life. On several occasions it raised itself to full height and unveiled its cobra hood. It took **Foreman Brian Livesey** and an 8-ft section to remote its head from its tail which was then wound onto a cable drum.

SPORT ALSO

Unbeaten in Singapore! The soccer team, under **Lcpl Paul Ellis,** drew 2 each with the British High Commission and then beat a Kiwi Select 8—1. **Lcpl Mick Babb** and **Lcpl Chris Deary** starred in both matches which produced many side bets under **Yeoman Rupert Halliwell,** who was also made captain for the day when we visited the Singapore Cricket Club. The rugby team played the Battalion Signal Platoon in a monsoon downpour and won 15—8 points. **Lt John Fletcher** scored two tries and made a third—which the opposition accepted gratefully. The match was continued in the NAAFI after a shower. **Cpl Pat Thornton** never stopped talking all evening about how the game was won in the front row—a wise observation. We also found seven intrepid tennis players who caught the morning bus to the STC in the cool of the day.



The Unbeaten Eleven
Steve Fugill, John Peat, Fletcher, Paul Ellis, Pat Thornton (*goal for first half only*), Mick Bqbb, Tony Thomas, Ritchie Gunson, Chris Deary, Mick Chapman, Eddie Mooney
Goals for 10 Against 3

BARBECUE

As with the custom of recent years, Sail Mart ended with a barbecue to say thank you, and farewell, to all the people who had given us so much assistance and friendship, during our month in Singapore. Amid peanut butter sandwiches, gallons of Milo, and a great spread of local meats from our cooks, **Sgt Meachin** and **Cpl Guy,** we bade a sad farewell to **Foreman Brian Livesey,** who is leaving us for the TET in Catterick. **Brian** has been a senior counsellor in the Squadron for nearly two years, an agent for the Ramsbury Building Society, and an authority on International Banking. We wish him well with Ptarmigan—a bitty job from all accounts. Our photograph shows **Brian** delivering his farewell speech after receiving a small gift from the Squadron. The visitress clearly wanted to see what makes this very popular chap tick. We also said goodbye to **Lcpls Paul Ellis** and **'Geordie' Matheson** who are leaving the Army to take employment in the Worcester area (separately). Both have been excellent colleagues—we will miss **Paul's** footballing skills and **'Geordie's'** sense of humour at Sennybridge.



A 'smile' of Maoris open the guitar session whilst the Foreman and Yeoman are chatting the girls from the British High Commission



Foreman Brian Livesey, for once stuck for words, fends off an interested admirer

RECOVERY

In early November we commenced the recovery to the mists of Blandford. Singapore as well as being a mobile station, should, on this occasion, be more appropriately described as an Anchor area. It provided some great memories—some repeatable—some not, and we made a host of friends. By the time you read these notes we hope to have regained control of the Receiver Cabin, currently on long-term rates of LOA at Colombo Airport—and redeployed ourselves to the British Virgin Islands and Antigua. It's all go in 1978, and we'll keep you posted on our movements in THE WIRE.

News from Squadrons

Gurkha Fd. Force HQ & Sig Sqn, BFPO1

VISIT TO QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS
Report by Lt M. A. Little (Royal Signals) (RMCS attachment July 19 - September 15, 1977)

JET LAG

I COULD not believe it, actually being posted to Hong Kong, for eight weeks; however, the long VC10 flight soon brought home the truth (I tried to aclimatise myself before I left by spending a lot of time in both the sauna and solarium at RMCS). Stepping off the plane at RAF Kai Tak showed me that the saunas were a waste of time. I arrived at Sek Kong at lunchtime exhausted and I am sure I met many people whose names I forgot immediately because I was so tired.

WEEKS IN A NUTSHELL

Week one of my programme was climatisation week and I needed it, but still I managed to cram a few visits into it. I went on a tour of the border posts with 'N' Troop and also spent a fair amount of time with Ah Lee, the tailor, who made some good-fitting clothes for me.

Week two consisted of my official visit to the Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. During this week **Capt Tom Richardson** and I looked after the Junior Police Children's Day—a CR project which also gave me the chance to see the remainder of the camp. I was not too good at answering tricky questions from the Chinese though, but I made some good guesses. I also visited a working rebro on Castle Peak by Gazelle, and not only did this show me Gurkha Signallers in action but I saw Hong Kong from the air.

Week three was spent in Kowloon, and on Hong Kong island visiting the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn; and also had the chance to see the nerve centre of the colony by day and night.

In week four my job was to stand-in for **Capt Len Jeffery,** the Adjutant of the Signal Squadron, and during this week and, in fact, week five I helped to organise a small part of a TVB JADE CR film at the Gurkha Depot.

Week six was perhaps the highlight of my visit as I was allowed to join 2/2 GR on border duties. On the Monday I visited the TOLO Coy and took part in one of their ambushes during the night. The next morning, after a short sleep, I joined a party of Gurkhas for a liaison visit to HMS *Wasperton* and spent the remainder of the morning on sea patrols. Lunch, the climax of the day, was in a small isolated village, somewhere in the Colony, and this was followed by swimming in the harbour. In the evening of Tuesday I was taken to Sha Tau Kok Coy.

After a quick bath, I joined another ambush. These Gurkhas were using ZB 298 (what a way to spend a birthday). The following morning, after a couple of hours' sleep, I joined a party of men and we walked from Robins Nest to Sha Tau Kok, it was slightly uncomfortable because it was the hottest day of the year, a mere 34·9°C.

On Thursday, I visited the border posts and saw many interesting activities happening in Mainland China. The final event of my border visit was to accompany a standing patrol somewhere in Deep Water Bay. This time the Gurkhas were using 'TWIGGY' and 'NOD'. The following morning I returned to Sek Kong and the week was over. In week seven I was the stand-in for the Second-in-Command of the Squadron **(Rick Brown)**; during this week I prepared my first exercise (Exercise Green Dragon 1). This exercise proved to be not just a good teaching aid to the Squadron but to myself as well.

Eight weeks seemed to pass far too quickly but this was because of the care and interest taken by **Maj Roger Willsher** and the officers and men of his Squadron to ensure that I was well looked after. It was hard for me to thank them and to say good bye.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn B.F.P.O. 18

LS and GC AWARD

THE Squadron would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **WO2 (Y of S) A. Young** on the award of his LS and GC.

The award was made by the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** on October 19, 1977, whilst visiting the Squadron.

FOOTBALL—JOC CUP

The JOC cup final was played on Wednesday, October 19, against NPC Glons.

The game started at a furious pace and after 10 minutes the Squadron went into the lead with a tremendous 25-yard drive, scored by **SLD Harry Thoma** (NLA). Then the Squadron went further into the lead with a goal from **Kpl Theunissen** (NLA). NPC then came back into the game with a goal before half time to make the score 2—1 for the Squadron. The start of the second half saw **OG Schwanbeck** (GE) score a goal with a beautiful through pass from **Cpl Walter Burns.** NPC were then awarded a penalty, which was converted, to make the score 3—2 for the Squadron. Straight from the kick off NPC equalised. With three minutes to go, a penalty was awarded to ASRS, and up stepped **Sgt (PC) Campbell** to convert the penalty and the ASRS won the JOC Cup. The cup was presented by **Maj Dick Drew** (Royal Signals), OC NORTHAG ASRS.

ASRS SHOOT

This year the ASRS Shooting Competition was hosted by the Squadron on October 20, 1977. The result was the Squadron came fourth out of five, but were contratulated on being excellent hosts—free beer and a first-class barbecue. It was such a success that the following day the Deputy Commander NSSG enquired of the date of next year's competition.

FAREWELL

We say farewell to **Sgt 'Doc' Hyde** and family to AAC Harrovate. **Sgt Chris Wise** and family to 21 Sig Regt. **Sgt Clive Rogers** (REME) and family to REME Brain Factory, and **Cpl Alan Hill** and family to 21 Sig Regt, with congratulations on his promotion. We thank them sincerely for their hard work and loyal support and wish them every succees for the future.

WELCOME

We welcome—**Sgt 'Taff' Crook** and family, **Sgt Graham Parker** and family, **Sgt McLean** and family, **Cpl Hainey** and family. We wish them a happy and successful tour.

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

MORE RALLY SUCCESSES

SINCE our last report, this Squadron has achieved yet more successes in the 'rallying' field. Despite cries of 'The vehicles are off the road; we've no more spares', from the LAD, and the MT Sergeant's constant concern for providing vehicles for details first thing every Monday morning, we have entered crews in another four events.

The first of these was 'Autumn Leaves', a rally superbly organised by 12 Armd Wksps REME at Osnabruck over the weekend September 10/11. **Lcpl Kev Hughes,** in his first rally, teamed with **Lt Malcolm Touchin** to achieve a finish, but, regrettably, little more, while the **Capt Jim Blake/Ssgt (Y of S) Bob Holt** combination narrowly avoided finishing when **Jim Blake** tried to engage a gear which Landrovers don't have, and was then able to place the gear-lever exactly where he wished. His navigator's advice at this point is omitted for brevity's sake. **Ssgt Pete Shotts** managed to get himself appointed BAMA Steward for this event which is basically an easy way of getting maximum points.

The next two events were both organised by the RAF—'Nightride'—at RAF Wildenrath and 'Border' at RAF Bruggen. Fears that the Rovers would have to be driven sideways soon proved unfounded and both events turned out to be most enjoyable and well organised. In 'Nightride', **Pete Shotts** took first place in the car class, while **Jim Blake** with **Bob Holt,** and newcomer **Lcpl Bob Turley** with **Malcolm Touchin** both achieved good placings in the Landrover class. Ever since 'Autumn Leaves', **Jim Blake** has been looking for a navigator who doesn't break gear-levers, while **Bob Holt** has been looking for a driver who can break gear-levers without blaming the navigator.

The big one

These two events were well used by the BAOR crews as warm-up events for the climax of the BAOR rally calendar—Exercise Jubilee Magnum Spirit—a 500-mile event lasting some 36 hours and including six special stages. The Squadron entered the 'Ramshead team', in the name of our new Regiment. **Bob Holt** decided to try his hand at gear-lever breaking, and drove for **Pete Shotts,** seen in the accompanying photo. **Jim Blake,** in his search for the perfect navigator, managed to secure the services of **Tpr Geoff Saunders** from the QOH in Detmold. **Bob Turley** and **Malcolm Touchin** remained together. **Jim Blake's** ploy of getting **John Blackwell** interested in rallying paid off, as **Bob Holt** and **Pete Shotts** were able to borrow his personal Landrover, which, fortunately, they returned unscathed. In fact, **John Blackwell** has been very generous to the Squadron in many ways—his wife, **Marion,** is on permanent loan to us as the typist (hence the misprints in this article).



The Ramshead team, less Lcpl Bob Turley, after the presentation of the second team prize



On their way to the championship
Ssgt (Y of S) Bob Holt and Ssgt Pete Shotts on one of the special stages in Exercise Jubilee Magnum Spirit

Good team result

The rally was organised as two 200-mile sections each similar to the usual weekend events, and about 100 miles of special stage sections in between. It certainly proved to be a demanding test of both skill and endurance—only 17 vehicles finishing out of the original 108 starters. All three Squadron crews were among the 17 finishers and were, in fact, the only unit team to finish, taking second team prize after MSC Osnabruck.

Army champions

The accolades, however, must go to **Bob Holt** and **Pete Shotts** who finished first overall, earning the title of 'Army Champion Drivers of 1977'. **Jim Blake** and **Geoff Saunders** came third overall, and **Bob Turley** and **Malcolm Touchin** finished eleventh overall, althogether a really first-class result of which the Squadron and the Corps as a whole can be justly proud.

A special mention must be made of our Admin Officer, **Capt Frank Rogers,** who recently got himself appointed Regimental Motor Sports Officer without really trying. Our thanks must go also to our new CO, **Lt Col Ray Bell,** for the support he has so far given the team. We look forward to reporting further successes in these pages in the near future.

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 36

GLANCE TO LEG

'T' TROOP take their turn to write THE WIRE notes this month. After much soul searching, **Capt Roy Owens,** the MTO, announced at coffee that since he wore an RCT cap badge he could not in all fairness be expected to produce notes for a Royal Signals Magazine. After the raspberries died down (produced in chorus by the remainder of the Squadron officers), he tried to sideload the job on to the Adjutant, **Capt John Gray,** being the only other officer available at the time. On being reminded that **Capt Gray** was not only not in 'T' Troop but was a Gunner to boot, he wandered off for a re-think. Result? A scintillating account of our Annual Military Skills Competition, Exercise Pot Shot, by **Sgt 'Abby' Abdul Rahman,** the senior Royal Signals NCO in the MT.

EXERCISE POT SHOT

From September 26–28 the Squadron was involved in Exercise Pot Shot at the Sennelager Training Centre. The Squadron was divided into 12 teams of eight based as nearly as possible on Troop organisation.

The whole exercise was run by our MTO, **Capt Roy Owens** (RCT) (though he's not so good at WIRE notes!), and involved many competitive military activities. Marks were awarded for the best individual and team performances and were recorded on a massive scoreboard that needed its own 4-tonner to carry it.

Let me mention team eight, 'T' Troop team, consisting of myself, **Sgt 'Abby' Abdul Rahman,** team leader, **Cpl Graham Lonsdale** (Royal Signals), team 2IC, **Lcpl Nigel Price** (RCT), **Lcpl Barry Silk** (RCT), **Lcpl Eddie Ord** (RCT), **Dvr** (now Lcpl —welldone!) **'Smudge' Smith** (RCT), **Lcpl 'Geordie' Hannah** (Royal Signals), and **Dvr Mick Pryce** (RCT).

The first day saw a drama for team eight on shooting. Our marksmanship was not too good (2IC—an understatement), and we ended day one rock bottom on the scoreboard.

FROM ROCK BOTTOM TO RESPECTABILITY

Tuesday, September 27, came and there was **RSM Jimmy Akehurst,** pace-stick in one hand, stop watch in the other, and a big smile on his face setting the teams off on a quick 10·777 . . . mile walk. Neither did he neglect to remind them that they had plenty of time to make their destination, all two hours of it. Well done, team eight! It was hard graft and sore feet but the spirit was high all the way, singing and jumping all over the road until the last two miles when it was really biting on the corns. We all done, team eight! It was hard graft and sore feet but the spirit us up the ladder.

And what about the driving competition that afternoon? There is, of course, no need to ask who scored highest marks. You're right—team eight.

The third and last day was our best. There were 12 stands, each testing a different military skill and the finale was an assault course competition. We reported to the first aid stand to find one of our own members running it in the shape of **WO2 Pete (Dr Kildare) Leonard** (RCT). After a quick DS briefing followed by a short team leaders' brief, we heard, 'You have

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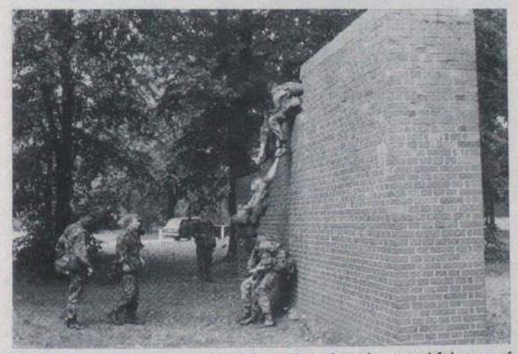
arrived in this location to find two Landrovers involved in a collision at a road junction. Carry on!'. Apart from minor mistakes all went well. The best laugh was when **Lcpl Nigel Price** placed 'Sprengstoff' signs (explosive) on the road instead of the regulation hazard triangle.

Team eight gradually crept up the scoreboard as the day went by until it was time for the assault course. **Lcpl 'Geordie' Hannah** and **Lcpl Barry Silk** were left to organise how we should tackle the assault course. They did well since we covered the course like greased lightning in a record time of 2min 55sec to end first and collect 1,000 points.

This monumental effort brought us up to fourth position overall which was not bad after being twelfth on day one. However, it was not quite good enough and congratulations must go to **Sgt Terry Beckett** and his team who came first in an interesting and arduous competition.



BEFORE—The course before the final exercise



Section Twelve tackles the 10-ft wall under the watchful eye of Capt Lynam



Section eight
Lcpl Ord, Lcpl Silk, Dvr Pryce, Lcpl Smith
Lcpl Hannah, Lcpl Price, Cpl Lonseale, Sgt Abdul Rahman



Commander 5 Field Force, Brig Pascoe, presents Sgt Beckett with his winner's tankard. RSM Jimmy Akehurst looks on



The winning team
Cpl Mahdjonbian, Sgt Beckett, Sig Waddington, Sig Thomas, Lcpl Craddock, Sig Buchannan, Lcpl McCoid, Sig Violet



AFTER—Those who made it to the final RV

ESCAPE AND EVASION

From October 31–November 11, 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn held a combat survival course at Vogelsang Camp. It was attended by 38 NCOs and soldiers selected from the Squadron, and 11 guest students from 3 Para. The course consisted of one week of classroom instruction and practical demonstrations, and one week's escape and evasion exercise. The exercise director was **Maj Bill Robins,** our OC. The course was masterminded by **Capt John Griffin,** and the instructors were **WO2 Colin Lewis** (PWO), **Ssgt Bert Connon, Cpl Pete Davies** and **Cpl Dick Kilpatrick.**

The subjects covered ranged through Resistance to Interrogation, methods of escape, wild foods, how to catch, kill and cook rabbits, to close-quarter battle (which came in handy for killing the rabbits). **Capt (Retd) Dick Howe** and **Capt (ex-Dutch Navy) van den Krap,** both ex-inmates of Colditz came to lecture us on their experiences, and **Maj Louie Lillewhite** (RAMC) lectured to us on Survival Medicine.

PARA HUNTER FORCE SPRING EARLY SHOCK

For the escape and evasion exercise 3 Para provided a company-size hunter force commanded by **Maj Colin Thompson.** They were assisted by a dog team from 1 Army Dog Training Unit, two Scout helicopters from 9 Regt AAC, one flown by **Capt Willy Berwin** of the Corps, the local police, and the local foresters.

The exercise started with a bit of a shock for the students. They were all given a briefing for an infiltration-exfiltration-type operation and told to parade at 0400 for breakfast. In reality, Vogelsang Camp was attacked by the Paras at 0001 and the whole course taken prisoner. What follows is an account of the exercise written by **Ssgt Derek Biggs,** our senior student.

The thoughts of Chairman Biggs

SUNDAY Attended briefing. All points taken in. My team is:

Ssgt Biggs
Lcpl Rowlinson-Bates (Alfie)
Pte Brandeberry (Fred) 3 Para
Pte Clairmonte (Charlie) 3 Para

That uneasy feeling

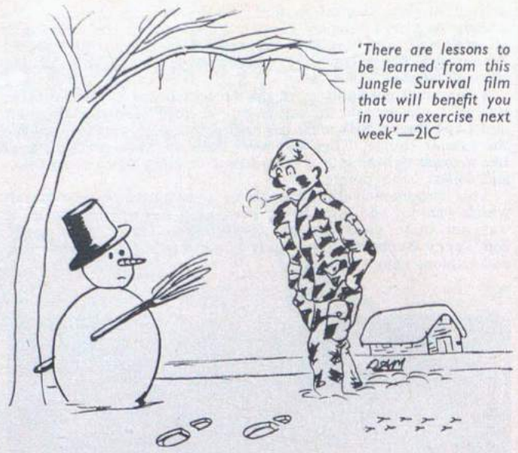
Brief the boys. The Paras want to run in twos but that does not suit me so I persuade them that their best bet is to stay with us until the task is completed and then we will decide the best way to run. Must try not to overawe them with rank but get us working together as a team. Send them away to prepare their kit. Still not happy with the briefing. Something fishy. No way can the DS search 50 blokes' kit in half an hour. Still, I must prepare my own kit. All through the course I have travelled in the same truck and so my best bet is to hide all useful kit on that truck and pick it up when dropped off. Fifty-fifty chance. Sneak through woods to car park and hide kit. Now to bed. Still not happy. They must be making us change into kit from the plastic bags. Stop worrying, have your last fag and off to sleep.

The catch

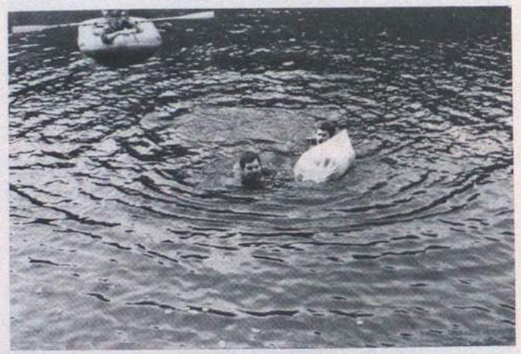
BANG, BANG, BANG! That's the catch you fool. Why didn't you think of it? Too late now. Hello, Mr Para, of course I'll lay down on the bed with my hands on the floor and a bag over my head. One up to the 2IC. I can see through the bag but must play the game and not let on. Bump into walls and trip over steps, etc. That dog has a cold nose. If he bites me I'll get my own back on him. I'll wait till around Wednesday, search him out and eat him. Dressed and on to the back of a 4-tonner. Next to last man. Good. Maybe I will be able to work out where they are taking us. Funny thing but every time I try to lift my head to see where we are going, a size ten DMS boot hits me on the back of the neck followed by a flurry of rude words. These boys are efficient. Okay as far as Schlieden, after that I am completely lost.

Monday

INTO THE POW CAMP. Guards leave us. Too much talking. Loft above us and two strangers in our midst. Tell the lads to keep quiet. Strangers identify themselves and issue maps and compasses. Quick look at the map, gather my group. **Fred** missing. Can't wait, must get away first chance. Here we go. Clear of the camp, look for the Plough and North Star, found it. Great. Now head due West until we hit route 51. What a great bit of luck. Hit route 51 at the exact point I wanted. Was it luck or am I just a natural genius? Look around the RV and then find a LUP. Decide to do the first guard myself and let **Alfie** and **Charlie** get some sleep. My turn to sleep, can't, too cold and wet.



'There are lessons to be learned from this Jungle Survival film that will benefit you in your exercise next week'—2IC



Survival swimming in November
Sgt Critton and Cpl Garratt swimming Vogelsang Lake. Lcpl 'Dinger' Bell looks on from the safety boat. Dry clothes and essential kit in plastic bag

Can't stop shivering. Long day. Last light. Good. **Fred** joins us. It appears he broke out too early without map or compass, met another group who told him, so he broke back in to get them. All the group together. All I need now is the agent. Is that him? It must be. Approach carefully, make contact. Great. Must ask him why everyone else except **Biggsy** has shirt, vest, ID Card and 30 pfg. Have I been set up for something?? He gives me ID Card and money, says I will collect vest and shirt at next RV. Hands me a plastic bag informing me it contains chocolate, sweets, a brew kit and water. Great. Now for the briefing for my next contact. Wish his red torch was a bit brighter. Still never mind. Got it. Now back to the LUP to brief the boys.

Another catch

Back at the LUP I start to dish out the contents of the bag. First bar of choc for **Alfie.** Empty rest of contents. ALFIE, DON'T EAT THAT CHOCOLATE! That's all there is between the four of us. The rotten b.....s. Count the squares, two each! We all fall about laughing. The team spirit is there. Great. I had also managed to cadge a couple of fags for **Alfie** and I. Not 'Three Castles' but beggars can't be choosers. Brief them and away we go. North to the village, scout it, find an isolated light and brief them in detail on the route when close enough to see the map. Explain exactly where we are going and how I intend to get there. All agree. Good, away we go. Thank God for the North Star, these compasses are rubbish, West again boys. Hours later. Must have gone wrong. Any ideas? No. Must get out of these .... woods and find the nearest village to locate where we are. More hours

later, a village at last. Hope it is marked on the map. Yes it is, 2 km south of our starting point. Must have gone in a figure eight. Only one thing for it now, we must take a chance and tab alongside the roads using whatever cover we can find. Brief the lads that all lights must be considered as hostile and must be avoided. Away we go. Team spirit still high because all had been consulted on all decisions. Finally, arrived at destination, collecting on route 1× bottle of milk from an urn, 2× cabbages, 2× turnips, and a tin label off a telegraph pole for use as a knife, peeler, spoon and anything else we could think of. Show everyone the cowshed which was to be the RV point for the agent that night and move up into the woods to the south to find an LUP.

Pain

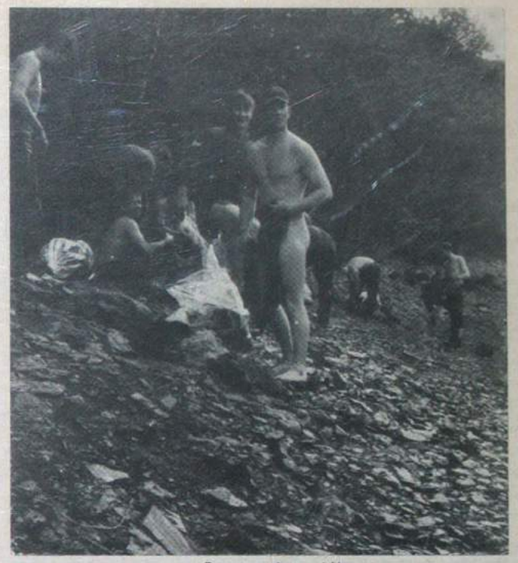
By this time I was walking with considerable pain, it felt as if a bone had gone in my right foot. It had gone in the last 10km but I daren't stop. Don't want the Paras to think the Signals are soft. To the woods. Lie down and try to sleep. No good, too cold and wet. Must snuggle up in pairs. I get **Alfie.** Snores like a pig. I must be nuts. I've got a lovely wife at home all snug in a big double bed and here I am freezing in the middle of nowhere cuddling up to **Alfie.** Still, any port in a storm.

Tuesday—Mixed fortunes

First light, thank God. I must recce the wood to find a better LUP. Can't believe my eyes. A beautiful spot. Wake the boys up and move in. Send the lads on a recce to see what they can find while I start a fire and get a brew on. Coffee ready, lads return. Total haul: 1× massive cooking pot with handles, 1× kettle complete with whistler, 2×plastic bowls, 1× plastic mixing jug, and a few potatoes. Great. **Fred** also reported that he had seen a shed full of eggs but that a woman was working in there so it had been too dangerous to approach. I told him to try again at last light. Coffee finished, on with the vegetable stew. Beautiful. Things couldn't be better. Even the wind was blowing the smoke from the fire and there was no sign of it from the outside of the wood. Decided to let the guard keep the fire going all day because of minimal risk of detection. Last light. Decided to send **Alfie** down to meet the agent because my feet were still painful. Also sent **Fred** to get a couple of eggs. I went down to the edge of the wood to watch out for **Alfie** returning. **Alfie** returned at about half past six to say there was no sign of the agent and that there were about six cowsheds in that vicinity. **Fred** had just returned with FIFTY eggs by then so I sent him back down with **Alfie** to cover one of the other sheds. **Charlie** and I still kept watch from the woods. At seven o'clock we saw a car arrive and pick up an agent from a cowshed 200m from the spot that **Alfie** and **Fred** were watching. I will not repeat what I said but suffice it to say that I wasn't pleased. The thought of my shirt and vest disappearing in that car was too much to take. Time for another decision. At a push we could make it back to Vogelsang that night or else we would have to phone Marcel. Explained to the lads that the chances of making Vogelsang were good but being as we had been taken prisoner this indicated that the Paravians had advanced and were now in control of the area so the only thing to do was to contact Marcel. All agreed on that point. Next decision was when to move. Factors were my feet, which were still killing me, the eggs which could cause problems of transportation, and the fact that I had already studied the map and the route to Marcel just in case, and it was woods all the way. We decided to stay, have a good night's sleep in a shed full of hay on the edge of the wood, boil all the eggs in the morning so that we could carry them more easily.

Wednesday—And next leg

After a good night's sleep off went **Alfie** to the village to make the phone call. I won't say that the cooking pot was big but we managed to get all 50 eggs on the bottom without any trouble and boil them. Then we boiled up the milk and had a hot drink with four boiled eggs for breakfast. Approx two o'clock and away we went on the next leg of our journey, but only after we had eaten a couple more boiled eggs to keep us going. We must have looked a sight. Two leading and two bring up the rear carrying the cooking pot containing all our worldly possessions. As normal, the rain was pouring and there were gale-force winds, but we didn't mind, we were in good spirits. Well fed and rested. In fact, the only problem was a personal one. My stupid feet. What had happened was that when the right foot had become painful I had transferred nearly all the weight on to the left and consequently it had become badly blistered. I felt pain with every step. I was walking like an old man of 90, but I soon discovered that if one keeps to a pace the pain becomes regulated and is easier to bear. We had walked about 3km to the east and I decided



Boy was that cold!
After the swim, a tot of rum and into dry clothes. *Foreground, left to right:* Sig Jeffries, Sig Riley, Cpl Godfrey and Lcpl Parry

it was now time to head north. We came down off the hills to the outskirts of a village just as we had planned. Just confirm the name of the village and then north through the woods to our next point on the map before changing direction. Despair. The village was not the one we expected it to be and it wasn't marked on the map. Where the hell are we? We would have to cheat and ask a local the way to the village we wanted. She told us that it was about 7km through the woods. Here we go again. After a couple of kilometres we heard the sound of vehicles. Hide. Luckily, it was two tractors with ploughs attached.

Local nourishment

They stopped, and we asked if we were going in the right direction. Yes. They gave us a lift for about 3 or 4km. Great. Approached the village at last light. A young man had already given us a packet of tobacco and some papers to roll a few fags. We decided to hide from the elements in a bus shelter, roll a fag, and then move on. Time was getting on and I was worried in case we didn't get to the agent on time. **Fred** volunteered to go ahead to make the contact. Team spirit coming to the fore. No sooner had we settled down in the bus shelter when about 15 kids suddenly appeared. We chatted to them, explaining that we were on exercise. I decided to ask one of the lads to go to the shop at the side of the bus stop to buy us a Mars bar and something else for 10 pfg. He came back with the Mars and a chewy animal shape. They thought it was hilarious when I cut both items into three and issued them out. One lad asked if we would like some bread and cheese and away he went. Next thing I know the old dear from the shop came out to us carrying a big plate full of ham sandwiches. Her daughter had a steaming pot of coffee. She laid out three cups, a sugar bowl, a milk jug and proceeded to pour us a cup each. She left the jug with us so we could have seconds and thirds. We ate a couple of sandwiches and decided to save some for later, and for **Fred.** Next came the little boy with another plate, this time with three big cheese sandwiches and three pieces of home-made cake, with a couple of beers to help digest it. We ate the cake but decided to save the sandwiches to have with the others. I returned the crockery to the old dear, she invited us into the shop but I declined because we were covered in mud, etc. I asked for her name and address but she wouldn't give it. Even more so when she found out we were intending to send her a bunch of flowers when we returned to Osnabruck. She asked us what we had lived on so I dipped into the cooking pot and pulled out the half-eaten turnip (at the same time carefully concealing the eggs). She nearly had a fit and wanted to go back into the shop to find some more food for us. We

persuaded her it wasn't necessary and that she had done enough already. We left the village and proceeded on our way. We all felt marvellous. I felt we had cheated on the exercise rules but it all seemed worthwhile from a little remark that **Charlie** made as we went along. He said, 'I never knew that Germans were as kind and friendly as that', so at least I had done my bit for Anglo (Para)-German relations. We hit the checkpoint without further problems to meet **'Dinger' Bell** dressed in Belgian uniform, in a Belgian Rover with a Belgian driver. What a star! We got the information and food (that's a laugh) from him. As usual I managed to cadge a couple of fags from him. German rubbish this time. What type of escape line is this? Don't the organisers realise that all the best British squaddies smoke 'Three Castles'? He told us that **John Bird** and **Graham Garratt** were in a workman's hut just across the car park so I decided to pay them a visit. We stayed with them for a couple of hours, swopped stories, had a good laugh and then proceeded to our next and final RV. We felt on top of the world. I had eventually caught up with my vest and shirt. If only I could borrow someone else's feet. We had to be very careful on this last leg. The area was swarming with enemy.

Thursday—And so near

After a few hours we could see the radio tower which was to be our final destination. You've done it, **Biggsy** boy. Send **Fred** on to recce the best way in to set up the final LUP. While he has gone we may as well go forward to the junction to check the signpost to double confirm that we are in the right place. Yes, correct. Easy isn't it. Sit down here behind the signs and wait for **Fred** to return. By gum, that was quick, **Fred;** what are you doing with that SLR. OH NO!! You're not Fred are you? Yes, of course, we will come along with you. Here we go. NUMBER, RANK, NAME, DOB. I'M SORRY I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION, SIR. You idiot Biggs. You know one of the basic rules is to avoid obvious junctions. You knew that even before you came on the course. You deserve to be caught, you bungling, over-confident idiot. FIFTY METRES from the end. I bet the 2IC set this up. What difference does it make if he did, you should still never have been caught. Lie down in the back of this 4-tonner. I'm sure I've been in this situation before recently. Keep switched on. See if you can work out where they are taking you. He we are and I am pretty sure I know where we are. If we ever get out we have another tab of about 8km. My feet feel like plates of faw meat, I don't think I will make it. This could be the easy way out. SNAP OUT OF IT! STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF! You got the lads into this, now it is up to you to get them out. Start acting ready for the interrogation. Make out you are completely shattered, that shouldn't be too hard. Hope when he comes he will start on me then I can give the lead to the others. Here he comes OC Hunter Force. I hope they had to get him out of bed. He is starting on me first, great. What is going to be his style? I've got it now. He is trying to split us up by making me look like an idiot in front of the boys. He won't get any reaction out of me by calling me names, I bet he can't think of as many as I've called myself since I was captured. 24010163 Ssgt Derek Biggs, November 26, 1945, that's your lot, mate. He's not bad for an amateur though. Oh no, **Alfie's** trying to be smart. He's got him on the chocolate bit now. He is offering me some chocolate now. Carry on the act, snatch it and gobble it down. Give some to **Alfie** to stop the line of questioning. Snatch it quick, **Alfie,** and swallow it. Oh no! **Alfie's** not switched on to what I am doing. He is obviously leaving the other two alone because he knows them and considers it would be unfair. Good. Is that it? Has he finished? Yes, we can go. Now to face my punishment for being stupid, a lovely 8km stroll, serves you right! No mistakes this time.

Here's the 4-tonner. And, would you believe it? They still haven't got any 'Three Castles' with them. I must be surrounded by idiots. Still, it takes all sorts to make a world.

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.

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

TO THE ALPS

EXERCISE Edel Axe was an adventure training expedition to the Bavarian Alps with the prime objective of climbing Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, 2962m. The expedition party consisting of **Maj John Almonds, Sgt Tony Denne, Lcpls Willy Williams, Mel Jenkins** (RCT), **Eddy Brooks** (ACC), **John Harradine, Sigs 'Two Sheds' Mepham, Andy Ewens, 'Tich' Whitehurst, 'Para' McHugh, Pete Nisbet, Cfn Owen Reed, Sigs Keith Fisher, Steve Lord, Mark Jones, Nigel Parker,** and **'Prince' Walter Chadwick.**



Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Joe Williams, Maj John Almonds, Sig 'Two Sheds' Mepham, Sig 'Tich' Whitehurst, Lcpl John Harradine, Sig Nigel Parker, Sig Pete Nisbet, Sig Mark Jones
Front row: Sig Mel Jenkins, Sig 'Para' McHugh, Sig 'Prince' Walter Chadwick and Sig Steve Lord

Into trim

Planning and training started at the beginning of June with **Sgt Tony Denne** fighting with lists of pistons and prussik loops, while the rest of the party enjoyed the early morning runs! With the preparation finished the party started the 500-mile journey from Minden to Walchensee on the evening of Sunday, July 31, ably assisted by three ¾-ton Landrovers and one 4-ton Bedford. Everything seemed to be going fine until we reached Munich where the 4-ton Bedford decided that it had gone far enough and promptly broke down! This gave our mechanic **Cfn Owen Reed,** ample opportunity to show us his skills; however, after much struggling it was decided to send the rest of the party ahead to the camping site leaving the Bedford to make its own way. The camp site was reached on the evening of August 1; the journey which had been planned for 12 hours had taken 24!

An element of doubt

Tuesday was spent setting up base camp including a flag pole. The OC, **Maj John Almonds,** decided to do a recce of the mountain as there was some doubt about the conditions on the Zugspitze. Wednesday was spent climbing the Simetsberg, 1835m, with full kit (phew!). This was designed to give everybody in the party some idea of what we were up against. On our return to camp **Maj Almonds,** having finished his recce, told us about the near Arctic conditions on top of the Zugspitze (burr!). At this stage there was some doubt as to whether we would be able to attempt the climb, with this in our minds we went to sleep for the night helped by one or two beers!

Useful wire

Lucky for us the weather changed for the better during the night so our assault on the mountain was on. The party moved as close to the mountain as possible by Landrover and then we trekked 6km through some beautiful scenery until we reached the bottom of the 'Brett', which at first sight looked like 600ft of sheer rock face; at this stage whispers of 'let's go back' could be heard. These, however, soon stopped when it was seen that wire rope had been fixed into the rock so that it was just a matter of 'clipping on' and hoping for the best! This obstacle was finally overcome without incident. The expedition camped that night at the top of the 'Brett' where we could have a 'brew up' and enjoy some breathtaking views looking down the Hollantal valley and looking up at the summit with its trailing glacier.

Success in the clouds

On the following day it was decided that a group of three, **Maj John Almonds, Sigs Pete Nisbet** and **Para" McHugh,** would make the final assent on the summit. The rest of the party would climb the glacier until we reached about 400ft from the summit where our intrepid trio would leave us for the top. At this stage, cloud came down over the mountain so we were unable to see anything of the climbing party until they re-appeared out of the cloud very wet and tired but successful.

Useful incentive

Saturday was spent on the return journey down the mountain. We had the added incentive of a litre of beer at the 'Hollantalager hütte' which soon turned the descent into a race much to the amazement of some German climbers (verrückter Engländer). Back at the base camp **Lcpl Eddy Brooks** (ACC) filled everybody up with some 'real food' much to the delight of **Sig 'Two Sheds' Mepham** who always managed to look hungry.

Next some R & R seemed in order and some time was spent sightseeing, which included Munich (lovely beer), Dachau, and Neuschwanstein Castle where the film Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang was made. Unfortunately, the last two days were spoilt by the monsoon season starting, which made base camp look something like a paddy field. Thursday, August 11, was the day set for the return to camp which was achieved without any trouble from the Bedford! Next Everest?!



Hang on in there!



Admiring the scenery at the bottom of the 'Brett'

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

EXERCISE AVON EXPRESS

THIS must be by way of being the biggest 'small-scale FTX' the British Army gets involved in. It is a biennial exercise for the AMF being held this year on Salisbury Plain. The Squadron has moved *en masse* to Westdown Camp to prepare the Joint Distaff HQ having given away its radios to other units to allow them 'Flexible Response'. Now we are restructuring into a temporary administrative role.

Two members of our MT faced with the problem of painting guy ropes white went about it in a novel manner. Having painted as far as they could reach on a chair they then realised they could not finish the job. So they formed a human pyramid and, armed with brush and pot, continued on to the top. It is not surprising that **Lcpls 'Nobby' Clarke** and **Stothart** are the only two members of the Troop not covered with white splotches. They held the brush and pot. Though I must say the seven flag poles and guys looked really smart surrounded by white-speckled grass.

'Q' TROOP AT LARGE

The Troop recently has begun to get smaller in more ways than one. Apart from the losses to the wilds of civvy street of **Maj Martin Lee** (RPC), and **Sgt Charlie Zammit** our complete families office staff and to whom go our very best wishes for the future, we have also had a change of QMs. This brought a reduction in size with the farewell of 6ft 8in **Capt (QM) Brian Turner** and the arrival of 6ft BA of **Capt (QM) Eric Le Quesne.** It also brought a sigh of relief from **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Humphreys** who is also acting RSM, who was heard to comment that his crick in the neck might now be relieved.

The resources of The Troop were severely tested with Exercise Avon Express, hand-overs, G1098 review, preparations for PRE, to mention a few. Nevertheless, we still allow our footballers, **Ssgt Dave Fox** and **Sig 'Russ' Russell,** to represent the Squadron never knowing whether the latter would be locked away permanently by the referee of the day, for his enthusiasm on the field. Congratulations must got to **Lcpl Mick Dalgleish** on his recent promotion and also to **Cpl 'Taffy' Power** (RPC) on his success within the world of shooting.

Stop Press. Warning to all Signal Unit 'Q Troops, 'Super glue 3'. **Sig 'Russ' Russell** spent some considerable time with his hands stuck together after using it.

SOCCER REPORT

The Squadron soccer team has been hailed as 'giant killers' this season by disposing of 47 Regt RA team 1—0 in the first round of the Army Cup. Credit to 47 Regt, they came to Colchester to play good attacking football but, alas, a slick sharp pass from **Sgt John Rae** in the first half sent **WO1 Mick Hartley** (RAOC) behind the RA defence to score the only goal in a tightly-fought contest.

We then travelled to Cambridge for the second round to meet 1 RRF, hot favourites to win the coveted Army Cup. The Squadron side battled hard against a side who had previously beaten 8 Fd Wksps REME soundly in the first round. At half time we trailed 1—0. A hotly contested second half found 1 RRF again finding the net in the opening stages. Our enthusiasm was rewarded by a well-taken goal by **Cpl Terry Anderson** to bridge the deficit. Striving to find the equaliser in the later stages of the game left our defence wanting. 1 RRF took full advantage to settle the contest with a creditable 3—1 victory. Best of luck in the next round.

We felt the Army Cup to be a bonus so our efforts were directed towards the Yorks and Lancs Cup. A 2—2 draw against 156 Provost Coy RMP Colchester gave the Squadron side enough incentive to settle the round by winning 3—1 in the second leg, a good 5—3 aggregate win. Goals by **Sig 'Taffy' Giles, Cpl Terry Anderson** in the first leg and **Sig 'Taffy' Giles, Cpls Terry Anderson** and **Lenny Dunford** in the second leg.

Our second round brought us against 665 Aviation Sqn AAC, who, surprisingly, won 2—1 in the first leg. A good goal by **Sig Archie Fulton.** The Squadron side fully realising the possibility of a shock exit in the cup pulled out all the stops to produce a fine 4—1 victory. **Sgt John Rae** (2), **Sig 'Taffy' Giles,** and **Lcpl Lenny Dunford** were the goal scorers. The Squadron side must be considered as hot candidates for the Yorks and Lancs Cup if current form prevails.

CROSS-COUNTRY

We have never had a reputation for this cruel sport but we appear to have some strong representation from the supporting cap badges in the Squadron. The LAD provides us with four of our team, **Sgt John Rae, Lcpls Phil Ockenden** and **Phil Massetti,** and **Cfn 'Evi' Evison.** MT Troop provides **Lcpl 'Jonah' Jones,** though to be fair, half the Troop turns up to make a veterans' team just for the fun of it. 'A' Troop has two youngsters, **Sigs 'Jock' Kerr** and **Street.**

So far we have been placed 2nd and 5th in a local league of 13 teams but hope for better things in December after three weeks of training on the Salisbury Plains.

SHOOTING

During the third week in October our D & E Platoon shooting team went to Northampton to take part in the RPC skill-at-arms meeting. **Cpl 'Taffy' Power** had an outstanding competition and, despite some strong competition, won the Egypt Cup for the best rifle shot. He also collected a trophy for coming 2nd in the Army Hundred Cup.

Lcpl Battle, who was shooting well, had to drop out mid-week due to a knee injury. **Pte Tinkler** took his team place and kept up the challenge. Despite this, the team didn't manage to win a trophy. They did, however, reach the semi-final of the Falling Plate Match. Other members of the team were: **Ptes Tinkler** and **Graham, Lcple Battle, Cpls Stevens, Power** (RPC). Non-shooting team captain: **Sgt Banks** (Royal Signals).

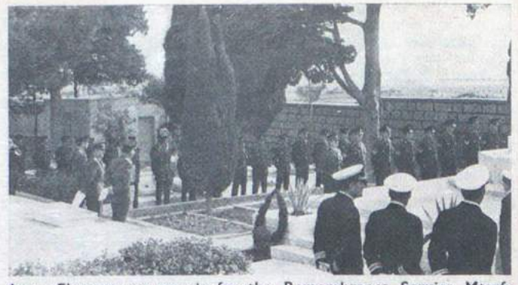
234 Sig Sqn, B. F. P. O. 51

A RUNDOWN SITUATION

THE Squadron is engineering the run-down of the island's military communications network but there is no sign of the lethargy that seems to be creeping into this 'rundown situation' in other spheres. At work we are removing telephones with all the deftness of the legendary 'kleftiwallah' who could steal the bed without disturbing the sleeper, and off-duty our profile is anything but low. Our recent activities would fill a page or two but, bearing in mind the Editor's exhortation to 'keep it short', here are the News Headlines from Malta.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

The fifth of November was to have been celebrated in traditional style but a number of factors beyond our control prevented this. Besides being up-staged by the Royal Navy in the shape of HMS *Ark Royal* and five other visiting ships and a giant economy (i.e. free) bonfire at nearby RAF Luqa we had trouble with our insurance. Anyone who has any experience of Maltese fireworks will understand why! Our resident Ammunition Technician, Staff-sergeant RAOC, rates them as superior—his term—to anything the Chinese can produce.



Army Elements on parade for the Remembrance Service Mtarfa Military Cemetery

LEST WE FORGET

Memories were stirred in a more solemn manner when, on Sunday, November 13, the Squadron, together with the staff of the Royal Naval Hospital, Mtarfa, held a Remembrance Day service at the Mtarfa Military Cemetery. The weather was kind, and the presence of mourners whose relatives were buried there added particular point to the service. A member of the Squadron also laid a poppy wreath beneath a plaque which was erected in Holy Trinity Church in Sliema to commemorate those members of the Royal Artillery killed in Malta during the Second Great Siege. A number of these plaques were set up throughout the island by various Regiments and Corps and this is perhaps not an inappropriate place to note that the Quartermaster's Department has the task of recovering these memorials from deconsecrated Service churches and forwarding them to the various Regimental Depots and Associations concerned.

GONE WALKABOUT

Regular readers of this column may recall the appearances of that well-known RAF-jet-setter and Ambulatrice Extraordinaire, **Karin Clark** in connection with sponsored walks. **Karin** is currently suffering from a foot injury but saw no reason why this should deprive the service inhabitants of Malta of their walks, and promptly organised one in aid of the Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund. Battered by a force eight gale and soaked by torrential rain, the walkers plodded round the 25 (what else) course to pull in over £400 for the Fund. Well done the walkers—and the workers. Watch this space for photographs of the lady in question giving away more money!

VISIT OF CSO UKLF

On November 16 CSO UKLF, **Brig D. H. Baynham, GM, ADC,** arrived at RAF Luqa for an official visit to the Squadron and Army Elements in Malta. He is no stranger to Malta and the Maltese members of the Squadron were particularly amused by some of his stories of life in Malta 'in his younger days'. He returned to the UK on November 23 and carried the good wishes of the Squadron to the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who was being dined out at Blandford that evening. Prize for the best remark of the visit goes to Anonymous of Siggiewi who said: 'Anybody who has raced overhead camshaft Nortons can't be all bad'!



Meet the new Admin Officer—Capt Mike Crane



The Squadron Commander introduces WOI Forster and RQMS Moody at the entrance to the WOs and Sergeants Mess



Let me tell you a story
Eager listeners are Cpl Afred Grixti, Lcpl George Cilia, Cpl George Zammit, Cpl Vincent Mallia, Cpl George Brown, Cpl Winston Pace and Sig Saviour Grech



The CSO meets Sgt Salvu Privitera, who has just completed 27 years in the Service



Mixing the Christmas pudding—assisted by Sgt Danny Holmes NN Karen Little and Lcpl Alex Murphy

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

Personalities

OC	—	**Maj A. L. W. G. Steane**
2IC	—	**Capt J. R. Cadwallader**
Admin Officer	—	**Capt T. Keany**
OC 'A' Troop	—	**Capt J. Boyle**
OC 'E' Troop	—	**Capt V. G. Strivens**
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) A. G. Morgan**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Brackston**
RQMS Designate	—	**WO2 (RQMS) P. Hardwick**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) J. Lovell**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) M. P. Coley**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

WE bid farewell to **Capt (QM) Tom Keany** and **Margarite,** who are moving, on 'promotion', to 8 Inf Bde. **WO2 John Brackston,** having completed 26 years in the forces, also leaves us. After 26 years he probably deserves a rest! In their places we welcome a new 2IC, **Capt Jim Cadwallader,** and RQMS, **WO2 Peter Hardwick,** both from Blandford.

We have been enlivened by the presence, on Exercise Long Look, of **Capt Bruce Gladman** from the Royal Australian Signals. He has proved that all Australians really are called **Bruce.**

CARTERTON GALA

Although the Squadron has been at Brize Norton only a short time, we have already built up a good relationship with the local village of Carterton. We helped at the village gala. Members of the Squadron were employed mainly behind the scenes—the best place for them(?). **Capt Tom Keany** did judge the fancy dress competition and was more nervous about that than last year's FFR!

EXERCISE IN DENMARK

Most of the Squadron were deployed in October on Exercise Tacomex 10 in Denmark. Masterminded by **Maj Leslie Steane,** the exercise was both battle camp and communications training. The sight of our attached RAF operators doing section attacks (driven on by **Capt Jack Boyle**) warmed the heart of even **RSM Tony Morgan. Lcpl 'Joe' Olds** had a personal ambition to complete one attack without getting wet. The heavens were against him because every attack was across a ditch too wide to jump. Even on the defence phase it rained! 'Commander Australian Forces Denmark' (alias **Capt Bruce Gladman**) and 'General' Welch **(Ssgt Dave Welch)** provided plenty of fictitious traffic for our communications exercises. Higher and lower control was manned by **WO2 (Y of S) John Lovell** ably assisted by two enthusiastic but bewildered Flight Lieutenants!

VISITS

The Corps Band visited RAF Brize Norton on October 21 to entertain the Station Officers at a dinner night. Unfortunately, most of the Squadron were away in Denmark but the RAF were delighted with the performance.

On November 4 we had **Col John Findlater** visit us from Royal Signals Manning and Record Office. He gave us a very interesting and informative talk and then spent an hour 'sorting out' the Senior NCOs, before helping us lunch out **Capt Tom Keany.**

The same evening, at a Ladies Guest Night, we said thank you to **Col Ronnie Stonham,** CSO 3 Div, for all the help he has given the Squadron whilst we were under his technical control. To round off the evening a lone piper played on our behalf. **Sig 'Robbie' Burns** did very well and undoubtedly earned his drink.

RED HAND REUNION

The Red Hand Reunion will take place at 244 Sig Sqn (AS), RAF Brize Norton in April 1978. The exact date is yet to be decided but look out for notices in THE WIRE and tell other members of the event.

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

LEGGING IT AROUND CYPRUS

CYPRUS WALKABOUT

IF you raise your eyes northwards from Episkopi, in the distance, pine-green against the sky, sit Troodos and Mount Olympus 25 miles away. It is from Episkopi to the Troodos Leave Centre and back that the Cyprus Walkabout Competition takes place over some 60 miles of rugged, dirty country. To qualify for the Certificate of Merit the total time taken to complete the course is not to exceed 24 hours.

The Squadron entered three teams this year: **Cpl 'Taff' Gordon, Lcpl 'Pip' Piper,** and **Sig John Crispin** (Episkopi); **Lt George Lord, Sigs John Pirie** and **Richie Reeves** (Airfield Troop); and **Sgt Pete Wheeler-Lilley** and wife, **Joan,** and **Cpl John Fitzsimmons** (Mountain Troop).

Day one starts at 0430hrs with some 80 teams of three, some from the UK and BAOR, moving in turn into the map tent and away. A straightforward fast course, lots of road and track and all three teams make good time to complete the 30-mile 'up' leg. But day two dawns and the map tent reveals the worst: the checkpoints widely scattered forcing the teams over huge rubbly hills, across baking empty ravines, zig-zagging east and west. The day takes its toll: like many others, **'Taff' Gordon** and **John Crispin** succumb to injury half way home but **'Pip' Piper** manages to join a composite team and finishes with only minutes to spare. Sadly, Mountain Troop are very disappointed to be caught by the 'cut off' time and are forced to retire. Airfield Troop plod on but morale is high with endless appalling jokes, gallons of water, visions of horizontal repose, and a catch phrase—'we can hack it'! And they do, completing the last two legs across the 'bondu' in darkness.

Just one word from the participants: next time you see someone who has just been in something like this, don't ask how we feel; how do you THINK we feel?!

INTER-TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY—
Episkopi Troop conquer all

The rigorous training on NAAFI pasties and Keo beer really paid off for the lads of Episkopi Troop cross-country team. Despite heavy odds, in the shape of **'Geordie' Shave,** we managed to conquer the favourites, Mountain Troop.

'Hot legs' Chris Brearley with the aid of **'Mine's a straight' Marty Case, 'Tearaway Tony' Hogg** and **Alan Armstrong** managed to take four out of the first seven places. Then it was touch and go to get the next two in to have our first qualifying six but we made it in the shape of **'Spud' (Maybe he's the real one) Murphy** and **Ray Stone.** This tallied our points to 56, which was just 7 points different to the second-placed Mountain Men, who deteriorated in the heavy air.

Would you believe this was all possible despite the lack of two of our 'stars'. These being **'Pip' Piper,** due to a Cyprus Walkabout injury, and **Cliff Swailes,** who felt left out as he was on a Mediterranean cruise. It must also be mentioned that the other two members of the team who didn't count but nevertheless completed the 47 miles of gruelling 'Bondu'. These were **'Lemon' Tony Dawson** and **'No shoes' Mick Denny** whom, I hasten to add, finished the last two miles in stocking feet and still wasn't last. A short message for Mountain Troop: Better luck next year, maybe the Sergeant-Major will join our team.



Early morning—30 miles to go!
Mrs Wheeler-Lilley, Sgt Wheeler-Lilley, Cpl Fitzsimmons

DHEKELIA DASH 77

The Dash takes place between Ayios Nikolaos and Dhekelia. It is a team event with 15 members each of whom 'dash' a mile section. Rank features in the team qualifications as does age. The team must have at least one officer and five WO/SNCOs and members' ages must total 400 years minimum. In earlier years the Dash was a much less serious affair with competitors having to down a pint before 'dashing' their mile. Today, trainers pale at the sight of ale; stop watches and glucose tablets are the in-thing.

First in were 62 Sqn RE who determined to beat their previous second and third positions came home in 1hr 17min. Second were the 'Unbeatables' (their name)—262 Sig Sqn—last year's winners, followed closely by 22 Locating Battery RA. They did extremely well; here on a month's exercise they ran away with the guest's team cup. Resident units of the Eastern Sovereign Base Area only, qualify for the real one. Eventually, some 30sec behind came 259's man, **Sgt Moss Walker,** hell bent on closing a 250-m gap down to 50—which he did! But alas, our hold on the guest team cup had slipped away.

Our team, to whom we say well done, was:

WO2 (SSM) Brian Selkirk
Ssgt (F of S) Pat Baldwin
Sgt Moss Walker (capt)
Sgt Dave Lumb
Sgt Eddie Higgins
Cpl Marty Case
Cpl Nev King
Cpl Paul Wilson
Sig Tony Hogg
Sig Chris Brearley
Sig Alan Armstrong
Sig 'Geordie' Pirie
Sig Ernie Taylor
Sig John Barker and last but not least
Maj (TOT) Roy Edge who provided years in lieu of speed

Watch out for 259 next year! But be there early if you want to see us finish.

News from Troops

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

'633 Sig Troop is proud to announce the arrival of its Force Radio Sub-Troop'
(Report by WO2 (Y of S) Lemmy D. Lomas

FILLING THE GAP

TRADITIONALLY during times of threatened aggression 633 Sig Troop have always taken over the resident Infantry Battalion's Radio Room to release the Regimental Signallers for forward deployment. With the recent reinforcement, however, there was the need to rationalise net radio communications to enable the Force Commander to command the two Battle Groups which form the nucleus of his Force. This was obviously too

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great a task for the Battalion Signal Platoon's resource of manpower and equipment. Consequently, 633 were asked to fill the gap, resulting in the formation of Force Radio Sub-Troop.

Maj Roger Thompson, the Force Signal Officer, arrived with the early reinforcements from 30 Sig Regt accompanied by **Sgt Bill Johnson,** who is now the Force Radio Sergeant, and four Radio Telegraphists making up the nucleus of the Troop. On arrival, one of the first jobs for the Force Signals Officer was to re-write the Communications and Electronics Instructions to cover a two Battle Group situation. This all had to be done by 'yesterday', and consequently much wailing and gnashing of teeth was heard from **Y of S Lemmy Lomas** and his **Cipher Cpls Brian Moseley** and **Dave Denning,** who, nevertheless, produced the goods on time. Meanwhile, the regimental signallers of 1 Queens signed over the Battalion Radio Room to **Sgt Johnson's** boys, and Force Sub-Troop was born!

Transferred at sea

One of the Troop's first tasks was to provide a C42 detachment on board HMS *Achilles* led by **Sgt Bob Hey** and **Cpl Keith Jones.** It was only a matter of days, however, before the detachment transferred at sea to HMS *Ariadne.* Shortly afterwards our original operators on board were replaced by **Lcpl Steve Parry** and **Sig Andy Farmer** just in time to steam off on a cruise to the Bahamas calling in at Miami en route. The detachment has since been transferred to HMS *Scylla* which gave **Sigs Ronnie Corbet** and **Andy Farmer** a cruise which included Kingston, Jamaica, and Trinidad. The C42 detachment on board provides a valuable ship-to-shore circuit which enables the ship to work into the Force Command Net, contrary to **Lcpl Pete Murton's** theory that it is an engineering channel for the Yeoman's ship-to-shore RATT circuit. The transfer of detachments between ships is carried out at sea by Bosun's chair, and even though when not operating on set the soldiers carry out 'Seamans Duties' such as painting, greasing and scrubbing there are no shortages of volunteers from the Troop. One detachment even carried out the daily 'colours' ceremony.

A high feature

Linking up the north and south of Belize has long been a thorn in many a Regimental Signal Officer's side, and **CSM Husein,** of the Royal Regt of Wales Sig Platoon breathed a sigh of relief when he learned that 1 Queens had handed over the 'Baldy Beacon' rebroadcast station to Force Radio Sub-Troop. As the photograph shows and the caption explains, the station sits atop one of the highest features in Belize, Mountain Pine Ridge. **Lcpl George Davison** and **Sig Jess Ward** together with two signallers from the 1 RRW Sig Platoon took over the 'Tin Tabernacle' at the beginning of August.

Baldy Beacon is very reminiscent of Gandale in that on a summer's day 18 degrees above the Equator one can still feel quite cold. Currently taking in the high altitude Kur are **Cpl 'Jock' Stephenson** and **Sig Jim Webster.**

The second Rebroadcast Station in the south of the country has always been the responsibility of 633 Sig Troop and is currently being commanded by newly arrived **Cpl 'Mac' Macintosh,** assisted by (and adding a touch of integration) **Cpl 'Tommy' Atkinson,** of the Royal Engineers, **Lcpl Mick Marsh,** and **Sig Chris Sugden.**

Headquarters Battle Group South, in the absence of the 1 Staffords Regimental Signal Officer, is currently being whipped into shape HF communicationswise by **Lcpl Steve Parry,** who, under the eagle eye of our new Force Signal Officer, **Maj Warren Armstrong,** is fast becoming the Clansman King with regular 24 hours SSB Voice communication time to his credit. The attachment to Battle Group South was the last piece in the Force Net Radio Jigsaw. Finally, no Troop would be complete without its own T-shirt, and the Force Radio Sub-Troop can be justifiably proud of theirs which shows the Troop motto 'Good Vibes Nationwide'.



The Rebroadcast Site on Baldy Beacon
Sitting on top of the world

'Es Bueno Aqui No?' or You Better Belize It
(Report by WO2 (Y of S) L. D. Lomas

AT A STROKE

LSL *Sir Geraint* joins the net. To enable the Force Ordnance Officer to co-ordinate the unloading of the LSL, a new VHF Net was set up linking the LSL, the Customs Wharf at Belize City, and Airport Camp. Details of the task were given to **Sgt Bill Johnson** and the Y of S at 1225 one Friday lunchtime, and as usual, everything was required to be ready for a 6 am start the following Monday morning. Nevertheless, by close of play Friday the 'Force Ordnance Lotistics Net' was a viable proposition, and at 0530 on the Monday morning **Sgt Bill Johnston, Lcpl George Davison,** a couple of Signallers and an FFR Rover borrowed from the Royal Regt of Wales moved to the Customs Wharf to open up the net. After the initial difficulties of trying to get Merchant Navy 'Sparkers' to speak in Voice Procedure, the net worked very well. By being able to call forward trucks to meet barges, and barges to the ship, the LSL was 'turned round' in 72 hours. The amount of time saved in terms of cargo equated to about 2,000 tonnes of freight, and the Force Logisticians were duly grateful.

The other big event was the arrival of **Sgt Roy Pledger,** who took over from **Bill Johnston.** We hope **Bill** gets a few days to acclimatise before embarking on Exercise Hardfall. Most of the handover was done by helicopter, and **Roy Pledger** now suffers from the first-known case of 'Puma Lag'.

COMMCEN NEWS

The Commcen, under the whip of **Sgt Tom (Beanstealer-in-Chief) Wardle,** continues to 'hack' the ever increasing daily traffic load, which, of course, is made no lighter with the presence of our resident frigate. Masters of Ship/Shore communications are: **Lcpl Roger (King Ratt) Secker, Sig 'Tonka' Thompson, Lcpl Terry Woolcombe,** and **Sig Rab (Fistfull of Dollars) Lee.** Communications and co-operation on this link are very good and the amount of Green Time logged grows daily. HMS *Eskimo* is the latest visitor to read our Maritime Rear Link.

As the festive season approaches and the local units start to get into the seasonal spirit, it wasn't surprising to intercept a signal from 1 Staffords Advance to 1 Staffords Rear tasking their Regimental Signals Officer to bring out to Belize 'Outfit Father Christmas, Red, Complete, quantity One'. Obviously a case of communicators getting into Christmas Media.

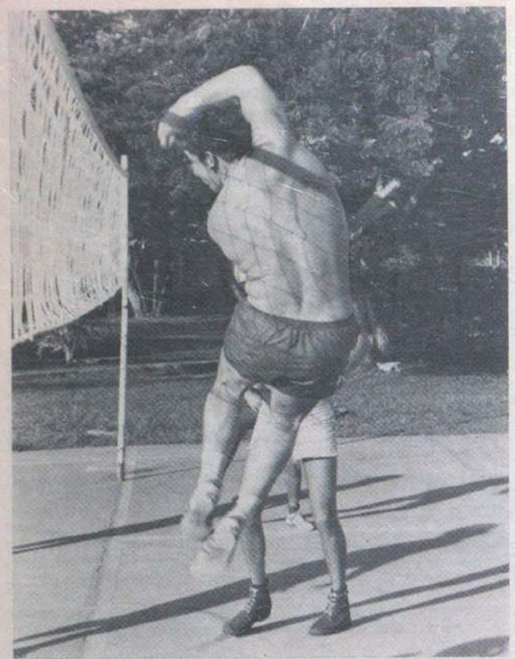
MISCELLANEA

To mention all the visitors to the Troop during November and December would end up reading like a Who's Who of 1 Signal Group. However, the CO of 30 Sig Regt eventually managed to leave us in mid-October after an enjoyable visit hampered only by a 'duff' VC10 delaying his departure. Members of the pre-Christmas 'Rum Run' include **F of S Fred Brown,** and **Capt TOT Cliff Webb** and their CPA team to install 'Piccolo', **Y of S 'Geordie' Atkinson** of the CDCN team, to mention but a few.

Cpl Bill (Scooby) Tidswell continues to amaze us with his aquatic exploits, his latest being to teach the fish in the Transmitter Site pond to jump through hoops while **Sgt Pete Ascough** has taken over the overall running of the Safari Park and Transmit Site from **Sgt Collin (with two Ls) Brown.**

Volleyball is the 'in' game at the moment following some disastrous football results. The volleyball team stars **Lcpls Terry Woolcombe** and **George Davison, Sig Lenny Lawrence,** and many other stalwart players managed and coached by **Sgt John Bainbridge** who unfortunately leaves us shortly for 'civvy street'.

Sig Mike Wilding, Radio APC Programme Manager and DJ Extraordinaire, has played his last 'jingle' and has handed over the 'Caribbean Sunshine Sounds' to **Cpl Tony Orwin** complete



Lcpl George Davison, in action at the net during 633 Sig Troop's 5—0 victory over the Royal Regiment of Wales Sergants Mess team

with a daily Breakfast Show. Well done, **Mike,** for providing and producing a great morale-boosting service. Also breaking into the world of Showbiz was our Troop Admin **Ssgt 'Taff the Staff' Ben Elliott** who is shortly to publish his novel 'The Confessions of a Road Manager' after a week on the road with a **Miss Brandy de Frank.**

Finally, on behalf of the Force Signals Officer, **Maj Warren Armstrong,** the OC 633 Sig Troop, **Capt Brian Chubb,** I would like to wish a sincere Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all who served with us in 1977; and to all the families back in the UK, especially those of our reinforcements from 30 Sig Regt and 244 Sig Sqn who were not at home for Christmas.

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

TO BELGIUM BY SEA

zzON November 12 a party of 25 soldiers from the Regiment zzO crossed to Belgium to augment the communications Staff at SHAPE for Exercise Able Archer. The party was commanded by **Capt Bill Morris,** who took 10 soldiers and the vehicles to the Continent by Commercial Car Ferries. **RSM Keith Childs** commanded the remainder of the party that was due to cross the Channel by hydrofoil. Due to rough weather in the Channel the two parties did not meet at SHAPE until approximately 2300hrs, where everyone was glad of a meal and to retire to bed.

ON THE BALL

The following day the exercise started and communications were soon established under the eyes of our two Foremen, **WO1 Roger Knowles** and **WO2 Reg Thurbon.** Much curiosity was aroused among the American communicators about our equipment and the speed and skill shown by the crews at moving into a location and erecting the antennae, all of which caused much favourable comment.

The data telegraphists went to work in the Relay and our two WRAC representatives, **Cpl Linda Stone** and **Lcpl Christine Mills,** with **Cpl Bill Flynn** went to work in the main SHAPE Communications Centre. Once the Radio Relay communications were established the operators settled into a steady shift system which enabled them to have time off for sleeping and shopping, etc.

AND HOME

On Thursday, November 17, a small party was held in the British Mess to say thank you to all those at SHAPE who had helped us and made the visit go smoothly. Friday was spent packing up after the Exercise, buying the last items to take home and generally preparing for the journey back to the UK. After an early start, both parties left SHAPE and, after an uneventful journey, arrived back at their respective Drill Halls. Everyone felt a sense of a job well done and renewed confidence in the ability of members of the Regiment to work with and be accepted by the staff at SHAPE.



Erection of antenna mast at Pippingford park



Y of S Brian Alway instructs Cpl Khokhar on the intricacies of logging messages at Blandford, November 19

AUTUMN TRAINING

While the party from Belgium was returning, the remaining Data Telegraphists went to Blandford to practice their skills in different surroundings. Our thanks to the School of Signals for their assistance. On the same weekend **Lt John Geake** took the radio relay operators to Pippingford Park training area in Sussex for a weekend's training.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

As usual each Squadron organised a dance and draw, all of which were very successful. The season started with Headquarters Squadron party on October 29, followed by 47 Sqn on November 26 at Harrow. The next event was the Sergeants Mess Draw at Hammersmith on December 4. 83 Sqn were unable to hold their draw at Southfields on December 10 as the crews of 10 Green Goddesses are sleeping in the Drill Hall, but they were still able to organise a very good evening at Hammersmith thanks to **SSM Bland.**

Cpl Ali Metabdin organised buffets for the Sergeants Mess and 83 Sqn of the usual very high standard. The last function was 41 Sqn's Draw at Coulsdon on December 17. Despite the heating problems, the function was again very successful.

FIRE-FIGHTING

As the Firemen's strike is in its fourth week at the time of writing, all our available operators and HGV drivers have been assisting in the fire-fighting duties. **Ssgt Jim Lycett** and **Y of S Brian Alway** have done valuable work at the London control centre at Kingsbury; while **Sig Ward** has been away for three weeks driving Green Goddesses from Chelsea Barracks. The Regiment also hosts two fire stations at Southfields and Cobham.

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

THE VAL DE MARNE INTERNATIONAL MARCH 1977
Report by WO2 A. Gouldson (APTC)

GOOD THINKING

WITH a fortnight's leave from my civilian employment coming up in September, it seemed a good idea to have a weekend in Paris with HQ Sqn's team entered for the Val De Marne International March. Out of an original list of 15 the team was finally reduced to seven. Myself and **Sgt Keith Reynolds** giving moral support to five WRAC soldiers!

Paris bound

The journey was uneventful but enjoyable. The 0705 train to London, a coach to Ramsgate, the Hover Lloyd to Calais and then we picked up the 2030 coach to Paris. There, we were met by an open French Army truck which allowed the French casanovas early greetings from our Huyton ladies ('Allo der Wack') for some 20km to our barracks. Settling into our accommodation it was a welcome sight to see **Cpls Frank Rowlands, Barry Shone,** and **Lcpl Patrick Black** of 80 Sqn's team who were also 'showing the flag for the thirty third'. Well done chaps.

All ages

With more than 600 competitors, from the very young to the more seasoned veterans, a very happy family gathering assembled at Chateau de Villiers ready for the trek. The girls having 'borrowed' a broom handle for our Regimental flag, we awaited the weighing of our packs at 'checkout' before finally, at 1000hrs, we stepped off to the strains of 'In my Liverpool Home'.

Blisters and sardines

With blisters beginning to form, we were grateful after 12km for our first stop, where we ate a packed meal of a tin of sardines, some French corned beef (urgh!), a tin of raisin juice, and the traditional French loaf. Back to marching, and we descended from the hills to cobbled streets along the river banks to be engulfed in a thunderstorm. Pressing on we eventually crossed the River Marne at 20km.

Impressive conclusion

After 25km one of the girls wanted tablets for a headache, but having sat her on a bed, the amorous French Medical Orderly was told 'Tablets we go!' (we spoilt his afternoon I think). From the 28km mark to the final 'run in' was very similar to Windsor Great Park; a long straight road in parklands lined with trees. Crowds lined the route all the way to the finishing line, and with



Showing the Flag of 33 Sig Regt (V)
Left to right: Sgt Keith Reynolds, Cpl Marie Watkinson, Ptes Veronica Raynard, Shirley Kane, Ann Smith, Susan Wilson and WO2 Alan Gouldson

the French Foreign Legion and Americans having large contingents their songs echoed far away across the parkland.

Not to be outdone, the 'Thirty Third' filled the air with 'Roll me over in the clover', 'Heart of my Heart', and 'The bells are ringing for me and my girl'. The crowds rose to the gameness and spirit of the girls, and the clapping and cheering to the finishing line was a marvellous welcome. Within 20 minutes the march past, took place at Chateau de Vincennes, an imposing castle and courtyard. Both **Sgt Reynolds** and myself were quick to remove the concrete slabs from our packs! A shower, followed by a visit to the international bar, provided the necessary refreshment.

Homeward bound

On Monday morning we started our journey homeward, and finally arrived at Lime Street Station, Liverpool, at 0235hrs on Tuesday.

I would like to pay tribute to the guts and determination of the WRAC team, and I applaud the pluck of 80 Sqn's team, particularly **Cpl Rowlands** who completed the 45km march even though he required hospital treatment afterwards! Finally, my thanks to **Sgt Laura Nuttall** for her hard work in making all the Administrative arrangements, and for transporting us to Lime Street Station at 0630hrs to set the 'Adventure' on its way.

Association News

CARDIFF BRANCH

IT was with deep sadness that we received the news of the death of **Mrs May Rolls,** wife of our chairman, **George. May** was the 'first' lady of the Branch, a stalwart supporter and fund-raiser. We are grateful that she was able to attend the last reunion at Catterick in June when she thoroughly enjoyed herself. Our deepest sympathy is extended to **George** and their son, **David.**

On Monday, October 24, Honorary member **Glen Stevens** and his wife, **Flo,** celebrated their Golden Wedding with a splendid party, organised in secret by their family. **Glen,** a Founder Member of Royal Signals, was taken out with **Flo,** for a quiet drink' and were both greatly surprised when they found they were involved not only in a family reunion but with a miniature Royal Signals Reunion! This very popular couple were greeted and congratulated by many pre- and post-war members and ex-members of the Corps, including **Col V. W. Hawkins** and **Lt Col W. F. G. Bale.**

On Sunday, October 30, a sponsored walk, kindly organised by **Capt Alan Burden,** OC LSG Troop, 55 Sig Sqn, and the members of LSG Troop in aid of our Branch Funds proved a very successful venture and was well supported, not only by members of LSG Troop but with six WRAC members of 53 Sig Sqn.

All freely volunteered to take part in a walk from Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, to 5 RRW TAVR Centre, Pontypridd, a

distance of 12 miles. The only casualties sustained were the inevitable blisters but our funds will be greatly enhanced with the success of this very splendid effort. We are most grateful to all who took part.

We now hope to add further cash to the kitty with our annual Armistice Dance on November 12, and a Jumble Sale set for November 19.

Capt A. Burden and the members of LSG Troop tell me they intend to repeat their very kind gesture of last year by again entertaining our pensioner members with a Christmas Dinner and Social Evening on or about December 10. These, and other such kindly gestures as sponsoring some of our less affluent members for the Catterick 'At Home' each year merits the highest of praise to all members of LSG Troop who have literally taken Cardiff Branch into their hearts.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AT LEEDS

ONCE again the Branch is indebted to **Maj Bill Illingworth, TD,** and personnel of his Squadron (49) for providing the facilities for yet another 'five star' Annual Dinner held on Saturday, October 1, in the TAVR Centre, Regent Street, Leeds.

We were very pleased to welcome **Brig** and **Mrs N. A. Butler** from Catterick (third time lucky), **Col** and **Mrs F. Ramsbottom,** Army Apprentice College, and **Capt Peter Studd,** Adjutant, 34 (N) Sig Regt (V), as guests of the Branch. Over the years guests and members have travelled 'fairish' distances to attend Branch dinners, but they don't often jet it from abroad. **Michael** and **Sandra**—son and daughter-in-law of the chairman—made it from California to attend, what turned out to be for them—and their 'Mom', a memorable occasion. In May of this year the Central Committee of the Association agreed that **Mrs Mary Edwards** be invited to accept Associate Life Membership in recognition of 40 years of voluntary welfare service to members and families of the Corps and the Association. This unique honour—the first to a lady—was marked by the presentation by the president, **Col Richie Bigland, TD,** on behalf of the Branch members, of a pair of antique silver candelsticks, suitably inscribed, to **Mary.**

The loyal toast was proposed by the president and. The Royal Signals Association' by **Mr Trevor Smith,** assistant secretary. The toast 'Our Colonel-in-Chief' made a welcome re-appearance in the programme and was proposed by the chairman, **Maj Bob Edwards.** He also proposed 'Our Guests', during which he noted the Army Apprentice College flavour of the guests: **Charles** and **Margaret Rhodes**—he was an Apprentice, **Capt Peter Studd,** on the permanent staff serving three commandants, **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** the Commandant, **Brig Norman Buler,** past Commandant and now Commander, Training Group, Royal Signals, which includes the College, and **Maj Bob,** for 8½ years on the permanent staff—it really was a coincidence. **Brig Butler,** no mean after-dinner performer, responded on behalf of the guests. He was complimentary, witty and amusing.

The diners were entertained by an enjoyable rendition of some excellent music by the Band of 34 (N) Sig Regt (V). Following dinner, dancing took place to the excellent music of a first-class trio who catered for all tastes. It was a great pleasure to have with us **Capt Joy Hill, Mr Jack Harriman** and our 'over 80s', **Ted Speight** and **Len 'Twinkletoes' Payne.** We missed **Maj Tug** and **Kathy Wilson** but hope they will make the next 'do'.

During the evening the Annual Draw took place. Five winning counterfoils were un-named—it is thought they may have been sold at the Corps Reunion. Details are:

Ticket Nos	834	Prize £30
	279	Bottle of gin
	4047	Travelling clock
	13863	Travelling clock
	11235	Bottle of wine

Readers holding any of the tickets should notify the Branch secretary.

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

DUE mainly to the efforts of **Reg Jewell** the Branch has been reformed after a lapse of some 23 years. At the first meeting **Maj Barry Ashcroft** was elected to fill the chair and the posts of secretary and treasurer are filled (quite admirably) by **Richard Newcombe** and **Cliff Scantlebury. Brig F. Clarkson** agreed to become president and his enthusiasm and hard work on the Branch's behalf has already become apparent. The Branch consists of war-time ex-members (some of whom must have known Jimmy as a boy), ex-Regulars, and quite a few ex- and serving TAVR members. The mixture is garnished by the presence of some ex-WRAC and thanks to the efforts of our 'Live Wire' entertainments committee **Fred Northcott, Dave Rees, Terry Rowlands** and **Christine King** was well and truly shaken if not stirred at our first social.

Arrangements have been made to obtain a Branch Standard and discussions are going on regarding the dedication. More about that in the next issue.

To mark Remembrance Day, a Cross was planted in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey by our president and the Branch sent a contingent to the Plymouth Festival of Remembrance.

The Branch membership now stands at 63, and meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Royal Artillery Club, Llambhay Hill, Plymouth.

READING BRANCH

Report by N. A. Wickens

READING Branch reporting a happy and busy summer season with parties paying visits to a Grand Band Concert at Kneller Hall, The Wembley Band Pageant, and two informal dinners—plus parties enjoying the hospitality of the Blandford and Catterrick reunions.

On October 15, under the presidency of **Maj Gen J. M., Sawers, CB, MBE,** the Branch held its Seventh Annual Dinner. The official guests were **Brig** and **Mrs A. A. G. Anderson Col L. W. Wright, TD, Maj** and **Mrs K. R. R. Boulding Maj L. H. Caldicott, MBE** (chairman Brighton Branch) and **Mrs Caldicott, T. S. Baynham, Esq, MBE,** and **Mrs Baynham.**

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by Mr Len Pearson

NOVEMBER 5, 1977, was a very special day for Scarborough Branch. Our president, **Maj F. Mansfield, MBE,** representing the Branch, was presented with our first Standard to celebrate over 30 years' existence of the Scarborough Branch. The Standard was presented by **Maj T. W. Jackson,** OC Signal Training Centre, Burniston Barracks, on behalf of the Commandant and Permanent Staff.

Maj Jackson, in his presentation speech, remarked on the Military History of Standards and their great and honourable significance in Army ceremonial as well as every-day life. In battle they marked the Headquarters of the formation and, consequently, were well guarded. The new Scarborough Branch Standard would, in his opinion, be as honoured and well guarded as the Standards of old.

Thanking **Maj Jackson** and the Permanent Staff for such a wonderful gift to the Branch, **Maj Mansfield** said the Standards of old were also used as a 'Rallying Point' for stragglers who had become separated from their parent formation and were always treated with affection and great honour. Our new Standard would become a treasured and well-guarded possession of Scarborough Branch, and hoped it would become a 'Rallying Point' for many more Royal Signals Old Comrades in the Scarborough area.

The presentation took place during a buffet dance held in Burniston Barracks NAAFI. The buffet dance followed a bonfire and firework party, which was attended by a large number of children and their parents. The children also enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, baked potatoes and lemonade. The evening could not have been such a great success without the hard work of **Ssgt Chubb, Sgt Ken Coatesworth, Cpl Sam Doole** and **Cpl Lynn.** The ACC cooks, **Cpl Jones** and **Lcpl Malcolm,** added to the success of the evening by preparing a lovely buffet. One Old Comrade insidted the curry was the best he had eaten since 1929! Dancing, both ancient and modern, carried on until the early hours and we all believe the new Standard was truly 'wetted'.



Photo courtesy: Scarborough Evening News

Arrangements are already under way for our Standard to be dedicated in St Martin's Catterick,, on our Old Comrades' Reunion Church Parade in June 1978, at which we hope to have a record Branch attendance.

New Secretary for Indian Signals Association

Lt Col "Nat" Gould has handed over the seals of office as Secretaty of the Indian Signals Association to:

Mr J. T. Dexter
23 Kelvin Avenue
Palmers Green
London N13 4TH
Telephone (01) 888 3305

Sport

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB
1977-78

(1) **Results**

Played 4 Won 3 Lost 1

Corps 1—4 RMAS	Corps 4—1 REME
Corps 3—2 RCT	Corps 4—1 RAEC

(2) The Corps Squash team is still looking for new talent and Unit Secretaries are requested to forward the names of promising players to:

Maj J. S. Doody (Royal Signals),
Secretary Royal Signals SRC,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

Editors Note:- We apologise for the positioning of these notes which are way out of sequence!

OC	—	**Maj K. P. Burke**
2IC/Comms Officer		**Capt R. G. Heaney**
QM	—	**Capt (QM) T. Keany**
AO	—	**Capt G. A. Kendrick** (Staffords)
OC Comms Troop	—	**Lt M. S. Fisher**
MTO	—	**Lt A. T. Evans**
RSM	—	**WO1 R. I. Buckley**
RQMS	—	**WO2 M. S. W. Olive**
Y of S	—	**WO2 J. T. Nichols**
F of S	—	**WO1 N. C. Cowell**
ORSQMS	—	**Ssgt M. R. Yallop**

FOCUS ON SHQ

THIS month's contribution comes from SHQ and firstly features the Orderly Room staff. Our photograph includes both the incoming and outgoing Chief Clerks with the other staff. They are described by **Ssgt Duffy** (the outgoing Chief) as follows:

Cpl 'Eddie' Clancy who (when he's not serving in the Tudor Bar or Rugby Club) is the unit's Orderly Room Corporal. A very dour 'Jock' who's very difficult to prise out of the Chief Clerk's seat.

Lcpl 'Taff' Roberts, an excellent Welshman, who is the unit's



'resident expert' on leave (told you he was a good lad!) and movements, and is a keen 'Waterats' supporter.

Sig (I want to change my trade) Addison, a lovable character who, it seems, is rarely seen in or around the SHQ area (come back, all is forgiven).

Sgt 'Joe 90' Chanter is our tame RAPC Pay Sergeant who has just returned from his Div 2 course after receiving a very good report. An air of calm has now returned to the Pay Office after two rather chaotic months.

We welcome **Ssgt Ray Yallop,** newly arrived from 30 Sig Regt and looking forward to his tour as ORSQMS in 'Shamrock' Londonderry.

Finally, we say farewell to **Ssgt Ray Duffy** who has been a very active and enthusiastic member of the Squadron both in the Orderly Room and in the sporting and social life of the Squadron. We wish him well in his new job at 4 Signal Group.

The other main element in SHQ is our 'D & E' Platoon of RPC personnel, headed by **Sgt 'Joe' Tappin.** Since our last notes we have said farewell to **Lcpl Oliver** and **Ptes Whittaker, Collins** and **Currie.** We wish them the best of luck in their future postings. We say Hello to **Cpl Goodman, Ptes Webster, Radbourne, Harris** and **Cole.** We hope they will have a pleasant and safe tour. The Platoon is kept busy with many varied tasks in addition to their routine work, providing escorts and guards and assisting the RSM with range days. **Cpl Paige** and his team also got in on the act by helping to assemble the mast sections.

Finally, we wish to congratulate **Sgt Tappin** on the award of his LS and GC Medal.

SERGEANTS MESS

The Squadron WOs and Sergeants share the Mess with our resident Battalion—2 Bn Coldstream Guards—and have for some time hankered after 'a place of their own'. Now they have been able to open their own club called the Foyle View, thanks to a lot of hard work by **RSM Ian Buckley** and many others. The club was officially opened by the Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle,** on December 2, and our photograph shows him signing the Visitors' Book.



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The following lists Association items now in stock and available.
Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

	Overseas	UK
	£	£
Crested glass ash trays	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)	2·20	2·35
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Motor cycle badge	0·75	0·75
Corps cravats—terylene	1·85	2·00
Corps cuff links	2·20	2·40
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·29	0·31
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·90	4·20
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	14·13	15·25
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	4·35	4·67
Corps scarves—Woollen	3·30	3·55
Corps squares—terylene	2·52	2·72
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 2½"	0·20	0·25
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½")	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅛")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·76	1·90
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
Corps pendants	0·38	0·40
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.25	6.85
Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

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SULTANATE OF OMAN
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Applications are invited from suitably qualified men (preferably ex-British Army Royal Signals) to fill uniformed contract appointments of 3 years duration in the Signals Regiment of the Oman Army in the rank of Captain in the following categories:

Staff Officer Communications
(Training & Traffic) **(Ref: No. 51/F)**

Staff duties involving:
(a) Signals trade training for all arms and Services, and relevant policy matters;
(b) overall control of communications procedures, message handling and security, and relevant policy matters;
(c) Liaison between the Services on these subjects.

Previous service as a Royal Signals Traffic Officer with staff experience is essential, and preference will be given to the applicant who has worked in a security sensitive environment.

Technical Officer Telecommunications **(Ref: No. 51/G)**

Duties involving the overall control and supervision of radio servicing workshops and technicians.

Applicants must be fully conversant with the normal range of military HF and VHF radio and associated terminal equipment, and be capable of effecting on-site repairs, conducting user field trials, etc. Preference will be given to an ex-Royal Signals Technical Officer Telecommunications or Senior Foreman of Signals who has had staff experience.

These posts are unaccompanied (although short family visits to Oman may be possible) and the age limit is strictly 48.

Conditions of service include annual emoluments commencing at the equivalent of £8,750 at the current rate of exchange (tax free); an end-of-contract gratuity of approx: £5,000; normal Service mess facilities with bachelor accommodation and services free of charge; and 60 days home leave annually (usually taken in two periods of 30 days) with air passages paid.

For further details, write immediately, enclosing a brief summary of your qualifications and experience and quoting the appropriate reference, to:

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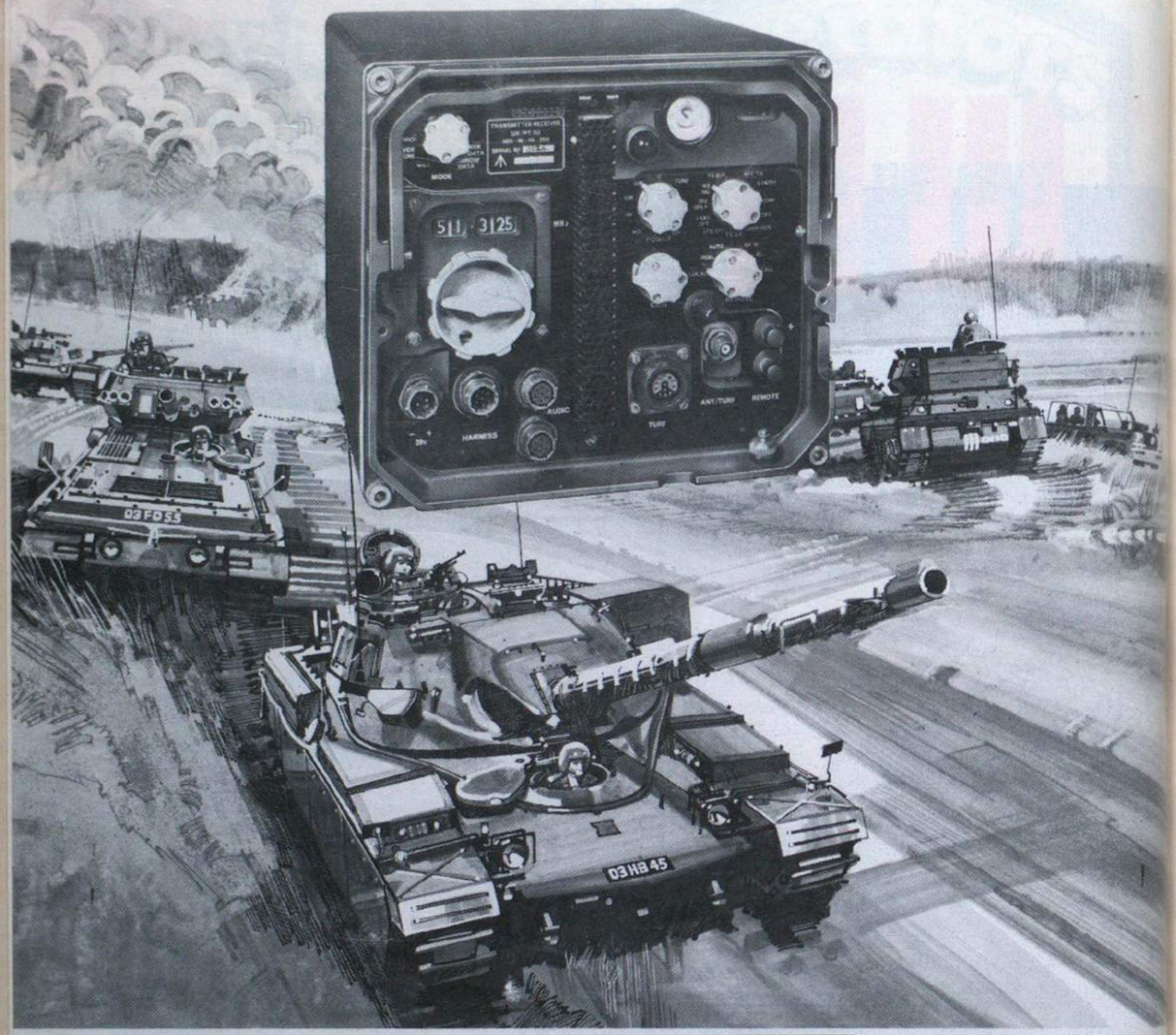
March 1978

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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Clansman UK/VRC353 is the only VHF vehicle radio system specified for the British armed forces. It is now in quantity production for the UK Ministry of Defence.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, OBE

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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 No: Chelsea Mil. Ext* 371 *STD* 01-930 4466. *Ask operator for above extension.*

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Royal Signals Association

MARCH 1978

Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 2**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

On March 1, our Colonel-in-Chief, accompanied by Captain Mark Phillips, honoured the Corps by dining with the Corps Committee at Skinners' Hall in the City of London. Our cover picture shows Her Royal Highness being greeted on arrival by the Master of Signals. This was the first official engagement by The Princess Anne with the Corps since her appointment.

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND AND ASSOCIATION IN ACTION

On a regular basis, we highlight the work of the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) and our Editorial of last September did just this. A component of this statement drew attention to the scheme covering interest free loans to serving soldiers who need a Resettlement Loan to purchase furniture for their home in civilian life. A message, therefore, to those due for discharge from the Corps in the next year or so.

The important things to note are:

—The booklet 'Loans to serving soldiers and their dependants' held by units—which explains the ABF policy on resettlement loans.

—Loans are available, normally, to those who have been granted a loan under the MOD Assisted House Purchase Scheme, or been allocated a council house.

—Loans are also available to those who may not be eligible for a loan under the MOD scheme.

—Loans are approved normally only during the last year of service and it is essential to specify the address of the house or council house concerned.

—Corps policy is that ABF loans are generally available only to those who have participated under the 'One Day Pay Scheme'.

—The maximum loan is normally £1,000 unless there are very exceptional compassionate circumstances. This is repayable at agreed monthly amounts ranging from £26 to £20 per month for a Warrant Officer, and lower ranks in proportion; the final balance outstanding is recoverable from the Terminal Grant through the Regimental Paymaster.

The first step is to apply to your Commanding Officer. Once recommended, the application is passed to the Association, for action with the ABF.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The General Manager of the Regular Forces Employment Association has made a report of 'employments found' during the year ended December 31, 1977. The records show that the Association placed in employment some 5,900 men and women from the Services. Of these some 2,400 had served in the Army—and 244 were from the Corps.

Well over 1,000 soldiers leave the Corps every year and are confronted with the key problem of finding a second career. If you are in this category, in the near future, you should be aware of the Association and not hesitate to seek advice, as and when you require it.

The Head Office of the Association is 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN. Tel: 01-637 3918. The addresses and telephone numbers of the 42 branches of the Association can be found by reference to local telephone directories.

From our "In" Tray

VALE

MAJ GEN J. M. W. BADCOCK, CB, MBE



ON September 18, 1977, **Maj Gen John Michael Watson Badcock** retired after 36 years' service. He enlisted in the Corps in 1941 and was commissioned the following year from 151 OCTU. During the war he saw service in France and Germany with 35 Tank Bde Sig Sqn and 79 Armd Div Sigs and went to Ceylon in 1945 where he spent two years as OC Ceylon Army Signals in the temporary rank of Major, a rapid rate of promotion even in those days. Whilst serving on the 'Regimental List' he held a variety of appointments, instructional, with field units and on the staff, amongst which were: OC Methods of Instruction Team at the School of Signals; OC 264 Amphibious Warfare Sig Troop on HMS (LSH) *Meon* and Instructor Amphibious Warfare School; Instructor at the School of Military Intelligence; GSO2 Intelligence at HQ 1 British Corps; OC 251 Ind Inf Bde Sig Sqn in Cyprus and Oman, where he was appointed MBE; GSO2 in the MO3 Branch at the Ministry of Defence; Company Commander at the RMA Sandhurst; and Instructor at the Imperial Defence College (now the Royal College of Defence Studies). He took part in the Suez Operations of 1956 as GSO2 to the CSO2 British Corps, and completed his Regimental service as Commander 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt from 1965 to 1966.

During the last 10 years of his service he created two precedents for a Royal Signals Officer, the first was when he was promoted Brigadier in 1967, as Commander of 2 Inf Bde when he also filled the appointment of Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, the first time this had been held by an officer of our Corps. In 1968 the Centenary of the appointment of a Regular Army officer as Deputy Constable fell due and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle—The Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies, AK, KT, CH, FRS, QC—attended the ceremonies commemorating the event and the dinner given by his Deputy to 11 out of 16 of his predecessors still surviving. The following year the Corps Committee held their 96th Meeting in the Constable's Tower and dined afterwards in 'his dining room'—a unique occasion. The second precedent was when he took up his last appointment as Head of British Defence Liaison Staff and Defence Adviser at Canberra, Australia; this was the first time a Royal Signals officer had filled this senior Defence Adviser appointment. The selection of **Gen Badcock** for this important appointment was due in no small measure, not only to his wide experience in all types of posts, both within and outside the Corps (his two previous positions were as Deputy Military Secretary and Director of Manning (Army) at the Ministry of Defence) but also to his undoubted organising efficiency and ability to get on with all types of people from every walk of life whatever their status or position.

His tour of Australia coincided with the 50th Anniversary of The Royal Australian Corps of Signals, which naturally involved him in a number of 'extra duties'; in spite of this he travelled over the length and breadth of this vast continent in the course of his official duties and also found time to motor in a Range-Rover with his wife, daughter, and son from Canberra to Perth and back via Alice Springs, a distance of some 7,800km, 4,300 of them on desert or dirt roads, over some of the most inhospitable and dangerous country in the world. For his services in Australia he was appointed CB in the New Year Honours List of 1976.

He has always been an ardent, if not expert, sportsman but has nevertheless represented the Corps at shooting, cricket and hockey and was President of Corps Hockey in 1970–72.

He was appointed Colonel Commandant in 1974, and we hope that we shall see more of him in the future than has been possible in the last three years, particularly as the office of his new civilian post with the Cancer Research Campaign is not far from RHQ. We wish him and his wife all success and good fortune.

Band of the Royal Corps of Signals

EXTRACT FROM PROGRAMME OF ENGAGEMENTS 1978

Date	*Place/Unit*	*Duty/Engagement*
APRIL		
9	Stoke—Victoria Hall	Concert
20	Blandford Camp	Police Dog Parade
21	London	Officers TAVR Ball—London Press Centre
MAY		
1–18	BAOR	Visiting Units
21	Blandford	Royal Signals Reunion
27	Barnard Castle	Concert
28–June 3	Eastbourne	Concerts (16)
JUNE		
27–29	Alderney	30 Sig Regt Visit
10	Helles Barracks, Catterick	Royal Signals Association 'Retreat'
11	Catterick	Royal Signals Association 'Open Day'
14	Blandford Garrison	Garrison Retreat
16–17	Eastern District	Chelmsford Show
18	North-East District	South Tyneside Show
JULY		
2	Wilton House	SSAFA Fete
4	Roosevelt Park, Blandford	US Parade
7–9	Catterick Garrison	Catterick Army Days
10–12	Larkhill	Larkhill Open Days
16	Ruislip Lido	Concerts (2)
19–23	Manchester	Military Band Pageant
AUGUST		
1–5	Colchester	Tattoo
10–12	Bournemouth	Fiesta (CR and L)
13–19	Eastbourne	Concerts (16)
20–25	Bournemouth	Concerts (12)
26–28	Shepton Mallet	Caravan Club Rally
SEPTEMBER		
2–3	Seaham	Seaham Show
2	Blandford	Royal Signals Association Dinner
5–9	Wales	7 Sig Regt KAPE
11	London	Retreat—Tower of London
19–Oct 1	Eastbourne	Concerts (31)
NOVEMBER		
12	Blandford Garrison (am)	Remembrance Parade
	Ferndown (am)	Remembrance Parade
	Blandford British Legion (pm)	Remembrance Parade



Cpl Menzies, who is employed at HQ Int Centre as the arms storeman, was presented with the LS and GC Medal by Brig P. E. B. Madsen, Director Intelligence Corps, at HQ Int Centre, Ashford, on December 19, 1977

A UNIQUE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT

IN 1940 the Polish Secret Service managed to capture an outstandingly valuable piece of German equipment—a high-grade cipher machine called ENIGMA. The Germans used this to carry top-level strategic and tactical messages and had such confidence in its security that they never thought the coded messages could be broken. The machine was passed over to our Intelligence Services, who, as a result, were able to decode intercepted German messages throughout the war. We were thus made aware of the precise composition, strength, location and in some instances the intentions of the enemy forces. This had a major effect on the course of the war and was instrumental in saving thousands of allied lives.



Photo courtesy: HQ School of Signals

ENIGMA ON DISPLAY

Through the good offices of **Maj E. G. Barrett,** who works at the RAF Central Distribution Agency, the Agency agreed to donate one of these machines to the Museum. The particular machine was captured at the end of the war and is now on display in the Museum. It is still in working order.

Our picture shows the presentation ceremony on October 12, 1977, with, *from left to right,* **Sqn Ldr E. Stuart, MBE** (RAF), **Maj E. G. Barrett** (Royal Signals), **Wing Cmdr M. Goldstein, OBE** (RAF), **Lt Col D. A. Dickson,** Historical Officer, **Maj L. J. Taylor, MBE,** Curator of the Museum, **Lt Col E. J. Beale,** Director of the Museum, **Brig J. H. Hild, MBE,** Comdt of the School of Signals. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those concerned for making this unique and interesting equipment available to the Museum.



Our talented cartoonist, Sig Ron Rigby, of 2 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt, reflects the relief felt by many at the end of the Firemen's Strike!

From: **Lt Col G. Corden**

Dear Sir,

May I through the courtesy of your columns draw the attention of readers to the fact that the Corps Tennis Championships will be held at Blandford Camp on May 11–14. 'Championships' is rather too grand a word for what is also a social occasion. You will note that, this year, the dates cover a weekend; it is hoped that this will permit more people to participate.

So make a note of the dates and—better still—come and join in.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Corden

President,
Royal Signals Lawn Tennis,
School of Signals,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset DT11 8RM

From: **Maj C. A. Smith**

Dear Sir,

As a Regular Traffic Officer commanding a Volunteer Squadron I find that, despite very intensive local recruiting, we get no response from ex-members of the Corps. A backbone of such people are vital given the time limitations of training in the Volunteer environment.

The answer to the question of no response may be the plain fact that there are no ex-Corps members within my catchment area, but I find this a little difficult to believe, hence my appeal.

We need ex-Corps members with sound radio operating experience (mainly D11), radio technicians, and there are always vacancies for officers of any age.

Perhaps you would be kind enough to give consideration to some form of publicity in THE WIRE to my need.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Smith

OC,
265 (KSY) Sig Sqn (V),
TAVR Centre,
Watling Street,
Bexleyheath,
Kent DA6 7DP.
Tel: Crayford (0322) 525522

From: **Col R. N. Cooke, MBIM**
Dear Sir,

I know that many of your readers will have served in Rheindalen BAOR at some time in the past and have attended St Boniface Church either in the congregation or in the choral society. They will be interested to know that a special St Boniface Reunion is to be held at the Guards Chapel, Chelsea Barracks, on Whitsunday, May 14, 1978, at 6pm. All past members of the congregation and the choir are cordially invited to attend.

The choir will practise from 2.30pm in preparation for a service of Choral Evensong at 6pm following which a buffet supper is being provided when there will be an opportunity for old friends to meet again.

The service is to be conducted by several past padres of the Army and the RAF who have served at Rheindalen spanning the years back to 1963. The music is being arranged by five past choir masters spanning a similar period.

This should be a memorable reunion. Further details can be obtained from me at the address above.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Cooke,
Chairman,
Reunion Committee

Commander, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Headquarters,
South East District,
Steel's Road,
Aldershot, Hants.
Tel:
Military—Aldershot Mil, Ext 3195
Civil—Aldershot 24431, Ext 3195

From: **WO1 (RSM) F. Worrall**
Dear Sir,

Through the medium of THE WIRE I am hoping to make contact with ex-Denbury Junior Leaders of the 1958–61 period, who are at present serving in BAOR.

Would any ex-Juniors who fall into this category and are interested in some form of reunion please drop me a line.

Yours faithfully,
F. Worrall

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt,
BFPO 15,
Tel: Herford Mil (035) Ext 2338

From: **F. S. Griffiths**
Dear Sir,

I have just seen the November issue of THE WIRE and can identify the unknown photograph. It used to hang in the Sergeants Mess of 2 Coy, 43 Div Sigs, and was left there when we left Hamilton House Drill Hall in Southampton to go off to war in September 1939. I can pick out three of the members who were serving in 1933 when I joined and, indeed, one of them is still alive today. I would put the date at about 1925; and the Commanding Officer was **Capt Austin Grist,** who was serving in the Post Office and lived in the Isle of Wight. I shall be meeting one of our members who joined the unit in 1927 at our AGM in March and if you require further details I will pick his brains.

Yours sincerely,
F. S. Griffiths

60 Winchester Road,
Shirley,
Southampton SO1 5RH.

From: **Maj (Retd) L. J. Taylor, MBE**
Dear Sir,

Having recently returned from a holiday visit to Borneo, I felt that readers who may have relatives or friends buried in the military cemetery on the island of 'Labuan' would be pleased and comforted to know that that particular cemetery has been beautifully maintained and is a very fitting resting place for those who gave their all in the war against the Japanese during World War II.

Yours faithfully,
L. J. Taylor

Curator,
The Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset DT11 8RH.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

AN extraordinary general meeting will be held in Room 045A of the Old War Office at 1400hrs on Thursday, April 13, 1978. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to examine the accounts for 1977.

This meeting will be preceded by a Central Committee meeting at 1100hrs in the same place.

Those intending to be present at the extraordinary meeting are asked to inform the Hon Sec (Signals 36 (Plans)), Room 044, Old War Office (01-218 0172) prior to the meeting.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

THE club exists to promote sailing within the Corps, both as a sport and as an Adventure Training activity. The club caters for both dinghy sailing and yachting. Details of Corps' sailing activities and facilities, and advice on how to start, can be obtained from either the secretary or regional secretaries whose addresses are:

Secretary RSYC	**Lt Col R. A. Cemm,** Rm 044 Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU (01-218 0172)
Secretary RSYC (UK)	**Maj C. K. Powell,** School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset (02582-2581 extn 356)
Secretary RSYC (BAOR)	**Maj W. S. Roper,** 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, BFPO 46 (Mil Extn 245)
Secretary RSYC (Cyprus)	**Maj M. Y. Miller,** 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58 (Ayias Nikolaos 202)

In all of these areas the Corps has both dinghies and yachts which can be used or chartered both for private sailing or adventure training. In BAOR or Cyprus contact the secretaries for further details. In the UK, the UK secretary will answer queries which relate to dinghies, and you may contact the Yachtmaster direct for details of *Quicksilver* and *Skywave,* the two UK-based yachts. He is:

Maj M. M. Barker,
Housing Commandant, E Hampshire,
Peronne Close, Hilsea,
Portsmouth PO3 5IG (0705-692654)

All sailing within the Army is controlled by the Army Sailing Association (ASA) who lay down standards and qualifications. Those for offshore sailing are enshrined in DCI S40 of 1974 and those for day boats in DCI S17 of 1975. Various training schemes exist for obtaining these qualifications and again if you are interested contact your local secretary.

One of the most adventurous ways of learning to sail is by attending the various courses offered by the Joint Service Sailing Centre (JSSC) at Gosport. JSSC is now open to bids for the 1978 Season and details can be found in AGAI Chapter 11, and UKLFO 9 of 1978. The RSYC will run one yacht-hand and one dayskipper course at JSSC in July and September respectively. Details can be obtained from the honorary secretary whose address is above.

The secretary is also trying to establish an accurate register of Royal Signals officers and soldiers who have obtained Service Yacht Proficiency Certificates (SYPC). Although a register is held this is often out of date. He would be happy to hear from anyone with details of their SYPC. (Yachthand, Day Skipper, Coastal Skipper, Offshore Skipper or Ocean Skipper.) We need qualified examiners and instructors. If you think you could qualify as either again please send your details to the secretary.

A full programme of dinghy racing has been arranged for the year, and we hope to race Corps Yachts in both the Baltic and the UK. We have provisionally booked a leg as a club on the next voyage across the Atlantic and have bid for places on both the Baltic and Mediterranean Army Adventure Training Cruises. The secretary will be pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to join these cruises.

RED HAND REUNION

The date of the Red Hand Reunion has now been fixed as April 29, 1978. Details and application forms are being sent to all unit orderly rooms. Anyone interested and not covered by this should write to:

Reunion Organiser,
244 Signal Squadron (Air Support),
RAF Brize Norton,
Oxon OX8 3LX.

ARMY CHAMPION FOR FIFTH TIME

News has just reached us that **Lt Neil Stewart** (1 Div HQ and Sig Regt) has won the Army Squash Championships—for the fifth time! A notable achievement, to say the least.



Maj Gen Bowen and Sig Stewart

LOOKING BACK

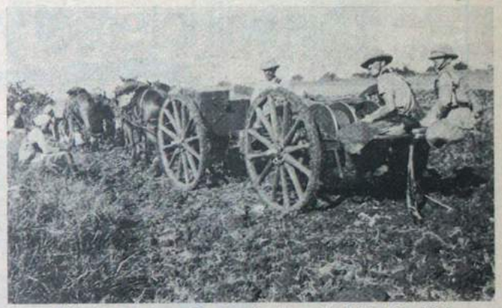
From: **Maj (Retd) A. Hamilton**
Dear Sir,

Enclosed are a number of photographs, collected during my service in the Corps from 1921 to 1961.

The names in the photographs are somewhat beyond my memory now but I thought that if you could find room, when possible, to print one or two of them, it would be of some interest to those who are alive and kicking.

Yours sinceely,
Albert Hamilton

109 East Cosham Road
Cosham,
Portsmouth,
Hants.



Telephone wagon, Gunner Section, 4 Ind Div Sigs 1929



Liverpool 1922



Senior NCOs' cricket team, 2 W/T Coy, Sarafand, Palestine, 1937 (?)



Ex-Boys' Squad, Crowborough 1924



'F' Signal Section, 4 (Indian) Div Sigs, Jubbulpore, 1930 (?)

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Age.....

Address.....

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Qualifications .....

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I have experience of working on.....

.....

.....

..... Ref. no. 059 **W 3/78**

Recruitment Officer, International Aeradio Ltd, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex.

Movements

Officers

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt R. D. Abbott	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt R. A. L. Anderson	5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj A. H. Boyle	MOD DM (A)
Maj M. K. Carson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. E. A. Chaddock	233 Sig Sqn
Capt A. J. Clark	227 Sig Sqn
Maj C. W. Collier	MOD DIS
Lt Col M. F. H. Colman	21 Sig Regt
Capt D. W. M. Conran	RAPC Trg Centre
Maj D. W. Cook	19 Airpthl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2 Lt J. C. Coulthard	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj I. J. Crouch	HQ NORTHAG
Brig A. A. Dacre	BAAT Nigeria
Capt C. P. Donaghy	40 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. A. Farrimond	Staff College
Capt P. J. Filby	28 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Fresston (TOT)	10 Sig Regt
Maj C. T. Garton	Junior Div, Staff College
Maj P. K. Gorford	11 Sig Regt
Maj S. M. Green	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Col T. W. Hackworth	ACGS (OR)
Capt H. H. Ham	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt J. E. Hogan	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj C. R. F. Hinds	8 Sig Regt
Capt R. R. Ives	31 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. R. Johnson	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj I. E. Kerr	MOD DSS
Brig R. A. King	DSS (AD)
Lt J. A. Macfarlane	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. R. Martin	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Pope	School of Signals
Lt J. W. Piper	21 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. G. Pratt	MOD DSS (AD)
Maj W. A. Price	32 Sig Regt (V)
Maj M. A. Price	22 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Ridlington	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Maj W. J. P. Robins	11 Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Robertson	7 Sig Regt
Maj C. P. Ryan	11 Sig Regt
Maj R. Saville	Royal Brunei Malay Regt
Maj B. J. Scott-Morton	604 Sig Troop
Maj G. A. Sharp (TOT)	233 Sig Sqn
Capt D. W. Sharpe	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Lt Col D. W. Sherrard-Smith	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt H. Smith	Staff College
2 Lt R. W. Spooner	HS School of Signals
Lt N. H. Stewart	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. Taylor (QM)	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj C. E. Timson (QM)	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Maj K. G. Turner	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt P. P. White	Staff College
Maj P. Whitemore	Staff College
Maj N. F. Wood	HQ 1 (BR) Corps

MARCH 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj H. M. Adams	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Lt Col B. F. Allen	DSS AD (HS)
Lt Col J. J. Bally	H/S 2 Signals Group
Capt R. W. Batho	8 Sig Regt
Maj G. D. Birch	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Maj R. Boden	MOD DCD
Capt (QM) A. Burns	39 Sig Regt (V)
Maj E. F. Carrell	School of Signals
Capt P. J. Costello	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. J. Cullen	Defence Signals Staff
Capt P. R. Dick-Peter	H/S 11 Sig Regt/Att HQ NI 19/10/78
Brig A. L. Dowell	HQ 2 Signal Group
Capt E. S. Filder	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col J. B. J. Halford	SHAPE (BAE)
Maj G. Harrison	H/S AA College, Harrogate
Maj R. C. Hood	BR Contingent UNFICYP (SP Regt)
Lt Col (TOT) C. G. Hooper	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Capt D. B. Jones	H/S RMAS
Lt P. S. Jones	22 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) V. G. Kelly	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Maj F. C. Lettin	H/S 2 Signals Group
Lt Col T. C. Livingstone	D of Army Man Svcs and Gp (WS)
Capt R. J. Lloyd-Jones	School of Signals
Maj M. J. McCann	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Capt D. McConnell	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. Mills	HQ Northern Ireland
Lt Col D. E. Oakley	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) C. W. Palmer	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj M. A. Payne	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Brig R. G. Phippard	Att ACGS (OR)
Maj W. A. Price	40 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col T. I. McL. Robinson	HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals
Lt H. A. Ross	28 Sig Regt
Capt N. G. Steven	16 Sig Regt
Capt I. M. G. Strong	633 Sig Troop
Capt J. R. Stuart	HK GR Sig Sqn
Capt A. Sugdon	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj H. G. S. Thomas	H/S School of Signals
Maj T. I. M. Waugh	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE	DSS (AD)
Lt E. T. A. Webster	16 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) K. J. West	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Lt Col A. M. Willcox	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. B. Wood	School of Signals

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. E. Homewood	21 Sig Regt
WO2 D. G. Edmond	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (Y of S) E. C. Jones	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Bowden	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Hardaker	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt W. Powell	11 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Smith	Royal Signals Manning and Record Office
Sgt (F of S) M. Johnson	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. Palmer	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt T. J. Sharp	School of Signals
Sgt S. S. Fergusson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. O. Airlie	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. Brown	602 Sig Troop
Sgt S. C. Jones	Army Apprentices College, H arrogate
Sgt R. Porter	RMCS
Sgt H. R. S. Gilmer	37 Sig Regt
Sgt T. G. Johnson	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. J. Rumble	School of Signals
Sgt T. C. Spiler	School of Signals
Sgt A. S. Reah	School of Signals
Sgt N. Blavins	School of Signals
Sgt R. P. Garner	School of Signals
Sgt R. G. Cartwright	School of Signals
Sgt A. T. Harding	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. W. Oakes	School of Signals
Sgt R. A. Folkes	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt A. E. Horne	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt P. Leach	School of Signals
Sgt I. Dolby	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. S. S. Andrews	School of Signals
Sgt J. F. Hanifin	School of Signals
Sgt C. S. J. Phillips	School of Signals
Sgt M. W. J. Shaw	School of Signals
Sgt R. Wilson	School of Signals
Sgt A. Burnett	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Simpson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. P. Duggan	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Reid	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. H. Tovey	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. N. Morris	School of Signals
Sgt S. Gardiner	28 Sig Regt
Sgt B. W. J. Ross	633 Sig Troop
Sgt W. Munro	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. E. Claypole	Army Personnel Selection Grou
Sgt G. Marlow	13 Sig Regt
Sgt C. S. Donnelly	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. A. Clark-Darby	7 Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Fraser	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. K. Phillips	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Cotton	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. F. R. Hardy	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. C. J. Lavers	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Sizeland	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt E. M. Sutherland	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. R. Godfroy	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Angus	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Clarke	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Hope	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Armstrong	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)

MARCH 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 A. G. Morgan	16 Sig Regt
WO1 (F of S) R. Cooper	22 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) G. F. Chaloner	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) G. Hall	9 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) G. Rothwell	30 Sig Regt
WO2 A. A. Mitchell	9 Sig Regt
WO2 J. G. Albon	35 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. G. Rossall	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) J. E. Lovell	UK Support Unit SHAPE
A/WO2 (F of S) S. M. Sims	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
A/WO2 (Y of S) M. A. Thornton	School of Signals
Sgt (Y of S) K. J. Bark	30 Sig Regt
Sgt (Y of S) B. J. Gilhooly	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. Burdes	HQ Army Gp Sigs (NORTHAG)
Sgt C. Cheetham	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. B. Elliott	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. Harvey	8 Sig Regt
A/Sgt T. J. Crook	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt K. D. Vince	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. C. Cook	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. F. Brown	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Swinfield	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Sharpe	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Bishop	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. S. Murray	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. C. Gordon	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. Rylance	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. King	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Davis	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. Fitzpatrick	10 Sig Regt (Demo Team)
Sgt M. W. Ellis	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Salter	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. White	HQ NORTHAG (BAE)
Sgt J. S. Symes	Army Personnel Selection Group
Sgt G. Helme	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Elliott	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Manser	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. N. J. Lewis	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt B. P. Hewitt	602 Sig Tp
Sgt T. Alderton	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt P. Rose	UK Sp Unit SHAPE

Sgt J. Kerr	.. ..	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Snape	.. ..	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Dickenson	.. .. ..	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
Sgt R. U. J. Brannigan	.. ..	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt R. P. Pauley	.. .. ..	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. F. Lowrie	.. .. ..	30 Sig Regt
Sgt B. D. Lutterloch	.. .. ..	Project Wavell Mil Team
Sgt L. C. Lightfoot	.. .. ..	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Hunt	.. .. ..	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Hunt	.. .. ..	16 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Thomson	.. .. ..	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Henderson	.. ..	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Wallace	.. .. ..	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt P. L. Hyatt	.. .. ..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt T. D. Mallorie	.. .. ..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt A. B. Trundle	.. .. ..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. S. Evans	.. .. ..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt B. Lewis	.. .. ..	HQ AFCENT Support Gp
A/Sgt J. W. Peters	.. .. ..	234 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt J. P. Starling	.. .. ..	8 Sig Regt
A/Sgt L. D. Sharman	.. ..	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

Welfare

DECEMBER 1977

umber of cases assisted financially:		
Ordinary grants		**45**
Christmas grants		**224**
		269
Amount spent:	**Ordinary grants**	**£2,060·25**
	Christmas grants	**£1,215·00**
		£3,275·25
Number of parcels sent		**44**

ONE OF OUR CASES

LANCE-CORPORAL, 1954–57. His wife deserted him, and he has brought up their four children single-handed. The eldest is now in the Corps, the remaining three still at school. He himself has been unable to work for the last 10 years because of ill health. The Association helps with regular clothing parcels, and a special Christmas gift of £10 was sent. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

MY thanks to you all for helping to make our Christmas a happier one. It has made three children look forward even more eagerly to Christmas Day. There is no way I can repay you for the help and gifts you have given me and my children throughout the year. Place accept our very grateful thanks.

THANK YOU

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

Maj R. Iliffe, Mrs G. Finch, Mr and Mrs A. F. Morgan, Mrs J. West, Brig C. Vincent-Smith, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Pte G. Burrows (WRAC).

JANUARY 1978

Number of cases assisted financially	**27**
Amount spent	**£1,434·01**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**39**

THANK YOU

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

Mr C. Fry, Maj Gen P. F. Pentreath, The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Col R. A. Chell, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Lt Col and Mrs G. M. Welsford, Mr and Mrs J. Maher, Miss G. Wood.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1977:

	£
Hartlepool Branch, Royal Signals Association	10·00
OC, 30 Sig Regt	100·00
OC, 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt	61·73
OC, 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)	50·00
Lcpl P. Grainger	12·00
Mrs I. Harvey	5·00
Capt S. W. Creaton	1·90
Maj D. S. A. Hutley, GM	2·60
H. Foster, Esq, MBE	2·90
F. E. Foulds, Esq	5·00
R. N. Hutchings, Esq	5·00
J. H. A. Maynard, Esq	11·75
G. B. Hollings, Esq	5·00
R. L. Cartwright, Esq	2·00
Miscellaneous	1·70
Anonymous	5·00
Total..	£281·58

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1978:

	£
J. H. Westaway, Esq	2·65
D. A. L. Wade, Esq	10·00
J. Milburn, Esq	1·90
7 Sig Regt	12·35
H. Weaver, Esq	6·35
T. P. Rimmell, Esq	3·41
Northern Ireland Branch, Royal Signals Association	10·00
Minor donations	0·10
	£46·76

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specialists in roses

The best way to send roses to your friends and relations.

20 top quality freshly cut roses dispatched direct from our nurseries. Packed in a strong box, together with 2 sachets of chrysal cut flower food to give your roses longer vase life and the best value for money.

Boxes are despatched daily by air to any address in the U.K., Northern Ireland and European BFPO numbered addresses.

For that added personal touch send us your cards or letters which we will enclose with your orders.

No deliveries on Sun & Mon

Full inclusive price of £4·50 per box

Please print recipient's address. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to:

C.Island Flowers WIRE

The Nursery, St. Martins, Guernsey, Channel Islands

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT - - each £2·85p

U.K. inc. VAT - „ £3·08p

(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY

Nr. DONCASTER

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of the month prior to publication.

BIRTH

Walker—On March 7, at Dover, to Sgt and Mrs C. E. Walker, a daughter, Kirsten (TROPO Sig Troop, 10 Sig Regt).

DEATHS

Ashton—Lcpl R. C. Ashton died on February 13, due to an accident at home. Beloved husband of Linda and father of Michael and Elizabeth.

Charlton—Ex-RQMS M. W. E. (Jumbo) Charlton, aged 68, died suddenly on December 2. Honour Member of the Association. Member of the Central Committee of the Association (*see also* page 132).

Donaghy—Lt Col Patrick Ramsey Peter Donaghy enlisted in the Corps in 1932 and was commissioned in 1941. During the war he served at GHQ India, with 44th Indian Airborne Divisional Signals and at HQ ALFSEA. After the war he served in Trieste, East Africa, Norway and Malaysia as well as the UK. He retired in 1968 when he joined HQ 2 Signal Group as an RO. He died suddenly on March 17 at the age of 64 whilst still 'in harness', having contributed 46 years' continuous service to the Corps.

Lightbody—Ex-CQMS Albert Lightbody served the Corps from 1936 to 1945 and was a founder member of the Newcastle Branch of the Association. He served as Branch Secretary from 1957 until 1970 and was an Honour Member. He died suddenly on February 26. Our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Nutt—Maj James Jerome Maximillian Nutt enlisted in the Wiltshire Regiment in 1940 and served with his Regiment and the KOSB in India and Burma during the Second world war. He transferred to the Corps as a cipher operator in 1944 and was commissioned in 1962. After the war he served in the Far East, Austria, Germany, and Cyprus. He wrote an excellent history of 241 Sig Sqn shortly before retiring in 1977. After retirement he was employed as Manager of the Light Infantry Depot Officers Mess at Shrewsbury. He died suddenly on February 21 at the age of 55.

Rouse—Ex-Sgt 'Sammy' Rouse died in hospital in Boscombe on March 21. He served with the Corps from 1922 to 1929 and 1939 to 1945. He joined the Association in 1937 and was a founder member of the Bournemouth and District Branch, serving as Branch Secretary for more than 20 years. 'Sammy' was an Honour Member of the Association.

Wall—Ex-WO1 William Charles George Wall, MBE, aged 49, died suddenly at home. Beloved husband of Nona and father of three sons.

BE BIG—BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

33 SIG REGT (V) REQUIRES RADIO TELEGRAPHISTS

WE are a Volunteer Signals Regiment with Squadrons at Liverpool, Manchester, and Chester, and we have recently formed a HF Radio Troop equipped with Landrovers mounted with C11/R210 sets. The roles of this Troop are as follows:

1. To provide HF back-up to the Regimental trunk Radio Relay System.
2. To provide recce and movement control communications as required.

We urgently require trained Radio Telegraphists to fill vacancies in the Troop up to Corporal level, and we would be pleased to hear from any Regular Radio Telegraphist who will shortly be leaving (or who has recently left) the Regular Army, who lives in the Regional area and who is interested in joining the TAVR. The Regiment has an interesting and challenging NATO role to fulfil in support of Headquarters AFCENT, and it attends Continental Camp in Belgium/Holland/Germany every other year. In fact, we are next due to go to the Continent in June of this year and the 'HF' Troop is going to be called upon to play a vital role in our exercise then.

If you think you fit the requirements outlined above and are interested in us, then why not get in touch with us at one of the locations listed below, or (better still) call in any Thursday evening between 2000 and 2130hrs, if you can and see what we have to offer.

RHQ and HQ Sqn (V), 33 Sig Regt (V), Alamein TAVR Centre, Liverpool Road, Huyton, Merseyside L36 3RW. Tel: 051-489 8331.

42 Sig Sqn (V), Norman Road, Rusholme, Manchester M14 5LF. Tel: 061-224 2291.

59 Sig Sqn (V), The Grange TAVR Centre, 142 Edge Lane, Liverpool L7 5NA. Tel: 051-263 4417.

80 Sig Sqn (V), Gilwern TAVR Centre, Abbots Park, Chester. Tel: Chester 25161.

'THE QUEEN AND HER ARMY'

New Jubilee Souvenir Book from 'Soldier'

SOLDIER, the British Army's magazine, has produced a special souvenir edition to commemorate the Queen's links with her Army during Jubilee year. Copies are available only from military units and direct from SOLDIER, and stocks are limited so early applications are essential.

Printed on special stiff paper and with hard covers, the special Jubilee SOLDIER contains 28 pages crammed with pictures of military involvement in the Queen's Jubilee tours.

Many of these are in full colour and some are hitherto unpublished. It has been designed as a comprehensive and permanent record of the Army's participation in the Jubilee celebrations.

Individuals should send their remittance for 65p (which includes 15p postage and packing) **now** to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. Bulk orders from military units are also welcome.

FOR SALE

SNCO's Mess Dress, size 5ft 7in to 5ft 9in, approximately five years old. Please contact Sgt D. V. Sutton, 292 Hathersage Road, Lambwath Road, Hull HU8 0EY. Tel: (0482) 702944.

Attention Ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £7·00 at home and £6·30 overseas.

WANTED

Royal Signals Mess Kit to fit: Height 6ft 2in, Chest 38in, Waist 32in, inside leg 33in. Please contact Maj P. G. A. Wilson, 8 Quakers Mede, Haddenham, Bucks, HP17 8EB. Tel: 0844 290421.

SITUATIONS VACANT

(*See* page 137)

Faraway Places . . . Unusual Jobs

Krefeld Station Sub-Aqua Club Expedition Rock Dive One November 17—December 1, 1977

Report by WO2 (SSM) D. R. Freeman, 16 Sig Regt
Expedition Diarist

Decisions

'WE dropped backwards into the water, checked our equipment for leaks and then descended to the sea bed. We hit bottom, our gauges showed the depth as 75ft and we soon located the cannons. It was a fantastic sight. There were cannons everywhere, some 10ft long, laying at impossible angles across each other. Others were almost covered by sand and shingle and around these were masses of cannon balls, some very small but some 14in in diameter.'

An extract from a diving novel—NO! Just part of the following article submitted by the KSSAC on their recent expedition to Gibraltar. Interesting?

Following the revival of the KSSAC in May of this year it was decided to mount an expedition; nothing too ambitious but something with a definite aim. Should we go to Belize, Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar? The scope was immense.

After careful consideration Gibraltar was chosen, the over-riding factors being:

- The waters around Gibraltar were rich in wrecks both ancient and modern.
- RAF Flights to Gibraltar were frequent.
- The Gibraltar Club were willing to sponsor us.

The aim

We had the venue, what about an aim? Our club diving officer, **Ssgt (F of S) Russ Davey,** contacted **Cmdr Alan Bax** (RN) at Fort Bovisand, Plymouth, and was given information on a minor survey. It had been carried out some time previously on the remains of a Spanish Block ship, sunk during the siege of Gibraltar in 1787, thought to be the *Los Dolores*. It had been sunk in shallow water just off the present airstrip in the Bay of Algeciras. Our aim became 'To dive on an historical wreck, and to identify it'.

Real work begins

Now the real work began, charts of the waters around Gibraltar were obtained and studied. Archaeological reports and drawings were researched; applications by the dozen were made, for money, for equipment, for flights, for time off! The list seemed endless and it was not long before great mounds of paper-work built up. Without the dedication and sense of humour of **Russ Davey,** the expedition leader, the expedition would never have got off the ground—or underwater.

During the four months prior to the expedition most weekends were spent diving off the Dutch coast, practising our drills and getting water fit. We were able to get members of the club on vital diving courses in BAOR and the UK, which included supervisors' course, intermediate divers' course, boat handling beginners' courses, and various lecture weekends at Wildenrath, Bielefeld, and Sennelager.

A month before the departure date this is how we stood:

Expedition members

16 Sig Regt		
Ssgt (F of S) Russ Davey	Expedition Leader JSSADC Supervisor BSAC Club Instructor BSAC 2nd Class Diver	
WO2 (SSM) Dave Freeman	Expedition Diarist BSAC 3rd Class Diver	
WO2 (QMSI) Ced Sharp	Records Officer JSSADC (Hong Kong Supervisor) BSAC Club Instructor BSAC 2nd Class Diver CMAS 1st Grade	
Lcpl Alan Owen	Equipment Officer Photographer BSAC 3rd Class Diver	
Sgt Allan Pringle	Treasurer BSAC 3rd Class Diver	
28 (BR) Sig Regt		
Cpl Beau Cattell	Project Officer JSSADC Supervisor BSAC Club Instructor BSAC 2nd Class Diver Army Compressed Air Diver	
Sig Barry Crawford	Novice Diver	
Sig Paul Hakin	Novice Diver Ex-RN Ships Diver	
Sig Rory Hubbard	Novice Diver	
1 Div HQ and Sig Regt		
Capt Peter Walpole (REME)	Compressors JSSADC Supervisor BSAC 2nd Class Diver Photographer	
Lcpl Alan Taylor	BSAC 2nd Class Diver BSAC Club Instructor Photographer	
Dates		
November 17, 1977	BAOR—UK	
November 18, 1977	UK—Gibraltar	
November 29, 1977	Gibraltar—UK	
December 1, 1977	UK—BAOR	



No, that's not snow on the Rock—just the light!
From left: Lcpl Alan Taylor (1 Div) and Sig Barry Crawford (28)
Right (from the front): WO2 (QMSI) Ced Sharp (16), Sig Rory Hubbard (28), Lcpl Alan Owen (16), Cpl Beau Cattell (28), and expedition leader, Ssgt (F of S) Russ Davey (16)



Cpl Beau Cattell and Sig Paul Hackin, both of 28 Sig Regt

Snag overcome

The day of departure drew nearer and we encountered a major problem; due to a backlog of freight to Gibraltar it would not be possible to send our heavy gear, i.e. the diving cylinders, until the end of December. A signal was sent to the sponsor club in Gibraltar explaining our predicament and, to our relief, they said that they would provide our gear and to come as planned. Authority was then obtained to increase our baggage allowance from 44lb to 66lb each and this thankfully resolved the situation.

EXTRACTS FROM THE EXPEDITION DIARY

November 17—Departed Bradbury Barracks at 1200hrs in the new Regimental 39-seater bus, kindly provided by the best MTO in the Regiment—**Capt Steve Bresloff.** I still think it would look better with KSSAC painted on the side with a couple of dolphins or something!

Arrived at RAF Gütersloh and met our guest divers from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Capt Peter Walpole** and **Lcpl Alan Taylor.** Both looked a little apprehensive and informed us that Air Movements claimed no knowledge of any diving party flying from Gütersloh. **Russ** assured us that it was just a small misunderstanding by the RAF and not to worry (tongue-in-cheek)—everything would soon be sorted out. I had absolute confidence in our leader, but will admit to hanging on a bit before changing my deutschmarks for sterling. Within about 15 minutes, a wry smile on his face, the OIC Movements called us forward to weigh in our baggage. We tried to hide our mirth as **Peter Walpole** (helped by many others) put his case on the scales hoping to get away with his 85lb, which he did.

The only other 'drama' we had before we left was when one of the expedition was walking through the security metal-detector gate, the alarm sounded. When asked, 'Is Sir wearing a belt?' and if so would he please remove it, he revealed a diver's belt complete with 18lb of lead weight still on it!

Our flight to the UK went well and we stayed overnight in London at the Union Jack Club.

November 18—Travelled by Rail—London to Gatwick. Just one amusing incident on this leg of the journey. We had arrived at Gatwick Station, with a great pile of heavy suitcases. Our APTC member, **WO2 (QMSI) Ced Sharp** (16 Sig Regt), acquired a trolley, and we duly loaded our cases on to it. Out of the gloom of a BR canteen stalked a rather annoyed railway porter—we (he announced) were 'using the tools of his trade' and, worse still, 'depriving him of his living'; he was given a very short traditional reply at which he skulked away muttering to himself.

We left Gatwick by DAN AIR 747 and arrived in Gibraltar at 1730hrs local time where we were met by **Cpl John Shirley,** the equipment officer of the Gibraltar Club. He briefed us and showed us to our accommodation.

November 19—Discovered that our Project Adviser, **Mr George Polau,** was not available for 48 hours due to unforeseen circumstances. This gave us ample time to draw equipment and carry out some familiarisation dives.

We encountered a problem with obtaining air for our cylinders, the club's compressors were temporarily out of action. Fortunately, HMS *Jupiter* was in harbour and we managed to obtain air from the Royal Navy; *Jupiter's* crew were very co-operative and many friendships were formed.

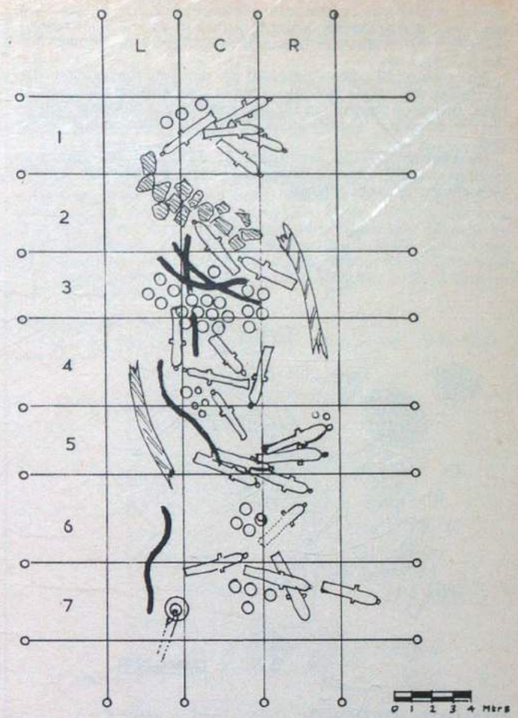
November 20—Dived on the wreck of MV *Roslyn* sunk in a storm about 60 years ago and lying in about 60–70ft of water. A very impressive sight—visibility was very good.

Had a shallow dive in the afternoon, main difficulty was having to descend a cliff face by way of an aluminium ladder in full diving kit—nice one **Russ,** it was different anyway.

November 21—Russ and **Beau** visited **George Polau.** Slight problem with our original intention of diving on *Los Dolores,* a dredger had been there before us and there was very little left to see.

However, **George** explained that a large cannon deposit had been discovered on a different site (Fig. 1) but the preliminary survey which had been made some time before was in doubt. Would we like to carry out a simple comparison survey for him? We were delighted, none of us had seen a cannon underwater and when **George** explained that he was convinced that it was the wreck of the Spanish flagship *Pastora* of Admiral Marino sunk during the siege of Gibraltar in 1782, we were even more enthusiastic. The site had to be surveyed completely and accurately before anything is lifted, therefore, positive identification of the wreck cannot be confirmed. During the day the remainder of the divers completed familiarisation dives.

November 22—The diving teams, each of three divers (one had only two members), prepare to locate the cannon site. The



PROJECT: DETACHED MOLE-GIBRALTAR
Preliminary Underwater Sketch Plan
Cannon Deposit:

Fig. 1

divers' tasks are:

Diver One—Dive leader, record bearings of cannon, distances and measurements.

Diver Two—Hold one end of measuring rope and pass info to Dive leader.

Diver Three—Take measuring rope and swim to distant object to be measured.

Because of the depth of 70–85ft, time on the bottom was limited to 24min; therefore, each team had to work together efficiently and act instantly on underwater signals.

That morning was spent trying to find the cannon site. The first thing we located was the battle ship HMS *Excellent*, she was upside down in 70–80ft of water having been sunk by Italian frogmen during the last war. However, this was not what we were looking for so we only had a brief look at her.

We did not locate the cannons that morning—doom! After lunch and then checking our information we realised that we had been searching about 200m too far south.

We re-commenced diving after lunch with fresh teams, the first team in the water was **Russ Davey, Peter Walpole** and **Alan Owen.** In a few minutes the surface marker buoy attached to the divers disappeared under the surface twice indicating that they had found the cannon. The site was then marked out and buoyed. After 20 minutes the first team surfaced and the second team of **Dave Freeman** (author) and **Ced Sharp** went down, 'we dropped backwards into the water, checked our equipment for leaks, and then descended to the sea bed. We hit bottom and our gauges showed the depth as 75ft and we soon located the cannons. It was a fantastic sight! There were cannon everywhere, some 10ft long laying at impossible angles across each other. Others were almost covered by sand and shingle, and around these were masses of cannon balls, some very small but some 14in in diameter. Although they were encrusted by 200 years' of

marine growth the cannon were easily identifiable—all too soon our time came to surface, a signal to each other and we ascended the line. We returned to base and re-charged our cylinders for the following day'.

November 23 - 27—Continued to dive on the cannon site measuring and taking bearings. Due to bad weather and unusual tides, diving on the cannon site was restricted to mornings only—but we completed shallow dives in the afternoons in a different area.

November 27—On completion of diving on this day, our findings (see Fig. 2) were shown to **George Polau,** they showed little similarity to the original.

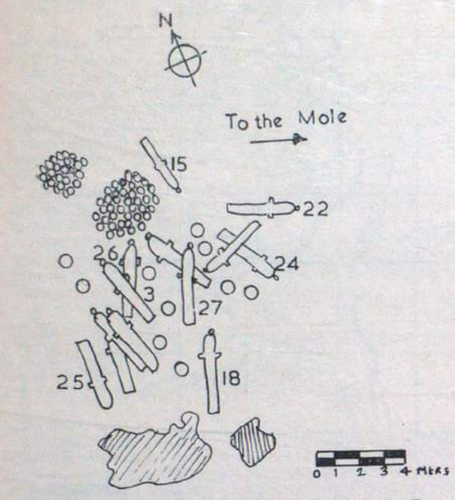


Fig. 2

Note well.—It is quite clear that a full survey of this site should be carried out and then the objects can be lifted. This would take many months, but it is not beyond the scope of relay expeditions by Service divers.

November 28—Equipment washed, checked and returned; flight information confirmed; last-minute shopping completed.

November 29—Returned to Gatwick after delays due to bad weather in Gibraltar.

November 29/30—Overnight stop at RAF Hendon.

December 1—Returned to BAOR and arrived at Krefeld at 1745hrs.

An enjoyable challenge

All the members of the expedition enjoyed the challenge that was presented to them, and all reacted favourably. Our normal working day commenced at 0630hrs and ended with a de-brief of the day's diving and a briefing on the following day, usually at about 2030–2100hrs. The depths and the weather and sea conditions we encountered brought out many soldierly qualities—physical fitness, determination, courage, comradeship and compatibility. Dare I say, qualities that should be found in every soldier.

Finally, a special thank you should be made to the Commanding Officers of 16 Sig Regt, and 28 (BR) Sig Regt for their support of the expedition.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

HECTIC PACE

AS everywhere, the social pace of December was hectic for us. But we have been lucky—our firemen haven't been on strike, they are all part-timers. Though they considered it, which caused a few alarms and excursions about the Brigade area. In one town they voted to join the strike and then turned out for a fire the next night (it was a whiskey warehouse—any connection?).

NEW COMMANDER

Our Brigade Commander, **Brig David Woodford,** used his Landrover for the first time—we dragged him out on it to end his tour! We hope that he enjoys a well-earned holiday at the National Defence College. We welcome **Brig David Thorne,** and hope he enjoys his tour.

Our Christmas programme of events began on Wednesday, December 21, with a Carol Concert, held at the foot of our Community Centre Christmas tree and to the accompaniment of members of the Band of 2 Bn, The Royal Green Jackets, who are currently serving a four-month tour in South Armagh.

XMAS IN RETROSPECT

We had a traditional start to Christmas Day—the management served gunfire to the rest in the morning. **Capt David Collyer** waltzed along the corridor, full of the joys of spring—throwing open doors and dispensing bonhomie and tea. And then he came to the door of one Signalman W——— who had thought to catch his Troop staff sergeant. The door was flung wide and **Capt Collyer** received full benefit from the liquid offering which had been carefully balanced above head height. **Ssgt Oliver** was the regulation two paces behind his leader and escaped!

At the invitation of a Flight Commander in the Brigade Air Squadron a group of amateur players from Durham University visited the Brigade just after Christmas and spent four days presenting their version of Snow White for the children and a truly original Revue for the grown ups. Their performances were excellent, very, very amusing and were immensely enjoyed by both generations. We offer our sincere thanks to the players and their organisers for adding that traditional flavour to our Chrsitmas festivities and hope that next year they may stay with us again—only this time at our expense!



Carol singing in the quarters was accompanied by members of the Band of 2 RGJ

ALPHA/TM TROOP NOTES

Like everyone else we had a party, but ours was celebrated in rhyme:

Christmas comes but once a year
and all the troops get merry,
a smile appears on every face
even 'Jock' McSherry's.

The Troop OC is in his cups,
the Staffy's eyes are glazed.
Waldron has a gag on,
the Troop's morale is raised.

The Standby crew are standing by
the bar with glass in hand;
They'll soon become the sitby crew,
it's getting hard to stand.

The party is almost over,
The Troop is sinking fast,
McMichan's knees are buckling
and Airey's drunk (at last).

The noise is slowly fading
They've all gone past the limit,
A drunken voice sums up the joys,
'Itsh b----- good here, in'it?'.

It has been a quiet month for work—only a few antennas have gone with the wind. The Firemen had us running about at the beginning of the month. **Ssgt Bob Oliver** took **Lcpl 'Geordie' Marrs, Sigs Paul Smith** and **'Geordie' Fettis** on a midnight antenna-rigging job and found it much less frightening than in daylight. 'You can't see the ground'.



Cpl Colin Savage testing his handiwork in the revamped radio room

Cpl Colin Savage has created a new and beautiful Radio Room in the Headquarters, with the assistance of **Cpl Pete Younger** and the interference of the entire complement of officers. There were one or two excitements. **Cpl Savage** carefully moved well away from all the plugs and logical cable runs to drill holes and went straight into the mains (well you know where we are—he might have expected it!).

We are glad to welcome **Cpl 'Rocky' Hudson** and **Sig 'Brummy' Spruce** to the Troop. They both went in 'at the deep end' and are thriving on it. Our thanks and best wishes to **Sig Adrian (Mucky) Waters,** we hope he enjoys 16 Sig Regt and the LOA (that's right, we're jealous).

Besides **Sgt Robson,** another Troop poet has been at seasonal work:

A poem for the RSM at Christmas

Our RSM's everybody's friend
he is a Brummy lad,
But they nearly drive him round the bend,
his neighbours from Baghdad.

He tells us 'Get your hair cut,
go sweep the roads and grass'.
We honestly really like him, but
sometimes he's a pain in the neck.

We don't mind doing duties,
even when we're on call-out.
After all it is his job
to mess the men about.

He's going to be an officer,
that thrills us to the heart,
And when we see him pass us by
we'll all say 'Cor, that's SMART'.

OSCAR KNUCKLEDRAGGER

A reply for the New Year for Oscar

O Oscar, O Oscar, you are our friend for life,
with your little humourous 'Thoughts', you ease our troubled life.
Although you're modest and always hide from fame,
it's not too difficult, Oscar, for us to guess your name.

A little rounded at the corners and slightly overweight,
when you don your uniform you really look a state.
Not a fairy but a hairy, we think that is your task,
but with all your hidden talent, why hide behind a mask.

So Oscar, dear Oscar, why don't you drop your cover and publicly your poems rend,
But hide, dear Oscar, hide my boy, 'cos I'll lock you up, my friend.

WO IC duties, grass and road cleaning and, of course, Oscar!

BRAVO TROOP

We welcome aboard **Lcpl Ian Mallinson** from 28 Sig Regt, who has swelled the ranks in the Commcen . . . and we say farewell to **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Lcpl Dave Kempster,** both RCT (they can't help it!). Thank you, lads, for all the hard work and support.

Despite the various Christmas activities and Troop/Depot Christmas parties, life continues at a hectic pace. The continual demand for transport and the never ending flow of messages in the Commcen, did not, however, hamper the lucky ones who managed a well-deserved break 'across the water'.

Stop Press . . . latest news of **Lcpl 'Jock' King** and **Sig Barry Blain** (our intrepid firemen in the North Yorkshire wilds) is grim. They have downed tools (firehoses) and have managed to 'strike' for a few days. Well done lads. Now, about your B1 course . . . .

Congratulations to **Sig John Horrocks** on his recent engagement (no wonder the SDS gets to Lisburn in record time!).

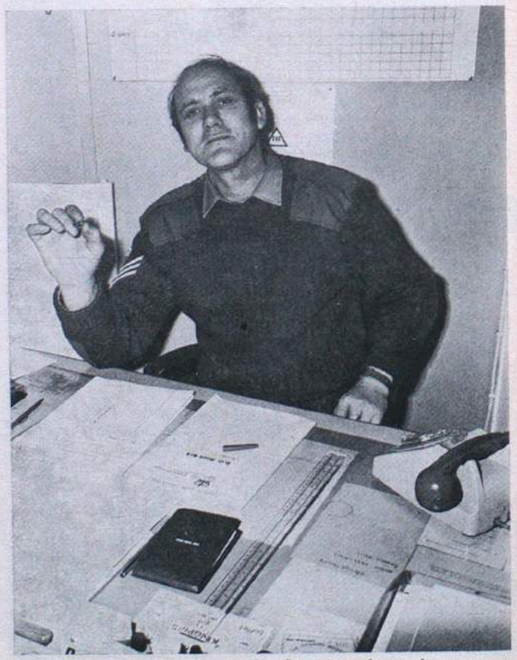
SERGEANTS MESS

December saw the start of the Christmas festivities commencing with the Regimental Wives Club dinner on the 2nd. Some 70 wives descended on the Mess at 1930hrs and amid much clinking of sherry glasses and lady-type 'chatter', proceeded to sit down at 2000hrs. The evening proceeded with much wine and traditional Christmas fare. The local artistes from the Mess performed a small cabaret during the evening amidst cat calls and applause from our ladies. All in attendance thought the evening was a success. The credit being taken by the Wives Club Committee and a motley crew of waiters from the ranks of the Sergeants Mess.

Moving on towards mid-December, our Mahon Road Camp correspondent noted many WOs and SNCOs disappearing armed with decorations, bunting, and other party-type paraphernalia ready for the annual Mess Draw on the 17th. This was ably organised by **WO1 Fred Rowberry** (RAOC) and **WO2 Ron Collins** (Royal Signals) with **RSM Mal Smart** generally getting in the way. All was, in fact, worth the effort for the evening went off with a swing and continued to the early hours of the following day. A tremendous night with prizes ranging from a colour TV set to Christmas hampers; some 60 prizes in all.



Sig Ian Howell pounding the keys



Ssgt Brian Aldridge, Commcen Superintendent, demonstrates holding the pen

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CONDOLENCES

All their friends in the Corps will wish to join us in offering our sincere condolences to **Sig William Bunning** and his wife, **Barbara,** on the death of their recently-born daughter, **Barbara.**



CONFIRMED BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH

The Lord Bishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland, The Most Reverend Doctor George Simms, PhD, DD, conducted a Service of Confirmation in the Holy Trinity Chapel, Mahon Barracks, Portadown, on Friday, January 6. The Archbishop is pictured with the Rev David Girling (*left*), Chaplain to 5 Hy Regt RA, serving in Armagh; the Rev John Barrie (*right*), Chaplain to 3 Inf Bde; and those to whom he administered Confirmation:

Left to right: Stephen Aldridge, Mrs Patricia Aldridge, Andrew Aldridge, Ssgt Brian Aldridge of 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Simon and Sara Barrie, and Csgt Patrick Veasey of 'B' Coy, 2 RGJ serving in Crossmaglen, South Armagh

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CHRISTMAS IN LONDONDERRY

DECEMBER is traditionally a busy month, and last year was no exception. All the Christmas festivities were held in the first two weeks of December to enable all members of the Squadron to enjoy the festivities before the first group went on leave. To illustrate my point the calendar of events read:

November 28 — Q and M Troop party
December 2 — Wives' Club Dance
December 3 — MT and D & E Troop party
December 4 — Children's Xmas party
December 6 — CSE Show
December 7 — Squadron Christmas Draw
December 9 — Living-in Men's Christmas dinner
December 16 — Civilian Staff party

(All these functions were assisted financially by a generous grant from the Royal Signals Association, for which we are very grateful.)



Sgt Chanter RAPC shows his benevolent nature as the first course of the men's Xmas dinner is served

Christmas morning was celebrated with tea and rum for all the living-in members of the HQ and Sig Sqn served by the Officers and Senior NCOs. The party was led by a Drummer and Piper from the 2 Bn Coldstream Guards, the Drummer being no less a person than the QM, **Capt (QM) F. P. Horsfall, MBE** (Coldm Gds).

The middle of January, with most of the Squadron back off leave, saw us straight into UEI. We are now looking forward to our FFR to be held early in February.

CLOSURE OF PGF MAGILLIGAN

In January the Squadron was involved in the last operation reinforcing the Prison Guard Force at Magilligan when the last special-category prisoners were transferred to HMP Maze. The operation included providing pocketphone nets for reinforcing units and the provision of heliborne TV coverage in the prison control room in addition to deploying Brigade Tac HQ. OP LOCKAGE RIP!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

December saw the departure of two stalwart members of the Squadron, **Capt (QM) Harry Bell,** and his wife, **Cathy,** and **Ssgt (ORSQMS) Ray Duffy** who have left us for the land of LOA as both parties constantly kept reminding those left behind. The Squadron has still not yet decided who had the most final farewell parties, rumour has it that **Ray Duffy** just pipped the QM to the post by having a last final farewell on the way to catch his boat.

In January we said farewell to our Foreman, **WO1 (F of S) Norman Cowell,** who spent nearly two years with the Squadron in Londonderry. We wish him all the best in his new tour with 6 Fd Force.

We welcome **Capt (QM) Tom Keany** and his wife, **Marguerite, WO2 (F of S) John Macdonald** and his wife, **Lynn,** and **Ssgt (ORSQMS) Ray Yallop** and his wife, **Sue,** and wish them all the best during their tour.



Brig Myrtle presenting WO1 (RSM) Ian Buckley with his LS and GC Medal

PRESENTATION OF LS and GC

The Brigade Commander spent the afternoon of December 23 visiting all departments of the HQ and Sig Sqn culminating in the presentation of the LS and GC to **WO1 (RSM) Ian Buckley.** Another 18 years of undetected crime!



CR Signals, Lt Col Shapter, enjoying a joke with Lcpl McGowan (*the 'scruffy civvy'*) while Lt Col Marples, the CR Signals Designate, Maj Burke, Lt Fisher, and RSM Buckley look on

VISIT OF CR SIGNALS

On Friday, January 13, CR Signals NI, **Lt Col I. R. D. Shapter,** and the CR Signals designate, **Lt Col M. Marples,** paid a farewell/inaugural visit to all departments of the Squadron. The Officer Commanding, **Maj Peter Burke,** and all the Squadron Warrant Officers and their wives then travelled to 39 Bde Sig Sqn, Lisburn, to attend a farewell dinner for **Lt Col I. R. D. Shapter,** held in the Sergeants Mess. This unique occasion, when all Warrant Officers were gathered together, resulted in many old acquaintances being renewed and was rounded off by the Squadron minibus having a puncture on a lonely stretch of road between Coleraine and Londonderry. Fortunately, the Y of S, **WO2 Nichols,** who obviously has had a lot of experience, managed to organise the changing of the wheel in a record time of 45 minutes! We understand that if he had taken all the advice given to him by **Maj Burke** they would still be there!

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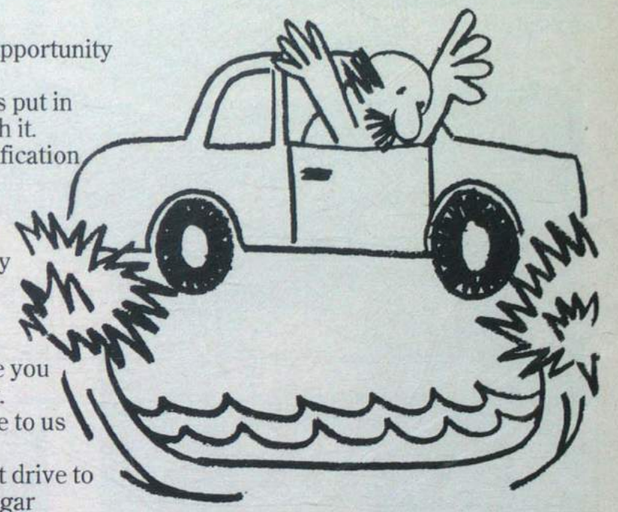
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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE ONE

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CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

AS you will not be reading this until March, we will not dwell at length on the Christmas activities other than to say that by the time the festival actually arrived there were a fair crop of thick heads from the preceding week's socialising. We should also express our appreciation of the Royal Signals Association grant, which was most generous and helped us a good deal to make the season suitably festive.

FIRE-FIGHTING

In common with many other units we have been involved in the fire-fighting operations here, and have seen a number of very dramatic fire-bomb attacks in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Our SDS vehicle, with **Ssgt Greg Robertson, Cpl 'Geordie' Lishman** and **Sig Ken Jarvis** on board narrowly escaped driving into a holocaust on the Lisburn Road on December 22, when a pair of shops were set on fire with blast incendiaries. **Dvr Jeremy Symes** has also been in the thick of it, driving a van carrying breathing apparatus. The weather has been playing havoc with the Pye radios used on the Landrovers which escort the Green Goddesses, as they are all exposed to the elements and regularly fill up with water despite all our efforts. There is a steady flow of them through our workshops, and over the New Year we will have transferred them all to new vehicles when 4/7 DG take over the fire-fighting from 1 BW. We are also helping the English fire effort by supplying (at various times) **Cpl 'Scouse' Eaton, Lcpls Alan Woodtownend, 'Nosker' Mullin, Sigs Steven Hunt** and **Frank McCubbin** via the courses that they should have been attending at the time.

HATCHES, MATCHES, AND DESPATCHES

Recent arrivals include a son, **Kevin,** to **Sig Mickey Evans** and **Joy**; a daughter, **Victoria,** to **Capt Stephen Siddall** and his wife, **Jill**; and a daughter, **Melissa,** to **Lcpl Mick Halford** and **Rosemary.**

On Saturday, February 4, **Lcpl Dave Bradshaw** and **Lcpl Ilene Craig** of 12 Int and Sy Coy were married in the Garrison Church. A reception was held in the '44 Club'.

Happily no despatches (other than the twice-daily SDS packages) have occurred.



Lcpl Dave Bradshaw and Lcpl Ilene Craig pictured the evening before their wedding at a party in the Shamrock Club

OPERATIONAL NOTES

THE fire-bombing campaign has continued in the city, with a number of shops and other commercial premises being destroyed. With the return of the regular firemen, the damage, in general, has been less severe. The Squadron has been involved in implementing special security measures to try and beat the bombers, who have been hanging blast incendiaries on the security grilles of the shops. So far Lisburn has escaped but in early February there were attacks at Derriaghy, about half-a-mile from Thiepval Barracks.



Our previous Deputy Commander, Col Ronnie Eccles, DSO, receives his parting gift from the Squadron Commander, Maj Conrad Garton in the step-up Horseshoe Club (alias the training room). On the day of the presentation Col Eccles was to have officially opened the Horsehoe Club in its refurbished state—but as we reported in the last edition it burnt down about a week before. Also in the picture WO1 (RSM) Roger Harris Capt (TOT) David Potter and Lcpl Pat McCreadie



WO1 (RSM) Roger Harris and Lcpl 'Hamish' Burgess seen presenting a portable colour television set to Mrs King, Matron of Thomson House, a Multiple Sclerosis Hospital. The set was bought from money raised in the Squadron Club—mainly due to Cpl Burgess's fund-raising activities

PISTOL SHOOTING

The Squadron 2IC, **Capt Stephen Siddall,** walked away with the Bell Trophy, awarded to the best officer or warrant officer pistol shot in the unit, with a score of 84 out of 96. Just to keep the Squadron's efforts level **Capt Joe Menzel,** the Admin Officer, returned a booby score of 10. This, unbelievably, is not the lowest ever; 7 was scored by an infantry officer serving as a GSO 3 in the last competition. **Joe** claims that he was overawed by having the Brigadier on the firing point with him. The Brigade Major, **Maj Peter Treneer-Michell,** should also go on record as having failed to hit the target at all in a recent Officers Mess/Sergeants Mess air-pistol shoot-out—although to be fair this is conducted with the aid of a few beers on a Saturday lunchtime!

SPORT

Our rugby team eventually lost to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the Northern Ireland final, but the hockey team beat 12 Int and Sy Coy 4—1 in the fourth round of the Army Cup. We look forward to more success! **Cpl Sid Hayward** has been the main goal scorer so far, and **Ssgt Greg Robertson** the harassed team manager.



WO1 (RSM) Roger Harris presenting an inscribed blackthorn stick to Lt Col Ian Shapter, CR Signals Northern Ireland, on his leaving the province. Also in the picture Sgt Alan James, Mrs Ann Smart, WO1 (F of S) Norman Cowell (8 Bde)



At CR Signals dining-out—*clockwise from top left:* WO2 (RQMS) Bob Huxtable, Mrs Gill Horler, WO2 (Y of S) Phil Castle, Mrs Jan Nichols, Maj Conrad Garton, Mrs Kathy Garton, WO2 (Y of S) John Nichols (8 Bde)

FAREWELLS

In January we said farewell to **Lt Col Ian Shapter,** CR Signals Northern Ireland. Twenty-one Warrant Officers of the Corps in the Province and their ladies dined him out in the 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Mess, and presented him with an inscribed blackthorn stick. We wish him the best of luck in his new command at Catterick, and welcome his successor, **Lt Col Mike Marples.**

We also, of course, said goodbye to our Squadron Commander, **Maj Conrad Garton,** in early February. At the time of writing, his handover to **Maj Keith Turner** is in progress, and a full report will appear in the next issue.

Faraway Places . . .

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CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SGT DON ROBERTSON, Sig 'Scouse' Wilson, W/Ptes Liz MacDonald and 'Charlie' Hewitt from Victor Troop entertained a 'mere' 170 children in the NAAFI Annex on December 21, 1977. Twenty of these were the children from the Suffolk area of Belfast who have been adopted by the Troop. The children happily attacked the mountain of food provided, to the strains of music provided by an extremely talented juvenile pop group. In deference to these inflationary times, two Santas appeared with presents for all. The obvious happiness of the children fully justified all the hard work involved. The photo shows **Sgt Don Robertson** in conference with **Sig 'Scouse' Wilson, W/Pte Liz MacDonald** and **W/Pte 'Charlie' Hewitt.** The intrepid quartet are now busily planning a summer camp.



MORE GOLD

The year 1977 saw the award of a Gold Comstar to Commcen HQNI, the second in 12 months. Not to be outdone, the Ord Dep Kinnegar Commcen notched a Gold and a Bronze award in their first year.

Many changes have taken place in the Commcen, including a much welcomed move from their old location to sumptuous new premises. The photo shows **W/Lcpl Jane Ash** receiving the Comstar from (CDCN) **Gp Capt P. L. T. Owen,** watched by **Lcpl Mike Ash, Sig Bob Owens** and **Sgt Terry Daubney.**



'WHISKEY' TROOP

The Troop has been expanding in the past few months and 'person' power is to be the theme for the next month or two. Now that the Troop is one of the affluent with two cars, their drivers, **Sigs Geoff Biggs** and **'Chippy' Wood,** are in great demand and hardly have a minute free.

HAMPERS TO OUTSTATIONS

The Royal Signals Associations very kindly sent donations for Christmas. These were greatly appreciated and helped to brighten the festive season considerably. Christmas hampers were sent out from the SHQ to our outlying locations, and the remaining money was put towards the Squadron's festivities.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

December 1977/January 1978. We welcome: **Ssgt Russell, Sgt Hopkins, Cpls Ager, Calvert, Hyndman, Milford, Lcpls Ludlam, Murdoch, Teggert, Williams, Sigs Jones, Nichols, Turton, Capt Ankers,** and **Lt Baker.**

BON VOYAGE

Sgts Chant, Green, Wyllie, Cpls Bramham, Francombe, Gibbons, Groom, Lawson, Rumbold, Lcpls Gray, Kelly, Shaw, Sigs Fagan and **Partridge. Capts Reed** and **Littlejohn.**

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—News from Headquarters—

Communication Projects Agency

School of Signals–Blandford Camp

PERSONALITIES

OUR previous contribution to THE WIRE outlined the activities of CPA's Installation Team. This time it is the turn of some of our planners to be highlighted and we have selected the two sections dealing with static short and long haul radio relay and radio communications within commands.

The first section (CP1) claims interests in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Malta, Belize, Northern Ireland, and the UK. The section is controlled by **Frank Chambers** (P and TO1) and you will see from his photograph the effect that constant jet-lag has on his moustache. His staff includes **Martin Sheppard** (P and TO2) whose work on radio relay is interrupted on occasions by night-mares of failed log-periodic HF antennas. **Capt (TOT) Ray Tricker** is the motor rally expert of CPA and claims that his moustache has the dual purpose of filtering his home-made wine and advertising the 'mouldy' nature of his job. Support is provided by **Ssgts (F of S) John Taylor** and **Larry Proctor** together with **Sgts John Hobley, Patrick O'Neill** and **Dennis Simpson.** Between them section members have visited virtually every hilltop on what remains red on the map.



The 'headmaster' of CP1 and some of his boys



Martin Sheppard looks worried while Sgts Dennis Simpson and Patrick O'Neill search for missing dBs in Cyprus

THE BIG SPENDERS

CP8 is the second of our sections with radio relay as their bread and butter. Unlike the exotic regions dealt with by CP1, they are limited to NW Europe where their main tasks are the problems of MUKRCS, STARRNET and the provision of TV for the UK forces in Germany. **Maj Bill Nicoll** acts as section ringmaster with his chief jugglers, **Maj John (What a referee) Selby, Capt (TOT) Wally (The happy whistler) Hammonds** and **WO1 (F of S) Tim Southall.** Waiting to pick up the pieces we have **Capt Sharon (Scottie) Scott** (a lady of the US Signal Corps, no less). Four members of the section can't stand the 'big top' atmosphere in the UK and wait in Germany to catch the ironmongery as it flies across the Channel. These outcasts are **Capt (TOT) Maurice Stock, WO2s (F of S) Danny Rotherham** and **Roger Milne** and (recently joined) **Sgt Sedi Drika.** CP8 are the big spenders (project-wise) of CPA and their photographs show the effect that the responsibility for spending millions has on what was once a handsome body of men (and one woman).



CP8—beauty and some of the beasts!



Maj Bill Nicoll and Capt Wally Hammonds sort out another phase of STARRNET



'Why not put the MUKRCS relays on oil rigs?'—Maj John Selby and WO1 (F of S) Tim Southall appear unconvinced

PROJECT WAVELL, FORT HALSTEAD

Report by Cpl John Cope

NEWCOMERS

HELLO again from PWIT. Since the last WIRE notes we have been joined by 10 more 'lucky' personnel. **WO2 (Y of S) Dick Richardson** has taken over as Troop Officer from **WO2 (Y of S) Terry Mack** who has left us on transfer to the RAOC (good luck, **Terry**!), and **Ssgt (F of S) John Godwin** has joined as the team foreman.

We now have two more three-stripers, **Sgts Frank Jory** and **Keith Buckley,** who join **Sgts Derek Brown** and **George Smith.** We also have six new drones, **Cpls John Moulson, Derek Steed, Ben Nelson, Lcpl Paul Flintham,** and **Sigs Bill Maggs** and **Jimmy Neild.**

SUCCESSFUL TRIALS

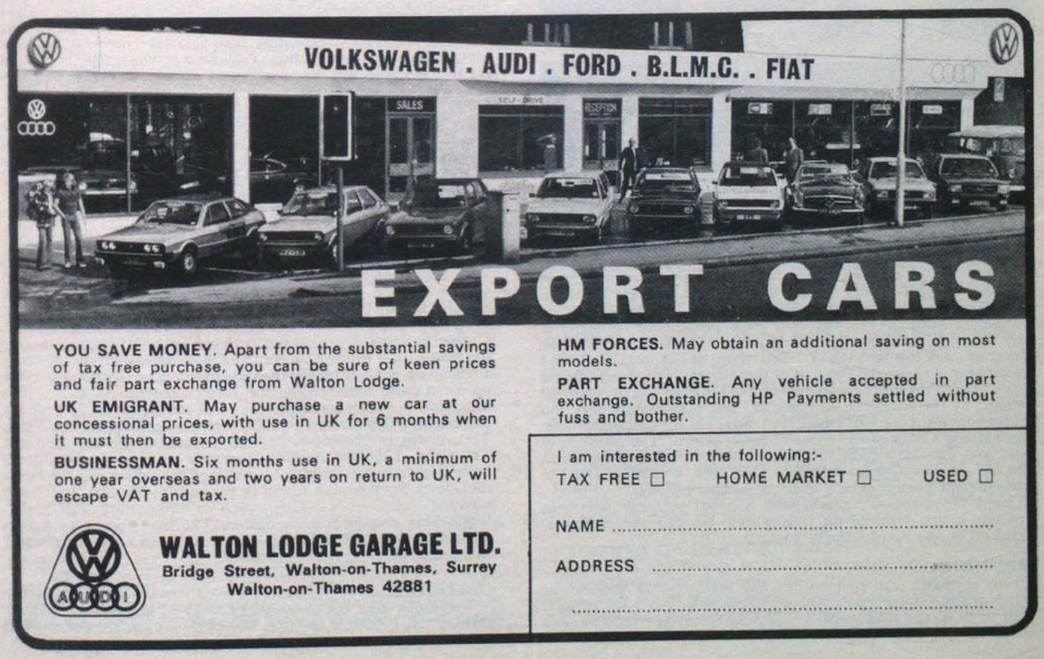
Trials on the WAVELL equipment have been taking place in the form of 'mini-BRUIN' exercises. For most of the team these have been interesting and enlightening. During one such exercise (Trial C) we were visited by **Brig Gen D. R. Lasher** who is PM ARTADS—the US Army's equivalent of our Project Manager, **Col Chris Last.** It is strongly rumoured that **Brig Gen Lasher** was visiting Project WAVELL to get some tips for their system! **Brig Gen Lasher** was accompanied by **Col Chris Last** and a number of high-ranking MOD personnel which included **Mr P. R. Wallis** (DGGWL) and **Brig R. G. Phippard** (DOR 4). During their visit they saw high-speed (4·8 K bit for the 'techs') data messages being passed error free via the WAVELL equip-ment and BRUIN terminal equipment over C50 and C70 radio relay links similar in length and quality to those used in BAOR. Presumably they were suitably impressed because the 'Boss', **Maj Bob Siderfin,** smiled and congratulated us on a successful trial. We have had civilian engineers assisting us to get the trials off the ground. One such fellow, **Eric Sutherland,** insisted on wearing 'wellies' during the whole of the trials although his vehicle was based on the Regimental Square. When asked the reason he became very secretive, but later we found out that he had heard that there were sheep in the area.

At the moment we are preparing both for the climax of our trials at Blandford, Trial F (January 23–February 14, 1978) and also, assuming success, our move to 2 Div Sig Regt in Bunde (BAOR) for the next stage of the trials. Thanks must be extended to the various departments of the School of Signals and 30 Sig Regt at Blandford for both the aid and assistance given to PWIT. On this note I must leave them with the thought that their loss is 2 Armd Div's gain??



Photo courtesy: HQ School of Signals

Brig Gen Lasher (*centre*), shaking hands with Cpl King who has been explaining the workings of his Wavell Landrover. Maj Siderfin, OC PWIT, and Col Bjorn (US Army) are on the right of the picture



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BOXING TO THE FORE

WE have been boxing quite frequently and although it should not necessarily rate as the leading news item, a lot of sweat, some blood and no doubt a few tears have been shed during the past couple of months. The team, less **Sig Adams,** who has had to take a compulsory 24 hours' count in BMH, has just returned from a match against 2 Para in Berlin. We did not win. The footballers and rugby players who went up for matches of their own, which, in the event, were snowed off, give them sterling commendation for the courage that was shown in the face, or rather the fist, of certain annihilation!

Our team was taken from the winners of the Inter-Squadron matches fought way back in December during two excellent evenings. Many styles of boxing, some totally new, were to be seen. The finals of seven bouts from featherweight to welterweight began with **Sig Brookes** of 1 Sqn bravely going down to **Sig Butterworth** of 2 Sqn. **Sig Adams,** after dusting off the seat of his pants in the first minute of his contest, got up to stop **Lcpl Lewis** of 3 Sqn to gain 1 Sqn's first win. The light-welter bout went to **Dvr Skuse** of 3 Sqn when he out-pointed **Sig Terry** of 2 Sqn.



Sig Jackson, the winner from Sgt Brown: Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition 1977

The term 'walkover' was explained anew in the light middleweight bout when **Sig Marshall,** HQ Sqn, having no opponent, got into the ring, walked over to the opposite corner and got straight out again. Bout 5 went down as the quickest yet when **Sig Heywood,** 3 Sqn, gave **Sig Robinson,** 1 Sqn, no chance to defend himself. The last two bouts proved the highlight of the evening. At light heavyweight **Sgt Brown,** the Provost Sergeant, met **Sig Jackson** of 2 Sqn whom he has occasionally had to care for in the past! The pair of them discarded any finesse and stood toe to toe for the whole bout. **Sig Jackson** was the eventual winner by the narrowest of margins. The welterweight was also fit for the final with **Cpl Phillips,** 1 Sqn, pitting his boxing skills against **Sig Cameron's** (3 Sqn) heavier punch. The outcome of this bout decided a hitherto photo-finish for the Inter-Squadron trophy. It was **Cameron's** face that took a pasting and the close-fought contest gave 1 Sqn yet another trophy.

Lcpl Guy, 1 Sqn's coach, who had put in many strenuous training hours, received the trophy from the CO who congratulated all on the keenly-fought contests.

RESTRUCTURING

We approach the moment in the restructuring programme when we add the word Armoured to our title. For some of us it will be in spirit (good word) if not fully sound in wind and limb as minor ailments have taken a toll. There have been several cases of broken legs, including the CO's wife, who, hopefully, by publication date, should be back in the saddle again. Squadron Commanders seem to have the monopoly of hernias and appendices. Whilst Red flu has claimed a number of victims temporarily, it released **Lt Bob Pearce** in time for him to take the field to referee an Army rugby final. However, the Quartermaster (Tech)'s wind is still sound and **Sig Ellis** will be pleased to know that from his boss, we in RHQ are loudly reminded that his absence on fire-fighting and an upgrading course nearly put us behind the tight schedule 'that keeps our reorganisation streaks ahead of 4 Div who started three months before us'!

SITE GUARD

Quote (claimed 1 Sqn) made by OC 3 Sqn who was commanding the Site Guard, 'Why are 1 Sqn boys always smiling?' Now they have had time to thaw out from the frost-bitten guard towers perhaps he will offer a free night in his Squadron Club to the best-written caption reply (addressed to Brass Monkey Competition, c/o 3 Sqn).

STUDY DAYS

There have been lots and lots of these for the various staff officers to attend. Their major one was the GOC's, for which we reluctantly donated the use of the gym. Our CO got his Study Day in first, however, and, similar to last year, we invited along all those of senior rank and above who were concerned in the Division with signalling. A good comprehensive programme was put on although **Capt Hugh Coyle** reckoned he got bogged down with a Commcen digging talk since **Capt Malcolm Emslie** completely lost his lines in a special skit, although it is said that rehearsal performances would even have complimented a Laurence Olivier. All was saved, however, by **Mrs Dillon,** who brought in the GOC's closing address in message form, showing herself to be one of the best motor cycle DRs in the business!

BACK TO BOXES

As a memento to **Capt David Lowe** on leaving for Blandford after three years in the Regiment, Bravo Troop gave him a special present made by **Sgt Cliff Brumfield.** It was no less than a model of the 'tented' headquarters. In years to come, should he ever read in THE WIRE that someone, somewhere, is considering this innovation he is now duty bound to take the next available plane. On arrival at the errant HQ, he is to show this model and recite the whole saga in an effort to explain to them the likely errors of their ways!

And so back to Boxes with Exercise New Broom and the 101st Spring Sample. It is generally reckoned bad luck to change a well-established exercise name for by that name is its design well known. However, none of us can ever remember sampling spring at any time on this exercise, and we cannot help feeling that fate can never resist temptation in the form of a solid freeze-up.

PARIS RUGBY TRIP

The Rugby Club followed up its early season tour in Sweden with a trip to Paris to watch England play France on January 21. The Regimental team played a thrilling and exciting match against SHAPE the previous afternoon. On the Friday evening SHAPE Rugby Club provided excellent hospitality which resulted in an RAF Wing Commander becoming airborne without a plane, a tug-of-war match which was on a par with the scrummages on the field earlier in the day, and finally, in giving the whole party a thumping great headache the next morning. 'Gunfire' was taken on the train to Paris which soon revived the party's spirits. The international match was played in ideal conditions and everybody thoroughly enjoyed the thrilling atmosphere of the Parc de Prince. Then it was an evening in Paris before getting the late train out. The story of the one missing member's eventual return journey centred around his attempt to convince the police that he was a shot-down Spitfire pilot trying to get back to his unit. It actually worked!

All other anecdotes are censored. The weary party eventually arrived back at Verden at 11 am on the Sunday, thoroughly exhausted, broke, but very satisfied.

OBITUARY

Tragically, **Sig Stephen Ward** died as a result of a traffic accident on February 6, 1978. We offer our sincere condolences to his family.

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

7 SIG REGT LAD REME—PLAYING FATHER CHRISTMAS

OC	—	**Capt G. E. Harris**
ASM	—	**WO1 R. M. Hunter**
Scribe/Organiser	—	**Sgt L. Reid**

Thursday, December 15, 1977 (am)

TIME for the LAD to make final preparations to invade the Grunau Children's Home and give them their Christmas Party for the fifteenth year. When the idea was taken up originally the home was an orphange in the true sense of the word, now it is a home for children which have been taken into care for various reasons. Over the years the LAD have built for the home a complete disco room and furnished it, a large room was also equipped with a complete wooden ceiling. **Willie Müller,** our carpenter ('Willie the Wood'), doing the honours.

There are 50 children in the home ranging from 5 to 18 years. The youngest goes by the name of Dennis, who has blond hair, blue eyes and a catapult hanging from his back pocket (you know the type).



Christmas harmony
Cpl Alan Dean (REME), discovers a fellow artist

Lcpl 'Taff' Dobbs volunteered to be the man with the beard who gets into all the acts at this time of year. He was delivered by 432 kindly supplied by HQ RAC Sig Troop (6 Sqn to old hands) as they have a key that fits the lock on the back door. 4 Sqn provided two FFR Rovers with drivers/operators to enable the kids to deliver German swear words to each other by radio. The LAD Reccy section completed the convoy with the AEC, on the jib of which we fixed our killing machine or carousel, as the children call it.

Right lads, timings were as follows:

1100—Pick up PRI mini buses, santa suit and presents (wrapped by NAAFI—God bless 'em!).
1300—Pick up food from Mess hall.
1330—Buses leave camp with food/helpers.
1400—LAD Trio **(Cpl Dean, Cfn Elrick, Cfn Crampton)** sing to the children.
1430—Set out room and food.
1450—**Lt Col** and **Mrs Topple** arrive with OC.
1500—Children/staff/military sit down for the party.
1600—Convoy arrives and Santa performs.
1630—Children to military vehicles (and 'killing' machine).
1640—CO has drinks with staff.
1645—Chaos.
1730—Strategic withdrawal.

Thursday, December 15, 1977 (pm)

All went well again, scribe then washed glasses, settled bills, returned ACC kit and wrote article as kindly requested by OC. (Now on leave.)

Thanks go to OC, HQ RAC Sig Troop, OC, 4 Sqn, SCO, PRI staff, NAAFI, and the following LAD personnel:

Cpl Tempest and **Lcpl Woodward** (PRI bus), **Cpl Simpson, Lcpls Turner, Golding, Cfns Payne, Beynon, Root, Lcpls Arkley** and **Mainwaring** (Reccy vehicle).



Let the party begin
Left to right: Lt Col M. R. Topple, Frau Eikmeier and Mrs Topple

SPOTLIGHT ON 1 SQUADRON

It is now over a year since the Regimental contribution to THE WIRE featured 1 Sqn. It may therefore assist AG 11 and Royal Signals Manning and Records to know that the following people are now in the respective hot seats in the Squadron.

OC	—	**Maj Brian Robinson**
2IC	—	**Capt Hugh Smith**
OC Echo Troop	—	**Lt Ian Foxley**
OC Sierra Troop	—	**Lt Tim Gigg**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) Dave Gouldsmith**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt John Hornby**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) John MacDonald**
Y of S	—	**Ssgt (Y of S) Jack Cowen**

CHANGES

The past year has seen many changes in the personalities in the Squadron and indeed there are more in store for the near future. The Combat Radio Wing of the Trade Training Centre must have been working overtime to produce the influx of lads in the recent past.

ARRIVALS

We welcome the following personnel to the Squadron, having joined us in the past few months. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Gouldsmith** from our own 6 Sqn, **Ssgt John Hornby** from Catterick, **Sgt Dave Chivers** from Cyprus, **Cpl 'Geordie' Ellis** from 39 Inf Bde, **Cpl 'Paddy' Stewart** from 21 Sig Regt, and **Cpl Wilkinson** from 260 Sig Sqn. From Catterick we welcome **Sigs 'Taff' Dunn, Vince Kelly, Dave Ellis** and **'Paddy' Dolan.**

DEPARTURES

To those who have escaped, we bid farewell and good luck for the future: **Capt Robin Hill** to 1 Div Sig Regt, **WO2 Charlie Coventry** to the TAVR and thence to 'Civvy street', **Ssgt Don Remmer** to COD Donnington, **Cpls Marsh, Byiers** and **'Parky' Parkinson** to Catterick, **Lcpl 'Dinger' Bell** to 'Civvy street', **Lcpl 'Jock' Tait** to Commando Bde, **Cpl Derek Gay** and **Sig 'Paddy' Kell** to 6 Fd Force Sig Sqn. In addition **Sgt Roy Wilson** has come and gone too quickly to qualify for the above paragraph but we wish him all the best on his F of S Course.

