January 1979

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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INDEX LINKED

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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.*

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JANUARY **1979**

Vol 33 *(New Series)* **No 1**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

The Lisburn Microwave Tower was brought into service in December and we have it on good authority that its construction involved the contractor using the largest mobile crane in the United Kingdom. CLF, Maj Gen R. B. Trant, marked the occasion by despatching a champagne bottle some considerable distance to impact on this impressive structure. In blustery conditions and with uncertain aerodynamic data on the bottle, a first round strike was achieved. The opening ceremony also marked the bringing into service of new equipment which will greatly enhance communications facilities.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

All will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the New Year Honours List.

OBE
Lt Col P. S. Reader

MBE
Capt (QM) J. G. Turner
WO1 W. M. Kerr (Now discharged)

BEM
SSgt E. Birchall
SSgt I. Borland
SSgt (Supvr R) A. E. Nex
Sgt G. H. Holden
Sgt C. E. Jones

NORTHERN IRELAND LIST

Our congratulations, also, to those named in the Northern Ireland List, which was published in December.

BEM
Cpl P. Morgan

Mentioned in Despatches
Maj A. T. B. Kimber

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

First, may we thank our many contributors for meeting our guide lines during the past year. There is a no change situation for 1979, but two points are worthy of emphasis. "Copy", for publication in our Corps magazine, must be received by —

12 February for the March issue
12 April for the May issue
12 June for the July issue
12 August for the September issue
& 12 October for the November issue

Please, whenever possible, ensure that significant events are supported by good quality black and white gloss photographs. We believe these greatly enhance contributions. It is, also, of great assistance if these are numbered and supported by captions typed on a separate sheet — rather than fixing or writing these on the reverse of photographs.

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF VISITS THE TRAINING GROUP

EXPECTATION

On Wednesday 1 November 1978, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** made her first formal official visit to Royal Signals since becoming our Colonel-in-Chief. The Training Group had the great good fortune and privilege to be chosen as the venue for this significant event and, happily, the day in every way lived up to the expectations of such a memorable occasion.

PREPARATION

Readers of The Wire will not wish to have a detailed account of the preparations and plans that preceded the day. Everyone will appreciate that a great deal of hard work is needed to ensure even a modicum of success for a Royal Visit and suffice to say that nearly every member of the Headquarters and units of the Group played some part in the production and staging of what turned out to be a smooth running and enjoyable programme.

CO-OPERATION

It is worth mentioning the magnificent co-operation received from outside agencies such as the Lord Lieutenant and the Police and of course from within our own Corps. There was the minimum of interference and the maximum of assistance and this was very much appreciated in the Group. Above all, the Private Secretary and other members of The Princess's Staff underlined the warm interest of Her Royal Highness in the arrangements and were always ready with helpful advice on the myriad of points to be considered.

APPREHENSION

Any event in Catterick must be to some extent at the mercy of the weather and the Royal Programme was no exception to this. We were given a clear indication that Her Royal Highness would wish to go ahead with the outside events in anything short of blizzard or hurricane but, naturally, there was much apprehension on our part. November in Catterick is not always balmy! Our anxiety was not eased by the long spell of sunshine in the preceding fortnight because we could not help feeling that we were rapidly using up our credit.

When the day dawned, it was drizzling but somehow it always seemed certain that the clouds would roll back and so they did. The conditions were probably ideal for the setting and while the sun made only a half-hearted attempt to appear, the radiant interest of our Colonel-in-Chief made it seem like Spring.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS ARRIVES

The Master of Signals received Her Royal Highness as the Royal cavalcade escorted by the White Helmets drew up outside Headquarters 11 Sig Regt, and presented the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Commander Training Group. The Commanding Officer 11 Sig Regt **Lt Col Brian Blackwell** conducted the Colonel-in-Chief on to the Parade Square where she received the Royal Salute from the Royal Guard of Honour, commanded by **Maj Peter Todd** and consisting of selected regimental cadre, 48 adult recruits and 48 junior soldiers.

During her inspection, Her Royal Highness spoke to many of the Guard and left no doubts as to her pleasure at their turnout and bearing. The Corps can be well proud of the standards demonstrated by its new members.

TO WATCH WEAPON TRAINING . . .

Her Royal Highness proceeded to watch weapon training by a Cadre Refresher Course followed by a demonstration of 'Kohima Troop in Action'—a display by the Junior Signal Wing. This display was pioneered by White Spear Troop with a number of major public appearances during the Summer. It comprises a race between two teams of Junior Signalmen in simulated battle conditions over a testing obstacle course. The event required technique, courage and flair from the participants, particularly the 'casualty' whose evacuation is the prime object of the race but whose comfort does not appear to unduly concern the competitors! Kohima Troop are to be congratulated on reaching such a high standard following only a few weeks of practice and no previous public showing.

TO PLANT A TREE . . .

After talking informally to some groups of cadre, course personnel and recruits, Her Royal Highness was invited to plant a tree to commemorate the occasion. Watched by a large group of spectators, the Colonel-in-Chief accepted a suitably prepared shovel from **Mr Ray King**, the Regimental Head Gardener, and demonstrated that planting a tree was not a 'token' affair.

Her Royal Highness stopped to talk to some of the onlookers and at least one lady member of the regimental civilian staff is known to have spent the afternoon in tears trying to digest that 'happiest moment in her life'! The Royal cavalcade drove out of Helles Barracks along a road lined by the Royal Guard at the Present, leaving behind a very happy and proud regiment.

TO TOUR THE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL . . .

The procession paused briefly at the commemorative statue unveiled in 1975 by **Her Majesty The Queen**, and then moved to the Trade Training School to be greeted by the CO of 8 Sig Regt, **Col Ian Shapter**. Her Royal Highness was introduced to the Regiment and its role by a comprehensive display of stands in the foyer of the TTS depicting the various trades of the Corps. The presentations were made by the trainees and cadre manning the stands and the onlooker could only wonder at the articulation and confidence of the present day soldier, male and female.

The Colonel-in-Chief then climbed the stairs to visit a number of classrooms and laboratories with training in progress. Throughout the visit, Her Royal Highness showed great interest in everything and demonstrated a remarkable ability to grasp what was involved, in our technical training.

At the conclusion of the tour of the Trade Training School, three ex-Royal Signals Chelsea Pensioners (affiliated to 8 Sig Regt) were presented to Her Royal Highness. The Colonel-in-Chief also met members of the Royal Signals Demonstration Team reinforced for the occasion by **Yeoman Warder Len Harvey**, one of the several members of that distinguished company who were once warrant officers in the Corps.

TO TAKE LUNCH . . .

Luncheon was taken in the Royal Signals Officers Mess following a short reception in which Her Royal Highness met many officers of the Group and their wives. As always, the Mess Staff performed their duties with style, efficiency and that distinctive friendliness well known to those who have been fortunate enough to be members of the Mess over the years.

TO MEET SOLDIERS AND THEIR WIVES

After lunch, Her Royal Highness moved to the Vimy Social Club of 8 Sig Regt and spoke to many of the Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Soldiers of the Group and their wives. The time for departure rapidly approached and it looked as though several groups of families would have to be missed out. In spite of a very long day during which the Colonel-in-Chief must have spoken to at least four hundred individuals, Her Royal Highness insisted on staying a quarter of an hour past the due time. It had never occurred to us that Her Royal Highness would manage to speak to quite so many of such a large gathering.

AND SO FAREWELL

As the police glanced anxiously at their watches, the Master of Signals escorted the Colonel-in-Chief to her car and Her Royal Highness took her leave of Catterick and the Training Group. The route to Camp Centre was proudly lined by members of 8 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt and the Army Apprentices College. There is no way that words can do justice to the day. The significance of the occasion was bound to make it a memorable one but over and above this there was a special quality noticeable to all those present, whatever part they played. Our Colonel-in-Chief showed such obvious interest and enjoyment that it was impossible not to feel proud and happy.

AS THE CAMERA SAW IT



The Master of Signals presents Brig Norman Butler, with the Signal Officer-in-Chief looking on



The Colonel-in-Chief inspects the Royal Guard escorted by Lt Col Brian Blackwell and Maj Peter Todd BEM. The Guard Officers are Lt Craig McColville and Lt Stephen Perkins.



Her Royal Highness speaks to SSgt Paddy Moore



Her Royal Highness speaks to the Director of Music, Lt Col Keith Boulding, after inspecting The Royal Guard of Honour



Her Royal Highness watches Cadre refresher course weapon practice briefed by Capt Gordon Penman and WO2 Mel Townsend DCM



Her Royal Highness speaks to Sgts Denis Duncan and Andy Cummings, Cpls Mick Campbell, Jack Goodacre, Eric Hutchinson and Jim Shiels after their demonstration



A Junior Signalman diving through the wall of fire



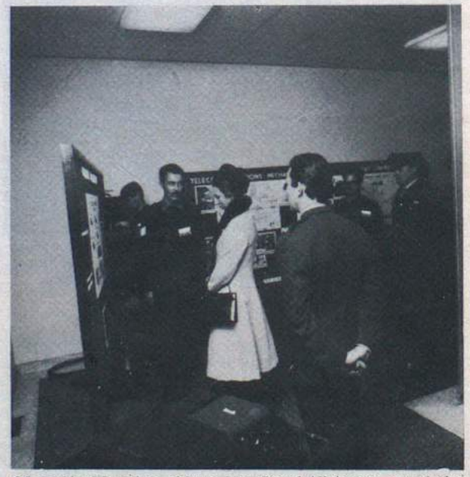
Her Royal Highness speaking to members of the Junior Signal Wing Demonstration Team after an exhausting display. Maj David Dobson and Lt Peter Walker are in attendance and SSI Dave Hyslop and Cpl Dave Worth are present



Her Royal Highness with WO1 Wally Lockwood talking to members of RSDCC No 127/128



Her Royal Highness plants a tree to commemorate the visit, with Mr Ray King in attendance



SSgt Alan Brookes shows Her Royal Highness round the Combat Lineman and Tele Mech stand. Maj John Doody in the background



Her Royal Highness meets Pte Sharon Walton with Mr John Ring, Sig David Povall, Pte Janet Steer and Sgt (now SSgt) Carole Mooney in attendance



WO2 (SSM) Ron Upton invites Her Royal Highness to sign 8 Sig Regt visitor's book



Her Royal Highness meets ex Royal Signals In-Pensioners Goldsmith, Morris and Nash



Sgt Mohammed Abrahim from Sudan and Cpl Emmanuel Adesole from Nigeria show Her Royal Highness the Overseas display



Her Royal Highness meets Yeoman Warder Len Harvey, ex Royal Signals. Capt Roger Batho and members of Royal Signals Demonstration Team in attendance



Miss Carren Mayson presents Her Royal Highness with a bouquet



Her Royal Highness meets WO1 (RSM) and Mrs Lumley with SSgt Dave Hooks and his wife Kathy in the background



WO1 Ted Banham presents SSgt and Mrs D. Wills, with Mrs Avril Tough in background



Her Royal Highness meets WO2 (ORQMS) Clive Mason, Sgt Harry Anacoura, Sgt Brian Smith, Cpl Chris King and their wives



Her Royal Highness meets WO1 Fortune, Cpl Cullen, SSgt Jolly, Sgt Hall, Sig Tonner and their wives



Her Royal Highness says goodbye to Brig Norman Butler. The Master of Signals, Signal Officer-in-Chief, Lt Col and Mrs Brian Blackwell look on

From our "In" Tray

THANK YOU LADIES

RECORD CONTRIBUTION TO SSAFA BY THE CORPS

Report by Mrs A. A. G. Anderson

We are asked to raise funds once every two years as part of the SSAFA Christmas Market run by the three Services at Chelsea Barracks.

The SSAFA Christmas Market this year raised a total of £47,000 of which some £9,067 was raised by the Corps. Both amounts were all time records and again we were the star turn by a long way. I received goods and donations for the Stall from a large number of units at home and abroad, Regular and Volunteer, and the response and varied methods of fund raising were astounding. Many people gave their time on the preparation of the Stall and serving on the day of the Market.

All units of BAOR contributed the staggering sum of £3,860.21 and Blandford Garrison raised £2,542.59 as well as a substantial proportion of the gifts for the Stall. The Northern Ireland Wives excelled themselves and produced record funds, goods for the Stall and sold a large number of raffle tickets. This year the TAVR wives took part for the first time and helped us on to our grand total.

I would like to thank you on behalf of SSAFA for your unparalleled generosity.



Blandford Garrison's contribution to the stall



The Corps Stall on the day



Mrs Anderson presenting the cheque, on behalf of the Corps, to Lady Crookenden

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

Looking back at Malta

From: **Ex Cpl D. J. Mitchell**
Dear Sir,

I recently came across the enclosed photographs showing members of 234 and 235 Signals Squadrons at work and play.

With the disbandment of the Royal Signals Squadrons on Malta I thought they might be of interest to past members who had the pleasure to serve in either of the units.

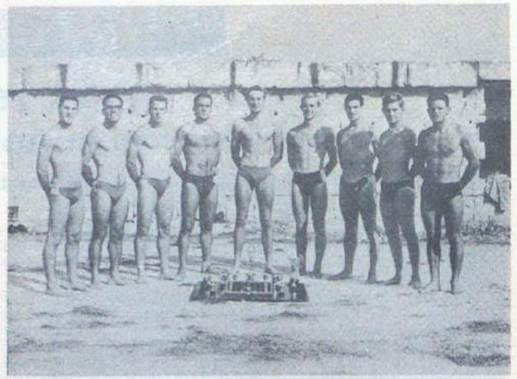
The uniformed photograph shows members after a passing out parade at the RM Training Centre and was taken in 1962. The athletes belonged to the Royal Signals team which won the Army (Malta) Athletic Championships in 1961. The swimmers represented 234 Squadron in 1961 when the team won almost every swimming event organised by the Army on the island and in fact provided the bulk of the Army team which swam in the Inter Service Championships.

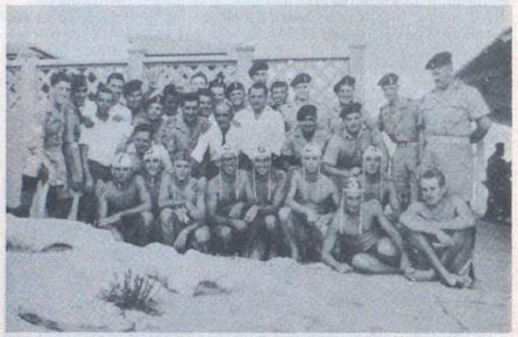
I notice from reading the recent notes in the Wire that **Freddie Grixti** is still to the fore in swimming and that **Bob Scrivens** is still a serving member of the Corps, the only other face that has appeared in recent Wire photographs is that of **Bob Dixon** who was MT Sergeant during my time with 234. The imposing figure on the right of the smallest photograph is that of **SSM Charles** who I am sure many Corps members will remember.

Yours Faithfully,

David J. Mitchell

30 Mailerbeg Gardens
Moodiesburn
Chryston
Glasgow, G69 OJP









LSGC Presentation



Sgt P. L. Tyers receives his LS & GC Medal from Lt Col W. W. Kerr (Colonel Recruiting Scotland) in the Army Careers Information Office where Sgt Tyers is at present serving
Front row left to right: Sgt B. Watson WRAC, Capt R. Minchen, Capt Bill Tyres (retd), Mrs Tyers, Mrs Geddes (mother in law) Mrs Tyers jnr.
Back row left to right: CSM P. Robertson, Sgt Seivwright, Sgt McSeveny, Sgt Hill, SSgt Boland

Who is this?

From: **Maj C. W. Johnston (Retd)**
Dear Sir,

A photograph album has been found by the Civil Police in York and as one of the photographs showed a soldier in Royal Signals Mess kit the album was handed in to the Squadron in the hope that we could trace the owner. Unfortunately enquiries made locally have been to no avail.

Would you consider reproducing the enclosed photograph in The Wire with a request that the owner should contact us to regain his property.

Yours sincerely,

C. W. Johnston

Administrative Officer
240 Signal Squadron
Imphal Barracks
Fulford Road
York, YO1 4HD

(Editors note:- We trust that the photograph leads to the owner recovering his album)



Congratulations

WO2 Geoff Nelson (10 Sig Regt) Captained the Army in the annual fixture versus the Civil Service at Aldershot on 13 Dec 78. He also scored the second of two goals by which the Army won (score 2—0).

'CLERK TECHNICAL' REDESIGNATED 'TECHNICAL STOREMAN, R SIGNALS'

The Ministry of Defence decided recently to change the title of the Clerk Technical to that of Technical Storeman, R Signals. This step was taken to aid both recruiting and resettlement since the description technical storeman provides an immedaite appreciation of the nature of the job to both prospective recruit tradesmen and employees, whereas the old description was somewhat obscure.

The change will be from 1 December 1978. The abbreviation is to be Tech Stmn R Signals.

Do You Remember?

From: **Mr W. M. Cotterell**
Dear Sir,

I enclose a photo taken in Jersey C.I. last September. The couple are Capt J. Richardson and his wife, the sister of the very popular Corps Boxer Jimmy Emblem.

Richie, as we knew him, had a unique record in the Signals Boxing world, winning the flyweight in 1921, the bantamweight in 1922-23-24 and the featherweight in 1925-26. He was also in the Cross Country team 1921-22.

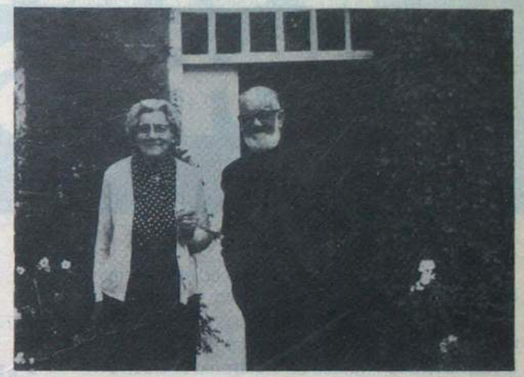
J. Richardson, Jersey born, enlisted 1920, served in India, Egypt and Middle East and was commissioned in 1941.

Many old timers will remember him and be pleased to know that at the age of 79 he and his wife are fighting fit.

Yours faithfully,

Joe Cotterell

3 Osborne Close
Sompting
Lancing
Sussex



Were you with 105 Section?

From: **Mr. R. J. Barnes**
Dear Sir,

During the war years I served as Signalman, No 2360012, in 105 S/W Sect. right up to 1942 when many of us were taken POW.

Although many years have passed and I find myself somewhat incapacitated, I would love to contact some of the lads of those far off days. Will you please ask them to write to me at the address given below?

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Barnes

361 Wimborne Road
Poole, Dorset BH15 3ED

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

The next Corps Dinner will be held on 9 May, 1979, at a new venue, the Naval and Military Club (the 'In and Out') in Piccadilly, instead of at the Hyde Park Hotel. The Corps Committee has approved the change in an effort to encourage attendance by providing a more attractive environment for the Corps Dinner in this fine old London Club. The cost will be the same. Overnight accommodation is available to all Dinner Club members at the 'In and Out' Club, but it is limited. Those interested should write or phone to the Club to book a room without delay. The Club address is: The Secretary, Naval and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, London W1V 0BP. Telephone: 01-499 5163.

A printed notice about the Corps Dinner will be sent out shortly.

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EMI

'THE BEST OF FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE'
By Capt Bruce Bairnsfather Compiled and edited by Tonie and Valmai Holt

This book is a timely reminder of a man who perhaps more than any other single person contributed towards the winning of the First World War. Gen Sir Ian Hamilton said of him: 'The creator of Old Bill has rendered great service to his county, both as a soldier and as one who has done much to lighten the darkest hour.'

Old Bill was of course the hero of one of the most celebrated cartoons in English popular art — the one which depicted Old Bill and a pal in a trench with shells exploding all around, and which had the tag-line: 'Well, if you knows of a better 'ole, Go to it."

'Better 'ole' and all Bruce Bairnsfather's other cartoons appeared in the 'Bystander' throughout the war period. They portrayed dogged Tommies dealing with unpleasant and often horrific situations at the front line with a resigned and peculiarly British humour, and quickly became a national institution, as did their creator.

The appeal of Bairnsfather's cartoons lies in their utter directness and simplicity — they are a true reflection of the day-to-day life tha the ordinary soldier had to endure in the trenches. Then, as now, they had the ring of truth, and the affection that the artist felt for his characters, particularly Old Bill, is an obvious part of their success.

'THE BEST OF FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE' is a collection of Bairnsfather's best 'Bystander' cartoons, annotated and edited by two acknowledged authorities on the Great War, Tonie and Valmai Holt. Already well-known for many books including 'The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard' and a study of the First World War called 'Till the Boys Come Home', the husband-and-wife writing team have in this book put together a comprehensive and fascinating memorial to a much-loved man and his work. Next year will see the publication of a biography of Bruce Bairnsfather, called 'In Search of a Better Ole', which is designed to complement 'The Best of Fragments from France'.

Publisher: Phin Publishing, Churchill Road, Cheltenham, Glos. Price: £3.25 (softback)

3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Our 28th reunion is to be held at the Victory (Services) Association London on Saturday evening, 24 March 1979.

This year it will comprise of a Dinner/Dance for both Members and their Ladies. Details have been sent to all Club Members, but other ex Members of the Regiment interested in attending should write without delay for details to:

Maj D. J. Roberts
Westmead
Park Avenue
Chorley Wood
Herts

Telephone: Chorley Wood 3144

"CALLING ALL CORPS SAILORS"

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will take place at 1430 hrs Wednesday 2 May 1979. The meeting will be held in room 045A of the Old War Office Building, Whitehall. You are all welcome to attend; the greater the attendance the more views and suggestions that can be put forward on the running of YOUR Club.

RADIO TECHNICIANS

WORK IN COMMUNICATIONS R&D AND ADD TO YOUR SKILLS

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 microwave 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, most of which, like Cheltenham are situated in environmentally attractive locations. All our centres 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 shortly 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.

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.

Movements

Officers

Rank and Name	DECEMBER 1978 & JANUARY 1979 *Unit to which posted*
Capt M. J. Anderson	HQ Northern Ireland
Maj M. C. Barrett	Trg Depot Brigade of Gurkhas
Col R. Benbow	School of Signals
Capt M. Bevan	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj J. G. Billingham	HQ SE DIST
Lt Col C. A. Brown	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj W. G. A. Catheart	Defence NBC Centre
2Lt M. W. Edwards	HS 6Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj H. J. P. Exon	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt T. G. B. Fish	RM Bks Lympstone
Capt G. S. Hand	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col A. J. Hill	HQ LONDIST
Lt Col R. F. Hills	School of Signals
Capt R. J. Holmes	HQ Northern Ireland
Capt J. E. F. Kirby	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col P. F. Larrington	DGGWL (PE) (AE)
Lt C. L. Le-Gallais	School of Signals (ORLO Cell)
Capt S. M. A. Lee	JDSC
Capt (Tfc) A. Leitch	10 Sig Regt
Maj G. J. Mann	BDS Washington
Capt D. S. McLuckie	MOD DASD
Maj J. E. Neeve	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col K. H. Olds	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Maj J. R. S. Ovenden	AAC Harrogate
Capt V. J. Reed	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Maj E. H. Sambell	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt R. J. Sanders	30 Sig Regt
Maj T. B. Scarff	HS 11 Sig Regt (Retiring)
Capt (Tfc) P. Sharpe	10 Sig Regt
Capt I. C. Shuker	DIS
Maj T. N. Singleton	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Thorne	DOAO/DOAE
Capt J. F. Thornton	22 Sig Regt
A/Maj J. D. Tydeman	School of Signals
Capt (TOT) N. Walker	241 Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) E. Webb	30 Sig Regt
Maj P. R. M. Whittington	HQ NORTHAG
Maj R. F. Willsher	RMA Sandhurst
Lt Col G. W. Young	UKCICC
2Lt J. P. Armitage	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj W. H. Backhouse	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. F. Baly	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt K. P. Barrett	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. W. Barry	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj C. D. A. Blessington	HS HQ NORIRELAND
Lt Col R. A. Comm	HQ Berlin (Br Sector)
Capt C. P. Conlon	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt R. J. Cocks	HS 4 ARmd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj S. A. Coultman	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. D. Cox	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. B. H. Cox	DGGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Capt M. J. Crane	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj P. H. Dale	MOD — DM(A)
2Lt N. H. Denning	HS 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj A. F. Eastburn	RMA Sandhurst
A/Maj R. H. G. Elford	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt P. N. Ellis	HS 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col G. Ferrier	HS School of Signals (Pending Retirement)
Capt M. S. Fisher	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt G. H. Goodman	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Grey	School of Signals
2Lt P. J. Grogan	HS 16 Sig Regt
Maj N. P. Harrison	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. N. C. Harrison	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Haydon	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col G. A. M. Holland	Posted Within DSS(AD)
Capt P. J. Hryhoruk	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt (QM) J. Tent	8 Sig Regt
Maj N. D. Illman	SOLF
Maj J. D. M. Ingram	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt P. T. Innocent	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt A. H. Johnstone	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj S. Law	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Maj J. H. Lowe	7 Sig Regt
Capt D. A. Lynam	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj G. Meakin	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col H. A. Morrison	School of Signals
Lt J. Morrison	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt D. Munro	School of Signals
Lt M. C. O'Donoghue	School of Signals
Capt P. Parfitt	School of Signals
Lt Col M. J. Pickard	HQ BAOR
Maj J. D. Plummer	Within RARDE (PE) (AE)
Maj W. H. D. N. Robotham	SHAPE Sp (International) (BAE)
Maj W. Roper	MOD — DMO
Capt A. J. Schuler	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt D. W. Sharpe	HS RAPC Trg Centre
Capt M. P. S. Shaw	HQ BAOR
Capt M. A. J. Sheehan	7 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. C. Siderfin	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Maj M. W. Simms-Reeve	HQ NORIRELAND R & L Staff
Maj I. Turner	Within HQ BAOR
Maj R. T. Westerman	DSS (AD)
Maj E. G. Williams	31 Sig Regt (V)
Maj L. A. Woods	School of Signals

WOs and Senior NCOs

Rank and Name	DECEMBER 1978 *Unit to which Posted*
WO1 C. S. Mason	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO1 R. I. Buckley	11 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) G. S. Spearpoint	22 Sig Regt
WO2 T. W. Macdonald	FSS Mossy Hill
WO2 A. F. Osborne	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. Preston	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. Paddison	Royal Military Academy (Sandhurst)
WO2 (FofS) P. B. Baldwin	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) A. M. Douglas	HQ AFSOUTH
AWO2 B. F. Williams	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) L. Rix	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. B. Vince	D of Army Man Svcs & Gp (WS)
SSgt (FofS) I. Cairns	21 Sig Regt
SSgt J. J. Stanley	30 Sig Regt
SSgt G. H. Maloney	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt J. B. Salter	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt I. D. Turner	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. K. Dodsworth	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Donald	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. C. Parish	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. H. Clarke	7 Sig Regt
Sgt T. V. Scragg	21 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Collier	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. James	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Still	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Seddon	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt T. Howley	Comm Projects Agency
Sgt A. J. Pearmain	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt F. P. Hartley	UK SP Unit SHAPE
Sgt W. R. Stadius	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. Green	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Wells	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Brabbins	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. James	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt J. G. Butler	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt C. Richardson	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt J. Foley	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. C. Harrild	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. W. Sparkes	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Thompson	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. L. Caffrey	71 Sig Regt (V)
Rank and Name	JANUARY 1979 *Unit to which Posted*
WO1 J. A. Scrutton	34 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 T. M. C. Stacey	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 G. Clark	9 Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) L. Yates	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 R. J. Duffy	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
WO2 G. Hardman	British Contingent (UNFICYP)
WO2 W. H. Leslie	10 Sig Regt
WO2 F. A. Quinn	39 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 M. R. Wringe	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. Hay	8 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Sharp	633 Sig Tp
SSgt C. J. Conroy	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. M. R. Graham	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Thomson	HQ AFCENT SP GP (International)
Sgt M. F. Court	UK SP Unit (SHAPE)
Sgt W. J. Henning	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. S. Innes	28 Sig Regt
Sgt A. A. Simpson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Walker	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Ramsay	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt T. Ponton	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. Smiley	577 RLD
Sgt P. Beynon	School of Signals
Sgt G. K. Barden	HQ AFCENT
Sgt J. R. Lowery	HQ AFCENT
Sgt G. S. Baldwin	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Davies	641 Sig Tp
Sgt D. G. Hughes	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Gilmour	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. M. Terras	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Paines	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt E. H. Paul	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. V. Baynton	Int & Sy Gp NI
Sgt F. M. Sage	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Elstog	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Whitehill	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Elder	31 CTT

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

Welfare

OCTOBER 1978

Number of cases assisted financially:	32
Amount spent:	£1517.88
Number of clothing parcels:	34

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	1
Amount spent:	£40.00

NOVEMBER 1978

Number of cases assisted:	52
Amount spent:	£2751.41
Number of clothing parcels:	63

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	2
Amount spent:	£70.14

ONE OF OUR CASES

Widow of a Driver, who was left with two young children on her husband's death in 1970. She worked to keep the family until a serious operation in 1976 compelled her to give up work. The Association made her a grant of £35 for Bedding and Clothing needs, and parcels of clothing have also been sent. One of her letters is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

May I thank you for the grant you gave me on behalf of my children and myself. It did help to take a lot of my worries away. Also for the two parcels of clothing that you sent me. Clothes are very expensive these days, and they were all a good fit and very welcome. May I thank you once again for all your kindness to my family and myself.

During the months of October and November, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:—

Miss A. Beale, Mr and Mrs B. Hagels, Maj and Mrs D. A. D. Smith, Col and Mrs G. M. Welsford, Mrs J. P. Wetten, Col J. A. D. Francis, Mrs M. L. Willway, Lt Col J. Bayfield, Brig and Mrs J. D. T. Brett, The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Mrs F. Iveson, A. W. Smith, Esq., Maj Gen M. D. Price, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Lt Col J. W. Swindells, Maj and Mrs R. O. Edwards, Mrs W. R. Smith-Windham, Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow, Capt and Mrs J. E. Stockhill, Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer, Mrs V. E. Haslett, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Miss G. Wood, Miss Williams, Mrs B. M. Woods, Mrs E. Fladgate, Mr P. Richards, Capt (QM) P. A. Noble, Lt Col P. D. E. Gregory, Mrs J. A. Genders.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1978:—

In memory of the late **Brig W. G. Tucker CBE**	£82.11
Brig D. H. Stoneley OBE	£20.00
Capt R. T. Lord	£9.55
Miscellaneous donations	£2.55
	£114.21

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.

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1978:—

1 Armd. Div. HQ & Sig Regt	£110.19
21 Sig Regt	£100.00
R.A.C. Centre	£40.00
Glossop & District Branch	£21.00
F. C. Wilson Esq.	£17.90
224 Sig Sqn	£15.00
F. E. Foulds Esq	£5.00
J. I. Johnston Esq	£5.00
E. C. Partridge Esq	£3.00
P. A. Tully Esq	£2.90
P. M. O'Mahony Esq	£2.90
H. N. Fensome Esq	£2.90
Maj J. Wilderspin BEM	£2.90
Maj D. S. A. Hutley GM	£2.45
R. L. Cartwright Esq	£2.00
F. Veness MBE Esq.	£2.00
D. S. Waldron Esq	£2.00
E. Whiffen Esq	£1.90
H. D. V. Chappell Esq	£1.50
G. A. Jenkins Esq	£1.50
Maj A. Gould	£1.40
Minor Donations	£9.12
	£352.56

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1978:—

In memory of the late Maj Ian Reading	£9.00
H. Liley Esq	£7.90
G. W. Cook Esq	£5.90
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe	£5.80
G. B. Hollings Esq	£5.00
Mrs J. L. Power	£3.00
In memory of the late Joe Stratton	£3.00
P. B. Cairns Esq.	£2.90
J. H. Westaways Esq.	£2.10
Lt Col N. G. Gallyer	£2.00
L. V. Goodman Esq	£1.00
Miscellaneous donations	£7.90
	£55.70

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. It exists to help Servicemen to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. It also takes a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association has 42 Branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with employers. It provides all services free.

Addresses and telephone numbers of Branches can be obtained from Corps and Regimental Associations—or from Post Offices, Employment Offices or local telephone directories.

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.

DEATHS

Allen—Brig Henry Isherwood Allen CBE DSO was commissioned into the North Staffordshire Regiment in 1908. Whilst serving in India in 1912 he was seconded to the Indian Signal Service. During the 1st World War he served in France and Mesopotamia with the Signal Service and as ADS at GHQ Mesopotamia when he was Mentioned in Despatches five times and awarded the DSO. After the War he joined the MI Directorate and transferred to the Corps in 1923. 1925 found him back in India where he served till returning to the UK in 1929. In 1934 he was appointed Inspector of the Staff School in the Iraq Army. In 1936 he returned to the MI Directorate as a GSO 1 until he retired in 1938. He was recalled at the outbreak of the 2nd World War and served in the MI Directorate first as a GSO 1 then as a Deputy Director. He was appointed CBE in 1943 and Commander Legion of Merit USA in 1946. He retired in 1946 and died at the age of 91 on the 14th January. He had two sons, the elder of whom was killed on active service in Normandy in 1944 with the RTR; the younger served in the Corps during the War and died in 1951.

Cartwright — Sergeant Jim Cartwright, R Signals T & AVR died at home in his sleep on 6 November at the age of 43. Jim joined the Cameronians in 1953 and saw service in BAOR and Aden. At one time he served as batman to General Sir Oliver Leese who became Godfather to one of his sons. Jim left the Regular Army in 1968 and settled in Billingham Cleveland. He joined 34(N) Sig Regt (V) in 1971 and trained as a Combat Radioman in 90 Sqn. In 1974 he was promoted to be Radio Sergeant in the Radio Relay Troop. He will be sadly missed by his comrades and friends in the Regiment and we offer our deepest sympathy to his widow Mrs Patricia Ann Cartwright and her four children.

Derrick—WO2 (RQMS) Bertram James Derrick enlisted in the Corps at Cardiff in 1933. He was posted to India, returning to UK subsequently for service with the Militia Training Battalion and 1st Operators Training Battalion in the rank of Sergeant. He was later posted to 51 Signal Park as SQMS and in 1950 he went to Gaza Coy, New College, The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. In 1951 he was posted to the Officers Training Wing, School of Signals and remained there until 1954 when he was posted to B Army Wireless Chain Installation Team on appointment as RQMS. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. In the sporting field he was well known as a Class 1 Army Hockey Umpire. After discharge from the Corps in 1960 he was employed as Chief Clerk in the Army Careers Information Office Wolverhampton until he retired in 1977. He is survived by his wife Emily, whom he met and married at Catterick in 1940, and by two sons, Graham and Bernard, both of whom saw regular service in the Corps as Telegraph Operator and Special Operator respectively. He died on 9 November as a result of a traffic accident.

Dobell—Ex-Sergeant Joseph William Dobell died on 31 December, 1977. He was born in 1899 and was our oldest member of 56 Div OCA Branch. He started his Army career in 1915 in the Border Regt, after release in 1919 he re-enlisted and saw service in India, where he was transferred to 33 Div Sigs and posted to Iraq. Some nine months later he was posted to Waziristan for three years. During his Indian service he was an operator Line and Visual. He received the General Service Medal with Iraq clasp and Indian General Service Medal with two clasps 'Waziristan 1919-21 and 1921-24'. On discharge in 1926 Joe worked for the GPO. From the Supplementary Reserve, he served in the Corps for the Second World War and joined 56 Div at Salerno. He finished the war and his military service in Alderney.

Dunton—Capt Jack Dunton—a 56 Div Signals OCA Branch member since the reformation in January 1975 died on 19 November, 1977. He was in his 70th year and joined the Corps in November 1941. During the war he saw service in North Africa and 'Y' Signals in Burma. His TA service included our most important scheme 'London Pride' in 1954 when the whole Division was in action on Salisbury Plain.

Morgan—Brig Ronald William Morgan OBE was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1918 and served on the Western Front. He was seconded to the Indian Signal Service from 1921-26 when he transferred to Royal Signals. He spent the next 11 years in India and took part in the North West Frontier Operations of 1936-37. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was Brigade Major at the STC. He went to the Far East in 1943 and held senior staff appointments when he was appointed OBE. He returned to UK in 1947 as CSO London District. A year later he was in BAOR and then took up his last appointment as CSO Scottish Command in 1949 before retiring in 1953. He died at his home in Exeter on 19 November, 1978, aged 79.

Newsom—Maj Charles Fitzgerald Newsom was commissioned into the RASC in 1921 and transferred to the Corps in 1926. He served in Egypt from 1926-1932 and was in Palestine during the operations in 1936. At the outbreak of the 2nd World War he was with Palestine Force Signals and subsequently served in the Middle East and East Africa. At the end of the War he was posted to the British Military Mission in the Netherlands. He retired prematurely in 1947 to take over his mother's farm in Natal. He died on the 20th December 1978 at the age of 77.

Rawson—Maj Gen Geoffrey Grahame Rawson, CB OBE MC was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1908. During the 1st World War he served in France, Belgium and Salonika with the RE Signal Service when he was Mentioned in Despatches five times, appointed OBE in 1919. He transferred to the Corps in 1921 and spent five years in Egypt between the wars. He served as ADC to HM King George VI from 1938-1941. At the outbreak of the 2nd World War he was DD(SD6) Signals at the War Office in the rank of Brigadier. In 1941, he became the first officer of the Corps to be promoted to the rank of Major-General to fill the new appointment of Director of Signals and was appointed CB. In 1942 he became Inspector of Signals until he retired in 1944. He became a Colonel Commandant from 1944-1950 and was Chairman of the Association from 1945-1949. He was a notable all-round Sportsman representing the Army at Cricket, Hockey and Tennis. He kept in close touch with the Corps during his many years after retirement until his death on the 14th January 1979 at the age of 91. His elder son, Aubrey, served in the Corps from 1941 to 1972.

Walton — Mrs Gwendoline (Wendy) Walton died peacefully in Peterborough District Hospital on 6 November 1978. Ex **WO1 (RSM) Alan Walton** writes: 'All who knew her during her illness, involving long periods of hospitalisation, will know of her personal courage and determination. Although I am now out of the Corps, I know Wendy will be missed by her many friends'.

Wragg — Major Thomas Somerset Wragg MBE TD was a Volunteer who devoted all his spare time and energy to the interests of the Army, the Corps and local organisations. He enlisted in the 2nd (North Midland) Corps Signals TA before the war and was commissioned in 1941. During the war he served with the BEF in France, being evacuated through Dunkirk, and with Higher Formation Signals in North Africa, Sicily and Italy when he was appointed MBE and twice mentioned in despatches. After the war he continued with the TA, being Second in Command of 46 (North Midland) Signal Regiment (TA) for many years when he was awarded two bars to his Territorial decoration. He took an active interest in ex-Service organisations being President and Honorary Treasurer of the local branch of the Royal British Legion, President of the Chesterfield Branch of the Royal Signals Association, and a member of the Central Committee, a member of the Dunkirk Veterans Association and the Army Benevolent Fund Committee for Derbyshire. He was an outstanding scholar with a keen analytical brain which brought him to the top of his chosen career when he became Librarian and Keeper of the Devonshire Collections at Chatsworth. With his sudden death on 17 November 1978 at the age of 64, the Corps and all who knew him have lost a true and loyal friend who always put the welfare of others before himself.

SITUATIONS VACANT

SKC requires Video Engineers and CCTV Technicians.

The Corporation has an expanding Closed Circuit Television commitment and can offer varied and interesting work with scope for initiative and advancement. Salaries range from £3,500 to £5,500 per annum; a car is provided for mobile posts.

Experience of CCTV is not essential; training will be given to suitable applicants with a sound electronics background.

Applications should be addressed to:

Director of Engineering,
The Services Kinema Corporation,
Chalfont Grove,
Gerrards Cross,
Bucks SL9 8TN.

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS

A large international company based in Holborn in London has an urgent requirement to recruit technicians for service, calibration and repair work on a range of electronic measurement systems, using advanced digital techniques. The posts are based in London, but may involve occasional visits to the continent.

This job would be most suited to Terminal Equipment Technicians who have recently left, or are about to leave the service.

Conditions of employment are among the best in the industry and an excellent salary with bonus is offered together with fringe benefits which include restaurant, four weeks paid holiday annually, free life assurance and non-contributory pension scheme.

There are good opportunities to progress to more responsible positions, in particular within the expanding Research & Development Department, and a proportion of the technician's time will be spent in R&D, assisting the development of new systems.

Applicants should contact:-

M. H. Boorman,
2 Charterhouse Street,
London, EC1N 6 RX.

01-353-1577

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

3 Crane Court, Fleet Street, EC4A 2EJ
Tel: 01-353 1125

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:

Residential Housekeeper-Caretaker. Old Burlington Street, W.1. £3,000 + free flat.
Gate House—Security. Romford, Essex. £70 per week.
Reception. 2 men wanted. 25-hour week at £2,000 per annum (approx).
Reception. Croydon. £2,746 per annum.
Reception. Aldwych, W.C.2. £2,700 per annum.
Post—Messenger. Aldwych, W.C.2. £3,050 per annum +.
Driver-Messenger. Marble Arch, W.2. £4,000 approx. per annum. To live Surrey.
Reception. Park Lane, W.1. £4,000 approx. per annum.
Doorman. Dover Street, W.1. £80 per week.
Reception. New Fetter Lane, EC4. £3,473 per annum.
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Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

EXERCISE 'ROCKY TRAIL' — 1978

Report by 2Lt Graham Norris on leaving RMA Sandhurst — November 1978

TO WHET THE APPETITE

Exercise *Rocky Trail* was an expedition organised by RMAS to show young Army officers the potential for adventurous training in the Canadian Rockies and the organisation of a minor expedition so that they may utilise that experience in their own Regiments or Corps. I joined the RMA in September 1977 and attended SMC 16. During the course I took advantage of the academy facilities and went on numerous climbing weekends. I first heard of the expedition during an adventurous training presentation and decided that I wanted to be part of Exercise *Rocky Trail*, which was to take place in Canada.

TRAINING IN SCOTLAND

The final selection and training for the expedition took place in Scotland during a winter expedition. I was skiing at the time but joined the climbing group for a couple of days and was told by **Capt Nick Gaskell LI,** the expedition leader, that I had a prospective place. Before we went a concentrated effort was made to keep fit and a few trips to Harrison's Rocks, Tunbridge Wells, kept up the climbing techniques.

THE PARTY

Capt Nick Gaskell	LI	— Leader and organiser
Sgt Haydn Thomas	APTC	— Instructor from JSMTC Scotland
Mr Bill Jenkins		— Lecturer at Sandhurst — Geographical Reporter
Lt Dick Martin	(SMC 10)	— REME, RMCS Shrivenham — Weather Reporter and comedian
2Lt John Clews	(RCC 16)	— Member — Wildlife Reporter
2Lt Mark Daniel	(RCC 16)	— Member — QM
2Lt Graham Norris	(RCC 16)	— Member
2Lt Robin Ashcroft	(RCC 16)	— Member
2Lt David Croxford	(RCC 17)	— Member
2Lt Alan Miller	(RCC 17)	— Member

ADMINISTRATION

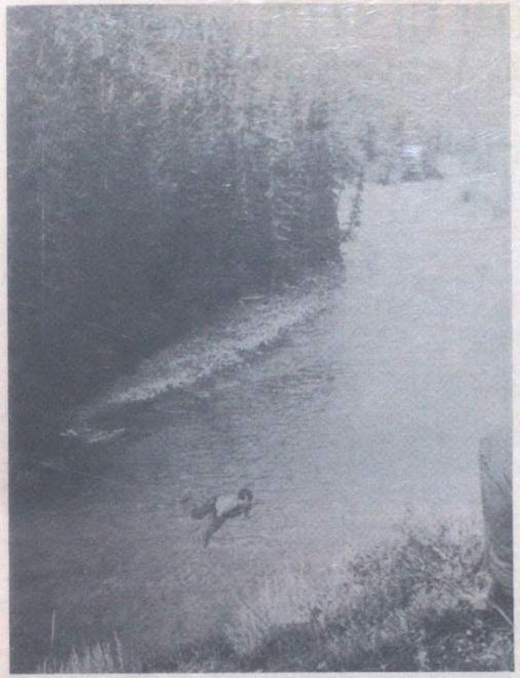
The actual cost of the expedition was £990.00, £500 of that being an Academy Grant, the rest paid by the members. The majority of this was spent on hiring and running of the vehicles we had out there. These were arranged through BATUS. At the other end **Capt Philip Bell RCT,** ATLO Calgary, gave the advance party great help in the initial stages of the expedition. Rations were supplied by BATUS but were supplemented by fresh rations. Most of the admin problems at the camp itself were sorted out at a local tourist resort.

THE DIARY

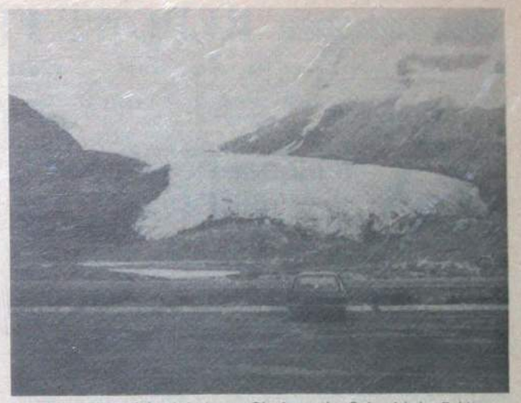
20-21 Aug	These first two days were spent checking our kit after the flight from Brize Norton to Calgary, and having a day's climbing at Windy Point Crags. For most of the party it was a first and unforgettable memory of 'loose' rock.
22-23 Aug	The Athabasca Glacier provided an excellent introduction to the Columbia ice field. Here we spent our time practising rope work, snow and ice techniques and front pointing.
24-26 Aug	It was now time to improve our fitness so two one-day treks were carried out up local peaks. The first trek was originally a walk up to the Siffleur Falls, but was extended by a climb up a mountain to about 7,000ft. However, the second trip, after a day of rest, was up a mountain named Twin Peaks, 8,000ft. Two and a half hours of steady walking saw us at the top, with some excellent views. The trip down was a 2,000ft scree run, which for me was a very memorable 20 minutes.
27 Aug	A day of climbing on more 'loose' rock.
28-30 Aug	This was our first major trek which we undertook. It was up to the 'Abbots Pass' hut, a quick climb and back down the other side of the pass. We fortunately had a Canadian by the name of **Chris Hamilton** acting as a guide, who was accompanied by his daughter **Shella** and a friend **Jenny.** The trek started at Lake O'Hara and we moved up to Lake Oesa. We seldom saw the pass since it was misty most of the climb, however, on arriving at the hut the weather cleared and we had a splendid view of the rocky range. An Alpine start the following morning saw the small groups making their way up Mount Lefroy, led by the tireless **Haydn.** The grade one climb took three hours and like many of the peaks the top was about two foot wide with a huge cornice. We climbed quickly down before the sun came round on to the slope. The girls had prepared lunch, so we cleaned up the hut and moved down the other side of the pass early in the afternoon. Again the scenery en route was spectacular. The evening was spent in typical Canadian style with a barbecue.
31 Aug-4 Sep	Perhaps the most important part of the trip — R and R. The party split into three groups and went far and wide. Vancouver, Edmonton and Banff/Yamnuska. The latter party continuing the good work with an 800ft climb, the Red Shirt route.
6 Sep	The party together again at last, we set off for another trek, this time in the Mount Robson Park. The 12 mile Berg Lake trek took us through some of the best geography seen on the trip. The night was spent in a lean-to, listening to the bears outside.
7 Sep	An early start after a quick breakfast and by five o'clock we had returned down the trek to the cars.
8-11 Sep	The usual end of expedition admin, kit cleaning, checks etc. The vehicles were handed back at the airport and we boarded the RAF VC10 at 1800 on the 11th. The flight back was via Gander and Wildenrath.
12 Sep	A day spent at Wildenrath and a flight back to RAF Lyneham.



The view across the Southern Canadian Rockies from the summit of Mount Lefroy — 11,3000ft — at 8 O'Clock in the morning



Graham Norris on the confidence area near Siffleur Falls



The tongue of the Athabasca Glacier at the Columbia Icefields

AIM ACHIEVED

The aim of the expedition was certainly achieved; we all received a good insight into the kind of problems that are likely to arise, and the solving of them. We hope to return in 1980 to climb Robson and then perhaps if all goes well we will be leading our own expeditions to various parts of the world.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

CHANGES AT THE TOP

By the time we go to press the Management at Portadown will have received its two-yearly face-lift. Between time of writing and the spring of 1979 no less than four of our senior personalities are due for posting. First to depart in mid-January is our 2IC, **Capt David Collyer** scheduled for a tour with 7 Fd Force, followed in quick succession by the Quartermaster, **Capt John Ient** to 8 Sig Regt, and **Lt Bob Turnbull** to, as yet, an unknown destination. Finally in the late spring the Squadron Commander **Maj Jeremy Ventham.** Quite a traumatic period and one which will no doubt test us sorely.

With Summer well behind us, what there was of it, leave taken, holidays enjoyed and the relative calm of the late summer and autumn now history we face the Ulster Winter. Already the rains are upon us, with rivers swollen, fields and tracks deep in mud, the seasonal problems are filling our repair and maintenance logs. This coupled with the new Commercial Radio re-equipping and installation programme throughout the Brigade TAOR there are unquestionably very few idle hands.

MIDNIGHT OIL

The bulk of work associated with the Storno equipment programme falls in the main on the shoulders of the Riggers, Linemen, Operators and Technicians of A/TM led currently by **Lt Bob Turnbull** and **SSgt Bob Oliver** ably assisted by **(FofS) John 'Scarlet Pimpernel' Francis.** All can oft be seen burning the midnight oil inspecting, testing and installing the vast quantities of talkthroughs, handbags, CQP 833 and 632s in operation centres, cars, landrovers, APC's, ships and even Marine Assault Craft (Raiders) throughout the Brigade Area.

New faces in the Troop include **SSgt Denis Usher, Cpls Jock Reid** and **Mike Hamilton, Sigs Olly Oliver** and **Smiley O'Driscoll** whom we welcome. Our fond farewells and thanks go to **SSgt Steve Harrison,** 233 Sqn beware and **Cpl Pete Younger,** one of our 'all time favourites'.

AN OFFERING FROM THE 'HAIRIES'

THE BALLAD OF THE THREE BRIGADE LINEMEN

This is the story of the boys
with all the work to do
they talk about them far and wide
they are called 'The Motley Crew'

There's John McMichan (he's in love)
and feeling very frisky
Dougie Whitelaw also is in love
in love with Scottish whisky

Oscar's the boss no doubt of that
as keen as keen can be
And Brian Airey dreams of the day
he'll pass his BFT

They don't want rest, they don't need sleep
They don't even stop for grub
And if you wish to call them out
Just phone the 'Placcy Pub' ('Huntsman' really
but it doesn't fit)

In Newry, Omagh and Crossmaglen
they speak of them in fear
They'll do the job be it day or night
But for God's sake hide the beer



MAINTENANCE LOAD
Cpl Jamie Jamieson and LCpl Trev Smith with two for surgery



AUDACIOUS ANTENNA AGENTS
Cpl Don Chester and SSgt Bob Oliver on the way down

COMCEN

Our intrepid Data Telegraphists, under the watchful eye of **Sgt 'Dave' Cloake** have continued during the past few months to wind their way through the dense jungle of shifts, guards and as always Reserve Platoon Operations (Infantry Role). The continuing efficiency of the comcen however, does lend support to the rumour that **Sgt 'Dave' Cloake** has actually devised a workable '24 hour Crisis Management System'.

Within our troop notes we would like to mention the support given us by three members of Alpha Troop, **Sgt 'Martin' Hardy, Sgt 'Geordie' Rose** and **Cpl 'Rock' Hudson.** This happy trio (or whatever a group of terminal Technicians are called) travel hundreds of miles monthly ensuring that our Brigade Sub-Unit Comcens have the best available technical support. Thanks lads, from the Comcen!

SOME MILEAGE

The MT continues to motor its way around our extremely large Brigade Area (3,500 square miles), the total vehicle mileage in the past 12 months being almost one million miles.

It would seem appropriate at this time of year to quash the following rumours:

Dvr Tiny Townsley — is 'not' being posted to Fords/Dagenham as a test driver, to help enforce government sanctions on that company.

Cpl Pip Stevens — 'Will' eventually work in the servicing bay, after the new details board has been secured to the wall. (The previous one fell on his head.)

Lt Allan Duncan — Is 'not' in fact banned from the POL point, as a result of his 'Buddhist Monk' suicide bid with methylated spirits.

LCpl Bas Butterworth — 'can' speak English, when forced to do so.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sig Bunny Warren — on his engagement to **Bernadette.**

Cpl John Mullen — on actually managing to complete the typing of the Corporals' Mess Rules. (After 10 or so attempts.)

Cpl Chris Maltby — and his wife **'Pat'** on the birth of their daughter **Claire Louise.**

Cpl Pip Stevens — and his wife **'Margaret'** on the birth of their son.

LCpl Robbo Robinson — and his wife on the birth of a son.

WO2 Tony Cross — on going into hospital with an ingrown toenail and coming out minus an 'appendix' and his sense of humour.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to: **LCpl Archie Arbuckle** and **Ann**
Sig Michael Clare
Sig Jeoff Sykes

DEPARTURES

Sig Tony Rees, Cpl Lofty Garside and **Sig Lou Carr** — enjoy your new postings. **Sig Bebbs Bebbington** and **LCpl Jock King** to civvy street — all our good wishes go with you.

FLYING TECH

Just a short note of congratulations to **Sgt Martin Hardy** on his selection to the Army Gliding Team for the forthcoming Inter-Services Gliding Championship which will be held at Little Rissington in May. He is seen here with his own aircraft a single 'Astir' in practice in Scotland earlier this year.



FLYING TECHNICIAN
Sgt Martin Hardy on and over Scotland

STORES NEWS

Since July the Squadron has been under siege from PRE Teams, Pay Teams, Doc's Teams, Ordnance Ancillary Teams and even the dreaded (nay revered) Defence Auditors and despite operations, weather and BFT's we have emerged, just, with but a few scares. An extremely involved and busy time for all but we are pleased to say with good marks. A visit from the Quartermaster Designate, **Capt John Haydon** in mid-November was most welcome and we look forward with keen anticipation to his arrival in late January. The run up to Christmas is as hectic as ever, especially so this year for we have the added burden of stocktaking. Not wishing to tempt providence but hopefully all should get a break sometime over the festive season. In mid-November **LCpl Dixon** (now 16 Sig Regt) took the plunge and we take this opportunity of wishing **John** and **Louise** happiness. A welcome to **Sgt Red Hancock RAOC** a notable rugby figure and **Sgt Rick Mayor** also RAOC but with a fine pedigree having served his apprenticeship as an OWL with the Corps in the early 50's. Other personalities in the news include **Sig Trouble Shooter Jim Mahon** who did well in the recent NI Cross Country Championships and was only hampered by the bergen full of bricks which the handicap committee insisted he carry. The **Canderton** family ably led by **WO2 Brian Canderton RHA** walked away with most of the prizes at the recent Christmas Cake Competition and the Quartermaster is in mourning because all the Golf Courses are closed (under water). And last but with some pride we mention our Disco Team of **LCpl Trevor Potter** and **Geoff Purvis** currently providing the best music in the Province. Stax Disco make a note you may need them.



Sgt Rick Mayor RAOC, LCpl Trevor Potter R Signals, Pte John Taylor RAOC, WO2 Brian Canderton RA, LCpl John Dixon R Signals, WO2 (RQMS) Pete Rossall R Signals, Pte Geoff Purves RAOC, Sgt Ron Roberts R Signals, Sgt Lew Sharman R Signals, Capt (QM) John Ient R Signals, Mrs Pat Mooring, WO2 Ella Murphy WRAC, Mrs Joan Neale, Sig Jim (Action Man) Mahon R Signals, LCpl Dave Roberts RAOC, Sgt Dave Crabbe RAOC. The many faces of the Quartermasters Department



VERY INTERESTING
Brig David Thorne OBE, Commander 3 Infantry Brigade during a short visit to the Sqn FATSO/FAMTO Store. Sgt Rick Mayor RAOC in attendance



FIRST MOMENTS
LCpl and Mrs John Dixon

HUNTSMAN

Like the Phoenix an All Ranks Club once affectionately known as the 'Plastic Pub' has received a long overdue facelift. Under the direction of **Capt David Collyer** and **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Rossall,** the rehabilitated and very smart new Huntsman was officially and in time honoured fashion well and truly opened on Saturday, 25 November, 1978. Past members of the Squadron would be well pleased with the results, as were all the guests. This is a much needed and appreciated facility run and controlled by members of the Squadron and those responsible have our thanks and support.

140 YEARS OF SERVICE

On Tuesday, 21 November, **Lt Gen Sir Timothy Creasey** GOC Northern Ireland paid a visit to Portadown and in particular to the Sergeants' Mess where, with due ceremony, he presented no less than eight Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to members of the Squadron, including six 'Signallers'. Following the more formal observances members and guests recorded the occasion in the traditional and time honoured manner and wet the 'Gongs'. Our congratulations to them all.



PRESENTATION GROUP—WOs & SGTS MESS 3 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN
SSgt Brian Aldridge, Sgt Lew Sharman, Cpl Mick Harlow, SSgt Mick Bryant, Lt Gen Sir Timothy Creasey, WO2 Ella Murphy, SSgt Steve Harrison, SSgt Bob Oliver, WO2 Tony Cross

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B.F.P.O. 807

INTO PRISON

November was a particularly busy month for the Brigade, with the strike by the prison wardens putting a heavy burden on both manpower and supplies of communications equipment. Operation *Leasehold* got under way on 3 November and lasted until 15 November. This necessitated the setting up by the Army of a prison complex at Magilligan called HMP Foyle. It was designed to hold 200 prisoners.

The task of providing an internal telephone and intercom system was given to the Squadron. This task was successfully completed by the Line Section under the very able guidance of **SSgt Al Finney** and members of the Defence Platoon who provided the extra manpower needed. Over a three day period they laid 15 miles of cable. In addition to line work the Sqn provided a local UHF pocketphone system and Radio Relay back to Londonderry.

A special mention must go to **SSgt Tom Maloney ACC** and **Ptes Nick Cole** and **Pete Whelpdale** who worked within the confines of the prison walls as cooks for the prisoners. These three were the only members of the Army to have any contact with the prisoners, many of whom were known terrorists. Luckily a few prisoners were ODCs (Ordinary Decent Criminals)!

FOCUS ON QM DEPARTMENT

The task of supplying all the equipment required for this large operation went to this department and entailed many hours of extra work and a lot of mileage going back and forth collecting and delivering the many essential items of equipment which left the Quartermaster's Stores looking strangely bare.

The QM's department rarely gets a mention in The Wire and we sometimes feel that their hard work goes unnoticed. Here are the personalities who do the work. **Capt (QM) Tom Keany** heads the list with **WO2 (RQMS) Bill Olive** as second in command. Then come the workers, **Sgt Frank Lunness, Cpl Bob Burnett** and **LCpl Taff Winkler.** We do also have another contingent which assists us in our work and although not of the Corps we feel they deserve a mention; they are **SSgt John Hogan 9/12 Lancers, Sgt Mick Daly RAOC, Cpl Bert (oily rag JATE trained) Dovell, Cpl Cy Howard RCT** and **LCpl John Brogan RAOC** (He wears a red beret for some reason) and last but not least is the longest serving member of the troop, **Mr Larry Zammitt.**

ANNUAL REPORT ON A UNIT

Formerly known as Fitness for Role this inspection took place on 9 November and the Brigade Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle MBE,** was well pleased.

During the inspection the Commander opened the new radio room by cutting the tape across the door. The scissors used in this operation were carried by **WO2 (FofS) John Macdonald** on the ceremonial cushion. A lot of hard work by the Foreman and his technicians made it possible to meet the deadline set by **Maj Tim Waugh.** The inspection continued with a visit to the QM Department where the Commander met members of the department and spent a few minutes talking to each one. Then on to the 'Foyle View' (our Senior Ranks Club) for a curry lunch.

Before lunch, the Brigade Commander had one task to perform. This was a presentation of the LS & GC medal to **Sgt John Pennington** who has just completed 15 years service with the Corps, and, as the photograph shows, he was just as pleased to receive the medal as the Commander was to present it.

On 12 November we all congregated in the large gymnasium on Clooney Base Camp for the Remembrance Service to commemorate those who fell during the two world wars and our own comrades who have given their lives during the recent troubled times. In the afternoon the OC laid a wreath in Londonderry, where evidence of the destruction caused in the past years is all around.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE



The Brigade Commander opens the new radio room, whilst Foreman John MacDonald, who provided the scissors looks on



Maj Tim Waugh lays a wreath at the Londonderry War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday



Sgt John Pennington receives his LS&GC from Brigadier Myrtle

FAREWELL TO COMMANDER

On 10 November, the WOs and Senior NCOs of 8 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn dined out the Brigade Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle MBE,** who left the Brigade on 1 December for RCDS to be relieved by **Brig C. T. Shortis OBE** who we hope will have a happy tour with the Brigade. Another farewell dinner took place on 24 November. This time we said goodbye to **WO1 (RSM)** and **Mrs R. I. Buckley** who go to Catterick on 28 November. Our photograph shows **WO2 (RQMS) Bill Olive** making a presentation on behalf of the WOs and SNCOs of 8 Bde Sig Sqn whilst **Mrs Gaby Waugh** looks on.

We would like to welcome our new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Ken Clark** and his wife **Flo,** who arrived on 14 November from 7 Sig Regt just in time for the start of the festive season.

VISIT OF CR SIGNALS

To complete our month of hard work we were visited by CR Signals; **Lt Col Mike Marples** spent the day meeting almost everyone in the squadron.



And at his own farewell RSM Ian Buckley is presented with some Irish crystal by RQMS Bill Olive on behalf of the Sgts Mess



Brigadier Myrtle is presented with Northern Ireland mementos by RSM Ian Buckley at his farewell dinner in the WOs and Sgts Mess

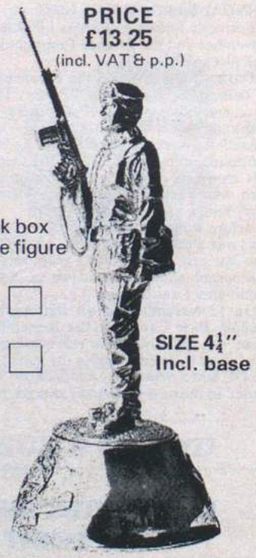
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39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

FAREWELL TO COMMANDER

The most notable, and sad, event since our last report has been the departure of **Brig J. R. A. MacMillan,** who has commanded 39 Infantry Brigade for the past twenty months. He has unfalteringly steered the Brigade through a period of redeployments and force reductions, and has inspired great admiration and affection from all. We shall also sadly miss his wife **Belinda,** whose effervescent personality has added a touch of spice to Lisburn life. We wish them both the very best of good fortune and would warn the inhabitants of Camberley that the town will soon resound to falsetto cries of 'Dipper!' (the dog who resolutely refuses to respond to any call below middle C). We extend a warm welcome to **Brig D. J. Ramsbotham** and **Sue,** his wife, and hope that they will enjoy their tour with us.

OTHER DEPARTURES

We also say farewell over the end of the year to **Capt Stephen Siddall**, the 2IC of the Squadron, and to **WO2 (RQMS) Frank Quinn. Steve** has been with us for almost two years, and has expended an enormous amount of nervous energy as the 'Operations Officer' of the Squadron, exercising his mind on such knotty matters as planning commercial radios for the 1980's, and acting as a hardened diplomat towards the Post Office. We shall miss his tremendously detailed knowledge of communications in Belfast and also his sardonic sense of humour. He and **Jill** go with our best wishes to Shrivenham and thence to Camberley. **Frank Quinn** has only been with us for seven months, but in that time has had more than his fair share of major undertakings in the quatermongering world; he has also turned out a fair number of rather apt cartoons, one of which we enclose with this contribution. He and **Katie** go to their next job in London with our good wishes.

A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE

Seven members of the Squadron took their lives in their hands (and their seasickness pills in their washbags) to spend a few days providing the boarding party for Naval patrols in the Irish Sea. Having broken the first ship (a hasty disclaimer was issued by **Lt Tim Maynes**, who commanded our party) they transferred to another one—by all accounts an interesting manoeuvre. The only notable find consisted of three lady stowaways who had been lured from a dockside bar in Eire and smuggled on board by the crew. Radio communication with the boarding party was inexplicably lost during this episode—we suspect heavy interference . . .

The other members of the party were **Sgt John Moody, Cpl Jimmy Smith, LCpl 'Lofty' Hatton, Sig 'Bomber' Roe, Sig Sammy Smale** and **Pte John McGing.**

OPERATIONS IN BELFAST

We have completed a major rearrangement of the units in the Brigade (yet again!) and are now settling in to the new order of things. The Provisionals are threatening an intensified campaign over Christmas; by the time you read this we shall all know whether or not it actually comes off! The bombing level at the moment is quite high, and we have been involved in extra patrolling in Lisburn. OC Comms Tp has resolved to stop visiting Hi-fi shops, as they keep getting blown up just afterwards.

HYPER-ACTIVITY

On Friday 27 October we held a 'Super-troop competition'! This was a sado-masochistic exercise involving a tug-of-war, a log race (horror!), hockey and an obstacle course. The Comms Troop teams swept the board, with only one point separating them at the end of the day. MT Troop were next, and the Administrators brought up the rear. **LCpl Tony Thomas**, under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) Alan Bailey**, organised the whole event, and much credit must go to him for its smooth and efficient running.

RUGBY TOUR

A team drawn from units in the Brigade, and under the watchful (?) eye of **Capt Jim Snape RE**, went to BAOR to play rugby against sundry units in Rhine Area. They report an indecently large number of points for an embarrassingly small number of points against, so from a purely sporting angle it seems to have been a considerable success. This is not to say that the social angle was neglected, and the Squadron members of the team (**Capt Jim Snape, Maj Adrian Pierse, Capt Barry Aitken, LCpl Nosker Mullin, Cpl Tony Crawshaw, Sig Tony Bentley, Sig 'Robbo' Roberts, Dvr Pud Pudney, Pte 'Caesar' Hobson** and **Dvr Bernie Heppinstall**) were looking a little the worse for wear when they returned.



The cover for Brig John MacMillan's last morning brief – 6 Dec 1978, drawn by WO2 (RQMS) Frank Quinn



Lt Tim Maynes doing his imitation of a monkey on a stick in the Supertroop obstacle race

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

CONGRATULATIONS

First, our very warmest congratulations go to **Cpl Paul Morgan** of Delta Troop on the award of the BEM in the latest Northern Ireland Operational List — also to **Cpl Norman Withington** (late of Whiskey Tp, who has now left us to transfer to the RMP) on his GOC's Commendation. This latter award is in recognition of his prompt and unselfish action on board the Liverpool to Belfast Ferry last April when he foiled a suicide attempt.

A BUSY PERIOD

October and November have been very busy months for the Squadron with three major Tech Troop projects being completed: The BRUIN auto exchanges, the Ballykinler Urban Close Quarter Battle Range and the new Northern Shot radio relay chain. We discovered just how busy we had been when the Squadron was asked to complete an 'Hour of Work' Survey. Dividing the day into Normal, Overtime and Unsocial Hours was rather an academic exercise, but it served to show how we fill our days — and nights! WE have enjoyed our fair share of visits both from within the Province and from the Mainland. The DCN Functional Review Team (not to be confused with the Spanish Inquisition) have been and gone, and the Squadron acted as hosts for the quarterly CR Signals Conference. Our photographs show events getting underway.



CR Signals Conference: WO2 (RQMS) Ron Russell holds the attention of Maj Tim Waugh (8 Bde), OC 233 and WO2 (SSM) Brian Smith.



THE FOREMEN OF IRELAND?
L to R: Capt (TOT) Tony Porritt (39 Bde), WO2 (FofS) Steve Sims (39 Bde), John Macdonald (8 Bde), John Francis (3 Bde), Joe Smith (233 Sig Sqn)

A MAGNIFICENT TOWER!

At Lisburn on Friday 1 December, exactly 18 months since the project was committed to paper, CLF **Maj Gen R. B. Trant** declared open the latest 'bricks and mortar' addition to the Squadron—the 150ft Lisburn Microwave Tower. The tower, built from precast concrete sections strengthened from top to bottom with steel bolts, was erected over a 10 day period last August. The erection has been called many things in the last 2 months—two of the cleaner titles being an Irish Pipe Range—and an Irish Well! One thing is certain, it has aroused acute symptoms of male envy. Sigmund Freud would recognise these as stemming from a feeling of inadequacy! The tower forms the anchor for the military radio relay chain to Great Britain, a vital communications system which until 1 December used standard military equipment.

CHAMPAGNE ALL ROUND

Having been summoned to the tower by a 65 watt Muezzin's call to prayer, courtesy of Tech Troop, **Gen Trant's** first duty was to send a champagne bottle swinging across the Squadron Compound to impact on the tower. No one was more relieved than **SSgt Roderick Gladwin** when a 'hit' was made. (Pythagoras Rules—OK?) On opening the tower door, the CLF found two of the Squadron's aerial riggers inside, **LCpl Nig Parry** and **Sig Gary Elliston** armed with a bottle of champagne—and it was drinks all round. The tower has an internal steel ladder with resting stations built at 50 and 100ft above ground level, but as drinking and climbing do not go well together, the General moved on to view the new radio equipment, meet the civilian installation engineer and make calls over the system to other stations in the radio relay chain. Altogether a momentous day for 233 Sig Sqn and congratulations to all concerned with the successful completion of this important project. School of Signals, Eat your heart out!



Maj Gen Trant keeps his eye on the target as Maj P. E. A. Chaddock, OC 233 Sig Sqn, gives CLF operating instructions for releasing the Champagne bottle



Inside the tower celebrations are in order. *Left to Right:* LCpl Nig Parry, CLF, Sig Gary Elliston

TECH TROOP REPORT

We take this opportunity at the season of the year, to greet our comrades throughout the Corps. It is traditionally a time for taking stock and reflecting on achievements and standards attained during the past year. It can be seen from previous Wire Notes that we have managed to fit in a few sporting activities when work has permitted and notably we were well represented in the Athletics team which took the Army Minor Units Athletics Cup in the summer. This hasn't interfered with an exhausting list of projects completed during the year. Headed by **Maj (TOT) Gil Sharp** and ably assisted by **WO2 (FofS) Joe Smith,** Tech Troop has daily travelled around the Province—from Magilligan in the north to Ballykinler in the south and all points in between—in the course of fulfilling our commitment as the Corps representatives for the whole Province.

The Radio Section has re-equipped 11 Battalions of the UDR with a new VHF system which involved the Foreman and all the technicians in a considerable amount of extra work manufacturing interface boxes and installing talk-through stations and masts throughout the Province.

The Radio Relay Section have accepted the 'Northern Shot' microwave system from the team of Plessey engineers who have quietly assembled the 24 channel system with all its ancillary equipment supervised and harassed by a determined **WO1 Tim Southall**, the CPA representative. The system was inaugurated on 1 December. During the opening ceremony **Maj (TOT) Gil Sharp** was conspicuous by his absence, leaving **Capt Nick Franks** to explain to the disgruntled staff of HQNI why their repose had been disturbed yet again by Tech Troop.

IMMORTALISED

Maj Sharp was busy attending the Handover of the CQBR(U) which took place on the same day and has been our biggest project to date. It involved the whole Troop but the work was mainly done by Radio Relay Section led by **Sgt Andy Roberts** and assisted by **Sgt Jim Turner** and **Cpl Mick Parsons**, whilst **Cpl Bill Allen** led his line crew of **Sigs Gary Elliston** and **Keith Randle.** Together they provided the sophisticated Audio system around the range which was manufactured locally from designs by **Maj Sharp** and **WO2 Joe Smith.** It is no coincidence that the range, which is virtually a self-contained small town, carries such place names as 'Sharp Flats', 'Smiths Alley' and 'Roberts Row'. So Tech Troop has been immortalised—at least for the duration of the CQBR(U).

CHAT FACILITY

Systems have been involved in the CQBR to a minor extent but they have had their work cut out installing a BRUIN auto system throughout the Province which links all the Bdes and HQNI, giving them a tandem dialling system and Auto fail facilities.

(Note to CPA: An exchange line unit is not the same as a tie-line with supervisory reversal.) They have also spent a good deal of their time modifying the tower intercom system around the Maze, formerly Long Kesh, so that the guards can chat to each other and so relieve their duty of some of its tedium.

CONSTABULARY STEP IN

The Line Section represented by **LCpl Nig Parry**, with the assistance of **Cpl Steve Chopping** and **Sig Taff Aston**, loaned to us by 3 Div Sigs for a month, completely rewired the Maze tower communications system and assisted with the Intercom modifications. **Cpl Bill Allen** asked for a few days leave; this was reluctantly granted when he intimated that he only wanted to get married. He was warned before he left the CQBR project for Cirencester, (the home town of his fiancee **WCpl Jeanette Squires** of the Commcen) that he may be recalled should the 'exigencies of service' require it.

He was a very worried man when his wedding speech was interrupted by two burly stalwarts of the noble Cirencester Constabulary who told him that they had an urgent message from **Maj (TOT) Gil Sharp** at the CQBR. The message read, 'Congratulations from all of Tech Troop', but it was sufficient to throw **Cpl Allen** completely out of his stride and leave him lost for words for once. All our comings and goings have caused Admin Troop to suffer untold frustration in their attempts to tie us down in one place long enough to get even a token excuse for our various misdemeanours.

PROMISES

Our thanks to MTNCO, **Sgt Rod Pylee** who has a particularly hard time trying to keep a vehicle from his fleet that is not used exclusively by Tech Troop. He even went to the trouble of providing us with a vehicle of our own which we managed to VOR with gay abandon within 5 days—which is no criticism of Rover's Solihull workforce, rather a tribute to our budding 'Fangios'. It is rumoured that he has even been known to drive us around in his private car in an endeavour to satisfy our insatiable demands for him for transport. Whilst **Sgt Rod Pylee** has suffered in silence, just along the corridor the offices of **RQMS Ron Russell**, and **Sgt Mick Kilvington** have echoed rather more loudly in response to either our attempts to wrest stores from them or their efforts to discover who ordered the latest pack of goodies to arrive, apparently unsolicited, from various parts of the world.

With most of our projects approaching completion we are looking forward to a good festive season and a quieter New Year. However, whispers tell us that we are going to be even busier next year than we were this, but we shall still find time to do our bit on the sports field and submit notes for The Wire. (Promises, Promises)

McKELVIE TROPHY

Inter Troop rivalry is at a particular 'high' at the moment with each troop attempting to win the McKelvie Trophy. **Dave McKelvie** was a keen sportsman who died whilst serving with this Squadron in March 1973. The trophy was given to the Squadron by his parents, to be presented each year to the winners of the Inter Troop Sports Competition. The Trophy is contested over the following sports: Football, Hockey, Badminton, Squash, Basketball and Volleyball. The sports are played in a friendly spirit (he lies) and we have discovered a few hidden talents, to name but a few:

Sig Aidan McLeod (Commcen Troop) who is thinking of a trial for Southern Ireland (we hope) after the display of Soccer skill which helped defeat Comms Troop in a close fought contest.

Sgt Mick Hague (Chief Clerk) can be heard at most times during the day throwing out challenges to anyone who dares to play him at squash (he sometimes allows other members of Admin Troop the occasional game).

Sig (I'll take an extra) Sam Backhouse who finds time in between Guard duties to play a very good game of badminton. We are sure the competiton will bring to light a few more 'Chairbound Warriors' over the next few months. That is exactly what **Dave McKelvie** would have liked.



COMMCEN TP IN TRAINING FOR THE McKELVIE CUP
Sig Aidan McLeod (Commcen Troop's secret weapon) Also W/LCpl Chris Marshall in her Sunday best

WHISKEY TROOP REPORT

Since our last contribution the troop has been through a comparatively quiet period. We would like to use this opportunity however to say 'bon voyage' to **Sig Jeff Biggs** posted to 9 Sig Regt and, of course, congratulations on his promotion to LCpl. Also we would like to welcome to the troop **Sgt Phil Phillips, Cpl Spider Anton** and **Sig Paul Biss**, we hope your tours with us are happy ones.

On the sporting side we are holding our own in the Squadron McKelvie Cup. In fact it has brought to light some potential Squadron Players, **FofS Fred Brown** in particular has shown that he is a reliable full back in a hockey team, although a few of his tackles leave a lot to be desired.

The ladies of the troop headed by **Annette Chapman** have been involved in raising cash for a local charity. Their funds appear to be accumulating nicely and we hope to have a more detailed account of their efforts in our next contribution.

FIRST AID COMPETITION

One cold Sunday morning at six o'clock, five people clambered into a landrover, clutching their field dressings, and trying to remember just what the ¾ 'prone' position was again. A strange scene perhaps, but in fact the Squadron first aid team were on their way to take part in the Northern Ireland First Aid Competition. The Squadron team which consisted of **2Lt Jacqui Wallace, WO2 (SSM) Brian Smith** (team manager), **Sgt Don Robertson, Cpl Jimmy Murry** and **LCpl John Stander** had practiced every day for about 2 weeks before the competition. It caused quite a stir in the Squadron. When **LCpl Tiny Ludlam** (a 'volunteer' patient), crawled out from behind a tree, his face a mass of blood, the cry went around the compound 'Quick, someone's injured!' In fact it was only plasticine and food colouring. First Aid Team practice of course!

The Competition itself was set up in stands. Each team went around the course moving from stand to stand and only had five minutes to complete each task, so you had to act fast. The tests themselves ranged from written questions to dealing with a bomb blast, injuring more than six people. At the end of the day, we did not come first, that was 2RRF B team from Londonderry, but we didn't come last either, the Squadron had never taken part before, and it was certainly valuable experience—Watch Out Ballykinler, we'll be there again next year!

BRAINS OF THE SQUADRON

The first round of this year's 'Brains of 233 Signal Squadron' took place during November with all troops in the Squadron, the Families Club and CR Signals Branch entering teams. A number of teams have already shown exceptional promise but in the first game the Quizmaster, **WO2 (Supvr R) Roger Courtney** had a few anxious moments when he was on the sixteenth question before a correct answer was received (had he made the questions too difficult?) However after a slow start, and allowing a few minutes for participants to get over their nerves, the competition picked up.

A few humorous incidents have occurred. Readers may be amused to know that we have at least one member who believes Basil Brush and not Basil Spence designed Coventry Cathedral.

All winning teams are now looking forward to the second round to be played in January. We hope by March to be able to label one troop 'The Brains of 233 Signal Squadron'.

The Results so far:

Whiskey Troop	Bt	Switchboard	27 to 8
Comms Troop 1	Bt	CR Sigs Branch	20 to 18
Echo Troop	Bt	Victor Troop	32 to 31
Tech Troop 1	Bt	Commcen 2	34 to 18
Comms Troop 2	Bt	Admin Troop	40 to 19
Commcen Troop 1	Bt	Families Club 1	46 to 22
Tech Troop 2	Drew	A Bye	

Delta Troop gained a Bye as Families Club 2 withdrew from the Competition.

WELCOME

Cpl 'Yaka' Yates, LCpl Bob Brown, Cpl Phil Sadler, LCpl Mick Leek, Sgt Steve Fuszard, Sig Paddy McKittrick, Sig Chris Aspinall, Sig 'Trill' Potterton, Cpl John Bryant, Sgt Ray Francis, WO2 Eric Ross, Cpl John Valentine, Cpl Brian Rogers, Cpl Dave Murphy, Sig Jeff Simms, Sig Dave Lynch, LCpl 'Daisy' Appleyard, Sig Terry Shutt, Capt Colin French, Cpl Chris Rumbold, Sig Paul Biss.

FAREWELL

LCpl Paul Marshall, Cpl Roy Hemingway, Cpl 'Dinger' Bell, LCpl Steve Bell, LCpl Steve Barrington, Sgt John Henning, LCpl Mick Tanser, WO2 Dave Cunningham, Sgt Don McLennan, LCpl Rab McBride, Sgt Jim Travers, Sgt Rorrie Stewart, Cpl Mick Parsons, LCpl Jim Charnock, LCpl Dixie Dean, Capt Mike Jefferis.

FOOTBALL IN 233

After a successful Autumn season which saw the Squadron team finish third in the NI Minor Units League, the team looks forward to its next campaign.



233 SIG SQN SOCCER STARS

Front Row: L-R LCpl Mick Applegarth, Sig 'Chelsea' Lovett, Cpl Pete Dignam, SSgt Gary Mason, LCpl Stevie Barrington, Cpl Mal Hyndman, Sgt Andy Thompson

Back Row: L-R LCpl Bob McQueen, Cpl Dave 'Bite yer legs' Taylor, Sig Ginge Schofield, WO2 (RQMS) Ron Russell, LCpl Bob Hutchison, Sgt Roy Pickersgill (Capt), Sig Barney Raku-Evans, WO2 (SSM) Brian Smith (Manager)

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UDR REPORT

Tackling a challenging job in Northern Ireland with a unique volunteer citizen-soldier force are two officers of the Corps, **Capt T. M. (Terry) Martin** and **Capt T. E. B. (Tom) Cran,** both of whom are serving two-year duty tours as battalion quartermasters with the Ulster Defence Regiment — the youngest and largest infantry regiment in the British Army. They are among more than 120 Regulars, drawn from some 50 Regiments and Corps, who are filling staff posts at the Regimental and battalion headquarters of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR).

MANY CAP BADGES

Capt Martin is with the 1st (County Antrim) Bn UDR and **Capt Cran** with the 4th (County Fermanagh) Bn. The 8,000 soldiers (men and women) whom they are helping to train and administer, conduct their anti-terrorist operations from bases in all six counties of the Province — ranging from Enniskillen in Fermanagh's south-west 'Lake District' to Larne, more than 100 miles away on the north-east coast of Northern Ireland; and from Ballykelly, site of a former RAF station on Londonderry's north coast, down to Armagh, bordering the Republic of Eire. Although the Ulster Defence Regiment's infantry role has been emphasised by a recently introduced affiliation scheme which links a specific Division of Infantry with each of the UDR's 11 battalions, many of the officers and SNCOs at present filling training and administrative posts with the UDR are drawn from other regiments and corps.

The RA, RCT, REME, RMP, RAOC, RAPC, RTR, RE and WRAC also have Regulars filling slots on the staff of the UDR, the 1st Battalion of which is affiliated to The Light Division, and the 4th Battalion with The Prince of Wales Division.

THE ROLE

It is nine years since the Ulster Defence Regiment was formed and its increasing professionalism and effectiveness as an anti-terrorist force is becoming noted by military experts at home and abroad. Brought into being to support the regular forces in Northern Ireland in measures protecting the border and the State against armed attack and sabotage, its tasks range from making foot and vehicle patrols and manning checkpoints and roadblocks, to guarding vital installations and searching out caches of terrorist weapons. It operates boat patrols on the Province's loughs to prevent arms sumggling and put soldiers ashore in surprise landings to set up snap vehicle checkpoints. Helicopter airlifts further increase its mobility.

The Regiment has its own fleet of locally-built Shorland armoured cars and its role has become more varied as it has developed its search techniques. Each battalion now has a special search team, trained by the Royal Engineers in England, while the UDR's dog-handlers are trained by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

And because of their deep local knowledge, the potential of the Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers for gathering information is of considerable value to the police and to the Regular Army with whose operations those of the UDR are fully integrated, through the General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland and the headquarters of the three Regular Army brigades based in the Province.

HIGH PROPORTION OF PART TIMERS

Though the UDR takes pride in being a unit of the Regular Army, it differs from other regiments in a number of ways. One of these is that more than two-thirds of the force is made up of part-time soldiers who, after a normal day's work as civilians, report to their UDR bases for eight-hour duty stints on two or three nights a week. Any night of the week will find about 1,000 of them in uniform and on operations, and this figure doubles at weekends.

But while the backbone of the force remains these 5,500 part-timers, the UDR's day-time capability has been steadily developed by the build-up of its full-time element to some 2,500 soldiers — so improving the Regiment's round-the-clock effectiveness and strength that it has now been allocated 11 tactical areas of responsibility where the UDR provides the first line of military support for the police.

There can be no clearer indication that the authorities consider the Regiment is fit to carry out any operational task that would normally be demanded of the Regular Army in Northern Ireland — with the one exception of crowd control and riot duty in cities, tasks for which the UDR has not been trained.

SUCCESSES OUTSIDE IRELAND

Last year, UDR riflemen performed impressively at Bisley where one of its teams took 16th place in a major units championship in which 64 teams competed, and another (2 UDR) team was just pipped by a Gurkha team for first place in the snapshooting (Falling Plate) competition. These successes at Bisley, and on the Nijmegen Marches, and the Regiment's increasing participation in annual camps in England and in many other activities such as pipe band championships and sporting and other events, are bringing the UDR even wider acceptance as part of the Regular Forces.

MANY GREENFINCHES

Unlike the attached Regulars who live in accommodation provided by the Army, all the UDR soldiers, including the 750 women (known by their original radio call-sign of 'Greenfinches') live in their own homes. And the Greenfinches are recruited directly into the UDR, wear the same badge as the men, and do not have their own corps, such as the WRAC.

Today, most of these citizen-soldiers operate from new purpose-built centres, with their own firing ranges, armouries, messes and helicopter pads. As recruits join they are given eight days intensive training and subsequently are expected to complete at least 12 full days training a year, including three days at annual camp. UDR officers attend courses at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and all ranks may attend courses at other Army schools such as the School of Infantry at Warminster.

UNIQUE REGIMENT

Although members of this unique regiment (which serves operationally only in Northern Ireland) may leave after giving 28 days notice, large numbers in fact serve on for years and many of the soldiers today have been with the UDR since its formation at the beginning of 1970.

Most of the Regimental headquarters staff, headed by the Commander UDR, are attached Regulars. And on all battalions attached Regulars fill the posts of commanding officer, training major, quartermaster, training warrant officer, RSM, chief clerk, SNCO (Intelligence), weapon training instructor and armourer. Some of the pay sergeants are also Regulars.

All battalion seconds-in-command are part-time UDR soldiers and at company level, too, most of the OCs are part-timers, with only the full-time companies having a permanent cadre (full-time) UDR OC.

The Commander UDR, now **Brig David Miller, OBE, MC,** is responsible for all aspects of command except for operational tasking of the Regiment which is controlled by the GOC through the three Regular Brigades—8 Brigade with headquarters in Londonderry, 3 Brigade with its HQ in Portadown and 39 Brigade with its HQ in Lisburn where Army Headquarters Northern Ireland and HQ UDR are also based.

High points in the UDR's operations since it was formed have included the Regiment's mobilisation for a spell of full-time service when internment was introduced in 1971 and some 3,000 UDR soldiers were on duty, or available for duty, for three weeks. The following summer the Regiment was called out for Operation *Motorman*, the security forces' campaign to clear barricades in Belfast and Londonderry when 5,300 UDR soldiers reported for duty. Then, in 1976, when violence reached a high level, there was a selective call-out for five battalions, along with elements of a sixth, and in 1977 there were two general call-outs — the first to counter a Protestant workers' strike and the second to boost security during the Queen's visit to Northern Ireland.

HQ BAOR PHOTO REPORT



CSO BAOR, Maj Gen Baldwin in conversation with the senior Communications Officer HQ NORTHAG, Col Schulz, at the Allied Signal Officers Ball which was held at Bonn on 17 Nov. Mrs Baldwin and Frau Schulz are with their husbands



CSO BOAR recently visited the German School of Signals at Feldafing in Bavaria and the picture captures the spirit of harmony between our two Signal Corps as Maj Gen Baldwin and Brig Gen Stoffregen exchange gifts. Mrs Baldwin (right) and Frau Stoffregen were also present

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

HQ AFNORTH BFPO 50

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since our last report, we have said farewell to **Sgt John Sharp** and **Cpl Tom Hope** and welcomed **Sgt Colin Richardson, Sgt Roger (The Leg) Smith, Cpl Mick Forbes** and **LCpl Tony Gilmartin. Sgt Smith,** who joined us from a secret place in BAOR for a 3 year skiing holiday, managed to get his tour off to a resounding start by breaking a leg in two places in the annual AFNORTH RN versus Army soccer game. He is now on his second plaster cast and, we hope, well on the road to recovery. The 16 of January 1979 is the great day, watch this space!

ANNUAL DINNER

On the 25 August we held our annual Corps Dinner. Our Guest of Honour, **Lt Col John Montague**, was unable to attend, however, **Maj 'Doc' Watson** kindly volunteered to make the customary/traditional speeches. The dancing went on to the small hours and the fact that the evening was such an outstanding success is thanks largely to the efforts of **WO2 (FofS) Ben Lawson** and **SSgt Phil Welch.**

CinC PRESENTS LSGC

On 16 November 1978 the Commander in Chief AFNORTH, **Gen Sir Peter Whiteley**, presented LS&GC medals to **WO2 (FofS) Ben Lawson** and **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Welch.** After the presentation the traditional baptism was carried out in the SNCO's Club.

SPORTS ROUND UP

On the sporting side members of the Corps have been predominant:

Football **Sgt Sid Steele**
Cpls Tom Hope and **Stan Taylor.**

Shooting: **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Welch**
Sgt Roger Smith.

Running/Cross Country: **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Welch,** who at the age of 35 has notched up the following:

Oslo Marathon:
AFNORTH X-Country:
Norwegian Local Club:

12th over distance of 43 KM
1st in new record
Voted outanding VETERAN!! athlete of the year.

Dave, who started serious running two years ago is currently averaging over 90 miles a week in training.

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Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

SEA LEGS

The sporting and other mentionable extra-curricular activities available at the College numbered, at the last count, 56, and they all go on. (Old Boys please,note). No Editor in his right mind would give us the space to cover all these, but every so often a bit of a "special" crops up, which actually moves an apprentice to put pen to paper: of such was Ex *Sea-Legs.* The rest is a random selection of what else has been going on. Since our last contribution, the College has been involved in many extra-mural activities as well as competing in a number of sporting fixtures.

One of the most exciting of these was Exercise *Sea Legs,* in which a party of six Apprentices spent fourteen days sailing the 53-foot Sloop Ragna R from Kiel to Kristiansand. The following is an account of that thrilling experience. Six stalwarts, **AT Sgt Brian Cable, AT Cpl Pete Black, AT LCpls Chris Morris** and **Shaun Carter, AT's Chris Newman** and **Steven Mitchell** were skippered by **Col S. G. Townsend.**

EARLY DAYS

Report by AT LCpl Shaun Carter

The cruise began on Tuesday, 1 August after the skipper had introduced us to a sail and one or two other basic pieces. Eventually we motored out of the harbour and set sail with a nice breeze to push us along at a creditable eight knots. We continued throughout the day to maintain good progress and when the evening came we anchored in the lovely Forsvig Bay.

Next morning we were off to an early start. We put into Fredericia to collect supplies at lunchtime and after a short "first impression" visit we set off again. We arrived in Aarhus Bay in darkness to see a terrific fireworks display taking place in the town. A few of us went ashore to take a look around and have a bite to eat. Despite the fact that we were still moored up on Thursday morning we were up just as early as on previous mornings. We took the opportunity of visiting the local swimming baths and sauna, as we were to leave again after lunch.

SOCIAL ANGLES

On Friday our social diary was filled by a visit to a Danish Signal Regiment, who explained their role, training and equipments. Despite all this merrymaking, the only hangover on Saturday was the weather. So at 1000 hrs we slipped moorings and headed out for Genaa. The wind was strong and we made good time; however, upon arrival, we discovered it was 3kms into Feren so we all decided to call it a day. We moored in a Danish Naval Base where we made full use of all the facilities offered to us. A few went further afield on a shopping trip and purchased some real bargains: **Jock Cable** bought a snooker cue for £6, real value he claimed; others bought posters! and dolls! (not for us, I hasten to add). We rounded off the day by being invited to a "happy hour" at the Officers' Club — so called because it lasted most of the evening.

DANISH FRIGATE

On Tuesday the sun was warm and bright for our visit to a Danish frigate. We were shown round everything, from the engine room to the crow's nest. Finally we were taken to the Captain's cabin to meet him and partake of the usual beer. That evening being our last at Frederickshaven, we were permitted to use the facilities of the Officers' Club. The next day's sailing was only 20 miles, along the coast to Skagen, so we did not have to start too early. Judging from the smell as we approached we guessed it was a fishing port, and how right we were! The rest of the day was spent doing a walkabout inspection of the local talent and visiting a Swedish Seamen's Mission.

NORWAY BOUND

On Thursday, after a quick dip and confirmation of the weather forecast, we decided it was right to make the long trip across the Skagerrak, to Norway. However, during the long crossing the elements turned against us. Early on Friday morning the wind became very strong and life began to get uncomfortable. The wind eventually went up to Force 7 or 8; some waves were breaking right over the yacht. Finally we entered Arendal harbour, to our great relief: the eighty-mile crossing of the Skagerrak was over. The day was spent catching up on lost sleep and trying to keep down a meal. After dinner three of us went to the local cinema to see Saturday Night Fever — in Norwegian, which none of us understood. Setting off after lunch on Saturday, we said farewell to Arendal and set course for Grimstad. It was a wonderful experience to sail through all those beautiful islands or skerries as they are called.

KRISTIANSAND

Again on Sunday we navigated through the Skerries to Lillesand where we anchored-up in a sheltered bay. Some of us went into town; others, for a walk along the rocks and beaches.

Monday 14 August was our last sailing day, thank heavens. We awoke to a Force 6 head-on, and the sea was very rough. After a very exciting sail we arrived safely in Kristiansand. Upon arrival we had a very late lunch and walked into town. Among other things we found a women's football team called "Sodall Futbol Klub"! The following day saw the end of our cruise and the preparations to return home.

REFLECTIONS

Most of the cleaning and polishing had been done and our kit packed ready to catch the ferry from Kristiansand to Newcastle. Although all had fun it is good to be back home and no doubt it will be better for the Skipper. He will not have the ship's matches pinched by the "drug addicts", he will not be disturbed in the early hours of the morning by returning revellers, and he won't have six hungry mouths to feed and six awkward "sailors" wrecking his boat. Considering that some of the crew had never been on a yacht before I don't think we did too badly, and certainly everyone enjoyed it! The final Scrabble score was a draw!

CYCLING LAURELS

The wheel of fortune — urged by stout pedals and stouter calves — has turned happily for our cyclists since the summer (and they, of all people, will be asking bitterly when *that* was). More recently, they practically swept the board in the Army Roller Cycling Championships, producing the individual champions in the 400 metre as well as the 1500 metre Senior Sprints. The Juniors produced some equally good results taking second and third places in the Individual Championships, eventually finishing with 9 riders in the top 11 — a creditable performance.

What few would have expected though, is that we also have the reigning Ladies' Champion in **Lt Diane Willcox, WRAC,** whose times bettered many men's. (Sorry, **Di** — delete the bit about calves). Laurels, too, fell on the rustier-than-his-bike head of **AT LCpl Matt Beattie** who set up a new Junior 10-mile Road Time Trial record and who bids fair to become this year's Army Junior BAR Champion (No — it stands for Best All-Round). One must also admire the versatility of **WO2 Tony Curnow** who changes from 4 wheels (as MTO) to 2 with equally cheerful impartiality and efficiency. The Cycling Club owes much to his example and will miss him sorely. (And that's probably the right word).

RUGBY REPORT

Your correspondent seems to remember a wringing of hands, if not a gnashing of teeth, in week one over the College's not being able to raise a Rugby team. So it's all the nicer to report that not only have we got one: it's done pretty well — not least on grounds of durability. It is only now, towards the end of term, that broken collar-bones etc are giving some of the less experienced a look-in.

The Apprentices reached the Semi-Final of the Army Youth Cup when they shot down the Junior Gunners at Nuneaton — but then Chepstow had slightly the better of the ensuing tussle winning 22—13. The College took revenge (and satisfaction) by beating Arborfield 12—7, despite being short of five regular players (which, in the end, didn't seem to matter) and having to play a second-row forward on the wing (which must have). "Cometh the hour: cometh the man". The Rugby Club may have los **Capt Mahoney:** it has gained **SSM Kubu.**

The older element, or P.S. *got through* the first two rounds of the Minor Units' Cup (v Depot Scottish Infantry at Edinburgh 16-9; v Depot King's Div at Harrogate 4—0). Then 60 Sqn RCT had the misfortune to meet them in cricketing mood: 47—0. In the next round the team meets the Army Minor Units' Champions — the POW Division (absit omen!)

BASKETBALL

The College has two teams, both called, for some odd reason, Mercury — one "A", one "B". Both have entered the newly-formed Harrogate & District league: at going-to-press time, Mercury "A" (PS and Senior Term AT) have played 4, won 4 and are hot favourites to win the title. Two of them **Sgt Pete Sutherland** and **Sgt Matty Mathews,** have been selected to play for the Corps this season.

Mercury "B" (all apprentices) have been beaten once in the league but have won handsomely against the other AACs — Chepstow 45-27; Arborfield 55-34. Two players who are worthy of a mention in despatches are **AT Cpl Mike Reed** for consistent scoring, and **AT RSM Paul Cahill** an outstanding captain. (After all, he is 6' 2").

Communication Projects Agency

School of Signals--Blandford Camp



Front row (left to right): Maj Day, Maj Hooper, Maj Davis, Maj Holmes
Back row, (left to right): Capt Tricker, Capt Bridgeman, Capt Hammonds, Maj Webb

EIGHT WISE MEN

Our photograph shows the eight TOTs currently serving in CPA, each specialising in a different aspect of communications. Due to the amount of travelling required of our staff, it took approximately 3 months to assemble all of them in Blandford for this photograph. The total service of the eight is 242 years so there is a good chance that the reader may have served with one or more of them over the past 30 odd years. Six are Ex-Boys, 4 from Catterick and 2 from Harrogate. The other 2 have since atoned for their mis-spent youth.

Maj Colin Day heads an inspection team that travels the world. He was well know

Maj Colin Day heads an inspection team that travels the world. He was well known in his earlier days for his prowess on the hockey field but on the rare occasion when he is in the UK, he prefers to paddle his canoe on the River Stour which literally runs at the bottom of his garden.

Capt John Bridgeman's chief technical concern is with the RAOC data terminals and travels frequently from Blandford to Bicester and Andover. It is not that his duties are so arduous, his hair was white before he joined CPA.

Capt Wally Hammonds deals with STARRNET, the microwave network in BAOR. He also was a hockey player but now umpires instead. At one time he was the manager of the Ayios Nikolaos cinema but there is definitely no truth in the rumour that he was responsible for all those 'X' certificate films shown at that time.

Maj Les Hooper, the more mature member of the team, is concerned with speech systems. He commutes to the Continent at frequent intervals, however, Interpol has been notified. He is noted for his hearty chuckle and was known in his earlier days for driving around Catterick in his carpet slippers.

Maj Tony Holmes writes copious notes and instructions on maintenance of signal equipments. In the 1950s he was a keen cross country runner and could often be seen pounding across the Yorkshire moors. He is a great teller of stories especially the one about Focke-Wulf aeroplanes!

Capt Ray Tricker leads the MOULD team which deals with a VHF radio network. Being a UK project he is unable to maintain a duty free cupboard and he has therefore resorted to home brewing using motor rallying as an excuse to work up a thirst.

Maj Rusty Davis is also in charge of an inspection team. He advises units on maintenance problems and is the soul of tact when their equipment is not up to standard. He has a keen interest in Rugby football particularly the songs that follow a match when he still gives a spirited rendering of 'Oh Sir Jasper'. Nowadays he belts the small white ball around the golf course and is locally known as a 'bandit', where his handicap is concerned.

Last but not least is **Maj Norman Webb**, who heads the auto exchange installation team. He has been with CPA since it was in London when it was known as PEPS and has been connected with almost every military exchange in the world outside BAOR. During his tour he has progressed from Strowger, through cross-bar to stored programme control—but they are all only DC, you know!! A raconteur of fishy stores, he may occasionally be found on Ashley Wood Golf Course, (paired with **Rusty Davis**, naturally).

Very few Royal Signals units can muster such a wealth of experience. Those who join us are granted a rare insight into the mysteries of MOD and PE. Our heroes' smiles show their task of bridging the gap between London and units can be enjoyable as well as rewarding.

Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Catterick

"QUICKSILVER"
THE TASK

Every Corps in the Army has its own display and the Royal Signals Corp Mobile Display (CMD) is known as 'Quicksilver'. The display takes on different forms for the summer and winter tours but travels approximately the same distance during both in the pursuit of keeping the Army and in particular Royal Signals in the public eye. Throughout the summer months, 'Quicksilver' is tasked by DAR, to travel the length and breadth of the country in order to appear at various county, agricultural, industrial and military shows. The Team numbers twenty strong with our summer season increment of four WRAC selected from those serving within the Corps. Our vehicles' sky blue colour scheme is very distinctive especially when in the company of other CMDs. For the winter months we unfortunately lose our WRAC element and a much smaller group takes the road. Apart from refurbishing the summer display the winter months are spent visiting selected schools and presenting the Corps by means of a lecture accompanied by an equipment display. By the time this report reaches you, 'Quicksilver' will have completed its tour of schools in Scotland, North East and North West Districts.

Volunteers for 'Quicksilver' from most trades are always required. If you think you can match up to the demands and responsibility of representing your Corps in this manner, read on and then apply through your OC to the Royal Signals Manning and Records Office for service in Quicksilver.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The past six months have witnessed a notable changeover of 'bods'. Starting at the top, **Capt Roger Batho** moved across the road from 11 Sig Regt to become OC 'Quicksilver' vice **Capt Richard Hoole** who is now with 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Foreman Joe Logan** commences his third year in the Team and is due posting (attention all Foremen). This year saw the departure of one of our 'old timers' namely **Cpl 'Kayser' Bond** who deserves the title of 'man in a suitcase' as he spent five successive years on tour with 'Quicksilver'.

Unfortunately space does not permit mention of all who have arrived or departed recently but here they are:

ARRIVALS

Capt Roger Batho, Cpl Mel Priest, Cpl Gerry Picket, Cpl Harry Mansell, LCpl Dave Roden, Sig Steve Taylor, Sig 'Tom' Dooley, Sig Andy Bolsworth and Sig Joe Devlin.

DEPARTURES

Cpl 'Kayser' Bond, Cpl 'Jeep' Jackson, Cpl 'Zak' Tracey, Sig Steve Horsefield, Sig Keith Robinson, Sig 'Shaft' O'Connor, Sig 'Eddie' Edwards.

LADIES TOO

This summer we were very fortunate in having the glamour of the Team provided by the following:

LCpl Maureen Bennett **LCpl Jean Seals** **Pte Lyn Connelly**	16 Sig Regt
Pte April Casburn **Pte Heather Lawley**	10 Sig Regt

We thank the girls for their hard work and sense of humour and would like to point out that all prospective candidates for next year's tour should start to bid now!

Now the teams have finished their summer season they are already into their winter roles. At this moment Quicksilver is out visiting schools throughout the North East and the White Helmets are running their selection course for new riders. The White Helmets Team Captain, **Capt Ken Hadfield** has passed his civilian test and is legally allowed on Britain's roads on a motor cycle!

TV APPEARANCE BY MAGNETRON

The main part of this year's summer display consisted of a selection of equipment housed in a blue parasol tent. In addition we displayed our latest 'tame robot' 'Magnetron' Mk II and the FFR Landrover complete with Clansman VRC 321 and VRC 353.

The new improved 'Magnetron' was not without its teething problems but in the present climate of 'Star Wars' and 'Strange Encounters of all sorts of kinds' it could not fail to be a hit with both young and old. During the recent visit of the Colonel-in-Chief, 'Magnetron' impressed **Her Royal Highness** as well as the Press. Consequently, the following day, the Team was requested at three hours notice to provide the metal beast for a TV appearance on the BBC Leeds 'Look North' programme. We answered their request with all the urgency that the offer of such exposure demands and as a result managed to capture over three minutes of prime viewing time. Details of the design, construction and operation of 'Magnetron' Mk II appeared in the July edition of 'The Wire' under the School of Signals notes.

This year's season saw 'Quicksilver' appear at 23 engagements before an estimated total crowd of over ¾ million. Shows ranged from those of a special nature such as the West Midland District Press Day where we demonstrated Fastfax facsimile equipment, the Cossar Electronic teleprinter and the complete range of Clansman, to the more common shows that demanded 'hands on' such as The Great Yorkshire Show and the Bournemouth Fiesta. In all between the months of May and September we travelled over 5,000 miles.



Magnetron MKII

TGRIT REPORT

(Training Group Recruit and Information Team for the uninitiated!) In these days of re-organisation, the turnover of the team has been remarkable. In one short season seven people have come and gone, departed for green pastures over the hill (civvy street).



The Team (TGRIT)
Left to right: LCpl Hellewell, Cpl White, LCpl Greig, SSgt Smith

Sgt Mal Wharfe
Cpl Stevie (Porky) Wetherall
LCpl Tony Johnson

Not bad going for a small four man team.

Cpl Gez White replaces **Porky Wetherall** and **LCpl Mick Helliwell** replaces **Tony Johnson** leaving our working team as:

SSgt Adam (Black Jock) Smith
Cpl Gez (Tech) White
LCpl John (Big Wheel) Greig
LCpl Mick (Sparky) Helliwell

Potential recruit enquiries have been very promising this season with many thousands of miles covered from London to Aberdeen and from East coast to West coast. The weather hasn't been too good this season and we have had one or two washouts. As you will see from the heading we have been redesignated (TGRIT) Training Group Recruit and Information Team as opposed to Regimental Recruit and Information Team (RRIT). After a busy season the team are looking forward to a well earned rest (Leave).

To conclude these brief notes, sadly we say farewell to **LCpl Barry Roberts** the Corps Racing White Helmet, who was attached to us. After a long and illustrious career at Catterick, Croft Autodrome and the Isle of Man he has decided to call it a day and retire gracefully to civilian surburbia and the humdrum rat race. We wish him all the best in his new venture.

THE HEADQUARTERS

A decision taken in 1975 resulted in the Royal Signals Demonstration Team, being Headquarters, Workshop and the Corps Mobile Display 'Quicksilver', moving from Hounslow to Catterick in November 1977.

Having deposited the Team with its Workshop equipment and stores of considerable complexity in Gaza Lines, the outgoing Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Derek Sherrard-Smith** departed to his retired post as Garrison Adjutant, Aldershot. **Maj Peter Lenthall**, who took over, then began the mammoth task of establishing the Team in Catterick; persuading the Department of the Environment that the Workshop really was needed quickly (eventually completed in August 1978, nine months overdue); and planning the Team's activities for 1978.

The Headquarters administers 'Quicksilver' the year round but controls its activities in only a limited manner. It is tasked by the Director of the Army Recruiting in the Summer, and by the Corps MOD Recruiting Branch, Signals 32b in the Winter. The Workshop is directed by the OC and TSM and assisted by the TQMS. Since the major Headquarters activities lie within the Workshop, personality profiles are contained in that section.

THE WORKSHOP

The success of the Corps major static exhibitions this year has been very much due to the efforts of the small group of dedicated soldiers and civilians of the Team Workshop. They do not capture the limelight, but fulfil the vital task of designing and constructing the displays. To their already long list of achievements, in 1978 they added Aldershot Army Display/British Army Equipment Exhibition the Catterick Army Display, and of course the Royal Tournament where the Corps occupied the prime position in the main foyer of Earls Court. Other minor shows were also attended.



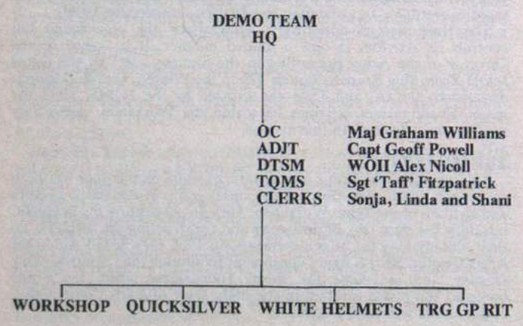
'Hands on' at the Catterick army display in the 'Quicksilver' tent

Sgt 'Russ' Thompson is in charge of the Workshop assisted by **Cpl Dave Williams** (Draughtsman) and **LCpl Jack Barry** (Driver). The civilian members of the Workshop team are **Ron Johnson** (Storeman) **Bob Hindmarch** (Pattern Maker) and **Andy Thursfield** (Signwriter). **Andy** spent his honeymoon at Rushmoor Arena whilst working on the Aldershot Army Display! **Sgt 'Taff' Fitzpatrick**, the TQMS, took on additional tasks to make a valuable contribution to the construction of the major exhibitions that were all coordinated by the Team's Sergeant Major, 'Mr Exhibition' or 'I/C Gungy Jobs' as he sometimes liked to be known as, **WO2 (SSM) Graham Griffiths**. **WO2 Griffiths** will be especially remembered for his efforts in recent years towards the stage management of all our major exhibitions. **WO2 Alex Nicoll** our newly arrived Team Sergeant Major will no doubt make his mark on next year's mini Signal View and Royal Tournament. **LCpl Jack Barry** has left to drive for the world outside, to be replaced by **LCpl Steve Taylor**.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS DEMONSTRATION TEAM

In November 1977 The Royal Signals Demonstration Team moved from London to Catterick. Command was handed over from **Lt Col Derek Sherrard-Smith** to **Maj Peter Lenthall** in January 1978. The Team set up alongside the White Helmets commanded by **Maj Graham Williams** and the two organisations went their separate ways during their summer tours of 1978. Meanwhile back at Headquarters in Catterick the two OCs slowly and somewhat suspiciously of each other began the marathon task of forging the new combined Demonstration Team. On 20 October **Maj Lenthall** signed over his share to **Maj Williams** and the two organisations became one. In January 1979, **Maj Peter Lenthall** will leave the Army and start work with Brocks Fireworks. We all wish him the very best in his future career.

The new Demonstration Team now looks like this:





At a demonstration comparing Clansman and Larkspur radios given to 400 members of the Royal Observer Corps are *(left to right)* Sig Joe Devlin WO2 (SSM) Alex Nicoll, Cpl Clive Turner, Cpl D. M. Gray (8 Sig Regt) Cpl T. Stapleton (8 Sig Regt) and Maj Peter Lenthall

WHITE HELMETS REPORT

The show season is over, the team is back in Catterick and no more does the thunder of the Triumph Tiger 750 motorcycle reverberate across the land. The show machines have been moved to the Triumph factory where they are being refurbished by our own motorcycle mechanics, and the Team is dispersed on various courses ranging from attachments to Schemes Troop, 8 Sig Regt to Heavy Good Vehicle Class one conversion courses (run by and for the Team) to Public services Vehicle Driving courses (the Team supplies its own Coach drivers). In addition we are in the process of training new riders for next season since at the end of any year roughly one third of the team will leave on posting.

A GOOD SEASON

We have had a very good season, performing at some thirty-four different shows giving altogether about one hundred performances. The show sites have ranged from the bright lights and high pressure of the Royal Tournament with two shows a day for three weeks on the hard packed earth amid the weaving, bobbing spotlights of the Earls Court arena to the Kington Horse, performing between sheep shearing finals, by way of a nerve wrenching TV appearance on BBC One's Pebble Mill at One. The riders have stood the pace well, as indeed was expected of them.



Just ride up that little ramp while we set fire to it they said

THE CHALLENGE

The young rider of today is a man of endurance, mental toughness, physical courage and integrity, proved on the moors above Catterick during his selection course and hardened on the show sites of the United Kingdom, and indeed Europe, throughout the year. Today's applicant for the team is aged between twenty and thirty, proven in his trade, physically strong with the mental toughness to carry a task through in the face of odds. He need not have a motorcycle licence, indeed prior to his selection course he need not be able to ride a motorcycle since all this will be taught by excellent instructors with an emphasis on the practical. The challenge is there, and soldiers who wish to join the White Helmets should apply through their units. Selection courses are held every year, normally in November. If you are adventurous, with the qualities mentioned, apply now for the selection course in November 1979.

ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF BAND

A KEY INSPECTION
Report by Cpl W. R. Kellaway

For the second time since the Band moved to Blandford, a Kneller Hall Inspection has been inflicted upon us! During the period immediately before our inspection date—17 October—our Director of Music, **Lt Col Keith Boulding** did his utmost to convince the band members that the big day would be quite painless and that the Commandant and Director of Music of Kneller Hall were merely coming to confirm that the band could carry out its role in the Army as a Staff Band.

FINE DETAIL

On our return from Eastbourne on 3 October it was very much a case of 'all hands to the pump' to get things such as the library, the instrument stores, our uniforms, not to mention the music itself, up to inspection standard. The libraries of bands always seem to attract rather a special attention of inspection officers, therefore a very determined effort was made by the library staff to ensure taht the music we have was all in good order. Many of the older scores in particular were getting rather tatty through constant use so it was a case of what we call 'stick and lick', in other words binding the music on the edges with paper to preserve it. Marches of any recently amalgamated regiments, and possible alterations or amendments to National Anthems are likely to be asked for on the day and had to be checked in the catalogue by **Cpl Ian Harding**.

Instruments held in the stores had to be in good playing order and cleaned to a very high standard, not forgetting the instrument cases. In fact sales of black paint definitely increased in Blandford judging by the number of cases that were painted!

The Band spent several periods on the parade square under the eagle eye of **RSM Davies** who was in attendance to improve the standard of our foot drill. With the noticeable absence of shouting and bawling the drill did improve and one was left to ponder whether RSMs are in fact mellowing these days! Last, but certainly not least of the preparations, was the music itself. Each morning we had to endure what most military bandsmen hate—scales!!!

Time was also set aside for preparation of our set piece, the selection from the opera, Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky. **BSM Bill Lawson** was given time to rehearse the band in a piece of music selected by our Director of Music. On the inspection day the Director of Music of Kneller Hall would produce a piece of music at random. Our large dance band, under the direction of **WO2 Bill Fraser**, was being put through its paces as was the Pop Group and light orchestra.

TRIAL RUN

A week prior to the all important day we were given a mock inspection by the Commandant, **Brig Hild** and, on the music side, **Capt Douglas McKay** , Director of Music at the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC, Bovington. We were attired in our full ceremonial dress for the Commandant's inspection and virtually everyone was checked for one point or another. For several days after needle and cotton was much in evidence to improve the standard of our red tunics. From the music point of view **Capt McKay** asked us all what we expected and seemed reasonably satisfied with our efforts.

THE DAY

The big day finally arrived and the first thing on the agenda was the arrival of the Commandant of Kneller Hall, **Col Windsor-Clive** and his Director of Music, **Lt Col George Evans**. After the inspection we gave them our marching display and learnt later that they were very impressed. From there we went directly to the practice room and duly performed our scales, set piece and rehearsal pieces. (One by **Lt Col Boulding** and the other by the Sgt Major.)

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Whilst the dance band and Pop Group performed, the inspecting officers were offered a drink in the night club atmosphere of Number Two practice room. Fortified by the same they spent a couple of minutes with the light orchestra under the leadership of **Cpl Vic Lenthall**.

Visits to the library and instrument stores ended the inspection, whereupon everyone gave a sigh of relief.

A 'VERY GOOD'

A lot of work had gone into the preparations and our grading of 'Very Good' reflected all our hopes. From my point of view I have the satisfaction of knowing that with Kneller Hall inspections occurring every five years I won't be here to see the next one!

SCARBOROUGH SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE



Left to right standing: Maj (Retd) A. E. Lunn, Maj (Retd) G. J. Bevan MM, Maj (QM) A. S. R. Alfred MBE, Maj (Retd) J. C. Gosling, Maj (Retd) T. W. Jackson
Seated: Brig N. A. Butler CBE

FORMER OCs GATHER

The end of the training year in Scarborough is usually indicated by the disappearance of candy floss, tourists and soldiers. This year it was also marked by a visit from the Commander, Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig N. A. Butler** CBE. At a lunch time reception he had the opportunity to meet a number of local VIP's, all wives of the permanent staff and a galaxy of old friends and ex-members of the Corps. The photograph shows four ex-OCs of Scarborough Signal Training Centre and is not to be confused with a 'Barber Shop' type vocal group. This was their first re-union after a period of service in Scarborough which covers almost 20 years. Amongst the many other ex-corps guests were **Maj and Mrs Frank Mansfield** and **Maj and Mrs 'Willie' Watson**. **Frank** is the President of the local branch of the Old Comrades Association, with whom we have a very strong rapport, and **'Willie'** (now heavily bearded and the image of John the Baptist) is the proprietor of a local guest house — 'The Levante, Where the Elite-meet-to Eat'. The event was most enjoyable in every aspect and at the end of the conducted tour **Brig Norman Butler** expressed himself well pleased and departed to that other place of immense beauty — Catterick.

GOOD LOCAL LINKS

Operationally we have been as busy as ever this year with an increased number of trainees. We accommodated almost 6000 visitors and hope to do even better in 1979.

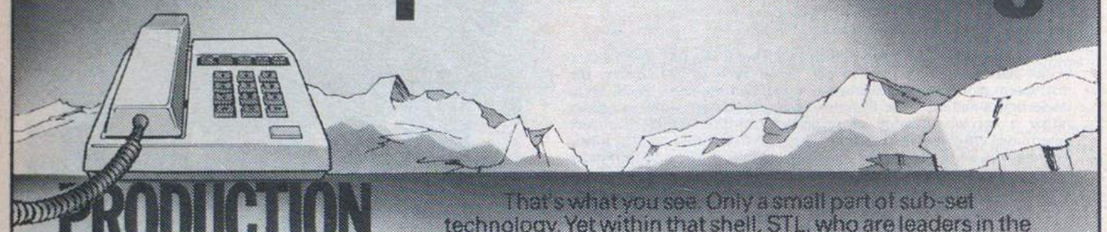
We have also continued to foster good relationships with local groups. To this end we now sponsor two football clubs, a thriving badminton club—which boasts of a membership of over 40 and has had a very successful competitive season—and, would you believe, a 34 piece band. This comes under the gentle control and organisation of **RQMS Ken Pilkington** who details rigid rehearsal and is to arrange future concerts. It is to be regretted that his musical skill on the Mexican Nasal Flute can not yet be included in the bands considerable repertoire, but he is working on it.

THE MANAGEMENT

There have been a number of team changes during the past year so finally in these notes we announce that the barrack staff now consists of the following quiet, shy and unassuming personnel.

OC —Maj (QM) Alan Alfred MBE
RQMS —WO2 Ken Pilkington
SQMS —SSgt Bill Chubb
Tech 1 —SSgt Ken Coatesworth
Tech 2 —Sgt Ken Gibson
Cook 1 —Cpl Mick Suffolk
Cook 2 —LCpl 'Geordie' Malcolm and 'Tug'

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REGIMENTAL PATROL COMPETITION 1978

The competition was held during the first week in October. C Troop (1 Squadron) preparation began three weeks earlier. Their leader **Capt Coyle** (Canadian Exchange Officer) 'volunteered' the remainder of the patrol making a squad of 12. Although 'volunteered' much of their success was due to the sustained effort by every member during training and the enthusiasm produced throughout the competition proper.

The competition took the form of a 24 Kilometre night approach march which the DS had successfully indented for rain to make it more interesting with two hours in which to change, nurse sore feet and breakfast. The nine competing patrols then completed military skills stands, ambush, NBC, recognition etc. At the end of the day all efforts proved worthwhile as victory was theirs!

OKTOBERFEST

The partnership of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and Fernmeldebataillon 1 was further cemented on 21 October when we were hosted at the Fernmeldebataillon's annual Oktoberfest in Hannover. The theme of the evening was 'Echt Bayerisch', with side shows, shooting galleries and excellent food stalls loaded with regional specialities to tempt most palates.

After the warm welcome by **Oberstleutnant (Lt Col) Heinrich Boehr,** CO of Fernmeldebataillon 1, the festivities got under way and the serious business of communicating with our opposite numbers proceeded from strength to strength as the night wore on. The very successful evening was reluctantly concluded at 0100hrs, but with the happy expectation of returning their hospitality in December.

BOXING SPECTACLE

After the preliminary bouts on Thursday 25 October it was obvious that the 1978 Page Trophy Boxing Finals would provide a spectacle for those gathered in Caithness Gymnasium on the 26th. Three bouts in the finals were worthy of special attention although this by no means detracts anything from the others.

The opening Featherweight contest quickly became a one-sided affair with **Sig Butterworth** (2 Squadron) proving a much stronger puncher than **Sig McCullough** (4 Squadron).

Next, the Lightweight contest between **Sig Fergusson** (1 Squadron) and **Sig Allen** (2 Squadron). This was the first of 'the three' memorable bouts, with both boxers refusing to give an inch. The casual 'Ali' style of **Fergusson** provoked aggression from **Allen** and cheering from the crowd. In the third round a final burst of stylish activity gained **Sig Fergusson** a points victory. A sitting ovation rounded off a great contest.

A 15 minute interval relieved the pressure on the spectators who returned to see **Sig Ashley** (4 Squadron) and **Pte Johnson** (HQ Sqn) climb into the ring. This was the second of 'the three'. On previous form **Ashley** was the favourite, however after a gruelling contest the under-dog, **Pte Johnson,** by sheer courage and determination outpointed **Ashley.**

Cpl Yates (1 Squadron) climbed in next with **Sig Balsdon** (2 Squadron) for the 'third' of the memorable three, a Light Middleweight bout. So you wanted blood eh! Excitement! Excitement eh! Total Commitment eh! (A good Army phrase that.) Well you got them all. Looking like a miniature Joe Bugner, **Cpl Yates** began by boxing and ended by fighting, **Sig Balsdon,** who refused to be overawed by his much taller opponent. An outstanding bout which unfortunately did not end in a draw, **Cpl Yates** gaining a points victory.

Of the remaining three bouts in the competition. **Cpl Paylet** (4 Squadron) proved too strong for **Dvr Boardman** (3 Squadron) in the middle weight. **LCpl Skuse** (3 Squadron) had a walk over, after **LCpl Wilson** (1 Squadron) injured his arm in the Semi-Finals and **Sig Matheson** (1 Squadron) found himself on the wrong end of a count of 10 in the Light Heavy bout, leaving **Sig Bawor** (2 Squadron) the victor.

2 SQN WIN PAGE TROPHY

On such a night the end result mattered little as everyone deserved prizes and received a trophy. However, a winner there had to be and 2 Squadron became 1978 Page Trophy holders with 3 Squadron runners-up. **Lt Col Davies,** the CO, presented the trophies.

If you're wondering why a 15 minute break occurred after only two bouts — three pre-competition exhibition bouts were fought ostensibly to compliment the evening's programme **2Lt Whyman** (OC Line Tp) became the troop mascot by felling **Sig Miller** (4 Squadron) with a mighty blow surely heard throughout Verden.



THE CHAMPIONS
The winners of the 1978 Patrol Competition. *L to R:* Sig Elson, Cpl Wheatley, LCpl Tait, Capt Coyle, SSgt (FofS) Turvey, Cpl Snelling, Cpl Eyre, Sig Clant (res). Also in the team were — Cpl Smyth, Sig Douglas, Sig Cheslet (res), Sig Sykes



RIVER CROSSING
Capt John Macfarlane, (Act Adjt 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) standing centre, supervising the river crossing pensively watching and waiting for the next man to fall in. (The DS answer was to wade across anyway)



PAGE TROPHY BOXING
Sig Mathieson 1 Squadron receiving his trophy from Lt Col P. R. Davies, CO of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

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

RETURN OF REGIMENTAL BOXING

The return of boxing to the Regiment after a lapse of ten years has been marked by two extremely good novice competitions. Both competitions were the brainchild of our RSM, **WOI Vic Zimmer.** The first of these was an inter-squadron novice competition with the preliminaries and the finals being spread over two days. The finals were run on traditional army boxing lines and a large proportion of the Regiment turned up to support the boxers. Much work went on behind the scenes to produce all the equipment and officials necessary and much of the credit must go to our PT Staff — **SSgt Ray Mather** and his assistants is **LCpl Steve Lancashire** and **Sig Glen Mills.**

Entries were received from 1, 2, 3 and HQ Squadrons with only 1 and HQ Squadrons producing a full team. The individual winners were:

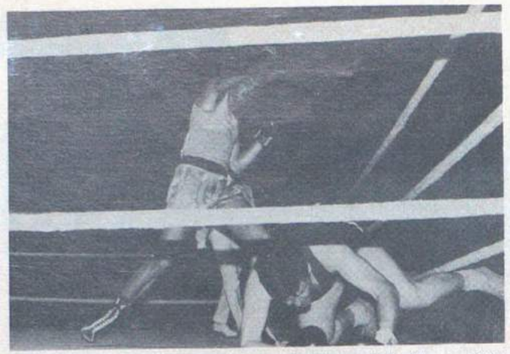
Bantam	—	**Sig 'Woody' Woods**
Feather	—	**Sig Graeme Wilkinson**
Light	—	**Sig Steve Blackburn**
Light Welter	—	**Sig Keith Stewart**
Welter	—	**Sig Eddie Palmer**
Light Middle	—	**Sig Graham Scott**
Middle	—	**LCpl John Bandwell**
Light Heavy	—	**Pte Phill Harnott**
Heavy	—	**LCpl Neal Killen**

The best loser of the competition was **LCpl West** and the prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Tony Willcox.**

Our second competition was a "friendly" between ourselves and 7 Sig Regt which took place on 23 November. The evening was an even greater success, due largely to the high standard of the boxing and to the enthusiastic support. The Regiment won the first bout, but just to show us that we were not going to have it all our own way, 7 Sig Regt came bouncing back to win the second. This was the way it continued with each Regiment winning alternate bouts until the pattern was broken in the sixth bout. We won the competition by one point which indicates what a close thing it was. An excellent evening! We are now looking around for our next opponents! Any takers?

The individual results were as follows:

	2 ARMD DIV	7 SIG REGT	
Bantamweight	**Sig Pingue**	Winner	**Sig Moreton**
Featherweight	**Sig Wilkinson**	Runner Up	**Sig Dawes**
Lightweight	**LCpl More**	Winner	**Sig Blood**
Lightwelter	**Sig O'Connor**	Runner Up	**Sig Hall**
Lightmiddle	**Sig Lambert**	Winner	**Sig Symonds**
Middleweight	**Sig Jenkins**	Runner Up	**LCpl Molley**
Light Heavy	**Sig Smith**	Winner	**Sig Torney**
Heavy	**LCpl Davies**	Winner	**LCpl Peacock**
Welterweight	**LCpl Scott**	Runner Up	**Lt King**



'Killer' Killen in action. LCpl Killen was the winner of the Heavyweight competition.



Lt Col Willcox presents the Winnings shield to Cpl McCulloch on behalf of the victors, HQ Sqn

DAVE THE RAVE

All those living in BAOR will have heard of **Dave Raven,** the BFBS disc jockey who occupies the morning slot on BFBS. We were very honoured in being the first non-Op Banner unit to have a visit from him last month when he journeyed all the way from Köln to our community centre for an outside broadcast. He was certainly very welcome and all the wives turned up to tell him just that. The end result of the broadcast was that we now have the best known RSM in the whole of BAOR!

REGIMENTAL REVUE

The senior officers in the Regiment were foolish enough to allow their soldiers to say anything they wanted about them, the Regiment and life in general this month. The occasion was the first Regimental Revue (and probably the last!) held to celebrate the kick off of the Christmas festivities and to show off the hoard of talent that was kicking around the Regiment. The evening was a great success and we now have so many stage struck actors that life is just unbearable, darling! But seriously . . . We are all indebted to **WO2 Dave Frowen ACC** who compered the show and to so many who did their thing for everybody's entertainment — not least of all an unnamed person from HQ Sqn who really did reveal all!!!

ANNIVERSARY PARADE

On 1 December we celebrated the second anniversary of the Regiment's tenth title, that of Second Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. The Regiment on parade was inspected by **Col J. Templer OBE,** the new Garrison Commander, and the march past was watched by many of the officers' and soldiers' wives and by the young children from our Primary School.

PS

To all members of the F.E.W. (Federation for the Emancipation of Workers):

Now that the campaign to concrete in the Baltic has failed, the winter centres on Bavaria.

SITUATION

We've been left at work AGAIN!

MISSION

To spoil everybody else's fun.

EXECUTION

To dissolve all the Snow in Bavaria.

ADMIN AND LOGISTICS

Collect blow torches and proceed to snowy areas before the ski season gets underway.

COMMUNICATION

Don't mention this to anybody!

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

7-A-SIDE RUGBY COMPETITION

The Regimental 7-A-Side Rugby Competition was held in September in order to observe talent in the Regiment before the Army Cup Competition. The Sevens was won by 2 Squadron much to the pleasure of **Capt John Burnage**, for whom this was the last event in the 3 Div Rugby Calendar. He is now tackling Bacardi bottles on a beach in Brunei!

REGIMENTAL RUGBY

This season, the Rugby Club, consisting of a grand total of 68 members, has fielded two sides every Wednesday and most Saturdays. Among the successes have been a surprise win against 3BAPD who beat the Regiment in the army cup last year by 70 points. The 1st XV have played 15 matches and only lost to the Welsh Guards. So far they have won the first three rounds of the army cup and are through to the area semi-finals.

WIVES CLUB CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

On 26 October, the 3 Div Wives Club held a Cheese and Wine Party in the BFES School in Soest. It was arranged by **Liz Nealon, Anne Powell** and **Linda Knock.** A comprehensive selection of cheeses and a vast stock of wines was rounded off by a cabaret performed by several husbands. One of the acts consisted of a male striptease, yet before the star, **LCpl Nobby Hall**, had gone beyond the bounds of decency, a member of the audience ascended the stage and carried him bodily off. The 'dainty lady' who achieved this was **Sig Chris Belfield**, dressed in drag and planted in the audience. He had already consumed a complete Stilton and two bottles of wine! The Wives Club said farewell to **Norma Bell, Joan Dale** and **Kneesh Fish**, all of whom had contributed a great deal over the past year to the running of the Club.

INTERNATIONAL SHOOT

Every year a little known Belgian 300 metre range at Büecke becomes the centre of one of the largest international shoots in Germany. Members of the Canadian forces now stationed at Lahr in Southern Germany and who once sat amongst all the non-G-Plan furniture that still pervades Soest Garrison return on their annual pilgrimage to display weapon expertise beside Belgians, Germans, Americans and British soldiers. Each squadron of the Regiment entered a squad of six men. The competition was won by a German team closely followed by the Canadians, German Reservists and the REME team from 5 Armoured Workshops; the Regimental scores were in the top 25%. This valuable day of international relations was suitably crowned by a spectacular Ball in the Körbecke Möhneseehalle. **Capt Jack Fiskell,T** the Regimental Shooting Officer fielded the infamous Regimental Bisley team which consisted of **Capt Wills, SSgt Graham, Cpl Harris, Cpl Butchers, Cpl Hair** and **Sig Waugh.**

WELLINGTON BOOTS TO THE FORE

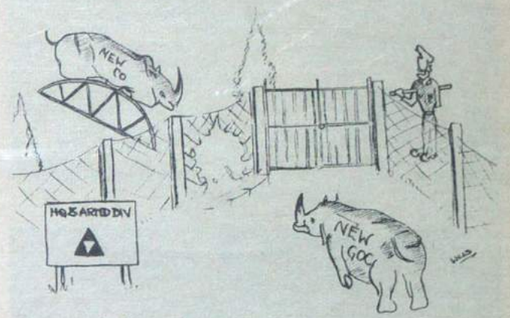
The two Task Forces, supported by all the remaining Regimental resources, 15 Para, Belgian, American and German Armoured units conducted a two part NATO exercise from late September to early October between Soest and the East German border. While one Task Force was fighting defensive withdrawl, reserve bridge demolitions, counter penetrations, minefields and counter attacks the other conducted parachute and helliborne assaults during a controlled advance. For the individual with only a vague grasp of the tactical situation the exercise was a time to compare or, even swap, equipment with the allies and also a time to learn how to live and work in Wellington boots.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

On Sunday 24 September, the Church of England chapel was rededicated after a period of six weeks redecoration when both CofE and RC had consecutive services in the Roman Catholic chapel next-door. The congregation returned in their usual large numbers to **Padre John Bolton** who met them with the announcement that the Remembrance Sunday service on 12 November would be transmitted live on BFBS.

SILVER BAND

On 17 October the Silver Band from Bangor in Wales entertained the Regiment in the St Sebastian gymnasium. The acoustics were no better than Cardiff Arms Park yet the band produced an excellent programme punctuated occasionally by Max Boyce songs. The band, consisting of teachers and school children of both sexes, had won considerable praise at British national events and were conducting a successful tour of Germany.



I thought this new fence was supposed to be rhino-proof!



The Task Forces Deploy (Photograph by Cpl Jerry McNeice)

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

CHANGE OF COMMAND

As another hectic year in Herford draws to a close and the Regiment prepares for the rapidly approaching ARU. Much has happened since we last appeared in The Wire the most notable of which is the change of Commanding Officers. This occurred in October, with **Lt Col David Whitehead** handing over command to **Lt Col Bob Cook.** The climax of many farewell functions was the Regiment on parade whilst the CO mounted on a 'friendly steed', supplied by the Hereford Saddle Club inspected it for the last time. After a march past by the Regiment the CO changed to a more comfortable seat mounted on the top of a 432 driven by **Cpl Paul Donovan,** and preceded by **Sig Andy Turner,** was taken along roads lined by members of the Regiment to the Officers Mess where his final function in the form of a lunch with his officers took place. We wish **Lt Col Whitehead** and his wife **Gill** every good fortune for their tour at the School of Signals.

We welcome **Lt Col Bob Cook** and his wife **Gilly** and hope they have a happy and successful tour with the Regiment.



Lt Col Whitehead taking the salute at his farewell parade. The entire Herford contingent of 4 Sqn seen in the picture marching past lead by Maj John Almonds (OC) followed by Capt Jack Amberton (2I/C), LCpl 'Dud' Maher, Sig 'Johnny' Miller plus dog. In the background the CO's horse is being held by Maj John Dawson and accompanying the CO on horse back is the charming Mrs Lynn Stretch



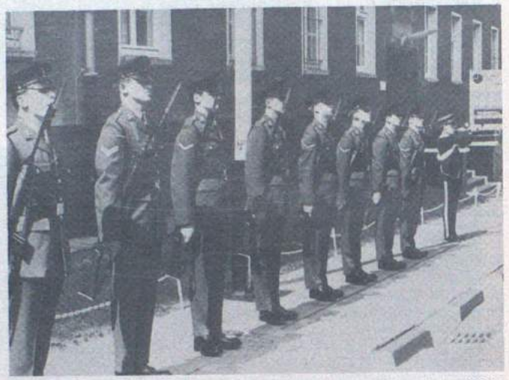
Lt Col Whitehead leaving Hammersmith Barracks also in the picture Sig Andy Turner leading the way and Cpl Paul Donvan driving

THE RHQ MANAGEMENT:

CO	Lt Col R. F. L. Cook
2IC	Maj J. R. Dawson
Adjt	Capt A. Merrick
RSM	WO1 F. Worrall

VISITORS

On the 22 August, we were pleased to welcome the Corps Commander, **Lt Gen Sir Peter Leng KCB MBE MC.** His tour of the Regiment was preceded by his inspection of the Regimental Quarter Guard which was commanded by **SSgt Tony Freudenfeld.** Also during August we were pleased to receive a visit by the Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin.**

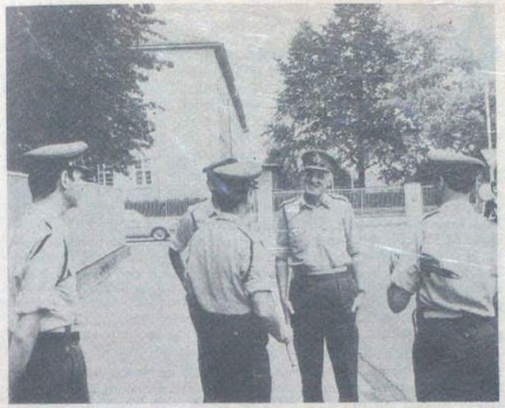


The Regimental Quarterguard on parade for Lt Gen Peter Leng KCB, MBE, MC they are from left to right:— SSgt Tony Freudenfeld, Cpl Peter Thomas, LCpl David Greaves, Sig Peter Knight, LCpl Vincent Bragg, Sig Stephen Sunman, LCpl John Gray and Bdsm Johnson (QOH)



The Corps Commander talking to SSgt Tony Freudenfeld the Quarterguard commander

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY



Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin Chief Signal Officer BAOR arriving at the entrance to Hammersmith Barracks where he is met by the CO Lt Col Whitehead. Also in the picture are the Adjt Capt Arthur Merrick and the RSM WO1 Frank Worrall

SUMMER CAMP 78

Our summer camp (or let's get away and have a rest from the routine of Herford) took place in the Belgium Army Camp at Vogelsang under the guise of Ex *Summer Fayre.* One Squadron was tasked with the overall organisation **Capt Matt Helm** looking to the admin and **Capt Martin Stone** organising the training. The best use was made of all the excellent Vogelsang facilities from grenade throwing to canoeing. To ensure that no one got bored, **Maj John Almonds** devised his own devilish escape and evasion exercise which was aptly called 'Almond Blossom'. Everyone in the Div HQ & Sig Regt were cordially invited to take part.



Sgt George Hook APTC leads away a bewildered prisoner SSgt Roy Anson who looks as though he can't make up his mind whether he has lost his hat or work out why he has no boots on

ONE SQUADRON

One 'Bruin' Squadron, despite 'overstretch', continues to thrive on hard work and the rather hectic way of life in Herford. During November, the Squadron took part in Exercise *Full House* and apart from our normal communication commitments we were able to hold our own military training exercise at the same time. Being temporary infantrymen was a new experience for many and proved to be harder than some had anticipated, however sense of humour prevailed even when presented with live chickens and rabbits in lieu of compo for the day's main meal. How to cross fast flowing rivers, dig slit trenches and



I'll swap this for three corned beef sandwiches and a herfy or the feathers don't half tickle your throat so say SSgt George Bardsley and Sgt Nick Stanley

survive enemy attacks, moving from A to B without first having a tour through C, D and E were also lessons of the day. Commcen Hotel have now been heard to say what a good idea 'Route Cards' are and who wants to read a map anyway. The daily training provoked the resident LAD into presenting a 'Green Beret' to Commcen Golf who in turn presented it to Commcen Hotel for actually completing a river crossing.

The Squadron continues to enjoy a good representation in most of the Regimental Sports teams. The Squadron trophy cabinet holds trophies for Canoeing, Cross Country Running, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, Basketball and even Angling.

Past members of the Squadron will be pleased to know that we have now a Squadron amenities centre situated in the attic. The idea of an amenities centre was thought of several months ago, the intention being to provide a place for members of the Squadron to meet and follow their own respective hobbies and pastimes. Having found the room, members of the Squadron gave up their spare time converting, building and scrounging kit for the centre which includes a TV and Radiogram. Squadron outings have been enjoyed to Munster Zoo and the International Aerospace Show in Hanover.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Over the past few months the Squadron has had a fair turnover and we would like to welcome the following and wish them a happy tour with the Number One Squadron: **Maj Roland Ebdon, Capt John Wedgbury, Sgt Rab Gentles, Sgt Derek Thurley, Sig Peter Isles, Sig Jock McTague, Sig Roger Stringer** and **Sig Tug Wilson.** The following have departed from the squadron and we wish them the best of luck wherever they may be: **Capt Martin Stone, Sgt Les Harris, Cpl Peter Cook, LCpl Roger Brown, Sig Bones Smith, Sig Edgar Broughton** and **Sig Robo Robson.**

BIRTHS

Congratulations to the following on their family additions: **SSgt and Mrs Joe Aquilina, Sgt and Mrs Ozzy Ozanne, Cpl and Mrs. Andy Trivett, Cpl and Mrs Dave Langridge, LCpl and Mrs John Tyreman.**

MARRIAGES

Two members of the Squadron recently took the plunge and we wish them every success for the future! **Sig Bones Smith** and **LCpl Griff Griffen** (Not to each other!)

TF GOLF SIG TP

Despite not being in the 1 (BR) Corps telephone directory, we do exist! (Records and AG11 please note). We thought it was time that the Corps heard from this crack (-ed) front-line Unit. Bearing in mind the Editor's request for unusual articles, we have racked our brains. Like

all the other units in BAOR, we spend most of the year on exercise, have little time for sports but manage to win leagues and cups with remarkable ease, have our inspections, and some people have been away on leave. (No it's not a rumour, but don't tell anyone they will all want it!) Old members of 11 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn may recognise the Battleaxe style shining through the gloom. To quote **SSgt Colley, REME,** we are a young troop (I wish some of us felt as young as he does!) LSGC presentations are thin on the ground in such a unit but we recently had our share of recognition. This would be a good point to hand over to our local RAEC Officer alias Staff Captain 'Fanta's' for a short account of this moving event:

AWARD OF LSGC (CA) — 378 CPL FINCH — Task Force Golf Signal Troop

An unusual ceremony took place recently on a littleused drill square somewhere in Northern Germany. This touching scene was enacted by members of Task Force Golf Signal Troop stationed in Minden. The occasion was the presentation of the Long Suffering and Good Cooking (Combat Apron) to **378 Cpl Finch** —

The citation read as follows:

Awarded for: Devotion to Duty

In that: On Exercise *Summer Sales* 1978, this NCO did, whilst under considerable and repeated attack from his Battleaxe Commander, **Capt W. P. Crowley, Royal Signals,** in the presence of an unbiased witness **Capt B. K. Taylor RAEC** produce 'Good Scoff' (with red sauce) for his comrades in arms.

Heedless of continual and unwarranted abuse from those requiring sustenance this NCO carried out this action which was: Above and Beyond the Call of Duty, and is awarded the LSGC (CA).



Cpl Finch, supported by the elite (BX 1) of the TF Golf Sig Tp

The photograph shows the hero with his award. It is considered unlikely that an NCO of similar calibre will grace the British Army for many years to come; with this fact in mind the production of Combat Aprons has been suspended.

Units wishing to make similar awards should apply to the above mentioned troop for Governing Rules and Apron Patterns. Apart from the upheaval of restructuring, our first year of existence has seen much coming and going. There are too many to mention here but to them that's gone — good luck and thank you; to them that's come — good luck and sign here.

RUMOURS

There's no truth in the rumour that: **Sig Griffiths** applied for the job of Superman, but couldn't work out how to open phone boxes. We have noticed of late a tendency for certain units to advertise for new members. All past and present members will be glad to hear we are still able to select our team. However any volunteers are welcome to apply for a 28 days' probationary period at Netley.

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

THE HUB

Pride of place this month goes to HQ Squadron, the hub of the Regiment! There are 275 officers and soldiers on the Squadron's rolls, so it's quite a large 'hub'; a mini-regiment, in fact, split into no less than sixteen different Troops and departments. It is commanded by **Maj John Ingledow**, and his headaches are loyally shared by the SSM, **WO2 Howard Parkes**; they deserve special mention in these notes if only because their next appearance may well be in the Obituary Column! So—to the cooks and weight-watchers, technicians and clerks, vehicle menders and vehicle breakers, storemen and 'temporarily attached', these notes are dedicated . . .

MT TROOP

The Troop is as busy as ever, over-stretched as usual in meeting its many commitments on exercises, inspections, servicing, Active Edge, and all the normal standing details. We do relax occasionally, however, and in August our MTWO, **WO2 Joe Devlin**, organised an excellent Barbecue/Disco; **Cpl 'Soy' Hummel** and his wife **Sheila** excelled themselves in the catering department, whilst **Cpl Nick Carter** and **LCpl Dave Stubbs** spun the disco. The bar ran itself! The evening was a great success and is being repeated before Christmas.

We have just returned from our seventeenth exercise of the year, appropriately named *Seasons End*, and the experience inspired the Troop Bard, **LCpl Ken Lewis**, to compose the following ditty:

On a bitter late November day
Papa Ech went out to play,
With Green Leader heading the crew
Nobody knew quite what to do!
SSM Devlin, pipe in hand,
Went out early to recce the land:
Sure, he found a likely wood
And said to himself 'now this looks good'
—Then, with his driver, knelt to pray
That the rest of us would find our way . . .

With a wrong turn here and a wrong turn there
Papa Ech would, at last, appear.
One by one through the murk we'd go,
Four wheel-drive, and taking it slow,
Off the tracks and onto the snow
—And straight into ditches concealed below . . .

There's our trusty friends of the LAD
With winch and wrecker and curses free
Would finally get us out of our plight;
But, (wait for it now, the end's in sight),
All this happens—Every other night!

There have been many comings and goings within the Troop recently, but one deserves special mention. After three years in the role of Troop Sergeant, **'Spud' Taylor**, our RCT Sergeant, leaves us shortly on a posting to Minden. We thank **Spud**, and his wife **Pat** for their long and loyal support and wish them well in the future.

HILLS AND SNOW

The first snow of the winter also saw M Troop take to the hills under the pretence of taking part in a communications exercise—*Seasons End*. We started with Langlauf training, and at this point would like to express our thanks to OC 2 Squadron, who by cunningly siting his mess (and ours) at the finishing line, enabled us to complete the 2 mile uphill course three times a day.

Under the leadership of our erstwhile instructors **SSgt 'Arbeiter' Blagg** and **WO2 (FofS) 'Has anyone seen my sleeping bag' Gallagher**, we set off on our first run. Unfortunately this was to be the last as many of the class failed to complete the course.

Later that week we turned our thoughts to the Giant Slalom. Hot favourites were **Sgt Ricky Reay** and **LCpl Bob Drysdale** in C50 Repair, closely followed by **LCpl 'Humph' Humphries** and **Sgt Geordie Hume** in the Battery Shop towing a generator. The race got off to a good start with **Sgt Micky Potts RAOC** 'slipping' away from the rest of the field chased by **Cpl 'Gaffers' Gaffney.** Outsider **Sgt Bob White** also towing a 2 Ton trailer slipped through the field cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd (Three German workers who could not get up the track as we were coming down) and ran out the eventual winner. A guest competitor, **Sgt Tony Raines** of Z Troop, was disqualified by our 'Course' judge, **Capt (TOT) Dicky Dyer,** for knocking down two posts, one gate and a no entry sign.

LAD MARCHERS

As a refreshing change from mending the Regiment's transport, many members of the LAD took part in the Nijmegen Marches this year and came back as confirmed march enthusiasts. Amongst others, our contingent included **Sgt Terry (Old Man) Eley; LCpl Mick Radley** and **'Wings' McCubbin; Craftsmen Scott Cotter, Andy Eaton, Dave Gamble, Andy Kempson, John Payne, Tony Pratt** and **Bill ('this is definitely my last') Pitt.** Foot-sure but happy, they did full justice to the Summer Festival celebrations and are adamant that if you've never attended a 'Blister Ball' or seen a hairy Scotsman drinking beer from a DMS boot, you've never lived . . .

When not sailing or playing hockey, our ASM, **WO1 Derrick Hunter** is invariably away on BAMA or international rallies. His Landrover, proverbially known as 'The Beast', is now so modified that it bears little resemblance to a Service machine! As a result of coming first overall in the Army Driving Championship 'Magnum Spirit' in November, he is now the Army's champion navigator and has inspired a number of LAD members to take up the sport. **Cpl Pete Hammond, LCpl Nick Daniels** and **Craftsmen Scott Cotter** and **Taff Morgan** all took part in Magnum Spirit; they brought back two very bent Rovers and a gratifying array of prizes—first and second overall; first team; and first REME crew. We are delighted—as long as they do their own repairs!



CATERING TROOP REPORT

As normal at this time of the year, we are now preparing for the festive season with all its extra commitments—who would be a cook, at Christmas! There have been several new faces in the Troop recently, the most prominent being that of **Capt Stuart (Thunder Child) Coll**, our new Catering Officer. He has promised to build us a new kitchen underground, after we have got the hot-plate working . . . Farewells go to **Capt Andy Gibson**, and **LCpls Mac McAuley, 'Boo Boo' Bartlett** and **'Lemon' Mellon**. On the credit side we have managed to lure **Cpl Harry Hodge** into the fold for his erstwhile duties as Chef to a GOC; he now adds a touch of class to the Main Kitchen! Also on the credit side, we have finally managed to persuade **LCpl 'Poll' Brumel** to take three weeks leave. Rumour has it that he is now hiking across Texas in his No 2 Dress with his instamatic camera as bed mate!

BFTs have taken a turn for the worse recently, and we now do early morning runs twice a week, led by our 'Q', **WO2 Brendan Elrick**. He still manages to get in 30 minutes after everybody else, claiming that he has done more exercises in the Trim Dick than anybody else. He's right! Our runs have also revealed a budding Evel Knieval in the shape of **Pte Melrose Smith**, whose attempts to leap the Autobahn have so far proved unsuccessful due to lack of fog lamps. He keeps trying though!

QM (A) DEPARTMENT ROUND UP

Of recent months there has been almost a complete turnover of staff in the department. In February we said farewell to **Maj Clem Palmer**, who went back to the desert in Muscat, and we welcomed in his place **Lt Col Vivian Stephens** (no stranger to Herford or the Regiment), who moved all the way from Bünde! RQMS, too, has changed: **WO2 Alan Osborne** left recently on promotion, and his chair is taken by **WO2 Tom Foody.** Other departures were **SSgts Tom Pigg** and **Mick Roberts, Sgts John Philips** and **Colin Green**, whilst **SSgt Alec Hay** is just about to leave us, again on well deserved promotion. A special 'thank you' to **Alec** and his wife, **Norma**, who between them contributed a tremendous amount to the Regiment, both at work and play.

Other new arrivals are **SSgts Peter Mills** and **George Firth, Sgts Brian Ross** and **Carl Clark-Darby;** and **Sig (Bendi Toy) Robson**—the latter already a leading light in the Regiment's Cross Country team. We welcome all our 'new recruits' in the never ending task of maintaining and improving the Regimental Home.

Past members of the Regiment will be interested to know that all the Barrack Blocks have now been modernised to produce single rooms—all with fitted carpets and fitted furniture. A new Armoury building and a new Stores Block have now appeared on the edges of the main square, and a start has been made on a proper Gymnasium which is being built in the old woods alongside the Sergeants Mess. (We held our own two minutes silence for the old Air Hall, which collapsed for the umpteenth time in recent high winds and has now been quietly removed from the scene!) We *did* have plans for a new Sports Stadium in the field at the Southern edge of the barracks, but we now understand that negotiations for purchase have failed. Who knows: by 1988 perhaps?

HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL

Sgt Eddie Turner, 7 Sig Regt, seen in the uniform of No 4 Kompanie Bad Salzuflen shooting club. **Sgt Turner** has been a member of No 4 Kompanie for a year and through his enthusiasm and hard work he has welded an affiliation between the club and 7 Sig Regt. As a result a number of shooting competitions and social events have taken place helping to foster good relations between the Regiment and the local population. In his 'spare time' he also runs most successfully the Regimental small bore team taking the team from 'non-starters' to Division 1 All Army Winter League (match 120) in three years. He also runs, with the help of his wife **Margaret,** a most successful ladies team who have not lost a match in three years.

BOXING
(FROM OUR RING SIDE REPORTER (CAPT MAL SMART))
7 SIGNAL REGIMENT v 2 DIVISION HQ and SIGNAL REGIMENT.

On the 23 November, a novice boxing contest was held between the two Regiments on the Gymnasium at Birdwood Barracks.

Our team arrived together with supporters ready to do battle against the opposition (boxers that is). After a 'Fatherly' talk given by the RSM 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **WO1 (RSM) Vic Zimmer** to the audience the bell rang for round 1 first bout. What an exciting evening it turned out to be, boxers from both Regiments fought tremendously and were justifiably congratulated for doing so. It would be wrong to highlight any particular bout because the standard throughout was very high and really entertaining. The final result of the nine bout contest was a five to four win to 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt who narrowly snatched victory by one point (points 14 to 13).

I must mention the first rate work of the Organisers, Judges, Seconds and last but not least the three Referees, **Capt Allen Duxbary APTC, QMSI Billy Irwin APTC** and **SSgt (SSI) Len Warby APTC** for their expertise and fairness throughout the evening.

The finale of the night was the prize giving by the CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** who presented each winner with a handsome boxer trophy and a very nice shield to the runners up.

Very well done both teams for a first class evenings entertainment and congratulations 2 Div. One last word, for the hard work and enthusiasm put in by our coach **SSgt Ray Cardwell**, 'Well done **Ray**'.

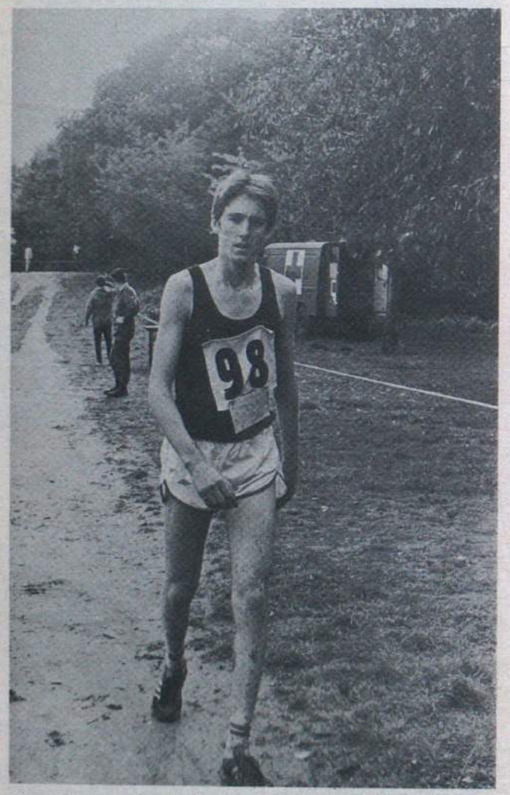
OUR BOXERS

Bantam Weight	**—Sig Jock McIntosh**
Feather Weight	**—Sig Taff Dunn**
Light Weight	**—Sig Basher Blood**
Light Welter Weight	**—Sig Duncan Hall**
Light Middle Weight	**—Sig Slogger Simmons**
Middle Weight	**—LCpl Molly Molloy**
Light Heavy Weight	**—Sig Tonka Torrie**
Heavy Weight	**—LCpl The Hulk Peacock**
Welter Weight	**—Lt Paul (Henry) King**

FOCUS ON SPORT

On the 27 September the French Army (51 Regiment de Transmissions) in Trier invited the Regiment to take part in a cross country run with teams fielded from the French, Belgian and German Armies. On arrival in Casablanca Kaserne (play it again Sam) our team was afforded the hospitality normally given to French Presidents and visiting Royalty. The language barrier was quickly broken with our boys picking up little bits of French here and there (language of course!), anyway everybody looks the same in running kit.

The course was some eight Kilometres long mostly on tracks through a wooded area just outside Trier. A pistol shot signalled a mass start with some 150 runners lurching forward jockeying for position with much cursing in four different languages. The field began to string out with our man **Sig Steve Needs** well forward of the field and that's where he stayed. **Steve** set a very fast pace romping home well before the remainder of the field, congratulations mon ami.



Steve Needs coming in first somewhat confused as to where the remainder of the field are!!

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT v 4 KOMPANIE BAD SALZUFLEN SG

Report by SSgt (Yeoman) Dave Wright

On Saturday 7 October, the Regiment invited the Sports Shooting Team of 4 Kompanie Bad Salzuflen to a SMG and Pistol match at the local 30 m range, this was to be followed by a social evening hosted by the Regiment. The event was organised by **Maj Bill Buxton** and **Sgt (Steady) Eddie Turner** with the help of **Toni Deponeo** (4 Kompanie).

The day started at 1430 hours when Germans and British met at Schwarzenmoor Range. The match was to let 4 Kompanie shoot full bore weapons, with the British shooting a non-personal weapon. To help the Regiment out the following ladies fired both weapons. **Mrs Anne Smart, Mrs Georgina Buxton, Mrs Maureen Clark-Darby** and **Mrs Rene Richardson**. To determine the winning team in either event the best 15 shots were to count. Shooting started at about 1445 hours and all was going well until a small brown dog decided to run onto the pistol range, firing stopped while the owner called his dog back to him, at this point a loud voice from the rear shouted 'Leave the thing where it is, for it is far safer there than it is back here'. The voice was believed to belong to Sergeant Major 4 (**WO2 Gordon McInnes** for non-members of 7) but this was never confirmed. Another funny incident happened on the SMG range when it was found that **Mrs Rene Richardson** was left handed. Being a good sport she said that she would shoot right handed, the only trouble was she couldn't close the left eye so she closed the right one and leaned her head across the weapon. Looked very funny from the rear. **WO1 Barny Hill** who must have got his dates wrong for he was running around the range with his fishing hat and jacket on. All too soon the firing had to stop and it was then the job of **Maj Bill Buxton** and **Cpl Mal Smart** to work out all of the results so that prizes could be presented during the evening.



A gathering of 4 Kompanie ready to shoot



Capt Mal Smart and Cpl Ken Fisher seen on the firing point with members of the 4 Kompanie

The evening event started at 1930 hours for members of the Regiment. We were met at the door of the Gaststatte Konig **Maj Bill Buxton** and his good lady who presented each lady entering with a red rose. Promptly at 1945, members of 4 Kompanie with their ladies arrived. To add to an alreay colourful scene (Mess Kit), the members of 4 Kompanie came in full Green Dress Uniform. Once introduced to our newly aquainted German friends (there was a lot of hand signals going on at this stage) and everyone was seated, the evening began with the CO 7, **Lt Col C. E. R. Story** welcoming 4 Kompanie with a speech in German. It was during this speech that the prize giving was done. The best team on the SMG was 4 Kompanie and the best team on the pistol was (yes you have guessed) 4 Kompanie. Individual prizes went as follows: Best pistol score **Karl Gronemeir** (Bad Salzuflen Police) Best SMG score **Capt Mal Smart**. The CO then went on and presented the 4 Kompanie Commander, **Ernst Sturhan** with a plaque from the Regiment. **Ernst Sturhan** with the help of **Toni Deponeo** made return speeches in both German and English and they presented a framed photograph of the first social event we had attended with 4 Kompanie (small bore match on 1 July) to the Regiment. The evening then got in full swing starting with a meal and then dancing to a live group. During the evening **Tony Deponeo** showed the British personnel a German birthday game where he calls out the month, if your birthday falls in this month you go into the centre of a ring and drink a glass of apple corn. During the game it was noted that both **Maj Dave Watson** RA Signals and **Lt Ken Soar** had 14 birthdays. As the evening wore on you could see the relationship between 7 Sig Regt and 4 Kompanie Bad Salzuflen getting stronger and stronger and I believe that a lot of thanks should go to **Sgt Eddie Turner** and his lady, **Margaret** for organising the last two tremendous events. Like all good things the evening (morning) came to an end at about 3 am, but, I am sure that this will not be the end, for most of the ranks attending the function have been invited to local German houses and I even heard that **WO1 Barny Hill** booked a couple of fishing trips with his German friends.



Lt Col C. E. R. Story doing the 'Military two step' with Frau Sturham



S Sgt Yos Rod Wood seen with Horst Karmrohdt together with wives and friends

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

ONE MAN AND HIS DOG

Two Squadron to the fore in this issue of The Wire and the first item is the recent changeover in the squadron's top soldier. **WO2 (SSM) John Goodman** has now retired to the West Country where he is reported to be learning to fall off ladders. Soldiers 'fortunate' enough to have passed through the Squadron during the last couple of years will no doubt remember the Sergeant Major's canine extension — **Cpl Boot. Boot** did, in fact, make Sergeant shortly before his retirement but unfortunately he had to be reduced to the rank of Corporal for a 'negligent discharge' in the Ladies' Toilet in the Sergeants' Mess.

WO2 (SSM) Bill House is our new Sergeant Major. Cast in the same lean and hungry-looking mould, he has certainly made his presence felt — even without a dog!

DISAPPEARING TRICKS

As we all know, statistics are not very reliable. However, something like a third of the Corps allegedly pass through 8 Sig Regt during the course of a year. At this rate Vimy A Dining Room will soon have equipped the larger part of the Corps with a knife, fork, spoon and china beaker judging by the number that 'disappear' each month! We all have our little problems, don't we?

PARADES AND EXERCISES

In addition to the very exciting Royal Visit, November has been a pretty full month with two 'war role' exercises and, of course, Remembrance Sunday. Two Squadron's soldiers, both male and female, bore the brunt of the two weekend exercises (trade training, naturally, being inviolate) and all concerned can be well pleased with their performance as the glowing reports received from other units involved testify.

HQ and 1 Sqns combined to represent the Regiment on the Catterick Garrison Remembrance Day Parade. The Richmond Parade required co-operation with the RAF's infantry, the RAF Regiment and the civil authorities. Understandably, such an important occasion was entrusted to 'Shiny Two' Squadron!

A GOOD RECORD

In recent years, the Regiment has held The Army Major Units Championship at Soccer and Cricket and gone pretty close at Hockey and Rugby. Which Royal Signals Unit last held the Army Rugby Champions Cup? It was a long time ago, back in the halycon days of 'National Service'. It was of course 8 Sig Regt. OC 2 Squadron, **Maj Bill Griffiths,** gives the following report on Regimental rugby and this year prospects seem the brightest yet:

WHITE HELMETS ENTER TRIALS WORLD

On Sunday 19 November, the White Helmets entered the Motorcycle Trials world for the first time in three years. The occasion was the Army Preliminary Trial, held at Tidworth. 'Thelmets' entered three classes of event, the service machine Team, the service machine individual Novice and the Competition machine individual events. For two weeks before the trial the weather was fine and the service machines were expected to have no trouble with the ground. However, on the Saturday the heavens opened and 24 hours of sheeting rain turned the ground into a soggy mass of wet clay, turning tracks into streams, streams into torrents and slight gradients into major obstacles. Whilst the competition machines were able to cope with the conditions, the service machines, the BSA B40, were very hard put to even remain fit to ride, mainly due to the forcing of mud and grit into cables, throttles and ignitions. The trial was divided into three parts, each with 10 sections and one part being a timed event with a bogey time. Only the competition machine, a Mick Andrews Replica OSSA ridden by **Cpl Jackie Sommerville,** completed all three parts of the trial. The Service Machines, due to the problems outlined, became impossible to keep taskworthy some halfway through the timed part of the trial. However, the problems were common to all service machines and so in the services team event and the services individual novices event the White Helmets gained second prize. We did not gain a prize in the competition event, but take pride in the fact that **Cpl Sommerville** came high up the field and was competing against riders on scrambler machines who were officially classed as expert. Riders in the White Helmets team were: **Cpl Alan Mott, LCpl Nigel Nicolls** and **Sig Sandy Shaw,** all gaining second prize in the team event. **LCpl Malcolm Allen REME,** attached to the White Helmets, gained a second prize in the Individual Novices event and **Cpl Jackie Sommerville** rode the OSSA in the competition event. For our first competition the going was hard but the rewards were sweet, and we have learned valuable lessons. The Team goes forward now to the North East District Endurance Trial on 3 December in a mood of cautious optimism.

If service life's given you a taste for Technology

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DETERMINATION PERSONIFIED
Sgt Baines, Cpl Higgins, LCpl Kessel, Sig Wallace, Cpl Sanderson, Sig Shillito, LCpl Bodily, Sgts Rande, Dunlin



SSgt Jim Taylor M Troop Trade Training School and Sgt Moss Walker, M Troop Army Apprentice College Harrogate, wiring up the Tape Comparators. Mr John Ring, Project Manager is in the background

RUGBY REPORT

The season started well and an influx of young players with potential has added depth to the 'squad'. The 1st XV have recorded victories against five local county constabularies and Hull University. In the Army Cup, results have been:

1st Round v 1 RHA won 68—0
2nd Round v 39 Engr Regt won 72—0
3rd Round v 38 Engr Regt won 58—7

Cpl Peter Lytollis has played for Middlesbrough this season while **Pte Jeff Jefferies, Sig Wally Wallace** and **LCpl Bennie Kessel** are playing for Cleveland County. **Cpl Harry Elkan** and **Sig Bob Shillito** have been selected for the Army Squad. The 1st XV pack have a useful engine room with **Baines, Higgins** and **Kessel** while the back division is greedy for points, helped by the boot of **Cpl Charlie Abbott** who is kicking penalties from the half-way line and 70 metre bounce touches. Eight players have played for the Corps this season.

The 2nd XV are also playing attractive rugby and have beaten some local Army 1st XV sides. These players will do much to strengthen unit sides in BAOR when they complete their courses.

NEW TRAINING TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

At 1200hrs on Tuesday 24 October 1978, **Col Alister MacL. McKinnon OBE,** Systems Controller at HQ 2 Signal Group, cut the tape to officially open the new Training Telephone Exchange in the Trade Training School. The exchange is the culmination of seven years of negotiations and planning and many months of hard work. Switchboard Operators (WRAC) can now be trained on an eight position multi-PABX type switchboard which is as up-to-date in its layout as the '78 Plan' itself. In addition, there is a two-position remedial training/testing switchboard and a four-position enquiries suite. It is hoped that this innovation will, in the future, greatly improve the training of Switchboard Operators.

The photograph shows **Col MacL. McKinnon OBE** cutting the tape. In the background can be seen Switchboard Course No 52 operating on the new switchboard under the supervision of **Mr Arthur Davies,** Civilian Instructional Officer and **Cpl Gwen Tompkins WRAC,** Instructor.

THE DALEKS OF THE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL

No longer do the instructors in the Keyboard Group walk round with long faces and crossed eyes, they are now a happy smiling lot. Why? You ask; it's because the drudgery of hand marking test scripts produced during keyboard skills training has gone forever (cheers). This chore has been taken over by the 'Tape Comparator' which is an electronic machine that compares a tape produced by a student on a teleprinter, against an accurate Master tape. Any errors in the students tape will automatically be displayed on an alpha-numeric self-scan display panel. The errors are analysed by the instructor and noted on the students page copy. The whole process is carried out at high speed and with the absolute accuracy—Potential Class 1 Telegraphists take warning.

In addition to the two Comparators in use in the Trade Training School, one has been constructed for the School of Signals, Blandford and one for the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate.



MEET YOUR SUPERVISOR

During the past year six Government Telephonist Supervisors courses have been held in the Trade Training School. The course, which is designed to introduce Supervisors to Management techniques, has proved to be a popular and successful one; it is managed jointly by staff from the Trade Training School and HQ 2 Signal Group. The following have attended a course—can you spot your Supervisor?