SUMMER CAMP 1977

Summer Camp 1977 was spent at the American Forces Recreation Centre at the Chiemsee in Bavaria. It was a testing time for a variety of reasons, activities included mountain climbing, hill walking, canoeing, abseiling, and many visits to local places of interest, including Salzburg and Berchtesgaden. One of the most popular activities was water ski-ing on the Chiemsee and **Cpl 'Strat' Stratton** proved that he was not just a natural on snow skis but quite a 'dab hand' (or foot) on the water. However, we found some difficulty finding a sloping lake.

FREEDOM OF HERFORD ANNIVERSARY PARADE

The fifth anniversary of the Regiment's Freedom of Herford was celebrated on September 15, by a parade outside the Town Hall, followed by a ceremonial march through the town. 1 Sqn provided one of the contingents on the parade and the salute was taken by the Bürgermeister of Herford, escorted by CCR Signals,

Brig G. R. Oehlers, and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. R. Topple.** The parade was ably supported by the Corps Band, under the direction of **Maj Keith Boulding.**

FUTURE

The area around the festive season is a little hazy, but beyond that the Squadron looks forward to another year of 'Snow Queens', Summer Camp, the occasional bit of leave, and providing a vast amount of communications in the meantime—with just a little help from the rest of the Regiment.

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

7 Sig Regt had a surprise, but well earned, win in the Major Units competition of the Royal Signals (BAOR) Orienteering Championships. Held at Sennestadt on the Teutoburger Wald, the event attracted 109 Royal Signals entries. The event was organised, and the course set by **Capt Robin Hill,** 7 Sig Regt.

Individual placings in the competition were:

7th — **Capt Les Smith**
8th — **Lt Nick Ferriman**
27th — **Capt Hugh Smith**
34th — **Sgt Clint Mogg**
41st — **2 Lt Andy Johnstone**
97th — **2 Lt Colin Lawrence**

The event was **Capt Robin Hill's** final event in the Regiment (for the time being), we would like to thank him for all he has done for orienteering both in the Regiment and at BAOR level, and wish him and his wife well in their new posting.



Orienteering
Left to right: Sgt Clint Mogg, 2 Lt Andrew Johnstone, 2 Lt Colin Lawrence, Capt Hugh Smith, Capt Les Smith

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8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

JANUARY 1978

THE Regiment returned from fire-fighting in Scotland, Northumberland, Durham, Tyne and Wear, and South Yorkshire at the beginning of the month. Two hundred and fifty ex-apprentices from Harrogate and RAF personnel were fed, quartered, briefed and deployed to relieve some of our fire-fighters. Trainees and Cadre returned keen (?) to pick up the threads of courses suspended in mid-November, R and R allowing naturally!

One thing is for sure, the problems of fire picquet training are solved for many years to come. Moreover, field units will be receiving more experienced and mature young soldiers as a result of Operation Burberry. The keenness and ability shown by these youngsters should stand them in good stead in the future.

There was a success in the Public Relations field, too. The Regimental newspaper, 'The Flame', published to keep families in touch with their husbands, is to be continued. Editors **Mr Ken Coates** and his successor, **Maj Dave Schreiner** (US Army) have managed to achieve a mixture of information and entertaining writing.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

We have had a great changeover of officers recently with more to move in March and April. **Lt Col Peter MacGillivray** has moved over from TET to take command of Support Wing and we welcome both he and **Sylvia,** his wife. **Maj Richard Hinds** has joined us as SO2 Trg and **Capt John Snowdon** is our new Adjutant. He and his wife, **Anne,** and their 15-month-old daughter, have just come from 1 Div. **Lt Peter Smith** has come from 22 Sig Regt, and **Lts Terry** and **Frances Canham** have joined us from 7 Regt and 16 Regt, respectively. **Capt Don Reed** appeared just before Christmas from 233 Sig Sqn to spend his first few weeks fire-fighting as did **Capt Mike Gilyeat** who came from CAAT Iran with his wife, **Lahle,** to be supervisor of TE Group. We expect soon **Lt Don Carr** from 21 Sig Regt, and March will bring us **Capt Peter Costello** from 4 AYT, and **Capt Danny McConnell** from 16 Sig Regt. **Lt Col Fitzroy-Smith (Fitz)** has joined RHQ as an RO3. He and his wife, **Helen,** have recently come from Lippstadt where he was SSO for many years.

In turn we say goodbye to **Capt Fergus MacKenzie** who is leaving the Army shortly and to **Capt David Sharpe** who has gone to 55 Sig Sqn (V). **Capt Vic Prees** has gone over to 11 Sig Regt to organise the new Joint (1188!) Adventure Training set-up.

To all new arrivals—welcome, and to all those leaving—thank you and the best of luck!

CORPORALS' CLUB NOTES

The week before the fire strike the Corporal's Club, formerly the Old Brigade Headquarters, had virtually reached completion, the fruition of several months' hard work by the more talented members of the Club. All that remained was to organise some suitable opening function. The official opening was conducted by **Brig N. Butler, CBE,** Commander Headquarters Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, on January 20, who downed the first pint served in the Club with obvious relish.

The first function held in the Club was a 'Disco' night with buffet, for all members and invited guests, which was held on January 21. The Club has been voted a unanimous success. Watch the next issue for full photo coverage of each stage of the rebuilding of the Club!

2 SQUADRON NOTES

With a vast influx of personnel returning from fire-fighting the administrative forces of 2 Sqn have been forced to engage low ratio, four-wheel drive. Under the beady eye of our OC, **Maj Bill Griffiths,** the Squadron office, run by our chief clerk, **Mrs Frances Pickard,** has gone into continuous send.

Postings out notwithstanding, Delta Troop, the holding and drafting Troop, under **Ssgt Jim Greeney** is somewhat snowed under. He is ably assisted, however, by **Sgt Campbell Armstrong** of Alfa Troop, **Sgt John Bradford** of Bravo Troop, and **Sgt Mick Harrison** of Charlie Troop. The good news is that in the last week the Squadron strength has dropped to only 700-odd!



Presentation
Capt Geoff Powell, Adjutant of the White Helmets, was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on January 26 when the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Maj Gen Anderson, visited the Regiment
The photograph shows from left to right: the SO in C, Col David Cattermull, Capt John Snowdon and Capt Geoff Powell



Visit of Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, KCB, DFC (RAF)
Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade visited the Regiment on February 2 in his capacity as Chief of Personnel and Logistics. He is seen in the photograph with Maj Alan Brown and Mrs Sylvia Rogers in the Vimy Social Club

SPORT IN SHORT

Rugby—Army Cup

In the fourth round of the Army Cup, played on January 25, the Regiment won a resounding victory against 3 LI, the score being 36—9. The team then travelled to Northern Ireland on February 1 to play 10 Sig Regt RCT in Lisburn and won 31—0. The UK Final was played on February 22 in Aldershot.

Football

Although we are out of the Army Cup now, the spirit of competition is kept alive by such events as the North-East/North-West District League, the Yorkshire Services League, and the Richmondshire District Council League which will keep the teams busy for the next few weeks.

Hockey

Our progress in the Army Cup, the North-East/North-West District Cup and North-East/North-West District League has been delayed by Operation Burberry but we are still in. Two members of the team, **Cpl Reece** and **Cpl Farrar** attended the Combined Services Trials and **Cpl Farrar** was selected for the team.

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

NEWS ON TWO

PRIDE of place in this edition of WIRE notes from 9 Sig Regt is given to 2 Sqn who are allowed a modicum of justified trumpet blowing on their own behalf!

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Last December saw 2 Sqn swing into the social season and out of 1977 with all the usual gusto and activity. The five Troop parties were spaced out strategically through the two weeks before Christmas, something that the OC, **Maj Tom Moncur,** and **WO2 (SSM) Dick Sargent** much appreciated, not to mention **Capt Stan Brice** and **WO1 Graham Widdowson,** all of whom were involved in running the enjoyable festive gauntlet of all five parties. The Admin Officer, **Lt Cherry Hume-Lewis,** claimed a lady's privilege and got off relatively lightly, something which was probably put right when she undertook to run one of the children's Christmas parties. Everyone worked very hard at making the functions a success, especially the organising committee, who raised a total of £C1,500 between them, all of which was spent on Christmas cheer. Needless to say, the onset of winter was not even noticed!

SPORTS REPORT

Throughout the Christmas and New Year season, sport has continued unabated, with the Squadron Rugby XV still unbeaten and through to the finals of the Minor Units Knockout Cup—something which **WO2 Poole** and his team are looking forward to with relish. The Squadron 'A' team under **WO2 John Groves** has lost only one match in the Minor Units soccer league, and are well placed to repeat last year's league success. The 'B' team continues to play enthusiastically under the generalship of **WO2 Clive Honor,** and demonstrate that age is no handicap so long as skill and spirit are always to the fore. On the hockey field, **Capt Stan Brice** and **Ssgt Rod Goddard** have steered the 'A' side through to the final of the Minor Units Cup, where they are due to take on the pride of 262 Sig Sqn, who knocked out the 2 Sqn's 'B' side in their semi-final, thus avoiding what could have been a unique and expensive occasion for **Maj Tom Moncur,** the OC. The cross-country team are still making their reputation known, and **Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts** is busily involved in following up the team's fine performances in finishing third in the Minor Units Championships, and the Cross-country League. His targets are various road races in February, and the marathon on March 11. Who said that Cyprus was too hot for activity?

COMMENDATION

One of the more significant events in the history of the Squadron took place on January 30, when **Cpl Steve Calland** was presented with the Commander Land Forces Cyprus Commendation for Bravery, and received his award personally from the Commander, **Brig J. H. B. Acland,** at a ceremony in the Ayios Nikolaos Community Centre. The award was presented for his selfless act of bravery in rescuing the trapped driver of an overturned scout car, regardless of the fact that the vehicle was on fire and that the fuel tank and ammunition was liable to explode at any moment. Having dragged the driver clear, **Cpl Calland** moved the crowd of onlookers back to a safe distance, just before the explosion took place. But for the quick thinking and cool action of **Cpl Calland** there is no doubt that the driver of the scout car would have died, and many onlookers injured by the explosion. Indeed, a fine performance, and in the highest tradition of the Service.

ARRIVALS

On a final note, we have pleasure in recording the arrival of **WO2 Liddell, F of S Vann** and **Sgt Summers,** not to mention the **Misses Groves, Pickersgill** and **Tetlow** who arrived well in time for the proud fathers to make an extra occasion of the festive season.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

WE HAVE OUR TRADITIONS TOO!

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10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

HQ SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

IN common with many other units, 10 Sig Regt provided HGV driving instructors, namely **Sgt Dave Knell** and **Lcpl 'Paddy' Beattie** for the purpose of Green Goddess driving (aiming). The driver training programme was run by WLAS under the watchful eyes of Master Driver **WO1 Mick Quinn** (RCT) and **WO2 John Hannington** (RCT). The school had 139 Army, 50 Royal Navy and 40 RAF pass through its midst.

Carrying around the set routes was in itself a great feat, also, just to arrive back at Hounslow not on the end of a tow rope! A Green Goddess passing through a crowded high street causes many a varied look from children waving, to grannies cringing, picketing firemen giving us the 'Harvey Smith' and motorists looking puzzled at the sight of a strange illuminated object protruding 10in from the side of the vehicle telling him 'I'm about to turn (I think).

1 SQUADRON (WILTON)

December saw one or two changes in 1 Sqn at Wilton, namely **Lt Sue Baker** who departed for 16 Sig Regt, we wish her a happy tour and welcome **2 Lt Rixon** to the Squadron. **WO1 Sylvia Pratt** also departed, albeit only to 3 Sqn at Aldershot, so she remains with the Regiment. December also saw the culmination of several months' sponsored events, which were held to raise funds for the Squadron's Christmas project. A total of £277 was raised by holding sponsored dances, bicycle rides, swimming; a jumble sale and a raffle. The money was to be spent on providing parcels of Christmas groceries for 21 Senior Citizens of Wilton.

The morning of December 20 saw 10 members of the WRAC, surrounded by parcels of Christmas goodies, loaded into the minibus. At the first stop they were met by the Mayor of Wilton, who then accompanied them for the other visits. The performance was repeated again on Wednesday, December 21, when a further 11 parcels were delivered.

Organising and competing in the sponsored events had meant a great deal of hard work for all involved. However, this was compensated for by seeing the joy and delight on the faces of the recipients of the parcels.

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

Our notes for this issue are devoted to the civilian side of the Squadron and concern two long-serving civil servants in particular.

On July 6, 1977, **Mr Francis Trevor Mansley** retired after 26 years' service as a telephonist, having previously served in the RAMC during the period 1936–45. Our picture shows him with his wife and **Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE,** Commander 2 Signal Group, just after the Commander had presented **Mr Mansley** with his well-earned Imperial Service Medal.



Photo courtesy: PR, HQ South-East District

Mr Mansley, Mrs Mansley, Brig Webb

On the same day, **Mr Alfred Douglas Gilbert** was also presented with the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of his 26 years' service—first as an electrician and, for the last 14 years, as a government telephonist. Although he formally retired on August 17, 1977, **Mr Gilbert** is continuing as a telephonist at one of our exchanges in Kent. Also pictured with **Mr Gilbert** 'wetting his gong' is the Brigadier.

The presentations, on December 14, 1977, were attended by **Mr F. P. Faber, Mr Mansley's** erstwhile colleague, **Mr Gilbert's** colleague, **Mr J. B. Nicholls,** the Commanding Officer, and civilian and military staff of Squadron HQ.



Photo courtesy: PR, HQ South-East District

Mr Gilbert and Brig Webb

HQ SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW) ROUND UP

IT'S snowing. Fuel supplies are getting low. UEI and audit teams have descended upon us with evil leers and these notes must be in RHQ by yesterday. But are we downhearted—never.

SSM and sometime MTO **Wally Marsden** has been difficult to find of late, alternately lurking behind great piles of vehicle documents and underneath gleaming Minis. Why do UEI teams always come at this time of year, he asks. Kneeling on a prayer mat facing Bordon in driving snow plays havoc with your trouser creases.

Our all-singing, all-dancing HQ Troop Sergeant, **Dave Knell,** is away again. We just cured him of greeting everyone with 'Hello Sailor' (picked up whilst teaching matelots how to sail Green Goddesses) in time to send him away to learn how to be a Unit Fire NCO. In between he's managed to squeeze in a hygiene NCO course so I expect he will be taking a keen interest in the fire picquet's fingernails as they grasp their diffusers in the traditional overhand grip! It's been reported that **Capt Norman Ladds,** our multi-hatted HQ Troop Commander, was seen conducting resettlement interviews recently without his shoes and socks. Very odd. Perhaps it has something to do with him trying to balance the PRI account for audit whilst our adding machine is in for repair.

Technician **Sgt Pete Forshaw** seems to have recovered from the shock of being appointed Provost Sergeant for his short stay with us prior to discharge. He's got the stick the right way round and is now working very hard on 'Hello, hello, hello, what's all this 'ere then?' at the same time as rocking to and fro on his toes and heels. Kindly **RSM Danny Lamerton** is also said to be assisting by giving him extra time to practice.

The QM's empire seems to be struggling on despite the absence through ill health of **Cpl Alan Bazeley** who we all hope gets well soon. The Emperor, **Maj (QM) Terry Licence,** can occasionally be caught scanning the situations vacant columns in readiness for his retirement. 'Something about ten thousand a year, two RQs, ten storemen and a cleaner in Tahiti will do'. The SQMS, **Ssgt 'Wink' Martindale,** is thinking of changing his nickname to 'Bermunda Triangle'. We're not sure if it is to do with his ethnic background or the losses that he's always being held responsible for—oh well.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)
Radio Troop

Since our last WIRE notes Radio Troop have been fully committed on the firemen's strike. For this the Troop provided operators to work down in the Kingsway Fire Control Centre at Holborn. The task we were given was to provide a VHF net, working to the Base stations where the Green Goddesses were housed.

When the strike eventually finished the Troop then returned to 'normal'! work to be faced with 14 days to prepare for the annual UEI vehicle inspection, nine days to prepare for the annual Tels inspection and also to partake in a VHF presentation for the London University OTC. So, all in all, we have been kept quite busy.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Keith Bolton** on his promotion to Troop Sergeant of Radio Troop, **Lcpl Wallace** on his promotion to Corporal and also to **Sig 'Biff' Berrie** on his promotion to Lance-corporal.

Over the past month we have lost such Troop stalwarts as **Lcpls Pete Lawlor, Sam Burke, Sigs Steve Sellors, 'Scouse' Partington,** and last but by no means least, **'Paddy' Johnston.** We wish them all luck in their new postings. We would like to welcome into the Troop **Sig Jim Cairney** and his family and also **Sig Ian Wright** who have just recently joined the Troop's depleted strength.

London District Troop

In January we said goodbye to **Capt Noelle Vickers** who has left us for Cyprus. In her place we welcome **Capt Rosemary Hewlett** from 16 Sig Regt.

The Troop is now returning back to normal shift working after the extra work-load imposed by the firemen's strike. A special mention must be made of our two motor cycle despatch riders, **Sigs 'Staff Car' Hillman** and **Tony Vesty,** who under the leadership of **Cpl Robinson** did a sterling job from the start to the finish of the strike! **Sig Vesty** is now on exercise in a warmer climate in the Sudan.

SWS Troop

Again, with us the firemen's strike involved a lot of extra work particularly for **Sgts Alec Harper, 'Jock' Macrae** and **Cpls Steve Jackson** and **'Sam' Coltman** who put many nights on the road repairing the fire-fighting radios.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

SEPTEMBER WITH 7 TROOP

The raw facts about continuation military training

ALL those of us who are products of the 11 Sig Regt training machine will no doubt remember the harrowing experience of the two-week survival course which is fitted in between post pass-off leave and trade training at 8 Sig Regt. Last September we kicked off with Adventure Training directly after the August Bank Holiday which must have been a jolt for those used to the good life. **Cpl Pete Pritchard** is one of 7 Troop Cadre who revels in the evasion phase of the training which is called Exercise Dark Night. The strip and body search proved very interesting considering the choice of the escapees' hiding places for matches. The exercise involved making an RV each night with a friendly agent who fed them and told them where the next RV was. Map-reading was performed from a hand-drawn sketch map which made accuracy suspect. One group of three missed the first three RVs and, as a result, did not eat except for some crab apples they found. By the time the last RV on Friday was about to be made only one group had managed to evade capture, it consisted of **Sigs Dave Yutes, Mick Keech** and **'Scottie' Cowan.** The hunter force, unwilling to be beaten, decided to sweep the area of the RV to make sure there was no-one there early. They found to their delight the above-mentioned heroes in an exhausted slumber about 30m from the RV point. However, this did not detract from the fact that everyone enjoyed the escaping and evading even if they were a 'trifle' hungry.

EXERCISE WILD VENTURE

September 12 saw us starting a week's training in preparation prior to helping 21 Special Air Service Regt on a two-week exercise in Scotland.

Sunday, the 18th, we left Catterick for Garelochead training camp. The exercise proper started on the Monday afternoon. The 25-strong 7 Troop was providing an enemy for approximately 150 SAS and friends (Danish Frogmankorps and French Paras). We had to provide them with an enemy to observe and evade whilst recce-ing certain key points with a view to destroying them. Undaunted for five days we covered vast distances on foot and in vehicle. One observation post deserving special mention was that manned by **Sigs Jonathon Riley** and **'Paddy' Murphy.** They were in position all night and had an enemy recce patrol of two French Paras settle down within touching distance. Although they remained undetected and the Frenchman moved on after a while, they wished they had known the French for 'would you mind moving, you're standing on me 'and'. On the Friday we moved back to Garelochead to become guards in the interrogation centre set up by the JSIW. Our job as enemy was continued by four companies of infantry. Our job as guard proved very interesting as one of us was present in each interrogation. The culmination of the exercise was a regimental attack by the SAS on a company position 'to rescue the prisoners', we were the prisoners, having done another swop in role!

EXERCISE STAINTON CHASE III

Back at Catterick on the Monday we entered the District March and Shoot Competition on the Friday. This necessitated frantic revision of basic military skills and zeroing of weapons. The competition started in pouring rain which did not stop until we had finished the march. Shooting proved to be our weak subject, but we managed a respectable 7th out of 12 teams competing. The other units were infantry, gunner and sapper field units all of whom had, we suspect, trained for weeks.

7 Troop have now decided to take it easy for a while and do some adventurous training, climb a few mountains, etc.

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

CHRISTMAS GONE

CHRISTMAS has just passed and with it the month of December. It is difficult to recall that these notes will not appear until (we hope) the first rays of spring sunshine are breaking through. Still with festive mood still with us I enclose our 'view of the month' and a seasonal photograph from the Junior Ranks Mess. In common, no doubt, with all other units we celebrated Christmas 1977 in traditional style with Sergeants Mess and Junior Rank Club Draws, Troop parties, and the Junior Ranks Mess Christmas dinner. We trust all our readers had a good time and will enjoy a prosperous 1978.



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN · DECEMBER 77



MAKING THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Building up Christmas muscles and AP are the 2IC, Maj Gavin MacKay, and Messing Officer, Maj Joe Adams, with Master Chef, Ssgt Tony Bannell, and Cpl Dave Stringer putting in a 'spirited' performance

CARIBBEAN EXPEDITION

To show that all our thoughts are not entirely centred on snow, Father Christmas, and old Father Time, I enclose a photo of **Ssgt Victor Shepheard.** He has just returned from a sub-aqua expedition to the Caribbean, where he was a member of the eight-man adventure training team. They recovered over 50 species of sea shell for examination by the Natural History Department of the British Museum and coral samples for the Coral Conservation Trust. The expedition was centred on the shark- and barracuda-infested barrier reef waters of Half Moon Bay about 65 miles from Belize city. The team lived on a narrow half-mile-long 'paradise' island of coral sand and palm trees with temperatures in the mid-100's. Some people have all the luck!



Photo courtesy: HQ BAOR

SUNNY SMILE

Shark and barracuda were avoided by Ssgt Victor Shepherd during his Caribbean sub-aqua expedition

'H' TROOP NOTES

LOOKING BACK

THESE notes from 'H' Troop have been written during the hectic period of Christmas/New Year, but will probably not appear until spring 1978, therefore, to begin with, belated New Year greetings to all members of the Regiment and to past and present members of the Troop.

In September we were paid a visit by the CSO, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** and he took the opportunity to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 Tony Baker.** The ceremony was carried out in the Troop bar, i.e. 'Club am Turm', and there was a 'pub lunch' where the CSO had ample opportunity to meet and talk with Troop members who were also members of the Regiment when the CSO was our Commanding Officer. The visit was enjoyed by both the CSO and by the Troop.

Not forgetting our military role, our annual 'exercise' was carried out in October. This took the form of a military walkabout entitled, rather appropriately, Exercise Hard Slog! Parties of eight men went out for three days with the minimum amount of food and the maximum amount of foot powder to soothe aching feet.

Just to prove that the exercise was not entirely impossible, **WO2 (SSM) TAM MacDonald** joined **Cpl Ron Napier's** party on their walkabout and completed it successfully. He is now thinking in terms of increasing the exercise period to six days next year.

In November we had two admin visits/inspections which meant a lot of hard work for the Troop. Fortunately, the time spent was worth it and, in the long run, it is the Troop that benefits. As mentioned earlier, this is the hectic time of the year now with many functions having been arranged and, fortunately perhaps, carried out successfully. Early in the month of December we held our Troop Christmas Draw; 36 prizes were on display and all were worthy prizes to be won. The evening of the function was very entertaining with a cabaret organised by **WO2 (F of S) John Mellors.** The draw committee responsible for such an excellent evening was **Sgt Don Shrives** and **Cpls John Hickman** and **Sandy Campbell.**



'H' Troop's Christmas Draw—Prizewinner—December 1977
Personnel featured are: Cpl John Hickman, Sgt Don Shrives, Mrs Judi Kay, Cpl Sandy Campbell (*almost obscured*), Mrs Mo Merritt



Anglo-German cocktail party—December 1977
Personnel featured are: Herr Koch, Capt John Kay and Dr Bortels, outside the Troop's club

After that function came six more which included a party for 20 German children from the local home and our annual Anglo-German cocktail party to which some of the local population are invited as a means of our saying 'thank you' for their help over the past year. We must not forget, either, our All-Ranks dinner. The carol singing deserves a special mention here and **Sgt Dave Colley** in particular! All functions over Christmas were successful and were greatly enjoyed by both guests and hosts.

SPONSORED DIET

As well as upholding our relations with our German friends, we must not forget our relations with the public at 'home'. In spring (1977) eight wives of the Troop took part in a six-week sponsored diet for the sake of Cancer Research. They managed to collect £220, a very worthwhile effort, and a cheque was sent to the appropriate organisation to be used to purchase hospital equipment for cancer patients. Well done ladies!

We often think ourselves at a disadvantage here in 'H' Troop, not having our own unit sports facilities other than the local surroundings to be used by our cross-country team.



THE VIEW FROM 13 - JANUARY 78

LOCAL SOCCER CHALLENGE

The Troop strength and isolation of our unit also presents a problem with regards opposition in such sports as rugby, cricket, basketball, hockey, and the swimming sports. For these reasons most of the sportsmen in the Troop are purely individuals. We have been fortunate enough to be accepted into the local German football league which has meant regular football for the majority of the Troop. **Sgt Mick Braddon** plays for the town's second team and helps to run the Troop soccer team with **Cpl Dave Morrison.** We have our fair share of friendlies against local village teams and works teams.

OTHER FIELDS ALSO

Other sports available are archery, badminton, horse riding, indoor soccer, judo, shooting, and volleyball. Some members of the Troop have also been invited to join the town's tennis club and a nearby golf club.

It is in the sport of golf that we find our unit 'champions'. **Cpl Steve Buck** and **Sgt Braddon** ventured down to the Regiment to take part in the Autumn Golf Meeting, and they returned the following day with the Pairs Team Winners' Trophy. **Cpl Buck** also managed a creditable second place in the individual's competition.

A cross-country team also ventured to the Regiment to take part in the Inter-Squadron Meeting. Unfortunately, we came last of four teams taking part but we did not feel disgraced by our performance although we had travelled over 320 miles for the sake of running just over six miles. What was that about the Olympic spirit? Team members, with individual performances, were: **Sgt Green** (7th), **Cpl Hickman** (14th), **Capt John Kay** (15th), **Ssgt Duncan** (16th), **Lcpl Sales** (19th), **Cpl Buck** (32nd), **Cpl Morrison** (34th), **Cpl 'Paddy' Sherwood** (35th), and **Sgt Terry Yardley** (36th).

The Regiment are thinking of sending a team up to our neck of the woods and we are hoping that victory on our own ground will help to restore some of our lost pride.

STRENGTH INCREASE

As a final note I return to the wives of the Troop. These days their efforts of the last year hardly go by unnoticed. **Cynthia Yardley** gave birth to a boy in November, **Doris Dixon** (boy) and **Marilyn Chattwood** (girl) delivered during these first two weeks of January, **Pat Green** expects her first child in early February and **Linda Foster** and **Judi Kay** are just a week apart in March/April for the birth of their second children. Quite an increase in the Troop strength and more work for our Troop clerk!

We promise to keep you informed of any further, future increases!

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

CSO's VISIT

On December 14 the CSO visited the Unit for a morning and, during the visit, he was able to award the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to five members of the Regiment. The recipients were: **WO2 (Y of S) Tony Jackson, MBE, WO2 (AQMS) John Holman, WO2 (QMSI) Ced Sharp, Ssgt Jim Lees,** and **Sgt Harry Walkden.** The photograph shows the CSO pinning the medal on to **Yeoman Jackson's** left breast. The ribbon of the MBE may also be noticed. This was awarded in recognition of **Yeoman Jackson's** services in Northern Ireland. For this he was able to go to the Palace to have the medal presented by Her Majesty The Queen.



Left to right: CSO BAOR, Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin, WO2 (AQMS) Holman, WO2 (Y of S) Jackson, MBE, and Ssgt Lees

ORPHANS ENTERTAINED

In common with other Units in the month of December the festivities have been fairly continuous. The Regiment cultivates its Anglo-German community relations thoughout the year, and Christmas is yet another occasion to promote this attitude and the best example is the entertaining of the orphans of Krefeld Stadt. Orphans aged between 2 and 13 years were entertained to a Christmas party with food and games and a conjuror on December 15; 160 orphans came along accompanied by approximately 20 helpers, some of whom were Sisters of Marianumhof Kinderheim, which is our nearest and largest of the orphanages. The children seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and the thanks of the helpers were most effusive. It was gratifying that about 25 all ranks voluntarily came along to help entertain the children; the



Cpl John Brine of 2 Sqn talking to Sister Leontia at the German Orphans' Christmas party

Regiment's unstinted thanks go to these people who, but for a single exception, will remain anonymous. He was **Lcpl John Thompson** in the shape of Father Christmas.

Lcpl Thompson also acted out his role of Father Christmas at the Regimental Children's Christmas Party to which he arrived by Santa's helicopter (a real one) accompanied by Black Peter played by **Sig Stephen Brown.** This team also visited the quarters areas on a self-imposed tour on the Saturday previous to Christmas.

THREAT TO ROOF

On December 23 the Regimental Carol Service was a really enjoyable occasion. The Regiment, that is those who were left, attended St James's Church in the Barracks and, encouraged by the Padre, the **Rev John Slegg,** they sang loud enough to nearly lift the roof. As an example of singing it was excellent and put the Unit in a good frame of mind for the traditional exchange of visits between Officers and Sergeants Messes and the serving of the soldiers' lunch at mid-day. The accompanying photograph illustrates some of the bonhomie of the Christmas lunch and the day in general.



Sgt Grant Nicholl doing a double-barrel cracker pulling job with (*centre* Cpl Flintham, Sgt Grant Nicholl) *at rear right:* the Commanding Officer, *left:* OC 3 Sqn

In the last issue of THE WIRE you will have noted the comments about the Regimental Smoker. The accompanying photograph to this issue shows the standard which some of the acts attained. The chap on the left you will agree is the twin of Oliver Hardy while young **Sig Stephen Brown** is obviously soon to be charged with assaulting the MTO, **Capt Steve Bresloff.**



Left to right: Oliver (Sig Garry Bartrop) Hardy, Sadie (Capt Steve Bresloff) Thompson, and Stan (Sig Stephen Brown) Laurel

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INTO THE NEW YEAR

ONCE again the Diarist strikes so no special stories but a run through of January's events in 16 Sig Regt. First a belated Happy New Year to all our readers, and I hope there are many.

Generally the month of January revolved around the ARU with numerous inspections and preparations, with which details I won't bore you. Suffice to say the Regiment had a very good ARU due to the efforts of all personnel here in Krefeld. Well done!

ANGLO-GERMAN SOCIETY

On January 10 the Society met and the main event of the evening was the viewing of the Coronation film. This was so well received that the meeting in February, which occurred on the 7th, was entertained by a lecture on 'The British Monarchy' given by **Mr Millington** from the British Embassy in Bonn. This also proved a great success—invisible exports!

SPORT

On January 11 we organised and hosted a round in the Rhine Area Cross-Country League in which 120 runners were entered. At 1500hrs the Commanding Officer started the race around the Eglesberg area. The Regimental team ran very well, the stars, **Cpl Peter Probin** and **Sgt Graham Crossland** running into very high places.

This same week the BAOR Open and Soldiers Squash Championships were running in Rheindahlen. Entered were: **Maj Tony Marley,** our dentist, **Maj Philip Horobin,** and the doctor, **Capt David Morrison,** aided by **Ssgt (Y of S) Les Rix** and **Sgt Doug Rackham.** For the latter three this was their first competition and all did extremely well, **Doug Rackham** reaching the semi-final of the soldiers competition. For the record, the soldiers champion was a **Lcpl Murray** of 23 Regt RCT, and the Open Champion was **Lt Neil Stewart** (Royal Signals) late of 20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn.

Continuing squash, the Unit team reached the semi-finals of the South-West Zone Inter-Unit Squash Competition but were finally knocked out by a very strong side from Rheindahlen Garrison. Additionally, the team has completed its league fixtures and has finished top and thus earned promotion to Division I next season.

Ski-ing

Currently, the last group are ski-ing at Bad Tölz for a fortnight's course. They are the third of three groups to go, each for consecutive fortnightly periods. I shall not steal their thunder and you can expect a fair account in the next issue. Whatever they say, the individuals concerned have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

DRAMATICS

On January 24 auditions for KATS were held for their new production. Amongst others, the Commanding Officer's wife, **Mrs Valerie Allwright,** secured a part and no doubt as the pace hots up and opening night approaches all will spend most time dramatising.

AT THE DOUBLE

On Thursday, January 26, the great day dawned and **Col L. P. Weeks** (late Para), Deputy Commander Rhine Area, entered our gates as Inspecting Officer of the Unit for our ARU. His programme was extremely busy and it was almost as if he were under test, the speed with which we required him to move, but being of the Para he was well up to the occasion and generally led the field.

Without going into too much detail, one or two items were very well done. First the group selected for BFT all passed, and such was their enthusiasm and the temperature of the day that every one of them bettered their previous best times by approximately 30 seconds. Again **Cpl Peter Probin** ran extremely quickly to finish the individual effort section in 7min 45sec—complete with 'Shane' (his labrador dog).

The second notable performance was that of 2 Sqn whose overall task was to be inspected in barracks ready for call out, move on the Inspecting Officer's command to a pre-designated communicating area and set up as a working commcen. This they did and it was very evident from **Col Weeks'** comments at the end of the day that he was delighted with what he saw of their obvious abilities.

None of the above lessens the importance of the good efforts of every other person in the Unit prior to and on the day of the ARU for which we got a good chitty.

Note: See article on the Sub-Aqua expedition to Gibraltar written by **WO2 (SSM) Dave Freeman** and note that two



2 Squadron in the field
Sig Reggie Hopwood smiling again!
Left to right: WO1 (RSM) Bob Vale, CO (*half-hidden behind* Col L. P. Weeks), ALL inspecting Sgt Alan Pringle, Sgt Geoff Roberts, Lcpl Bob Stonier and Sig Reggie Hopwood

members of that expedition are currently in line for a proposed expedition to the Red Sea in May. Come to 16 and drop in the drink!

1 SQUADRON—RHEINDAHLEN

Well, this is a 'first time' from 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt, at Rheindahlen. This is the Squadron which runs the HQ BAOR Commcen and also has Commcens at Emblem, Dortmund and Düsseldorf.

It's been 'all change' for personalities as well as location for 1 Sqn which moved on closure of TRC Krefeld to Rheindahlen last July.

In October we welcomed to the Squadron **Lt Lesley Haworth** who came to us from Edinburgh to the delights of Telephone House, and December saw the arrival from Wilton of **Lt Sue Baker** who has come to administer 1 Sqn. **Maj Joan Roulstone** obviously can't keep away from Krefeld and is returning as WRAC Adviser. **Capt Bill Coxon** assumed command of the Squadron on January 3, 1978.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

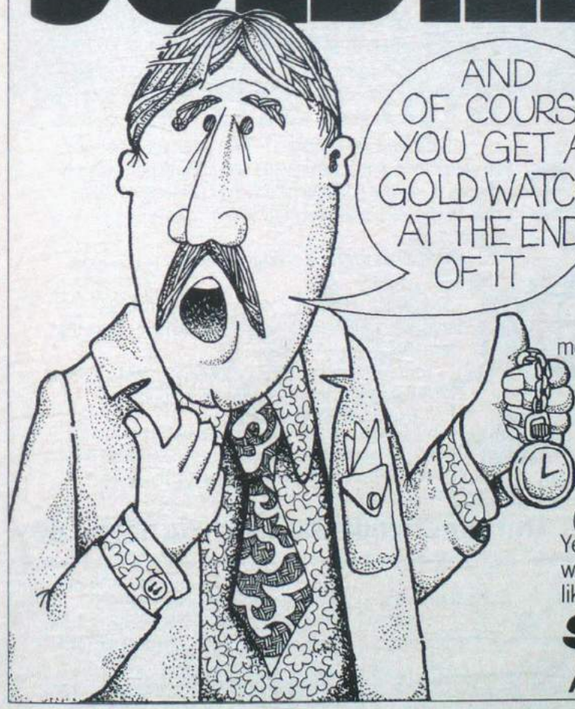
January 4, 1978, was a day to remember for **Sgt Brian Dimmock** who was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col R. H. Gilbertson.** Members of 1 Sqn attended, **Sgt Dimmock's** family and parents, visiting from the UK, were also present for the occasion.



LS and GC presentation
Comdr 4 Sig Gp flanked by Sgt Brian Dimmock and his wife, Pat, their children, and his parents

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SUCCESSFUL STADTHALLE VENUE

With the festive season drawing closer our thoughts turned to the Squadron annual Christmas dance. This year it was decided to find a location off the Garrison. So with the experienced help of **Cpl Keith Hatton** and a few deutschmarks in our pockets a pleasant night was spent inquiring at the local area's Gasthauses for a hall to fit our needs.

We eventually settled for the Stadthalle in Rheindahlen Village. Volunteers set about decorating the hall. Parachutes were supplied (compliments of RAF Bruggen) and **Cpl Barry Dawson** fought vertigo and a rickety ladder to ensure they were secured to the roof. With the Squadron's own decorations and the two Christmas trees supplied complete with tinsel and lights by **W/Cpl Sue Steel** and **W/Pte Pat Knight** the hall was transformed into something akin to Santa's Grotto. As three-quarters of our Squadron consists of females it was appropriate that our OC, **Maj Joan Roulstone,** with the assistance of **W/Cpl Jenny Swallow** and our own **Cpl Alex Clark** set out cash in hand to buy raffle prizes, with the result of a selection of prizes to everyone's taste.

To start the evening, 60 bottles of 16 Sig Regt wine were ordered from the Officers Mess. Unfortunately, the Mess caterer charged it to **Capt Bill Coxon** instead of 1 Sqn. Fortunately, he has a sense of humour and gave me 24 hours to reimburse him or feel the wrath of an irate Scotsman.

Buses were sent to Krefeld and Wickrath and Garrison. Although transport could not be sent out to our detachments we were pleased to see personnel from Dortmund and Düsseldorf arrive for the evening.

Within 20 minutes of the buses arriving the dance was in full swing, the night looked to be going well. Buffet and raffle went by and before dancing resumed our DJ, **Allen Barlow** of Quiet Fire fame, requested **Ssgt Pete Bawden, Sgts Dave Walker, 'Tich' Myerscough, Chris Harper** and **Mrs Shirley Gladwin,** wife of **Sgt Gladwin,** on to the stage. A hilarious 10 minutes followed as **Allen** put them into a situation where only their extrovert sense of humour saved their embarrassment.

Back to dancing until the first of the 39-seater buses left, not surprisingly, with only three people aboard. A little extra ED pay held the other coach driver until the majority started to leave. All in all a successful night which everyone enjoyed. Now **WO1 (Y of S) Bill Cheesman** has the headache of counting the cost and paying the bills.

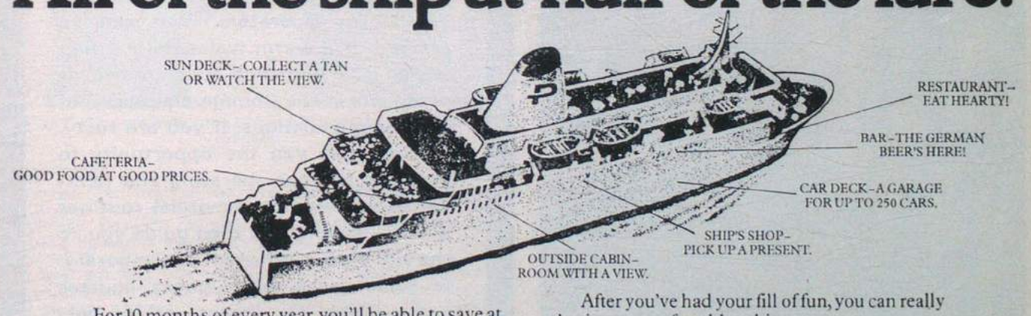
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22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON, 22 SIG REGT

WELL that's the festive season over for another year, it was a good Regimental Christmas with plenty to eat and drink. The PRI, under the watchful eye of **Capt Eric Filder,** went into the coach business and the Regiment was able to get a fair number of people home to England for Christmas. Now that the PRI has a 55-seater coach, when exercises permit, we will be doing mystery tours and more trips to the other side of the water.

Page Trophy is occupying our thoughts and the question in the Squadron is can 'TM' Troop retain their present lead and win the Winter Games to add to the win they had in the summer? **Capt Mike Truran's** Marauders will have a good go at trying to hang on to the trophy.

This month we say farewell to **Capt** and **Mrs Eric Filder. Capt Filder** is retiring from the Regiment and is being dined out when the CSO BAOR visits the Regiment in February. **Capt Eric Filder** was RSM to the present CSO BAOR when he commanded 13 Sig Regt. We wish **Eric** and **Pam** all good fortune in their retirement and hope that should they be passing through they will drop in and see us.

The year got off to a good start with Exercise Sweet Martini 1/78 and in no way was the weather kind. Echelon 'closed' was the great cry! 'Get out and walk'. The exercise closed with the Regiment laying on a 'staff study day' for the members of 1 BR Corps and supporting arms, to have a short brief and a walk round just to get them back into the swing of things before they take to the field on exercise at the end of February and into March.

CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** paid the Regiment a visit and during the ARU presented **Ssgt (F of S) Pete Smith** with his LS and GC. Well done and congratulations.



Ssgt (F of S) Pete Smith receiving his LS and GC from CCR Signals, Brig G. R. Oehlers

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

VISITORS

Farewell visit by SO in C

THE Regiment was visited by **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe,** on his farewell tour of BAOR, during which, he toured the Regiment and presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **WO2 Chris Whiting** and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 (ASM) Rod Paul.** We hope that **Gen Tighe** enjoyed his brief visit, and we wish him all the very best in Hong Kong.

Visit by the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations)

We were pleased to receive **Maj Gen K. Perkins** who visited the Regiment during a brief visit to BAOR. After presenting LS and GC Medals to **WO2 (RQMS) Don Brookes, Sgts 'Jock' Mathieson** and **Brian Ramsden,** he toured the Regiment and met the soldiers. He remarked that after living in the rarified atmosphere of Whitehall, it was refreshing to come down to ground level and see what things are really like!



Maj Gen Perkins presenting the LS and GC Medal to WO2 (RQMS) Brookes

EXERCISES

Exercise Able Archer is one of the high spots of our training year when the staff come out and actually try and use the facilities we provide. However, the urgency and preparation, which the front-line Squadrons experience, pale into insignificance by the spectacle of echelon's deployment into the field. In common with most echelons, ours prefers not to be found for the first few hours whilst 'things get organised'. This time there were good reasons why echelon could not be found. The gallant **Maj 'Dicky' Bird** led his men towards the sound of guns, as was his wont. Having positioned his men, he discovered that he was located in the field of fire of some German ranges. Echelon then demonstrated its capabilities of rapid mobility and re-deployment. It all goes to show that there is no substitute for the real thing.

The other group of warriors whose paces were severely stretched, was 'A' Troop, the operators of our TARE computer, led by **Maj John Cotton.** By way of experiment, the two TAREs were operated in parallel. We are told that the experiment proved successful and, judging by the flood of technical jargon which emerged, this must have been true. Informed sources state that the concept of a two (mobile) switch system is feasible which sends shudders down the spine of all 1 Sqn personnel. It would appear that the end of an era is upon us. Gone are the days of changing for dinner and excellent cuisine in elegant surroundings. Traditionalists may well weep into their soup.

SPORT ROUND-UP

Football. As holders of the Army Cup, our football team continues to live up to the standards expected of it. Its achievements so far are:

Currently placed second in the Inter-Services League;
Into the sem-final of the Rhine Area Cup; and
Into the semi-final of the BAOR Cup.

Our football officer, **Capt Bob Hope,** who occasionally performs other duties, is confident of good results this season provided the Adjutant and Records produce for him a spare goalkeeper, a striker, a replacement mid-field and four or five other assorted players. Other stipulations are a new strip, a set of go-faster track-suits from the PRI, and his team being excused all military duties for the duration of the season!

Rugby. The rugby team managed to get as far as the BAOR quarter-finals before falling to the giants, 7 Sig Regt. The team can now get on with enjoying the season without the pressures of the Army Cup, etc.

Cross-country. The cross-country team have quietly notched up one or two successes this season, coming second in Rhine Area and eighth in BAOR. They are quite well up in the league and hope to do well after Christmas when the season starts again.

SOCIAL

The Christmas Revue—Up St Tonis. A new idea which is likely to become a tradition is the last Christmas Revue, which was produced by **Cpl Rick Rickard** and stage-managed by **Capt Dougy Rumsey.** The show was produced with the utmost realism including first-night panics, tantrums by the actors, and the producer suffering ulcers, heart attacks and other occupational hazards. On the night all went well and the revue was adjudged a great success by one and all.

Many thanks went to the barmen who produced the Christmas spirit and to **Maj Barry Cox,** the compere, whose fund of old jokes proved inexhaustible. One cannot single out any particular sketch for special praise since they were all good and the 'gentle' fun poked at Regimental personalities was enjoyed by everyone. There is only one problem left to be solved—who is going to produce the next one?



RANDY ANDY PANDY

Left to right: SSM George Gay, Mrs Lynn Spink, Mrs Margret Clark

HECTIC AND TESTING

OUR annual ARU inspection was conducted this year by **Col L. P. Weeks,** the Deputy Commander of Rhine Area. As anyone from this part of the world will tell you, these occasions prove to be hectic and testing for the inspectors and inspected alike. Our day was much like anybody else's with people having to undergo BE tests and Military Proficiency tests after being inspected on parade by **Col Weeks.**

The BE test was probably the first real shock to many people's systems, especially our 2IC, **Maj Dick Hoghton,** and our QM (Tech), **Capt John Mann. Maj Hoghton** was convinced that his selection was a put-up job and threatened to wreak horrible and bloody revenge on the cad who set him up. He, nevertheless, went on to pass the test with a minute and a half to spare gaining him the nickname of the 'Galloping Major'. For those readers who are waiting to find out how **John Mann** got on, he managed to convince the inspectors that he was over age and was therefore excused.

In the afternoon we were put through some military proficiency tests. When the list of volunteers were brought out, it appeared that our CO, **Lt Col Terry Eamey,** would be required to join one of the squads. However, after some urgent consultations between the accompanying staff officer and the Adjutant it was agreed that perhaps it would be more appropriate if he could be permitted to attend **Col Weeks** on the inspection.

After all the preparations which took place during the days prior to the inspection, it was probably as well that things proved to be satisfactory and the unit was not required to present itself again in the near future. However, for those who think it's all over, the next pre-ARU inspection is in March! This is in preparation for our next ARU in 1978/79.



Sgt Howe receives his LS and GC Medal from Col Weeks after the parade on the ARU

SOCCER REPORT

Our football team is having another successful season, despite certain predictions to the contrary which were heard last September. Apart from the traditional defeat in the opening friendly of the season, the team has only lost one game so far. The Regiment is now through to the BAOR Final of the Army Challenge Cup, having beaten 3 Armd Div Eng Regt at Iserlohn.

It was, at first, doubtful whether or not the game would take place on the appointed date because the pitch lay under a very hard and icy surface. Fortunately, with some hard work by the hosts, the pitch was prepared and the match took place.

The opening minutes were marked by a series of rushing attacks by the Engineers which were swept up with professional efficiency by the back four, **Sgts Morris Nelson, Brian Parkhill, Morris Harkin** and **Derek Garrow.** By half time there was still no score but 28 Sig Regt were well on top of the game through playing simple and skilful football. Ten minutes into the second half the first goal was scored by **Sig Tony Horan** after a deep centre by **Lcpl 'Scouse' Murray** was headed across the goalmouth by **Lcpl Jimmy Scoular.** The Sappers equalised 20 minutes later after a mix-up in the Signals' penalty area, but this was immediately replied to by a second goal for the Signals scored by **Sig John Moulds.** Five minutes later the match was sealed by a goal by **Sgt Brian Parkhill.** The final score 3—1 to 28 Sig Regt.

After playing as it did in the BAOR Semi-final, the team is fairly confident that it will be defending its possession of the Army Cup in the final at Aldershot in April.

One person we would like to thank for his services to the team over the last four years is **Sig Tony Horan** who retires from the Army this month. In his place we welcome two skilful players, **Lcpl Brian Gauci** and **Sig Nick Poulton,** and we look forward to seeing them settle down in the team.

SKI-ING

Twice a year our Ops Officer, **Maj Dennis Bees,** manages to double his leave entitlement. In the summer he becomes the camp commandant of the Njmegan Marches and in the winter he runs the Regimental ski-ing in Bavaria. With the ski-ing he is assisted by the 8th Mountain Signal Battalion of the German Army, located in Murnau in Bavaria, who provide us with instructors, clothing and equipment.

Two groups, comprising of members of the Regiment, spend 14 days in Murnau being taught to ski by the soldiers of the 8th Mountain Signal Battalion. Initially instruction takes place on local nursery slopes but it is not long before they are terrorising the tourists in Oberammergau and Garmish-Partenkirchen. By the second week the more adventurous were doing parallel turns, jumps, and some not-so-controlled acrobatics. The final achievement of the two weeks' training is to graduate to the more difficult runs down the Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany. Other aspects of the fortnight were 'educational' visits to Hofbräuhaus in Munich and other lesser places of interest such as King Ludwig II's castles, Schloss Neuschwanstein, and Schloss Linderhof.

Amazingly only one person managed to injure himself in the whole four weeks and that was **Cpl Dave Savage** (ACC), the cook, who fell off the ski-drag lift. In the tangle of legs, skis and sticks something had to give and, in view of the cost of the ski equipment, some were relieved that it was his leg. This is the second time in two years that a cook has broken his leg ski-ing and our catering Warrant Officer, **WO2 'Jock' Kyne** (ACC), is considering submitting an M. and D. report.

Subalterns, as usual, came in for a certain amount of criticism. Our newly-arrived dare-devil, **2 Lt Phil Filby,** was threatened with a bill by **Maj Dennis Bees** if he broke a third pair of skis.

Everyone who went down seemed to have enjoyed themselves and they all returned looking fit and healthy. **Maj Dennis Bees** got back to his office three days after everyone else got back having remained behind to 'clear things up'. After taking one look at his in-tray, he reported sick but he was back by the afternoon. It appears that the MO would not prescribe six months at a ski-resort as a cure.

ST TONIS CARNIVAL

Every year the Regiment provides three floats for the St Tonis Carnival. The officer responsible for this is our Anglo-German Relations expert, OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Barry Cox.** Having attended the six-week Army colloquial German course, he is considered to be a fluent 'Deutsch Sprecher' by the rest of us. **Maj Cox** says that while he may be competent to discuss the merits and demerits of various weapons systems and knows the word for armoured personnel carrier or optically controlled laser guided anti-tank missile, he finds it very difficult to talk about the weather or EEC farm price subsidies. None of this cuts any ice with us—'you went on the course so you're now the official interpreter, start Anglo-Bangloring Major'.

Having ascertained the theme for this year's carnival, the floats were prepared and on the appointed day, they paraded at the start-line in St Tonis. The theme was 'It's a crazy world' and, considering the weather, which was blizzarding, and the costumes of the locals, which were scanty or thin, never was a truer word said. One soldier remarked that 'if mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun what should one think of people who go out in Arctic conditions wearing clothes more suitable for the tropics?'

All together something like 90 floats took part in the parade which threaded its way round the streets of St Tonis, ending up at the Rosental Halle, on the edge of the town. The town generously provided the floats with sweets to throw to the children but the soldiers use their for a different purpose. Their game is to spot the Adjutant, RSM, or some other popular member of the Regiment in the crowd and pelt them with a volley of boiled sweets which would have decimated a British square. Did someone say that revenge was sweet? The fun, the colour, the music, and the atmosphere all add up to a great occasion which no one should miss.

STOP PRESS

28 Sig Regt beat 28 Amphibious Regt RE in the final of the BAOR Cup. 28 Sig Regt will now meet 39 Regt RA at Aldershot on April 5 78.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

REALISTIC SIMULATION FOR HQ SQUADRON

THE programme of revision in basic first aid presented by **Sgt Bentley** to a total of 60 men warned for fire fighting, was supplemented by practice on simulated casualties of the type liable to be met in a variety of situations. Classroom practice was followed by a trip to the 30-m range. Each team was suddenly alerted by sound effects and smoke to the burning building (the gas chamber in fact) which contained the 'wounded' who required rescuing and immediate first aid treatment.

WO2 Andy Neilson and **Sgt Tom Barton,** who prepared the smoke effects, are to be congratulated on their realism which, during one incident, nearly turned five simulated casualties into real ones! **Cpl Dave James** with his make-up gear and glycerine blood, created gruesome effects which chilled the blood of passing typists.

Since it was often difficult to raise enough casualties, **Cpl Wally (Days to do!) Halstead** (IC Training Wing Typewriter) volunteered to leave his telephone and take up the splint. His head was repeatedly crashed on to the floor as his rescuers turned him to the ¾ prone position, so no simulation make-up was necessary on the third day.

Several casualties have been nominated for Oscars, particularly **Cpl John Lane,** who ran screaming from the building and managed a quarter of a mile before being stopped by one team, and **Sig Phil Shuttleworth** who remained in his blood-soaked combats all day to create an image of being butch.



Fire-fighting Training—Casualty Rescue

2 SQUADRON KENYA REPORT

Exercise Four Pence	—	**Cpl Nick Carter**
		Cpl Chris Christian
		Lcpl 'Robbo' Robinson
		Sig (TC) Tucker
		Sig Frank Evans
		Sig 'Mac' McKenzie
		Sig 'Curly' Martin
Exercise Long Stride	—	**Cpl Tony Smith**
		Cpl Dave Ogley
		Lcpl 'Robbo' Robinson (again)
		Sig Gary Stratton
		Sig S. J. Tucker

INTO BUSINESS

EXERCISE Four Pence was run by 19 Topo Troop RE, the rear link into Gibraltar along with some of the internal communications being the responsibility of **Cpl Nick Carter** and crew. On arrival in Kahawa (British Army Training and Liaison Section Base) and after a much needed night's rest, **Lcpl 'Robbo' Robinson** was left behind to set up the rear camp comms while the remainder ate dust en route to the main camp at Nanyuki at the foot of Mt Kenya. On arrival, radios and associated equipments were off-loaded and mast erection began. On completetion of the task including the ceremonial switching of the red warning light on top of the 80ft mast (to warn off low-flying budgies) the detachment settled in to their new home to await the appointed 'E' hour and establishing of communications with our anchor station Gibraltar. The radio in use being a PRC320 the mode cw and the antenna an inverted 'V' sky-hooked by courtesy of the 80ft mast.



Lcpl 'Robbo' Robinson on Exercise Four Pence at Nanyuki

Hyena problem

Meanwhile, **Sig 'Mac' McKenzie** was accompanying the survey team some 300 miles up country to Wajir (close to the Somali border) to successfully open a C11 (DSB) link back to Nanyuki. The survey team being somewhat out on a limb required weekly re-sup runs inclusive of a mobile radio link. On one such run **Cpl Nick Carter,** whilst on a wholesome diet of sand, sweat and scorpions, claims to have had a PRC320 coax eaten by a hyena! Try telling it to the 'Q'!

Some days later, **Sig 'TC' Tucker,** not to be outdone, laid claim to being the first 'camel-borne' 320 operator whilst supplying comms to another survey team visit to the Merti Plateau. (He still walks with a bounce.)

Relaxation at the coast

The exercise ended with R and R leave in Mobasa, the details of which have been censored. In all, an enjoyable and educational exercise, in fact so much so that **Lcpl Robinson** volunteered to do it all again! This time with **Cpl Tony Smith's** crew in support of Exercise Long Stride run by the KOSB. **Cpl Smith** and crew commenced the exercise by re-siting the 'V' to link with our new anchor station, Malta, and fully establishing comms within five minutes of the appointed 'E' hour. As the photograph shows, success changed him overnight. The exercise ran until **Sig Gary Stratton** had exchanged all of his clothes for wood carvings and **Cpl Tony Smith** discovered Santa Claus didn't know where they were! Armed with this information and an excellent comms link to the UK via Malta the detachment managed to arrive back in sunny Blandford on December 22 and, of course, Santa knows where Blandford is!



Cpl Tony Smith on Exercise Long Stride

3 SQUADRON

So 3 (Marie Celeste) Sqn drifts through yet another month in the chilly waters of Southern England. With a skeleton crew of 10 men as all other deckhands are fighting fires led by **Capt Graham Elliot, WO2 Mike (Dusty) Fogg, Ssgts Steve Walls, Gerry Lowe, Lcpl George Cook,** and **Sig Dave Seeley** in the stormy waters of Blackburn and Burnley.

Our other brave men are in Manchester with **Sgts Alan Jepson** and **Tom Barton** in control. We all think they should get some sort of medal, maybe an Extinguished Fire Cross or Military Blaze Expert (MBE).

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

It has been difficult to keep up with all the comings and goings in the Regiment recently. We said a sad farewell to **Capt Robin Dodman,** our Asst Ops Officer, who left us in November for the sunnier climes of Cyprus; we hope he enjoys his tour with 9 Sig Regt and the Keo brandy!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Our Adjutant, **Capt Derek Hadden,** has been whistling Canadian airs since he finished his PQS2 examination. He left us on December 16, 1977, to join 1st Canadian Sig Regt for a two-year exchange. **Derek** has stayed in Blandford for two years and watched 90 per cent of the Regiment travel half way around the world, now it is his turn, and we wish him luck in the future. The new Adjutant is **Capt Bob West.** He and his wife, **Mary,** arrived from 22 Sig Regt on December 2, 1977, and soon got into the swing of things by going to our Regimental Ladies Night on his first evening here—rumour has it he took over his quarter in Mess kit.

There have been two new arrivals in 3 Sqn, **Lt Gerry Corbet** and his wife, **Anne,** joined us from RMCS Shrivenham, and **2 Lt Paul Nicholson-Taylor** and his wife, **Allyson,** joined us from Sandhurst.

Our Unit Resettlement Officer, **2 Lt Christine Nicholls** (WRAC), left in February for a six-month tour in Northern Ireland. We hope she has enjoyed her year with the Regiment and we are sorry to see her go; we welcome her successor, **2 Lt Liz Kennedy** (WRAC).

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VALE

IT is with sadness and regret that we submit these last notes from the Squadron to the pages of THE WIRE. On December 31, 1977, another independent Signal Squadron published its final Part 2 and 3 Orders and lowered its flag for the last time (or would have done if some undiscovered souvenir hunter had not removed it earlier during the run-down).

A MEMORABLE YEAR

However, the final year in the history of the Squadron has been a memorable one in many ways. The highlight, of course, was the Jubilee Parade which has been well recorded in a previous edition.

PROJECT RHINE 77

The Squadron built its own raft and entered the Rhine Raft Race from Mannheim to Bonn over six days in August. This project was designed to assist a group of civilians from Solihull to raise money for charity. The team of ten men, organised by LAD **Sgt Tony Curtis,** assisted by some of their wives and a three-man support squad, completed the gruelling course in fine form and, in doing so, raised DM1000 for the Solihull Handicapped Children's Home.



The Rhino Raft

Left to right. Standing: Cfn Bates, Cfn Scott, Cpl McPeake, Cpl Wood *Kneeling:* Lcpl Wooff, Lcpl Campbell, Sig Caine, Sgt Curtis, Kevin, Cfn Fishwick

PERSONALITIES

Maj Danny Fisher arrived in Brigade Headquarters in January as the Brigade Major. He is, we believe, only the third Royal Signals officer since the war to achieve this distinction.

Both of our Warrant Officers Class I from the RAOC were appointed Conductor last summer. **WO1 Howard,** the Brigade Superintending Clerk, leaves Soest shortly for HQ Scotland, whilst **WO1 Brown,** BOWO, became the third Warrant Officer from the Squadron to be commissioned during the year. His commission was preceded by those of **WO1 'Paddy' O'Hara** (REME) and **WO1 Ken Stewart** (RSM). Our congratulations and best wishes accompany them in their new lives in the Officers Mess.

RESTRUCTURING

Under the authority of General Staff Order R109/77 the Squadron re-designated and re-formed as part of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on December 31, 1977. Apart from doing much of the spade-work on behalf of 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt for their occupation of St Sebastian Barracks, the Squadron's main task was to form two task force signal troops. Most of the existing equipment was diverted to Task Force Echo Signal Troop which was formed under **Capt Mike Podmore** and handed over to **Capt John Cook** at the beginning of October. By mid-October this Troop moved to its new home in Paderborn. Task Force Foxtrot Signal Troop, commanded by **Capt Tez Fish,** had a more prolonged birth due to equipment shortfalls. Most of its equipment was to be obtained from other units as they, themselves, restructured. Nevertheless, it moved, one week ahead of schedule, to Salamanca Barracks early in November.

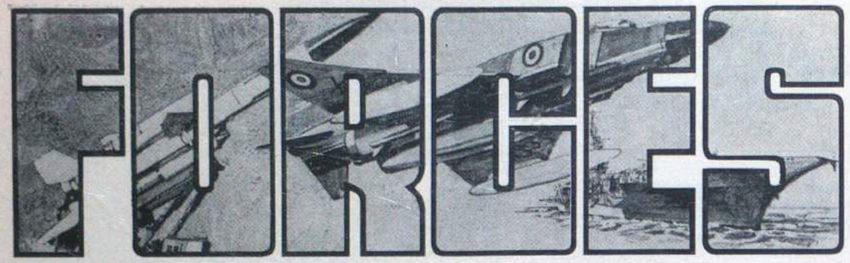
FINALE

Disbandment Church services were held in both churches on Sunday, December 4, to mark the passing of both the Squadron and the Brigade Headquarters. Moving ceremonies took place as the stained-glass window was presented to St Luke's Church and an altar cloth to the Holy Trinity RC Church. The services were followed by excellent farewell lunches in the Officers Mess, the WOs and Sgts Mess and in the Junior Ranks Club.

In closing, we would like to wish all ranks associated with 206 Sqn all happiness and success in the future and also we welcome 3 Armd Div Sig Regt to Soest, trusting they find it the happy station we left behind.



The Stained Glass Window
The OC with Padre John Bolton



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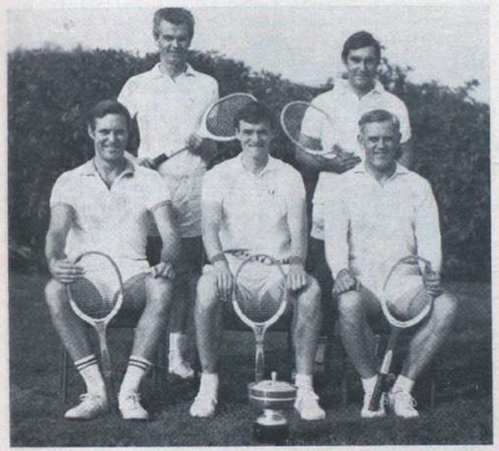
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(Don't worry if you're not on the phone. We'll be in touch.)

SERIES OF SPORTING SUCCESSES

1977 was a year of outstanding achievement in the field of sport. The soccer team, ably trained and organised by **Ssgt (Y of S) Ewan Douglas** and captained with flair and courage by **Sgt John Wooders,** won the 4 Div Minor Units (South) League again. The all-star hockey team won the 4 Div Cup. The cricket team carried off the 4 Div and BAOR Championships, well captained by the OC, **Maj Stephen Carr-Smith,** and assisted by some fine individual performances, particularly that of **Capt Maurice Stock** in the BAOR final. **Capt Mike Podmore** led the tennis team to success in the 4 Div Championships.

But it was the athletics team, emulating their predecessors in 1975, which carried all before them winning the Brigade Minor Units Cup, the 4 Div Minor Units Cup, and the BAOR Minor Units Cup, and sharing the Morrison Cup with 5 Fd Force Sig Sqn and the Army Athletics Championship with 6 Fd Force Sig Sqn. Much credit is due to **Capt Tez Fish, Ssgt Mick Gue** and **Lcpl Chris Wooff** for training and organising so successful a squad and to **Sig 'Dobbo' Dobson** who represented the Junior Combined Services against Wales.



4 Division Champions—Tennis
Standing: Capt White, Cpl Young
Seated: Maj Carr-Smith, Capt Podmore, Brig Perkins
Absent: Maj Phillip



BAOR Champions—Cricket
Left to right. Standing: Cpl Howard, Capt Tulloch, Cpl Mallinson, Cpl Feakins, Lcpl Wooff, Lt Proctor, Sgt Cusack, WO2 Parry *(umpire)*
Seated: Cpl Ritchie, Brig Perkins, Maj Carr-Smith, Capt Stock, Sgt Cooper



Army Champions—Athletics
Left to right. Standing: Sig Yeomans, Capt Podmore, Sig Preece, Cpl Robinson, Sigs Shirley, Strefford
Seated: Cpl Matulewicz, Ssgt Gue, Maj Carr-Smith, Capt Fish, Lcpl Bergin, Sig Dobson

Keep your unit notes **SHORT!**

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP



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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

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6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn

Aldershot

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj C. D. A. Blessington**
2IC	—	**Capt P. Richards**
G3 Signals	—	**Maj D. J. Case**
QM	—	**Capt J. G. Turner**
Admin Officer	—	**Capt H. A. C. Meekings**
TCO	—	**Capt J. Matthews** (RCT)
OC 'A' Troop	—	**Capt M. Martin-Rhind**
OC 'C' Troop	—	**Capt P. L. McDouall**
RSM	—	**WO1 T. R. Gainford**
F of S	—	**WO1 N. Cowell**
	—	**Ssgt J. McKay**
Y of S	—	**WO2 G. F. Devine**
RQMS	—	**WO2 J. McGovern**
Chief Clerk	—	**Ssgt J. G. Roberts**

NEW TERRITORY

IN early December the Squadron was warned for fire duties starting on January 4, 1978. Plans for Christmas went ahead and all looked forward to a Christmas at home. However, the firemen had other ideas and reinforcements were required in South Wales. Plans had to be hastily changed and after most of the unit snatched a few days' leave they underwent crash courses at Blackdown and Portsmouth before going to Wales.

In Wales the Squadron deployed five crews to Cardiff, Neath, Swansea, and Abercynon. The main base was at The Grange TAVR Centre in Mumbles, some three miles from Swansea town centre. The centre overlooked Swansea Bay and provided a home for eight full crews, SHQ, QM Department and Cooks. These crews formed the 'Flying Column' for South Wales, being responsible for tackling major blazes in the factories, chemical works and refineries which abound on the South Coast. Elsewhere the crew were responsible for normal fire station duties and coped with the routine crop of chimney fires, chip-pan, and house fires. On December 19 all plans for a normal Christmas abandoned, the Squadron settled into the various locations and prepared itself for whatever lay ahead.

ON THEIR TOES

At 'The Grange' four Green Goddesses, christened Venus, Diana, Helen and Electra, were put through their paces daily. Under the expert and benevolent eye of **Bill Dancey,** the Chief Fire Officer for West Glamorgan, the crews quickly became competent and eager to be put to the test. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, the column was never called out as a whole. Crew and column exercises and competitions kept everybody on their toes and by the end of the strike the watches, which made up the column, became very skilful.

A daily routine was quickly imposed. The on-going duty watch trained in the morning and played indoor sports in the afternoon. The remainder started the day with a lung-bursting road run followed by military training after breakfast. The delights of the Swansea Leisure Centre were sampled in the afternoon and on high days and holidays special outings were arranged.



Photo courtesy: K. G. Lewis

Left to right: Dvr Moffat, Cfn Glazebrook, Lcpl Smith, Cpl Laws, Sig Kaye



Photo courtesy: K. G. Lewis

Left to right: Sgt Spier, Sig Jevons, Cpl Hodgson, Lcpl Hamilton, Sig Gibbons, Sig Lees



Photo courtesy: K. G. Lewis

Left to right: Cpl Rhodes, Sig Shiels, Sig Diamond, Sig Stewart, Lcpl Ashworth, Sgt Joanes



Photo courtesy: K. G. Lewis

The Grange Flying Column



Sig Cambell 'squirts' while Cpl Dutton can't bear to look

SUCCESSFUL OLD PEOPLE'S PARTY

On Christmas Eve the two detachments at Abercynon threw a very successful party for the Old People's Home when over 30 old people attended. A full traditional spread was prepared by **Sgt Dadd,** on loan from the Depot ACC, and the meal was served by the men of the detachment assisted by **Mrs Jill Joanes,** the newly-wed wife of **Sgt Nick Joanes,** who was spending Christmas with **Mrs Betty Harris,** Matron of the Home. After the meal the lads entertained the old folks to an *ad hoc* concert of what they could remember from their repertoire of acceptable songs, carols and recitations.

EPIC MATCH

After 'gunfire' on Christmas morning a game of gentle murder ball was played on the Mumbles beach. Twenty-four-a-side and no rules. At the end of this epic match the officers, less the OC, who was still looking for the TAVR minibus which **Sig Hill** had so carelessly lost, were invited to swim in the sea. **Sig Warren** went to chat up the nurses at the Singleton Hospital who in turn strapped up his dislocated shoulder and sent him home again.

COMMANDER FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Brig Mike Gray, Commander 6 Fd Force, joined the Squadron for lunch on Christmas Day. He visited the crews at Richardson Road and Cardiff before flying home in his Scout helicopter.

On Boxing Day, the off-duty watch at 'The Grange' threw a party for children from several local Children's Homes. Presents, balloons, crackers, and a slap-up tea were all provided. The kids swarmed over the Green Goddesses and the soldiers, leaving everyone and everything at the end of the afternoon looking very much the worse for wear.



Cpl Galbraith, Sig Clarke, Cpl Aitken, Cfn Harris, Sig Malpass, Sig Hill, Sig Deegan, Capt McDouall



The OC, Maj Blessington, supervises one of the rough games



Sig Wiltshire 'supervises' the children

The excesses of Christmas were quickly dissipated as the morning runs continued relentlessly. Mystery tour of Mumbles, led by **Lt 'Mumbles' Charters** (Int Corps) were considered a high point in the programme, by those connoisseurs of pace and gradient at the back of the squad. A new phrase 'To Mumble' was coined. This means to run round and around a town, originally Mumbles, until even the most shattered squaddie at the back recognises through a haze of sweat that he has been here before. To complete a 'Mumbles' you must achieve this last at least three miles from home. After appropriate exclamations and invectives which cannot be printed here, everyone heads, at last, for home.

Other diversions included Bergen marches across the Gower Peninsular led by **Capt 'America' McDouall** and **Lt Moray Martin-Rhind.** The spectacular scenery was not appreciated half as much as the cool beer in the pubs at the end. **Ssgt Bott** impressed everyone by his speed and agility in outrunning a bull during the first of the marches. He cleared a barbed-wire fence with a Bergen on his back in a style that would have left Harvey Smith gasping with admiration. It is reported that he even lifted two fingers in the inimitable Harvey Smith salute to the bull from the safe side of the fence.

THE LEG PULL

2 Lt H joined the Squadron from the cloistered halls of the School of Signals on December 28. It was to be a day he would long remember. On arrival he was briefed by the OC that he was to become a crew commander of a Green Goddess in preparation for assuming eventual command of the column.

Lcpl Chas Smith, alias **Lt David Charters,** explained what he was required to do in the event of a call out and made him sign for the Goddess. Minutes later there was a call out, as Dawson's Warehouse was on fire and the column was required to turn out. Seconds later the crews tumbled into the fire engines and roared out of 'The Grange'. All crews except one that is, for **Lt H's** engine had considerable difficulty in starting. No one knew where the warehouse was and the fifty or so maps that **Cpl (Ssgt) Adam** thrust into his lap didn't appear to be very helpful. The heap of maps, the comments of the crew, and the requirement to ring the bell didn't help either. However, it was a simple matter to follow the rest of the engines who presumably knew where they were going. It was therefore a pity that whereas they all turned left towards the centre of Swansea that **Lt H's** driver, now totally confused, turned right and lurched off towards Mumbles. **Cpl (Ssgt) Jeffery** seemed to have a considerable amount of trouble in keeping going and eventually the engine died in the middle of the road outside the Pilot Inn. After a heated discussion it was decided to telephone for a mechanic from the pub. In less time than it takes to relate, the crew abandoned the Goddess and charged into the pub to discuss the problem further with the help of a pint of beer and make the necessary telephone call. **Lt H** explained his predicament to **Capt 'Chaos' Richards** at 'The Grange' and, surprisingly enough, got very little sympathy. He was told that a mechanic was on the way but that in the meantime he was to remain with the vehicle. In the pub the crew were just beginning to enjoy their beer and contemplating ordering a second round whilst **Lt H**

and a frustrated driver were being harangued by an irate FBU Picquet outside. **Capt 'America' McDouall,** dressed as an FBU Picquet, lectured **Lt H** on the Firemen's cause and the inadvisability of strike breaking which, in his opinion, was borne witness by the presence of the engine outside the pub.

Capt Richards now arrived and asked **Lt H** to explain himself. 'What are you doing here? The fire is in Swansea and by now probably out of control. Where are the crew?' When told that they were all in the pub drinking he was told in no uncertain terms that he was in dereliction of duty and totally irresponsible. The crew was to be removed from the pub immediately.

Meanwhile, the OC and the BM, who had that day come to Wales on a visit, had been viewing the proceedings with vast amusement from the safety of a row of boats on the sea wall. They quietly made their way into the pub and awaited events. Seconds later, **Lt H,** now at the end of his tether, burst into the pub and demanded that everyone should leave immediately. To his consternation, no one seemed to take much notice. It took some few minutes to realise that neither the OC nor the BM, who had somehow managed to come on the scene, were in the slightest bit concerned. On the contrary they seemed to be enjoying some huge joke. Then the penny dropped.

It is fair to say that since that day **Lt H** has been furnished with a more tractable crew and has acquitted himself well.

Perhaps the moral of the story is that one should never assume that things are as they appear to be.

FIREMEN TURN OUT

These were the lighter side of the fire duties. In a more serious vein, although the Flying Column had only one emergency to deal with, the crews at other locations attended a considerable number, some of which were very serious. All acquitted themselves well and earned the praise of the Chief Fire Officers of their districts and firemen who turned out despite the strike.

BACK TO NORMAL

On January 16 the firemen resumed work. Three days later the Goddesses were handed back and the Squadron returned to Aldershot and normal duties. Meanwhile, back in Aldershot, **Capt Meekings** took over the Wives Club to tell all the wives how rough it was for their men in Wales. After the news and goings on had been told (without revealing too much) the talk got round to how much new arrivals enjoyed PT and road runs. (Ex-members of 216 Para Sig Sqn note—we are still strolling around Long Valley and Trig Point).

UNBEATEN RUGGER RECORD

The rugby team, captained by **WO1 (RSM) ('Who said I was too old?') Gainford,** continues to maintain an unbeaten record, and has now reached the semi-finals of the Army Minor Units Cup Competition. The entire team is worthy of note, but to name a few we are fortunate enough to be able to field such stalwarts as **Sgts Roger Williams** and **Pete Bundock** from the RAF Detachment, and from 'Y' Vigilant Pl, the 'Scourges of Aldershot', **Sgts Steve Tyrer** and **Graham Colbeck,** together with **'Thug' O'Connell.** 'Jimmy' wearers who are always prominent, include **Cpls Sandy (Mr Spock) Sandford** and **Tommy Aitken, Sgt Nick Joanes,** and, of course, **WO1 'Geordie' Gainford.** An impressive score sheet (and not against soft opposition either), reads:

Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Points For*	*Points Against*
20	20	0	665	38

HOCKEY THRIVING

Squadron hockey has been thriving this season, both indoor and outdoor. The indoor hockey has been very successfully organised by **Capt John Turner,** achieving runners-up in the Inter-Corps Championships for which three unit members participated. Following that success, **Ssgt 'Taff' Roberts** and **Sgt Wayne Ardern** deserve particular mention for having been selected for the Combined Services team.

Outdoor hockey has been organised by **Capt Phillip McDouall** and to date the Squadron team has reached the fourth round of the Army Cup, the semi-finals of the South-East District Knock-out, and is top of the local league. Amongst the top goal scorers are **Sgt 'Ginge' Whittick** and **Cpl Gary Sumner,** although we must not forget our stalwart defenders consisting of **Capt Harry Meekings, Ssgt Fagg** and **WO2 Jim McGovern,** without whom we could not be where we are.

Played	*Won*	*Drawn*	*Lost*	*Goals For*	*Goals Against*
13	11	2	0	35	7

WATER JUMP

Everyone's idea of fun must be to jump into the water in Poole Harbour in December. The jump was organised by Force HQ as a farewell present to **Maj Hings,** who was on a three-month exchange scheme from Bulmers Cider. Three of the Squadron managed to jump after a lot of devious negotiations with the RAF Despatchers—**WO2 (Y of S) George Devine, Ssgt 'Taff' Roberts** and **Sgt Wayne Ardern.** They made it, for they just happen to be the sneakiest and most close mouthed in keeping it to themselves. It was a beautiful day as the Hercules circled over the harbour with **Ssgt Alan Bott** and **Sgt Graham Manning** observing on the tail gate as the jumpers exited in the armchair exit out of the back. The water looked almost inviting when the intrepid trio approached the tail gate on action stations. **Ssgt Alan Bott,** who was 'helping' **Ssgt 'Taff' Roberts** to adjust his harness, managed to open the zip in the immersion suit before **'Taff'** left the Hercules shouting 'Ghandi' (never could get that Indian's name right!). It meant a very wet Welshman vowing vengeance. It also meant that he had to have a few drinks to combat the cold. He got so warm he had trouble moving. The RSM, who was in the safety boat to welcome the jumpers, had to be dissuaded from giving him 'Five' for a bad landing.



Ssgt Roberts about to get wet on the water jump

RE-ROLE

Chutes away. Bayonets out.
Your role has changed for ever.
You that once were borne on air
Your wings are clipped but don't despair
You're birds of a different feather.

The Dodo's dead, he couldn't fly.
The Penguin he can't either.
He uses wings beneath the ice
And swims and glides with this device
To survive the cold, cold weather.

The Dodo's dead. He couldn't fight.
A loser altogether.
His beak blunt, his wings bent,
Surplus to establishment,
He disappeared for ever.

Emulate the Penguin now
You Paratroopers bold
Keep the airborne spirit up,
Forget that you've been sold a pup,
And keep out of the cold.

Survival is the keyword now
No need to be extinct
Bayonets out and to the fore,
Every soldier knows the score,
Re-role before you sink.

ANON.

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

DEPARTURES

THE Squadron was the last unit in the Brigade to say farewell to **Brig R. F. Vincent,** our late Brigade Commander. Often these events are only remembered for the quantity of free ale quaffed by the lads. This event will be remembered for other things. **Brig Vincent** has always been well known for getting straight to the nub of a situation. It was gratifying for us to hear him tell us that his principal worry as to the welfare of the whole Brigade was that, in the past, we had always seemed to have been taken for granted. However, now with 1,200 of the Brigade involved in fire-fighting from Edinburgh to London and 1,800 on operation tours worldwide it was impossible for the public not to admit we existed. The whole affair was brought to an excellent conclusion by the presentation of a carving of the Brigade motif 'The Black Panther' sculpted by the Squadron Commander, **Maj I. E. Kerr.**



Squadron Commander, Maj I. E. Kerr, presents Brig R. F. Vincent with a carved memento of his time spent commanding 19 Brigade

PROMOTIONS

This last period has seen the promotion of numerous NCOs to sergeant. **Sgt 'Mac' McFarlane** (RCT) shortly to be posted to Army School of Transport Leconfield, **Sgt Gary Hull** (RCT) now serving with Junior Leaders Taunton and, from the Corps, **Sgts Bill Pounder** and **'Postie' Robertson** due for posting to 30 Sig Regt and 6 Fd Force Sig Sqn, respectively.

EXERCISE AVON EXPRESS

This Exercise brought us a degree of cheer for a job well done and a few memories some would rather forget. The early, 0630 am, runs were really enjoyed by all those unable to attend them. The remainder of us suffered the novelty of hills, in striking contrast to the flatness of Colchester. International relations were fluent, or do I mean fluid, to say the least.

Our radio detachments managed to maintain their usual standard in support of other units. Going on other people's Exercises seems to be the Squadron's contribution to flexible response. **Lt Crowther, Lcpl McCartney** and **Sig Street** at a reserve demolition guard gave the Americans an object lesson in the gentle art of camouflage. Even the RAF did not spot them. Unfortunately, they would probably have been killed by the misses as all the other available targets around them were engaged so they were DS'ed out of the exercise. All in all, it was a good exercise which will probably be best remembered for the party on the last night and the strippers' particular attention to the OC and **ASM Burnett.**

FIRE-FIGHTING

As soon as the vehicles were back in their garages we were off for fire-fighting training. In the end, over 100 all ranks were involved throughout the remainder of the strike. We occupied nine stations in Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire. In deference to those in Oakham we will admit that Rutland has not yet completely disappeared. Indeed, going through the town centre one is greeted by a Travel Bureau calling itself Rutland Air Travel Ltd. I believe the end of the runway is in Leicestershire. The locations have brought their own joy and some tribulation. The lads at the RAVC Centre at Melton Mowbray complained that their accommodation seemed to have gone to the dogs. Whilst in RAF Brampton the lads were being admirably looked after by RAF Support Command and some of the support looked very nice, one heard. Not all the stations were on military establishments, indeed, at Coalville we were accommodated in the very first Community Centre to be opened in England, and it was good to see that the community was still thriving.



Merry Christmas from Wisbech
Dvr Ball (RCT), Cpl Bincliffe, Lcpl Battle (RPC), Cpl Smyth, Pte Fogatt (ACC), Lcpl Reynolds, Ssgt Boulby

Where ever they were serving at Christmas, all the lads said they were well treated though none would admit that the Christmas dinner was better than Mum's. Perhaps she reads THE WIRE! In fact, the station at Hinckley complained that they had so many visitors they could not sit down to Christmas lunch until 4 pm. Not many amusing incidents as every fire call-out was someone's personal grief. However, some of the lads were enjoying the novelty of working in close liaison with the police. After one fire the crew kindly washed down a police car covered in ash. Unfortunately, one window was still open!

The strike is over. We hope to take some belated Christmas leave, and then get down to formation training and the involved process of building 7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn from the ashes of the last Airptbl Sig Sqn.

SPORT

There have not been many opportunities for sport recently but our hockey team seems to be gathering momentum. Their last game was against 35 Central Workshops which the Squadron team won 4—3. **Lt Cronin** (Int Corps) scored a hat trick and **Cpl Anderson** sewed the match up in our favour.

EVEN BETTER TRAVEL BARGAINS FOR FORCES

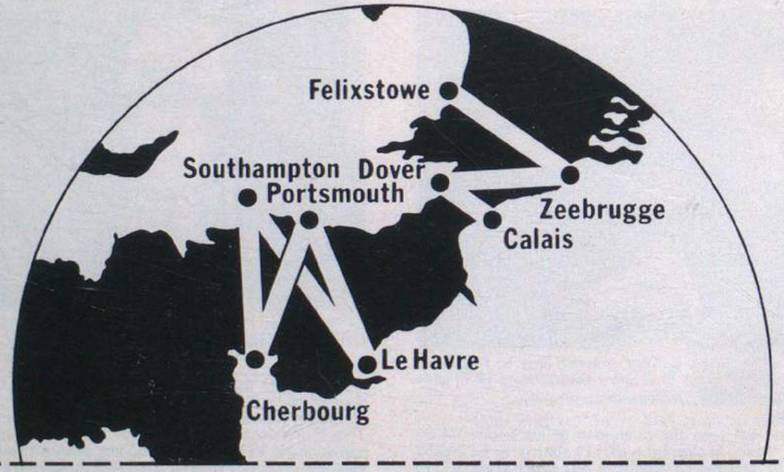
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234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

HAIL AND FAREWELL

WE welcome to the unit **Capt Bob** and **Mrs Jackie Drake,** also **Cpl Pete Acton** and **Lcpl Bob Lee.** We say a sad farewell to **Capt Alistair** and **Karin Clark** who are going walkabout in Holland, **Cpl Mick Hamilton** and **Sig Kev Smith.** Redundancy again points its finger to our LEPs and we lose **Cpl George Zammit** and **Sig Charlie Chetcuti,** two others leave on retirement these being **Sgt Salvu Privitera** after 27 years' service, and **Cpl Mike Zammit** after 22 years' service, to all we wish the best for the future.

SPONSORED WALK FOR JUBILEE APPEAL FUND

In our November notes we promised a photograph of our sponsored walk organiser, **Karin Clark,** handing over more money for a good cause. However, the sands of time have run out for **Karin** who, at the time of going to press, will be somewhere between Malta and Maastricht. Instead, we publish a photograph of **Beverley Peel** and **Martin Forster,** the two youngest participants who individually raised the most money, £49·34 and £57·89, respectively. The total collected was £415 and this is to be sent to the Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund as the Army in Malta contribution. Well done all who took part and all who gave so generously.



FESTIVAL OF SPORT

As a lead up to the festive season the SSM, **WO2 Brian Davies,** organised a 'get rid of the flab' competition, this included football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, and hockey. All Troops entered teams including the Army Elements; after many hard-fought encounters (a broken collar bone and wrist being proof of this) SHQ Troop emerged as overall winners, taking three of the five events, TM Troop being a close second. To wind up this 'festival of sport' a football match was held on December 30 between a team from the Officers and SNCOs versus the Junior Ranks, this ended in a 2—1 win for the Top Brass. Afterwards, the OC Squadron, **Maj Eddie Pickup,** presented trophies to team captains.

Footnote: The SSM, encouraged by the success of the above forms of torture, is now going one better and is organising a 'Super Stars' competition.

Rugby

Show the correct-shaped ball to six footballers and two hockey players, add seven real players and there you have the Squadron Rugby XV! The Squadron team under the management of **Sgt Brian Neil** and **Cpl Dave Tarrant** is keeping Army Rugby alive on the island. Our sole defeat this year came at the hands of the RAF 'B' by 8—4, when we played with 13 men for most of the game and were very unlucky to lose. In the next game against an Overseas XV we avenged the defeat in a very fast match, winning by 34—4 with **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies** scoring a hat-trick of tries. The latest game resulted in an 18—0 win over a College's section, a game in which the Army was dominant throughout.

All members have played very well and, hopefully, we may be able to do well in the inter-Service games next month.

SERGEANT'S 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sgt Salvu Privitera, of Gzira, recently retired from the Army after more than 27 years of service. At an informal gathering at St David's Barracks, Mtarfa, **Sgt Privitera** was presented with a 234 Sig Sqn Plaque by the Officer Commanding, **Maj E. Pickup.** He was also presented with a watch and briefcase by his colleagues in the Quartermaster's Department and the Squadron.



Sgt Privitera enlisted in the REME in November 1950, transferring to the Royal Signals in March 1956. He has served in Cyprus and the United Kingdom, and was awarded the LS and GC Medal in March 1969.

WIVES CLUB

The Wives Club held their final Christmas Dinner in the WOs and Sgts Mess. The ladies, led by **Mrs Valerie Pickup,** sat down at beautifully-laid tables and were served a Christmas Toast by a team of waiters (all Mess members) who will hire out for a small fee. After dinner, the ladies invited their husbands to join them to a Disco Dance, all in all, a complete success.



'Waiters of the Year' awards go to:
Left to right. Back row: Sgts James, Gentles, Parish, Stadius, Ssgts Benson, Peel (B. G.), Sgt Murray
Front row: Sgt Still, WO2 Moody, Ssgt Grech
Absent: WO1 Forster, WO2 Davies, WO2 Tranter

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	—	**Maj M. H. Priestley**
2IC/Traffic Officer	—	**Maj (Tfc) A. J. D. Davies**
OC 'SWS' Troop	—	**Capt (TOT) N. Walker**
OC Commcen	—	**Lt C. Buchanan** (WRAC)
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) T. Mumford**

HONOURS AND AWARDS

IN spite of its small numbers the Squadron has done well recently for honours and awards. **Sgt M. P. Munn,** who was until recently Station Supervisor of the ACE HIGH station at Saxa Vord, was awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours' List for outstanding service in that remote location for a long period.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals have been awarded to **WO1 (F of S) Trevor Kay,** Station Supervisor at Mormond Hill; **WO2 Jan Hagon** (WRAC) of the Edinburgh Commcen; **Ssgt Frank Cowley,** Station Supervisor at Buchan; **Sgt Jack Pow,** at Squadron HQ; and **Lcpl Basil Shaw** (ACC) of Collafirth Hill.

OPERATION BURBERRY

Although none of the members of the Squadron were actually deployed on fire-fighting duties, a number of teleprinter terminals were opened to deal with increased message traffic, and some switchboards went on to 24 hours working. At Dumfries the Fire Controller's duties were taken over by service personnel. These extra tasks were made possible by reinforcements, mainly WRAC, from other units of 2 Signal Group.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

The inspection was carried out last year on December 6 by Commander Lowlands, **Brig B. M. Hamilton, MBE.** The photograph shows him presenting the LS and GC Medal to **Sgt Jack Pow. Ssgt (F of S) Duncan MacPhail** is in the background, acting as Medal Orderly.



Brig B. M. Hamilton, MBE, Commander Lowlands, presenting the LS and GC Medal to Sgt J. M. C. Pow, Radio Technician at Squadron HQ. Ssgt (F of S) D. MacPhail in the background



Commander Lowlands, Brig B. M. Hamilton, MBE, speaking to Pte Wendy Hawkins. Also in picture are WO2 (SSM) T. Mumford, WO2 J. B. Hagon (WRAC) (*concealed behind the Brigadier*), Pte Wiltshire, Lcpl Smith and Pte Banks



ARU Inspection, December 6, 1977
Commander Lowlands, Brig B. M. Hamilton, MBE, inspecting the Squadron Guard
Left to right: Sgt L. Collins, Guard Commander, SSM T. Mumford, Sig Richardson, Cpl T. Hague and Sig Ringsell

EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

The Squadron's annual task of providing the sound for the Tattoo was simplified this year by the purchase of new PA equipment by the Edinburgh Corporation which enabled 'SWS' Troop to cover the audience with 400W of hi-fi sound. Every year there is some complication; this time it was the need for one of the Marines on the death slide from the Castle ramparts to the Esplanade, to broadcast over the PA system while he was sliding down!

EDINBURGH COMMCEN

After a temporary move during refurbishment, Edinburgh Commcen returned to its new-look accommodation, very satisfied with the improved facilities.

CAN YOU HELP

Major M. H. Priestley, R Signals is writing the History of Scottish Command Signals and would like to hear from anyone who has served in the Unit and 242 Signals Squadron, particularly anyone who was serving between 1943-1946. Please write to 242 Signal Squadron, HQ Scotland (Army), Edinburgh EH1 2YX.

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244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

Officer Commanding	—	**Maj A. L. W. G. Steane**
2IC	—	**Capt J. R. Cadwallader**
OC 'A'	—	**Capt J. Boyle**
OC 'B'	—	**Capt V. G. Strivens**
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) A. G. Morgan**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) P. Hardwick**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) J. E. Lovell**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) M. Coley**
Chief Clerk	—	**Ssgt F. A. Brown**
Troop Staff-Sergeant	—	**Ssgt J. D. Welch**

VISIT OF COMMANDER

ON January 19 **Col Bob Benbow,** Comdr 1 Signal Group, paid his first visit to the Squadron since assuming technical and administrative control of us. During the visit he was shown around the Squadron by the OC, **Maj Leslie Steane.** At a small ceremony in the Bird 'n' Hand **Col Benbow** presented the cups for the Outstanding Signalman and JNCO of 1977. **Mike Donaldson** won the Signalman's Cup, which, as he is on exercise in Norway, was received on his behalf by **Sgt 'Paddy' Conlon. Cpl Fred Kirk** was awarded the JNCO Cup and made the Commander very envious when he told him of his posting to Hong Kong—lucky devil.



Sgt 'Paddy' Conlon receiving the Outstanding Signalman Cup on behalf of Sig Mike Donaldson



Col Bob Benbow talking to members of the Squadron

VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

The SO in C, **Maj Gen Alistair Anderson,** visited us on February 2. Flying in by helicopter the SO in C was greeted by the Acting Station Commander in the VIP lounge after landing amongst the RAF transport fleet and our own Concorde. After a very slick presentation of the Squadron's unique role



The SO in C enjoying a joke with Squadron officers

the OC showed **Gen Anderson** around a demonstration of our Air Support Communications. To emphasise the varied nature of our work **Cpl Chris Ball** was in Arctic clothing and **Fl/Lt Martin Wooldridge** (RAF), OC MAOT, was shivering in his RAF uniform.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY OTC

One of the Squadron's more pleasant duties is that of Affiliated Unit to the Oxford UOTC. As we have just written the report for 1977 we thought we would point out that the Royal Signals Troop of this OTC have produced six officers for the Corps in the last 18 months—which is a tribute to the efforts of **SSM John Bonnett** and perhaps, a comment on the help given by **Capt Jack Boyle's** 'Alfa' Troop over that time.

CONCORDE

Several members of the Squadron have been for a trip on Concorde during pilot training here at Brize Norton. Our ex-Chief Clerk, **Charlie Donnelly,** somehow managed to get a trip—because he took the message from Admin Wing? **Sigs John Moody, Clive Aldersley** and **'Ossie' Osborne** as well as **RQMS Pete Hardwick** have been up.

They all agree—it's GREAT.

'M' Troop

We in 'Mike' Troop are in the midst of the annual telecomms inspection but as usual the REME inspecting team have never seen an SR C15!

Due to reorganisation the Troop strength is gradually diminishing. We will be losing **Sgt Dick Henderson** who is posted to Berlin. It's rumoured that when he heard of his posting his face actually broke into a grin. **Sgt Des Welham** will also be leaving shortly. He tells me he hasn't found a job yet but his best offer so far has been as an assistant to the tea-maker's mate at a well-known British car manufacturers. **Sgt Bob Botfish** is also leaving the Army. He's hoping to work in a bank in Worcester so that he can count his redundancy money in safety. **Sgt Richard Harvey** is also leaving the Army in a few months. He hasn't yet decided on a job outside but HGV 1 seems to be the topic of conversation at the moment.

Sgt 'Uncle Eric' Stevens is IC the radio section of the workshop. His career in the Army is quickly drawing to a close. I'm told that he's writing his memoirs which are entitled, 'The British Army 1890–1978'. **Sgt Graham Wrigley** was involved in a slight accident in the gym a few months ago. He dislocated his third finger and had a number of stitches in his hand. He had to return to hospital after a number of weeks for a second operation as it was taking a considerable time to heal. What did they find? Small segments of gold from his ring. Needless to say, his nickname is now 'Goldfinger'! **Lcpl John Bathe,** with the help of his wife, has successfully produced a son. He also completed successfully a detachment commander's course and then duly vanished on leave for a week. I've heard that the 'Boots' in Carterton is completely sold out of hair restorer.

Lcpl Neil Brady was promoted to Corporal last month. The techs in the workshop say that they are still waiting for the celebration! **Cpl Brady** is now the unofficial unit photographer. The photographs accompanying this article are the fruits of his labour. **Sgt Mike Partridge,** after that long spell in Kenya has finally settled down complete with a wife, slippers, dog, and pipe.

DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to our Yeoman, **WO2 John Lovell,** who leaves us on promotion. Congratualtions, **John.** The last time that I wrote these notes I was saying goodbye to the previous Y of S **(George Lile)** who was also being posted on promotion to WO1. Yeomen please note, if you want to get on, apply for a posting to 244.

Shortly after the Yeoman goes we have the very sad duty of saying farewell to our RSM, **Tony Morgan,** who has done a great deal for the Squadron in his time here. Good luck in 16 Sig Regt, Sir.

Finally, goodbye to our Chief Clerk, **Sgt Charlie Donnelly,** who is posted to Cyprus—we wish him well and hope his knees are brown by the time he reads this.

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 567

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj F. C. Lettin** (Designate **Maj R. Hood**)
2IC	—	**Capt S. E. T. Sherman**
Comms Officer	—	**Lt W. Lynch** (Royal Canadian Signals)
SSM	—	**WO2 G. A. Foggo** (Designate **WO2 R. G. Mills**)
Y of S (Radio)	—	**WO2 M. A. Thornton**
Y of S (Commcen)		**WO2 S. M. Kitson**
F of S	—	**WO2 J. Barrowman**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt M. J. Long**

THE FORM

FOR those who don't know the set-up here, we are the UN Squadron based at what used to be old RAF Nicosia. We are a 'bilingual' organisation of British and Canadian, and the unit structure is such that we have something like two-and-a-half Brits to every Canuck (I wonder what that means?). The unit's tasks are various as with all Signals units, but our claim to fame is that we possibly work with more nationalities than any other Squadron in the Corps—and happily too!

Our HQ, as stated, is in Nicosia and we have two very nice little self-contained radio detachments, one in Troodos, situated in the 'Troodos Hilton', and the other at Xeros, sharing Viking Camp with the Danish Battalion (great hosts, the Danes). Both detachments are four in strength with a Canadian Master Corporal in charge of each. (They provide a radio relay link from that sector back to HQ UNFICYP, also a C42 link.) The Squadron consists of a Commcen Troop, Line Troop, Radio Troop, and a small SHQ. Below are a few notes from these Troops.

Commcen Troop

The overworked Commcen in Nicosia has it's stars. We have **Sigs Bob Kirk** and **Stevie Bennett,** who we all think have shares in Rosie Ogden's Fan Club on BFBS. The football team are always arranging games just to lose, so the other teams buy the beer. **Lcpl Alf Garnett** is the star—as he tells everybody. We now have a new soccer captain and team manager. He is **Lt Bill Lynch** (Royal Canadian Signals), the Comms Officer, known to all as 'Le Chat'. The SDS drivers have now recovered from their hectic Christmas when all the rules were broken with **Sigs Tony Walker, Dave Pinchin** and **Keith Foster** carrying anything and every thing! (Don't tell the Y of S.)

Tech Workshops

It should be said that all of us here in the Tech Dept were stumped when asked to submit some 'technical achievements' made recently, mainly because there haven't been any! Actually we did replace the faulty power supply (part No 6135-99-910-1101) commonly known as a SP2 battery, for the Workshop's torch recently, but it still refuses to work so it will have to be BLRd. Some of our more enterprising schemes included a trip to Famagusta by the **F of S John Barrowman** and **Cpl Steve Sherwood** to replace the old Swedish switchboard used there with a good old trusty 40/160. Line work was carried out by **Sig Tony Gretton** from line section, and it is generally hoped that all lines will be working by late 1978. (Actually it is not that bad as we have got at least 50 per cent of the lines working—that is, one of the two lines required!)

Generally, the workshop is quite busy with **Cpl Dave Holden** involved in the continuous maintenance of radio section's kit, while **Lcpl Paul Dickinson** is all set on improving the Mercury Club's General Purpose Fund by his continuous 100 per cent attendance. Meanwhile, **Cpl Wally Wolverson's** trade re-allocation has finally been accepted and he is now happy as the Squadron barman.

Mercury Club

Since the arrival of the SSM ('Uncle George') in August, who took over the duties of Presiding Officer, the Club has gone through a transitional period from 'That place for a booze-up' to an efficiently-run club, much to the dismay of many may we add. The club has been redecorated, refurnished, and so much has been acquired that we are now known throughout the Force as 'CADGCON', especially by Ordnance Detachment and the FEWO. Two stalwarts in the refurbishing of the club were **Cpl Ken Thomas** and **Lcpl 'Fats' Munro.** The following have acted as PMC over the last six months: **Cpls Graham Pollard, Mick Harvey** and **Bob Knaggs** and, with their respective committees, have in no small way helped to make the club enjoyable for all members, arranging Cheese and Wine Nights, Discos (we even get ladies here sometimes), Film Nights and, of course, those 'Mug Outs'.

Line Troop

For those of you who missed our last entry in THE WIRE, well over a year ago, Troop personnel has changed very little: **Sgt Dave Myers, Cpl Bernie Aubin** (Royal Canadian Signals), **Lcpl John Wardley, Sig Tony Gretton, Sig Steve Nickerson** and **Pte Roy Postma** (Royal Canadian Signals). Four of those above mentioned are on their second tour, the reasons for this are not clear, as they are overworked and abused by everyone, but perhaps working hard in the occasional sunshine is preferable to lazing in the dull grey mists of the UK. We have recently had a visit from the Secretary General of the United Nations, **Kurt Waldheim,** and **Sgt Dave Myers** was NCO i/c Flag Party for the Guard of Honour. His pride at being volunteered for this auspicious duty was quickly shattered by the RSM, who explained to him that the purpose of the Flag Party was to stand on the concrete bases of the flag staffs to prevent them from being blown over.

OC SIGNAL TRAINING WING

ROYAL BRUNEI MALAY REGIMENT

The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment is seeking a suitably-qualified Royal Signals officer to fill the vacant appointment of OC Signal Training Wing as a contract officer.

The Signal Training Wing undertakes the training and upgrading of the Regiment's signallers and radio telegraphists.

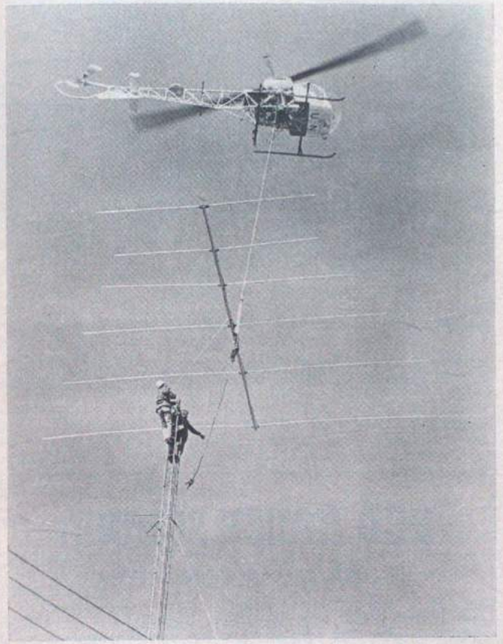
The appointment is in the rank of Captain. The period of contract is three years, with the possibility of renewal. The salary is B$36,000 (approximately £8,000) per annum, and there is an end-of-contract gratuity of 25% of the salary. There is an allowance for children's education. Free passages are provided to and from Brunei for the officer and his family, as are children's school holiday passages. There are no quartering charges. There is no personal income tax in Brunei.

Applicants are requested to send details of their Service background to this address:

AA & QMG
Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
British Forces Post Office 605

Radio Troop

On December 19, 1977, **Cpl 'Ginge' Allen** and **Lcpl Steve Morgan,** ably assisted by a crew of **Y of S Mick Thorton, Sig 'Scouse' Williams** and one Sioux helicopter, lowered a log periodic antenna on to the 70ft mast at Salt Lake Camp, Larnaca, the home of the Swedish Contingent. The job would not have taken so long if **Lcpl Steve Morgan** had stopped posing for photographs and **Cpl 'Ginge' Allen** had stopped clinging on for grim death. Afterwards they enjoyed the hospitality of the Swedes by retiring to the Officers Mess for a champagne celebration. At the moment the fort is being held by **Sgt Pierre Chouinard** and **Mcpl 'Rocky' Morsette** of the Royal Canadian Signals, **Cpl 'Ginge' Allen** and **Lcpl Steve Morgan,** whilst **Y of S Mick Thornton** is enjoying a fortnight's leave in the UK.



Cpl Allen and Lcpl Morgan fitting log periodic on a 70-ft mast ably assisted by Maj C. Blount (AAC) and his chopper

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Our arrivals and departures are too numerous to mention with most of us doing six-month tours. We take this opportunity to say *bon voyage* to **Maj Frank Lettin** on his departure from the Squadron, and indeed, the Army. We wish him every success in civvy street and say 'Sir, it was a pleasure and a privilege'. We also take this opportunity to welcome **Maj Dick Hood** as FSO/Squadron Commander and we are sure he will enjoy the good life in Cyprus.

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

MILITARY SKILLS 1977

Report by Sgt B. Medway

AS November approached our thoughts once more turned to the annual Military Skills Competition, in which all Minor Units in Cyprus are exercised in their ability to support the resident Infantry Battalions. The Squadron had gained second place on the last two occasions and spurred on by a determined OC, **Maj Grundy,** had great ideas about winning the competition this year.

Once the team was announced training started in earnest under the direction of **Lt (Tread Boldly) Lord** and the Unit Training NCO, **Ssgt Ray Georgeson.** This consisted of field tactics, first aid, radio procedure, map-reading, together with many hours of range practice.



SPEED MARCH

Left to right: Lt Lord, Sig Brearley, Sgt Medway, Lcpl Riach, Sig Dawson, Cpl Gordon. *Obscured:* Sgts Buttery and Brown

The selected team was:

Team captain	—	**Lt George Lord**
2IC	—	**Sgt Bernie Medway**
		Sgt Vic Buttery
		Sgt Keith Brown
		Cpl 'Taff' Gordon
		Lcpl 'Jock' Riach
		Sig Chris Brearley
		Sig Tony Dawson
Reserves	—	**Sgt Eddie Higgins**
		Sig Mandingo Ward

THE DAY DAWNS

After five minutes of tactical lung-bursting doubling, we were immediately confronted with the initiative test. This tested the whole team as well as the principles of Archimedes (any Hairy will tell you that fluid only flows down).

To the cry of 'Tread boldly men' we then dashed off to perform our tactical first aid, map-reading and radio procedure tests, in all of which we did well to emerge first with 262 Sig Sqn close on our heels.

SECOND OVERALL

The morning behind us we travelled north into the Troodos foothills to establish our tactical OP. We arrived in location at 1600hrs and quickly settled down to an eight-hour vigil with log books and range cards at the ready; occasional downpours of rain helped to keep us on our toes. The OP party consisted of **Sgts Medway** and **Buttery** posted in shifts with the exception of **Sig Dawson,** who had the exacting task of forming the last 10ft of communicating wire (little did he know a passing Land-rover had put paid to his brave attempts). The OP over, the greatest relief was expressed by **Sig Dawson** (in more ways than one), we withdrew into the valley which led us south towards the Akrotiri peninsula, travelling through several Infantry RVs to halt at 0300hrs for a rest.

We breakfasted at 0600hrs and prepared for the tactical and speed march. These two events proved to be tough and gruelling, with the march taking us along the beach at Akrotiri to finish at RAF Akrotiri ETR for the inspection and competition shoot. In both we did well, excelling in our shooting by recording the highest score. Despite our valiant efforts we were pipped at the post by 62 Sqn RE, and once again took second place overall.

All who trained and competed said they enjoyed it—despite being a little tired. Keo beer, however, still retains the magic power of rejuvenation as we proved when we subsequently celebrated the event.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

DOUBLE CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Cause for celebration 1

ON January 30, 1978, **WO2 (F of S) Keith Bamforth** of 262 Sig Sqn (East) received confirmation of the award of a Batchelor of Arts Degree bestowed on him by the Open University. It is easy to imagine the excitement that news of this success brought him and his wife, **Gina,** so we asked him how it all started and what it had entailed.

WO2 Bamforth cast his mind back over the four years since he had decided to start the course which came about because he did not find his spare time in BAOR, at that time, sufficiently stimulating to keep his mind fully occupied. Little did he know when he made that momentous decision that his course of study was to take him through three postings. This alone would have deterred most people but strong encouragement from **Gina Bamforth** convinced him to stick with it.

So it was that in Germany in 1974 he started to read the Foundation Mathematics Course which led him into the Analysis and Algorithmic Approach to Computing Courses in 1975. The third-year studies (in 1976), Telecommunications and Man-made Futures, were made more difficult by a five-month course, for Service reasons, at the NATO Communications School at Latina in Italy. Shortly after this course **WO2 Bamforth** received his posting to Cyprus. It was here in Cyprus in 1977 that he completed the four-year course by studying The History of Mathematics, and Mechanics and Applied Calculus. His final examinations were sat at 55 AEC, Episkopi, in October and November.

Looking back he remembers that the time he most felt like giving it all up was during his five months in Italy, and only the encouragement from his wife kept him going on the course.



Col M. U. Ryan, Commander Dhekelia Garrison (3 Signal Group), congratulates WO2 (F of S) Keith Bamforth on the award of his BA (Open University)

WO2 Bamforth is a fairly modest man who makes no play of the effort involved. His advice to those interested in this, or similar courses, is don't be frightened. The hardest part is getting back into the routine of studying, it makes a big change in your daily life. The net cost was under £200, spent mainly on textbooks, and postal services. Tutorship for the course was entirely by correspondence, and the actual work required three hours' study per day during the week. Of course he found some subjects difficult, he says that he was never good at history.

We all send him our sincere congratulations on his achievement.



CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION—2

Col M. U. Ryan presents the Bronze Comstar Award to Lcpl Wendy Stephens

Standing in the background are left to right: Pte Debbie Kennedy, Ssgt Dot Ryder, Pte Anne Scholes, Pte Cathy Woodyat and Cpl June Harris

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Asst. Headmaster: J. R. Sayers, MA (Oxon)

Red House was founded in 1902. It is established in a fine 17th-century house set in 70 acres, bounded by woods and the River Ouse, with its own Home Farm. There is riding available on the school ponies, fishing, canoeing and sailing on the river, swimming in the heated outdoor pool, shooting in the small range and plenty of parkland to explore. The main house is entirely devoted to living accommodation and the teaching is done in the modern, purpose-built classrooms which include a well-equipped laboratory.

Small classes allow personal tuition where required, and pupils take Scholarships and Common Entrance Exams to a wide variety of Public Schools.

Rugby, cricket, football, hockey, golf, and tennis are played on the large games fields. Music, Art, Handicrafts, and Drama are also popular.

Religious life is centred on the lovely old family chapel and services are held there each Sunday during term-time. There is special provision for RCs.

Further details are available from the Secretary.

News from Troops

NATO FSS Shetland

PERSONALITIES

OC/Station Supervisor FSS Mossy Hill	—	**Capt (TOT) A. J. Cook**
RSM/Admin Support Officer	—	**WO1 (RSM) T. M. C. Stacey**
Tech Assistant FSS Mossy Hill	—	**Sgt A. D. Haworth**
Station Supervisor FSS Collafirth Hill	—	**WO2 (F of S) A. R. Threlfall Searson**
Tech Assistant FSS Collafirth Hill	—	**Sgt C. J. Falconer**
Station Supervisor FSS Saxa Vord	—	**Sgt J. Millar**
Tech Assistant FSS Saxa Vord	—	**Sgt G. C. Daffern**

TURBULENCE

THIS is a much-used NATO expression meaning 'Too many postings'. Of the above list of personalities, only two remain from those printed in our last WIRE notes in September 1976.

In 1977, we have welcomed **WO1 (RSM) T. Stacey, WO2 (F of S) A. Threlfall Searson; Sgts D. Alburey, R. Chamberlain** (RAPC), **J. Curran, R. Green, P. Moseley, B. Pickbourne** (ACC) and **J. Wharton; Cpls W. Brash, A. Clark, J. Kerr** (ACC), **J. McMillan** and **P. Methven** (ACC); **Lcpls R. Gudgeon, K. Jones, B. Shaw** (ACC) and **M. Smyth; Sig Miles.**

During the year we have said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) A. Walton, WO2 (F of S) G. Nickson; Sgts D. Lumb, M. Munn, S. Rogers, R. Smith** (ACC); **Cpls T. Bennett** (ACC), **C. Gardner, P. Mallinson; Lcpls M. Bartlett** (ACC), **J. Gow** (ACC), **D. Levy** and **Sig Sears; Sgts T. Cardwell, D. Fountain, R. Watson** (RAPC); **Cpls F. Etchells** and **N. Peterson**—the last five leaving to become civilians. 'Turbulence' is a very descriptive word to use for this much movement in one year for a unit of some three dozen people.

VIP VISITS

During 1977 we have been honoured by the visits of some 14 stars' worth of General Officers (I've been trying to determine a collective noun, but the best I can do is 'A Galaxy of Generals'). The visitors were:

February—**Brig A. G. Findlay,** Commander Highlands. April—**Gen Sir Jack** and **Lady Harman, KCB, OBE, MC,** The Adjutant-General; **Brig** and **Mrs P. H. F. Webb, MBE,** Commander 2 Signal Group. August—**Gen Sir Edwin Bramwell, KCB, OBE, MC,** C in C UKLF; **Lt Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett, KBE, MC,** GOC Scotland. October—**Brig G. Baxter,** Director ACC.

MAIN EVENTS DURING 1977

January—The arrival of UHF television to Shetland, with the resultant facilities of three channels in colour. Unfortunately, reception at the Mossy Hill Domestic Site, Maybury, is still difficult.

April—Visit of the Dance Band section of the Corps Band, which was greatly appreciated by all. The Band was accompanied by the Director of Music, **Maj Keith Boulding,** and **Mrs Boulding.**

June—Mossy Hill personnel were involved in assisting with the Shetland Jubilee bonfire, which was lit in response to the one on Fair Isle.

The Summer Fete organised by the Maybury Wives' Club raised £580 for an OAPs' Christmas party.

November—The Remembrance Parade in Lerwick was led by a contingent made up of Mossy Hill and Callofirth Hill personnel. **Capt Cook** was the parade commander.

A cheese and wine party was held to present cheques for £100 to the committees of each of two local community halls from the Maybury All Ranks Club.

December—The usual spectacular Christmas Draw was held at the Maybury Club. A tumble dryer was won by a ticket sold some weeks previously to a sailor from a visting Danish submarine. Our resourceful RSM has opened negotiations with the Danish Naval Attache at their Embassy in London.

110 Senior Citizens attended the Christmas party held by the Maybury Wives' Club.

Ssgt Mason has nearly finished building his house.

Sgt Chamberlain is about to start building his.



IN LIGHTER VEIN

One of our departures last year was **Cpl Neil Peterson,** cartoonist and comic writer extraordinaire. He has come out of retirement as a Police Constable in Lerwick to provide the attached cartoon. The following piece of prose is also his. One does not need to know the equipment to appreciate the sentiment:

Starting and tuning the ten kilowatt power amplifier

- Switch on the main power after first ensuring that the attendant is not inside the klystron carriage.
- Switch on the VOLTAGE REGULATOR AND SHUTDOWN. Switch off again, fetch resuscitator and fire extinguisher. Stand well back and tell the attendant to perform steps 1 and 2 again.
- Start the Heat Exchanger. Stop it and fit the bottom hoses. Clean up excess water and restart the Heat Exchanger.
- Adjust filament voltage for 7·5 volts, unless persuaded otherwise by a smell of burning. Reduce the filament current to below 40 amps as soon as smoke becomes apparent.
- Adjust pre-focus coil current for 0·5 amps. In exceptional cases where the field coils are not open circuit, you may attempt to adjust the field coil current for 3·2 amps.
- Watch the metering to confirm 1 watt radio frequency from the exciter. If zero, switch everything off, take the exciter from line and reconnect it to the Power Amplifier. Start again.
- Tune the input and first cavities. Set the body current sensitac to 100 m Amps and start the beam. Nothing? Wallop the interlocks.
- Raise the beam to 12 K Volts, keeping the body current to a minimum. Notice a piece of Teflon on the floor. Switch everything off.
- Having replaced the Teflon and started again, hand over to the attendant whose youthful fingers have the dexterity necessary to continue the tuning.
- Tune the 2nd cavity for maximum load. Switch off and check the 2nd cavity coupler. Try wiggling it about a bit. Start again.
- Tune the output cavity for maximum transmit power. Switch off and repair the 3rd cavity coupler. Start again. Switch off and use all your expertise to prevent arcing in the 3rd cavity. Replace the burnt-out cavity and start again.
- Tune 3rd cavity for maximum output power. Notice water leaking from klystron jacket. Scream, switch off, replace grommets, start again.
- Wind everything up for maximum output power. Overcouple by 10% unless prevented by a snapped roll pin.
- Raise the beam to an astronomical level and fight for every Kilowatt of power until you reach five. If in doubt, consult the fingers of your left hand.
- Scream and fiddle aimlessly with every knob in sight. Settle for 2·8 Kilowatts and tell the Primary Control Centre.
- Hand over to the oncoming watch and instruct them to phone PCC to determine what you have been doing.

For those of you thinking of volunteering for service with ACE HIGH, please don't let the above dissuade you. It is slightly exaggerated.

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

31st (GREATER LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) WINS THE LONDON DISTRICT FOOTBALL KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

FOR five years the Regiment has entered for the London District Soccer Competition, being the beaten finalists once, and reaching the semi-finals twice.

This season the Regiment at last, on December 18, 1977, won the cup by beating 144 Para Field Ambulance by 4 goals to nil.

The goals were scored by **Sgt Terry Deakin,** two by **Lcpl Phil Roach** and **Sig Peter Bremer.**

The Regiment then went on to represent London District in the UK competition but were unfortunately beaten by a very strong 10th Battalion of the Parachute Regt (Volunteers).

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

NETHERLANDS EXERCISE

FOR the second time last year the Regiment supplied a party of Volunteers to take part in exercises with HQ AFCENT, the first earlier in the year for two weeks in March, and this time for one week from November 11–18.

Having been at our respective places of employment during the day we assembled on Thursday evening, November 10, at the Regimental Trade Training School, The Dale, Chester. Our reception, food, and accommodation being in the good hands of **Sgt John Murphy** and **Sgt Peter Gallagher. Maj Bob Mansfield,** our Training Major, and **WO1 (RSM) John Scrutton** came along to see all was well and to wish the party *bon voyage.*

We boarded the coach at 0100hrs the next day for our journey to Luton Airport, where we met up with our Regular Quartermaster, **Maj (QM) Ernie Webb,** who was travelling with the party to Brunssum to complete his reconnaissance for this year's camp.



Sgt Tony Fahey with Ptes Sheila Diamond, Joan Greenall and Barbara Fitzpatrick back to basic signalling at Maastricht

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Arriving later that morning at Brunssum, lacking a little sleep, it was very nice to hear the Second in Command of UKDSU, **Maj Bill Morgan,** announce that we could stand down until the briefing early Saturday morning, so off we went, the girls to the comforts of the WRAC Hostel, the lads to familiar territory in Block 20, to find a new face in the Block stores, **Cpl 'Spud' Murphy,** aided by **Sig Len Beech,** RSM (UKDSU)'s right and left hand men.

Further afield

Within minutes of landing, **Ptes Tina Thompson** and **Susan Ireland** got a taste of some 'real soldiering' when they were whisked away by Landrover to join 28 Sig Regt deployed in the field and in the snow! Perhaps they should be forgiven for feeling a little self righteous when they rejoined the rest of us who had spent our week amid the comforts of Brunssum!

The briefing on Saturday morning was missed by the Detachment Commander, **Lt (Tfc) Len Addison,** who, according to the MO, had managed to catch the 'Brunssum bug' which lays one low for 24 hours. As a result of the briefing **Cpl Margaret Selwood, Lcpl Betty Romoff** and **Pte Joan Greenall** were attached to 21 Sig Regt in Germany, while **Lcpls Tony Ryall-Harvey, Dick Aitken** and **Pte Joyce Rigby** also had to travel, but only a short distance to work shifts outside Hendrick Camp.

To duty

The remainder of the party were spread evenly between the COMMCEN and the Telephone Exchange at HQ AFCENT. **Sgts Tony Fahey** and **Adge Davies, Cpl John Naylor, Lcpl Linda Banbury, Ptes Barbara Fitzpatrick** and **Carol Bateman** worked in the Commcen, meeting old and new faces including **F/Sgt Rodaway** (UKAF) and **T/Sgt Wallace** (USAF). In the exchange **Sgt Jim Dulson, Lcpl Doreen Stringer, Sig John Taggart, Ptes Sheila Diamond, Irene Herd** and **Jenny Pell** renewed acquaintances with **WO Manfred Reinart** (GEA), **Miss Lux,** and the military and civilian operators.

Commander visits

On Tuesday, the expected lunch-time visit of **Brig Ian Rose,** Commander 11 Signal Group, did not take place, bad weather having prevented the ferry from docking until late afternoon. The Group Commander eventually managed to arrive late that night after travelling direct to Brunssum from his delayed arrival at Europort.

Thursday morning, **Col John Gibson,** senior Royal Signals Officer at AFCENT, visited both the COMMCEN and the Exchange, and met a number of the Volunteers on duty. That evening in Club 13 the usual end-of-exercise festivities took place until the early hours of Friday morning.

Appreciation

At the debriefing later that day, OC COMMCEN, **Maj Margarie** (GEA), praised the Detachment for the enthusiastic way they had completed their task, and invited us all to return again to assist during future exercises. **Wing Comdr Cambell,** OC UKDSU, sent his congratulations and thanks to the Detachment for their hard work and very high standard they had achieved during the exercise.

The rest of the day was spent in last-minute shopping, before beginning our journey home to the UK.



Sgt Adge Davies and Pte Carol Bateman working alongside T/Sgt Wallace (USAF) in the Commcen at HQ AFCENT



Cpl John Naylor working with our American allies in the Commcen at HQ AFCENT

RADIO TECHNICIANS

Government Communications Headquarters has vacancies for Radio Technicians. Applicants should be 19 or over.

STANDARDS required call for a sound knowledge of the principles of electricity and radio, together with two years' experience of using and maintaining radio and electronic test gear.

DUTIES cover highly skilled telecommunications/electronic work, including the construction, installation, maintenance and testing of radio and radar telecommunications equipment and advanced computer and analytic machinery.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must hold either the City and Guilds Telecommunications Part 1 (Intermediate) Certificate or equivalent HM Forces qualification.

SALARY (inc. supps.) from £2,673 at 19 to £3,379 at 25 (highest pay on entry) rising to £3,883 with opportunity for advancement to higher grades up to £4,297 with a few posts carrying still higher salaries.

Opportunities for service overseas.

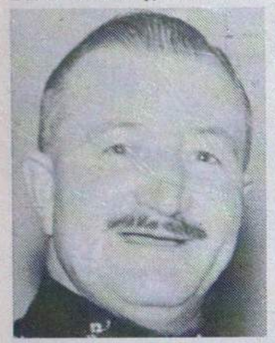
Further particulars and application forms available from:

GCHQ
Recruitment Officer,
Government Communications,
GCHQ, Priors Road,
Oakley, Cheltenham, GL52 5AJ.
Cheltenham (0242) 21491 Ext 2270

Association News

CHESTER BRANCH

A PACKED congregation at the Upton Holy Ascension Church, on Wednesday, December 7, 1977, made their last farewells to Mathew William Edward Charlton, 'Jumbo' to the very many that loved and respected him.



It is little known, but when first arriving in India, he inherited a bed space which had hanging above it, a plate inscribed 'Jumbo'; this name was to stay with him for the rest of his life, and very apt it was. As a keen all-round sportsman, he proved to be an immovable, implacable, competitor.

He was born at Langley Park, County Durham, in 1909; and, as a young man of 20, launched himself into a career with the Corps, which was to span 30 years. After enlisting, he started his initial training in Baghdad and Kemmel Lines at Catterick, and later with the 3rd Division Signals at Bulford in Wiltshire. His first overseas posting was to the 1st Indian Division Signals at Rawalpindi, where he stayed until 1936. Back home, he spent some time in Aldershot and then went with 'B' Company, 11th Division Signal Training, Beckwithshore, Harrogate. It was while he was there that he met and courted Ena Corbett, and they married in Saint Michael's and All Saints' Church. War had just been declared. He joined the No 1 Special Wireless Company at Trowbridge, and was with the 108 Section, No 2 Company, 1st HQ Signals BEF, when Dunkirk fell.

For two months at a home station, and then torpedoed on the way to Gibraltar. He was brought home, and six weeks later, on his way to Gibraltar again, where he spent three years with a special wireless section. 1943, and he was recalled to Catterick as Sergeant Major Boys Company. 'Jumbo' was 'Dad' to several hundred boys while preparing them for manhood. He made a special point of memorising the Christian names of every one of them. The many ensuing successful careers, made by those who were once 'his boys', was an endless source of joy to him.

Three years later he was appointed Regimental Quartermaster of 1 TR Catterick until 1948, when he went abroad again, to Air Formation Signals, Singapore. By this time, in 1951, the post of RQMS of 1TR Catterick was vacant, and 'Jumbo' filled it for the next five years. Before he completed a long and varied career he was to go to West Africa for a time, and finally, to Western Command in Chester.

Now a civilian, 'Jumbo' joined the Post Office until his retirement in 1975, 15 years later.

He was an Honour Member of the Royal Signals Association, and a serving member of the Central Committee; Vice-president and past chairman of the Chester Branch. He gave 50 pints of his blood and become the holder of the Blood Donors' Gold Medal. His endearing Geordie way of ending every phrase on a high note, and his zest for life, found him friends wherever he was. The world that he leaves is that much a poorer place. Always the professional soldier, 'Jumbo' marches on.

Begone dull care.

PS—Anyone wishing to make contact with Mrs Charlton should write to Reg Hinge, Hon Sec Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association, 63 Green Lane, Chester.

From: **Brig M. E. Peppiatt**

15th (Scottish) Divisional Memorial
Tourville sur Odon
14210 Evrecy, France

The villages over which the 15th (Scottish) Division fought in Normandy in the Second World War are holding ceremonies to commemorate these events on June 24/25, 1978. I enclose a copy of the proposed programme.

I wonder if you would be kind enough to publicise this matter in your Regimental magazine, or through any other sources available which might reach old members of the Division. At the same time you should know that any members of your Regiment or Corps who care to attend would be very welcome.

I append a list of those units from your Regiment/Corps which participated in the Battle of the Odon. Anyone who would like further information should write to me at the above address. A SAE for the reply would be appreciated.

Yours truly,
Mila Peppiatt

1 High Street,
Mill Hill Village,
London NW7 1QY.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR JUNE 24/25, 1978, 15th SCOTTISH DIVISION

Saturday, June 24

Saint Manvieux—Norrey

3pm (French summer time) / 2pm (BST) — Ceremony at the Memorial and Visit to the Military Cemetery.

4pm — Inauguration of a plaque in memory of 6th RSF liberators of S. Manvieux.
Place . . .
'Vin d'Honneur'.

5pm — **Esquay, Notre Dame**
Inauguration 'Rue des Ecossais'.

6pm — Ceremony at **Baron.**
Brigadier MacIntosh-Walker's plaque.
'Vin d'Honneur'.

Sunday, June 25

Tourville s/Odon

10am — **Maybe** a Mass at church of Tourville.
Ceremony at the Memorial in the Churchyard.
Plaque of General Barber.

11am — Inauguration
Rue de la 15e, Division Ecossaise,
followed by a Ceremony at the Divisional Memorial.
Wreaths—Speeches.
'Vin d'Honneur'.

THE ART OF SURVEILLANCE



Captain James Shaw (6' 8"), I Div HQ & Sig Regt, teaching? an Australian Captain who was attached to a border patrol

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Write or telephone now for full information to:

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READING BRANCH

ON January 13, 1978, Reading Branch held their AGM followed by a cheese and wine party for wives and friends at the Dragon Club, Brock Barracks, Reading.

The following officers were elected:

Vice-President:	**Alec Carpenter**
Chairman:	**Jeff Hazel**
Vice-Chairman:	**Maj McLoughlin**

The following were re-elected:

President:	**Maj Gen J. M. Sawers**
Hon Secretary:	**Allan Foot**
Hon Treasurer:	**Dave Norris**
Social Secretary:	**Pauline Tennant**
Publicity Officer:	**Norman Wickens**

Besides monthly meetings a full programme of activities was announced for 1978 including a weekend trip to Normandy to visit the 1944 landing beaches, etc.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

ANNUAL DINNER 1978

The Aldershot Branch Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3, 1978, at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants. Full particulars and reservations from A. V. Ient, MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3SQ, or Telephone Aldershot 23658.

Assembly is at 7.15pm. Dinner at 8pm.

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CORPS BASKETBALL

UK TOUR NOVEMBER 18 - 27, 1977
Report by Capt (TOT) Terry Everett



Attending, left to right
Standing

Cpl Geoff Young (Official)	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Cpl Bob Mahoney	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt Geoff Back	14 Sig Regt
Cpl Fred Tedby (Capt)	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) George Stubbings	40 Sig Regt (V)
Cpl Garth Pickersgill	632 Sig Troop
Ssgt Doug Poultney (Coach)	21 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) Terry Everett (Secretary)	Royal Signals Training Evaluation Team

Sitting

Cpl John Smith	13 Sig Regt
Cpl 'Dusty' Rhodes	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sig Gary Gillings	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lcpl Mick Bohanan	21 Sig Regt
Sig Mick Heelan	School of Signals
Lcpl Les Robinson	16 Sig Regt
Cpl Jeff Evans	229 Sig Sqn

Blandford hosts

THE squad assembled at Blandford on Friday, November 18, and training commenced duly at 0900hrs on the Saturday morning—one or two having to overcome jetlag and worse having arrived from Berlin, Belfast, the Hebrides, BAOR, and Aldershot by various modes of transport. This was the beginning of what was to be a hard week's work with training every day and seven matches in eight days.

Easy game

The first representative match versus the South Dorset side, Lulworth Datsuns, on Sunday, 20, at the Redlands Sports Centre, Weymouth, was an easy game which allowed the squad to get some rhythm going pulling away to a 36–15 first half lead. This allowed the coach to run out the new players attending the Corps tour for the first time. They did very well and held the Datsuns to the margin achieved in the first half eventually running out winners at 71 to 52.

Monday and Tuesday were busy days with training morning and afternoon and friendly matches at Blandford in the evenings. Monday's match was against the Army Air Corps' side from Middle Wallop, which the Corps won easily 100—57. Tuesday's match versus a Tidworth Garrison Select was a closer-run thing, the Corps, nevertheless, still having a good win at 102—75.

First real test

Another friendly match was arranged for the Wednesday evening against the newly-formed team from Ferndown played again at Blandford. This proved to be the first real test for the Corps squad against probably the best team they were to meet all week. In an action-packed first half the lead changed from one side to the other as the two teams fought for supremacy, the score standing at 37—39 in favour of Ferndown at half time. We got quickly into our stride in the second half, and after 8 minutes had managed to pull away to lead 60—45 playing excellent basketball. The Ferndown coach called a time out to calm his side and instructed them to play man to man hoping to upset the Corps with a full court press. But the damage was already done; the Corps controlled the game superbly, at times turning the press to their own advantage and ran out worthy winners at 76—63.

Cool Portsmouth

The next day, Thursday, the squad were to travel to Portsmouth to take on the Royal Navy Portsmouth Basketball Club. The match took place in a huge converted hangar which, unfortunately, was freezing as the heating system had broken down. The Navy had a very good squad including three of the Royal Navy first five. The Corps did very well to hold them to a margin of 32—36 in the first half. In the second half we slipped to a 41—57 deficit and were letting a number of, to say the least, indifferent referees' decisions affect our rhythm and team work. The captain, **Fred Tedby** did his job superbly here, his experience in representative basketball evident in his self control, his encouragement and example lifting the game of our side to fight back to a deficit of 65—69 but the team paid the penalty with the loss of key players **Fred Tedby** and **George Stubbings** each with five fouls; the Navy then pulled away to finish with a comfortable 87—71 win.

Aldershot success

On Friday the team travelled to Aldershot where they were to stay for the final two nights of the tour. The team they were to play was Aldershot Services, but sadly, a number of key players from the Aldershop side had been spirited away in Green Goddesses at the eleventh hour so it was a considerably weakened side we were to play but still with two Army players **Bob Burneston** and **Chris Bunnet.** This was a chance for the Corps to recover from the previous evening's defeat but by now the pace of training, travelling and playing matches was beginning to take its toll. The match started with a certain amount of lead in the boots and at half time we were trailing 36—43, in the second half we picked ourselves up and after 10 minutes were in the lead 58—55, and in a nail-biting finish managed to hold the three point margin to run out winners at 86—83.

Saturday was a day off for everyone, with the exception of **Fred Tedby** and **George Stubbings** who were invited to play for the full Aldershot Services side in the National 100 Cup.

A near thing at Arborfield

Finally, Sunday, and the annual fixture against REME, to take place this year at Arborfield. The REME, with two Army players in their squad, were not as strong as in past years and there was a feeling that this could be the year that we would beat them. In the first half the game was very even and, what's this, the half time score Corps 38—REME 35. From the start of the second half we played well but could only contain REME, and three minutes from the end the score stood at Corps 60—REME 67. A good press by us for a four-point play brought us to 64—68, another press, 66—68 and, with seconds to go, a final tip which rolled off the ring as the hooter sounded. Another nail-biting finish. Too bad, Corps 66—REME 68; so they held out again, what price next year? A game very much about 'finishing'; in the second half the Signals had considerably more attempts at basket but failed to make them pay off.

Successful tour

A successful tour. Every member of the squad worked hard, played seven, lost two, one 'dammit' by the narrowest of margins. A number of new players blooded and able to see for themselves the vast difference between Regimental and Representative basketball. Top scorer **Fred Tedby,** followed by **George Stubbings,** but basketball is a team game and the better the service the better the scoring.

Results

v. Lulworth Datsuns (S. Dorset)	Won	71—52	Representative
v Army Air Corps	Won	100—57	Friendly
v Larkhill/Tidworth	Won	102—75	Friendly
v Ferndown	Won	76—63	Friendly
v RN Portsmouth	Lost	71—87	Representative
v Aldershot Services	Won	86—83	Representative
v REME	Lost	66—68	Representative

Behind the scenes

A mention now for the two who graft away without the glory. First the squad coach, **Doug Poultney,** who kept the whip cracking all week at training and at matches with his tactical talks during time out periods and, to quote **Doug,** our resident 'whistle, freak' **Geoff Young** who carried the load of officiating during the nine-day tour not only at the matches but during training games as well. I might add that he was not officiating on Thursday. Much thanks to you both—by the way **Geoff,** team 3—Referee 1!

A mention also of two Corps players who due to unit commitments could not be made available for the tour, **Sgt Pete Sutherland** and **Lcpl Joe Stroud,** whose attendance on the tour may have reversed the two losses—**Joe** being last year's top scorer.

Finally, many thanks to the School of Signals who were, as usual, superb hosts to us all during the tour.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
ARMY REPRESENTATION

Lt Col G. S. Massey (Retd) reports that there were five members serving with the Corps in the 17-man squad named for the Kentish Cup match versus The French Army, Aldershot, January 25, 1978:

WO2 Geoff Nelson	10 Sig Regt
Cpl Bob O'Hara	22 Sig Regt
Lcpl Alex Hamilton	22 Sig Regt
Ssgt John O'Rouke	Att TA Edinburgh
Lcpl Tommy Dunn (ACC)	Att 244 Sig Sqn.

Only four played, however, since **WO2 Geoff Nelson** failed a fitness test on a 'pulled' hamstring.

The British Army won the match by one goal to nil.

NE/NW SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the NE/NW Squash Championships we had more success, **Sgt Les Lynn** got to the semi-final losing 3—2 to the eventual winner. **Sgt Les Lynn** was selected to play for NE/NW District team.

Signal Training Centre, Scarborough

NE/NW BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS—JANUARY 16 - 18, 1978

Report by Capt (QM) A. S. R. Alfred, MBE

In the NE/NW Badminton Championships we entered a team of four out of a total unit strength of seven, the team consisted of **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Donovan, Ssgt Ken Coatesworth, Sgt Les Lynn** and **Cpl 'Taffy' Jones** (ACC). The team entered in the Inter-Unit Doubles, the Open Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Singles, and Singles Plate. In the Inter-Unit Doubles **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Donovan** and **Cpl 'Taffy' Jones** after a nervous start went from strength to strength finally in a good final run-out winners by two games to love. **Sgt Les Lynn** got to the Plate Semi-Final and in the Men's Open Doubles **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Donovan** and **Cpl 'Taffy' Jones** got to the semi-finals losing to the eventual winners in a very good match. In the Men's Singles **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Donovan** got to the semi-final and in the Mixed Doubles **Cpl Jones** and **WO2 (RQMS) Donovan** had not even met their partners until they went on to the court. Both still got to the semi-finals, both matches were close. **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Donovan** and **Cpl 'Taffy' Jones** were selected to represent NE/NW District in the Army Championships at Worthy Down. So, for such a small unit, we are very pleased to have done so well.

STOP PRESS

28 Sig Regt, holders of the Army Challenge Cup, beat 28 Amphibious Engineer Regt by 3 goals to 1 at Sennelager on March 8, to win the Rhine Army Section of the Army Cup and qualify to play 39 Regt Royal Artillery in the Army Challenge Cup Final at Aldershot on April 5—kick off 7.30pm.

6 FD FORCE HQ & SIG SQN—ALDERSHOT

STOP PRESS

The team has now won the South East District Cup and has reached the Final of the Army Minor Units Cup.

8 SIG REGT CATTERICK

STOP PRESS

Rugby

In the final of the UK Army Cup, the Regiment lost to RRW in a very exciting game. The score was 13—6 but was even right up until the last five minutes.

Hockey

The Regimental team beat the RA Depot, Woolwich 5—1 in the Quarter-Final of the Army Cup. They play the Semi-Final on March 16 in Aldershot against the RE Depot.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

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.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

WE always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free (limited) accommodation. We are also able to put applicants in touch with Divisions of the Corps throughout the United Kingdom for local employment. Examples of the sort of jobs we always have on our books are as follows:

Security. Two men needed. Basingstoke, Hampshire. £42 + OT + Bonus.
Reception/Caretaker. Non-residential. Buckingham Gate, SW1. £3,500 per annum.
Chauffer. To live near Pinner, Middlesex. Approx £6,000 (includes OT).
Clerical (Plain Clothes duty). Gresham Street, EC2. £3,150.
Security (Night). Edmonton, N9.
Commissionaire. Marylebone Road, NW1. £2,700+.
Reception. Berkeley Square, W1. £3,200.
Reception. Stratton Street, W1. £3,000.
Commissionaire. Red Lion Square, WC1. £3,000+.
Messenger. Hammersmith Grove, W6. £2,700.
Security. Wandsworth, SW18. £67 per week +.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 am and 3 pm.

Men are advised to bring the Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

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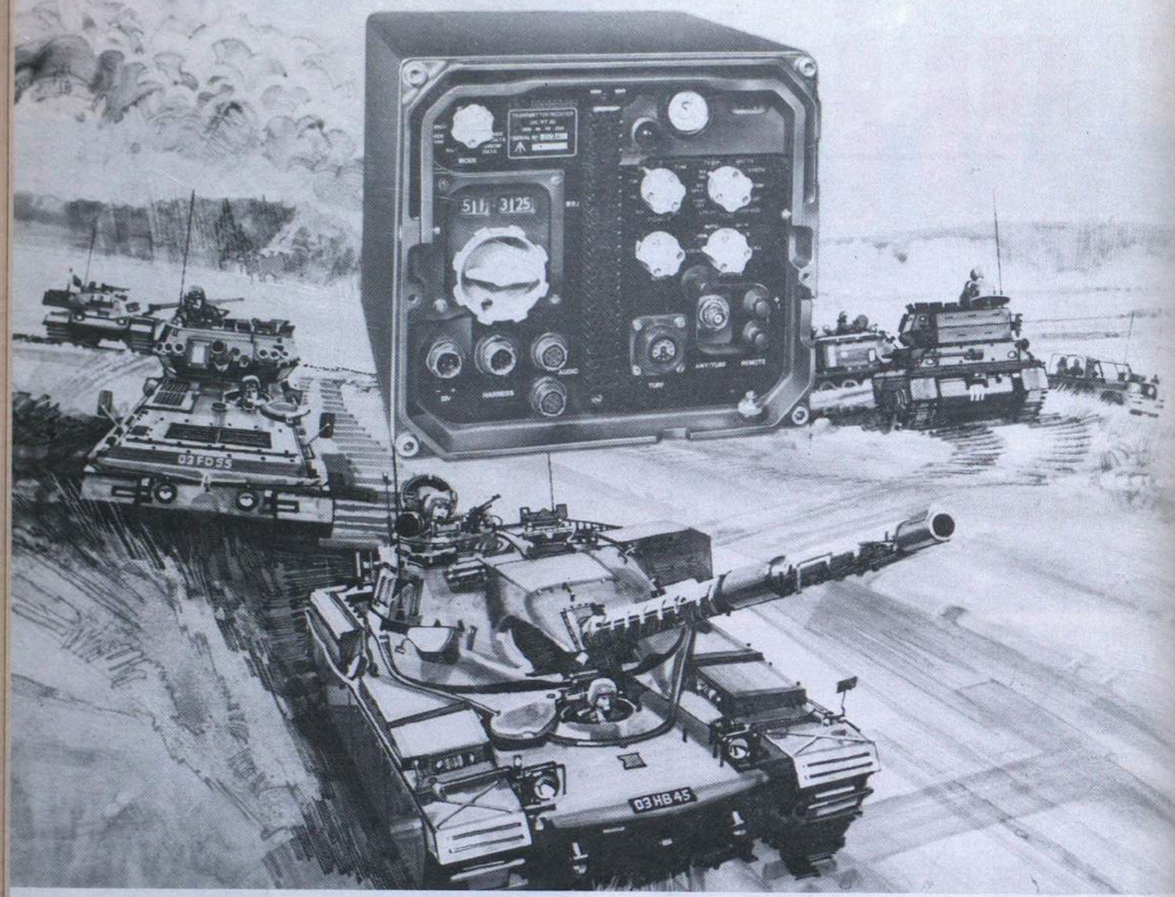
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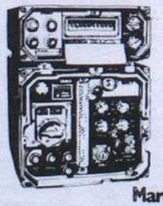
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MAY 1978

Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 3**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

28 (BR SIGNAL REGIMENT (NORTHAG) FOOTBALL TEAM

Winners of the Rhine Army Challenge Cup 1977–78. The side lost to 39 Fd Regt RA 1—0 in the final of the Army Cup at Aldershot on April 6 following a 1—1 result after extra time, the previous evening. It is worthy of note that the Regiment has represented BAOR at Aldershot in five out of the past six years—22 Sig Regt covering the other!

Left to right. Rear row: Team Manager, Capt Bob Hope, Sgt Steve Watson, Pte Danny Cole, Sgt Maurice Harkin, Lcpl Phil Rosslee, Cpl Jimmy Scoular, Sgt Brian Parkhill, Trainer Cpl John Burgess, with 'Glen, "Bite your Legs" Gallacher', Lcpl Brian Gauchi
Front row: CSM Alan Hills, Sgt Derek Garow, Sig Andy Edwards, Sgt Maurice Nelson, captain, Lcpl 'Scouse' Murray, Sig 'Taff' Moulds, Sig Nick Poulton

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF REVIEWS THE PAST YEAR

The Signal Officer-in Chief, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson, addressed Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on April 22, 1978. We are glad to publish the substance of this address, with the knowledge that it will be of great interest to our readers.



'Gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure to have the opportunity of addressing you this morning. The Association does a tremendous amount for the Corps and your continued loyal support during the past year is much appreciated.

The effects of the reductions made in the Army as a result of the Defence Review have continued to dominate the Corps scene over the past 12 months. In essence we continue to meet very much the same commitments as before, including the provision of emergency reinforcements for Belize and Cyprus, but with less men. It *really* is time to say that there is now no fat left in any of our establishments. The Corps has responded well to this challenge of 'the overstretch' in units which results, and I'm glad to report that everyone has willingly put in the extra effort that has been required. At the same time I am making it my business to ensure that none of our units are committed to tasks for which they are no longer established wherever I can bring my influence to bear; as I believe it is most important that units should have the opportunity of carrying out their own individual and sub-unit training in an orderly fashion and that every soldier should be given adequate opportunities to advance himself in all facets of his trade and military skills.

Looking at the Army Restructuring Plan in more detail:

- **3 Division and its Signal Regiment moved from Bulford to BAOR last autumn. The completion of this move means that there are now four armoured divisional signal regiments in 1(BR) Corps.**
- **All the old brigade signal squadrons—including those serving with the artillery brigades—have been absorbed except for that serving 5th Field Force, the old 12th Mechanised Brigade. The brigade headquarters role has partially been replaced by task force headquarters, two of which form part of the command and control organisation of each division. These are supported by task force signal troops commanded by a captain.**
- **Turning to the United Kingdom, 19 Brigade have recently restructured and become 7 Field Force; 6 Field Force, which is at Aldershot has absorbed the old 216 Parachute Bde Sig Sqn; 8 Field Force is based at Tidworth; and 30 Sig Regt at Blandford has acquired the BRUIN Squadron relinquished by 3 Div Regt when it left for Germany.**
- **Further afield, in Cyprus, 9 Sig Regt continues in all its glory but there are now only two independent Signal Squadrons and 3 Signal Group is to be disbanded. There is also 254 Sig Sqn which is an integral part of the UNFICYP Support Regiment.**

● I went out to Malta to take the last ceremonial parade which will be staged on the island before we finally withdraw next year. It is sad to see such an old Squadron as 234 disband and, indeed, to say goodbye to the many Maltese civilians and locally-enlisted soldiers who have served us so well for so many years.

● The Corps has lost very few posts in Hong Kong as a result of restructuring, and we are left with a CR Signals and his staff and two independent Squadrons all badged as Queen's Gurkha Signals. We all remain conscious of the honour bestowed on them by Her Majesty last year.

The year 1977 also saw the formation of a new unit, 14 Sig Regt, which will operate in support of 1st British Corps and which is now being brought up to strength in terms of men and equipment. The raising of a new Regiment at a time when all the Services have been feeling the effects of defence economies is particularly gratifying. I am sure that the whole Corps will join me in wishing 14 Sig Regt good fortune in the future.

Despite the generally encouraging trends in Northern Ireland our commitment there as a Corps remains unabated. Currently some 600 of the Corps are deployed in the four Signal Squadrons in the Province. Additionally, we have recently had a composite Squadron formed from 16 and 21 Regiments fulfilling an infantry role guarding convicted terrorists in the Magilligan Prison. This is the second time that 16 Regiment has undertaken such a role.

Our role in Belize expanded in July last year when it was feared that Guatemala might invade and the Corps now has some 80 officers and men there. Our task in providing communications within Belize and from there to the UK is a demanding one and those who have served there have gained very valuable experience.

We also became deeply involved in the firefighting business at the close of last year. The Training Group Royal Signals at Catterick became responsible for three counties in the North of England. Brig Butler, the Commander, found himself commanding infantry and artillery units as well as those of Royal Signals in dealing with the enormous commitment involved. This stretched from Liverpool to Newcastle and from Berwick to Sheffield. Training in 8 Sig Regt virtually stopped for two months and some 800 of our men were involved, the biggest single force being 160 men deployed under Col Cattermull in County Durham which became the Regiment's particular responsibility. Very good relationships were established with the civilian authorities and population as a result and our image has been very much enhanced.

Recruiting during the past year has been quite good. If present trends continue we will fall some 80 short of our target of 642 for adult recruits but only six short of our target of 853 for juniors and apprentices. We are still short of the number of young officers we require and if you believe you know anyone who would would make a good Royal Signals officer do let the Officer Recruiting Liaison Officer (Maj Couchman) at the School of Signals at Blandford know.

Our TAVR units also continue to flourish and we have a strength of 87 per cent of our establishment for volunteer soldiers and 100 per cent of our officers in the 11 regiments that go to make up our three TAVR Groups. This is way above the average for the Army and I welcome this opportunity to congratulate all members of our Royal Signals TAVR units and headquarters on their enthusiasm, dedication to duty and the high standard of the communications which they provide on training and on exercises.

However, I would not be presenting a true picture to you if I did not tell you that the numbers of officers and men applying for premature voluntary release from the Regular Army rose alarmingly during the last six months. In nearly every case, those concerned would much have preferred to remain in the Corps but felt they could no longer afford to do so. I sincerely hope that the anticipated announcement on pay and conditions of service will put this right. I also hope that Maj Gen Shapland's Working Party examining allied problems in the TAVR will achieve improvements in the award of bounties and other matters which will make service in the TAVR more attractive financially.

As far as equipment is concerned we continue to make good progress with Clansman, Wavell and Ptarmigan. The first of the four Divisions to be issued with Clansman will be fully equipped with this most successful new range of combat net radio by the end of this year. The same Division (2 Armd Div) is currently carrying out user trials on Wavell. This field automatic data processing system will be expanded to provide G Ops and G Int information at Division, Task Force and Corps HQ throughout the Corps next year if the trial is successful. Ptarmigan is going well and should be fielded in 1st British Corps in 1983. Triffid, the new radio relay equipment it will use, should be in service towards the end of next year and will replace both the C50 and C70.

Corps successes in the field of sport in 1977 and 1978 have been many. 28 Sig Regt were 1977 Army Major Unit Soccer Champions and were only narrowly beaten in the final after a replay this year. On the track 21 Sig Regt were 1977 Army Major Unit Athletic Champions with 7 Sig Regt as runners-up. In cross-country 21 Sig Regt were last year's Army Champions and have retained this title this year. 8 Sig Regt retained the Army Major Units Cricket Championship, and in Fencing they won the Army Inter-Unit Three-Man Fencing Championship. On the water in 1977, 10 Sig Regt won the Army Canoeing Team Championships in both the Long Distance and Sprint events; Cpl Jackson of 10 Sig Regt winning the Army 500-metre Sprint Championship. The Army Apprentices College were first in five of the six events in the Army Canoe Slalom Championships. At rugby there was a repeat of the 1977 Army Major Unit Final when this year 8 Sig Regt again lost a hard-fought battle with RRW. The Corps has individual champions in Lt N. H. Stewart serving with 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, who became Army Squash Champion for the fifth successive year. In bobsleighing, Capt D. B. Jones captained the Army Two-Man Bobsleigh Team and is the Army, Combined Services and National Two-Man Bobsleigh Champion.

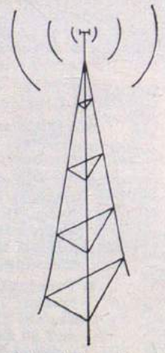
The Silver Jubilee, as expected, saw the Corps directly involved at home and abroad in the celebrations. Commitments ranged from a Royal Guard of Honour in Newcastle to the Review of the Army at Sennelager. It was a memorable time for us all.

The most important event that took place in 1977 as far as the serving and retired Corps is concerned, however, was the appointment of HRH The Princess Anne as our Colonel-in-Chief. We all look forward to a long and happy association with her during the years to come.

Finally, gentlemen, rest assured that despite the problems that beset us, the Regular and Volunteer Corps remains in good heart and that we face the future with confidence in our men and our equipment.'

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From our "In" Tray

VALE

MAJ GEN A. J. JACKSON, BSc (Hons), CEng, FIEE



ARTHUR JAMES JACKSON, better known throughout the Corps as 'Jimmy', retired on March 31, 1978—his 55th birthday. Born at Barrow-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire, the elder son of Comdr A. J. Jackson, RD, RNR, he enlisted into the Corps in 1942, and shortly afterwards was selected for an Engineering Cadetship. After this course he joined 150 OCTU in 1945 and was commissioned into the Corps in February 1946. He was sent to Italy and, later in 1946, he moved to the British Embassy in Yugoslavia. There he met Joan Relton, a member of the Ambassador's staff, and they were engaged to be married in Belgrade in May 1948. They had not taken into account the exigencies of the Service, however, and Jimmy plus all his soldiers left at short notice in January of that year. The Ambassador and Sir Alexander Galloway, C-in-C British Troops Austria, jointly came to the rescue, and Jimmy tells a good story of how the Air Attache flew Joan out to Vienna on May 3, 1948, where they were married in Christ Church the same afternoon only for Joan to be flown back to Belgrade immediately after the reception because the Embassy Anson had to be back before dark! They were eventually reunited three months later, and completed a short tour with 8th Army Sig Regt in Austria before returning to the UK, where in 1949 he entered the Royal Military College of Science to complete studies for his BSc. While at Shrivenham he obtained an honours degree, passed the entrance examination to the Institute of Electrical Engineers, and qualified 'ptsc' on the Technical Staff Course.

In 1952 he started a two year stint as GSO2, MI10 in the War Office, from where he went to the Staff College Camberley, where he gained a competitive vacancy. He thus became one of the few officers to gain a 'double blue', being dually qualified psc/ptsc. After his staff course in 1955, he was posted to Hong Kong as Adjutant 40th Divisional Signals, and in 1956 became OC 3 Sqn in the same regiment. He returned to the UK in 1957 to become GSO2 in Signals 5 in the War Office where he was involved in long-term planning and establishments for the next two years. After a spell in command of the User Trials Squadron of 30 Sig Reg, he returned to the Royal Military College of Science as a member of the Directing Staff in G Division where, amongst other duties, he was responsible for running the early General Staff Science Courses. In 1964 he went to Germany as second-in-command of 22 Sig Regt for a year, before returning to the Central Staffs of the Ministry of Defence as GSO1 (Operational Requirements). He returned to BAOR in 1966 to command 4 Divisional Signals, where apart from introducing BRUIN into the Division, he took a special interest in training his young officers. During his tour in command he introduced a wide-ranging system of adventure training projects stretching from the Arctic Circle to northern Italy, which received press coverage at the time. A keen sportsman himself, the Regiment won several major sporting trophies and became Inter-Service champions at fencing, BAOR and Inter-Service champions at hockey and not a few ski-ing events.

On leaving 4th Division at the end of 1968, he was one of the few officers promoted directly to Brigadier, and was given command of 12 Signal Group (V). In 1971 he became Director of Telecommunications (Army) in the Ministry, where he piloted two major Corps projects (Clansman and Ptarmigan) through the various committee stages. After two years in the Ministry, he once again returned to the Royal Military College of Science, as Deputy Commandant and Senior Military Director of Studies. During his time at Shrivenham he took a special interest in the many young officers of the Corps passing through on the Degree and Army Staff courses, and he also conducted the CAROT studies on behalf of the College. His last appointment, in the rank of Major-General, was Military Deputy Head of Defence Sales, for which his high technical knowledge and wide experience in field units and on the staff, together with his ability to get on with people made him eminently suitable. During this period he organised the first British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot in 1976, followed a year later by the Royal Navy Equipment Exhibition at Greenwich and Chatham.

Jimmy's main interests outside the Army are golf, gardening, shooting, and music. He has represented the Corps at golf for many years, was Captain in 1969/70 and has been president of the Society since 1970. In 1976, at the Army Golfing Society meeting at St. Andrews, he had the distinction of winning the General's Cup, his opponent in the final being that other well-known Corps golfer, **Maj Gen Eric Cole.** This was the first time that the Corps had provided both finalists. He followed this up by regaining the trophy in 1978, shortly after his retirement.

Jimmy became a Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1971, is President of the Advanced Class, and among his other talents he is an Associate of the Institute of Bankers and an accomplished organist with a particular interest in church music. We are fortunate in not running the risk of losing touch with him as he was appointed Colonel Commandant in February this year. Three of his four children have defence 'leanings'. His elder son is a captain in the Royal Green Jackets, while his elder daughter is married to a major in the Corps serving in First British Corps in Germany. We wish him and his family success and happiness in the future.

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.

VALE

THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY— COL G. D. T. HARRIS, OBE



ON May 24, 1978, **Col George Douglas Travis Harris,** known throughout the Corps as 'Blocks', handed over the reins of office of Regimental Secretary to **Col John Anthony David Francis,** after 11 years in the appointment.

'Blocks' was educated at Charterhouse and was commissioned into the Corps from the RMA Woolwich in 1933. He first saw active service during the Palestine Operations in 1936–39 when he was Mentioned in Despatches. During the last war he served in Egypt, Syria, India, and North-West Europe, where he commanded 3rd Divisional Signals, and when he was again Mentioned in Despatches. After the war he gained wide experience in a variety of units and appointment with service in the Sudan, Tripoli, the Middle East, as an instructor at the Senior Officers School, with the BJSM at Washington, and on the staff at the War Office. He was appointed OBE in 1957 and retired in 1966. Throughout his 33 years on the active list he spent a large part of his service in field units and was perhaps unique in having raised no less than four units, one of which he also disbanded, in all he commanded a total of eight Signal Regiments, his last appointment was as Chairman of BJCEB at HQ Middle East Command. **'Blocks'** was a keen and enthusiastic sailor and golfer; he represented the Corps on numerous occasions at golf, he was captain in 1962, and has been secretary since 1968.

His great knowledge of nearly every type of signal unit, he has served with Infantry, Armoured, L of C, Airformation, and War Office Signal Regiments, in addition to his staff experience, stood him in good stead when he assumed the responsibilities of Regimental Secretary in 1967.

Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO, The Master of Signals, writes of him:

'It is probable that few members of the Corps fully understand or appreciate the very important part played by the Regimental Secretary in our Corps affairs. Members of the Corps Committee certainly do and the Master of Signals, whose right arm he is, probably as much as anybody. I have been a member of the Corps Committee throughout the 11 years of "Blocks" Harris' tenure of the appointment and for nearly eight of those years I have been Master. I therefore feel that it is my privilege to write publicly of "Blocks' " loyal and devoted service as Regimental Secretary, which has been of immense value to the Corps. His successor will understand and forgive me for saying how much I personally shall miss his experienced guidance and wise council. I thank him most sincerely on behalf of us all and wish him and Diana good health and great happiness in the years ahead.'

ARMY SIGNS OFF ITS SIOUX

THE British Army's last Sioux helicopters, just 'demobbed' after 14 years' service throughout the world, 'signed off' with a farewell fly past over their fog-shrouded North Yorkshire base. Flown by pilots of 666 Sqn, Army Air Corps, the six helicopters swept over the former RAF airfield at Topcliffe in 'V' formation trailing coloured smoke. From a hovering Scout helicopter the Salute was taken by **Maj Gen Henry G. Woods,** General Officer Commanding the Army's North-East District.

For men and aircraft it marked the end of an association during which they have flown together over places ranging from the green fields of Britain to shark-infested waters of the Caribbean . . . from the Arctic to the Tropics. The Yorkshire-based 666 Sqn were the last to hand in their piston-engined Sioux helicopters before receiving the new jet turbine 'Gazelle' helicopter.

Squadron pilots later flew the retiring Sioux—the last of more than 200 made for the Army—to Wroughton, Wiltshire, where they will await a buyer.

Report and photo by courtesy of PR, HQ North-East District.



Piloting one of the helicopters in the historic fly-past was 33-year-old Sgt Patric Strugnell, at present on flying duties with the Army Air Corps

Since the ceremony the Squadron has been redesignated 655 Squadron, Army Air Corps

OPERATION DRAKE

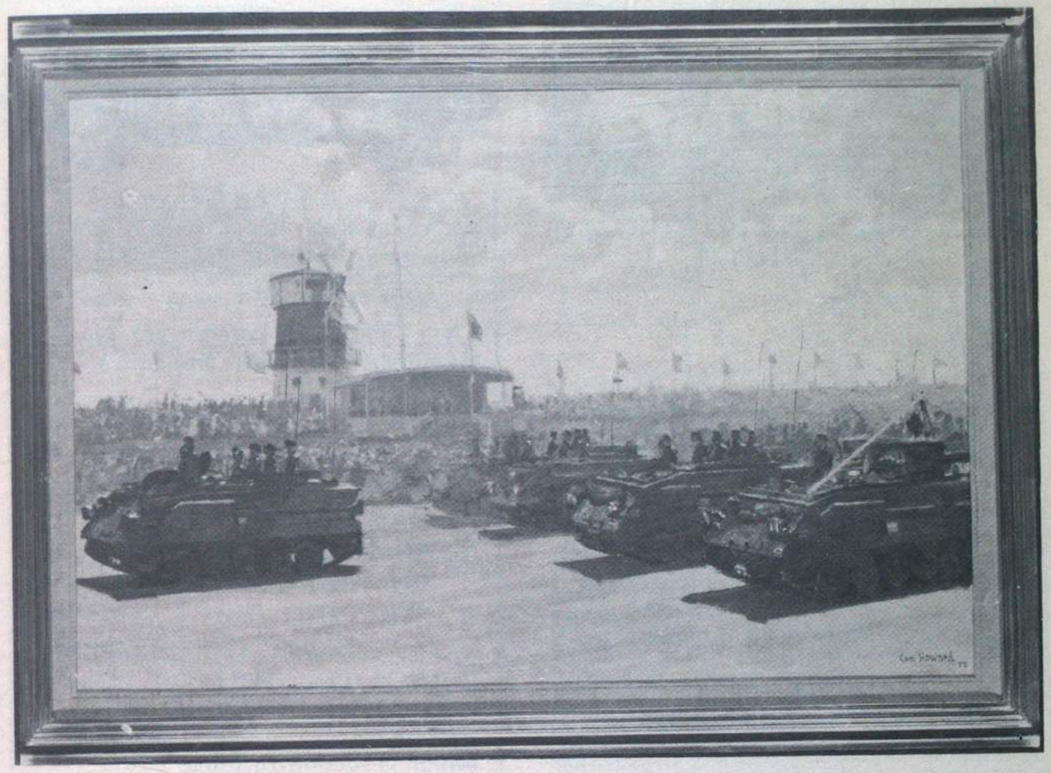
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ROYAL REVIEW—OIL PAINTING



AT the request of the CSO, Royal Signals (BAOR) commissioned Ken Howard to paint a picture representing Royal Signals participation in the Silver Jubilee Royal Review at Sennelager on July 7, 1977. The picture, which is an oil painting, has just been completed and we are glad to publish a photographic copy.

It was decided that Royal Signals (BAOR) should commission this painting, which depicts the drive-past of HQ 6 Armd Bde, as it was probably the last occasion at which such a formation would appear on a ceremonial parade. The main detail of the painting apart from depicting the prominent Sennelager windmill and Royal Box shows the Commander of 6 Armd Bde in the leading FV432 followed by four armoured vehicles from the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The nearest armoured vehicle, of the four in-line, is specifically Royal Signals as it is an FV439 with well-defined mast, pulling-gear and mounted generator. The remaining three FV432s although not obviously Royal Signals do have a 'Jimmy' emblazoned on the side at the front near the headlights (as does the FV439 and the 8-ft whip antennas carry Royal Signals pennant (this was added as 'artist's licence' to give the painting a dash more Royal Signals flavour).

It is intended to keep the original painting in BAOR for a while before returning it to the UK where it will be offered to the Corps for display.

Copies of this picture are in colour and will measure approximately 20×26in and, dependent on numbers ordered, the cost will be around DM10·00 (or £2). If you wish to receive a copy, please place an order with Signals Branch, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40, as soon as possible.

POSTSCRIPT

Mr. Ken Howard, who is the artist who produced the painting, has kindly agreed to sign a limited number of prints. We are charging an extra DM4·00 (£1·00) for each print signed. Units are therefore requested to include in their total requirements the number of prints they wish to be so signed.

As stated above, the price of an unsigned print will be around DM10·00 (or £2·00). The reason for the slightly extra cost for units in BAOR (DM10·00) compared with that to units in the UK and other overseas theatres (£2·00) is to take account of the LOA received by those serving in BAOR and the need to meet the capital cost of the picture, which until it is offered to the Corps, is a BAOR project.

The prices are therefore:

	BAOR	*UK and elsewhere*
Signed by the artist	DM14	£3
Unsigned	DM10	£2

From: **Maj L. W. Prescot, MBE** (Royal Signals)
Dear Sir,

On reading the news from NATO FSS Shetland in the March edition our RR Tech postings genius, Mrs Robinson, burst into tears (whether of sympathy or laughter I am not sure) on reading of the 'turbulence' they have been suffering. Memories are very short as she and I well remember when Shetland was officially an 18-month accompanied tour but as nearly half the technicians were Class 2 and had to return for upgrading some did as little as six months. 'Accompanied' for many meant enduring a block of hirings, aptly named Valhalla, and described by one senior officer as 'a Glasgow slum set in the wilderness' II Maccabes Chapter 2 verses 24 and 25.

Lest Capt Cook is thinking of writing to 'The Guinness Book of Records' on his 14 'Stars'-worth of visitors I suggest he checks the historical record of 242 Sig Sqn, where he will find that in 1974 there were 22 'Stars'-worth for 36 men. Job Chapter 15 verse 2.

If he should read this I hope Maj Gen Baldwin will forgive me if I say that I know he nearly sent me a very short signal when he was Commander 2 Signal Group namely, 'Job Chapter 13 verse 5'.

Yours sincerely,
Leslie Prescot

Royal Signals
Manning and Record Office,
Balmore House,
Caversham,
Reading RG4 8NT.

TALKING SPORT—CORPS PERSONALITIES

HISTORY was made when **Ann Thewliss,** wife of **Capt John Thewliss,** OC 'K' Troop, 21 Sig Regt, stationed at RAF Wildenrath attended and successfully passed the examination at the end of the combined Army/RAF Cricket Umpires course which was held at the RAPC Training Centre, Rheindahlen, February 3–7, 1978.

Ann, who sat the RAF CU and SA Cricket Umpires examination paper, obtained a Class 'B' pass and, as far as we can ascertain, is the first 'qualified' lady cricket umpire in the Corps, if not in the Army.

It might also be interesting to note that **Capt** (Retd) **Bill Fawley,** who is now an ROIII at HQ RAF Support Command and who was one of the instructors on the Rheindahlen course was not only a committee member of the Army Cricket Umpires Association and Editor of their bi-monthly Newsletter 'Viewpoint', but has been since 1969 the secretary of the RAF Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association, Editor of the RAF CU and SA 'Newsletter', Member of the Council of the National Association of Cricket Umpires and, until recently, was the founder and secretary of the Combined Services Cricket Umpires Committee. In his spare time he is also the secretary of the Huntingdonshire Cricket Umpires Association, and the assistant secretary of the Huntingdonshire County Cricket Association. He sometimes, too, finds time to umpire for Combined Services, The Army, the RAF, and Leicestershire 2nd XI.

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Key W1

From: **Ian McKee, MBE,** Hon Secretary,
78 Division Battleaxe Club
Dear Sir,

On the second Saturday of each November we hold a reunion at the Victory Club. We are anxious that all those who served in Divisional Signals during any campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Austria, and who are not members of the Club who are notified, should have the information so that they can attend.

Will any ex-78 Division signallers get in touch with me?

Yours sincerely,
Ian McKee

98 Christchurch Road,
Winchester,
Hants SO23 9TE
Tel: Winchester (0962) 69450.

BOOK REVIEW

'Commandos and Rangers of World War II', by JAMES LADD. Published by MacDonald & Janes Publishers Ltd. 275 pages, bibliography, illustrated and indexed. Price £7·95.

JAMES LADD, who wrote the 'History of the White Helmets' which was published last year, has written another interesting and fascinating book. This history covers the operations, large and small, carried out by special commando and similar forces amongst the allies including Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand Forces, during the last war. The raids and operations are described in some detail and in many cases supported with maps, they come alive by the inclusion of personal achievements, actions and reminiscences, photographs and sketches add further interest. One of the features of this book, from the Corps' point of view, which is normally excluded from historical narratives of a similar nature, is that 'communications' are included; in fact, contributions have been supplied by **Maj Gen E. S. Cole, CB, CBE,** and **Col A. J. Leahy, OBE,** who were both intimately involved with communications in 'combined operations' during the war. Other useful features of the book are the appendices, which summarise the organisations and various formations and units, the special weapons and craft that were used, the development of communications with a description of the wireless sets used and a typical wireless layout, and a short history of all the formations and units involved.

The use of specially-trained, selected, elite troops was and always will be a matter of controversy, bound as it is to syphon off the 'cream' of our forces. There is, however, no doubt, as this book amply illustrates, that in this case they were fully justified. They not only provided an outlet for those with a strong adventurous spirit and overwhelming desire to 'get at the enemy' but they undoubtedly heartened and boosted the morale of the whole country when we were suffering many setbacks. They also caused discomfort and confusion to the enemy and forced him to divert resources from the more conventional and, possibly, important areas.

This book is not only strongly recommended to students of history, who will find it of immense value in studying this particular form of warfare, but also to everyone who enjoys an exciting and enthralling tale.

LOOKING BACK

From: **W. A. Clark**
Dear Sir,

With reference to the recent passing of that much-loved actor, Mr Jack Hulbert, may I, through your columns, mention a memory of Jack which has remained with me over the years. Many older members of the Corps will no doubt have the same memory.

In 1920, as a very young Signalman in 'C' Coy in Crowborough Camp, Sussex, I remember Jack, his brother, Claude, and their wives, Cicely and Enid, coming to the 'Soldiers Home' in the camp, and giving us much pleasure with their amusing performances.

I believe Jack's father, Capt Hulbert (who was our Medical Officer), and a certain young Lt R. T. O. Cary were instrumental in bringing this talented group to entertain us. Perhaps some other founder members present at Crowborough at the time might care to confirm this.

Joe Cotterell's photo of the Canteen Staff at Maresfield in 1924 evinced memories of the 'Char and Wads' of that period. The enclosed photo of our predecessors at Maresfield Park may be suitable for publication. I understand that the birds depicted thereon hastily migrated sometime in 1914 and have not yet returned.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. Clark

256 Addison Way,
Hayes,
Middlesex, UB3 2DL.





We are indebted to Col (Retd) J. F. Worth, OBE, for the photograph of the very first Corps Boys XI taken in the season after the formation of the Corps (1920–21). Colours at that time were the familiar blue and white; the fixtures against youth sides of Sussex and Kent. The back of the postcard names the boys as:
Left to right: Boys Matthews, Kenneally, Lawson, Smith, Walker, Gravet, Knight, Couperthwaite, Worth, Watts, Russell and Stone



We are indebted to Maj W. H. Green, of 'Beleli', 58 Salisbury Drive, Prestatyn, Clwyd, North Wales, for this 1927 photograph of the Officers, WOs and Sergeants of 'B' Corps and 1st Indian Division Signals at Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi
Maj Green would be very glad to hear from Sgts Freddie Johns, Joe Coombes and Bob Rand

Movements

Officers

APRIL 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt J. R. S. Amberton	4 Div H.Q. and Sig Regt
Lt Col J. J. Bally	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Lt Col G. D. Birch	36 Sig Regt (V)
Maj (Tfc) D. V. Boddington	Live Oak
Maj A. H. Boyle	MOD DM(A)
Maj K. P. Burke	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Maj E. F. Carrel	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Capt M. J. P. Collins	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Capt F. Common	8 Sig Regt
Capt N. J. Cory	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Maj A. R. Dominy	School of Signals
Maj I. C. Double	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Maj (TOT) M. R. Edge	HQ Norireland
Maj (QM) J. J. C. Finch	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Maj L. G. Fraser	HQ BF Cyprus
Capt S. D. Galpin	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col R. W. Garlick	HQ Londist
Capt F. J. Garrod	School of Signals
Maj I. Graham	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Maj C. E. Grundy	MOD DSS(AD)
Col J. P. Hart, OBE	MOD DCCIS
Capt (Tfc) P. D. Hayler	HQ Berlin (BR Sector)
Maj D. R. Hodges	RS and RE (Malvern)
Capt R. T. Hoole	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj N. A. Horler	MOD DSS
Maj (QM) R. E. Howard	8 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) A. M. P. Howie, BEM	HQ BAOR
Capt D. P. Hughes	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Maj D. J. Jessett	21 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. J. Jolly	34 Sig Regt (V)
Lt R. J. Kinnaird	5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj R. J. Lettin	HQ UKLF
Maj M. S. Louden	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. L. Maloney	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj C. B. Mercer	BR Contingent UNFICYP (SP Regt)
Capt C. V. Nind	HQ Land Forces—Cyprus
Capt G. Penman	11 Sig Regt
Capt J. V. Prees	11 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) G. P. T. Raku	10 Sig Regt
Lt Col J. A. P. Russell	MOD DSS(AD)
Capt J. A. Shepherd	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt J. T. Smith	HQ Land Forces—Cyprus
Capt A. H. Symmons	HQ Norireland
Maj (QM) A. Taylor	HQ Norireland

MAY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. S. McK. Anderson	RSRE(PE) (AE)
Col J. R. Burrows	UK MILREP Brussels
Lt B. J. Barton-Ancliffe	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt L. K. Byrne	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
Maj P. R. Brewis	DGGWL(A) MOD (PE)
Maj C. R. C. Bunce	16 Sig Regt
Capt D. Beare	School of Signals C/S
Capt I. D. Bingham	School of Signals C/S
Capt R. F. Binham	School of Signals C/S
Maj A. J. Briggs	School of Signals C/S
Maj (QM) W. A. Barnes	11 Sig Regt (Ouston INCR)
Capt J. P. Byrne	30 Sig Regt
Maj J. S. B. Brinsford	School of Signals
2 Lt C. E. Cox	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
2 Lt R. F. M. Cousins	21 Sig Regt
Capt B. Chubb	School of Signals C/S
Capt D. E. P. Cox	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Lt A. Duncan	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj M. S. Davies	RSRE
2 Lt A. A. Ewell	11 Sig Regt
2 Lt P. H. Eaton	22 Sig Regt
Maj R. C. Etheridge	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Maj R. J. Ebdon	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt I. R. Fielder	7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
2 Lt M. C. Gilyeat	16 Sig Regt
Capt C. B. Greig	HQ NorIreland
Maj J. L. E. Gryspeerdt	Within School of Signals
Lt B. Hewitt	7 Sig Regt
Capt J. D. Heck	School of Signals C/S
Capt B. J. Hughes	School of Signals C/S
Lt A. J. R. Kite	8 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) T. Johnstone	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
2 Lt S. O. Lunn	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt S. Lockie	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. M. Lovatt	School of Signals
2 Lt I. W. Mackenzie	30 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) P. F. Metcalfe	8 Sig Regt
Capt G. Maddren	School of Signals C/S
Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay	RSRE(PE) (AE)
Capt A. McVittie	School of Signals C/S
Capt P. B. Neale	School of Signals
2 Lt C. Owen	21 Sig Regt
Capt D. F. Palmer	School of Signals C/S
2 Lt P. A. Pratley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. D. Patterson	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj R. J. Savage	DSS (AD)
Lt M. C. K. Smart	7 Sig Regt
Capt M. R. S. Stanners	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Maj D. Strong	HQ 1 Sig Gp
2 Lt N. A. Swainson	16 Sig Regt
Lt-Col J. W. Swindells	12 RSME Regt (Signal Wing)
Maj R. D. K. Thompson	DCD (A)
2 Lt P. M. Telford	5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
2 Lt G. J. Whyman	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. T. Weston	RMAS C/S (RCC16)
Lt Col S. G. Walker	SHAPE (BAE)

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

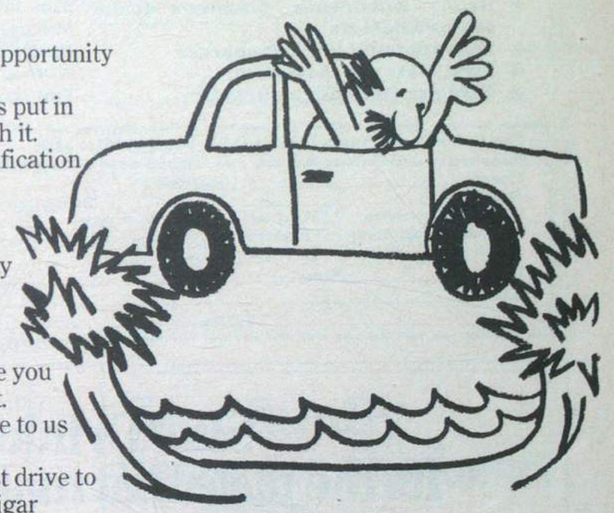
APRIL 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 R. G. Vale	Manchester University OTC
WO2 H. P. Emraz	22 Sig Regt
WO2 R. A. Norris	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
WO2 (F of S) R. Cooper	8 Sig Regt
A/WO2 M. E. Croot	32 Cadet Training Team
Sgt G. France	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Peacock	Cambridge University OTC
Sgt S. Gair	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. V. Taylor	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Sloggett	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt P. K. Sutherland	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Sgt D. Fisher	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Robinson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Franklin	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Gillham	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt F. T. Pitt	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. M. Moorhead	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt J. E. Dickenson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt I. D. F. Haldane	13 Sig Regt
Sgt C. T. James	7 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Abbott	642 Sig Tp
Sgt C. Marker	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Lane	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Farmer	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Neil	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. C. Mapp	13 Sig Regt
Sgt T. S. Robertson	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. Nichols	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Aspinall	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. H. Halfpenny	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt T. H. Toye	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Martin	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt M. Wharfe	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. Shaw	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Ellis	CPA Royal Signals
Sgt A. Hickling	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt R. C. White	10 Sig Regt
Sgt R. S. B. Whillier	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Sgt J. O'Toole	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. E. Bentley	22 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Howley	633 Sig Tp
Sgt C. T. James	7 Sig Regt
Sgt T. P. Tiernan	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt W. D. Collinson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. F. Brown	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Turner	13 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Marsh	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt H. E. Walkden	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Ameghino	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Mullin	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt D. E. Alvey	16 Sig Regt

MAY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (F of S) P. A. Cook	School of Signals
WO1 (F of S) G. Yule	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
WO1 (F of S) R. F. W. Livesey	30 Sig Regt
WO1 A. McMillan	School of Signals
WO1 (Y of S) P. J. Cadman	16 Sig Regt
WO2 A. Bailey	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 A. D. Davies	School of Signals
WO2 B. M. Hudson	227 Sig Sqn
WO2 R. V. Huxtable	8 Sig Regt
WO2 G. M. Lumley	11 Sig Regt
WO2 F. A. Quinn	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 V. T. Zimmer	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) M. Campbell	Royal Brunei Malay Regt
WO2 (Y of S) D. I. Gilchrist	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
WO2 (Y of S) A. T. Jackson	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) P. R. Wagstaff	HQ Training Gp
Ssgt (F of S) F. C. Brown	233 Sig Sqn
Ssgt M. G. Judge	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Ssgt M. J. Blackett	MOD DSS(AD)
Ssgt R. C. Charlesworth	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt H. Forsyth	7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt (Y of S) D. G. Bartlett	Royal School of Artillery Larkhill
Ssgt (Y of S) W. R. D. Burnham	17 Port and Maritime Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) J. A. Farndon	633 Sig Tp
Ssgt (Y of S) P. J. Hockram	229 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (Y of S) P. Hodgkinson	36 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt (Y of S) A. D. Janaway	244 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (Y of S) A. J. McArthur	240 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (Y of S) D. P. Palmer	39 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt (Y of S) K. Rodger	8 Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) D. M. Wood	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Ssgt F. Black	28 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Cross	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Hay	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. W. T. Hunt	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Nash	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. D. Robertson	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt E. C. Monk	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt H. E. Dudey	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. Davis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Garrow	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. Kemal	8 Sig Regt
Sgt E. R. Millard	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. Newall	10 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Y. Nicoll	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Arbury	10 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Stickland	13 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Walton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt B. L. Jones	30 Sig Regt
Sgt B. D. Roberts	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. F. Simms	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt T. M. Murphy	229 Sig Sqn

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CS 4

RENAULT

5/78 Printed in Great Britain

SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE ONE

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Sgt M. Kerrigan	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. O. Whitbread	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. M. Resoun	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. Hall	604 Sig Tp
Sgt A. J. Pearmain	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. Mawhinney	28 Sig Regt
Sgt B. G. Ozanne	593 Rear Link Det
Sgt J. Rennie	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. Banks	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Duncan	11 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Winterburn	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Sgt M. Walker	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. C. Boys	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt P. Brown	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt A. S. Copeland	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. W. Nelson	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt J. W. Slade	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt D. M. Spence	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt J. H. Jackson	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt R. N. Coulson	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt N. P. Martin-Law	School of Signals
Sgt J. F. Hanifin	School of Signals
Sgt R. L. Keeps	School of Signals
Sgt J. G. Campbell	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt A. S. Smith	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt R. T. Howe	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. E. Dinsdale	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. Ledger	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Sgt S. Kent	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) for attachment to Commando Training Centre
Sgt M. Gowling	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt T. Wardle	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Ballantyne	12 RSME
Sgt R. Northgreaves	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. Sharpe	22 Sig Regt
Sgt T. D. Walker	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. H. Anderson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Licence	School of Signals
Sgt D. Sykes	9 Sig Regt
Sgt N. H. Hastie	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. B. Jackson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Cuckow	HQ BAOR
Sgt A. Smith	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. Mackintosh	8 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Parry	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. Sands	14 Sig Regt

Welfare

FEBRUARY 1978

Number of cases assisted financially	31
Amount spent	£1,345·94
Number of clothing parcels sent	32

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	2
Amount spent	£84·07

MARCH 1978

Number of cases assisted financially	45
Amount spent	£2,250·76
Number of parcels sent	38

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	4
Amount spent	£253·16

ONE OF OUR CASES

SIGNALMAN who served from 1920 to 1926 and from 1941 to 1946. He is now aged 76 and in very poor health, looked after by his wife. The Association helps them with clothing parcels when possible. Recently, the mattress on their double bed collapsed, completely worn out. The Association made a grant of £35 to provide a new mattress, and the wife's letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

THE mattress is splendid, and we are now able to sleep well. We do thank you so much.