GOVERNMENT TELEPHONIST SUPERVISORS
Mrs E. Adams, Chertsey MVEE (PE)
Mrs M. Armitage, Topcliffe Mil
Mr N. H. Atkinson, Portsmouth (RN)
Mr K. G. Barkley, Shrewsbury Mil
Mr R. D. Bartram, Colchester Mil
Mrs J. Blount, Byfleet DOAE
Mr R. Bright, Worthy Down Mil
Mrs J. Broom, Didcot Mil
Mr J. F. Brown, Bovington Mil
Mrs A. Bystrzynski, Donnington Mil
Mr D. Cuthbertson, Leconfield Mil
Mr T. Donald, Aberdeen Mil
Mr N. Ellis, Portsdown ASWE
Mr F. Evans, Faslane (RN)
Mrs A. Ferguson, Scottish Office
Mrs J. E. Finch, Dalby Mil
Mrs H. Fraser, Bicester Mil
Mrs E. M. Gillan, Scottish Office
Miss V. M. Godden, Andover Mil
Mrs J. C. Corrett, Exeter Mil
Mrs M. Graver, Brecon Mil
Mrs M. E. Greaves, Malvern RSPE (PE)
Mrs A. D. Griffiths, Stafford RAF
Mr J. F. Halford, Winchester Mil
Mrs D. Hall, Pirbright Mil
Mr A. Hampson, Bulford Mil
Mrs I. Harding, Aldershot Mil
Mrs E. Henderson, Chatham Mil
Mrs A. Hennessy, Edinburgh Mil
Mr M. Jack, Carlisle RAF
Mr R. Jones, Shrewsbury Mil
Mr J. M. Kelso, Shrivenham Mil
Mrs D. Mallett, Catterick Mil
Mrs D. Marriott, Cambridge Mil Hospital, Aldershot
Mrs N. Maxfield, Old Sarum Mil
Mr B. Moon, Preston Mil
Mrs V. Moore, Preston Mil
Mrs D. Morris, Chilwell Mil
Mrs L. Nichols, Hounslow Mil
Mrs L. Nicholson, London District
Mr J. Northridge, Colchester Mil
Mrs J. Nutkins, Woolwich Garrison Mil
Mrs E. Payne, Bassingbourne Mil
Mr R. A. Pengelley, Portsmouth (RN)
Mr P. Petley, Salisbury Mil
Mr E. G. Pope, Lydd Mil
Mrs A. Porter, Catterick Mil
Mrs E. Puffett, Brawdy RAF
Mrs L. Reading, Tidworth Mil
Mr F. Richards, Shorncliffe Mil
Mrs E. Robinson, Woolwich Garrison Mil
Mr J. G. Robinson, Fylingdales RAF
Mrs B. Rowlands, Marchwood Mil
Mrs C. M. Sanders, Wigston Mil
Mrs N. Schmidt, Middle Wallop Mil
Miss P. M. Searles, York Mil
Miss V. M. Shuff, Bordon Mil
Mrs C. H. Studd, Camberley Mil
Mrs L. R. Swift, Kings Buildings
Mrs E. Swinden, Farnborough RAF
Miss D. Temple, Chester Mil
Mr A. Thompson, Aberdeen Mil
Mrs E. Thomson, Camberley Mil
Mrs E. Turner, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich
Mrs F. Waite, Warminster Mil
Mrs D. West, Chester Mil
Mrs C. P. Wilson, Scottish Office
Mr L. Young, Cranwell RAF

TUTORIAL STAFF
Mr John V. Ring, Course Tutor
Mr John Ponting, PLO HQ 2 Signal Group
Mr Jim Hayes, Senior Telephone Supervisor HQ 2 Signal Group
Mr Stan Angier, Telephone Travelling Supervisor HQ 2 Signal Group
Mr Arthur Rosbotham, Civilian Instructional Officer
Mr Dennis Smith, Civilian Instructional Officer
Mr Eddie Bell, Civilian Instructional Officer
SSgt Marie Thomson, WRAC
Cpl Chris Partington, WRAC

OBSERVERS
Maj (Retd) Frank Williams, HQ 2 Signal Group
Mr A. W. O'Donnell, Scottish Office
WO2 Garry Cooper, Royal New Zealand Signals



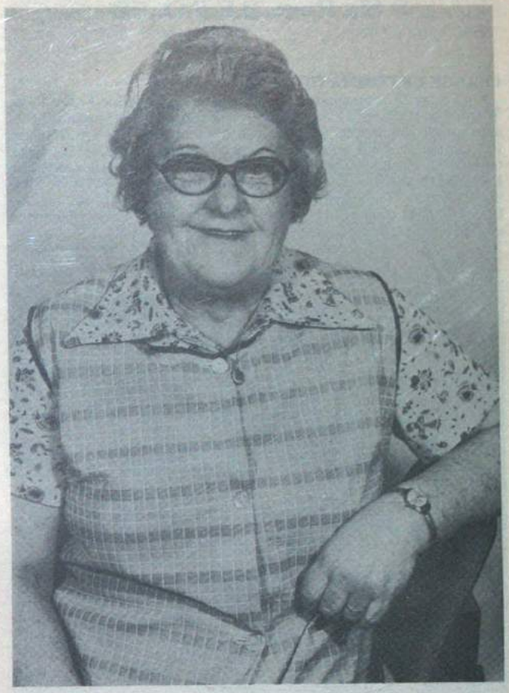












OUR ETHEL

There's a corridor in the TTS
Rooms two four four to two five six
There tongues wag and keyboards rattle
And whose the subject of all the prattle
Who else but — ETHEL

Don't drop your fag mind that paper
Keep it clean — oh what a caper
Don't bring mud in on your feet
Mind you keep it clean and neat
Who says so — ETHEL

Yes I'll do you Monday son
Polishing can be such fun
Hey you great big useless burk
Cleaning here is damned hard work
That's right it's — ETHEL

Five feet two and fighting fit
Always with her cleaning kit
Hustle here and bustle there
Always busy not a care
Our — ETHEL

(MR EDDIE BELL)

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

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On Friday 29 September the Regiment bade farewell to **Lt Col R. K. Ward.** The RSM, **WO1 'Jim' Brown** was given the task of organising an appropriate Regimental farewell with the added task of ensuring the CO did not find out about it. At 1330hrs **Lt Col Ward** left his office for the last time to be greeted by a helicopter hovering overhead and the RAFs ceremonial inspection landrover driven by the MTWO, **Wo2 'Bob' Smith.** The RSM then invited the CO to step aboard the landrover to be driven out of the camp along a route lined by members of the Regiment.



Lt Col R. K. Ward leaving Mercury Barracks

RUGBY TROPHY SHARED

The annual KEO Cup competition was staged on Saturday 14 October. Eight teams representing all the major clubs on the island converged on 9 Sig Regt to compete for the KEO trophy and two barrels of beer. Some exciting rugby was played throughout the day. In the end a hard fought final between 9 RFC and Episkopi Garrison had to be halted after two periods of extra time due to fading light and the two sides had to be content to share the trophy for this year.

DHEKELIA DASH WIN

To the uninitiated the Dash is an annual road relay race from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia. Teams of 15 compete with each member running 1 mile legs. Some 28 teams from all over the island entered the competition this year including four teams from the Regiment. The popularity of the competition is enhanced by one of the rules which states that the age of the team must total 400 years and that military teams much include 1 officer and 5 SNCOs. As a result some of those participating are not the shape, size or age normally associated with the word 'athlete' or 'miler'.

It was therefore a commendable achievement by 2 Sqn to actually win the race against all expectations. The fact that they won was undoubtedly due to the planning of **Sgt 'Pete' Forster** who could hardly believe his eyes as **Capt John Tydeman** crossed the finishing line first for 2 Sqn. The team who averaged just over 5 minutes a mile consisted of—**SSgt Paul Friend, Sgt Paul (I once led Herb Elliot in a mile race) Jarrold, Sgt Jim Edwards, Sgt Dave Morrice, Cpl Keith Smith, Cpl Geordie Doughty, Cpl Steve (Pathfinder) Calland, Sgt Pete (Captain, manager, runner and cheer leader) Forster, Cpl Keith Baker, LCpl Nige Rack, SSgt Screw (two hairs) Crofts, Kerry Gray** and **Capt John Tydeman.**



Sgt Pete Forster receives the Dhekelia Dash Trophy on behalf of 2 Sqn from Col J. D. F. Alexander

FAREWELL TO WO1 (RSM) J.H. BROWN

WO1 (RSM) Jim Brown left the Regiment on 17 November 1978. He joins 10 Sig Regt for his last few months service prior to discharge.

During his career he has served in Cyprus on four occasions, El Adem, Singapore, Italy and the United Kingdom. On 14 June 1974 he was awarded the Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force Germany Commendation for outstanding work and devotion to duty. He has done much for the Regiment during his present tour, gaining the respect of all ranks and always ensuring that morale is of the highest order. He has always found time to give sound advice to anyone with a problem, irrespective of rank.

RSM Brown arrived in the Regiment on 16 February 1977 and immediately set to work on a self help basis, to refurbish the WO's and Sgt's Mess. The Mess is now one of the finest in the Services. His wife **Mary**, has done stalwart work in her own right always assisting in numerous activities. They will indeed be a sad loss to the Regiment. All ranks wish **RSM Brown** and **Mary** a long, happy and prosperous future in civilian life.



WO1 Jim Brown receives a gift from the WO's & Sgt's Mess presented by WO1 Ian Ryder

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

1 SQUADRON (WILTON) REPORT

July saw the advent of several much needed personnel to boost the strength of 1 Squadron. We welcome in **Ptes Julie Brookshaw, April Bartlett, Angela Jenkins, Eunice Bramhold, Jackie Smith, Elain Collinson, Jackie Brewster, Esther Bell, Barbara Button** and **Sue Pitt.** Most of the girls have joined us straight from training and we wish them every success in their military careers.

We also bid welcome to **Sgt Mick Palmer** from 4 Armd Div and say goodbye to **LCpl 'Taf' Jones** who departs for 9 Sigs Regt and **Pte Karen Sanderson,** who crosses the water to Northern Ireland.

TENNIS SUCCESS

Sportwise, 1 Squadron was again busy this month. On 5 July we sent five WRAC to the West Area Tennis Championships, at Larkhill, and proudly came away with two of the trophies; **2Lt Naomi Rixon** winning the Plate event and **LCpl 'Cas' Bracewell** and her partner from HQ UKLF Regt winning the Doubles event. Our congratulations go to both these girls. On 12 July the Rounders Team from Wilton won the West Area Rounders Championship; **Pte Sandra Crowther** playing very well to contribute to this victory.

Not to be outdone, **Ptes Theresa Shipley** and **Penny Horne** spent many long hours travelling up to Hounslow to take part in Canoe-training sessions. They both played a valuable part in 10 Sig Regt achievement at the Army Canoe Championships in Monmouth on 22 and 23 July.

HERE AND THERE

Visits played an important part in the calendar for July. On the 2nd, four WRAC donned their uniforms to assist with the Wilton Spectacular taking place at Wilton House on Sunday afternoon. On the 27th, nine WRAC again dared to visit Tidworth to apply their 'hidden' talents to 3 RTR's Chieftains. On Sunday, 16, three WRAC managed to cycle a round trip of 30 miles to visit Rufus Stone. We congratulate them on their 'noble' effort as they were feeling rather 'shaky' on their legs for the next few days.

From 17th-21st we were pleased to entertain **Miss Marion Redhead,** an Officer Cadet who is about to start training at Camberley. Workwise, our WRAC were again seen to be lending a helping hand to smaller Commcens; notably **Ptes Lisa Barker** and **Lynn Green** who worked at Bulford for one week and **Pte Janet Spencer** who graced the Taunton Commcen for two weeks.

2 SQUADRON — RADIO TROOP (HOUNSLOW) REPORT

Since our last contribution to The Wire the Troop strength has been bolstered by the following Arrivals: **LCpl Paul Ferris** and Family, **Sigs Dave Keevash** and **Eamonn Andrews** and last but not least **Cpl Mike Fidler (Mike** has joined us on Exercise *Long Look* from the Royal Australian Signals). To all these new members the Troop would like to give a hearty Welcome and we hope their tour with us will be a pleasant one.

Over the last four months the Troop has been tested thoroughly on all aspects of its regimental role. Our main occupation has been transferring from a non-tactical to a tactical Radio Troop. This has now been achieved by hard work and numerous HF Exercises ranging from Squadron Exercises/Commanding Officers Exercises and also with numerous outside units. The many problems we encountered due to the change have now been ironed out (we hope) and we now class ourselves amongst the elite as HF Communicators. On the VHF side we have been responsible for providing the security and co-ordination nets for the following State Occasions:

The Queen's Birthday Parade, State Opening of Parliament, Remembrance Sunday, State Visit of President of Romania and finally the State Visit of President of Portugal.

We also participated in the Regimental Summer Camp (or Regimental Battle Camp whichever you prefer to call it) ACF/OCF Classifications, Recruiting Displays, ARU and other Operations. Variety is the spice of life!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT) REPORT

3 Sqn have decided to prove that every picture tells a story and/or 1,000 words, whichever is the longer. THE event of last month was our annual summer camp, which was held at St Martin's Plain (the home of rain and pain) from 1-16 September. We have **Sgt Jan Rees** to thank (or blame) for the photographs.

One thing we are all certain of is that muscles have begun to sprout where previously there were none. Despite mutterings at the time we all enjoyed all or some of our annual camp, some enjoyed it more when all activity ceased!



RIFLES AT THE CAMERA

'Us and whose Army?. *Left to right:* Cpl Lynn Coffey, Ptes Jill Summers, Annette Jackson, Julie Crawford, Tina Blandford and Angela Ball.



HANGING IN THE TREE

'A casualty who came to a sticky end in a plum tree' Left to Right Pte Carole Archibald, LCpl Lynn Jones, 2Lt Nannette Wilson and LCpl Pip Davison



CROSSING THE WATER

'Who said crossing the Red Sea was easy (Moses?)'



CLIMBING DOWN THE POLE
'I thought the end of Op Burberry meant no more fire persons'. Cpl Lynn Kitchen coming down

SGT GRAHAM HOPPER—TROPO TROOP

It is with deep sorrow we report the loss of a 'good friend' on 24 September, 1978, while attending Regimental Summer Camp, **Sgt Graham Hopper** died at The Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone. **Graham** was one of the experienced 'Elders' of The Troop; his pleasant friendly nature is sadly missed. Qualities so often taken for granted; so difficult to replace.

Graham's sudden death has been felt beyond the confines of his family and work. Among his many interests, photography was his favourite. Recently he had started to combine photography with a growing knowledge and feeling for archaeology and was an active member of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. A letter from The Trust has been received and is printed below:

CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
Patron: Lord Astor of Hever
Chairman: The Mayor of Canterbury

The news of Graham's death came as a great shock to all his friends working for the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

We first met Graham, some two years ago, quite soon after the Trust had been set up, when he volunteered to help with the archaeological excavations. He started working for us at first for the odd weekend; gradually we saw more and more of him, until nearly all his spare time and holidays were devoted to digging.

Graham's skill as a digger developed as time went by until he became one of the best excavators working for us. His interest went beyond just digging. He began to read a lot of background material, he took an interest in the general on site recording, but his keenest interest was in archaeological photography. He had invested a lot of money in camera equipment and processing materials and used it to an ever improving professional standard.

His most recent work involved the photographic recording of the more important finds from the excavations. The quality of his work was very high indeed. He was, shortly before his death devising and constructing camera equipment to be used on site.

We will miss Graham very much indeed. We miss his cheerful nature, his enthusiasm for archaeology, his skill as an excavator and a photographer and above all his friendship.

Paul Bennett, Asst Director CAT

Further to their letter, The Trust is planning to place a commemorative plaque at the site where Graham was working. A small but significant memorial to him, and his contribution to the work of the Trust. A contribution so obviously appreciated by his colleagues, whose interest he shared.

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NOTABLE HOCKEY RECORD

The months of October and November in Birgelen have been very busy with this and that board of Officers, visits by distinguished gentlemen, the preparation for an elusive ARU and of course plenty of sport. The Hockey team have made a good start to the season having managed to win the recently restarted Royal Signals BAOR Hockey tournament. The Regiment managed to win the Cup in 1962/63 and has held it ever since!

A PLACE WITH MANY ROLES

The Gymnasium, other than providing an excellent place to play indoor sports, hold Remembrance Sunday Services, and be a comfortable Ballroom, has also had a successful conversion to an Indoor Archery Range. It was used when the Regiment played host for a BAOR meet in October when 35 archers from German and British Archery Clubs competed. The event was ably organised by **SSgt Taff Jones** and **Sgt Rick Retallick.**

ONE SQUADRON REPORT

One Squadron is the largest of the Regiments four squadrons and has the largest proportion of shift workers, the day workers (lesser animals) constituting only some ten per cent of the squadron's strength. There is, of course, a lot made of the difference between the two types of worker, and much repartee about the matter bounces off office and corridor walls, and much more is written on other walls. One should not look too closely at the Snide Book, nor at the doodles of an STg, especially after he has finished a hard mid shift during the "silly season" or the period working up to summer camp. However, his humour and wit are very mature in general and within the bounds of good natured acceptability.

HIGHLIGHT OR NOT

Being such a large squadron, we must, and of course do, contribute to the many sports and activities that are an every day part of Regimental life. To list personalities and their achievements in sport and in recreational activites, for 1978 would be prohibitive as space would not allow and apart from that, the non...gladiators would not get a look in and they are as much a part of the Squadron as anyone else. You must have noticed, that the usual method of highlighting personalities in The Wire is the setting of their names in heavier print, so that a swift glance of the paragraph or column will readily present the reader with a familiar or interesting name. This is, in our view, a bad practice because it obviates the necessity of reading the whole text to bring out any known personalities to the reader. He can therefore skimp through The Wire 'heavy printing', so to speak, dwelling only on sight of a likely name.

PERSONALITY REVIEW

Be that as it may, let me introduce to you a few of the personalities of One Sqn but in a slightly different manner. It will not matter if they are in heavy type because I'm going to use their nicknames. So if you are interested then read on. Having recently conducted a brief survey on nicknames within the Squadron, the following facts have come to light. That nearly a quarter of the Squadron do have nicknames and the derivatives fall into three main and three lesser groups. These do not include the Jocks, Paddys, Taffys, Scouses and Geordies and other common nicknames that are in wide use.

APPEARANCE GROUP

The first main group and by far the largest, is what could be termed the Physical or the Appearance group. This is where the individual has attracted a nickname through some physical aspect, be it complimentary or otherwise. For example one lad is called **Radar** because his ears stick out at right angles. However the constant wearing of headphones may in time flatten the offending appendages. There are those of rather distinctive appearance have earned the names of **Black Bob, Masam, Charlie Chan, and Choggie.** Of course we have the long and the short of it in the shape of **Tich** and **Sixfoot, Mancub** because of his size and **Muscles** because he has them in places where most of us don't have places!

There is a **Red,** who despite his baldness was seen to be sporting a fiery beard when he transferred from the Senior Service. Too young to have been at Pearl Harbour, but never the less, Yoshie only needs a pair of John Lennon spectacles to look the absolute spit of a Kamikazi pilot. And last of all in this group is **Troll.**

THE CHARACTER GROUP

On to the next largest group where we find that it is perhaps the person's character that has been instrumental in the formation of the nickname. There are no prizes for guessing why **Peter Rabbit** is so called or that why "he who never laughs" enjoys the name **Happy. Budgie** has earned his name because of the constant chirruping he maintains and **Fen** (bastardisation of pfennig), has something to do with careful cash accounting. One would think that **Darkie** should be placed in the previous group, however I'm assured that it belongs here along with **Peter Pan** and **Sniffer,** without any explanations. The antics of **Billy Wiz** on the electric polisher during a mid shift have brought tears to the eyes of his audience and perhaps he would be better named as **Rear 'ostat.**

THE REAL NAME GROUP

Last of the main groups are those associated with the persons real name and so as not to give anything away I'll just list a few. **Nellie,** whose forefathers could have been in the Navy, and **Corkey** who might just have jumped off the front of the Beano. (Or is it the Dandy?) Initials fall in to his section in the form of **DeeBee** and **PeeJay.** No prizes again. There is a **Gaz** and as most units do have a **Yogie,** ours is no exception but it is definitely name and not looks associated (I wonder?)

This brings us onto the sub-groups and surprisingly rank associated with position has only attracted a couple of likely nicknames. The most outstanding being **Norman the Foreman** who keeps a tight rein on the shop floor. We do have a **Roc,** but strangely enough it's not his nickname! A/ROC could be misconstrued as **Pebbles,** but those in glass houses should not throw stones, etc. Second in the sub-groups are the no reason nicknames, or those in the know are remaining very tight lipped. To name but four, **Rocky, Sneck, Pip** and **Heck.**

THE INCIDENT GROUP

The most interesting of all the groups is the sub-group that I've labled "Incident" nicknames. This is where an individual has earned a nickname through a situation or incident. Unfortunately there are only two in the category and only one is worth telling. The hapless person in this case was standing against a backdrop of flora enjoying some sporting activity as a spectator. His attention was broken from the sport when he realised that the humidity and temperature of one foot had suddenly risen above that of the other. On looking down he was amazed to see a little canine creature shake its leg and unconcernedly hurry off. He now enjoys the nickname, **Dogs.** Well there you have it, some personalities from One Squadron viewed from perhaps a different angle, but one with which we are all familiar. Oh! one last one. His name is **Skeg.** I wonder where he comes from?

FAREWELL

Special mention must be made of the departure of **WO2 (RQMS) Darkie Williams** who is to take up a new appointment at 39 Bde. **Darkie** left in November after what must be an all time record of serving some seven years with the Regiment. He is an ex-STg and his future employment will take him, for the first time, outside our cloistered world, although stores accounting will not be a new task for him. His wife **Sheila** was until recently a member of the WRAC and also a member of the Regiment. He was the point of some minor family bitterness when she was awarded her LS and GC Medal before him!

So to both of them, goodbye yet again and our best wishes for the future.

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS

This year has been a continuing success story for the orienteers of the Regiment, culminating in a win at the Corps ('BAOR) Championships held at Düsseldorf on the 30 November. Last year's event was a disappointment for us in some respects, because although we were the overall winners, and by a considerable margin, the trophy was not ours to take home because of what must be a rather unique ruling for inter-unit sport, that all team members must be Royal Signals, and other Arms must run as individual guests or guest teams.

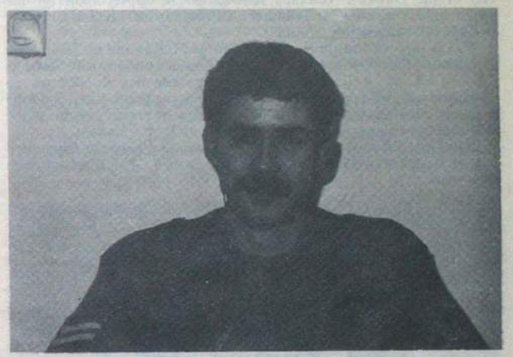
SUCCESS

However, this ruling notwithstanding, we set to and entered a wholly Royal Signals team and won the Major Unit prize with **WO1 Bob Etherton** taking 2nd place. **LCpl Jock Hutton** taking 3rd and **Capt Jon Henderson** taking 4th place. The guest team event was won by the Intelligence Corps orienteers with **Sgt Gordon Edgar** taking 2nd individual place.

The Regiment also entered the only WRAC team and despite the bitterly cold weather, all the girls successfully completed their course. The "A" course was about 9 Kms long with fifteen control points to be visited and although the field was not as large as last year, the standard of orienteering, the map provided and area used were a great improvement. It is a pity that five of our experienced orienteers have been posted during 1978 but there is still a strong nucleus within the Regiment and some very promising beginners that portend well for next season.



'Peter Pan' wondering whether his new office will ever stop floating about (watched by SSgt Brian Robjohn)



Cpl 'Budgie' Park on his perch



LCpl 'Skeg' O'Dare



Sig 'Mancub' Patrick in a typical pose

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HERE AND THERE

The last few months have been very busy ones for the Regiment, with exercises and stocktaking boards occupying most of the time — November for some was one continuous exercise, starting with *Swift Dagger 2*, our own Regimental exercise and followed by *Aintree Task*, a 1 Armd Div exercise. The enjoyment of all those taking part was greatly enhanced by the severe frosts and snow falls that occurred towards the end of November!

Our three smaller pictures show firstly, **Stephen Prime,** son of **Capt Derek Prime** our TOT, on the occasion of his attestation in September. **Stephen** joined the RAOC which doesn't say much for our internal recruiting! But anyway we wish him well in his chosen career.

The second shows **Miss Hilary Osborne** signing the Visitors Book in the WOs and Sgts Mess. **Hilary** is an announcer on BFBS Television and on this occasion she toured certain areas of the barracks, meeting soldiers, on an informal PR visit. The previous evening **Hilary** attended the Wives Club to take part in a panel game. We are grateful for her participation.

The third photograph shows **Mr Jack Trimmer** presenting a plaque to **Lt Col Ian Sprackling,** the Commanding Officer, from the London HQ of the Dunkirk Veterans Association in appreciation for the regiment looking after **Mr Trimmer** on an earlier visit. **Jack** is a relative of **Capt F. P. Searle** Royal Signals.

We say farewell this time to **Flt Lt George McKay** and his family and at the same time welcome to **Flt Lt John Gradley** and his wife **Stevie** as the new OC of 54 SU RAF. **WO1 George Lile** has also left us, on commissioning and posting to 4 Div Sig Regt; we thank him for all the help and advice he gave us during the first few traumatic months of the Regiment's existence and congratulate him on his promotion.

Better late than never — we think you should all see our Champion Tug of War team — Morrison Cup Winners 1978. Watch out for them next year!



Stephen Prime, son of Capt Derek Prime TOT, on the occasion of his attestation being welcomed into the RAOC by Lt Col P. Dodworth, Station Commander



Mr Jack Trimmer presenting a plaque to Lt Col Ian Sprackling on behalf of the Dunkirk Veterans Association



Miss Hilary Osborne, BFBS TV Announcer signing the Visitors Book in the WOs and Sgts Mess on the occasion of a PR visit to the Regiment



WINNERS OF THE MORRISON CUP MAJOR UNITS TUG OF WAR 1978

Standing: Cpl Cotton, Sgt Fisher, Maj Cantle, SSgt Norgrove, Cpl Wiseman, Cpl Kindness. *Kneeling:* Cpl Brady, Cpl Enticott, Sgt Taylor, Sig Osman, Mr Sandford

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON — CELEBRITY FOCUS

Get well wishes to **Lcpl Pete Fletcher** who sprained his ankle at that well known rough game 'Volleyball'; when fit he is a competent and most enthusiastic REME mechanic who keeps our Regiment's civilian cars on the road.

A keen eyed Lance Corporal in Comms Troop (Who shall be nameless) chased a parked Renault with a Landrover. Unanimously voted 'Driver of the Week' by the officialdom in Comms Troop, he is now the proud owner of a spare Landrover steering wheel painted white to carry about with him for the rest of the week in a smart, uniform, and soldier-like manner.

"Ding, Dong . . . Amway calling!" **Sgt Fred Waters** leads a busy life in charge of the Regiment's battery and generator workshops and is doing very well in the business world as a part-time Amway sales representative. **Sgt Waters** a former Army boxing champion says jokingly, "The left one's deadly, and the right's fatal"; the same could be said of his sales patter!

Sig Wally "I can't afford the insurance" Walters is busily preparing his 18 PS Fiat 500 for forthcoming BFG inspection.

Sgt Bob Alexander of Tech workshops would like to put his car on the market. It is a smart two-tone Mercedes — white and rust!

Sgt Paddy Elliott, connoisseur of the vintage car world has resurrected a 1933 Austin Saloon, worth an enviable sum in excess of 12,000DM'?' He also has a 1937 Hearse (less coffin) on the market — but unfortunately so far he has had no takers!

TECH WORKSHOPS SCENE

The Tech Workshops sign creaks spookily as the wind howls round Comms Troop garages. A grating iron door leads to an isolated, dark and dusty corner of the garages where the technicians scramble amongst ancient wagons. The rustle of paper work is accompanied by muffled screams from **LCpl Chris 'Radar' Denley** the appointed R & I clerk working in a converted ramshackle radio cage. Brushing his way through cobwebs **Sgt Bob Alexander** supervises the stowing of Active Edge Kit in the coffins of the Commers. Over the cluttered workbench **Sgt Alister Burnett** switches on the ionisation tester and bright blue sparks leap through the air between charred electrodes. **Cpl Terry Fenton** and **Mal Allerton** wreak havoc on the skeletons of teleprinters. Inside the tech vehicle **Cpl Frank Grant** and **LCpl John Johnston** show the radios no mercy and subject them to ruthless specification tests. From inside the FATSO wagon there are howls of hysterical laughter as **Sgt Mick Whalen,** the Regiment's chief storeman (RAOC), sorts out the latest lorryload of stores and spares.

Suddenly the dim lights flicker and darkness falls. From the darkness an authoritative voice shouts, "Which wazzer forgot to POL the genny?". The freezing cold is unbearable. **Foreman 'Colin' Bachelor** passes out the Parkas and rushes off to hassle the boilerman to switch on the garage heating system before the winter snows set in. Everybody stood immobile as an anguished scream pierced the air — "Telephone" and the 100 yards sprint to the Comms Troop office telephone is on. But, alas, all this is to change shortly as we shall move to a centralised workshops with an office for the Foreman of Signals and a new ash tray for our TOT, **Capt Derek Prime.**

1 SQUADRON REPORT

Life proceeds apace in 1 Squadron. The executive suite comprises:

OC	**Maj M. W. J. Clowser**
OC Designate	**Maj C. Hewitt**
2IC	**Capt M. J. Jefferis**
OC A Tp	**Capt I. R. Grant (currently on JDSC)**
IO	**Capt C. Harrison**
Admin Offr	**Lt D. H. Jarman**
SSM	**WO2 B. P. Neillings**

The number of visitors has not diminished but formal lunches have been replaced by bar or 'pub' lunches (soup and open rolls) which appear to be quite popular.

GOINGS

It would be long-winded to mention all those who have departed for either another unit or civilian life and those who have arrived since we last appeared in these notes but, amongst the 'middle-management' we say goodbye to **Q Chudleigh** in November and have already said hello to **SSgt Sposito** in his stead. We also welcome **WO2 (Shug) Murphy** and congratulate **Vernon Merrick** on his promotion to WO1 (is the pyramid really upside down?). Also we thank **Capt Hugh Hancock** for being one of us for a short while and wish him luck in his new appointment.

MISCELLANEA

PSA still insist that once a newly sown lawn has been brought to fruition a contractor should arrive with a digger to gouge several holes out of it — and the contractors seem to run out of windows faster than the US dollar falls against the Yen.

The JRC (ably organised by **Messrs Lorrigan, Street, Bruchez and Hickman**) continues to amaze everyone with the style and ingenuity of its functions. The last occasion was entitled "Tarts and Vicars" and was a resounding success. The OC appeared as an authentic Old Mother Riley and some of the more attractive soldiers would bring tears to the eyes of any ASVU representative. (The OC 'chatted' one of them up for 5 minutes before he recognised his driver!). Two of the Bishops would have had no trouble entering the Vatican.

After a flurry of parties and suppers, **Ann Clowser** was dined-out of the Wives' Club at a superb meal prepared by **Sgt Brooks** and his staff and with the SSM and a few other 'stayers' waiting-on. **Ann** had to be delivered to Anderson Barracks totally unaware of what was happening — and this stretched the OC's imagination much more than preparing for an ARU! Anyway, it was a splendid evening, much appreciated by the principal guest and **Ann** leaves with all our best wishes and thanks.

November saw the culmination of three major 1 Sqn events. From 8th to 17th of the month, we saw the Regimental exercise finally in full swing. From the Sqns's point of view it was a success and we are now busy preparing for the next one.

One particular 'funny' emerged.

"What's the trouble, Staff?"

"We're having a bit of a problem getting the spare genny started, sir".

"Oh, that's no problem, C'mon you three, we'll all give it a push".

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 27th, we witnessed the handover/takeover of command performed by the 'old' and new Officers Commanding. We all wish **Maj Mike Clowser** and **Ann** all the best in their new Gloucestershire pastures and extend a warm welcome to **Maj Chris Hewitt** and **Sally** hoping their stay with us will be enjoyable.

SHOPPING AFAR

On Friday 24th, 20 of the Sqn wives made a bus trip to the American PX in Berlin in order to do some Christmas shopping. They were in the safe hands, driving type, of **Lcpl Steve Hickman.** Before the trip he would not say whether he was more worried about his first time trip through the corridor of East Germany, or the contents of the bus. The question remains unanswered, but he was the only one to arrive back financially better off after a generous whip-round by the girls.

2 SQUADRON

Report by Delta Troop

Last month saw the departure of our OC, **Maj Dick Stokes (Rupert** to us) who has been posted to the MOD. We wish **Dick,** who has been around since the days of EW Troop 30 Sig Regt, and his wife **Anne** a very happy and successful tour in his new post.

With the Regiment now in full swing many of the traditional joys of any Regimental calendar are upon us. At present it is our equivalent of UEI and many crafts unknown in the trade training schools are being practiced. A trip round the garages would almost certainly find **Cpl Dave 'Paint Your Wagon' Dolling** busily painting anything that doesn't move (such as his wagon). Of course before any painting can be done everything has to be GUNKED and in this department we have the highly talented **Sgt Bob Hales** and the Gunk Machine including **Cpl Bob 'La' Harrison, LCpl Pete Ridlington, Sig Bob 'It comes off the vehicles but not off me' Goff** and our prize possession **Sig Taff 'The Egg' Latte.** To complete the workers we have the nearly native **Cpl Bob Sayers, LCpl 'Bomber' Crayford** and **Sig Jock 'fi! Langy' Robertson** who are all well versed in the dialect and frequently practice on their wives. Just back from Belize (native less tans) are **Cpls Mick Martin, Gordon Lynn, Brian Thomson** and **Taff 'Penicillin' Clancy,** who are saying nothing but 'It's different!'

Keeping the Troop in good running order we have the Management group featuring the efficient **WO2 'Lofty' Newman** on desk playing CES, **SSgt Sam Smith** on hula hoops, **Sgts Dickie Henderson** and **John Carr** in duet on stores and **SSgt Len Hutton** on road signs.

We have a couple of new arrivals — a new OC, of course — **Capt Hugh Hancock** all the way from 1 Squadron. Also we welcome **LCpl Dave Christie** and his wife **Karen** (3 months to DZ). We hope that they will enjoy their tours with the Troop.

BERLIN VISIT: HOCKEY AND SQUASH

This brave encounter of the third kind departed on the 23 November with a crew of 23, and nobody being certain we would return with the same number. We boarded the transport and **Mrs Higson** decided it was far too hot and set off the fire extinguisher, thus raising the morale

of the rest of the team ten-fold. We moved off, twenty yards and then were called to a halt. **Capt** and **Mrs Higson** thought it might be a good idea if they took their luggage with them rather than leave it on the roof of their car! If this was a sign of things to come we were surely in for a memorable journey.

We arrived at Braunschweig in good time to board the Military Train and the rest of the journey to Charlottenburg Station passed without incident. However, as we were aboard the coach and about to leave for our various destinations, one of the train guards jumped on and asked if there was a **Mrs Higson** on the bus. What now! He wanted to return the handbag she had left on the train, I don't think it was his style! By this time some members of the party were beginning to think that **Mrs Higson** was in fact Michael Crawford in drag! Not having any fixture for that evening, the unaccompanied members of our party decided to pool all their money and buy-out Berlin. There is no truth in the rumour that **Cpl "Dolly" Dolling** has part-shares in a certain Pizza house that make only one kind of pizza, "No 4!".

TWO DRAWS

On Friday morning we were due to play our first Hockey fixture against 1 Welsh Guards at 1100. Reveille for our team was bright and early, 1015! We had to let them have such a late start as most of them were kept awake by **Cpl "Spy" Dyer** snoring. Though **Cpl, Sgt** or whatever, **Terry Buckley** says he didn't hear a thing due to his cloth ears. The game began with an exchange of Regimental Plaques by Team Captains, **Cpl Tam Frize** being able to keep awake. Though far below our best, we were encouraged by the roars of our supporters and at half-time we were one-nil up. It was at this point that **Sgt Terry Buckley** decorated the base of the Welsh flag pole and **Cpl Dyer** feeling ill, was substituted for our secret weapon, the RSM. From this moment on the game took a distinct turn, and at the close of play we were held to a one-one draw. The Welsh had been given a penalty, by **ASM Gordon Banks** sitting on the ball. An extremely difficult and skilful trick which he almost got away with.

That night the gates were opened again and the majority of us were let out on the town to some very classy and sophisticated night spots. The Paymaster put on his best green tracksuit and brown shoes and was not seen until dawn. He had in fact been found by a taxi driver out running in the "Grünewald", a picturesque training area! Honestly!

On Saturday morning the Hockey team were once again in action. This time our opponents were 38 Engineer Regiment and we played in the Field Force Headquarters which was in fact the venue of the 1936 Olympic Games. This was our first fixture on a grass pitch and it was clearly causing problems to our, by now, very sleepy team who were trying to solve difficult mental problems such as where the nearest Pay Office was located! Again at half-time we were one-nil up but during the second half we were faced with a much more spirited and enthusiastic opposition who came at us with much more purpose. It was clear they were not taking any prisoners, and at the close of play we had yet another one-one draw.

CLEAN SWEEP FOR PARA

In the afternoon our Squash team went into action, well most of them did. Our opponents were our hosts for the visit, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. We lost this match five-nil but the spirit in which the match was played, and the friendliness and gamesmanship displayed was a credit to all who took part.

The evening once again was passed in high spirits, with **Mr** and **Mrs Keith Licence** visiting various bars and restaurants to see whether all they had been told was true. **WO1 Pete Robinson, WO2 Brian Hall, SSgt Len Hutton** and **Sgt Mick Whelan** were invited to 2 Para's Mess for a 'Come as you are' night. Of course they were all very smart compared to the array of nightgowns, etc. One person even turned up dressed in full 'Jumping' kit complete with parachute!

CONTROVERSIAL

Sunday morning saw the Hockey team playing a Minor Units Combined team. This provided us with the only controversial decision of the tour. At half-time the score was nil-nil with the majority of play having been in our opponents half. During the second half on one of the rare visits of our opponents into our "D", one umpire anticipated the ball crossing our line, when in fact the ball was stopped on the line by **Brian Hall** and pushed round the post by **Mick Whelan.** Both teams realised it was a 16 yard hit, but by this time the umpire had committed himself to giving a goal and would not change his mind. At close of play the score stood at one-nil to our opponents. NEVER!

A WIN

On Sunday afternoon we had some difficulty getting all our Squash team together for the game against a Field Force combined team, and in the end we played a friendly "foursome". **Maj Tony Bushell** deserves congratulations on winning his very hard fought game. He took his quite skilful opponent to two games all, then really opened-up in the final game and displayed some outstanding qualities to win the match in the last game. He was the only player to win a match during the whole weekend and he didn't let us forget it!

ENJOYABLE VENTURE

Sunday evening was spent relatively quietly, mainly due to lack of funds. We had an early start on Monday morning and arrived in Braunschweig at 1230, only to be told that we would have to wait for an hour as the bus had broken down. However, it arrived at last and we got back without any more ado. We all made sure that **Capt** and **Mrs Higson** had all their luggage, including a pheasant!

Looking back, I'm sure everyone enjoyed the venture and, dare I say it, perhaps we can do the same next year. Thanks have been sent to all who helped to make the trip possible and all that remains to be said is a big thank you to the players themselves, without whom there would not have been a reason for going. THANK YOU.

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A SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

On 27 October the Regimental Officers hosted the members of our WOs' and Sergeants' Mess and their wives at a cocktail party. The event was a measure of appreciation to them for their contribution to the well being of the Regiment over this and other years.

INFANTRY TRAINING (NOV)

A week (6-10) was spent at Haltern on an infantry-type training exercise. For many soldiers some of the tasks came as a surprise — pleasant in the case of field firing, less so having to ford a three-foot deep river in November. All survived the various ordeals and now look forward to April in Vogelsang. The Remembrance Day Service was held at Rheinberg Military Cemetery. The weather continued to be dry and bright and that and the most beautiful setting combined to make the service meaningful. As the whole event was organised for Krefeld Station the parade and service was attended by about 500 personnel from Krefeld, St Tönis and Willich.

DELTA TROOP

On 28 November Delta Troop under command of **Capt David J. Elson** departed for 21 Sig Regt. Much gnashing of teeth, wailing and tearing of hair accompanied them leaving for pastures anew. We are sorry to see them go and wish them every success.

CELEBRATIONS AHEAD

As in every other unit or organisation the month heralds the usual wave of self-congratulatory celebrations at all levels. The calendar in every respect is extremely full — dare one say . . . 'come on the New Year!'

3 SQUADRON NEAR AND FAR

A few brave and trusty souls have remained at their posts poised for orders from on high, with their ears to the ground, noses to the grindstone and hands at the wheel. Others less athletic, have been away. The OC, **Maj David Stubbs,** crept away as far as Gibraltar and Morocco on a diving expedition for two weeks. Needless to say his example was followed. **SSgt (Fof S) Pete Johnson** sailed away for two weeks on HMSTY *Sabre* from Gosport via Lisburn and Cadiz to Morocco and Gibraltar where he and the OC met over a few beers to discuss their tour of Tangier. Other less fortunate mortals contented themselves with more modest excursions. **WO2 (SSM) Graham Griffiths** fled back to England, followed by **Capt Peter Thompson, Lt Eric Webster** and many others. The Squadron sadly loses Delta Troop to 21 Sig Regt this month. **Capt David Elson** will carry his moustache away to RAF Wildenrath followed by his gallant band of warriors. We wish them all the best of luck with the "crabs". It's all a part of some great rationalisation, but then they always call it that when they're disturbing everyone.

MOTORCYCLING TRIALS

October/November saw our motorcyclists take part in three major competitions. 17/18 October the Berlin Championships got under way with the early morning fog lingering over the course. After two days of hard riding over a difficult course the team of **SSgt Paddy Dickinson, Sgt Bob Gillespie** and **LCpl Jim Nash** took the second team awards. **Sig Mick Powell** took the fourth Novice award.

BAOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our next journey took us to Münster on 4/5 November for the BAOR Championships. At the start of the second day our team were lying in third position and had their sights set on second place. But the course had its revenge on **SSgt Dickinson** and **Sgt Gillespie** who had to retire due to machine faults. However, our remaining two riders, **LCpl Nash** and **Sig Powell** received a gold and a silver award. Due to lack of spares and unit commitments we could only send one rider to the Höhne Garrison two day enduro. **Sgt Bob Gillespie** represented the unit and took second place award in the Army machine class. Due to the demands the course set the riders, the event was staged for one day only.



Left to right: Sgt Bob Gillespie, SSgt Paddy Dickinson and LCpl Jim Nash

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

VISIT OF OIC MANNING

Col A. P. Baker visited the Regiment as the first stop of a busy tour of Royal Signals units in BAOR. The usual routine of lectures and interviews was broken by an LS&GC medal presentation to six members of the Sgt's mess. This was followed by a curry lunch which gave many of the mess members the opportunity to chat informally with **Col Baker.** His first visit to the Regiment was a full and varied one. We thank him for his frank and honest discussions and look forward to his next visit.



Col A. P Baker with the six recipients of the LS&GC. *Left to Right:* Sgt Bob Lawrence, Sgt Rod Dinsdale, Sgt Alan Brown, Col A. P. Baker, SSgt Pete Wall, SSgt Keith Johnson, WO2 (ORQMS) Mick Weston. (the chief clerk, along with many others, cannot believe he has finally made it)

WELCOME TO DELTA TROOP

Delta Troop commanded by **Capt David Elson** joined the regiment on 28 November 1978. They were welcomed by **Maj Mike Forge** and the remainder of 1 Squadron. Delta Troop who came from 16 Sig Regt will operate Commcen PAPA in the field. Apart from bringing their vehicles and tech equipment from Krefeld Delta Troop created regimental history by bringing with them four charming girls of the WRAC, who are **Cpl Claudette Scott** and **Pte's Phillipa Beeby, Lynn Connelly** and **Maureen Fetini.** The remainder of the regiment welcome them and hope that they have a happy and memorable tour with us.

CROSS COUNTRY

The regimental team took the first step in retaining the Army Cup, by winning the Rhine Area Championship at Birglen. The whole team ran well and individual honours were won by **Sgt Pete Dring** and **Cpl Les Woods** who were placed 2nd and 3rd respectively. The team are training hard to retain the Cup which they first won in 1971-72 season and apart from 1973-74 season have won every year since. Their next hurdle is the BAOR Championships to be held at Verden. There they will meet the 'aulde enemy' 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The team welcome the following new members who are already proving their prowess **Capt Dick Hoyle** of orienteering fame, **LCpl Lloyd Whittaker, Sig David Carr** and **2Lt Bob Cousins.**

MARATHON MAN

On a warm Sunday in October, **Sgt Peter Dring** well known amongst the corps running fraternity ran the 3rd International Maastrict Marathon which also incorporated the south Nederland Championships. Almost a thousand runners of all standards including Dutch Internationals started the gruelling 26 miles 385 yards course, **Sgt Peter Dring** who was running a marathon for the first time started off at a steady pace. The race comprised one short lap of 2 km followed by five longer laps of 8 km through the Dutch woodlands.



At the 20 mile point **Sgt Peter Dring** was in 40th position and going strongly. He then began to speed up over the last six miles and in fact covered the last 1.5 miles in the excellent time of 7 min 15 sec. Finally completing the marathon in the good time of 2 hours 33 mins, he was placed 6th. The Dutch Champion who won the event completed the course in 2 hours 25 mins. Well done **Pete Dring.**

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The third annual Royal Signals (BAOR) Orienteering Championships was held at Düsseldorf on Thursday 30 November. **WO2 Eddy** of 14 Topo Sqn RE marked a 9 km course on the 1:15000, five colour map of the Stadtwald, Düsseldorf. These championships are a domestic Royal Signals affair and their aim is to promote and encourage Royal Signals Orienteers. Although all but one Royal Signals unit had entered the event, on the day only 42 Royal Signals personnel ran. The weather was very cold with freezing fog swirling around the start area. Fortunately **Sgt 'Gordie' Ledger** and the admin team from 1 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt had a hot meal and drinks available at the finish.

The competition was a close affair, 13 Sig Regt were the firm pre-race favourites: a team with expertise and experience. On the day, however, as the results came into the stats wagon, manned by **WO2 (YofS) Tom Wilkinson**, it was obvious that 21 Sig Regt were in with a chance and that 22 Sig Regt were not far behind.

The final results were as follows:

MAJOR UNITS (4 runners)

1st 13 Sig Regt	4 hrs 56 mins 46 sec
2nd 21 Sig Regt	5 hrs 03 mins 12 sec
3rd 22 Sig Regt	5 hrs 15 mins 48 secs

MINOR UNITS (3 runners)

1st HQ R Signals 1 (BR) Corps 4 hrs 50 mins 34 sec

In the individual competition less than two minutes separated the first three runners. Results were:

1st **Capt Dick Hoyle**, 21 Sig Regt, 2nd **WO1 Bob Etherton**, 3rd **LCpl 'Jock' Hutton** and 4th **Capt John Henderson** all of 13 Sig Regt.

The prizes were presented by **Lt Col MFH Colman.**

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

VISIT OF OIC MANNING

Cpl A. P. Baker visited the Regiment on 28 November and during his short stay he was able to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Sgt Stewart Anderson, Sgt Maurice Rigley** and **Cpl Jim Keighley.** The photograph shows **Cpl Keighley** and his wife **Carole** after the presentation.



Cpl Jim Keighley and his wife Carole after the presentation of his LS and GC Medal

EXERCISE 'ABLE ARCHER' 1978

Notes from Echelon

During the past year Echelon has become a highly warlike organisation thinking nothing of going into the field twice in one month. Once there, little disturbs the peace and quiet or the discussion of the bridge school after each hand.

Undisturbed by the VIP visitors that are to be found looking at Switch and Mobile, very often the only highlight to our day is the visit of the Netherland Line Squadron repair detachment to repair the line that someone had noticed was out of order.

We do take life seriously at Echelon and nothing upsets our routine. Each exercise we have a dinner in the field, this time to dine out our RMTO, **Capt Duggie Rumsey.** We felt that we had to do something to mark the occasion of his last exercise, not only in the Regiment, but also in the Army.

VALE

In January **Capt Duggie Rumsey** will be retiring from the Army after 28 years. His career has been a varied and interesting one, taking him to the far corners of a long vanished empire.

Joining the Service as a junior leader in 1950, he trained as an Operator Wireless and Line and was posted to 11 Armd Div in Germany. In the next seven years he was to serve in Korea, Egypt, and Cyprus, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant, despite reaching the rank of Lance Corporal on three separate occasions. In 1959 he went to the Signals Wing at the RMAS followed by a tour in Malta from where he was promoted to Warrant Officer with 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Borneo. From there, back to BAOR for two tours before becoming RSM of 14 Signal Regiment. In 1970 he was commissioned and posted to 10 Signal Regiment, followed by three years as Quartermaster with 40 Signal Regiment in Northern Ireland. In 1976 he became RMTO with this unit and has been responsible for the biggest conglomeration of old vehicles outside Beaulieu Motor Museum. We will be very sorry to see him go and wish him and his wife **Pam** all the very best in civilian life.



Capt Duggie Rumsey at work on his last 'project' before leaving the Regiment and Army on redundancy

THOSE FISHERMEN OF ENGLAND

After a one week delay due to a force 10 gale, twenty members of the Regimental Fishing Club set sail from the port of Ijmuiden in Holland. Conditions looked good with barely a ripple on the harbour water and spirits were high. The main thought at this time was where to put all that succulent cod . . .

As the good ship Elizabeth passed the harbour entrance **WO2 Bill Lees** raised the alarm for 'Hughie'; rapidly others took up the cry, most prominent being **Sgt Jim Hawkins** our tame medic, **Cpls Donachie** and **Alexander** and our own **Sig John Henry Miller.**

As if on cue mountainous seas, driving hail and thunder and lightening arrived. The delightful, solid looking ship began to look remarkably fragile as it was tossed around like a matchstick. **Sgts Ben Hunter** and **Dave Howe** joined the search for 'Hughie' soon being joined by **SSgt Barry Pottinger.** Such was the concern for Hughie that the search continued for five hours more and all attempts at fishing were abandoned by all but **WO2 George Gay** and the RSM, **WO1 Frank Atkins,** whose nonchalantly noshed their lunch pack and callously enquired whether they could have the gloves etc of those laying prostrate on the deck. Fortunately, the skipper had a heart and returned to harbour early thereby ending an experience never to be forgotten (or repeated).

For those readers wondering what we did with all that cod, let me quickly say that they were smarter than we were—they stayed at home.

FRAN FEATHERS

During his many wanderings around the Regiment in search of inspiration, Brer Wabbit, our very own Poet Laureate, discovered that we were very fortunate to have a number of extremely rare birds. Although not ornithologically inclined, Brer Wabbit thought it his duty to record these rare species and his findings are as follows:

The Great Eagle (lat. themandats incomandavus)

Recognition:

Two gold patches on each shoulder, long legs and heavy beak. Struts around the Regiment and can be seen anywhere at any time. This bird does not migrate and stays in the Regiment for most of the year, seemingly content in the knowledge that all the other birds will submit to his superiority.

Song:

A very confident 'Everything under Control?'

Habitat:

RHQ. Prefers the office environment.

Nest:

Well made and well furnished. Large enough to accommodate a number of guests.

Food:

Well cooked and well prepared. Preferably served from a silver salver.

The Short Haired Eagle (lat. regimentalis sergeantus majoris)

Recognition:

Brightly coloured patch on right wing. Almost devoid of head feathers. Can often be seen just in front, or just behind the Great Eagle during regimental walkabouts. Can often be heard before actually being seen. (N.B. Dangerous when aroused).

Song:

Very loud. Can be long or short but invariably ending with a 'Take five, take five'.

Habitat:

Mainly RHQ but often the drill square and anywhere that leaves are in abundance.

Nest:

One of a group of nests, but usually the largest and the best located to keep an eye on the others.

Food:

As the Great Eagle but sometimes has difficulty obtaining the silver salver and has to make do with crockery.

SOCCER

After a shaky start to the season with defeats at RAF Bruggen and Laarbruch, the Regimental first eleven have settled down and are now playing at their best. Plenty of goals coming from **LCpls Andy Edwards, Allan Hills** and **Phil Welham** and also from **SSgt Mo Nelson. Sgt Derek Garrow** is still trying to harness the power in his right foot.

In the Army Cup we are at the quarter final stage having defeated 16 Sig Regt 14—1, 12 AD Regt 4—0 and 5 Innis Dg 5—1. We look forward to meeting 1 Armd Div Engr Regt here at St Tönis in the New Year.

Past members might be interested to know that 9 Regimental players helped to bring the Inter Divisional Cup back to Rhine Area. Soccer notes would not be complete without mention of the Second Team who, under the watchful eye of **WO2 Don Brookes,** are having their best season ever, undefeated and League leaders. If anyone has time to spare, **Bob Lockwood** would take great delight in describing how all the goals are going in.

We say cheerio to **Sgt Brian Parkhill** on posting to 9 Regt and especially to his wife **Andrea** for being so patient during the last four years.

We welcome **LCpls Phil Welham** and **Danny Mills RPC** who have slotted in well and our two lame ducks **Cpl John Burgess** and **Sig Taff Moulds,** back after broken legs.

ROBIN HOOD (A REALLY ABLE ARCHER)

The Christmas activities were given a strong push in the direction of success this year when the Regiment was treated to a pantomime. Following the success of last year's Regimental Revue, this year's effort was again completely home grown.

It was written by **Sgt John Fawson REME** who is currently enjoying his detachment with the LAD. **John** managed to get close enough to the original story of Robin Hood without telling lies and close enough to Regimental life without telling the truth. The result was a hilarious evening enjoyed by all.

When it came to the cast, the casual observer could be excused for thinking that the ability to act on stage was a prerequisite for membership of 2 Sqn! In truth, all but five of the characters were played by members of shiney Two.

The three main characters of Robin Hood, Maid Marion and the Evil Sheriff of Nottingham were played by **Sgt Rick Rickard, Capt Lynne Relph WRAC** and the author, **Sgt John Fawson.** These three were ably supported by **SSGT (YofS) Bob Waller, Sgt Arthur Sullivan, Mrs Margaret Clark, Mrs Lyn Powell** and others. Among those others special mention must be made of the performance by **WO1 (YofS) John Meehan** (Friar Tuck) and the Merry Men **Cpl Phil McSorley** with **LCpls Colin Wynne** and **John McClurg.** The latter stole a scene with a song and dance performance to rival Larry Grayson while **John Meehan** broke his nose in the first performance whilst playing a drunk. (There are those who said he wasn't just acting either!!)



Sgt John Fawson as the Bad Sheriff and SSgt Bob Waller as the Devil in the recent production of 'Robin (a very able archer) Hood'

Two other characters made a short appearance in the form of **Maj Barry Cox** and **SSM Jimmy Jack** playing the parts of peasants—someone said it was type-casting. The whole thing was produced by **Capt Tony Manders** who also played Little John and surprised us all afterwards by saying it was his first time on stage. The last word must go to mention the backbone of the performance, **Capt Duggie Rumsey** and his stage crew. **Duggie's** experience in stage management turned what would have been a good performance into a professional one.

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.

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

CHANGE OF COMMAND

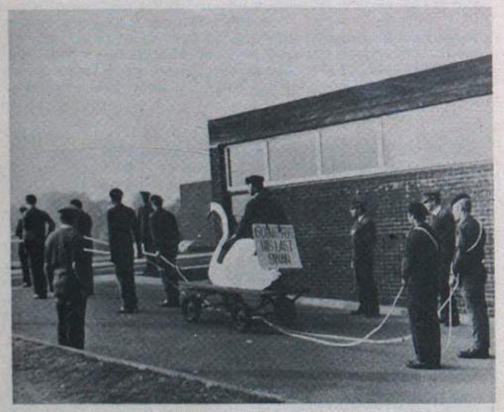
On 14 October 1978 command of the Regiment changed when **Lt Col A B Byng** departed for MOD and **Lt Col A J Sammes** took over.

Lt Col Arthur Byng travelled far and wide during his tour with the Regiment: to the Virgin Islands, Cyprus, Belize, Singapore and Bermuda, to mention but a few! He was dined out of the Sergeants Mess on 6 October and from the Officers Mess on 13 October. The Regiment said farewell to him in the traditional manner by towing him away in a swan carriage, with the Corps band playing and the soldiers of the Regiment lining the road. We wish him and his wife **Marion** the best of good fortune in the future.

We welcome **Lt Col Tony Sammes** and his wife **Joan** to the Regiment; they have joined us from Project *Wavell* and we hope their tour will be a happy one.



Handing Over. Lt Col Sammes (right) takes over from Lt Col Byng (left)



Lt Col Byng leaves the Regiment

MARATHON RUN FOR SSAFA

The Garrison athletics track was used for a third time this year on the 14 November 1978 in the form of a Charity Marathon Run in aid of SSAFA. From the Regiment sixteen 'volunteers' took part, led by **RSM Robinson**, and in a combined effort were joined by representatives from the School of Signals.

The runners were sponsored for each lap completed, the target being the marathon distance of just over 26 miles. Some remarkable lap scores were recorded and special mention should be made of all those who completed the course, among them **LCpl Mick McGrath** and **Sig 'Dinger' Bell** both from Headquarters Squadron. Anyone sitting on the side line who considered the run hard work should have been around when the money had to be collected, but high spirits and goodwill prevailed and the splendid sum of £294.41 was raised by the runners' efforts.

MINIBUS PRESENTED TO LOCAL SCHOOL

Yewstock special school at Sturminster Newton received a present of a 12 seater minibus from Blandford Garrison Sergeants Mess. The Minibus was donated to the school, which caters for children with learning difficulties. It was a welcome addition to the school which opened just over a year ago. The minibus is the first form of transport for the school, and will be used for outings and educational visits.



Mr Housegood, Headmaster of Yewstock School, accepts the minibus from the Mess President WO1 Robinson. Also present are FofS Knox and CRS Grass of the organising committee

1 SQUADRON REPORT

Since our return from Ex *Bold Guard* in Germany/Denmark the squadron has been undergoing a period of training and refurbishing of equipment. Our commitment to the reinforcement and roulement of UNFICYP Cyprus, Belize and N Ireland continues to confuse the Yeoman (who, close to retirement, claims his memory is fading rapidly).

'A' Troop once again held an exercise in Cornwall at RAF St Mawgan, with the communications phases being split between Gibraltar and Cyprus. Both phases went extremely well and a high percentage of traffic time was achieved. The ex was visited by the CO, **Lt Col Sammes,** the Adjt, **Capt West,** and the RSM, **RSM Robinson.** On the sports scene 'A' Troop took on a team of US Marines at volleyball which resulted in a draw; a good result for the continuation of good relations!

OPERATION DRAKE

The Squadron has, also, been tasked with the manning of the Blandford end of the rear link to the 'Eye of the Wind' on its 2 year circumnavigation of the world; Operation *Drake* is scheduled to be completed in October 1980. Under the watchful eye of **SSgt Mick Long** our operations **Sig Jess Ward, Keith Roach** and **Bob Wheller** have soon settled into the routine of daily schedules and comms so far have been excellent. The barque left Plymouth on 8 November for Santa Cruz, and on 11 November it was reported that a school of whales and dolphins were accompanying the ship. A Remembrance Day service was held on board at 1100Z. At the time of writing she is heading for Panama.

FAREWELL

We say goodbye this month to **Capt Martyn Reid** who departs to 9 Sig Regt as Seagull, and **Yeoman Halliwell** to civilian life — at long last.

2 SQUADRON REPORT

Ex *Bold Guard* was a Field Training Exercise which took place in the area of Schleswig Holstein. The Squadron formed an integral part of the exercise over an extended period from late August until early October. This was our first try at this particular role and communications went well. We provided long and short haul HF, VHF, radio relay and line communications; our line comms stretched some 70 miles and seemed to link every corner of NW Europe into our COMMCEN — but enough of the facts and figures let us pass to some of the more notable occurrences during our month in the field.

LOTS OF MUD

The Squadron had its own independent admin site in a wood within the LSG. It was made a success by the hard toil and sweat of the Activation Party headed by the OC, **Maj Owen Lewis, Capt Geoff McKie** the Admin Officer (on loan from HQ Squadron), **SSM WO2 Terry Dodson** and **SQMS Jim Hehir** during the early days of September. Upon the arrival of both the Advance and Main bodies the workload could be spread further; later, unfortunately, the rains came and our well drained wood wasn't any longer. Mud, well yes, lots and lots of it. There was in fact one **Cpl Colin Thirkettle** who could often be seen to jump in and out of the largest mudpool available. Why — ah yes HQ Sqn; that explains a great deal!

HF Troop decided that they would broaden their horizons by a short holiday in BAOR and take new OC, **Lt Steve Crane** and also **Sgt Steve MacDonald** for a tour of the Lutjenholm mud flats. At Rendsburg **Sgt Steve MacDonald** was seen to have mastered the art of telephone conversation by increasing the voice output to 100 db and nodding his head. **Maj Lewis** perfected a new way of testing the output of a D11; the equipment consisted of a pair of green wellies and a wet finger. **Cpl Tony Freeman** did a crash course in water divining, and can now spot a water bowser from a great distance.

OVERLOAD

Also out over the main exercise period was the Joint Force Signal Staff headed by our CO, **Lt Col Arthur Byng.** One of his merry crew, namely **Maj Pat Kington,** lugged masses of video tape recording equipment from England to our admin site and plugging into the power system blew all the fuses — such is life.

At the end of the FTX a very successful Squadron party was held. Apart from an excellent buffet and suitable amounts of alcoholic refreshment, there was entertainment provided by hypnotist **Sig Tiny Reynolds,** musician **Cpl Don Shaw,** comedy and quotes by **SSgt Gordon Brogan** and **LCpl Terry Northedge.**

MUTUAL AFFECTION

Military training was another aspect of life within the admin site, and consisted of fighting patrols and defence. However on the final night, an incident occurred when the OIC Military Training, **Lt Peter Smith** blew up the SSM, **WO2 Terry Dodson.** This must be some weird way of showing mutual affection.

RADIO TROOP REPORT

Net Radio Troop in their new role supplying a command net and guard net for the LSG units had rather a quiet time, the net worked very well but averaged only a few messages a day. In fact so quiet was it at times we tended to fall asleep, didn't we **Sig Taff Hetherington?** Anyway **Cpl Ginger Allen** kept us amused with the latest from 134 Company RPC to which he was attached. The rebro was deployed to a fairly well populated area, where some fairly outlandish events took place, apparently. It seems they did not need a replen the whole time; the secret of the rebros self-sufficiency is not printable here, but buy **Cpl Roy Pledger** and his crew a beer the next time you see them and they may have a tale or two worth telling.

R and R took place in Flensburg. **Sig Taff Hetherington** also starred in Flensburg; he didn't fall asleep this time, but from what I hear he might just as well have done so.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Congratulations are in order for **LCpl John Lathbury** who has recently married, and we welcome his wife **Georgie** to the Squadron. Also to **Cpl Mac McAllister** and his wife **Barbara** on the birth of their son **Robert.** We welcome **Maj Bill Lidster** from 7 Sig Regt as our new Squadron Commander, and bid farewell to **Maj Owen Lewis** and his wife **Sherry** on their way now to the depths of the Welsh Valleys.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)



The CO, Lt Col Bev Austin presents the LS&GC to Sgt Jim Hodge



The RSM, WO1 Keith Childs presents a farewell gift to Sgt Jim Hodge

ATTACHMENT TO RHINE ARMY

Nine members of the Regiment were attached to 21 Sig Regt in Germany from 30 September to 14 October. The party was lead by **Lt Peter Fennemore** assisted by **SSgt Ron Dart.** They were employed by 3 Squadron and were given the task of inspecting and testing 60 ton of cable wound on about 150 cable drums. **Sgt Bill Hatton** looked after the paper work and records whilst **Sgt Martin Kaminski** organised the workforce. 21 Sig Regt obviously thought the job too simple so made them work in NBC kit and respirators for extended periods just to make the job a little more difficult.

—AND SHAPE

Twenty-five members of the Regiment were attached to SHAPE for a week during November for *Able Archer.* Radio Relay Techs, Linemen and Data Tgs were deployed by Road, Air and Sea under the command of **Capt Bill 'I'm Knackered' Morris.** Arriving on the late evening of Saturday 4, we were fed and briefed by our hosts and sampled the Tax Free Haven of SHAPE we left early Sunday on our various tasks.

Having supplied the link, with very few gremlins, (a crackle was persistent but this was discovered later to be **FofS Reg Thurbon's** snores). The Radio Relay were insistent on placing a notice on the vehicle that it was run by divine power (the mains were supplied by a church!!). Battle injuries occurring during the exercise were heavy but not fatal, **Lt Ian Puddy** trapped his finger in his camp bed, necessitating a splint, now to be known as **Lt Pinky Pudding,** and **Cpl Blazey** who damaged a knee-cap by smashing it with his bowling ball. Many compliments were made to the team, especially **Sgt George Brown, Cpls Eley, Johnston** and **LCpl Chris Mills,** and have been welcomed back (tongue in cheek) for future exercises.

COBHAM CUP

The Cobham Cup Inter-Troop Military Skills Competition was held on 21-22 October at the Cobham TAVR Centre. Teams from all Squadrons in the Regiment took part in events including weapon handling, first aid, NBC, shooting, Vehicle manoeuvring and rally, field cooking, initiative test, route march, orienteering and assault course.

The event was organised by B Troop, OC, PSI and SNCOs—**Capt Jim Mill, Sgts Bill Wilman, Ian Davies** and **Tom McCarthy.** Several SNCOs from other Squadrons acted as DS to ensure impartiality. The ladies were represented by **Ptes Sue Jones, Debbie Stonnard, Zoe Wilson** and **Kim Heywood.**

OVERALL WINNERS

Cpl Malcolm Vriens (leader)—Cpl 'Oggie' Rogers—Sig Malcolm Brain—Sig Dave Lawrence (All B Troop).

RUNNERS—UP

Cpl Graham Brain (leader) **LCpl Tony Geater—Sigs Gary Brooker** and **Mike Sheldon** (All B Troop).

ASSAULT COURSE WINNERS

LCpl Davey—Sigs Hall, Cheney and Biggs (All J Troop).



47 Squadron team resting after marching. Sig Ray Peters, LCpl Chris Gillespie and Sig Mike Power



COBHAM CUP
The CO, Lt Col Bev Austin addresses the competitors



HQ Squadron Team at the end of their march. LCpl Dave Oliver, Sig Philip McLeaney, LCpl Ralph Oliver, Sig Steve Baley



COBHAM CUP
The field cooking competition—'the eating', Cpl Graham Brain, Sig Tony Geater, Sig Mike Sheldon, Sig Garry Brooker

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1978

A proud and nostalgic moment for the Volunteer Commanding Officer of 33 Signal Regiment, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD,** when he took the salute alongside the Mayor of Knowsley and **Sir Harold and Lady Wilson** as Headquarter Squadron march past Prescot Civic Hall on Remembrance Sunday 1978.

The Civic Hall situated in Aspinall Street, Prescot was formerly the Headquarters of 309 (Inf Bde) Signal Squadron TA where **Lt Col Jolliffe** served 15 years previously as a Captain. He is the only member of that Squadron still serving in the TAVR though **ex-Cpls Donoghue** and **Thompson** are on the civilian staff and serving with ACF detachment respectively at the Regimental Headquarters in Huyton. The Squadron supported 127 Inf Bde at Belle Vue Manchester in 1963 when the Brigade Major was **Maj Peter A. Downward** now **Maj Gen P. A. Downward DSO DFC,** the retiring GOC West Midlands District.



The GOC North West District accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD and WO1 (RSM) J. A. Scrutton BEM inspecting the Quarter Guard provided by 80 Sig Sqn (V). Pipers by courtesy of 1 Gordons

MEDAL PRESENTATION PARADE

The General Officer Commanding North West District, **Maj Gen Peter F. A. Sibbald OBE,** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, the Efficiency Decoration and Medal (Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve), to 28 Regular and Volunteer members of the Regiment at the Dale Barracks Chester on Sunday, 26 November, 1978, in the presence of their families and friends. On arrival the General was met by the Honorary Colonel, **Col J. Graeme Bryson OBE TD JP DL LLM** and the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD** and was invited to inspect the Quarter Guard provided by both R Signals and WRAC members of 80 Signal Squadron (V) from Chester. After a moving presentation ceremony which will be a moment to remember for the recipients their families and the many spectators present in the years to come, the assembly adjourned to 'The Boot' our Regimental All Ranks Club for some well earned refreshment during which the General was able to chat informally with those present.



Maj Gen Peter F. A. Sibbald OBE, and the Commanding Officer Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD, photographed with the medal recipients after the presentation ceremony

CHEQUE FOR GUIDE DOG 'JIMMY'

The opportunity was taken on this occasion for the Commanding Officer to present a cheque for £721.58 to **Mrs Olive Minors** accompanied by **Mrs Dorothy Peters** with her Guide Dog 'Beck', representing the North West Region of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. This money was collected by the Regiment as a result of sponsorship of the Regimental Team which participated in the 1978 Nijmegen Marches. The Guide Dogs for the blind Association intend to have a dog named 'Jimmy' trained with the money raised which will be given to a Blind person from the North West of England. At the same time a plaque on which was mounted a coloured photograph of the team and their team medal was presented by the team commander, **Lt Graham Stow,** to the Commanding Officer.



Members of the Regimental Nijmegen Marches Team having presented a very large cheque to train Guide Dog 'Jimmy'. *Seated L ro R:* Mrs Olive Minors, Lt Graham Stow, the Hon Col, Col J. Graeme Bryson, The GOC, The CO LT Col Pat Jolliffe, Mrs Dorothy Peters and Guide Dog 'Beck'. *Standing L to R:* Sig Frank Goodwin, LCpl John Taggart, Sig John Welsh, SSgt Tom Padden, Sig Ray Stretton, LCpl Ralph Harwood, Sig Don Green, Sig Roy Cowling, WO2 (QMSI) Alan Gouldson



The Commanding Officer supported by Lt Graham Stow presenting the cheque to Mrs Olive Minors accompanied by Mrs Dorothy Peters representing the North West Region of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

LUNCH WITH THE GOC

After the presentation those present proceeded to the Dining Hall to partake of a hearty lunch with the GOC. After which he was briefed by the Training Major, **Maj Malcolm Bradbury,** on the system of trade training within the Regiment and visited training in progress at our Centralised Trade Training School. In all a very memorable day!

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

UP AND AWAY

After the months of hustle, bustle, preparation and the last minute smallpox vaccinations we got there, and back, accident free and without any major problems. It's as well though that camps, like Christmas, come only once a year. Any more often and our poor training Maj **George Finney** would not only be losing his hair, but going grey as well.

The wonders of modern transport: our air party, despite the Herculean comfort of the RAF, were in Germany in about an hour of leaving Lyneham — a pity it took over eight hours, and a 0400 hrs start from Teesside, to get us to the point of departure! The road/sea party, naturally took a little longer, perhaps because they had to stop and collect the English weather which duly arrived with them at about 1600 hrs on Monday 25 September. And that rain remained with us for the first week. Fortunately the weather improved in the second week and we were able to break camp with dry canvas much to the relief of our QM **Maj Dal Rees**, his staff and the rear party.

WET HECTIC AND TIRING

The first week, the first few days, were the most hectic and physically demanding part of camp. Although most of the air party had arrived by Saturday afternoon they didn't exactly have a rest while waiting the arrival of the road party—it was a case of making good the base camps and getting on with the recces for the Regimental exercise which began at 0400 hrs on Tuesday 26. That exercise certainly tested the Regiment—we moved the two comcens twice and RCP three times, all in the space of 36 hours. (We certainly learnt that the CO had arrived!). It was wet, hectic and tiring but the response was good and many lessons were learnt by everyone. The plan was to do our Regimental Exercise, pay the Regiment and still have all our detachments in the right place with comms working for Ex *Jog Trot*, by Thursday when we were to have a day off. We made it—just. Not that everyone made the day off—but then that never happens—but there was a goodly exodus of people from our many locations heading for the sights and shopping of Mönchengladbach, Krefeld, Düsseldorf and Cologne. And judging by the number of German plastic carrier bags and the mass of cuddly toys favoured by the girls, a good time was had and much money spent. The latter thanks to **Maj Jim Smiles** and his pay team who really worked hard in order to get the pay ready for the first Wednesday.

MANY VISITORS

We had many visitors as one would expect at such an important camp. Our Group Commander **Brig Ronnie Stonham** came very early on in the camp; **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin CSO BAOR: Col Bill Gillespie** our Deputy Group Commander; **Col Richard Gilbertson**, Commander 4 Sig Gp; **Lt Col Sheila Nield, ADWRAC HQ BAOR** complete, and making a point we were pleased to note, in soldier's combat kit; the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** whose visit kept neither to the 'flying' nor the non-flying programme, but to an unscheduled combination of both, or neither, ensuring that he arrived at Commcen Mike totally unexpectedly and 2 hours early with the CO waiting to receive him at Commcen Oscar. None the less it was a most successful and enjoyable visit. Our Honorary Colonel, **John Davies** also spent a most successful three days with us during which time he made a point of visiting almost all of the many Regimental locations and seeing most of the soldiers and WRAC. And finally we were honoured by a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough **Councillor** and **Mrs John Stokes**, who braved the wind and rain to see as much of the Regiment as they could.



A HELPING HAND
The Mayoress of Middlesbrough gives expert sewing advice to Sgt Bob Thompson of 90 (NR) Sig Sqn, the OC Maj Bill Illingworth looks suitably impressed



IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY!
(Left to right) Col Bill Gillespie — Dep Comd 12 Sig Gp (V), Maj Bill Illingworth — OC 90 (NR) Sig Sqn, The Mayor of Middlesbrough Councillor John Stokes, Lt Col David Jolly — CO, The Mayoress of Middlesbrough Mrs Mary Stokes. In the background Mr Bernard Martin, Mayor's Driver, Capt Margaret Hope PSO Middlesbrough

AND OLD FRIENDS

Germany, as usual also gave us a chance to review old acquaintances, and we say on a flying (metaphorically speaking) visit, our former padre, now a regular, **David Tickner**; a previous CO, **Lt Col Keith Olds** and a previous QM (now QM of 16 Regt) **Maj Keith Rothwell.** Delighted to see you all and gratified that you like to keep in touch.

COMFORT CORNERS

Not all the Regiment roughed it under canvas. Our echelon were well cared for by our sponsor unit, 16 Sig Regt at Krefeld, who did much in the way of helping us, particularly prior to camp. Others were equally comfortable at Rheindahlen, Düsseldorf and Wulfen (Gateshead again!), but perhaps the most comfortable were **Cpl Robinson's** 4 man RR det at Leloh whose comfort was only slightly marred when someone came to reclaim their colour TV!

But to be truthful our base camps, despite the early rain and the persistent wind weren't bad—rumours that the personnel at Commcen Mike were floating down the road on their camp beds proved totally unfounded. Judging by the swinging disco's and the 'sold out' bars, those not on duty managed to enjoy themselves. Our thanks to the Officers, NCOs and soldiers who looked after this important aspect of a TAVR Annual Camp: and also to the cooks, a number who had joined us from the ACC CVHQ.

THANK YOU

On the middle Saturday, thanks to the generosity of 16 Regiment, the Officers' Mess gave a 'thank you' cocktail party to the many serving officers and their wives in Germany, who had done so much to help us before and during camp. An enormous amount of work goes into getting a TAVR Regiment to Annual Camp, particularly in Germany, and its success or failure as a camp so closely tied to the help that the Regiment obtains from the regular units serving there. That help is greatly appreciated.

PRIVATE WIRE

Before closing we must thank the journalistic efforts and roving scandalmongers of that scurrilous Regimental North Eastern newspaper, 'Private Wire'; this camp found it under new management the late editor having retreated to the USA. The new editor 'Sicby' (courtesy of the Oscar branch of the Busby Club) rapidly passed on his responsibilities to one he thought had better and higher connexions. The style changed but the content didn't, much to the general satisfaction. The new RSM, **Bob Mills**, is to be congratulated on volunteering to be the editor of Private Wire and then successfully palming off all the work to our Padre, **Alan Hughes**.

FOOTNOTES

It was pure chance that Wulfen's first bomb scare coincided with the arrival of F Troop. It was only a barrel of Newcastle Brown—they said!

The CO's driver, **LCpl Wayne Williamson** is *not* looking for a new CO he's found one: **LCpl Caroline Kinchin WRAC**. Congratulations to them both. **LCpl Williamson** has refused an offer of the staff car for his honeymoon—it is not reliable enough!, he says. Our Honorary Colonel is giving him membership of the Dutch AA as a wedding present.

The 2IC was not contemplating self-immolation when he was seen very early one morning desperate for a box of matches and a can of petrol. His pipe had gone out and the staff car was dry!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have bid farewell to our RSM, **Rod Dixon** from the Army, he is now a Manager of a cardboard box company in Leeds. We wish him and his wife **Muriel** a happy retirement and thank you for all your work in the Regiment. We welcome **RSM Bob Mills** and his wife **Sue** and hope that the shock of BAOR camp and women soldiers won't put him off!

Our newest recruit, **Andrew Jones** was christened on 10 Sep 78 by our Padre, **Capt Alan Hughes**. The occasion was different from the other 3598 christenings held that day in that his parents, **YofS Taffy** and **Moira Jones**, arranged for the service to be held in the WOs and Sgts Mess—a real family occasion.



Some of the Permanent Staff with WO1 (RSM) Rod Dixon (no prizes for guessing which one he is) on the occasion of his Demob Party in RHQ.
Front Row (left to right): Sgt David Smith, PSI HQ Sqn, SSgt Pete Cramp, PSI LAD, LCpl Wayne Williamson, CO's Driver, Maj (QM) Dai Rees, A Civvy, Capt Margaret Hope WRAC Admin Offr, Maj George Finney, Trg Maj *Rear Row (left to right):* Sgt Roger Haslett, PSI Tech, SSgt Martin Bienvenu, PSI 90 Sqn, SSgt Taffy Jones, Y of S, WO1 (MTWO) Brian Green MTWO, Cpl Mick Barnett



Christening of Andrew Jones at the Sgts Mess, 34(N) Signal Regiment (V) by the Regimental Padre Capt Alan Hughes RAC CF on the 10th September 1978
Andrew is the son of SSgt (YofS) Eddie Jones and his wife Moira, an ex-Officer Cadet with the Regiment



MEDAL PARADE HELD AT DARLINGTON TAC ON 5 SEPTEMBER 1978
Front row L to R: SSgt Brian Gray, 1st Clasp to T & AVR Efficiency Medal, LCpl Stephen Hamilton, T & AVR Efficiency Medal, Brigadier R. L. Stonham, Lt Col D. J. Jolly, Bdsm Kenneth Gibson, T & AVR Efficiency Medal, SSgt James McDonald, 1st Clasp to T & AVR Efficiency Medal
Back Row L to R: Sgt Colin Moscrop, T & AVR Efficiency Medal, Cpl Michael Queally, T & AVR Efficiency Medal, Sgt Alan Vance, T & AVR Efficiency Medal, SSgt Kenneth Naylor, 1st Clasp to T & AVR Efficiency Medal, SSgt Ronald Fairhurst, LS & GCM (military), SSgt William Hedley, 1st Clasp to T & AVR Efficiency Medal, Cpl Arthur Billing, 1st Clasp to T & AVR Efficiency Medal

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

LONG LIVE THE TA

The wheel turns full circle, after all the debate and heart searching in 1967 regarding the title for the Reserve Army, apparently it is now official, we are reverting to the pre-1967 title of TA and dropping the TAVR. As an ex-Army Emergency Reserve (AER) man I view the change with some misgivings, but I believe the change was inevitable as the general public have never really understood or accepted the name Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve (TAVR).

At least those in the West Midlands might have already detected the change. The Regiment in conjunction with all other units in the District has recently taken part in the West Midlands TA and VR Association Autumn Recruiting Campaign in which the title TA was used extensively for the first time. To commemorate the occasion the Association produced a tabloid newspaper in which the Regiment was featured. It was a most professional publication and we are happy to report that as a result of the campaign the Regiment has recruited 34 men and 10 women, making a total of 44 since camp. This will give **Maj John Reed,** the ex-Adjutant, more work to do when he arrives at Catterick to take on the task of G3 Training at 8 Sig Regt. His experience with the Volunteers should stand him in good stead when it comes to dealing with the TA in future.

CLOSED SEASON

There is no such thing as a closed season for training in the Volunteers — it must go on all the year round, jostling for time with the hundred and one other jobs which must be done.

As a result we find ourselves this Autumn as busy as we have ever been — a successful UEI and then out with 30 Engineer Brigade on Exercise Fifth Avenue for the final Regimental Exercise of the year. This is the third occasion we have had the pleasure of providing communications for the Sappers, could it be because 30 Engineer Brigade's Headquarters and the CO's home are both in Stafford? In any event where better to end the Exercise Season than Shropshire. There's an old saying in that part of the world "We are all friends round the Wrekin" (the Wrekin incidentally is a hill). We in 35 quite often get together with other local Units — or draw upon their experience for training, especially Infantry training.

DRIVING AWARDS

Mind you when it comes to driving we are no slouches, four members of the Regiment and the LAD received prizes in the British Army Motoring Association Exercise *All Points West* held 13-14 October 1978. **WO2's Jack Chambers** and **Dante Brenni** received the Individual Awards for the best TA and VR Crew, and **Sgt Roger Evans** and **WO2 (AQMS) Roger Jennings** (LAD) received the Fourth Beginners Individual Award.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Sunday saw the Regiment out in force supporting their respective civic leaders. RHQ, HQ Sqn, 48 Sqn and LAD (REME) paraded in Birmingham, where the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col K. R. Smith, TD** was the Parade Commander. 58 Sqn attended the civic parade in Newcastle-under-Lyne, 89 Sqn in Rugby and 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn in Shrewsbury, where our ex-Commander 11 Signal Group. **Brig Ian Rose,** now Deputy Commander West Midland District, took the salute.

NEW COMMANDER

Whilst many of the officers got their first glimpse of the new Commander II Signal Group, **Brig Godfrey Curl** at the Group Study Period at the School of Signals Blandford at the end of October — the remainder of the Regiment are now having the pleasure of meeting the new 'boss' as he tours the Squadrons. Already the message has gone out. he likes to talk to soldiers (men and women) — and he does not like curry. The sixth Commander of II Group since it was formed in 1967, each Commander brings something new to the Post — **Brig Curl** for instance is the first one to have previously commanded a Volunteer Unit, 37 Sig Regt (V). We wish him well in his new appointment and will do all that we can to make his tour a successful one.

REPAYING THE DEBT

In the meantime the Audit Boards have come and gone, and Troop Commanders having bitten their finger nails down to the bone whilst they anxiously await the results of the Stores Audit, are now queueing up to pay compliments to the Quartermaster **Capt Bob Peake** at the various seasonal functions now taking place.

This is the time of the year when the Regiment starts repaying the great debt we owe to the Ladies, those long suffering wives and girl friends who have to take second place so often during the year — and without whose co-operation the TA and VR could not function.

Thanks to the kind auspices of the Commanding Officer and the Officers of the Recruit Selection Centre, St. Georges Barracks, Sutton Coldfield, the Regiment was able to pay off some of that debt when the Officers entertained their Ladies to a dinner in the Officers Mess. The Regiment already has strong links with St. Georges Barracks, and these are likely to grow even stronger when the Regiment moves into its new Regimental Headquarters due shortly to commence building next door to the Barracks. When this opens in 1980, the Regiment will have on its doorstep some of the best training facilities in the U.K.

The Officers of 95 (Shropshire Yoemanry) Sig Sqn decided to 'eat out' for their Ladies Night and besides inviting the CO, **Lt Col Ken Smith** and his wife **Margaret,** extended invitations to their nearest neighbours, 58 Sig Sqn and an unusual but appreciative touch to their own Squadron Sergeant Major and his wife **Colin** and **Valerie Lewis.**

WEIGHTY PROBLEMS

I imagine this is the time of year when the CO shudders when he steps on to the bathroom scales, for with December barely two days old he had got two more gastronomic orgies under his belt. Perhaps the fact that he was obliged to sing for his supper on the first of these two occasions may have decreased the enjoyment for a lesser man, but not **Lt Col Smith,** as he enjoys a good Dinner and especially the Regimental Dinner Night. Indeed this is the reaction of everyone who attends this particular function — not only for the fare but for the setting and the music. The setting is by courtesy of the City of Birmingham City Council, who in recognition of the Regiment being granted the Freedom of the City in 1971, allow the Regiment to hold the Dinner every year in the magnificent Banqueting Hall of The Council House. As a result the Guest of Honour is now traditionally The Lord Mayor and we were delighted on this occasion to welcome **Councillor Edward F. Hanson JP,** who, when replying to the toast 'the visitors' proposed by the Commanding Officer, said, "He looked forward to the day when he hoped 35 Signal Regiment would exercise their 'Freedom Rights' by marching through the streets of Birmingham with 'drums beating, bugles blowing and bayonets fixed'. The Chief Service Guest, much to our delight was our own Signal Officer in Chief (Army) **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson,** and other guests included: the Deputy Commander West Midland District — **Brig I. M. Rose;** the Chief Signal Officer UKLF — **Brig D. H. Baynham**; the Commander 11 Signal Group — **Brig G. J. Curl**; the Deputy Commander 11 Signal Group — **Col J. C. Eversfield;** the Deputy Commander NSSG — **Lt Col P. D. E. Gregory;** the Staff Paymaster West Midland District — **Lt Col D. F. Harris (RAPC);** and last but not least, the Deputy Secretary West Midland TA & VR Association — **Lt Col (Retd) P. A. Winter.**



35 SIG REGY (V) ANNUAL DINNER NIGHT — 1 DECEMBER 1978
Three members of 58 (Staffordshire) Sig Sqn chatting about old times to ex-Adjt Peter Moxon. *Left to right:* Capt Bob Haysom, Capt Peter Moxon, Capt Bob Heath, Maj Richard Entwistle.



Members of 89 Sig Sqn (Rugby) pose for the camera. *Left to right:* Lt Hugh James, Capt Sandy Livingstone, Maj Brian Foxon, Lt Bob Hawkes.



The CO chats to the OC and SSM at 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn informal dinner party. *Left to right:* Lt Col Ken Smith, Maj 'Tommy' Thomas and WO2 Colin Lewis



The Lord Mayor of Birmingham meets a unique trio. *Left to right:* Col Tony Fender (Honorary Colonel), Lt Col Ken Smith (CO), Brig Derek Baynham (ex-Commander 11 Sig Gp), Cllr F. Hanson JP (Lord Mayor of Birmingham), Brig Ian Rose (ex-Commander 11 Sig Gp), Brig Godfrey Curl (Commander 11 Sig Gp)



A TRIO OF POST OFFICE TOT's
Left to right: Maj Alec Peebles, Maj John Wall, Maj Alan Lovell (a guest from 38 Sig Regt (V)). (Incidentally, their combined service in Royal Signals — counting National Service — is 87 years

The music — well who but our old friends from Blandford 'The Corps Band' who once again put on a splendid performance, providing the pièce de rèsistance of the whole evening.

The following night it was the turn of the Warrant officers and Sergeants to let their hair down at the Annual Sergeants Mess Draw and Buffet Dance. This time it was 58 Squadron's (Newcastle) turn to organise the event and to play host to the Sergeants and their Ladies — by all accounts it was a most successful and enjoyable evening — particularly for the RSM, **WO1 Joe Albon** who had the temerity to walk off with the Star Prize — a Pye 22" Colour TV. The CO, **Lt Col Smith** (looking remarkably fit after his exploits the previous evening) and **Mrs Smith** needed no direction to the Drill Hall — he was firstly 2IC and then Squadron Commander of 58 and never misses an opportunity to re-visit his old HQ. He must have been well satisfied, not only did he win a prize but everything went off without a hitch, indicating that his old Sergeant Major **Dougie Roberts** and his Mess colleagues were still capable of 'doing their stuff' when the occasion demands.

'MO'

It is sad when commenting about the events in the run up to the festive season to have to report the tragic death of **Cpl Richard Alan Morris** in a traffic accident on 10 October 1978. **Cpl Morris** or 'MO' as he was better known joined the Shropshire Yoemanry in 1965 and, apart from a short break when the Yoemanry disbanded, has been a Volunteer ever since — the last nine years as a lineman with Y Troop 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn in Hereford. He epitomized the typical Volunteer soldier, cheerful, uncomplaining and hardworking in all conditions. A single man **Cpl Morris** was employed as a driver by 22 SAS in Hereford and it was whilst he was on duty travelling in a landrover as a passenger that he met his death.

Cpl Morris was given a Military funeral at All Saints Church, Clehanger, members of Y Troop and the Regiment providing the bearer party and **LCpl R. A. Jones** of the Band of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers played the bugle at the graveside.

Known throughout the Regiment as that 'likeable character' from Hereford, MO will be sadly missed and our deepest sympathy go out to his family and friends in their tragic loss.

AWARD

A happier note on which to end the year — in a recent edition we mentioned an incident at Ludinghausen in Germany in June during our Annual Camp, When members of 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sqn assisted in rescuing a baby from a blazing house and helped to fight the fire. As a result of this **WO2 Eric Rose** and **Sig Ron Jones** have been awarded Commander in Chief's Commendations. Our congratulations to them both.

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

PLANS BEAR FRUIT

'It will be a miracle if the whole plan works out' said **Lt Col Gerry Birch** to the MTWO, **WO1 Bryan Selkirk**, when seeing the road party vehicles lined up at Shorncliffe. So a modern miracle was born when 36 Sig Regt (V) arrived in BAOR without (hardly) a mishap. With foresight perhaps it seems logical that it would work especially with **WO1 Selkirk's** detailed planning and the keenness and expertise displayed by the volunteer drivers. But perhaps with a Channel crossing to come and a long drive afterwards the CO had every reason to be doubtful.

SLIGHT DIVERSION

The air party contingent nursed and cajoled by the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Martyn Close** moved smoothly and efficiently to BAOR on four separate flights. One flight was routed via Lyneham-Belfast-Brussels, but alas for the personnel involved no GSM Northern Ireland is admissible for such short duration stop overs. **Lt Derek Blake** was extremely proud that neither he nor his personnel had got lost once. The CO was delighted that no one could smoke on one Hercules for 6 hours. However with duty free cigarettes readily available on landing all the personnel involved soon caught up. One humorous movement official asked us to remove our berets in case they were sucked into the jet intake, but as we were sat inside a 59 seater coach at the time we thought he was being unduly pessimistic.

A DAMP RECEPTION

Meanwhile, the advance party was making the finishing touches to all their plans. The volunteers QM, **Maj Bill Watkins** meanwhile was foraging for more and more accommodation, the rumour that he had the freedom of Dortmund was hotly denied but without the freedom it is hard to see how he managed so well.

The RQMS, **WO2 Mike Smith** departed daily on his ration run and so all the rumours of bread mountains were refuted by him. Every location supplied excellent menus and the cooks are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Then it rained, just in time to greet the main party. From then on there was hardly a day passed without a storm so that sites, and personnel became muddy and wet. Poor COMMCEN INDIA looked like pictures of the recent floods in that country but gamely struggled on. In time rest and recuperation vehicles plyed between that site and Dortmund which helped by sending rested and dry personnel back in time for shift. COMMCEN LIMA personnel rose, as all true comrades rise, by placing collection tins in strategic spots marked 'aid for INDIA'. It lost a bit of its point though by having no bottoms on the tins.

The Paymaster, **Maj Don Latham** and staff, **SSgt Ken Radley, Sgt Joyce Spanner WRAC, Sgt Pete Lamb** and **Cpl John Frost** added, subtracted and multiplied throughout the two weeks. As might be expected they finished with a profit, 2 Pfennigs, it appears they have made no plans yet on how to spend it.

TRUTH AND RUMOUR

There is no truth in the rumour that **Capt Sally Cassanet** was caught swimming in the India quagmire. However it is certainly true she was testing its depth and the only way to do that of course is in the prone position.

There is no truth in the rumour that **Capt Roger Buston** swapped a crate of scotch for a new flat bed container. There is truth, however, in the rumour that he has obtained a new engine for his CCV container vehicle for the price of one regimental plaque.

There is no truth in the rumour that **Maj David Morfoot** and **Capt Archie Gibson** are opening a wine and spirit shop. There is truth in the rumour that at one time they were contemplating a sale of their surplus duty free stock.

The rumour that the CO had practised wearing his webbing and was therefore comfortable in it, are strictly untrue.

The rumour that our doctor, **Maj Geoffrey Patey** did all his diagnosis by phone are only partly true.

The rumour that the SSM of HQ Sqn, **WO2 Barry Greenwood** submitted ration returns to himself has not been denied.

The rumour that the OC LAD, **Lt Jim Rennie** was not included on the return road party list is based on fact.

There is truth in the rumour that we launched the first free running trailer, **Sig John Rudd** was the official concerned. Little damage was done to the receiving Civilian car.

There is truth in the rumour that **WO1 Frank Jepson** wrote the names of some personnel on their NBC suits, so that they could be recognised. No one owned up to marking our WRAC suits.

There is a lot of truth in the rumour that the vehicle which conveyed **Maj Marion Lilley** and **Capt John Slater**, met another of our vehicles in faraway Rheindahlen. Poor **Sgt Peter Boltwood** was still poring over daily detail sheets in Dortmund.

It is true about the Commer vehicle being towed all the way from the Dartford tunnel, and eventually being left in BAOR. The same vehicle was left in BAOR last time, so maybe the LOA appeals to vehicles as well as personnel.

VISITORS

Our visitors at camp included the SOinC **Maj Gen Anderson**, CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen Baldwin**, the Group Commander **Brig Stonham**, the Deputy Group Commander, **Col Gillespie** and the Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col Gilbertson**; all seemed impressed with our efforts with the possible exception of **Col Gillespie** who slipped in the famous 'India' mud.

A NOTABLE APOLOGY

The return move, slightly hampered by intricate movement changes, was again run smoothly by the MTWO and Chief Clerk. The second flight encountered fog at Luton and was rerouted to Manchester, before eventually landing at Luton five hours late. The Captain who had chatted gaily away giving us all the latest information made his one and only mistake after landing at Luton. 'Goodbye Ladies and Gentlemen, sorry you have been f----- about'. Laughter all round.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

EXCELLENT RESULTS

This year the Regiment completed its 14 day 'Annual Camp' in October in order to participate in Exercise *Scrum Half*, an exercise which involved every major Headquarters in the country. This was preceded by *Red Shoes VI*, a 2 Signal Group biennial exercise in which each of the four TAVR Signal Regiments of 2 Signal Group and a number of Regular Army sub units are put through their paces. The Regiment's FFR inspection by **Brig D. H. Baynham GC, CSO, UKLF**, was incorporated within the exercise period.

It is for others to judge the Regiment's performance, but suffice to say that neither the Regular nor TAVR elements of the Regiment could remember such circuit continuity with HF radio communications. We had technical responsibility for 18 D11/D13 links, which spanned the greater part of the Country, and after a short frequency clearing phase it was unusual for more than one or two circuits to be 'out of traffic' at any given time. Indeed, it was normal to achieve 100% circuit availability in the middle of the night. The 'jackpot' was secured on 17 October, when this percentage of circuit availability (available for traffic in both directions) was achieved on all 2 Signal Group HF radio circuits—a total of 95 circuits. It is worth reflecting on when the Regular Corps last participated in an HF communications exercise of this magnitude, in which average distances were well over 100 miles, and with such success.

VISIT BY MASTER

During the Exercise the Regiment was privileged to receive a visit from the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO. Gen Bradley** spent some five hours with the Regiment, and clearly enjoyed being amongst soldiers in field conditions again. The visit was certainly enjoyed by the Volunteers.



The Master of Signals talking to Pte Pamela Chomicz in one of the Regiment's new R234 TCs during Exercise RED SHOES VI. He was particularly surprised and impressed to find so many family teams within the Regiment — for example, Pte Chomicz's husband is radio technician Sgt Mario Chomicz

WRAC JACKPOT

At the beginning of October four WRAC Servicewomen of 64 (Sheffield) Sig Sqn left for Blandford to participate in the WRAC Orienteering Championships. Their achievements were quite remarkable. Competing against both Regular and Volunteer Servicewomen they finished in the following positions:

First —**Sgt 'Sandy' Bodell**
Second —**LCpl Janet Orton**
Third —**LCpl Marian Poulter**
Seventh —**LCpl Jill Darwin**

They then went on to win the TAVR WRAC Team Relay event and were all selected to represent the TAVR WRAC representative team in the annual competition against the WRAF and the Regular Army WRAC at Kinvers Edge on Sunday 22 October. In this competition **LCpl Jill Darwin** secured fourth overall place—a most creditable performance for a young person who only became interested in the sport on joining the Regiment three years ago. These girls have also taken part with the Regiment in the 43 mile Lyke Wake trek across the roughest part of the North Yorkshire Moors, the South Yorkshire March and form the nucleus of our Cross Country team. **LCpl Marian Poulter** has also sampled free fall parachuting with the Regiment—a sport which **Officer Cadet Chris Dorries** introduced early this year.



Top WRAC Orienteers — LCpl Janet Orton (runner up) and Sgt "Sandy" Bodell (winner) after their success in the Royal Signals WRAC Orienteering Championships

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast



NOTABLE REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Under the command of **Lt Col W. J. M. Michie,** the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) paraded for the first time in 10 years from their TAVR Centre in Clonaver Park to their Parish Church St Mark's, Holywood Road, Belfast. The Regiment's Pipe Band led the Parade of 200 Volunteers of both sexes and Detachments of the OCA R Signals and NI Branch of OCA The Parachute Regiment.

During the Service, conducted by the **Rev J. A. Moore MA,** there was a Wreath Laying Ceremony by members of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V), Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment. After the Service there was a March Past of the Regiment, the Salute taken by The Hon Col of the Regiment, **Col J. McCann CBE, TD.**

PRESENTATION

Our photograph shows the recent presentation of the LS&GC medal to **SSgt Robbie Harris** by C SOLF, **Gen The O'Morchoe**, at the British Sgts Mess. We need not add that the medal was given the customary ceremonial dunking in Amstel at the later celebration. **Robbie** joined the Army as a boy in 1961 and after completing his apprenticeship at Harrogate, where he represented the Army as a junior at Athletics, he has served at 7 Armd Bde, ACE High, Harrogate, School of Signals, 22 Sigs and finally joined this Regt in August 1977.



Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces Signal Regiment

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Since the last submission of Wire notes we are sorry to announce that our CO, **Lt Col Hugh Wilson**, has been casevaced back to UK after having suffered a heart attack, he is presently recuperating at home in Newbury having completed a medical training programme. We wish him good health and a speedy recovery. We also express the same wishes to his wife **Eve**, who was already in UK awaiting an operation prior to his illness.

Our new CO, **Lt Col Roger Garlick**, arrived on the morning of 21 November and having successfully passed his 'driving test!!' at the first attempt has settled down to read a backlog of files. We can assure him that his stay will be a busy one, we hope it will be a happy one and say 'ahlen wa sahlen' (welcome) to him.

OTHER CHANGES

Continuing on the personnel theme, **Maj Tom Scarff** is now on British Army terminal leave in the UK prior to his return as a steely eyed mercenary to again command the Southern Squadron. **Capt Les Waumsley** has forsaken the Corps and is now Traffic Officer at RHQ. At the end of December the Northern Squadron will lose **WO2 (YofS) Ron Chisholm**, who now having achieved his goal of becoming the richest man in the British Army, returns to BAOR where it is rumoured that there are VHF radios. **WO2 Mick Wringe** has left to take up an appointment as WO1 at 40 Sig Regt, our congratulations to him on his promotion. In his place **WO2 Pete Tarrant** has arrived from Blandford via Beaconsfield, again 'ahlen wa sahlen' to him.

THE SCENE

During recent border manoeuvres, the N Oman Brigade Radio Troop deployed in a truly operational role at desert locations. The troop commanded by **WO2 Ron Chisholm** and assisted by **Sgt Bob Hay** provided rear communications for all the deployed Units over a three week period until the politicians were able to resolve the issue and tension eased. Incidents of this nature are broadening the scope of Corps members, not only as signallers but also in an All Arm role as **Capt Peter Williams** R Signals who has now been appointed 2IC of Jebel Regt in addition to Ops Officer, was actively involved in organising and running rear echelon and forward operations for the Bn.

The next two months, prior to the Bn roule, promises to be a busy one for the N Oman Bde Radio Tp as it is the Bde Comds intention to exercise every infantry unit in the North, which means that the troop will have to deploy for every exercise. In the South, following the June shootings, pressure continues to mount to rid the area of dissidents. S Oman Sig Sqn continues to support the search units in their cordon and searches.

The Regt at the recent National Day celebrations provided parade markers in addition to all the parade control and security communications. The White Helmets, although not here for this particular celebration, have had many mentions on radio, TV and the Newspapers, as the forerunners, inspiration and trainers of the new Royal Guard Motor Cycle Display Team—The Maroon Helmets.

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, **Maj Frank Partington** (Ex Corps) was awarded a medal for meritorious service in the Sultan's Honours List, congratulations **Frank.**

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	Maj M. P. Nott D&D
Comms Offr	Capt D. A. Lynam
QM	Maj P. Martin DERR
MTO	Capt R. Owens BEM RCT
OC A Tp	Lt J. M. Gale
OC B Tp	2Lt P. Telford
RSM	WO1 R. Bates
RQMS	WO2 S. Evans
YofS	WO2 C. H. Birchall
FofS	WO2 A. King
CC	SSgt A. E. Samuel

NEW FACES

There has been quite a change in Squadron personalities since the last issue and during the year more than 60% have changed over — talk about turbulence! We are very happy to welcome **Maj Phil Nott** and his wife **Frances** from Cyprus. **Phil** takes over as Adjutant from **Capt John Gray** who left in October for Shoeburyness to (as he told everyone) count socks. But we know he will be doing more than that. We also welcome **RSM Bob Bates** who arrived from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt to take over from **RSM Jimmy Akehurst** who has moved up the road to 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt and a commission; but we hear he still spends a lot of time in Osnabrück!

POT SHOT OR GOONS RULE—OK

No sooner had the Squadron recovered from the rigours of Ex *Gryphons Galore* than they were shooting off in the opposite direction: destination Vogelsang; task military training. The similarities with a Prison Camp were not wholly missing with such things as early morning runs, and several hearts sank a few notches as they passed through the Malakoff Arch. The programme was a full one with the exercise designed as an inter-section competition covering Map Reading, Shooting, Assault Course (the Belgians have a very fine line in those), NBC and Driving.

To fill in the gaps there was Grenade Throwing, 66m HEAT firing, and a patrolling and digging in exercise where the patrollers had to snatch one of the diggers. The patrolling brought to light an unknown talent for 'psy ops' and many interesting things were learnt about certain members of the Squadron, most of which are, fortunately, unrepeatable.

The climax of the competition was a 10 mile March and Shoot competition organised by **RSM Bob Bates.** We were pleased to see the Force Commander, **Brig R. A. Pascoe MBE,** take part in the competition and very happy for him to present the prizes afterwards. However the Commander could not catch the OC, **Maj Martin Lance,** who had the fastest time for the course of one hour 31 minutes; this was in return for the Brigadier beating him with the pistol earlier in the year!



Ex Pot Shot: The Agony — Sig Pebbles Hailstone and LCpl Solly Sullivan finishing the March and Shoot

END OF SEASON SHAKE OUT

Early November saw the Squadron deploying down towards Kassel for a shake out Squadron exercise to get the new faces used to moving about. The exercise achieved its aim in road movement; the cookhouse took a wrong turn five miles from Osnabrücke, while **Cpl Wayne Gatesman** probably took the biscuit by being 'held to the ground and needing help with a bit of string' (his plea for recovery was reported by the German Police) on a rebro resup run — he was a long way from the rebro in question at the time! All in all a most useful exercise.

THE SPORTING SCENE

As we wind down (up?) for the festive season amid all the terrors of PREs and ARUs, we have managed to find time for a good deal of sport. The Cross Country team managed to come first in the Westfalen league which reflects all the hard training they have done and we have great hopes for them in the Div Championships.

The football team also got off to a good start by beating our great rivals 73 Indep Sqn RE in the Army Cup and they are still doing well. The hockey team, if not exactly winning all their matches, have not lost too many and did reasonably well in the Royal Signals hockey tournament held recently in Herford; while the Rugby team . . . but then the Squadron has only taken it up again recently!

Editor's Note:

We apologise for attributing the contribution of 5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn in the November issue to 5 Airptbl Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Bulford.

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

FAREWELL VISIT OF CSO UKLF

Brig D. H. Baynham GM, ADC, paid a last official visit to 234 Sig Sqn and the Army Elements in Malta. He visited detachments of the Signal Squadron and saw the preparations for the dismantling and removal of radio relay and other communications equipment, which started on 2 October.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

At a recent ceremony **Rear Admiral O. N. A. Cecil CB,** Commander British Forces Malta, presented **Sgt Privitera** with the Meritorious Service Medal. 'Sgt Privitera has consistently received reports over the years commending his meticulous attention to detail, his scrupulous accounting and his diligence, enthusiasm and hard work in all his service. He takes a close interest in the welfare and well-being of retired locally enlisted personnel and has recently been involved in forming an association to ensure that all Royal Signals LEPs can meet together in a comradely atmosphere.'



LSGC MEDALS PRESENTED

On Tuesday 26 September he awarded 19 Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Army personnel during a parade at the Signal Squadron Headquarters. The total years of service represented on parade was 452 years, of which 277 years were completed by the Maltese soldiers who were awarded medals. After the parade he attended an informal function at the Social Club at RAF Siggiewi where he met wives and families of the medal recipients.

The Recipients were:

WO1 (Cdr)	T. L. Forster	RAOC
WO2	G. E. Brutnall	REME
SSgt	C. Camilleri	R Signals
SSgt	R. Grech	R Signals
Sgt	B. Whittemore	RE
Cpl	C. V. Abela	R Signals
Cpl	J. Galea	R Signals
Cpl	W. E. G. Pace	R Signals
Cpl	P. Vella	R Signals
Cpl	A. Grixti	R Signals
Cpl	J. M. A. Mizzi	R Signals
Cpl	S. Spiteri	R Signals
LCpl	J. M. Vassallo	R Signals
LCpl	A. Parnis	R Signals
LCpl	V. Pace	R Signals
Sig	C. G. Zammit	R Signals
Sig	M. Tabone	R Signals
Sig	S. Camilleri	R Signals
Sig	J. Gruppetta	R Signals

WOs AND SERGEANTS' MESS REPORT — FINALE

Since the closure of the Mess at Mtarfa in April the old mess members have had three social events. The first was a dinner and cabaret night at the Skyroom in the Preluna Hotel. Forty mess members, and their wives and UK guests were entertained to a five-course meal and the superb Preluna cabaret, the best in Malta, featuring a comedian and impressionist, a local girl singer and band, and a bevy of dancing girls from UK.

The next venture was to the Corinthia Palace Hotel for an evening pool-side barbecue. Of the 80 people attending nearly everyone ventured into the heated pool sometime during the evening. A band provided background music during the evening. The highlight was surely **SSM Brian Davies** spectacular entry into the pool via the steep slide at the deep end. Not for **Brian** the usual sitting or lying down method, but a standing descent, arms and legs flailing, resulting in a terrific splash and tremendous applause from the admiring bystanders!! The SSM still insists he was pushed, but we're convinced that it's only his overriding modesty which prevents him from claiming full credit!

The last outing was a full-day trip on a chartered boat to the small island of Comino, which lies just off the Northern tip of Malta. One hundred and four adults and children left Sliema at 9am travelling up the coast, and arrived at Comino, at 11am, having been served Continental breakfast on the way. **WO2 Brian Peel** brought the Squadron speed-boat along, and was kept busy towing water skiers and ferrying people around the island. Rumours of a top-less sunbather distracting the driver and almost causing the boat to sink in a freak wave have been hotly denied by driver and passengers. The charter boat tied up in the Blue Lagoon, an area of water trapped between Comino and another small island, and resembling a vast, open-air swimming pool. The whole area is about 12 feet deep and the water is crystal clear, right down to the white sandy bottom, superb for swimming. A team of divers set off to explore the islands, returning in time for the cold buffet, served by the crew members. The boat weighed anchor at 4pm and arrived back in Sliema at 5.15pm. It is with regret that this was our last function and the mess is now well and truly closed.



CLOSURE CELEBRATION — RADIO RELAY MALTA

In the rear: Cpl Bob Eaton — RAF Sgt Don Murray — Sgt Dave Young RAF (with beard), SSgt (FOS) John Shepherd

Front row: WO2 (FOS) Chris Shone — Capt (TOT) Ian Morris — Maj Eddie Pickup (OC), Capt Bob Drake (2IC) — Capt Mike Crane (AO)

CLOSURE OF RADIO RELAY

Report by SSgt (FofS) Shepherd

The task of removing and packing the Malta Radio Relay System fell fairly and squarely on to the shoulders (I'm not kidding when I say shoulders) of TM Troop. The planning that preceded the withdrawal had, I felt sure, covered all the major upsets likely to occur. The manpower had been whittled down somewhat by the loss of **Sgt Chris Tucker** (hospitalised), **Sgt Brian Neil** (unfortunate compassionate reason) and **Cpl Tim Fry** (an earlier discharge than had been realised).

THREE TEAMS

However the three teams were keen to go, and 2 October approached. I heard a few mutterings questioning my sanity in expecting the whole lot to be packed and ready by 31 October, but I'd played safe and allowed a week more than I expected. The TOT, **Capt Ian Morris,** had played safer still and booked air freight for mid-November, just in case.

Team 1

NCO IC	Sgt Ian Underhill
2IC	Cpl Nobby Clark
	Cpl Paul Vella (LEP)
	LCpl Bob Lee
	LCpl Knocker Hardy
Sgt Brian Nevins (CPA/259 Sig Sqn attached)	

Their task was to dismantle RR Madliena by Thursday 5 October, after all, I'd booked a crane to get it out of the moat by then, hadn't I?! They would then proceed to dismantle Dingli RR and finally join team two at Siggiewi to finish off.

Team 2

NCO IC	Sgt Pat Parish
Acting 2IC	Cpl Gerry Talbot
	Cpl Pete Action
	LCpl Steve Groom
2IC	Sgt Ron Foote (When back from leave)

Their task was to remove RR Benghaisa by the end of the first week, then to move on and dismantle Siggiewi.

Team 3

NCO IC	Sgt Charlie Wyatt (LEP)
2IC	Cpl Joey Galea (LEP)
	Cpl George Brown (LEP)
	Cpl Wisty Pace (LEP)

Their task was to remove RR Luqa by the end of the second week. However, the 'Blue jobs' had a hand in delaying switch off of Luqa to Dingli shot until 4 October. Some excuse about a squadron of paraffin budgies leaving on the 3rd, so team three were diverted to No 1 hangar to line the many boxes with rubberised hair and await the arrival of equipment from the sites.



For *!!? sake Spock beam me up. Sgt Brian Nevins (CPA/259) watches over his future employment atop the radio relay boxes in the moat at Madliena



LCpl Mario Spiteri (LEP) checking if the Parabolic has still got a horn on

2 OCTOBER — SWITCH OFF

After dispatching the teams to their various locations it was champagne time with the switching off of the system by the OC, **Maj Eddie Pickup,** and yours truly. Somehow a few others did manage to get in on the act, but we all know how these things escalate.

I can only say that what happened between 2 October and 18 October left me both mentally and physically tired, but proud to be the Foreman of Signals in charge of a troop of men that worked till they almost dropped, with no complaints (well, hardly any).

Maybe promises of early flights, or days off, helped, because in just 13 working days, RR Malta lay in the hangar, boxed, addressed, paperwork done, and consisting of 109 boxes and four Chacons weighing some 65,000lb, and over 1,000 cubic feet in volume. This was manhandled at all times with the exception of the crane used to raise Madliena RR from the moat.

I must also mention the following:

WO2 (FofS) Chris Shone and **Sgt Colin Williams (RAOC)** who packed all the Centrem items held at Siggiewi.

Sgt Paul Brabbins and **Sgt Don Murray** who drove the Landrovers conveying men and materials to and fro.

REDUNDANT!

LCpl Mario Spiteri)LEP), who, I must admit I hadn't realised until the end, loaded and unloaded each four tonner and was 100% shattered, but he was given an extra day off at the end and I have it on good authority that he has now forgiven me. Finally the RAF riggers headed by **Sgt Dave Young** and **Cpl Bob Eaton** who dismantled the dishes and recovered the wave guide.

Does anyone want 19 redundant technicians and a brilliant FofS (no, not **Chris Shone),** ME!!!

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

STILL KICKING

Despite a long absence from the pages of the Wire magazine 259 has not, as some might suppose, been disbanded or idle. In fact due to the forthcoming closure of Malta the RAF commitment in Cyprus has increased, and since both Airfield Troop and Mountain Troop work closely with the RAF, this has meant considerable extra work for the Squadron. In addition Airfield Troop were involved with the rebuilding of the Akrotiri operations building which was destroyed in an airfield accident last year.

Reinforcements have arrived from CPA to form the installation team for the replacement Cyprus Radio Relay system. Our intrepid team, led by **FofS Danny Rotherham** and **FofS John Taylor** can be seen gleefully unpacking cases full of kit.

INFANTRY ROLE

Cyprus is a land of sun, sand and sea and since we have no 'Exercises' you could be forgiven for thinking 259 must be a posting to paradise. However, you would be wrong as Cyprus is also a land of dust and rocks known as the 'bondu'. This bondu together with a fearsome band of Officers and SNCO's ensures that our soldiers retain their warlike stance and don't forget their basic battle skills. To this end, our summer camp became a three week hunt for the dreaded Adolf Huttler, alias **Capt Alan Hutt,** and his gang, by our infantry roled sections. After several beach landings, helicopter lifts, patrols and ambushes, he was finally tracked down and dealt with!

CYPRUS WALKABOUT

For the uninitiated the Cyprus Walkabout is a brisk stroll from Episkopi to Troodos and back again. I should perhaps mention that Troodos is thirty miles from Episkopi and 5,000 feet higher up. Every October about 80 teams of three compete to see if they can do the journey in less than 24 hours. This year we had exceptionally hot weather (97°F) combined with a difficult course and less than half the teams finished. 259 'A' team came a very creditable 12th in 19 hours 33 mins. Our three heroes were **Sgt Ken John, Sgt Taff Gordon,** and **LCpl Cliff Swailes** all of whom admit to liking pain.

DHEKELIA DASH

This is an annual 15 miles relay race from Ayios Nicolaos to Dhekelia with each team member running a one mile leg. The rules say that the combined ages of the team must be at least 400 years, which means that some of our older members are required to help out. As you cannot win the major prize unless stationed in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area we were going all out to win the guest prize. **SSM Dave Osborne** discovered what 'all out' meant when one of our better runners had to drop out at the last minute and he was forced to stand in. Due to great effort by the whole team we achieved our aim and won the guest prize with a time of 83 mins 50 secs. This year 28 teams from the British and UN forces Cyprus took part.

TROODOS 5 MILES

This is an annual cross country race around Troodos mountain peak. We didn't win any prizes this year, but we did enter four teams which was more than any other minor unit.



THE TROODOS 5 MILE RUNNERS

Standing left to right: LCpl John Pirie, Sig Doug Reeves, Sig Steve Brunsdon, LCpl Ernie Taylor, Sgt John Tovey, Lt Geoff Cary, Sgt Des Ewers, LCpl Mo Roberts, Sgt Eddy Higgins, Cpl John Boyd, SSgt John Powles, Cpl Steve Case, SSM Dave Osborne.

Sitting: Sig Kev Stephens, Sgt Norrie Anderson, Maj Michael Ridlington, Flt Lt Kevin Lohse, SSgt Mick Hartland, LCpl Cliff Swailes

INTER TROOP SPORTS

Airfield Troop have won the swimming, Mountain Troop the cross country running and Systems Troop the hockey thus no-one is allowed to become too complacent.

THE MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

Each year all the 'non teeth arm' minor units in Cyprus compete in a Military Skills Competition. The aim of the competition is to test the combatant skills of the units and this is done in two parts. Part I consists of 10% of the unit being picked at random and tested on the contents of the IS Yellow Card, the duties of a sentry, weapon handling and NBC. This is done about a week before Part II and this year 259 Sig Sqn were in front with 718 marks out of a possible 1,000 at the end of the day. However, this lead was only a small one, and we were closely followed by REME Cyprus, 262 Sig Sqn and 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt.

Part II of the competition takes two days and each unit forms an infantry section of eight men to compete for the remaining 4,000 marks of the competition. These eight men are randomly selected by the testers, with the exception of the team captain and 2IC, and are given three to four weeks notice so that preparatory training can take place.

259's team consisted of

Lt Geoff Cary OC
Sgt John Lumb 2IC
Sgt Taff Gordon
LCpl Maurice Roberts
LCpl John Crispin
LCpl John Pirie
Sig Glen Lindsay
Sig Tony Hogg
Sig Alan Armstrong—reserve
Cpl Steve Graham—reserve

We assembled three weeks before the competition and proceeded to go through the syllabus in the classroom. This was interspersed with frequent sessions of battle PT and several range days. We had to cover a set syllabus for each of the remaining nine phases of part II.



THE WINNING MILITARY SKILLS TEAM 1978

Standing left to right: Sig Alan Armstrong (reserve), Sig Glen Lindsay, LCpl John Pirie, LCpl Jon Crispin, Sgt Taff Gordon, LCpl Kev Enfield (driver)

Kneeling: LCpl Mo Roberts, Sgt John Lumb, Lt Geoff Cary, Sig Tony Hogg



Lt Geoff Cary is presented with the trophy by Commander British Forces Cyprus, Maj Gen W. R. Taylor

THE OFF

On Thursday morning we arrived at Salamanca barracks and were issued with rations and pyrotechnics for the competition. Phase 1 was a very thorough inspection of the section, including its weapons, equipment and clothing. We lost a mark for having no salt in our medical pack but ended up with 186 out of 200. 262 Signal Squadron got 190 but their team captain was **SSM Allen.**

Phase 2 was a first aid incident. We advanced tactically to find a Land-Rover crashed in the bushes with several well made up casualties. These had to be treated correctly and evacuated whilst not forgetting to post a sentry, search the area, unload weapons etc.

LYING SECOND

Phase 3 was map reading with each person being asked to relate map to ground, take bearings and give grid references. Phase 4 was voice procedure at which we were naturally expected to do well, and, despite the fact that we only had one telegraph operator in the team, we did. Phase 5 was an initiative test involving the movement of the team and an oil drum across an obstacle using a rope, a pole, and a plank of wood. Thus at the end of the first morning we had completed the more academic (!) phases with a score of 1,033 out of 1,500. We were now lying in second place having been overtaken by REME and still closely followed by 262 Sig Sqn.

After lunch, phase 6, the night patrol, and establishment of an OP and patrol base began. We received orders, did our preparation and rehearsals and then moved out to the training area. Our patrol laid up in a daylight hide before moving across 2¼ Km of quite difficult country to a patrol base on the side of the ravine. Here we set up an OP and lay in wait for enemy movements down the opposite side of the ravine. After getting extremely cold for five hours we returned to our vehicle and were back in barracks by 0330 hrs on Friday morning. Our DS from the Queens Lancashire Regiment were impressed with the conduct of the patrol and gave us 487 out of 600 which put us back into the lead once again.

A CLOSE THING

We were very fortunate that we drew a starting time of 0820 hrs on Friday for Phase 7. This meant that we got a good 2½ hrs sleep before getting back to the war which had by now moved to Akrotiri. The first team drew a start time of 0550 hrs which must have made day two even more tiring for them. This phase involved a tactical march to clear a two mile route of terrorists. After being nearly wiped out by an enemy GPMG we proceeded to cross a minefield and then did a left flanking section attack on a sniper. This was good tiring soldiering which left us in just the mood for a five miles in one hour speed march to the ETR. We completed this march in 53 minutes, which gave us seven minutes to spare and the highest possible score of 500 marks. We were now on the rifle range and ready for the final phase, the shoot. At this stage we were back in 2nd place again with REME just ahead. After some good shooting, the best of the competition, we had beaten REME but were still waiting for 262 Sig Sqn, who had started the morning behind us.

It was very tense and we knew they had some good shots and were certainly not out of the running for 1st place. However, they did not manage it and at the end of the competition the team positions were:

1st—259 Signal Squadron
2nd—REME Cyprus
3rd—262 Signal Squadron
4th—62 Support Sqn RE

I think all the team would agree that it was three weeks extremely hard work, but the enormous trophy and the free beer afterwards made it all worthwhile.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

POPULAR DUTY

In the heat of a Mediterranean summer members of the Squadron could be found all over Cyprus trying to keep cool. Air conditioned Radio Relay sites, Comcen, Exchange and Workshops have seldom been so popular. How often did one hear: 'Drop Shift? No thanks that means shopping in Larnaca. I'll just stay on duty.'—strange words indeed.

COOL RETREAT

To coax people into the fresh air **Sgt Howard Loates** booked the Dhekelia swimming pool for an hour every lunch time, and gradually the water babies were dragged out of their cool retreats. To their horror he actually made them work in the water and his hard efforts were well rewarded when the Squadron came 3rd in the Cyprus Minor Units Swimming Competition in August and **Sgt Chopper Copestake** represented the Army against the RAF later. As a parallel to this our water polo team became the Dhekelia Garrison team (with one outsider) and they played at Major Unit level giving creditable performances. **Sgt Brian Dagnall, Sgt Sid Walley, Cpl Rab Young** and **LCpl Jez Ward (RPC)** were picked to represent the Army at water polo.

HIGHEST SCORE

Back on dry land our RQMS, **WO2 Jim Willock** and **LCpl Nigel Scott** did their best to attract crowds to our cricket games by persuading MT that cold beer and soft drinks should be on sale. Despite this attraction and its subsequent crowds, our team were knocked out of the Minor Units Cup and came second in the league. We did however manage to take something home for the cabinet as we won the trophy for the highest score of the season. **LCpl Nigel Scott** and **Sig Chris Eades** were picked for the Army.

ON THE MOVE AT TROODOS

September was still very hot and so we split into four groups and took it in turn to go to our summer camp in the cool pine forest on top of the island, at the Troodos leave and training Centre. On arrival, by coach, the permanent staff of **Lt Andy Bowering, WO2 (SSM) Jim Allen, SSgt Mick Schnable** and **Sigs Jimmy Dowling** and **Arthur Nicols** made it plain that the rarified air was not going to be allowed to have its peaceful effect. Early morning runs, BFT training, orienteering, sport, NBC training and a host of general military training subject kept us on the move. The only noticeable effect of the altitude seems to have been a virus contracted by the SSM.

Fortunately, no epidemic followed and the rest of us still suffer the occasional 'head'.

THE LONG WALK

Concurrently with summer camp our 'changed hats' **RQMS Jim Willock** was clearly dissatisfied with our transport arrangements at Troodos and began practicing teams to walk up and down the mountain. (The virus?). No, he had started organising our Cyprus Walkabout competitors. This is an annual orienteering event which starts and finishes in Akrotiri (sea level). The snag is that the overnight half-way halt is in Troodos (6,000 ft) and 30 miles away. The total distance must also be covered in under 24 hours. Congratulations must go to **WO2 Jim Allen, Sgt Mick Lumgair** and **Cpl Happy Cullen** for completing the course as a team and achieving the highest ever Signals place of 9th. **RQMS Jim Willock, Sgt Dave Wild** and **Cpl Kenny Niblock** also completed the event but sadly not with their original teams. (At this stage our Jim (SSM) is still afflicted).

AGE CRITERIA FOR DASH

Next in our calendar came the Dhekelia Dash. This is another hardy annual and it is a 15 leg relay race from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia, each leg being approximately 1 mile and the age of each team of 15 runners must exceed 400 years. With the inclusion of the ex-middle distance runner, new OC, **Maj Mike Martin** in our team with the many stalwarts training under **SSgt (FofS) Jack Horner,** we looked good on paper. On the day, however, there were two better teams on the road an we came third to 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt and 62 Sp Sqn RE. Field Troop provided communications by reporting on each stage of the race by radio and Mike Troop provided PA to spread the word, good or otherwise.

THE COOL

Presently, now the cooler weather is coming, we are engaged in football, hockey, cross country running and our Military Skills competition team is off to do battle led by that, still infected, 'I'll try anything' man—**SSM Jim Allen**.

But what of work? Well, that's just something we do well continuously—but a thank you to those in the Squadron who do the extra shifts to let our sportsmen off to do their thing!

News from Troops

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

HURRICANE GRETA

It all started on a hot and humid, typically Caribbean morning. It turned up on the OCs desk: Immediate 151630ZSEP UNCLAS
From CBF Belize
To List A B C D E
Exceptional Meteorological Conditions. Tropical Storm GRETA.
Tropical Storm GRETA is located at 151000ZSEP at 13.7N 73.3W
Moving West.
Forecast is that it will enter Preliminary Warning Area at Hurricane Strength at approx 161000 ZSEP.
With immediate effect all key personnel including pilots and unit commanders are confined to camp.
All units are to check arrangements and details as laid down in Force Standing Order No 30.

We were due to practice our hurricane plans anyway—what a way to see if they were right!

THE CHALLENGE

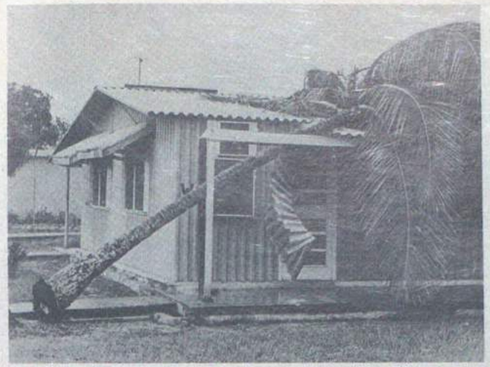
The relevant documents were read and re-read, but nowhere on camp could anyone be found who had actually experienced a hurricane. And slowly our lady Greta crept towards Belize, with a few kinks en route just to keep the interest going. As far as the Corps was concerned we had two major tasks:

To maintain communications, including the most important link, and the longest, back to the UK (5700 miles).
To strike as many masts as possible, to stop as many 'nasties' flying around the Camp. No a bad contradiction!

THE CRUNCH

In fact Greta was obviously enjoying her weekend in the Caribbean and slowed down to about 10 knots so that Preliminary Warning was not given until 0800 hrs on Sunday 17 September. As with most ladies, Greta was unpredictable and kept changing her mind. Having had a quick look at the northern coast of Honduras and running over the Bay Islands, she decided to have a look at Belize.

By 1600 hrs on Monday 18, all were assigned to their hurricane shelters and deployed in their various locations throughout Belize. We waited for Greta to appear. There were already very heavy and sustained rains, many tasks that had not been completed had to be



Could have been nasty — a few metres to the left. This tree was blown 20 metres

finished by personnel wearing only swimming trunks. The winds were also increasing to 30 mph. Finally when the rain had cut visibility to 50 yards and the winds had reached 50 mph we battened down the hatches and crossed our fingers.

We were lucky, Greta wanted to see as much of us as possible and having crossed the barrier reef she started to dissipate thus reducing the force of the winds. Nevertheless for some three hours we experienced winds of hurricane force, gusting up to 95 mph. It doesn't sound much on paper, but to be shut in a cramped shelter, not really knowing what is happening outside, it seems like a very long time and can be quite alarming—there is nothing you can do!

A GOOD RECORD

It would be wrong to single out any individuals for special attention in these circumstances; the Troop did extremely well, the link to the UK was never lost which was our prime aim. In Belize we lost one or two outstations but this was because antennae were blown away. The one area deserving a special mention is at one of the bleakest rebroadcast stations you will find. On top of a very bare hill, appropriately called Baldy Beacon, callsign 98 was nearly blown away. During the very wet and windy night **LCpls Nichol** and **Corfield** ably assisted by **Sig Saxby** had to leave their only shelter and sit out Greta at the bottom of their pimple. In the eye of the hurricane they literally crawled up to their erstwhile home to salvage what they could, they managed to get in contact with Airport camp, secured as much equipment as they could and retired to the other side of the hill as the wind was now blowing from the other direction. Ask them what it was like to be in a hurricane! Once Greta had passed and for the next 24 hours they scraped enough equipment together to make one complete radio station (normally there are three) and continued their job but by relaying messages. A very commendable effort considering the state their home, equipment and indeed themselves were in, they were all a little shaken by the experience.

WORDS OF WISDOM

If you can avoid a lady like Greta—do. It is not the best way to spend a couple of days, rushing round dropping 80 ft masts, picking up the smallest item of rubbish (a coconut blown at 95 mph becomes a pretty lethal missile). Trees and roofs have to be extremely sturdy and anything that cannot be safely stored must be tied down, this includes buildings! We were fortunate we did not experience the full force of Greta but as you can see from the photograph there was enough damage done.

It made a change!

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

Association News

56 Division Old Comrades Association

Hon. Sec.: **D. Le Febvre, Esq.,** 59 The Millbank, Ifield, Crawley, Sussex RH11 OJQ

Readers could be forgiven if they thought that we had died — we have not. The reason we have not appeared in print recently has been caused by the writer rebadging into the RAPC(V) attached to C Coy 6/7 Queen's (V) and has much less spare time as a result.

Committee member **Vic Burgess** reports on the following Social Events:-

On Friday 21 October 1977, 30 members and guests attended a dinner at "Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese" Fleet St, London. An excellent dinner was had, a choice having to be made between roast beef or steak, kidney and game pudding. In his after dinner speech the guest of honour, **Brig Derek Baynham,** the then Chief Signals Officer UKLF, started by saying he had expected a collection of geriatrics, but was surprised to see the majority present, appeared to be younger than himself! He went on to mention the great history of the Division during the last war and the excellent spirit of the Army today, although there are some improvement he would like to see. The standard of today's Army, he said is much higher than in the past and the importance of TAVR has been increased since the financial cuts imposed on the Armed Services.

Altogether an excellent after-dinner speech, at times having his audience nearly rolling in the aisles with laughter.

This year the dinner was to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, but it is hoped that it will become an annual affair.

Top table consisted of **Brig Derek Baynham, Lt Col John Brian,** the then CO 31st (GL) Sig Regt (V), **Capt (Tfc) Roy Hughes,** and ex **Sgt Vic Burgess.**

This November the branch held a Ladies Night Dinner and Dance at The Bridge House Motel, Reigate, and what a splendid night it turned out to be. An excellent dinner, helped down by jumping up and down on the dance floor.

In days of old, it was always the Commanding Officer who led his troops into battle and it was noted that **Lt Col Ralph Lewin,** our Branch President, carried on this tradition by being first onto the floor.

Our numbers are still increasing but needless to say we would welcome any readers who are ex-Black Cats to the Branch. Quarterly meetings are still held at 83rd Sig Sq (V) WOs & Sgts Mess 351 Merton Road SW18 on the last Friday of January, April, July and October at 2000 hrs. A quarterly newsletter called Black Cat Chat helps keep branch members in touch, even if they do not attend too frequently.

Association Reunions — 1979

Our Reunions this year are scheduled for:

BLANDFORD — 20th May

CATTERICK — 30th June/1st July

The AGM of the Association will take place in the Baghdad Gymnasium at mid-day on Sunday, 1st July.

Administrative instructions covering these notable events will be issued to Branches of the Association — and individuals who request them — by Association Headquarters early in March.

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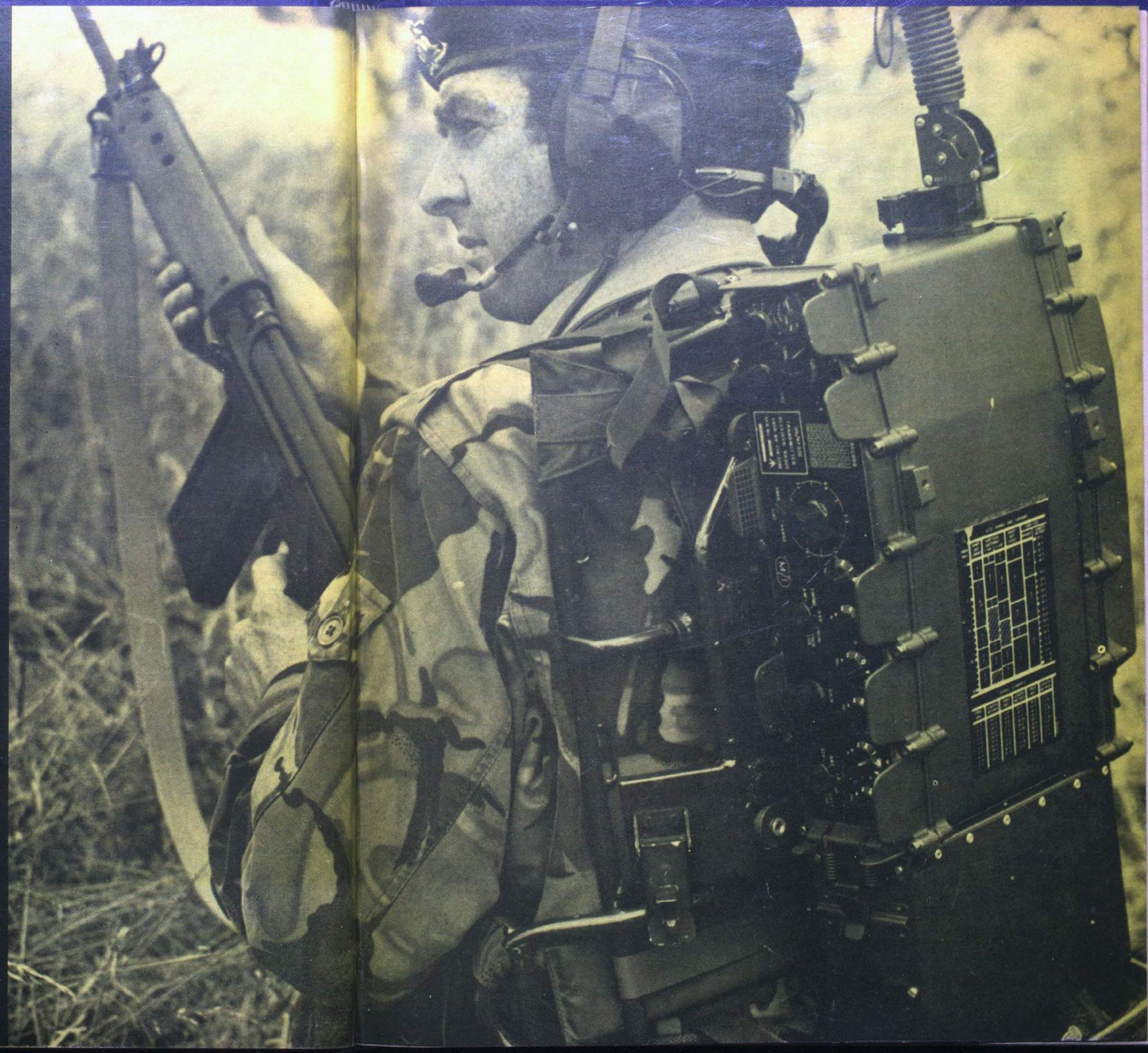
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ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

42 COMPETITORS

Monday 6 November 1978 dawned fresh and bright in Verden for the start of the First Annual (we hope) Royal Signals (BAOR) Badminton Championships under the sponsorship of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The preparation for the tournament had started over a week ago with our APTC instructor, **SSgt Bob Duncan** and his staff draping curtains over the whole of two of the gymnasium walls which are in fact windows.

42 Competitors converged upon Verden from all corners of Germany including Berlin, Lippstadt, Krefeld and many others. We also had an entry form from our Australian Signals SSgt who is with us on Exercise *Long Look*.

The tournament commenced with the Singles competition and progressed through Open Doubles, Unit Doubles, Veterans Singles (players of 37 and over), Singles Plate (players knocked out in the first game of the Singles), and the Singles Saucer (players knocked out in the first game of the Singles Plate). This last competition is included to give everyone more competitive games. There was plenty of good badminton with many players surprising themselves at reaching a level they thought unobtainable.



ROYAL SIGNALS BAOR BADMINTON TOURNAMENT WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP
Reading L to R: WO1 Hargreaves, Sig Cryans, Sgt Fryer, Sgt Chhetri, SSgt Rodgers, Maj Cantle, Lt Clough, Sig Wells, Capt Holland, Sig Moore, Sig Pollard

THE FINALS

The Finals commenced on Tuesday afternoon with the Singles taking to the floor first. **Sig Tom Pollard** and **Sig Ian Wells** gave the spectators an entertaining three set game with the final point going to **Sig Ian Wells.**

Next came the Veterans Singles with **Capt Eddie Holland** and **Maj Ted Cantle** giving a demonstration to the younger players of controlled badminton. **Eddie Holland** finally came out on top.

The Open Doubles came next with the find of the season, **Sig Jim Moore** and **Sig Tom Pollard**, against **Sgt Om Chhetri** and **WO1 Stan Hargreaves.** This was a fine game and went to the best of three games with the youngsters coming through from behind to win.

The Singles Plate came next with **SSgt Charlie Rodgers** and **Sig Alan Cryans** in another ding dong battle; another three setter which finally went to **Charlie Rodgers.**

The penultimate game was the Singles Saucer between **Lt David Clough** and **Sgt Jim Fryer**. This was another hard fought match which finally went to **David Clough**.

The final game was the Unit Doubles between, once again, **Sig Jim Moore** and **Sig Tom Pollard** against **Sgt Om Chhetri** and **WO1 Stan Hargreaves.** The spectators were again treated to a hard fought three setter with youth once again overcoming experience.



Brig G. R. Oehlers presenting the Unit Doubles Trophy to Sig Tom Pollard with Sig Jim Moore looking on

TROPHIES PRESENTED BY CCR SIGNALS

After this game individual trophies were presented by the CCR Signals **Brig G. R. Oehlers** to both winners and runners-up. There were also major trophies presented to the winners of the Singles, Open and Unit Doubles. These had kindly been donated by Prins Ferries and Squires Sports Centre. **Norman Cunlon**, the Prins Ferries representative presented **Sig Ian Wells** with the Singles Trophy and the Brigadier presented the Squires Sports Trophies as their representative was unavoidably detained and therefore unable to attend.

FINAL RESULTS AND STATS

All in all an excellent tournament which it is hoped both competitors and spectators enjoyed. The final results are as follows:

Singles:	Winner	—Sig I. Wells	—2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runner Up	—Sig T. Pollard	—4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Open Doubles:	Winners	—Sig J. Moore / Sig T. Pollard	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runners Up	—WO1 S. Hargreaves / Sgt O. Chhetri	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Unit Doubles:	Winners	—Sig J. Moore / Sig T. Pollard	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runners Up	—WO1 S. Hargreaves / Sgt O. Chhetri	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Veterans Singles:	Winner	—Capt E. Holland	—229 Sig Sqn
	Runner Up	—Maj T. Cantle	—14 Sig Regt
Singles Plate:	Winner	—SSgt C. Rodgers	—1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runner Up	—Sig A. Cryans	—22 Sig Regt
Singles Saucer:	Winner	—Lt D. Clough	—1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runner Up	—Sgt J. Fryer	—22 Sig Regt

For those interested in statistics, the tournament had 42 competitors who played in 89 games of which 19 went to the best of three sets. 197 sets were played in which 4,076 points were scored and nine dozen shuttles used!

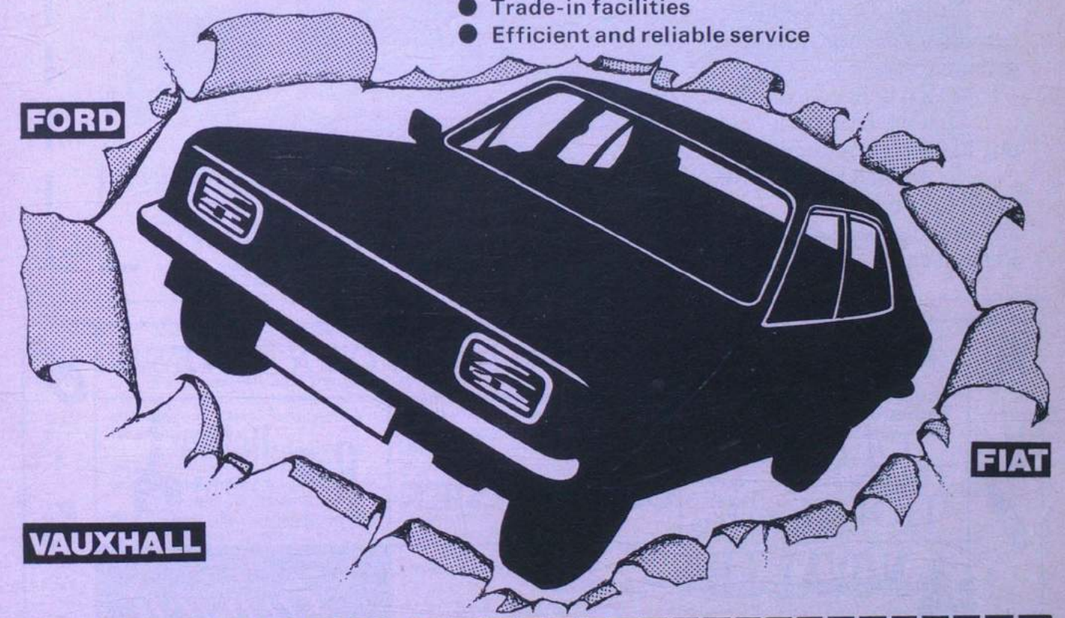
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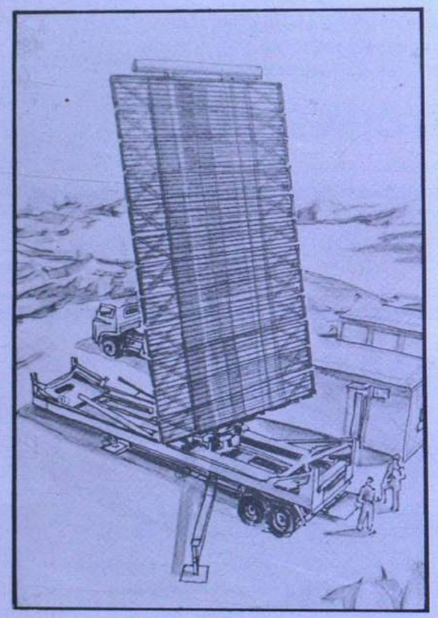
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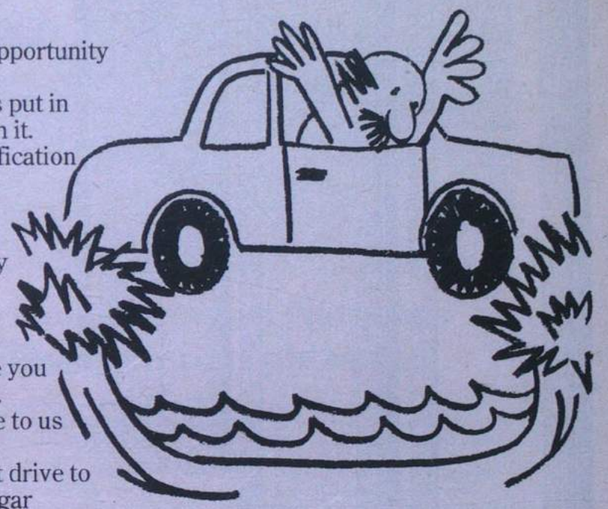
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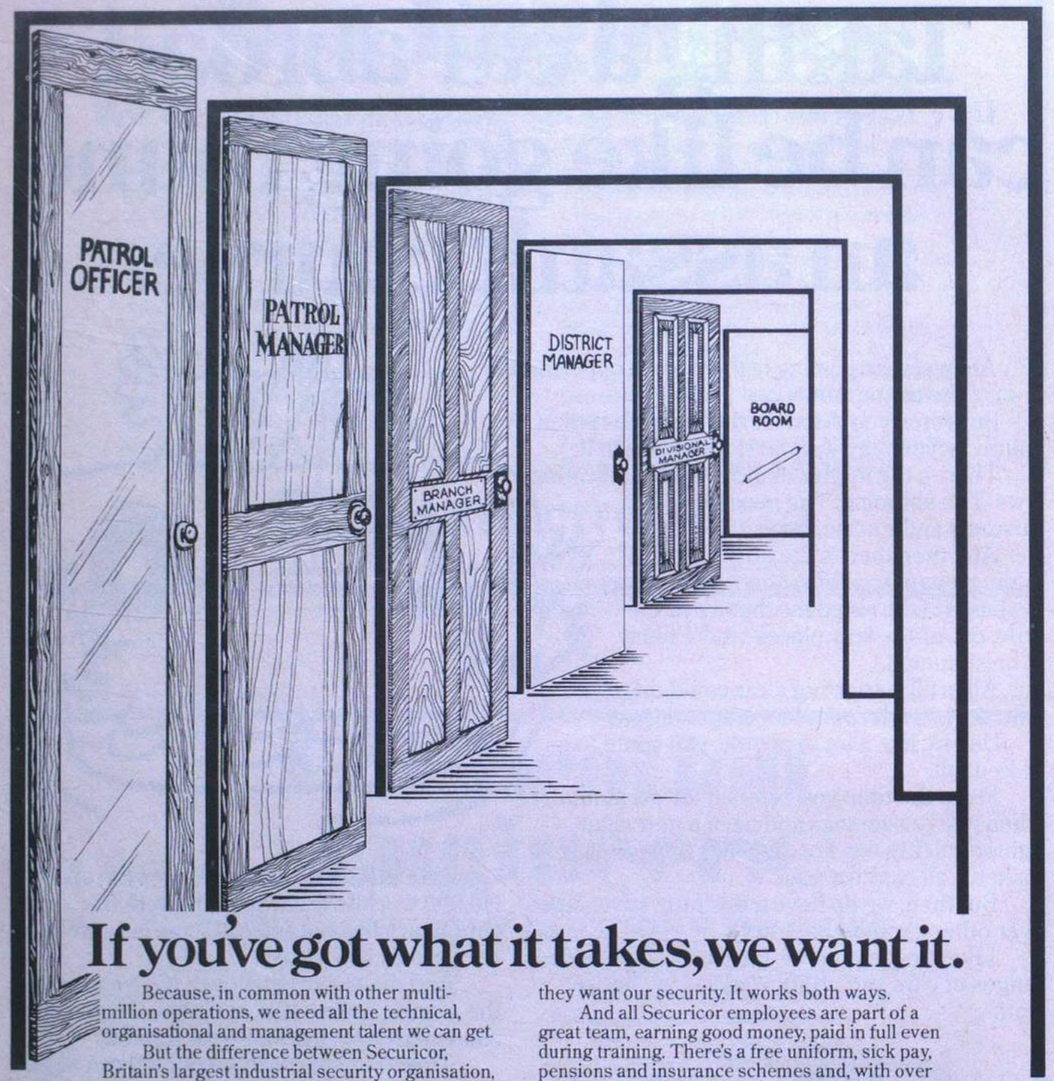
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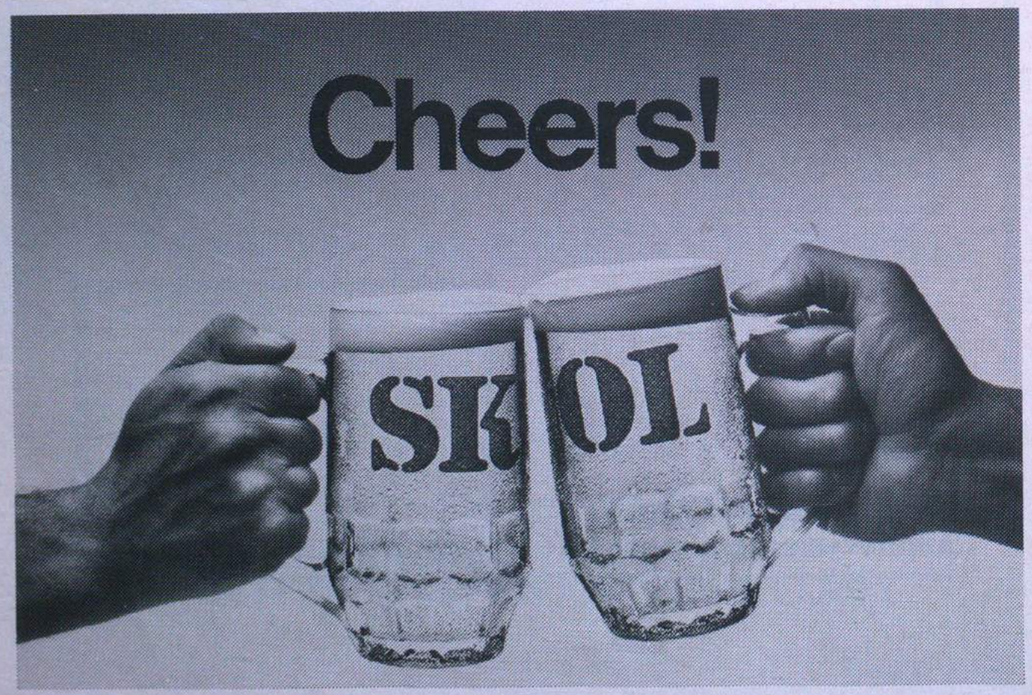
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Printed in Great Britain

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

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Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

All will wish to congratulate 6 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron, winners of the Army Minor Units Boxing Championship.
Full report on page 135

THE ARMY DEPENDANTS ASSURANCE TRUST

All of us are aware of the life assurance business and see advertisements in the Press every week. Many policies incorporate exclusion clauses to cover death through dangerous pursuits such as climbing or parachuting. Others exclude any liability outside the United Kingdom and some exclude death on active service, if you are prepared to do a lot of homework and consult an insurance broker, you can buy 'cheap term life assurance' from many of the leading insurance companies, but you will have to be careful and read the small print.

The easiest way for any serving soldier to protect his dependants is through the Army Dependants Assurance Trust Scheme (ADAT). The important facts are that it is cheap, it is good value for money and it covers your family against your death from any cause anywhere. Many ignore life assurance, believing they are immortal. The facts are that if you consider any ten serving soldiers at random, it is fairly certain that one will die before reaching the age of 55 and is most likely to leave a widow and children, with no established home.

ADAT is already committed to paying well over a million pounds in benefits and we were surprised to learn recently that only about 5% of the Serving Corps are Members. This statistic leads us to believe that many thousands are unaware of the very modest outlay required to secure substantial benefits for their family, if the worst was to happen. Your Pay Office will explain how ADAT works. Why not ask?

—From our "In" Tray—

ANOTHER FIRST

Congratulations to **Cpl Gordon Townsley** who became recently the Slalom Champion of the Combined Services Downhill Ski-ing Championship. This was a notable achievement and in the words of one expert '**Gordon Townsley** is outstandingly the best newcomer to Ski-ing seen at Combined Services level in recent times'.

ARMY CAPTAIN

W02 Geoff Nelson (10 Sig Regt) Captained the British Army XI in this year's Kentish Cup Matches — against the French Armed Forces in Beaune (France) on 7 February and in Aldershot versus the Belgian Armed forces on 21 February 1979. **LCpl Alex Hamilton** (22 Sig Regt) played in the French Armed Forces match but was not available for the Belgian Armed Forces game.

DOWN UNDER



This photograph was taken in Melbourne, Australia on the occasion of the marriage of Capt Peter Williams, Royal Signals on Saturday 22nd December 1978

Shown *(left to right)* are: Capt Peter Williams (The Groom), currently serving in Oman. He came to Melbourne to get married during his Christmas leave. The new Mrs Williams (The Bride), more commonly known as Capt Diane Pomphrey, QARANC. Currently serving at the 1st Military Hospital, Yeronga, Queensland. She returns to Queensland in January to continue her tour, rejoining her new husband in England at the end of 1979. Capt Robin Burrows (The Best Man), currently serving as an instructor at the Australian School of Signals, Melbourne. Mrs Carolyn Burrows, working as a Nursing Administrator at the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Melbourne. She has a 45 minute bicycle ride to work each day! The night before the wedding was spent at the Officers Mess at Watsonia Barracks, Melbourne (the Headquarters Mess of the Royal Australian Signals). Local celebrities include: Maj Mike Collins (ex Royal Signals). Now Royal Australian Signals currently serving in Melbourne. Bob Palmer (ex Capt Royal Signals). Currently working with a management agency in Melbourne

PRESENTATION IN SYDNEY



SSgt Bob MacArthur of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has recently returned from the 'colonies' (Australia) after spending three months on Exercise *Long Look*. **SSgt MacArthur** was attached to 1 Signal Regiment, located in Sydney. 1 Sig Regt is the Divisional Signal Regiment. During his stay he attended two major exercises both in Queensland. The first Exercise *In Concert* was a Joint Forces exercise held in the tropical north of Queensland near Townsville. The second exercise was a Div HQ deployment exercise, Exercise *Barrier Trial*, held just outside Brisbane. During the two exercises **SSgt MacArthur** clocked up over 6000km in Army vehicles.

One of the highlights of **SSgt MacArthur's** stay in Australia came during the traditional Sgt's/WO's visit to the Officers Mess. After a few pre-Christmas drinks the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Brian LeDan** interrupted the proceedings to present **SSgt MacArthur** with his LS and GCM. After the presentation it was congratulations and drinks all round.

Pictured is **Bob MacArthur** receiving his LS and GCM from **Lt Col LeDan,** CO 1 Sig Regt.

LIVING MEMORIAL TO DESERT FALLEN

A new life is planned for the Egyptian desert—one which will not only grow out of the arid wasteland, but one which will be a practical and living memorial to the men who died in the Desert Battles of 1941-42.

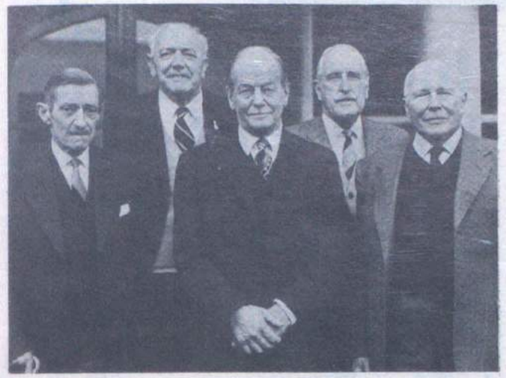
The planting of 'The Forest of Peace', which the project has been named, will be the final ceremony of the El Alamein International Reunion of Desert Veterans—from *both* sides—and will take place on the site of the old battlefield on Sunday, 4 November, 1979. The first trees, Acacia and Eucalyptus, to make up the Forest which will eventually stretch from Alexandria to Tunis, will be planted by old comrades and relatives of those who died in the desert campaign.

Plans for the Forest of Peace grew out of the 'Tree of Life' desert reclamation charity, founded and directed by **Ms Wendy Campbell-Purdie,** a New Zealander whose father died at El Alamein. The success of converting desert to forest has already been proven at Bou Saada, Algeria, which is now green as the Sahara retreats. The afforestation of the World War II Desert Trail from Cairo to Tunis was already in the planning stages when **Ms Campbell-Purdie** learned of the El Alamein Reunion. The idea of merging the two projects was enthusiastically received by CARO, the Reunion organisers, and the Egyptian Government.

Two very well-known names are Patrons of the El Alamein project. **Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, CB, DSO, MC,** 13 Corps Commander in the 1942 Battle, and **Herr Manfred Rommel,** Mayor of Stuttgart and son of the famous Afrika Korps commander, have given the project the seal of unity and internationality.

Bookings are already being placed with CARO, of Hove, Sussex, by UK desert veterans and their wives to attend the Reunion. It is expected that many thousands will be in attendance from the various countries.

50 YEARS ON



From: **Col L. N. Smyth, OBE**
Dear Sir,

On 31 January 1929, 80 cadets were commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich—The Shop. Of these 13 were signal officers, and nine of them survive today. On 31 January 1979, five of these signal officers had a reunion lunch at the Shop with the sapper and gunner officers, who were commissioned on the same day. I enclose a photograph of the five signal officers, who are, *left to right:* Lt Col TAK Howe, Brig Rev W. B. Rowett BA, Lt Col W. A. Purser, Brig R. B. Ridley Martin MA and Col J. H. E. Panton OBE.

This photograph was taken under arrangements made by Maj John Braisby of the Gunner.

Bearing in mind that we all are between 70⅝/12 and 69½ years, and have survived one major war, several minor ones and heart attacks, the figures below may be of interest.

	commissioned 31 Jan 1929	survivors		attended reunion
Sappers	14	9	64%	4
Gunners	53	36	68%	13
Signals	13	9	69%	5

Yours sincerely,

L. N. Smyth

Kilbronogue Schull,
Co Cork, Ireland

ATS—FORTY YEARS ON

A Grand Reunion of all those who served in ATS during the War or WRAC is to be held at Guildford, Surrey on 26 May 1979. Her Majesty The Queen, who served in the ATS, has kindly consented to be present.

The theme is 'Forty Years On'. Does this stir memories?

Tickets price £1 from WRAC Association, Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey.
Tel: 0483-71201 ext 383.

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KOHIMA REUNION BUNDE 23-27 MAY 79

All Old Comrades of 2 Div Sig Regt who served with the Regiment at Kohima are invited to join us for our celebrations at Bunde this year. we will send over a bus to collect you, all you need is a valid passport. If you can come please contact:
The Commanding Officer
2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 46

THE CORPS BAND PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS 1979

Date	*Place*	
April 1979		
13-16	Bournemouth	Concerts
21	Shrewsbury	Concert
29	Abertillery—Wales	Concert
May		
1	Coade Hall, Bryanston	Concert for Guild of St Helena
4-14	Jersey	Concerts
5	Blackheath	Concert
7	Charlton Park Horse Show	Concerts
18	Croydon Fairfield Halls	Concert
20	Blandford	Reunion
21-26	Woolwich	Tattoo
27	Sellindge Steam Fair	Concert
27-2 June	Eastbourne	Concerts
June		
1-3	Chester	Tattoo
8-25	BAOR Tour	
29	Catterick	Freedom of Richmond
30	Catterick	Reunion
July		
1	Catterick	Reunion
7	Birkenshaw	Concert
9-11	Larkhill	Massed Bands
15	Bromley Show	Concert
16-21	Liverpool/Preston	Tattoos
29-11 Aug	Cardiff	Tattoo
August		
12-18	Eastbourne	Concerts
13-15	16 Signal Regt KAPE	Leicester
19-24	Bournemouth	Concerts
25-27	Stoneleigh	Concerts
September		
8	Trowbridge	Carnival
8	Blandford	Carnival
16-30	Eastbourne	Concerts
November		
10	Wembley	Concerts
December		
18	Bournemouth	Concert
20	Festival Hall, London	Trumpeters

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

TOGETHER UNAFRAID

By Lionel Gregory

In 1961, whilst CO of the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals, Lionel Gregory started the annual Ten Tors expedition on Dartmoor as the means of bringing together young people from the Services, Police Forces, Schools and Youth Clubs from all over the country in a non-competitive exercise, to test themselves against the rigours of these ancient moorlands. Ten Tors was considered a risky business. The Duke of Edinburgh, however, thought otherwise: 'Col Gregory has hit upon an idea which provides just the right mixture of challenge to the ingenuity, toughness and adventure of healthy young people . . .'

Over the years that view has been endorsed by the sweat of over 30,000 young people, and the numbers grow every year.

'Greg' saw Ten Tors as the ideal recruiting ground for the more ambitious and adventurous purposes of The Commonwealth Expedition, Comex, which perhaps explains why so many Police Officers and Service Personnel, among others, who applied to join Comex had previously done Ten Tors. Not only did he see the Commonwealth on the move in Comex, giving young people the opportunity of making the challenge of the Commonwealth their own as a world framework for peace, but of bringing a more enlightened attitude to bear on matters of race relations at home.

But as a purely British initiative it lacked the wider concept of Commonwealth which drove him to fill the ranks of his private army from Canada, Australia, Singapore, Kenya, India and elsewhere in the Commonwealth. It is this remarkable story he relates in 'Together Unafraid' which reaches the end of its beginning in a Commonwealth Expedition Express mounted by the imaginative response of the Ministry of Railways in India.

That HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Tengku Abdul Rahman, Lee Kuan Yew and the first Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Professor Arnold Smith of Carleton University, should have supported this one-man enterprise says a lot for the man and his dream.

'Together Unafraid.' 228 pages, 48 plates. Publisher: Robert Hale and Company, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1. Price: £6.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH OFFICERS OF THE FORMER INDIAN ARMY

The National Army Museum would like our co-operation in obtaining materials and details of the pre-1947 Indian Army before such things disappear or are destroyed. The NAM is keen to acquire for their library the many locally printed histories, etc. Please inform the Historical Officer at RHQ Royal Signals, of any items you may be prepared to make available.

The Association of British Officers of the Former Indian Army, Annual Reunion and Garden Party will be held at Hurlingham on Friday, 29 June, 1979. Tickets are available from: Mrs. D. M. Allen, 140 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9AY.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER — OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION

The Annual President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday, 5 May, 1979.

The dress is mess kit. Accommodation can be provided at the College. The cost will not exceed £5 per head.

Any former student of Welbeck College who wishes to attend (whether a member of the Association or not) is asked to contact: Capt A. W. Harling REME, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN. Tel: Worksop 6579 (Home) or Worksop 6326, Ext 30 (College).

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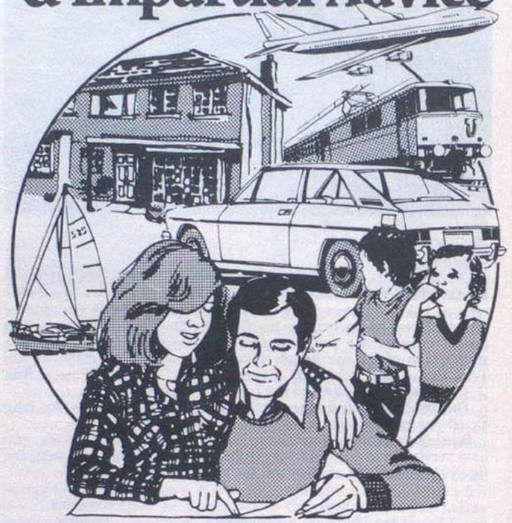
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Movements

Officers

Rank and Name	FEBRUARY 1979 *Unit to which posted*
Maj J. H. Almonds	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj A. R. Bailey	Defence Sales Organisation (PE) (AE)
Lt Col G. Barnett, MBE	QATAR Security Force
Maj A. R. Bushell	HQ South East District
A/Maj W. K. Butler	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt W. J. Clark	224 Sig Sqn
Capt W. P. Crowley	233 Sig Sqn
A/Maj R. J. Ebdon	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt M. W. Edwards	11 Sig Regt
A/Maj G. R. Elliot	34 Sig Regt (V)
Capt M. J. M. Emslie	11 Sig Regt
Lt J. K. Ewbank	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj G. M. Finney	DGGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Maj J. H. Fisher	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
2Lt S. C. Green	C/S School of Signals
Maj T. T. Hallchurch, MBE	30 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) J. D Heard	CDA RAF Thatcham
Capt J. Kay	RMCS Shriven
Capt (TOT) T. Kay	(Within) School of Signals
Capt (TOT) J. Morris	AA College Harrogate
Capt S. S. Paul	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj S. M. Siddall	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt R. L. Stark	28 Sig Regt
Capt M. R. Telfer	HQ Northern Ireland
Maj Q. Vigurs	MOD (A) Special Radio Service
Capt A. D. Whipp	30 Sig Regt

Rank and Name	MARCH 1979 *Unit to which posted*
Maj W. J. Armstrong	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Lt R. Baxter	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt R. C. Brodie	71 Sig Regt (V)
Brig N. A. Butler CBE	HQ UKLF
Capt D. F. M. Collyer	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
A/Lt Col S. Cowan	Staff College Camberley
Maj (Tfc) R. Davidge	DM(A)
Capt R. G. Drake	School of Signals
Capt D. J. Etherton	21 Sig Regt
Maj M. L. Forge	HQ BR Forces Belize
Maj D. M. Hay	HQ Highlands
Capt (TOT) P. Johnson	10 Sig Regt
Col A. D. Lewis	4 Sig Gp
Lt Col F. C. Lockwood, OBE	8 Sig Regt
Lt A. M. D. Marvin	22 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) A. J. Murray	DSS (AD)
Capt P. J. Myatt	632 Sig Tp (Hebrides)
Maj E. Pickup	School of Signals
Lt I. K. Ryder	Army Department Radio Branch
Capt (TOT) T. G. Southall	DMCP
Maj D. W. Stubbs	MOD DSS (AD)
Maj J. M. Sweetman	Mil Team Project WAVELL
Lt Col J. N. Taylor	DSS (AD)
Maj D. J. Walden	MOD D Mov(A)
Maj (TOT) N. F. Webb	HQ BR Forces Hong Kong
Maj P. B. Webster	229 Sig Sqn
Capt (QM) M. E. Wilson	16 Sig Regt
Capt E. A. Woods	HQ Rhine Area
Brig A. Yeoman	Trg Gp R Signals/Catterick Gar
Capt D. R. Bannister	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt M. Butler	28 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Etherton	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt M. C. Gilyeat	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. N. Johnston	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt S. J. Kidner	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. C. Kirkup	22 Sig Regt
Lt R. W. Spooner	HS School of Signals (Pending Medical Discharge)
A/Capt R. J. Turnbull	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn

WOs and Senior NCOs

Rank and Name	FEBRUARY 1979 *Unit to which posted*
WO1 D. A. Lamerton	36 CTT
WO2 G. Garland	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
WO2 F. A. Brown	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. Heugh	School of Signals
W02 (YofS) R. W. Mansfield	8 Sig Regt
SSgt J. M. Powles	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) D. Coleman	28 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) S. G. Watson	10 Sig Regt
SSgt D. H. Brock	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. F. Shepherd	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Peters	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. Wilson	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Sgt A. D. Duggan	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Read	8 INF BDE HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Lloyd	School of Signals
Sgt D. Taylor	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. E. Gipson	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Robertson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Stanger	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Wells	10 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Weedon	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. L. Wilson	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. A. Foote	HQ Afcent
Sgt J. F. Wilday	30 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Hunt	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Underhill	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. C. Evans	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. L. Randerson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt N. P. Martin-Law	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. L. Boor	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Dexeter	22 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Sture	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Reade	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Mustard	9 Sig Regt

Rank and Name	MARCH 1979 *Unit to which Posted*
WO1 E. Butterworth	HQ 1(BR) Corps
WO1 J. Roberts	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) F. C. McLoughlin	7 Sig Regt
WO2 T. G. L. Green	BR Contingent Unficyp (SP Regt)
WO2 E. P. Symonds	HQ Trg Gp R Sigs & Catterick Gar
WO2 C. Cheetham	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) O. J. Burrows	HQ Afcent SP GP International
WO2 (YofS) R. C. W. Chisholm	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) R. E. Chapman	School of Signals
SSgt G. W. Graham	School of Signals
SSgt D. D. Fox	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. Wilson	16 Sig Regt
SSgt P. G. Cole	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt B. R. Brown	9 Sig Regt
SSgt B. J. Aldridge	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Sgt K. L. Turner-Howe	10 Sig Regt
Sgt A. McLean	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. A. Cormack	522 RLD
Sgt G. P. Miller	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt P. A. Evans	Int Centre
Sgt D. E. S. Thorley	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Harrigan	Impl Team Project Wavell
Sgt R. A. P. Doyle-Davis	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. F. L. Cox	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Masters	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Camplin	HQ Afsouth
Sgt S. S. Tallack	Shape SP (INT)
Sgt P. E. Cowling	633 Sig Tp
Sgt C. J. E. Danastasi	School of Signals
Sgt C. Wilkie	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. McNaughton	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Parish	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Haston	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt C. J. Bell	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. N. Morris	21 Sig Regt
Sgt B. S. H. Beattie	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt B. T. Wood	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. K. Couper	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Marsden	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt R. M. Harber	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Merrick	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. E. Lee	ACIO Preston

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

Welfare

DECEMBER 1978

Number of cases assisted financially:	Ordinary grants:	49
	Christmas grants:	231
		280
Amount spent:	Ordinary grants:	£2,496.13
	Christmas grants:	1,270.00
		£3,766.13
Number of clothing parcels sent:		26

WAR MEMORIAL FUND: NIL

JANUARY 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	50
Amount spent:	£2,616.11
Number of clothing parcels sent:	50

WAR MEMORIAL FUND: NIL

ONE OF OUR CASES

Signalman, 1938-41 (medical discharge). A widower, in poor health and partly paralysed, living alone. He manages very well on his small income, with occasional clothing parcels from the Association, but a winter electricity bill presented a problem, and the Association made him a grant of £25 to clear this. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

A thousand heartfelt thanks for your extreme kindness. This has entirely cleared me of all debt, so that, relieved of worry, I can the better fight my illness. God bless all. Certa Cito!

During the months of December and January, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:

The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Col G. M. Welsford, Mrs J. M. Crowder, Mr D. Mulholland, Mrs W. G. Tucker, Mr G. J. Feakes, Maj K. N. Smartt, WO1 A. S. Walton, Maj L. J. Taylor, Maj and Mrs I. E. Kerr, Mr P. Richards, WO1 T. A. Perkin, Mr J. L. Smith, Mrs I. Williams, G. J. Feakes, Esq, Mrs A. E. Rawson, Mr and Mrs A. Morgan.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1979:—

In memory of Maj Ian Reading	£184.00
Bournemouth Regatta & Carnival Committee	£100.00
Mrs E. M. Barker	£50.00
30 Sig Regt	£22.16
Sig M. Jones	£10.00
R. N. Hutchings Esq.	£5.00
L. C. Hall Esq	£5.00
In memory of Maj Gen G. G. Rawson CB OBE MC	£5.00
Col D. S. Clarke	£2.75
Reading Branch Royal Signals Assn	£2.10
Col F. S. Morgan.	£1.25
Miscellaneous donations	£7.25
	£394.51

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1979:-

F. C. Wilson Esq.	£100.00
A. D. Trevethick Esq	£100.00
234 Sig Sqn.	£42.00
Anonymous donation	£20.00
Officers Club 42 Sig Regt	£20.00
Brighton Branch R Signals Assn	£15.00
W. G. Matthews Esq	£10.00
In memory of Brig R. H. O Coryton CBE.	£110.00
Mrs J. S Read	£7.00
P. A. Langmaid Esq	£5.00
S. D. Clarkson Esq.	£5.00
Capt E. D. Halton	£5.00
In memory of Maj Gen G. G. Rawson CB OBE MC.	£10.00
J. T. Campbell Esq.	£2.10
J. Norman Esq	£2.00
The Earl Kitchener.	£2.00
M. E. Holdsworth Esq	£1.00
Miscellaneous donation	£ .90
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DEATHS

Adams—Maj Albert Victor George Adams TD a member of the East London Branch died in hospital on 11 February aged 67.

Lt Col W. H. Lamb writes — During the last war Bill Adams served in India, Singapore and with the 14 Army in Burma. After the war he joined the 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment TA at a time when the TA were very thin on the ground. His enthusiasm and professional knowledge played a major part in building up and training that Regiment. A distinguished Post Office transmission engineer Bill was at his best when signals were not. Completely unflapable his unfailing good humour and cheerful grin were a tonic to all who served with him. He will be sadly missed by a host of friends both in the Corps and the Post Office.

Our sympathy goes to his family, particularly to Lilian who so loyally and enthusiastically supported him.

Adams—Col Ralph Maxwell Adams was commissioned into the corps from the Royal Military Academy Woolwich in 1927. After qualifying at Catterick and a short stint at A corps Signals in Aldershot he went to India in 1930 where he served for the next 17 years. His appointments included Command of 5th Indian Divisional Signals in Burma and L of C Signals in Burma and Indo China during the second world war. After the war he served in the UK, Germany and Malaya, when he was Mentioned in Despatches. His last appointment before retiring in 1959 was AAG AG 11. After retiring he filled an appointment as an RO at Home Counties until 1964 when he joined the Royal Signals Institution at RHQ as Historical Officer until failing eyesight forced him to retire at the beginning of 1972. During this time he produced 'Through to 1970' and he was also responsible for the initiation of the Corps photographic Album 'Corps Life' which records, pictorially, major events in Army Communications and the Corps from the Crimea onwards. He was a Central Examiner for the Government of India in Punjabi and a local examiner in Urdu, he was also a keen ornithologist. He married Daphne, widow of Lt Col Goldney, in 1946 and his stepson Peter, and son Hamish are both serving in the Corps; his other stepson John, served from 1960-1970. He died suddenly at his home in Sussex on the 23 February at the age of 72.

Brown—Brig Denys Anthony Brown, MC enlisted in the TA in 1914 and was commissioned into the Queens Regiment in 1915. He served on the Western Front during the 1st World War when he was wounded three times, Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the MC. He was seconded to the RE Signal Service from 1917 to 1920 and to the Corps from 1920 to 1922 when he transferred. Between the Wars he served with the Training Battalion, A Corps Signals, 1st Divisional Signals and in India with 1st and 4th Indian Divisional Signals commanding the latter from 1932-35. At the outbreak of the 2nd World War he was CSO Western Command and later served in the Middle East. He retired in 1946 and took up residence in Rhodesia where he died on the 22 August 1978 at the age of 83.

Coryton—Brig Richard Hennis Olpherts Coryton CBE was commissioned direct into the Corps from Cambridge University in 1925. After completing No 10 'Q' Course at Maresfield, he joined 'A' Corps Signals before being posted to India where he served for the next ten years during which time he held the appointments of Adjutant as the STC and at 2nd Indian Divisional Signals. On returning to the UK he was posted to the War Office as GSO III in the MI Directorate where he was serving when was broke out; he remained there till 1941 when he assumed Command of 11th Armoured Divisional Signals and took the bulk of the unit to North Africa where it became 10th Armoured Divisional Signals. He spent the rest of the war in North Africa and Italy holding a number of staff appointments which included DCSO 15 Army Group, DCSO Allied Armies Italy and finally CSO V Corps. During this time he was twice Mentioned in Despatches, appointed OBE in 1943 and promoted to CBE in 1945. After the war, he served as DD Signals at the War Office and CSO Eastern Command. His last appointment before retiring in 1954 was as CSO Northern Army Group. During his youth he was a useful cricketer representing the Corps on a number of occasions both in the UK and in India; he played against the Sappers at Lords in 1925. He died on the 20 February after a long illness at the age of 76.

Crosthwaite—Maj Cecil Crosthwaite MBE, K St J, TD, JP, had a distinguished civil and military career and played a leading part in public affairs. He had many business and commercial interests; he was Chairman of the Tees Towing Company and the British Tug Owners Association. He was Founder and later Chairman of the European Tug Owners Association and was Deputy Chairman of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority for nine years, being also the French Consular Agent. In 1963 was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the North Riding of Yorkshire and became the first Lord Lieutenant of Cleveland when the County was formed in 1974. He joined 50th Divisional Signals TA in 1930 and just before the War was transferred to 23rd Divisional Signals TA where he raised No 2 Squadron and two AA Signal Sections. During the War he served on the staff at HQ Northern Command and in the Signals Directorate at the War Office when he was appointed MBE. He was brother-in-law to Brig C. C. Fairweather CB, CBE, TD, JP, DL; his son served as an officer with 11th Air Formation Signals during his National Service and later joined 50th (N) Signal Regiment TA. Maj Crosthwaite died in December 1978 at the age of 70.

Ireland—Capt James Campbell Ireland enlisted in the Boys Squadron in 1944 and was commissioned in 1963. He served in BAOR, the Middle East and his last unit before retiring in 1970 was 8 Signal Regiment. He was an outstanding athlete particularly in throwing the Javelin, as a Rugby player and soccer goal keeper. He died in 1978 at the early age of 50.

Lycett—Brig Cyril Vernon Lechmere Lycett OBE, was born in 1894 and was commissioned into the Special Reserve RE in 1914, whilst at Cambridge. During the 1st World War he served with RE Signals in France where he was wounded at the 2nd Battle of Ypres. He then went to Baghdad where he commanded four Wireless Observation Group when he was Mentioned in Despatches, from there he went to Constantinople as an Intelligence Agent when he was again Mentioned in Despatches and appointed OBE. Between the Wars he served in Egypt, India and at Catterick, Bulford and Canterbury. In 1939 he was appointed Chairman of the Wireless Telegraphy Board and spent the rest of the War at the War Office being DD 'Y' from 1942-44. His last appointment before retiring in 1946 was Director of Signals Intelligence India and South East Asia Command. After retiring he was Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society for ten years. In 1963 he settled in California where he died on the 8 June 1978.

Marshall—Col Austin Rhodes Marshall TD, known throughout the Corps as Tubby, was commissioned into the TA in 1933 when he joined 44th Divisional Signals. At the outbreak of the War he joined 1st Divisional Signals and served with the BEF in France. In 1942 he became 2IC of 6th Armoured Divisional Signals and went with the Unit to North Africa. In 1943 he moved over to 4th Divisional Signals with whom he served in Italy, when he was Mentioned in Despatches, and Greece, taking over Command in 1945. He later became Liaison Officer with the Greek Forces. He joined 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron in 1949 and went to Korea in 1950 where he served with the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signals and was again Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the American Bronze Star (Korea). On returning to the UK in 1952 he was posted to the Senior Officers' School as an Instructor. From 1954-56 he held the appointment of CSO of the Arab Legion in Jordan and from 1956-59 Commanded 90th (which was renumbered 30th) Signal Regiment. His last appointment before retiring in 1960 was with the BJCEB Tubby became Prime Warden of the Dyers Livery Company and whilst commanding 30th Signal Regiment was instrumental in persuading the Livery Company to 'adopt' the Regiment, allowing, amongst other things, the Company Crest—The White Swan—to be used as the Regiment's Badge. Last year, 18 years after retiring, Tubby accompanied 30 Signal Regiment to Alderney, in a very uncomfortable Hovercraft, on the occasion of the visit by Her Majesty The Queen to the Island. Tubby was extremely active right up to his sudden death in Woolwich Military Hospital on the 17 January at the age of 68.

Moppett— Brig Ernest John Henry Moppett was commissioned from the RMC Sandhurst into the Manchester Regiment in 1923. He was seconded to the Corps in 1925 and after attending No 10 Q Course at Catterick he transferred to the Corps in 1927. Between the Wars he served with his Regiment in India and also with the Corps, with the Army of Occupation of the Rhine, in Canada, Singapore and at Catterick. At the outbreak of the War he went to France as a Staff Officer at GHQ. After the evacuation he joined the Ministry of Supply where he remained for the rest of the War. From 1947-48 he Commanded 1 L of C Signals and took part in the post war operations in Palestine. He was DD Signals at the War Office for a year before being promoted Brigadier and taking up his last appointment as Chief Inspector IEME. After retiring in 1952 he joined Pye Telecommunications at Cambridge and was for many years an active member of the Committee of the British Wireless Dinner Club. He had been ill for some time before his death on the 31 January at the age 76.

Reading—Maj Ian Douglas Reading was born on 5 March 1945 at Caversham, Reading and educated at Bridgenorth Grammar School, Shropshire. He was commissioned into the Corps from Sandhurst, via Welbeck College, on 17 December, 1965. On completion of his Q Course Ian went to 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt and after two years joined 39 Regt RA Sig Tp. In January 1970 Ian was posted to AA Coll Harrogate and after two years there went to 9 Sig Regt, attending No 9 Captains Course whilst on strength of that unit. Ian had a longer than usual spell in Cyprus and came home in January 1975 to become the Adjutant of 10 Sig Regt. Having successfully passed the Staff College exam, Ian spent a year at Shrivenham before going to the Royal Air Force Staff College in November 1978. He was tragically killed in a motor accident on 1 December 1978 just before the end of his course. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Janette.

Rhodie—SSgt James Mills Rhodie (Jim) died on 8 January, 1979, aged 55. He served with the KOYLI during the last war and after a short spell of civilian life joined the RMP as a regular. During the early 1950's he transferred to the Corps until his discharge in 1968.

Shardlow—Lt Col Maurice Seymour Charles Shardlow, MBE, enlisted in the North Staffordshire Regiment when under age in 1914 and served with the Regiment on the Western Front throughout the war. He transferred to the Corps in 1920 and was granted an emergency commission in 1940. He retired in 1950 after serving for many years with the Indian Signal Corps between the wars and in the Middle East during the last war when he was appointed MBE. He was an outstanding all round athlete particularly in Cross Country Running, Tennis and Golf. In 1932 whilst on leave from India, he won no less than six major Tennis events and repeated this achievement when he was posted to the UK in 1934 when he included the Army Inter-Unit Singles and Open Doubles Championships amongst his trophies. In the middle of the Thirties he was a member of the army Cross Country Team and was also selected to be the Team Coach. In 1970, at the age of 72 he beat the Nottingham County Record when he went round Beeston Fields Golf Course in two stokes less than his age. He died peacefully at his home in Nottingham on the 16 February at the age of 80.

Tate—Lt Col Norman de la Poer Tate was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich in 1928. Between the Wars he served in Palestine during the operations of 1936, in Egypt and at Aldershot. At the outbreak of the War he was a Staff Captain at AG 7 but left this appointment to take an AA Brigade Signal Section to France with the BEF. In 1941 he was sent to Singapore, shortly after he arrived he was 'put in the bag' and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of the Japanese. After the war he qualified at the Staff College and was then appointed GSO II at 44th Infantry Division TA. After a year at 3rd Training Regiment he went to Ceylon as CSO in 1948. He returned to the UK in 1950 to take over command of Western Command Signal Regiment when he was awarded the Queen's Coronation Medal. His last appointment before retiring in 1955 was as CSO HQ 2 AA Group. In 1977 he took up residence in Spain and died two years later in St Bartholomew's Hospital at the age of 71.

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COME SAILING



The two RSYC Dinghy Regattas held annually in UK will take place in June this year. These two events offer the only opportunity for corporate RSYC activity on the grand scale and are run as much for the enjoyment of participants as for the more serious purpose of Corps Team selection. So whether you see yourself as a winner or an also-ran, a helmsman or an indifferent crew member, sign on for one or both of these sporting and social occasions. The details of the Regattas are:

RSYC (UK) Dinghy Regatta

Venue: HMS *Excellent*, Whale Island, Portsmouth. Dates: 6, 7 and 8 June. The 'Retired Members' Regatta is held on the 6 June but boats are available to Regular Members for pre-match practice. Some of the latter may be asked to crew for the Retired Members. Dinghy: Bosuns.

RSYC (Worldwide) 'Mermaid' Regatta

Venue: Seaview, Isle of Wight. Dates: 12 and 13 June. Dinghy: Seaview 'Mermaids' (these are Keel boats).

Service accommodation and warrants (from a UK service address only) are available.

For those who seek representative honours, the RSYC 'Mermaid' Regatta is followed, on 14 and 15 June, by the Triangular Regata in which we compete against RA and RE Teams. The 'Glover Cup' is awarded to the winning team which in 1978 was The Royal Corps of Signals.

If you are interested in participating in the RSYC Regattas, contact your Sailing Officer. If you do not have a Sailing Officer contact:

Maj M. J. M. Alden Royal Signals
School of Signals
Blandford Camp
DORSET DT11 8RH
(Blandford Military 415)

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

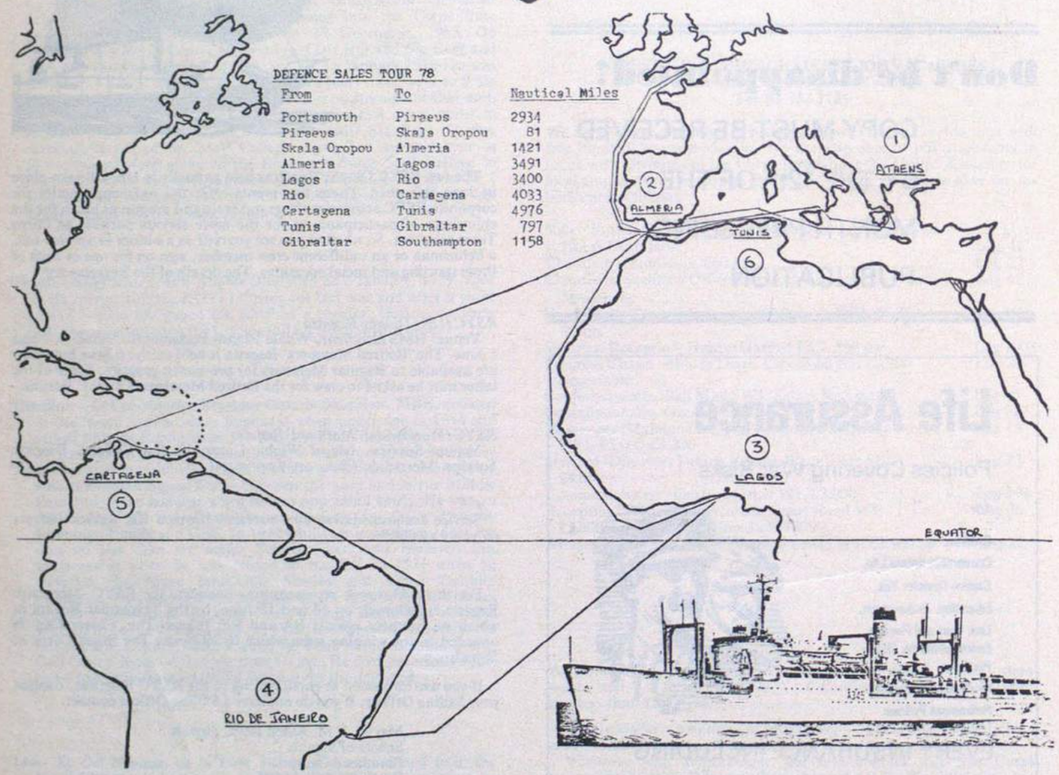
Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Defence Sales Tour 1978

Report by SSgt (YofS) Chris Allen



The Defence Sales Organisation is part of the Ministry of Defence, and exists to help British Industry to export military equipment. Every year or so, the Organisation arranges a Sales Tour to various overseas countries. A Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship is used for the purpose; it carries military vehicles and equipment, together with the soldiers to man them, and a live demonstration is staged at each port of call. There is also a static exhibition of equipment on board the ship, to which local military officials are invited.

Last year (September-December), RFA *Tarbatness* visited Southern Europe, Africa and South America. To look after the communications aspects of the demonstration, she carried two Royal Signals specialists—**WO2 (FofS) George Emslie** of 31 Sig Regt (V) and **SSgt (YofS) Chris Allen** of 39 (City of London) Sig Regt (V).

EARLY DAYS

It was at Annual Camp of 39 Regiment at Scarborough in June 1978 that I was asked if I would like to join the Defence Sales Organisation for four months. Having been around long enough to take a step backwards when someone asks for volunteers, I allowed myself to be talked into it when the words 'World Cruise' were mentioned!

By mid-July I was attached to Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) in Bovington. Both **George Emslie** and myself came under command of the OC RAC Sales Team, **Capt Robin Searby** 9/12 L, and we spent the first few weeks learning about the equipment we were going to be demonstrating overseas—radios (both Clansman and private venture) and the vehicles in which they were to be installed. My new OC told me that in addition to my 'communication duties' I was to be the vehicle commander of a Sultan, and I spent the next week trying to find out what he meant! I wasn't in the dark for long as the Sultan appeared 'naked' from CVD and I spent three long days installing the four radio sets which we would be carrying.

After a brief spell of leave, all the teams assembled at Tidworth on 30 August, where we spent the next two and a half weeks practising and getting to know each other. As part of our lead up the Foreman and I visited various electronics firms and had a very interesting and enjoyable time at each. These visits were invaluable in giving us the background to the firms commercial efforts overseas, and helping us to get to know their various equipments.

After many rehearsals at Tidworth we finally moved down to Portsmouth on 19 September to load all the equipment on RFA Tarbatness. This exercise took a complete day; by the time we reached Tunis at the end of the trip it was taking just under three hours!

UNDER WAY

We sailed from Portsmouth on 20 September and had an uneventful eight days sailing through the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean. Dress of the day when sailing was shirt sleeve order until we hit the sunshine, when the order of the day was shorts. It stayed this way until leaving Gibraltar on the homeward leg (except in port when the dress was full uniform). The journey through the Mediterranean was beautiful—through the Messina Straits, past Mount Etna (which was under cloud cover) and through the Cyclades group of islands to Pireaus in Greece, our first port of call. On the work side the main task whilst at sea was to prepare the communications aspect of the demonstrations; this was broken down into four distinct parts, a demonstration net, a ship to demonstration site link, a Royal Marines demonstration net and a net for the quayside demonstration. Due, mainly, to the excellence of the equipment available no problems were encountered with any of the nets and communications at each port were more than satisfactory.

GREECE

On 28 September we reached Pireaus which is the main port of Greece and, although a separate city in its own right, is in fact a suburb of Athens. Because of traffic restrictions in Athens we began to unload all our vehicles into a Greek LCT, which moved them all to a smaller port called Halkis. There they would be unloaded and driven to the demonstration site. Whilst all this was going on, the static exhibition was being set up on the ship, and we were being filmed by the BBC for part of the series 'The Money Programme'. (BBC please repeat, we haven't seen it yet!) The TV crew shot a lot of film of the exhibition and the demonstration, as well as interviewing some of the main personalities involved in the tour. (I was available for comment but was ignored . . . obviously a BBC faux pas!)

Despite being kept busy for most of the time, we managed to fit in some swimming and some sightseeing, including visits to 'The Odeon of Herodes Atticus', The Acropolis and the original Olympic Stadium.

AND SPAIN

Although very beautiful in parts, Athens was very expensive and a bit of a disappointment. We set sail for Almeria, a small fishing village on the Southern Coast of Spain, arriving there four days after leaving Greece. A pleasant little place, where we had a lot of fun, it was very hot and dusty (the demonstration was that little bit harder to do because of the heat) so following the Ships Doctors advice we all increased our liquid intake which made it even more fun . . .

On the work side, Plessey asked me to help them set up a demonstration of their new single frequency VHF repeater station called Groundsat, which I did with pleasure. Groundsat is a man-pack radio system and it performed perfectly, and greatly impressed the Spanish. All part of the service! Socially we were looked after very well, a nearby village comprising of ex-patriot Brits took us under their wing and made sure we were suitably entertained in typical Spanish fashion. On one of our free nights, we were all invited out for a meal, the highlight of a very pleasant evening being the swashbuckling, cavalry type attitude of **Capt Robin Searby** who decided that he wanted to try the local cuisine and promptly ordered a dish described as 'Rowanas Testicles' (Rowana is the Spanish for Bull!). He was ill for four days! Our sympathies to **Capt Searby,** however we must thank Rowana for giving us quite a few laughs.

ENGINE POWER WINS THE DAY

Apart from beimg swamped with grasshoppers from the Spanish Saraha, which put a stop to sunbathing for a couple of days, the most interesting aspect of the next leg of our trip to Nigeria was when we lowered the lifeboats and had a race round the ship. (Needless to say the Army crewed the lifeboats whilst the 'experts' stayed on board and took the mickey). Being beaten by the opposing craft in this Battle of the South Atlantic, was a great disappointment until we discovered afterwards that they had used their engine. (I'm still trying to work out who had the most sense!)

THE LAGOS SCENE

We docked at Lagos on 23 October and after a briefing by the Defence Attache on the many 'perks' of visiting Lagos, the majority of us were somewhat reluctant to go ashore socially. As it happens our fears were unfounded and a good time was had by all. The Nigerian Army very kindly ensured we reached the demonstration site as quickly as possible by providing us with Military Police motorcycle outriders. One of them went out of his way to entertain us on our journey—his antics would have done the White Helmets proud. The demonstration site was located in the heart of a Nigerian Army camp, next to rows of other ranks' Married Quarters. These accommodated 300 families in one stretch and were made from corrugated iron sheets with a hole in for the windows, and wall to wall grass carpeting! (Come home BIA all is forgiven??) As in previous ports the heat was shattering and the liquid intake was increased accordingly. By this stage we could quite easily have been mistaken for locals, and it was refreshing to return to the air conditioned ship whenever we could.

We also played football at the Nigerian National Stadium Sports Complex where we were beaten 4-0 by a Nigerian Navy side which boasted five First Division players, so perhaps it was no disgrace.

There was plenty to do and see in Nigeria, and we enjoyed our vitit. But with beer at £2 a can in places and postcards and stamps difficult to get hold of (postcards were 40p each!) and with public executions being held on the main tourist beach every Saturday morning we left Lagos with rather mixed feelings.

AND SO TO RIO

The ten day trip across the Atlantic to Rio passed quickly, the main event of this leg being the 'Crossing the Line' ceremony which for those who haven't experienced it is something to be avoided at all costs, although the certificate that you receive is a worthwhile souvenir. (I can't describe the ceremony as Neptune would never forgive me!)

During these longer passages, shipboard entertainment kept everyone amused, and it fell to the 'Royal Signals Team' to do much of the organising for these events. Inter-Sales-Team quizzes, a 'Mother & Son' competition based on the TV series 'Mr & Mrs' as well as a commercial version of Charades were particularly successful. The Corps was also fully represented in the Mess darts team, the indoor games league and the table tennis championship (in which one of our teams came runners up).

THE HIGHLIGHT

At long last, on 5 November, we entered Rio de Janeiro. It was a cold dismal morning (about 70° F) but that couldn't hide the sheer beauty of what must rate as one of the most scenic cities in the world.

Rio turned out to be, as expected, the highlight of the whole trip. The prices were reasonable (unless you drank whisky at £4 a tot!!) the beaches were immaculate, the night life was excellent, the sights breathtaking and the people extremely friendly. It was nice to see on every spare piece of ground and beach there were football pitches, basketball or volleyball courts. (UK take note.) I particularly enjoyed playing football on Copacabana beach under floodlights, and scoring the most fantastic goal that has been seen in Brazil (Pele eat your heart out) but,(unfairly I hasten to add) was disallowed by the referee because I used my hands. We eventually lost 8-0 but can't help but feel that if my goal had been allowed it would have changed the course of the game. (We were losing 6-0 when it was disallowed!)

Unfortunately the full story of our stay in Rio is far too long to be related in this short article. Suffice to say Rio is an experience which has to be seen to be believed. Sadly we left on 11 November en route for Cartagena in Colombia. Apart from a rather alcoholic celebration of my first wedding anniversary, the ten day voyage passed by without incident, and we arrived on 21 November.

THE CARIBBEAN

Cartagena is situated in the South West corner of the Caribbean. From first impressions, it is trying very hard to become the Acapulco of the South Americas. It was interesting to note that all tourism was orientated towards the American Dollar. The City itself is split into two parts, old and new. The old, has many markets where stacks of suitable bargains could be found (including ground coffee at 35p a pound!). The new, which consists entirely of hotels, good quality (and cheap) restaurants and high class souvenir shops. Because we had arrived two days early, there was plenty of free time during the day for frequent swimming trips, sightseeing and shopping.

A CLASS CONSCIOUS PARROT

It was in Cartagena that we met up once again with the Defence Sales Organisation's own tame Royal Signals Officer, **Maj Peter Webster,** who had somehow managed to wangle visits to Mexico and the USA since we had last seen him in Rio. Together with the Ship's Radio Officers, we held a 'Prontos' conference beside the swimming pool of his luxury hotel one afternoon. Oh to be rich . . .

However my pleasure was somewhat dampened by a savage attack by one of the hotel parrots, who had decided that he didn't want to be photographed with me holding him, and shredded my hand to pieces (well about ¼in scar actually, but it put me off parrots for life). To rub salt in the wound, the little darling let **Maj Webster** pick it up and had many 'posed' photographs taken. It disturbs me greatly that even parrots appear to have a class system.

Whilst we were docked, three American warships were also in port which, apart from doubling the prices in the shops and the pubs, had little effect on our stay. However someone overheard a priceless statement from one of the American sailors who, passing the *Tarbatness* gangplank beside which two Scorpions were parked, said to his pal, 'Gee man, I don't know what it is but it must be important to have two tanks guarding it!'

Cartagena was without doubt the hottest place we had visited (another increase in liquid content!); temperatures were well up in the 90's and doing the demonstration in that kind of heat was very uncomfortable to say the least.

SCHEDULES WITH EYE OF THE WIND

After leaving Colombia on 29 November we spent 14 days at sea. The boredom of this voyage was considerably lightened by my having the opportunity to work HF radio schedules with **Cpl Roger Secker** on *Eye of the Wind* which is at present sailing round the world as part of Operation *Drake*. Contact was established on 2 December and maintained over the next 10 days at ranges varying from 470 to over 3,000 miles. Considering the shortcomings of our respective antennas, communications were excellent and proved the high calibre of the Clansman UK/VRC-321, which was the set in use at both ends of the link. Although Operation *Drake* continues until October 1980, **Roger Secker** leaves the *Eye of the Wind* next April—don't forget The Wire notes **Roger!**

TUNISIA

We arrived in La Goulette, the main port for Tunis, on 12 December. Tunis in fact was a very short stay and very little time was available for a 'run ashore'. However what was seen of the city was impressive, with goods being very cheap in the market places, and food and drink of good quality at reasonable prices. Although a lot cooler (at long last a decrease in liquid intake) than the other ports, the demonstration site in Tunis was a two hour journey from the ship and was very windy and dusty and made the days very very long. Situated on an old Roman Fort (coins were plentiful—what a shame we weren't demonstrating a mine detector!) the actual demonstration area was a breathtaking sight. However the demonstration was made that little bit more difficult by the need to avoid desert nomads and their caravans.

AND HOME

On 16 December we started our long-anticipated journey home, stopping off at Gibraltar for refuelling, and finally docking at Southampton on 21 December just in time for Christmas.

REFLECTIONS

Sitting here in my quiet little office in North Oxon, I must admit to the odd sigh of relief now that it is all over. It was a fascinating, once-in-a-lifetime experience; hard work, certainly, with plenty of professional problems to solve, but also boring during the longer sea passages. Obviously the chance to visit countries, which I might never get the opportunity to visit again, compensated for the boring parts of the trip. Life at sea, of course, was made much easier by the fact that all of us got on well with the crew, who were all Merchant Navy seamen under contract to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Many friendships developed during the tour, not just with the crew, but with lads from the other sales teams, don't worry **Lt Nick Fane** 5 Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, **Sgt Tab Tabalili** RE, **Sgt John Rymer** and **Sgt Geoff Brookes** RA, as well as our sea faring colleagues from the Royal Marines, mum's the word!!

As far as the crew goes, our thanks must go to them all for getting us home in time for Christmas and for making us so welcome in the respective messes. Naturally, there were endless discussions about pay differentials. (You should have seen the fleet of Securicor trucks waiting at the quayside.) All I would say is, if anyone is thinking of leaving the Corps in the near future, my advice to him is—go to sea young man!!

For a simple soldier, the world of Defence Sales was totally new. It was great fun to be part of the export effort, and to meet people from industry; it was surprising and very flattering to find how highly the Army generally and the Corps in particular is regarded by those outside. Incidentally, for those who are already reaching for pen and paper to put in their bid, the next Defence Sales Tour is unlikely to be until the end of 1980. In the meantime, P & O can let you have a world cruise aboard one of their liners—their Presidential Suite will cost you £95,000!!

NB for RPO Taunton—NOW can I have my LOA?



We require staff, male or female, to prepare and maintain the latest in communications equipment used by the Police and Fire Brigades in England and Wales.

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Promotion prospects are good and the work represents a secure future with generous leave allowances and a non-contributory pension scheme.

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The salary is £2627 (at 17) £3176 (at 21) and £3700 (at 25), rising to a maximum of £4252.

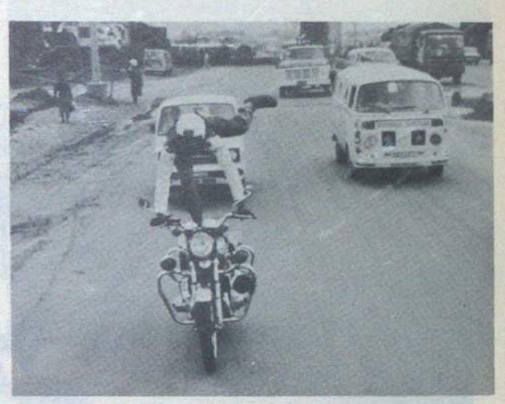
If you are interested in working with us, then write for further details and an application form to:—

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Telephone: 01-211 6420

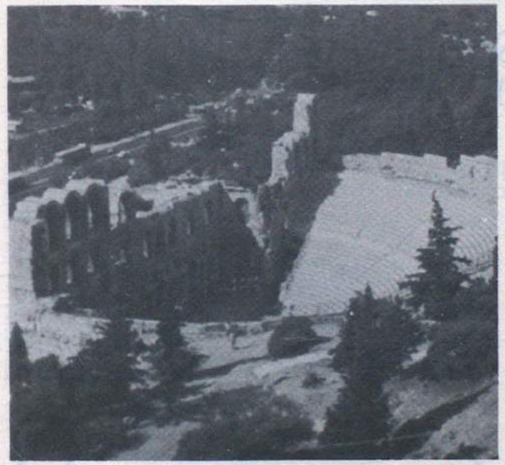
AS THE CAMERA SAW THE SALES TOUR



Sultan being loaded onto Greek LCT—Pireaus



'The' MP motorcycle outrider—Nigeria



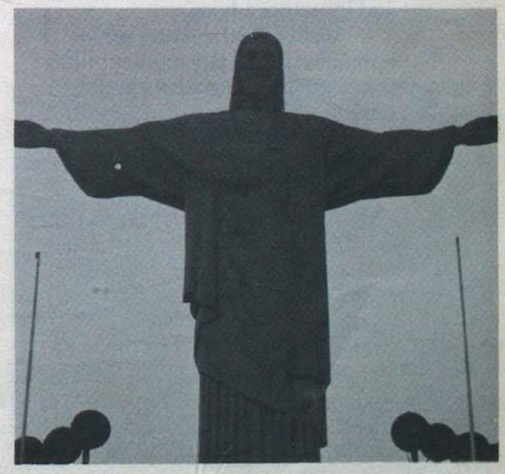
The Odeon of Herodes Atticus—Athens



Author on one of the RM boats with Tarbatness entering Rio de Janeiro



Scorpions 'guarding' *Tarbatness*



Corcovado—Christ the Redeemer



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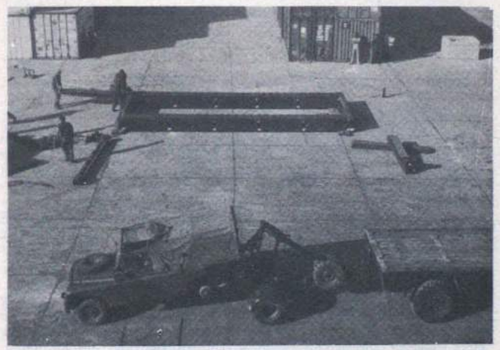
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Tourist strip—Cartagena



Part of the static exhibition on board *Tarbatness*



Quayside demonstration in Cartagena, dummy axle trailer in the foreground with the Medium Girder Bridge being built in the background



Hotel swimming pool—site of Pronto's conference and attack by parrot



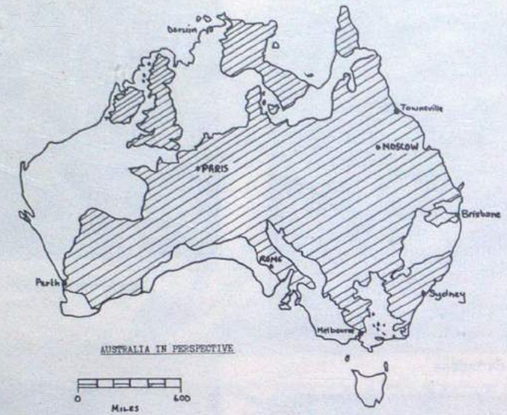
Quayside demonstration in Cartagena, Trackway laying



Maj Peter Webster with 'killer'

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 78

Report by Capt Andy Johnstone 7 Sig Regt



THE FORTUNATE ONES

Towards the middle of August 1978, 120 members of the British Army boarded a plane at RAF Brize Norton and headed off for four months with the Australian and New Zealand Armies. Among them were the following members of the Corps and WRAC (Signals):

Capt Andy Johnstone	7 Sig Regt	Australia
Lt Sue Rollo WRAC	16 Sig Regt	New Zealand
WO2 (YofS) Max Pond	22 Sig Regt	Australia
SSgt Bob McArthur	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	Australia
Sgt Jim Besant	8 Sig Regt	Australia
Sgt Stuart Gain	30 Sig Regt	New Zealand
Cpl Harry Brant	30 Sig Regt	Australia
Cpl 'Mac' McDonald	School of Signals	Australia
Cpl Jock Kerr	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	New Zealand
Cpl Brian Slattery	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	Australia
Cpl 'Wally' Wallace	10 Sig Regt	Australia
Cpl Wendy Barton WRAC	10 Sig Regt	Australia

SPLIT AT SINGAPORE AND SYDNEY

After a long flight by VC10 via Bahrain and Colombo we arrived in the sweltering heat of Singapore. Here the two parties for Australia and New Zealand split up and went their separate ways. We, who were bound for Australia, boarded two Hercules C130 belonging to the RAAF and flew to Sydney via Darwin. In Sydney the group split up and went off to the various Regiments which were to host them during their stay. I was destined to go to 2 Sig Regt along with **WO2 Max Pond** and **Cpl Wendy Barton.** 2 Sig Regt is located in the outskirts of Melbourne and shares a barracks with the Australian School of Signals and 6 Sig Regt. **Cpl Harry Brant** went to the School of Signals.

2 Sig Regt provides L of C trunk comms, and comms for a Corps HQ. As the Australian Army does not maintain a Corps HQ in peacetime, this second role is not practiced much. There are two comms squadrons, 110 and 145, and an Admin Squadron. 110 Sig Sqn consists of Heavy Radio Troop, Trunk Troop, Line Troop and Radio Relay Troop. 145 Sig Sqn has a Traffic Troop, a Light Radio Troop and a Medium Radio Troop. Most of their equipment is American, and varies in age and efficiency from the 18 month old AN/MRC-127 Radio Relay station to the 25 year old tele-printers. In other words the situation as regards kit is much the same as in our Corps!

SPACIOUS AND MODERN

We arrived in Melbourne to be greeted by the Spring; rain and sunshine alternating with monotonous regularity reminiscent of British weather. Indeed, it is said by some Australians that Melbourne doesn't have weather, only samples. Watsonia Barracks, which houses the two Regiments and the School, is a spacious, well kept camp with fairly modern accommodation. Also, within the barracks there is 127 (Special Forces) Sig Sqn, and a District Support Unit which maintains the barracks and surrounding area.

NOT ALL PLAY

2 Sig Regt had allocated the first week for sightseeing and 'settling in'. However, **Cpl Wendy Barton** decided she liked sightseeing more than settling in and proceeded to see most of Australia, including the Gold Coast in Queensland, Perth in Western Australia and Tasmania, covering 3,500 miles.

It wasn't all play. We all spent some time 'in the bush' on exercise. **WO2 Max Pond** managed to do his exercising in the sun at Townsville in Queensland, while I was stuck on a mountain in Victoria in the wind and rain. Compared to BAOR their exercise load is not heavy, which leads, inevitably, to a fair amount of boring in-barracks routine. Nonetheless we were impressed by the professionalism the Australian soldiers displayed. Much of this is probably attributable to the emphasis placed on continuation trade and military training, run as career courses, either within the unit or at the School, which is responsible for training all Royal Australian Signals personnel.

BEER SURVEY

The Australian Army is going through a lean time at present, as the money available for defence is being reduced all the time. In addition, having no easily identifiable potential enemy, they have the enormous task of being prepared for any eventuality. If you look at the map of Australia with Europe superimposed you will see the problem for a Regular Army of about 32,000 men and women.

2 Signal Regiment's long haul communications rely principally on mobile tropo-scatter links and HF heavy radio. Radio relay is used mainly forward of Div, and for down-the-hill shots from the comms chain. There are two field Signal Regiments, 1 Signal Regiment (Sydney) and 2 Signal Regiment (Melbourne). There are three further Regiments which provide fixed communications as part of the tri-Service Defence Integrated Communications System, which uses Post Office land-lines, UHF radio relay, and HF bearers. In addition there is an EW Regiment, and several independent squadrons which provide for such tasks as SAS, Special Forces, Task Force HQ, and installations.

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:—

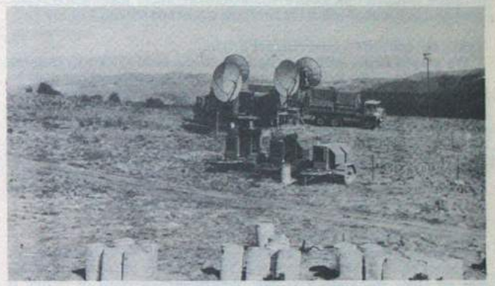
GCHQ

The Recruitment Officer (Ref W1)
Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road, Oakley,
Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ.

Telephone: Cheltenham 21491 Ext 2269



View of Canberra, with the Defence Department buildings in the foreground



the Mt Hoogley site, comprising two AN/TRC90A tropo-scatter dets, one AN/MRC 127 radio relay det, an interface shelter, and three 45KVA generators

Contrary to popular opinion not all Australians drink beer and are called Bruce. Children under three tend to stay off beer, and few of the women are called Bruce (to their faces, at least). In fact all the Australians we met were very hospitable and despite the results of the first two Test Matches they made sure that we enjoyed ourselves. **WO2 Max Pond** took it upon himself to do an independent survey of the beers of Australia, at great personal risk to his health and bank balance. The results were confused. **Cpl Wendy Barton** is now an experienced front line soldier, having joined a small but efficient group of female keyboard operators employed in the Traffic Troop of 2 Sig Regt. These girls happily went on exercise alongside their male counterparts, and it would have to be a brave man who claimed there was anything 'weak' about them, especially if **LCpl Burk WRAAC** was in earshot.

HIGH STANDARDS

Australia has enjoyed a period of exceptional prosperity since the war. Although she relies heavily on the export of minerals as a source of wealth, secondary industries are beginning to flourish. Most Australians have a high standard of living, and enjoy comparatively short working hours. They make maximum use of their leisure time, on sport and family activities. The long summer months are particularly good for water sports and barbeques which most Australians enjoy. This attitude extends into the Army, where summer leave (over Christmas) is known as Annual Recreational Leave. The many troop barbeques I attended were social events comparable with any troop party in the British Army.

TOPLESS

All too quickly our time in Australia was drawn to a close. Those of us who had been at Watsonia spent our last week as the guests of 1 and 5 Signal Regiments in Sydney. This gave us the opportunity to see something of this historic city, with its famous landmarks like the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. And it was also a time for finishing off the suntans to show off to friends back home. This proved to be an enjoyable task as several of the Sydney beaches are now topless. And so it was with much reluctance that we left Australia on the 12 December with the temperature around 24°C and flew back to Brize Norton, arriving on the 15th to seasonal rain and unfriendly Customs men.

As a direct result of our leaving, England lost the Third Test. But as all those who took part in Ex *Long Look*, both in 1978 and in previous years, will agree it is a most worthwhile experience, and certainly not all holiday.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

THE OPERATIONAL SCENE

Apart from a flurry of activity around the time of the tanker drivers' strike when a vast number of radios were installed in escort vehicles for the benefit of three days' deliveries, we have had little excitement to divert us from the routine problems of running the Belfast communications system. The Provisional IRA *did* come up with a bombing campaign of sorts over Christmas—but it was a fairly short-lived and half-baked affair (or so all the old hands tell us . . .).

VISIT OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OTC

We played hosts, with 233 Sig Sqn, to the local Officers' Training Corps in January for half a day, and they were successively pounded by the scientific jargon of **Sgt Gary Mayers**, who demonstrated Heli-Tele, dazzled by the array of flashing lights on the new Racal monitoring receivers, and amazed by the clarity of an HF SSB link to Harrogate. (**Sgt Ian Walker** was a little apprehensive when he got no reply at the scheduled opening time—foreseeing a demonstration of yet another non-functioning HF link—but was relieved to hear a crystal clear voice over the PRC320 telling him that they had had trouble putting up the antenna). Altogether it was an enjoyable and successful day.

FOCUS ON THE ADMINISTRATORS

With the onset of kinder weather—the memory of blizzards, snow, ice, burst pipes, flooded houses and Yeomen stuck in snow drifts half-way up Divis mountain is fading slightly—a new spirit of Spring is evident in the Squadron. Our Admin Officer, **Capt Joe Menzel RCT**, has once more visited the golf course at Malone and has re-commenced his mutterings about 'pars', 'bogies', 'birdies' and the like. He has re-affirmed his intention to score less than 50 on the first nine holes. We are not sure whether practice swings in the office with handfuls of PRI vouchers does any good but it certainly dries the ink!

The QM, **Capt Chris Speight** has emerged from hibernation and has temporarily shed his outer skin of British warm and wellies. With the hygiene inspection just over the horizon, he is now given to dark mutterings about the dustmens' strike and how he believes that half the Squadron must be members of the same union. However, as dark mutterings are part of the QM 'image', no one takes any notice—except his dog—and he is left to mutter in peace.

MINOR UNITS RUGBY CUP

Our rugby team have played hard this season and have in fact carried away the N Ireland Army minor Units Rugby Cup by recently beating 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn with a hefty score of 20 points to 8. Whether their success owed anything to their BAOR tour before Christmas we will never know(!) but we nevertheless have our fingers crossed for their match against 3 RTR in the semi-final of the UK Competition.



Cpl Alex Brocklehurst in full flight for the 3 Bde corner flag.

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

ALPINE SCENE

The normal round of Christmas festivities was followed by an unusually cold January. We certainly did not escape the snows in Lisburn, and Thiepval Barracks took on an alpine aspect. But life went on — as demonstrated in great style by the WRAC girls here limbering up for work. Note **LCpl Chris Daglish** sporting the latest line in jerseys, the 'Peake Inn Shirt'. The first batch ordered have been a complete sell-out, yes, panic buying has hit the PRI too.

CASUALTIES

One of the casualties of the cold weather was the collapse of the Lisburn Air Hall. Sadly, this excellent sports facility was reduced to a pile of plastic after a short power failure and a heavy snow shower.

Anotehr casualty, of sorts was **Sgt Andy Roberts** who, in the space of a few days had his quarter flooded, his car run into twice (it was parked both times!) and thanks to a sudden snow fall found himself stuck on Divis Mountain for a couple of nights. The Foremans' Course should be no problem after that lot.



No slips showing here!

SGTS MESS DRAW PAR EXCELLENCE

The WOs and SNCOs of the Squadron took on the organisation of the most ambitious Christmas Draw seen in Lisburn for many a year. Apart from all the hard work masterminded by the SSM, the centre piece was a super set of prizes with the lucky numbers being displayed on an enormous five digit electronic indicator board. The board about 11ft by 4ft was the brain child of **Sgts Dave Morris** of V Tp and **Colin Phillips** of W Tp. There were a few anxious moments just prior to the event, but on the night it was all OK. A bit too much 'Dr Who' for some mess members perhaps but certainly a talking point, they'll have to bring in Barnum & Bailey next year.

MENS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION

LS & GC MEDALS PRESENTED BY CLF

After our ARU formal visit on 9 January, the Commander Land Forces, **Maj Gen R. B. Trant CB,** presented six members of the Squadron with their LS & GC Medals. A grand total of 101 years service has been accumulated by the recipients, shown here with their wives, and CLF, after the ceremony.



Left to right: WO2 (Supvr R) & Mrs R. J. Courtney, WO2 (YofS) & Mrs T. W. Sherwin, WO2 (RQMS) & Mrs R. Russell, CLF, SSgt (FofS) & Mrs C. L. Priestley, SSgt & Mrs M. J. Forster, Sgt & Mrs. S. S. Fergusson

WELL DONE WHISKEY TROOP WIVES

In the last issue we mentioned our Whiskey Troop decision, taken at a coffee morning last November, to raise funds for the under-privileged children in time for Christmas. The methods used ranged from an orthodox raffle to preparing and selling homemade pastries in the Squadron Club, and auctioning the very fine table decorations used at the W Troop Christmas party. Their efforts produced a total of £100 and our photo shows the cheque being presented by **Mrs Annette Chapman** to **Mr McKay** (the principal social worker) in Lisburn.



Whiskey Troop Wives raise £100 for Under-privileged Children

W TROOP OPERATION 'SANTA CLAUS'

Once again the Christmas festivities brought with it a requirement for a suitable Santa Claus at the Garrison Kindergarten Christmas party. Selection called for a chunky character with a jovial personality. The volunteers were both surprised and disappointed when **LCpl Ian (Speedy) Rand** was selected. There was a rumour that he attempted to swap this duty for two mobile patrols. However, the troop Commander, **Capt Alan Chapman** decided in his infinite wisdom that the kids would appreciate him more than the local sniper. The parties were a great success and **LCpl Rand** returned to the troop with only minor injuries to his nervous system which will no doubt be rectified at his next BFT attempt.

SPORTS ROUND UP

On the success side, our Basketball team are poised at the top of the Winter League, and looking forward to the Army Championships.

On the other hand the following account of an abandoned game of golf may touch a few hearts! On a cold wet and windy day in January, **WO2 (YofS) George Coles, SSgt Pete Pugh** and **Sgt Mick Kivington**, decided to brave the wintry conditions at Malone Golf Club and play their first game since November. All was well up to the 12th (170 yards Par 3) when snow began to fall. Undaunted our brave threesome drove off into the blizzard by which time the flag was barely visible. Despite their courageous attempts at play the conditions won and the game was abandoned. However having Jewish origins the trio decided to retrieve their balls! Not one hit the green and not one was found. Is this a record?

DEPARTURES

A fond farewell, and many thanks for all their efforts goes to: **Sig Kev Jones, Sgt John Mortimer, Cpl Pete Tuite, Sgt Mick Lloyd, Sgt John Henning, Sig Brian Whittaker, Cpl Tankie Sherman, Cpl Monty Gittoes, Cpl Paul Marshall, LCpl Gary Thomas, LCpl Chris Pugh, Cpl Roy Hemingway, Cpl Dinger Bell, LCpl Steve Barrington, Sgt Don Robertson.**

ARRIVALS

Welcome, welcome, welcome!

LCpl Steve Gill, LCpl Alec Alexander, Cpl Tim Broomfield, Cpl Dave Smith, Cpl Dale Craddock, Cpl John Hodkin, Sig Dave James, Cpl Fred Roe, Sgt Arthur Simpson, Cpl Gerry McNeice, Sig Paddy Bergin, Sgt George Walker, Cpl Ben Cartwright, Cpl Mac McConaghy, Cpl Martin Wilson, Sig Dougie Wright, Cpl Steve Churchman, LCpl Dave Horn, Sig Eddie McDonald.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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The Team to Trust

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

CORPS PRESENTATION TO WELBECK COLLEGE

1978 marks the 25th anniversary of the Army's sixth form college from which a significant proportion of our officers are recruited. The majority of these have studied A level Maths and Physics and will go on to degree training at RMCS. Recently an A level Electronics course has been introduced which forms a useful complement to the traditional Maths and Science syllabus. In order to establish Royal Signals interest in this topic and its applications, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary, an educational microprocessor system was presented to the College on 6 October 1978. The kit had been mounted by the School of Signals Training Aid Workshops in a hardwood cabinet with a nicely engraved brass plaque (complete with a Jimmy cap badge) and a panel on the inside identifying Royal Signals involvement with computer based systems.

Brig J. H. Hild MBE gave a short address to the whole College at lunch, and afterwards formally presented the microcomputer, on behalf of the SOinC, to a smaller audience in a lecture room. **Mr Donald Cox** then gave a short demonstration. The initial interest and enthusiasm of the boys is obvious in the photograph and augurs well for the educational and publicity for Royal Signals that will continue.



Brig J. H. Hild MBE and the Microprocessor



Some of the enthusiastic audience with Donald Cox

EXERCISE LONG LOOK

Here's a national mixture, which came together entirely by chance at the tactical command post of the 3rd Task Force, during Exercise *In Concert*, in the High Range Training Area of North Queensland. On the left is **Cpl John Salmon**, an Australian Army Reserve soldier from Charters Towers, not far from the exercise area. Normally a footslogger with 31st Independent Rifle Company, he became an operations clerk during his attachment to the Regular Army task force headquarters, for the exercise. In the centre is **Cpl Douglas McDonald**, of Chatham, Kent, UK. **Cpl McDonald** is from the School of Signals. He is visiting Australia for four months on Exercise *Long Look* and is working as a radio operator with 103 Signals Squadron, Townsville. The visit is part of the annual individual exchange of British and Australian soldiers. The command post duty officer, on the right, is **Capt Hugh Weatherhead**, Headquarters Field Force Command, Auckland. **Capt Weatherhead** comes from Christchurch. He is with 120 New Zealand troops in Australia to take part in Exercise *In Concert*.



Cpl John Salmon, Cpl Douglas McDonald, Capt Hugh Weatherhea

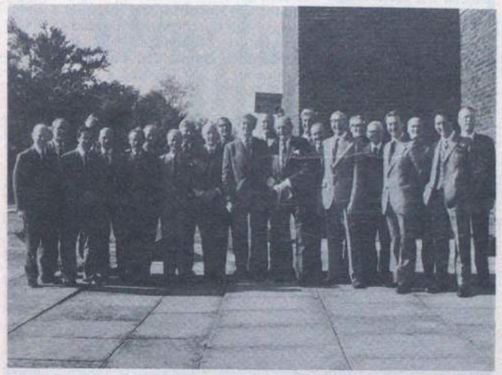
KOREA REUNION

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice signed on the 27 July 1953, a reunion of officers who served in Korea was held at the School of Signals on Saturday 7 October 1978. Essentially an informal day, the programme was designed to give those attending plenty of opportunity to meet old friends and talk over the 'old days'!

The day started with coffee in the Museum followed by a slide show in Princess Mary Hall presented by **Maj Gen Max Sawers** and which included much audience participation from the body of the hall. Buffet lunch was served in Headquarters Mess with the bar staying open on an as required basis. Suffice to say it was well used! A happy and relaxed occasion enjoyed by all those attending — the only question that remained unanswered at the end of the day was 'When is the next Reunion?'

The following officers attended, many accompanied by their wives:

Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB MBE, Brig A. C. Birtwistle CBE, Brig J. H. Hild MBE, Brig R. A. King, Brig I. M. Rose, Brig P. H. F. Webb MBE, Brig E. C. R. Blaker OBE, Brig T. G. H. Jackson, Brig A. F. Freeman MC, Col P. J. Evans MBE, Col K. Kirkby, Col A. W. McL MacKinnon OBE, Col F. P. Johnson OBE, Col A. R. Marshall TD, Col A. T. Scott OBE, Col G. H. Starr CBE, Col F. M. S. Winter MBE, Lt Col B. A. Beattie, Lt Col C. E. Booth-Jones, Lt Col K. E. Haycock, Lt Col H. Napper MBE, Lt Col N. Pidsley, Maj J. L. Botterill, Maj E. A. Carn, Maj S. C. Finch, Maj T. Richards, Maj H. Scott.



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2 SQUADRON (TRIALS) PERSONALITIES

OC	—Maj J. S. Brinsford
Tech Adjt	—Capt (TOT) E. M. Short
SSM	—WO2 A. F. Curnow
OC Trials Tp	—Capt D. J. Wootten
Trials Officer	—Lt B. A. Meachin
FofS Trials Tp	—SSgt (FofS) V. Lamb
FofS Development Tp	—SSgt (FofS) B. Law
OC PTARMIGAN Tp	—Capt S. Galpin
TOT PTARMIGAN Tp	—Capt (TOT) J. A. Wilkins
Tp Officer PTARMIGAN	—Lt D. Tunmore QGM

It is a long time since Trials Sqn were featured in the Wire and many changes have taken place within the Sqn in that time. The strength of the Squadron has been reduced considerably as a result of Defence cuts. The formation of the PTARMIGAN Troop within the Squadron took place in September and they will remain with us until April 1979 when they are to come under command of 30 Sig Regt. We are in the process of saying farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Ray Stokes** and welcoming in his place **WO2 (SSM) Tony Curnow.** As usual we have had our fair share of visitors, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Under Secretary of State (Army) and **Lt Gen Rienzi** (Deputy Director General NICSMA) to name but a few.



Presentation of 'Through to 1970' by SO in C to Lt Gen Rienzi



Presentation of a film by Lt Gen Rienzi to the SO in C

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE



During the visit of Mr Robert Brown MP Under Secretary of State (Army) SSgt Tom Ditch and Sgt Joe Emmerson talk over a glass of Newcastle Brown

TRIALS TROOP

There has been a complete change of management here over the past six months. **Capt David Wootten** has moved all the way from DADPTC to take over as Troop OC and **SSgt (FofS) Vince Lamb** has moved from the comfort of the Technical Adjutants office to the 'Sharp End' of Trials. Congratulations to **Lt Brian Meachin,** on his imminent appointment to TOT and also to **LCpl 'Brummy' Hopcroft** on his recent marriage.

DEVELOPMENT TROOP

The Defence cuts have now started to bite and the troop is now reduced to a FofS and eight Technicians and will be reduced even further in the near future. **SSgt (FofS) Pete Roscoe** has handed over the reigns to **SSgt (FofS) Bonar Law** who is settling in nicely, in between running in and organising marathons for charity.



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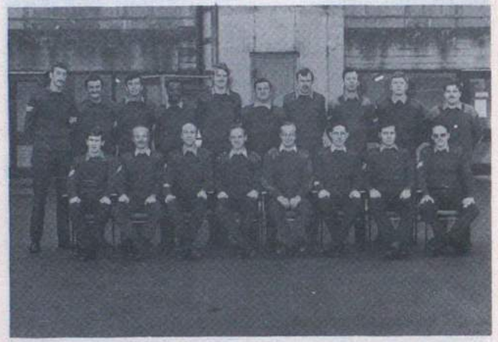
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PTARMIGAN REPORT

As you all know PTARMIGAN is the name of the new secure, digital, tactical, area trunk communications system being developed and produced for use by the Army and RAF in North West Europe. The entire area of operations will be overlayed with a communication network into which headquarters and mobile users will connect.

For the contractor's system tests and User Trials of such a large project, a PTARMIGAN Trials Squadron will be forming in 30 Sig Regt in April 1979. To prepare for this squadron and to create a group of trained specialists, a Nucleus of the squadron was formed in Trials Squadron, School of Signals on 11 September 1978. It initially consisted of two officers, **Capt Stephen Galpin** and **Capt (TOT) John Wilkins,** four FOS, two YOS, five other SNCO's and a lonely **'Dixie' Dean.**



Back (L to R): Sgt Chapman, Sgt Jepson, Sgt Webb, Sgt Coward, Sig Dean, SSgt Simpson, Sgt Dowie, Cpl Bailey, Cpl Malone, Cpl Ledger

Front (L to R): SSgt (FOS) Davie, SSgt (YOS) Edwards, WOII (FOS) Appleton (now WOI), Capt (TOT) Wilkins, Capt Galpin, WOII (FOS) Scott, SSgt (FOS) Woodhouse, SSgt (FOS) England

Absent on Duty: Lt Tunmore, SSgt (YOS) Walls, Sgt Bennett, Sgt Halstead, Cpl Mann

The Nucleus (now dubbed the PTARMIGAN Troop) has been undergoing instruction in the School, covering such topics as integrated circuits, Transistor-Transistor Logic, BRUIN and ADP. During this period the Nucleus received a visit from the SOinC on 16 October 1978. He spoke to all Nucleus members and stressed the importance of the project, in which they were to become key figures. The Nucleus has also carried out military, HGV and APC training, as well as TRIFFID radio relay and Cossor electronic teleprinter familiarisation.

In January 1979, the Nucleus disperses to various PTARMIGAN sub-contractors to undergo equipment familiarisation and 'hands-on' training. For most of the five officers and twenty men of the full Nucleus, this will last for six months. This period will help to build up the mutual confidence and liaison required for subsequent system tests and trials. In addition, the members of the Nucleus will assist in the early acceptance of the various equipments, so shortening the normal development cycle.

To get the Nucleus fully prepared, their spell here at the School of Signals has culminated in a fortnight's course run by the Prime Contractor, Plessey. Tuesday 9 January 1979 has been designated 'PTARMIGAN Day'. On that day, a team of system designers from the company led by **Mr Norman Porter** (who retired as a Lt Col from the Corps in 1965 and so is well known to many readers) came to start a series of lectures. Also present and participating was the Project Manager from MOD (PE), **Mr Bernard Amos.** In addition the School of Signals provided a number of lecturers.

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The Commandant is flanked by Mr Norman Porter and Mr Bernard Amos

Not only does the above covey show how far PTARMIGAN has advanced, but it illustrates the close involvement of Project Management, Prime Contractor and User. It also marks the start of Royal Signals soldiers getting into the picture.

'AT 20,000 FEET AGAIN'

On Saturday 30 September a party of pilots from the Army Gliding Association left Upavon for the Highlands of Scotland. They were on their Annual pilgrimage in search of lift which would take them soaring to high altitudes. The Corps was well represented by **Lt Col Wally Lombard, Maj Sid Falla** (expedition leader), **WO1 (YofS) Andy Harkins, WO2 (FofS) Jim Hough, Sgt Martin Hardy** and **Sig Stuart Lawrie. Maj Maurice Pack-Davison** did all the preparatory work but was unable to attend the exercise proper. He did, however, get a helicopter and was able to fly up and visit us.

DANGEROUS AND HAZARDOUS

The aim of the expedition is to use 'lee wave' phenomena and make high altitude climbs which qualify for the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) gain of height certificates. The airstrip at Aboyne is a short and narrow (15') strip of tarmac set in a valley.

The effect is to create conditions which are potentially dangerous and both landings and take off can be extremely hazardous. Only well experienced pilots are allowed to fly solo after a satisfactory check flight in a two seater with the expedition leader. With the exception of **Sig Stuart Lawrie** who has only recently qualified as a solo pilot, our Corps pilots all made FAI qualifying flights. The best flights by each individual involved the use of oxygen, flight above cloud cover and in temperatures far below freezing level.

WO2 Jim Hough	14,500ft
Sgt Martin Hardy	14,500ft
Lt Col Wally Lombard	14,500ft
WO1 Andy Harkins	20,100ft
Maj Sid Falla	21,000ft

Maj Falla took **Sig Stuart Lawrie** for a trip in the two seater and although they got no higher than 8,500ft experienced most of the problems which can occur in such conditions. Cloud formed around the glider during the ascent making it necessary to fly by instruments. Once above the clouds there was a sudden shift, the ground disappeared and cloud cover was complete. Letting down through another hole brought the glider under the cloud, into a rainstorm and out of sight of the airstrip. Flying a compass course, they found the airstrip and prepared to land. Turbulence was violent and landing difficult. **Sig Stuart Lawrie** had had a most exciting first wave flight.

There is no doubt that the capabilities of the expedition pilots were tested and their capacity to deal with new situations under stress improved with experience. In particular the need for precise flying and careful airmanship in conditions of considerable turbulence on a small and crowded airstrip was a useful lesson to those who normally fly under less trying conditions.

Army Apprentices' College

Harrogate

FOCUS ON TACTICAL EXERCISE TROOP

First of all what is this Tac Ex thing? Basically as the technical peripatetic pedagogues we are responsible for the running of all the external communications exercises for the College. What fun I hear you say. Not too bad in July/August at all I suppose, but when the snow is lying thick on the ground (as it is at the time of writing) the thought of sleeping in it for weeks at a time tends to pall somewhat. For example we started the last exercise in near Arctic conditions and ended it in sub-Arctic conditions. How we got there in the first place is a mystery with 30 vehicles and only 15 drivers!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Farewell to **Sgt Percy Beynon** and **Cpl Frank Walker** and we wish them luck in their new units. Welcome to **Sgt Keith Hatton,** we hope he doesn't adopt the tonsorial style of his predecessor in the G1198 line.

QUOTES

From an AT who had a non-issue knife in the field:

NOT PROPER UTES

The reason I have not got a real Army knife is ever since I was baby I have used the same knife. It means a lot to me because it is a magic knife. It makes compo taste like real food.

AT W . . . . . .

From an AT who had on his charge a mast which a cow had tripped over:

Sir,

DAMAGE REPORT

On Exercise *Sword* my 27ft was broken in two. I suspected a cow had done it because there were a lot of them in the field.

Sgt Beynon arrived on the scene and sent me to question the cows and find out which one it was that did it.

I proceeded to get the information needed and that is that a cow with four legs (one fat), two eyes, a nose and a docile look who's name is Timothy had done it.

I have the honour Sir to be
Your obedient servant
AT M . . . . . .

From an AT on an anonymous end of exercise report:

Although tired and weary I enjoyed the exercise (!! and that was after only two days in the field). So all you units who get any of our next output please look after them—we lavished a lot of TLC on them.

GRADUATION—WINTER 1978

The traditional rites and ceremonies of Graduation were observed with accustomed panache on Thursday, 14 December. Cold it certainly was, but dry and sunny, which lent an added sparkle to the Parade, more than ably commanded by **AT RSM Paul Cahill,** despite a sudden attack of laryngitis.

The Reviewing Officer was **Maj Gen J. A. Ward-Booth, OBE,** Director Army Air Corps—who clearly enjoyed his day with us.

A poignant moment during the parade came when Phillips Squadron slow-marched off the square to the strains of 'Auld Lang Syne', as an outward and visible sign of their recent—and lamented—'suspended animation', an event upon which it would not be pertinent for your scribe to comment further.

During the Parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to no fewer than seven stalwart members of the College Staff. Recipients were **WO2 A. M. Boyle, WO2(FofS) P. D. Shawyer, WO2 R. Hails, SSgt B. Beadle, SSgt M. G. Judge, Sgt L. J. Hyde** and **Sgt C. A. Jewkes.**

Following the Commandant's customary review of the term's events, **Gen Ward-Booth** congratulated all concerned on a very good parade. He told the Senior Squadron that they had 'gone through a tough course which many would like to take but don't even begin; some start but fall by the way. You can therefore be proud of yourselves.' He urged them to remember that they are soldiers as well as signallers and to maintain their high standard of military skill. 'So far,' he said, 'so good. Go from here determined to seize your opportunities—and for goodness sake enjoy yourselves!'

Speaking in her turn, the Mayor of Harrogate, **Cllr Mrs Angela Matthews,** said she had been impressed by what she saw during the visit to the College, earlier in the term, by the Borough Council. 'I think you are doing a very good job,' she said, 'but also think you are fortunate to be at the College.'

PRIZE WINNERS

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD for the best all round Apprentice of the Term	**AT Sgt M. J. Owens**
SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD for the best all round Tradesman of the Term	**AT LCpl C. M. Tyson**
COMMANDANT'S PRIZE for Conduct, Discipline and Example	**AT RSM P. M. Cahill**
DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College	**AT Cpl P. M. Massey**
THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZES for the best essay on Local Government	
TECHNICAL	**AT P. Embley**
TELEGRAPHIST	**AT LCpl C. J. Montgomery**
CHAMPION SQUADRON TROPHY	**Penney Squadron**

RUGBY REPORT

The Autumn term has been a fairly good one for both the College and the Permanent Staff rugby teams. The College team has won all but four of its matches and were only narrowly knocked out of the army youth cup semi-final after a very tough game against Chepstow. The Permanent Staff team have got through the first three rounds of the Army Cup and next meet the Depot, The Prince of Wales Division who were last year's winners. This game is scheduled for 8 February.

The season opened for the College team with a tough game against Ripon Grammar School which we narrowly lost but in which the quality of our forwards became more and more apparent as the game progressed. That forward performance set the pattern for our future successes and the possession obtained by the aggressive front row play of **LCpl Price, LCpl O'Brien** and **SSM Lobb** ensured a constant flow of good quality ball especially from the maul and more than our fair share from the set piece. This possession was capitalised on by the backs who played good open football. The team Captain, **Sgt Simpkins, LCpl Edward** and **AT Ford** were always potential try scorers and the lead given in fearless tackling by **Sgt Cable** quickly overcame a weakness in that department but not before it had cost us two defeats. The able backing up in attack of the College back row of **Sgt Wordsworth, AT Robins** and **LCpl Gill** was matched by their sound covering and this was another contributory factor to the team's success. The 'Local Derby' against Arborfield provided a good match and a good win for the College team and this went some way towards making up for our disappointing loss against Chepstow in the Army Youth Cup.

The Permanent Staff team has done well in the Army Minor Units Challenge Cup, travelling to Edinburgh to beat the Depot, The Scottish Infantry and gaining a narrow home win against the Depot, the Kings Regiment. In the next round 60 Sqn the RCT was beaten 57-3 but the greatest challenge lies ahead when we meet last year's winners in the next round.

CROSS COUNTRY ROUND UP

In order to fit in all our fixtures this season we had our first event, the Eastham-Burco seven-mile Road Race at Fleetwood on the first Sunday of term. This national event was our first taste of the top-quality competitions in UK road running. Some 300 runners started the race, 180 completed the course including all five College runners—**A/Ts Sgt D. Williams** (69), **MacMasters** (145), **Sgt Laycock** (152), **LCpl Lidstone** (157), **LCpl Tyler** (170).

On 31 October recruits participated in their race over our new course and they all completed the run. Phillips Squadron team won the event but the individual winner was from Penney Squadron—**AT Freear** in 31m 41s.

On 15 November the Inter-Squadron Championship was won by Scott Squadron. The stars of the race were **AT Sgt Williams** 29m 23s, **AT Beddow** 31m 04s, and **AT LCpl Lidstone** 31m 47s.

We took part in a number of Army Events during the term and thoroughly enjoyed them. On 4 November, we competed in the new Army Relay Championships held around the Rushmoor Arena in Aldershot. We managed to come third out of the 16 junior teams in our section. We are also pleased to have done well overall in that our 'A' team was placed 18th out of the 85 teams taking part—the cream of the Army Cross Country runners from UK and BAOR.

Once again we took part in the Beachley Relay Race at Chepstow in which each of the six team members completes the two-mile course. We came sixth out of 14 teams and **AT Sgt Williams** again demonstrated his ability by recording the fourth fastest individual time of 10m 50s (he was beaten by times of 10m 40s, 10m 47s and 10m 49s).

In the Winter Games against Arborfield we came a distant second. We continue to compete in two leagues—the Escafeld is against very fit University students in the main. At the end of race three we were placed 16th out of 30 teams. In the NE District Wednesday League we are fourth out of 32 teams and hope to make the first three at the end of the season. Again we have our friendly fixtures against Harrogate Athletic Club, Bradford and Wakefield (Queen Elizabeth) Grammar Schools.

Cross Country is a Cinderella sport but the participants train regularly and enjoy the competitions in addition to the improved physical well-being.

AT Sgt Williams has now left and shortly we lose **Sig Pammenter**—thanks to both for their interest and competitive spirit. Thanks also to our other regulars, **Cpl Montgomery, Burns, Ruddock, Belcher** and **Shearer.**

EXERCISE SNOWSTORM—COURTESY OF 2 ARMD DIV

'Well it seemed like a good idea but I'm not sure now.' Although this statement cannot be attributed to any individual it was certainly the general concensus of opinion at 0430 hrs one morning at London's King's Cross Station.

The plot was based loosely on an original script by **Capt N. J. Cory,** 2IC of Scott Squadron. The intention was that 10 AT be given the opportunity of skiing in Bavaria during the Christmas leave period. At first it all seemed very easy. Once the CO of 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt had kindly offered the facilities of his Regiment's Snow Queen hut all that remained was to organise the travel there and back. All other methods however having proved 'no go' we were left to attempt the perilous journey by rail.

THE RARE VITAL COMMODITY

On arrival at Bavaria the party was greeted not only by **Lt Akehurst** (who was running the hut with great efficiency) but also a shortage of snow. It did, in fact, transpire that as far as availability of snow was concerned this was to be the worst Christmas season for many years.

However we were not to be discouraged! Although five and a half days of skiing both downhill and langlauf were to be enjoyed before the time came to pack up. It would be impossible to single out anyone for particular mention but the following did attract attention for one reason or another. **AT Cpl Geoff Head** of Bradley Squadron for teaching everybody how to enjoy New Year's Eve, **AT 'Bee Pee' (Baden-Powell)** of Scott Squadron for taking photographs of everything, **AT LCpl 'Fish' Fisher** of Rawson Squadron for reading lots of books—and so it goes on.

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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE'

EVENTFUL AND MEMORABLE

Everybody who went on the trip put in a lot of effort into the skiing with varying and remarkable degrees of success. The outstanding downhiller was probably **AT 'Rusty' Bullock** of Bradley Squadron while **AT Cpl 'Geoff' Head** also of Bradley seemed to have some control over his langlauf skis.

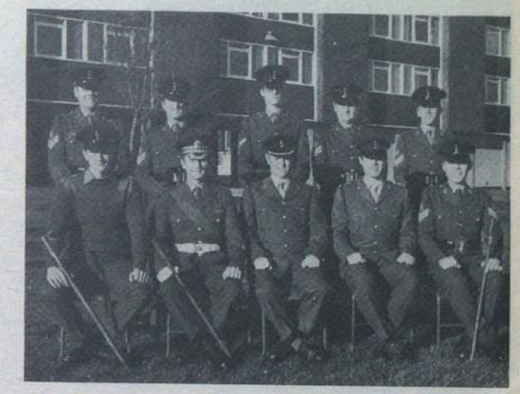
Everybody tried hard and everybody seemed to enjoy it. Next time we hope there is more snow. On the days when skiing wasn't possible various alternatives were made available. The local fire brigade had organised a 10km march on New Year's Eve and the Harrogate contingent ran round as did 80-plus Gunners from a neighbouring Snow Queen hut. One morning was spent enjoying the fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein followed by ice skating.

All in all an eventful trip. Many thanks to 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for looking after us so well and of course to those here in Uniacke Barracks who made it all possible. (We hope that some kind BAOR Regiment will enable us to write some similar notes next year.)

And finally the prize for the most photogenic squadron goes to Bradley Squadron.

BRADLEY SQN—PERMANENT STAFF

The Squadron permanent staff will never be the same due to retirements and postings, so we got our camp photographer to record 'The Team' as the OC keeps calling it, from left to right with interesting details:



Back Row: Sgt (Archie) Croft (not going anywhere) Sgt (John) Burgess (retiring to the GPO in Harrogate), Cpl (Des) Wheatley, Sgt (Hugh) Haselden (affiliated from Tech Wing), Sgt (Chippy) Wood (posted to 7 Sig Regt March 79)

Front Row: AT RSM Paul Cahill (posted to 22 Sig Regt), WO2 (CSM) (Jim) Kynoch (Scotts Guards), OC Maj (Greg) Grist, 2IC Capt (Peter) Myatt (posted in March as OC 632 Sig Tp, RA Range Hebrides, Scotland) Sgt (Harry) Thorne (posted to 21 Sig Regt April 79)

(photo by Joseph Krieger, Northallerton)

EXERCISE 'HIGH FELL 78'

Report by an anonymous AT—Bradley Squadron

After a three-hour grind in a coach from camp we finally arrived at the camp site in Ullswater. The weather was typical Lake District, 100% humidity with slight precipitation (raining cats and dogs to the uneducated) so we were all glad to get our tents up and have a meal even though it was compo.

Regrettably, **Capt Cornforth** had other ideas and no sooner had we filled our mess tins than it was 'right lads, get your swimming things on and get down to the lake for canoeing capsize drills'. What gives you the idea that the PS do a special course to learn how to wreck an AT's morale? Anyhow, it all turned out a lot better than expected as **AT Orchard** provided a lot of spontaneous entertainment by nearly drowning and **Cpl Gildert** waddled around like a penguin in his wet suit. Mind you I would not volunteer to turn out in the pouring rain to learn capsize drill just to fill in time in the evening.

A ROUGH PASSAGE

Day two dawned bright and early at 7 am, well early if not bright and after an epicurean breakfast of burnt sausage and beans, we started the day's canoeing. We had about an hour's practice first and then set off down the lake towards the next bivvi site. The water was a bit rough

and the wind strong so the going was quite hard and once again AT **Orchard** attempted to drown himself, a total of seven times in fact; he tried hard! Most of us made it but some had to turn for the shore and complete the journey by transport.

A MIXED BAG

We could not put in a photo of all our teams, so the OC (always thinking, I am told, mostly when on his bike riding to work) thought up the idea of a cross-section of Squadron teams etc.

Here is our cross-section for Winter 1978.



Back Row: AT Cpl (Rugby) Price, ex AT LCpl (Soccer) Mawson, AT Cpl (March & Shoot) Dykes
Front Row: AT (Mind the creases) Veall, AT (Typical) RSM Cahill, AT (Swift of foot) Curley, AT LCpl (I stop anything) Kimber
(photo by Joseph Krieger, Northallerton)

UP AND AWAY

Day three was quite spectacular with a walk up Helvellyn—well most of us walked, though some managed things better on their hands and knees. The view was fantastic but getting up was a bit of a slog.

THE CLIMB

Day four was the one day I think most of us would rather have given a miss, had we been given the choice, an introduction to rock climbing. The weather was foul and the climbing desperate; I even felt that the instructors would rather have even taken the day off; can't say I blame them. The Commandant and the RSM came out for a visit and talked to some of us which was OK, but I do wish they wouldn't keep asking you if you are enjoying yourself—you can't very well say 'no' can you? One thing that the rock-climbing did was show what some of the PS are really like. I mean to say what would you think of two officers who swarm all over the rock like a couple of monkeys and spend all day chattering about salmon and trout fishing, even though they can see you are paralysed with fear and just aren't interested in having your character improved? Perhaps the fact that they both wear glasses has something to do with it.

MORE RAIN FOR DAY 5

Day five was spent dragging our protesting feet along a Roman motorway called the High Street—great if you like that sort of thing, which generally I do, but wish somebody would do something about the weather. Getting into a soaking wet sleeping bag just does not feature on my list of kicks.

IN RETROSPECT

Day six I couldn't have organised it better myself. I suppose it had to be called something, but a 'navigation exercise'? A pub crawl would have been better. Day seven was spent packing up and returning to camp. Already the stories had started to circulate as people compared experiences, though several people found it better to just sit in a corner and say nothing as it is unlikely that they will now join the SAS—know what I mean? If somebody asked me if I enjoyed it—don't all rush—I would probably say yes, now that my appetite has been whetted I wouldn't mind doing something like it each term for three or four days, but just sticking to a single activity so that I can get some proper experience.

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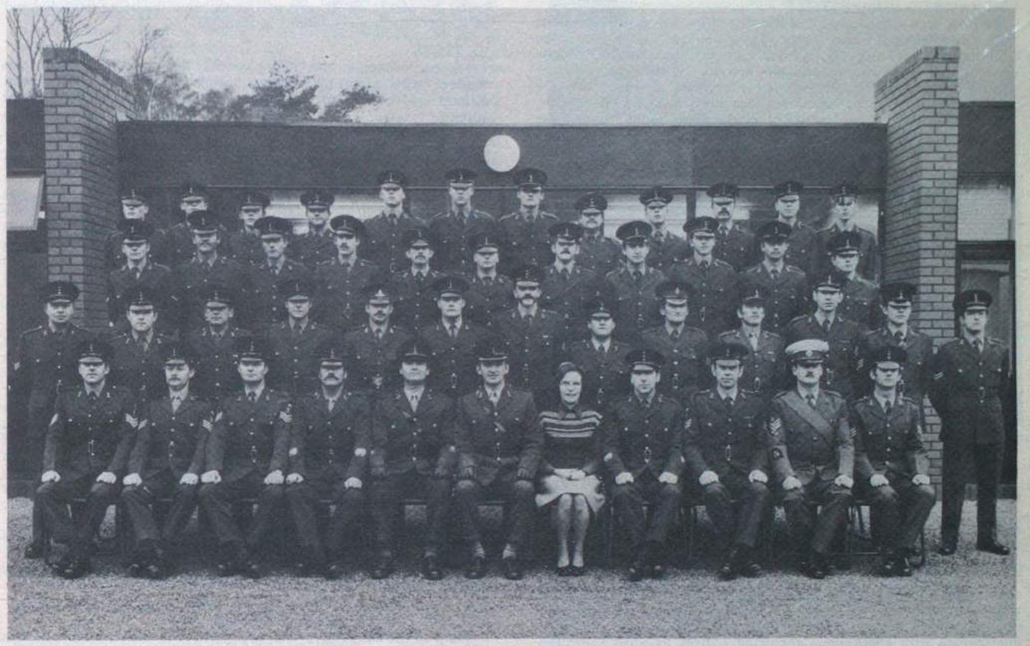
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THE WINTER TERM 1978

PERSONALITIES

Chief Instructor Maj Colin Brown R Signals
RSMI WO1 (YofS) Len Yates (Ex Denbury)
WO2 (YofS) Dave Gilchrist (Ex Denbury)
WO2 (YofS) Bob McLaren (Ex Denbury)
TECH WKSP SSgt Alan Rutherford (Ex Denbury)
SQMS SSgt Mick Carpenter



The Signal Wing RMAS outside the new building



OPENING OF THE CLANSMAN HALL
The Marconi Team led by Col (Retd) Robbie Hollbrook celebrate the opening of the Hall, the GSO 1, Lt Col K. J. Davey MC, RRW, happily accepts his glass of Champagne. Other Wing members (*left to right*) Sig Philip Baker, SSgt Marsh Davey, WO2 (YofS) Dave Gilchrist (sorry my back is facing the camera) and the CI

ON THE MOVE

The Winter Term of 1978 will be long remembered by the members of the Signal Wing, as three unique occurences took place within the fourteen weeks; first we had a Signal Wing exercise, then both the CI, **Maj Colin Brown** and the RSMI, **WO1 (YofS) Len Yates,** completed their tours and finally, the Wing moved into a new building.

CONCEPTION

But let us start way back in June 1978, to the fateful day when the CI and RSMI emerged from one of the 'closed door' get-togethers and descended onto the Yeomen, **Dave Gilchrist** and **Bob McLaren.**

CI—Yeomen, we've just been looking at the programmes for September and there doesn't seem to be much on around 7-10 September!'

Yeomen (in unison)—'No sir! We only have to test 140 Officer Cadets, then mark and collate the papers as well as cover two company exercises.'

CI/RSMI (now in unison)—'There, as we said, how about taking the whole Wing away for those four days, to get some Military training and generally enjoy ourselves.'

Yeomen (not quite in unison)—'OH! Lovely!'

Exercise *Signal Leader* was born. Arrangements were made for the testing team to follow on after their task was completed and **Sgts Bob Goode** and **Dave Moore** were 'selected **to cover the exercises.**

MEMORIES OF A 'JOYFUL TIME'

Report by SSgt Marsh Davey

Having been 'selected', (that is an 'IN' word at Sandhurst), to write on Exercise *Signal Leader*, I must say that never in our memory has the Wing Staff been able to get away together and train. Activities during camp, based at Scraesdon Fort near Plymouth, were mostly of a tiring nature—run here, run there, climb here, climb there, you know the form, normal everday 'P' company stuff. In a nutshell, I haven't been so exhausted since I was in 'Nam, (Farnham, that is . . . shopping with the Missus). Our day would start with the RSMI's early call, (a couple of thunderflashes—saves a lot of walking about!), followed by a quick run to the beach and a dip in the sea, which all sounds very nice but when I tell you it is some two miles of quite Himalayan countryside to the beach and an almost Arctic sea, you begin to get the feel of things.

EMPHASIS ON COMPETITION

Training was usually preceded by a slanging match between **SSgts Tony Cartwright** and **Paddy Quinn,** (Troop SSgts of A & B Troops), on who had the best troop and how each would show the other exactly what leadership was all about and how one troop would grind the other into the deck. Good friendly stuff and in any case, Confidentials were due. The first morning was spent on a race involving 12M Clarke masts, ('Wots one of them'), line laying ('But I'm a driver') and driving ('But I'm an operator'), bringing home the point that these days we all need to be a Jack of all trades . . . if only master of one.



The CI, RSMI, YofS Bob McLaren and Sig Martin Klingenspor being towed in during 'Galley Slaving' on Exercise *Signal Leader*

Other highlights of the exercise were an afternoon's 'galley slaving' in boats loaned to us by HMS *Raleigh*, a sports competition, pyrotechnics demo, a 'spot the Yeoman' competition and the inevitable tab over the moors. 'Bodmin Tab' was the grand finale and was to cover, quote, 'about twelve K's', unquote. The idea was to climb to the top of the nearest Tor and find the grid reference of the next location, which for those with bionic eyes was painted at the Tor. Of course, one didn't need a grid reference at all; all that was required was to look on the map for a mass of brown lines, close together, and you could bet that that point was the next checkpoint! The high checkpoints were interspersed with checkpoints requiring patrols to solve vehicular, medical and radio problems. The CI was unfortunate enough to be the 'stretcher case' but as the stretcher had to be constructed using our own initiative he was dropped and dragged around his checkpoint enough times to become a real stretcher case. Having dropped the CI some three of four times, **Sig Martin Klingenspor** was heard to say 'Cor! I enjoyed that part!'

A SUCCESS

We all returned from Bodmin Tab to the reward of a shower in HMS *Raleigh* and settled down to a barbeque/bonfire/cabaret back in Scraesdon Fort during which **Sig Martin Klingenspor** uttered the immortal words—'Where the .... 'av you bin Superman'—which turned out to be funnier than the punchline of his joke and has since become a Signal Wing cry!

Signal Leader has been one of the successes of the term and helped to forge together a 'Wing' which seldom has the opportunity to work as a single unit. To close on a note of this newly found 'togetherness' I would like to bring to everyone's notice that **SSgt Dave Scott** missed one of the checkpoints and took a short cut.

SECOND LINE TRANSPORT

With just about every hobby or sport catered for here in the Academy, it is good to see that members of the Wing are taking advantage of them. **Sgt John Letford,** on learning the CI had taken to horse riding, saw the opportunity to extend the mobility of his MT and got **Cpl Jeffrey Williams, LCpls Geoffrey Backhouse, Michael Tate, Sigs Steve Robinson, Philip Baker, Allan Cooper, Martin Klingenspor** together and set off for the stables, a finer treat cannot be had than attending, as a spectator, one of the weekly sessions. **Yeoman Bob McLaren** went to take photos—but forgot his flash attachment.

Whilst at MT, we would like to welcome **Cpl Steve Alexander, LCpls Michael Tate, Ray Bowden, Philip King, Geoffrey Backhouse, Michael Halford** and **Sigs Sid Elliott, David Chambers. Cpl Alex Samson** and **LCpl Ian Webb** (NCO's i/c MORALE), have convinced the new arrivals that they will have a weekend free during term, as there are guards to be done, but with ten weeks leave a year, who's complaining.

THE SERGEANTS MESS

On Tuesday 5 December, **Maj Gen Sir Philip Ward KCVO, OBE,** Commandant of the R Academy visited the mess to present the LS and GC medal to **WO2 (YofS) Dave Gilchrist, SSgts Marsh Davey, John Wallace, Mick Carpenter, Dave Scott** and **Sgt Dave Stanbridge. Yeoman Bob McLaren,** (famous for his chest of medals, Nijmegen March, Ten Tons etc.), was at hand to snap this event . . . however . . . a bandsman walked across at the crucial moment and spoiled the shot. Still it was nice to see 90 years of undetected crime being rewarded and we extend our congratulations to them all.

BE TESTS

The task of keeping the Wing physically fit was passed to **SSgt John Wallace** who after much consultation with the RSMI, found throughout the term, various pockets of time free from instructional duties or exercise. Considering that we gave vehicle/operator cover to 51 exercises and had a total of 953 Officer/Cadets and student officers pass through the lecture rooms, plus supporting CCF's at Eton, Wellington, Gordon and Charterhouse Schools, they did well to find one, let alone eight free periods. These periods were devoted to 'fitness through fun'. We had running, swimming, indoor sports, PT lessons and when we were particularly good, it was down to the Academy assault course. The death slide caused many a turn with **Sig Steve Robinson** jumping onto **Cpl Alex Sampson's** back and decending together. **Yeoman Bob McLaren** was there, camera in hand, to capture this unique spectacle . . . but . . . the film was off its sprokets and rendered u/s. Not his fault?????

FAREWELL TO THE CI AND RSMI

As already mentioned, both the CI and RSMI were due to leave at the end of term. To commemorate the occasion, a Dining-out Night was arranged by **SSgt Dave Scott** in the Academy Sgts Mess. After a really excellent meal, presentations of a cut glass decanter and silver platter were made to the CI and RSMI respectively and then the evening was rounded off with a disco. On leaving, the CI was escorted to the Mess car park, where 'Gordon Bennett' — 16 hands of grey thoroughbred of questionable character, was waiting. With a small amount of help from the SNCO's he was hoisted to the saddle and allowed to leave. This episode should have immortalised on celluloid for posterity, however . . . the camera loaned to **Yeoman Bob McLaren** by the CI's wife **Heather** . . . refused to function and the moment was lost.

We wish **Maj Colin Brown** and his wife **Heather,** good fortune in the future in 71 Sig Regt (TAVR) where the CI goes to command.

Also to **WO1 (YofS) Len Yates** and his wife **Margaret,** go our wishes of good luck in SHAPE and the RSMI's future commission.

THE SPECIALIST TRAINING WING

Many of the Corps have been associated with the Academy, be it as an Officer/Cadet or as a member of the Directing Staff. To these it will be welcomed news to learn that the 'Academy Rebuild' has finally caught up with the Wing. Over the years, the Signal Wing and the Skill at Arms Wing, have had many locations throughout the Academy, settling, in the case of the Signal Wing, in six Nisson huts, tucked neatly away in the woods. Eight years ago, a plan was started to erect a custom built complex to accommodate the Signal and Skill at Arms Wings; 1978 was the year when it was finally going to materialise.

Both the CI and RSMI spent hours at conferences, huddled over plans, made telephone calls, received and sent innumerable letters and memo's to try to complete the move by the beginning of the Spring Term 1979. In the last week of the Winter Term, we made the move from our Nisson huts into the Specialist Training Wing. Unfortunately, although the RSMI saw our physical move into the new building, he missed the official opening. On 5 January 1979, the Commandant, officially opened the Wing and attended drinks in the Clansman Hall, together with the College Commanders, builders, architects and invited VIP's. **Lt Col Colin Brown** now CO 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt (V), was able to hand over to **Maj Alan Eastburn** for his first day in the chair, a brand new building. Apart from the first class teaching facilities in the new Wing we have also been able to include a club in the building. This has been made possible by MARCONI designing, decorating, building and financing a bar in the Clansman Hall. The whole project has featured the use of Clansman radios and the end result has been to enhance the decor of the main lecture room and, when appropriate, to be able to diversify the use of the facilities!

Also in his first week in the chair as RSMI was **WO1 (YofS) Paddy Paddison.** We take this opportunity to welcome **Maj Alan Eastburn,** his wife **Anthea, RSMI Paddy Paddison** and his wife **Trudy,** to the Wing and hope they have a happy and successful tour.

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

NEW YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Sgt George Holden on the award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours. He is well known in the Army for his long distance running.

The eldest of a family of seven, **Sgt Holden** was educated at Woolwich Polytechnic. His parents, **Mr** and **Mrs G. H. Holden**, live in Meridian Road, Charlton, and his three brothers and three sisters all still live in the Charlton/Woolwich area.

In 1977, at the age of 36, **George** ran his first-ever marathon when he took part in the North German championships and surprised everyone, including himself, by winning. Last year he won the BAOR 5,000 metres in a record time.

In addition to being the 1 Arm Div HQ and Sig Regt team coach, **George** is keeping a watchful eye on the progress of his 13 year old daughter **Angela** who last year won the BAOR schools championship over 1500 metres.

BISHOP TO HM FORCES VISITS

On the 14 December here at Verden, we were graced by the visit of **The Right Reverend GS Snell MA.** After meeting our CO, The Bishop paid a visit to St Boniface Church which serves the CofE congregation of Verden Garrison. He was then hosted by **Maj M. Carson** for coffee in 2 Sqn, where he met Sqn personalities. Following this he chatted with soldiers in their place of work. His visit to us was rounded off with a visit to the Verden Dom (Cathedral).



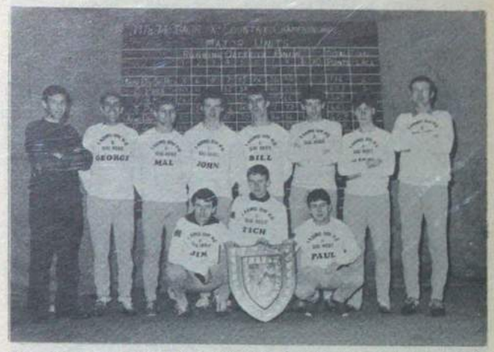
Left to right: Lt Col P. R. Davies, Bishop G. S. Snell MA, Rev B. Pugh

BAOR CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the second time in as many months the Regiment played host to a major BAOR Sporting competition when, on 13 December the BAOR Cross Country Championships 1978/79 were held here in Verden. Nineteen Units converged on the Regiment that day, to run in the two competitions one for Major Units and the other for Minor Units.

The results were as follows:

Major Units		
1st	21 Sig Regt	95 pts
2nd	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	116 pts
3rd	2 Para	257 pts
4th	7 RHA	263 pts
5th	1 Cheshire	336 pts
6th	2 R Irish	436 pts
7th	3 Para	463 pts
8th	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	463 pts
9th	39 Fd Regt RA	488 pts
10th	BAOR	574 pts
Minor Units		
1st	SSD Dulmen	34 pts
2nd	227 Sig Sqn	119 pts
3rd	J Bty RHA	147 pts
4th	5 Fd Force Fd Amb	165 pts
5th	HQ Minden Gar	214 pts
6th	HQ Osnabrück Gar	217 pts
7th	HQ Höhne Gar	237 pts
8th	1 Armd Div Ord Coy	251 pts
9th	3 Armd Div Fd Amb	274 pts
10th	3 Tk Tpt Sqn	395 pts



The runners up from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and their trophy after the run at Verden (Aller) on 13 December 1978

The personalities are *L to R standing:* Maj Howard (OIC), Sgt Holden LCpl Taylor, Sig Boyes, LCpl Bailey, LCpl Wilson, Sig Weston, SSgt Turvey

L to R Seated: Sig Brebner, Sig Little, Sig Edwards

This means that 21 Sig Regt, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 2 Para, SSD Dulmen and 227 Sig Sqn will be representing BAOR in the Army Cross Country Championships on 22 February 1979. Good luck to the Corps competitors.

FISHING CLUB

Sixteen hardy members of the Verden Otters Angling Club braved sub-zero temperatures to fish the Walter Trophy competition on the River Weser recently.

Unfortunately the fish, usually so plentiful on this stretch of water, did not show the same spirit of adventure and only two small roach were caught all day.

The competition, which is open to all members of Verden Garrison and their families, is a new event in the club calendar and it is to perpetuate the memory of **Sig Peter Walter** who was one of the club's most promising young match anglers until his untimely death last year.

The trophy was purchased with the money raised by an auction of **Peter Walters** fishing tackle, very kindly donated by **Peters** parents. The competition was won by **Cpl Harry Gowan** with a fish of 400 grammes and the runner up was Y of S **Lou Stevens** with 300 gr. The trophy and prizes were presented by **Lt Col Peter Davies**, the CO.

Picture shows the intrepid anglers who took part.



VERDEN OTTERS ANGLING CLUB

Assembled on the occasion of the competition for the Walter Memorial Trophy for fishing



Lt Col P. R. Davies presenting the Walter Trophy to Cpl Harry Gowan

PAST REGIMENTAL OFFICERS GROUP
1ST DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment is looking for past photographs of the 1st Division Signal Regiment, Regimental Officers Group photograph.

Our need is for pre 1969 photographs. We already have 1964, 1960, 1945, 1943 and 1928.

The Regiment is building a collection of photographs here at Verden for our regimental museum.

The loan of your photograph(s) so that a copy can be taken would be appreciated. We will endeavour to return your photograph(s) with the minimum of delay. Please forward to:

Adjt
1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32



SEEING IS BELIEVING
Two of our intrepid Data Telegraphists, Sig Rodrich Austin (L) and Sig John Walter (R) on duty with the 14/20H during their four month emergency tour in Northern Ireland

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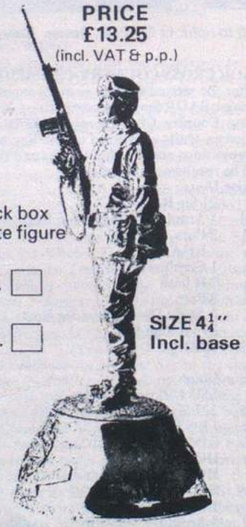
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2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

LOOK AT LIFE (No. 1)



The Training Officer, Capt Mike Telfer, should have written this article but as he is away ski-ing we thought that we would show you some of the activities of those workers left behind



The Second in Command, Maj Mike Louden, spends a day on the Ranges.



Overstretch has really hit the Regiment. Here Capt Jim Blake and Lt Jim Akehurst take their turn on the washing-up roster



'Perhaps my wife would like to come too'. The Commanding Officer dictates to the Assistant Adjutant, Lt Andrea Lobb



The shortage of baths and hot water has reached a critical level in Birdwood Barracks. (Two anonymous subalterns share a bath)



Capt Pat Maloney seen here sharing a joke with a member of 652 Sqn AAC

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NOTES FROM THE FIRST SQUADRON

December and January will long remain in the minds of many members of 1 Squadron due to the ARU, weather conditions and the number of arrivals and departures. On 12 December the ARU took place in the form of a series of stands testing individual and team skills in such subjects as, First Aid, NBC, Weapon Handling, VCP Drills and Map Reading. A competition was run to find the best group and individual. Both were won by 1 Squadron with the team led by **SSgt Bill White** from C2 Troop coming first and **Sgt Mike Berry**, who sadly is leaving the army, winning the individual competition. The whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The weather conditions have meant that many records have been set and broken for the time to travel back to Herford from UK. The record however goes to **Sig (400 Marks) Thomason** who, with his compatriots **Sigs Steward, Bagnall** and **Brent** (now LCpl) took 14 hours to travel from Zeebrugge to Herford in reasonably good road conditions. The secret was that they did not have a road map. The result was a trip via Brussels, Kassel and Paderborn.

We say farewell to the following; **Maj Roland (I swam the River Leine) Ebdon, Sgts Mel Smith** and **Mike Berry, LCpl Hoyle** and **Sigs Jack, Preston** and **Jameson**, at the same time welcoming **Maj Barry, WO2 (FofS) McInnes, Cpls Sheppard** and **Witty** and **Sigs Snowden, Wilson** and **'Jock' Miller** not forgetting hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil **LCpls Coward, Davies** and **Meggitt.**

EXERCISE LOAM BACKSTOP

On the first frosty day of December three members of the Squadron set off on what was to be a hair raising experience to Holland. The aim of the trip was to circumnavigate the small island of Nord Beveland. Using **Cpl 'Geordie' Walkers** car we piled in our kit including a tent and rations and three paddles supplied by **SSgt 'Whiteman' White.** This was the first setback as it was only a mini. About 6 am on Saturday we awoke and caught our first glimpse of what looked like a converted Gondola which was in fact a Nordkapp Kayak. This being the first time the canoeing team had paddled on the sea we started wondering whether we should have stopped at camp for the Squadron Do. However after a few minutes in the water we soon got used to the aforementioned vessel.

A MINOR CASUALTY AND HARD GOING

Entering the water at the east coast we started out and for the first few miles all went well and then it was that **Cpl Ken Rodger** RMP badly pulled a muscle in his shoulder. Unable to carry on it was then that **Sig 'Mac' McMahon** and **LCpl Dale Ikin** learnt their first lesson in survival techniques. Taking the injured man in tow they set off for the shore. The fresh wind had now inevitably turned into a Force 4 and it proved hard going. The short distance took 40 minutes. A volunteer from the party had to take the injured man to base camp and it was **Cpl 'Geordie' Walker** who was now suffering from exhaustion and Frostnip who went. The remaining two members of the Squadron along with **Cpl Chris Naylor** of 21 Sig Regt and **Cpl Mike O'Connell** RAOC who was the expedition leader set off yet again.

75% OF THE WAY

It was nightfall and the last stretch was made by torchlight and as we turned South West into Zandreek a following 2ft swell made it hard to stay on course. Eventually ¾ of the way round the island, a distanceof some 20 kms, it was decided that conditions were too difficult to carry on. Although the aim was not completed the value came from lessons learnt and experience gained in dealing with incidents that occurred. The group rounded off the weekend by joining in a disco and cabaret at the campsite and keeping up the good public relations with the locals who were very friendly.

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CHRISTMAS AT SEVEN

Exercises, sport, soldiering, merry making what ever the occasion the Regiment is sure to rise to it and Christmas was no exception.

Each mess and squadron held its own individual Christmas party plus an all ranks dance. The wives of the Regiment, not to be outdone by all the masculine organising, held their own Yule Tide party too.

To even try to report on each party would fill the Wire from now until next year, therefore our reporter has selected two parties at random.

REGIMENTAL WIVES CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

This tremendous event took place on 7 December 1978 in the WO's and Sgts Mess. The committee headed by **Mrs Coral Story** had been busy for weeks organising and purchasing various items of Yule Tide significance. At last the night arrived, the ladies all looked beautiful and amid much clinking of sherry glasses they took their seats for a dinner of Christmas fare. The evening continued to proceed with a swing with a folk singing cabaret laid on by **SSgts Alan Coates** and **Ian Borland**. The captain of waiters, our able Quartermaster **Lt Col V. Stephens**, ensured everyone was served, with the two wine waiters, the RSM and OC 3 Sqn. nimbly nipping between the ladies ensuring glasses were well topped up. The highlight of the evening was the Dutch auction, auctioneer **SSgt Alan Coates,** again?, where a tense 25 minutes evolved with Mrs OC 4, **Pam Watson** in true Australian fashion outbidding everyone for the star prize. 'Dear old santa **(Capt Dicky I'm going to slim next year Dyer)** giving out a present to each wife, in fine style, finished off the evening. Well done ladies I'm sure you enjoyed yourselves; the waiters certainly did.

4 SQUADRON CHRISTMAS PARTY

The termination of Christmas festivities in 4 Sqn was the Wives/Girl Friends Christmas Dinner which was held in the Spearhead Club. It was planned and organised by **SSgt (YofS) Dave Wright** and attended by virtually all the wives of Squadron members. The girls were served traditional Christmas fare by their husbands, ably led by **MAj David Watson** who managed to ensure a constant smooth supply of food, without mishap, to the table. The wine waiters, **Capt Mal Smart** and **Sgt Ken Whillock** also provided a constant supply of wine to the ladies glasses. During the meal the ladies were musically entertained by **Lt Bernie Hewitt,** the Regiment's now quite famous virtuoso.

The husbands cleared away and joined their wives for a disco which rounded the evening off very successfully.

APPRECIATION

One word of appreciation to the SCO, **Capt Stewart Coll ACC** and **WO2 (SQMS) Ian Elrick ACC** and the cooks for their sterling work carried out over the Christmas period.

PRESENTATION GOC'S COMMENDATION

26 January 1979 was presentation day in the Regiment with CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps **Brig G. R. Oehlers** doing the honours. **Cpl (Jock) McGowan** 4 Sqn 4/7 (Australian Lancers) with wife **Jane** (young **Robert** the son was unable to attend due to a prior engagement, Kindergarten, though he did say he would like to see the boss of the Army, CCR Signals please note) paraded himself in the CO's office to be presented with the GOC's Commendation, earned whilst serving in N Ireland. **Cpl McGowan** would like to thank all those at 8 Inf Bde who, in his opinion, made his Commendation possible and in his own words he could not have got it on his own.



CCR Signals, Brig G. R. Oehlers, seen with Cpl Jock McGowan and his wife Jane

SERGEANTS MESS BUMPER BUNDLE

It was now time for the CCR Signals to be welcomed to the Sergeants Mess for the presentation of no less than sixteen Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Mess members. After the presentation and many comments by the CCR Signals not least of 'Wrong Adjutant' referring to **Sgt Busutill's** date of arrival in the Regiment, the CRR Signals was entertained to curry lunch with the recipients and their wives. After bidding farewell to their guests, Mess members then proceeded to take full advantage of the afternoon's Regimental Stand down and the recipients generosity to thoroughly drown their medals. One person honoured that day was heard to remark that it would take him at least fifteen years to save enough to pay the bill.



Back Row *left to right:* Sgt John Waugh, Sgt Joe Busutill, Sgt Nick Nicholson, Sgt Tony Dardis RAOC, Sgt Alec Forbes BEM, Sgt Terry Beard, Sgt Norrie Collis
Centre Row *left to right:* SSgt Nick Knight, SSgt Pete Mills, WO2 (SSM) Dave Gouldsmith, WO2 (SQMS) Tom Wightman RAPC, WO2 (SSM) John Hornby, SSgt John Hutchinson AAC
Front Row *left to right:* WO2 (QMSI) Gordon Milne APTC, WO1 Barney Hill, Lt Col C. E. R. Story, Brig G. R. Oehlers, WO1 (RSM) Sam Leggett, WO2 (SQMS) Ian Elrick ACC

IT'S EASY TO FOLLOW IN SUCH BIG FOOTSTEPS

...Kevin Dyer, watched by his father **Capt Dicky Dyer,** is congratulated by the CO, **LT C. E. R. Story** after being attested. **Kevin** who, like the Commanding Officer is an Old Welbexian is hoping to follow his father into the Corps.



Kevin Dyer under the watchful eye of his father, Capt (TOT) Dicky Dyer, being attested for the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by the CO Lt Col C. E. R. Story

VISIT OF THE CORPS COMMANDER, LT GEN SIR PETER LENG KCB, MBE, MC

REPORT BY WO1 (RSM) S LEGGETT R SIGNALS

The Corps Commander arrived at Maresfield Barracks at 1000 hours 14 December 1978 to be greeted by continuous rain.

After coffee with the CO, **Lt Col C. E. R. Story** and officers in the officers mess he continued to RHQ for a brief on the Regiment given by the CO.

It was now time for the Corps Commander to meet the soldiers; this he proceeded to do by telling OC 5 Sqn, **Maj (Airborne) Treeby**, to get his men inside their vehicles and not have them stand in the constant downpour. **SSM (Capri Orange) Smith** carried out this order with great gusto by being the first into a vehicle. After much chatting with the 5 Sqn soldiers on life in barracks, exercises, BMIS, commissioning, recreation and family life, the Corps Commander continued to repeat the performance with 1 Sqn. The OC, **Maj (maybe) Robinson,** having been forewarned, made a decision and had his soldiers in their respective vehicles. It was said that **SSM (When does the board sit) Gouldsmith** even agreed.

From 1 Sqn it was onto the LAD to meet **Capt (IDI) Harris** and his craftsmen. It was at this point the Corps Commander threatened to show the RP Sgt, **Sgt (Do it my way) Churchward**, the inside of his own Guardroom if he didn't stay out of the rain and keep dry.

The next stop on the programme was 4 Sqn commanded by our resident Aussie, **Maj (Skippy) Watson** who showed the Corps Commander round TAC HQ and rebros. **SSM (How are we) McInnes** got into the picture by demonstrating a device invented by **Cpl Pritchard** used as an aid in the defence of TAC HQ. It was at this stage **2LT (Manky) Mankin** was seen by the Corps Commander and an aura of mystery surrounded the proceedings as the Corps Commander led him away and spoke with him for some five minutes.

The last event was a visit to 3 Sqn commanded by **Maj (Tufty) Westerman**, assisted by **SSM (correct answer) Hunt** who had their soldiers performing NBC training in the Training Wing; this area allowing **Maj (Coop) Cooper, SSgt Scott, Cpl,** now **Sgt Busutill** and **Sgt Prinn** to get into the picture. From the Training Wing it was on to the assault course to see the remainder of 3 Sqn perform and show their robustness. A 'Well done' to the Regiment, and the Corps Commander was off to Bielefeld.

The Corps Commander seen here with *Left to Right:* OC 5 Sqn Maj Craig Treeby, Sig Dave Almond, Capt Robin Cuthbert



CORPS COMMANDER'S VISIT
The Corps Commander seen here in the LAD with OC LAD Capt George Harris REME and Sgt Tony Dardis RAOC



'ALLO, 'ALLO, 'ALLO x 27
7 Sig Regt Police Staff

On the arrival in the unit of Lt Col C. E. R. Story and WO1 (RSM) Leggett the Regt Provost Sergeant (Uncle Ernie) Churchward immediately attacked them with the request for a Regimental Police Troop. As he is quite an overpowering type, having spent many years with training establishments, he got his request. The troop was formed on 7 August 1978 and has been a great success, mainly due to the tireless efforts and dedication of **Sgt Churchward**

FOCUS ON SPORT

Corps Colours

LCpl (Hammy) Hamilton 3 Sqn was presented on 26 January 1979 with his Corps Colours for soccer. **LCpl (Hammy) Hamilton** has played soccer for the Corps BAOR team on twenty occasions, for the Army BAOR team on sixteen occasions, 4 Division team twelve occasions and, of course, the Regimental team.



CCR Signals, Brig G. R. Oehlers, seen here with LCpl (Hammy) Hamilton

BOXING

7 Signal Regiment v The Queen's Own Hussars

Our ring side reporter, **Capt Mal Smart.**

On 31st January 1979 the Regiment entered a team in the 4th Armoured Division Inter Unit Novice Boxing Championships and exchanged blows with the QOH. A massed crowd in the Gymnasium at Detmold ensured a tense evening and on the appearance of the QOH band fan-faring in the boxers, the evening went off with a swing (Yuk). Left to the body, right to the jaw followed by a one two was the picture throughout. Of the seven bouts which were all very good, two perhaps should be singled out. Bout number three on the programme **LCpl Wakeley** QOH v **Sig Chris Martin** 7 Sig Regt. **Sig Martin,** a very aggresive boxer, forced the fight all the way and his opponent fount it difficult to catch him at all! **Martin's** force paid dividends when the referee stopped the fight in the first round; well done **Chris.**

The other bout worth special mention was bout 7 on the programme **Tpr Bath** QOH v **Cpl John Carter** 7 Sig Regt (ACC). Although our man was out-classed and took a lot of punishment he kept with it all the way, although tired and out-boxed. The crowd applauded the gallant loser; well done **John.**

Of the 7 bouts the final results was 7 Sig Regt five wins, QOH two wins (points 12 to 9). Well done our boxers and we look forward to the next stage when we meet 16/5 The Queen's Royal Lancers. One word about the organisation of the evening, the QOH organised the match that well, even Jack Soloman promotions would have been put in the shade.



7 SIGNAL REGIMENT'S BOXING TEAM
Back Row: SSgt Ray Cardwell, Sig Ricky Eyre, Sig Mugsy Molloy, Sig Cliff Hunt, Cpl John Carter, LCpl Jeff Knight
Front Row: Sig Taff Dunn, Sig Scouse Fielder, Sig Chris Martin, Sig Dunk Hall

EX POT POURRI—ARU INSPECTION—12 JANUARY 1979

We awoke and got up in the middle of the night. It was snowing and bitterly cold. Despite the valiant efforts of the Catering Department it was difficult to eat a normal breakfast at 0630.

At 0730 we paraded in the darkness in full kit, the snow settling on berets and webbing. Various hardy souls had already set off in an assortment of snow-chained vehicles to man the Stands and the Radio links between them and the Control room in RHQ, covering an area of 3kms radius to the North of Herford. At 0800 the competition started. In the semi-darkness figures fumbled with telephones, generators and the insides of 4 Tonners in the Basic Signalling Skills tests. 45 mins later we marched to the top of North Camp and donned our NBC Suits. NBC skills were then tested, and those who failed to wash behind their ears appeared covered in glitter — dust under the Ultra Violet lamp. Those who got the sequence wrong on eating and drinking drills (deep breath. *then* remove your respirator) experienced a certain tightness of the chest for the rest of the morning.

Next came the Assault Course — mercifully shortened in the interests of safety. Nevertheless, several people experienced an unexpected dip by slipping off the logs into the water below.

Then it was on to the wagons for a trip to the Shooting Range, and many peoples' first experience of the 9mm Pistol and the Heckler Koch SLR conversion. Certain other people were frantically trying to remember what adjustment to make to their aim to compensate for drifting snow. The First Aid stand provided some life — like cases to test our knowledge, including a victim who screamed most horribly while his 'injuries' were attended to, alarming the teams still further who were waiting outside. The Initiative tests mercifully exempted OCs by awarding them all a Heart Attack and requiring 2ICs to carry on. A wise move?

Much dangling from ropes, balancing precariously on planks and slithering along poles — RCB was never like this

The Orienteering took place in the woods around the Bismarkturm. Here, for once, the snow helped us: it was a case of follow the greatest number of footprints.

The last stand was the basic swimming test which was run in the Public Swimming Baths in the town, much to the disgruntlement of various locals who obviously thought we might pollute the waters. In fact there was still more than a whiff of CS Gas from the NBC and good honest sweat from the Orienteering.

Finally the Regiment paraded under the glare of lights set up by Corps Lights Troop RE for the announcement of results. The CCR Signals, **Brig Oehlers**, declared 4 Squadron the winners by one point—a close-run thing. For the majority, it was then home to a well earned rest, but the Officers and WOs showed they were made of sterner stuff by running a joint Dinner night which (as these things will) ran on well into the small hours.

In all, it was a highly successful ARU, despite — or perhaps because of — the unfavourable weather. The CCR Signals professed himself well pleased, and congratulations are due to all, not only the competitors but also those who worked behind the scenes running the stands, and the team which came up from 22 Sig Regt in return — or was it retribution? — for our own efforts towards them, and the LAD who erected the Initiative test apparatus which baffled so many.

1st: 4 Sqn 36 pts
2nd: 3 Sqn 35 pts
3rd: 2 Sqn 34 pts
4th: HQ Sqn 31 pts
5th: 1 Sqn 30 pts
6th: 5 Sqn (S) 29 pts
7th: 5 Sqn (B) 28 pts



Cartoon drawn by Capt Mike Sheehan
'I say, if music be the food of love I'll play a few notes on the waitress'



ARU (NBC STAND)
Ready for anything (well almost) WO2 (Y of S) Bill Donnelly 3 Squadron

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

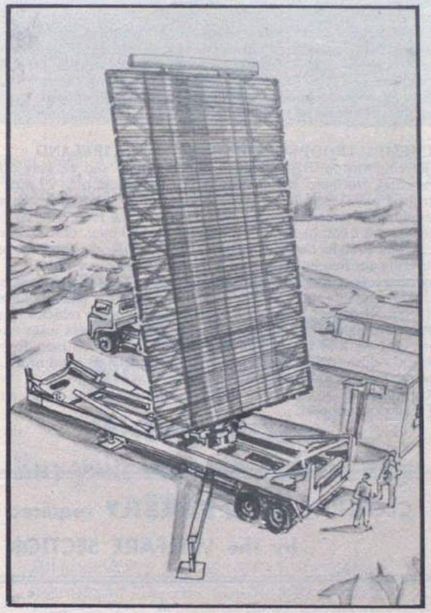
Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

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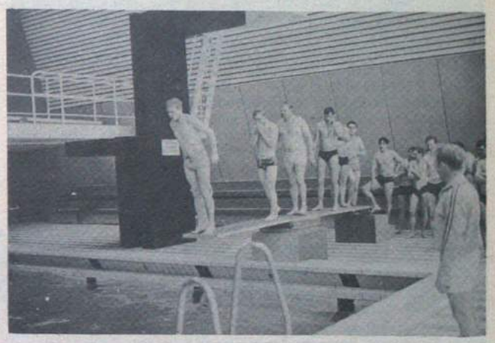
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ARU (SHOOTING STAND)
'I'll show you how it's done.' OC 1 Maj Brian Robinson and Lt Dave Wise about to lead their SNCOs to victory on the range !!!!



ARU SWIMMING
1 Squadron taking plunge with Sig Trevor Hansen about to dive in



ARU ASSAULT COURSE
3 Squadron hanging about
Maj Johnathan Lowe OC 3 Squadron upside down with Cpl Tomo Thompson, LCpl Bob Oliver and an unhappy WO2 (SSM) Paddy Hunt struck halfway up the net

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE
Report by **Maj D. M. Schreiner US Army, Chief Instructor Engineering Wing.**

In the May 1978 issue of the Wire I compared British and American Combat Kit. Realising The Wire is read voraciously by everyone in the Corps, I'm sure *all* remember that first comparison. At the end of this Article I'll review the the score to date.

ITEM NO 2: THE MESS—THE CLUB

Before arriving in England I was advised to bring my Mess Kit. It would not be uncommon for a typical American officer to interpret this guidance as reference to eating utensils. You see, we don't have a Mess. We have a Club. But more about that later. As a seasoned warrior of thirteen years, the term 'Mess Kit' was finally interpreted as Mess Dress and action initiated. That action of course, being to go out and buy my first Mess Kit! Three fittings and £175 later, this mere shell of a man appeared in the dazzling formal attire of the American Army. What I call dazzling you may call loud, splashy, even gaudy. In fact if I remember right, during one dinner night last winter, I overheard two British Officers, new to the Regiment, discussing whether I was a Spanish Third Lieutenant or a newly hired mess waiter in formal serving jacket. Oh well, never mind, let me tell you about my first mess night.

The first time I entered a British Army Mess was back in July 1977 when my predecessor, was dined out of the Royal Signals Officers Mess here at Catterick. I was advised to arrive at the mess about 7.45pm, even though the invitation read 7.30 for 8.00. The point being, that one never arrives on time, yet always before the Regimental Commander and his lady. This timing problem continued to plague me for months. Well, as you might imagine, as I stopped my car in front of the Mess to escort my bride inside, things didn't seem quite right. It was 7.45 but some staff car was in front of me . . . 'Good Evening, Sir', I said to the CO and his Lady. Quickly regaining composure, we entered the mess as trail party. Everyone appeared smart in their Mess Kits. All the wives and WRAC members were in long evening gowns and most smiled radiantly after spending most of the day, I'm sure, putting it all together. My wife whispered 'Why do all the men wear red Mess jackets?' My response was immediate, if not omniscient, 'Don't you remember Dear, they've worn red for centuries—we called them red coats in 1776 didn't we?' We drank our sherry and smiled in all directions. What a fantastic affair. Both of us were then, and still are for that matter, overwhelmed by the courtesies and cordialities extended to new members of this Regiment. We have never been so warmly received to any unit during my 14 years in the Army. Ah but let's not get too serious—it doesn't fit the Yankee Doodle image does it?

Gazing around me in sheer amazement I became aware of the marked contrast between American and British Mess Dress. I thoroughly sympathise with the strutting peacock, who found himself surrounded by Rhode Island Red Roosters. Within minutes of finishing my sherry, four members of the Royal Signals Band appeared with long horns and trumpeted the fanfare for dinner. After escorting my Lady dining companion to our place at the U-shaped table, the formalities of the actual meal began. I honestly trust none of you ever become complacent with these formal affairs. I've also dined formally in the SGTs' Mess and have nothing but praise for your Mess and have nothing but praise for your Mess system. I shall not continue the details of my first mess night other than to say it was all quite grand: the Royal Toasts, Corps Marches (hearing my own for the first time), fantastic band performance and a superb meal served in a most gracious manner. Needless to say, we shall not soon forget our first Mess night with the British Army.

The Mess and the Club both provide a service to their respective Armies. You know your Mess life, but let me take you to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The first thing which strikes you perhaps is the seeming sprawl of Bragg. Approximately 65,000 soldiers live and work on this post covering an area of about 15 x 35 miles. After a tour of the 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division, Special Forces and the various support units — you turn to me and say—'Why haven't any of the units been called Regiments? You Americans have Companies, Battalions, Brigades, Divisions, Corps, but where are the Regiments?' Basically the answer is—we don't have any. We tend to be Division orientated. You won't find a Mess anywhere. What you will find, is one very large Officers Club and one huge NCO Club, each serving the 'Post Troop Force'. Division Clubs may very well exist but when you're talking about 15,000 Officers and men in a Division, you can't possibly provide the same family type atmosphere of the Regimental Mess. I understand with defense costs mounting, the Mess system is in jeopardy. I hope you don't lose it. The Mess provides a unique place for professional soldiers to share problems, joys, even triumphs and sorrows on an intimate level which any band of fighting men need.

The British Army has something in the Mess we colonials lost years ago, when we left the Mess for the efficient Post Club.

Mess vs Club	
Comparison No 2	British 1 US 0
Combat Kit	
Comparison No 1 (See May 1978 Issue of The Wire)	British 3 US 2
Aggregate	British 4 US 2

CAROL SINGING IN CATTERICK

The larks and nightingales in the Regiment decided in early December that it was time to pass around some Christmas good will. Our musical padre provided the accompaniment on the piano accordian and a chorus of mixed voices patrolled the married quarters of Catterick one evening just before Christmas, singing loudly to keep warm! Two hours and twenty sore throats later we took stock of the situation over mince pies and hot toddies, kindly provided by the over-worked catering department.

Considering that we were raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund we thought it was very understanding of the RAF families in the area to contribute so generously. The amount raised was £16 and we would like to thank all those people who patiently listened to our efforts. (Even to the extent of joining in, in some cases), and those who supported our cause by putting coins into our collection boxes.

'SCHEMES' TROOP SORTIE TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Reveille was on 0130 Friday 12 January 1979 and we were off. Op *Drumstick* Northern Ireland was 'go'. One officer plus 29 men were attached to 60 Sqn for the duration of the tanker drivers' strike. Skipping the numerous details we arrived at Long Kesh with 26 x 4 ton vehicles and a complement of 2 officers plus 50 men. Our task was to man 'The Freight Delivery Service (FDS)'. Basically this entailed us delivering any freight from point A to point B, province wide.

Setting up our own cell in the Kesh, we swung or rolled into action by 0520 the next morning. Neither floods (mostly in the billets), nor snow, nor even NI drivers could stop us (when we got the vehicles to start) getting through. Then it happened, the tanker drivers went back to work and we had to go home. Withdrawing our 20 men from the medical centre (that's another story) we withdrew in good order. Two days later we were back in Catterick.

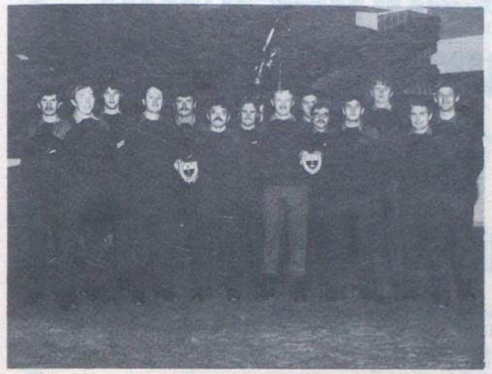
Our thanks go to 60 Sqn for their general support and the IA and SH for their close support.

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RECORD 'A' GRADINGS

Four bright sparks on an excellent course. Its a very rare occurrence to have more than one A grader in a class. As you can see, the performance of these four caught the School by surprise—(We didn't have enough plaques for the picture). The A graders are, from left to right showing the prize:— **LC Cpl David Smith, LCpls Julian Liddy, David Bradshaw** and **Peter McElwee**. CR430U was overall one of our very best courses during the past few years. Congratulations go out to all of them.



CENTRE FOUR, FRONT
Cpl David Smith, 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, LCpl Julian Liddy, 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, LCpl David Bradshaw, 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, LCpl Peter McElwee, 6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn



VISIT OF GOC

The GOC, **Maj Gen H. G. Woods MBE MC MA** NOREDIST visited the Regiment on 25 Jan 79 and presented **LCpl Bowstead** with the LSGC and **LCpl Lewis** with a CinC's Commendation.

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IAL LOCKHEED INTERNATIONAL

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

HQ SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

There have been a few arrivals and departures over the past few months.

We would like to welcome to the Regiment our new Regimental Sergeant Major **WO1 (RSM) Leslie** who took up appointment in January. Also hello to our new MTWO **WO2 Jim Preston** who will wear two hats, the other one being that of SSM HQ Squadron. Our Security has improved considerably with the addition to the Regimental Police Staff of **LCpl Alan Brown** who will be serving his last six months with us, and also the arrival in the MT of **LCpl Steve Somers** on promotion.

Goodbye to **WO1 (RSM) Lamerton** on posting to Perth and also to a Corps character **WO2 (SSM) Wally Marsden** who after 22 loyal years of service is turning his hand to civilian life.

Last, but not least, HQ Troop at Hounslow has changed its name, but not its role, to Support Troop.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

Ex Harrogate Telegraphists **Sig Gra Taylor** and **Sig Mike White** who arrived in January have compiled their own notes:

'On 9 January we turned up for our first working day as members of Radio Troop 10 Sig Regt.

Having spent over two years at the Army Apprentice College, we were eager to put the training to use. The first two weeks were spent preparing the troop vehicles for the Annual UEI.

The Troop made us very welcome and a lot of hard work resulted in a very good inspection and the Troop were congratulated for the high standard of the vehicles. Since then we've been joined by **Sig Mike Williams** and we are now getting down to some HF Practice.

We look forward to a happy and rewarding tour with the Regiment.'

EXERCISE 'LONG LOOK' 1978
Report by Cpl 'Wally' Wallace, Radio Troop

On the 19 August 1978, I left 10 Sig Regt for a four month tour of Australia. On the morning of the 20th I left South Cerney for a long (12,000 miles to be exact) journey. It took six days to arrive at my destination, en-route we had stops at Columbo and Bahrain for refuelling, a two day stop-over at Singapore, from there we had one day in Darwin and the next day we arrived in Sydney where we were greeted with friendliness and generosity. A seafood buffet was laid on with plenty of wine and beer. The following day we all parted to proceed to our host units, mine being 139 Sig Sqn, Enoggera, Queensland. The whole Squadron treated me as if I belonged to them. One of my first tasks was to teach them the off-side rule of soccer — they must have understood me as they won their game! By this time the heat was getting to me, I was in need of liquid refreshment every two hours, this being called a 'goffa', orange juice or coke etc.

HOSPITALITY SCHEME

After a couple of weeks of sun, drink and sport I was told I was going on a weeks holiday to the Gold Coast on what's known as the 'Hospitality Scheme' for British Soldiers. I stayed with the co-ordinator, **Mr K. J. Bromley MBE** who took me around the Gold Coast, showing me all the tourists sights. I had a great week and was very well looked after.

1000 MILE DRIVE TO EXERCISE

Then it was back to 139 Sig Sqn for a big exercise lasting six weeks. I was given a detachment with my own landrover, the vehicle was fitted out with VHF and HF equipment which is similar to that used in the British Army. After two days of preparation we set off from Enoggera (near Brisbane) for a 1000 mile drive to Townsville where the exercise was taking place. The drive took four days stopping at Rockhampton, Maryborough and Mackay.

Once in Townsville we were directed to different units. I was detached once more to 162 Recce Sqn and for the next five weeks my time was taken up with occasional flights across Australia by Helicopter and radio shifts with my detachment.

The evening before we were due to leave for our return journey we had the customary barbecue and 'refreshment'.

ANOTHER 1000 MILES

Another 1000 mile journey lay ahead of us, not a boring trip by any stretch of imagination. Kangaroos often jumped in front of our vehicles whilst flocks of Emus, which appeared to be quite timid, stayed in the background.

We eventually arrived back in Brisbane for a two day exercise *Barrier Trial* at Greenbank, which consisted of all Royal Signals personnel in the Australian Army deployed on the ground, which was very impressive. Once again, the end of another exercise, another excuse for a barbecue and more 'refreshment'.

A BREAK

Travelling once again back to 139 for cleaning of vehicles and other such duties, the whole Detachment was then given twelve days off in lieu of all the weekends we had worked. Those twelve days I spent visiting families of men I had worked with and trying the local brews.

FOCUS ON THE SIGHTS AND THE TEST

Back to work, only to be told there was 'nothing doing' and it was time I saw other parts of Australia, so off I go, first to Canberra the Capital. I was shown all the high spots, and a few of the low ones. From Canberra I went on to Sydney. Being myself I decided to go sight-seeing. From Sydney I travelled to Perth by the courtesy of the RAAF where I was greeted by **Sgt John Mounsey** who was at 10 Sig Regt on Exercise *Long Look* last year. I was invited to stay with him and his family for my two weeks of touring. Whilst there, we visited all the known places and even saw Kerry Packers Cricket Circus. My two weeks were soon over and it was time for me to return to 139 once again. I spent my last week or so watching England beat Australia in the First Test Match at Brisbane. The end of the exercise had come and it was time for my return to 'sunny' England. I said a fond farewell to the lads who still insisted we in England drink our beer warm?!!

FAIR DINKUM

In Sydney, we the British Soldiers, returned the hospitality by giving the Australian Army a farewell Buffet with plenty of Wine and Beer. I arrived in Singapore to meet up with **Cpl Mike Fiddler**, my replacement at Hounslow, and needless to say we had a few drinks whilst exchanging views and opinions over the exercise. I arrived back in England with two battered suitcases, a good sun tan and a slight aussie accent. FAIR DINKUM!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)
A PROUD DAY FOR THE WRAC

It was an auspicious occasion for the Squadron, when on Friday 26 January, **Brig A. L. Dowell**, Commander HQ 2 Signal Group, presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO1 Sylvia Pratt** and **WO2 (SSM) Blanche MacDougall.**



Clearly an occasion enjoyed by members of the Squadron who were present

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Worth recording was the Squadron Christmas Dinner and Dance. It is safe to say that a very good time was had by all. The clamour for more frequent arrangements of a similar nature from the younger element of the Squadron brought the desperate, but oft heard, plaintive cry from the ageing 2IC for the quietude and solitude of a Nunnery. However, it is thought that youth will win, they usually do, backed by the endless enthusiasm of the OC for all things 'jolly'.

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

BIRGELEN NEWS

The last two months have been quiet in the Regiment, since RHQ have been enjoying Troop and Squadron Christmas parties and then taking leave to recover from them! However before we started the festivities, the Second in Command, **Maj Ian Graham**, decided to test our military skills in a mobilisation exercise followed by a counter terrorist exercise. In the latter we unfortunately lost our Quartermaster, **Maj Alf Reed**, who was killed by a postal bomb. He did however come back to life after being issued with a new heart from Ord.

BERLIN NEWS

Since our last contribution to The Wire an important date in the Sqn calender has been the Grand Fete organised jointly with 229 Sig Sqn in aid of SSAFA.

There were numerous side shows and stalls where quite a few of our 'showmen' found their vocation: **Cpl's Derek Ashton, Pete Modley** and **Gary (The Leg) Euington** on the Mini Golf. **Sgt Ray Shaw** was shouting the odds on roll-a-penny, **Sgt Bob Oldfriend, Cpl's Bob Crockart** and **Dicky Pickup** were running the Name-the-doll competition and many more. Big bait catches big fish so they say and maximum profit was assured when the two OC's **Maj Ray Windmill** (3 Sqn) and **Maj Mike Cartwright** (229 Sig Sqn) took their place in the stocks, along with SSM's **WO2 Tom Friend** (3 Sqn) and **WO2 Stuart Gledhill** (229 Sig Sqn), to be pelted with all manner of nasty things. A fete is not a fete without a raffle and **Sgt Rog Manser** with his band of 'collectors' **Cpl Jock Oliver** (Retd), **Cpl Phil Wingfield, Cpl Nicky Nicholson** and **Sgt Jimmy Orr** put a lot of effort, and very little money, into their Grand Raffle. They acquired most of the prizes by visiting firms in Berlin and asking if they would like to donate one of their products or facilities to a worthy cause. The response was amazing and **'Rog'** and his boys very proudly produced such prizes as a flight to any destination donated by Laker Airways, a full dinner service donated by CIC, a return flight to UK from British Airways, and 200 DM in cash from Berliner Bank.

At the end of a very enjoyable and memorable day which ended with a Disco profits from the whole fete totalled DM 4000. A cheque for DM 2000 was presented to the Corps SSAFA appeal by the wife of the C S O Berlin, **Lt Col F. Lockwood,** the remainder went towards the Berlin Fd Force Comds SSAFA Appeal.



Annual Warrant Officers Convention Allied Forces Berlin 1978
WO2 (SSM) Tom Friend of 3 Squadron with SSM Phelps Marshall and CSM Constantine

SOCCER REPORT

To many ex-members of 3 Sqn, the heading 3 Sqn/BMH might seem strange but was born out of the necessity of two shift working units not always being able to 'put-out' the best available team for more than two weeks running. The amalgamation after much talking finally took place just in time for the start of the 78-79 Season and it was hoped that, with a greater number of players available for selection, the team would be able to give a much better account of itself. Although results to date are not all that impressive on first sight (1 win 2 draws and 2 defeats) all but two of our matches have been against the league's strongest teams and better results are hoped for in the future. Unhappily we have said farewell to **John Connell** and **Bob Crockart** who, for the past four seasons, have been stalwarts of the team. We wish **John** all the best in Civvy Street and to **Bob** in his new Unit.

SQUASH

The Berlin minor units league competition is now well under way with the Sqn side comprising **Maj Howard Crump** (RAEC), **Sgt's Tom McCullock** (RAPC) and **Bill Emery** (R Signals) playing quite well against some very experienced opposition. Results so far are: Played eight, Won five, Lost three, which is a dramatic improvement on the previous season when we won only two matches in the entire season (albeit in the Major Units League). With the Berlin Inter Company Knockout Competition about to commence in the near future, life tends to get a little hectic but nevertheless enjoyable, and we hope to provide some keen competition in this contest.

This year the Squadron was runner-up in the Berlin inter-unit tennis championships, played at the Officers' Club in September. It was a good effort as the team had to beat two major units, RAF Gatow and the Welsh Guards, before going out to NAAFI in the final. Members of the team were **Sgt Dave Barrow, Sgt Tom McCulloch, Sgt Bill Emery** and **Cpl Bob Coulling.**

BADMINTON

After a disappointing season last year, due mainly to posting and retirement of players the badminton team have got off to a good start this season, winning all of their matches played so far. The posting in of **Cpl Bob Coulling** and the acquisition of **Capt Eddie Holland** (229 Sig Sqn) as our guest player, (both Corps players) provided a great boost.

Other team members include, **Sgt Tom Morrall** (Capt), **Cpl's Derek Ashton** and **Phil Wingfield** (the deadly duo) and the teams newest member, hijacked from the squash courts **Sgt Tom McCulloch.**

CROSS COUNTRY

The running 'season' in Berlin begins and ends sadly with the Berlin Field Force run over a very tough 10 km along the Havel. This year it was held earlier than usual, on 11 October 1978, and in spite of a very little opportunity to train, 3 Sqn gained a very creditable 3rd place in the Minor Unit class behind 229 Sig Sqn and 38 Fd Sqn RE with **Cpl Yogi Yeoman** leading **Capt Eamon Hannaway, Maj Howard Crump, Capt Chris Stevenson, Cpl Bob Coulling** and **Cpl Frank Pye.** Since the X-Country activity has centred on the Volks Laufs, organised by the local German sports clubs, and has attracted an ever-increasing band of devoties from the Sqn who turn out every Sunday morning to run 10 KMs. The runners are regularly rewarded for their efforts by our back up man, **WO2 John Clark**, who brews the sweetest of Gluhweins and photographs the agony of the runners. But it's not agony all the time and there have been additional spin-offs to participation: **Capt Christine Farr** finally and ultimately has given up smoking, **Sgt Neil Thomson** passed his BFT with consummate ease, **SSgt George Hayes** and **SSgt John Sharrock** are rapidly losing their bon viveur appearances and are no longer automatic choices for Santa Claus: The OC, **Maj Ray Windmill** manages 36 holes of golf instead of 18, and **Capt Chris Stevenson** has set his sights on the marathon in March.



3 Squadron—At the Grünewald Berlin
Ready for the Cross Country start

Maj Ray Windmill, Capt Chris Stevenson, Sig Don Joyce, Maj Howard Crump, Capt Christine Farr, SSgt Brian Fergus, John Sharrok, John Neil, Sgt Peter Manger, Cpls Houghton, Evington, SSgt George Hayes, Cpl Bob Crockart

H TROOP NEWS

The period since the last set of notes has seen many changes in one way or another. The departures have been numerous and include **WO2 (SSM) Tam MacDonald** to FSS Shetland, **SSgt Colin Brooks** to 3 Sqn in Berlin, **WO2 Tony Barker** and **Sgt's Mick** and **Dave Green** to 14 Sig Regt, **Cpl Sandy Campbell** to Berlin, **Cpl Ron Napier** to 8 Sig Regt and the Oc, **Capt John Kay,** to the Army Staff Course at Shrivenham. In their places we welcome **WO2 (SSM) Andy Evans, Sgt's Roger Hern** and **Pete Stickland, Cpl's Tom Robinson** and **Ivan Smith, LCpl's Brian Rawlings, Ray Dance, Geoff Godsell, Steve Haynes, Alan Crussell,** and **Sig Ted Baker.** The other notable arrival is that of **Capt Peter Ashford,** the new Operations Officer, who took over his new duties in September.

At the time of writing, most of the troop are recovering from the after-effects of the hectic Christmas and New Year festivities. The Christmas Draw this year raised the staggering sum of DM 8900, which represents almost 200 DM per head of the Troop strength. The evening was capably organised and managed by **WO2 George Fisher** and **Sgt Brad Bradshaw,** who despite having a large number of tickets saw the star prize of a complete Pioneer Hi-Fi System go to **Sgt Mick Braddon.**

The Troop football team has continued to produce excellent results, and halfway through the season lies in second place in their league. Besides this success, the team won the annual Conti Tournament, and several friendly matches against other service teams, including a game against 'O' Troop, who travelled from Birgelen for a weekend. Competition for places has been fierce, and the following have been regular players throughout the season: **Capt John Kay, SSgt Ken Wilford, Sgt's Mick Braddon, Brad Bradshaw, Jim Merchant, Dave Morrison, Don Shrives** (Captain), **Pete Stickland, Cpl's Jim Black, George Muir** and **Ivan Smith,** and **LCpl Nigel Wigley,** not forgetting goalkeeper **Pte Mick Wright**. The other sporting success of the season was the annual Bundeswehr Reserve Association Cross Country and shooting meeting, which the Troop team narrowly missed winning by a margin of 27 seconds, although to be fair, the winning German Police team included the North German Cross Country Champion. Those who competed, with overall placings were: **Capt John Kay** (2nd), **Cpl Phil Sales** (4th), **WO2 (FofS) John Mellors** (9th), **LCpl Brian Rawlings** (10th), **LCpl Nigel Wigley** (12th), and **Cpl Paddy Sherwood** (15th).



H Troop Cross Country team Dec 1978
Back row *left to right:* WO2 (FofS) John Mellors, LCpl Nigel Wagley, LCpl Brian Rawlings

Front row *left to right:* Cpl Paddy Sherwood, Capt John Kay, Cpl Phil Sales

The period just before Christmas saw the usual spate of visitors. Two such notable occasions were the visit of **Maj Gen** and **Mrs P. A. C. Baldwin** on 30 November. In addition to meeting many members of the Troop and their wives, the CSO took the opportunity to present LS & GC Medals to **Sgt's Brad Bradshaw** and **Rod Alder,** the Troop VM. The following day, the Commanding Officer, **LT Col M. J. Pickard,** together with **Ann Pickard,** paid his farewells to Troop members.

Whilst **Ann Pickard** was entertained at the wives Christmas dinner, the CO took the opportunity to say his farewells to Troop members in the Club. During the evening **Lt Col Pickard** presented H Troop with an engraved cigarette lighter, and he in return received a Troop Plaque. These have only recently arrived from Singapore, and are available on request for all old H Troop members.

By the time these notes have been printed, the new OC, **Capt Malcolm Sinton** will be well and truly in the chair. We wish both him and his wife **Margaret** a happy tour in this unit.



Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin presenting the LS & GC medal to Sgt Brad Bradshaw

MOTORCYCLING

Although motorcycling is very much a 'minority' pastime within the Regiment, it has, in fact, been quite a successful year for **Sgt Roy Woosey** (2 Sqn), who, until very recently has been the sole competitor. Throughout 1978, **Sgt Woosey** has been supported by **Cpl Denis Tope** (MT Troop) and **Sgt Chris Thain** (2 Sqn), who do most of the 'donkey' work, thus enabling **Sgt Woosey** to concentrate on the riding.

Sgt Tony Moore (2 Sqn) has been in attendance on a number of occasions, taking on the role of press reporter. His reports appear quite regularly in the British motorcycling press, and are of good PR value to Army Motorcycling as a whole.

In October 1978, **WO1 Andy Roberts** (2 Sqn) made his debut at an enduro held at RAF Bruggen. Unfortunately, his debut ended rather abruptly when a tree jumped out in front of him. However, he is very keen to compete regularly when he comes back from an emergency tour in Northern Ireland.

Machine availability has been a problem for all units in 1978, now the BSA B40 is being phased out. However, the new Can-Am 250cc motorcycle comes into service in 1979, and it is hoped that the Regiment will be able to obtain at least three machines, so that a Regimental Team can be entered in military events. **WO1 Roberts, Sgt Thain** and **Sgt Woosey** will probably form the backbone of such a team, but anyone will be able to 'have a go'. A team consists of three riders,

A NOTABLE RECORD

Throughout 1978, **Sgt Woosey** has been competing in military and German civilian (both National and International status) events on his own machine. He receives a certain amount of trade sponsorship, and the AMCA pay his entry fees (for German events) and his travelling expenses. In all, **Sgt Woosey** competed in 21 events in 1978. Of these, he finished 17 successfully, and gained 14 trophies and medals. On 7 occasions he was in the top ten, including a win at Osnabruck, 2nd place at Krefeld and at Hohne, and 3rd place at Eutin.

Sgt Woosey has now been short-listed for the Army Team in 1979, and, if all goes according to plan, he will compete in the British Enduro Championship 1979 as a member of the AMCA (BAOR) team, as well as the major International events such as the Welsh two Day Trial and the International Six Days Trial (the World Championship Enduro event) which will be held in September 1979 in West Germany. It is also hoped that **Cpl Tope** will be a member of the Army team support crew.



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VARIABLE EMPHASIS

The month of December passed quickly with a concentration of festive spirits and leave (honest—we did not go over our 20% on leave and courses, it isn't allowed). However between Christmas and New Year the winter weather took the upper hand causing a useful break for catching up on sleep.

Since the New Year we have been busily engaged in exercise preparation (order, counter-order, etc . . .). Vehicles, equipment and manpower have been borrowed from throughout BAOR and we are most grateful for all the help given by other units. A report of our expedition to the snowy wastes of Germany will follow in due course.

Maj Tony Bushell and his wife **Rose** have just been posted back to the UK. **Maj Bushell** did an erstwhile job as arbiter superb as 2IC; **Rose** was a tower of strength to our wives and families. To both we say a fond farewell wishing them the best of luck for the future.

1 SQUADRON REPORT

The culmination of a hectic December was the Squadron All Ranks Christmas Draw. The Draw Committee, under the leadership of **WO2 'Spud' Murphy** worked for six months to prepare this highlight. Their ability to fit some 180 people in comfort in our small gymnasium would delight an ergonomist. The weather nearly played havoc with booked artists. The comedian from England arrived via an aircraft diversion to Frankfurt and minus his props. The props are still believed to be stuck in some aircraft hold constantly flying between England and Germany. The pop-group 'Flint' arrived in Germany from UK, but on the night were stranded some 300 miles from our camp! What a way to begin the highlight of the year. However, thanks to much ad-libbing by the comedian and sterling stuff from the disco, a very successful night was had by all.

SOCCER—1 SQUADRON

On 18 December, a Squadron team participated in a local German five-a-side football tournament. The team comprised **WO2 Pete Derrick, SSgt 'Foxy' Fowler, SSgt Alex Gaw, SSgt Colin Gibson, LCpl Rog Martins, LCpls Paul Smiley, Chris Toner** and **'Scouse' Wilson.** After winning their league, the team took part in a hotly contested final and gained a popular win by 3—2. The trophy was presented by a local prominent businessman, **Herr Georg Piening,** to the team's mascot **Paul Derrick.** Because of the popularity of the Squadron in local civilian sport, coupled with the fact that several local teams wish to beat 'die Engländer' at football, we intend to hold our own five-a-side tournament in March, inviting seven local teams to try their best.

2 SQUADRON ROUND UP

As the old and bold depart to pastures new, we continue to welcome new and often slightly more junior members in their place. On investigation, it was found that our latest recruit from Catterick was young enough to have been sired by the OC. (OC says it's not true, but it does prove that some majors may be mutton dressed as lamb). Officer **'Rupert' Stokes** has left us to work in the Ministry—brolly and hat mob. **Sgt Carr** has also gone to the land of non-LOA. **Sgt Glover** and **Cpl Dyer** have left for the shores of Cyprus; they go as the advance party to prepare the way for several others who are due to this Island of Love in the near future.

Despite the current wintry weather conditions, Squadron runs continue, under the eagle eye of **SSM Bancroft.** Pity really as cross-country ski races would be more appropriate, and we might be able to keep up with him.

The troop Christmas parties were wonderful affairs. Our kind, benevolent PRI actually gave us a grant towards the costs involved. Well done kind, benevolent PRI, may your generous attitude continue throughout 1979!

Our beloved Space Control (RHQ to the uninitiated) have now had a cage built around their building. They built it to keep us out; however we know better—it was built to keep them in. So now if you are summoned to attend yet another conference or just wish to buy petrol coupons, you have to take bananas or nuts with you in order to first feed and placate the inmates.

J TROOP—2 SQUADRON

Sad farewells have been made to **Cpl 'Spud' Murphy, Cpl Davie Mann** and **LCpl 'Berni' Meehan** as they left on postings. Three experienced JNCOs away and still no vacancies for RTg promotion—magical mathematics from Space Control (or higher). All of them left before the arrival of our snow and freezing weather—lucky them!

Several members of the Troop, under **Sgt Grimshaw** went back to UK to collect some new equipment. The tales of woe they brought back with them after having to spend two weeks on hotel rates of accommodation, (Almost as good as LOA some say). Now we all look forward to working our new kit in the near future—assuming the kit and vehicles can perform in Arctic conditions.

HQ SQUADRON REPORT

Amidst all our work and revelry one of our number found time to compose the following ode to our one and only Paymaster; **Maj Pat Hartigan:**

KNIGHT ERIN

Of all the knights in Chateau Scheuen
The wisest is Sir Harty Pat.
He multiplies as far as neun
and knows the ins-and-outs of VAT.
(Abwicklungsschein, mate, if you please
for items over a hundred D's).

No other knight in Ironside
with such aplomb as dear old Pat
Can add, subtract, times or divide
'which isn't to be wondered at',
Confessed Staff Scott, the man who knows,
'It's all achieved with fingers and toes!'

And if he doesn't sport that much
it isn't that he doesn't care
for squash and rugby, runs and such,
but feels it would be hardly fair
to risk, by dint of injuries,
a brain as delicate as his!

His office in the castle keep
(Behind Fred's fence and up the stairs)
Is open daily nine till three(p),
with breaks for golf and CO's prayers.
And claims are dealt with at a stroke
unless, of course, you're stony broke!

But Harty Pat, accountant knight,
In recent weeks so seldom viewed
Has kept himself well out of sight,
But not, it seems, because he's rude.
No, gallant Harty, Lord of Cash
Has grown a handlebar moustache!

JOBE
(borrowed from A. A. Milne)

Don't be disappointed!

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CSO VISITS LAARBRUCH

The Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin** visited two of the Regiments' airfield troops. His first stop was at RAF Laarbruch where he was met by OC 'L' Troop, **Capt John Worrell** and the Troop Staff Sergeant **Charlie Manning.** He was given a briefing on the Troops' committments and was shown various jobs in progress. He also had coffee with all members of the Troop and showed a keen interest in their problems of 'overstretch'

—AND BRUGGEN

On arrival at RAF Bruggen the CSO was met by OC 'H' Troop, **Capt Colin Markie** and Troop Staff Sergeant **Chalkie White.** He was taken to the Officers Mess RAF Bruggen for lunch with the Station Commander, **Gp Capt Williams AFC,** the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Ivor Amos**, and the Troop OC. After lunch the CSO toured the airfield to be shown work projects and to meet the hardworking Tele mechs who carry out these tasks. On completion of a very full programme the CSO departed. The airfield troops were delighted with his visit and the frank and honest discussions held between members of both Troop and the CSO.



CSO arrives at RAF Bruggen



Left to right: CSO, Sgt Underwood, Maj Amos, Maj Turner, SSgt White, RSM Homewood, Lt Col Colman and Capt Markie



Left to right: OC 'H' Troop, CSO, Cpl Whitfield, Sig Stockdale, Sig Parkinson

VISIT OF CHIEF OF STAFF BAOR

It appears to be the season for VIP visitors. Our second visitor was Chief of Staff BAOR **Maj Gen R. K. Guy CBE, DSO.** On arrival in the Regiment he was met by the CO and RSM. He was given a briefing on the role of the Regiment by the Commanding Officer, then introduced to the personalities of RHQ. **Maj Gen Guy** was then given a tour of the Regiment in Wildenrath, first meeting the Station Commander, **Gp Capt J. B. Mitchell CBE, AFC,** RAF.

Then on to 1 Sqn where he saw the Sqn preparing for exercise. He made a point of talking to all available soldiers and our ladies of the WRAC.

His next visit was to 3 Sqn where he met the OC and members of 'K' Airfield Troop. He listened with interest to the Tele mech's problems



Chief of Staff meets Pte Lynne Connelly and Pte Maureen Fitini

and a light hearted discussion took place. It was now coffee time, this was taken with the OC, SSM and officers of 2 Sqn, after which Chief-of-Staff met soldiers of 2 Sqn preparing for exercise.

His penultimate stop on his tour was HQ Sqn. The Chief-of-Staff showed an interest in the technical aspect of 'M' Troop and surprised everyone by getting down the vehicle pit in the MT Bay.

The final part of his visit was to present the LS and GC medals to six worthy recipients. The Regiment was formed up and after the medal parade was completed the Chief-of-Staff addressed the Regiment. He then departed after an extremely full programme.



Chief of Staff meets 1 Sqn
Left to right: Sig Colclough, LCpl Laurie, Cpl Williams, Sig Crossly, Sig Brown, SSgt Cairns (in the rear)



Talking over a Tech problem with LCpl Shaw



WO1 (FofS) Matt Campbell receives his LS and GCM



Down in the Vehicle Pit with Cpl Thompson and Sig Wilson

CROSS COUNTRY

The team started the year by retaining the Army Championships by the narrowest margin. They have started off the campaign for the 78/79 season by a resounding win in the Rhine Area Championships with **Sgt Pete Dring** and **Cpl Les Wood** winning individual honours coming second and third. Throughout the season the team has been doing well in the Rhine AREA/RAF(G) League.

On December 13 the Regimental team won the BAOR Championships beating the Aulde Enemy 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt by 21 points. Individual honours went to **LCpl Andy Robertson** who was placed second in a field of 205. At this stage it is worth mentioning **WO2 (SSM) Dougie Baikie** who is running at the age of 35, better than ever.



Victorious Cross Country Team, BAOR Championships December 1978

Left to right: RSM, LCpl Mat Cole, Sig Dave Carr, Sig Geoff Warburn, Cpl Bruce Dale, Cpl Lloyd Whittaker, Capt Dick Hoyle, Cpl Les Wood, WO2 Doug Baikie, LCpl Andy Robertson, Sgt Pete Dring, Cpl Brian Howe, Sig Andy Lincoln, Maj Stuart Read

BASKETBALL

Whilst most of the Regimental sports teams have been affected by the weather basketball has virtually been the only sport played, with the team winning their league games against RAF Wildenrath and RAF Rheindahlen. In the Rhine Area Major Unit Championship the Squad started off in fine form by defeating 13 Sig Regt 68 points to 48. The second game was against 23 Regt RCT. This was far the easiest game in the competition and allowed the whole squad to get a game. The Regiment winning by 106 to 28 points.

The final game was against the defending champions 16 Sig Regt. This was an excellent match with fortunes changing for both sides in the first half. In the second half fine performances were put in by **Cpl Fred Tedby, LCpl Less Robinson, Cpl Ian Thorneycroft, Sgt Jeff Evans** and finally **SSgt Doug Poultney** who coached and controlled the first five on court. The remainder of the Squad are **Sgt Van Vanbeck** (RAPC), **Cpl John O'Donnell, Sigs Scotty Scott, Kevin Jarvis** and **Geordie Mayhew.** Although **Cpl Fred Tedby** was considered man of the competition each of our players were worth their winners medals.

The team now look forward to the BAOR semi-final stage of the Army cup.

REGIMENTAL LANGLAUF SKI TEAM

A completely new venture for the Regiment, **Lt Paul Oldfield** gathered a team of enthusiastic novices and off they went to 2 Armd Div Championships. They worked hard and appeared to enjoy the rigours of 'Langlaufing'. In their first race they entered 4 x 10km relay and came 19th out of 23 entries. Their next effort was the 15km race, coming a creditable 24th from 35 entries. In this very hardy sport the team enjoyed their efforts, it is hoped for a better run next season. The team comprised of the following:

Lt Paul Oldfield (Team Captain), **Cpl Bruce Dale, Cpl Al Geddes, Sig Geoff Biss, Sig Pete Collinson** and **Sig Andy Millard.**

The whole team thank 2 Armd Div for an enjoyable ten days and look forward to next year.

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FOCUS ON HQ SQN

OC—Maj R. G. Aitken R Signals
SSM—Pete Clarke

All the notes this month from dear old two and two are relevant to HQ Sqn. Each troop of the Squadron have written some notes relevant to their departments. But first here is the main news.

CCR SIGNALS INSPECTS

Our ARU held on 1 December seemed to go very well. The Inspecting Officer was **Brig G. R. Oehlers** CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps and he obviously took a great interest in all our endeavours. At the NBC Chamber the door was opened so that all the Inspecting Officers could witness soldiers eating 'Bickies' in an NBC environment. As they moved on to their next port of call, out of the chamber staggered ten men spitting biscuits crumbs north, south, east and west, I know—I was one of those soldiers!! (There is no truth in the rumour that Peek Freans supplied the biscuits free of charge).

During his visit **Brig Oehlers** presented fourteen LS and GC medals.

Brig Oehlers presents medals to **Sgt 'Jock' Robinson** and **SSgt (Tug) Wilson,** both members of HQ Sqn.

Before moving on to the troop news, are you aware that Sweetie-pies fly the Channel in Spring!!!



Z TROOP REPORT

The backbone of the Regiment. However don't be misled by our title. A great deal of work is actually accomplished by our resident staff, consisting of our Troop OC, **Capt (Gus) Gurr, Cpls Tommy Hope** (when he's not away playing football for our Regiment) **Tom Thomas** (the bloke with the grey hair) and **LCpl Tony Walker** (our resident typist).

Our office is also a place of rest for the members of BID repair, ably led by **Sgt (Taffy) Barton** (the fisherman) who has done wonders installing our door bell, after a year of constant harassment.

Z Troop supports the four operating Squadrons of the Regiment and many a recumbent Yeoman or Tired Old Technician can be found sleeping in the back room. One of our tasks is resupplying ale and bratties to the Squadrons on exercise. Which reminds us, 2 Squadron have not yet come up with the folding stuff for the last consignment. We wish that lady would stop throwing peanuts at the Boss through the bars of the door.

QM (TECH) DEPT

Maj W. A. Barnes joined the Dept from Ouston (No Remarks! 'Didn't he do well'). He in fact grips our OC Sqn by two months between them. 'They've got some in'. **WO2 (RQMS) Emraz** joined us from 7 Armd Bde what we thought were his initials turned out to be letters behind his name HCSP Honours Certificate spare-time photography.

Sgt (John) Keen who by the time this is printed will have 35 minutes to complete his BFT (and he needs it) looks after the main office assisted by **Sgt (Odd Job) Fryer** 'it wasn't really his fault when a vehicle destined for Ord Depot Antwerp accidentally got shipped to UK'. The other members of the office staff are **LCpl** (I love to go a wandering) **McIntyre, Sig (Erich) Ridley,** he spells his name the German way but the Germans disown him, and **Mr** (Ex R Signals Sports-Storeman) **Bob Heightley,** yes he's still around.

An amusing incident occurred hence the cartoon!

We demanded a heater for one of our vehicles and were informed by Ordnance that the item had been replaced by a 'MOD Kit'. We then demanded this item and received:

Two canvas straps, two metal brackets, and a series of nuts, bolts and washers.

If any other unit has the same problem, this in our opinion is how it should be fitted:



PS. The Cellar Staff say they are always too busy to be interviewed so a full pen picture of this Dept will follow when HQ Sqn are once again in the limelight.

LAD Personalities

OC—Capt Swinburn REME
ASM—AQMS Banks
Scribe—Name and address withheld

The first message you receive when arriving at 22 LAD is invariably welcome, especially if the OC is smiling. It's between an exercise if you're lucky and it's not raining. Just the thing to get off on the wrong foot.

OFFICE

These gallant men, who, turn away the regt until 9.00 the following morning, display orders informing one, of duties the previous day, say you need a haircut and a few obscenities.

A&G

Our very small and confined A & G shop seems hardly the place for nearly 16 stone of one person ie **Brian Donnelly,** therefore one had to go, see you **Brian** have fun in Civvy Street. Welcome therefore goes to the little man with the goggles **LCpl Pete Innes** from 5 Innis DGs at Osnabrück.

RECY SEC

Between duty recovery. MTOs Conferences we have a very strange person who insists he is a Chieftain trained Recy Mech (Take note Records) **Cpl John Davies** who is absolutely marvellous in lousy weather, he sits out. Ably Bodied by the unit driver **Cfn Mac McGregor** who wants to know when he can go back to Minden because he wants to see the world instead of driving too far and distant exotic places like Birlefeld, Gütersloh etc.

STORES

When deciding what to write about the working life of our G109S & FAMTO Store, I figured it will not require a lot of paper, so I shall mention the occupants of this motley crew. C1098 are built of two men who can withstand long hours of idleness **Cpl Tony Baines** and newly promoted (will you stay in) **LCpl Brian Hales.**

GENY SHOP

Another well organised sub unit of the LAD, led by **Sgt Rod Betts** who still insists that a 10KVA single phase gene has an engine like a Brittania Aircraft perhaps it has I don't know. (Under him is **LCpl Ken Harford** who amongst colds every three months is probably the brains behind the VM side of this shop (Tongue in cheek).

The two grafters are **Cfn Colin Treby** and **Paddy Hamilton** (Elect) who, when working make all the noise that resemble work, flicking of lighters, opening of sweets etc, etc. Keep up the good work gene shop.

ARMOURER

Our Armourer or whatever, is **Sgt Dave Eckett** who still tries to inform us that its Guns he mends and not No 1 Burners, has just arrived, well it seems that way when he's not on leave. A majority of the LAD would like to know where he gets his Levis Coveralls from.

VEH SHOP

The main work force of the LAD apart from clearing up after **Cfn Hughie Hancock,** do all the vehicles of the unit, over and over again, are led by **Sgt Stu Burditt,** who we feel is the best Goalkeeper in 22 LAD. Ably assisted by **Cpl Rick Kirton** who's going to 50 Msl Regt, have fun at Mendon **Rick and Sheila,** and **Cpl (Krypton Factor) Tim Conroy** who seems to be in need of a base overhaul, his diagnostic checks are not what they should be. Another new person is **LCpl Alan Harman** from 2 Irish Rangers, welcome **Alan** and stay on.

The work force consists of **Cfns Paul Garner,** when not on leave, **Bob Gratton** when he opens his toolbox, **Hughie Hancock** when he is not cleaning kero bath because of the accident he had the day before, **Dia Hughes** when awake, **Roger Tout,** when not killing other peoples fish, **Hamish Wilson**, enough said about him (he can't read) **Ken Wood** when he's not mixing with other people, **Budgie Burgess** when not representing the regiment at all sports except VM(ing) and finally **Nick King** who when not trying to convert a Bedford to a Caravan is on leave.

CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

These are not **Cpl's Bill Sear, John Hazell (VMs) Bob Bunney** (Clerk), **LCpls Doug Wilkinson, John Lloyd, Jim Keys** and **Geordie Nield** although one does feel as if they are. Our German friends, **Otto, Gerhardt** and **Peter** are all the workers really in this unit DANKE SCHÖN.

ECHELON ANECDOTES

Echelon have just won the most coveted prize in the Regiment. It was all due to their unselfish attitude in foregoing all expenses paid holidays (exercises) in the picturesque 1 (BR) Corps area. Working long torturous hours in the confines of Churchill Barracks. Living in cramped accommodation high in the sky. Their only respite, brief excursions to the rolling, snow covered hills, to deliver more comforts for the holidaymakers (communications). They were rewarded for these supreme efforts, after long deliberations in a closely marked contest, with two more rooms on the ground floor of the living accommodation. Regular physical training has become an outstanding feature (stomach in) for the seventy three members of RHQ/SHQ/Q Tps, well for eight of them at least. The other sixty five are all over age, have flu or are just down to earth overworked! The SSM is hoping for a quick posting, funerals, geriatric nursing and wheelchair drill are not his scene, he is only seventy four.

For our colour supplement we call upon the RQMS Technical.

BURBLINGS FROM MIKE TROOP

This short note from me **Cpl G E D 'Did I say something wrong' Doneland** was initially intended to be malicious, backstabbing and two faced. But on reflection I decided it would be safer for me to tell the truth about Mike Troop.

I would like to say goodbye to our old Foreman, **WO1 Dave 'GHOB' Thornton** and welcome **WO1 (FOS) Gavin Spearpoint** who comes from 212 Workhouse Sqn based at the Blackhole of Calcutta. Also a sad goodbye to **SSgt Harry Marie** who has been indented for by RAOC Hong Kong.

Since my arrival in Mike Troop, there have been many changes of personnel and personality. Now, for our illustrious 'Troopy' we have **Sgt Dave 'Packer' Stone**. Our old troop Sgt has now sold his Gestapo uniforms and is taking a course of 'Nice' pills. (Apparently he is allergic to them).

Sgt John 'Muttley' Robertson is unfortunately not with us, Records have sent him on a basic English course. We wish him well. **Cpl Mick Scott** has passed his Hang gliding—freefall—sub aqua course with flying colours and we hope he does well in the SAS. Most of Mike Troop is away at the moment training for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, but as 'Reserves' reckon that just for a change the Page Trophy is ours. Contrary to popular belief we are not all slim, muscle bound athletes. As one glance at the TOT confirms.

At this point I should like to thank **SSgt (FOS) Atkinson** for getting me a 7 a-side Rugby Winners Mug even though I never played. Well none of the opposition did. My thanks again to **Sgt Blod Jones** for his coaching and we hope 'McAlpine' can fix his nose.

Before I finish I would like to welcome **LCpl Alan Pocock** to the troop (Lemon). Also I wish **Cpls 'Snake Eyes' Plews** and **'I bet she does' Jagger** all the best on their T3. Soon to leave us are **Sgts Rick 'Leaky' Lane** and **Graham 'TOT Refused' Watson** and we hope they pass their Assistant Ferret Handlers Course.

DRIVERS DRIVEL

MT Troop:

Capt M Jennings Royal Signals—MTO

SGT GC Air—Regt MT SGT

SGT AM Abdulrahman—Regt POL Accountant

The last half of 1978 was pretty momentous, the MTO broke his ankle fouling at Basketball and was to be found swinging along on his crutches, leaving all the work to **Sgt Air** *again*!

As December was fairly free from exercises, **Cpl Mick Wooley** in the Regt Generator Bay and **Cpl Dennis Downie** in the Servicing Bay with the appropriate staff were churning vehicles and plant out at a rate only exceeded by British Leyland between strikes. Whilst **Cpl Bill Evans** our Regt accident clerk (one of our RCT personnel) was winding down the Regts few accidents. Earlier in the year **Cpl Fred ATwal, LCpl Taff Peters**, both RCT and **Sig Gerry Horn** walked 60 miles for Cancer Research and collected £800.00 and then just before Christmas the majority of the troop took part in another Sponsored Charity Walk at Bunde and collected DM 1,000 so we really are the unsung Heroes.

At sport we excel as well. Like most other MT Troops in any unit we tend to score at the rough and tumble stuff. We have a good football team and as we amalgamate with the LAD for sporting competitions we always tend to do well in tug of war, and assault courses, etc. Our star football player, **Dvr Scouse Ashes** is at present enjoying four months holiday running the MT at Snow Queen. The people in the troop are too numerous to mention but anyone who has met us will certainly never forget us. As a closing gesture the 'Management' MTO, **Sgts Air** and **Abby** known in the trade as 'Moto and Sons' would like to welcome all the new arrivals and wish them a happy stay, and say a fond farewell to the 'Hulk', **LCpl Gary Doff,** who is off to 233 Sig Sqn in the near future (Lock up your Daughters) and we wish you well, finally a Happy New Year to all our customers.

ORIENTEERING ON THE UP AND UP

This sport is rapidly becoming one of the more successful Regimental Sports during the 1977/78 season and the signs are that it will be even better this year. The team has achieved a couple of wins in league events, third place in the Corps BAOR Championships, and also good results in both Army and German civilian events, coming 3rd in the 4 Armd Div league and 7th and 10th in the BAOR and Army Championships respectively.

The only thing lacking from the team is a star, although **Sgt Tony Paines** does shine on occasions. He leaves us in January on posting, so we are looking for any potential Army champions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

A special mention to **SSgt (FOS) Dave Bowers** for all his hard work in organising the sport within the unit, **Sgt Tony Paines** for consistant high placings, including 1st in a German Civilian event without a compass! **LCpl Sigfried Theodore Caderius Van Veen (CVV)** for confusing event organisers.

And the ladies **Carol Bowers, Pat Hazzard** and **Hazel Paines** for enduring the foul conditions while awaiting their husbands return.

Congratulations to **Maj Mike Rice, SSgt (FofS) Bowers, Sgt Jim Hazzard, Sgt Dave Vince, Sgt Paines** and **LCpl (CVV)** for being awarded their Regimental Colours.

HOCKEY REPORT

This has been a mixed season for the hockey team, with the team participating in league, cup and Royal Signals tournament. The league matches have shown that the team is young, inexperienced and full of vigour.

However, for the Royal Signals tournament a balanced side of youth and experience was obtained with **WO2(SSM) Paddy McGerty** and **Sgt Graham Watson** setting up some fine moves and scored some good goals. The team won the first three matches but an unfortunate injury to **2Lt Nick Handy,** who collided with a goalkeeper upset the rhythm of the team and they were beaten by 16 Sig Regt in the fourth game, to finish second in their league. **Cpl Gus Singh** has shown consistent good form in the competition. The club would like to wish **Cpl Ron Vohoro** and **LCpl Chalky White**, the goalkeeper, the very best in their new postings.

We are looking forward to the next round of the Army Cup.

RUGBY ROUND UP

Not to be overshadowed by soccer, the Regimental Rugby Team got off to a roaring start. A full fixture list was arranged and so a good number of matches were played before the Army Cup Competition. A bye was drawn in the first round and we went on to beat QRIH 14—4 in the second round. The third round saw us drawn against a strong 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. This promised to be a very hard fought match as shown by the half-time score of three-all, but in the second half the 3 Div side managed to use their greater experience and ran in two tries to finish victors by 13—3. However both the players and spectators enjoyed a most entertaining game played in the true spirit of Rugby. The team has now reached a good Regimental standard with a new influx of players. Stalwarts from last season include **Sgt Blod Jones, LCpl Paul Collins** and, until he recently hung his boots up, **SSgt Ken Clarke**. At the BAOR Corps trial **Sig Rod Smith** and **LCpl Collins** were selected to play for the corps against REME, RA and RAF(G). The team has played 14 matches winning nine drawing one scoring 259 points against 154.

SQUASH

The season started with the regiment fielding a fairly strong team but the loss in the near future of our No 1, **Sgt George McAvoy** will cause some problems in selection. The main stays of the team are any permutation of the following: **Capt Chris Durham, SSgt (SQMS) Tom Charteries, SSgt Ken Clark** and **Sgt Barry Edwards**, depending on who is in form at the time. The Regiment has entered the 3 Div league but problems in arranging matches have meant that only three matches have been played. We won the first two 4—1 but were brought back to earth by a 5—0 defeat from 15/19 H.

SOCCER—A PROMISING START

The team has had a good first half to the season being undefeated in the 3 Div league and having reached the semi-final of the BAOR section of the Army Cup. We have drawn the winners of 28 Sig Regt and 1 Div Engr Regt which has the potential of being an interesting encounter.

There are several well known Corps footballers in the Regiment, I'm sure that many will know **Cpl's Alec Hamilton, Bob O'Hara, Micky O'Hare** and **Tommy Hope**. Although **Sig Jimmy Miller** and **LCpl Sandy Brown** our leading goal scorers with 10 a piece will not be so well known. **Sig Calvin Lambert** our penalty king has seven, although he is still waiting for his first win in a penalty competition! To date we have played six league matches, winning them all with 33 goals for and five against.

Other members of the 1st Team Squad are **Capt (Griff) Griffiths, LCpl John Cakebread, Sgt's Alec Shaw, Dave Stone, Jackie Snaith** and **LCpl Brian Colvin, Cpl Tommy Perkins.**

The Regimental Second Team is consequently very strong and could play against most Regimental sides. Skippered by **WO2(SSM) Paddy McGerty** they have played 11 matches losing only one. Leading goal scorer is **LCpl Kris Akabusi** who has scored 18 goals in seven appearances. Several of the younger players are beginning to push themselves towards the 1st Team Squad in particular **LCpl Robbie Hall, Sig Jim McDougall** and **Cpl Mark Brokiebank.** The second team are enjoying their season and look forward to more success in the near future.