THANK YOU

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

Lt Col D. A. Dickson; Maj R. Iliffe; Mr and Mrs C. Fry; The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp; Mrs D. M. Purser; The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt; Maj H. Marjoram; Mrs K. N. Smartt; R. A. Fisk, Esq; Mrs J. Mather; Maj J. F. Bedford; R. Ashby, Esq; Mrs V. E. Haslett; Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer; Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole; Col J. F. Worth; Maj Gen and Mrs M. D. Price; Mrs M. L. Willway.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1978:

	£
83 Sig Sqn	2·00
The Earl Kitchener	2·00
A. D. Trevethick, Esq	100·00
M. E. Byng, Esq	10·00
L. O. Rowland-Jones, Esq	10·00
L. C. Hall, Esq	5·00
Lt Col N. G. Gallyer	5·00
P. H. Jones, Esq	3·00
Col D. S. Clarke	2·75
G. W. Cook, Esq	2·47
Col F. S. Morgan	1·25
Maj J. F. Everard	1·00
Col J. F. Longfield	1·00
Col G. H. T. Shrimpton	1·20
M. E. Holdsworth, Esq	1·00
Miscellaneous Donations	1·15
	£148·82

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1978:

	£
The Estate of the late Brig W. C. V. Galwey OBE, MC	8903·59
D. E. Strike, Esq	25·00
Mrs M. Nutt	15·50
D. S. Edney, Esq	2·00
Sgt E. Grant	2·00
J. Couperns, Esq	1·90
C. K. McLennan, Esq	1·05
J. N. Houston, Esq	1·00
Various minor donations	5·06
	£8957·10

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Tender chunks of lean steak and tasty kidney wrapped in rich gravy inside a tender suet pastry case. And ready to cook in its own handy pudding basin!
A nourishing and tasty family-sized meal in almost no time at all.

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of the month prior to publication.

DEATHS

Allen—Brig Frederick Joshua Allen, OBE, was born and educated in Ireland and commissioned into 36 Jacobs Horse from the Cadet College at Quetta in 1917. During the first world war he was on active service on the Western Front and in Palestine. He transferred to the Corps in 1927 and spent the majority of his service in India. He took part in the North-West Frontier Operations of 1924 and 1926. During the second world war he commanded 17 Indian Divisional Signals, Burma Corps Signals and was CSO 15 Indian Corps on the Burma Front, also CSO Training GHQ Dehli and CSO Bengal and Assam. He was appointed OBE in 1942 and Mentioned in Despatches in 1945. After Partition he became CSO Eastern Command India until his retirement in 1948 when he returned to the UK. After retirement he was employed as an RO with Signals Works Services and later as PRI of 3 Sqn, War Office Sig Regt. He was a keen and capable performer at all types of mounted sports and big game shooting. He died on May 2, at the age of 80.

Caulfield—Maj Charles Hughgmont Caulfield enlisted in the Royal Engineers at the age of 14 in 1908. He was one of the founder members of the Corps when he transferred, on its formation, in 1920. He reached the rank of WO2 in 1925 and WO1 in 1933. In 1937 when he was RSM of the Depot Regt, he was granted a commission and became Quartermaster of Peshawar District Signals. He spent many years in India, and retired in 1949 when he settled in Brighton. He died in Worthing Hospital on April 2 at the age of 83.

Drugan—WO2 Antony Drugan joined the Army in May 1952 and served 25 years with the Corps prior to his discharge whilst serving with 22 Sig Regt in February 1977. He died on March 4, 1978, at the age of 41 years.

Moore—Maj Sydney Charles Moore enlisted as a Boy in 1927, he was commissioned in 1943. He spent most of his service in the UK and Germany and settled in Plymouth when he retired in 1965. He died on January 16, at the age of 65.

Nalder—Maj Gen Reginald Francis Heaton Nalder, CB, OBE, who died on April 12 at the age of 83, was commissioned into the Loyal North Lancashire Regt in 1914 and transferred to the East Surrey Regt in 1915 with whom he saw active service in France, Belgium, and Italy during the first world war, when he was Mentioned in Despatches. He was seconded to the RE Signal Service in 1918 and transferred to the Corps in 1922. Between the two world wars he saw active service on the North-West Frontier in 1931–32 as Brigade Major of the Kohat Brigade. Shortly before the second world war he was secretary of the Jackson Committee which recommended the organisation to be adopted by the Corps for the forthcoming onslaught. At the outbreak of the war he was commanding 1st Divisional Signals with the BEF in France and, after Dunkirk, became CSO IV Corps when he was appointed OBE and Mentioned in Despatches. During the rest of the war he held various senior appointments as Liaison Officer, in the Middle East to the Director of Signals, a Member of the Goodwin Austin Committee which was responsible for planning the future organisation of the Corps, DCSO 15 Army Group and CSO Allied Armies Italy, when he was appointed CB, Commander Legion of Merit (USA), Officier Legion d'Honneur, and awarded the Croix de Guerre avec palme (France). In 1946 he became SO in C India and retired in 1947. After retirement he became Secretary of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, was Deputy Chairman of the Royal Signals Association for six years, a Colonel Commandant for five years, and wrote 'British Army Signals in the Second World War' and the history of 'The Royal Corps of Signals'. In recognition of his conspicuous contribution to the knowledge of the history of signalling and of the development and work of the Corps, he was awarded the Princess Mary Medal in 1966.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

FOR SALE

Attention Ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins is available from the Association. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £7·00 at home and £6·30 overseas.

Going up the Gulf? Renowned 'Marshall' Trunk for Sale. Size 36″×21″×19″ deep. Wooden construction, metal lined, air tight and insect proof. Ideal for uniforms and other valuable clothing, linen etc being shipped to hot climes. Complete with protective crate. Lt Col N G Gallyer (Retd), R Signals Manning & Records. Tel: Reading Records Mil: 472701 Ext: 25.

ACCOMMODATION—LONDON

TAVR Officer seeks accommodation in London from September 16, 1978 to July 1979; to study for Bar Finals at Law School in Holborn. Please contact 2 Lt P. H. Walker, 38 Sig Regt (V), Manor TAC, Mansfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

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Office Clerical/Security. Whitcombe Street, WC2. £3,300 p.a.
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Reception. Kensington High Street, W8. Outstanding type wanted. £3,000–£3,500 p.a.
Reception. New York—probably August *if* work permit obtained.
Driver, etc. Silverton, E16. £60 p.w. basic.
Clerical. Gresham Street, EC2. £3,150 p.a.
Messenger. Lothbury, EC2. £3,500 p.a.
Driver/Messenger. Marylebone Road, NW1. £2,700+ p.a.
Security. Wandsworth, SW18. £67+ p.w.
Cre/Messenger. Upper Brook Street, W1. Approx. £3,000.

We can only include a limited number of the jobs available—please write or call in and discuss the opportunities we have in London and the Home Counties.

We can accept a few men for temporary employment duties only provided they meet the requirements of enrolment into the Corps and are completely fit.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is in fact no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Men are advised to bring their Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them and any other references they may have.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 809

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

AT the time of our last appearance in THE WIRE we had visions of having a relatively quiet period, after the social whirl of Christmas; time to rest the body, and the pocket! However, the PIRA had other ideas and, indeed, so did our 2IC **Capt David Collyer,** who decided to shake the dust off his training file (No 13?) and exercise the Squadron (no rest for the wicked!). Now read on. . . .

MORTAR ATTACK

In August 1977 after a delay of several years, two 50ft telescopic masts were erected in the Army/Police Post at Forkhill, South Armagh. 'A/TM' Troop breathed a sigh of relief, for it meant that the aerial riggers could install, replace, and repair antennae in relative safety—out of sight from the local 'bad boys'.

However, the temptation was too much for the PIRA who decided to 'have a go'. On January 23, using the masts as their aiming point, they launched a mortar bomb attack on the base. Using a hijacked flat-bed lorry—complete with home-brew mortar they fired two 25lb bombs into the base. Both bombs pierced the protective overhead wire mesh and exploded very close to the masts. Fortunately, there were no serious casualties and the resultant loss of communications was quickly rectified by 'A' Troop. (*Afternote*—'A' Troop riggers would have been working on the masts at the time of the explosion but their helicopter flight from Bessbrook was delayed due to heavy mist—there but by the Grace of God. . .)

'Oh what a . . . mess!'
Sgt Ken Robson inspecting the damaged masts at Forkhill



Winter sports in the Mountains of Mourne
Left to right: Sig Steve Mepham, Lcpl 'Geordie' Marrs, Cpl Don Chester and Sig George Pool (with Lcpl Trev Smith hiding behind him) having a refreshment stop during Exercise Mourning Glory

MOURNING GLORY

Saturday, February 11, saw 75 personnel from the Squadron depart for the Mourne Mountains for the 2IC's 'jolly'. In all, 17 teams navigated themselves round 11 checkpoints as part of a competitive map-reading exercise. Luckily the weather was in our favour and everyone enjoyed themselves. There were no mishaps although the RSM, **Malcolm Smart,** and Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Gerry Moloney,** were 'missing' for four hours—due to a 'slight' navigational error (some would put it down to old age!).

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS . . . .

'B' Troop

It would be reasonable to presume that following a hectic Christmas period things would get back to normal, but not so, especially for the Comcen Ops who have been as busy as ever (well, almost . . .). **Lcpls 'Lofty' Garside** and **Chris McTernan,** and **Sigs Tony Rees, 'Womble' Howell** and **'Smudge' Smith** somehow managed to extricate themselves from various duties and spend a most welcome break in the Bavarian Alps, courtesy of 2 Armd Div Sig Regt. **Sig Tony Rees** surprised us all, including himself, by winning a cup as the most improved skier (pity about his typing skills . . .).

Rumour has it that **Lcpl 'Jock' King** and **Sig Barry Blain,** currently on their B1 course are actually returning to the unit. Needless to say the duties have been mounting up, and the return of our two intrepid fire heroes is eagerly awaited, from what can only be described as the longest B1 course in history.

The MT Section continues to soldier on with drivers continually being tasked all over the Province. Any rumours that **Dvr Kevan Wood** and **Sig 'Jock' Campbell** have been signed up by Team Lotus have now been firmly scotched (due to a slight argument with a brick wall). However, a team of four drivers managed to restore the MTO's faith in the driving ability of the Section by producing a magnificent victory in the Northern Ireland 'It's a Knockout' Road Safety Competition. This caused our MTO, **WO2 Brian Hudson,** considerable financial embarrassment by having to supply some suitable refreshment for the victors.

On a more serious note the Periodic Road Safety Lectures are having a success, and our thanks to the RUC (who managed to turn a recent lecture into a recruiting campaign—so far there are no takers!).



'Didn't we do well!'
WO2 (MTO) Brian Hudson surrounded by his 'driving experts' Cpl Stevens, Lcpls Griffiths, Butterworth and Dvr Officer

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We welcome aboard **Cpl 'Jock' Blair** (RCT), **Cpl Frank** and **Mrs Maltby, Lcpl Rick Sewell** and family, **Sig Louis Carr** and family, **Sig Brian Letham,** who decided that being a Combat Engineer just didn't appeal and that he would much prefer to play with his T100. Welcome back.

We say farewell to **Cpl Bob Scott,** on route to 9 Sig Regt., and **Cpls Allan Frankland** and **Vince Vincent** who have opted for a 'quieter' life in civvie street. Good luck!

D & E Platoon

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE the Platoon has moved up a notch, within the confines of the Squadron, by showing their prowess with the compass and winning the Squadron Orienteering Competition. We must congratulate **Lcpls Pitt** and **Roberts,** and **Ptes Carter, Cowan, Haden** and **Lawrey** for their excellent efforts and hope that they perform just as well in later competitions (at least they won't get hit between sangers!).

With winter just disappearing we are all looking forward to the arrival of some good weather when we can once again match ourselves against the rest of the Squadron in various outdoor activities. In the meantime the Platoon continues to carry out its task of guarding the SF base and married quarters areas—a thankless task—although it was recently reported that one of the sangers 'spoke' to a member of the Platoon (undoubtedly a case of the dreaded 'sangar sandrones').

Quartermaster's Department

Like all precision and well-oiled machines the QM's Department continues to run in the time-honoured and ever-ready traditions of the calling. Interspersed with suitable breaks for golf, soccer, squash and darts, we find time to supply boots, batteries, blankets, baths, bolts and boxes in the usual helpful and charming manner, born of good breeding and training. Don't laugh—if you find it difficult to believe us, come and join us!

Although life has changed little in recent months we are about to undergo a degree of 'surgery'—for it is inevitable that faces, if not places, must change. Shortly to move is our RQMS, **Ron Collins** who, after two gruelling years, has received his just award as our new RSM. To him, his wife, **Ann,** and family we send our congratulations and best wishes. Also on the way are **WO2 Jean Mowe** (WRAC), the Brigade Welfare Assistant, **Sgt** and **Mrs Jim Neil** and **Pte 'Snowball' Tumilson** (RAOC). To them all our thanks and 'Auf Wiedersehen'.

To our new arrivals, **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Rossall** and family, **Sgt** and **Mrs Lewis Sharman,** and **Cpl Tom Jamieson** (RAOC) we say 'welcome aboard'.

Our hero, **Sig Kevin Potter,** of 'fire-fighting in Bishop Auckland' fame, has at last returned to the fold, the proud possessor of his Class I Clerk Technical rating. Well done. (Perhaps 610.78 will be in order for the next stocktaking board!)

Sergeants Mess

Tales of Mafeking and the Boer War provided a change of subject in the Sergeants Mess at Mahon Road, when 65 members of the Portadown and Gilford Branches of the Royal British Legion attended a social evening.

Members of the Mess led by **WO1 (RSM) Malcolm Smart** and assisted by their wives ensured that the guests had an enjoyable evening, recalling old memories and experiences and occasionally bursting forth into song. The seeds have been sown . . . further get-togethers are planned (provided the Mess can stand the pace)!



'It wasn't like this at Mafeking!'
WO1 (RSM) Malcolm Smart in the company of one of the British Legion guests

'A/TM' Troop Report

We have had a very busy and exciting period since the New Year. On January 22 **Cpl Don Chester, Sigs George Pool** and **Paul Smith** were waiting for the weather to clear so that they could fly in to Forkhill to work on the radio masts. Meanwhile, the Provisionals fired some of their home-made mortars at the base, fortunately causing no serious casualties, but they did hit the radio masts and damaged them. For antenna riggers there is no bad weather now; it is either flying or non-flying! We have replaced the damaged masts with a bigger and better one, and put one in Crossmaglen for good measure. For the expense of a bit of physical exertion—and a definite feeling of exposure—one can inspect our extensive views over the boarder and away to Dundalk.

Some of us have been ski-ing in Bavaria with 2 Div Sig Regt (many thanks to them) but the rest of us had to make do with hiking in the snow over the Mountains of Mourne for our winter sports. The Troop may not have been fastest round the course but we did not lack our creature comforts on the way. However, for the Mourne Walk in June we will not be laden like camels.

We have become heavily involved with fitting radios into vehicles for the UDR. **Sgt Steve May** has suddenly discovered the skills of the shop floor manager. While half the Troop has learned the efficiency of the production-line system, their insatiable demands for tools have made **Cpl Pete Younger** defend his locker of 'shiny' stores with all the grasping attributes of a Levantine usurer.

We heard that Easter is really a holiday, but no one told the management. **Sgt Steve Harrison** did see his bed once or twice but was never in it long. **Ssgt Bob Oliver** spent an interesting two days, with six other members of the Troop as part of the Squadron Reserve Platoon, keeping an eye on the Republican areas of Lurgan. Meanwhile, **Sgt Chris Platts** has been living in the lap of luxury on his extended leave in Hong Kong; it is still possible to indulge out there.

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8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER

In March the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Peter Burke** and his wife, **Claire,** after over two years with the Squadron. They will both be well remembered by all in 8 Brigade for their very active involvement in all Squadron activities. We welcome, in their place, **Maj Tim Waugh** and his wife, **Gaby,** and wish them a happy and successful tour. As a parting shot, **Maj Burke** mentioned to the Commander that the only outstanding project was the extension of the command net to Magherafelt. The reply from the Commander was, 'I thought that was in—put it in by 1700hrs tonight'. Since then the new OC has been going steadily grey—CR Signals please note.

Our photograph shows **Maj Burke** 'getting a lift' round to the Mess after his farewell party in the Squadron Club.

This parting event did not go unnoticed in a local Scurrilous magazine which said, 'Overheard yesterday as retiring OC Sig Sqn wobbled round camp on his forklift truck'. 'The old one climbs flagpoles the new one looks like one!'



Cpl Goodman gives Maj Burke a lift while the RSM waves goodbye

COMMANDER VISITS

FEBRUARY saw our Annual FFR Inspection which took the form of an in-camp inspection, during which the Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle, MBE,** visited all departments. Our photographs show the Commander visiting Comms Troop, 'MT' Troop, and 'Q' Troop. In addition to the visit, we were given a number of tasks, one of which was the BFT test for 30 members of the Squadron, including three Brigade Staff Officers. We do not have a photograph of this event as '16-stone' **Cpl Lloyd,** our photographer, was afraid that he might be made to join in if he got too close!



Lt Mike Fisher explains to the Commander how the mobile heli-tele vehicle works. Ssgt John Chambers (our heli-tele tech) in the background obviously doesn't believe a word of it! Meanwhile, Sig Andy Tiernan, Cpl Kevin Conder and Lcpl Tony Wilson simply look baffled



The delights of MT are explained to the Commander by Dvr 'Jock' Leitch, while on the right, Sgt Jim MacDonald looks on



'If the cap fits—wear it!'
Those in the picture are *from left to right:* Maj Burke, Capt Keany (QM), Mr Zammit (Storeman), the Commander and Maj Thompson (DAA & QMG)

MERCURY CUP

On relinquishing his appointment, **Lt Col Shapter** (CR Signals January 1976–January 1978) donated the 'Mercury Cup', to be awarded annually to the junior rank in the Corps 'who has made the most worthwhile contribution to improving the communications functions in Northern Ireland'. We are very pleased to announce that the first winner of this award is **Lcpl 'Jock' McGowan,** a member of 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn who won the award in competition with 10 other nominations from the Province. Our photograph shows him receiving the cup from the present CR Signals, **Lt Col Mike Marples,** with the RSM, **WO1 Ian Buckley,** looking on. **Lcpl McGowan** won the award for his work as an aerial rigger. This work, in addition to his normal work as a Combat Radioman, has been carried out in all weathers, in dangerous locations, and frequently at night.



Lcpl 'Jock' McGowan receives the Mercury Cup from the CR Signals, Lt Col Mike Marples. The RSM, WO1 Ian Buckley, is the good-looking one in the background

FOCUS ON 'MT' TROOP

The new year came upon us and brought with it the annual PRE inspection, followed closely by the FFR inspection. A lot of extra hours were put in, particularly by our small REME detachment of **Cpl Graham Roberts, Lcpls Steve Wroe, Steve Murch, Craig Barnett** and **Cfn Frank Self,** the reports must have been good as the OC, **Maj Peter Burke,** was even seen to smile! Troop members have been busy getting away to England, using various different excuses, a few are as follows:

Lcpl Rick Solek spent a day and a half in Catterick on his Detachment Commanders course before returning prematurely.

Sig 'Taff' Pettison went with the rugby team to the UK semi-finals of the Minor Units Cup and then straight on to the Squadron ski-ing exercise.

Sigs Pete Latham, 'Jock' Clements, Ian Cunnliffe, Dvr 'Willy' Iley and **Cfn Frank Self** also went ski-ing.

Cpl Terry Mount spent three days driving around England delivering stores for the 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards.

And **Cpl Ray Newman** (RCT) has finally learnt to swim. Unfortunately, he can only manage to do it underwater at the moment, but is trying to master the technique of floating!

The Troop has said goodbye to the following members during the last few months: **Lt Alan Evans** who has moved to become OC Comms Troop and can now be seen walking round the camp muttering about UBL talkthroughs and other weird communications 'jargon'; **Lcpl McCready,** who has gone to Germany; **Sig Vant,** who has departed for civilian life; and **Cpls Mick Davies** and **Ray Cook,** both REME, also departed to Germany. We have welcomed **Cpl Graham Roberts** and **Lcpl Craig Barnett,** both REME.

The WIRE–

Without it–

You're not With it!

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj K. G. Turner**
2IC	—	**Capt S. M. Siddall**
Admin Offr	—	**Capt (QM) H. J. Menzel** (RCT)
QM	—	**Capt (QM) D. Henry**
OC Comms Troop	—	**Capt A. J. Poppleton**
2IC Comms Troop	—	**Lt T. S. Maynes**
TOT	—	**Capt (TOT) D. F. Potter**
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) R. Harris**
MTWO	—	**WO2 A. E. MacNiven** (RCT)
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) P. M. Castle**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) S. M. Sims**
Chief Clerk	—	**Ssgt P. Leniston**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

ON February 10 **Maj Conrad Garton** handed over the Squadron to **Maj Keith Turner.** He goes, after two years in an exacting and often frustrating job, to the JDSC and then to command 13 Sig Regt. Our congratulations on his coming appointment, our thanks for his confident and thoughtful command of the Squadron, and our very best wishes go to him and his family. **Maj Keith Turner** came to the Squadron from HQ BAOR, and we hope that he and his wife, **Carol,** will enjoy their tour here despite the vagaries of the Ulster situation (and weather!).



Maj Conrad Garton—already in civilian clothes—handing over a plaque for the new Horseshoe Club to the new OC, MajKeith Turner, on the day of his departure from the Squadron. We thought the halo was an appropriate touch

THE OPERATIONAL FRONT

The fire-bombing campaign has more or less stopped since the attack on the La Mon Restaurant, but a fair amount of shooting has been going on in the city and the marching season is well under way. We have deployed the mobile heli-tele vehicle to several riot scenes in the last few weeks, and on the way to one of them it was hit by a low-velocity round—fortunately, only a dent was made in the makralon. The SDS vehicle has also been in the front line, being used for a road block by the RUC immediately after an incident in the Lisburn Road on April 3.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING BY THE LADIES

For the last 18 months the 'Lisburn Ladies' shooting team has been working its way to some extremely high scores and has swept the board in all its recent matches. In the early days there were some nervous moments with rifles pointing in any direction other than at the target! Much credit must go to the ladies who have battled to the range in the worst of Ulster weather, and to **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Huxtable** who has run the team so devotedly since its formation. He has now handed it over to **Sgt John Moody.**





The Lisburn Ladies Shooting Team
Left to right. Back: Mary Robertson, Sandra Rose, Kathy Garton, Dawn Yates
Front: Alma Dale, Elsie Harris Pat Timmis
(Missing from photograph: Maggie Eaton, Jan Dolton and Ann Chawner)

GOOD HOCKEY SEASON

The hockey team did particularly well this season, reaching the semi-final of the Army Minor Units Cup. In the quarter-final, played at Lisburn, the Depot, Kings Division from Strensall were, unfortunately, only able to field 10 men—a key factor in the game. In the first half the score was taken to 1—1, but after half time our side took almost complete control and the final score was 4—1.

In the semi-final at Aldershot, on an unfamiliar grass pitch, our team met the Depot, Prince of Wales' Division. Although the score went to 2—2 by half time, the opposition scored twice in the second half taking the final score to 4—2. This was their narrowest victory of the competition, which they went on to win, and was a very creditable effort by our team.

Our principal goal-scorers were **Cpls Don Boscoe, Mick Hayes** and **Syd Hayward** (captain), and in defence **Sgts Alan James, Joe Croome** and **Lcpl George McCombie** were the most successful players. All credit, too, to **Ssgt Greg Robertson** for his energetic management.



The King's Division Depot (*left*) and 39 Brigade (*right*) hockey teams after the Quarter-Final of the Army Cup at Lisburn on March 3, 1978



The Quartermaster, Capt 'Paddy' Henry, apparently about to take the unprecedented step of speaking over a Stornophone. Note the expert technical assistance to hand (WO2 (RQMS) Bob Huxtable and Cpl 'Stoo' Mullen)

THUMBNAIL PROFILE—QM's Department

All the world's a stage—and one of the smallest but most important band of players in the Squadron is the QM's Department.

The Impresario—**Capt 'Paddy' Henry**—is ably assisted by **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Huxtable**;—production and choreography; **Csgt Trev Leslie** and **Lcpl 'Skip' Jarvis**—props (accommodation stores); **Sgt 'Jock' Anderson** and **Cpl 'Stoo' Mullen**—our answer to the two Ronnies; and the chorus line of **Lcpl Ian Thornley, Sigs Dave Judd** and **Martin Gear.**

Seriously, though, they all do a grand job and there is no truth in the rumour that their next production is to be 'Hamlet on Ice'.

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

'WHO'S WHO' IN 233

SHQ		
OC	—	**Maj Peter Chaddock**
2IC	—	**Capt Ian Morris**
Admin Officer	—	**Capt Barrie Styles**
SSM	—	**WO2 Brian Smith**
RQMS	—	**WO2 Ron Russell**
Chief Clerk	—	**Sgt Mick Hague**
Commcen		
Tfc Offr	—	**Capt John Ankers**
Y of S	—	**WO1 Andy Locke**
Tech Troop		
TOT	—	**Maj Gil Sharp**
F of S	—	**WO2 Joe Smith**
Comms Troop		
OC	—	**Capt Ian Morris**
Ssgt	—	**Ssgt 'Geordie' Forster**
'V' Trop		
OC	—	**Capt Bob Baker**
Y of S	—	**WO2 Garth Letori**
'W' Troop		
OC	—	**Capt Alan Chapman**
F of S	—	**WO2 John Guest**
Y of S	—	**WO2 Trevor Sherwin**
'E' Troop		
OC	—	**Capt Jim Blake**
'D' Troop		
OC	—	**WO2 Roger Courtney**
F of S	—	**Ssgt Don Dallow**
'S' Troop		
OC WRAC	—	**Lt Caroline Lee**
Exchange Supvr	—	**Sgt Avril Collinson**



Left to right: Maj Neil Horler, Mrs Ruth Mortimer, Maj Ken West and Mrs Mai West

IN the new 'who's who' above, some of the changes are very recent. We have just said farewell to: (OC) **Maj Neil Horler, Maj (TOT) Ken West, WO2 (SSM) Norman Mortimer** and **WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth.** The photo shows **Maj Neil Horler** presenting **Maj Ken West** with his copy of the 'This is your life in 233' folder. Our sincere congratulations also go to **Maj Ken West** on his recent award of an MBE, for his services in Northern Ireland. We extend a warm welcome to **Maj Peter Chaddock,** who since arriving has discovered that **Sig Bob Hutchison** is the son of one of his former soldiers—who said it's only policemen who are getting younger?

COURT AND SOCIAL

Since the last notes, the new Commander UDR, **Brig David Miller, OBE, MC,** visited us during his takeover. We are responsible to the Commander UDR for his Communications, and **Brig Miller** was very interested to see where all the hard work is done!



Commander UDR, Brig David Miller, OBE, MC

On March 4, the Squadron indoor darts team took part in the individual finals in the NAAFI Shamrock Club Annexe. The finals were preceded by the presentation of the trophies for darts, dominoes, and cribbage to the league winners and runners-up.

We took the lion's share of these trophies. One of our star performers, **WO2 John Hepworth,** was on the organising committee of the league. He decided that if he played in the Supply Sub Depot team, he would be less embarrassed if he had to make a ruling in our favour! Good move, RQ!

The trophies presented to 233 were:

The Tartan Trophy —Darts Singles —Runners-up 'B' Team
The McEwans Trophy—Darts Doubles —Runners-up 'A' Team
The Bass Trophy —Crib Doubles —Champions 'B' Team
The Tennants Lager Trophy —Doms Doubles —Champions 'B' Team
Scottish and Newcastle Overall league champions 'B' Team

Individual trophies:

Cpl Dave Millington and **Cpl Mick Ball**—Darts Doubles—*Champions*
Cpl Terry Armstrong and **Cpl Garry Coxon**—Darts Doubles—3rd
(**WO2 John Hepworth** and his partner, **Sgt Hutchinson,** from SSD came 2nd)
Lcpl John Shearsby and **Sgt Ray Stokes**—Doms Doubles—3rd
Cpl Terry Armstrong—Crib Singles—2nd

On five 180s were scored, four of those by:
Cpl Jim Neighbour, Cpl Dave Millington, Ssgt Barry Hives and **Cpl Mick Ball** (all 'B' Team).

The individual finals were:
Darts Doubles—**Cpls Dave Millington** and **Mick Ball** beat **WO2 John Hepworth** and **Sgt Hutchinson** (SSD) by 2—0.
Darts Singles—**Cpl Reeves** (39 Bde) beat **WO2 John Hepworth** (SSD) by 2—1.

A Ladies Dinner Night was held for the Wives Club in the Peake Inn on February 27, 1978. **Mrs Gill Horler** was given the 'This is your life in 233' treatment by **Mrs Sue Morris,** and recommended for promotion to Colonel's wife on her confidential report. A very good evening was enjoyed by the Wives Club and by the waiters—who all volunteered so the SSM, **WO2 Norman Mortimer,** will tell anyone who asks!



Ladies Dinner Night in the Peake Inn—February 27, 1978
Waiters: *Left:* WO2 Norman Mortimer. *Right:* Ssgt Barry Hives

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS (NORTHERN IRELAND)

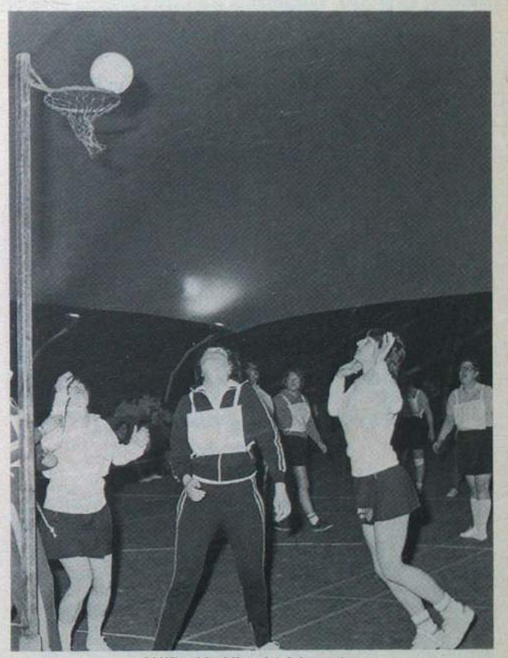
Once again, after a very narrow defeat by 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the 1977 championships, the Royal Signals Orienteering Shield for Northern Ireland returns to 233. This is the fourth year that the shield has had pride of place in the Squadron. The 1978 event took place in the Donard Forest near Newcastle (not upon Tyne), and proved to be very successful with 100 competitors from units throughout Northern Ireland taking part.

As expected, Queens University OTC turned out a very strong team which dominated the event as far as the non-Signals competitors were concerned. The fastest Royal Signals competitor was **Maj Roland Ebdon** from CR Signals Branch HQ Northern Ireland.

The following Sunday, the same team of **Sgt 'Chalky' White, Sgt Jim Travers, Cpl Mick Crabtree** and **Sgt Cliff Abrons** were narrowly defeated by Depot the Kings Div and 5 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt (a roulement tour unit) in the Northern Ireland Orienteering Championships. This event was also held in the Donard Forest.



Royal Signals Orienteering Championships (NI)
Left to right: Sgt White, Sgt Travers, Cpl Crabtree, Sgt Abrons



W/Sgt M. Allen (*right*) scoring

INDOOR SPORT—'W' Troop style

Indoor sport has been prominent during the winter months with **Capt Alan Chapman** steering the Squadron basketball team to a 'one basket' defeat in the final of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships; good luck to 39 Bde in Aldershot. **Sgt Bob Faulds** has continued doggedly to captain a 'Whiskey' Troop team in the monthly indoor four-a-side soccer, but a win in the finals still eludes him. However, **W/Sgt Marilyn Allen** had more success in the Northern Ireland Netball Championships and scored some good 'nets!' to give her a team place in the UK finals.

WORK?
'V' Troop—'ALL in a hard three-way shift'

What has happened to the Troop of late? Well . . . Comings and goings include:

Capt Bob Baker—our new OC who wonders why we worry about his driving when he never hits anything!

Sgt Chris James who has left us on posting to 7 Sigs: 'When I left Ireland I left behind a lot that was precious to me'. Good luck and thanks for all your hard work. **Cpl 'Taff' Cox** takes over as NCO IC Wksps.

W/Lcpl Sandy Cope has gone to 'les legionaires' in Rheindahlen. The shift leader has been heard to extol the pleasures of getting a word in edgeways!

Sig Jack Brash has unfortunately been in hospital (a new RSRE modification—apparently he's been converted to speak the Queen's English).

There is no truth in the rumour that redundant 'Star-Wars' props are being used to re-kit the Troop, but we are getting a new Yeoman in the autumn. **WO2 (Y of S) Garth Letori,** our present mentor in things tapey, vigorously denies that he is being 'put out to grass' in BAOR.

Percy (the Troop Gardener) cunningly arranged for the Troop Narcissi not to appear until well after St David's Day. 'They stole the Triple Crown, and they'd 'ave me daffs, too, given 'arf a chance.'

We still thrash 'W' Troop at everything sportswise (except volleyball, football, and basket-weaving) and they still lend us everything from teabags to transport (thanks, we do appreciate it). We in turn give them advice at times, inspiration occasionally, and hope always. We also contract-supply their Troop Commanders; **Capt Alan Chapman** is our second gaffer to be lured by the bright lights and crisp bank notes 'across the way'.

Systems still refuse to believe TG exists above 50 bauds—that's OK, we still doubt you can put two voice circuits down one pair of wires.

Geographically, we in our Portakabins sometimes seem to be a bit divorced from the Squadron, but honest, fellas, we do feel a part of you and the little reminders called 'duty conferences' aren't necessary! That reminds me, the Troop Payola Committee needs a shake-up on two counts. First, the Admin Officer, **Capt Barrie Styles,** took the star prize in the Christmas raffle, and we are still waiting for the Troop Alfa Romeo—Sir, our poor old Escort has done over 35,000 miles in the last 12 months! Second, must send a memo to Records—postings to the Bahamas have been a bit thin on the ground recently—what's up? The cheques are still coming in—aren't they?

Finally, welcome! Welcome to **W/Lcpls Joyce Dodds** and **'Trish' Burton, W/Pte Pat Knight** and **Cpl Jim Murray.** Don't worry, you'll get your honourary shackles just as fast as we can tack up the harness—move along the treadmill, please!

—News from Headquarters—

HQ Dhekelia Garrison (3 Sig GP)
B.F.P.O. 58

HAIL AND FAREWELL

AS we have not appeared in print in THE WIRE for some time, these notes are something in the nature of a hail and farewell, since 3 Sig Gp leaves Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus and disbands on April 2, 1978. All is not lost, however, as elements of 3 Sig Gp will reform on April 3 as Signals Branch, Headquarters Land Forces Cyprus BFPO 53 in Episkopi (which is part of the Western Sovereign Base Area), under the command of a Lieutenant Colonel, Commander Royal Signals.

AS IT WAS

Many readers will remember 3 Sig Gp in Episkopi in former days when it commanded units in Cyprus, Libya, Malta, and Arabia. Due to re-organisations brought about by the defence review, 3 Sig Gp moved, in February 1976, from Episkopi to Dhekelia, where it absorbed the Old Garrison Headquarters and Commander 3 Sig Gp acquired a second hat as Commander Dhekelia Garrison. At the same time the Group's responsibilities were limited solely to units in Cyprus. It is interesting to note that in a 25-year period the rank of the chief signal officer in Cyprus has changed from Major General to Lieutenant Colonel, a sad corollary of successive defence reviews.

STOP PRESS!—It is a boy—**Jonathan!**

THE PRESENT

The present Signal Group staff are:

Comd Dhekelia Gar (3 Sig Gp)	—	**Col M. U. Ryan**	late Royal Signals
GSO2	—	**Maj L. G. Fraser**	Royal Signals
SO2 (Tels)	—	**Maj H. B. Bennett**	,,
TOT	—	**Lt Col (TOT) R. D. Willingale**	,,
SO3 (Sigs)	—	**Maj P. R. Dick-Peter**	,,
(Designate)	—	**Capt C. V. Nind**	,,
Chief Systems Engineer	—	**Capt P. B. Neale**	,,
F of S Engineering	—	**WO1 (F of S) Yule, BEM**	,,
Chief Clerk	—	**WO2 S. J. Long**	,,
Clerks	—	**Sgt W. McKenna**	,,
	—	**Cpl G. J. Parker**	,,
	—	**Pte E. Hardy**	WRAC

With the recent arrival of **Col A. Yeoman** as Colonel AQ HQ LFC, and until **Col Ryan** leaves in April we are celebrating a unique double in that the two Garrison Commanders on the Island (at Dhekelia and at Episkopi) are both late Royal Signals—We Rule, OK?

THE FUTURE

By the time these notes are read, the re-organisation will have happened. **Col Ultan Ryan** will by then have passed his Signals Commander hat to the present OC of 262 Sig Sqn (East), **Maj Frank Smith,** who is to act as CR Signals pending the arrival of **Lt Col D. S. Mullineaux** in August. **Col Ryan,** having handed over command of the Garrison to his successor, will have gone to command the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate. **Maj Lachlan Fraser** will have moved sideways to HQ British Forces Cyprus to another staff appointment, vice **Maj Bob Savage** (Royal Signals); the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Stan Long,** will be posted (he knows not where as yet); and the remainder moved to Episkopi. The Chief System Engineer and F of S (Engineering) are already located in Episkopi. **Capt Peter Neale** is getting married in April to **Flying Offr Liz Warrilow** (PMRAFNS), of the Royal Air Force Hospital Akrotiri, and then being posted to the School of Signals as an instructor, to recover. **Capt Chris Nind** and his wife, **Jane,** will have received a March family addition (Sarah or Thomas), and **Chris,** firmly in the SO3 chair, will be considering the next WIRE notes!



Jokers wild
Col M. U. Ryan, Commander Dhekelia Garrison (3 Signal Group), and Col A. Yeoman, Colonel AQ and Commander Episkopi Garrison, make a decision with the help of a pack of cards

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals, B.F.P.O. 1

RAF KAI TAK CLOSES DOWN

THE history of RAF Kai Tak goes back to the early days of flying boats and wooden aircraft. In those days it was a far-flung outpost of the Empire to which few people came. For the Army it was also a punishment station for those battalions who had erred in some way! Not so today: it's only 20 hours' flying away from the UK by RAF VC10, and one arrives fully fed, dehydrated, and totally jet lagged.

SHRINKAGE

The original home of the RAF at Kai Tak has expanded over the years and all civil and military aircraft now use the famous runway which stretches out into the Hong Kong harbour. The RAF aircraft fleet has shrunk to six Wessex helicopters, flown by the RAF pilots but maintained by civil contractors and the Royal Navy. What a turn-up for the books!—It seems that the Army has more helicopters worldwide than the RAF, including six Gazelles here in Hong Kong. In yet another phase of 'jointery', which is a sort of getting together reluctantly in adversity, the RAF Base at Kai Tak is to finally close in April 78, or May 78—perhaps June 78. Not too sure about that!

COMING TOGETHER/CLOSE DOWN CEREMONY

To symbolise this 'coming together' an official joint Service close-down took place on February 17, 1978, each Service in its own style performed the ceremony and it was recorded photographically. The RN was represented by **Lt Comdr D. J. Carver** who went down with the ship. The Army, represented by **Maj G. D. Birch,** Queen's Gurkha Signals, just 'ordered' a close down. The RAF, represented by **Flt Lt G. Robertson,** put the wedges in, thus disconnecting his ever-ringing telephone; and **Cpl Childs** (RAF) smiled as the lovely Chinese operator, **Serifa Foon,** disconnected the last call.

Let us not forget our Chinese military and civilian personnel who performed the work of temporary cabling. Well done!



Cpl Childs (RAF) and Miss Serifa Foon—'The Last Call'



Maj B. Stather and Maj D. Herring—'Now try and switch it on again'



Maj G. D. Birch (Queen's Gurkha Signals) and Sgt J. A. Foster



Ssgt (F of S) W. B. Smart, Ssgt Ng Ping Ching, Mr Yiu Ng Ka 'knitting'



Lt Cdr D. J. Carver (RN) 'Sinks with the Ship'

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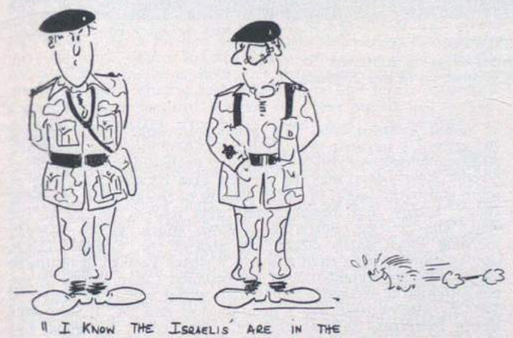
1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

HECTIC SPRING

WITH spring finally upon us we find ourselves now well into the exercise season of 1978. Life remains full and hectic with our involvement on the exercise, sport, social and extra mural fronts providing few people with grounds for boredom.

Without encroaching too much on individual Squadrons' involvement, exercise commitments have been busy and varied. Exercise Spring Sample proved not only to be somewhat of a misnomer but also exceptionally cold with a good 12in of snow underfoot for the duration. Immediately on return from Spring Sample, elements of all Squadrons found themselves motoring south to Bielefeld where it had fallen to our lot to provide the Lower Control Headquarters for Exercise Crested Eagle. This proved to be a vast undertaking right down to providing an excellently run and indeed lucrative coffee shop to maintain the lower controllers on a 24-hour basis. Early March saw Crested Eagle finished and back to Verden with a week before our next commitment.

Exercise Morning Glory was our first exercise as a complete unit with all staff elements taking part. Despite being mid-March it maintained its now long-standing tradition of having snow on at least one day. Directed by our 'Colonels' AQ and GS, Morning Glory proved to be a good first exercise for the majority despite our acting TOT, **WO1 (F of S) Bob Scriven** who decided to have a violent disagreement with a Sig Ops cam pole. It could be said that he could not see the point of it all! Enough of exercises; suffice to say that as we go to print that well-known purveyor of mirth, excitement and ulcers called Flying Falcon approaches.





Exercise Morning Glory—RRB Recce Materialises
Left to right: Lt Charles le Gallais, Sig Malcolm Allen and Sgt Dennis Parker

A NEAR MISS FOR BAOR CHAMPIONS

A hearty congratulation to our cross-country team so narrowly missing out in the Army finals. In the event the team were runners-up to 21 Sig Regt despite having defeated this side only a few months previously. However, our congratulations to 21 and at least it was kept 'in the family'. Our team finished the season as BAOR Champions and in first and second places in the Divisional Inter-Unit League.

Congratulations are also in order for our unit fencing team for their sterling efforts at becoming runners-up in the BAOR finals. This still means, however, that they are to go forward to the Army finals to be held in the UK in the near future.



1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Cross-Country Team 1978
Left to right. Back row: Sgt Jim Donovan (PCCU), Sgt George Holden, CO, Maj Gordon Howard (OIC), Maj Tony Ling (Queens—G 2OPS), Sig John Boyes, SSI Bob Duncan
Front row: Cpl Williams (PCCU), Cpl Vic Osina (HQ RE), Lcpl Mal Taylor, Sig Paul Edwards, Sig 'Tich' Little, Sig Bill Brebner

FAREWELL TO COMMANDING OFFICER OF FERNMELDEBATAILLON 1

Our photograph shows the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Peter Davies,** presenting an inscribed picture to **Oberstleutnant Günter Peters,** the Commanding Officer of Fernmeldebataillon 1, to mark the departure of the Oberstleutnant from his command in Hannover. During the three years he has commanded the German Signals Battalion, **Oberstleutnant Peters** has been personnally involved in fostering the 'Patenschaft' or Partnership which exists between our two units. The relationship was formally cemented and recognised when a parade was held in Verden, on April 23, 1976, to mark the occasion. Since then the Partnership has flourished socially and professionally and is today recognised as one of the best official liaisons in BAOR.



Oberstleutnant Gunther Peters receiving an engraved picture of 'The Cable Wagon' from the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Davies



Photo courtesy: Army Public Relations

ON RESTRUCTURING
HQ 1 Division wiih pre-requisites for going armoured
CR signals can be seen as the GOC's operator in the Chieftain

REGIMENTAL REDESIGNATION

On April 1, 1978, the unit title officially changed and our Armoured prefix was formally adopted. A few quizzical looks were cast in the direction of Caithness and Sheil Barracks on or about March 31 with all the new unit signs swathed in sheets before the official 'unveiling'. Despite this, at midday on the first of April at the sounding of the trump, the sheets fell away and the First Armoured Division came into being (again!). With the advent of this we welcome officially our 4 Sqn now based with Task Force Signal Troops at Soltau and Hohne.

1 SQUADRON

Since our last entry there has been a great change in personalities at middle, and crisis management, level in the Squadron. Commcen Charles has lost its bark (though not its bite) in that **Ssgt 'Wuffer' Bark** has now left us for the sun, sand, sea, and . . . of Cyprus. He has been replaced by **Ssgt (Y of S) Joe Haldane;** we wish him luck in 1 Armd Div, and hope he settles in quickly and happily.

In Commcen Delta the arrival of **Ssgt (F of S) Bob Morley** and Radio Relay Sergeant, **Sgt Paul Ledger,** has drastically curtailed the powers of the Yeoman, **Ssgt (Y of S) Glen Bartliff.** Before their arrival **Yeoman Bartliff** was the 'Jack of all' trades but he is now limited to doing parachute landing from 6ft GS tables.

WELBECK COLLEGE COMETH

Shortly after Christmas 1 Sqn were given the task of organising the visit of Welbeck College CCF to the Regiment. **Capt Malcolm Emslie,** as Visit LO, was obviously looking forward to the arrival of his boys. The Admin staff, however, comprehensively mismanaged by **Lt Steve Green** and **Ssgt Jim Downie,** have spent the whole of 1978 wandering blindly from crisis to crisis. The task of providing 160 sleeping bags and 25,000 rounds of blank ammunition proved almost impossible. With a little help from their friends, QM Admin, **Maj Vic Worster,** and QM Tech **Capt Chris Speight,** all stores, rations and men were assembled in Rheinsehlen Camp by March 23 eagerly awaiting the arrival of Welbeck College. Exercise First Blood was designed as a testing but enjoyable exercise for the cadets in the idyllic setting of Soltau Training area. The cadets were tasked with clearing the area of a terrorist group called ANA (Allied Niedersachsen Alliance) which was ably played by an unshaven, ill-led 'Charlie' Troop. After heavy rain the training area became a vast sea of mud, and by midnight of the first night of the exercise everyone, cadets, enemy, and directing staff were soaked through to the skin. The exercise climax was a dawn attack on the Monday morning which finally cleared the area of the 'Charlie' Troop hordes and allowed a tired and wet Welbeck College to return to the palatial accommodation of Rheinsehlen Camp. More to the point though it allowed a more tired, wetter enemy to return to Verden. The exercise was a great success and OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Peter Pearson,** claimed to have succeeded in his aims, but would not let on what his aims had been!

For the remainder of the week the cadets were given a look at BAOR and on their final afternoon, took part in the CO's Run. This final exertion ensured that they left at midnight that night much the worse for wear after a hectic eight days. Predictably though, the left the Admin staff in a state of total mental and physical exhaustion.

4 SQUADRON

4 Sqn of the Regiment officially came into existence on April 1, 1978, though for all practical purposes it had been running from the start of the Regimental restructuring period on January 1, 1978. SHQ and Task Force 'Alfa' Sig Tp live together in Soltau and Task Force 'Bravo' Sig Tp live down the road at Hohne. 'Alfa' Troop formed from 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn when the red rat finally went to ground on March 31, 1978. Together with SHQ, they now share Bournemouth Barracks Soltau with 1 Armd Div Ord Coy whose OC now assumes responsibility for Station matters. 'Bravo' Troop formed from 6 Sqn of 7 Sig Regt, moved with their families to Hohne in early January. The move went smoothly, and everybody quickly settled in to their new surroundings. QDG are responsible for the Troop's local administration and they have been extremely helpful in sorting out the inevitable problem areas as they have arisen.

Two paragraphs to begin with. For details of all the local personalities and activities in Soltau and Hohne, watch this space next time round!

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

4 (Task Force) SQUADRON

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS . . .

IT is not a reflection on our income tax/type minds but it does make sense for the Squadron to look back this year on April 1 at the past 12 months. Restructuring was completed at the end of March 1977 with a centralised Squadron based in Münster and we have had a year's experience of our new role.

We have been extremely busy, both in barracks and in the field, and as the first of the Task Force Squadrons we have grown accustomed to pioneering the way for the rest of the Corps in BAOR! There will be many readers not familiar with either our size or role and it may be useful to re-cap quickly for their benefit. Each of the four restructured Armoured Division Signal Regiments now has a fourth communicating Squadron, 4 (Task Force) Sqn, designed to provide field headquarters and the necessary communications and control facilities, including all administrative support for two Task Forces within the Division. A job not dissimilar to the old Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron although comparisons stop when we look at the respective strengths.

We have some two-thirds of the men of a Brigade Signal Squadron and yet we provide virtually the identical communications and carry out the operational work of two such Squadrons. In addition, and in spite of losing most of the administrative cover, virtually all of the civilian staff and our MSO section, we have continued to administer HQ Münster Garrison and the minor units in York Barracks. There are no passengers in 4 (Task Force Sqn.

The exercise load has been very heavy because of the requirement to get the 2 Task Force HQs off to a good start and evolve new SOPs. One of the two Troops spent three-and-a-half months out of barracks last year and this high usage of radios and 'A' vehicles has produced unique equipment management difficulties for our much-reduced technical and REME first line repair capability. Naturally, as the first of the new Task Force Squadrons, we have attracted a constant stream of visitors and been involved in frequent demonstrations and displays.

Quite apart from all this, was the decision taken only weeks after we had completed restructuring to split the Squadron and send the Task Force Delta element back to Osnabruck to be co-located with their Staff, HQ Osnabruck Garrison. This has naturally created a considerable work load within the Squadron to ensure that the move goes well and that the future arrangements for both Münster and Osnabruck elements are satisfactory.

The year has been challenging, demanding and traumatic! The future looks brighter: the Osnabruck Troop are settling-in well; arrangements have been made for the transfer of administrative responsibilities in Münster; the deficiencies in the establishment have been acknowledged and extra men are starting to appear to alleviate the critical manning levels. Also it is nice not to be the lone voice crying in the wilderness, and we welcome the Task Force Squadrons of the other three Armoured Divisions who have now joined the 1 (BR) Corps Orbat.

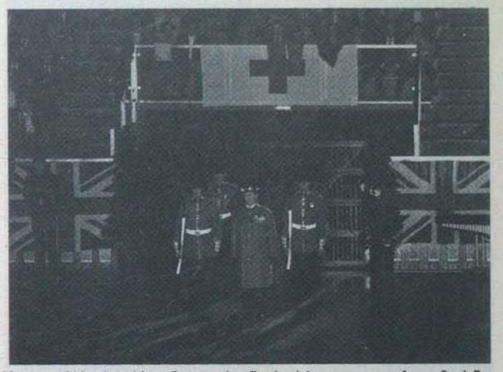
MUNSTER RED CROSS CONCERT

Each year the British Army sponsors a Musical Concert in the Halle Münsterland with the proceeds going to the German Red Cross. This year the programme included an enactment of the Ceremony of the Keys by the 2nd Bn Scots Guards and the Tower of London were invited to send out a Yeoman Warder to assist. The selection could not have been a happier choice for the Squadron—**Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake,** lately of the Corps and father of our own **Cpl Clive Copestake.** He came out with his wife to stay with son and daughter-in-law, and added both colour and style to the Concert.

Many serving and retired members of the Corps will remember **Mr Copestake.** He left the Army after the last war having seen service with both the infantry and the gunners and re-enlisted in 1946 into the Corps. He subsequently saw service in BAOR, Middle East, Cyrpus (during the EOKA troubles), and ended his service in 1968 as the RSM of 14 Sig Regt in Gloucester. **Alan Copestake** was well known as a Corps shot and won the Middle East Rifle Competition in the mid-50s. His friends will be interested to hear that he is looking extremely well and living with **Mrs Copestake** in quarters in the Tower of London. During the visit the OC, **Maj Eastburn,** presented him with a Squadron plaque which now resides in the Yeoman Warder's Mess.



Two generations of the Corps
Cpl Clive Copestake greeting his father, Yeoman Warder (ex-RSM) Alan Copestake, in Münster



Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake flanked by an escort from 2nd Bn Scots Guards enacting the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London

VISITS

Although we are quite used to visits the one on March 10 was particularly hectic when we played hosts to the new GOC and bade farewell to the departing Commanding Officer and welcomed his successor. **Maj Gen Boswell** spent an hour with us in the afternoon and somehow found time to visit the Squadron Offices, living accommodation and walk round a static display of our equipment including his own hard rover group. He made a considerable impact, not least by his understanding of the upheaval involved in splitting the Squadron and the effects on our families.

The departure of a Commanding Officer is always a sad occasion but particularly so in the case of **Lt Col Halford.** He had commanded the Squadron when it was 4 Gds Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and was, therefore, well placed to oversee our integration into his Regiment. We valued his lively interest in the Squadron and sympathetic handling of our many and varied requests for help. He was formally dined out of the Münster Garrison WOs and Sgts Mess and presented, by **SSM John Didon,** with an engraved tray including the Guards Brigade formation sign, the 'Ever-open Eye'.

On his final visit to Münster he was dined out of the Officers Mess by the officers of the Squadron. The Divisional Staff were also well represented and included the Commander Münster Garrison, **Brig Woodburn,** and the Colonel GS, **Col K. Burch.** All members of the Squadron would like to wish **Col John** and **Madeleine** the best of good fortune in his new appointment.

Almost in the same breath we welcome **Lt Col Willcox** and his wife, **Gwendoline,** and look forward to seeing them often in Münster.

SERGEANTS MESS LADIES NIGHT

Lt Col Willcox was able to attend the Sergeants Mess Ladies Night at the end of March to say goodbye to those SNCOs leaving for Osnabruck. This was an excellent night at which all those doing the long trek north were given handsome momentoes with which to remember Münster. **SQMS 'Dusty' Miller** masterminded the night and it was nice to see **Cpl Danny Brough** down from RHQ to tease the ear-drums with his disco.

ARU ... AND LSGC PRESENTATION

After completing his ARU on the Squadron, **Brig Woodburn,** Commander Münster Garrison, took the opportunity to present **Sgt Andy Kerr** with his LSGC at an informal ceremony in the WOs and Sgts Mess. **Andy Kerr** joined the Army in 1959 and has seen service in England, Northern Ireland, BAOR, and the Middle East. **Andy,** his wife and five children, are well known in the Münster area where he has been employed looking after the families and quarters for the Squadron and those other minor units that we have administered.

Brig Woodburn confided after the ceremony that this was the first medal that he had presented. A double cause for celebration, as witnessed by the dash to wet the medal.



Brig Woodburn and Sgt Andy Kerr after the presentation of LS and GC Medal

SUBALTERN'S SECRET FINISHING SCHOOL

We are at last prepared to own up to establishing a subalterns' finishing school here in Münster where we can groom young officers for stardom. Unlike washing powder manufacturers, we have deliberately refrained from advertising publicly until we have positive proof of our efficacy—and we don't soak them overnight! We now have a hat-trick of successive firsts on the subalterns course at the School of Signals and are trying to confirm the rumour that the Commandant plans to present the Squadron with a cup in perpetuity for these outstanding results. None of the three ticked the box on their joining proforma requesting no publicity and we do not, therefore, have to hide them behind blacked-out photographs. They were: **Lts Stephen Jones, Douglas Rowlinson** and **Robert Baxter.**

As well as boating impressive results we believe that we may be able to keep the fees at a modest level depending on whether or not the OC changes his car. Applications should be forwarded in the first instance to our agents, AG11. Unfortunately, competition for vacancies is fierce and it is unlikely that they will agree to a full tour. AG11 prefer you to be coached for a few months, attend the course and then be posted. As well as increasing the throughput, AG11 can show established slots as being filled throughout!

(We're only joking, AG11 . . . or are we?).

SPORTING SUCCESSES

We still manage to compete enthusiastically in most sports but as our size has reduced, and certainly so after the move to Osnabruck is completed, selection has become more of a problem and, inevitably, the standard has declined. This decline is only relative to the success previously enjoyed by 4 Gds Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and we are all delighted with our winter achievements:

Cross-country

Encouraged and led by **Cpls Bill Cain** and **Jiggot Kerr** our team have won the 2nd Armoured Division Competition and the Westphalia Minor Units League, came 3rd and 7th in the BAOR and Army Minor Units Competition. The remainder of the team was chosen from **Cpl Tony Hancock, Lcpl Garry Kay** and **Sigs John Graham, Steve Wright, Kevin Smith, Mo Quirke** and **Keith Pritchard. Cpl Harry Corn** did sterling service as team recorder, and travelled widely.

Hockey

We are through to the final of the BAOR Minor Units Competition and are looking forward to the Divisional and BAOR Six-a-Side Competitions.

Squash

The Squadron were beaten by 14 Topo Sq RE in the BAOR Minor Units Final. This was an exciting match and the standard of play would have done credit to most major units. Much of our strength is found from the Münster Garrison HQ staff but **Cpl 'Dixie' Dean** is a stylish and skilful No 1.

Badminton

Here again, we have reached the BAOR Final even though our team looks more like a tug-of-war side than a badminton squad! Brains and money obviously count in this sport, as most of the side come from 'TM' Troop. **Sgt Steve Croot** is the leading light supported by **Foreman John Smith, Lcpl Les Duncan** and the two lightweights, **Sgt Andy Melville** and **Cpl Dave Critchlow.**

THE FOLLOWING ESCAPED

During the last few months we have said goodbye to **WO2 Eddy Webb** from our hard-working LAD. **Cpl Vic Vickers** moved up the road to Osnabruck with 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, and **Cpl Ernie Bolt** went back to be trained and/or fight fires at Catterick. **Cpl Vic 'Ovington** will be missed as **Lt John McIntyre's** straight man on the fire practices and demonstrations. **Cpl John Marriner** or 'The Bard of Delta' will no longer be gracing these pages, and any complaint about the lack of humour should be directed to Records who allowed him to go.

Cpl Jimmy Riddler (Gren Gds) has taken his staff car to Detmold to drive around their Garrison Commander. **Lcpls 'Fitz' Fitzsimons** and **Pete Gunning** (RCT) and **Sig Mo Quirke** scored 'home runs' and have gone to sort out civvy street. **Lcpls Ray Pickering** and **Tony Brine,** and **Sigs John Douglas** and **John Gibbon** have gone to other units in the Corps.

Finally, **Capt Ashley Truluck** and **Jenny** left for the pastures of Shrivenham and Camberley. **Ashley's** contribution was considerable and we cannot do him justice in a few lines. He was an original thinker and was largely responsible for trialling and working every possible option at the Task Force level and producing SOPs. We wish them both well.

2 Armed Div and Sig Regt report

EIGHT SKI-ING TROPHIES

WITH the end of a busy and successful ski-ing season behind us, the Regiment has paused to take a breath before embarking on a hectic exercise period which will take us well into the summer. The members of the two ski-ing teams managed to walk (well, limp) away from the Divisional Championships with no less than eight trophies between them. We are far too magnanimous to list all eight trophies here, but needless to say we won the Champion Unit Trophy! Other successes of the season were: **Lcpl Paul Ford** who won the Army Downhill race, and **Sig Livesey** who has been selected to attend the National Youth Team Trials. Hearty congratulations to all those who took part!



The 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Alpine Ski-ing Team



The 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Langlauf Team

CHANGE OF COMMAND

When the skiers who were making a name for themselves in Oberjoch returned to camp they found quite a new face on the place. We have just undergone a major refit with three senior officers vacating their seats in favour of pastures new. **Lt Col J. B. J. Halford** has left us for SHAPE and in his place we warmly welcome **Lt Col A. M. Willcox** who has managed to escape from that well-known hideaway, MOD. We all hope that he will enjoy his time in the Regiment.



'What they are wearing at Ascot this year!'
Left to right: Maj Crouch, Lt Col Halford, WO1 (RSM) Jennings

Secondly, we welcome the new Squadron Commander of RHQ Squadron, **Maj Howard Horne** (a Tankie no less!), who has jumped into the shoes of **Maj Bill Parkes.** The bet at the moment is whether he can manage to cycle for two years without needing an overhaul!

Lastly, we have said our goodbyes to **Maj David Hodges** who has left us for sunny UK, and welcome as the new HQ Squadron Commander **Maj Mike Payne.**

BACK HOME

The rest of our contribution is handed over to **Lt Richard Evans** whose only sin was that he wasn't clever or wily enough to keep out of the WIRE correspondent's way when an article needed writing!

'I arrived back in the unit after my CQ course, a very unexpected short tour with a beautiful Green Goddess, and the Whiteshod course in Norway only to find I was still the Regimental Subaltern! This can't last I thought, surely AG11 can provide some more 'subies' to take the burden of all these extras off my shoulders? But no, it was not to be; I had to wait until **Lt Steve Smith** returned from Snow Queen to share the load!

'The highlight of my time away from Bunde was my trip to Norway. I was tasked, or rather volunteered to take the duty-free hooch (necessary for Arctic survival!) in my car. Danish police are still looking for the owner of a red, right-hand drive Renault seen travelling at 70mph on the left-hand side of the snow-covered roads with summer tyres. The course was very enjoyable, and tested everybody's limits of endurance, if only in the diet! A constant input of bread, cold meats, and cheese eventually forced us to spend our extra special Messing Allowance on food! I would recommend the course to anyone who would like to(become a 5-stone, langlaufing Eskimo!'

Stop Press: 4 (Task Force) Sqn won the BAOR Minor Units Hockey; full details in the next edition.

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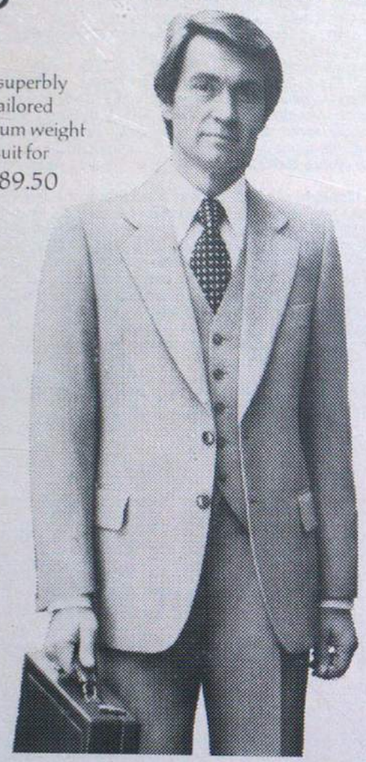
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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 106



1 SQUADRON 3 ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

This photograph was taken just before 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn became our new 1 Sqn following their move and only a few days before they and 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn completed their amalgamation with us on January 1 1978

Left to right. Front row (ground): Cpl Thompson, Sig Cowan, Lcpl Williams, Sig Hack, Sig Bolton *(space)* Pte Garrick, Sig West, Lcpl Taylor, Sig Emerson, Sig Brumby
Second row (seated): Sig McDonald, Sgt Holmes, Sgt McSherry, Sgt Peters, Ssgt Warren, Ssgt (F of S) Jones, Ssgt (Y of S) Holt, Ssgt Graham, Lt Alan Choat, Capt John Hayes, Capt Frank Rogers, Maj James Budd, 'Bourbon', WO2 (SSM) Brian Young, Capt John Chambers, WO2 (F of S) Sims, Ssgt Hennrie, Ssgt (SQMS) Lewer, Ssgt (Y of S) Watts, Sgt Valentine, Sgt Counsell, Sgt Lightfoot, Sgt Payne, Sgt Mottram
Third row (standing): Sgt James, Sgt Osborne, Lcpl Collins, Lcpl Hair, Sig McIntyre, Sig Williams (393), Lcpl Sloan, Lcpl Wilson, Cpl Greenwood, Sig Fokouh, Sig Melia, Sig Nixon, Lcpl Thomas, Cpl Wilson, Sig Waugh, Sig Brindley, Cpl Batt, Lcpl Turley, Sig O'Shea, Sig Kenealy, Sgt Garner, Sgt Parkinson
Fourth row (standing): Sig McAleese, Lcpl Barrett, Cpl Mansley, Cpl Gall, Sig Neave, Sig Williams, Lcpl Hume, Sig Webster, Cpl Warriner, Cpl Fraser, Sig Wright, Lcpl Watkins, Cpl Webb, Cpl Richardson, Cpl Shires, Sig Ingram, Sig Court, Cpl Hoensch, Cpl Mathers, Lcpl Ferris, Lcpl Foster, Cpl Bruce, Lcpl Wade, Cpl Huzzey-Morgan
Fifth row: Sig Gould, Sig Knowles, Sig Sands, Cpl Stockdale, Sig Sheppard, Lcpl Crosby, Cpl Williams, Sig Sweeting, Sig Hill, Cpl Burke, Sig Aston, Cpl Peel, Sig Perry, Sig Selkirk, Cpl Blondell, Lcpl Carmichael, Cpl O'Neil, Lcpl Carroll, Cpl Gregson, Lcpl Watson, Lcpl Leighton, Sig Waite, Sig Wilkinson, Sig Davies
Absent on duty or leave: Ssgt Shotts, Sgt Duffin, Cpl McIntosh, Cpl Mitchell, Cpl Hill (REME), Lcpl Whittaker, Lcpl Hair, Lcpl Hughes, Lcpl Patton, Lcpl Cowan (ACC), Lcpl Sharples (ACC), Sig Innes, Sig Matthew, Sig Petschi, Sig Murphy, Sig Evans, Lcpl Drake, Sig Lattimore, Cfn Ruck (REME), Cfn Tomlin (REME), Pte Turner (ACC)

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj I. R. Knock**
Admin Offr	—	**Lt C. Meredith**
OC 'A1' Tp	—	**Capt J. F. Burnage**
2IC 'A1' Tp	—	**Lt R. B. Davis**
OC 'A2' Tp	—	**Capt A. H. G. Elford**
OC 'A3' Tp	—	**Lt S. C. Richmond**
SSM	—	**WO2 P. A. Dalton**
Y of S	—	**WO2 A. P. Lomax**
F of S	—	**WO2 P. Bruce**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt N. Fendley**

A RUDE AWAKENING

THIS is what **Lt Richard Davis** received when he joined the Squadron for two months after leaving RMA Sandhurst. After being met on arrival at the airport by a 'disguised' Royal Signals Lance-corporal in the evening his introduction to the Squadron in BAOR was rather unusual: he was taken from the airport, in his civilian clothes and carrying his suitcases, to join the Squadron who were on exercise.

In the field he met several other characters, ranging from the 'operators' in the Radcon vehicle, to the 'General' who happened to be paying a flying visit to the Squadron location and who wanted to see everyone wearing their NBC kit, followed by a quick deployment to a new location. Needless to say, after much intrigue, many changes of clothing, and a few hilarious moments, the 'disguises' came off and the officers, warrant officers and SNCOs identified themselves properly. **Richard** was then given a specially-arranged supper (or was it early breakfast?) in the field at 0200hrs and then whisked back to barracks, where a room, warm bed, and a late, late, meal awaited him.

We must say he took it all very well and with a good sense of humour—well done, **Richard**—we enjoyed having you in the Squadron and wish you every success on your CQ course at the School of Signals.

PROGRESS

The Squadron continues to make good progress in its new surroundings in the 'Prison' and is taking shape and adjusting rapidly to its new role, having been on one exercise or another more or less continuously since the New Year. Manpower and equipment are more or less up to strength and newcomers to the Squadron have quickly fitted into the way of things.

SPORT

The Squadron did quite well in the recent Inter-Squadron football competition, finishing as runners-up—well done, **Sgt John Wooders** and the Squadron football fraternity.

We also have a Squadron Squash Ladder organised by the two best players in the Squadron, **Capt John Burnage** and **Lt Simon Richmond.** The SSM, **WO2 Peter Dalton,** refuses to play against anyone who doesn't have a haircut like his own—and he has only managed to find one person who will play him so far—and that was the OC.

WIVES CLUB

The Squadron has its own Wives Club which is flourishing under the organisation of **Mesdames Linda Knock** and **Joan Dalton,** assisted by **Mrs Lynn Barker** who is doing a sterling job as Club treasurer. The Club is going off on a shopping spree to one of the nearby cities shortly—so watch your wallets lads!

YES, IT'S TRUE

Cpl Tony Moses and **Sig 'Wurzel' Druce** are considering joining the White Helmets as they are the only Squadron personnel who can drive a Landrover on exercise with only three wheels fitted—any other 'Alpha Three' Troop personnel requiring tuition should contact **Cpl Moses.**

Find the nearest suitable rebro site—was the instruction given to **Sig 'Noddy' Wright**—who promptly set up his detachment on a snow-covered pile of sand and cement on the Main Square—there is no strength in the rumour that the Troop Sergeant of 'Alpha Two' Toop carried out the recce.

'Alpha One' Troop has a distinctly Gaelic flavour so much so that **Sigs 'Scouse' O'Connor** and **'Scouse' Higginson** wanted to know if the Troop could adopt red neckscarves—or is it just that they are Liverpool FC supporters?

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

STOKOE AND SON

IN the Corps Museum there hangs a photograph and a tale of sorts. The photograph is of the whole of 4 Divisional Signals taken during the Silver Jubilee year of King George V. Those of us who do not look forward to birthdays any more will know that this was in 1935.

Sitting on a motor bike in that picture is a young Lance-Sergeant by the name of **Gordon Stokoe. Gordon** joined the Corps as a Boy Soldier in 1927 and saw service in India, France, Egypt, Italy, Hong Kong, BAOR, and Canterbury—where this picture was taken (not to mention Catterick). He retired in 1967 as a Major (Quartermaster) and now lives in York.

Meanwhile, 42 years later, during the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who should be adjutant of 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt but **Capt John Stokoe,** son of **Gordon. John** commanded the Parade Troop for the Royal Review on July 7, 1977. He cannot yet match his father's worldwide experience but, having seen service in England, Northern Ireland, and BAOR, he's working on it. **John** has now left us to go to Staff College, and we wish him the best of luck.

Now the chances of a **Stokoe** being in the same Regiment during different Silver Jubilees are pretty slim and if AG11 say they planned it that way well, we just don't believe it!

NEW PAY OFFICE

One does not expect a pay office to throw a champagne party. Indeed, if one did then a swift audit of the imprest account would be appropriate.

However, when our Paymaster, **Maj Leslie Pemberton,** finally achieved one of his ambitions—to run the most modern pay office in BAOR—then he decided to throw caution to the wind and boost an already significant Mess bill. The atmosphere is now one of modern efficiency with glass-fronted counters and wood panelling covering the walls. Our photograph shows the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col David Whitehead,** signing away his life as the first customer. **Cpl Steve Baker** (RAPC) looks on. A word of caution to would-be customers—the tape is as red as ever.



The first customers in the new Pay Office, Lt Col David Whitehead, signs the pledge. Cpl Steve Baker (RAPC) looks on

ANNUAL INSPECTION

One can always sense the feeling of relief which spreads throughout a unit after an ARU. This year was no exception. Our inspecting officer, **Maj Gen R. M. H. Vickers, MVO, OBE,** being our new GOC, was an unknown quantity when it came to the sort of questions he would ask and so we were all on our toes. The inspection took the form of a Regimental Parade, followed by a task to be performed by each Squadron. ARU day turned out to be dark and wet. Even so the parade was highly successful, and the GOC commended the Regiment on its 'drill, steadiness and turnout'.



Stokoe



'and Son'



The ARU Inspection
Left to right: Capt A. P. R. White, Maj D. Strang, ADC, Lt Col D. C. Whitehead, GOC. *Being inspected left to right:* Ssgt Darlington, Lcpl Davis, Sig Shingler, Lcpl Frew, Lcpl Demster

After the inspection, 1 Sqn was delighted not to be given yet another vehicle turnout test, and somewhat cautiously accepted the BE test—of the 89 members of the Squadron who could be persuaded to do the test, they had a 94 per cent pass rate. The task given to 2 Sqn was a passage of orders exercise. After receiving their orders the Troops Officers were given a vast amount of time (5 minutes) to prepare their orders. However, all went well even when the GOC popped in to see **Lt (What's that smell) Jack Wraith.** During the orders the remainder of the Squadron was having an operational turnout. 'A2' Troop having packed their kit into individually-sealed plastic bags in anticipation of the turnout were, to put it mildly, rather annoyed only to be asked to put on their NBC kit and run up and down. But that's life.



The 3 Sqn bike with Lcpl Jimmy Frew almost ready for inspection

3 Sqn, having been given the vehicle turnout inspection, showed that through all they maintained a sense of humour—as they proudly presented the 3 Sqn bike. The Inspecting Officer of the vehicle team soon made a bee-line for the bike, which was being held by **Lcpl 'Jimmy Frew'** of Line Troop. The sequence of events that followed ran something like this:

Inspecting Officer: 'Are you the driver of this vehicle?'
Lcpl Frew: 'Yes, Sir, it's recce vehicle for Main Headquarters.'
Inspecting Officer: 'I see, do the lights and radio work?'
Lcpl Frew: 'Of course, Sir.'
Inspecting Officer: 'Well do you mind if I give it a test drive?'
Lcpl Frew: 'No, Sir.'

The Inspecting Officer mounted and began to put the bike through its paces. As he drove around the square *Lcpl Frew* turned to the OC, **Maj David Strong,** and whispered, 'It's got no brakes!' In a cloud of smoke from burning DMS boots, the Inspecting Officer finally stopped and remarked that he thought that the LAD should have a look at the brakes.

Lcpl Frew: 'Ah well, Sir, the wet conditions reduce the friction on the brake blocks—and anyway, Sir, you were pulling the wrong lever—that's for the two-wheel drive!'

The Inspecting Officer, after checking that the CES was correct and questioning the authenticity of the driver who signed for it, 'Sig Dyna Mo', asked to see the Works ticket. The silence that followed showed that we had to slip up somewhere.

With that, the Inspecting Officer remembered that it was the prettiest vehicle he had seen so far in the Squadron, and moved on—nice to see that the inspecting team have a sense of humour as well. Well, we hope they have!!

SOCCER FINAL

In the afternoon, 1 Sqn played 2 Sqn in the inter-Squadron soccer final. 1 Sqn, under its captain, **Ssgt (Y of S) Geoff Downey,** raced into the lead and by half time the score was 3—1 (two goals being scored by **Cpl Dave Hall** and the third by **Sig Alfie Carr.** In the second half, the morning BE tests began to tell on the 1 Sqn players, and 2 Sqn managed to score two more goals to equalise. The score at full time being 3-all.

It was then decided that we would play on penalties and, as the sun began to fade over the Wentworth sports pitch, 2 Sqn were proclaimed the winners by 7 goals to 6 on penalties. It was a very close match and we still maintain that 1 Sqn would have won the cup if it had not been for the morning's BE test.

SNOW QUEEN

For the first time, the Regiment is running its 'very own' Exercise Snow Queen. Despite the usual teething problems and those caused by the 'real exercises' back in Herford, all is going well. We managed to avoid injury on the first course, but as luck would have it, **Lt Brown,** who brought the 10 Junior Soldiers down from 11 Sig Regt for the second course, used the wrong braking technique and broke a leg. **WO1 (RSM) Frank Worrell** was asked to join us for six days and managed to get back to Herford in one piece.

Our thanks to the organisers: **Maj David Strong, Capt Martin Stretch, WO1 (Y of S) Andy Harkins,** and **Ssgts Darlington** and **Hume.** We would like to express special thanks to our hosts, **Herr** and **Frau Mayr,** whose 'Hut' is undoubtedly the best in the area.

Finally, we would like to mention our cooks, **Ptes Steve Carrol** and **'Woody' Wood,** and our social secretary/Instructor, **Cpl Mick Howie,** for doing his 'thing' for the lads.

11 SIG REGT VISIT

During January we were pleased to welcome a party of young soldiers from the Junior Signals Wing of 11 Sig Regt under **Lt Ian Brown.** They spent most of their time ski-ing on Exercise Snow Queen but had time to have a good look around the Regiment. We look forward to having some of them back when they 'pass out'.



Young soldiers from the Junior Signals Wing of 11 Sig Regt
From left to right. Back row: RSM Frank Worral, J/Sig Michael Falls, J/Lcpl Peter Meadway, J/Lcpl Jim Withinshaw, J/Sig James Crabb, J/Sig Wayne Cox, J/Sig Norman Hunt
Front row: J/Sig Martin O'Gara, J/Sig Andrew Kevins, Lt Iain R. C. Brown, Col Whitehead, J/Sig Robert Burton, J/Sig Martin Gibbons

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

2 SQN NOTES

2 Sqn Personalities

OC	—	**Maj W. I. Buxton**
2IC	—	**Capt J. C. B. Simpson**
OC 'Hotel' Troop	—	**Lt K. W. Goodfellow**
OC 'Tango' Troop	—	**2 Lt A. J. Johnstone**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) D. W. Payne**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) K. R. Finch**
F of S	—	**Ssgt (F of S) M. Banks**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt (SQMS) R. Taylor**

LOOKING BACK

MUCH has happened since 2 Sqn last appeared in THE WIRE; the Jubilee Review at Sennelager; Summer Camp; a multitude of exercises and many arrivals and departures. The Squadron, as Commcen Bravo, continues to work well and the friendly rivalry with our sister Commcen (the other one) is flourishing as usual. During the last year we have said hail and farewell to **Lt Bernie (the Bike) Hewitt** and **Sgt Phil Curran.** They will both be remembered by the Squadron. **Lt Bernie Hewitt** for his musical talents on the accordion and his cycling exploits on exercise to the Radio Relay detachments and back; and **Sgt Phil Curran** who returned to his native Australia at the end of Exercise Long Look for his visits to the 'sights' of Amsterdam and Hamburg, and his insatiable thirst for Herforder Pils.

WINE AND SONG (NO WOMEN)

We are not without talent in 2 Sqn. **Ssgt Ian Borland** has recently earned promotion and was runner-up in the Army Folk Singing Contest, and **Sgts Tom Taylor** and **Ian Haldane** were awarded their Corps Colours for Athletics.

Our Summer Camp was spent at Boppard on the Rhine where a lot of useful training was completed. **Lcpl Ron Suett** proved conclusively that Bacardi, Coke and volleyball do not mix. As part of an initiative test the linemen led by **Cpl John Rose** managed to smuggle vast quantities of beer on board a pleasure boat and the Squadron Commander successfully convinced the captain that the packages/plastic bags and cardboard boxes contained 'rations'. During the trip to Rüdesheim we were entertained by the Bravo strolling players, **Lt Bernie Hewitt** on accordion and **Ssgt Ian Borland** on guitar, who provided a repertoire of songs guaranteed to get any nationality on board to sing. **Sgt Mick Lloyd Williams** was asked by the captain to act as interpreter for the trip but when he discovered that the drink he was offered for his services was coffee, he withdrew his services and left us all to revel in the sights of the Rhine spoken in Deutsch.



Cpl Stuart Huntington, 2 Sqn, attacks the downhill course

SUMMER SKI-ING

A party led by **Lt Keith Goodfellow** and **Sgt Tom Taylor** left the Regiment in October for 10 days' summer ski-ing in the Haute-Savoie region of France at Val d'Isere. The ski-ing was excellent with long and varied runs, good weather and free entertainment provided by **Lt Nick Ferriman,** HQ RAC Sig Tp, who is famous for his numerous and varied 'wipe outs' usually at high speed and with eyes closed. The ski-ing exercise was very successful and everyone improved their ski-ing; **Lt Nick Ferriman** can now keep his skis on the snow instead of in the air, **Lt Keith Goodfellow** no longer skis only down the fore-line and occasionally turns the odd corner, and **Sgt Tom Taylor** has learnt to avoid collisions with his pupils while carrying a second pair of skis. Continuing on the slope, we congratulate **Cpl Stuart Huntington** on competing admirably in the 2nd Armoured Division Ski-ing Championships, as a member of the Regimental Alpine team.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

WO2 Alan Osbourne (Constable Otter of Big Wood fame) has left the Squadron to count socks as RQMS of the Regiment, and **Capt Dickie Dyer** has handed over the Recce Officer's task to **Capt John Simpson. Capt Dickie Dyer** will long be remembered for his ability to site the Admin area at least 2km from the Commcen. On one occasion the spokesman for the linemen, **Sig 'Tommo' Thompson,** asked if recreational transport was available as he wished to go to tea!

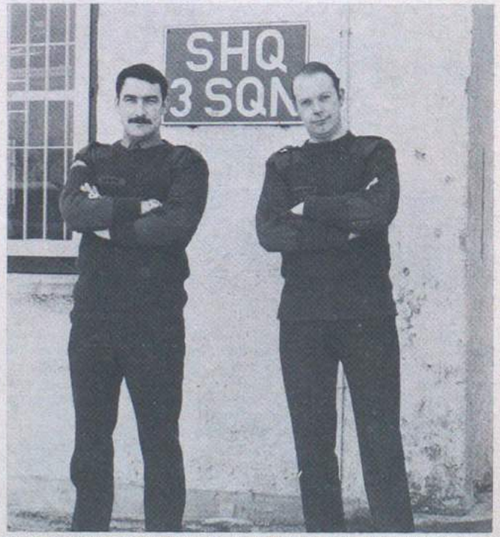
We welcome **2 Lt Andy Johnstone** to the Squadron. In between catching up on Recces and helping out at the local pantomime he manages to run his Troop as well. Finally, we would like to 'scotch' a few rumours.

- **Sgt Charlie Murray** is now able to stand upright after much practice at wearing his Jubilee Medal.
- **Lcpl Vick Vikse** still manages to visit the local Gasthaus each night even with a broken leg (courtesy of Exercise Snow Queen).
- **Lt Keith Goodfellow** does not require surgery to remove his skis.
- **Ssgt (F of S) Micky Banks** has not applied for a 30-hour day to complete his rewiring programme. He no longer screams at the mention of three new technical vehicles, Wavell or BMIS but only giggles hysterically.
- **Capt Dickie Dyer** does not own a monopoly on the Squadron Football Sweep.
- **Sigs Bill Bagnall** and **Kevin Morrisey** were not trying to prove that miracles can still happen by trying to walk on Herford's very wet River Werre on Christmas Day.

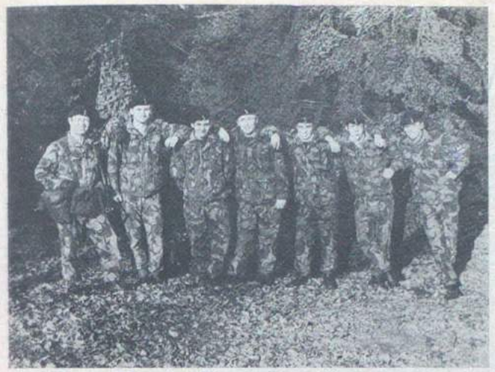
3 SQN REPORT

SINCE our last WIRE notes the Squadron has had an almost total change of management. The top of the ladder now looks like this:

OC	—	**Maj Roy Westerman**
2IC	—	**Capt Les Smith**
SSM	—	**WO2 'Bounce' Spring**
OC Line	—	**WO2 (Y of S) Bill Donnelly**
F of S	—	**Ssgt (F of S) Alan Eames**
F of S TV	—	**Ssgt (F of S) Don Wooff**
Y of S	—	**Ssgt (Y of S) Dave Wright**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt 'Mac' McBirney**



WO2 (SSM) 'Bounce' Spring with OC 3 Sqn, Maj Roy Westerman



3 Squadron Message Centre Maestros
Ssgt (Y of S) Wright, Cpl Simpson, Sigs Holden, Nelson, Cpl Bowen, Sigs McLachlan and Lennox



SQMS 3 Sqn and his boys
Lcpl Owen Sigs Stewart, Ward, Cpl Mellon, Sig Maidment, Lcpl Dyble, Cpl Brooks, Ssgt (SQMS) McBirney, Sgts Smith and Taylor



3 Sqn Technicians and rugby players
Cpl Rudd, Sgt Rodgers, Sgt Stock, Cpl Gaffney, Cpl Thompson, Lcpl Dyer, Sgt Codd, Cpl Keenan and Ssgt (FOS) Eamès

DOWN UNDER . . .

Our notes this month will consist of a series of photographs, but we cannot go to press without mentioning our farewells to two Squadron members. On October 21, 1977, **Maj George Sulc** (Royal Australian Signals) said goodbye to the Squadron. The month of October seemed to be a series of farewell parties for **Maj Sulc** culminating in his being dined out in the field with a barbecue at the close of Exercise Autumn Sales. We wish **Maj Sulc** and his wife, **Valma,** and their family every good fortune for their return to Australia. Continuing into December we bid farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Bob Patterson** who is leaving the British Army to join the New Zealand Army and start a new life on the other side of the world. We are grateful for the hard work **Bob** put in during his stay in the Squadron and we wish him and **Jackie** and their daughter every happiness for the future.



Maj George Sulc (Royal Australian Signals) receives part of his farewell gift from WO2 (SSM) Bob Patterson

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs
Let's Have That Story!

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

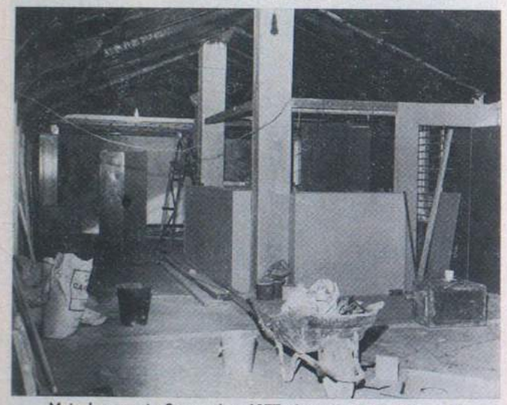
A SUPERB JOB

IT was decided in January 1977 that the Cadre Corporals Club should move into part of Messines Building 90 which had previously served as a model Commcen for the School of Signals, HQ Trg Bde Royal Signals and, more recently, as the SHQs of 2 and 4 Sqns of 8 Sig Regt. The building was in a very sad state of repair and after the QM Gen, **Maj Ray Webb,** had managed to arrange a new heating system and repair of the roof, a nucleus of six members started work on a self-help basis in August 1977.

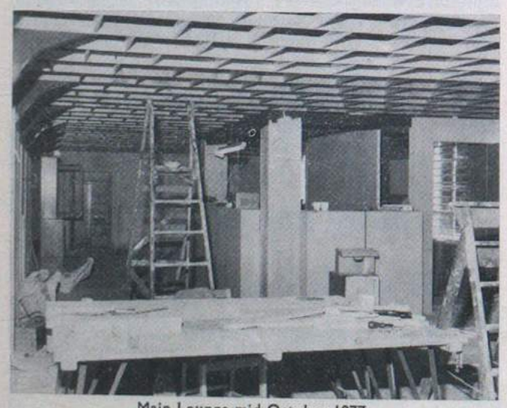
They were: **Cpls Arthur Alderson,** 'M' Troop—plumber, carpenter, electrician, plasterer, bricklayer and general foreman. **Ray Leitch,** 'M' Troop—master electrician, floor tiler and general handyman. **Archie Archibald,** RP Staff—demolition expert, bricklayer, plasterer and general handyman. **Tony Bowman,** HQ Sqn—carpenter, bricklayer and handyman. **Tim Haynes,** Adventure Trg Group—planned and built the new bar. **Brian Smith,** 1 Sqn—the 'odd job' man of the group.

Special mention must be made of **'Nessie' (Mrs N. McGillvray,** the cleaning lady) who spent a great deal of time tidying up after the workers and, in fact, did most of the wallpapering in the new club. All the workers gave up a substantial part of their spare time and did a superb job of renovation. The photographs give some indication of the task and the success they made of it.

The club was finally opened on January 20, 1978, by **Brig Butler,** completion being delayed somewhat by Operation Burberry. It caters for 130 Cadre Corporals and their families, and has a large well-appointed lounge bar with an adjoining disco room, games room, TV room, cloakroom, etc. It is proving a great success and the Improvements Committee which has been appointed will no doubt ensure its progress in the future.



Main Lounge in September 1977 after three weeks' work



Main Lounge mid-October 1977



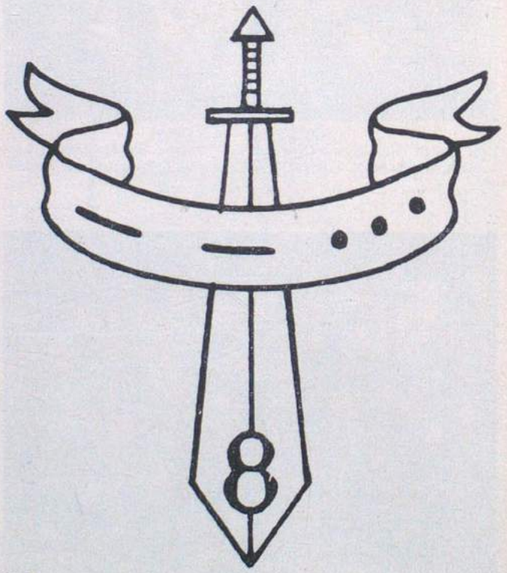
Main Lounge January 1978 just prior to opening

THE REGIMENTAL TIE

In January 1977 **Lt Col Gordon Young** instituted a design competition for a TTS tie, on the basis that if the Regimental Rugby Club could have a tie of its own the second largest organisation in the unit could have one also! The winning design was selected after an opinion poll had been taken on all the designs submitted. The designer of the motif selected was **Sgt John Waugh** of Classified Equipment Group of 2 Sqn. The design was considered as highly suitable for the Regiment and, as a result, the Commanding Officer, **Col David Cattermull,** submitted the design to the Corps Dress Committee for official approval for its adoption as the Regimental tie, the description of which as submitted to the Committee was as follows:

Motif

The motif comprises a Roman broadsword, with an Arabic figure 8 at the bottom centre of the blade, which is surmounted by a scroll bearing the letters TTS (for Trade Training School) in Morse Code. The sword symbolises both a connection with the former Roman garrison of Cataractonium and the Corps as a Combatant Arm. The scroll symbolises message tape with the letters TTS to illustrate the primary role of the Regiment.



Colours

The motif is in gold for the sword, in silver for the scroll and in blue for the figure 8 and letters TTS. The motif is woven overall on a plain background of either blue, maroon or green according to choice of wearer.



Material

The material is Terylene/Polyester/Crimplene with blade width of 4½ inches. The ties were manufactured and delivered in time for the first one to be presented to the Commanding Officer on handing over command on March 17. Another tie was presented to **Sgt Waugh.** Cadre only are entitled to wear the tie!

LEARNING BY COMPARISON: AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE
BRITISH COMBAT KIT *v* US FIELD UNIFORM
By Maj David Schreiner (US Army)

NEW GEAR

My first real introduction to British Combat Kit (less Noddy suit) was in November last year when most of us in 8 Sig Regt went off firefighting. At the QM issue counter, I was given a field jacket, trousers, and helmet (without liner). I then was asked if I needed puttees. Various thoughts entered my mind, firstly of course, what in the world was a puttee? Surely it had something to do with the uniform, but what? Maybe it was a neck scarf? Not wanting to appear ill-informed, I said 'yes'. Then came the next challenging question from across the counter: 'Will one pair do it?' At this point I ruled out a scarf and just said 'Sure'. Within seconds, two drab-coloured rolls of cloth material were tossed on the counter. Casually, as though I knew what was happening, I reached over and took charge of my first 'pair of puttees'. At this point I had figured it out. They must be medical items to wrap wounds or perhaps to be used as a tourniquet. I then caught sight of the soldier next to me, who of all things, had wrapped these medical items around the tops of his boots. Now at first you might say, this makes them readily available for use, but it's really not the most sanitary place to carry them, is it? OK, I thought, so they're not part of the first aid kit. Then it dawned on me—*puttees are blousing garters,* more or less. Ssgt Bloggs told me puttees are a good defence against snake bites. Was that really true? As you can see, I've started my comparison with the most critical area of a soldier's uniform—the boot (DMS).

Popular Boots

American Army boots seem popular with British soldiers. During my brief fire-fighting days, both at Leeds and Blyth, several soldiers commented favourably on my boots. Surely they were sincere, I wouldn't think they were trying to build up my ego, no American officer needs that! Although I didn't take an opinion survey, I definitely had the impression American boots were preferred. I must say they are quite comfortable and perhaps a bit more stylish, the top comes up well above the ankle and they seem to hold a better shine.

Stable Belt AOK

The British combat trousers reminded me in their design and colour of the Vietnamese uniform. Your combat trousers have several advantages over ours. The built-in liner provides great insulation and is quite comfortable. It did take a while to figure out where all the pockets were, and I'm still not sure of the purpose of the small one in the front. Anyway, I carried my wallet in it. Generally, US Army tactical units wear what's called 'fatigues'. They have no liner, fewer pockets, must be highly starched, and aren't very comfortable! We do have a lined field uniform, but usually it's only worn during field exercises in cold weather. The remaining point on trousers deals with the belt, stable. Now that's what I call a very good bit of kit. As opposed to the US Army narrow web belt, the stable belt has two marked advantages: No 1, more support to the abdomen and lower back; No 2, you display your Corps colours. I understand Royal Signals is authorised to wear stable belts because the Corps was once horse mounted. Now I must say, the US Army Signal Corps was founded in 1861 and definitely should be authorised such marvellous kit. But no stable belts are worn in the US Army. This is too bad.

Functional

The next item of interest, moving our way up the uniform, is the 'woolly pullie'. This is, by far, the most functional—comfortable—smart-looking item of the British uniform. I can't say enough about the woolly pullie other than, wish we had them in our Army.

Going German

Now what you call a 'tin hat' is to us a 'steel pot'. Neither Army has excelled in either the design or fit of the helmet. We have recently tested and accepted a new helmet, which is in design, quite similar to the German Army helmet used in World War 2. It is lighter and much more functional. You would do well to consider it for the future.

The Score

The final item for discussion is the beret. There is no comparison that can be made between the British 'Berry' and the US billed field cap, which could lead one to prefer the US cap over the beret. When the QM was finally able to find a beret large enough for my oversized skull, I took on the appearance of a round-faced French chef. Couldn't seem to get my beret to look like everyone else's. Finally, I accepted my ignorance and asked a certain Yeoman what to do. After giving me a strange, somewhat cynical, yet respectful smile, he advised me to put it (the beret) in boiling water, then cold water, then boiling water, then put it on my head, set the shape and wear it until it dried. At first I really wasn't sure if he was serious, but trusting as I am, the instructions were followed. I'm still not sure if it fits properly, but I have at least recovered from my cold and removed most of the blue dye from my head, neck and shirt collar. US Army Special Forces and both our airborne Cops and Airmobile Division wear berets. I look forward to its authorisation in all US Army units.

Well, that covers it, from boots to beret. Overall score:

British Army 3 US Army 2

Signed YANKEE DOODLE

ROYAL SIGNALS DEMONSTRATION TEAM—QUICKSILVER

The Demonstration Team moved up to Catterick from Hounslow at the end of 1977 and is now under the command of HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals but locally administered by 8 Sig Regt. The Corps Mobile Display 'Quicksilver' was formed 24 years ago with the task of travelling around the UK showing the careers offered by the Royal Signals. The three departments (Headquarters, Workshops and 'Quicksilver') each have their own separate inter-related tasks to perform throughout the year.

The Task

The Headquarters administers and plans the Team activities and also stage-manages a number of Corps recruiting activities such as the Aldershot Army Display. The Team is also tasked to construct display stands and material and to provide support for the RRIT's of 8 Sig Regt, 10 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt, 6 Fd Force and 7 Fd Force Sqn, as well as catering for the needs of 'Quicksilver'. The Team has a fully-equipped joinery workshop which is totally committed to the production of high-quality display material for numerous uses (*NB*—All requests for assistance are to be submitted to OC Demonstration Team!).

Many Events

'Quicksilver' is the largest part of the organisation and, from May until September, is tasked by the Director of Army Recruiting. It will visit some 25 events in the UK ranging from Agricultural Shows to Military Tattoos. The Team consists of a Captain ('Oscar'), a Foreman of Signals and 13 soldiers, and will be ably assisted by four selected WRAC from 10 and 16 Sig Regts. For the Team, the winter months from November to March are equally busy touring schools where they show films and equipment to pupils aged 14–18, and also lecturing University OTCs.

Merger

Later this year, the 'White Helmets' and 'Quicksilver', with the Trg Gp RRIT attached, will merge into an enhanced Royal Signals Demonstration Team. For those interested in joining the Team, details appear from time to time in the Royal Signals Manning and Records Newsletter.

MORE COMINGS AND GOINGS

Those ex-members of the Regiment who left last year will realise that if they returned, it would be practically unrecognisable today, so great has been the turn-over in officers during the last few months!

We said goodbye very sadly to **Col David Cattermull** and **Gwen** in the middle of March. They have gone to 'rest' in Ripon for the summer before moving to Rheindahlen to take command of NORTHAG Support Group in the early autumn, and our warmest thanks and best wishes go with them. In turn we welcome **Col Ian Shapter** and **Ann** who have come from Northern Ireland, and wish them a very happy tour.



Changeover of Command
Col David Cattermull signs the handover/takeover certificate with Col Ian Shapter looking on

Capt Fred Common comes to us from 11 Sig Regt at Ouston, and **Capt Roger Batho** also comes from 11 Sig Regt to take over as OC 'Quicksilver', the Royal Signals Recruiting Team. **Lt Don Carr** has joined us on commissioning from 21 Sig Regt and **Capt Kathy Howard** (WRAC) (whose husband is ex-Royal Signals **Capt Roger Howard** (RAPC) has come straight from JDSC to take command of 'W' Troop. **Maj Sid Howard** arrives shortly from 40 Sig Regt (V) in Northern Ireland to become our new QM (Tech) in place of **Maj Gordon Schofield** who leaves the Army in the summer.

Those leaving include **Capts Jim Heck** and **Brendon Hughes,** and **Maj Andrew Briggs** who are all attending the TEM Course at Blandford which starts at the beginning of May. **Capt Kim Kimber** (WRAC) has given up command of 'W' Troop to go NDC Latimer and **Capt Richard Hoole** goes to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt very shortly.

Thank you and best wishes to all those going and welcome to all those coming!

THE CORPS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The main station and the administrative centre of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society has been uprooted from Blandford and moved back to Catterick Garrison. The Society is being looked after by 8 Sig Regt and is at present located in one



Photo courtesy: 'Soldier' Magazine

Rugby
His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales meets members of the rugby team before the start of the UK Army Cup Final versus RRW on February 22. He is shaking hands with Cpl Harry Elkan and the others are, *from left to right:* Cpl Peter Lytollis, Lcpl 'Taff' Davies, Pte Jeff Jeffries (*partially covered*), Cpl Mick Lytollis, Sgt Andy Hickling (captain), Sgt Steve Dunlin



'A' Grading Award
The picture shows Lt Col G. W. Young (Royal Signals), Officer Commanding Trade Training School, 8 Sig Regt, presenting an inscribed plaque to Cpl Wendy Barton (WRAC) to commemorate her 'A' Grading Award on Communication Centre Operator to Data Telegraphist conversion course. She scored 400 marks out of 400 to win this award and is to be congratulated on her splendid achievement. Wendy enlisted into the WRAC in September 1972 and has served in Hounslow, Rheindahlen, Hong Kong, and Aldershot



The photo shows the GOC's Commendation presented to Ssgt (F of S) David Stokes by the GOC NOREDIST, Maj Gen Henry Woods. He earned this award for his prompt action in saving a child from drowning in a swimming pool in Peterlee, Co Durham, whilst on fire-fighting duties

of the old Messines Lines huts, M52. Regrettably this is in the lee of a hill and not well placed for VHF working but respectable HF antennas are in use and the Station, using the callsigns G4RS and G3CIO, can be heard most afternoons on the 14 and 21MHz amateur bands. The HQ Station offers facilities for the casual listener who would like to explore the short-wave frequencies, for any budding CW man who wants to work thousands of miles or for anyone with a yen for a less strictly controlled electrical or radio atmosphere.

There may well be an amateur radio club where you are serving, certainly a word with your Yeoman or friendly Traffic Officer should put you in the right direction. If all else fails, and the interest is there, drop a line to the General Secretary, RSARS, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorks DL9 3PS, and join the Corps Amateur Radio Society—you'll be surprised whom you'll meet. For those amongst the readers who are licenced, listen out for the Signals nets Sunday 1100—1300 hrs UK Clock Time 3720±, Tuesday/Thursday 1800–1930 hrs UK Clock Time 3740± on SSB; or 3565/3526 Wednesday 2000 hrs onwards on CW. Overseas, try 14085, 14130 or 21085–21375 when the bands are open.

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9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

THE FIRST QUARTER

THE first three months of 1978 saw the culmination of most of the winter months' sports competitions. In every sporting activity the Regiment has achieved a degree of success both at unit and sub-unit level. A great deal of credit for the victories achieved, that are outlined below, must go to the supporters of Regimental and Squadron teams. This support is perhaps best illustrated by that given to the HQ Sqn ski team at the NEFSKI championships when 52 supporters travelled 100-odd miles to Troodos.

MAJOR UNIT RUGBY

The Regimental rugby team met the Akrotiri Flamingos on the Happy Valley pitch on Saturday, February 25. The Regimental side were not fancied to win, having lost two key players the previous week through injury, but by the end of the first half quite a few of the pundits were having second thoughts. In a very hard-fought game the Regiment held their own until the last quarter when the unfortunate loss of the Regiment's scrum half with concussion combined with a tiring pack allowed the Flamingos to end the match with a series of scores resulting in a 22—6 victory to them.

MINOR UNITS RUGBY

The 2 Sqn 'A' side completed a successful season by winning the ESBA Minor Units Championships. Playing the 'Zulus'—a combined Dhekelia garrison minor units side, 2 Sqn won a very hard game by 13—0. A notable achievement as they had lost by almost the same score to the same side the previous week.

MINOR UNITS HOCKEY

The 1 Sqn hockey team had a very successful season winning every competition entered at both 6-a-side and 11-a-side. Their final position as winners of the ESBA League is best illustrated in their results for the season:

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
18	16	2	0	73	8	34

Perhaps next year without **Sgt Pete Stickland,** who scored 47 goals, some of the other minor units teams will stand a chance. Three players, **Ssgts 'Stew' Bromidge** and **Roy Wilson,** and **Sgt Pete Stickland,** were selected to represent the Army (Cyprus) against the RAF (Cyprus).



1 Squadron hockey team
Left to right. Back row: Sgt Stickland, Cpl Bishop, Ssgt Hedge, Cpl Chapman, WO2 (F of S) Howes, Cpl Price
Front row: Ssgt (Y of S) Wilson, Lcpl Campbell, Sig Strechan, Ssgt Bromidge (captain), Lcpl Small

INTER-STATION FOOTBALL TROPHY

Teams representing Dhekelia, Episkopi, Akrotiri, and Ayios Nikolaos met over the weekend March 11–12 in a series of football matches to compete for the Ayios Nikolaos Trophy. The first series of matches on the Saturday ended in Ayios Nikolaos defeating Dhekelia 6—1, and Akrotiri beating Episkopi 2—1. The second series of matches were played on Sunday; in the morning the two losers met in an exciting game which resulted in a 3—0 win for Episkopi. The afternoon final was played between Ayios Nikolaos and Akrotiri. With the trophy at stake the match was a hard and fast game. Ayios Nikolaos emerged as winners by 3 goals to nil with goals by **Sig Nigel Rock** (2) and **Lcpl Billy Bean. Mrs R. K. Ward** presented the trophy to the winning team and was in turn presented with a bouquet of flowers by **Miss Beverly Morrison.**

ESBA MINOR UNITS FOOTBALL

The final between 2 Sqn 'A' and HQ Coy 1 Kings took place on Tuesday, April 4, at Dhekelia. The match was well attended with much support for both sides. What a match it was, with the lead constantly changing, 3—2 at half time and 5—5 at full time. A further 30 minutes of extra time saw 2 Sqn emerge as winners by 7 goals to 5. A tremendous game of football with a high degree of sportsmanship shown by all those participating. A well-deserved victory by 2 Sqn to add yet another trophy to their winter collection.

NEFSKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year the Regiment was represented by a team from HQ Sqn consisting of **Capt John Tydeman, Capt Peter Nicholson, Cpl Gordon Townsley** and **Sig Ian Steward. Cpl Gordon Townsley** also represented the Army (Cyprus) in the Inter-Service team match against the RAF (Cyprus) which was held simultaneously with the Inter-Unit Championship. Snow conditions were excellent, although the weather for the first of the two days was such that visibility was limited to about 20m. A very fine individual effort by **Cpl Gordon Townsley** saw him emerge as overall winner in the championship as well as individual winner in both the Giant Slalom and Slalom events. Encouraged by **Cpl Gordon Townsley's** efforts the rest of the team put in good performances to win the Inter-Unit Championship by the narrow margin of 0·8sec. Particular credit for the team win must go to **Sig Ian Steward** who put in a particularly fast final run in the slalom.

Cpl Gordon Townsley went on to represent NEFSKI in the Cyprus National Championships which, aided by **Flt Lt Chris Trower,** he won as well.



Cpl Gordon Townsley, NEFSKI Champion 1978

SQUASH

The Army Cyprus Championships held at Episkopi produced a new island champion in **Capt Simon Miller,** the Regimental Medical Officer. The WRAC Championship was won by **Cpl Sheila Facer,** a very active member of the Regiment's WRAC contingent.

WRAC

Not to be outdone by their male counterparts, the WRAC element of the Regiment have also been notching up a few sporting successes. Nine out of the 11 members of the WRAC (Cyprus) hockey team were found from 9 Sig Regt. In the Inter-Service hockey match won 9—0 by the WRAC, **Cpl Sheila Facer** and **Cpl 'MT' Watson** scored 3 goals each. In the WRAC netball team the Regiment was represented by **Cpls Sheila Facer, 'MT' Watson** and **Julie Brereton.**

AYIOS NIKOLAOS KNOCKOUT QUIZ

On February 1, in the lush setting of the neo-kyprostic style Community Centre, the 1978 session of that hardy annual the Ayios Nikolaos Knockout Quiz commenced, with 24 teams ready to prove that Mensa was alive and thriving in Mercury Barracks. Dealing with three games per week, **CPO 'Bamber',** sorry, **Dave, Bennett** and his sadistic band of question-setters reached the eighth week with three semi-finalists and a play-off between 'Chatham By-Pass' and 'The Officers Mess' for the fourth team. The play-off confirmed the equality of the two teams with a last question decision in the favour of 'Chatham By-Pass'. Such was the reputation that the quiz has gained over the years that BFBS Cyprus was there to record the final round between 'Chatham By-Pass' and 'The Woolly Birds'. Another nail-biter; however, the 'older heads' prevailed and the team of 'The Woolly Birds' from the Civilian Wing, emerged as this year's winners. In his closing remarks, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col R. K. Ward,** echoed the sentiments of the audiences that this year's session had been a very professional effort which set a high standard for future quizzes.

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF (ARMY) VISIT

ON Thursday, February 23, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** visited the Regiment at Hounslow for the first time since taking up his appointment.

He was traditionally met by a Quarterguard consisting of **Sgt John Patterson, Cpls John Robertson, 'Wally' Wallace, Steve Cocksedge, Lcpls 'Biff' Berrie, Allan Cain, Sigs 'Paddy' Hodge, Pete Nisbet,** and the Bugler, **Lcpl Chris Hicks.**

After inspecting and congratulating the Guard, the SO in C was given a presentation on the role and structure of the Regiment by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Peter Goldney.** The programme then took the SO in C on visits to Radio Troop, MT Troop, the Keep, and finally the Garrison Sergeants Mess.

At the Mess the SO in C was met by **WO1 (CDR) Mark Ritchie** and **WO1 (RSM) Danny Lamerton.** Unfortunately, the programme only allowed 30 minutes in the Mess; however, during that time the General met all the members from Hounslow and the travellers from Dover, Maidstone, Aldershot, and Wilton. The lunch in the Officers Mess was not only to welcome the SO in C but also, sadly, to say goodbye and good luck to Commander 2 Sig Gp, **Brig P. H. F. Webb.**



CO, Lt Col Peter Goldney, SO in C, Maj Gen Anderson, Sig Peter Nisbet

2 SQN (HOUNSLOW) SEE HEATHROW AND CONCORDE

The Control Tower at London's Heathrow Airport had a shock recently when 13 members of London District Troop turned up to see how it all works. We thought that as we live under the shadow of the flight path it would be an interesting visit, and it certainly was. First, there was an excellent film about Air Traffic control, followed by a talk by a very experienced controller who recounted tales of accidents, near-misses, and all sorts of interesting facts. We were then taken into a gallery above the Radio Approach Control room and peered through the darkness at the radar screens and the activity below us. Then came a long, cold, windy wait on the very top of the building to watch Concorde take off. It was a really magnificent sight (accompanied by a really distinctive noise!) and a very fitting end to a most interesting visit.

FOLK CLUB REPORT

10 Sig Regt can now boast an 'All Star Folk Club' which meets in the Bruno Club (The Regimental Club of 10 Sig Regt) every two weeks. The term 'Folk' should be used loosely as it encompasses many styles: Contemporary, unaccompanied, traditional, and sing-a-long, to name but a few. The principal folk singers are **Cpl Sam Coltman, Sig (Soon to be Mr) Bruce Thomson, Mr Eugene McCabe** and, from time to time, **Sig Andy Walker** has been known to do a turn. The Club also invites local groups and singers to come and play, the most recent being the well-known West London band, The Storm Eagles, who played some fine music. Also worth a mention are the Club barmen who have played their part so well.

EXERCISE MARSH BIRD I—Report by Sig Sparks

On Monday, January 9, I left Hounslow for Tidworth to join 8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. When I arrived I was told to report to the SSM's office. I then gave in my 'docs', found a bed and settled in. The next two-and-a-half days consisted of the packing of kit and sending it to South Cerney Airport.

Finally, at 1900hrs, Thursday 12, we arrived and were off to Brize Norton. We then had a meal and sorted out our personal kit for the flight. Our flight was scheduled for 0130hrs, Friday 13! Some of the lads were a bit wary, but finally we were all aboard and asleep. We were awakened for breakfast which was served by the RAF stewards. The next thing I knew, we were landing at Akrotiri Airport where we were met by three coaches to take us to Radio Sonde. This was going to be our HQ for the next 28 days. As soon as we arrived we were split into four Troops. I was in 'Charlie' Troop, consisting of 21 men. We drew camp beds and were allocated tents.

On Sunday, 14, we departed to Troodos for five days' ski-ing (which was a good laugh all round!). We then returned to Radio Sonde for 24 hours then departed to Dekhelia, where we were to try to canoe in the sea. We had a civilian instructor who made everything look so easy, and after a few dips in the sea it wasn't so hard. We had a few accidents with rocks, but none too bad. After five days we were joined by the rest of our Troop to spend three days on the gallery ranges before returning to Radio Sonde for more shooting on the ETR ranges.

The final week arrived which was spent on the sports field, except for 30 hours on a 25-mile walk, or a stroll, as the 2IC said. Our four-man team came sixth overall but blisters slowed us down towards the end.

Thursday afternoon was spent on packing and getting ready for the flight back. Oh well, all good things must come to an end!

EXERCISE JAGGED THORN—Report by Sig Vesty

The day had finally come for **Cpl 'Geordie' Robson** and myself to set off to the Sudan complete with weapon, webbing and other useful items. We arrived at Pirbright to meet our host unit for the next six weeks, 1 Bn Grenadier Guards. We had a quick briefing and in no time at all we were on our way to Brize Norton. After a short delay, due to bad weather, we proceeded to Gebeit via Khartoum and Port Sudan.

Early shock

The first two days were spent settling in and acclimatising with the Signals Platoon. Our first shock—a tent inspection!! OK, but sweeping sand is like switching on a light without a bulb in it.

Being a Data Tg, it was very interesting operating Clansman sets, not having seen or operated one before. I was also working shifts on an exchange (10-line Mag) which I found rather a drag but you have to take the bad with the good!

No night life

The night life there was grim due to no civilisation for 80 miles or so. The beer was limited to two cans per day at the beginning of the exercise, but when the restriction was lifted morale 'lifted' tremendously.

Formidable opponents

Then came R & R for two days which we spent at an Italian holiday resort called Aroussa. We spent our time sunbathing and swimming out over the coral reef. Although the routine back at Gebeit was interesting and enjoyable it was also hard, and the R&R was just what everybody needed.

'The Guards' had an organised sports day against the Sudanese Army. The sports included football, cross-country, volleyball, and basketball, to name but a few. The Sudanese Army proved worthy opponents by winning all the competitions! This was followed by the Anglo-Sudanese exercise. Two days later we returned to the UK, with hundreds of cigarettes and bottles of spirits. On the whole the exercise was very interesting and enjoyable.

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

FOR our script this month we turn to our detached Squadron in Berlin. They have produced their six-monthly updating of life in that busy and, I am told, exciting city. Meanwhile, we at the blunter end of the Regiment have been competing for the Colonel's Cup. A report on this type of madness with photos proving the point makes up the latter part of the contribution.

3 SQUADRON REPORT

'The time has come', the OC said, 'to write THE WIRE notese once again', and the task fell to yours truly, **Alan Tyler** is the name. It is the first time that the task has fallen to me and this nearly at the end of 22 years' service, so here goes.

The Biennial British Berlin Tattoo has once again been and gone with the Squadron's participation being provided by the recently-posted SSM, **Dougie Edmond.** He portrayed a Knight of the Garter in the Coronation scene which was part of the finale to a most spectacular Tattoo, which some people say was the best seen in Berlin.

LOOKING BACK

The well-known annual event, Christmas, has also been and gone with the usual round of parties and a well-organised Squadron dance and children's party, the latter being organised by the Squadron wives. A good time was had by the people who matter, the kids, as the photograph shows, and the jovial Santa was last seen disappearing through the door clutching a bottle of Irish Mist looking very happy and hopefully will be back ready and willing to carry on next time. The 33 Club, which we share with 3 Int and Sy Coy, held its annual Christmas cabaret evening on December 3. The excellent buffet and varied selection of artistes both local and home-grown, resulted in a most enjoyable start to the festive season. The cultural side of Berlin has a lot to offer with the Opera, Philarmonic Concert Hall and the choice, from time to time, of various shows and groups at the Deutschlandhalle not to mention the exhibitions and shows in the Messedam exhibition halls. Squadron members are not slow to avail themselves of all that Berlin has to offer.



Santa Claus (the one with the Irish Mist) and the Squadron children at the Christmas Party

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THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN - FEBRUARY 78

SPORTS REPORT

On the sporting scene, the Squadron has once again been active in most spheres and although we do not win many trophies we enjoy our sport and that is all that matters.

Sgt Keith Essam can be seen most weekends braving the elements on the Havel lake, sailing his Laser and apparently is not deterred whatever the weather. Squash is also very active with the Squadron participating in the Berlin Major Units League. This gives our players games against very good class opposition, but with the major units strength in depth we do not win many matches as the record shows (won 1, lost 7). The team has been made up of these members: **Maj Howard Crump, Sgts Keith Essam, Bill Emery, Dave Barrow, John Sands** and **Tom McCulloch.** Cross-country running has been somewhat of a new venture in the Squadron but our relatively untried team has had some degree of success. As a try-out we entered a team in the Berlin Police International Crosslauf on December 6, and it was pleasing to see all our runners in reasonably early. After some hard training we entered the Berlin Field Force Championships, which is run over a gruelling 10-km course consisting mostly of sand and hills. We finished fourth out of nine in the Minor Units competition, which we accepted as a very satisfactory result. Our next foray into the cross-country field is hoped to be (duty permitting) in an international meeting held at RAF Gatow on February 4. Our hard core of runners for the record is made up of: **Majs Ray Windmill, Howard Cump, Capt Chris Stevenson, Lt Eamon Hannaway, Cpls John Connell, Frank Pye, Phil Wingfield, Dave Mills, Neil Coleman** and **Phil Cork.**

On the football scene, we play along with the members of 3 Int and Sy Coy in the Berlin Minor Units League. In the past we have been one of the weaker sides in the league but with the recent influx of new blood, most notably **Lcpls Eddy Small** and **'Nellie' Nelson,** we have actually won some matches. To date our record stands at won 2, drawn 1, lost 4; but with a bit of luck and, now, a fairly settled side, everyone is looking forward to the last half of the season with some optimism.

In basketball the results are slightly below those we were expecting (won 1, lost 3). However, there is method in our madness and it is that we are such a good cup side we are lulling the opposition into a false sense of security. That is our story anyway! Still, we soldier on and hope for good things in the Minor Units Cup.

Shooting, although not a sport in the recognised sense of the word, is a thriving pastime in the Squadron and in the Berlin Field Force Minor Units ·22 League we are certain of second place, with a score nearly 400 points better than that of last year, and if the present leaders, Ord Svcs Berlin, make a mess of their last card we could even finish up as the winners. Whichever way it goes we have qualified to go to Sennelager to take part in the BAOR Championships. The stalwarts of the team are **Ssgt Pete Westwell, Cpl Alan Houghton, Pte Joe Prescott,** with scores averaging 94·08, 93·4, and 96·08, respectively. Each has also qualified to go to Sennelager to shoot individually, and we wish them and the team the best of luck.

CHANGES

Comings and goings in the Squadron have been numerous since the last notes from the free City of Berlin. We have said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Dougie Edmond, Ssgt (SQMS) Dave Salt, Pete Westwell, Sgts Adrian (Rock) Mead, Colin Gibson, Cpl Chris Parsons, Lcpls Sean O'Hare, Neil Coleman** and **Sig Ted Poole.** We wish them all well for the future.

We welcome **WO2 (SSM) Tom Friend, Ssgt (SQMS) Barry Watson, John Sharrock, Sgt Bob Oldfield, Cpls Phil Wingfield, 'Nicky' Nicholson, Pete Manger** and **Pte Joe Prescott.** We wish them all a happy stay in the Squadron and hope they find Berlin as exciting a city as the author has. One other new arrival just after the festive season was the daughter born to **Capt** and **Mrs Chris Stevenson—Hanna**—our congratulations to you both.

THE TUESDAY CIRCLE

Our Wives Club, or 'Tuesday Circle' as we prefer to call it, meets regularly once a month and sessions are cosy and very informal. Our activities range from baking eighteen dozen mince pies for a British stall at the local German Christmas Fair to the usual visits and demonstrations. Heartfelt thanks go to **Mrs Sheila Thompson** who recently stepped down after an outstandingly efficient tour of duty as the secretary and we welcome **Mrs Liv Fergus** who takes her place.

'STOP PRESS'

Pte Joe Prescott was placed second in the Berlin Individuals Shoot. The photograph shows **Joe** being presented with his award by the Commander Berlin Field Force, **Brig C. R. Grey.**



Commander Berlin Field Force, Brig C. R. Grey, presents Pte Prescott with his award for being placed second in the Berlin Individuals Shoot (·22)

WOs AND SERGEANTS MESS

The WOs and Sergeants Messes from 13, 16 and 21 Sig Regts were entertained to a challenge Games Night on March 10. The reason for the gathering was to compete for the RSM's Cup—a trophy donated by previous RSMs of all four Regiments. The games of darts, crib, dominoes, and carpet bowls were on the agenda. The trophy, held in 1977 by 13, was eventually won by 21 in a close finish with 28.

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLF MEETING

At the end of the month, the Royal Signals Golf Meeting takes place at RAF Bruggen and the golfing fraternity of the Regiment have been taking every opportunity available to get in practice for this event. More news on this in the next notes.

THE COLONEL'S CUP

The Colonel's Cup Competition has once more been taking place during March. The Cup is challenged for annually and is a test of endurance and shooting. The object of the competition is for a team of eight men to carry a WRAC 'invalid' on a stretcher over a given course of about half a mile uphill; rest the stretcher then complete an assault course in the shortest possible time; and at the end to fire on the 25-metre range. Points are gained in a number of ways, age, rank, shots on the target—these are converted to a time bonus and subtracted from the timed section of the competition to give a final team aggregate time.



COMPUTERISED COMMUNICATIONS

as far from semaphore as you could go

Plessey is responsible for the design, development and management of Ptarmigan, an advanced generation of computerised communications systems, employing RF and digital technology. Planned expansion has led to the following opportunities for engineers, male or female who wish to advance their careers within a high level technical environment.

Engineer – System Test Planning **c.£5500**

An experienced engineer, capable of leading a section, to plan for the development trials of a large tactical communication network. In addition to planning system trials, responsibilities include conducting trade off analysis between testing and analytical validation, and the efficient utilisation of trials resources. There will be involvement in monitoring relevant installations and equipment testing prior to system testing.
A degree or equivalent in Electrical Engineering/Computer Sciences with proven experience in an electronics/communications real time system is desirable.

Quality Engineer – Progress c.£5500

The successful candidate will identify and resolve quality problems as they arise during development and production stages of Ptarmigan. Forward planning quality assurance requirements, with responsibility for advising sub contractors of the implications of relevant standards and plans, will come within the mandate.
Candidates must be able to relate quality control to an electronic engineering development environment.

Planning Engineer **c.£5000**

Reporting to the Planning Manager, the person appointed will be responsible for the design of charts, diagrams and visual aids representing work programmes; amending, up-dating and generally maintaining an accurate picture of these programmes through evaluation of progress reports; liaison with sub contractors' planning staff to develop planning methods. Candidates should be qualified to HNC level with experience of a large R & D project. A knowledgeof the ICL 1900 PERT System would be an advantage.

Engineer – Design & Test Co-ordination **c.£5250**

The Engineer will initially provide an in-depth liaison between the major sub-contractor, the Switch Development Unit, and the Prime Contract team at Roke Manor. Areas covered will include new specification material, deriving design principles and maintaining a controlled and documented technical position. Later duties will include system test planning and scheduling and analysis of test results.
A degree level qualification in a related discipline is required with experience of a large real-time software or communications system.

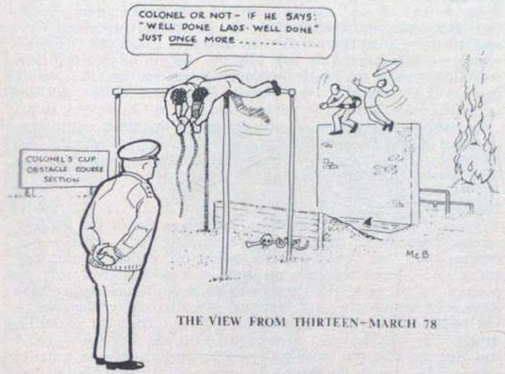
Successful candidates will be based at Roke Manor, Romsey, Hampshire, in a very pleasant rural environment, close to the New Forest and the Solent. Generous relocation expenses are available where appropriate.
Contact John Best, PER, 62-64 High St., Southampton. (0703) 39956.

PER Professional & Executive Recruitment

The semaphore message reads 'Ptarmigan'.

PLESSEY

The competition opened with a team from Provost Troop. A good time was achieved and this provided the target for those following. Next off were 'A' team from 2 Sqn, and although a 'little long in the tooth', achieved a remarkable time and this, coupled with superb shooting, set a target difficult to beat. Although strenuous efforts were made, sometimes in dismal conditions, this team was to prove the eventual winner over the nine other combatants. Notable achievements were the 2 Sqn winning aggregate time of 26 seconds (4 mins 57 secs minus 271 bonus points), the HQ Sqn 'TM' Troop time of 4 mins 42 secs, the fastest of the competition, and the 'B' Troop shooting total of 108, 2 less than the 2 Sqn winning total of 110, but they suffered two stoppages. To all competing teams, well done. In preparation for next year let's see the same competitive spirit again and perhaps Another Year—Another Team?



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN–MARCH 78



'C' Troop half way there with, in view, Cpl Dave Kent, Sgt George Downie, WO2 Peter Muxworthy and 'casualty' Cpl Ann Waldie



The RPC team, first to compete, with 'guests' the RSM, Ken Woods, and 'casualty' Pte Sue Forster



Capt Bob Taylor stretches for the top of the wall while Cpl Roy Wovsey helps a team member up behind him. These were members of the winning side



Cpl Mick Jarvis takes a serious view of crossing the water jump

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

14 Sig Regt (EW) B.F.P.O. 23

WELCOME MOVE

FIRST, the most important news is that we move RHQ, HQ Sqn, and most of 2 Sqn into Ironside Barracks at Celle in March 1978. This is excellent news from the Regimental point of view and will enable us to start living and operating as one unit; thereafter 14 Sig Regt will become the 'pearl' of BAOR! Would-be volunteers should contact OIC Royal Signals Manning & Records Office now for posting details—we have plenty of vacancies.

Secondly, one of our two photographs this month shows CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** on the occasion of his visit to the Regiment on February 8 and 9, 1978.



A LENGTHY SNAG

Thirdly, a group of the ladies from 1 Sqn, 14 Sig Regt (EW), 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, and the RMP Detachment Helmstedt travelled to Berlin on a Christmas shopping expedition on Friday, December 2, 1977. On the return journey, their bus broke down at 1930hrs, just 30km inside the corridor. They were rescued at 2300hrs and returned to Berlin. After re-documentation they completed their journey, arriving in Helmstedt at 0500hrs Saturday, December 3, 1977, having taken 10 hours to traverse the corridor. Below is their story:

The saga of the 'Green Goddess'

It was decided that a raiding party would set forth and plunder the foreign land known as the American PX, Berlin. Thus it was, that having decided this, the stars were consulted and a day chosen for the raid. Volunteers were called for and, under the guidance of our wily and experienced battle commander **(Vivienne 'Boadicea' Lightfoot),** we girded our loins and provisioned ourselves for the coming fray. Those of us having raided this foreign land before knew of the discomforts of the voyage and did craftily wrap about their persons extra comforts. Next, the craft was selected and blessed—or perhaps cursed—and christened the 'Green Goddess'. Our captain, the trusty and stalwart **Lcpl 'Galahad' Brown,** received instructions from the elders of our commune and was given the magical accoutrements to ward-off evil spirits on our arduous and dangerous journey. (These magical accoutrements were gained from the temple known as the RMP Detachment Helmstedt, and are called British Travel Documents.)

Up and away

So my friends, thus it was we set forth to plunder. I will relate little of the joys of the raid—exchange of coin, the gleeful gloating over goodies, and pass on to the later chapters of our story. The 'Green Goddess', now heavily laden with the strange brown sacks these foreign people use, set forth on the journey home. **Lcpl Brown,** our captain, waved the most magical accoutrements and we passed the outer portals of the harbour of Berlin known as Checkpoint Bravo, wherein a most friendly tribe does dwell, who are named Royal Military Police and wear red hats. On we chugged, into the dangerous waters of the pass known as Checkpoint Potsam, guarded by fierce people from the East. Again, our magical accoutrements saw us safely through and, with a gleeful surge of power we set forth on the passage known as the corridor.

Disaster

Alas, disaster struck not many leagues along the corridor, our craft lost way and we were cast upon the rocks of a layby. Danger approached in the guise of a police craft from the hostile lands srrounding the corridor. But fortune smiled upon us and the natives were found to be well-disposed towards us when spoken to by one in our midst who spoke their tongue. They returned to the pass known as Checkpoint Potsdam and the guardians of this place remembered our magical accoutrements. They passed word to the haven known as Checkpoin Bravo, wherein the friendly tribe of the red hats does dwell.

Mercedes to rescue

These peoples determined upon our rescue, used most mystical things to ensure our safe deliverance from those dangerous rocks of the layby. But wait, these mystical processes cost dear in time, and our craft meantime was still adrift with no word of the planned rescue. Our brave captain and battle commander set forth across the dangerous passage to alert a friendly craft of our distress. After much toil and signals they did attract the attention of a fast and luxurious craft known as Mercedes, captained by a native of the lands beyond the safe haven of Checkpoint Bravo—which we had so recently left. He, the captain of this fair craft, was given one of the magical accoutrements that our own valiant captain did carry about his person. Thus armed, the fast and luxurious craft set forth to the haven known as Checkpoint Bravo, promising to alert them of our danger. Two other crafts were detained and given messages to the safe land on the other side of the corridor, known as Checkpoint Alpha, so that they, too, were appraised of our dilemma.

Rescue

And so we lay upon the rocks, known as the layby, awaiting rescue. During this dangerous time we sang songs of our home land to cheer our flagging spirits, whilst our gallant captain kept watch and conned each strange craft as it came to rest near our position. 'Twas time later that our lights began to fail and darkness descended within our craft, but lo!—fortune did smile upon us yet again and we were provided with light from an illustrious candle that was destined to be a prize in the SSAFA draw. It was decreed that our need was greater than theirs and a lucifer was struck, and we had light. Time passed and this foreign land was well watered by our company—each watering being carefully timed with regard to passing craft. Then behold, there came a small craft with a blue light. From it came a most welcome sight of a man from the friendly tribe at Checkpoint Bravo. He wore the traditional dress with red cap. We greeted him with much rejoicing. He spoke in our tongue with words of much cheer and sweetness, and promised that a large craft to replace ours cometh forthwith. Following the heels of our new craft came a sturdy vessel to tow our 'Green Goddess' to the safe haven of Checkpoint Bravo. Thus it was we convoyed back to this safe haven—through the pass of Potsdam to the waiting arms and watering facilities of these friendly peoples of the red hats.

New craft

Our wait during the ceremonies of the high priests of the magical accoutrements was long and our new craft required additional aids to see it through the dangerous passage known as the corridor, and many messages were passed within this land to seeks these aids. Came the time for our new craft, known as 'Route Bus', to set forth upon the journey to our home land. We bade farewell to the gallant captain of the 'Green Goddess', who remained with the friendly tribe to ensure the repair of our vessel which was much needed during the coming festivities to transport members of our commune from their dwellings to local hostelries. But I digress.

The passage known as the corridor was safely negotiated with the aid of the new magical accoutrements and we arrived at the safe haven known as Checkpoint Alpha. Some of our crew had dwellings there and they did leave us to return to their loved ones. Those of us remaining embarked upon two smaller craft, known as Minibuses, sent by our elders and loaded our plunder into a vessel known as 'Land Rover'. In convoy we negotiated; the friendly ways of our homeland and, fell exhausted into the arms of our families in the villages of Braunschweig, Wolfenbuttel, an Fumelse, vowing not to return to such foreign lands until next year! Thus, my friends, should you traverse the dangerous lands of the corridor, be warned—your craft should be impregnable, invincible, and lovingly attended by those known as MT and LAD.

SKI-ING REPORT

The famous five, led by that wizard of the slopes, **Lt Dave (Crumble) Cumming,** set off from Hildesheim at a fair rate of knots in the general direction of south Germany. We arrived at Dietrichs Bolsterlang (home of the infamous 22 Sig Regt Snow Queen and Gandy dance ski team), and with gay hearts and wanton abandon we attacked the ski slopes, for a month's glüh-wine-drinking, bocky eating, and dolly letching—with, of course, a few moments taken up with ski-ing!

With the rigours and heartbreaks of training over, we turned our attention towards the dizzy heights of the Tri-angle Ski Club Meeting at Axamer-Lizum in the Austrian Tirol. With the experience of **Cpl Ken (Banzai) Enticott** (REME) behind us there was no stopping us—we hospitalised more gatekeepers than any other ski team.

Realising that without the Boogie team (us), things just would not be the same, we qualified for the Army Ski Meeting at Ischgl, and **Sig 'Georgous' George Daughtrey,** the team whizz-kid, decided to demonstrate 'hot dogging' during the timed downhill event, succeeding in doing a cartwheel, back flip and his tibia and fibula! (He is now available for Long John Silver impersonations at reduced rates.)

This just about sums up the achievements of our ski team, except for the other two team members not mentioned before, **Lcpl Mick (The Brick) Brady** (due to his aerodynamic mis-shaping) and **Lcpl Phil Higgs,** both of whom performed with distinction—they were pretty good at ski-ing as well!



Lcpl Philip Higgs who represented the Regiment in the Triangle Ski Club Meeting in Austria. In three races he achieved 7th, 12th, and 13th positions out of a field of over 50

FOCUS ON BASKETBALL

A Regimental (inter-Troop) basketball competition was staged in the Wolfenbuttel gymnasium on February 1. A total of eight teams entered, comprising two from HQ Sqn, four from 1 Sqn, and two from 2 Sqn, a good turnout considering Regimental commitments and our geographical dilemma.

The competition was run on a knockout basis, with the losers of the first round going into a Plate Match. The first match, between RHQ and 'A' Troop (1 Sqn) started late but the spectators were rewarded with a splendid exhibition of professionalism from **WO1 (Y of S) George Lile.** The referee unfortunately (for **George**) caught him at it on five occasions and he was sent off. RHQ had no substitutes and so fielded four players only in the second half and were eventually beaten 14 points to 12.

The team tipped by most to win the competition, SHQ Troop (1 Sqn), came through their first found match comfortably, due mainly to the skills of **Sgt Geoff Back** and **Sgt Rod Shelton-Smith.** In the semi-finals 'SHQ' Troop had to face 'A' Troop (1 Sqn).(1 Sqn). The latter decided that **Sgt Back** was the main threat and proceeded to foul him 28 times, but in so doing they ignored SHQ's 'secret weapon'—**WO2 (F of S) George Hall. George** is renowned for his prowess on the rugby field but, in his own words, 'has played a wee bit o' basketball afore'. Thus while half of the 'A' Troop team watched (and fouled) **Sgt Back,** the Foreman scored enough baskets to take 'SHQ' Troop into the final. The other finalists were 'D' Troop (1 Sqn), who played an exciting match against the 2 Sqn's 'B' team.

The final between SHQ and 'D' Troop was a splendid match, very much enjoyed by the spectators and resulting in a victory for SHQ by 30 points to 14. The trophy was presented to the SHQ captain **(Sgt Stu Hawey)** by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling, OBE,** together with a crate of beer which was duly christened by the CO. The winners of the Plate Match (2 Sqn, 'A' team) received a second crate of beer for having beaten Comms Troop.

Postscript. **Sgt Geoff Back** is himself a Corps player of some note. He organised the competition from scratch, and is to be sincerely congratulated for his hard work and excellent play on the court.

SOCCER—ENCOURAGING START

This season saw us attempt to play major unit soccer when, realistically, still a minor unit and we have done surprisingly well—our Regimental side reaching the BAOR Semi-finals of the Army Cup. We lost there 2—0 to 28 Amphibious Regt RE, but credit for this goes to every member of the team who fought hard all the way but two well-practised dead ball situations gave the edge to the Sappers. We look forward to next season when we hope to produce a side that plays regularly together.

BADMINTON

Mixed fortunes to date in the 1st Division League. Home fixtures take place anywhere between Hildesheim, Wolfenbuttel and Celle in the hope of confusing the opposition—we don't declare the actual venue until shortly before the start! It's a game for young and old alike, ranging from **Sig 'Dixie' Dean** and his kamikasi, triple-strung lightweight bat, to **Maj 'Terry' Cantle** who is occasionally taken out of moth-balls to add a touch of old world class to the team.

SQUASH

Our Regimental squash team has enjoyed tremendous success, currently heading Group 'B' of the 1st Division League. We rely on the depth of the team—a euphemistic term meaning we invariably lose at first and second strings but win at 3, 4 and 5. Consequently, the wily tactics of our 2IC, **Maj 'Tony' Bushell,** ensure that he never raises his game above the appropriate level for a No 4, and wins whereas our gladiators at Nos 1 and 2, **Sgt 'Barry' Jones** and **Capt 'Rick' Hewitt,** rarely taste the sweetness of victory. RHIP!

HOCKEY

Having competed, very successfully, in minor units competitions for the past three years most of our players have had to adapt to the higher standard of the major units. After a period of trial and experiment we now have the nucleus of a settled and very keen side captained by **Lcpl Heelan** (1 Sqn) and vice-captained by **Cpl Parrish** (2 Sqn). Both **Lcpls Quinn** and **Heelan** are regular members of the Corps team.

So far we have been inhibited by not having a pitch of our own, and also consisting as we do of three widely-spaced Squadrons has not helped in fostering Regimental togetherness. Happily, most of our problems should now be solved.

This season we have experienced mixed fortune. In the Northern Hockey League Major Units, we are at present halfway up the table whilst in the Minor Units we are in second position. In the 1 Div Cup we progressed as far as the quarter-final before being very narrowly beaten 2—1 after extra time, by 45 Med RA.

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading – boy you sure need sympathy!

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

5 SQUADRON RETURNS

5 SQN, formed together with 21 Sig Regt, has returned intact from the Magilligan Prison guard duty. Welcome to all, and enjoy your leave.

COMBINED EXERCISE

The year 1978 started in a relatively civilised manner with a combined radio exercise and Regimental ski camp in the Bad Tölz area. Sixty men and women of the Regiment were able to join the Jet Set mit apres ski, etc—some of them managed to miss the ARU as well! 'Alpha' Troop, as usual, communicated and **Maj Bill Minns,** our Unit Paymaster, provided the skilled ski-ing instruction.

BFG YOUTH CENTRE PARTICIPATION

One of his assistant instructors, **Cpl John Hatch,** of 2 Sqn, was selected to instruct at the BFG Youth Centre. His task was to conduct a party of pupils from Kent School, Hostert through a week's ski-ing course at Morsbach. A brief account from **Cpl Hatch** follows:

'The evening of our arrival at the Youth Centre was spent fitting equipment and the next day these fittings were tested. The mixed group of 4th, 5th and 6th formers had all skied the previous year and the course enabled them all to ski from the top of the Wagner Ritz eventually. The only problem was the lack of stability shown by the boys (and myself!) when the girls decided it was far too hot to ski in any more than bikini tops—and of course ski pants. Evening activities were well organised with swimming and skating trips, disco outings and English films shown in the Hotel by 1 Division skiers.

'Note: I would like to thank the 1 Division instructors for their assistance on the course. They were a great help.

'The week's activity was rewarding and enjoyable and although it is a pity that I will not be here for next year's event I recommend it to others who may be approached for this duty!'

ANTI-SMOKING MONTH

We in Rhine Area were subjected to an anti-smoking campaign in the month of March. This good cause, initiated by the Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore, MBE,** peaked on March 14. On that day the aim was to encourage all ranks to cease smoking. It is too great to hope that this should be permanent; however, certainly the general publicity and example surely led to a reduction in cigarette consumption if not outright stopping.

RUGBY REPORT

A 'select' team from Krefeld Station played a match against a representative REME XV from the UK on March 17. The accolades will be cut extremely short as the score was 44 points to 3 against the Station.

On the same subject the Regimental Inter-Troop competition called the McNaught Trophy was competed for and a high standard of seven-a-side rugby was in evidence. In the final, HQ Sqn 'A' team led by the Adjutant, **Capt Gerry Maddren,** well and truly beat (out of sight) 2 Sqn 'B' team, led by **WO2 Mick Rattray**. In passing, congratulations on your recent promotion. The score was a healthy 22 points to 0.

HIGH STANDARD OF SQUASH

To clear up the subject of sport in the Regiment, BAOR Easter Squash Festival was celebrated by six teams, Germany, Wales, Holland, Escorts, Jesters, and BAOR. An extremely high standard of squash was displayed, one of the stars being **Stuart Courtney** currently rated 4 in the UK, and another, our own **Lt Neil Stewart** (of 1 Div). The Scribe (**Marley,** of course) was fortunate enough to be asked to represent BAOR in one of the matches.

NETBALL

I have mentioned the '7 Ups' in a previous WIRE and this contribution is their last for this season. On April 2 two teams formed by the 7 Ups competed with others at the Rhine Area Netball League Presentation Day at Düsseldorf in a demonstration of their skills. The 7 Ups 'A' and B' teams both had finished runners-up in their respective leagues. Well done!

RSM CHANGEOVER

On March 29 **WO1 (RSM) Morgan** arrived from 244 Sig Sqn in the UK to begin taking over the post of RSM 16 Sig Regt from **WO1 (RSM) Bob Vale.** We offer a welcome to the new RSM and hope that his stay will be as rewarding as that of his predecessor.

Naturally we bid farewell and good luck to **Mr Vale,** who was presented with a sword pre-empting his commissioning sometime next year. We can assure Manchester UOTC that they will note his presence particularly if they have an amateur dramatic bent.

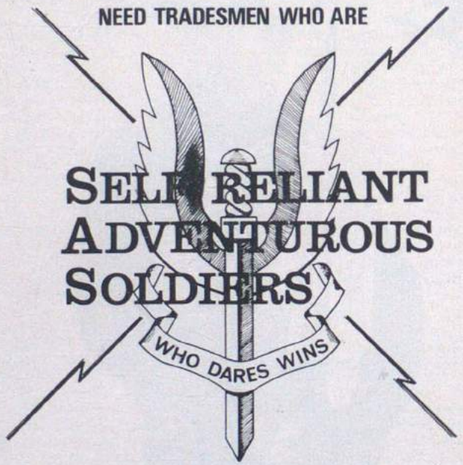
VISITS

Over Easter we entertained a football team—the Old Monovians—whose visit was instigated by a past member of the PSA staff in Krefeld in liaison with **WO2 Geoff Northey.** We are also hosting 10 cadets of Uppingham School CCF. They are conducted by a Master, **The Rev James Barnett,** and their CO, **Maj Richard Boston,** 9/12 Lancers. This is an unusual visit, centainly the School has no record of any entries to the Corps but as these cadets are from the Signals section in their CCF and show considerable interest in matters technical, we may achieve a first—who knows!

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NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

1 Squadron

March 30 and 31 saw a rather damp and miserable Royal Signals (BAOR) Spring Golf Meeting at Brüggen Golf Club. It was rumoured by many of the supporters that since the job of Corps Golf Officer had been placed in the hands of a Traffic Officer rather than the TOTs, it had done nothing but rain. Despite the dismal weather conditions the Squadron, led by our OC, **Capt Bill Coxon,** who must have practised his swing on the deck of the Corps yacht (at sea), produced no less than five participants. These being: **The OC; F of S Wally Sugden; Sgt Mick Chaloner; Cpls Tony King** and **Barry Dawson. Bill Coxon, Tony King** and **Barry Dawson** have only been playing a short while and put up a good performance. Our **Wally (The Swing) Sugden** managed a second place in the Stableford, and in the Greensome Competition the team of **Mick Chaloner** and **Wally Sugden** obtained a respectable fourth place. We feel sure that time, practice, and effort will produce even better results in the Autumn Meeting.

Friday, March 31, saw the end of an era when the Deutsch Bundespost handed over the operating of Rhine Army Telephone Exchange to 'X' Troop, after four years of discussion and planning. **Frau Lore Bochermann** has been supervisor in the Exchange since it opened in 1954 and this long and loyal service was recognised when she was presented with a BAOR plaque by the Chief of Staff HQ BAOR, **Maj Gen R. M. Carnegie, OBE,** at a small ceremony in Telephone House *(see photograph)*. **Col R. H. Gilbertson,** Commander 4 Signal Group, gave a small reception in the evening and the ceremony of signing over of Supervision in the Exchange diary was duly witnessed by the Commander and by **Herr Dokter Ross** the OPD (Director) Mönchengladbach Deutche Bundespost.



Presentation of BAOR plaque to Frau Bochermann by Maj Gen R. M. Carnegie, OBE, in the BAOR Telephone Exchange, Rheindahlen

3 Squadron

Recently the Squadron has undergone a change of officers. In February we said goodbye to **Capt Danny McConnell** who is now with Schemes Troop in Catterick. **Lt Sue Rollo** (WRAC) departed to RHQ to take over the 'hot seat' as Assistant Adjutant; we hope that at last we have a friend in high places. We wish them both the best of luck in the future.

The Squadron Commander, **Maj Ivan Double,** departs in April and is busy looking for stores to enable him to hand over. He is leaving the Service and we also wish him and his family all the best for the future.

We welcome the following replacements:

Maj David Stubbs, Capt David Elson, Lt Eric Webster and **2 Lt Jean Dowson** (WRAC).

Work in the Squadron has been centred on preparing the vehicles for the re-painting programme, which our kindly MTO, **Capt Steve Bresloff,** arranged.

A pleasant respite occurred when a party of 13 soldiers, under **Lt Webster,** formed an attacking force to test the defence and security arrangements during a TACEVAL period at RAF Laarbruch. The two days spent dodging around the German countryside in vehicles, on feet, and crawling on stomachs was most enjoyable. **Sgt Ivor Green** is still looking for his boots which a 'kindly' RAF Policeman removed from him after his capture. It must be said that the RAF were extremely compassionate when the force was taken—it can be very cold in March when only dressed in *underpants*. The cry now is 'When is the next TACEVAL?'

The SSM, **WO2 Geoff Northey,** and **Ssgt Ray Jones** have been running an inter-Troop Quiz, with the final scheduled for April 7, between the 'A' teams of 'S' and 'J' Troop with **Lt Jean Dowson** as 'School Ma'am' for her team.

I started with farewells, so shall I finish—**Cpls Eric Pratt** and **Barry Cook** have left for civilian life, the best to them and their families.

Belated Entry from 2 Squadron

'Alpha' Troop (Radio) are convinced they are the only workers in the Regiment. This view is clearly stated in the following excerpt from their notes for our local magazine, 'The Krefeld Mercury'. Quote . . . The following conversation between two old and bold Servicemen was overheard recently in the cookhouse. One was a member of 'Alpha' Troop, the other belonged to the incongruous mass known as 'the rest of the Regiment':

Regimental Man: 'It's been reet quiet in the Regiment over the last few months.'

'Alpha' Troop Man: (Picking himself up from the floor) 'Excuse me while I remove my large pack and join you in this intellectual discussion.'

Regimental Man: 'Please stop shaking your muddy boots on my carpet slippers—and where did you get that nasty sweat-stained shirt?'

'Alpha' Troop Man: 'Well—actually I've just finished Crested Eagle/Winter Sales and am just about to deploy again to the Channel Ports for a further week of hard graft.'

Regimental Man: 'Oh really! Which Armoured Division are you serving with?'

'Alpha' Troop Man: 'Division?' I'm in 'Alpha' Troop (collapses on floor, gasping and crawling towards sight and smell of food and drink).

Regimental Man: 'Strange fellow—that reminds me, must have a manicure before I go on leave.'

The characters who met in the cookhouse are purely fictitious and any resemblance to any persons living or dead (especially **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood**) is unintentional. Distress caused to members of 'Alpha' Troop and their families is regretted.

Attributed to **Lt Brian Jackson**

5 Squadron

Personalities

OC	—	**Maj David Stubbs**
2IC	—	**Capt Dick Sanders**
Intelligence Officer	—	**Capt David Elson**
Troop Commander	—	**Lt Jo Fletcher**
SSM	—	**WO2 Tom Hazel**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt Pete Wall**

IN October 1977 one hundred all ranks, drawn from 16 and 21 Sig Regts, formed up at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, as 5 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt. They then underwent nine weeks' intensive infantry training for duty as the Prison Guard Force at Her Majesty's Prison Magilligan, Co Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

NEW SCENE

The Squadron trained in shooting, akaido, riot drill, rural and urban patrolling, and even in semaphore, since prisoners sometimes communicate between compounds by that means. **Csgt Hod Birkby** came from 1 Cheshires to act as infantry adviser and he, together with the unit Training Wing and PT staff, struggled to train tubby signalmen for their new role. The Barracks rang to blank shots, flak-jacketted armed men burst into the offices of the DOE searching for gunmen, smoke grenades coloured the air and everyone was liable to have their car searched, or to be subjected to a body search. At night, OPs watched out for lurking bombers, snatch parties roamed and flares would suddenly expose creeping snipers. Highlights were a helicopter-training day and a terrorist-recognition day when the Squadron lurked and tried to identify such known wrong doers as **Mrs Marion Fraser** and **Mrs Maureen Jackson** from their photographs, this exercise revealed how many soldiers have both long, black leather coats and dark sun glasses! The final week's training in the rain gave experience of CS gas firing, night firing and very realistic urban patrols where old ladies in shops swore at the soldiers and every dustbin seemed to contain a bomb. In December four officers and 68 men departed by Hercules leaving the remainder as a reserve/stand-by force.

Magilligan Prison is on one of the UK's most windswept capes, 20 miles from nowhere. Its most notable feature is that Southern Ireland is a mile away, to the north! The sea is within 500 yards on three sides; around it are only sand dunes, barbed-wire fences, ditches, and sheep. The few buildings around are generally turf-roofed and derelict. Prison officers dealt with the prisoners and the Squadron provided five sections each of a sergeant and nine men plus an Operations Room and an SHQ element to guard the Prison from outside attack and to prevent escapes. As well as ODCs (ordinary decent criminals) there were over a hundred convicted PIRA in the Prison, many with sentences of 20 years or more. The sections rotated daily on manning the towers around the prison, and doing local mobile and foot patrols to dominate the area.

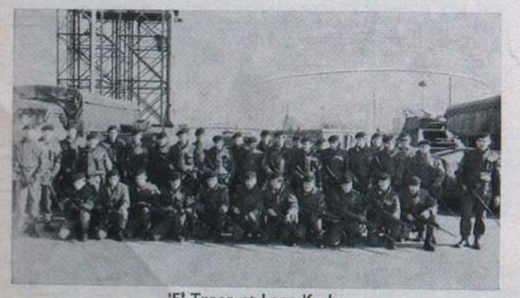
NOTABLE TRANSFER

On January 8, 1978, the PIRA were transferred by helicopter from HMP Magilligan to HMP Maze at Long Kesh. The Squadron was supported by two companies of 1 Glosters, two dog sections, and an RE field squadron for this task. **Sgt Mick Turvey** and his section provided the close cordon for the terrorists from their prison vans into the helicopters. With so many soldiers' rifles pointing at them and the riot batons of **Lcpl Andy Williams, Sigs Dave Butters, Pete Goble, Arthur Cooley** and company swinging hopefully it would have been a very brave prisoner who claimed he didn't want a helicopter ride!

NEW TASKS

Following this operation the Squadron deployed sections with 1 Glosters on rural patrols around Kilrea and Rasharkin, and sent a section into Londonderry to guard Clooney Park for the RMP.

On January 22 the Squadron followed their PIRA down to the Maze to reinforce 76 (Maude's) Heavy Battery RA on Prison Guard Force duty. **Capts Dick Sanders** and **David Elson** were released to do 12 hours on 12 hours off as watchkeepers at HQ 39 Inf Bde in Belfast. The sections were reorganised into 'F' Troop under **Lt Jo Fletcher** with **Ssgt Mike Smith** as Troop Staff-sergeant and **Sgts Mick Turvey, Tony Harrigan** and **Glen Pennington** commanding the sections. **Sgt Charlie Dowie** took a section away to Aughnacloy on the border where they ran



'F' Troop at Long Kesh



Lcpl Ypey, Sig Harrison, Sig Colclough and Lcpl Chadwick on patrol at Aughnacloy

a permanent vehicle check point and did rural patrols of the border. In this task they worked closely with the UDR and the RUC, as may be inferred from their new Irish brogues.

The remainder of the Squadron integrated with the Battery; **Cpl Dennis Downie** took his pipe to their MT; **Sig Davy Logan** drove their covert vehicles; our cooks hid in their cookhouse; and seven men were detached to Royal Artillery Troops. Towers had still to be manned in three-hour stags watching the prisoners playing football or lounging around their million-pound H blocks. More patrolling was carried out, including a good few snap vehicle check points even on the motorway, and in times of crisis trips were organised to Lurgan and Portadown.

Our search team, under **Cpl Dave Little,** deserves special mention. Bored of searching derelicts and culverts at Magilligan they took to searching occupied houses down in the Maze area. Since they arrived at 5am they were unwelcome visitors! However, their unpopularity with their customers is rivalled by their unpopularity with their cordon commander, **Cpl Trevor Loughton,** who can't understand how they always managed to do their searches in the pouring rain.

—AND HOME

The tour concluded at the end of March when the Squadron was relieved by the Royal Horse Artillery, all champing at the bit. It was fortunately without casualty save for **Cpl Paul Stevenson** who was casevacced with his collarbone broken in two places by falling over a large RUC man on the rugger field. All returned to the land of LOA and duty-free very happily. Four months of infantry life has had its laughs and its moments of excitement. However, we gladly left our terrorist customers with only another 20 years to push before they get out!

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.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

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

PERSONALITIES

CO	—	**Lt Col M. F. H. Colman**
2IC	—	**Maj S. W. Read**
Adjt	—	**Capt T. Bushell**
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) C. E. Homewood**
Chief Clerk	—	**WO2 (ORQMS) M. I. Weston**

THE Regiment has had more than its fair share of management changes in the opening months of the New Year. Command of the Regiment has passed from the hands of **Lt Col B. F. Allen** into the hands of **Lt Col M. F. H. Colman** with due ceremony. The RSM's pace stick has also changed hands, with **RSM Charlie Homewood** taking over from **RSM Don Carr.** The RSM's hand-over was completed at midnight, Friday January 13. Who was it that said unlucky for some? We passed on our thanks and best wishes to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Allen,** who have gone to more restful pastures in the MOD. Our thanks and best wishes also go to **Lt** and **Mrs D. Carr** who are now enjoying life in the commissioned ranks of 8 Sig Regt.

The Regiment welcomes back the members of 1 Sqn supported by 2 Sqn who have been 'doing their bit' in Ulster. They were welcomed back to the comforts of Regimental life in BAOR, when told to polish up their kit ready for a medal parade after leave, some even wanted to return to Ulster. Seriously, lads, we're all glad to see you back safe and sound. The remainder of 1 Sqn will now wonder what **WO2 (Y of S) Tom Wilkinson, SSM 'Taff' Edmunds** and **Sgt Mick Knights** and their wives will be doing now that they are not looking after the wives of the Northern Ireland contingent. It was a job well done and much appreciated.

CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESSES

Once again our cross-country team had a hard, but successful season. This year being pushed hard by 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. The team's successes are as follows:

Army Championship	—	*Winners*
BAOR Championship	—	*Runners-up*
Rhine Area/RAF League	—	*Winners*
AFCENT Brunssum Cross-country	—	*Winners*
RAF Laarbruch Road Race	—	*Winners*

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt proved to be our closest rivals in both the BAOR and Army Championships, defeating us in the former by 2 points. Those who witnessed the race will know how tough the weather and course proved. The close struggle between the two Regiments shows the talent the Corps has in this hardy sport. Individual honours went to **Cpl Gerry Hegarty** who was third in the Army Championships and was selected for the Army Inter-Service team. **Cpl Les Wood** also won the individual trophy in the Rhine Area/RAF League.

The team was well led by **Lt Stan Young** and **WO2 (SSM) Doug Baikie.** Other members of the team were **Sgt Pete Dring, Cpl Brian Howe, Lcpls Bruce Dale** and **'Jock' Hutton, Cpl Mal Todd, Sigs Abe Lincoln, Andy Forster** and **Andy Robertson,** and **Pte Chris Shields.** Special mention must go to **Master Tim Wood** who has supported the team throughout the season and has run in some of the league matches as son of **Cpl Les Wood,** dare I say 'A chip off the old block'!



Some members of the Regimental Cross-Country team. The rest were too shy

From left to right. Standing: Cpl House, Cpl Todd, Lt Col M. F. H. Colman, WO1 (RSM) C. E. Homewood, Lcpl Dale, Cpl Hegarty
Kneeling: Pte Shields, Sig Lincon, Lcpl Hutton, Master Tim Wood, Sig Foster, Cpl Wood, Sgt Dring
Rhine Area/RAF Cross-Country League Winners



Cpl Gerry Hegarty receiving the Rhine Area Cross-Country Shield from Wg Comd Pierce (RAF)



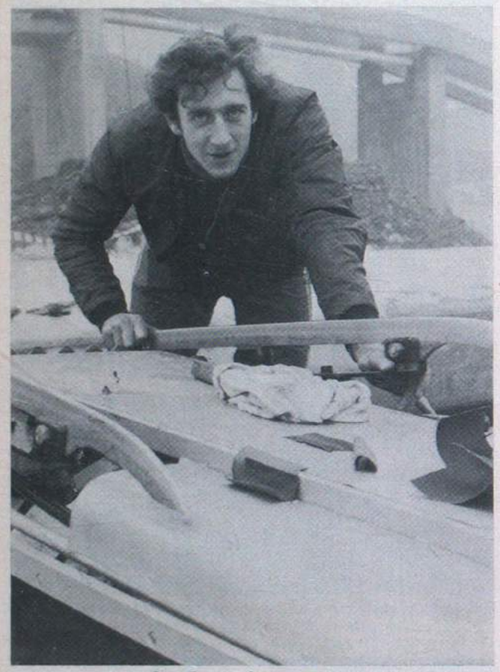
Cpl 'Chippy' Wood receives a trophy from Wg Comd Pierce (RAF)

HOCKEY

The Regimental team ably led by **WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Edmunds** won the Rhine Area Cup by defeating 13 Sig Regt in a close match, the winning goal coming in extra time from **Sgt Tony Tai.** The team progressed to the semi-final stages of the BAOR Cup where they were defeated at Lippstadt by 5 Hy Regt RA. The team would like to thank **Maj James Sweetman** and members of 22 Sig Regt who cheered from the sideline and arranged the hospitality after the match.

REGIMENTAL PERSONALITIES—Capt D. B. Jones

Many who have served in 21 Sig Regt over the last two years may well have wondered who the Adjutant was. Well now we can reveal the truth; it was **Capt Duncan Jones,** who has been posted to RMA Sandhurst. He must qualify as an outstanding sportsman being number one driver of the British and Army Bobsleigh team. He has carried out his Adjutant's job wherever there was a mountain run for his bobsleigh. Regardless of the leg pull, we of the Regiment are proud of his achievements and wish him well in his new posting.



Capt Duncan Jones at the off

VERY COOL

February 28 heralded the start of the new battle camp season, and with some trepidation 45 members of the Regiment travelled down to Grobbendonk, Belgium, to carry out their annual military training. Unfortunately, due to very severe weather conditions, the course turned out to be more winter survival than battle camp. The temperature ranging from 0°C to 'where's the welding kit?' at –20°C. However, with a typical British stiff upper lip (they were frozen solid) the course settled down to a combination of PT, rangework, fieldcraft, NBC and first aid—hypothermia was very popular!

MANY LESSONS

Despite the cold weather, a great deal was accomplished; everyone learning a good deal from the experience. Our SSI, **Ssgt John Bell,** learned a great deal about fire drills when his bed caught fire early one morning. He still reckons it was the warmest he had been all week. **Ssgt Tony Higham** (APTC) succeeded yet again in *not* blowing himself up with his booby traps, though we live in hope; especially at 0630 in the morning. **RSM Charlie Homewood** and **Sgt Allan Brown** arrived on the Friday night and left hurriedly on Sunday night. Comments heard were— 'Pressure of work'; 'Isn't it cold?'; 'Got to go to the UK tomorrow'; 'Blimey it's freezing', etc, etc. Our congratulations must go to the AIPTs who managed to miss the camp altogether due to cross-country commitments, courses, ski-ing, sick aunts, etc!

All in all the course was a success and with another nine to come this year everyone in the Regiment will be lucky enough to get a chance to take part.

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REFORGER

Exercise Reforger 77! It may send the odd chill down somebody's spine or merely ring a bell, it all depends if you are American of the 121 Sig Bn, Fort Riley, Kansas, or 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt, RAF Wildenrath. Reforger, an American exercise staged from the States, ended after a month in the forests of Southern Germany for the 121st, leaving a few days in hand prior to returning to America. Acting as hosts **Sgt Tony Tai** and **Ian McInnes,** of 2 Sqn, ensuring British hospitality was bestowed upon a small group of American guests, arranged a comprehensive four-day programme. Visits to Cologne (Köln), games evening, a disco night and an insight to the Regiment's role and equipment were a welcome change for the American signallers. The two SNCO's, **Clayton Farley** and **George Libbey,** among other members of the visiting group were impressed in both the equipment—in particular the apparent luxury of the signals equipment containers (box bodies), the pump-up Clark masts—and the hospitality shown by all members of 2 Sqn.

At the end of their brief stay with the Regiment, carrying numerous gifts, a refit of personal military attire of one sort or another and a number of Regimental plaques, and home the main thing on their minds, the 'Colonial brethren' wended their way. Members of 2 Sqn thoroughly enjoyed the visit which helped in some small way Anglo-American understanding, and are proud of the presentation piece left by their American friends.



Crest presented by 121 Signal Battalion US Army Exercise Reforger

REGIMENTAL SHOOT

For the first time the Regiment held its own Skill-at-Arms meeting on Geilenkirchen Ranges from February 28–March 3, 1978. It was a four-day shoot covering all weapons practices designed to test the six-man teams to the full. This it certainly did, as the shooting ranged from Bisley standard to 'I hope you always carry a clean white handkerchief, preferably on a stick'.

LAD SWEEP THE BOARD

The competition shoots were based as far as possible on ARA rules subject to being adapted to a German ETR-type range. This tended to make the shoots harder than expected and, of course, the limited experience of competition shooting resulted in many of the 18 teams being penalised for errors of drills, dress, etc. All credit must go to the LAD who virtually swept the board, using their Corps SAA team. They won the Rifle, SMG, and Pistol team matches and thereby the overall team championships. **Sgt John (How did I miss/hit that?) Harrison** won the Champion at Arms, with **Lcpl Geoff (It's easy) Copley** being runner-up. **Lcpl Copley** also won the individual Rifle and SMG. The odd pair out were **Ssgts Bob Turner** and **Roy Brown** who won the LMG pairs for 1 Sqn.

It had been hoped that **Mrs Chris Colman,** wife of our new Commanding Officer, by presenting the prizes would meet quite a few members of the Regiment. Unfortunately, as LAD won everything and Training Wing were second in everything, this didn't quite work out.

SKILL HANDED DOWN

A guest team was entered by 16 Sqn RAF Regt and a very curious incident occurred. **SAC Ray Wilson** won the guest Rifle and, on being presented with his medal, promptly produced a medal won by his grandfather in a Royal Signals shoot in India in 1928. A gap of 50 years between grandfather and grandson. **RSM Charlie Homewood** swears that he doesn't remember the 1928 competition; other older members of the Corps may.

LS and GC PRESENTATION

Col R. H. Gilbertson, Commander 4 Sig Gp visited the Regiment on Friday, April 7, 1978, and presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to: **Ssgts Doug Poultney, Alistair McEwen** and **Bert Wright, Sgts Roy Henderson** and **'Spanner' Keep.**



Recipients of LS and GC Medals with Comd 4 Sig Gp and CO
Left to right: Sgt Keep, Sgt Henderson, Lt Col Colman, Ssgt Wright, Col Gilbertson, Ssgt Poultney, Ssgt McEwan

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

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

TABLE TENNIS

DURING the recent months three determined people have been practising and playing matches in the 3 Armd Div Elimination Competition which was won 8—1 in the final. This put the team into the quarter-finals of the BAOR Table Tennis Championships. After beating teams from 4 Div and Rhine Area, the team comprising of **WO1 Graham Adlington, Cpl Paul Hayward** and **Sig Phil Giles** were beaten 5—4 in a very exciting BAOR Final by 1 RHA.

All three players were then selected to play for 3 Armd Div in the Inter-Divisional Tournament, and in a tremendous final, won the BAOR Inter-Divisional title. The team has still one match to play and that is in the final of the 4 Div Domestic League where two teams have tied for first place.

SPECIAL MENTION

Special mention must go to **Sig Phil Giles** in that not only was he unbeaten at any stage in the Inter-Unit Competition, he was also the only player to beat **Cpl Harrison** (RMP) of 4 Div who eventually won the BAOR Singles title. **Sig Giles,** partnered by **Rgr 'Barney' Varnham** of 2 R Irish, won the BAOR Open Doubles and were the losing finalists in the Invitation Doubles Tournament which included top players from BAOR, RAF Germany, German, Dutch, and Belgian civilian teams.

ORIENTEERING

This season is progressing very well with the Regimental team currently lying third in the 4 Division League. We have high hopes that they will qualify for the BAOR finals and eventually even the Army Cup.

The team consists of **Maj Mike Rice** (fresh from training in the Irish bogs), **Capt Peter Bowles** (always looking for snow), **Lt Dick Barfoot, Ssgt (F of S) Dave Bowers** (team captain), **Sgt Jim Hazzard, Sgt Tony Paines** (the find of the season), **Cpl Dave Purnell** and **Sig Bob O'Dea** both fresh from the langlauf courses of Bavaria.

STOP PRESS

The Page Trophy competition continues this year with an all 4 Sqn final in the Tug-of-War, being won by 'Delta' Troop who defeated 'Juliet' Troop. The inter-Troop assault course competition has been won by SHQ 3 Sqn/'Hotel' Troop, led by **2 Lt Leach** who this year managed to get over the wall. Well done all concerned.

FOCUS ON 1 SQUADRON

OC	—	**Maj A. J. Saunders**
2IC	—	**Capt C. Durham**
OC 'A' Tp	—	**Lt P. S. Jones**
OC 'B' Tp	—	**Lt R. Good**
OC 'C' Tp	—	**2 Lt M. Butler**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) J. W. Curry**
Y of S	—	**Ssgt (Y of S) J. Bestford**
F of S	—	**Ssgt (F of S) L. Lightfoot**

FOND FAREWELLS

To **WO1 (F of S) Eddie Harris** who not only leaves 1 Sqn but the Army after 22 years with the Colours, and joins the LS list as the Estate Warden in York Barracks, Münster. To **Ssgt (Y of S) 'Geordie' Bestford** who is leaving BAOR (albeit temporarily) for the more exotic atmosphere of Hong Kong to serve with the Gurkha Troops.

HAPPY HELLOS

Welcome to **Lt Peter Jones** from 9 Sig Regt Cyprus (first time in BAOR after 19 years—How do some people do it?) as OC 'A' Troop; **Sgt 'Taff' Williams,** our hairless new Troop Sergeant from 4 Division Herford; All Corporals, Lance-corporals and Signalmen too numerous to mention, but welcomed into the field with the same sincerity.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To: **Ssgt Ken (What am I, aTroop Sergeant or a Tech?) Clark** on his recent promotion;

to **Sgt Dick Heppenstall** on surviving and passing the All-Arms-Drill course (farewell Pirbright, hello sanity);

to: **Maj** and **Valerie Saunders** on their recent marriage (Farewell freedom, hello togetherness 'Subject to Exercises');

to: **WO2 (SSM) 'Dusty' Curry** on his daughter's marriage to **Lcpl Harford** (REME). Lost a daughter gained a VM ('can't be bad'!).

1 Sqn are unable to give comment on life in and around camp due to the fact that since Christmas 'field conditions' would seem to have prevailed.

A few points of interest have been learned, however, such as the 'fantastic' angle at which vehicles can lean before falling over, coupled with the speed at which soldiers can evacuate vehicles when the need arises. The rate of growth of tree stumps during a night move into location—'It wasn't there when I moved in', and many more factors that have the effect of not only stopping one from getting bored, but strengthen the vocal chords and improves the flow of vocabulary.

VISIT OF ESSEX ARMY CADET FORCE

We were pleased to welcome recently a party of 12 cadets from Essex ACF who came to see a little of life in BAOR. They visited the various elements of the Regiment during Exercise Sweet Martini.

Also visited were Task Force 'Charlie' Sig Troop, 662 Sqn Army Air Corps, and 7 Fernmeldebataillon, who are our sister Regiment in the Bundeswehr. Our photograph shows the cadets visiting 662 Sqn AAC.





Sgt Maurice Nelson holds the BAOR Challenge Cup aloft, C in C BAOR, Gen Sir Frank King, presents the plinth to Sgt Derek Garow and Sgt Brian Parkhill looks on

We say goodbye to **Lcpls Phil Rosslee** and **'Scouse' Murray, Sig Tony Horan** and **Cpl Peter Dignam.** You have served us well and we look forward to seeing you again. We welcome to the team **Cpl Gallacher, Lcpl Gauchi** and **Super Sig Poulter.** A speedy recovery to **Sigs 'Taff' Moulds** after a broken leg, **Andy Edwards** after a broken collar bone, and **Sgt Brian Parkhill** with two cracked ribs. Some people will do anything to get off training! For would-be football players coming to the Regiment, I would suggest you get your running shoes out, you are not as fit as you thought you were.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

IN a simple but moving ceremony held in Francisca Barracks on Wednesday, March 22, **Col H. W. F. Klauck** (German Army), handed over command of NORTHAG Signal Support Group to **Col P. L. Poschwatta.** The guests, including **Gen Sir Frank King, Maj Gen Baldwin** and senior officers of other countries, heard **Col Klauck** pay tribute to the British, German, Dutch, and Belgian soldiers he had commanded.

Immediatedly following the ceremony, the parade RSM, **WO1 F. Atkins,** handed a suitably-inscribed pace stick he had used on the parade to **Col Klauck** as a momento from all members of the WOs and Sgts Mess before guests and hosts departed to their various Messes for lunch and drinks.

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

SOCCER REPORT

On Wednesday, March 8, with the Regiment on Exercise Crested Eagle, the Regimental soccer team went to Sennelager to do battle with 28 Amphib Engr Regt in the final of the BAOR Challenge Cup. The Sappers were confident, having beaten the fancied 22 Sig Regt team and 14 Sig Regt in the previous two rounds. They were even more so after going one goal up after five minutes. The Regiment settled down and equalised with a well-taken goal by **Sig Andy Edwards** just before half time. Another goal by **Andy Edwards** midway through the second half seemed to seal it until a disputed penalty was awarded to the Sappers. The kick had to be taken twice, the second one being missed. This seemed to take some of the sting out of the Sappers, and the Regiment went on to score another goal, by **Lcpl 'Scouse' Murray,** to make the final score 3—1.

On the domestic front we continue to do well. Winners of the Rhine Area Cup for the ninth successive year; this year defeating 13 Sig Regt 4—1 in the final. Semi-final of the League Cup (*v* RAF Laarbruch in a replay); second in the League with a game in hand over the leaders.



Col H. W. F. Klauck inspects the 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) element of the Change of Command Parade held at Francisca Barracks on March 22, 1978



CSO presents LS and GC Medal to WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Jack

VISIT OF CSO BAOR

On February 23, the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Chief Signal Officer (BAOR), **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** who toured the various Departments and Squadrons, including 2 Sqn on a Military Training Day. Finally, he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Jack.**

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30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

AS a change from sand and ulu, our stories this month are about the other elements—the sea, fire, and snow. The first article is about communications to the Whitbread Round-the-World Race, and is written by **Ssgt Cook** of 1 Sqn.

ROUND-THE-WORLD YACHT RACE

On my arrival in the Regiment in September 1977 I was a bit apprehensive about things to come; the interview with my Squadron Commander was short and sweet:

Maj Thompson: Staff, what do you know about the D13?
Staff Cook: Well, Sir, yes, but it was 13 years ago.
Maj Thompson: Good, good! What do you know about yachting, Staff?
Staff Cook: Nothing, except you could get wet doing it, Sir.
Maj Thompson: Good, good! I want you to take over from **Sgt Sawyer** on RTWYR communications.
Staff Cook: Yes, Sir, thank you, Sir. (Thinks—WOW!)

The Deep End

So there I was, dropped in at the deep end so to speak. I set off and found out where it all was happening; **Sgt Tom Sawyer** had set it all up and provided all the ingenious modifications helped by **Ssgt (F of S) Suckling**) at the old transmitter field. The antennas were erected onto the old masts; we were using two Sloping Vees each of 500ft length legs at 80ft heights, 32° separation between legs. After much knitting of brows and pursing of lips I finally got the information that HMSTY *Adventure* was taking part in the Whitbread Round-the-World Yacht Race as a Joint Service venture. Control was in the hands of JSSC Portsmouth, run by **Lt Cdr Jack** and **Lt Col Rogers.** We were to keep them informed of each happening and non-happening on our three-times-a-week schedules, and keep a log of all main events. My crew was **Cpl Robbie Hill** (R Tech) and **Sig Peter Poulsen** (R Tg). So far the communications were good and I was to test the link when possible using a PRC322. The present position of *Adventure* was just off Sierra Leone, and all was well on board. With all that information buzzing around in my head **Sgt Tom Sawyer** left me to it and, except for the occasional mother hen-type fuss and worried look, left me to it on my working-in period. Up until then it was just a job but gradually we came to realise that 'Somewhere out there' *Adventure* was relying on *us.*

Leg 1—*Portsmouth–Cape Town.* Nothing much happened on this leg, the yacht's position was quite good and except for minor misunderstandings at the start, communications were good. Our final message from *Adventure* on this leg was: **10 Oct 77.** WE ARE 140 MILES WEST OF CAPE TOWN AND SHOULD BE IN HARBOUR BY TOMORROW. 0900Z. During her stay we had no communications with *Adventure* and we put this down to 'Table Top Mountain'.

Leg 2—*Cape Town–Auckland.* This leg was to us more interesting because we had had a visit from the Skipper and Radio Op and we had briefed them on the Leg 1 misunderstandings, and we expected no problems. A message had been sent by one of the other yachts via Portishead Radio that *Adventure* had been in collision with a whale and someone had had his arm broken. When we opened our schedule to confirm, we had this reply: **31 Oct 77.** REF COLLISON WITH WHALE. PILOT WHALE GAVE GLANCING BLOW. NO, REPEAT NO DAMAGE. TONY MILLS HAS NOT BROKEN HIS ARM HE ONLY REQUIRES INFO ON HIS DAUGHTER'S BROKEN ARM. **2 Nov 77.** Most yachts unable to contact Portishead Radio. Please pass all yacht positions to Race HQ and inform NOK we are unable to make phone calls. This day on handicap *Adventure* was in first place. **4 Nov 77.** Champagne was drunk today to celebrate reaching 50°N, 50°E. **11 Nov 77.** We saw our first iceberg today at 54°50'S, 91°40'E. **16 Nov 77.** Position 55°32'S, 119°37'E. FOR HRH PRINCESS ANNE VIA PROJECT MANAGER. CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON BIRTH OF A SON. HIS HEALTH WAS DRUNK AT 55°S, 119°E BY SKIPPER AND CREW HMSTY 'ADVENTURE'. The remainder of the traffic was routine reports on damage and also personal messages.

Leg 3—*Auckland–Rio de Janeiro.* We had arranged that the crew should contact a radio ham in Auckland in the event of any communication problems. This was to be worked in conjunction with **Cdr Ironmonger** (RN) (Retd) (G8 PO). This worked well and when we finally got permission to use G4RS we worked to **Mr Jim Morgan** (ZL1ASY) and to **Mr Jeff Geddis** (ZL1ATG), both in Auckland, who throughout the remainder of the race provided invaluable and sometimes essential help. We were eventually able to give them new callsigns as Hornet 2 and Hornet 3 and we were given permission to use some HMS *Hornet* frequencies using our own callsign. **Cdr Ted Ironmonger** was Hornet 1.

1 Jan 78. *Adventure* was in high winds and heavy seas and we were requested to keep transmissions to a minimum. We wished them all a 'Happy New Year'.

4 Jan 78. *Adventure* reported faulty battery-charging system and that they were unable to start the main engine. The signal from *Advetnure* was very weak and Hornet 2 and 3 provided all the above information in a four-way link of *Adventure,* Hornet 2, Hornet 3, and ourselves.

6 Jan 78. Details were passed to *Adventure* via Hornet 2 and 3 on how to start the main engine. This was sent for a total of three days by Hornet 2 and 3, and us with no reply from *Adventure.*

11 Jan 78. *Adventure* at last 'came up' and reported that they had managed to start the main engine by hand and they had used our instructions to do it. They had been unable to reply because of insufficient power.

16 Jan 78. HMS *Endurance* appeared on frequency and worked to *Adventure* and Hornet 2 and 3. From *Adventure:* Inclement weather today enabled us to play snowballs.

18 Jan 78. We were talking to a comparatively weak Hornet 3 when Hornet 2 broke in with his stronger signal to inform us that *Adventure* in the middle of a routine passing of information had an urgent signal: HAVE JUST HAD AN ALL HANDS ON DECK CALL—WAIT OUT. We waited 10 minutes with bated breath and received the following: DUE TO GALE-FORCE SW WINDS OF 70 KNOTS AND A SUDDEN GUST THE STORM SPINNAKER HAS 'BLOWN OUT'. THE STEERING TO ROD BALL JOINT HAS SHATTERED AND WE TILTED APPROX 110°. WE ARE ON EMERGENCY STEERING AND ALL ARE WELL.

25 Jan 78. Message passed to All Yachts and HMS *Endurance:* PLEASE KEEP WATCH FOR SIGHT OF 65FT YACHT 'EN EVANT'. CONCERN IS FELT HERE AS SHE LEFT RIO FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON 14 OCT 77. ETA FALKLAND ISLANDS DEC 77. NOTHING HEARD FROM HER SINCE LEAVING RIO.

1 Feb 78. We decided to use the PRC322 but the amplifier stage was defective. On the off chance we attempted to use the PRC321 part with just the tuning unit. The antennas were a total mismatch and we had no way other than improvisation of matching it. We taped it into the Sloping Vee and tried Hornet 2 in Auckland. Results were unbelievably good. Auckland reported us 'weak but workable' as did *Adventure.* Was this a lesson learned?

3 Feb 78. With the aid of **Sgt Tom Sawyer's** modifications we had been able to patch JSSC through at various times to *Adventure* and at this time communications were so good we were able to let the Skipper of Leg 4 talk to the Skipper of Leg 3 and clear up some bothersome details.

Leg 4—*Rio–England.* Communications on this leg improved as the yacht approached us.

2 Mar 78. Our normal schedule of the day before had obviously given no hint of this happening:

0635hrs *Adventure* contacted us. FORESTAY BROKEN NEED ADVICE OR A RETURN TO RIO IS ENVISAGED.

We established the telephone link to JSSC and **Cdr Jack** was able to give expert advice on how to repair the damage. We were required to establish communications every day until further notice in case of a recurrence of the trouble. *Adventure* and **Cdr Jack** thanked us for the very speedy reaction to the emergency.

6 Mar 78. Crossing the line later today. 'Neptune' is very excited as three new 'subjects' due for baptism. ALL WELL AND FIT. HAD CHURCH SERVICE YESTERDAY WITH HOME-BAKED BREAD AND CAKES. SEE YOU TOMORROW SAME TIME. RULE BRITANNIA.

8 Mar 78. We were requested to revert to old schedule times of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

23 Mar 78. WATER VERY SHORT BUT PLENTY OF GIN ON BOARD. FORESTAY REPAIR HOLDING WELL. All in high spirits?

27 Mar 78. WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD REMAIN ON LISTENING WATCH UNTIL DEFINITE ETA CAN BE ESTABLISHED.

28 Mar 78. REQUEST YOU PASS FOLLOWING BY PRIVATE TELEGRAM TO HM THE QUEEN: THE JOINT SERVICE CREW OF THE YACHT 'ADVENTURE' SEND LOYAL GREETINGS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ON ENTERING BRITISH WATERS AT THE END OF ROUND-THE-WORLD YACHT RACE. RULE BRITANNIA.

Adventure arrived in Portsmouth at 2315hrs and **Cpl Robbie Hill** and **Sig Peter Poulsen** were invited on board before all others as we were classed as part of the team. It must be stated that during the whole period of the race at all times throughout the day and night in all weathers, **Cpl Hill** and **Sig Poulsen** had worked cheerfully and very well, and without them the job would have been impossible. As all readers will know by now, *Adventure* finished sixth on handicap.

FIRE-FIGHTING

The Regiment deployed two SHQ organisations and six fire teams after Christmas. The SHQs were provided in the main by 3 Sqn and went to Blackburn and Burnley to command three RAF teams in each town. The answer to many RAF questions as to why 'this' way? was answered by the comment: 'You're in the Army now!'

Three of the six fire teams went to Chester under command of 22 Engr Regt and the other three to Sleaford, Manchester, under command 1 R Irish. In retrospect, all had an enjoyable, if at times boring, time with the usual swapping of kit at the end.

SEEN NOTHING LIKE IT SINCE 1947

The first real snow of the winter arrived during the night of Wednesday, February 15, was easily dealt with by brushes and the snow plough. More snow arrived on Thursday night but did not stop the RSM's run on Friday morning. The only concession to the conditions was 'no rifles', but this destroyed little of the impression of the 'retreat from Moscow', as a single line of lightly-clothed soldiers fought their way back to the square.

THE CRUNCH

The real snow—the worst for 30 years—started on Saturday evening. By the morning, which was sunny and clear, drifts of 15–20ft were common. Black Lane was blocked by the 4-ton snow plough stuck in a deep drift. A 432, here for the Clansman trials, had thrown a track whilst trying to clear the road to Engineers Corner. The only vehicle moving was a Chieftain tank, also on the Clansman trial, as it produced a 'road' of packed snow round the camp, past the abandoned cars.

The Saturday Orderly Officer, **2 Lt Paul Nicholson-Taylor,** had to continue his duty until Monday as his relief was snowed-in in Poole; this also applied to **Sgt Roger Healing** whose VW, parked on the RHQ car park, was buried under a 10-ft snow drift. (He didn't find it until Wednesday!)

EMERGENCY OPS ROOM

In true military style when an emergency occurs an Ops Room was established. This opened on Monday in the School of Signals, manned by those unfortunate enough to live on the camp. Emergency Bulletin No 1 was delivered to all married quarters during the morning and the cookhouse started to bake bread. The NAAFI was opened and people queued for hours to stock up for the siege. The first cookhouse bread came out of the oven after lunch and was immediately sold, on a rationed basis, at 10p a loaf. Baking continued all night. The only milk available was in the cookhouse and this was rationed to families with children under 5. Needless to say, the soldiers who had stayed for the weekend drew shovels and started clearing the drifts. The priorities were doorways, the main roads, the civilian car park, and then the married quarters' roads.

ALL ROADS CLOSED

Soldiers who had spent the weekend away from Blandford could only get as far as Bristol, Salisbury or Bournemouth, as the police had closed all roads into Dorset and the West Country. A few enthusiasts who live out were seen ski-ing to work, others walked but the majority were completely snowed in; others managed lifts in passing helicopters.

Lt John Fletcher, who spent the weekend in the Mess consuming quantities of whisky, was shocked to find when he emerged on the Monday morning for parade that it had been snowing at all!



'It's under there somewhere!'
Sgt Healing's Volkswagen



1 Sqn digging the School of Signals out of Blandford Camp, German style, during the hard times in March
Left to right: Campbell, Ritchie Gunson, Capt Martyn Reid *(with a spade for the photo!)*, Sawyer and 'Posh' Kurthausen

PUPPY POWER IN RHQ—OR A SANDBAGGY DOG STORY

Dramatis Personae:

Damsel	—	Penny the Labrador
Fond Mother	—	2 Lt Vikki Evans (WRAC)
Villain	—	Sandbag
Absentee Landlord	—	W. J. Armstrong, Esq

The plot so far: Fond Mother and Damsel reside in a castle known as Fort Mushroom. Also resident is Sandbag, a well-known, four-legged villain whose master is temporarily absent from the scene. Fond Mother has taken villain under her wing. Sandbag and Penny lived happily in this empire and their fond mother tended to their needs until one foggy morn when it was discovered that Penny was with pup. Distraught, her mother combed the countryside, in vain, searching for the father of the unborn puppies.

Nine weeks later Penny gave birth to five puppies who bore a striking resemblance to Sandbag. There could be no doubt who was the culprit. The dreaded Sandbag had struck again. Sandbag was banished from the kingdom in disgrace and Penny and her family lived happily ever after with their fond mother (or something like that)!



2 Lt Vikki Evans with 'Penny', 'Sandbag' and family

1 Squadron,
HQ COMBRITEXFORCAR,
British Virgin Islands.

My Dear Wife,

Many thanks for your letter telling me all about the sensibly biased correspondence in the better-informed British newspapers regarding the pay and conditions of the Armed Forces, and telling me that our families in Blandford had not forgotten the plight of 1 Sqn some 6,000km away. It was also most comforting to know how much you wives are missing us about the house, and that you were keeping everything spick and span for our return. Without TV and the English newspapers, your info on the pay struggle was completely unexpected as there hasn't been any mention of it in either the *New York Herald Tribune* or the *Washington Daily Post*. To add some private fuel to the pay argument, I thought it only reasonable to explain, from the heart, the very real misery of all the hard-pressed lads out here.

Firstly let me say it has been unbearably hot since the moment we arrived and we very much envy you in the cool pre-Easter weather of England. The journey by VC10 took a full 11 hours and, true to form, Wet Palm Airways overfed us throughout the flight. You will, therefore, I am sure, understand that with the intense heat and the excess of food, I am writing this letter very slowly. I must also reserve my energies and pace myself with care in the sure knowledge that the bar will remain almost completely shut for the next few hours.

To start at the very beginning. I have just received a double-enveloped signal from **Capt Alex Leitch** in the Ops Room telling me the exercise is called Green Tops. It is situated, for purposes of all-round defence, on a narrow rocky isthmus with the blue waters of the Caribbean on three sides, and only sleep allows one to escape from the constant rumble of waves rolling into the shore, just one metre from my bare feet. The sun is undivided in its attention and is, at this very moment, unmercifully lashing the remains of my Ambre Solaire which is plastered across my shoulders. Towards evening the sun's attack eases a little but not so the noise of the waves which is reinforced by the vibrant din of ice tapping on glass from the Mess tent. Even the scenery is monotonous and would, in itself, justify a substantial increase in the X-factor. There is little variety in colour in the Virgin Islands, the sky and sea are a similar dark blue, the palm trees are that standard tropical green which we have come to expect in Kenya, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Antigua, and the sway in the breeze in the same old way. The sands, like all coral beaches, are white. Even the cruising yachts, which enter the waters on our left flank, are a similar shade of white and provide little contrast to the sun-drenched beaches which stretch away to the West. In fact, these yachts are one of my main worries, for they carry tourists whose ill-disciplined and carefree way of life provides a harsh contrast for the soldiers toiling each day on a four-way shift. You might well ask yourself at this stage, why its at all necessary to send us to the Virgin Islands, 6,000km from our homes and loved ones in Blandford, and so soon after those exhausting four weeks in Singapore. I would be hard-pressed to provide you with an insight into the minds of those cruel people, but I can only think it's the challenge of training under such unusually severe climatic circumstances that somehow provides the key; and who are we to argue.



The Management, Exercise Green Tops
Left to right: Flt Lt Nick Astley Cooper, Foreman Ray West, Yeoman Rupert Halliwell, Air Comm M. R. Williams *(our sponsor)*, Sqn Ldr Ali Ben Drury (ADC to the Air Commodore), COMBRITEXFORCAR

Enough about the problems of the British Virgin Islands. I am sure you will be more interested in knowing how some of the individuals are coping in such a harsh environment. **Sgts Rick Thomas** and **Dave Poole** have gathered together a small group of chaps interested in fishing when their duties are finished. This is excellent, for hitherto we've had none of the fresh food facilities normally provided at the Blandford NAAFI. All the steaks and pork chops at lunch and supper have been imported from the United States and that has meant frozen food yet again. My picture shows **Rick Thomas** with a ray that wasn't too keen to join us on the land, and nearly led to the first ever underwater



Sgt Rick Thomas with the best catch of Exercise Green Tops in the British Virgin Islands

hang gliding sortie. Strangely enough, many of the fish are caught just before dusk and are eaten shortly afterwards. It has proved impossible to get the ACC Cooks to work throughout the day and the night and we have to prepare the barracudas and ray steaks ourselves under the stars, on an open wood fire, and in the most primitive culinary conditions. Despite the ample use of butter, which you insist I use when cooking at home, these particular fish are very dry and can only be eaten with lots of the local rum, or so it seems. In search of more fresh meat, there was a move one evening to kill off some of the 'crabs' which appeared from every direction at the end of the working day. This was never actively pursued, as they appeared to have little meat, but the rumour must have got round fairly fast, for when **Yeoman Rupert Halliwell** suggested 'fishheads' and rice, they both disappeared towards Road Town in a civilian car, and spent the rest of the day well out to sea in the Chief of Police's private launch. Every day thereafter, they made themselves pretty scarce, and left before the exercise ended, by civil air, for Antigua and the safety of the White Sands Hotel.

The lads are standing up to the boredom of the beaches with remarkable good humour and I am amazed how they put up with it day after day. My photograph of a sea defences assault pyramid highlights **Sig Brian Alderson,** who has been committed to this gruelling test almost straight after leaving the College at Harrogate. You can see from his face how frightened he was. Mind you, he succeeded where **Lcpl Larry Tullet** failed, and talking of him, reminds me of the 6 o'clock PT each morning. **Larry** takes us for a 2-mile run each morning and this is followed by a quick dip in

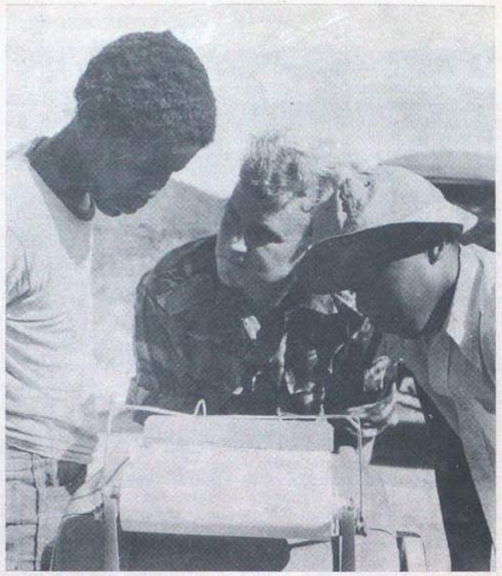


Sig Brian Alderson, supported by Steve Fugill and Pat Thornton, during the sea defence assault pyramid train ng in the British Virgin Islands

the freezing Caribbean—and you know what—that chap **Paul (I'm an Army Athlete) Nicholson-Taylor** isn't much keen on early-morning training. Young **Alderson** shouldn't have been all that worried, **Cpl Pat Thornton** anchored the pyramid at bottom left and also prevented the larger waves getting anywhere near the shore.

Not all is constant training and hard work, and from time to time we have managed a little controlled relaxation. Last Sunday we held an 'open day' to show the Virgin Islanders what Green Tops and the Army used in the way of weapons, radios, cooking equipment, and vehicles. It was a great success and we held a repeat show on the Tuesday for 2 Sqn, who couldn't quite grasp the full presentation first time round. My photograph shows **Rupert Halliwell** introducing a couple of lads from the ICS Detachment to the Teleprinter, but somehow I don't think they'll ever make the sort of operators we need. We have also been helping the local population and economy. **Sgt Ray Dickenson,** not noted for his 'hairoics', has organised a few volunteers to refurbish the Road Town Survey Office. I am told that this has provided the exercise with a new definition of the word 'scrubber', and I took a photograph of one of them, going up the wall but I still don't understand why they all laughed. **John Fletcher** has made a friend on the island but I go hot and cold when I think of his downtown activities. To be fair, and it's difficult, he did score two good tries in the BVI Select XV versus HMS *Fearless* rugby match which we won 14—7 pts, and I shall take this in mitigation when the full facts are known.

The exercise itself is going well but there have been a couple of technical hitches which I know will interest you. You remember how in our last chat on the cross-polarising effects of neutron resonance on EM radiation in the 2–16 MHz band, I mentioned the difficulties of gathering ever diminishing waves from an irritatingly fickle ionosophere? Well, yesterday afternoon I caught **Sgt Ian Sargent** and **Sig 'Paddy' Gage** awake at the transmitter site. I knew immediately from the semi-alert look on **'Paddy's'** face that this was no passing phase of insomnia. In fact, the automatic level control circuit was broken, wouldn't come below 2 Amps and was upsetting the VSWR. It's a fairly lengthy story and I'll tell you about it in detail when I get home. As if that wasn't bad enough, some idiot connected the main cooling fridges,



Yeoman Rupert Halliwell discusses the teleprinter with members of the 2 Sqn ICS detachment on Exercise Green Tops during the Open Day



Two 'scrubbers', Steve Fugill and Chris Bean, refurbish the Road Town Survey Office



Foreman Ray West goes over dual diversity reception with Air Comm Williams from UKCICC

which are US standard 60Hz, to our own generators which are, as you well know, 3 Phase/50kVA and 50Hz. These have also gone bust and all the canned beer is warming by the minute. I found the culprit and he is now organising a short-notice party to get rid of the complete contents before they go rancid. Talking of technical things reminds me that young **Ssgt Ray West** has taken over from old **Livesey.** He's doing awfully well technically but he's so white it worries me a little.

Well, no more moans. I must try and get out of this sun and gather my strength for the long night ahead. It will probably be the Last Resort again, assaulting by small boat in pitch dark and an even more difficult passage on the way back. The whole of Green Tops has been a rum experience and we are longing to get home to our wives, the patter of tiny feet, the air-conditioned streets of Blandford, and some real PD4 training under **Yeoman Ross** and **Ted Bentley.**

YOUR LOVING HUSBAND

PS. The air move back isn't exactly going to plan. By the time the visitors and MAMS team made sure of a place on the first Hercules, it was almost full and we had to raffle the last remaining seat. I've had to tell **Sgt Mick Reynolds, Cpl Harry Brant, Willy Ireland, Dave Jowett** and **Chris Gasson** to return by boat, but they have each promised to write from Puerto Rico, Miami, Barbados, and Bermuda, and they should be back by late March.

PPS. It still defeats me why we have to come all this way to the Virgin Islands just to train. I hear on the grape vine, but for heaven's sake don't tell **Alex Leitch,** that they are sending us to Bermuda in June, which is yet again, the hottest part of the year. I reckon we deserve our increase in pay.



Forced to return by boat via Puerto Rico, Barbados, Miami, and Bermuda but they still manage a smile
Left to right: Cpl Harry Brant, Lcpl Willy Ireland, Sgt Mick Reynolds, Sigs Dave Jowitt and Chris Gasson

News from Squadrons

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.

B.F.P.O. 36

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	—	**Maj M. J. Lance**
2IC	—	**Capt R. A. L. Anderson**
Adjt	—	**Capt J. D. Gray** (RA)
Comms Offr	—	**Capt D. F. Palmer**
QM	—	**Capt P. Martin** (DERR)
MTO	—	**Capt R. Owens, BEM** (RCT)
OC 'A' Tp	—	**Capt D. A. Lynam**
OC 'B' Tp	—	**Lt A. J. H. Harrison**
RSM	—	**WO1 J. G. P. Akehurst**
RQMS	—	**WO2 S. Evans**
Y of S	—	**WO2 C. H. Birchall**
F of S	—	**WO2 A. King**

IN AND OUT

THE New Year was an appropriate time for a considerable change in Squadron officers. We first said goodbye to our OC, **Maj Bill Robins,** by pulling him out of barracks on his very own 'Road Runner'. We hope that **Maj Bill** will get a chance to use it in the corridors of power. We wish him and his wife all the best for the future and thank them for two very happy and busy years with the Squadron.

We then welcomed our new OC, **Maj Martin Lance** and his wife, **Ann,** fresh *from* the corridors of power, and we hope that their stay with us will be an enjoyable one—we are certain it will be busy!

We also said goodbye to **Capt John Griffin** and his wife, **Marion,** who left us in December and welcomed **Capt Richard Anderson** (newly married to **Carole**) from the Jungles of Nepal (something about from the sublime to the ridiculous!).

In early February our Quartermasters handed over; **Capt Tony James** leaving us to return to 3 Royal Anglian in Tidworth, and **Maj Peter Martin** and his wife, **Margaret,** arriving from 1 DERR in Warminster.



Maj Bill Robins and the 'Roadrunner'



Left to right: RQMS 'Taffy' Evans, RSM Jim Akehurst, Maj Bill Robins Cmdr Richard Atherson

SNOW QUEEN

The New Year is also a time for snow and this year there was no shortage of it, both north and south. First the south where this winter, Exercise Snow Queen took on a new look. Our Snow Queen hut this year was at a new location in Buhl-am-Alpsee in Bavaria, a most pleasant spot. We had the hut completely to ourselves and were self-contained, which meant providing all our own amenities. (Bar! Bar! Bar!)

THE RIGHT IMAGE

Because of manpower shortages, we were unfortunately only able to run two courses, each containtaining 20 students, and with this year's abundance of snow, our ski instructors, **RSM Jim Akehurst, Lcpl Paul Forryan** and **Lcpl Barry Silk** (RCT), had no difficulty at all in getting the students through the initial two days of snow ploughs, and the correct way of falling. Many of the students had been on skis before and it was not long before the stars began to shine, namely **Cpl 'Banzai' Kilpatrick** and **Sig 'No Legs' Banner. Maj Albert Smetham,** our sometime Staff Captain Q and ex-GTR, learned to ski most sedately, complete with ski suit and deerstalker hat. His reason for the deerstalker was, quote: 'If I fall at least the Germans know there is a British gentleman buried in the snow'. (Must keep up the image of the Brigade of Gurkhas, even on the slopes!)

The two courses went without a hitch; no breaks, no sprains and plenty of ale. Perhaps it was for the last reason that the local population were most friendly, and were entertained, on numerous occasions, in our hut. By popular request the Squadron has decided that they will attempt to use the same Snow Queen hut and dates next year. Although the RSM will not be personally involved (due to posting), he has been heard to say he will try to make at least one brief visit (about four weeks).

ANOTHER ICY CHALLENGE

As soon as the last Snow Queen course had finished, the Squadron deployed on their first CPX of 1978 with the staff, Exercise Lion Heart 6. Deep snow and icy roads (Wot, no chains!) created an extra challenge. Our MTO and REME elements were kept very busy throughout the exercise and all of us learnt something about the disadvantage of hill top woods in such conditions. But the snow did not dent our sense of humour or interfere with comms (too much!).

SUCCESSFUL HOCKEY SEASON

Under the leadership of **Capt John Gray** (RA), our Adjutant, our hockey team has had a busy and fairly successful season by coming third out of nine teams in the 2 Armd Div Central League. We hope they keep up the standard in 2 Armd Div 6-a-side competition.

NEWS ROUND

Congratulations to **Sig McCallum** on passing his RCB.
to **Capt Jonathan** and **Mrs Snodgrass** on the birth of a daughter.
to **Lcpl Tony** and **Mrs Reynolds** on the birth of a daughter.
to **Cpl 'Scouse'** and **Mrs Farrer** on the birth of a daughter.
to **Cpl Ron** and **Mrs Woodger** on the birth of a son.
to **Sig Bruce** and **Mrs Mitchell** on the birth of a son.
to **Cpl Simon Dee** on getting married, and finally, to the OC on scoring two goals in the football match against the Jimmy Club XI, but then it was only a friendly!

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

OPERATION BURBERRY

OPERATION Burberry (not Operation Raspberry, as some people seemed to think) saw the Squadron fighting fires in Greater Manchester, with our OC, **Maj Dick Smith,** running Area 3 from Bolton, assisted by various members of SHQ. Most of the Squadron spent its time at Wigan, with the remainder manning Ops Rooms and Green Goddesses at Stretford and Swinton. Much of our time was spent twiddling thumbs, with odd moments of panic (and hope) whenever the phone rang. We are all very grateful for the help we received from everybody, and especially for the generosity of the public over the New Year.

January 5 saw everybody back in Tidworth, but not for long as, after a quick change of OC, 'A' Troop (with **Capt Tony Manders** leaving for 28 Sig Regt and myself, **2 Lt John Hogan,** joining fresh(?) from the School at Blandford), the Squadron left England for Cyprus.

AND THEN EPISKOPI

'The well laid plans of mice and men . . .' proved very true with Operation Burberry upsetting the well-laid plans for our Cyprus exercise by preventing many of our attachments (from 59 RM Sqn and 1 DERR) from joining us. So it was with much reduced numbers that we set out from RAF Brize Norton, arriving at RAF Akrotiri at 0800 on Friday, January 13. We were met by **Capt (QM) John Cowe** and other members of the Advance Party who had left Manchester early to fly out and arrange our reception.

SPLIT THREE WAYS

The Squadron was based in tented accommodation at Radio Sonde, Episkopi, and split into three Troops—'A' Troop, led by our Y of S, **WO2 Dave Thomas;** 'B' Troop followed me; and 'C' Troop was led by **Ssgt 'Spud' Budden.** Saturday saw the Happy Valley sports fields overrun by the inter-Troop sports, our first of many such days. 'A' Troop won enough of the soccer, hockey, and volley ball matches to gain an overall victory, and a crate of beer ('B' Troop wished they'd been told there was such an inviting prize!).

FURTHER AFIELD

From the Sunday onwards, Radio Sonde seemed a bit deserted, as 'C' Troop left for a week's ski-ing at Troodos, under our AO, **Maj John Hyslop** (1 DERR), and **Capt Andy Watson** (REME), assisted by **Cpl Mick O'Brien, Lcpl Angus Reid** and **Sig 'Charlie' Brown.** 'A' Troop left for a week on the ranges at Dhekelia, and took along our sub-aqua practitioners, led by **WO2 (SSM) John Smith.** 'B' Troop (most of them, anyway) stayed at Radio Sonde, for some sailing and watermanship



Lcpl Kenny Wynder (*in hat*) insists he was told to get on the horse the wrong way, while Sig 'Nes' Nesbitt guides his horse around the paddock



WO2 (Y of S) Dave Thomas and WO1 (F of S) Bob Phippard (*in hat*) enjoy some of the good weather, and set out from Episkopi in the general direction of Africa

(weather permitting) with **Capt Archie MacKenzie** and **WO1 (F of S) Bob Phippard.** People fell off horses under the watchful eye of **Sgt Steve Moore** from our local Int Sect; and a few decided to make the most of it and took two days rock climbing in Happy Valley and two days canoeing at Dhekelia.

ALL CHANGE

It was all change at theweekend, with 'A' Troop to Troodos, 'B' Troop to Dhekelia, and 'C' Troop back in Radio Sonde. The weather had turned rainy by now, and Episkopi was fairly wet, but 'B' Troop had a good two days on the ranges. On Tuesday, January 24, 'B' Troop took on 262 Sig Sqn at a Games Night (which we won) followed by a Boat Race (which we lost). Our thanks to 262 Sig Sqn for their hospitality, and the plaque. However, 'B' Troop returned to Radio Sonde midweek to find it wetter than Manchester! In fact, Thursday's shooting at Akrotiri was effectively cancelled—the rain was so heavy at times the 100m targets couldn't be seen. When we did eventually start shooting, a ship wandered into the Danger area, and stopped us again. By this time we were all soaked to the skin, so we decided to go home, but there weren't any flights, so we went back to Radio Sonde.

We all changed places again for our last week of activities, it being 'B' Troop's turn to brave the ski slopes of Mt Olympus. It was at Troodos, in fact, that we saw our first real Cyprus sun—above the clouds. The week's ski-ing was quite pleasant, with quite a few qualifying for the Army Ski Badge, and everybody visiting 259 Sig Sqn's Club to break the routine of going down the hill to the Dog & Partridge.

ENERGETIC FINAL WEEK

The final week was taken up with packing and Exercise Golden Fleece—**Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones'** mini-orienteering course. In teams of four, the lads spent a couple of days casually strolling around ('B' Troop), or energetically hiking ('A' Troop) from check point to check point, which were manned by our SNCOs. Those seniors who couldn't find a check point declared themselves 'admin' staff or some such, and hid. OC 'B' Troop missed the last week, due to an early return for a course; but second-hand stories (which no doubt grew in the telling) told of the perils to be faced—thunderstorms, cliffs to climb, rivers to cross, and maps to read. It was all done on a competition basis, with penalty points for missing check points or leaving people, and 'A' Troop won with best Section and best Troop.



Lcpl Jed Pinchard (REME) and Sig Sean Wratten swap tall tales after Exercise Golden Fleece



Exercise Golden Fleece
WO2 (SSM) John Smith chats to WO1 (F of S) Bob Phippard while Pte McFarland (RPC), Lcpl 'Ziggy' Gray, Cpl Mick McGuigan and Pte Johnson (RPC) (*kneeling*) take a break

NAIROBI AND RETURN IN QUICK TIME

On the Squadron's return to the UK, we prepared for our first airportability exercise of the year, a Field Force CPX set in Kenya (known to the locals as Salisbury Plain), fighting the UAM-UAM. After checking through the Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney, we deployed to the rain forests, somewhere north of Nairobi on Thursday, March 2, fought a few quick battles, won the war, and drove back to Tidworth for lunch on the Friday. All in a day's work.

The first three days of the next week were spent cleaning up and throwing out rubbish for the FFR and, after a few late nights, everything was ready. So on Thursday, March 9, our Commander, **Brig R. MacGregor-Oakford, OBE, MC,** arrived to inspect



Maj Dick Smith looks on whilst Brig R. B. MacGregor-Oakford, OBE, MC, stops to chat with Lcpl McKenzie



The inspection party reaches Sig Ops with Ssgt 'Spud' Budden, Sgt Ian Vine and Cpl Jim Collins

us and test our readiness. After all of our hard work, it was good to hear the Brigadier say he was pleased, but even better to be able to do all he asked. Step-Up deployed to the Field Force HQ at Bulford, and main set-up in Tidworth. In record time they were ready to pass the test message. Those detailed to do the BE test did so with our new BM, **Maj Kaye** (LI). Special mention must be made of **Capt Lloyd-Jones** who left on the Wednesday, leaving our new 2IC, **Capt Howard Ham,** just back from two years in Australia, to get on with it.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

That covers the main points of interest in the first few months, where we have done a few things which were new to us, and a few things which were old hat, and generally enjoyed ourselves as best we could. We've said farewell to **Sgt 'CD' Clarke-Darby** who has joined 7 Sig Regt, and **Sig (now Lcpl) Bailey** who has gone to Belgium. We welcome **Cpl Bill Tosh** from 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, and **Sigs Hoey, Newbon, Luke** and **Sheppard** from 8 Sig Regt.

MOVE IMMINENT

Our next job is to prepare for our move to Bulford, which has been delayed six weeks, to the beginning of June, when we rejoin our Staff.

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

THE Squadron personalities 'seem' fixed now for our final year on the island.

OC	—	**Maj E. Pickup**
2IC	—	**Capt R. G. Drake**
Admin Offr	—	**Capt M. J. Crane**
QM	—	**(Maj (QM) R. W. Kay**
OC 'TM' Troop	—	**Capt (TOT) J. Morris**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) B. Davies**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Moody**
2IC 'TM' Troop	—	**WO2 (F of S) C. J. Shone**
OC Line Troop	—	**WO2 R. L. Tranter**
F of S Radio Relay	—	**Ssgt (F of S) J. Shepherd**
MT	—	**Ssgt B. Peel**
ORQMS	—	**Ssgt (ORQMS) A. Benson**

ALL CHANGE

Our Line Troop have been busy these last two months confusing the enemy, i.e., the island's 1,500 military telephone subscribers. They have been doing this as part of 'The Rundown' by changing the telephone numbers of some 200 subscribers. It has taken up so much of their manpower that even **Sgt Charlie Peach** has been seen out working on faults. The only hiccup of note so far was when one residential subscriber complained of not having civil access on his new number, the OC, **Maj Eddie Pickup,** was a bit upset, it was his phone!

DEMOLITION BUSINESS

'TM' Troop have been in the demolition business (not literally, CPA please note) taking RR shots out of our system and packing them ready for shipping.



Capt Alistair Clark is handing over to Capt Bob Drake as 2IC and the Last Lines Officer Malta

After spending many long late hours rewiring, **Ssgt John Shepherd** winces every time anybody goes near 'equipment rock' with a pair of cutters. The TOT, **Capt Ian Morris,** returned suitably refreshed after a month in blizzard-swept Blandford, his first task being to delegate the job of writing these notes.

ON THE MOVE

The QM's Department have moved their version of C & A's, shortly to be followed by Peels Wheels, to RAF Siggiewi. **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Moody** is frantically searching all the vocab sections for the part number of a soundproof room. This is so the QM and RQMS can peacefully drink their tea without being disturbed every few minutes by Phantoms or Lightnings flashing past the front door.

SHQ TROOP

SHQ are too busy thinking about the SO in C's visit and the Army cocktail party to actually do any moving yet. The OC is going on leave soon and he will probably come back and find Mtarfa deserted. The Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Alan Benson,** has broken the heart of his ORC, **Cpl Dave Tarrant,** he has said that any stationery the Troops don't take he's sending back to RAOC, rather than move it to Luqa.

ARMY SUPER STARS 1978

Yet another brainwave of **SSM Brian Davies** took place on Monday and Tuesday, February 13 and 14, 1978. The competition was divided into nine representative events designed to test overall fitness rather than sporting capability.

Day one consisted of ·22 shooting, 100-metre dash and a press-up competition. Nine contestants fought extremely hard. **Cpl John Dent** of Line Troop winning the shooting; **Ssgt Roger Morse** (RAPC) the dash; and **Sig Ian Drinkall,** Line Troop, the press-ups.

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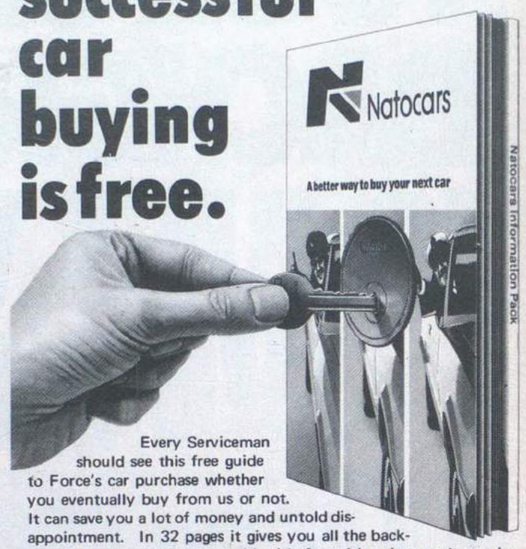
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The second day was started with a penalty-shooting competition and was won by **Ssgt Roger Morse,** followed by **Sig Pete Williams.** Next came the straddle bench jumping event, again won by **Roger Morse.** In the basketball-shooting event there was a tie with **Capt Mike Crane, Sig Ian Drinkall** and **Ssgt Roger Morse** each gaining maximum points.

The last three events were medicine ball-throwing, dips on the parallel bars, and a 1-mile race. The mile turned out to be a spectacular event with **Sig Ian Drinkall** leading for most of the way but **Sig Pete Williams** managed to forge ahead to take the event.

The overall winner of the competition and Army Super Star Malta 1978 was **Ssgt Roger Morse** (RAPC) with 75 points. Runner-up was **Cpl John Dent** (Royal Signals) with 70 points.

VISIT BY SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

ON the afternoon of Monday, March 20, the Signal Officer-in-Chief arrived in Malta for a three-day visit to the Squadron. Due to the late arrival of his civilian flight, the programme for the afternoon was cancelled and **Maj Gen Anderson** was conveyed straight to the CBFM's residence, the Villa Portelli, where he was guest of honour for dinner that evening.

A SIGNIFICANT PARADE

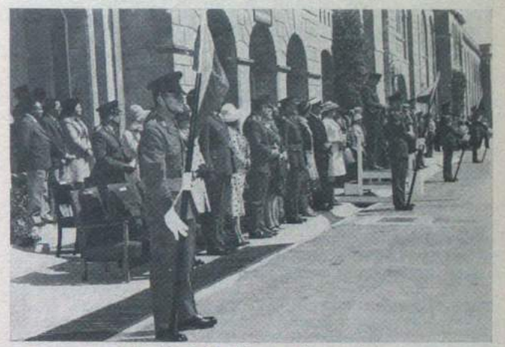
The Squadron held a parade in honour of the SO in C in St David's Barracks at Mtarfa. This was a memorable occasion in that, after 179 years of British Army presence in Malta, this was to be the final occasion that a ceremonial parade by a British Army unit would take place in Malta before withdrawal in March 1979. The phased rundown of the Squadron and the imminent redundancy of locally enlisted soldiers meant that a parade closer to withdrawal would not be a viable proposition. The parade was commanded by the Squadron Commander, **Maj E. Pickup,** and 70 members of the Squadron were on parade. Although dry and sunny it was extremely windy, and chinstraps were the order of the day. During the course of the parade the SO in C presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, for 18 years' service, to **WO2 (F of S) C. J. Shone, Ssgt G. J. Lory, Sgt J. A. Nichols** and **Sig J. Debattista.** The Squadron was extremely fortunate



The SO in C congratulates Sgt J. A. Nichols, having been awarded his LS and GC



The March Past
Led by OC Squadron, Maj E. Pickup, OC HQ Troop, Capt M. J. Crane, and members of HQ Troop



The SO in C addresses the parade



'TM' Troop march off, led by Capt J. Morris

in having the services of the Band of the Armed Forces of Malta to play during the parade. They were to be heard in the days preceding the parade rehearsing 'Begone Dull Care' every morning in their barracks at St Patricks.

After the parade, **Maj Gen Anderson** attended a reception in the Officers Mess where he met senior service officers and their wives who had been spectators at the parade. He then went to the Junior Ranks Club where he was met by **Cpl** and **Mrs Tarrant** who introduced him to the Junior NCOs and soldiers of the Squadron, and their families. To round off the morning's events **Maj Gen Anderson** was received at the WOs and Sgts Mess by the SSM, **WO2 B. A. Davies,** and **Mrs Davies,** and was introduced to the members of the Mess and their wives before having a buffet lunch in the Mess.

FINAL FUNCTION

In the evening the Officers Mess held a Ladies Dinner Night at which the SO in C was guest of honour. Also present were **Rear Admiral** and **Mrs O. N. A. Cecil** and **Col** and **Mrs P. W. G. Seabrook.** It was the final Dinner Night to be held in the Mess prior to the closure of the Barracks at the end of March, and the catering staff had excelled themselves in the production of a 10-course spread. At the end of his speech of welcome the Squadron Commander, on behalf of all the officers, presented **Maj Gen Anderson** with a silver Gozo Boat as a memento of his visit.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Working Dress was the order of the day on March 22 as the SO in C toured the Squadron locations and had a look at the technical aspects of life in Malta. Gladiator exchange, Radio relay control, QM and MT departments, and Squadron Headquarters were among locations visited. High winds continued to blow, which caused the RAF flight to Malta (which was due to return to the UK in the afternoon) to be diverted to Sicily. This allowed the PMC of the Officers Mess, **Maj R. W. Kay,** to prove his flexibility by producing an instant buffet lunch for the SO in C and six officers. Some high-level discussions eventually produced a seat for the SO in C on an evening Air Malta flight operating in Pakistan International Airways colours! The uncertainties of present-day air travel had added its final touch to the visit.

(AFTER NOTE)

Capt C. Webb, from 1 Signal Group, who was also visiting the Squadron at this time, didn't get the offer of a civil flight and had to be carried kicking and screaming back to the Green Dolphin Hotel, where he had been staying for a week, before departing on the RAF scheduled flight the next day.

MALTA SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

March has been a particularly busy month for 234 Sig Sqn and Army Elements. It began with the Inter-Service Skill-at-Arms meeting held at Ghajn Tuffieha ranges on March 8 and 9. Despite our small numbers, three teams were entered along with a number of individuals. Perfect weather and ideal surroundings helped the Army competitors to settle down and produce some creditable results. **Sgt Scragg,** of the ACE High Detachment, did extremely well to win the Walking man competition. In the 'Final XX' cometition there were eight Squadron members with the eventual and well-deserved winner being **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies.** The Falling Plate was won by the Squadron 'A' team consisting of **WO2 Moody, WO2 Tranter, Sgt Scragg** and **Sig Drinkall.** The 'Champion Unit' was won by the Squadron 'B' team consisting of **Sgt Peach, Sgt Underhill, Lcpl Collins** and **Sig Williams.**

BRAIN GAME

Wednesday, March 22, saw the first session of the Brain Game quarter-finals between Army Elements and Ops Wing. Army Elements team, or, more precisely, Technical Maintenance Troop of 234 Sig Sqn, consisted of **Capt Ian Morris, Sgt Don Murray** (team captain), and **Sgt Ian Underhill.** The contest was closely fought with both teams answering a wide variety of questions. However, despite some high scoring our erudite trio lost by 39 points to 42.

MALTA WALKABOUT

In this event 234 Sig Sqn entered two teams; Team 'A' consisting of **Capt Mike Crane, Sgt Pat Lennon** and **Sgt Colin Williams,** and Team 'B' with **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Moody, Sgt Ron Foote** and **Sig Ian Drinkall.** The course was claimed to be 30 miles (it seemed like 40!), with eight checkpoints and covering ground which varied between metalled roads and rough tracks with the odd bamboo jungle thrown in. It was both a test of stamina and navigation with one's sense of humour occasionally being stretched, especially with the extreme weather conditions. Inevitably these conditions took their toll and many teams never made the finish. Happily this was not the case with the Squadron teams, both of which completed the course; Team 'B' in 11 hours and Team 'A' in 13 hours (some night navigation was needed).

242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh

DEEP SNOW AT AVIEMORE

THE Squadron were lucky enough to embark on Exercise Big Boots at Aviemore during February in what were considered to be the finest ski-ing conditions seen at the resort. The blizzards of January had ensured deep snow on all slopes of Cairngorm but this also meant hair raising—this by the way being a euphemism for backside bouncing—Land-Rover journeys from the main Aviemore-Cairngorm road up the three miles of track to Rothiemurchus Lodge.

UP AND AWAY

The Lodge, the bottom floor of which we shared with members of 233 Sig Sqn, is fortunate enough to have good nursery slopes right outside the front door. These were not nursery enough for **Cpl Pat Sanders** who managed to tear ligaments in her knee badly enough for a plaster cast from thigh to ankle during her attempt at a snowplough. The other novices manfully, or rather personfully, ignoring the harrowing scene and turning deaf ears to her cries of agony, persevered in their pursuit of ski-ing excellence to such an extent that the instructors, **SSM Terry Mumford** and his brother, **Ssgt Brian Mumford,** on loan to us from 36 Sig Regt (V) actually allowed us on the slopes of Cairngorm. Whether this misplaced optimism went beyond the attempts by **Ptes Maureen Sawyer** and **Debbie Gosnell** to master the vagaries of the T bar is not recorded. Suffice to say that their victims as partners on, or should I say off, the T bar included both instructors, **Sgt 'Banzai' Varvel, 2 Lt Jackie Granville** and the odd civilian unfortunate enough to stand next to them in the queue for the drag line!

During the remainder of the week all the slopes of Cairngorm were skied including Coire na ciste, which I can only assume is Gaelic for Ski Novice Graveyard in spite of what the locals say.



Ssgt MacPhail, Lcpl Maynard, Pte Sawyer, Sgt Varvel, Sgt Collins, SSM Mumford



Sgt Varvel, Pte Gosnell, Pte Knowle, Ssgt Mumford, SSM Mumford, Ssgt MacPhail

Après ski in Aviemore proved to be just as expensive as its continental counterpart but the benefits of a large 'carry-out' and the fact that most people were tired from a day on the slopes kept most people in the hut.

CREDITABLE RESULT

Lcpl Liz Maynard decided she'd had enough ski-ing by Friday and returned to Aldershot to take part in the Inter-Zone WRAC Badminton Championships with **'Q' Hagon.** Third place made the railway journey from Aviemore to Aldershot worth while.

THAW SETS IN

Snow conditions during the second week were, unfortunately, nothing like as good as in week one. Soon after our arrival a thaw set in making the Rothiemurchus Hut accessible only to such expert Land-Rover drivers as **Sigs Charlie Richardson** and **Robbie Jones.** Bad luck hit **Cpl Pete Leybourne,** one of our experienced skiers, who broke a bone in his ankle on the nursery slopes on day 2. Conditions on Cairngorm were poor, icy slopes on the first visit when **Lcpl Debbie (Kamikaze) Fagg** made a determined effort to write off the OC, and melting snow on the next visit. Nevertheless, the novices, particularly **Lcpls Valerie Hart, Jill Smith** and **Sig Robbie Jones** made good progress under the able guidance of our instructor, **SSM Terry Mumford.**

SAD LOSS

We are sorry to report the recent death of **Jimmy Heath** who was employed in Scottish Command Signals almost continuously for 36 years. He joined Scottish Command Signal Company in 1933 as a civilian linesman. During the war he became a Sergeant and was stationed in the Orkneys. After the war he rejoined Scottish Command Mixed Signal Regiment as a civilian and continued to serve with its successor, 242 Sig Sqn, until he retired in October 1969. His skill as a jointer and his knowledge of cable routes was invaluable. Inside the cable joints which he made he used to put a piece of paper with his signature, a mark of pride in his job. Latterly his reminiscences of past events and personalities has helped in the writing of the Squadron history, his memory of wartime communications in Scotland was extraordinary. As far as is known he was the last of the prewar members of Scottish Command Signal Company.

GOLF SUCCESS

The Squadron had two representatives in the AGA Scotland Golf Meeting at Bruntsfield Links on April 2–3, 1978. **WO2 Mumford** was third in the 'A' Division Scratch Competition and second in the 'A' Division Handicap. **Sgt Christie,** a comparative newcomer to the sport, won a huge cup as winner of the 'B' Division Scratch Competition, and was second in the 'B' Division Handicap. Together they won the Bogey Competition, and as members of the three-man HQ Scotland team they came second in the team competition. Well done.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Old Sarum

ALL GO

AGAIN, another busy year for the Squadron, with exercises in Sardinia, Denmark and the inevitable Salisbury Plain. Add to this local Troop and Squadron exercises, demonstrations, summer camps, battle camps and leave where possible, one can see what a busy unit we are. All in all, however, the Squadron seems to thrive on this hectic life made all the more interesting in having to work with so many different nationalities and in exciting places.

NORWAY BOUND

Dryshod training, the build-up exercise to Norway normally held in late December was cancelled at the last minute and after an early Christmas leave, the OC **Maj David Walden,** and the majority of the Squadron sampled the delights of Chester and surrounding districts on fire-fighting duties. A brief period of leave followed and the Squadron deployed to Norway in three separate phases; the Advance Party leaving on January 15, the remainder on the 19th in two separate parties.

The base camp for Hardfall training was Flatlandsmo Camping Site, which is situated 4km south-east of Voss and consisted of a main house and 12 four-man chalets. The secondary camp—Espland—was to be the Survival Training Camp and consisted of 10 four-man chalets supplemented with Norwegian tentage.

PRODUCTION AND DIRECTION

The training programme for the next three weeks—devised, written, produced and directed by 2IC **Capt Rob Symonds**—consisted of three separate seven-day phases. Apart from a small admin party and the rebroadcast crews who trained separately, the Squadron split into three groups, each group doing the round of the three phases.

MARKSMAN OF THE YEAR

WO2 (Y of S) Ron (How's yu lumps) Butcher was OC Espland, the training (?) staff being **Sgt Bernie Temmen** and one of the three Norwegian Liaison Officers attached to the Squadron, **Lt (Compo) Thoreson.** The object of this phase was to teach personnel how to move and survive with the minimum equipment, all carried by the individual, in mountainous terrain for a period of four days and three nights. The first night was spent in five-man tents and the next two in Brushwood shelters built by each individual and which proved to be very comfortable. Marksman of the year must go to **Sig Raymond (Titch) Fallowfield** who killed a rabbit from 14 yards with a well-aimed (?) mallet.

Over the period of the four days the distance covered was something like 38km on the map. However, bearing in mind the mountainous terrain and the fact that all movement was on skis, the actual distance was much greater and all those completing the course had every right to feel pleased. Apart from the usual blisters and injuries caused by uncontrollable skis the only two accidents to speak of were **Sig (The Hulk) Gaskell** who dislocated vertebrae in his neck and **Ssgt (Y of S) Steve MacQueen** who, after many visits to hospital, was told he'd broken his back. Happily both are now well on the road to recovery. Y of S still claims he holds the record for the most falls in one day (not quite three figures).

PHASE 2

This took the form of a four-day Communications Exercise preceded by a 2-day 'Plan and Prep' stage. A COI had to be produced by each group and presented to the overseer, **Sgt Pete (Wait Out) Sellars,** for scrutinisation and inevitable alteration before the exercise.

Sgt (Klondyke) Pete Coll thought he had defied all the rules of communications when two of his outstations were heard working to each other without using a Rebro. Oh Joy! Until it was realised he had deployed both detachments to the same location—Techs Ugh! However, many useful lessons on both VHF and HF comms in the Arctic were learnt on this phase.

BASIC SKI-ING

Give an English soldier skis, show him how to put them on and you have, 'on tap', the funniest show on earth. Leave him alone for a day or two and after many bruises, encounters with fellow skiers, holes, trees, and hedges he'll be back asking how to stop and turn. **Ssgt (Y of S) Mal (Planks) Channing** with LO, **Capt Lynam,** had the unenviable task of turning these raw novices into crack British Alpine Corps troops, within seven days. At the end of this period most people, although perhaps not Franz Klammers, certainly knew the meaning of Snow Plough, Double Gait, etc, even if the skis didn't. It's rumoured that **WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilcox** came near to physically attacking his skis after a particularly arduous day.

The training programme finally finished on February 13 with the 10km ski race following on the 14th and 16th. All participants, apart from eight, managed to get within the time required for their particular medal. The fastest student to complete the course was **Lcpl 'Taff' Duffy** with a time of 36 mins. Due to pressure of work the REME contingent had to forgo much of the training and hence could not participate in the 10km race. However, it was rumoured that **Sgt Jim (Jim Lad) Stokes** and his merry crew held their own 25metre tobogan dash. Even then **Cpl Allen** managed to turn it over and injure himself, but put the blame on something which sounded like 'Crankcase Breather trouble'. **Capt (QM) Jack Simson,** who flew out to join us on February 6, managed to take time off to enjoy a few hours ski-ing. However, his practises were done in such secrecy and the personnel involved threatened with such dire consequences on the utterance of even one word, that, even today no one really knows what happened the day the QM took to skis.

Whether the Squadron has set a precedent or not I don't know but our senior ACC rep, **Sgt Phil (The Cook) Roe,** has been allocated his own appointment title, namely **'Pancake'.** As always, good things must come to an end, and on February 18 the Advance Party departed for Exercise Arctic Express.

THE SHARP END

Readers may like to know that from here on the notes from Exercise Arctic Express have been taken over by a second author. We now have an account of life at the sharp end of AMF(L) exercises. Whilst taking nothing away from the 'Victory through Logistics' boys it has to be left to the front-line boys to tell of what war is all about.

It was a three-day LSL cruise from Ulvik (our Hardfall port of call) to Sorreisa (our Arctic Express port of call). What a wonderful opportunity now presented itself to get those ship's washing machines working and to dry ourselves out. Having then disposed of the dirt and damp of Voss the OC **(Maj David Walden)** and Main Troop Staff-Sergeant **(Ricky Garrod—still with the short, fat hairy legs)**—why do 'they' always get a mention—decided the one thing that they would bring with them was the dreaded 'lurgie'—a form of bronchitis that had plagued the Squadron since its arrival in Norway. The exercise period saw frequent 'happy trips' by our two patients as they were observed pouring medicine and pills by courtesy of MASH, down their parched throats. We welcomed our latest recruit to the RADCON team—**Sgt John John 'Jock' Johnston,** amongst many other things, the Squadron helicopter expert. His moment of fame came one hectic evening when he decided to route a telephone call through the German-manned exercise switchboard. 'Please speak English, Sir' was the retort to his connection request. **JJJJ's** answer is not to be found in the Oxford English dictionary. So now some 250 miles inside the Arctic Circle—this was to be our life for the next two weeks. Surprisingly, it was not so cold as down South, although the snow falls were far heavier. 'Ah! but we also had snow', commented our Chief Clerk, **Sgt Geoff (Welfare problems fixed) Hughes,** back in Old Sarum—kid's stuff, **Geoff,** to we Arctic-trained boys.

NOT WITHOUT INCIDENT

Arctic Express was for the Squadron a very successful communications exercise. Slight damage was reported though by one of our RRB station commanders, **Cpl Mick Moseley,** who, being lumbered with the task of preparing a dismounted RRB station to one of the many hilltops that surrounded us reported that the helicopter pilot had dropped the load from some 20 feet! Over to you **Sgt Tony (I'll get it replaced) Scrase**—who tells us by the way that he has done his last shift in RADCON—wait and see **Tony.** But at least it was dropped in the right place unlike **Lcpl Chris Pottage** and his dismounted Rebro crew who, after four days on a cold mountain, were picked up by helicopter and desposited 100km away from where they should have been. Once they had recovered from the shock though they didn't complain as they were in our redeployment area 24 hours ahead of the rest of us. Did someone mention bribery? It was not only 20ft drops by helicopter that made our bowels cringe. Nature also had its say. Of immense interest were the Norwegian produced build-it-yourself cardboard loos. All very good if you are of average weight. **Lcpl (Slug—all 18 stone of him) Henry** proved they were not made for the 'big boys' as his loo unceremoniously collapsed under him one morning—messy business! By March 6 the thoughts of the green grass of home loomed in our minds, so it was not with too many misgivings that we drifted from the shores of Norway—for one more year—back to dear old Blighty. Ah well, after our winter ski-ing I suppose that we shall have to make do with Dartmoor and Hythe until we set off for the Mediterranean in September.



Exercise Arctic Express—Stand to . . .

News from Troops

26 Army Youth Team Winchester

Report by Sgt R. M. Pinkus (Royal Signals)

Team Officer	—	**Lt I. N. Greig**
Team Sergeant	—	**Sgt R. M. Pinkus**
Team Corporal	—	**Cpl R. Reid**
MT	—	**Lcpl M. Lucas**
Stores	—	**Sig M. Garland**

VALE

I AM quite sure that many ex-AYT members thought it a sad day, when, on April 5, Youth Teams ceased to exist. No doubt many fond memories will whizz through the minds of people who previously served with 26. And those of us who fought on to the bitter end will re-live many hilarious moments for many years to come. To those ex-members let me say that we kept the flag flying in maintaining the very high standard that had been previously set for us, and which, I may say, was more than appreciated by all the schools and youth organisations with whom we dealt, judging by all the letters of dismay received by us upon them learning of our eventual disbandment.

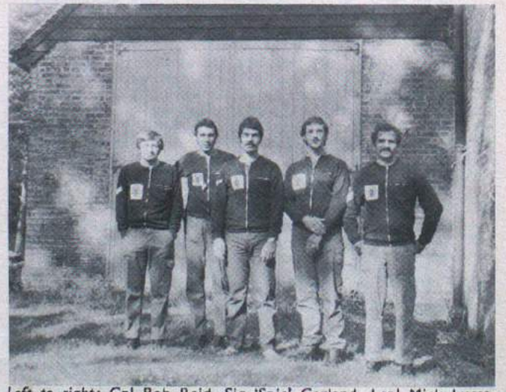
A chilling finale

'Pinky', our team Sergeant, thought he would try and get us going out on a high note by trying to organise a final trip to the Channel Islands, but he couldn't quite manage to pull it off. Instead he decided that we would have an Adventurous Training Camp on Dartmoor. By this time, of course, **Ian 'Boss' Greig** had already left the team to fight for his laurels in 1 Division as Training Officer. So, too, had **Bob 'Taxi' Reid,** who had departed for the sunny climes of Ouston near Newcastle, to work with the young soldiers of 11 Sig Regt as AIPT. They must have known that Dartmoor in February was suicidal. How right they were. The week that we were there with a group of 17 children was the week of the blizzards and drifting snow in Devon and Cornwall. We were very lucky to get out when we did. Even our CRLS, **Col Smart,** who came to spend a day with us, ended up on a motel floor along with many other stranded drivers for the night, and had to walk the final seven miles to our camp the following morning. Needless to say, he didn't stay long.

Final act

Our final act as a Youth Team was to build an Adventure Play Park for the children of Thorney Hill in the New Forest. A very rewarding experience especially to see the delight on the children's faces when we had finished.

So 'D-Day' finally came and **'Pinky'** went off to Aldershot to 15 Cadet Training Team. **Mick Lucas** and **'Spic' Garland** both decided they had done their time and have hit civvy street. So if you are ever in the Andover area don't get on a bus. Odds on either **Mick** or **'Spic'** will be driving.



Left to right: Cpl Bob Reid, Sig 'Spic' Garland, Lcpl Mick Lucas, Lt Ian Greig, Sgt Richard Pinkus

The Maritime Detachment, RCT, Gosport

THE END OF AN ERA
Report by WO2 (Y of S) Snowdon

BY the time these notes appear in THE WIRE, the last of the military-manned Landing Craft Tank Mark VIII (LCT Mk VIII) will have been de-commissioned. This will no doubt be sad news for the many Radio Telegraphists who have served with the RASC/RCT Maritime Fleet. Only one LCT will remain in service, 4002 *Agheila*, and she will be manned with a civilian crew. The *Agheila* is being retained mainly for use in transporting tanks for export from Marchwood Military port to Heavy Lift Ships in Cowes Roads.

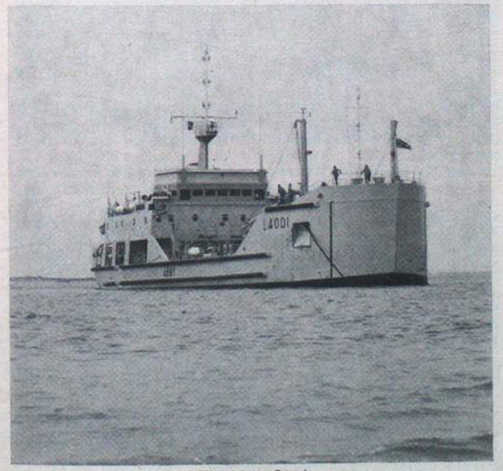
Built for the Pacific

The LCT Mk VIIIs were first handed over to the RASC from the Royal Navy Reserve in September 1956. They were intended to form part of an amphibious assault force to support the Suez operation. The forerunner of the present Maritime Regiment RCT was formed as 76 Coy RASC (LCT) at Yeovil on October 5, 1956. The ships were towed from Wales to Devonport, where they had lain in reserve since the end of the last war. They had been built for service in the Pacific but were never used owing to the atomic bomb abruptly ending hostilities against Japan. In Devonport they were refitted while the RASC searched its ranks to find officers and men with previous service in the Royal Navy, Merchant Marine and other nautical backgrounds. The Army took over sea-going ships from the Royal Navy and made them operational all within a period of six weeks—a tremendous feat by any standard. It was decided after Suez to maintain a sea-borne logistic capability for future use and this prevented disbandment of the newly-formed organisation.

Role for Maritime Detachment

Justification was sought to maintain the Company and this was found in Operation Hard Rock—the reconnaissance of St Kilda and the Outer Hebrides to determine the feasibility of establishing and supporting by sea, a guided weapons range for the Royal Artillery. The first landing craft, strangely enough the *Agheila*, beached at Village Bay, St Kilda in April 1957. It is a tribute to the officers and soldiers of the RASC, in the unfamiliar role of operating ships, and without electronic navigational aids, that the task was successfully completed.

The maintenance of the range has required the continual presence of landing craft during the summer months up to the present day. In addition the Maritime Fleet took on the additional task of providing logistic support for BAOR and still regularly provides landing craft for the movement of containers, vehicles and other stores between Marchwood and Antwerp.



The New One!
LCL HMAV *Ardennes* carrying out beaching trials

A new vessel

Fortunately, in spite of the demise of the LCT Mk VIII, the Maritime Fleet will not become extinct. The Mark VIIIs are being replaced by a new vessel called the Landing Craft Logistic (LCL). The first of these, HMAV *Ardennes*, is already in service and the second, HMAV *Arakan* is, at the time of writing, carrying out her initial sea trials. There is a possiblity that the building of a third LCL, as yet un-named, will be approved.

The LCL is a far cry from the old Mark VIII. Although destined to carry out the same role, the LCL is of completely new design and a vast improvement both in terms of equipment and in the accommodation provided for crew and passengers, which is up to Board of Trade standards!

A challenge

Finally, the Maritime Regiment still has its own Troop of Royal Signals operators. If you are a lance-corporal or corporal Radio Telegraphist, of above average ability and looking for 'something different' why not put an application in to Records to join this elite and unique organisation.

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

THE Regiment has been concentrating on the run-up to Summer Camp on the Continent in June with monthly exercises. Following Squadron exercises in January, an 11 Signal Group Command Post exercise was held at Sutton Coldfield in February. In March the Regiment held an exercise in Sussex, Surrey, and Hampshire, and in April the Group combined for an



Exercise Spring Trap— February 25–26, 1978
Capt Jim Mill and Lt Jane Spragg man the switch command post



Exercise Spring Trap
Capt Gordon Giles and WO1 (RSM) Keith Childs, DS for the Exercise

exercise spread over a large area of Central England. On February 11, 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Sig Sqn (V) was adopted by the Borough of Croydon and the Squadron marked the occasion by a march through the town led by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Bob Simpson.**



Exercise Spring Trap
Maj Colin Stenning, the Operations Officer, and Maj Peter Mather, OC 83 Sqn, studying the communications state in the Regimental command post

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

COOL CAIRNGORMS

THE report which follows is rather different from the official report sent to District Headquarters although both concerned Exercise Snow Goose II—the Regimental exercise which encompassed both ski training—downhill and cross-country—and living in the severest winter conditions experienced for many years in the Cairngorms. It was written by members of the Regimental party which was made up of both Permanent Staff and Volunteers, Royal Signals and WRAC, some 30 strong.

The Beginnings

On Friday, February 28, 1978, Scrutton and Sons, the well-known removal and construction firm (ie **WO1 (RSM) John Scrutton, WO2 (RQMS) Jack Hall, Sgts John Murphy, Bryan Rivett** and **Martin Davis**) left Liverpool as the advance party of the Regimental Ski Exercise held annually at Aviemore. The party arrived by lunch in Stirling to collect equipment not normally held by the Regiment. This included a marquee, tents, ski equipment and, of course, a kitchen sink (this item is at present in LAD for modification). By the time the party arrived in the Cairngorms it was too late to start erecting camp. An 'O' group was therefore held in the local with a view to an early start Saturday morning. Indeed, throughout the weekend the Advance Party worked extremely hard to ensure a hospitable welcome for the main party. This included such refinements as carpets in the all ranks Mess tent and, by courtesy of **Sgt John Murphy,** 13-amp sockets in all WRAC tents for hair dryers.

On Sunday evening the main party arrived full of gusto and tucked into a hot meal prepared by Scrutton and Sons. It did not take long to feed everybody and to show them to their accommodation and the whereabouts of various camp amenities.

Ups and Downs

Everybody (or nearly everybody) was up and about early on Monday full of eager anticipation for what, for most of us, would be our first attempt on skis. With breakfast over, skis, sticks and boots were issued and adjusted by the instructors. For many it was the first time in the Army where proper fitting was a necessity and not a chance luxury. From then on everybody was eager to get to the slopes and make a start. Initially all the novices were shown how to 'snow plough' which, in theory, should have enabled them to stop. In practice, it resulted in bodies falling over in all sorts of unlikely positions. It was surprisingly easy to pick out members of our party. Whereas most people who fall are self-conscious and right themselves with haste, anybody lying in the snow chuckling was invariably one of the Regiment.

Sgt Bryan Rivett, who only managed to stay upright for 30 seconds at any one time, finally threw in the towel and decided to hitch a lift on the back of the skis of **Pte Angie Dixon.**

Sgt Martin Davis kept us constantly amused by his ski-ing antics and, quite determined to compete with the Cadbury tray advert, used up most of our compo chocolate delivering bars to members of the WRAC although with rather less panache than the TV commercial. His *pièce de résistance* was the christy stop. No, he never did quite make it but, suspended 2ft above the ground, inverted, he succeeded in giving a good imitation of a helicopter.

Unfortunately, our first mishap occurred during the first morning. **Pte Shirley Jones** was rendered *hors de combat* with a twisted ankle which required a plaster cast. For a less intrepid person than **Shirley** it would have ruined the week but she happily hobbled around the ski slopes giving encouragement to one and all.

Pattern Develops

The fact that many of us constantly fell to the snowy ground whilst on the ski slopes had nothing to do with the ballast we had taken on at the many tasty meals prepared by Chef-de-Cuisine, **RSM John Scrutton.** By lunch time most people were not only hungry but fairly battered as well, and it was decided that a look around Aviemore was in order. This set the pattern for the week when we would generally ski from after breakfast until lunch and then, in the afternoon go swimming, perhaps try a sauna or go shopping. The winter sports activities were not confined to the ski slopes. When we had finished inflicting injuries on ourselves with skis we tried inflicting some more on the ice-rink and the go-kart track. The ice was a lot harder to fall on and was soon abandoned in favour of the simming pool and sauna. This really brought out our bruises but gave a great feeling of well-being.

As the week progressed so the standard of ski-ing gradually improved. **WO2 (RQMS) Jack Hall** proved not only to be a good skier but also a most excellent instructor who by demonstration, gentle cajoling and encouragement, taught the novices the basic rudiments. He obviously had missed his vocation because he had the patience of a Saint. This instruction enabled us by the end of the week to travel the ski tow and try more ambitious slopes.

Key Duties

Throughout the week various people had set chores and tasks, some compulsory, others not. For example:

WO1 (RSM) John Scrutton		OIC Cooking
WO2 (RSM) Jack Hall	—	OIC Jokes and Funny Stories
Lt Ross Redwood (WRAC)		OIC *Telegraph* Crossword
Sgt Bryan Rivett	—	OIC Camp Jesters
W/Cpl 'Flash' Watkinson		OIC Instructors
W/Pte 'Supersonic' Smith		OIC 'Flash' Watkinson
Sgt Martin Davis	—	OIC Spectacular Crashes

Sgt John Murphy cannot go without mention. He was father confessor to the WRAC, 'Mr Fixit', and jack-of-all-trades, and all done with a sunny Scottish smile.

Apres Ski

In the evening when we returned to camp, there was always a substantial hot meal waiting. The Paymaster, **Maj Edwards,** who in civilian life is a bank manager, did credit every mealtime to the cooks' endeavours. How he eats so much and stays so slim must be cause for a medical survey, although living in a cupboard must help!

After the meal, just in case anyone had a shred of energy left, the 'apres ski' took us drinking and dancing at the Red MacGregor disco where a folk singer performed every night. Each evening we encamped in the same corner to join in lustily with the singing or to discuss the day's events. After that we did not notice the freezing temperatures or gale-force winds. We may not be the best skiers in the world but to have eavesdropped on the conversations one would have been convinced that here sat the cream of the slopes. Casual use of such buzz words as piste, stem turns, or christy turns made one realise that here was Britain's answer to Franz Klammer and Anna-Marie Krol.

CO Also Has Problems

Friday saw a break with convention when it was decided that the daily foray to Aviemore would take place in the morning with ski-ing in the afternoon. This would enable the CO, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe,** to visit the skiers and have a go himself. The CO joined us after lunch and provided us all with a good laugh as he experienced the same difficulties in remaining on his feet as we had now overcome.

The last minute of the last day saw our second ski accident when **Sgt Martin Davis,** having just raced **Pte Angie Dixon** down the nurserey slope, was confronted with the problem of stopping. He did not find a solution and is now hopping around with torn ligaments and a sprained ankle.

A very early start was made on Saturday enabling us to be on the road by 10 am and back at our various Squadrons by early evening after a week of great fun. Certainly for many of us the most indelible memory of the week will be the sheer magic of having watched the awesome sight of 15-stone **Sgt Bryan Rivett** hurtle straight down a slope in a flurry of snow to the shout of 'Geronimo'!!

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

BACK TO NORMAL

THE Army firemen have left and the Regiment is now back to normal working. The main effect of the 'firefighting' was borne by RHQ, HQ and Squadrons at Middlesbrough, and 50 Sqn at Darlington, although all locations were affected to some extent. We tried our best to make our Regular Army colleagues welcome and comfortable, and if the farewell party at Middlesbrough is any guide, they, too, appreciated what we did. It was quite an evening, with the senior Council Officers of Cleveland County, the Police, and Fire Officers in attendance and a seemingly endless exchange of gifts and momentoes.



The Deputy Commander North-East District, Brig R. A. Hutton, talks with WO1 (RSM) Dixon and WO1 (MTWO) Green at Cultybraggan. WO1 (SVWO) Graham trying to listen



Maj 'Paddy' Bartholomew and OC Cleveland Fire Fighters, hands a Regimental shield of the RSDG to the CO, Lt Col Colin Beadle



The Green Goddesses leave Brambles Farm for the last time!

NEW COMMANDER

There have been other changes at Group. **Brig Tony Sykes** recently handed over command to **Brig Ronnie Stonham. Brig Sykes** made a farewell tour of the Regiment before Christmas and we wish him a long and happy retirement. To **Brig Stonham** we extend a hearty welcome and wish him every success in his new appointment. He hasn't lost any time in getting to know his new Group and we were pleased to welcome him to the northern part of the Regiment on February 14, 1978, and the southern contingent—Leeds and Hull—on February 28, 1978.



The Commander 12 Signal Group (V), Brig R. L. Stonham, poses with the Permanent Staff of the Regiment

SUCCESSFUL CAMP 77

Camp '77 was at Cultybraggan; a most beautiful spot we were told—when one can see it! But never mind the weather; we still managed to have a most enjoyable camp, militarily, sporting, and socially. The training emphasis was on military training. All the first week we were trying to find out just what the men in Room 17 were up to, but **Maj Bill Inningworth** and his team were not to be drawn, nor trapped into any indiscretions in the bar. We had to wait until the second week to find out. We gather that they spent the first week on their knees praying for rain and fog. Signals comms are obviously better than those of the RAChD because our padre, the **Rev David Tickner,** was praying for dry weather for the Officers *v.* Sergeants cricket match!

Capt John Douglas, however, was OK; his size 14 boots had him walking on water whilst his men floundered up to their knees in mud. Perhaps it's no coincidence that he's now **Maj Douglas,** commanding 50 Sqn.

And 50 Sqn: well, they won the inter-Squadron football cup, beating the combined, and hitherto unbeatable, HQ Sqn and LAD. HQ Sqn regained some ground by winning (however dubiously!) the WRAC softball competition, beating the much fancied (in every way) 50 Sqn in the final. The Sergeants aren't talking about the cricket match!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Post-camp has brought some changes in the command structure of the Regiment. **Maj Graham Mitchell,** the 2IC, left to take up an MOD appointment and was succeeded by **Maj John Smith,** OC 50 Sqn, who had achieved a passing' distinction by posting all his Darlington-based officers to the Gateshead Detachment and his Tynesside-based officers to Darlington. Rumours of instant 'O' groups on the A1(M) are, however, totally without foundation!

Maj John Douglas (of size 14 fame!) has taken command of 50 (N) Sqn, and **Maj Peter Sutherland** of 49 (WR) Sqn at Leeds vice **Maj Bill Illingworth,** who took over 90 (NR) Sqn at Middlesbrough from **Maj John Thew.** As **Bill** lives in Middlesbrough and for three years travelled to Leeds, this change can be considered as 34's contribution to savings in the defence budget! **John Thew** has taken over as Tech QM and second Ops officer from **Lt Col (TOT) Peter Halsey,** who has departed for the more rarefied atmosphere of HQ 12 Sig Gp (V).

PADRE GOES REGULAR

And finally, we have said goodbye to our Padre, **David Tickner,** who left to join the Regular Army. We are very sorry to see him go but take consolation from the fact that the Regulars are getting a very good man. We wish **David** and **Janet** every success and happiness in their new career. Incidentally, our last padre, **John McAdam,** also left to join the Regulars. If you happen to read THE WIRE, **John,** we still think of you—and look us up when you can. We haven't moved.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

XL

The 40th ULSTER's are back on the scene
'Where?' you ask, 'Have they ----- well been?'
Their notes in THE WIRE have been missing you say,
But now a comeback has happened today.
A medley of stories in prose and in rhyme,
Will lighten these pages from time to time.

Now Ulster's a place torn by trouble and strife,
But most of us here have got used to the life.
So every Sunday come rain, snow or sun,
We go and play soldiers and later have fun.
Off to Belgium about one in two
To prove that our circuits do get through.

Scarboro's our home on alternate years,
Preferred to Belgium it often appears,
The George, Tiffany's, the good old 2 B's,
Then back to Burniston on hands and knees.
Up the next day at around about six,
And off to war with eyes playing tricks.

Our training majors have just changed around,
Swopped a French-speaking Dago for one with a hound.
We've lost Eric Carrel, gain Sugdon and 'friend',
This dog licks your face, worse still, you can't bend.
Ian Strong's polished tongue used to show up our brogue,
He's off to Belize, the lucky old rogue.

We've been exercising already this year,
'Dawn Sparrow' was recently carried out over here.
To Scotland next for HQ's third fling
From cookhouse skills to map-reading.
Maj Den Gilpin attempts to command
This 'odds and sods' Squadron (the best in the land).

Outside of the business of communicating,
We don't get bored or sit around waiting
Badminton, shooting, dinghy sailing, and pool
Are a couple of ways we're keeping our cool.
Guarding our centre take up some more time,
And incidentally finishes off this first rhyme.

Association News

CHESTER BRANCH

THE Chester Branch held their 32nd annual dinner at the Roya British Legion, Upton, on Friday February 10.

The Chairman, Mr Harry Underwood welcomed, the Garrison Commander, Brigadier J. R. Rigby, and Lt Col Joliffe, CO 33rd Signal Regiment and Mrs Joliffe as principal guests.

Commenting on the Association in an after dinner speech, Mr W. G. Faircloth referred to its active and effective work. He went on to express the view that all ex-service associations were destined to fade away unless younger men provided the new blood that was needed.

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July 1978

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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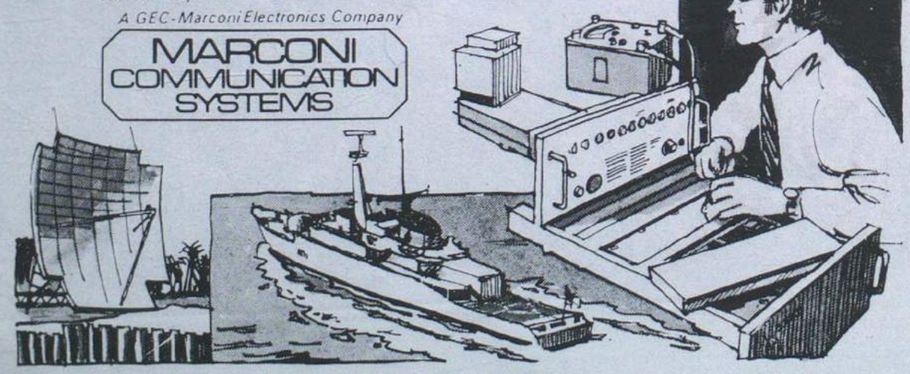
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If you're leaving the forces soon, and you'd like to find out more about our work and what we can offer you, write with a brief outline of your service career to Terry Ford, (W), Marconi Communication Systems Limited, New Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

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Rank

Unit

Contact Address

Tel:

Posting to (Country)

Delivery required (Date)

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ASN 7/78

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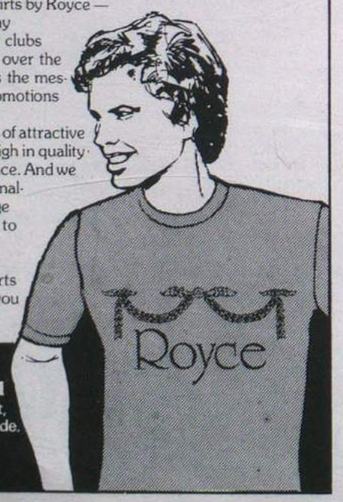
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MRS. G. M. CRAWFORD

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JULY **1978**

Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 4**

THE WIRE, JULY 1978

Editorial

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List

OBE
Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Buchanan

MBE
Major C. E. Grundy
Major B. F. Strange

BEM
WO2 J. F. Morrow
Sgt G. Chaplin

ULSTER SERVICE AWARDS

We also congratulate the following who received awards for service in Northern Ireland between 1 November 1977 and 3 January 1978

BEM
WO2 J. Hepworth

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Cpl A. MacDonald

WELCOME

The July issue of The Wire originates from Hilsea. We warmly welcome Holbrook & Son Ltd as the new printers of our Corps magazine and look forward to a long association with the Company.

GROUND RULES

May we remind many contributors of a few basic requirements on 'copy'. It is essential that we receive this by the 12th of the month preceding publication. It should be 'double spaced' with a good margin. Good quality photographs do enhance a report on any significant event. Please let us have them, with suitably typed captions.

OUR COVER PICTURE

The RSMs of the Corps meet at Catterick for their convention annually. Our cover picture was taken at Catterick on 25 May when the Signal Officer-in-Chief was present.

Back row (*left to right*) WO1 C. Homewood, WO1 K. Walley, WO2 R. Mills, WO1 D. A. Hughes, WO1 P. D. Robinson, WO1 C. Widdowson, WO2 G. Platts, WO1 K. A. Childs, WO1 F. Atkins, WO1 R. Harris, WO1 (YofS) L. Yates, WO1 C. Adam, WO1 R. L. Stark

Centre Row (*left to right*) WO1 R. M. D. Collins, WO1 A. Bailey, WO1 D. A. Lamerton, WO1 A. Morgan, WO1 C. Moore, WO1 A. K. Woods, WO1 T. R. Gainford, WO1 F. Worrall, WO1 D. Cheetham, WO1 M. G. Springer, WO1 J. Brown, WO1 G. M. Lumley, WO1 T. Ryan, WO1 R. Wade

Front row (*left to right*) WO1 R. F. Dixon, WO1 M. N. Robinson, WO1 C. Haughie, WO1 E. C. Hunt, WO2 B. Young, WO1 R. S. Dehdashty, WO1 R. C. Briant, WO1 A. S. Reid, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson, SO in C, WO1 I. C. Rothwell, WO1 J. G. Albon

—From our "In" Tray—

Royal Signals Manning and Records, Reading

SO in C AT BALMORE HOUSE

WE were delighted to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief when he visited Reading on 3 April, 1978. In a day full of activity **Gen Anderson** was briefed on our role and then toured the offices meeting the staff. Interspersed with all this he presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **WO1 R. E. G. Brown** who heads the Documentation Team and yet another Gold Commstar (her fifth) to **Jennie Skinner** who runs our Communications Centre.

TOKEN OF ESTEEM IN PLACE OF HONOUR

We were equally delighted to see **Col Ian Shapter** en route between Northern Ireland and his new appointment as CO of 8 Signal Regiment. On behalf of all ranks R Signals serving in Northern Ireland he presented the Office with a copy of the **Ken Howard** painting depicting the Corps at work in the Province. In making the presentation before the entire staff he said that the gift was a token of the esteem in which the office was held by the Corps in Northern Ireland and in appreciation of the care taken by their Manning and Records in looking after them.

The picture now hangs in a place of honour and we would like to use the Wire as the medium for conveying our thanks to all members of the Corps in Northern Ireland for this magnificent gift and to wish **Col Shapter** a happy tour with 8 Signal Regiment.



A job well done! The SO in C, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson, seems pleased with the result after presenting the Meritorious Service Medal to WO1 R. E. G. Brown of the Documentation Team

OFFICERS REUNION—ALDERSHOT CLUB FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 1978

Arrangements are in hand to hold a similar reunion to previous years. The purpose is to bring together serving and retired officers and their wives living within a reasonable distance of Aldershot for an informal gathering from 6.30pm onwards. 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 who would like to attend should get in touch with him as soon as possible.



BELGIAN GENERAL PRESENTS NORTHERN ARMY GROUP 'TOP SHOT' TROPHY

Maj Gen G. A. F. Van der Veen, Belgian Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters Northern Army Group presented the Small Arms Shooting prize to Maj Kenneth Goulding of 28 (British) Signal Regiment. Northern Army Group consists of soldiers from four Nations—Belgium, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands who train together in peace to fight together in war. Such competitions improve the marksmanship of all competing nations, as well as fostering friendship and comradeship. The Williams Plate, which is the trophy Maj Goulding is receiving, was donated by RSM Williams, Coldstream Guards when he left Headquarters, Northern Army Group in 1973

Photo and report courtesy: PR HQ NORTHAG

From: **Maj L. J. Taylor MBE**
Dear Sir,

I am anxious to replace the ties of Regiments and Units listed below and would be very grateful if units or individuals could help by completing our display.

Representative Corps Tie
Royal Signals Rifle Association — Corps Shooting VIII
Royal Signals Rifle Association
3 Signal Regiment
9 Signal Regiment
11 Signal Regiment (Former Pattern)
15 Signal Regiment
19 Signal Regiment
21 Signal Regiment
22 Signal Regiment
33 Signal Regiment (V) (Former Pattern)
44 Signal Regiment (TA) (1961 Pattern)
44 Signal Regiment (1966 Pattern)
45 Signal Regiment
Middlesex Yeomanry OCA
49 Signal Regiment TA
49 Signal Regiment (Freedom of Leeds)
55 (West Lancashire) Divisional Signals TA
58 Signal Regiment TA
64 Signal Regiment TA
65 Signal Regiment TA
80 Signal Regiment (AER)
220 Signal Squadron
223 Signal Squadron
225 Signal Squadron
249 Signal Squadron
316 Signal Squadron
Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals
Cambridge University OTC Signal Unit

Yours faithfully,
L. J. Taylor

The Curator,
Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset

Band Concert at the German Staff College, Hamburg

THE German Staff College (Fuehrungsakadamie der Bundeswehr) is the organisation responsible for the advanced and staff training of the officers of the three German Armed Services. It is situated in three barracks in Blankenese in the western part of Hamburg.

The programme for the Corps Band's 1978 BAOR tour was arranged to include a concert at the College. On 3 May, the Director of Music, **Maj Keith Boulding,** with 56 muscians arrived at the Clausewitz Kaserne to be greeted by the British students at the College, including **Maj David Hunt.** After a beer and lunch, the Band were taken by the Bundeswehr on a conducted tour of Hamburg.

In the evening the Band gave a concert in the Officers Mess for the Navy, Army and Air Staff Courses. The young German captains on these courses will, after their twenty one month courses at the College, leave their branches of their service and become General Staff Officers for the rest of their careers, with the exception of a couple of years spent commanding a battalion. The concert was therefore an excellent opportunity to 'sell' the British Army, and in particular the Corps, to some of the future commanders of the Bundeswehr.



The CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** travelled specially from Rheindahlen to attend the concert. He was greeted by the Deputy College Commandant, **Brigadegeneral Dr Woermann,** who in a speech after the concert highly praised the Band. This praise was particularly noteworth, as **Dr Woermann** had spent the period between the end of the war and the formation of the Bundeswehr as a professor of music! The Band were also presented with a plaque embossed with the College crest.

After the concert the College provided buses to take the Band back into Hamburg again to sample the night life. This excursion was obviously enjoyed with the last stalwarts returning at 0800hrs in a taxi! They were just in time to climb aboard the buses for the long journey to 13 Signal Regiment.

The support of the CSO, the Signals Staffs at HQ BAOR and 1 (BR) Corps, together with 1 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt in making this visit a success are very much appreciated. Particular thanks must, of course, go to **Maj Boulding and the Band** for their superb performance. They have left many enthusiastic Bundeswehr Officers asking when the Royal Signals Band will next visit Hamburg.

From: **Mrs D. Hill**
Dear Sir,

I am making a collection of the words of soldiers' songs sung during the 1914-18 war and subsequently, I am particularly interested in those connected with the Corps.

I know there were many songs sung in India between the wars, mostly of a ribald nature, and I should like to hear from anyone who remembers the words of any of these songs.

Yours sincerely,
Daphne Hill
(Née Phillips)

Selwood,
Mill Road,
Heathfield,
Sussex TN21 0XD,
Tel: 043 52 3357



50 YEARS ON—MAJ (RETD) L. T. CANN

AT a recent informal gathering in the MOD, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge,** ACDS(Signals), presented to a member of his staff—**Maj (Retd) Leslie Cann**—a scroll to acknowledge the completion of 50 years in the service of his Country. The phrase 'Man and Boy' has particular relevance as **Leslie** started his Army life on 1 May 1928, as a boy soldier in F Company. On subsequently entering Man Service, he first joined 4 Div Sigs at Colchester, and later saw service in Peking and Tientsin. In 1937 he joined 2 Div Sigs and in this Regiment not only rose from Signalman to RSM—surely a record—but was also with the Regiment at both Dunkirk and Kohima. After the war he 'visited' Italy and Egypt, and after being commissioned in 1951 saw service in France, Korea, Singapore and Germany. On retiring from the Army in 1958, **Leslie** joined the TAVR, and only finally gave up active soldiering in 1962. Not to be outdone, he then joined Signals 3d at the War Office, later moving to his present job in MOD Signals 2. A truly remarkable record **Leslie**—many congratulations.

From: **Maj (Retd) J. McQuade**
Dear Sir,

The Wire March 1978 — 'Looking Back' from **Maj A. Hamilton.**

I had the pleasure of serving with **'Bert' Hamilton** in 2 W/T Coy from 1935—1941, being on detachment from there:- Malta 1937/38 nine months — Western Desert/Egypt 1939/40 — Sudan 1940/41.

The photo of the senior NCOs cricket team brings back many happy memories of Sarafand. I have my own copy of this photograph. Here are the names of the players if **'Bert'** has forgotten, which I very much doubt.

Standing back row: Cpl Larry Cairns, CSM Newman, Cpl Bert Hamilton, Cpl Eric Trudgett, Cpl R. P. L. Smith.
Standing front row: 'Umpire' Sig Willy Warner, Sgt C. O. Smith, SCpl Taffy Williams, Cpl Brightmore (MT NCO), Cpl E. S. Whitaker, Cpl Tommy Winter, Cpl Dan Hawkins, CQMS Mac Webster.
Seated: Drvr Morrison.

I am afraid a few of these gentlemen have taken their last message and departed.

Yours sincerely,
Mac McQuade

c/o Mapping & Charting Establishment, RE,
Elmwood Avenue,
Feltham,
Middlesex.

From: **W. Lord Esq**
Dear Sir,

I am completing a book about Dunkirk and would like very much to get in touch with anyone who participated in those stirring days. If any of your readers can help, I would greatly appreciate it.

Yours sincerely,
Walter Lord

c/o Penguin Books Ltd,
17 Grosvenor Gardens,
London SW1

From: **Maj (Rtd) T. H. Shufflebotham, BEM**
Dear Sir,

I have for some time been trying to locate and contact several of my early war time colleagues but without success up to now. May I through the courtesy of your colums and readers of The Wire enlist your aid, please.

After Dunkirk I was posted to a Special Organisation and became a member of a small Specialised unit which was posted to the Far East—Singapore (Tanjong Balai) in May 1941. Within this unit was a small Signals Section comprising one Officer and some 10 OR's of which I was at that time the senior signals sergeant. Prior to the Jap attack on Malaya 8 December 1941 a Cpl Bond had been sent up to Rangoon, Burma.

After the fall of Singapore a small party including the Signals Officer and myself managed to get to Rangoon also, and after picking up the above named **Cpl Bond** the party moved up through Burma via Mandalay to Lashio. About the middle of April 1942 the party was split into three sub sections. One sub section including **Cpl Bond** went up into China (Kunming and Chunking). Another sub section including a BOR operator whose name I believe was **Bensen** made their way to Fort Hertz. (The Japs never got this far north in Burma). The third sub section which included the Signals Officer, (with whom I now correspond) myself and a **Cpl Jack Geddes** got out to India (Calcutta).

The Special unit in Singapore was originally known as the 'School of Demolitions' and later renamed 101 Special Training School and again later when in India became Military Establishment No. 9 and finally become part of SOE Force 136. The following is a list of the Ex signals personnel whom I wish to contact.

Cpl/L/Sgt Bond, Cpl J. Geddes, Sgt Bensen?, Cpl Astle (Wireless Electrician), Cpl/CQMS G. Smith and Cpl/Sgt Thwaites (the latter two joined the unit in India and later went to China), I have been going through some of my old photographs and came across one that shows three of the persons mentioned plus myself taken at Meerut, Christmas time 1942.



Front row — left to right: Sgt McGowan, CSM Shufflebotham, Cpl Smith; back row — on the left Cpl Astle and second from the right Cpl Thwaites.

Any Association Branch Secretary or reader who knows anything of their whereabouts I will be only too pleased to hear from them.

Yours Sincerely,

122 North Street,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST4 7DG.
TEL. 0782—411568 **T. H. Shufflebotham.**

THE D-DAY AND NORMANDY FELLOWSHIP
From: **Cmdr A. D. Gilbert, RN (Rtd)**
Dear Sir,

If no one else has sent you a report, it would be greatly appreciated if something on the following lines could be inserted in a future issue:

Members of the Fellowship held their annual functions on 3-4 June in Hampshire. These included a dinner in HMS *Dryad* at Southwick and the annual service in Portsmouth Cathedral followed by a reception. Members from Canada, Greece, Australia and the Netherlands were among those present. Subsequently a party went to Normandy to visit Arromanches. Membership continues to build up. Forms are obtainable from the Hon Membership Secretary, St John's Cottage, Shedfield, Nr Southampton.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. Gilbert

St John's Cottage,
Shedfield,
Southampton SO3 2HY

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Unit Address_____

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_____

_____My posting date is:_____

Key W2

Movements

Officers

JUNE 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col B. J. Austin	31 Sig Regt (V)
Maj B. L. Belton	Defence Signal Staff
Col J. R. Burrows	IMS BRUSSELS
Col D. G. Cattermull	Att to DAT
Maj M. E. G. Chandler	School of Infantry
Capt D. W. M. Conran	HS School of Signals
Lt R. M. Crombie	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt K. G. Danby	HQ Northern Ireland
Lt P. J. Daniel	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V)
2Lt N. H. Denning	Att to 21 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. C. Deverill	SHAPE
Capt (Tfc) J. J. Elliott, MBE	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Maj R. A. Ellis	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Capt G. F. Farrell	DSS (AD)
Capt M. S. Fisher	HQ 8 Inf Bde
Lt I. Fraser	21 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) K. M. French	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt M. N. Grieves	HS 11 Sig Regt
A/Capt M. G. E. Hall	11 Sig Regt
Maj I. J. Hamilton	22 Sig Regt (CORPS REAR HQ)
Capt M. J. Jefferis	233 Sig Sqn
Lt M. Jennings	22 Sig Regt
Capt C. N. Lightfoot	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Capt D. T. Llewellyn	SMIU
Maj D. C. Lycett-Gregson	HQ LONDIST R & L Staff
Maj W. R. Mayne	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj S. G. McK Gordon	School of Signals
Lt Col J. A. Montague, MBE	HQ AFNORTH
Lt Col R. Pope	HQ SOWDIST
Capt (Tfc) I. A. Reid	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Lt A. P. R. Roberts	Att to 229 Sig Sqn
Maj W. J. P. Robins	MGO Secretariat
Maj R. B. Smith	DSS (AD)
Maj C. E. R. Story	7 Sig Regt
Maj P. D. Templemen-Evans	10 Sig Regt
Maj W. P. B. Thomas	10 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. R. Topple	RMCS Shrivenham

JULY 1978

Capt R. D. Abbott	HQ Belize Garrison
Maj A. F. Browne	Man S Org
Lt C. J. Cary	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Lt D. R. Clough	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (QM) A. J. Cowe	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt P. R. Day	Att 28 Sig Regt (Northag)
Lt D. S. Ewing	Att Gurkha Field Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj H. J. P. Exon	Att 7 Sig Regt
Lt J. F. Fletcher	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Lt A. D. Forster	Att HEC BAOR
Capt (Tfc) K. M. French	HQ DCN
Capt L. G. French	MOD DASD
Lt J. J. C. Gareze	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt R. D. M. Graham	QAD (W) (AE)
A/Capt I. W. Griffiths	22 Sig Regt
Lt A. W. H. Harrison	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Hervey	Ecole Superieure De Guerre
Lt R. R. Holmes	21 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) T. Johnstone	16 Sig Regt
2Lt M. N. Keleher	HS School of Signals (13 CQ Course)
Capt (TOT) I. R. Lidstone	8 Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Little	Att 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col P. A. M. MacGillivray	8 Sig Regt
Capt J. B. M. Macleod	British Contingent UNFICYP
Lt J. R. M. McGrath	Att 22 Sig Regt
Capt B. W. Maltby	HQ AFCENT SP GP (ACE High Station Mossy Hill)
Lt Col R. F. Maynard	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. Y. Miller	School of Signals
Lt N. T. Moore	Att 7 Sig Regt
2Lt P. Moseley	Att 259 Sig Sqn
Maj E. Mulley	HS 8 Sig Regt
Lt J. R. Nicoll	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col W. D. A. Poole	The Royal School of Artillery
Lt K. Pritchard	Att 259 Sig Sqn (W)
2Lt R. D. Relph	HS 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt D. C. Richardson	School of Infantry
Lt S. C. Richmond	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt I. W. R. Seraph	HS 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt V. G. Strivens	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col A. V. Swindale	1 Sig Gp
Lt N. J. Thompson	30 Sig Regt
Maj C. R. Treeby	7 Sig Regt
Capt I. R. Wilson	31 Sig Regt (V)

WOs and Senior NCOs

JUNE 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to Which Posted*
WO1 E. P. Symonds	HQ NORTHAG STAFF (BAE)
WO1 R. Harris	11 Sig Regt
WO2 A. G. Papandreou	HQ 12 Sig Gp (V)
WO2 D. J. Bell	HQ 11 Sig Gp (V)
WO2 T. Bowman	8 Sig Regt
WO2 T. A. Hazel	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) C. J. Shone	28 Sig Regt
WO2 S. Leggett	7 Sig Regt
WO2 N. E. Mortimer	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) A. Locke	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) J. D. Rayment	HQ 1 Sig Gp
WO2 (YofS) B. A. Rice	Qatar Armed Forces
AWO2 J. N. Martin	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) A. C. Doane	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt B. Hives	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt R. A. Mapletoft	School of Signals
SSgt M. McBirney	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. Brough	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) J. L. McIlree	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) D. M. Coles	3 Cdo Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt R. A. McEwen	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Tope	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt K. Parsons	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt A. J. Chapman	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt T. P. M. Smith	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt P. Nason	10 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Smedley	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt D. F. Curry	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt R. Burgess	14 Sig Regt
Sgt W. G. Page	16 Sig Regt
Sgt N. M. Wadey	16 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Gilbert	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Clark	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Funnell	21 Sig Regt
Sgt W. D. McLean	21 Sig Regt
Sgt W. T. Paterson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt E. G. Dullaghan	28 Sig Regt
Sgt F. D. Talling	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Garden	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. I. Ratcliffe	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt E. D. Alibocus	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt F. Byrne	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. V. Whitelock	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Simpson	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. R. Gallant	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. F. Stadd	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Barnes	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. A. Codd	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. T. Ramsey	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Bracey	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Barnes	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. S. Brookes	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Abdulraham	22 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Morgan	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt P. J. Honey	11 Sig Regt
Sgt K. M. Hendry	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. W. Green	14 Sig Regt
Sgt J. N. Morgan	4 Comms Unit
Sgt A. Archer	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt C. W. Beston	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. J. Cartwright	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Green	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Bond	22 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Demain	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt E. John	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. Nicol	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt E. A. Hall	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. N. Palmer	10 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Sainty	22 Sig Regt
A/Sgt R. S. Stephens	241 Sig Sqn

JULY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1(FofS) R. B. Kelbie	30 Sig Regt
WO1(FofS) B. Hassall	RSA Larkhill
WO2 S. J. Long	11 Sig Regt
WO2(FofS) L. W. Payne	8 Sig Regt
WO2(FofS) R. W. W. Milne	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
WO2 V. Towler	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 G. Garland	British Contingent UNFICYP (Supp Regt)
WO2 D. T. McGurk	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 J. Hepworth	227 Sig Sqn
WO2(YofS) P. M. Castle	UK Support Unit SHAPE
AWO2(YofS) M. A. Thornton	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt(YofS) N. J. H. Naylor	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) J. Bestfold	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt(FofS) C. L. Priestley	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Walker	30 Sig Regt
SSgt J. A. C. Knell	International Mil Staff Brussels
SSgt J. M. R. Elliot	4 Sig Gp
SSgt D. Osborne	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. M. Raybould	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. V. K. Battisby	30 Sig Regt
SSgt J. H. Sells	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt D. Hemingway	633 Sig Tp
SSgt E. Rose	London University OTC
SSgt M. F. Schnable	262 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt G. C. Dyson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt L. A. Plummer	642 Sig Tp
Sgt B. C. Irwin	586 RLD
Sgt G. P. Adams	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt L. Harris	7 Sig Regt
Sgt V. E. Bingham	16 Sig Regt
Sgt K. E. Greenhalgh	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Burst	17 Port Maritime Regt
Sgt J. Coffey	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. B. Watson	9 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Hawey	14 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Bruce	608 Sig Tp
Sgt C. Dowie	30 Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Williams	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. George	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt E. C. Monk	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. T. Pennington	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Batty	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. Traynor	FSS Mossy Hill

Sgt G. Waters	.. ..	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt S. J. French	.. ..	Spec Mil Int Unit
Sgt R. R. Bell	.. ..	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Anderson	.. ..	28 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Jarrold	.. ..	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. V. Meir	.. ..	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. W. Green	.. ..	14 Sig Regt

Welfare

APRIL 1978

Number of cases assisted financially:	26
Amount spent:	£1,454,66
Number of clothing parcels sent:	42

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	9
Amount spent:	£296.07

MAY 1978

Numbeŕ of cases assisted financially:	22
Amoun tspent:	£1,279.28
Number of clothing parcels sent:	16

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	11
Amount spent:	£393.00

ONE OF OUR CASES

Signalman, War time service. Due to a spinal injury, he has not been able to work for nearly a year. The Royal British Legion arranged a fortnight's holiday for him at one of their Convalescent Homes, and the Association co-operated with the Legion in the cost to the extent of £34. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I would like to express my appreciation of the Committee's most generous help to defray the cost of a fortnight's convalescence at the British Legion Home. I am at present at the Home and must say that it is a wonderful tonic. Your kindness in conjunction with the British Legion has somewhat overwhelmed me. I have been away from work since August 1977, and things were getting on top of me, when out of the blue came your generous offer. Once again, thank you, and may you survive for ever with your good deeds.

THANK YOU

During the months of April and May, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:—

Mrs M. I. Nutt, Col and Mrs G. J. C. Moss, Blandford Garrison Thrift Shop, Lt Col C. J. Bayfield, Maj P. Whitemore, Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole, Maj J. F. Bedford, The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Lt Col and Mrs D. A. Dickson, Mrs M. Flower, Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer, Maj F. Iveson, Maj and Mrs D. Smith, A. Stokes, Esq.

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1978:—

	£
83 Sig Sqn	2.00
Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association	55.00
56 Div OCA Branch	10.00
David Beal Charitable Trust	150.00
Anonymous	70.00
R. H. Caulfield Esq	5.00
Mrs R. A. Mancy	5.00
J. H. Lea Esq	1.00
F. W. S. Jourdain Esq	1.00
A. M. Stonebanks Esq	1.00
E. P. Piers Esq	1.00
Miscellaneous donations	2.27
	£303.27

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1978:—

BAOR Church Fund	64.93
F. Stanley Charitable Trust	25.00
Loyal order of the Moose	4.00
In memory of the late Brig F. J. Allen, OBE	69.00
In memory of the late S. J. Rouse Esq	24.00
S. W. Creaton Esq	1.00
F. G. Hawkes Esq	1.00
W. E. Hampson Esq	1.00
Miscellaneous donations	.85
	£190.78

BBC

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Mechanical Technicians and **Prototype Wirepersons** for small batch production of sound and television broadcasting equipment. The mechanical work is to fine limits and demands considerable experience. The wiring requires an ability to work to either full wiring diagrams or sketched circuits for equipment such as studio desks and transmitter and receiver bays. Good salaries,, adequate allowances when away from base. Sports and social club. Contributory pension scheme.

To arrange interview ring:
P. W. Green
01-994 8541 Extn 232

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number—be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to *The Wire*), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month preceding publication.

DEATHS

Byrne—Capt John Francis Byrne enlisted in 1945 and was commissioned in 1967. He retired in 1972 and died at the early age of 50 on 10 April.

Fuller—Maj Henry Arthur Fuller MBE enlisted as a boy in 1920 and was commissioned as a Technical Officer Maintenance during the war. He retired in 1957 and died on 14 June at the age of 74.

Naden—SSgt David John Naden who served with 216 Para Signal Squadron before joining 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron later transferred to the Scots Guards in order to remain with the SAS. He died, as a result of a tragic accident, on 6 June.

Osborne—Sgt Wallace Edward Osborne who died suddenly on 23 May, aged 70, enlisted in the Corps in 1926 and was discharged in 1948. He joined RHQ as Chief Clerk in 1960, where his knowledge of the Corps was of inestimable value and retired in 1975. Throughout his life he was devoted to the Corps and also gave much of his spare time to the Royal British Legion.

Stagg—Maj Edward Charles William Stagg enlisted in the Corps in 1935 and was commissioned in 1947. Of his 22 years commissioned service he spent 16 overseas in the Middle East, Germany, France and Norway. He died on 31st May at the age of 60.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Operations Manager urgently wanted for Telecommunications/Computer Company in South London. Some computer experience desirable, suit TOT or Foreman. Please ring Mr T. Davison, 01-641-1282.

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.

FOR SALE

The 1979 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.

—See 'Goods Available', page 268.

Attention Ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins is available from the Association. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost if £7·00 at home and £6·30 overseas.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

WE always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free (limited) accommodation. We are also able to put applicants in touch with Divisions of the Corps throughout the United Kingdom for local employment. Examples of the sort of jobs we always have on our books are as follows:

Clerical SNCO. Needed July. Corps HQ Orderly Room. Fleet St EC4.
Approx £3,000 pa plus non-contributory pension scheme.
Messenger. Lothbury, EC2. £3,500 pa.
Non-residential Housekeeper. Finsbury Circus, EC2. £3,500 pa.
Residential Security. N1. Two bedroom fully furnished flat + £50pwk.
Security. Chichester Road, N9. £60 p wk +.
Residential Housekeeper. London Wall, EC2. Free 2 bedroom flat + £2,600 pa (Negotiable).
Reception/Security. Albermarle St, W1. £55 + p wk.
Security Officer. Plain Clothes. Oxford Circus. £3,500 pa.
Security/Messenger. Brompton Road, SW3. £70 p wk +.
Security. Charing Cross Road, WC2. £60 p wk.
Reception/Messenger (2 wanted). Fitzroy Square, W1. £3,024 + perks.
Commissionaire. High Holborn, WC1. £3,900 approx.
Residential. Amersham, Bucks. £3,500 + free flat.
Residential. Harley Street, W1. Approx £4,000 + free flat.
Security/Reception. Leicester. To be negotiated.
Security—Gatehouse. Romford, Essex. £71 per wk Nov 1978.
Reception—Part time. Andover Hants. £2,000 for 25 hour week.
Security. Basingstoke. Approx £50 per week.
Security. Potters Bar, Herts. To be negotiated.
A variety of security posts throughout Middlesex. Wages negotiable.
Reception/Security. Croydon, Surrey. Wages negotiable.

We can only include a limited number of the jobs available, please write or call in and discuss the opportunities we have.

We can also accept a few men for temporary employment duties only provided they are fit and meet Corps requirements.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 am and 3 pm.

Men are advised to bring their Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

VACANCY FOR WRAC SHORT SERVICE TYPE 'R' ENGAGEMENT

A vacancy exists for a WRAC Sgt PSI with 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) in the Ilford/Brentwood area of Essex. Her duties would be mainly administrative but the applicant must have had data telegraphist training and be capable of instructing in that trade up to Class 2 level as required. The post carries the rank of Sergeant. Applicants must have had regular or TAVR service. A qualification as a Class 1 Data Telegraphist is desirable but Class 2 will be accepted.

Initial engagement will be for a fixed period of three years with the colours, with no reserve liability. Extensions may be permitted under current rules. Women enlisted on the Type 'R' engagement are eligible to receive pay, including increments, in accordance with the Pay Warrant 1964, Articles 594 and 595. The upper age limit for enlistment is normally 35 years. Terms and conditions are given in AGAIs Chapter 25 Section IV.

Applications, together with brief details of experience and service should be forwarded to:

The Training Major,
36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V),
Signals House,
Selsdon Road,
WANTSTEAD,
London E11 2QF

REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ Northern Ireland, BFPO 825

FEATURE ARTICLE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

During May, the SO in C visited all Regular and T & AVR R Signals units in Northern Ireland. The following photographs and notes highlight his first tour to the Province from 15-17 May 1978.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

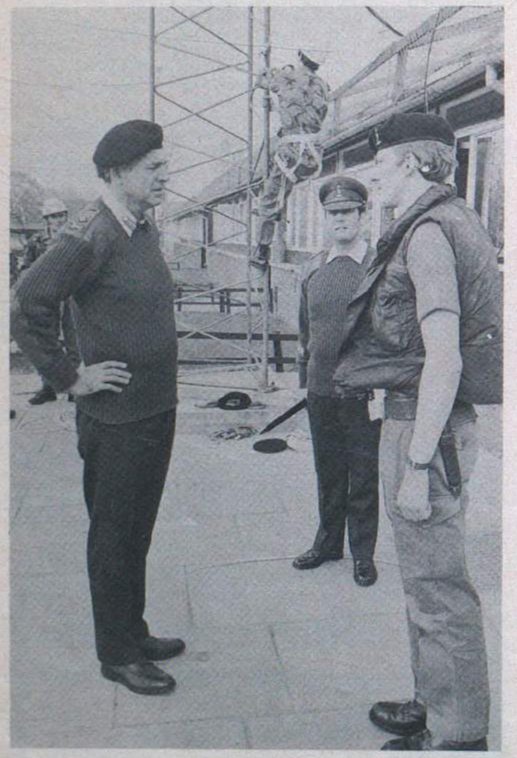
During his visit to 3 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron at Portadown, County Armagh, the SO in C heard that the Brigade Signal Squadron provides communications support for seven regular units and six UDR battalions whose Tactical Areas of Operational Responsibility (TAOR) make up a Brigade area totalling over 3,500 square miles. As well as accounting for over 260 of the total 300 miles of border between Ulster and the Republic the 3 Brigade TAOR is substantially the largest in the Province and, put into perspective, is larger than that of 1(BR) Corps. Not only that, the Sqn technical team lead by F of S, **WO2 John Francis,** are responsible for a wide range of military and commercial equipment. The very nature of their work in Northern Ireland has made them masters of improvisation, and in the design and construction of electronic and mechanical gadgetry not found elsewhere. Whilst visiting the Sqn the General presented **WO2 Peter Rossall,** the Squadron RQMS, with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. **WO2 Rossall** joined the Corps in October 1959 and has served in such faraway places as Borneo, Aden, Libya and Persia before joining the Squadron, from Krefeld, in March this year. Congratulations!



Presentation of LS and GC medal and Warrant to WO2 (RQMS) Peter Russell



SO in C sharing a joke with WO1 (RSM) Ron Collins, Sgt's Ken Robson and Lou Sharman whilst OC Sqn, Maj Jeremy Ventham looks on in the background



SO in C with LCpl Horst Stenner serving with 321 EOD unit RAOC, RSM looks?

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New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT ... ... each £3.15p
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T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
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8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

On one of the rare sunny days in Londonderry, the Signal Officer-in-Chief was shown around the Signal Squadron by the OC, **Maj Tim Waugh,** and the RSM, **Ian Buckley,** and introduced to as many men as possible. Although in Londonderry we work and live in very crowded conditions, **Maj Gen Anderson** was clearly impressed with the performance and high morale of the Squadron. After visiting all the departments in the Squadron the SO in C was taken to the Squadron club (the Tudor Bar) where he very kindly consented to promote **LCpl Newby** to **Cpl** and **Sig Latham** to **LCpl.** Both these promotions were kept very secretive and it was a great pleasure to see the look of surprise on the faces of the recipients. During his time in Londonderry **Gen Anderson** also met representatives from 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn (V) as can be seen in the accompanying photograph.



LCpl Newby promoted Cpl by Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson. 8 Inf Bde, 16 May 1978



The SO in C talks to RQMS Olive and Sgt Lunners in the Quartermaster's department



SO in C checks out the MT state with Sgt Macdonald



Sig Rideout presenting SO in C with a gift to mark his visit

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

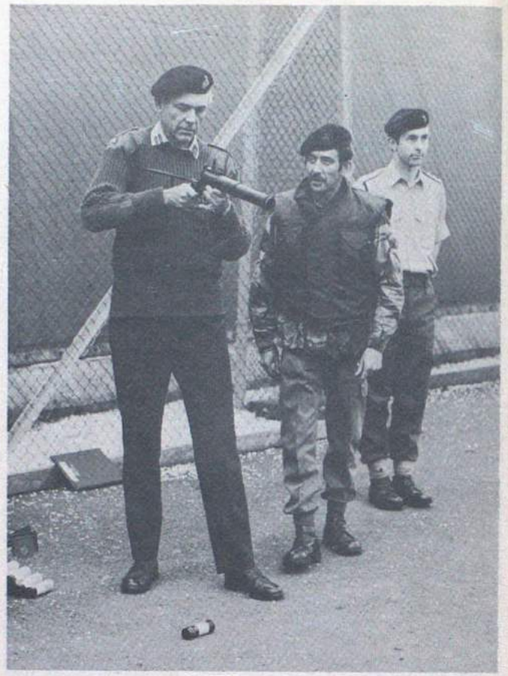
Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

Not to be outdone by the other Brigade Squadrons we took the opportunity of showing SO in C some more equipment which is special to Northern Ireland. As can be seen from the photographs he heard all about **Heli-teli,** the airborne TV Surveillance System, and was invited to fire the anti riot gun.



Meeting members of Combat Section, *left to right:* Capt Alan Poppleton, Sgt John Hughes (obscured), SO in C, Sig Brian Whitworth, Sig Dave Pithie, Sig Derek Hancox, Cpl Hamish Burgess



Cpl Trev Cartledge instructing the General in the use of the anti-riot gun. Capt Alan Poppleton keeping well out of the firing line!



The General meets members of the Quartermaster's department. *Left to right:* Sig Martin Gear, LCpl Ian Thornley, Cpl Stu Mullen, SO in C, CSgt Trevor Leslie, Capt (QM) Paddy Henry

233 Sig Sqn (NI)

In addition to visiting the many troops and departments of the Squadron in Lisburn, the SO in C was taken by the OC Sqn, **Maj Peter Chaddock** to most of the Sqns outposts throughout the Province. Included was a breakfast time call to **Cpl Matthews** and his det at the Divis Comms Site.

The photographs show just a few of the personnel that the SO in C met on his tour round the Sqn.



SO in C greeted by OC 233 Sig Sqn at Divis Mountain. *Left to right:* CR Signals — Lt Col M. Marples, OC E Tp — Capt J. Blake, Body Guard — (hidden), SO in C, OC 233 Sig Sqn — Maj P. E. A. Chaddock, 2IC/Comms Tp Comd — Capt I. W. Morris



SO in C with members of Comms Tp. *Left to right:* Capt I. W. Morris, Cpl R. C. Gladwell, SSgt M. J. Forster, LCpl A. R. Latham



SO in C being greeted on arrival at RHQ by Lt Col Bill Michie, Capt Chris Donaghy and WO1 (RSM) Adam



SHQ 233 Sig Sqn. SO in C meets old and new RQMS. *Left to right:* WO2 (RQMS) J. Hepworth, BEM, WO2 (RQMS) R. Russell, SO in C, OC 233 Sig Sqn



Meeting two of our recent WRAC recruits



Presentation of TD to Maj Jim Brown

40 (U) Sig Regt (V)

The SO in C was able to see the Regiment during a training evening. From the personalities introduced by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bill Michie,** he learnt that not only was the Regiment working hard and looking forward to their forthcoming training on the Continent during the summer, but many of them were keen brewers of home made wine.

In addition, **Gen Anderson** presented the Territorial Decoration to **Maj Jim Brown,** the Second-in-Command.

FARAWAY PLACES !
— UNUSUAL JOBS !
SEND US THAT STORY



SO in C meeting Lt Moore, SSgt Whall, Sgt Denton and Sig Patterson of 69 NIH Sig Sqn

Operators

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . .

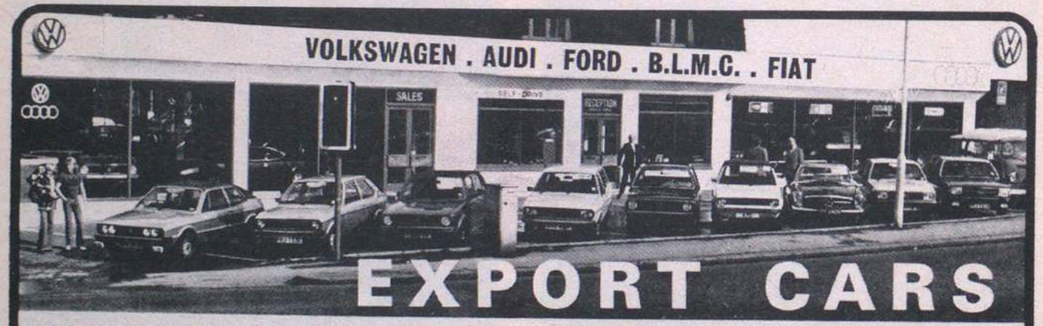
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8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

MIKE TP

The first part of this month's thrilling instalment of life in 8 Bde comes by courtesy of the hard worked underpaid Mike Troop. On top of our normal commitments we have had to fit in such events as the visit of the SO in C, **Maj Gen Anderson,** the fitting of the new long range 'Heli Teli' ground station, the laying of a new Telephone Cable, and the installation of the new radio system for the UDR.

VISIT OF SO IN C

The SO in C accompanied by the CR Signals, **Lt Col Mike Marples,** visited the Sqn in May. The visit is dealt with in detail in a separate article in this issue but I think it is true to say that he was very well informed of the many and varied tasks carried out by this squadron. All the Sqn members who attended the lunch time buffet, will agree that with food like that he can come and visit us any time.

HELI TELE

This month saw the replacement of our ancient long range Heli Teli ground station by the new all singing all dancing Marconi model. The weights involved called for the support of Teeney Weeney Airways and there were visions at one stage of the chopper trying to lift Bde HQ, when the grand old lady of Heli Teli refused to budge. However some excellent aircraft handling by the pilot has now assured **SSgt John Chambers** many happy hours of twiddling knobs revolving dishes and looking for close encounters of any kind. The photo shows **John Chambers** with the aircraft handlers whilst the FOS is trying to stay on his feet.



FOS John MacDonald watches anxiously as SSgt John Chambers (the Civvy) and two members of the air corps wrestle with the new hele tele antenna

NEW TELEPHONE CABLES

SSgt Allan Finney and his intrepid line crew of **LCpl Steve Gerrish, Sig Andy Hitchen, Sig Paul Priestman** together with the combined muscle of members of the D & E Pl, M Tp and Comms troop and SHQ recently completed the task of digging in a new telephone cable. This is one of the many tasks performed by the Squadron for the GPO, in various parts of our area. The picture shows the lads hard at work with OC, **Maj Tim Waugh,** looking on. Dare I say as usual!



It looks like harvesting spaghetti—in fact its our intrepid line section (and many others) burying telephone cables

MERCURY CASTLE

May also saw the launching of the Sqn boat, the 'Mercury Castle'. This, a former ship's lifeboat, was converted with tender care into a fishing and pleasure boat by **Cpl Cy Howard, RCT,** of the QM's department. It was launched by the Brigade Commander's wife, **Mrs Myrtle,** in the traditional way and no expense was spared to ensure a well lubricated first sailing. Our picture show **'Admiral' Myrtle** in his new role as skipper, anxiously watched by **Cpl Cy Howard** and **RQMS Bill Olive.** Are we to be an Amphibious Sqn soon?



Afloat on the Mercury Castle. *Left to right:* RQMS Bill Olive, Cpl Cy Howard and Brig Myrtle

PASTURES NEW

The squadron's annual military training exercise, Marrakesh Express, took place in Scotland from 3-17 April. This exercise included periods of instruction as well as several useful practical exercises lasting for several days. We were again very well looked after by RAF Macrihanish, where we were based.

At the end of the exercise several visits were organised, including one to the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse. The Squadron has a radio site next to the lighthouse and **Lt Alan Evans** presented a squadron plaque to the lighthouse keeper and his wife, who have given the squadron a great deal of assistance over the past few years. The lighthouse keeper, **John**



Lt Alan Evans presenting a Squadron Plaque to principal keeper John Harrow and his wife Stella

Harrow, is an ex-member of the corps who was enlisted in 1943 and served with 153 Line section in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany till 1946 when he was posted to Command Signals Malta. Here he stayed until he was demobbed in 1947. Since then he has been in the building trade and then joined the lighthouse service in 1959. Any of his contemporaries who wish to get in contact with **'Big John' Harrow** can write to him at:

Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse, Southend, Campbeltown, Argyll.

ARMY COMMCEN LONDONDERRY

To conclude this month's contribution, here is a rare chance to see our commcen workers gathered together, and to hear what they have to say about life in Derry.

The 'Gems' this month are compiled by the world renowned satirist, wit and tame jock, **LCpl 'Skratch' Skinner** with additional material supplied from the newspaper wrapped around his Chinese take-away. At long last the hardest (sic) worked department in the whole of 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn have managed a few moments respite from the torturous hammering of teleprinters (the job can be hazardous too, last week someone broke a fingernail typing) to write a few lines about what it's really like in what the local jet set call the sharp end.

Army Commcen Londonderry forms part of the Bde Sig Sqn, and is based just outside the famous city together with the Bde HQ and a resident Infantry Battalion. The main task of the commcen is to provide Telegraph Circuits throughout county Londonderry and parts of county Antrim, working to such exotic far off places as Strabane, Magherafelt, Kilrea and Ballymena to name but a few. By the way did you know it stopped raining in exotic Strabane for a full two hours' last week. (That is good news indeed 'cos that means it is our turn for two hours sunshine this week.)

We employ a three-way shift system with the shift ably led using the world loosely of course, by **Cpl's Kev Conder, Alan Grant** and **'Blushing' Rog Dyce,** their main worry (it says here) is **WO2 (YofS) John Nichols** phoning down with many a query on signals mislaid or merely 'forgotted,' which usually results in umbrellas being swiftly erected and angelic faces, and with some poor siggy being awarded this week's 'The Buck Stops Here' insignia. We also have **Sgt 'Int Rules OK' Eggett** who between his journeys to the squash court, strikes terror and havoc amongst our normally well organised Commcen staff with his enquiries into 'What are you doing on your day off, Sonny', and has a nasty habit of asking for free babysitters!

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Top row—*left to right:* Sig Court, Sig Mitchell, LCpl Talbot, LCpl Skinner, Sgt Eggett, Sig Williams, LCpl Stack. Bottom row—*left to right:* Sig Barnes, Sig Hammond, Cpl Condor, Sig Vennal, LCpl (now Cpl) Newby

FURTHER AFIELD

Our extra-mural activities include (wait for it) ski-ing in Aviemore, hiking in Campbeltown, adventurous training in Norway, canoeing in Blighty and supporting the Tudor Bar, mainly by **LCpl's Frank Cameron** and **'Smoothy' Newby**—the talent spotters, (whose conquests include a one-eyed tortoise and a blind skunk). A special note for **Cpl's Jimmy Ritchie, 'The Hump' Humpleby, LCpl Tony Talbot** and the football team who, although not yet back on the map, by coming second in the minor units league NI, have given 8 Inf Bde two's up on the Grid square. Also a special mention to our Army/Corps Rugby player **Sig 'Taff' Williams** (not bad eh?).

WORK TOO

Despite rumours, we do work as well, maintaining a Telegraph link with the Army's version of Butlins—Lisburn (where the girls are), we also attempt to cement a good public relations by letting the locals beat us at football while we hammer them at rugby. We wish all those serving out here Good Luck for the future, and if you're thinking of joining us remember Strabane—I've just been informed that whilst sitting here writing these notes I've missed out on our two hours alloted sunshine for yet another month!

Finally we would like to say farewell to **LCpl Bill Stack** and wish him luck in 13 Sig Regt.

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.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

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

During the last two busy (?) months the following events are high spots on the social and sports scene, which all those who have served in 233, will have come to love.

KINNEGAR COMSTAR

On Monday 13 March 1978 **LCpl 'Cass' Cassling** was presented with a Gold Comstar by the Commander of the Ordnance Depot at Kinnegar, **Lt Col Mike Watts RAOC.** This Comstar will be added to the growing collection at Kinnegar. The photograph shows **LCpl 'Cass' Cassling** and **Cpl Brian Fuller** admiring their new acquisitions.



Left: Cpl Brian Fuller (Clk Tech, Supervisor of CR Signals Equipment pool at Kinnegar) and *right:* LCpl 'Cass' Cassling, with their new Gold Comstar

STORMONT COCKTAIL PARTY

During a recent visit to Northern Ireland, **Mr Roy Mason** attended a Cocktail Party for Junior Ranks serving in Northern Ireland, held at Stormont. Chosen to represent 233 were **LCpl Mick Tanser** and his wife, **Pte Katrina Tanser. Mr Mason** was presented with a birthday cake which had been iced to depict a coal mine. A good evening was had by all who attended. The photograph shows **LCpl Mick Tanser** and **Pte Katrina Tanser** having their invitation card signed by **Mr Roy Mason.**

FAREWELL TO WO2 (RQMS) JOHN HEPWORTH

The Lisburn Garrison Sergeants Mess was the setting on Friday 20 May when **WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth** asked his 'Q Cronies' of the last two years to join him in a lunchtime farewell drinks party. **RQMS Hepworth** who has now left us for 227 Sig Sqn had the tables turned on him when the OC, **Maj Peter Chaddock,** watched by **Maj Jim Crow** of CR Signals Branch, presented him with his LS & GC suitably mounted for the occasion. The RQ was speechless (for about three seconds) and then proceeded to push the boat out even further! **Ron Russell** is our new RQMS.



Left: LCpl Mick Tanser. *Centre:* Pte Katrina Tanser. Having their invitation card signed by Mr Roy Mason



Left: WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth. *Centre:* Maj John Crow. *Right:* Maj Peter Chaddock. The moment of presentation with the LS & GC mounted in the glass!

We have just heard, that **WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth** has been awarded the BEM for his service in Northern Ireland, and we would like to send him our congratulations.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

233 Sports Teams have continued to be involved in most events both in Lisburn and UK.

RUGBY

The seven-a-side Rugby Team chosen from: **Sgt 'Tab' Hunter, Cpl 'Wellie' Weatheritt, Cpl Mick Parsons, Cpl Billy Allen, Cpl 'Dougie' Ellis, LCpl 'Mo' Eyre, LCpl John Rose, Sig Simon Rose and Sig 'Taff' Rumble** earned a place in the Army Finals at Aldershot on 26 April.

As the only minor unit we were a little out of our depth, but were not disgraced. Capt Ian Morris, Team Manager, chaperoned our hatted heroes to Aldershot and back without mishap and gave this report:

'The Squadron took part in the Courage Sevens held at Aldershot, Wednesday 26 April 1978. Having played teams such as Dutch Army, 8 Sig Regt and 47 Medium Regt RA, they were eventually knocked out in the semi-final of the Plate competition. Being the only minor unit in the contest, 233 Sig Sqn were only once decisively beaten — and that was by 8 Sig Regt who eventually went on to win the plate competition. Although it is difficult to select a star of the team, **Cpl Wellie Weatheritt** played exceptionally well in all phases of play despite a knee injury.'

SWIMMING

The Northern Ireland stage of the Army Minor Units Swimming Championships was held at Palace Barracks Holywood on 3 May. We took second place from 2 Fd Sqn RE.

CRICKET

We set off to a good start in defence of the Northern Ireland Minor Units KO Cup. We disposed of 12 Int & Sy Coy in the first round by scoring 192—**Sgt Mick Kilvington** 88, **Sgt Mick Lloyd** 41. 12 Int replied with 116—**Sgt Mick Kilvington** 3 for 8, **Sgt Mick Lloyd** 4 for 6. We beat 39 Bde Sig Sqn in the next round and the final is on 14 July.

TUG OF WAR

The heavyweight team has qualified for the UK finals on 21 June 1978. The final word has been given to Tech Troop who, although very busy have found time to provide most of the athletics team, and to write the following:

A PICTURE OF THE WORKSHOPS

'One of the most common sights in the Workshops these days are the small groups of T2 Corporals clustered around **WO2 Joe (FofS) (Brainiac) Smith.** They are arranged in strict seniority according to the type of calculator owned. The T1 Sergeants hang around the edges of these groups fingering sliderules and log tables—yes, the T1 entrance time is with us again. Air, thick with the smoke of burning the candle at both ends, no longer hums with 'world' talk. The only cries to be heard are how many programme steps/memories etc.

In the contest to see who can scrounge the most ciggies without being shamed into buying a packet, there is no clear cut winner—no one's bought any yet so we're all thinking about giving up!

A 7lb radio relay tech was born on 13 May to **Mrs Bev Roberts,** wife of **Sgt Andy** (of the same name) we send them our congratulations and good luck to **Craig** at the start of his 'long tour'. We moistened his head with a bottle of champaign (between 25), but it was enough for a few bubbles each!

ATHLETICS

The Inter-Troop Competition was won by Tech Troop with a clear 14 points over Admin/Delta Troops. The Tech Troop 4×100m relay team of **Sgt Jim Turner, Cpl B Billy Allen, Cpl Mick Parsons** and **LCpl John Rose** equalled the Army standard time of 46 seconds. We are told by Tech Troop that when a 'crate for the troop' was suggested the TOT **(Maj Gil Sharp)** broke another record (in a cloud of dust and small pebbles) towards his quarter, and wasn't seen until Monday morning!

The Squadron team, guided by **Sgt Don Robertson,** won the Northern Ireland minor units championship on 31 May and qualified for the Western Area Championships in Tidworth on 7 June. We heard this morning that the team qualified for the Army Finals by finishing second to the Prince of Wales Division by three points. Good luck for the finals.

The photograph shows the Athletics team, flushed with success, after their win in the Northern Ireland Championships.



THE ATHLETIC TEAM

Back row—*Left to right:* Capt Alan Chapman, LCpl Bob McQueen, Cpl Alex Middleton, Maj Peter Chaddock (OC Squadron), Sgt Don Robertson (Team Capt) and Cpl Billy Allen

Front row—*Left to right:* LCpl 'Mo' Eyre, LCpl John Rose, Cpl Mick Parsons, Sig Bob Hutchison, Cpl John Marshall

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School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

INVASION

ON Wednesday, 12 April, 1978, the School was invaded! At 1015hrs the Vanguard hit the main entrance, arriving in a black Mercedes 280 SE, and promptly set up a stronghold in the office of OC Officers Group. They strengthened their position by recruiting three of their countrymen from the Overseas TE course, and by 1045hrs had managed to get at the coffee before the home forces knew it was there. At 1000hrs the main body arrived in a requisitioned 'National' luxury coach, which was their first mistake; obviously the commander thought that Blandford was still in the grip of the snow, hence his choice of a white vehicle. Because of this, they were seen some distance away, and for a short time the Commandant and GSO1 were able to hold off the opposing force, dazzling them with a display of Number 2 dress and charm. Unfortunately, we were overwhelmingly outnumbered, and joining forces with the Vanguard, they devoured the rest of the coffee. Adopting a policy of 'If you can't beat 'em, then join 'em', the Commandant and his staff spent the remainder of the day educating and entertaining the visitors.

MANY FOREIGN ARMIES REPRESENTED

On a more serious note, the visitors were, as can be seen from the photograph, a party of senior signals officers from foreign armies, in England for three weeks at the invitation of the Defence Sales Organisation to visit Defence electronics firms and view what they have to offer. Part of their programme is to visit the School, to hear what the British Army is taking into service, and something of the procurement cycle leading up to the in-service date. Of course, the content of our presentations was selected so that only equipment and systems available for purchase were talked about. Consequently Larkspur and Bruin were not featured, but Ptarmigan and Clansman took a major part of the day. The Chief Instructor occupied part of the afternoon with a talk on the courses offered to overseas students, which was particularly relevant as some of the visitors had already met students on Number 4 Overseas TE Course from their own countries at lunch in Headquarters Mess. The day's formal events ended with tea in the Museum, when each visitor was presented with a suitably inscribed copy of 'Through To 1970' as a souvenir of their visit.

As the party was staying overnight in a local hotel, a guest night was held for them in Headquarters Mess—albeit hosts and guests were in lounge suits rather than uniform. As always, the Corps band entertained royally and our guests went home happy, and not unimpressed by the professionalism and traditions of the Corps.



6 STARS!
Brig J. H. Hild (Commandant School of Signals), Lt Gen Husnu Celenkler (Chief of Communications Turkish Armed Forces), Maj Gen Ghorbanian (Director Comms & Electronics/D Comd Ops & Int, Imperial Iranian Ground Forces)



Back: Maj W. J. P. Robins (Att MDS3), Lt Col Ahmed (Malaysia), Col Mifetu (Ghana), Col Adeen (Iraq), Capt Larbi (Algeria), Maj Aduwesi (Nigeria), Col Khogali (Sudan), Capt Djoudi (Algeria), Maj P. B. Webster (MDS1d)
Front: Maj Maniea (S. Arabia), Col Pitoya (Indonesia), Brig J. H. Hild, MBE, Col Fahad (Kuwait), Maj Gen Ghorbanian (Iran), Lt Gen Celenkler (Turkey), Maj Gen Fouad (Egypt), Col Aduloju (Nigeria), Col Gomez (Phillipines), Capt Faisal (Kuwait), Lt Col G. Barnett, MBE.

Magnetron Mark II

Report by Capt (TOT) E. Short, Trials Squadron, School of Signals

MANY of you will have seen Magnetron, the mechanical man which is used as the focal point for the Royal Signals Demonstration Team's static stand. The present robot is old and travel-weary, and so the School of Signals was tasked with the production of a new and more up to date model.

The actual production was divided between two departments in the School: Training Aids Workshop, who were responsible for the metal work and mechanical aspects, whilst the Development Troop of Trials Squadron designed and built the electronics equipment to control the various functions. The robot constructed of stainless steel, is some 9ft 6in high. The right arm moves up and down and the head nods and traverses left and right. Movement is activated by three electric motors geared down for slow movements, controlled by the electronic unit, and mounted in the head and chest. **Mr Ron Farrant,** who is the Supervisor Training Aids Workshops, was responsible for the mechanical design; the metal work was carried out by **Mr Ian Strevens** and **Mr Paul Grant,** carpentry by **Mr Les Robbins** and **Mr Roy Howe.** They did an excellent job.

Questions and Answer Technique

The basic operation of Magnetron is initiated by onlookers in the crowd asking him a question through a microphone attached to his stomach. After a short delay Magnetron will then answer that question. The communication channel between the robot and the answer researchers, located in a nearby vehicle, is a pair of Pye Pocketfone radios. The radio in Magnetron is mounted in the plinth, with the antenna on a shoulder and the loudspeaker mounted in the chest. The electonic circuitry for Magnetron employs solid state techniques throughout and the control box is again mounted in the plinth. The design of the circuitry was started by **Sgt Taff Evans,** who has since left us for SHAPE, and the work was eventually completed by **Sgt Dave Dodd** as his introductory task on joining Development Troop.



Sgt Dave Dodd — trying to get it right, the knitting on the left was only a test rig!

THREE MODES

The various functions of Magnetron, which operate depending on the mode in which he is in, are:

- Eyes, a cluster of bulbs which are illuminated in a contra-rotating sequence.
- Control circuits for head and arm movement.
- A large illuminated M on the chest which ripples through light and then dark, or flashes on and off.
- Seven segment number displays which run through at different rates.
- An illuminated mouth which flashes in sympathy with the received audio.
- A 'burble' sound to give the impression of 'things' happening within the robot.
- A metallic voice effect on the received audio at the robot.

Magnetron has three modes of operation, Think, Listen and Answer. In the think mode, which is the quiescent condition, all the lights are flashing, the head and arms move occasionally and 'burbles' emanate from the loudspeaker. The listen mode, is activated when a question is asked of Magnetron. The 'burble' stops, the head traverses left and right and all the lights continue to flash. When Magnetron receives the Answer from the remote operator the answer mode is automatically selected. The head nods and traverses and the arm moves up and down. The M flashes on and off whilst the number display stops. The answer is now given in a metallic tone.

Rewarding project

The whole machine is powered by batteries which are also located in what is now a pretty crowded plinth. As a project, Magnetron has proved interesting and rewarding for all those involved in its construction. Several unique electronic techniques have been employed, the research into which should benefit our future development work. It must be said however, that there were some mighty sighs of relief when Magnetron finally shook hands with the Commandant one extremely cold morning in February and was finally welcomed into the Corps.



FIRST PERFORMANCE
Magnetron meets the Commandant, Brig J. H. Hild, MBE, others in the picture are *left to right:* Sgt Dave Dodd, Capt Ernie Short, Maj John Bevan, Mr Ron Farrant, Mr Ian Strevens, Mr Les Robbins

School of Signals Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset

THE SPORTING SCENE

NOW that the Rugby, Football and Hockey seasons are over the Regiment can look back with pride and satisfaction in the efforts of the Regimental Teams.

RUGBY REPORT

The Rugby Team, after a mediocre start to the season, improved with every match they played. The season culminated in the South West District Cup and three very hard matches. The quarter final was against 22 Engineer Regt, twice previous winners of the cup, but after a very hard fought match the Regiment avenged their previous defeat by winning 10—4. In the Semi Final we met the 17/21 Lancers, who had beaten us at the beginning of the season but were to lose on this occasion by 17—4. The Final was against the Royal School of Artillery and proved to be a most entertaining and hard fought game. The game started with the Gunners running in an early try and despite plenty of effort Signals had to change round at half time to play up hill trailing four points to three. However, Team Captain **Sgt Steve Randle** instructed his team to open out and use their most effective play and by full time both wingers, **2Lt George Whyman** and **Cpl Elton Prince,** also the inside centre **Sgt Graham Atkinson** had scored tries; one of the tries was converted by **Cpl Steve Caddywould** to give the Signals a total of 17 points. A period of hard pressure late in the second half by the Gunners resulted in a try but it was not enough to prevent the Regiment winning the Cup with a final score of 17—8.



Standing left to right: Lt Brian Meachin (Rugby Officer), 2Lt Peter Telford, 2Lt Adam Ewell, Cpl John Spencer, Capt Nick Williams, Sgt Geoff Taylor, Sig 'Blue' Mason, Sig John Baxter
Sitting left to right: Cpl Elton Prince, 2Lt George Whyman, 2Lt Mike Gilyeat, Sgt Steve Randle (Team Captain) Sgt Dave Pinder, 2Lt Paul King, Sgt Sid Soqo. Not present at the photo but in the final: Sgt Graham Atkinson, Sgt Kent Preston and Cpl Steve Caddywould



Back row, left to right: Cpl Fox (Freddie), Musn Jenkins (Jinks), Cpl Kitson (Kitty), Musn Cawte (Jasper), Musn Green (Tubby), Musn Hawes (Bill) Musn Toole (Pete)
Front row, left to right: Musn Lugg (Kev), Musn Beasley (Beano), Musn Rackstraw (Sid), Sgt McKeen (Jim) Captain, Musn Vincent (Ray), Musn Gray (Calan)

SOCCER SUCCESS

The football team has had a season of unparalleled achievement, the team has risen from the doldrums of the last few years to become champions of the First Division of the Salisbury Plain League and reached the quarter finals of the Army Cup, the SOWDIST Major Units and the Salisbury Plain Premier League.

There is now no optimism but a foregone conclusion according to three of the more prominent members of the team: **Al (don't do too much) Verdon, Dave (gone to the JRC) Rogers** and our Captain, **Brian (I'm Captain cos it's my ball) Faulkner.**



Back row from left to right: LCpl Chas Upfield, Sig Alan Verdon, Sig Nick (Kaiser) Pollard, Sig 'Brum' Hopcroft, Cpl Terry Lofthouse, LCpl 'Scouse' Palmer, LCpl Bob (Teeth) Davies, Sig Dave Cairnes, LCpl Doug Ratcliffe
Front row left to right: Musn Ray (Drums) Vincent, Cpl Dave Rogers, Sgt Brian Faulkner (Captain), Capt D. G. Ellen (Oi/c Soccer), SSgt T. R. Commons (Author/Manager), Cpl Dave Gunn (Vice Captain), LCpl Chris (Chopper) Ball
Absent on duty: Cpl 'Dinga' Bell, LCpl Phil Dyson, Sgt Bob Cunnion

CORPS BAND IN NEW AND SUCCESSFUL ROLE

The Corps Band Football Team, not to be outdone by the Regimental Teams and despite heavy commitments, won the SOWDIST Band Football League. The League comprises Bands stationed in the District and is run on a 'knock out' basis. During the three seasons since its formation it has included teams from the Bands of the Royal Artillery, the RAC Junior Leaders Regiment, 14/20th Hussars, 15/5th Lancers, 2nd Bn Queens Regiment and 2nd Bn Royal Anglian. The Corps Band has remained unbeaten throughout the three seasons of the competition; it has become a regular event for the President of the League, Director of Music, **Maj (now Lt Col) Keith Boulding,** to present the shield to his own team.

GOOD HOCKEY SEASON

The Hockey team, despite the weather and the Firemen's strike, had a very good season losing only five games of the 23 played. They reached the semi final of the Army Cup and were unlucky to lose to the MOD Team by 3—2. (There was some consolation in the fact that the MOD team were fielding no less than five Royal Signals Officers). The team was also unfortunate to lose 1—0 to the Royal School of Artillery in the final of the SOWDIST Cup; however they were successful in winning the SOWDIST Six-a-Side Competition. A photograph of the team is not available but readers will probably recognise some of the following names who have also represented the Corps regularly during the season: **Capt Roger Barry, Capt John Stuart, Sgt Mike South, Sgt Paddy Coburn, Cpl Charles Hook** and **Sig Billy Calder.**

AN UNUSUAL PRESENTATION

The beautiful snow leopard skin shown in the photograph was presented to the Corps Band by **Mrs Pamela Creach** of Okeford Fitzpane. She believes the leopard was shot by her father in the Himalayas during the early part of this century. It is fully lined with grey silk and was worn by her mother as a cloak. It is hoped the skin will replace the rather worn one currently used by the Drum Major of the Corps Band. The Band, in appreciation of this fine gift, under the direction of **Maj (now Lt Col) Keith Boulding,** gave **Mrs Creach** a private performance of two of their most popular numbers.



Left to right: WO1 (BSM) Jimmy Greer, Director of Music Maj Keith Boulding, Lt Jane Petty WRAC, Cpl David Daniels (holding the old skin), Mrs Pamela Creach, Lt Col (Retd) H. G. S. Burkitt Band Secretary

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate



Sgt 'Dusty' Miller leads the way as the Commandant and Betty enjoy their 'send off', even in the snow. LCpl Les Holden follows on

Photo: Capt N. D. Illman Royal Signals

FARE WELL TO COMMANDANT

The **Commandant** and **Mrs Ramsbottom, Freddie** and **Betty,** were seen off from the College Officers Mess in the style befitting his rank and long service. On Saturday 8 April 1978 they were guests of honour at a Ladies Dinner Night in the Officers Mess. At this function the Corps Band played, followed by the Corps Trumpeters. After dinner the College Pipe Major played. The other guests were **Maj and Mrs George Harrison** (R Signals on retirement) **Maj and Mrs Albert Beasley** (RAEC on retirement) and **Capt and Mrs Jack Amberton** (departing on posting). The Chief Instructor, **Lt Col Plant R Signals,** made the speech thanking the guests for their efforts and presented those going on retirement with a small farewell gift. To everybody's delight **Col Freddie** and **Betty** were presented with a Garden Seat made in Burma Teak. It then remained only for **Col Freddie** to entertain us with one of his usual excellent after dinner speeches.

IN STYLE

However, there was still one more big surprise for **Col Freddie** and **Betty** before they were allowed to finally depart the College. On Graduation day, after all the luncheon guests had left, the College RSM, **WO1 P. F. Richardson** Grenadier Guards, appeared as if by magic in the Officers Mess. The RSM was of course fully dressed in all his finery. He requested the Commandant to follow him. Outside the Mess entrance was the College mascot 'Col Johnny' together with a fine old fashioned trap. A thousand or more ex A/T's will of course remember 'Colonel Johnny' the College mascot. Away went the pony and trap with the Band playing. The route from the Officers Mess to Hilderbrand Barracks entrance was lined by cheering Apprentices, staff and civilian members of the College along with their families. Television cameras ran, press flashlights worked and the snow fell. Snow, well Harrogate is in Yorkshire and it was only 13 April.

HORIZONTAL SNOWSTORM FOR SPRING GRADUATION

One of the most endearing characteristics of last term's senior 'graduate', **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** is his sense of humour. This was never better exemplified than by his decision to hold the Graduation Parade out of doors — in what a BBC radio reporter aptly described as 'a horizontal snowstorm'. In spite of this, the parade reached a remarkably high standard: small wonder that **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson,** the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Reviewing Officer for the day, later congratulated **A/T RSM Chris Skelton** on his 'polished and self-confident performance.' One's heart bled, though, for the members of the gallant Bands, to whom frozen reeds and fingers were a constant menace — and, for the record, it was Thursday 13 April.

Speaking at Prize-giving the Commandant thanked parents for their help in the College's task of 'turning schoolboys into soldiers.' Describing the training as 'tough but fun', he said that this had been 'a jolly good Senior term: You have worked hard — well, *most* of you have. Set your sights high and enjoy yourselves in the future: if you do, you will do well.'

Gen Anderson echoed **Col Ramsbottom's** sentiments in advising the 'graduates' to 'keep up the pressure and continue the habit of study.' He congratulated all those who had been on parade, as well as the prizewinners, and thanked **Col and Mrs Ramsbottom** for all their hard work during their time at the College.

Before presenting the Borough of Harrogate Essay Prizes the Mayor, **Councillor W. R. Mather,** said that there was on the Continent great respect for Great Britain, and much of this was based on her Army. He hoped that those posted to BAOR would remember this and regard themselves as ambassadors of Great Britain.

GRADUATION AND SPRING TERM PRIZES

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD (for the best all-round Apprentice of the term)—won by **A/T SSM I. L. Guthrie.**

SIGNALS OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD (for the best all-round Tradesman of the term)—won by **A/T LCpl A. J. Ridley.**

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE (for Conduct, Discipline and Example)—won by **A/T RSM C. W. Skelton.**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE (for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College)— won by **A/T LCpl A. J. Ridley.**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE to the best Apprentice of the Term in each Trade:

Technician—Terminal Equipment—won by **A/T LCpl A. J. Ridley.**

Telegraphist—Radio—won by **A/T LCpl M. Hearn.**

Data—won by **A/T LCpl P. M. Boon.**

EDUCATION PRIZES (for the best academic progress during their time at the College):

Technician—won by **A/T Cpl S. A. Overton.**

Telegraphist—won by **A/T LCpl P. M. Boon.**

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZES (for the best essay on local government):

Technician—won by **A/T A. D. Lidstone.**

Telegraphist—won by **A/T F. F. Taylor.**

THE CHAMPION SQUADRON CUP— won by **Scott Squadron.**

EXERCISE COLD COMFORT

Suggest to an Apprentice Tradesman that he might enjoy climbing 2,500ft with a heavy rucksack on his back in temperatures below -10°C and he will probably write home and tell Mum that he is surrounded by nut-cases (maybe he already has). Then tell him that you want him to throw himself off the side of a snow slope and stop his fall by using a sawn-off pick-axe and the image is finally confirmed. Nevertheless, over 200 Apprentice Tradesmen did both those things and survived to tell the tale, *and* they enjoyed it . . . These pursuits were carried out in the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland in January and February this year during Scotland's worst winter for 30 years.



Cross-Country Skiing. Capt Jack Amberton and A/T O'Donaghue



'I left you in this position . . .' (A/T's Lister and Hope)



After only half a day's instruction A/T Slater rapidly approaches lesson two . . .

Our annual winter external leadership exercise has now firmly established itself in the College curriculum and provides a unique opportunity for Apprentice Tradesmen to get to grips with snow climbing, cross country ski-ing and winter mountaineering under the watchful eye of our own College instructors.

Apart from the activities already mentioned, Apprentice Tradesmen also had a go at downhill ski-ing, ice-skating, orienteering, and sliding down mountains on:—

Poly bags
Map cases
Shovels
Other A/T's
Small avalanches
Civilian ski-ers

Further instruction was also given on Scottish country dancing, porridge eating, snow holing, igloo building and reindeer spotting. In fact, a good time was had by one and all.



'It's nice when you stop'. A/T's Turner, Timmins, Ffitch, Farmer, Cressey, Elliott, Minns, Catterall, all of Phillips Squadron



'I think I'm enjoying this . . .' (A/T Hawley Penney Squadron)



Snow Climbing? 'Magic . . .'



'Are you sure this is the Top?' (A/T's Hawley, Townsend, Proctor, of Penny Squadron)



'On top of the world'. A/T Ranier and (just visible) A/T Townsend (Penny Squadron)

ELECTRONICS WING REPORT

Much has been happening since the wing last put pen to paper. **Maj George Harrison** has left us for civilian life after a long career within the Corps, having originally enlisted into 'F' Coy in 1937. We wish him well for the future. **Capt (TOT) Tom Stoddart MBE** has taken his place as OC Electronics wing. Also going into retirement after many years service to the College is **Mr Jack Tyler. Jack** is retiring early due to ill health and I am sure that the multitude of people within the Corps who know him will wish him a happy retirement.

The Wing has gone through reorganisation to update our teaching. An enlarged digital techniques syllabus is now used, and it is hoped that this will enable the student to cope better with the type of equipment coming into use with the Ptarmigan era.

We would like to welcome **Don Butchers** into the wing and also congratulate him on his promotion to Staff Sergeant. Also we extend the same welcome to **Sgt Dave Bailey.**

TELEGRAPHIST WING IN GOOD HEART

The Wing is in particularly good heart at present, thanks largely to the Officer in Charge of Manning and Records for posting in our second Yeoman. We are now nearly up to strength on NCO instructors and the relief on the faces of the staff generally is quite heartening. Not

that we are an unhappy lot — quite the opposite in fact — as our spouses and bank managers will confirm . . .

We continue to turn-out high quality telegraphists for the Corps and enjoy the challenge and the fast tempo of College life. The Clansman era, which if not actually here, is only around the corner and we feel like many others that HF may well burgeon forth like our dreams of how our gardens ought to bloom but rarely do. So far our Clansman experience is limited to the VRC 321 but working to an Armd Div in BAOR on SSB on low power can't be bad and augurs well for the future.

Welcome (To the Wing and the floral town of Europe) — **Yeoman Chippy Wood, Yeoman Ross Graham, Sgt Mick Ledger** and their families.

Departures **Yeoman Dave Gilchrist** to the RMAS and **Sgt John Perkins** to recruiting in Essex. Good luck chaps and thanks for all your efforts.

Congratulations **Sgt Pete Tharme** on successfully weathering the whole Yeoman selection process and being elected for Course No 31. **Cpl and Mrs Mick Brown** on the birth of their son **Christopher.**

COLLEGE CANOEING

After an unusually quiet Spring term, Canoeists have in the first three weeks of the Summer term competed in two meetings. A novices slalom event run by Leeds Canoe Club at Glasshouses proved to get the paddlers into the right frame of mind for the Army Slalom Championships at Llandysul on 26-28 May. The official results are not yet available but all ten Apprentices and two permanent staff **(Capt John Cornforth** and **Cpl Terry Gildert)** all did particularly well. Prize winners were the A Team which became the Army Junior Team Champions **(A/T SSM Ian Philo, A/T Cpl's Mike Owens** and **Ian Dobson). Ian Dobson** was runner up in the novices event out of some 52 competitors.

COLLEGE RUGBY: 1977-78

One of the school activities that have suffered most since the 'comprehensivisation' programme became established must surely be that of rugby. The evidence comes in the form of the very small number of ex-schoolboys arriving at the College who have ever played rugby before. Thus, one was very grateful when realising, in September 77, that a fair proportion of the previous season's team was still in College.

Right from the start of the season, with scales of summer rust shedding less in every game, the team showed that what it lacked in individual skill was going to be made up with whole-hearted effort (Ripon GS 10—12; Bradford 30—0). We unfortunately met Wakefield during the intitial settling-down period and the fact that this team (like most of the town sides against which we played) had trained and played together for six years showed in their winning score-line (4—30). Wakefield and Pontefract (10—22) are the two strongest Colt teams in the north, and their pitches provided a good 'training ground' for us. Our pack, with stalwarts like **'Big' Smith, Oakes, Peacock** and **Cullingworth** at the back, and the front play of **Price, Jacques, Aslett** and **Bell,** caused admiration in several rugby strongholds. In that first half of the season, the three-quarters only showed flashes of playing together, but whenever they did, spectators were entertained with really good rugby; Chepstow 14—10, Prince Henry's GS 20—6.

Exercises were playing their usual havoc with getting the squad together in spite of the excellent co-operation of all Training departments within the College. By shortly after Christmas, we were able to field two strong XVs — until the very severe weather iced-up all the pitches! After a very good victory over the Police College (20—6), there were three cancellations and a cup match postponement. With an excellent match then against Queen Elizabeth's GS (16—18), the backs started to show improvement — **Simpkins** making breaks, **McCreedy** running straight and hard, **Rose** using his speed, and **Wilson,** at full-back, tackling everything (!) in sight. All well supported by that tireless workhorse (and team captain) **'Taff' Leyman,** at scrum-half . . . .

The best all-round team performance of the season undoubtedly came in the Army Cup semi-final against SEME (Bordon), won by them (12—8) through, literally, a last-minute try. But to all who saw the match, it was a proud day for the Apprentices.

The end of our season was notable for three things—a rugby disaster against Pontefract; a rewarding and enjoyable College seven-a-side tournament in which every Squadron entered two teams (won by Rawson); and some magnificent rugby played by the two College teams in the NE/NW Districts' 'Sevens' Tournament. The College 'A' team, after having eliminated 8 Sigs 'B', 3 LI 'B', RAF Catterick 'A' and the Royal Scots DG 'A' was just beaten in the semi-final by 3 LI 'A' whilst playing six men against seven for virtually the whole match. Heroes all!

Our thanks are overdue to those members of the PS who have contributed so much to improving the level of rugby throughout the College during this season: **WO2 Bancroft** as rugby 2i/c and fixture Secretary; that fine 'veteran' troupe of referees—**Lt Col Plant, Maj Beasley** and the **Rev Heagerty;** and, for their splendid spectator support (in so often inclement weather), the Commandant, CI and SEO. Thank you all!

And 'good luck, College!' for next season!



COLLEGE RUGBY SQUAD: 1977-78

Back row: Capt D. J. Mahoney RAEC, A/T Price, LCpl Gill, Jacques, LCpl Bell, Wordsworth, LCpl Baker, Batten, Sgt McCreedy, LCpl Aslett, Owen, WO2 Bancroft, Rev A. Heagerty, RAChD. *Front row:* A/T Wilson, Sgt Cable, LCpl Holton, Cpl Richards, LCpl Simpkins (V. Capt), Capt),Mathews, Evans, Cpl Dale, Richards. *Absent:* A/T LCpl Leyman (Capt), LCpl Smith, LCpl Killen, LCpl Oakes, LCpl Peacock, LCpl Cullingworth, LCpl Rose, WO2 Robinson

News from Regiments

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

THE HEAT ARRIVES

Since our last edition summer has finally arrived and yet another 'Falcon' has flown and gone to ground again. For our most recent Regimental Exercise, *Spring Rites*, we were treated to a sweltering heatwave and the entire Regiment boiled slowly for five days.

SHOOTING

The Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting was held on 3 and 5 May on Horsten Ranges near Hohne. We were presented with two excellent days shooting with the eventual outcome of a clean sweep for HQ Squadron. Not only did they provide the overall winning team and the falling plate winners but also the Champion at Arms and runner up. Congratulations to them on some first class shooting. Using the Regimental Meeting as a chance to talent spot, our shooting officer, **Capt (Tfc) Keith Dewis,** formed the Regimental Team. After very few training sessions the team were successful in winning the Divisional Skill at Arms Meeting amidst some fierce competition. It is now 'all systems go' for the Regular Army Meeting at Bisley.



The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Davies presents Cpl Pete Grainger (RCT) with the Champion at Arms Trophy

VISIT OF C IN C BAOR

On Thursday 13 April the Commander in Chief BAOR, **Gen Sir Frank King** visited Verden Station. During his visit **Gen King** was shown various aspects of life within the Regiment. The C in C was then entertained to lunch in the WOs and Sergeants Mess during which he presented no less than nine LS & GC medals and also the Meritorious Service Medal to **Mr 'Paddy' McLaughlin** an ex RQMS (Admin) of the Regiment now living locally.



RECIPIENTS OF LS and GC and MSM

Back row—SSgt A. W. Baker RA, Sgt A. H. Metcalf RTR, Sgt A. Thompson RAOC, SSgt C. Kelly RTR, Sgt 'George' Holden
Front row—Sgt A. Kendall 9/12L, Mr 'Paddy' McLaughlin, CinC BAOR, WO1 (RSM) Kevin Cheetham, CO, WO1 (FofS) Bob Scriven, Sgt F. Robinson RCT



The CinC BAOR talks with Sig David Elston and Cpl Les Hoehne. Sig Cliff Brown is trying to look busy on set while Capt Hugh Coyle our Canadian exchange officer looks on

NATIONAL PRINTING AWARD

LCpl Nigel Lawn was recently presented with the British Printing Society's Overseas Award for 1977 by the Commanding Officer. In his letter the President of the British Printing Society said 'The award is in recognition of **LCpl Lawn's** considerable skill in letterpress printing both professionally and as a member of our Society. He has kept the banner flying for the British Printing Society among the British Forces overseas.'



LCpl Nigel Lawn with his wife and daughter receiving the British Printing Society's Overseas Award from the CO Lt Col Peter Davies

COOKERY COMPETITION

In April, Verden was the place for gourmets as we hosted the Divisional Cookery Competition. Not only did we host it but we also won the team event and the Junior Individual and came second and third in two other classes. Well done the cooks of the Regiment! A special mention must be made of **LCpl Fee** who, having won the Divisional Junior Individual prize, went on to win the BAOR and finally finished third in the Army Finals.



Sgt Walton (*left*) and LCpl Player of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on their way to winning the team trophy



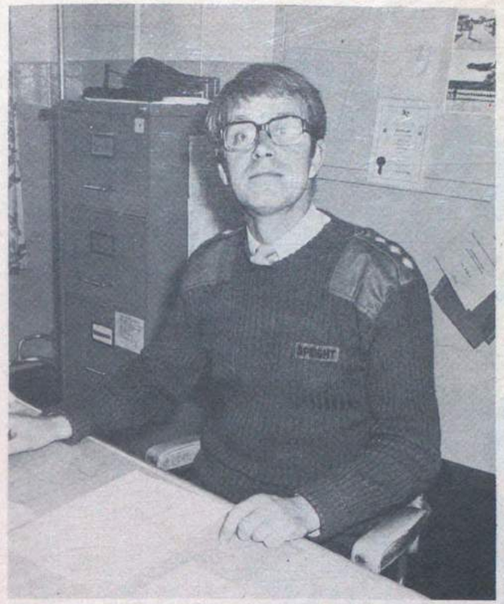
The first message transmitted from Hohne Comcen. From *left to right:* WO2 (YofS) Badger, Brig Watkins, Maj Neil Walter—Second in Command representing the CO

COMMCEN OPENING

It is with pleasure that we can now announce the official opening of Hohne Static Commcen. The opening was performed by **Brig Watkins,** Commander Hohne Garrison and our photograph shows the transmission of the first message from the Commcen.

QM(TECH)

Parting is such sweet sorrow and it is indeed with sorrow that we say farewell to **Capt (QM) Chris Speight.** To have successfully guided the Regiment through restructuring is alone a tribute, but to have done it with **Chris's** indestructable sense of humour is something else. We wish him every success and good luck at his new post in Northern Ireland.



'Beware Belligerent Quartermaster'. Every Regiment should have one. Capt (QM) Chris Speight strikes a 'steely eyed' pose

VERDEN GOES 'NATIONWIDE'

A BBC Nationwide film crew recently visited us to make a film for a programme on life in BAOR. Their tour of units included an interview with three wives of the Regiment.



In the photograph we see the ladies 'under the camera'. They are from *left to right* **Mrs Eva Baron, Mrs Diane Kirkman** and **Mrs Marion Dunn** in our local coffee shop. The interview covered their thoughts on the latest pay review and general impressions of life in Germany.

SPORT

Our main activity at the moment is Athletics. 4 Squadron were victorious in the Regimental inter-Squadron competition and the Regimental team 'ran out' winner of the Divisional Inter-Unit Competition. We now go forward to the BAOR Competition on 1 July. A mention must be given here of **Sgt George Holden** (seen above, incidentally, receiving his LS & GC) whose continuing efforts on both track and cross country rarely fail to see off opposition and reflects the dedication and hard work that he puts in. His latest success is a victory in the BAOR individual 5,000 metres.

OUTSTANDING ALFA TWO TROOP AT 2 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

Having already convinced our avid readers that 2 Squadron are the greatest, it should come as no surprise to learn that the most outstanding troop is ALFA TWO. Who else could be entrusted with the protection of the Squadron Bar Fridge, for the trip up to Bumble Bee Kaserne, near Rendsburg, where the Squadron held its summer shooting camp? Having settled in to the luxurious accommodation, organised by the **SQMS Taff Elliott,** a quick recce of the town was carried out by the experienced members of the troop. The discos, bars and establishments of ill repute were vetted to ensure that the younger members of the Troop would be suitably educated, by the end of the week.

On day one of the actual training, **Cpl Steve 'Fuzzy' Fuszard** was made the platoon commander for the week, much to his surprise and the troop's amusement. Infantry training under the eagle eyes of **Capt James 'Stretch' Shaw, Cpl George (?) McIntosh** and **Sgt 'I've never done this before' Lee Johnson,** comprised basic field craft skills, safety demonstrations and pyrotechnics and dry section attacks. After watching some films either side of the lunch break, the troop was split into three sections commanded by **Cpl Willie Stone, Cpl Des 'Bionic Hips' Davoll** and **Cpl Dave 'Wheres McLean' Weston.** This mighty band of warriors then advanced to contact, eventually putting in a spirited, unconventional attack on an enemy position, dug-in in a wood. **YofS Charlie Rodgers** added to the confusion by screaming abuse about fire positions and speed of movement and has since become an honorary, if not an honorable member of the troop. **Sig Geordie Shave,** simulating an A41, acted as the runner and has since decided to revert to the sedentary job of a detachment operator.

DAY AT KIEL

Day two was a day out at Kiel, despite the protestations of **Sgt 'Suuuper' Tony Bowen,** who wanted to go to Ekernforde to carry on where he left off last year. Suffice it to say that the troop was dropped off on the shady side of town and that is where we will draw the veil over any further activities.

EARLY SPLIT

Day three was spent on the ranges, where the entire troop passed their APWT with one exception. It was however during the night that the troop really shone in more ways than one. An intrepid band of 16 men formed the meanest fighting patrol seen in Germany, since that last major exercise, which finished in 45. For 250yds all went well, then much to **Fuzzy Fuszard's** amazement, he found himself with only half of his patrol. It could have been one of the longest patrols in history, but the gentle nudges of **Capt Stretch Shaw** persuaded **'Fuzzy'** to carry on without the others. **Cpl Jesse James** leading the other half obviously had similar ideas and pressed on. Their ultimate coming together can only be described as spectacular. Both halves of the patrol met right at one of the enemy ambush positions. Thunderflashes, trip flares, LMG's, screams, smoke and abuse were spread about in liberal quantities. The noise and light were spectacular and the casualties were numerous. **LCpl Podge Macfarlane, Cpl Dave Weston, Sig John Fragola, Cpl Jeff Hodge, Sig Danny Maskell, Cpl Des Davoll, Sig Geordie Shave, LCpl Scouse Darracott** and **Cpl Jesse James** all bit the dust. Having collected together the dead, the remainder of the platoon took part in a final company attack, before returning weary but in fine heart to Bumble Bee Kaserne.

NEAR CLEAN SWEEP

The final day was spent in a relaxed manner doing NBC tests, abseiling from helicopters, riding motor bikes, playing volley ball and doing a rover obstacle course. The troop took away all the prizes except one—the shooting cup—which went to 3 troop. Having held the cup for the last two years we felt that the squadron fund could not afford a new one, if we won again, so obligingly we came second by one third of a second in the falling plate. There is no doubt Alfa Two Troop are outstanding, as our boss says.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

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TOWNSEND THORESEN
The European Ferries

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 106

FULLY OPERATIONAL

THE Division became fully operational on 1 April 1978, and 'work-up' training, which had been going on throughout the Division since Christmas as a series of exercises called 'Test Beds', came to a climax at Soltau with Exercise Seconds Out. This was a two-sided Divisional exercise involving both Echo and Foxtrot Task Forces, and the Signal Regiment was committed to tactical, umpire and control communications. On Wednesday, 22 March, after a hard exercise, representative elements of all units of the Division paraded and drove past the Commander 1st British Corps, **Lt Gen Sir Richard Worsley, KCB, OBE,** a former commander of 3rd Division. The 10 vehicles and crews from our Regiment, drawn from each Squadron and Task Force Troop, were led by the CO, **Lt Col Ray Bell.** The parade was a fitting climax to a period of very hard work all round.

RECOVERY PROBLEMS

Easter vanished as a mere breathing space in preparation for Exercise Flying Falcon and our own work-up exercise Running Bird, which preceeded the CCR Signals exercise. During Exercise Flying Falcon, the Regiment spent a great of time digging out and recovering a 432 belonging to a unit within our Division! Whilst 3 Squadron managed to put an AUTO 40 in a ditch during the exercise, 2 Squadron succeeded in leaving their RADCON vehicle ditched for 24 hours after the exercise!

VISITS

Task Force ECHO Signal Troop were visited by the CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers** in March and by the Defence and External Affairs Sub Committee in April. After exercise Seconds Out, the GOC, **Maj Gen M. J. H. Walsh, DSO** made an informal visit to the Regiment both in Salamanca and St Sebastian Barracks.

THRIVING 3 SQN WIVES CLUB

Since arriving in Germany the 3 Sqn wives have organised themselves into a thriving wives club. Under the guiding eyes of the OC's wife, **Gail Tilson,** the 2IC's wife, **Carol Fiskel,** and the SSM's wife, **Myrtle Marshall,** the club is meeting twice a month, once in the morning and once in an evening. During these sessions they have organised demonstrations and lectures on various topics of household interest. The Easter activities on 10 March consisted of an excellent demonstration on the decoration of chocolate eggs and cakes followed by an Easter Bonnet competition. **Mr Jim Howe** of the famous Dortmund Brewery presented the prizes to the three winners First—**Myrtle Marshall.** Second—**Sheila Worrell.** Third—**Carol Fiskel.**



Mrs Carol Fiskel, Mrs Myrtle Marshall and Mrs Sheila Worrall were the prizewinners in the Easter Bonnet Competition

EXCELLENT FUND RAISING EVENT

Probably the most successful event organised so far was the joint effort by 2 Sqn and 3 Sqn wives with their Spring Fayre. Their hard work was well rewarded with a good turnout and brisk selling. The effort realised over DM800.00 of which DM237.00 was donated to the St Helena Project of the McIntyre Home. Well done girls!!

Future activities are to include a Delft Ware evening, a presentation of food by the Army Catering Corps, a Tupperware demonstration and believe it or not a Walk around NAAFI. Why they would want to walk around NAAFI I don't know, I've done it many times without much inspiration, perhaps it's the Cheese and Wine party which is to follow? The Spring programme is to end with a Fashion evening by 'Salamander'. So as you can see the girls of 3 Sqn are hard at it and if success is to be measured by enthusiasm then they are bound to succeed.

SPORT — 3 SQUADRON

The main sports events of the month have been 'Triangles' week and the .22 Shooting which was the final event of the Winter competition for the 'Guv'nor's Bowl'. The Inter-Troop trophy was presented by **Maj Lee Tilson** the present Squadron Commander. In Triangles week, the Divisional inter company/squadron/battery sports competition after the Div FTX, the Squadron entered teams in Cross Country, Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Tug of War and the Log Race.

The Cross Country team of **WO1 (FofS) Campbell, Sgt Roger Minty, Signalmen Brad Bradbury, Dave Marshall, Billy Kidd, Hamish Graham** and **Geordie Gordon** succeeded in reaching the finals at Paderborn where they came a creditable fourth in the Division.

The .22 Shooting organised by **Capt Jack Fiskel**, Squadron 2IC, was won by Bravo 2 Tp with consistent shooting. The best shot of the evening was **Sgt John Cadwallader** who turned in a near perfect score.

The Winter competition for the Bowl had been won by Bravo 3 Tp who found the less skilled, more aggressive sports earlier in the Winter more to their liking.

SERVICE OF REDEDICATION

On Sunday, 19 March, a service of rededication for the Division was held in St Luke's Church, Salamanca Barracks. The Divisional Flag and the Union Flag, which for years had been housed in St George's Garrison church at Bulford, were ceremonially brought to a new resting place in St Luke's. The Flags will remain in St Lukes as long as the Divisional Headquarters is in Soest. The Colours were carried to the church by **Lts David Proctor** and **Simon Richmond** escorted by **WO2 (SSM) Ray West** Royal Anglian, SSM Hq Sqn, and **SSgts Mick Mutlow** and **Dave Witheridge,** both Royal Signals. The Chaplain, the **Rev John Bolton, CF,** received the Flags and conducted the service. The lesson was read by **Maj Gen Mike Walsh, DSO,** GOC 3 Armd Div.



Lts David Proctor and Simon Richmond kneeling with the Divisional Flags in St Lukes Church. WO2 SSM Ray West and SSgt Mick Mutlow look on

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

FAVOURITISM OF SORTS

We wish to make this edition a light focus on our Task Force Signal Troops, anything more would be an over-reaction! Now that they have been with us nearly six months we claim to know a little about them though their elusiveness tends to point to connnections with a Chinese triad!

4 Squadron is commanded by **Maj John Almonds** who is based, with **Capt Jack Amberton,** his 2IC and **Sigs 'Jock' Miller** and **Dod Maher** in Herford, forming an exclusive SHQ.

Congratulations to **Sig Maher** on his recent marriage.

The two Task Force Signal Troops base themselves as far away as possible! Tf G, based on the old 11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Minden. Those in TF H, the old 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, live in Detmold.

TASK FORCE GOLF SIGNAL TROOP

OC—Capt Don Munro.
OC Battleaxe 1—Capt Paddy Crowley.
OC Battleaxe 2—Lt John Hudson.
SSM—WO2 (SSM) Ray Marshall.
YofS—WO2 (YofS) Bob Wright.
FofS—SSgt (FofS) Kenneth Perry.
SQMS—SSgt Ron Smith.

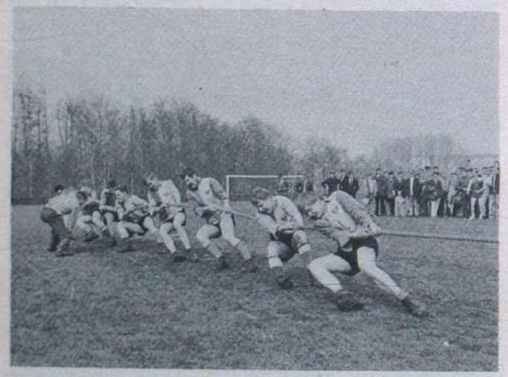
TASK FORCE HOTEL SIGNAL TROOP

OC—Capt Nigel Pullman.
OC B Gauntlet—Lt Tim Bryning.
OC A Gauntlet—Lt Nigel Jackson.
SSM—WO2 (SSM) Dave Darlington.
YofS—WO2 (YofS) Rod Rayner.
FofS—SSgt (FofS) Mark Grove.
SQMS—SSgt Bill Adams.

CENSORED NOTES FROM TF G SIG TP

We have now emerged from the trauma of Restructuring and have despatched the 'hangers on' from Old Signal Squadrons and have come under the 4th Armoured Division. We are not sure who has got the best bargain, ourselves or the Signal Regiment. (Comment — the Regiment has no doubt!)

The Regiment held its athletic competition this year. 3 Squadron, captained by **WO2 (SSM) Roy Marshall,** were the clear winners. However next year we will do better—**SSM Marshall** has been posted to us and we will join forces with TF H. Look out the Regiment! However, one success story was achieved in the Regimental Tug of War competition. Our team, ably coached by **Sgt Bob McSeveney,** worked its way into the finals and defeated the favourites—3 Squadron.

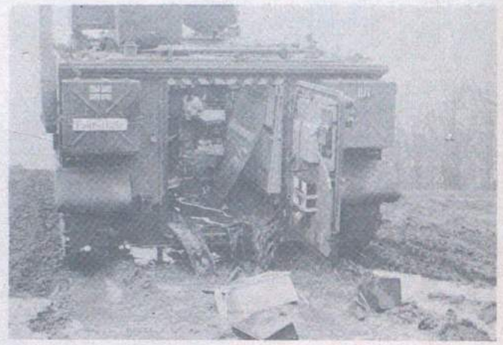


Task Force Golf Signal Troop winning the Regimental Tug of War Competition. Competition. From *left to right:* Cpl 'Marc' Marcinkiewicz RCT, Sigs Jock Clark, Keith Fisher, Nige Parker, Dvr Steve Harland RCT, Cpl Graham Easton, Sigs Chris Warnes and Dave McGregor coached by Sgt Bob McSeveney

THE TALE OF CPL 'NELLY' KNOWLES

Our tale of woe will warm the cockles of all Ex 'Beastie' mens' hearts. The story begins with a 432 driving course run by **Cpls 'Nelly' Knowles** and **Andy Potter** 'two teas one sugar' of the late Alpha Troop. The APC which was 'accidentally' bogged in was found to have sprung a leak. The instructors remained suitably clad in parkas, holding steaming mugs of coffee. while **Sig 'Tich' Whitehurst** volunteered to attack the tow rope. Stripped from the waist down, teeth chattering, he entered the murky water surrounding the stricken vehicle to find it to be only ankle deep! The 'beast' was soon dragged to a suitable slope and with **Sig 'Yank' McCready** looking on, the water poured out the back together with all the tools. The rest of the course then spent a pleasant morning prodding for tools and restoring the 432 to its former beautiful self! The lesson learnt from this part of the course was 'remember your belly plugs.' But who forgot?

P.S. If a certain **Cpl Tony Freeman** recognises the tool box—Sorry!



Sig 'Yank' McCready smiles at a learner

SPORTS MISCELLANEA

The canoeing team has had a successful year. The team, **SSgt Bill White, Cpl Dave Orange** and **LCpl Andy Trivitt** came second in the BAOR Championships. In the Individual Open **SSgt White** took second place, while **LCpl Trivitt** and **Cpl Orange** came second and fifth in the Intermediate. After this rewarding start the team moved on with high hopes to the Army Championships and here again **SSgt White** did well to gain second place in the Open. **LCpl Trivitt,** a relative newcomer to the sport, gained a creditable tenth place in the Intermediate.

Another sport which has come to the fore has been the Tug of War, under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) Frank Worrall.** On a wet day the team slipped and slip into runners-up in the 4 Armoured Division finals narrowly going down to 25 Fd Regt RA. However, the team has gained a place in the BAOR finals and the training has started!



SSgt Bill White on his way to second place in the BAOR Individual Open

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MORRISON'S ACADEMY
Crieff, Perthshire

The School comprises separate Boys' and Girls' Schools with 500 pupils in each, situated on the same campus and run by the same Board of Governors and having many facilities, especially extra-curricular, in common. Certain classes (e.g. in the Primary School) are co-educational. It has an ideal setting in a small town surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery.

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Boarding fees from September 1978 will be £465 per term and includes laundry and tuition fees.

Enquiries to, and Prospectuses from the Rector and Headmistress, as appropriate.



Coach Maj Charlie Newton-Dunn 10GR incants an unknown Gurkha god in the 4 Armd Div Final. From *left to right:* LCpls Mick Harvey and Mick Arthur ACC, Pte Woody Wood ACC, SSgt (FofS) Bill Duncan, LCpl Ricky Shingler, Sgt Ken Dodd RAOC, Sig Chris Joll and LCpl 'Scouse' Sixsmith

AU REVOIR

On his last exercise with the Corps before trying his hand with the RAOC **Lt Bob Smethurst** decided to treat Commcen Golf with a display of his culinary expertise. After 'toasted Sleeping bag (Scorched to taste), and 'Roast Suitcase (Burned to suit)' the Squadron realised why he had given up the idea of a transfer to the ACC. He will be much missed by both the Squadron and the Regiment and we wish him well with the RAOC — at least we may have solved some of our spares problems.