Other stalwarts of the team include **Cpl Mickey Downes RAPC, Cpl Ally McKenzie, LCpl's Neil Leyland, Stevie Power, Tony Mullen, Sig Steve McKnight** and **Tony Lowry.**

Lastly our thanks to the hard workers in the 'backroom, boys' Capt **Gus Gurr, QMSI Vic Burgoise, Sgt John Keen** and **Cpl Billy Jackson.**

PAGE TROPHY

The Regiment inter-troop competition, at going to press three of the winter competitions have been computed. The Rugby, Hockey and Squash, with Mike Troop running out victors in two out of the three, who was it who said technicians don't have enough work. The squash was won by the Q/RHQ/SHQ team in which **'Q' Charteries** and **WOq Adlington** played well.

FOOTNOTE

The officers of the Regiment took part in a triangular shoot with the local German Police and the German Sig Regt in Lippstadt. The first team, captained by **Capt (TOT) Mike Truran**, were the eventual winners, and the TOT had the second highest score of the day. Well done the officers!

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

It is time to focus on that department in the squadron that is always busy but never seems to catch the limelight—namely the Quartermasters Department.

QM	— **Maj E. Webb**
RQMS	— **WO2 G. S. Lowe**
SQMS	— **SSgt H. Wells**
Temp Loan Store	— **Sgt M. Ritchards**
Clothing Store	— **Sgt J. Baker**
Clerks	— **Cpl M. Babb**
	— **Cpl G. Cook**

VALE — MAJ NORMAN LANE

This edition, we say farewell to an old friend—**Maj Norman Lane.** He retired from the Army on Christmas Eve. He served with the Regiment for the last two years but had been in Station for six, so there can't be many people who have been through the Regiment or the School who hadn't known him. **Maj Lane** served in the Corps for over forty years, joined as a boy of 14 at Catterick Camp in 1938, shortly after joining 'mans service' he volunteered for the Special Operations Executive, a highly-trained organisation of volunteers specially equipped for undercover operations in enemy occupied territories.

Among his numerous wartime exploits he took part in secret seaborne landing in Greece to help partisans, and later he was dropped over Northern Italy to join Guerilla operations behind the German lines. Other places in which he served before commissioning were Cyprus, India, Egypt, Ethiopia and Korea. A keen sportsman **Maj Lane** is a former inter service and British Army Swimming Champion.

As RSM of 8 Sig Regt **Norman Lane** took part in a major parade when more than 700 troops paraded in Catterick under his Command. After **Col D. G. Jones,** Inspector of Trade Training in Royal Signals had inspected the parade **RSM Lane** asked permission to fall out and returned less than two minutes later dressed in his officers uniform, mounted the Saluting Base and took the salute as the parade marched past. Since commissioning he served in Scotland, Malta, Cyprus, BAOR and Blandford. At present **Norman Lane** is getting his knees brown once again out in Saudi Arabia. We all wish him and his wife, **Edna,** a very happy retirement from the Service.

Our new Quartermaster, **Maj Ernie Webb** is now firmly established in the driving seat, and so ends the complete change of the department over the last nine months, with the exception of our old faithful **SSgt Harry Wells.** We welcome **Ernie** and **Marcia** to the Regiment, and hope that their stay with us will be a happy one!

1 SQUADRON REPORT

The end of 1978 and the beginning of 1979 brought a fair bit of activity to all elements of 1 (Heavy Radio) Squadron, a situation not uncommon for the Squadron. In December the Squadron increased in size after receiving the VRC 310 Initial Contact Stations and associated manpower from 2 Squadron.

As preparation for Exercise *Pendulum*—a 3 Cdo Bde Exercise in Norway—**Lt Gerry Corbet** and his 'merry men' from A Troop have been involved in a continual training programme for the past few months. The end of November and the beginning of December took them up to the Lake District for three 'rugged' weeks of Adventurous Training. After the Christmas break, 'Gerry and the Pacemakers' went straight back to work with a communications exercise and pre-Arctic training at Plymouth. They then left for the frozen delights of Northern Norway on 30 January, not to be seen again until early April.

2Lt Ian Mackenzie and the other half of 'Adventurous Alpha' spent their Christmas shopping days in sunny Cyprus on exercise. The detachment was very well looked after by 259 Sig Sqn and were included in their round of Christmas festivities. Despite the parties and the heat the detachment worked very hard and after flight delays owing to bad weather, made it back to Blandford just in time for Christmas.

The Squadron Christmas dance was held on the 5 January, having been cancelled in December, and proved to be a great success—Christmas dances ought to be held several times a year in future!

After a great deal of preparation, E Troop determined not to be left out, departed for Hong Kong on Exercise *Trojan Horse* at the end of January. Amongst the well known faces taking part in the Exercise was that of a very welcome newcomer—**Capt Dick Sanders** who was posted as 2IC 1 Sqn from 21 Sig Regt.

Congratulations to **LCpl Terry Northedge** on his promotion to Cpl.

Finally a sad farewell and another warm welcome. **SSgt Barry Brown** is a great loss to A Troop as Troop SSgt and we wish him all the best in his new appointment at 9 Sig Regt. Welcome to **SSgt John Stanley** who has taken over as Troop Staff Sergeant.

RHQ

RHQ has in its ranks a mixture of civilian and military clerks. Below is what could be described as an 'Ode to the Civilians' by one of the Military Clerks:

The civilians again have no work to do
Except to wander between office and 'loo'
In Trg Wing office meet Pam and Sue
Everything normal—nothing to do
Hark from the Docs Office a sound does seep
Its Edna snoring!!, she's fast asleep
I wonder where Margaret is this sunny day
I'm told she's snowed in down Shaftesbury way
Past the Pay Office we now go
Oh look Pat Everetts back you know
Up the stairs!

Pass the cleaners on the way
Listen Mr Coombs is having his say
Into the Registry we now go
Say Hello to Mollie on second thoughts no
Her first day back she's found a fault
Run Glover quick, do a bolt!
Out from the Registry Mollie did scurry
Same as usual she's in a hurry
Chief! Chief! Mollie did shout
File One Two Seven isn't booked out
I can't do everything the Chief did say
Mollie just glared the 'BATTLE AXE' way
Back to the Registry she did go
Slamming the door its usual though
Down the Typing Pool I'll now take you
They're giggling and laughing they've nothing to do
In front of the mirror stands Mrs Tanner
Applying her make-up in a professional manner
Down the corridor now lets go
There's Karen wandering too and fro

Up the stairs!!

This is the floor where the top brass sit
Shush or the RSM will have a fit
That's Pat Ellen in the corner
Brings to mind little Jack Horner
Brian Morton you cannot miss
A phone call from the School and he's full of bliss
If you want to know why, ring 342
and the secret we know will be revealed to you
Here ends the saga of the civilians at work
seen throu the eyes of a Military Clerk.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Finally we say farewell to our Assistant Adjutant, **Lt Vikki Evans** who had been with us for two years and we wish her well in her new appointment as OC WRAC at the NDC Latimer. We welcome in her place **2LT Ann Lintern-Mole** who joined us from Camberley.

TECHNICIAN TRADESMEN

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33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

WINTER FESTIVITIES 1978

The Officers held their Annual Ball at Regimental Headquarters, Huyton, on Saturday the 24 November when the guests of honour were The Mayor of Knowsley, **Councillor Larry Nolan**, The GOC North West District, **Maj Gen Peter F. A. Sibbald OBE**, and the Commander 11 Sig Gp (V), **Brig Godfrey Curl**. It was a magnificent evening highlighted by the evasive actions of our gallant Adjutant, **Capt Alan Davies**, trying to avoid the ardent advances of his admirers; and the superb buffet which was produced by our Regimental Cooks under the direction of **SSgt Ron Gawthorne ACC.**



'When I was in Command'! Lt Col John D. Bromley discussing 'Affairs of State' with his successor Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD at The Officers Ball

On Saturday 17 December, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants also held their Annual Christmas Draw and Dance at Regimental Headquarters, when they entertained the Honorary Colonel, **Col Paddy Bryson OBE TD JP DL LLM**, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD** and the Squadron Commanders to a most enjoyable and in some cases very rewarding evening. The wine flowed, we believe, until near dawn the following day!

COMMANDING OFFICER'S LIAISON VISIT TO HQ AFCENT

During his annual liaison visit to Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) in Brunssum, Holland, the Comanding Officer presented a Regimental Shield to **Col A. Murphy** United Sates Air Force. The Shield commemorates nearly twenty years association with AFCENT. 59 Sig Regt TA, now incorporated into this Regiment, provided communications for HQ AFCENT when it was established in Fontainbleau France.



The CO, Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD presents a Regimental Shield to Col A. Murphy United States Air Force with Brig Col J. P. Le Clerc, Canadian Armed Forces in attendance, at Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT)

(By courtesy of Public Relations Office HQ AFCENT)

AN IMPORTANT PRESENTATION

A presentation on the Role of the Regiment was given to the Mayor and Members of the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley at Regimental Headquarters during the Drill Night on Thursday 1 February 1979, to provide them with up to date information about their local TAVR Regiment. The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, **Brig Sir Douglas Crawford CB DSO TD LLD,** The Chairman of the North West of England & IOM TAVRA, **Col HGT McClellan OBE TD DL JP,** and the Commander of 11 Signal Group (V), **Brig Godfrey Curl** attended in support of the Regiment on this auspicious occasion.



The Commanding Officer receiving The Mayor of Knowsley for the presentation on the Role of the Regiment

Left to Right:— Mrs P. F. Jolliffe, The Mayoress of Knowsley, Mrs L. Nolan, Lt Col Pat Jolliffe, The Mayor of Knowsley Councillor L. G. Nolan, Mrs J. Little, The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside Brig Sir Douglas Crawford CB, DSO, TD, LLD, Maj Doug E. Murray, OC HQ Sqn

(By courtesy of Geoff Roberts)

The Tech Adjt, **Maj Tony Groves** outlined the Regiment's task of providing communications for AFCENT, and the Second in Command, **Maj Charles Charlesworth** the Signal equipment which is available to achieve the task and the training necessary for the Volunteer to operate the equipment. Our guests then visited a display of Signal and Military Equipment in the main hall of the TAVR Centre, where they were able to talk with the Officers and Soldiers who normally man the equipment in the field.

The display included some of the administrative elements of the Regiment such as a most realistic Regimental Aid Post where a very wounded and bloody casualty was being attended by the RMO, **Capt Colin Ford RAMC** and his Orderly, **Cpl Kenny Almond RAMC** and a mobile Soup Kitchen staffed by the Messing Officer, **Maj David French TD** and **Pte Alan Johnson ACC** which proved a great attraction on such a bitterly cold night.

The evening designed to bridge the gap between the TAVR and the Borough due to the reorganisation of the TA in 1967 and local Government in 1974 certainly achieved its aim. This was endorsed by the Mayor of Knowsley in his address of thanks when he said 'We all deplore war, as we do crime. But we do not say do away with the Police and we should not say do away with the Army. It has been an excellent display of the highly technical skills required by our local Volunteer Regiment and it has demonstrated the need to foster the bond between the local Authority and the TAVR'.

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.

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

UNDER WAY

The most difficult part of writing Unit Notes—apart from badgering the rest of the Regiment for contributions that is, is actually making a start. Thinking this was a quirk of the amateur, I made this observation at the last West Midland District PRO's conference and was surprised to hear professional journalists admit to being plagued with similar doubts and that more ideas finish up in the wastepaper bin than in print. Gazing aimlessly out of the window, desperately searching for inspiration (the bleak outlook matched by the gloomy news)—I tried to draw some comfort from those remarks, but found the only thoughts flooding into my mind were memories of Shrewsbury Town's glorious win over Manchester City in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Such are the trials and tribulations of a Wire Notes Correspondent. However you can put away your handkerchiefs for the time being, the Post Office has saved the day, one or two telephone calls, and we're back in business.

A BICYCLE FOR CHRISTMAS

For instance, from North Staffordshire comes this heartwarming story for Christmas. Christmas came a little early to 12 year old foster child **Paul Bailey** in the unlikely setting of a Territorial Army Weekend Training Centre, Blackshaw Moor, Leek, on Saturday 9 December 1978. **Paul** was presented with a magnificent brand new bicycle by the men and women of 58 (Staffordshire) Sig Sqn (V).

One of a family of three residing at Spurgeon Homes, Bedford, (they have recently moved from Margate) **Paul** travelled up to Staffordshire with the Principal of the Homes, **John Honey**, completely unaware what was in store apart from the fact he was to spend a few hours with **Maj 'Derek' Eve** (PSO) and the 'soldiers' of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Squadron.

At this point we will let **Maj Eve** take up the tale. **'Paul Bailey's** step-father was a sergeant in the Army Catering Corps who unfortunately died suddenly from a heart attack just after he had left the Army and whilst he was about to get a house together for **Paul,** his sixteen year old brother (now in the Army) and his two sisters. All the children were devoted to their step-father and he apparently to them. On his death, due to his family difficulties, the three younger children had to return to the Spurgeon Homes where they had been prior to the marriage of their mother and step-father. **Paul** felt the loss of his step-father acutely and did not settle down for some time, until the principal of the Spurgeon Homes and my wife's cousin, **Mr John Honey** took a more personal interest in **Paul** and arranged for him to live in his own home, where he is now settling down well and, incidentally, where I first met him.

Paul's one ambition was to possess a new bicycle, an ambition he never expected to fulfil until he left school and started to earn his own living.' A chance conversation between **Maj Eve** and the Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant, **SSgt Geoffrey Robinson,** soon changed all that. Members of the Squadron decided **Paul** should not have to wait until he left school before he acquired a new bicycle, but should have one for Christmas 1978—and incidentally before his thirteenth birthday.

Because of the warm affection he had for his step-father, **Paul** holds all soldiers in high regard. The men and women serving in 58 Squadron therefore thought it was only appropriate that 'soldiers' should be the ones to play Santa Claus and grant him his one big wish, to own a brand new bicycle.

89 SQN REPORT

Meanwhile the news from 89 (Warwickshire) Sig Sqn (V) is that **Capt Sandy Livingstone** is smiling again. The reason for this happy state of affairs is that we have now welcomed our new PSO **Maj Harry Hall** and he has taken over the accounts which caused **Sandy** to spend so much of his time locked in the office with a bottle of Snopake!

With the activities of Christmas socials and dances now behind us thoughts are turning to the exercise season and plans are laid for a series of troop and squadron exercises designed to prepare us for the annual camp at Scarborough. As an experiment to stretch the resources of Uniform Troop it is proposed to try to establish a 200 mile radio relay shot from Dartmoor to Leicestershire. (Relays will be available—just in case), Bravo Troop with their HF equipment will also be providing a back up facility.

At long last the miniature range is back in commission, thanks in part to something resembling a secondhand coal conveyor belt. We have doubts whether it will stop any bullets but it looks impressive. The shooting teams will now have to get back into practice and hopefully win a few competitions.

Recruiting has been very successful in recent months, and a special troop under the guidance of **Sgt Chris Smith** caters for their every need. It was a pleasure to see them in action during the recent visit by **Brig Godfrey Curl** whose words of encouragement were particularly well received.



COMMANDER XI SIGNAL GROUP'S VISIT TO 89 SQUADRON, RUGBY
Brig Godfrey Curl talking to LCpl Derek Sharman of Bravo Troop. Keeping a low profile in the background—OC Bravo Troop Capt Sandy Livingstone—whilst OC 89 Sq, Maj Brian Foxon can obviously see the funny side
(He ought to let everyone into the secret—we could all do with a laugh)



58 SIGNAL SQUADRON
12 years old Paul Bailey trying his new bicycle for size whilst SSM 'Doughie' Roberts steadies the rear wheel, and Cpl Keith Spencer waits to make adjustments.
Picture taken at WETC Blackshaw Moor, Leek immediately after Paul had been presented with the bicycle by members of 58 Squadron

MENS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION



Brig Godfrey Curl talking to Sgt Bob Horne in Bravo Troop Stores



Brig Godfrey Curl talking to new recruits. *Left to right:* Sgt Christopher Smith I/C Recruits, Maj Brian Foxon OC, Brig Godfrey Curl
Recruits: Nearest Camera Sig Gordon Smith, Second Sig Glyn Thomas, Third Sig Oliver St John

REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the end of January, when the country was in the grip of arctic weather, the keen and the press-ganged orienteers of the Regiment gathered at the Outwoods near Loughborough for the Regimental Championships. A guest team from nearby 224 Sig Sqn also braved the elements to take part. The day itself turned out cold but sunny and bright, which combined a small snowfall of about four inches to give a new dimension to the competition. Cries of 'I can't tell where the paths are' and 'show us a specimen footprint Sir' could be heard as the event got underway. So confident were 89 Sqn of retaining the male team championship that they had not even bothered to engrave the 'Holland Trophy' with their 1978 victory. Fortuitously they were successful but the margin of only nine minutes over 48 Sqn had 89's team leader **Capt Sandy Livingstone,** worried for a while.

In the individual competitions **Maj Bob Titterington** again won the male prize while **Pte Sue Elliott** was the WRAC winner. The CO, **Lt Col K. R. Smith** in presenting the prizes commented it was about time some of the younger members of the Regiment took over from the geriatrics who had won. A quick survey showed the average age of the first four finishers to be 35. Who was it who said 'life begins at forty?'

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

SQUADRON ARU

Friday 1 December dawned clear and cold but it was not snowing, news which was greeted with relief by some but not by others because Friday was the day of the ARU and this year, for a change, the Squadron went on parade. The Inspecting Officer was Commander 5 Field Force, **Brig R. A. Pascoe MBE**, who went on to look at all troops and departments in the Squadron after the parade. The ARU ended at lunch when the Brigadier presented the Commanders'-in-Chief Testimonial for long service to **Herr Winkler** of the QM's department. **Her Winkler** is no stranger to military life having been at Stalingrad in 1942.



Sqn ARU: Comd 5 Fd Force Brig R. A. Pascoe MBE talks to LCpl Shead

LS AND GC PRESENTATION

Early in the new year we sadly said farewell to **Brig Bob Pascoe** who left command of the Field Force for the RCDS and welcomed the new Commander, **Brig C. J. Airy.** One of his first tasks with the Squadron was the presentation of LS and GC medals to our Yeoman, **WO2 Chas Birchall** and TM Tp SSgt, **Sgt Frank Talling.** We hope that **Brig Airy** will have many more enjoyable occasions with us.



LS AND GC PRESENTATION
From *Left to Right:* RSM Bob Bates, Y of S Chas Birchall, SSgt Frank Talling, Maj Martin Lance, Brig C. J. Airy

ASTRID TROPHY

The Astrid Trophy is presented annually to the soldier who, in the Squadron Commander's opinion, is the best all-rounder in the Squadron. The Trophy was donated by **Cpl Ron Parkinson** in memory of his wife who died, when he was serving in the Squadron and as a mark of appreciation for the help and assistance he had received from all ranks. The 1978 winner was **Cfn Mac Harris** from the LAD and his success was duly celebrated at the Gryphons Club Christmas party.

EX SNOW QUEEN

Once the excitement of Christmas and the New Year has passed all thoughts turn to the snow and this year we returned to our old haunt of Berghaus Rieder above Buhl-am-Alpsee. Unfortunately this year, because of a clash with a certain ornithologically named exercise we could only manage to run one two-week course. But those that went South were determined to enjoy themselves. This is their report:

For two weeks the Squadron ran one *Snow Queen* course for 21 students. The course was split according to ability into three groups. The three instructors were **Cpl Barrie Silk, LCpl Steve Mawdsley** and **Sig Brian Davies. Cpl Barrie Silk** and **LCpl Steve Mawdsley** had just returned from the 2 Div Ski Meeting where they had performed very creditably for the Squadron.

SHOULDER ROLL COMES EASILY

The first hours were spent adjusting bindings and sorting out equipment before the whole course went out onto the nursery slope and demonstrated how much control they had over the planks stuck to their feet. The 'shoulder roll following fall' was picked up very quickly and practised continually throughout the whole course. In the afternoon the group which hadn't mastered the 'shoulder roll following fall' technique due to lack of opportunities, were asked to go the full slopes where the opportunity arose again and again (and again depending on who you were). The people who stood out in the first few days were: **Sigs BillyBanner, Mark Fenton, Bullet Field,** and **Smudge Smith,** all of whom attended *Snow Queen 78*. With expert tuition from **Cpl Barrie Silk** they were brought up to a fairly reasonable standard. **LCpl Steve Mawdsley** and **Sig Brian Davies** coached the beginners and by the second week they too were pushed from the nursery slope up to the great big hill in the sky. In the middle of the course we had two days langlauf which was shortened to half a day as it was so popular. At this stage the weather deteriorated and no skiing was possible. The time was filled up with ski repair and lectures on snow holes, avalanches, ski equipment, and how to purchase it. After two days of bad snow and no skiing it was decided we must try to get out. The following morning we went up to the slopes and everybody performed well in finding snow and being able to avoid the mudflats and **Cpl Barrie Silk** played a major part in helping the Bergwacht remove a German from the slopes with a suspected shattered hip. Fortunately it snowed the next night and the following morning we spent on the Geschwender Horn before going up to the Nebelhorn for the afternoon. In the picture postcard scenery and beautiful sunshine everybody enjoyed themselves and the day was culminated by a group doing the 7km down from top to bottom. On the Thursday 2 Div Hq and Sig Regt came over with **Lt Jimmy Akehurst** and a small Abfahrt competition was arranged. The final day was spent trying to polish up techniques and obtain some style — not something that came too easily!

HAIRCUTS

Scene 1—OC's Orders

'. . . fined £5, march out'.

Scene 2 — Later that day in a certain Osnabrück Hairdressers.

X: 'I say, can you lend me DM 5, I don't seem to have brought any money with me.'

Y: 'No problem Sir, will it be only £4 now Sir?'

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.

6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Aldershot

SQUADRON PERSONNEL

OC	**Maj M. McI.Ayrton**
2IC	**Capt P. Richards**
QM	**Capt J. G. Turner MBE**
Admin Officer	**Capt A. Nelson**
OC A Troop	**Capt M. Martin-Rhind**
OC B Troop	**Lt S. Harris**
OC C Troop	**Capt R. Crombie**
A Troop Subaltern	**2 Lt M. Lithgow**
TCO	**Capt R. Selley RCT**
RSM	**WO 1 (RSM) T. R. Gainford**
F of S	**WO 1 (F of S) N. C. Cowell**
Y of S	**WO 2 (Y of S) G. F. Devine**
RQMS	**WO 2 J. McGovern**

SOMEWHAT BRACING

Ex Bold Guard was the main NATO exercise last year and it dominated our lives throughout August and September. We travelled by various means and routes to Denmark and Germany, but the means were mainly Danish civilian ferries which were luxurious compared to an LSL. Our base camp in Germany was a tented camp near the Danish border and it would have been ideal except for one small detail — the weather. It was diabolical. What we thought were fast moving low clouds were in fact passing marquees, usually with men still hanging on to the guy ropes. This had the RSM wanting to know who had given these men the day off to go hang gliding.



Sig Kitchen brewing up on Ex 'on Bold Guard'

VISITORS SHOW THE WAY

Cpl Terry Morrissey organised a football competition one evening, as he does at anytime when more than two people stand still. The 'Chiefies' team of the OC, **Capt Meekings, RSM Gainford, Y of S Devine, Sgt Cope** and **Cpl Morrissey** won an award as the dirtiest team in the competition. **Capt Harry Meekings** said he preferred to think they were the most experienced team as he was being sent off by his friend, the referee, **Capt Jack Turner**. Some of the RSM's tackles would have been brilliant — if we had been playing the All Blacks. Our visitors from 30 Sig Regt had the cheek to win the competition. Thats the last time we ask them to play!

TOP OF THE POTS

The exercise went very well with lots of action and without a break in communications. Everyone pulled his weight but a special mention must be made of **Sgt Chris Biddlecombe** and his linemen who finished laying line with their eyes propped up with matchsticks. They still won't say where all the line came from.

The catering staff led by **SSgt Len Popplewell** performed miracles in the kitchen with the usual turmoil of unordered late meals, interruptions and tents blowing down. Sometimes it got so bad that they couldn't remember whose deal it was. **Ptes Joe Neal** and **John Hanley** claim to be able to operate a No 1 Burner from the inside and from the state they got into at times it looked as though they were successful. The fact that we all put on weight is a tribute to the efforts and skills of the cooks who were voted 'Top of the Pots'.

LS AND GC's

WO 2 (RQMS) Jim McGovern and **WO 2 (Y of S) George Devine** were presented with their Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by **His Royal Highness Prince Charles** on Airborne Forces Day Parade Saturday 8 July 78. This had them crowing a bit until they realised that Airborne Forces Day in Aldershot is the wrong day to be in the chair buying drinks. Ex-para signallers were very much in evidence that day! However, the two medal winners are still being very smug about it and lording it over **WO 202 (QMSI) Eric Manuel,** APTC and **SSgt Alan Bott** (who can also claim that they didn't get caught over the past eighteen years as they sport their shiny new LS and GC's).



WO2 (YofS) Devine being presented with the LS & GC by His Royal Highness Prince Charles

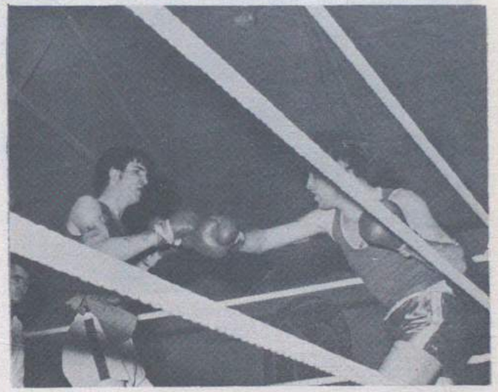
ARMY CHAMPIONS

The old year ended on a high note as the Squadron boxing team at last laid the bogey which had bedevilled them for several years in the Army Minor Units Boxing Championships. Urged on by a capacity crowd in the Aldershot Boxing Centre, the team did us proud in winning the Army Championships by four bouts to three against 206 Coy RPC on Tuesday 19 December 1978.

BLOW BY BLOW

The first two bouts of the evening were special matches by members of the Signal Squadron Squad and these whetted the spectators' appetites for the rest of the evenings fights. These two excellent bouts were between **LCpl Brian Campbell** and **Pte Alan Carter** (ACC) and **LCpl Dave Sacree** and **Sig Clive Strange.** The Championships began with **Cpl Geoff Young** being narrowly beaten on points, but the Pioneer Corps joy soon subsided as **LCpl Geoff Guy** overwhelmed his opponent causing his bout to be stopped in his favour in the first round. In the next fight **Sig Mark Monro,** who had joined the Boxing Squad only the previous week, had the crowd on their feet cheering as he and **Pte Hassan** RPC fought each other to a standstill. Since they had both given of their best the referee stopped the fight in the third round and the decision went to **Sig Monro.** Ironically the next two boxers in the ring were both Pioneer Corps as our representative was **LCpl Leo Viette.** However, no quarter was shown and **LCpl Viette** produced a thunderbolt right hand to win his fight by knocking out his opponent in the first round. **Sig Frank Turmel** then sealed the match for us when he and **LCpl Barrett** RPC produced an excellent, skilful contest resulting in a close points win for **Sig Turmel** of the Sig Sqn. At light heavyweights **Sig Ian Chilcott** met **Pte Holmes** who started like a whirlwind and caught **Sig Chilcott** with an excellent punch, knocking him out in the first round.

The last fight of the evening was between **Sig Max Bohea** and **LCpl Burton** RPC and the result was a narrow win on points for the RPC. However, the match had been won by that time and great were the scenes of jubilation as **SSgt John Smith** went to collect the trophy from **Brig Gray,** the Commander of 6 Field Force. It made all the years of effort by **SSgt Smith** seem worthwhile in striving to win the Championships. He even let the boxers relax their training in the celebrations afterwards, as the bleary eyes showed the next morning.



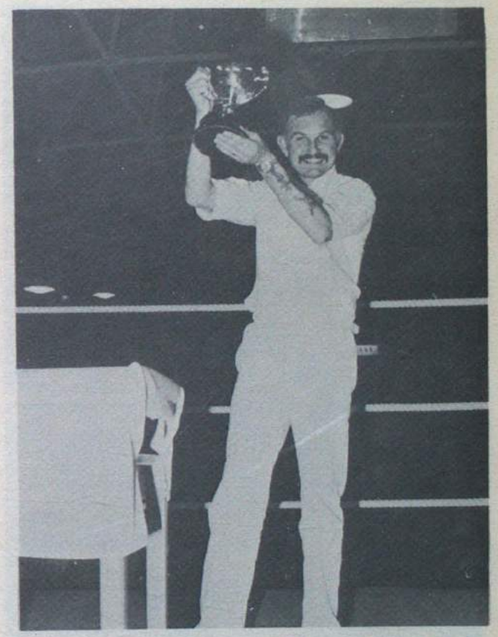
Sig Max Bohea, in the white shorts, blocks LCpl Burton's right cross



Sig Munro, facing the camera, on his way to a points victory



Sig Strange catches LCpl Sacree with a right to the head in their excellent bout



SSgt John Smith, the Team Coach and Trainer, shows off the Army Minor Units Boxing Trophy

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

565 REAR LINK DETACHMENT

565 Rear Link Detachment is the Parachute trained Royal Signals detachment which serves the 'in role' Parachute Battalion of 6 Field Force. The detachment is drawn from this Signal Squadron and consists of radio telegraphists, combat powermen and radio technicians. The men are all volunteers and have completed hard physical selection tests before training as parachutists and earning the right to wear the coveted Airborne Forces red beret. At the moment they are training hard for a trip to USA with the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment. The trip will last five weeks and they will exercise with the 101st Airborne Division of the US Army in Kentucky and then have two weeks R & R in USA.

Sgt 'Big Willie' Granitza has years of experience in Airborne Forces and uses his experience to full effect in commanding his detachment, many of whom are ex 216 Para Sig Sqn personnel. Most of their training is carried out with the battalion including the Northern Ireland training prior to 1 PARA's recent tour in Northern Ireland. The tour in Northern Ireland brought high praise for the detachment who performed very well both as signallers and infantrymen.

The role of the Parachute Battalion Group is to provide a quick reaction force as part of 6 Field Force and 565 Rear Link Detachment play an important role in this Group. When the Pathfinder Parachute Force drops to secure a Drop Zone for the Battalion, two signallers drop with them to provide an HF communications link with HQ 6 Field Force and the Parachute Battalion at the mounting base. There is no room for error on this job and its a job for real soldier communicators.



Sgt 'Big Willie' Granitza leaves the aircraft in a perfect position

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

On 18 October 1978 the Squadron was visited by Her Majesty's British Ambassador to Den Haag, **Sir Richard Sykes KCMG MC.** A formal parade took place at which **Sir Richard** presented the BEM to **WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth**, for services in Northern Ireland. It was interesting to learn that the RQMS was a Clerk Tech in 8 Sig Regt when the British Ambassador's brother, then **Col Tony Sykes,** commanded the Regiment.

SPORT

Both our Hockey and Soccer teams are looking for great things and are achieving successes in the Rhine Area and Army Minor Units Cup.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country team were BAOR Minor Units Runners-up and are now looking for success at Aldershot.



Sir Richard Sykes KCMG, MC presenting the BEM to WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY

For the last time in Malta, the Squadron held a Remembrance Day parade at the Military Cemetary at Mtafra near our old home on top of the hill. Officers and staff from the Royal Naval Sick Quarters joined us for the Ceremony. The parade was commanded by **Capt Bob Drake**, the Squadron 2IC and the OC, **Maj Eddie Pickup** laid the Army Wreath and **Surgeon Commander James Wright**, the MOIC, laid the Navy Wreath and said the words of remembrance, **Rev Alfred Tabone**, Chaplain to the Royal Navy and 234 Sig Sqn, officiated and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a Naval Bugler from HMS *Ark Royal*.



ITS A KNOCKOUT

On Saturday the 11 November 1978 an 'It's a Knockout' Competition took place at RAF Luqa. Teams from the Services in Malta took on nine teams from HMS *Ark Royal* and HMS **Alacrity** who where in Malta for a short visit on their way home after an eight month deployment.

All the games where devised by the home teams and a vast array of ideas in physical torture where on display. The game involving the squadron ws equally deadly consisting of a large canvas square with six ropes affixed to it for the opposing team to pull on. A loop of rope was tied in the middle of the canvas. The idea of the game was to transport water in metal cans from one end of the course to the other going over the canvas through the loop of rope as the opposing team tugged vigorously on the ropes. And to make things a little bit more enjoyable the canvas was liberally dowsed with soapy water. As things turned out the score after eight games had been completed was four each and 234's game was the last one to go, so everything depended on us. We elected to go first and during the seven minutes that the game lasted we had many thrills and even more spills, **Sgt Joe Peters** and **Sig Colin Keil** giving the vast crowd plenty to laugh about. **Sig Scouse Williams** showed particularly good prowess at this game. We managed to get quite a lot of water into the bucket. The opposing team, HMS *Alacrity*, showed great skill and determination when it was their turn to transport the water but unfortunately our team of rope pullers were too much for them and we came out eventual winners.

The final score was British Services Malta 5 HMS **Ark Royal**/HMS **Alacrity 4.** A good afternoons entertainment was had by all concerned. Team Members where, **Sgt Joe Peters, SSgt Roger Morse Cpl's John Dent, Dave Tarrant, LCpl Steve Groom, Bob Lee, Sigs Scouse Williams** and **Colin Keil.**

DEPARTURES

We said goodbye to a few old and trusted friends this month. **Sgt Ian Underhill** and **Sgt Paul Brabbins** to sunny Cyprus. **SSgt Geoff Lory, Sgt's Chalkie White** and **Sid Dixon** all to BaOR (REME). **Cpl Gerry Talbot** to Alnwick (ACE HIGH). **Sgt Ron Foote** to 237 Sig Sqn (AFCENT), **Sgt Don Murray** to 11 Sig Regt. **Cpl Nobby Clerk** to 8 Sig Regt. To them all we say a fond farewell and good luck in their new postings.

Several of our long serving Maltese tradesmen left us in October. They were **Cpl Joey Mizzi, LCpl Camilleri, LCpl Pace, Sig Mario Tabone** all of Line Troop. **Cpl Charlie Mifsud** our resident PTI also left us for civilian life.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of our Civilian Storeman **Mr Franz Spina**. He was ill for quite some time and died in October 1978. He will always be fondly remembered by all Squadron personnel.

6-A-SIDE COMPETITION

The Squadron entered a team in the station 6-A-Sdie league and acquitted themselves quite well against some pretty tough opposition. Team members were **Sgt Rod Hicks Cpls John Dent, Titch Peck, LCpls Steve Groom, Knocker Hardy, Alec Murphy** and **Sigs Graham Thornton, Colin Keil, Mac McCluskey** and **Clem Clemson.**

SQUASH

With the rundown of facilities, Squash and Six a Side Football are virtually the only sports being played regularly. The Squadron has formed its own ladder, the top of which is hotly contended for by **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies** and **Capt Mike Crane.**

COMBINED SERVICES RUGBY

Three Squadron members (ie the Army) represented Combined Services in a match against HMS *Ark Royal*. They were **Cpl Dave Tarrant, LCpl Bob Lee** and **LCpl Steve Groom** (they are both Cpls now but more about that next month).

SUNNY CHRISTMAS

A sunny Christmas has been had by all in Malta. While UK suffered under blizzards and floods some of us ventured out into the sea (62°F) and others sunbathed.

Due to the diminished size of the Squadron and lack of facilities, our usual all ranks dance was cancelled this year. However we did manage to get together for a lunch time celebration in the RAF Medical Centre. This was a most enjoyable gathering for both Military and Civilian personnel despite the ferrying in and out of unfortunate stretcher cases to the casualty department. The officers had both Christmas and New Year functions in their Mess but unfortunately the RAF Sergeants Mess did not celebrate the festive seasons—perhaps they don't in the RAF?

Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner took place on Tuesday 19 December in the Airman's Mess Hall—**Capt Mike Crane, SSM Brian Davies** and **Sgt Joe Peters** waiting on in grand style until forced into a hasty retreat under a salvo of oranges and the like.

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.

News from Troops

Brunei Sig Tp and 581 Sig Tp (10 GR) B.F.P.O. 605

Personalities:		
Lt Neil F. Fisher		OC
Lt (QGO) Shyambahadur	Pun	2IC
SSgt Chitrabahadur	Gurung	Tp Sgt
Sgt Dalbahadur	Bura	Tp Sgt (581 Sig Tp)
Sgt Sam Knox		CDSO
Cpl Dave Price		A/CDSO
Sgt John Pritchard		TE Tech
Sgt Squires REME		Tels Wksp



BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP

From *Left to Right: Seating Front Row:* Sgt S. Knox, Sgt Ekbahadur Gurung, Lt N. F. Fisher (OC BST), Lt Col M. G. Allen (CO 10 GR), Lt (QGO) Shyambahadur Pun, Sgt Lalparsad Pun and Sgt J. Pritchard *Standing Back Row:* Cpl Harkabahadur Ghale, Cpl Arunmani Rai, Cpl Tekbahadur Gurung, LCpl Radheshyam Thapa, Cpl Lilabahadur Gurung, Sig Tejman Gurung, Cpl D. Price, Sig Gauparsad Pun, Sig Tilakbahadur Gurung, Cpl Krishnaprasad Limbu, Sig Jasbahadur Gurung and Sig Shibman Gurung

A few words for those who have not heard of the Troop. It is situated in Seria, Brunei and is a detachment of Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron based in Kowloon, some 2,000km away. Its main task is to man the Brunei end of DCN link to Hong Kong. Army Comcen Seria handles signal traffic for Brunei Garrison and for the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment. Other tasks include manning the Joint Queen's Gurkha Signals, REME Tels Workshop and providing the Rear Link Troop for the Resident Battalion (at present 10th PMO Gurkha Rifles).

Gold Comstar Award

October saw the award of Army Comcen Seria's fourth Gold Comstar which was presented by the Commanding Officer 10th PMO Gurkha Rifles, **Lt Col M. G. Allen** to the troop Junior operator 21161795 **Sig Shibman Gurung**. After the presentation we retired to the troop Rest Room for Champagne drinks.



Sig Shibman Gurung being presented with Brunei Signal Troop's Gold Comstar by Lt Col M. G. Allen Commanding Officer 10th PMO Gurkha Rifles, watched by the OC Brunei Signal Troop Lt N. F. Fisher QG Signals

Birmingham University Officers Training Corps

Report by Sgt Niall Murphy

HIGH INTEREST

As a recent TA NCO with 35 Sig Regt, which is based at Stoney Lane, Sparbrook, Birmingham and having transferred to Birmingham University Officers Training Corps, which is located in Tennal Road, Harborne, Birmingham, I am writing this article to highlight the interest in all aspects of the Corps, which are demonstrated by the officer cadets, male and female.

We consist of two wings; the Basic Wing contains the recruits, and they remain in that wing, training for the CO's certificate. Having obtained that, they join the Advance Wing. In the Advance Wing, the O/Cdts train towards their Certificate of Military Training and it is during the unit's annual two week camp, that the year's training will be put to the test.

Members of the unit come from many and varied locations each Wednesday afternoon; from Birmingham, Warwick and Keele Universities; we also have students from Aston University and Lancaster and Birmingham Polytechnics.

At the OTC we have officer cadets, male and female, who are reading various subjects within their faculties. Bursary Cadets are tied to a particular arm of the service.

Cadetship officers, who come to university as 2Lts have attended a short course at RMA Sandhurst and return to Sandhurst at the end of their degree course, to complete their military training.

We also have service degree officers, who are regular commissioned officers reaching a degree course who normally, although it is not mandatory, attend the OTC and get involved with the Unit's training programme.

THE SCOPE

The terms at the OTC consist of spring, autumn and winter, three months each and the training covers a comprehensive range of subjects including drill, weapon training (SLR, SMG, LMG, GPMG and pistol), NBC first aid, fieldcraft, patrols, vehicle maintenance and driver training. Training takes place each Wednesday afternoon from 1400hrs until 1930hrs and also includes one/two weekends monthly and a two week camp, like most TA units. Annual camp this year will be at Ripon in July.

The training is 'geared' to produce at the end of 3/4 years an officer, male or female, who will, hopefully, go forward and gain a commission with a regular or TA regiment of their choice, having first obtained CO's certificate/CMT and passed a local commission board, (TA) or a regular commission board.

The unit has also a Special To Arm Signals Wing and a Special To Arm REME Wing, both potential sources of officer material.

PERSONALITIES

The unit is commanded by **Lt Col D. A. Protheroe E.O.** and **OBE, R Hamps**, who arrived in December 1978 and the permanent staff consists of **Capt K. Dalby, RRF** (Adjutant), **WO1 (RSM) Wood**, Royal Signals, **WO2 (CSM) Eastwood BEM, RRF** and **WO2 (AQMS) Stace** who, between them, co-ordinate all the training.

On the Admin/training side TA is **SSgt Mead RA (RQ)** and **Sgt Murphy,** Royal Signals, drill and weapon training.

FARAWAY PLACES!

— UNUSUAL JOBS!

SEND US THAT STORY

Cambridge University Officers Training Corps Royal Signals Wing

PERSONALTIES:

OC	**Maj Dick Paden**
2IC	**2Lt Paul Moseley**
Trg Offrs	**2Lt Nick Denning**
	2Lt Richard Warren
PSI	**SSgt John Peacock**

A PROMISING START

The CUOTC Signal Wing is enjoying a very successful year. The recruiting at the start of the year went well, with plenty of students being persuaded to spend some of their weekends in uniform in the field instead of in bed or in the library, and the Wing now has a large and enthusiastic membership.

SUCCESSFUL EXERCISES

For our first exercise this term we were fortunate in having the assistance of the ORLO Team from Blandford, comprising **Maj Alan Wallace, Capt Charles Le Gallais, Sgts McLean, Bell** and **Burnett**, who joined us on Stanford PTA once they had dug themselves out of the snow at Blandford. They ran two exercises intended to practice radio procedures, map reading and cross country driving, as well as command and control skills using radio. The first also had an important EW element, since both sides were on the same Net. **2Lt Nick Denning** was particularly successful in deceiving the enemy, with the help of a little judicious bending of the rules! The second exercise gave **2Lt Richard Warren** the chance to demonstrate his Formula One aspirations, hotly pursued by **2Lt Paul Moseley** and **SSgt John Peacock,** while the radio practice was especially useful because we succeeded in getting **OCdt Oliver Simpson** to do without his usual courtesy in his voice procedure! (please, thank you). At the end of the day both **OCdt Danny White** and **OCdt Dan Stewart-Roberts** claimed the victory, with **Maj Alan Wallace** declining to adjudicate, but both were back on speaking terms in the bar that evening and joined the audience for **Maj Wallace's** virtuoso comedy performance.

The following day the ORLO Team returned to Blandford and we moved on to C41 Radio Relay Training in preparation for our next exercise, though unfortunately the Oxford UOTC Signals Troop were unable to join us for our usual 'Varsity Communicating Match'. We are very grateful to **Maj Wallace's** team who ran a most enjoyable and useful exercise for us. We also enjoyed having the company of five members of Birmingham UOTC for the weekend, and they were clearly impressed enough to come back for more on our next exercise!

Association News

Association Reunions — 1979

Our Reunions this year are scheduled for:

BLANDFORD — 20th May

CATTERICK — 30th June/1st July

The AGM of the Association will take place in the Baghdad Gymnasium at mid-day on Sunday, 1st July.

Administrative instructions covering these notable events have been issued to Branches of the Association — and individuals who requested them.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER 1979

The Annual Dinner of the Aldershot Branch will be held on 12 May, 1979, at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants. Assembly is at 7.15 pm. Dinner at 8 pm. All applications to: A. V. Ient, MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3SQ.

CHESTER BRANCH

Rowland Hill, late of the Chester Branch

The Chester Branch lost one of nature's gentlemen, a founder member and a Vice President, when **'Rowley' Hill** passed away recently.

His long career with the colours started in 1908 when he joined the Territorial Army. The following year he enlisted in the Royal Artillery and was posted to No 8 Mountain Battery in India in 1911. He was present on the occasion when King Georg V was crowned King Emperor at the Delhi Durbar. During the first World War he was transferred to the R.E. Signals at Poona, and served with the 40th Indian Division Signals on the North West Frontier, eventually being demobbed with the rank of Sergeant in 1919. At the outbreak of the Second World War he volunteered for service with the Corps and served for six years, as an instructor in the Line School, 2nd Signal Training Centre and with the Coast Artillery School, Llandudno.

For fifty consecutive years he attended the Chester Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, though dogged latterly with failing health.

The Chester Branch are sending his eight medals; the 1914-15 Star, the first British War Medal, the Indian North West Frontier Medal, the Allied Victory Medal, second British War Medal, the Defence Medal, the Imperial Service Medal and the Delhi Durbar Medal; to the Museum at Blandford.

Rowley was a keen sportsman and angler. In 1925 he became a founder member of the Chester Rugby Club; the Chester G.P.O Angling Society posesses a trophy bearing his name: these interests remained with him until the end.

He died on the 16 December 1978 aged 87 years. The funeral at his church, St. Paul's, Boughton, was attended by branch Officers and members. The bier was draped with the colours, and the standard bearer, **C. T. Hughson**, conducted the military honours in a fitting manner. The service was delivered with profound sensitivity by the **Rev. N. Pyatt.**

We had all lost a dear friend and comrade.

P.S. Anyone wishing to make contact could write to **Reg Hinge**, Hon. Sec. Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association, 63 Green Lane, Chester.

COTSWOLDS' BRANCH (FORMERLY CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT

Action to re-activate the former Cheltenham and District Branch was initiated last year by **Lt Col (Retd) J. A. Waite.** Letters were distributed to the former Branch members and all known eligible members in the area. Notices were placed on the notice boards throughout GCHQ, Royal British Legion and other ex-servicemen's clubs within 25 miles radius of Cheltenham and in the local newspapers. The publicity together with personal contacts resulted in confirmation of support to re-establish the Branch which had been in suspension for 10 years. Although several members stated that they could only support the Branch in a passive role and others would be unable to attend regular meetings because of other commitments or travel difficulties, it was evident that there was sufficient support to justify the re-establishment of a Branch in Cheltenham.

The inaugural meeting held on 11 January, at the TAVR Centre, Arle Road, Cheltenham, under the Chairmanship of **Col (Retd) J. F. Worth, OBE,** with **Lt Col (Retd) J. A. Waite** as Secretary and **SSgt R. M. Parry,** Royal Signals as ex-officio Assistant Secretary, was attended by 23 members. The very bad weather conditions prevented some members from attending and apologies were received from 22 others who were unable to attend due to prior commitments, ill-health and other reasons. Seven new life members were enrolled and the meeting got off to a good start by the election of officers and committee members for the next 12 months. Since the membership is drawn from an area extending beyond the County of Gloucestershire, it was decided that it would be more appropriate to re-name the Branch, which henceforth would be named the Cotswolds Branch.

The inaugural meeting was much more successful than we could have hoped for and the enthusiasm shown by the members clearly indicates that we should be able to increase the membership to somewhere in the region of 100 during the coming year. With the subscriptions and generous donations received at the meeting, we are now in a position to plan ahead for expansion, attendance at the Blandford and Catterick Reunions and a social function to be held in conjunction with a general meeting later in the year. More importantly, we now have a properly constituted Committee which, together with members both active and passive, can support the Association in achieving the objects laid down in Rule 4 of the Rules of the Association.

We are looking forward to meeting old friends at the various reunions during the coming year and send our best wishes to all other Branches of the Association.

INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

It is proposed to hold a Buffet Lunch in a Darlington Hotel on Saturday 30 June 1979. Full details of the event should be obtained from:-

E. Thompson,
18 The Rise,
Darlington,
Co Durham.
Telephone Darlington 63835

56 Division Old Comrades Association

Hon. Sec.: **D. Le Febvre, Esq.,** 59 The Millbank, Ifield, Crawley, Sussex RH11 OJQ

Our Fourth AGM on 26 Jan 79 was aborted—20 members braved the snow and rail chaos—but only two of our Branch Officers attended: Vice President, **Lt Col Keith Goldie-Morrison** and Vice Chairman, **Lt Col (TOT) John Wood**.

Once again!! Committee Member **Vic Burgess** reports on our Social Engagements.

CHESHIRE CHEESE STAG NIGHT 1978

Maj Gen Alastair Anderson the Signal Officer-in-Chief, was the guest of honour at the 56 (Lon) Div. Signals Association OCA dinner on the 19 October at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, Fleet Street, London.

Speaking after dinner he said that despite the problems which face the Army today, the Corps was in great spirits. Everywhere he went he found a keeness to get on with the job and morale was high. He went on to say how proud the Corps was to have **Her Royal Highness Princess Anne** as their Colonel-in-Chief.

Altogether a very pleasant evening was had by all those present and as this was the third occasion the branch has been to the 'Cheese' it looks like becoming an annual event.

EASTBOURNE BRANCH

The first Annual General Meeting of the Eastbourne Branch of the Royal Signals Association was held at the TAVR Centre in Eastbourne on 8 January. The Branch, which was only formed in October last year, showed a good turn-out for this meeting.

Mr Ray Chapman, Chairman and founder of the Branch, had only recently come out of hospital. In fact, we thought at one time that we might have to form a Commando Group to rescue him from the nurses so that he could attend the AGM. Due to his ill-health he decided to stand down from the Chair and **Derek Bickmore** was elected the new Chairman. **Gordon Dyer** became Vice-Chairman and **Mabel Oldfield** retained the position of Secretary. After the Treasurer, **Michael Stewart,** had given his report and passed round copies of the audited accounts, it was unanimously agreed to keep him on in the position because no one else could understand his book-keeping! Besides, he's the only person who owns a calculator! **Ray Chapman** came back on to the Committee as Visiting Officer, which, incidentally, was a job he had also been doing whilst he was Chairman.

The accounts were in the black, thank goodness! But, as the new Chairman said, they are not enough by any means for our next project. This is the purchase of our Standard, and top priority is to be given to this. Every member was asked to beg, borrow, or otherwise get money to pay for it, and an appeal is being made to all ex-Signals personnel—whether or not they are Association members—to help us. We intend to have the Standard by the summer.

Before **Ray** vacated the Chair he informed the members that he had approcahed **Lt Col Minns** who had agreed to become President of the Branch. At the meeting **Capt Trevor Boocock**—a popular officer and well-known at the Centre— accepted the position of Vice-President, and in **Lt Col Minns'** absence he presided over the rest of the meeting. He repeated the Chairman's appeal that the members should not become complacent but make every effort to reach the target set for the purchase of the Standard.

Membership, since our Branch opened, has swelled. We have even had an enquiry from Canada. (I know jet travel is fast, but how he's going to attend our evening meetings I just don't know!) We have two members who joined in 1920—back in the days when the Signals were formed at Maresfield, not far from Eastbourne. Can anyone else remember the Riding Master there in those days? The Association members were guests of the TA Signals on 14 December last when they held a social. Most of us were too old to shake a limb at the disco, but we enjoyed the spread put on by the cooks. Our new Social Secretary, **Margaret Lewis,** has all sorts of treats planned for us in the future, and we hope to be able to repay that invite from the TA boys, soon.

Sport

CORPS BASKETBALL

UK TOUR 17-26 NOVEMBER, 1978



Attending *Left to Right:*

Standing:			
Capt (TOT)	Terry Everett	(Secretary)	Royal Signals Training Evaluation Team
SSgt	Geoff Back		7 Sig Regt
Sgt	Pete Sutherland		AA Coll Harrogate
Sig	Jimmy Peat		8 Sig Regt
Sig	Alan Patterson		229 Sig Sqn
Cpl	Bob Mahoney		8 Sig Regt
SSgt	Doug Poultney	(Coach)	21 Sig Regt
Sitting:			
Sgt	Morgan Davies		10 Sig Regt
Cpl	Mick Bohanan		7 Sig Regt
Sgt	Jeff Evans		21 Sig Regt
Sgt	Colin Roberts		16 Sig Regt
Sig	Gary Gillings		21 Sig Regt
Sgt	Matty Matthews		AA Coll Harrogate

BUSY SCHEDULE

The players and officials assembled at Blandford on Friday, 17 November, just over half of those attending having come from Units in BAOR. With a busy schedule of eight games in eight days to follow, training duly started at 0900 hours on the Saturday. The job of the Corps coach, **SSgt Doug Poultney,** was to make an effective team from the players assembled from various Units in the UK and BAOR—a difficult task on any occasion but more so this year as only five of the successful 1977 squad of 12 were able to return due to various other service commitments. They were **SSgt Geoff Back, Sgt Jeff Evans, Cpls Mickey Bohanan** and **Bob Mahoney** and **Sig Gary Gillings,** only two of these, **Geoff Back** and **Jeff Evans,** having been in the first five. Fortunately two players from earlier tours were back, **Sgts Matty Matthews** and **Pete Sutherland,** and these seven were supported by four new bloods, **Sgts Colin Roberts** and **Morgan Davies, Sigs Alan Patterson** and **Jimmy Peat.** The first day's training was hard and aimed at getting rid of the cobwebs of travel and generating a working relationship between the squad members, unfortunately during this period **Sgt Colin Roberts** sustained injury which was subsequently to plague him throughout the tour.

DATSUNS ON TOP

The first representative game was at 1100 hours on Sunday the 19th against the South Dorset side, Datsuns. The lack of experience at representative level and general disorganisation was evident in the Signals side and after a slow start the Datsuns came out on top, the half time score being Signals 18, Datsuns 31. In the second half the Signals set about whittling back the deficit. They achieved some inroads on a number of occasions but the Dorset side were well coached and every time it began to look like Signals might yet survive by hustling, the opposition called substitution and slowed down the game to regain control. A more respectable second half with a final score of Signals 46, Datsuns 63. The first time that Signals have ever lost to the Dorset side.

SUCCESS

On the afternoon of Sunday 19th a match was arranged against the Blandford Garrison side, who had a few weeks previously beaten Datsuns. This game enabled the Corps squad to get more match practice with each other and all those present to get on court. A well contested useful match with the Corps side winning. Corps 58, Blandford 40.

A NEAR THING

The Monday evening saw a match against the newly formed RCT side. This was a friendly, arranged at short notice to replace the representative fixture versus the Ferndown side, who due to national league commitments were unable to play during the week of the tour. An untidy low scoring game with the two sides being very evenly matched. The score was drawn at half time with 22 points each. The Signals managed to score four more points than their opponents in the second half and ran out winners. Signals 46, RCT 42. A nailbiting game where Signals were only behind by a single basket on two occasions but were three or four baskets ahead several times but unable to maintain or extend that lead.

UPS AND DOWNS

Tuesday brought another friendly fixture against a Garrison side from Bovington. It was hoped that this game would be of a slightly higher standard to give the Signals side who were improving steadily something to strive for, but the skills shown were not of a good standard with many fouls recorded and the Signals easy winners at Signals 61, Bovington 38. On Wednesday the team travelled to Aborfield to play a match against the Aldershot Services side, the second of the representative matches. Here we were treated to a demonstration of how to exploit your opponents weaknesses and out think their moves, unfortunately it was the Signals side that were being out played and exploited. A very interesting match which served to teach the Signals players a few lessons that it is hoped they will not soon forget. A demonstration that while humiliating to the Signals was a pleasure to watch for the good basketball played by the Aldershot side, final score Signals 43, Aldershot Services 91.

SENIOR SERVICE FIGHT BACK

Thursday and back in Blandford against this time the representative game versus the Royal Navy side. In the first few minutes it looked as if the Signals were in for another trouncing as the score after a very slow start went to Signals 2, Navy 12, but the Signals side were not going without a fight and this turned into the best competitive game of the week, the Signals holding and fighting back to Signals 23, Navy 30 at half time. With a very good effort to about halfway through the second half we led Signals 53, Navy 45, surely we must win this one, but it was not to be. After being in the doldrums for some time the Navy fought back and the Signals were unable to stop them running out winners, Signals 63, Navy 69.

ALL ACTION

Another friendly match on the Friday against an American side formed at Bovington. This was an all action game, some of the Americans showing the skills and court knowledge inherent in American players due to playing the game since early childhood. An enjoyable game played in good spirits where the Signals ended winning, Signals 87, Americans 62. The best score the Signals managed all week.

LESSONS

Finally to the annual climax of the tour, REME. The Signals team, although short on skill and experience, have shown steady improvement throughout the week and have high hopes. These did not last for long, REME arrived with near the full squad that has been so successful for a number of years. The Corps never gave up but were given a basketball lesson that resulted in Signals 68, REME 130.

Eight games played, four won, four lost, the losses were all the representative fixtures. There is of course a good side to all this and that is that a number of basketball enthusiasts were able to get together and play basketball for a week, they learned from the experience and this should benefit the Corps in the future—a number of players, who may have remained on the bench with a full squad available, were able to participate at the top level and although nerves caused a lack lustre display in some cases. It was, I am sure, that some of the less experienced players tried too hard in their efforts to do well for the Corps, and themselves, and tied up.

Sig Jimmy Peat was an inspiration to the side in some of its more dispirited moments, his coolness and enthusiasm were a spirited example from the youngest member who came on the tour straight from completing his basic Class 3 Clerks course at Deepcut.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

vs Datsuns	Lost	46	63	Representative
vs Blandford	Won	58	40	Friendly
vs RCT	Won	46	42	Friendly
vs Bovington	Won	68	38	Friendly
vs Aldershot Services	Lost	43	91	Representative
vs Royal Navy	Lost	63	69	Representative
vs Americans	Won	87	62	Friendly
vs REME	Lost	68	130	Representative

TENNIS

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 7-9 JUNE 1979

The above competition is to be sponsored by 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt at Soest from 7-9 June 1979. The championships will include Mens Singles, Mens Doubles and Inter Unit Doubles. Entry Forms are available from **Capt M. Podmore R**Signals 2 Squadron, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, BFPO 106. Tel Korbecke Mil Ext 268.

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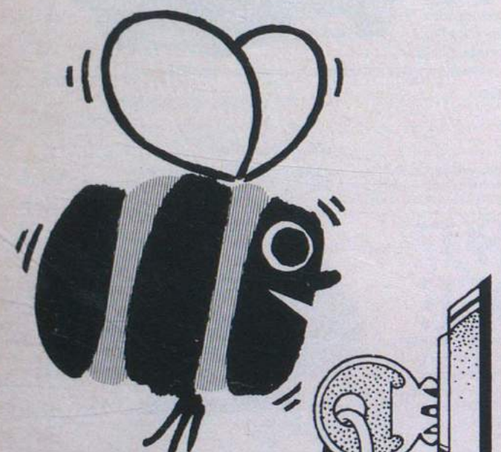
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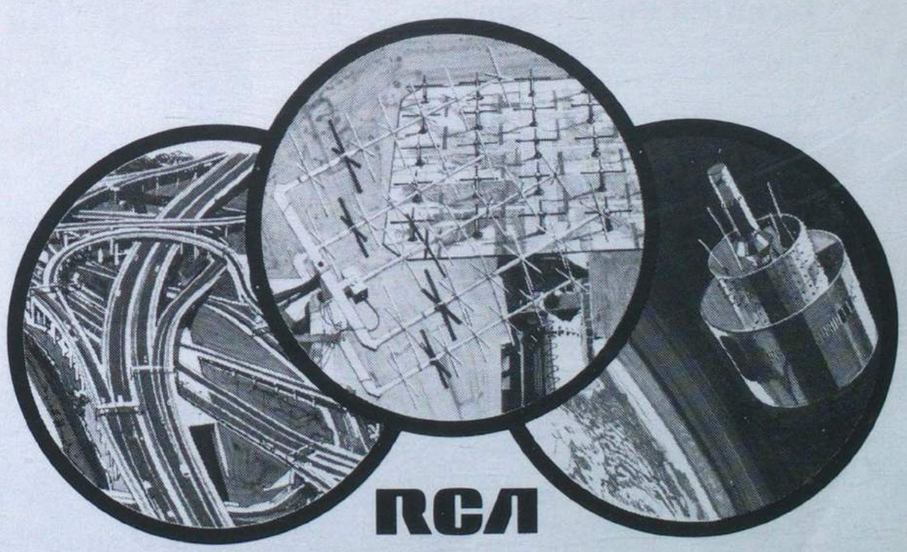
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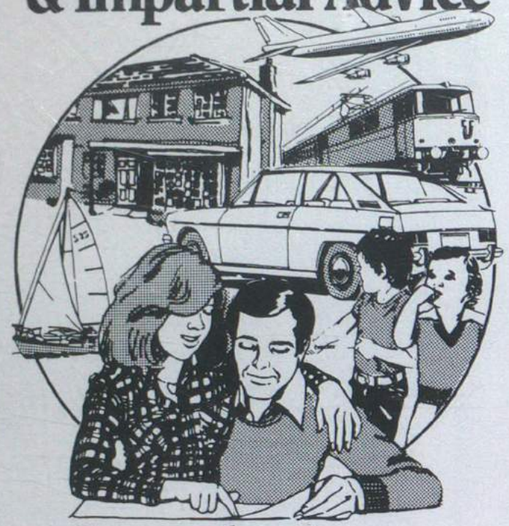
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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

May 1979



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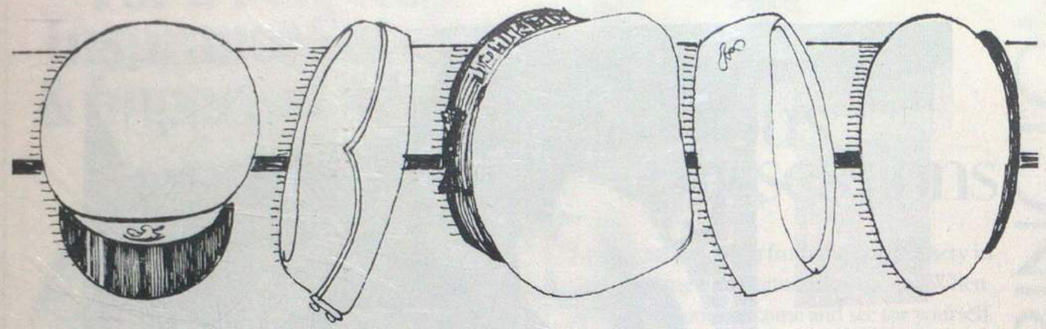
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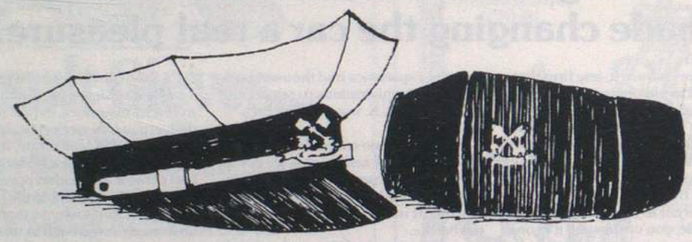
Name _____ Rank _____
Present address _____
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Car for use in _____ (Country)
Delivery date _____ (approx)
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LEYLAND: Austin ☐ Morris ☐ Princess ☐ M.G. ☐
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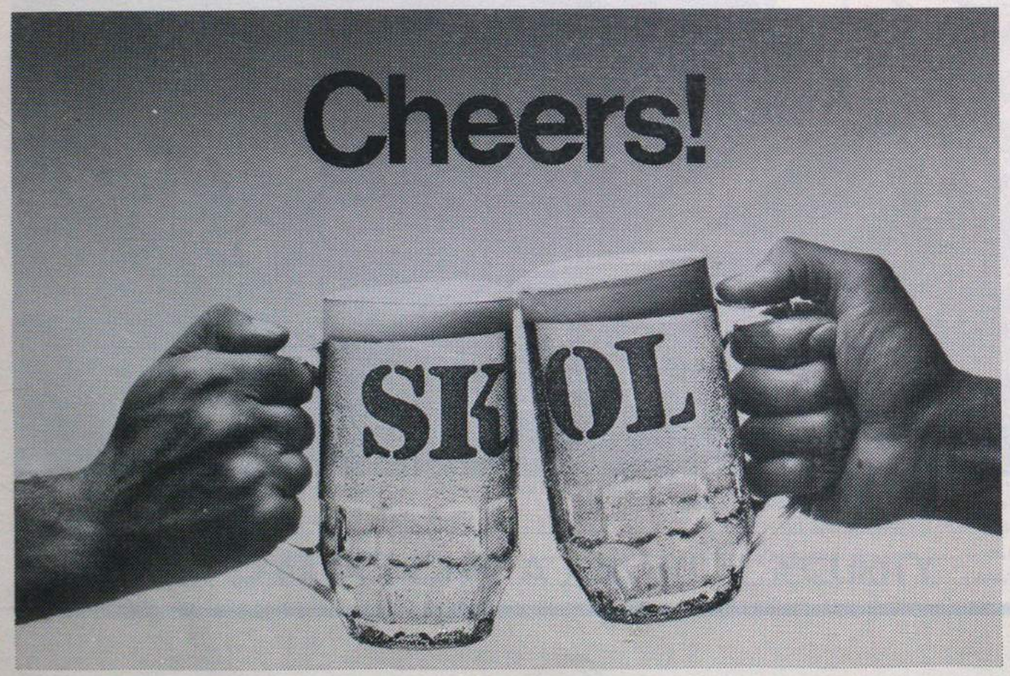
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SUPPLEMENT No. 2—PAGE TWO

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.*

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MAY **1979**

Vol 33 *(New Series* **No 3**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

All who, over the years, have memories of happy and rewarding service in Malta will recognise our picture as covering one of the well established roles of the Signal Squadron; the testing of communications from a buoy in the Grand Harbour to one of Her Majesty's Ships. Mr. Michael Foot, then Leader of the House of Commons, was in Malta at the end of March to mark the end of the Defence Facilities Agreement between the United Kingdom and Malta. He, possibly, summed it all up when he said, 'We are bound to feel sad in Britain because there has been a fine association between Malta and Britain and we shared some great historic events.' (See page 206 for final contribution from 234 Signal Squadron)

GENERAL ANDERSON REVIEWS THE PAST YEAR

The Signal Officer-in-Chief attended the annual meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Association in London on 21 April. We are glad to publish the substance of his address to the meeting.



It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to tell you what is going on in the serving Corps again this year and for me to hear at first hand the matters discussed here at your Annual General Meeting. I'm pleased to hear that the Association is in such good fettle and grateful to all of you for the personal effort you put into maintaining the high standards achieved throughout your organisation.

I think the most important issue in the Army today is that of our ability or otherwise to recruit and retain the number of officers and men we need to man our units. Two years ago we were in the happy position of having a healthy surplus of some 300 soldiers and a handful of officers. The situation at the end of last month was that the corps was deficient some 60 officers and 480 soldiers, and the indications are that this might well get worse over the next twelve months. However, the recruiting situation improved dramatically towards the end of last year and I'm happy to say that we now have over 400 soldiers under basic training in the Trade Training School with a further 250 adult recruits in the pipeline at 11 Signal Regiment and 1000 juniors or apprentice tradesmen under training at Ouston and Harrogate. The officer recruiting situation has never looked better and we commissioned 52 combatant officers into the Corps last year together with 21 quartermaster class commissioned officers. Moreover, we got some 36 candidates through RCB and anticipate getting between 13 and 15 subalterns off the next output from Sandhurst in April.

The problem—as with the rest of the Army—is that of retention, and whether we can persuade more soldiers to re-engage at the end of their current tours and stop the continuing flow of officers and soldiers retiring early will depend to a large extent upon what success the Army has in the improvements in pay and conditions of service which were due to be announced on the first of April.

Overstretch still exists in units, not only because of limitations in their establishments but also because they have had to be undermanned. However, Commander First British Corps has greatly helped by imposing a strict control on formation exercises and this should mean that the Divisional and Corps Signal Regiments should be able to ensure that all their soldiers get their proper quota of leave and courses and that a bit of fun can be put back into soldiering. I am very hopeful that the establishment of Task Force Signal Squadrons with a Royal Signals strength of 4 officers and 89 men instead of the 3 officers and 62 men in the existing troops will be approved very soon. Nor do I think it will be very long before the term 'Brigade' is back in use. The last twelve months have seen the Army in UK heavily involved in a whole series of operations in aid of the civil power. Having manned fire engines in 1977/78 we have now become adept at handling petrol tankers and ambulances, amongst other activities stemming from the industrial unrest suffered in the country over Christmas and the early part of this year. The Training Group have been the most heavily committed on these occasions and have also been digging themselves and sheep out of the snow in recent weeks. Some of 249 Signal Squadron's SNOWCATS were also used to great effect in helping farmers in Cumberland during the heavy snow in March.

As you can imagine the general unrest we have seen in the world at large has had its effect on the Army and a number of contingency plans have been well to the fore, and as you may have read in the press, 90 officers and men from 30 Sig Regt will form the major part of the UN force planned to go to Namibia if it is ever deployed.

Our permanent contribution to Northern Ireland continues to run at over 600 officers and men. In addition a composite squadron of 4 officers and 65 soldiers from 16 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt in BAOR was deployed on guard duties from early December 1978 to early Arpil 1979.

W01 Tunmore received the Queen's Gallantry Medal, **W02 Offord** was made a Member of the British Empire, **SSgt Hepworth, Cpl MacDonald** and **LCpl Morgan** were awarded the British Empire Medal, and we have had three Mentions in Despatches and four GOC's Commendations for service in the Province during the last 12 months.

I had the good fortune to visit the Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong, Nepal and Brunei this February. Those of you who have ever served with Gurkhas will know what splendid soldiers they are and the Scots amongst you will be glad to hear that the pipe band is still flourishing. The regiment has very wide responsibilities and is one of the few left that actually works live HF circuits on a regular daily basis. These provide communications within Nepal from Dharan to Pokhara and Kathmandu and from the Gurkha base in Dharan to Hong Kong and also from Brunei to Hong Kong. There are still a substantial number of Chinese soldiers serving with the Regiment in Hong Kong, and I had the pleasure of renewing acquaintances with many of them who were under my command in 252 and 253 Signal Squadrons in the early 1960s. I opened the new communications centre in the 22-storied building built to house HQBF Hong Kong in HMS *Tamar*. You may have seen pictures of this on TV when **HRH Prince Charles** opened the building on 4 March. I had a good look round it when I was there and can vouch for the fact that the Officers Mess, Sergeants Mess and other rank accommodation is really magnificent as well as that for the communications centre and Headquarter offices. There is a huge Gymnasium, two tennis courts and many other facilities—CR Signals' problem will be to ensure that the men and women who live and work there get out for some fresh air every day.

I saw all three TAVR Groups on exercise last year and can reaffirm that they perform remarkably well. I saw both 11 and 12 Signal Groups on the continent working radio relay and radio links over considerable distances, competing with plenty of tactical movement and appalling weather. 2 Signal Group deployed on the big UKLF mobilisation exercise *Scrum Half* and displayed enthusiasm and skill in providing HF communications throughout UK. They are all a most impressive and dedicated body of men and women.

2nd Armoured Division has now been re-equipped with *Clansman* radio and the deployment of this excellent range of VHF and HF combat net radio is going on apace elsewhere in BAOR. The sets are living up to their promise and really do give twice the power for half the weight of the LARKSPUR sets they replace WAVELL, the Army's new command and control ADP system, did very well on trials last year in 2nd Division and a fully ruggedised system will be available when PTARMIGAN our new area communications system is fielded in about 1983.

Sadly 234 Sig Sqn has now left the George Cross Island of Malta severing the long association the Corps has had with the Maltese. They left behind many locally enlisted soldiers and locally employed civilians who have earned our undying gratitude for many years of loyal service, cheerfully and willingly given not just in times of peace but also in the dangerous days of the war.

The Corps has had another very successful year in Sport and we have acquitted ourselves well in Hockey, Rugby and Squash. Despite very heavy commitments our units have continued to shine:—

1st Divisional Sig Regt were Army Cross Country Champions in 1979;

2nd Divisional Sig Regt were runners up in the BAOR Skiing;

8th Sig Regt were runners up in the UK Rugby final;

13th Sig Regt were BAOR Champions at Cricket and Archery and were runners up in BAOR at Orienteering and Small Bore Shooting;

16th Sig Regt were Army Water Polo Champions in 1978;

21st Sig Regt won the BAOR Athletics and Cross Country, although as I have said they lost to 1 Div Signals in the Army Final of the latter;

22nd Sig Regt won the BAOR Soccer Championship and were runners up in the Army Cup Final on 4 April;

5 Field Force Sig Sqn were runners up in the Minor Units Cross Country.

Despite the pressures of service in Northern Ireland 233 Sig Sqn found time to win the Minor Units Soccer Cup and be Minor Unit Champions at Cricket, Basketball and Athletics.

We also have some excellent individual results:

Capt Duncan Jones, currently serving at Sandhurst, is the British National, Army and Combined Services Bobsleigh Champion. Also on Winter Sports, **Cpl Townsley** was outright winner of the BAOR Alpine Slalom Skiing.

In the ring **LCpl Killen** is BAOR Light Heavyweight Champion and **LCpl Bickell** Light Middleweight Champion at Judo—both from 2 Div Sig Regt.

Sgt Holt of 3 Div Sig Regt maintained his 1977 Motor Rally Champion status with success in 1978.

In Athletics **LCpl Edwards** represented Great Britain in the 800 metres against East Germany and Spain and **LCpl East** is the Army 110 metres hurdle champion.

And finally **SSgt Raybould** is the Cyprus Individual Golf Champion.

You must have all read about **HRH The Princess Anne's** visit to Catterick on 1 Novemebr last year. She had a very busy programme and spoke to hundreds of soldiers and their families. The Junior Signalmen's Arena Display, which has proved so successful in the North, performed for HRH and Apprentice Tradesmen from Harrogate lined part of the route. So all elements of the Training Group were represented. It was a most enjoyable and memorable day for the Corps blessed by a break in what had been extremely bad weather. HRH also met 11 officers and warrant officers and their wives at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 25 July last year.

We are looking forward to HRH's visit to Germany later this year.

Gentlemen, to conclude, I have every confidence in the Corps' future. During the next few years we will see the introduction of a whole range of new command and control communications equipments and systems including CLANSMAN, PTARMIGAN and WAVELL. We are already using computers in the field and are back in the satellite communications business. The morale and standards of our soldiers are still second to none despite all the difficulties of overstretch and dissatisfaction with pay and conditions of service. The Corps has an increasingly important and complex role to perform and you can rest assured that we will continue to acquit ourselves well.

—From our "In" Tray—

COMMEMORATION OF GREAT SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR II

It is intended to establish a memorial to famous Army leaders of World War 2 by dedicating plaques in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral to:

Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke
Field Marshal Earl Alexander
Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck
Field Marshal Sir John Dill
Field Marshal Viscount Gort
Field Marshal Lord Ironside
Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery
Field Marshal Viscount Slim
Field Marshal Earl Wavell
Field Marshal Lord Wilson

The provisional date for the dedication service is 1130 hrs on Friday 23 November 1979. It is hoped that Her Majesty The Queen will attend.

There will be a small allocation of tickets to all regiments and corps. The organising committee are keen to include any surviving officers and other ranks who served the Field Marshals in a personal capacity *during* the War, including drivers, cooks and batmen.

If you qualify, please send a note to **Col J. A. D. Francis,** Regimental Secretary, Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace. London SW3 4RH, giving details of the wartime service that linked you with one of the Field Marshals, and saying whether or not your wife is still living.

The allocation of tickets will be made later. There is no guarantee of tickets at this stage.

Mr W. MILLER RETIRES ROYAL SIGNALS MESS CATTERICK

Mr William (Dusty) Miller, Batman and Steward at the Royal Signals Mess, Catterick, retired on 23 March 1979 after 45 years service which, apart from his six years War Service, he spent entirely in the service of the Mess.

At a small ceremony in the Royal Signals Mess on 8 March 1979 to mark the occasion, **Brig Norman Butler,** Commander Training Group, presented **Dusty** with an engraved silver cigarette case and cheque on behalf of the Officers of the Corps at Catterick. Many hundreds of Royal Signals Officers, both serving and retired, will recall **Dusty** as, for 34 years of his long service, the Mess he served was the Headquarters Mess of the Corps.

He is a local man and he now retires to live in Richmond. All will wish him and his wife, **Marjorie,** a long and happy retirement.

JHQ RHEINDAHLEN AN UNUSUAL REUNION

Many readers who have served at JHQ or in many units in the area have probably attended St Boniface Church, Rheindahlen, or taken part in choral performances there. For the past two years a reunion of past members has been held in the form of a festival choral service in London. This year the venue is to be at a RAF church at the RAF OCTU at Henlow, near Hitchin, on Sunday 24 June.

Details of the reunion can be obtained by simply putting your name and address on a postcard and sending it to:

St Boniface Reunion,
Room 51,
Headquarters,
Central Ordnance Depot,
Bicester,
Oxon.

This reunion is unique in character and is as pleasant as it is unusual. Please try to come, and let your friends know.

ENTRIES INVITED FOR RMP/ CHICHESTER MARCH

You have to be fit to march 40 kilometres (nearly 25 miles) in 4½ hours and any Servicemen or women who enjoy stretching their legs and would like to put their fitness to the test should note the annual Royal Military Police and City of Chichester March will take place on Sunday, 12 August this year. The march is open to civilian and military teams and individuals and follows a route that takes in an area of the South Downs. Entrants have the choice of four routes covering 10, 20, 30 or 40 kilometres and those who complete their chosen circuit receive a diploma or medal.

Last year's marchers included teams of French gendarmes, American, German, and Belgian military police; Royal Navy, RAF and cadet units; and many non-military organisations. An RAOC/EFI team (Naafi) completed the 40 km in 4½ hours. The march was first held in 1977 to mark the centenary of the Royal Military Police. From the start the co-operation of the civic authorities has signified the close links that exist between the town and the RMP depot. At the end of the day a formal full dress parade is to be held through Chichester with the salute being taken by the Mayor and military dignitaries.

A limited amount of barrack room or tented accommodation is available for a small charge. A discotheque is planned and a March Reunion Bar will be manned by Naafi. Entry forms and full details are available on application to: The Secretary, Royal Military Police and Chichester March, Rousillon Barracks, Chichester PO4 BL, West Sussex, England.

HAT TRICK FOR 591 REAR LINK DETACHMENT



Four members of 591 Rear Link Detachment Royal Signals were recently able to wear three different hats, when the outgoing Signal Platoon of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers handed over to the incoming Signal Platoon of the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers. The four members of the detachment (centre of photograph) are from *left to right:* Sgt Bill Nixon, who disdained all but his own headdress, Sig Sid Hill in caubeen and hackle, Sig Wally Drain and Cpl Dennis Mills in TOSs. Ensuring fair play were (from *left to right*): Maj Jim Storr Task Force Foxtrot Signal Troop, Capt Carrick Allison RSO of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, Capt Tony Potter RSO of the Royal Irish Rangers and Yeoman Tony Lomax of Task Force Foxtrot Signal Troop

(PRO 2 R Irish)

A CORRECTION

The January issue included a number of photographs which supported the article covering the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief to the Training Group on 1 November. We apologise that the caption at the top of page 5 (right) was inaccurate and should have read 'Sgt Mohammed Ibrahim from Jordan and Cpl Emmanuel Adesole from Nigeria show Her Royal Highness the Overseas display'.

CORPS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

From: **Lt Col G. Corden,** R. Signals
Dear Sir,

May I, through the courtesy of your columns, tell readers about Corps Tennis for this season?

We have the usual fixture card with matches, on nearly every Wednesday afternoon between 2 May and 25 July, against all the other Arms and Corps.

The Corps Championships will be held at Blandford Camp 5-8 July, when it is hoped the weather will be warmer than last year's event in May. The Secretary will be sending Entry Forms to known tennis players and to units. Anyone, who has not received one and who wishes to play, is asked to contact him—

Maj John K. C. Maclean
Q Ops/Plans
HQ UKLF
Wilton
(Telephone: Salisbury Mil, Extension: 2526)

Yours sincerely
(G. Corden) Lt Col
President, Royal Signals Lawn Tennis

From: **S. Howarth Esq**
Dear Sir,

I would like to hear from anybody who served with me in 7th Command Signals, Merstham, Surrey from January 1942 through to the formation of 2nd Army HQ Signals at Oxford, Tunbridge Wells, Southampton, Normandy, (Arromanches) and onwards to Berlin (May 1945). One of the few army units to go all the way! The resulting demobbing sending us our own varied ways.

Yours faithfully,

Sam Howarth (2377245)

4 Chatsworth Close,
Hollins,
Bury,
Lancs
Telephone: 061-796-0883

From: **R. Weir Esq**
Dear Sir,

With reference to the last paragraph of Eastbourne Branch notes on page 140 of the March 1979 Wire, I believe the name of the Riding Master at Maresfield in 1920 was **Lt Totterdale**.

Yours faithfully,

R. Weir

58 Comiston Road,
Edinburgh EH10 5QQ

From: **Maj (QM) A. S. R. Alfred, MBE, R Signals**
Dear Sir,

I have enclosed a photograph of **Ex-Cpl Danny Brooks** who served with the Corps from May 1924 until August 1942. Since a combination of arthritis and a severe war-time injury left him virtually housebound, **Danny** has busied himself building models out of lollipop sticks. A hobby which is earning him national attention. Two of his most recent creations—a railway signal-box and a superb log-cabin which doubles as a photograph album and a sewing box—are going to London for the national craft finals organised by the War Pensioners Welfare Service. He has already amassed certificates of merit from previous craft finals but as his exhibits have been selected for the national finals he may well achieve higher distinction. Now aged 73, **Danny** was one of the early 'hairys' of the corps who drove a six horse cable wagon. Severely wounded at Dunkirk and in receipt of a full disability pension, he is never depressed and he stimulates all who know him. A life-member of the Royal Signals Association and former president of Scarborough Royal British Legion, **Danny** married his wife, **May,** a Scarborough girl in 1929. They now reside at 23 Maple Drive, Scarborough, and would be delighted to hear from any old friends from the past.

Yours, etc.

Alan Alfred

Scarborough Signal Training Centre
Burniston Barracks
Scarborough
North Yorkshire



STOP PRESS: Since writing my original letter the results of the War Pensioners Welfare Service National Craft Finals have been published and I am delighted to report that Danny's exhibits have been awarded first prize.

From: **N. E. Nicolaides Esq**
Dear Sir,

At the recent meeting of Representatives of Branches of The Royal Signals Association, I was given leave to advertise the possible formation of a Camping/Caravan Club for members of The Association and their friends.

This is to invite those interested in supporting this venture, to write or contact me.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. Nicolaides

63 Rowstock Gardens,
Hungerford Road
London N7 OBH
Telephone: 01-607 5088

TREE·OF·LIFE

Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC

Invites You
To Plant a Commemorative Grove
at El Alamein

Let your memory live for ever in the El Alamein Forest of Peace. Your own or your family's name will be inscribed on a Roll of Honour held at the El Alamein Museum.

♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣

The Tree of Life was set up to reclaim deserts. We have already established a forest of 130,000 trees in Algeria which is incorporated in the vast wall of trees the Government is now planting right across the country. Part of our next project is the Forest of Peace at El Alamein.

Planting will begin after the Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 4th November, 1979. Those who cannot attend the Reunion can participate by contributing a tree or trees to the Forest of Peace.

The Tree of Life will provide trees and arrange planting—though we hope a lot of you will want to do it yourselves. Seedlings of suitable species will be on site for you and the land prepared. The seedlings are only about 8" tall, but this gives the best chance of survival in the desert. They can grow 20 to 30 ft. in a few years!

Please let us have your orders as soon as possible by completing the tear-off section.

Please make your cheques payable to the TREE OF LIFE, c/o COUTTS & CO., DUNCANNON BRANCH, 440 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Registered Charity MB-2751 52-A.

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Wish to plant a TREE/GROUP/GROVE, in memory of _____

Trees @ £5 each	No.	£	
Groups @ £50 each	No.	£	
Groves @ £250 each	No.	£	
*Certificate, £1		£	
Donation to Tree of Life		£	
I/We enclose:	TOTAL	£	

I/We wish to plant after the Service of Remembrance

I/We wish your team to plant on my/our behalf.

*If you would like a numbered "EL ALAMEIN" certificate to commemorate your tree planting, please add £1 to the cost of the trees.

Movements

Officers

COMBINED APRIL/MAY POSTINGS

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj C. Arthur	CPA School of Signals
Maj H. B. Bennett	8 Sig Regt
Capt I. D. Bingham	CPA School of Signals
Capt R. F. Binham	School of Signals
Capt R. J. Brown	HQ Northern Ireland
Maj M. J. Cartwright	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj D. J. Case	16 Sig Regt
Maj B. Chubb	School of Signals
Lt Col C. H. D. Cross	32 Sig Regt (V)
Capt D. W. M. Conran	School of Signals
Maj (Tfc) J. H. Cotton	MOD DSS (Army) Mn Bldg
Capt A. Davies	School of Signals
Maj J. R. Dawson	School of Signals
2Lt M. J. Dent	22 Sig Regt
Maj J. S. Doody	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj R. E. S. Drew	HQ BAOR
Maj D. G. Dudley	30 Sig Regt
Capt N. C. Fairley	HQ NORIRELAND
Lt Col J. V. Fielding	BAAT Nigeria
Capt R. N. B. Freeman	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj G. R. Funnell	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt A. H. Gibb	HQ UKLF
Col R. H. Gilbertson	Misc Appts (Home)
Capt G. H. Goodman	Dutch War College
Maj J. Graham	HQ DAAC
Maj R. P. Gravestock	38 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col C. E. Grundy MBE	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt J. D. Heck	H/S School of Signals
Maj (TOT) D. P. Herring	SHAPE Sp (INTERNATIONAL) (BAE)
Maj B. C. P. Higson	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Capt (TOT) E. Holland	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Capt R. M. J. Hussey	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. B. Ingram	HS BDLS (A) Ottawa
Lt N. C. Jackson	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) R. W. Kay	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col W. C. A. Kennedy	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt F. Laverick	227 Sig Sqn
Capt A. M. Lovatt	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Maj D. J. Lowe	MOD DSS (AD)
Capt P. H. MacCulloch	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj G. Maddren	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. M. D. Marvin	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj N. J. Mayne	7 Sig Regt
Capt C. C. McColville	71 Sig Regt (V)
Capt (TOT) B. A. Meachin	21 Sig Regt
Maj C. D. Melhuish	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
Capt (TOT) J. Morris	8 Sig Regt
Maj W. C. Nicoll	DGGWL (A) (PE) (AE)
Capt D. F. Palmer	School of Signals
Capt R. W. Palmer	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Capt (TOT) J. A. Phillips	229 Sig Sqn
Maj D. Pitkin	732 TACP (FAC)
Capt A. J. Poppleton	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Pritchard	7 Sig Regt
Lt D. G. Proctor	1 DERR
Maj C. J. Rayner	36 Sig Regt (V)
Capt T. E. M. Richardson	22 Sig Regt
Maj B. Robinson	MOD DSS
Capt J. C. B. Simpson	School of Signals
Maj (Tfc) C. A. Smith	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Lt S. J. Smith	11 Sig Regt
Capt C. I. Spencer	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt A. Sugdon	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt R. C. A. Thwaites	HQ 39 Inf Bde
Maj I. Turner	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj C. R. Urquhart	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. J. P. Vann MBE	MOD DSS
Maj D. A. Williams	School of Signals
Lt J. M. Willis	HQ BR Forces Belize

WOs and Senior NCOs

APRIL 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 B. R. Peel	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) L. Tanner	SOLF
AWO2 (YofS) G. W. Bartlife	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) B. G. Carter	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) J. A. Farndon	SOLF
SSgt (FofS) G. W. Canning	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. G. Cross	641 Sig Tp
SSgt R. King	7 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Paterson	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt I. E. Murray	36 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt G. Brook	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt P. W. Haywood	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt D. W. Few	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt F. J. Meek	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Carre	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Coppinger	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. Sharman	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Lavery	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Sullivan	21 Sig Regt
Sgt B. W. Isaac	Hong Kong Gur Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Dyson	Hong Kong Gur Sig Sqn
Sgt R. M. Kiddle	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. Blackman	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. R. McAlister	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Lawrence	22 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Holmes	AA College Harrogate
Sgt A. I. Coward	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Bailey	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt T. M. Moorhead	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt J. J. A. Hindmarsh	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Birkett	SOLF
Sgt P. L. Deam	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt R. N. Welch	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. S. Chilton	11 Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. Lee	8 Sig Regt (Demo Team)
Sgt B. Jolley	8 Sig Regt (Demo Team)
Sgt M. Hogben	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. C. Thorne	21 Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Holden	30 Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Adams	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. Davies	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. O. Southworth	542 RLD

MAY 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 E. J. Banham	28 Sig Regt
WO2 G. C. Blood	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 A. M. Boyle	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
WO2 B. A. Davies	13 Sig Regt
WO2 R. V. Huxtable	11 Sig Regt
WO2 A. E. Keenan	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 D. S. Pimm	HQ Trg Gp R Sigs & Catterick Gar
WO2 (YofS) I. Sleightholm	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. M. Smith	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) M. E. R. Catley	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. Macdonald	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. C. Holt	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) D. L. Walker	40 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. G. Wood	633 Sig Tp
SSgt (Supvr) D. Fowler	13 Sig Regt
SSgt D. R. Dickinson	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt M. T. Gue	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt T. Large	8 Sig Regt
SSgt D. McGimpsey	36 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt C. W. Peach	4 Sig Gp
SSgt R. Bradley	School of Inf (Warminster)
SSgt (FofS) A. V. Lamb	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) P. F. Johnson	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) C. P. Higson	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) F. W. Gardner	Batt Sudan
SSgt W. S. Stewart	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt J. A. Brown	Int Centre
Sgt S. J. Hawey	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. C. Rogers	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Wild	HQ AFCENT
Sgt R. K. Edge	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt J. R. Paterson	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. T. Edwards	642 Sig Tp
Sgt L. S. Lawton	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Taylor	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Rowland	9 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Evans	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. Robson	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Hanlon	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Bradbury	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. S. Baron	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Smith	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. A. Girardot	8 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Jolly	ACIO Swansea
Sgt I. M. Henderson	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Davies	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Ferguson	562 RLD
Sgt D. Jennings	School of Signals
Sgt A. Jeannette	574 RLD
Sgt D. Thomson	604 Sig Tp
Sgt A. Armstrong	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Degel	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Dagless	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. A. Vivian	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Bailes	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. Bradley	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt H. S. Baxter	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Cunnion	22 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Cloake	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. S. Matthew	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. Everett	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. D. Crabb	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. L. Gibson	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Connolly	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. M. Witts	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt V. Thomas	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. J. Kelly	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Downie	13 Sig Regt
Sgt B. K. Billsberry	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. P. Jackson	22 Sig Regt

Welfare

FEBRUARY 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	23
Amount spent:	£2,254.05
Number of clothing parcels:	66

WAR MEMORIAL FUND:
NIL

MARCH 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	31
Amount spent:	£1514.47
Number of Clothing parcels sent:	56

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	5
Amount spent:	£290.52

ONE OF OUR CASES

Lance Corporal, 1959-61. Married with one son aged 10. This ex soldier has been seriously ill for four years and is on a kidney machine after an unsuccessful transplant operation. His house was badly in need of outside decorating, and the Association made him a grant of £260 for this purpose. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

On behalf of my wife and myself, I would like to send my sincere thanks for your very generous gift. We look forward to the summer in the knowledge that the house will once more be bright and gay. I must admit we have found these last few years a struggle to maintain the upkeep of the house, but your grant has taken the greatest burden from our shoulders, and we send our deepest thanks to the Royal Signals Association.

During the months of February and March, gifts of clothing, toys, books etc., have been gratefully received from the following:-

Mrs C. D. Barker, Mrs I. J. Gray, Maj I. E. Kerr, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, The Thrift Shop, 10 Signal Regiment, Mr & Mrs J. L. Smith, Col G. M. Welsford, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Mrs J. M. Crowder, L Col C. J. Bayfield, Krefeld Thrift Shop, Mr P. Richard, Mrs Mather, WO1 C. J. Field, Maj N. A. V. Ribchester, Maj F. R. Pedler, Maj D. P. Watson, Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, Maj Gen E. S. Cole Lt Col & Mrs L. V. McNaught-Davis.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1979:—

In memory of Brig R. H. O. Coryton CBE	£62.00
Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry Lodge	£31.50
In memory of Col R. M. Adams	£18.95
Maj F. L. Hill	£10.00
J. H. Robinson Esq	£ 5.00
Sgt D. J. Morris	£ 4.80
Lt Col W. H. Lamb TD	£ 3.95
J. N. Houston Esq	£ 1.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ 4.16
	£141.36

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1979:—

224 Sig Sqn	£201.56
The late R. F. Sharp Esq	£200.00
Shrewsbury Branch Royal Signals Assn	£100.00
Lt Col E. R. Nanney—Wynn DL	£ 12.00
Reading Branch, Royal Signals Assn	£ 10.00
56 Division Branch, Royal Signals Assn	£ 10.00
In memory of Col R. M. Adams	£ 5.00
Maj W. Richardson	£ 1.50
S. A. Brice Esq	£ 1.00
E. P. Piers Esq	£ 1.00
A. M. Stonebanks Esq	£ 1.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ 6.53
	£549.59

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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.

MARRIAGE

Powell—Stiller. The marriage of **Sgt Derrick L. Powell** to **LCpl Janice C. Stiller,** both of 71 Sig Regt (V) and Brighton Branch of the Royal Signals Association, took place at Brighton Register Office on 21 April 1979

DEATHS

Akehurst—Brig C. H. I. Akehurst CBE enlisted in Canada in the 172nd Battalion The Rocky Mountain Rangers in 1916 and served on the Western Front during the First World War when he was wounded in 1917. He was commissioned in 1918 and joined the Sikh Pioneers, with whom he saw active service during the 3rd Afghan War in 1919. He transferred to the Indian Signal Service in 1921 and saw further active service on the North West Frontier in 1921-24. He transferred to the Corps in 1929 and spent the rest of his service in India. During the last war he commanded the Western Force Signals, was CSO Southern Army and DD Signals at GHQ Delhi where he was appointed OBE. At the time of partition in 1947 he was SO in C and Director of Signals at Army HQ India until he retired in 1954. He was the last British Officer to hold this appointment and was promoted CBE in 1952. He died at East Bergholt on 16 March, at the age of 78.

Barron—Lt Col Arthur (Tim) William Barron MC, although born in 1912 declared his date of birth as being 1911 when he enlisted in the Corps in 1929. He trained as Operator Signals and reached the rank of CQMS (F of S) in ten years. He was commissioned in 1940 and before the War served in Egypt and Palestine. During the War he was an SO2 at the British Army Staff Washington and later served in North West Europe with a Beach Signal section when he was awarded the M.C. After the War he was Second-in-Command of 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and commanded Northern Command Signal Regiment from 1954-56 and the Depot Regiment from 1956-59. In 1950 he took part in the British Schools Expedition to Norway. He died on 13th March whilst visiting South Africa.

Carpenter—Lt Col Arthur John Carpenter enlisted in the RE Signal Service in 1919. He was posted to Egypt in the beginning of 1920 and transferred to the Corps on its Formation in June of that year. Between the wars he served at Catterick, Aldershot and Singapore. He was commissioned at the outbreak of War in 1939, as a Quartermaster and served in the Middle East and Syria with 30 Corps then with 8th Army in Sicily and Italy and finally with 21 Army Group for the invasion of Normandy when he was Mentioned in Despatches. He retired in 1955 and took up employment as an RO at the War Office. He was a fine all round sportsman excelling in Athletics, Football, Hockey, Boxing, Swimming, Water Polo and Cricket at which he was a regular member of the Corps Team. He died on 22 April at the age of 78.

Paterson—Col Donald Ross Paterson, OBE, was commissioned in 1924 being the first officer to be granted a direct commission from a University into the Corps. He served in India from 1925-1931 then with 1st Divisional Signals for two years before going to Malta where he was largely responsible for establishing the network of communications which proved so useful during the war. After qualifying at the Staff College in 1938 he joined 2nd Divisional Signals and shortly after the outbreak of the War he took up a staff appointment at the War Office where he remained for the next three years. In 1944 he went to the Middle East as CSO Air Formation in the Balkans when he was appointed OBE, then Commanded 13 Corps Signals. From 1950-1952 he was President of a WOSB and his last appointment before retiring in 1954 was as AAG at AG 11. He died on the 25 April a few days before his 77th birthday.

Robertshaw—Capt (TOT) Thomas Rycroft Robertshaw enlisted in the Corps in 1945 and was commissioned in 1960. He served in various parts of the world during his 23 years service, including the School of Signals from 1960-62, 18 Signal Regiment from 1962-65 and 16 Signal Regiment from 1965-68. He died on 7 March just over two weeks after his wife, Anne.

Sykes—Sir Richard Adam Sykes, KCMG, MC, who was assassinated in the Hague on the 22 March whilst British Ambassador to the Netherlands served in the Corps during the last war when he was awarded the MC at the battle of Arnhem. He was the eldest son of Brigadier A. C. Sykes CBE, DSO, who retired from the Corps in 1946, and the brother of Brigadier Tony Sykes who retired from the Corps last year. It was only in October last year that Sir Richard visited 227 Signal Squadron when he presented the BEM to WO2 (RQMS) John Hepworth.

Tyrell—Col William Upton Tyrell was commissioned from the RMC Sandhurst in 1916 in the Royal Ulster Rifles. He served on the Western Front from 1916 to 1918 and was badly wounded at the Battle of the Somme. He was seconded to the RAF from 1918 to 1919 which included three months operational flying. He was seconded to the Corps in 1921 and transferred in 1924. Between the wars he served with the British Army of Occupation in Germany, Egypt and India. During the war, he commanded the training battalions and was Commandant of 5 STC from 1942-1943. After the war he commanded a prisoner of war camp until he retired in 1948. He joined the TA in 1955 as a captain and held the appointment of Adjutant and Quartermaster of a Home Guard Battalion at Market Rasen until 1956. He died at his home on 4 April at the age of 83.

AN APOLOGY

We would like to apologise for the incorrect notification of the death of **Capt (TOT) James Campbell Ireland** on page 83 of the March 1979 Issue. We are happy to record that **Capt Ireland** is alive and well and is now a Methodist Minister at Croston, Lancs. He hopes to meet many old friends at the Association Reunion at Catterick in June.

SITUATION VACANT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TAVR

1. A vacancy exists for a Permanent Staff Administrative Officer on consolidated rates of pay with 59 Signal Squadron, 33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers), The Grange, Edge Lane, Liverpool.
2. Applicants should preferably have served as officers in the Regular Army or TAVR. The upper age limit is 56. The basic salary on appointment is £3,949 per annum rising to £4,519 after six years service, currently under review. The post carried the rank of Captain (TAVR).
3. Applications including brief details of experience and service, date of birth together with names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
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Liverpool Road
Huyton
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FOR SALE

Mess Kit with embellishments to fit 5 ft 9 in tall; 42 in chest, 39 in waist and 31½ in inside leg. Complete with Wellington Boots size 9 and spurs. Any reasonable offer. Please contact: **Major** (Retd) **G. H. Cowsill,** 10 Berkeley Close, Pimperne, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8UF. Tel: Blandford (0258) 53588.

No 2 Dress chest 38in, waist 32in, inside leg 29in—with two pairs of trousers. Mess Kit—same measurements as above with dress shirt, bow tie, boots and spurs. Numerous shirts (collar 15½in), ties, hats, stable belt, beret, brown shoes etc. All in excellent condition and very reasonably priced. Contact Lt G. W. Wilton, Tel: Nesscliffe 434.

Mess Kit, 2 years old, worn four times, to fit 38" chest, 5' 10" tall, Sgt's Chevrons. As new £45. Dave Freeman, 128 Harrogate Drive, Birstall, Leicester, Telephone 675449.

Retired Reservist Officer's SD, size 40/41 long. Excellent condition. Also superb lined Crombie British Warm. Telephone Basingstoke 21163.

WANTED—TO BUY

Officers Uniforms, SNCOs Mess Kit. Contact Adjutant, 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V), Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough. Please telephone with details of size and price etc. Tel: Middlesbrough 243785

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. It exists to help Servicemen to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. It also takes a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish. The Association has 42 Branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with employers. It provides all services free.

In 1978 the Association placed some 5,500 men and women from the Services in employment; of these jobs 2,400 were for men and women from the Army and 278 were from the Corps. Addresses and telephone numbers of Branches can be obtained from Corps and Regimental Associations—or from Post Offices, Employment Offices or local telephone directories.

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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 your 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.

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Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs

EXERCISE 'PONY EXPRESS'

Report by Maj P. J. R. Brown Royal Signals

THE PLAN

It was not difficult to plan Exercise *Pony Express*. I was lucky enough to have served a tour of duty as British Exchange Officer at Fort Lewis, Washington, USA, and as a result had first-hand knowledge of the area and people concerned. My duties with G3 Training included staff responsibility for the 9th (US) Infantry Division adventure training programme and the Mountain Training Centre. In short, I knew the system.

9th Infantry Division is located close to Tacoma, approximately 60 miles South of Seattle in Washington State. Fort Lewis embraces some 87,000 acres and includes its own training areas and artillery impact area. It is an awesome sight, and is dominated by Mount Rainier (14,450ft) and the Cascade Mountains.

The idea of bringing a party of Junior Signalmen to Fort Lewis for winter mountain training was conceived a year before I had even taken command of the Junior Signalman Wing, and whilst I was still in the United States. The plan was a simple one: To fly a party of 12 to the USA by means of the weekly scheduled RAF VC10 into Washington DC on the East Coast; to rent two estate cars and drive the 3,000 miles across America; conduct two weeks vigorous winter mountain training and return the same way. The plan worked.

THE OUTWARD JOURNEY

Our party of four cadre personnel and eight junior signalmen assembled at RAF Brize Norton on the evening of 1 February 1979. The next day saw us aboard the VC10 and airborne. We were on our way. After a six-hour uneventful flight we touched down at Dulles International Airport where a party of somewhat apprehensive Juniors were given their first impressions of the United States of America. (**JSig Steve Barr** has special recollections of his arrival and we hope he is enjoying his $25.00 book!)

We were met by **Maj Gareth Mann Royal Signals** who is currently serving a tour with the British Army Staff at the British Embassy. He quickly organised the arrival formalities, presented us with some necessary documents and guided us to the Rent-a-Car agent who was to provide us with our transport. Accommodation had been arranged for us in Fort Bellvoir on the outskirts of Washington DC. We shook hands and bade farewell before humping all our gear out to the vehicles. I was quite prepared for the sheer size of the two rented estate cars. The others were not, and were somewhat taken aback when they first saw the two enormous vehicles squatting toad-like in the parking lot. We immediately christened them Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee. The cavernous boot areas easily swallowed our luggage, and having loaded, we headed for Fort Bellvoir where some of us combatted jet-lag with a good night's sleep. Others were less fortunate!

THE FIRST LEG

Many people reading this article will have heard that hackneyed expression that America is a 'big country'. It is only when one attempts to drive across the States that one realises just how big it is. I had decided that we would break the back of the journey in the first 24 hours, even if it meant driving continuously. We began at 0430 hrs on 3 February 1979 heading North, then West on Interstate 80, passing quickly through Virginia, Maryland and into Pennsylvania. A stop for breakfast and on through Ohio and Indiana. We were eating up the miles but as yet had not even dented the journey. In an effort to conserve petrol and reduce accidents a 55 mph speed limit is imposed Nationwide. It is almost impossible to remain within this limit.

I was a little apprehensive about weather conditions, particularly on this leg of the journey. Chicago was reporting record snow falls with 90 inches already on the ground. However we were lucky, and despite our one and only navigational error, were soon through Illinois and Iowa. After 24 hours we reached Omaha in Nebraska. We were in Cowboy Country at last.

Nebraska goes on forever. So does Wyoming. In fact one is unaware that Wyoming is 'Big *and* Beautiful' as depicted by the Welcome Signs on the Stateline. It is necessary to go further North to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks before its full beauty is realised. Nevertheless the town names were romantic enough—Cheyenne, Laramie and Medicine Bow. None resembled the projected images we have become so used to on TV. We clipped the top of Utah before entering Idaho, Oregon and finally into Washington. We were in Fort Lewis 52 hours after leaving Washington DC. They are still talking about it.

MEMORIES

I walked into my old office and briefly relived the past. **Maj Jim Hendrix** was our project officer and quickly organised our reception. We were to be accommodated and sponsored by 2nd Battalion 39th Infantry and we are indebted to **Lt Torturella** and **1SG Lee** from Combat Support Company who laid on rooms, showers and meals. We all needed sleep.

The following day we drew equipment and left Fort Lewis for the Mountain Training Centre at Huckleberry Creek. At last we could begin what we had set out to do.

HUCKLEBERRY CREEK

9th Infantry Division is unique in that it possesses its own Mountain Training Centre. Located in the Snoqualmie National Forest, it provides an ideal setting for mountain training. The Division runs courses throughout the year ranging from Mountain Leadership to Cross-Country Skiing, and the centre is always in demand. It consists of 20 Jamesway Arctic Shelters, a permanent Mess Hall and Command Post building and a shower. The accommodation is spartan to say the least, but nevertheless suited our purposes ideally.

We spent our first morning drawing more equipment, fitting and preparing skis and packing and loading rucksacks. By midday I considered we were sufficiently recovered to conduct some light familiarisation training in order to get used to the equipment that had been made available to us. We therefore spent a useful afternoon skiing in local areas. All members of the party had done some form of downhill skiing although only **Lt Marvin** and myself had any ski-mountaineering experience. It was apparent from the outset, that despite pre-training in the Alps, the standard of expertise was below that required to tackle some of the routes I had in mind. A lot of practice was necessary in order to master the technique of skiing wearing a mountain boot instead of a high-backed, stiff downhill ski boot with all the ankle support it provides. Adjusting to a loose heel binding also caused problems, as did skiing with a heavy rucksack.

INTENSIVE

We planned an intensive three-day programme of continuous ski training and slowly the standard improved. Our problem now was that weather conditions had deteriorated steadily since our arrival, with warmer temperatures and exceptionally heavy snowfall. The official avalanche hazard which is announced daily on local radio stations was 'extreme'. I checked with the White River Ranger Station at Enumclaw and my worst fears were confirmed. No back-country permits were being issued and off-trail travel was not encouraged in the National Forest or National Parks. A major re-think was necessary with a modified expedition plan.

My intention had been to ski up to Chinook pass by way of Highway 410 (which is closed in Winter) move on to Cayeuse Pass and return to Crystal Mountain via Bear Gap. This would have provided an outstanding tour of about 15 miles with an elevation gain of some 6,000ft. Because of the avalanche danger, I adjusted this plan and instead we conducted two full-day ski tours.

SUN TOP

Sun Top (5,600ft) is the highest peak in the Huckleberry Creek training area. A Forest Service road leads to the look-out tower on the summit. During summer it is possible to drive. In winter, the only way up is on skis or snow shoes. For this tour we used mohair climbing skins attached to the soles of the skis for the uphill travel. This allows the ski to slide forward but prevents it sliding backwards. Uphill progress is therefore possible. The main problem is, that no matter how tight the skin is fitted, snow still manages to find its way between it and the ski sole with the result that the skis become heavier as the snow builds up. By the time we reached our objective our feet felt as if they weighed a ton! We met and chatted with a platoon of the 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry who had bivouaced lower down. We progressed on in driving snow, low cloud and mist and we were all soon soaked either from the sweat of our exertions or snow melting on our clothing. It was with heartfelt relief that we removed skins and began the long downhill run home. This, if you are proficient, is the fun part. If your technique is poor, as **JSig Steve Barr** and **Scouse Fletcher** found to their cost, an awful lot of time is spent sitting in the snow. Hauling oneself up wearing a rucksack is no fun, particularly when the process is repeated every minute or less.

CORRAL PASS

Corral Pass is reached by way of Forest Service road Nr 187 starting at the Silver Springs Lodge on Highway 410. We took turns at breaking trail and made very fast uphill progress. The weather was slightly better than the previous day but visibility was not good enough to permit the beautiful panoramic views which are normally available once the tree line is reached. I was hoping that conditions would permit an ascent of Castle Mountain (6,400ft) but it was obvious from its base that the snow was extremely unstable. We contented ourselves therefore with our continuing route around the base of the mountain until we arrived at Corral Pass. We made camp and prepared food which we had purchased prior to departure. We had obtained Lightweight Freeze Dried rations which are prepared by adding hot water. They are filling, nutritious, and taste awful.



Lt Tony Marvin samples his own cooking. In camp at Corral Pass

The run down to the highway for those that had mastered the art, proved exhilarating and exciting. Those with sufficient courage dropped into a 'tuck' and 'schussed' the six miles down to the highway, stopping only when thigh muscles screamed out for relief. Those who were less adept and who still hadn't learned from previous training suffered horribly. **JSig Steve Fletcher** insisting vehemently that he *was* leaning forward and that his knees *were* bent, 'wiped out' every 30-50 yards. It took me a long time to coax him down, heartbreaking when the others could be heard whooping and hollering as they sped down ahead of us.

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN

Crystal Mountain is probably the best developed ski area in the Pacific Northwest. During my tour with 9th Infantry Division I acted as the liaison officer between the Army and the Crystal Mountain Management and as a result knew the staff well. Besides offering some of the most demanding prepared runs, the area also provides some exciting ski touring and mountaineering, once the patrolled areas are left behind.



JCpl James pauses for a breather on the way to Bear Gap

The avalanche danger was still 'extreme' and it continued to snow heavily throughout our second week of training. Nevertheless we were able, by careful route selection along tree-lined ridges, to conduct tours up to Bear Gap and the Hen Skin Lake areas. As always, the patrol moved upwards well enough. Our problems were always coming down. It is utterly frustrating to guide less experienced sliers down through the trees, when one is so tempted to point one's own skis downhill and take off . . .

The problem was partly in faulty technique which some of the juniors obstinately refused to correct, and partly the equipment, which was old and if used incorrectly, dangerous. But the inability to come downhill, having spent so many laborious hours going up, was spoiling the treks. Instead of looking forward to running home, most dreaded the thought. In the end I relented and decided that it would be possible to use the touring equipment for going up, with the patrol members carrying downhill equipment strapped to rucksack frames for coming down. All agreed that the added weight would be worth the extra effort. Normally when ski mountaineering, a combination binding is used which allows the heel to lift when touring, but which can be locked for the downhill sections. The best of these bindings also releases the foot during a fall in a similar fashion to a downhill binding. Boot stiffness is provided by strapping a plastic 'spoiler' over the mountain boot similar to the outside of a downhill ski boot. We had no such equipment and so had to improvise. The standard improved immediately. We spent the entire week 12-16 February skiing little used routes, down narrow trails and open, steep faces. We found powder bowls that recreational skiers dream of which cannot be reached unless one is prepared to hike off into the woods to find them. By now the patrol was adept at skiing with a rucksack and the falls were far less frequent. We occasionally got into trouble, suddenly becoming totally airborne having skied over an innocuous little bump only to discover it to be a huge snow covered log with an eight foot drop on the far side . . .

We covered miles on skis during that week and I was optimistic that in our few remaining days conditions would improve sufficiently for a major classic tour. I would have liked to have taken the party up to Camp Muir, 10,000ft up Mount Rainier, or skied from Paradise to Huckleberry Creek. This is a very ambitious tour of some 30 odd miles passing through Naradah Falls, over Mazama Ridge and down through Stevens Canyon. At Ohanapacosh one heads north over the Pacific Crest trail to Cayeuse Pass then up over Bear Gap and down into Crystal Mountain. However the Ranger Station vetoed our request. It was just as well because a massive avalanche cut the Crystal Mountain road blocking it for several hours. Conditions were obviously unsuitable.



Our detachment meets up with a patrol from 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry

FORT LEWIS

By the weekend the party was understandably very tired. Leg muscles and knees had taken the brunt of the punishment. I arranged for accommodation to be available, and the party came down out of the mountains for a well earned spell of R&R. We needed it.

Most went off to Seattle or Tacoma and took in the sights and shops, which gave me the opportunity to visit many of my old friends still serving in Fort Lewis. For my part, no rest was programmed!

Early on Monday 19 February we were back at Huckleberry Creek, looking, I suspected, somewhat the worse for wear.

LAST DAYS ON THE MOUNTAIN

During the weekend I had planned the return journey from Fort Lewis back to the East Coast. I decided that we would allow double the time we had taken on the outward journey so that we did not arrive in DC quite so bleary-eyed! This meant leaving by Thursday 22 February, so allowing for time to repair, clean and hand in equipment so kindly loaned to us, we only had two full training days left. We took full advantage of them and continued a rigorous programme, until it was finally time to leave.

The detachment had learned a tremendous amount of technique, and had become skilled at moving and living in the high country. I was particularly impressed by the cheerfulness and determination shown during training. **JSigs Andy Hill** and **Jock McMillan** show great promise, followed closely by **JSig Roberts** and **JCpl Neil James. JSigs-Steve Barr** and **Taff Hughes** are perhaps the strongest but lack the finesse. **JSig Scouse Fletcher** is developing well and shows promise. It was unfortunate that **JSig Tich McDowell** was injured during the early stages and was not fit enough until the second week.

APPRECIATION

I could never have organised this exercise without help. We are indebted to the staff of Headquarters 9th Infantry Division, **Lt Col Bobby Jolley** (G3) **Maj Jimmy Ballentine** and **Jim Hendrix** (G3 Trg) and of course the current British Exchange Officer, **Maj Rollo Rumford Royal Signals,** who set the exercise up initially. Our special thanks also go to **Lt Col Jim Byrnes,** CO 2-39 Inf Bn who did so much to ensure we were well looked after, and **Lt Tortorella** and **1SG Lee** of Combat Support Company. We are indebted to the Crystal Mountain Management and the OIC Mountain Centre, **Lt Cook** who bore us with tremendous patience. Finally we must thank the British Army Staff, British Embassy, in particular **Maj Gareth Mann** Royal Signals who unquestionably altered air schedules and arranged accommodation on our behalf. It was reassuring to know that we had Embassy support and that it was only a "collect call" away.

COMING HOME

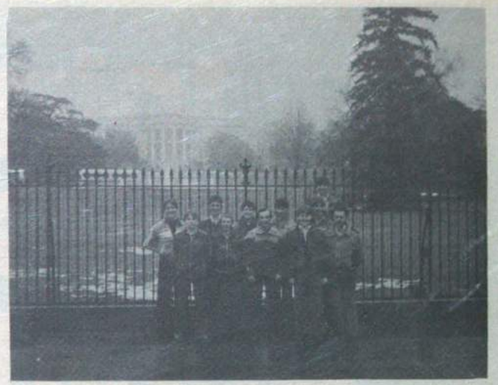
The weather reports for the Central United States were not promising, particularly around Chicago. I decided we would therefore drive further South and head East across Interstate 70. This added about 400 miles to the journey, but hopefully we would make up the time by having better conditions. In the event the exact opposite happened. Chicago thawed out and the storm moved South.

We passed through Washington and Oregon easily enough although some of the mountain passes with their snow covered roads required a delicate touch. Our troubles began in Nevada when we encountered blizzard conditions. Speed was reduced to 20 mph. It was going to take forever to get home. Utah saw little improvement although we found we could outrun the storm. But every time we stopped for petrol and coffee it caught us up again. Eventually we were forced to stop just outside Salt Lake City and slept a few hours in the cars until the worst of it had passed.

We motored on through Colorado and Kansas, into Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, finally through Pennsylvania, Maryland and into Virginia. Without doubt the journey back was worse than going out. It seemed endless. As the town names rolled by one could not help wondering where that fellow was going when he lamented "By the time I get to Phoenix . . .". Apparently he progressed through Albuquerque and Oklahoma City. But one never learns where he started or finished. At the end of our journey I reckoned I knew. He was going from Fort Lewis to Virginia. If that was the case, he had to have a hell of a good reason for going there.

WASHINGTON DC

We spent an interesting morning in the Nation's capital and saw The White House, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Sadly it was soon time to leave and we finally took off from Dulles International at 1900 hrs, 26 February 1979. It had been a worthwhile rewarding exercise which achieved all its aims. For eight impressionable Junior Signalmen it had been an unforgettable experience. It was difficult to imagine how those rangy rawboned men first pioneered the original Pony Express route. It was difficult enough in the comfort of a modern motor-car. Lord knows what it must have been like on the back of a running mustang trying to avoid the wrath of the Cheyenne.



The Detachment, less Maj Brown outside the White House in the Nation's Capital, Washington DC



JSig Hughes, JSig Hill in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC

THE FORTUNATE ONES

The following took part in Exercise Pony Express:

Maj P. J. R. Brown R Signals	OIC
Lt A. M. D. Marvin R Signals	2IC
SSgt D. I. Hyslop APTC	PTI
Sgt N. Brown R Signals	Admin NCO
JCpl N. C. James	
JSig S. Barr	
JSig B. Hughes	
JSig G. Fletcher	
JSig M. D. McDowall	
JSig H. McMillan	
JSig B. H. Robertson	
JSig A. D. Hill	

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THOUGHTS FROM HOME

Report by 'Scoff'

Following the recent expose of eating conditions and facilities at British motorway service stations by Egon Ronay, 'Scoff' has taken advantage of Exercise *Fighting Eagle* to carry out a survey of 1(BR) Corps eating places. The results are printed for the guide of those who intend to take a holiday 'zum Feld'!

7 SIG REGT

Simple plain fare served on provided plates for the elite. The accommodation is rather draughty and cold, in wooded locations, in an attempt to provide realism. Conference facilities are available and the arrangements for large parties are good if pretentious. Tasteful touches by the proprietor **WO2 Boulby** ensure a convivial air. Many celebrities may be seen using this mess. A good wine list is available.

1 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT

By far the most decadent of the facilities visited, the camp messes produce excellent food in comfortable surroundings. Separate facilities for social levels ensure a distinguished and satisfied clientele. Sensible use of herbs and spices by the Chef combined with first class ingredients give a very high and reliable standard. The wine list is long; of special note is the Taylors 1971 Reserve Port which is tastefully served from decanters. **Sgt Littlehills** has a well trained and skilful staff that provide attentive service.

2 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT

A somewhat alfresco little number providing few social graces but happy and convivial surroundings. There is good plain fare that is uniform for all comers. There is no wine list and seating is limited. The genial maitre d'hotel, **WO2 Frowen,** will amuse and charm you with his gay repartee.

3 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT

A newly opened restaurant that is trying hard where others have failed. Cooking facilities are shared which ensures a plentiful supply of well cooked and attractively served dishes. A limited wine list is available on request. The atmosphere is convivial and relaxed and is a credit to the proprietors.

COMMCEN X RAY

The Bistro like surroundings are rather draughty as a result of extreme siting. However sitting facilities are provided and are clean and pleasant. The roast beef is of particular note although the Yorkshire pudding has armour piercing properties.

7 FD FORCE HQ & SIG SQN

This was the only establishment visited that served 100% compo and a fair comparison with other facilities could not be made. Facilities are strictly limited with central cooking and eating. No cover or seating are provided. Definite progressive undercurrents contrast with the general post imperial decadence of other facilities visited. The clientele is wide and varied although celebrities are never seen eating here. There is no wine list.

In general the standard was found to be high and a credit to the responsible for the preparation and production. The lack of uniformity in thought and activity, characteristic of the British Army, is nowhere more clear than in the field messing arrangements visited. From those of us who retire to our snow filled trenches with reheated compo there is nothing but envy:

Oh to be in Germany,
Now that Exercise is there,
For whoever eats on Exercise,
Sees some morning unaware,
That the lowest Sig to the mighty Chief,
Round the Cook House tent,
Get Comfortable relief,
Whilst we the underprivileged, on Compo eat
In Germany Now.

(With apologies to Robert Browning.)

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REPORT FROM ULSTER
ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF BAND

A FIRST VISIT

During March, the Province of Northern Ireland was visited by the Corps Band, under the Director of Music **Lt Col Keith Boulding.** This was the first visit by the band and a large part of the population hope it will not be the last. The tour started early in the morning of Monday 5 March when fifty apprehensive bandsmen got off the ferry at Belfast docks, to be whisked away to their accommodation for a security briefing before the action started. For the record there is no truth in the rumour that there is to be a new trade of 'Combat Bandsman' in the Corps.

A FULL PROGRAMME

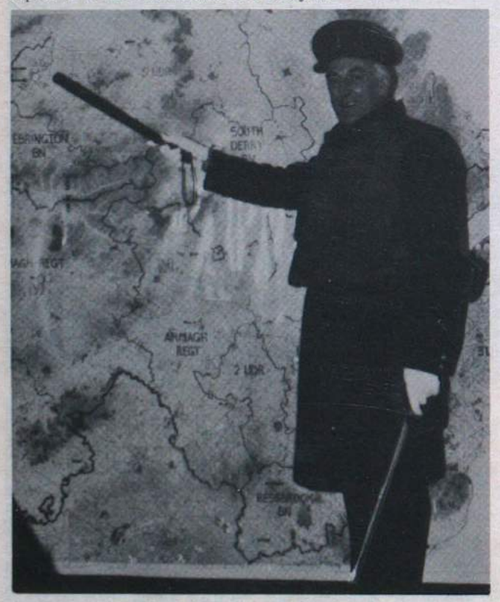
The programme was complex and involved many early mornings and late nights. In outline, the band spent a day with each of the three Brigade Signal Squadrons—3, 8 and 39, followed by a day with 233 Signal Squadron and a number of miscellaneous visits including 40 Signal Regiment (V). The type of entertainment ranged from formal concerts in Londonderry, to marching and playing in the Town Centres of Belfast, Lisburn and Portadown, much to the delight of the local population. During this busy week the band were to play at eleven concerts, five dinner nights, one cocktail party in addition to giving the three demonstrations of marching and playing.

SCHOOL FEATURE

A feature of the visit was the 'school concert'—with a difference! Seven such concerts were given, the main theme in each case being audience participation. A headmaster was heard to remark at the time that the Band had taught his pupils more about music in an hour, than he could hope to teach them in a year!

A PRESENTATION

In conclusion, there are a lot of Royal Signals personnel in Northern Ireland and the visit by the Corps Band was a high spot in our year. Shortly before leaving the Commander Royal Signals, **Lt Col Mike Marples** presented the Band with a print portraying Royal Signals soldiers performing a number of tasks in the anti-terrorist role—we hope it will remind them to come back next year.



'Combat Bandsman R Signals'



Bandsman? showing us 'What the Piccolo can do'—the five musicians performed the Band Concert



'Zorba's Dance'—from the concert at Walker Hall



Lt Col Mike Marples (Commander Royal Signals Northern Ireland) presenting a print to Lt Col Keith Boulding (Director of Music). The print depicts Royal Signals soldiers serving in Northern Ireland in various operational roles



The Director of Music Conducting



A rare view of the Director of Music bursting into song at Ebrington Primary School

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A view of the Band in full flight at Ebrington Primary School

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

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FARES

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

THE MANAGEMENT

OC ..... **Maj J. J. Ventham**
2IC ..... **Capt P. J. Hryhoruk**
Admin Officer ..... **Capt (QM) D. Bentley Life Guards**
QM ..... **Capt (QM) J. M. Haydon**
OC A Troop ..... **Lt A. Duncan**
OC B Troop ..... **Lt R. Baxter**
OC D/E Platoon ..... **Lt J. F. Wright Royal Pioneer Corps**
RSM ..... **W01 (RSM) R. M. D. Collins**
RQMS ..... **W02 (RQMS) P. J. Rossall**
FofS ..... **W02 (FofS) R. West**
YofS ..... **W02 (YofS) W. S. Balding**
ORSQMS ..... **SSgt (ORSQMS) R. C. Charlesworth**

This months impressions on life in the brigade come as seen through the eyes of the Squadron's Defence and Employment (D/E) Platoon. The largest sub-unit within the Squadron, in effect 55 stalwarts of the Royal Pioneer Corps. Our contribution to the 'War-Effort' here in the Province includes the physical security of soft targets around the Headquarters, control of the camp's permanent VCP and regular 'Rural Romps' just to stop us getting bored. In contrast to our contemporaries in the other departments the D/E Platoon remain in uniform, (steel-vest and pop-gun) for duties, so much so in fact that we can regularly be seen earnestly pressing blankets in our DPM pyjamas at very peculiar hours.

Meantime life in the rest of the Squadron leaves never a dull moment, we have said farewell to QM, **Capt David Collyer, Lt Bob Turnbull** and **W02 (FofS) John Francis**. Stepping into those respective breeches we welcome **Capt John Haydon, Capt Peter Hryhoruk, Lt Robert Baxter** and **W02 (FofS) Ray West**, who have already become part of the family.

By way of introduction to A/TM Tp notes, quote of the month comes from that department and expresses the thoughts of us all at times.

'DO YOU WANT IT WELL DONE, OR DO YOU WANT IT NOW?'

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

A/TM TROOP

Yet another busy period for the troop. Our main task, in addition to the normal maintenance duties has been the completion of the commercial re-equipment programme for the South Armagh Battalion.

The rent-a-rigger detachment has been in operation yet again. **LCpls Geordie Marrs** and **Ken McSherry** and **Sig Stevie Farr** have been kindly assisting 39 Bde Sig Sqn, their main task being the erection of Blandford Dipoles on Divis Mountain—quite an experience.

Back on our own patch, the severe weather conditions have played havoc with crew shift changes and maintenance duties, in particular at our communications site at Slieve Croob. Attempts to reach 'Ice Station Zebra' became imperative recently when a major fault occurred. **Sgt Hugh Lovejoy** and **Cpl Jamie Jamieson** (complete with Schlumberger test gear on sledge) and the shift crew of **LCpl Geordie Marrs** and **Sig John Pickersgill** set off to scale the 1580ft site. Unfortunately, with visibility down to a few feet due to the blizzard conditions their attempts to reach the site were thwarted until the next day when they were able to complete their task.

The antics of our antenna riggers also caught the attention of the Bessbrook Battalion. Tasked with rigging a 150ft brick mill chimney, **Cpl Don Chester** was seen abseiling down the chimney and at the same time cleating coax cable to the brick wall much to the amazement of the resident Royal Marine Commandos.

The tanker drivers strike in January saw **Cpl Colin Savage** and **Sig Lloyd Brown** assisting with the installation of 70 commercial radios into the tanker escort vehicles. As part of a small team they completed the task in four days. (The vehicles were de-kitted in four hours by kind courtesy of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).

Finally amidst the work (and play) we bid farewell to **SSgt Steve Harrison, LCpl Tom O'Brien** and **Sigs Steve Norfield, Jock Waldron, Jock Gregory** and **Steve Mepham**. And welcome **Cpls Gray** and **Hamilton, LCpl Durgan** and **Sigs Strike, Howlett, Gudgin** and **Armstrong.**



Cpl Harlow — Rigging training 'Now clap your hands'

BRAVO TROOP

After a chaotic Xmas period, B Troop is once again settling down to another year of hard work. The MT has already worked through arctic weather conditions, strikes and the MTO, **W02 Tony Cross** away in hospital (again) and are all optimistic that the worst must be over. The troop itself has been undergoing major changes of recent and we say farewell and good luck to the following:

FAREWELLS

Sgt Ginge Kinvig to 221 (V) Field Ambulance—we always said he needed medical supervision. **Sig Scotty Andrews** to Berlin, **Sig Horrocks** and **Sig Billy Monahan** to 233 Sig Sqn—withdrawn from the 'sharp end' for a rest. **Sig Bunny Warren** to 227 Sig Sqn (Afcent)—hope your one helicopter trip to Crossmaglen will have made it all seem worthwhile, **Sig Jock Letham** to 28 Sig Regt.

HELLOS

Cpl Tony Gaynor and his wife **Ann, Sgt Dave Middleton** and his wife **Margaret, Sig Kevin Jones** and his wife **Kathleen, Sig Andy Redpath** from AAC Harrogate **Sig Mick Clare** and **Sig Jeoff Sykes** from 7 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

LCpl Chris McTernan on his Crypto Course A grading. **Sig Steve Grantham** on his marriage.

Congratulations to **Sgt Geordie Rose** on his recent promotion . . . and to **SSgt Bob Oliver** and **Cpls Mick Harlow** and **Jock Reid** on fifteen years of undetected crime (who's kidding who).

MERCURY CUP

The result of this year's Mercury Cup for the Junior NCO who contributes the most to the communications throughout the Province was as follows:

Winner—**Cpl Colin Savage**
Runner Up—**Cpl Don Chester**

The citations were as follows:

CPL SAVAGE

Cpl Savage has served for 16 months with 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. Although his trade of RTg would normally see him employed in an operating job, he has in fact, become the unit expert at designing and manufacturing radio installations in vehicles ops rooms, and hilltop sites.

His first task, on joining the unit was NCO IC TAC HQ and Rover Group. He supervised the installation of a new radio fit in the vehicles and produced an excellent example of intricate work to extremely high standards.

He then asked to be allowed to undertake the major task of refitting and rewiring the Brigade Radio Room and the remote extensions to the Brigade Ops Rooms. He went on from there to design and build a completely 'plumbed-in' system for the new radio room at Slieve Croob which is designed to accept up to 20 radios, if necessary, complete with switched emergency power systems. For both the Bde Radio Room and Slieve Croob he not only produced a thoroughly professional installation but also detailed plans and wiring diagrams of all his work.

With his flair for installation work he again proved invaluable during the commercial radio re-equipment project in South Armagh. In particular he devised an interchangeable remote wiring system for the Crossmaglen Ops Room which provides the 3—position operations console with the facility of monitoring any combination of Larkspur and UHF and VHF commercial nets. He is in constant demand also for special installation tasks in various covert vehicles.

Throughout this time, **Cpl Savage** has not neglected his trade. Indeed he is actively working towards his Y of S qualifiecation and recently passed the potential Y of S exam.

Cpl Savage has consistently worked well beyond the normal confines of his trade and in doing so has set standards of workmanship and draughtsmanship that would do credit to a highly trained installation engineer. At the same time he has not neglected his primary trade but has actually advanced in it.

CPL CHESTER

Cpl Chester has now served for eighteen months with 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn as NCO in charge of the antenna rigging crews. With some 42 lattice masts now in use in the Brigade, correct rigging and maintenance of the antennae is a vital task in the maintenance of communications over the 3,500 square miles of the Brigade TAOR.

Cpl Chester had no formal training or experience in antenna rigging when he arrived in Northern Ireland and, indeed, had only the slightest knowledge of elementary climbing techniques in general. Nevertheless he volunteered for the job and set himself to learn everything he could from those with more experience. By sheer hard work and determination he very quickly mastered the necessary techniques and now is not only the acknowledged expert but, with his quiet, confident manner is also by far the best instructor in the unit.

It has long been an established principle in the unit that the final decision to climb in adverse weather or in a difficult security situation must rest with the rigging crew commander. **Cpl Chester** has made it a point of honour, when important operational communications are at stake, to climb if it is at all possible.

From the start of his tour, **Cpl Chester** has applied himself wholeheartedly to a very challenging appointment. By first making himself an expert and then passing on his expertise to his subordinates he has built up a very substantial pool of experienced and competent riggers in the unit. Beyond that, the standards of workmanship that he has set have resulted in greatly improved reliability and hence a better guarantee of reliable communications to Brigade Units.

A LUCKY ESCAPE

And finally: On 19 March our last surviving lineman, **Cpl Brian Airey**, was being his usual jovial self working at Newtonhamilton Army/RUC base. On this occasion he was ably assisted by a brace of telemechs on loan from Catterick namely **Sgt Tom Ginty** and **Sig Tony Attwater.** Maybe his face did not fit as a faction of the local populace lobbed a total of nine mortar bombs at the base, several of which hit the mark, killing a member of 3 Queens Roulement unit. Several others were injured. As 'luck' would have it **Cpl Airey** was baring all in the loo at the instant that one of the bombs modified the building out of all recognition. He received a large gash in the posterior from shrapnel which has put him back in Musgrave Park hospital from which he only recently escaped following a cartilege operation. Some people are born lucky. As for the Catterick Commandos they were last heard bemoaning their fate at actually earning their GSMs.



The Line Detachment Vehicle A'LA mk 9 Mortar



Cpl Airey's 'Loo' Newtownhamilton

THE BIRO SAGA BY SERGEANT R. C. MAYOR RAOC

The trend they say
is for you to lend
your biro to your friend

But if to your friend
you cannot lend
you must try to borrow

Now if you can borrow
you can lend
a biro to your friend

But horror, horror
if you can't borrow
you can't lend
a biro to your friend

So the trend to lend
or even borrow
could turn out to be
a lend trend horror.

MARRIED QUARTERS BY SERGEANT R. C. MAYOR RAOC

Windows bare, laughter gone
another family, just moved on
but, not for long

Saucers, cups, forks, knives
lined up, silent, like the night
but, not for long

Sheets, blankets, pillows stacked
towels filled, on their racks
but, not for long

Chairs stand in silent line
no washing out on the line
carpets brushed, floors swept clean
as if waiting for a queen
but, not for long

Dawn breaks, another day
another family, on their way
but, not for long

Windows bright, pots away
washing out, every day
but, not for long

Laughter rings, in every room
sometimes rows, cast their gloom
but, not for long

Tour ends, family gone
windows bare, laughter gone
but, not for long.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

TECHNICAL SLANT

After a short gap (due to overstretch), reports from Londonderry continue this month with some items from Mike Troop which, as you probably know, is the only thing standing between the Brigade and total disaster. So if you notice a certain technical chauvinism—you're right. Apart from the routine operational jobs such as 'Bloody Sunday' and St Patrick's Day, the Squadron has succeeded in entertaining the usual large number of visitors, doing some Community Relations work and even Adventure Training—which is Irish for skiing.

PUNISHMENT STATIONS IDENTIFIED

Of our two most important visitors recently, the first was **Col A. P. Baker**, OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records Office, who gave a very informative and thorough talk, pointing out (once again) that the Bahamas, Hong Kong etc are very unhealthy places, suitable only as punishment postings for operators and combat trades. Afterwards, during a curry lunch in the Tudor Bar Club, **Col Baker** was presented with a print of 'Old Londonderry' by **LCpl Gordon Hitchen**, as a reminder of the loyalty of his subjects in this remotest part of his empire



Col Baker looks appropriately suspicious on receiving his presentation from LCpl Gordon Hitchen

GOC VISITS

Our second visitor was the GOC Northern Ireland, **Lt Gen Sir Timothy Creasey**, who was issued with map, compass and ball of string and invited to find and visit MT Troop. The photograph shows that he was successful, and in fact he managed to catch both the MTO, **2Lt Adam 'extras' Ewell**, and the MT Sgt, **Jim 'Cars' Macdonald**, at work at the same time.



The GOC meets Sgt Jim MacDonald. The RSM can just be seen gleaming in the background

BRIGADE LINE INTELLIGENCE TEAM (BLIT)

We have discovered that the word 'intelligence' works wonders, opens doors etc; so the four-man line section of Mike Troop has become BLIT—an organisation whose speed (and style, darling) is only equalled by Wonderwoman.

So it was the other day when someone decided to have a bonfire under the Creggan Camp telephone cable. BLIT, led by **SSgt Alan Finney** and his relief **Sgt Mick Reid**, went out with massive air and ground support and had the cable jointed and working within two hours of its being reported!

When not engaged in such headline-catching activities, BLIT carries out a bewildering variety of line and telephone jobs throughout the Brigade area, enjoying the closest possible liaison with the local GPO.



Sgt Mal Linton and LCpl Gordon Hitchen hold up the offending section of 20-pair cable

EXERCISE PINE MARTEN

The same snow which was causing chaos on the roads was ideal for our Squadron winter adventure training. Under the guidance of **2Lt Adam Ewell** and **Sgt Ian Duncan** (a technician, wouldn't you know) some 20 members of the Squadron either started to learn to ski, or continued their progress, in Aviemore. Rumour has it that two of our more accomplished skiers—**Maj Tim Waugh** and **RSM Ken Clark**—skied only long enough to ferret out the best place of liquid refreshment. The reason there are no photographs of them is that our photographer didn't think he'd need his flash unit . . .

At the time of writing, the idle rich—**Capt Graham Hand** and his wife **Anne**—have just returned from two weeks' skiing in Switzerland. The PRI will be *very* carefully audited next time!

CHARITY DARTS MARATHON

A major social event in March was the sponsored attempt to score one million points at darts, within 56 hours, in aid of local charities. This was entirely organised by **Cpl Chris Newby** and the rest of the Commcen staff, and the team of six men consisted of **Chris Newby, Tony Talbot, Pete Vennal, Andy Dingle, Kev Conder** and **John Bell.**

The Marathon got off to a good start on the Friday evening with free beer and an opening score of 57 from the Brigade Commander, **Brig Colin Shortis OBE,** who modestly declined an offer to join the team. The lads then threw in pairs until Monday morning; the final score was 1,021,000 in 54 hours 21 mins, which was enough to raise £200 for charity. The event was very widely reported in the Province, and we hope it has done something to help our public relations effort. The question is now—how will the other Brigade Signal Squadrons respond to the challenge?



The Charity darts team warming up for their marathon



Father, Sgt Finney, R Signals—Date not known

THREE GENERATIONS OF SIGNALLERS

Our Wire notes this month would be incomplete without some mention of **SSgt Alan Finney**, who has just left the Squadron and the Army thus ending a family connection with Signals since before the formation of the Corps!

SSgt Finney's grandfather was **Herbert Houghton**, who saw service in South Africa with the South Lancs Regiment, then joined the Sappers in 1914 and finally transferred to the Corps, ending the War with 55 Divisional Signals. He continued with TA Service after the war with the West Lancs Divisional Signals, until his death in 1948.

SSgt Finney's father joined *his* father's TA unit in 1937, and saw service throughout North Africa and Europe in the Second World War, ending the war as sergeant.

SSgt Finney himself also joined the Lancastrian Brigade in 1961, transferring to the Corps as a Cable Jointer in 1966. He then served in Cyprus, North Africa and BAOR (as well as Catterick) before joining the Squadron in 1976 as a Tele Mech. As head of the Squadron Line Section he has made an enormous contribution to the smooth running of Brigade Communications, and will be very much missed for his experience and irrepressible sense of humour, even when watching D & E Platoon cut one of his cables . . .



Grandfather, Sapper Houghton, in 1915



SSgt Alan Finney (in his usual working uniform) in the Londonderry Military Exchange

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

THE BELFAST SCENE

We have seen a slight increase in activity in recent weeks — notably with the finding of 42 blast incendiary bombs in the Ballymaccarrett, and the shooting of two soldiers of the Blues and Royals in Andersonstown. The Spring brings the terrorists out of hibernation, and although we have made much progress here it seems that we still have a long way to go. In March one of our landrovers was involved in an accident in which **Cpl Jim Knight** was seriously injured — but thanks to his grit and determination and the great skill of the Royal Victoria Hospital, he is now back on his feet. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

THE SPORTING PICTURE

After successfully sweeping the board in the Northern Ireland minor units competition our rugby team went on to achieve a narrow but exciting win in the UK semi-final against 3 RTR, but they went down severely in the final against the Prince of Wales' Division Depot, Crickhowell, by whom they were somewhat understandably outclassed. They are now looking forward to a similar success in the Northern Ireland 7-a-side competition.



'Why me?' LCpl Stephen Thomas in a moment of terror during the UK rugby final. Note also Capt David Emsley doing the hokey-cokey on the right flank

An intrepid group of winter sportsmen set off for Aviemore in early March for the ASA Scottish meeting. **Capt Mark Blatherwick RAOC** was their leader, and the team consisted of **Cpl Mick Jeffrey, LCpl Gus Guthrie, Cpl Scouse Flaherty, Cpl Joe Buffong** and **LCpl Tony Thomas.** The novices team came second overall — a very worthy result indeed, achieved in very poor weather conditions — and they look forward to sweeping the board in 1980!

THE LISBURN BRANCH OF THE ARMY AND NAVY

Our Quartermaster, **Capt Chris Speight,** has sent us this report on the activities of his merry band of men:

'Kindly produce some Wire notes', said the memo from the unit scribe and so, sitting here on the first day of Spring, watching the snow descend onto the frozen wastes of Co Antrim, the collective brain power of the QM's Department cogitates upon which of the earth shattering events of recent times would be of interest to anyone beyond the barred and bolted door of the stores.

'What about Staff Hodge's dog?' said **Sig Dave Judd.** 'Knickers!' said **LCpl Martin Gear,** 'That's not a dog, it's a box of compo.

'What about my BI Course results?' said **Cpl Neil Chatterton,** 'How I came second and got a B grading.' Someone sniffed; other than that there was little reaction. Superior knowledge begets its own enemies.

'I know', said **Sig Don Shell,** putting down his guitar, 'What about the change from Unit of Account to Denomination of Quantity?'. There was a deafening silence and then; 'Expletive deleted,' said **Sgt Ivor Demain.**

'Speaking of Staff Hodge' said **RQMS Darkie Williams,** 'I haven't seen him for a while; where is he?'. 'Sgts Mess' said **Cpl Chatterton,** 'Preparing Mess Bills'. 'Expletive deleted,' said **Sgt Demain.**

There is a ring on the doorbell, **Sig Dave Judd** struggles to his feet and unbolts the door. **SSgt Jim Hodge BEM** enters.

'Heh! Heh!' he says, taking off his parka, 'The DOE blokes making the new car park have had to stop. They can't find their white lines in the snow.'

'We'll have to struggle on then, parking where we can,' said **RQMS Williams.**

'Expletive deleted', said **Sgt Demain.**

'I know,' said the QM, 'We'll write about my pedigree dog.'

'Expletive deleted' chorused his men.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

In recent months we have seen one or two changes at the top. We have a new 2IC, **Capt David Lynam,** who has taken over the nail-biting job of coordinating the Brigades Communicating efforts, and is making a brave attempt at transforming everyone who enters his office into a kipper. **W02 (RQMS) 'Darkie' Williams** has slotted in to the operational scene — and, as our picture shows, seems to have mislaid his uniform.

Your scribe, **Capt Alan Poppleton,** has been told to write his own valediction — but will simply heave a sigh of relief at being free (for a while at least) from the dreaded deadline, and pass the responsibility to his successor as OC Comms Troop **Capt Nigel Jackson** who has just joined us from 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt.



WO2 (RQMS) 'Darkie' Williams in customarily military garb paying due respects to the stand-in QM, played by Tara, the pedigree labrador

Don't be disappointed!

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STOP PRESS FROM 233 SIG SQN
Soccer—NI Minor units League—Winners
Basketball—NI Minor Units Knock-Out Cup—Winners.

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

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Capt Paddy Crowley has recently arrived from 4 Armd Div's Task Force Golf to take up the dual appointments of Squadron 2IC and OC Comms Tp. We extend a warm welcome to him and to his wife, **Sheila,** and say farewell to their predecessors **Nick and Jill Franks. Nick** is off to make his fortune in the Middle East and Australia.

In the past weeks we have played host to a number of welcome visitors. Chief among them were the new CLF on his initial visit, the GOC on an up-dating visit, the OIC Manning & Records Office on a working visit and the Coprs Band on a very popular playing visit. We have also had our fair share of sporting successes as reported below.

VISIT OF GOC

The GOC, **Lt Gen Sir Timothy Creasey,** spent a day with the Squadron being brought up to date on our work over the past 4-5 months. Our photograph shows the GOC talking to **WO1 (FofS) Joe Smith** and **Sgt 'Robbo' Robinson.**



The GOC Lt Gen T. Creasey talks to WO1 (F of S) Joe Smith and Sgt 'Robbo' Robinson

THE CORPS BAND ACCLAIMED

On Thursday 8 March, in the Garrison WOs and Sgts Mess, the Chief of Staff HQNI, **Brig BW Davis OBE,** was the principal guest at an excellent Dinner Night. A total of 26 Officers and 34 WOs and Sgts were entertained in great style by a 27 strong section of the Band. The music complementing the first class meal produced by **Sgt Mick Stokes ACC.**



WO's and Sgts Mess: The Chief of Staff, Brig BW Davis OBE in entertaining mood after an excellent dinner. *Centre:* WO2 (SSM) B Smith, *right:* Deputy Garrison Commander Lt Col J. R. Billington Cheshire



The Corps Band march through Lisburn Town Centre



Springtime in Lisburn: The Corps Band play in a blizzard in Lisburn Town Centre

On Friday the burghers of Lisburn were all set to enjoy the full band, resplendent in their red uniforms, marching and playing in Bow Street. Unfortunately the arctic weather conditions caused the programme to be shortened to about 20 mins. As the Band moved off they looked more like snowmen than bandsmen!

After a warm up and lunch in the Squadron Club — when the Director of Music was presented with a framed print by CR Signals, — the Band donned their almost dry uniforms and produced a superb concert in the Shamrock Club. Only the deadline of a further engagement that evening stopped the encores!

TECH TROOP

The months ahead promise to be traumatic ones for Tech Tp. In the very near future, we will be saying farewell to our TOT, FofS, and three quarters of the Radio Relay section. **Foreman Joe Smith** will be the first to go. He leaves us for 8 Fd Force with all our best wishes and congratulations on his promotion to WO1. **Joe (Brainiac) Smith** doesn't eat or sleep, he merely refuels and recharges. He will be sorely missed by all of us who have been entertained, enlightened and invigorated by his presence. Our new Foreman, **SSgt (soon to be WO2) Laurie Priestley,** will have a hard act to follow!

Mid-summer will see the departure of **Maj (TOT) Gil Sharp** who is hanging up his Sam Browne and retiring. Forsaking the 'hassle and urgency' of Army life for the quieter pastures of civvy street. No doubt he will make his presence felt whatever he decides to do.

RADIO RELAY SECTION

Radio Relay Section will have undergone a virtually complete turnover by mid-summer. In March we bid adieu to half the section in one fell swoop. **Cpls Andy Davis** (to be congratulated on his recent engagement), **Fred Darlow** and **Mac McConaghy** leaving for their T1 upgrading course at Catterick, while **Cpl Mal Whitehead** decided the grass was greener in civvy street (though his new boss is quite as likely to be upset at bad time-keeping as his old one).

All will be missed but none more so than **Cpl Fred Darlow** whose vociferous attempts to right every wrong did not always fall on deaf ears — contrary to what he would have everyone believe. By August **Sgt Andy Roberts** will be off to Blandford on his Foreman's course and **Sgt Polly Pollington** will have left on posting. This will leave only **Cpl Bob Scrivener** and **LCpl Steve Gill** to provide the continuity!

RADIO SECTION

The arrival of Clansman in the Province started the TOT's 'phone ringing and the Radio Section buzzing. Suddenly 'everyman and his uncle' had the same request, 'We want to interface Clansman with ???? and we've heard that you do that sort of thing?' **FofS Joe Smith** then changed hats and programmed himself for interface boxes. Within a matter of days, **Sgts Bob Cook** and **Phil Robinson** were mass producing boxes to interface UK PRC 351 with the plethora of civilian radio sets found in the Province.

Sgt Stu Ferguson (when he's not on leave) cracks the whip over the backs of the rest of the section. **Cpl Ian Hood,** who is 'just filling in time until his posting to 16 Sig Regt' — and if he mentions LOA once more he'll be added to the Foreman's memory bank! **Cpl Dave Horne,** our latest arrival, has started a section on his own which deals mainly with Belize (and how to apply to get back there), throat infections, and fitting radios into armour-plated cars.

Cpl John Rose was put to work down at the HF Radio Site, but someone let him out. We're looking for a strong enough anaesthetic for him for an operation on his hair. Radio Section notes could not be complete without a word about **Ex — Sig Hammie Hamilton** (GSM) who is now regaling the Oldham Fire Service with his fund of 'war stories' about life on the Ireland front. Good luck **Hammie,** you'll need it.

SYSTEMS

Sgt Terry Sutherland has recently brought his new bride, **Anne**, to the Province and overnight he's acquired the pad's habit of exact time-keeping. His social life has changed rather drastically too — instead of enthralling the regulars of the Sgts Mess Bar he can now be seen beating a path around the running track. It has done wonders for his waistline but nothing at all for the Mess bar profits.

Sgt Alan Guy must enjoy it here. He recently left us after an extended tour to join another mob across the road. He was kitted out in mandatory mutton-chop whiskers and blue anorak before he went. **Sgt Guy's** replacement, **Sgt Dave Thorley** said a very brief hail before a hasty farewell, he's off on a premature tour of duty as NCO IC Stranraer Detachment. **Cpls Dave Taylor** and **Dickie Henderson** have also departed for their T1 upgrading course and we wish them both every success.

As usual **Cpl Bill Allen's** line section seem to be our busiest, being everymans 'jacks of all trades'. They were recently depleted by the departure of **LCpl Nige Parry** to Catterick to attempt the unusual transition from Lineman to Technician during the course he is planning to 'tie the knot' with his fiancee, **Pte Debbie Sims.** We wish them every happiness.

The section strength was boosted recently by the arrival of three Telemechs on temporary loan from 8 Sig Regt. **Sig Clarkson, Mortlock** and **Quantick** came to us straight from training to help us to complete an important project. They buckled down with great enthusiasm and skill and we would have them back at any time to serve with us. Thank you 8 Sig Regt.

BRAINS OF 233

The 1978/79 Competition to find the 'Brains of 233' culminated in a Grand final on Monday 2 April. The Quarter finals had been contested during February and March. Delta Troop overcame stiff resistance from W Tp to win 54-32. The contest between Comms Tp 1 and E Tp was very close, Comms Tp 1 winning 46-34. Comms Tp 2 gained a walk over against Tech 1 and the Commcen team beat Tech 2 by 47-23.

In the first of the Semi Finals Delta Troop scored steadily to beat Comms Tp 1 by 82 points to 27. The second semi was a very close contest between the Commcen and Comms Tp 2. Some snappy 'buzzer' work in the last round by **Capt John Ankers, Cpl Pete Dignam, WCpl Lesley Orchard** and their team leader **Cpl Nigel Robson** secured a win by 54 points to 33.

In the Final, Delta Troop were in tremendous form. Neither **Cpl Paul (Taff) Morgan** nor **Cpl Mick Ball** dropped a point on their individual questions. All Delta's team questions were answered correctly and a convincing lead had been established before the final round 'on the buzzer'. However, the contest was much closer than might be imagined from the final score of Delta Troop 102 points, Commcen Troop 38 points. CR Signals presented the trophy to the winning team of **Cpls Morgan** and **Ball, W02 Eric Ross** and **Cpl Campbell Lapsley.**

SOCCER

The first half of the Soccer Season was quite rewarding for the Squadron, but we were determined to do even better in the New Year. Our aim was achieved in early February when we won the NI Minor Units Cup Final against 3 Bde HQ and Signal Squadron. Our photographs show the match in progress and our winning team.

The next hurdle was the quarter finals of the Army Minor Units Cup. On a bitterly cold Sunday morning we met 11th Signal Regt in Lisburn and, in a very exciting match, we lost 2-1. Good luck to **Capt (QM) Paddy Henry** and his 'Cosmic Football'. We also reached the quarter finals of the NI Challenge Cup being narrowly beaten 2-1 by the Royal Horse Guards.

It is in the league where the unit is doing extremely well, requiring only one point to clinch the Championship. Statistics so far are:-

Played 7, Won 7, Goals for 31, Goals Against 7.

All our players deserve a mention, but four of them are particularly worthy: **Sgt Roy Pickersgill** a first class Captain, **Cpl Dave Taylor** a rugged competitor, **LCpl Peter Ridlington** who gave the team a bit of magic, and **Cpl Mal Hyndman,** with his brilliant runs and lethal finishing.



NI Minor Units Cup Final—as Sig Ginge Schofield and Cpl Dave Taylor take on a 3 Bde defender, LCpl Peter Ridlington is in support



Winners of the NI Minor Units Soccer Cup. Sgt Roy Pickersgill receives the cup from Lt Col GB Hopkinson. *Left to right:* Cpl Mal Hyndman, Cpl Dave Taylor, Sig Mac McKenzie, Sig 'Trill' Potterton, Cpl Steve Teggert, LCpl Taff Rumble, Sig Ginge Schofield, Sgt Roy Pickersgill, LCpl Peter Ridlington, Cpl Pete Dignam, Cpl Fred Darlow, Lt Col G. B. Hopkinson, LCpl Gerry Ord.

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Anyone likely to be available in the autumn of 1979 and who would like to discuss the position should telephone Colonel J. C. S. James (late REME) on 01-947-3333 with a view to a meeting in the London area on a mutually convenient occasion.

ORIENTEERING

Sunday 25 February was a crisp, sunny day and perfect for the 1979 R Signals Orienteering Competition. The event, held in the Drumkeeragh Forest, attracted 107 competitors ranging upwards in skill and experience from novice to Army standard. Though divided in ability, they were united in a common struggle against the course and **Cpl Colin Deering's** refreshment tent. The course was judged fair, the ACC meat pies and soup were each awarded half rosettes for presentation, content and star quality, but the coffee was felt to be a little cheeky — it had not travelled well!

Both our Squadron teams must have kept clear of the coffee because they took 1st and 2nd place. The E Tp team of **W01 Andy Roberts, Cpl Peter Ridlington, LCpl 'Scouse' Hall** and **Sig Geordie Butler** were first in 299 mins and 45 secs. Second, in 305 mins and 16 secs were 'the rest' of 233, **Sgt Jim Turner, Cpl Fred Smith, Sig Gary Elliston** and **Cpl Steve Churchman, Sig Ginge Schofield** ran a good race as an individual — we could have done with him in the team!

In the NI Championships a combined team of **W01 Andy Roberts, Cpl Campbell Lapsley** and **Sig Gary Elliston** came 2nd to 669 Sqn AAC. The Squadron team now goes forward to the Army Championships at Aldershot.

BASKETBALL

The Basketball team have had some success this season. In the Army Minor Units Championship we won the Northern Ireland Section and were narrowly defeated in the Zone final by AAC Harrogate in a very close game, the score 47:40. In the Northern Ireland Winter League we were runners up to our arch-rivals 1 RMP (Major Unit Side) in a very closely contested final which we lost by only 1 point, the final score being 50:49. The Minor Unit domestic championships take place in May 1979, we are going all out to win this Championship and bring the Cup back to the Squadron.



Action! Cpl Dave Smith No 13 jumps for the ball and team mate Cpl Bryan Pritchard watches expectantly.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The season was rounded off very nicely by our 7-a-side teams who did battle at Ballykinler on 7 April. The 'A' team disposed of the RHG/D and 2LI 'A' teams but lost to the 1 RRW 'A' team in the semi-final. The RRW 'A' team went on to win the competition, beating their own 'B' team in the final. Our 'B' team went down to 1 Green Howards in the plate, having lost **Cpl Derek Pocock** with a badly broken ankle in the previous match.

HQ R Signals, HQ 1 (BR) Corps

Those who have served a tour of duty in HQ R Signals will certainly be aware of its existence. Some readers far away may never have heard of us, others nearby who may know of us may wonder at the size on seeing the photo in these notes! Indeed you might even be heard to utter that it is no wonder we are short of men in the units when . . . Please be corrected. We have already had a reduction in staff when CCR Signals was relieved of the duties of Garrison Commander on the formation of 14 Sig Regt.

Spring and Summer 79 will see many changes in staff and it seems an auspicious moment to submit some notes and account for ourselves to readers of the Wire. In particular the two longest serving members are about to be posted. **Capt John Beasley** is about to leave after three years. Throughout this time he has produced and managed a frequency plot for the whole of 1 (BR) Corps which has not only made an enormous contribution to the standard of communications, but has enabled all Arms and Services actually to communicate. The other stalwart, of four years plus, is **WO1 Tony Hewett** who is highly regarded by all units both as an encyclopaedia of experience as to how to go about every conceivable task and a wise counsel for those who need to apply judgement to recurring issues. Within the branch they have also gone out of their way to organise sport and recreation, for which we are all grateful. Best wishes go with them both, and also **Maj Gravestock, Cpl Round** (on promotion), **Cpl McEwan** and **Mrs Moss** who also leave this Spring.

Those who remain look forward to a busy summer round of exercises, spurred on by the development and arrival of new equipments, and the welcome changes and pageantry brought by our many visitors.



Front Row: Capt O'Connor, Lt Col Bell, Brig Oehlers, WO1 Hewett, Maj Burke. *First Row:* Majs Wilkinson, Kent, Gravestock and Walker, Capt Beasley. *Second Row:* Cpl McEwan, Cpl Round, Cpl Cullen, Sgt Mackender, LCpl Jones. *Back Row:* Cpl Murkin, LCpl Slater, Mrs Moss, LCpl Abbott, SSgt Leniston

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THE COOL

In case it has not been universally noticed January and February were blessed with an unusual amount of white, descending, cold, 'cotton wool'. Consequently most of this contribution deals with how the Apprentices and Staff of the Penney Pot Lane Academy learned how to adapt to a snowy environment.

In order to achieve the dubious distinction of being well 'out of it' when the first wintry blasts appeared, a party of ATs under the well-meaning and benevolent guidance of **Capt Nigel Cory** had already departed the shores of the United Kingdom. It was planned that Exercise *Snow Storm* would take advantage of the Christmas leave to learn something about skiing in the sometime eternal snows of Bavaria.

EXERCISE SNOW STORM: or SKIING IN BAVARIA?
Report by AT Cpl Geoff Head of Bradley Squadron
DESTINATION HAAG

I met the remainder of the party at Dover just in time at 1200 hrs on Monday 18 December. They had departed from Harrogate at 0200 hrs but were nevertheless sufficiently awake to spend the majority of the channel crossing watching TV and ogling (politely) at their female fellow travellers.

The remainder of the day was spent travelling south by train. We arrived at our destination at 0900 hrs on Tuesday morning. Our destination was Haag, a small village in Bavaria, where we were to stay at the Snow Queen hut run by 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

We arrived to be greeted with a good English breakfast and **Lt Jim Akehurst** our host at the hut. There was not much snow when we arrived but **Lt Akehurst** promised us that a heavy fall was imminent (a prophecy which was repeated with growing desperation over the next two weeks). The remainder of the first day was spent being briefed and catching up on some of our 'train lag'.

MUD

For the next five and a half days skiing was great fun but towards the end of this period great skill was called for to avoid the increasingly large mud patches. The rain then started and cleared the remainder of the snow. The sun came out and shone bravely onto the mud and still **Lt Akehurst** promised snow!

During the few days that we were completely snowless we visited the enchanting Schloss Neuschwanstein and went ice skating three times. We also indulged ourselves in the luxury of a ten km run organised by the Haag Fire Brigade on New Years day. It was inteded to be a langlauf stroll but the mud would have had too much of an adhesive quality so running seemed a much better idea.

THE BREAK

The big break for us came when we 'upped' and went to the Nebelhorn which proved to be an educational and exciting trip. Not only was it good to see snow again but to ski on some really interesting slopes particularly before the dense cloud lifted to reveal the actual gradient. The mountain scenery was really enthralling and most of it was captured for posterity by **AT Christian Baden-Powell** who must surely have taken out a mortgage to pay for all the film he used.

During the evenings when we were not on 'fire picquet' we journeyed down to the village of Oy which was about 2 km distance. Once there we indulged ourselves in German Beer and Hähnchen mit Pommes Frites which went down very well; almost as well as our money reserves. Towards the end, the majority of us did not have much money left and those who did kept it very quiet indeed.

AND THANK YOU

Although we were all well pleased to be home after the return 30 hour train trips we had all enjoyed the exercise very much. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to **Lt Akehurst** and many others who looked after us so well at Haag.

THE YORKSHIRE ALPS

It is customary for the rather senior and grizzled veterans of the fourth and fifth Terms to enjoy the healthy vicissitudes of Exercise *Tiercel* which takes place during the seventh week of term in the dark hills surrounding Otterburn training area. It was hoped until the eleventh hour by all except possibly the would be participants that it would be possible to run *Tiercel* as normal but this was not to be due to the large amount of snow deposited on the roads and hills. The AT Squadrons were accordingly tasked with running a substitute exercise in what had become verily the high Yorkshire Alps. **AT Sgt Martin Webb** of Scott Squadron survived to tell the tale:

EXERCISE WINTER STORM

This exercise was set up because of the cancellation of Exercise *Tiercel* (which brought sadness to many a heart). Each of the three days was to consist of Langlauf Skiing for one group, Downhill Skiing for another and Cross Country Navigation for the last.

The Langlauf group was taken by OC Scott Squadron, **Maj Rod Dransfield**. With his considerable experience, he gave competent demonstrations of how not to tackle cattle grids and barbed wire fences. **AT 'Bee Pee' Baden-Powell** responded with an excellent impression of the Arctic Ostrich at its shyest. Most people fell over quite a lot but no one had quite such a good excuse as **AT Tony Farrant** who, after at least 3 kms found he had his skis on the wrong feet.

The navigating phase was more of a 'Treasure Hunt'. Questions were set the answers only being answerable by visiting various locations en route back to the College.

The Downhill Skiing was taken by the 2IC, **Capt Nigel 'but I wasn't born on Skis' Cory**, ably assisted by **Sgt John Hatch.** The SSM, **WO2 Alex Kubu** joined the group at midday and gave a very spirited performance which nearly but not quite had his fans shouting 'encore'. Unfortunately the writer's enjoyment of this last phase was abruptly curtailed when he tried to decelerate using his thumb as a brake. The surgeons entertain considerable hope that he may be able to write again quite soon.

JUDO REPORT

Over the last two terms, Winter 78 and Spring 79, our Judo Club has increased considerably in size and activity. We now have a combined total of 46 Apprentices and Permanent Staff Members. It is perhaps fortunate that duties and exercises take many of our Apprentices out of the College, because our facilities are very cramped.

To ease the space problem and to raise the standard of training we have now adopted a system of voluntary training during lunch breaks from Monday to Friday. On Mondays two class periods are already officially devoted to sport, and we make use of Wednesday afternoons for those who are available. On Thursday evenings — our official College 'activity' evening — we run two one-hour sessions, one Basic and one Advanced.

With the sudden increase in our numbers we look forward to attending our first large-scale upgrading shortly. In July it is hoped that we shall host an upgrading here at the College.

BASKETBALL ROUND UP

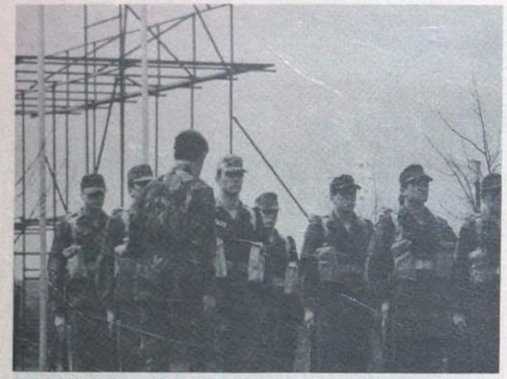
The College runs two Basketball teams, Mercury A consisting of PS and selected Senior Term ATs and Mercury B consisting of all ATs. Both teams play in the Harrogate and District League, and, in the Cundall Cup (Sponsored by a local Sports Shop). The A Team as yet is unbeaten in both League and Cup, whilst the B team holds third position in the League. The opposition consists mainly of Teachers from the local Schools.

On the Military Front, the A team won the NE/NW Minor Units Championship in February, and then later in the month travelled to Northern Ireland to play the winners of the NI Minor Units Championship. This resulted in a Win for the College and a place in the semi finals and finals of the Minor Units held at Aldershot during March. The outcome was a narrow defeat by 53-66 against Depot RGJ.

TEAMS
Mercury A
WO2 (FofS) Pete Shawyer, Sgt Pete Sutherland, Sgt Matty Mathews, Sgt Joe Pearson, Sgt Don Holmes, Sgt Pete Roote, Sgt Davy Cook, Sgt Brian Inness, LCpl Peter Wathey, LCpl Eric Atkins.
Mercury B
AT Sgt Martin Webb, AT Cpl Mick Reed, AT LCpl Mick Wilkerson, LCpl David Old, AT Graham Crouch, AT Stephen Rowe, AT LCpl Stephen Larcombe, AT Chris Hobbs, AT Phillip Whitehouse, AT John Hiorns.

MARCH AND SHOOT

Once every term the College organises a March and Shoot competition between the four apprentice squadrons. Basically the competition consists of four teams of eighteen apprentices, each team led by one member of the Staff. Each member of the team is dressed in full combat kit and webbing, they also carry an SLR. The aim is to march round a five mile course in one hour (maximum bonus points for completing in 50 mins) and then fire the SLR on the 25m range at small plaster discs.



The RSM, WO1 T. Connor IG inspects Scott Squadron March and Shoot Team



March and Shoot: AT LCpl Dick Webb, AT Tich Farrant and AT Cpl Tom McNiece still fighting 'Killer Hill'



March and Shoot: AT SSM Jock Chalmers and AT LCpl Mick Honeyman at the top of 'Killer Hill'

The competition is fiercely contested with training taking place in the three weeks leading up to the competition. Some squadrons disguise their March and Shoot team as their cross country team and start training as early as possible, however there are usually sufficient spies placed at strategic points to reduce the 'cheating' to a minimum.

Excitement reaches fever pitch about three days before competition as tit bits of information circulate the College:

'Penney Squadron weren't even sweating and they completed it in 45 mins'.

'Rawson Zero'd their weapons in the dark!'

'Scott never got onto the range during their final practice'.

Despite all the betting odds and favourites the competition is wide open until the last team is on the circuit. Practically all teams complete the circuit every term in the given time but usually the competition is won or lost on the shooting. At the end of this term's competition Bradley Sqn emerged as clear winners; again the results were decided on the shooting. **Sgt Chippy Wood** of Bradley Sqn has been trying for seven terms to win the competition. He finally did it with excellent results. The rumour that he was promoted due to perseverance is untrue!

ARMY UK JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL INDOOR ATHLETICS—COSFORD 21 MAR 79

The annual indoor championships teok place at RAF Cosford on Wed 21 Mar 79. The College team led by **Maj Rod Dransfield** flooded Cosford with a team of 45 athletics. However as the rest of the Army is still playing soccer and rugby and the junior units are engrossed in trade training the meeting as a whole sadly lacked support. Nevertheless despite lack of opposition our athletics turned in some fine performances. The placings were irrelevant but a lot of athletics managed their personal best performances. Results to note:

POLE VAULT
1st AT SSM Chalmers 3.50m (selected to represent Army Senior Team)
2nd AT Graham 3.00m

HIGH JUMP
2nd AT Shakespeare 1.80m
3rd AT Marshall 1.80m
4th AT Burridge 1.75m

LONG JUMP
1st AT Marshall 6.05m (selected to represent Army Senior Team)

TRIPLE JUMP
1st AT Marshall 13.00m
2nd AT Smikle 11.94m

SHOT
1st AT Sgt Littlewood 11.63m
2nd AT LCpl Rimmer 11.00m

COLD COMFORT

In their second term at the College, Apprentices take part in a one week External Leadership exercise. For those whose second term coincides with the annual pilgrimage to the snow covered peaks of the Cairngorms, External Leadership consists of snow-climbing, ski-ing (both downhill and cross country) and navigation and survival in winter.

The winter exercise, nicknamed *Cold Comfort*, is run by the permanent staff of the four Apprentice Squadrons and provides an excellent opportunity to get to know ATs away from the classroom environment. For the record, we have no established External Leadership wing at the College and all our EL 'experts' are recruited from the various Squadrons and other departments of the College. We find this system works well and certainly this year's *Cold Comfort* photographs would appear to bear that out.



Another AT hits the snow



Navigation stop on Cairngorm Plateau



ATs making their way into Coire-n-Tschneachda



AT Hutchison on summit of Cairngorm



Left to right: Capt Bacon RAEC, Sgt Hatch, Capt Kinaird and Capt Cory. Coffee in the sun!!

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals,
B.F.P.O. 1

VISIT OF SO IN C

Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson arrived at Kai Tak Airport with his wife on 5 February where they were met by **Lt Col and Mrs G. C. Verdon** and the Staff Communications Officer (SCO), **Lt Cdr David Fryer RN**. During the afternoon, he met **Cdr Sommerville-Jones**, the Fleet Communications Officer.