After nine years in the Regiment, many of them in 1 Squadron, **LCpl Alfie Mullin** has decided to give civvy street the benefit of his talents. His fog horn voice over the air will be much missed as will his cheerful disposition and we wish him well. Before leaving the Squadron Alfie presented the Mullin Driving Trophy, a very handsome cup to be competed for by both Troops. Anything that improves the present driving standards will be much appreciated by **MT Sgt Less Harris,** and our overworked LAD.

Maj Brian Belton has recently departed from the Squadron and we wish him well in his next appointment in the MOD. Meanwhile we welcome **Maj Rolland Ebdon** as the new OC 1 Squadron.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

EPILOGUE—OP BURBERRY

The photos show two tokens of appreciation from the two main County Councils in which the Regiment fought fires. The Bell came from Durham County Council and the Scroll was presented at an 'Op Burberry Dinner Night' by the Chairman of Northumberland County Council.



Northumberland County Council

The Chairman and members of the Northumberland County Council take great pleasure in recording their Sincere Appreciation and gratitude to all personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces who were engaged in providing fire fighting services and fire cover for the people of Northumberland during the period 14th. November 1977 to 16th. January 1978, during which time they were successfully in action at 250 incidents in all parts of the County and prevented any loss of life or serious injury.

All personnel concerned carried out their unaccustomed tasks with the greatest efficiency and effectiveness in the difficult and hazardous circumstances confronting them and their efforts merit the highest commendation.

The County is particularly indebted to the personnel of

8th. Signal Regiment
The Royal Corps of Signals

under whose direction and control the emergency services operated and who were primarily responsible for providing the fire-fighting units involved.

Ridley

Chairman of the County Council

Chief Executive



FAREWELLS IN THE RUGBY CLUB

The Regimental Captain for the past two seasons, **Sgt Andy Hickling,** has gone to hide in Hong Kong (he says 'for a well earned rest'). He led by example and was respected by opponents as much as ourselves.

We have also lost **Sgt 'Q' Gilder,** our winger of 'Jet' renown. He too has gone to Hong Kong (can't be bad this rugby!!!) **SSgt Alex Kubu,** the Club Coach, leaves on promotion to go to Harrogate and he will be sorely missed. The Club 'Jack-of-all-trades' **SSgt Dickie Boyd** who has done an excellent job keeping the books and running the Club for the last three years leaves in June for 28 Sig Regt.

To all these stalwart members of the Rugby Club—best wishes and good luck.

A BRIGHT START

Sig Stephen Stone is pictured with **Lt Col Gordon Young** receiving a Regimental plaque for his 'A' grading on his Combat Powerman course while the rest of his course, CP441BB, look on.





MORE 'A' GRADINGS!

These two happy faces belong to members of the same Data Telegraphist course who both qualified with 'A' gradings. **Pte Tracey Griffin** is pictured receiving her plaque from **Lt Col Gordon Young** whilst **Pte Julia Bainton** looks on. **Tracey,** a former beauty consultant, is going to 240 Sig Sqn in York and **Julia** who used to be a wages clerk, is posted to 16 Sig Regt.

Three members of RT4U achieved 'A' gradings when their course finished in April. **Cpl Martin Brown** joined the Army in May 1969 and has since served in 20 Armd Bde and the School of Signals. He interrupted his tour with 5 Fd Force to do the course. **Cpl John Howat** started his Army career at the AAC Harrogate and has served with 4 Guards Armd Bde and NITAT Northern Ireland. He is now with 7 Fd Force. **LCpl Frances McCubbin** is also ex-Harrogate and is serving with 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn after tours with 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt and 1 Arty Bde Sig Sqn.

The photo shows **Maj John Doody** (CI Op) presenting a plaque to **Cpl Howat** with **Cpl Brown** and **LCpl McCubbin** standing next to him.



Fus Andrew Small achieved 10 'A' Gradings and six 'B' gradings giving him an overall 'A' grading for his Radio Telegraphist course and ensuring that he came top out of 13 students. He served for 4½ years with the RRF before deciding to transfer to the Royal Signals to learn a trade. He is the first Radio Telegraphist Student on a basic course to gain an 'A' grading since 1975 and is to be congratulated on his achievement.





SQUASH CHAMPIONS
The photo shows the teams of both 8 and 11 Sig Regts and their respective trophies. 8 Sig Regt won the NOREDIST league whilst 11 Sig Regt won the N Yorks League which included both military and civilian teams. From left to right, **Cpl David Potts, Mr Dewer Thompson, Mike Hall (Jnr!) RQMS Colin Easton (all 11 Sig Regt), Brig Norman Butler** and from 8 Sig Regt, **Lt Mike Hall, SSgt Mick Raybould, Sgt Peter Barratt** and **Sgt Dave Whiteley.**

MR STAN CHURCH—RICHMOND MEET PRESIDENT
Many people will known **Stan Church** as he served in the Corps from 1947 to 1972 as Swbd Op, OWL, Sigcen and Commcen Op Clk and finally Clk Tech. He became a clerical instructor in Admin Trades Group in May 1972 and this year completed 31 years with the Corps. After five hard years' work on the committee of the Richmond Meet he was elected President for this year and the photograph shows him wearing his Chain of Office.

The Richmond Meet dates back to 1892 when it was primarily a Country Fair/Cycle Meet event. Nowadays it is held over the Spring Bank Holiday and this year included a boys' soccer tourney, hobbies and handicrafts exhibition, displays by both military and civilian bands, fancy dress/floats parade and a juvenile jazz band competition. The weather was beautiful this year and a record amount of money was taken.



10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

1 SQUADRON—WILTON QUIET PICTURE
February was a quieter month for 1 Squadron at Wilton with only movement of personnel to disturb the peace. We bid farewell to **Sgt Joan Bennett** and **LCpl Denise Smith**, our loss being 16 Sig Regt's gain, and to **Cpl Hunt** and **Pte Edwards** posted to UK Units. In turn, we welcome **Cpl Thompson, Cpl Crewdson, Cpl Smith, LCpl Chalke, Pte Withy** and **Pte May** and wish them a happy tour with the Squadron.

Visitors to the Squadron were few, No 5 WRAC Signals Officers Introductory Course, accompanied by **Lt Col Riding** visited on the 9 February. They spent the afternoon touring the COMMCEN and discovering for themselves the working of the COMMCEN.

ARCTIC CONDITIONS
The weekend of 18/19 February saw a radical change in the normally mild weather of Wiltshire when, after 48 hours of snow, 'Arctic' conditions predominated. All roads into Salisbury were blocked and drifts of 10ft and over became common sights. Monday morning was a battle with the elements and even though it took some more than three hours, the majority of COMMCEN personnel eventually reported for duty. The less fortunate, living in the remoter areas, were virtually 'cut off' until the thaw on Wednesday.

Sportswise it is again the girls who are showing the way, by winning the South West District Netball League and narrowly being beaten in the Finals at Aldershot.

VISIT BY SO in C
On 6 March we welcomed **Maj Gen Anderson**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, to the Commcen, as part of his visit to HQ UKLF.

March was also a peaceful month for 1 Squadron, weatherwise the climate returned to normal. We bid farewell to **Cpl Terry Bain**, who was posted to 30 Sig Regt; **Pte Karen Chubb** who was posted to Northag Sig Tp and **Pte Brenda Hanlon** who elected discharge on marriage. In turn we welcome **Cpl Jim Garrett** and **LCpl Chris Jordan** and hope they enjoy their tour with this Squadron.

Finally we wish to congratulate **Sgt Jeff Battisby** who received his promotion to Staff Sergeant on 23 March.

RADIO TP 2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)
Since our last Wire notes the troop have been kept very busy with various HF and VHF exercises proving to the rest of the world that we are communicators as well as soldiers. The problems we experienced with the ending of the firemens strike have now all been ironed out and the troop have been frantically trying to get in their well deserved leave.

At this point we would like to say farewell to the following members of the troop. **LCpl Sam Burke, LCpl Pete Lawlor, Sig Scouse Partington** and **Sig Paddy Johnston** we wish them all luck in their new postings. To compensate for the loss of four such steadfast members we would like to welcome to the Troop, **LCpl Jim Cairney, Sig Glen Bailey** and **Sig Al Sturdy.**

On the sports scene they have taken a keen interest in Badminton, **Sgt Keith Bolton** reigns supreme in that nobody appears to be able to defeat him and this includes such stalwarts as **Capt Clive Moody, Cpl Wally Wallace** and **Sig Chris Hunt.** The only strange sight seen within the Regiment has been **Sgt Keith Bolton** walking around in cricket whites (in mid March) followed by five other members of the troop. Last comment from **Sgt Bolton** 'No Sir, its *NEVER* too early for cricket'.

EXERCISE SUN RIVER II
Report by **Sig Bob Hildreth** Radio TP 2 Squadron

We left Brize Norton on a cold Friday morning and got off the VC10 in Gambia. As we left the aircraft **LCpl Peter Farrington** and myself in company with B Company 2 R Anglians noticed the difference in temperature *ie* we could hardly breath because it was so hot. The first full day in Gambia was the worst as we weren't yet acclimatised, but were gifted with the 'enjoyable' task of a 14 mile walk in heat which we have only dreamt of (or had nightmares about). During the walk I decided to finish off the journey by a much easier method, and promptly collapsed and was given my first chance of a ride in a helicopter.

After such a quiet start things started to improve, a 3 day river exercise during which an NCO from the Royal Anglian decided he wasn't hot enough and managed to spill petrol on his legs and then walked in a No 2 burner and set fire to his aforesaid legs, this was quoted as being the 'highest of the exercise'. On the next excursion a 3 day walk during which we took part in some live firing. **LCpl Peter Farrington** from SWS troop will never forget this period, because as he was firing on a deserted village, some plastic explosive started going off around him, he was then traced by the trail of dust he left behind to a spot some ½ mile away, wondering what he had done and making sure he was still in one piece.

Two days later we all went on R & R for 3 days in a coastal resort; my idea of an exercise at last.

On the last 3 days in Gambia a member of the Royal Anglians sat on a Scorpion and ended up unconscious for 24 hours. He now knows beyond any doubt that the Scorpion does have a sting in its tail.

The supplies of compo would do well in Gambia as the natives actually liked it. All in all even taking into account the 140°F heat and other distractions we all thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

TROPO SIGNAL TROOP (SWINGATE) COMINGS AND GOINGS
Since our last notes appeared there have been one or two changes in the troop nominal roll. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to **Sgt Jim Carnegie** and his wife **Val,** who are now cosily quartered in bags of LOA over in 21 Sig Regt. We don't really miss **Jim,** however, as he is now employed at the other end of the 'Tropo Link'. We also lost **Sgt Bob Scott,** who, along with his wife, **Sue,** left us for the NCS at Latina. **Bob,** you will soon be joined by our Foreman of Signals—**WO2 'Dougie' Douglas.** Our last farewell was said to **Sgt Terry Spicer** and his wife **Maureen. Terry** decided to leave the rigorous life of a Tropo Shift worker for the comparative 'cushy' existence on a FOS course at the School of Signals. On the receive side though, we gladly welcome **Sgt Ray White,** newly arrived from 259 Sig Sqn (From Mt Olympus to the White Cliffs of Dover).

THE FORM
Workwise—as is common with all well led, efficiently administered and superbly technicianed comm's establishments—the troop has not changed much. To ensure things remained so our OC, **Capt George Norton,** attended a TOT's refresher course and returned suitably effervescent. (By the way Sir, the troop has not been fooled!!—we know your 'new' car is really your old one covered with masking tape and sprayed canary yellow!)

The 'site', however, does look a little different now that the troop gardening club has bought a fork and spade.

Our comprehensive Military/Fitness training programme has been running as smoothly as ever on Friday mornings. NBC is taken care of by **Sgt Peter Fisher;** First Aid by **Sgt Lorrie Adams;** Weapon training is taught by **Sgt Charlie Walker** and **SSgt Tom Trent;** and Fire Instruction by **Sgt Taff Llewellyn.**

On the Physical side: **FOS 'Dougie' Douglas** takes us for Circuit Training; **Sgt Hadge Watkins** coaches us on Squash; and **Sgt Dave McKay** is responsible for the odd 'bout' of Orienteering—if he can ever get enough of the troop together.

FISHING TO THE FORE
On the social side of things, fishing seems to be a very important troop activity. Keen participants include: **Sgt Eddie Postlethwaite; Sgt 'Hadge' Watkins; SSgt Tom Trent; Sgt Pete Knight** and **Sgt 'Taff' Llewellyn.** These lads aren't content with throwing a hand-line over the edge of the cliffs, but spend the day cramped in a small boat (which on one occasion didn't have to be towed in!!) which, we assume from their stories, gets more cramped as the day goes on due to the increasing space the 'catch' takes up.—OK fellas, we believe you (or in fishing terms . . . spin along!!)

Recently our photography expert **Sgt Graham Hopper** has been spending much of his time down a hole in the ground in the centre of Canterbury, up to his armpits in muck and roman sandals, indulging in his latest hobby—archaeology! We wish you happy hunting **Graham** but hope you have a bath before coming off leave!!

SPORTS ROUND UP
The troop gladiators have been doing us really proud. **Sgt Hadge Watkins** has recently attended a Squash Skills Course to improve on his already considerable talent of wielding a squash bat. **Sgt Morgan Davies** has represented the Regiment at Basketball, and **Sgt Pete Knight** not only plays cricket for the Corps but also plays for Dover Cricket Club.

It must be said that these 'sweet merchants' are not alone in their physical efforts. Much of the troop seems to have caught the jogging bug and can be seen doing road runs around Dover area. Indeed—**Sgt Pete Fisher** seems to spend a great deal of his time on the running track at Old Park Barracks.

Sgt Lorrie Adams has had a hand in coaching some lads of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Old Park Barracks, to a fine performance in their recent Tug of War competitions.

TWO IMPORTANT MEMBERS
We cannot close these notes without mentioning our two civilians. **Mrs Madge Parrott** and **Mrs Di Tuck. Madge** keeps the place nice and clean and keeps us off the floors! **Di** is our typist and when she's finished reading these notes, maybe she'll get them typed up!!!!

(LONDON CENTRAL COMMCEN TROOP REPORT)
There have been so many coming and goings recently in London District Troop; that it is impossible to mention all the names but we wish those who have left us all the best in the future. We must mention, however, **WO2 (YofS) Alan Winstanley** who has now left London Central Commcen to become the WO1 Regimental YofS. 'Congratulations'. We welcome **WO2(YofS) Bryan Foulger** who replaced him.

WEEKENDS AWAY
The local pubs in Goodwood Park area must have wondered what has hit them recently. Each of the four Commcen Shifts has spent three days camping in the great outdoors, going swimming, walking and orienteering. There's something about those silva compasses, they always seem to point to the nearest PH on the Map!

KEEPING THE GIRLS FIT
The WRAC have been busily training for, and taking the new fitness stepping test and generally keeping trim. We joined forces with the other WRAC in Hounslow and were only 'pipped at the post' by Woolwich in the Zone Inter Unit Athletics. **LCpl Meg Barnard** is taking part in the Army Individual Championships too. 'All the best'.

In Tennis **Pte Scooby Waterman** played with the PTI, **Cpl Marie Bass** in the London District Championships, but **Maj Jennifer Allt** and **Capt Rosemary Hewlett** beat them in the final, and **Maj Allt** was Singles Champion. The very next day they struggled, stiffly on to court again to play Woolwich, and were again successful, as was the Rounders team. **Sig 'Abbey' Abbott** also played in the Tennis Championships with some success, but did not reach the finals. Never mind—next time!



'Cheers'. Brig A. L. Dowell, Commander 2 Sig Gp, toasts Cpl Terry Hanrahan after the Brigadier had presented him with his LS & GC medal on 6 June 78 in the Bruno Club

SWS TROOP (HOUNSLOW) ROUND UP
Recent losses include **Cpl 'Sam' Coltman** of Folk Club and handlebar moustache fame who has departed to do battle with the T1 Course.

The rest of us are well into the London District Ceremonial Season. **Sgt 'Jock' MacRae** and his PA team involved in the presentation of colours by Her Majesty The Queen to the Irish Guards at Windsor. **Cpl Steve Jackson** getting a bird's eye view of the Queen's Birthday Parade from the top of Hyde Park Tower. **Mr Colin Hatcher** and **SSgt Geoff Marshall** managed to find the time to steer the Regimental Basketball team to a place in the Army finals. Recent arrivals include **Sig John Preece, LCpls Alan Pratt** and **Stephen Hilton.** We can also boast of having, in **Sgt John Arbury** the TE Tech with the largest girth (43 inches) in the British Army . . . unless you know differently.

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

13 Sig Regt, BFPO 40

SHOWERS

THE period covered by these notes is that of April and May. You no doubt will recall that this is the period that April showers precipitate to bring forth the May flowers. We here at Birgelen are still waiting for the showers to stop and it is now June! However despite the misery of the weather we have managed to stage one or two notable events and these are reported on in the following paragraphs.

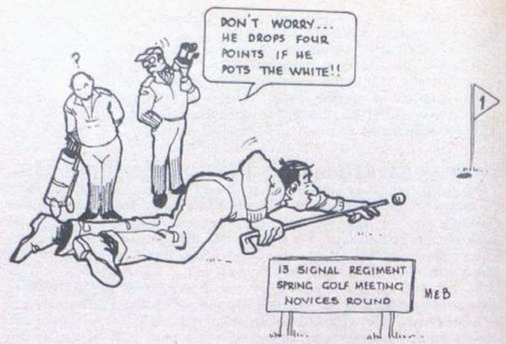
GOLF REPORT

Back on 10 April, the Regimental Spring Golf Meeting was held at the RAF Brüggen Golf Course. Again we managed to muster over 30 golfers at the club-house at the start of the day, the standard ranging from novice, through rabbit to 'I have a handicap of eight but never play to it'. Seven indeed was the lowest handicap on the course this being held by **WO2 Dave Cheyne** while **Maj Ray Windmill** from 3 Sqn played off eight. The next lowest was 16. Thus we can report that much thrashing around in the undergrowth went on throughout the day, to say nothing of the crack of ball on trees around the course.

The morning round was an individual medal handicap. As is often the case it was the lower handicap players who fared best with the eventual winner being **LCpl Jack Bruce** from 1 Squadron. **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Greatorex** also played extremely well and ended up amongst the winners. The afternoon was a Greensome medal played for the inter-squadron cup. Undaunted by the morning's gross injustices of the course, the weather, worms popping their heads up just as the putt was going in the hole and the myriad of other amazing occurrences, the players optimistically set forth, each pair convinced that it was their turn to win. Some hopes needless to say were thwarted before the first green, others on the green (see view from Thirteen—April), whilst further devastating attacks on our players were again made by the heather and trees. The eventual winners were **Majs Bill Parkes** and **Joe Adams,** which goes to show that youth always pulls through in the end! A most enjoyable day was had by all, including an excellent lunch brought from the Regiment (**SSgt Tony Bannell** our chief caterer was playing which helps and indeed he won a prize). In fact 15 of the competitors obtained some reward in terms of winning golf balls for their day's labour and to prove how democratic and tactful we are at 13, the Colonel and Golf Officer were amongst them.



Winners of the inter-squadron Golf Cup, Majs Bill Parkes and Joe Adams, HQ Squadron



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN - APRIL 1978

WHAT A SOD

No this is no cause for Mary Whitehouse to write to the editor of the Wire but a report on the progress of the swimming pool. I am confident that all past members of the Regiment scan the Wire notes for such a report, since it is widely believed by most of them that they have personally financed a bit (half!) of it. Well the construction of the new pool is under way. Indeed it was the task of the CO to remove the first divot. On agreeing to perform this task I understand he had visions of a burnished spade making a delicate incision as per the Royal planting of trees. Not so!! After a quick course in 'digger' manoeuvring the Sappers insisted on the real thing and thus the first hole was made by the mechanical grab. The old pool with all its leaks, seen in the background, will still be used this summer but next year will certainly see swimmers in the tepid water (we hope) of the new construction.



The CO, Lt Col Martin Pickard, digs out the first divot from the site of the new swimming pool



A cause for celebration. The successful completion of the ceremony of removing the first sod from the new swimming pool 'hole' Members of the Regiment in the picture: Maj Ian Graham (2IC), Capt Sue Burwell (*obscured*) (A Adjt), SSgt Bob Parkinson (SSI), Lt Col Martin Pickard (CO), WO1 Ken Woods (RSM), Maj Bill Griffin (Paymaster), Maj Alf Reed (QM)

SERVED HIS TIME

Another end of an era came and went during April 1978. **Cpl Tommy Walker** finished his term of service in the Army. The difference was he had served the Queen since 1946 which by any standards is no bad effort. Our photograph shows the CO presenting **Tommy** with an engraved beer tankard to mark the occasion. Should he read this article, and I trust he will, let me reiterate our words of that day in wishing him all the very best in the future.



Cpl Tommy Walker receives his tankard from the CO, having finished his service in the army which started in 1946

BRAINS TESTED AGAIN (BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

Another annual event reached its climax on 11 May, that being the final of the Brain of Birgelen Competition 1978. This contest of knowledge is for troop/department teams of four. Earlier rounds had seen the departure of the RHQ side, two sides from the ladies' social circle, the training wing, 2 Squadron and 1 Squadron troop sides to mention but a few. Consequently in the semi-finals the battle was between firstly E Troop and Crown Eight (a second 2 Sqn side) and secondly the Officers Mess and De Mentia (D Troop). E Troop won the very close battle with their fellow Squadron team, whilst the Officers Mess successfully overcame the D Troop opposition and their supporters.

On 11 May the scene was set for a good contest in the final. E Troop scored early points with the onlookers whilst decking the stage with their flag, team photos and their mascot. On taking the stage they wore the 'E' Tee Shirts which had carried them so far and a quick look round revealed a large portion of the audience sporting 'Easy Troop' hats, slogans and other regalia.

Meanwhile the Officers Mess in their more staid attire were not to be put off and immediately retaliated with their well tried subtle innuendo which had been the downfall of previous opponents. **SSgt Bill Irving** was again the able quizmaster with his adjudicator **WO2 Dewi Blythin.** The first round of the general knowledge saw E Troop take a narrow lead with the depths of the brains of **Sgt Chris Power,** his wife **Debbie, Sgts Dougie Kempster** and **Barry Short** proving to hold much detailed if obscure knowledge. The literary round saw **Majs Bill Griffin** and **Barry Grace** of the Mess side hit back slightly whilst even greater inroads into the lead were made in the music round where the other two Mess members **Maj Alan Browne** and **Capt Jon Henderson** also played their part. Thus at the 'solo spot' scores were pretty level. This spot required one member of each side to answer 20 questions in three minutes (just like Mastermind!). First to go was **Bill Griffin,** I thought (and I am biased) that he had a pretty difficult set of questions of which he got six correct out of 20. **Chris Power** his opposite number however, brilliantly produced the correct answers to 13 of his questions and thus gained a further advantage of 14 points for his side, each question being worth two points (a small sum is required for those who don't believe me). It began to look like being a runaway victory. Then came the 'Who am I' round; five clues indicating a famous person with a maximum of five points for each question reducing after every clue. The Mess side rallied with two lots of five points and in the sporting and final Bell and Buzzer round continued the fight back. With 10 questions to go they were merely three points behind. E Troop gained two more correct answers, then the Mess side hit back again until after the final question and one and a half hours of mind searching the score proved to be 75 points to each side. The quizmaster deemed the best of



The winning team, E for Easy Troop, Sgt Chris Power, Debbie Power, Sgts Barry Short and Dougie Kempster

three questions should decide the battle and E Troop quickly pounced on their buzzers to answer correctly the first two to gain a most popular win. It wasn't that the audience was antagonistic to the Officers side it was just that more spontaneous applause greeted the E Troop correct answers. Here I feel **Izzy, Sgt Kempster's** wife, deserves a special mention for her undaunting and vociferous support through all rounds which I conclude was to prove the secret weapon that saw E Troop to a final very well deserved victory.

EX SPRING AWAY 78

That is the name of this year's 1 Squadron camp. To be truthful I sit in a tin hut in the middle of the Grobbendonk Training Area during one of the wettest weeks it's ever known writing these few lines on our escapades. Those ex-members of the Squadron who attended last year's camp will have an idea of what goes on, those who are shortly to be posted in may care to read on in anticipation of next year. What then is in this year's training programme? Since the aim is to complete as much of the annual military training in two days as possible, it requires little imagination to realise that it's a pretty busy time. Troops arrive on day one at 1800 hrs, have supper and sort out their kit. This is immediately followed by a first aid lecture.

EARLY RUN

Next morning up at 6am and a BFT run at 6.30, this wakes up even the slowest of risers. Breakfast next followed swiftly by weapon training for two and a half hours, Map Reading and First Aid for one hour each. This makes the morning pass by quite quickly since smoke breaks seem to be unheard of! After lunch it's back to first aid and then a 7km orienteering course—well it does build up an appetite for tea. Mind you by now the legs are aching a bit and the fresh air's getting to the blood corpuscles around the face! After tea just one lecture, NBC for an hour and then at 1930 we can play sport. Football, softball, volleyball or a combination of all three—just to use up the rest of the energy! A deserved few beers in the big tin hut again—it's cold and not exactly homely but fairly dry—and then most are off to the sleep of the just!



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN - MAY 78

SOME TRAILER

The next day is not so hectic or so the rumour goes. Up at 6, a run with PT at 6.30 then breakfast and a morning of NBC, First Aid and Map Reading training. Lunch next, we have nearly finished. What's that, a trailer race at 1345—what is a trailer race? This is **WO2 (SSM) Pete Muxworthy's** special. Each syndicate of about eight men push a quarter-ton trailer over an uneven course (two ditches, a rough field, a couple of minor obstacles, a sand pit etc) and the team to do it in the least time wins. Easy they told me—that frankly I really doubt! Anyway we'll do it and then just to finish off there is a league eight-a-side football and volleyball competition.

Who are the sadists who thought up this lot? Well the OC is **Maj Alan Browne** his bright idea, I suppose; then **SSM Pete Muxworthy, SQMS Darkie Williams** (yes he's still here!) actually seem to run most of the nasty things ably assisted by the **PTI LCpl Steve Raynor. Sgt Mick Kenning** and **Cpl Rod Farrington** are the first aid experts with **SSgt Tony Turner** helping out all round and running the orienteering. **Cpl Scouse Allen** keeps everyone cheerful, runs the bar and is a general 'dog's body' and cookie is **Pte Frank Halliday** (the food's been good this year, too).

We are about half-way through now. How have things gone? **Dave Bond** is in the local MRS with a twisted leg (playing football) while **Cpl 'Stu' Parrish** knocked himself out in the last trailer race. **Sgt George Downie** lost his knee-cap a recurring injury! It is true it is a bit taxing (an understatement really) but then it makes a change with certainly plenty of fresh air, we're all in it together and in a funny twisted way everyone seems to enjoy themselves. As a final thought we all seem to be fitter this year but I doubt if anyone will beat **Sig Paddy McKinley's** time of 6 mins 40 secs for the second one and a half miles of the BFT this morning.

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APRIL SPORTS DAY

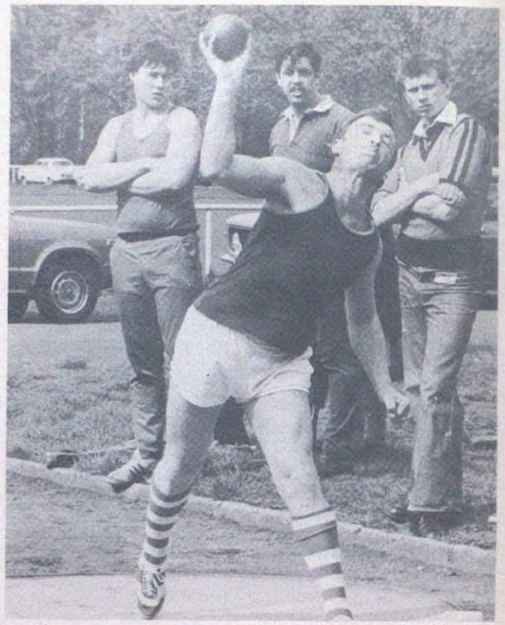
27 April was a brilliant day, lovely weather for our annual Inter-Squadron Athletics meeting. Once again the Regiment were able to use the local Edelstahl Stadium for this competition. As this event, very much a family meeting, let the pictures tell the stories.

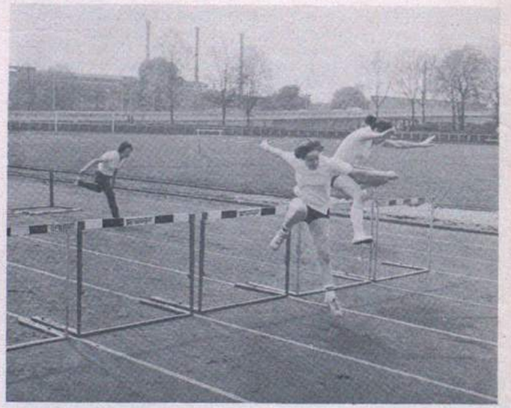
LCpl Alan Owen followed by the inseparable twins **Cpl Tom Shanahan** and **Sig Larry Harrison.** From the number of spectators and his dog this event was very early in the programme—I promise that more people from the unit turned up to view the later events.



Of course there were others making great efforts, the event needs no name and you will see by now that the spectator group has increased three fold. **Sigs Mark James, Adrian Waters** and **Denis Greasley** gazing in relaxed wonderment at a supreme effort by **Sgt Gordon (really!) Bennett** catching the balloon.

The efforts already shown by the male competitors had not gone unnoticed and some of our lady soldiers are taking part in a running and jumping film overcoming all obstacles in pursuit of . . . For information if sighted in your area they are (from left) **Ptes Cath Wray** and **Moira Kennedy.** The last from 4 Sqn must remain nameless.



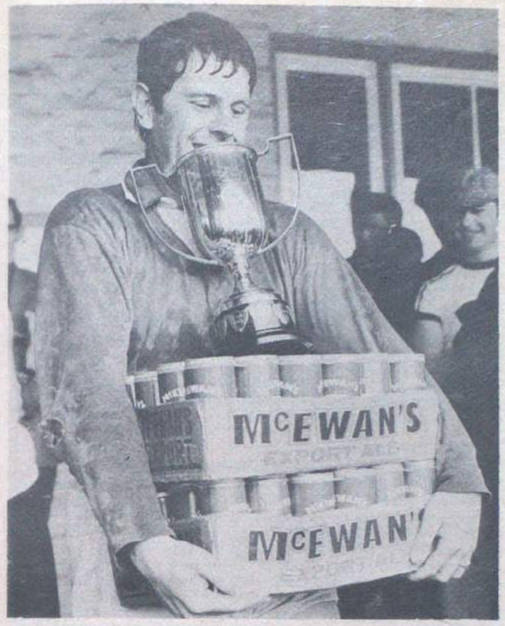


The effort and perspiration gained its proper reward and **Cpl Bill Parker** in receiving the prize for the Tug of War event can be seen attempting to suck two cases of McEwans via the base of the prize cup. Note: He failed and is now suffering from a severe attack of sunken cheeks.

Seriously the events were thoroughly well organised and enjoyed by all. Perhaps **Maj Jim McKail's** appreciation may have been slightly less than others in that the last half hour of the meeting was dominated by a torrential downpour catching him and the Tug of War teams in mid-flight well clear of cover. His claim on PRI for suit cleaning was suitably rebuffed.

Maj Keith Rothwell ran his last Old Soldiers Race. Once again he beat the field mainly by virtue of his severe long service which placed him 10 yards from the tape with the remainder of an extensive field some 50yds back. In the picture he is receiving his prize bottle of quality bubbly from the Second in Command's wife. Interested readers should note in the background, from left, **Maj David Stubbs, Capt Fred Orr** (central and smiling) and the eyes of **Maj Harry Feber.**

Winners of the more formal sports were, in the ladies events—Krefeld Station WRAC, which, with an establishment of 25, overwhelmed the opposition from the WRAC in 1 Squadron and 4









Squadron, both at least three times their strength in numbers. The happy recipients are (from left) **Cpl Nicki Wellings, LCpl Angie Sandford** and **Cpl Vicki Lewis.**

And in the competition between the squadrons 2 Squadron were worthy winners and the Team Captain, **2Lt Steven May** is seen proudly displaying the shield awarded for this worthy win.

STORK GARTON TROPHY

On 3 May an unusual annual event, six-a-side inter-squadron/troop/department football competition was staged on West Park. The aim of the competition is to get as many Regimental personnel to exercise their skills at football and team work. Necessarily, all Regimental players were excluded from the competition but acted as officials throughout an extremely well organised day of hard competition. In the event the cloudy morning weather turned to brilliant sunshine for the semi-finals and final. The latter was contested between teams from HQ Squadron and 2 Squadron.

The former being worthy winners scoring 3 goals to 1 including a hattrick by **LCpl Dean Wood,** immediately promoted to full Corporal for (amongst other things) services to HQ Squadron football!

HENDRY'S FOLLY

5 May was the day of the above motor-cycling competition which was organised by the MT Troop. For those well versed in the motor-cycling world and its personalities the naming of the event is with regard to **Sgt Ken Hendry's** last duty in the Regiment. His and the MT Troop organisation was rewarded with a large field of entrants of over 50, from all over BAOR and Berlin.

The competition was in two stages:

Stage 1 The riders had to complete 10 sections of a four mile course and six circuits within a time allowance of three and a half hours.

Stage 2 With a massed start the riders had an allowance of three hours in which to complete as many laps of a four mile course as they were able.

Within the competition there were four classes of rider:

Expert on Service machine—Winner **Cpl Barraclough,** 2 Div Regt RCT

Novice on Service machine—Winner **Sig Ashe,** 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt

Competition class—Winner **Sig Randall,** 21 Sig Regt (AS)

Endura class—Winner **Sgt Young,** 663 Sqn AAC

The prizes were presented by **Mrs Valerie Allwright,** wife of the CO, 16 Sig Regt, who was in return presented with an inscribed gold medal thanking her for her services to motor-cycling. The photograph shows **Mrs Allwright** having presented **Sgt Hendry** with a trophy which was



subscribed for by all the entrants to the competition in recognition of his efforts both in this and many other years in organising motor-cycling trials and competitions.

TUG OF WAR 23 MAY

West Park was the venue of yet another sporting event, this time the Rhine Area Tug of War Championships which is the selection route to go forward to the BAOR competition. The pictures below show yet more effort on the sports field, the first being the heavyweight squad overlooked by an incredibly serious looking official but also being encouraged by a ferocious lady at far right behind the ropes.

And the lightweight squad similarly going its winning ways with a suitably lightened spectator crowd.



From left: LCpl Cass Britton, Sig Shaggy Smith, Sig Adrian Waters, Sig John Fisher, Cpl Bill Parker, Cpl Nick Hammett, Cpl Paddy Rush, Cpl Joe Booth



From left: Sig John Fisher, Cpl Cass Cassidy, Cpl Steve Harmer, Cpl Bill Parker, LCpl Mick Brolan, Cpl Nick Hammett, Cpl Joe Booth, Cpl Paddy Rush

DINING OUT WO1 FRANK POPE

On Saturday, 27 May the Corporals Mess said farewell to the President of the past two years, **WO1 Frank Pope.** After weeks of preparation, toil and sweat by **Cpls Mick Hunt, Russ Moren, Steve Shaw, Nicki Wellings (WRAC)** and others of the Committee the big moment arrived. **Frank** walked in and helped himself to an aperitif then hid whilst the PMC, **Mick 'Daddy' Hunt** hovered around trying to find him. (He'd failed to report to the main door in time to meet the honoured guest — Black Mark!)

He was dined out in style in the suitably well decorated restaurant befitting one who has earned it for his devotion to the Mess (in and out of hours). After the dinner and presentation all adjourned to the Mess for the usual after-dinner refreshments.

On the stroke of midnight he was evicted from the Mess as is customary on these occasions. **Frank Pope** went white when he saw the jib of the REME recovery vehicle appear at the window (some 20ft above the ground). He was duly suspended from the jib arm and lowered to a few feet above the ground, then driven to the unit swimming pool and lowered slowly in. Unfortunately the operator, **LCpl Skip Staines, REME,** 'forgot' where the brake was and **Frank** got a ducking followed by several members who were too close to the edge.

After changing into dry clothes he was allowed back into the Mess and took up where he left off — on his aperitifs. The evening ended several hours later with no casualties other than rope burns and a badly bruised finger, plus shrunken trousers—all sustained by the guest of honour. Cheerio and good luck **Frank.**

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

On 4 June St James's Church formed the Sunday Service round a Festival of Flowers. For this the school children of the Station had been encouraged to enter a poster competition depicting flowers and flower designs or as an alternative they could write a piece of poetry on the theme of flowers. 190 entries were received. Between our well known choir coached by the Padre's wife **Mrs Marlene Slegg** and the hymns sung in general a large amount of singing took place and indeed the choir surpassed itself with some really beautiful singing. **Padre John Slegg** led throughout the Service supported by various persons reading suitable pastoral or floral items of poetry or quotations. The service culminated in the presentation of prizes to the winning children in three age groups for both pictorial and poetical works. The prizes were presented by **Padre John Fail,** the current Warden of Church House Wuppertal who kindly came along for this pleasurable duty.

Later that afternoon some members of the choir and congregation visited one of the local old people's homes for a small performance.

ATHLETICS

On 7 June we entered a team in the Rhine Area Inter-Unit Athletics competition and having finished last in this event last year we improved our station by one. In fact we also increased our points total by 40% probably at the expense of the sixth and last team but certainly we were in contention for third and fourth place for most of the competition. Well done the athletics team!

N.B. 21 Sig Regt won again but only just pipping HQ BAOR—experience very nearly carried the day for the old and bold on this occasion.

2 SQUADRON REPORT

Every month is a busy month. The bustle of troop activities must jostle its way between Regimental exercises, sports and various external commitments. Signalmen develop the 'ping-pong' syndrome and at times have difficulty in recognising the holder of the bat. It has however been noticed that the Regimental Ops Cell appears to favour a Chinese grip!!

The focus of this edition is on Alfa Troop. For our Russian reader, a quick breakdown of the troop hierarchy would probably prove useful:

OC Lt Brian 'Sporadic E' Jackson
Tp SSgt SSgt Jim Lees
Tp Sgts Sgt Roy Gordon
Sgt Ray King
Sgt Mick Waring

In April and May the troop has been locked in mortal combat with its old enemy the IONOSPHERE. The current champions being that deadly duo the E and F layers. Exercise *Square Dance* 6/78 was the scene of the first conflict. By cunning use of the wrong antennae Alfa quickly gave the upper hand to E and F. The Commanding Officer counter-attacked by extending an invitation to the troop to remain in the field until they had achieved their aim. Being prudent fellows, they readily agreed!

Their employment over the weekend (whilst all else were abed) proved to be of great value to them and eventually the troop was recalled from its self-imposed exile. **Cpl Nick Hammett** was more than pleased to return since the hospitality afforded him by the locals was becoming overpowering. (Nuf said young Nick!)

No sooner had the troop returned to barracks than it immediately deployed on our monthly DCN trial to UK. **Cpl Trev Loughton** was quite pleased, since it was another opportunity to continue his destruction trials on his combat kit! At last, with a score of one to Alfa and one to E and F a sullen truce was called. As usual it was short-lived.

In the early hours of a grey Friday morning *Active Edge* was the cry, and by 0830hrs the Regiments vehicles were assembled on the Square awaiting orders. Most of the Regiment was stood down—but—once again the gauntlet had been thrown in the direction of Alfa Troop so we sallied forth to battle.

An interesting 24 hour period ensued and a new Alfa Troop champion emerged. Little **SSgt (YofS) Les Rix,** no relation to big **YofS 'Mick The Rat' (WO2 (UofS) Rattray),** darted from morse key to teleprinter to dipole and back again. Supported mainly by two Swan Vestas under his eyelids he eventually provided the initial path for our 'top secret' message to be passed. Thank you little YofS!—one of the few men who is on first name terms with E and F (Layers that is!). Undermanned and overworked, or so we like to let people believe, Alfa Troop are at present enjoying a 'restful' period in barracks.

Sig 'Benny' Bywater is making brave efforts to go on a six month detachment to Belize (Silly boy, he obviously doesn't read the newspapers!!) **LCpl 'Scotch' Scott,** depressed after Scotland's World Cup performances, is hoping to spend the last week of June in Hong Kong accompanied by **Sigs 'Smudge'** and **'KB' Smith.** Does he not realise that PEARL TV in Hong Kong will haunt him by televising the World Cup final??

3 SQUADRON

The final of the Inter Troop Quiz was held on 7 April with the gallant S Troop coming out on top. They were presented with a Shield which in turn had been presented to the Squadron by the previous Squadron Commander, **Maj Ivan Double.**

The Squadron fared quite well in the Inter Squadron Athletics meeting on 27 April by retaining the Tug of War Cup and the Chain of Command Shield — unfortunately we had to give up the Champion Shield to 2 Squadron — but there is always next year.

F Troop had a memorable day at Cochem in the Mosel valley, though the weather could have been kinder but they did appear to be more wet on the inside rather than on the outside!

Our Squadron Commander, **Maj David Stubbs,** arranged a marvellous day out for the Squadron by arranging a Route March (not too far for starters). Not only was the sun blistering hot but the affliction spread to our feet (blisters that is). The news for everyone is that they are to become a regular part of the Squadron training programme (I wonder if we could make it to Argentina to see Scotland??).

A few casualties were sustained in the Stork Garton six-a-side Football Trophy namely **Sgt John Baker** of F Troop with a broken ankle in the first match but he gamely continued through to the 7 match. Who said that the 'Hairies' were weak?

Pte Jackie Colwill WRAC and **LCpl Trevor Davies** were married on 22 April. We wish them all the best for the future.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Time does not permit the full statistics but for those leaving we appreciate your efforts on behalf of the Regiment and for those arriving we welcome and expect your full support during your tour.



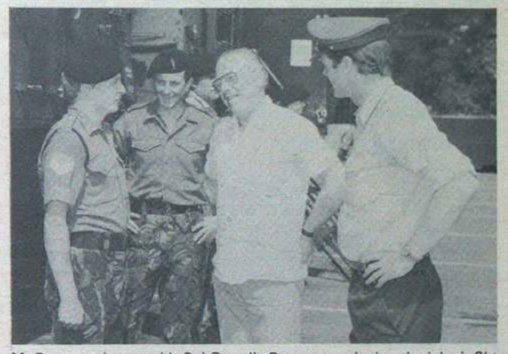
21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

MR BROWN SEES THE FORM

We had our usual number of VIP visitors, the latest was **Mr R. Brown, MP,** Permanent Under Secretary of State for Defence (ARMY) who was accompanied on his visit by the CSO, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin. Mr Brown** was briefed on the role of the Regiment by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. F. H. Colman,** he was then shown a Harrier Primary Site and three Sub Sites provided by 2 Squadron, commanded by the new Squadron Commander, **Maj David Jessett. Mr Brown** met many of the personalities of the squadron. He appeared most at home when he was introduced to fellow Geordie, **Cpl Geordie Brennan,** one could almost taste the Newcastle Brown in the air. The aim of the visit was to meet members of the Regiment and view our equipment; this was achieved to the full.



Mr Brown talks to the management who are being closely watched by the CSO and the CO



Mr Brown at home with Cpl Geordie Brennan, enjoying the joke is 2Lt Chas Turner and the CO



Mr Brown meets Sgt Dave James the SNCO IC site message centres. Others standing by are Cpl John Dunlop, Sig Precious Tanner and Sig Smudge Smith. Looking on at the end of the line is Cpl 'Amstell' Lawrence. Mr Brown was shown around by 2Lt Chas Turner

THE CORPS BAND

Our next visitors were the Corps Band who were on a tour of BAOR. They played the ceremony of the 'Playing of Retreat' in front of the Air Terminal at Wildenrath. Their excellent display impressed the mixed audience of RAF, loyal German dignitaries and members of the Regiment. The Station Commander, Gp Capt Mitchell AFC, RAF, took the salute on the march off. The band then played at a cocktail party at the Officers Mess and the dance band section played in the Sergeants Mess. Everyone on the Station was really impressed by the military performance of the band.

ENTHUSIASTIC APPRENTICES TO THE FORE

May 1978 proved to be the month for visitors to the Regiment. Our first visitors, and very welcome they were, was a team of athletes from the Army Apprentice College Harrogate. An evening athletics match was arranged by **Lt Stan Young.** The apprentices ran against a team from the Regiment, RAF Wildenrath and RAF Rheindahlen. The apprentices put up a good show, there is hope for the future in the Corps athletics, judging by the effort and enthusiasm shown by these young men. **Maj Rod Dransfield** the team manager is to be congratulated on a fine team. It was nice to see **Sgt Bill Venus** back running round the tracks at Wildenrath, it is obvious his enthusiasm for the sport has rubbed off on the apprentices with whom he serves.

'DOWN YOUR WAY'

The Regiment was the subject of the BFBS programme It's Good Ere, a form of 'Down Your Way' presented by **Keith Rawlings.** Many of the regimental personalities were included in the broadcast. The Commanding Officer introduced the Regiment and was followed by **Capt J. H. Richardson,** Officer Commanding 'G' Troop and Wildenrath's Gamekeeper. **Lt Stan Young** advertised the Regiment's glorious past in athletics and cross-country running, we hope Manning and Records were listening. **SSgt (YofS) Brain Tranter, RQMS Edie Vickers** and **Sgt Mick Read** showed the variety of interests and activities in the Regiment from amateur dramatics through mountaineering to charity work for the Daily Mirror's old codgers.

SSgt (FofS) Dave Woofenden baffled us all with his talk on the equipment he manages at Roetgen. **Sig Pete Charles** and **Sig Dave Whiting,** 2 Squadron, were a mirror of the young soldiers' interests in sport. In all the programme was a well balanced picture of life in 21 Signal Regiment including the out Troops.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

OC	—	**Maj C. T. A. (Chas) Hughes BEM**
SSM	—	**WO2 Fred Winton**
SQMS	—	**SSgt Taff Ricketts**
Clerk	—	**LCpl Ken McKinney**
Trg Wing	—	**SSgt John Bell**
		SSgt Mac McEwen
		SSgt Tony Higham
		and their small band of sadists.

It must be years since this element of 21 Sig Regt put pen to paper, hence the family tree above.

TO THE FIELD

The month of April was particularly busy. The start of the new year in the Army's eyes is a dread to any HQ. The testing time for all, days on the ranges seemed to never end. The training is coming on well, thanks to **LCpl Jock Hutton,** late of Training Wing, now lending tone to 13 Sig Regt and the remainder of Training Wing. A spur here and there ensures that all are on the ball, or should I say bull. This is yet another Squadron with bleeps, creeps, monkies and chunkies. Seven cap badges in the one Squadron. That is by no means a record but it's enough.

Who ever heard of Headquarter Squadron in the field. It has happened. Not so elaborately as you may imagine but nearly all have visited some place taking them away for the day, or week, or month, **Sig Mac McAlpine** even spending four months in Norway!

Firstly came the support required to take part in Exercise Flying Falcon. Cooks, mechanics, drivers and tecnicians. Our Squadron seemed to supply a good share of the work-force. Then came Mini Mash, where did the majority come from? Right again. **Sgt Eddie Widdess RAOC** and a crew of thirteen from the Squadron made up to twenty five from the remaining three Squadrons. Then the Station Mineval, twenty men under the watchful eye of **Sgt Pete Dring.** A jolly good effort **Pete,** the RAF have not complained yet. Then the straw that broke the camel's back. HQ Squadron not only ran the two week battle camp known as 'The Hitler Youth Camp', they actually supplied nine students. The officers and WO's were required to supervise and ensure all had their share of the arduous duties. All this going on and we still found time to pass 60% on the BFT within the first months fit in a character training session and achieve 40% who completed range classification. How do we do it? ASk MT who had to send the Troop Sergeant out on a detail, ask the FofS who was actually seen in the workshop. Ask the SQMS who did sheet exchange; ask the QM's department who carried on regardless to get the G1098 re-written; ask the Chief Clerk who managed to finally get the new establishment proposal printed. Most of it has been fun but they say this year may get worse.

Welcome to **Maj Alan Stephenson** and **Maj John Finch,** two strong oarsmen in our galley ship.

SPORTING SUCCESSES TOO

On the sporting scene we have competed in the usual sporting events winning the Station football competition and coming a very close third in the Tug-of-War. Well done the Squadron.

CHANGE OF COMMAND IN 2 SQUADRON

The Squadron has undergone changes in management, **Maj and Mrs Davies** have returned to RSRE in the UK. All ranks of the Squadron wish them well in their new appointment and now welcome **Maj and Mrs Jessett.** Other changes have been **Capt David Lawson,** Officer Commanding F Troop and part time discus thrower and small bore shot, and **Lt John Piper,** Officer Commanding J Troop.

The Squadron are fully committed on Harrier and Wessex exercises and who isn't these days? There has been a vast change since the early days of Harrier Comms ten years ago. The Squadron have extremely good relations with the RAF, this is due in part to the professional approach to the various changes over the years. Our finest testimonial came from an RAF Harrier pilot who, when interviewed by BFBS in a 'Down Your Way' programme, stated that they couldn't function without the close support of the Army Signal Squadron.

Our arrivals and departures are too numerous to mention so farewell to those who have left and welcome to all those new arrivals. PS Make sure you are fit for the road runs.

OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN

The Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force Germany recently commended **Sgt Rick Monk** of L Troop RAF Laarbruch for his outstanding services to the station. A TE Technician **Sgt Monk** has become a specialist on airfield communications. This little known sphere of military communications involves bench work on equipment so new that information has to be gleaned from technical journals, and supervision of installations together with the manufacturer's team of engineers. However, even more important is the systems engineering aspect which places an unusual challenge in the way of a Sergeant technician.

While a team effort is clearly involved **Sgt Monk** has made a particularly valuable contribution to a number of important projects. Our picture shows the Station Commander of RAF Laarbruch, **Group Capt Price RAF** presenting the commendation. In the background are members of the Airfield Troop for whom **Sgt Monk** has the warmest praise.



Sgt Rick Monk receives his commendation from Gp Capt Price RAF. Others in the photograph from *Left to right:* Mrs Worrall, Capt Worrall, Mrs Monk and members of the Troop

STIMULATING CHALLENGE FOR 3 SQUADRON

Many members of the Corps will know **SSgt Fred Denniss** either as a tradesman or as an instructor on a number of trade training courses who drives himself as hard as his course students. Very many airfields around the world have benefitted from his expertise over the past two decades.

As this is published, the finishing touches are being put to his latest project, the installation of a new German 800 line cordless automatic board at RAF Laarbruch. The cabling associated with the board has involved six months effort to ensure the highest standards of engineering are maintained as the very expensive equipment with room for expansion is a long term installation. The idea that our present day tradesmen should meet the challenge of such a large and complex job was that of Commander 4 Signal Group anxious to keep down ever rising expenditure on communications. A number of junior tradesmen on two airfields have had the satisfaction of rising to the challenge and succeeding.



SSgt Fred Denniss and Col R. H. Gilbertson, Comd 4 Sig Gp having a quiet word

The photograph shows the Group Commander, **Col R H Gilbertson** during his visit to see the project in progress. As well as allowing all those involved at Laarbruch to meet him it also provided an opportunity to wish **SSgt Denniss** well in his new job as recruiter on the Long Service List. As was remarked during the visit, 3 Squadron's loss will be recruiting's gain.

MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS TEAM

OIC	—	**WO2 (SSM) Fred Winton**
2IC	—	**Sgt Ray Hancock BEM**
Riders	—	**SSgt Gary Coude**
		SSgt Tony Higham APTC
		Cpl Brian Thompson
		LCpl Paul Engering
		Sig Keith Randle
		Cfn Bob Johnson REME

SECRET AMBITION

On the fateful day when OC HQ Sqn and PRI, **Maj Chas Hughes BEM** shouted those delightful words 'Sergeant Major', having dropped what I was doing I entered the office to be greeted with a list to which I had to append my name. Yes you've guessed, it was the sports appointments! My secret ambition has always been to manage a trials team. Almost immediately I entered my name against the glaring impossible entry. Then came the difficult part. Where were the machines, where were the riders?

Eventually we found 1 × B40 awaiting back-loading, 2 × B40 in the HQ MT that would have broken any motor cyclist's heart. One × B40 in fairly regular use belonging to **Sgt Keith Randle.** Yes, and last but by no means least, **SSgt Gary Coude** managed to find my office carrying what looked like a B40 oil tank. To my delight I found that the unit had been issued with four Ossa 250's. The green and silver glistening in the sunlight as it shone through the hole in the dusty windows of our motor cycle shed.

EARLY SUCCESS

The 20 April was a breath of fresh air to us all, our very own **Keith Randle** came second out of a field of 190 riders in the German Army Trials held at Münster Lager. His B40 looked like a show piece before he left. (Not so good now though, anyone got a spare swinging arm). The course was very gruelling for all the riders but naturally a few top Army riders walked the course. The first three places went to British Army riders all on B40's. I am assured that the Camp Commandant was more than surprised when presenting the prizes. Well done **Keith** you'll make the top soon. Unfortunately we lose him on a posting to Northern Ireland, a place where he will never see a motor cycle let alone enter a trials, which will be sad.

SPLENDID EFFORT

Now the end product. The 29 April 1978, the weather could not be better. All four Ossas on the road plus one on B40. the trials are called Buckled Wheel II, and being held by RAF Brüggen with a little help from the RCT.

The morning consisted of ten observed sections. Some of which would have brought laughter to the saddest faces. A strange smell came from one and it could have been described as a not very clean water hole. The others tested the skills and abilities of the riders beyond doubt. All five riders had excellent results and we are proud of you all.

Keith Randle had 44 clear sections out of 50.
Brian Thompson had 39 clear sections
Tony Higham had 17 clear sections
Bob Johnson had six clear sections
Gary Coude had a disappointing morning and was unable to complete the 50 sections. I am assured his beast of a B40 will do better next time.

The afternoon was a gruelling five miles cross country for a continuous two hour stretch. The results being:

Keith Randle completed 17 laps
Tony Higham completed 15 laps
Brian Thomson completed 15 laps
Bob Johnson completed 13 laps
Gary Coude completed 13 laps

What a splendid effort! Only two of the riders had ever entered trials before. **Keith Randle** and partner took first place in the team event, and **Keith** won the individual. His wife assures me she is not dusting any more trophies but purchasing a dust proof show case. **Keith** looks forward to the Welsh and Army Trials. Good luck!

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

FREEDOM OF LIPPSTADT PARADE

The visit of the Corps Band to Lippstadt on the 15/16 May was an excellent opportunity for the Regiment to exercise its rights to the Freedom of Lippstadt. Together with a contingent from 7 Fernmelde Battalion—our sister unit in the Bundeswehr—and led by the Corps Band, under the Director of Music, **Lt Col K. R. R. Boulding,** the parade marched from the station to the Markt Platz. The parade was commanded by **Maj Mike Galloway** with the two regimental guards being commanded by **Capt Tony Gibb** and **Lt Dick Good.** After the parade the Corps Band played Retreat in front of the Rathaus watched by a large crowd who were braving the constant drizzle.



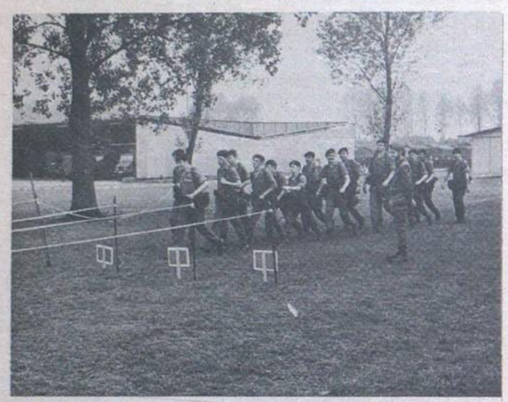
The Corps Band leading the parade along Langestrasse Lippstadt

RAPIER TROOP MEMBERS ARRIVE IN THE REGIMENT

We are pleased to welcome to the Regiment two members of Rapier Troop Junior Signalman Wing—our sponsored troop. **Sig William (Bill) Andrews** now finds himself sorting out the goods in the QM (Tech) Dept and **Sig Matthew (Mat) Murray** is a Combat Radioman in B Troop, 4 Squadron.

LIPPSTADT 25 KM WALK

On 21 May two teams from the Regiment entered the annual Lippstadt 25km Walk organised by 7 Fernmelde Battalion. Our photographs show **Capt Neil Donaldson** leading the HQ Team into the finish and **Maj Mike Rice** finishing on behalf of the 3 Squadron Team (he went ahead to check that reception arrangements were in order for the two teams and as he had the team's card he was booked in—15 minutes ahead of the team!)



Capt Neil Donaldson and the HQ Sqn Team finishing



Maj Mike Rice finishes on behalf of 3 Sqn

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

The Inter Squadron Competition was won this year by 4 Squadron. There were several good performances notably in the Old Soldiers Race by **Sgt Mick Annis** who won and **Capt (TOT) Mike Truran** who tried to win, by fair means and foul. A regimental team was selected for the 3 Div Championships where we were beaten into fourth place one point behind 26 Field Regt RA. **Sig Birch** won the 400m Hurdles in 63 seconds.

FAREWELL

We bid farewell to **Maj Hugh Bonaker** and his wife **Mary** who leave us after their second tour in 22 Sig Regt for the NDC. We would like to thank them both for all they have done for the Regiment in their time here. We welcome as our new 2IC, **Maj Ian Hamilton** and his wife **Elizabeth.**

NOTES FROM 2 SQUADRON

Personality Profiles:

OC	**Maj James Sweetman**
2IC	**Capt Peter Bowles**
OC E Tp	**Lt Dick Barfoot**
OC F Top	**WO2 (YofS) Max Pond**
SSM	**WO2 Paddy McGerty**
SQMS	**SSgt Taffy Cole**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Dave Bowers**

A VISIT TO SWITZERLAND

The Major Swiss Walking Event each year is the two day March at Berne, the capital, to which the various nations of Europe are invited to send teams. This year 2 Squadron assisted by members of 4 Squadron entered a team of 14 soldiers led by **Maj James Sweetman** as part of the BAOR team (in fact ours turned out to be the majority of the British contingent). The military teams covered 30km or 40km in full kit. **Sgt Scous Thompson,** the team trainer, kept up the spirits of the team while **Sig Alfie Birch** and **LCpl Andy Brown** kept everyone amused with their Swiss jokes. The final march in, like Nijmegen, was accompanied by a local band and our team was given a very enthusiastic reception by the Swiss. When not marching our team enjoyed the beauty of Berne, camping by the River Aase right in the city centre. The hierarchy kept disappearing 'on duty' only to return full of Swiss hospitality.

After the Marches the team went to Kandersteg for three days of mountain walking. Due to bad weather and a heavy winter this proved an exciting time as **LCpl McConaghy** will vouch and he changed his clothing after traversing some of the hairier parts. However **Cpl Paul Christian** our professional mountain goat led everyone to safety and taught us how to use ice axes for things other than building igloos. Whilst the team was galavanting **Cpl Groves** and **Paddy McIntyre** were busy in the base camp compiling their chapter for the good pub guide.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

REGIMENTAL SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

The meeting took place at Perham Down Ranges on the 9 and 10 May 78 in fine weather which was the one part of the organisation not controlled by **WO1 (YofS) Ross** and **WO2 Neilson** of the Regt Trg Wing. The tentage and butt parties laboured over three days to provide shelter and excellent shooting facilities for the competitors under the direction of **SSgt Shaw, Sgt Gane** and **Sgt Webb.**

The shooting covered the use of all weapons, the practices were loosely based on the APWT with one or two additions mainly involving physical exertion. To add a little extra competition, falling plate and tile events were also included, and were very much enjoyed by the teams taking part. The competition was to be won on a points system, points being awarded for places in each event, and the overall result was a run-away victory for 1 Sqn repeating their win of the previous season. The event winners and runners up are as follows:—

SMG MATCH 1 SQN WINNERS

Sgt Sargent 1 Sqn — 1st individual score
Sgt Rogers 1 Sqn — 2nd individual score

PISTOL MATCH 1 SQN WINNERS

Sgt Poole 1 Sqn — 1st individual score
Sgt Sargent 1 Sqn — 2nd individual score

SLR MATCH 1 SQN WINNERS

LCpl Metcalfe 1 Sqn — 1st individual score
Sgt Fenton 1 Sqn — 2nd individual score

LMG MATCH 1 SQN WINNERS

SSgt Walls 3 Sqn — 1st individual score
LCpl Cook 3 Sqn

SMG TILES 1 SQN WINNERS

PISTOL TILES 2 SQN WINNERS

FALLING PLATE 2 SQN WINNERS

After two days good shooting the **2IC Maj Pitkin** congratulated all competitors on the standrads achieved and handed over to **Mrs Robinson** the RSM's wife, who presented cups and medals to an endless stream of 1 Sqn pers. **Sig Bean** the outstanding B class shot of the meeting stole the show by presenting **Mrs Robinson** with a bouquet.



SSgt Heliv and Cpl Pledger compete with the LMG at the Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting

REGIMENTAL RECRUITING AND INFORMATION TEAM

After a great deal of preparation with a completely new team, consisting of **Sgt Gaffer Saxton, LCpl Ray Dickinson, Sig Ski Howarth** and **Sig (Get Some In) Lilley,** we set off on the 1978 season with a Devon and Cornwall tour, stopping at Bideford, Barnstaple, Taunton, Tiverton and Weston-S-Mare. All glad the hard work was over at last and time to show the public our work of art. **WO1 (YofS) Ross** pleased to see the back of us, waved *bye bye.*

Our first port of call was Bideford, North Devon. All very keen we set up at the park gates, two hours passed by and so did most of the people, however by lunchtime things had changed. We had our work cut out answering all the questions asked and were pleased to see the end of the day. That evening **Gaffer** challenged **Ray** to a game of putt which he lost, he wasn't pleased so **LCpl Ray Dickinson** had twice as much work to do the following day!

SLOW BUILD UP

Most of the tour was a slow build up to the rest of the season until we reached that Majorca of the West Country, Weston-S-Mare. Before we had even had time to set up, there were four young ladies of 75 wishing to re-enlist, so we asked them to go and see the ACIO as he had not seen anyone in a week.

The first day saw **Sig Lilley** explaining to three Scotsmen that we were recruiting for the Royal Signals and not Ali's Army. Even the sun came out to see us, which brought out the day trippers and meant a great deal of business. **Sig Ski Howarth** spent all his time watching the girls go by, the next trip out we may actually get some work out of him. Back at camp now preparing for the Royal Bath and West Show, with the White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team, we now realise it is going to be a hard season.

1 SQUADRON REPORTS

1 Squadron eventually made it back from the British Virgin Islands (no thanks to the RAF!) and has since sent D13 detachments to exciting places like RAF Stanbridge, RAF Machrahanish and RNAS Culdrose with the even more exciting prospect of the Catterick Army Show and Royal Tournament in view. Well, these places are what you make of them, and 1 Squadron usually manage something!

SHOOTING FIRST

In fact the Squadron has been managing rather well. We made a clean sweep at the Regimental Skill at Arms Competition in May retaining the SLR and SMG Trophies and adding the LMG Plate to our trophy cabinet and all the individual firsts in the competition. Naturally the Regiment's Small Arms Cup stayed with 1 Squadron. Well done to **Sgt Dave Poole** (Individual Pistol Winner), **Sgt Ian Sergeant** (Individual SLR Winner) and **LCpl Nigel Metcalfe** (Individual SMG Winner). Completing the winning line up were **Sgt Robbie Fenton** (Pistol Team) and **Sig Jim 'Bouquet' Bean** (SLR/SMG/LMG Team).

FIGHTING FIRST

The first weekend in June saw North Wales bathed in sunshine and **LCpl Scouse Kurthausen, Cpl Richie Gunson, LCpls Jim Hunt** and **Mick Couston** with **Fletcher** bathed in sweat. 'The route on the map is 28km with 9000 feet ascent. On the ground it is probably more like 20 miles.' That's the official description of the 8th Welsh 1000 Metres Peak Race. The first three teams home in the military were all R Signals. Our intrepid team came in second narrowly beaten by six Fd Force (ex 216 Para) with 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn close on their heels. The key to their successful training appeared to be hot pursuit with the local Bethesda Beauties—but reports of who was running after whom are confused. **Fletcher** can never remember these things.

COMMANDER'S CUP

As we look forward to the World With One Episode 101 in Bermuda, we could not leave Ex Green Tops in the BVI out of the news altogether. The advance party of that exercise won the Commander's Cup in recognition of their complete mastery of latrine construction. It was the only problem surmounted in the establishment of the camp on Beef Island but **SSgt (SQMS) 'Cas' Francis** practised his best labour relations when the diggers downed tools on the job. The Cup was presented by **Col Bob Benbow** and accepted on behalf of the advance party by **Capt Martyn Reid.**

FAREWELL TO MAJOR THOMPSON

Directly following the Commander's Cup presentation the Squadron retired to the Rugby Club for a Happy Hour. The purpose of the party, and 1 Squandron don't normally need to find a purpose for a party, was to say farewell to Maj Roger Thompson now residing at the Ministry of Defence in Combat Development. The last tasks for **Maj T** were to present **Cpl Mick Babb** with his second stripe in the Rugby Club (a notable first in the promotion field) and **SSgt (SQMS) Roy Jennings** with a tankard on his retirement. The Squadron had commissioned the CO, **Lt Col Arthur Byng,** to paint a water colour of the 'Last Resort'—an island night club in the BVI, as a permanent reminder of **Maj T's** happy time with 1 Squadron.

As **Maj Thompson** settles in his chair in the MOD **Maj Pat Kington** has arrived to take the reins in 1 Squadron. We welcome him and hope he enjoys his time with the 'Fighting First'.

2 SQUADRON IN GAMBIA

Exercise Sun River took place between February and May in the Gambia. Our aim was to provide a link to Gibraltar as a Rear Link for 2 R Anglian and 9 Independent Para Sqn RE with AAC elements in support. We worked from a fairly rudimentary base camp some 50 miles from Banjul. There were, however, daily runs into town and we frequently hitched lifts with the PCCU. The JUL beer worked out at £1 per pint and mortgage facilities were needed for spirits. The topless barmaids and the equally inadequately clad Swedish tourists on the beaches somehow made the journey well worthwhile. The temperature varied from 90 deg F when we started in February and gradually got warmer until it had soared to a sizzling 120 deg F in April. The heat and nudity probably account for **Sig Steve Bungay** dropping his all, including wallet, only to find on his return from cavorting that the communications went very well. It was not all breasts and booze. We worked the anchor link first to Kenya which is as far away from the Gambia as China is from Kenya and then to Gibraltar. The PRC 320 also worked voice back to Blandford in a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave dipole and lower power for a regular schedule. The exercise is running again next year and those taking part will do well to maintain the high standards achieved by this years operators.

VHF troop, now the Net Radio Troop, provided Div-type comms for Exercise Eastern Panther on STA. This was a really exciting affair on the radio side. We supplied a radcon and fire control stations for the Div nets. We left camp in good heart at 'Sparrows' on the Saturday. All the 2 Sqn dets had arrived by 1700 hours but **WO2 (FofS) Mick Scott BEM** of 3 Sqn took his packet the pretty route and they finally joined us for a late dinner. Their late arrival turned out just as well because in the event due to all not being ready, we ended up with one mess tin between three men and a loving cup ceremony at the tea urn. To cut a long story short we were set up by Sunday lunch-time and the cards came out while we waited for the order for Startex. **Sig Jess Ward** practised his card tricks in his sleeping bag wearing a pair of earphones C11 type to keep his ears warm. **Sig Andrew McKinley** cuddled up with a blue-flame heater and **LCpl (now Mr) Al Ming** read his Superman comic for the third time that day and **Cpl Bob Das** of 3 Sqn demonstrated how easy it is to lose comms if you inadvertently sprinkle all the remotes with a generous helping of hot ashes. The line crews under the command of **Sgt John Luck** were dug out at an unearthly hour to fix,

making the appropriate comments, and laid some new 10 pairs.

After 84 hours of radio silence, 30 generator changes and nine changes of shift, radio silence was lifted on two of the nets. Endex followed 24 hours hours later. Not one of the busier exercises but, 'They also serve who only stand and wait'.

TEN TORS COVER

Another commitment was Ten Tors, a detachment on each of 18 Tors and control stations also, producing five nets and an RR trunk system across the Moor. We were aided very handsomely by 3 Sqn and 249 Sig Sqn who did us proud. Ex Ten Tors control was a tri-Service effort but the approaches were so different that they are worthy of note. Some arrived on time dressed alike in combat kit and in an alert state of keenness. Some rolled up nearly on time in various forms of barrack dress and when we had shown them how to assemble their camp beds and how their sleeping bags worked they were fit for roll. Some came late but jolly well prepared, caravans, wives, children, aunts message pads, mixed dress. The Tors they manned were really rather splendid in their comfort. We'll let you work out which was which! Anyway a good time was had by all.

There was a disco in the NAAFI the night before the event started, the beer queue at the bar was about 15 deep but there was evidence the next day to show that the ale was in full supply. A number of competitors dropped out after only half an hour and **Sig Geordie Stubbs** developed a crush for a WRAC girl on the recording staff. He in fact volunteered for a shift on the teleprinters to get close to her and got up to four words a fortnight, not bad for a Combat Powerman. We were a bit pushed for our operators passed 7000 messages in the 36hrs of the exercise. At one stage even the OC **Maj Owen Lewis** was seen to be exercising his index fingers on a T100. The Ten Tors event is run for the benefit of the 2400 young people walking, mainly civilians. I am sure that the enjoyment and sense of achievement they get out of it makes those of us who are helping to run it think that it is a weekend well spent.

News from Squadrons

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 36

Life has continued to be busy for the Squadron since our notes in the last issue, with the usual hectic round of exercises, visitors and inspections. First the exercises.

Exercise FLYING FALCON

The Squadron had a rewarding Exercise *Flying Falcon*. During the first phase we raced from Division to Division fighting off the Moriartian hordes. We also achieved the fastest crash out of the exercise after a particular Division unkindly sited our Main HQ in the high impact area of a German Army artillery range—and firing began at first light!

During the weekend period we were pleased to welcome CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** for a quick visit together with other UK visitors. We were also particularly pleased to welcome a party from our UK sister unit, 7 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.

The second phase was a fast and furious finale with the Squadron 1st XI being knocked out and leaving the Second XI to run affairs. The Squadron seemed to survive the shock with equanimity in fact many didn't even notice the change. Our congratulations to OC B Troop **Lt Alisdair Harrison** for getting no sleep whatsoever and also to **Cpl John Freegard** whose detachment completed 21 moves during the seven days of exercise play. Our only disappointment was that our helicopters never managed to reach us as the weather clamped in whenever we asked for them.



Oscar Group Auto Crew. *Left to right:* LCpl Mick Bray, Sig 'Zorro' Higginbotham, Cpl Wayne Gatesman, LCpl Joe Easterbrook, LCpl Martin Waclawek

Exercise POT SHOT

This was a concentrated exercise to get the Squadron past their Annual Personal Weapon Test. The results were very encouraging with a four hundred per cent improvement on certain weapons. There were also surprising night firing scores among those who, it was always rumoured, were completely night blind — perhaps they had a special luminous pencil.



All chained up and nowhere to go . . . . Tac HQ awaiting lift off. *Left to right:* Cpl 'Zombie' Smyth, Lt Alisdair Harrison, LCpl Tony Reynolds, Sig Mark Fenton, Cpl Dave Wright, Sig 'Bullit' Field

SQUADRON SPORTS DAY

The weather was so unkind to us on Friday 12 May that we had to postpone the Sports Day to the following Wednesday, which had the advantage of extending the Whitsun Break by a day. It was a big event for the organiser our MTO and Athletics Officer, **Capt Roy Owens, BEM, RCT** and everything ran extremely smoothly. There were some good results, nobody got run through by a javelin, and the RSM, **WO1 Jimmy Akehurst**, did a roaring trade with his 'Bratty' stall. Alfa Troop A Team were the overall winners beating the SHQ Geriatrics Team into second place, with **Sig Charlie Forbes** as the best individual performer.

As these notes go to press we wish our Athletics Team all the best in the Morrison Cup Minor Units Competition.

VISITORS

The new General Officer Commanding the 2nd Armoured Division, **Maj Gen A. C. S. Boswell CBE,** paid us a brief introductory visit in barracks on 13 March. He was well pleased as he seemed to meet nothing but Scotsmen! No one is quite sure how this happened but we hope they aren't all posted by the time he comes next.

As well as his visit to us in the field on Exercise *Flying Falcon*, CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** also paid us a longer visit in barracks on 30 May. He was briefed on our operational role, watched military training, took a keen interest in the Blandford dipole erection drills carried out by Alfa Troop and had drinks in the Sergeants Mess followed by lunch with the Officers before returning to Bielefeld.

THE FUTURE

Looking to the future we have now started Exercise *Field Mouse*, our annual summer adventure training exercise in Bavaria and we hope not to have any more cases of OCs who throw themselves off the Allgäuer. After this we are fully committed to Exercise *Summer Sales*, during which we are providing the Exercise Control Communications. But more about these action packed weeks in our next notes.

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

SUPER STARS IN THE MAKING

Yet another brain wave of **SSM Brian Davies** took place recently. The competition was divided into nine representative events designed to test overall fitness rather than sporting capability.

Day one commenced with .22 shooting in the indoor range using .22 target pistols. Each contestant was given five runds familiarisation and 10 rounds to count towards their total score. After some very keen competition **Cpl John Dent** of line troop came out the winner with a total score of 77. He was closely followed by **SSgt Roger Morse RAPC** with 76 pts scored. The second event of the day was a 100m dash and once again **Cpl John Dent** came out the winner with a wind assisted time of 11sec. he was closely followed by **Sig Ian Drinkall** with at a time of 11.2sec. Event number three was a press-up competition, each contestant to do as many press-ups as he could in a two-minute period. **Sig Ian Frinkall** excelled out this event and gained the maximum points. **Cpl John Dent** came second and **Sig Pete Williams** came third. That was the final event of day one. **Cpl John Dent** had taken a considerable lead at this point and all nine contestants were extremely keen to get on with the second days' events.

The second day started off with a penalty competition where each contestant was to attempt six penalty shots, two points being awarded for each shot scored. **SSgt Roger Morse** did well at this event gaining a maximum 12 points his nearest rival was **Sig Pete Williams** with eight points. The second event was the jump straddle event where the contestants were required to jump astride a gymnasium bench and back into the bench as many times as possible in a two-minute period. After some very fierce competition **SSgt Roger Morse** gained first place with 10 pts with 163 completed jump straddles. **Sig Pete Williams** came second and gained nine points with 159 and **Sig Ian Drinkall** came third with 149.

Event number three was basketball where each contestant had to attempt to score as many baskets as possible in two minutes returning to the half-way line of the court after each basket, proper basketball rules were used. The two resident globe trotters namely **SSgt Morse** and **Capt Crane** came out winners and shared the honours with **Sig Drinkall** each of them gained 12 points. On this event however the competition was a very closely fought thing with **LCpl Knocker Hardy** and **Sig Pete Williams** snapping at their heels with 11 points scored. By this time **SSgt Roger Morse** and **Cpl John Dent** were on equal points at the top of the table and everyone was looking forward to the final stages of the competition. Event number four was a medicine ball throwing competition. **Cpl John Dent** gained a slight lead over **SSgt Roger Morse** in this event when he gained 10 points for first place, **SSgt Ian Moore RAOC** came second and **SSgt Roger Morse** came third. **LCpl Alec Murphy** and **LCpl Knocker Hardy** had a terrific battle for fith and sixth places with **Knocker** coming out the winner after seven re-throws. A two-minute Dips competition came next, all contestants to complete as many dips on the parallel bars as they could in a two-minute period. **Sig Ian Drinkall** gained first place and ten pts with a magnificent effort closely followed by **Sig Pete Williams** who gained nine pts. **SSgt Roger Morse** gained a useful eight pts to draw ahead of **Cpl John Dent** in the overall placings.

The final event of the competition was the one mile, everyone expected our resident greyhound—**Ian Drinkall** to walk away with this event (no pain intended) however, one or two other contestants had different ideas about that. When **Drinkall** had gained a lead of some 50 yards after only one and a half laps the first place seemed to be cut and dry with only the other placings to be fought for, but with a magnificent second lap **Sig Pete Williams** drew level and overtook **Drinkall** and forged his way into the front and came home a comfortable winner to the surprise and adheration of the spectators and other competitors and other competitors alike. **Ian Drinkall** held on to second place. **Roger Morse** came third and **Capt Crane fourth.**

TROPHIES FOR WINNERS

The overall winner of the competition and Army Super Star Malta 1978 was **SSgt Roger Morse RAPC** with 75 points. Runner-up was **Cpl John Dent Royal Signals** with 70 points. The OC, **Maj Pickup** presented the suitably inscribed trophies at a short ceremny after the beer had been consumed by all concerned.

WIVES CLUB REPORT

Interesting, stimulating and thought provoking would describe our recent meetings which have been very well supported. A spine chilling talk by **C. J. Galea** on Ghosts in Malta triggered off many intriguing questions and a few noticeable shivers. Enormous interest was shown on the subject of bees by **Lt Cdr P. D. Goodwin RN** and had us all spellbound. Had time allowed we could have listened for much longer. Did you know that bees taste through their feet? A fascinating subject indeed. A talk on the abuse of drugs, the display of dangerous drugs and film slides on the subject, aroused great shock and horror. It was a most illuminating yet frightening talk in which **Cpl Jackson RAF** convinced us that drugs are definitely not things to play about with.

TWO ENJOYABLE VISITS

A trip to Xandir T.V. and radio studios was a great success. **Mr M. Darmanin** and **Mr V. Aquilina** spent a great deal of time showing us around and explaining the technical and functional aspects of all the studios. We had the pleasure of listening and watching a group of schoolgirls recording songs for the radio. Afterwards we had coffee in the canteen.

Our other 'out' meeting was blessed with good weather for, had it been raining or gale force winds, I doubt that we should have enjoyed the tremendous views from the roof top of the Captain's House in Fort St. Angelo. **Mrs Hilary Seabrook** very kindly gave up her time to tell us some of the history and to show us around the house and gardens. Everyone agreed it had been well worth the visit and even appreciated the climb up and down the ramps as a means of reducing some of those inches.

News from Troops

Royal Signals Troop Oxford UOTC

THE AIM

Many from regular and T&AVR units, even if aware of the existence of University Officers Training Corps, are unaware of what they consist of or what they do. Their aim is not only recruitment but also a familiarisation for students in matters military. Thus even if they became civil servants or go into politics their knowledge of the army will assist them and may produce more sympathetic attitudes in things such as defence reviews, and other less obviously military related subjects! Oxford UOTC is comprised of five troops, RA, RAC, RE, R Signals, Infantry and an Intelligence section. This article is written by a member of the Signals Troop. We rely very heavily on support from regular and territorial units, and so the purpose of this article is to give an idea of the type of activities we, as a troop, engage in.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Term started with a change of troop commander, **Jerry Porter** stood down due to the pressure of finals this summer, and **Nick Hemingway** took over. This term, first year students having done basic Infantry training in their first term, make the choice of which troop to join. Recruitment for the Signals went well this time, doubling troop strength to around thirty, although several of them didn't join until late in the term. Thus initial training is devoted to introducing the recruits to signalling skills, voice procedure, C11 and C45 tuning drills, and radio relay techniques using C41s. Training takes place one night a week and two or three weekends throughout the term. The first two weekends early on in the term were spent teaching net radio and radio relay respectively, with short exercises on the Sunday afternoons for confirmation purposes.

OFFICER INPUT TO THE CORPS

The troop usually provides one or two regular officers, and the same number of territorials every year. Last year we had **Richard Spooner,** now on his CQ course at Blandford and **David Mankin** with 7 Sig Regt in Hereford. Between the recruit training weekends **Paul Ellis** passed RCB and will be going up to Sandhurst this September and **Richard Ollis** went down to Blandford for his Pre-RCB. So hopefully this year will provide two more regular officers.

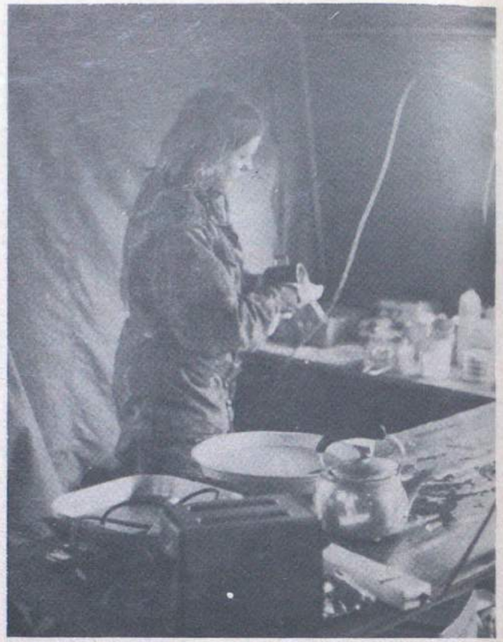
The rest of the term was mainly used in preparation for our main exercise of the term. **Cpl Edwards** and **LCpl Bathe** from 244 Sig Sqn took lessons on Line, with periods of Message Handling being taken by **Sgt Paget WRAC** from 5 Sqn 39 Sig Regt (V) Banbury. Also, with classification coming up, our PSI, **WO2 John Bonnett** took us through weapon handling lessons.

ANNUAL DINNER

The weekend before the exercise, our annual troop dinner was held. For the last three years it has been held in Christ Church, and this was no exception, **Paul Ellis** being a member of the House, organising it. Our principal guest was **Brig Hild, Capt Boyle** and **SSgt Welsh** came from 244 Sig Sqn and **Capt Hatfield** from 56 Sig Sqn (V) Eastbourne.



2Lt Ellis providing the muscle while OCdt Nick Hemingway looks for help from above. Cambridge Det members are looking for moral support



W/OCdt Viv Greatorex Davis feels at home doing the washing up

We were also glad to have four Cambridge troop members, and their PSI, **SSgt Paddy Hunt.** The annual dinner, as well as being a reunion for old troop members, enables us to say thank you for all the help we have received throughout the year. For example, the scope of our main exercise this term would have been severely limited without the loan from Blandford of TTVFs and teleprinters, and of 12x12 tents and generators from 244 Sig Sqn.

CLOSE CAMBRIDGE LINKS

We hold close links with Cambridge OTC not only having five of them as guests at the dinner but also for training purposes. The exercise was joint Oxford/Cambridge radio relay one, organised by **Paul Moseley** at the Cambridge end and **Paul Ellis** at this end. It was run from a static headquarters with three shots to mobile detachments, in the Luton area. C11 and C45 provided back up nets and communications whilst on the move. Despite initial difficulties the exercise was a success, with the aim of practising message handling techniques being achieved. The main problem was with frequency allocation, the crystals allocated cover only a limited frequency range and the small area of the comcen site restricted separation of the antennae. The main reasons for the success of the exercise was the determination at all locations to overcome these difficulties and the hard work put in by **WO2 Bonnett,** both in preparation for and during the exercise.

Looking forward to next term we have another radio relay weekend, preparations for summer camp and in particular for the week long sky wave exercise run during it. We hope to make this a regular feature in The Wire, which is read widely within the Troop. (Editors note: We look forward to your future contributions).

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

OPEN UNIVERSITY DEGREES FOR LT COL J. P. BRIAN AND WO2 (FofS) WILLIAMS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Lt Col J. P. Brian** and **WO2 Fraser Williams** who have both been awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from an open university.

Both have studied hard of the last few years and the hard work has at last been rewarded.

Lt Col Brian is the Commanding Officer whilst **Foreman Williams** is a volunteer in 41 Squadron, in civilian life he works as a Planning Engineer at the BBC Research Department.

NEW HONORARY COLONEL

On the 1 April, 1978 **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB, MBE,** became our Honorary Colonel. **Gen Badcock** made an intitial visit to the Regiment on the 18 April when he lunched with the senior officers of the Regiment.



WO2 (FofS) W. F. Williams BA, CEng MIERE



ADOPTION OF 41 (PRINCESS LOUISES KENSINGTON) SQUADRON BY THE BOROUGH OF CROYDON 11 FEBRUARY 1978

The Mayor of Croydon presents the Commanding Officer with the Adoption Certificate. On the table is the silver dish presented to the Borough by the Squadron

DINING OUT OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

On Saturday, 20 May, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col John Brian** was dined out of the officers mess. He leaves the Regiment in July. **John Brian** was presented with a carriage clock by the Mess. The CO in turn presented the Mess with two silver wine beakers.



The PMC ,Maj Peter Thompson, presents the Commanding Officer, Lt Col John Brian with a carriage clock at his Dining Out



Lt Col and Mrs Brian admire the gifts given to them on their Dining Out in the Officers Mess

Also dined out on the same evening were the Adjutant, **Capt Gordon Giles;** who is posted to NORTHAG on promotion, **Maj Peter Harrison** who moves to HQ 11 Signal Group, and Officer Cadet **Cathy Roebuck** who we congratulate on being Commissioned into the WRAF.

At the Dinner we welcomed the SO in C, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** and our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB, MBE.**



The Commanding Officer presents the Adjutant, Capt Gordon Giles, with a watch at his Dining Out

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

On Wednesday 31 May, the Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB, MBE** presented LS and GCs, Efficiency Medals (TAVR), and Clasps to the following: **LS & GC Capt G. W. Giles, SSgt Smith, SSgt Cook REME, EM (TAVR) WO2 Bland, SSgt Bridges, SSgt Callaghan, SSgt Smith F, Cpl Bridge, Sgt Lovett, WO2 Coombes, 1st Clasp to EM SSgt Voller, Sgt Lindsay, Cpl Adams, LCpl Oakshot.**

Also presented were trophies to the joint winners of the Annual Regulars Shoot namely **RSM Keith Childs** and **SSgt Jim Lycett.**



The Honorary Colonel presents the Regulars Shooting Trophy to SSgt Jim Lycett. Looking on *left to right* Maj Tom Knight, Maj Bob Simpson, Maj Peter Thompson (in Shirt Sleeves), Sgt Eddie Pridmore (holding tray) and WO1 Bill Mills



Relaxing after the presentation of medals. *Left to right:* RSM Keith Childs, Maj Gen Badcock, Capt Gordon Giles, WO1 (SVWO) Bill Mills



Cpl and Mrs Adams talk to the commanding Officer following the presentation of the Clasp to Cpl Adams' Efficiency Medal



The Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen Badcock, presents the Shooting Competition trophy to RSM Keith Childs



The CO presents the Wooden Spoon for the Regulars Shooting Competition to his driver, Sgt David Harman

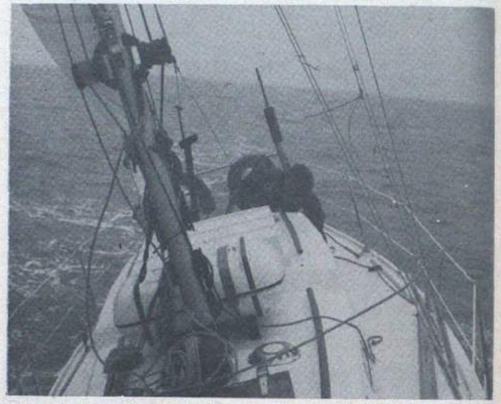
33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

SAIL A'HOY

The Regiment has made a good start to the sailing season having taken part in three cruises so far this year.

The first was a seven day cruise in April, aboard the JSSC Yacht *Attacker*. The crew being **WO1 (RSM) John Scrutton, Sgt Martin Davis, Sig David Barston** and **Sig Alf Baker.** All the usual Ports in, and around, The Solent were visited. This was quickly followed by another cruise in May aboard the same yacht. This time crewed by **Lt Brien Heathfield, Sgt Margaret Selwood, Pte Doreen Neilson.** Once again the RSM signed for the boat, payed all the bills and did most of the cooking, although he hates to admit it he was ably assisted in the latter by **Doreen Neilson.** June saw members of the Permanent Staff namely **Capt Alan Davies, WO1 (RSM) John Scrutton, WO2 (RQMS) Jack Hall** and **SSgt Pete Tarrant,** involved in a cruise with a difference. This was a 10 day affair arranged by HQ 11 Sig Gp which took place in and around the Hebrides aboard the JSSC Yacht *British Soldier*. This time the gentle breezes of the Solent were traded for a 45 Knot Atlantic Gale.

The Regiment has two more cruises on the books this season so, hopefully, a good cross section of the Regiment will have savoured the delights of sailing, plus the RSM's cooking, before the season is out.



'Aboard JSSC Attacker looking for the Needles'. *Left to right:* Lt Brian Heathfield, Pte Doreen Neilson, Sgt Margaret Selwood



'Anyone know what course?' *Left to right:* SSgt Pete Tarrant, WO1 (RSM) John Scrutton, WO2 (RQMS) Jack Hall

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

All Squadrons of the Regiment took part in the North West District Skill at Arms meeting, at Altcar on 20/21 May.

A delightfully warm and sunny opening day saw the Regiment's teams enjoying mixed fortunes but representation was secured for the following day's finals of the Pistol, Roupell, Falling Plate and Section matches. Most of Saturday's 'vanquished' were present to encourage their more successful colleagues in the finals, conducted in much more difficult conditions. There was much to encourage, with several members battling for honours for most of the day.

The most successful Squadron was 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, **Capt Roger Clarke-Lomas** was runner up in the individual Pistol match, after leading for much of the event, and he and **Sig S. J. Convery** won the Team Pistol match.



The Commanding Officer Lt Col Pat Jolliffe Pours 'champers' for Capt Roger Clarke-Lomas and LCpl S. J. Convery—winners of the pistol match



Members of 42 and 80 Signal Squadron's teams celebrating after the shoot

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

LOOKING BACK ON 1977 OPEN DAY

AFTER a gap of seven months the regimental scribe gives an account of the highlights of that period for the benefit of readers. After months of planning preceded by days of intense activity the Regiment held an Open Day in the grounds of the Ilford TAVR Centre on Saturday, 10 September, 1977. This event was held as part of the Borough of Redbridge's Jubilee Year Celebrations. The aim was to show ourselves off to the public. Thanks to advance publicity and a bright sunny day this was achieved when over 3,000 people attended.

GREAT INTEREST BY GENERAL PUBLIC

The event was divided into two main parts, a static display and arena events. On Saturday morning the volunteers of Kent from 44 Sqn under the leadership of **Capt Phil Blackburn** a Post Office Executive, set up the COMMCEN. The Sussex volunteers of 56 Sqn under **Capt Tom Hatfield,** Ministry of Agriculture Inspector set up a Service Unit Terminal, the East Anglian volunteers of 54 Sqn under **Capt Roy Williams,** a Bank Official set up a Logistic Message Centre and the Essex volunteers of 45 Sqn under **Sgt Dave Barton,** a Catering Manager, set up a hot-dog stand. **Lt Jim Rennie,** a Ford Engineer deployed his LAD and **WO1 Roy Stark,** our regular MTWO exhibited a camouflaged land-rover. The general public displayed great interest in the equipment particularly the live communication demonstrations.

POPULAR ARENA EVENTS

The arena erents proved a great attraction. The Corps Band under the Director of Music, **Maj K. R. R. Boulding, LRAM, ARCM, FVCM, BBCM,** gave a Marching display, then played during a break for tea and finally brought a fitting end to the day by Playing Retreat. The White Helmets gave a 30 minute performance that thrilled the crowds. A Pipe Band from Brentwood performed by courtesy of the 2IC **Maj Willie Allan,** himself a keen and accomplished piper. An infantry tactics demonstration was given by volunteers of the Regiment under the Command of **Lt Alan Choat** a Sales Consultant from Cambridge. Also included were line-laying races and a tug of war competition.

A GREAT SUCCESS

Among the VIPs who attended were the Mayor of Redbridge, **Councillor A. Barker,** the Commander of 12 Signal Group (V), **Brig W. A. Sykes, ADC,** Colonel TAVR (North) London District, **Col G. S. P. Carden, TD,** and representatives from Greater London, East Anglian and South East TAVR Associations. Many of the families came and enjoyed the day including the refreshments provided by the East London volunteers of HQ Sqn.

From the Regiment's point of view the Open Day was a complete success.

EXERCISE REPORTS

Exercise Eastern Twin took place over the weekend 30 September to 2 October, 1977. It was the first exercise in which the Regiment deployed two COMMCENs in the field. For the preceding 10 weeks **Maj Ken Harvey,** a Post Office Executive, and OC 45 Sqn had been kept busy turning 750 and 753 Logistic Message Centre Troops at Colchester into 750 COMMCEN Troop and 819 Radio Relay Troop. Exercise Eastern Twin was mounted to test the readiness of the new COMMCEN.

The Regiment deployed on Friday night with **Maj Chris Gale,** OC 44 Sqn, siting his COMMCEN LIMA in Gillingham. The new COMMCEN INDIA (as it later became known) was deployed in a wood north of Chelmsford under its OC **Capt David Milne,** a Sales Representative from Colchester. The RCP and Echelon were deployed in Mereworth Woods, Kent. At the same time two logistic message centres under **Capt Mike Sexton,** a Director, from Norwich and **2Lt Ron Wilkinson,** an Engineer from South London, were deployed on Salisbury Plain in support of 44 Para Bde (V) in Exercise October Fest. As was to be expected the new COMMCEN experienced teething troubles but thanks to a lot of hard work by everyone concerned the exercises were a success and many valuable lessons were learned.

Exercise Two Step was held over the first weekend in February 1978. The best that could be said for the weather is that it was typical for this time of year, cold and wet for the first 36 hours with frost during the nights. The last day of the exercise was bright and sunny. In spite of the Russian Flu raging throughout the country the turnout was very good as we practised the two COMMCENS for the second time. **Maj Ken Harvey** took his new COMMCEN into the Colchester Training Area while **Chris Gale** deployed his more experienced COMMCEN LIMA on his own door step in the wood behind Gordon Barracks at Gillingham.

The Regimental Command Post with Echelon and **2Lt David Hargreaves'** Logistic Message Centre were established at North Weald. The remaining Logistic Message Centres and radio relay detachments were deployed over a wide area in East Anglia, Essex and Kent. A good exercise with COMMCEN INDIA gaining rapidly in experience and skill.

Exercise April Quintet took place from 31 March to 2 April, 1978. This exercise was in two parts. COMMCEN LIMA moved to North Weald to provide communications for an exercise being run by 20 Security Coy (V), whilst on Saturday morning the rest of the Regiment and COMMCEN INDIA moved into the field. All the training of the winter paid off in a very successful exercise. The Regiment was visited in the field for the first time by the new Comd 12 Sig Gp (V), **Brig R. L. Stonham.**

FIREMEN'S STRIKE

The Regiment's involvement in fire fighting during the Firemen's Strike was gradual. Before the strike began all members of the Permanent Staff were placed on standby. **WO2 Harry Hemstock, WO2 Charlie Coventry,** and **LCpl Trevor Howard,** because they held HGV licences, drove Green Goddesses for a London District Fire Fighting Unit in North London for several weeks in November 1977. The two Warrant Officers had been posted to us for their last six months' service after 22 years in order to resettle themselves in civilian life. They did not expect to find themselves carrying out a fireman's job and we do not think their experiences influenced them in their final choice of a civilian occupation. **Sgt Mick Wickens** was attached for the duration of the strike in the Message Centre at Fire Fighting Control Headquarters in the London area. Contingents of the Royal Navy, Regular Army and the Royal Air Force were based at our TAVR Centres at Eastbourne, Ilford, Brentwood, Bedford and Norwich. Their presence disrupted training but this was accepted by the volunteers who cheerfully shared their limited accommodation and facilities with the regulars.

OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCOs STUDY WEEKENDS

An Officers and Senior NCOs Study Weekend was held at Crowborough over the weekend 25 to 27 November, 1977. On Saturday some very interesting presentations were given by **Majs Patrick Prior** and **Peter Cross** from the School of Signals on the latest equipment used by other arms, **Maj Peter Valder** lectured on EW; and the high standard of presentation was very much appreciated. Sunday was devoted entirely to presentations by our four communicating squadrons. The social side was not neglected. Both the Officers and Sergeants Mess held Dinner Nights, the former to dine out the Group Commander, **Brig W. A. Sykes, ADC,** who was paying his last visit to the Regiment, and the latter to dine out **RQMS Ron Groves** retiring after 22 years' regular service and **SSM George Christie** who was retiring after 22 years' regular service and five years' TAVR Service. **George,** a former regular RSM of the Regiment now works as a BIA in Newmarket.

A WOs and SNCOs Study Period was held at Crowborough over the weekend 21 to 23 April, 1978. The main themes were Man-Management and training. Both subjects were presented to syndicates in problem form and evoked lively and interesting discussions. Presentations were also given by **Supt Bob Peedle** on the Metropolitan Police, and traffic control in London, whilst **Lt Col Ken Christian** and **Capt Phil Blackburn** of the Post Office explained some of the problems associated with frequency allocation.

SKI-ING IN THE CAIRNGORMS

2Lt Jackie Grenville, a Post Office Executive, and Adm Offr of HQ Sqn, **SSgt Bryan Mumford,** the PSI at Ilford TAVR Centre and **Pte Lesley Knowles** of 45 Sqn a Drama Student joined a party of 10 from 242 Sig Sqn under **WO2 Mumford** for a week in the Cairngorms.

Skis, and other equipment were provided by 242 Sig Sqn and the coaching was done by **SSgt Bryan Mumford** and his brother **WO2 Terry Mumford,** the SSM of 242 Sig Sqn. The party, mainly beginners, learned the rudiments of ski-ing and gained enormously in confidence and physical fitness during the week. As an exercise in co-operation between the TAVR and the Regular Army it was a great success.

THE COURAGE TROPHY COMPETITION

This annual event organised by the Greater London TAVR Association and sponsored by Messrs Courage Ltd the brewers, took place over the weekend 11/12 March. Designed to test basic military skills in competitions organised by RAC, RA, RE, R Signals, Inf, RCT, RAMC and RAOC this is a popular event and attracts a large entry from all the volunteer units in the London Area. The competition always takes place during the annual TAVR Recruiting Campaign and its main objective is to publicise the TAVR and attract recruits. This year the events took place at four sites at Wimbledon Common, Woolwich, Lea Valley and Enfield with the final prizegiving on Sunday afternoon at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea.

The Regiment set up and administered the site at Enfield and organised the Signals competition. The former task was carried out by the **RSM Frank Jepson** while the competition was run by **Maj John Radford,** the Trg Major. The Regiment entered a team of eight from each of the major centres in the London Area, Wanstead and Ilford. The HQ Sqn team from Wanstead, led by **2Lt Jackie Grenville, WRAC,** came 11th out of 25 entries and the Essex Men from Ilford led by **Lt Charles Herbert,** a Control Engineer, came 18th. The overall competition was won by 131 Indep Para Coy (V). From all accounts the participants enjoyed the competitions which was seen by large numbers of the public.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Lt Col John Swindells, the Commanding Officer, handed over on 28 April, 1978 after two and a half years with the Regiment. Many warm tributes were paid to **Col John** at farewell functions throughout the Regiment for all his hard work during this time. The farewell functions started with a formal dinner given by **Maj Chris Gale** and his Officers and SNCOs at Gillingham on 18 March, 1978 and ended when the Officers Mess dined him out at Wanstead on Friday, 28 April, 1978. Each Squadron and Centre said their farewells in their own way but perhaps the most eventful was the send off given by the Sergeants Mess during their dinner at Crowborough on 22 April, 1978.

After being wined and dined he was ceremoniously escorted out of the camp in a sedan chair carried by four brawny mess members. The sincerity of all the farewells brought home to everyone what a popular and inspiring Commanding Officer **Col John** was. We wish him and **Anne** all the best of luck in their new posting at the School of Military Engineering and at the same time we extend a warm welcome to **Lt Col Gerry Birch** who joins us from Queen's Gurkha Signals.



Lt Col John Swindells being dined out by the Officers of 36 Sig Regt (V). Also in the picture are *left to right:* Maj Brian Motteram, Mr Andrew MacDonald Bell, Maj Willie Allan, Sgt Andy Andrews and the Honorary Colonel, Brig Peter Vaigncourt-Strallen



Brig W. A. Sykes (*right*) speaks to Padre John Salter at Crowborough. The Officers Mess were dining the Brigadier out to mark his retirement from the Army

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES

The period under review has seen a big turnover of permanent staff and volunteers.

Brig W. A. Sykes, ADC, Commander 12 Signal Group (V), retired in February 1978. Before handing over command he visited every TAVR Centre and spoke to many of our soldiers. The Officers Mess dined him out at Crowborough. He was succeeded by **Brig R. L. Stonham** who has already visited most of our centres and seen the Regiment in the field.



Brig R. L. Stonham, Commander 12 Signal Group (Volunteers), pictured here talking to Volunteers over an informal drink after his first visit to Eastbourne TAVR Centre

COURT MARTIAL FOR RSM

While the Sergeants Mess were saying goodbye to **Lt Col Swindells** at Crowborough they were also paying tribute to **RSM Frank Jepson** who was handing over his appointment to **WO1 Roy Stark. Frank Jepson** had been RSM for 38 months and he has earned tremendous respect throughout the Regiment for his interest in and devotion to the volunteers. Especially worthy of mention were the many military training weekends he organised and ran at Vange and Colchester. The Regiment owes him a deep debt of gratitude and the Sergeants Mess gave him a night to remember. After dinner, amid scenes that would not have been out of place in one of Brian Rix's West End Farces, **Frank** was court martialled, found guilty and thrown out of the Sergeants Mess. He was eventually allowed to come back in on sufference because he is not due to be commissioned until September. In the meantime he will take over as acting adjutant from **Capt John Byrne** who is due to depart shortly. We wish **WO1 Roy Stark** every success in his new appointment. **Roy Stark** is no stranger to the Regiment as he has been MTWO for the last three years.

Other arrivals and departures during this period have been:
Maj Brian Motteram formerly 2IC to the unposted list.
Capt Roger Mallard posted to RARO.
Lt Alan Choat to the Regular Army on SSVC.
Lt John Fieldhouse to RARO.
WO1 Alex Dormer on retirement from the TAVR.
WO2 (RQMS) Ron Groves discharged after 22 years' regular service.
SSgt Bob Ferguson after 22 years' regular service.
Sgt Neil Wisely to Blandford.
Sgt 'Stew' Williams to BAOR.
LCpl Chris Sherritt to BAOR.
Capt Andy Trimble from 38 Regt.
Lt Sarah Maude from LUOTC.
2Lt Jackie Grenville from Edinburgh & Heriot Watt UOTC.
WO2 (RQMS) Roger French from BAOR.
SSgt Gordon Middleton from Blandford.
SSgt Bryan Mumford from Cardiff.
SSgt Ted Grimwood from Bordon.
Sig Graham Knill from BAOR.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield



TAVR PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARD WINNER

In this years Army Photographic Competition, organised by the Director of Public Relations (Army), the TAVR award has been won by Capt John H. M. Millar of 38 Signal Regiment (Volunteers). The photograph shows Capt Millar receiving a silver engraved tankard and photographic equipment to the value of £50 from the Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army), R. C. Brown Esq. The prize-winning 15" × 12" colour photograph shows HRH The Princess Anne presenting decorations and medals to members of the 3rd Battalion of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters at Newark in April last year. Capt Millar serves as a Troop Commander with 46 (Derbyshire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers)

Photo Courtesy: John H. M. Millar

Association News

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

At the branch meeting in April it was our great privilege and pleasure to be able to entertain a party from the Finnish ex-Signals Officers Association.

The Finns, who were visiting electronic firms in Britain, had approached the Ministry of Defence with a view to spending an evening with a branch of our own Association, and their request was passed on to **Lt Col Ron Murray** at Headquarters.

It transpired that their only free evening coincided with our branch night, and thus the honour came our way. To add to our pleasure, **Col Murray** was also with us representing the Association as a whole.

Apart from a short address by **Lt Col Antero J. Soila,** Leader of the Finnish party, the evening followed the pattern of a normal branch evening as requested by the visitors.

Opening his speech, **Lt Col Soila** said that a good omen for the evening was the fact that the colour scheme of the tube train on which they had come was identical to that of their own colours. He recalled in some detail the welcome wartime aid which Britain gave to Finland, and went on to outline the aims and objects of their own Association. These differ from our own in that its' members continue to play an active role as advisers in the application of electronic developments to use with the Services. They do not have an Association which embraces all ranks as is the case with our own.

In thanking us for what we had done to make them feel at home, he said that we need not have gone so far as to provide SNOW for the occasion!



Our Chairman, **Mr Wally Reynolds,** deputising for the President, **Col Ken Baldwin,** who was unable to be with us, bid the party a warm welcome and exchanged a Royal Signals plaque for a Finnish Association pennant which will be much treasured by the Branch.

Some of the visitors spoke excellent English, and all spoke sufficiently well to converse, and they left us in no doubt that they enjoyed their evening with us, equally as much as we enjoyed having them. Several addresses and souvenirs changed hands which means that there is now a marked dearth of Corps ties and 'Jimmy' tie clips among our members. Thus passed another splendid evening in the Branch calendar of events.

FULL HOUSE

In April, 260 members and friends attended the Annual Dinner and by the time this gets into print we shall have attended the Blandford and Catterick Reunions. Earlier in the year, we had the 'House Full' notices up for the Christmas and New Year parties, and we expect much the same for the July meeting which is to be an open air barbeque.

With a programme of events like the above, interspersed with quiet nights for chat, the branch continues to thrive and to enjoy a slow but steady increase in membership, a state of affairs which we hope is shared by all other branches of the Association.

Sport

CORPS TENNIS TEAM — 1978



Back row left to right: Lt Col G. Corden (President Corps Tennis), Cpl W. M. Garn (Corps Singles Champion), Capt M. J. Anderson (Corps Secretary), Maj R. A. Couchman. *Front row left to right:* Capt B. Chubb, Capt R. B. Bingham, Capt R. F. A. Axton



Standing left to right: SSgt MacBurney, Cpl Sinnett, Sig Lambert, Capt Gurr, LCpl Colvin, Sig Cakebread, Cpl Arnott, SSgt Wilson. *Centre:* Sig Brown, Sig Hamilton, LCpl O'Hara, Cpl Perkins. *Front:* Cpl Watts, Cpl Cardwell, Cpl O'Hare, Cpl Burton, Sgt Snaith

ROYAL SIGNALS WIN THE INTER-CORPS (BAOR) SOCCER CUP 1978

Report by **SSgt F. J. Wilson, 22 Sig Regt (Corps (BAOR) Coach)**

Seven Corps teams competed in the Inter-Corps Soccer Competition for the Lloyds Cup. The competition was held on a league basis throughout last season, with the following teams taking part: R Signals, REME, RE, RCT, RAMC, RAOC and RAPC.

REME were the favourites to win the cup at the start of the competition, and as this was to be our first match, it was the 'deep end' straight off for the Corps. More so, as it was to be played on the REME home ground. However, apprehension and nerves were soon forgotten when half-time came with us leading by three goals to nil, and eventually winning by five goals to two.

The difficult one overcome, the 'others' were not expected to present us with any great problems. However, over confidence nearly proved disastrous when in the next match (away), the RAPC held us to a single goal win. Two down, four to go.

Our next two fixtures were both home games for us and as expected produced more goals. The RCT and RAMC were both disposed of by four goals to nil and five goals to two respectively. Four down two to go. By now, the Engineers had emerged as the only team who could pip us at the post, and they were our next opponents. (Away again). Points and Goal Differences had already been worked out, (just in case) and as a draw would do the Sappers more harm than it would do us, we got the point we went for. Result 0—0.

The final game vs RAOC was rather an anti-climax and although dominating throughout, we only managed a 1—0 win. By this time, however, the Cup was ours and **Cpl Micky O'Hare** duly collected it from **Lt Gen Sir Richard Worsley, KCB, OBE.**

Our overall results were: Played Six, Won five, Drawn one, Lost none. Points: 11. Royal Engineers were Runners-up with eight points.

The following players represented the Corps (BAOR):

Sig 'Hammy' Hamilton — 7 Sig Regt
Cpl Larry Cardwell — 4 Div Sig Regt
Cpl Chris Sinnett — 21 Sig Regt
Cpl Billy Watts — 21 Sig Regt
LCpl 'Taff' Symons — 1 Div Sig Regt
Cpl Terry Burton — 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Micky O'Hare (Capt) — 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Dave Arnott — 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Tommy Perkins — 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Alec Hamilton — 22 Sig Regt
Sgt Jackie Snaith — 22 Sig Regt
LCpl Bob O'Hara — 22 Sig Regt
LCpl Brian Colvin — 22 Sig Regt
Sig John Cakebread — 22 Sig Regt
Sig Calvin Lambert — 22 Sig Regt
Sig Sandy Brown — 22 Sig Regt

'Back Room'
Capt 'Gus' Gurr — Secretary 22 Sig Regt
SSgt 'Tug' Wilson — Coach 22 Sig Regt
SSgt 'Mac' Macburney — Trainer 7 Sig Regt

Midway through the competition the Corps secretary, **Capt Jim Thornton** relinquished his appointment on posting and **Capt 'Gus' Gurr** took over the reins. The whole of the Corps squad would like to take this opportunity to express their thanks to **Capt Thornton,** whose hard work laid the foundations of what has been a memorable season for Corps football in BAOR.

TAVR Association Football Representative Team BAOR Tour, Easter 1978

Report by
Sgt M. Smith, 38 Sig Regt (V)

ASSEMBLY IN COLCHESTER

THE TAVR Association Football Representative Team travelled from various locations throughout Britain, including two players from Northern Ireland, as we assembled at Cavalry Barracks, Colchester on Good Friday 24 March, 1978.

We departed Colchester at 0900 hrs on the Saturday morning and finally arrived at Willich, BAOR after a lengthy Boat—Train journey at 2300 hrs. The tour consisted of three matches with the first being played on Easter Monday at Rheindahlen against the Rheindahlen Garrison Select Team. Against the run of play we found ourselves behind to a well taken goal as the opposing centre back was left to head home a freekick. **Pte Alan Mitchell** equalised with a somewhat scrambled goal and the score remained 1—1 at the final whistle in a game we should have won. The Rheindahlen team manager, **WO1 Tom McMahon** (Royal Signals), informed us that it was the best game they had played in this season. We trained again on the Tuesday morning and the squad was by now getting to know one another, as this was the first tour for the majority of the squad. In the afternoon we relaxed by going into the local village at Willich to either do some swimming or presents buying for home.

SPIN OFF

Drvr John King had arranged to meet a German friend whom he had met the previous year whilst doing his annual TAVR Camp in BAOR. This friendship resulted in our obtaining a number of tickets for the European Cup Semi Final between Borussia Monchengladbach and Liverpool to be played at Dusseldorf the following evening. On the Wednesday we travelled to the Vehicle Sub Depot at Monchengladbach where we played the RAOC BAOR Representative Team. This game gave our two youngest members of the squad their first taste of football abroad as Sig Alan Cowley (fullback) and Sig Nevil Morton (goalkeeper), both from 38 Signal Regt (V) Sheffield, were selected to play. Unfortunately Morton was penalised for taking too many steps before releasing the ball and from the resulting free kick the RAOC scored as the ball connoned off our defensive wall into the top corner of the net. The Royal Signals representative at the RAOC VSD is **Maj (QM) Harry Bell** and at half time, he said to our Team Manager, **Maj (TOT) Stuart Cottage,** 'We will win easily in the second half'. When asked which team he referred to, his reply was, 'Us of course—the TAVR'.

Maj Cottage and **Maj Bell** were WO2 and Sergeant respectively wayback in 1956 at Crabtree TA Centre, Sheffield. His views seemed to be correct as we attacked straight from the start of the second half and with good football got an early equaliser. Both teams tried desperately to notch the winner but unfortunately a few minutes from the end the RAOC scored once again, also with a free kick taken just outside the penalty box. Our hosts 21 Army Sp Sqn RE at Willich, sent a coach to pick us up after the game and took us on a 'Busmans Holiday' as we went to Dusseldorf to see the European Cup Semi Final. On the Friday we played the Royal Engineers BAOR Representative Team at Willich instead of as previously planned for Hameln so this was like a 'Home' fixture for us. After trailing to a goal scored virtually from the kick-off, we settled down to gradually control the game as we scored three times before the final whistle gave us a good 3—1 win to end our official tour fixtures on.

That night we helped the Sappers to foster good relationships at their Anglo—German Evening arranged in the Royal Engineers XL Club.

Our trainer **Sgt Eddie Hallwood** and I went horse riding the following afternoon as guests of a German friend met at this social event.

Saturday morning we played a friendly fixture against (I think thirteen opposing players at once) our friends from within the camp.

On Sunday morning we started our journey home after what had been a very enjoyable and successful tour. Our thanks go to **Sgt Hallwood, a Gunner from Liverpool, who helped once more to keep morale and team spirit high and to Maj Cottage** for the efficient and smooth handling of the tour.



TAVR Association Football Representative Team

Any member of the TAVR wishing to be considered for a place in the TAVR Association Football Representative Team should write to:

Maj (TOT) S. COTTAGE, TD
C/o Secretary TAVR Sports Board
Flagstaff House
Colchester

stating their:

No **Rank** **Name**

Home address & telephone no
Unit address & telephone no
Age ..... **Height** ..... **Weight** .....
Playing position
Current teams & leagues with dates
Past teams & leagues with dates

THE ARMY CRUSADERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The above club formed in 1922 to promote association football among officers is still thriving today.

Based at the RMAS, Camberley the club's fixture card spans matches against schools, universities, other Services, members of the Isthmian League culminating in a match against the Army side.

Proud of its traditions both on the field and socially, the club is always on the search for young stars and experienced thoroughbreds.

For more information please contact the Secretary, **Lt G. L. Keene REME,** 5 Taiping Road, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants. Wallop 427.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) HOCKEY REPORT

Winter Season 1977/78—The season started disappointingly with a poor trial. Many of the old faithfuls had returned to their happy hunting grounds (MOD, Nepal and Cyprus) and there were many new and youthful faces. Despite this the team soon developed and as our record of 64 goals for and 20 against shows, the emphasis was on attack. (Eat your heart out Ron Greenwood.)

In fact the team developed too fast and became over-confident resulting in the poor performance at the Inter-Corps Tournament. The season was completed with a Berlin Tour which had to be extended from four to five days unexpectedly. Despite much anxiety, all of the team sacrificed another day for the good of Corps Hockey.

It is hoped to start a BAOR Inter-Regimental Tournament this year. Hockey Officers are reminded to contact Lt Proctor, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt as soon as possible. Despite being overworked and underpaid in this far-flung outpost of the British Army it is still possible to play good standard hockey regularly (almost). Anyone interested should contact Lt Proctor or ensure that their Regiment plays in the Tournament.



INTER-CORPS TOURNAMENT 1978
Standing (left to right): Mrs Crowley (Secretary to Secretary), Capt Crowley (Captain and Secretary), Cpl Kirkham, LCpl Heelan, Sgt Prior, Capt Burnage, SSgt Lawrence, Sgt Woodruffe, LCpl Wooff
Kneeling: Capt Brewin, Benjamin, Lt Proctor, Cpl Quinn, Sgt Rowland-Jones, Sgt Purkiss, Cpl Burton

ROYAL SIGNALS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT 1978

The Annual Corps Badminton Tournament is to be held at Blandford Camp from 29 August to 1 September 1978.

Entry forms have been sent to units, but further copies and any other information may be obtained from:—

Maj G. R. Elliot
Secretary Corps Badminton
30th Signal Regiment
Blandford Camp
Dorset DT11 8RP

Blandford (0258) 52581) Ext 501
Blandford Mil

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.

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH TOURNAMENT BAOR

The competition was held at Verden, home of 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt on 7/8 April, 1978. Prizes were presented by **Brig G. R. Oehlers, CCR Signals 1 BR Corps.**

Results are as follows:

Winner Open	**WO2 W. V. Miles**	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runner Up	**Cpl Dean**	5 Fd Force
Winner Soldiers	**Cpl Dean**	5 Fd Force
Runner Up	**Sgt Drew**	Task Force 'G'
Plate Winner	**Capt Hewitt**	14 Sig Regt

Note— **Lt N. Stewart** (Army Champion) elected not to enter.



WO2 W. V. Miles receiving Open Trophy from Brig G. R. Oehlers

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

The first of the season's UK dinghy matches was sailed against the Infantry on the 3 May.

It resulted in a win for Royal Signals.

Race 1	Inf 15pts	R Signals 5½pts
Race 2	Inf 14pts	R Signals 6½pts

The team was: **SSgt (FofS) Ellis** with **Cpl Canning** (30 Sig Regt) **Cpl Ward** with **Cpl Ogley** (30 Sig Regt) **Maj Collins** with **Capt Galpin** (1 Sig Gp and 30 Sig Regt).

Since the last notes were published the club has been allocated two legs on two of the major sail training expeditions.

Leg 5 on Ex Mid-Summer Dream is now filled by a R Signals crew from 22 Signal Regiment.

Leg 1 on Ex Xmas Coral from Gosport to Gibraltar has been allocated to the Corps and anyone interested in joining the crew is invited to contact the Secretary (**Lt Col R. A. CEMM**, Sigs 36 Plans), Rm 044 OWOB, Whitehall). The cruise will be from approximately 11 to 28 October.

There are still opportunities to charter Corps yachts in both BOAR and UK. Those interested should contact **Maj W. Roper** in BAOR (2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt) and **Maj M. M. Barker** in UK (Housing Commandant E Hants, Peronne Close, Hilsea, Portsmouth PO3 51G).

Match Result. RSYC beat the RAYC in a dinghy match on 17 May 1978, 25pts to 16½pts. The team was **Maj M. Collins** with **CaptS. Galpin, SSgt (FofS) D. Ellis** with **Sgt D. Webb** and **Cpl I Ward** with **Sig R. Winton.**

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, 11 June, 1978

Present:
Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB, OBE, Chairman; Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB, MBE, Representative Colonel Commandant; Col L. W. Wright, TD, Vice-Chairman; Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE, General Secretary and some 80 Members of the Association.

The Chairman welcomed the Representative Colonel Commandant, Commander Training Group and Catterick Garrison and Members attending the Annual General Meeting. He further congratulated Members on a good parade.

The Chairman further thanked Brig N. A. Butler, CBE (Commander Training Group & Catterick Garrison) and his staff and the many components of the Training Group & Catterick Garrison who had helped to make yet another Reunion so memorable.

MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
These were approved unanimously by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

Branches. The past year has seen new branches established at Guernsey and Plymouth and I congratulate those concerned. The Llandudno branch has closed due to lack of support.

Membership. According to Association HQ Records, we have some 64 new Annual Members (all through Branches) and some 150 new Life Members. I also record, with regret, the known deaths of some 85 members.

It must be a matter of concern to all of us that we still have a poor track record in recruiting 'new blood' into our Branches from those leaving the Corps. Well over 1,000 potential Members leave the Corps every year for civilian life and almost all are members of the Association by virtue of their contributions under the One Day's Pay Scheme. Last year about half expressed an interest in the Association when they left but very few joined branches. Unless we can make a greater impact and recruit younger Members, the long term future for Association Branches and Reunions is bleak. The Central Committee are to consider at their next meeting how recruiting to branches of those leaving Regular Service can be improved.

Welfare. Our Welfare Section is, as always, very active. In 1977 some 668 cases were supported, involving an expenditure of some £23,700. (The same number of cases as in 1976 but costing £4,000 more).

The Section also despatched some 558 clothing parcels (475 in 1976). I believe we are the only Association who work so actively in this field and the letters from recipients reflect how much our efforts are appreciated. I would like to record our thanks to the many serving and retired members of the Corps, and their wives, who provide the clothing and often deliver it to Chelsea.

We again supported the restricted Christmas amenities for our soldiers serving in Northern Ireland by sending £600, which was greatly appreciated.

Our donation last year to the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) was £27,000 (£23,000 in 1976). We benefit from the ABF in three main ways. Running parallel with the MOD Assisted House Purchase Scheme, the ABF also has a loan scheme to assist with the purchase of furniture. During last year some 73 soldiers of the Corps, nearing discharge, received interest free loans totalling some £62,000. We also asked the ABF to help us where substantial grants are involved and on this count received some £3,000 from them. On behalf of all Regimental Associations, the ABF make grants to service charities such as SSAFA, the Forces Help Society, the Officers Association and the Officers Families Fund, who in turn help us. These grants amounted to £342,700 last year. I have covered the ABF in some detail, as I know that many do not appreciate the substantial benefits which we derive from them.

I cannot leave the Welfare Section without paying a special tribute to Miss Margaret Cook — our Senior Welfare Officer. For some four months last year she worked with no deputy and we owe her much for seeing us through a very difficult period.

Finance. Our 1977 accounts have been audited. It is difficult for me to thank adequately the serving Corps who provide the major component of our income under the One Day's Pay Scheme. In 1977 soldiers subscribed £61,800 and Officers £11,500 to our funds. Accumulated funds stand at £267,900, £17,000 up compared to a year ago. The market value of our investments was £334,750 with a book value of £247,300 compared to a market value of £234,402 and a book value of £215,600 a year ago.

The Benevolent Fund showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £11,000 and the General Fund one of £6,000 making the overall surplus of income over expenditure £17,000. As your Treasurer, I have no hesitation in reporting this as a very healthy situation. But I would remind you that calls on our welfare funds will increase over the next 10 years or so, reaching a peak when the soldiers of the wartime Corps, which was more than 151,000 strong, are most in need of help. The youngest of them will be well into their 60's in 10 years time.

'The Wire'. 'The Wire' had a difficult year, due mainly to industrial disputes at our printers; it was the exception rather than the rule for 'The Wire' to be produced and despatched to accord with the agreed production schedule. To maintain some topicality the July/August and December/January issues were combined. A special effort was made to mark the Silver Jubilee in the June and July/August issues, with an exceptionally high photographic content. We are changing our printers from next month's issue. 'Wire' costs in 1977 were £26,230, whilst income from subscriptions and advertising was £17,524. The loss was some £8,706 against £5,766 in 1976. In these days of still mounting costs it is clear the decision to go bi-monthly from this year and to increase subscription rates was the right one.

Reunions. There has been no appreciable fall in attendances at Blandford and Catterick this year and most of our Branches are represented at one or other — or both. We are most grateful to the Commandant, School of Signals and Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison and the many officers and soldiers who make these events possible. We have had to face up to mounting costs. The charge to Association funds for the 1977 Reunions was £2,765 — 25% more than 1976. Increases in catering costs being the main reason for this. The Central Committee, at their meeting last November, decided that Members attending these splendid events must make a larger contribution. I am sorry this was necessary, but am sure you will agree that it would be wrong for Association funds alone to meet the increasing costs. This year's charges of £1 for the day at Blandford and £2 for the Catterick week-end must make them the best bargain-breaks anywhere.

Staff. The Staff of Association Headquarters, supporting our General Secretary, are as follows:

Miss M. Cook Mrs D. Ward	Welfare
Mr D. Greenbrook	Assistant to the General Secretary & Records
Mr F. Shelbourn *(Part-time)*	Accounts
Mrs J. Cheeseman *(from 3 Jan to 30 Sept 1978)*	Accounts
Mrs G. M. Crawford	Assistant Editor of 'The Wire'
Mr A. Walsh	'Wire' Distribution and Mail

The lack of established book-keeping staff in the Accounts Section has been a cause of special concern during recent years and has led to other Members of Staff assuming additional responsibilities. This has resulted in some routine Association administration suffering although I hope this has not been too apparent. Without truly devoted work by the General Secretary and the rest of the staff we would have been in serious trouble. Radical steps are being taken this month to improve the position on book-keeping staff which should also help other departments.

I wish to thank all the staff most sincerely for so successfully facing up to a very difficult period.

The Chairman's Report and the audited accounts for 1977 (included with this issue) were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
The Meeting elected or re-elected the following to the central Committee unanimously by a show of hands:

Chairman and Treasurer: (re-election)	Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB, OBE
Vice-Chairman:	Brig T. I. G. Gray (re-election) Col L. W. Wright, TD (re-election)
Branch Representatives:	
Zone 'A'	Maj R. O. Edwards (Leeds Branch) (re-election)
Zone 'B'	Mr J. J. Goggin (Shrewsbury Branch) vice Mr M. W. E. Charlton (Chester Branch) deceased
Zone 'C'	Capt A. R. Burden, TD (Cardiff Branch) vice Mr E. P. Wilds (Dorset Branch) retiring
Zone 'D'	Maj F. V. B. Philp (Lincoln Branch) vice Maj M. A. W. Rose, TD (North London Branch) retiring

ADMINISTRATION AT CATTERICK REUNION
Mr J. W. Hulme (Manchester Branch) suggested that a few elderly members would greatly prefer accommodation on the ground floor. The General Secretary confirmed that this point would be covered for future Reunions.

Mr A. J. Creed (Salisbury Branch) asked if Members and their wives accommodated outside the Garrison could be provided with a tea meal on Saturday. The General Secretary confirmed that this would be available for future Reunions.

Mr F. J. Lovatt (Individual) suggested that arrangements for reception could be improved. The General Secretary confirmed that this point had already been noted and would be discussed with HQ Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison.

NEW BRANCH
Mr F. J. Lovatt (Individual) informed the meeting that he assessed sufficient support to justify the formation of a new Branch of the Association at Redcar and that he awaited a reply to a letter he had written to Association HQ on the subject. The General Secretary undertook to provide the necessary guidance to Mr Lovatt.

VOTE OF THANKS
Col L. W. Wright, TD, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman on his conduct of the Meeting and the management of Association affairs throughout the year. This was approved unanimously by warm applause.

1979 REUNIONS
In closing the Meeting, the Chairman advised Members that the dates for the Reunions in 1979 had been fixed as follows:
Blandford — Sunday, 20 May, 1979.
Catterick — Saturday/Sunday, 30 June/1 July, 1979.

It is, perhaps, timely to give some publicity in The Wire to the annual reunions which are sponsored by the Association at Blandford and Catterick. As we see it, these represent the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, but not necessarily on every occasion, to remember the dead. The annual reunions in 1979 are planned as follows:— BLANDFORD — 20 May; CATTERICK — 30 June/1 July.

OBLIGING THE CORPS

Some of our readers may have seen the letter published in the Daily Mirror on 5 April, which is reproduced below:—

Mr W. Reeves, Rugby Road, Milverton, Leamington Spa, writes:
On 28 February last, nine youngsters (average age seventy-six) met in London as a group for the first time since we all joined up fifty-eight years ago.

We were then founder Sappers/Signalmen of the present Royal Signals. It was then known as RE Signals, changing to Royal Corps of Signals on its formation as a corps.

Between us we have served all over the world, India and its frontiers being our most favoured playground.

Would you lads care to show the flag for us and publish this letter, as there are quite a lot of those first-timers (1920-26) still to report in?

Watch youselves on those trikes!

Will do, sir, and we're only too happy to oblige the Royal Corps!

We have now heard from Mr Reeves who, as a result of this publicity, received over 50 letters from 'old timers' many of whom were founder members of the Corps. Many also had Indian connections who are swelling the ranks of the Indian Signals Association. We are, therefore, glad to place on record our thanks to The Editor, Live Letters, The Daily Mirror for bringing this all about.

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The 1979 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.	0.45	0.50
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)	2.20	2.35
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Motor cycle badge	0.75	0.75
Corps cravats—terylene	1.85	2.00
Corps cuff links	2.20	2.40
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Corps table mats (*set of six*)	14.13	15.25
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Corps squares—terylene	2.52	2.72
Corps ties—terylene $3\frac{1}{4}$"	1.25	1.35
terylene $2\frac{1}{2}$"	0.20	0.25
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'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.10	2.25
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
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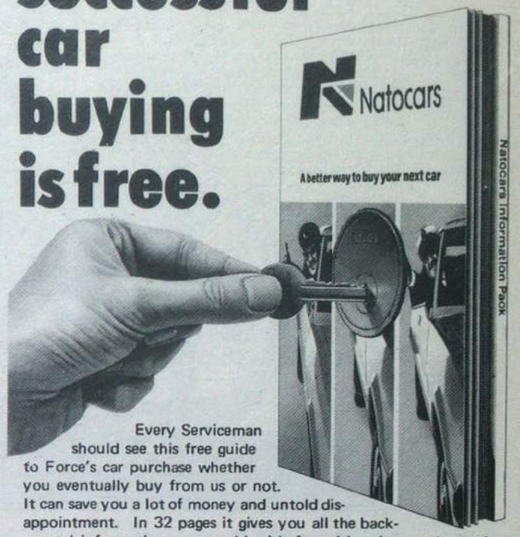
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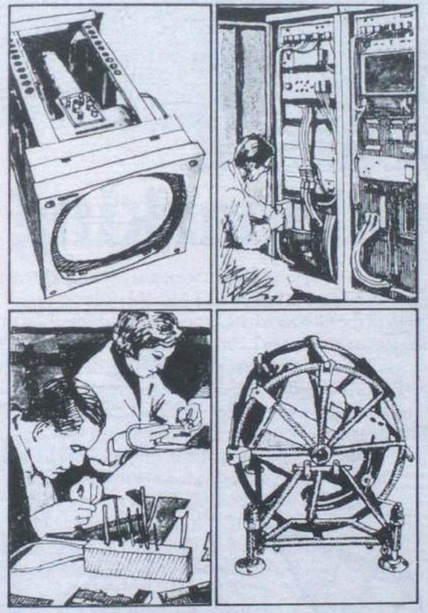
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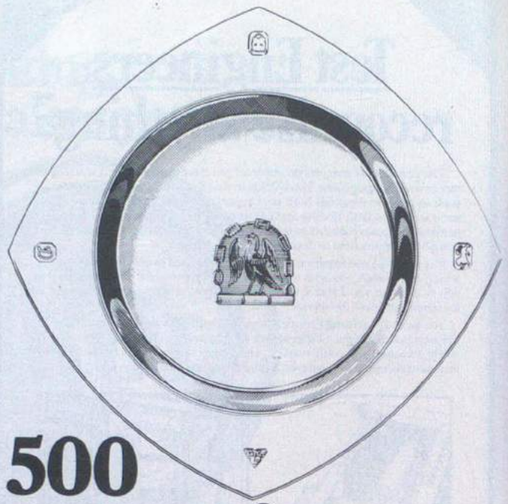
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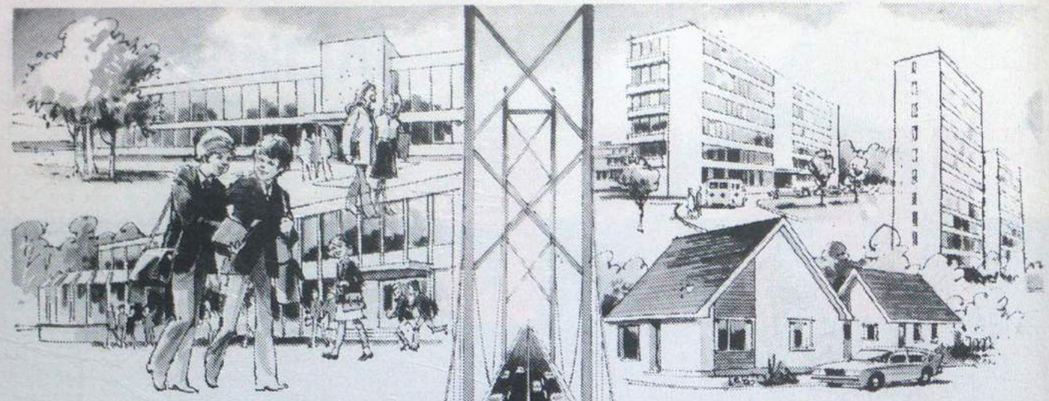
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September 1978

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE





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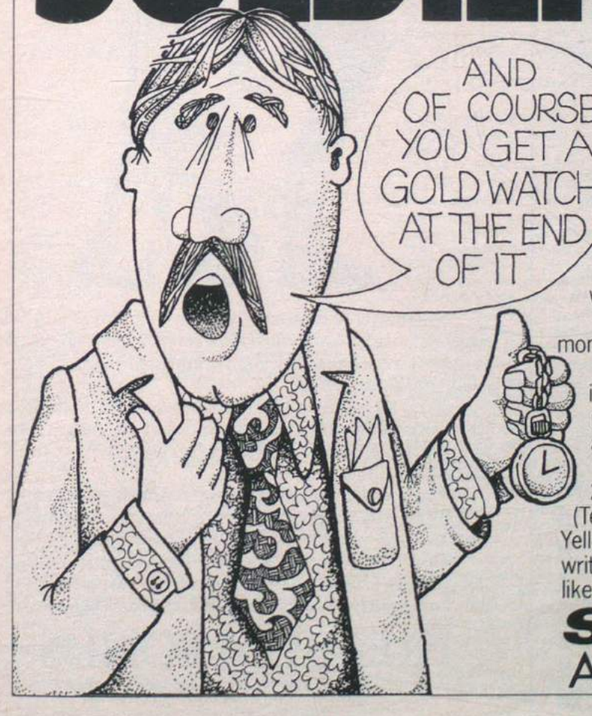
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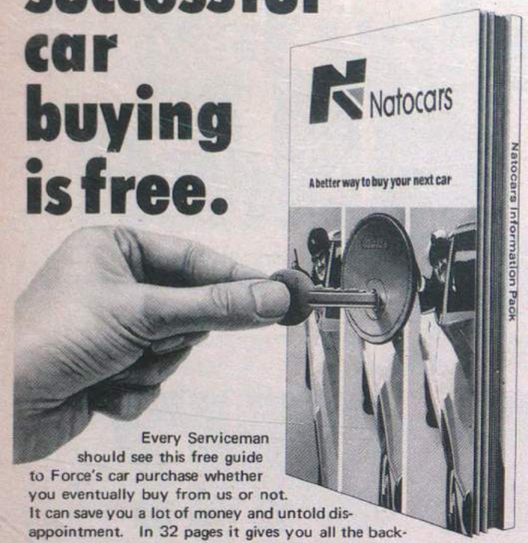
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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MRS. G. M. CRAWFORD

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SEPTEMBER 1978

Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 5**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

A highly successful season was rounded off on 19 July at Aldershot when 233 Signal Squadron (NI) team became Joint Army Minor Units Athletics Champions. The Championship was hotly contested and the outcome in the balance until the final event. The Squadron lying first with 44 points, J Bty RHA, 2 Armd Div Fd Amb and RAMC Trg Centre stood on 42 points. With only the 4 × 100m relay to be run any one of four teams could have taken the trophy.
J Bty RHA ran a brilliant race to take first place and 14 points. 233's team were second in 44.8 sec (a season's best performance). And so the Squadron shared the championship with J Bty RHA

Back row *(left to right)* WO2 (SSM) B. Smith, Cpl A. Middleton, Cpl W. D. Taylor, LCpl J. A. Rose, LCpl R. G. McQueen, Capt A. K. Chapman, Sgt D. G. Robertson, OC Sqn Maj P. E. A. Chaddock
Front row *(left to right)* Cpl M. I. Parsons, LCpl M. Eyre, Sig R. K. Hutchison, LCpl I. Anton, Cpl J. A. Marshall

A NOTABLE STATEMENT

From time to time, our Editorial focuses on the Regular Forces Employment Association with the knowledge that this Association does much, on a day to day basis, to assist those who come to the end of their Service and face all the problems of a transition to a second career in civilian life. The recent annual general meeting of the Association in London saw Sir Charles Villiers as its principal guest and speaker. Sir Charles Villiers served in the Army throughout the second world war with the Grenadier Guards, the Special Operations Executive and with Special Forces. His distinguished war record was subsequently matched by an equally distinguished career in Industry, prior to his appointment as Chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

We are glad to publish the substance of his address.

"It is very nice to be back among old friends—a position I do not always find myself in. However, I have found that if one goes on behaving like a Serviceman, one gets through in the end.

I am speaking to you as an employer. For better or worse, I employ more people than there are in the Army and the Navy put together—59,000 in Wales, 22,000 in Scotland, and thousands more on Tees-side, Humberside, at Corby and, indeed, all over the country. This is an enormous responsibility just in human, personal terms, quite apart from the financial responsibility as well. I thought that in my address I would take a rather wider view and try to put into perspective the super work that our Association has been doing for so many years and will do, I hope, for many years to come, for it is very essential work. To do that, I want to look at the unemployment situation in the country.

It is very bad. There are 1,600,000 people unemployed, which is two and a half times the number in 1974. It is a very deep recession. Nearly six per cent of the labour force is unemployed, and in steel it is very much higher. There is the fearful responsibility of closing steelworks — for example in Cardiff and Ebbw Vale and elsewhere. That is terrible because it creates more unemployment. In Ebbw Vale it will be nearly 15 per cent. But there is, fortunately, a small bright side because, in the last four months, the number of unemployed has fallen slightly. But the awkward feature here is that this better trend is not part of the real economy, where we make things. There has been some improvement in the candy floss end, the end where you serve things, but at the heavy end of the business, where you make things, there are no signs of a pick-up.

What of the real economy? I do not know. If hopes can be dupes, fears can be liars. We have land at our steel sites for people to come forward and invest in, and we will help in every conceivable way to put new work on to the old sites. But the funny thing is that the people who accept these offers are American, Japanese or German firms who feel that we have a good labour force and have acted and made things possible. We have to make a judgment at this point as to what is going to happen.

For better or worse my judgment is that we should not be too hopeful of improving growth. There are people who have a vested interest in talking about growth for ever, but I think that we realise now that we must accept that the figure of 2½ per cent historic growth rate for this country will persist and that it is something that we have to live with.

Indeed, there is a fair case for saying that the country is now back to normal, that we have left behind this extraordinary excess investment, this excess boom, that we had from 1960 to 1974. We doubled the productive capacity of the whole world in 15 years from 1960. That is a fantastic thing to have done and it could not go on like that. We have to return to normal, and that is something that we all have to take on board.

What does it mean for employment? It must be accepted that the prospects of another long period of very low unemployment are not good. There is a great deal of capacity that is unutilised or underutilised and there is over-manning in this country compared with the countries with which we compete. We have it in steel and many other industries on which employment so heavily depends.

But we and others in the same position as the steel industry do expect to employ fewer people in these old, heavy industries than in the past, although it will mean higher wages for those who remain, and that is already coming through. In the service industries, the position is rather rosier. But we cannot live always on taking in each other's washing. We have to make things; if we do not they will be imported and we shall be back on the old stop-go, despite North Sea oil.

I think that we have firmly to contemplate the situation and take part in our second industrial revolution. I first said that 10 years ago, when I was running the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, and I have watched it coming true ever since. We are now well launched into it. It is greatly to do with management, and in the Services you are adjusting to the situation all the time. Indeed, the Services have been the leaders.

It is also a revolution in production: We are no longer making things that we were making before. We are also having a revolution in industrial relations and here there is a great deal to be learned from the Services. There is also a revolution in our attitudes to work. Our precision and care for the work has to go right through, from the professional people to the shop floor, the attitude must be that it really matters supplying the customer exactly and on time what he has specified and that we will do it, as the Japanese and the Germans do it. Such attitudes to work, especially in heavy industry, have to be part of our second industrial revolution.

The real 'British disease' is 'Near enough'. I will not have that. It will not sell anything. The first Industrial Revolution, now 150 years old, was based on fear. The conditions in our factories were very bad. Perhaps they were worse than elsewhere, because we did it first. Also, we are very law-abiding people, and we accepted such conditions for a long time. So our work force, the people we are responsible for and for finding jobs for, have a very high degree of solidarity. We have to take that on board. If you are running a steelworks you live with it. Also, working people developed a great sense of relief in sport, in religion, in the pubs—in other words, these were the non-work interests.

Our working people also came to have a view of a static instead of a dynamic society. I find that while managers believe that in a dynamic society things will get better, the work force has come to believe that their best interests lie in a static society, in, for example, the notion that job preservation must have the top priority. I am up against that every day.

Last of all, small defensive unions came into existence in order to carry out this protection. Most of them still exist today. Very often they are staff unions.

These factors are not helpful in the problems of a technological revolution, in which people have to move from one job to another, be flexible in their work, and move from one trade to another or one department to another. All this history has inevitably had bad effects on productivity. The result has been that more mobile and innovative industrial societies like the Japanese, the Americans and the Germans have gone ahead. If we made 100 tonnes a year, the Germans made 150 and the Japanese 250. At the same time our wages fell behind those of our more productive competitors and, as a consequence, quite inevitably, our rate of exchange fell, with the result I am afraid, that our standard of living has fallen, or at least has not grown as it should have done.

I do not say all this as a doomwatcher but as a large employer and observer of what is going on in the rest of the world. In many areas of industrial activity it takes twice as many Brits to make the same unit of production as it does among our competitors. I do not say that as a reflection on our management or work force. It is simply a fact that we have to recognise and do something about.

That is the sort of responsibility that falls upon not only the Services but those who employ enormous numbers of people, like the British Steel Corporation. We are moving out of a difficult situation and the second industrial revolution had to be based on something different—on consent, as you in the Services have been able to arrange since the war. It is based upon consultation; it is based upon informing and finally upon involvement.

There are two points. The first is technology. Everything now has an element of skill. In contrast tothe old days of puddling, teeming and ladling, and so on, men now work in white coats and work by dials and from 'pulpits' from which you control your hydraulic jacks and vacuum techniques. This is the enormous investment BSC has made of £2,000 million. The advances in technology are something that we have to take on board in the second industrial revolution.

Then there is the question of involvement. You have it in the Services—but you also have Queen's Regulations. In Industry, there is the real power of the unions and there is the code of practice of the management. We do not have the force of Queen's Regulations. So in industry we make an enormous effort to get people interested and involved in their work, which is essential if we are to get the productivity and job satisfaction that are themselves so essential.

What should we do in this situation? I have no doubt that it all lies in the one word 'skill'. For reasons which are complex and time-rooted, the British do not produce enough skilled workers to get them more than halfway up the trend which leads to boom. We are not on it at the moment but when it does pick up, as it surely will, halfway up we will run out of skilled workers. It happens over and over again. It is not money or raw materials that will run out but skilled men—boilermakers, patternmakers, draughtsmen, mechanics. I have eighteen different unions in BSC and to get sufficient skilled workers into our industry is top priority. I do not understand why we do not have them, people wanting 'To better themselves,' as my parent used to say.

I have said this many times, and people think that it is not quite nice to do it, because, in our egalitarian society, no one should try to be more skilled or richer or better than others. But that is poppycock. That is a terrible policy. If you are restrained by any means from using your talents and skills, you instantly cease to be equal in the true sense of equality to develop one's individuality to the full. How do you make people equal by taking away their freedom? Our attitude must be 'Learn a skill, because by that means you will help yourself and help your country.' For skill, you need training. I second entirely what Air Marshal Gingell said about training facilities. These are essential and they exist. Of course, trainees can be paid while they learn. So it should not be too difficult to get qualified. On the civilian side, there has been an absolute explosion in training facilities. It is now done by the Training Services Division of the Manpower Services Commission who, rightly, see their role as contributing to the greater effectiveness and more competitive capacity. In the NEDC, I sit next to the training men, and I have great respect for what their organisation is doing. The numbers are impressive: 90,000 people completed courses last year under the training opportunities programme. It is only the tip of the iceberg. Where you get the real impact is in the companies, in the industry. Most training is paid for and provided by the employers.

So I say to the Association that when you place men you are very well advised to place them with firms which supply good training facilities and which are training-minded. In the steel industry we do a tremendous amount of this. We have courses in each of our works and we have several training colleges. It is part of life today. Training for everyone has to be a continuous process. While a man of 65 in the old days will have stuck to one trade throughout his working life in most cases, now there are opportunities under the training programme for a man to switch trades and skills perhaps several times in his career. That is what life is about today—It is not having a trade that you learned as a boy and do until you die or retire. You have to learn two or three trades. The facilities are provided by the Government and industry and for goodness' sake get your people to use them. I do not know why they flinch away from it, but they do somehow. But they must be persuaded. Do not let them be put off by easy money for unskilled work on a building site. No industrial nation can do without skilled workers, and our second industrial revolution depends on skill.

I want to grasp the thorny problem of unions and whether to join them. I am not a political person, although I have a political problem. But I have to deal with 18 unions whose members work in the BSC. They are good, responsive unions, and most, though not all, of their members are good and responsible work people. When you join a union it is a personal matter, and you can argue till the cows come home whether the unions have increased wages or held them back—there are good arguments on both sides. But the point to get hold of is that the unions are an extremely important part of our social society. They are not going to go away. As I have said on other occasions, that genie will not go back into its bottle.

So it is my belief and practice to work with the unions as closely as possible and in the Corporation we have made enormous progress. Indeed, we are about to take another giant step forward in this whole process of working with the unions and the work force. I believe that this will be of great significance to the rather overtoned phrase 'industrial democracy'. If that is to mean anything, it has to be effective at the interface on the shopfloor as it is in the works councils where representatives meet, and as it is effective in the offices of the union and the boardroom. It has to be effective right across the board. Industrial democracy means nothing if it does not deal with the real problem—flexibility. For example, if an electrician says 'no one else can deal with electricity' no one else can do do it and you get held back if such an attitude cuts across all the jobs. We must have flexibility.

When I got to the BSC, we had pages and pages every day listing unofficial disputes. We got down to it with the unions and the work force. Today, there are two disputes, and work has continued in both. So it can be done. There are inter-union disputes which can be difficult, and there I must say that the TUC itself has been of great help. Len Murray himself has been very helpful.

Industrial democracy means also dealing with technical things. It has to deal with job evaluation—if you do not get that, your wages structure goes haywire. Again, it has to deal with restructuring. If you do not get that you are stopped in your tracks again. It has to deal with job satisfaction, otherwise you do not get the commitment to work that you need. You finally have to get down to the concept of a single institution. That is a very tricky hot potato, but it will have to be grasped because there is such a difference between work force and staff. But it will have to be done. This is a huge national social problem, and it will be solved only by management and the unions working together.

There are three simple problems, all known to you, which the unions and we all acknowledge. Until we get them right we shall not get the prosperity we want. First, whatever one may say or think, men do like to do good work; secondly they like to feel that their work is significant—of some importance; thirdly, they want their good significant work to be appreciated. These things are so obvious that it seems that everyone would naturally realise them, but they do not. I hope that all of you in this hall will try to recall this very simple proposition and apply it to the areas of you influence. I am sure you will see much better results.

That brings me back to the Association itself. I want to pay tribute to its outstanding work through its headquarters and its forty-two branches throughout the country. Last year, nearly 10,000 registrations and 6,000 placings, and that is a very effective record in the circumstances. You have a good follow-up service. You have very good relations with firms which give the ex-Servicemen and women you help the first opportunity to get jobs. Very often you get jobs for them which the employer had not really thought of until you suggested them. What I like particularly is that, running through the Association, is the urge to compete and settle men back into civil life. These are the two essential pillars of the Association.

I salute those who do this work for their fellow soldiers, sailors and airmen. I know that it is difficult work. It is dedicated and skilled work, and it has achieved a very high level of success. I feel that you would wish me also to salute those young men and their wives who entered the Services for no financial gain but who live disciplined and often dangerous lives. They have to put a lot in, but I think that they got a lot out, and I believe that we owe them a living. Fortunately, it seems to me, due to their own training in the Services and the character development that takes place there, and to the commitment and efforts of this Association, they are uniquely qualified to make as even greater contribution to the society in which we all live."

—From our "In" Tray—

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY TELEGRAM

On 28 June, 'Princess Royal Day', a telegram, on behalf of the whole Corps, was sent to our Colonel-in-Chief, at Buckingham Palace. As this was the first occasion that The Princess Anne had received such a telegram from the Corps, it was decided to deliver it by a Special Despatch Rider who was **Sig Nicol** of 10 Sig Regt. He rode one of the special chromium-plated motor cycles which are normally used for ceremonial escort duties.

The text of the Corps telegram read as follows:

'Today, the Royal Corps of Signals celebrates Princess Royal Day and the Corps' 58th Anniversary. All Ranks take this opportunity to convey, with their humble duty, their cordial greetings to their Colonel-in-Chief and to reaffirm their loyal devotion to Her Royal Highness, and, through the Colonel-in-Chief, to Her Majesty The Queen'.



Sig Nicol, 10 Sig Regt delivering the Princess Royal Day telegram to Buckingham Palace.

The following telegram was received from Buckingham Palace:

'I would be grateful if you would convey my appreciation and warm thanks to All Ranks of my Corps for their kind message of cordial greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day and the 58th Anniversary. Anne, Colonel-in-Chief'.

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S BIRTHDAY

On the occasion of the birthday of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Anne our Colonel-in-Chief, the following telegram was sent to Buckingham Palace:

'The Master of Signals and All Ranks of your Corps send you their loyal and affectionate greetings and very best wishes for a Happy Birthday.'

The following reply was received:

'Please convey my appreciation and warm thanks to the Master of Signals Royal Corps of Signals and to All Ranks of my Corps for their kind message on the occasion of my birthday.'

Anne Colonel-in-Chief

AN APOLOGY

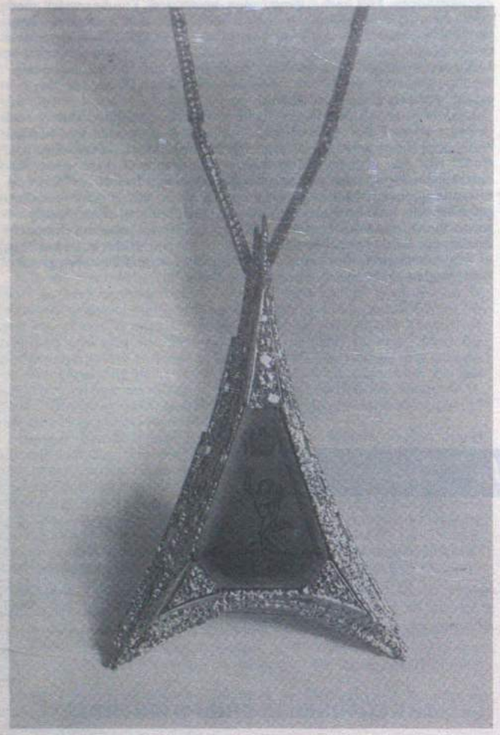
The cover picture for the July issue was taken at Catterick when the RSM's of the Corps were assembled for their annual convention. We are sorry that our attempt to name the RSM's on page 209 was a dismal failure! To set the record straight, those in the photograph were:

Back Row (*left to right*) WO1 C. Homewood, WO1 K. A. Childs, WO1 K. Walley, WO1 F. Atkins, WO2 R. Mills, WO1 R. Harris, WO1 D. A. Hughes, WO1 (YofS) L. Yates, WO1 P. D. Robinson, WO1 C. Adam, WO1 C. Widdowson, WO1 R. L. Stark, WO2 G. Platts

Centre Row (*left to right*) WO1 R. M. D. Collins, WO1 F. Worrall, WO1 A. Bailey, WO1 D. Cheetham, WO1 D. A. Lamerton, WO1 M. G. Springer, WO1 A. Morgan, WO1 J. Brown, WO1 C. Moore, WO1 G. M. Lumley, WO1 A. K. Woods, WO1 T. Ryan, WO1 T. R. Gainford, WO1 R. Wade

Front Row (*left to right*) WO1 R. F Dixon, WO1 R. C. Briant, WO1 M. N. Robinson, WO1 A. S. Reid, WO1 C. Haughie, Mag Gen A. A. G. Anderson SO in C, WO1 E. C. Hunt, WO1 I. C. Rothwell, WO2 B. Young, WO1 J. G. Albon, WO1 R. S. Dehdashty

CORPS BROOCH PRESENTED TO THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF



In February, The Colonel-in-Chief graciously received the Master of Signals, the Representative Colonel Commandant and the Signal Officer-in-Chief. On that occasion, Her Royal Highness was pleased to accept a uniquely designed Corps Brooch and pendant, which they presented on behalf of All Ranks, to mark the occasion of Her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief. In a subsequent letter the Master of Signals was asked **'to convey the grateful thanks of Her Royal Highness for this beautiful gift'.**

The Colonel-in-Chief was wearing the brooch in the photograph published in the cover picture to the March edition of The Wire. We are now privileged to publish a photograph of the brooch which was designed by Andrew Grima Ltd and can be worn either as a brooch or a pendant. It consists of a central stone of smokey quartz engraved with the Corps badge on the reverse side, set in textured yellow gold wires with pavé-set diamonds, and with a matching chain. The central stone was engraved by A. D. Ward of Templecombe, Somerset.

INCREASES IN PAY BANDING— combat powerman and telecommunication mechanic

Following the relaxation of regulations governing increases in pay banding under Stage 3 of the Government pay policy the following upbandings have been authorised from 1 April 1978:

Telecommunication Mechanics	SSgt 5 Sgt 5
Combat Powerman (R Signals)	SSgt 5 Sgt 5 Cpl 2

No 'Pt II' action is required by units as Manning and Records Office are taking action direct with RPO Taunton.

VALE

MAJ GEN H. E. ROPER
CB, BSc(Eng), CEng, FIERE, MBIM, CDipAF



Henry Ernest Roper, always known as Harry, who retired on 31 March, 1978, was born in Warwickshire in 1923 and enlisted in the Corps in 1941. After completing his recruit training he went to Worcester College Oxford where he studied radio for a year before attending 151 OCTU. He was commissioned in 1942 and during the war served with 12 Air Formation Signals in North West Europe and 19 Air Formation Signals in South East Asia. He remained in the Far east until 1947 with HQ RAF Burma in Rangoon and HQ Air Command Far East in Singapore. When he returned to the UK he went to the Military College of Science to study for his BSc; he then joined the School of Signals as an instructor before returning to the Military College of Science to attend the final year of the Technical Staff Course. At the conclusion of this course, in 1953, he was posted as a Grade II Technical Staff Officer to the Chief Superintendent of the Ranges Department in the Ministry of Supply, this took him up to 1957 when he was posted to regimental duty for the next three years, first with 2 ATAF Independent Signal Squadron in BAOR then with 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron in Cyprus. 1960 found him back with the Royal Military College of Science, this time on the directing staff. After two years he attended the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer then joined 7th Signal Regiment in BAOR. In 1964 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel to take over command of 30th Signal Regiment. Then came a year as Assistant Military Secretary in MS6 at the Ministry of Defence before he was promoted in 1967 to Colonel GS, Army Signal Equipment. This appointment only lasted a year as in 1968 he was promoted to Brigadier to take over the responsibility of Director of Project Mallard at the Ministry of Technology. In 1971 he was selected to attend the Royal College of Defence Studies and after completing the course he was promoted Major General as CSO BAOR. His last posting before retiring this year was as Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Operational Requirement at the Ministry of Defence when he was appointed CB in the Birthday Honours of 1976. Also, when he took up this post in 1975 he was appointed a Colonel Commandant.

Throughout his career Harry has been particularly interested in the development and use of signals equipment and believes strongly that all officers should have a sound practical knowledge of the equipment in use and that this could be achieved without detriment to being a good regimental officer or indeed a good general staff officer. This was no theoretical belief, through his practical example Harry demonstrated it could be successfully achieved.

On the leisure side Harry was a good all-round games player mainly in rugger, soccer, hockey and cricket; he still keeps wicket in a veterans cricket team. Wherever his appointments permitted he has encouraged all kinds of sports and has been Chairman of the Army Athletics Association, BAOR Tennis and President of Corps Ski-ing.

After attending a re-settlement course when he retired, Harry joined Standard Telephones and Cables, where he can continue his interest in the development and production of military communications equipment and where he hopes to be able to influence the end result to the benefit of the Corps. We wish him, his wife Beryl and their two children good fortune and success in the future.

A NOTABLE BREAKTHROUGH

Many of our readers will have seen the reports in the National press of 20 and 21 July describing **Brig Reg King's** recent work at Bath University. These reports describe the work as a 'breakthrough' in the transmission of speech by wire or radio. It is a source of great pride and satisfaction to all members of the Corps that this notable advance in the communications field has been made by a serving Royal Signals Officer and we congratulate **Brig King** on this achievement.

Brig King's interest in speech processing and speech transmission has its roots in a paper which he wrote for the Winter 1962 edition of the RSI Journal. The ideas which he formulated then were pursued over the years and published and presented at the IEE Conference on Signal Processing Methods from Radio Teephony in May 1970, in conjunction with **Dr. J. R. James** of RMCS. This work on a novel method of processing speech, described at the time as the 'highlight' of the conference session did not lead directly to any particularly successful outcome, although it was subsequently pursued vigourously by other workers in the field.



Last year under service auspices **Brig King** continued his studies at Bath University. He teamed up with **Professor William Gosling** and this time the major advance was achieved. Heading a University team of mathematicians, computer analyst & PDP8e computer. **Brig King** has devised a system of coding speech waveforms in a digital form which looks like being an order of magnitude simpler and cheaper than its competitors—ie the channel, LPC, or Formant tracking vocoders. The system represents a shift in concept which is both fundamental and unusual. A prototype is being constructed at Bath University and should be ready for evaluation in about 18 months. A fully engineered version could be in general use within the next five years.

Commenting on **Brig King's** work, **Professor Gosling** says 'There is no doubt whatever that this represents a revolutionary concept in communications engineering. The mathematicians have always said that it could not be done, and in theory in one sense, they were right. I think it was mainly **Reg's** ability to tackle the problem obliquely and his dogged military persistence in refusing to accept defeat that enabled him to solve the seemingly insoluble.'

LOOKING BACK

From: **Lt Col C. H. Patrick, OBE (Retd)**
Dear Sir,

I was very interested in W. A. Clark's letter under the heading 'Looking Back' in the May 1978 edition. I was at Crowborough in 1920 and would like to set him right on one or two points. Lt R. T. O. Cary, (now Major-General, retired), ran an excellent and very successful concert party, the 'theatre' being a large disused NAAFI hut; I played a small part in it. But the very popular 'RTO' left the unit and the MO, Capt Hulbert and father of Jack and Claude attempted to carry on. He did his best, but the heart had gone out of the Party and he invited his famous sons and their wives in an effort to bring it to life again. We all enjoyed the first class show they put on for us and we appreciated their coming, but even that did not revive the Party and it just faded away.

W. A. Clark and perhaps some others may like to be reminded of our unit staff, which in its way was quite historical. Our CO was Maj (later Colonel) E. de W. H. Bradley, father of Maj Gen Peter Bradley, now Master of Signals (who I well remember as a very small boy riding around on the Post Cart with Bill West, later FofS). The adjutant was Lt R. T. O. Cary; the Assistant Adjutant was 2Lt 'Willie' Scott, later Maj Gen W. A. Scott, the first Master of Signals. Then there were RSM George Waterhouse and CSM Charlie Smithson, two of the best, and Bert Trapmore, Ginger Dowie, Bill Holmes, Bill West, all later commissioned, and George Stone, Dan Webster and McGrath. Not many of these are still alive —but then that was 58 years ago.

Yours sincerely,

C. H. Patrick

43 Brent Court,
Silam Road,
Stevenage, Herts
SG1 1JN



We are indebted to General Bradley for this photograph of his father and himself taken some 59 years ago.

Baby Rescued from Fire

Recently on Northern Army Group Signals Support Group Exercise *Canary Caper*, soldiers of 35 (South Midland) Signal Regiment TAVR and 840 German Signal Battalion assisted the Local Fire Brigade at Lüdinghausen, in Northern Germany to fight a fire in a block of flats.

Before the fire was at its height, several people were thought to be still in the building. **Sig Ron Jones** and **SSgt Eric Rose** dashed into the building to assist any person overcome by smoke. During the ensuing search of the building **Sig Ron Jones** discovered 10 week old baby **Ariane Wagner,** who had been left behind in the confusion at the outbreak of the fire, and carried her to safety. After the fire was under control the Signallers provided the occupants with blankets to keep them warm, and very welcome cups of tea.



The following day the villagers thanked the Signallers and provided them with Strawberries and Cream, and freshly baked cakes as a reward for a job well done. Our picture shows the NATO Signallers at the scene of the fire the following morning, from left to right they are **Sig Jones, Sig Lythe, SSgt Rose, Cpl Alderson, SSgt Barker, Sgt Humphreys, LCpl Barr, Stabsunteroffizier Brand** and **SSgt Glanville.**
(Report and photo courtesy PR HQ NORTHAG.)

From: **Maj Gen A. E. Morrison, CB, OBE**
Dear Sir,

I found HQ Dhekelia Garrison's report 'as it was' in the Wire of May 1978 a little misleading as it gave a false impression. As I was the only Major-General CSO ever stationed in Cyprus they must be referring to me.

In 1954, I took over CSO GHQ MELF then stationed in the Canal Zone. In Cyprus there was a CSO Major. Later that year Main GHQ moved to Nicosia in Cyprus and I went with them. We were in fact 'lodgers' in Cyprus as we had been in the Canal Zone and direct responsibility for communications in Cyprus, except those for GHQ ,remained that of CSO Cyprus.

Just about the time of our move the EOKA troubles started and Cyprus Signals had to be reinforced. 1 Div Sigs from the Canal Zone were redesignated 'Cyprus Signals' and came over to Cyprus. The OC took over the responsibilities of CSO Cyprus.

Later on the appointment of CSO MELF, like other similar appointments at GHQ, was down-graded to Brigadier, and I left. The appointment of CSO Cyprus as a Lieutenant Colonel still remained. What happened later I am afraid I do not know. I hope I have made my point clear. At no time, to my knowledge, did a Major-General or Brigadier fill the appointment of CSO Cyprus.

Finally, may I wish all in 3 Sig Gp well. I hope they enjoy their stay in Cyprus as much as I did.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. Morrison

Wesley House,
68 Fairways,
Ferndown,
Wimborne
Dorset BH22 8BB

WRAC ASSOCIATION — NORTHERN AREA REUNION

To be held in the Crescent Room, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate on Saturday 7 October from 2.30 to 6pm.

Tickets £1, including tea, obtainable from Miss M. Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 9BY not later than Thursday 28 September. (On holiday 7 to 21 September).

All Army ex-servicewomen welcome to attend.

Cadets Change Affiliation

Of the 1,618 Army Cadet Force Detachments in the United Kingdom only 61 are affiliated to Royal Signals units. The majority are affiliated to County Regiments, with the cadets wearing that Regiment's cap badge and sharing its traditions. A change of affiliation is a somewhat rare event, usually being the result of some major re-organisation or disbandment of the parent Regiment. However, on Sunday, 11 June, the Blackburn ACF Detachment changed its affiliation from the Queen's Lancashire Regiment to the Royal Corps of Signals in recognition of the excellent support which they have received over a long period of time from 93 (East Lancashire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) of 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers).



The march past, led by 2Lt Nick Allton, the Detachment Commander. Returning the salute is the Commanding Officer of 38 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

The event was marked by a parade during which the cap badges of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment were exchanged for 'Jimmies' by the CO, **Lt Col Frank Pedley.** The parade was attended by the **Mayor of Blackburn,** senior officers of the Army Cadet Force in Lancashire and a large gathering of parents, relatives and friends, as well as members of 93 (East Lancashire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers). The parade marched off to the band of the Sea Cadets, through the streets of Blackburn to the TAVR Centre, where a splendid tea had been arranged for both cadets and spectators.

The Corps now has one of the most efficient Army Cadet Force Detachments in the North of England wearing its cap badge.

From: **Brig A. A. Dacre, OBE**
Dear Editor,

I have just been reading the May 1978 issue and make reference to the 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regimental notes on page 168. I was most interested in the piece describing how **Capt John Stokoe** was following in the footsteps of his father, **Maj (Retd) Gordon Stokoe.**

However, I believe 4 Regiment have been less fair to **John** when comparing their respective global perambulations; I think the Regimental records should have informed them that son **John** had also served in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Nepal and, with incursions into India—so he may not have to work too hard in the future to match his father's world wide experience!

Having known both father and son I feel sure neither will mind me adding to the report.

Yours sincerely,

Able Dacre

British Army Advisory Team (Nigeria),
c/o British High Commission—Kaduna,
FCO Outward Bag Room
King Charles Street,
London SW1A 1AH

WHITE HELMENTS SELECTION COURSE

The White Helments selection course is to be held from 3 — 24 November 1978. Volunteers should apply to Royal Signals Records through their Squadron Offices now.

From: **Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake**
Dear Sir,

The enclosed photograph may prove of some interest to readers of The Wire. It was taken at the Novocentenary Church Parade at the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula within HM Tower of London, 11 June, 1978.

Left to right: Yeoman Warder John Maher (ex-RSM R Signals), Yeoman Clerk 'Nobby' Russell (ex-RSM R Signals). Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake (ex-SSM R Signals). Not present, but on alternative duty: Yeoman Warder Len Harvey (ex-SSM) and our latest 'recruit' Yeoman Warder Mick Thurgood (ex-RQMS).

Five ex-R Signals WO's seems a good representation for the Corps, as the Body of Yeoman Warders numbers only 37 of all Arms, including RAF.

The Royal Signals have other strong links with the Tower, twice in the last decade having found Public Duties Guards here and also at Buckingham Palace and St James's. On Royal Birthdays and State Visits 10 Signal Regiment provide communications between the HAC and Kings Troop RHA giving gun salutes co-ordinated at Tower Wharf and Hyde Park, and harking back to Church Parade, Royal Signals Badges, embroidered by the Royal School of Needlework embellish some of the hassocks in the Chapel Royal.

At HM The Queen's inspection of the Royal Bodyguard in Buckingham Palace gardens on 8 June, 1978, John Maher and I were privileged to be Her Majesty's escort on the saluting dais. We shall be pleased to welcome Her Majesty on 23 November this year to mark the 900th Birthday of the Tower.

From all of us, best wishes to all.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Copestake

The Tower of London



From: **Ex WO2 J. Johnston**
Dear Sir,

I read with interest your article in the May issue regarding 'Quicksilver' and especially the date given as 1954. But the original 'Quicksilver' vehicle first appeared in 1949 and took to the road in April of that year to do a tour of Northern Command. The itinerary of that tour included visits to York, Lincoln, Leicester, Scarborough, Derby, Northampton, Nottingham, Newark, Leeds, Newcastle, Carlisle, Middlesbrough, Huddersfield, Hull and Bradford, though not necessarily in that order. The visits were generally of one week's duration. Additionally, 'Quicksilver' went on show at Radio Olympia in Earls Court followed by a one week's tour of some of the London Parks—eg Clapham Common and Peckham Rye. There is—or was—a 'Quicksilver' Diary chronicling these events and recording the number of visitors at each place; also in the Diary are the signatures of various Lord Mayors and one of the late Herbert Morrison MP who was Home Secretary—I think—at that time.

From start to finish, the tour lasted between six and seven months. This represented a very packed programme and fortunately there were few mishaps. We had three punctures en route— two in one day! Police escort for 'Quicksilver' was frequently asked for and readily given.



There were certain admin problems. 1949 was still a period of austerity and in most barracks where we were accommodated, there was only a skeleton staff with fairly limited resources. Hot meals, to cope with our relief system, were not always easy to arrange. To further aggravate that situation, our barracks were sometimes a long way from the display site. For example, whilst on display at Leeds, we lived in barracks at Pontefract, 14 or so miles away.

Although some useful experience was gained, I doubt if 'Quicksilver' ever took to the road again.

The picture shows Maj Gen R. J. Moberly—then Lieutenant Colonel commanding 1 TR—and the late Maj G. Flynn. The civilian is Mr R. Frarey who was largely responsible for installing the various equipments. And, of course, the original members of 'Quicksilver'.

Yours faithfully,

J. Johnston

'Withatee'
131 Brook Lane,
Sarisbury Green,
Southampton SO3 6EU

From: **Peter Nightingale Esq LTCL (TTD)**
Dear Sir,

As a serviceman in Royal Signals during the war, serving with '12 Air Formation Signals' (Rear HQ, 2nd Tactical Air Force), I am keen to contact any members of this unit in particular, and any members of any section of the Royal Signals during the years 1943 to 1947. Firstly on a friendly and social basis to renew old friendships and secondly for a proposed Auto-Biography, at present to cover 1944, (the most eventful year of the invasion and liberation of Europe), but perhaps later to cover the years 1945 to 1947 in Germany. Some may remember me as a pianist, playing in canteens etc and giving concerts and as a composer.

As a postscript I would like to add that any officers serving at the present time in Royal Signals, or previous service and in particular officers dealing with entertainment and social events, may be interested in the 'Young People's Light Orchestra' who give many concerts for charity, and have travelled many hundreds of miles in the South of England and further, having recently returned from Calais, France, for a series of concerts at the invitation of the Mayor of Calais. The whole orchestra, consisting of children and young people numbering over 70 (with junior choir). The 'Senior Consort' (20 to 25 players), The 'Ensemble' (12 to 15 players) and the 'Quintet'. As we are a 'Light' orchestra our repertoire consist of all types of music from the classics to popular style music, to suit all tastes. Only travelling expenses are asked for.

Anyone interested in contacting me, either in regard to the Signal Unit mentioned or having had service in any section of the Royal Signals during the period mentioned or the Young People's Orchestra, please contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely

Peter Nightingale

17 Woodlands Avenue
Rustington
Littlehampton
Sussex
BN16 3HB

OPERATION DRAKE

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For further information and application forms get in touch now with:

OPERATION DRAKE,
PO Box 23,
210 Euston Road,
London NW1 2DA.
Tel: 01-387 7021

ATTENTION ALL SCOTS

From: **Annie Wood**

Dear Sir,

Radio Clyde's family favourites programme 'Worldwide' which Tom Ferrie hosts, broadcasts from September until May '79. The two-hour Sunday lunchtime editions of 'Worldwide' feature greetings requests and messages for families and friends at home.

During the last series of 'Worldwide' we linked up live with Canada, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Malta, Ireland, Bahrian, Cyprus, and Riyadh. We made special trips to Canada, Belfast, Londonderry, Cologne, and as the forces were in Belize, Radio Belize gave us a special programme which featured the voices of their families here at home sent especially for the troops out there.

The next target for the 'Worldwide' team is to make a special effort to contact all the Scots in the services. With your help I should like any Scots who read The Wire, to know that the programme 'Worldwide' team is hear for their messages to their families.

Yours Sincerely

Annie Wood

Radio Clyde Ltd
Ranken House
Blythwood Court
Anderston Cross Centre
Glasgow G2 7LB
Telephone: 041-204 2555

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Royal Signals Glider pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Games Fund for the period December 1977-November 1978 NOT later than 18 November 1978 to:

Maj S. G. Falla, Royal Signals
OC 1 Sqn (TS)
School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset DT 11 8RH

The following details are required:

Flying fees paid in the period (NO other expenses) less any sum received from other sources in this respect.
Number of launches in 1978 and total launches.
Cross-country Kms 1978.
Results of competition or badge attempts.
Qualifications held.
Full address of claimant including Regimental Number.
Details of UK bank and account where cheque is to be paid.
Confirmation that you subscribe to Corps funds under the days pay scheme or similar.

CATTERICK 34 YEARS BACK—DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

The 8th Signal Regiment notes in the May issue featured the opening of the Cadre Corporats' Club in Messines Building 90. The foundation stone of this building was laid by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal on 28 August 1944 and it is believed to have been built by 'NCOs and men of the first Signal Training Centre as a model signal office'.

In view of the building's historical significance, 8th Signal Regiment are trying to find out more about its origin and history up to the time it became the Headquarters of the Signal Training Centre (later Training Brigade Royal Signals).

Will anyone who can help please contact **Maj Alan Brown**, OC HQ Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison—telephone Catterick Camp 2521 extension 2573.

VICE PRESIDENT'S DINNER — OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION

The Annual Vice President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 18th November 1976.

The dress is mess kit. Accommodation can be provided at the College. The cost will not exceed £5 a head.

Any former student of Welbeck College who wishes to attend (whether a member of the Association or not) is asked to contact:—

Captain A. W. Harling REME
Welbeck College
Worksop
Notts S80 3LN
Tel: Worksop 6579 (Home) or
Worksop 6326 Ext 30 (College)

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Movements

Officers

AUGUST 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj (Tfc) K. J. Bicknell	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Bowen	7 Sig Regt
Maj M. E. Bradbury	33 Sig Regt (V)
Lt I. R. C. Brown	10 Sig Regt
Maj R. B. Carroll	12 Sig Gp (V)
Maj J. Cox	Telecomms & Radar Branch REME
Lt S. A. Crane	30 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. M. Emslie	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. S. Ewing	Att 16 Sig Regt
A/Maj H. L. H. Feber	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Capt (Tfc) G. S. Heasman	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Capt (QM) D. Henry	11 Sig Regt
Capt A. R. Hill	35 Sig Regt (V)
Maj C. T. A. Hughes	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Capt S. G. Hughes	Att HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Capt (QM) G. James	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Maj (TOT) R. E. Jenkins	16 Sig Regt
Lt M. N. Johnston	HHS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt N. M. Keleher	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. L. McDougall	21 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) A. B. McMullen	Communications Projects Agency Royal Signals
Lt Col N. Moss	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. S. Mullineaux	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Lt R. W. Palmer	1 DERR
Capt D. C. Paterson	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Maj E. M. Powell	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (QM) C. Speight	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) F. M. C. Stock, MBE	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Capt (Tfc) A. Stringer	7 Sig Regt
Maj C. E. Urquhart	HQ BR Forces Belize
Maj M. P. Walker	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Lt J. W. Wedgbury	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt K. G. Wilson	Att 30 Sig Regt
Capt D. S. J. Wooten	School of Signals
Maj J. C. Young	MOD

SEPTEMBER 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt J. G. P. Akehurst	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col K. S. H. Allwright	Mil Team Project WAVELL
Lt S. I. Andrews	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Lt R. D. Barfoot	Cambridge University OTC
Maj H. M. A. Bonaker	National Defence College
Maj M. L. P. Brock	35 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col P. R. Buchanan	(HS) School of Signals
2Lt C. N. Burtenshaw	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
Col D. G. Cattermull	HQ NORTHAG (SP)
Capt (TOT) A. J. Cook	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Capt R. C. T. Cuthbert	7 Sig Regt
Maj P. J. K. Dickinson	11 Sig Regt
Maj K. G. Doyle	HS ACC Harrogate
Lt R. O. N. Evans	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Maj J. V. Fielding	National Defence College
Lt I. Foxley	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Capt N. E. Franks	233 Sig Sqn
Maj G. R. Funnell	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt J. M. Gale	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt S. D. Galpin	School of Signals
Lt T. J. Gigg	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Lt R. J. Good	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Lt K. W. Goodfellow	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Maj (TOT) W. F. Graham	641 Sig Tp (HQ 2 ATAF)
Maj E. Hampson	Att HQ CDO Forces RM
Lt A. J. H. Harrison	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Lt S. J. Heath	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Capt R. H. Hoyle	21 Sig Regt
Maj E. W. Hunt	16 Sig Regt
Lt T. G. Inshaw	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Maj A. T. B. Kimber	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt G. R. Leach	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Lt A. Leather	Att 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj W. G. Lidster BEM	30 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) I. R. Lidstone	8 Sig Regt
2Lt M. Lithgow	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj R. S. Mansfield	AAC Harrogate
Capt J. R. Markham	224 Sig Sqn
Maj M. L. Martin	262 Sig Sqn (EAST)
Lt A. M. D. Marvin	Att 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt P. T. McGann	36 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col E. Mulley	8 Sig Regt
2Lt P. T. Nicholson-Taylor	30 Sig Regt
Lt P. J. Oldfield	21 Sig Regt
Lt A. L. Pearce	11 Sig Regt
Maj J. R. Potter	Mil Team Project BATES
Lt A. P. R. Roberts	11 Sig Regt
Maj B. H. Rowe	MOD LE(A)
Lt D. E. Rowlinson	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Maj F. Smith	11 Sig Gp
Lt Col M. C. Spence	School of Infantry
Lt D. M. Steele	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Capt M. R. Stone	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
Lt M. Strong	RAPC Trg Centre
A/Maj J. E. Stroud	HS AAC HARROGATE (Pending Retirement)
Lt J. E. Thomas	RMCS (33 Degree Course)
Col D. H. Thursby-Pelham	(HS) HQ BF ANTWERP
Maj L. R. J. Tilson	MOD
Maj M. C. Wilkinson	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt F. Williams	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt S. J. S. Young	RMCS (33 Degree Course)

WOs and Senior NCOs

AUGUST 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 (FofS) D. G. Rotherham	HQ Land Forces
WO2 (FofS) K. R. McRae	224 Sig Sqn
WO2 R. Bates	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 R. G. Mills	34 Sig Regt
WO2 P. Muxworthy	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 B. Selkirk	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) A. Young	8 Sig Regt
WO2 B. Young	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/WO2 (YofS) C. R. Coles	233 Sig Sqn
A/WO2 B. Wray	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt J. Lyons	224 Sig Sqn
SSgt R. F. Clay	9 Sig Regt
SSgt B. E. Eason	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) J. T. Cowen	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) C. G. Stubbings	HAC Battery Coy RHA
SSgt (FofS) D. M. Woodhouse	School of Signals
SSgt (FofS) P. Roscoe	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. Braithwaite	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. W. Boyd	28 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. Terry	642 Sig Tp
SSgt J. D. Lycett	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt T. L. Pigg	8 Sig Regt
SSgt A. K. Pilkington	Scarborough Sig Trg Centre
SSgt J. C. England	School of Signals
A/SSgt I. M. Bell	11 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. Gavillet	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Assender	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Hand	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt E. Phillips	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. E. Pridmore	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt V. Unwin	HQ BAOR
Sgt W. Venus	11 Sig Regt for R Signals Trg Wing
Sgt D. Garner	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Gordon	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt G. Mitchell	532 Rear Link Detachment
Sgt G. Nuttal	School of Signals
Sgt B. J. Rivett	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Flockhart	593 Rear Link Detachment
Sgt B. G. Ozanne	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Hatch	AA College Harrogate
Sgt N. G. Brown	13 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Cooper	AA College Harrogate
Sgt K. G. Preston	CPA
Sgt C. J. Fielding	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt D. L. Edwards	HQ AFCENT
Sgt I. R. S. Plenderleith	HQ AFCENT
Sgt A. Davie	School of Signals
Sgt R. B. Bradford	School of Signals
Sgt B. Law	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. G. Turvey	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. C. Bradley	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. G. Taylor	4 Sig Gp
Sgt G. A. Atkinson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. L. H. Lovejoy	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt B. S. Bennett	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Standing	8 Sig Regt
Sgt E. A. Harper	9 Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Brockman	9 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Greig	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Batt	9 Sig Regt
Sgt T. F. Hawes	13 Sig Regt
Sgt E. R. W. Sadler	13 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Charlton	10 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Powell	11 Sig Regt Depot Troop
Sgt I. Donald	13 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Mayers	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt G. M. Abrams	30 Sig Regt
Sgt T. A. Barton	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. F. Studd	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. C. Vanparys	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. E. Horner	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. D. O'Keefe	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. T. Archer	632 Sig Tp

SEPTEMBER 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which Posted*
WO1 (FofS) I. D. Hope	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
WO1 (FofS) M. G. H. Campbell	21 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) J. E. Fison	11 Sig Regt
WO2 P. Tams	Sheffield University OTC
WO2 F. A. Bancroft	14 Sig Regt
WO2 J. G. Chambers	8 Sig Regt
WO2 B. W. Connor	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 S. M. Fowler	AAC Harrogate
WO2 G. J. Griffiths	16 Sig Regt
WO2 A. A. Nicoll	8 Sig Regt (Demo Team)
WO2 A. G. Baker	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) M. Scott	Sch of Sigs
WO2 (FofS) A. J. Lowry	633 Sig Tp
WO2 (YofS) D. R. Heyes	Sch of Sigs
WO2 (YofS) G. A. Letori	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. Nicol	16 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) D. K. Stokes	AAC Harrogate
SSgt (FofS) A. L. Jacklin	Sch of Inf
SSgt (FofS) A. C. Mockford	Sch of Sigs
SSgt (FofS) L. Proctor	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) K. D. Harris	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) D. M. Coles	229 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) J. Terry	642 Sig Tp
SSgt (YofS) G. W. Bartliff	Br Contingent (UNFICYP)
SSgt (YofS) S. J. Walls	Sch of Sigs
SSgt G. A. Firth	7 Sig Regt
SSgt J. W. Eaton	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt D. B. Robertson	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt T. R. Hanman	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
SSgt A. Tyler	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
SSgt M. T. Nevill	30 Sig Regt
SSgt J. A. Chambers	7 Sig Regt
SSgt R. J. J. Hancox	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt K. Morris	21 Sig Regt

SSgt I. M. Bell	11 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Lamont	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt K. Lister	38 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Ielme	British Contingent (UNFICYP)
Sgt R. D. Smith	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt B. Merrick	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. M. Cook	AAC Harrogate
Sgt R. Bulley	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt E. W. Sadler	13 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Martin	AAC Harrogate
Sgt I. E. Sargent	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt G. P. Scott	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt E. B. Vargas	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. N. Green	Sch of Sigs
Sgt M. Jowsey	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. R. Shaw	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Tankard	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. T. Webb	Sch of Sigs
Sgt J. C. Travers	Sch of Sigs
Sgt H. G. Squires	Sch of Sigs
Sgt M. J. Burke	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt W. F. Quinlan	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt N. Pearson	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. George	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. G. Griffiths	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt D. T. Thurley	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Dickinson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Wilson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Millican	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. D. Mackie	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Taylor	10 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Lennon	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. G. Hayes	13 Sig Regt
Sgt G. W. Furber	16 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Robinson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt B. G. D. Nichols	28 Sig Regt
Sgt T. McAuliffe	32 Sig Regt
Sgt D. D. C. Fraser	37 Sig Regt
Sgt S. T. Hemmings	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Lloyd-Williams	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt C. E. Taylor	2 Armd Div HQ Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Ryan	4 Armd Div HQ Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Hughes	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt G. Thomas	Sch of Sigs (Courses)
Sgt C. J. Waugh	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. W. Rylance	16 Sig Regt
Sgt B. E. Slavin	31 Sig Regt
Sgt M. L. Spinks	33 Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Faulds	AAC Harrogate
Sgt J. N. Conlow	Sch of Sigs (Courses)
Sgt J. Longstaff	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. Talbott	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. Murphy	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. Foster	Sch of Sigs (Courses)
Sgt B. Heapy	11 Sig Regt (JSW)
Sgt D. McClenaghan	4 Armd Div HQ Sig Regt
Sgt M. S. Foster	Sch of Sigs (Courses)
Sgt W. R. Martin	Army Sch of Mech Tpt
Sgt F. Gould	8 Sig Regt

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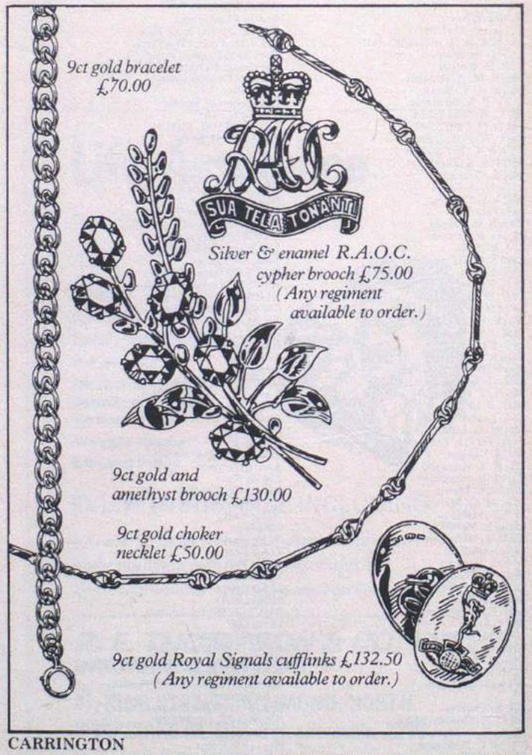
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Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1978:—

Reading Branch, RSA	25.00
In memory of the late Brig F. J. Allen, OBE	45.00
Mrs G. J. Bradford	5.00
A. F. Toogood Esq	2.00
J. A. Pound Esq	1.10
Col R. G. L. Giblin, OBE	1.00
Maj F. C. Forbes	1.00
Miscellaneous donations	.78
	£80.88

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1978:—

83 (London) Sig Sqn (V)	£2.00
The Wives of 8 Sig Regt & 11 Sig Regt	£500.00
Catterick Reunion Service at St. Martin's Church	£147.50
2 Div HQ & Sig Regt	£194.80
HQ BAOR (St Boniface church)	£54.35
AA College, Harrogate (St. Alban's Church)	£30.00
BAOR Church Fund (St. Margaret's, Birgelin)	£25.97
Plymouth Branch, RSA	£20.00
Robert Hart's Trust	£25.00
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H. R. W. Marsh Esq	£10.00
Mental Health Foundation	£9.50
Lt Col G. M. Welsford	£3.00
D. W. Lloyd-Davies Esq	£1.25
R. A. Oswick Esq	£1.00
Miscellaneous Donations	£4.38
	£1048.75

Welfare

JUNE 1978

Number of cases assisted financially:	54
Amount spent:	£2,264.17
Number of clothing parcels sent:	55

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	11
Amount spent:	£225.00

JULY 1978

Number of cases assisted financially:	31
Amount spent:	£1,818.85
Number of clothing parcels sent:	26

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	14
Amount spent:	£387.21

ONE OF OUR CASES

Ex-Lance-Corporal, 11 years' service, living in Northern Ireland with his wife and two children. He has been unable to work for the last six months owing to an accident. His wife is an invalid, confined to a wheelchair, and they have just been rehoused in accommodation more suited to her condition. It was necessary to pay in advance for a supply of fuel oil, which is their only means of heating, and the Association made a grant of £76.95 for this purpose. The wife's letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

On behalf of myself and my husband, we would like to thank you so very much for your help with the oil heating for our bungalow. I am myself disabled and require heat at all times, so your help has been a great blessing and an answer to prayer. I hope you will accept our thanks for helping us out in our time of need, as, with my husband not working due to an accident, it was really impossible for us to gather up the amount of money needed for the oil.

THANK YOU

During the months of June and July, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:—

Mr A. Walsh, Mr J. Young, Mrs J. Watkins, Maj H. Marjoram, Mrs T. I. G. Gray, Maj Gen E. S. Cole, Mrs I. Williams, The Thrift Shop, 10th Signal Regiment, Mrs H. Noble, Mrs I. G. Swan, Lt Col and Mrs D. A. Dickson, Maj Gen M. S. Hancock, SSgt C. H. Story, Mrs V. E. Haslett, Lt K. F. Gordon, RAEC, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Maj Gen and Mrs M. D. Price, Sgt and Mrs D. Fryer, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer, Capt W. W. Fawley, Mrs J. Mather, Mr. A. W. Smith, Mrs D. M. Purser.

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Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number—be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to *The Wire*), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month preceding publication.

DEATHS

Barker—Brig John Norman Barker OBE was commissioned in the Corps in 1926 and spent the majority of his service in India and the Far East. He commanded 25th Indian Divisional Signals in Burma during the Second World War where he was appointed OBE and mentioned in despatches, later becoming CSO Singapore. His last appointment was as CSO Scottish Command before retiring in 1960. His younger brother **Lt Col C. H. Barker** also served in the Corps. **Brig Barker** died in July aged 71.

Brandon—Maj John Gibson Brandon enlisted in the RE Signal Service in 1919 and transferred to the Corps in 1920. During his career of 35 years he served in Germany and India and during the war in France, Egypt, the Western Desert, Sicily, Italy where he was mentioned in dispatches and Trieste. His last posting beofre retiring in 1955 was as Quartermaster of 6 (Boys) Training Regiment. He was commissioned in 1943 and was an athlete of considerable merit, representing the Corps at soccer and hockey. He died on 15 May shortly before his 78th birthday.

Bundy — Sig R. Bundy died at Ash, Nr Aldershot on 14 June at the age of 76. He enlisted in 1920 and was soon well known for his ability as an athlete and cross-country runner, representing the Army in 1924/25. Although his service in the Corps was short, Joe Cotterell kept in touch with him over the years and reports that he was also well known as a member of the ABC Team. (Ayres, Bundy and Cotterell).

Clay — Sig Robert Clay of 22 Sig Regt died as a result of a road traffic accident on 12 August, whilst on leave in UK. He was a popular member of the Regiment and in particular 3 Squadron whose Squadron Clerk he was.

Collings—Maj John Lawrence Collings was commissioned in the Gordon Highlanders in 1915. He transferred to the Corps in 1923 and after the war served in Hong Kong and the British Occupation of the Rhine. He retired in 1931 but was recalled to the Service during the Second World War. He died in May just before his 85th birthday.

Grant—Sgt A. (Jock) Grant MBE MM MSM enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders TA in 1914 and served on the Western Front during the First World War with the Battalion Signal Platoon where he was awarded the MM. He joined RE Signal Service in 1919 and transferred to the Corps in 1920 when he went to India where he remained for the next 15 years chiefly with Peshawar District Signals. He was Branch Secretary of the Association and Wire correspondent in India for more than 12 years. He was discharged in 1936 through illness but immediately joined 51st Highland Divisional Signals TA as orderly room sergeant. When the Second World War broke out, being unfit for overseas service, he transferred to the paymasters branch of Scottish Command where he remained until he retired in 1958. He remained an active member of the Association throughout his life and died in August 1977 at the age of 84.

Hayler — WO2 D. E. Hayler joined the Army in January 1943 and served 17 years with the Corps, prior to his discharge in March 1960. After a long period of ill-health he died in Chippenham on 2 August at the age of 71.

Humphries—Maj Edward Stewart Humphries, MC, DCM, better known perhaps as 'Pop' to most of his contemporaries, enlisted in the Royal Scots in 1906 and was later posted to India where he transferred to 32 Divisional Signal Company, Sappers and Miners, Indian Army in 1911. He embarked with the Indian Expeditionary Force to France in August 1914 and saw action at Givenchy, Ypres (where he was awarded the DCM), Loos and Neuve Chapelle. At the end of 1915 he was again transferred with the Indian Expeditionary Force, this time to Mesopotamia, where in 1916 he was awarded the Russian Medal of St George. During 1916/17 he saw action at the Relief of Kut and took part in the capture of Baghdad and Kirkuk where he was commissioned in the field and awarded the MC. He returned to India at the end of 1918 where he continued to serve through various appointments including the command of E Company at STC(1) Jabalpur (1926) and as 21C A Corps Signals Karachi (1931) until his retirement in 1934. At the outbreak of the second World War he was recalled for service and appointed Port Security Officer in the Intelligence Corps until his final retirement at the end of the operations. He settled in Eastbourne where he died on 23 April at the age of 88.

Jessop—Lt Col Thomas Henry Jessop MBE enlisted in the Corps in 1922 and was commissioned during the war. He was appointed MBE in 1941 whilst serving in North Africa. He retired in 1948 and died on 27 July.

Jones—Lt Col Peter Derek Jones was born in 1940 and commissioned from the RMA in 1960. After attending a Degree Course at Shrivenham he commanded 47 Gurkha Brigade Signal Squadron when he was the youngest independent squadron commander in the Corps. He qualified at the Indian Staff College and subsequently became DAA and QMG at 11 Armoured Brigade and then second-in-command of 2nd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. He was selected for command at the end of last year but due to illness he was posted at the beginning of this year to the Directing Staff at the Royal Military College of Science. He had a great future ahead of him and his sudden death on 2nd July whilst at the Royal Military College of Science will cause a sad loss to his many friends and within the Corps.

Kenyon-Bell, Capt John Mitchell Kenyon-Bell enlisted in the KOSB (TA) in 1939 and was commissioned in 1941, he served with the Parachute Regiment during the war and was taken prisoner at Arnhem. He transferred to the Corps in 1950 and was Adjutant of 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, later he was a GSO3 at Signals 5 and Secretary of the Corps Committee. He retired in 1957 and set up his own Landscape Gardening Company near Daventry. He died on 5th September at the age of 57.

Malone—Sgt Patrick Joseph Malone died aged 47, on 17 July. He served in the Corps from 1950 to 1972.

Tucker—Brig William Guise Tucker, CBE, was born in 1906 and commissioned into the Corps from the RMA Woolwich in 1927. 'Guy', as he was known throughout the Army, held many varied appointments both in field units and on the staff; on the latter he held a more than the average number of posts, a total of six, in the War Office, finally concluding his service on the active list in 1959 as Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief. During his career he saw service in Ireland, twice, in Egypt, on three occasions, in France, North West Europe and Malaya. He was an Instructor at the RMA Woolwich in 1939 and during the war commanded 45 Divisional Signals, 11 Armoured Divisional Signals and Guards Armoured Divisional Signals when he was appointed OBE. After the war he held appointments as DD (Tels), CSO Malaya, when he was mentioned in despatches and sponsored the formation of Gurkha Divisional Signals. He later became Colonel of Gurkha Signals, CSO 1 (BR) Corps, and CSO 2 (BR) Corps during the Suez Operations in 1956 when he was appointed CBE and mentioned in despatches.

After retirement, he joined the BBC as Engineer Liaison Officer. He was appointed Colonel Commandant in 1962. Throughout his life, Guy had a great affection for the Corps and devoted a great deal of his time and energy after he retired to our activities. He was Chairman of the Royal Signals Association from 1967-1972 and a Trustee from 1964-1975, when he joined the roster of Chairmen for the weekly Welfare Committee meetings. Guy was full of enthusiasm and drive in everything he did He was an above average all-round sportsman and gained Corps Colours for rugby, hockey, boxing, athletics, cricket and tennis. In his home town of Farnham, he threw himself energetically into the life of the local community and always kept 'open house' for any visitors. Guy was always supported superbly by his wife, Joan. His sudden death on 19 July came as a shock to all who knew him; the Corps has lost a true and valued friend.

SITUATIONS VACANT

It is possible that some of our readers may be leaving the Corps on retirement, or have already left, and are seeking an interesting and responsible job. 10th Signal Regiment has immediate vacancies for ex Data Telegraphists and Switchboard Operators for employment throughout Southern England.

For further information write to:

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10th Signal Regiment
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TW4 6EZ
Tel: 01 570 2371 Ext 407

A vacancy for a CARETAKER is to become available during November 1978 at 83 (L) Signal Squadron (V), The TAVR Centre, 351 Merton Road, Southfields, London, SW18. Flat available, Low Rent, Lighting and Heating Charges. Suit married NCO with Family, leaving the Service, who wishes to retain his contact with the Corps.

Applicants should write in the first instance to the Administrative Officer, requesting further details, and giving a brief history of themselves.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

DEMISE OF THE SIGNALS DESPATCH SERVICE (SDS)

The last remaining SDS schedule anywhere in the world has been completed! Monday 31 July 1978 brought to an end a long-established and proud service to the British Army when Royal Signals handed over responsibility for the delivery of all official mail to the Postal Branch of the Royal Engineers. The Signal Despatch Offices in Northern Ireland were the last remaining in service since the closure of the Hong Kong offices in 1975. This has completed a full circle—in 1920 DRs in the RE Signal Service were amongst the first elements of the newly-formed Royal Corps of Signals—having developed from the Special Reserve NCOs who rode their own machines as early as 1912! During the lifetime of SDS, horses, pigeons, dogs, mules, helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, motor torpedo boats, Suez Canal bum boats, cross channel ferries, hovercraft, trains, jeeps, bicycles, Land Rovers, and latterly civilianised cars—although records show that two Rolls Royce motor cars were used in 1914!—have all seen service as SDS carriers. It is worthy of note that the Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motor cycle display team owe their origins to many DRs as well as other tradesmen, both horse and motor cycle mounted, of 1928.

SDS in Northern Ireland had been one of the main responsibilities of 233 Sig Sqn since the end of the Second World War; prior to the outbreak of the present troubles in 1969 SDS was the only secure means of communications within the Province and the Squadron was responsible for the whole District, later, Command. 39 Bde Sig Sqn were the first NI Brigade to enter the arena when their Communication Centre opened in 1969, they were followed by 8 Bde Sig Sqn and, with the assistance of a then roulement Brigade at Lurgan, a 'chain of command' SDS System developed. With the formation of 3 Brigade in 1972 the system became fully established and its efficiency grew. During this period the RAF Support Helicopter Squadron and the Aldergrove AAC Sqn provided a daily aircraft to help deliver the mail—this facility also served the FPO which shared some of the routes of the SDS.

For the past nine years the service has run without incident or loss from HQ Northern Ireland down to the most lowly level of Command and even private offices and homes! The success of the service has depended to a very large extent on the close co-operation of all Signals units within the Province—this has never faltered.

Millions of miles have been driven by the DRs of the Royal Signals delivering millions of packages (and there have been few complaints)—a heritage we are pleased to pass on to the PC Sqn in Northern Ireland. Happily, the Despatch Rider does not finally die with this demise, there is still a requirement for a 'Special' who will be responsible for the delivery of the most urgent signals which cannot be transmitted electrically, which was where he really started.

Finally, our message to all of our users is contained in Judges 10 verses 13 and 14!



The SDO staff of Headquarters Northern Ireland prior to the departure of the final run; they are, clockwise, LCpl Neil Horton, Sig Phil Ingram, Mont Montgomery, Mark Jones, LCpl Bob Owen (NCO IC), Sig Mac McLeod, Terry Horn and Sam Backhouse



Sig Bruce Barnes of 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn showing LCpl Steve Ford of the PCC Sqn Londonderry detachment the 'right approach'. The ear defenders go with the job!



Brig G. L. Body, Chief of Staff HQNI, flanked by WO2 (SSM) Brian Smith and the Traffic Officer Capt John Ankers, hands in to LCpl Bob Owen the last four packages for delivery by scheduled SDS. Pte Ann Cambridge WRAC seems unconcerned!



The last delivery. Sig Latham and Sig Campbell deliver the last SDS package to the Superintending Clerk, HQ 3 Infantry Brigade, WO2 Graham.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

FOCUS ON COMMUNICATIONS

Comms troop, or to be correct, Alpha troop, as it is now called, have had a very turbulent period since they last contributed to The Wire. Not only has their name changed but many of the key members of the troop have been relieved. **Capt Mike Fisher** has been posted out to our own brigade headquarters as a watchkeeper for six months—a move of about 50 metres—and **YofS John Nichols** has managed to get another distant posting—to Lisburn! Other members of the troop have managed to get further afield and these include **LCpl 'Scouse' Davies, Sig 'Mini-Scouse' Brisk, Sig Nigel Harris** and **Sig 'Scouse' Tiernan.** We have also said goodbye to **LCpl Dick Singleton** and **Sigs Buster Keeton** and **'Gay' Finnimore** who go to civvy street.

WELCOME

New to the troop are **Lt Alan Evans, 2Lt Adam Ewell, YofS Mick Thornton, LCpl Bill Martin** and **Sigs 'Jock' Rideout, Don Greenwood, Steve Whiteway, 'Taff' Mills, Paul Cowling, 'Skippy' Hammond, 'Mitch' Mitchell, Graham Court** and **Tony Talbot.**

UNUSUAL TASKS

The troop has been busy with a number of projects including a complete recorganisation of the static VCPs on the roads leading into the Republic. They have also used every type of equipment they hold, in readiness for the forthcoming marches which usually result in much of our contingency communications being used.

Individuals have been involved in unusual tasks. In particular **LCpl 'Scratch' Skinner** spent several days at sea with **Pte 'Jacke' Jackson** of the pioneer section. Both were acting as searchers for RN boarding parties, on patrol around the coasts of Northern Ireland.

Finally the troop organised our recent Squadron Bar BQ. This consisted of an evening of 'It's a Knockout' type games in some rather damp Londonderry weather followed by the more traditional Bar BQ supper and dancing. All the organisation was brilliant except for one thing—we forgot to make a charge for all those who came so PRI ended up paying for the whole evening. Talking of PRI, the 2IC over ordered on a number of Signal Squadron sweat shirts, so if any of the ex-members of the squadron have £6.25 to spare and would like to have one, the 2IC would be pleased to hear from you.

WAITERS REQUIRE TRAINING

Our squadron wives club, which is now organised by **Gaby Waugh,** continues to flourish. Their most recent event was a dinner which was a great success and was enhanced by an immaculate set of waiters provided by squadron officers and senior ranks! Our photograph shows coffee being served by **RQMS Bill Olive** on the left and **Capt George Heaney** on the right, but the top award for the evening must go to our stunt man, **SSgt Alan Finney,** who managed to slip over, dropping two platefulls of main course on the floor. He wasn't, however, content with this initial success and on returning to the same spot second time round, fell over with an even bigger crash and retired for the rest of the evening.



RQMS Bill Olive and Capt George Heaney serve the coffee



Sig Don Greenwood demonstrating the new intercom system to a Fusilier at one of the Londonderry VCPs



LCpl Skinner (eyes closed) returning with his boarding party on Op Grenada



Sig Taff Rideout (with map) briefs his party of Cpl Alan Grant and Pte Mick Nicholls, while Sgt Bob Spring, DS, looks on—somewhere in Norway

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN NORWAY

The months of June and July are normally quiet months in the squadron and so **Capt Mike Fisher** took a party of 16 members of the HQ and Sig Sqn to Norway to the British Outward Bound Centre near Krishiansand. They then planned and executed their own special expedition, covering 85 miles on foot and 154 miles in canoes in 10 days. There must have been more sunshine there than in Londonderry as they all returned very brown—although **Sgt Bob Spring** thought it was rust, as he had spent most of his time in the water.

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

THE BELFAST PICTURE

The last few months have seen relatively little terrorist activity and so we have had a welcome opportunity to catch up on the many tasks which at times have had to go by the board. In particular, we have recently been concentrating on our preparations for the busy July and August 'marching season' here in the Province. During this time, howver, we were visited by the SO in C whilst on his tour of Northern Ireland as regular readers will have seen from the full report on his visit to the Province in the last issue of THE WIRE.



Sig 'Sammy' Smale on patrol with 41 Cdo RM in the Lower Falls. He was on a 'short exchange' with a Royal Marines operator who came to work in our Commcen

On 31 July our SDS crew, consisting of **Cpl Ray Pickering, LCpl John Kirkbride** and **Sig 'Mangle' Worsell** set out on the last SDS run in Belfast and, along with the other Northern Ireland Signal Squadrons' SDS, the last in the British Army. To mark the passing of an era in communications the vehilce was sent off in style by our Brigade Commander, **Brig J. R. A. MacMillan OBE** supported by our OC **Maj K. G. Turner.**



Brig J. R. A. MacMillan, OBE, about to launch the last SDS run from our Commcen. Also in the photograph are the crew, LCpl John Kirkbride, Cpl Ray Pickering and the driver Sig 'Mangie' Worsell



In good, grey Ulster weather on the Skid pan. The photographer evidently just lived to tell the tale!

Our MTWO, **WO2 'Mac' MacNiven** RCT managed to take over the local civilian driver training 'skid pan' for a couple of days in late June. As a result, most of our drivers were able to have a lot of fun and, we hope, learn one or two beneficial lessons! Several members of the Squadron have also recently spent short attachments with units in the Brigade. One of them, **Sig 'Sammy' Smale,** is seen here in one of our photographs whilst out on patrol with 41 Cdo RM.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING BY TOT

For those readers who have served with the Squadron in the past (including **Lt Col Bell** of course), you will be interested to learn that the most recent encounter in the Bell trophy pistol competition was won by our TOT, **Capt David Potter.** He narrowly beat **Capt Stephen Siddall** our 21C and **Sgt John Moody** of Rover Group by five points.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

There have been several changes in our 'First Eleven' during the last month or so. Our TOT, **Capt David Potter** has left us on posting to 21 Sig Regt and we hope that he and his wife **Carol** will have settled in to their new home in Wildenrath by the time they read this. Our new TOT is **Capt Tony Porritt** who has joined us from 7 Sig Regt with his wife **Margaret** and their children; we hope that they have an enjoyable tour here in the Province. The RSM's chair has also just changed hands with the departure of **WO1 Roger Harris** on posting to 11 Sig Regt and the arrival of **WO1 Alan Bailey** who has joined us from AA College Harrogate. We would all like to wish **WO1 Harris** every success in his new appointment as a Troop Commander in Catterick and thank both him and his wife **Elsie** for all that they did for the Squadron during their two years with us. A warm welcome is extended to **WO1 Bailey,** his wife **Valerie** and their children, and we hope that they too will have an enjoyable tour with us. Finally we have also just said goodbye to our YofS, **WO2 Phil Castle,** who has gone to a much envied job at Tongeren. We wish him and his wife **Denise** the very best of good luck, and welcome his relief **WO2 (Y of S) Nick Naylor** from 2 Div HQ & Sig Regt.

WELL DONE THE WIVES

Our jottings this month would not be complete without mention being made of the recent achievement by a group of our wives. Whilst we don't sport a Wives Club as such, a group recently got together with **Mrs Carol Turner,** our OC's wife, to run a Jumble Sale. They raised just over £100 towards the cost of some childrens' swings for our new Horseshoe Club gounds, and as the maximum price charged at the sale was only 5p, we feel that they did incredibly well: our thanks for all their efforts.



Mrs Kate Quinn, wife of our new RQMS, WO2 Frank Quinn, very shortly after her arrival in Lisburn, getting involved with the jumble sale



WO2 (YofS) Phil Castle being presented with the LS & GC medal by Brig J. R. A. MacMillan, OBE

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

WET AND GREEN

Since the last article, it has done nothing but rain, no wonder Ireland is green!! The only sunshine to be seen was on the 12th (of July) and I am reliably informed that it has been sunny on this date for as far back as can be remembered. During this dismal weather we ran three days of visits to the Divis Mountain Site, for Staff Officers. The visibility was about 20 feet; but the lunches were excellent.

THE PADDY FACTOR

We have not been helped by the 'Paddy factor' either, in fact life has been made very difficult, for example, how to ruin the best laid plans:

An urgently required lattice mast was delivered to Ballykelly on the North Coast by a Contractor (who prefers to remain nameless).
Meanwhile, on the border over 80 miles away, our installation crew waited patiently near an almost completed plinth.
Which genuius delivered 1500m of 2-pair armoured cable needed in Magilligan to the Royal Signals Band at Blandford?

If you can cap these examples, you have no doubt got your problems too.

JOINT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

The Cover Picture of this edition of The Wire features our splendid Athletics team. Notable performances for 233 were **Cpl John Marshall's** first place in the high jump. **Cpl Alex Middleton's** win in the shot and **LCpl John Rose's** first place in the Long Jump. Our track events competitors were not quite so strong, and so by the end of the afternoon, an interesting position had developed. With only the 4 × 100m relay to be run any one of four teams could have taken the trophy. J Bty RHA ran a brilliant race to take first place and 14 points. 233's team of **Cpl Alex Middleton, LCpl John Rose, Sig Bob Hutchison** and **Cpl Mick Parsons** were second in 44.8 secs (a season's best performance.



'L is for leaping Lance Corporal'. John Rose wins the long jump at the Army Minor Units Team Championships

CRICKET CUP RETAINED

At Lisburn on 14 July we retained the NI Minor Units KO Cricket Cup in a real 'cliff-hanger' of a match against 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. 3 Bde batted first to score 117 in 30.2 overs. The 233 innings started disastrously. After four overs the score was 10 for 5! A partnership of 50 between **Capt Nick Franks** and **Maj Peter Chaddock** stopped the collapse, and the score then moved slowly on to 90 for 9. A total of 118 to win looked a long way off, but somehow **LCpl Chris Pugh** (who is not noted for his straight bat) and **Capt Franks** managed it. A mighty roar of relief greeted the final shot, and a slightly surprised **Sgt Mick Kilvington** found himself collecting the trophy. Our photograph shows the team with the NI Cup looking faintly apprehensive prior to their Area Final match played the next day. A keenly fought match was won



Back row—*Left to right:* LCpl C. D. Pugh, LCpl I. R. Rand, Cpl D. Ellis, Mrs Sue Lloyd (Scorer), Sig D. J. Raku-Evans and Cpl P. A. Cavill
Front row—*Left to right:* WO2 F. C. Brown, Sgt M. J. Lloyd, Capt N. E. Franks, Sgt M. G. Kilvington, Maj P. E. A. Chaddock and Sig L. J. P. Staples

by the Army Apprentices College Harrogate who batted soundly and made better use of their fielding chances.

AAC Harrogate 143 for 5
233 Sig Sqn 108 all out

GARRISON 4-A-SIDE SOCCER COMPETITION

The final of this competition was a very close run thing, with W Tp being beaten by 26 Sqn RCT by 2 goals to 1. W Tp also were second in the Garrison Shinty Competition.

COMMCEN TROOP

The most recent happening has been the 'Demise of SDS', which is reported elsewhere in this issue. The accompanying photograph shows the happy band with **Brig G. L. Body COS HQNI. Cpl Jeanette Squires** our busy statistician complains that she has not, in all her years of service, had a mention in these illustrious pages. We go one better, the photograph shows **Jeanette** together with **Mrs Airey Neave** during her recent visit to the Commcen.



Left to right: Lt C. A. Lee WRAC, Capt J. W. Ankers, Cpl Jeanette Squires, Mrs Airey Neave and Capt A. Cox WRAC

WHISKEY TROOP

There is no truth in the rumour that the Troop is named after the author's dog! Whiskey Troop have been working very hard over the last few months, but have nevertheless found time for entertainment n the form of a hippy night which was regarded as the 'best do yet'. Very few dressed up for the occasion, they just came in what *is* regarded as working dress! The party gave the troop the opportunity to say our

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297/W

IAL LOCKHEED INTERNATIONAL

farewells to **WO2 (FofS) John Guest** who retires from the Corps and to Troop **SSgt Ron Russell** whom we congratulate on his promotion to Sqn RQMS. We welcome **WO2 (FofS) Fred Brown** who takes over as the new 'Fozz' and **SSgt Phil Daisey** who fills the vacancy of 'Troop Staffy.'

TECH TROOP

Tech Troop have also been working hard, but have found time to put pen to paper and send us the following: Life is, as ever, hectic in the hot sticky climate of the Tech Workshops. The radio techs are nearing the end of the UDR Refit and already we are being press-ganged into building audio amplifiers on PCBs to fit into little cans for the new CQBR at Ballykinler. We have three techs on this 'Rent-a-Voice' job. If you ever want anyone to count to 10 or read an EMER then **Sgt John Travers, Cpl Mick Parsons** and **LCpl John Rose** are your men! In between feed-back howls and the clink of crystals and zero-beat tones of the radio techs, can be heard the steady flic-flic of cards as the Radio Relay Techs(?) wait for the next last minute rush of jobs which need doing yesterday.

The 'Linies' are also kept busy wiring up the CQBR, tending the normal broken lines and cables as well as replacing aerial halyards broken by the Comms Troop Cowboys.

Systems?? Well we hardly ever see them as they have to pass the TOT's and FofS door to get into our workshop. If they want to go outside and come in the other way then they take a chance on meeting the SSM. (Between the Devil and the deep blue sea you might say).

On the sporting side **LCpl John Rose** (Radio Tech of course) is just back from Aldershot after coming second in the Army Junior Long Jump and fifth for the 100m. Well done **John**—only another 35hr of overtime to make up.

We say tattie-bye to **Sgt John Travers** away to become an FofS soon, **Cpl Niel MacLeod** to 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Dave Brown** to Cyprus, and we say hello mate to **Cpl Ian Anton, Cpl Dickie Henderson, Cpl Dave Taylor** and **LCpl Fred Smith.**

FAMILIES CLUB

Amongst all the hard work, we spare a thought for the wives. They have a lot to put up with and the activities of the Families Club are thriving thanks to lots of energy and hard work from the wives, spurred on by the several patch representatives. The Wednesday 'Get Together' in the Peake Inn and Keep Fit with **Sue Morris** on Thursday have proved very popular.

The regular shopping trips have been well supported. A recent visit to the Antrim Crystal Factory in the Andersons Town area of Belfast resulted in high adrenalin levels for the ladies and low bank balances for their husbands. Notable events have been an excellent visit to Hillsborough Castle, a very classy Families Club Dinner (by popular request) and a hilarious games night against the wives of 26 Sqn RCT—the SSM, **WO2 Brian Smith,** risked all by volunteering to be Master of Ceremonies. No one is sure who won, but that didn't seem to matter too much. The latest outing was not for the faint hearted. A beach trip in the middle of an Irish Summer! At the last minute reason prevailed and a change of plan landed the ladies and their families in Newcastle (Co Down!) where they took refuge from the gale force winds and driving rain. Our next project is a Mini Fayre in aid of SSAFA, to be held in September in and around the Peake Inn. The SSM is fighting to keep the 'enthusiastic amateurs' in check! Our thanks to him for his hard work, our thanks also to **Mrs Sue Morris** and **Mrs Eileen Ellis** for their work on the committee; both ladies leave us soon.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Does anyone want to employ a para-trained shepherd? Comms Troop are saying farewell to **George.** A stalwart of Comms Troop, **24248903 Sig G. Hendry** will be leaving the Army after seven uninterupted years of soldiering. Born on a misty evening in September 1954 (lucky 13th) on a hillside overlooking the Golden Cross Inn, Stranraer, **George** was soon to realise that his wanderlust would be satiated by enlisting into the Corps. This he did in October 1971 and he was soon on his way to Catterick, to undergo training as a Combat Radioman. He passed through basic training with ease, despite the language barrier, and emerged as a young B2 tradesman with a drivers licence Group A.

His first posting was to 4 Div Sig Regt where he stayed until November 1975 when his thirst for adventure took him to 639 Sig Tp. From there he eventually found his way to 233 Sig Sqn and was presented with a GSM (NI) for his services. During his stay with the Squadron he attended several courses including a free fall parachuting course and a pre-release course in Shepherding. There is no truth in the rumour that he has found himself an £18,000 p.a. job as a free-lance shepherd in Saudi Arabia.

PS: George will be raffling his Marks & Sparks sweater and calf length number two dress trousers in the very near future.

COMMS TROOP MOVE

The birth of the new RMP Regiment in Ulster and its subsequent move to Lisburn has caused Comms Troop to pack up its goods and move from its shady hollow adjacent to the Headquarters 39 Brigade Sergeants Mess into a new 'shack' in the Lisburn SSD.

Despite meticulous planning on the part of the Troop Commander and Staff Sergeant the Troop had to resort to the use of the contractors dumper truck to ensure the safe passage of some equipment to its new home. The new 'shack' is even further away from SHQ than the previous one, better appointed, better decorated but unfortunately with an outside toilet and no running H & C. The new block was opened by CR Signals, **Lt Col Mike Marples.**



Comms Troop Block is opened by CR Signals Lt Col Mike Marples

FAREWELLS

Sadly we must say goodbye to **Capt Jim Blake, Lt Caroline Lee, Cpl** and **Mrs Gary Coxon, Cpl** and **Mrs Len Wilcox, Cpl** and **Mrs Midge Smillie, Cpl** and **Mrs Mick Phillips, SSgt** and **Mrs Don Dallow, Sgt** and **Mrs John Hutchings, Cpl** and **Mrs Harry Dixon, Cpl** and **Mrs Dave Brown, Sig Tony Dodd, Cpl Niel MacLeod, Cpl Sean Kent, Cpl John Arkley, Cpl Kev Manager, Sgt** and **Mrs Jim Travers, Cpl** and **Mrs Dougie Ellis** and **Sgt Ray Stokes.** We wish them all a fond farewell and every success and happiness for the future.

HELLO'S

We welcome to the Squadron **Capt Nick Franks, Sgt George Gallant, Sig Ian Moys, Cpl Dicky Henderson, Sig Taff Staples, Cpl Paul Buff, Cpl Ian Anton, Cpl Dave Taylor, WO1 Andy Locke, Sig Sam Backhouse, LCpl Fred Smith, Capt Mike Jefferis, Sgt Dave French, Sig Don Punter, LCpl John Payne, Cpl Don Corbett, Sig Mick Ridgeway, Sig Scouse Catterall, Cpl Howie Johnson, 2Lt Jackie Wallace, SSgt Laurie Priestley, Sgt Phil Phillips, Cpl Bob Scrivener, Cpl Mick Ball.** We hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

On Monday 12 June, **Col (Retd) Frank Morgan, CBE, DL, JP** and his wife **Lt Col (Retd) Helen Morgan (Nee Pine) MBE, TD, DL,** visited the School of Signals to present to the Corps a silver statuette of a signalman of the Brigade Signal Section, Imperial Camel Corps, from the period 1916 to 1918. **Colonel** and **Mrs Morgan** spent most of the day with us, their programme including a brief on the role and organisation of the School, a tour of the Museum and lunch in Headquarters Mess. After lunch **Col Morgan** talked to around 30 members of staff about his experiences of Army communications for the Royal Air Force in the second World War. As he is blind, we were a little worried about the programme we had arranged, but in the event there was no problem.



Lt Col G. Barnett, Mrs Harfield, Maj (QM) A. Harfield, Mrs Morgan, Col F. Morgan, Brig J. H. Hild, Mrs Hild, Mrs Blake, Col J. F. Blake

Frank Morgan was born in 1893, educated at Marlborough and Christ Church, Oxford. He was commissioned into the Pembroke Yeomanry in 1914. In 1916 he was seconded to the Army Signal Service and served as Brigade Signal Officer, Imperial Camel Corps in the Middle East. In 1918 he moved to 11 Corps Signals in France. He transferred to the Corps in 1920 as a territorial, and in 1925 transferred to the Supplementary Reserve.

On the outbreak of the second World War, he commanded 2 Air Formation Signals in France, becoming CASO British Air Forces in 1940. Another move took him as CSO Aldershot Command in 1941 before going to Western Command the same year. He took over as CSO Air Formation Signals Home Forces in 1943 and later in the year he moved to the Mediterranean as CAFSO to the Allied Air Forces in the rank of Brigadier. From 1944 until the end of the war he was CSO Air Formation Signals Middle East. Retiring in 1948, he became Honorary Colonel of 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment AER from 1953 to 1957.

Known to his Service friends as **'Pinpoint', Col Morgan** is noted both in the Corps and the RAF for what he can achieve in impossible circumstances. He is keen on the construction and improvement of electrical apparatus, and has also developed his estate in South Wales into an efficient market garden, specialising in flowers and tomatoes. In 1946 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Glamorganshire and became a JP in 1951.

The statuette was struck in 1919 by Carringtons for **Col Morgan** as a memento of his time with the Imperial Camel Corps, and to mark the dissolution of that distinguished body of men. It was received on behalf of the Corps by the Commandant, **Brig J. H. Hild MBE,** in the presence of a few officers and their wives. It is now on display in the Headquarters Mess.

As a postscript **Col Morgan** sent us his impressions of the Corps today.

Computo ergo sum

A Signals mechanic named Bob
Remarked, as he twisted a knob,
This silicon chip
Fair gives me the pip,
For its doing me out of my job.

And what makes me really irate
Is knowing it's primitive state
Tho its now stabilised
And miniaturised,
It's a 'cat's whisker' brought up to date.

FSM

A TOUCH OF JOINTERY

All good things come to an end, and not least of these was the latest CLANSMAN Joint User Trial which ended on 28 April. Since the middle of January the customary peace of Blandford Camp has been shattered by the roar and clatter of 'tracks' as the various AFVs have come and gone on the daily round of trials activities. Queen of the Joint Team's battle fleet has been Chieftain who has 'outstripped' all her rivals on SUNDANCE (point for ATDU BOVINGTON!) by touching 40 mph during her daily perambulations —or at least that is the speed recorded by the DOE! The AFVs have been supported by regularly camouflaged FFR Landrovers, which have been positively identified as '. . . not School of Signals vehicles'.

The photograph depicts the team, in their usual relaxed mood, in the company of their mascots and adorning the MBT GT-RS.

Despite the multiplicity of cap badges the team were very grateful to all those who made their stay with the School so enjoyable and they were most appreciative for all the assistance they received to complete the trial. It has been heard that they left their mark . . .!



The team, the mascots and MBT GT-RS

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Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

ALL GO

Since the College's last contribution to the Wire, the summer term has come to an end and spa town of Harrogate has been granted four weeks' respite from the attentions of some six hundred Apprentices. The term has been not without its highlights; the arrival of the new Commandant, **Col M. U. Ryan,** the Triangular Games against Chepstow and Aborfield, the many sports occasions at home and away; and last but not least the Freedom of Harrogate Parade and the Graduation Parade, both of which will be reported more fully in a later issue.

FROM RYA ELEMENTARY TO ROUND THE WORLD

Like all minority sports and pastimes, the sailing club at Harrogate consists of a small number of dedicated permanent staff and a relatively small number of dedicated Apprentices. Usually Apprentices arrive in the sailing club knowing little or nothing about the sport yet professing an interest in it. In order to raise their competence to any level at all, the short sailing season is extended into the colder months by the use of wet-suits. The winter months are taken up in boat maintenance and lectures.

This season is perhaps typical, with the majority of effort being made in getting beginners up to RYA Elementary standard. Sailing takes place on Wednesday afternoons and in the summer term on Monday evenings. The short period of time available for actually getting on the water makes the initial phase a long one, however we have had six Apprentices gain their Elementary Certificate and have several more in the pipeline. Others are now progressing towards their RYA Intermediate Certificate. The opportunities open to sailors was amply illustrated when **SSgt Mac McGilp** took part in the 2nd leg of the Round-the-World Race. On a much more modest scale **A/Ts Steve Hawkswell, Steve Mitchell, Stephen Harrison** and **Andrew Chubb** sampled the delights of offshore sailing during the first week of term in a Contessa borrowed from JSSC Gosport.

NEW SAILS

Competitive sailing has not been a priority this year due mainly to the poor condition of our sails. However a grant has recently been negotiated and the College Bosun dinghies now have six new suits of sails. We plan therefore, to get progressively involved with club racing during the coming months with an eye on next year's military competitions. The College sent two crews to the Corps Dinghy Regatta at Whale Island in June. These consisted of **SSgt Mac McGilp, Sgt Dave Webb, A/Ts Steve Hawkswell** and **Ralph Johnson.** A crew consisting of **McGilp, Webb** and **Hawkswell** took part in the Seaview Regatta and **Dave Webb** was selected as one of the Corps team which won the Annual RA/RE/RSIGS Match.

PROMINENT ACTIVITY

The Triangular Games between Aborfield, Chepstow and Harrogate gave our beginners a chance to take part in team racing for the first time. This event was immediately followed by the Junior Army Championships when **A/Ts Steve Mitchell** and **Stuart Couszins** came 10th overall out of 36 in the Individual Championships. the team after losing its more experienced sailor through injury in the first race came 4th out of six.

Sailing, although involving only just over a dozen Apprentices, has figured prominently in College activities this term. Our main aim will continue to be the production of qualified helmsmen who, hopefully, will continue to sail when they reach adult status. Our secondary aim in future will be to give helmsmen an opportunity to race at club level in an effort to sharpen their new-found skills.

SLALOM PADDLERS TRY LONG DISTANCE AND SURFING

The college paddlers have completed a very active terms canoeing. The top score for the number of events competed in goes to **A/T's Tony Woolaston** and **Chris Newman** with nine competitions.

The main emphasis has been on Slalom Competitions. This apart, five took part in the Leeds Canoe Club annual marathon. **Cpl Terry Gildert** completing six miles. **A/Ts Keith Walker** partnered by **Chris Newman; Tony Woolaston** with OIC — **Maj Mike Simms-Reeve** completed 17 miles. In addition eight club members kept the Uniacke Club flying in the Army Spring and Long distance Championships. **A/T Cpl Ian Dobson** proved to be the only prizewinner gaining two very creditable 2nd places in an Interceptor in the 500 metre spring and nine-mile long distance event.

After the success at the Army Slalom Championships the club entered civilian events at Carlisle, Chester and Durham. This undoubtedly improved the standards particularly of the novices. **Ian Dobson** gained promotion to Division 4 at Chester.

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Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Army Junior Athletic Champions 1978

The choice of Slalom for the Triangular Games against Aborfield and Chepstow proved to be to our advantage. For the first time since 1967 the College won the canoeing. Each College provided two teams and eight individual paddlers, the best six of which counted. In the team event the College were placed 2nd and 3rd. In the individual events the six scoring paddlers finished in the first eight! A splendid team performance. **A/T Cpl Mike Owens** did particularly well to win. **A/T SSM Ian Philo** was 3rd, **A/T Ray Counley** 4th, **Chris Newman** 6th, **Ian Dobson** 7th and **Tony Woolaston** 8th. The following day at Aborfield and College teams had a very good day's surfing at Sandsend run by **Capt John Cornforth.** All in all a very busy and successful term!

ARMY JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

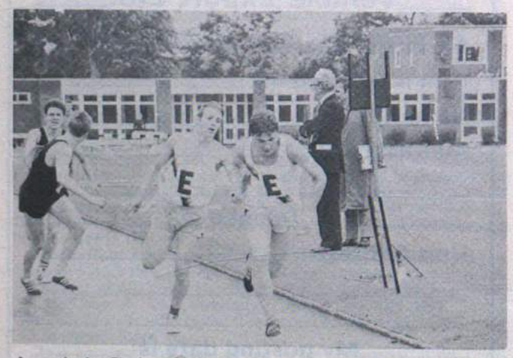
The athletic season started for the College way back in January when **Maj Rod Dransfield** took over athletics after **Maj David Elliott, RAEC** had held the position for nearly five years. **Mr John Platford** civilian lecturer was and still is in the same role of field events coach that he has successfully maintained for longer than I care to mention. Suffice it to say that the success that many Signal Regiments have gained in athletics in recent years in part stems from his efforts in training Apprentices. Also as assistants are **Capt Neville Illman** and **Sgt Bill Venus, BEM.**

So the early season athletics coaching continued more on a care and maintenance programme than a fully fledged operational basis. Our two indoor meetings in February and March passed successfully as did the Army indoor junior individual athletics meeting which without the support of the forty athletes from the college would have collapsed from lack of competitors.

The Summer Term arrived quicker than it should have with large holes in the junior athletics team still to be filled and that was even after an Easter leave tour of BAOR with fifty athletes. The results over the season have been even better than usual, culminating in our winning the Army Junior Athletics Championship. Twelve A/Ts from the College represented the Junior Inter-Services versus Wales. They are:

Chris Payne, Dave Randle, Dave Williams, Paul Willimont, Steve Marshall, Andrew Chalmers, Garry Westall, Stuart Edwards, Phil Froom, Mark Littlewood, Mike Campbell, James Hayes.

Obviously the college produces good athletes every year, some of them survive in the adult world of Regiments; yet others sink into oblivion. Let's encourage these young lads wherever they are posted to, to continue their athletic careers on the same way that they are encouraged to look after their military careers.



Army Junior Final — Aldershot. Cpl Steve Foster hands over to Cpl Roger Taylor in the 4 x 400m relay

RECRUIT PASS-OUT PARADE — INTAKE 78B

The Recruit Pass-off Parade for Intake 78B was held on Saturday 29 July in blazing sunshine—totally uncharacteristic of Harrogate, and perhaps an omen for future parades under the new Commandant, **Col M. U. Ryan.** The parade followed its usual form and the salute was taken by the Commandant himself. The Best Recruit Trophies were presented as follows:

Bradley Squadron — **A/T Keith Naylor**
Rawson Squadron — **A/T Keith Dobson**
Scott Squadron — **A/T Stephen Dandy**

After the parade the Commandant addressed all the parents and guests in the College Cinema and then joined them for a drink and a chat in the bar prior to lunch.



Commandant presenting Best Recruit prizes. Recruit pass off intake 78B

SHAPE SIGNAL SUPPORT GROUP MONS BELGIUM

Report by SSgt (ORSQMS) John Richardson

BACK IN PRINT

It must be some considerable time since the SHAPE Signal Support Group has had an article published in The Wire. We thought it was about time this was put right and, what better opportunity to do so, than to report on the recent visit of the Signal Officer and Chief (Army), **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson.**

THE FORM

Firstly, though, for the uninitiated, a little introduction into the SHAPE Signal Support Group would not go amiss. The SHAPE Signal Support Group is the SHAPE Signal Regiment. It is a multi-national, multi-service organisation made up from 11 of the NATO nations. It has a military strength of over 500 personnel and as the title suggests supports the SHAPE Headquarters. The Group is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Signal Corps with the Deputy Commander being a Royal Signals Major. The Royal Signals contingent consists of one officer and 40 other ranks who cover the trades of TE Tech, Data and Radio Telegraphists, Cbt Pmn and Clerks.

VISIT OF SO IN C (A)

During his visit to the HQ, the SO in C (A) was briefed on the various tasks of the Group by the Commander and signed the Visitors Book.



SO in C (A) signing the visitors book being watched by Brig A. G. Bohannan, DACOS CANDE, Lt Col Allen R. Wild, US Army Signals Corps, Commander SHAPE Signal Support Group and Maj John B. Class, US Army Signal Corps, Operations Officer, SHAPE Signal Support Group

Photo courtesy Sgt B. Holt

He was then taken on tour of the Group which included visits to the ACE Primary Relay, Group Coordination Centre, Switchboard and Wire Section, Audio Photo Section and finally the Communication Centre. Throughout the visit he met many of the different nationalities that work together within the Group as well as the majority of the Royal Signals personnel.

(Editor's Note: We look forward to further reports from Mons.)



SO in C (A) listening intently to Sgt George Furber explaining the ins and outs of the exchange. Capt Klaus Haker, German Army, looking on

Photo courtesy Sgt B. Holt



SO in C (A) meeting WO Peter Gallant, Canadian Armed Forces. Also in photo having met the SO in C (A) are MSgt Kurt Miller, US Army and Captain Klaus Haker, German Army

Photo courtesy Sgt B. Holt

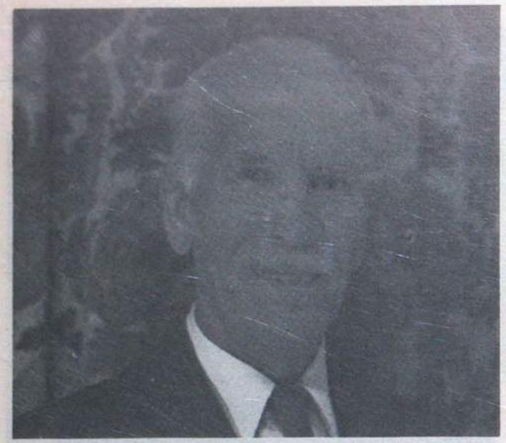
ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORDS, READING

VALE—Maj A. B. Roderick

Although Records are a part of our business seldom can we claim a record of the other variety, but surely 51 years of unbroken service to the Corps takes some beating? This is the feat achieved by **Maj Bryan Roderick** who retired on 9 August. **Bryan** enlisted into the Corps in India as a boy in January 1927 and came home to be trained as an operator in 'F' Coy at Catterick. He was not to remain long in England. After serving as a junior drill instructor in the Depot Bn and later in 'A' Corps Signals Aldershot he returned to India in 1931 and remained there until 1947.

After two years in Waziristan District Signals he joined Special Wireless and saw service at Cherat, Pishin and Quetta. Still in Special Wireless he moved to GHQ India as Clerk to **Lt Col Dagg** in the MI Directorate. From there he moved across to SD 2 (Signals) later to merge with SO-in-C's Branch to become the Signals Directorate. He served under **Maj Gen Vyvyan,** its first Director, later to be followed by **Gens Vulliamy** and **Nalder** and, lastly, for a time by **Brig Akehurst.** There he remained for the greater part as Superintendent Clerk to successive GS01 (Comms), among others, **Lt Cols Treseder, Stodart, Christopher, R. G. Smith, Stevenson, Whatman** and **Mansergh** until commissioned in March 1947. He then went to Northern Command Sig Regt (later to become Pakistan Sig Regt) to the Squadron at Lahore. With the transition to independence for India and Pakistan, Lahore became a real 'hot spot'. Indeed, it was here that the Civil and Military Boundary Commissions set up their separate Headquarters. On the withdrawal of Northern Command Sig Regt detachments at Ambala, Ferozepore and Jullundur he was flown to Dehli from where, together with an Indian Signals Officer, he was to travel by road to each of these Military Cantonments to supervise the hand/take over of stores and equipment to Northern India Sig Regt. It took six weeks and during this time he was to witness the unbelievable horrors and atrocities associated with the transfer of populations moving in bullock cart and foot convoys along the main trunk roads linking these Cantonments. He returned to Lahore in November in time to catch the last military train en route to Drigh Road Transit Camp, Karachi and the UK.

On return from India he changed from combatant to a cipher commission and served for the next 14 years outside UK, first in BAOR (2LofC Regt) 1948-49 followed by a short tour in Hong Kong with 40 Sig Regt. With the disbandment of the latter he was posted to Malaya Sig Regt at Kuala Lumpur in 1950. In 1952 he was back in Herford (later Essen) with HQ BAOR Sig Regt from where he moved to Rheindahlen ultimately to become Command Cipher Custodian



Officer. In 1958 he was back in Malaya, this time in Seremban with 17 Gurkha Sig Regt. In October 1961 he joined Eastern Command Sig Sqn, his first UK posting since 1931. In March 1964 he joined Royal Signals Manning and Records prior to taking up his present RO3 post, which he has filled since he retired in November 1964.

Bryan is a good all round sportsman. In his younger days he played hockey and cricket at both Command and Corps level. It was in Malaya that he came into his own as a golfer and came home playing to a handicap of six. He still plays a pretty good game and is a keen squash player but more remarkable, perhaps, he still plays hockey and regularly turns out for Reading Hockey Club.

Bryan has managed the careers of over 3,000 soldiers during his time at Records and has done so not only with skill and integrity but with a real feel for the needs of the soldier and his family. His great experience and counsel will be greatly missed but as he intends to remain in the Caversham area we shall not lose sight of him.

To him and his wife **Ruby** we send our best wishes for a happy retirement and our thanks for a job well done.

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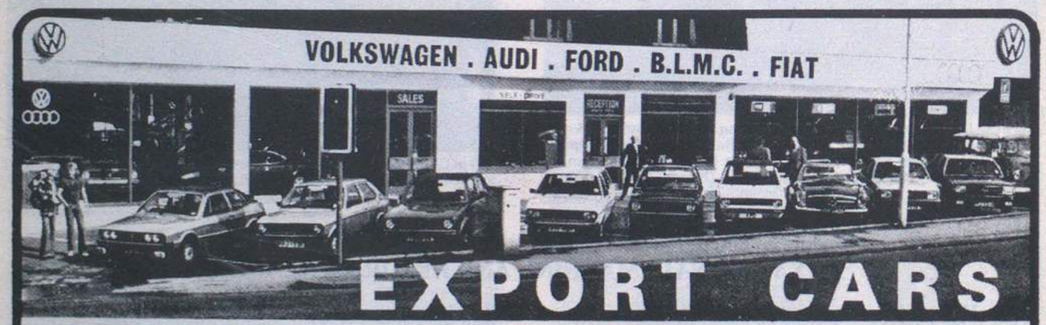
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HQ 4 SIG GP BFPO 40

VALE—JACK CAVILL

Thirty two years in Germany experiencing, among other things, DM 48 to the pound on arrival and DM 3.85 on departure, **Jack Cavill** departed on 30 Jun to a well earned retirement in Brixham.

Initially recruited into Posts and Telegraph Control Commission, Germany, he rose to become Principal Professional and Technology Officer with HQ 4 Sig Gp from which post he retired. During his Service he became involved in the direct supervision phase of the Reichspost (now DeutchesBundesPost) for the rehabilitation of the German telephone system and the setting up of the Military and Control Commission networks. Later the policy changed from that of direct supervision to one of an advisory capacity and then to full cooperation. In 1948 he was awarded the BEM for his Services to the Control Commission.

Having dined-out **Jack** and **Audrey** on 20 June, it was decided to present a tangible reminder to him of an essential tool to a PPTO. That was done in style by **Col Richard Gilbertson** on 30 Jun. Precisely what he thought of it with a well loaded car waiting for the 'off' may never be known. With his many hobbies to occupy him in retirement he is just the sort of person to take up dismantling bridges as an extra, to fill in time.



That quizzical look could mean anything—from 'should I drop it on the Commander's foot' to 'it could come in handy'. Frere Wallond, STO Dusseldorf obviously thinking of some other spanners Jack has dropped!



All seems well—the relief on everyone's face very apparent. *From left to right:* Mr Frere Wallond, Lt Col Sam Wyatt (Commander), Maj (Retd) Frank Brandreth (peeking), Maj Leo Lees, Jack Cavill, Frau Josie Celejs, Mr Vernon Whitchurch, Mr Bill Bailey, Mr Ben Morgan

HQ AFNORTH BFPO 50

Many months have passed since The Wire saw an entry from AFNORTH, so it was thought to be a propitious time now to write some notes on the changeover of our Headquarters Signal Officer/Senior R Signals Officer, **Lt Col Derek Poole.**

A 'Hail and Farewell' lunchtime session was held in the SNCOs Club for AFNORTH R Signals personnel only, which was no mean feat as most of our small Corps contingent are shift workers. The organiser for this, to whom our thanks go, was **WO2 (ORQMS) George Shepherd** ably assisted by his good wife **Pat.**

Lt Col Poole joined us in January 1975 and is posted to the Signal Wing, The Royal School of Artillery as Senior Instructor. We shall miss his hearty laugh and wish him well in his new appointment. We welcome in his place **Lt Col John Montague.**

It is hoped that the following photographs, kindly taken by **RM2 Paul Czelusniak,** US Navy and a member of this Signal Support Group, will more than make up for the brevity of these 'Notes'. Our next entry will most certainly contain photographs of our charming ladies while the 'lads' take a back seat.



Sgt John Sharp Lt Col Derek Poole
Farewell gift of a Viking ship



Sgt Clive Grayshan, Maj 'Doc' Watson, Sgt John Sharp, Sgt Tim Crook, SSgt Phil Welch (Hiding!), WO2 Dave Welch, Lt Col Derek Poole, Sgt Roy Poole, Sgt Bill Stevenson, Cpl Tommy Hope, Lt Col John Montague, WO2 George Shepherd
Sgt John Graves, Sgt Keith Turner-Howe, Sgt Sid Steele, Cpl Stan Taylor, Cpl David Black

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

KOHIMA CELEBRATIONS

The Regiment has really had a very busy summer as we move rapidly from one exercise to another, then on to summer camps, and even manage to fit in other events like marching. We held our traditional Kohima week to celebrate the Battle honour of the Second Division at Kohima during the Second World War. The week was filled with events and was highlighted this year by the visit of the old comrades from 208 Field Engineer Squadron RE many of whom actually took part in the Battle. The climax of the week was a fête on the final Saturday afternoon which was attended by many people from both the German community and various Army units in the area. The afternoon started with a 'fly past' of Scout Helicopters from 652 Squadron AAC and continued with an Infantry attack by the Devon and Dorsets, a dog handling display, two Band demonstrations, free fall parachuting and very many side shows and stalls generously provided by other Regiments and our own Squadrons. The fête raised over DM10,000 for charities both in Germany and in UK. The afternoon was a great success and we all look forward to next year when perhaps the weather will be kinder to us.

NIJMEGAN MARCHES

Whenever marching is mentioned, most people cringe with fear from the thought of that kind, quiet SSM suddenly transformed into a raging monster, threatening them with all kinds of pleasantries. However, mention the Nijmegan marches and the response is entirely different. Although the effort required is undoubtedly greater, the predominant carnival atmosphere ensures tht a good time is had by all.

This years team was led by **Lt Richard Evans** and the team members were **SSgt 'Derek' Scott, LCpl 'Dave' Parry, Sigs 'Johno' Johnson, 'Bill' Ballard, 'Dixie' Dean, 'Tom' Dooley, 'Larry' Sterland, 'Andy' Donaldson, 'Brick' Brickle,** and **'H. G.' Wells.** Peddle power was provided by **Sgt A1 Parry** who survived the many attempts to bribe him for the loan of the bike. We suspect he used super glue before sitting on the saddle!



The team just before the 'off'. The bicycle orderly Sgt Richardson had to drop out at the last minute and was replaced by Sgt Parry

NO CURFEW

The four days marching, consisting of 40kms per day with a load of 22lb was a real test of stamina for the team. There was certainly no need for a midnight curfew as all energy was expended during the day. **LCpl Dave Parry** and **Sig Dixie Dean** were the only two who went out in the evening after the first day's march, but after their apprehension by two policewomen they kept a low profile. Luckily the policewomen were British and were in a worse condition than the soldiers. The two males ended up doing the escorting instead of vice versa.

SOUVENIR HUNTERS

We were quite taken aback by the number of people participating; somewhere in the region of 10,000. We were inundated by children asking for souvenirs and would have had to take a suitcase each to supply them all. Certain soldiers were very keen to give away their webbing as a souvenir, but **SSgt Derek Scott,** our RP Staff Sergeant disillusioned them very quickly. The marches finished on a high note with everybody successfully completing the course and receiving their well earned medals.

AND GOD BLESS ALL WHO SAIL IN HER

Those of you who have served in the Regiment in the last few (many?) years may be relieved to hear that the Regimental Project, alias the Adjutant's yacht, has now been successfully completed. Rumours that he had been posted in May were only a story to cover the hectic last minute rush to have the boat ready for launching directly after Ex *Summer Sales.* A successful pre-launch party was held to prove the point. Passing Germans may have thought that the 'Brits' had a direct line to Noah.



Adjutant Capt Martin Bevan and families doctor Dr Elizabeth Bevan with their offspring

AN AUTOBAHN PROBLEM

The first attempt at taking yacht to Holland for launching ended up in disaster. Shipwrecked on the Autobahn. A quick rethink involving a unique recovery job for the LAD and a lot of hard work by **Cpl Taylor** and **Cfn Maclean** saw *Caduceus* launched in the Mitteland Kanal 14km west of Lübbecke. Having found water the next difficulty was to find the sea. Heading bravely westward, clutching a sheaf of military road maps and a street map of Amsterdam we little envisaged that the journey was to take seven days to complete.

COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC

The main canals, the Mitteland and the Dortmund-Ems, are no trouble provided that you keep out of the way of commercial traffic. Overnight stops have to be made at commercial wharfs. This invariably involves an early start. The journey into Friesland was an interesting contrast. Once on the minor canals the pace of life slows down, bridge keepers have to be found and lengthy delays occur whilst waiting for lock keepers to return from shopping. Our red ensign attracted a great deal of interest especially in Holland, the lock keeper of Ter Apel claimed that it was the first that he had seen in 40 years. The daily progress dropped from 80km to 20km and the beer consumption went up.

We hit the big time again near Groningen in Friesland. After narrow canals the Class IV waterways, capable of taking 2,000 ton coasters, were quite awesome. Open water was eventually reached at Lemmer on the Ijselmeer. Here *Caduceus* was converted from a barge into a yacht, masts were raised and tyre fenders, designed to keep barges away from varnish, were discarded. Sailing trials proved that it was all worthwhile—the intricacies of gaff rig should keep us amused for some years.

WORTHWHILE EXPERIENCE

It was not a journey that we had intended to take. However to have crossed Germany and Holland east to west in a yacht is an experience that was worthwhile. If anyone coming to Bunde or Lübbecke would like to move their MFO by water we would be pleased to advise. Footnote: *Caduceus* has now safely crossed the North Sea, 7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn beware!

DARTS MARATHON

Meanwhile HQ Squadron in Lübbecke has been 'doing their thing' for charity and have raised DM 1,250 by staging a sponsored 48 hour darts marathon in their Corporals Mess. The beneficiaries were the Kinderheim in nearby Nettlestedt who received a cheque for DM650 and the Star and Garter home in the UK who received the remainder.

Ten players, throwing darts day and night in two shifts of five for three hours at a time began at 1200 hours Friday 24 March and finished at 1200 hours Sunday 26 March. Organiser **Cpl Frank McArdle,** nursing an aching elbow said, 'We kept going on beer'.

The total score was 1,016,844 and two players, **LCpl Scurr REME** and **LCpl Harradine R Signals** made the highest individual scores of 174.

The team of players was a mixed bag representing the true flavour of HQ Squadron.

Cpl Frank McArdle	**R Signals**
Cpl Rab Currie	**1 RHF**
Cpl Ben Smith	**RAOC**
Cpl Dave Jones	**RAOC**
LCpl Ian Scurr	**REME**
LCpl John Harradine	**R Signals**
LCpl Dave Raine	**AAC**
LCpl Geoff Rowson	**RCT**
LCpl Geoff Swindells	**R Signals**
LCpl Glen Marwood	**RCT**

Sponsors were asked to pay at the rate of 10 Pfg an hour. The Corporals are now planning to buy a new dartboard as the other one is worn out.

Dartistics—700 scores of over 100, darts thrown 65,694, average score 46 and the distance covered by the players walking to the board and back, 87 miles 166 yards.



Cpl McArdle presents a cheque for DM1,250 to Herr Horst Schwarz after a Darts Marathon held in Lubbecke

ENERGETIC SUMMER CAMP

HQ Squadron's Summer Camp was held on the Diemelsee in the Sauerland. **WO2 (yohohoman) Harry Beresford's** first job on joining the Regiment was to get the thing organised with the help of **Capt Derek Allen** who persuaded (or was it bullied?) Heads of Department to release both people and equipment.

The plot was to introduce everybody to the joys of adventurous pursuits and make them hot/cold/wet/sore/hungry and still enjoy it! Various instructors were press ganged into helping out, **Cpl Georgie Held RCT** taught canoeing, **Cpl Harry Mansell, LCpl Harry Sieminski** and **Sig John Hunt** sailing, **Cpl Mick Mulhearn** climbing and **Capt Derek Allen** trekking.

The 'mucky' end of the stick was handled by **Sgt Tony Harris** who organised the running of the camp site. **LCpl Steve Byrne** of the ACC fended off our hunger pains and **Sgt George Mullock RAMC** tended the blisters. We all look forward to next year now, even those who thought that only madmen got enjoyment out of throwing themselves head first off rock faces, and diving into freezing cold water at the crack of dawn!



Going . . . .



Going . . . .



Gone. Canoeing Cpl Geordie Held style



Cpl Mick Mulhearn felt safe all the way up . . . .

MISCELLANEA FROM RUMOUR CONTROL

Well, its time for the wire correspondence to finish now until the next edition . . . but wait, someone has just rushed in with a message, wait for it, it's news from the Sharp end . . . This despatch is written in the heat of battle, surrounded on all sides by NAAFI pies and cups of NATO Standard. We at rumour control are proud to tell you that Tango Troop has managed to make a clean break from the enemy situated in the Münster area and we have pulled back to a main defensive position in Osnabrück. We are now fully entrenched and are prepared for the continued onslaught of the exercise season.

The break aptly took place on 1 April and although we withdrew lock stock and barrel we are missing some of the essentials. A complete Orderly Room has had to be created under the eagle eye of our Chief Clerk, **Cpl Taff Thomas.** As parcel upon parcel of official publications and stationery arrives **SSgt Dick Hurel** (acting SSM) avidly awaits the arrival of an MML only to receive ream after ream of unwanted army forms.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Unfortunately many of the old and bold fell by the way-side during the withdrawal phase or have been posted to UK for R and R. Amongst those whom we have lost are **Sgt Eddie Winterburn** who is posted to Harrogate (complete with pace stick) and **Sgt Brian Wilson** who is posted on promotion to 31 (TAVR) Regt at Hammersmith. We are sorry to report the loss of **Cpl Jum Hardy** who was last seen fraternising with the enemy in Münster. Our deep penetration patrols have reported that he is serving his last days in the Corps behind the bar in the Sergeants Mess. In the same breath we must not forget those who have recently joined us. **Sgts Derrick Coker, Rip Monk** and **Jim Murray.** We wish them all well and hope they enjoy their stay.

Direct from rumour control a hot tip for the next exercise: It is rumoured that PAPA group are actually deploying to the field and may even take main. I am still not certain how it was possible for PAPA group to occupy a position 1km behind Corps HQ during Ex *Flying Falcon.*

WELCOME VISITORS

Our defensive position has been penetrated twice since we moved; firstly by a welcome visit from **Brig Oehlers** who expressed himself well pleased, and secondly by **Sue Ballantye (BFBS)** who expressed herself absolutely amazed.

During his visit, **Brig Oehlers** presented **Cpl Wally Staines** with the LS and GC Medal. It is rumoured that **Wally** dates from the Middle Ages and it is alleged that the Germans used him as the model for the Old Man Of Münster Statue. People do say that he owes his vitality to the Bromide he puts in the Sig Ops Coffee.

Sue Ballantyne from BFBS visited us to see what life at the sharp end was like. After chatting to the lads she rode in several armoured vehicles and even risked a ride in **Sig Scouse (Fittipaldi) Yarwood's** ferret. It is a popular belief that he is entering his ferret for this years Monte Carlo Rally if the LAD can manage to keep it on the road.

Oh dear it looks as though there might be some work to do, we had better finish and follow our motto 'Who Hides Survives'.



'What have they been up to?'
Capt Tony Whipp (he's the smug looking one) escorts Miss Sue Ballantyre from the staff car on her visit to TF (D) at Osnabruck

4 (TASK FORCE) SQUADRON 2 ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

ANGELS ATTACK

Ex Angels Attack provided a suitable climax to the military training programme that began in March with Ex Heroes Charge. Rumours were flying as the gallant band debussed on Haltern Training Area in the pouring rain. What lay in store this time?

A hard day's advance to contact followed by a set piece attack on Hill 110 was to provide the day's entertainment. Battle simulation provided by 12 Fd Sqn RE for the final attack proved just a little too realistic for some. **Sig 'Pied Piper' Stevens** enjoyed a quick mud bath disappearing entirely from view whilst **Cpl 'The Demon' Deeming** treated himself to a few rests on the way round to the FUP. The CSO, **Maj Gen Baldwin, Lt Col Willcox** and **Maj Alan Eastburn** flew in to watch the final attack bringing with them the only break in the rain (There must be a moral there somewhere). **F of S Mick Johnstone** was obviously looking for a mention in dispatches; his athletic leaps into cover drew comment from the General. Less gracious souls said he was only tripping over the undergrowth. The whole event was presided over by **Capt 'Chris' Harper** and **LSgt Rus Russell,** our adviser from the Scots Guards. Both of whom were seen running about with a maniacal glint in their eyes, everything else was hidden by the liberal helpings of cam cream!

EX STRONG ARM

From the 11—15 July a party from the Squadron attempted the impossible: to go where no man had gone before. A slight exaggeration, perhaps, but it is a long way by canoe from Münster to the North Sea. For the first two days the water party led by **Lt Hugh Bardell** and **Cpl Tim Wallis** bravely battled against the elements, a heat wave and flood flow on the River Ems. The administration was run by **Sgt Bob Pollitt,** backed up by the 'Loonies', **Cpl Geordie Deeming, Sigs 'Ich spreche German' Gaffney** and **Andy Arbuckle.** They provided camp facilities and excellent food at the end of each day. **Cpl Dave (The Hulk) Critchlow** and **Sig Frank Gainey** covered well over the distance the others managed by taking 'the scenic route' (known as tacking in sailing circles) in one of the double canoes. **Lcpl Steve Bland, Sigs Arthur Davenport, Rod Stoddart, Chalky White** and **Smudge Smith** (600) made up the muscle bound canoeing contingent.

Average daily distances covered were between 22 and 30 kilometres with a large amount of skills training thrown in. A very bedraggled group of canoeists, each night crawled for bed after 'a few beers' round a campfire. Everyone realising how well named the exercise had been. Five days out of Münster found us nowhere near the North Sea, but that didn't seem to worry anyone, and cries of 'It's good here, isn't it' found us safely back in sunny Münster.

LITRES OF ICE CREAM

(Papa, the second of our two complex groups, has an aversion to keeping main for more than a few hours. To explain the technique that yields such a carefree life their leader, **Sgt** 'What did you do on exercise, Daddy' **Pollitt,** has been invited to describe a typical exercise).

Day after day passed by and still Papa Group were held in reserve. It was difficult keeping up the lads' morale being so near and yet so far from the action. However, the rations were good: a diet of cherries, peaches and litre after litre of ice cream supplied by local workers at the Ice Cream Factory. Obviously these people were perturbed by our plight, especially of our stalwart linemen, **Cpl Geordie Deeming, Sigs Buck Buchanan** (is it free!) **Smudge Smith** (boiled or fried cornflakes, Sarge?) and **Mick Reid** (just out of short pants).

CHANGE OF SCENE

Our moment came on Saturday with a change of command. 'Could Papa cope?' ran the headlines in the Hildesheim Zeitung. A desperate throw was necessary if I was to relieve the strain on the lads. **Cpl Brian Slattery,** one of our techs came up with a brainwave. 'Screw up the planned filmshow, Sarge. That should move them on'. This dastardly plan went so well that even I was surprised by the audacity of the scheme. No wonder they have to pay technicians more! First, they lost the key to the barn where we were to show the film, then there was no power and finally we had to send a vehicle to the nearest SKC to pick up a spool as there was nothing to wind the film on. Some three hours after the schedules start we saw off the last few optimists by showing the first reel without sound. The next change of command followed within hours! But then we were summoned to another location: surrounded by trees and ankle deep in mud, this just wasn't Papa's scene.

To the rescue came **Lt Hugh Bardell** blowing his horn and driven, or was it aimed, by **Sig Gaffars Gaffney,** to lead us to firmer pastures on the forecourt of a German Guest House. Alas, no cherries, peaches or ice cream here, but somehow we survived until endex.

MORE ABOUT WAVELL

A little reported aspect of the Wavell Trial at present being conducted in 2 Div are the Wavell Heat Trials. One of the APC's with the Visual Display Unit caught fire—much to the alarm of all on a Friday night. Fortunately our late night revellers in the Squadron Club were all on hand to help remove the vehicles from the garages. At the end of this test it was proved beyond doubt that VDU's do not like being sautéd gently in diesel. As someone remarked, 'Our panzers burn better than most'. Remarkably the only casualty was **LCpl Ward's** £110 suit which did not react too well with fire extinguisher foam.

UNIQUE HOCKEY ACHIEVEMENT

As reported in the Stop Press of the last Wire, the Squadron completed a unique hockey hat trick by winning the BAOR Minor Units Competition for the third year in succession. The final took place in Dortmund against the Vehicle Supply Depot Mönchengladbach with the Squadron running out as worthy winners in a clean, fast, open game of hockey. It was particularly appropriate that the trophy and prizes should be awarded by our own Garrison Commander, **Brig C. W. Woodburn,** who has taken great interest in our sporting achievements.

It is difficult to single out individuals for special mention in a team game but we must record our thanks to **WO2 (SSM) John Didon** and **Sgt Gordon Cass** REME. They have both worked tirelessly on and off the field to encourage the sport within the Squadron and can take much pride from the way several young players such as **Gerry Delaney** and **Mick Coates** have developed. **John Didon** added great depth and experience to the defence and **Gordon Cass** could always turn a half chance into an attacking position. They have both left us now with our grateful thanks and appreciation for hockey fields anew in Bünde and Northern Ireland respectively.



BAOR MINOR UNITS HOCKEY CHAMPIONS, AGAIN
Standing (left to right): LCpl Duncan, Sig Coates, Cpl Gregory, Sigs Garlick, White, Delaney, Cpl Scott, Maj de G. Bromhead, RRW.
Seated: SSgt (FofS) Smith, WO2 (SSM) Didon, Lt Col Willcox, Sgt Cass, Maj Eastburn, WO2 Ball, Sgt Wilson

FAREWELLS

In the past few months the Squadron has seen the farewells of many: **Sgt Dave Garner** to the T&AVR in Glasgow; **Cpl Jigot Kerr** to the Police Force; **Cpl** . . . ! ! ! . . . **You Dunn to** AFCENT; and finally **SSM John Didon** who, with his wife **Michelle,** we hope will retain kind memories of us now that he is RQMS (Tech) with the Regiment. Perhaps we might get some kit now. (Note to QM (Tech). We don't really mean it! . . . OC 4(TF) Sqn).

MENS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION

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

CHANGE OF COMMAND

June 1978 was quite an historic month for 7 Sig Regt. Our first major event was the handing over of the Regiment from **Lt Col M. R. Topple** to **Lt Col C. E. R. Story.** As one can imagine **Lt Col Topple,** and his wife **Christine,** had a very busy time saying farewell to the various departments of the regiment, culminating in the Commanding Officer driving out of Maresfield Barracks, with all members of the Regiment lining the route. Many gifts changed hands and glasses raised in fond farewell to a popular Commanding Officer at the end of a very successful tour. We wish him, and his family, every good fortune for their tour at RMCS Shrivenham, and thank them for a job well done.



The Burgermeister, Herr Dr Schober, says goodbye to Lt Col M. R. Topple (left) and bids welcome to Lt Col C. E. R. Story (right)



Mrs Christine Topple receives a well deserved gift presented to her by Capt David Shakespeare, on behalf of the 'wives' of the regiment



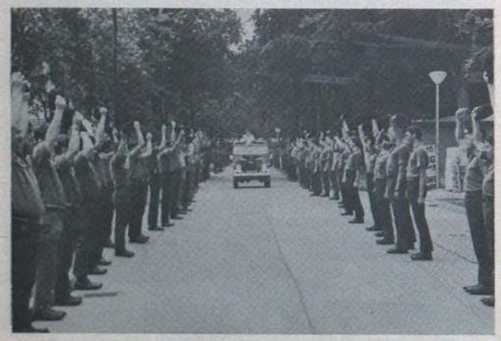
Lt Col Topple plants 'his' tree, closely supervised by the 'gardener'



The Commanding Officer, on his final parade, presents the LS & GC to Cpl Broadfield



Lt Col M. R. Topple bids his farewell to his regiment. WO1 (RSM) Nicol, to the end, in close support



The Commanding Officer leaves the regiment

WELCOME

Lt Col C. E. R. Story took command of 7 Sig Regt on 23 June 1978. **Lt Col Story,** and his wife **Coral,** are no strangers to the Regiment. He commanded 4 Squadron (Radio) in 1969/70, and formed 6 Squadron (HQ RAC Sig Sqn) in 1970. He made a brief return to the Regiment on the disbandment parade of 6 Squadron on 7 September 1977; little did we know that he was soon to return in a grander manner.

FAREWELL

Coupled to the change over of Commanding Officers, we also had a change over of Regimental Sergeant Majors. **WO1 (RSM) J. R. Nicoll** said farewell to his Regiment in June and he too was seen to have more than the normal amount of 'hangovers' during the month. His dining out from the Sergeants Mess is one he will not forget easily; many members of the Mess stayed for a late breakfast, and some an early lunch. **RSM Nicoll** leaves us on commissioning, and is moving up the road to 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish him and his family, especially the new baby, continuing success in their new unit.



WO1 (RSM) Nicoll takes leave of his Squadron Sergeant Majors

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NEW RSM

One new RSM, one wife, and three girls signed on into the Regiment in June. We all welcome **WO1 (RSM) Sam Leggett** and his wife **Phyliss** to their new task. It is rumoured that he was a good rugby player in his younger days, (one is not suggesting that he is old), playing for many regimental teams, and Northern Command, as hooker. He has now been promoted to the front row where he is already making his presence felt. His likes are 'smart, alert, cheerful mature soldiers' and his dislikes are 'sloppy, miserable soldiers'.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On 28 of June it was the Corps birthday. Didn't you know? Well, 7 Sig Regt, not being one to let such an occasion slip by unnoticed, had a visitor. Not just any visitor, even though we were on exercise, poised to do battle with the enemy (no not 4th Division). Out of an overcast sky, right on time, appeared a Scout helicopter, expertly guided in by **Sgt Glen Morgan,** who had spent all morning hacking down the undergrowth and marking tree stumps. We couldn't have our special visitor come to grief, right in front of the new Commanding Officer and RSM. Safely on the ground out stepped a very tall man, bronzed and alert; a man of action . . . The Signal Officer-in-Chief had arrived.

It was a great honour to have the SO in C with us; he made a point of meeting many soldiers carrying out their normal tasks in the field, and soon acquainted himself with all the 'nooks' and 'crannies' of Corps Headquarters, and its Echelon. After a splendid lunch in the mess tent, ably prepared by **WO2 (SQMS) Elrick ACC,** and orchestrated by **WO2 (SSM) Clark** and his men, the SO in C, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col C. E. R. Story,** paid a flying visit to the rest of the Regiment. It was a very successful day, and we hope that the SO in C enjoyed his visit as much as we enjoyed having him as our visitor; on this happy birthday.



The new management. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col C. E. R. Story, introduces his RSM, WO1 (RSM) S. Leggatt to the SO in C



Cpl Ian Waugh briefs the SO in C on the Corps HQ (and the regimental cricket pitch)



Cpl John Topping telling one of his 'stories' to the SO in C. Lt Bernie Hewitt has heard it before

KILO ARMY FRENCH LEAVE

On 2 June 1978 Kilo Army, under the leadership of **Capt Chris Wright,** with **SSgt (YofS) Rod Wood** and **SSgt John Fuller** in close support, loaded 50 all ranks, tentage, field kitchens, 20 canoes, food, booze, and more booze, into a five 4 tonners and travelled 780 miles, with occasional stops, to Villeneuve d'Allier in the central Massif region of France. After a quick four hour sleep, the canoe instruction began. It became obvious during the 10 days that some Kilos were built for canoeing, others not. **Cpl Paul Archibald, LCpl Steve Tumilty, Sigs Carl Crofts** and **Carl Marshall** progressed extremely well, whilst **Cpl 'Dobbin' Frape** and **Sig 'Taff' Davis** preferred staying in calmer waters. **Cpl Danny Clegg** became the chief underwater tester, followed closely by **Sig John McBride.** Extra murally Kilo beat the local village football team 7—2, and in return we let them win the rugby. The 'cooks and bottlewashers', which included **Cpl 'Jock' Reid** and **Cpl Mike Jeffreys,** won the football tournament, to the amazement of all our 'professional' players. A great time was had by all concerned, and many a heart was broken as Kilo Army waved goodbye to France, on its way back to 'the front'.

SULTANATE OF OMAN

ARMY APPOINTMENT

A vacancy will shortly occur in the Signals Regiment of the Oman Army for a

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS

(in the rank of Staff Sgt.)

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4 SQUADRON 'THE DIGGERS'

OC—Maj David Watson Royal Australian Signals
2IC—Capt 'Mal' Smart
SSM—WO2 Harry Creedy

Tp Comds
Alfa Tp—Ssgt Mick Kynaston
Bravo Tp—Lt Ken Soar
SHQ Tp—SSgt Mick Nevill
SQMS—SSgt 'Nick Knight'
YOS—SSgt David Wright
MT Sgt—Sgt Adam Horsborough

DOUBLED IN A YEAR

Over the last twelve months 4 Squadron has almost doubled in size. This increase has, however, meant an increase in responsibilities also, but the Squadron continues to produce communications 'par excellence'. Since our last notes **Maj David Watson**, R Aust Signals, has taken command, and we promise not to include too many Boomerangs, Billabongs or Didgeridoos.



'You blinked' 'No I didn't' 'Yes you did . . .' Maj David Watson and WO2 Harry Creedy await the arrival of CCR Signals.



'And John Wayne whipped out his six shooter . . .' CCR Signals on a recent visit to 4 Squadron, with the Adjutant and the Commanding Officer.

ON TARGET . . .

In fencing **LCpl Chris Lumley** did the squadron proud by qualifying for the Army individual fencing in Epee. Congratulations **Chris**, let us hope it does not stop there. **Sgt Clint Mogg** put down his camera long enough to distinguish himself as a member of the winning BAOR Orienteering Championship team. Regretfully **Clint** left us at the end of May. In the .22 target rifle shooting the 77/78 season has been a rewarding one as far as the squadron is concerned. **Sgt 'Eddy' Turner** is the regimental small bore officer and since joining us in 1974 has zealously encouraged the sport in the regiment. Currently **Capt Jim Evans** (late 4 Sqn), **Sgt Turner** and **Cpl Tony Teague** have been competing for the Squadron, Regiment and 4 Armoured Division; they



Sgt 'Eddy' Turner takes aim during a recent shooting match.

have now been selected for the Corps Inter Corps Shooting Team. Congratulations shooters—let's hope your success rubs off onto the Squadron Page Trophy Rugby, Football and Cross Country teams!

PERSONALITY IN FOCUS — THE PASSING PARADE

4 Sqn SSM, **WO2 H. K. Creedy**, after 25 years service has decided to retire later this year. **WO2 Creedy** first enlisted in the Services at the age of 13 when he joined the RN Boy Service and saw service aboard HMS *Vincent*, HMS *Gangese* and HMS *Formidable*. At 16½ he piped ashore for the last time and left the Navy as a Boy Petty Officer. In June 1953 he was back in uniform again having enlisted in the Corps and reported for duty to 5 Regular Squadron, 7 Training Regiment, Somme Lines, Catterick. After basic training **Sig Creedy** was trained as an Operator Wireless and Line and on completion was re-posted back to Somme Lines as a Drill and Weapons Instructor. Between August 1954 and 1964 **Sig Creedy** served with 11 Armd Div—later to become 4 Div Sig Regt, Herford. From February 1964 to 1966 he served with 603 Tp (ASSU), attached to 254 Sig Sqn, serving in Radfan, Mudia and Salala with FRA, FRG and 1 Topo Sqn RE. June 1966 to 1967 saw service with 1 Div Sig Regt, Verden, in the rebroadcast troop. Promoted to Sergeant he served with 24 Air Portable Bde from November 1967 to 1971 and saw tours in Northern Ireland and with UN Forces in Cyprus. In February 1971 **Sgt Creedy** was posted to 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Soest where he served until he assumed his current appointment on promotion in August 1976.

In the passing parade our Corps loses another highly experienced SSM. The gain to 'civilian street' is our loss; to **Harry Creedy** we say farewell and thank you for a job well done.



'The buck stops here' With only an IN tray, we are not surprised.

SPORT AND THINGS . . .

On the sporting front 4 Squadron has acquitted itself well, considering that until quite recently we were the smallest squadron in the regiment. 4 Squadron was second in the Page Trophy last year (failing to win by only one point) and won the 'Potted Sports'. Regretfully the squadrons performance in the inter unit Herford Garrison football league has not been good. Our poor showing in the football field and fall off in our Page Trophy efforts this year has been off-set by wins in other fields of sport.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

ANOTHER AMERICAN IN EIGHT

During the month of June, our Officers and Sergeants welcomed officially another American Officer to join the Regiment. Well not exactly join, and definitely not to work with us. There's been the odd question around Catterick as to whether the present American Officer really *works* here. Anyway, the new Yank is most distinguished and somewhat senior in grade to all of us. He is **Maj Gen Adolphus Washington Greely,** US Signal Corps (of course). Greely's past assignments are worthy of note:

1870-1878 — OC Telegraph Line Westward Extension
1881 — OC Greenland Expedition (to establish a weather station)
1887 — Appointed as Chief Signal Officer US Army (served as CSO until 1906)
1906 — Promoted Major General and made Commander — Department of the Pacific
1908 — Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor (only CSO to win Nation's highest honour)

We could build a book around Greely's past career. During the two-year Greenland Expedition, extreme hardships were experienced. Only five of the 24-man party survived. Greely insured all meteorological data and research documentation was retained. He pioneered the use of photography in the Military. He led the Army's relief efforts following the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. Aside from all of his military achievements, Greely also founded the National Geographic Society.

Realising that 'Eight' has only one position for an American Officer (and maybe that's enough), it only seemed appropriate to make Gen Greely an *honorary* member of the Regiment. Therefore **Col Ian Shapter** directed an annual sporting event be initiated to commemorate this occasion. The adjoining photograph depicts the first presentation of 'The Adolphus W Greely Award for Excellence in American Softball'. This year's score: Officers 19, Sergeants 15. A unique experience for all of us including our serving American who learned rules as the game progressed. Some said he even changed a few? Never mind, return match challenges have been made and now the Corporals Mess wants a *shot* at the winners as well. Next year, Adolphus will be up for grabs again. I'm sure he would join in and play, if conditions were different.



INDEPENDENCE — AMERICAN STYLE

Report by 2Lt Sue McFarlane

The invitation said 'Sports coats and turtlenecks'. Being WRAC this caused something of a dilemma as neither items were to be found in my wardrobe (it was solved by the ladies wearing long skirts and blouses). The rather large, grand invitation (on A4 paper!) was inviting all Officers of the Regiment to a 4th of July party. Not content to win The War of Independence (with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781). the invitation, issued by our American exchange officer, **Maj David Schreiner US Army** (known locally as The Commander US Forces Catterick Garrison) was actually asking us to celebrate our defeat!

Needless to say all Officers and their respective 'better halves' (140) gritted their teeth and, in true British stiff upper lip fashion, donned their sports coats and turtlenecks and steeled themselves to attend. All drinks before dinner were supplied by the Commander US Forces (hey! maybe our defeat wasn't quite so bad after all!) as was the food (Southern Fried Chicken, beans, salad etc.) and wine (maybe we're even glad they won!). The meal was finished with a large cake, decorated with stars and stripes (naturally) and served with ice-cream and speeches, the latter being extremely witty and amusing. Music during dinner was provided by members of the Corps band and after dinner by a disco. A very successful evening with the hard core (living in members) winding up at 0400hrs!

VISIT OF ITALIAN SO IN C

Maj Gen Marletta accompanied by **Lt Col Congedo** and **Lt Col Malinsonico** visited TTS on 11 July 1978. The photo shows from left to right: **Sgt Carol Mooney, Maj John Doody, Maj Gen Marletta** and **Lt Col Congedo.**



SUB-AQUA CLUB NEWS

Although the Catterick Sub-Aqua Club is open to all soldiers in the Garrison, it is primarily run and used by 8 Sig Regt. Personalities involved are:—

OIC	**Lt Terry Canham**
Diving Officer	**Sgt Keith Ellison**
Training Officer	**Sgt Pete Dunnings**

This 'team', assisted by **Sig Malcolm Dance** and **Sig Malcolm Thomas,** manned a 22-ton glass windowed watertank and a static layout of equipment for the Catterick Army Display. Over 200 children had a go on an aqualung over the three days and lighter moments were provided by **'Fred', Sgt Pete Dunnings'** pet plastic lobster and **'The Prof',** a taylor's dummy from Moss Bros, clad in a diving suit. Amidst the confusion and chaos of the Display, the hardworking crew found peace and quiet 10 feet down in their own portable 'silent world' with an equally silent plastic lobster for company!

A GRADING AWARD

The photograph shows the CO, **Col Ian Shapter** presenting an A grading award to **Pte Tina White** on completion of her switchboard operators course. She gained a very outstanding 400/400 — no mean achievement.





RETIREMENT PRESENTATION — MR S. E. ASHWORTH

A personality familiar to many members of the Corps retired on 31 May 1978. **'Ted' Ashworth** enlisted in 1931 and trained as an Instrument Mechanic, he saw pre-war service in India and then took part in most of the European Campaigns of World War II. Post-war, **Ted** served in Singapore, the School of Signals and 3 TR before taking up his new career as a Civilian Instructor in 1958. As an Instructor, **Ted** will be remembered by the widest population of ex-students for his development of Safety Precautions instruction, (taught to all students passing through the Trade Training School). To mark his retirement, a presentation was made of a rose-bowl and a locally manufactured 'Electrical Safety Medal' (ESM), the ribbon colours of which are BROWN — STRIPED GREEN/YELLOW — BLUE. The photo shows the 2IC, **Lt Col Peter MacGillivray** presenting the rose-bowl to **Mr Ted Ashworth.**



LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

24 July 1978 saw eleven recipients of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The picture shows **Brig Norman Butler** with, from left to right, **SSgt Marie Thomson, Sgt (now SSgt!) Pearl Smith** and **Sgt Ken Hendry.** The other recipients were: **WO1 (FofS) David Harries, WO2 Alex Kubu, SSgt Bill Anderson, Sgt Ray Randall, Sgt Leslie Symons, Sgt Douglas Ballantyne, Cpl Arthur Alderson** and **Cpl Lepani Koto.**

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

By the time this copy of The Wire appears in print we will have a new Commanding Officer. **Lt Col** and **Mrs R. K. Ward** depart at the end of September and we wish them well and good fortune for the future. We welcome in their place **Lt Col** and **Mrs A. R. Seward** and hope that they will have an enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

ATHLETICS

The Regiment has once again proved successful in the island athletics competitions winning overall the round robin tournament (CSAL) and in doing so winning each individual meeting at Akrotiri, Dhekelia, Episkopi and Ayios Nikolaos. The inter-squadron competition was won again by 2 Squadron who also went on to win the ESBA minor units competition. In the inter-services match the Regiment was well represented in both the RAF and Army teams. The Army managed to win again in a hard fought match. Special mention must go to **'Charlie' Drake** and **'Kerry' Gray** for fine individual performances—**'Charlie' Drake** for winning the Pole Vault for the second year running and **'Kerry' Gray** for winning both the 3000m steeplechase and 800m.

RUGBY

The rugby season will soon be under way and the Regimental team is already in training for what appears to be an exhausting start of the season fixture list . The KEO Cup competition—an American tournament (a 7-a-side competition played with 15-a-side) on 14 October followed by a 3-match tour of Israel 15-19 October.

CRICKET

The minor unit cricket competition has now reached an interesting stage for with only a few matches left three teams are in contention for first place. 2 Sqn are just ahead on points with 262 Sig Sqn and 33 SU chasing very hard.

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10 Sig Regt Hounslow

THE HEATH TROPHY

Each year the Hounslow MT Troop, led by **WO2 Wally Marsden** and assisted by **Cpl Brian Biddiscombe,** provide the Regiment with a safe driving competition, styled the Heath Trophy. Teams from all the Squadrons and Troops entered in what was to be a keenly fought competition, with the team from Radio Troop, 2 Sqn winning and retaining the cup for the third succesive year. The winning team, consisting of **Cpl Ian Dommett, LCpl Al Cain** and **Sig Bob Hildreth,** were clear winners and showed good driving skills. The Runners Up, Tropo Troop, consisting of **Sgts Hadge, Watkins Taff Llewellyn** and **Morgan Davies,** made the long journey from Dover seem very worthwhile. The prize for the best individual driver was won by **LCpl Al Cain** of Radio Troop. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Peter Goldney,** presented the prizes.

CHILDRENS SPORTS

After a break for lunch everybody found their way to the sports field where Radio Troop, SWS Troop, LDC Troop, HQ Squadron and the Community Circle had built tents, stalls and games. The sight of SSgt Geof Marshall as a tic tac man running the horse racing and **Sgt Dave Knell** enticing customers to 'Catch the Rat' were truly memorable. There was food, drinks, games, competitions and bargains galore to be had for the asking. The side-shows seemed to occupy the parents for most of the afternoon which left the children free to take part in the sporting events. The races were many and varied. Spud and spoon, sack, obstacle, wheelbarrow, relays and even a Mums and Dads race. Everybody who competed won a prize, so there was never a shortage of competitors. **WO2 (SSM) Geof Nelson** was the starter for all the races, the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Joe George,** was the finish judge and the RQMS, **WO2 John Hunt,** was controlling the issue of prizes (no signatures were required). The day's activities were rounded off with theTug-of-War knock out competition. This event was open to soldiers, civilians, WRAC, wives and children. The weighing in and selection of teams was controlled by the RSM, **WO1 Danny Lamerton,** who in his own inimitable way ensured fair play was observed throughout the competition. From the four teams, Bears, Elephants, Horses and Camels the winning team, the Camels, consisting of **Sgt Brian Slavin, Sig Ian Wright, LCpl Kim Wain WRAC, Pte Belinda Smith WRAC, Masters Robert Murray** and **Steven Younger,** proved to be just too strong for their opponents. So completed a most enjoyable and successful Regimental Families Day.

CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Once again the Regimental Canoe Team had great success in the Annual Army Championships at Monmouth. On a cold and dismal Friday evening the team rendezvoused at Monmouth keen to see if all the hard training would pay off. Soon Saturday dawned and the first of 94 events started in the sprint section. We didn't have to wait long for results. By mid morning **LCpl Liz Biddell** had soon put us on the road to victory with a hard fought first in 500M Class 3 event. This was later added to by equally fine firsts in the 250M Class 3 and 500M Slalom events. The day rolled on and the points rolled up.

Pte Maxine Smith returned a 2nd and 3rd in 500M and 250M Class 3 events, and it wasn't long before **Pte Kathy Hould** had further boosted our points total with two more firsts in the 250M and 500M K1 events. It wouldn't be fair at this stage not to mention the excellent canoeing from **Pte Teresa Shipley** and **Pte Penny Horne,** both newcomers to the sport who produced fine performances. Watch out next year. Not to be outdone by the ladies the men's section of the team had quietly been doing their bit. **Sig Paul Evison** and **Sig Steve Redshaw** faced still opposition but held on for two good thirds in the 250M and 500M Class 4 events, whilst in the intermediate Class IV 500M **Cpl Rod Whateley** and **Sig Custus** were narrowly beaten into Second place. In the senior K1 **Cpl Steve Jackson** once again did us proud with yet another first and he later joined forces with **Cpl Bob Storey** 11 Sig Regt in the Senior K2 500M and 1000M to record two more fine firsts.

TEN ARMY CHAMPION AWARDS

On Sunday all our paddlers lined up to do battle in the Long Distance events and once again our ladies were to the fore. In the K1 five mile event, **Pte Kathy Hould** scored a fine victory whilst in the Class III five mile event **Pte Liz Biddell** and **Pte Maxine Smith** finished 1st and 2nd respectively well ahead of the field. In the men's section, **Cpl Steve Cocksedge** and **Sig Al Crook** added a hard fought third to our scoreline whilst **Cpl Stevie Hilton** not to be outdone returned a fine third in the intermediate Class 3 nine mile event. No canoeing notes would be complete without mention of **Sig D. C. 'Eskimo Roll' DeClancy, Cpl Bob Blakeman** (REME) and **Sig Bob Stanton** who all gained us

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valuable points in both competitions. Our thanks to our intrepid team manager **Sgt John J. A. Arbury** who ensured we were in the right boat at the right place and the right time (his voice certainly matches his girth) and our cooks, **Mrs Liz Whateley** and **Mrs Jan Blakeman**; the MT Section, our spectators and finally the Regiment for all the support we were given.

To conclude once again 10th Sig Regt were the Army Team Champions Sprint and were narrowly beaten into second place for the Long Distance title.

Special mention should be made to **LCpl Liz Biddell, Pte Kathy Hould** and **Cpl Steve Jackson** who between them collected 10 Army Champion awards.

1 SQUADRON — WILTON

April in Wilton not only saw the 'sap rising' but activity in general began for 1 Sqn 10 Sig Regt. 17 April was the day set aside to 'gas' the Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment; however all survived the NBC training.

Changes of personalities occurred also and we bid farewell to: **Sgt Graham Chapman, Cpl Geordie Robson** and **Pte Karen Amies,** all bound for civvy street. Farewell also to **LCpl Claire Corduke** posted to Cyprus and **LCpl Betty Kirkham** to 242 Sig Sqn.

We welcome in: **Cpl Bob Birse, LCpl Taff Jones** and **Ptes Jane Brockies, Corinne Davey, Shaun Morgan, Jeanette Nott, Marie Stone** and **Teresa Shipley** and wish them a happy tour with the Regiment.

WRAC CREW CHIEFTAINS

When a reporter from the Salisbury Times wrote that nine young ladies from Wilton were seen thundering around Salisbury Plain in a 52-ton Chieftain Tank, she meant every word. On Thursday 25th May, we were invited along to C Squadron 3 RTR at Tidworth to be shown around the workshops of the Tank Regiment. Little did we know, that an hour later we would be belting around the plain in a Chieftain, which, after a quick lesson, would be driven by members of our own party. We arrived at 2 pm dressed to kill (jeans if you must girls, keep them smart, first impressions count etc!) to find a stream of tanks and 'tankies' lined up ready to go.

We were bundled aboard and five minutes later were rattling over the hills, much to the delight of all the girls. (Good 'clean' fun). After half an hour on the road the girls took over the wheel. Although apprehensive at first all the girls drove well especially **Pte Julie Taylor,** who took to the wheel like a duck to water, in fact we had trouble getting her out of the driving seat, such was her enthusiasm. On the other hand, **2 Lt Naomi Rixson** (in the opposing tank) had, we believe, trouble with the pedals. However, after two hours bumping around, both tanks made it safely back to camp. Bidding fond farewells to both crews 'The Mudlarks' headed back to Wilton after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

2 SQUADRON—HOUNSLOW

Radio Troop have been involved in its busiest period of the year, the Trooping of the Colour started us off in May. Its rehearsals were all carried out in brilliant sunshine as were the Guards Division and Marines Beating of the Retreat and the State Visit of The President of Rumania. Unfortunately, none of the troop has managed to coincide their leave with any of the brief spells of fine weather. Two short but notable attachments to the Troop were **Cpl Steve (Hello) Smith** and **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Nelson,** the latter, so we have been informed, beat a hasty retreat after finding himself at the wrong end of the guns in the Tower of London as they fired a salute for the President.

Cpl Bob Innes and **Sig Wully McPhee** arrived whilst we lost to the street **LCpl Geordie Lee** and **Sig Pete Nisbet. Cpl Al Cain** has gone to Blandford. The 2IC 2 Sqn OC Radio Troop, **Capt Clive Moody,** has become very involved with single handed sailing. Could this be due to the extraction of wisdom teeth? **Sgt Keith Bolton** has packed his whites and gone to Leeds for two weeks, a well earned mid season break.

Cpl Wally Wallace is packing his digeridoo and billabong and says he can do his job on his head. We shall be waiting for the photographs from down under. The Troop now await the arrival of **Cpl Fiddler, Cpl Wallace's** antipodian counterpart. The Squadron said goodbye to **Capt Rosemary Hewlett** on Friday 4th August. She leaves the WRAC to marry **Squadron Leader Peter Gooding** alias 'The Red Baron' on Saturday 19th August. We send her our best wishes for the future.

3 SQUADRON—ALDERSHOT

Since our last epistle in the Wire, one of the major events has been the sad farewell of **Maj Dick Ellis** who handed the 'steering of the ship' over to his successor **Maj Patrict Templeman-Evans** who we warmly welcome.

CAMPING

The weekend of 16/17/18 June saw **Lt Stephanie** (let's stop for an ice cream) **Westall** and **Sgt Cathy Gemmell** accompanied by **Ptes Liz**



Mouat, Chris Wagg, Fran Ferris and **Fay Hartshorn** braving the wilds of Dorset (alright, maybe it was a field) on a camping weekend. Much fun was had with the cooking. Birds eye had nothing on our easy to make 'just throw it all in' recipes. Our neighbours were quite impressed and occasionally dropped in for a bite. Unfortunately mere animals cannot be expected to appreciate culinary delights.

Saturday saw us trekking around the New Forest creeping up behind the wild life for pictures—well that was when we were not running from them, and of course in the evenings we selected a few lucky pubs to inspect—a couple needed a second inspection just to keep up 3 Sqn's high standards of lemonades and tomato juices????? By Sunday most people being somewhat short of money an inexpensive day was spent on the beach, 'frolicking' in the sea with **Liz Mouat's** most cherished purchase that weekend, our 90 pence beachball, duly signed by all the clan and available for viewing at absolutely no cost. The sun setting we returned to Aldershot, a thoroughly enjoyable weekend had by all.

Finally a mention for our girls detached to Bicester and Shorncliffe who are helping to keep the 3 Sqn flag flying in those far flung depths of the countryside.

RADIO TECHNICIANS

Government Communications Headquarters has vacancies for Radio Technicians. Applicants should be 19 or over.

STANDARDS required call for a sound knowledge of the principles of electricity and radio, together with appropriate experience of using and maintaining radio and electronic test gear.

DUTIES cover highly skilled telecommunications/electronic work, including the construction, installation, maintenance and testing of radio and radar telecommunications equipment and advanced computer and analytic machinery.

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Opportunities for service overseas.

Further particulars and application forms available from:

GCHQ

Recruitment Officer, (Ref W/9)
GCHQ, Oakley,
Priors Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5AJ.
Cheltenham (0242) 21491 Ext 2270

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

A DAY TO REMEMBER

On 9 June, **RSM Ted Hunt** set out for work on a day that was going to become one of the most poignant memories of his military career; it was his last 'Regimental Day' and parade. Earlier he had received an order from higher authority that the latter half of the morning he was to inspect the Regiment on the Helles Barracks square.

Despite a grey and overcast start to the day when rehearsals were held, the clouds parted just before **Mr Hunt's** arrival to give almost perfect weather conditions for the parade. During this period of sunshine, cameras clicked and video recorders whirred as spectators attempted to capture the scene of the Regiment together on the square for the first time since the Junior Wing moved to Ouston.

Besides the members of the Regimental cadre who were on parade, all the junior soldier troops from Ouston and the adult recrui troops from Helles were present, and this created quite an enjoyable spectacle for both **Mr Hunt** and the Commanding Officer alike. The parade was commanded by **Maj Peter Todd** who appeared to be in his element before such a mass frontage.

When the RSM arrived he was given full VIP privileges throughout the parade and on his inspection he evidently thoroughly enjoyed seeing the rare sight of some members of the cadre and staff looking quite military in No 2 dress and forage caps. After the march past the final touch to the proceedings was the playing of 'Auld Lang Syne' as **Mr Hunt** marched between the formed ranks of 11 Sig Regt up the steps to RHQ. He said later in his after-lunch speech that although he felt considerable emotion at this stage he did not show the slightest twinge because 'I am the RSM . . .'

VIDEO PLAYBACK

Immediately after the parade **Mr Hunt** was treated to a video playback of the scene (with which he was later presented by the CO)



I'm Still RSM—get your hair cut!

before moving down down to the Corporals' Mess for drinks with all cadre and staff of the Regiment. **SSgt Hunter** ACC had transformed the Regimental Restaurant for the cadre lunch which went ahead after **Mr Hunt** had finally escaped from the Corporals' Mess. The cadre presented the RSM with a crystal decanter at the end of his lunch and eventually said goodbye as the RSM left for the Corporals' Mess for more drinks. The rest of the afternoon and evening were later spent by the RSM in the Sergeants' Mess saying his farewells to the cadre and staff of the Regiment.

AND SO FAREWELL

Mr Hunt will be leaving the Army after twenty-three years of service and four years with 11 Sig Regt. He and his wife **Sheila** are going to enjoy some gardening leave before they decide which new career to set out on, but whatever **Mr Hunt** does he will be remembered with appreciation and admiration by the many soldiers and officers of the Corps who have served with and under him throughout his career.

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

THE BIRGELEN SCENE

In May and June this year the Regiment welcomed no less than 16 Stars worth of visitors who included the CGS, **Gen Sir Roland Gibbs,** the SO in C (A), **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson**, the DWRAC, **Brig A. Field,** the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** the Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore** and the BGS HQ BAOR, **Brig P. M. Welsh.**

We have also been hard at work improving the ammenities at *Birgelen*. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. J. Pickard** opened on one June afternoon, a *Trimm Dich*, which is meant to provide a more pleasant way of keeping fit than circuits in the Gym, a putting course and the new *Birgelen* 9 Hole Golf course which has introduced many members of the Regiment to the vagaries of that sport. Considerable thanks must go to **Maj Joe Adams** and our resident team of hard working *Sappers* led by **SSgt Fred Boyle** for the production of these excellent facilities.



The CO opens the new golf course driving off from the first tee



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN- JUNE 78

3 SQUADRON REPORT

BERLIN MARCHES

The 6 May saw the start of the Parades in Berlin with the Allied Forces Day Parade setting a very high standard indeed. Vast numbers of civilians turned out to see the review of troops and armour along 17 Juni Strasse. The next parade, which to our minds was the most impressive, took place on the 24 May when Her Majesty The Queen attended her own Birthday Parade, and heralded the start of the two weeks summer sunshine in Berlin. **SSgt Brian Fergus** and **Sgt Jimmy Orr** took part in the vehicle drive pass and thereby had the honour of representing the rest of us, including those regrettably still on duty, at a most memorable occasion. US Independence Day (4 July) and Bastille Day (14 July) also produced very fine parades by the Americans and French respectively for those who went along to see, or, in the case of **WCpl Jan Mills** to see and attend the US reception afterwards. We were fortunate enough to share the US celebrations with the SO in C **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** and his wife.

IN ALL FIELDS

Since 3 Squadron's last contribution we have been very busy at work and play and can all feel justifiably proud of our achievements.

Our first photograph shows the shooting team in the Rhuleben ranges after the Berlin Fd Force Skill at Arms Meeting where they, in the minor units, scored maximum points on the SMG but dropped out of the scoring on the SLR. Other competitions in which we participated



Left to right standing: SSgt Brian Fergus, SSgt Bill Cooper, Sgt Kieth Hall, WO2 Phil Thompson (Team Captain), Sgt Bob Oldfield
Left to right kneeling: Pte Joe Prescott, Sgt Tom McCulloch, Sgt Dave Barrow, Cpl Phil Wingfield

were swimming, athletics, golf, badminton and first aid. All the events require strength in depth to be placed among the first three so we in general achieve fourth or fifth place, but as it is not easy for our team



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E. W. Trounson, The Bursar, Warminster School, Warminster, Wiltshire Tel: Warminster 213358

organisers to get a team together they must be congratulated for doing so. Actually, in the first aid we provided two casualties, **Lcpl Jim Boyle** and **Sig Mick Davis,** in much pain, as can be seen in the photograph.

Earlier in the year we had received an invitation from RAF Gatow to take part in their seven-a-side Bank Holiday rugby and football knockout competitions. Again somehow teams were raised and both made the plate semi finals.

The Squadron's military training took a professional leap forward when **Lt Ken Stewart, WO2 (SSM) Tony Evans, Sgts Mick Kenning** and **'Paddy' Crabtree** from the Regimental Training Wing visited Berlin to take us through our NBC and first aid training. Thank you team for giving us your time.

BIRTHS, ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We all say hello to **James Hammond, Michael Houghton, Kirsty Manger** and **Darren Nicholson** our recently arrived bouncing babies. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our married couples, **LCpl** and **Mrs Ian Coghlan** (neé **WLCpl Sheila Dibben**) and **WLCpl** (Retd) **Caroline Caveney** (who left us for the Welsh Guards!).

We also say welcome to **WO2 Shaun Casey, SSgt John Neal, Sgt Rog Manser, Cpl's Bob Coulling, Dave 'TAff' Seddon, Graham 'Jock' Oliver, LCpl's Jim Boyle, Pauline Mead** and **Jan Brown,** and many thanks and farewell to **WO2 Phil Thompson, Sgt's John Sands, Sue Orr, Cpl's Fred McLoughlin, Irene Eulington, LCpl's Ian Coghlan, Sheila Coghlan, Caroline Caveney** and **Pte Joe Prescott.**

'H' TROOP REPORT

The period since Christmas has seen many changes. We have had new arrivals in the form of **WO1 Jim Jones, SSgt John Prior, Sgt's Harry Reay, Ken Wilford, Pete Stickland, Cpl's Tom Robinson** and **Ivan Smith, LCpl Tony Whitesmith, Sig Steve Haynes** and to all those we say welcome, to the hectic pace of life at H Troop. Two more recent additions not recorded on troop strength are sons to **Mrs Judi Kay** and **Mrs Linda Foster.** BMH Hannover can now rest again until the next troop onslaught expected to be in December.

VISIT TO BERLIN

During the weekend 10—12 March the troop accepted the kind invitation of 3 Sqn to visit for a sporting week-end. Due to limitations imposed by shift work, it was not possible to send a large delegation but in all sixteen combined soccer players and cross Country runners left for Berlin via Helmstedt on 10 March. After an uneventful journey through the Berlin corridor, the visitors were met by 3 Sqn personnel and taken to their accommodation. That evening an attempt was made to sabotage our football team before the scheduled match in the Olympic Stadium the following morning. Despite an extremely late



THE H TROOP TEAM IN THE OLYMPIC STADIUM
Back row (Left to Right): Sgt Dave Green, Capt John Kay, Sgt Mick Braddon, Sgt Colin Brooks, Sgt Brad Bradshaw, Sgt Mick Green, Sgt Jim Merchant
Front row (Left to Right): Cpl Steve Buck, Cpl Phil Sales, Cpl Sandy Campbell, Pte Mick Wright, Cpl Dave Morrison, Sgt Don Shrives

night for most players the Troop were victorious the following morning by 3 goals to 1. The game was extremely evenly matched however. Those representing H Troop were **Capt John Kay, Sgt's Mick Braddon, Colin Brooks, Jim Merchant, Brad Bradshaw, Dave Green, Don Shrives, Cpl's Sandy Campbell, Steve Buck, Dave Morrison, Ron Napier** and **Pte Wright.** Despite a cold morning we were well supported by our official spectators **WO2 (FofS) John Mellors, Mrs Pat Green, Mrs Margaret Shrives** and **Mrs Marie Morrison.** After an excellent curry lunch in the 33 Club, the visitors were given a conducted tour of Berlin including all the usual sights. Saturday evening saw another attempted sabotage of H Troop's gallant sportsmen, this time of the Cross Country team which assembled the following morning at Grunewald. In perfect conditions H Troop were again victorious over the hosts, although the race was won by **Maj Howard Crump** of 3 Sqn.



THE CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM
Backrow (Left to Right): Capt John Kay, Maj Howard Crump (3 Sqn), Cpl John Connell (3 Sqn), Cpl Phil Sales, Cpl Steve Buck, Cpl Sandy Campbell, Cpl Garry Ewington (3 Sqn)
Front row (Left to Right): Cpl Frank Pye (3 Sqn), Sgt Dave Green, Cpl John Hickman, Pte Nigel Smith

Those representing H Troop were **Capt John Kay, Sgt Dave Green, Cpl's Sandy Campbell, Steve Buck, Phil Sales, John Hickman** and **Pte Nigel Smith.** After a hurried lunch the troop said goodbye to their hosts who had made the weekend one to remember. Special mention must go to the OC of 3 Sqn **Maj Ray Windmill, Maj Roger Richards** and **WO2 (SSM) Tom Friend** for making the arrangements and looking after us so well.



GROUP AT BRANDENBURG GATE
Left to right: Sgt Don Shrives, Pte Nigel Smith, Craig Shrives, Pte Joseph Prescott (3 Sqn), Cpl John Hickman, Cpl Sandy Campbell, Cpl Phil Sales, WO2 (FofS) John Mellors, Pte Mick Wright, Cpl Steve Buck, Sgt Mick Braddon

SPRING BALL

On Saturday 18 March the Club committee led by **Sgts Colin Brooks** and **Mick Braddon** organised a Spring Ball. This was attended by the CO **Lt Col M. J. Pickard** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) Ken Woods,** who both attended with their ladies. Besides an excellent band, and even better buffet laid on by **Sgt Willi Willmott** and **Cpl Jack Harris,** the success of the evening was guaranteed by a cabaret directed by **WO2 (FofS) John Mellors** and **WO2 Tony Baker.**

PROMOTIONS

To end these notes we are glad to report the promotions, during the coming year of **Sgts Ken Wilford** and **Colin Brooks** to Staff Sergeant and **SSgt Geordie Fisher** to WO2, and the immediate promotion of **Cpl Rod Alder** and **LCpl Phil Sales.**

ORIENTEERING

After last year's successes when the Regimental Orienteers won the Rhine Area league and the R Signals BAOR championships, we were looking forward to even better results this year. Thankfully, we can now report that this was the case. Orienteering (still officially classified as military training and not a sport) demands, amongst other things, fitness and an agile brain. We could do nothing about our brains but

were determined to improve our fitness this year and started training long before the Rhine Area league got under way. After an impressive series of wins in the league, we ran home fairly comfortable winners in the Rhine Area championships held near Duisburg on the 11 May. **LCpl Jock Hutton** taking first place, with **Sgt Brian Libby** third. Guest runners from BAOR also took part, with 94 Locating Regiment providing the hardest opposition we had had this year, and we were pleased when we were able to beat them by a good thirty minutes.

Unfortunately, we were not able to repeat that result in the Army/BAOR championship held on the 7/8 June. The first day was the cross-country event which left us lying in 5th place in the Army and 2nd in BAOR with 94 a good forty minutes ahead of us. **Sgt Gordon Edgar** woke up the next morning with a badly swollen ankle and was unable to compete on the second day, which was the relay event, so **LCpl Jock Hutton** was volunteered to run twice! To his credit, he managed a faster run on his second leg than his first but this was still not enough to catch 94 so we came away runners-up in the BAOR championship and fourth in the Army, still a very creditable performance and the top team amongst R Signals units.



The photograph shows the team with the Commanding Officer, Lt Col M. J. Pickard, and our three championship shields. The team from left to right are, standing: Sgt Gordon Edgar, WO1 Andy Roberts, Cpt Jon Henderson, WO2 Martin Hagger. Kneeling: WO1 Bob Etherton, Cpl Campbell Lapsley, LCpl John Hutton, Sgt Brian Libby

We now look forward to a number of German civilian events to keep us in training for the R Signals BAOR championship in the autumn when we hope to repeat our success of last year.

TENNIS

Following their successful defence of the Rhine Area league in 77, the Regimental tennis team has carried on their tradition of thrashing (nearly) everyone in pursuit of '3 in a row'. The only stumbling block has been Rheindahlen Garrison, twice. Our first confrontation was on 24 May when we were narrowly beaten by 6½—2½ rubbers. The second meeting was in the final of Rhine Area stage of the Army inter-unit Knock-out competition. On this occasion the Regiment were well and truly trounced by eight rubbers to one. This result was not too surprising as especially for our benefit Rheindahlen 'found' two Army players and 2 BAOR reserves, so despite **Sgt Mick Braddon's** long drive down from H Tp we were out-funned.

With two league matches still to be played the Regiment's record reads:

Played	Won	Lost	For	Against
7	6	1	42½	20½

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

For the second year in succession the Regimental team were Runners Up in the BAOR Service Rifle Championships. The match was open to all major units and consisted of six preliminary rounds with the eight top scoring units firing at Sennelager shoulder to shoulder. For the competitors it was a match never to be forgotten, at the half-way stage the previous year's winners had been left behind and a battle developed between 1 Royal Scots and 13 Regiment. Suspense lasted until the last round, scores were added up and both teams had identical scores of 1522, it was then a question of counting carton bulls and that was our undoing—1RS 52, 13 Signal Regt 51. The BAOR Championship was lost by one tenth of a point! **SSgt (FofS) Mick Provart** was equally unlucky by losing the Individual prize, a £300 air rifle, by one point. Training has already started for the next season so perhaps it will be third time lucky. The 22 team once again won the Rhine Area Service Rifle, were runners up in the Rhine Area Target Rifle and came fourth in the NSRA British Regular Army Match. **SSgt (FofS) Mick Provart** is a member of the Army team and together with **SSgt (YofS) Alec Janaway** represented Rhine Area in the ARA Inter District Match. Other team stalwarts **Maj Rick Davidge** (OIC Shooting), **WO2 (FofS) Brian Pettifer, WO2 Martin Hagger.**

TROUBLESHOOTERS HAVE THE EDGE

The ladies of the Regiment fire under the name of the Troubleshooters, recently in fear and trepidation issued a challenge to their husbands. It was a most enjoyable match to watch, fired in a very friendly atmosphere provided one ignored the odd aside 'I will reduce your housekeeping' countered by 'I will withdraw your conjugal rights'. The trained soldiers, ever sporting allowed themselves to be driven into the ground, or so they say, and were well and truly beaten. Troubleshooters 1742 Husbands 1455. Top scoring ladies **Wendy Shepheard** 184, **Helen Rigley** and **Wendy Welch** 180 with **Pat Ashworth** scoring 171 after only four lessons.



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN - JULY 78

A CHALLENGE

After this success, the ladies would welcome a postal competition either tin hat or ten spot with any other ladies club, if interested please write to **Maj R. Davidge,** 13 Sig Regt BFPO 40. In conclusion all members of the 22 Shooting Club would publically like to thank **SSgt Alec Janaway** for all the time (off duty) and energy he devoted to the club during his stay with this Regiment.

CORPS FOOTBALL 1978/79

The following Corps Football Fixtures have been arranged for the coming season:—

27 October 1978 v RCT—at Grantham
3 November 1978 v RAPC—at Worthy Down
10 November 1978 v RAOC—at Catterick
13 November 1978 v RE—
15 November 1978 v RA— Quadrangular Competition
17 November 1978 v REME— at Bordon
7 January 1979 v TAVR—at Catterick
10 January 1979 v Sheffield University—at Catterick

It is intended that Corps Trials lbe held in Catterick between 21-26 October 1978. If you are interested in playing for the Corps then apply, through your unit Football Officer to:—

Maj E. Hampson R Signals,
Secretary,
R Signals Association Football,
1 Squadron,
8th Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire DL9 3PS
Tel: Catterick Camp 2521 Ext 2618.

Unit Football Officers are asked to indicate on all applications the availability dates of the player concerned.

OUTSTANDING 'CORPS SHOOT'

In a remarkable display of consistent shooting the team from 13 Sig Regt has effectively rewritten the record book for Corps shooting. At the Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting, held at Bulford from 19 to 23 June, the team from 13 won six of the eight matches which count towards the Corps Championship, and came second and third in the remaining two matches. The 13 Sig Regt team won the Champion Major Unit Team trophy and **Sgt Bob Watts** became Corps Champion Shot 1978. The list of competitions and trophies is given below:—

Team Competitions

SLR	The Roupell	—The Maresfield Cup
	The Whitehead	—The SO-in-C's Cup
	The Association	—The Cheylsmore Cup
	Team Snapshooting	—The Cowsill Bowl
SLR/LMG	The Section Match	—The Colonel Commandants Cup
SMG	The SMG Team Match	—The Champion Team Bowl
	Champion Major Unit 1978	—The Champion Team Trophy

Individual Competitions

SLR	The Roberts Best 'A' Class	—**Sgt Bob Watts**	The Forby Cup
	Champion Shot 1978	—**Sgt Bob Watts**	—Champion Shot Cup
Pistol	Best Shot	—**Sgt Tony Hunt**	—The Hudson Cup



Sgt Bob Watts, Corps Champion Shot 1978, with the Champion Shot Cup and the Forby Cup



Front: Sig Tich Lee, CO Lt Col M. J. Pickard Royal Signals, WO2 Ron Watson, RSM WO1 A. K. Woods Royal Signals, Cpl Brian Barker
Rear: Sig Frank Bowker, LCpl Jim Savill, Cpl Paul Moran, Sgt Tony Hunt, WO2 Dave Wilson, Sgt Bob Watts

14 Sig Regt (EW) B.F.P.O. 23

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MARKED

Our contribution for this edition is mainly concerned with events that occurred in connection with our First Anniversary which we celebrated on Saturday 1 July this year. The Regiment has achieved a great deal since forming at Hildesheim on 1 July 1977 and certainly since moving into Ironside Barracks in Scheuen, Celle in April this year. We now feel we are one Regiment, even though certain elements are still detached. From an RHQ point of view, once our Operations Bureau is co-located with us, and we expect this to happen in a couple of months time, then we shall really be a 'proper' RHQ. We have made efforts in all the usual seasonal sports but for space reasons we will sum these up in our next article as a sports round up.

Our anniversary was celebrated by holding a Regimental Parade at Ironside Barracks followed by an all ranks luncheon on the sports field. The parade was taken by the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** and watched by **Mrs Anderson, the Mayor and Mayoress of Gloucester, Brig** and **Mrs Madsen** and **Brig** and **Mrs G. Oehlers.** Other guests included local German 'notables' as well as the Signals staff from HQ 1 (BR) Corps. The parade was superbly supported by the Band of the 1st Bn Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire who added a fine touch of colour in their scarlet tunics. A drive past completed the parade.



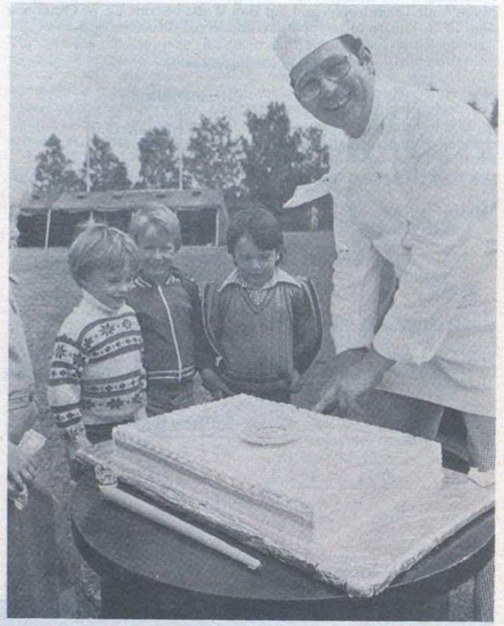
The SO in C talks to Cpl Holden watched by the Commanding Officer



Maj Gen and Mrs Anderson with the Mayor and Mayoress of Gloucester and Lt Col and Mrs Sprackling

At the luncheon afterwards our guests circulated amongst the crowd chatting to soldiers and families. After speeches by the **Mayor of Gloucester** and the Commanding Officer the birthday cake, with its one candle was cut and distributed amongst the children.

In the evening, functions were held in the respective Messes to complete the day.



Cpl Piper doesn't need a pipe to attract the children!

CHANGE OF FOCUS

Our new pay clerk is a **Cpl Steve Gibson** who originally served in Royal Signals with 14 Sig Regt in Worcester. Now that he is back with Signals it was quite a shock to him to be posted 'back' to 14 Sig Regt (EW).

CONSOLIDATION

Since the last edition of 'The Wire' the 'Children of Israel', namely RHQ and HQ Sqn, have ceased their nomadic existence and moved into Ironside Barracks Celle (loud cheers) and have been joined by most of 2 Sqn. This consolidation of manpower and equipment means, that for the first time since its formation, the Regiment is one step nearer to becoming a complete unit.

We now have ample garage space for most of our vehicles, larger office accommodation for the QM and clerical staff, and a vastly improved LAD. There is a lot of work still to be done and an ambitious programme of works service by PSA has started. By the time the next issue of this magazine comes to print we hope to be able to report on their successful completion — I'm an optimist!

HQ SQN ATHLETICS SUCCESS

On 4 June, the Regiment held an Inter-Squadron Athletics competition and much to the surprise of our opponents, (but not ourselves) HQ Sqn emerged victors. The weather held until the final event, the dreaded assault course race. This was a normal assault course but for the climatic obstacle which was a greasy pole laid across a water tank. By the time this was negotiated the contestants were too wet from the 'monsoon' to care, however the traversing of this brute made, 'it's a Knockout' a kindergarten by comparison.

It would be invidious to mention individuals, suffice to say that team work and competitive spirit won the day. Mention however, should be made of our APTC representative **SSI Bill Norgrove** and his band of helpers!!! who put a lot of time and effort in to preparing the ground and facilities.

1 SQUADRON REPORT

During the last three months Anderson Barracks has continued to attract visitors, and we have come to the conclusion that it is not the weather, which has generally been appalling, but the cloistered calm of the area. We have been visited by the SOinC (**Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson**), **Brig Madsen** and the **Mayor of Gloucester.**

On his initial visit, **Brig Madsen** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO1 George Cox** and **Sgt 'Paddy' Harding,** the latter being our NBC man, whose posters are invariably of 1914-1918 vintage although this is probably not his fault!

The SO-in-C, **Brig Madsen** and the Mayor visited us on 2 July as an adjunct to the Regimental birthday celebrations the previous day (and night). Their wives were given a guided tour of the International German Border, followed by coffee and 'stickies' at the NAAFI Roundhouse (Helmstedt). They joined us at a curry buffet luncheon in the Officer's Club which seemed to go smoothly, suitably administered by **Sgt 'Jake' Cook** who appeared to be under the impression that the brewery was to close-down the following day. (Rumour has it that our tame Chinese expert was responsible for spreading this alarm and despondency).

The cloistered calm mentioned earlier is interrupted by conferences, exercises and courses—all part of life's rich pattern (they say!) The barracks is still festooned with PSA contractors (we have the only 'open-plan' guardroom in the army) and our vehicles still mark-up more mileage to and from workshops than in most units.

Orienteering remains the major pastime for some of our members—**Messrs Hardy, Winstanley, Haig and Skipper** being virtually inexhaustible in this area.

The unit caravan is well booked—an ability to tread water being an asset (not quite the SSM's words, but close enough for government work). The static water tank (swimming pool is an euphemism) is regularly used, albeit reluctantly by some of the more senior of us! The OC claiming more than a passing affection for Archimedes (the volume of liquid displaced is equal to . . .). **Maj Mike Milnamow,** was also given free swimming lessons during one of his frequent visits—not sure he'll make the regimental team yet!

Finally, the OC was dined into the Sergeants Club in June—because six months had elapsed since assuming command the OC gave a farewell speech, followed by a standing ovation, rumour control has it though that another invitation may follow, hopefully with a different scriptwriter (Annie take note!)

2 SQUADRON ROUND UP

At variance with previous propaganda issued by space control (our beloved RHQ), the Squadron reformed with 3 troops under command at Scheuen on the 14 March 1978. It soon became obvious to all that in comparison with other Squadrons of the Regiment we did NOT have 'too many chiefs and not enough Indians'. It was therefore agreed that the Second-in-Command, our **Richard Stokes,** should be promoted to Maj in order to help cope with the number of conferences attended, visitors looked after, and exercises undertaken by the Squadron. We even tried to recover **Capt Richard Hewitt** back to work as an interlude from swimming, squashing and attending 'trendy-lefty' courses, prior to sitting an exam this November—we failed as he went on leave. **Capt David Thorp** has blessed us with the part of his time that is not taken up advising space control. He leaves us soon for full time employment with the higher echelons of RHQ, to be replaced by what is a new and unknown quantity for the Regiment—a Royal Signals subaltern.

This new arrival is eagerly awaited by the Warrant Officers of the Squadron as a possible person to join them on extra Orderly Officer duties. The Warrant Officers continue to work in devious ways. **WO2 'Taff' Tahany** has got himself married whilst **SSM Tony Parker** has deserted our (sinking) ship by becoming RQMS in the Quartermaster's Dept. He has also received his LS & GC but is waiting for a real VIP to present it to him (MA to CGS—is your boss free soon?). **WO2 Ray Armstrong** was awarded his LS & GC during a recent visit, however the visitor was less than 3-star rank, so the intended medal recipient was conspicuous by his absence! **Messrs 'Len' Hutton** and **'Dickie' Henderson** are not 'behind the door' either—none of this best kit parading around the football field for them on 1 July—they went sailing on the Baltic instead. **Sgt Val Longstaff** also leaves us soon and on promotion as well. We trust he doesn't take all his 'Buckshies' with him as well or there will be no vehicle paint left in Squadron lines. Since moving to the vast expances of Scheuen, several of the single soldiers, under the everpresent direction of **Cpl 'Spud' Murphy,** have purchased bicycles to ease travelling time around the barracks. The 'Camp bike' has taken on a whole new meaning! Some of our living-out lads continue to commute daily from their quarters in Wolfenbutel. Luckily **Sig 'Dixie' Dean** is posted soon as his car couldn't stand the distance. Mind you, **Dean** himself nearly failed to last the pace having been conned into representing us in all events at the Regimental Sports Days. Several marriages and births have occured recently in the Squadron, **Sig 'Bomber' Crayford** and **Sig 'Jock' Robertson;** congratulations on joining the ranks of the worried man—must be the Konigslutter air, or beer.

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VISIT OF SO IN C

On 21 June the Regiment was visited by **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson.** Our photographs show the General's progress around the Regiment.



SO in C inspects the Quarter Guard. In the Photograph with the General are: Lt Col Allwright, Capt Steven, Sgt John Baker (just!), Cpl Pete Probin, Sig Mick Ross and LCpl Roy Grimsley



Coffee in the Corporals Mess with Cpl Butch Coles, Cpl John Brine, LCpl Geoff Bonnelle and Cpl Mick Hunt



Very Senior Officer talking to two very Junior Officers. The SO in C chats to 2Lt Neil Swainson and 2Lt Mike Gilyeat



Presentation of Meritorious Service Medal to Capt Steve Bresloff. Capt Fred Orr looks on



Presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sgt John Baker

ARMY WATER POLO CHAMPIONS

The Regimental water polo team, after a year of training on Weetabix soaked in Carlsberg, have at last managed to prise the Army Cup from the Royal Engineers.

The nucleus of last year's team comprising of **Lt Brian (I'm determined to keep my name in The Wire until I get promoted!) Jackson, Cpl Merv Cox, Cpl Stevie Roberts, Sgt (I'm excused PT shorts) Butler, Sig Mark (I'm excused everything!) James, Cpl Cass Cassidy and Cpl (at last!) Bob Stonier** were joined this season by a few young and not so young water babies: **SSgt Pete Bawden** and **Cpl Graham Butler** (not so young) **Sigs Colin Henniker** and **Dave Funnell** (so young they still swim in nappies!) and **LCpl Roy (I'm a star, superstar!) Smith.**

After the BAOR finals in which we foolishly came runners up, our team coach QMSI 'Sed' Sharp, applied all the rules of basketball (!!) to ensure that the team would be successful at the Army championships. The final was run on a league basis with ourselves, the underdogs, up against 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) and 36 Engineer Regiment. After a tense and furious competition the team emerged winners by beating 229 by 11 goals to 2 and drawing 10 all with the Engineers. We hastily grabbed the Cup and our winners' medals and rushed back to Germany before the Sappers had time to wipe the tears from their eyes.

We apologise to our readers for the lack of a team photograph, but Army champions tend to be a modest breed (sometimes!) and we wouldn't like to think that photographs from this publication might be used by the Engineers for target practice for their darts team!



MOTOR CYCLING

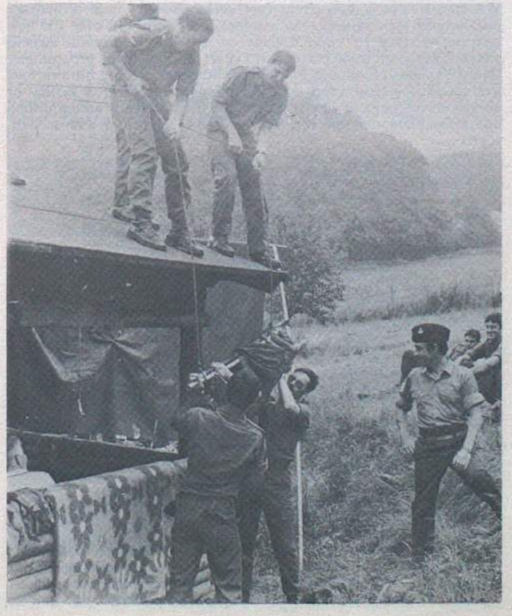
Inspired by a visit by the White Helmets, the Regimental motor cycling team has been going from strength to strength. The photograph shows **Sig Mick Powell, Sig 'Jethro' Nash** and **Sgt Bob Gillespie** (RAOC) with **Lt Col Allwright** and **Capt Steve Bresloff.** The cup is the Runners-Up trophy for the Regular Army Motor Cycle championships, which were held in Catterick in June.

CANOEING

In July, three week-long canoeing courses were held off the coast of Zeeland. The courses were organised by **Sgt Graham Crossland,** who also instructed. 18 people (including some WRAC) had a chance to try out sea canoeing **(LCpl 'Caz' Britton** would have tried, but at 6' 6" tall, he was unable to get into any of the canoes!)

3 SQN SUMMER CAMP

3 Sqn held their Sqn Camp on the Diemelsee in June. The photograph is included especially for **Pte Jane Barton** — her fiance, **Sig John Mack** is the one impersonating a stretcher. Others in the photograph include **Pte Jackie Davies, LCpl Geoff Bonnelle, Sgt Bob Hawkins RAMC, Sig John Fisher** and **Sig Steve Lloyd.**



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

VISIT OF SO in C

On 21 June 1978 21 Sig Regt were honoured by a visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson.** This formed part of the SO in C's visit to Royal Signal units in BAOR was unfortunately brief; however he did manage to meet most of the Regiment. His tour commenced at the Petersholz compound where he was met by the Commanding Officer and the RSM. He was given a briefing by the CO on the Regiment's role and then met the officers of the Regiment in RHQ.

The next part of his tour took him to meet the Station Commander after which he visited 2 Squadron to view the FWOC complex. Here he met the soldiers who man the FWOC in the field and spoke to every soldier on parade. From 2 Squadron his tour took him to see Commcen QUEBEC in its tactical role manned by 1 Squadron, again he spoke to every soldier on view which was appreciated by all concerned. A quick drive to Hangar four took him to the Troop who work closest to the RAF, K Troop. Here he met the lads of the Troop informally in the Troop rest room. Finally his tour took him to see the backroom boys of the Regiment HQ Squadron. Here he toured many of the departments which make up HQ Squadron.



A moment of light relief shared by Sig Kevin Scott and the SO in C. 2Lt R. Cousins looks on



Sgt Eddie Widdes, RAOC, explaining the problems of keeping the Regiment supplied with technical maintenance stores to the SO in C. The Commanding Officer and the technical officer seem pleased with his solutions

VISIT OF BRIG J. C. MOORE MBE

On arrival on 19 June, the Commander was met by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. F. H. Colman,** who briefed the Commander on the regimental commitments. He then met various regimental personalties in the RHQ conference room. The Commander then toured the Regiment visiting HQ, 1, 2 and 3 Sqn. After a brief discussion with the Station Commander he returned to RHQ where a parade was formed

up by **WO2 (SSM) Ray Drew.** The Commander presented LS & GC medals to the following:
WO2 J. Smith RE PSA
SSgt T. Hanman
Sgt N. Prior (who had earlier received Rhine Area Hockey Colours)
Sgt Carre (4 Signal Group)
Cpl F. Burnett
Cpl J. Cairns
Cpl J. Cagilaba



SSgt Terry Hanman receiving second award of the day his LS & GC medal from Commander Rhine Area



Sgt Martin Prior receiving Rhine Area Hockey Colours from Brig J. C. Moore, MBE



Cpl Joe Cagilaba receiving his LS & GC medal from Commander Rhine Area

Next stop on his tour was the Sergeants' Mess where he had lunchtime drinks with the WO's and SNCO's of the Regiment. His tour came to an end with a Buffet Lunch in the Officers' Mess.

CHELSEA PENSIONERS SEE THE FORM

Soldiers young and not so young recently came together in Germany on an operational airbase. The pictures show **SSM Ray Drew,** guiding two Chelsea Pensioners around part of his area.



WO2 (SSM) Drew, SSgt White, LCpl Thorneycroft. In the pit?

HARRASSING FORTNIGHT

K Troop is responsible for ground communication on RAF Wildenrath. For a harrassing two weeks recently their temporary installations were subjected to a severe test. With well over 100 new instruments used by eight nations, as well as the normal airfield systems, the small troop played a vital part in a vast flying programme. Over 100 sorties on some days together with result scoring from various live ranges required much intercommunication. With a variety of aircraft competing and in other roles, the troop, already accomplished aircraft spotters, can now rate most of NATO aircraft on a noise/pain scale.



LCpl Marshall and LCpl Collier members of K Troop working with an American Phantom. They would like to emphasise that is not really an aircraft, merely one of their troop terminals!

STATION OPEN DAY

L Troop, situated at Royal Air Force Laarbruch has taken part in many Station activities which range from individual club activities to the raising of funds for charity. The Troop raised DM113 for SSAFA and Lifeboat. With a crowd pulling side show (a bonk on the konk does the job). With the aid of four 'lemons' sitting on the end of a plank. Lemons in order of stupidity were: **Sig 'Miss World Past' Lee, Sig 'Flipper' Barrett** (mit Scuba kit), **Sig 'Chips' Onufryk** and **'Tojo' Crosbie.** Thanks to **Cpl 'Speedy' Speed** who didn't get wet and **Cpl 'Plastic Chicken' Masson** who was a crack shot with a tyre lever (but revenge was sweet). The weather was far from ideal, an icy wind blew right up our (skin).

We'd wish to seriously thank **Ssgt Charlie Manning's** good lady wife for the flask of hot tea and coffee (What a life saver!). There were other stalls and displays by individual sections, including a display of different joints and cables, used by an airfield troop, shown off by **Sgt Billy Banks.** A good day was had by all.

AND 'AMSTERDAM'

The Troop's outing to Amsterdam was a stag do. We set off on the morning of 13 May at 1000hrs. The order of the day was funny hats. We had a few cans of liquid refreshments on the journey out from Laarbruch with an emergency stop at the border post. Some of the troop went sightseeing (in the Scots Bar), whilst the remainder roamed the streets seeing the *sights.* **Sig 'Radar' Brady** was the lucky lad who won the raffle on the bus down. The star prize was for us to know and you to find out. The day was so good that everybody was so 'tired' that the bus was so quiet on the way back (*Zzzzzz*).

TROOP BAR-B-Q:

The Troop Bar-b-Q was organised by **LCpl Alan Smith** and **LCpl Terry Irvine.** The do was to be held at the Station Swimming Pool, but due to inclement weather it was switched to the Malcolm Club. There were about 115 people invited, even though the troop strength is about thirty. Everybody present enjoyed themselves. The food was excellent and well prepared. There was a large selection of prizes in the draw. The following morning the troop was on parade to clean up after the night before. Hangovers and all! Thanks again **Al** and **Terry.**

STATION SPORTS DAY

The Troop combined with 10 Fd Sq RE to make up an athletic team. The team adopted the name 'The Heroes'. The field track events were well represented by such stars as **Keith** (Long Jump) **Thomson, Al Smith** (Javelin) and **Taff Smith** (Shot). Then came the highlight of the afternoon with the Chariot Race. The Heroes entered a chariot, powered by men from 10 Fd Sqn RE and L Troop. The power-house for the chariot from L Troop came in the form of **Sgt George Thomson** and **Sig Bruce Lee.** We managed to acquire a volunteer to be the jockey, **Sig 'Radar' Brady.** (You always get one). The rules state that no pyrotechnics will be used, but other than that anything goes. Flour bombs, fire extinguishers and water cannons. The Heroes never finished the course due to the prang on the first bend. They did however win the prize for the best chariot, thanks to the efforts of **Cpl 'Days to do' Ost, Cpl 'Plastic Chicken' Masson, Sig Bruce Lee, Sig 'Chips' Onufryk** and who could forget **Sig 'Radar' Brady.** The lads taking part had a most enjoyable day.

JOKE OF THE MONTH: Why is the English 50p piece so shaped? Answer: You need a spanner to get it out of a Jocks pocket.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations go to the following members of the troop on their recent promotion (won in the last raffle):
Cpl Marty Wilson
LCpl 'Taff' Smith
LCpl 'Katy' Boyle (Leonard)

ARRIVALS:
Sgt Thomson (George)
Sig Onufryk ('Chips')
Sig Crosbie ('Tojo')
Cpl Uttley (John)
Sig Stingemore ('Spike')
LCpl Williams ('Doggie') RCT

We hope that they all enjoy their tour in 'L' Troop.

FAREWELLS:
Cpl Cliff Kerry
Cpl James Ost and family
Cpl Masson ('Plastic Chicken') and family.

We hope that they all enjoy their new posting.

WELSH TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL TRIAL

Sig Keith Randle rode this event as part of an Army team on 15—16 June. It was the hardest Welsh International for three years as it rained on both days making riding conditions very hazardous and slippery. **Keith** rode an Army BSA which as you appreciate is ten years outdated compared to modern day machinery. On this machine **Keith** won a very creditable Bronze medal. He was the only rider on an Army BSA, all the other Army riders were on modern machines.

On the 16th they travelled through the night arriving at Catterick at 6.30am on the 17th to compete in the Army Championships feeling very second-hand. The trial which was held on Gandale Moor was hard on both rider and machine (the bikes will never be the same!). The trial finished on the 18th and **Keith** was judged 'Best Signals Rider in the Army.'



Sig Keith Randle showing the 'joys' of motor cycling

To sum up a very rewarding four-day motorcycling. Well done **Keith!** He would like to mention a special thanks to these people:

WO2 (SSM)	**Winton** (Admin and SUPPORT!)
SSgt	**Coude** (Support for Welsh)
LCpl	**Scollick** (Mechanic extraordinaire)
Sgt	**Woosey—13 Sig Regt** (spare parts man)

They made it all possible.

EXERCISE PARASHOT '78

The Regimental team consisting of **Maj Mike Forge, Lt Graham Leach** (1 Sqn), **Sgt Andy Starling** and **LCpl Nick Gibson** (2 Sqn), were parachuted into the Detmold area on the evening of Monday 24 July, 1978. The team maintained a high standard throughout the competition against very professional, well prepared teams. The fact that they achieved a high standard with very limited preparation is very much to their credit. Eleven teams competed, some from UK. Our team came fourth in parachuting, second in the patrol phase, topped this by coming first in radio, obstacle crossing, demolitions, BFT and ambush phases, second in the overnight OP and CQBR phases and third in briefing, helicopter navigation and first aid. They were placed second overall in the competition.

REGIMENTAL MARCHING TEAM

Report by Sgt Eddie Widdes RAOC, The Team Captain

The Regimental Marching Team began the marching season by the successful completion of the (Gipfeld March) in Baden Baden which was hosted by the French Forces Germany. The march was followed by many other one day marches which were judged as good training for the 1978 Nijmegen Marches. On the 27 June the team travelled to Bastogne in Southern Belgium to take part in the four day march of Remembrance in honour of the battles, in the Ardennes area of Belgium. The team took part in a ceremony in Houfalizg and placed a wreath on the graves of the British Servicemen who died in that battle. This was followed by the Allied Rheindahlen Marches which was the final preparation to the great marching event of the year, the Nijmegen Marches.

BLISTERS ON DAY 3

This event took place between 16—21 July with the first days march beginning on the morning of the 18th, weather conditions were ideal and the atmosphere on this day was terrific with 25,000 marchers taking part. At the end of the day the team were still in first class condition. Day 2, we woke rather early due to the rain drumming on the roof of the tent and it remained rather wet for most of the day. This day was considered the hardest days march due to the seven hills, which caused a certain amount of panic to other teams but posed no problems to our team as most of our previous marches have been completed over mountainous country. Blister count after day three being 13 (one each).

CSO TAKES SALUTE

Day four started at 0300hrs with an early breakfast (Continental Cuisine), and on the road at 0400hrs. Being the final day the team spirit was at its highest despite the physical discomfort due to the previous three days march. At the end of the march the team changed into their best kit ready to take part in the final march past, through the centre of Nijmegen. This was the highlight of the march with over 500,000 people lining the streets. The Salute was taken by the CSO **Maj Gen Baldwin.** On arrival back at Huemnsoord Camp, the team was presented with the team award and individual medals.

There remained one more event for the team to take part in, this being the Blister Ball which they completed in exceedingly good spirits (and other refreshments).

ATHLETICS—GREAT CHALLENGE AT ARMY CHAMPIONSHIP

The regimental athletics squad ably led by **Lt Stan Young** started the 1978 Season with the aim to retain the Army Athletics Championship for the eighth time. The team started well by winning the Rhine Area Championship and followed this up by winning both the Morrison Cup and the BAOR Athletics Championship.

Our squad, which was our smallest in years, started off well at the Army Championships by winning the 5,000 metres A and B Strings. **Cpl Gerry Hegarty** easily the overall winner and **Sgt Pete Dring** timing his race well to win the B String in a canter. He later went on to win the Steeplechase.

It was obvious from the start that the opposition, namely the 1st Bn R Anglians and 1st Bn Irish Guards were very strong. The Regiment still working hard, were no match in the second part of the championships, with the 1st Bn R Anglians and 1st Bn Irish Guards forging ahead. With the championship out of the Regiment's grasp and the final event the 4 × 400 metre relay still to be run, our team showed tremendous heart and **Lt Stan Young** running in the final leg of the relay sounded a warning to all that thought that this was the end of athletics in 21 Sig Regt by coming from behind to win what was considered to be the best relay seen at Aldershot for many years.

To all our supporters over the victorious years we thank you and inform you that the athletes are determined to challenge again next season. The team say goodbye and good luck, and thank you to the following athletes: **Lt Stan Young, Cpl Gerry Hegarty, Sig Andy Foster, Cpl Bert Bycroft** and **LCpl Andy Robertson.**



21 SIG REGT—WINNERS 'MORRISON CUP 1978'

Front row (left to right): Sig A. Foster, Sig Murray, Sig Lincoln, Cpl Woods, LCpl Robertson, Lt Young, WO2 Baikie, Sgt Dring, Cpl Peaper, Cpl Staynings, Cpl Hegarty

Back row (left to right): Lt Leach, LCpl Pinchin, LCpl Aspin, LCpl Dale, Cpl Tissiman, LCpl Whittaker, Sgt Jones, Capt Lawson

PERSONALITY DEPARTS

This month sees the departure of one of the Regiment's personalities. **Cpl Joe Cagilaba** who, after 17 years service with the Corps, is returning to Suva, Fiji, to start his own chicken farm. After basic and trade training in Catterick he served with 8 Sig Regt as a draughtsman until September 1965. His next posting was to Headquarters Land Forces, Hong Kong, where as a Lance Corporal he saw service during the 1966 Hong Kong riots. Whilst in Hong Kong he played rugger for the Army, the Combined Services and Hong Kong Colony. He also equalled the Kong Kong Colony 100 metre sprint record.

In March 1968 he arrived in BAOR as a clerk and spent six years with 7 Sig Regt where, in 1972, he was promoted to Corporal. In February 1974 he was posted to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and was subsequently awarded the General Service Medal, Northern Ireland. He returned to BAOR in January 1976 and was posted to 21 Sig Regt as a clerk. We all wish **'Chicken Joe',** his wife **Akanisi,** and young daughter the very best of luck in the future and the Regiment look forward to the first of many free trays of Grade A eggs!

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REGIMENTAL SHOOTING

Maj Ken Goulding is having his usual spring attack of strange behaviour—lavishing praise on the window of some officers and muttering about others, to those in the know it merely means the shooting season has started. The Regiment's teams of sadists are duly selected and tortured by long runs carrying LMGs and SLRs, the strange part being there is never a lack of volunteers to join the squad. Despite placing spies, the attraction has not been discovered. At Rhine Area soaked to the skin, they were heard to reply to a question 'we are here because we enjoy it' and burst into fits of laughter.

The Regiment has entered the following meetings this year:—

NORTHAG Skill at Arms
Rhine Area Skill at Arms
Corps Skill at Arms
Area Skill at Arms, Bisley
National Meeting Bisley

RESULTS TO DATE:

NORTHAG

Inter Unit Team Challenge Shield:
Winners **28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)**
Runners Up **28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B Team**
Senior Rifle Championship:
Runner Up **Maj Ken Goulding**
Junior Rifle Championship:
Winner **Cpl Bill Knights**
Runner Up **Cpl Lofty Rankin**
Senior SMG Championship:
Winner **Maj Ken Goulding**
Runner Up **Capt Harry Ross**
Junior SMG Championship:
Winner **Cpl Jock Reith**
Runner Up **Cpl Bill Knights**
Individual Pistol Championship:
Winner **Capt Harry Ross**
Invitation Rifle Match:
Winners **28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B Team**
William Challenge Plate for Champion Shot of the Meeting:
Maj Ken Goulding

RHINE AREA SKILL AT ARMS

Champion Major Unit— **28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)**
Champion at Arms Runner Up—**Maj Ken Goulding**
SLR Match Winners—**28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)**
SMG Match Winners — **28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)**
Pistol Match 3rd — **28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)**
LMG Match 3rd— **28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG).**
LMG Match best class B pair — **LCpl Jenks Jenkins** and **Sig John Boddy.**

We now go forward to attempt to retain the Corps Championship won last year.

THE HERONS ANGLING CLUB

'The Herons' are now growing in numbers and strength. We have now qualified for the first leg of the Rhine Area fishing championship 1978, and we intend to win it. We will also attempt to retain the Biggest Fish Trophy won in the BAOR final last year by **Sgt Howard Loates** (who has now left us). In the past two months we have held our own club matches on various stretches of waters around Krefeld, where small trophies have been awarded, the winners being **Sgt Ben Hunter, Cpl 'Jaws' Johnson, LCpl Barrie Walker** and **Sig 'Geordie' Patterson.** The fishing is very good in this area and we have plenty of waters to choose from. Anyone being posted to the unit and intending to join our fishing club is advised to buy their kit in England as it is quite expensive over here in Germany.

We say farewell to **LCpl Barrie Walker** who will be joining the 'Rod and Reel' fishing club at 5 Field Force in Osnabrück, and we welcome **Sgt Brian Ramsden** our newest member of the club.

NSSG

HQ Sqn are the only British Sqn to win the NSSG Athletics from 840 Fernmelde Battalion, who have dominated the Athletics field within NORTHAG Signal Support Group. (Winners HQ Sqn 1976). Since 1970 (HQ Sqn Runners Up 1977).

Teams:
(NL) Signal Sqn
ASR Sqn
13 (BE) Cie TTr
4 Coys of 840 Bn
3 Sqns of 28 Signal Regt

HQ Sqn with their 'bionic' men such as **Cpl Eric Clark** (who entered eight events), **LCpl Nichols (ACC), LCpl Phil Welham, LCpl Alan Hills (REME), Cpl John Sharkey, LCpl Tussy Cameron, LCpl Mick Stacey (ACC),** caused many an upset with their speed and skills, but could not beat 840 (GE) Bn and yet again came runners up, though the Sqn won two trophies—Best overall Athletics and second NSSG Athletics.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER FETE

The Summer Fete was held on the Regimental Sports Field on Saturday, 3 June, the weather was on our side and it proved to be a most enjoyable day for all concerned, during the day, we had our version of 'It's a Knockout' with teams from 28, 840 Bn (GE), 13 (BE) TTr, and filling in for the Dutch who failed to arrive, were a team from the Officers Mess. The competition was won by the Regiment who received their trophies from the CO, **Lt Col T. R. Eamey.** The stalls made a handsome profit which is to be donated to various charities.

MOTOR RALLYING

The only representative of the Regiment at this sport, WO2 (SSM) **George Gay,** recently returned from Wales after servicing for the BAMA (BAOR) Team. 'Servicing' is a very loose term, it entails anything from change a gearbox to making sure the competing crews are fed and watered at pre-selected service points.

More recently, he returned from Scotland after competing in the 33rd International Scottish Rally. Selection for this annual event is based on efforts made during the previous British Army Motoring Association (BAMA) season in Germany. There were a total of 12 Landrovers competing in the event, following names like **Roger Clark, Tony Pond** etc around the 1,250 mile course. His first problems were encountered before arrival in Scotland! Staying overnight at Catterick it was noticed that the gearbox was losing oil, and on inspection, a hairline fracture was found in the casing. A new gearbox was obtained and installed by his service crew, with limited assistance from him. (Holding the spanners!) Apart from the vehicle rolling over on the 50th special stage and a crack in the chassis after hitting a rock, there were no more problems, and he successfully completed the course finishing third in his class.

VISIT OF DWRAC

Brig A. Field visited the Regiment on 1 June 1978. During her visit she presented LS and GC Medals to **WO2 Gerry Sullivan, SSgts Paddy Black** and **Stewart Waring** and **Sgt Bill Quinlan.** The photograph shows DWRAC, the recipients and their wives.



From *left to right:* SSgt Black, WO2 (FofS) Sullivan, Mrs Sullivan, Brig A. Field, Mrs Quinlan, Sgt Quinlan, Mrs Waring, SSgt Waring

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

FAR AND NEAR

The recent 'capers' of 30 Sig Regt have taken us (or rather, some of us) as far afield as Bermuda on exercise. More about that later, but it deserves special mention that the Adjutant, **Capt Bob West,** actually strayed from his desk to visit the exercise. We haven't seen him since but we are assured by the Assistant Adjutant, **Lt Vikki Evans** WRAC, that he is safe and sound in Italy by now and she has postcards to prove it—a likely story! Never mind, she has been travelling too, all the way to sunny Yorkshire to visit our lads at the Catterick Army Show. A detachment ably led by **SSgt Hodge** spent a week in Catterick at the Show running a display of Heavy Radio equipment. The main item of interest was a circuit working to HMS *Ajax* at sea, which attracted large crowds. The stand was a great success thanks to the hard work of **SSgt Hodge** and his 'merry crew'.

SUCCESSFUL SPORTS DAY

The Regimental Sports Day was held on Wednesday 26 July, 1978. Luckily, the weather was warm and sunny which brought many families along for the afternoon . The sporting prowess of 2 Squadron was brought to the fore as they took the lead, early in the afternoon, followed closely by 1 Squadron. The serious competition was lightened by some novelty races for the wives and children and a chain of command race. Finally, after a very pleasant afternoon the CO's wife, **Mrs Marion Byng,** presented the prizes to the individual winners and the overall winners, 2 Squadron.

1 SQUADRON REPORT

The Wire Notes this month are written by **Sgt Mick Reynolds** who, besides having to cope with this task, is also acting SSM whilst the Regiment is on block leave.

The Squadron has just returned from Ex *Sandy Roads* in Bermuda which was OC **Major Pat Kington's** first exercise since taking over. It was a Contingency Communications Exercise which involved a fully integrated set-up with all three services manning the Commcen. It was a standard deployment requiring four Hercules aircraft and one VC10 all of which landed in Bermuda on time (just for a change). The comms site was a disused seaplane base many inches thick in concrete which required the judicious use of 'Kangol' pneumatic hammers for mast erection. Initially propagation was a problem whilst working to Commcen Stanbridge but the big magic wand prevailed and we were able to communicate with much success to Commcen Whitehall and then, finally, Gibraltar. The ACL circuit to Gander proved its reliability as did the ICL station which was manned by 2 Sqn. The latter also proved its mobility when, on the first day, it had to be re-sited. Det Commander **Sgt Stan** (he's got lovely teeth) **Howard** and his more than able 2IC **Cpl Brian Spencer** were a bit put out, to say the least, when their Rover refused to start and had to be pushed to the new location.

VISITORS ON FILM

During the exercise, the Governor, His Excellency **Sir Peter Ramsbottom** visited the site and met the members of Bravo shift in and around the Commcen, all of which was captured on film by, first, the local TV cameras and secondly by our very own Regimental Yeoman of Signals **WO1 Jim Ross** who was heading the Standards Team covering the exercise. Other visits to the site were by **Air Commodore Williams** from UKCICC and the CO 30 Sig Regt, **Lt Col A. B. Byng,** who arrived in a cloud of dust on his hired moped.

BY MOPED

On the recreational side our resident 'bootneck' **Sgt Ken Ryan** RM, the expert on sub-aqua training, was attempting (and almost succeeding) to drown everyone who took part before eventually graduating to 'bottles and flippers'. During other off duty periods the 'in' thing was the hiring of mopeds to tour the island which wouldn't have taken long if it hadn't been for the 20 mph maximum speed limit which existed throughout the island. So we were successful in boosting the profits of at least one hire firm. The Chefs, **Sgt Nigel Collinson** and **Cpl Derek** (Put it Back) **Smith** are worthy of a mention as they did us proud with their BBQs which were highly successful and helped keep morale at its highest or was that something to do with 'Harvey Wallbanger' which kept us in a Utopian mood anyway, (so I'm told).

Finally, whilst waiting for the other half of the Squadron to return from Ex *Heron Bill 8* in Cyprus we welcome **Capt John Byrne, Lt Gerry Corbet** and **WO2 SSM Jack Blackburn** and hope their stay will be a happy one with the one Squadron.



The Governor, His Excellency Sir Peter Ramsbottom, meets LCpls Willie Ireland and Booth with Sgt Pete Rogers in the background and Maj Pat Kington (far right)

2 SQUADRON REPORT

Ex Griffin 1 took place on Salisbury Plain between 5 and 9 June. The following snatches of conversation were overheard by our roving correspondent during the exercise:

Item 1. A certain 2Lt (on loan) was heard to ask of a certain Hairy Line Sgt, **Sgt John Luck,** 'How can I get some buttered rolls from the Admin area to the Ops area?'

Answer: 'Have you tried a catapult Sir?'

Item 2. Comd 1 Sig Gp to SSM (after being informed that the correct dress for the day was pullover order).

Q. Why is that man in shirt sleeve order?
A. Because he is hot Sir. (Thinks good answer.)
Q. Why is that man in full combat kit?
A. Because he is cold Sir. (Still holding his own.)
Q. Why is **Mrs Baird** (lady civilian driver) wearing a dress?
A. I'll work on that Sir!

Ex *Plastic Chicken* took place on SPTA on 12—13 July 1978. The aim was to practice the Squadron in patrol skills with additional aspects in the IS, NBC and command and control fields. Thanks to **SSM Terry Dodson,** on the night phase and his Schermuly Flare demonstration, the OC **Maj Owen Lewis** and **Lt T. Rimell** managed to miss most of the rabbits they were spotting (that's their story: the truth is the rabbits spotted them first.) Congratulations to **Cpl Tony Freeman** who led this final attack as platoon commander, a well accomplished end to an excellent performance by all concerned. The exercise apart from being serious training was enjoyed by almost all those who took part except for maybe **LCpl** (I don't need a sleeping bag) **Jock Ruthven,** and one or two other hard cases who discovered that 'Holes, hand dug, sleeping, shelter, complete with poncho', are not sufficient to keep the SPTA cold out of the marrow. Although SPTA was somewhat less exotic than 2 Suadron's usual exercise areas, at least those who went were prevented from going mad?!

The Squadron offers its congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Rothwell** who was presented with the LS & GC, in recognition of (at least) 18 years undetected crime! Congratulations also go to **Lt Tim Rimell** who 'took the plunge' on 22 July, and got married, we wish every success and happiness to him and his wife **Marie.**

The Squadron bids farewell to **Capt John MacLeod,** who by now should be in Cyprus—that is if his car did not break down en route—and in his place welcomes **Lt Nick Thompson** as Squadron 2IC. Farewells also go to **Cpl MacMillan** and his wife and to **LCpl Stevie Morgan,** we hope you all enjoy your new units.

3 SQUADRON REPORT

Exercise 'Norman Quest'

The Regiment was invited by the President of the States of Alderney to send an honour guard of lancemen and the Corps Band to the island for the Queen's visit. This was to be the now annual visit to the island which adopted the Regiment in 1971.

Getting There

The movement plan, as written, was simplicity in itself (after much hard work!) and involved two RAF support helicopters and a 50ft hovercraft. What happened was somewhat different. Only one helicopter was serviceable and this arrived somewhat later than expected. The hovercraft was another story. As the captain divulged later the craft is designed for inshore/estuary type operations; being based on a catamaran type structure with rigid side walls containing the propellors and flexible, inflated bow and stern skirts providing the hover lift. The fact that we sailed in conditions gusting over force 4, says it all. None of this smooth floating sensation characteristic of the cross-channel ferry craft, more like riding a bucking bronco. It was a long (six hours) agonising and sometimes quite frightening journey for most of the party. Two sailings were required to ferry the entire party and on the last leg, six miles off Alderney and in ½ mile visibility, the radar stopped working (part of the craft's skirt fell off too, but we weren't told of this until safely on land!) As we bobbed up and down whilst several military minds applied their skills to repairing the valve set ('What's a valve?' asked one youngster), a super-tanker was seen looming rather close out of the mist and just as quietly loomed back into it again.

THE GREAT DAY

The Queen's visit was a success and the lancemen, **Sgt Jones, Cpls Harvey, Smedley, LCpls Fry, Jones, Murton, Sigs Ball, Callaghan, Holliday, Rowley, Steven** and **Taylor,** were much photographed. The Band added colour and pageantry to the occasion, and drew local amused comment by playing 'Jesus Christ Superstar' as the Royal Party stepped on to Alderney from the Royal Barge.

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Arthur Byng** was presented to Her Majesty The Queen, and in the evening he and his wife, **Mrs Marion Byng** were honoured to attend a reception aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, along with some of the Alderney residents.



The Commanding Officer, Lt Col A. B. Byng, is presented to Her Majesty The Queen

The island looked beautiful, the buildings having been freshly painted, and our hosts the islanders made us most welcome. The soldiers camped by a sandy beach and some actually braved the freezing Channel. As the pubs in Alderney tend to shut when the last person leaves, or 1.30am, a good time was had by all.

And Home Again

The return trips were less eventful, and quicker for hovercraft passengers with the final trip taking just under three hours even though a piece of torn skirt fouled the propellor on the way. The visit to Alderney was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

EVERY MODERN COMFORT

On Saturday 17 June 1978 the Regiment along with the other two Regiments of 11 Signal Group sailed or flew to the continent for Exercise *Calm Fence* 1978. The Regiment moved firstly into Chievres air base near Mons in Belgium, where the Camp had been set up by the advance party led by the Training Major, **Maj Tim Hallchurch.**

On the night of 19 June the Regiment moved from Chievres into its first location near Cologne. For many of the newer members of the Regiment this was the first experience of living in the field for any length of time, and the originality of some of the shower units rigged up among the trees was excellent. The LAD produced an excellent example with electrically heated water, while HQ Squadron's effort, by no means as sophisticated was just as effective.

ON THE MOVE

After a brief period, the Regiment then deployed to various locations in Holland, Belgium and Germany, stretching from SHAPE at Mons, the Ardennes, the Eiffel Mountains and near Krefeld in Germany.

During this period the Regiment was privileged to receive many important and distinguished visitors including DSACEUR **Gen Sir Harry Tuzo,** the SO in C **Maj Gen Anderson, Maj Gen Richter** and **Brig Bohannen** from SHAPE and **Brig Gen Nolzen** from AFCENT.

Various elements of the Regiment were also overflown by an Army Air Corps Scout helicopter, spraying us with something unpleasant by way of an NBC attack and the speed of putting on Noddy Suits and respirators when the need really arises has to be seen to be believed. **RSM Keith Childs,** the owner of the only yellow Chinagraph pencil for miles around, had the enviable task of writing names on the labels on the noddy suits of those not yet 'named'—a task he refused to delegate.

On 22 June **Brig Ghika,** Chief of Staff London District, visited us as part of our Annual Fitness for Role assessment and we also welcomed Commander 11 Signal Group (Designate), **Brig Curl.**



DSACEUR, Gen Sir Harry Tuzo, meets Sgt Cordingly of the LAD



Maj Gen Richter, DACOS CANDE at SHAPE is shown the QM department in the field. *Left to right:* The Adjutant Capt Gordon Giles, OC HQ Sqn, Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones, Maj Gen Richter and the QM Capt Philip Noble



Visit of Brig Gen Nolzen from AFCENT. *Left to right:* Maj Peter Mather OC 83 Sqn, WO2 Steve Bland SSM 83 Sqn, Brig Nolzen, Col Schroeder Germany Army, Col Donald Crawford from UKLF and the CO, Lt Col John Brian



The ADWRAC BAOR Lt Col Shirley Nield talks to Cpl Irene Mead, Pte Lindsey Woods and Pte Jackie Maddox

NEW ANGLE

The Regiment was also privileged to receive visits from the Chairman of the Greater London Council, **Lt Col Mote,** the Mayor of Harrow, **Cllr Barry Turner** and the MP for Harrow East, **Mr Hugh Dykes MP. Brig Rose,** our Group Commander, visited us in a Belgian Helicopter and during his visit the pilot flew several members of the Regiment over the location to examine their efforts at camouflage from the air. Those who had not flown before were very impressed, **Pte Ann Corrigan** saying she no longer wants a car—only a helicopter would be good enough in future.



Outside the Regimental Command Post the Mayor and Councillors from Harrow and the Chairman of the Greater London Council during the visit escorted by Maj Don Grocott, OC 47 Sqn. Standing next to Maj Grocott is Lt Col Mote, Chairman of the Greater London Council. On the left is the Mayor of Harrow, Councillor Barry Turner



About to take off in a Belgian Army Allouette Helicopter: Pte Anne Corrigan, The Medical Officer (now Maj) Mike O'Connor, Sig McNeil

R and R

After a successful exercise we drove back to Chievres to relax for a couple of days after the hard work in the field.

The Officers Mess held a cocktail party for all the officers who had helped the Regiment before and during the exercise, while the Warrant Officers and SNCOs held a similar function in a local Inn.

Both parties tended to overflow towards the end of the evening, with some of the Seniors entertaining the officers to Christmas Carols. Most of the officers and Seniors then joined the juniors of the Regiment in the hostelry outside the gates at Chievres where we discovered that **LCpl Brian Lowe** has a good physique and our Australian MO, **Capt (now Major) Mike O'Connor** donated an article of his apparrel to the landlord for posterity.



The cocktail party at Chievres. Four Commanding Officers of the Regiment. *Left to right:* Lt Col Bev Austin, CO Designate, Col John Eversfield, CO 1973-75, Col Donald Crawford, CO 1971-73 and Lt John Brian, CO 1975-78

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Exercise *Calm Fence* was the last exercise in the army for **Lt Col John Brian** who has now handed over command of the Regiment to **Lt Col Bev Austin.** The best wishes from the Regiment are sent to **John** and **Barbara Brian** and family for their future in Civilian Life. The Regiment also says farewell to **SSgt Jim Lycett, Sgt David Harman** and **Sig Richard Ward** and we welcome the new Chief Clerk, **SSgt Dave Brough,** also **Sgts Barry Clough** and **Barry Roberts** and **LCpl David Nell** who are doing their last six months in the army with the Regiment. the Regiment.

Editors note: All photographs in this article by courtesy of Maj T. T. Hallchurch.

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

THE NIJMEGEN MARCHES

Report by Lt Graham H. Stowe

It had seemed like a good idea at the time. **SSgt Padden,** PSI to 59 Sqn, had said 'What about us going to Nijmegen for the four day marches?' 'Of course we will,' I said, like a lamb to the slaughter. 250 training miles later and much wiser and not a little anxious about the ordeal ahead, we left for Nijmegen on 15 July, with a team from 59 Sqn plus **WO2 Gouldson,** APTC of HQ Squadron (included not so much for his fitness but because of his knowledge of marching songs!).

NOTABLE SEND OFF

We had decided to obtain sponsorship for the marches to raise £1,000 to buy and train a guide dog for the blind. It was nonetheless a pleasant surprise to be seen off by representatives of the Guide Dogs for the Blind and by **Lord and Lady Pilkinton,** who were, amongst the many, kind enough to sponsor each team member. We arrived at Nijmegen at Sunday lunchtime in our heavily loaded minibus after a very pleasant crossing from Hull, courtesy of North Sea Ferries. We would have been in Nijmegen sooner had not the 'OC party' found it necessary to make a full circuit of Rotterdam before he grasped that BAOR road maps are different to Ordnance Survey in UK!



Lady Pilkington and Mr Peter B. Frost, North West Regional Organiser of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and his wife, mustered with the Regimental Team prior to leaving for Nijmegen

ON THE MOVE

We managed to find room in our 100 man tent and find time in the afternoon to visit Arnhem and Oosterbeck. Monday was given over to the interminable registration procedure and to visit Nijmegen and Kleve. It took a little time to adjust to the geography of the camp containing 7,000 troops of many nationalities. However, our fears about toilet and washing facilities were ill founded and the administration was excellent given the circumstances. (I wish the same could be said for breakfast and lunch—we did try and convince the team that this was part of the 'magic of Nijmegen'!)

Tuesday, at 0600 hrs, saw us moving out of the camp for the first day's march. We were astonished to see the numbers of spectators who had already gathered to applaud us on our way and it was the first indication of the enthusiasm aroused by the marches amongst the Dutch. The day was very hot and we marched at a very easy pace, with plenty of stops and lots of beer! **LCpl Harwood** began his routine of humour and singing that was to enliven the next four days (comment on passing a loud bird scarer in a cherry orchard—'that's frightening the birds so much they are bringing last year's fruit back!'). The Dutch populace was also left in no doubt as to which football team are 'Champions of Europe'.

LONG AND TEDIOUS

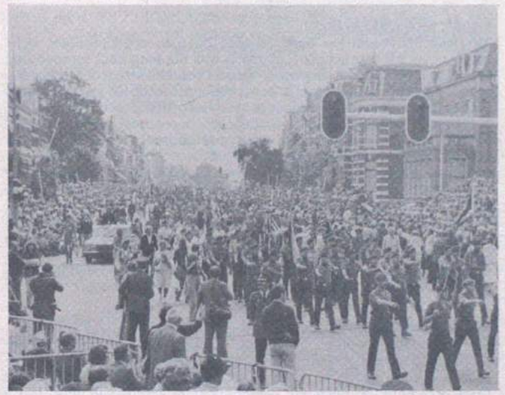
The second day was long and tedious as the route lay through many country lanes. There were few villages to raise morale and for the major part of the day we marched separately from the civilians. One image remains from this day however, and that is the sight of dozens of marching teams, flags flying, spread over miles of road, as far as the eye could see. It conjured visions of how armies of the past must have looked when on the march. The day reached a suitable climax when we were met at the Camp gates by a Canadian Piper and a band which accompanied us to the finish.

THE RAIN AND THE HILLS

The third day was the day of the rain and the hills (who said Holland was flat!). It was enlivened however, by meeting the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe,** and all in all the day went better than we hoped. We finished at 1300hrs and thus were able to get plenty of rest before the final effort.

MET BY CSO

Friday, the final day, saw us queuing at 0345hrs to leave the camp. We eventually departed at 0400 and marched without a break until 0800 when we crossed the specially built pontoon bridge across the Waal to the rest centre on the other side. Here we met **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** CSO BAOR, who was kind enough to agree to be photographed with us. We marched on to Nijmegen, finishing at 1150 hours.



THE FINAL REVIEW—DAY 4
The first British Army contingent, among which is the 33 Signal Regiment Team, prepares to pass the saluting base

UNFORGETTABLE

We were only left now to complete the march into Nijmegen. As we were the fifth British team to finish, we marched fifth behind the band of the Royal Fusiliers. Over 100,000 people watched the march into Nijmegen and it was an unforgettable experience. The salute was taken by **Maj Gen Baldwin** who was no doubt delighted to see four Royal Signals teams in the first 10.