The next day was a busy one and SO in C met DCBF, **Brig D. T. Crabtree**; the Government Communications Officer, **Mr R. E. Nelson; Brig BG, Brig J. M. C. Thornton**; the Royal Hong Kong Police Force Signals Officer, **Mr G. D. J. Collins**; two Deputy Commissioners of Police, **Mr R. T. M. Henry** and **Mr C. W. P. Purdon** and finally the Secretary for Security, **the Hon L. M. Davies.**

VISIT TO HONG KONG GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron welcomed SO in C on 7 February at Gun Club Hill Barracks. On arrival, the General inspected the Quarter Guard, and then presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W02 Larry Proctor, Gil France** and **Sgts Ted Larkin, Terry Winsor, Ranbahadur Thapa** and **Tan Ho Leung.**

After the brief parade, SO in C was briefed on the Squadron's organisation, role and project works. He then saw the Squadron area and met Squadron personalities in various departments. The General was driven to Hai Phong Road Railway Station where he met **SSgt Ng Ping Ching**, our HKMSC SSgt, and saw the work of the Squadron 100 ft below Nathan Road in the Mass Transit Railway Tunnels. After this, the General was escorted to the Kowloon Telephone Exchange, Kowloon Commcen and the Kowloon Polmil where the police command control and communications systems were explained.

After lunch with CBF/MGBG, **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave KBE MC**, SO in C visited Victoria Peak Radio, the old Joint Commcen Hong Kong, the Radio Relay Control Centre, Commcen Tributory and the Secure Speech Section. Colony Polmil Radio Room was also visited and was briefed by **W01 Hope** on the forthcoming Colony Exercises.

In the evening, the General was invited to the Squadron's Chinese New Year Party at the Good Dates Restaurant Kowloon. Here, he was able to meet some of the serving and retired Chinese soldiers with whom he had served when he commanded 252 Signal Squadron in 1962.



SO in C inspects the Mass Transit Railway tunnels with SSgt Ng Ping Ching

VISIT TO GURKHA FIELD FORCE HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

SO in C then visited the 'up-country' Squadron of the Regiment at Sek Kong on 7 February. Arriving by helicopter with the Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals, the General was invited to inspect the Squadron Quarter Guard and met both the Squadron Commanders, **Maj John Neeve** and the Senior QGO, **Capt (QGO) Balbahadur Gurung.** After a short meeting with the CRAF, **Group Captain T. A. Bennett OBE**, the General returned to the Squadron as Inspecting Officer for a Commissioning Parade. The two Gurkha Warrant Officers being commissioned were **WOs Meherman Limbu** and **Dilbahadur Rai** and after the parade the General was introduced to the families of the newly commissioned Lieutenant (QGO)s.



Assisted by the Gurkha Major, Major (QGO) Humbahadur Gurung, General Anderson commissions WO2 Dilbahadur Rai. The newly commissioned LT(QGO) Meherman Limbu is on the left of the picture

Following a full morning of briefings on the role of the Gurkha Field Force Headquarters, the Headquarters, Queen's Gurkha Signals and the Squadron itself, the General was ready to follow this with a drink in the Gurkha WOs and Sgts Mess with a tasty 'bhat' prepared by the ubiquitous **Mr Chan** in the Headquarters Mess, Queen's Gurkha Signals. **General Anderson** was then whisked off to view the Gurkha Field Force Headquarters deployed in the field. We were fortunate to have Mrs Anderson with us as well and she also had a busy day visiting the Squadron families and seeing some of their activities. In the evening of 8 February the General and his wife attended the Royal Signals Annual Ball at the Sheraton Hotel.

On 9 February, the General spent the morning visiting Exercise *Trojan Horse* on Stonecutters Island and during the afternoon he attended a briefing at the Fanling Polmil HQ and toured the frontier. That evening he was Guest of Honour at the Sek Kong Garrison and Sgts' Mess for QG Signals Regimental Dinner Night.



General Anderson chats to some of the Combat Radiomen accompanied by, from left to right, the SQGO, Comd QG Signals, and OC

VISIT TO HQ BRITISH GURKHAS NEPAL

On the 10 February, SO in C accompanied by **Lt Col G. V. Verdon**, Comd QG Signals, flew from Hong Kong to Kathmandu by RNAC Charter Flight and arrived at about 1430 hrs. They were warmly received by OC Nepal Signal Troop, **Lt(QGO) Minbahadur Gurung** QG Signals. At about 1500 hrs the General, Commander and OC Nepal Sig Tp paid a visit to Commcen Kathmandu which is situated in the British Embassy Kathmandu. There he met all the ex QG Signals Commcen staff. In the evening of the same day, a successful party organised by **Hon Lt (GCO) Bhupal Gurung** of QG Signals was held in Kathmandu at the Hotel Narayani.

On 11 February, joined by **Mrs Anderson**, the General and Commander QG Signals, accompanied by OC Nepal Sig Tp left Kathmandu by air to visit the newly built Commcen at Pokhara. There they met all the BGC Pokhara officers and the ex QG Signals Commcen staff. In the evening at 1830 hrs the party went to see various Nepalese dances in Danfe Club. The party all flew back to Kathmandu to connect the flight to Biratnagar on the same day. **The General** and **Mrs Anderson, Col G. C. Verdon** and **Lt (QGO) Minbahadur Gurung** arrived at Biratnagar at about 1400 hrs where our Staff Capt/Sigs Offr Brignepal, **Capt Ian Noble** QG Signals was waiting to welcome them.

On 13 February at 1000 hrs, the General and **Col G. C. Verdon** paid an official visit to Comd Brignepal, **Brig D. R. Green CBE MC** and **Lt Col C. J. Scott OBE** 6 GR. After discussions, they left the office for BFBS Dharan. They spent about 10 minutes in the studio, discussing with the Programme Controllers, **Mrs Garman** and **Mrs Ingram** the equipments held and used by BFBS. At 1040 hrs, the General and **Lt Col G. C. Verdon** accompanied by Staff Capt/Sigs Offr Brignepal came to visit Nepal Sig Tp, where all serving and civilian staff were drawn up on parade to welcome them. As soon as he arrived the OC Nepal Sig Tp reported the parade to the General. The General first presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **SSgt Embahadur Rana** QG Signals, who is working in BMH Dharan as the Electromedical Technician, and then Commcen Dharan's first Gold Comstar which was presented to our junior member, **LCpl Birdhoj Gurung** QG Signals. The citations were read out by **Capt (QGO) Sangdup Tamang** QG Signals (HC BGD). A photograph was taken, but unfortunately **Sgt Eric Simm** QG Signals could not join us as he was operating the daily schedule with the Joint Services Hovercraft Expedition at Ramdighat near Palpa in Western Nepal. As **General** and **Mrs Anderson** were unable to attend the party that night, OC Nepal Sig Tp presented a pair of Cufflinks to the General as a present from all members of Nepal Sig Tp and serving members of QG Signals in Dharan, Nepal. In return the General thanked us all.



Nepal Signal Troop, Dharan, after the presentation of the Gold Comstar award

The parade fell out and after a short visit to the Troop, the General and party left the Commcen to visit the Resettlement Wing Dharan where OIC Farm, **Capt (QGO) Prembahadur Gurung** QG Signals was waiting to show the visitors around the farm. At the same time, he met Antennae Riggers **Sgt Welstead** RAF and **LCpl Krishnabahadur Gurung** QG Signals who were erecting a new Broad Band Dipole. The programme concluded at about 1200 hrs. A party was organised in Dharan Club but the General and Mrs Anderson were unfortunately unable to attend as they had to return for Hong Kong.

In the evening of 13 February, a party was organised by OC Nepal Sig Tp, **Lt (QGO) Minbahadur Gurung** and Commcen Supervisor, **Sgt Laldhoj Gurung.** The buffet was served at 2015 hrs and at about 2200 hrs an enjoyable evening drew to an end.

On 14 February, Comd QG Signals **Lt Col G. C. Verdon** paid an early morning visit to Sangure Chalet, before leaving Dharan at 1400 hrs for his flight to Kathmandu. Unfortunately, RNAC were unable to fly that day for technical reasons and Comd QG Signals had to return to camp for the night. **Lt Col Verdon** left the following day for Kathmandu en route to Hong Kong.

NEW COMMCEN

On returning from Nepal, the next major appointment for SO in C was to open the new Joint Communications Centre in the Headquarters British Forces building at HMS *Tamar*. The senior representatives from Cable and Wireless, **Mr Warwick**; from the Post Master General's Office, **Mr Granger** and from the Hong Kong Telephone Company, **Mr Walker** attended the Ceremony with senior officers of all three services including **Maj Gen Tony Tighe.** The General unveiled a plaque and cut a tricoloured ribbon of the three services before entering the centre. He toured the various departments accompanied by **Maj John Elliott**, the Officer Commanding the Communications Centre. Congratulatory messages were received from a number of outside authorities which included a biblical quotation from the Controller of the Defence Communication Network which read:

'When they saw the star in the East they rejoiced with exceeding great joy'.

On completion of the General's tour of the Communications Centre a reception was held for all the many people associated with the building and instalment of equipment in the new Communications Centre. Prior to the opening of the Joint Commcen the General presented a Goldstar award to the Naval Commcen in HMS *Tamar*.

On 16 February, the General attended the Regimental Dinner Night at the HQ Officers' Mess, QG Signals. Just before the main course the Comd, **Lt Col Verdon**, arrived dressed for the occasion, though slightly out of breath, having only arrived at Kai Tak via Delhi and all points East, an hour earlier. He had been forced to take the 'scenic' route back from Nepal due to the vagaries of Royal Nepalese Airlines which left him stranded at Biratnagar for 24 hours. The General made a speech outlining the progress made over the last few years in the Corps, and touched on the new sophisticated equipment being introduced. He concluded by saying how impressed he was with all that he had seen on his visit and wished us success in the future.

VISIT TO BRUNEI

The next morning, 17 February, saw SO in C in Brunei to visit the Brunei Signal Troop and 581 Gurkha Signal Troop, 10 GR. A party was held on the evening of the 19 February in their honour. A beautifully bound book about Brunei was presented to **Mrs Anderson** and a blow-pipe with darts to the General. Both presents were gratefully accepted and the General went on to show his expertise with the blow-pipe by scoring a bulls eye on the target especially made for the occasion.

The final visit was to Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, a look at the Training Centre and Signal Training Wing. **W02 (YofS) Morris Campbell** was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. After a sightseeing trip and a days leave the General and his wife departed for the UK. They had seen a great deal in a very short time. The general was most impressed by the degree of day to day signalling involvement that he met across Queen's Gurkha Signals; he was most complimentary on the professionalsim shown by all ranks and was very appreciative of the work put into the programme produced for him.

QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS
GURKHA FD FORCE HQ AND SIG SQN

OPENING OF ARMY COMMCEN SEK KONG BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Having moved from our previous cramped location into the spacious new premises, all that remained was the official recognition of the move, that is to say an Opening Ceremony. The Commander, Gurkha Field Force **Brig Carleton-Smith MBE** agreed to perform the Ceremony on 12 January 1979 and plans were made to have a small commemorative plaque produced to record the event. The plaque was ordered from a firm in Kowloon, and there the matter rested. To test our flexibility, the Commander decided that as the Secretary of State for Defence was visiting the Garrison on 5 January 1979 he and not the Commander would declare the Commcen open. This created one or two problems:

THE PLAQUE

Firstly a plaque bearing the name of **Brig Carleton-Smith MBE** had been ordered for delivery on the 12th. Secondly the company needed nine days to produce the new plaque. We were giving them three! After a great deal of negotiation and pleading (by gentlemen not used to the latter as a form of man-management) it was agreed that the engraving company, would have the job completed by the evening prior to the ceremony. Everyone relaxed.



Mr Mulley meets Maj Don Herring, SO3 Tels whilst Comd QG Signals Lt Col Verdon and Maj John Neeve look on

DELICATE TIMING

It happened that two communicators were in the vicinity of the company on the day on which delivery was due, and inquiries were made as to the state of readiness of the plaque. Ah, the plaque! Yes, it would be ready on the 12th. It was pointed out that this did not really fit in with our plans—what about first thing in the morning? At length it was reluctantly agreed that the job would be finished and ready for collection at 1030 hrs—just one and a half hours before the ceremony.

CHAMPAGNE TOO

Next morning there was much feverish activity as measurements were made, holes drilled and an unveiling curtain placed in position. True to their word, the inscribed brass plate was ready, and upon delivery to Sek Kong was positioned carefully on the wall outside the Commcen.

The Secretary of State arrived and after being introduced to the Commcen Staff declared Army Commcen Sek Kong duly open. Champagne flowed and after a brief tour the visitors departed. Everyone relaxed again, but this time more thoroughly. Finally we should like to thank **Mr Mulley** for performing the ceremony, N Troop for drilling the holes and an (advisedly) un-named company in Kowloon for providing the plaque and the ulcers.

THE RISE AND FALL OF JO FLETCHER

On Saturday, 13 January at approximately 11.30 am **Lt Joe Fletcher** Queen's Gurkha Signals married **Jenny Edgington** in St Martins Church, Borneo Lines, Sek Kong. Despite ominous weather forecasts, the day dawned bright and sunny which set the scene for what turned out to be a splendid Regimental pageant. Pageants however do not just occur, they need to be carefully planned but under the careful eye of **Capt Len Jeffery, Joe** and **Jenny** had nothing to fear. Naturally a Regimental wedding meant that there was no shortage of willing assistance and as the day of the wedding dawned, **Joe** was often wondering whether he should not have just sat back and let it all happen! **Jenny** had flown out from England two weeks prior to the wedding and by her charming, efficient manner had convinced us all that she was more than capable of taking on the responsibility of keeping **Joe** on the straight and (relatively!) narrow.

Capt Len Jeffery gave the bride away whilst **Lt Nigel Moore** was the groom's best man. **Nigel** had flown over from England on the same plane as **Jenny** but even some of his fairly colourful description of **Joe's** past life were not enough to deter **Jenny** from going ahead! For a number of good reasons, the wedding coincided with the start of a large Field Force Exercise and on the Monday following, both groom and best man found themselves controlling remote rebroadcast radio stations on the top of the cold, cloud covered Castle Peak mountain range! If they can't take a joke . . .!

The married couple emerged from the church under a ceremonial guard of kukris provided by the Queen's Gurkha Officers of the Queen's Gurkha Signal Regiment—a splendid sight. Beautiful as he was, the bride had a certain amount of competition when she was surrounded by the Gurkha wives wearing their most lovely saris; the photographs should be good! The reception was held in the Headquarters Mess, Queen's Gurkha Signals where guests were introduced to **Mrs Edgington** and the groom's parents, all of whom had flown out from UK a few days previously. **Sgt Nicholl** and his staff from the Gurkha Field Force Officers' Mess produced a magnificent buffet which was washed down with ample quantities of champagne.

With the compliments of the Commander British Forces, **Lt** and **Mrs Joe Fletcher** left the reception in a large Daimler limousine heading for an hotel apparently well known to the Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals. It had been a truly splendid occasion and the Regiment now hopefully awaits the arrival of the next eligible bachelor.

HONG KONG GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON REPORT

The Squadron has continued to forge ahead with the communications projects currently under way in Hong Kong. The opening of the new HQBF building in HMS *Tamar* took place on 4 March and brought to fruition the many labours of Island Troop under command **Capt (TOT) John Kirton.** The troop has recently completed the laying and re-routing of underground cables from Victoria Barracks into *Tamar.* Telephones for the Staff have been installed in the new building and as the various departments and branches have moved in, Island Troop engineered the smooth changeover of telephone lines so that no subscriber was out of contact for more than 20 minutes; less than the time taken to walk from the old to the new office. With help from our R Signals friends from CPA Blandford, the new line telephone exchange was installed and opened on 26 January 1979.

An installation team from GEC is currently assembling control and radio equipment for the Hong Kong Static Radio Relay System Phase 2. By mid-summer, many of the major cable routes in the Colony, some laid before the war, will have been superceded by radio relay. Despite the complexity of project work normal operating tasks and military training continue.

The Squadron camp was held in the Sai Kung peninsula throughout the month of November. 250 members of the Squadron took part in one of the four week long phases of the camp.

The Camp activities and exercises organised by **Capt John Stuart** and **WO2 (YofS) John Isherwood** were designed to give everyone a complete break from their working routine in the concrete jungles of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. British, Gurkha, Chinese and even WRAC soldiers were formed into five person patrols. Throughout the month these patrols learned and practised rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and map reading skills. Military skills were also practised and after a week of helicopter training, orienteering, night marches and leadership tests all were ready to attempt the final exercise aptly named Exercise *Cathayan Marches.*

A 25 km cross country course was set and patrols marched through check points to stands where certain tasks were performed. The photographs show some of the activities including **SSgt Nobby Clark's** jackless wheel changing and **SSgt Mick Stevens** and **Sgt Tim Elsey's** 300 metre raft crossing (watch out for passing junks). The girls covered a shortened course but ably demonstrated their basic signalling skills by constructing pole crossings in the style of the East Cheam Knitting Society. Certainly their rafting attire would do credit to Norman Hartnel.

The camp was visited by the Director WRAC, **Brig A. Field,** DCBF Hong Kong, **Brig D. Crabtree** and Comd Gurkha Field Force, **Brig M. Carleton-Smith MBE.** Both the training and evening activities proved to be a great success. Members of the multi-national squadron working together formed links and friendships which will undoubtedly endure during the coming year.

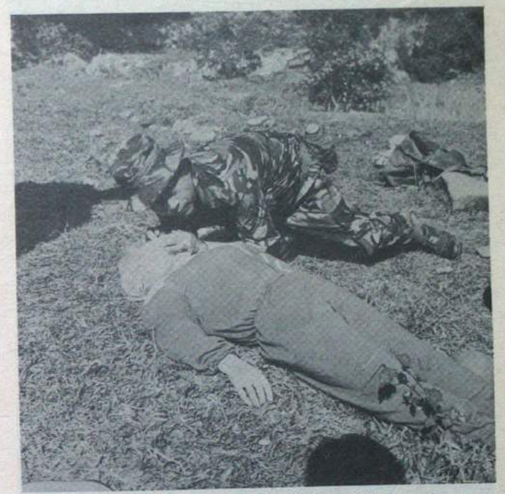


SSgt Nobby Clarks—Jackless Wheel Change—HK Gurkha Sig Sqn Summer Camp. Cpl Tekbahadur Limbu, Sgt Rushton



Sig Poon Kwok Wing abseiling on Kowloon Peak—HK Gurkha Sig Sqn Summer Camp

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY



SSgt Ng Ping Ching breathing life into a fallen angel



Preparing to Raft the entrance to Long Harbour—HK Gurkha Sig Sqn Summer Camp. Pte Stier, Pte Scott, Cpl Warwick

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

THE WHITE HELMETS

UNDER WAY

We are now into a 'New Season' with training and Opening Show behind us. The various tricks performed by the riders have been painstakingly pieced together into a 30 minute show. Accidents do happen, especially during the initial training period, and so riders must be trained to take the place of others who may be temporarily out of the show. The rides are getting faster and more slick, with the whole show taking on a professional aspect. The training is mainly at Catterick Airfield, a windy place at the height of the summer, but in winter reminiscent of the Steppes. One thing is for sure, and that is that if a show can be done at RAF Catterick, it can be done anywhere.

Quite apart from the training, the thousand and one other things necessary for the season are ready, from sufficient quantities of throttle cables to spare sets of boots and gloves and new tyres for the bikes. Soon the Team will be on the road, bringing to the Public thrills, spills and an insight into the Corps.

FAREWELL TO BRIG BUTLER

Sadly, **Brig N. A. Butler CBE** is soon to leave Catterick. As Commander Training Group he has taken great interest in the Royal Signals Demonstration Team and has devoted great pains to ensuring the continued success of the White Helmets. So, what better way to say goodbye than over drinks and a small buffet. After being escorted from Headquarters Training Group by outriders of the White Helmets, **Brig Butler** was presented with a specially designed plaque by **Lt Col Freddie Lockwood OBE,** Officer Commanding the Royal Signals Demonstration Team. During the speeches, jokes were told, both risque and utterly slanderous, and the Brigadier took great pains to point out that it can't be bad to serve in RSDT and drink beer in the afternoon.



Brig Butler and friends at farewell drinks



The Double Wheelbarrow

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COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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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 31 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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The Maltese Cross



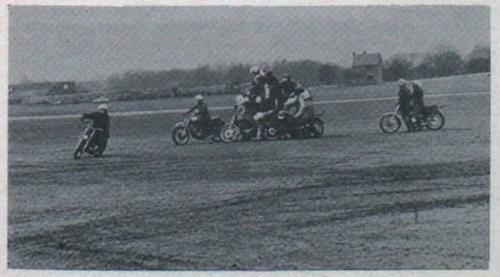
Ten men up



The Double Jimmy



The finished article



Accidents do happen!



Sig Bruno Brown's Car Jump

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

2 ARMD DIV HQ AND SIG REGT SKI REPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS PRODUCE INTER-SERVICE SLALOM CHAMPION

Cpl Gordon Townsley emerged at the end of a successful ski racing season as Inter-Service Slalom Champion at Val D'Isere. This achievement was all the more creditable because he had only joined the Regiment in early December, from Cyprus, and had therefore missed the majority of this season's intensive team training. **Cpl Townsley** started skiing on an earlier posting with the Regiment.



INTENSIVE TRAINING

This season, as in previous ones, the Regiment devoted a lot of effort to the training of both a Langlauf and an Alpine team for the races. It all started way back in August 1978 when both teams—some 20 men—started fitness training together at the Regiment's Snow Queen Hut in Bavaria. After one week and a lot of blisters, the teams split; the Alpine team, led by **Lt Hugh Bardell** moved to Zermatt, Switzerland, to start its summer snow training (a detailed report was included in the November edition) and the Langlauf team, led by **Capt Mike Telfer,** an experienced langlaufer, remained in Bavaria to continue the process of transforming a group of relative novices into super-fit cross-country runners capable of moving on to rigorous snow technique training in Norway later in the year.

By October, both teams had returned to Bunde, but only long enough to play their normal parts in a Div FTX and then to get ski-organised again. Once packed, they were soon waving goodbye to **Maj Tony Kimber** (the man left behind with the accounts!) as the Alpine team returned south to Zermatt and winter training and the Langlauf team headed North to Norway, after marrying up with their 22 Signal Regiment colleagues. After a complicated movement plot the Regiment's Langlaufers started a technique racing course organised by the British Outward Bound Centre in Norway. From the course the team, consisting of **Capt Mike Telfer, Cpls Stan Sudron, Don Stewart, 'Lofty' Prosser, Paul Marsden** and **Sigs Pete Plevin, Pete Skeates, 'Dimp' Livesey, Bob Hugill** and **Phil Cobern** (later replaced by **Sig Tony Rees** because of an injury), moved to the Norwegian School of Signals.



The Patrol Team parade prior to the Divisional race, led by Capt Mike Telfer and included (*left to right*) Cpl Stan Sudron, Sig Bob Hugill and 'Dimp' Livesey

Here they rejoined the 22 Signal Regiment team led by **Capt Peter Bowles.** Both teams then trained hard and continuously throughout December, including Christmas and the New Year, until early January when they made the long trek via Bunde and Lippstadt to their respective Divisional races in Bavaria. The Norwegian phase was most successful mainly due to the tremendous hospitality and assistance given by the Norwegians.

Meanwhile back at Zermatt, **Lt Hugh Bardell,** assisted very ably by expert skiers **Maj Paddy Hughes** R Signals and his wife **Anne** (attached to the team from HQ 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld), **Cpls Paul Ford, Shuggy Hugill, Gordon Townsley, Sigs Windsor Llewellyn, Steve Cave** and **Ozzie Pattison** were training hard with their 22 Signal Regiment colleagues led by **Cpl Patches Rodriguez** and **LCpl Phil Philemon** (who was later cross-posted to us prior to the races).

By early December, this team had returned to Bunde, but only for a change of clothing before moving southwards again in search of the snow in Bavaria and the final phase of training, before the races.

During this phase in Bavaria the Alpine team was forced to travel long distances to find usable snow fields whilst back in Bunde it lay inches thick everywhere!

After Christmas the team travelled to Val D'Isere and competed in the British National Championships. This proved to be valuable experience before the start of the Service Competitions.

By 8 January both the Alpine and Langlauf teams, the CO, **Lt Col Tony Willcox** and the Skiing Officer, **Maj Tony Kimber** had arrived in Oberjoch ready for the 2 Armd Div Ski Meeting—the races were about to start.

2 ARMD DIV SKI MEETING

After months of training it was disappointing to arrive at Oberjoch in Bavaria for the start of the races to find too little snow, but after a few days, it fell and fell and fell and fell—until finally the organisers were complaining of too much! The meeting developed into a 'battle royale' between the Regiment and the Bunde based 2 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT teams. We had the edge in the Alpine events, eventually winning the Alpine Combination Cup, but the RCT fielded a stronger langlauf team which proved too good for **Capt Mike Telfer's** Squad.

The RCT beat us into second place in the Military (Langlauf) Combination and scored sufficiently well to win the 2 Division Champion Unit Trophy. However the Regiment's skiers did not come away empty handed: in addition to a host of individual prizes, the team results below tell the story:

Langlauf

Biathalon Relay (Sonnenhof Cup)	1st
15km	'A' Team 2nd
4 x 10km relay	'A' Team 2nd
	'B' Team Novice Team Prize
Patrol Race	2nd

Alpine

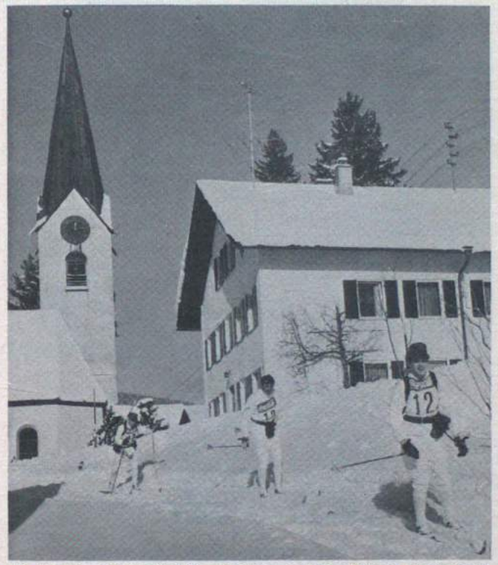
Slalom	2nd
Giant Slalom	1st
Downhill	1st

Combination Prizes

Military (Langlauf) Combination	2nd
Alpine Combination	1st
2 Armd Div Champion Unit (both Alpine and Langlauf)	2nd

THE ARMY/BAOR MEETINGS

Immediately after the Divisional meeting, the Alpine team moved to Ischgl in Austria for the Army races, whilst the langlaufers remained at Oberjoch for their Army events.



Sig Bob Hugill leads Cpl Stan Sudron and Capt Mike Telfer through the Bavarian town of Unterjoch during the Divisional patrol race

At Oberjoch the standard was very high. As usual, some very well established skiing Regiments produced strong teams and **Capt Mike Telfer** was well pleased with his team results; particularly as this year the Regiment had no runner of National Standard, which is now a severe disadvantage at the Army meeting.

At Ischgl the story was much the same, but the experience and consistent performances of **Cpls Townsley** and **Ford** (last year's Army downhill champion) carried them through to take places within the top five in the Army in the giant slalom and slalom respectively.

Langlauf

4 x 10km	7th
15km	8th
Patrol Race	4th

Alpine

Slalom	2nd
Giant Slalom	3rd
Downhill	5th

Combination Prizes

The Princess Marina Cup 5th
The Kentish Ski (Military Langlauf Combination) Cup 6th (equal)

THE INTER-SERVICE MEETING

Following the Army Alpine meeting, **Cpls Gordon Townsley** and **Paul Ford** were selected to ski for the Army Team in the 'Inter-Services' meeting at Val D'Isere. In addition to **Cpl Townsley's** celebrated win in the slalom race, **Cpl Ford** achieved fourth place in the Slalom and fifth place in the downhill; all very pleasing results at this high level of competition. All in all a satisfying climax to a successful and expensive season of ski racing.



LCpl Paul Ford in full flight at the Inter Services' Meeting at Val D'Isere, France

ARCTIC CONDITIONS

Whilst our skiers were having trouble finding snow in the South, the Regiment deployed on Exercise *Fighting Eagle* from a very snow swept Birdwood Barracks. You will have read from the other Divisions about this Exercise, but as they all prepared to move back to warm, cosy barracks the Regiment prepared itself for yet another week in Arctic conditions during Exercise *Winter Sales.* Those of you with a more sturdy disposition read on to find out the truth about 'Life at Commcen Echo . . .'

Capt Dave Bannister (the only airborne tank driver officer in the Corps), settled us in our new location. This was an ideal location in a quarry on top of a large hill. Then the Snow started! and it snowed and snowed and snowed. The drifts were gathering to heights of six feet and the lowest temperature recorded was −22 deg C at 140340Z (St Valentine's Day?). Snow everywhere, but running short of water! The order went out no washing or shaving. **LCpl Eric Ball** and **Cpl Kim Rose** suffered this order in silence.



BFBS REPORT

To cheer the lads of Commcen Echo a request was put over BFBS by **Mrs Mary Louden,** wife of the 2IC, to tell our wives that we were cut off, short of food and water, fuel for heating, but not to worry they would have us all home as planned.

At this point, the greatest morale booster of all: the FFR had been cut to DM 3.75! The cry went out for 'volunteers'. Fifty-one men stepped backwards, but **Capt Dave Bannister** still picked five. Their



task was to travel approximately 1½km through snowdrifts up to 7ft deep to pick up cans of diesel that had been brought as near to our location as possible. Four hours later our heroes arrived with 12 cans of diesel.

FRESH RATION DELIVERY

The whispers started 'Fresh Rations' and these were soon delivered by persons no less than our CO, **Lt Col A. M. Willcox** and **WO1 (RSM) Vic Zimmer** who had set off on foot to carry sacks of chips and peas, but due to the conditions the final Re-supply at Echo was 1lb of butter the CO had carried in his pocket. Our **SSM John Martin** immediately offered to cut it into 55 pieces and share it between the lads.

BULLDOZER TO THE RESCUE

The next good news was that a Bulldozer from 4 Div Engineers was on its way to dig us out. It arrived in our location at dusk but could not stay and by the time we had released all the vehicles from the layer of ice they had sunk into, the track out was covered in three to four feet of snow and we were trapped again!

By this time we had no power on the vehicles so to keep warm for the night we were given access to an alpine hut and settled down like sardines on a cold stone floor. During the night **SSgt Trev 'Yozzie' Evans** battled through the snow to bring us a radio so that when rescue work started again we could talk to the outside world.

Eventually at 0630 hrs on the Friday the bulldozer battled its way through to us again and at last Freedom beckoned! Apart from three vehicles leaving the road on the way down the hill to facilitate the movement of recovery vehicles up the hill (!) we arrived safely at the POL point and then drove back to camp. Total move out time 24 hours and 17 minutes between clearance to move and arrival in camp.

PS. The shortage of teleprinter rolls was due to **Sig 'Mitch' Mitchell** contracting a stomach bug early on in the exercise.

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NEW MANAGEMENT

Have no fear—the 3rd is still here. Our short absence from these columns has been noted—particularly by the new management, and the order is now 'get them in'. Well, what has been going on? New management? Yes, at almost every level, and all within a four month period. CO, Ops Offr, Adjt, every Sqn Comd, QM(T), most Troop comds, and the RSM, even the 2IC is under imminent threat! **Lt Col Ray Bell** has handed over to **Lt Col Roy Maynard** and in the WO's and Sgt's Mess, **WO1 (RSM) Sandy Reid** has handed over to **WO1 (RSM) John Kirkman**. To all on departure we wish you the best, to the new boys—welcome, we are glad you're here.



They're smiling—they made it! CO and RSM toast each other on departure

HOLIDAYS ON ICE

New Organisation? Yes. The habit of change has really retained its grip on us. Being new to the BAOR Regimental organisation, somewhat rigid since inception too long ago, and feeling more than a little constrained by lack of officers, a reshuffle was decreed. 2 (Radio) and 3 (COMMHD) Squadrons were the targets. The end product, still 2 and 3 Squadrons but 2 Squadron now having both Main HQ COMMHDS and 3 Squadron all logistic and service radio. Our verdict so far, it makes sense and is working well.

The first quarter of 1979 really saw the Regiment gird its loins and shape up to an intensive exercise programme, most of it against a continuous and glaring white backdrop. This has been termed our 'Holidays on Ice' season, in three acts, Fresh Spring, Fighting Eagle and Staff Ride. Scenes and incidents of note are:

OVERTURE?

The severe Arctic weather afforded the Regiment the opportunity of emulating the St Moritz Tobagganing Club by staging our own versions of the BAOR Bobsleigh Championship. The three-quarters of a mile of the Cresta Run paled to insignificance as Germany's road system was transformed into crystal ice slots snaking through Christmas Card landscapes. Every corner and bend produced the thrills and spills of Battledore Bend, the Rise, Shuttlecock, Cresta Leap and Stream Corner. Any Gasthaus doubled as the Kulm Hotel, for a celebratory or libatory drink, where the gods were thanked for a safe deliverance. The most popular and spectacular events were the four ton GS and AFV 432 Bobsleigh Events. These varied from two to twenty men events depending on the whim of troop commanders.

Experienced competitors such as **Cpl Pete Mallinson** became quite blase about it all. He demonstrated the typical English Sang Froid by taking a quick nap whilst piloting a four ton sleigh. His entry to the Shuttlecock Club was a spectacular, technicolour event. The MTO, **Capt John Hunt RCT** was not amused at the condensed, crumpled snub nosed version of a four ton bob produced by **Cpl Mallinson**, and showed a callous disregard for the coach work damage sustained by the pilot. Friends will be reassured to learn that the coach work has now been fully restored to its normal wrinkled, dissipated texture.

ESPIONAGE OR INTRIGUE?

On moving out, at the start of 1 BR Corps' prosaically named 'Exercise *Fighting Eagle*', the CO, **Lt Col Roy Maynard,** was somewhat confused when a very dusty landrover passed him on which was written 'Boss', in large letters. He is still trying to work out whether the South African Security Agency was infiltrating or, was it simply OC Task Force Foxtrot, **Maj Jim Storr,** indulging delusions of grandeur. The Eggy Burger Times, Task Force Foxtrots personal news sheet, is in no doubt who 'Boss' is.

CES CHECK?

During one move, **Cpl Derrick Gwynn** broke all records and earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records as he evacuated from a still moving Message Centre. Having reached Terra Firma he stood at the side of the road deathly white and shaking with the ague as he carried out a frantic CES check on his person. Having found no obvious deficiencies the colour commenced to return to his cheeks. When a check of his vocal chords revealed his normal bass voice his complexion returned and he relaxed perceptibly. Investigation revealed that the vehicle battery, sited beneath the seat he was occupying, had exploded. Near miss that!

FLAMBEAU?

One of our line dets commanded by **Cpl Ron Stephenson** decided to revolutionise Egon Ronay's culinary guide when they decided to produce a brew up and snack to satisfy the inner lineman. Preparation of this culinary delight commenced with a spectacular Flambeau which devoured the four ton vehicle, trailer and the German Farmer's Barn. The recipe is obviously designed for linemen who prefer their food well done.

The following day when the debris was being sifted everyone was amazed when a pair of issue socks were discovered in pristine condition amongst the still smouldering ruin. The line party were quite unmoved by this apparent miracle, as **Sig Billy Kidd** pointed out, after five days on exercise every linemans' socks are designed to carry him through hell. The OC of line troop, **Lt Allan Choat,** was promoted to Capt very shortly after this incident. Line troop consider this fortunate as his increase in salary for the first month should nicely cover restitution for damages. We do hope this recipe for Flambeau Barn does not catch on. Observation has shown that it is somewhat inclined to give OCs and COs a bad attack of indigestion — with consequent side effects in the Regiment.

AQUATIC ARCITECTS?

Members of Task Force Echo decided, albeit reluctantly, that cleanliness is next to Godliness and that an improvement in Anglo German relationships was desirable to achieve this. The two aims were combined when arrangements were made for the troop to shower at a small factory in the exercise area. One soldier, having dined too well on spinach, managed to break a tap. The cellar was quickly transformed into a very luxurious indoor swimming pool, an amenity which any factory, could be proud of. The factory's owner was understandably quite speechless at this generous, unselfish gesture and was obviously very moved. So was Task Force Echo.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC RADIO?

A Sgt in the RMP sitting in the Sgts Mess one evening overheard a telephone call regarding bad rice pudding. 'What's that about?', he asked, 'That's code', replied **WO1 Nick Lynn**, 'We use codes to conceal the equipment we are using and Rice Pudding is C42s'. 'That's alright, it won't affect me, we only have C13s' replied the RMP. 'Ah, that's Apple Pie', observed the Foreman, 'If you have a faulty set you report a bad Apple Pie'. Anyone encountering an RMP Sgt on a radio net shouting 'I have a bad Apple Pie, send me a Rice Pudding' should please refrain from referring him to the local psychiatrist. The Regiment have also now arranged for **Foreman Lynn** to be commissioned and posted to the Emerald Isles. It is felt that there is a requirement for an English speaking Leprechaun.

THE SPIRIT IS MOVING?

With the arrival of our new Col GS, **Col P. W. Graham** the aim has been to find cellars suitable to house the Div HQ Staff. During the exercise, **Capt Tony Elford,** approached a Monastery and asked whether he could look at the cellars. On being granted access he was somewhat surprised when he found a room gaily decorated with paper streamers and tables bearing further evidence of a party in the shape of empty bottles and glasses. Later in the day one of his soldiers asked him why they had not seen any sign of the monks in the monastery grounds. 'You probably won't, they are a very tight order,' replied **Capt Elford.** The Father Prior, and others, should probably question this terminology.

METHUSELAH SCRAMBLES

Before closing these notes, a word on one of the more unusual sportsmen in the Regiment. **Lt Gordon Park,** at an age when most men are moving towards more sedentary sports, is still involved in the mud and dust of motor cycling events. During his service with the Regiment he has taken third place in an endurance event in Osnabruck, obtained a first class award in the Berlin Two Day Motor Cycle Event and a Silver Medal in the Bruggen Endurance Meeting. Old White Helmet friends will no doubt be delighted to learn that he still has sump oil coursing firmly through his veins and is probably the oldest Hells Angel in the business.

He leaves the Regiment later in the year on posting to 16 Signal Regiment where, he hopes to continue his motor cycle activities. We wish him every success in his sport and feel sure that his steel studded Dinner jacket will provide a conversation piece in his new mess.

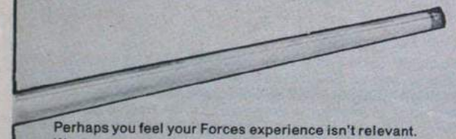


That magnificent man on his ?? machine Lt Gordon Park in action

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ALL CHANGE

So numerous have been the changes in personnel and organisation in 4 Div during the recent months that it is appropriate that even these notes have been compiled by a new arrival. After six years away from the Corps he returns to find that in spite of many differences nothing has really changed. People are a little busier but they are remarkably cheerful; they moan just as much but no more than before and morale is as high as ever. The writer himself is older, in fact nearly the oldest in the Squadron — even the Sergeants look young—but he can just about keep up with the Herforder-logged youngsters without the aid of crutches or Phyllosan.

With so many comings and goings, it would be tedious to list them all, but here are a few of the more notable. Sadly for your correspondant, we have said farewell to **Maj Adrian Bailey** as 'OC 2nd Independant Armoured Squadron (Radio)' just as it was his turn for The Wire Notes. Our photo features a somewhat apprehensive looking **Deborah Bailey** at the control of the late TAC HQ FV432 under the equally apprehensive guidance of **Cpl Clarkson.** More recently our Regimental 2IC, **Maj John Dawson** made his final and perhaps wittiest farewell speech and left for the School of Signals—we shall miss his calm and measured influence. We shall also miss the large and cheerful presence of **Sgt Welch** from 3 Sqn who ran the only Egon Ronay recommended 'Papa' cookhouse in the Corps Area.



SPORTING CHANCE

Indeed the chance would be a fine thing. For the last three months in Germany we have been deep in snow and only the clever ones (indoor sportsmen) and the mad ones (cross country runners) have been able to carry on. The one exception is our Hockey team who managed to get in one game—the 4 Div final—which was just lost by bad luck to 7 Sig Regt on penalties after extra time. Nevertheless they go forward to the BAOR play off when we hope for a little more luck.

Out in the field the Regimental cross country team were second in the Div League and our 'B' Team were placed fourth. **Capt Dennis Atkin RAEC** was our best placed individual, second overall, and **Sig Pollard** did consistently well throughout the season; he missed being amongst the prize winners due to the BAOR Badminton Championships which prevented him from competing in all races. Our thanks is due to **Maj David Gardiner** for all his hard work and enthusiasm in running the team.

Indoors our badminton team have flourished and we have every expectation of winning the 4 Div Championships. Our No 1 pair **Sig Tom Pollard** and **Sig Jim Moore** have added to their successes in the Royal Signals BAOR Open and Unit doubles by carrying off the BAOR Unit doubles. They found life a little more difficult when they travelled to UK for the Army Championships but the experience gained was worthwhile and we expect great things to come.

TASK FORCE NEWS

Moving to the sharp end we feature Task Force Hotel Signal Troop:
OC Maj Ingram
2IC Capt Amberton
OC A Lt N. C. Jackson
OC B Lt T. Bryning
OC B (desig) 2Lt N. Harrison
SSM WO2 Darlington
Y of S WO2 Rayner

ARU EXPERTS

During the past few months the Troop has been closely involved in running ARUs for other Units. Indeed we even 'managed' our own in January. Our most recent 'Faux Pas' was a brave ambush of a column of Queen's Own Hussars Chieftains. Unfortunately for the gallant, dug in, LMG team of **Cpl Al Blood** and **Sig 'Doddy' Dobson** the last Troop through the ambush peeled off and proceeded to annihilate the enemy. Our astonished Lineys moved almost as fast as the reversing '432' commanded by an even more amazed **Lt (now Capt) Tim Bryning.**

BOWLING

We now have a 4 point lead in the Bielefeld and District League with only six matches to play. Very shortly our two veterans, **SSgt (SQMS) Bill (empty your pockets in my store) Adams** and **Cpl Mick Cost** will be going to London for the Army Championships. We also hope to participate in the BAOR Championships in Düsseldorf at the end of April—so watch out for 'The Black Cats'.

SOCCER

After the winter lay off we have paid off the Physiotherapist and are now through to the BAOR Minor Units Semi Finals. Our last game against 227 Sig Sqn (away—all weekend!?) was a good game which we won 4—1. All credit to **Sig 'Scouse' (I never miss) Russell** who scored two penalties. **LCpl Don Buckley REME** scored the other two. We now look forward to meeting CPO BAOR in the next round. In the Task Force Cup we are also Semi-finalists.

GAUNTLET CLUB

The Troop Club continues to thrive. During the Christmas period the group 'Paradise' caused extensive structural damage and **SSgt Tom Noonan** organised the ear defenders for those who didn't appreciate the HI-FI. On our quieter evenings **Cpl Mick Cost** has provided the disco extravaganza and **Sig 'Chappie' Chapman** the Travolta touch. We haven't had a Fancy Dress party since **Driver Ed 'Swede' Breaden** arrived as a babe swathed in a towel—I won't mention who stole his towel.

G STAFF

The winter brought new G Staff—we are still training them. Quote from Ex Full House 'Working to this watchkeeper is like working through thick porridge'.

ARRIVALS

Maj Jon Ingram, 2Lt Nigel Harrison, SSgt (F of S) Matthews, LCpl Wood and **Sig Hodson** for second tour, **LCpl Hopcroft, LCpl Howlett, Sigs Edwards, Theyer, Foyle, Harris, Collyer, Avey-Hebditch.**

DEPARTURES

Capt Nigel Pullman—after many 'dos' and farewells. **Cpl Hayles**—REME, **LCpl Smith**—RCT, **LCpl Compton,** Sig Onn.

DELIVERIES

To **LCpl** and **Mrs Smith RCT** a daughter
To **Sig** and **Mrs Allen** a son
To **Cpl** and **Mrs Vines** a daughter

CONGRATS

Cpl Mick Cost on an A Grading Det Comds Course—to go with his A1 RTG Grade A.

REORG!—AGAIN?

At present we are undergoing reorganisation!
The Gauntlet rules—O.K. Quadrant.

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

ONE SQUADRON PERSONALITIES:— (EX ALL CHANGE)

OLD (APRIL)

OC SQN . . . . . Maj Brian (Days to do) Robinson
2I/C . . . . . Capt Paul (I think I'm a Computer Specialist) Holden
OC E TP . . . . . Lt David (The Scribe) Wise
OC S TP . . . . . Lt Bernie (Plug) Hewitt
SSM. . . . . W02 David (What a posting) Gouldsmith
FOS . . . . . SSgt Allan (Photographer by Appt to Scribe) Coates
YOS . . . . . ?
SQMS . . . . . ? whoops sorry! SSgt Ian Chapman

NEW (MAY)

OC . . . . . Maj Peter Pritchard (Unchristened)
SSM . . . . . W02 Pete Boulby (What a posting Mk 2)
YOS. . . . . ? Please apply in writing to above address

COMINGS AND GOINGS

It is springtime in Alfa-land and a young man's thoughts turn to different places. A series of bright young faces have left us or are about to go, and one or two new very long faces have arrived. To the units receiving the ex-Alfaites commiserations, to those donating to this great cause, Ta very much.

OUTGOING

Cpl (Strats) Stratton . . . . . 8 Signal Regt
Cpl (Killer) Keith . . . . . 8 Signal Regt
Cpl (Elly) May . . . . . N I
LCpl (Willy) Wellard . . . . . N I
W02 (SSM) Gouldsmith . . . . . Officers Mess
Maj Brian Robinson. . . . . MOD



Handover/Takeovers are not to be taken lightly. Maj Robinson in action

INCOMING

Maj Peter Pritchard . . . . . School of Sigs
W02 SSM Boulby. . . . . Officers Mess
Cpl (Bomber) Browne
LCpl (Danny) Daniel
LCpl (Walkover) Walkden
LCpl (How about a Course) Barr
Sig Purslow (Minor)
Sig (Got any leave passes) Coyle
Sgt Joe (Bushy Tail) Busutill

EXERCISE SEASON

Unlike most units, 7 Signal Regiment's two Comcens Alfa and Bravo have a leave season which is pitifully short. **Lt Bernie (Plug) Hewitt** has spent nearly nine months proving that it is statistically impossible to enable everybody to get his leave in. It is widely believed that at no time has a degree in Mathematics been used to such great ends.



Ice Station Alfa



Sig (Jock) Cain surveys the situation—conclusions are not always printable

Anyway to prove that Alfa really does exercise I have included the two photos. Somewhere at 'Ice Station Alfa' there lurks **LCpl Pike,** we only know for sure because of the number of times our hard pushed 'E.D.s' have to rush over and repair his genny's. The other photo we thought of as a front page for Wire. Honestly it was not posed, **Sig (Jock) Cain** really look like this on his better days. He refuses to disclose the name of his tailor, and it would appear that the Field Marshal's baton in his kitbag probably doesn't belong to him anyway (Field Marshal's take note!).

THE FAMILY LIFE

All members of Alfa have an extra ordinary feeling of togetherness. When the time comes to have a party we do tend to overdo it, however, by being able to play hard together it reflects in the work capability. Sadly along with all sub-units of the Regiment 1 Squadron has had its 'MDD' reduced. The last photo may be the last time Alfa can boast of having enough people to be able to argue about who owns a cam net. Before any questions are asked. **LCpl John Rolls** did give **Sig (Joe 90) Hill** the cam net; **Sig Hill** did not grasp the machete and thereby threaten the life of a stalwart Powerman. **LCpl Rolls** insists that he ought to be Cpl and well, he's bigger than me anyway.



LCpl Rolls 'Are you or are you not going to take this cam net?' Sig Hill '*?!©-+ No, I'm posted to 2 Div'



Sig Tony Blood & SSgt Ray Cardwell

CONGRATULATIONS

I'm sure all will join me in offering congratulations to the following:—

Cpl Neil (Oddball) Parsons. . . . . for not getting married again!
Cpl & Mrs Keith. . . . . on the arrival of their daughter
Sgt & Mrs D. Chivers . . . . . on the arrival of their son
Capt & Mrs P. Holden . . . . . on the arrival of their son
LCpl & Mrs J. Chivers. . . . . on the arrival of their son
Cpl & Mrs J. Armstrong . . . . . on the arrival of their daughter
Sig (Billy) Browne . . . . . on breaking his leg on Snow Queen

Spring 1978 must have been a leave period!!!

THANKS

Finally, two points:—

- **Maj Brian Robinson** would like to thank all of Alfa's subscribers for making life absolute hell for the last two years of exercises.
- **Lt David Wise** would like to welcome himself to the Squadron. He is convinced any improvements are entirely due to him for the next two years, and would like to thank **Maj Brian Robinson** for allowing him the opportunity of contributing to The Wire. But next time please not the day he arrives in the Regiment!!!

See you next exercise folks!

Same place, same dialling code.

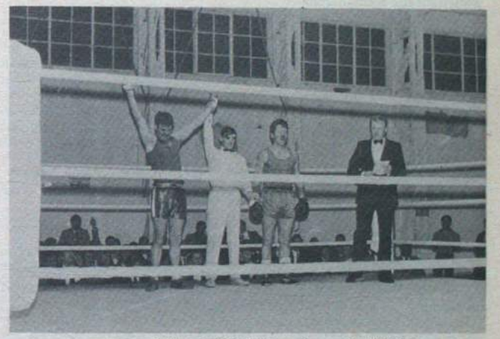
FOCUS ON SPORT

BOXING

(From our ringside reporter **Capt Mal Smart**)

The Regiment enbused and sallied forth to Wolfenbüttel on the 28 February to do battle with the 16/5 The Queen's Royal Lancers. The gymnasium was packed with supporters, the tension was electric promising to make a good evening of boxing, and it truly was. If I may use the phrase that 7 Signal Regiment went down fighting that would be putting it mildly. Of the 7 bout contest the 16/5 QRL snatched victory by 4 bouts to 3. Every bout was excellent and lots of aggression was in evidence. Two bouts were given public congratulations, Bout 3 **LCpl Smilk** 16/5 v **Sig Martin** 7 Sig Regt, the other, Bout No 7 **LCpl Hicks** 16/5 v **Capt Wright** 7 Sig Regt, the 16/5 were victorious in both.

Special mention on Bout No 7, **Capt Chris Wright** 7 Signal Regiment battled to the end. I don't think a steamroller could have put this man down. In appreciation **Capt Chris** was awarded the best losers medal, well done **Chris.** All our boys did their best; well done lads.



Capt Chris Wright & LCpl Hicks winner (16/5 QRL)



Sig Dunc Hall & LCpl Ryder winner (16/5 QRL)

WIVES CLUB FASHION SHOW

Some months ago, the Regimental wives club committees held a meeting (bit like a rugby scrum) to decide what the next spectacular money making function should be. Many ideas came forth, to mention a few, smashing a piano (no piano) sponsored walk (not fit enough) lay on a strip show (YUK) and finally to promote a fashion show. This they decided to do so **Mrs Coral Storey** and her staunch committee set about the mammoth task of organising this venture. After a lot of hard work and worry the night came at last and the event was held in the local BFES School at Hereford. **Mrs Ann Smart** stage managed the whole affair, with **Mrs Rita McInnes** who arranged the services of **Dave Raven** of BFBS fame to compere the show. The fashions were by the courtesy of **Mrs Mary Rose Frith** who was able to produce a large amount of female clothes all at good quality and fair prices. The models were recruited from the Regiment, four wives and two daughters, all looked beautiful and carried out their task most professionally. Attendance was terrific with some 250 ladies (and a few gents) packing the school hall to bursting point. A supper buffet and raffle was laid on and the evening went off without a stitch (sorry hitch). Very well done ladies we await in anticipation for your next event. Many thanks to **Dave Raven** compere, **Capt Dicky (I've got a way with the ladies) Dyer** for the lighting and PA system. Thanks also to **Maj Dave (Skippy) Watson** for the music and **Capt Stewart Coll** for the buffet, and last but no means least to all the wives who helped to make the evening successful.

RUGBY

Report by Capt (Tot) Dicky Dyer

This years Rugby team has had a good season; we lost to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the BAOR Semi Final by 18 points to nil. This was an excellent game played in atrocious conditions and the score in no way reflects the actual performance by our team. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment went on to win both the BAOR and Army Finals and we look forward to avenging our defeat in the 4 Div Final.

During the season, **Capt Chris Wright** and **Sgt Bill McConnell** have represented BAOR versus HOLLAND and **Sgt Dave Rudd** has been called for the RAF match.

The 2nd XV continues to flourish and achieved a notable victory over 1 DWR 2nd XV earlier this season. They have been well managed by **Sgt Terry Beard** who manages to organise, run, coach as well as pay for the beers, when he is not playing for the 1st XV. **SSgt Mick Kynaston** continues to run our fixture lists in his usual efficient manner. During the season the following players have represented Royal Signals, BAOR. **Sgt Bill McConnell, Sgt Kevin Stocke, Sgt Dave Rudd, Cpl Steve Green, Cpl Mel Geer, Sig Boysie Oakes, LCpl Ricky Eyre, Cpl Gus Hales, LCpl Stevie Stevenson** and managed two wins over the RA and RAF Germany. The Regiment was prominent in the 4th Armd Div side losing to Berlin Field Force in the Inter Divisional Final. We look forward now to the Divisional and BAOR 7-a-side competitions and the 4 Div Final versus 1 DWR.

GRAND CLUB OPENING

Thursday, 22 March saw the long awaited grand opening of 4 Sqn's Club. This was the culmination of four months spent in restoring and decorating a room beyond the glory intended by the original builder. The opening ceremony was carried out by **Lt Col C. E. R. Story** and we were able to entertain many of the personnel, both in and out the Regiment, who had helped us to fulfil our hopes. We were especially pleased to welcome back to the Sqn, **Sgt Terry Whitehill** who had done so much of the early work. The opening was quickly followed by a meeting of the newly formed entertainments committee, headed by **Sgt Dave Thompson** to set out a programme of happenings to ensure that the Club and its facilities are used to benefit all members of the Sqn, including wives and girlfriends during the coming months. One of the main discoveries, having completed the renovation, is the many varied and latent talents there are within the Sqn for interior decorating. All the credit has to go to our **Sgt Major, W02 Gordon McInnes** for his keeness and drive in organising the building of the club.

GLORIOUS MUD

There ain't many places in the world where you get all four seasons in one day; you do here in Germany. The Regiment obviously displeased the Gods because we sailed forth on Ex *Wintex* under just those weather conditions. At last they (The Gods) made up their minds and gave us snow, rain, snow, rain which of course turned everything to thick horrible mud. Whole areas were churned up giving many locations the image of long forgotten battlefields similar to the *Somme* and *Passchendaele*. Not to be daunted by this, the Regiment set about the job in hand with efficiency and good humour, not an easy task. NBC over boots were at a premium and you have my word on it, they do work, but most difficult to get off with a ton of mud on each foot. (I've still got mine on). Our REME recovery mechanics and our linemen took the worse of the weather, battling against the elements with the much needed and appreciated help of the QM's rum issue. After some 14 days, the nightmare came to an end with most of the Regiment looking like they had just gone 'over the top'. Much credit to our boys because the Gods did not win, they will (The Gods) have to try something else next time!



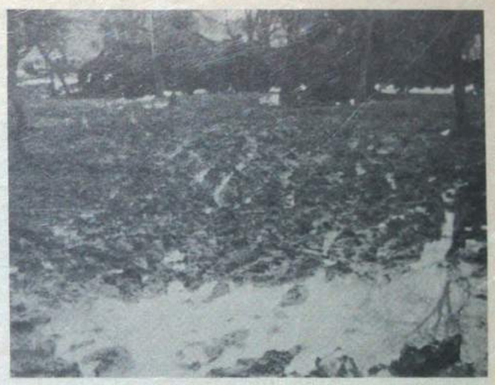
Sig Stephen Mallaney
(halt, who goes there?)



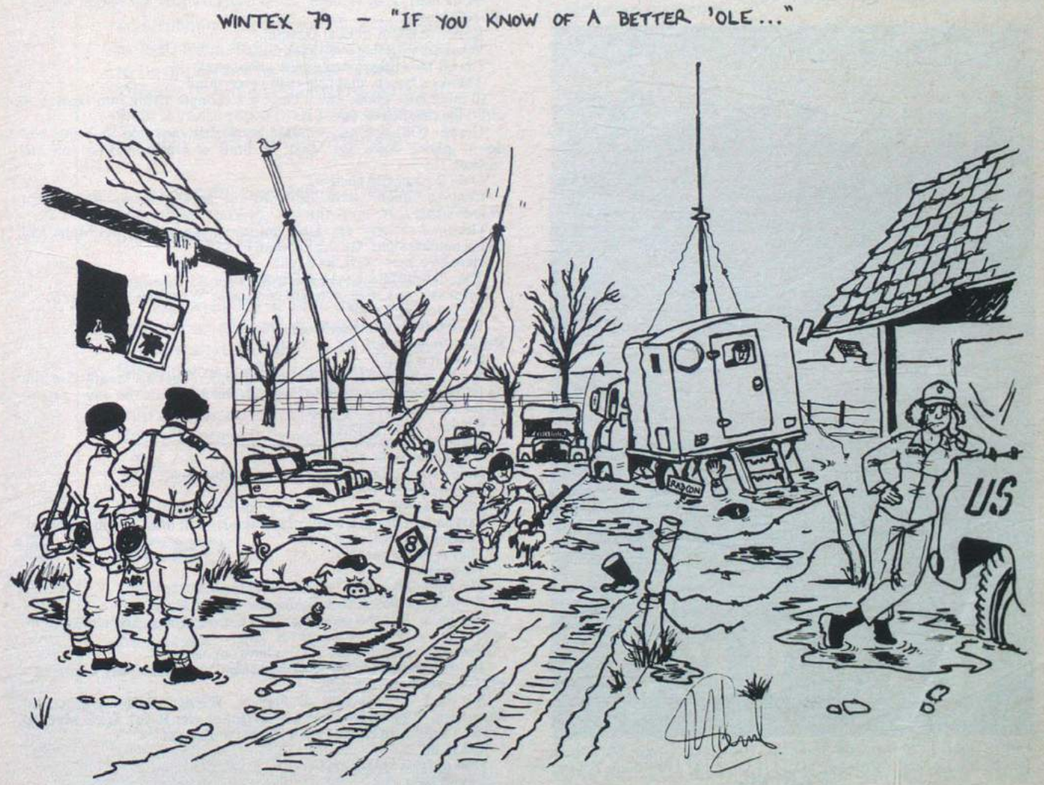
Cpl Taff Williams
(They shall not pass)



A clean recovery mechanic Cpl Peter Mainwaring REME
(home at last)



MUD



VALE—MAJ (RETIRED) E. R. HAXELL

December saw the last complete month of service as a retired officer of **Maj (Retd) E. R. Haxell.** This brought to a close an association with the Corps spanning 45 years.

Roy Haxell enlisted into the Corps in 1934 and, after training as an OWL in Eddy Tp, Catterick, was posted to India. He served there until 1939 when he returned briefly to the UK before posting to the Far East. Unfortunately he was captured by the Japanese and spent the war years as a POW.

In 1946 he sampled civilian life for a very short period before rejoining the Corps on a Short Service Commission. He served in Egypt, Singapore, Malaya, BAOR and UK until retiring from the active list in 1965.

For the past fourteen years, he has served in various posts as a Retired Officer and latterly as Administrative Officer of Headquarters Squadron of this Regiment. In addition to his AO duties **Roy** was also Unit Resettlement Officer and he will be remembered by many members of the Corps whom he helped prepare themselves for civilian life.

In their well earned retirement **Roy** and his wife **Dulcie** intend to remain resident in the village of Scorton near Catterick and they will doubtless continue their association with the Corps from there. They will also continue to be closely associated with the Catterick Garrison Golf Club.

LS AND GC PRESENTATIONS

On Friday 16March 1979 the Garrison Commander, **Brig Norman Butler** visited the Regiment for his last presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals before handing over his command. Sixteen members of the Sgts' Mess received a medal.



Left to right: W02 John Greatbanks, SSgt Peter Braithwaite, SSgt 'Taff' Callear, W02 Gordon Blood, SSgt Rod Meyers, Sgt 'Sheriff' Matthew, SSgt Don Henley, Sgt 'Chuck' Kemal, Sgt Dave Jennings, Brig Butler, Sgt Greg Mackintosh, SSgt Alan Harper, Sgt Geoff Cox, Sgt Phil Phillippi, Sgt Keith Ellison, Sgt Ron Napier, Sgt Mick Blythe



Left to right: LCpl Suzanne Berriman; LCpl Zelda Lewis; Mr Dennis Smith, the Course Instructor; LCpl Liz Coombs; LCpl Judy Naylor; Cpl Linda Parker

A GRADING FOR THE GIRLS

1979 began very well for WRAC students on Signals Courses at Catterick. **LCpl Elizabeth Coombs** gained an A Grading on her Class 1 upgrading switchboard operator course which ended in March. **LCpl Coombs** comes from Kent. She has just joined 'Quicksilver', with the Royal Signals Display Team after having completed her tour in N Ireland.

STRIKE CALL—MAN THE AMBULANCES!

Report by **WO2 R. Upton.**

Phone call 1020 . . .
'You're on 72 hr standby for Ambulance relief in Newcastle'
. . . 'Thanks a bunch!!'
Phone call following day 1225 . . .
'That 72 hours is now five mins, pick up your kit and go!!'
'Thanks a bunch!'
'Its snowing in Newcastle!'
'Where are the ambulances?'
'Following up behind us'.
'Right, crews front!! Before we deploy its nice to see so many Medic Cap badges!'
'Excuse me, Sir, I know I've got the badge but I'm a Clerk—the thought of pulling off an elastoplast makes me cringe'.
'Stick with it, son, (terrible pun) just splash yourself with plenty of disinfectant, instead of aftershave and put a thermometer where your biro is and you'll do a great job'.
Phone call: 'They've been out 18 hours on duty Sgt Major, where's the relief crews?'
'Buried in 8 ft of snow at Ouston!'
'What are we going to do about it?'
'I'm off for a pint, I don't know about you!'
'Thanks a bunch, that helps solve everything'.
10 mins later phone call: 'There's a chopper flying into Ouston to airlift the relief crews out'.
'Great! Will pick the smallest snow drift possible to bring him down—phone down Sgt Major to Staff of Ouston—Have you any smoke?'
'Only Benson and Hedges!'
'Chopper might have difficulty in seeing them, how about Woodbines?'
'Oh, *smoke*! Sorry, yes. Staff, get the smoke, go with Sgt Major and pick a landing sight. On the Football Field.'
'Here he comes, Staff, let it go!!'
'That didn't last long. I hope he saw it.'
Down safely—Crews on board and away: 'What now Sgt Major?'
'I'm going for a pint'.
'Yes it solved the last problem.'
Reports from Crews!
'How's it going?'
'Not bad. Had a bloke this morning couldn't get his breath. Sat him up in the ambulance, sped to hospital—hit a kerb on the way—patient hit the roof and split his head.'
'Oh dear, what happened?'
'Cured his breathing problem!'
'Well done! Stick with it.'
'Here's some cleaning fluid for your ambulance!'
'Already done, Sir!'
'Oh! What with?'
'Last patient drank a bottle of Domestos—left most of it in the back!'
'Charming! Don't stick with it.'
'They're going back!'
'Who are?'
'The ambulance men.'
'Why? Have they settled the dispute.'
'Not quite, but the snow's gone. That could have something to do with it.'
'How many ambulances did you have out on Call?'
'15, with a crew of four working around the clock. They answered a total of 212 emergency calls.'
'Not bad for a bunch of Signals, WRAC, RCT, Argylls and Sutherland Highlanders and not forgetting the Royal Army Medical Corps. I suppose it created a few logistic problems?'
'Yes it did!'
'How did you solve them?'
'I'm off for a pint . . .'

RADIO OFFICERS
LEAVING THE SERVICE SOON?

If your trade or training 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 1980 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 40 weeks specialist training, appointees move to the Radio Officer Grade.

Trainee Radio Officers start on £2605 at 19 up to £3034 at 25 or over. After completion of specialist training Radio Officers start on £3571 at 19 rising to £4675 if you are 25 or over; then by 5 annual increments to £6340 inclusive of shift and weekend allowances.
Salary at present under review.

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

THE FACTS

The Regiment provided the control element when, twice during March the ambulance men in the Newcastle area went on strike. Various Catterick units including 8th Signal Regiment provided drivers and medical attendants and over six days of real action answered 240 calls.



RSM Dave Hughes and his assistants in action during industrial in-action

AMERICAN VISITORS

A most appropriate momento of a most eventful visit. The **Ken Howard** painting of 8 Sig Regt was presented to **Col Bernd** by the CO for display at the US Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon Georgia.

The visit of these 'American Signal educators' for a few days, late in February, was considered eventful in that it provided an opportunity for idea exchange and hopefully will foster a closer relationship between the British and American Signal training facilities.



RSM D. A. Hughes, Maj R. B. Wiltshire USA, Col R. B. Bernd USA, Col I. R. D. Shapter, SGT G. Swan USA

STOP PRESS—*COURAGE INTER UNIT ARMY SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY COMPETITION*

8 Sig Regt won the Army Sevens at Aldershot on 25 April. The Regiment, who were the plate winners of the 1978 Courage seven-a-side competition, conquered 1 RRW in the final to win the cup. The 1 DWR team, who have held the cup for the past four years, were knocked out by 8 Sig Regt in the early rounds. **Cpl Elkan,** the hooker, was adjudged 'Man of the Match' in the final. The team did particularly well, as such known stars as **Cpl Abbott** and **Sgt Dunlin** were unavailable. A fuller report will appear in the next issue.

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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.

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Using the most sophisticated equipment and test techniques, you'd carry out production testing and fault-finding on a wide range of equipment.

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As a Technical Author or Circuit Delineator you would be engaged on a wide variety of projects covering complex electronic equipment and systems. Vacancies in both Chelmsford and Norwich.

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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 Ken Dumbrell Marconi Communication Systems Limited, New Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

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MARCONI COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



10 Sig Regt Hounslow

HQ SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW) REPORT

On 6 April, QMs Department packed their bags, bottles and tents and left Hounslow for a hard weekends camping at Vauxhall Training Camp, Monmouth. On arrival at destination, the QM, **Capt Harry Meekings** and the RQMS, **W02 John Hunt** went to do a recce of the local mountains, leaving the rest of the party with **Cpl Dutch Hollands** in charge to erect the campsite. Once completed, the first meal was cooked, Steak and Chips by the Chef, **Cpl Alan Bazeley** and Chief Spud Basher and Bottle Washer, **Mr Johnnie Johnson** fortified by a good bottle of cooking sherry.

The next day reveille was sounded at 0630 by **LCpl Steve Redshaw** and the clinking of coffee mugs and gunfire. Once breakfast was over we departed for the Brecons for a little stroll, setting off in glorious sunshine and ending up in a snow blizzard with only a magnetic compass to get us over the mountain and moors to the Pub on the other side for a well earned drink and a warm at the fire.

The afternoon was recreational. **W01 (YOS) Alan Winstanley** and crew took off to the river to fish returning with a 12 in (where did he get that rule) rainbow trout—of course the big 'un' got away. **Cpl Dutch Hollands** disappeared for a physical jog but was later found asleep in the bath—the warmest place in Camp.

After evening meal, during which **LCpl Liz Biddell** was attacked by a huge (6 in) worm, the whole party was sent to do a survey at the hostelries of Monmouth. Then came Sunday, the greatest day of all when **W02 (RQMS) John Hunt** bought a bottle and crashed the fags (true). Once more an early start after breakfast cooked by the QM and Yeoman, we all went for a brisk walk in the Forest of Dean, and a visit to Nelsons Monument. In the afternoon we all had to do our BFT, which everybody passed 'in the end', including **Cpl Dutch Hollands** on his 3rd attempt. Once back the party really started, armed with sausages and beer, a singing session in which the QM had his work cut out in trying to get us to remember the words. The occasion by candlelight, as our tempermental Genny, so carefully nursed by **Sig Paul Evison,** finally gave up the ghost, right through to the early hours of the morning, which came too soon for some.

Monday morning, an early rise in inclement weather, the camp packed, our farewells to the locals on Vauxhall Training Camp and return to sunny Hounslow.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

RADIO TROOP

In February we said goodbye to **Cpl Bob Innes** who has left us to change uniforms from brown to blue as a policeman. We all wish him the best of luck. A number of the Troop have been lucky enough to have been on exercise overseas with Infantry Battalions, namely **Sig Lefty Wright, Eamon Andrews, Dave Keevash** and **Glen Bailey.** They have been to places like Cyprus, Gambia and Kenya. Below is a report by **Sig Eamon Andrews** who went with the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards to Gambia.

GAMBIA BY VC 10

Ex *Sun River* is an exercise designed to train Infantry soldiers in jungle warfare and to give the soldiers experience in health and hygiene in the tropical conditions. The intense training for the 3 weeks would consist of shooting, fieldcraft and various lectures on the administrative side of the exercise. Work for **Sig Linsay** and myself began on the Friday afternoon we arrived at Caterham Barracks. There we were issued with lightweight 'combats'. We stayed overnight and the following day we went to South Cerney where our baggage was taken from us. Yet another night we had to spend in the British coldness, but behold, the next day we flew out to Gambia by VC10. We landed in Yum Dum airport, just outside the Capital City Banjul. Civilian coaches then took us on a 1 hour journey to the base camp.

LINK TO KENYA

The base camp was big and it was situated beside a small village called Kily. But even after the long journey there was no time to rest, work came first. This is when the Guards began their challenge against the jungle around them. I don't think they really wanted us because they sent **Sig Linsay** and myself up to join 30 Signal Regiment who were supplying communications for the whole base camp! Traffic was being received and passed to our link in Kenya on Clansman 320 and 321. There we got a warm welcome and after introducing ourselves we got a brief outlook on what was to happen over the next three weeks. The signals detachment was now six men strong with **Cpl Jim Hutchinson.**

Well, the Guards dressed in battle dress carrying SLR's and left for up country in their four tonners while we set to work in the office, as they called it! The first day meant a reveille at six in the morning. After gaining our senses and realising it was not a dream, we supported the daily function in the morning—the famous three mile run dressed in combat trousers and boots.

All that was left for us was to do our shift work, two men on set for a day which worked out to be one day signals work and two days to ourselves. The two spare days were very useful as they allowed us to participate in schemes the Guards ran—such things as trips up the river Gambia and recreational days when we could go sailing. Spare time was used wisely.

MATERIALS BY HELICOPTER

Sig Lindsay and myself actually once worked with the Guards. An advance party was sent out to the salt flats of the big river to set up the ranges for shooting. This was mainly a job for the Sappers who were also with us. Our job was to work a link back to the base camp on C42. Traffic was only passed when materials such as wood, hammers and nails were required. These were flown by helicopter. While out on the salt flats we were required to help out with duties. This was to deter the locals from becoming tempted to enter our little paradise during the night. But the main reason was to be on the lookout for wild animals. There was a rabies scare in our area, but an incident did not occur where we had to shoot anything!

A CRASH

After spending three days on the flats we were flown back to the base camp by helicopter. We now carried on with our signals work. There was a lot of traffic to be passed—mostly queries about the post, as it wasn't very good.

A large amount of traffic also dealt with one of the helicopters that had crashed in the bush. Fortunately no-one was hurt.

A HIGHLIGHT

There were a few recreational events such as an open air cinema which was shown a couple of nights a week. There was also a NAAFI but it wasn't very good as no-one liked the local brew! But one of the highlights of the exercise was when we could get away from the routine of working in our little office and spent the night in a nearby holiday resort 60 miles away—the rough journey was worth it! There we would spend the day swimming in the sea and looking at the lovely female tourists! I think this was very refreshing for the hard worked soldiers. Then at night we would go into the local hotel where there was a disco. Altogether we could not get much time down in the seaside towns due to the lack of transport.

I think everyone enjoyed themselves during the exercise. I thought it was a very pleasant change to normal work in Hounslow!

BACK TO GATWICK

So, the end of the exercise and we said goodbye to our new friends we made and prepared to travel back to the cold climate waiting for us. The journey was by the dreaded Hercules which took about 10 hours. We landed at Gatwick airport at about half past eight. After going through Customs, Civilian transport was arranged to take us back to Hounslow. Now that it is all over, I think I can look back and say I did enjoy the exercise very much and I judge it as an opportunity never to be missed.

LONDON DISTRICT SWS TROOP REPORT

The TE Techs, led by **Sgt John Arbury** have been kept at full stretch with installation work and faults all over the South East. In fact, some of them have been away from home so much they are thinking of applying for separation pay!

INSTANT AUTHORITY

Sig (why is it always me?) Adrian Downs suddenly found himself in charge of the Telemechs whilst **Cpl Steve Hilton** was whisked up to Catterick for his B1 Course. Mind you, as he is the only Signalman in the Troop and the only Telemech left it hardly came as a surprise to him!

BASKETBALL SUCCESS

On the sporting scene the Troop has been pulling its weight with **SSgt Geoff Marshall, Cpl Steve Jackson, Cpl Rod Whateley** and **Cpl Stew Bower** forming the nucleus of the Regimental Basketball Team with **Mr Colin Hatcher** doing a sterling job as Coach. The Team won the London District Championships for the third year running but sadly lost in the East Area Final. **Cpl Steve Jackson** disappears every weekend with half the Troop to get the Canoe Team on the water.

March saw the departure of two stalwart members of the Troop. **Sgt Uisdean MacRae** left us for sunny Saudi Arabia as a Civilian. He had done a lot for the Troops reputation as NCO IC PA Team and his character and hard work will be sorely missed. We, also, said farewell to **Capt (TOT) Tony Murray** who has moved down the road to MOD. We welcome in his place **Maj (TOT) Phil Johnson.**

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

FAREWELL

On 26 January, the Regiment bade farewell to **Lt Col Martin Pickard** who had been in command since July 1976. Everyone was sorry to say goodbye to him at the end of a very happy and successful tour in the Regiment. The simple departure ceremony took place in freezing conditions, but this did not cool the enthusiasm of those who were there. **Colonel and Mrs Pickard** had lunch in the Officers' Mess and then were escorted in a landrover to the main gate in great style. The escort was led by six Sergeants carrying lances in front of the landrover plus the Band of 1 Queens. The route was lined by all ranks of the Regiment, and many families also managed to be along the route to give a final wave.

At the main gate **Colonel Pickard** was invited to inspect a guard of honour made up from every department and Corps in the Regiment. Then with a firm handshake from the RSM he joined his wife to make their final departure through the gate. We wish them every happiness and success for their tour in Rheindahlen.



The beginning of the end outside the Officers' Mess Colonel and Mrs Garton say farewell to Colonel and Mrs Pickard



Astride their mount the Pickards pass members of 2 Squadron formed up to say goodbye

ICE STATION JEVER

Since our last report, activity in Jever has been dampened by the diabolical and phenomenal snow fall since the end of December. We were literally 'snowed in'. The Ostfriesland area of north Germany was declared a 'catastrophe' area which indicates the severity of local conditions at Jever. However, we pulled through, even though our station was almost buried by nine foot deep snow drifts. At times the oncoming operator had to battle his way through a mile or so of snow just to get to work because the roads were impassable even for our four wheel drive Safari landrover. It's doubtful which operator was the most relieved, the oncoming operator having finished his long trek or the off going operator knowing the fact that his relief had made it!

On 22 January, **Lt Col C. T. Garton** (our new Commanding Officer) was welcomed to the Jever detachment accompanied by the Adjutant, **Capt J. S. A. Henderson.** They met the members of the detachment and their families over coffee in the detachment Club. **Capt James Morris,** Royal Australian Signals and his wife **Ann** visited us on the 13 March and sampled some Pommie hospitality, mainly in the form of 'toobs o lager' and shouts of 'Bruce'. After the two day visit they departed heading for H Troop complete with route map provided by our driver **LCpl Gerry Brewer.**

GOING METRIC

Cpl Bill Brennan and his wife **Suzanne** said their goodbyes to the detachment after a two year tour. We hope that they enjoy their tour in Cyprus. Congratulations to **Cpl Mick Agnew** and his wife **Sheila** on the birth of their son **Paul** who weighed in at 3.2 Kg on 24 January 1979. We also welcome **Cpl Bill Calvert** and his wife **Linda** to the detachment at the beginning of their tour with us.

ENGLISCHERNACHT

Members of the detachment delved into the unknown by attending an 'English Night' in the Det Club organised by **Cpls Ian Kirkpatrick** and **Dave Oakley.** The reason being that they longed for a taste of good ol' Blighty, so they 'home-brewed' 80 litres of bitter and light ale and invited the rest of us to drink it. It was observed that they didn't drink any themselves until they were sure that it had no ill effects on anybody else first! Also served up were mushy peas and home made pies. Needless to say a good night was enjoyed by all.

KIDNEY MACHINE

After the Christmas & New Year festivities some members of the Regiment got together to collect money in aid of a kidney machine for a child in the UK. To this end, some people went on sponsored diets and others stopped smoking. Our Armourer, **Cpl 'Topper' Brown** REME, did particularly well in his 'stop smoking' venture, collecting DM250 from his surprised sponsors before leaving the Regiment on posting. As well as the dieting and smoking campaigns a number of functions have been held. At the end of January the Youth Club held a sponsored Disco, when 14 couples danced from mid-day until seven at night, watched by their mums and dads. During February our resident DJ, **Sig Paul Bourn**, held a 24 hour Marathon Disco. Needless to say as soon as he finished he fell into bed and slept until the next morning, but he was fortunate to be given the day off by our TOT, **Maj Ken Rutter.** There have been Pub Lunches and various other discos and shows also in aid of the kidney machine, involving just about every member of the Regiment and their families. Up until now we have collected nearly £500 and hope to send our donation to the Kidney Patient Association in the near future.

THE COLONELS CUP

This competition is an annual event aimed at fostering troop spirit whilst providing plenty of fun. Teams of eight men are made up from each troop in order to obtain a blend of fitness and age, as bonus points are obtained for any member of the team aged over 30. The competition takes the form of a run of half a mile carrying a member of the WRAC on a stretcher, followed by a run over the assault course. Teams are timed from the start of the run to the end of the assault course. They then have 30 seconds before three members of the team fire five rounds with SMG followed by three other members of the team firing five rounds with the 9mm pistol. This year the TM Troop managed to win the cup by returning a reasonably fast running time, a good score on the shooting and amassing a large number of age points,



The stretcher is passed under the bars. Sig Danny Keyes and Cpl Bob Bell in the forefront



Sig Frank Bowker and SSgt Dave Luckett carrying the stretcher for the last few yards

mainly contributed by **W02's Brian Pettifer, Rex Couch, Ron Watson** and **Cpl Alan Bullock.** It is believed that the TOT is carrying out an investigation to find out how they ever found time off work to practice! Second came C Troop led by **W02 Dave Rigley.** They had an exceptionally high shooting score with a fast running time, but their youth stopped them winning.

SPORT

Due to the bad weather sport has been severely restricted, however squash and badminton, our old faithfuls, are still thriving. **Cpl Dave Oakley,** after a period of forced restraint due to snowed up pitches, resumed playing football for the local German Amateur side Heidmühle FC. He is still scoring more than his fair share of goals and he is a very popular player. Heidmühle are at present 2nd in their league and Dave is hoping to collect a championship medal at the end of the season.

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

14 Sig Regt (EW) B.F.P.O. 23

THE MAJOR TASK

After a period of over three months, the snow has finally departed, not to return for at least nine months we trust. Since the New Year the major task has been to keep our camp roads open. The dozer tanks borrowed from the neighbouring Panzer Battalion was a great help; 1 Squadron preferred bribery of the local Forstmeister and his snowplough. The snow's departure has revealed a mass of leaves, bottles and bric-a-brac covering our rural barracks—camp cleaning follows shortly. Vehicles can now also be cleaned and serviced which is causing some heartache in the ranks!

Sport, thank goodness, continues. The QM, **Maj Terry Cantle** (not one of our younger soldiers) yet again got further than most in the 1 Armd Div Table Tennis competition. Football, rugby and hockey have appeared out of hibernation and with more practise we may achieve win in the near future. Our thoughts are now turning towards summer sports with Tug o' War leading the way. Our sporting efforts would be vastly reduced but for the help given by members of 54 SU RAF—valiant blue jobs they are.

CCR SIGNALS INSPECTS

The Regimental ARU took place on 1 March, **Brig Oehlers,** CCR Signals, was the Inspecting Officer. Having unravelled some of the mysteries of HQ Squadron, the Inspecting Officer arranged a battle-royal in the field between 1 and 2 Squadron. It took some time to find each other thanks to first class personal camouflage; each man covered in an Army issue sheet! The inter-squadron military skills competition also took place during March. Each squadron succeeded in individual parts of the competition but HQ Squadron came out the overall winners. (Mind you they have more young, keen 'Kinder Club' members than others!)

ROOMS AT THE TOP

The 'pen-pushers' continue to grow in strength (Room at the Top!). **Capt Hugh Hancock,** fresh from 2 Squadron, has assumed the mantle of Adjt, whilst his predecessor **Capt Ben Higson** has moved sideways to get the job of Tech Adjt off the ground, and he gets more time off to try and keep his car on the road—good old BL!

HQ SQUADRON REPORT

Several arrivals and departures have occurred of late. **Sgt Mick Taylor** is leaving the LAD and football team on posting to UK. Another 'established' member, **Cpl George Piper,** has left our small complement of cooks on posting to UK; luckily his promotion to Sgt may help compensate for the loss of LOA. **Sgt 'Paddy' Elliot** has left on posting and promotion, we hope he returns soon to recover the remains of his collection of ancient cars. Our stalwart stmn clerk, **Cpl John Tyler** has also left on promotion—just in time as the QM's department is yet again on the move. (Mind you if this department had stood still any longer it would have been painted white by the many civilians employed in Molar's empire.) One junior member of the Squadron has also left us—his pay could not keep up with the fines he had to pay! **Lt Brian Harrison** has arrived to take over as Admin Officer and hopefully benevolent PRI.

1 SQUADRON COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recent departures have included **SSgt Alex Gaw, Sgts Paddy Harding** and **John Sands** for further education. **Sgt Harding's** moustache, NBC knowledge and command of the English language will be missed. **Sgt Paul Evans** has left for UK along with **LCpls O'Connor** and **Benford.** This leaves us with nobody qualified to do illegal flotation tests on four tonners! Along with several new operators, we welcome **SSgt Ray Whall** as our SQMS—such an easy job for so young a SNCO.

2 SQUADRON CHANGES

The new OC, **Maj Rex Stephenson,** has arrived full of fire and enthusiasm; such paperwork—he was obviously well taught at the Ministry of Defence! **Lt Mike Dyer** has taken over D Tp. What a come-down from tanks to Landrovers, still at least some of them are hard-topped. **Sgt John Kirk** has left for UK, he will be missed on several sports fields but not quite so much on Squadrons runs! **Capt Richard Hewitt** and his wife **Chris** have also left us en route to Hong Kong. Both will be really missed by Jumbo Troop members and their wives and families. The tennis, squash and swimming teams will be a little thinner following **Richard's** departure.

FUN IN THE SNOW (AND MUD)

Report by Lt M. J. M. Dyer R Signals

Ex *Reforger* is the overall name given to United States reinforcement exercises. This January some 14000 troops of the 1st (US) Infantry Division were flown from Kansas to exercise in Germany. 14 Signal Regiment (EW) had been invited several months before to participate in the field exercise part of Ex *Reforger* and preparations started well before Christmas in the form of people buying winter woolies and fur lined boots!

NORTHERN BAVARIA SETTING

The field exercise was Ex *Certain Sentinel* and took place in northern Bavaria in late January and early February. It was NATO's first deep winter manoeuvre in six years. It began with over a foot of snow covering the frozen ground, but by the time defending 'Blue' forces, including the Regiment, were able to counter attack against invading 'Orange' troops, a Föhn (southern Germany's warm dry wind) had turned frost hardened fields into a muddy landscape gouged by tank tracks and 'bogged in' vehicles—only a few of which belonged to the Regiment. Unbeaten by simulated foes, the warring parties had to admit defeat by Mother Nature. With three days still to go the three week, 61000 man exercise was called off by the NATO Commander, **Gen Haig,** to avoid damage to some of West Germany's best farm land. 'Reluctantly' the Regiment had to return northwards to Celle two days earlier than expected.

WORST WEATHER EVER

The exercise had started for the Regiment during some of the worst weather conditions ever seen in Celle. Along with the rest of 1 (BR) Corps, we were suffering under the ravages of deep drifts of snow. This made a journey from the Cookhouse to the Guardroom through Comms Troop 'ravine' a journey fraught with much danger. However somehow all was prepared and on 22 February the Regiment, plus attachments from many other units (all of whom were gratefully received), moved out of camp. Ahead lay a 500 km journey. Phase one of the journey for **Cpl Mick Martin's** Rover and 1 Squadron's 4 ton Cookhouse vehicle ended 750m from the start line when both broke down with minor faults. The LAD soon had them (and others) going again. The Regiment stayed overnight in a Bundeswehr Camp (Ost Preussen Kasserne) near Kassel. Here we were royally entertained, drank the local Soldatenheim dry and then slept on camp beds in the gymnasium.

STRAW THE SECRET

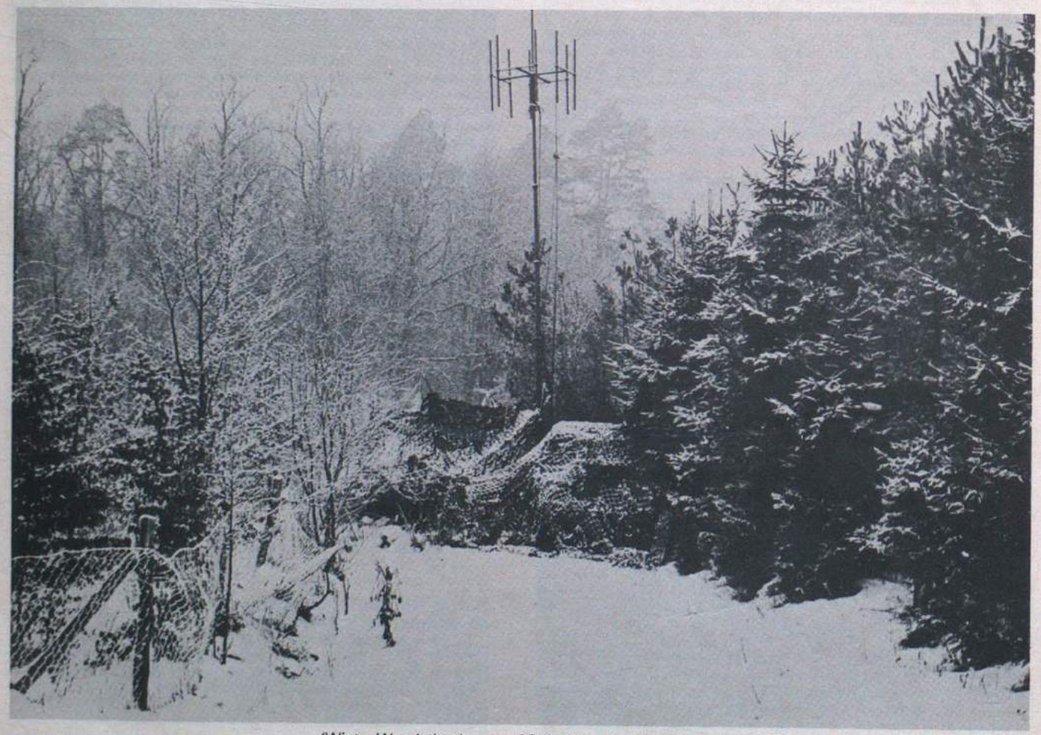
On reaching the exercise area near Würzburg and having filled up our empty petrol tanks with 6,000 litres of petrol, borrowed from the Americans, the process of adjustment to life under snow began. Nowhere was it worse than in the Mess Tent where mud soon became the order of the day. However, the meals were still excellent throughout, despite the conditions, and the cooks were never short of gravy browning! It was the same in every tent except at X-Ray and Whisky Troops of 1 Squadron where they got it right. Remembering the Christmas story, they quickly obtained straw and soon had the insides of their tents looking like cattlesheds (complete with livestock) —unfortunately there were no visiting kings bearing gifts.

FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER

Rampant enthusiasm, produced an early BR/US encounter when, alone and without a shot fired, Whisky Troop captured a very American, very noisy and somewhat amused crew of an M113 APC 'J..... C..... it's the Redcoats!' they cried, tears of laughter running down their cheeks as the M113's path was blocked by a half ton Land Rover. Thankfully they were 'Blue' (friendly) forces and were eventually released, still laughing. X-Ray Troop were not so lucky when, on the second day, they were attacked by three 'Orange" force M60 tanks, luckily they were moving so fast they hardly noticed the troop. **Capt Chris Harrison**, the Troop Commander, was heard to remark that this was obviously due to the excellent camouflage.

FROSTBITE HAZARD

Frostbite was a very real danger and most local hospitals were filling up with servicemen, several of whom were severe cases. Within the Regiment, foot inspections became the order of the day, hence we suffered only two cases, both luckily none too serious. Warmth during the exercise was of the highest priority and Kerosene became the most important part of any resupply request. Not least for the **CO Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling,** who eventually found a heater that worked. This was only after his driver, who had broken three heaters in three days, received instruction from the RSM, **WO1 Peter Robinson** and SSM HQ, **WO2 Gus Boag** as to the mysteries of an Aladdin heater.



'Winter Wonderland—one of Delta Troop's detachments'



'Cook in a box—Cpl 'Jock' Bell ACC has a quick kip at B-echelon'



'Cpl Mick Martin and LCpl Chris Bell (Delta Troop) observing the underside of their vehicle—vehicle inspections in the field par excellence'



'Cpl Al Brown and LCpl Steve Jones (Comms Troop) prepare to deploy'



'The attached recovery vehicle after an argument with an American tank. Luckily the 'wrecker' was right-hand drive, so the crew only suffered minor injuries'



'Defenders of forward EW Troops—a friendly American tank close to Whisky Troop'

CONSTANT MOVEMENT

As in most exercises, the old maxim 'when in doubt move!' applied on the Ex *Reforger*. When the war was nowhere to be found, rather than staying in one place and getting cold, our forward troops scampered along the FEBA seeking out the enemy. 'Orange' forces obviously heard we were coming or had gone home, as they did not appear to want to 'play' with us too much.

Despite the constant movement in conditions more suited to Eskimos than us, **Capt Ian Grant** (OC Whisky Troop) did manage to find time to recce hot showers and beer, plus trips to very good saunas and swimming pools, where group rates were negotiated. These proved to be useful excursions for some at endex.

MYSTERIES

A couple of mysteries remain to be wondered over in future year . . . why didn't some people drink the rum ration when freely offered . . .? Did they know something others didn't? Why did the D Troop detachment at Whisky Troop run for three days on half a can of petrol? . . . was it really the fairies or just SSgt Whatsisname using the wrong jerry cans? Finally, who was holding the torch with the green filter (highly illegal) that dark and windy night when **SSM Bernie Neillings** (1 Sq) swears his name was taken in vain . . . was it really one of Whisky Troop's more senior members or was it the ghost of Endex delivering a message and a sign?. . . We will never know. What we do know is that we all started out together, arrived, participated, overcame and eventually returned on the 9 February together. Here's to the next NATO exercise!

SOME THOUGHTS

Finally, some thoughts on Ex *Reforger* that was . . .

— Cooks calf deep in mud and slush slaving over a No 1 burner and producing delicious meals.
— An attached RCT driver exhorting an American lady sentry to remove her gas mask when she wasn't wearing one.
— Finding a cigar for the CO.
— Teaching a visiting UK Civil Servant some 'Army English' when he attempted to light a cigar as his driver was refuelling from a jerry can.
— A grinning ASM declaring 'route clear', after repairing an allied recovery vehicle.
— Telling a Negro American Medic you have two black toes (from frostbite).
— Preferring minus 23°C and a foot of snow to plus 3°C and a foot and a half of mud!
— 'Losing' a woolly pulli and 'finding' American overboots.
— A hot shower after ten days in the field.
— **Lt David Beach** being chased by American service ladies, ostensibly to do a swop for his face veil.
— Sharing your dining room with 12 pigs, in a barn at B-echelon.
— Rear party having to provide all the answers for wives and families when there had been no word from the exercise for two days!
— The paymaster's visits—in combat kit and boots.
— Eating three cooked meals and six mars bars a day but still losing ¾ stone in weight.
— Learning to say 'Grüss Gott!' instead of 'Guten Tag'.
— Two beers and a Bratwurst with chips, during stand down periods.
— PRI canteen taking out 48 tins of Heinz beefburgers and beans and bringing back 49.
— A 'wrecker' arguing with a Tank and losing (see photo).
— German children giving the 'V' for victory sign—correctly!
— Compo sausages.
— **Cpl Reg Moore's** birthday—chocolate gateaux and all, shared with the rest of the hardworked LAD.
— Rum ration.
— PRI selling 17,500 cigarettes and two tins of Irish Stew.
— **SSM Gus Boag** NOT committing murder when an inept soldier emptied the Regiment's hot drink into the snow at the halfway stop on the route back home.

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THE SERGEANTS' MESS

We held our Christmas Ball and Draw once again in the Park Hotel, and the evening proved a great success thanks to **WO2 (QMSI) Ced Sharp** and **W02 Bob Sheldon** and their respective committees. Our current mess is to have the interior re-designed and renovated, so as a temporary measure we are taking over the Village Hall, a considerable amount of renovating and redecorating has been carried out to bring the hall up to a standard becoming a Sergeants' Mess. Our RSM, **Tony Morgan** has a unique ability in getting our friends from the PSA into agreeing to carry out all his ideas on the interior design of the hall, with a little help from his friends **W02 (RQMS) Mick Hothersall Sgts (The Sheriff) John Nicholls, Frank Skelly, Pete Cole** and occasional interruptions from **SSgt Geoff Dyson** and others. The final touches were carried out whilst other mess members were away on Ex *Wintex*.

We are looking forward to many happy hours in our temporary home, one or two of the highlights from the diary are firstly the dining out of **W01 (FofS) Brian Holder, SSgts Paddy Hearns, Barry Ibbertson BEM, Sgts Barry Archer, Pete Cole, Bill Stone** and **Spud Taylor.** This will be shortly followed by the visit of 43 US Signal Battalion based in Heidelburg when twining scrolls will be exchanged cementing the comradeship and friendship already enjoyed, by the two units. Finally in June we have the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief.

P.S. The first event has already occurred and a good dinner night was had by all.

VISIT OF COMMANDER 4 SIGNAL GROUP

On 28 March we were informally visited by the new Commander of 4 Signal Group, **Col A. D. Lewis.** Whilst he was here, **Col Lewis** presented LS & GC Medals to five members of the W0s' & Sgts' Mess, who are shown with him in the photograph. From *left to right they are:* **Sgt Joe Gill, W02 (ORQMS) Bob Sheldon, W02 (YofS) Nick Nicol, SSgt Larry Formosa** and **SSgt John Setchfield.**



HQ SQUADRON REPORT

At a recent afternoon gathering, **W02 (RQMS) Mick Hothersall,** had the pleasure of presenting **Maj (QM) Keith Rothwell** with a gift to mark his retirement after 36¼ years of service. The photograph shows **W02 Mick Hothersall, Sgt Frank Skelly, W01 Norman Mortimer** and **Maj Rothwell. Maj Rothwell** has not officially left the Regiment yet and in our next contribution we will report on his departure. In the meantime, we welcome his successor, **Capt (QM) Mark Wilson.** We hope he will be able to unravel the mysteries of the heating system around camp, a problem that has defeated **Maj Rothwell.**



1 SQUADRON REPORT

Once again Exercise *Wintex* descended upon us and was here to stay for three long weeks. The Squadron for the first time deployed numerous detachments to Belgium and Germany. This meant a stretch of man power and consequently 12 hour shift working. For the first couple of days such a pace was established that one thought 'Can I last out the three weeks'. As the exercise progressed, the pace became slower and everybody was able to settle down and get into the 'swing of it'. After the first week, we were reinforced by a small detachment from 34 Regiment (V) (led by **SSgt (YofS) Tibbett**), which boosted our manning levels and worked both in BAOR and Emblem Commcens.

A WEDDING

February saw **Sgt Elaine Jenkinson** WRAC married to **Sgt O'Sullivan** RCT. Our congratulations go to both of them.

ALIAS SMITH AND SMITH

On 31 March our TOT, **Capt Frank Smith** brought HQ Sqn and 1 Sqn much closer by marrying **Capt Lesley Haworth,** OC Xray troop.

The photograph shows **LCpl Neil Holcombe, Pte Maxine Smith, Capt Lesley Clargo** (who attended the bride, along with **Capt Lynne Marsh**), **Smith** and **Smith, Capt Neville Armitage,** (Best man), **Cpl Mac McCathie** (piper) **Sgt Rena McGregor** and **LCpl Barry Geddes. Lesley** was given away by **Capt (QM) Fred Orr,** who also had the pleasure of announcing that AG11 has solved the incipient seniority problem in the **Smith** household by promoting **Frank** to Major the next day. We wish **Frank** and **Lesley** the best of good future, and also offer our congratulations to **Fred,** who, as a reward, was also promoted to Major on the 1st April.



THE HOOVERGRAM

There were many highlights to the exercise especially when the TARE computer at Hehn fell over and suddenly the BAOR Commcen became the focal point of communications.

One of the funnier incidences was when **Sgt Mick Reid** (Commcen Supervisor) had to explain the loss of five messages to the TARE Controller, as one of his new young WRAC girls, **Pte Janet Hartley,** had sucked up the tapes in the hoover while she was busily cleaning. Could this be a new method of transmitting messages—'HOOV-ERGRAM'.

The OC, **Capt Bill Coxon** tried extremely hard over the exercise to have a 'Cabby' in a helicopter but for numerous reasons he has still yet to fly—his last remark in passing—'I think I shall stick to sailing'.

FOOTBALL REPORT

At the start of the season **Sgt Willie Henderson** decided that the Squadron had a good chance at entering a team in the Rheindahlen Sunday League. After great effort a Squadron football team was established (average age 30). We played in the league without much success, but managed to get into the Quarter Final of the cup, where we were gracefully defeated by a better team.

SKI-ING

The Squadron took advantage of the ski-ing courses that were held at 2 Div. This was greatly, enjoyed by the WRAC personnel of the Squadron. The Yeoman of Signals, **W01 Bill Cheesman** was extremely relieved when the girls came back without any broken bones, which meant no changes to the shift roster.

2 SQUADRON DEPARTURE

At the end of March the Regiment said goodbye to **SSgt Geoff Brook** (from Romeo Troop), who was posted to 1 Div. During his four years here, **Geoff** has served as a Church Warden to St James C of E Church, and the photograph shows him with **Padre John Slegg,** after being presented with a farewell gift.



3 SQUADRON ROUND UP

Following the reorganisation of 3 Squadron, the ranks of F Troop and J Troop were somewhat increased. Sadly S Troop and Tech Troop bit the dust. F Troop's former members, consisting of Combat Linesmen, Powermen and Drivers, were reinforced by Data Telegraphists and Switchboard Operators from J Troop, Combat Radiomen from S Troop and Technicians from Tech Troop. Similar movements took place in J Troop and now our happy little squadron is settling down to hard work once again, commanded by **Capt P Thompson** (he's lousy at cribbage!).

After the mud bath know as *Wintex,* we retired to Bradbury Barracks to find that we had gained a few sheep in the fold and also lost a few. We welcome **W02 (SSM) Wilson** and his family from 2 Div, and also **Ptes Ingleton, Slater** and **Telfour** WRAC, and **Sigs Guinn** and **Sowerby.** We hope they enjoy their tours with us. Sadly we have said goodbye to **W02 (SSM) Griffiths** who has moved to HQ Sqn. **Cpl Probin** has moved to 1 Div on promotion, and **Pte Morgan** has left us (and the Army) to try her hand at being a housewife. We wish them both good luck.

The Squadron is now looking forward to a successful battle camp at Vogelsang. We're taking the WRAC along with us this time!



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IAL LOCKHEED INTERNATIONAL

VISITORS

The Chief of Staff BAOR, **Maj Gen R. K. Guy CBE DSO** followed up a recent visit to the Regiment by visiting one of the Regiments' out troops at Roetgen, which is located in the Eifel. The detachment, which is part of A Troop 1 Sqn is commanded by **SSgt (F of S) Dave Woffenden.** The Chief of Staff showed a great interest in the technical aspect of the detachment. He was accompanied throughout his visit by the Commanding Officer.

Our next visitor, also visited Roetgen, a very popular place. This was a technical flying visit by the Director of Signals (AIR), **Air Commodore T. B. Stephenson.** He was accompanied by the 2IC, **Maj S. W. Read**, who knows about these things. They were met and given a tour of the Roetgen site by the Foreman.



'Happy Landings' at Roetgen, in the front seat Air Commodore Stevenson, in the rear seat Group Captain Reader, Major Read and Air Commodore Richardson

The Regiment said farewell to the Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore MBE** who visited, whilst the Regiment was on Ex *Wintex*. Our final farewell was to **Col R. H. Gilbertson**, Commander 4 Signal Group. After a tour of the Regiment he was invited to drinks with the WOs and SNCOs in 2 Sqn Club. Here he was presented with a Regimental tie by the RSM. The final item on his programme was lunch with the Commanding Officer and officers of the Regiment. He was presented with a plaque by the officers in recognition of his close association with the Regiment. We of 21 Signal Regiment wish him well in his next appointment.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 22nd February 1979 the Regiment narrowly lost the Army Championship to our 'aulde' rivals 1 Armd Div and Signal Regt. The 1978/79 season has been a most successful season for the team and individuals. Our road to the Army Championships was filled with success and the fact that we lost at the final hurdle by one point does not lessen the pride the Regiment has in the team.

Four members of the team were selected to represent BAOR in the inter-service match and were awarded their BAOR colours. **W02 (SSM) Doug Baikie** was selected to compete and be the BAOR Team Manager. Others were **Sgt Pete Dring, Cpl Les Wood** and **Cpl Bruce Dale.**

Sgt Pete Dring and **LCpl Andy Robertson** were selected to run for the Army in the UK triangular inter-service match and also for RAF(G) against the Dutch, Belgium and German Air Force.

Apart from the teams success in Cup competitions they retained the Rhine Area/RAF(G) Major Unit League Trophy for the 10th year in succession.

BASKETBALL

This season has been the most successful season for 21 Signal Regiment for many years. The team honours for the 1978/79 season are:

Rhine Area Champions
BAOR Runners Up
Rhine Div 1 League Runners Up.

Our outstanding player without a doubt is **Cpl Fred Tedby** who has been well supported by **Sgt Jeff Evans, LCpl Les Robinson, Sig Kev Jarvis** and coached and Captained by **SSgt Doug Poultney.** This first five have been well supported by **Sgt VanBeck RAPC, Cpl Ian Thorneycroft, Cpl John O'Donnel, Sig Scotty Scott** and **Sig Geordie Mayhew.** One of our experienced players **LCpl Garry Gillings** missed most of the season through an upgrading course.

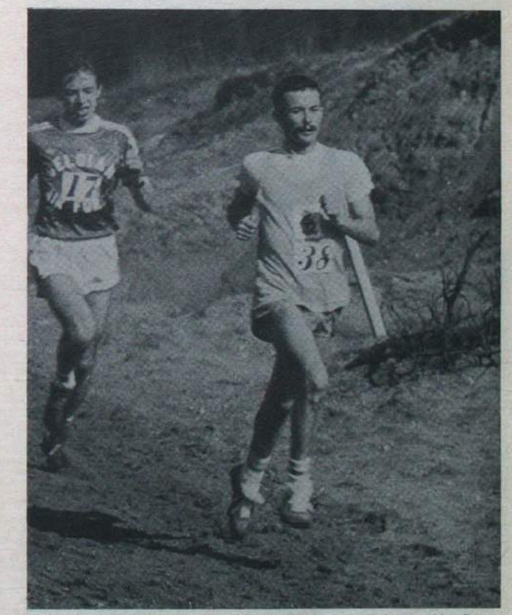
As this is the first season the team has been together they are looking forward to next season when the Army Cup will be their goal.

SPORTS PERSONALITY

LCpl Andy Robertson is about to leave the Regiment on posting to the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate. Our loss is certainly their gain. This season has been a very good one for him on the cross country scene. He has been a valuable member of the Regimental cross country team, his performances have been a big factor in our success.

His season started disappointingly, he was leading in the Rhine Area Championship, when stomach cramp held him back to 14th place, fortunately the problem did not last. His first success was runner up in the BAOR Championships, this was followed by his selection for the Army and RAF(G) teams. He was fourth in the Army Championships, 13th in the UK inter-service championship and ninth in the RAF(G), Belgium, Dutch and Germany match. He was in fact the first runner to count for the RAF(G) team. The other National Air Force teams included many national service runners of known repute.

Andy's many friends in the Regiment wish him and his wife, **Karen,** a good tour in Harrogate.



LCpl Andy Robertson No 38 overtaking a Belgian Air Force competitor in the recent Tactical Air Force Cross Country Race in which he finished 9th

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Pat Kington**
AO	**Capt John Byrne**
OC 'A' Tp	**Lt Gerry Corbet**
2IC 'A' Tp	**2Lt Ian Mackenzie**
OC 'E' Tp	**Capt Dick Sanders**
2IC 'E' Tp	**2Lt Liz Kennedy**
SSM	**WO2 Jack Blackburn**
FofS	**WO1 Brian Livesey**
YofS	**WO2 Keith Bark**
SQMS	**SSgt Cas Francis**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Sqn recently bid a fond farewell to **SSgt Barry Brown** who left us on promotion to 9 Sig Regt after serving over five years with the Sqn. We welcome to the Sqn **SSgt John Stanley** who took over from **Barry** as 'A' Troop SSgt.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are given to **Lt Gerry Corbet, Cpl Edward Clancy** and **LCpl Andy Williams** who all recently became 'dads' for the first time.

ON THE MOVE

January 1979 found the Sqn once more on the move with 'A' Troop lead by **Lt Gerry Corbet** and **SSgt Ken Suckling** off via Plymouth to Norway on Exercise *Pendulum*. Rumour has it that they only went to Norway because there was less snow there than back home in Blandford. The end of January saw the remainder of the Sqn and elements of 38 Gp TCW off to Hong Kong on Exercise *Trojan Horse*. The comms departure was headed by **Maj 'Zefferelli' Kington, Capt 'Let's have a party' Sanders** and **2Lt 'I've lost my beret' Kennedy.** Technical advisers were **WO1 'The Fonze' Livesey** and **WO2 'I'm Broke' Bark** seen here deciding which night club to visit first. All concerned were ably administered at the MCTC on Stonecutters Island by **Capt 'Rip Van' Byrne, SSM 'Is That A Dog End' Blackburn** and **SSgt 'Cas' Francis** seen in the picture inspecting the cuisine.



Technical advisors were W01 'The Fonze' Livesey and W02/I'm broke' Bark seen here deciding which night club to visit first



SSgt Francis inspecting the cuisine



Sig 'Tiny' Farquhar on Exercise Trojan Horse in Hong Kong

The social life was fair although most people did try and avoid going out with **Capt Sanders, YofS Bark** and **Sgt 'G' Abrams** as they drank the expensive beer at $68 (£7) a glass. For some reason they don't like to talk about it.

SO IN C VISITS

Between visits from numerous dignitaries we did manage to communicate with Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Amongst our many visitors was the Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen Anderson** who managed to visit the exercise during his tour of the Far East Signals Units. During his tour of the Comms site the SO in C found time to speak to most on shift.

Brig Crabtree, DCBF Hong Kong also paid us a flying visit and had time to brief our WRAC subaltern on the night life in Hong Kong.

OPEN DAY SUCCESSFUL

At the end of the exercise an open day was held during which all the residents of Stonecutters Island were shown round the Communications site. This was followed by organised sports in which mums, dads and children took part. The open day was finished at the Officers and SNCO Mess where the mums and dads were entertained whilst the children watched a cartoon show, shown by **SSgt Arthur Bradshaw** (on loan from the School of Signals).

In conclusion, the exercise was a success and we returned to the UK knowing that we had all achieved that which we had set out to do.



Commander I Signal Group, Col K. H. Olds learning what it is all about from Sig Simon Owen the CO, OC 2 Squadron and Sgt Steve MacDonald making sure he gets it right



Sig Dave Willis with the 'new gear'



2 Squadron 'Ring of Confidence'. LCpl Bill Woodhead, Cpl Jim Hutchinson and Sig 'TC' Tucker

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITY PARADE

The varied collection of items which are required by our multi-roled Squadron are collectively held in our SQMS stores. Controlling this small empire is **SSgt (SQMS) Jim Hehir** ably assisted by **Mr. Bill Avery.**

SSgt Jim Hehir joined the army and 6 Boys Training Regiment in 1955. By March 1958 he left Catterick as a Cable Jointer, a trade which has never been changed to Lineman throughout his career. During his subsequent service **Jim** saw time in Cyprus with 4 Air Formation Sig Regt at Akrotiri, also North Africa at El Adam, and 21 Sig Regt, then at Geilenkirchen. In 1965 until 1967 he was with 19 Sig Regt in Singapore which included several three month detachments to Borneo. Later tours with 638 Sig Tp, now 244 Sig Sqn, saw visits to Belize, Germany, Cyprus and El Adam. Before coming to 30 Sig Regt in 1975 **Jim** was at 16 Sig Regt in BAOR. Whilst at Blandford he has seen parts of Germany, Denmark and Alderney. Unfortunately March 1980 will see **Jim's** departure from the Corps and the end of 25 years Service.

A combination of great experience, dry humour, commonsense and ability make **Jim** an excellent SQMS. But were it not for **Bill Avery** who has provided continuity and thorough service to the Squadron the job of SQMS would be that much harder. Born in 1920 **Bill's** history stretches back even further than **Jim Hehir's** if that is possible, since he originally joined the Signal Platoon of 4 Battalion The Dorset Regiment (V) in March 1939. He saw active service in France and Germany in 1944 and 45. After being wounded near Hamburg, he was posted to the 4th Devons until discharged in May 1946.

As a civilian **Bill** joined the QM staff in November 1973 where he worked in the R and I Store. His association with 2 Sqn became complete when in June 1974 he transferred to the SQMS store. **Bill** was born in Blandford in Damory Court Street and has lived in Blandford for the whole of his life. Looking to the future he has just bought a new house on the Damory Estate. Happily **Bill** will be with the Squadron for at least another six years until 1985. This will be of great value when **Jim Hehir** leaves and a new, yet unknown, SQMS takes over. It is here that **Jim** and **Bill** have worked together as an excellent team for some six years.



The SQMS—SSgt Jim Hehir



Mr Bill Avery—ADC to the SQMS

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

ENTHUSIASM GROWS

33 Signal Regiment's enthusiasm for ski-ing continues to grow, and this year's party on Exercise *Snow Goose III* in the Cairngorms was over thirty strong, ranging from complete beginners who didn't know one end of a ski from the other, to experienced skiers, who actually looked upon the rigours of the ski-lifts with pleasure. The advance party left Liverpool on Friday 2nd March to collect camping and ski equipment en route, and to establish the Base Camp at the Glenmore Campsite in the foothills of the Cairngorms. By the time the main body arrived at the 'Aviemore Hilton' on Sunday evening, after a long journey relieved by 'Travel Scrabble', 'Mastermind' and 'Frustration', our home from home for the next week was covered in a healthy six inches of snow. What a beginning!

AVIEMORE FOUR STAR RATING

After a most welcome meal, we repaired to our tents. Luxury indeed—the Aviemore Hilton truly deserves its four-star rating! The electric light and calor gas heaters were first class, and the portering service had even delivered our advance luggage to the appropriate tent. Although some people were seen looking enviously at a smart civilian frame tent, belonging to **WO2 (RQMS) Eric Burton** and **WO2 (RQMS) Jack Hall,** all traces of envy disappeared when it blew down during the first night in a strong wind—thereby proving the superiority of the army's one hundred and sixty pounders.

TO THE SLOPES

On Monday morning everyone rose fired with enthusiasm to get out on the slopes. This enthusiasm was not dampened by the overnight thaw which reduced much of the campsite to a quagmire—a truck was hastily despatched to fetch some duckboards, to prevent the cookhouse and mess tent from disappearing completely beneath the mud.

Unfortunately our allocation of army ski boots ranged up to only a size eight and a half, so the nine pluses had to hire theirs. The unique luminous green pair, acquired by **LCpl John Hopwood** made him easily identifiable when lying face down in a snowdrift! And so into action. The 'old and bold' had no time for the 'nursery slopes', and headed straight for higher things, leaving the novices in the capable hands of **Cpl Stewart Convery.** It was one thing for him to *tell* us how to do snow ploughs—but quite another for us to actually *do* them! There's certainly never a dull moment when there are unskilled skiers around-always some gymnastics and acrobatic double acts to watch while recovering from your own errors of judgement. **WO2 Alan Gouldson** must surely qualify for the 'fall of the month' award. At the opposite end of the scale, **Pte Gwen Smith WRAC** deserves a medal for courage beyond the call of duty in conquering the 'White Lady Slope', no mean feat for even experienced skiers.



Even the 'Can-Can' is possible on Ski's!
Left to Right: WO2 Alan Gouldson, WO2 (RQMS) Jack Hall, WO2 (RQMS) Eric Burton, Pte Heather Bradbury LCpl Shirley Kane, Pte Val Howell, and LCpl John Hopwood



Cpl Marie Watkinson and LCpl Shirley Kane dressed for action

EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES

Everyone took their turn at cookhouse duties, and the high standards of cuisine throughout the week were due to **Sgt Colin Elstob's** culinary advice to our impromptu chefs. **WO2 (RQMS) Eric Burton** excelled himself in concocting the 'Camp Special' for the visit—of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe** on the Thursday evening, who not only enjoyed the steak and kidney pie, but also a fruit pie with custard! Earlier that day the Commanding Officer had visited the Ski Slopes and had enjoyed some very delicate sandwiches lovingly prepared by **Cpl Marie Watkinson** and **LCpl Shirley Kane WRAC,** which were an infinite improvement on the curled offerings of the previous day.The CO spent an enjoyable afternoon in the swimming baths and sauna in Aviemore, where many other skiers revitalised their aching bodies. It was a little disappointing to find the ice rink closed for the whole week for the Johnnie Walker Curling Championships, but, after hours of intensive spectator study of the sport, **SSgt Shirley Stott** will be Captaining the Regiment's entry next year. Aviemore afforded plenty of liquid aprés ski entertainment in the evenings, and the vocal return journeys from the Red Magregor showed that Scottish ales too can refresh remote parts!

We were fortunate in being able to ski every day except one—when only those who were game enough went walking in the hills. The heavy snowfall on Thursday evening provided such excellent ski-ing facilities for novices on a hill only yards from the campsite, that is was even harder to return to Liverpool-in fact there were even hopes that it might have been impossible to leave Aviemore due to the depth of snow on the ground. But these hopes were, in the end, unfounded, and we were able to strike camp in record time on Saturday morning, and would have been on the road by 1000 hrs, had not a temperamental minibus needed patient coaxing to get it started.

A CASUALTY

A most successful venture which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As a final word, to encourage others to try their hand at ski-ing, we must mention that there was one casualty. A WRAC snow raid on male SNCO's, after all the Ski's had been returned to Sterling, resulted in **LCpl Sue Abbott** being crushed underneath a pile of bodies and sustaining a broken leg, which only goes to prove that SNCO's are far more dangerous than any amount of ski-ing!

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

A GOOD CHOICE
Report by Maj (TOT) H. J. B. Wall TD JP

I believe it was William Wordsworth who wrote those memorable words? 'Oh to be in England now that April's here'—and thankfully, so say all of us. Maybe we can at last shake the snow off our boots, as until now it has been somewhat of a gamble trying to forecast which week-end will be free of snow and ice. The regimental planners who, way back in 1977/78 selected the 10/11 March for our first regimental exercise of the season, appropriately named *'March Hare'* can give themselves a pat on the back. Whilst the 10/11 was cold and muddy under foot, the conditions at the week-ends either side were more reminicent of Siberia than the West Midlands.

This was fortunate because we were also in the middle of Spring TAVR Recruiting Campaign and most Squadrons had made arrangements to ferry would be recruits and members of the public to the nearest exercise location, which, had it been on any other week-end, would have been extremely difficult.

58 SQUADRON 'AT HOME'

As a finale to their campaign in North Staffordshire 58 (Staffordshire) Signal Squadron (V) held an 'Open Day' to which the local Press, Radio and Members of the Public were invited. The event took the form of a vehicles and equipment display, backed by elements from 48 Squadron, M Troop and LAD from Birmingham, and 89 Squadron Rugby who combined business with pleasure and displayed a live D11 link back to their own TA Centre in Rugby. In addition, 58 put on demonstrations of weapons, camouflage, field cooking, films and other aspects of training.

MEMORIES OF THE FIRST BRICK

The 'At Home' was opened by His Worship The Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, **Councillor George Poole, CC,** accompanied by The Mayoress and other Civic dignatories, who said in reply to **Maj Derrick Eve** (PSO) standing in for the OC, **Maj Richard Entwistle** (unavoidably absent on a business trip in the USA) 'This is the first time I have been asked to open an 'Open Day'. It brings back memories to the year 1937 when as a young man of twenty-two, I was beginning to find my feet as a manager with Percy Bailey Company Limited, a local building firm, and I was asked to prepare a tender for the construction of this Drill Hall. I had never tendered before but my firm were awarded the contract and as I was then made responsible for the building, I am relieved to find it still standing 42 years later'. The Mayor went on to pay tribute to the role played by 58 Squadron in the affairs of the Borough, and said 'as a result of the visit and the close liaison he and the Council now had, a better understanding about what the TA was all about and what makes it tick.'

Certainly the visitors, including the Press, were most impressed with the display even if they did cast envious glances at **Sig Andrew Rogers** who, dressed in full NBC kit and gas mask, was undoubtedly the warmest man in the Centre.

Incidentally, the week-end was also marked by the fact that **SSgt Pete Ryan** PSI at 58, made his broadcast debut on Radio Stoke, and quite frankly he's been hard to live with since then; he cannot understand why the BBC haven't been in touch with him to stand in for Terry Wogan.



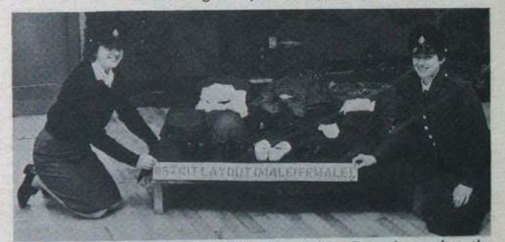
2Lt 'Mo' Hunter-Choat and SSgt (PSI) Pete Ryan pose for the camera whilst doing the rounds' during 58 Squadron Open Day



Left to right: CCF Cpl John Tamms and Ex CCF Sgt (now signalman) Philip Smith demonstrating the SLR during 58 Squadron Open Day



SSgt Tony Parsons putting the 1990 intake through their paces on the LMG during 58 Squadron Open Day



Left to right: Ptes Karen Ashford and Sue Brough putting the finishing touches to a kit layout in preparation to 58 Squadron Open Day



Sig Bill Woodcock advertising his wares in the field kitchen during 58 Squadron Open Day. Sweating over a hot stove in the background—Pte Jane Hubbard

PRESENTATION

There are many attributes in belonging to the TA, a fact not always appreciated by the layman. We stay in Staffordshire for the moment to highlight just one of them—friendship. When you make a friend in the TA you make one for life. This was perfectly obvious last month when **Lt Col Ken Smith** presented the TAVR Efficiency Medal to his 'old Sergeant pal in gunner days,' **SSgt (SQMS) Geoffrey Robinson.**

In term of rank structure they may be now poles apart, **SSgt Robinson** is a SQMS with 35 Signal Regiment (V) and **Lt Col Smith** is now his CO—but the admiration and respect is still there, as befits two men who have soldiered together in the TA for 25 years.

Leek born and bred, **SSgt Robinson** began his Army service in 1949 when he was called up for National Service in the Royal Artillery. Demobbed in 1951 with the rank of Bombadier, he was posted to Leek Troop 261 Observation Regiment (TA) (later changed to 261 Location Regiment (TA)) and served with them as a Volunteer until it was disbanded in 1956. He transferred with the Leek Troop to 441 Light Ack Ack Regiment (TA), was promoted to Sergeant in 1958, and served with 441 until they too were disbanded in 1960. Through all these changes the Leek Troop survived, this time as part of 887 Locating Battery (TA), and so did **Sgt Robinson,** together with another member, **Pay Sgt Ken Smith,** now **Lt Col K. R. Smith, TD, SSgt Robinson's** present CO.

When **'Sgt Smith'** was commissioned and appointed Paymaster of 887 Battery in 1963, **Sgt Robinson** re-badged into the Royal Army Pay Corps and took over his C.O.'s old job as Pay Sergeant, an appointment he held until 1967 when 887 Battery was disbanded, together with the remainder of the TA.

Not to be thwarted, on the formation of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve in 1967, **Sgt Robinson** transferred yet again, this time as Pay Sergeant to 58 (Staffordshire) Sig Sqn (V) his present unit at Cross-Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme. 1967 marked another milestone in his life when he received a General Officer Commanding's Commendation for rescuing a baby from a burning house at Endon, Stoke-on-Trent.

After serving as 58 Squadron's Pay Sergeant for three years he re-badged into Royal Signals and was promoted into his present job as Staff Sergeant (SQMS) at a time when his old colleague of 887 Battery days, **Lt Col Smith** was Squadron Commander. In qualifying for the TAVR Efficiency Medal, **SSgt Robinson** joins that small group of Volunteers who hold both the TA and TAVR Efficiency Medals—the former being awarded in 1964.



SSgt (SQMS) Geofrey Robinson being warmly congratulated by his CO after Lt Col Ken Smith had just presented his old friend with the TAVR Efficiency Medal

CINC'S COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations are also due to the two members of 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) who were justly awarded Commander-in-Chief's Commendations for the part they played in rescuing a baby and helping to evacuate the inabitants from a blazing house in Lüdinghausen whilst the regiment was at Annual Camp in Germany last year.

Taking time off during his Fitness for Role Inspection of the regiment in Birmingham, the CSO UKLF **Brig D. H. Baynham GM ADC** presented the awards to **Sig** (now **LCpl**) **Ronald Jones** and **SSgt** (now (now W02 with London University OTC) **Eric Rose** who was PSI with the Yeomanry at the time.

Not to be outdone, 95 Squadron's current PSI (when he's not shooting or orienteering) also stepped forward to receive his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from **Brig Baynham** to commemorate 17 years in Royal Signals.



Brig Derek Baynham presenting CinC's Commendations to *(left to right)* Sig (now LCpl) Ronald Jones and SSgt (now W02) Eric Rose and Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to SSgt Dennis Glanville

PROMOTIONS

Despite the weather the RSM, **WO1 Joe Albon** can afford to smile, three new additions to the Sergeant's Mess mean more free drinks. Promoted to Sergeant are two ex-stalwarts from the Old Shropshire Yeomanry, **Cpl Derek Robinson** and **Pat Cassidy** moving up to fill vacancies in X-Ray Troop in Shrewsbury, joining them in the Mess from Newcastle-under-Lyme will be **Cpl Keith Spencer** a member of Romeo Troop—Congratulations to all three.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Movements have been very light this last few months; **Sgt Tim Ameghino** has vacated his PSI post with 89 Sqn in Rugby for 'Civvy street.

We warmly welcome a new lady volunteer **2Lt Maureen Hunter-Choat** whose husband incidentally is a regular Lieutenant Colonel. She will not be without friends, as **2Lt 'Mo' McCabe** she completed her Q Course with our Training Major, **Mike Brock**, and after service with Royal Signals (WRAC) in Aldershot, served with Quartermaster **Bob Peake** in 18 Sig Regt, Singapore.

Her experience will be a great asset to 58 Sqn in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

After the clearance of the snow, training for our units in the Norfolk area has become less of a problem. On 10/11 March a combined recruiting and admin weekend was held in Norwich. By chance (?) the PRO (V) E District was passing and noticed one of our recruiting positions and an adjacent sign—the result is the picture.



Volunteers shown left to right are: O/C David Logan, age 24—Sales Rep and LCpl Richard Pink, age 20—Radio Engineer. Both part of det at Aylsham Road, Norwich

71 Sig Regt (V) Bromley

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Since our last appearance in the Wire many things have happened in the Regiment. The Command of the Regiment has now passed to **Lt Col Colin Brown** R Signals, whom we welcome together with his wife, **Heather.** We hope their stay will be a happy and enjoyable one. In welcoming the new CO, we also must say farewell to **Col John Craig TD** who has left the regiment on promotion to Deputy Group Commander 2 Signal Group. **Colonel Craig** joined this Regiment when it was reformed in 1969, having previously been a member of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Regiment.

By the time these notes appear we will have said farewell also to **Maj Colin Smith** our Traffic Officer and his wife, **Mary,** who are departing for 28 Signal Regiment. **Maj Smith** has also had the unique distinction (I think) of being the only Regular Officer to Command a TA Squadron.

Others we have said farewell too are **W02 Dave Smith** and his wife, **Mary,** who have gone to 8 Signal Regiment and **Sgt Brian Mundy** who has left the army after 22 years service. We wish him and his family every success in their new life.

MAYOR OF BROMLEY VISITS

The Mayor of Bromley with the Deputy Lieutenant, **Col B. R. Wood OBE TD DL** visited the Regimental Headquarters on the 27 February which is the Tuesday Drill Night. The Mayor saw many activities taking place and was very impressed with the Communicating Skills of the Volunteer Soldier. During the visit **Col Wood** presented **Sgts Caffrey** and **Lilley** with their LS & GC Medals. These were duly christened by the RSM later in the bar.



Lt Col Brown, Col Wood and the Mayor of Bromley with Lt Tony Benbow OC 890 Signal Troop (V)



Col Wood presents LS & GC to Sgt Gerry Lilley, Sgt Mick Caffrey and WO1 (RSM) Ian Rothwell in the background

GLC BANNER PARADE

On the 3 March the Greater London Council presented a Banner to all London based T&AVR Units. To mark the occasion a Parade was held where representatives from all the Units marched through London with bayonets fixed and Swords drawn, from Horse Guards Parade to the County Hall where the Banner was officially handed over to the safe custody of the Greater London T&AVR Association. Two contingents from the Regiment took part. The men from 68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron (V) and the WRAC from 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V). The Parade was a credit to all those taking part.

OPENING OF THE REGIMENTAL VIDEO TRAINING SCHEME

On the 6 March, the Chief of Staff London District, **Brig J. N. Ghika,** visited RHQ and 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V). The visit coincided with the beginning of the Video Training Scheme devised by our Training Major, **Maj Trevor Hendren.** The first set of equipment was prepared and as the Chief of Staff arrived, everything was taped by the SKC demonstrators. It was in fact due to the Chief of Staff that the first funds were made available to the Regiment for the purchase of a Camera, a Monitor Screen and a Tape Recorder (Video). Having been shown around RHQ, **Brig Ghika** was taken to our nearest Squadron headquarters at Bexleyheath, where he met over 60 members of the Squadron. There he opened a refurbished Officers Mess. The work on the Officer's Mess was done entirely by the Squadron PSI, **SSgt Phil Crowe** (Crowe of Dartford Enterprises). The transformation from a very bare room to a wood panelled smart Mess is a credit to **Phil Crowe's** skill.

VISIT OF OIL MANNING

On the 8 March, all the PSI's and other members of the Permanent Staff, gathered at one of the 11 Centres of the Regiment, namely Windsor (94 (BY) Signal Squadron (V)) for a visit by **Colonel Baker** who was the Regiments first Commanding Officer in 1969. We had a very informal discussion on matters relating to the Corps as well as individuals.

News from Squadrons

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

LAST REPORT

By Maj E. Pickup, Officer Commanding

DISBANDMENT

With the withdrawal of British Forces from Malta at the end of March 1979, 234 Signal Squadron (Malta), which is the longest continuously existing unit in the Corps, will disband. I do not at this stage propose to carry out a long review of its life in Malta over the years. I have been 'persuaded' to write an article. for the Royal Signals Institution Journal, of life in Malta over the years and I hope this will appear in the Summer 1979 issue. However, a brief review of the history of the unit is probably in order at this stage.

EARLY DAYS

It formed in 1923 as the Malta Signal Section taking over responsibility from the Royal Engineers for the provision of telephone lines and the running of small magneto exchanges around the island. The earliest photograph, taken in 1925 shows that right from the beginning it was a mixed unit of British and Maltese personnel.

I was lucky enough to obtain some photographs of Corps activity during the thirties from **Col (Retd) D. R. Patterson** and have forwarded a selection with this article.

THE WAR YEARS

In 1940 the title of the unit was changed to Malta Command Signals and during the momentous war years the members of the unit were engaged in the maintenance, repair and expansion of the military telephone system. It was a never ending task particularly during 1942 when the almost daily air raids by the German and Italian air forces inflicted tremendous damage and the pressure was intense to restore communications as quickly as possible.

AND LATER

In 1947 the unit was renamed Malta Signal Squadron and in April 1949 the first regular Maltese locally enlisted soldiers were 'signed on'. Up to this time only civilians were employed, although they had been conscripted during the war.

In 1959 the unit changed its title once again to 234 Signal Squadron (Malta), which title has remained to the present day.

A SAD DAY

Letters that I have received during my three years in Malta have conveyed to me the very fond memories that many people have of their service on the island. The comradeship between the British and Maltese soldier has always been of the highest order, and our civilian colleagues have worked hard to contribute to the happy environment in which we have all served. The high standards achieved over the years, and commented on regularly by senior officers of the three services, reflect much praise on the hard work put in particularly by the NCO and soldier who has known his job thoroughly and has carried out his work in a professional and uncomplaining manner.

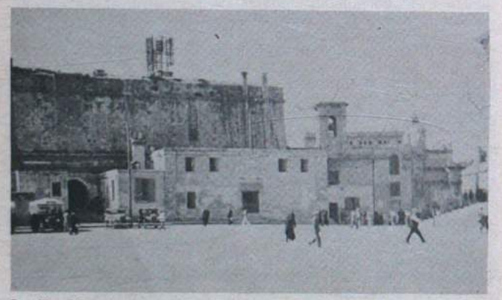
I know that all who have served with the Squadron will look on 31 March 1979 as a very sad day, and hope that in the not too distant future the Squadron may reform in a new role.



Malta Signal Section—1925



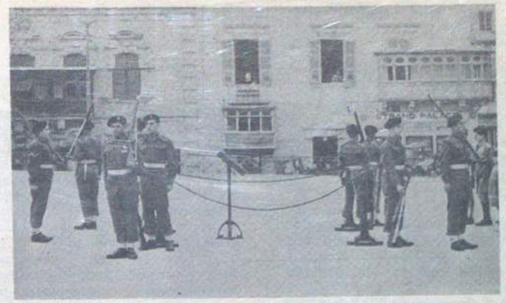
'Don't forget the diver'—Repairing the cable from Valletta to Tigne—1930's



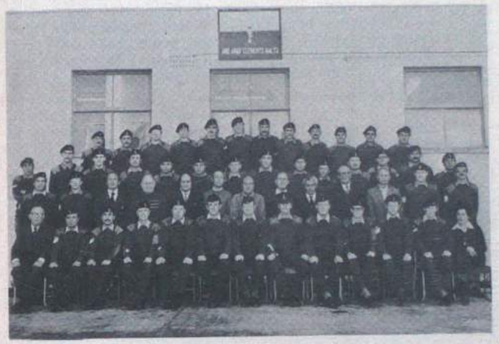
Castille Square with Signal Section HQ and Fortress exchange building in background—1930's



Capt Paterson and civilian staff—St Francis Ravelin—1935



Malta Signal Squadron guard The George Cross on the Main Guard Square



Squadron strength 1 March 1979



Final Squadron Parade—21 March 1979—SO in C takes the salute as TM Troop led by Capt J. Morris march past



Squadron strength 15 March 1979

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

ROUND THE CORNER

As we come—we hope—to the end of one of the longest and coldest winters for many years we look forward at last to some rays of sunshine. Spring may be around the corner but there is precious little sign of it yet!

NEW ARRIVALS

We are happy to welcome **Capt Bob Turnbull** and his wife, **Rosemary**, fresh from the green fields of Ireland and hope that their stay in the Squadron will be a happy one. **Capt Turnbull** takes over from **Capt David Lynam** who was one of the longest serving officers in the Squadron. We wish him and his wife, **Val**, a happy tour in Northern Ireland. We also have had a changeover of MTO's **Capt David Davidson** taking over from **Capt Roy Owens** who moves down the road to Munster. We wish him and his wife, **Jill**, a happy stay with the American detachment of 8 Regt RCT.

COOL

Ex *Fighting Eagle* was held this year in perpetually sub-zero temperatures. We recorded -20 C at 0800 hrs in main HQ one morning. It must have been considerably colder in the RRB locations. Here is A Tp's report:

'Staged in arctic conditions we deployed to our individual locations in good cheer, in hindsight I wonder if **Capt Scott's** ill fated party did likewise. After several hours touring the countryside at a sedate 25 mph we arrived. On 'setting up' a few days later, **Sig Stan Bruce** discovered to his dismay the previous occupants (of the porcine variety) had not been house trained and the smell, even at low temperatures, brought few complimentary remarks about the recce officer **SSgt Ben Bentley**—or the pigs. The 'lineys' as usual led by the redoubtable **Cpl Bobby Clair** carried out their work undaunted by wind, rain, snow or highwater, never sleeping, never complaining, totally dedicated, ever smiling—what *do* they put into their fuel tanks!

SLOW GOING

Lunch time arrived and very rapidly departed and shortly after **Dvr Slasher Green** arrived from a visit to Main, some 5 Km away. It had taken him the best part of two days to make the journey, amazing as we had made about four moves in that period. We put it down to MT Tp's secret Chobham Navigator.

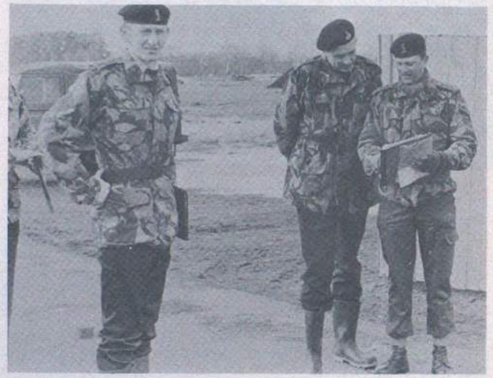
The next memorable item of the day dinner, loomed ominously close and we looked forward to another culinary delight from **Pte Geordie Grieves** who had once again taxed his resources to the full, yes, it was stew again. We are thinking of indenting for another POD so we can have a literally moveable feast—it beats dixie bashing anyway.

Darkness then descended on the peacefully sleeping village and with it **Lt Peter Telford** the Step Up Comd, arrived banishing any thought of sleep. 'Emergency Move—Crash out' he yelled and they all came tumbling out of their sleeping bags that they had been so busily inspecting. The day had done its full circle and with it another day of Ex *Fighting Eagle, Snowy Owl, Flying Falcon* or whatever. Why can't I get a posting in the sun?'

VISIT OF SO IN C

We were very pleased to welcome Maj Gen AAG Anderson, to the Squadron on 12 March; his visit coincided with the Squadron on the range as they were taking part in the SHQ run falling plate shoot which was part of a series of inter-troop competitions.

The General watched the final of the falling plate which was a close run match held between the A Tp Second Team and SHQ who eventually won after cliff-hanging finish. The rumour that all the SHQ plates were knocked over by their secret weapon **Quartermaster Peter Martin** is probably correct! The General also tried his hand at the pool ball pistol competition and left the range for Quebec Bks where he was briefed on the role of the Squadron and met the Commander 5 Field Force, **Brig C. J. Airy.**



SOinC's visit. Capt Richard Anderson briefs the SOinC, while OC Maj Martin Lance looks on



Ex Fighting Eagle—The last day

SPORTING NEWS

The Squadron sporting scene is getting under way again after the halt imposed by the severe weather. The cross country team has done very well and if they win their last race on 5 April they will become the Westphalian League Champions. The football and Hockey teams have not done quite so well but they are still playing! The Shooting team came ninth in the BAOR major units final and won the 2 Armd Div Minor Units competition.

STOP PRESS

The cross country team won their match on 5 April and are now Champions of Westphalian cross country league 1978-79. Congratulations.

242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh

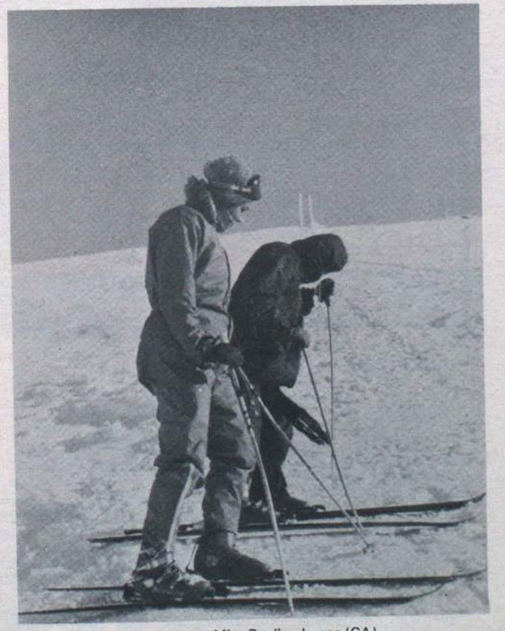
CAIRNGORM SKIING

The Squadron skiers had the opportunity in February of acquainting themselves with the slopes of Cairngorm once again. At least, those skiers who had been with the Squadron 12 months previously, in this case **SSM Terry Mumford** (OIC party), **FofS Duncan MacPhail, LCpl Charlie Richardson** (who liked it so much last year that he'd come down from the Shetlands to take part) and **Sig Rob Jones.** The remainder of the party were beginners although **Cpl Kev Taylor** said he qualified as a skier because he knew where Oberjoch was. One of the party probably known to a number of readers was **SSgt Pete Nicholls REME,** ex-2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt LAD and now 153 Sqn RCT (TAVR) Dunfermline. **Pete** tended to try hot dogging too early and was an exhilarating sight sliding downhill on just about everything else but his skis.

BLIZZARD CONDITIONS

The party must have wondered what they'd let themselves in for on day one when we were treated to a Cairngorms blow which produces blizzard conditions by blowing everything off the top into the low lying areas. The consequence was that on day two we had to dig our way out of the Rothiemurchus hut and it was midday before a vehicle got down to the main road. This was unfortunately to no avail as 14ft snow drifts blocked the roads to the slopes.

Nevertheless the beginners were raring to go and the WRAC contingent, **LCpl Mandy Brookes, Ptes Fiona Ward** and **Trish 'Andy Pandy' Thomas** with the help of the Squadron Clerk, **Miss Pauline 'Cartwheel' Lucas** produced an incredible number of falls which somehow caused no permanent damage. The time passed all too quickly and although weak on snow it was strong on enjoyment and achievement with everyone managing the White Lady—even if it was only chair lift up and down in some cases.



Pte Thomas, Miss Pauline Lucas (CA)

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	**—Maj A. L. W. G. Steane**
2IC	**—Capt M. N. Grieves**
A Troop	**—2Lt C. Burtenshaw**
B Troop	**—Lt L. K. Byrne**
M Troop	**—WO2 (FofS) M. P. Coley**
RQMS	**—WO2 (RQMS) P. Hardwick**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) A. D. Janaway**
Chief Clerk	**—SSgt (ORSQMS) M. Kennedy**

ON THE MOVE

The New Year has seen the 'Red Hand Gang' off on its travels again. Within a week of each other, the two radio troops deployed to opposite ends of Europe. A Troop commanded by **2Lt Colin Burtenshaw,** departed for the snowy wastes of Northern Norway to join with the remainder of AMF (L) on its annual pilgrimage to the Arctic Circle. Initially concentrating on winter training, the newer members of the troop, including **LCpl Nick Bahado** and **Sigs Steve Clark** and **John Reiffer,** provided a remarkable display of free-fall skiing. Having mastered the Black Arts, under the instruction of **Cpl Smudge Smith,** the troop moved 'up country' for the serious aspect of its work. The OC joined them during the last week of January just to see how its done, **Sgt Mac McClelland** taking great delight in making sure that he spent time out in the snow. Returning from their snowy wastes A Troop found themselves re-deployed to Germany within the week. Reports are slowly filtering through of their doings but I expect we will have to wait until their return for a blow by blow account.



LCpl Nick Bahado prepares to spend a night out in the snow



Some of the members of the FASC having completed their package tour of Norwegian woods



FofS Martin Coley showing his empire to Col Pilot Rossetti



The OC discussing a point with Lt Col Acquistucci

B Troop meanwhile has had its share of winter warfare, being deployed on 3 January to the Italian Alps. As it is well over a year since the troop last visited its Italian friends, there were many new faces. Somehow or other the OC managed to get in on the act again and in the accompanying photograph can be seen deep in conversation with the Italian Ops Officer. The OC claims this was a serious planning meeting, but the troop still believe they were discussing the merits of the local pizza parlours. A subsequent 'R & R' trip to Venice was much appreciated and the troop feels that further planning sessions should be held on frequent occasions. After the success of its Italian trip the troop is deploying to Denmark for three weeks. Denmark is something of a home from home for the troop who have established friendly relations with many of the local people.

Two of our members have recently returned from three months in Belize. Whilst we have been shivering in the worst of the recent weather **LCpl Wally Walton** and **Sig Chris Gopsill** have been sunning themselves throughout. Much to the envy of the rest of the troop they have returned as brown as berries with copious ramblings of their doings.

OLD HANDS

SHQ and Mike Troop have featured in the limelight too in the last few weeks. In particular the old and bold have been recognised during the recent visit of **Col K. H. Olds,** Commander 1 Signal Group. **Col Olds** presented LS & GC medals to both **WO2 (FofS) Martin Coley** and **Sgt Graham Whelan.**

Foreman **Coley** has been in the army for some 20 years since 1959. He saw active service in Brunei and North Borneo as well as an emergency tour with the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). In addition he has served in Belgium, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malta and Northern Ireland and is shortly moving on to pastures new. Thus not only of irreproachable conduct, the Foreman is a wise old man of the world too.

Sgt Graham Whelan, the Sqn MT Rep, has also served some 20 years. Initially starting his career in Aden he has served in Germany and Cyprus as well as a drill instructor with 11 Sig Regt. **Sgt Whelan** and the OC are old acquaintances. Whilst a Corporal at 11 Sig Regt his troop commander was a certain **Lt A. L. W. G. Steane! Sgt Whelan** joined the Squadron in August 1977 and now runs the MT.

Both of these old hands are well liked throughout the Squadron and held in some awe by its junior members. **Sig Alan Macfie-Jones,** who at 17½ is the most junior signalman, held the cushion on which the medals lay during the presentation. Young **Macfie-Jones** finds the idea of 20 years service, as rather amazing.

OUTSTANDING

In addition to our LS & GC medals, **Col Olds** presented the Outstanding Signalmans Cup to **Sig Taff Williams,** a combat powerman who has been with the Squadron three years. **Sig Williams** is moving to 22 Sig Regt on promotion to Lance-Corporal within the near future.

Though not presented at the same time, the outstanding JNCO's cup was awarded to **Cpl Dixie Dean. Dixie** is now on his way to 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and we wish him good fortune.

COMMANDERS CUP TO BRAVO TROOP

Finally 'B' Troop was very proud to be presented with 1 Signal Group Commanders Cup awarded for our efforts between March and October of 1978. This is the first time that the cup has been won by the Squadron though we hope it will not be the last.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. It exists to help Servicemen to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. It also takes a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association has 42 Branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with employers. It provides all services free.

Addresses and telephone numbers of Branches can be obtained from Corps and Regimental Associations—or from Post Offices, Employment Offices or local telephone directories.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Bulford

PHOTO REPORT EX HARDFALL 1979



After an extended tour of the Ice and Snow, living in tree and canvas houses, Sgt Bob Hassall's group pause for lunch. The DS for this phase of training were; in front of the Volvo (*left to right*), Sgt Bernie (Grizzly Bear) Temmen, Norwegian LO Lt Morton Loden and WO 2 (F of S) Mick Flanagan



Demonstrating the Norwegian five man pulk (Grunt and Groan Machine!). Empty at the moment 'cos they're still learning. Cpl Dick Hughes leading his band of crack British Arctic Trained men across the frozen wastelands of Norway. Namely; Sigs Andy Marson, 'Piggy' Burkill, LCpl Martin Hoy, Cpl Paul Hickinbottom, Sigs Ron Curtis and Ian 'Flo' Philo



A two man brushwood lean-to (tree house) occupied by 'squatter(??)' Cpl Jeff Smythe, quietly doing his thing in the snow



Even 'experts' fall occasionally, especially in a pulk harness



The Natives Are Friendly—Sgt Ted Jinman, WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilcox, and Sgt Phil 'Pancake' Roe ACC with friends



Gazelles of 2 Flt AAC performing yet another of their lifts for the Squadron. In the foreground 2Lt Chris Cox discusses IA Drills with Sgt John West before emplaning. In the background, wearing helmet, SSgt Bob Morris (ex Royal Signals) of 2 Flt AAC discusses the flight plan with his observer.

We wish to express our thanks to the men and machines of 2 Flt AAC who flew in excess of 100 sorties for the Squadron during the exercise.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**—Maj M. Martin**
2IC	**—Capt G. Carmichael**
TOT	**—Maj R. Goodman (BEM)**
Tfc Offr	**—Capt C. N. Lightfoot**
OC 'F' Tp	**—Lt A. Bowering**
SSM	**—WO2 (SSM) J. Allen**
RQMS	**—WO2 (RQMS) J. Willock**
Chief Clerk	**—Sgt C. Donnelly**

BITSA BASHERS ANGLING CLUB

In August 1978 **Cpls Dave D'Silva** and **Keith Dale** called the first meeting of the Garrison Angling Club in Dhekelia which was held in the Squadron bar, and the Bitsa Bashers were formed. Although the club is open to all residents of Dhekelia, 262 Signal Squadron personnel are well to the fore in the administration. The Committee is:

Chairman	**Sgt Howard Loates**	**262**
Secretary	**Cpl Keith Dale**	**262**
Match Sec	**Cpl Dave D'Silva**	**262**
Treasurer	**Sgt Bill Munley**	**REME**

All the hard work was carried out by **Dave D'Silva** during the first session. Sea fishing in Cyprus is poor but the few dams that hold water all the year round offer very good sport, and it's free. The two main venues are Yermasoyia Dam and Lefkara Dam. Yermasoyia Dam holds carp, bass, mullet, bream, roach and trout.

Best club weights up to the end of 1978 were:

Carp	12 lbs 12 ozs
Mullet	7 lbs 8 ozs
Bass	2 lbs 8 ozs
Trout	2 lbs
Roach	1 lb
Bream	¾ lb

The first club match saw some innovations in worm digging. **Keith Dale** spent 45 minutes digging with his car but gave up when he reached his axles. As a reward for his efforts in starting the club **Dave D'Silva** was allowed to win this first match and managed to hold highest total weight in all club matches at the end of the December period. The end of season club trophies were awarded as follows:

Highest total weight	**Cpl Dave D'Silva**	53½ lbs	262		
2nd	**Sgt Nick Mumery**	45 lbs	62	RE	
3rd	**Sgt Howard Loates**	41 lbs	262		
Heaviest fish caught	**Sgt Howard Loates**—Carp 12 lbs 12 ozs				262

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment organised a Cyprus All Comers Open Fishing Match. A Bitsa Bashers team consisted of:

WO2 (AQMS) Del Woods	**REME**
Sgt Howard Loates	**262**
Sgt Nick Mumery	**62 RE**
Cpl Dave D'Silva	**262**

The team was placed second out of 38 teams competing. As there is no close season in Cyprus we are looking forward to a successful six month period in 1979.

Stop Press. Cpl Dave D'Silva has been selected for the Army Cyprus team which will be touring BAOR in May.

BITSA QUIZ

The Bitsa Club organised an inter-departmental Quiz during February and March which proved to be a great success. Thanks must go to **Sgt Paddy Kelly** for the hours, during leave, that he spent compiling the questions and for being such a professional Quizmaster.

A total of 16 teams took part including three ladies teams. In fact one of the ladies teams reached the semi-finals and were unlucky to be knocked out at that stage.

The final was between Cape Greco and Radio Section with **Sgts Martin Kerrigan, Dave Barnes** and **Glen Cuthbertson** of Cape Greco going down narrowly to **Cpl Rab Young, LCpl Nigel Scott** and **Sig 'Smoothie' Dowling** of Radio Section in a spirited contest.

The competition success can be judged by the enormous following it received and the consequent increase in bar profits. It is hoped to hold an annual competition of this type—start preparing the questions **Paddy!**



'And the next question is?' Maj M. Martin presenting Sgt 'Paddy' Kelly with a plaque in recognition of all the time and hard work he put into organising a squadron quiz competition. The scorer, SSgt Mick Turner, beams happily in the background

HOCKEY MAGIC

'262 are Magic.' This was the sight for all to see displayed upon a large banner stretched high upon a balcony overlooking the hockey pitch which was to be the arena for a battle royal between 'David and Goliath' ie 262 Sig Sqn and the 3rd Bn LI in the knockout cup final. Having recently lost two consecutive league matches the Squadron were naturally apprehensive about the final and many punters were tipping the 3LI with their reputed strength to overwhelm 262 but oh what a surprise. Everyone in the Squadron team seemed to be charged with a pocket of the proverbial because right from the bully-off we were immediately at the throats of the 3LI defence forcing them to concede a penalty flick within the first five minutes. This was converted immaculately by **Sgt Mick (fairy feet) Green** to the delight of not only the team but many cheering jubilant supporters whose vocal support sometimes verged on hysteria lifting the team throughout.

SECRET WEAPON

The first half was dominated by 262 with attack after attack being just broken down. Our secret weapon was **Mrs Helen Varley** (yes—Women's Lib has finally broken into male hockey), wife of **Cpl Nigel Varley,** who, out on the left wing, not only distracted the opposition with her lithe athletic figure but also bruised a few shins of the weak hearted defenders. Unfortunately with so much attacking the team was rather committed which led to the 3LI getting a disputed equaliser just before half-time. This had the effect of spurring the Squadron team on and following relentless pressure **Mick Green** again scored to regain the lead. The Squadron began to turn the screws and the midfield of **Sgts Pete Whitbread** and **Mick Tankard** continued to feed the forwards (with the ball that is!) until once again fine play between **Sgt 'Sid can't control it' Walley** and **Mick Green** led to **Mick** 'Tripping along daintily' to complete his hat-trick. The Battalion managed to pull back another disputed goal but the final outcome was never in doubt with the Squadron staggering out 3-2 victors. Having mentioned mainly forwards I feel a special mention must go to **Sgt 'Paddy' (You don't scare me) Kelly,** who, with his fearless goalkeeping throughout the season, has been like an extra full-back to the team. Both he and **Sid Walley** played with a vengeance throughout having narrowly missed playing for the Army. Another fine performance was given by the 'Old Man' of the team, **Maj (TOT) Ben 'I'm on my chinstrap' Goodman,** who found that playing hockey was a bit more demanding than flying model aircraft.

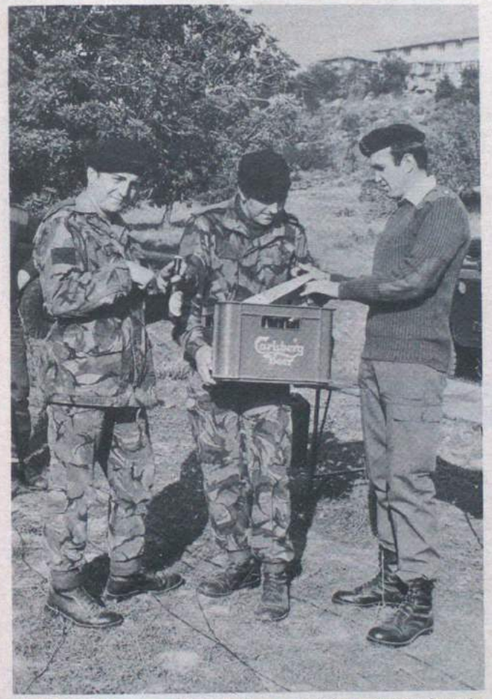
It only remains to say watch out in the island six-a-sides because on 14 March '262 were truly magic'.

FIELD DAY FOR FIELD TROOP

BMH Valley Dhekelia was recently the scene for a flurry of activity by members of 262 Signal Squadron. Radio Section of Field Troop were involved in an inter-departmental military skills competition. Subjects being tested included camouflage and defence, operating skills, MT documentation, driving skills and field cooking.

A lot of work was done behind the scenes to make the day a success but special thanks must go to **Capt George Carmichael** and **Cpl Nick Cole** of the Dhekelia Motor Sports Club for the very exacting cross-country driving circuit. Competitors took turns in driving a long wheelbased landrover and trailer over some of the roughest country available in the ESBA. The course offered lots of thrills and spills, but everyone managed to finish the course and in doing so worked up an appetite for the highlight of the competition the field cooking. Under the watchful eye of **SSgt Dave Woodruff ACC** each detachment were given a live chicken to prepare for their lunch meal. After some amusing but messy preparations, the end products were sampled by a panel of judges consisting of the OC, **Maj Mike Martin, Lt Andy Bowering** and **SSgt Dave Woodruff.**

The results proved to be a win for **Cpl Rab Young** and **LCpl 'Budgie' Parry** who also emerged overall winners. The reward for their efforts? The customary crate of Carlsberg was presented by the OC.



LCpl 'Budgie' Parry and Cpl Rab Young receiving their prize from the OC Maj Mike Martin

CROSS-COUNTRY REPORT

December saw the finish of the Ten race league season. The Squadron team finished in sixth place with **Sgt Mick Lumgair, Cpls Kenny Niblock, Happy Cullen** (since departed) and **Sig Mat Helm** (also since departed) to the fore. **Sig Mat Helm** won the prize for the best young runner under 21 beating **Cpl Happy Cullen** by only a few points. The team maintained their position in the major and minor units coming in fifth and seventh respectively.

The road races started in January with the Episkopi Hill Climb, the Akrotiri to Episkopi relay, the Waterloo 8 and the Akrotiri 10 followed by the Ay-Nik 15 in which the Squadron entered two teams finishing in sixth and eighth places. The last race of the season was the Marathon (26 miles 385 yards) run at Akrotiri on 10 March. After a lot of hard training the team finished in seventh place. The team consisted of:

WO2 (SSM) Jim Allen	**262**
Sgt Nick Lumgair	**262**
Sgt Spud Taylor	**RCT**
Cpl Bill Barrett	**RADC**

A mention must be given to one of the 'Oldies' of the Squadron, **Sgt Walley Kerr** who completed the marathon as an individual, by sheer guts and much training.



AYIOS NIKOLAOS — DHEKELIA 15 MILE ROAD RACE WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1979
Cpl Ken Niblock (A), Cpl Bill Basset (B), WO2 Jim Allen (B), Sgt Walley Kerr (B), Sig Mat Helm (A), Sgt Mick Lumgair (A), Sgt Ron Taylor (B). All runners completed the run in under the cut off time of two hours 15 minutes with the 'A' team being placed six and the 'B' team 10 out of 25 teams entered

SQUASH FIRSTS

The Squadron Squash teams were most successful in the Minor Units League at this end of the island. The league consisted of two sections—advanced and novices. The sections consisting of 12 and nine teams respectively. Both sections were won by our teams.

WO2 (RQMS) Jim Willock, Sgt Mick Green and **Capt (Tfc) Terry Lightfoot** made up the 'A' team which played 11 and won 11 matches in the advanced section. The winning novices team was **Sgt John Horner, Cpls Dave D'Silva** and **Keith Dale.** They suffered their only defeat at the hands of our second of two teams in that section of the competition.

Of the 21 teams in the league, four came from our small unit. Our showing in the league is a good return for the amount of squash played in the Squadron. Over 25 per cent of the unit play on regular basis. It is rumoured that the RQMS moved his department within a 'drop shot' of the squash court.

News from Troops

SIGNAL TROOP
EDINBURGH & HERIOT-WATT UOTC

THE SCHOOL LEND A HAND

The weekend 9-11 February saw the Signals Troop of Edinburgh & Heriot-Watt UOTC and Aberdeen UOTC come together at Drip Camp in Stirlingshire, for a programme of training run by The School of Signals. Under the supervision of our own personal 'Jimmy', **SSgt Jim Harkin**, the Edinburgh group moved out in the general direction of Drip and, after a few minor hitches (someone took the wrong exit at a roundabout!) we reached Drip with plenty of time left to sample the delights of the bar.

However, Saturday morning saw us bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and ready to face anything Blandford could throw at us. After a briefing from **Maj Wallace,** we moved out into the Stirling area for a 'Hare and Hounds' exercise. This allowed **JUO Gavin Tosh** and **WO/Cdt Ruth Isaac** to try their luck at running a small-scale exercise and also enabled our newer recruits to practise basic voice procedure and map reading. In this sphere the Edinburgh group found its true vocation—we caught the hare twice—without resort to 'Aberdeening' (the name given by the Blandford group to the dubious tactics and exploits of the Aberdeen team!).

For Exercise *Counter-Snatch* in the afternoon, **O/Cdt Sean Stephenson** and **WO/Cdt Susan Loudon** changed places with **Gavin** and **Ruth** at control of the CP. By this time, however, our luck had run out and Aberdeen were clear winners. Ah, well, you can't win them all!

More than anything else this was a fun weekend which we all enjoyed and which allowed all of us to learn something—even if it is just what NOT to do! It also provided scope for **O/Cdt Gareth Smith** (soon to leave us for the Corps) to embarrass us once more with his photographs.



Edinburgh's 2IC on Sunday's exercise, WO/Cdt. Fiona Mould, seen with a dormant DS in the shape of Captain (dishy?) Le Gallais



Typical OTC situation—nine cadets to put up one CP tent

Association News

BRIGHTON BRANCH

The AGM of this branch was held at the local TAVR HQ on 2 February. We welcomed the attendance of the General Secretary.

By unanimous approval, **Col Tom Boileau, OBE**, was invited to be our first 'President', in recognition of his long and distinguished career in the Corps and in appreciation of his generous support to this Branch. The Colonel replied with a brief nostalgic speech of acceptance.

Our Founding Chairman, **Maj Leo Caldicott, OBE, TD,** who ably steered the Branch in its first two years, resigned his office owing to business pressures. He was asked, and agreed, to be Vice-President.

The first meeting of newly elected Branch Officers and Committee, under the new Chairmanship of **Miss Yvonne Cudlip,** was held on 12 February, when arrangements for visits to both Blandford and Catterick Reunions were discussed, as well as the annual Dinner and Dance and forthcoming social activities.

We look forward to a visit from the North London Branch later this year.

We have to report with regret the death of **Ronald Hugh Norton Fensome**, a Life Member of Royal Signals Association since 1927, on 19 March. **Ron** enlisted in 1919 and transferred to R Signals in 1927 in India, where he spent 12 years of his 22 years service.

He was a loyal supporter of this Branch since its formation and will be greatly missed. The Branch was represented at his funeral by five officers and Committee members, with the Standard carried before the cortege.

FIRST A.G.M. OF GUERNSEY BRANCH

The first Annual General Meeting of the Guernsey Branch of the Royal Signals Association was held on 22 March 1979, at the Imperial Hotel, Plienmont. The Chairman, **John Rudkin** gave his report in which he highlighted the year's activities which had included a Dinner and Dance, trip to Herm, Car Rally and a Darts Evening. It was also most encouraging to see that the membership was still growing.

The following Branch Officers were elected for the present year:-

John Rudkin (Chairman)
John Breeze (Hon. Secretary)
James Remfrey (Hon. Treasurer)
Alvaro Salazar (Social Secretary)

The formal meeting was followed by a dinner at which the members were joined by wives and guests. The guest speaker for the evening was **Tim Earle** the well known Guernsey Ornithologist, who gave a most interesting talk on the ringing of birds that are found on the Island.

PRESTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The members of the Preston and District Branch cordially invite all serving members and ex-members of the Corps to join the Branch. Meetings are held at the Polish Ex-Combatants Club, Shear Bank Road, Blackburn, on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December), starting at 8 pm. Members of other Branches visiting the area are also welcome. For further information contact: Maj A. A. Hudson, 103 Brackenbury Road, Preston PR2 3BU, or on Preston (0772) 717009.

YORK BRANCH

The doldrums of the drawn-out winter were somewhat assuaged on Friday 9 March when the Branch Annual Dinner was held at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, York under the Presidency of **Lt Col G. R. 'Nat' Gould.**

The administrative arrangements were, as always, most ably handled by our Branch Secretary, **Tony Leavesley**, and the inclusion of 'Intoxicated Pork' on the menu brought smiles which turned to murmurs of appreciation as it proved to be quite delicious.

The Branch members and their ladies were extremely happy to welcome as Guest of Honour, **Brig N. A. Butler CBE. Brig Norman Butler** in an entertaining and informative after dinner speech remarked on his pleasure in being able at last to attend our Annual Dinner, having had to decline on previous occasions. He added that it was in fact his last function as Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison prior to his new appointment, which we hope will allow him to visit us again. The Brigadier also remarked on the pleasant setting for the Dinner in the 14th Century candle-lit Merchant Taylors' Hall, and we are indeed fortunate in York in having many beautiful and historic buildings in which to hold social functions.

The Toast 'The Royal Signals Association coupled with York Branch' was most ably proposed by **Col M. U. Ryan,** Commandant of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, another honoured guest who endeared himself to the many Branch members who had not met him previously. Welcome too were our other guests, **Mr. David Greenbrook** from Association Headquarters and **Maj T. E. Grice,** Officer Commanding 240 Sig Sq, and **Mrs. Grice** now resident in the nearby village of Coxwold in the Howardian Hills.

A little dancing to Charles Hutchinson and his Orchestra, plus some reminiscing and imbibing concluded another successful Annual Dinner. There seems every prospect that the worst of the Yorkshire winter will be over by the time of the Catterick Annual Reunion!

Incidentally, many readers, remembering among other things, his long and valuable service as Hon. Secretary of the Indian Signal Units Old Comrades Association, will be pleased to know that our Branch President, **Lt Col 'Nat' Gould** is in good form. His 75th birthday in March was appropriately honoured at a lunch-time meeting of The Friday Club at the GOM York. A commemorative presentation and a birthday cake suitably inscribed and decorated in Corps colours (but without candles!) plus a little cork popping added up to another very happy occasion.

THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL, DOVER

The Duke of York's Royal Military School is a modern boarding school for the sons of officers and soldiers. Founded in Chelsea in 1803 by His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York, the school catered then for the orphaned children of soldiers killed in battle. In 1909 the School moved to Dover and over the years has changed a great deal, so that today, though unique in certain respects, it compares very favourably with any good independent boys' boarding school in the country.

It is very well equipped with all the facilities normally associated with a good school and occupies purpose-built accomodation set in 150 acres of downland about two miles east of Dover. The 450 boys, aged 11 to 18, are comfortably provided for in every respect and enjoy a very high standard of academic, sporting and social facilities which include a science block, language laboratory, theatre, workshops, gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, athletics track, and rifle ranges. The school uniform consists of a dark blue blazer with pocket badge, grey trousers and black shoes.

Though largely financed by the Ministry of Defence the School is not a military unit. It is a normal boys' boarding school providing an education up to GCE Advanced and Scholarship levels which fits young men to proceed to university or to enter professions, commerce or industry direct. This is done in a sensible disciplined environment that retains what is best of the School's military traditions. Although no longer primarily intended for boys who wish to make the Army their career those who wish to 'follow in father's footsteps' are given every encouragement and assistance to do so. About 15% of the boys enter the Services and in 1978 six out of the seven candidates who attended the Regualr Commissions Board were successful. Well over half the boys in the Upper Sixth proceed to University.

The curriculum is mainly directed to public examinations and boys are prepared for seven subjects at GCE 'O' level but provision is made for those pupils who have special difficulties caused by frequent changes of primary school. In the first three years boys follow a broad timetable incorporating the normal range of academic subjects, including art and craft sampling courses. The fourth and fifth years consist of a structured two-year course to 'O' level. Entry into the Sixth Form to study for three 'A' levels is by invitation and is conditional upon a satisfactory performance at 'O' level and a suitable recommendation from Housemasters.

Sporting facilities abound in the 150 acres of school grounds and although Rugby, Hockey, Athletics and Cricket are the main sports opportunities exist for many more including Swimming and Tennis. A large number of hobbies and other extramural activities are available as evening and weekend pursuits.

There are eight boarding houses consisting of two Junior Houses for boys aged 11 to 13 and the six Senior Houses for older boys. Housemasters, Tutors and Matrons are all available to offer advice and to guide the boys in the routines and disciplines of community life.

A boy must have attained his 11th birthday and be under the age of 12 years on the 1 September of the year of entry and selection is based on a competitive examination and father's or mother's service. Parents of candidates may be serving or retired but must have served a minimum of four years in the Regular Army. Until recently service in the ranks was an essential qualification but from September 1980 this will no longer be so. Priority is given to the compassionate cases (about 7% of the intake) for whom entry qualifications are somewhat lower and for whom charges may be waived in appropriate domestic circumstances.

All candidates may be registered on attaining their 8th birthdays and must be registered before the 1 November of the year preceding entry in the following September. Early registration is advisable.