Although bed was chosen on Friday evening in preference to the celebrations in the town, we were well content. We achieved the coveted team medal, one second year medal, 10 first time medals and last, but not least, a cycle orderly's medal. Thus ended the regiment's first attempt at Nijmegen. Of course, we are going again!

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.

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

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Regiment has had a hectic three months in which the main event has been a change in command. We welcome **Lt Col David Jolly** and his wife **Avril,** from the Queen's Ghurka Signals and say farewell to **Lt Col Colin Beadle** and his wife **Jill,** after a happy and successful tour. **Colonel Colin** was traditionally dined out by all the messes: the Regimental Officers, the WOs and Sergeants, and the messes at 49 (WR) and 50 (N) Squadrons. **Colonel Colin** must have been wondering where it would all end as he (the boss of Northern Sailboats Ltd) was carried from the WOs and Sergeants Mess in a canoe!



Lt Col Colin Beadle hanging his picture in the CO's portrait gallery, with the new CO Lt Col David Jolly

FAREWELL, WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

We have also said goodbye to three other long serving officers: **Maj Graham Mitchell, TD,** an ex-2IC of the Regiment who has gone to the USA for a three year tour with his firm: **Maj Lee Tibbs, TD, WRAC (V)** our late senior ma'am after more years of service both regular and TAVR than most of us would care to remember, and **Maj Dorothy Clark, TD, WRAC (V)** another long-serving officer and ex-senior ma'am, with rather a reputation as a rifle woman. We shall miss them all, and wish them every success in the future.

We are also pleased to welcome our new padre, the **Rev Alan Hughes** and his wife **Susan. Alan,** who has had regular service before becoming ordained, joins us from 205 (Scottish) General Hospital RAMC (V) in Scotland.

Our sincere congratulations go to **Mrs Marion Towers,** our caretaker at Harewood Barracks, Leeds, the home of our 49 (WR) Sqn, on the award by the CinC UKLF of the Certificate of Highly Meritorious Service, which was presented by **Maj Gen H. G. Woods, MBE, MC, MA, GOC NOREDIST.**



Mrs Marion Towers with Gen Woods

Gen Woods was also a welcome visitor to RHQ, HQ and 90 (NR) Sqns at Middlesbrough on 11 April, 1978, where he took the opportunity of meeting with and talking to many of our volunteers.

GROUP COMMANDER'S VISIT

On 13 June our Group Commander, **Brig Ronnie Stonham** visited RHQ, 90 (NR) and HQ Sqns, and presented medals to 10 members of the regiment: TDs to **Maj John Douglas,** OC 50 (N) Sqn and **Capt David Bodycombe,** 2IC 50 (N) Sqn; first clasps to the TAVR Efficiency Medal to **WO2 (RQMS) Harry Bent** (HQ Sqn), **WO2 (RQMS) David Richardson** (HQ Sqn), **SSgt Tony Gallagher** (50 Sqn) and **SSgt John Jones** (50 Sqn); the Efficiency Medal to **Sgt David Bailey** (90 Sqn); LS & GC Medals to two of our PSIs, **SSgt Martin Bienvenu** and **Sgt Peter Farrar,** and the General Service Medal with clasps for South Arabia and Northern Ireland to **LCpl Michael Ford.**



Front row *left to right:* WO2 Harry Bent, Maj John Douglas, Brig Ronnie Stonham, Capt David Bodycombe, WO2 David Richardson. Back row *left to right:* SSgt Martin Beinvenu, SSgt Tony Gallagher, Sgt John Jones, Sgt Peter Farrar, Sgt Dave Bailey, LCpl Michael Ford

TRAINING AT SCARBOROUGH AND HARROGATE

Life in 34, however, has not been just one social whirl: training too has been very much to the fore, with regimental trade training at Scarborough and Harrogate: regimental and squadron exercises; the 12 Group Study weekend; the NOREDIST Skill at Arms meeting and the officers promotion exams. Our congratulations to **Capt Kenneth Glenville, Capt Charles Bland** and **Lt Raymond Clifford** on passing their respective exams. And then there have been all the normal chores like stocktaking boards, audits and inspections which make up the life of an active T & AVR unit. In all these activities, including the social functions, we are sometimes inclined to forget our ACC cooks, who do a sterling job—more often than not understaffed and overworked. Our thanks to them, along with the other important and equally unsung heroes, the UPM and his pay staff.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death of **LCpl Jim Neish** of 50 (N) Sqn. **Jim Neish** was an ex-regular lineman who, no doubt, will be known to many serving members of the Corps. Since leaving the Corps, **Jim** had built his life round his family and the TAVR. He will be sorely missed and our deepest sympathy go to his wife **Maxine** and young daughter **Tracy.**

FUNDS FOR SSAFA

It is perhaps appropraite that at this point we should mention SSAFA. In April we helped **Lady Gisborough** and the Cleveland SSAFA committee to run a most successful 'family party' at our Brambles Farm TAC, which raised £337.87p.

GERMANY BOUND

And now we look forward to a successful annual camp in Germany, for which we are busy preparing. Life's rarely dull in the TAVR: any regulars 'coming out' and planning to settle down in the West Riding, Teesside and the North East please note. We'd love to see you.

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

HIGHLIGHT OF THE CALENDAR

There have been occasions in the past when news has been fairly scarce, this is certainly not one of them—even the most reluctant 'correspondent' would lick his lips at the thought of such a wide choice. This is why when the 2IC **Maj David Moore** TD sidled up to me as I was quietly smoking my pipe contemplating nothing in particular on board the North Sea Ferries Norstar returning from Camp and said, 'We have not been featured in the Wire recently. You had a nice quiet number doing PR at Camp, how about writing a short report about Camp and Exercise *Canary Caper*'—I choked back my indignation and capitulated with barely a word of protest.

The bi-annual camp on the Continent is the highlight of the Regimental Calendar; and towards which all of our training is directed. No sooner does the Regiment return from one Exercise in BAOR, than planning is set in motion for the next visit, and so it was on Saturday 17 June the Regiment, under the Command of **Lt Col K. R. Smith** TD set out from six TAVR Centres located throughout the West Midlands for Annual Camp in Germany—the sixth since the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve was formed from the elements of the disbanded TA and AER in 1967.

LAND, SEA AND AIR

This year 325 volunteers made the trip, 280 men and 45 women, some travelled by Air but for the majority it was the long haul by road and sea with vehicles and equipment. Vehicle casualties were few this year, as our ageing K9s are rapidly being replaced by MKs and TKs, and judging by the knowing looks as they towed off B3B to workshops, the breakers yard had claimed yet one more veteran of many a TAVR Campaign. A scene witnessed with undisguised sadness by its 'co driver' **Capt Sandy Livingstone,** OC Bravo (HF) Troop, who had ambitious plans for the old girl at Camp. Another near casualty of the Rugby contingent was **Sgt** Technician **Gordon Ferguson,** who when he came to change into his combat kit, found that his wife **Sgt Pat Ferguson,** a Data Telegraphist, had beaten him to it and had set off beforehand wearing his trousers, leaving him desperately trying to fathom out why his pants had shrunk in the night! What he said to his wife cannot be repeated, but the joke must have worn a bit thin by the time the Road Party reached Hull.

GENEROUS HOSTS

Thanks to the generous hospitality of our hosts, 28 Sig Regt, the Regiment was not faced with providing the large tented base camp as in previous years, which was just as well. Exercise *Canary Caper* apart from stretching the Regiment communication wise to the limit, was a real test of our NBC preparedness with an NBC team from the Joint Services NBC School, Winterbourne Gunner and Chemical Warfare Establishment Porton Down evaluating the training given by our NBC Officer **Capt 'Nick' Chandler.**

WHAT ITS ALL ABOUT

The threat of war always exists and it would be foolish for Volunteers to believe otherwise. The Reserve Army is helping to offset that threat by playing a vital role in Britain's Commitment to NATO. If the TAVR is to be taken seriously (and it has its critics at home and abroad), it is up to units like 35 Sig Regt (V) to show our allies (and would be aggressors) that we are a force to be reckoned with, who will do a good job if the need arises.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Perhaps this accounted for the number and calibre of our distinguished visitors. Annual Camp usually attracts a variety of visitors, but this year the Regiment had no less than six Generals; two of them 'Four Star'. Heading the list was the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe **Gen Sir Harry Tuzo** GCB OBE (**Gen Haif** was to have paid a visit but was called to the USA on urgent business). **Gen Tuzo** paid a flying visit to Switch 'Charlie 3', taking time off to talk to **Sgt (FofS) 'Bob' Blunn** and his colleagues in the TTC; **Capt** (Traffic Officer) **Charles Brotherton** and several volunteers on shift in the TRC, **Lt Yvonne Claridge, Sgt Pat Ferguson, Cpl Helen Gardner, Pte Cheryl Martin** and **Pte Linda Howat.** He also 'squeezed' in a visit to Sierra Troop's multiplexing vehicle, where he spoke to **Sgt Joe Durber, Sig Bill Pickin** and **Sig Peter Edge.**

Even though it was a lightning visit we were extremely pleased to see the D/SACFUR, and just as pleased to welcome the Commander NORTHAG and CinC BAOR **Sir Frank King** GCB MBE, who fortunately was able to spend more time with us. Being an Infanteer he was particularly interested in our Defence Platoon led by **Lt Ivan Armstrong,** taking time to talk to **LCpls John Henderson** and **Richard Doyle,** and **Sig Andrew Taylor** and **Paul Lewis,** as well as giving



EXERCISE *CANARY CAPER* ANNUAL CAMP GERMANY 17 JUNE-1 JULY 1978

Left to right: No 2 (RQMS) 'Dante' Brenni, Sgt Gordon Simpson, No 2 (SSM) Jack Chambers. Talking to Gen Sir Frank King during his visit to the Regiment

exclusive 15 minute interviews to our visiting Press Men from the UK, **David Leake** (Staffordshire Evening Sentinel) and **Richard Garner** (Birmingham Evening Mail). Other distinguished visitors included the SO-in-C **Maj Gen A. A. Anderson,** who incidentally spent a considerable time talking to the Commanding Officer and **Maj** (TOT) **Alec Peebles** TD. (In view of the fact that **Alec Peebles** never stopped running for the whole Exercise, we can only assume the CO must have anchored him down for the discussion.)

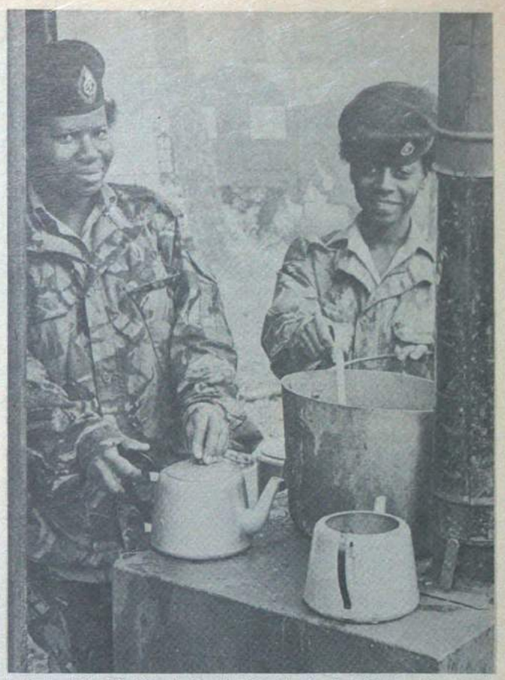
The Chief Signal Officer BAOR **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin;** the Chief of Staff NORTHAG **Maj Gen K. Van-Der Osten;** ACOS (C and E Division) **Col Shultz** and the Commander of 11 Sig GP **Brian Ian Rose,** who being our 'UK Boss' had a vested interest in our activities—for besides being involved in Exercise *Canary Caper* we had direct links with the remainder of XI Group—31 and 33 Sig Regts on Exercise *Calm Fence.*

On the other hand one could hardly call our new German 'Boss' **Col Peter Poschwatta** a visitor; as the new Commander of NSSG we were visiting him—and he paid us the compliment of welcoming the Regiment when we arrived in Germany and congratulating us for a very successful Exercise before we departed. Old campaigners will know such things are relative—the real barometers to the success or otherwise of an Exercise is the attitude adopted by the CO and RSM afterwards. If they are content the rest of the Regiment should be content—if they are not, look out. Suffice to say **Lt Col Smith** was last seen wreathed in smiles and the RSM **WO1 Joe Albon** was positively beaming.



THE MEDICAL TEAM AT ANNUAL CAMP

Left to right: Cpl Kathleen Jackson, Capt Maurice Lowe (Doctor), LCpl Andrea Blackford, Sgt Gordon Lovegrove. The Regiment is currently without a Doctor and Capt Lowe, having served in that capacity in the past, handed over his country practice in Shropshire to his partner and came out of retirement for 15 days to resume his duties as MO. Sgt Lovegrove is civilian employed as a Driver in the Regiment and LCpl Blackford is married and her husband is a Sergeant in the Regiment



Left to right: Pte Marcia Marsh, Pte Stephanie Gibbons. Pte Marsh lives in Sparkhill, Birmingham, and is training to be a Secretary. Pte Gibbons lives in Sparkbrook and works in a launderette. Both have served with the Regiment for two years. 'Two bashful cooks at Switch'



'TECHS AT WORK'

Left to right: Cpl Hugh Phillips, Sgt Gordon Ferguson (both from Rugby). Seen here testing cable connections outside the TCC ACC. Besides working together in the TAVR, they also work for the same German firm 'Delko' as UK Service/Maintenance Engineers

A SAD NOTE

We end this contribution on a sad note. Working alongside many of our permanent staff and volunteers at Switch and Echelon were a number of members of the Mobile Civilian Labour Group, among them 39 years old **Jurgen Belv,** who worked in Echelon. Jurgen collapsed and died the day before we left Germany. It came as a great shock and we felt it would be inappropriate to end these notes without paying our respects and extending a word of sympathy to his family and colleagues.

ON THE BALL
Finally no Wire Notes could possibly be complete without mentioning **Sig Ronald Jones,** the most talked about man at Camp. At about 0130 on Saturday 24 June 1978 **Sig John Lythe,** a member of an X-Ray Troop Detachment of 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron deployed at Ludinghausen, spotted flames leaping from 4/6 Graf-Wedal Strasse, approximately 70 metres from where the Detachment vehicles were located, and promptly alerted the remainder of the Detachment who quickly raced to the scene. By that time the local Fire Brigade were beginning to arrive, and so whilst the majority of the X-Ray Troop Detachment and their German liaison NCO, Cpl Charlie Brand (840 Signal Battalion) set about helping the firemen tackle the blaze, attend to the needs of the displaced residents, and generally making themselves useful; **SSgt** (PSI) **Eric Rose** (now WOII with London University OTC) and **Sig Ronald Jones,** a self employed carpenter from Shrewsbury, on learning from her mother, **Astrid Hagenhues,** who herself was trying to re-enter, that ten week old **Ariane** was still in the house, searched the building from top to bottom, closing all doors and windows as they went, until finally **Sig Jones** found **'Ariane'** asleep in her cot, and carried her outside to safety.

WELCOME SUPPLEMENT
The Detachment's commendable efforts did not go unrewarded. Apart from receiving praise from the residents and the local Fire Brigade Chief, the grateful family kept the lads supplied with strawberries and cream and pancakes for the remainder of the Exercise—a welcome relief from normal 'Compo' rations. To mark the occasion and show their appreciation, the lads reciprocated by presenting baby **'Ariane'** with a silver locket and chain before leaving Ludinghausen.



Press photograph taken by the German newspaper 'Westfaelische Nachrighten'. *Left to right:* Astrid Hagenhues (mother), 10-week-old Ariane, Sig 'Ron' Jones, SSgt John Barker (Tp Staff Sergeant), SSgt (now WO2) Eric Rose (outgoing PSI), SSgt Denis Glanville (incoming PSI), Sig John Lythe



89 SIG SQN (V)—ORIENTEERING (A UNIQUE COLLECTION?)
A delay in engraving meant that 89 Sig Sqn (V), Rugby, had their unique collection of Orienteering Trophies together for a whole three days only prior to the 1978 West Midland District Competition.

The team, consisting of **Maj Bob Titterington, Capt Sandy Livingstone** and **Lt Terry Phillips** won all five Orienteering Team Competitions open to them last year. The photograph shows them with:

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Team Shield West Midland District/Wales Team Cup Royal Signals TAVR Team Trophy Royal Signals Team Shield TAVR Relay Team Trophy.

Can this achievement be repeated?—Well, not by 89 Squadron in 1978, because two hours after this photograph was taken, they were beaten into second place by Birmingham University OTC in the District Competition!



The two Honour Guards await the arrival of the Inspection Party *Photo: Sheffield Newspapers Ltd*

A BIG DAY—
Thirty years ago a number of wooden huts, which had seen service throughout the Second World War at an Anti-Aircraft gun site at Leeds, were moved to Sheffield and re-erected on top of an old coal mine. Their purpose was to provide temporary accommodation for 323 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (TA). Fourteen years later they were providing temporary accommodation on the same site for 64 Sig Regt (TA), and continued to do so when that Regiment amalgamated with 46 (North Midland) Sig Regt (TA) in 1967 to form 38 Sig Regt (V). Their 'temporary' function ceased on Saturday, 15 July 1978, when Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire officially opened a new purpose built Training Centre, on an adjacent site, for the RHQ, Support Group, LAD and 64 (Sheffield) Sig Sqn of 38 Sig Regt (V).

PREVIOUS COs SEE OPENING CEREMONY
Having waited so long for modern accommodation, the Regiment's 'Tykes' were determined that this day should be a day to remember. At precisely 11.10 am on a fine summer morning the Corps Band led two honour guards through the gates of the old Centre to the music of 'The Great Little Army', up the Hurlfield Road and into the sight of over six hundred spectators. Among this crowd of friends, families and guests were three previous Commanding Officers of the Regiment, **Col Peter Garratt, Col John Francis** and **Col Ken Gill,** as well as previous Commanding Officers of 46 (North Midland) Sig Regt (TA) and 64 Sig Regt (TA), **Col Leslie Wright** and **Col Ron Long.** The parade halted, right dressed and was ready to receive a succession of prominent guests, including Commander 2 Sig Gp, **Brig A. L. Dowell,** accompanied by **Mrs. Dowell,** the Master Cutler and Mistress Cutler, and the Lord Mayor of Sheffield with the Lady Mayoress.

At 11.30 am Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (**Gerard Young Esq. CBE**) arrived, together with the GOC North East District (**Maj Gen H. G. Woods** MBE, MC, MA) and the Chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside TAVR Association, and received a general salute from the two honour guards. The inspection of the Parade was followed by a presentation of medals; the Territorial Decoration to **Maj Mike Francis** and **Capt Mike Wright,** and the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **Sgt Harry Elliott** and **Cpl Gerry Gillott.**

LORD LIEUTENANT ADDRESSES PARADE
The Chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside TAVR Association (**Col L. Turnbull,** CBE, MC, TD, JP, DL) then invited Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant formally to open the new Centre. **Mr. Gerard Young** first addressed the Parade and spectators, describing the vital role of the TAVR:

'We should all be very proud of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. It plays a vital role in the defence of this country. It is perhaps not as widely known as it should be that, on mobilisation, one third of the British Army of the Rhine is made up of the TAVR. There are also units which do not join the British Army of the Rhine on mobilisation, such as 38 Sig Regt, but which have a vital role to play in the home defence of these islands in war. I would appeal to everyone, and in particular on this occasion to the citizens of Sheffield, to support both the Territorial Army and the Army Cadet Force, for they are very worthy of that support and will repay it many times over both in peace and, if need be, in war'.



Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant talks to Sgt Peter White. He is escorted by the Parade Commander, Maj Alan Hawksworth



Maj Gen H. G. Woods, MBE, MC, MA (GOC North East District) pauses for a word with Cpl Barrie Read. In the background are Lt Col Frank Pedley (Commanding Officer) and Lt Paddy Walker who acted as ADC

Photo: B. Millett Esq



The Inspecting Party, escorted by the Commanding Officer and Director of Music, inspect the Corps Band

Photo: B. Millett Esq

ONE OF THE FINEST

To much applause, **Mr. Gerard Young** then drew back the curtains covering the commemorative plaque and stated his very great pleasure in declaring open the new Manor Top TAVR Centre. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Frank Pedley,** thanked Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant and spoke of the excellent liaison between the Regiment, TAVR Association and Architect, in both the planning and building stages, which had resulted in a TAVR Centre which must be one of the finest in the country.

PRACTICE PAYS OFF

Following a General Salute, the Parade Commander, **Maj Alan Hawksworth** then led the parade in a March Past, with the Corps Band playing the Regimental March, followed by 'Soldiers of the Queen'. The spontaneous applause of the spectators reflected the high standard of the parade—a standard achieved by a programme of training which had included a valuable and enjoyable weekend with 11 Sig Regt at Catterick.

REMARKABLE CADETS

The parade was followed by a weapon handling competition between the two Army Cadet Force Detachments affiliated to 38 Sig Regt (V), the Blackburn and Sheffield (Manor Top) Detachments. The skill of these cadets was quite remarkable, with LMG's being re-assembled by blindfolded cadets in less than 30 seconds. Following a series of five different tests, each of which was scored independently by two judges, the Sheffield Detachment emerged as winners by a single point. The winning team was presented with a shield by the GOC North East District. Spectators then toured the new Centre and the various displays before sitting down to luncheon in the warm sunshine, with the Corps Band playing in the background.

SPLENDID EVENING

In the evening the officers held a ball in the magnificent setting of the Cutlers Hall in Sheffield. Almost two hundred officers and guests attended the event. The Corps Band played throughout dinner and then, to everyone's delight, performed a number of their party pieces. A similarly enjoyable dinner and dance was held by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in their new Mess.

THE DESERTED MOUSE

Overall, it was a truly enjoyable and impressive day, which will be remembered for a long time by the Regiment. The wooden huts are now empty. The Officers Mess mouse will no longer receive a liberal supply of spilled peanuts from the bar on Tuesday evenings. Indeed, he has been served an eviction notice, for the 'temporary' huts are at last to be dismantled and the area where they have stood for thirty years is to be landscaped to provide a fitting surround for the new TAVR Centre.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

DIFFERENT PIED PIPER

Report by Capt Ronald J. Laird REME

This brief account has very little to do with the Pied Piper of magic flute, River Weser and Hamelen fame. On the contrary, Exercise '*Pied Piper*' is very much about physical fitness and basic infantry soldiering at a high level of proficiency. It is an annual competition among TAVR units in Northern Ireland in which military skills are put to the test over a weekend in April at the Ballykinler Training Ranges. This year it was my task to select, train and lead the team from 40 (U) Sig Regt (V). This job came to me by way of a new year 'gift' (?) on the first Sunday back at training after Christmas when the Training Major 'presented' me with a thick file of instructions marked 'Pied Piper' and the offer of assistance where I required it. What evil or good I had done to deserve this I will never know but now the job had to be tackled.

EARLY DAYS

After 'inviting' volunteers from the Regiment to form a team—volunteers are more willing than conscripts—our first training session was a weekend at Ballykinler. This one really discovered who would be in the final team! The first morning was bitterly cold with two inches of snow on the ground and the first period was battle PT followed by the assault course. That wasn't all, our instructor was **Cpl Shaw,** the Regimental PTI, and that spelt no slacking or wavering. Map reading, shooting and cross-country driving followed while the early night was taken up with a night shoot practice. This night shoot was new to most of the team but practice and plenty of schmuley flares improved the scores.

TUNING UP

Training continued for the next two months at weekends and mid-week. PT training and the assault course, particularly the nine-foot wall and the monkey bars, demanded a lot of our combined muscle and brain power. I think most of the team will remember a certain night patrol on one of these occasions. Everything was going to plan until we came to a trip flare—we found out what the wire was for when we *accidentally* let it off. After a short while when the light wasn't going out we heard the crackle of burning heather. Immediately, all feet to the fire and it was soon stamped out. A short distance farther on we discovered another trip flare—all credit to the scout at the front. This time we applied the drill until one man's foot caught the wire—more lights and guess what—another fire! We put it out ourselves.

A GOOD SHOWING

Eventually, a team of eight was selected—myself as leader, a 2IC, a radio operator, a medical orderly, two drivers and two men. All training, preparation and checks completed we set off in two, well camouflaged, quarter-ton Land Rovers on the 35 mile drive to Ballykinler. On arrival we went directly into the team and vehicle inspection. This was followed hotly by the voice procedure and map reading tests. The drivers were then called upon to show their mettle in a tight and circuitous cross-country course while the remainder of the team spectated. By this hour it was time to occupy the night section hide position—with biouvacs here, defences there and there, latrine out there and cooking area up this way, the layout soon took shape. Concurrent activity was a briefing on the night patrol for myself.

After a few hours well earned and essential rest it was on to the night shoot. Here, we would have appreciated a few more schmulies! Two more hours rest and then the night recce patrol. Ambush, bar mines, trip flares, wire and suspicious looking objects kept every member with eyes and ears open. Our morale got a boost at the debrief when we discovered that our effort had taken the lead in the event. In one more hour sun was up and the hide position had to be cleared, then breakfast in the field and preparation for the final tests. These were a multiple-casualty first aid test at the start of a three mile run which ended with the assault course and a rifle shoot. Finished, exhausted, take a rest.

For our efforts we were placed tenth equal out of eighteen teams participating. As this was the first time on which this team took part, we came away well pleased and feeling proud of having made the effort.

71 Sig Regt (V) Bromley

WIDELY SCATTERED

The Regiment is now in full swing preparing for a major mobilisation exercise to be held during our Annual Camp in October. Each Squadron has been building up its own expertise (we hope), and as final Regimental exercise before October, Exercise *Smoke Signal VI* was devised by Training **Maj Trevor Hendren.** All four Squadrons left their home TAVR Centres, of which there are eleven, and scattered themselves between Thetford, Camberley and Folkestone. In order to try and see everyone the Commanding Officer **Lt Col John Craig** had to travel four hundred miles in the weekend, with **Adjutant Capt Iain Robertson** and RSM **Ian Rothwell** desperately trying to keep up with him. We hope that the photographs of members of the regiment will convince our 'Regular' readers that the Volunteers do actually spend some of their weekends out in the field, leaving their civilian commitments behind them.



Commanding Officer, Cpl Geoff Furnell and Sgt Pete Marsh discussing the merits of the D11



Part of the Regiment's LAD support. SSgt McCann, Sgts John Howard, Malcolm Reeve, LCpl Pete Ecclestone, Cft Russ Reeve, Ptes Roy Goodman and Ken Doggett with OC LAD Capt Roy Godwin



Sig Colin Davies, the Commanding Officer and SSgt Eddy Elicombe in the Comcen of 68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn



A VHF detachment from 68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn. Sig Tony Davies, LCpl Michael Simmons, Capt Richard Duxbury, Sig Robin Scott and LCpl Steve Scally



Two young Signalmen of 94 (BY) Sig Sqn Colin Parker and John Byrne



SSM John Buckingham and RSM Ian Rothwell enjoyed the weekend



Commanding Officer admiring LCpl Eileen Weston's handiwork



Discussing matters of a technical importance. Capt David Hawkins, Sgt John Cowperthwaite, Foreman of Signals Ian Jasiok, and Sgt Eddy Edwards

SULTAN OF OMAN'S ARMED FORCES SIGNAL REGIMENT

PERSONALITIES

RHQ		
CO	**Lt Col H. S. Wilson**	R Signals
SO2 (Sigs)	**Maj F. M. Partington**	Ex R Signals
SO2 (Tels)	**Maj R. Morris**	Ex R Signals
SO3 (Fin)	**Capt T. A. Panther**	Ex R Signals
FofS	**WO1 R. I. Wherry**	R Signals
YofS	**WO2 H. A. Higgins**	Ex R Signals
N OMAN SIG SQN		
OC	**Maj C. Arthur**	R Signals
YofS	**WO2 R. C. W. Chisholm**	R Signals
Tech	**SSgt R. G. P. Harris**	R Signals
SQMS	**SSgt A. C. Sinon**	R Signals
Exch Supvr	**Sgt R. I. Hay**	Ex R Signals
S OMAN SIG SQN		
OC	**Maj T. B. Scarff**	R Signals
QM	**Capt C. W. Palmer**	Ex R Signals
YofS	**SSgt K. H. Tyler**	Ex RN
Tech	**SSgt J. G. Jones**	R Signals
Tech	**Sgt D. M. Hudson**	Ex R Signals
Tech	**Sgt S. H. Liddell**	Ex R Signals
SP SIG SQN		
OC	**Maj M. H. Myers**	Ex RPC
QM	**Maj J. W. Long**	Ex R Signals
Lineman	**WO2 M. R. Wringe**	R Signals
TE Tech	**Sgt B. F. Brewster**	Ex R Signals
TE Tech	**Sgt T. A. Hyde**	Ex R Signals
TE Tech	**Sgt J. R. Smith**	Ex R Signals
TE Tech	**Sgt D. Tibbs**	Ex REME
TE Tech	**Sgt P. J. Stanley**	Ex R Signals
TE Tech	**Sgt D. Flannagan**	Ex R Signals
SCHOOL OF SIGNALS		
YofS	**WO2 L. A. Coole**	Ex R Signals
YofS	**WO2 R. E. Stace**	Ex RM
Instr	**Sgt D. Phillips**	Ex R Signals



SHQ of N Oman Sig Sqn Corps members. From *left to right:* SSgt 'Tom Tom' Sinon, SSgt Robbie Harris, WO2 (YofS) Ron Chisholm; and in the rear Maj Clive Arthur

In addition to those current and ex-corps members serving in the Regiment, we also have serving in Oman with other Arms:
Capt P. Williams R Signals with The Jebel Regiment
Maj 'Ginger' Cockroft Ex R Signals with Force Engineers
Capt 'Dai' Hopkins Ex R Signals with HQ SOLF
Wg Cdr David Insole Ex R Signals with HQ SOAF

THE SCENE

The Regiment is responsible for the provisioning of all Joint Services Common User Circuits, dedicated Brigade circuits, and for basic training and upgrading of all signallers in the Force.

Oman is a long narrow country with two populated areas, the capital area in the North centred around Muscat, and Dhofar in the South with Salalah as its capital. With the exclusion of the Southern Oman Sig Sqn which has its headquarters at the old RAF Salalah camp, all other headquarter elements of the Regiment are based in the North at



Eyes narrowed against the remorseless rays of the tropical sun — three serving and four ex members of the Corps sweating it out in Oman. From *left to right:* Capt Trevor Panther, Sgt Eddie Brewster, Lt Col Hugh Wilson, Maj Frank Partington, Capt Peter Williams, Maj Roy Morris and Maj Clive Arthur. Capt Peter Williams is serving as Ops Officer in The Jebel Regiment; the remainder in the Force Signal Regiment

'Muasakar at Murtafa'a' which is approximately 30 miles from Muscat and overlooking Seeb International Airport.

Detachments from the two operational squadrons are dispersed widely throughout Oman, and one of these, belonging to N Oman Sqn, has taken over from 603 Sig Tp at the old RAF Masirah Station. On a sad note for those of you who served in Masirah, old 'Pongo Power' went during the first week of June to that happy hunting ground where all faithful Landrovers go, may she rust in peace.

This year has been a busy one for the Regiment with the re-organisation of the School of Signals from an ad hoc establishment to an extremely busy but efficient unit and also the move of RHQ from Bait al Falaj into the new 'luxurious' HQ building at Muasker al Murtafa'a. In addition to the moves, elements of both operational squadrons have been deployed in action on a number of occasions.

In accordance with the wishes of the Editor, we are restricting the length of our report but we hope to become regular contributors with more detailed contributions from each sub-unit.

News from Squadrons

7 NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn B.F.P.O. 18

POPULAR DISTANCE SHOPPING

The Squadron Wives Club arranged a shopping expedition to Monchen-Gladbach on Saturday, 4 February. Not only were husbands required to produce the cash for the expedition but were also lemoned!! with the children. Needless to say **Mrs Drew** was the most popular person in the Squadron.

The trip proved extremely successful and on their return a short weekend shopping trip to Paris was planned. Husbands were in full agreement providing a long weekend in Paris was OK. Alas the trip has been quietly forgotten. Hard Luck Fellas.

VISIT TO EXHIBITION

On Monday, 13 March, the Squadron visited the Caravan, Camping and Boat Show held at the European Travel Exhibition Site in Brussels.

It was an excellent day out and the show featured many UK and continental camping displays.

Most impressive however, were the boats on display from the EEC countries. Soldiers were seen walking round eyes aglaze muttering only BF 1,350,000—it's a snip.

For weeks afterwards **HptFw Grass** (our German SQMS) was on tenterhooks awaiting delivery of a luxury sea-going yacht, thought to have been ordered by the Yeoman and **SSgt Day** for the Squadron Summer Camp.

Units or individuals wishing to visit any of the trade exhibitions held at Brussels and requiring any information please do not hesitate to contact us and we will assist you in any way we can.

VISIT OF COMMANDER NORTHERN ARMY GROUP

On 27 April, 1978, the Squadron were honoured to host **Gen Sir Frank King,** Commander Northern Army Group.

The visit was going well until the General spoke to a Belgian Corporal Chef (who remains nameless).

Gen—Where do you come from?
Cpl—Belgium.
Gen—Yes, I know, but where in Belgium?
Cpl—About 40 kms from here.

On finding out **Cpl 'Cookie' Burns** was from Scotland, the General's comment 'Tough Luck'. Having anticipated Scotland's results in the World Cup was it foresight?

Prior to his departure the General was presented with a Squadron plaque by **Maj Dick Drew,** Officer Commanding.

BRITISH FORCES BROADCASTING INTER-UNIT QUIZ

In our last Wire Notes, it was recounted that we were in the quarter-finals of the Quiz. To cut a long story short we lost 30-25 in the finals against 11 Signal Unit RAF.

The Cup was presented by the CSO BAOR **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** who in his capacity as Chairman of the Joint Signals Board said that there must be some reason for two Signal Units to be in the finals.

It was 21-20 at the beginning of the last round and maybe next time we'll know the answers to—

What is the chemical sign for Tungsten?
What instrument did Christopher Bartolomi invent—Tuba, Saxophone, Violin, Xylophone or Piano?
Who lays the biggest egg in relation to body size, a sparrow or an emu?

Answers at end of article and if you know them then enter the next Quiz.

SOCCER SCENE

On Thursday, 18 May, the Squadron Football Team took on the mighty 28 (BR) Sig Regt. The game was played at a tremendous pace, most enjoyable, but unfortunately, we went down to a score of 4-0. In the bar afterwards we managed to redeem our honour by beating them in the GALLON race 4-1, admirably led by **Sgt P. C. Campbell,** to the background music of **Sgt Taff Crook** from the valleys.

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Young** on posting to Trg Bde, and **Cpl Walter Burns** and family on posting to 10 Sig Regt—we wish you well.

We also welcome **WO2 (YofS) Castle** and family and **LCpl Dick Gamble** and family.

SUMMER CAMP 1978

The Annual Summer Camp this year took place in North Holland at a delightful little town called Hardewjyk. Monday morning found the Squadron at the camp site in Hardewjyk on a Dutch Army Training Ground. Our activities on Camp were all water orientated, with sailing, canoeing, fishing and swimming the main ones.

Tuesday we played the Dutch Camp at football which ended in a 3-3 draw. We invited them back to our Barbecue Tuesday night. An evening enjoyed by all, our Dutch friends will remember for a long time our demonstration of the 'Boat Race'.

That was followed on Wednesday by a few headaches and a trip to Amsterdam. Thursday we spent either shopping or sporting it in the boats and canoes. Thursday night is a night that will be remembered by all for a long time. We were the 'Guests of Honour' at a Cabaret organised by the Dutch Army which included many fine international stars. We exchanged unit plaques and amongst promises to return next year we left our Dutch friends for a good night's sleep before our eventual return to Tongeren on Friday morning.

DID YOU KNOW

W for WOLFRAM the ore of Tungsten.
Piano not Violin.
An emu, everyone says sparrow thinking it is the trick question, which it is!

6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Aldershot

NOTABLE 19 YEARS

In this edition, we feature our civilian typists and highlight in particular **Mrs Pat Spicer** who has served the Squadron faithfully for 19 years. **Pat** started work in 1959 in 16 Parachute Brigade Sig Sqn as a shy young innocent with the late **Maj G. Peat** as Squadron Commander, and since that time she has seen a further nine Squadron Commanders come and go. She says loyally that her loss of shyness, youth and innocence was not due to the said Squadron Commanders—**Maj** (now Maj Gen) **W. T. McFarlane, Maj** (now Col) **A. H. Dennis, Maj** (now Col) **M. U. Ryan, Maj** (now Col) **C. N. Last, Maj** (now Lt Col) **H. R. Williams, Maj J. R. Roberts, Maj J. V. Fielding, Maj C. D. A. Blessington** and **Maj M. McI. Ayrton.**



SD EXPERT

Pat has been employed as a typist and has provided an excellent and invaluable thread of continuity throughout the years. She is so familiar with the work that she can correct draft CEI's, SOP's etc and is the unit's unchallenged expert on minor SD matters.

It is fascinating to listen to her reminiscences when she opens out during quiet moments in the office. Her tales of some of the past airborne stalwarts of the Squadron like **Robbie Laing, Clem Palmer, Bill Duke, Hugh Majoram, Jack Turner, Dougie Baikie, Gordon Haughie, Jack Frost, Pete Studd, John Griffiths, Taff 'The Tweak' Duffy, Ron 'The Teeth' Tasker** and hordes of others too numerous to mention, make one's hair stand on end. All these gentlemen can relax for the moment however, for **Pat** says her memoires are not for publication yet. When she publishes them they will be sold in an unexpurgated version for reasons which will be plain if you are lucky enough to ever read them.

When **Pat** started with us she had a little daughter, **Jane,** of three and a half years old and now when she visits us she proves that 'little girls get bigger every day', for now she is just like Mum.

Over the years it became customary to send a postcard to **Pat** when anyone has gone abroad. Her collection of cards has been taken with her as she moved with the Squadron from Barossa Barracks, Aldershot to Elles Barracks, Farnborough, and back to the present Arnhem Barracks in Aldershot. The pride of her collection is the Bristol City Supporters Badge she was given by **Clem Palmer.**

Thankfully **Pat** has stayed with us when we 'changed' from 216 Para Sig Sqn to 6 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn. We hope that she can continue for at least another 19 years and collect material for a second volume to her memoires.

WELSH 1000 RACE

The team of **Capt Martin-Rhind, Cpl Steve Margison, LCpl Danny Kaye, Sig Rich Livesey** and **Pte Phil Nelson** had to start from a sandy shoreline at Aber on the North coast of Wales. The aim was to reach the top of Snowdon which would entail running and walking 20 miles cross country ascending and descending a total of 10,200 ft.

At the start line 300 competitors jostled on Aber beach before a crack from the starter's gun set the runners off, vieing for position like short distance sprinters. The tarmacadam road stopped abruptly and the route continued along a wooded track which in turn gave way to rough rock hillside. The contorted expression of **Pte 'Phil' Nelson** changed to relief as he recognised the little orange tent as the first check point.

A jog round the 3,000 ft ridge between Cannedds Llewellyn and Dafydd may be great for the view but even the most comfortable webbing starts to bite through sweat soaked shirts after a time.

Although fourth in the team **Pte 'Phil' Nelson** had put in a good pace for the first half of the course. **Cpl 'Steve' Margison** took over and startled spectators by the speed with which he ascended Cwm Triffin. After having had a series of expensive motorway breakdowns in a newly acquired car he is convinced that foot power is the force for the future.

At the base of Snowdon the race was still undecided and success lay in an aggressive pace up the uneven boulders of the Pyg track. **Sig 'Richard' Livesey** provided a remarkably determined performance over this section responding magnificently to the encouragement from **Capt 'Harry' Meekings** and **SSgt 'Taffy' Roberts** until he reached Snowdon's summit. The pain was forgotten when it was learnt that **LCpl 'Danny' Kaye** had earned the individual first place and that the team had won the coveted Crossed Kukries Trophy as the winning team.

The hot and arid conditions were not conducive to the production of record times. However the results reflect great credit on the runners and on the Corps.



The victorious Welsh 1,000 team

SQN OPEN DAY

The Sqn open day has come and gone leaving us memories of fun and games on The Queens Ave Sports Field and hangovers to prove a wonderful party. The games included 'It's a Knockout' which no one seemed to win although everyone got soaking wet. The Tug of War was won by Alpha Troop after the rope had been tied to a landrover which drove away. Free Fall parachuting was laid on by **WO2 (YofS) Devine** and the Blue Helmets team.

They said it was for all the spectators to enjoy but also said they would jump whether there were spectators or not. Any excuse!



French Officer Cadet Bertrond receives his British Parachute Wings, an airborne Signals lanyard and a sqn sweat shirt on completion of his attachment to the Sqn

THE ENDURANCE MARCH

Capt Peter Richards, the 2IC, who is our bright ideas man, had the idea of instituting an advanced training standard series of tests. These included trade, driving, shooting and fitness. One of the fitness tests is the 40 mile endurance march over the South Downs. Why they are called Downs is a mystery for there seem to be more 'ups' than 'Downs'. The rules call for a 45 lb bergen, a rifle, military dress and a lot of determination. **Capt Richards** did the march first to prove the route and for days after was inches taller thanks to the blisters he picked up along the way. Then the gladiators of the Squadron set off, led by **WO1 (FofS) Norman Cowell** who stormed home at a run in 10 hours and 26 mins, claiming that a painful back had slowed him down. The march is voluntary and great credit must go to all who set out. A further march has been made over the course with **Capt Moray Martin-Rhind** and **Sig Rich Livesey** lowering the time to nine and a half hours. We also had two visitors from 249 Sig Sqn who were very welcome and a credit to the fitness of their Squadron. Can you beat the record?



DEPARTURES VIA CANAL

The custom in the squadron has always been that when someone is leaving, their last road run includes a visit to the middle of the Basingstoke canal, propelled by many eager hands.

The OC, **Maj Chris Blessington,** and OC C Troop, **Capt Phil McDouall,** were no exceptions. The Natives of Aldershot looked on in amazement, despite being familiar with the antics of the Para Bde over the years, as they were transported, strapped to a chair, on a ladder on the line laying landrover. The OC thought he was safe when the road run set off without a movement towards him and lulled in a false sense of security, he trotted off on his run towards the assault course. The squads soon doubled back through the buildings and descended on him like a pack of wild dogs and the man they were sure couldn't swim met his Waterloo in the canal. We discovered he could swim and his request for the squadron to join him in the canal was politely declined by all with hoots of derision and victory signs—declined by all that is, except the RSM who swears he was pushed and is now looking for someone to whom he can give 'extras'. The same treatment was meted out to **Capt Phil McDouall** who left us for 21 Sig Regt. His troop insist he was a popular OC but if that's the way they treat the good ones, heaven help any OC they dislike. **Maj Blessington** has gone to seek his fortune at the Defence College in USA.



Capt Phil McDouall still smiling as he leaves the canal



Capt Phil McDouall with his Capt America shield on an exclusive piece of woodwork

Other departures are **Maj J. V. Fielding,** a former Sqn Commander, who has been filling the post of DAA & QMG, and who is off to do some study at the National Defence College. **SSgt Alec Gavillet** is posted to 7 Signal Regt where he hopes to get in lots of road runs and early morning PT. Others who left include **Cpl Tomkins, Cpl Faherty, Sgt Spiers, Cpl Giles, Sgt Millar** RAPC, **Cpl Sumner, Sgt Manning, Cpl Lilley** RAPC, **Sgt Boughen** and **Sgt Aspinal.**

ARRIVALS

Recent arrivals have included the Squadron Commander **Maj M. McI. Ayrton, Capt Richard Crombie, Capt Selly** (RCT), **SSgt Chick Kinnear, SSgt Popplewell** (ACC), **Sgt Burrell, Cpl Young, Sgt Lockie** and **Sig Jakeway.**

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

VCDS VISITS

Gen Sir Edwin Bramall, KCB, OBE, MC (Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics)), whilst with CBFM, paid a visit to 234 Signal Squadron. On Monday 26 June the Squadron Officers and the Officers of the Army Elements (Malta) met the General in the Wardroom of HMS *St Angelo*. The following day the General visited the Squadron in their new accommodation, at RAF LUQA. After a briefing by **Maj Eddie Pickup,** the Squadron Commander, on the role of the Squadron he spoke to some of the soldiers in the Squadron Headquarters and had a few words with a line detachment outside on the vehicle park.



Gen Bramall with OC meeting line party. *Left to right:* Cpl Tich Peck, Sig Jerry Thornton, Cpl Sunny Spiteri

136 YEARS SERVICE

The General also spoke to **Mr Anthony R. Grixti** who is due to retire at the end of October. His departure from the Squadron will end 136 years of service, which his family has given to the Services.

Mr Grixti was conscripted into the King's Own Malta Regiment in 1941 in which he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant, CQMS. In 1945 he was 'demobbed' and sat the examination for a clerk with the War Department. He was promoted to Grade A clerk in 1964 and finishes his service in October 1978.

Mr Grixti's father served from 1914-1954 some 40 years with HM Dockyard as a Spery gyro fitter. His three brothers **Joseph, Charles** and **Edmund** have also seen considerable service with the Service facilities in Malta. We all wish **Mr Grixti** every happiness in his retirement.



Gen Bramall shaking hands with Sgt Frans Farrugia, Sig Colin Keil *left* and Staff Ralph Grech and Mr Tony Grixti *right*

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Despite the usual problem of carrying out our operational task with fewer numbers, military training must go on. Based at Ghajn Tuffeiha camp, the training is concentrated into a two month period and carried out on each Thursday and Friday.

Organised and run by **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies,** the training periods are very comprehensive and carried out to a very tight schedule.

Each day starts with a run to the beach, a swim, and back to camp for breakfast. Then follow lectures and instruction on such subjects as weapon training **(Sgt Paul Brabbins),** Hygiene **(Sgt Joe Peters),** unit documentation **(Cpl Dave Tarrant),** first aid **(Sig Colin Keil),** pay **(SSgt Roger Morse),** NBC **(SSgt Brian Peel)** and map reading **(Cpl Tich Peck).**

The programme is a full but interesting one, with the afternoons being devoted to water skiing, sailing and swimming.

SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY

The competition, which took place on Saturday 13 May, included teams from the three Services, RM Commandos, HMS *Fearless* and HMS *London* (visiting Malta) UKBC's and Tal Handaq School. These teams were split into two leagues, 234 Signal Squadron and Army Elements (otherwise known as the Army) having to compete with HMS *London* (A) HMS *Fearless* (B), HMS *St. Angelo,* RAF B Tal Handaq School.

The Army team consisted of:

Capt M. J. Crane R Signals
WO2 D. Clutson REME
SSgt B. Peel R Signals
Sgt D. Still R Signals
Cpl J. Dent R Signals
Cpl D. Tarrant R Signals
LCpl S. Groom R Signals
Sig C. Keil R Signals

The first Army game, against Tal Handaq, was played at a cracking pace, with both teams being relatively fit and trying to run themselves into the deck (with some success!). The result?—A goalless draw. The remaining league games were only slightly less energetic but goals became easier and everyone a winner. Having reached the semi-final the Army, because of a less favourable goal average than Tal Handaq, played the winners of League 1—the RAF A team. To say we were worried would be an understatement—they had the formidable **Pete Harding** and his 64oz stick (or something). Anyway, we thrashed them soundly—**Cpl John Dent** scoring both of our goals and thus adding to his already high score.

The final, against HMS *Fearless* A began badly for us, 1 goal down after three minutes. However, with **Cpl Dent** in fine form we came out the winners by 2 goals to 1.

The trophy, presented by **Surgeon Commander Millar RN,** held about eight Hopleafs—but not for long!

STATION ATHLETICS

On 7 June the Squadron took part in the RAF Luqa station Athletics championships. Other contenders included the RN Hospital, Salerno Company Group 41 Commando, and various ARF sub units.

The Squadron began well with **SSgt Brian Peel** winning the hammer, **LCpl Steve Groom** coming second in the high jump and **Sgt Don Murray** winning the 200m and 400m. Other results include a fine effort by **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Moody** in the 3,000m walk, he came second; **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies** was first in the discus and second in the shot. **Sig Pete Williams** won the 1500m and **LCpl 'Knocker' Hardy** came third in the long jumps.

However, the Tug-of-War proved to be the most keenly fought event. Under the command of **Cpl Tich Peck,** the Squadron team won in two straight pulls against the RAF in the first round, and again in two straight pulls in the Final against the Royal Marines.

Despite the fine efforts displayed by Squadron members, they had to be content with second place in the overall competition, the winners being Engineering Wing of RAF Luqa.

INTER SERVICE ATHLETICS

13 and 14 June saw the Inter Service Individual Athletics Championships again held at RAF Luqa. In many ways this was a re-run of the previous meeting. However with their now combined strengths, the RN and RAF were formidable opponents. Although this was an Individual Championship (and therefore no Inter Service trophy was being competed for) there was obviously Inter Service rivalry. Sadly the Army, mostly found from 234, did not do as well as on the previous meeting. **LCpl 'Knocker' Hardy** was getting slightly tired after competing in the long jump, triple jump, high jump, discus, javelin, 100m and 4 × 100m relay! In all these events he put up a good effort, if only to emphasise our shortage of manpower.

Glory again went to the tug-of-war team consisting of **Sgt Pete Halstead, Cpl Pete Acton, SSgt Brian Peel, Sgt Bill Stadius, Sgt Martin James, Cpl John Dent, Capt Mike Crane** and **Sgt 'Chalkie' White REME.**

In the tug-of-war the RAF had a bye whilst the Army (234 team) pulled against a now stronger Navy side (41 Commando). The Army won in two straight pulls and went on to beat the RAF in the same fashion.



LCpl Knocker Hardy — our one man band — throwing the discus

PRESENTATION OF ARMY COLOURS (MALTA) FOR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS 1977—1978

On Wednesday 26 July **Col P. W. G Seabrook OBE,** Chief-of-Staff to the CBFM presented Army Colours (Malta) to the recipients in the 840 SU Sports and Social Club at Siggiewi. He was introduced by **WO2 SSM Brian Davies** who opened by explaining the qualities required by personnel in order to receive their Army Colours in Malta:—

> the individual should have represented the Army (MALTA) against both the RN/RM & RAF in an inter-service competition, have played consistently well and displayed good conduct and sportsmanlike qualities throughout all the games played, be strongly recommended by the O i/c of their particular sport, and have NOT been previously presented with Army (MALTA) Colours in the same sport.

Col Seabrook then had this to say to those in attendance.

'I am very pleased to be able to present these awards. The Army has always had a good turnout for interservice events and I have been impressed by the performance of the Army in Malta, being small in number compared with the Navy and Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force. Congratulations to all those who are to receive these awards and I hope you keep up your expertise in your sport in the years to come.'

The recipients of the Colours were presented with a certificate and a blazer pocket on which was embroidered the eight pointed Maltese Cross with crossed swords surmounted by the crown with a scroll underneath in which is embroidered the name of the sport and the year awarded.

ARMY COLOURS (MALTA) 1977—1978

Listed below are the personnel who have been nominated by their sports representatives to receive Army Colours (MALTA) and/or reawards for the 1977—1978 season.

Sport	Name	Unit
Tennis	SSgt Morse	RAPC
	LCpl Groom	234
Volleyball	SSgt Lory	REME
	Cpl Mifsud	234
Re-Award	Sgt White	REME
Rugby	WO2 (SSM) Davies	234
	Sgt James	234
	Cpo Tarrant	234
	LCpl Groom	234
	LCpl Murphy	234
	Sig Drinkall	234
	Sig Thornton	234
	Sig Williams	234
Re-Award	Sgt Neil	234
Hockey	Capt Crane	234
	SSgt Peel	234
	WO2 Clutson	REME
	Cpl Clarke	234
	Sig Drinkall	234
Re-Award	Cpl Tarrant	234
	Cpl Dent	234
Squash	Capt Coombs	INT
	Sgt James	234
Re-Award	Sgt Murphy	234
Badminton	SSgt Benson	234
	Cpl Mifsud	234

LINE TROOP REPORT:

The Troop have kept exceptionally busy during the last few weeks due mainly to the withdrawal of a lot of residential telephones as more and more families are repatriated back to the UK.

HAND OVER AND BACKLOADING TASKS

SSgt Ralph Grech has been very busy showing the Tele Malta Corporation around our underground cable system and recently handed the first batch of 11 major and minor test points to the corporation as part of the planned withdrawal of the services from Malta. An even busier time is on the way with the closure of many of the service establishments within the next few months.

We recently had the job of back loading our surplus U G Cable which included vast amounts of Polythene and even larger amounts of lead sheathed cables of different sizes. This proved to be a Tri service task with the Army doing all the packing the Royal Navy supplied the cranes for lifting the drums and the RAF provided the 10 Ton Taskers to take the cable to the dockyard. Close cooperation with the other services and civilian organisation is becoming more and more a part of the troops daily lives.

SPORTS ROUND UP

On the sporting scene Line Troop is well and truly in the thick of things. **Cpl Freddie Grixti** deserves special mention for his prowess as a swimmer. He has coache the Squadron water polo team to a resounding victory in the inter service championships. Whilst on loan to 840 Signal Unit of RAF Siggiewi, he in no small way helped them to win the RAF inter unit competition. During the recent inter service swimming competition he swam in five races during the afternoon and gained two firsts and one second place. No mean feat for such an old man (his words not mine). Other troop members in the water polo team were **Sgt Frans Farrugia, Cpl Joe Mizzi Sigs Godwin Zammit** and **Vince Sciverras.**

Cricket is also well supported with **Sig Mac McCluskey,** showing his skill as a bowler; also regular members of the team are **Sigs Keith Love** and **Pete Williams. Cpl Titch Peck** coached the Sqn Tug of War team to an easy victory in the Station sports held at RAF Luqa on 7 June 1978.

ALL RANKS BARBECUE—DISCO

A very pleasant time was had by one and all who attended this function held at the St George's Water Sports and Social Club on Sat 8 July 1978. The evening was organised in the main by **Capt Mike Crane** and **Sgt Charlie Peach** plus a few hairies from Line Troop and one or two techs from TM Troop. **Cpl John Morris ACC** did a great job in providing a barbecue par excellence; its surprising how he managed to provide so much food for such a small cost.

The general response to the evening has been so good that a few more functions are now on the drawing board for the summer months.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome **Cpl Pete Acton, Sigs Clemson** and **McCluskey** to the Squadron, the last two have got their feet well and truly under the table as a few female tourists can testify. **Cpl Pete Acton** is finding things a little harder, he's having considerable difficulty persuading the girls to ride on the cross bar of his Raleigh Racer (keep on trying Pete). **Sgt Pat Lennon** and his family have left us for 11 Sig Regt and eventually to 'civvy street.' We all wish them well for the future.

One of the Squadron super stars also left us quite recently. **Sig Ian Drinkall** has gone to wet and windy Catterick to attend to T3 Tech

course having decided to convert to Technician from Telemech after being brow beaten and indoctrinated by T. M. Troop.

Temporarily departed from this fair Isle is **Sgt Chris Tucker** who is presently residing a Milbank Military Hospital with a broken leg that refuses to mend. Get well soon **Chris** T M Troop miss you.

FINAL WIVES CLUB DINNER

Despite the fact that this was our final dinner and rather a poignant occasion, it was anything but sad. **Maj E. Pickup** very kindly gave permission for us to hold the dinner at Ghajn Tuffieha, and 36 wives arrived with every intention of having a night to remember. The tables were beautiful and the meal superbly cooked by **Cpl J. W. Morris.** It was attractively presented making it difficult to refuse that extra portion.

After the wining and dining, our guest **Mrs Hiliary Seabrook** had this to say—

'This Wives Club must surely be one of the oldest, if not the oldest on the island. To begin with we have one or more members who have actually been members since as far back as 1960 and so we have a valuable source of information as to the course of the club since that date. Moreover I am told there is a Wives Club photograph in existence dating back to 1940 and indeed, when you consider that there were Army units in Malta as far back as 1800, and that the first Army school was formed in 1849, there is every reason to suspect that this Wives Club probably goes back a great deal further than 1940. Unfortunately what records there were have been lost in the mists of time but I do not think that should stop us from having a justifiable pride in the record of the club and so this is, in many ways, a sad but very special occasion.

There are at present 36 members of the Wives Club and amongst them are 12 Maltese wives. So, if I can just say to them at this point that the bond wrought in 180 years between the ordinary people of both our countries is great and is not easily broken. I think there is not one of the British members here tonight who will not always take the greatest interest in any news of Malta. This I cannot stress to strongly and, as we now all prepare to go our separate ways, I am sure it is in all our hearts to wish each other well for the future.'

Mrs Seabrook then went on to thank all the committee members for their loyalty, enthusiasm and hard work. The current members are **Mrs E. Pickup,** President/Chairwomen, **Mrs Davies,** Secretary, **Mrs Kay,** Treasurer, **Mrs Smith, Mrs Benson** and last but by no means least **Mrs Tranter** who has served on previous committees and has been a mine of local information.

Thanks were also expressed to everyone who had served our meal and the unseen workers **Cpl J. W. Morris, Mr M. Tedesco, Mr Tedesco Jnr, Mr M. Farrugia, Sgt Maj Davies, Sgt Maj Tranter** and **R. W. Kay.** Without their efforts the evening might not have taken place.



Mrs Hilary Seabrook (wife of the Chief of Staff to CBFMI), SSM Brian Davies serving OC's wife Miss Valerie Pickup and Mrs Carol Davies (wife of SSM)

It has been the tradition that each wife leaving the Club has been presented with a silver teaspoon, so it came as no surprise that all remaining members received one on this final get together. In addition the committee members each received a small gift as a token of appreciation from members, for all the hard work done in their term of office.

The whole organisation will not disappear completely since the Maltese wives who remain behind have expressed their intention of continuing to meet at regular intervals with an outing from time to time. Their tremendous support over the years has been greatly appreciated and we wish them success, happiness and God Bless.

242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh

NATO FORWARD SCATTER STATIONS SHETLAND

This month we put the spotlight on one of the more distant outposts manned by Royal Signals in the UK, Collafirth Hill ACE High Station in the North Mainland.

COLLAFIRTH HILL

Station Supervisor (S/S): **WO2 (FofS) A. R. (TS) Threlfall Searson**
Technical Assistant (TA): **Sgt J. Falconer**

PERSONALITIES

With only a small staff I shall mention all personalities so that no one feels left out. Designate TA is **Sgt John Wharton** who takes over that role shortly from **Sgt John Falconer** who is leaving the army. We shall not be losing him completely though, as he is settling down locally. Another leaving us soon for the rural life is **Sgt Terry Patterson,** presently the longest serving person on station having been here since 1973. Also leaving is **Sgt Tony Bedford** who takes up life on the Mainland in August. Last but not least on the technical side we have **Sgt John Jackson** who has recently arrived from 22 Signal Regiment. To the surprise and pleasure of those who knew him before, he arrived as a married man. He has promised a public apology for all the insults he had cast at 'pads' when he was a 'singly', but is too busy filling out claim forms for removal expenses, disturbance allowance, tax allowances . . . We wish him and **Jenny** a happy tour here and a long and happy married life.

Our driver is **LCpl Bob Gudgeon** who is looking forward to the arrival of our second driver so that he has someone to boss around. The ACC is ably represented by **Cpl Joe Kerr** and **LCpl Bas Shaw** who do us proud. **Cpl Kerr** is soon to join the ranks of the married and we wish him and **Margaret** very best wishes for the future.

VISITORS AND INSPECTIONS

As usual the summer months brings its crop of visitors and we have been able to demonstrate some of the more attractive sides of the Shetland weather. On 4 May we were visited by the GOC Scotland **Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett, KBE, MC,** and **Lady Scott-Barrett. Gen Scott-Barrett** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Sgt Phil Mosley** who almost immediately jumped in a Landrover to move down to the 'civilised' life at Mossy Hill. The weather was not kind and our visitors left us with a fair idea of what a Shetland 'breeze' is like.

14 June brought us the Quartermaster General, **Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson** and **Lady Howard-Dobson.** It also brought calmer weather and they were able to see the work that has (or has not) been done in the quarters area. The QMG was most impressed by the Foreman's garden, which is an oasis in an otherwise rather barren expanse. The DOE have plans to bring the rest of the site up to the same standard!

Although it was only a short visit **Sir Patrick** and **Lady Howard-Dobson** were able to have lunch in our Club. Wives of station personnel joined us 'up the hill' for an excellent buffet lunch prepared by **Cpl Joe Kerr.** As **Gen Howard-Dobson** is also Colonel Commandant of the ACC he was particularly interested to see how they looked after us! Before leaving the QMG presented us with a beautiful plaque to commemorate the visit, which now takes pride of place among our other plaques. He was given his reward as he stepped outside to go to his car, as the sun shone to see him off.

Latest among the list was the Annual Station Inspection carried out by a team from AFCENT. Two visits to our local sheepskin rug 'factory' were programmed which left them with not enough time to uncover too many cobwebs so we managed to successfully survive that ordeal for another year.



The GOC congratulates Sgt Mosley after presenting him with the LS & GC. Sgt Patterson in the background



The GOC and Lady Scott-Barrett discuss a finer point with FofS Threlfall Searson and his wife Kate

LOCH RANNOCH IN JUNE

Loch Rannoch was again the setting for the Squadron's annual summer camp and the fortnight proved a great success.

Activities undertaken included canoeing under the eye of **Cpl Roy Jarvis** (now Sergeant) from Ace High Station, Buchan Tail, who was assisted by **Alistair MacPhail,** son of **Foreman Duncan MacPhail. Alistair** was last seen walking in the general direction of Oban across Rannoch Moor at the start of a two month walking holiday. Sailing was supervised by **Foreman Jim Rogers** of 241 Sig Sqn. The Foreman had a most frustrating time as Loch Rannoch either showed her worst side as the wind from Glencoe and the sea produced four foot waves and conditions were impossible to take novices out in, or showed her best side—for tourists if not sailors—and did an imitation of a mill pond with not a breath of wind.

The changeable weather didn't prevent the cyclists or the fell walkers from enjoying their pursuits to the full, even fell walking casualties such as **LCpl Debbie Fagg** and **Pte Annette Martin** were noticed socialising spritely within hours of being supposedly incapacitated by blisters. Still, the 20 miles through Glen Lyon and the Black Wood of Dall was worth it for the scenery alone. **Foreman MacPhail** climbed Schiehallion, the local munro (3,000 ft plus) four times in the fortnight as different groups decided that that was where they wanted to go. He did, however, get his own way on the free day and crossed the moor from Glencoe to Rannoch with **Sgt Rick Christie** and **Cpl Mick Shields,** the latter from 632 Tp Benbecula.



The summit of Schiehallion

Cpl Jack Gibson of 241 Sig Sqn became Super Slob of the week with a consistent display on the bike slalom, archery and penalty kicks and he delighted the girls by wearing his kilt to the evening social activities.

ENJOYED BY ALL

These activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all and stars of the week included **Cpl Bob MacCulloch's** impersonation of Selwyn Froggitt (or was it the other way round?), **LCpl Val Hart** who conjured three sketches from the girls on the Cabaret night which included a beautiful rendition of Frere Jacques—she also found time to appear in at least three other sketches. The second week producing another girl star in the shape of **LCpl Betty Kirkham** who put a new light on Kate Bush's Heathcliff and Cathy (I'm certain Heathcliff never said that).

A flying visit en route from Aberdeen to Glasgow by Commander 2 Group, **Brig Dowell,** coincided with the week's volleyball won by the permanent staff who were ably captained by the OIC Camp, **SSM Terry Mumford.**

WEEK 2 REPORT BY WO2 JAN HAGON, WRAC

Sunday, 11 June, 1978, was the second week of Camp and our turn to load up and move off. In anticipation we all gathered at the MT Yard at 1200 hrs as suggested, but we were a little too early as the first week people had not arrived back so we delayed our departure until our colleagues had returned. It wasn't long before we heard the singing and laughter, and here they were, obviously happy and cheerful. Well if they had had a good week, then so will we.

In no time at all we had packed everything and were on the road. Happily the sun shone and everyone was in a cheerful mood and full of anticipation for a fun full week. On arrival we were allocated 'homes' and sections in which we would compete during the week away. We were also fed a very good meal, a sample of the good food which was served all week. The competitions during the second week were identical to the first week's organisation. The only difference, we had a lot more sun and seemingly more 'girls' than 'boys', but everyone seemed to pair themselves off nicely.

Groans were to be heard at the thought of cycling 20 odd miles or walking the same distance but once the initial steps were taken, everyone found that it was well worth the effort, taking in the fresh air and seeing the beautiful scenery. We had two new WRAC arrivals, **Pte Cairns** and **Pte Miller** who must have been astounded to find themselves out and about so soon, but they soon acquainted themselves with the Squadron personnel and were seen to beat the SSM at Scrabble, fairly as well.

FAST AND FURIOUS

The volley ball tournament was fast and furious, with the permanent staff team taking a very prominent part (still they had the practice the previous week).

The Super Slob tournament was exciting with **LCpl Phillips** from Donnington seemingly a catapult expert, he took an early lead but smugly **Sgt Christie** hung on and ended up the winner. **LCpl Maynard** won the WRAC Section and celebrated her win by being made to buy the finalists a drink.



The volleyball court

POPULAR EVENINGS

Fishing was as popular as ever but the men did not seem to be the experts they implied they were. All promises of a trout breakfast slipped off the hook.

The evenings were spent in the hut, with dancing, pub games and charades, this turned out to be most popular with the given subjects sometimes proving to be quite different to act, but a lot of fun. The highlight of the week being the Cabaret Evening. **Sgt Varvel,** once again, getting the most cheers with his Wurzel Act.

DADWRAC SEES THE FORM

Visitors were few but the DADWRAC, **Maj C. V. M. Weaver** visited us on Monday, 12; she must have enjoyed herself as she stayed for lunch and dinner. All too soon the week came to an end and we had to pack and take a weary but happy road home. We are all eager to see the many photographs which were taken and hope that we will still be in 242 when the next camp comes along.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

OC	**— Maj A. L. W. G. Steane**
2IC	**— Capt J. R. Cadwallader**
OC 'A'	**— Capt J. Boyle**
OC 'B'	**— Lt L. K. Byrne**
RQMS	**— WO2 (RQMS) P. Hardwick**
F of S	**— WO2 (FofS) M. Coley**
Y of S	**— SSgt (YofS) A. D. Janaway**
Chief Clerk	**— SSgt (ORSQMS) F. A. Brown**

Once again the Squadron has been more than busy over the last few months. With a couple of overseas exercises, communications for the Tactical Fighter Meet and the Search and Rescue competition and also the tours in Belize, we thought we were fully committed. However the OC decided to make life even more interesting and found a free day for **Col Benbow** to do an FFR.

FFR

In June **Col R. Benbow,** Commander 1 Signal Group, came to Brize Norton to conduct the FFR Inspection. Part of the days activities was a detachment competition for A, B and MAOT troops. this involved various stands where the dets found themselves posed with various problems. The competition was won by a B troop detachment and **Col Benbow** presented the Cup to **LCpl Jimmy Webster, Sig Mick Purves** and **Davey Anderson.** Just to make the day more interesting we also managed to fit in BE tests and swimming tests for the more aquatically minded. Everything considered, the day proved to be a lot of fun and it was noted that the Colonel departed with a smile on his face.



The MAOT dets being asked to produce various items Flt Lt Calvert wonders how he got caught up in this!



Col Benbow asking some interesting questions at SSgt Salloway's stand

NORWAY REPORT

Capt Jack Boyle's troop deployed to Norway in May; he had been assured that the snow would have disappeared by then. What a sense of humour the Norwegians have. The OC, **Maj Leslie Steane** and **Capt Jim Cadwallader** spent the first 36 hours motoring around trying to locate sites with less than 5ft of snow in them, we will not mention how many times they had to dig themselves out of snow drifts. Not so lucky was **Cpl Smudge Smith** and **Sig Boyle** who went searching for kit previously hidden but gradually being revealed as the snow cleared, they found out what the Norwegians mean by 'rotten' snow. On the last part of the exercise we left our vehicles behind and started marching. As always with this Squadron, the route was planned with a river crossing involved. The second in command (who is quite tall) waded through and found it waist deep. **Sig Dave (Paddy) McGaughey** (who is not so tall) took a slightly different line and found it neck deep. We all finished it however and were pleased to get back to the relative comfort of the Base Camp.

AND BELIZE

The roulement for Belize still goes on and most of the squadron have now done a tour over there. In fact **Sig Al Garland** likes the place so much that he keeps volunteering to stay. It is rumoured that the chief clerk, **SSgt Frank Brown** and Orderly Room Staff, **Cpl Pete Johnston** and **LCpl Chris Pavey** have asked him to send a photograph so we can remember what he looks like.

DENMARK

In July **Lt Lance Byrne** and Bravo troop went to Denmark. **SSgt Paul Salloway** and **SSgt Paddy Conlon** quickly found themselves deploying to various woods and **Cpl Dixie Dean** and **Ginge Parker** found themselves bending masts as they struggled to achieve height in a very flat country. During the exercise we were visited by **Gp Capt Reid** from HQ 38 Group RAF and **Wing Commander Bob Stickland,** OC Tactical Communications Wing also came out to take part in the exercise.

WIVES CLUB

The Sqn wives organised a bottle stall to raise money for Penhurst School for handicapped children, which we have supported in recent years. Through their combined efforts they raised the Grand total of £72. Well done girls.

CONCORDE SITREP

It was fitting that **Capt Geoff Strivens** won the 'lucky dip' for a flight on Concorde before he departed to Northern Ireland. Other 'lucky dip' winners include **Sgt Graham Whelan** and **Cpl Dave Wiggin. Sgt Arthur Blackwell** has had the misfortune to turn up for a trip twice but never taken off. On the first occasion Concorde was grounded, on the second it was delayed at Prestwick. Our Chief Clerk says there is no strength in the rumour that British Airways have banned **Arthur** from future flights. In our next notes we hope to report that **Arthur** is at last Concorde trained!

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Old Sarum

NORWAY — AGAIN

The Squadron, after spending three months on Exercise *Hardfall*, were tasked with this year's clean-up in Norway. This involved a party of 15, led by **SSgt (YofS) Mal Channing,** visiting all locations used by the British troops during their winter training. Although the trip involved a lot of hard work the hot weather made it enjoyable.

Good Driving

As some of the locations were in remote areas the two drivers, **LCpl Roger 'Spider' Walters** and **Sig Raymond 'Titch' Fallowfield,** had to use all their skill and judgement as they negotiated the tight bends and bad roads. It was said that the Norwegian LO, **2Lt Ivar Flatabø,** started to gibber in an unknown language until he was reminded that he was a Viking.

Back Home Again

After a few days off it was time to return to flatter pastures, although not for long, Within five days we were to join the rest of the Squadron at Dibgate. We were surprised to find that we had covered over 2,500 miles in 20 days.

Exercise 'Double Whiskey'

On 19 June the Squadron, less their Clk Techs and Techs who, as normal, say they have too much work to do (it's funny how it accumulates when there is an exercise on), departed for Dibgate, the soldier's Butlins' holiday camp where everything is laid on free; morning runs, ranges, 24 hour Infantry exercises under 1 R Anglian and 1 RGJ, not to mention the summer weather (RAIN) and the cold showers. It was heard to be said that **WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilcox** didn't need a Tannoy system when he did reveille, as his voice could be heard miles away.

Training

The Squadron split into three platoons under command of **2Lt Chris Cox, Sgt Phil 'Pancake' Roe, ACC,** and **SSgt (YofS) Mal Channing.** Each platoon covered the same programme although 1 and 2 platoons got wetter than their sunburnt 3 platoon who only did the second week of training.

Weapon Classification

All members of the Squadron took this opportunity to attempt to pass their APWT. After a morning of zeroing weapons and explaining that the rounds come out of the pointed end, most people crossed over to the electric target range run by the 2IC, **Capt Rob Symonds,** and ably assisted by **SSgt (YofS) Steve (all these switches look the same to me) MacQueen.** Over three quarters of the Squadron classified. During the following days the three platoons took to the Individual Battle Simulation Range where for some it was the 'real thing', nobody had trouble finding the correct cover, it was hitting the target that was the problem. One member, who should remain nameless, decided his weapon would work better with the gas plug upside down, needless to say it didn't.

Local Squadron Exercise

1 and 2 platoons spent 24 hours on an Urban Guerilla type exercise, this involved Red and Blue forces moving between locations trying to avoid ambushes set up by **Sgt Bernie 'Survival expert' Temmen** and sifting through information given by the two secret agents **WO2 (SSM) Dave 'Dago' Wilcox** and **Sgt Ted 'Phillipo' Jinman. Cpl Wally Calow** trusted these two as much as he did the weather holding out.

Exercise 'Kentish Air'

This was the 24 hour Infantry exercise run by members of 1 R Anglian and 1 RGJ. This proved to be hard work involving section attacks (thank goodness the enemy can't see us), a tactical defence phase and night patrols. The biggest problem was the trench digging during the defence phase, this proved that blisters not only formed on your hands but on many other unlikely places. After five hours of digging, and just when most of us were starting to eat, the patrols started, first recce and standing patrols followed by fighting patrols, the latter being enjoyed by all except **LCpl Paul Fisher** who was wounded in the eye by a flying shellcase (anything to get out of the march and shoot). 1 and 2 platoons had the pleasure of marching the five miles back to camp after the exercise while 3 platoon had transport (moan! moan!).

March and Shoot

This consisted of a shortened march of three miles in 35 minutes in full battle order, followed by a falling plate competition. The teams were drawn from all the AMF(L) units involved at Dibgate and proved to be very competitive. Before starting the march all teams had their kit checked for deficient items, then off we went, 1 platoon first, 2 platoon fifth and 3 platoon ninth, the route involved a steep down hill section, a track march alongside the canal and the last section through Hythe and onto the ranges, all teams were over time but 3 platoon had the second fastest time of the competition. The falling plate competition was then fired (it is still believed by many that the plates were, in fact, glued to the butts — but this is strongly denied). The shooting practice we had proved valuable as **Sig John Sibley** hit four plates out of five shots and helped to bring 3 platoon to a final position of fourth overall.

Home Again

The weather remained unchanged for the trip home — rain — but now smiles were appearing on 'battle worn' faces. The Squadron split into three parties travelling by vehicles, car and coach. Needless to say a few war stories were told to the younger members of the family.

WIVES CLUB DINNER DANCE

Mrs Angela Walden, the OC's wife, resurrected the Old Sarum Wives' Club when she arrived in Old Sarum in Christmas 1976. Since then she has been organising regular meetings with support from wives of servicemen of all units in Old Sarum. On 5 July the final function in Old Sarum was a most successful Dinner and Dance. 37 wives sat down to an excellent meal prepared by **Sgt Phil Roe** assisted by **LCpl Phillp Kettle,** and served by the Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron. After the Dinner the wives' husbands joined the party to make it a night to remember. During the evening **Mrs Walden** was presented with a candelabra by the Wives' Club in appreciation for all her efforts.

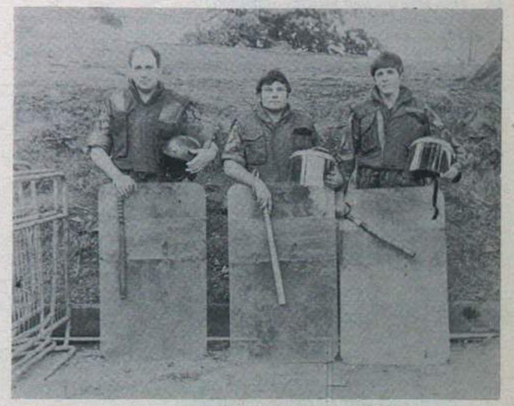
NORTHERN IRELAND DETACHMENT

Since May this year the Squadron has had a detachment serving with 51 Fd Sqn (Const) RE, namely **Cpl Taff Thomas, Sigs Len Fairclough** and **Bob Shortis.** 'The Three' went to Ripon, Yorkshire, on 3 May, 1978, to join 51 Sqn and after a week of being 'looked at' and 'prodded' to see if they were 'real' they went to Lydd for their NI Training.

The training went well and the detachment managed to make a name for themselves (omitted for fear of incrimination), although doing quite well on different ranges it was decided that they would not actually be involved with the RE Search Teams (or Construction Teams come to that).

The reason for this had a lot to do, we think, with **Cpl Taff Thomas** getting himself 'blown up', once (What's this dustbin doing here?), twice (Oh No! Here we go again), **Sig Len Fairclough** (Medic. Medic?—Reply—Sorry. No House Calls) 'blown up', getting contagious! and **Sig Bob Shortis'** (I thought it would be all right Taff) magnetic attraction to abandoned cars.

After arriving in Castledillon in Armagh it was their job to teach the RE members of the Ops Room to communicate and use the equipment therein, which proved quite a novel experience for both groups, a case of the 'child' teaching the 'parent'.



The Three
Sig Bob Shortis, Cpl Taff Thomas, Sig Len Fairclough

264 (SAS) SIGNAL SQUADRON

ALL VOLUNTEER

264 (SAS) Signal Squadron is the only all volunteer unit in R Signals but because of the classified nature of their work they cannot publicise their day to day activities in the normal way and therefore a lot of uninformed ideas circulate about this unit. The Squadron requires volunteers NOW and therefore, to give potential volunteers some basic information about the Squadron, the following QUESTIONS and ANSWERS to common queries are published. Any soldier requiring further information or advice is invited to write an informal letter to the Chief Clerk, 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron, Bradbury Lines Hereford HR2 6HF. Although the unit welcomes personal correspondence it is stressed that formal applications must be made to OIC R Signals Manning and Records through your Commanding Officer.

Q. *What is the Squadron's role?*
A. The Squadron is a unit of the Special Air Service with the primary task of providing communications, communications advice and training of Regimental Signallers for 22 SAS Regiment of which the Squadron forms an integral part.
Q. *What trades do you require?*
A. RTg, CRmn, DTg, RTech, CDvr, Clk Tech, CPmn, Clk (Supervisory posts RD, YofS FofS, CClk normally from within the Squadron).
Q. *Do I have to take and pass SAS Selection Course?*
A. All members of the Squadron are encouraged to attempt 22 SAS Selection thus becoming 'badged SAS'. Some soldiers attempt selection shortly after arrival in the Squadron, others attempt it after a year or so. Other soldiers for various reasons remain 'non badged' but still play a full part in the work of the Squadron and Regiment.
Q. *Are there any advantages in being 'SAS badged'?*
A. Soldiers who pass selection and complete a probationary period serving as an SAS Trooper receive Band 3 ROP (Cpl and below), Band 6 ROP (Sgts/SSgts), Band 7 ROP (WO1/WO2) in addition to para pay. They also retain their R Signals rank as they are filling established vacancies in the Squadron. The other advantage of course is that they have a dual role *ie* they can be employed both in their R Signals trade and as an SAS soldier.
Q. *Can I become a parachutist if I don't pass SAS Selection?*
A. Yes, The unit is designated as having a parachuting role, therefore non badged soldiers can attend the basic para course subject to passing a one week pre-para course at Hereford. They then become eligible to wear 'para wings' and receive para pay. The majority of the Squadron are para trained.
Q. *Will I work with 22 SAS?*
A. All RTg apart from those employed in the base receiver room and various jobs in Hereford are permanently attached to SAS Sabre Sqns and are involved in the Sabre Squadrons training, exercises and operations. Other R Signals tradesmen also operate with the Sabre Sqns but are mainly based in SHQ at Hereford. Operators normally spend two years with an SAS Sabre Squadron followed by a year in a base job at Hereford. Personnel are regularly rotated so every one has a fair share of 'trips'.
Q. *How long is a tour with the Squadron?*
A. The initial tour is for three years but most soldiers remain for second and subsequent tours. Because of their experience and expertise soldiers are encouraged to remain with the Squadron providing it does not conflict with their career prospects.
Q. *Will my career prospects be affected by a tour with the Squadron?*
A. Definitely NOT! In fact the reverse is probably true as the Squadron has a career structure 'in built' into the establishment to enable personnel to remain with the Squadron and still progress up the promotion ladder. For example it is possible for a Sig RTg to progress through to WO1 (YofS).
Q. *Will I still be able to attend career courses during my tour?*
A. Yes. Career courses are encouraged, particularly Potential YofS. In 1977 three NCO's from this Squadron passed the YofS course at the School of Signals and are now employed in the Squadron as Tp Commanders. Four NCO's from this unit out of a total of 16 from the Corps have recently been selected to attend YofS courses in 1978/79. This illustrates the calibre of operators found in the Squadron and also underlines the career management aspects.
Q. *What happens after I volunteer for the Squadron?*
A. You will be called forward for a 28 day probationary assessment course, these are normally held four times a year. The reason this course is run is to enable us to select the right type of man, one who it is considered will be suitable for the work in the SAS environment. Those suitable are normally taken on strength immediately after the course completion.
Q. *What sort of men do you require?*
A. Good tradesmen, reliable, mature, physically fit, self disciplined and capable of working without supervision. Although volunteers should normally have spent a tour with a field unit certain soldiers with the right qualities and potential may be considered after completion of their basic trade training.
Q. *How do I apply?*
A. To OIC Manning and Records through your Commanding Officer. In due course an application form will be incorporated in SO in C Policy Directive No 206, meanwhile Annex C to AGAI Chapter 43, Volume 43, Volume 2 should be used.

A report from a student who attended Squadron Probationary Course 2/78 follows. This gives an insight into the course content. The physical side of the course is aimed at putting you under a bit of pressure to make sure you are still able to perform when the going gets a little rough. It is important to remember that once you are accepted in to the Squadron then you are employed in your trade and are only called on to perform physically on odd occasions. Once in the Squadron you have to keep fit by yourself!

264 PROBATIONARY COURSE

THE START LINE

When the OC and SSM of 264 SAS Sig Sqn arrived at my unit for a recruiting lecture, they said that the Signal Squadron were running probationary courses for potential volunteers, to enable the Signal Squadron to look at and assess the volunteers, and to enable the individual to do the same to the Sqn. Well that seemed fair enough, they then added, 'You are expected to be of a reasonable standard of fitness'—ie pass the Army BE test'—I volunteered.

I arrived at Hereford on a Friday morning—('Fancy starting a course on a Friday morning', I thought to myself), and was issued with bedding and all the necessary kit. Later that afternoon we were given an introductory talk by the SSM, who pointed out the do's and don'ts of Bradbury Lines and Hereford in general. He also introduced us to our instructors for the course, (all were at the rear of the lecture room and all tried to look suitably steely eyed as per the SAS image). I remember thinking to myself 'I don't like the look of him or him, and he looks a bit of a fitness freak'. (You'll appreciate no names no pack drill). After the briefing we were stood down for the weekend and told to report at 0830 Monday morning as per the Training Programme. Well the weekend was spent sampling the as yet unknown delights of Hereford.

EARLY DAYS

The weekend flew by as all free weekends do, and it was suddenly 0830 Monday morning. This first day consisted of trade tests for the operators and a map reading test for everybody. This was followed by an introduction to the finer arts of Basha building and bergen carrying. The instructor was a SNCO Technician — quite good he was too (believe it or not!). Then followed the BE test. As it happened the eight students passed (Surprise, Surprise).

Tuesday found us Trade Training in the morning, and then during the late morning and afternoon, we found ourselves forcing our unwilling bodies complete with 45 LB Bergens up and over a small hill called Pen-y-fan a few times, 'Just to give you a look at the Brecon Beacons', they said (My eyes were shut most of the time!).

After this little stroll two of the course decided it was not for them at all. That left six of us.

The following three days followed a pattern of Trade Training during the mornings followed by Weapon Training (SLR SMG) in the afternoon, with a six miles run at the end of the day. On Friday afternoon instead of Weapon Training we left the confines of Bradbury Lines to go to the Black Mountains for a practical map reading lesson. It was a good afternoon out, the weather being fine and the areas good for walking as well (apart from the Hills!). That was the end of Week ONE. Nothing TOO difficult in that I told myself, and wondered what the next three weeks held.

MORE HILLS AND TO THE WATER

Monday again, and this time we were out on top of a large hill (conveniently near the camp) communicating back to the Signal Squadron training rooms with the PRC 320. The distance was about 5 kms, but still it was good for set familiarisation. All through the day I wondered if we would have to walk back to camp—you're right we did. The pace was fairly slow until one of the *DS* happened to mention that the meal was at 5 o'clock — the pace quickened up needless to say.

Tuesday and Wednesday were spent Weapon training with the GPMG, and were followed by the usual bout of PT. Thursday found us in a wood, this time a little further from the Camp. We were communicating with the PRC 316. After the comms ex, a stroll home to tea. The SSM and a rep from the MT turned up to run/walk us back to camp, only this time he entrusted us with the Map Reading (What a chance he took). We did make it back to camp after several detours and deviations.

Although these walks/runs had us carrying Bergens, they became quite enjoyable for the area around Hereford is very picturesque.

Friday brought a swimming test ie 10 lengths of the local swimming baths complete with denims, shirts and belt and water bottles (come in the man from Atlantis). The afternoon found us out orienteering in the Forest of Dean, and again the weather was fine, and the course enjoyed the afternoon out.

HIGH NOON

First thing Monday morning—PT in the Gym, circuit training again—(enough said about that). Weapon Training followed the circuit training, this time with the 9mm Browning Pistol. After running us through the Basic Handling Techniques of the weapon, the DS had us leaping about drawing from the hip at imaginary targets, and against each other —a la HIGH NOON—and stripping the weapon, making us leap around various buildings while he switched various parts of weapons about, and then dishing out press ups by the score for not checking serial numbers while assembling the weapons. The day finished with us taking a map reading test, and more trade training. Tuesday we were out on a PRC 316 comms exercise. (You've guessed—hoof it back to camp). Wednesday brought along a range day, complete with the SSM's own brand of range details. The course fired SLR, SMG, GPMG, and the 9mm Browning, from almost every conceivable position. (Had the SSM not forgotten the mirrors, we would have been firing over our shoulders!). Thursday back into the field on a PRC 320 comms exercise with the inevitable walk/run back to camp (NB we always made it for tea). But we were beginning to enjoy these strolls (Never did see the MO, about these headaches). Friday found us running the final BE test at 0745. All six of us passed, but the mile and a half seems to get longer and longer. We also had an introduction to water crossing. We ran down to the banks of the River Wye (about 3 kms) complete with Bergens Poncho and dry kit just in case! The SSM was doing his impersonation of Captain Birdseye in a Gemini inflatable boat, zooming up and down the river. The *RQ*, suitably dressed in the latest Paris wet suit, gave us a complete demonstration of the movement carried out on the word of command Splash! He returned from the water with his extremities blue, finding it difficult to speak while trying to clench his teeth to stop them chattering. Well the instruction must have been good because we all made it across with kit fairly dry except for one guy who forgot to tighten the drawcords on the neck of his poncho (No Comment). Friday afternoon we drew kit and rations for the final four day exercise in week four.

FINALE WITH CHALLENGE

This four day exercise had us split into patrols (two men and one DS), and it entailed us map reading our way from RV to RV across the Brecon Beacons, we carried all the necessary radios, batteries, rations and personal kit for the duration of the exercise. (The Bergens weren't on the light side).

Monday found us walking approx 12 kms, and although a member of the DS was with us, they were present purely for safety reasons. The routes and speed of walking were left completely to us. At the end of the day we Basha'd up in the final RV and exchanged Sitreps with Hereford. The night was spent in the RV, and at first light we sent another sitrep to Hereford. At the end of the first day the SSM explained that he wasn't over impressed with our speed or walking, and he would like us to walk a little bit faster (or words to that effect). The DS spent the night in the comparative comfort of the back of a four tonner—Luxury!

Tuesday followed basically the same pattern as Monday, although we walked approx 17 kms this time. The weather had changed drastically, Monday being clear and fine, Tuesday saw the mist down with wind and rain blowing in our faces. So today gave us a much harder time map reading, we could only walk on bearings, with the visibility down to 30 feet. Gloomy though it sounds everyone made it to the RV's and we ended up in a deep valley for the night. After the exchange of Sitreps we settled down for a damp night, for it was raining steadily and it turned into quite a test of siting and building your basha. Most of the course survived the night without getting too damp, except for one guy who complained he might as well have slept in the nearby stream!! (It was the same guy who forgot to tighten the drawcords on his poncho during the river crossing). Wednesday came and after the morning exchange of Sitreps with Hereford, we were told that today we would be walking alone. We were given our first RV and started off at 10 minute intervals. During the night of Tuesday/Wednesday snow had fallen on the high ground, and a heavy mist seemed to hug the hills. Visibility was again down to a few yards, so it was a case of confidence in yourself and your compass.

All six of the course made it to the first RV. But on the way to the second, one was completely lost due to a map reading error and bad conditions. He was so far out of the exercise area that he was withdrawn from the exercise. At the second RV one of the younger guys had decided he had walked far enough and withdrew. That left four. The third RV was a trig point at the top of one of the larger hills. I saw the top was shrouded in mist (some people call it cloud). Luckily I found the trig point fairly quickly and managed to get off the top without getting too cold. The next RV was the last for that night and we basha'd up in a barn, complete with log fire. The RQ issued us with approx a pint of G1098 rum — what a morale booster! We had walked approx 27 km over fairly difficult ground and everyone agreed it was hard going. That night we exchanged Sitreps with Hereford and settled down for the night.

The Thursday morning had us making a 6 km walk to the Storey Arms, (not a pub), just below Pen-y-fan. We all got a move on because this was the last test (mind you the SSM's last words 'Be there by 0900 or you'll walk back to Hereford' was a great incentive). All four made it to the final RV and were greeted with cups of tea laced with rum (or in some cases, hot rum laced with tea). Well the exercise was over and glad we all were!!

After the OC's interviews, three of us were asked to stay, the fourth being let down by his morse speed. The course gives you a good chance to get your trade and soldiering skills up to a decent standard, and to put them to the test.

COMMUNICATE WITH THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE

264 (SAS) SIG SQN

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ADVENTUROUS
SOLDIERS

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- WORK AS INDIVIDUALS
- TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
- GET VARIETY
- GAIN JOB SATISFACTION
- HAVE A SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT
- PRACTICE YOUR TRADE
- LEARN SAS SKILLS

ARE YOU THE MAN ?

IF SO, YOU NEED 264 SQUADRON

Contact your Chief Clerk NOW!

TASK FORCE ECHO SIGNAL TROOP REPORT

For those of you that don't know, Task Force Echo Signal Troop is the farthest flung outpost of the 3 Sig Regt and is based in Paderborn. The Troop was formed in Soest from 6 Bde Sig Sqn and moved to Paderborn in October 1977. It's not true that it's been an exercise continually since then—it just seems like it.



'WISH YOU WERE HERE'
Lt Bob Holmes, Cpl Dave Denyer, Sgt 'Snoopy' Stone and Cpl Dave Parker on Exercise Flying Falcon

VISIT OF DEFENCE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Obviously the Troop's good name has already been mentioned in high places as in April the Defence External Affairs Committee, an august group of eight MPs who were touring BAOR seeing the effects of restructuring, came to see us. The rumour that we were chosen because **Capt John Cook's** local MP (a Conservative!) was a member of the party has no foundation. All passed of well, despite **LCpl Phil McGiveron** locking the Task Force Commander out of his Plans vehicle!



'SO WE WENT RIGHT FLANKING . . .'
Capt Jon Cook briefing the eight MPs of the Defence External Affairs Committee

SPORT SCENE

The exercise plot has relented enough to allow some sport to take place. **WO2 (YofS) Bob Burrows** decided to prove to all what a rat is, 'Crag Rat' that is, and took a party climbing. **Cpl 'Lefty' Wright** was seen demonstrating how to jump upside down and **LCpl 'TC' Crosby** held tightly to the safety rope whilst his wife, **Lynne,** did a very classy abseil.

The football team under the stern eye of **WO2 (SSM) George Paton** has somehow managed to fit in fourteen games and have only suffered one defeat. **Cpl 'Dave' Denyer** and **Sig Mike Shirley** are competing for the golden boot as every time one scores so does the other. They are currently ten-all with two hat-tricks apiece.

Cpl 'Big Tep' Tepielow has been busy organising both the Tug of War team and the Marching Squad. Although defeated by the Gunners in the Divisional Tug of War competition the team had the satisfaction of beating 22 Sig Regt by two straight pulls. The Marching Squad had its first outing on 20 May when they took part in the AFCENT Jubilee March. All thirteen managed to finish both the walk and the barrel.

Perhaps the highlight of the Sporting calendar has been the troop success in the Regimental Orienteering Championships. The Troop emerged as team winners on both the A and B courses with **Capt John Cook** and **Cpl Dave Denyer** putting in the fastest individual times on their respective courses. It's nice to note that the Troop's A team also beat the 3 Div Minor Unit Champion team by over 5 minutes.

SOCIAL SCENE

The Troop club, the Echo Chambers, continues to thrive despite the attentions of the PSA—something to do with a wall that disappeared. **Cpl Dave Williams** has repainted what's left a stunning orange; apparently the committee chose (stole) it. Various functions have been held under the watchful eye of the PMC **Cpl Colin Joseph** and with the able assistance of **Sig 'Shep' Sheppard** and **LCpl 'Harry' Hawkins** on the disco. **Sig 'Scouse' Strefford** won high praise for his tramp's outfit recently—it was fancy dress wasn't it?

Congratulations must go to **Cpl Colin Joseph, LCpl 'Sooty' Sutton** and **Cpl 'Lefty' Wright,** and of course their good ladies, for the recent additions to their families.

Farewell to **Lt Bob Holmes** and his wife **Maureen,** to **Lt David Kirkup** and **Cpl Mick Jones** on posting: we wish then all the very best in their new posts. At the same time we wish a very warm welcome to **2lt Simon Lunn** and **Lt Andy Harrison** and hope they will enjoy their stay with Echo.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

SUCCESSFUL REUNIONS AT BLANDFORD AND CATTERICK

We are glad to include a photo report of the Association Reunions at Blandford (21 May) and Catterick (10/11 June). Inevitably these photographs fail to capture every component of these superbly planned occasions and all who attend are well aware of the considerable resources involved.

Most sincere thanks are due to the Commandant, School of Signals, **Brig J. H. Hild, MBE** and Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig N. A. Butler, CBE** and their respective staffs at Blandford and Catterick—our superb Corps Band and White Helmets—the excellent Catering staffs—and many unseen soldiers and wives—whose combined efforts ensured two significant and memorable events.

THE SCENE AT BLANDFORD



Some of the spectators who gathered for the Playing of Retreat on 21 May

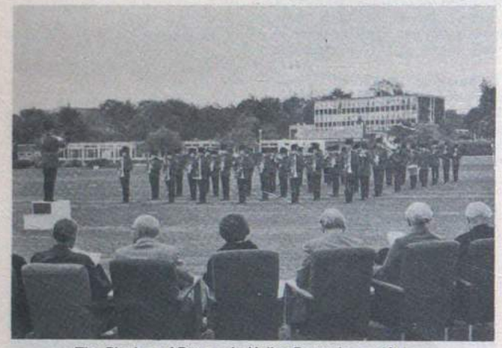


WO1 (RSM) McMillan making a point to Maj Gen Moberly (President, Dorset Branch) (*left*) and Maj Gen Price (Chairman of the Association) (*right*)

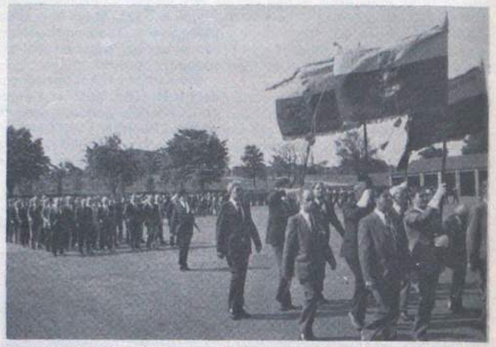


Pensioners Marriot (*left*) and Brown (*right*) travelled from Chelsea to Blandford for the day

— AND CATTERICK



The Playing of Retreat in Helles Barracks on 10 June



Maj Frank Mansfield commanded the Association Squadron; marching to St Martin's Church on Sunday morning



Association Members from near and far show their appreciation of the Corps Band



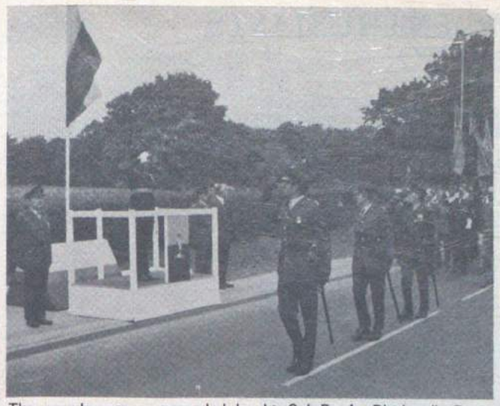
Some 27 Association Standards were on parade under the Standard Marshal, Mr C. E. Moore (Catterick Branch)



Mr K. Kirby (*left*) and Mr F. Backhouse (*right*) of East London Branch discussing the form in the magnificent WO and Sergeants Mess of 8 Sig Regt later in the day. The General Secretary doing most of the talking



The Corps Band in attendance



The parade was commanded by Lt Col B. A. Blackwell, Royal Signals. The Representative Colonel Commandant, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE took the salute



The Squadron of 8 Sig Regt was commanded by Maj E. Hampson, Royal Signals



Left to right: Maj N. Wilson, Lt Col Freddie Worth, Maj Dickie Dirs; discussing days in Rawalpindi perhaps?

LONDON BRANCH

Mr. A. W. Smith, Chairman, is also Vice-Chairman of the Middlesex Hospital Club for the Hard of Hearing who work to help those with this disability. The club meets at the Middlesex Hospital Nurses Home, Foley Street, London W1 on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month. For further information, please contact (01) 636 8333 Ext 415 or (01) 435 6963.

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Other £1.00

Tickets available from the Secretary ARU:—

Lt Col P. E. Y. Dawson
Army Sport Control Board
'M' Block
Clayton Barracks
Thornhill Road
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 2BG

Or at the turnstiles Twickenham.

ARMY CUP DATES

	Major
Preliminary Round	by Wed 4 Oct 78
1st Round	by Wed 18 Oct 78
2nd Round	by Wed 1 Nov 78
3rd Round	by Wed 15 Nov 78
4th Round	by Wed 29 Nov 78
UK Semi Final	Wed 21 Feb 79
UK Final	Wed 14 Mar 79
Final (in UK)	Wed 28 Mar 79

Minor

Wed 11 Oct 78
Wed 25 Oct 78
Wed 8 Nov 78
Wed 22 Nov 78
Wed 6 Dec 78
Wed 28 Feb 79
Wed 7 Mar 79
Wed 4 Apr 79 in BAOR

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

20 January 1979	Ireland v France
20 January 1979	Scotland v Wales
3 February 1979	Wales v Ireland
3 February 1979	**England v Scotland**
17 February 1979	France v Wales
17 February 1979	Ireland v England
3 March 1979	**England v France**
3 March 1979	Scotland v Ireland
17 March 1979	Wales v England
17 March 1979	France v Scotland

INTER SERVICES MATCHES 78/79

17 February 1979	Royal Navy v Royal Air Force
10 March 1979	Royal Navy v Army
24 March 1979	Army v Royal Air Force

COMBINED SERVICES FIXTURES

Wed 27	September	1978	Devon ..... Devonport
Mon 23	October	1978	United Hospitals ..... Aldershot
Tue 7	November	1978	Public School Wanderers .... Aldershot
Thu 9	November	1978	French Armed Forces ..... Aldershot
Tue 21	November	1978	New Zealand ..... Aldershot

ARMY RUGBY UNION FIXTURES 1978/79

1978		
Wed 18 Oct	Army Trials	Aldershot
Wed 22 Nov	Army Officers v RMAS....	Sandhurst
Mon 4 Dec	Final Trials	Aldershot
Tue 5 Dec		
Wed 6 Dec	RMCS	Shrivenham
Thu 7 Dec	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
Wed 13 Dec	Lydney ..... (Kick off 7 pm)	Lydney
Fri 15 Dec	Llanelli..... (Kick off 7 pm)	Llanelli
1979		
Wed 3 Jan	Hampshire ..... (Kick off 7.30 pm)	Aldershot
Sat 6 Jan	Harlequins	Stoop Memorial Ground
Sat 13 Jan	Leicestershire Barbarians ..	Away
Wed 17 Jan	United Hospitals	Aldershot
Wed 24 Jan	Oxford University.....	Aldershot
Wed 31 Jan	Rosslyn Park ..... (Kick off 7.30 pm)	Roehampton
Sat 3 Feb	Cambridge University.....	Aldershot
Wed 14 Feb	Surrey ..... (Kick off 7.30 pm)	Esher
Sat 24 Feb	Blackheath.....	Rectory Field
Wed 28 Feb	Bristol ..... (Kick off 7.30 pm)	Bristol
Sat 10 Mar	Royal Navy.....	Twickenham
Wed 14 Mar	TAVR	Away
Sat 24 Mar	Royal Air Force	Twickenham
Wed 4 Apr	Civil Services	Aldershot
Thu 17 Apr	BAOR Tour	Aldershot
Mon 23 Apr		
Wed 25 Apr	Courage Army Sevens.....	Aldershot

UNDER 21 FIXTURES

Hampshire	
Surrey	Dates Later
Blackheath	
London Irish	

INTER CORPS GOLF CHAMPIONS



The Corps team plus supporters: *Standing:* Sgt Chris Carveth, Maj Dick Carroll, Lt Col Mike Hales, Capt Harry Meekings. *Kneeling:* WO1 Reg Simpson, Capt Donna Reed, WO1 Len Yates

The 1978 inter-Corps competition for the Royal Irish Rangers Trophy was played at Tidworth on 13 and 14 June. The Corps team played very consistent golf and held steady during two well fought matches in the semi-final and final rounds.

The details of the competition were:

First round—bye (RAC scratched)
Second round—R Signals 34, RCT 0
Semi final—R Signals 6, RAOC 2
Final—R Signals 9, REME 2

The semi final was a very close match which, with two holes to go, could have been won by either side. The Corps individual results were:

Maj Dick Carroll lost to **Cpl Ian Gray** (the Army champion) by 1 hole.
WO1 Len Yates beat **Maj Ron Rush** by 2 holes.
Sgt Chris Carveth beat **WO1 John Kearney** by 4 holes.
WO1 Reg Simpson lost to **WO2 Jim Bowen** by 1 hole.

The final was similarly very exciting. With three holes to play the team was 3 holes up on aggregate. Again, either side could win but the Corps proved to be the stronger finishers. As individuals:

Carroll beat **WO1 Ken Smith** by 1 hole.
Yates lost to **Capt Matt Sullivan** by 2 holes.
Carveth beat **Maj Bob Spiller** by 4 holes.
Simpson beat **WO1 Bob Lamb** by 4 holes.

The two reserves, who did not play but provided tremendous support throughout all the matches, were **Capts Donna Reed** and **Harry Meekings.** The Captain was allowed into the photograph because he supplied the champagne!

STOP PRESS

'The Army Golf Association 72 Hole Stroke Play Championship was played at Little Aston Golf Club on 25 and 26 July. The three Corps golfers who competed were all prize winners: **Sgt Chris Carveth** won the Championship, **Capt Harry Meekings** was runner up in the 72 hole Handicap competition, and **WO1 Len Yates** won the prize for the 1st 18 holes, he also shared one 'hole in two' ball sweep, and won another outright, so finished up with approx £18 worth of high class golf balls.

SAILING

DINGHY RESULT — THE MAXFIELD TROPHY

The Royal Signals Yacht Club beat the Royal Corps of Transport Yacht Club at HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, on 31 May, 1978, so retaining the Maxfield Trophy.

The results were:

Race 1: RCTYC 13, RSYC 7¾
Race 2: RCTYC 12: RSYC 8¾

The team was **Maj Collins** with **WO2 (YofS) Hall, SSgt (FofS) D. Ellis** with **Sgt D. Webb** and **Cpl I. Ward** with **Cpl D. Ogley.**

Dinghy Notes

The unbeaten record of the R Signals team continues unabated, with defeats of the RAPC on 21 June (RSYC 15½, RAPCYC 26), The Inf YC on 28 May (RSYC 13¾, Inf YC 28), and above all with the winning of the Triangular Regatta at Seaview on 15/16 June. The delight of all Corps sailors at the last result can be assumed, but the skill and enthusiasm of our Corps dinghy team should be a source of pride for us all.

Offshore

Not to be outdone by the 'little fellahs', the Rear Commodore Offshore, **Lt Col J. O. C. Alexander,** one of the Corps two Ocean Skippers, raced the Corps' new boat Skywave to great effect in the ASA Regatta and in the Services Offshore Race (SOR). He and his crew collected a delightfully embarrassing weight of silver on our behalf. In the ASA Regatta he collected two seconds in the three 'round the Buoys' races (Div III). He won the Div III passage race and was awarded the Watney/Mann cup for the best overall performance in the passage race. In the SOR he was third in Div III on the outward passage and won the return race finishing third overall. A stirling effort, heralding, we hope, the return of the Corps as a power in services offshore racing.

Adventure Training

The Crew is now being selected for Leg 1 of Exercise *Christmas Carol*. This is the first time that R Signals have been allowed to take a major leg complete on one of the big sailing expeditions. The crew sail from Gosport to Gibraltar in the latter half of October.

SAILING

The dinghy team in the UK extended its run of successes by beating the RAOC at HMS *Excellent* on 5 July and at Bicester on the 12 July, and the RAF SCS HQ Yacht Club at HMS *Excellent* on the 19 July.

So far this season they have not lost a match. Many congratulations to the sailing stalwarts at Blandford. If you think you can match their quality ring the racing captain **Maj M. J. M. Alden** on Blandford Mil Ext 415. There are still a few opportunities to charter the Corps boats in UK and persons wishing to enquire about them can contact the Yachtmaster, **Maj M. M. Barker** on 0705-692654.

CORPS REGATTAS

Each year the Royal Signals Yacht Club holds two Regattas. The first at HMS *Excellent*, Whale Island, Portsmouth, where the racing is in Bosun Dinghies, and the second in Mermaid Keel Boats is held at Seaview Yacht Club on the Isle of Wight. This year they were held on 15-17 May and 6-7 June respectively. All serving members of the Corps are eligible to enter these events, providing any helmsman is at least a Class 'B'.

TACTICAL SKILL

The Whale Island Regatta, featured in the photographs, was held in glorious weather. Unfortunately there was little wind, which meant that the races became a test of tactical skill, so providing interesting and thoroughly enjoyable sailing.

As normal, the Bridge Party was commanded by that stalwart sailor **Lt Col (Retd) Eric Glover,** and once again assisted by **Lt Col (Retd) Denis Dickson.** Our thanks are due to them for all their hard work. **Mrs Chenda Glover** kindly presented the prizes to the successful master tacticians, who were:—

1st Individual
Helm **SSgt (FofS) Dave Ellis**
Crew **Sgt Bob Webb**

2nd Individual
Helm **Cpl Ian Ward**
Crew **Capt Steve Galpin**

all of whom are members of 30 Sig Regt. Needless to say they secured the inter-unit cup for 30 Sig Regt.

RETIRED TO THE FORE

The final day of the Regatta was devoted to the Retired Members of the Corps, assisted by some serving members, including **Maj Christine Green WRAC.** They had three exciting races in windier conditions than the first two days, resulting in a win for Ex RSM Jim Wheeler.

VARIABLE CONDITIONS AT SEAVIEW

The Seaview Regatta provided some very interesting sailing. The first day was in light winds that seemed to come from all points of the compass, which made mockery helmsmen's plans. On the second day the conditions were even more varied, from a flat calm at the start of one race (which necessitated the use of anchors to prevent drifting away from the start line) to a force 4 or 5 wind during the last race, which provided the excitement of the day.

Once again the bridge was commanded by **Lt Col (Retd) Eric Glover,** and **Mrs Chenda Glover** presented the prizes, which were won by:



ON THE JETTY
Left to right: Sgt Eric Paul, Signalmen 'Tick' Tock and 'Jock' Strapp



THE RACE STARTS

Regatta Winner
Helm **Cpl Ian Ward**
Crew **Capt Bob West**
WO2 Jerry Lowe

Robinson Salver
Helm **SSgt Dave Ellis**
Crew **WO2 Mike Scott**
Sgt Steve Hunter

Both teams were from 30 Sig Regt, and they therefore won the Inter Unit Trophy with **Cpl Ian Ward's** fine race record—he was never lower than second.

AND 1979

Both of these events will again be held next year. Details will be published in The Wire nearer the time, and the instructions will be issued to Units in the New Year. If you would like to register as a potential competitor you can do so by writing, or telephoning:—

Whale Island Regatta
Maj Mike Alden
School of Signals
(Blandford Mil ext 415)

Seaview Regatta
Lt Col Keith Powell
Communication Projects Agency
Blandford Camp
(Blandford Mil ext 356)



APPROACHING FOUDROYANT BUOY
SSgt 'Mike' McGilp and A/T Ralph Johnston



LOST?
SSgt 'Mac' McGilp and A/T Ralph Johnston



TOWARDS THE END
Maj John Gryspeerdt and Cpl Elton Prince



VICTORY
Mrs Chenda Glover presenting the Inter Unit prize to SSgt (FofS) Dave Ellis

THE ROYAL SIGNALS BALTIC REGATTA

THE SUPERB OPTIMIST

The Baltic Regatta this year took place in early June and followed the now familiar series of passage races around the largest Danish Island of Zealand. As the crews gathered in Kiel late on the Friday and early on the Saturday the committee were anxiously watching the weather. A westerly gale had been blowing for several days and there was little sign of it letting up. The briefing of skippers took place as planned and was followed immediately by a weather briefing from that superb optimist, **Capt Roger Justice,** Captain of Boats at Kiel. He said that the wind was due to abate slightly and go round to the North West. He also said we would find a lee once we rounded the southern tip of Zealand.

NEAR GALE CONDITIONS

As a result of this weather forecast, the first race started on time. This was the longest leg—150 miles to Copenhagen. It consisted of a wild down wind rush for about 70 miles and then an exhilarating reach northwards to Copenhagen. Unfortunately the lull did not materialise and the race ended about 24 hours later in near gale conditions. It speaks well for the standard of seamanship that the whole fleet finished within 2-3 hours of the leaders. The winners of that leg, and the Copenhagen Cup was the 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt A boat skippered by **Capt Martin Bevan.**

WINNERS MAKE PRESENCE FELT

The second race started from Copenhagen on the Tuesday after a well earned rest, in rather blustery conditions, but the wind steadily dropped and the dominating feature of the race was a strong counter current. It was in this race that the overall winners, **Maj Martin Roberts** and his crew from HQ BAOR, began to make their presence felt, by finishing a good six hours ahead of the tail enders.

The fleet left the pleasant town of Hundestedt during the following afternoon in brilliant sunshine and a fine breeze which held well until nightfall. However, as the sun went down so did the wind and the rest of the race was very slow. The finish was quite close with **Lt Col Freddie Lockwood** and his crew from Berlin just beating **Martin Roberts** into second place.

A mention must be made here of **Bill Coxon** who claims to have made up two places on this race by setting all three foresails at once. Whatever it might have done to his speed it totally ruined the appearance of his boat!

THE LAST RACE AND AN INVITATION

The last race, back to Kiel from Korsor was again dogged by light airs and a strong counter current. The committee on Petasus, in an effort to get home before the rest of the fleet had to use the engine for 12 hours out of a total of 24. A good breeze sprang up just as Petasus was entering Kiel Fjord and gave the rest of the fleet a fine sail home for the last few hours to end the Regatta on a high note. The last race was won in fine style by **Sgt Parker** of 13 Sig Regt who was well clear of the rest of the fleet.

The overall winners of the Regatta was the crew from HQ BAOR who received the Cannon 'Cito'. The Dickson Telescope was awarded to **Maj Martin Roberts**—the skipper of the winning boat. Theirs was a convincing win, well clear of the second boat from Berlin. Although they only won one race they achieved consistently high places.

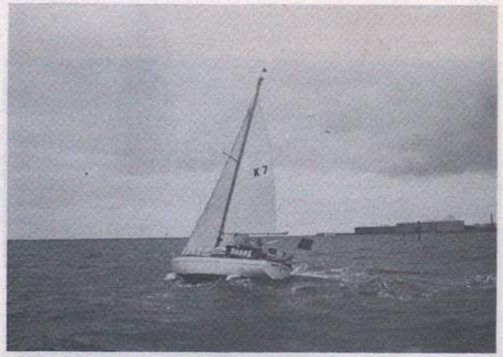
The Regatta was a great success. We covered about 500 miles and spent four nights at sea. The 12 racing crews and the crew of Petasus gained some useful experience and enjoyed themselves. Why not join us next year?



Photograph of Javelin the boat skippered by CSO Berlin Col Freddie Lockwood



A stern view of Foil, familiar view to many competitors in the Royal Signals Baltic Regatta



Sabre, skippered by Capt Martin Bevan, winner of the Copenhagen Cup



Photo courtesy Graphics Section, HQ BAOR

The victors with their trophies at JHQ Rheindahlen. *Left to right:* Maj M. W. H. Roberts, R. Signals. (Skipper and winner of Dickinson Telescope), WO2 T. Keene, RAOC, Maj K. R. Harding, RA and SSgt P. Burdess, R. Signals

SHOOTING

Report by Maj G. A. S. Exell, Captain of Corps Shooting

ROYAL SIGNALS SKILL AT ARMS MEETING HELD AT BULFORD RANGES 19-23 JUNE 1978

The numbers of shots attending exceeded 130, due primarily to the attendance of four major units from 1 (BR) Corps who are normally committed to exercises over the period. We were also glad to welcome units from Cyprus, Northern Ireland and the UK as well as the Gurkha Field Force Squadron from Hong Kong.

The first day was hot and set a pattern for the week with 13 Sig Regt winning the Roupell and Whitehead matches just one hit ahead of the School of Signals in each. 8 Field Force Sig Sqn showed admirable consistency and was never out of the first two places in the minor unit team matches. The weather changed dramatically by the fourth day and the LMG and Section Matches were fired in teeming rain without, it must be said, affecting the ultimate destiny of the respective team championships to 13 Sig Regt and 8 Field Force. '13' led by **WO2 Dave Wilson** Int Corps took the silver in all but two of the matches. 8 Field Force led by **Sgt Tom Appleyard RPC** showed similar skill although the Gurkhas would have given them a hard time if they had not been shooting for honours only.

The Individual Rifle Championship was headed by **WO1 (FofS) Barry Hassall** until the last two practices when he was overtaken by **Sgt Bob Watts** who thus became Corps Champion for the first time. Foreman **Hassall** had some consolation by winning the SMG championship. **Sgt Narbahadur Pun** won the prize for the best Non-Royal Signals shot.

The President of Corps Shooting **Brig R. L. Stonham** presented the prizes and thanked 30 Sig Regt as host for their excellent work on the ranges and for their administrative back-up. **Maj Bill Turney** deserves a special vote of thanks for his preparatory work which ensured that the meeting went with clockwork precision. 10 and 11 Sig Regts also provided invaluable support 'behind the scenes'. **Capt (QGO) Damarbahadur Sen** ended the proceedings with the presentation of kukris to **Brig Stonham, Maj Exell** and **Maj Turney**—a generous gesture much appreciated. The winners of individual matches were as follows:—

	Best Class A	*Best Class B*
ROUPELL	**LCpl Metcalfe** 30 Sig Regt	**LCpl Cullen** 262 Sig Sqn
WHITEHEAD	**Sgt Watts** 13 Sig Regt	**Sig Bean** 30 Sig Regt
ASSOCIATION	**WO1 Hassall** 3 Cdo Bde	**Cpl Cadywould** School of Signals
ROBERTS	**Sgt Watts** 13 Sig Regt	**Sig Clowery** 21 Sig Regt
ARMY 100	**Maj Goulding** 28 Sig Regt	**LCpl Cullen** 262 Sig Sqn
SMG	**WO1 Hassall** 3 Cdo Bde	**Sig Gill** 8 Fd Force
PISTOL	**Sgt Hunt** 13 Sig Regt	
LMG	**Sgt Appleyard** **Cpl Brindle** 8 Fd Force	**Cpl Cadywould** **Sig Simcox** School of Signals
TR	**Capt Evans** 7 Sig Regt	
RIFLE CHAMPION	**Sgt Watts** 13 Sig Regt	**Cpl Cadywould** School of Signals

REGULAR ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING (RASAM) AT BISLEY 27 JUNE-8 JULY 1978

The Corps was able to field a larger number of shots at RASAM than for many years. Unfortunately the quantity was not matched by quality and results were disappointing. The reasons are well known and have been noted in these columns for a number of years. Basically the problem is one of lack of training against a background of ever increasing RASAM standards particularly those of the Infantry, against whom we shoot as equals. **Ssgt Chas Hall** returned to form with a vengeance after a sub-standard (for him) Corps Meeting. He was the only Corps winner of medals and bars in all three of the major rifle matches in Stage 1 of the championship and was placed 20th overall at this point. He was desperately unlucky to suffer a broken extractor in the Roberts Match which dropped him out of the leaders lists. Our only two other medal winners were **Maj Exell** and **Cpl Foster** in the moving Target Match. We had 14 shots through to the Second stage of the championship, but, regretfully, all of them had one poor practice to their name somewhere which debarred them from the Army 100 Match. It is worth noting that only two Corps shots were at RASAM this year out of our 12 qualifiers for the Army 100 in 1976 and 1977. During this period of three years, the qualifying score for the Army 100 has increased by some 70 points which illustrates just how difficult it is to make the final stage and thus win a '100' medal. **Sgt Tony Hunt** maintained his fine record with a pistol by qualifying again for a Pistol medal.

The School of Signals improved greatly on their team performances at the Corps Meeting and were awarded the Bisley Trophy as the best Royal Signals team in the KRRC cup (major unit championship). This gave them a creditable 39th place out of 65 major units. They thus turned the tables on 13 Sig Regt but the latter had the satisfaction of being runners-up in the Pistol Tiles and a notable fifth in the Pistol Team Match.

The Gurkha Sig Sqn finished an excellent third in the RASC Cup—the Minor Unit Championship. Our best 'home grown' unit was 8 Field Force Sqn who came a good ninth (out of 38) and thus confirmed their consistency at the Corps Meeting.

The Methuen Team was capable of a high score comparable with that in 1977 but members were apparently overcome by the occasion and shot well below form. A complete rapid shoot on the wrong target by one member (spare his blushes) did not help our cause.

In summary it is probably true that Corps standards have remained static over the past few years while overall standards have risen by leaps and bounds. The Gurkha Sig Sqn showed what could be achieved but they had the advantage of concentrated training in UK since April. Credit must be given to our lower placed units many of whom qualified for RASAM in the first instance in the face of great difficulties. It is to be hoped that they will not be discouraged by their first tastes of top class competition and learn from their experiences. The young shots from these units are the Methuen shots of the future. Welcome back in 1979!

NRA SERVICE WEAPON EVENTS AT BISLEY 10-13 JULY 1978

The Corps entered a team of six for these events in which marksmen compete from all services and the Commonwealth. **SSgt Chas Hall** continued with the good form he showed at the ARA Meeting and qualified easily for the final stage (the top 25) of the Queen Mary. Unfortunately he suffered once again from an SLR malfunction so his chance of winning slipped away. He did however, have the satisfaction of taking five prize bars on his way to being our top placed shot in the Service Rifle Championship. **Cpl Steve Cadywould** more than justified his selection by taking five bars (shooting as a tyro) and was delighted to be presented with Staff **Hall's** much coveted shooting box as a reward. **Cpl Jim Quinn** showed that he had not forgotten what he had learnt in 259 Sig Sqn's prizewinning team of 1977 and he collected four bars. **Maj Geoff Exell, Capt Jim Evans** and **LCpl Geoff Copley** all showed they could hold their own by winning three bars each. It is ironic that the scores by our team of six in the Queen Mary Match (identical to the Methuen conditions) produced a score 124 points better than in the Methuen itself just five days earlier—a classic case of 'might have beens'.

Our team scores gave us places in the 'top third' but the 'one poor practice' syndrome so apparent at the ARA meeting, continued to haunt us so that we never got within striking distance of the silver.

In conclusion it is sad to record that this was probably Staff **Chas Hall's** final BISLEY. He has shot consistently well over the past few years and marksmen of his calibre are hard to replace. Thank you **'Chas'** for your skill, enthusiasm and support.



ROYAL SIGNALS METHUEN TEAM 1978
SSgt C. T. Hall, Cpl J. Quinn (Reserve), Capt R. T. Hoole (Reserve), Cpl R. J. Watts, Capt R. J. Evans, LCpl G. Copley, Maj G. A. S. Exell (Team Capt), Sgt A. G. Hunt, WO1 (FofS) B. Hassall

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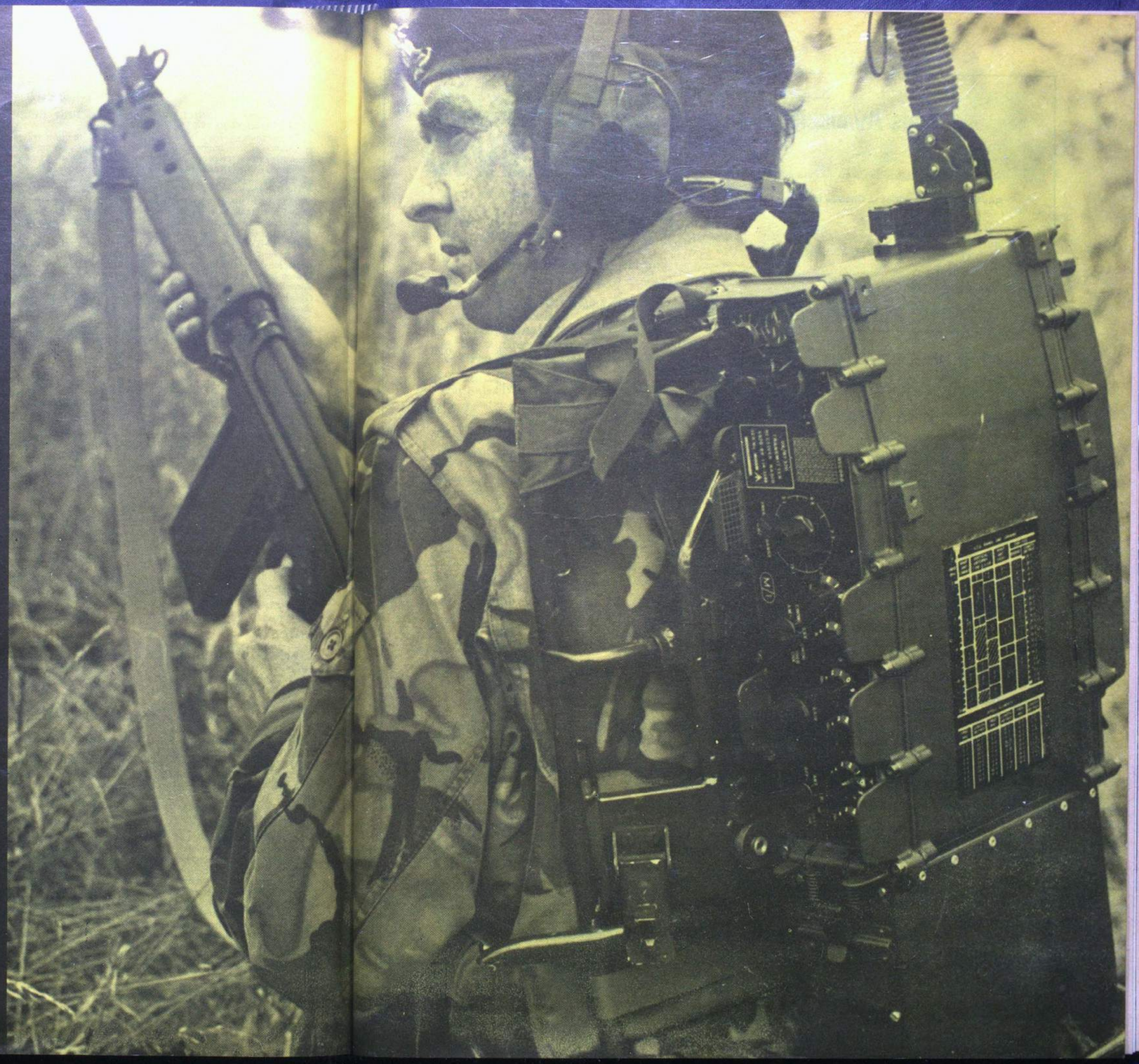
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	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass ash trays	0.80	0.85
The 1979 Corps Diary—This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible dark blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert.	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0.25	0.25
Blazer buttons—Large	0.20	0.20
Small	0.15	0.15
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	2.20	2.35
Car badge—square, acrylic	2.20	2.35
Motor cycle badge	0.75	0.75
Corps cravats—terylene	1.85	2.00
Corps cuff links	2.20	2.40
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Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	5.00	5.45
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	16.80	18.20
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	4.95	5.30
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'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.10	2.25
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.30	7.00
Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

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Please send me details without obligation. I am interested in the following Naafi facilities:
New car_____(state model)
For use in _____(state country)
☐ New touring caravan ☐ Used car ☐ New motor cycle ☐ Boat
☐ Deposit savings scheme ☐ Insurance ☐ I wish to pay cash ☐ I wish to use Naafi HP *Please tick whichever applies*
Rank _____ **Name** _____
Address _____
_____ **Tel No.** _____

NAAFI EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU CS



Don't be vague. The dark bottle's Haig.

Ford Capri.
The way to see some action overseas.

The new Capri is the way to make the most out of your posting abroad.

Few cars in the world better demonstrate the difference between driving, and just motoring.

And with Ford's special concessionary terms for the forces overseas, nothing on four wheels can touch it for value.

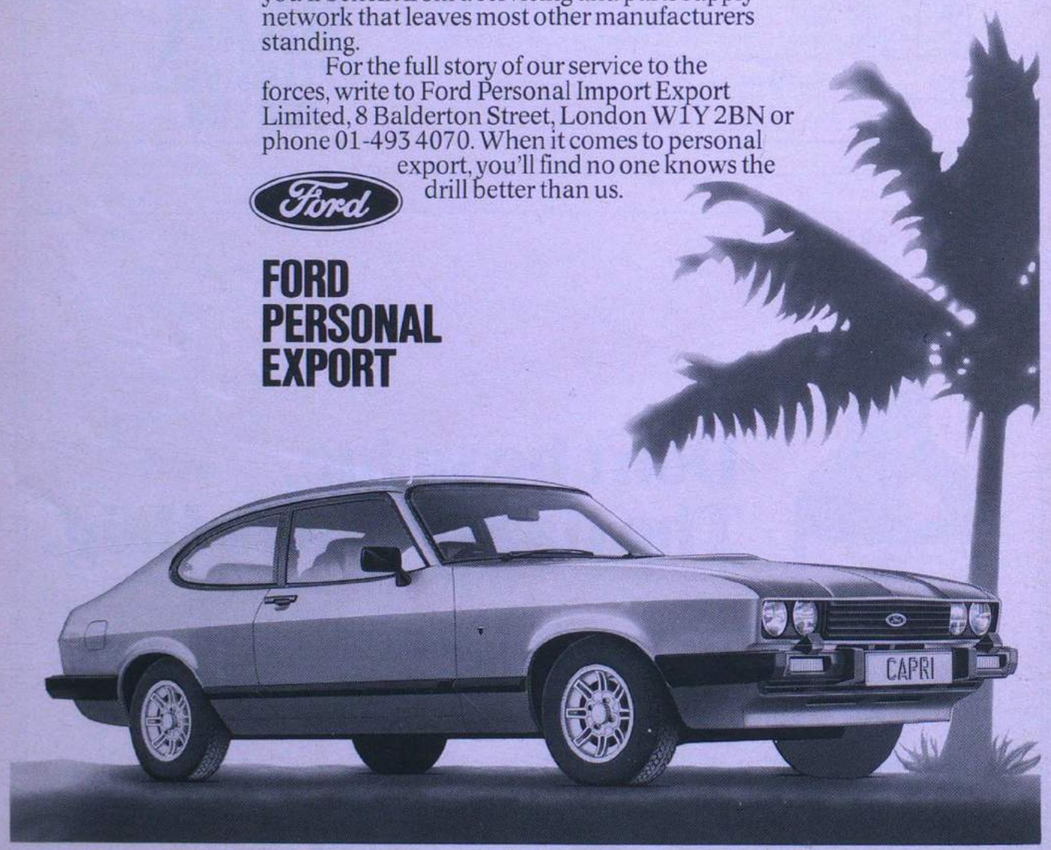
But that's not all. Export a new Capri from the UK and you'll find all the red tape is taken care of. Ford even looks after the shipping.

Then, wherever you travel in the future, you'll benefit from a servicing and parts supply network that leaves most other manufacturers standing.

For the full story of our service to the forces, write to Ford Personal Import Export Limited, 8 Balderton Street, London W1Y 2BN or phone 01-493 4070. When it comes to personal export, you'll find no one knows the drill better than us.

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For these and all bar supplies contact your nearest NAAFI.

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BLACK LABEL CHAMPAGNE

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THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED

There is nothing like a PIMM'S

BORDEAUX BURGUNDY
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Deliciously Different
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EL CÍD
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It's got to be Gordon's
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£1,299 OFF.



Celica Liftback ST.

Worth leaving your country for.

A tax-free car is one of the perks of an overseas posting.

All the major car makers will sell you one.

But only Toyota offer an extra 15% discount on top of the usual tax concessions on every model in their range.

The table in the coupon shows the effect this has on the price of a Celica Liftback ST (and other cars in the Toyota range).

The price quoted is for a Celica on the road. Which is where they tend to stay.

Celicas grace the inside of a garage about twice a year. That's when they go in for servicing.

They are reliable because like all Toyotas, they are designed and built in a common sense way to a standard of finish few car makers can match.

There are 3,000 Toyota dealers in Europe, with 750 in West Germany alone.

Any one of them will care for a new Celica for a year as part of Toyota's unlimited mileage warranty.

If you would like more information, please fill in the coupon.

And who knows, you could be leaving the country with a Celica, a few quid in your pocket and a tear in your eye.

To: Toyota (GB) Ltd. (Export Dept.), 700 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR9 4HB, England. Tel: 01-680 3350.
I would like to know more about the vehicle(s) below. (Tick brochures required.) I have been serving overseas less than/more than 12 months. (Delete as applicable.)

	UK PRICE	EXPORT PRICE
☐ Corolla 30 Estate 1200.	£3,136.15	£2,191.00
☐ Corolla Liftback 1600.	£3,478.95	£2,451.00
☐ Corolla 1200 4 door.	£2,896.29	£2,045.00
☐ Cressida Saloon 2000.	£4,038.22	£2,796.00
☐ Carina 1600 Estate.	£3,803.05	£2,662.00
☐ Celica Liftback ST 2000.	£4,322.53	£3,023.00

☐ I would like to know more about the following Toyota(s) not mentioned above: _____

Export prices quoted subject to eligibility. ASN/ C 9

Name/Rank: _____
Address: _____
_____
Telephone (Home/Unit): _____

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We at Gieves and Hawkes may enjoy a sense of history because we dressed the Iron Duke and Nelson, invented the Shako, the cavalry head-dress, were first to make the Solar Topee and have been tailoring uniforms for over two-hundred years, but we're certainly not hidebound!

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No. 1 SAVILE ROW, LONDON W1
Telephone 01-434 2001

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Telephone 0276-63659

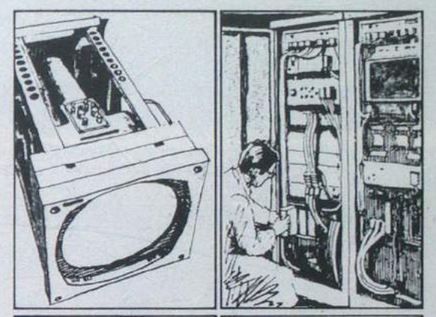
and at Bath, Bexhill, Brockenhurst, Chester, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Harrow, Leicester, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Winchester

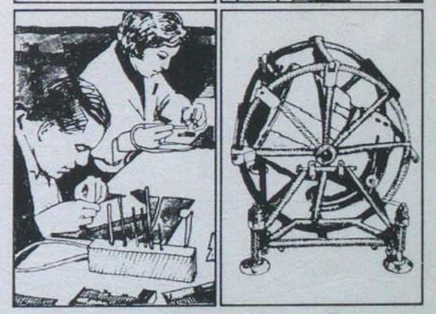
Test Engineers recognise anything?

The chances are that you do. After all you have probably been working on this or similar equipment. You will know that the testing and maintenance of such equipment demands high skill, especially in the factory where measurements, fault finding and adjustments have to be made to ensure performance and reliability in the field. The kind of skill — and experience — that you have acquired or developed in the services.

It is this skill and experience which we now need to develop and build on which can provide you with the sort of career opportunity that will appeal to you — whether you are able to join us very soon or want something lined up for when you leave the service.

You would be joining Europe's largest supplier of air traffic control and air defence radar systems. Our expertise in radar technology is recognised world-wide and you could work on equipment ranging from simple printed boards to complex sub-systems. Many of our staff are ex-services.





Our work is of a non-production type ensuring variety and challenge and covers the latest techniques direct from development back to equipment first manufactured up to 15 or 20 years ago, this makes the transition from Service life to industry very easy for the new employee.

We offer completive salaries, excellent working conditions and real scope for career development.

Why not telephone or write for an application form to Joan Kendall, Personnel Department, Marconi Radar Systems Limited, Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex. Telephone Chelmsford (0245) 67111.

We would also like to hear from men and women who possess traditional engineering skills, such as turning, milling, welding etc.

Marconi Radar
A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

As you've had some of the best electronics training you'll be looking for some of the best electronics jobs.

Anyone who's worked with electronics in the forces has been on the receiving end of some of the best training available.

A fact that we at Marconi Communications are quick to recognise.

We're involved in radio and TV broadcast equipment, satellite earth stations, naval communications, H.F. Systems, tropo-scatter and line-of-sight networks. We have probably the largest systems capacity in Europe – there's literally no contract that's too large or too complex for us to handle.

If you have been involved in one or more of the above systems and are interested in the following positions, we would like to hear from you.

Systems/Sales Engineering

In these jobs, you'd help assess the technical implications of a sales enquiry, and develop customer requirements into systems drawings and technical notes ready to make a formal tender. It's a role which involves working closely with our customers in the UK and overseas.

Installation Engineering

You'd install and maintain many of the systems described above and your job would take you to locations in the UK and many parts of the world.

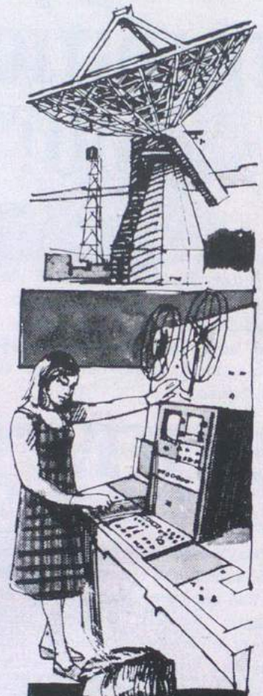
Test Engineering

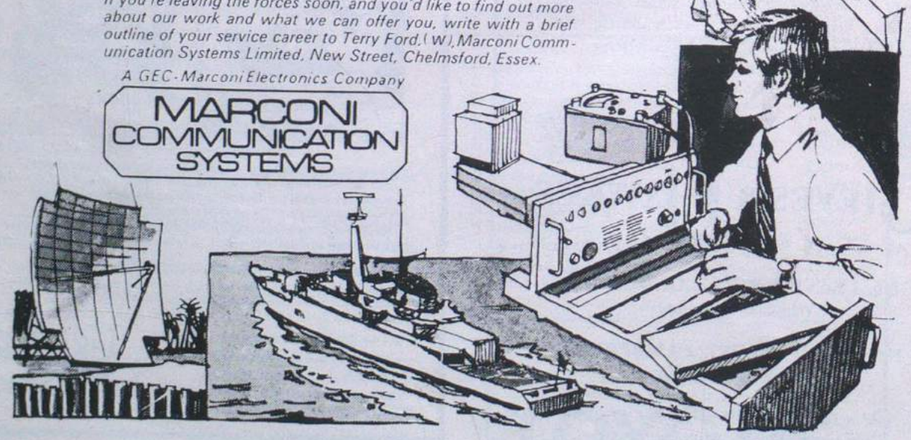
Using the most sophisticated equipment and test techniques, you'd carry out production testing and fault-finding on a wide range of equipment.

Working with Marconi Communications gives you excellent career and salary prospects, and the chance to put down roots in an attractive area.

If you're leaving the forces soon, and you'd like to find out more about our work and what we can offer you, write with a brief outline of your service career to Terry Ford, (W), Marconi Communication Systems Limited, New Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company





Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH (Telephone 01-930 4466, Ext. 371)
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November 1978

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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Test Engineering

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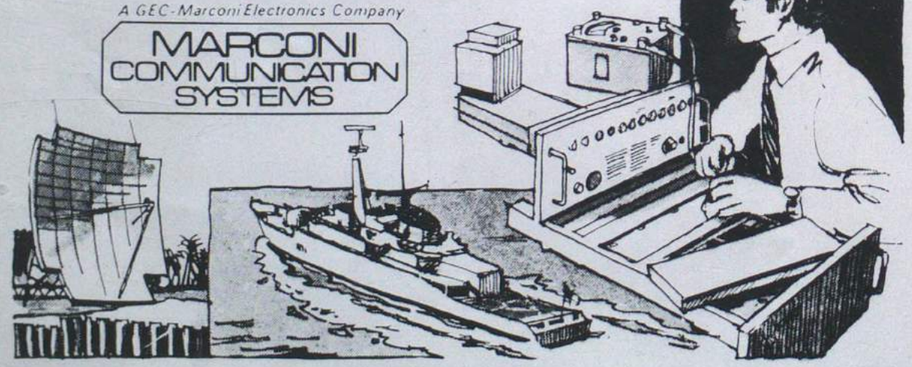
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Naafi provides a service exclusively for the Forces. That is why you're bound to be better off buying through Naafi – whether it be a car, caravan, motor cycle, moped or even a boat.

See for yourself! When you buy a new car through Naafi you can benefit from . . .

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And Naafi can offer you so much more . . . an HP deposit-saving service, an easy payment plan for car insurance premiums, used car purchase facilities . . . all specially geared to ensure a better deal for Service people. Ask Naafi about it to-day.

You can't do better!

FREEPOST No stamp needed

Car Sales Dept., Naafi, FREEPOST, London SE11 4BR

Please send me details without obligation. I am interested in the following Naafi facilities:

New car_____(state model)

For use in _____(state country)

☐ New touring caravan ☐ Used car ☐ New motor cycle ☐ Boat

☐ Deposit savings scheme ☐ Insurance ☐ I wish to pay cash ☐ I wish to use Naafi HP *Please tick whichever applies*

Rank _____ **Name** _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

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Skol Drinking. It's the taste that makes you do it.



Printed in Great Britain

£779 OFF.



Starlet 3 door GL.

Worth leaving your country for.

A tax-free car is one of the perks of an overseas posting.

All the major car makers will sell you one.

But only Toyota offer an extra 15% discount on top of the usual tax concessions on every model in their range.

The table in the coupon shows the effect this has on the price of a Corolla 30 (and other cars in the Toyota range).

The price quoted is for a Corolla on the road.

Which is where they tend to stay.

Corollas grace the inside of a garage about twice a year. That's when they go in for servicing.

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To: Toyota (GB) Ltd. (Export Dept.), 700 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR9 4HB, England. Tel: 01-680 3350.

I would like to know more about the vehicle(s) below. (Tick brochures required.) I have been serving overseas less than/more than 12 months. (Delete as applicable.)

	UK PRICE	EXPORT PRICE
☐ Starlet 3 door 1000 GL.	£2958.31	£2,179.00
☐ Corolla 30 Estate 1200.	£3289.41	£2,322.00
☐ Corolla Liftback 1600.	£3649.78	£2,598.00
☐ Carina 1600 Estate.	£3990.25	£2,822.00
☐ Cressida Saloon 2000.	£4237.11	£2,964.00
☐ Celica Liftback ST 2000.	£4535.46	£3,204.00

☐ I would like to know more about the following Toyota(s) not mentioned above: _____

Export prices quoted subject to eligibility. ASN/ 11 78

Name/Rank: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Home/Unit): _____

TOYOTA

Everything keeps going right.

Prices correct at time of going to Press.

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PO BOX 4, FARNBOROUGH, HAMPSHIRE, GU14 7LR. TEL 0252 515891

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The Chevette Saloon. A roomy 1300 four seater much favoured by military families stationed abroad.

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To Vauxhall Motors Limited, Personal Export Department, Route 3830, PO Box 3, Luton, England. Telephone (0582) 21122, ext. 3830.

Please send me full details of the luxurious VX series, the dashing Cavaliers, the versatile Chevettes and the economy-minded Vivas.

Also how I can take advantage of the money-saving Personal Export Scheme.

NAME

ADDRESS

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The Brandy of Napoleon COURVOISIER

Bénédictine DOM

NOVAL LB
The style is Vintage but not the price

Lanson BLACK LABEL CHAMPAGNE

For these and all bar supplies contact your nearest NAAFI.

There is nothing like a PIMM'S

Drambuie
THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED

BORDEAUX BURGUNDY CALVET

Deliciously Different CINZANO THE BIANCO

DUFF GORDON EL CÍD Amontillado Sherry

Printed in Great Britain

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:
MRS. G. M. CRAWFORD

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 No: Chelsea Mil. Ext 371 STD* 01-930 4466. *Ask operator for above extension.*

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

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NOVEMBER **1978**

Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 6**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

On Wednesday 1 November 1978, the Training Group Royal Signals had the privilege and honour of welcoming Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne on her first official visit to the Corps since she became our Colonel-in-Chief.

For once the Catterick weather smiled as the White Helmets escorted the Royal motorcade to Helles Barracks where the Colonel-in-Chief inspected a Royal Guard of Honour provided by 11th Signal Regiment. The Princess then watched training in progress before planting a tree to commemorate her visit. Her Royal Highness next moved to the Trade Training School of 8th Signal Regiment where she viewed static displays depicting the trades of the Corps and visited practical classes.

Luncheon was given in the Officers Mess where The Princess Anne met many of the Officers and their ladies. Finally, the Colonel-in-Chief visited the Junior Ranks Club of 8th Signal Regiment and talked informally to a large number of Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Soldiers of the Group and their wives before departing.

Our cover picture shows the Colonel-in-Chief speaking to Junior Signalmen accompanied by Lt Col Brian Blackwell, Maj David Dobson and Lt Peter Walker.

A full report will be included in the next issue of The Wire but it will be impossible to do justice to the happiness of the day and the tremendous impact made by our Colonel-in-Chief on everyone present. It was in every way a unique and memorable occasion.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS



The Master of Signals and Mrs Bradley wish all members of the Corps, past and present, their wives and families a joyous Christmas and a happy and successful New Year. At this time of family reunion, their thoughts, and those of us all, are directed particularly to those, who for reasons of duty, are separated from their loved ones.

(Photograph of the portrait of Gen Bradley by Leonard Boden)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF



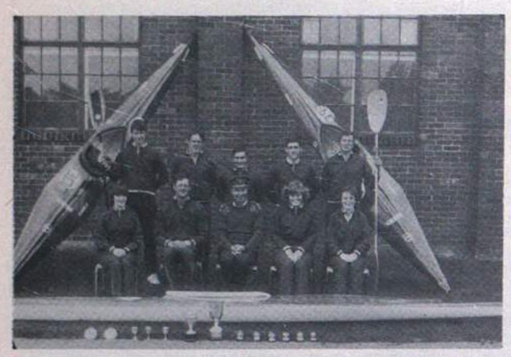
This has been a year in which the effects of the 'overstretch' which followed the Defence Review have been very evident. Despite this the Corps has carried out its duties well, whether in Northern Ireland, Belize, Germany or elsewhere amongst our many scattered units and detachments across the world. We have even found time to achieve another excellent series of sporting successes.

The 'overstretch' problem will, I hope, shortly be eased when the Corps receives its share of the additional 6,000 men which have been restored to the Army. At the same time Clansman will be coming into service in large quantities and we will be on the threshold of an exciting era with other major command and control systems such as Ptarmigan, Wavell and our small dish ground satellite terminals following close on its heels. I hope these factors together with improvements in pay and allowances, will make life easier for you all in the New Year.

I wish you and your families wherever you are an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

CANOEING—ARMY CHAMPIONS (SPRINT) 1978

Congratulations to 10 Signal Regiment and the Team on a notable 'First'



Back row: Sig Redshaw, Cpl Hilton, Sig Custus, Sig Crook, Cpl Rod Whateley
Front row: Pte Smith, Cpl Jackson, CO Lt Col P. Goldney, LCPL Biddell, Pte Hould

FOCUS ON WRAC (V)



Pictured above at the Womens' Royal Army Corps Centre, Guildford after their Passing Out Parade are nine members of 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
All nine recruits have just completed two weeks of intensive military instruction, during which they learned about Army organisation, military law, NBC warfare, first aid, and map reading. In the centre of the photograph is Col Frances Cook who is Commandant of the WRAC Centre, and Brig A. L. Dowell, Commander of 2 Signal Group. Brig Dowell was the Inspecting Officer at the Passing Out Parade

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

CO SIGNS ON SON



Simon Ward (17) joined the Army on Monday 11 September 1978. But what made this recruit unusual was that it was his father, **Lt Col R. K. Ward** who commanded 9 Signal Regiment, who enlisted him. **Simon** now hopes to follow his father and gain a commission in the Corps.

This is not surprising as tradition runs strongly in the **Ward** family. **Simon** is an ex pupil of Solihull School which both his father and grandfather attended. It was at this school and subsequently at Dauntsey School Wiltshire that he became interested in the Army.

Simon has already seen a lot of Army life and has gained a taste for travel having been to most of Western Europe and the Middle East. A keen sportsman, **Simon** has enjoyed horseriding and water skiing in Cyprus and hopes he can further these and his other sporting persuits in the Army. We wish him well.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION PRIZES 1977-78

SSgt (FofS) J. L. England who achieved an exemplary standard on No 40 FofS Course which ended in July was awarded the Institution's Prize for Professional Attainment consisting of an inscribed copy of the History of the Corps, an illuminated Scroll and a cheque for £25.

Prizes for Attainment in Trade Training were awarded to two NCOs attending Class 2 to 1 Upgrading Courses at Catterick who achieved an exemplary standard during 1977-78 on their courses. **LCpl M. J. McIvor** is a Radio Telegraphist and **LCpl J. A. Palmer** is a Combat Powerman. Both have received an inscribed copy of the History of the Corps, an illuminated Scroll and a cheque for £15.

39 YEARS ON

This photograph was taken at an Annual Dinner of the GHQ Signals — I HQ Signals Dinner Club. All those seated were in France 1939-1940. After the Dunkirk evacuation, GHQ Signals eventually merged into I HQ Signals.

Contact is maintained with some 54 Members. **Col G. W. Cumming OBE TD** is now 85 years old, and still attends. The hard working Secretary is **Lt Col E. C. H. Organ OBE.**



Seated left to right: Lt Col E. C. H. Organ, OBE, Lt Col A. Alexander, MM, ERD, Lt Col F. A. Hough, OBE, ERD, Col T. W. Boileau, OBE, Col G. W. Cumming, OBE, TD, Lt Col the Rev L. D. M. Patterson, Maj M. H. Beattie, ERD, Maj W. J. G. Thomas, ERD
Standing left to right: Lt Col J. O. Wood, DCM, TD, Capt A. C. Taylor, Maj F. J. G. Buchanan, CQMS (FofS) G. F. Tasker, Maj G. E. Brett, ERD, Maj G. J. M. Shrive, ERD, Maj N. B. Rymer, MBE, TD, Maj J. L. W. Morgan, MBE, TD, Maj F. E. Warner, MBE, Col C. E. Calveley, OBE, ERD, Maj R. N. G. Price, MBE, ERD

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS

The 1979 events of the Old Welbexian Association have been planned as follows:

5 May 1979 Presidents Dinner
22/23 September 1979 Annual Reunion and Rugby Match

Serving Welbexians, who are interested in supporting these events should contact one of the following for more details:

Lt Col Gavin MacKay R Signals
(President OWA) Malvern RSRE Malvern Phone (06845) 2781 ext 3154)

Maj Iain Kerr R Signals
(Vice President OWA) Ministry of Defence Signals 33b (Phone Main Building 6909 (01-218 6909)
Capt Alan Harling REME
Adjutant Welbeck College (Phone Worksop (0909) 6326 ext 7)

The OWA Presentation Fund appeal now stands at over £1300. Any Welbexian wishing to make a donation to the fund, which remains open until the end of 1978, should contact:
Gerry Cowan
Four Acres
Shere Road
West Horsley
Surrey KT25 6EW

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

GOLD COMSTAR AWARD FOR WINCHESTER COMCEN

A 'Gold Comstar Award' has been awarded to the communications centre at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester. The award is for no operating errors or message handling faults over a period of six consecutive months.

The photograph shows **Brig T. G. H. Jackson,** Commander of Winchester Station, presenting the certificate to Mrs Heller, the comcen operator, of St Cross Winchester.



From: **Maj A. Burtt, Royal Signals**
Dear Sir,

May I use the medium of The Wire to draw your readers attention to the existence of this unit. We are an independant Signal Squadron within the SAS Group with a small Regular Staff and vacancies for up to 200 volunteers.

We are keen to attract any members of the Corps who are leaving the service (or who have already left) and who will be living in the South of England (between say Worthing and Weymouth) and particularly ex Radio Telegraphists or Special Telegraphists who wish an interesting and worthwhile occupation for some of their leisure time.

Interested soldiers who are under 44 should write or call us at one of these numbers: Portsmouth (0705) 62829: Southampton (0703) 771479: Poole (0202) 526339.

Yours Faithfully,

Tony Burtt

63 (SAS) Signal Squadron (V)
TAVR Centre, Peronne Road
Hilsea, Portsmouth
PO3 5LE

NORTH AFRICA VETERANS VISIT VERDEN



The Commanding Officer of 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment met the Commanding Officer of 1st Armoured Division Signal Regiment at Verden recently (21 September), but it was not a case of doubling up on an appointment — one is the current CO and the other commanded the regiment in North Africa during the Second World War.

The present-day commander is **Lt Col Peter Davies** and the former commander is **Brig W. R. Smijth-Wyndham.** They met when the now retired brigadier and six other former officers from 1st Armoured Division Signal Regiment (North Africa) Re-union Club visited Verden for the first time since the regiment (1978 version) acquired the word 'Armoured' in its title.

Highlights of a whistle stop tour were a regimental dinner night, a visit to see the regiment on exercise and a curry lunch. Plans are already laid for consolidating the ties between the regiment and the re-union club, beginning with an invitation for a representative from the regiment to attend the club's re-union dinner in London on October 27.

Picture: **Lt Col Davies** with, on his left, **Brig Smijth-Wyndham,** the veterans and some of the present regimental officers.

(Report and Photo courtesy PR HQ 1st Armoured Division)

From: **T. H. Thomas**
Dear Sir,

I wonder if I may appeal through the columns of The Wire for some technical information relating to a wartime vehicle, which possibly one of your older readers may be able to answer?

I am rebuilding a 1943 Humber (armoured) Light Reconnaissance Car MKIIIA. However, I have been unable to find the ZA reference to the Installation Instructions for the No 19 radio kit (kit reference ZA 12000/67) for this vehicle nor the Installation Manual itself. I understand it would be listed in a wartime Vocabulary of Army Ordnance Stores — Wireless and Radar Group Pt II: Wireless and Associated Equipment Section. I need this information to establish the associated equipment (e.g. control boxes) which were used their locations and the cable routing round the vehicle.

I would be happy to pay for a photostat of the relevant installation instructions if anyone has a copy. I am also looking for an early wartime 'pull-over' vehicle-mounted aerial base used with the $\frac{1}{4}$" diameter 'D' section aerial rod and also a Coles vehicle sun compass W10/VC7725.

I would be extremely pleased to hear from anyone who was associated in any way with this particular vehicle.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Tom H. Thomas

20 Dollis Hill Lane
Gladstone Park
London NW2

35 YEARS BACK

From: **H. Robinson (Ex WS/Cpl, 5th Indian Air Formation Signals)**
Dear Sir,

The enclosed was written on board ship to India on 30 March 1943. The chap who did it used to write on the back of Daily Orders (paper was in short supply) every day. I have had it in my possession ever since and just came across it going through old papers. I thought it was too good not to pass on.

Yours faithfully,

H. Robinson

Laurentide
Dunnington Common
York, YO1 5LS

THE CORPS

Now here is the tale of a grand bunch of men,
Who fight for their country with wireless and Bren,
They're not the Commandos, Marines, or the Navy,
Nor yet Air Foce wallahs, with hair creamed, and wavy.

They're not known as heroes, not even as brave,
Though in battle quite often, their life blood they gave,
But no medals they're given, nor praise by the King;
No news commentators their praises do sing.
Now just look at Dunkirk the first of the lot,
The Belgians were finished, the French were in Rot,
But those young lads were there, they provided the link,
With the force sent to carry and boys o'er the drink.
And then came Dieppe that ill fated raid,
Our aim was achieved, though sorely we paid,
But there at their posts, were those lads brave and tireless,
Glued to the phones of an overworked wireless.
In Egypt Montgomery, began his attack,
Twas vitally important, no news he should lack,
But this gallant young General, could find no complaint,
For the signals came through, whether clear, or just faint.
Now that's only a few of the deeds they have done;
They have lost many men in the battles we've 'won'.
But there's no scroll of honour, nor yet battle lore
For the men who belong to this brave little corps.
So here's to the W Ops and Don Rs with their blue
Those I Ms, and E S's, cipher men too
They're serving their country in jobs dull and dour.
Living up to their motto of 'Swift and yet Sure'.

Remember you Navy boys, and Air Force ground crew,
Commandos, Marines, and Infantry too
When outnumbered, — in dangers — your lines in a mess
When help comes to aid you, Thank the RCOS.

ATTENTION KOREAN WAR VETERANS

From: **G. A. Granville**
Dear Sir,

I have been sent your Associations name and address by the Army Historical Branch, Ministry of Defence, London.

I have recently set up The National Association of Korean War Veterans, (UK) and I would ask if you would bring this to the attention of your Members in your districts. Branches of the Association will be set up, most likely at Royal British Legion Clubs in possibly the largest Towns and would not be intended to cross the path of any other Association.

If any of your Members are interested and served in the Korean War from its onset in 1950 until the Armistice day on the 27 July 1953, they should write to me, or if they prefer to phone, on Bridgwater 3342, STD 0278. All will be welcome. UN Peace keeping personnel who served in Korea after July 53 and are residing in the UK are also welcome as Associate Members.

I Remain Yours Faithfully,

Graham A. Granville
(Founder Member)
President

200 Bath Road
Bridgwater
Somerset

234 SIGNAL SQUADRON TIE

From: **Major E. Pickup**
Dear Sir,

As many of your readers will know 234 Signal Squadron is due to be disbanded on its withdrawal from Malta at the end of March 1979. A Squadron tie is being manufactured at present and should be available in November 1978. The tie is dark blue, and the motif is the Corps badge in white and gold superimposed on a red and white Maltese cross with the numberals 234 in white beneath the scrollwork of the badge.

If any former members of the Squadron are interested in purchasing a tie they can be obtained by forwarding a *Postal Order* for £2.50 to PRI, 234 Signal Squadron, BFPO 51. The cost is inclusive of postage to UK or BFPO addresses.

Yours sincerely,

E. Pickup

INTERNATIONAL EL ALAMEIN BATTLEFIELD REUNION

Calling all veterans of the 1942 Desert Campaign. A grand reunion is planned next year at El Alamein, but with a very important difference. Combatants from both sides of the battle will be attending and meeting for the first time on the battlefield in Egypt.

Eighth Army Desert Rats will join up with men from the Afrika Korps, the Italian Army, and other veterans from both Allied and Axis countries in a truly international reunion. Many will be accompanied by their wives, who will be seeing Egypt for the first time.

Nothing like this proposed reunion has taken place before due to both timing and local political situations. About 4000 men from the Afrika Korps and the Luftwaffe are to be invited to attend the gathering during their own reunion which takes place this month at Mainz, Germany. Ex-servicemen in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Greece, India and Italy have been alerted and it is hoped that British ex-servicemen, including the RAF, will take this opportunity to re-visit the site of the battle.

Planned for November, 1979, the El Alamein International Reunion is being organised by British ex-servicemen who are now in the travel industry, and backed by some of the most experienced tour operators in this country and abroad. The reunion is being packaged as a holiday for a long weekend or a fortnight duration. Prices start from about £270 for five days in Egypt to about £725 for a fortnight's luxury cruise. Both types of holiday include all travel facilities, first class hotel/boat accommodation, together with a selection of tours within Egypt and a visit to the commemorative El Alamein Museum, built and maintained by the Egyptian Government. Specially chartered planes, cruise liners, hotels and apartments have already been secured by the organisers, CARO of Hove, Sussex, and much work has been done on the ground in Egypt to ensure a complete success for this unique and possibly 'once only' reunion.

The reunion/holiday will focus on a two day visit and Commemorative Service for 'fallen comrades' at the battlefield on Remembrance Sunday, 1979. It is expected that leading service personnel, civic dignitaries and well-known personalities will be in attendance.

The Egyptian Government is lending support to several of the organised events.

All ex-servicemen, affiliated organisations and others interested should contact their local Servicemen's Branch, the British Legion, or direct to CARO, 101 Blatchington Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 3YG. Tel: Brighton 720990.

TENTH RE-UNION OF THE HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY 1939-45

How quick the years pass as one grows old, make the most of every day you young soldiers of today! 41 members, 39 relatives and guests turned up at Blandford on 1 September for the annual meeting of survivors from the old Company and what a wonderful weekend it was. It says a lot for our esprit de Corps and respect for each other, that in these difficult times old comrades from the war years can travel from the far corners of Britain and even from Germany just to recall old times. Our late Chief Signal Officer, **Col Levett,** did write that the old Company contained the finest collection of men he had ever had the privilege of commanding and I am sure he would be just as proud today if he could be with us. Now that ten reunions have passed we find that our wives now have their own reunion and enjoy them as much as we do. Not to be outdone because we members have our own exclusive tie, the ladies now have an exclusive brooch, designed and made in Hong Kong and presented by **Alf** and **Pat Taylor** and **Irene Truscott.** They wear them with pride.

From lunch time Friday the cars poured into Blandford and the shouts of welcome and laughter got us off to a good start. The evening buffet was very welcome and then we settled down to the recalling of old times, good and bad, as the bar stocks gradually diminished. Strange names rang round the room, Wanchai, Clearwater Bay, Lyemun, North Point, Shamshuipo, Argyle Street, as ex linemen, operators, fitters, clerks etc recalled the days when we were comrades in arms and in the full flush of life. We, now old and grey, remember comrades long dead who need no stone memorial all the time we can meet like this. Their names live on and their sacrifice remembered with pride.

On Saturday we held our AGM and **Leslie Parry** was elected Chairman for next year. Congratulations **Les** we know you will do a great job. One member reported that he had applied to the Ministry of Pensions for a tropical check up and after two weeks thorough hospital investigation he had eventually received a disability pension. This check up is available to any Far East POW on application whether he is ill or not, so take advantage of it chaps.

The ladies had their usual shopping expedition to Blandford town and on their return we held our raffle which was well run as usual by **Brack.** After lunch we retired for a rest before embarking on the evening activities.

We assembled later for our photograph and then the Corps trumpeters summoned us to dinner. Our chief guests were the **Right Reverend H. Darby,** Suffragan Bishop of Sherwood, **Lt Col Keith Boulding,** Director of Music, their ladies and **Maj Oliver Lindsay,** Grenadier Guards. The Bishop is well known to some of us, as he was himself a POW in Hong Kong and Yoshima in the rank of Lance Corporal HKVDC. **Oliver Lindsay,** a military author, has written a book on the Battle of Hong Kong, entitled The Lasting Honour, published in August by Hamish Hamilton and is now gathering material for another book about our imprisonment. The dinner was superb.

The Bishop's speech became the highlight of the weekend and was delivered with clarity, deep feeling and humour. He took our thoughts back to the dark days of the camps and suggested that because of our suffering we may have become more tolerant and even better men than we were before. His theme was that we may forgive past deeds but we should never let them be forgotten. He told us wryly that his son spent hours polishing his Jap motor cycle and when it was left unattended he himself got pleasure in giving it a sly kick as he passed. He held us enthralled with stories and jokes and when he sat down we called for more. We gave him a standing ovation for several minutes.

Maj Lindsay had an unenviable task when he rose to speak. He explained how he had come to write his book. The official history of our battle devotes only 44 pages to it so he elaborated on this after careful research and a professional study of the campaign. The title is a quotation from Winston Churchill's tribute to the bravery of the defenders of Hong Kong. He interviewed many of the survivors in Britain, Canada and Hong Kong and has included much hitherto unpublished material both allied and Japanese.

The Corps Band played for us during dinner with very appropriate music including, of course, the Far East POW anthem, Colonel Bogey. After the speeches the soloists in the band entertained us and the trumpeters playing the Post Horn Gallop had us stamping our feet and cheering. What a wonderful show they put on and there were quite a few damp eyes when they signed off with the Corps march as we recalled church parades in the days of our youth. Begone Dull Care. Thank you lads from us old sweats.

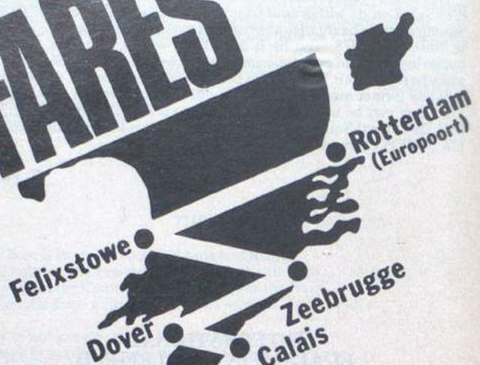
Luckily the bar remained open for some time as we settled down for our last few hours of our own entertainment. The two **Bobs, Cogbill** and **Parkinson** took over until **'More Loud' Bennett** called us for Tenko which was as chaotic as ever in true Jap style.

After breakfast on Sunday, we dispersed until next year all being well. On arrival at Blandford **Hilary Parry** remarked to me that she could see only one bird hovering over the camp this time instead of the usual flock. I guess that was because we were early this year as on leaving I spied the usual flock circling the camp and then they turned east and flew away. They are not strangers to us nor us to them. God Bless. Age shall not weary them.

Sayonara,

Harold Copsey 2323556

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To: Townsend Thoresen Car Ferries,
4000 Dusseldorf 1,
Graf-Adolf-Strasse 41.
Entrance Karl-Rudolf-Strasse.
Please send me your 'Travel Bargains for Forces' brochures.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

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W 11/78

TOWNSEND THORESEN
The European Ferries

Officers

OCTOBER 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt A. E. Abbott	7 Sig Regt
Lt M. Anderson	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (QM) W. A. Barnes	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col G. Barnett, MBE	QATAR Security Force
Lt K. P. Barrett	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt N. P. Blampied	7 Sig Regt
Capt J. Boyle	229 Sig Sqn
Lt F. B. Campbell	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj B. C. Carpenter	22Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) L. R. Churchill	8 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) J. N. Clark	Allied Staff Berlin
2Lt M. R. Complin	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col R. F. L. Cook	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/Maj R. A. Couchman	Within School of Signals
Lt R. B. Davis	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. R. Dick-Peter	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col B. A. R. Driskell	HQ BAOR
Maj W. E. A. Edmonds	BDS Washington
Capt D. G. Ellen	Within School of Signals
Lt R. J. J. Ellis	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) G. W. Giles	HQ NORTHAG (BAE)
Capt M. G. E. Hall	APSG
Capt (Tfc) P. D. Hayler	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retirement)
2Lt J. E. Hogan	11Sig Regt
2Lt P. King	7 Sig Regt
Lt R. J. Kinnaird	AA College Harrogate
Maj O. M. Lewis	HQ Wales
Capt (QM) G. S. MacDonald	241 Sig Sqn
Maj Gen W. T. MacFarlane	CJSLO Bonn
Lt Col F. R. Maynard	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt J. McIntyre	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj D. J. D. McKail	School of Signals
Capt H. A. C. Meekings	10 Sig Regt
Capt I. W. Morris	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj N. C. Muir	MOD DAP(A)
Maj M. R. E. Pack-Davison	ADP Dev Team UKLF
Lt L. J. Plumb	22 Sig Regt
A/Maj M. A. Rowbory	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col A. J. Sammes	30 Sig Regt
Capt L. R. Smith	DSS(A) — MOD
Lt R. W. Spooner	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
2LT J. A. Terrington	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/Maj A. M. Wallace	Within School of Signals
Lt Col R. K. Ward	Staff College Camberley
Lt I. Wells	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt R. T. Weston	13/18 Hussars
2Lt D. J. Whitby	22 Sig Regt
2Lt P. G. F. Wilkin	2 Armd Div & Sig Regt
Capt N. O. Williams	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col (TOT) R. D. Willingdale	8 Sig Regt
Lt G. W. Wilton	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt D. L. Wise	7 Sig Regt

NOVEMBER 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. Allan	11 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Anderson	HQ Northern Ireland
Maj M. C. Barrett	Trg Depot Brigade of Gurkhas
Lt Col R. Bell	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt J. F. Furnage	Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
Lt Col A. B. Byng	DSS(AD)
Capt J. R. Cadwallader	602 Sig Tp (Special Comms)
Lt R. A. Clague	HS AAC Centre
Col J. M. Craig	HQ 2 Sig Gp TAVR
Capt C. K. R. French	233 Sig Sqn
Maj T. E. Grice	240 Sig Sqn
Lt M. N. Grieves	244 Sig Sqn (Air Support)
Lt Col R. W. Garlick	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves	4 Comms Unit
Lt Col R. F. Hills	HQ School of Signals
Capt N. K. P. Hope	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Capt S. G. Hughes	Dhekelia Garrison
Capt J. H. Izzo	School of Signals
Maj W. C. A. Kennedy	HS School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) G. Lile	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. J. McKinlay	School of Signals
Lt Col D. J. Milton	School of Signals
Brig R. G. Phippard	SHAPE
Capt A. J. Rayner	RMAS
Capt (QM) J. A. Rose	33 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. J. Sanders	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. Shakespeare	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt P. C. A. Smith	11 Sig Regt
Capt R. D. Symonds	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Tunmore	HS Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Maj (Tfc) D. K. Wallis	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. C. Whitehead	School of Signals
Maj R. F. Willsher	RMAS
Lt Col H. S. Wilson	HS 11 Sig Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

OCTOBER 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which Posted*
WO2 R. A. Finch	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 D. R. Freeman	31 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. C. Northey	11 Sig Regt
WO2 D. Thomas	11 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. E. Lidgbird	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. N. Howes	UK Special Unit SHAPE
WO2 (FofS) R. A. G. Allen	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) W. B. Smart	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) J. Doherty	22 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) P. J. McLoughlin	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) T. J. Taylor	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) J. F. Calvert	602 Sig Tp
SSgt (YofS) K. B. Stevens	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt C. J. Laughlin	11 Sig Regt
SSgt J. T. Sharp	MOD Director of Manning (Army)
SSgt P. F. J. Leniston	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
SSgt (FofS) P. M. Dowdall	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. B. Hirst	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt J. M. Milne-Day	21 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Stafford	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt B. R. Robinson	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt C. J. Bell	Saudi Arabia National Guard Communications Project Team
Sgt P. T. Connors	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Sgt R. Cardwell	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt K. M. Hall	14 Sig Regt
Sgt F. T. Patterson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. H. Hyde	21 Sig Regt
Sgt E. D. Jones	ACIO Leeds
Sgt J. Hodge	1 Royal Military Police
Sgt C. N. Brumfield	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt I. J. Higgerson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Mooney	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. K. Rushton	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Poole	9 Sig Regt
Sgt K. L. Essam	9 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. D. Brown-Greaves	RARDE
Sgt P. R. Smith	RARDE
Sgt F. C. Running	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Mugford	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Francis	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. R. Norgate	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. F. Havlin	HQ AFCENT SP GP
Sgt E. White	HQ AFCENT SP GP
Sgt M. A. Turfrey	UK SP Unit SHAPE
Sgt P. J. K. Griffiths	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. Bradshaw	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. G. Smith	22 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Courtney	22 Sig Regt
Sgt C. W. Abrons	633 Sig Tp
Sgt R. W. J. Mitchell	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. H. Diamond	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. L. Genge	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. C. Furber	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. K. S. Gent	8 Sig Regt

NOVEMBER 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 W. P. Kent	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
WO2 T. Crawley	School of Signals
WO2 R. B. McInnes	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 R. E. Lidgbird	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
WO2 P. J. E. Hilton	13 Sig Regt
WO2 T. J. Pengelley	8 Sig Regt
WO2 A. J. J. Curnow	School of Signals
WO2 K. R. Clark	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 T. Foody	7 Sig Regt
WO2 C. S. Gledhill	9 Sig Regt
WO2 G. F. Leake	School of Signals
A/WO2 (YofS) K. J. Bark	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) P. R. Baron	633 Sig Tp
SSgt C. J. Ackers	11 Sig Regt
SSgt R. H. Couch	13 Sig Regt
SSgt A. W. Jones	259 Sig Sqn
Sggt J. Fowler	HQ 4 Sig Gp
SSgt D. L. Morrison	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
SSgt M. R. Smith	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt G. F. Escott	School of Signals
Sgt K. C. Gibson	Scarborough Sig Trg Centre
Sgt P. A. Martin	School of Signals
Sgt C. M. Mitchell	School of Signals
Sgt C. M. Platts	School of Signals
Sgt A. L. Coward	School of Signals
Sgt A. Pringle	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. Allen	School of Signals
Sgt P. R. Berry	School of Signals
Sgt L. F. Brown	School of Signals
Sgt P. T. Walker	8 Sig Regt
Sgt L. E. Willmott	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Tate	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt D Parker	564 RLD
Sgt B. Cowling	RSME
Sgt G. J. Hilton	School of Signals
Sgt J. R. Latter	School of Signals
Sgt M. McDonald	School of Signals
Sgt P. H. Waring	School of Signals
Sgt B. T. Etheridge	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. F. Cutler	10 Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Harrison	HQ AFCENT
Sgt C. P. Crook	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Green	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. C. Stocks	School of Signals
Sgt J. MacFarlane	School of Signals
Sgt A. G. Hooley	School of Signals

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Sgt B. A. Hulme	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Howley	30 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. Latham	40 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Barton	HQ AFCENT
Sgt C. F. Marshall	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. C. Webb	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Evans	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. P. B. McLennan	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt H. A. McMahon	639 Sig Tp
Sgt A. Hambling	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Baker	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Jarwood	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. F. Parsons	28 CTT
Sgt P. J. Mills	7 Sig Regt
Sgt W. A. Starling	AAC Harrogate
Sgt P. Youd	AC10 Forest Gate
Sgt B. Cottam	17 CTT
Sgt P. A. O'Brien	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt N. D. Parrotte	11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Dobson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. Anderson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Holder	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Woodford	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. G. G. Corsar	608 Sig Tp
Sgt K. S. Smith	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt B. J. Parkhill	9 Sig Regt
Sgt V. G. McGarry	633 Sig Tp
Sgt T. J. McGovern	11 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Birney	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt W. Higman	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)

Welfare

AUGUST 1978

Number of cases assisted financially:	31
Amount spent:	£1592.66
Number of clothing parcels sent:	41

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	12
Amount spent:	£227.00

SEPTEMBER 1978

Number of cases assisted:	48
Amount spent:	£2475.38
Number of clothing parcels sent:	15

WAR MEMORIAL

Number of cases:	2
Amount spent:	£122.15

ONE OF OUR CASES

Signalman, 1953-57, who lost both legs in an accident in 1965. He lives alone and was recently mugged, beaten up and robbed whilst out on his crutches. He has now been re-housed. The Social Security met the cost of the removal, but his greatest need was for carpeting for the new flat. This, with his artificial legs, was a real necessity, and he had three falls during his first week in the flat. The Association and the Army Benevolent Fund at once made a grant of £200 to enable essential carpeting to be purchased and laid down.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I would like to send my most sincere thanks to the Association for the help you gave me during my first few weeks out of the Service. If it had not been for your help, I would still be in real difficulty.

During the months of August and September, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:-

Yeoman Warder A. Copestake, Yeoman Warder & Mrs Harvey, Brig R. G. Phippard, SSgt G. J. Mason & family, Yeoman Warder & Mrs J. Maher, Mrs J. Whitemore, Mr & Mrs C. Fry, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Mrs K. N. Smartt, SSgt C. H. Storey, R. Signals Assn, North London Branch, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Mrs M. E. Upton, Lt Col & Mrs P. G. Rogers, Col J. A. D. Francis, Mr D. W. F. Barnfield.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1978:—

7Sig Regt	£382.65
16 Sig Regt	£325.00
The Wives of 234 Sig Sqn.	£66.21
HQ 1 Sig Gp	£60.00
4 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt	£49.54
3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.	£32.15
In memory of the late Brig W. G. Tucker CBE	£109.00
In memory of the late Brig F. J. Allen OBE	£5.00
In memory of the late Lt Col T. H. Jessop MBE	£5.00
Mansfield District Council.	£7.45
F. G. Hawkes Esq	£3.00
Miscellaneous donations	£1.78
	£1036.78

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1978:—

Preston & District Branch Royal Signals Assn	£10.00
In memory of the late Brig W. G. Tucker CBE	£30.00
J. Marriot Esq.	£4.00
Miscellaneous donations	£5.48
	£49.48

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Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—50 words excluding address/telephone number—be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to *The Wire*), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month preceding publication.

Bevan—Maj (TOT) John Albert Bevan enlisted in the Corps in 1944 and was trained as a technician. He was the son of a TOT in the Corps and attended schools in India, Singapore and Australia before enlistment. John made rapid progress qualifying as a Foreman of Signals and was commissioned in 1954. He saw service with 18 and 19 Army Group Signal Regiments until February 1958 when he was posted to Western Command SWS Troop. John then served with 8 Signal Regiment until August 1966 when he moved to 610 Signal Troop at Donnington. A tour with Signals 36b at the ministry of Defence followed. John then came to the School of Signals at Blandford in 1973 where his considerable experience proved invaluable as OC Technical Maintenance Workshop. John died on Monday 2 October 1978 after a long illness bravely borne. Our sympathy is extended to Joy and the three children. A funeral service was held at All Saints Church, Blandford Camp, on Monday 9 October followed by cremation at Salisbury.

Gordon-Hall—Lt Col Ian Gordon-Hall served with Sam Browne's Cavalry Force in India before the war and later transferred to the Corps with whom he served for a short time during the war and then returned to the Indian Army. After the war he settled in Jersey where he joined the Royal British Legion and was for some years Chairman of the local branch of the Royal Signals Association. He died on 14 September at the age of 85.

Higgins—Lt Col John Thomas Hale Higgins enlisted in the TA in 1939 and was commissioned in 1940. During the war he served for four years with 9th Armoured Divisional Signals and later in India when he commanded 17th (Indian) Divisional Signals. After the war he served in the Far East and as an instructor at the School of Signals. He retired early in 1958 to take over the family business. He died on 10 September at the age of 58.

Houghton—Col Gorges Frederick Houghton OBE who was born in 1907 died in October 1978. He was commissioned in 1927 and served for five years in India between the wars when he took part in the North West Frontier Campaign of 1930/31. At the outbreak of the war he was Adjutant of an Air Formation Signals (SR) unit and served with Air Formation Signals in North Africa until 1941 when he joined Combined Operations with whom he served for the rest of the war, in the UK, Madacascar, when he was appointed OBE, and India. After the war he Commanded 11th Armoured Divisional Signals and held various staff appointments in the UK and overseas including CSO Ceylon and Hong Kong. He retired prematurely in 1959 as a result of one of the major run-downs of the Army.

Lewis—Brig Hilary Leonard (Bill) Lewis CBE was commissioned in 1927. Before the war he served in India where he was on active service on the North-West Frontier and in Burma and later went to Egypt. During the war he commanded 53 (Wessex) Divisional Signals but was mainly in staff appointments. Whilst serving with SHAEF he was mentioned in despatches and appointed Officier Legion d'Honneur and was awarded the Croix de Guerre avec palme. After the war, he went to India during the period of Partition where he founded the Indian Signal School at Mhow and the Pakistan Signal School at Rawalpindi, during this time he was awarded the Legion of Merit (USA). He returned to North-West Europe in 1951 where he held various staff appointments for the next six years. During this time he was appointed CBE. His last appointment before retiring in 1960 was as CSO FARELF during the granting of Independence to Malaya and Singapore. He died on 20 September at the age of 71.