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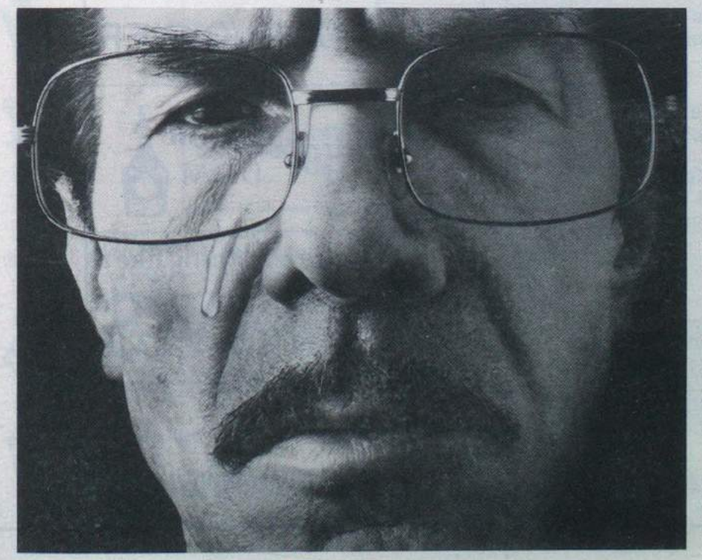
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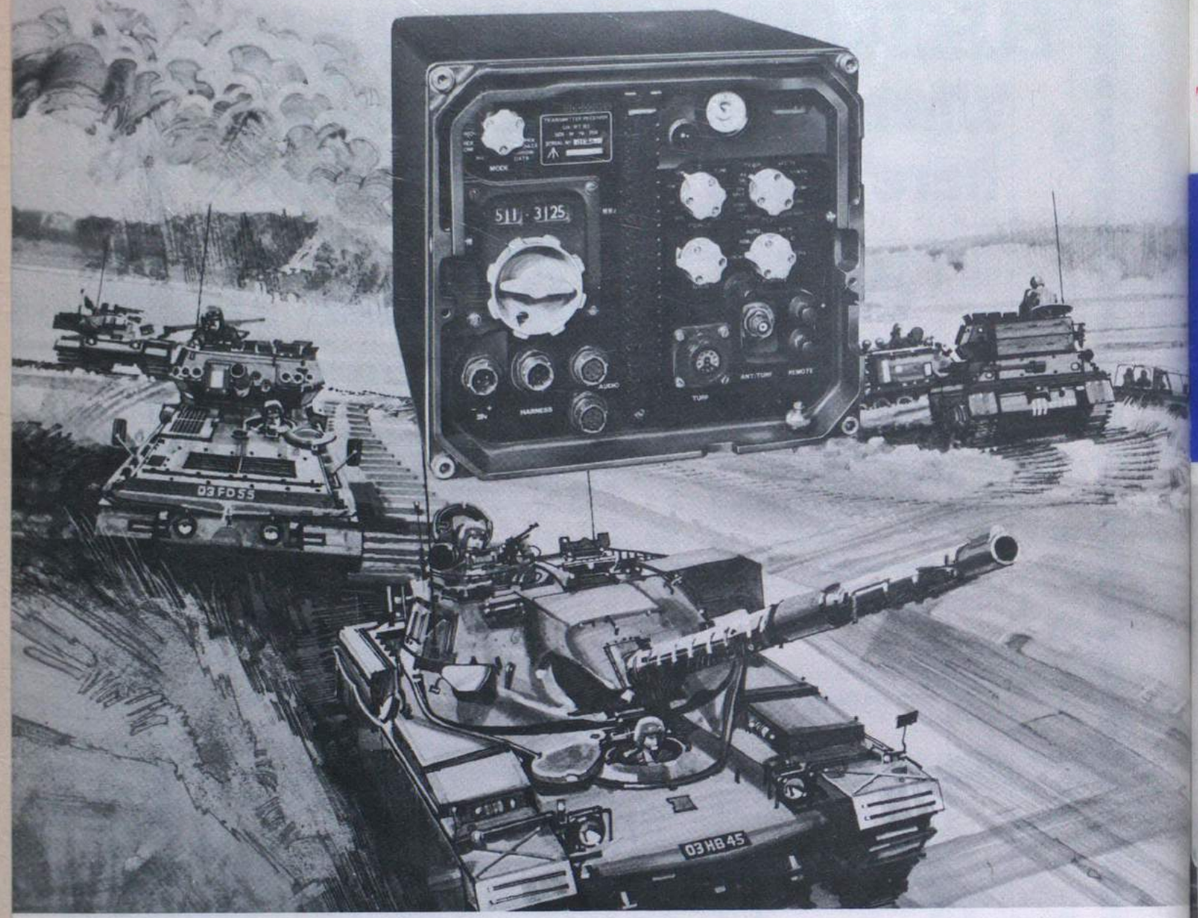
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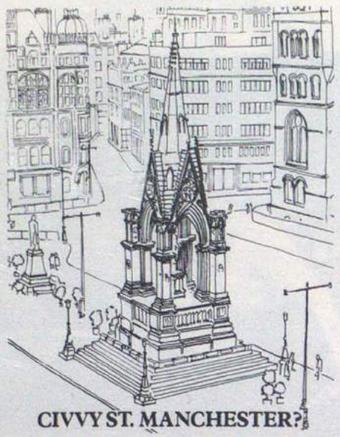
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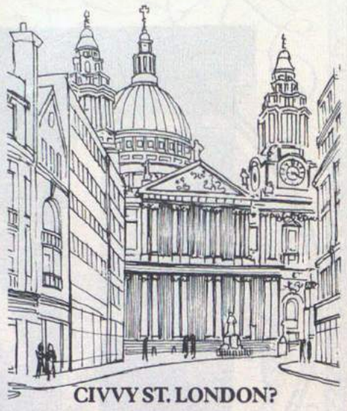
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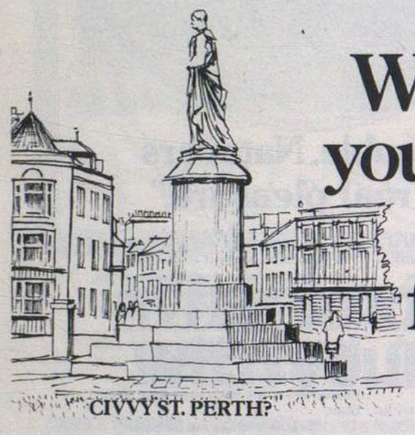
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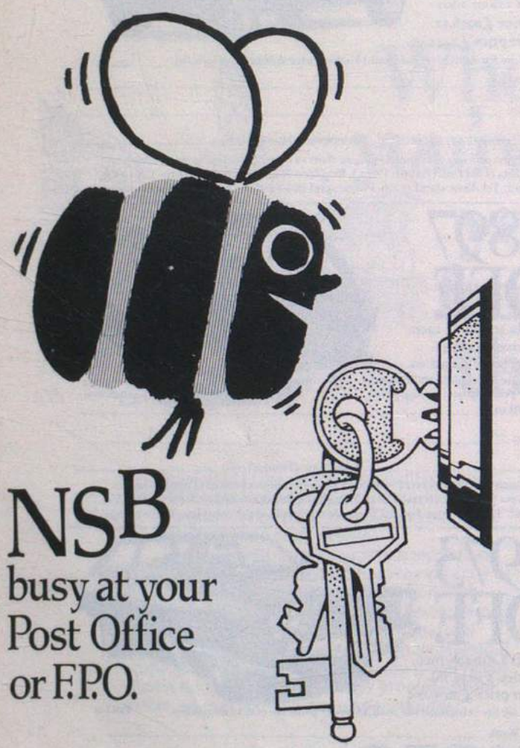
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SUPPLEMENT No. 2—PAGE TWO

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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 **1979**

Vol 33 *(New Series)* **No 4**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

1 ARMD DIV HQ AND SIG REGT THE DOUBLE ARMY CHAMPIONS
'One into two does go and well at that'
The super successful SQUASH and CROSS COUNTRY teams pictured here at Verden/Aller with their many trophies *Right to Left:* Back row: Maj Faith, SSgt Turvey, Sig Martin, Sig Brebner, Sig Little, WO1(RSM) Young, Sig Westen, Cpl Wilson, Sig Boyes, Capt Shaw
Front row: LCpl Bailey, SSgt Duncan, Sgt Holden, Lt Col Davies, WO2 SSM Miles, Capt Stewart, Maj Denham. A full report on page 244

A CLEAR COMMITMENT

The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Francis Pym, announced on 10 May that one of the Government's first tasks was to stop the very damaging outflow of experienced and skilled officers and men from the Armed Forces.

In its Eighth Report this year, the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body recommended the rates of pay, representing an average net increase of 32½%, which it considered appropriate at 1st April and emphasised that the earliest possible restoration of competitive pay levels was the least that is needed. The Body went on to say that it would then be essential to maintain them in line with earnings outside according to the accepted standards.

The previous Government did not act on these recommendations. Instead it withheld a part of the recommended award until next April. The present Government decided, in accordance with the pledges which it gave while in opposition, to implement the recommendations of the Review Body in full. Having thus fulfilled its undertaking by restoring the pay of Servicemen to the levels of their counterparts, it is the Government's intention to maintain it thereafter at those levels.

Birthday Honours

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List

MBE
Maj J. Barrett
Maj T. J. Cantle
Maj J. H. Fisher

BEM
SSgt B. N. Douglas
SSgt K. J. McCall (now discharged)

Operations Gallantry Award List, Northern Ireland

We all, also, warmly congratulate the following:—

BEM
Sgt A. Finney

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Capt D. F. M. Collyer
Maj C. J. Crow
Sig I. R. Millar

GOC's COMMENDATION
LCpl W. J. Cox
Sig P. M. Edwards
WO2 J. E. Francis, BEM

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY
28th JUNE

On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28th June 1979, the following greetings were sent to The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO, by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO**, on behalf of all ranks of Royal Signals.

"On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, All Ranks, with their humble duty, send warmest greetings to their Colonel-in-Chief, reaffirming their loyalty and devotion to Her Royal Highness and, through The Colonel-in-Chief, to Her Majesty The Queen.

On this day, our thoughts turn also to our Allied Commonwealth Corps, joined to us by the honour of having Her Royal Highness as Colonel-in-Chief and by strong historical bonds of friendship, co-operation and mutual respect. We should be deeply grateful if, as the occasion offers during her forthcoming travels, The Colonel-in-Chief would convey to Her other Corps the most friendly greetings and best wishes of Her Royal Corps of Signals."

The following reply was received from The Colonel-in-Chief,

"I was delighted to receive your kind message of greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day. It gave me enormous pleasure to have met so many of my serving Corps in BAOR. I have been most impressed by their sense of purpose, professionalism and good heart. I would ask you to convey my warm thanks and appreciation to all ranks. I will of course convey your message during my tour of the Pacific."

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO BLANDFORD

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO, our Colonel-in-Chief will visit Blandford Camp on 12th October. Her visit will include the School of Signals and 30 Signal Regiment. In the afternoon there will be a reception at the HQ Mess, primarily for retired officers and their wives, and a presentation ceremony of Princess Mary Medals.

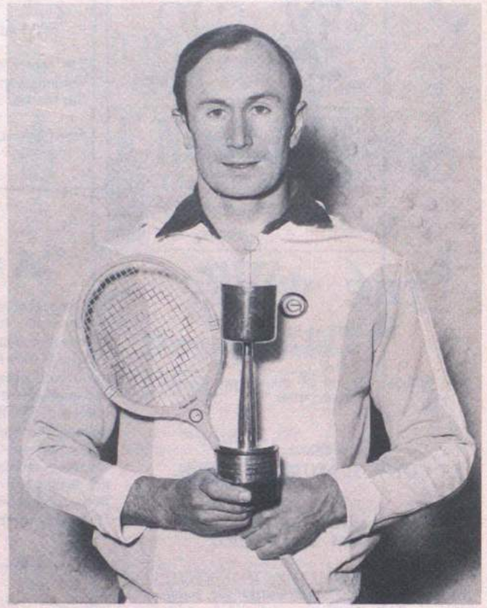
Invitations to the afternoon reception will be limited; a note will be sent to eligible retired officers in August.

THE WHITE LIST AND RETIRED SUPPLEMENT

The List of Officers, Active and Retired, known as 'The White List' will not be sent out until July this year, to enable the list to be more up-to-date on promotions and postings.

The list is also being extensively up-dated, and will include, for example, officers and wives first or 'known' names, and a revised layout.

EUROPEAN SQUASH PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Capt Neil Stewart of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has become the first British Squash Player to be awarded the title of European Squash Player of the Year. Known as the Target Trophy the award is made each year at the European Squash Rackets Team Championships. It goes to the player considered by a committee to have had the best individual performance in the team event. It takes into account not only results but also appearance and sporting attitude both on and off the court.

Capt Stewart, playing as Scotland No 1, beat both the Dutch and Irish No 1's neither of whom he was expected to defeat on current form. It completed a successful season in which he led the Regimental Team to become Army Champions 1979.

OFFICERS REUNION—ALDERSHOT CLUB FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 1979

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 6.30 pm onwards. A letter giving full details has been sent out. 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.

CAPT JOHN MILLAR IS 'ARMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR'

Capt John Millar of the 38 Sig Regt (V) is Britain's Army Photographer of the Year after winning a competition promoted by the Army and the Photographic industry. His black and white portfolio of five pictures won him the title plus a Challenge Trophy, a silver tankard, a Nikon FM1 Camera, presented by Rank Audio Visual, and a scroll of honour. **Capt Millar,** a Scot born in Dunfermline, Fife, is a professional photographer working in Newark, Nottinghamshire. He joined the Territorial Army in 1964 and was commissioned in 1970, he is also an expert in High Frequency Radio.

The Competition was started in 1975 to improve standards of photography, within the Army. This year 504 entries were received from 112 photographers. The exhibition, first displayed at the Ministry of Defence, will tour Army establishments throughout the world.



Capt Millar receives his award from Mr Leslie Jeanes, Chief of PR MOD

LOOKING BACK

From: **A. V. Ient, Esq, MSM**

Dear Sir,

This is a photograph taken in the early days of the Reunions at Catterick. Many of those in the picture have passed on, but it does bring back memories of happy days.

Front row: **Jimmy Emblem, Vic Goodman, Dodger Green, Maj Gen Fladgate, Fairy Fairclough, Jack Cadwell, Vic Hylands.**

Standing: ?, **Bob Stephenson,** ?, **Arthur Atkinson, Lt Col Nat Gould,** ?, ?, **Vic Ient** (Standard Bearer), **Pat Daley, Urwin, Dockerell, Les Butt** (late Portsmouth Branch), ?.

Those with a ? are those whose names I cannot recall. I believe this is the only copy in existence and was given to me by **Vic Goodman** and I hope you have space for it at this Reunion time.

Yours sincerely,

Vic Ient

111 Gloucester Road
Aldershot, Hants
GU11 3SQ



REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

This photograph of two members of the Corps was taken prior to the Army versus TAVR game on 25 March (Army won 1-0). They are: **WO2 Geoff Nelson** (10 Sig Regt), Army Team Captain 1978/1979 Season; **Sig Ian Good** (8 Sig Regt), a recent recruit to the Army Squad.



SILVER OF THE FORMER 1ST ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNALS: DATING BACK TO THE 1930's

The Regimental Secretary is trying to trace Officers' Mess Silver that belonged to this pre-war unit which disbanded after heavy casualties in Italy in 1943. It is unlikely to be among Corps silver because this has been checked through all the unit holdings. It might be amongst pieces held as Regimental Silver. All units have been asked to search for these items without success. Could anyone throw any light on the possible whereabouts of these old 1st Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment pieces? All replies please to the Regimental Secretary.

DID YOU SERVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BETWEEN 1919—1939?

The imperial Wax Museum is anxious to make a sound recording of the various aspects of Service Life in the Middle East during 1919—1939. If you were in the area during this period and would be willing to contribute, would you contact **Dr C. Wood**, Department of Sound Recording, The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ, Telephone 01-735-8922.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

TOGETHER UNAFRAID

By Lionel Gregory

In 1961, whilst CO of the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals, Lionel Gregory started the annual Ten Tors expedition on Dartnoor as the means of bringing together young people from the Services, Police Forces, Schools and Youth Clubs from all over the country in a non-competitive exercise, to test themselves against the rigours of these ancient moorlands. Ten Tors was considered a risky business. The Duke of Edinburgh, however, thought otherwise: 'Col Gregory has hit upon an idea which provides just the right mixture of challenge to the ingenuity, toughness and adventure of healthy young people . . .'

Over the years that view has been endorsed by the sweat of over 300,000 young people, and the numbers grow every year.

'Greg' saw Ten Tors as the ideal recruiting ground for the more ambitious and adventurous purposes of The Commonwealth Expedition, Comex, which perhaps explains why so many Police Officers and Service Personnel, among others, who applied to join Comex had previously done Ten Tors. Not only did he see the Commonwealth on the move in Comex, giving young people the opportunity of making the challenge of the Commonwealth their own as a world framework for peace, but of bringing a more enlightened attitude to bear on matters of race relations at home.

But as a purely British initiative it lacked the wider concept of Commonwealth which drove him to fill the ranks of his private army from Canada, Australia, Singapore, Kenya, India and elsewhere in the Commonwealth. It is this remarkable story he relates in 'Together Unafraid' which reaches the end of its beginning in a Commonwealth Expedition Express mounted by the imaginative response of the Ministry of Railways in India. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh wrote as follows earlier this year:

'Comex 1 seemed an impossibly ambitious project in 1965 but it was a huge success and in spite of every kind of difficulty and set back there have been eight more such expeditions of young people in search of the Commonwealth.

'Comex 9 travelled across India by train and its members gave entertainment and made friends wherever they called. It is appropriate therefore that the last lap in this country should also be by train and to give an entertainment. It is even more appropriate that the Commonwealth Expedition Express should be pulled from St Pancras to Derby and back by an engine specially named "Commonwealth Spirit" by the Chairman of British Rail.

'The media may prefer more newsworthy issues than the Commonwealth, but one thing that Comex has proved is that for those who go looking for the Commonwealth it is still the most remarkable exercise in human relations on a world scale mankind has ever witnessed.

'The young people who have discovered this aspect of the Commonwealth through their membership of Comex can play an important part in its future development.'

That HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Tengku Abdul Rahman, Lee Kuan Yew and the first Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Professor Arnold Smith of Carleton University, should have supported this one-man enterprise says a lot for the man and his dream.

'Together Unafraid'.' 228 pages, 48 plates. Publisher: Robert Hale and Company, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1. Price: £6.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT .. .. each £3.15p
U.K. inc. VAT .. ,, £3.62p

(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
Nr. DONCASTER

RADIO OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE SOON?

If your trade or training 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 1980 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 40 weeks specialist training, appointees move to the Radio Officer Grade.

Trainee Radio Officers start on £2605 at 19 up to £3034 at 25 or over. After completion of specialist training Radio Officers start on £3571 at 19 rising to £4675 if you are 25 or over; then by 5 annual increments to £6340 inclusive of shift and weekend allowances.
Salary at present under review.

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

Movements

Officers

JUNE 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt N. H. D. Austen	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. Barrett MBE	GSO2 Sigs 36B
Lt Col H. M. A. Bonaker	NICSMA
Capt C. J. Burton	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt R. E. H. Clutterbuck	School of Signals
A/Maj M. J. P. Collins	HQ BAOR
2Lt I. A. J. Condie	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt M. D. Crowther	21 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) K. H. Dewis	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt G. N. Donaldson	1 QO HLDRS
Lt Col (TOT) A. C. Earl	HS 11 Sig Regt Pending Retirement
Brig P. J. Evans MBE	DSS (AD)
2Lt A. D. Gallie	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt S. D. Galpin	30 Sig Regt
Lt T. J. Gigg	Att to 262 Sig Sqn
Maj C. H. Glydon	HQ BAOR
Maj K. G. Goulding	HS 11 Sig Regt Pending Retirement
Capt I. R. Grant	262 Sig Sqn
2Lt S. C. Green	16 Sig Regt
Lt J. M. Creevy	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. D. E. Gregory	DCCIS. MOD
Capt R. S. Hewitt	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Maj J. A. Hood	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (QM) R. E. Howard BEM	MOD DSS (Army)
Capt D. P. Howshall	37 Sig Regt (V)
Col A. J. Jackson	Att to DOAE
Lt S. W. Jones	Att to 7 Sig Regt
Lt N. M. Keleher	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt C. R. King	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt J. S. A. Lancaster	16 Sig Regt
Capt C. L. Le Gallais	HS 233 Sig Sqn
Capt R. H. Mardo	229 Sig Sqn
Capt D. McConnell	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col J. H. T. Nealon	R Signals Manning & Records Office
2Lt R. G. Nicholson	28 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) J. A. Peck	249 Sig Sqn
Maj E. W. Penny	Secretariat C in C BAOR
Maj R. Pickard	8 Sig Regt
2Lt M. E. Pincott	11 Sig Regt
2Lt G. J. T. Rafferty	229 Sig Sqn
Lt Col P. S. Reader	Att to BAOR
A/Capt I. O. Robertson	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col (Tfc) R. J. Robinson	MOD DSS (CS)
2Lt M. A. Rough	30 Sig Regt
Lt A. W. Russ	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt I. W. R. Seraph	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj V. S. Smith	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt (TOT) T. G. Southall	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt M. L. Spoors	7 Sig Regt
Maj A. L. W. G. Steane	SHAPE
Maj J. F. Stuart	224 Sig Sqn (radio trg)
A/Maj P. D. Studd	Army Apprentice College Harrogate
Col P. A. Talbot	HQ Afnorth (BAE)
2Lt P. C. J. Taylor	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt D. J. Tunmore	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col H. S. Wilson	Att to MOD DSS (A)
2Lt N. R. N. Wood	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn

JULY 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
A/Maj R. G. Aitken	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
A/Lt Col J. H. Almonds	22 Sig Regt
A/Maj R. A. L. Anderson	School of Signals
2Lt J. P. Armitage	C/S School of Signals
Lt F. Atkins	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt R. F. A. Axton	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj W. I. Buxton	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Maj C. E. Byrom	HS DSS (A) MOD
2Lt W. M. Campbell	C/S School of Signals
Maj (QM) T. J. Cantle MBE	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt G. A. Carmichael	HQ Trg Gp R. Signals
Lt Col S. R. Carr-Smith	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt J. W. Clark	C/S School of Signals
2Lt R. J. Cocks	C/S School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) R. W. Coe	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Capt C. M. Cox	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) N. A. Cox	Within 21 Sig Regt (AS)
A/Capt P. J. Daniel	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Col P. R. Davies	HQ UKLF
Lt P. R. Day	Att Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
2Lt N. H. Denning	HS 11 Sig Regt
Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	DSS
2Lt P. N. Ellis	C/S School of Signals
Lt Col M. J. Flynn	BDS Washington
Lt I. A. Foxley	Att 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt K. W. Goodfellow	Att 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt P. J. Grogan	C/S School of Signals
Maj D. G. Halliburton	22 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Harrison	Att Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj R. P. Harrison	AAC Harrogate
2Lt J. H. A Hawkins	Att 7Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj J. M Hincks	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Maj D. Hunt	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt A. J. Hutt	28 Sig Regt
2Lt S. C. Johns	C/S School of Signals
2Lt A. H. Johnstone	C/S School of Signals
Maj B. F. Kavanagh	USA 7th Army Germany
Capt (TOT) T. Kay	HS 10 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) R. F. Knight	HQ BAOR
Capt D. J. Lawson	10 Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Little	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Lt Col (Tfc) W. C. Lombard	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col J. D. Morris	HS HQ BAOR
Lt Col P. S. Reader	HQ AFCENT
Capt P. A. R. Rouse	259 Sig Sqn
Capt (QM) A. J. Simpson	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. M. Steele	Att Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Lt Col J. E. C. Stevens	HS 11 Sig Regt Pending Retirement
Capt N. H. Stewart	Welbeck College
Lt M. R. G. Stockdale	259 Sig Sqn
Capt J. R. Stuart	RN Staff College
2Lt R. W. M. Taylor	C/S School of Signals
Capt (QM) D. G. Thomas	8 Sig Regt
Capt G. J. Thomas	School of Signals
Lt J. E Thomas	Att 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
2Lt P. Thwaites	C/S School of Signals
Maj W. H. Turney	HQ EDIST
2Lt S. P. Wallis	C/S School of Signals
Lt A. J. Ward	Att 1 PARA
Maj B. A. Watson	HS Army School of Mech Tpt
Lt C. G. Whittaker	Att 21 Sig Regt
Lt C. E. M. Widdowson	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/Maj P. Williams	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt K. G. Wilson	Att 21 Sig Regt
Lt F. E. Worrall	22 Sig Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

JUNE 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 A. D. Hewett	Army Dept Radio Branch
WO1 S. J. Long	HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)
WO1 A. G. Turner	242 Sig Sqn
WO2 L. G. P. Collie	10 Sig Regt
WO2 D. Knox	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 C. K. Shone	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) R. J. Butcher	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) J. Doherty	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 (YofS) A. C. Hawkins	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) R. Hazelgrove	241 Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) T. W. Sherwin	Project Bates Military Team
WO2 (Supvr R) D. D. Smith	9 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) J. E. Bandey	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) P. R. Baron	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) J. T. Cowen	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) D. P. Palmer	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt (Supvr R) J. E. Waite	9 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. T. Edwards	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
SSgt P. W. J. Wall	HQ CVD RAOC UK
SSgt R. J. Garrod	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Varvel	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. A. Langley	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. C. Britton	DNBC Centre
Sgt J. O'Shaughnessy	Sig Sy Section AFNORTH
Sgt R. B. McSeveney	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. Dunn	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. McGonigle	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Woodall	HQ BAOR
Sgt G. L. Crossland	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt L. Johnson	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Sgt C. W. Abrons	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. Vella	21 Sig Regt
Sgt B. W. Isaac	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Bailey	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. P. Allard	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. F. Holt	SHAPE SP (International) (BAE)
Sgt L. Payne	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Reynold	229 Sig Sqn

JULY 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 J. Armstrong	8 Sig Regt
WO2 P. Cain	14 Sig Regt
WO2 J. C. Hunt	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. Kearns	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 B. P. McGerty	8 Sig Regt
WO2 A. G. Neilson	13 Sig Regt
WO2 D. M. Whitrick	22 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. A. Paton	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 (YofS) W. S. Balding	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
WO2 (YofS) W. E. Clarke	3 Armd Div & Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. A. Provart	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
SSgt (FofS) A. S. Eames	UK SP Unit SHAPE
SSgt (FofS) D. C. Bowers	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) L. J. Bird	36 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) G. S. Gibson	9 Sig Regt
SSgt T. R. Budden	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt B. F. Tuffin	Sch of Signals
SSgt A. M. Rutherford	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) J. D. Hutton	224 Sig Sqn
SSgt L. L. Carr	21 Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Stimpson	30 Sig Regt
SSgt B. F. Williams	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt D. J. Callear	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt T. H. Stirzaker	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt T. H. C. Cartwright	28 Sig Regt
SSgt R. R. Coffill	22 Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Day	15 CTT
ASSgt L. Ricketts	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
ASSgt R. Jones	Sch of Signals
Sgt S. J. Harmsworth	DSS (AD)
Sgt K. W. Cooper	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Denton	8 Sig Regt

Sgt H. J. West	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt N. F. McLeod	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Sgt D. B. Humphries	10 Sig Regt
Sgt C. C. Pederick	10 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Watkins	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt V. F. Chivers	11 Sig Regt (JW)
Sgt B. J. Rivett	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. Howie	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Walker	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Hall	HQ DCN
Sgt W. L. Gordon	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Hales	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. G. Smith	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. R. Pearson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt R. Coburn	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Floyd	22 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Howard	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt D. H. Jepson	AA Col Harrogate
Sgt J. Stirling	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Hall	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Grimshaw	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Pickersgill	28 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Offley	21 Sig Regt
Sgt F. I. Gibbons	Sennelager Trg Centre
Sgt W. G. Graham	Impl Team Project Wavell
Sgt S. George	Impl Team Project Wavell
Sgt R. O. Bartton	Impl Team Project Wavell
Sgt R. W. Skene	Sch of Signals
Sgt I. R. Ingham	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Jones	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Sgt T. P. Delaney	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt D. Withworth	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. Cherry	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Rudd	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. T. McLean	641 Sig Tp

Welfare

APRIL 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	18
Amount spent:	£1,110.70
Number of clothing parcels sent:	33

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	9
Amount spent:	£365.08

MAY 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	32
Amount spent:	£2,165.10
Number of clothing parcels sent:	50

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	11
Amount spent:	£464.12

ONE OF OUR CASES

Lance Corporal, 1955-58. Married with one son and daughter, the daughter still at school. This ex-soldier's son met with a hit and run motor-bike accident on his 18th birthday and was severely injured. The boy cannot speak, drink or move properly. The care of the son causes considerable distress to the family and the Association made a grant of £60.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I would like to thank your Committee for the very generous grant of £60. The money will be used to build a path for my son's wheelchair and will be of great benefit in helping David to enter the house. Once again my grateful thanks and if there is anything in which I can be of assistance to you in the future, please let me know. God bless you all.

During the months of April and May, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:—

Mrs J. P. Wetten, Mr & Mrs C. Fry, Mrs D. C. N. Genders, Sgt & Mrs T. C. Winsor, Lt Col & Mrs P. C. Rogers, Col R. A. Chell, Maj R. O. Edwards, Maj A. S. Jenkin, R. Signals Association Cotswold Branch, R. Signals Association, Bristol Branch, Maj Gen & Mrs M. D. Price, Brig J. C. Clinch, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Maj & Mrs P. W. Todd, Col R. H. Gilbertson, Lt Col S. J. Dagg, Brig C. H. Stoneley, Maj Gen & Mrs M. S. Hancock, Mr D. Greenbrook, Shetland Boats Ltd, Mr P. Richards, Capt B. T. Lord MSM, Mr R. J. B. Hood, Col D. R. W. Thomas, Thrift Shop 10 Sig Regt, Maj & Mrs A. E. Carter, Mr & Mrs J. Adlard, Mr & Mrs H. Palmer, Krefeld Thrift Shop.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1979:

Mrs F. Stanley	£25.00
30 Sig Regt	£10.00
In memory of Maj I. Reading	£10.00
In memory of Brig J. N. Barker, OBE	£10.00
In memory of Brig W. G. Tucker, CBE	£10.00
H. Hammond, Esq	£10.00
Military Historical Society—Southern Branch	£ 5.70
Huddersfield Branch Royal Signals Association	£ 5.00
Capt G. James	£ 2.90
Miscellaneous donations	£ .75
	£89.35

The following donations were gratefully received in June 1979:—

J. A. G. Stokoe Esq.	£ 5.60
G Dwyer Esq	£ 5.00
Mrs G. J. Bradford	£ 5.00
Sig F. McKendrick	£ 3.00
Maj F. C. Forbes	£ 1.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ .55
	£20.15

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

Crieff, Perthshire

Situated in spacious grounds in beautiful Perthshire, Morrison's Academy is an independent school for boys and girls which, since 1860, has been equipping young people for life all over the world. The reputation of Morrison's is based on sound Scottish formal education, along with a wide range of sports and activities. 'O' grade, Higher grade and Sixth Year examinations are taken while Oxford and Cambridge A-levels can be added if desired.

Boarders, who form a third of the roll of 920 pupils, are accepted from eight years upwards, and are accommodated in eight comfortable houses within easy reach of the School and are under the supervision of a housemaster or housemistress who is on the Staff of the School. A few day pupils are admitted each year to Primary 1 and Primary 2.

Boarding fees for Session 1979/80 are £535 per term. The Rector will be pleased to forward further details on request.

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.

DEATHS

Edwards—Lt Col (QM) William Barclay Edwards, who was known throughout the Corps as Guy enlisted in 1924. He served in India from 1929-1934 and again from 1937-1947. During the war he served on the North West Frontier and at Bangalore. He was commissioned in 1943 and after the war served at Eastern Command until 1951 when he moved to Singapore, returning to the UK in 1954 where he served with a TA Regiment and then at HQ Training Brigade until he retired in 1962. After retiring, he ran the Kings Arms at Redmire and then a Post Office at Wroot. His eldest son is serving in the Corps; of his other two sons—one is with the RAF and the other served in the Corps but is now working on oil rigs in the North Sea. Guy died at the age of 70 on 19 February.

Harrison—WO1 (RSM) William John Harrison enlisted in the Corps in February 1942 as a boy entrant. On leaving the Boys Company in 1946 he saw service in many parts of the world including Egypt, Tripoli, Germany and Singapore. At the time of his retirement in 1968 he was serving as the RSM of the School of Signals in Blandford. After leaving the service "Bill" ran his own haulage business in Poole. He died suddenly in Poole on 13 May at the early age of 51.

Jones—Ex-WO1 (RSM) F. A. Jones died on 24 April at the age of 76. **Mr Joe Cotterell** writes: 'RSM Jones enlisted in 1920, served in India from 1922 to 1928 and again from 1931 to 1936. He also saw service in France during the Second World War. He was a very keen sportsman and was a member of the Corps Cross Country team which won the Eastern Command championship in 1921. RSM—then Signalman—Jones was a keen rival in 'D' Company sports, 1920 when I beat him in the three mile. We were great friends, thereafter. He died only three days after greatly enjoying the Indian Signals Association Dinner in London.

Lynam—Lt Col George Lynam, OBE, enlisted in 1932 and was commissioned in 1951. After the war he served with 1 Training Regiment as RSM, in the Far East with 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment, in Germany with 4 Signal Regiment, in Malta and Libya with 219 Signal Squadron and finally in the UK with 24 Signal Regiment. He retired in 1967 and became Mess Manager of the HQ Mess at Blandford from which he retired in April this year. He died suddenly a month later, on the 12 May at the age of 64.

Taylor—Maj Albert Alexander (Byng) Taylor enlisted in the Norfolk Regiment in 1914 and was captured at the battle of Cambrai during the 1st World War and escaped from captivity towards the end of the War. After the War he transferred to the Indian Signal Corps where he served at Quetta, Karachi, Risalpur and Jabalpur. He was commissioned from the rank of RSM in 1939, and spent the whole of the 2nd World War in India, returning to the UK in 1947 when he joined 61 Army Signal Regiment (TA) as Quartermaster. He retired in 1952 but continued as a Quartermaster with the Bedfordshire TA and AF Association. He was an active member of the Royal British Legion being President of the Wootton Branch from 1960 to 1973. He was also a member of the British Red Cross and the Norfolk Wild Life Trust. He died peacefully on the 14 May at the age of 81, two weeks before his 82 birthday.

FOR SALE

Officer Mess Kit—height 5 ft 11 in, waist 37 in, inside leg 32½ in, perfect condition. Hats and Service Dress also available. Realistic offers considered. Please contact Blackmore (Essex) 822551.

SITUATIONS VACANT

WRAC Permanent Staff Instructor

A vacancy exists for a WRAC Sergeant PSI with 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on an 'R' Type engagement at one of the following centres: Norwich, Bedford, Colchester, Brentwood, Ilford, Gillingham.

Her duties would be mainly administrative but the applicant must have had data telegraphist training and be capable of instruction up to Class 2 of that trade. The post carries the rank of Sergeant. Initial engagement is for a fixed period of three years with the colours, extensions may be permitted under current rules. Upper age for enlistment is normally 35 years. Pay is in accordance with service but starts at £4,900 per annum, certain travel allowances are allowed plus six weeks annual leave.

Applications together with brief details of service should be forwarded to: Adjutant, 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V), Signals House, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, London, E11 2QF.

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Reception/Security Team. Chiswell St, EC1. Interesting post, shift work, reasonable hours, good pay.
Reception/Security. Cheapside, EC2. £3,500 approx.
Reception/Security/Messenger. Euston Rd, NW1. £3,500 pa.
Reception/Security. Berkeley St, W1. £3,500 neg.
Reception. Hedden St, W1. Well spoken, £4,000+.
Reception/Security. University St, WC1. £60 pw+tips. Active—helpful, well spoken.
Messenger/General Help. Lincoln's Inn Fields. £4,000+.
Security. Wandsworth, SW18. £76 pw.
Security. Edgeware, Mddx. £4,114.
Security. Sutton, Surrey. £63+.

The above are just a few examples of the type of employment we have available. Why not contact us and see if we can be of help to you?

Whatever your requirement get into contact with the Corps, remember the other Divisions throughout the UK. We will do our best to help.

We can also help with part-time work if you are prepared to complete at least 300 hrs 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.

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs

OPERATION DRAKE "ROUND THE WORLD"

Report by Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones, School of Signals

IN THE BEGINNING

Exercise *Avon Express*, Salisbury Plain, November 1977. Another telephone call. "Operation Drake? What's that?' I said innocently. 'Oh another expedition. Signals? Yes, of course I'd be interested. A couple of radios . . .?! My past contact with the Scientific Exploration Society (SES), a joint civilian and Services organisation composed mainly of ex-members of **Lt Col John Blashford-Snell's** world famous expeditions (Blue Nile, Zaire River, etc), had caught up with me. Mid-December found me up to my knees in carpet and gin at a lavish reception in the West End. The presence of Royalty at this launching party made me think that perhaps Operation Drake was to be a bit more ambitious than my Sandhurst adventurous training trip to Morocco. It is!

GLOBAL CONCEPT

The overall object of Operation Drake is to involve young people from all over the world in adventurous activities. Through participation in scientific projects and community work it aims to foster a sense of purpose, comradeship and achievement in youngsters between the ages of 17 and 24 known as Young Explorers (YEs). The whole scheme is based upon a two year circumnavigation of the world in a 150 ton Brigantine called the 'Eye of the Wind' and incorporates four major expeditions in Panama, Papua New Guinea, Sulawesi and Sudan. The Patron of Operation Drake is **HRH The Prince of Wales.**

HELP NEEDED

As the plot unfolded it became clear that a couple of old A14s would not suffice. Communications for ship-to-shore, ship-to-ship, a rear link, the expedition areas and even ground-to-air were all needed. Kit? Signallers? Help! By May last year I was slightly happier. Fortunately, on arrival at the School of Signals, I met **CRS Bob Grass BEM RN** who re-educated me on ship communications and took on the maritime side of life. The rear link communications were to be handled by 30 Sig Regt from a re-furbished storeroom in Drake Lines here at Blandford and **Capt Jim Heck** agreed to co-ordinate the amateur radio aspects in conjunction with the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. That still left equipment and men to find. Life became a round of meetings in London, telephone calls, letters, visits and even weekends helping to select the Young Explorers. The Signals Directorate kindly offered some radio sets and in September some of the civilian firms who manufacture the kit we needed came up trumps and have given Operation Drake magnificent support ever since. By this time a number of Royal Signals volunteers had applied to take part and the first signaller was selected. Soon 'Operation Drake' became a familiar cry in all corners of the School of Signals whilst the QM(Tech) and his hardworking staff were buried under a mound of signals equipment bound for the first expedition in Panama. A quick CEI from **Capt Damien Buckley** of 30 Sig Regt and we were in business, all in time for the official departure of the 'Eye of the Wind' in October.

OVER TO 'SPARKS'

By **Cpl Roger Secker** (ex-22 Sig Regt), Radio Officer 'Eye of the Wind'.

HOW IT BEGAN

It all started in the Mess at Lippstadt last July. I was propping up the bar, drinking my orange juice and reading The Wire when an advertisement caught my eye. A scientific expedition on a two year circumnavigation of the world required operators for various bases. The expedition was called 'Operation Drake' and involved a 150 ton Brigantine called the 'Eye of the Wind'. After talking it over with **FofS Alan Mockford** (now at the School of Signals), my sailing mentor, I sent off an application and toddled off on leave. A phone call from **Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones** of the School of Signals informed me I was appointed the Radio Officer on the Ship. I returned to Lippstadt, packed my sea bag, said goodbye to Delta Troop and at the end of September I steered course for Blandford.

HOW IT DEVELOPED

In Blandford I met **CRS Bob Grass BEM RN** who taught me the commercial side of maritime communications, including telegrams and radiotelephone calls. During the training I visited Portishead, the main radio station in Europe for Ship-to-Shore communication. At the beginning of October I moved to Devenport and HMS *Drake*, where I attended the Signal Training Centre to learn flag signalling and to brush up on my Aldis lamp. My afternoons were spent working on the Ship, chipping decks, painting and generally getting in the way. The Radio Shack was still under construction and work could not start on fitting the radios until the deck was laid.



FINAL INSPECTION
Gen Sir John Mogg, Chairman of Operation Drake and Cpl Roger Secker exchange a few words during the last few hours before the official departure

TRAFALGAR DAY DEDICATION

On 21 October the Ship was dedicated in a church service at HMS *Drake* and in the evening there was a reception at the Guildhall, Plymouth attended by parents, friends and sponsors. The next day was the big day. **HRH Prince Charles** arrived by a helicopter of the Queens Flight, and watched by Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries, he commissioned the Ship and we sailed into Plymouth Sound to start our sea trials with the Prince aboard. We returned to HMS *Drake* the same day and for the next two weeks we continued with the refit. The radios were finally fitted and I took the Home Office examination for my General Radiotelephony ticket. The radio complement on board is a Marconi Marine Transocean transmitter and Pacific receiver, a Marconi Falcon II, a Marconi Argonaut maritime VHF station, a Survivor emergency radio, a MEL VRC 321, a MSDS VRC 353 and an A43. A Drake Amateur HF radio is also carried for the 'Sparks' who can't get enough.



AND THEY'RE OFF
The 'Eye of the Wind' at the official departure on 22 October 1978 with HRH The Prince of Wales aboard. The Radio Officer, Cpl Roger Secker, can just be seen peering over the lifebelt

YE BACKS TO THE SEA

On the 7 November we motored into Plymouth Sound and moored prior to adjusting our magnetic compass. Young Explorer **Simon Chadwick**, a young BP Officer Cadet, who appointed himself my assistant, promptly hoisted the signal, which he assured me was the correct one for the occasion. As I am ultimately responsible for all signals I checked the book to find that we were informing the Royal Navy of our firm belief that the port was mined! The next morning we sailed for Jersey and into a force 8 upon which most of the Young Explorers promptly died, which left plenty of room at the meal table. After a two day visit, including a civic reception, we sailed for Teneriffe in the Canaries. The weather was excellent for sailing, a good wind but with a large swell. Once more the young crew adopted a horizontal position.

GOOD COMMUNICATIONS

On this leg we made daily contact with the Army sail training yacht 'Sabre' from Gosport. We also have a daily schedule with **SSgt Mick Long, LCpl Jess Ward** and the team in Blandford using the MEL VRC 321. A very reliable link and one which has proved its worth daily since the first days of the expedition in Plymouth.

We arrived in Teneriffe on 26 November and the crews, now mercifully recovered from sea sickness, went ashore to try out the local wine and women. As a member of the Directing Staff I just looked on approvingly. Two days in port and it's off again—this time for Barbados in the West Indies.

On 2 December we made contact with **YofS Chris Allen** on board RFA Tarbatness which was on a defence sales tour (see March issue of The Wire). **Chris** was using a VRC 321 with a dipole out for 3 MHz and the latest MEL tuning unit. We made contact 2,000 miles apart and maintained a daily chat link until after we passed in mid-Atlantic and Tarbatness went into Tunis. A catamaran skippered by the father of one of our Young Explorers called up in the evening to exchange positions and weather information. We have worked 600 miles on 2 MHz using the Marconi low power MF/HF set.

On 19 December I made contact with Panama City and spoke to **LSgt Alec Gill** of the Scots Guards who is doing a very good job as the Tac HQ radio op.

BARBADOS

On 21 December we docked in Bridgetown Barbados to take on fuel and water. It's a fantastically beautiful island and the night life is interesting. The next day we sailed for St Vincent in the Windward Islands where we arrived during the morning of the 23. My maritime VHF radio went duff on the way in, so as everyone disappeared ashore I took out the books and a small hammer and got 'stuck in'. Four hours later and we are back in business, in time to provide a comms link for the rescue of a coaster which has been drifting for 72 hours. Early next morning the crew of the 'Eye of the Wind' led by the Master, **Capt Pat Collis** (ex RN) set off for a scientific study of the local volcano which is still very much alive. The Ship's engineer, **Cpl Steve Merritt** RAF, and



HELLO BRITAIN
Cpl Roger Secker in his snug and well equipped Radio Shack aboard the 'Eye of the Wind' somewhere in the Atlantic

I waved them goodbye and then welcomed aboard the skipper and owner of the drifting coaster who came laden with bottles.

On Christmas Day we sailed for Panama and had our Christmas party as we sped along under full sail on the moderately calm Caribbean. New Year was celebrated in fine style in position 10 degrees 00 minutes North 79 degrees 08 minutes West. Any stories you may hear about me leading 'Old MacDonald's Farm' and wrestling all the females are perfectly true.

ARRIVAL AT PANAMA

On 2 January we are in port at Cristobal at the mouth of the Panama Canal. We are fitting a new gearbox and a windlass and generally keeping busy with daily scheds to the UK, Panama City and Caledonia Bay, which is 180 miles east along the coast. At the request of one of the organisers in Panama City I arranged a comms test with 633 Signal Troop in Belize and this was so successful we now communicate three times a week.

On the comms front everything is going very well and the unusual situations which crop up daily make the position of a signaller on Operation Drake one well worth having. Contact **Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones** at Blandford if Exercise Summer Sales and the like have lost their appeal.

AFTER NOTE

As you read these notes the expedition in Panama is long finished, the 'Eye of the Wind' is nearing Papua New Guinea with **Capt Jim Heck** on board as the new 'Sparks' and **Cpl Roger Secker** is now on a new posting in Hong Kong. Watch out for the next article which describes the expedition in Panama.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

THE NEW MANAGEMENT

OC	Maj I. Turner
2IC	Capt P. J. Hryhoruk
AO	Capt D. Bentley, Life Guards
QM	Capt J. M. Haydon
OC A	Capt A. Duncan
OC B	Lt R. Baxter
OC D/E	Lt J. F. Wright RPC
RSM	WO1 (RSM) R. M. D. Collins
RQMS	WO2 (RQMS) P. J. Rossall
FofS	WO2 (FofS) R. West
YofS	WO2 (YofS) W. S. Balding
MTO	WO2 A. Cross
ORSQMS	SSgt (ORSQMS) R. C. Charlesworth

VISIT OF SO in C

Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson arrived at Mahon Road to be met by our two Squadron Commanders (its good to be looked after!) and the RSM. Following an exhaustive (exhausting) brief by the Bde Comms Officer, **Capt Peter Hryhoruk**, an interlude in the WO's and Sgts Mess was called for. Suitably refreshed **Gen Anderson** visited the Bde Ops Room and Commcen before wielding a shovel to plant a replacement for a tree which had been accidently removed by the DOE!

The SO in C then had a chance to talk to members of the Squadron before assisting in the change of command ceremony.



The signing—from *left to right:* The SOinC, RSM Collins, Maj Turner and Maj Ventham



The SOinC—joining the Forestry Commission?



Received—one squadron—with thanks?

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Maj Ian Turner took over command of the Squadron from **Maj Jeremy Ventham** in what must be an unique ceremony.

It was felt that a contract with no loopholes was needed to ensure that all was properly handed over. It is pointed out that no copyright exists for the document but any contributions from those using it will be gratefully accepted.

THE CONTRACT (And Translation)

Once the contract was duly signed and witnessed, **Maj Jeremy Ventham** was questioned by a panel of 'Brothers' to determine his suitability for entry to a trade union; a vital pre-requisite for any 'worker'. Unfortunately he failed dismally and was presented with his 'executive' brief case by **Cpl Brian Airey** of scarred posterior fame. We all wish **Maj Ventham** and his wife **Caroline** every success in civilian life and welcome **Maj Ian Turner** and his wife **Gloria** to the family.



Maj Jeremy Ventham receiving his briefcase from Cpl Brian Airey

PROTOTYPE HANDOVER CERTIFICATE

An agreement made this thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy nine, between Maj Jeremy John Ventham Royal Corps of Signals, hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part, and Maj Ian Turner Royal Corps of Signals, hereinafter referred to as the party of the second part, and concerning all military and civilian personnel presently serving by posting, attachment or direct employment with 3rd Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Sig Sqn, known hereinafter as the parties of the third and subsequent parts.

The party of the first part delivers to the party of the second part for his entire use, enjoyment and command:

FIRST—The parties of the third and subsequent parts together with no warranty either express or implied as to their soundness of mind or limb or suitability for the use intended.

SECOND—All communications of whatever type or manufacture in use by the Military Forces of the crown in the counties of Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh and that part of County Down lying to the east and south of Strangford Lough, certifying these to be in full working order and complete to the CES.

THIRD—That part and parcel of land known as Mahon Camp in the county of Armagh together with the buildings erected thereon and all curtilages and messuages attached thereto in fee simple free of encumberance.

FOURTH—All military dwelling houses situated in the boroughs of Lurgan, Craigavon, Portadown, Armagh and Dungannon on condition that the party of the second part shall covenant not to allow these dwellings to be used for any illegal or immoral purpose or inhabited by any persons of evil or undesirable character.

The party of the second part warrants to the party of the first part that he will use his best endeavours to command wisely and compassionately upholding the traditions and customs of the unit and pursuing always the welfare and careers of its personnel in token whereof the party of the first part shall deliver to the party of the second part one barrel of small beer for consumption by the parties of the third and subsequent parts to ensure their continued loyalty and devotion to him.

Delivered by the hand of:
Jeremy John Ventham — Major, Royal Corps of Signals
Ian Turner — Major, Royal Corps of Signals

Witnessed this thirty first day of May nineteen hundred and seventy nine by: **Alistair Anderson, Major General, Signal Officer-in-Chief.**

THE MT

Reader's of last months 'Wire Notes' will no doubt recall the story of **Cpl Brian Airey,** who was caught with his trousers down during a mortar 'strike' at Newtonhamilton. One of our landrovers was dismantled during the attack; it's bad enough losing a vehicle, but to cap it all we have had word from Ord that they won't accept the vehicle unless it's complete to CES; they also want the hard top back, which was last seen sailing in an upwards direction courtesy of the local Indians.

Cpl Hardy and **Sig Ralphs** had a narrow escape whilst servicing some generators at a border OP recently. After finishing the servicing they headed for the OP to call up a helecopter to take them home. Just about to enter the OP they found themselves looking into the nasty ends of an assortment of ironmongery. Shifts had changed, but the new shift hadn't been told that there were a couple of Pronto's wandering about the hill.

STOP PRESS—The tree planted by the SO in C outside the MT, is still defying the efforts of the MT to demolish it.

FAREWELLS

A fond farewell is bid to: **Sgt Dave Cloake—LCpl (Black Mack) McTernan—LCpl Ken McSherry** and his wife **Helen—LCpl Steve Griffiths** and **Sig (Smudge) Bonzo Smith** (He isn't really called that!)

HELLOs

A welcome to the family for **LCpl Paul Bouskill—Sig Hamish Graham—LCpl Mike Garside—SSgt Norman Siggs—Sgt Keith Bradley—LCpl Jimmy Miller** and **Sig Paul Creevey.**

CONGRATULATIONS

On promotion. **Capt Alan Duncan—Sgt Mick Hamilton**—and **Cpl Trev Smith.** Also many congratulations to **Sgt Martin Hardy** on his 15 years of undetected crime (LS & GC) and his efforts in the Inter Services Gliding Championships, 3rd out of 6 (Army).

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

TELEX OPERATORS

If you are soon to complete your service with the Armed Forces and wish to live in Germany, then why not consider a position with one of the largest American stockbroking firms based in their Hamburg office.

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West Germany

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

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC ..... **Maj T. I. M. Waugh**
2IC/Comms Offr ..... **Capt G. S. Hand**
Admin Offr ..... **Maj (QM) G. A. Kendrick, Staffords**
QM ..... **Capt (QM) A. S. Reid**
OC Comms Tp ..... **Lt J. K. Ewbank**
2IC Comms Tp/MTO ..... **2Lt A. A. Ewell**
RSM ..... **WO1 (RSM) K. R. Clark**
RQMS ..... **WO2 (RQMS) M. S. Olive**
YofS ..... **WO2 (YofS) M. A. Thornton**
FofS ..... **WO2 (FofS) A. V. Lamb**

SPRING IN LONDONDERRY

The past two months have seen the transition from winter to spring in Londonderry. This really means a rise in temperature of the 'liquid sunshine', which will be familiar to all those who have served in this far outpost of the Royal Signals' Empire. Accordingly, the thoughts of our young men have turned to love, and those of the RSM have turned to military training. There has been a bit of both.

We have had a successful visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief; and, in communications, we have been the first brigade in Northern Ireland to receive Clansman (on a very limited scale). We have occupied another new communications site and we are in the midst of a major sort out of communications in our UDR Battalions.

MILITARY TRAINING

Just in case anyone thinks it's all wine and roses in the Squadron, 65 of us (a good percentage of our total strength) went through the Weekend Training Centre, Magilligan, in May on Exercise *Free Wheel*—a name to strike terror in the hearts of all—particularly those who had to organise it!



Ex *Free Wheel* — Sgt Bob West's team on the Log Race



Ex *Free Wheel*—members of the Sqn wishing they were somewhere else

RSM Ken Clark was in overall charge of the week's exercise, which was designed to test fitness and stamina. It was organised on a competitive basis, with students formed into three or four-man teams for their 24-hour stay at Magilligan, during which they did BFT Tests, a log race, personal weapons tests and, after a few hours' sleep, a night navigation test in the hills. The last test really sorted the men from the boys, as they had to plan their own kit and route—five hours was considered a good time.

The overall winners of the competition, and winners of the BFT Tests, were **LCpl Kev Hunter, Sigs Gus Murray** and **Trev Robinson;** they scored 89 points out of a possible 100 to beat 19 other teams. With really good efforts from almost all teams, the final result hung in the balance until the end, and this made the winners' performance a really excellent one. Good news for all those who enjoyed the exercise so much, by the way—Exercise *Free Wheel II* is planned for September.

MARRIAGES

Love, first of all. The following lucky couples have been spliced recently: **Cpl Mick Townsend** and **Mandy, Dvr Taff Pettision** and **Karen, Dvr 'Skin' O'Reilly** and **Marion,** and **LCpl John Bell** and **Christine.** Our congratulations to them all—obviously there must be something special in the air around MT Troop!

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF VISITS LONDONDERRY

On Wednesday 30 May **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** came to this most remote part of his dominions on a brief visit to the Squadron. After a morning tour of the Squadron, in which he asked for and was given the frank views of the lads on a variety of subjects, **Gen Anderson** went to the Foyle View Club where he presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **WO2 Peter Murray RAOC** and **SSgt Jim Seddon R Signals,** whose obvious pleasure and satisfaction at having their crimes remain undetected all these years may be seen in the photograph.

Finally, everyone moved the short distance up the hill to our Squadron bar—The Tudor Bar—where the General himself was presented with a panorama of Londonderry. This was well received, but he was a little put out that the inscription on it said that it was on the occasion of his farewell visit, since he has every intention of returning!

After a few pints of beer and an excellent lunch, **Gen Anderson** left to continue his tour. We hope he enjoyed the visit as much as we did.



SOinC's VISIT
The happy faces of WO2 Peter Murray and SSgt Jim Seddon on being presented with LS & GC Medals



SOinC's VISIT
Cpl Ian Davies briefs Gen Anderson on his job in Mike Troop

Marrakesh Express

No sooner had **2Lt Adam Ewell** returned, with his instructors **Sgt Ian Duncan** and **Cpl Dave Phillips,** from a very successful (if slightly bloodshot) skiing exercise in Aviemore (reported in the last issue), than he was off to be Controller of Exercise *Marrakesh Express*, our annual hill walking/radio/escape and evasion exercise. This takes place on the Mull of Kintyre in March and the weather is usually bad enough to make it a real test of moral fibre. This year was even worse than usual—which was some consolation to **Sgt Clive Blackburn** who was to be 2IC of the party until a damaged knee put him into hospital (he has since returned to us, almost as good as new). **Cpl John Bailey** stepped into the breach at short notice and did an excellent job. Assistance was also provided by **SSgt Colin Whall** and **Cpl Graham Roberts REME.** These four made up the 'directing staff'. Week one of the exercise was spent in military training at RAF Machrihanish, and this was followed by a series of day-long exercises around the Mull. The climax of the whole exercise was two days of escape and evasion, which the lads must have been good at, since the two teams saw no trace of one another throughout the 48-hour exercise. Next year we might try a slightly smaller area!

STOP PRESS NEWS: **2Lt Ewell** has once again conned the OC into letting him go—this time canoeing on the River Wye. Fear the worst for next month's Wire.

ROYAL SIGNALS AT SEA

In recent months the Squadron has taken on a distinctly nautical air—perhaps not surprising as our barracks used to be HMS *Sea Eagle*.

After much hard work by members of Comms Troop, the Mercury Castle, our very own 24-foot converted life boat, is back on the water for the summer fishing season. She has had a paint job, a coat of anti-fouling and is now equipped with a 'Seascribe' shoal finder and, as they say, a host of other extras! If anyone knows where we can pick up a few second-hand depth charges . . .

In addition to the fishing, a number of the Squadron have been out training hard on our 2 Army-owned sailing dinghies for a certain 24-hour sailing race sponsored by a well-known maker of Irish Whiskey. Isn't it amazing how liquid prizes will turn people into fanatically keen sportsmen?

Results promised in next month's issue.



ROYAL SIGNALS AT SEA
Our rather doubtfully rigged enterprise takes to the water for the first time this season—the rather long-haired soldier is Denise Ewbank, wife of Lt John Ewbank



ROYAL SIGNALS AT SEA
Lt John Ewbank checking out our fishing boat 'The Mercury Castle' on the river Bann

COMINGS AND GOINGS

These are too numerous to mention this month, but I am sure everyone will agree that I should at least record the departure of **WO2 (FofS) John Macdonald** and his wife **Lynn.** Having worked very had during his 18 month tour here, the Foreman goes on promotion to 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, where we will doubtless hear more of his exploits! We welcome his successor, **WO2 (FofS) Vince Lamb** who has recently arrived in the province with his wife **Diane.**

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

OC	**Maj K. G. Turner**
2IC	**Capt D. A. Lynam**
Admin Offr	**Capt H. J. Menzel, RCT**
OC Comms Tp	**Capt N. C. Jackson**
2IC Comms Tp	**Lt T. S. Maynes**
TOT	**Capt (TOT) A. J. Porritt**
QM	**Capt (QM) C. Speight**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) A. Bailey**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) F. Williams**
MTWO	**WO2 A. E. MacNiven, RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) S. M. Sims**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) N. J. H. Naylor**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) R. J. J. Hancox**

THE OPERATIONAL SCENE

The last two months have seen a renewed effort by the various factions of the IRA in Belfast to inflict as much damage to the Security Forces as possible. Their tactics have recently concentrated on well planned sniper attacks from safe vantage points, from where they lie in wait for the Army or Police patrols. They have proved quite successful on a number of occasions but swift follow up action foiled one recent attempt, and the weapons used in several other attacks have since been recovered. The marching season commenced early and heli-tele has been deployed on most weekends.

COMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN

This period has not been without problems. Our one aerial rigger, **Sig Gary Fryer,** has fought his way up many masts and the technicians have commuted regularly to the Divis Mountain Radio Site. At one stage **FofS Steve Sims** was convinced that mice were relieving themselves on the talkthrough equipment, however it was a simple case of the coaxes acting as hose pipes for the non-stop rain we have had since the beginning of the year. Exploding PSTs have also enlivened the lot of our Radio Room crew.

STOP PRESS

Our TOT, **Capt Tony Porritt,** has just undergone an extremely painful operation in Musgrave Park Hospital for the removal of a cartilage. We are happy to report that he is recovering well and will soon be back to divvying the widgets of the Divis Mountain aerials. He stoutly denies any comparison between his operation and those done on Steve Austin, TV's 'Six Million Dollar Man', and says that his title of 'The Sixpenny Man' is a foul canard put about by those who resent his youthful good looks!

The following plea for his full recovery was recently observed on the Squadron Notice Board:

When your system's just not working
Though you've done the best you can
When everything is grotty
Then send for the TOTTY
The incredible sixpenny man.

An Army computer designed him
A captain who just cannot fail
One knee made of plastic
Held in By elastic
And the speed of an arthritic snail

Folks look up in awe as he passes
Streaking by like a shot from a gun
His custom built femurs
Wrapped up in his EMERs
And his spare parts agleam in the sun

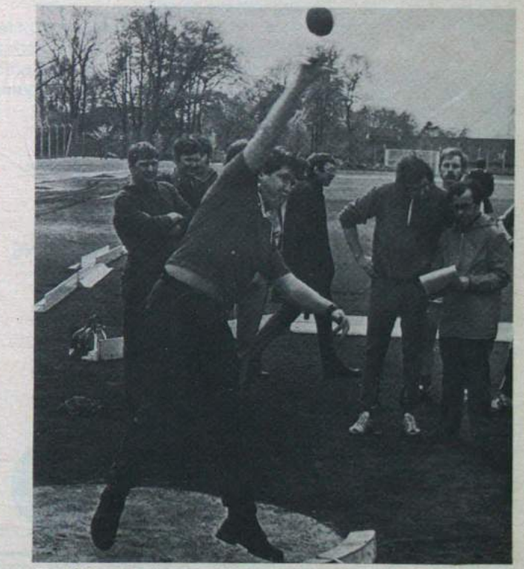
Yes TOTTYs the man that they turn to
When they're thinking in terms of defence
And no doubt MOD
Will fix t'other knee
When they've saved up another sixpence

FIT TO FIGHT

Once again the bi-annual BFT heralded the start of intense physical activity. On 28 April 15 walkers set off on a 34 mile sponsored walk organised by the NI Branch of RAOB. The proceeds gained by their efforts went to Spina Bifida and RAOB Orphans. **Cpl 'Tommo' Tomlinson** raised £100 and **Sig Paul Sexby,** in training for the marathon (one day), ran the entire course in the time of three hours 40



Cpl 'Tommo' Tomlinson with RAOB sponsored walk trophies after collecting the most money for the cause



'The Airborne Twinkletoes (DMS) Shot Putt'. Sig Gary Fryer putts the shot in the Inter Troop Competition. Sgt Keith Blackburn officiates with approval from Capt Mark Blatherwick RAOC. Onlookers Sig Stan Matthews, LCpl Ted Delve and Sqn 2IC Capt David Lynam (equipped for the weather) in super sleuth pose

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Address.....

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Qualifications .....

.....

I have experience of working on.....

.....

I shall be available from .....

..... Ref 004L

minutes. Then on 17 May our Inter-Troop Athletics Competition—yes, it did stop raining for three hours—produced fierce competition and could truly be described as a memorable occasion. As **WO2 (RQMS) 'Darkie' Williams** paddled on the all weather track the five teams donned water wings and prepared for battle. The result—a win for Comms Troop by one point. Ladbrokes have revised the odds for next year's Chain of Command race.

FACELIFE FOR SQN HQ

Those ex-members of the Squadron who remember the Sqn HQ building in its old 'education centre guise' will be interested to know that we have now completed the long awaited facelift to the front of the building. Gone are the two old green doors and in their place is a single smart mahogany central entrance. The 'new look' Sqn HQ frontage can be seen in this photograph with the OC, **Maj Keith Turner** and RSM, **WO1 Alan Bailey** awaiting the arrival of SOinC during his recent visit to the Province.



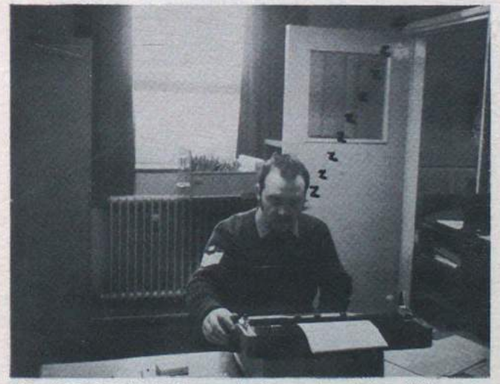
The OC, Maj Keith Turner and WO1 (RSM) Alan Bailey awaiting the arrival of the SOinC

SOinC's VISIT

On Tuesday, 29 May, the SOinC, **Maj Gen Anderson,** visited the Squadron, and after an update on the Squadron and its operational commitments he visited all of the Troops and Departments. Whilst with Communications Troop he saw Ex *Bodkin*, an HF skywave exercise to keep radio telegraphists on top of their trade, run between AAC Harrogate, 233 Sig Sqn and us. From there he visited the QM's Empire where **Capt Chris Speight,** recovering from a recent Stocktaking Board, held forth. Whilst observing the heli-tele mobile and meeting members of Combat Section as well as all of the Brigade Commanders Rover Group the TOT was getting in on the act; in an inconspicuous corner of SHQ, **Capt (TOT) Tony Porritt** and **WO2 (FofS) Steve Sims,** aided by Marconi's expert **Sgt Gary Mayers,** were filming the SOinC's every move with a heli-tele camera and video recorder. Needless to say TM Troop held the limelight—the Rank Organisation are still negotiating! After meeting the Brigade Commander and Royal Signals Staff Officers, **Maj John Mills** and **Capt Geoff Strivens,** the SOinC presented **WO2 (SQMS) Cliff Harris, RAOC, Sgt Ivor Demain** and **Sgt John Brice** with their LS&GC medals in the Sergeants Mess. Needless to say the beer flowed!



SOinC talking to Sig 'Robbo' Roberts, escort driver for the Brigade Commander, CR Sigs, Lt Col Marples and elements of Combat Section in the background



SSgt (ORSQMS) Robin Hancox hard at work on the last ARU report



SOinC talks to Sig 'Mac' McKissick in the COMMCEN. Sgt Bill O'Hare follows the camera and WO2 (YofS) Nick Naylor smiles complacently in the background

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

We are pleased to see the award of a well deserved mention in Despatches on the latest Operational Awards List for **Sig Ian Millar** of Comms Tp, now serving with 30 Sig Regt.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief took time during his recent 'Whistle Stop' three day tour of the Province ('If this is Lisburn it must be Wednesday') to present a Bronze COMMSTAR to our Commcen shift leaders. The presentation coincided with the departure to 28 Sig Regt of **Sgt Roy Pickersgill.** During his visit, **Gen Anderson** also presented five well deserved LS & GC Medals, the recipients being **Sgt Ray Francis, Arthur Simpson, Phil Phillips, Cliff Lowe** and **Cpl Ceasar Bowen.**



PRESENTATION OF COMMSTAR AWARD
Left to Right: SOinC, Sgts Roy Pickersgill, Eric Tai, Paddy Speers and Mick Langley



PRESENTATION OF LS & GC MEDALS
Left to Right: SOinC, Cpl Ceasar Bowen, Sgt Phil Phillips, Sgt Cliff Lowe (Hidden) WO2, (SSM) B. Smith

Capt Paddy Crowley's plans are well in hand for an Adventure Training Exercise near Leek in Staffordshire. Planned activities are Rock climbing, canoeing and hill walking, plus one or two optional extras which, we expect, will be fairly fully reported in the next issue!

Our Congratulations go to **Lt Jacqui Wallace WRAC** who was married to **Flying Officer Craig Goodwin** on 26 May. We've decided that as he's a New Zealander he can't really be all that bad—and he doesn't walk sideways either! Our best wishes for their future together! There seems to have been a rush to the altar recently—as reported in Victor Troop's notes.

SQUADRON SPORTS DAY

As the 1978 Joint Army Minor Units Athletics Champions, we were talent spotting at Thiepval Barracks on Saturday 5 May. With so many of last years 'Stars' now posted, the inter-troop competition was hotly contested and an excellent chance for newcomers to show their paces.

There were good performances from **Cpl 'Spider' Anton** in the High-jump and 100 metres, **Capt Alan Chapman** in the Discus and Shot and **Cpl John Rose** won the Long Jump and 200m (**Cpl Anton** taking 2nd place in the latter event). Tech Troop won the team trophy (again!)

Sgt Colin Ager's slick organisation and attention to detail kept the programme flowing smoothly. The only factor not firmly under his control was the weather, but apart from a snow flurry during the prize giving, all was well. We're also sending 'Mr Starter' on a NIRTT Course—he had more misfires than a BL Saloon!



WINNERS OF NI MINOR UNITS ATHLETICS
Back Row Left to Right: LCpl 'Mo' Eyre, Cpl Dave Smith, Sgt Pete Hirst, Cpl John Rose, Cpl Jock Thomson, Capt Alan Chapman
Front Row: LCpl Bob Hutchison, Cpl Mal Hyndman, Sgt Colin Ager (Team Manager), Cpl 'Spider' Anton, Cpl Billy Allen



THE THREE LEGGED RACE
Left to Right: Sgt Rick Coxon and daughter Jennifer, Cpl Billy Allen and LCpl Dee Makewell, Sgt and Mrs Mick Kilvington—looking set to win, but just about to fall! LCpl Steve Hartland and Mrs Lesley Rose

As well as the more conventional events there were Children's races, a three-legged race won by **Sgt** and **Mrs Phil Phillips** after the **Kilvingtons** fell inches from the line!) and a sack race won by **Mrs** (W/LCpl to some!) **Sue Catterall.**

Our 1979 team is taking shape now. With a bit of training, at the NI Championships they won four of the nine events plus the relay to hold off a strong challenge from 12 Fd Sqn RE. The winning performances in the field came from **Cpl 'Spider' Anton** in the high jump and **Cpl John Rose** in the long-jump. While on the track **Cpl Mal Hyndman's** 200m run and **Cpl Jock Thompson's** 1500m victory both gave us valuable points. We are looking forward now to the next round in Catterick on 11 July and, hopefully, Aldershot again on 23 July.

VICTOR TROOP

One reason for the silence from Victor Troop lately has been the spate of marriages in the troop—or dare we admit it the subsequent celebrations and the 'Morning After' hands? These get slapped by the OC and YofS for doing ADDTTY instead of CLRTTY (*we* know what we mean anyway).

Recent marriages in order of vows:

W/LCpl Elenor Swales to **LCpl John Atkinson,** both now reclining in sunny Cyprus in their new posting.

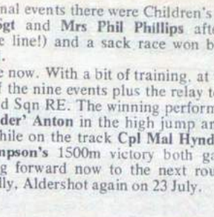
Sig Steve Catterall to **W/LCpl Sue Steel** noth now relaxing in Commcen Troop—an easier job had to be found for them! On the same day in Lisburn Garrison Church **Sig Duggie Wright** to **Norma 'civvie' Neil**—a Scottish Lass. This became too much for the OC who disappeared to Plymouth to be the Army rep at the wedding of **Lt Jacqui Wallace** to a Blue Job. When questioned about the wedding on his return all he could say was they disappeared in a ball of smoke down a main road in Plymouth. Some nasty person had fixed smoke bombs to the car as they left on their honeymoon. However all is not finished yet, the boss walked into his office on 2 June to find a wedding cake on his desk and was heard to mutter '*-!!! I only wanted a little piece'. **Cpl Nobby Clarke,** hearing rantings and rumblings, put him at ease just before he cut a slice of cake, by telling him it was there for safe-keeping until that afternoon for the wedding of **LCpl 'Cas' Cassling** to **June Connell,** a local girl.

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Score so far: four weddings within the troop, plus part-time member **Lt Jacqui Wallace.** OC broke, Tp funds depeleted, what next?

'Please Sir I want to get married' OC now frantic 'this is an operational troop not a -!*?! Marriage Bureau'. However after a coffee, a visit from the SOinC and the inevitable cocktail party he relented and signed the leave pass so that **W/LCpl Maureen Bennett** could get away to marry **LCpl Ray Hayes** of 13 Sig Regt on 7 July.

There just can't be any more now 'I don't think I have any more left' says the boss. However from deep down in the troop tech workshop, slightly disgruntled at the ops having all the limelight, **Sgt Dave Morris** has been put forward as their nominee for impending marriage.

Does nothing else happen in Victor Troop? YES a marriage that had nothing to do with us has produced a baby girl (at last) for her two brothers—not forgetting Dad and Mum. **Cpl John Bridges** and his wife **Helen.** Congratulations.

One last thing before we leave—Congratulations to **Sgt 'Arfa' Simpson** on his LS & GC. A comment heard in the ops room 'He only got it because he volunteered to 'Wait on' at the last mess supper'.

Moral: If you want to get married, have a baby (married females only), get your LSGC, apply now for a posting to Victor Troop 233 Sig Sqn.

FAMILIES CLUB MINI FETE

An ambitious Families Club Fete held at Lisburn on 9 June provided fun and games and refreshments for the families and about £400 in profits which were shared between SSAFA, The Brittle Bone Society and the Families Club. It really was a huge success and thanks must go to all those who made it possible. The 2IC now a marked man in the Crazy Prices Store in Lisburn—having made several urgent replenishment runs for the 'Win-a-Goldfish' and the 'Hot Dog' Stalls. I'm sure there's a joke there, something about five loaves and two small fishes?



A view of part of the Families Club Fete—A great success helped by the fine weather

Departures and Arrivals

We've had some 'senior management' changes recently. Chief amongst them have been new OC E Tp, **Capt Bill Clark** who relieved **Capt Colin French**-posted to 63 SAS Sig Sqn (V). **Lt Stephanie Westall** has taken over as WRAC Tp Commd from **Lt Jacqui Wallace** (posted to SEME Bordon as **Lt Jacqui Goodwin!**). A 'shuffle round' of Foremen as a result of **WO1 Joe Smith's** posting to 8 Fd Force. **WO2 Laurie Priestley** has taken over in Tech Tp and **SSgt Pete Higson** has arrived from BAOR to join D Tp. We have also said farewell, after a three year tour in W Tp, to **WO2 (YofS) Trevor Sherwin**—posted to Project Bates—and welcome in his place **Yeoman Jack Cowen** from 40 Sig Regt.

Editors Note: All photographs published with this article are by courtesy of Army Information Services, HQNI.

School of Signals Regiment, Blandford Camp

THE LONE STAR SIGNAL TROOP

Yes, a new formation—but not for long! In fact it lasted for the period of exactly three weeks that a Trials Team from the School of Signals spent at Fort Hood in Southern Texas. The team of 18, with **Lt Col Gerry Corden** (Trials Director) and **Maj Jim Brinsford** (OC Trials Squadron), went there to demonstrate all our Clansman radios and to do various interoperability trials with our American allies. You do not want to hear about work, suffice it to say that all went off very well.

COOL NEWFOUNDLAND

The two C-130 Hercules Aircraft, loaded with us and our four FFR Landrovers, took off from RAF Lyneham on Tuesday 13 February. The superstitious will be comforted to know that the trip was almost cancelled, with a possible requirement for the aircraft to be kept in readiness for Iran! However, when no-one was looking, we were airborne and soon over the Atlantic; and six hours later we landed at Gander in Newfoundland, where we stayed overnight. The temperature there was -15°C and there was a strong wind, but it was a beautiful sunny afternoon and so some of us went for a walk down through a pine forest towards a lake. Those who think that **Mr Gordon Divall** (the Staff Engineer) has big feet would be amazed to know that only he kept breaking through the frozen snow surface up to his thighs.

WARM TEXAS

On St Valentine's Day our flight continued, with a stop at Washington to clear Customs, down and across the United States. We landed after nine hours in the air at Robert Gray Airfield, which is now part of Fort Hood, to find a temperature of +25°C and welcoming committee comprising **Col Dudley Carnie** (our man in Washington) and our American hosts. Fort Hood is the home of III Corps: 47,000 troops, with a training area of some 300 square miles. Already, the reader can glean the theme of our recollections: the United States is a big place, everything in Texas is enormous, there are wide and rapid fluctuations of temperature, and most importantly the 'natives' are very friendly.

WARM COMRADESHIP

We were sponsored by the 504th Military Intelligence Group: the host unit was 163d MI Battalion, commanded by **LTC Dave G Wilson** and our soldiers lived in the lines of 375 Operations Company, commanded by **Maj Bob Metzger.** It was wonderful to see the spirit of comradeship that soon built up at all levels. Our hosts were kind, considerate, helpful, hospitable, co-operative and dedicated — and all at the time that they were preparing for their annual inspection. They were a heterogeneous mixture: male and female, black and white, recruits and Vietnam veterans. Yet they seemed to have only one aim while we were there: to make sure that our visit was a success, in every way.

HERE AND THERE

We made trips to Austin, the capital of Texas; to San Antonio, to see the Alamo where Davy Crockett was killed; **Cpl Colin Whawell** and a few others were taken to a rodeo at Dallas; others went to Houston, to see the Space Centre; and a couple (no names mentioned) even visited Las Vegas and flew up the Grand Canyon! We visited the First Cavalry Division's Museum and were honoured by the cavalry putting on a riding display for us. We lost at volley-ball, but won at soccer. And there were numerous, more personal, social events.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The old Texan flag had a single star and so Texas was known as the Lone Star State. On 7 March, the 163rd MI Battalion held a Farewell Muster Parade at which a Citation was read out and then the CP presented each of us with honorary membership of the unit. His Permanent Order of the Day states:

PERMANENT ORDER 1-79

1. For distinguishing themselves through arduous work and demanding social endeavour; for displaying gallantry, coolness in defeat and humility in triumph on the playing fields of West Fort Hood; and for consuming untold quantities of Lone Star and Coors . . . all the while decrying it as slop . . . for tourism above the call of duty; but most of all for the warm friendship throughout the Operation, the following named individuals are named permanent honorary members of the 163rd MI Battalion, the Blue Watch:

Corden, Gerald LTC; Brinsford, James S. B. Maj; Shuker, Ian C. Maj; Newman, Alan J. WO2; Divall, Ernest G. Mr; Lamb, Adrian V. SSgt; Hall, Charles T. SSgt; Nuttall, George A. Sgt; Lloyd, Michael J. Sgt; Boothby, Colin E. Cpl; Whawell, Colin Cpl; Ratcliffe, Douglas M. LCpl; Slater, Gerald LCpl; Hobday, Christopher Sig; Kimberley, Keith Sig; Tock, Gary Sig; Brown David M. Sig; Parsey, Simon Sig; Gillespie, David Sig; Simcox, Mark Sig.

2. As members they are entitled to embroider tales of athletic prowess, manufacture whole cloth wonders of Texas, drawl whenever appropriate, and wear the unit crest in a place of honour. **Foreman Lamb** can also spin tales for his grandchildren.

3. A copy of this order, together with the Blue Watch crest is provided to each honorary member.

David G. Wilson
LTC, MI
commanding

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

It indicates another possible reason why we were called 'The Lone Star Signal Troop'. It is always a privilege to work with our US allies, with whom the 'special relationship' does still hold, and in particular our Corps has close ties with the US Signal Corps. Now we have experienced this wonderful visit to the Military Intelligence Group. We hope that all members of Royal Signals will help us to reciprocate some of that kindness, and thus develop the existing spirit of mutual goodwill between the armies of our two countries and indeed between our two nations.

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.

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY SPRING 1979

Graduation Day was held with proper pomp and circumstance on Wednesday, 11 April, a day early because of Easter. The long Harrogate winter once more relenting just long enough to keep the wet weather programme at bay. The dullness of the weather did nothing to dim the sparkle of the parade, more than ably commanded by **AT RSM Tony Lobb.** As the Master of Signals was later to comment, 'Even the RSM was pleased—and that's saying something!' This was the third Graduation Parade for which **Maj Gen Bradley** had acted as Reviewing Officer; the first being 13 years ago, the second eight. During the Parade, he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO2 (FofS) Norman Patton, WO2 (YofS) Dave Wood** and **Sgt Hugh Haselden.**



The Master of Signals presenting AT Cpl Mark Cregan with the Director of Army Education's Prize

VC10 TO CYPRUS

Despite the golden rule 'never volunteer for anything', 10 ATs were 'persuaded' to spend two and a half weeks in Cyprus on adventurous training pursuits during the Easter leave period. In charge we had two of our intrepid educators **Capts Gerry Whiteley** and **George Bacon.** On Easter Sunday, as we travelled to Brize Norton in sub-tropical temperatures, we were wondering whether we needed to travel all the way to the Mediterranean for a tan. By 5 am Monday morning, still waiting to board the VC10, we were convinced we had made a mistake!

ELATION TO APPREHENSION

Things appeared much brighter when we landed at Akrotiri where the ground crew were dressed in shorts. This then was the real thing. Our elation turned to apprehension when we were ushered aboard a 'luxury chicken bus' for the trip to Ayios Nikolaos—a two-hour trip of sheer terror. The local Turkish driver seemed to consider that his was the only vehicle which had any right to be on the road. Unfortunately, all the other road users seemed to have the same idea. Interest grew when we passed the Turkish Army guarding their side of the corridor road from Dhekelia to Ayios Nikolaos. The United Nations posts provided further interest.

VARIETY IN WEEK 1

Our hosts, 9 Sig Regt, provided us with a 1939 vintage mini-bus for the duration of our stay—it certainly earned its keep. We made for the beach, dropping **Graham Minns** and **Keith Walker** off at Pergamos Camp (parachute course) on the way. **Mac McCarthy,** an experienced parachutist, assisted on the course. The beaches were not crowded, the residents considering it far too cold. For us, temperatures in the 70's were bliss, just right for a quick tan. Our hosts organised a range day for us, **Dave Riney** proved his weapon skills by managing to wreck two pistols and a SLR. **'Clarence' Farrant** on the other hand proved his skill by winning 100 mils each from the rest of us. We had hoped to get in some water skiing but conditions proved to be too rough. We settled for skin diving instead.

The remainder of the first week was spent at the western end of the island. Two nights were spent in Episkopi with 259 Sig Sqn where we had a guided tour of the unit seeing real people doing real work. A trip to Paphos took us around the cultural scene which culminated in a fish meze on the water-front. We moved on to the Paphos Beach Hotel, where **AT Sgt Steve Littlewood** was so taken up by the bronzed young females that he went swimming with his wallet still in his shorts. Needless to say—he lost it! On the following day we were on our way to Troodos. Near the summit we started on a two-and-a-half-hour hike led by **Capt George Bacon.** The views at over 4,000 ft were magnificent. After lunching on Olympus we made for Nicosia where **Capt Gerry Whiteley** made a tour of the Turkish fortifications while the rest of us made a tour of the bars.

SEA CANOEING

The second week saw us starting a sea-canoeing course. Our instructor being **SAC Day** of 9 Sig Regt. **Tony Woolaston,** himself an instructor, helped, while **Chris Newman** and **Keith Walker,** both experienced canoeists, shepherded the novices along. **Keith Walker** had returned from the parachute course having made three descents, his place being taken by **Dave Riney.** By day two it was obvious that **AT LCpl Peter Wade** preferred being upside-down in the canoe. The course culminated in a long paddle across Larnaca Bay against head winds of increasing strength. Our panic tans of the previous week were now paying dividends, no one being too affected by the sun, including the fair skinned **AT Clive Border** who merely went redder than he was before. By this stage we had said goodbye to **Capt George Bacon** on his return to the UK en route for his new posting to Gibraltar—lucky guy. **Capt Gerry Whiteley** took over as resident driver, the average speed dropping considerably, **Capt George Bacon's** RAF jet pilot training having previously shown.

IMPERFECT DESCENTS

A weekend on the beach recovering from the canoeing prepared the non-parachutists for our first attempts. We started with a full day's ground training during which we took it in turns to catch a rather cuddly WRAC who had joined the course. As there had been several windy days we were rather worried if we would be allowed to make our first descents. The big day dawned—clear skies and no wind—near perfect conditions which is more than can be said for some of the descents! **Chris Newman** preferred landing the hard way, while most of the others chose the nearby cornfield. None was able to repeat the performance of **Keith Walker,** who the previous week had chosen the only clump of trees in the vicinity in which to land. Our WRAC friend went a little off course and found herself in the Turkish enclave, no doubt to the Turks' delight. After we had all made a descent, **Cpl Thurleston,** the instructor, and **Mac McCarthy** gave us a demonstration of freefall from 8,000 ft.

OUR SINCERE THANKS

On the Wednesday we spent our time counting the bruises and unloading the last of our pounds prior to returning to the UK the following day. In the evening we had a farewell party which must have been good if the sad faces the following morning were anything to go by. After leaving Akrotiri on a warm sunny day, we landed at Brize Norton to lowering skies and pouring rain—we were back home! Our sincere thanks to 9 Sig Regt who worked very hard indeed to make our stay so memorable.

RHINE ARMY WARMER

Each year at the beginning of the athletics season the OIC athletics, in this case **Maj Rod Dransfield,** arranges a trip to a Regiment in BAOR as a warmer into the bank for the College athletic season. This year a joint athletic/soccer trip was arranged to visit 7 Sig Regt and 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. 7 hosted the athletics team and 4 the soccer team. The College hired a civilian coach to take the whole party via Felixstowe-Zeebrugge to Herford. Half the cost of the trip was met by the apprentices and half by PRI. The athletics party consisted of 30 apprentices, OIC athletics and **Mr John Platford,** who denies that he was a competitor in the first Olympic Games.

The trip was arranged to take place during the College Easter leave and therefore all the apprentices who joined the trip were volunteers and not necessarily the best athletes. However a triangular match was arranged between 7, 4 and ourselves. The standard was a little too high for some of our gladiators and we came third in the competition. 7 and 4 fiercely competed for the honours only to finish with 39 points each. The competition dispensed with, we continued to hold training sessions in between the functions arranged by our hosts. Apart from the athletics, the trip was a valuable insight for the apprentices into life in BAOR and I'm sure that, in their short stay, the confidence and knowledge gained will benefit them when they graduate from the College.

THANK YOU

Thanks from the College go to our hosts 7 Sig Regt who extended a warm and friendly welcome and proved that nothing was too much trouble for them. Even when our civilian coach broke down three times and was eventually abandoned on the Autobahn, the helping hand from 7 was always there. Particular thanks go to **Maj Mike McCann, Capt Colin Stephens** and **Lt Colin Lawrence.**

SOCCER SQUAD IN HERFORD

This, being the first overseas trip made by a College soccer team was in the main an experiment. The object being to establish friendly relations with both military units and local German youth teams. 4 Div HQ & Sig Regt were our hosts and we arrived in Herford on 19 April.

Our first match was against our host unit who were reputed to be a strong side. In a fast flowing game we lost 5-2 but were not disgraced. The whole team fought well with special praise going to **ATs Dave Bourne** and **Steve Hodgson** who scored magnificent goals. Saturday was a day off for the squad who spent it sight-seeing and shopping in Herford. The next day was the big one for us, having a fixture against SV Sundern, a German youth team. This was the one we really wanted to win and to establish friendly relations with the German youths. The team played well and had a comfortable 5-0 victory. After the game we were shown great hospitality by the Germans and a splendid time was had by all.

On our last day in BAOR we had our final fixture versus 7 Sig Regt. We were by now tired and certainly didn't play up to our potential. To make matters even worse we lost our captain, **AT Sgt Paul Skeith,** in the first half through injury. Although losing by three goals to nil, we didn't think the result reflected the amount of effort put in by the College. The trip was enjoyed by all. Thanks to **Mr Ken Purcell,** the tour organiser, and a special thanks to our hosts for looking after us so well.

MARCH AND SHOOT

It has been a long time since Bradley Sqn could celebrate victory in this, probably the most prestigious of College competitions. It was as long ago as the Winter Term of 1975 when they last carried off the trophy (their only previous win!). A very steady all round performance is required and Bradley achieved an easy victory in the end by some excellent shooting, obtaining the maximum score. Congratulations to the team and in particular to **Sgt 'Chippy' Woods** who has tried so hard in terms past and in this his 'senior' term he at last made it.

SQUASH

The College entered a team in the Army Junior Championships at Aldershot in February. The College was represented by **AT LCpl Paul Slater, AT LCpl Nick Ranier** and **AT John Roose.** The team put up a splendid performance and, in the under-19 team competition, finished as runners-up to the Royal Engineers from Cove. In the under-19 Individual Championship **AT John Roose** fought his way through to be beaten in the final by the favourite for the Junior title.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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Signals Branch, HQ Land Forces Cyprus

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF TO CYPRUS 1-4 MAY 1979

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson,** visited Royal Signals units in Cyprus between 1-4 May 1979. After first calling on the Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Maj Gen W. R. Taylor,** and being briefed by the staff of HQ Land Forces Cyprus at Episkopi, **Maj Gen Anderson,** accompanied by the CR Signals, **Lt Col D. S. Mullineaux,** set off by helicopter across the Troodos Mountains to 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP) at Nicosia.

254 SIG SQN (UNFICYP)

The SO in C was met on arrival by **Col P. F. B. Hargrave OBE,** the Commander of the British Contingent of UNFICYP, and OC 254 Sig Sqn, **Maj Dick Hood.** He then inspected a Guard of Honour commanded by **Sgt Bill Pounder** and made up of 4 British and 4 Canadian signallers, emphasising straight away the international status of the Headquarters.



The SO in C inspects the Guard of Honour at 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP). *Left to Right:* Sgt Bill Pounder (Guard Comd), SO in C, Cpl Chris Riley, Pte Ray Jarvis, Pte Kim Crawford

After a briefing on the unit's organisation and role, the SO in C toured the Squadron lines and talked to all the soldiers he met. The line store was the scene of a full and frank exchange of views with **Cpl Joe Malloy** and **Sig Mick Currill!** This was followed by a visit to the Mercury Club, where the SO in C was met by the PMC, **Cpl Mal Metcalfe,** and introduced to those soldiers he had not already met.

Finally, the SO in C had lunch with the Officers, WO's and SNCOs and their wives hosted by **Col** and **Mrs Hargraves** in their residence—overlooked at a range of 50 yards by a Turkish goon box.

The SO in C returned to Episkopi in a helicopter of the UN, overflying the UN patrolled buffer zone separating the Turkish controlled and Greek controlled parts of the island. That evening he attended a Cocktail Party and barbecue supper at Episkopi.

9 SIG REGT

Wednesday 2 May saw the SO in C setting off early, again by helicopter, to the Eastern end of the island where he spent the day



The SO in C in the Commcen at 254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP) chatting to Sgt Knaggs. Also in the picture are WO2 (YofS) Stuart Kitson, Maj Dick Hood, Capt John Macleod, and LCpl Ray Briggs

visiting 9 Sig Regt at Ayios Nikolaos. That evening he attended a Ladies Dinner Night in the Officers Mess of the regiment.

FSS Cape Greco

Continuing his whistle stop tour on Thursday 5 May, **Maj Gen Anderson** flew to the South East tip of the island and visited the Forward Scatter Site at Cape Greco, where he was met and shown round by **WO2 (FofS) Brian Carter.** From there it was another short helicopter flight to Dhekelia Garrison where the SO in C first of all visited 262 Sig Sqn.

262 Sig Sqn

Although his visit was fairly brief, he managed to meet the majority of the Squadron at their place of work, which is an achievement that even the OC, **Maj Mike Martin,** has not yet managed to accomplish. After meeting the SHQ personnel; 21C, **Capt George Carmichael,** Chief Clerk, **Sgt Charlie Donnelly,** and Acting (for the day only) SSM, **SSgt Martin Davis,** the SO in C met the technicians who maintain the Dhekelia Exchange, **F of S Jack Horner, Sgts Pete Grist** and **Ian Underhill.** The next port of call was the MT yard, to meet Field Troop comprising Telemechs, RTg and Cbt Dvrs, not forgetting one Cbt Pmn, **LCpl Frankie D'Souza.** When the SO in C met **LCpl Willy McLay,** it was hard to decide who was the most surprised, the SO in C at meeting such a small lineman or **'Wee Willy'** at meeting such a tall General. Despite the mismatch in levels, communications were good.

The entourage then visited the Commcen where a small, but invaluable bunch of WRAC work. After the Commcen the SO in C was introduced to the 'other half' of the Squadron, namely the wives, in the Squadron club. After spending some time having coffee with the ladies, he was whisked on to the Squadron's Tels Workshop, a joint venture with REME, where he met the Technicians working under **WO2 (FofS) John McIlree.**



The SO in C with some of the wives of 262 Sig Sqn. *Left to Right:* SO in C, Chris Nowell, Alma Dale, Sheila Resoun, and Adrian Vaughan



Mismatch in levels. LCpl Willie McLay of 262 Sig Sqn asking the SO in C if it's tough at the top

BFBS

After visiting 262 Sig Sqn, the SO in C paid a quick visit to BFBS in Dhekelia where he toured the studios and recorded a short interview for a BFBS programme. From there it was down to the ranges in Dhekelia where the Near East Skill at Arms Meeting was in its final day. **Maj Gen Anderson** was able to talk to the teams from all the Royal Signals units in Cyprus who had been competing, and he was very pleased to see the creditable results which they had achieved in the competition.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

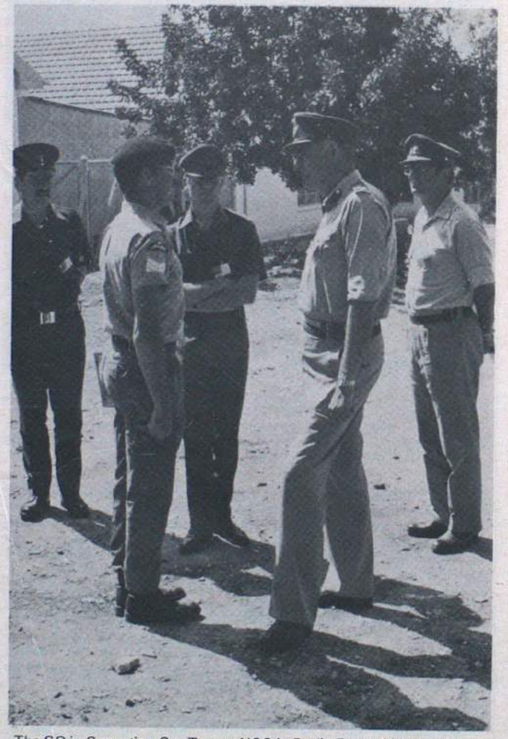
259 SIG SQN

After lunch at the ranges the show was on the move again, this time to Troodos, the home of Mountain Troops of 259 Sig Sqn. During his short visit the SO in C managed to see most of the communications on Troodos and Mt Olympus, and met a good number of the Mountain Men, including **F of S Frank Running** (the shortest but highest Foreman in the Corps?) and **Sig (look-no parachute) Bob Witherstone.**

The next day, Friday 4 May, back in Episkopi, the SO in C continued his tour of 259 Sig Sqn. He was first of all briefed on the Squadron by the OC, **Maj Mike Ridlington**, and then toured the Squadron lines. He was very impressed with our new toy, the Simonslift 'Cherrypicker', noting that the NCO in charge, **Sgt Dave Belshaw**, kept his hard hat firmly on his head and his feet firmly on the ground. After being briefed on our replacement radio relay system by **Sgt Mick Buckley** of the CPA installation team, and having listened attentively to **Maj (TOT) Ken West's** views on manpower problems and the Corps Trade Structure, he penetrated the QM's Compound (thereby disproving **RQMS Peter Skinner's** theory that it is a place always avoided by senior officers) where he met, amongst others, driver **LCpl Keith Evans—SO in C:** 'How do you manage to travel off duty in Cyprus?' **LCpl Evans:** 'Oh, I fix transport, one way or the other, Sir'.

His last port of call before embarking for UK was Airfield Troop, most of whom were, as usual, down holes or up poles doing their thing. **SO in C:** 'I bet you lose a lot of balls on the windy Akrotiri Golf Course'. **SSgt Mick Raybould:** 'Not if you're a good player, Sir'.

It had been a full and intensive visit during which the Signal Officer-in-Chief had managed to see just about all of the Corps's activities in Cyprus, and had met and talked to a large number of Royal Signals soldiers on the island.



The SO in C meeting Sgt Tovey, NCO in Radio Dets of 259 Sig Sqn

THE WHITE HELMETS

INTO THE SEASON

The Opening Show is over. The Team has drunk the champagne and has now settled into the season. The Opening Show was marred by **Cpl Fred Alexander** being badly injured during the morning. Happily he is now fit and once more riding with the team.

THE CHALLENGE

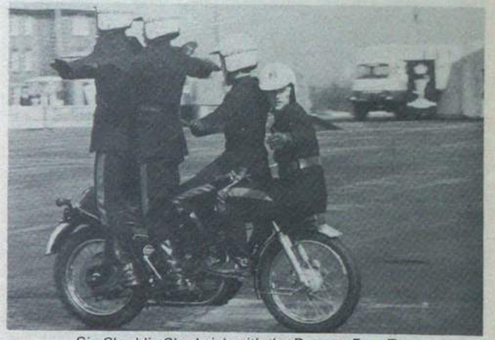
Already we are looking towards the end of the season and our next selection course, and so a word about the riders. All team members are fully qualified Royal Signals tradesmen of any trade. All must be fit, possessed of physical courage and a sense of adventure. Many team members had never ridden a motorcycle prior to coming to the team but this is no hindrance. A tour with the White Helmets offers the opportunity of adventure, travel, comradeship, new skills and the opportunity to learn motorcycle mechanics, acquire an HGV Class 1 licence or a Public Services Vehicle Licence. Opportunities also exist for promotion and qualification within the team (during 1978 there were three Lance Corporals promoted to Corporal and four Signalmen promoted to Lance Corporal). Many team members attend upgrading courses whilst with the team. The team takes part in many motorcycle trials competitions and in the recent North East District Motorcycle trials White Helmets A and B teams came first and second respectively.

THE WAY

Volunteers for the November 1979 Selection Course should forward their names through Chief Clerks to Royal Signals Manning and Records.



Sig Phil Lythgoe being presented with his White Helmet by Commander Training Group



Sig Chaddie Chadwick with the Reverse Four Tees



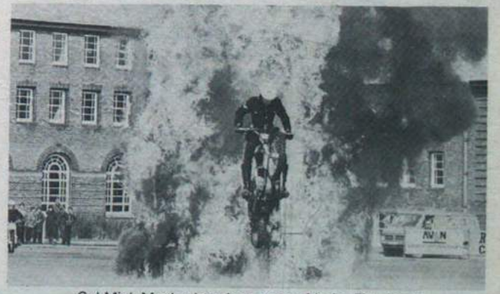
Sig Chris Blake on top of the standing trick



Two tons of teamwork — The Pyramid



Sig Bruno Brown and Neville Hanley in the Reverse Ride



Cpl Mick Mosley keeping warm with the Fire Jump

Qatar Armed Forces Signal Unit

BACKGROUND

Since this is the first article to appear in The Wire from our unit, a few words first in explanation. Qatar is a small State in the Arabian Gulf quite close to Bahrain. It depends on oil for most of its revenue. It has been independent since 1971 and has its own Armed Forces.

Royal Signals began its connection with the Qatar Armed Forces when **Lt Col Peter Buchanan, OBE,** was appointed to command the Force Signal Unit in July 1974. Soon afterwards he was joined by a Foreman, **WO2 Ken McRae,** and a Yeoman, **SSgt Mike Davidson,** and their families. Both were granted local commissioned rank in the Qatar Armed Forces as have their successors.

Lt Col Hamish Mackinlay assumed command of the Unit in September 1976 and other changes brought us **WO1 Trevor Spence** as Foreman and **WO1 Kevin Donaldson** as Yeoman. **Kevin** has now been succeeded by **WO1 Brian Rice, BEM.**

We also have in our team **WO1 John Todd, REME,** commanding our Regimental Telecoms Workshop as well as a small Royal Naval detachment serving with the Qatar Sea Arm.

VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO QATAR

A great highlight in our lives was the two day visit to Qatar of **Her Majesty The Queen** and **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** during their recent Gulf tour. The Qatari authorities had arranged a very hectic programme where every minute counted. All the loan servicemen in Qatar were heavily involved, both in the preparations for the visit and also in the execution of the programme.

For some time prior to the visit **Lt Col Hamish Mackinlay** who acted as co-ordinator between many of the Qatari Government departments and the British Embassy spent most of his day speeding from one meeting to another. As the final day approached he could be heard muttering 'flexibility, that's the key' as yet another alteration to seating arrangements or the such happened. The standard conversation became:

'Brian.'

'Yes, Sir.'

'You know that route plan and car seating list you've just finished for Move 15.'

'Yes, Sir.'

'Well scrap it, there's been another change.'

Exit **B. Rice** muttering.

The programme included visits by **Her Majesty The Queen** to the National Museum, a desert picnic, the new General Hospital and the Gulf Race meeting. **Her Majesty** also opened the new English Speaking School and made a walkabout amongst the British community present. **HH The Emir** gave a dinner on the first night and **The Queen** reciprocated the following evening on HM Yacht Britannia berthed in Doha harbour.

On the great day, **Brian Rice** and **John Todd** were responsible among other things for ensuring that a Royal Standard flew at each of the sites visited by **Her Majesty The Queen.** The idea was that they should leap frog each other from site to site. Theoretically they should not have met—ah, well, one can't have everything!

Meanwhile the CO and **Trevor Spence,** who acted as ADC to HE The British Ambassador during the visit, were busy on the quayside awaiting the arrival of HMY Britannia and helping to organise the official cars much to the disgust of the bedouin drivers who each wanted the honour of being first behind the Royal Rolls Royce. On reflection one wonders if it was all worth while as the motorcade took off in a manner akin to the start at Le Mans with Mercedes all over the place. We quickly learnt and that afternoon put all the cars in a large shed and locked them in, taking them out only as required.

Before lunch on the first day **Her Majesty The Queen** visited the British Embassy Residence where those presented included all Loan servicemen and their wives.

The remainder of the visit for us passed in a whirl of motorcades, walks and visits, but at the end it was all a resounding success. The visit ended with a Reception on board HMY Britannia and a ceremony of Beating Retreat by the Band of the Royal Marines on the quayside. Again all Loan servicemen and their wives attended. As the ceremony ended the guests left the ship and joined the waiting crowd to cheer **The Queen** and **The Duke,** waving from the rail. Against a background of fireworks, Britannia slipped her moorings while the band, now safely back on deck played her out to sea on a tide of affection. We waved goodbye with regret and turned for home looking forward to a much needed day off.



THE QUEEN AT THE EMBASSY

From the left: Mrs Val Spence, WO1 Trevor Spence, Mrs Christine Rice, WO1 Brian Rice, Mrs Gwen Todd, WO1 John Todd, Mrs Sini Haines, Mr David Haines (British Council), Mrs Marie-Jeanne Jefferson. HM Ambassador accompanies the Queen



WO1 BRIAN RICE IS PRESENTED TO HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

from the left: WO1 Trevor Spence, Mrs Val Spence, WO1 Brian Rice, Mrs Christine Rice, WO1 John Todd. Mrs Jean Brant is accompanying the Duke



Lt Col Hamish Mackinlay after receiving the MVO with his wife Elspeth

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Just before the Reception, **The Queen** bade farewell on board Britannia and thanked personally many of those who had worked so hard to organise the visit. She conferred the Membership of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO 4th class) on **Lt Col Hamish Mackinlay.** She also conferred the CVO on HE The British Ambassador, **Colin Brant,** and the MVO on **Mr Edward Mohan** of the British Embassy.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Lt Col Gordon Barnett, MBE, is our new commanding officer having recently taken over from **Lt Col Hamish Mackinlay, MVO,** who is leaving us for a chair in Whitehall. To **Gordon** and **Carole** we say welcome with every hope that their stay in Qatar will be a happy one and to **Hamish** and **Elspeth** we say farewell.



CHANGE OF COMMAND

Lt Col Gordon Barnett receives the keys of his office from Lt Col Hamish Mackinlay

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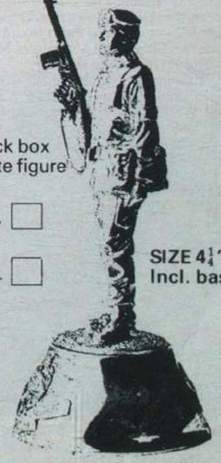
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News from Regiments

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

ARMY SOLDIER MAGAZINE SQUASH RACKETS CHALLENGE CUP

THE TEAM

The Squash Team consisted of three players from the Signal Regiment and two from the Headquarters and throughout the year regular evening games and matches were played undisrupted by the hard winter. We were all very keen to win as we realised that the chances of our side being together another time were very slim. During the practice sessions there were many challenge matches to find the final team order, and after a series of changes the team was:

No. 1 ..... Capt N. H. Stewart R Signals
No. 2 ..... Maj C. S. Faith RA
No. 3 ..... Maj S. Denham ACC
No. 4 ..... Capt J. M. Shaw R Signals
No. 5 ..... WO2 W. V. Miles R Signals

The semi-final of the BAOR section was played against 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt at Verden. The team looked very sharp and had no difficulty in defeating them, without dropping a game.

THE BAOR FINAL

A confident and fit side were then pitted against their old rivals, HQ 1 BR Corps at Bielefeld, who defeated them last year. Their team was largely unchanged and full of experience and cunning: one Brigadier, three Colonels and a WO1. The No. 5 and 4 strings started with **WO2 Miles** winning a hard fought but decisive match against his old rival **Brig Hellier. Capt Shaw** was shown the skill and cunning of **Col Plewman** who never let him settle and won convincingly. One all. **Maj Denham** lost a hard fought and exciting match against **Col Payne** and **Capt Stewart** had no trouble beating **WO1 Linnane.** Two all. **Maj Faith,** perhaps the keenest of all our side to win, clinched the fifth match, taking the ball early and giving **Col Jones** little chance.

The team had won the BAOR Final and now waited to see who they would play from UK.

THE FINAL CHALLENGE

It seemed inevitable that the winning team would be 1 RHA as it would mean that **Capt Stewart** would play his Scottish and Army team mate **Capt Wilson** and **Maj Faith** would play his younger brother **Capt Faith.** The remaining 1RHA side were **Maj Smith** at No. 3, **Maj Fowler** at No. 4, and **WO2 Tarling** at No. 5.

BAOR hosted the match which was played on neutral courts at Minden on Sunday 5 April. The No. 5 and 4 strings began and it was clear that **WO2 Miles** would win comfortably. However next door a hard and close match was being fought. **Capt Shaw** was moving quickly and taking the—ball well, while **Maj Fowler** controlled the ball using every corner of the court. The constant turning and chasing proved too much for **Capt Shaw** who eventually went down after a good battle. **Maj Smith** was sharp, and played telling short drops and deceiving cross-courts which always had **Maj Denham** in trouble and he was never allowed to settle. The battle between the two brothers showed that **Maj Faith** was prepared, sharp and aggressive. His brother looked slow and made mistakes, and no mercy was shown as **Maj Faith** carved him up for the loss of only four points. The match stood at two all and it seemed fitting that the No. 1's should meet for the final match. The results of a seasons squash had put **Capt Wilson** at No. 1 for Scotland and No. 3 for the Army, whereas **Capt Stewart** was No. 3 for Scotland and No. 2 for the Army. The games were long and the rallies pushed each player very hard with frequent changes of service. The balance changed first in favour of one and then the other to make one game all. The third was very close with **Capt Stewart** just edging in 10-8, having fought back from 8-6 down. The fourth started with **Capt Stewart** increasing the pace, going into an early lead. **Capt Wilson** clawed his way back from 7-2 down to 7-6 looking steadier and more controlled. However, **Capt Stewart** managed two short sharp rallies to end the game and clinch the match. It was one of the best finals in years and closely contested throughout.

ARMY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

A year's devotion to the struggle for perfection, finally had its pay off when our cross country team just beat into second place our arch rivals 21 Sig Regt who had run us into second place in the BAOR Finals just before Christmas. For some people this BAOR failure had been anti-climactic after the splendid victories of earlier months. The team though were not daunted and, under the captaincy of **Sgt G. Holden, BEM,** and the eagle eye of our **RSM, Mr Young,** threw themselves into a frenzied round of training to reach a peak of fitness by the fateful day in February (in the meantime of course fulfilling our normal round of exercise commitments). The following account by two of the team members, **Sig Weston** and **LCpl Bailey,** illustrates how close a run contest it was between ourselves and 21 Sig Regt.

THE DAY

After months of self-sacrifice and gruelling training the day we had all been waiting for had finally arrived, the Army Cross Country Championships at Tweseldown Race Course, Aldershot. The course consisted of three laps of two and a quarter miles each of undulating countryside. The weather was perfect, the ground firm, so the scene was set for one of the closest races in the Championship's history.

THE START

At last the start. 229 competitors poised for the off. The first mile was spent jockeying for position and settling down to a comfortable pace. There was a sense of relief to know that the waiting was over and the attack on the cup could commence. 21 Sig Regt were our main rivals, so the team strategy was to try and overtake any yellow jersey in sight. They turned out to be formidable opponents.

The first lap completed, everyone had settled down and the race was on with a vengeance. The tough training prior to the race was an obvious asset as the course was very testing with the hills and ditches stretching the muscles to breaking point. The anxiety of not knowing how the remainder of the team was doing drove us on with the knowledge that every man overtaken was crucial to victory.

THE CRITICAL RUN IN

Finally, the 600 metre run in on the race course which was lined with spectators shouting words of encouragement to their respective teams. **Sgt George Holden, BEM,** the team captain, stressed the importance of sprinting the last 400 metres and to overtake as many competitors as possible. This proved decisive as every member of the team made up places in the run in. **Sig Mick Weston** whose actual place did not count due to him being our 10th man did however contribute to the victory (as all the team did) by sprinting past the eighth 21 Sig Regt team member pushing him back one place and so ensuring a win for the unit by one point. **Sgt George Holden, BEM,** who sprinted back down the field after finishing no doubt reminded **Sig Mick Weston** of his responsibilities. Congratulations to **Sig Paul Coombs** for achieving third place in the Army Junior Championship. His overall position of 42nd out of 229 was creditable indeed.

There were 107 competitors in the major unit final. The individual placings were as follows: **Sgt George Holden BEM 4th, Sig Tich Little 7th, Sig John Boyes 9th, LCpl Mal Taylor 10th, LCpl Bill Bailey 14th, Cpl Gaz Wilson 15th, SSI Bob Duncan 17th, Sig Jim Brebner 21st, Sig Doug Martin 24th, Sig Mick Weston 29th.**

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

BADMINTON FINALS

After another successful season in our Divisional League, the Regimental team as winners (again) went forward on 31 March, 1979, to play in the BAOR Finals at Bielefeld. In our half of the pool of teams we met our match in HQ 1 (BR) Corps, and finished runners-up to them, but on the strength of this we went forward to the semi-finals where we played the winners of the other group (4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) who to our misfortune had a fair selection of Corps players in their squad and after some hard fought games put us out of the competition, at the semi-final stage.

INTER-CORPS MATCH ON 3 APRIL, 1979

On Tuesday, 3 April, we hosted at Verden a triangular Corps match between the RAOC, the RCT and the Corps. The RCT were knocked out in the first round losing 6-3 to both ourselves and the RAOC. In the hard fought final the RAOC just pipped us to win 5-4.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

On 2 March the SSAFA Sister on behalf of Verden Station accepted the very expensive looking wheelchair from the Verden 'Buffs'. The Verden Lodge had raised approximately DM 1,000 from within their own group by individual contributions. In the photograph from left to right we have: **Cpl Barry Bontoff, LCpl Lawson-Short, SSgt Mick Goatley, Sig Dave Bagshaw, Tpr Taff Thomas, Cpl Bob Wilson, LCpl Dinger bell, Sgt John Harris, Sig Dominic Sheridan** and seated in the chair is our hard working SSAFA Sister, **Mrs Jean Baker.**



FOUR STAR DINING COMES TO THE JUNIOR RANKS RESTAURANT

BAOR's newest Junior Ranks Restaurant was opened at Verden on Thursday, 15 February. The restaurant is in Caithness Barracks, home of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The new restaurant, which cost nearly DM 2,000,000 to build and equip, was opened by the GOC 1 Armd Div, **Maj Gen R. G. Lawson, DSO OBE,** who unveiled a commemorative plaque in the entrance hall.



The Dining Area of the New Junior Ranks Restaurant

SGT GEORGE HOLDEN, BEM

For services to sport in the British Army, especially for his dedication to long distance running and athletics coaching, **Sgt George Holden** (38), has been awarded the British Empire Medal. The presentation was made by the British Ambassador at Bonn, **Sir Oliver Wright.**

As an outstanding athlete, **George** won the North Germany and Niedersachsen 1977 Marathon at his first attempt. In February this year he was the first man home for the Regiment when it won the Army Cross Country Championship.

He is also noted for the assistance he gives in the running of Station Youth Club activities.



AROUND THE REGIMENT— A PHOTO REPORT



Lt Col P. R. Davies CO 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt with Obt (Lt Col) H. Boehr CO Femmeldebataillon 1 during a recent visit to Hannover where the new German Autoko-system was demonstrated to a party of R Signals Officers. (Autoko-System is similar to the Bruin System)



A little PR, troops in Verden town centre helping the Stadt during the February blizzards



'All Work and No Play' even in the middle of the gruelling Exercise Spring Rites. The off duty shifts managed a few friendly games of murder ball, to keep their circulation going



WO1 (YofS) Tony Whydell (Soltau District Scouts Treasurer) present the District Commissioner Maj Gordon Howard with a Lüneburger Plate, on behalf of all Soltau District Cubs and Scouts. We wish Gordon all the best in his new post in Ashford, Kent

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

EXERCISE HARD NUT—'SURVIVE TO COMMUNICATE'

It was not yet 4 am on Monday, 23 April, and still dark, when the Regimental Orderly Officer received the orders to stand to. There was a note of urgency in the G2's voice.

The call out was not entirely unexpected. The Western World had experienced a growing uneasiness in the preceding weeks. The Orderly Officer, **Capt Mike Fisher** took command of the situation as though this was only another field training exercise.

It was 0545z, St George's Day. The Div HQ and Sig Regt was mobile, to a vehicle, to a man. No packet Commander knew his final destination, just a release point. **Capt Jack Wraith, MBE,** put down his map and lit another cigar. Behind him his new command, an armoured divisional Headquarters, unprecedented in BAOR, travelled down the Autobahn. Although newly formed, his men were hand picked for the role, but the nagging doubts would not stop. All those hours of preparation and briefing, would they be sufficient when the first wave of Fitters' struck the column?

CCR Signals had personally agreed to a full Corps deployment utilising the newly issued HF Clansman Equipment. Using a simple, but totally illogical code, the Regiment quietly passed through checkpoint X-Ray—the system was working.

The RSM. **WO1 Frank Worrall** worked feverishly here, issuing the Initial War Reserve of Ammunition. He was only days away from Commissioning, and yet he was the first to know that the Pomp and Ceremony would have to go by the board.

The release point loomed up. To the North was -----, to the South the ---- Gap, only 15 Kilometres from the --------. We all knew exactly where we were **Maj Bill Backhouse** leapt from his lead FFR and liaised with an officer of the V US Corps covering force. The 11th Cavalry had been assigned to see Divisional Main Headquarters into their initial war location. The area had been swept, but just then the ominous whistle of chopper blades interrupted the discussion. Could it be a lone Sikorsky Blackhawk, so easily mistaken for our own Lynx. Its XM35 20mm Cannon blazed. Our two lead vehicles were destroyed.



Credible or incredible? Fiction or fact? The question is always open to debate. The reality of any potential situation is hard to perceive, let alone practise, train for. The aim of Exercise *Hard Nut* was just this; to prove to a youthful professional Regiment that in order to communicate, you have to survive. The initial briefing, given by **Maj 'The Jolly Green Giant' Almonds,** now CO of 22 Sig Regt, summed up the aim of the Exercise in one chore phrase Gentlemen, your job is to fight, to fight to survive, to fight to survive to communicate—never forget it!'



'Halt—Advance One' Cpl Clarkson of 2 Sqn, entrenched at alternate Headquarters



The GOC at Alternate HQ. Maj Gen R. M. H. Vickers MVO OBE questions SSgt Sreeves, the CO, Lt Col Bob Cook (*left*) and Capt Jack Wraith look on



The Adjutant, Capt Arthur Merrick, the CO, Lt Col Bob Cook and the RSM, WO1 Frank Worrall prepare for the next phase



'Every war has an enemy'. Our indebted thanks to the 10 man section of 132 Jaeger Kommando unit who affectionately earned the title of 'The Jaeger Schnitzels' after 32 attacks, patrols and ambushes directed against the Regiment



'Blame Mr Coulthard' Tech control, Commcen Hotel suffers the indignation (and wrath) of a passing Task Force Panzer. Poor Sgt Clifton!



'The Irish Gnome' 4 Div Sig Regt have a good line in gnomes, this version by Cpl Paddy Dalton

ELECTRONIC WARFARE STUDY DAY

The Regiment recently held an Electronic Warfare Study Day which was attended by CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** his staff and Officers and SNCOs, of the Regiment and Divisional Units. Apart from the wealth of experience and knowledge on EW already possessed by the 4th Division, presentations were given by the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, the Royal Signals Radar Establishment and 14 (EW) Sig Regt. The three outside agencies provided static displays covering in service equipment (14 (EW) Sig Regt), future developments (RSRE) and a demonstration of modern EW techniques (RMCS).

Finally the Commanding Officer led a discussion on the problems and difficulties the 4th Division might face at war. In this he was directed by the knowledge and experience of **Dr P. R. Whittlestone** and **Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay,** R Signals of RSRE, and **Maj M. T. Milmanow,** US Army, of 14 (EW) Sig Regt.

SPORTS

The Regiment has been successful in so many sports that the Commanding Officer is having another trophy cupboard built! We have had success in Athletics when we beat 7 Sig Regt and the Apprentice College Harrogate in a three cornered match. At divisional level we have captured the following firsts: rugby seven-a-side, squash, badminton and **SSgt Birney** lead a mainly SNCO team to victory in the first ever Divisional volleyball competition.

The Task Force Signal Troops and our LAD appear to have caught the soccer bug with some notable success. The LAD team won the Herford Garrison Football League and Cup while Task Force Golf took CCR Signals newly instituted Task Force Cup after a cliff hanging 5-3 in extra time against Task Force Echo.

Task Force Hotel took the more normal approach and ended up in the BAOR minor units finals.

In the Divisional Badminton Finals the Regiment took the team championships with 1 DWR coming in as runners-up. **LCpl Tom Pollard** beat **SSgt George Ferguson** in the final of the singles competition. However **SSgt Ferguson** gained his revenge when, partnered by **LCpl Andy Spargo,** they beat **LCpl Pollard** and his partner **Sig Jim Moore** in the final of the doubles competition. **Mrs Knox,** the wife of our intrepid TOT, won the ladies' plate competition.

The BAOR Canoe Slalom Championships took place on the same day as the Badminton Championships and was another success story for the Regiment. The big event of the day, the BAOR Open Championships, was won by **SSgt Bill White.** The BAOR team Championships was won yet again by the Regimental Team consisting of **SSgt Bill White, WO1 Dave Young** and **Cpl Andy Trivett. SSgt White** went on to compete in the Army Open and showed his true form by winning that too!

The Regiment now looks forward to successes in all summer events if we can find the time to compete!



SSgt Bill White showing the form which won him the BAOR and Army Open Championships

RECOGNITION OF ROYAL SIGNALS CLASS 1 TECHNICIANS BY THE TECHNICIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Technician Education Council (TEC) was set up in 1973 by the Secretary of State for Education and Science to provide a national system of technician education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A related but similar body was set up for Scotland.

As a result of the work of TEC since 1973, existing National Certificates and Diplomas (ONC's, OND's, HNC' etc) and City and Guilds of London Institute Technician Qualifications are being phased out and will be replaced in the early 1980s by TEC awards which consist of:

Higher Diplomas
Higher Certificates
Diplomas
Certificates

In due course the only nationally recognised technician academic qualifications will be those awarded by TEC. The possession of one of these new qualifications is **not a licence** indicating that the holder is a fully competent practical technician at a particular level. **Possession does indicate** that the holder has followed a proper programme of technical education and that he (or she) has reached the standards approved by TEC. Depending upon the nature of the job, employers in the future will be specifying that applicants must possess appropriate experience and training with evidence of **adequate technical education.** Possession of a TEC award will be the only way of providing this evidence.

In 1978 over 400 Colleges in UK were running more than 200 TEC programmes covering the entire field of engineering and many more are scheduled to start in 1979/80.

The **Technician Education Council** has now recognised the total educational content of the course attended by a Royal Signals Class 1 Technician (who also possesses the other mandatory qualifications for promotion to Sergeant) for the automatic award of **'A Diploma in Electronics and Communications Engineering'.** Provision has also been made for the award of **' Certificate in Communications Engineering'** to Technicians who only satisfactorily complete parts of the Class 1 Course.

It is planned that these awards will be made to technicians who start their Class 1 Course at 8 Signal Regiment from September 1979 onwards. At the same time the currently awarded certificates of exemption from City and Guilds Course 271 examinations will cease to be issued.

It is important to note that these new awards are not 'better' or 'higher' than the ones that they replace. They are different in the fact that they indicate a broad based technical educational background, to a standard approved by a national body that has been set up for this purpose.

The new awards are not retrospective. City and Guilds Certificates and National Certificates awarded prior to TEC qualifications will continue to keep their standing for a long time into the future.

GOOD NEWS! The Ministry of Defence will pay all fees connected with the Technician Education Council Awards!

FINAL OF THE ARMY SEVEN-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS
8 Sig Regt 20 v 1 Royal Regiment of Wales 4

The interesting point about this final was the fact that these two Units met in the final of the UK section of the Major Unit Rugby 'Army Cup' only eight weeks previously, on that occasion RRW won narrowly 6-3. Could the Signallers from Catterick 'turn the tables'? Certainly they had a skillful sevens combination, equally as powerful as the RRW. The RRW started off terribly, when in possession they passed the ball in the most novice un-rugby like fashion, lobbing it from man to man. The Signallers could not believe their luck, and grabbed an interception to run in a gift try through Fraser only 30 seconds into the match. **Jeffreys** missed the conversion 4-0. RRW came back three minutes later and from the Signals line, the ball moved left for **Ahearne** to score in the left corner, **Rees** missed the conversion 4-4. **Lytollis** made a glorious break through the middle after a passing movement started from a tap penalty, and he scored right in the middle, **Jeffreys** converted 10-4. Right on half-time **Lytollis** once again made a breakthrough to score in precisely the same place, the try again being converted 16-4. The score became 20-4 when **Shillito** ran in a try to the right of the posts after five minutes, the kick—an easy one— was missed. 8 Signals kept possession for most of the remaining five minutes, and even when RRW regained the ball their passing was pathetic. So 8 Signals became very worthy 'Courage' Army Sevens Champions 1979.

Teams: 8 Sigs —Randle, Forster, Lytollis, Jeffrey, Shillito, Kessel, Davies
1 RRW—Williams, Edmunds, Ahearne, Rees, Rees, Withers, Edwards

Man of the competition was awarded to **Cpl Lytollis.** Prizes were presented by the Deputy President of the ARU **Maj Gen J. A. Ward-Booth,** GOC West Midland District and **Mr Colin Osbourne,** PR Manager of Courage Brewery Ltd.

A SAD LOSS

It is with deepest regret that I have to say that **Mr David McSkimming** died suddenly in hospital on Monday, 7 May, at the age of 63.

David was an Instructional Officer at 8 Sig Regt teaching Telecommunication Mechanics and Linemen, his forte being Underground construction work. He initially served with 2 Trg Regt in Mons Lines from 1952 until the amalgamation in 1962 with 1 Trg Regt. From 1962 to the present day he remained with this Regiment through the amalgamation with 24 Sig Regt teaching students in the areas of Marne, Loos and Vimy Lines.

David was an extrovert and a character in his own right, and he will be much better remembered to many thousands of students who passed through his very capable and expert hands as **Mac** or **Father.** He was such a likeable character and his expertise in his field, was very much admired and appreciated by the numerous students he taught to joint and plumb underground cables.

Mac's absence is a loss to his colleagues and his conversation and chat are greatly missed in the Radio/Line Group coffee room. He will undoubtedly be remembered and talked about for a very long time in the Corps, wherever Linemen and Tele Mechs assemble, because whenever one visited Regiments in the field enquiries were always made as to his well being and whereabouts.

I feel sure, I speak for many hundreds of Royal Signals tradesmen, past and present, when I extend our deepest sympathy to **Mac's** wife **Hilda** and say to her that her husband was a most reliable and respected member of 8 Sig Regt and also of the Corps of Royal Signals.

Don't be disappointed!

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1 SQUADRON (WILTON)

1 Sqn can safely boast March as coming in like a Lion and going out like a raging Elephant.

As usual the Squadron was heavily committed to *Wintex* and all concerned showed an extremely high level of enthusiasm and morale and thanks are warmly extended to all those who reinforced us during the exercise.

The population of 1 Squadron has fluctuated dramatically and we have been happy to welcome **Lt Stephanie Westall, YofS Steve Watson, YofS Brian Tranter, Sgt Keith Turner Howe, Cpl Dick Gigg, Cpl Lofty Lofts, LCpl Jacqui Olivier** and **Ptes Sultern, Phillips, Howes, Trudgett, Jones, Dyson, Geraghty** and **Archer.**

Sad farewells were said to: **YofS Len Green** to sunny Cyprus and the blue boys, **Cpl Bob Birse** to Civvy Street after 22 years, **LCpl Linda Johnstone** to Donnington on promotion, **Pte Carol Moore** on Marriage and **Pte Jillian Walker** to BAOR on promotion.

Roll on the Summer!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

It was decided that the personnel of 3 Squadron—all WRAC except the Squadron Commander, **Maj Patrick Templeman-Evans,** Traffic Officer, **Capt Peter Sharpe** and MTO NCO, **Cpl 'Tank' Fairbairn**—needed some outside activities. Exercise First Look was born.

EXERCISE FIRST LOOK (Report by Pte Shipp)

On Friday, 6 April at 0830 hours, 13 of us climbed on to a battered old minibus. We were heading for Exmoor National Park. We arrived there at 1430 hours to be greeted by **2Lt Garvey's** Mum. We were starving so we had something to eat, then we went for a walk around this beautiful reservoir, the setting was picturesque. There were flocks of birds landing on the water. We all took photographs. We then went to a farm which was mainly a sheep farm. We saw a lamb being born—although the sight of it all was enough to make you cringe we all could not take our eyes away. It was wonderful to watch, I've never seen anything in nature like the wonder of that. We then went back to the Guest House and I tried to make us an apple pie but it didn't turn out too well!

We all had a good night's sleep. The next day we went for a walk in the hills. We walked to the highest point in the area called Haddon Hill. It was very cold at the top with the fog coming in. We went to the little village of Dulverton at lunch time and bought post-cards.

On Sunday morning we went for a walk over the moors. It was cold but lovely—we went paddling with our boots on! We had to cross water but it was impossible to get through it any other way so . . . In the afternoon we went to the Coast at Porlock Weir. It was quite warm by then. We went for a walk to a trout farm on Monday morning. It was interesting the way they caught the trout and counted them. They had a large net with two great posts on either side, these two posts were placed in the water, one on either side of the pool with the net in between, then the men walked along the bank, the trout automatically got caught in the net. The two poles were then crossed and the fish lifted out and counted into large drums of water—easy isn't it! We went to the farm and had a taste of home-brewed cider which was quite nice. We decided to take a short cut back didn't we? **Cheryl Hawksworth** had bad feet and we were walking together, we got lost and it was quite frightening. Everyone had gone on and we were lost (as usual), and the fog was coming in. We left it to fate and they found us! It was all Sprout's and Pip's fault **(LCpls Laing** and **Davies)**, they go bombing along in the front and leave us behind. I'm not saying we're slow or lazy but . . .

We tidied up and had a good journey home.

I'll never forget that weekend—it was great.

CHICHESTER MARCH

Meanwhile back in the Aldershot area various persons were seen rushing round with maps in hand planning devious routes to public houses for the Squadron's training for the Chichester March. Our permanent volunteer to drive the minibus, **LCpl Phil Jefferson** has sadly been posted to Maidstone but in his place we welcome **Cpl Tank Fairbairn** (who doesn't yet know what is in store). Our intrepid bunch set off with **Pte Annette Jackson** to the fore, with cries of 'Follow me, I know where we are going' and 'Have we got the right map?'. The blood hounds followed, looking for the pub when only 100m (3 Sqn have gone metric) down the road. She was ably assisted by **Sgt Wendy Barton, Cpls Liz Maclean** and **Carol Hoban** and **Pte Jan Hulme** who helped (????). Due to a short cut, somehow skilfully engineered, the goal was reached a little earlier than anticipated. 3 Sqn in the guise of **Ptes Liz Maynard, Jean Charters** and **Heather Shipp** soon found the swings and roundabouts whilst **2Lt Nannette Wilson** grew visibly older and grey haired by the minute. By the time August comes round we will know the local area very well.

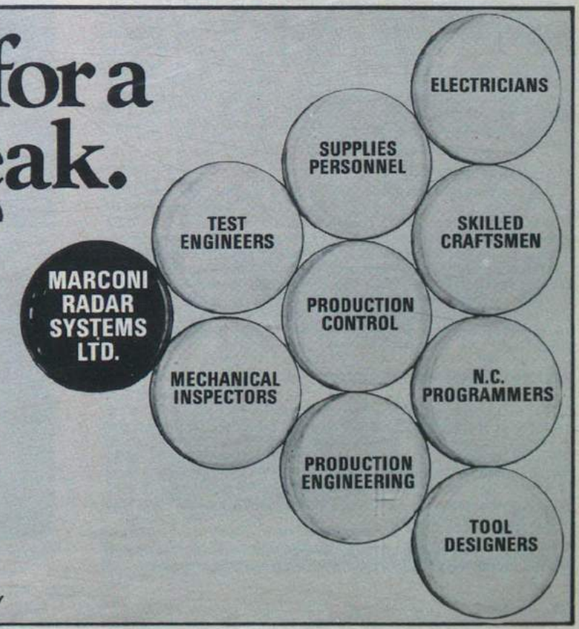
At the start of all this we were six foot tall, now we are pushed to make five foot four.

Your cue for a better break.

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

PRESENTATION OF A MERCURY STATUETTE TO THE ALL ARMS DRILL WING, PIRBRIGHT

THE PLAN

On 26 May, 1977, it was decided at the management committee meeting of the Royal Signals Sergeants Mess that a silver statuette of Mercury should be presented to the All Arms Drill Wing, Pirbright, to commemorate the many Corps Seniors who had passed through that establishment on the All Arms Drill Course. All Corps Warrant Officers and Sergeants were to be asked to donate 25p on a purely voluntary basis. **WO1 (RSM) G. M. Lumley,** who had recently arrived in 11 Sig Regt took on the task of organising the collection of funds and the commissioning of the statuette.

After many letters and visits to Garrards, a 10½ in figure of Mercury in sterling silver mounted on an onyx plinth was presented to **WO1 (RSM) J. France** of the All Arms Drill Wing, Pirbright, at the Royal Signals Regimental Sergeant Majors Convention Dinner night on Thursday, 10 May, 1979, in the Royal Signals Sergeants Mess.

THE DEED

Our picture shows **WO1 (RSM) G. M. Lumley** of 11 Sig Regt and President of the Royal Signals Sergeants Mess proudly presenting the silver 'Jimmy' to **WO1 (RSM) J. France.** The statuette cost £500 which was entirely raised by the contributions of the WOs and Sergeants Messes of the Corps.

THANK YOU

The following letter was received by the President of the Mess from The Commandant of the Guards Depot, Pirbright.



'I am writing to you as I understand that you have been responsible for arranging for the Presentation of the magnificent Piece of Silver to the All Arms Drill Wing. We are extremely grateful for your tremendous kindness and generosity.

It would be much appreciated if you could pass on our thanks to all Members of your Corps who so kindly contributed to the gift. I hope that we will continue to be of service to members of your Corps for many years to come.

Lt Col D. R. P. Lewis, Welsh Guards

Junior Signalman Wing

NEW ACTIVITY

Rowing was introduced as a new recreation at the beginning of the year. **WO2 Colin Easton**, who has been associated with the sport for many years, approached a local Rowing Club, The Tyne Amateur Rowing Club, and negotiated the use of the Club by a crew of Junior Signalmen who were to be trained and coached by him. A crew was selected from Ulster Troop, **JCpl Keith Wilkinson, Squad Leader Kevin McMillan, Squad Leader Tim Hopkins** and **JSig Andrew Carver**, which began training and was introduced to the sport in February, initially at weekends, and subsequently during the longer summer evenings.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

They have worked hard and, although no trophies have yet been won, they are now competent oarsmen with reasonable prospects of success in the future. **WO2 Easton** earned a little more individual success this season. He has represented the Army in the Joint Services Regatta for the last two years. This years event was held on the 13 May. The following day, as a member of a crew from Tyne Amateur Rowing Club, he won the Durham Wear Regatta. At the Joint Services Regatta, although not being successful as an individual in the Sculling event, he met two Royal Signals Officers from the RMCS Shrivenham, **Lt Steven Jones** and **Andy Ward**, who were narrowly beaten in the final of the Coxed pairs.

CALLING ALL OARSMEN FOR 1980

This small measure of 'off the cuff' success has prompted **WO2 Easton** to attempt to gather enough oarsmen from the Corps to attempt to enter next years JSR, with a Corps crew. We would be grateful therefore, if any Oarsmen who are interested would write to **WO2 Easton** with the following information. Name, Unit, Experience, Status (if any), Proximity of Rowing Facilities (if any), willingness to take active or administrative part in any Royal Signals Rowing Club that may result from this appeal.

PS We are delighted to learn that **WO2 Easton** won the Tynemouth Regatta Senior Section on 28 May 1979. Keep up the good work!



WO2 Colin Easton (*left*) with successful crew from Tyne A.R.C. after training session



Left to Right: Squad Leader Tim Hopkins, J/Sig Andrew Carver, J/Cpl Keith Wilkinson, Squad Leader Kevin McMillan

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

NEWS FROM BIRGELEN

Anyone who is posted to Birgelen in the near future will be glad to read that we have had the ARU on 3 May and they will be happy to note that we passed it after a very good inspection by the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin.**

We have been fortunate in being allowed to open up community centres in each of our quarter patches, which provide a place for families to meet, to play Bingo and also have a drink together. There has even been one opened up in Im Eichengrund where we have been allowed to use a substandard quarter. The picture shows the wife of the Commanding Officer, **Mrs Kathy Garton** opening the Bar of the centre in the new Birgelen quarters area, which is commonly called Legoland.

One recent arrival to the Regiment has been **Capt Brendon Hughes** who was swiftly followed by his Corps colours for orienteering and the picture shows him receiving them from the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col C. T. Garton.** And, on the subject of orienteering, our men's team put up a very creditable performance at the recent BAOR Championships, having qualified by winning the Rhine Army Championships, finishing third in BAOR which qualifies them for the army championships in June. **LCpl John Hutton** had a superb run at BAOR, finishing fourth overall, and it is due to his hard work and effort that the team was so well prepared. We must also congratulate our girls' team—who did better than the men! They not only won the Rhine Area Championship but also BAOR with **Cpl Jill Handford** taking first place. We wish both teams the best of luck at the army championship.

STOP PRESS: Both teams came 3rd in the Army Championship.



Mrs Kathy Garton opens the Bar in Mittlerer Weg Birgelen watched by Lt Col C. T. Garton and SSgt Anderson the estate warden



Capt Brendon Hughes receives his Corps colours for orienteering from the CO, Lt Col C. T. Garton

NEWS FROM 1 SQUADRON

This month we highlight one of the troops in shiny 1 Squadron. O Troop is commanded by **Capt (TFC) Geoff Powell** who arrived in February. Nobody really knew from whence he came but his bright anoraks, lighters and other accoutrements proudly advertising various oil companies, spark plugs, motor cycle chains, etc, and his persistence in calling 'The Troop' by the title 'The Team' soon gave him away. He has now got over his disappointment on signing for a number of '750's' and finding that his predecessor, **Maj (TFC) Rick Davidge** was not the owner of a bevy of motor cycles.

The Troop second-in-command is **WO1 (YofS) Harry Cooke** who manages to keep the Troop on the straight and narrow when he is not playing hockey, skiing, sailing or marching. The shop floor of the Troop is divided into four shifts, all data telegraphists, each commanded by a Sergeant. These Sergeants come in various shapes and sizes varying from **Sgt Bill (tropical fish and caravans) Witchard** through **Sgt Don (Troop golfer) Burns** and **Sgt Steve (I'm going RD) Swinfield** to **Sgt Stan (I'm easy) Shields.** The remainder of the Troop do the work and are well represented in the life of the Regiment in both social and sporting events with **YofS Harry Cooke, Cpl Larry Groom, LCpl Oggie Gregory, Sig Gaz Cullingworth** and when they're really pushed **Sig Taff Dale** at Rugby. **SSgt Tony Turner** our Troop Staff Sergeant and **Sgt Steve Swinfield** at Orienteering, **Sgt Don Burns** at golf, **Cpl Barney Stephens** at cricket and lastly our tame (sometimes) boxer, **LCpl Aza Hayes** who has been displaying his talents for the local Heinsberg Club and RAF Germany at Wildenrath, who have awarded him colours.

NIJMEGEN MARCH 1979

Without a doubt the most popular activity in the Troop is marching and the Troop has provided a fair proportion (work permitting of course) of the successful Regimental Marching Team at Nijmegen in 1977 and 1978 and this year a Troop team represented the Regiment for the third year in the Afcent International Marches. The Team travelled to Brunssum on Saturday, 12 May, in order to settle in and be ready for an early start to the 25 Km event the next morning. Well, we settled in very well and after viewing the sights of Brunssum's nightlife we were off at 0900 oblivious to the fact that the sun was about to make the mixed terrain of the Limburg desert like a scene from Beau Geste. Most eyes opened after the first 10 Km or so although most brains were still in neutral and it was only then that the regular marchers realised that those familiar hills on the third day at Nijmegen had been steepened, covered in sand and moved down for this occasion, a remarkable feat even for Afcent. Speaking of feet, **Sig Gaz Cullingworth** beat **Cpl Joe McKenzie** in the blister competition by 12 to six although **Joe** had the best grouping with three per foot complete with perfect spacing and positioning. **Sig Dave Carter** persisted in taking photos of everything and **SSgt (YofS) John Haycock, Cpl Mick McCue** and **Cpl Bill stack** had to have their bootlaces tied together to slow them down. **Sgt Stan Shields** and **Sig Jes Campbell** plodded along laughing at the CO's jokes (snivellers) and between puffs of the inevitable pipe **Capt Powell** brought us to a perfect halt on the correct foot (which is something the Adjutant, **Capt Jon Henderson,** hasn't yet managed in a dozen or so marches) at the end of an extremely enjoyable weekend. Thanks for looking after us must go to the organisers at Afcent and in particular **RSM Cathrae** of the UK delegation Support Unit who very kindly accommodated and fed us.

EXERCISE SPRINGAWAY 1979

During the period 2 to 12 April, the Squadron attended what used to be jokingly called 'Summer Camp', but which is now more realistically called Exercise *Springway*. The venue for this military training exercise was, as always Grobbendonk, an area not unknown to those who have attended Royal Signals Detachment Commanders courses at 13 Sig Regt. The purpose of the exercise was to give the shift working troops of the squadron over a period of two and a half days, the opportunity to brush up on their military skills and revive their lungs on some fresh, if not chilly, air.

On arrival at the training area in the afternoon, the troops were shown to their spacious accommodation, and then in the case of C Troop proceeded to have an uneven game of football, where the sides changed more than the rules. After an evening meal, the troops started the first of the military training lectures, which was first aid given by the able **Cpl 'Red Cross' Farrington,** after which the troops retired to the bar run by **LCpl Dave 'Mandingo' Craig.**

The next day after a six o'clock rise, a two mile run, and then breakfast, the military training started in earnest, with First Aid, NBC, Map Reading, Weapon Handling, and live firing TOETs. Later after the evening meal the troops were entertained by the training staff under

the supervision of **Yeoman John Haycock** giving a demonstration of an NBC suit change, where the Fullers Earth fell harder and faster than the snow a week earlier. Then it was to the bar again, but I think most retired to bed earlier than the previous night.

The last day consisted to yet again a six o'clock rise and another run, then the period everyone had been looking forward to, NBC training in a chemical environment. This consisted of eating and drinking drills, canister changing, and suit changing whilst the SSM, **WO2 Norman Valentine,** tried to light as many CS tablets as he could in the space of two hours. There were many cold sweats brought on by the partners of a suit change flashing sharp knives at each other's throats whilst trying to cut the old suit off. In the afternoon the last but not least event was the 'Log Race'. This consisted of a team carrying a log which looked like one of the masts stolen from HMS Victory, round an obstacle course against the clock. The most ingenious method of carrying the log was devised by **Red Rigley's** team, who carried the log in slings made of Puttees, which unfortunately resulted in **Sig Taff Canning** still only having one and a half puttees. The log race was won by the B Troop team led by **SSgt A. C. Thompson** who put in a time of 2 mins 14 secs. All that remained was the journey home, and I think that everyone is looking forward to next year's Exercise *Springway*!!!

SPORTS DAY

The Regimental Sports Day was very rewarding for the many members of the Squadron who had put in a lot of training for the events. Not only did the Squadron win the overall championship with nearly double the score of the other two Squadrons, but we also managed to win the athletics standards trophy. Amongst those who had excellent results were **Cpl Jock Douglas** who won the Standards overall. **SSgt Al Thompson** who was the team manager and winner of the hammer, **WO2 Rigley** who at the age of 38 managed to come second in the Long Jump, Triple Jump and the 110 metres hurdles, and **Cpl 'Bionic' Smith** who won the 100 metres, 200 metres and Long Jump.



Cpl 'Bionic' Smith makes a final effort at the finish of the 100 metres



LCpl Aza Hayes and LCpl David Cresswell battle to win the 800 metres. CCpl Aza Hayes finally succeeded



A satisfying moment as SSgt Al Thompson collects the Athletics cup from Mrs Garton

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

NEWS FROM H TROOP

As these notes are being written, H Troop finds itself deeply involved in preparations for the local Dorfwoche, which will take place in early July. The village councils in the area surrounding the Troop are organising a fair, which will last eight days, and since Anglo-German relations have always been good, we are naturally doing as much as possible to ensure success. The Troop's main responsibility lies in the organisation of a football tournament, but we will also be helping out in many of the other activities ranging from a disco for the local teenagers to an afternoon's entertainment for the pensioners.

The last few weeks have seen the lead up to the finals of our knock-out quiz 'Egg 'eads of H Troop", organised and run by **Capt Peter Ashford** and **Mike Scott.** Competition was fierce, but the Wives' Club team, **Sue Pryor, Sue Wilford** and **Sue Sales** eventually gained a well deserved first place.

Visits, as usual, have been numerous, the two most notable of which being a farewell visit by **Brig C. J. Popham,** and a chance for Troop members to meet the new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Garton** (and vice-versa, of course).

Lt Col Garton visited the Troop later for a second time, on the occasion of the Troop Spring Ball, accompanied by his wife **Kathy,** the **RSM WO1 Woods** and his wife **Valli** and the Assistant Adjutant, **Capt Sue Burwell.** The evening was an unqualified success, thanks mainly to the efforts of the Entertainments Committee, ably led by **Sgt Harry Reay,** and the Cabaret Committee under the direction of **WO2 (FofS) John Mellors** and the **SSM, Andy Evans.**

Since the last notes, we have said farewell to **Sgt Dave Morrison,** who has left the Army, **Ian** and **Sheila Langston** of BFES, who have gone to take up a teaching post in the UK and **Cpl Kieth Tarr.** They are shortly to be followed by **Capt Peter Ashford,** and **WO2 John Pryor,** who is leaving the Service. We welcome to H Troop **SSgt Arthur Verity, Sgt Pete Rogers, Cpl Steve Paige** and our new teachers, **Niel** and **Barbara Boden.** Our congratulations to **Sgt Taff Merchant** on his wedding in March, and to the Officer Commanding, **Capt Malcom Sinton** and his wife **Margaret** on the birth of their daughter, **Kate,** in April.

On the sporting front our football team playing in a local (German) league has gained promotion to the second division after only one season in the third. Although the Troop is registered as Dannenberg's fourth team it is a strictly all British affair and only having 14 football playing members in the unit does not appear to have proved a handicap having lost only two games out of a total of 16 matches.

The troop has also won the Dannenberg Area Football Tournament organised by the international tyre firm, Conti, beating in the final the Bundeswehr who have not been beaten in this contest for the past four years. Our thanks for a job well done go to **Sgt Don Shrives,** team captain, manager and coach who is shortly leaving us on promotion for HQ Squadron in Birgelen.

HOCKEY

The Regimental hockey team have certainly had an eventful season. After winning the Royal Signals Hockey Tournament we went on to be runners-up in the Rhine Area Cup, being beaten by 21 Sig Regt. However we still qualified for the Army Cup. After beating 40 Fd Regt RA, we played 5 Heavy Regt RA, the eventual winners, in a closely fought game, resulting in a 2-1 defeat.

The Rhine Area Six-A-Side Tournament saw one of our teams in the final, thus qualifying for the BAOR Six-A-Side and reaching the quarter-final.

To mark the end of the season the players and their wives all met for a meal, where **Maj Homfray Vines** (OIC Hockey) presented Regimental Colours to **WO2 Brian Greatorex, Cpl Larry Groom, LCpl Oggi Ogburn** and **Sig Paddy McKinley.** Our farewell thanks to **WO D. D. Smith** for all his hard work in the past, wishing him good luck on his new posting.

RUGBY

Playing under a new name 'The Birgelen Bears' the regimental team started the season full of enthusiasm and with a will to improve upon previous seasons performances and to bring to people within the regiment a greater awareness of the game.

With only the first game and the first win under our belts, the hopes of the team were dealt a severe blow with the loss of two of our key players, **LCpl Kev Block** and **Sig Taff Gregory,** our hooker and scrum-half respectively. These injuries were to prove very costly as they kept both players out for the whole of the 1978/79 season.

The first half of the season (up until Christmas) was spent in building a solid foundation and by the end of November with a number of our more experienced players returning from detachments and courses we could look forward to the remainder of the season with high hopes. We quickly notched up a series of five wins when the weatherman decided to intervene and BAOR saw very little rugby for a number of weeks. The Birgelen Bears saw no less than 17 fixtures cancelled owing to packed snow lying on the ground, and it wasn't until well into March before games were once again possible. By the end of the season the total number of games played was 20, out of an original fixture list of 42. Of the 20 games played the regiment won 11 and lost nine.

A word of thanks should be made to the hardworking members of the Club who, as well as playing on the field gave a great deal of their time to the administration of the Club, these being: **Cpl Dill Lidstone** and **Cpl Jimmy Cruickshank,** bar, clubhouse members and general dogsbodies and **Cpl Dave Gilbert** our secretary. We have unfortunately to say goodbye to a number of our most stalwart members before the start of next season, namely: **Cpl John Smith** our skipper, **LCpl Colin Atkins** outside-half, **Cpl Tom Hall** of front row fame, **Sgt Jeff Carter** full-back and **Cpl Jock Douglas** our utility three-quarter. A sad loss from our limited resources but we wish them all well in their new postings.

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

The Regiment has been as busy as ever during the last two months, with exercises and preparation for our ARU which took place on 31 May. Our feet have hardly touched the ground! Life should be somewhat quieter for a while now so we have filled up our swimming pool, relaxed a little and can reflect upon our recent activities—we even have time to write our Wire notes!

BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

One of the highlights of recent weeks was a parade held on 4 May when troops from 16 Sig Regt and 43 (US) Sig Bn were on parade at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. During this parade the Commanding Officers exchanged scrolls to signify the bond of friendship and co-operation which has grown between the two units. Our American friends stayed with us for the weekend and attended guest nights in both the Sergeants and Officers Messes. We hope that our bond of friendship will continue to blossom and that we will see a lot more of them in the future.



Lt Col Noel Moss and Lt Col Gordon Arbogast shake hands after having exchanged scrolls, whilst scroll bearers Lt Haas Steare and 2Lt Peter Grogan look on

HQ SQUADRON

HQ Squadron boasts several new arrivals, amongst them a new Quartermaster General, **Maj Mark Wilson** who arrived from Catterick, a new Assistant Adjutant, **Lt Vikki Evans, WRAC,** who came from the National Defence College Latimer, and a new PRI Officer, **Lt Tom Guest** who hailed from Bielefeld. Welcome to you all.

Sadly, new arrivals always mean departures and we have lost **Maj Keith Rothwell** to civilian life after long and loyal service, he has settled locally so we will hopefully see him often and we wish him every happiness in his civilian life. **Lt Sue Rollo, WRAC,** has left us to 'go into computers'—lucky computers, but another sad loss for the Regiment, good luck in Bicester, **Sue.** On the afternoon of 30 April, M Troop held a small party to say farewell, on retirement, to their civilian storeman **Herr Franz Klein. Franz** has been employed in Bradbury Barracks for 22 years, 17 of them with 16 Sig Regt. His unfailing good humour, helpfulness and wealth of 'contacts' will be missed. We wish **Franz** and his good lady many happy years in retirement. **Sgt Barry Archer** who has served the officers of the Regiment for two and a half years as Officers Mess Steward, has left the Regiment and the Army for civilian life. He will be sadly missed and we wish him well in his new job in Norwich.



Lt Col Noel Moss presenting Herr Franz Klein with a certificate of 'Service to the Regiment'

1 SQUADRON REPORT

1 Sqn in Rheindahlen have carried on merrily as usual. It is rumoured that their Admin Officer, **Lt Jayne Petty, WRAC,** is showing 'Marilyn Monroe' tendencies and has been spotted on the stage in a recent production by the Rheindahlen Amateur Dramatic Society—RATS!

SSgt Tony Desborough, Sgts Willie Henderson and **Carl Butler** were in fine form on 8 May when they were presented with their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen Baldwin.** They are pictured here with their wives after the presentation. Yet another presentation to 1 Sqn was the Silver Commstar award to the detachment at the Dortmund Commcen on 10 May. The award was presented by **Col A. D. Lewis,** Commander 4 Sig Gp in Dortmund and they are pictured here with the Commander.

Finally, 1 Sqn have a new arrival in the shape of **2Lt Steve Wallis** from Sandhurst who is with them for a short while before starting his course in Blandford.





2 SQUADRON REPORT

Shiver in your boots—the new Squadron Commander has arrived! **Maj David Case** came to join the Regiment from 6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn in Aldershot, we welcome him and hope he enjoys his tour. **Maj John Graham** our previous OC has been seen sporting a blue beret and we wish him well in his new appointment in the Army Air Corps Directorate. Another new arrival in the Sqn is **2Lt Simon Green** who came from Blandford.

3 SQUADRON REPORT

We welcome another new face in the Regiment, that of **2Lt John Lancaster** who has joined 3 Sqn after his CQ course in the School of Signals. An old familiar face in the Sqn, **Lt Eric Webster** has worked hard recently (just for a change!) to organise the Regimental Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting which took place on 22 May at the Edelstahl Stadium in Krefeld. The day went well with four male teams competing (HQ, 2+3 Sqn and an LAD Team) and three female teams (WRAC Troops Krefeld, 1 and 4 Sqns).

No olympic records were set but everyone tried very hard, and some star athletes were spotted. There were the usual novelty races towards the end of the day—the Chain of Command race which was won by HQ Sqn and the Old Soldiers Race which was won by **Maj Roy Millington, RCT,** with the CO, **Lt Col Noel Moss** a very close second.

The day's activities ended with a tug-of-war competition which was won by 2 Sqn, who in fact were the overall winners of the day. The winners of the WRAC competition were the WRAC Troop Krefeld team who narrowly beat 4 Sqn by one point.

The prizes were kindly presented by **Mrs E. Moss** wife of the Commanding Officer.



3 Sqn Tug of War Team tugging hard: *left to right:* Sig Blue Lloyd, Sig Steve Milburn, Cpl Jim Armour, Sig Al Tuckey, Sig Frederick Taylor and SSgt Benny Bingham



Cpl Angie Wares receiving the WRAC Cup on behalf of WRAC Krefeld Station Team



Maj Roy Millington RCT of 606 MCTG receiving his bottle of champagne from Mrs Moss for winning the Old Soldiers Race

4 SQUADRON REPORT

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj E. W. Hunt, R Signals**
2IC	**Capt P. E. Robinson, WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 M. N. Livings, WRAC**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) M. Altham, BEM**
SQMS	**SSgt J. B. McSherry**
NCO IC Technicians	**SSgt A. J. Halliwell**

The provision of static communications for HQ 1 (BR) Corps is our 'raison d'être' and **YofS Altham** spends his days, together with his minions immersed in tapes and signals of all descriptions. The Bielefeld Military exchange, completely re-modernised, now provides telephonic communications for the staff with an alacity unknown in the days of the old switchboard and **Sgt Jowett, WRAC,** supervises her WRAC and civilian staff in conditions of comfort which reflect the standards of the 1980s.

However, all work and no play was never the right balance so now we would like to mention some of our extra mural activities.



Pte Fiona Goodwin WRAC in the remodernised exchange

SKIING

During the winter months we took advantage of the 'bad' weather with regular trips to Winterberg and attendance at the HQ 1 (BR) Corps 'Snow Queen'.

WALKING

After much persuasion by **Sig Craig Ballantyne** the Sqn now regularly attends walks organised by the German 1VV. These cover a distance of 24 kms and to date we have attended walks at Lippstadt, Dulmen, and Osnabrück. It is certainly an enjoyable way of seeing the German countryside and meeting the local Germans on their own ground—you even get a medal!

SAILING

We are now unit members of the Dummersee Yacht Club and several members of the Sqn have had their first experience of dinghy sailing. As the lake is only 5 ft deep even the non-swimmers can take part.

Six members of the Sqn recently attended a sailing course at Kiel and below is a description of the course from **LCpl Patricia Finn (Dougal).** The girls were certainly a popular addition to the course and as the report indicates they certainly enjoyed themselves.



Lt Col Noel Moss, CO, presents the Commstar Bronze Award to Sig Steve Newell of the Army Commcen at Sennelager

4 SQUADRON TAKE TO THE HIGH SEAS

Report by LCpl Patricia Finn

On 10 May, myself **(Dougal), LCpl Pat Bruce, Ptes Jane McDonough, Hilary Czaja and Wendy (Rastus) Baxter** ventured to the Kiel Yacht Club for our very first venture on the high seas. The chief instructor, **Capt Roger Justice, RE,** opened the proceedings with 'Good morning ladies—lovely weather for sailing'—and we then worked non-stop for the next seven days. We were quickly introduced to the skippers (whose ranks varied from Colonel to Private including one vicar!) of our various boats and we all soon began to learn our way around the boats. The first few days were spent in Kiel Fiord learning the parts of the boat, knots and lashes, how to use the helm, points of sailing, men/women overboard until our minds were a complete whirl. Then came the 'big sail' when all our newly learned knowledge would be put to good use. We sailed to Dampf 2000, Sonnderbourg, Faarbourg and Aersecobing and back to Kiel. A distance of approximately 120 nautical miles.

Throughout the cruise we were in watches of four hour periods during the day and three hour periods at night and we were continually tested and questioned until our arrival back in Kiel.

The course was hard and tiring but we all learnt to live together in our various crews and learnt the pleasure of continual physical work followed by deep sleep! My own birthday was celebrated at sea and a compulsory walking of the plank! The Baltic is NOT warm in May. I was quickly followed by **Tricia** and **Jane** who share my views on the water temperature.

At the end of the week we had all passed our off shore hand course, made many friends, learnt a lot about physical and mental capabilities, wanted to return as soon as possible to Kiel and did NOT want to come back to Bielefeld. Roll on the next course.

PR

Look out for the Army Calendar 1980. It should feature **Cpl Jan Reynolds, Ptes Terry Medina-Clark, Sandra Moore, Jane McDonough, Hellen Jones.** Not a centre page or page three but nevertheless we are sure that they will add a certain interest to the calendar.

SUMMER CAMP

Last year the Harz, this year Bavaria, next year? We hope to tell you more of our ventures in our next notes so until then we will continue to work and play hard and enjoy our life in Germany.

ATHLETICS

LCpl Joan Gaskill our WRAC PT Instructor deserves our congratulations for working so hard to train our small but very keen athletics team. We were narrowly beaten by the 'Krefeld Element' in the recent Regimental Athletics, 78 points to 79. We are now entering the WRAC BAOR match on 6 June.

Final word from **WO2 Maureen Livings**—I still have my drill parades and in nights despite these 'orrible non-military activities.

KREISMILITARPATROUILLE 1979—THE LAST WORD BY WO2 (YofS) MARTIN NICOL

The German Federal Reserve Forces held their annual international patrol competition on 5 May in the Rheindahlen area and two teams from this unit took part. There were entrants from France, Belgium, Holland and West Germany, altogether a total of 14 teams took part. Our teams were as follows:

Team A	**2Lt Peter Grogan, R Signals**
	LCpl Steve Roden
	Sig Dave Steel
	Sig Flasher Smith
Team B	**WO2 (YofS) Martin Nicol**
	Sig Dave Funnel
	Sig Mick Brookshaw
	Sig Derek Sowerby

The competition consisted of a 30 km march with various test stands along the route. Points were awarded at each stand and for a speed march immediately followed by a swimming relay race at the end. Amongst the many and varied subjects tested were the recognition of NATO and WARSAWPACT tanks and aircraft, indoor pistol and rifle shooting (team A did very well here, winning the event outright), grenade throwing, tactical approach (unfortunately team A went the wrong way. How tactical can one be?!), orienteering, NBC, assault boat race (can we canoe you up the river?), rope stream crossing and erecting a German tent (an interesting game but bivouacs get our vote every time!)

The prize giving afterwards took place in a local guest house, with dancing and tombola (a raffle and not, thankfully, bingo) as added attractions. Both of our teams did well with B team achieving second place and A team seventh. The whole event was thoroughly well organised and extremely enjoyable. We felt that we had taken part in a most worthwhile competition and contributed towards Anglo-German relations.



TEAM B

Left to right: Sig Dave Funnell, WO2 (YofS) Nick Nicol, Sig Mick Brookstraw and Sig Derek Sowerty

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

VISITORS

The Regiment was honoured by a visit from CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin.** During his visit he kindly presented five LS & GC medals to the following: **SSgt Keith Jobson, SSgt Dave Bayley, SSgt (YofS) Les Rix** and **Sgts Mac McKittrick** and **Mac McInnes.** The CSO completed his visit by a lunch in the Officers Mess.

Our second visitor was an initial visit to the Regiment by the new Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col A. D. Lewis.** On his tour of the Regiment he visited the departments of HQ Sqn, saw troops preparing for exercise in 1 and 2 Sqns and enjoyed a coffee break with the lads of K Airfield Tp of 3 Sqn. He then had drinks with the WOs and SNCOs of the Regiment and lunch with the officers. A part of his visit, which revived fond memories of the Far East, was his visit to the Regiment's trophy room, here he recognised a piece of Corps silver which earlier belonged to 19 Air Formation Sig Regt, Singapore. The Commander was Adjutant of 19 Air Formation Sig Regt in 1956-59. We hope he enjoyed his visit and look forward to the next time.



The Commander recognises a familiar figure. Lt Col Colman looks on with interest

ATHLETICS

The Regimental athletics team have started out at the beginning of the season with the aim of recapturing the Army Cup. They started off on a good note by defeating RAF Wildenrath in an athletics match. Many of our athletes competed in the inter-wing match for Admin Wing who were the eventual winners.

Corps athletes may not recognise our team which is almost totally different from previous years, however a good win by 35 points in the Rhine Area Championships has boosted the confidence of the team who look forward to the Morrison Cup and the BAOR Final. The team this year is led by **Capt Dick Hoyle** assisted by **SSI Paul Haase, APTC.**

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING BAOR FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY CHAMPIONSHIP

On Wednesday, 28 March, a representative team of BAOR orienteers competed in the French Forces in Germany Orienteering Championship. Of the 29 British competitors nine were R Signals, a higher representation than any other Corps.

The course was a well planned and testing 10 km in very wet conditions. The fine detail and number of line features on the map combined with demanding hilly features produced physical and technical orienteering.

The Corps placings were as follows:

2nd	**Capt Dick Hoyle**	**21 Sig Regt**
22nd	**LCpl Jock Hutton**	**13 Sig Regt**
25th	**Maj Johnathon Cox**	**2 Armd Div Sig Regt**
30th	**Maj Mike Rice**	**22 Sig Regt**
44th	**Sgt Geoff Graham**	**2 Armd Div Sig Regt**
67th	**Capt Jon Henderson**	**13 Sig Regt**
85th	**Capt Peter Bowles**	**22 Sig Regt**
91st	**LCpl Phil Tecza**	**22 Sig Regt**
123rd	**LCpl Bob O'Dea**	**22 Sig Regt**

STOP PRESS

R Signals team came runners-up in the Royal Artillery De Collin Inter-Corp Competition. Seven teams competed.

RHINE AREA SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 1979

The Regiment had notable success in the Rhine Area SAM.

The overall team position was second. This was only due to the Bisley count of eight. The team won the Rifle Trophy and LMG Pairs A and B. Individuals were successful, **Sgt Marty Roberts** was Champion Shot of the meeting and best SLR Shot. The team Captain, **Capt David Elson** led by a fine example by winning the runners-up medal in the SLR Match. The Regiment came first and second in the SMG Match with **Sgt John Harrison** the winner and **LCpl Geoff Bonelle** the runner-up. In the pistol Match the Regiment took second and third place, **Sgt Harry Thorne** and **Sgt John Harrison** respectively. Our successful LMG Pairs were:

Class A	**SSgt Bob Turner**	**Class B**	**Sig Kev Clowery**
	Sgt Harry Thorne		**Cfn Mal Evans**

Altogether a successful meet which lays the foundation for the Corps Shoot and Bisley. A key factor in our success is the hard work behind the scenes by **Capt John Richardson** who is beavering away with the admin and coaching.



Enjoying a relaxing coffee break with the lads of K Troop



The Commander visits M Troop. The TOT Capt Brian Meachin seems satisfied with Sgt Wylies answers

Stop Press: **Morrison Cup**—the Regiment successfully defended the Morrison Cup for the tenth year in succession.

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

FOCUS ON 'ALPHA TROOP' 1 SQN (COMMHEAD NOVEMBER)

Troop OC	**Capt I. W. Griffiths**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt (Sub) Bill Metcalfe**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt Dick Heppenstall**
Mascot	**Sgt Ian Urquhart**

They were frozen, wet and miserable, no it wasn't the men watching the Regimental Soccer team it was my feet on Ex *Fighting Eagle*. The exercise got off to a great start with us having to dig into the first location, a change from digging out I suppose. A change in plan saw us moving on rapidly, two hours later to be exact to 'An Autobahn Rastplatz'!! Mind you it was a good comms site, although no Imbiss in sight.

The troop have a standing war with 4 Sqn, as will be seen later but the antics of one member of CP4, who will remain nameless, won the prize competition, for attempting to reach the location across country, three foot snow blizzards and was heard to say, 'it was more exciting than coming up the Autobahn'.

CHARLIE TROOP

A new personality to the Commhead is **2Lt 'Tiger' Clarke,** the new OC Charlie (Line) Troop. He has become a favourite with 'A' Troop, since he always seems to fall asleep with us, in fact we think he's worried that the warmth of the Linies Wagon will send him permanently to sleep. The troop wishes to know if there is any other officer in 1 (BR) Corps who has Step Up bedding. We found him on one occasion feeding the Step Down set with cattle cake, what do they teach them on the CQ course these days.

We have several notable stars in the troop. Start at the top, Big G, alias Super sub, **Capt Ian Griffiths** who managed to fit this exercise in due to football training being cancelled because of the bad weather.

SSgt Bill Metcalfe who unfortunately got lemoned to run the Snow Queen Hut Admin for four weeks, he even came back with a tan!

Sgt Dave Gerrard, who has still got the scars from the operation to remove his sleeping bag from his back after the exercise.

Sgt Tony Brend has not forgiven the Foreman, **SSgt Les Lightfoot,** for not telling him the Foreman's entrance is harder than the 11 Plus.

Our tame Combat Tech **Sgt Dicky Heppenstall** achieved a momentary success when he had all the Comms in for 30 secs!

Cpl Dave Smart enjoyed the exercise so much that he went straight on leave to get married. Nobody's told him yet that she can't go on exercise to keep him warm.

The troop would like to congratulate **Capt Ian Griffiths** on the birth of 'little G' a daughter.

Cpl Jim Drummond on the birth of a boy. **Cpl Don Bruce** on the birth of a girl and finally **Cpl Dave Smart** who has finally got a housewife for his SOP7.

Could **SSgt Les Wilmott** please get in touch with the troop and return the 6530 he signed for us for **Sig Derek Lever,** we haven't got a decent day's work out of him since.

As I said earlier the war between 1 and 4 Sqns was a 'traffic war', started by 4 Sqn and taken up by **Cpl Jim Drummond** and his merry band from the Message Centre. The opposition survived 24 hours and received over 400 messages in that time, the printers must have been hot. The TEVs should have known better than to insult the message centre with 10 men and two Tarif channels.

Lastly the OC wishes to thank the members of the Exchange Coffee machine and if he ever finds out who put salt in his coffee!!

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

2 SQUADRON SPORT PERSONALITIES

Key to Photomontage.

HOCKEY

Left—**SSM 'Paddy' McGerty**—has played for the regiment for the past three years as well as running the team for the past two years. He is also the captain of the regimental second football team.

Right—**Sgt 'Del' Tungate**—he has also played for the regiment for the past three years, but was off for half the season with a broken foot.

Absent on leave is **Sgt 'Dave' Courtenay,** a newcomer in his first season of regimental hockey.

RUGBY

Left—**FofS 'Graham' Atkinson**—his first season with the regiment and is a regular first team player and is a stabilising influence to the younger, less experienced players.

Centre—**Maj 'Chris' Urquhart**—a recent arrival to this unit who is taking over as Rugby Officer. The team welcome him to the unit and wish him every success.

Right—**Sig 'Beasty' Clare**—a late start to the season due to a stint in N.I., but his return to the team has given it added strength.

A successful season for the whole team, having played 25 games, won 20 and drew 3, as well as winning the plate in the 3 Div Sevens Competition after being beaten in the first round by the eventual winners. The team is about to depart for Denmark to compete in the Aribung Sevens to round off a good season.

ORIENTEERING

Left—**Cpl 'Nick' Tecza**—has improved dramatically over the season and is now a established member of the regimental team.

Right—**SSgt (FofS) 'Dave' Bowers**—has captained and organised the team over the past two and a half years.

Results to date: 2 Div—Winners Guest Team, 3 Div—Runners up, 4 Div—Runners up.

TABLE TENNIS

Cpl 'Paul' Hayward—has captained the regimental team during the past year, which won both the 3 Armd Div League and Team Knockout. He was also captain of the Division team and went on to be selected to represent BAOR and won his BAOR colours.

SOCCER

Left—**Cpl 'Bob' O'Hara**—represents the regimental first team, 3 Armd Div, Royal Signals Corps (BAOR), BAOR and Combined Services BAOR this season and represented the Army UK Team and Combined Services UK, when serving with 216 Para Sig Sqn.

Right—**Cpl 'Alex' Hamilton**—has recently returned from a successful tour of Hong Kong with the Combined Services Team and is a regular member of the regimental team, 3 Armd Div, Corps BAOR, BAOR and Army UK sides.

SKIING

Left to right, back row—**Sig 'Phil' Atkinson, 2Lt 'John' Whitby, LCpl 'Bob' O'Dea,** Front row—**Sig 'Graeme' Paterson** and **Cpl 'Stevie' Wilks.**

The Langlauf Ski Team left for Norway in late November 78. Of two Sqn members in the team only **LCpl Bob O'Dea** had skied before, but he mercilessly knocked us into shape. While in Norway, **2Lt John Whitby** was on crutches and **Sig Graeme Paterson** was in hospital with flu. The team then moved to Bavaria for the 3 Div ski meeting where they came in second, while **Cpl Stevie Wilks** was in bed with flu. The Army Championships were held at Oberjoch, on the Austrian Border, and the team managed to improve their final position over the previous year, coming equal 8th.

2 SQUADRON SPORTS PERSONALITIES



HOCKEY



RUGBY



TABLE TENNIS



ORIENTEERING





SOCCER



SKIING

SPORT—SOCCER

As reported in the last edition the soccer team had reached the Semi-final of the BAOR competition. Since then they have beaten 28 (BR) Sig Regt 3-2 at St Tonis with two penalties from **Sig Calvin Lambert** and **Cpl Alex Hamilton** and a goal from **LCpl Jimmy Miller.** It was nearly three years since 28 had lost a game in the BAOR competition.

In the BAOR final we met 39 Regt RA, last year's Army Cup Winners. This meeting proved to be a very hard fought encounter and a replay was needed to decide the eventual winners. The first game was a 1-1 draw at full time, with the Regiment's goal being scored by **Cpl Tommy Perkins.** The star of this game was undoubtedly the team coach, **WO2 (QMSI) Vic Bourgoise** who stepped in to play in goal at the last minute when **Sgt Dave Stone** was injured in training. **Vic** has an unusual style and is now known throughout the Regiment as **'Vic the fist'.**

The Replay was a far better game with both sides being more relaxed. The team eventually came out winners 2-0, with goals by **LCpl Sandy Brown** and **Cpl Mickey O'Hare** the team captain.



Cpl Mickey O'Hare scores the winning goal in the BAOR Final

The run was not to last and the team met its stumbling block at Aldershot. We played 1 RHF in the final but unfortunately lost 1-0. In a hard well fought final we were by no means the inferior side but as so many sides have found before us the game is about scoring goals.

In the first half we went close on several occasions, with **Cpl Bob O'Hara** and **Alec Hamilton** both going close with headers. **LCpl Sandy Brown** shaved the post with one effort and **Sig Calvin Lambert** cracked one free kick against the bar. The RHF scored their goal on a breakaway, as so often happens.

In the second half the story was much the same, and the RHF were content to hold us and rely on the fast break, from one of these they scored but fortunately the goal was disallowed for offside. As the game went on **Cpl Alec Hamilton** was pushed up front and he almost changed the course of events with one shot hitting the post and another being kicked off the line. However it was not to be and we lost 1-0.

With most of the team remaining for next season we are hoping to do well again but it was a long and hard battle.

We would lastly like to thank all the supporters who have travelled many miles this year and given us tremendous encouragement. Thank you.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

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If your trade or training 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.

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21	£3485	21	£4243
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24	£3767	24	£4854
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SUMMER FETE

This year's annual fete was held on the sportsfield on Sunday, 20 May. Prophecies that Sunday was a bad day to choose were vindicated when, after a glorious Saturday, Sunday dawned grey and wet—and very humid. The Band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards provided musical entertainment whilst the stallholders did their level best (successfully) to send everyone home Pfennig less.

The main event of the afternoon was an 'It's a Knockout' competition between teams from 840 (GE) Signal Battalion, 13 (BE) TTr, the Regiment—and (in the absence of the Dutch) the Junior Ranks Club. This was won by the JRC.

The raffle was won by **LCpl Tommy 'I've won again' Townend,** despite the fact that his tickets weren't put in the drum in an attempt to give other people a chance.

No Regimental fete would be complete without someone getting wet, and, as usual, the ducking stool proved very popular. A host of Regimental celebrities took the cold seat including **ex-RSM Frank Atkins** in, what he thought was positively, his last appearance in the Regiment, however . . .