Larkin—RQMS Alf Larkin served almost 35 years with 42 East Lancs Div Signals TA and, following war service, was discharged in 1946. He was a staunch and highly respected Member of the Manchester Branch of the Association and died on 23 September.

McFarland—WO2 F. McFarland, MM, served with the Corps from 1955 to 1967. He died on 6 October. Frank was a Life Member of the Association and an ardent supporter of the Cardiff Branch.

Port—Sgt William G. Port was discharged from the Corps in 1964, having served in Cyprus, Germany, Aden and UK. Capt (Retd) J. D. Ferguson writes of him: I knew him well as a soldier and comrade, but mostly as a friend. Those who knewhim,would know how much he enjoyed life and living, whilst he always actively filled his time, he could still find time to help or encourage, visit sick friends, or simply to listen when a sympathetic ear was required. Sadly, he died at the age of 46. I know that there will be many who will remember him and extend sympathy to his wife, Monica.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES — JOB VACANCIES

We always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free (limited) accommodation. We are also able to put applicants in touch with Divisions of the Corps throughout the United Kingdom for local employment. Examples of the sort of jobs we always have on our books are as follows:

Head Porter. Kings College, Taunton, Devon. Residential — large house + £3,000 approx. Age 40-50.
Cre/Messenger/Office duties. Plain Clothes. Camomile Street, EC3. £3,500. Age 40-50.
Reception/Security. Fleet Street, EC 4. £70 per week + Shift duty. Age 50-55.
Security. Chiltern, W1. £3,750. Age under 65.
Commissionaire. Sackville Street, W1. £4,000.
Chauffeur (Rolls Royce). Lambs Conduit Street, WC1. Basic £3,500. Prepared to undertake general office duties. To live South of London. *Very good* opportunity for right man.
Driver/Messenger. Marble Arch, W2. £4,200.
Chauffeur (Mercedes). Gloucester Square, W2. £65-70 per week.

Whatever your requirement get into contact with the Corps, remember the other Divisions throughout the U.K. We will do our best to help.

We can also help with part-time work if you are prepared to complete at least 300 hours per year.

We can only include a limited number of the jobs available, please write or call in and discuss the opportunities we have.

We can also accept a few men for temporary employment duties only provided they are fit and meet Corps requirements.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 am and 3 pm.

Men are advised to bring their Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

RECORD DONATION TO SSAFA

Stop Press news is that well over £8,500 was presented to SSAFA by Mrs Anderson (wife of the Signal Officer-in-Chief), on behalf of the Corps, at the 1978 Christmas Fair on 22 November.

This was the largest donation from any Service source. Congratulations to all the hard working wives — from both the Regular Corps and the Volunteers — who raised money and collected goods for this very worthwhile cause. Full details in next issue.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

THE ROYAL SIGNALS SUMMER SKI CAMP 1978—ZERMATT SWITZERLAND



The 14,550ft peak of the Matterhorn towers above the village and its distinctive shape dominates the whole area. No cars are allowed in Zermatt, so you park at Täsch, and take the rack and pinion railway for the last five kilometres. To get to Chalet Diana from the station you walk past the church, cut round behind a small general store, through the local welder's yard, past the roaring main drainage channel, up three flights of steps and into a basically-built wooden chalet. By leaning out from the upper balcony its just possible to see the Matterhorn, but the outlook is mainly the back yards of the poorer quarter of downtown Zermatt. The recce officer who first found this gem of accommodation was **Capt Nigel Cory** now of Harrogate, who is well remembered in these parts.

EXPERT GERMAN TRAINER

It was here in September that the Corps' best ski racers assembled for the 1978 Royal Signals summer ski camp. The standard was high: we had **Cpl Paul Ford** of 2 Armd Div Sig Regt, the current Army downhill champion; **Lt Tony Marvin** of 11 Sig Regt the current regular Army champion from the Scottish meeting; **Capt David Hughes** from HQ 1(BR) Corps who was in charge of the camp and who had captained the 2 Armd Div Sig Regt army champion team of 1975, and a number of other capable racers including **Maj Gerry Funnell** from MOD the Corps Ski Secretary.

Our trainer was **Unter-Offizier Hubert Schrittenlocker** from the Bundeswehr Sportbattalion in Sonthofen. He had been a member of the German youth team until a bad accident had forced him to stop racing. He now trains the Bundeswehr alpine team, is still a tremendous racer himself and we were lucky to have him.



Capt Paddy Hughes and Trainer Hubert Schrittenlocker

HIGH ALTITUDE FATIGUE

The snow was up at 10,000ft and getting there involved a walk to the lift terminal, a series of three cable cars and then another short walk to the drag lift terminal at the edge of the Theodul glacier. This 1½ mile long drag gave another 1,000ft plus of uplift and so one eventually emerged to begin skiing at 11,100ft above sea level. At this height it snowed and froze nightly and in the early morning it was usually light powder on a frozen base. But in the heat of day the snow deteriorated and by about 1330 it was wet and heavy. So the daily routine was to be up at 0600 to get the 0730 cable car and to be actually on the snow by 0800. Any climbers reading this will understand the effects of high altitude on physical exertion and will know that a 5-6 hour training session at that height is more than enough. Around mid-day the most frequently used word was 'knackered'.

VIDEO PLAYS ITS PART

Although the training covered all three disciplines (slalom, giant slalom and downhill), we concentrated on slalom as being the most technically difficult. Using 2 Signal Regiment's new plastic slalom poles, **Hubert** set two courses daily — one of army standard and the other of divisional standard — and the two groups trained through them continuously, pausing after each run for a brief critique from **Hubert.** By the end of day 6 most had achieved their first goal of skiing 3,000 gates, a normal course being 40-45 gates. For the novice racers the day began with an hour of technique training taken by **Ann Hughes,** one of the three BASI qualified instructors on the camp. Then they moved over to ski the courses. Every few days we would hump the video equipment up to the snow, where **LCpl Shuggy Hugill** and **Ann Hughes** would film each racer and later that day re-run the film in the chalet with further comment from **Hubert.** This was a useful training aid as people were able to see their own progress which was very heartening.



Cpl Paul Ford slalom training

SWISS LADIES SHOW THE WAY

Various Swiss national teams were also training in the area and just to watch them was instructive. The Swiss Ladies' 'A' team including **Maria-Therese Nadig** set a downhill course and let us ski it in sections. This was a particular welcome opportunity for some Abfahrt training, which is always difficult to arrange. We also had a visit from **Alistair MacFarlane** who is a great activist from the Scottish Ski Club. He was very interested in what the Army can offer skiers and hopefully will pass this on to the young racers in Scotland.

EXHAUSTION NORMAL

The end of day descent back to the village of exhausted skiers loaded with rucksacks, grips, sticks, skis, cameras etc was something not unlike the retreat from Moscow. Our cook, **LCpl Jock Campbell** always had hot soup ready and this was normally devoured in about 30 seconds of very inelegant eating. Afternoons were ski maintenance first with the rest of the day free until the evening briefing. Once a week we took a complete day off, mostly at weekends when the lifts were crowded. These rest days were much needed and some pretty serious sleeping was done on them.



Ski maintenance

FITNESS AND HEALTH

There were a few minor accidents including a cut leg and head respectively for **LCpls Jock Campbell** and **Bamber Gascoigne,** but the two main dangers other than accidents (and many will recall the tragic accident we suffered last year) were sunburn and snow blindness. **Lt Hugh Bardell** issued each man with his tube of Uvistat ultra-violet barrier cream and noses and lips were covered in glacier cream.

Dark glasses were generally preferred to ski goggles except when it was snowing. Everyone was careful and in spite of some blisteringly hot days we had no casualties.

PERSONALITY REPORT

'Night-Life' would be the wrong phrase for Zermatt's geriatric summer population, but one or two minor excitements in this area did occur. One large lady (who spoke no known language and who reputedly drove the snow plough) terrorised **Sig Windsor Llewellyn** by insisting on dancing with him. He in fact wasn't interested in her because he had fallen for quite a pretty mountain sheep he had spotted from the cable car.

Sig Phil Philemon of 22 Sig Regt sprained an ankle on the preliminary week of fitness training in Bavaria so was unable to ski until the last week. This was a pity because he is a promising racer. His team mate **Cpl Patches Rodriguez** had to train without him.

Although **Lt Elsie (as it says on his ski pants) Leather** had a successful camp, his star turn was drag lift flying. One particular T-Bar lifted you off the ground. Why **Elsie** whould have got that one so often we don't know, but we were able to film one of his 200m flights for posterity.

Sig Windsor Llewellyn, on a free day swimming session, astonished the staff by walking the length of the pool on top of the water. When he reached the shallow end he was seen to be standing on the shoulders of **Sig Steve (Jaws) Cave** so was unable to claim credit for a feat last performed 2,000 years ago.

Sig Ossie Pattison had a good camp too. As Army Junior Boxing Champion of 1975 he has the right agressive approach to ski racing and looks very promising indeed.

Sig Snake Hughes managed to travel freely around the entire lift system with a picture of 'MAD' character Alfred E in his lift pass, whilst **Cpl Paul Ford** contributed generously to the fines box by forgetting his lift pass on two occasions. This was remarkable because he was studying memory improvement at the time, but seemed to have forgotten where he put his text book.



Left to right: lower Lt Hugh Bardell, upper Cpl Shuggy Hugill, Lt Tony Marvin, Sig Ossie Pattison, Sig Steve Cave, Cpl Patches Rodriguez, Lt Adam Leather, Capt Paddy Hughes, LCpl Bamber Gascoigne, Cpl Paul Ford, Unter Offizier Hubert Schrittenlocker, LCpl Dave Hughes, Sig Windsor Llewellyn

ATTENTION ASPIRING RACERS

It all ended on Friday 22 September with the thrills and spills of a parallel slalom race. The camp was an undoubted success, everyone benefitted enormously, and we are all looking forward to returning to Zermatt in late November for the winter training session prior to the Army championships. Our thanks must go to all those in 2nd Regiment who were involved in getting this camp under way: in RHQ, in the pay office, in the MTO's department, in the cookhouse, in the PRI and in the squadrons. The only sadness was that there weren't more racers present. Although at 17 all told this was the biggest summer ski camp we have ever had, we could have taken another ten racers. Hopefully any aspiring racers reading this will make a mental note to ensure they get themselves on next year's Royal Signals Summer Ski Camp.

For any further information on competitive ski-ing in Royal Signals ring **Maj Gerry Funnell** at MOD (PE) on 01-63206240.

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

ROYAL SIGNALS NORTHERN IRELAND WIVES CLUBS GET TOGETHER

On 26 Sept forty-eight wives got together in Lisburn for coffee at the home of **Mrs Denise Marples,** wife of CR Signals and then on to the Peake Inn where a very delicious lunch was hosted by the wives of 233 Sqn. The day celebrated the end of a successful fundraising in aid of SSAFA. Through methods too various (or strange!) to number, they have together raised £180.58p which is to be presented to SSAFA Northern Ireland District. At the same time, they have found the energy to collect £100-worth of cosmetics and perfumery to send to the SSAFA Christmas Market held in Chelsea Barracks on 22 November, where Royal Signals wives ran the cosmetics stall.

In our photo are Wives Club members of 3, 8 and 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqns, and 233 Sig Sqn.



ROYAL SIGNALS NORTHERN IRELAND WIVES CLUB MEMBERS
Left to right: Carol Turner, Gaby Waugh, Julie Buckley, Annis Blackburn, Lynn Macdonald, Valerie Bailey, Joan Sherwin, (hidden) Ann Collins, Shirley Chaddock, (hidden) Caroline Ventham and Sylvia Miller, Jan Nichols, Judith Courtney, Sylvia Henning, Denise Marples

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 809

OC	**—Maj J. J. Ventham (Royal Signals)**
2IC	**—Capt D. F. M. Collyer (Royal Signals)**
Admin Officer	**—Capt (QM) D. Bentley (Life Guards)**
QM	**—Capt (QM) J. E. Ient (Royal Signals)**
OC A Troop	**—Lt R. J. Turnbull**
OC B Troop	**—Lt A. Duncan (Royal Signals)**
OC D/E Platoon	**—Lt J. F. Wright (Royal Pioneer Corps)**
RSM	**—WO1 (RSM) R. M. D. Collins**
RQMS	**—WO2 (RQMS) P. G. Rossall**
FofS	**—WO2 (FofS) J. E. Francis**
YofS	**—WO2 (YofS) W. S. Balding**
ORSQMS	**—SSgt (ORSQMS) R. C. Charlesworth**

From our list of 'who's who' regular readers will note a number of changes. Since our last appearance we have bade farewell to **Capt Alan Beveridge** who now serves in England, **Capt Mike McMahon** in England, **Lt Hugh Hancock** and **SSgt Gerry Moloney** now a civilian somewhere in Singapore we understand. Our sincere thanks to them all for their loyal service and very best wishes for the future.

In their place we welcome **Capt Denis Bentley, Lt John Wright, Lt Alan Duncan** and his wife **Shirley** and **SSgt Roy Charlesworth.** In addition we welcome **WO2 Peter Rossall** and his wife **Doreen** who replaces **WO1 Ron Collins** as RQMS. **WO1 (RSM) Collins** was promoted within the Squadron — congratulations. We wish them a happy and successful tour.

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Conditions here in the Province are such that it is the children who tend to suffer most. Last year we amused them with our Jubilee Fete, this year it was Summer Fete '78. Again we took the opportunity to invite some of the local children less fortunate than most and some 50 or so Portadown children were our guests for the afternoon. Despite a very 'cool' day the Fete was a great success.

The aim had been to give the children a good time and that they certainly had. In addition £500.00 was raised for contributions to Service Charities.



Geronimooooooooooooooo. Fun at the fair on the 'Mahon Run'



This dog will not let go. Could it be because the RSM is in the suit — true — he's never been the same since



All the nice girls love a what? The Army Air Corps seem to have a monopoly here



Lt Allan Duncan doing his stirling bit for the Ducking Stool. It was mighty cold that day I can tell you

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DEMISE OF THE SDS

For the last seven years the 3 Brigade Signals Despatch Service, provided by 3 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron has covered a TAOR of over 3,500 square miles, each day of the year without fail. The service has been recognised as one of the most efficient courier systems available and, together with helicopter support, quite definitely the fastest. On Monday 31 July the SDS finally came to rest. For 3 Brigade it will mean the saving of many many gallons of petrol, vehicle spares and man hours. For each year our SDS vehicles and couriers have covered well over 70,000 miles, nigh on three times around the world. The number of packages have not been counted!

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

After a rather hectic Easter Period a false air of peaceful tranquility settled over A/TM Troop (impossible!). The peace was soon to be shattered, as the merry month of May saw some feverish activity behind the scenes, culminating with the Party to end all Parties! — the farewell 'do' for our intrepid leader **Lt Hugh Hancock.** During his two years he has managed to acquire a reputation second to none in the art of soldiering (as many a coax end has never lived to tell the tale!). A sincere 'thank you' from the Troop and our good wishes to him in his new unit (Lock up your soldering irons — 14 Signal Regiment!).

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We welcome aboard **Sgt Hugh Lovejoy, Louise** and family, **Cpl Mike Harlow, Margaret** and family, **Sig 'MO' Mohamet** and wife **Jacqueline** and finally **Sig 'Knuckles' Brown.** We hope their stay with us will be a happy one. Sadly we say farewell to **Sigs Mick McGouth, Jock Spruce** and **Pete Scott** who have all adopted for a quieter life in civvy street, and to **Cpl John Findley** who leaves us for Krefeld. Good Luck.

Congratulations are in order to **Sig Steve Norfield** on obtaining a 2nd Class Interpreter (German) Qualification. **Sgt Chris Platts** on his selection for No 43 Foreman of Signals Course and finally **Cpl Malcome Rose** on his recent marriage (so thats how he managed to pass the BFT!).

Amidst the comings and goings the troop has had a relatively busy period. In addition to the normal installation, repair and maintenance, the new radio system for the six UDR Bns has been completed. A big sigh of relief was heard from **Sgt Steve May** our 'project co-ordinator' who, upon departing for some well-deserved leave, was still muttering about two frequency simplex, interface units and all things technical . . . UGH*!?!*!

BRAVO TROOP

Our work load continues to be high with our intrepid DTG's not only working abnormal shifts, but also being involved with the Squadron Rifle Platoon on varying operational tasks within the Province.

The result of the inter-department pistol shooting competition this month has shown that 'Bisley' has no need to worry. **Sig 'Bunny' Warren's** score of 0 out of 200 is particularly worth a mention. (His claims of having a bent foresight could be heard hours later).

MT

The MT continues to produce a high standard of service under difficult conditions. It is rumoured that **WO2 ('Ton the Trout') Cross** disappears on Wednesday afternoons to catch 'Minis' not fish. (There really isn't a vehicle shortage. Honest!).

During the past month the MT also became involved in Community Relations. This has proved to be an interesting job involving almost 200 local children. **Sgt 'Trevor' Kinvig** has been running the Rock Climbing activities, whilst **Lt 'Allan' Duncan** and **Cpl 'Pip' Stevens** have run classes in both judo and Trampoline. Altogether it is proving to be a rewarding experience.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **LCpl 'Terry' Sewell** on his obtaining an 'A' grading on his recent course, **Cpl 'Lofty' Garrick** on his promotion and **LCpl 'Jock' Durlik** on his marriage to **Loraine,** well done!

DEPARTURES

We bid farewell to:
Sig 'Barry The Duck' Blain on posting to AFCENT
LCpl Goater to16 Sig Regt.
Sig Roberts to Berlin.
Cpl Rendell to 8 Inf Bde (on promotion).
Cfn Edwards to Civvy Street.
With thanks for your local service and with every good wish for the future.



Our own Cpl John Findlay of Tech Wksps 'having a glass' with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason. Just another of our useful contacts!

QM DEPARTMENT

The 'Q' Department continues to function with its usual quiet efficiency . . . ? There have been no earth shaking events of late although the arrival of **Sig Jim Mahon** — no relation to the camp we are told — was fairly traumatic. He gets up early and he likes to run (and run and run). The living-in lads find the first habit distasteful and most find the second horrifying — we are assured that neither is infectious. A further change in our personalities has been the departure of **CSgt Wardle** to civilian life — his experience will be sorely missed particularly by the riot platoon. Our shooting team, despite a superb shoot — the night after our latest party — narrowly lost the shooting trophy to the MT. We have organised special weapons for the next competition — for them. The party was a great success. The reason for it was lost somewhere in the organising stage. It was put on to give us a chance to say farewell to two of our staff — one of them didn't go and the other left before the party. As I say we go along in our usual efficient manner!!



It really is time pay differentials in the Services were sorted out, once and for all!

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

SHQ TROOP REPORT

Since we were last in the spotlight a few changes have taken place amongst the clerical staff. First of all we have lost our ORC, **Cpl Eddie Clancy** to 30 Sig Regt in Blandford and learn that since he left he has married. We wish him and **Ann** all the happiness for the future. We congratulate **Cpl Taff Roberts** on his promotion to Cpl to fill the ORC slot and also on the birth of his first child **Sally Helen.** We welcome two new arrivals in the shapes of **LCpl Ziggy Gray** from 8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn and **Sig Andy Cliff** from 2 Armd Div Sig Regt and hope both will enjoy their tour here in Londonderry. Since they arrived both have been on hillwalking expeditions in Scotland so both have found that its not all work here. We congratulate **Sig Paul Addison** on his marriage to **Miss Marlene Beattie** on 21 Oct 78 in the Ebrington Barracks church and wish them every happiness for the future. Lastly we congratulate **SSgt (ORSQMS) Ray Yallop** on the presentation of his LS & GC Medal by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, **Mr Roy Mason.**

VISITORS

During September we were very pleased to welcome two VIP visitors. Our first was **Lt Gen Sir Timothy Creasey** GOC Northern Ireland. In addition to the normal 'walk about', he was shown a layout of the communications elements of our Brigade Tac HQ. The photograph shows him talking to **Sig Scouse Brisk** and **Sig Trev Robinson** at the back of the secure terminal vehicle.

Our second was **Mr Roy Mason MP,** the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. During his visit he presented LS & GC medals to **SSgt Ian McCrindle BEM** of Comms Troop and **SSgt Ray Yallop** the Chief Clerk.



The GOC talking to Sig 'Scouse' Brisk on his visit to the squadron



The Secretary of State with SSgt Ian McCrindle and SSgt Ray Yallop



Before

AERIAL RIGGING RUN RIOT

All the squadrons in Northern Ireland have aerial riggers who spend a good deal of time climbing towers and fixing antennas. This work is frequently done in dangerous areas and often at night. Competition for antenna space on the tops of the various towers is particularly keen and, as our photographs show, it is surprising what a couple of hours work can do! The two workers are the Yeoman and **Sig 'Babs' Halls.**



After

ADVENTURE TRAINING

During September, the Squadron sent two parties hillwalking in the Cairngorms. The exercise was organised by **2Lt Adam Ewell** and twenty men from the squadron and four girls from the WRAC Troop, 176 Pro Coy took part. This may sound like a fairly potent recipe for disaster, but in fact it was not.

On the 4th the Admin party drove up to Aviemore from Londonderry. Despite **Sig Chris Bennett's** repeated attempts to go south to Catterick we arrived in the exercise area by eight that evening and prepared to receive the first course the next day.



Sig Bruce Barnes, LCpl Rina Aldridge and Sig 'Mitch' Mitchell meet a native. Mitchell is the one on the far right

INTO BUSINESS

The first course arrived and after a short sobering stroll up the hill, had dinner and settled in for the night. By the end of the following two days preparation even **LCpl Rina 'I'm a lady' Aldridge** could map read to a certain standard. By persuading **LCpl Frank Self** to break into a trot the **Wilson/Self** duo won the Orienteering competition, with **Sig Babs Halls** and **Dvr Vince Vitols** who were second.

On Friday, we set off on the hillwalking phase. **LCpl Frank Self,** whose birthday was on the second day of the walk carried a dozen cans of Harp with him to celebrate the occasion and even gave one away. The walk went smoothly, apart from the two girls trying to fly their tent and **Sig Halls** trying to swim a river with his pack on. On return to camp **LCpl Phil Amey** had prepared a candle lit banquet for the walking party. After a night in Aviemore the course returned to Londonderry without mishap.

GALED OFF

The second course arrived and seemed to be a much quieter bunch. Little were we to know! They soon livened up and after a couple of nights in Aviemore were as happy as ever. On Friday morning we set off on a modified walk — the floods preventing us from doing the planned walk. **LCpl Karen MacDonald** decided that walking was not her scene and perhaps she should have stayed in sunny Londonderry. **Sig Tony Talbot** persuaded her otherwise.

On Saturday the gale struck. **Cpl Del Goodman,** otherwise known as the John Travolta of the Pioneer Corps, was left with just pegs and guy ropes but no tents. As he had signed for all the stores he was slightly worried. However he managed to find all three 160ib tents and pack them up. On a kind offer from a local we moved into a church hall where we set up a soup kitchen for some schoolchildren who had lost their tents.

On Sunday the course climbed Sgoran Gaoith (1119 metres). The view from the top would have been quite spectacular but for the cloud and driving hail. The majority of the course then stampeded down the hill, whilst **Sgt Bob Bowman** brought up the rear at a more sedate pace. We then returned to the church hall where **LCpl Phil Amey** had prepared another slap up meal.

The move back to Londonderry went well, apart from **2Lt Adam Ewell** taking the admin party through the scenic route of Glasgow (The Springburn Road). Since the exercise **Sig Mitchell** and **LCpl Billy Gorman** have been seen lurking in the Tudor Bar.

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

WIVES SEE THE FORM

We have had another fairly quiet two months in Belfast, but at the time of writing we are undergoing a major redeployment of the units in the Brigade, and plenty of work seems to be coming our way. We have had the chance to get in a bit of adventure training, and also entertained our Squadron wives, and a few others from units in the Garrison, to an open morning. The ladies assembled for a 'bring and buy sale' — with everything from coal scuttles to home-baked bread — and then went on a guided tour of the Squadron, in an attempt to persuade them that their husbands actually do *something* during the day. The affair was rounded off with a glass of sherry and a raffle. The weather smiled on us, for a change, and all the ladies went away saying that we should do it again soon. The Squadron agrees with them — now that it has recovered, and the QM has done a complete stores check!



A group of ladies posing with MEKON the EOD wheelbarrow



Dvr Jeremy Symes demonstrates the RPG 7 to Mrs Lorraine Mullin and Mrs Denise Howard



Mrs Margaret Porritt and Mrs Marion Menzel share a joke with Cpl Alan Hibberd. (We think Sig Steve Memmott cracked the joke)

POPULAR ADVENTURE TRAINING

Our adventure training this year was in two sessions. The first, run by **Lt Tim Maynes** and **Sgt John Moody,** was at Drummore, near Stranraer, where we took over a village hall. Over thirty of the Squadron took part, and enjoyed changeable weather — well, it was better than Lisburn, anyway. Rock-climbing, canoeing and fishing were the main activities, and good friends were made with some of the locals. Anyone wishing to have instruction in how to go on a one-pub pub-crawl can get details from **LCpl John Kirkbride.**

The second exercise was run by **WO2 Mac MacNiven** and took place in Snowdonia and the Lake District. The mixed party aimed to scale as many peaks over 3,000ft as they could. They experienced some bad weather and some of the climbing was done in severe conditions, especially the ascent of Crib Goch which took place in high winds and driving rain. The only casualty of the week was the camera, which became waterlogged, and so we have no photographic record of the trip. It was certainly adventure training in the truest sense, and **Pte Neil Butterworth** has applied for a yodelling course.



Pte Dave Cook trying to prove that Newton got it wrong

GARRISON FETE

We have also been involved in the Garrison Fete, raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund, and a number of stalls were fielded. The best money-spinner was a stall run by **LCpl Fred Spencer** which raised over thirty pounds in the afternoon.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We have recently had a change-over of Quartermasters; **Capt Paddy Henry** and his wife **Catherine** go to Catterick, and **Capt Chris Speight** has arrived to take over, with his wife **Rita. Paddy** did a tremendous amount for the Squadron, especially as Supervising Officer of the Horseshoe Club, and we were sad that he had to leave so shortly before the rebuilt club was opened. We wish the **Henrys** the very best of luck in their new home, and welcome the **Speights** to what we hope will be an enjoyable tour.

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

SQUADRON NEWS

The last few months have been fairly quiet — if you don't count visits to the Squadron by the GOC and CLF on the same day! What passes for summer in N Ireland has passed and most of us managed to squeeze in our leave (not always during the sunny periods, unfortunately).

We are very proud to sport our awards in the latest NI Operational List, of an MID for **SSgt Barrie Hives** (now WO2 in 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt), and a GOC's commendation for **Cpl J. (Harry) Wragg** currently serving in E Tp.

SPORT

Sporting activities have been at a relatively low ebb during the transition from Summer to Winter. The Lisburn Garrison Triathlon Team Competition was best suited to units with at least one regular subaltern on strength, however in the individual competitions. **Cpl Gary Quick** had a fine win in the swimming event and came overall 13th.

The Basketball team were narrowly defeated in the final of the NI Summer League. In the final the Squadron played 1 RMP, a major unit side. It was an excellent game fought between two very evenly matched teams which looked like being a draw up until 5 seconds before the end when 1 RMP scored the winning basket just before the whistle. The Squadron had to settle as runners up.



233 SIGNAL SQUADRON — BASKETBALL TEAM
Cpl Brian Pritchard, Capt Alan Chapman (Capt), RQMS Ron Russell, LCpl Chris Pugh, LCpl Tiny Ludlam
Cpl John Mortimer, LCpl Hutch Hutchinson, LCpl Rab McBride, Cpl Pete Allen, YofS Andy Locke

SOCIAL

The SSM, **WO2 Brian Smith,** arranged an excellent Dinner Night in the Garrison Sgts Mess, and this opportunity was taken by the Squadron Commander **Maj Peter Chaddock,** to present **Sgt Richard Coxon** with his LS and GC medal. A miniature might have been more appropriate as the participants were in mess kit, but a full sized gong was presented and a full sized celebration followed.

On 11 Sept, D Tels **Brig R. A. King,** paid a working visit to the Squadron and kindly presented the LS & GC medal to **WO2 (FofS) Fred Brown.** We discovered that both the Brigadier and the Foreman had served in the same place, but never at the same time. Unfortunately a tight schedule did not allow time to 'wet' his medal afterwards.



WO2 (SSM) Brian Smith, OC Sqn, Sgt Richard Coxon, WO2 (Supvr R) Roger Courtney



Left to right: Sgt John Henning, Mrs Margaret Cook, Capt Barrie Styles, Mrs Jacke Forster, SSgt Laurie Priestley and Mrs Maureen Russell

AN IMPORTANT BONUS

One of the bonuses for working in 233, is the presence of some 50 WRAC girls, under the watchful eye of **2Lt Jacqui Wallace.** On the sport side in Tennis. **Pte Liz Middlecoat** worked hard over an eight week period to help organise Children's Tennis as part of their summer activities during their school holiday. The photograph shows her, centre, with some of her budding **Bjorn Borgs** and **Virginia Wades. Liz** then took her leave and confused us all by returning as **Pte Liz Price,** as she married **Cpl Gary Price 1RMP.**



Pte Liz Middlecoat (centre) with the budding Bjorn Borgs

Again on the sporting front, the switchboard girls decided to challenge the men of Admin Tp to a Sunday game of Rounders. Everyone turned up in fancy dress, ranging from punk-rockers to Superman. By the end of the match, no one quite remembered the score, but I am assured by the switchboard that they won by a rounder.

Other girls in the news are **Pte Lee Bennet** and **LCpl Paula Brown** who recently married **LCpls Bob Hutchison** and **'Rab' McBride** respectively. With a lot more girls becoming engaged or married to lads in the Squadron — The Squadron is like a marriage bureau!

CONFRONTATION

One fine day in July, Comms Troop were tasked to supply a Radio Relay circuit from Springfield Road RUC Station to HQ NI. An easy task one might think, but, the only HGV driver available at that time was a certain **Sig John Craddock.** To cut a long story short, whilst manoevring his four ton load out of the police station he successfully managed to pull down half the security barrier, and dented two police landrovers.

OUR MAN FANNY

Oh Fanny 'C' please tell to me
Why don't you like the RUC?
Whilst manoevring your heavy load
You demolished half the Springfield Road.

Though at this base they're often shot
You nearly wrecked the b . . . . . lot
A policeman said, as he stood in tears
It's worse than PIRA's last ten years!

WHISKY TROOP

Recently the troop has had an influx of new faces, and sadly one or two of the founder members have moved on. We welcome **Sgt Eddie Pridmore, Cpl 'Pancho' Gibson** and **Cpl 'Brian' Nixson** and say bon voyage to **Sgt Bob 'watch my swing' Faulds** to AAC Harrogate and **Sig 'Chippy' Wood** to Civvy street. We wish them all well in the future.

On the social side, we held a successful 'German Night' bringing back memories for most of us. We took advantage of the occasion to present Wedding gifts to **LCpl 'Archie' Archer** and his fiancee **Pte Ann Coleman.** Unfortunately **LCpl Archer** had to hobble down the aisle on crutches having broken his ankle 'Pogoing' at the camp disco on his stag night. We offer them our best wishes for a happy and prosperous life together.

We also offer congratulations to **Cpl Terry Butters** and **LCpl John Standen** on their promotions.

FAMILIES CLUB

The Squadron Families Club 'Mini-Fayre' in aid of SSAFA was a great success despite high winds and driving rain on the day. The proceeds were given to **Mrs Denise Marples** for despatch to SSAFA from Royal Signals in Northern Ireland.

VICTOR TROOP

One day, in fact Monday 14 August 78 to be exact, the Tp OC returned from the OC's Sqn conference and started off:
Capt Bob Baker (OC V Tp) 'Wire Notes YOS'
WO2 (YofS) George Coles (Tp YofS) 'Right Sir, Sgt R Wire notes'
Sgt Don Robertson (Tp Sgt) 'I'll get the shift leaders to write them'.

Well here goes:

In the hatch and match department. Congratulations to **Cpl Ray Joughin** and his wife on the birth of their son. Also best wishes go to **LCpl Helena Swales** a member of the troop who recently got engaged to **LCpl John Atkinson** also a member of the Squadron.

On the promotion side of life **Nobby Clarke** has been promoted to **Cpl** and **Norrie Stuart** to **Sgt.** Congratulations.

There have been quite a few comings and goings, so to all those who have arrived — Welcome, and to those who have left — Farewell.

WO2 (YofS) Garth Letori, when he departed presented a Special Events Diary to the troop. An extract from that diary reads:

ODE TO AN OPERATOR

I really hate this machine
I wish that they would sell it
It never does what I want
But only what I tell it.

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

It must have been a complete surprise for **Sgt Nigel Baker** when, at the request of 1 KOSB, he was allowed time off from the Province to go and teach them Sub Aqua Diving in the Caribbean. A VC 10 from Brize Norton Gander to Belize was the start of a very busy but rewarding adventurous training Exercise well away from the leaden skies of Ulster. We understand that **Nigel Baker** also mastered the difficult art of 'How to write lesson plans in your hammock without spilling your beer'. A skill he may get little chance to practise in Blandford when he leaves the Services next month!

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Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

THE FREEDOM OF HARROGATE MARCH

On Sunday 6 August 1978 a delighted and enthusiastic crowd of some 7-8,000 in Harrogate were treated to the sight and sound of the massed bands of the Army Apprentices College combined with the marching feet of 350 Apprentice Tradesmen and members of Permanent Staff. No, it wasn't a military coup, we were merely exercising our right to march through Harrogate with bayonets fixed, swords drawn and bands playing — an honour granted to the College by the Borough of Harrogate in 1972.

FITTING FAREWELL FOR RSM

This was the first occasion since 1972 that we had taken the opportunity of exercising the Freedom of Harrogate and it was also a fitting farewell to our RSM, **WO1 P. F. Richardson,** Gren Gds, whose last official parade this was to be before his departure to assume the appointment of RSM to the 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards.

COL JOHNNY ON PARADE

Each of the five AT squadrons was asked to produce 60 Apprentices plus an AT SSM. The Apprentices kindly consented to the Squadron Commanders, 2ICs, SSMs and some troop sergeants also being present! Having dismounted from buses and four-tonners outside the Trinity Methodist Church close to the town centre, we duly fixed bayonets, drew swords and formed up in column of route behind our combined pipe and brass bands. For our mascot, an ageing Shetland pony known to thousands in the Corps as 'Col Johnny', the march was to be a special treat since his ceremonial duties in the college are largely confined to standing patiently in the centre of the parade ground.



'Col Johnny and his Friend and mentor Sgt Dusty Miller

MAYOR TAKES SALUTE

Led by the Commandant, **Col Ultan Ryan,** we marched up West Park Road to where the Mayor, **Councillor Mrs Angela Matthews,** was waiting to take the salute. The weather was kind to us on this special day and on either side of our route the pavements were lined with cheering children and smiling onlookers whose brightly coloured summer clothes blended with the flower beds and immaculate lawns of the Prospect Gardens.



The Mayor of Harrogate, Councillor Mrs Angela Matthews, takes the salute



Rawson Squadron, Maj Mike Simms-Reeve in command



Scott Squadron, Maj Rod Dransfield in command

VINTAGE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES RALLY

Apart from our freedom march, the crowds were entertained by a rally of vintage commercial vehicles and the conclusion of the Harrogate Cycling Festival, culminating in an International race which finished only yards away from the route of our march — quite a headache for the Police.

APPRECIATION BY SPECTATORS

At the War Memorial, successive squadron commanders again filled their lungs to give the word of command 'eyes left' as the bands led the parade along Cambridge Road and into Oxford Street. Once out of the limelight, as it were, we had the chance to change arms and rest swords — a good opportunity to show-off with a bit of crisp arms drill and much crashing of rifle stocks which drew admiring looks from the crowds and made us feel a lot better too. All too soon our big day drew to a close as we rounded Station Parade to march back to our transport. The people of Harrogate gave us a big cheer as we departed and it was quite evident that they had appreciated this brief military takeover of their lovely town.

As to the feelings of the Apprentice Tradesmen who took part you would probably get a mixed response — but I believe that all would admit to having felt a certain swell of pride as the strains of 'Begone dull care' proclaimed our indisputable presence as Royal Signals soldiers in Harrogate.

THE INTER SERVICE CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS — FOUR SELECTIONS TO ARMY TEAM

The Championships were held, as usual, on the River Tay at Grantully, Perthshire. Recent rain had swelled the river to its highest competition level for ten years, producing a very rapid, powerful flow of water with standing waves four feet high and some vicious break-outs. Six members of the College Canoe Club made the pilgrimage — four were to be selected to represent the Army. This is our best achievement yet since three of the team were Apprentice Tradesmen: **AT Sgts Ian Dobson** and **Mike Ownes** and **AT Chris Newman.** Two other ATs, **Tony Woolaston** and **Ray Counley** narrowly missed selection but were listed as reserves. **Capt John Cornforth** also made the team and celebrated his selection by swimming down the course on his first run.

TRAGEDY MARS LONG DISTANCE RACE

The abnormally high water tragically claimed the life of an Apprentice Tradesman from Arborfield who was practising on another stretch of the river. This incident marred the Championships and resulted in the Long Distance Race (for which he had been practising) being cancelled.

WILD CONDITIONS

Meanwhile our own ATs were coping well with what were for them the most advanced white water conditions they had experienced. **ATs Ian Dobson** and **Chris Newman** paired up to compete in the Canadian doubles event. They capsized on their first run but managed to stay upright on the second run to finish as the only Army Canadian doubles crew to cross the finish line the right way up! (True, they did miss out one or two gates!)

AT Chris Newman also competed in the Canadian singles event but was up against some very stiff opposition from the RAF. **AT Mike Owens** was paddling very strongly in the kayak event but had an unfortunate swim during the team competition. At the end of the day it was the RAF who emerged victors but their dominating lead of the past two years was whittled down a little and we have every reason to look forward to an even closer contest next year.

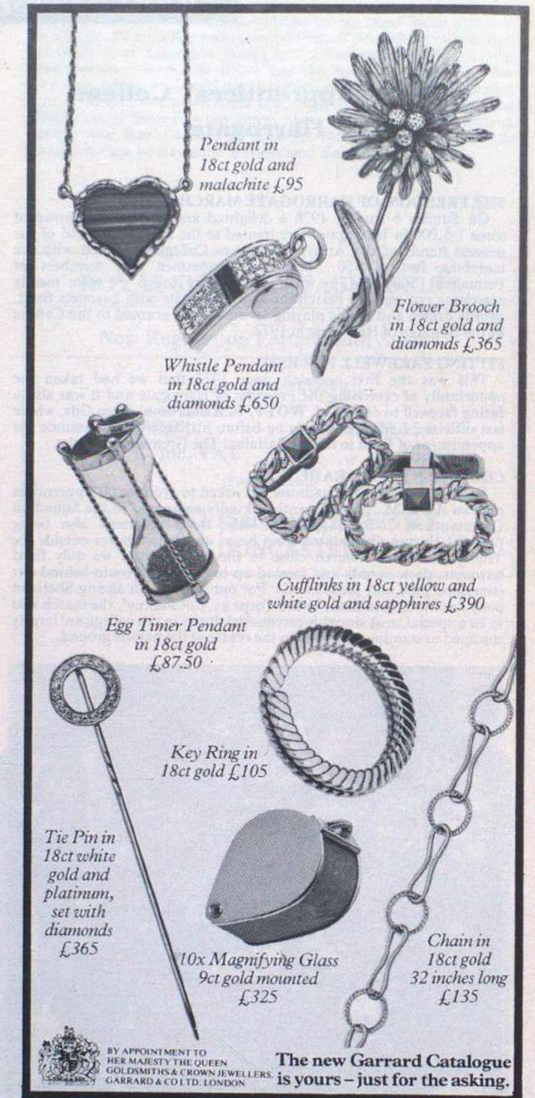
Finally, at a civilian competition recently held in our own area **ATs Tony Woolaston** and **Kim Hartridge** were promoted to Division 4 from the ranks of Novice, thus giving the club five ranking competitors in the BCU Slalom lists.

This achievement, along with our other successes this year is due in no small way to the time, energy and sacrifice shown by our O IC Canoeing, **Maj Mike Simms-Reeve** (who is no mean performer in the slalom kayak himself).

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION



HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals, B.F.P.O. 1

GOLD AND SILVER

Queen's Gurkha Signals organisation has remained the same with Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn based in Sek Kong, Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn based in Kowloon and Signal Troops based in Brunei, Nepal and UK.

The Regiment has had its fair shares of Comstar awards in the last 12 months:-

Seria Comcen	Gold
Dharan Comcen	Silver
Sek Kong Comcen	Silver
Victoria Comcen	Silver
Kowloon Comcen	Silver
Seria	Gold
Sek Kong	Gold

HOCKEY KEENLY CONTESTED

Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn hockey team enjoyed an extremely successful season, winning the minor units league, the minor units knock out cup and finishing runners up in the British Forces 6-a-side. They almost won the Ben-Line trophy (played between the winning major unit and the winning minor unit) but lost 2-0 to 'The Queen's Gurkha Engineers' after a replay.

The side, at times, played excellent hockey and although it is perhaps unfair to single out individuals for special praise, the stars of the side were undoubtedly **Cpl Sanders RAPC** in goal, **Cpl Ratnabahadur Pun** at Full Back and **Cpl Chhetrabahadur Gurung** and **WO2 (FofS) Nicholas** in the Forward Line. **Sig Krishna Gurung** showed himself to be an excellent prospect for the future. Perhaps the most enjoyable matches were against the Army Department Police, A Sikh Team. Gurkhas versus Sikhs produced quite a few fireworks and during one hotly contested match one of our players having had the equivalent of a tattoo beaten across his shins, suggested to the culprit (politely?) that he might like to start playing fairly and that it was only a game. The rather incensed reply was 'Only a game? This is Hockey'.



Gurkha Fd Force HQ Sig Sqn Hockey Team

AUSTRALIAN SUCCESS

The Regimental cricket team managed to reach the final of the HQBF knock out competition in which they were soundly thrashed by the Royal Australian Air Force. The side owed it's success to **Sgt Tope** on the organisational side. **Sgt Gipson, Sgt Coulson** behind the stumps (rumour has it that he actually managed to keep quiet for a whole over) and **SSgt Clark** whose fielding is the nearest thing seen in Hong Kong to a Huron stalking deer. Other players worthy of mention are **Lt N. F. Fisher** who must be thanked for his unswerving bowling (correction loyalty) and **Lt K. P. Barrett** (our legspinner) who on being asked after three overs if he was turning the ball replied 'I don't know I haven't managed to pitch one yet'.

REALITY FOLLOWS SIMULATION

Exercise *Flying Dragon* was held in June of this year. This exercise was a colony wide IS communications and involved all signals units drawn to Battalion signal troops. The RAF, Royal Navy, the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (the Volunteers) and the Royal Hong Kong Police participated to a limited extent. The exercise stretched everyone to the full and gave everyone plenty to think about. The exercise was, in the main, organised by our Signals Staff Officer **Lt Comd D. J. Carver RN** as his 'swansong' before leaving the service. Perhaps the most interesting serial was one which involved the simulated failure of the cable to Stonecutters Island. As chance would have it this actually occurred only two weeks later.

Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn

SUBMARINE CABLE CUT

At 2000 hours on 4 July 1978 the telephone cables to Stonecutters Island were damaged thus causing telephone communications to the Ammunition Sub Depot situated on the Island to stop functioning. Tests showed that a submarine cable repair was required. To restore communications as quickly as possible HK Gurkha Sig Sqn deployed a mobile C41/R222 Radio Relay complete with manual switchboard and WRAC operator and communication was restored by midday on 5 July

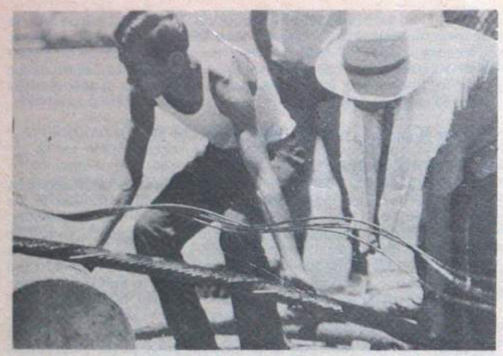
The marine contractor **Ah-King** who has been lifting submarine cables for the Army since 1938 arrived on site with cable barges, divers, winches and pumps ready to start work repairing the cables at 0800 hrs on 6 July. The first cable was lifted onto the barge at the Stonecutters end and placed on rollers. The barge then winched its way along the cable until the damaged sections were discovered. This section was cut out and replaced. Normal service was resumed by 10 July. The repair of the submarine cable can be seen from the photographs.



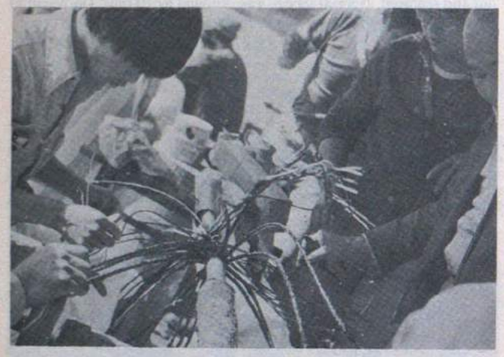
SUBMARINE CABLE REPAIR IN HONG KONG
SSgt (FofS) Halfpenny indicates a break in communications between Kowloon and Stonecutters Island whilst Capt (QGO) Shyamlal Gurung considers that maritime work is best left to a civilian cable gang



Armour being cut away from the old cable



Armour on new cable dressed back



Jointing under way



Cable Barge (never joint without jointers' tent)

SEVERING COMMUNICATIONS WITH RAF KAI TAK

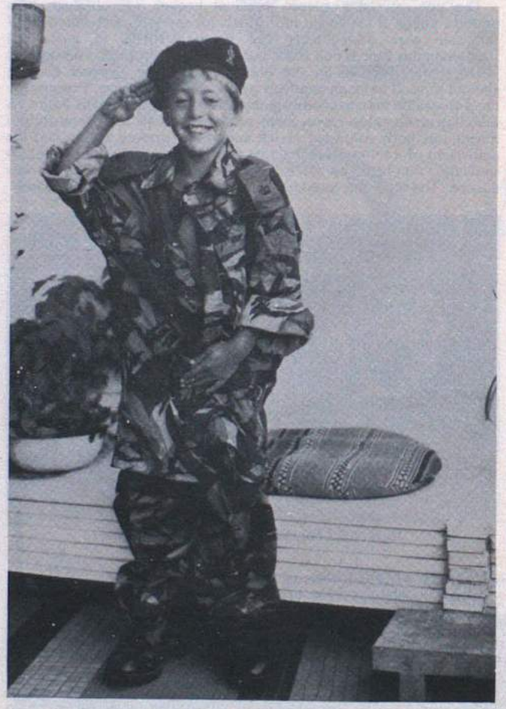
Following the move of the RAF to Sek Kong on 30 June 1978, Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn cut the last telephone cable serving RAF Kai Tak. The ceremony was performed by **Sig Kumar Rai** who cut the cable bravely held by **SSgt (FofS) Halfpenny,** with a single swing of the kukri. Thus, in the old Gurkha tradition, assuring the RAF of good fortune for the coming year.

From the picture it appears that **SSgt (FofS) Halfpenny** has lost his head while **SSgt Ng Ping Ching** looks concerned. On the right the Cable Gang Supervisor **Mr Yiu Ng Ka** confirms that the cable is dead.



YOUNG RECRUITS — A NEW PHASE

As a result of the fantastic success of the Short Service Limited Commissions (SSLC) a new scheme has now been introduced called the Pre School Commission (PSC). It can be seen from the photograph that in order to compensate for the loss of pocket money the rank on joining is Major, psc!



FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
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PROJECT WAVELL, IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

NEW SCENE

Readers will remember that the last notes from the Project WAVELL Implementation Team (PWIT) were written following our move to 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for BAOR trials after completing succesful technical trials at the School of Signals. Since then events have moved rapidly and Exercise *Flying Falcon* was followed in quick succession by Exercise *Queen's Crown* I to IV and the BAOR trials culminated in a very successful Exercise *Summer Sales* in early August.

To say that this trials period was uneventful would be far from the truth and the actual pace of work is best illustrated by letting readers into our secret of success in the adoption of the Rush Job Calendar. For those in similar predicaments we can thoroughly recommend it. Details are shown below.

RUSH JOB CALENDAR

NEG	FRI	FRI	FRI	THU	WED	TUE
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16	15	14	13	12	10	9
23	22	21	20	19	17	16
32	30	29	28	27	26	25
39	38	37	36	35	34	33

NOTES:

This is a special calendar for handling rush jobs. All rush jobs are wanted yesterday. With this calendar a job can be ordered on the 7th and delivered on the 3rd.

Most jobs are required by Friday, so there are three Fridays in every week.

There are eight new days added to each month to allow for end-of-the-month panic jobs.

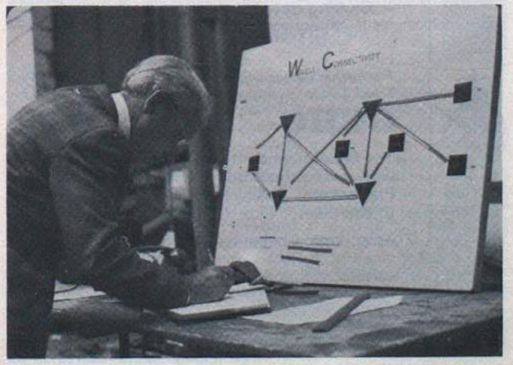
There is no 1st of the month — thus avoiding late delivery of the previous month's last-minute panic jobs.

Monday morning hangovers are abolished together with non-productive Saturdays and Sundays.

A new day — Negotiation day has been introduced keeping the other days free for uninterupted panic!

MANY VISITORS

During the trials we had visits from so many VIPs from D/SACEUR downwards, that the full list would take up far too much space (Ex *Queens Crown* IV had *350* visitors) but special mention must be made of the visit of our Director (DSCP) **Dr J. Berry** who came to see us on Exercise *Queens Crown* II, and is pictured below signing our visitors book. (Scribe's note: Wavell *did* have the full connectivity shown — honest!).



To help the regiment and any others who may come into touch with Wavell in the future we have been busy compiling a set of special Wavell factors. These are shown below — we hope they help!

JORY's THEOREM:	If the trial works you must be using the wrong software.
EL CID's CONSTANT:	That quantity which when multiplied, divided, added to or substracted from, the answer *you* get gives you the answer you *should* have had.
HARDWARE MAINTENANCE TEAM's FIVE THUMB POSTULATE:	Experience varies directly with equipment ruined.
PDP 11/34 (our computer) LAW OF THE PERVERSITY OF INANIMATE OBJECTS:	Any inanimate object, regardless of its composition or configuration, may be expected to perform in a completely unexpected manner at any time for reasons which are either totally obscure or else completely mysterious.
SUTHERLAND's AXIOM:	When all else fails, read the instructions.
SYSTEM CONTROLLERS LAW:	The probability of a given event occuring is inversely proportional to its desirability.
THE PWIT ORDERING PRINCIPLE: (OR SMART's RULE)	Those supplies necessary for yesterday's trial must be ordered no later than tomorrow noon.
THE P------Y FUTILITY FACTOR:	No trial is ever a complete failure — it can always serve as a bad example.
THE SAMMES SERVICEABILITY CRITERIA:	All failures must be foreseen not less than 24 hours in advance to enable the necessary spares to be made available.
LAST's ULTIMATE PRINCIPLE:	By definition, when you are investigating the unknown you do not know what you will find.

THANK YOU

PWIT is now part of 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt and we in Wavell would like to thank all ranks of the regiment for all the help and cooperation they have given PWIT.

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.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

ITS PURPOSE is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	—against the effects of possessions lost or damaged
FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

WE ADVISE on the use of savings from income, the investment of capital, the use of other assets where applicable, insurance against ill health and the insurance of possessions. We help clients to lay the foundations of sound plans, to develop existing plans and keep them up to date, and then to make the best use of resources when the time comes to meet commitments.

GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 30 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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RADIO OFFICERS

LEAVING THE SERVICE SOON?

If your trade involves radio operating and you are no more than 35 years of age, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the Composite Signals Organisation.

A number of vacancies will be available in 1979 for suitably qualified candidates to be appointed as Trainee Radio Officers. Candidates must have had at least 2 years radio operating experience or hold a PMG or MPT certificate.

On successful completion of 35 weeks specialist training, appointees move to the Radio Officer Grade.

Training Radio Officers start on £2,605 at 19 up to £3,034 at 25 or over. After completion of specialist training Radio Officers start on £3,571 at 19 rising to £4,675 if you are 25 or over; then by 5 annual increments to £6,340 inclusive of shift and weekend allowance.

Closing date for applications 31 January 1979.

For further details apply to:—

GCHQ

The Recruitment Officer (Ref W)
Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road, Oakley,
Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ.

Telephone: Cheltenham 21491 Ext 2269

NEW RHQ

At the start of the Summer Term, RHQ School Regiment removed itself from the ground floor of the School Headquarters and took up residence in Steele House, formerly 5 Army Education Centre.

On Monday 17 July the **SOinC** accompanied by **Mrs Anderson** were to pay us a visit to formally declare the new RHQ open. It was particularly appropriate that **Maj Gen Anderson** was programmed to do this as the move to Steele House had been proposed by him in October 1976 during his last few days as Commandant of the School.

Unfortunately, due to illness, the SOinC was unable to visit on the appointed day, however, **Mrs Anderson** came along and duly performed the Opening Ceremony. The Commandant, **Brig Hild,** then carried out the SOinC's part of the day's programme including presentation of the LS and GC to his own driver **Cpl Wetten.**



Mrs Anderson officially opens Steele House using the 'gold' key made by Training Aids Workshop



Having presented Cpl Wetton with his LS & GC medal, the Commandant, Mrs Wetton and Cpl Wetton join the remainder of 'Wheels Troop' for a photograph

FAREWELL

On Thursday 29 June we said goodbye to **Maj Ken Wright,** OC HQ Squadron, who was retiring after nearly 32 years service with the Corps. The breadth of **Kens** experience and knowledge can be judged by the fact that whilst the Commanding Officer was in hospital earlier this year he was holding down ten different jobs — all successfully — perhaps we should keep the CO in hospital! In recognition of this the HQ Squadron hierarchy (**WO2 (SSM) Watkins, Sgt Hobbs** and **Cpl Tanfield**) decided that he should have a new name tag listing his appointments. This was duly presented at a small but very select gathering in the Rugby Club; note that he is pointing at the tag indicating his post as Resettlement Officer. Seriously though, many people will have come into contact with **Maj Wright** during his long career and will no doubt have benefitted from such contact. It is pleasing to know that his links with the Army have not been finally severed as he has now taken up an appointment in an Army Information Office in the Birmingham area. Here's hoping he sends the Corps many recruits like himself.



Maj Ken Wright — a man of many parts

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

Since our last edition we have been enjoying the summer weather, Verden style. (There was one stretch of twenty eight days where it rained every single day . . . !). On the bright side though our exercise periods have been scorching!

FAREWELL TO RSM

At the end of July the Regiment bade farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Kevin Cheetham.** On 19 July he was dined out by the Officers of the Regiment. As well as the traditional 1 Armd Div Tankard the RSM was presented with a statuette of a Royal Signals Officer in full dress uniform from the Officers of the Regiment. He was them presented with a show case containing every single cap badge that appears within the unit from all ranks of the Regiment.

RSM Cheetham is due to leave the Army next year and we wish him and his family every success and happiness in civilian life. This is possibly an apt point at which to welcome our new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Brian Young.** We hope he will enjoy his stay with us here in Verden.



The Commanding Officer Lt Col Peter Davies presents WO1 (RSM) Kevin Cheetham with his 1 Armd Div tankard



A GIANT LOLLY

The Corps CPX was this year treated to the best stretch of weather seen in BAOR for months. Measures taken against the heat varied from hyper-ventilation of combat dress to overstretch of the RAOC mobile bath unit. Our Second in Command **Maj Neil Walter,** however, had his own solution. On a visit to Echelon he was heard to say that from all the resources (deep freezes etc) at the Specialist Catering Officer's command the least he could have done was to produce an ice 'lolly' for the 2IC. Nothing daunted, our SCO **Capt Mike Murphy** set to work. The outcome was a giant two foot high lollipop complete with broom handle as stick and orange flavoured.

It is rumoured that the entire Headquarters had a lick and it was still going strong three quarters of an hour later.

A CRUSTY QUESTION

Col AQ (at the end of a tactical update and briefing): 'Any questions gentlemen?'

Staff Offr: 'Just one sir, may the sandwiches provided for the night shift have the crusts left on the bread.'

OC 3 Sqn: '!? . . .!'

OC 3 to Cookhouse. Collects large bag of crusts removed from bread.

OC3 presents bag of crusts to officer in question.

Staff Officer last seen drinking coffee and munching on crusts!

FIVE DAY WEEKEND

Apart from the above items, Llandovery College CCF have visited us for a week, we have exchanged personnel with 8th US Infantry Division and had a days shooting with our Fernmeldebataillon 1 partners in Hannover. We have run our Anglo-German Weekend (which went on for five days!) and despite all this managed to have an officerless day. And then if thats successful . . . who knows?!

OBITUARY

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of **Cpl Alan Breeze** and **Sig Peter Walter** both of 'C' Troop 1 Squadron as the result of a tragic accident on exercise. They will both be sadly missed by us all.

COMMCEN CHARLES REPORT
Ex Summer Sales 1978

Ex *Summer Sales 1978* saw our COMMCENS in different roles. DELTA became part of the static comms while CHARLES was left to hold the fort within the Division. The exercise was therefore a busy comms exercise but with very limited movement. All was going well until two days before ENDEX when the brilliant sunshine was interrupted by a freak lightening storm, directly overhead, much to the dismay of **SSgt Jim Downie.** After a direct hit on our COMMCEN site all our ccts were out. However with a tremendous amount of communications skills and self-possession **Staff Jim** did in fact re-engineer everything within five mins — and all that from under the table cowered in the corner.

At this point we would like to thank 28 (BR) Sig Regt for the loan of **Cpls Reith** and **Hurley, LCpl Hammacot** and **Sig Strangeways** without whose help we would have been a very, very tired COMMCEN by ENDEX.

On a lighter note we would like to congratulate **Cpl 'Scotty' Handibode** on his coming promotion. (**Sgt Taff Gunter** can now stand near open windows again with no fear of being 'accidentally' thrown out.)

COMMCEN DELTA REPORT

While the Regiment was recently involved in Ex *Summer Sales,* a small team of 1 Sqn personnel were 'Confined to Camp'. Under the leadership and guidance of **SSgt Ray Whall,** their mission was to refit the Squadron Bar and Social Club. The OC, **Maj Peter Pearson,** knowing full well the ingenuity of the men under his command, gave them only three weeks to start and finish the job.

'Opening night is 5 August, arrange a function', he commanded **SSgt (FofS) Bob Morley** before dashing off to join COMMCEN CHARLES on a hill somewhere in N Germany.

The first task was to remove the old bar, fittings, wallpaper, paint and all the odd things stuck to the main structure of the Club. This was followed by the rebuilding and decorating. The Squadron 'Q', **SSgt John Kitchener,** resplendent in running gear and paint pot, was heard to remark: 'If it stays in one place for more than 10 seconds, PAINT IT!'. Paper hanger in Chief **Ray Whall** between sending out for two more rolls of 'that hessian type' wall paper, began to see it all taking shape and so instructed **Cpl Dave McCombie** to get hold of all the Brewery Reps and get them to deliver the new stock. 'We have to try them all to see which ones we like' was the general opinion.

RED HOUSE SCHOOL

MOOR MONKTON, YORK.

A Boarding and Day Preparatory School for Boys and Girls between the ages of 7 and 14 years.

Headmaster: Major A. V. Gordon, RA (retd)

Asst. Headmaster: J. R. Sayers, MA (Oxon)

Red House was founded in 1902. It is established in a fine 17th-century house set in 70 acres, bounded by woods and the River Ouse, with its own Home Farm. There is riding available on the school ponies, fishing, canoeing and sailing on the river, swimming in the heated outdoor pool, shooting in the small range and plenty of parkland to explore. The main house is entirely devoted to living accommodation and the teaching is done in the modern, purpose-built classrooms which include a well-equipped laboratory.

Small classes allow personal tuition where required, and pupils take Scholarships and Common Entrance Exams to a wide variety of Public Schools.

Rugby, cricket, football, hockey, golf, and tennis are played on the large games fields. Music, Art, Handicrafts, and Drama are also popular.

Religious life is centred on the lovely old family chapel and services are held there each Sunday during term-time. There is special provision for RCs.

Further details are available from the Secretary.

CYPHER OFFICERS

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has vacancies for Cypher Officers.

Previous cypher experience and good touch typing are essential. Candidates should be between 21 and 50 years of age. Both they and their parents should normally have been British subjects at all times since birth.

Shift working, including weekend and public holiday duties, is a condition of service. The posts are situated in central London but there are limited opportunities for tours of duty overseas.

The commencing salary is £3102 per annum at age 21, rising by annual increments to £4275 per annum. In addition a shift allowance is payable, together with an allowance for weekend work.

There is a non-contributary pension scheme and there are opportunities for promotion.

Application forms and further details are available from:

Personnel Policy Department
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
Curtis Green Building
Victoria Embankment
London Sw1A 2JD

DEAD LINE MET

After much 'humping and dumping' by **Cpl Bob Hill** and his worthy assistants, and a little help from the local PSA experts, the great day of the official opening arrived. The Club was not only finished on schedule but looked magnificent.

The opening night of champagne toasts and curry supper was a success story in itself and will be remembered for a long time by the whole Squadron. For anyone who has the good fortune to be posted into 1-Squadron, the Bar and Social Club is certainly worth a visit.

3 SQUADRON REPORT

The month of July arrived early this year for 3 Squadron (or at least it seemed that it followed too closely behind June). No sooner had the sun set on Ex *Hurst Park* than we were faced with our annual task of doing the donkey work for the Verden Anglo-German Weekend. The appearance of so much tentage around the Squadron block quite obviously brought some horrific memories back to those who were heard to wander around murmuring 'We can't be changing back to tents again?' (IN JOKE). On the day luckily, the rain held off long enough for everybody to have an enjoyable time, and the new improved Noddy Train brought little chuckles of glee and lit up the tiny shining faces of several of the younger members of Echo Troop.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

This month we say a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Bob Bates,** we congratulate him on his promotion to RSM 5 Fd Force and wish him well for the future. Marching smartly into the breach comes our new SSM, **WO2 Dave McGurk,** to him we say welcome and good luck

22 SIG REGT WOs' AND SGTs' MESS 7-a-side SOCCER TOURNAMENT

After a long and hard journey, and an even harder night in our own Mess the night before, the football team of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Sgts' Mess arrived at Churchill Barracks Lippstadt to do battle with thirty one other Messes on the occasion of the first BAOR Sgts' Mess 7-a-side football competition. Our arrival, more likened to the withdrawal from Dunkirk than that of our professional couterparts at Wembley, was one of anxiety as we waited to see if all that set off had arrived. Eventually they did, after a fashion. **Sgt Tony 'The Cat' Bowen** was one of the first to arrive and one of our main casualties complaining of stomach pains and was to spend most of his time prostrate, moaning, as his nickname suggests. Eventually after many moments of hearts in mouths, the team were ready and we took the field for our first game. The way to the final was as follows:

	v 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	Won 10-1
	v 12 Fd Regt RA	Won 4-2 (Trailing 2-1 at half time)
Quarter Final	v 14 Sig Regt	Won 1-0
Semi Final	v 28 Sig Regt	Won 2-1

SUPERB SUPPORT

Our families must have a mention. Their support during the games never failed, even in the rain, and **RSM Brian Young** virtually wore his legs to the knees running up and down the side line shouting encouragement (another word for his encouragement is abuse) and so the final. Aching limbs trudge onto the pitch against 1 Scots Gds but as it turned out we had saved our best football for the big one. With super sub **John Newman** scoring 4 goals and taking the man of the match award we ran out comfortable winners 5-0. Tired limbs were suddenly fresh again as Skipper **Bob Duncan** went to receive the magnificent trophy followed by his team. The day was ours and after a couple of photographs and a celebration shandy we made the long journey home. One person not given a mention yet is **Sgt Mac Reid** our resident medic and sub who only played one half yet was a great supporter throughout the day. Once again many thanks to 22 Sig Regt for a great day and a very well organised tournament. The team in order of appearance:

WO1 (RSM) B. Young
Sgt T. Bowen
Sgt D. Brown
WO2 (FofS) Smurthwaite
Sgt R. Baggaley
SSgt (YofS) G. Bartliff
SSI B. Duncan
Sgt D. Edwards RA
WO2 (SSM) J. Newman
Sgt M. Reid RAMC

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

5 SQUADRON REPORT

Personalities:

OC Maj Craig Treeby
2IC Capt Bill Lidster (Now Maj Lidster)
OC Papa Troop Lt Nick Corbin
OC Kilo Troop Capt Chris Wright
OC Corps Lighting Troop RE Capt David Taylor RE
SSM WO2 (SSM) Arthur Smith
YofS SSgt Peter Baron
FofS SSgt Chic Napier
SQMS SSgt Carl Bellamy

NEW FACE AT THE TOP

We welcome **Maj** and **Mrs Craig Treeby** (new OC) and hope their tour with us is a happy one. We also pay a sad farewell to our old OC and his good lady, **Maj** and **Mrs Bill Bowen.** He will be able to gather even more grey hairs in his new appointment as Regimental Ops Officer, we wish him the best of luck in his new post.

FOCUS ON FIVE

The Squadron consists of three troops, Papa, Kilo and Corps Lighting Troop (RE).

KILO TROOP

Kilo Troop or as it is better known in the Reginent, 'Kilo Army', due to its somewhat remote and individual role on exercises. Kilo Army is still alive and kicking despite an incredibly busy year spent on exercise, adventure training and naturally football. We have managed to keep our heads above water despite an almost 100% turnover. Gone are the stalwarts: **Trev Johnson, Bob Hitchen, Ian Dolby, Barry Young, Jock Reid and Mick Jeffreys** to mention but a few. In their place we received a huge batch of new talent from the Training Group after their fire fighting exploits. Their tuning drills may not be too hot but we can field the best Regimental fire picket for miles.

KILO ARMY SPORTS PARADE

Our achievements on the sporting field are worth a mention, we provide:

Rugby:— One BAOR player — **Cpl Steve Green**
Five Regimental players
Athletics:— One BAOR Discus champion **LCpl Steve Tumilty**
Nine Regimental Athletes, we must mention **Sig Stanley Green** at 1500m fame.
Fencing:— One Army fencer — **Cpl Jim Perry**
Cricket:— One BAOR player — **Cpl Dobbin Frape**
Two Regimental cricketers
Shooting:— One Corps shot — **LCpl Ginge Mead**
Skiing:— Too many (**Sgt Dave Roberts** take note)
Boxing:— One Regimental Boxer (failed) **Sig 'Henry' MacIntosh**
Football:— We must make mention of the magnificent Kilo Army football team. Runners up in the local Garrison knock out cup, to this praise must go to **Cpl Johnson, Cpl Pete (I never lose my temper) Bradbury** and that stalwart at the centre back position **SSgt John Fuller** for organising the team.

Finally, a word about the troop management. **Capt Chris Wright** and **SSgt (YofS) Rod Wood** are being 'put out to grass' at long last. We will shortly say farewell to them and wish them all the best. We welcome their replacements **Capt Robin Cuthbert** and **SSgt Alec Gavillet,** hope they play football!!



Kilo Army in Full Glory

THE AMERICAN SLANT

It has been said, (by whom we're not sure) that the American Forces Recreation Centre in Berchtesgaden has not been the since it was taken by storm back in August. The legend Papa Troop arrived at a small campsite deep in Obersalzburg. Of course, as all pathfinders do, they found a path. It wasn't a long path; in fact it was about 200m long and led straight to the front door of the nearest American Forces Hotel. Here they found such hospitality and refreshment that when it became time to return to the aforementioned campsite they had quite forgotten where they had left it. In time, however, the main party arrived and showed them the way home. Needless to say, the rest of the party was also taken into the bosom of the American society in Berchtesgaden and enjoyed the same excellent hospitality.

During daylight hours the lads enjoyed (we think) such varied activities as canoeing, hill walking, and visits to the many places of scenic and historic interest in the area.

Those deserving special mention for their part in cementing Anglo-American relationships were: **Cpl Sid Graves** for his serenading on 12 strings, **Cpl Eddie Helliwell** for his excellent repair work on someones Volvo and **LCpl Gus Murray** for his interest in large ladies from Texas. Everybody agreed when it was time to return back here to Hereford that they had spent the time of their lives and could they possibly go back again next year — to apologise.

DEPARTURES

Firstly we must say a reluctant goodbye to **Maj Bill Lidster** who has now gone to 30 Sig Regt where we wish him well. Secondly we have said farewell to **Sgt Benny Bingham** who served us admirably for so long. He is now with 16 Sig Regt. Lastly we congratulate **Sgt Gus Honey** on his promotion, but regret his leaving us for 11 Sig Regt.

5 SQUADRON FINALE

By one of the Squadron Majors

Who is in Command of this lot anyway? During July and August the Squadron had three Majors **'Bill 'Bowen, Bill Lidster, Craig Treeby** and **Uncle Tom Cobley** and all etc. After a very close three legged race over the Schwalenberg, **Maj Craig Treeby** won (e's a para in 'e). **Maj 'Bill' Bowen** was banished to Ops and **Maj Bill Lidster** sent to plague 30 Sig Regt. **WO2 (SSM) Arthur Smith** is still here, making sure that all this disruption doesn't upset the 'men'. He was last seen getting lost in the long grass outside the Squadron Office signing 'Someday my car will come'.

Comment (By *new* Squadron Commander) 'Man Management' page 9, para 2.22, 'A Commander must be candid and honest in both his praise and his criticism of the performance of his subordinates.'

REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY

Report by Capt David Shakespeare

Saturday 22 July was one of the hottest days of the summer; this made a pleasant change for it normally rains in Herford on Open Days.

The Open Day was well planned and advertised, ensuring the large crowds which turned up by private cars and buses. Car parking became critical, however, after a nervous breakdown and a heart attack the Provost Sergeant managed to slot away all the cars. Squadrons were tasked to provide a number of stalls according to squadron strength, this they did with enthusiasm and ingenuity. Other departments provided amenities, the catering department rose to the occasion and produced gallons of tea and lemonade plus hundredweights of fish, chips and rolls. M Troop, in true technical fashion fiddled around with bits of wire and speakers to produce the PA system, which gave another use for the issue shooting ear plugs.

FINE STYLE

The day went off in fine style true to all Open Days, noise, music, eats, drinks and of course the odd lost child being cared for by yours truly **'Uncle David'.**

The crowds poured money into the side shows and most adults enjoyed the ride on the 'Noddy Train'. The LAD rigged up the recovery vehicle, giving children a birds eye view by use of a gadget at the end of the crane.

FUNDS FOR CHARITIES

An enormous amount of effort was put into producing the stalls and when the Commanding Officer and his wife had to nominate the winning stall it was very difficult. There wasn't much to choose as they were all very good, however, the final choice was:

Best money maker — Straw Stall (QM (T))
Most effort — Cake Stall (5 Sqn Wives)
Electronics (M Troop)
Schnell Imbiss (Catering Dept)

The day was a tremendous success with the grand total of DM 10,308.45 to be divided to various charities.

Finally, another highlight was the appearance of the Bad Salzuflen Shooting Company Band dressed in full regalia. They played for us and spent a great deal of time around our .22 shooting stand. **Sgt Eddie Turner** of the Regiment is a member of the company and looked very smart in his shooting uniform, feather and all. He tells us that since he joined the drill and turnout has improved 100% with the company, how do you say cock, hook can't and look in German?

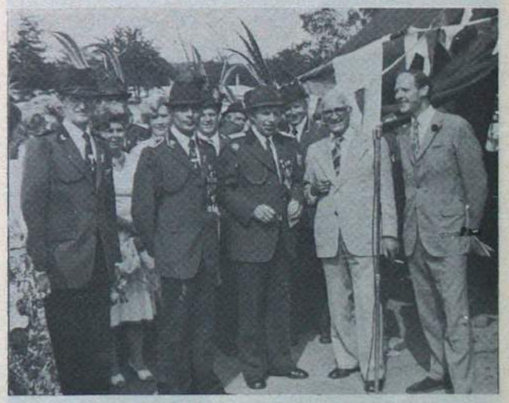
If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.



Fancy meeting you here — Mummy can we have him
Womble: Miss Christine Dyre, daughter of Capt (TOT) Dicky Dyre



CO's wife, Mrs Coral Story helping with raffle stand



Members of No 4 (Bad Salzuflen) Shooting Company pose with the Bürgermeister and CO
Left to right: Sgt Eddie Turner (Mr Anglo/German), Herr Deponio, Herr Oberleutnant Sturham, Herr Dr Schober, Herford Bürgermeister, Lt Col C. Story CO 7 Sig Regt



Sgt Bill Walker 2 Sqn 'Lemoned' in stocks



CCR Sigs Brig G. R. Oehlers with CO



Left to right: SSM's HQ, 4 with mug and 3 discussing discipline problems in 1, 2, and 5 Sqns

CUNNING DISGUISE

The Regimental Rugby Squad cunningly disguised as a KAPE team assembled in Cardiff on 28 August. The following morning we began a very full KAPE programme consisting of 19 different shows ranging from the Swansea show on Bank Holiday, with an attendance of over 20,000, to a wet Monday in a Cardiff park with at least 45 spectators. The show consisted of a C50 vehicle, TEV A and two FFR Land Rovers with a tented display of technical equipment.

THE RECORD

In addition to the KAPE we also managed some Rugby fixtures, winning two games and losing three, no mean feat considering the strength of Welsh Rugby.

For the record the playing results are as follows:
v Llandaff Won 21-16
v Ponturdalais Lost 0-26
v Kidwelly Lost 10-25
v Merthyr Tydfil Won 4-0
v Cwmbran Lost 3-16

ABLE ASSISTANCE

We made a lot of friends both on and off the field during the tour, as a KAPE Exercise the combination of shows by day and Rugby in the evening proved invaluable but extremely tiring for the players concerned. We were ably assised during our tour by the following and would like to publicly express our thanks to them.
Capt Jim Doherty 37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing 37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt Trevor Johnson Cardiff UOTC
Sgt Wayne Jolly AC10 Cardiff

In order to clear up any misunderstandings that may have arisen during the tour the following points are for interested parties (wives, girlfriends, Squadron Commanders etc).

SSgt John Fuller did actually complete two minutes Rugby before injury forced him to retire.

Sgt Terry Beard is not able to walk on water, despite the opinion to the contrary after his magnificent game against Cwmbran.

Sgt Tod O'Brien knows at least three songs in addition to 'Brown Girl in the Ring'.

LCpl Steve Stevenson has not yet learnt to speak Welsh, but is thought to be still working on the problem.

Sgt Bill McConnell has applied for employment with the Diplomatic Corps following his Captains speech concerning the Referee at Merthyr.

Cpl Les Bennett and **Sgt Kev Stock** have not offered their services to Ponypool as Prop Forwards.

Lt Rupert Foxley did not propose to the glamourous granny in Swansea, he was in fact 'practising his KAPE'!

Sig 'Stan Laurel' Eyre was actually heard in conversation on at least one occasion during the tour.

Capts Dicky Dyer and **Chris Wright** have not applied for transfers to the Royal Navy after their eventful crossing of the English Channel.

Cpl Gus Hales did manage to score during the tour, he followed an 'Up and Under'!

LCpl Steve Peacock turned down an offer to play for Cardiff on the grounds he was looking for something better.



Most of the team pose for local press: Newport



'ALLO 'ALLO 'ALLO. Sgt Beard and Bobby: Newport



'Hands On' Demonstration: Monnouth Show



Capt Dicky Dyre chatting with the locals: Rummey Eisteddford



Under the walls of Caerphilly Castle

ANGLING REPORT

The Unit Angling Club run by **WO1 Barney Hill** and known locally as 7 Signal Regiment 'Kingfishers' were rewarded for their efforts and expenses throughout the season by being placed third in the 1978 BAOR Angling Championships. Throughout the season the members of the club practiced hard on rivers and lakes the first team qualifying at Godelheim Lakes and the second team on the river Weser.

On a fast rising river Weser at Hess-Oldendorf 250 anglers forming 50 teams found it hard going and weights were not too good at the end of the six hour match. However all members of the first team caught fish and due to this team effort, were placed well for the final score. The second team did not do so well, two of the team being dry netted at the end.

Anyone posted into the unit can note that we have our own water within an hours drive of barracks which is well stocked with Carp, Rudd, Bream, and Zander. There are camping facilities at the pond and many good weekends are enjoyed by members and their families. We also enjoy a good social and non-match side of life.



TEAM PHOTOGRAPH
BAOR ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978 (24 October)
Facing: Cpl Les Childs (Team Capt), Sgt Glen Morgan, LCpl John Wellard, Sgt Frank Dawson, Sgt Benny Bingham

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison



A WORKMATE FROM HIS WORKMATES

Lt Col G. W. Young (OC TTS) presented **Mr Harry Jenkins** on 6 September 78 with his future retirement companion at the end of 44 years association with the Corps, of which the last 31 years have been in Catterick, where he first came in 1935 to train as a Wireless Operator at 1 Training Regiment.

He saw service in India, landed on D Day with 15th Scottish Division, serving with it through France and Germany. Subsequently, he served in Egypt, the Gold Coast, Iran and Iraq. He was posted in 1947 to the School of Signals as an instructor, becoming Training Officer (WO2) of 1 Training Regiment in 1954. He retired as such in 1958 and started a second training career as a civilian instructor in the Regiment.

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11 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF SERGEANTS COURSES 140 AND 141

Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Courses 140 and 141 ended with the usual Dinner Night. On the occasion, the two courses entertained the Permanent Cadre of Instructional Wing. The following ode is dedicated to all members of Royal Signals who have passed through Instructional Wing of 11 Sig Regt and was composed by **Sgt 'Goldey' Peters** of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sgt Arthur Hedgley** of 16 Sig Regt.

CATTERICK IN DE SUN

Chorus

Oh Catterick in de sun
The work is hard and it's never done
Staffies course got us on de run
1 4 zero and 1 4 one

Our day starts at six o'clock
We get up and we bull de block
Clean our bedspace and toilets too
Then we still have de kit to do

Tuesday morning Wally standing there
He's checking braces and he's checking hair
If you've got medals man it's no fun
As poor old Wally he aint got none

Service funds and de q accounts
They've got to make up de right amounts
Who's de one who cooks de books
We all know him as Staffy Hooks

Oh Catterick in de sun
The work is hard and it's never done
Staffies course got us on de run
1 4 zero and 1 4 one

Paddy More that is his name
Teaching drill that is his game
We do our drill for all our worths
But he says we're a bunch of Smerfs

In de wing dere's de coffee machine
Out of order like it's always been
Markwell thinks he's going on de beer
With de profits he made from here

Down at Worcop we got a surprise
De orienteering was in disguise
Glen McCardle make big mistake
De grids he gave were hard to make

Oh Catterick in de sun
The work is hard and it's never done
Staffies course got us on de run
1 4 zero and 1 4 one

Andy Cummings is a very nice lad
He tries to teach us what is right from bad
Teaching weapons is his exercise
Now we're so good we can shoot down flies

Down at the gym we got a frightening show
Trembling in the morning — off we go
QSMI Webb now he's a champ
Thinks the gym's a gestapo camp

Captain Duthoit he teaches us I.S.
But what he's on about is anyones guess
Live attacks is when he's at his pitch
He's got a kink about a muddy ditch

Oh Catterick in de sun
The work is hard and it's never done
Staffies course got us on de run
1 4 zero and 1 4 one

Now dis ere magic we call de military law
We all find it's a terrible bore
But where in the manual will it show them that
If we get fined we can claim de VAT

In conclusion we would like to say
When de hell do we get away
Dis ere course it aint bin no fun
For 1 4 zero and 1 4 one

Oh Catterick in de sun
The work is hard and it's never done
Staffies course got us on de run
1 4 zero and 1 4 one

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

JEVER DETACHMENT REPORT

Once again from Jever, Ostfriesland, our small detachment wedges itself between the pages of Regiments and Squadrons to tell you who we are.

VISITS

In June of this year **Col J. S. Agar** arrived by helicopter (when we found it) for a flying visit, and after a tour of the detachment he met the families and had coffee and biscuits in the club. **Col Agar** was impressed with our bar, which was once a bedroom and commented favourably on our enterprise.

NEW ARRIVALS

Contrary to popular belief we do have television and we haven't had a power cut for years. However, since March we have welcomed to the world **Bobby Brewer, Scott Oakley** and **Sven Kirkpatrick,** and another is on the way. As fast as **Cpl Mick Agnew** is losing weight, mother to be **Sheila Agnew** is putting it on.



Characters at Jever

SPORTS ROUND UP

Although our detachment consists of only seven members and their families, sport plays a large part in the daily life of the detachment. Squash and Badminton being the firm favourites at the present time. In June we entertained six members of C Troop 13 Sig Regt Squash Team, and after a heavy night in the bar discussing tactics we beat them by 4-2 and they presented us with a silver cup to commemorate the occasion.

Cpl Dave Oakley (Scouse to his friends) is our resident football fanatic and has achieved local fame in being the star player for the local football club, Heidemühle SV. He has hit the local headlines twice and is continuing to score goals.

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR RECOVERS

Under the expert tuition of detachment commander **Sgt John Ruddy, Cpl Taff Athay** and **Mrs Taryn Oakley** have successfully passed their driving tests. Since then the Det Commander's fingernails have grown again and he has lost his stutter!

SOCIAL REPORT

Bingo continues to be the social 'do' of the week, reaping in money from the local German populace in order to buy bigger and better bingo prizes. Many of the German bingo players can be seen muttering, 'two little ducks, quack quack' with confused expressions on their faces.

On 1 September a 'Ladies Dinner Night' was held in our club, an event in which the husbands cook a meal and serve it to their wives 'avec grandeur'. **Cpl Bill Brennan,** head chef, with his able assistants managed to produce from total chaos and havoc a meal to be remembered by the wives for many a year, in the nicest possible way of course. Wine waiter **LCpl Gerry Brewer** performed his duties admirably, although he insisted on sampling every bottle! A good night was had by all and we are looking forward to a Mens Dinner Night in the near future.

NEAR AND FAR

While **Cpl Ian Kirkpatrick** occasionally dissappears into the Harz mountains with his rucksack and tent our erstwhile adventurers, **Cpl Bill** and **Mrs Suzanne Brennan** have just returned from a month in the sun of South Carolina USA, stopping off at New York City en route. They enjoyed the trip immensely and they intend to return in the not too distant future.

REGIMENTAL CRICKET SUCCESS

On the sports and social scene, the Regiment has had a good time. The Regimental Cricket Team won the BAOR Cricket Final — in a thrilling game against 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. The Regimental Rugby team have started the season in fine form winning the two opening games; they have clearly acquired much new talent, which is being blended into a strong team by **WO1 Jim Hague.** We are now looking forward to a successful season.

UNPOPULAR BANDITS

On Sunday 17 September, the first golf competition was staged on our own course. The weather was good and the competition keen. All competitors had a good time — however, there were certain voices raised in objection to the handicaps (in particular towards the bandits). We are looking forward to the next competition, which is to be staged in about one months time and all the handicaps will be sorted out and the true golfers can get on and let the clubs do the talking.

On the social front, the WOs and Sgts Mess held a formal dinner on the 14 September to say goodbye to two of its members on their commissioning. Namely **WO1 Jim Bone** and **WO1 John Berry.** The evening turned out to be an enjoyable experience and a few sore heads were in evidence the following morning. Congratulations to them both, and may they have the best of fortune in the future.

OUTSTANDING CRICKET SEASON

We have had an outstanding season which culminated in a nail biting final to the BAOR Major Units Cup Final which despite rain and poor light saw us beat 40 Fd Regt RA by 1 wicket.

THE BAT —

SSgt Dave Luckett topped the batting averages with over 46, this included a fine 132 not out in a Rhine Area League match. Closely behind was **LCpl Ken Evans** with an average of 35 and **Cpl Stu Parrish** 31. Our openers **WO1 Dick Good** and **Cpl Chris Greenhill** did their job well and provided us with many good starts.

THE BALL —

A spin bowler topped the averages, **Sgt John Sinden** baffled all. Paceman **Evans** and **Luckett** provided the fire while **Cpl Ian Anderson** and **LCpl Steve O'Dare** were the valuable second attack in the established '35 over' game.

THE FIELD —

Our greatest triumph — really superb fielding all season with some outstanding catches being held by **Cpl Steve Marshall** and **WO1 John Berry.** Wicket keeper **SSgt Tony Bannell** was a model of consistency, and his occasional lapses supplied the inspiration to Team poet **Berry.** No team is complete without the keen following of those who may not open the innings but are occasionally called to bat and win a game. No more so than the CO, **Lt Col M. J. Pickard,** upon whose shoulders fell the unenviable task of winning the BAOR final. I am pleased to say with **LCpl O'Dare** in attendance they carried their bats in fine style and with it the cup.

AND THE SUPPORT —

Umpire **Cpl Malcolm Mudd,** scorer **Cpl Steve Lidstone** and professional 12th man **WO1 George Turner** completed a very happy and succesful team.

ARCHERY AT THE TOWER

The archers of 13 Sig Regt who include **SSgt Ray Jones, Sgt Rick Retallick** and **Cpl Kirk Lewis** ended a very successful season by providing three of the five man team to represent the Army and BAOR at the Inter-Services tournament in the UK. The team shot well, taking the trophy for the first time from the RAF at Lyneham on the 10 September.

The team then participated the following weekend in the most colourful event that has ever entered the archery calendar. In the 900th centennial year, and for the first time in over 400 years, archery was practiced at the Tower of London. In the perfect setting between the Tower and Tower Bridge the Police and Inter-Service teams presented a close up view of modern Archery to thousands of tourists. Not to become an annual Tower event the new tournament will do much to spread an interest in Archery as a sport throughout the World.



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN– AUGUST 78

A CLIFF HANGER

On 2 September the Regiment came through a hard fought trial played against 40 Fd Regt RA to become the BAOR Major Units Cricket Champions. The team got off to a fine start in the final when very tight ground fielding and some brilliant catching had the opposition, at one stage, six wickets down for only 18 overs. The 40 Fd Regt 'tail' produced a brief flurry of runs but they were all out for only 61 runs. 13 Regt started its innings confidently against such a small total but wickets fell steadily until the score stood at 60 for nine wickets. The Regiment needed two runs, 40 Fd needed one wicket. A thick edge for four runs from the number 11 batsman settled the matter and 13 Regt carried off the much coveted BAOR Cricket Cup.

Our success in the competition was very much a team effort and was characterised by keen fielding, but the mainstay through-out the season was the knowledgeable and aggressive captaincy of **SSgt Dave Luckett.** 13 Sig Regt now hold the Major Units Cricket Championships for Rhine Area, BAOR and Royal Signals BAOR (won in 1977 and not contested in 1978). The progress towards the BAOR Cup is summarised below.

1st Round
14 Topo Sqn RE 49 all out
13 Sig Regt 50 for 4

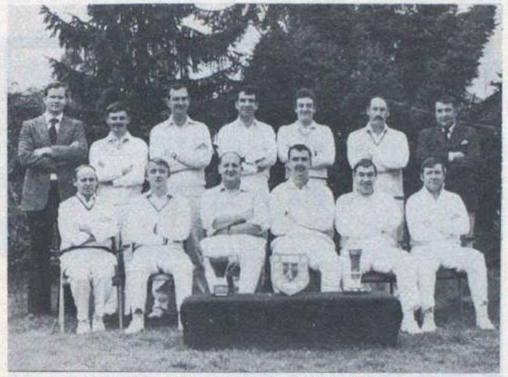
2nd Round
13 Sig Regt 123 for 8
21 Sig Regt 102 for 8

3rdRound
28 Sig Regt 97 all out
13 Sig Regt 98 for 4

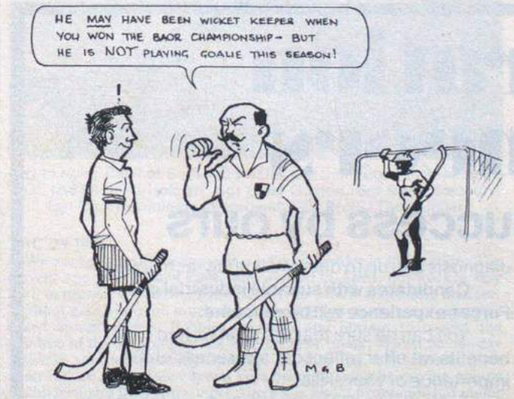
4th Round (Rhine Area Final)
Rheindahlen Garrison 128 for 9
13 Sig Regt 129 for 2

Semi-Final
13 Sig Regt 137 for 8
3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt 98 all out

Final
40 Fd Regt RA 61 all out
13 Sig Regt 65 for 9



13th SIGNAL REGIMENT CRICKET TEAM
Back row (l to r) Cpl Lidstone (Scorer), Cpl Marshall, WO1 Good, WO1 Berry, LCpl O'Dare, Cpl Anderson, Capt Welch (Cricket Officer)
Front row (l to r) WO1 Turner, Sgt Sinden, Lt Col Pickard, SSgt Luckett (Captain), Cpl Parrish, Cpl Greenhill



THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN– SEPTEMBER 78

B1 CYCLING — CPL CLIVE BRITTEN'S SUCCESS STORY

In April this year **Cpl clive Britten** was told by the unit MO to get 'On Your Bike'. Little did he realise that **Clive** would take him seriously, but having done bicycle orderly for the Regimental marching team in the Nijmegen marches he realised that he might have some potential. In August **Clive** went to Mönchen Gladbach where he came 4th in the BAOR Inter Formation Circuit Race of 50kms. The following day he came second in a 25km Time Trial at RAF Brüggen. On leave in UK he twice entered 10-mile Time Trials in St Neots coming 2nd on both occasions. Finally at Ringwood on Sept 3rd **Cpl Britten** came 2nd in the Army 12 hour Time Trial Championships. He covered 193 miles just 17 miles behind the winner.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of **LCpl Colin Mitchell** on 19 September 1978. Our condolences are extended to his wife and family.

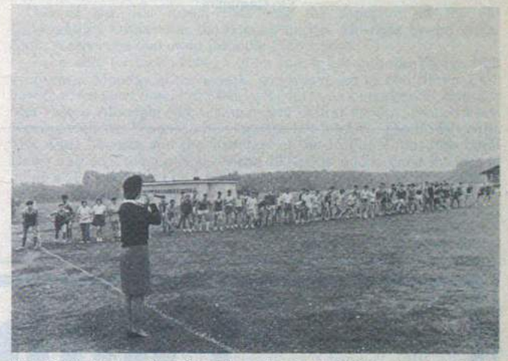
3 Sqn Report

OC	**Maj Mike Rice R Signals**
2/C	**Capt Tony Gibb R Signals**
OC H Troop	**Lt Steven Leach R Signals**
YofS	**SSgt Norman Gelling**
FofS	**SSgt George Clark**
SQMS	**SSgt Bernie Thomas**

EXERCISE UNIFORM ADVENTURE 78

Under the guise of Exercise *Uniform Adventure*, 3 Squadron deployed on its summer camp to Freienhagen which is a peaceful little village North of the Edersee. Despite torrential rain, everyone enjoyed the ten days away from camp. All members of the Squadron fired their APWT on the local Bundeswehr Ranges and those less fortunate enough to find themselves at the receiving end of **LCpl Steve Power**'s Akaido throws also found themselves in the Bundeswehr medical centre. When asked if he had had a good day instructing **LCpl Steve Power** replied to the OC 'Yes Sir, Three down and Four to go!'

The OC. **Maj Mike Rice** being an orienteering fanatic, ensured that the rest of the squadron shared his athletic pains by laying an excellent 'score' event. We now think that he was only talent spotting for a Squadron team for the Army championships next year — as if this year's results weren't good enough.



The Beginning — Capt Sue Burwell sounds off for the start of the Regimental Cross Country meeting



The End — LCpl John Hutton wins the meeting in fine style

During the camp the squadron was presented with a new member, namely **Sig Schlumpf von Freienhagen.** He arrived by courtesy of the caretaker of the Stadthalle in Freienhagen in which we were staying, and by the end of the camp he had progressed as fast as the Cbt Sig roster would allow him in that he was promoted and busted in the space of two days. He now resides in the OC's office on permanent guard duty above the safe.



NIJMEGEN MARCHES
Left to right back: LCpl White, Sig Byrne, Cpl Vohora, LCpl Madeloso, Sig Lowry, Cpl Downie, Sig McIntyre, Cpl Britten, Sig Humphries, LCpl Piper, Sig John, Sgt Thompson
Front: Sig Drozdowski, Sig Jones, Cpl Warhurst, LCpl Lewington, Sig Carpanini

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

Following on from our enjoyable participation in the Swiss Marches in May, we entered a team of 17 for this year's Nijmegen Marches. **Sgt Scouse Thompson** trained a fine team assisted as usual, by **Cpl Bob Downie.** Training included the Rheindalen March where our new 2IC, **Maj Ian Hamilton,** was escorted round by **Maj James Sweetman** (why they only did 30km instead of 40km we have yet to find out). However at Nijmegen all went well. Our photograph shows the team just after they had completed the event. Special mention must be made of **Cpl Clive Britten** who excelled as cycle orderly and the only complaint was heard from Paddy McIntyre who couldn't find enough Guinness.

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For most units August and early September tend to be quiet months and although most of our personnel took leave during that period; at the same time there were plenty of events to occupy those left behind. In particular the celebrations of the granting of the Freedom of Krefeld to the Regiment on the first weekend in September was significant for those back in base.

VISIT BY CHIEF OF STAFF

On 8 August **Maj Gen R. K. Guy, DSO, MBE** made his initial visit to the Regiment, soon after taking up his appointment in HQ BAOR. He toured the Regiment and the Station during a visit lasting most of the day. During his stay with us he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Sgt Mick Reynolds.**



Left to right: Chief of Staff HQ BAOR, Sgt John Cook (half-hidden), WO1 (ASM) John Holman, Sgt Craig Gordon, Sgt Brian Bradbury, Sgt Mick Reynolds in foreground WO2 (YofS) Taff Dunbar

YOUTH 1978

We are very fortunate in having a Youth Leader in the Station. The current appointee, **Tony Page,** who arrived in April, has worked very hard to present the six-week programme in a most interesting manner. Without going into too much detail, the Station mounts a programme based around sports, hobbies, pursuits and outings to occupy the children of the Station over the long summer break. Whilst day-to-day activities such a swimming training, .22 shooting, football and most other indoor and outdoor sports were being pursued by varying groups of children and their instructors, there was also a programme of major events such as 'It's a Knockout', Mystery Tour, Triathlon Competition, Swimming Gala and a gymnasium display. Very large numbers of children attended these events and in particular the swimming training generally attracted 70-plus children aged four to 15.

Apart from the interest value of the various events, most of the children 'qualified' in one or more of the sporting skills and were awarded a certificate at the end of the programme. In addition to that 30 children were awarded one of the four grades of Proficiency of Personal Survival (ASA) of whom four gained a gold standard and two Honours awards — the highest attainable in this scheme.

POPULAR STUDENT

I should add that **Tony Page** was assisted in his endeavours by a summer student volunteer, **Miss Adrienne Davies.** She was attached to the Station from UK for the six weeks and proved popular with both the children and the Mess members! (I understand she hopes to return for the Christmas and New Year celebrations in December — this in response to invitation.) Plaudits must also go to the willing instructors provided from this Regiment and 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) and 21 Army Support Squadron RE at Willich.

SPORTS

Hardly Stop Press, but interested water polo players and/or competent swimmers should note that we won the Army Water Polo Championships held in Catterick. After last year's narrow defeat in the final by 39 Engineer Regiment, this victory was all the more rewarding — swimmers we need you for 1979.

On Friday 15 September the Krefeld based part of the Regiment went on a mass cross-country, that is everybody from the Commanding Officer down ran, on a circuit marked entirely within the Barracks. After working through a very complicated marking system required to cater for ladies, age, bogey time winners and so on, 2 Sqn were announced as the winners. The Commanding Officer's wife very kindly presented the trophy to OC 2 Sqn **Maj John Graham.**

THIS IS YOUR LIFE — MRS 'A'

At this time of the year, the Regiment arranges a Freedom Day Parade coupled with a visit by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester (a twin town of Krefeld). As if this were not enough, the hand-over of the Regiment from **Lt Col K. S. H. Allwright** to **Lt Col N. Moss** was thrown in for good measure.

One of the first items concerning the departure of the old Commanding Officer was the farewell to **Mrs Allwright** by the Wives Club. A report on that event from the Club follows:

If you were fortunate enough to be able to see into the Village Hall every third Monday in the month, you would see 16 Plus Wives Club having a real good time, but Monday 17 July was a memorable night for **Mrs Valerie Allwright** (the Commanding Officer's wife). It was her last evening with the Wives Club before she left for UK. The RSM's wife, **Mrs Anne Morgan** and the Secretary of the 16 Plus Club, **Mrs Carol Davey** wanted it to be a 'Night to end all Nights' and so came the idea of doing a 'This is Your Life.' After obtaining permission from the CO to go ahead (and swearing him to secrecy) **Mrs Davey** started to put the book together. Many meetings were had with the CO and while he was on leave in the UK he obtained many facts from **Mrs Allwright's** mother and family regarding her school-days and childhood. Secret Committee Meetings were being held also, as a slap-up buffet (mit Chef) was wanted and a huge cake in the shape of an 'A' was made, thanks to **WO2 Pete Meredith.** The theme tune from the said TV programme, a spotlight, a cassette recorder and a Queen's Carnival chair were obtained, so we were almost there.

The big day arrived, the Committee set to in the afternoon and turned the Village Hall into a room fit for a banquet. **(Mrs Allwright** being told it was not necessary to come in and help, as she usually did). It was also arranged that she would be picked up that evening at her home a little later than usual.

In her own house the time was 8.30pm and **Mrs Allwright** was thinking she had been forgotten and noticing a cassette recorder that wasn't hers, asked what was going on. A quick reply from son **Nicholas** told her he had borrowed it to hear a tape he had brought from the UK.



Mrs Carol Davey revealing yet another close-kept secret to the assembled sorority, who intend to remain faceless and anonymous!

(In fact the CO had used it to tape 'their song', a reminder of younger days). Back in the Village Hall members were arriving and seeing all the tables so nicely laid out, wondered what was in stall. **Mrs Morgan** went off to fetch **Mrs A. Mrs. Marley** (21C's wife) opened the evening, **Mrs Davey** ready with the book, **Mrs Pat Holman** ready behind the spot light, with a special signal for the man in charge of the cassette (to play a tape of which he didn't have a clue). The signal came that **Mrs Allwright** was on her way in, the place fell into silence. In she walked, spot light on, applause all round, tape recording on and her face was worth a million. The magic words spoken and her reaction 'Oh! My God, No.' The evening was a huge success and after her life had been told (to one and all), tapes played, messages sent (one from husband, saying 'I'll be in a suit of armour when you come home tonight'.) **Mrs Morgan** presented her with a digital watch and a huge basket of flowers. For once **Mrs Allwright** was lost for words, but when the huge cake was rolled in, that was it! — out came the hanky. For the rest of the evening people kept asking the time, **Mrs Allwright** said, 'How did you keep it so secret, I never usually miss a thing' and 'I'll kill him when I get home.' All the hard work by the Committee was worth every second of the evening, although at times the secret was nearly out (it's not easy) but to end this piece from Krefeld its Farewell Mrs A, you'll be missed and Eamon Andrews . . . eat your heart out!'

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Our new Commanding Officer arrived to take over on 29 August. The programme was designed to finish by the afternoon of 5 September. In the meantime, the Regiment were to stage a Freedom Parade on 1 September, host the **Lord Mayor** and **Lady Mayoress of Leicester** from 31 August to 3 September, act as hosts to he annual Anglo-German Society Ball on 2 September and the officers to dine out **Lt Col Allwright** on the night of 5 September.

SUCCESSFUL PARADE

Freedom Day weather was just right, bright without being too hot. We had been fortunate enough to have as our band that of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and overall the Parade was pronounced a distinct success and was much applauded by those viewing it. Good Press coverage was given, including some TV footage for England and a large number of photographs taken and displayed in various local newspapers.



16 Sig Regt entering Hochstrasse during its Freedom March following the band of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment
Left to right: 2 Lt Neil Swainson, Capt Nick Steven (Adjutant), Maj John Graham (OC 2 Squadron), WO1 (RSM) Tony Morgan, 2 Lt Steven May and the Commanding Officer

KEEN CONTESTS AND SUCCESSFUL BALL

On Saturday afternoon matches of football and water polo were played against German teams. These were both extremely successful, friendly competitions and resulted in a win for the Germans at football and a narrow defeat for our Champion Water Poloists by a very capable team from Urdingen.

As far as our hosting the Lord Mayor and his party were concerned, the final event was the annual Anglo-German Society Ball which attracted approximately 400 people and this, in common with all of our other perambulations over the preceding two days, was a success.

DINING OUT WITH A BANG

Friday 18 August 1978 was remarkable on two counts. The first that the Commanding Officer was being dined out by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment and the second that at approximately 11 o'clock that evening, as they sat at dinner, a loud explosion was heard. The CO immediately quizzed the RSM on whether this was part of the send-off arrangements; in fact, this was 'our' bomb which exercised the security arrangements.

Note: We have completely recovered from the shock.

The Officers dined out the CO on his very last night in the unit, 5 September.

He eventually left the Mess on a Mirror Dinghy mounted on a trailer.



'Passport? I thought this was the Green lane!' The outgoing CO relives part of his early life as a sailor

IMPRESSIVE CELL

Hot on the heels of the bombing incidents which took place throughout BAOR on the night of Friday 18 August 1978, the Adjutant, **Capt N. G. Steven** and RSM, **WO1 A. W. Morgan,** made a liaison visit to the Krefeld Police Department.

The visit included a conference with Police Chief **Peter Bussmann,** a tour of the operations room and a visit to the armoury. **RSM Morgan** was particularly impressed with the detention cell and, it is rumoured, has ordered half a dozen similar models for the Regiment.



Capt Nick Steven (*left*) and RSM Tony Morgan (*second from right*) with (*from left to right*) Erster Polizeihauptkommissar Hans Kellers, Polizeirat Peter Bussmann, Polizeihauptkommissar Karl Flock.



GOLD COMSTAR PRESENTATION
From left to right: Frau Ilse Kuklinski, CSO BAOR, Fräulein Antoinette Thorissen (Supervisor), Lt Col D. G. W. Start MBE RAOC, Frau Kathrine Hupertz

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year's event was graced by, on the Sunday, the **Assistant Chaplain General, Robin Roe,** and, on the supper evening on Monday 25 September, by the choir performing as Black and White Minstrels. Both the Service and the Harvest Supper were very well attended as Station events and were equally successful with last year's offerings. Our thanks go to **John** and **Marlene Slegg,** our Padre and his wife, for their efforts and organisation.

LONG LOOK

Once again we were able to send an officer on Exercise *Long Look*. This time our Assistant Adjutant, **Lt Sue Rollo WRAC** has gone to New Zealand. In her place we have welcomed **Lt Sandra McKie** RNZ Signals, who we hope will enjoy her stay with us in Germany.

KREFELD RODBENDERS

The photograph of the Krefeld Rodbenders pictures a majority of the Club members and but a few of the trophies which we have won over the past year. This Regimental club also has members from PSA, Security Guard and other civilians working within 16 Sig Regt and a thriving junior section.

The club has a fairly full calendar averaging three matches a month, fishing mainly against clubs within the Rhine Area but sometimes venturing out to Bunde, Hameln and Osnabrück areas.



Krefeld Rodbenders (*From left to right*): SSgt Alex Hume, Sig Chris Chapman, Mr Ron Towning, Mr George Davis, Sig (Cider) Derrick, Mr George Lettin, Mr (Whip-em-in) Glen Nixon, Mr Alan Read, Cpl Mick Strefford, WO1 (ASM) Mick Whitehouse, SSgt Barry Ibbertson BEM, Sgts Algy Roberts, Bob Whitton, Benny Bingham. In the centre two junior members, Nigel Lettin and Graham Davis

FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

Maj E. A. Henderson WRAC, who was our WRAC Adviser for only seven months, left us in early September after putting our WRAC matters on a very even keel. Her return to UK was for compassionate reasons and we all wish her happiness and regret her leaving so soon. In her place we welcome **Maj Wendy le Gassick WRAC.**

OC 4 Sqn also disappears. **Maj Jim McKail** leaves us after a full rout in our Bielefeld 'outpost' and we similarly wish him an enjoyable tour in Blandford. In his place we welcome, from Northumbrian University OTC, **Maj Errol Hunt.**

The other notable departure is that of **Maj Harry Feber** for the Apprentice College. We wish him every success in his new job and to him and **Joan,** every happiness. In his place **Maj Ben Bolt** has been 'promoted' from being Ops Officer. And in his place, we welcome **Maj Colin Bunce** from MOD.

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

SUCCESSFUL

A Regimental Fete was held in Pegasus School, Wildenrath, on the afternoon of 12 August in aid of SSAFA and other charities. OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Charles Hughes** used his hot line to the heavens and arranged for a nice sunny afternoon. It has been rumoured that he bit through his pipe during the organising of the Fete, however once it got under way he admitted it was all worthwhile. **Mrs P. A. C. Baldwin,** wife of the CSO BAOR, kindly opened the Fete and once the ribbon had been cut the large crowd descended on the stalls which were bravely manned by the various troops of the Regiment and the Wives' Club. The afternoon brought in the grand total of £1,200 and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks must go to the organising committee, headed by **Maj Charles Hughes** and the many members of the Regiment, both soldiers and wives, who helped to make it a success, also to **Gen and Mrs Baldwin** whose attendance was much appreciated.

On 25 September a coffee morning was held in the conference room of RHQ. A number of wives came to witness the presentation of a cheque for SSAFA to **Mrs P. A. C. Baldwin** by **Mrs Mary Wall,** wife of **SSgt Pete Wall,** 1 Sqn



Mrs P. A. C. Baldwin receiving a cheque on behalf of SSAFA from Mrs Mary Wall, wife of SSgt Pete Wall, 1 Sqn

VISITORS

The Regiment was honoured by a visit of the SO in C during Ex *Jog Trot*. He visited Commcen Quebec in the field and was taken on a tour of the Commcen by **Lt Graham Leach** and **SSgt Pete Wall.** After visiting the Commcen and speaking to all on hand he had lunch with the members of 1 Sqn and the attached members of 40 Sig Regt (V) who were enjoying a holiday(?) from Ulster.

During lunch he witnessed a unique occasion: the Troop from 40 Sig Regt (V) and the members of Comcen Quebec presented **Capt Diane White WRAC TAVR** with a bouquet of flowers and a cake to celebrate her birthday. The SO in C added his personal wishes and completed his brief visit with a quick look at 1 Sqn Echelon.

J TROOP 2 SQUADRON REPORT

Personalities:

OC — **Lt John Piper**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Trevor Denton**
Radio Sgt — **Sgt Andy McKitterick**

18 SQUADRON (WESSEX) SUPPORT

The troop was formed at Gütersloh on 6 June 1972, to provide a VHF ground communications network in the field for 18 Sqn Wessex helicopters, and Mobile Air Operations Teams, ASOC(SH). With the arrival of the new Wing Commander, some tactical restructuring within the Wessex world has taken place, and in consequence the demands made on the troop have become more apparent. Our annual

independent exercise has just taken place and it gave us the chance to see where the stretch in the system would come. Well the situation was extremely realistic and the elastic was certainly stretched, but did not break and after two weeks of intensive flying and communicating, we and the Royal Air Force were really getting down to some combined effort. We are even now beginning to speak the same language on the air in accordance with the voice pamphlet, which can't be bad! Although one very new Cbt Rmn who shall remain nameless considered that some of the RAF terms were far more interesting, they do pick up some bad habits — 'I Copy' indeed, but he still insists that he wants to be an Air Gunner, that's the problem with working with Wessex, the glamour of it all!!

At the conclusion of the exercise the 18 Sqn Commander presented the troop with the Red Pegasus cravat the sqn insignia, which we will now be wearing on exercise.



Wing Commander Sandy Hunter presents J Troop with the 18 Sqn cravat

LIFE AT GÜTERSLOH

We still await the arrival of the rest of our squadron, the Harrier support element, here at Gütersloh but in the meantime our sporting endeavours are concentrated on making the station realise that we have a depth of talent worthy of examination. **Cpl Ginge Wheatley** recently toured Berlin with the station rugby team and should make the station team in the coming season. **LCpl Tony Vivian** has represented the station at swimming in the RAF Germany Cup. An unconfirmed report came from Catterick that **LCpl Dennis Prince** put up a time of 22.7 seconds for the 200 metres whilst attending a course, what is he going to do when he gets into regular training?

Our constant pounding of the airfield perimeter in preparation for the Battle Fitness Test, has produced a wealth of talent in the cross country game and we now feel that we could field a team worthy of note.

Our canoe instructors **Sgt Andy McKitterick** and recent arrival **Cpl Chippy Wood** are planning some special training programmes for the Autumn, so look for us next year somewhere between here and the South of France and perhaps Devizes to Westminster.

The OC has shown remarkable powers of restraint this yea., by missing a whole season of offshore sailing by settling into the troop and awaiting the arrival of his new daughter, he plays station squash, but promises however that things will be different next year as he has renewed some old sailing companions both in the Regiment and at Keil.

It has been muted that we should be considering plans for a new VIP suite in the office block with one of those expensive coffee making machines. All Corps members will be made welcome if they wish to stop off on their travels.

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

EXERCISE MIDSUMMER DREAM

Report by SSgt (FoS) Alan Mockford

THE CONCEPT

Early this year, **Sgt Geoff Adams** and I were discussing the offshore sailing we could fit in during the summer. As usual, we discussed what we would like to do, then went away to think about it for a day or so and research the obstacles, always numerous. Two days later, **Geoff** was back, 'Why not Exercise *Midsummer Dream*?'

Exercise *Midsummer Dream* is an Adventure Training Exercise sponsored by the Kiel Training Centre and uses one of the 'Nicholson 55' Yachts from the Joint Services Sailing Centre at Gosport to carry out Sail Training Expeditions to, from and within the Baltic Sea. This year, the Exercise was to consist of five legs, and our research showed that we could just manage to fit in Leg 5, returning the Yacht from Kiel to Gosport, provided both of us and a suitable crew could be cleared for the period.

THE CREW

We therefore proceeded to obtain clearance for ourselves and find a crew, many of whom were to go to sea for the first time on British Kiel Yacht Club Training Courses only a few weeks before departure and a couple who stepped onto a yacht of any description for the first time on the evening before departure.

As **Sgt Geoff Adams** and I were to be away sailing in the Royal Signals Yacht Club Baltic Regatta during the week immediately before departure, delegation of many preparatory tasks was necessary and this was achieved amicably at a meeting of the crew on 9 June. Transport, rations finance and kit were all discussed and problems ironed out except for the final details of our flights back to BAOR from UK. The crew began to assemble at Kiel on 17 June with the return of **Sgt Geoff Adams, LCpl Roger Secker** who had travelled up from Lippstadt with a four ton truck carrying personal kit and rations. The remainder of the crew travelled to Kiel by train on Sunday 18 June. Liaison with the crew of the previous Leg had established that we could board the Yacht on the Sunday thus giving us effectively an additional day, the original dates being 19 June — 30 June. Thus the crew assembled on board HMSTY *Sabre* on Sunday 18 June consisted of:-

Maj (Ret'd) Ron Gravells — Permanent Skipper.
Sgt Geoff Adams — Skipper.
SSgt (FoS) Alan Mockford — Watch leader.
Capt Alan Jones
Lt Dick Barfoot.
SSgt Mick Breeze (27 Fd Regt RA Wksp REME).
Sgt Mick Sixsmith (27 Fd Regt RA Wksp REME).
Sgt John Shorter.
LCpl Andy Tempest.
LCpl Roger Secker.
Sig Bob Dunne.

THE NORTHERN ROUTE

Much discussion between the Permanent Skipper, **Sgt Geoff Adams** and **SSgt (FoS) Alan Mockford** amid frequent consultation of weather charts then to decide which way we were to go, there being two routes out of the Baltic — motor through the Kiel Canal or sail North to the Kattegat around the Northern tip of Jutland and out through the Skaggerak to the North Sea. We hoped to go North, visiting Copenhagen and Kristiansand then head South to Helgoland, but the provailing weather conditions, particularly the light winds did not favour this route. A decision was postponed until next morning and the crew spent the evening familiarising with the Yacht and boosting the profits of the BKYC Bar.

Monday 18 June dawned clear but the weather forecasts gave a glimmer of hope that sufficient wind was coming for us to take the Northern route. However, the Permanent Skipper decided that come what may with the extra day we could at least sail to Faaborg where we could stay the night and make a final decision the following morning. We slipped from the British Kiel Yacht Club jetty at Stickenhorn and motored round to the Ships Chandlers near the Kiel Canal locks to take on suitable quantities (large in case it gets hot) of beer, cigarettes, and spirits (in case it gets cold). Adequately victualled we left Kiel just before midday and with a gentle breeze HMSTY *Sabre* sailed out of Kiel Fjord bound for Faaborg in Denmark.

The crew quickly learned the ropes for the light conditions, by the time we reached Kiel Light, the iran topsail (engine to the initiated) was set, with the Baltic mirror calm and cigarette smoke rising vertically (along with empty beer cans). The wind picked up after an hour or so however, and we sailed comfortably along the coast of the Danish island of Aero to arrive in Faaborg around 1900 hours. Within minutes the Permanent Skipper was ashore complete with overnight bag while Mother Watch cooked the evening meal below. At this stage the Skipper and Watch leaders became convinced that prevailing weather conditions had little to do with the decision to make Faaborg our first port of call.

VARIABLE DIET

The crew was split into two watches, Port Watch under **SSgt Alan Mockford** and Starboard Watch under **Maj John Langhorne** 1 Queens. Each watch of five supplied one man for Mother Watch who were responsible for cooking and cleaning below for a 24 hour period while the yacht was sailed by a four man deck watch. **Sgt Mick Sixsmith,** REME and **Sgt John Shorter** aided by **LCpl Roger Secker,** made a grand job of procuring rations, such that for the first four days we ate fresh rations in the shape of steaks, pork chops and chicken along with a variety of vegetables and salad. Stored below were sixteen boxes of Compo Rations carefully stored such that a different menu was next out each day. We knew there were six boxes containing Corned Beef and these were for making sandwiches for lunch while daily menus were drawn up to use the remainder for our main meal at 2000 hours each evening.

After much further discussion of weather forecasts we left Faaborg at 1000 hours and sailed down through the Svenborg channel separating the Islands of Fyn and Langeland, an extremely picturesque route through to the Great Beef, the main waterway between the Baltic and the Kattegat. Then we turned North bound for Skagen. Come what may we were now committed to the long route, and the continuing light winds from astern gave a comfortable sail for most of the day and night. At times the light wind became no wind, usually as we were crossing one of the many ferry routes, however there were always plenty of fingers poised over the start button!

IDEAL SAILING

The morning dawned with clear skies and the same light winds gave us our first ideal opportunity to get the Spinnaker. Since many of the crew had not rigged a yacht of any description for sailing under spinnaker **SSgt Alan Mockford** explained each step, all in slow time as sheets guys blocks uphauls and foreguys were all carefully positioned and attached. When all was ready the Skipper, **Sgt Geoff Adams** ordered 'Up Spinnaker' as just about the entire crew watched, breath held and fingers crossed. A gentle pull on the sheet and guy filled the Spinnaker beautifully and our speed doubled to a steady seven Knots. We celebrated the event admirably!!

At this stage Skagen Rev Light Vessel, the very Northernmost tip of Jutland was our objective. This was reached the next morning amid stranger winds and steeper seas, and of course we would now be sailing 'on the wind' trying to go South West, exactly from where the wind was coming. The extra wooley pully oilskins and harnesses were now essential as we headed for Helgoland some 280 odd miles away.



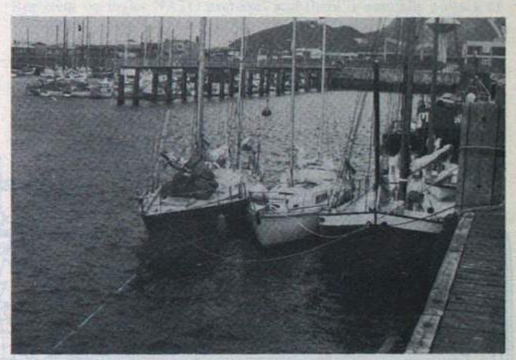
FOS Alan Mockford leads his watch on another sail change assisted by Sgt Mick Sixsmith and Cpl Roger Secker

SUSPECT LABELS

The food till now had been mainly fresh rations prepared in quite comfortable conditions. Now we had to start on the Compo. Mother Watch dutifully clambered below to retrieve the first available ten man pack. Duly recovered it was found to contain Corned Beef, so was unpacked ready to use for sandwiches next day, while the next pack was retrieved from below. Steak and Kidney so the menu said. However on opening the Box we were dismayed to find a note stating 'Corned Beef issued in lieu!!' Mother Watch was ordered below yet again to retrieve another pack which this time was marked 'Stewing Steak'. Upon opening however we were all aghast as yet another note 'Corned Beef issued in lieu' was uncovered. We conceded that perhaps Corned Beef could make quite a good hot main meal and Mother Watch set about it. Necessity being the Mother of invention it was not long before our Purser, **Capt Alan Jones** or Mother Watch for the day produced a delightful Shepherds Pie, tastefully decorated with cheese possessed and trimmings including chilled Chateau 22 Sig Regt Wine! Not a murmer of discontent was heard as the oncoming watch ate their evening meal heartily, but the groans started as fully dressed they appeared on deck to be met by lashing rain and spray as waves continually broke over the bow and completely drenched the helmsman.

HELGOLAND DELIGHTS

Late in the afternoon of Saturday the outline of Helgoland loomed out of the rain and spray. Smiles returned to faces and talk of bratties, chicken and chips even lobster thermidor was heard below, anything for a change as yet another two packs had yielded 'Corned Beef issued in lieu'. No sooner had we landed when most of the crew were ashore to sample the delights of Helgoland, a Tax free island, administered by West Germany although outside territorial waters. The island depends entirely on Tourism attracted by the Tax free prices of not only consumer durables but sweets, butter and clothing to name but a few items. Also there are no petrol driven vehicles on the Island!



HMSTY Sabre in Helgoland Harbour

Sunday was spent revictualling with fresh bread, tomatoes and other sundries, while the Engineer, **SSgt Mick Breeze,** REME (Gun fitter by Trade) changed engine and gearbox oil and Mother Watch unpacked more ten man packs to establish if we did in fact have anything other than Corned Beef. Two more yielding the in lieu notices were opened before indeed Chicken Curry followed by Casserole Steak and Onions brought smiles all round. Come Sunday evening it was time to leave with no sign of the weather improving. As we sailed out into huge seas breaking over the shallows either side of the channel, rain lashing down and every wave sending a torrent of green water over the deck and into the helmsmans lap, face and down his neck there were thoughts among those new to sailing that perhaps it was not the good idea they have been told about. However there being no other way off except to swim, we began to leave Helgoland astern, bound for Den Helder in Holland.

INTO THE LANES

With the continuing South Westerly wind, progress was slow, thus it was decided amid a few grumbles, that we would have to miss Den Helder and make straight for the Dover. The North Sea at least offered a more interesting passage, visibility was good with a considerable amount of shipping oil and gas rigs and the inevitable fishing boats. An added bonus was that we were able to measure progress as we crossed all the well known ferry routes. Previous cries of 'we're not lost, just not quite sure where we are!' changed to 'we're going the right way lads', as we recognised a Townsend ferry then a Sealink going in the same direction as us.

A DOVER BREAK

The visibility diminished towards the Dover Strait as usual which kept our lookouts busy and called for good judgement by the watch leader on deck to avoid tankers, hovercraft and the inevitable ferries. Dover was reached on Wednesday afternoon and after waiting, at anchor in the harbour for the Dock Gates to open we anchored in Wellington Dock to await HM Customs clearance before going ashore for a meal and a few jugs of British Beer.

Thursday 29 June was spent in Dover as the crew attended to a multitude of personal details and I with the aid of some useful contacts with the Junior Leaders Regiment RE made by **Maj John Langhorne,** 1 Queens proceeded to tie up final transport arrangements for our journey to RAF Brize Norton or our arrival in Gosport, expected to be late Friday evening. By late afternoon all had eaten well, showered, dried clothes and were back on board by 1700 hours, to prepare the yacht for a quick exit as soon as the dock gates opened. The weather forecast alas was no better, we would be beating into the wind the entire way.

THE LAST LAP

Once out of the harbour and sails up **Maj John Langhorne** and his watch were on deck, the sea and wind not very pleasant but signs of a drop in both wind speed and hence sea state gave us some encouragement. When watches changed some two hours later **SSgt Alan Mockford** came on deck with his watch to find conditions distinctly better. Although progress had been slow, we were now off Folkestone, *Sabre* was sailing well and the better sea conditions and progress began to improve, the lights ashore and substantial amount of inshore commercial traffic produced plenty of interest as we made for Dungeness, which could be seen for miles as the Power Station is illuminated beyond belief making Dungeness light itself difficult to distinguish.

As the watch changed again at midnight just of Dungeness, the wind strength and sea state were still dropping. Royal Sovereign Light Tower took a long time to pass, then Beach Head. By mid afternoon we were making less than two knots and at this speed we would not be in time for our transport to reach RAF Brize Norton for our flight back to BAOR. As we wallowed off Selsey Bill it was decided to motor the last few miles to Gosport. With the new still conditions oilskins, sea boots and harnesses could be dispensed with. All kit was stowed and the ship cleaned while still under way so that on arrival at Gosport at 2200 hours we had only to unload our personal kit, tidy the charts, have a final sweep through and wipe over.

GATEWAY COMFORT

Our transport in the form of a minibus from the Maritine Regiment RCT in Gosport was alongside at 2300 hours and we were soon on our way. Gateway House saw us all having a quick bath then to bed, assured of a call in plenty of time for breakfast and our flight.

REFLECTIONS

Now back in our units there is time for reflection on the experience and lessons learned. Some members of the crew looked upon the trip as good experience for the log book. Others regarded it as very nice but not again thank you! All are convinced that we know more ways of serving corned beef than at least the Army Catering Corps!

Our thanks must go to the many agencies involved in such a passage. JSSC at Gosport for making HMSTY *Sabre* available. HQ BAOR (Engr Branch) for sponsoring the Exercise and for obtaining flights back to BAOR. The Maritine Regiment, RCT in Gosport for producing transport to RAF Brize Norton at an unsociable hour, and the RAF for the flight. Finally those in our own unit who either volunteered for or were lumbered with various administrative tasks and our Squadron Commanders for letting us go.

RADIO TECHNICIANS

At the government Communications Headquarters we carry out research and development in radio communications and their security, including related computer applications. Practically every type of system is under investigation, including long-range radio, satellite, microwave and telephony.

Your job as a Radio Technician will concern you in developing, constructing, installing, commissioning, testing, and maintaining our equipment. In performing these tasks you will become familiar with a wide range of processing equipment in the audio to micro-wave range, involving modern logic techniques, microprocessors, and computer systems. Such work will take you to the frontiers of technology on a broad front and widen your area of expertise — positive career assets whatever the future brings.

Training is comprehensive: special courses, both in-house and with manufacturers, will develop particular aspects of your knowledge and you will be encouraged to take advantage of appropriate day release facilities.

You could travel — we are based in Cheltenham but we have other centres in the UK, all of which require resident Radio Technicians and can call for others to make working visits. There will also be some opportunities for short trips abroad, or for longer periods of service overseas.

You should be at least 19 years of age, hold (or expect to obtain) the City and Guilds Telecommunications Technician Certificate Part I (Intermediate), or its equivalent, and have a sound knowledge of the principles of telecommunications and radio, together with experience of maintenance and the use of test equipment. If you are or have been in HM Forces you Service trade may allow us to dispense with the need for formal qualifications.

You start on £2,927 at 19, up to £3,700 if you are 25 or over, rising to £4,252, and promotion will put you on the road to posts carrying substantially more. There are also opportunities for overtime and on-call work paying good rates.

WORK IN COMMUNICATIONS R&D AND ADD TO YOUR SKILLS

Get full details from our Recruitment Officer, Robby Robinson, on Cheltenham (0242) 21491, Ext. 2269, or write to him at GCHQ, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ. If you seem suitable we'll invite you to interview in Cheltenham — at our expense, of course.

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

FREEDOM OF ST TÖNIS

On Saturday 30 September 1978, the second anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of St Tönis to the Regiment, a two year old promise was fulfilled. The town was presented with its own march specially written by **Lt Col Keith Boulding** and performed in public for the first time by the band of 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. When 28 Signal Regiment was granted the Freedom in 1976, **Col Boulding** undertook to write a march in the town's honour and by coincidence he is a former bandmaster of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and arranged their own Regimental march.

In presenting the original manuscript **Lt Col Terry Eamey,** Commanding Officer, said that it was a privilege to be allowed to parade through the town and that the occasion could only strengthen the ties between the British and German communities.

After inspecting an honour guard **Herr Richard Beckers,** the Bürgermeister, thanked the Regiment for their friendly support during the past year and declared that the event was a good contribution towards further cooperation between European nations.

In the evening, after the formalities, the Bürgermeister was host at a ball in the Regimental Halle St Tönis which was given for all ranks of the Regiment and their friends.



Lt Col Terry Eamey presents the Bürgermeister of St Tönis Herr Richard Beckers with the framed manuscript of the 'St Tönis March'
HQ BAOR PR PHOTO

A BIRDS EYE VIEW

Early in May a nasty rumour was passing around 2 Squadron that the new 2IC, due to arrive at the end of the month, was female. The reaction:-

'We will carry on as normal' said the OC **Maj Barry Cox,** carefully removing the modesty board from the desk opposite his. **WO1 (YofS) John Meeham** and **WO2 (FofS) Gerry Sullivan** decided that they would have to act 'in locum parentis' as the lady couldn't possible be expected to cope with the rude and licentious soldiery, and would require a little shielding if not outright protection. SSgt **(SQMS) Brian Langford** was seen walking about muttering about combat handbags, whilst **WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Jack** simply locked himself in his office. The lads — well they knew that the OC was joking — wasn't he?

The rumour was true. On arrival the new 2IC, after a close inspection of ID card and a surreptitious glance at person, was pronounced by the gate guard to be both genuine and female. A flash phone call activated the Regimental grapevine.

Walking to work the next morning she had the impression that there were a lot of people about (somewhere) but couldn't see anybody. Ever had the feeling that you're being watched? Settling in caused little problem. There was some conjecture on whether she was going out on exercise, some people seem to have the idea that WRAC should be kept chained to a desk, until it was pointed out that the WRAC at 16 Sig Regt have been going out on exercise for some time. Comments about pink lace trimmed tents, and thigh length DMS boots were dismissed. It was also proved that combat kit is definitely unisex, although rather unflattering.

The unisex nature of DPM has its disadvantages, the female of the species is no longer easily distinguished from the male, and hence some commonly used epithets suddenly get changed, amended, or (occassionally) hastily swallowed.

Despite the present trend towards female equality, what can one woman do against 110 men who seem to be determined to resurrect the 'age of chivalry'. There is only one WRAC officer in 28 Sig Regt, she is getting spoilt rotten, and enjoying every minute of it!

A MESSAGE TO OUR SPONSORS — NSSG

We know that exercise locations are difficult to find, but could you please try to avoid old ammunition dumps in the future?

1 SQN ARRIVALS

Yes the great race is over — **Capt** and **Mrs Howard Van Praag** managed to produce their daughter a few hours before **Maj** and **Mrs Ray Etheridge** produced theirs. Both **Sarahs** are well if a little noisey, both mums are fit, both dads are tired. Congratulations to both families.

JOINT COMMUNICATION CENTRE
HQ NORTHAG/TWO ATAF

Officer Commanding: **Maj (TFC) J. D. Heard R Signals**
Officer Commanding WRAC: **Capt L. A. Relph WRAC**
DCO: **WO1 H. D. Griffith WRAC**
WO1 J. Hagon WRAC (Designate)
Troop SSgt: **SSgt S. J. Waring R Signals**

Unknown to many people there is a small element of the Regiment that lives in JHQ Rheindahlen. This is the joint commcen which provides telegraph and telephone communications for the NATO Headquarters and is one place in the Army where the girls outnumber the men by roughly three to one. Although they live and work in Rheindahlen the commcen also provides an element to augment the Regiment on major NATO exercises and there is normally no lack of volunteers.

A SIGNIFICANT RETIREMENT WELL MARKED

The mainstay of the commcen is **WO1 Hilda Griffith** who is the last remaining Signal Centre Supervisor in the WRAC. She leaves the Service on retirement on 9 November after two three-year tours with JHQ and a varied career that has taken her all over the world. To mark her departure from the Army, a social evening was arranged on Friday 29 September when the opportunity was taken by **Pte Pauline Ayres** to say a few words of appreciation to **Miss Griffith** and present her with a hummel figurine and some perfume on behalf of all the junior ranks.

On the previous evening the OC and senior ranks had 'dined' her out in a nearby restaurant and had presented her with an engraved cigarette box.

She is taking a local release in order to commence work with HQ NAAFI. There must be many people who remember **Miss Griffith** and who will join us in wishing her every success in civilian life.



WO1 Hilda Griffiths receiving her farewell presents from Cpl Sandra Cox (*left*) and Pte Pauline Ayres (*right*)

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We also wish **Sgt Paul Hartley, Cpls Stan Shields** and **Mick Wells** the best of luck in their new postings and thank them for the good work they have done, and welcome **WO1 Janice Hagon** who joins us from Edinburgh.

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

VISITORS FROM ALDERNEY

The President of the States of Alderney — **Mr Jon Kay-Mouat** and his wife **Mrs Martine Kay-Mouat** visited 30 Sig Regt on Friday 25 August 1978. **Mr Lawson** — the editor of the Alderney journal and **Mr Allen** the harbour master were accompanied by their wives. The President and guests were met by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col A. B. Byng.** At 1000 hours the President inspected the quarter guard, which was commanded by **SSgt George Cook.** They were then taken on a tour of Blandford Camp, and **Mr Kay-Mouat** was given the chance of driving a mobile field crane, and **Mrs Kay-Mouat** did not miss out on the fun and drove a four ton lorry.



The President inspects the Regimental Guard of Honour



The President of Alderney, Mr Kay Mouat drives the Iron Fairy

Our visitors had luncheon and drinks in the Sergeants Mess, and a Regimental Dinner was held in the Officers Mess in the evening. **Commander** and **Mrs D. O'Brien** were also our guests, he was the Captain of the last HMS *Alderney*, a submarine scrapped in 1957, but he kept the old Alderney flag. His intentions are to present it to the Island when the new HMS *Alderney* is commissioned early next year.

After dinner **Mr Kay-Mouat** thanked the Regiment for the magnificent part they played during the visit of **HM The Queen** and **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** earlier in the year. He also said how very successful the interchange of school children had been between St Anne's School Alderney and Blandford Camp.

THE FOCUS

Focus this month is on Alpha Troop who run the D13s. Besides training detachments for Spearhead duties they also manage to get away sometime as the following reports show:

EX BOLD GUARD

One sunny week in September, a detachment from A Tp 1 Sqn braved its way towards the unexplored depths of Denmark. Having completed the Air and Sea crossing (during which **Cpl Hugh EEE Black** insisted on proving that his stomach was as strong as anyone elses) the detachment finally settled at Air Station Karup.

As part of the Exercise, the detachment was tasked to provide Rear Link comms for Stratopscan Karup whence it was colocated with a detachment from 38 Gp TCW RAF. **LCpl Scott** finally concluded, 'its just like England', and we settled down to the job in hand. For three weeks the rain failed to dampen the spirits of the detachment, all of whom worked extremely hard and gathered valuable experience. Phase 3, the endex party included an exciting Cabaret from **Sgt (Dancing) Siggs**, and was enjoyed by all, **SSgt (Ad a few) Hodge** assures us.

EX NORTHERN WEDDING

In September, one of our contributions to the defence of the realm was an eleven man D13 detachment to 3 Cdo Bde. This was to provide a Rear Link from the Shetlands and then from Norway on Exercise *Northern Wedding*. It says a lot for the detachments morale that they were still laughing at the end, although it might embarass a certain Plymouth based unit if we reveal the target of laughter. Malicious rumours that three trucks were boggin in, within chuckling distance of the D13 are half heartedly denied.

PERSONALITY REPORT

LCpl (Hannibal) Hayes is recovering nicely from his heart attack, caused by two Radio Techs and an RTG who pounced one dark night. **Hannibal** had been dutifully changing generator fuel cans when the three leaped out in the manner of Notting Hill muggers. I suppose any sense of humour is better than no sense of humour at all.

Cpl Rob Hill is trying to forget the admiring glances of a certain Norwegian farmer, and the remarks about being such a 'big strong boy'. He refuses to say whether he accepted the offer of 'coffee at my place', but we'll be kind and let the matter rest there for now.

Rob will become a mister again soon, and we all wish him the best of luck when he emigrates to Australia. We could do with more big strong boys like him in the Corps.

SSgt (FofS) Ken Suckling has had first hand experience of the Brass Monkey syndrome this month — shortage of saunas and showers meant that the river became a very tempting source of clean water. The Foreman decided to dive in rather than test the water first, and came out looking like a lollipop stick. Which just goes to show that a high forehead doesn't necessarily indicate brains.

We had some fun in the Shetlands too, as our photo shows. Here are **LCpl Mike Couston, Cpl Snoopy Barron** and **LCpl Wilf Wedge,** who all believe in the motto 'work hard, play hard, sleep hard'. The Bat is a liberal interpretation of the Don Bradman special by the way, for technical buffs, the bat has a 3.7° camber, split cane handle with molybenum chrome spring leaf, aspect ratio of 2.2:1 and a helluva whack.

PTARMIGAN

It has started. On 4 Sept 3 Sqn lost a FofS, a YofS, three TE Techs and four Cbt Rmn to the Ptarmigan Nucleus (now a troop) forming in the School of Signals. Sometime later next year they will return when this Sqn becomes the Ptarmigan Trials Sqn.

SEA FISHING

Whilst the majority of 3 Sqn assisted 2 Sqn on Ex *Bold Guard* those remaining spent a day sea fishing from Poole. Four hours spent anchored in calm sunny weather two miles off Bournemouth produced a fair catch of (?) Whitings; **Sig Currill** landed 3lbs of dog fish but the best of the day was **Cpl Walton,** the Sqn Clerk, with a 4lb sea bass. Several stories of those that 'got away' were true but the sizes quoted were largely imagined.

BERMUDA

Containing the Sqn policy of assisting the other Sqns to fulfil their ex commitments **WO2 Fogg** and **Cpl Morton** supported 1 Sqn on Ex *Sandy Roads*.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

FAMILIES SEE THE FORM

Since our last contribution, we have finished the work involved after Annual Camp in Belgium, giving our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bev Austin** the opportunity to see the Regiment on Exercise and in its peace-time location in London.



EXERCISE 16-17 SEPTEMBER
The CO, Lt Col Bev Austin discussing the days activities with Maj Tom Knight

As several years had passed since the families of the Regiment had been out into the field to see how we live while on exercise, it was decided to organise a combined exercise and families weekend. 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn was given the task of organising various activities, such as Orienteering, Football, Obstacle Course and initiative tests etc to enable a prize to be presented to the winning troop team at the end of the weekend. HQ Squadron had the task of erecting marquees to seat and feed up to 300 people, while 41 Squadron erected the beer tent to satisfy the thirsts of all the visitors. All this to be combined with a normal communications exercise to show the expertise of the Regiment at operating its equipment and camouflaging itself. The weekend of 16/17 September was fine and warm with families coming in by the coach load. The competition was won by G Troop who accepted a Silver Cup and some beer to fill it with.

Almost immediately after this weekend course the UEI and the Regiment achieved its usual high standards due to a lot of hard work by a lot of people. Special thanks must go to **SSgt Garry Cook REME** and **Sgt Ian Perry** for vehicles and electronic equipment respectively.



FAMILIES LAND 17 SEPTEMBER
Serving Capt Ron Miller the messing officer, SSgt George Symons, OCdt (now 2LT) Jane Hart and Pte Jane Gray-Montgomery. Being served the family of Sgt Peerman with children Gisele and Colin



Private Alex Hare at the families lunch with her mother, sister Joanna and father Lt Col Hare

COMINGS AND GOINGS

This month has seen a high turnover of our Regular Staff and so we say goodbye to the following:
WO1(MTWO) Adam Patterson — to civvy street.
SSgt Bill Smith on promotion.
Sgt Jim Hodge on promotion to N Ireland.
Sgt David Harman — to civvy street.
Sgt Eddie Pridmore to N Ireland.



FAREWELL DRINKS IN THE SERGEANTS MESS
Sgt Jim Hodge and Sgt Eddie Pridmore mark their departure. The barman is LCpl Neil

and we welcome:—

WO1(MTWO) Dave Freeman from BAOR.
SSgt Brian Slavin from 10 Sig Regt.
Sgt Brian Wilson from BAOR.
Sgt Ron Galpin from BAOR.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **OCdt Jane Hart** on passing her Commissioning Board and becoming 2nd Lieutenant and we congratulate **WO2 George Emslie** on talking his way on to a trip to Greece and South America. He gets LOA too!

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

EN ROUTE

On Saturday 17 June 1978 the Regiment moved from its TAVR Centres at Liverpool, Manchester, and Chester by a variety of Surface and Air routes to the Continent to join the remainder of 11 Signal Group (V) on Ex *Calm Fence*. The first stage ended at our base camp at Olen in Belgium where we reorganised into appropriate tactical groups ready to deploy to our Exercise Locations in Germany, Holland, and Belgium.



Cpl Derek Jackson checking their location with Pte Bernie Leonard, LCpl Cheryl Dawson, and LCpl Sandra Fleming
(By courtesy Manchester Evening News)



Sgt Sheila O'Brien driving a 4-ton Bedford into Exercise location
(By courtesy Manchester Evening News)



Sig Terence Hooper and Sig Bill Bloor being offered some welcome victuals by members of the Bundeswehr at their Radio Relay site
(By courtesy Manchester Evening News)

SUN AND RAIN

We started with every prospect of repeating the experience of 1976 when the principal problem was sunburn. This year however evened up the score as the Exercise coincided with the Continental Monsoon Season! Add to this the frequent movement and practice of NBC and you have all the ingredients for a very 'character building' exercise.

MANY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The Regiment were privileged during this period to receive many distinguished visitors including CINCENT **Gen F. J. Schultz,** D CINCENT Air Chief Marshal **Sir Peter le Cheminant.** D SACEUR **Gen Sir Harry Tuzo,** the SOinC (Army) **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** and **Brig Gen H. K. Nolzen** ACOS CANDE HQ AFCENT.



Cincent Gen F. J. Schultz escorted by Maj Roger John at Switch Y meeting SSgt Richard Hughes and Pte Caroline Bateman
Lt Col Kleefman NLA in the background
(By courtesy Manchester Evening News)

We were also delighted to have our Honorary Colonel, **Col Paddy Bryson** with us during the major part of the Exercise, when he was able to visit all sub units at the majority of their numerous exercise locations!

After a strenuous and exacting Exercise we returned to Olen Camp to relax and prepare for our return to the UK.

RELAXATION AND UNDER WAY

The Officers held a reception at The Officers Club at Brunssum for the many Officers of HQ AFCENT and other Headquarters who had helped the Regiment prior to and during the Exercise. Then followed a well earned day off to visit local towns of interest prior to our return move on Friday 30 June.

We arrived home on Saturday 1 July tired but happy in the knowledge, that we had proved our capability to carry out our Regimental role even under the most arduous conditions, and the worst weather experienced at Annual Camp since our formation in 1967!

CO ATTESTS

At a special attestation at Regimental Headquarters, Huyton, **Paul Padden** the son of **SSgt** and **Mrs Tom Padden** is enlisted into the Corps by our Volunteer Commanding Officer, **Col Pat Jolliffe,** under the watchful eyes of his parents.



35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

NOT ALL CAMP

Readers unfamiliar with the workings and trappings of the TAVR might well be thinking at this point — 35 Sig Regt (V) have already been to Annual Camp, and we recently read all about it in The Wire. What on earth could they possibly have to write about in this month's edition? What indeed?

It is true Camp has come and gone, but that does not mean we can sit back and wait for another two years — the show must go on and there is always more work or demands on our time than we have weekends or drill nights in which to carry them out. Whilst we were away, secretaries and organisers of various shows, exhibitions, fetes etc have been anxiously awaiting our return to remind us of our commitments and co-ordinate the roles we have agreed to play in events all over the West Midlands.

We cannot of course accept all of the invitations, for one thing the rules governing this sort of activity have changed and secondly the availability of vehicles, equipment and Man-days rule out all but a few. Where it fits in with our programme, does not clash with a UEI and there is scope to carry out worthwhile training or to keep the Regiment in the public eye, we try to oblige, especially if there is a possibility of obtaining recruits as a result.

SPONSORED RAFT RACE

Such an event took place in Shrewsbury in July when 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) were our representatives in a 'sponsored raft race' (the term raft being used in its very loosest sense) down the River Severn in Shrewsbury in aid of the Royal National Life Boat Institution. Forty craft of all shapes and sizes took part and one got the feeling that whilst the Squadron are good communicators, as a boat crew they leave a lot to be desired.

Clearly the 'Captain' **Officer Cadet John James** and 'Bosun' **Sgt (PSI) Denis Glanville** have a mammoth task on their hands if they cherish any ambitions of coming first next year. An Oil Drum raft is OK but tends to be a bit unmanageable when, in addition to trying to steer it, you are also involved in a 'flour bag' battle or being deliberately harassed by the 'DS' in a motor boat. Still they did make a good job of the communications, linking the start and the finish by Radio Relay for which the organisers were extremely grateful.

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The Personnel Manager, Racal Communications Systems Limited, Western Road, Bracknell, Berks. Tel: Bracknell 3244. Ext. 149.
These vacancies are available for men and women.

PUBLIC INTEREST

At least their near neighbours 58 (Staffordshire) Sig Sqn (V) kept their feet on dry land when they provided communications for Malpas 7th Annual Yesteryear weekend at Cholmondeley Castle near Whitchurch, Salop. The stately home of the Marquess of Cholmondeley provided good practice for radio relay and line crews and again enabled the Regiment to show the flag and engage in that ever present but important task of recruiting. Despite the fact the general public had a wide choice of entries to look at, steam traction engine, vintage cars, stationary engines, commercial vehicles and other military vehicles to mention but a few, much interest was shown in the squadron's C41/R222 and multiplexing vehicles, which made it all very much worth while.



Left to right: LCpl Steve Cooke, Sgt Philip Smith (CCF) Sigs Tom Jarvie and Alan Webb posing in front of 'Goliath' — a vintage traction engine

On Sunday 10 September a combined 89 (Warwickshire) Sig Sqn (V) and 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) recruiting team took part in the Telford and Salop Amateur Radio Rally in the new town centre, Telford. In addition to the usual stalls and trade stands, Ironbridge Gorge museum Trust (voted the best in Europe in 1978) ran a free bus service to the museum, West Mercia Police put on a police dog demonstration, there were horse and trap rides round the car park and an exhibition staged by the local fire brigade with amusements and side shows put on by Telford lions club.



Left to right: Sgt Colin Bermingham, SSgt Vince Hemmings and Sgt Joe Durber. A member of the public shares in the joke

89 Sqn had a D 11 radio station working a link to Rugby manned by **Sgt (PSI) Tim Ameghino** and **LCpls John Hicks** and **Dave Willis.** 95 Sqn had a C41/R222 station plus multiplex equipment working on a link to Shrewsbury: **WO2 (SSM) Colin Lewis, Sgt John Humphreys, LCpl Ian McCleary** with **Sig Colin Tunneycliffe** and **Paul Turford** looking after the display stand on this occasion.

Both stations attracted a large number of visitors including the inevitable (and most welcome) ex-members of the corps wallowing in nostalgia and muttering about 10, 19 and 53 sets. The fact that the only individuals present having the vaguest idea what they were talking about were **Capt Charles Baalham** (PSO) G3SQB (RSARS 284) and **Maj John Wall** G4CBT (RSARS 520) made no difference. The lads are always delighted to see and show 'old sweats' around, especially if they introduce themselves.

A break in the routine came at the end of September when 58 and 95 Squadrons spent a long weekend walking and map reading in the Lake District and 48 (South Midland) Sig Sqn (V) organised a similar weekend in more familiar surroundings at Clee Hill in Shropshire.

To the accompaniment of gale force NW winds 58 and 95 set off up the M6 on the Friday evening thankful that **Maj Derek Eve** (PSO) and **Sgt (SQMS) Geofrey Robinson** and their small advance party would have set up camp and have a hot meal ready on their arrival in Ambleside. By all accounts they needed the calories to withstand the rigors of wind and rain along 'High Street' between Troutbeck and Patterdale. How on earth an old Roman track across the top of mountains come to be called 'High Street' heaven known — it must be the legionairs warped sense of humour. Never-the-less for the members of the squadron team in the forth coming District Battle Efficiency Competition it proved a useful workout, and a timely reminder of what lies ahead. Approximately 52 made the effort, including six WRAC, and to quote the words of **Pte Cheryl Martin** it seemed a very long walk, but apart from a few sore feet everyone enjoyed the exercise and their map reading ability has greatly improved.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch as they say, the Annual Unit Vehicle and Equipment Inspection is nearing completion, preparations are in the hand for the final Regimental Exercise of the year, and the TAVR Autumn Recruiting Campaign is due to start at the end of October. Coinciding with all this activity has been a fairly brisk trade in departures and arrivals amongst our permanent staff.

Departed or about to depart (do they know something we don't) is **Trg Maj Brian Carpenter** to 22 Sig Regt and **Sgt Rex Couch** (PSI) 40 Sqn to 13 Sig Regt, both in BAOR.

WELCOME

Taking their place, we have from Headquarters Northern Ireland new **Trg Maj Mike Brock** and from Hong Kong **Capt Reg Hill** for a second tour with 35 as Adjutant.

THE BARD FROM 28

There's something reassuring about **Capt Reg Hill's** return to 35, as there is about the final item for this contribution — a poem about 'the men and women from the Midlands' published in 28 Sig Regt's newsletter 'The Franciscan' — whoever the 'bard' is we appreciate his thoughts, and ask him to convey our warmest greetings to all at 28.

THE WEEKEND SOLDIERS

Now here's a little story about some friends of mine
Who like to play at soldiers, and do from time to time
They come down from the Midlands (that's the midlands in UK)
A band of weekend soldiers who call themselves TA

On Tuesday nights and Thursdays and at weekends they assemble
To prove to all and sundry that Britain need not tremble
They're ordinary people just like you and me
And if you ask them why they do it, they'll say 'It's different don't you see?'

In civil occupation the social gap is wide
But social gaps are narrowed by military pride
It's nice to see a teacher, busman, taxmen, moulders
Breaking social barriers, working side by side as soldiers

The high spot of their training is a trip to Germany
To practice all their skills in a land across the sea
And now they all are happy and morale is at its peak
They are working with the Regulars — Professionals for a week

And what do we, the regulars, think of all this skill
Is it wasted money from our defences bill
No — politics don't bother us — the gnomes can die or thrive
We think it's great to have you here — you're welcome, 35

And as you leave for England, another duty done
Remembering the things you've learned — the ups and downs — the fun
Take this thought back with you — we just think you're great
Good luck goodbye, good journey — from the lads of twenty-eight.

RICK RICKARD

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

40 (ULSTER) SIG REGT (V) XL AT BISLEY
BISLEY RESULTS 1978

Capt Darrah: Highest possible score, Silver Cross Medal (sitting); Bronze Medal, 4th Overall NRA (sitting); 3rd Prize, 3rd Overall Tara (sitting).
SSgt Cairns: Bronze Medal, Bisley Bullet; Bronze Medal, Kinnaird; Shield highest team score (inter team).
Sgt Girvan: Silver Medal, sitting; Silver Medal, Stephens; Silver Medal, Sec of State for War.
Sig Collins: Placed 11th in Young Soldier Competition Tara.
Sig Toye: Shield, highest score amongst juniors (inter team).

The photograph shows:
Front row: SSgt Cairns, Sgt Young WRAC, Capt Darrah
Back row: Sig Collins, Sig Toye



News from Squadrons

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 36

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN BAVARIA

Ex *Field Mouse* was a great success and all credit (with a bit of help from some excellent weather) must go to the organiser **WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Akehurst** (stop press, now Lt). The exercise took place in Buhl-am-Alpsee from 5 to 25 June in two ten day phases. Each phase consisted first of a day each spent on: Canoeing, Sailing, Rock Climbing and Mountain Walking, and then for the final period students could volunteer to spend four days doing more of the activity that appealed to them most. Contrary to expectations the mountain walking under **Lt Alasdair Harrison** was surprisingly popular.

This year we had no dramas; nobody drowned, or fell off a mountain, though heavy spring snow lying late meant that the tops were still covered, and so more mountaineering than walking country as **Sig 'Scouse' Jenkinson** found out!



Ex *Field Mouse* — Sig 'Pebbles' Hailstone gathers no moss

A FIRST IN THE MORRISON CUP

We must congratulate the Squadron Athletics team for their convincing win in the minor units Morrison Cup. Ably coached and trained by our MTO, **Capt Roy Owens,** they were led to a resounding victory by **Sgt Terry Beckett.** Almost all the team won their events and those that did not came second.



5 Fd Force Sig Sqn, Winners of Morrison Cup Minor Units 1978
Backrow (Left to right): Sig Forbes, Cpl Godfrey, Cpl Sparks, Capt Owens, Cfn Harris, Sgt Beckett
Frontrow (Left to right): Sig Bullen, Cpl Hopkinson, LCpl Ord, LCpl Reynolds

SWEAT ABOVE THE WESER

Although stretched to extremes, and sometimes all ways at once, the Squadron scored another success on Ex *Summer Sales.* This year the venue was at a certain well known bridging camp above the River Weser near Hameln. Luckily the weather was kind to us after the first four days and it was almost too hot — particularly when walking up the dreaded hill.

The Squadron deployed early, mainly to lay the mammoth amount of line required but everything was completed on time and we were ready to receive all 300 Staff Officers at the beginning of the exercise which started off steadily but rapidly gathered momentum. Communications remained solid throughout the exercise and we enjoyed working with detachments from other BAOR Signal units; these included two RRBs from each of the Div Signal Regiments, COMMCEN Delta from 1 Div Sig Regt, a detachment from 7 Sig Regt, two Regen COMMCENs from 16 Sig Regt, Bruin equipment from 22 Sig Regt, terminal equipment from 28 Sig Regt and a German Army Radio Relay detachment — representation from nearly every Signal unit in BAOR.

We also saw many visitors including the new Commander 1 (BR) Corps, **Lt Gen Sir Peter Leng KCB MBE MC** and CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin.**

VISIT OF SO in C

We were very happy to welcome **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson,** on his visit to the Squadron on 29 June. He began by meeting Commander 5 Field Force, **Brig R. A. Pascoe MBE,** and was briefed on the operational role of the Squadron by the OC, **Maj Martin Lance.** He then met members of the Squadron informally over a drink in the Squadron Gryphon Club and had a cold buffet lunch in the Sgts' Mess where he had a chance to meet the Squadron Officers and Seniors. After lunch he toured the Squadron and visited the headquarters complex and a RRB detachment which were set up on the Sports Field. The Signal Officer-in-Chief left at 1630 hours to return to Bielefeld and expressed himself well pleased by all he saw.



SMILES ALL ROUND
General Anderson, talking to LCpl 'Wac' Waclawek, LCpl 'Jock' Turner and Sig 'Joe' Forbes

BACK ON FAMILIAR GROUND

Ex *Gryphons Galore* was 5 Field Force's first ever FTX and as such was looked forward to with a good deal of interest by the whole squadron. The detailed plans, including the all important 'when do we go?', were kept to a restricted few on strictly need to know basis. As a result most of the Force were caught on the hop when the exercise started two days earlier than was expected. Luckily the importance of solid comms to sort out the inevitable confusion was recognised and the Squadron was allowed to establish itself in sufficient time before the starter's gun was fired.

There was not secret about 'where do we go?' It was that bridging camp above the Weser once again and the rumour that some of the Squadron are putting in for the Ravelin Campaign medal was not difficult to disbelieve. One thing that was unfortunately different from *Summer Sales* was the weather. It rained most of the time and turned the Squadron comms area into a veritable ploughed field.

The exercise itself gave us ample opportunity to practise the deployment of our heliborne tac HQ and eventually the RAF and ourselves got it down to a fine art when Tac HQ was deployed during Part 3 of the exercise. The Squadron also kept its canoeing skills in practice with a successful canoe borne patrol consisting of **2Lt Peter Telford** and **Cpl Barry Silk** against some bridge demolition guards on the River Leine, but there is no truth in the story that they are trying to transfer to the Special Boat Service!



Hook Up! — Heliborne Tac HQ deploys on Ex *Gryphons Galore*

LS AND GC PRESENTATION

A few days after Ex *Gryphons Galore* we were very pleased to see Commander 5 Field Force, **Brig R. A. Pascoe MBE,** presenting LS and GC medals on his home ground to **Sgt Ben Bentley, Sgt Bill Birch** and **Sig Tug Wilson.** The Brigadier also used the occasion to say a few complimentary words to the Squadron which went down very well indeed.

5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Bulford

MOVE TO BULFORD

At long last the Signal Squadron is reunited with its HQ. Following restructuring last year, it was planned to move the HQ and Signal Squadron from Jellalabad Barracks in Tidworth to Ward Barracks in Bulford. So, last October the Staff left us to share the old 3 Div HQ building with HQ South West District, who had moved up from Taunton. Unfortunately, our new accomodation was not ready and we were left behind in Tidworth. Although we were due to move in April this year, delays in re-building and redecorating prevented us from doing so. It seemed as if the Signal Squadron was to be left, forgotten, in Tidworth, but it was not to be (alas). The beginning of June saw us ready for off, and what is more, our new accommodation was ready!

TO AND FRO

There followed a hextic week of moving and putting all in place, and then taking everybody back to Hellalabad Barracks to clean it up. We had a few minor problems on our arrival (some of the garage doors are barely wide enough for the vehicles), but such things are easily overcome — give a bloke a sledge-hammer and carte-blanche and if the desired result isn't achieved immediately, enough destruction is usually to provide a reasonable starting point for rebuilding!

We eagerly await the arrival of 249 Sig Sqn next year, who will be sharing the compound with us.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Just before the move, with very good timing, our OC, **Maj Dick Smith** handed over to **Maj Mike Patterson.** At **Maj Smith's** farewell parade, he was towed away in the traditional manner, but on a somewhat unusual conveyance. Many thanks to our Telemechs **Cpl Tony Dubois** and **Sig Paul Medley** of A Troop for the construction of the OC's Rover Mk 2, but where did they get that seat?

Cpl Tony Dubois and Sig Paul Medley with their OC's Rover Mk 2

The Squadron thanks **Maj Smith** for his efforts in steering us through restructuring, with its attendant problems, and much appreciates his gift which now graces the Squadron trophy cupboard. We wish him the best of luck in his new job at MOD. A welcome is extended to our new OC, **Maj Mike Patterson** who joins us from HQ BAOR and also to his wife **Diana** and their children. It was soon discovered that our new boss has a love of sports, especially soccer and by now our teams are almost ready for the new season.

A REMARKABLE RECORD

Friday, 16 June saw the Squadron officers and seniors gathered in the Sergeants' Mess for the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to our cook, **Sgt Dave Clelland,** ACC, by the Commander, **Brig R. B. MacGregor-Oakford, OBE, MC. Sgt Clelland** has had a remarkable career, having the good fortune to serve with the



The Commander of 8 Field Force, Brig R. B. MacGregor-Oakford presents the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to Sgt Dave Clelland, ACC

Royal Signals since he completed basic training in 1962. A remark was heard from the SSM that **Sgt Clelland** had been in the Corps longer than he had! **Sgt Clelland** leaves us soon for the Scottish Infantry Depot, and he goes with our thanks and good wishes.

While we were all gathered together, the opportunity was taken to say farewell to a number of people and on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess, the SSM, **WO2 John Smith,** presented pewter tankards to the QM, **Capt John Cowe,** who has served with the Squadron for four years and has coped admirably with restructuring and the move, where the bulk of the work fell on his shoulders. We wish him the best of luck with 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. **Sgt Johnson** also leaves us and the Army, good luck in 'civvy street'. **Sgt 'Taff' John** also leaves for 37 Sig Regt (V) as a PSI. Farewell was also said to **SSgt Pete Birchall,** RAOC,

SHOOTING TEAM SUCCESSES

After many weeks' training the shooting team entered the Royal Signals' shoot at Bulford and emerged with six cups, including the best Minor Unit, the best LMG pairs and the Falling Plate Trophy. To round off the day, a challenge was issued to the winners of the Gunners' Falling Plate who had been shooting alongside us. With a great deal of vocal support, we won that as well!

The following fortnight saw the team away to Bisley, where we won the 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron Cup for the best Signals Minor Unit. Our team captain, **Sgt Tom Appleyard,** RPC, was short listed for the Army team, but unfortunately did not find a place, and **Sig Gil** came very close to the qualifying score as well.



The Shooting Team at the Bulford Shoots
From left to right: Cpl Jim Taylor team Capt, LCpl Hallam (armourer)
Kneeling: Cpl Angus Reid, Sig Gil, Sgt Tom Appleyard, RPC, Cpl Reg Brindle, ACC



Sig John Gil opens his first bottle of champagne during celebrations after winning the Royal Signals Minor Units, watched by the rest of the team and Maj Mike Patterson on the far left

THE MILITARY TRAINING WEEK

Whilst the shooting team were at Bisley, the SSM organised a military training week, with the aim of completing as much of the compulsory training as possible, with the emphasis on the APWT. Excellent results were achieved in the shooting and the lonely one or two who failed have been promised another chance. Just to stop people becoming bored, it was decided to do some shooting in full NBC kit and OC A Troop, **2Lt John Hogan,** went one further. One detail would do the complete APWT in noddy suits, but doubling the length of the run to make it more interesting. After gasping their way to the firing point, some managed to achieve considerably better scores. It might be a good idea to do all further shooting in NBC kit!

When not on the ranges, the SSM arranged a variety of training films and **Cpl Mick McGuigan** put people through their paces in the gas chamber. The week was nicely rounded off with the BFT — at which some surpassed themselves, but unfortunately others didn't — better luck next time.

SURPRISE PRE

After all this activity, A Troop were looking forward to a relaxing week on exercise, but it was not to be — the phone rang:
OC'A': OC Alfa
2i/c: Howard here, John, you know we asked for PRE and Tels to be put back from the week after next to November?
OC'A': Yes.
2i/c: Well they're not.
OC'A': Oh (pause), well thanks for telling me, anything else?

There followed a quick cancellation of the exercise (muffled cheers from some), with an explanation of why (a shocked silence). Nevertheless, it only took a few late nights and everything was ready (wounds so easy, doesn't it). After doing their examination, the REME team declared themselves satisfied and Troop Commanders and Heads of Departments heaved a sigh of relief.

THE OFFICERS & SENIORS v THE REST CRICKET MATCH

The Thursday before block leave saw the Squadron assembled to either participate in or watch the cricket match. Families were invited and it was good to see so many there, enjoying a sunny day. The Management won by a very small margin, and **SSgt Bill Tatnall, BEM,** was the top scorer of the day with 53. There were also some good performances from **Capt Howard Ham** and **Cpl Mick O'Brien** and **LCpl Kenny Wynder.**

All in all, it was a very enjoyable day and we must thank **Cpls Tony Dubois** and **'Smudge' Smith,** our scorer and chief umpire respectively.

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Not long before block leave our Chief Clerk, **SSgt John Knell,** left us for SHAPE in Belgium and also **Sgt Ian Vine** leaves us for 22 Sig Regt, both go with our best wishes, especially to **Sgt Vine** who got married over the leave period.

A welcome is extended to **Sgt Graham Nicol,** who joins us from the RLD of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, also to **Sgt 'Nibs' Hastie,** from Rheindahlen. A welcome also to **Maj Freddie Marsh,** Kings Own Border, who joined us with a lovely suntan from his tour in Belize.

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

DEPARTURES ONLY

Departures only these days! We said Goodbye to **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Moody, SSgt Ken Hartley, RAOC, Cpl Walker RE** as well as the majority of the Ace High detachment. **Sgts Geof Collier, Rab Gentles, Martin James, Danny Still** and **Tim Scragg** having put their heads together tell their own story elsewhere. In addition, twelve families have gone leaving 'Dad' behind as part of the Great Rundown. One good thing which arises from all this is the appointment of **Brian Peel** to **A/WO2 (RQMS)** and our congratulations go to him and to **WO1 Doug Forster RAOC** on appointment to Conductor and to **Sgt Charlie Peach** who adds a crown.

ANOTHER BARBEQUE

234 Signal Squadron and Army Elements Malta sadly no longer has an Officers' Mess of its own but does boast an Army Officers' Country Club situated in a remote (!) corner of the island. The Club were hosts at a Barbeque in the more accessible area of St Georges Bay where 41 Commando, Royal Marines were kind enough to hire out their facilities.

Slaving over a hot stove was **Cpl John Morris, ACC** ably assisted by past and present members of the squadron who don't seem to be able to break themselves of the habit. The Club is most grateful for their loyal assistance. Also slaving, but this time over a hot disco, was **SSgt Roger (Play that funky music, White Man) Morse RAPC** who provided music well into the night for the entertainment of the holidaymakers who live on the other side of the bay.

The Club's reputation as a collection of bon viveurs, gourmets and folks of good taste attracted some seventy guests and they were not disappointed. The silence during the actual eating was phenomenal and the sight of the bill later only served to reinforce the pleasant memories of a 'cool' evening.

STOP PRESS

The Met Section, RAF Luqa announced yesterday that 0 mm fell on 23 August this year. They have marked the rain-guage with a tall, white pole so that it won't take them quite as long to find it come the winter.

RADAR STATION CLOSES

The crescent of radar stations that sweeps from Turkey through Italy and up to northern Norway had a spur into Malta. With the inpending withdrawal from Malta the station switched off on 1 July 1978 and the six Royal Signals technicians, still under the leadership of Supervisor, **Sgt Geoff Collier,** started to dismantle the station. Unlike ordinary mortals who have to pack their own bags the folks that live on the hill were able to have the packers in and the delicate equipment disappeared into an assortment of tea chests, well wrapped in corrugated cardboard and bound with adhesive tape which every few inches proclaimed the firm's readiness to send anything anywhere anytime anyhow.

ALWAYS FUN

No job is complete until the paperwork is done and, as each separate item of equipment demands ten copies of a quite complex NATO form, **Sgt Martin James,** as Technical Assistant — which is NATOSPEAK for, in this instance, second in Command — has achieved fame as the only man to actually wear out an MOD ball point pen before having it 'borrowed'. 'Working with NATO was always fun' said **Sgt Danny Still,** despite or perhaps because of the language difficulties.

In addition to their normal work ACE HIGH have produced their fair share of sportsmen. At a recent presentation of Army (Malta) Colours applause was heard for **Sgt Martin James** (Rugby, Squash), **Sgt Tim Scragg** (Shooting) and **Sgt Pete Halstead** (Football). These were only the tip of the iceberg and do not cover the many times ACE HIGH turned up, stood in or helped out in Army Sport.

All six will be missed, the sum of parts being greater than the whole and, either it was helping the Army beat the RAF or cornering the market in BFBS T Shirts by winning phone-in competitions, they certainly made their mark.



WINNERS OF THE 1978 INTER SERVICES – WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS MALTA

Standing: Sgt Frans Farrugia, Sgt Chalky White, Capt Mike Crane, Sgt Martin James, Sig Godwin Zammit

Kneeling: Cpl Joe Mizzi, Sgt Danny Still, Cpl Freddie Grixti (Capt), Sig Vince Sciberras, WO2 (RQMS) Jim Moody

INTERSERVICE WATERPOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978

The Championships took place at Robb Lido during the week 3-7 July. The Army was represented by 234 Sig Sqn and Army Elements. Training for the event took place two weeks before the competition and several games were played against local clubs. The team consisted of: **Capt M. J. Crane, Sgt Farrugia, Sig Sciberras, Sgt Still, Cpl Grixti** (team Capt and coach), **RQMS Moody, SSgt James, Cpl Mizzi, Sig Zammit** from the Royal Signals and **Sgt White** and **SSgt Lory** from the REME.

The first game was between the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines versus the RAF. The RAF winning easily by seven goals to one. The Army's first game was on 5 July against the combined Royal Navy and Royal Marines. **Cpl Freddie Grixti** opened the scoring in the first session with a fine goal two minutes from the start of the game. Just after the re-start he netted again with a bouncing shot but this was disallowed due to a technicality. The RN/RM side scored next, but **Frans Farrugia** and **Freddie Grixti** the Army won the match by six goals to two, the Navy scoring their second goal in the final minutes.

ARMY SUCCESS IN FINAL

The finals were held on 7 July — Army versus RAF. As this was the final time the competition was to be held. It was going to be a tough game and everyone was very tense. As the whistle blew for the first session **Freddie Grixti** was up front and **Chalky White** had the task of marking the RAF's star player; this he did very well. **Freddie Grixti** scored a goal in the first session and **Mike Crane** the goalie played brilliantly to prevent the RAF from scoring. In the second session **RQMS Jim Moody** was left unmarked at the back, he swam through to net the Army's second goal. During the third session the RAF changed tactics and brought on a player who was in Malta on detachment and he scored two quick goals to level the score at 2-2. **Chalky White** dropped back to mark him and **Freddie Grixti** took over the marking of their other star player. A ding dong battle in the fourth session developed with both sides marking tightly and making several quick breaks only to be stopped by the goal keepers.

Seconds before the final whistle **Freddie Grixti** scored an excellent goal to give the Army the lead and the match. Final score Army 3 RAF 2. After the cheering and shouting had died down **Gp Capt Vasey** Station Commander RAF Luqa presented the shield to the jubilant Army team.

News from Troops

535 REAR LINK DETACHMENT, BFPO 16

REALLY THERE

Being a regular reader of The Wire, and not just the promotions and postings page, I was beginning to think that the little heard of Rear Links were a figment of Records Reading's imagination.

Having been posted to one it becomes painfully obvious that their existance was only too real. Now after eighteen months I would like to introduce for the first time in print, 535 Rear Link Detachment.

PERSONALITIES:

Sgt Ian Durrant.
Cpl Dave Thomson.
LCpl Dave Quinton.
Sig Steve Doore.
Sig Gary Laycock.
Sig Pete Lowe.

BIRTHDAY WELL MARKED

We reached full strength, by a strange coincidence, in Dec 77, just in time for a four month tour of N Ireland with our Regiment, 39 FD REGT RA. We managed to stay together at North Queens St Police Stn in East Belfast.

Dave Quinton, Steve Doore and **Gnr Chalkie White** locked themselves into the Comcen for the entire four months where they very successfully ran the teleprinter 'red hot'.

Steve Doore celebrated his 21st birthday as best he could, during the tour, and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Hudson,** presented him with a cake and bottle of wine.

Dave Thomson, Pete Lowe and **Gary Laycock** took turns listening to the radios in the TAC HQ OPS Room, and the odd escort duty, whilst **Ian Durrant** occasionally sat in the secondary watchkeepers chair.

BACK TO HOTEL

Once more back at Sennelager its back to AFV432's and TAC HQ and Task Force Hotel.

Perhaps the remainder of the Detachment, when they borrow my Wire, will be stimulated to write further for The Wire.

Don't be disappointed!

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KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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.

Association News

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Thirty-three members and guests of the Branch enjoyed a Car Rally followed by a dinner on 30 September, 1978. The evening, organised by **Alvaro Salazar,** was the first of the Autumn events planned for the Branch.

The information to be collected by the participants ranged all over the Island and varied in type. Passers-by were amused to see cars rushing up to the most unusual places in the dark, and their occupants leap out, torches in hand, to seek the name on monuments, man-holes and the like. One of the guests, a visitor from the UK got completely lost and a message was flashed to 'Mission Control' from a remote part of the Island asking where he had to come back to!

The evening concluded with an excellent meal and many stories of 'how we got lost' and prizes presented by the Branch Chairman **John Rudkin.**

EASTBOURNE BRANCH

Report by Paul Quinn

When **Ray Chapman** placed an advertisement in the local newpaper saying that he hoped to form an Association Branch in Eastbourne, he did so with his fingers crossed. The response was so overwhelming that **Ray** stood before the assembled gathering, lost for words. The inaugural meeting was held at the TAVR Centre in Eastbourne at 1930hrs on 9 October, and nearly thirty members attended. Including those who sent their apologies for absence the Branch has begun with a Membership of around fifty. No wonder **Ray** was stunned!

Ray Chapman was elected as Chairman, **Derek Bickmore** as Vice-Chairman, and **Miss Mabel Oldfield** as Secretary. After the elections we got straight down to business and it was proposed that we should attend — as a Branch — the local Rememberance Parade in November to place a wreath on the War Memorial, organise different trips to Blandford and Catterick, purchase our Standard, order up stationary and a printing block, put out some advertisements, etc., etc., until someone called out, 'What with?' The only money in the kitty was a £3.00 cheque kindly donated by **Lt Col C. Minns** (who was, unfortunately, unable to attend in person), so our newly elected Treasurer — **Michael Stewart** — leapt into action and rushed round collecting subscriptions. We are new, not only a new Branch, but also a solvent one!

All this makes one ask — How many other areas have been waiting for someone to get them all together? Maybe, if just one person was to put an advertisement in the local press he, too, would be overwhelmed, as was **Ray Chapman.**

Secretary: Miss M. Oldfield, 1 Annington Rd, Eastbourne, Sussex.

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

Sport

GOLF

another first for the corps



ARMY CHAMPION

Wire Notes from this International Headquarters are indeed very rare, but one of our sporting SNCO's has given us this opportunity to record the event in style.

Sgt Chris Carveth is the new Army Golf Stroke-Play Champion. He won the trophy in late July at the Little Aston Golf Club, Birmingham in competition with some of the Armys top golfers. With rounds of 74, 75, 79, 76 he became the first Royal Signals golfer to win the trophy since its inauguration in 1975. The final round was full of drama, **Sgt Carveth** had a two stroke lead and after nine holes of the final round had increased to seven. He overcame the blustery conditions to be level par for those nine holes but then some fine golf by his nearest rival just as quickly reduced his lead. **Sgt Carveth** held on through this surge and eventually won by two strokes. Quote from the Champion '. . . a great day for both the Corps and myself'. He now holds both the Army Stroke Play and the BAOR Stroke Play trophies. He hopes to successfully complete a hatrick of wins in the BAOR Championships at Sennelager in the Autumn, after which he returns to England to represent the Army in the Inter Services Championships.

SAILING

RSYC NOTES

The success of the UK dinghy team continues unabated. They beat REME at Whale Island on the 2 August, RSYC 9, REME YC 11½. Unfortunately only one race could be sailed.

The Secretary designate is Lt Col J. J. Bally who will replace Lt Col R. A. Cemm on 7 November. The address of the new secretary is: HQ 2 Signal Gp, Malta Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

The two UK based Corps yachts will be available for charter from Mid March 1979 until the end of October. 'Skywave' is a Rival 32 with seven Berths, Sloop rigged with a 25 HP diesel engine. Quick Silver is a Westerley Tiger with five berths sloop rigged with a 10 HP diesel engine. Both Yachts are fully equipped for comfortable Cruising and are available for adventurous training and private charter. There are no increases in charter fees this coming season.

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Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following lists Association items now in stock and available.

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

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	£	£
Crested glass ash trays	0.80	0.85
The 1979 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.	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0.25	0.25
Blazer buttons—Large	0.20	0.20
Small	0.15	0.15
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	2.75	2.95
Car badge—square, acrylic	2.40	2.60
Motor cycle badge	0.75	0.75
Corps cuff links	2.20	2.40
Identity card holder	0.16	0.17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.30	0.30
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	5.00	5.45
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	16.80	18.20
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	4.95	5.30
Corps scarves—woollen	3.60	3.85
Corps squares—terylene	2.50	2.70
Corps ties—terylene $3\frac{1}{4}$"	1.40	1.50
terylene $2\frac{1}{2}$"	0.20	0.25
Corps transfers—large ($10" \times 7\frac{1}{2}"$)	0.55	0.60
medium ($7\frac{1}{2}" \times 5\frac{1}{2}"$)	0.50	0.55
small ($3" \times 2\frac{3}{8}"$)	0.35	0.40
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1.85	2.00
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.10	2.25
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.30	7.00
Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

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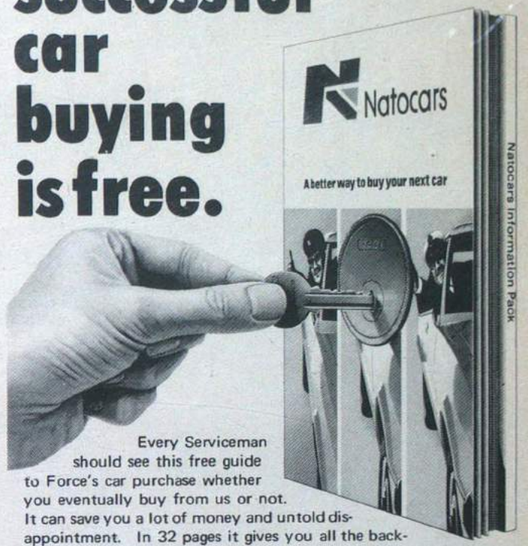
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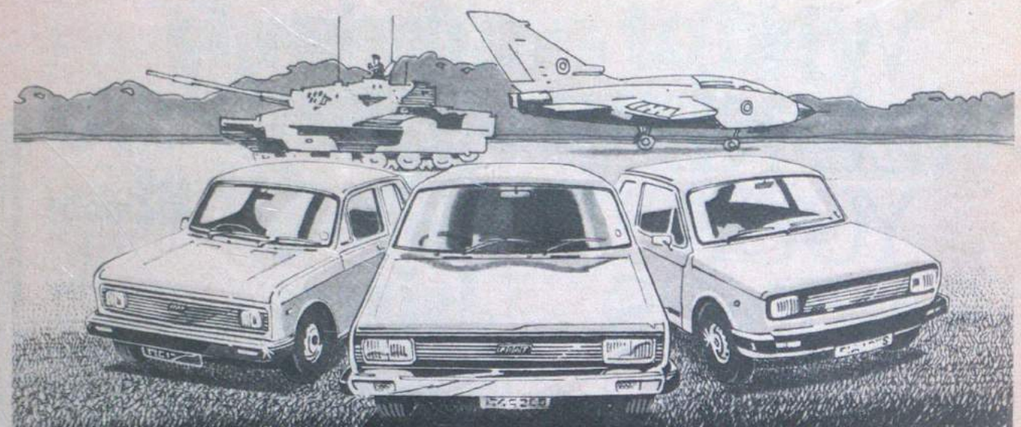
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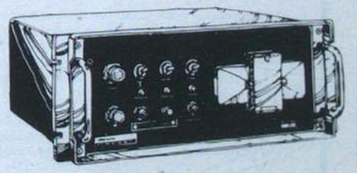
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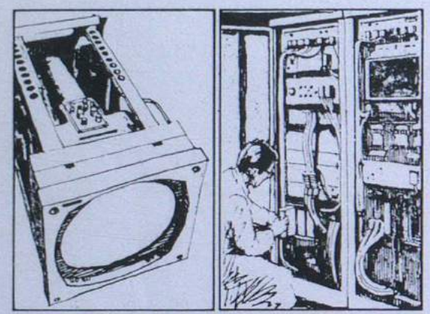
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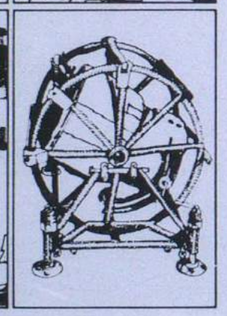
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