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER REVUE

The compere's voice announced '15 minutes ladies and gentlemen', the light crew checked their switches for the 100th time, the audio man made absolutely sure that the first tape was correctly cued. Over the headphones came the stage manager's voice 'first item ready—go!'. Lights up, music on and the Regimental Summer Revue started. Three months of rehearsal were now put to the test—very successfully.

The producers, **Capt Tony 'the legs' Manders** and **Sgt John Fawson REME** and the members of TEATS once again staggered their audience with the professionalism of their performance. A series of sketches, mimes and dances put together with precision provided a colourful and highly funny evening's entertainment. A special mention must be made of the appearance of His Excellency Idi Amin Dada **(Yeoman Sid Coleman)** whose discourse on Regimental life and personalities brought the house down.

The dancing girls, **Heather Burrow, Margaret Clark, Norma Fawson** and **Vera Rae,** showed that Pans People need more rehearsal and **LCpl Jock McClurg** was a show stopper with his portrayal of a WRAC private. **Pat Dooher, Phil McSorley, Howard Van Praag** and **Stuart Rickard** proved that military policemen can be funny and **Gerry Sullivan** did the same for the English bobby.



Cpl Phil McSorley with Norma Fawson, Margaret Clark and Heather Burrow



Sgts Stuart Rickard, Pat Dooher and LCpl Jock McClurg during their second childhood



Capt Tony Manders and Vera Rae in an excerpt from the Nutcracker Suite

Brenda Cox, Ann Dewship and **Janice Pepperall,** members of NORTHAG Signal Troop, represented the WRAC members of the unit in a sketch based on the Pointer Sisters and **Joey Dullaghan** donned uniform for the first time as a very proper WRAC Sergeant.

The last item of the evening had taken months of careful research and photography, but nobody could have been more surprised than **ex-RSM Frank Atkins** when he was dragged up on to the stage and his life (or a near approximation to it) was flashed before his eyes in 'This is your Life'. Thanks must go to his wife **Sylvia** and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Eamey** for their assistance in the preparation of this part of the show. A show cannot be successful without the faceless members of the production team. The choreographers, **Sheila Godfrey, Rose White** and **Zelda Lewis;** the costume ladies, **Maggie Fawcett** and **Lorna McSorley;** the stage manager—**Maurice Harkin;** the scene shifters—**John Allen, George Mackenzie, John Miller** and **Tom Townend;** the audio man—**Phil Filby;** the lighting crew—**Lynn Relph, John Godfrey** and **George Hardstaff,** and the make-up team, **Sandy Dakin** and **Lisa Hoghton.**

A FOURTH HOPE FOR THE CORPS

On 22 May, **Stephen Hope** was enlisted into the Corps by **Lt Col Eamey,** CO 28 Sig Regt, as a Junior Signalman. **Stephen** is the third son of **Capt Bob Hope** whose two other sons are already serving members of the Corps. Pictured here are **Lt Col Eamey** and **Stephen** with **Bob** looking on. We wish **Stephen** a long and happy career.



LS AND GC PRESENTATION

Ninety years' undetected crime marked the gathering of five stalwarts for the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by **Col Poschwatta,** German Army, Commander NSSG. The happy recipients were **Sgts Chris Martin, Tony Hindle, Jim Innes, Jeff Collier** and **Cpl 'Scouse' McKittrick.**

SERGEANTS MESS

New Billiard Room . . . The Sergeants Mess has finally opened the long awaited billiard room and Mess members are demonstrating the skills of pot black and misspent youth! Our thanks to **Maj Bill Kray** and his artisans from the MCEG in Krefeld. The two **Bobbys, Charlton** and **Moore,** paid a brief visit to the Regiment and, after visiting the JRC and Corporals Club, adjourned for a pint and supper to the Sergeants Mess. Obviously both were extremely popular as evidenced by the large Mess attendance and popping flashbulbs.

HQ SQUADRON

The Regiment deployed on Ex *Wintex* and whilst 'Switch' acted as hippos singing the Flanders and Swan song, Echelon did their impression of Gene Kelly and Mobile just complained about the noise from the air conditioners. At Switch, the local shoe shop had a sudden rush for wellies as continuous rain turned the location into a quagmire. Echelon meanwhile were situated in a farmyard and **Taff's Caff** (see below) was placed under a broken guttering where it soon resembled Lake Niagara. In spite of the conditions, the exercise went well and the doubts about recovering Switch from their location proved unfounded.



TAFF'S CAFF CLOSES

Ex *Wintex* saw the last deployment of **Taffs Caff. Cpl Len Jones (Taff)** who ran a refreshment tent for Echelon joined the Regiment in July 1970!!! (It is believed that when **Len** joined the Regiment the RQMS added him to his equipment list and like all good RQs, once he got his hands on something, refused to let it go.) **Len** joined the army in January 1955 and married his wife **Ann** on his first tour in BAOR in 1955 to 1962. Unfortunately, **Len** is now to leave the Regiment and the Army on discharge. We wish him and his family all the best for the future and will remember the cafe he ran where his burger and bratties and char have warmed the hearts of many a cold sentry off stag.

LAD

Being asked at 15 minutes' notice to write a few paragraphs for The Wire magazine will perhaps give us an opportunity to impress upon the Regiment that despite the unbelievably high output of work and involvement in extra curricula activities, the LAD comprises of only 20 men and not 200!

Involved as we are in the incredible organisation known as NATO, the standard and variety of work carried out is far beyond that expected of a first line LAD. The annual TUV inspection has passed with us achieving yet another 100% pass rate and verification of our motto 'We might not be the pride but without us the pride don't ride'. Enjoying as we are a brief respite from exercises, has enabled us to undertake many other functions and participate in various events, ranging from providing a player in every Regimental team sport, to releasing a rather harrassed individual to assist in the production of the Regimental Summer Revue. Our leader, **Capt Danny McAllister,** is soon to leave us for the joys of life without LOA and rumour has it that the new boss is the six million dollar man. There are so many characters, space does not allow them all to be mentioned, sufficient to say that the oily men in green overalls who arrive here for a three year tour and leave looking as though they've done 30 are in fact the LAD. Treat them kindly and speak to them quietly, because if life treats you fairly you could become one.

1 SQUADRON

Having returned from Ex *Wintex*, the Squadron has spent the last month cleaning their tentage, vehicles, boots and selves—not always successfully. They again took to the field for Ex *Cactus End* during the first week in May. Leuth can be attractive in Spring but not this time. All the seasons combined to give, during a space of three days, torrential rain, sleet, hail, snow and high winds. The appearance of the First Belgian Corps Detachment, with their female 'Operatrices' did much to brighten the climate and several of A Troop were seen attempting to learn French 'for operational reasons' they claimed.

Various members of A Troop also struck it lucky in being attached to (aptly named) Romeo Troop in Rheindahlen to gain further experience of message handling in the Joint Commcen and to assist in the manning (personning?) of the NORTHAG/2ATAF manual switchboard. **Sigs Mark Strangeways, David James, Fergus Anderson** and **Pete Speake,** learnt a great deal and also enjoyed their stay. **Sig Rick Horsfall** enjoyed his stay so much he has not yet returned! We have been issued with a new SSM. Despite protests that at 6 ft 3 in **WO2 (SSM) Bob Lockwood** is too tall, he has taken over from **SSM Jimmy Armstrong** (5 ft 6in), much to the chagrin of the other mini **SSMs George Gray** (5ft 6 in), **Bill Lees** (5 ft 5 in) and **Jimmy Jack** who at 5 ft 9 in used to be the tallest SSM in the Regiment.

2 SQUADRON

After a highly successful *Wintex*, the Squadron has diverted its attention to the many varied pursuits that make up barrack life. The arrival of two new subalterns greatly enhanced the life of the Squadron and increased the possibility of a bit of leg pulling, the legs being pulled belonged to **2Lts Paul Thwaites** and **Roddy Nicholson.** They will be great assets to the Squadron (we are told) albeit in **2Lt Thwaites** case only temporary as he is off shortly to join the next CQ course at Blandford.

Cpl Phil McSorley has instigated a series of quiz nights for the Squadron which are run on the lines of University Challenge and as resident quizmaster, **Bamber McSorley** has caused headaches and laughter for both panelists and audience, examples:

Cpl Steve Crosthwaite raised official protests when he was unable to answer the question 'who is captain of England?', his complaint being he would have had a better chance if he had been told the sport!; or

To roars of laughter from the audience, our supreme quizmaster handed over to the other side, a question C Troop answered incorrectly, the answer being TRUE or FALSE!! All in all the quiz nights have been a huge success and it is hoped to run them on a league basis.

PS. Do not ask **Cpls Andy Fullwood, Bob Nicholson** or **Tristan Baldwin** who Henry VIII is or you will probably end up in hospital.

INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS

The Regimental Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting was held in the St Tonis Stadium on 23 May. It was won for the second year running by 2 Squadron. Performances of special note were those of **Sig Taff James** who won the 1,500 m and 3,000 m and immediately afterwards ran a leg in the winning 4 x 400 m team. **Cpl Eric Clark** won both the 100 m and the discus and was second in the javelin. All in all it was a close run competition with the final placing still in dispute right to the last. It was enjoyed by all who attended despite the rain. **Mrs Ann Eamey,** wife of the Commanding Officer, distributed the prizes.

BADMINTON

The Regiment entered the Rhine Area League for the first time and managed to come a creditable fifth place. Stalwarts of the team have been **WO1 (FofS) John Field, Cpl Beau Cattell, LCpl Dave Rumsey, Sigs Ralph Johnson, Bob Curtis, Geoff Jones, Steve Mudge** and in the later stages, **WO1 (YofS) Pete McLoughlin** who in the Rhine Area Individual Championships, reached the final in the Mens Doubles, unfortunately, being beaten by a 21 Sig Regt pair. **Sigs Johnson** and **Curtis** and **WO1 McLoughlin** represented the Corps (BAOR) during the year. Next season we hope to have a team capable of winning the Rhine Area League.

FAREWELL

WE have recently said goodbye to **Maj Ken Goulding** who is leaving the Army. We hope he enjoys his retirement down on the farm. **Maj John Cotton** in now (happily we hope) in the MOD and **WO2 Roy Benwell** has gone to spend his last six months with the TAVR. Other members of the Regiment who are in the process of packing are **Capt Bob Hope** and **WO2 Jimmy Armstrong,** whilst **WO1 (FofS) John Field** and **WO1 (RSM) Frank Atkins** are both being committed—sorry, commissioned, in the near future.

WELCOME

To **2Lts Paul Thwaites** and **Roddy Nicholson, Capt John Morrison, Maj Colin Smith,** the new Chief Clerk, **WO2 Frank Brown** and last but not least, **WO1 (RSM) Ted Banham.** We hope you will all enjoy your time with the wonderful world of NATO communications.



2 Sqn, 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) display the trophies they won at the NORTHAG Skill at Arms Meeting
Included in the trophies is the Inter-Unit Team Trophy, which the British NATO Signallers are now in the habit of winning

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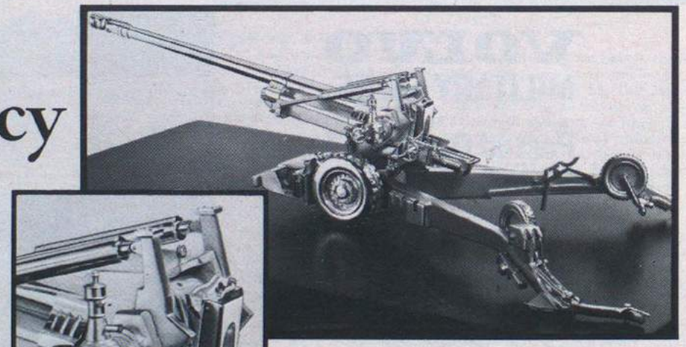
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32 Sig Regt (V), Glasgow

BACK INTO PRINT

'Who are they?' I hear you say. Well it has been rather a long time since we have contributed, so a little introduction is in order. Our Regimental Headquarters is co-located in Glasgow with 52 (Lowland) Signal Squadron and Headquarter Squadron and our far flung empire takes in 51 (Highland) Signal Squadron in Aberdeen, 61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron and 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron in Londonderry. The role of the Regiment is to provide post-nuclear strike communications for the various decentralised locations of Government. To this end we work hard and cheerfully and await the 'Big Bang'!

PIPES AND DRUMS

We are the only Volunteer Signal Regiment with our own Regimental Pipes and Drums. (All Pipers and Drummers are very welcome — the pay's good and the standard is high.) The Pipes and Drums have just competed in the TAVR Championships and took second place. To add to this the Quartet and **Drum Major Lyle** also gained second places and **Sigs Pipers Lawson** and **Symington** gained third and fourth in the open and youth classes. Congratulations to **Pipe Major Langan** and his merry men for all their hard work and deserved success.



The Regimental Pipes and Drums taking part in the March Past for HRH The Prince of Wales in Aberdeen

HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

The highlights of our year so far have been the opening of new accommodation for 51 (Highland) Squadron by **HRH The Prince of Wales.** The Regiment masterminded the Guard of Honour for **Prince Charles** and together with the other units in the TA Centre, marched with the massed Pipes and Drums of many Regiments. It was a never to be forgotten experience and of course HRH was a marvellous guest.



Prince Charles inspecting the Guard of Honour at the opening of new barracks in Aberdeen

LINK WITH GURKHA SIGNALS

The Regiment is closely associated with Gurkha Signals and we recently had the pleasure of entertaining **LCpls Shiva Kumar Lama** and **Swiba Lepcha** when they delivered by 'safe hand' a new Regimental Pipe banner twinned with the banner we had presented to them last year. We look forward to the return visit!





CHANGE OF COMMAND

We have said farewell to our Volunteer Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Alistair Petrie, TD,** in all the traditional ways. He left his Dining Out dressed as if he was bound for Fiji, from whence he came. We wish him and his wife **Norah** well and thank them both for all their efforts and sacrifices. A warm welcome to the new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Chris Cross** and his wife **Joyce,** fresh from the BAOR battle (a paper war, he says). They look as if they are going to enjoy Scotland and its Signal Regiment very much.

THE MANAGEMENT

The Adjutant is **Capt Ruairidh Rutherford,** who only occasionally despairs of serving (and driving) in his native land and drives the junior officers hard.

Our Training Major is **Maj Bill Price** and he tries to keep the Squadron in order and still fits in some squash and cricket.

The Squadron Commanders are: **HQ Maj David Aird, 51 Maj Ken Sutherland, 52 Maj Mike Sandys, 61 Maj Jimmy Rhynas, 69 Maj John McClay,** and they are all looking forward to leading their Squadrons into battle at Annual Camp at Stanford this summer. If we survive that, it will be fully reported in the next issue.

AN INVITATION

Our recruiting is fair but we never turn a good Volunteer away. Come and try us if you are in or near Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh or Londonderry. You won't be disappointed!

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

EXERCISE 'WINTEX' 1979

Once again 33 Sig Regt (V) has been able to support HQ Afcent during Exercise *Wintex* 1979. The air party, commanded by **Capt (Tfc) Len Addison** arrived at UKDSU on Friday 9 March after a rather uncomfortable flight. We were greeted by the 2IC, **Maj John Grosch**, who was fighting a hard but successful battle against flu, and **WO1 Southerington**, who held a much appreciated pay parade. When we dispersed to our billets, the familiar figure of **Cpl Spud Murphy** was waiting to meet us and issue the bedding.

At the briefing on Saturday we met **Maj Margerie (GEA)** and **F/Sgt Jack Rodaway (UKAF)**, who had arranged the shifts and duties for the party. When the operators arrived at the Commcen, **MSgt Odell Wallace (USAF)** was extremely pleased to see them as he already had a considerable backlog of work to clear. **Cpl Tony Ryall-Harvey, Sig Jeff Ashton, LCpl Doreen Stringer** and **Pte Linda Wheeler** joined the first shift, whilst **Cpls Margorie Heatley** and **Lynda Bambury, Ptes Jenny Pell** and **Pauline Stuart** were on the second. **Cpl Ed Watson** and **LCpl Dave Roberts** joined shifts in the telephone exchange, and the rest of the party, **LCpl Adrian Meakin, LCpl Sheila Diamond** and **Ptes Ann Crossley** and **Pat Merlo**, under the command of **Maj Bill Alder (US Sig Corps)** were destined for a trip to Germany.



One of the Radio Relay detachments setting up during Ex Wintex 1979
Left to Right: LCpl Chalky Whyte REME, WO2 (FofS) Cliff Moorhouse, Sgt Bill Smith, LCpl Lawrence Knight



LCpl Lawrence Knight listening in on a 1+4 whilst Sgt Alan Toulmin tunes a C41 during Ex *Wintex* 1979

FIRE

On return to the billets after this briefing, smoke was discovered coming from the female accommodation. Thanks to the prompt action of **Maj Alder** and **LCpl Meakin** who raised the alarm, the Fire Section dealt efficiently with the smouldering holdall which had caused the trouble.

SEA PARTY

The dining hall and the 24 hour canteen soon became popular meeting places between shifts, and now that the main party had settled in to their routine, preparation was made for the arrival of the sea party, consisting of two Radio Relay Detachments, the following saturday. The commander of the sea party, **WO2 (FofS) Cliff Moorhouse**, brought it in safe and sound, thanks to the excellent route card from Europort to Brunssum provided by North West District. The two detachments were soon allocated their tasks and moved into location. The first det consisted of **WO2 (FofS) Moorhouse, Sgts Bill Smith** and **Alan Tomlin, LCpls Derek Trimble, Dave Knight** and **John Grindrod,** ably assisted by **LCpl Chalky Whyte (REME)** from 227 Sig Sqn who was not only the driver but performed numerous other tasks too.

Sgts Ron Price and **Alan Heritage, LCpls David Barston** and **Mac McBride** and **Sigs John Aitken** and **Tom Pettigrew** formed the second detachment, and **Sig Pettigrew** is to be congratulated on his excellent performance as 'Head cook and bottle washer'. A special mention also goes to **Cpl Mick Eady** of 227 Sig Sqn who supplied the UK football results.

With arrival of **Capt Alan Davies**, the Adjutant on Monday 19 March, the party was complete. The Adjutants visit was a fruitful one, in which he not only arranged a meeting with **Brig Gen Le Cler** (Canadian Forces), but also finalised the arrangements for the Regiments entry for the Njmegan marches, which take place later in the year.

At the invitation of **Gp Capt Lewis (Commander RSSG) Capts Davies** and **Addison** visited all the volunteers at work in the Radio Relay detachments, in the Commcen and even those in Germany. Many thanks are due to **Lt Koch (GEA)**, the OC of the station, for his hospitality during the evening.

The second week passed quickly and as the party was ready for departure **Gp Capt Lewis** and **Maj Grosch** boarded the coach to thank the members of the Regiment for their contribution to the exercise and to assure those returning in November of a warm welcome.

Back in the UK we travelled by coach to Knutsford where **SSgt Shirley Stott** carried the Manchester members safely home, and then on to Liverpool where **Sgt Dave Downey** and **LCpl Ray Matthews** provided the transport home for the remainder.

WRAC RIFLE TEAM BEATS THE INFANTRY

In addition to being responsible for the administration of the North-West District SAAM—the first non-infantry TAVR Unit to be entrusted with the task—33 Sig Regt (V) entered three teams for the meeting, 42 Sqn from Manchester, 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Sqn from Chester, and an 80 Sqn WRAC team.

Perseverance through a difficult period of training during the winter was rewarded and 80 Sqn male and WRAC teams took both the Team Rifle Trophies with WRAC individual and runner up cups going to **LCpl Hazel Smith** and **Pte Denise Avery** respectively. **Capt Roger Clarke-Lomas** was the individual Rifle runner-up. **Capt Chris Clark** was runner-up in the Pistol and **2Lt Angela Dixon** and **LCpl Hazel Smith** won the WRAC Pistol Team Match. **2Lt Dixon** also won the WRAC Individual Pistol Cup, **LCpl Smith** was runner up.



LCpl Hazel Smith WRAC being presented with the winners cup for the individual Rifle Match

Placings for the Regiment throughout the competition were consistently high, and a notable performance was put in by **LCpl Stewart Convery** who was 6th in both pistol and SMG. The WRAC team were particularly proud that they had outclassed several infantry teams when competing on equal terms.

As a result of this meeting, the Regiment has been invited to send a team to the TAVRA Centre Meeting at Bisley. This will be the fifth successive year the Regiment has competed. Five members of the team, **Maj Brian Ivison, Capt Roger Clarke-Lomas, Capt Bill Matthews, 2Lt Chris Cummings,** and **LCpl Stewart Convery** travelled to Bisley for the Bank Holiday weekend after the NWD SAAMM to compete in Pistol 79, an international pistol meeting, and the Long Range Service Pistol Match.

This team really went along with the intention of learning all they could about top level pistol shooting and were not dissappointed because they were able to pick up many useful tips from top civilian and army marksmen. As a bonus **Capt Roger Clarke-Lomas** came back with a medal, won in the long range service pistol match. This involved engaging Targets at 100 and 200 yds.

With an earlier success in the year being second highest placed Signal Unit in the NSLA/TAVR Smallbore match, 33 have had an excellent shooting season and we look forward to the TAVR Central Match at Bisley. Whilst we believe strongly in the importance of the spirit of 'taking part', we are also keen to win, and success is that much sweeter when Skill at Arms is not our main trade.



Members of 42 Sig Sqn (V) team relaxing after their successful shoot at the North West District Skill at Arms Meeting
Left to Right standing: Capt Chris Clark, Sig Mike Power, Capt Bill Matthews, Sgt Alan Toulmin, LCpl John Grindrod, Sig Paul Bishop
Sitting: 2Lt Mike Cummings, LCpl Cheryl Dawson, Pte Val Howell, 2Lt Angela Dixon

EMPIRE STORES CYCLE RACE

When the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Jolliffe TD** saw the signal from MOD asking for units to volunteer for the Empire Stores Cycle race, he wondered whether we had reverted to the old form of communicating by runner carrying his message in a 'Cleft Stick'. When he was told the Regiment had only two somewhat decrepit bicycles he realised that we could hardly take part in a race which was scheduled to cover 260 miles in 11 hours! Fortunately all we were being asked to do was provide communications from the race director to the finish at Odsall Stadium Bradford, and to keep the assembled multitudes in touch with the progress of the race. The 'Egg Heads' of the Regiment, the Training Major, **Maj Malcolm Bradbury** and the Tech Adjt, **Maj Tony Groves**, got their heads together (there was yolk all over the place!) and produced a magnificent plan. They felt that our C11's were not really up to it and **Malcolm** got on the 'Old Boy' net and arranged to borrow some clansman from the Army School of MT (imagine it, Royal Signals borrowing radios from the RCT!)

Although we would have liked more, we were only able to have two rehearsals. The first was held in April and, although the clerk of the weather didn't appear to have been told that winter had ended, this went off well enough.

The second rehearsal was held on the day before the race and elements of 80 Sqn and the Regimental HF Troop moved out early to their starting locations. Two mobile HF dets motored from Wolverhampton following the race route to Bradford and relayed dummy messages to Commcen X2 under **Capt Jim Lechmere** on Buckstones Moss in the Pennines where the D Tgs took over and passed the messages to Odsall Stadium.

The following morning the race was started at 5 am when we were still in our beds! By the time the leaders had reached Wolverhampton we were ready for them. The HF vehicles had to travel in front of the race directors car while motorcycle outriders rushed up and down between them. OC HF Troop, **Maj Norman Bolland,** sat in the back with hands outstretched eagerly awaiting the 'copy'.

At times the HF vehicles were doing 60 mph down steep hills trying to keep out of the way of the cyclists and thanking heaven that there were a few square feet of rubber between them and the road while the cyclists had only a few square inches.

55 Sig Sqn (V), Liverpool

Who? . . . . . ? What do you mean, you've never heard of us? 55 Signal Squadron is alive and well, and living in Liverpool, a (long) stone's throw from Aintree Race Course. (We prefer not to mention that Walton Jail is a near neighbour.) We also have a troop based at Cardiff.

As these are the first notes sent in for some time, perhaps we should first introduce the Permanent Staff.

OC	**Maj Bob Siderfin**
PSAO	**Capt Eric Filder**
SSM	**WO2 George Foggo**
FofS	**SSgt Graham Pritchard**
YofS	**SSgt Steve Macqueen**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Ray Williams**
Tech	**Sgt Dave Simms**

For those who haven't heard of us, we are part of 1 Signal Group. The Group Commander is **Col Keith Olds,** and he is shown presenting the LS & GC to **Sgt Dave Simms** on his inaugural visit to the Squadron in January 1979. Our picture shows **SSgt E. Birchall, BEM,** and **SSgt G. Pritchard** in the background.

In future editions, we hope to bring readers up to date on life in our part of Liverpool, which can at times be fairly hectic. Indeed, at the time of writing, the Squadron is preparing to take part in the Lord Mayor's Parade.

So much for our introduction! We hope to give a fuller picture of Squadron activities in a future edition.



35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

LORD MAYOR'S PARADE

The weather seems to have been a recurring theme in our unit notes of late, it was certainly the main topic of conversation on Saturday 26 May, when, preceeded by the Corps Band, the Regiment exercised its 'Freedom Rights' to march through the City of Birmingham with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed—in the pouring rain. In exercising our rights the Regiment was responding to an invitation extended by the present Lord Mayor's predecessor at the Regimental Dinner Night last November—what better way to do it than at the head of the Lord Mayor's Parade and with our own Corps Band.

Organised by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, the theme of this year's Parade was 'Forward into the 80s' (I hope the rain wasn't an omen), and given the atrocious conditions the enthusiasm shown by the participants as they paraded past in their troupes and floats desperately trying to cheer up the sodden spectators and look as though they were enjoying themselves, was quite remarkable.

After the hard work put in by all sorts of organisations on behalf of this year's appeal—local childrens charities—it must be heart breaking to see your efforts largely ruined by the weather. Perhaps it's just as well we cannot foretell the future—no one would ever do anything unless fine weather was guaranteed.

Amongst the spectators braving the elements were relations and friends of members of the Regiment who had travelled from all over the West Midlands to see the Parade. At least they had something to look forward to—HQ and 48 Sqn had combined to put on a superb All Ranks buffet lunch at 48 Sqn TA Centre, Golden Hillock Road, where well over 300 members and their families gathered together for one big party.

Our grateful thanks to **Sgt Rennie (ACC)** and his staff from the Recruit Selection Centre, Sutton Coldfield, for stepping into the breach and allowing all our WRAC Cooks to attend the WRAC Association Queen's visit at Aldershot, it really was an excellent lunch. As the CO, **Lt Col Ken Smith,** remarked as he went round thanking everyone for their efforts, "What a splendid party, we must do this again." We will all drink to that, and, judging by the results of recent events, we will all have plenty to drink out of too.

Despite being in the middle of the pre-Camp exercise season, the Orienteers, LAD and 58 Sqn Small Bore Team still found time to bring home the 'pots'.

ORIENTEERING

The Regiment had good representation at the UKLF Orienteering Championships this year, with teams from 48 Sqn and 89 Sqn qualifying. The two day event was held in the Aldershot area on 12/13 May. No one was more surprised than **Maj Bob Titterington** when he won the TAVR Individual Event—The Lanarkshire Volunteers Trophy—after a gap of two years.

The Individual Competition was run at Warren Heath, and the talking point of the day was a long 2 km leg near the end of the course. The post-mortems continued well into the evening as the protagonists of the 'round the top', 'round the bottom' or 'across the middle' argued their cases.

Well placed in the first day of the TAVR Competition were **SSgt Dennis Glanville** who came fifth and **Sig Paul Fundak** who came 13th. In the Team Event, 89 Sqn at third were also well placed at the end of the first day, being only 10 minutes behind the leaders.

In the relays next day disaster struck when one 89 member punched an incorrect last control to disqualify his team. 48 had no such misfortune but did not run awfully fast either and finished seventh overall in the two day TAVR Competition.

EXERCISE WESTERN APPROACHES

This year this annual LAD exercise was held on Salisbury Plain over the weekend 7/8 April, 35 Sig Regt (V) being represented by the following: **WO2 (AQMS) Roger Jennings** (Team Leader), **OCdt Peter Males, Sgts Cliff Glassborow, Larry Beasley, Graham Gardner, LCpls Bob Finningham, Colin Witheford** and **Mick Noone, Cfn Bob Cope, John Byrne, Paul Smith, Michael Heningham, Peter Kendall** and **John O'Brien.**

There holding a watching brief, and no doubt keeping his fingers crossed, was OC LAD, **Maj Brian Burge,** who sent this short despatch from the front. 'Despite the weather being generally wet (you tell me when it isn't) their spirits were high and of the 11 teams entered 35 Sig Regt (V) came third overall—no doubt fortified by the warming Scottish substance thoughtfully provided by the CO, **Lt Col Ken Smith,** whose presence was a welcome sight to all. **LCpl Bob Finningham** also carried off First Prize in the Vehicle Repair Stage, thus emulating the feat of **Sgt Alan Morris** who won in 1976.' Congratulations to all, it would seem our vehicle maintenance is in good hands.

SMALL BORE POSTAL SHOOT

Meanwhile over in Staffordshire, the crackshots of 58 Sqn haven't been doing too badly in the TAVR Small Bore Postal Shoot either, considering it was the first time they have entered the Competition.

Obviously, for **Sgt Colin Bermingham, Cpl Bill Lambert, LCpls Keith Millford** and **Richard Redshaw** and **Sig Geoff Harriman, Capt Bob Heath's** coaching must be paying off. They were the best team in 35 Sig Regt (V), fourth in the West Midland District out of 14 units entering, fourth out of 16 Signals Units competing and third in the Minor Signals Unit Category. Keep it up lads, aim for the top next year.

EXERCISE MAD HATTER

A regular feature of UK exercises nowadays is the interest shown by Northern Army Group Signals Support Group (NSSG)—Liaison Officers quite frequently pay us a visit. It is less usual for non-commissioned ranks to visit the Regiment in the UK, which made Exercise *Mad Hatter* that much more interested because we had six visitors from NORTHAG; two Dutch, Two Belgian and two German—four of them being NCOs.

Exercise location on this occasion was Staffordshire and Shropshire, but for our two German guests it proved to be Chelmsley Wood Police Station—at least for the first night. I see we have captured your interest—read on.



EX MAD HATTER

Left: Capt Edward Vannooriwijk (OC Line Platoon ND Sig Sqn) and his 2IC SSgt Eddy Bymans stare in disbelief as Sgt Billy Bishop (MT Tp) demonstrates with his bugle the traditional way of communicating



The 2IC chatting to our NORTHAG guests outside the RCP
Left to Right: Capt Edward Vannooriwijk (OC Line Platoon ND Sig Sqn), SSgt Eddy Bymans (2IC Line Platoon ND Sig Sqn), Maj David Moore (2IC), Capt Pierre Verscheeve (2IC 13 TTR Belgium), First Sgt Danny Demeyer (13 TTR)



The CO Lt Col Ken Smith caught in full flight at the exercise debriefing flanked by *Left to Right:* Maj Walter Jenkins (OC HQ Sqn), Maj Mike Brock (Trg Maj), The CO Maj David Moore (2IC)



M TROOP—I THINK?
Left to Right: Sgt Martin Leybourn, Sgt Ron Appleyard, SSgt (FofS) Mick Killick (according to the Foreman this was the first time anyone had managed to photograph him since he's been with 35)



Sgt John Coldicutt briefing his Victor Tp. Dets on the next move *Left to Right:* Cpl Brian Whittle, Cpl Keith Howes, Cpl Howard Sterry, Sgt John Coldicutt, Sig Paul Rowson



Sgt Harry Betton (Defence Tp Sgt) briefing his sentries
Left to Right: Sig Paul McCord, LCpl Peter Allcock, Sgt Harry Betton, LCpl Richard Doyle, Sig Stephen Bough

Sgts Charlie Brand and **Frank Jahnig** travelled by train and boat from 840 Fernmelde Battalion in Germany, obviously through a misunderstanding, to Birmingham International, which readers may or not know is the name of a new Station built to serve the National Exhibition Centre—quite some distance from the centre of Birmingham. Be that as it may, **Sgts Brand** and **Jahnig** alighted at Birmingham International at 1 am only to find themselves stranded with no one to look after them but some friendly Policemen, who, quickly assessing the situation, accommodated them over night in vacant cells until the problem was sorted out the next morning. There is one consolation, having been 'bailed out', our two German friends looked none the worse for their ordeal and like most visitors think 'British Policemen are Great'.

The other multi-national observers arriving in more conventional style were from Belgium, **Capt Pierre Verscheeve** 2 i/c 13 TTR and **First Sgt Denny Demeyer,** and from the Netherlands, **Capt Edward Vannooriwijk,** OC Line Tp Sig Sqn and his 2 i/c, **SSgt Eddy Bymans.**

I understand the six NORTHAG Signallers came over by arrangement with NSSG, and were the advance party of a larger contingent of men and vehicles joining the Regiment for Annual Camp in July. This is good news, it will not only help develop a better understanding between the Regiment and our colleagues in NORTHAG, but will, perhaps more importantly, provide valuable continuity between our bi-annual Germany Camps.

EXERCISE WONDERLAND

As a Signals TA Unit we pride ourselves on our ability to hold our own with the best when it comes to deployment, communicating, NBC training etc. Could we still do so in a hostile environment, harassed by enemy infantry patrols and saboteurs? Well there's only one way to find out, and Ex *Wonderland* was designed to do just that.

Centred on Swynnerton Camp, Staffordshire, the Regiment deployed its Switch and Radio Relay and HF Shots as usual over the weekend 2/3 June—only this time our ability to maintain communications was tested by 1st Mercian (V), who acted as the enemy. We have co-operated with local infantry units in the past on routine infantry type training, but it is some time since we actually carried out a joint comms/defence exercise of this nature.

I don't know who was credited with winning, but judging by the row, both sides really enjoyed themselves and much blank ammunition and CS gas was expended.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO ALDERSHOT

Report by 2Lt 'Mo' Hunter-Choat

Thirty-five members of the Regiment took part in the WRAC Association Grand Reunion at the WRAC Centre in Guildford on 26 May last.

Her Majesty The Queen met and talked to members of the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC both serving and retired.

The Regiment was extremely honoured to be asked to provide a display, showing something of how we operate and live in the field. We set up our TRV, TRC and Exchange Vehicles and a large display of photographs of WRAC members in 35 engaging in a variety of activities including HGV driver instruction, cooking, operating switchboards, teleprinters and other aspects of training.

Despite the extremely inclement conditions we slept under canvas. The previous day, while the advance party was setting up camp, a sudden squall irreparably damaged the reviewing dais and blew over the flag-pole. It ripped our tents and almost succeeded in putting our Cook-house Shelter into orbit, with seven sturdy members of the Regiment desperately hanging on to it.

The women who were camouflaging the vehicles at the time had to stay aloft as it would have been far too dangerous to have attempted to move.

We were never so relieved when less than five minutes before **The Queen** arrived the rain stopped and the anxious expressions turned to smiles as **Her Majesty** spoke to various members of 35 Sig Regt (V) contingent.

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FREEDOM OF REDBRIDGE

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) exercised its right to the Freedom of the Borough of Redbridge on Saturday, 28 April, 1979, by marching through Ilford with bayonets fixed and drums beating. The honour was first granted to the Regiment in 1963.

Our soldiers, assembled from all our TACs stretching from Norwich to Gillingham, arrived at Ilford by 1100 hours. Instant rehearsals were then held as 250 men and women practised the art of parading in one large unit. The Corps Band had an immediate effect on us all, a strong military bearing began to appear.

The Parade, the climax of 12 months administrative effort, was watched by hundreds of the local civilians. Some of the locals could have been classed as a captive audience however, as they looked down on us from the tops of buses or from cars in the long line of traffic caused by our parade.

After the parade the VIPs lead by the Mayor, the Lord Lieutenant and the Commander 12 Sig Gp (V) were all invited back to our officers mess for drinks and buffet. The soldiers and the families had a buffet and drinks followed in the evening by a disco. All returned to their far off centres very, very tired.



Lt Col Boulding Director of Music leads the Corps Band through Ilford



The Commanding Officer Lt Col Gerry Birch leads 36 Sig Regt (V) followed by the Adjutant, Capt Peter McGann, the RSM, WO1 Brian Selkirk looking round to see if all are in step, Maj David Milne, OC 44 Sig Sqn leads Capt Bob Davies, Capt Douglas McClay and the rest of 44 Sig Sqn (V)



The saluting dais *left to right:* is the Deputy Mayor, Brig R. L. Stonham Commander 12 Sig Gp (V), the Mace Bearer, the Chief executive and the Mayor Councillor Hamilton. The dais is flanked on the *left* by 2Lt David Hargreaves and Cpl Alan Morrow, *right* is Sgt Andy Andrews and WO2 Barry Greenwood

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EX LION SUN II

From 19 April until 17 May the Squadron exercised in Cyprus. Based at Bloodhound Camp near Episkopi our training..as far divorced from our normal role as possible, was divided into four parts.

TRAINING

Each troop undertook the four parts on a basis of six days at each activity. Hill Walking in Troodos was organised by **Maj John Cottington** and **Maj Peter Terry** (our tame Staff Captain Q and G2RE), an arduous map reading exercise was devised by OC A—**Capt John Gareze,** whilst the 2IC, **Capt Martin Bevan** put many hours of work into the planning of a Troop/Section battle exercise complete with a beach landing from an RPL near Evdihmou and the clearing of the ghost village of Paramali.

RELAXING

But it was not all work and no play, as can be seen from the photographs. Each Troop spent six days camped on the beach near Bloodhound where **Sgt Mick Lloyd-Williams** was on hand to instruct in canoeing and one or two people really did manage to master the technique of wind surfing—although most of us found our efforts ended in an inglorious dunking on each attempt!

In parallel with the last two weeks of training two off-shore yachts were chartered—'Brigand of Changi' and 'Lady Heather' and some 20 members of the HQ and Signal Squadron were able to sail either to or from Rhodes. (Come back Chief Clerk's stomach, all is forgiven.)

Numerous R and R runs were organised with a chance for everyone to see something of Limassol, Nicosia and Paphos.

All in all an interesting and demanding month—a complete and refreshing change from our usual line of work and a welcome opportunity for everyone to practice some basic soldiering skills.



LCpl Martin Drake, Mike Troop, wind surfing on his first exercise after leaving 8 Sig Regt — future exercises will be a little different!



Sig Victor Hayes, Bravo Troop, an Army Canoe Union intermediate, proving that the Mediterranean is easier going than the white waters of Scotland

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

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Officer Commanding	—	**Maj P. B. Webster**
2IC	—	**Capt R. H. Mardo**
OC Radio Troop	—	**Capt J. Boyle**
2IC Radio Troop	—	**2Lt G. J. T. Rafferty**
OC M Q & L Troop	—	**Capt (TOT) J. A. Phillips**
OC COMMCEN Troop	—	**WO2 (YofS) P. J. Hockram**
SSM	—	**WO2 S. B. Elliott**
RQMS	—	**WO2 B. W. Connor**
FofS	—	**SSgt D. Coles**
Chief Clerk	—	**Sgt B. Merrick**

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Without any doubt, the Squadron has been absent from the pages of this journal for far too long. Readers may rest assured that we are still keeping the Corps flag flying here in West Berlin and that, contrary to rumour, these notes are not being written within the confines of an East German detention cage! Our excuse for adopting a low profile for so long might well be pressure of work — on the other hand, it might not. Whatever the reason, there is much lost ground to be regained and these notes cover our activities since the beginning of the year.

EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN

Back in January (how long ago it now seems!) **Capt Dick Thwaites**, then our 2IC, led a small party from the Squadron down to Bavaria for a winter training exercise, otherwise known as a ski-ing holiday. Taking part were **Sgt Mick Turvey, Cpl Ken Mace, LCpl Kevin Page, LCpl 'Geordie' Iley** and, from our neighbours 2 PARA, **Pte 'Dixie' Dean.** The party stayed at the NATO Sports Centre at Wissensee.

Sgt Mick Turvey writes:

'The first week's ski-ing was going really well until the Friday, when weather conditions made ski-ing impossible, so we decided to try our luck at ice skating. We were doing fine until our last five minutes on the rink, when **Capt Dick Thwaites** went down with a badly twisted ankle. Brave though he was, he had to go to hospital that evening and have it strapped up, so that put paid to his ski-ing for the rest of the trip.

For the next nine days the remaining members of the party skied on six different slopes; our favourite was the Jungholz, a small part of Austria completely surrounded by Germany. It was noticeable that **Kev Page** and **Dixie Dean** seemed to improve their skiing in direct proportion to the number of pretty girls on the slopes—I wonder why?

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, and Sunday 21 January was our last day. Having serviced and repaired our skis and equipment, we said farewell and thanks to the permanent staff (from 25 Fd Regt RA) and travelled back to Berlin on the 22. It goes without saying that we were all thrown straight back into work on the Tuesday—well, they do say 'No rest for the wicked'.

To **Capt Dick Thwaites**, who has now left us, we would like to say 'Hope the ankle is now fully healed. Better luck next time you go on the ski slopes—and stay away from ice!'



EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN
LCpl Kevin Page, LCpl Geordie Iley, Pte Dixie Dean and Sgt Mick Turvey hard at work on the slopes of Bavaria

THE SOCKS MUST BE ISSUED

February was notable mainly for the Arctic-type weather conditions we experienced, and it was at that time that **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Connor's** men proved their dedication to duty beyond all doubt. Arriving at work one morning (it was quite early—about 0930 hours or so) the RQMS and his men found the entrance to their luxurious suite of offices (Alladin's Cave) blocked by a huge snowdrift. 'Oh dear!' exclaimed the RQMS as his litter bearers lowered him carefully to the ground. 'The clothing store is due for its monthly opening at 1000 hours'.

At this, the faithful **LCpl 'Taff' Stewart** stepped forward. 'Never fear, Sir', he said, 'We shall not fail you'. No doubt spurred on by the thought of promotion, he set to work with a will (and a shovel). The result can be seen in the accompanying photograph.



LCpl 'Taff' Stewart keeps the Clothing Store open despite the Arctic weather

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 15 March our previous OC, **Maj Mike Cartwright**, left us to join 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) in Belfast as Training Major. Prior to his departure, he was dined out in the best traditions of the Corps by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs. Surely no previous OC succeeded, as he did, in organising the demolition of a whole factory! to mark this feat, among his farewell gifts was one of the few remaining bricks. He was towed from the Squadron lines in one of our Landrovers specially adapted for the occasion. We hope that he and his wife **Diane** are now settled in their new home, and wish them both every success and happiness for the future.

Our new 'boss' is **Maj Peter Webster**, who joined us from the Defence Sales Organisation in the Ministry of Defence. To him and his wife **Jenny** we extend a hearty welcome, and we hope their tour with 229 will be a happy one.

EXERCISE RONDO

April's main event was our six-monthly tripartite radio exercise with our French and American counterparts. Hosted on this occasion by the French, our operators were teamed up with one from each of the other nations, and the crews thus formed competed with each other in tests of radio procedure, map reading and weapon handling. However, the main object of the exercise is undoubtedly that of getting to know our allies, and there can be no doubt this was well and truly achieved. The exercise finished at mid-day, but the parties were still going strong well into the night!



Ex *Rondo*—The winners: Sig Andy Glenn and his two allied Two tons of teamwork—The Pyramid colleagues, Cpl Debost (French Army) and SP4 Hare (US Army)

SUCCESS AT SHOOTING

In early May, our Squadron Shooting Team took part in the annual Berlin Field Force Skill-atArms Meeting. The many long hours of range training under our recently qualified Master Coach, **WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Elliott**, paid off and we took the Minor Unit trophy; those who know Berlin will understand what a notable achievement this was, and one of which we are modestly proud. Our special congratulations go to **LCpl Mick Marsh,** whose combined SLR/SMG score was the highest of all the Minor Unit competitors.

It is unfortunate that other commitments preclude our sending a team to compete in the Corps and Bisley meetings this year, but we are hoping to build on our success in 1980.



BERLIN MINOR UNITS SKILL-AT-ARMS CHAMPIONS 1979
Standing: Sgt Angus Whitton, Sgt Chris Mooney, LCpl Mick Marsh, Sig 'Smudge' Smith, LCpl Carl Strefford
Sitting: SSgt (FofS) Dave Coles, Maj Peter Webster (OC), WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Elliott, Sgt Adam Fleck

THE BIG PARADES

And so to two of the main events in our annual calendar—the Allied Forces Day Parade (19 May) and the Queen's Birthday Parade (2 June). Both parades call for meticulous preparation and rehearsal because of the prestige involved, and this period is an extremely busy one for all the British Forces here in Berlin. The Squadron's main task is to provide the co-ordinating staffs with command and control facilities; this means a lot of hard work for our Public Address team, **Sgts Brian Cantwell** and **'Taff' Cox**, our intrepid band of linemen led by **Sgt 'Jock' Rennie** and the boys of Radio Troop with, as always, the calm voice of **Sgt Dickie Davis** at Callsign Zero. Inevitably most of the work is done behind the scenes and we are often taken for granted, but it is nevertheless a very important aspect of the role of the Royal Corps of Signals here in Berlin and we all take professional pride in seeing things go off smoothly.

Of course, our involvement in the parades does not stop at providing



ALLIED FORCES DAY PARADE 1979
Capt Jack Boyle leads the salute as our landrovers drive past at the head of the British motorised contingent

the communications; our radio vehicles, with 'Jimmy' prominently displayed on the doors, always form part of the motorised element of the Allied Forces Day Parade and the vehicle screen for the Queen's Birthday Parade. This calls for much cleaning and polishing, painting and repainting, and rehearsal after rehearsal. In the case of the Allied Forces Day Parade, which takes place in the centre of the city, we and our French and American allies have to rehearse in the very early hours of the morning to avoid disrupting the traffic, especially as armoured vehicles from all three nations take part. Who wants to meet a tank coming the other way driving down the Kurfürstendamm?

The weather on 19 May looked pretty threatening, but the rain just managed to stay away until after the parade was over. It was a stirring sight to see **Capt Jack Boyle** leading the drive past of the entire British motorised contingent, with the Squadron's landrovers at the front. The vehicles looked immaculate—a tribute to all the hard work put in by our Radio Troop, and in particular to the efforts of our MT NCO, **Sgt Bob Welch.**

Then Summer came along and both the Queen's Birthday Parade rehearsals and the parade itself took place under a scorching hot sun. Our parade vehicles were commanded by two stalwarts from Commcen Troop—**Sgts John Hutchings** and **Terry Machon.** Their noses are now so red that we shall be able to see them in the dark for some time to come! The parade also provided an opportunity for **Sgt Adam Fleck** to play a starring role—his was the responsibility of marching out to the saluting dais with a microphone for the speech by HM Ambassador. Fortunately we were able to provide him with a radio mike so there was no cable to trip over.

OTHER EVENTS

Which just about brings us up to date. It should perhaps go on record that in May, which was without doubt the busiest month the Squadron has had this year, we also found time to take part in the Berlin Field Force Tug-of-War Championships (where we did well) and the Athletics Championships (where we did less well!) Add to this the seemingly endless list of duties and fatigues associated with everything else going on, and you are beginning to get the picture. And throughout all this, of course, the Army Commcen Berlin was open for business as usual!

As these notes are being written, we are looking forward to welcoming the Corps Band to Berlin over the weekend 8-10 June. We are taking the opportunity to make it a Royal Signals weekend, with a Cocktail Party followed by Beating the Retreat on Saturday 9 June. Also on that day we shall be hosting 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn (the only other competitors) for the Minor Units Morrison Cup Athletics. We are guaranteed at least second place!

Also going strong at the moment are our Squadron swimmers, under the stern but benevolent eye of their trainer, **SSgt Paddy Lavery. We** are determined to retain our title as current Army Minor Unit Swimming Champions, and to regain the Army Water Polo Championship. The first hurdle (the Berlin Championships) has to be surmounted next week and we are raring to go!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Finally, a record of the various arrivals and departures of key personnel over the last five months. **Capt Dick Thwaites** left the Squadron in April without immediate replacement; his successor, **Capt Richard Mardo**, will have joined us by the time these notes appear in print and we welcome him to Berlin. We have also now said a sad farewell to our TOT, **Capt Eddie Holland**, and his wife **Mary.** The Squadron is indebted to them both for all they did during their three years here and we wish them both well at AFCENT. Our new TOT, **Capt Jim Phillips** and his wife **Chris** have now settled in and are looking forward to their tour with us. Also new to Berlin is **2Lt Gordon Rafferty,** who has just joined us following the successful completion of his CQ Course. He was last seen being led away into the bowels of the Radio Troop garages by a purposeful-looking **SSgt Paddy Lavery!** Among the Senior NCOs there has fortunately been less turbulence—only our MT NCO has changed recently. **SSgt 'Scouse' Davies** left us for 13 Sig Regt at the end of April; we congratulate him on his promotion and wish him every success, and we welcome his replacement **Sgt Bob Welch** to 229. Our annual PRE inspection takes place in July!

RADIO TECHNICIANS

GCHQ

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.

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242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh



MORMOND HILL ACE HIGH DETACHMENT

This month we feature NATO FSS Mormond Hill, who were visited by **Brigadier Highlands, Brig B. M. Hamilton, MBE,** during May when he presented the LS and GC medal to **Sgt Dave Diamond.**

Seen in the photograph with **Brig Hamilton** are (L-R) **Sgts Trev Broadley, Dave Diamond, Keith Tillman** (from Buchan Tail Station), **Frank Dowie** (Technical Assistant at Mormond Hill), **Maj Mike Priestley** (OC 242 Sig Sqn) and **Capt (TOT) Trevor Kay** (Station Supervisor).

Turbulence at Mormond Hill is highlighted by the fact that three of the five Ace High personnel in the photograph will have moved on in the near future—all however retaining their tropo connections. **Sgt Dowie** moves to the newly militarised MMT at Maidstone, **Sgt Diamond** becomes supervisor at Buchan Tail and **Capt Kay** moves to Tropo Troop 10 Sig Regt at Swingate. He will be replaced by **WO1 (FofS) George Turner, BEM,** who already has much Ace High experience having served at both Collafirth Hill and Cape Greco.

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

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

Cpl Butch Maycock from Episkopi Troop writes:

What must be one of the few troops left to take its name from the area it services is the world renowned Episkopi Troop. A bunch of hard working, concientious, modest fellows still flying the flag in one of our Near-Eastern ex-colonies.

So that you can get to know us better, we are 90% Telemech, 19% Radio Telegraphist and 1% Combat Driver. Living up to our motto 'We Service Anything', Episkopi Troop as the right arm of the 'Fighting 259th', has had many battle honours bestowed upon it.

To name a few, The Summer Camp Campaign of '78, The Battle of Sotira Track (Winter Camp '79) and the Squadron Bar crisis every Friday afternoon.

Ably dragged . . . er I mean led, by the Troop OC, **SSgt Robbie Burnett** and **Sgt's Dave Belshaw, Ken John** and **John Tovey**, no telephone is left unserviced, no cable is left unjointed, no radio call is left unanswered, no beer is left unattended.

Episkopi Troop boasts some of the fittest men on the island due mainly to the arduous PT sessions taken by **Cpl Butch (The Whistle) Maycock** and also to running away from **Sig Jack 'Dash' Dennison** when on one of his troop fund raising missions.

Apart from our task of providing line and radio communications within the WSBA of Cyprus we also find time to supply **Sig Jim Skelly** and **CPL Butch Maycock** for the unbeaten Garrison Football Team, **Sigs Taff Watts** and **Dave Toon** for the Garrison Rugby Team, **Cpl 'Scottie' McLay** for the SKC and **Sig Pete Cunningham** for the KEO Brewery, and, as if that were not enough, we even took the Chaplain General, on his recent visit to the Squadron, a little nearer to his boss in our Simons Lift 'Cherry Picker'.

Finally, living out here on the staple diet of Radio Relay Techs and Kokkinelli, we would welcome any sun loving soldiers to come and join us for two and a half years. Providing you can meet our high standards, bookings can be made via your OC to OIC Records. See you.

Mountain Troop would like to say that they are unable to meet the high standards of Episkopi Troop but that since Episkopi Troop are 110% manned (that must be another first for the Corps) could they please send some men up to help us out. However, those who volunteer must realise that we sometimes don't see the sun for several weeks at a time, the Foreman always has his head in the clouds and the OC frequently flaps at 6,000 feet.

Airfield Troop don't write anything (it's rumoured that they don't know how) but I have it on good authority that they are alive and well at RAF Akrotiri.



Back Row: Sig Taff Watts, Cpl John Rich, Cpl John Wardley, Sig Alex Smith, LCpl Tony Dawson, Cpl Roy Gratton, Sig Dave Toon. *Centre Row:* Sig Jack Dennison, LCpl Ian Aspinall, Sig Doug Weaving, Cpl Butch Maycock, Sig Allan Armstrong, Sig Nobby Clarke, Cpl Scotty McLay, Cpl Derek Carman, Sig Pete Cunningham. *Front Row:* Sgt Ken John, Sgt Dave Belshaw, SSgt Robbie Burnett, 2Lt John Davis (Attach), Sgt John Tovey.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS SUBALTERNS ASSOCIATION (NEAR EAST)

The Annual General Meeting of the Subalterns Association (Near East), SANE, was held on Tuesday 1 May in Episkopi Officers Mess, Cyprus. There was a 100% turn out of all three members and the senior Subaltern **Lt George Lord** was unanimously backed in all resolutions by **Lt Andy Bowering** (262 Sig Sqn) and **Lt Geoff Cary. George** said he was particularly pleased to see that so many of the Corps more senior officers could make it to our little party afterwards. This year's guest of honour was the SOinC **Maj Gen Anderson.**

The main resolution adopted was, that following January's edition of The Wire magazine, OC Mountain Troop must not allow his picture to appear more than once per issue. An objection based on the grounds that he wrote the article and liked all three photos was firmly squashed.

UNUSUAL SPORTS EVENT

On the May Day Bank Holiday it just so happened that there were 4 independent Signal Squadrons on the island. **Maj Michael Ridlington,** OC 259 Sig Sqn threw out the challenge and teams from:

262 Sig Sqn (Dhekelia), 254 Sig Sqn (UN Nicosia), and 7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn (on exercise from UK) responded.

The sports fields of Happy Valley were filled with players trying their luck at Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Cricket, Tug of War and Ladies' Netball. 259 and 262, with the advantage of numbers and acclimatization, took most of the honours, but everyone had a most enjoyable day. We hope the chance will come to repeat the occasion.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

TAXING

Since our last contribution, members of 262 Sig Sqn have struggled to enjoy themselves at both work and play against the inclement conditions found in Cyprus. On Monday, 23 April, **Sgt Dave Sparkes** organised an inter-troop assault course competition (11 Regt please note). Three teams took part with many others including wives giving verbal support, abuse, encouragement and suggestions from the side lines. Although the course is fairly short it is very taxing and was made more so by the equipment each team was required to carry. Field Troop (Linemen and Radio men) ran out the deserved winners, winning a cup and the customary crate of beer. After the event participants and supporters alike adjourned to the Squadron club for light refreshment, where all competitors were told where they went wrong.

A LONG ENJOYABLE DAY

On Monday, 7 May, many of the squadron, complete with families, cool boxes, hockey sticks, cricket bats and kitchen sinks journeyed to Episkopi to take part in a four-way games meeting between 254, 259, 262 Signal Squadrons and 7 Field Force who were here on exercise. Throughout the day there were six-a-side hockey, six-a-side cricket, football, volley ball, netball, tug-of-war and basketball competitions. Although, like many units, we have our fair selection of gladiators, all those who volunteered to look after each sport worked on the principle that if you wanted a game, you played. This may have meant that we didn't always have our strongest team playing but it did give all the squadron a chance to enjoy themselves. Even so, we managed to win the hockey and basketball and did well in the other sports. It was a long day for all but well worth-while and an enjoyable Royal Signals meeting with thanks to 259 Sig Sqn.

SILVER COMMSTAR

In conclusion to prove that we can communicate as well as run, jump and swim, the Commcen has been awarded a silver Commstar for the last six months. Official presentation will be arranged shortly. This is much to the chagrin of **W/SSgt Jessie Provan** who was away in UK and thought that the Commcen just would not survive. Only kidding **Jessie,** and of course thanks to all the girls.



I may be a 'Liney' but this is ridiculous. Cpl Nigel Grant off the ground but not in his glider during the assault course competition

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News from Troops

Tayforth Universities OTC

UNIQUE FACTOR

The following article was written by **W/OCdt Bridget Williams** and was published in 'Aien' the St Andrew's University newspaper. Although slightly tongue-in-cheek and directed at potential recruits it does give the cadets' impression of their army life. Tayforth UOTC is unique insofar as it is the only UOTC to recruit from three widely separated universities, ie Stirling, Dundee and St Andrew's. It is also one of the few UOTCs with an RAC sub-unit, at present equipped with Saladin, Saracen and Ferret armoured cars. The other sub-units of Tayforth are infantry and Royal Signals.

UNIT PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col A. R. Cram, TD, 1/51 Highland (V)**
Training Major	**Maj M J. Mulcahey, QLR**
Adjutant	**Capt D. J. C. Ferry, RA (Retd)**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. Walker, 1 BW**
RAC PSI	**WO2 (SSM) H. Learmonth, 9/12L**
Inf PSI	**WO2 (CSM) R. Curran, A and SH**
R Signals PSI	**WO2 (SSM) R. Hamilton**
R Signals PSI Designate	**WO2 (SSM) G. Coude**

THREE TERMS WITH TAYFORTH

The grand title of Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps conjures up images of gauche young men swilling gin and discussing the year's pheasant shoot—unfortunately this is not quite the whole picture. The Societies Fayre is an obvious catching ground for raw recruits and the strategic placement of smooth talking cadetship officers undoubtedly provides a primary attraction. Having fallen under the charms of such flowing patter, I was whisked off to view the contingent's armoured vehicles, and I made suitable noises of admiration whilst hydraulics and armour plating were eagerly pointed out. A week later I was standing in a drill squad, being inspected by a ferocious-looking Sergeant Major, with thoughts of 'When do I get leave?' passing through my mind.

Being a member of the Basic Wing meant learning military skills such as drill, where I discovered that 'Presenting Arms' was not prostrating oneself at the feet of a colonel, but a complex series of movements with a rifle. Films and lectures on all aspects of the army are combined with practical lessons using radios, vehicles and weapons. Most of what is learned on Thursday evenings is put into action at weekend camps, which are frequent, hectic and great fun—mess life is inevitably good, with all shorts and pints at no more than 24p!

This year at Tayforth has been particularly full, with many weekends away, and two favourites being at Cultybraggon and Drip camps. The night exercise at the former consisted of crawling through damp fields and over barbed wire fences in the pitch dark before being theoretically blown to bits in an ambush. At Drip there was a tremendous contrast between ploughing through three feet of snow on the hills and settling down to a four-course meal at Stirling Castle, the romantic atmosphere being shattered when a senior NCO discovered that his spurs were tied together by collapsing across a table.

The girls in the OTC deviate wildly from the traditional WRAC image, yet do the same training as the men. The new non-discrimination policy has already paid off with the sub-machine gun and orienteering teams outstripping a good deal of the competition at the recent 'Northern Lights' inter-OTC event. The advantages for a female in such a male dominated environment are obvious, and once the chauvinistic attitudes have been put in their place, the girls will be in an enviable position.

The officers vary drastically from positively heroic to terrifying, and those you avoid. The regular army instructors are exceedingly professional and can outstrip anyone at anything . . . whilst those at the top tend not to take part in actual training but remain patriarchal figures providing sympathetic ears for any complaints or requests.

The OTC has a lot to offer a wide variety of people, for training caters for all tastes—weaponry, communications and armour. There is also a sub-section for those wishing to specialise in piping, drumming or Scottish Country Dancing—a measure of the expertise of the dancing team is seen in their recent invitation to take part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo this year.

The Corps certainly treats the cadets well in providing all equipment and uniforms, and paying good rates for attendance at training. It provides opportunities to visit various camps around Scotland and to learn to drive the armoured cars. For those with the Certificate of Military Training there is the possibility of attachment to Germany or Cyprus in the summer, and, one great relief—there is no commitment for either priority call up or a statutory service period. The atmosphere within the contingent is not University orientated, though there is ample opportunity to meet students from Dundee and Stirling, particularly since training takes place fortnightly in Dundee, alternating with St Andrew's. There is often shooting on Wednesday afternoons on the 30 metre range at Leuchars, and instruction is frequently on a one to one basis.

The next major event will be the annual camp, to be held at Crowborough in Sussex, which will include a three-day exercise out in the field and numerous farewell parties for the departing officers—no doubt the experience will prove profitable in many respects.

As a University Officer Training Corps, Tayforth certainly provides a full and entertaining training programme well worth investigating.

Association News

Aldershot Branch

On 12 May the Branch held its Annual Dinner at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants, the usual venue for this occasion. It was presided over by our President, **Brig P. M. P. Hobson, DSO,** and our principal guests were **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** and **Mrs Anderson.** Over 70 sat down to dine which included **Maj Gen M. S. Wheatley** and **Mrs Wheatley.** Speeches after the dinner were made by the President and our Chairman **Maj D. P. Gardiner, TD,** who toasted the guests. The SOinC replied to this toast and spoke of the Corps and the good work done by Branches of the Association. **Mr A. V. Ient, MSM,** proposed the Corps and the Association. Among our gathering could be found **Col G. D. T. Harris,** late of Regimental Headquarters and **Mrs Harris, Mr A. H. Green (Dodger)** and **Mrs Green** and many others. **SSgt G. Pickard** and **Sgt Wayling,** both of The Army Youth Selection Centre at Deepcut, organised a very fine draw after the dinner.

OFFICERS REUNION—ALDERSHOT CLUB FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 1979

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 6.30 pm onwards. A letter giving full details has been sent out. 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.

East London Branch

It was in the month of May, or the 12th to be exact, 133 members and guests attended our annual dinner and dance at the TAVR Centre, 36 Signal Regiment Wanstead, by kind permission of the Officer Commanding, **Lt Col G. Birch,** who, with the other guests, helped to decorate the top table. We were glad to welcome the General Secretary and his wife, the RSM of 36 Signal Regiment, **WO1 Brian Selkirk, BEM, Capt Sally Cassenta,** a special welcome was given to **Maj** and **Mrs Wilf Hill** who had travelled from the wilds of Somerset to be with us, as our President, **Maj G. Dyer,** in his speech of welcome to the guests stressed the great service **Maj Hill** had given, as without him there would have been no Branch today. This he also applied to our Secretary, **Harry Doze,** who had arranged the evening's function with the minimum assistance from the members.

In reply to the toast 'Our Guests', **Lt Col Ron Murray** congratulated the Branch on a splendidly organised function in the best traditions of the Association.

To show our appreciation of the help and assistance given by 36 Sig Regt, it was decided that we would provide a suitable trophy for yearly competition; the winner to be the most efficient Troop in the Regiment. **Lt Col Birch** duly presented the trophy to **WO2 Royal** from Norwich as winners for 1979.

The evening concluded with dancing and general conversation with old and new friends; all too soon it was midnight, again! Another function was at an end, with our Standard Bearer, **Fred Backhouse,** doing his party piece, leading a column around the hall, complete with standard to the strains of 'Begone Dull Care'.

Indian Signals Association

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner of this Association was held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday, 21 April, with **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield, OBE,** presiding.

Over 120 seats were taken for Dinner and it was an occasion for longstanding friendships to continue, new friendships to be made and the rediscovery of old friends, in one case after 59 years, going back to the days of Maresfield 1920!



Special Guests for the evening were **Brig and Mrs Faqir Khan** from Pakistan Embassy, **Mrs F. J. Allen** who, with her late husband, **Brig Freddie Allen** will be remembered with much esteem and affection by many of our older readers, and our Guest Speaker for the evening, **Maj Gen Hubert Penrose, CB, OBE, MC,** whose very extensive travels in India enabled him to revive memories for most, if not all of the assembled members.

We were also happy to entertain **C/Sgt A. T. Nash** and **Sgt T. W. Goldsmith, MM,** of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, both of whom are members of this Association and whose full Scarlets added much colour to the occasion.

One of the highlights of the evening came when the President, on behalf of the Central Committee conferred a very well earned Honour Life membership of the Royal Signals Association upon our recently retired Secretary, **Lt Col G. R. (Nat) Gould,** an honour awarded not only for his quite outstanding services to this Association but also to the Royal Signals Association over a period of many, many years. So far as **Nat** was concerned, the element of surprise was so complete as to leave him speechless.

Membership of the Indian Signals Association is open to all ranks who served with Indian Signals Units, whether in India or not, for a period of not less than 6 months, up to the time of Partition in 1947 and, despite the passing of the years, our numbers steadily increase.

If you, dear reader, should be one of those who qualify or have friends who do, please write to the Secretary: **J. T. Dexter**. 23, Kelvin Avenue, Palmers Green, London, N13 4TH, who will be more than happy to supply details.

Shrewsbury Branch

Few figures can be as well known throughout the Association as our genial Secretary, **Jim Goggin** who practically single handed has run the equally well known Grand National Draw on behalf of the Shrewsbury Branch for 16 years. Now in his second (or is it third) spell on the Central Committee, **Jim** reckons that thanks to the co-operation and generosity of other Branches and Royal Signals Units throughout the UK, BAOR and Cyprus—the Shrewsbury Branch has been able to donate in excess of £1,000 to Association Headquarters as a result of the Annual Draw.

Readers might therefore be interested in the enclosed photograph taken at this year's draw, showing the guest of honour and well known amateur National Hunt jockey, **Peter Brookshaw** (extreme right in photograph) making the draw at a social evening held at Territorial House (by kind permission of the OC 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V))—assisted by left to right, **Mrs Cheryl Greave, Maj Nick Carter** (President), **Jim Goggin** (Secretary) and **Peter Brookshaw.** Incidentally, **Peter** (the nephew of **Tim Brookshaw**) was riding earlier in the day at Sandown and immediately after finishing third in the five o'clock race, motored all the way to Shrewsbury to be our 'Guest of Honour'—we are most grateful for his gesture.

In October the Branch celebrates its 21st Anniversary and plans are already underway to commemorate the event with a Buffet/Dance—but more about that in the Autumn.



Photograph taken of Shrewsbury Branch Royal Signals Association 1979 Grand National Draw. *Left to Right:* Mrs Cheryl Greave, Maj Nick Carter (President), Jim Goggin (Secretary), Peter Brookshaw (Guest of Honour)

Sport

ARMY RUGBY UNION—FIXTURES 1979/80

1979

Oct	18	Thu	ARU Preliminary Trials	H
Nov	21	Wed	RMAS	A
	24	Sat	Ebbw Vale—25 Brecon	A
	28	Wed	RMCS	A
	29	Thu	Aldershot Services	H
Dec	12	Wed	Lydney	A
	29	Sat	Blackheath	A

1980

Jan	2	Wed	Hampshire	A
	5	Sat	Harlequins	H
	9	Wed		
	12	Sat		
	13	Sun	Leicester Barbarians	
	16	Wed	Surrey	H
	19	Sat		
	23	Wed	Oxford University	A
	26	Sat		
	30	Wed	Rosslyn Park	A
Feb	2	Sat		
	6	Wed	United Hospitals	H
	9	Sat		
	(13	Wed	Cambridge University	A
Trg	(15	Fri	Llanelli	H
	20	Wed		
	23	Sat	Royal Air Force	T
	26	Tue	Bristol	A
Mar				
	(1	Sat	PSW	H
Trg	(2	Sun		
	5	Wed	ARUCCC Minor Units UK Final	H
	8	Sat	Royal Navy	T
	12	Wed	TAVR	H
	15	Sat		
	19	Wed	ARUCCC Major Units UK Final	H
	22	Sat	Royal Navy v Royal Air Force	T
	26	Wed	Civil Service	A
			ARUCCC Minor Units Final	H
Apr	2	Wed	ARUCCC Major Units Final	BAOR
			Tour	
	23	Wed	Courage Army Sevens	H

ARUCCC

	Major Units	Minor Units
1st Round completed by	31 Oct 1979	24 Oct 1979
2nd Round completed by	14 Nov 1979	7 Nov 1979
3rd Round completed by	28 Nov 1979	21 Nov 1979
4th Round completed by	12 Dec 1979	5 Dec 1979
UK Semi-Final on	27 Feb 1980	20 Feb 1980
UK Final on	19 Mar 1980	5 Mar 1980
Final	2 Apr 1980 (in BAOR)	26 Mar 1980 (in UK)

INTERNATIONALS

Wales v France England v Ireland	19 Jan 1980
France v England Ireland v Scotland	2 Feb 1980
England v Wales Scotland v France	15 Feb 1980
France v Ireland Wales v Scotland	1 Mar 1980

INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Royal Navy v Army (8 March, 1980)

Army v Royal Air Force (23 February, 1980)

Admission prices: West Stand—All Ranks—Reserved £1.75; Other £1.00.

Tickets available from the Secretary ARU: Lt Col P. E. Y. Dawson, Army Sports Control Board, 'M' Block, Clayton Barracks, Thornhill Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BG. Or at the Turnstiles, Twickenham.

CCR SIGNALS TASK FORCE SOCCER TROPHY

The final of the above competition, the very first of its kind, was held on Wednesday, 30 May, at Alanbrooke Barracks Paderborn. It was the culmination of a European Cup style tournament which started in September 1978, and involved the eight Task Force Signal Troops in BAOR. Task Force Delta from 2 Armd Div in Osnabruck and Task Force Golf from 4 Armd Div in Minden emerged as the two finalists and the competition was sponsored by Task Force Echo Signal Troop from 3 Armd Div in Paderborn.

The game kicked off at 1400 hrs in brilliant sunshine with both sides showing a certain amount of nerves. Golf were the first to overcome their tension and gradually took command through their midfield trio; **Parsons,** in particular stamping his authority on the game. Against the run of play Task Force Delta went ahead through a penalty, which was scored by **Miller,** Delta's number nine. Two goals followed almost immediately when Golf first drew level, then went ahead through **Monteith** after a fine pass by **Gallagher.** After 40 minutes Delta equalised when **Gallagher** misjudged a high ball and Task Force Golf's number seven, **Luckham,** scored from close range.

At half-time the score stood at two goals apiece and during the 10 minute interval the spectators were well entertained by the Regimental Band of the 15/19 Hussars, who, very appropriately included in their repertoire, 'Begone Dull Care', the Royal Corps of Signals Regimental march. Six minutes into the second half Delta went ahead again when **Miller** ran through with the ball, laid a fine pass off to **Monteith,** who, despite desperate challenges by Task Force Golf's central defenders scored in the right hand corner.

With only 10 minutes left of normal time **Woods,** Task Force Golf's sweeper, controlled a ball well on the half-way line, ran forward with it and rifled a shot into the roof of the net from fully 25 yards. All square at three goals each. After 90 minutes of see-saw action in blistering heat the two teams then had two periods of extra time to look forward to! In extra time Golf proved to be the stronger of the two teams scoring twice more, one goal in each half, to put the game beyond the reach of Task Force Delta.

Final score—five goals to three, in Task Force Golf's favour. Due to other commitments, the CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** was unfortunately unable to attend, but the Paderborn Garrison Comd, **Brig R. C. Keightley** very kindly presented his Trophy, to **Colley** the captain of Task Force Golf. Medals were also presented to both teams, the three officials and a special trophy to the man of the match, **Woods,** of Task Force Golf Signal Troop. Special mention should also go to **Parsons** of Task Force Golf and **Monteith** of Task Force Delta who were pipped at the post by **Woods** for this nomination.

The day culminated in well earned shandies for the team and officials and a buffet for all spectators in the Echo Chambers, the Task Force Echo Signal Troop Club. The competition has proved to be a great success, in its pilot season, and this was certainly reiterated by the 200 or so who turned up to watch the final. Under Task Force Foxtrots able sponsorship for the coming season, the CCR Signals Task Force Soccer Trophy can look forward to a long, healthy and competitive life.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, YACHTMASTER (UK KEEL BOATS)

The new address for the Yachtmaster (UK Keel Boats) is: School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: Blandford 52581 ext 233.

EXERCISE CHRISTMAS CORAL LEG 1

Report by Lt Col R. A. Cemm

Another hundred gallons of salt water dropped on my head and the inevitable icy trickle found its way through my neck scarf and made its chilling way down my spine. Not that it needed to, the situation on deck looked spinechilling enough as it was. Wiping the salt from my eyes and squinting to windward before the next deluge hit me, I wondered uncharitably whether **Stewart Read's** course was right, he was the navigator warm and snug below at the chart table, occasionally demanding compass bearings of **Mac MacGilp** the watch leader. He, like me, was firmly clipped to Sabre as we pounded our way ever more Southerly. Those had to be the lights of North Africa ahead, reason told me so, and the navigator confirmed it, but why were they so high and what was the inky blackness between for which I was plunging so vigorously? Rocky cliff or safe harbour?

I turned to look at the lights of Spain sinking astern, and also to shelter the corned beef butty that **Pete Lavers**, our cook, handed up from below. As I munched, I reflected it was a far cry from the Ministry desk I had defended strongly for the past eighteen months. Yet strangely it was from that very desk that we had launched Exercise *Christmas Coral*, leg one, crewed by the Royal Signals Yacht Club. Like most army sailors my spring time thoughts revolved around gentle zephyrs and sun speckled waves. I had a desperate need to be anywhere but at a Whitehall desk as the rain poured down the blast curtain covered windows of my Whitehall fortress. Last spring was only more unusual in that having done some instructing at JSSC I was in the know about various plans, and no sooner had **Brig Dowdall**, the Commander of 11 Engineer Group, agreed to run Exercise *Christmas Coral*, than in went a bid from the club to crew a leg — preferably trans-Atlantic. In exchange we offered to provide technical assistance and back up for the on-board radio.

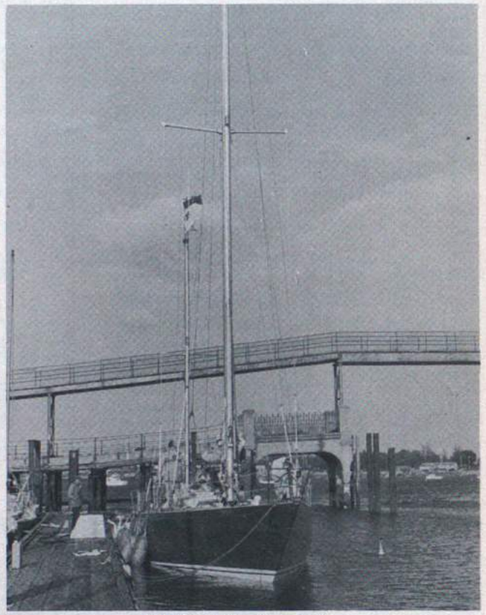
THE AIM

Exercise *Christmas Coral*, which is still going on as I write, was conceived as a way of giving some exciting sailing to the garrisons of Belize and Gibraltar, and giving some, long distance sailing experience to other sailors from home bases. In the event we did not manage our ideal of a Royal Signals Trans-Atlantic leg but were compensated by being allowed to take the boat alone and unsupervised. We took the leg from Gosport to Gibraltar, where a local crew sailed first in home waters and then went on down to the Canaries. They handed over to Sappers who took the boat from Teneriffe to Nassau, from where there was much toing and froing centred on the line Belize-Nassau before another Sapper crew took the boat from Nassau to Newport on the American East Coast, and shortly a Gunner crew will bring it back through the Spring Gales across the Atlantic from Newport to Gosport. Looking out the window at the snow, I have to confess I would rather it were them than me! However, such craven thoughts had no time to cross my mind as the summer flew past in a flurry of minor administration. The crew picked itself and slowly shook itself into line for the start.

ALL ABOARD

It was a typically soggy autumn Sunday morning, October clouds and a light drizzle as we converged on Gosport from all corners of the British Isles and Germany. All, that is, except **Goff Adams**, who was fog bound in Hannover. Sunday was endless as the skipper of Sabre, **Ron Gravells**, handed over, checked, counted and sorted the thousand and one items that made up the inventory of a fifty five foot, twelve berth, ocean-going yacht. From tea-spoon to liferaft, from torch to HF radio, from army form blank to star cut spinnaker and back we checked and counted, every so often interrupted by new arrivals making their number and then being asked to wait until we could get them aboard. Finally dusk settled, **Ron** departed, and the crew came aboard. With the speed and experience that was to show throughout the trip they were quickly settled in and sorted out. The skipper nearly lost his name when the subsequent crew briefing almost went past closing time in the Club bar!

Preparing a boat for sea is always a chaotic looking exercise as stores come and go, as repairs are effected, and the miniscule living space slowly fills up with such vital things as more army form blank, mountains of compo, and suspiciously large quantities of something marked Inde Coope. **Goff Adams** appeared, blinking the fog from his eyes, and was quickly pressed into service. The skipper, by no means the smallest member of the crew, did a personal check of the mast head, while more stores arrived courtesy of a TESCO shopping trolley (I wonder, did we take it back?). It would be wrong to say that tempers frayed, but there was something in the set of jaws which said that the sooner we are at sea the better. Harrassed by the check list, the skipper suffered yet another blow when one of the crew had to fall out due to illness. We entered some very delicate negotiations for the services of a JSSC coxswain, **Ray Williams**, a REME Staff Sergeant, and although there were some very cogent reasons why he could not go, the King Edward cigars and the bottle of Teachers won the day. Despite an agonising knee injury **Ray** proved a staunch and cheerful member of the crew throughout.



HMSTY Sabre ready to go



The crew of Ex *Christmas Coral* Leg 1. Seconds before departure from Gosport

Left to Right: WO1 Keith Childs, SSgt Ray Williams, Lt Col Roger Cemm, Lt Jim Barry, SSgt Pete Johnson, SSgt 'Mac' MacGilp, Sgt Peter Lavers, Sgt Goff Adams, Cpl 'Paddy' Verdon, Capt Vaughan Smedley, Maj Stewart Read, Maj Alan Stephenson

AWAY INTO BAD WEATHER

The log records that at 1000hrs ZULU on Tuesday the 17 October HMSTY *Sabre* slipped her moorings at Gosport and entered pilotage down Spithead Channel. What it does not record is the universal feeling of relief we all felt at being free and under way at last. Little time was lost in getting sea-board routine going and well before we cleared Spithead Channel, the off duty watches were below, going to sleep, or doing the final stowage. We short tacked up a very squally Solent and off Cowes met undoubtedly the worst weather of the whole trip. Hail lanced past horizontally, making it impossible to see to windward. The ship was laid hard over despite the heavily reefed main and tiny jib, and the visibility in the rain and hail was down to thirty to forty yards. Fortunately like most squalls it went through fast and we emerged into bright sunshine!

SKIRTS UP

As we rounded the corner at Cowes and freed sheets, *Sabre* picked up her skirts and went. We changed the rig to a bigger jib and lowered the main. We added the mizzen which we then left in place for a week. There can be no doubt that our sail down to Ushant was one of the most exhiliarating legs of the journey as we stomped along with six knots permanently on the clock and often more. The wind was force 6 to 7, not quite a gale, and almost over the stern. The rolling motion of running before the wind coupled with a quartering sea had several of us hanging over the side summoning Huey! However, I get ahead of myself.

We ran a system of three watches of three, with a skipper, navigator, and cook making up the complement. The system was based on a mother watch. Two watches shared the duty, four hours on, four hours off, and the mother watch did all the chores for the day as well as supporting the watch on deck if required. We also rotated the watches every evening so that in each two days the watch changed its duty periods. As white watch, **Mac MacGilp, Jim Barry** and **Pete Johnson** appeared from below, suspiciously blinking in the Solent sunshine, it was hard to believe that minutes before we were being battered by enormous winds. Red watch were nonetheless glad to be out of it, fearing worse things to come. *Sabre* romped out through the Needles and we set course directly for Ushant. To the North, England's South Coast was bathed in afternoon sunshine, though the corkscrew motion of the boat belied any suggestion of anything other than autumn. When **Alan Stephenson, Vaughan Smedley** and **Keith Childs**, the red watch reappeared, they found it difficult to believe that in their watch below we had covered so much ground so fast, but there, indisputably, was Portland Bill abeam!

All night long we pressed on relentlessly down the Channel with occasional seas hitting us beam on and throwing up a mess of spray and foam. The weather was bitterly cold and **Jim Barry** protected his head with a captured 'Russian' fur hat. At 0400 hrs the so far unblooded blue watch of **Goff Adams, Ray Williams** and **Paddy Verdon** sniffed the weather for the first time in fourteen hours, having been struggling manfully below with the problems of house keeping in a dripping wet, frowsty, battened-down atmosphere made no less pleasant by the problems of those suffering mal-de-mer.

MAGNIFICENT LABOURING

One person's presence was being felt in no uncertain terms. Although admitting to feeling 'slightly queasy', **Pete Lavers** laboured magnificently in his galley, as he did for the next two weeks, producing various culinary masterpieces despite being airborne two thirds of the time and working at an ever changing angle of about thirty degrees. His hard work and dedication to his task made ours that much more fun. Certainly I have ben in few boats where meals were so eagerly awaited.

Dawn came and with it the sun again, the motion on the boat and the large seas were making navigation somewhat difficult since sun and star shots with the sextant required considerable time and effort. Perhaps that was why the skipper's astro had us going backwards up the Channel at one stage!

THE FRENCH COAST

The French coast and Ushant were recognised at about 1500 hrs but foul tides prevented us from leaving Ushant astern until well after dusk. From mid afternoon clouds had been building up and for the whole way across the Bay of Biscay we were unable to get either sun or star shots and our navigation was pure dead reckoning. Once round Ushant the wind was astern and somewhat abated and the seas were smaller so that our second night afloat was rather more comfortable than our first. The seas slammed less, but with inky black replacing a star filled heaven the night was no more comfortable. However, we were not without company as the ships plying between Europe and Africa passed up and down what must surely be the nautical equivalent of the M1. It was comforting to note that we were pointing in the same direction!

SLOW PACE AND THE BAY

We had all of us fed on the tales of shipwreck and storm in the Bay of Biscay and so it was with rather mixed feelings that we faced the flukey winds of the following day. After our gallop down to Ushant, the slow pace was doubly irksome. Thursday marked two things, the loss of one of our buckets over the side, and the appearance of our first Dolphins. **Keith Childs** rated them as one of the most exciting sea experiences he has had. **Vaughan Smedley** was less enthusiastic as their first appearance had been at night and the sound of their 'blowing' had been a bit 'scarey' until the watch had identified the source.

Thursday night was a sad night for **Goff Adams** as he lost his cap over the side. It was a salt stained much travelled companion, a thing on which to devote great love.

TENUOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The boat had two HF radios on board, a Marconi Marine radio on which we made daily contact with Hornet our home base, and a PRC 320 with which we wanted to talk to 30 Signal Regiment who had kindly agreed to anchor the exercise in conjunction with a similar facility for Op *Drake*. Every day they came in loud and clear, bang on time. Sad to say, we had been unable to match their efficiency, but on Friday **Vaughan Smedley**, our radio operator, at long last established a two way link. The wire antenna from the PRC 320 was a Yeoman's nightmare, someday we will solve the problem of stringing up one hundred feet of dipole on a fifty foot boat. We never did achieve good results with the PRC 320 but I gather the set was subsequently found faulty and the replacement worked well. Our communications with Gosport were tenuous, but even so we made a daily schedule with them without problem, on the two occasions that 30 Signal Regiment joined us with their much better organised station they positively boomed in. We even managed a couple of telephone calls via Portishead Radio, and gleefully heard QE2 given what can only be termed a 'wait out' while we received Rolls Royce attention from the GPO operators!!

GOOD SPEEDS

Friday saw us pushing along under spinnaker with good speeds on the log, and, with relatively stable decks and little spray, the deck began to sprout underwear, socks, and towels and the drying out and airing began. Saturday dawned with broken cloud and occasional glimpses of stars. The skipper was called out to try his hand with sextant. The task proved impossible in the conditions, but then as the watchleader, **Goff Adams** said, why should he be the only one to be cold and wet, a sentiment echoed by grins from his watch.

We raised radio direction finding beacons in North Spain and were delighted to find that we had been too pessimistic in our estimate of progress. We all started searching for the Spanish coast and so **Alan Stephenson** had a good audience when he performed his party trick. He had just collected his dried washing from the deck when he saw a large wave coming, instinctively he tucked the dhoby into his chest and crouched. He was rewarded with dry dhoby—and a complete soaking! Saturday's sailing was superb and when at last we sighted Spain in exactly the right position, we enjoyed an orgy of fixes and sail changes as we worked our way from Cape Villano to Cape Finisterre at a seemingly incredible pace. We all expressed surprise at the painless crossing of the Bay of Biscay and started thinking once more of the land-based flesh pots ahead.

The sun came out on Sunday with a vengeance and with clear blue skies and no wind it was more a sunbathe than anything else. Two of the sunbathers **Keith Childs** and **Ray Williams** met the skipper's cry of 'Have you had your daily oranges' with groans. **Jim Barry** was heard to mutter 'I don't think it is fear of scurvy, I think he's got shares in Outspan'.

LISBON AHEAD

We had intended to spend the night in Leixoes and celebrate a week on board, but having made our entry we did not like the look of this coaling port and rather than swing anchor with an anchor watch we elected to press on to Lisbon. Spirits rose as we put back to sea again and ran steadily downt he coast of Portugal.

Monday came and went frustratingly as we tried hanging out various combinations of sails to make progress in the windless weather. Unfortunately we had a schedule to keep and we had to make much use of the iron jib and there was consequently some concern over our dwindling stock of diesel fuel. At 0400 hrs on Tuesday morning the 24 October, the skipper, still in his shorts, conned us into the Yacht Harbour underneath the statue of Henry the Navigator in Lisbon. Unfortunately we had to spend most of the morning clearing Customs and dealing with a less than helpful harbour master. Time did not

permit us to give Lisbon the attention it clearly deserved and we set sail in the late afternoon.

No doubt inspired by the monument, the crew thereafter always referred to **Stewart Read** as **'Enry'.**

FOG AND BLOW

Fog, one of the seaman's worst enemies, clutched us through the night and a windless Thursday was not much fun, though with replenished tanks our use of the iron jib was less worrying. Not for the first time we cursed a schedule that only allowed us ten days to do ten days sailing. No sailor really enjoys the noise and smell of motoring but progress has to be made. Mid afternoon found us off Cape St Vincent and we celebrated a nautical victory, not the Napoleonic one but rather that of **Alan Stephenson** whose ship had sunk a German U-Boat there some thirty years earlier!

A reminder that we were getting into Southern latitudes, where weather is less predictable, came during the night when the skipper was startled from his bunk with the news that the barometer had dropped two millibars in an hour! The promised blow came and even under shortened sail and on a beat we still thrashed along at seven knots. This was change with a difference as we made our way East across the Bay towards Cadiz.

HARD WON LANDFALL

Cadiz, the pilot rather comfortlessly reminded us was the only Port of Shelter on this coast! However, the afternoon brought calmer winds and gentler seas and we tramped our way steadily east. Nothing is predictable. Hardly had we raised land than we were becalmed and then once more headed by a steadily increasing wind in the approaches. It was a hard won landfall and comfort was slow in coming, for the only suitable berth we could find was in the Commercial harbour and we had no sooner docked than a policeman told us to move. With a little effort he was persuaded to let us defer the move to morning. At a little after midnight we were properly snugged down, and the skipper and **'Enry'** went walking to see if a suitable alternative could be found. It was clear that the only other place to which we could go would be the lee-side of the Commercial harbour, which, in the strong winds prevailing, was not a pleasant prospect. **Alan Stephenson** tended the lines throughout the night and we awoke to glorious sunshine and a wind somewhat abated.

The morning was spent desperately trying to find diesel oil in small enough quantities for our needs. We could buy it by the ton, or even in forty gallon drums, but we could not carry it away in jerry cans. In the end, for an exorbitant fee a taxi driver agreed to break the law and carry the cans in his boot. We were probably conned, but by that time we were getting distinctly fed up with Cadiz, and wanted no more than a quick look as tourists and to be on our way. **'Enry'** booked us in at the Consulate and made the appropriate contacts at the Embassy. The skipper worked his way yet again through the intricacies of landing a party of 'seamen' in a foreign port and at long last by lunchtime we were free to 'grockle' with the best.

MEDITERRANEAN FEEL

We knew at last that we were getting near the Mediterranean. Palm trees abounded, the sun shone from a cloudless blue sky and even in late October the shade of the narrow streets was welcome. Cadiz is a place worth exploring in detail, but the schedule pressed, and tea time saw us once more under way. The wind in the late afternoon died away on us and we found ourselves motoring gently down the coast into gathering twilight.

WILD AND WET

Which brings me back to where I started. The evening breeze came and went and as we neared Cape Trafalgar and the Straits of Gibraltar, the Levanter, a strong Easterly wind that howls out of the Strait, sometimes for weeks on end, took over and we found ourselves in a very short steep sea with a strong wind. By 2100 hrs the wind was too strong for even the reefed main, and we plunged on under the more comfortable rig of the number one jib and the small mizzen sail on our rear mast. We were still recording an exhiliarating seven knots on the log. Conditions on deck were wild and wet, and in the strong half gale winds even the warm water soon produced a shivering cold as the wind chilled the bare skin. Hot drinks and 'buttys' were handed out to the watch on deck from the snug cabin below.

LIGHT EVASION

It was not our comfort, however, that worried the watch on deck, we were crossing one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, and for the last two days we had been using emergency navigation lights, the efficacy of which were in some doubt. We therefore took no chances and sail or no sail we tacked out of the way of any lights that stayed on a constant bearing (in other words which were on a collision course). This in turn produced some amusing situations. In the wild conditions and constantly flying spray, it was not always easy to make out lights, and if we had learned anything along the Iberian coast about lights, it was that they were 'different'. In consequence and following the adage that it is better to be safe than sorry, we tacked once to avoid a house on a hill, and once to avoid a group of stars!

TANGIERS

The lights of North Africa were coming up fast and although fixes on the lights of Cape Trafalgar and the other Spanish lights left us in little doubt of our position, the skipper continued to feel nagging doubts about the landfall ahead. We were headed for Tangiers, the exotic sounding city of North Africa. It lies at the head of a bay, and as we raced south there were lights high up on both port and starboard, but inky blackness dead ahead. At midnight the wind indicator gave up the unequal struggle, and ceased to function. I'm not sure if it had any connection, but shortly thereafter we entered the shelter of the Bay of Tangier and to the skipper's infinite relief, the lights of Tangier town started to grow out of the water. An hour later saw us manoeuvering around a cruise liner anchored just of the entrance of the harbour and tying up alongside what was marked on our chart as 'Quai des Yachts'.

THE FUN STARTS

Then the fun started. **Alan Stephenson**, a wise old soldier of the old school, told precautionary tales about Arabs, which had us locking everything moveable down below and eyeing with suspicion everyone who came near us. Tangier—now a modern tourist port—was obviously not geared to receiving yachts at 1 am. The first question the man on the quay wanted to know was, had we any guns on board? Shades of all the stories I had ever read about Tangier! However, at the office, the young Customs and Immigration official switched on the light, rubbed the sleep from his eyes and with great charm and despite my protests removed my passports, for which he gave me a receipt, and then told me to move the boat. Since my charts showed insufficient depth everywhere else in the harbour, I refused. There was much shrugging of shoulders and it was finally agreed yes, the Hovercraft could probably get in anyway. I was a little puzzled by the statement, but by then too tired to argue further. I went back to my ship and rolled into bed and was instantly asleep.

I awoke to the unmistakable roar of a gas turbine and much excited arabic shouting. I grabbed shorts and shirt and donning them quickly I stuck my head out of the hatch. The Levanter was howling across the harbour but we were nicely protected by the mole. The captain of the hovercraft did not quite see it that way, as he fought to get his machine round me and alongside the same mole fighting the same wind.

The ensuing scene where he heaped coals of gallic fire on the head of myself and my forebears while remonstrating with the Morrocan officials, all watched by a very voluble crowd, was a little scene I shall never forget. I tried to maintain an Anglo Saxon aloofness, only interjecting occasionally that the depth of water did not permit me to move. My resolution was strengthened by the sight of a small tanker which some tugs were trying to control in the outer harbour where it had broken loose from its moorings. The gallic imprecations that greeted the decision to let me stay were very impressive, as too was the ease with which the hovercraft subsequently came and went. Our run ashore was all too short, a long walk through the European port of the town, a quick call at the Consulate, a rapid plunge back through the Souk and it was time once again to leave.

THE FINAL LEG

This was to be our final leg. Our goal Gibraltar. If we made it that day we would be bang on time, and the prospect of a stable bed and hot baths were very tantalising. Once again the Levanter made life exciting for us as we tacked North under mizzen and jib. The constant ducking was not unpleasant since the sun was shining brightly and the sailing was exhiliarating. All eyes were on Point Tarifa as we plugged North, until someone said, 'look astern skip'. There highlighted in the afternoon sunshine, which glinted back from what we presumed were snow patches, and crowned with afternoon cloud, was the majesty of the High Atlas. The mountains rose sheer from the sea and climbed steeply in rugged grandeur into the clouds. All afternoon we watched them slide by to the South, looking so near that one almost felt it possible to reach out and touch them.

Alas, however, sightseeing was not on the agenda, and our attention returned to Tarifa. The nearer we got the easier it was to assess our progress, and we were delighted to see that **'Enry'** had got it just right and the tide was sweeping us firmly towards Gibraltar. We tacked close in shore to enjoy the sheltered conditions, but **'Enry'** was insistent, if we wished to enjoy the best of the tide we had to tack back out again. As luck would have it, the wind and sea steadily went down until just about tea time when we sat in a near calm being swept along gently by the tide, watching the dolphins sport around us.

SAFELY INTO HARBOUR

The wind when it came back did so with Mediterranean suddenness. We had an instantaneous wind shift of some ninety degrees and found ourselves creaming along on a broad reach. The skipper was persuaded to shake out the main, which, in truth had seen not too much service for one reason or another all the way down, and there we were set up on the home run, as all good sailors like to be, with a creaming seven knot reach and a vessel seemingly as eager as us to be home and at rest.

Europa Point light, our charts, and Admiralty tables had a basic disagreement about what they should be flashing, but there was no mistaking the Rock as we hammered into the bay in gathering darkness. Finally, and with reluctance, we lowered the sails for the last time and motored into our berth on Coaling Island. The noises of the town were around us, the beacon on the Rock above us flashed its red GB to the world and we had brought our ship and ourselves safely into harbour.

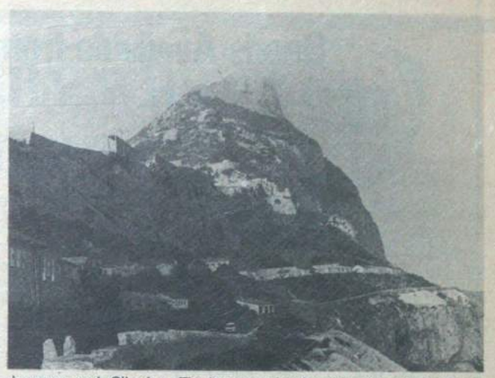
A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

There was a pause while we cleared ship, and handed over, and the Special Troop Royal Engineers hosted us for two days of really splendid sight seeing before seeing us aboard our flight to Gatwick. For most of us, I'm sure, it will be a journey to remember. **Mac MacGilp** had sailed the Southern Ocean, **Goff Adams** had crossed the Atlantic, **Alan Stephenson** had all sorts of exciting adventures but for us all as we went our different ways at Gatwick, I am sure it had been both good training and an adventure worth recording.

AN INVITATION

These trips are for everyone and if you are interested in sailing, at no matter what level, a line to the Corps Sailing Secretary, will I am sure, put you in touch with those who can help. His address is:

Lt Col J. J. Barry, Hon Sec RSYC, HQ 2 Signal Group, Malta Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.



Journeys end. Gibraltar. The levanter cloud topping 'The Rock' keeps the town in shade for days on end even in fine weather

Editors note: We regret that lack of space does not permit us to publish more of your interesting photographs which accompanied this article.

THE INTER-CORPS TARGET RIFLE MATCH 1979

INITIAL HURDLE

A good turnout of the Corps fullbore target rifle shots gathered at Bisley on Saturday 2 June, to shoot for places in the Corps Team for the match on Sunday. Fifteen other teams took part, from most Arms and Services, from the Gunners through several Divisions of Infantry down to the Educators. A team of Gurkha snipers shot alongside with their service sniper rifles.

The practice day dawned wet and muggy, but all seven Corps aspirants got onto the 900 yards target with their first shots, and we started a long, slogging day of zeroing and practice at each range. As usual, the top three places in the team were fairly easy to fill, but **Nick Blampied**, from Guernsey, a 7 Sig Regt shot, was clearly elected to fall out of the group; this was bad luck as he had come all the way from Germany to compete for his place, and we persuaded the RAEC to take him on as an extra 'reserve' shooting for honour only. **YofS Corcoran** (HMS *Mercury*) and **Capt Peter Grey** (Radio Group, School of Signals) were finally selected as our official Reserves, to compete for an ARA Spoon with the other Reserves. The Corps Team was headed by **Capt Jim Evans**, an Army, Wales, and 7 Sig Regt shot, with **Maj Geoff Exell** from the School, **Maj John Cox** from Telecommunications Branch, REME, and **Col Richard Gilbertson**, the Captain. For the benefit of those who have wondered about the names under 'Shooting' on the back cover of the White List, the Captain of Corps Shooting is **Maj Geoff Exell**, who runs the Service Weapons side of Corps Shooting; the Vice Captain is **Col Richard Gilbertson** who looks after Target Rifle Shooting.

A DENSE HAZE

The forecasters promise of a warm dry weekend was fulfilled only for those who can read between the lines. It was warm, and muggy; it didn't rain, but the whole of Sunday, the targets were seen vaguely through a dense haze which failed to clear all day, and made shooting at the longer ranges very difficult indeed.

900 YARD DOWNFALL

We got off to an excellent start at 300 yards, emerging clear leaders with a four point lead over the Gunners, with REME in third place. 600 yards was not so good; our lead was whittled down to a single point. After lunch, 900 yards proved our downfall: **Jim Evans** lost a shot (we are still debating where it can have gone) and a moderate score by the Captain failed to redeem the situation. We fell back to 1000 yards fourteen points behind the leaders, REME having overtaken the Gunners with a really remarkable team performance. We got a grip on ourselves at 1000 yards, turning in a score to equal the leaders. It was too late; we could not make even a point on REME, and finished fourth overall; counted out of third place by the Scottish Division on our poor 900 yards showing.

REME				744	.....	ex 800
Royal Artillery				739	.....	
Scottish Division				730	.....	
Royal Signals				730	.....	

	300	600	900	1000		
Exell	48	47	45	45	.....	185
Gilbertson	47	46	48	43	.....	184
Evans	49	49	40	45	.....	183
Cox	46	43	45	44	.....	178
						730

Our Reserves determined to show they had been woefully misjudged: **Yeoman Corcoran** had a good shoot, **Philip Grey** started well but dropped out of the picture at 1000 yards. **Nick Blampied** started superbly, dropping one point only at 300 yards, and shooting well at the next two ranges. Sadly, he was pressed for time at the end of the 1000 yards detail, the light was failing and his experience was not up to the strain:—

(Second place, ARA Reserves Match)

Corcoran	45	47	47	45	184
Grey	45	48	48	42	183
Blampied	49	47	47	40	183

THE LESSONS

The lessons: as a Corps, we don't get nearly enough shooting at long ranges. Some of our rifles are not really up to 900 yards shooting, let alone 1000 yards. In the event, the Captain's long range rifle was used by three competitors at 1000 yards, and one rifle hired from the ARA was also thoroughly well used. Next time, everyone must shoot with a No 4 (that tried and trusty old weapon) at both long ranges. Sadly it doesn't match up at short ranges nowadays, and all really serious shots need two rifles to compete at current standards. The situation may be better after a long range appears on the Sennelager Range Complex next year, giving our BAOR members a rather better chance to practice.

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

The 1980 Corps Diary—This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. OVERSEAS .60p HOME .65p.

	Overseas	UK
	£	£
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.40	7.40
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.75
Corps table mats (set of six)	17.00	18.90
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	5.10	5.70
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	5.65	6.40
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.20	3.50
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	2.75	3.05
Crested glass ash trays	1.10	1.25
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1.45	1.70
Car badge—square, acrylic	2.40	2.70
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.30	0.30
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.20	2.50
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	2.00	2.20
Corps transfers—large (10" x 7½")	0.65	0.70
medium (7½" x 5½")	0.60	0.65
small (3" x 2⅛")	0.40	0.45
Identity card holder	0.16	0.17
Blazer buttons—large	0.25	0.27
small	0.20	0.21
Association lapel badge (members only)	0.25	0.27
Corps scarves—woolen	3.60	4.05
Corps squares—terylene	2.55	2.85

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE AND PACKING

When you're off-duty, why parade in a uniform car?

LANCIA

As you well know, one of the benefits of being posted abroad is the opportunity to purchase some very stylish cars at tax free prices.
Like the Lancia Beta Saloon you see pictured here. It is a car of distinctive, individual lines, great comfort and high performance.
Inside, there is head and leg room for five adults. And the well upholstered contoured seats are covered in an elegant and luxurious cloth fabric that feels as soft as wool.
Behind, there's 18 cubic feet of boot space to comfortably take care of the luggage.
While in the true spirit of Lancia there is a twin overhead cam engine, a 5 speed all synchromesh gearbox, front wheel drive for precise handling and a dual braking system for exceptional stopping power.
However, if you're simply looking for all out power and performance, you need look no further than the 2+2 Beta Coupé.
Or if you need the extra space and flexibility of an estate car, there's the remarkable sleek Beta HPE (high performance estate).
Every Lancia is the sum total of years of engineering genius, which has been proven on the toughest rally circuits in the world.
To prove this for yourself, contact our Export Department. If you want to lease a Lancia, ask about our special leasing schemes.
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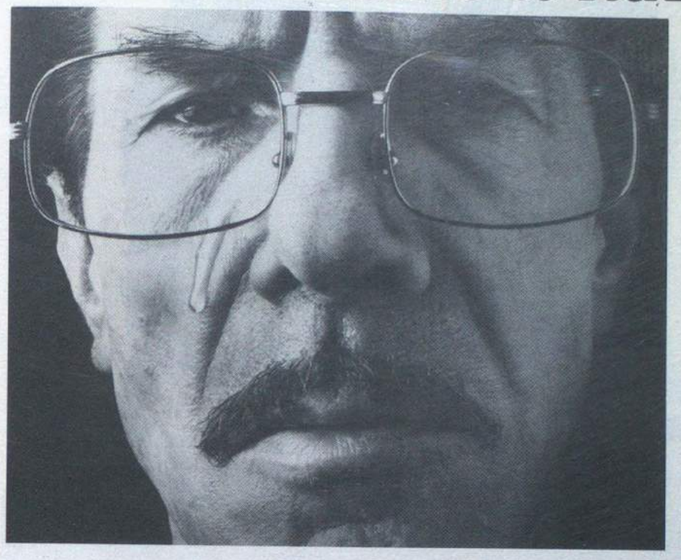
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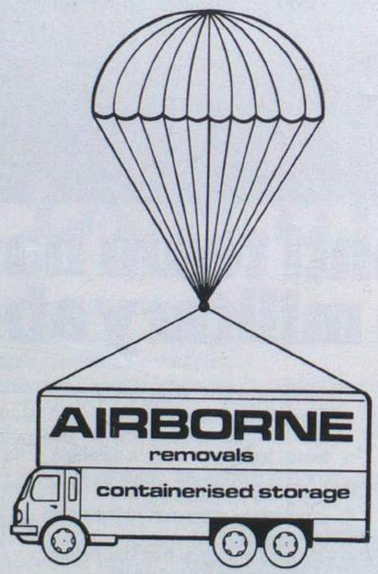
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September 1979

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE





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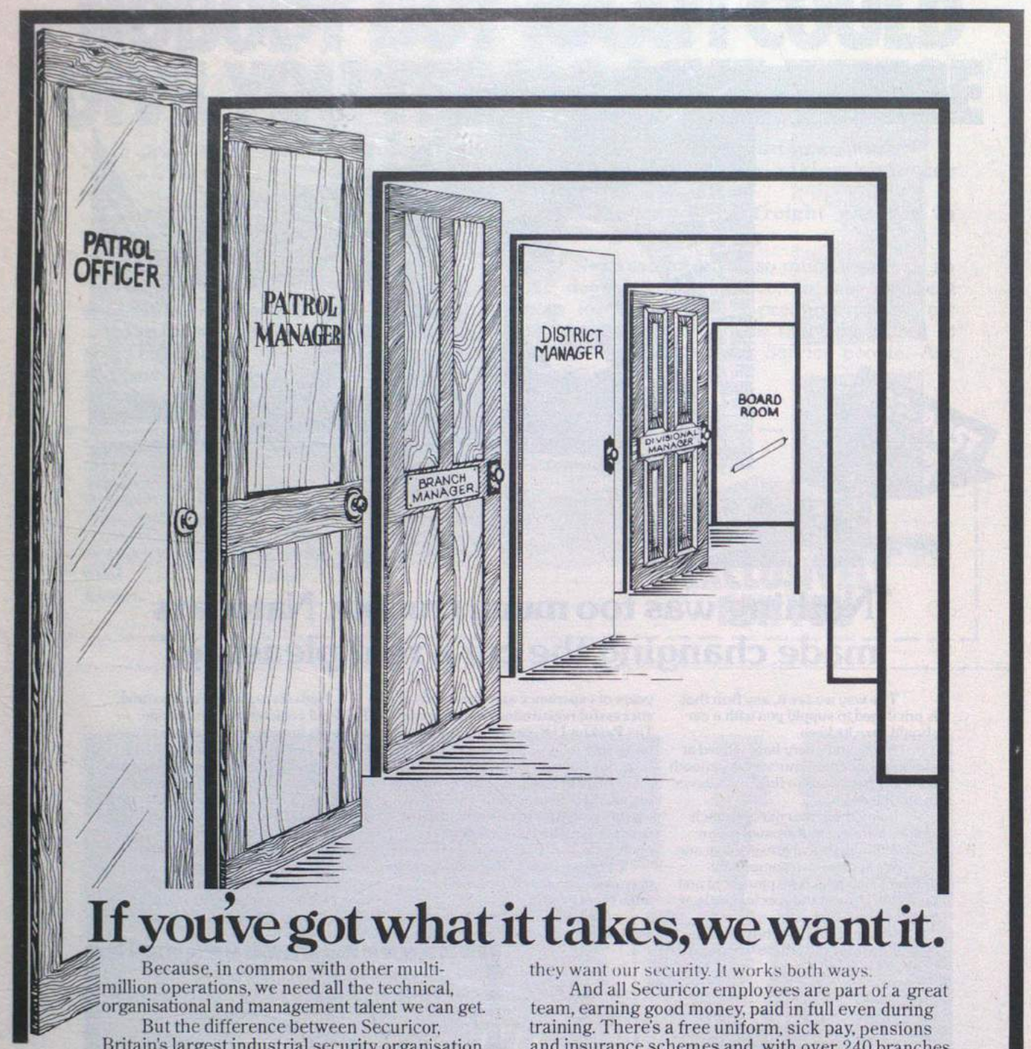
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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
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SEPTEMBER **1979**

Vol 33 *(New Series)* **No 5**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

The Colonel-in-Chief, with Lt Col M. F. H. Colman, CO 21 Signal Regiment, on her arrival in Germany at RAF Wildenrath, the home of 21 Signal Regiment

TRAGEDY

All our readers are aware of the tragic deaths in Ireland on Monday 27th August. **Admiral of The Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma** was made an Honorary Member of both the Royal Signals Association and Institution on 5th February 1965—in recognition of his close association with the Corps as a Signal Officer in the Royal Navy, as Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia and when Chief of the Defence Staff. Gen Michael Whistler, who knew Lord Louis well and was his Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Signals) writes:

'I first met Earl Mountbatten when he was 'Supremo' in Burma. Any words of mine in that context would be superfluous. To serve later on his staff and so closely with him was a privilege never to be forgotten. It was almost like living with, and sometimes trying to restrain, a living volcano; but a friendly one. At a NATO C-E Board I introduced him as 'the world's most senior and famous Communicator' and reminded them he had kept himself completely up to date with all aspects of Signals, in spite of his eminence. Later, a 3-star US General asked me just how one man could be quite so powerful. I replied 'if you had one of the most brilliant brains in the world, the charisma of a famous film-star, and were closely related to most of Europe's Royalty, you would be powerful too'.

He expected a very great deal from one, and inspired one to produce it, and the subjects ranged far beyond the mere technicalities of communications, as any good Signaller should expect. It was sometimes a trifle disconcerting that he knew more of one's subject than one did oneself, but he was so very human withal, with a keen sense of humour. He was a great family man and my wife and I treasure the memory of his friendship. He grew to like our Corps, and in his later years read 'The Wire' with interest. He once told me he would have liked to have been a Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals.'

We would like to take this opportunity of expressing our very deep sympathy to all members of his family. A letter of condolence has been sent by the Master of Signals to his Great Niece, our Colonel-in-Chief.

The Colonel-in-Chief visits the Corps in Germany

This issue of The Wire records the most memorable visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne to Germany during the period 20th-22nd June.

The following is an extract from a telegram received by the Master of Signals from the Colonel-in-Chief —

'It gave me enormous pleasure to have met so many of my Serving Corps in BAOR. I have been most impressed by their sense of purpose, professionalism and good heart. I would ask you to convey my warm thanks and appreciation to All Ranks.'

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO ROYAL SIGNALS IN BAOR

THE OUTLINE

Having been told a year ago that **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** would visit her Corps in Germany in 1979, it was suggested that the Morrison Cup Inter-Unit Athletic Meeting would be a fitting and most appropriate climax to the visit and we asked if late June would be acceptable. When this was agreed we designed a 2½ day programme to enable Her Royal Highness to see as broad a cross-section of her Corps and their families as possible in such a time. In essence it ended as one day in the Rear Combat Zone and one day in the Forward Combat Zone.

The outline looked like this:

Wed 20 Jun 79	Arrival Ceremony at RAF Wildenrath with Guard of Honour provided by 21 Sig Regt.
Thu 21 Jun 79	Visit 13 Sig Regt and have lunch. Garden Party at 16 Sig Regt. Retreat Ceremony and Royal Signals (BAOR) Reception at 28 Sig Regt.
Fri 22 Jun 79	Tactical Demonstration at Haltern organised by 2 Sig Regt and incl elms from 14 Sig Regt, 5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn, 264 Sig Sqn and RSRE. The Morrison Cup Athletic Meeting organised by 7 Sig Regt and preceded by a Fete and Garden Party arranged by 4 Sig Regt.

Unfortunately, a highlight in the programme, namely lunch at a Commcen hilltop site with a squadron from 1 Sig Regt, had to be cancelled because of non-flying weather on the third day.

The Colonel-in-Chief stayed in the quarter of **Maj Gen** and **Mrs P. A. C Baldwin** on both nights and attended Dinner and Supper parties there.

The ADC to the Colonel-in-Chief was **Capt Richard Hoole** and Project Officers for the final phases were, in succession, **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker** and **Lt Col Peter Reader,** plus **Maj Mike Walker** who coordinated matters for the final day.



The Master of Signals presents the Chief Signal Officer to Her Royal Highness. Mrs Baldwin and the Station Commander are also shown

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

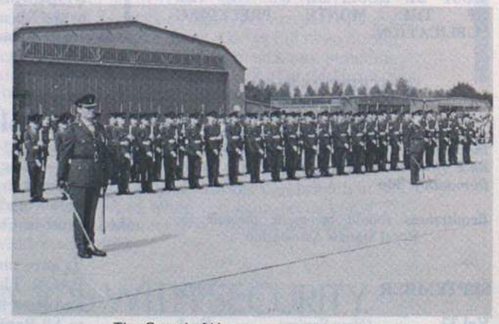


The Guard of Honour awaiting the arrival of Her Royal Highness

On arrival at RAF Wildenrath in an Andover aircraft of the Queen's Flight, The Colonel-in-Chief was welcomed by the Consul General Düsseldorf who introduced the Master of Signals. **Gen Bradley** then presented the **CSO** and **Mrs Baldwin,** the Station Commander, **Gp Capt B. W. Lavender OBE AFC RAF** and the **Commanding Officer** and **Mrs Colman.** The Consul General subsequently presented various dignitaries representing the local German authorities.



Her Royal Highness receiving the Royal Salute. Pikemen from 21 Sig Regt are (*left to right*) LCpl Low and Cpl Jones



The Guard of Honour present arms

After receiving the Royal Salute, The Princess was invited to inspect a Guard of Honour from the Regiment, commanded by **Maj Stuart Read.** The occasion was enhanced by the presence of the Corps Band. Her Royal Highness spoke to several members of the Guard, the Divisions of which were commanded by **Capt Tim Bushell** and **Capt Phil McDougall.** After the Inspection, the Commanding Officer presented the Director of Music and also **WO1 (RSM) Charles Homewood** whose 10 year old daughter **Caroline** later presented a bouquet to the Princess. The Colonel-in-Chief spoke to various members of the Regiment and their families including our longest serving members, **Maj** and **Mrs Charles Hughes** who have lived at Wildenrath for over nine years.



After receiving a bouquet from Caroline Homewood, Her Royal Highness is later introduced to Mrs Homewood by the Commanding Officer. The Master of Signals and the Consul General are also present



Her Royal Highness talking to Mrs Ferguson, wife of Capt Ferguson the Regimental Operations Officer



Her Royal Highness passing through the Families Enclosure

A great deal of hard work was put into the parade rehearsals and members of the Guard learned the odd new swearword from the Chief Instructor, **WO2 (SSM) Ray Drew;** each man was proud to welcome our Colonel-in-Chief. Almost every member of the Regiment was involved in some way or other, from car park attendants and VIP ushers to that most photographed duo, **Cpl Ken Jones** and **LCpl Roger Lowe,** who guarded the Royal dais with the Regimental lances. Even the weathermen came up trumps, producing glorious sunshine.

WO2 (SSM) Taff Edmunds and his Baggage Party deserve mention having developed several new muscles in ensuring the baggage arrived at the right place at the right time throughout the tour, despite some last minute changes of programme.

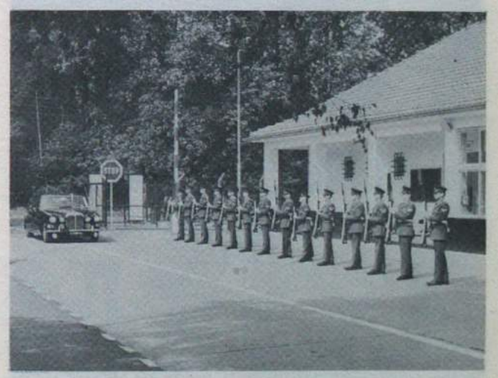
We were justifiably proud to be the recipients of the Morrison Cup which The Princess presented to **Capt Dick Hoyle** as the final duty of her visit to Royal Signals in BAOR.



21 Sig Regt's moment of triumph—Her Royal Highness presents the Morrison Cup to Capt Dick Hoyle, Captain of the Regimental Athletics Team

13th SIGNAL REGIMENT

As the Royal Motorcade entered Mercury Barracks the Barrack Guard, commanded by **SSgt Brian Robjohn,** Presented Arms. The



motorcade then drove onto the Regimental Square where the Colonel-in-Chief was met by the Chief Signal Officer, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** who then presented the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col C. T. Garton.** Also presented at the Reception Area were German Officials from the local town of Wassenberg, the Adjutant, **Capt J. S. A. Henderson** and the RSM, **WO1 A. K. Woods.**



The Master looks on approvingly as Lt Col Garton confirms to Her Royal Highness that WOI (RSM) A. K. Woods really is leading our Detachment in the Nijmegen Marches

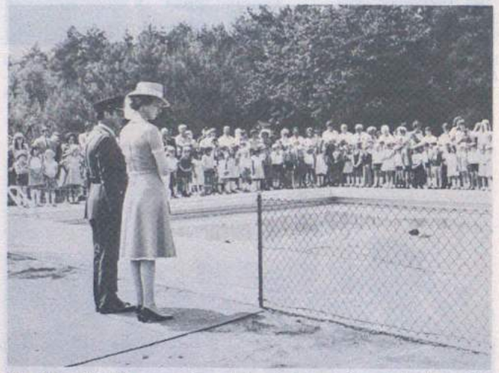


In the Junior Ranks Club with (*left to right*) WO2 Mick Barker, Cpl Dave Gilbert, Mrs Janice Gilbert, Cpl Bill McDonald, Mrs Heather McDonald, Sig Danny Keyes and LCpl Lorraine Keyes

Capt K. C. A. Stewart, who is responsible for running the BAOR Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course, was then presented and the Princess watched a number of soldiers being instructed in First Aid training under NBC conditions and later moved on to watch a section attack over an assault course. Coloured smoke and thunderflashes provided an exciting display as well as simulating a battle environment. Her Royal Highness spoke to two of the instructors, **Sgts Mick Kenning** and **Neil Brown** and two students, **Cpls John Bridgewater** (7 Sig Regt) and **Stephen Vaughan** (14 Sig Regt).



Capt K. C. A. Stewart explains the problems of Life in a Noddy Suit. It is not known whether or not the students find it as amusing as the CO



The New Pool is opened and the first race is watched by The Colonel-in-Chief



The Princess talks to the children who have just 'opened' the New Pool. Maj I. Graham looks relieved!

Fifty-four junior ranks and their wives then had the opportunity, informally, to meet the Colonel-in-Chief in the Junior Ranks Club where the Supervising Officer, **Maj W. H. H. Parkes,** NAAFI staff and the Supervising Warrant Officer, **WO2 Mick Barker** were presented. From the Junior Ranks Club Her Royal Highness moved to the recently completed swimming pool. Our 2IC, **Maj I. Graham** and our WRAC Physical Training Instructor, **Cpl Denise Bostock** were presented to Her Royal Highness who was then invited to open the pool by unveiling a stone plinth. This was followed by a relay race between children from Blandford School, the Regimental Primary School.

After an informal chat with the children Her Royal Highness moved to the Sergeants Mess where she was met by the **RSM,** his wife **Vali** and the PMC, **WO2 Norman Valentine.** During her time in the Sergeants Mess, Her Royal Highness had coffee with a representative group of our SNCOs and then moved on to our Operations Block where she was briefed on the role of the Regiment. This was followed by a tour where Her Royal Highness had the opportunity to speak to many of our soldiers at their place of work.



The RSM presents his wife, Mrs Vali Woods to The Princess Anne



Mrs Kathy Garton is presented to Her Royal Highness. The Master, the CSO and Maj Homfrey Vines are also present

Her Royal Highness then went to the Officers Mess where **Mrs Kathy Garton,** our Commanding Officer's wife, was presented and The Colonel-in-Chief met the officers and their wives. Lunch was a most enjoyable occasion but all too soon it was time for Her Royal Highness to leave: she was waved off from the Officers Mess and once again as the Motorcade passed the Sergeants Mess, leaving behind a Regiment that had thoroughly enjoyed what to them was a memorable day. All were sorry that the visit seemed so short.

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT

The insistent drone of helicopters filled the afternoon air as the Regiment waited with eager anticipation for the arrival of the distinctive red Wessex bearing our Royal visitor. Bradbury Barracks glowed with pristine cleanliness. The manicured grass within the Royal enclosure reflected the great effort of the various departments, civilian and military, within the camp. Strawberries and cream were left untouched as all eyes focused on the approaching flying flotilla. The first helicopter landed. The schoolchildren lining the entrance to the enclosure broke into a tumult of cheering and Union Jacks were eagerly waved by small clutching hands. It is doubtful that the Master of Signals has received a more enthusiastic welcome to a Regiment during his lifetime!

Moments later the red helicopter touched down and Her Royal Highness was with us. Accompanied by the Commanding Officer, The Princess Anne approached the enclosure, stopping to speak to many of the children on the way. Once in the enclosure a cross section of the Regiment, split into ten informal groups, had the honour of being presented to Her Royal Highness. The eager Press photographers frantically captured the event on film and our photographs show Her Royal Highness, with the Commanding Officer, in the midst of the schoolchildren and meeting members of the Regiment while the others looked on spellbound. All who had the fortune to be presented were thrilled with The Princess's obvious interest in the Regiment and her Corps.



Her Royal Highness, with Lt Col Noel Moss, talks to WRAC members of 16 Sig Regt



A happy moment when The Princess chats to the children at Krefeld



From left to right: Lt Col Moss, Maj Colin Bunce, Mrs Rosemary Bunce, WO2 (YofS) Martin Nicol, Mrs Mary Nicol and WO2 (ORQMS) Bob Sheldon



Left to right: Mrs Margaret Cadman, Maj Mark Wilson, Mrs Julie Lupton, Cpl Mac McCathie, Sgt Ben Lee, Mrs Annemarie McCathie and Pte Jane Mack



Her Royal Highness clearly enjoys the company of 2 Sqn 16 Sig Regt!

Her Royal Highness flanked by Maj David Case, FofS Drew Robertson, Sgt Michael Hunt, LCpl Jim Ardern and Sig Mick Brookshaw

All too soon Her Royal Highness had reached the last group where **SAC Shepperdson** had the honour of presenting to The Princess a cheque for £1000 for the Save the Children Fund raised during his recent record-breaking squash marathon.

The Royal Party then proceeded to the Leicester Room where various officials from the City of Krefeld were presented. HRH graciously consented to sign the Golden Book of Krefeld which had been brought from the Town Hall.

28th SIGNAL REGIMENT

It was a warm and still evening when Her Royal Highness arrived at Francisca Barracks escorted by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Terry Eamey.** After alighting from the Royal Car, assisted by **SSgt Eileen Hobson** and **Sgt Pat Darby WRAC,** a number of local German dignitaries and **WO1 (RSM) Ted Banham** and his wife **Janice** were presented to the Colonel-in-Chief. The stunningly attractive picture of The Princess in her powder blue evening dress and Corps brooch will remain in our minds for a very long time.

A crowd of about 800 serving and retired members of the Corps were gathered around the Regimental Square to watch a Retreat Ceremony performed by the Corps Band. During the Ceremony the quick march 'St Tönis' was played; this march was composed by **Lt Col Keith Boulding** to commemorate the granting of the Freedom of Tönisvorst to 28 Sig Regt and it was particularly apt because the Bürgermeister, **Herr Richard Beckers,** was present amongst the spectators. After an impressive display of marching and counter-marching



Her Royal Highness takes the Salute at the conclusion of The Retreat Ceremony



RSM and Mrs Banham being presented by Lt Col Terry Eamey to The Colonel-in-Chief. Maj Gen and Mrs A. E. Morrison can be seen in the background

the Band marched past to the strains of 'Begone Dull Care' while The Princess took the salute. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, many members of the Regiment, their wives and families were introduced to Her Royal Highness.

The evening culminated in a Reception, held in the Officers Mess, which was attended by the Commanding Officers and representatives of Royal Signals Regiments and Squadrons stationed throughout Germany. Her Royal Highness spoke to a large number of people and in particular **Maj (QCO) Humbahadur Gurung,** The Gurkha Major, Queens Gurkha Signals, who was staying with the Regiment at the time.

2nd SIGNAL REGIMENT

One important part of the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief was the tactical demonstration at Haltern Training Area. The aim of the demonstration was to show the Colonel-in-Chief as many tactical aspects as possible of communicating in 1 (BR) Corps. 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt under command of **Lt Col A. M. Willcox** accepted responsibility overall for organisation. **Maj R. N. C. Harrison,** OC Task Force C Sig Sqn designed the programme, coordinated the rehearsals and presented the show on the day. Units taking part were (in order of appearance) 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn, TACSATCOM from RSRE Malvern, 14 Sig Regt, Task Force C Sig Sqn and 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. The planning and preparation began several months in advance and the week before the visit was devoted to final coordination and rehearsals.

Unexpectedly the weather changed overnight and thunderstorms were followed by torrential rain. The mist and cloud that consequently formed prevented all flying on the final day. Undaunted by the prospect of performing under these conditions **Maj Noel Harrison** and **Maj Martin Lance** quickly made the necessary alterations and preparations were put in hand to receive the Colonel-in-Chief by the road access to the training area. A fine welcome awaited The Princess from the many families who had made the journey to see her.

The SAS patrol carried out their move in the special patrol Landrover known as the Green Dragon and the TACSATCOM entered and swiftly established communications to the UK. The two jammers from 14 Sig Regt gave a first class display and pigeons had to be released in order to maintain communications. (The pigeons were acquired by TF C Sig Sqn specially for the demonstration and no questions have been asked—or payment made!). The entry and deployment of both TF C Sig Sqn and 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn went very well despite the lack of helicopters for the latter, and of course there was no problem over dust!



The Master tells a war story?
Left to right: Maj Gen Bradley, Lt Col Willcox, Brig Oehlers, Maj Gen Baldwin



A tense moment?



Ah, I knew they'd do it!



A detachment of 14 Sig Regt prepare to come into action as part of the Tactical Display

Afterwards, the Colonel-in-Chief went to meet the families and then drove out to see the tactical deployment and meet the soldiers. It was an exciting moment and the pride that everyone showed in speaking to the Colonel-in-Chief about their work was very well rewarded by seeing her most obvious pleasure in meeting them.



Her Royal Highness meets the families of 2 Sig Regt



The Cross Country Event! The Colonel-in-Chief with CCR Signals and CR Signals 2 Armd Div



The Colonel-in-Chief cheers up those from 1 Sig Regt with whom she would have lunched had the weather not prevented flying

The Colonel-in-Chief was then escorted back to the stand to wave farewell to the families before driving back to the entrance. Here HRH was able to meet the soldiers of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, who under command of **Maj Peter Pearson,** had planned to entertain the Colonel-in-Chief for lunch at their Commcen in a tactical field setting. Because there was no flying this part of the visit regretfully had to be cancelled, or rather postponed until the next visit to 1 (BR) Corps.

5 FIELD FORCE HQ & SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our Squadron's contribution to the Colonel-in-Chief's visit was limited to the deployment of our heliportable tactical headquarters at the Haltern demonstration and the athletics team collecting the Minor Units' Trophy at the Morrison Cup meeting later.

After two weeks training the tactical headquarters lift-off in the 18 Squadron Royal Air Force Wessex would, in our opinion, have been the highlight of the display. To achieve the lift in one minute fifteen seconds calls for split second timing and coordination between the tactical headquarters detachments, helicopter handlers and of course the pilots themselves, and much of the credit for the training goes to **Lt Peter Telford, Cpls Dave Wright, Danny Barnett** and **Ian Parry.**

As the great day approached Haltern became hotter and drier, so much so that at the Dress Rehearsal the Royal Box disappeared in dust under the combined attack of six Wessex. Eventually 15,000 gallons of water had to be poured onto the helicopter landing zone—then it started raining! Sadly the weather closed-in completely and we therefore had to carry out our wet weather programme which was a somewhat tame 'drive-past'. Luckily this was completed without **Sig Mark Fenton** turning the petrol off or **Sig Scouse Flaherty** going airborne!



Her Royal Highness visiting Tac HQ 5 Fd Force. *Left to right:* OC, Maj Martin Lance, The Princess Anne, Lt Col Tony Willcox, Cpl Ian Parry. *Background:* Cpl Danny Barnett

It was tremendous to meet the Colonel-in-Chief who took a keen interest in the headquarters layout, and astutely avoided **LCpl Wayne Brown** and his evil all-in stew. Hopefully for the next Royal Visit he will remember to bring his spoon. Her Royal Highness also met **Cpl Tekbahadur Limbu,** Queens Gurkha Signals, who is attached to the Squadron for BAOR experience and was part of the tactical headquarters crew.

Later at the Jahn Stadium, Herford, Her Royal Highness presented **Lt John Gale** with the Morrison Minor Unit Championship Cup which the Squadron Athletics Team had won earlier in the month in Berlin.

For the information of all our fans who asked, the Squadron *can* only afford track suit tops at present, but we are saving hard and do hope to buy track suit trousers for next year's meeting.

4th SIGNAL REGIMENT

It had been decided that we would organise the Fete and the Garden Party while our fellow Herfordians, 7 Sig Regt, would look after the Athletics. Under the direction of **Maj John Almonds,** a gala festival was prepared and though the heavy rain curtailed our efforts it did nothing to dampen our spirits. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bob Cook,** presented many of the officers and soldiers of the Regiment, with their wives, to the Colonel-in-Chief and although it all took place inside some rather familiar looking tentage it was nonetheless a magnificent moment.



Sig Leonard Williams and his wife Monika meet the Colonel-in-Chief. SSgt John Walker in attendance



Cpl John Chapman and his wife Charlotte with the Colonel-in-Chief



LCpl Kevin Nelson and his wife Margaret discuss a point with The Princess



Cpl Paddy Kearns and his wife Glynis are presented to Her Royal Highness by Lt Col Bob Cook

The Regiment's final gesture connected with the programme was to volunteer to run the 4 Division Signals Ball after the visit was concluded thus allowing everyone to relive the magic of the three day event in a loudly gastronomic atmosphere!

7th SIGNAL REGIMENT

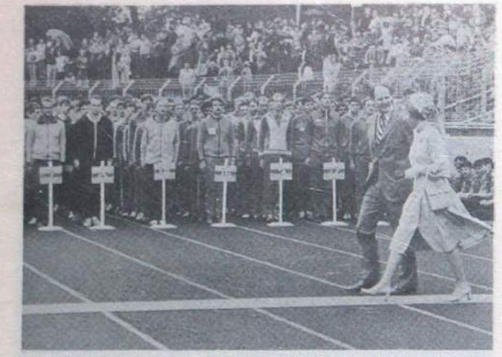
The whole of the Regiment's efforts to run the Morrison Cup were planned and stage managed by our Second in Command, **Maj Mike McCann** with **Capt Derek Robertson** organising the field and track events.

Although the weather was wet the athletes and spectators alike enjoyed an exciting two days sport. On her arrival at the stadium, a number of people were presented to Her Royal Highness, including **Maj Gen** and **Mrs A. E. Morrison** and **Lt Col** and **Mrs C. E. R. Story.** The Commander Corps Royal Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** who made the presentations, handed over to the two Herford COs who made their way with The Princess towards the Garden Party area. A large number of soldiers and wives from both units were assembled to meet The Princess Anne and **Lt Col Story** presented the 7 Sig Regt group to the Colonel-in-Chief. This was a most enjoyable and memorable occasion for all who took part.

After the Garden Party, the Royal Group made their way to the stadium to see the final track events of the day which were fantastic, a high standard being in evidence. The competition brought the crowd to their feet with no-one really noticing the foul weather. It would perhaps be wrong to single out any individual athlete, but a mention must be made of **Cpl Gus Hales** who pulled the Regiment back to second position in the 4 × 100m relay by racing home at breakneck speed. Preceded by the sound of the Corps Band The Princess presented the Winners and Runners-Up medals for the relay events, with the Regiment being presented with the Morrison Cup Runners-Up Shield. Well done to all our boys.



HRH, flanked by Lt Col Chris Story, (*left*), and Maj Gen Peter Baldwin, Chief Signal Officer BAOR, enjoy the athletics finals



The Princess seen here with Lt Col C.E.R. Story CO 7 Sig Regt making their way past the athletes to the presentation area



The Field and Track organiser, Capt Derek Robertson, handing over the Morrison Cup for presentation by The Princess Anne



Skipper of our team, WO2 (QMSI) Gordon Milne receiving the Runners-up Shield from The Princess Anne

The CSO spoke thanking the Colonel-in-Chief for her visit and Her Royal Highness replied to a hushed crowd.

Two more highlights then followed. A bouquet was presented to Her Royal Highness by little **Kelly Mills,** daughter of **SSgt Peter** and **Sue Mills.** What a big day for this pretty little seven year old. Then as Her Royal Highness left the presentation area **Cpl Gus Hales** (of the 4 × 100m fame) presented a teddy bear attired in a 7 Sig Regt track-suit to the Colonel-in-Chief, a gesture which brought the stadium once more to its feet and a broad smile to the face of The Princess. A truly great day not spoilt at all by the weather.



Little 7 year old Kelly Mills presenting a bouquet to The Princess



The 'Teddy Bear' being presented by Cpl Gus Hales. The CSO, the CO and Maj Gen Morrison are also shown



The Princess holding the 'Teddy Bear' aloft to the delight of the crowd. This was the concluding moment of the entire three day visit and it truly captures the happiness that Her Royal Highness spread everywhere



The CSO and Mrs Baldwin take their leave of The Princess while the Master waits to see Her Royal Highness to her car

—From our "In" Tray—

THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The master of Signals, Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB CBE DSO sent the following birthday telegram to The Princess Ann on the occasion of Her birthday, 15 August.

"The Master of Signals and All Ranks send loyal and affectionate greetings to their Colonel-in-Chief, and wish Her Royal Highness a very happy birthday".

The Princess sent the following reply.

"Please convey my sincere thanks to All Ranks, Royal Corps of Signals for their loyal greetings on the occasion of my birthday".

AN IMPORTANT EVENT



On 15 June, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother attended a Reception held in her honour on the North Lawn at Lincoln's Inn when over three hundred past members of the Inns of Court Regiment and the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) together with the successor unit 68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) gathered together for this occasion. The Squadron is a Sub-unit of 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (V) commanded by Lt Col C. A. Brown R Signals: Among those present were Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson, Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB MBE, Brig and Mrs A. L. Dowell. The photograph shows Her Majesty inspecting the Lance Honour Guard escorted by the OC, Maj A. S. Collins TD, the Guard Commander was 2Lt P. R. Griffiths

Photo courtesy Keystone Press Agency Ltd

UK AND US SIGN DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS MOU



On 7 June 1979 the United Kingdom and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding seen to be the first in a series allowing greater co-operation and inter-dependence in defence terrestrial communications between the two nations following earlier agreements involving sharing of satellite communications.

Independently the two countries have developed microwave and tropospheric scatter trunk communications systems to serve their military forces in North West Europe. These are the British Forces Germany Static Relay Network (STARRNET) and the United States Defense Communications System (DCS). The MOU calls for gateways and co-located stations between the two systems and says there is an equivalence between the telecommunications capacity and services to be exchanged.

The MOU was signed at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall by **Maj Gen John Sturge, CB,** Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals), and **Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr.,** USN, Director Defense Communications Agency, Washington.

From: **Maj Gen A. E. Morrison, CB OBE**

Dear Sir,

May I, through the courtesy of *The Wire*, thank Royal Signals in BAOR for inviting my wife and me to the Athletic Meeting this year and the great welcome and kindness shown to us both. It was a memorable and nostalgic visit and we met so many old friends again.

It was so pleasing to see the keeness shown, not only by the competitors, but also the many spectators. The standard was indeed high and I congratulate 21 Regiment and wish them all success in the Command and Army Championships.

Again, our grateful thanks.

Yours sincerely

A. E. Morrison

Wesley House
68 Fairways
Ferndown
Wimborne
Dorset
BH22 8BB

SO in C AT SANDHURST



The Signal Officer in Chief, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson introduced morning session of the Annual Military Technology Symposium held at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Thursday 19 July.

The SO in C is seen here (on the right) accompanying The Commandant of RMAS, Maj Gen Sir Philip Ward KCVO CBE and followed by Col Tony Dennis and Brig Bob Benbow from The School of Signals Blandford, on their way to the Churchill Hall for the opening session.

From: **Cmdr A. D. Gilbert, RN (Rtd)**

Dear Sir,

THE D-DAY AND NORMANDY FELLOWSHIP

President: **Brig A. E. C. Bredin DSO MC DL.**

Members of the world-wide D-Day and Normandy Fellowship held their annual functions in the Portsmouth area on 9–10 June.

Brig A. E. C. Bredin, DSO, MC, has recently become the Fellowship's President.

Membership application forms are obtainable from the Hon Membership Secretary, D-Day and Normandy Fellowship, St John's Cottage, Shedfield, Nr Southampton, SO3 2HY. SAE requested.

Yours sincerely

A. D. Gilbert

St John's Cottage,
Shedfield, Southampton,
SO3 2HY.

THE 'WHITE HELMETS' PICTURE

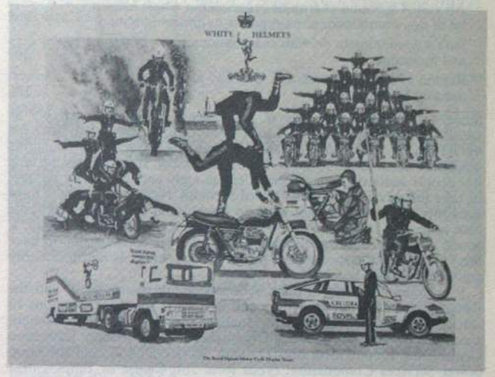
A limited number of White Helmets pictures are on sale:

Limited Number 1–100 Signed Cost £5.00
Unsigned Cost £3.00

SIZE 21″ × 17″ Both types are coloured

CONTACT: **Capt D. Shakespeare Royal Signals**
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
TEL: Catterick Camp 2521 Ext 2556

Cheques/PO should be made payable to THE WHITE HELMETS.



OUT AND ABOUT



From: **Maj F. A. Stork**

Dear Sir,

I went out to visit 3rd Bn Royal Anglian Regiment in Belfast a few months back because so many applicants ask me what its like over there so I went to have a look for myself. I borrowed the uniform, rifle and ten rounds and became the fourth member of a 'Brick' for the day with the Mortar Platoon. We patrolled the Clonard in the morning and the Falls Road in the afternoon.

The cap badge is not quite like ours and unless it can be obscured I might be called a traitor. In any case I would like to have the photo back so that when I'm 90 I can look back at it and say 'Ah those were the days'.

Yours sincerely,

F. A. Stork

ACIO
84 Charles Street
Leicester LE1 1GF

GOING OUT

by Phillip Jay

At intervals there appears in this magazine a reference to the Regular Forces Employment Association. I suppose if a pollster invited the views of a typical sample in any service establishment, on the RFEA, the outcome could be something like this:

Never heard of it	71%
I'll get round to enquiring about it after I'm out	17%
Ah yes. A splendid charitable organisation which helps a lot of non-commissioned ex-regulars to find employment	7%
Isn't it something to do with commissionaires and messengers?	4%
Replies of such aspersion and scurrility as to require deletion from the survey	1%

Since, for all of us, the day of final release comes as inevitably as sunset, I suggest you read on. I have been fortunate enough to work for the RFEA for some time now and I believe that a few random thoughts would not come amiss to readers great and small. It astonishes me how few people seriously consider resettlement early enough in their service; or take full advantage of the related facilities available to them. I have even met those who do not want to know; who push their discharge date aside and refuse even to think about it, hoping it will go away. It won't. And it is they, more than anyone, who will discover that to have been an ace on the sports field, or a weapons 'king', is not necessarily going to enthuse a potential employer.

It is never too early to think seriously about resettlement; and the Resettlement Machine (if I may call it that) is there for everyone to consult and be guided by. The Machine has basically three components: the Service Resettlement Organisation, (your friendly Education Centre); the Employment and Training Service Divisions of the Manpower Services Commission; (your local Job Centre or Employment Office—not please, any more, the Labour Exchange!) where there is someone specially assigned to look after ex-regulars; and the RFEA, with its 42 Branches throughout the UK. Maximum use should be made of all three, but I suggest that many corners can be cut by talking to the RFEA early on. Each Branch is manned by an Employment Officer, who is an ex-regular himself, and who is able to give time and abundant informal guidance. Consider his advantages. He knows the Services and the special problems. He lives in the area and has probably been there for some time. He knows the local scene well and is in touch with a variety of employers. He is aware of likely future employment trends and patterns. He is also in touch with all the Employment and Training Services Offices in his area and can arrange introductions and interviews accordingly. Additionally, because he can talk to all the other 41 Employment Officers of the RFEA, he has access to similar information throughout UK. Incidentally, he may also have information about employment abroad.

Supposing you are stationed in the far North and have thought how nice it would be to become a technician in glorious Devon. A visit (or even a telephone call) to your nearest RFEA office is all that's necessary in order to find out the possibilities of such a venture. Or, if you're sweating it out in Berlin or Hong Kong, a letter to the RFEA office in your intended area of resettlement will do the same. The addresses and telephone numbers of all RFEA offices are available at your Education Centre and, of course, they are all in the UK 'phone books. I had a letter recentlyfrom a chap in Bulawayo. He wanted to know all about my area, in terms of job opportunities, housing, schools, etc. Whilst I am primarily concerned with employment, this involved a certain amount of research and telephoning; and a long reply. But, having asked the questions, he got the answers and was suitably appreciative. Supposing, on the other hand, you swing into civilian life with everything going for you and then, after a time, something happens: the job isn't what it should have been; the area doesn't suit your wife/children/mother-in-law; or you just decide to move on. If it's within two years of your discharge, the Employment Services will still treat you as an ex-regular; if it's not, they won't. But the RFEA will. Providing you have had three years regular service (not necessary in the case of a medical discharge) the Association is there, with advice, assistance and encouragement for just so long in life as you want any, or all three, of these.

And it's all free. The Regular Forces Employment Association is in its 95th year and is a Registered Charity, supported by public (MOD) and non-public (Regimental) funds. So you should make use of all the facilities available. But *PLEASE* start early.

PRESENTATION



The Commandant of The Royal School of Artillery, Brig J. D. W. Goodman presents the LSGC Medal to SSgt (YofS) D. G. Bartlett during the FFR Visit on 19 July 1979.

From: **D. E. Turner Esq**

Dear Sir,

As an ex Royal Signals subaltern (served 1971–1976), I would be delighted to meet past friends and colleagues. Would you please be so kind as to publish my address.

Does anybody know the whereabouts of **Capt Willy** and **Sue Brewin?** Martine and I look forward to reminiscing.

Yours sincerely
D. E. Turner

26 B Rue Paul Rivet
92350 Le Plessis Robinson
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France
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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

NO PETROL PROBLEM



From: **W. R. Fraser Esq**

Dear Sir,

After the 1978 Reunion, I decided that in 1979 I would cycle to Catterick using the A68 most of the way down and return up by the Pennines and do the last two stages via Bellingham, Kielder Dam, Cheviots, Hawick to Edinburgh. The precise planning was worth while, as I got down and back trouble free, in less than 2½ days, each way. Stage mileage varied from 48 to over 70 miles. Everyone along the way were most helpful. I was lucky with the weather and my new cycle ran like a Rolls Royce. (**Claud Butler** (hand built) Holdsworthy London).

My cycling and road walking, in the winter, keep me fit, as my cross country running faded away.

Kindest regards to **Col Boileau** (of Brighton), who was not able to attend Catterick and the comrades whom I met, and missed. Thanks to all for a great reunion.

Yours faithfully
William R. Fraser

64 Falcon Avenue
Edinburgh EH10 4AW

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ANOTHER ALBERT HALL CONCERT FOR SSAFA

Following the resounding success of last year's 'Evening of Nostalgia' at the Royal Albert Hall, Richard Baker and the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, conducted by **Lt Col James Mason,** are staging a 'Family Favourites' evening to recapture the songs we've been singing, the tunes we've been whistling in the happy moments of our lives.

The date is Thursday, 4 October, at 7.30, the place the Royal Albert Hall and once again in aid of SSAFA, with guest artists, an even better chance to join in the singing and a super programme. The Box Office is now open at SSAFA, PO Box 5, London, SW1. (Telephone 01-222 9221 Ext. 65.)

SEATING PLAN

Arena	£3.00
Arena	£2.25
Stalls	£4.00
Loggia (10 seats per box)	£3.75
Grand Tier (10 seats per box)	£4.00
Second Tier (5 seats per box)	£2.50
Balcony	£0.75
Middle and Upper Orchestra	£1.50
Gallery	£0.50
Balcony	£1.50

To benefit
SSAFA
(Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association)

TICKET ORDER FORM

Box Office opens 4 July, 1979

Please send to: SSAFA,
Postal bookings only PO Box 5,
London SW1
Telephone: 01-222 9221 Ext. 65

Seat Code	No. of Tickets	Price £ p.	Total £ p.	Box Office Use

I enclose a cheque/postal order for the sum of £..... and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of tickets.

Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to 'SSAFA'.

Tickets are also available from:

The Box Office, The Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, after 4 September, 1979.

Cheques and postal orders sent to the Royal Albert Hall should be made payable to them.

Name .....

Address .....

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Telephone No. in event of query.

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Have you enclosed your stamped addressed envelope?
Tickets cannot otherwise be returned.
Tickets ordered by phone will only be held for 14 days without payment being made.

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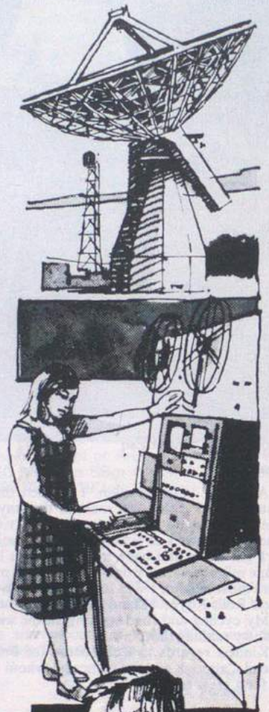
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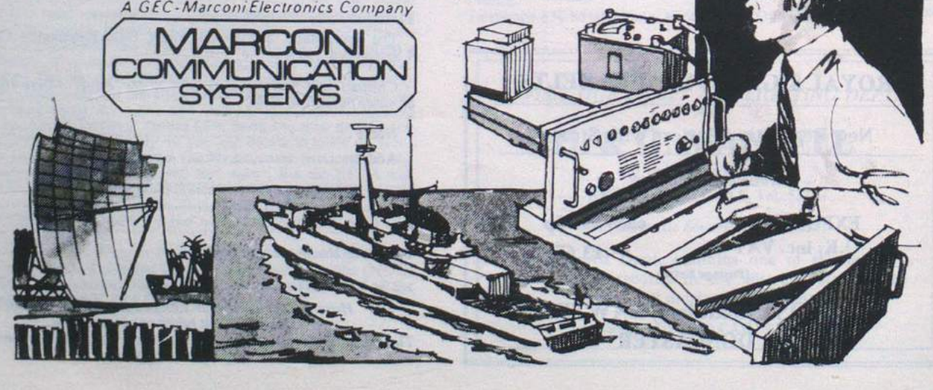
Working with Marconi Communications gives you excellent career and salary prospects, and the chance to put down roots in an attractive area.

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 Ken Dumbrell Marconi Communication Systems Limited, New Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

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THE CITY AND GUILDS 777 COMMUNICATION OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE

Report by P. A Sharp FITD—Secretary 777 Advisory Committee

INTRODUCTION

The City and Guilds 777 scheme is now well known throughout the Corps and the other services, at least within telegraphist circles. Many telegraphists have been awarded the certificate, the opportunity to qualify being either through the apprenticeship scheme at Harrogate or whilst attending a Class 1 course at the Trade Training School 8 Signal Regiment. More recently, Royal Signals Special Telegraphists have been included in the scheme.

The purpose of this article is to outline the scheme to those who are not so familiar with it and to describe the activities of the committee to improve the status of the 777 qualification, in particular to report on the service Telegraphist Presentation Day held at HMS *Mercury* on 28 June 1979.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHEME

The 777 Communication Operator's Scheme was first introduced at the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate in 1971. Designed by the College in conjunction with City and Guilds for apprentice telegraphists, it was conceived for three reasons.

The Education Promotion Certificate (EPC) scheme was being introduced into the Army at that time, ending the previous Army Certificate of Education (ACE) qualification. Apprentices had been able to obtain their ACE 1st Class before leaving the College educationally qualifying them for promotion to Warrant Officer. The EPC scheme was designed so that a soldier qualifies for promotion to the next higher rank in stages. This might well have been appropriate and suited to the needs of the adult army but left something of a vacuum for the junior Army. In any event this meant that the apprentice could no longer qualify at the College so as to be exempted from any further education qualifying examinations. Of course the rules applied to technician apprentices, the difference was that their academic studies were already designed around the City and Guilds 270/271 and National Certificate schemes. However apprentice telegraphists were left with no qualification to motivate them through their academic studies.

At the time, (it still is) it was considered essential to offer the opportunity to obtain civilian qualifications during the apprenticeship to ensure that Royal Signals attracted their fair share of available recruits. Adult recruits generally decide to join themselves; with apprentices and juniors, parents have a greater say in the decision and they are usually impressed when the possibility of obtaining recognised additional qualifications is on offer.

The need for a nationally recognised qualification for telegraphists had been obvious to many people for a long time. The well recognised 'Post Master General's Certificate' was only useful for a small minority of telegraphists—mainly mercantile sea going radio operators. To enable a telegraphist to prove his competence a new qualification was required for the benefit of the majority of telegraphist employers in the UK.

It was realised that any new qualification needed the stamp of a nationally recognised examining body. In 1970 preliminary discussion with City and Guilds convinced everyone involved of the feasibility of introducing a new certificate scheme and from subsequent discussions the scheme evolved. It was decided that the scheme would be in two parts, Part 1 being completed after 1 year of full time study and Part II at the end of the second. Both Part I and Part II consisting of several components covering the academic studies needed to support the telegraphist in his work plus the equipment handling procedures and skills actually required in his job. The scheme as it stands today is shown in Fig 1. Candidates first sat for the certificate in 1971 but entries were restricted to apprentice telegraphists at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate.

The scheme had to be brought to the attention of civilian employers of telegraphists and gain their recognition if it was to succeed. During 1972/73 a great deal of PR was undertaken by the College and City and Guilds to advertise the scheme and as a result many employers agreed to recognise its value.

In 1974 Royal Signals adult trained telegraphists except Specials, were included in the scheme. Now, telegraphists attending the Class 1 upgrading course at 8 Signal Regiment are given the opportunity of qualifying for the award of the full certificate being allowed direct entry to Part II.

Since 1974 the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Artillery have been included in the scheme. More recently Royal Signals Special Telegraphists have joined. The scheme has been modified to include these other arms and services but the original basis of the scheme has not been changed. Standards were deliberately set high and have been preserved.

THE COMMITTEE

A small AA College based working party existed from the beginning (1970). In 1974 this was expanded to include 8 Signal Regiment and its function confirmed in terms of reference by the then Commander Training Brigade Royal Signals. Its main function was to advise City and Guilds on the implementation and administration of the scheme within Royal Signals. In 1977 the working party was reconstituted as an advisory committee. All the arms and services who joined the scheme are now represented on the committee. At present (July 1979) the status of the committee is being reviewed, as all four services are now represented it is felt that direct Ministry of Defence sponsorship is required.

RECOGNITION

The status of the certificate has been enhanced by the expansion of the scheme to all the armed services. From the outset it was realised that the qualification must be 'recognised' by civilian employers of telegraphists if it is to be of real value.

One of the express functions of the committee is: 'To promote the recognition of the certificate by employers of telegraphists so as to enhance its value'. One of the ways the committee has chosen to do this is to hold open days. One was held in June 1976 at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate and more recently at HMS *Mercury*. A report on the latter is included in this article.

It has always been anticipated that eventually the scheme would embrace civilian telegraphists in their own right. The City and Guilds 777 pamphlet in para 2 states: '. . . On application to the Institute approval may be given to extend the scheme to civilian telegraphists on courses with adequate training facilities'. A number of civilian organisations have expressed interest in the scheme as a qualification for their own trained telegraphists but as yet no formal applications have been made to the Institute to include them.

As a direct result of the interest shown at the recent presentation day at HMS *Mercury* the Director General of City and Guilds has decided to set up a working party consisting of a cross section of civilian employers of telegraphists, to determine if the 777 scheme can be extended to cover most civilian telegraphists. The findings of this working party should be published in the Autumn of 1979.

CITY AND GUILDS PRESENTATION—HMS 'MERCURY'

A presentation day was held at HMS *Mercury*, Petersfield, on the 28 June 1979. As the previous 'open day' had been held at the AA College Harrogate in 1976, the committee decided a southern venue would be more attractive for the 1979 occasion. HMS *Mercury* was proposed and **Capt S. D. S. Bailey RN**—Captain HMS *Mercury* agreed to the day being held in his establishment which trains RN telegraphists.

From the outset the committee decided that the presentation day would be held in 'style'. A special glossy pamphlet was produced by City and Guilds and together with a copy of the 777 pamphlet and sent to approximately 250 organisations throughout the UK who employ civilian telegraphists. These included the public services and many organisations in commerce and industry. The Post Office, Police, Cable and Wireless, Civil Service, Gas, Electricity, Water Authorities, Banks, Airlines, Stockbrokers, Public Companies and so on. Some 30 organisations were finally represented on the day from a wide cross section of employers. **Brig N. A. Butler CBE CSO** UKLF agreed to be the anchor man for the presentation. He was asked and agreed for two reasons, the first was that he had been Commandant at the AA College in the early days of the scheme and secondly he had been Commander Training Group Royal Signals when the advisory committee had been properly set up. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the idea from the start and on the day played a major part in its success.

The Director General of City and Guilds **Maj Gen** (Retd) **H. Knutton CB MSC C Eng FIEE MBIM** also agreed to participate with **Capt Bailey** in support, these three formed the basis of the presentation. **Col M. U. Ryan** Commandant AA College also provided valuable support throughout the day. Although based on HMS *Mercury* the presentation day was a combined service affair. Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Artillery, Royal Signals and Royal Air Force were all represented.

To ensure the multi service involvement was reinforced a CCTV tape showing service telegraphist training in all the services was produced. The work in producing the tape was undertaken by the CCTV team at HMS *Mercury* directed by **Mr Geoff White** of the AA College. The



Col M. U. Ryan with a group of guests at the presentation day



Service telegraphists being questioned by a group of guests



An outside exhibit at the presentation day

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results were excellent. The programme for the day began with a formal presentation to the guests commencing with a welcome address by **Capt Bailey** followed **Brig Butler** who related the 777 scheme to the standards of Service Telegraphist training. The CCTV tape was then shown and finally **Maj Gen Knutton** spoke of the Institute's role as an examining body and of the 777 scheme in particular. This part of the presentation lasted about an hour. The guests were then invited to tour the static and mobile communication exhibits that had been set up and manned by telegraphists, men and women, from all the services. A team of hosts were also drawn from all the various services. Lunch was provided with hosts continuing discussions about the 777 scheme.

In the afternoon four service trained telegraphists talked in turn about their service training, experience and expectations. The four services were represented by:

Royal Navy	—	Fleet Chief B. Heaton
Royal Marines	—	Sgt P. Sawyer
Royal Signals	—	SSgt (YofS) W. Wingate
Royal Air Force	—	Sgt J. Elliott

An Open Forum followed when a panel, chaired by **Brig Butler**, answered questions from the guests. It was unfortunate that the session had to be stopped because of transport arrangements. We were left with the impression that were were preaching to the converted, most of the guests were aware of the quality of service telegraphist training but were unaware of the 777 scheme and how it related to the service telegraphists. I believe it is fair to say that many more employers of civilian telegraphists will now 'recognise' the 777 qualification from ex-service job applicants. The day was therefore considered successful by all concerned.

Footnote

The 777 scheme has not been described in detail in this article. Information on such things as the syllabus, examination regulations, exemptions etc, can best be obtained from either/or both: The City and Guilds of London Institute 777 Communication Operator's Certificate — Pamphlet. Available from the sales section of the Institute (price 40p); Information on and Instructions for the Administration Within Royal Signals of the City and Guilds of London Institute (CGLI) 777 Communication Operator's Certificate Scheme. Recently revised and issued to all Royal Signals units.

PART 1 CERTIFICATE

	Compulsory Subjects					Subjects with Options: Either	and	Either	
	General Studies	English	Mathematics	Principles of Electricity and Magnetism	Equipment Handling	Voice and Telegraph Procedure	Tape relay and Message Handling Procedure	Communication Keyboard	Morse Transmission and Reception
Non-Examinable	777-9-01	777-9-02	777-9-03	777-9-04	777-9-05	777-9-06	777-9-07	777-9-08	

PART II CERTIFICATE

	Compulsory Subjects		Subjects with Options: Any Two							and	Any One	
	General Studies	English	Equipment Handling	Voice Procedure	Telegraph Procedure	Tape Relay Procedure	Message Handling Procedure	Distress and Rescue Procedure	Fire Order Procedure	Fleet Work Procedure	Communication Keyboard	Morse Transmission and Reception	Morse Transcription
Non-Examinable	777-9-11	777-9-12	777-9-13	777-9-14	777-9-15	777-9-16	777-9-17	777-9-18	777-9-19	777-9-20	777-9-21	777-9-22	

Fig 1

CITY AND GUILDS 777 COMMUNICATION OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE

'SERVING' INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBERS

From November of this year, all serving officers and soldiers of the Corps, who are 'individual subscribers', will receive The Wire at their unit address and not at a prescribed private address. It is hoped that this change, which affects a very small proportion of our subscribers, will prove acceptable. It arises from the taking into use of new envelope addressing equipment to serve the needs of all components of Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals.

Movements

Officers

August 1979

Rank and Name	*New Unit*
Brig P. D. Alexander MBE	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj D. F. B. Anthonisz	HS 11 Signal Regt.
Col J. F. Blake	DGGWL (PE) (AE)
Capt R. S. Bresloff	7 Sig Regt
Capt W. E. Brewin	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col K. P. Burke	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt R. M. Burrows	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt A. V. Butler	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) T. P. Canham	School of Signals
Lt Col M. E. G. Chandler	DGGWL (PE) (AE)
Lt H. N. S. Colborn	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col I. J. Crouch	11Sig Regt
Capt C. J. Dakin	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt C. J. Durham	DADPT (Course)
Capt (TOT) T. J. Everett	School of Signals
Lt A. D. Forster	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. W. Gent	NICSMA
Capt A. B. Gould	22 Sig Regt
Capt K. J. Hadfield	RMAS
Maj R. P. Harrison	35 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt J. H. A. Hawkins	Cambridge University OTC
Maj J. P. Hayes	HQ Northag Staff (BAE)
Maj J. W. Ingledow	RAPC Trg Centre
Lt F. R. Lee MBE	31 Sig Regt (V)
Capt (TOT) A. Lynn	233 Sig Sqn
Lt J. R. M. McGrath	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. D. J. McVeigh	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col W. J. M. Michie	SHAPE
Lt Col D. M. O. Miller	10 Sig Regt
Lt N. T. Moore	Queen's Gurkha Signals
2Lt P. J. Moseley	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt G. Park	16 Sig Regt
Maj P. C. Pearson	HQ LF Cyprus
Capt F. D. Rogers	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
2Lt I. W. R. Seraph	534 Gurkha Inf Bn Sig Tp
Capt G. M. S. Shipley	AA College Harrogate
Lt S. J. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) J. P. Steeples	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
2Lt A. T. Thornton	AA College Harrogate
Capt G. Townley	33 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt P. L. Tucker	AA College Harrogate
Maj (QM) J. G. Turner	AA College Harrogate
Capt (TOT) M. A. Truran	HQ Trg Gp R Sig & Catterick Gar
Lt R. G. Vale	3 Armd Div HQ + Sig Regt
Lt R. T. Weston	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col H. R. Williams	Defence Operations Staff

WOs and Senior NCOs

AUGUST 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 T. A. Perkin	Birmingham University OTC
WO2 S. M. Fowler	242 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. M. Jack	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 J. N. Turner	Manchester & Salford UnivsOTC
WO2 (YofS) S. M. Kitson	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) B. McAneny	RMA Sandhurst
WO2 (FofS) M. P. Coley	Comm Projects Agency R. Signals
WO2 (FofS) M. E. Gordon	Jt Air Tpt Estb & AATDC
WO2 (FofS) P. D. Shawyer	632 Sig Tp
WO2 (FofS) T. McNaughton	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
WO2 (FofS) J. S. Cook	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) H. E. Connor	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
WO2 M. S. Olive	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. Lindsay	School of Sigs
SSgt J. G. Jones	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. A. Gill	HQ 3 Cdo Bde & Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) K. Price	Int & Sy Gp Germany
SSgt (FofS) K. G. Preston	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. E. Mackin	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr) D. E. Cleggett	9 Sig Regt
SSgt (EW Op) D. Weir	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt M. J. Kynaston	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt N. M. Carson	7 Sig Regt
SSgt R. A. Oliver	21 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Padden	9 Sig Regt
SSgt S. J. Mason	2 Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt R. C. Charlesworth	R Signals Manning and Record Office
SSgt P. Campbell	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt J. M. W. Richardson	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt J. G. Roberts	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. J. Brown	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. H. Hooks	13 Sig Regt
SSgt K. E. Russell	16 Sig Regt
SSgt P. S. Forster	Aberdeen University OTC
SSgt W. D. B. Tatnall	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. A. Hand	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
ASSgt T. E. Dempsey	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. W. Brister	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. S. S. Haynes	BATUS
Sgt P. N. Dunnings	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Soaris	School of Sigs
Sgt M. Kenning	2 CTT
Sgt T. Dempsey	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Rea	RMAS
Sgt I. Noble	11 Sig Regt
Sgt G. McIntosh	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt R. Sutherland	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Machon	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt A. R. Smith	10 Sig Regt
Sgt C. N. Grayshan	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Milner	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Hand	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
Sgt W. J. Bogie	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. MacDonald	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Mountcastle	22 Sig Regt
Sgt F. R. Retallick	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. G. Galbraith	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. J. Roberts	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Sgt R. D. Keeble	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. C. Braddon	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt R. J. Leake	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Bowman	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt T. W. Jack	School of Sigs
Sgt R. J. Lewis	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. N. Hughes	608 Sig Troop
Sgt F. Dowie	10 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Wilson	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Reay	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. L. Ball	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. C. Pollington	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Graley	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Spick	262 Sig Sqn

SEPTEMBER 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) A. G. A. Brittenden	16 Sig Regt
WO2 J. J. M. Campbell	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 J. Crannage	224 Sig Sqn
WO2 R. A. Hamilton	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 C. M. Harrison	L. S. P. Brunei
WO2 F. C. Howley	9 Sig Regt
WO2 T. S. Langley	7 Sig Regt
WO2 T. K. Mumford	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 (YofS) R. W. McLaren	21 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) D. D. Watson	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
SSgt D. C. Henley	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) M. J. Taylor	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. L. Waller	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) R. Wilson	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) J. Aquilina	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt D. B. Vallance	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt I. Borland	21 Sig Regt
SSgt E. R. Sreeves	244 Sig Sqn (TAC AIR Sp)
SSgt J. R. M. Krikorian	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt A. Hambling	16 Sig Regt
SSgt J. J. Flockhart	22 Sig Regt
SSgt M. D. Bailes	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt B. Clark	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt R. Stanton	11 Sig Regt
SSgt H. A. McMahon	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt T. Sharp	School of Sigs
SSgt P. Whitehead	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt A. Catterall	11 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. Buckler	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt A. C. Horsburgh	28 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Bartlett	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. A. Jinman	School of Sigs
Sgt F. Lunness	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Smith	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. Thompson	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt H. Sullivan	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt S. Herrington	11 Sig Regt JW
Sgt B. Gibbons	3 CTT
Sgt B. T. Howe	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. S. H. Beattie	2 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. Tasker	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Jeffreys	632 Sig Tp
Sgt J. A. Simpson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt N. F. Tegg	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. H. Melville	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Fotheringham	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Antcliff	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. A. Wright	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. E. Lilley	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Mitchell	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Partridge	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Reay	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt S. C. Drew	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Trippier	10 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Smith	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. R. Cooper	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Fenton	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. B. Wyllie	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. V. Hawke	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. R. Christie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Pratten	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. C. Davies	28 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Dunlin	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. Stanley	CDO LOG Regt
Sgt G. J. Williams	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. Young	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. Barron	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. P. Evis	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. W. Richardson	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. O. Rowland-Jones	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Sgt R. M. Watkins	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Sgt W. R. Kirkwood	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt B. C. Cantwell	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Hemmings	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Lumb	21 Sig Regt

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WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	16
Amount spent:	£500.24

JULY 1979

Number of cases:	30
Amount spent:	£2,715.28
Number of clothing parcels:	41

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	14
Amount spent:	£285.00

ONE OF OUR CASES

Sergeant, 1946-1961. His wife died in 1973, leaving him with four young children whom he is bringing up single handed. Through the generosity of the Army Benevolent Fund, a week's holiday was provided for the whole family at Pontins, and Royal Signals Association made a grant of £40 for spending money and extras. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

What a holiday we had! I've not seen the children so happy for a long time. How can I thank you all enough for giving us such a wonderful holiday? I can never find words to express my feelings, and just to say 'Thank you' seems so inadequate. The holiday did us all good. For me, it was a great change from the everyday worries of housework etc. We are so grateful for all you have done for us.

During the months of June and July, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:—

Maj W. G. Cunningham; Blandford Garrison Thrift Shop; Brig J. H. Hild; Lt Col C. J. Bayfield; Mrs. K. N. Smartt; Mr. A. Walsh; Lt Col D. A. Dickson; Mr & Mrs G. H. Cowsill; 21 Sig Regt; Maj Gen M. D. Price; Maj (QM) A. S. R. Alfred; Maj L. J. Taylor; Mrs I. G. Swan; Thrift Shop 10 Signal Regt.; Mrs. R. Parker; Mrs. J. Mather.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received in July 1979:-

Catterick Reunion Service (St Martin's Church)	£160.00
St George's Church, Berlin	£ 60.00
Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt	£ 50.00
N H Chadwick Esq	£ 20.00
49 Fd Regt RA	£ 12.59
H R W Marsh Esq.	£ 10.00
R N Hutchings Esq	£ 5.00
W R Fraser Esq	£ 5.00
R D Prout Esq	£ 5.00
Lt Col G M Welsford	£ 3.00
D A L Griffiths Esq.	£ 1.63
D W Lloyd Davies Esq	£ 1.25
R A Oswick Esq	£ 1.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ 4.30
	£338.77

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1979:-

St. Boniface Church, Rheindahlen	£44.87
R A Howell Esq	£20.00
R Johnson Esq.	£ 5.00
Mrs. L A S Kellner	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ .60
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Classified Section

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DEATHS

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the eighteen Soldiers who died at Warrenpoint on Monday, 27th August 1979.

BENTON—Lt Col Alexander Vivian (Bill) Benton was born in India in 1913 and commissioned into the Corps from the RMA, Woolwich, in 1933. He served for a year with 4th Divisional Signals before going to India in 1935 where he remained for the next 10 years, serving in Burma during the last War. After the War, he was stationed at Catterick for 5 years with 1 Operators Training Battalion and the School of Signals. He then commanded 2 L of C Signal Regiment in BAOR and was on the Staff at SHAPE and the MOD before retiring in 1958. After retirement, he was employed at NATO HQ in France and Belgium for 15 years. He died suddenly in Scotland on the 2nd July.

GANT—Maj (QM) Stewart Lowe Gant enlisted in the Corps in 1932 and was commissioned in 1944. He served with 7 Armoured Divisional Signals, 11 Air Formation Signals and 4 Training Regiment. He was a Personnel Selection Officer for four years and a Staff Officer in Signals 5 at the War Office for a year. From 1957 to 1960 he was in the Middle East and spent his last five years of Service with 51 (H) Divisional Signal Regiment TA, retiring in 1965. He died at Bedale in Yorkshire on the 18 July, shortly before his 67th Birthday.

Martinson—Lt Col John Steele Martinson enlisted in the Army Educational Corps in 1930 and was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps in 1941. He transferred to Royal Signals as a Cipher Officer in 1942. Before the war he was on active service in Palestine and during the war served in North Africa with 7th Armoured Division and in Italy with 18 Army Group. After the war he spent a number of years at the Intelligence School and with 4th Training Regiment. He later served with 2nd Wireless Regiment in Cyprus, at GHQ Middle East and with ALFCE. He retired in 1959 on medical grounds and died on the 20th August 1979 at the age of 78.

Turner—Lt Charles Alfred Turner, MM, enlisted in 1931 and trained as a lineman. He was discharged at the beginning of 1939 but was recalled to the Colours at the outbreak of the war. In 1936-7 he was on active service in Palestine and during the war served with the BEF when he was awarded the MM whilst with 48th Divisional Signals. From 1942-5 he was in India and with 5th Indian Divisional Signals on the Burma Front. After the war he served in the Middle East and BAOR. He was commissioned as a Cipher Officer in 1954 and retired in 1956. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1950 and the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Medal in 1953. He died on the 21 May at the age of 66.

FOR SALE

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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A vacancy exists for a Permanent Staff Administrative Officer on consolidated rates of pay with 59 Signal Squadron, 33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) The Grange, Edge Lane, Liverpool.

Applicants should preferably have served as officers in the Regular Army or TAVR. The upper age limit is 56. The basic salary on appointment is £5025 per annum rising to £5849 after six years service. The post carries the rank of Captain (TAVR).

Applications including brief details of experience and service, date of birth together with names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:
33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Alamein TAVR Centre
Liverpool Road
Liverpool L36 3RW
051-489-8331

Vacancy—Residential Caretaker at TAC Tunbridge Wells. For details apply:- PSO 3 Sqn, 39 Signal Regt(V), TAC, St. Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

VACANCY FOR PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TAVR

A vacancy will arise in May 80 for a PSAO on consolidated rates and in the rank of Captain with 44 Squadron of 36 Signal Regiment (V) located at Gillingham.

Applicants should preferably have served as officers in the Regular Army or TAVR, and have administrative experience in both 'A' and 'Q' duties.

Applicants should be under 57 years of age and experience with the TAVR is desirable but not essential.

The starting salary is £5025 rising to £5849 after six years.

Applicants including brief details of experience and service, date of birth, together with names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:
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36th(Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Selsdon Road
WANSTEAD
LONDON E11 2QF

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A TRIP TO ST HELENA

Report by Sgt Mark Eaton

A SMALL DOT

Maj (TOT) 'Rusty' Davis and myself, of Communication Projects Agency (CPA) Royal Signals, Blandford, were tasked by MOD on behalf of the Overseas Development Ministry to survey and report on the existing telephone system on the Island of St Helena. For the nautical types the island lies 16°S 5°45'W. For the rest its a very small dot in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean 1200 miles from Africa, 1800 miles from South America and 4000 miles south of London.

To reach the island we left Heathrow on a British Airways Jumbo to Johannesburg where we changed to South African Airways Airbus to Cape Town. After staying two days in Cape Town, a beautiful city, we boarded the Royal Mail Ship St Helena for a five day voyage to the island (sea being the only means of access). We made the voyage on a mirror calm sea (there and back as it happened) which I am assured is unusual for the South Atlantic. It was a most enjoyable journey for myself that is; the boss unfortunately suffered from seasickness and spent the first two days of the trip (both ways) in his cabin!

RUGGED TERRITORY

After departing from England on the 23 April we arrived at St Helena on the 1 May. On first sight of the island at close quarters it gives one the impression that even the birds were lucky to get a foothold. The island covers an area of approximately 47 square miles, is very mountainous and the terrain very rugged being mainly volcanic rock and ash. The upper areas have lush green vegetation and are particularly beautiful. The population is about 5000 of which 1500 live in the capital Jamestown. The currency is £ sterling and the language is English!! The latter is open to debate, as the local dialect is rather difficult to understand.

PLUM JOB

The first things we learnt about the island in the early part of our stay was that the entertainment facilities are somewhat limited. There is no television, very little radio, no newspapers, cinema once a week and the pubs close at 10 o'clock six days a week and do not open at all on Sundays. There are no clubs or discos, but weekly dances are held in local village halls. These are very well attended and are the highlight of the week. We were fortunately on the island for 'St Helena Day' which was quite something, sports, fancy dress parade, arts and crafts exhibitions, and at night dancing in the streets of Jamestown. Much to my envy **Maj Davis** got the plum job of being a judge in the Miss St Helena competition.

LINK WITH NAPOLEON

The local islanders, the 'Saints' as they are called, are one of the friendliest people I have ever known. They greeted us and made us welcome wherever we went and they certainly liked to chat. Of course St Helena is famous for being Napoleon's last internment location —after escaping from Elba. His residence, for the six years until he died, Longwood House, and his tomb (his body was later removed to France) are still upkept today. A French Consul is stationed there and looks after Napoleonic interests. An American girl, a Napoleon 'freak', who had travelled all the way from San Francisco to St Helena arrived during our stay wasn't sure whether to believe us or not when told that the story of Napoleon's internment on St Helena was untrue and only a decoy from the real internment location, the Isle of Wight!!

WATERSPORTS

Watersports or the sea, provides the greatest entertainment. Fishing, a main source of food, is fantastic with regular specimens of tuna of over 200lbs being landed with the added attractions of Marlin, Barracuda and Benito although not in such vast quantities. The underwater world (sub-aqua) around the island is really quite breathtaking with visibility to 30m. The waters are teaming with fish of every size, shape and colour, and there are a few wrecks about as well.

PRIMITIVE BUT EFFECTIVE

And now to the main purpose of our visit The Telephone System. The installation dates back to a Royal Signals project during the 1939–45 war. It is a 120 line magneto switchboard with at present 250 subscribers connected and all the inherent problems. The line plant is mainly permanent overhead lines. There is no numbering system. You ask the operator for the called party by name; she will then call the telephone with the required number of rings from one to as many as five. If there is no answer, she will attempt to trace the party which is not as difficult as it sounds. Being a small community everyone knows everyone else, and the operator usually knows the movements of most!! There is a very good 'bush telegraph' when the phones are inoperable, a state which is incidentally on the increase, hence the requirement for a new telephone system (if only to gain a little PRIVACY!!). It is a credit to the old members of the Corps who installed the line plant that it has lasted as long as it has.

CORPS REPRESENTATIVE

We had the good fortune whilst on the island to meet up with an ex Warrant Officer of the Corps 2603389, **Arthur J. Young. Arthur** joined the local St Helenian forces at the outbreak of 39–45 war. After the hostilities the island was faced with a problem of providing employment for discharged personnel. It was then they were offered the chance to transfer across to the UK forces. **Arthur** was accepted and enlisted in Royal Signals. During his time in the Corps, **Arthur** served in Europe, Egypt, Bahrain, Cyprus and Malaya, where he was stationed prior to demob.



Maj Davis, Mr Young and Sgt Eaton outside the Consulate Hotel, Jamestown, St Helena

We spent a number of pleasant evenings with him, over a few beers of course, reminiscing. At least **Maj Davis** did as **Arthur** returned to St Helena the year I joined, although one or two names did 'ring a bell' and one or two equipments as well!!! **Arthur** is a pillar of the local community, being a member of the Legislative Council, a local magistrate and the Coroner for the island. He also finds time to run the bonded warehouses for 'Solomons' the main St Helena business concern. We also met **Arthur's** wife **Gertrude,** who accompanied him on some of his tours with the R Signals. She speaks with nostalgia of Malaya and hopes one day to visit UK again where their son and daughter-in-law live.

AND SO FAREWELL

On the 13 of June it was with some sadness and lack of sleep (too many parties) that we boarded the RMS St Helena for the south bound trip to Cape Town. With luck CPA may be tasked with implementing a project to install the new exchange system for St Helena. If so I certainly want to be one of the men to go.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj T. I. M. Waugh**
2IC/Comms Offr	**Capt G. S. Hand**
Admin Offr	**Maj (QM) G. A. Kendrick, Staffords**
QM	**Capt (QM) G. W. E. Hope**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt J. K. Ewbank**
2IC Comms Tp/MTO	**Lt A. A. Ewell**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) K. R. Clark**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) T. A. Hazel**
Y of S	**WO2 (Y of S) M. A. Thornton**
F of S	**WO2 (F of S) A. V. Lamb**
Attached	**Lt J. E. Thomas (from RMCS Shrivenham)**

THE LONDONDERRY SCENE

Since our last report, Londonderry has been very quiet with few serious terrorist incidents either in the City or the rest of the Brigade area. However, by the time these notes are read (I hope they *are* read) we will have had the events of 9-11 August: the Apprentice Boys' Parade, the tenth anniversary of the deployment of troops in Ulster and the anniversary of the start of internment. This means a lot of planning and preparation; for Heli-tele, for reinforcement troops communications and generally to try to anticipate the worst disasters that can befall the Signal Squadron on the day, and so avoid them.

The lack of terrorist activity has not led to boredom—80 long-overdue Stornophones have arrived and been issued, to replace many of our ageing Pye Pocketphones in the City; the hierarchy has confounded everyone (not least the Chief Clerk) by producing a new Brigade Signal Instruction, Amendment 1 must be due out shortly—and two of our three regular major units have changed over. Our very latest escapade, which combined adventure training with operations, was the replacement of a stretch of the 20-pair cable which serves Creggan Camp (the original cable was also laid by the Squadron). **Sgt Mick Read,** our resident telemech, took a chain gang out for three days—and the photograph shows the only dry moment they had!



LCpl Gordon Hitchen and many others unaccountably smiling as they dig in the new Creggan cable

In addition to all this, we have as usual spent a fair amount of effort in amusing ourselves—**Lt John Ewbank** took a party to Cyprus, a canoeing party took **Lt Adam Ewell** to the River Wye, our sailors did well in the Coleraine 24-hour sailing race and in the Command Dinghy Regatta, and domestic activities have included a Children's Fete, a Squadron Bar-B-Q/It's a Knockout and a car treasure hunt.



Kevin Yallop under instruction from Cpl Mich Hopkins RAOC at the children's Summer Fete



LCpl Gordon Hitchen and friend emerging from a shared knockout experience

QM TROOP TURNAROUND

First though, sharp-eyed students of the Squadron personalities' list will have noticed that both the QM and the RQMS have departed—**Capt Sandy Reid** after a planned stay of only 10 weeks between permanent incumbents—he has been rewarded with a posting to 28 Sig Regt and the land of plenty; and **WO2 Bill Olive** to 22 Sig Regt on a well-deserved promotion to WO1. Best wishes to both, and their families, for the future. **Capt Bob Hope** and **WO2 Tom Hazel** are warmly welcomed as the new team in charge of the fastest moving stores in Royal Signals—and the biggest accounting problems!

OFF AGAIN

Our Adventurous Training Officer, **Lt Adam Ewell** had no sooner returned from the Mull of Kintyre (reported in the last issue) than he was off again with 12 others for two weeks' canoeing on the Rivers Teme and Wye. We were fortunate to be able to borrow **Cpl Don Chester** from 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn as our instructor for this exercise. He radiated confidence at all times, whilst making sure that everyone was soaked to the skin at frequent intervals. The first nine days were spent based at Ross-on-Wye, and the remainder of the two weeks at Symonds Yat on the Teme. **LCpl Phil Amey ACC** was cook for the exercise; his skill with the fresh rations and his insistence on tablecloths on our GS tables certainly raised the quality of life on the exercise.

EXCITING STUFF

Although most of the canoeing was done on the Wye, the really exciting stuff was done on the rapids and weirs at Symonds Yat. Everyone learned to shoot the weirs, except **Pte 'Horrible' Harris RPC,** who was convalescing after a spectacular ducking at Ashford Carbonel, for which he needed a few stitches in his head. A really successful exercise requires a bit of the other sort of liquid lubrication, of course, and this was provided on most evenings at the King's Head in Wilton, where **Bill** and **Veronica** very kindly laid on a special farewell party on the last night. The MTO has now returned for a bit, and rumour has it he has even been promoted . . .



Exercise summer romp in Ross on Wye. *Standing, L to R:* Sgt Frank Lunness; Sig Stan Haynes; Cpl 'Cheese' Newby; Cpl Don Chester; Sig Don Mills. *Seated, L to R:* Pte Geordie Holden; Sig 'Kojack' Cunliffe; Sig Pete Vennal; LCpl Phil Amey; and last but not least, 2LT Adam Ewell



Sgt Frank Lunness on the uphill struggle

THE OLD BUSHMILLS 24-HOUR DINGHY RACE

No one who has served in Northern Ireland will be unfamiliar with the name, and perhaps the taste of 'Black Bush'. Bushmills Distillery sponsors a 24-hour endurance dinghy race at Coleraine Yacht Club on the Bann every year, and the 'Castle Sailing Club' is always a competitor. This year we entered a GP14 and an Enterprise, intending to have crews of eight for each boat, though the Enterprise was finally sailed by only six. There were 29 entries altogether, every one of which finished, and our boats came a creditable 17th and 22nd. This was a fine effort considering the number of beginners in our teams, and that highly professional teams came from as far away as London and Dublin. There were even prizes for the best-placed Enterprise, inevitably including a bottle of 'Bush'—this went some way to replenish the amounts drunk between (and even during) shifts on the river!

A week after this race came the Command Dinghy Regatta, in which the Squadron team, captained by **Maj Tim Waugh,** came 2nd—only one point behind 3R Anglian, a renowned 'sailing unit'. These two successes have greatly encouraged the sport in the Squadron, and we currently have 13 people taking basic or intermediate RYA Dinghy Certificates— so we hope to be a name to reckon with from now on.



THE 24 HOUR RACE TEAMS

L to R: 2Lt Adam Ewell, Capt Graham Hand, Mrs Anne Hand, Lt John Ewebank, SSgt Ian Macrindle, Cpl Dave Phillips, Sig Bob Donaldson, Cpl Reginald Parker, Sig Doughnut Doughty, Sgt Clive Blackburn, SSgt Bob Bate, Sgt Ian Duncan, Maj Simon Colebeck. (Not pictured are Maj Phillip Beaver and Lt Nick Chavasse 3 RGJ). The boat is *not* one of the race entries!



Maj Philip Beaver 13/18H, GSO 2 PR, concentrating hard in the Coleraine 24-hour race—the collision which holed their boat was not their fault!

A GRAND SPLASH

'Three weeks of sun, sandy beaches, shimmering blue sea, a long iced drink in your hand and a blonde gently fanning you in the 100 shady degrees of the Cyprus day. Any man's dream of an ideal holiday . . .'

The above is a quotation from **Cpl Sandy Grey,** one of the seven members of Exercise *Grand Splash III* which took place between 29

June and 20 July. The idea behind the Exercise started many months ago. During our constant search for adventure training opportunities, 259 Sig Sqn kindly offered to host a small party for a visit to the sun-soaked island of Cyprus. Unable to resist a challenge such as this, **Lt John Ewbank** set about finding volunteers who would be prepared to sacrifice their time in Northern Ireland and subject themselves to the perils of a Mediterranean island.

The object of the three-week stay was to involve all participants in adventure training at the Joint Service Adventure Training Centre in Pergamos. Although this turned out to be impossible, four of our number did manage to spend two weeks at Pergamos on various adventure training activities. **Cpl Ian Davies** was fortunate enough to take part in a basic sub-aqua course: 'Once everyone had arrived we were given our initial swimming test, which I think some fish would have found difficult. To our amazement there was still a full course by the end of it. During the next few days we saved hundreds of lives (in theory anyway) and learned about basic snorkelling. A surprise inclusion in the course was free fall parachuting—without chutes! This involved leaping into the water from a great height wearing snorkelling kit. Apart from ending up with my flippers around my knees, I survived to carry on to the next test'.

Our two candidates for the sea canoeing course were **Pte Mick Mendez** and **Cpl Sandy Grey** and from all reports, they seem to have spent more time in the water than on it! They must have mastered some of the techniques in the end however, as both reappeared without fins or gills. Those members of the party who remained with 259 Sig Sqn in Episkopi were kept busy with such arduous duties as sailing, swimming, scuba diving and sampling the local brew. **Sig Rich Cunningham, Sig (now LCpl) Tony Talbot** and **Dvr 'Barney Red' Barnes** assure me that they found plenty of adventure and not *too* much training.

In summary, the exercise was a great success. The hospitality extended to us throughout our visit was second to none and, as a final result, the dark-skinned population of the 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn has increased, if only temporarily, by two hundred per cent.

Note: For those who wonder what **Lt Ewbank** did, he came back with a very sore bottom—and a free fall parachute qualification.

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING

Our Squadron probably does an unusually high mileage for our numbers, and so a regular feature of our training is the Safe and Skilled Driving Competition, success in which is eagerly sought after by alll ranks. This time a cunning and devious test, devised and produced by (you've guessed it) the MTO (again) was held on the square on Friday 6 July. Eight 3-man teams took part in the competition which involved a Highway Code exam, an obstacle test in a Ford Escort *and* a Landrover, reversing a landrover and trailer, and changing a wheel on a Ford Escort. Noteworthy performances came from **Maj Richard Cohen LI,** who abandoned the clock in pursuit of perfection; by **Sig 'Doughnut'** Doughty, who had not studied the course diagram very carefully, and by **Cpl Dave Wood RAOC,** who stuck the Escort jack everywhere except up his nose when trying to change the wheel!

Not surprisingly, MT Troop won eight out of nine prizes, with MT (RCT) team first, led by **Cpl Mick Townsend,** and MT (R Signals) team second. The individual winner was **Sig Archie Fulton,** who gave an outstanding performance. The RSM, **WO1 Ken Clark,** gave demonstrations of Landrover reversing ('I used to be in 7 Sig Regt') to anyone who would watch, but the Chief Judge, **WO1 Bob Coles RCT,** wisely, like the MTO (very wisely) preferred not to take the wheel . . .



The local Mafiosi gather for the driving competition presentations. *L to R:* LCpl Bonzo Bethune, Cpl Mick Townsend, Sig Archie Fulton, Sgt Frank Lunness, Sig Mitch Mitchell and Sig Skin O'Reilly

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THE BRICK THROWING SEASON

We are now well into the brick throwing season in Belfast, and as school ends for the summer break, Army vehicles in Belfast are regularly pelted. Indeed, 'whitewashing' by throwing pots of paint at Humber 1 Ton armoured Pigs and Saracens is also a favourite pastime for some of the more artistic West Belfast residents. The Battle of the Boyne marches on 12 July (some 20,000 marchers and 100 Bands) passed off without incident, except of course for the Squadron who were 'tweaking' talkthroughs and installing equipment throughout the week. More recently there have been several sniping attacks on Security Force patrols, and a renewed bombing campaign in the City Centre.

WEATHER EYE

At this stage it would be prudent to mention that Summer, (referred to once so far), is a seasonal term and does not reflect the weather at all; it is still pouring with rain here!

PRE BLUES

Once again the time has come for dents to be hammered out of our vehicles and vast quantities of Gunk distributed over all moving parts. **WO2 'Mac' MacNiven** RCT, our MTWO, recently conducted a Works Survey on his Troop. As can be seen, they always get you there, on time, by any means. On a serious note, the MT organised an excellent Summer Rally at the end of June. Eighteen teams entered and Sqn Fangios proved their skills over a comprehensive 140 mile course — without the need for any subsequent panel beating!



Cpl Benny Rodgers RPC, Admin NCO 'I can give you any vehicle for anywhere in the Province normally. Today I can't even raise a bicycle'



Sgt Laurie McBain RCT 'Two seconds and I'll have this puncture fixed and we'll get the Boneshaker on the road'

MATTERS TECHNICAL

We have now completed the refurbishing and updating of our Bde Ops Room, including an extensive lick of paint. The new Ops Console, with a button for everything except coffee, was officially declared open on the Commander's Brief on Sat 23 June. Unfortunately the new electronic digital clock had gone haywire overnight and was reading 2825!

Our Technical Empire under the guidance of **Capt (TOT) Tony Porritt** and **WO2 (FoS) Steve Sims** continues to provide the communications maintenance and advice to the ever-changing Belfast Security Forces. We are now looking forward to moving the Brigade talkthroughs and RRB equipment into new accommodation on Divis Mountain in September. For those of you who remember the 'Ice Station Zebra' days, life for the isolated operator in the 1980s is going to be similar to a stay in a five star hotel.



TM Troop personalities on Parade. From left to right and front row to rear are seen: Sgt John Brice, Sgt Keith Blackburn (now posted to Portsmouth), SSgt Wally Cooper (RAOC), WO2 (FOS) Steve Sims, Capt (TOT) Tony Porritt, Sgt Gary Mayers, Sgt Joe Croome, Sgt Dennis Sage, Cpl Alan Piper, Cpl Taff Cassells, Cpl Pat Purvis, Cpl Ian Crossley (now in BAOR), Cpl Derrick Tresidder, Cpl Ian Guthrie, Sgt Jim Knight, Sig Chris Scales, Sig Gary Fryer



SSgt Greg Robertson (Comms Tp) standing by a new Heli-Tele longrange receiver dish as Sgt Gary 'Shades' Mayers our Heli-Tele expert looks on. Comment from Staff 'I still say my gramophone loudspeaker would do'.



Cpl 'Taff' Cassells in a working mood, and occasionally, when dealing with commercial radio, breaking into song: 'If I had a hammer . . .'.

THE SPORTING LIFE

The Squadron's sporting prowess and reputation over the past two months has expanded to include Putting and Water-Skiing. However our most notable achievemenet has been in the field of cricket, with particular success in the Army Minor Units Cricket Cup. We won the Northern Ireland final against 8 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn by 80 runs with notable performances from **Cpl Dave Gunn** 93 not out, **WO2 (FoS) Steve Sims** 53 **Sig Ian Groves** 4 for 15. The quarter final of the Army Cup was played against a strong team from 11 Sig Regt. We made a slow start but managed to score 120 runs thanks to a stirling effort from **Cpl Dave Gunn.** It was mainly due to spirited bowling and fielding that the Squadron won, albeit by only 2 runs! **Sig Ian Groves** returned the commendable figures of 3 for 24. We then went on to play AAC Chepstow in the semi final at Tidworth and elected to bat. Unfortunately we had a disastrous start, losing 2 wickets for no runs, from which it was impossible to recover. Sadly, the Squadron lost by 9 wickets. Nevertheless, it was a very commendable effort for the team to do so well considering the operational role we have had to maintain throughout one of the more troublesome periods in the Province's calendar.



The victorious 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn cricket team after their win in the final of the Northern Ireland section of the Army Minor Units Cricket cup. The team is, left to right: Back row: Col Mike Evans, LCpl Phil Vinnicombe, W01 Peter Robinson, WO2 Steve Sims, Capt Peter Lawson, Cpl Micky Hayes (reserve), Sgt Nigel Radford, and Sig Lloyd Lambert. Front row: LCpl Chalkie White, Cpl Dave Gunn, Maj Barry Aitken, Cpl Joey Murray and Sig Ian Groves. The team hastens to point out that Tarka, the dog, shows a marked lack of interest because he was not invited to field.

The Putting scene centres on the Garrison Putting League and **WO2 (FoS) Steve Sims** has welded together a team, including **WO1 (RSM) Alan Bailey** who willingly marches them on the the 'Green'. We have fiercely contested every hole in the seven matches played so far. However, our more experienced golfers, Quartermaster and above, are shy of the 18 hole course because they claim it spoils their game!

A gallant crew of operators, under the leadership of **Cpl Jimmy Smith,** recently helped out the organisers of a Water-Skiing Gala. Having completed the work they then had a dabble at some Oscar-winning 'Superman' stunts on water. Sadly, there are no photographs!

Footnote. Rugby training has just started under the tyrannical supervision of **Capt Jim Snape** RE. Many are already aching at the thought of forthcoming 90 minute ordeals, but we are quietly confident of another good season, having reached the final of last seasons Army Cup for minor units in UK.

VISITS

During this period the outgoing CGS **Gen (now Field Marshal) Sir Roland Gibbs** visited the Sqn and had lunch with the Officers and SNCOs in the 39 Bde Officers Mess (at present under HQNI management).

We have also had **Lt Ian Foxley** R Signals and **Lt Foxley** decided that communications could wait and retired to being a Watchkeeper (Mushroom) in the Bde Ops Room for the first month of his stay!

Our own **Lt Tim Maynes** represented the Sqn at the Pass Off Parade of Ulster Troop, Junior Signalman Wing, together with **WO1 (RSM) Collins** of Bde, **WO2 (YoS) Thornton** of 8 Bde, and **WO2 (SSM) Smith** of 233 Sig Sqn. We believe they collectively convinced all of Ulster Troop to come over here. However it was a good finale to our affiliation with Ulster Troop, over the past year.

PARTY TIME

Working on the maxim, 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy', all departments have managed to have their own parties. More recently the 'Country Night' organised by Comms Troop produced not only amusing sights, but a considerable gift for Thompson House old people's home which past members of the Sqn will remember. It also coincided with, for those of you who remember the ploughed field at the rear of the Horseshoe Club, the grand opening of our new patio and garden.

MENS + BOYS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'

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

THE SPICE

We have enjoyed an unusually varied two months in the Squadron. Adventurous Training in Staffordshire was well supported and voted a hit. There have been mixed fortunes on the sports field and the number of visitors has been about par for the time of year. Most of them missed the Summer which this year, as last, was on 12 July.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

We offer ths little gem for further discussion. During AAG AG11's recent visit the old chestnut of Traffic Officers' employment was being given a fresh roasting. One view was that 'Yeomen are trained to a peak of performance only to be thrown on the rubbish tip!' If this is so, perhaps we need a new employment title in the Corps. Not Capt (Tfc), but Capt (Skip)? Since 'Skips' would work behind the green door, how about the collective noun 'a Seclusion of Skips'? OK, that's the end of the cerebral bit and we won't be sending out questionnaires either.

ICELAND EXPEDITION 1979

Our new WRAC subaltern, **Stephanie Westall** has just returned from Iceland! **Stephanie** was the only girl in an 11 strong expedition which attempted to traverse the 120 km wide ice cap. She reports: on 6 July a group of eight left base camp to make the assault on the glacier and find a route through its crevassed borders. Progress was disappointing and painstakingly slow. Varied weather conditions caused breathtaking crevasses to open up overnight and the ground underneath was not the hard ice that had been expected, but layers of lethal snow up to six feet deep which formed unstable snow bridges. The possibility of losing people down these gaping holes in the ice covered by treacherous virgin snow became very real.

Days of complete white out were spent huddled in sleeping bags munching a disgustingly endless supply of army dog biscuits and peanuts.

By 17 July time was running out and with only 50 miles covered we decided to make a 'break for it' from the ice cap even though weather conditions were atrocious. Large ice covered peaks appeared that had not been seen before and visibility sunk to 10 yards. Painfully we roped and retraced our steps to find we had come in completely the wrong direction. On reaching the edge of the glacier much of it had melted in the warm valley temperatures and recced routes, had completely disapeared. So after the assault on to the Vatnajokull a rather clumsy descent was made by having to slide down a wall of ice and brake with the ice axes. After this adventure we wonder if the Squadron will be able to provide enough excitement for our newest officer. We will try!

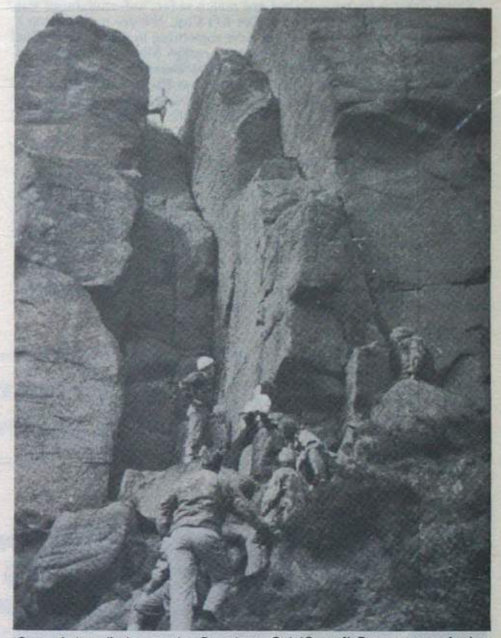
ALL FUN

Adventure training is fun!—It tests your nerves, it plumbs the depths of your character and produces a real sense of achievement. Or so the 2IC, **Capt 'The Boss' Crowley** said after three months of paper-work and a hectic week before the exercise trying to find some instructors! About twenty-five members of the Squadron managed to get away from the rigours of N Ireland for a week of canoeing, rock climbing and entertaining the locals in that great metropolis of Leek in Staffordshire.

Our three rock climbing instructors, **Cpls 'Dusty' Miller** and **'Smurf' Preston** and **Sgt 'Tom' Archer**, soon realised that they had taken on quite a challenge. But after much shoving, pushing, pulling and many 'meaningful discussions' the learners were soon leaping around rock faces like mountain goats and abseiling down cliffs in true James Bond fashion.

Cpl 'Josie' Wales had a little problem curing everyone's fear of water. His method consisted of getting into canoes and then deliberately turning over—to see if you could escape! I have a feeling that this is something akin to parachutists jumping out of serviceable planes! But our landlubbers soon became water babies, progressing from the more sedate waters of Rudyard Lake to the slalom course on the River Trent at Stone.

Extra curricula activities included visits to many places of local interest. Unfortunately limitations were placed on us by the many local traditions, the most inconvenient being that few establishments remained open after 2230. A recent report in the Daily Telegraph has caused many to give up Chinese food, as the take-away in Leek was fined (shortly after we left) for failure to maintain proper hygiene standards (something about dead rats!)



One of the climbs on the Roaches. Cpl 'Smurf' Preston convincing everyone that it really is quite easy



'Well that's reverse sorted out, now where's forward gear?' The Boss displaying his aquatic skills

In that all participants were returned to Lisburn refreshed—well they say a change is a good as a rest!—and raring to go . . . to bed—the camp was voted a success. Certainly the 'permanent staff' and the instructors were constantly amazed by the stamina, determination and ability of all concerned. Surprisingly enough it was fun!

COMMCEN WIN

The McKELVIE Trophy, awarded annually to the Troop which produces the best all round performance at sport, has been won for 1978/79 by the Commcen. They were closely followed by Admin/Delta. The Competition, contested over a wide range of activities, will be slightly altered next year to allow the inter troop athletics meeting to be part of the contest. As the OC Sqn remarked when handing the trophy to **Capt John Ankers**, to win demands a sustained team effort over the full 12 months. Congratulations to the Commcen past and present.

GOOD CRICKET RECORD

Our Cricket team has only lost one match so far; unfortunately it was against 39 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn in the KO Cup. We are maintaining a good league record and hoping to have something to show for it at the season's end. Key figures in the team are **Sgt Mick Kilvington, Sgt Mick Langley, Sgt Stu Parrish, Ssgt Mal Forster,** a convert from Hockey—but with a good eye for a ball—**Capt Paddy Crowley** and our Soccer goalkeeper turned wicket keeper **Sig 'Trill' Potterton** who even picks up those on the leg side! Rumours that the OC only gets offered a place to ensure transport for away games are not true.

HIGH ATHLETICS STANDARDS

Our athletes met strong opposition in Catterick in the Zone B Finals ad out of six teams were placed third behind 11 Sig Regt and AETW AAC (who?). It was a close contest but, despite personal bests from several competitors our times and distances were not quite good enough. Special mention must be made of **Sgt Pete Hirst** and **Cpl Jock Thomson** in the 800 and 1500 metres respectively. They had trained very hard, in their own time, under the eeye of **Maj Gordon Howard** (detached to HQ NI from UK) but came up against very strong opposition. **Cpl John Rose** won the Long Jump (again).

MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS

The days of Motor Cycle DRs may have gone, but in **Sig Keith Randle** the spirit lives on. Selected to ride for the Army Team in the Welsh two day Trial which was followed by the Army Championships in Catterick he came back loaded with silver. His performance is all the more creditable in view of the limited practice facilities and time available in the Provincee. He has beeen selected to compete for the Army in the Six Day International Trials in Germany later this year and leaves us soon on posting 16 Sig Regt.



Sig Randle with new Can-Am bike, holding the Signals Cup and the Soldier Magazine Shield following his success in Wales and Catterick

SWIMMING

Having managed to qualify by devious and shady means for the Army Championships at RMAS on 28 July the Swimming team more than met its match. Despite many personal bests and a consistent all-round team performance the Squadron was well beaten into fourth place by some well trained and well prepared teams.

MAJ GIL SHARP RETIRES

Maj Gil Sharp leaves the Army in September after 36 years Service. The sgts Mess organised an excellent Ladies Dinner Night at which both he and **Lt Jacqui Wallace** were guests. Our photographs show the SSM checking points of detail with **SSgt Rod Gladwin** and the two guests dancing the night away. We all wish **Maj Sharp** the best of good fortune in his next career where we are sure he will make a big impact. Equally, we welcome his successor **Capt (TOT) Lynn** back to the Province after only two years away from the Squadron.



Sgts Mess Dinner: 'I'm *not* sitting *there*!'
SSgt Rod Gladwin makes final adjustments to the Master Plan with WO2 (SSM) Brian Smith



A final fling for Maj Gil Sharp and Lt Jacqui Wallace

AN IRISH FISHING LAMENT

Sorry, but we haven't got a picture of **SSgt Mal Forster's** catch of a lifetime, a 7-8 lb Sea Trout caught off the pier at Bangor. He was casting with mackerel for bait, when a sudden pull on the line jerked **Mal** into action. Reeling in to about two yards from the edge revealed the trout which leaped and splashed. A local fisherman ran down the steps nearby to help, but just as **Mal** was visualising his photo splashed across the front page of the Sea Angler, the line snapped just half a yard from the fish's mouth. Without even a backward glance, the trout disappeared to the depths again. Somewhere in the Irish Sea there's **Mal's** hook, and at the end of it a fisherman's dream.

WHISKEY TROOP

In the last couple of months the troop has had an influx of new faces. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome:

Pte Sandra Bowley, Sig Keith Robinson, Sig Dave McKinnel
We hope your tour with the troop is a happy one.
Sadly we say farewell to:
Sgt Colin Phillips, W/Sgt Mal Allen, Cpl Paul Buff.
We wish them every success in their new ventures.

Congratulations are in order for **Cpl Tim Broomfield** on his recent promotion to Sgt and on the recent arrival of a baby daughter and to **LCpl Andy Rimell** on his promotion to Cpl. Well Done.

The Troop has had considerable success playing in the Lisburn Garrison Putting League. At this moment in time we have won our particular division and now go forward to the Semi Finals. **WO2 (FofS) Fred Brown** has shown particular promise having started the competition as a raw beginner and is now considered to be the team anchor man. There is no truth in the rumour that he is to take part in the next British Open.

ALL VOLUNTEERS

30 Sig Regt have sent us four linemen to help us with some projects. Reports from **Cpl Steve Morton, LCpl Dave Shand, LCpl Tony Gretton** and **Sig 'Iron' Jeffery** indicate that they are enjoying their short stay with us.

DEPARTURES

A fond farewell and many thanks for all their efforts goes to:
Cpl Ian Hood, Cpl Graham Holloway, Cpl Taff Dallimore, Cpl Dale Craddock, Sig Terry Shutt, Cpl Mick Mallinson, Sgt Andy Roberts, Cpl 'Choggy' Rogers, Sig 'Chelsea' Lovett, Cpl Slats Campbell, Sig 'Rory' McPike and **Sgt 'Polly' Pollington.**

ARRIVALS

A welcome and keep your heads down to:
Cpl Bob Pullan, Cpl Mick Arnold, Sig Dave McKinnel, Sig George Skinner, Cpl Frank Millington, Sig Keith Robinson, Cpl Derek Owen, Sig Jim Murray, Sig Mark Belton, Cpl Paul Donovan, Cpl Doug Scott, Sig Blue Marsden, Cpl Kim Rose, Sig Kevin Baxter, Sig Tim Ward, Sig Ross Dolan and **Sig Andy Terry.**

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

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—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College

Harrogate

HECTIC SUMMER

The Summer Term at the College has been a hectic one, particularly on the sporting side, where incredible results have been achieved across the board.

CANOEING SUCCESSES

The College Canoeists recently made their mark once again at the Army Canoe Slalom Championships held at Llandysul, Wales. **AT Sgt Tony Woolaston** won the Junior K1 event in great style and **AT Chris Newman** was second. In the Canadian doubles event **Tony Woolaston,** partnered by a hardy Sapper from Colchester, came third and **Chris Newman** came fourth partnered by **AT Keith Walker.** Both crews used the new 'Certa C2' designed and built in our own canoe club. In the intermediate event **ATs Ewan Hall, Steve McLaughlan** and **Peter Reeve** all managed at least one good run down the course of 30 gates. The river Teifi was some bit higher than for previous years' Championships and there were numerous capsizes. Our novices all had a good week's practical experience on rough water and all managed to complete the course at some time during the competition although **AT Rob Johnson** seemed to find swimming more of a challenge at times! In the team event our Juniors, **Tony Woolaston, Chris Newman** and **Keith Walker** won in a convincing way and **Tony** and **Chris** then teamed up with **Capt John Cornforth** to record the best run in the Senior Team event. Unfortunately though, we had to withdraw from the Senior event and had to content ourselves with retaining the Junior Trophy won last year.

Finally, our congratulations to past members of the College: **SSgt Bill White** for winning the Canadian single event and coming 3rd in the open K1 and to ex **ATs Ian Dobson** and **Mike Owens** for winning the Canadian double event. These last two, partnered by **Ian Hugill,** another ex AT (all Rawson Sqn), also won the Unit Team Trophy.

Stop press: **ATs Chris Newman, Keith Walker** and **Tony Woolaston,** together with **Capt John Cornforth,** have all been selected to represent the Army Senior Team in the Inter Service Championships in September.

GOLF TOO

At the Catterick Garrison and Training Group Royal Signals Spring meeting, held on 18 May, the College team of **Capt (Retd) C R Barron, WO2 A Kubu, Mr W Dunbar** and **Mr B Graham** won the Scratch Team Trophy by one shot from Military Hospital Team. This is the first time the College has won this competition. During the afternoon foursomes, **Capt Barron** and **WO2 Kubu** combined to win again with 36 points. A week earlier, at the NOREDIST Spring meeting **Mr Dunbar** and **Mr Graham** took second prize in the foursomes.



ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE, HARROGATE
Golf Team—Winners Scratch Team Championship at Catterick Garrison Spring Meeting *left to right:* WO2 (SSM) Kubu, MR Dunbar, MR Graham, Capt (R) Barron

TENNIS FIRST

At the Royal Signals championships **AT Mac Mclellan** and **AT Bill Freear** won the open doubles plate and reached the semi finals in the inter unit doubles. They both reached the quarter finals of the open singles.

At the triangular games against Chepstow and Arborfield the College came first.

The Army Junior championships were held at Aldershot. Here, **AT Mac Mclellan** reached the quarter finals, **AT Tony Clark** the semi finals and **AT Bill Freear** lost in the finals 6—4, 4—6, 6—4. In the doubles, **ATs Mac Mclellan** and **Bill Freear** beat **ATs Tony Clark** and **'Ant' Howse** in an all Harrogate final, the first in memory and certainly the first in which no other apprentice college was represented.



Back row, left to right: Sgt Paddy Grinnell, AT LCpl Gary Bateman, AT LCpl Mick Wilkerson, AT Lloyd Bolby, AT Max Boyce, LT Allen Keenan
Front row, left to right: AT Tony Clark, AT Bill Freear, AT Mac Maclellan, AT Ant Howse

CYCLE CLUB NOTES

The weather relented in April sufficiently to allow training to begin outdoors. Very quickly a team was recognised and called together regularly to ride between 10 and 30 miles daily. Only five days after the Easter recess, the College Junior team reported to the Army Apprentices College Arborfield for the opening events of the Junior Championship. **AT Rob Young** (Rawson) established himself as firm favourite for this years Army Junior Best-All-Rounder title by winning the 10 mile event with a time of 26 min 33s and the 30 mile event in 1 hr 23 min 56s. The team set off on what was to prove to be a winning trail, by taking the 10 mile team title on the position of their fourth rider. **Binns, O'Shaughnessy** and **Smith PR** backing up the individual winners efforts.

Seven days later the venue was Lyneham, Wilts, for a 25 mile event. **Young** again won the Junior title but the team had to be content with second place behind Arborfield. This time **Binns** and **Avery** supported the winners. Our first open event attracted 62 riders from several civilian clubs. **Young** confirmed his promise by taking 19th place and **G Smith** emerged as a rider able to give him good support.

June was now with us—the month in which the Harrogate Festival of Cycling draws hundreds to the area. But before that event took place the College had a match on the track at Nottingham to fulfil. **Rob Young** really excelled himself taking second place in the Army Sprint and winning the Army Pursuit Championship. The College organises two events during the Festival, the first being for the top 120 riders in the country, and the second catering for those who aspire to greatness. **Rob Young, M O'Shaughnessy, C Binns** and **M Avery** all did well in the event.

ARMY CHAMPION

The month ended with the Army Junior Road Race at Chobham. **Young** did it again and **Binns** and **Smith G** gave very close support to win the team award. One day later the Army 10 mile championship event was won by these three together with **O'Shaughnessy, Smith P** and **Avery. Rob** had also become Army 10 mile champion with a time of 25 m 58s.

Our next weekend was at Chepstow for the Team Time Trial events. A win on Saturday made it virtually certain we would be Army Junior Champions, and the Second place on Sunday confirmed the situation. A fall by all three riders in our first team prevented the double.

And so to the Triangular Games. Three rides in two days over 10 miles, 25 miles and a tight twisting circuit race demands a lot from comparatively newcomers to the sport. **Young, Binns, Smith G, Smith P R, O'Shaughnessy, Avery** and **O'Riordan** tackled the competition with determination, winning the opening event convincingly, and the second event by a narrow margin. They only had to stay on to retain the rose-bowl trophy for the second successive year and they did just that taking 3rd, 4th and 9th places to ensure a 12 point winning margin overall.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

Another big success story, the College has done extremely well in all Competitions, as the results below show:

Awarded Army Junior Colours

AT LCpl Paul Noble	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT Rick Richmond	**Swimming**
AT Gid Morley	**Swimming**
AT Dave Young	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT Dave Needham	**Swimming**
AT Rocky Mountain	**Water polo**



ARMY JUNIOR SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Left to right, back row: AT O'Brien, AT LCpl Churchward, AT Young, AT LCpl Noble, AT Morley, AT Campbell, AT Argust
Centre row: AT Curley, AT Stringfellow, AT Hitchens, AT Murphy
Front row: AT Needham, MR J. Purcell, WO2 (Y of S) Wood + dog, Cpl M. Tibble, AT Richmond
Display: Army Junior Swimming Cup, Inter-Service Swimming Trophy, Numerous personal and Team Medals

Awarded Army Senior Colours
AT Rick Richmond

Selected for the Corps

Cpl Mark Tibble	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT Dave Young	**Water polo**
AT Rocky Mountain	**Water polo**
AT LCpl Paul Noble	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT Rick Richmond	**Swimming**
AT Dave Wilks	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT Dave Needham	**Swimming**
AT Sgt Paul Lightfoot	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT LCpl Gaz Johnson	**Swimming & Water polo**
AT LCpl Mell Eatwell	**Swimming**

Team Awards

Army Junior Champions	**Swimming**
Army Junior Runners Up	**Water polo**
Triangular Games Champions	**Swimming**
Triangular Games Runners Up	**Water Polo**

Army Championships Single Events

Relay —	winners	6 x 33⅓ Freestyle
		6 x 33⅓ Butterfly
		4 x 66⅔ Backstroke
	2nd	4 x 66⅔ Breastroke
		2 x 100 Freestyle
	3rd	4 x 66⅔ Medley Relay

Most of the hard work behind these results must be credited to **Lt Diane Willcox WRAC** and **WO2 (YofS) Chippy Wood** as well as **Mr Jim Purcell** and **Cpl Mark Tibble** for coaching the teams.

CREDITABLE ATHLETICS RECORD

In terms of cups and medals, this season has not been as successful as last season. However, every athlete representing the College has given his utmost whenever competing. As previously mentioned there are many levels of athletics in the College which are:

Juniors under 18 on 1 May of current year—Army Junior Inter Unit.

Seniors to include staff and apprentices over 18—Army Senior Inter Unit.

Combined Apprentice Team all ages—Triangular between the three main Apprentice Colleges Chepstow, Arborfield, Harrogate.

Combined Staff and ATs—Local civilian competitions—Sqn level teams for Trg Gp Minor unit competitions.

To mention all the results of fixtures and personal performances of all the athletes would take reams of paper. However here are just a few of the major results:

Army Junior Inter Unit—Harrogate 2nd. AT Burridge and AT Shaw broke the Army Junior High Jump record with a combined height of 3.47m.

Army Senior Inter Unit—Eliminated in the ZONE B Final.

Triangular Games—Arborfield 45 pts; Chepstow 45 pts; Harrogate 41 pts.

The old campaigners will be heartened to see the old man of athletics, **WO2 Mick Gue** returning to the track with only a few creaking bones. The College staff has taken a recent boost by the addition to the bank of talent with the arrival of **LCpl Andy Robertson** and **Sgt Paul Rafferty APTC,** both Army standard distance runners.

REPRESENTATIVE STANDARDS

Our apprentices have notched up some creditable individual performances. In the pole vault **LCpl Paddy Graham** has smashed three fibre glass poles but in his first season of vaulting cleared a height of 3.45m, he has also represented the Army and Combined Services Junior teams in the sprints. The bulk of **AT Kev Moir** in the shot and discus circles has frightened off many a competitor and thus gained him selection for the Army and Combined Services Junior teams, and at 17 yrs, 18 stone, he has managed to throw the discus 37m and put the shot over 12m and we have him for another season.

LOOKING AHEAD

The staff of the athletic team are looking forward with anticipation to the arrival of over two hundred recruits in September. These lads will provide the bulk of our Junior athletics team next season, we therefore have to 'get at them' early. The only problem is that every other sports officer has the same idea.

MAGNIFICENT LUCHON

During the period 21—29 June 1979 the Massed Bands of the College took part in the Town Twinning 25th Anniversary celebrations between Harrogate and Luchon. The town of Luchon is situated in the French Pyrennees only 10km from the Spanish border. The bands consisting of Band SM, **WO2 Beeson,** Queens Regt; Pipe Major, **SSgt MacKillop,** QO Hldrs; Drum Major, **Sgt Gregor,** DWR and 35 apprentice tradesmen, together with **Maj Harry Feber,** Band President and College Adjutant and **WO2 (SSM) Besant,** normally SSM HQ Sqn but filling in as interpreter/photographer, left Harrogate on 21 June to begin a 36 hour coach/boat journey by route Dover/Calais to Luchon. The outward trip was completed by midnight 22 June with only minor incidents and the party settled into its accommodation in the Lycee Edmond Rostand (Luchon's boarding High School).

Everyone rose to a beautiful clear sunny morning on 23 June and the scenery was magnificent—mountains on all sides of the town, the very high ones being snowcapped; the air was clean and fresh, and we all felt we were in a different world. With the morning to spare and our first French breakfast over, the town was given a full reconnaisance. Flags of both nations were in abundance and it was obvious that all were ready for a festive week. After lunch we prepared for the first event—a friendly football match with what we thought would be the local youth of Luchon. It transpired to be a full town team and despite a good match from all concerned the College team lost 9—1. The Mayors of Harrogate and Luchon were at the ground with all local dignitaries and a good crowd had turned out. Unfortunately **AT Belcher** took a hard fall during play and fractured his collarbone but, after being strapped up at a local hospital, he was able to continue on tour albeit somewhat physically handicapped.

The weeks events were numerous so, to save lengthy notes, they are summarised as follows:

Date 23 Jun
Time 1945

Event
Official reception for Harrogate party at Town Hall. Engraved band photograph presented to Mayor of Luchon by **Maj Feber**. Band entertained to buffet and wine afterwards.

Comments
Band marched through main street and played in front of Town Hall. National Anthems and Flags raised. Excellent crowd response.



Massed Bands marching to Town Hall



Playing outside Town Hall

Date 23 June
Time 2130

Event
Festival parade through main street to Thermal Building. Displays by horse riders and dancers. Burning of 25ft needle made of wood and straw. All over by 2300 hrs—the celebrations were under way.

Comments
Band led procession through town. Crowds positively overwhelmed by the spectacle. Delightful atmosphere.

Date 23 June
Time 2359

Event
Tramp the town enjoying the festivities—beer, wine, disco's etc.

Comments
Late passes for all until 0400 hrs. Next morning free—thick heads—plenty of coffee.

Date 24 June
Time Morn

Event
Tour town, some shopping, meeting acquaintances from previous day and night.

Comments
Relationships between AT and local female population already well established.



AT SSM (D/Maj) Cupper and AT LCpl Hayward with friends—(REX Bar in rear!)

Date 24 June
Time 1500

Event
March from station to sports amenities park (distance nearly 3km). Pelote Basque match—excellent game with many thrills.

Comments
Music provided pied piper effect to gain crowds for match. Band gave marching display on court. Very well received.

Date 24 June
Time 2330

Event
Grand Dance/Party in the Casino. Permanent Staff (PS) invited as guests of Mayor of Luchon.

Comments
Band arrived as complete surprise to guests. Music for 30 minutes—excellent performance which brought the audience to it's feet. Band treated to drinks on Mayor afterwards.

Date 24 June
Time Until 250330

Event
PS at Casino until 0200 hrs. Joined remainder of band at Rex Bar (the ATs adopted refreshment parlour) until return to base.

Comments
Generally a relaxing period. Problem arose concerning flags—local gendarme drew his gun—Adjt intervened—problem solved!



Inspection prior to next event

Date 25 Jun
Time 1115

Event
March from local park through main street to give musical display in Market Place.

Comments
Another well appreciated event. Some difficulty in keeping the crowds from smothering the band with enthusiasm.

Date 25 Jun
Time 1200

Event
March from Market Place through back streets to the Lycee.

Comments
Intended to ensure all classes of population were afforded the bands presence.

Date 25 Jun
Time 1330

Event
5 x AT sat 3 hrs maths exam.

Comments
Just to show that training must go on.

Date 25 Jun
Time 2300

Event
Concert in Casino Theatre with College Band and the Luchon musical group (includes young children).

Comments
Delightful setting, perfect performance. The finale combined both Band and Luchon musicians to great ovation. Mayor of Harrogate treated the band to drinks.

Date 25 Jun
Time Until 260330

Event
Another visit to Rex Bar.

Comments
It was quite amazing how therapeutic this was at the end of each day.

Date 26 Jun
Time 1000

Event
Short concert outside infants school in Market Place.

Comments
Another good crowd. School children conducted the band in the arms of Band Sgt Major.

Date 26 Jun
Time 1100

Event
Official tour of Lycee by Mayoral party. PS invited to join in tour of school and attend official lunch.

Comments
After interesting tour, the School restaurant laid on a 5 course French lunch—positively superb.

Date 26 Jun
Time 1500

Event
Trip laid on to mountains.

Comments
PS decided to go. ATs too busy in cementing local relationships.

Date 26 Jun
Time 2000

Event
Dinner in Lycee laid on by Mayor of Luchon for College Band.

Comments
5 course meal to mess dining in night standards. Wine, liqueurs, toast, speeches (these dragged on a bit particularly the one from Pipe Major!) All over by midnight. Thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

Date 26 June
Time 2359 onwards

Event
Guess where to?

Comments
After providing gendarmerie with an unrehearsed singing concert on Town Hall steps we all were in bed by 0400 hrs.

Date 27 Jun
Time Morn (1st half and After noon (1st half)

Event
Last shopping, say farewells etc.

Comments
Presented College plaques to Lycee and Luchon Twinning organiser. Also gave gifts to our loyal catering staff for feeding us so well.

Date 27 Jun **Time** 1100

Event
Invited to Luchon Police Station for farewell drinks!

Comments
For what we did or may have done—all was forgiven.

Date 27 Jun **Time** 1830

Event
Short concert in Park and reception in Club Berger.

Comments
Pernod, drinks and local cake partaken by all as final farewell.

Date 27 Jun **Time** 1900

Event
March from Park down main street to Town Hall. Farewell ceremony for Band.

Comments
Union Jack lowered with band playing. Flag presented to Mayor of Luchon for safe keeping. Band afterwards invited into Town Hall for farewell champagne and speech by Mayors of Luchon and Harrogate.



Union Jack being handed over to Deputy Mayor of Luchon witnessed by Harrogate Official Party

Date 27 June **Time** 1930

Event
Form up outside Town Hall and march to Rex Bar to receive farewell drink from the proprietors.

Comments
All very moving as band played Auld Lang Syne. Final drink and away—but read on!

Date 27 Jun **Time** 2330

Event
Having packed up and ready to go we had a spare 30 minutes and couldn't resist one final (en route) visit to Rex Bar.

Comments
After one drink the band formed up under AT/SSM (D/Maj) Cupper and marched away to the coach.

Date 29 Jun **Time** 0530 (Approx)

Event
Arrived back in Harrogate.

Comments
Very tired but in good spirits.

To sum up, the visit was a resounding success and the Band received immense praise from both Luchon and Harrogate. Many friendships were made and despite the expense of the journey (around £2000) it is hoped that a return visit will be made in the years ahead.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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News from Regiments

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
With the onset of warm sunny days everyones thoughts have turned to vacations and leisure activities. In the interest of good man management the Regiment's hierarchy have produced package deals to rival Thomas Cook. These have been ingenious and have utilised to the full that most practical holiday ensemble shirts KF and combat slacks.

DUEL IN THE SUN
As temperatures soared into the seventies with only a zephyr stirring the balmy air, OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Helier Exon** and his Sqn deployed to Sennelager Training Area to support the BAOR Staff College Demonstration. With the excellent weather this promised to be an enjoyable chore. Shortly after arrival **Maj Exon** discovered that his staff officers debussing point and the Harrier landing strip was the same stretch of road. This caused his temperature to exceed that of a jet engine on maximum thrust. Shades of Biggin Hill, he scrambled, took off vertically and with all the skill of Douglas Bader attacked. After a short fierce dog fight he emerged victorious. The Staff College students are unaware of how they were nearly subjected to much hotter air than normal.

GOOD SHEPHERD
Appreciating the aversion that embryo staff officers have to being organised, **WO2 (SSM) Steve Marshall** decided to employ the shepherds technique. Substituting crook for pace stick he gave his seniors a crash course on manoeuvring a flock on whistled signals. This ensured that each flock was herded through the succession of stands in good order and strict tempo. A sharp bark or quick snap at the ankle was sufficient to send the most recalcitrant student scuttling back to the flock.

BAD SHEPHERD
To his undying shame **SSgt Mick Longstaff** failed with his flock, one captain was discovered bleating piteously long after his bus had departed. The SSMs soon righted the matter and his good shepherd act re-united the waif with the main flock. The SSM then arranged for **SSgt Longstaff's** Old English Sheepdog, Lassie to give him extra training in preparation for next year. Lassie is so mortified at his ineptitude that she walks backwards, we think, when she accompanies him on his evening walks. This is designed to give the impression that she is not really with him.

ECONOMY CLASS TOURISTS
Capt David Wills assisted by **SSgt Allan Jensen** organised a holiday tour with a difference. As every experienced traveller knows the only way to see any country and appreciate its beauty is on foot. **SSgt (YofS) Brian Lawrence, Cpl Chopper Chopping** and **Sig Billy Kidd** were sold this idea and agreed to join a tour of the Chiemsee area east of Munich. The fact that the lake has a Frauen Isles helped. Their tour of this picturesque area took their breath away and left them quite speechless. A contributory factor could possibly have been the fact that they had been entered for the Chiemsee Marathon. This was a resounding success and all but one qualified for an award in their class.

THE MIKE YARWOOD TOUCH
The exception was **Cpl Chopping** who proved himself to be the Mike Yarwood of the Marathon world. When running with the front runners at the 21 miles point he decided to do a combined impersonation of Dorando Petri and Jim Peters suffering from heat exhaustion. This was so realistic that the organisers were convinced that he was completely disorientated and withdrew him. Line Troop are indignant about this; they claim that this is his normal condition!

BARGAIN BASEMENT AND NOSTALGIA
For the bargain hunter there was the annual sale. This offered a choice of venue for the discerning holiday maker. There was either the sumptuously tented camp specialising in brass and bird tables at Ravelin, or a permanent camp with swimming pool, squash and tennis courts, gliding club and a commanding view at Scharfoldendorf. On arrival at Scharfoldendorf, **SSgt Frank Connor** was moved by the sight of his men formed up in chalks waiting to board a Viscount Airliner parked near the brow of the hill. Obviously reliving their UK airportable role he thought. Nostalgia was banned after two days when staff discovered that the plane was a bar and restaurant.

THEY KNEW HE WAS COMING
The Regiment's answer to Fred Pontin, **Capt Tony Elford** celebrated his *+/. birthday whilst acting as holiday camp and leisure activities manager. Under a cloak of secrecy, **Sgt Vince Hageney** baked a splendid birthday cake and covered it with a forest of candles. **SSgt Clive Jones** and the members of radio village trod grapes in sweaty socks to produce a vintage wine with an unforgettable bouquet. At the appointed hour, **Capt Elford** was summoned to Radcon to resolve an acrimonious argument between members of 3 and 14 Sig Regts. In high dudgeon he stormed up to Radcon. On entering he was completely nonplussed when he was handed a glass of wine and the cake appeared. The gliding club located next to radio village were delighted with the cake and candles. They maintain that it was responsible for the biggest thermal on record.

ALMOST 007
Sean Connery was almost usurped when **Sgt John Wooders** donned the James Bond mantle and discovered an obvious spy. Apart from the usual black cloak and bomb the suspicious character had a stout tripod and camera. He was showing a keen interest in the HQ and recording every detail. Having reported his discovery he decided to act on his own initiative and resolve the problem by applying the 'Odd Job' technique. Pausing only to slip the fly wheel from a 10KVA generator into his beret he replaced it on his head and set off to stalk his quarry. Using every shred of natural cover he silently approached the agent who was engrossed in his nefarious task and was oblivious to the fact that his demise was imminent. Having positioned himself perfectly, **Sgt Wooders** removed his beret with a flourish and grinned ruthlessly as he prepared to give it the lethal flick which would despatch the spy into oblivion. As his arm moved in a blur he was borne to the ground under a welter of bodies from security group. The spy was a very innocuous local water board official surveying a route for a pipe line to the gliding club!

PROFIT
Concentrating on happy holiday makers produced massive dividends. Quite fortuitously the 79 Sale proved to be a great success and we shall no doubt repeat the formula in 1980.

SUB-AQUA 79
For the skin diving enthusiast we had our annual gambol on the ocean floor with the Regiment's Summer Fete. In spite of inclement weather the families and all members of the Regiment combined to demonstrate the Britons ability to endure acute discomfort in the pursuit of pleasure. Slight modification ensured that a full and varied programme was carried through to a successful conclusion. The organiser, **Maj Helier Exon,** ably assisted by **WO2 (SSM) Steve Marshall,** various members of 2 and 3 sqns and a couple of harpoon guns kept participants and visitors moving at a cracking pace.

PANZER POWER
AFV 432 rides gave boys of all ages the opportunity to indulge their Billy Liar fantasies to the full and relive all the past glories of Rommel and the Desert Rats. They also seemed intent on developing their own brand of squash as they strove to decimate the little girls. Only the strong arms and constant vigilance of our regular crews ensured that the same number of Beryl the Perils existed at the end of the day.

ROMANCE IS NOT DEAD
For the genteel young ladies and romantically inclined little boys a more leisurely ride on the Noddy Train proved to be very popular. The Div's resident Plod refused to go on point duty and direct traffic as it would incur prohibitive premiums on his insurance.

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

The Regiment's arch villians including the Adjt, **Capt Bob Hussey**, MTO, **Capt John Hunt** and MT, **WO2 Dave Munslow** all did time in the stocks. Keen eyes and strong arms ensured that they got their just reward and discovered who their friends are.

RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The wives club produced a very successful provision staff, whilst the Guides and Brownies provided refreshments. The combination of hot sweet tea and dainty cakes prevented the ladies enthusiasm from fading and ensured maximum participation. The Sgts' Mess refreshment tent provided a similar service for the inner man which transformed harassed frowns into soporific grins. Throughout the afternoon visitors and competitors were kept amused with **Capt Mike Podmore's** version of It's a Knockout. The 1 Sqn team won, proving that they have sharper elbows and fewer scruples than everyone else. At the end of the afternoon a quick tally revealed a modest profit on the venture. This, plus a wealth of pleasure given to everyone was ample compensation for the army of willing helpers who, by their efforts had made the event a resounding success.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

To round off an eventful day **Maj Steve Coltman** and his SSM, **WO2 Vic Towler** organised the all ranks dance in the Gunne Hall. The ladies, having repaired the ravages of the day, appeared in all their finery to inspire their John Travoltas' to dance like dervishes. This function was a great success and will provide a talking point for some time to come. The organisers of both events have now retired to lick their wounds and plan bigger and better functions for next year.

TOUCH OF THE SUN

Our PRI Officer, **Capt Steve Bloom** organised his own vacation on some exotic beaches in the South of France. As always his preparation was thorough and he used his sunray lamp to acquire the general appearance of Manuel in Fawlty Towers. On one occasion he fell asleep under the lamp which resulted in him conducting all work from a standing position. I am reliably informed that his flip side suffered a similar fate when bared to the Mediterranean sun. A rather painful end for one who only went along to show the sun worshippers a few wrinkles.

FAR AWAY PLACES

The most remote spot for a holiday has been chosen by **Sig Mick Luckes** who joins Operation Drake in Papua New Guinea. He will be part of the rear link for the party exploring the rain forests of the area. He also plans to do as much sight seeing as he can and take in all the local colour. He has been instructed to keep his head and make a full report of his exploits on his return.

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

The inception of this tournament attracted some 30 entries from all over Germany. Spectators were treated to some excellent tennis and the Regiment's notable successes were **Capt Mike Podmore** who won the Mens Singles, in partnership with **Capt Bob Axton**, he was runner up in the Inter Unit Doubles. In the Doubles Plate competition **Sig Tommy Gilbert** and **Sig Paul Loftus** played well and beat **Capt Bob Axton** and **Cpl Clive Young** in a hard fought match.

ATHLETICS

The Divisional Championships proved to be a triumph for the Regiment, a brilliant run by the 4 x 400 metre relay team consisting of **Lt Simon Lunn, Cpl Sammy Green RPC, Sig Mick Williams** and **Sig Steve Simpson** in the last event of the meeting clinched victory. Individual successes included **LCpl Ken Weeks** 1st Hammer, 2nd Discus; **Sig Mick Williams** 1st 400 metres; **Cpl Sammy Green** 1st 800 metres; **Capt Mike Podmore** 1st 400 metre hurdles and **Cpl Dick Matulewicz REME** 1st in both the Shot and Discus. This win qualified the team for a place in the BAOR Championships where they finished 7th.

In the Morrison Cup the team finished 5th with individual successes in the 4 x 400 metres with **Lt Simon Lunn, Cpl Sammy Green, Sig Mick Williams** and **Sig Neil Keech** winning the event. **LCpl Ken Weeks** took 2nd place in the Hammer and **Sig Mick Williams** took 2nd place in both the 200 and 400 metres.



Capt Mike Podmore receiving the 3 Div Athletics Trophy from Brig I. Mackay MBE MC

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

EXERCISE GRAND SPLASH '79
Report by "Mushroom"

It was just before Winter '79, in the Regimental briefing to be exact. 'Stretchy' known to his friend as Captain Elastic was busy disordering the CO's Vufoils. I was busy day dreaming about which MFO box to unpack that night. To my horrow and dismay I caught a brief glimpse of a vufoil with my name on it, and the appointment of Unit Adventure Training Officer alongside it. I looked again, but Stretchy had managed to blow the Regimental bulb. The CO realised the gravity of the situation, and resorting to the verbal media, explained that, as a result of restructuring, the appointment of Regimental Adventure Training Officer had been difficult to fill, but that we had now one (The fickle finger pointed to me, swiftly followed by 500 pairs of eyes, a few noses, the odd wink) and that there would be lots of chaps going to BOBC Norway, and a special expedition planned, and, oh yes, and a Regimental Summer Camp where all the Regiment could go and have a whale of a time, and no guards, and no early morning PT, no restrictions . . . It took the SKC three weeks to repair the roof of the Cinema.

CRIMEA PATTERN

July is a wonderful month in 1 BR Corps, isn't it? As I sat watching one, two, three Divisions pass my command base following endex Summer Sales I couldn't help but recall that at dawn the next day I would be taking The Advance Party of Exercise *Grand Splash* five hundred miles in a southerly direction, to be exact Füssen. En Route **SSgt Bill White** had volunteered to pop in to Dulmen and fill five four ton vehicles with lots of goodies, canoes, helmets, ropes, tents and the like. By Wednesday of the next week we were ready. This was only thanks to the Stalwart Administrators, **Capt 'Matrix' Helm** and **WO2 (SSM) Ken Thurley** who had conquered the elements by ordering blistering sunshine, and provided a tented camp, the design of which had been patented during the Crimea (and not seen since). By Monday my intrepid training cadre had arrived, **Lt 'Cheery' Pratley** clutching an BAOR Road Map and cursing at me for leaving him at the Bismarck Traffic Lights on Saturday Morning. I had twelve fully qualified men in my Training Cadre. There can be no doubt, I had the best. It took a full 48 hours to finalise the Adventure Training Plan. Flexibility with firmness was the cry to achieve our directed aim to put the fun into four in Füssen after a military season riddled with Exercises. The finishing touches were added to the five day programme as the weary convoy of eighty men pulled into camp after an eighteen hour drive. Emphasis was laid at the importance of the 'Buddy Buddy' system in outdoor pursuits. This was achieved by forming five groups, each of sixteen men. The group was then, at the individuals choice. Again divided into eight sub groups . . . The 'Buddy Buddy' system was born. Each group undertook one outdoor pursuit a day. Five groups, five days. A typical programme for any one group would therefore be:



Plan of Füssen

DAY ONE CLIMBING:

With three fully trained instructors by his side, one having just returned from BOBC Norway, another about to go, **SSgt (YofS) 'Lemmy' Lomas** conducted the climbing phase on the crags of the Alpsee, up to VS was achieved by nearly all groups, and the reward of looking down into a 'Naturbadder' area at the end of the climb was a fitting incentive. The group returned to camp, and after tea were briefed on the Alpine Expedition. The 24 hour activity for this group on day two. **SSgt's Bill Walker** and **George Hook** were my intrepid leaders. The Alpine trek took them past Schloss Neuschwanstein, where much of the film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" was shot. Up, up ever up until they stood on the summit of the Säuling, over 2000 metres high, and then down into Austria where camp was pitched for the night, and the biggest surprise of the week awaited the group! Loyalty is an integral factor of any Buddy Buddy system, and because this surprise was the best kept secret since D Day. It will remain that way. Early to rise the next morning and a frightening descent to 800 metres. On the way down is a monument to a climber who didn't make it, his boots on either side. **George Hook** tried them on but they didn't fit. At nine pm on day three **Lt 'Phil' Pratley** met the effervescent group at the foothills of the Säuling, and straight into leadership skills they went. Using the guidelines as set out at RCB, **Phil** had devised eight truly mind boggling feats of skill. Each individual was assessed as the leader of the group, and with the inevitable exception, great credit must be given to the determination, drive and intellect of the young Corps soldier in Fourth Division today. Well Done. At three pm the transport whisked the group back to camp from the finish of the leadership skills, situated directly beneath the famous Tegelberg Cable Car which featured on that classic movie 'Where Eagles Dare'. At five pm the group spruced up and gleaming reported to Daddy . . . . . 's tent (as he was fondly known?) to draw up an essential item of equipment, their's for 24 hours—the bicycle. Have you ever seen sixteen soldiers in convoy on fixed wheel bikes! No, neither had the Füssen Polizei! The evening of day three was free, and you could pedal wherever you wanted, as long as you and your bicycle were fit for the day four activity.

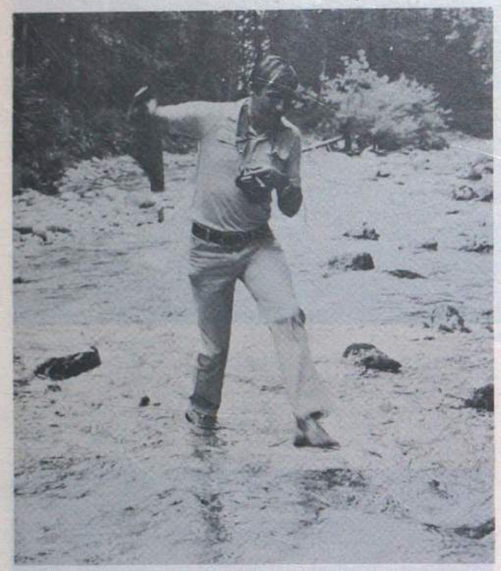
CRYPTO ORIENTEERING

On a thirty mile course, based on the shores of the Forggensee lay six check points, strategically placed for food and water. Each check point had a card. Each card had an anagram of a capital city. Break the anagram, name the country, by five pm, and one yeoman was light a ten pack! The cultural aspect, of course, was not forgotten and the Stadt Library of Füssen became a very popular attraction to most groups around four pm. As one lady librarian commented, 'we've never had such a demand for world atlas's before". With the completion of the problem, the group was free yet again to savour the fruits of Füssen, but alas this time on foot. The dawning of day five saw two outdoor pursuits for the group. **SSgt Bill White** instructed half a group changing on the Weissensee during the morning, while the remaining eight tackled another 'White Sea'—Frozen to be exact. Ever seen soldiers on ice: No—neither had the Füssen Krankenhaus. Again, with great acclaim to the men that took part, 160 in all, there was only one casualty, oh yes and one

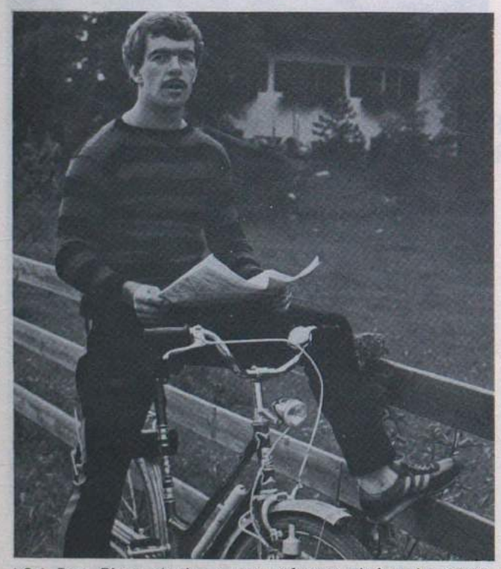


Task Force Hotel Signal Troop showing its worth

refusal. Many thanks to **LCpl Dai Harries** for running the ice pursuit. Day six, and all eighty men had the choice of travelling to a town of their choice, Garmisch—Partenkirchen being favourite. Day seven saw the convoy depart for Herford with eighty happy, bronzed faces abroad, just as a weary convoy of eighty men arrived, after an eighteen hour drive, for the start of a week of five outdoor pursuits . . . was the aim achieved—you'd best ask 160 men from four division. Only eleven months to go Grand Splash '80.



Maj Nigel Harris, G2 PR about to become very wet . . . he never made the rock!



LCpl Pete Dixon checks a map reference during the crypto orienteering phase



A half group rafts up on the Weissensee. In the background the foothills of Austria

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FAREWELL TO GOC

On the night of the 13 July, the Sgts Mess 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt said farewell to the "Boss", **Maj Gen R M H Vickers MVO OBE.** We wish **General Vickers** much success and happiness in his new post as Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.



Shows the RSM WO1 RSM 'Andy' Keegan, Maj Gen Vickers and the PMC, WO2 Derek Scott R Engineers



Shows the GOC saying a few words of thankyou and farewells. On his left the RSM, on his right WO1 (RCM7 Dougie Godfrey Cass, RCM Detmold Garrison an old 'friend' of the Generals. Behing the top table 'just with us' is Sgt 'Taff' Nelson RA The Mess Caterer.



The General having been 'suitably' wined and dined is 'suitably' escorted from Hammersmith Barracks on top of an AFV 432 (Part of his Forward Headquarters) driven by Cpl Pete Clarkson; commanded by SSgt Eric Sreeves. Both from 2 Sqn. In the bottom right corner of the photo is WO1 (YofS) Stan Vannan trying to hide or something. The remainder of the Mess including the CO, Lt Col 'Bob' Cook are all attached to two tug of war ropes, which are pulling the 432. They preferred to remain out of the photo's due to circumstances not for publication. (Too much wine perhaps)

MARCHING AND SILVER

The Regimental Marching Team has been keeping the soles of its boots warm this year. The team took part in a 20 kilometre speed march arranged by the German Army TA. Although, like last year, we only managed a creditable third place, the team completed the course in two hours and 23 minutes, an improvement of 18 minutes over last year.

The determination and team spirit shown by our team caused the German organiser, the Officer Commanding Bonn Area, to present each member of our team with a 10 Deutsche Mark silver coin, from his personal collection, in recognition of their courage and determination.

NIJMEGEN

Once again the Regimental Marching Team set off for Nijmegen in high spirits and hopeful, despite the lack of either a Cycle or Tent Orderly, owing to Regimental commitments. The Team consisted of, Yours Truly, **Cpl John (DAD) McDermaid,** on his final marching venture. **Cpl Dave Manser REME, Cpl Colin Jones RAPC, LCpl Geoff Woodcock, Sigs Alan Monk, Jimmy Daly, Pete Reynolds, Dave Seeley, Ptes Colin Cook RPC** and **Mick Moran RPC.** At the last minute we were lucky enough to rope in **Sgt Alan (The Sherriff) Thomas,** Provo Sgt to be Team Capt for reasons unbeknown to anyone it must be a Senior Rank who is team Capt at Nijmegen.

After the first day's blisters were dealt with, we were known by all and sundry as 'The Cripples'. By the final day however, the blisters, bruises, ligaments and fatigue, had taken there toll of everyone at Nijmegen, but the 'Cripples' were still burning all other teams into the deck, including British Infantry and Support Arm Units, not to mention the 'Blue Jobs' the 'Yanks' and the Belgian SAS who gave our Sheriff a contemptous look as he passed them, but didn't arrive at the Rest Area until some 20 mins after him. So once again the 'Bleeps' Triumph. For a novice, the Sheriff gave a good account of himself, and managed to make it through to and including, the final March Past, which as anyone who has been to Nijmegen knows, is the Nijmegen March. The Team arrived back at Herford with plenty of sore feet, but, we also brought back the Nijmegen Team Medal.

At the time of writing we only have one more March lined up for this year, and that is at Köln, arranged by the Belgian Army. More news and hopefully a photograph of the Team with this years Trophies in the next issue.

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

SUCCESS AT SEA

A noteworthy success was achieved by the Regiments' sailors at the Royal Signals Offshore Regatta in June. The team, skippered by **Maj Pritchard**, comprised **WO1 Sandy Powell** and Sig **'Tomo' Thompson** and **Max Boyce**. Sailing the BKYC yacht *Sabre*, they came first in both the Kiel to Copenhagen Race and first overall, thus bringing home both the Mermaid Cup and the Dickson Telescope.

However, although they made a clean sweep of the prizes, the event was by no means a walkover. The Copenhagen Race sailed over 150 miles and including two night sails together with varied weather conditions culminated in an exciting neck and neck finish. The final leg was a beat up a narrow shipping channel at night to an unlit buoy at the entrance to Copenhagen harbour. *Sabre* and *Spear* (sailed by a 22 Sig Regt crew) were continually cross-tacking over the last five miles and when the finishing line was finally found they crossed within six feet of each other. Only after two protests had been heard was the final result made known.

In the following three races the crew achieved a second and two third places in a fleet of twelve racing boats. Thus, by achieving consistently high placings throughout the week they ensured overall first place. The final race home to Kiel provided a fitting climax. After a slow start, followed by a fast overnight reach at seven knots *Sabre* came home second a mere boats length behind *Kukri* (Task Force Golf) after seven days and 350 miles of hard racing.



Royal Signals Offshore Regatta Prizes won by the Regimental Sailing Team: Sig Boyce, Maj Pritchard, WO1 Powell (absent on leave), Sig Thompson (posted to 28 Sig Regt).

BULLSEYE

The Regimental Shooting Team run by **Sgt Eddie Turner** and whose members are **Capt Jim Evans, Sgt Eddie Turner, Cpls Ken Fisher** and **Tony Teague, SSgt Terry Beckett** and **Lt Nick Blampied**, finished the 78/79 season on a high note. After only three seasons of competitive small-bore shooting, the team seems to have settled down at last the serious type of shooting in small-bore competitions with the following results:

Winners	—Army Winter League Division One Match 120.
Winners	—4 Armd Division Inter Unit.
10th & 13th Representatives	—Army Individual Match 111.
	—4 Division Inter BAOR Match.

The season ended with the team representing the Corps. Due praise is due to **Sgt Eddie Turner**, who managed and led the team so successfully.

The Regiment did not establish a full-bore team this year due to heavy commitments in other sports and a full exercise schedule. The only lucky members to get away were **Capt Jim Evans** and **Lt Nick Blampied** who represented the Corps in full-bore target rifle. Sadly, **Cpl Tony Teague** could not finish the season with us due to posting. He left **SSgt Terry Beckett** with the task of stepping into his shoes which the latter did; and what a marvellous job he made of it.

In the Army Individual competition, **Capt Jim Evans** and **Sgt Eddie Turner** were placed 10th and 13th respectively. **Cpl Ken Fisher** and **SSgt Terry Beckett** just failed to reach the Bisley final of the Eley National competition. Well, there is always next year.

Stop Press: **SSgt Terry Beckett, Sgt Eddie Turner** and **Cpl Ken Fisher** selected for the Army Squad 1979/80.

THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CUP FOR COMPANIES—JUNE 1979
by Maj Paddy Stringer, OIC Soccer

The European Football Cup for Companies, is an event that takes place in Hengelo, Holland annually at Whitsun. The majority of teams taking part come from civilian companies, factories etc and, as the name implies, they come from all over Europe. The Army and the RAF are well represented, and this year 7 Sig Regt were invited to play. The competition is run in conjunction with another, known as the European Football Cup for Hotels. 96 teams participated in this years competition.

The opening ceremony took place in the Sports Park Wilbert, Hengelo one of the five sports stadiums used, and we were welcomed by the Burgermeister of Hengelo and the President of the Dutch FA. This was followed by the raising of National Flags as each National Anthem was played in turn. This was a very happy and carefree ceremony, with players and spectators alike, joining in with singing and cheering as the band played the various Anthems.

EIGHT LEAGUES

The first days play consisted of eight seperate league titles to be won, the winners going forward into the second day to take part in a knock out competition. On the evening of the first day the organisers took over the Ice Stadium in Enschede for a huge party for nearly 3,000 competitors and team supporters. Two show bands and International Cabaret acts provided the entertainment for the evening. This was a superb and well organised function and went on well into the small hours with each country trying to outsing the others.

A NEAR THING

So, to our part in the competition. We, unfortunately, failed to enter the final knock out competition on the second day, by a fraction of a goal. In our last game, which we won 2-0, we were deprived of a third goal, when the referee blew time just before the ball entered the net. Had this goal been allowed to stand, we would have gone into the final pool. The team that took our place were beaten in the final by the Bank of Brussels.

RADIO OFFICERS-

COMPLETING YOUR SERVICE WITH H.M. FORCES? -

If your trade or training involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the Composite Signals Organisation.

A number of vacancies will be available in 1980/81 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, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

On successful completion of 40 weeks specialist training, appointees move to the Radio Officer Grade

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20 £3382	20 £4107
21 £3485	21 £4243
22 £3611	22 £4359
23 £3685	23 £4571
24 £3767	24 £4854
25 £3856	25 £5166

then by 5 annual increments to £6981 inclusive of shift working and Saturday, Sunday elements

For further details telephone Cheltenham 21491 Ext 2269 or write to the address below.

GCHQ

Recruitment Office

Government Communications Headquarters

Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham GL52 5AJ

FAIR PLAY TROPHY

At the end of each game, referees have to award each team merit marks, for conduct on the field of play, taking into account sportsmanship, good manners and general behaviour. Much to our delight, when the awards ceremony took place, 7 Sig Regt were awarded the 'Fair Play Trophy', for 1979.

I therefore, take much pride in naming the squad who won this trophy.

SSgt Ray Cardwell Coach
LCpl 'Hammie' Hamilton
LCpl 'Shuggie' Barclay Captain
Sig Terry Smith
Sig 'Geordie' Gallagher
Sig Carl Marshall
Sig Phil Eatock
Sig Chris Payne
Sig Precious Wiltshire
Sig 'Molly' Molloy
LCpl Jock Lennox
LCpl Tonka Toy
Sig 'The Suit' McFeely
Sig 'Jonah' Jones
Sig 'Nip Nip' Bannister
Sig 'Scouse' Dunleavy



Left to right SSgt Ray Cardwell Team Manager, LCpl Snuggie Barclay Skipper, Maj Paddy Stringer OIC Football.

A special mention to **SSgt Ray Cardwell**. Although he only plays in the Sgts Mess team these days, he turned out for the second half of the last game, in blazing sunshine, and still showed the 'boys' how to turn it on. What a player he must have been a few years ago. We hope to be invited to take part in next years competition. With a bit of luck we would win two trophies, for naturally we hope to continue our reputation for 'Fair Play'.

ANY TAKERS FOR 1980

Finally, if there are any other teams who would like to enter this competition next year, the address of the organiser is
John de Jonge
Vincent Van Goahstraat 19
HENGELO (Ov) HOLLAND
Tel: 5400—11769
or write to me, Maj A. Stringer
7 Signal Regiment
BFPO 15 for further information.

FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON

Report by Capt Chris Wright

FAREWELL

We kick off with a farewell to our boss **Maj Bill** (What no blackcurrant jam?) **Buxton** who is leaving us for RSRE Malvern. It is interesting to note that since joining BRAVO **Maj Bill** has had a 50% reduction in manpower, a 20% increase in the number of prime movers and a 20% increase in the work load. In spite of this BRAVO is still the best Comcen in the Corps and **Maj Bill** will obviously be missed on his departure. Good luck to you and **Georgie** in your next posting **Bill.**



Maj Billy Buxton surviving the fog of War.

TYPICAL SCENE WITH BRAVO

Picture the scene, any hilltop in N.W. Germany recce has arrived and is waiting for the advance and main packets. In the advance packet is the Linies and the admin complex. The linies quickly lay the line and are then available for shovel contracts. Chief shovellers are **Cpl Pete Licence, L/Cpl Dave Johnstone** and **Sig Tommo Thomson.** Contracts are cheap, 1 Herforder secures any RODNEY while a tenpack the **SSM, WO2 John Hornby.** It's dangerous to walk through the complex at night unless you have eyes in the back of your head.

The Q area meanwhile, run by **SSgt SQMS Pete Dorans,** puts up tentage and starts preparing the first meal. The main body arrives, Radio Relay first, **Lt Nick Blampied** runs the troop and is skillfully supervised by **SSgt Gerry Whelan. Sig Billy Belton** and **Sig Case Casey** (of dubious Hamburg fame) leap into action advised by stalwarts like **Cpl Mick Tharme, John Marooth** and **John Waud.**

The complex is next to arrive **WO2 FofS Micky Banks** leading. A quick recce of his given area produces the normal tirade of abuse for the location (done by the **YoS WO2 Keith Finch**) but as usual **Micky** puts a camel through the eye of a needle and it all fits in. The 10 KVAs are manhandled into position (how we'd love them on flat beds). **Cpl Smellie Mellish,** Chief ED and his boys **LCpl Doc Dockerty, Sig Dunc Hall** and **Sig Paul Kerr** provide the magic required to keep them on the road. The complex is quickly wired up and into service, TARIF vehicle is usually last in but first up with its sleeping tent and **Cpl Nick Carter** has won the Golden Blanket award for four exercises on the trot.

The complex (Hotel) troop is run by **Lt Colin Lawrence** shortly leaving us for 39 Bde. He is going for R and R after two years of looking after the techs. With names like **SSgt Ian Borland BEM Sgts Tom Taylor** (Who has recently gone body fail) **Ian Stewart, Bob Millward, Les Bennet** and **Jim Kingswell,** he obviously deserves it.

The exercise then settles into its routine, twice daily VNWB panic by **Maj Bill,** recce goes out for a brattie (German sausage) The linies are seen flitting from tree to tree, the DTG's are asleep and Comcen Command can't believe all the shots are in.



The Linies (Shovellers)



Tango Troop Radio Relay



Right to left: Sig Duckworth, Sig Corrigan, Cpl Carter. More hours towards the Golden Blanket.



Sgt Tom Taylor (Bodyfail) requiring assistance from Sgts Bennet and Millward.

RUGBY

The Regimental 7 a side team rounded off the season in fine style. We were invited to enter the Courage 7 a side Army Competition at Aldershot and were unlucky to be drawn against 8 Sig Regt (the eventual winners) in the Quarter finals. Our congratulations to them. The next day saw us back in BAOR preparing for the BAOR 7s at Minden, we won this defeating 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt, 12 Armd Wksps, 3 BAPD 'B' in the preliminary rounds, Queens Dragoon Guards, 50 Msl Regt RA and 3 BAPD in the final. During the tournament we scored 118 points for and 18 against. This qualifies the regiment for the Courage 7s next year and we look forward to meeting 8 Sig Regt and avenging our defeat. The following Saturday we travelled to Bruggen as guests in the RAF (G) 7s losing with a weakened side to RAF Laarbruch in the Semi Final. The following players represented the Regiment in the three competitions.

Sgt Bill McConnell (Captain)
Capt Chris Wright
Sgt Dave Rudd
Sgt Tod O'Brien
Cpl Steve Green
Cpl Dave Higgins
Cpl Mal Geer
Cpl Gus Hales
LCpl Ricky Eyre
LCpl Ian Ward
Sig Boysie Oakes
LCpl Stevie Stevenson

INTER REGIMENTAL SPORTS COMPETITION (PAGE TROPHY)

By Capt Derek Robertson

The Page Trophy held over the period of the year combines several sporting events. Squadrons compete against one another with enthusiasm. The standard of all events proved to be very high and it was difficult to decide which sport to report on.

The final results of the whole competition was as follows.

Athletics—1Sqn
Cross Country—3 Sqn
Hockey—H.Q. Sqn
Soccer—5 Sqn
Rugby—5 Sqn
Cricket—H.Q. Sqn
Tug of war—3 Sqn

Over all winning Squadron was 3 Sqn, after a very hard fought competition, congratulations 3. It was decided then to give the limelight to the athletics which were held under blue skies in the Jahn Statium Herford on Wed 11 April. On one of the warmest days of the year the Squadrons fielded their athletes in even warmer competition.



Sig Stevie Needs (3 Sqn) 'flying' on to win the 3000m Steeplechase



Cpl 'Gus' Hales (1Sqn) quite convincingly winning the 4× 100m relay.



Cpl Carmagnole (HQ Sqn) demonstrating what a touch of the old voodoo can do for your long jump.



WO2 (SSM) Bouldy with many??? years service winning the 'old soldiers race'. Maj Brian Robinson came second by a hernia, just beating WO2 (SSM) McInnes. Cpl Brooks did finally finish.



Lt Col (QM) Viv Stephens presenting the Page Trophy Athletics Cup to Cpl Gus Hales of 1 Sqn, with Capt Derek Robertson looking worried again.

VISIT OF AAC HARROGATE
by Lt Colin Lawrence

The Army Apprentice College Harrogate visited Herford in April sending an athletics team, hosted by 7 Sig Regt and a football team hosted by 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. A very full programme started the evening they arrived with a games night against the 'Old Boys' from Harrogate. No one is quite sure who won, but from the atmosphere a very enjoyable night was had by all. The following day was spent training for the athletics team and the football team had their first match against 4 Div. I t was a very good game with both sides being well supported The final score being 6-2 to 4 Div.

The triangular athletics match took place in the local German Stadium. Some excellent results were achieved by all three teams. **A/T Graham** running for AAC, came a very close second to **LCpl Daniels** 7 Sigs., in the 100m. In the high jump event **A/T Shakespeare** AAC, son of ex PRI **Capt David Shakespeare** narrowly missed beating **Sig Brown** of 7 Sigs.

The final result was:

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	39 pts.
7 Sig Regt	39 pts.
AAC Harrogate	21 pts.

The day trip to the Mohnesee turned into a forced march down the Autobahn followed by a few hours in a local Gasthaus whilst waiting for the police (due to the coach breaking down on the Autobahn). The day was eventually rounded off by a trip back to Herford in a Bedford (YUK).

The local German Youth Team were thoroughly beaten by AAC at football, the final score was 5-0. The apprentices then sampled the German hospitality for the rest of the evening.

The final football match was against the Regiment. This proved to be an excellent match with both teams playing extremely well and ended with 7 Regiment winning 3-0.

After an exhausting few days the party set off for the UK only to have the coach breakdown for a second time in exactly the same spot on the Autobahn? (Was it near a Gasthaus?)

TOT/FOS CONVENTION
Report by WO1 (FofS) Gadman

The regiment again hosted the TOT's and FofS convention this year after a three day period in April and with 50 visitors from BOAR and UK was once more a success. Much of this was due to the hard work of **Lt Col Wheawell** HQ BAOR and **Capt (TOT) O'Connor** HQ 1(BR) Corps in finding 'volunteers' to carry out presentations. The annual convention dinner was held in the WO's and Sgts Mess on the Thursday evening and was attended by the CSO BAOR and **CCR Signals.**

The dinner which was enjoyed by all, was of the now usual very high standard. This was thanks to the Mess secretary **WO2** (But I'm on leave) **Don Payne** and the cooks.

There were'nt even complaints about the size of the bill this year, but then there weren't as many sore heads the following morning either, (There must be some truth in the saying 'We learn by our mistakes' after all). The CSO closed the convention on the Friday and thanked all who had given presentations, especially those from UK. In conclusion I would like to mention our TOT, **Capt Dicky Dyer** for not getting mentioned so far.

EX ROYAL RAYNARD (Or wine tasting down the Mosel Valley)
By SSgt Geoff (J.G.G.) Back and SSgt Mick (Days to do) Kynaston.

Four Squadron were deployed during May on B.R.A.C. bi-annual Armoured Corps FTX. Our task was the supply control and command communications for various armoured players. Our American cousins were also tasked, providing air cover, but more about them later.

FAMILIARISATION

The exercise lasted just about a week with the squadron deploying a few days in advance 'So as to get ourselves familiar with the area?' The familiarising period was very well spent giving the squadron the chance to see the beautiful countryside of the Eiffel. The local hospitality was overwhelming and the wine very good, but a definite No was given to those who wished to test their skills on the Nurenburg Ring in landrovers and Bedfords. Trips were organised by our SSM (**WO2 Gordan McInnes**) down the Mosel in a ferry boat which were very popular. Torrid love affairs blossomed and wilted between our younger soldiers and the local girls giving the whole atmosphere a 'Holiday feeling' among the squadron. All good things have to come to an end once the exercise was upon us; we all set to work.

VALUABLE AIR SUPPORT

The exercise went very well and we were able to work well with our new friends the 'Tankies'. As mentioned, the Americans provided the air cover and a number of the squadron were able to get a few joy rides in 'Yankie Choppers'. **SSgt Geoff Back** broke all records by fixing a lift to the U.K. for a few hours, returning with arms full of 'Blighty Bottled Beer and packets of Pork Scratchings'.

IMPRESSIVE TANK KILLERS

A very impressive demonstration was laid on by the Americans using the COBRA tank killing helicopters, leaving us all in no doubt that its pure folly to go to war in a tank.



You may have the Good and the Bad but beat this for the Ugly Capt Mal (Is it tea time yet) Smart WO2 (SSM) 'How are we' Gordon McInnes.



Sig Chris (I'm in love again) Payne in a 'Yankie Chopper'

POPULAR SQLDIER

By far the most popular soldier in the area was **Lt (The Lovely Linda) Pollock** of the American Army. As you can see, no opportunity was lost in our boys posing for a photograph with her.

Towards the end of the exercise the age old British custom of swapping kit went on with the Yanks, until you couldn't tell who was who, except the (Lovely Linda) of course.

An enjoyable period for the squadron, we hope to have another bash in 1981.



Cpl Jock (It's my turn) McGowan with the 'Lovely Linda'

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A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

For the first time since records began in the Trade Training School a Gurkha soldier has achieved an A grading on a technician course. **Sig Krishna Gurung** of the Queens Gurkha Signals scored high A's in no fewer than 16 of the 21 examinations he was required to take during his basic Radio Technicians course. In his year with the regiment he consistently displayed a truly exceptional degree of excellence in all activities and aspects of unit life. His quiet reliable dependability earned him the friendship and respect of his instructors, fellow students and superiors alike. We wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavours and feel that the Corps is destined to hear much more of that thoroughly nice guy **Krishna Gurung.**



Left to right: Sig Novinkumar Limbu, Sig Savage, Sig Rajesh Bisht, Sig Krishna Gurung, Lt Col E. Mulley OC TTS, Sig Wyllie, Sig Ainsworth and Sig Ruth

COMMENDATION FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Miss Betty Rutter happily holds up the Certificate of Commendation for Meritorious Service awarded by the CinC UKLF with which the OOC North East District **Maj H. G. Woods CB MBE MC MA** presented her on the 3 July at York at a special presentation ceremony. Also present were her 'boss', **Lt Col E. Mulley**, commanding the Trade Training School, where **Betty** works as a Clerical Officer, her sister, **Mrs Rita Morley**, her brother-in-law, **Peter**, and a friend, **Mrs Norah Jones**, the School Librarian.

The award is a formal recognition of many years of loyal and devoted service by **Betty** with Royal Signals. She first came to us in July 1960 as PA to **Brig E. F. McGill**, then Commandant of the School of Signals. On promotion to Clerical Officer in 1964 she stayed with the School, working first in the Technical Library and later in Tactics Wing. When the School left in 1967 she was transferred to 24 Signal Regiment, doing Courses and Movements. On the merger of 8 and 24 Signal Regiments in 1971, she came to HQ Trade Training School as Clerical Officer in charge of the General Office where she has been ever since, serving with her 7th Chief Clerk, 4th OC TTS, 2nd School Staff Officer but still with the one and only Chief Superintending Instructor! Her chief interest is music, playing the piano in concerts for local charities and for other events in Swaledale where she lives. After the ceremony and the photographs **Betty** enjoyed a friendly chat with the General over tea and biscuits.



HADRIAN'S WALL WALK

It is amazing what can develop from a friendly pint of beer. Last November, **Jack Barraclough,** Civilian Supervisor, and **Maj David Schreiner**, US Army Signal Corps, our exchange officer doing CI (Eng) duties, tossed around the idea of walking coast to coast from line of Hadrian's Wall. This mission was recently accomplished and they were accompanied by the Chief Clerk TTS, **WO2 (ORQMS) Tom Pengelley** and **LCpl 'Ziggy' Gray**, who is on a Change of Career Employment Course. A total distance of 90 miles was achieved in five days. **Jack Barraclough** planned the course and provided the historical and cultural background. **Tom Pengelley** laid on the logistic support. **Sig Shepherd** of Schemes Troop was driver, cook, and supplied the accommodation. **Lt Col Ed Mulley,** ON TTS, gave his blessing and joined the party on the third day which took in the most interesting section of the Wall. His presence improved the already high spirits of the team. It was a challenge and a most rewarding experience. We go on record in saying that **Maj Schreiner** is most certainly the first Signals exchange officer and possibly the first American Serviceman to have completed this walk.

THE ADOLPHUS W GREELY TROPHY FOR SOFTBALL

Adolphus W. Greely was the founder of the United States Army Signal Corps. The above trophy was the idea of **Maj D. Schreiner**, our exchange officer from the United States. This, the second year that the officers and WOs and SNCOs of the regiment had done battle for the trophy. Last year we in the Sgts Mess thought we would win but the officers scraped home. Perhaps the fact that **Maj Schreiner** played for them and explained the rules had something to do with it. This year however the game was approached more seriously and the Sgts Mess were determined to win. Having let the officers get a number of 'sneaky' practice matches in we decided to start practicing hard. **Maj Schreiner's** considered opinion having seen both practices was that the Sgts Mess need not bother turning up. The day of the match was poor and the surface very wet. The 'younger' members from the Sgts Mess adapted better and in the end ran out easy winners. The second game was a lot closer and the officers team had obviously been spoken to by the Colonel because they performed excellently, in particular their close in fielders let nothing through. However the Sgts Mess still won.

Such was the increasing interest in the game that the Sgts Mess fielded two teams (18 players) for the last game. This may not have been a good move tactically but we felt everyone who attended practices had to have a game. The officers just managed to win the final game but lost the trophy to the Sgts Mess on Aggregate score. Final Aggregate score 52-41.

All three games produced some outstanding individual performances. **Lt's Kite** and **Smith** batted well and the Commanding Officer did his best to stop any seniors reaching second base. Whilst **Maj Schreiner's** enthusiasm and determination to win was clear for all to see. For the Sgts Mess perhaps the outstanding feature was the formidable outfield of **Sgts Warburton, Randall** and **Topping,** all of whom possess an extremely safe pair of hands. **Alf Coulton** (APTC) controlled the play and called the shots and really did a first class job. A few players have been named, a lot haven't, but everyone played well, tried hard and the sporting spirit was upheld by all. Hard luck the Officers Mess.



Col I. R. D. Shapter Commanding Officer, Maj D. M. Schreiner US Army, WO1 (RSM) D. A. Hughes

VALE — MF ARTHUR ROSBOTHAM



We have recently said goodbye to **Mr Arthur Rosbotham**, Civilian Instructor Telecomms, seen here being presented with a Corps Plaque by **Lt Col E. Mulley**, OC TTS, who has retired from the TTS after a total of 40 years service to the Corps. Trained at Catterick in 1932 as an Operator, Royal Signals, he then served in the units listed:

1933	2 Div Signals, Aldershot.
1934-35	B Corps Rawalpindi and Chaman, North West Frontier.
1936-37	Quetta Radio.
1937-39	B Corps, Karachi, Radio.
1939-40	Catterick as Drill end Weapons Instructor.
1941-47	Sig Section 72 Med Regt RA.
1947	Embarked for Europe D-Day + 25.
1954	Demobbed with rank of Sgt.
	Joined TAVR 50 Div Sig Regt.

Arthur was a great operator and an equally good sportsman, having played football, rugby, tennis and hockey for most of his units. In addition he was no mean exponent of the noble art of boxing. His prizes include five cups foé football and 25 trophies foé tennis. **Arthur** will be greatly missed and we wish him all the very best for a long and happy future.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD

Pte Whitfield has been in the WRAC for 3½ months. She completed her six weeks basic training at WRAC Centre Guildford and moved on to trade training with 2 Sqn 8 Sig Regt as a Data Telegraphist on 4 June. She carried out the following varied projects to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

In July 1977, a 36 mile walk lasting four days and three nights on the N Yorks moor, making a study, with the rest of her group, of all the buildings along the route, which added considerable interest to the walk.

As a complete contrast, the school holidays of 1977 were spent at a childrens nursery helping with children aged one to four—an equally daunting experience however!

During October 1978, a week camping at Stainsacre Hall, Whitby to see how she could get along with other people, and to complete group tasks for the benefit of everyone present. One of her main projects was to make a film of the fishing industry in Whitby.

Finally, from January 1978 to March 1979 **Pte Whitfield** attended an organised keep fit class at Eston Sports Centre spending most of her time doing circuits and runs. Well done indeed. She is now enjoying a posting in Cyprus.



A SIGNAL SUCCESS

Pte Patricia Dunlop, 18, a trainee switchboard operator at 8 Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison is a happy girl—she has won £1,000 in the John Player Spot Cash Competition. News of her win arrived on the day of her 'passing-off' parade at the WRAC Centre, Guildford. **Patricia** comes from Kellwood Farm, Walton, Cumbria. She said that even if she had known about her lucky win before joining-up she would still have done so. The picture shows **Patricia** displaying her £1,000 cheque after a presentation by the John Player's area manager. With her are four members of the switchboard operators course.



Left to right: Pte Susan Harvey, Pte Veronica Bruce, Pte Patricia Dunlop, Pte Teresa Byrne and Pte Carol Bradley

FAREWELL TO OUR AMERICAN EXCHANGE OFFICER

Engineering Wing of the Trade Training School reverted to British control when the third American Exchange Officer to hold the appointment of Chief Instructor, **Maj D. M. Schreiner,** left the USA on 14 July 1979, after handing over to **Maj Hugh Bennett**, Royal Signals. **Dave Schreiner** and his two predecessory, **'Joe' Fitzgerald** and **'Mel' Russell,** will be well known to many Corps members who have served in 'Eight'. To mark his association with all three Exchange Officers, the Superintending Instructor, **Frank Eden,** was presented with a commemorative scroll.



10 Sig Regt Hounslow

OFFICERS FAREWELL

It was a sad occasion on Tue 17 July when all the Regimental Officers descended on Hounslow to say farewell to three officers leaving the Corps—**Capt Clive Moody,** OC Radio Troop, **Capt George Norton,** OC Tropo Troop, and **Maj** (Retd) **Tom Jenkinson,** OC Shorncliffe SWS Troop. **Tom** started his service with R Signals as a boy in 1929, retired as a Major (TOT) in 1964, and has been working as a P & TO III in Signals Branch HQ South East District and SWS Troop, 10 Signal Regiment ever since. For his 50 years service to the Corps, the Commanding Officer presented him with a tankard inscribed with the Regimental 'Bruno' Crest.

REPORT FROM HQ MT (HOUNSLOW)

Report by LCpl Steve Somers

LADIES SHOW THE WAY

On Saturday 7 July the Heath Trophy was held on the Regimental Square. The Heath Trophy is the annual driving competition for the Regiment (something the drivers never win). Radio Troop who have won the competition for the previous three years could only manage fifth position. Women drivers of the Regiment can be pleased with themselves at the moment because we have to congratulate the Tri hards team from 1 Sqn Wilton consisting of **Ptes Barbara Button, Quinny Quinn** and **Angie Scholfield** on winning the team event.

Pte Quinny Quinn of the Tri hards team also won the individual driving competition. There was also an award for the best driver of the year. To qualify for this you have to have no accidents or convictions against you for the previous 12 months. Believe me, this is some achievement driving in and around central London. Once again we men have to take to the side lines as we congratulate **LCpl Leslie Hughes** (WRAC) on a years' excellent driving.

One male member of 2 Sqn seemed to think he was missing out on something. The team called 'Wonder Women' consisted of **Ptes 'D' Vickers, Piggy Hearmon** and **Sig Hughie Ingram.** Good try **Hughie**, but his team only managed seventh place. Our thanks also to everybody who made the day a great success.

MISCELLANEA

Cpl Brian Biddiscombe, the Regimental MT NCO who's only been in five years, goes on leave at the end of the month. He's a bit concerned as to whether the MTWO, **WO2 Jim Preston** and his minions can manage without him. Have a nice leave Cpl 'B', there will be lots to do when you get back. Congratulations to £11 a round **Bob Stanton** on his promotion to LCpl and **LCpl Rab Nicol** on passing his Det Commanders. This month **Cpl Adolf Fairbairn** departed for sunny Aldershot, congratulations to him also on his promotion to Cpl.

10 SIG REGT WRAC SUMMER CAMP

For the second year running, the WRAC element of the Regiment attended Summer Camp at St Martin's Plain Camp, Shorncliffe. Three way shifts and reduced manning at the military Commcens and Exchanges enabled almost a 100% attendance; but don't despair you hard pressed soldiers—your turn will come in October.

The RSM, **Bill Leslie,** headed a small team of SNCO instructors which included **WO2 Geoff Nelson** and **WO2 Jim Preston,** and, to a man, they all agreed the WRAC girls showed both determination and courage to achieve the many and varied tasks they were set. **Pte Debbie Withey** gained a notable success with a maximum possible score on the 100m range enabling 1 PL to win the overall Inter PL shooting competition. Not to be outdone, 3 PL proved to be the fittest and most agile, winning the Assault Course Competition. Everyone had an attempt at using Assault Boats on the Royal Military Canal Hythe and although few soldiers had much idea of co-ordination, or even how to steer straight, this phase was highly enjoyable.

Each week's training culminated in a 48 hour exercise, with the PLs learning how to set up bivvies, defend their locations, carry out fieldcraft and go on a night patrol. The JNCOs were given a good deal of responsibility throughout this period and many of them had their first real insight into command and control. Most realised just how little previous knowledge they had! Naturally there were some moans and occasional disillusionment but the overall opinion from all who attended was that the camp was a great success. There had been many laughs and morale finished higher than it started!

1 SQUADRON (WILTON) REPORT

The unhappiest man in Wilton at the mention of Summer Camp is undoubtedly our doctor. He has memories of row upon row of girls with bandaged knees, ankles, wrists, heads, you name it last year someone managed to damage it! But this year he was more than pleasantly surprised when 1 Squadron managed to return to the fold with all our numbers more or less intact bar the odd bit of sticking plaster showing here and there. However it will be a long time before he forgives us for the epidemic of bad colds and 'flu bugs that we managed to spread around camp on our return.

This year the head training schedule dreamt up by the Yeoman of Signals had done the trick, 1 Squadron came home not only in one piece but victorious as well; having won more than their fair share of the beer at the end of each week for such exploits as the tug-of-war, assault course race, It's a Knock Out, best section, best section commander and if there had been a prize for noisiest platoon they would have won that as well.

The two most notable achievements were made by **LCpl Debbie Earp** who had been promoted ten days before camp and proved that being 4' 10" in your stocking feet is no drawback when it comes to leading your section over a 12' wall or to helping them drink the beer at the end of it: and **LCpl 'Suggie' Sugden** whose mighty warriors won all the beer in the second week and managed to make sure that their OC got the worst cold she can remember.

We must also thank all those who made it possible by shouting, cajoling, and pushing until they achieved their end result, namely **WO2 (YofS) Watson, SSgt (YofS) Taylor** and not forgetting **Sgt Burns** on loan from 264 Sig Sqn (SAS) who was supposed to be in Wilton to learn how to be a DTg again (we never did get him to do that typing test!!).

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW) REPORT

ALL THINGS BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL SUMMER CAMP WAY

All things bright and beautiful
2 Sqns got them all
All things wise and wonderful
The Colonel loves us all

They gave us guns to shoot with
They gave us boats to row
They gave us walls to climb up
And we've the guts to go

They gave us tents to sleep in
They gave us food to thrive
They made the enemy shoot us
But GOD we will survive!!

We're going home tomorrow
Once all the jobs are done
This week has been like murder
But we've had lots of fun

I think the above song from 2 Sqn just about sums up my feelings about Summer Camp, for although it was hard work, I really enjoyed it! We were given guns to shoot, boats to row and walls to climb up—all in competition against the girls in 1 and 3 Sqns. These competitions were fair and just but I felt were held too near the beginning of the week to enable us to get sufficient practice in before the final competition. The obstacle course was a good one, even if the running did tire us out before we even reached the first event! However the assault boat race was most enjoyable, although at first sight I thought we would never manage to pick up such hefty objects.

This initial phase was followed by the exercise, when we as a platoon moved into location. Having set up our OPs and bivvies, we were taught all about recce patrols, field signals and major tactics. Then we set our Trip flares for the enemy and waited, and waited and waited! Finally we saw some movement—but alas, it was only a tree moving in the wind. They we saw them—a whole patrol—seemingly not knowing our whereabouts so we let them go straight past.

However once dark, then we had it! Although we knew where the enemy was, since we were not armed we could do little to deter them. Who, in their right mind, is going to stand up and meekly say 'who goes there?', when someone is charging at you throwing thunder flashes and firing a weapon? Anyway we played it their way until we got cold and bored. Then we attacked—but all we could catch was the Adjutant, who always seemed to escape and come back for more. Afterwards we discovered that everytime he escaped, he took some of our stores with him.

The following morning we had a most enjoyable time completing a set of command tasks, which entailed using the knowledge and experience of everyone in the section to get us through the tests—map reading, changing a tyre, camouflaging a four ton lorry, donning NBC suits, pitching a 160 lb tent and applying field dressings to two

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casualties. Anyway, during the week, I certainly found my limitations and quite often felt that I could go no further, but then everything leads to surprises . . . and now it's all over I can honestly say . . . I enjoyed it!!!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT) REPORT

Once again Annual Summer Camp came around, this time in May. Prior to that, numerous lists had been made requesting combat kit and boots in various sizes, not that the final outcome in any way resembled the request!! On arrival at St Martins Plain Camp, bodies were to be seen wandering around carrying cases, kit and in a general state of shock. This was not to be the case for long. Soon everyone was running from A to B in double time and doing more PT than ever before. Cries of 'No Sir I won't ever complain about 0730 PT in Aldershot again' were heard as we ran around the camp for the ninth time at 0630 each morning. Three Squadron showed good form on the assault boat races, putting in four teams, one from each of the three sections and one taken from section Nos one and two just so that our Pl Comd (**2Lt Wilson**) and our Pl Sgt (**Cpl Nield**) could have a go. In fact 'Supercrew' had the best time overall and could be heard singing their way down and up the canal!! Rumour has it that **Cpl Liz MacLean** and her crew had gone off to France to get their Duty Free, but that was soon scotched(!) when they returned empty handed.

The two day exercise was enjoyed by all even if some only enjoyed it in retrospect. We set up camp on a hillside during the afternoon and were then instructed by the 'enemy' on patrolling techniques. As they knew our location and organisation we were quite prepared to move our location slightly to confuse them—only there was no other suitable place nearby. Not to be thwarted by that we decided to fortify our camp. The sections collected dead bracken and twigs and built an obstacle all around. (The Romans would have been proud of us). That evening we took one prisoner, but the one we took the next morning at 0500 hrs was the CO's driver who did not know the password. After removing his socks, shoes, beret and belt we made a report to control, who then told us that the CO wanted his driver back again. Cries of 'Shame' went up from the Sqn (whose new nickname is best left out of print!!) and **LCpl Nicholaides** reluctantly returned the shoe laces she had purloined.

Our next location was in a beautiful bluebell wood. (Thank you RSM). Each section had its own bivvy area and was wholly independent.

Cpl Colton and her merry band of warriors found the most packages from the night patrol. We did not lose a single person, though all the navigation by the stars that had been taught during the day could not be used as the stars refused to shine. All that new found knowledge and to be thwarted when we could actually use it! Three Squadron also won the weekly 'It's a Knockout' Competition and the shooting, but not the tug of war. On our return to Aldershot it was quite difficult to remember not to double everywhere. We also are well aware of the fact that the word 'section' no longer only means a part of the telephone directory or part of an ACP.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW) REPORT

OC	**Maj G. C. Saunders**
OC Desig	**Maj L. Fraser**
2IC/OC Radio Troop	**Capt I. R. C. Brown**
OC SWS Troop	**Maj (TOT) P. Johnson**
OC 'O' Troop	**Capt J. F. M. Weston-Davies WRAC**
OC Tropo Troop	**Capt (TOT) T. Kay**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) G. Nelson**

With so many changes of late a revised batting order is shown above. The Squadron continues to soldier on with its many and varied tasks connected with the communications support of London District.

SWS TROOP

It's Canoeing time again! **Cpl Steve Jackson** is in Norway representing Great Britain in the International Canoe Championships. He is also hope for a place in the 1980 Olympics.

Sgt 'Big John' Arbury and **Cpl Steve Cocksedge** are off to Monmouth for the Army Canoe Championships. (See Championship Report). **Cpl Chris Hicks** is back from six months in Belize and has been immediately sent on a Leadership Course. So the story goes anyway,—we suspect it is to learn to use a knife, fork and spoon again! His tan does contrast sharply with out jet-burns; in case you hadn't noticed, we are on the glide/take-off path for Heathrow.

Having recently acquired a new mechanical trench digger, this Troop happily accepted a major trenching task on Middle Wallop Airfield. Others, however, had been there before us, and there were so many uncharted cables below that innocent looking surface that **Cpl Steve Hilton** and **LCpl Adrian Downs** had to leave their new toy, and trench by a more traditional method—shovel and muscle; so much for progress.

The Command Public Address Vehicles are deployed nationwide, as on previous years. This years' programme has our PA team at Catterick, Preston, Southsea and Pontypool, with a massive coverage at the Army Air Corps Day, Middle Wallop, of 1600 Watts and 70 Loudspeakers. This will cover commentary on the Flying Display: announcements to the Static Displays (and, of course, the Bars, which are far from static!) of imminent events and of missing children and husbands. An optional extra is a public broadcast of air-to-ground commentary by pilots over the Tower radio.

Routine annual events, held on our own doorstep, are at Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade, Hyde Park, Woolwich and Chelsea. One unusual task was a sound recording of the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London. Our current PA team is **Cpl Rod Whateley** and **Mr Cliff Bird**—if they claimed time off for hours put in, they wouldn't be seen for four months.

Farewell to **SSgt Geoff 'Moustache' Marshall** and **Irene** on his promotion to WO2, RQMS, and posting to 22 Sig Regt. A man for all seasons, he has been technician, acting SSM, NBC and Military training instructor, public address organiser, and Laird of St Martins Plain at the WRAC Summer Camp. His moustache is an effective filter for muttering helpful asides to his TOT. We wish them luck at the sharp end!

ARMY CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

For the third year in succession 10 Sig Regt have won the Army Canoeing Sprint Championships, and regained the Long Distance Trophy. After weeks of hard training the team made their way to Monmouth determined to do well again. They were not disappointed. The results speak for themselves.

Cpl Steve Jackson	**Army Champion Senior K2 1,000, 500 mtrs, K1 1,000**
Cpl Bob Story	**Army Champion Senior K2 1,000, 500 mtrs**
Cpl Bob Blakeman	**Army Champion Intermediate K2 1,000 mtrs, 12 miles**
Cpl Stevie Cocksedge	**Army Champion Intermediate K2 1,000 mtrs, 12 miles**
LCpl Stevie Redshaw	**Army Champion Intermediate Class 4 500 mtrs**
Sig 'Cactus' Custus	**Army Champion Intermediate Class 4 500 mtrs**
Pte Jackie Smith	**Army Champion Ladies K1 250 mtrs**
Pte Debbie Davies	**Army Champion Ladies Slalom 500, 250 mtrs, 6 miles**
LCpl Liz Biddell	**Army Champion Ladies WWR 500, 250 mtrs, 6 miles Ladies K1 500 mtrs**
Pte Sue Jefferson	**Army Champion Ladies K1 6 miles**

The rest of the team consisted of **Sgt John Arbury, Cfn Mick Brownson** and **Sig 'Ali' Crook, Cpl 'Liz' McCleane, Ptes Gill Potter, Joy Jeffreys, 'Babs' Button, Janet Smith** who all gained us valuable points in the team trophies. The team won with an overall points total of 98, our nearest rivals having 24. We also won the Army Long Distance Team Championship Trophy with a total of 48 points, once again our nearest rivals only had 21. The Regiment has won 15 Army individual awards and **Cpl Story/Cpl Jackson, Cpl Blakeman/Cpl Cocksedge** have been selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championships.

REGIMENTAL CRICKET MATCH

It was obviously going to be the event of the year. The weather was fine, the setting idyllic. The Commanding Officer was there, (the epitome of sartorial elegance) the QM (very chic in yellow and checks) also the Adjutant (immaculately attired for athletics). 2IC 2 Sqn wore his crash helmet and PRI added a splash of colour with his emerald green running shoes. It was of course the annual CO's XI (The Gentlemen?) versus The Rest (The Players) cricket match.

Unfortunate industrial action by ITV employees rather than the standard of play prevented the game being featured on TV. However, there were highlights.

Mr Carter seemed to know what he was doing, scoring 25 and taking three lucky wickets, despite a nasty attack of senility. The QM made a name for himself which unfortunately cannot be put into print by taking a wicket with his first ball and then bowling four successive wides. PRI carried his bat with aplomb, scoring just 49 short of a magnificent 50, and amazed everyone by only bowling ten wides in his two overs.

The Umpires learned a lot and have been nominated for awards for their outstanding ability to count to six and find a baffling spot on the field called square leg. There's not a lot to be said about The Rest especially as they had the audacity to score one more run than The Gentlemen and claim a win.

The CO? Oh Yes—he was caught first ball and all that remains is for the date of 'staff car' Hillman's posting to outer Mongolia to be confirmed.

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

BUSY BIRGELEN

The months of June and July have been particularly busy here in Birgelen. In June, we spent hours preparing the camp for the visit of our Colonel in Chief. The visit itself lasting four hours was a very happy occasion, which we shall all remember for many years to come. In July we welcomed **Lt Gen Sir Michael Gow,** who spent a day visiting the unit finishing off with an all ranks supper party in a local hostelry.

2 SQUADRON REPORT

Between taking dips in our newly opened swimming pool and sunning themselves on the grassy surrounds **WO2 Adrian Bradshaw** and **SSgt 'Drew Duncan** are busily organising our next big function. Our new OC, **Maj Phil Hodges** and his wife are now well and truly part of squadron life and we hope that they have a happy stay with us.

WO2 Vic Sehpheard is back with us mere mortals after standing in as SSM for **WO2 Dave Wilson** who's been off collecting medals at Bisley. Also **Cpl Paul Lancaster** is back from his recent Detachment Commanders course on which he came top, well done **Paul** you can stop eating your morning roll by numbers now. **Capt Mike Cronin, WO2 Andy Peyton** and *SSgt Tony Moore* are still scratching and picking things off themselves after taking part in Summer Sales, and the Nijmegen marches have left their mark on the soles of **Sgts George Prideaux, Dave Johnson** and **Dave Lawrence. SSgt Chris Power** is polishing up his briefcase ready to take up his commission in the RAEC in September we wish him and his wife **Debbie** all the best. Congratulations to **Sgts Mick Smith** and **Steve Lidstone** on their recent promotion, but pride of place must go this month to W/Cpl **Anne Waldie** who has received the GOC's Commendation. Well done **Anne.**

BERLIN ROUND UP

At the time of writing these notes the Squadron is preparing for a change over of OCs. **Maj Ray Windmill** is coming to the end of his two year tour as Squadron Commander and is looking forward to a relaxing tour with RARDE in Kent. We would like to wish **Ray** and his wife **Lorna** all the best and hope they don't find life too hard without LOA and FRIS. His successor is **Maj Mike Taylor** whom we welcome.

GOOD RESULT FOR SWIMMERS

Since the beginning of the year the Squadron has taken part in various sporting Championships. As a shift working unit, it is always a task to find a team who can train together before an event and therefore we normally find that on the day of the event the members are competing together for the first time as a team. **Cpl Bob Coulling** was given the job of putting together a team to enter the Berlin Minor Units Swimming Championship which took place on 13 June. After many weeks of strenuous training the team were still one man short of the necessary eight required and it looked as though the training had all been in vain. As luck would have it, **LCpl Bob Ness,** a Corps Swimmer, arrived on a two month detachment just one day before the event and the team were able to enter the contest. The team swam extremely well and finished 5th overall. A special mention going to the Freestyle Relay Team of **Cpls 'Dicky' Pickup, 'Taff' Seddon, Pete Modley** and **Bob Coulling** who came second in their event.

HIGH SHOOTING STANDARDS

The one event for which there was no shortage of competitors was the Berlin Fd Force Skill at Arms which took place on 3 & 4 May. The Team Captain **WO2 Tom Friend** started to pick the team as early as January and by the end of April he had a team of 16 to fill 11 places. The standard of shooting was so close that the final selection was based on the number of attendances at practices rather than the best shots. The competition was extremely fierce this year with no team able to say they were in the lead until the last detail had fired. At the end of two long days the Squadron finished a creditable 5th with the pistol team also finishing 5th in a match which included both Major and Minor Units.

The smallbore team didn't have the same success as the fullbore team. The contest took place over a period of six months and due to postings etc only two members of the team were able to compete in each round. At the end of the contest the team was placed 7th but as the team average was over 90 it proved that the overall standard of smallbore shooting here in Berlin has improved over the past few years as we clinched 2nd place last year with an average of 92.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We would like to welcome to the Squadron **Capt Dave Thorpe, WO2 Dewi Blythin, Sgts Chris Billington, 'Paddy' Heyland, Jan Duff** and **Ann Moran, Cpl Dave Street** and **LCpls Clive Evison** and **Esley 'Lee' Mitchell** and many thanks and farewell to **Majors Howard Crump** and **Roger 'Sparky' Richards, WO1 Jim Hammond, SSgt Brian Fergus, Sgts Niel Thomson** and **Tom McCulloch, Jimmy Orr, Cpls Kirk Lewis, Dave 'Taff' Seddon** and **Mick Pearsall** and **Sig Danny Joyce.**

AN EXPANDING SPORT

Sailing is becoming an expanding sport in 13. So far this season we have managed to run a beginners course under the guidance of **Mr Michael Fairey,** our resident RYA instructor. This has increased interest in a remarkable way especially as we are so close to the facilities of the British Roermond Sailing Club. This interest has also been boosted by our unexpected success at the Corps Dinghy regatta, where our team which included **Maj Homfray Vines, WO2s Brian Pettifer** and **Colin May, SSgt Rod Goddard, Sgt Cliff Davies** and **Sig Chris Moye** managed to win the team event allowing us to take home the massive Cannon Certa which now obstructs the entrance to RHQ. We have also managed a little offshore sailing, when **Capt Peter Merritt, WO1 Graham Widdowson** and **Sig Mick Keech** obtained 11th place in the Corps offshore regatta in the Baltic.

SKILL AT ARMS

The Regiment Large Bore Shooting team has had a very successful season. Captained by **WO2 Ron Watson** of HQ Sqn and ably coached by **WO2 Dave Wilson** of 2 Sqn the team won the Rhine Area Skill at Arms Meeting at Haltern with **Sgt Tony Hunt** winning the Pistol Individual, and the team winning the Rifle and Pistol Matches.

In June the team travelled to Bulford where it won the Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting for the second year running. The team won the Ronpell, Whitehead Association matches, the LMG Match and the Section Match. **SSgt (F of S) Mick Provart** won the Whitehead Individual, **Sgt Bob Watts** the Roberts and **Sgt Hunt** the Pistol. **LCpl Jim Saville** was the best 'B' class overall obtaining scores in the Whitehead, Association and Army Hundred. At the Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley the team had some success taking third place in the Pistol Tiles Match. **Sgt Bob Watts** had a personal success by achieving 56th place in the Army Hundred.



THE TEAM WITH ITS MANY TROPHIES
Back row L to R: Sig Frank Barker, Sgt Tony Hunt, Sig Titch Lee
Front row L to R: Sgt Bob Watts, LCpl Jim Savill, WO2 Ron Watson, WO2 Dave Wilson, Cpl Brian Barker. Missing SSgt Mick Provart



THE WINNING 'B' CLASS SHOT
LCpl Jim Savill with his trophy

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

The Small Bore Shooting Club continues to be one of the best supported activities on the Regiment. The mens team have competed in NSRA competitions and at all levels in Rhine Area and BAOR with both the service rifle (No 8) and the target rifle. Once again real success has eluded us by the narrowest of margins and, for the third year running the team took second place in the BAOR Service Rifle Championships. In the Rhine Area Target Rifle League the A team took 2nd place in division 1 and the B team were the clear winners of division 2. A somewhat weakened team competed in the shoulder to shoulder championships and in a closely contested match took third place. **SSgt John Boyd** fired in the reserves match at the same meeting and took 1st place.

Once again **SSgt (F of S) Mick Provart** can fairly claim to have been our outstanding shot (there are rumours that he is bionic), but **Sgt Tony Hunt** continues to improve and seems destined to occupy the No 1 spot when **SSgt Provart** leaves on posting in the near future.

THE EXCELLENT LADIES

The men cannot afford to become complacent however, because the ladies of the Troubleshooters Club are keen to stage a repeat of the shoulder to shoulder match against their husbands. Regular readers of this column will recall that the ladies won the last encounter by an embarrassingly large margin. If anyone doubts that they mean business it is worth recording that **Mrs Helen Rigley** scored a 99 not too long ago.

ENTHUSIASTS GATHER

On 9 February, a large crowd of shooting enthusiasts gathered at a local hostelry for the rather sad purpose of wishing farewell to **Maj Rick Davidge** and his wife. Apart from being an excellent shot in his own right **Maj 'D'** also devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to building up the club and its facilities and to patiently coaching and encouraging new members. After the meal he was presented with a polaroid camera by **Mrs Wendy Shephead** on behalf of the Troubleshooters and a cup inscribed 'THE DAVIDGE TROPHY' on behalf of the mens team. **Maj Davidge** reciprocated by giving the club a silver figurine of a rifleman as a trophy to be presented to the winning team of an inter-squadron competition. Present at the dinner were the new OIC Shooting, **Maj Hawthorn Thwaite** and **Capt Powell** who has assumed the role of mentor of the Troubleshooters.

MARCHING IN FOUR COUNTRIES

It was during the Nijmegen Marches last year when someone was heard to remark; 'I'm enjoying this, why don't we form a Club and go marching regularly?' And that is exactly what the **RSM WO1 Ken Woods** did. On the continent there are many such marching clubs, very well organised complete with medals, badges and special insignia denoting up to 10,000 kilometres completed!

It is comparatively easy therefore to pile into cars and nip down to Belgium, or Holland, or Paris, or wherever; knock off a quick 25 kilometres and back in time for tea!

Regular members include **SSgt Dusty Miller,** now left for 'civvy street'. Sorry to see you go **Dusty,** you were a great pacemaker. **SSgt (WO2) John Bandey,** now with 14 Signal Regt. **SSgt Tony Turner, Cpl Mick McCue** and **Cpl Bob Bell, Cpl James Cruickshank,** who, at last years Nijmegen took his bagpipes, receiving a tumultous reception from the locals. The club is now one year old and again completed the Nijmegen marathon this year. We have entered and successfully completed eighteen marches, in four countries, covering a total distance of 695 kilometres. We are now trying to get it recognised as an Army sport in order to claim MMA!

SWIMMING

Our new 50 metre pool was ceremonially opened by the Colonel-in-Chief during her visit to the Regiment on 21 June. Our grateful thanks go to the Sappers of 217 MCAG for all the hard work that went into building what is agreed by all to be a worthy addition to the amenities of Mercury Barracks.

The first event to be staged in the new pool was the annual Inter-Squadron swimming competition held on 23 July. HQ Squadron won every event despite strong opposition from 2 and 1 Squadrons who finished in second and third place respectively. With less than one month available for training between the commissioning of the pool and the event, the timings and performances of all competitors reflected the keeness and potential for fielding a strong team in next years Rhine Area and BAOR championships.



THE WINNING HQ SQN TEAM
Standing L to R: Cpl Tony Waite, LCpl Chris Skelton, Cpl Dee Bostock, Capt Brendan Hughes, SSgt Scouse Davies
Squatting L to R: Sig Dan Joyce, WO1 Brian Pettifer, Sig Jon Westmoreland

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INTRODUCTION

The undoubted highlight of the Summer activities of the Regiment was the award of the MBE to our Quartermaster, **Maj Terry Cantle**, in the Birthday Honours List. **Maj Cantle** was always to the fore at work, play and socially both in this and previous units, his dedication was an example to us all. Exercises and demonstrations have occupied our time over the past four months plus a quick visit from the Inspectors of Establishments—what kind of chaps they are giving us lots of extra manpower. All we have to do now is recruit the extra officers and soldiers concerned and find a barracks big enough to take us all!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Regiment now being two years young, the flood of postings has begun. **Maj Terry Cantle** and his wife **Anna** have left us for UK and they will be sorely missed. **Maj Danny Kay** is our new QM; a man who deserves everybody's sympathy as we remain one of the few major units within 1 (BR) Corps to have only one QM. **Maj Mike Milnamow** our American exchange officer leaves us shortly for a new posting in Stuttgart. We have done our best to 'Anglicise' him—at least he's marrying a 'Brit' schoolteacher. **Capt David Beach** also joins the 'pads' soon, via a honeymoon in Cyprus spent with former members of the Regiment. Our new American exchange officer is **Capt Dixon Gribble**—a big lad who is automatically IC Basketball and whom we hope to teach the art of rugby.

Capt Ben Higson has left for Cyprus along with **Capt Ian Grant. Capt David Thorp** has gone to Berlin whilst our TOT **Capt Derek Prime** has departed for the sunny climes of Gibraltar. We wish them all good fortune in their new appointments. To their successors we welcome them knowing they will have anything but a boring time in the wilds of Scheuen Camp.

We have also had posted in **Lt Adrian Morgan** and **2Lt Graham Norris**—subalterns with us at last, just what every Adjutant needs. **Maj Geoffrey Maude** has handed over his Squadron to **Maj Bill Legge** and become 2IC and Fitness Training Officer. The jobs people will accept in order to remain in the land of LOA.

WO1 Mick Little, our MTWO has left us en route to civilian life. His efforts in keeping a transport fleet only marginally newer than the old Liverpool trams were appreciated by many. His successor **WO1 Pete Cain** has our sympathy. **WO2 Ray Armstrong** has also escaped to Cyprus along with **Cpl Brian Thomson** and **LCpl 'Lew' Llewellyn. SSgt Derek Fowler** and **Cpl Mick Martin** have journeyed down to 13 Sig Regt whilst **SSgt Len Hutton** and **Sgt Bob Hales** have left for 224 Sig Sqn. All were founder members of the Regiment, men who worked hard and played hard and all will be sorely missed.

WO1 Andy Roberts, WO2 Arthur Henderson and **WO2 John Bandy** have arrived to swell the ranks of our Sgts' Mess and take their places on various sports fields. Good job they came mark you as we are soon to lose **WO1 George Cox** and **WO1 Peter Cant,** they having been selected for commissioning—lucky chaps.

FAMILY ADDITIONS

WO2 Bernie Neillings is now the proud father of twins. **Nan** and the babies are doing fine whilst father is still a little bewildered and concerned that his children have more hair than he has. **Sgt Cy Cross** cut things a bit fine; he willingly competed in the 1 Armd Div athletics meeting prior to rushing his wife to BMH Hannover. Twenty minutes later she presented him with a baby daughter.

DANGER—NATURE AT WORK

Our Regimental home in Scheuen is not the newest of camps in BAOR however it did come as a mild surprise to find that one of our wooden buildings (the Barn) had partially blown down one night causing slight damage to **Sgt Rod Fox's** caravan. The PSA have promised to remove this and other slightly unsafe buildings with speed. We only wish the staff (whoever they are) would react with the same alacrity in allowing new buildings to be built within our camp.

SPORT

Thanks to the efforts of **Maj Terry Cantle** and our PTI, **SSgt Bill Norgrove,** we have had some sound success in Tug of War this year. We won both cups in the 1 Armd Div championships and won the event in the Morrison Cup, although regrettably the final was held on a marsh close to but not inside the stadium where the athletics events took place. However it was a great joy to have our Colonel's wife, **Mrs Sprackling,** present the small cup to our team. As for athletics, well we competed in both the divisional championships and in the Morrison Cup if only to display our new Regimental track suits. Next year we promise to try harder and hope to climb off the bottom rung of the ladder. We had three teams compete in the Harz Walkabout—a two day burst from mountain top to mountain top covering 30 miles a day. Our first team of **Capt Mike Jefferis** and **Sgts Ian Haig** and **John Skipper** won the event. Our other two teams came a very creditable 3rd and 7th. The final positions of the 1Armd Div Soccer League 78/79 have just been announced and, much to our surprise, we came 2nd!

DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXERCISES

Numerous demonstrations and exercises have occurred throughout the Summer. Jumbo Troop were fortunate enough to be chosen to demonstrate the speed into action of our jammers before **HRH The Princess Anne.** It was only a small part of a large display, but our contribution did feature on the German TV news that night. Elements of the Regiment deployed on Ex *Whirly Gig* under **Maj Rex Stephenson.** He was so impressed by the orderly movement into the first location that he asked for an instant re-run just so he could check his stopwatch was working. Ex *Summer Sales* again provided several highlights for us. The Regimental Command Post deployed at exercise headquarters (space control in the field, no less) were so overworked that some of their number went for runs. Included in this group was the Colonel, **Lt Col Ian Sprackling**; rumour has it that he was a little pearshaped when a line detachment laying cable overtook him running up a hill. The antics of **Capt James Morris** our Australian Liaison Officer to 1 Armd Div for the exercise have quickly become legion. We also feel sure that GOC 4 Armd Div now realises tht some WO2 (Supvr Radio) do not thrill to being referred to as 'Sarn't Major'. Earlier this year the Regiment held a Summer Camp in Bavaria—read on . . .

EXERCISE SOUTHERN COMFORT—REGIMENTAL SUMMER CAMP

Report by Lt I. F. G. Henderson

Berchtesgadenerland in South-East Bavaria is arguably the most scenically beautiful area of all Germany. For three weeks in May, the mountain peaks and Alpine meadows of the Watzmann group formed a spectacular backcloth to the various Adventure Training activities, designed by **YofS Eddie Jones** of Training Office to provide a challenging but valuable Summer Camp training programme, aptly designated Ex *Southern Comfort*. 'Comfort' because the Regiment was fortunate enough to enjoy the sponsorship of HQ AFRC Berchtesgaden, commanded by **Lt Col Smoot,** USAF, who kindly made living and cooking accommodation available to the Regiment in Strub Kaserne. From this base, patrols set off each morning on a day spent either canoeing, trekking, orienteering, or sampling the delights of the US Army's Adventure Training School Confidence Course—an aerial ropes obstacle course.

HQ Sqn were first to arrive in Berchestgaden and muscles cramped by the 540 mile journey from Celle by Bedford four-tonner were soon stretched in the first day's activity, the euphemistically titled 'Short Trek'. Led by mountain guides from the neighbouring Bundeswehr Jaegerkaserne, the patrols were dropped off ten kilometres from Berchtesgaden and made their way back to base along a hill path following the contour line along the valley of the Ramsauer Ache (a river, not a complaint!). On examining his feet at the end of the day, **Maj Geoff Maude,** OC HQ Sqn, declared that the march had indeed been undertaken at a blistering pace.

Day Two was spent assailing the 1,600 metre high Rauenkopf; the trek consisting of a subtle blend of hill-walking and mountain goat impersonation. This climb is a real challenge to the stout-hearted and the merely stout alike and to their credit, the patrol leaders all ensured that the lads in their charge made it to the top to sign the Visitors Book and admire the splendid view across Berchtesgaden into Obersalzberg and beyond. Nobody worked harder than **Cpl Steve Glover** on this walk and climb, and all credit to him. Throughout the three weeks of Camp, these two treks gave our excellent guest Medics from 1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance ample scope to practice their chiropodist's art and rumour has it that a blow-up of **Sig 'Swampy Marshall's** feet is to be featured in the centre fold of next month's Lancet!

Following a rest day, when it was determined that the thirst-giving properties of a trip to the Salt Mines in Untersalzberg could readily be countered by studious application of Bayrisches Bier 'vom Fass', the patrols braced themselves for a day's canoeing on the Sallachsee and the Saalach River. Under the expert guidance of **WO2 Roger Nadin,** the canoeists, most of whom were strictly beginners, spent a full day on, and in, the bitterly cold water, which at the time was being fed by the Alpine snow melt. A novel system of canoe propulsion known as 'Shiver Power', devised by **Maj Mike Milnamow,** our US Exchange Officer, was spurned by **SSgt Mick Green,** who decided to return to Camp by the scenic route, which involved his crawling for several metres along

the bed of the River Saalach! Incidentally, it may be of interest to the designers of the Loisach canoes we were using to note that egress from their boat can be achieved by the previously untried 'Polaris' technique, as demonstrated by **Cpl Andy Barber,** for whom neither spray deck nor a couple of feet of icy water presented any obstacle in his quest to sample the good mountain air following a capsize.

The Confidence Course, located on a hill in a nearby Bundeswehr training area, was reached by a path leading vertically (well, almost!) upwards, involving a forty minute climb. Having surmounted this first obstacle, the patrols were faced with the task of negotiating a tightrope, suspended tyre obstacle, leopard-crawl rope (affectionately known to **Lt Mike Dyer** as the Nutcracker), Tarzan swing, Burma Bridge and the piece de resistance—the Slide for Life. Note the psychology: no mention of a Death Slide here! Coaxed, cajoled, encouraged and only very occasionally 'assisted' by **Sgt Dick Kilpatrick,** we made our way round, some of our number even returning for a second helping. Those for whom the donning of Cuban heels will induce a bout of vertigo must surely have profited by the simple realisation that perhaps we are all capable of more than we imagine at times. A very worthwhile activity. On returning to Strub Kaserne, it was felt that in view of the demanding nature of the Confidence Course, a little light relief was called for and this was provided by our friends from the American Adventure Training staff in the form of a 'run and dip'. This consisted of hurtling down a hillside at breakneck speed to the River Ramsauer at the bottom, performing three press-ups in the river and running back to camp by a route so steep it allegedly still bore piton marks. A droll little diversion!

Labau, the setting for the Orienteering Course, is a pretty little village to the North-West of Berchtesgaden. Here, **SSgt Wally Wareing** armed the patrols with their lightweight compasses and having set them off on the right track, prepared to conduct a thorough reconnaisance of alehouses in the vicinity, thus commendably ensuring that none of his lambs was led astray. Seriously though, had it not been for **SSgt Wareing's** endeavours, would not many of us have succumbed to the natural hazard quaintly, if accurately marked 'Hole' on the Checkpoint Map? Disdaining the use of so munda ne an aid to navigation as a compass, the Elder Statesmen of 2 Sqn, a patrol of Warrant Officers and SNCOs under the leadership of **WO2 Ray Armstrong** made off into the Bavarian undergrowth with great enthusiasm and it is anticipated that most should be balle in Celle for the start of the summer leave period! (2 Sqn appointed JNCOs as patrol commanders during their week of Summer Camp—stops the lads complaining of 'Too many chiefs and not enough Indians'.).

Impressions of Summer Camp 79? Inevitably, this is very much a personal matter, but the memories of breathtaking mountain scenery, pure crystal air, ice-cold mountain rivers and lakes, blistered feet, barbecued belly pork washed down with excellent local ale and friendly Bavarian waitresses in their immaculate dirndl are certain to remain with all of us for a very long time.

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

3 SQUADRON FOCUS

OC ..... **Maj Mike Rice**
2IC ..... **Capt Alan Jones**
SSM ..... **WO2 Brian Eason**
SQMS ..... **SSgt Bernie Thomas**
FOS ..... **WO2(FOS) George Clark**
YOS ..... **SSgt(YOS) Norman Gelling**
OC H TP ..... **Lt Steve Leach**
OC G TP ..... **Lt Mike Dent**
OC SHQ TP ..... **Sgt Tony Couper**

3 Squadron, like most others, has had a very full programme of exercise and sporting activities. Exercises have been successful, if somewhat monotonous, and mainly in support of other formations such as the Harrier Force. The major recent event has been the fortnight spent on our Summer Battle Camp in the area north of the Edersee and for this reason is the main part of our report.

FAREWELL TO THE TOT

OC Mike Troop, **Capt (TOT) Mike Truran** has traditionally joined 3 Squadron (or Commcen Uniform) when we deploy. After four years in the Regiment he is now posted to Catterick, which will surely benefit from his ever sense of humour and enthusiasm. Commcen Uniform wishes Mike and his family all success in Catterick.

SUMMER BATTLE CAMP

For a fortnight during the summer many of the squadron suffered like they had never suffered before. It was all the fault of the new 2IC **Capt Alan Jones.** Way back in March **Maj Mike Rice** had briefed the 2IC on Summer Camp and gave him detailed instructions, something along the lines of 'Squadron Camp—your pigeon—same area as last year—make it tough'. With that the 2IC sallied forth to to do just that. Arrangements for camp soon took on the form of a NATO co-operation exercise. The Belgian Army kindly gave us the use of a disused missile site. The German Army not only provided us with ranges and the use of a field training area but arranged a German classification for some of the squadron.

THREE PHASES

Camp itself was split up into three phases. The first was a work up period concentrating on Map-reading, First Aid, Weapon handling, Combat Survival and Basic Battle drills. Helicopter and Assault boat training provided more interest. The second was an escape and evasion exercise designed to test all this and the individual. The third phase was a recuperation period!

PRISON FARE

The second phase, Exercise Busy Chain, began on Friday night after a training period in the field carrying out section attacks and long map reading exercises. Before tea the 'escapees' were gathered together for an exercise briefing and scene setting. Immediately after this a surprise attack put paid to the rest of the weekend for the escapees. 'Fantasians' dressed for the job poured in to take the remnant of Commcen Uniform into the 'bag'.

The prisoners began to realise that Ex Busy Chain was serious when they had their first taste of prison camp fare ably prepared by comrade cook Thompson. They showed their appreciation in no uncertain manner, but missed their opportunity for a last satisfying(?) meal before the exercise began. All the prisoners were quickly processed through the fantasian search squads and despatched by lorries to the notorious prison camp commanded by comrade **Sergei Gellinski** (The YOS). **Cpl Plant** and **LCpl Theo Caderius Van Veen** had made an initial successful escape but by this time had been returned to the fold.

OUT OF THE BAG

Fortunately for the prisoners they were soon converted into escapees by the enterprising escape officer **Lt Mike Dent.** (He claims he's done it all before, earlier in his long career!). Complete with escape maps and escape kit (40 pfgs for emergencies) and a poncho the escapees were given the location of their first contact. The escapees were moving in groups of four and they soon found that their contact was based at the



Lt Mike Dent with a prisoner whilst Cpl Marty Taylor points out the way to retreat



LCpl Paul Bartlett does his best to persuade his meal to die. (The 'O', SSgt Bernie Thomas, had to finish the job)

wrong end of a long lake with an assault boat. A 2 km paddle through the darkness would soon put them at the right end of the lake with their next contact. **Sig Smith** got into the rhythm of the paddle and rapidly fell asleep. He woke up fairly quickly when he fell in the Twiste Stausse.

After the paddle the escapees commenced the long trek home via a series of contacts who had the extraordinary habit of testing them on such varied subjects as Map Reading, First Aid, Obstacle crossing and Absailing. The only food supplied in the trek, by the generous escape organisation, was a self service stand comprising a particularly scrawny chicken per group and a handful of potatoes and carrots, vintage nettle tea washed this extravaganza down.

CHANGE OF ROLE

The fantasian forces were not idle. **Comrades Holder, Lewington, Marsden** and **Tiplady** spearheaded a mobile snatch squad which roamed the area searching for weary escapees. The magnets of Snell Imbiss stands and phone booths proved to be fertile ambush areas for escapees seeking extra rations or booking taxis. Many escapees struck lucky with the incredibly friendly locals who appeared to provide them with assistance in the form of lifts, beer, baths and food. (2IC's note—next year book an uninhabited island). The escape route was long hard and frustrating as confused contacts sent the escapees round in circles putting all of them under considerable physical and mental strain. It was inevitable that many were recaptured and had to be re-rescued by **Lt Mike Dent** (There was no escape from the hiking though). Some also fell out with blistered feet unused to the strain of kilometre crunching. Sunday night brought the surviving escapees to a harbour area where soup and blister powder awaited them.

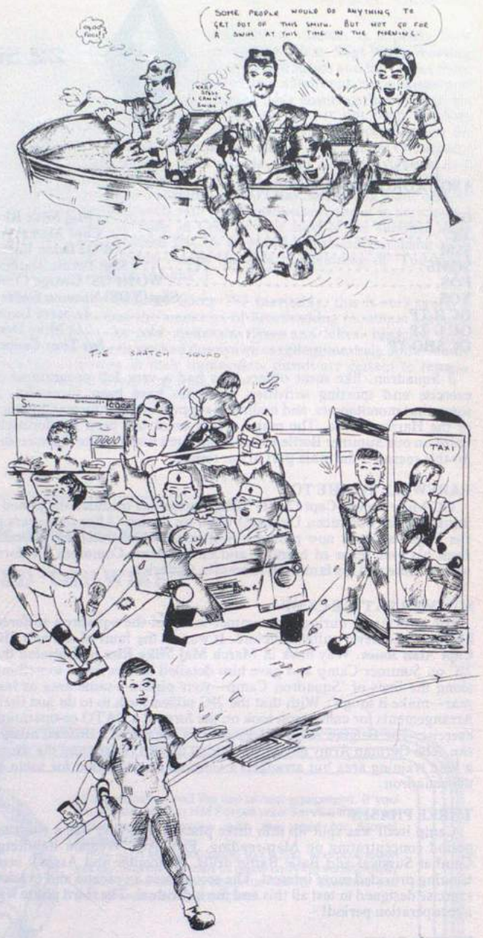
The tide of war had been reversed and in the morning the survivors were rebanded into a infantry platoon, picked up by helicopter and flown to collect weapons and ammunition. A quick briefing was followed by a heliborne assault on the prison camp to rescue their comrades and wreak revenge on **Sergi Gellinski** and the other tormentors of the weekend.

The attack was successful and despite a last minute bid for freedom by the newly captured comrade **(SSM) Brian Eason** which was foiled by the helicopter pilot, the attackers flew back in style leaving **Sergei** and his boys to hike it home.

In short a tough and challenging weekend, which many found harder than they had expected but for those who had completed the course a real achievement. The course had been run as a competition and the winning squad **Cpl Biddel, Sig McGuinness, Sig Cairns** and **Cfn Burgess** received splendid trophies at the Barbeque held to celebrate a successful battle camp.



Cpl 'Yodel' Thompson (ACC) fails to be impressed by the culinary expertise of LCpl Steve James section. From the left Sig Pete Gudge, LCpl Mick Bradshaw, LCpl Steve James, Cpl 'Yodel' Thompson and Sig Pov Poval





Cfn Mick Burgess carries out a quick search of a body during the final attack

CRICKET

The Cricket Season has got off to a slow start with the bad winter and the extension of the Football Season into June. Summer Camps and Summer Sales have also taken their toll but we have managed to play a few games. The team has been strengthened by the arrivals of **Capt Tom Richardson, Capt Ian Griffiths** and **Sgt Charlie Griffiths** (RCT). The old stalwarts of **Sgt Dave Stone 1 WO2 Mike Ledwards** and **LCpl Paul Collins,** have meant a reasonably strong side.

Two notable wins have been against RAF Gutersloh in a friendly and 22 Air Defence Regt in the last round of the Div Cup. They were last years winners.

Individual performances to date have been:

Capt Tom Richardson V RAF Gutersloh 14 overs, 5 maidens, 3 wickets for 20 runs.

LCpl Calvin Lambert V 22 AD Regt 7 overs, 2 maidens, 2 wickets for 9 runs.

Sgt Dave Stone V 22 AD Regt 75 not out.

It is hoped that this will be a good season.

SAILING

We are well into the sailing season and we have already had a busy and successful time. Offshore courses at Kiel have produced 3 Skipper 35's and a large number of soldiers have had an introduction to offshore sailing. Adventurous training expeditions led by **Lt Nick Handy** have used the Corps Yacht Pegasus and the 120 sq metre yacht Flamingo. The Regiment entered two crews in the Royal Signals Baltic Regatta and considering the relative inexperience of the crews we were well pleased with our placings on most of the legs. Indeed, Spear, skippered by **Sgt Jock Bruce** (on loan from BKYC) and navigated by **Capt Alan Jones** came a close 2nd in the longest leg from Kiel to Copenhagen. The race itself was a challenging but highly enjoyable week and the weather was generally just what was required. The success of all our activities at Kiel was due in no small way to the assistance given by the BKYC and the hard work put in by **LCpl Theo Caderius Van Veen** instructing there.

On the dinghy side our main event has been the Regimental Regatta which proved to be a competitive and successful series of races. The wind held for both days and a tight schedule ensured that plenty of races took place and by the end of the regatta most competitors were well and truly tired. Headquarters squadron 3 boats put up the best performance and carried away the inter-squadron trophies. The individual race became really competitive with **Capt Peter Bowles** holding on to his first position narrowly beating **Sgt Slim Hodgson** and **Maj Sam Saunders.**



Jostling at the start line at COPENHAGEN with Spears skipper Sgt Jock Bruce (BKYC), Cpl Kev Myers and Sig Cliff Knighton waiting for the gun

TENNIS

The Lippstadt Station. Tennis Tournament was held between the 20th and 28th July. This was its' second year. Two Regiments competed; 22 Signal Regiment and 27 Field Regiment RA and their dependants. Three Competitions were held; Mens Singles, Mens Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

The Tournament was dominated by players and wives from 22 Signal Regiment. It was good to see the courts in continual use throughout the week and new talent was quickly spotted and earmarked for next years team. The Prizes donated by Jo's Mobile Snacks and were presented this year by The Station Commander **Lt Col J Miller RA,** who was slightly surprised to see no members of his Regiment involved in the Finals.

Results Were:—

Singles: **Sig John Cook** beat **Maj (Rev) Tom Hiney** 6-2, 6-8, 7-5.

Doubles: **WO2 Mick Ledwards** and **Cpl Alec Hamilton** beat **Sig John Cook** and **LCpl Dave Harmen** 7-5, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles: **Cpl** and **Mrs Alec Hamilton** beat **WO2 Ledwards** and **Mrs Trish Jackson** 7-6, 5-7, 6-4.

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.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

ALIVE AND KICKING
Much to our dismay, BOTH copies of our last WIRE notes ended up on the file! Friends of the Regiment may relax — we are alive and well.

DYERS VISIT
A recent visit by some very good friends of the Regiment gave us much pleasure. Representatives of the Worshipful Company of Dyers, who adopted us in 1960, spent the day looking round the unit. They were very interested in seeing all we do and **Mr Crockatt,** the Prime Warden, presented LS&GCs to **Sgt Maj Fogg, Staff Battisby, Staff Nevill** and **Staff Stanley.** That night at a most enjoyable Cygnet Dinner, the Dyers presented us with a magnificent Loving Cup in memory of **Col 'Tubby' Marshall.**

A return visit was arranged by the Dyers for a party of our soldiers who had a splendid day in London, including a visit to meet the Lord Mayor.



Mr Crockatt presenting Staff Battisby with his LS&GC



The Regimental Group with the Lord Mayor at Mansion House



The Lord Mayor being introduced to Cpl 'Robo' Robinson by Maj Bill Turney. LCpl 'Steve' Bolton and Cpl Al Dunhill look on while Sig Taff Passmore desperately tries to remember his name!

ALDERNEY
We went to see another set of good friends this summer. Our annual camp on the Island of Alderney saw some fairly miserable weather but some very warm hospitality. The Island sportsmen showed us the way in most things but we did manage to beat them at darts. **SSM Fogg** found a lake full of large trout and hauled in quite a few. The 2IC found a parking space in the middle of town and collected parking ticket number 0001 (he is going back next year for 0002!)

PTARMIGAN
3 Sqn recently demonstrated some working Ptarmigan hardware for the first time. Delighted at last to get their teeth into just a bit of the system, they provided **Gen Sir Hugh Beach (MGO)** with an excellent demonstration of the SCRA facility. **Sgt Pete Halstead** (after some persuasion) and **Sgt John Chapman** drove the terminal vehicles and **SSgt (FofS) Mick Woodhouse** (the nearest thing to a Yeoman available) managed to shoulder a manpack radio to demonstrate the CNRI.



The MGO talking to Sgt Halstead, Sgt Chapman and FofS Woodhouse

ONE SQUADRON REPORT

ALFA TROOP LANDINGS IN NORWAY!
At last, the true story of what actually happened on Ex Pendulum. No more oblique references, no more innuendoes. This is the way it was! Once more, the Royal Marines hosted a D13 detachment, plugged into DCN. The first three weeks were occupied with a strenuous Arctic Warfare Training course, based at Oysand Camp, some 15km from the seething fleshpots of Trondheim. It was cold enough to freeze the grommets off your ice-pick, but the steely blue-eyed killers came through unscathed. Indeed, some of the crew were recommended for further training as ski instructors. Notably **Cpl Mick Couston** (our resident stroppy Jock), **LCpl Snoopy Barron** (nominee for the 'Tailor & Cutter' best dressed squaddie award), and **Cpl Mick Evans,** who fancies himself as a new Franz Klammer.

Our roving reporter also spotted that star of the slopes, **Sig Jim Martin,** famed exponent of the death-defying 'Helicopter Turn', and also considered by our panel of experts to be the least likely to see next Christmas. Rumour has it that **LCpl Hannibal Hayes** was seen parting with hard earned cash, in exchange for a rather natty pair of downhill racers. He also bought some skis. What nerve! What determination! What had he been drinking?

COURTESY DCN
The detachment commander, **Lt Gerry Corbet,** had some good news towards the end of the marathon deployment. His wife **Anne** produced a noisy 8½ lb son on March 20. The word arrived, deep inside the Arctic Circle, barely six hours after the event. Proof, if proof be needed, that DCN does have its uses.

2 SQUADRON REPORT
Report by:—WO2 'Dusty' Miller

Turbulence is the restful aspect of life in 2 Squadron—did I say Squadron? (240 strong). The jealous may well ask 'Which untapped source of men have been discovered by 'Shiney Two' '. To quell all rumours I will attempt to explain. Like the amoebae we are ambitious, we extended our pseudopodia along 'D' corridor stretching the Nucleus to its maximum, happily in 'B' corridor we met Comcen Whiskey completely unaware. Passive resistance was quickly overcome as Comcen Whiskey was quickly absorbed as a welcome addition to our empire.

Medical reports indicate a successful ingestion except for the hallowed territory occupied by the dreaded 'Blandford Beasties' better known throughout the Corps as 'Hairies'. Their latest act of repelling all boarders was mentioned, then discussed at the highest level (2nd floor to be exact), then **SSM Terry Dodson** was pulled down a peg (and got plastered), so the OC, **Maj Bill Lidster** telling the SSM to hop it, took on a literal meaning. Still, not to be deterred he is back in the driving seat with his very big, heavy, plastered foot under the table; intelligence reports a metal beetle epidemic is imminent, so metal crutches beware.

Our SQMS, **Jim Hehir** has just recovered from 'Never', he has now been mercilessly struck down by 'trout', yes I mean 'trout'. The symptoms are OC Net Radio **Lt Tim Rimell** and **Jim Hehir** spending a lot of time and lolly 'fly dressing'. Very delicate hands are a necessity especially for spoilt temperamental flies who refuse to put on their pullovers. **Lt Tim Rimell's** contribution to the year of the child is most commendable and deserves a mention (26 miles marathon). It is intentional that no mention has been made to detachments, exercises, training, visits etc as I am sure this issue contains enough 'War news'. The size of our empire prohibits too much individual reference, so to those departing we say goodbye and all the very best and to the new arrivals its a hearty welcome.

One of the more recent additions to Squadron strength has been **2Lt Debbie Farrant, WRAC.** Commissioned in April, she joined the Squadron as Admin Offr, or as some prefer to call her 'Sqn Capt's Secretary' and even 'Assistant Sgt Maj'. Her training at the WRAC College, Camberley was eight months long and was designed to give her a better understanding of her Corps and its women. A Sqn of men as her first job has not seemed to worry her unduly, so far, despite the attempts at Sqn Happy Hours! and with the promise of going on exercise with the Sqn to Germany, at least, in the Autumn she is thoroughly enjoying herself.

HF TROOP IN KENYA AND OTHER EXOTIC PLACES
Report by:—Cpl 'Nick' Carter (Bwana)

Hi you lucky people. I have been asked to volunteer (lemoned) to tell you about HF Troop's role in Kenya. What can I say, except that we go to Kenya for about nine months in the year. We go in support of either Engineers or Infantry, to provide comms back to Civilisation. Whilst in Kenya we get the chance to do all sorts of Adventurous Training like Mountain Climbing, Canoeing, Sailing, Safaris, lazing in the Sun, 'Ornithology', and, of course, a bit of operating.

I want to tell you about the good things, as we enjoy going every year, but I don't want to make all you RTGs out there jealous and have you volunteering for Blandford. Might put me out of a cushy number! So I'll tell you the bad things instead. We only work morse. The temperature is about 100°F during the day and drops at night—it gets really cold. The beer isn't always ice cold. Sometimes a warm beer slips through and we have a near mutiny on our hands.

The Pan African season is about to start in August and will continue through to May next year. On the Agenda this year are exercises in Kenya, Gambia, and a bonus one in the Sudan. So next time you hear from us we will have a few sandbags and coffee beans to throw around and of course a few stories from the lads who unfortunately have been 'Shanghaied' into volunteering their services in these exotic countries.

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32 Sig Regt (V), Glasgow

TROPICAL SUNSHINE

As promised in the last issue of The Wire, 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) have the honour to report their safe return from Annual Camp. And what a camp it was! Pretty standard military training courses in the rain for the first week and a rugged defence exercise in tropical sunshine during the second. All amid the glorious Norfolk countryside and the excellent facilities of Stanford Training Area. A host of visitors beginning with Commander 2 Signal Group, **Brig Dowell** (and his left and right hand men), CSO UKLF, **Brig Butler, Commander Lowlands, Brig Gregor MacGregor of MacGregor** and finally GOC Scotland, **Lt Gen Sir Michael Gow,** all of whom took a great interst in our training, particularly the involvement of our WRAC during the exercise. Long will I remember the sight of **Capt Liz Campbell,** pick in hand, together with **2Lt Myra Douglas** wielding a shovel. They dug the finest slit trench in the West, and in quick time. Our newest commissioned **2Lt Alex Jenkinson** hurtling down the 'Death Slide' at the end of the confidence course struck terror into many hearts and caused several people to follow her example. **Pte McKay WRAC** proved to be a fine shot on the sophisticated Individual Battle Shooting Range (presumably she was practising for a competition!) and **Pte Cameron WRAC** masterminded a magnificent dinner in WO's and Sgt's Mess at which the new Commanding Officer was dined in. She also helped in putting on a memorable Officers Mess dinner at which **Brig Butler** was our guest, and our Honorary Colonel, **Col Lloyd** was present. It was a splendid occassion to dine out the 2IC, **Maj Scott Buchanan** (No Irish Jokes were permitted!) The Guidon parade was held on Saturday in bright sunshine and despite slight changes to the order of parade—all went swimmingly!

A day off in Yarmouth and the Norfolk Broads put everyone in fine fettle for the exercise, and now over to the Squadrons.

HQ SQN

Wouldn't it be a pleasure to write romantic dramas about the unsung heroes of every successful camp. But what can you say except thanks to the Admin Staff—eight cooks to run three messes, one armoury Sgt issuing weapons at all hours of the day and night, a Quartermaster's Department without a department.

In addition to all their daily duties at least one cook clobbered a Squadron Commander who had the temerity to attack a field cookhouse. We expect them to do it all—and thank goodness they do!

51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (V)

OC—Maj Ken Sutherland, TD
2IC—Capt Norman Strachan, TD
SSM—WO2 Findlay.

Well once again Camp is over—51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (V) were at Bodney Camp, Stanford PTA Norfolk, 9-23 June 1979.

During the first week several courses were organised including:
A Recruits Course
A Det Commanders Course
and A Staff Sgts Course

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the courses, Instructors and Students alike.

The second week consisted of an Exercise of the Infantry variety. There were numerous 'real' enemy attacks (plus persistent silent raids from midges etc) including one from our Pipe Band who took an Enemy Role during a break from performing at local engagements.

The finale to the Exercise took the form of a mud bath with the Squadron manoeuvring over the obstacles of the assault course plus an added hazard in the shape of 69 Sqn during which all and sundry were plastered. The same evening festivities were prolonged culminating in a 'Splash-Out' at the Squadron night out at the Hare & Barrel in Watton. Though few in numbers at Camp, having only 44 people in total, we certainly made our presence felt in that we jointly won the Whistler Trophy for being the best Squadron at Annual Camp.

PRESENTATIONS

In addition to those at Camp, 22 of our members have attended courses in lieu and during the period of Camp at Catterick and Guildford etc., for Recruit Training and Trade Training.

Cpl Black G.N (REME) was presented after the Guidon Ceremony with his Efficiency Medal for 12 years service, initially with 51 Highland Divisional Signals and latterly with 51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (V).



Exercise Control Ops Officer, Maj Alec Ramsay and 2IC Maj Scott Buchanan



The CO has led RHQ over the assault course, but the Adjutant looks altogether too clean



Bodney 1979



Detachment Commander Cpl Stevenson in charge on the net

Cpl Dyker I, (ACC) was the male winner of the Myers Cup which is jointly presented to the persons male/female who are considered to have achieved most for morale and recruiting within the Regiment during the year.

SSgt Muirhead M.L, (WRAC) was joint winner of the best student award of the SSgt Course, having come top in all aspects of the subjects covered.

52 (LOWLAND) SIG SQN (V)
OC—Maj Mike Sandys

TRANSFORMATION

This years camp was a 'fun' camp—we know this was true because the Training Major kept telling us so. Since our last camp kept us confined in our operational vehicles we went the whole hog the other way this time and we were confined to the open air in the Thetford Training Area. For the purpose of Exercise *Norfolk Change*, the girls were transformed into men (The Army makes a man of you) and the whole squadron was transformed into an Infantry Company and given the task of defending a totally useless piece of ground against all comers.

MUD ENCRUSTED WRAC

During nights we were so alert that anything that moved was fired on—mice, leaves, sentries, DS, insects etc. Visitors were stunned at the sheer brilliance of our defensive plan (our second infantry adviser said he had never seen anything like it) and were even more amazed to find that many of the black faced mud encrusted defendants were WRAC. A lot of us, who are usually only seen working at their operational role, showed skills which nobody ever thought we had when put into a hard pressed tight knit defensive situation.

Sgt Jackie Dollen (Line Troop) proved to be a tremendous digger of slit trenches ('are we allowed to use a shovel?') and our two cooks from the Tervit family (brother and brother) were expert snatch squad runners capturing one of the enemy ('can we cook him?'). **Sgt (Creepy) Cullen** (Recruit Troop) could move round in the dark so silently that Tonto has asked for his correspondence course. His silence was only once spoiled by a loud oath when his night vision let him down and he walked into a tree.

Cpl (Christmas) Fenwick (Receiver Troop) had bionic hearing and was able to detect the enemy 4,000 metres away.

In his natural element with radio **Cpl (I've met Prince Charles) O'Reilly** manned our contact with the outside world day and night awaiting the 'come back all is forgiven' call from exercise control. It was a good exercise and everyone put their backs and their enthusiasm into it. 'Remember the infantry do this all the time' was the cry—'Serve them right' was the reply.

PIPES & DRUMS

Annual Camp for the Regtl P & D turned into an extraordinary experience. After playing for a local Town fete near Glasgow the P & D advanced on Bodney Camp, confident in their proficiency as trademen and ability to cope with a busy round of entertaining appreciative or bewildered Sassenach hordes. At the first engagement, crowds thronged the Green at Hunstanton on the Wash. As the Almighty is a bandsman (Pipe & Drums) the dark and sullen clouds rolled back and the performance was given in bright sunshine to an appreciative 500. (Maybe the English *do* have an ear for music!).

It was a great pleasure to play for the Pass Off parade of the Junior Signalmen Wing of 11 Sig Regt. Although a 0600 hrs rise to acclimatise the Boys was somewhat of a strain. Nobody seems to appreciate what delicate animals the bagpipes are, and early rising is not one of its strong points.

And the Vietnamese have a lot to answer for! If there had not been 'boat people', the Argylls would not have been sent to Hong Kong and their Pipes and Drums would have played for the RAC Pass Off Parade at Catterick.

As it was our Pipes and Drums had the honour of playing at the final parade of recruits of all Regiments of the RAC.

DRUM SGT RECOVERED

But then—Rifles! As 52 Sqn slept (1100 hrs) a patrol of the P & D ably guided by gillies and a poacher set out on a fighting patrol to attack our enemy. Total surprise was achieved and the defenders were routed, well not quite, a Drum Sgt was taken prisoner. Not to worry, the Pipers rallied and with a second attack got him back. At least, that is what the CO ordered us to do.

61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V)

Whilst the rest of the Regiment drove off to camp on 9 June, a small team from 61 put on a display at Livingston New Town with the K.A.P.E. Teams. The Corps was well represented with ourselves, 61 Sqn TAVR, the White Helmets, the Regular Recruiting Team, the Junior Signals Display Team from 11 Sig Regt Ouston and 242 Sig Sqn.

Then to camp. We won The Cup for the best Squadron of the year and also half the shield for best Squadron at camp. The second week of camp was an infantry type exercise where, for once, we actually had to crawl, march and dig trenches! Having driven off attacks by mosquitoes, various other creepie crawly life and heat exhaustion (one of our girls was taken by ambulance), we then had to survive the attacks of the other Squadrons and an enemy of indeterminate composition (Pipers, PSIs and more creepie crawly things!) **Cpl Barry Cairns** went off to fetch his bivvy one night, visited some gunners in the area and having become even more lost, erected his bivvy some 200 metres in front of our trenches in no man's land. **2Lt Jim Black** went to fetch him and himself got lost. (We need roads to follow and telephone boxes and crossroads to find in this unit.)

Cleverly we absorbed an attack by our enemy group by leaving two captured enemy on a bridge we were defending so that they could be picked up by their friends. They were attacked by the second group of enemy who promptly expended all their ammo on the two unfortunate and bewildered Irishmen, before realising their mistake and being forced into surrendering in order to deliver the closedown message to our Command Post.

WATER FINALE

To end with, we attacked our transport with all our own remaining ammo before being driven to a second location, the assault course. Things didn't go too badly till near the end when we encountered the water jump ('did anyone see the water?'), the hippopotamus song had nothing on the post exercise 'wash-up' in the hands of **Maj Jimmy Rhynas**, the OC.

Next month we have the Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade along Princes Street and an open day at Ferranti's Electronics firm in Dalkeith.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

VISIT BY THE COLONEL IN CHIEF TO MANCHESTER

The RSM, **WO1 G. Platts**, six male and two female TAVR members of 42 Signal Squadron (V) of 33 Signal Regiment (V) lined the route and assisted the Civil Police and Security Officers with crowd control during the visit of **HRH The Princess Anne** for the official opening of the Arndale Shopping Precinct in Manchester on Wednesday 30th May 1979.



The Colonel in Chief HRH The Princess Anne meeting WO1 (RSM) G. Platts during her visit to the official opening of the Arndale Shopping Precinct in Manchester on Wednesday 30th May 1979
(By Courtesy of The Manchester Evening News)



A final check by OC HQ Sqn (V), Maj Doug Murray TD, prior to departure from Lime St Station, Liverpool



WRAC members of the Regt also 'enjoying' getting fit for the 'Tickle Test'
(By Courtesy of South Lancs Newspapers)



That early morning agony in preparation for the infamous 'Tickle Test' under AIPT LCpl Steve Donoghue.
(By Courtesy of South Lancs Newspapers)

APPOINTMENT OF VICE LORD LIEUTENANT OF MERSEYSIDE

The London Gazette has announced that HM The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint **Col JG Bryson OB E, TD, JP, DL, LLM,** Honorary Colonel of 33 Signal Regiment (V), as Her Vice Lord Lieutenant for the County of Merseyside.

ANNUAL CAMP VIA BR 'TROOP TRAIN'

Saturday 2nd June saw the gathering of the Regiment for its annual brush with reality, this year in the UK on the Cornish Coast at Penhale Army Training Camp. The aim being to upgrade individual and detachment skills to take the Regiment through to the 1980's. To conserve fuel the minimum transport for administrative and training purposes was taken to Camp, and the majority of the Regiment went by 'troop train' from Liverpool to Truro, Cornwall, which meant that we had for once to carry our creature comforts and Commcen Tp's ironing boards and Line TP's washing machines had to be left languishing behind at TAVR Centres. Movement by train certainly made the long journey more comfortable if rather tiring: in fact it was so tiring that the Regiment failed to consume all the liquid refreshment that had been provided for the journey, which perhaps showed a sad lack of stamina!

THE TICKLE TEST

This situation was soon to be improved when the entire Regiment was subjected each morning to twenty-five minutes gruelling running around the camp area, and for those who could take it, through the neighbouring Sandhills too. This torturous activity was in preparation for the infamous 'Tickle Test', which was held on the last day of camp, and in which the Regiment achieved a very creditable pass rate, proving that all the early morning agony had indeed been worthwhile.

In addition to separate courses for upgrading each signal trade, a course was held for some 40 Recruits. In addition there was a course for junior officers which provided invaluable instruction in the tactical application of the Regiments mobilisation role. The course culminated in a 48 hour exercise to put theory into practice, which was both enjoyable and instructive.

RUM IN JUNE

A Regimental Parade was held on the middle Saturday and on the previous day the Regiment was totally drenched by torrential rain during the morning and afternoon rehearsals; so much so that the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD** authorised an issue of Rum to warm up cold and aching bodies. A Rum issue in Flaming June! There were fears that an official 'umbrella bearer' would have to be detailed to shelter **Maj Gen Peter Sibbald OBE**, GOC North West District, from the elements when he inspected the Regiment the following day. Such fears, however, proved groundless when Saturday dawned with clear blue skies, and the sunshine coupled with the splended music by the band of the 17/21st Lancers, made the event a very memorable and happy occasion in which all present experienced great pride in the Regiment's achievement.

WELCOME VISITORS

It was gratifying to have so much interest shown by the many Senior Officers who visited us during Camp, these also included the Commander 11 Signal Group (V) **Brig Godfrey Curl** and his deputy **Col John Eversfield ERD, Brig D. L. Ormorod** Secretary of the North West of England & IOM TAVRA, and **Col E I. Millington** DDWRAC. The Mayor and Mayoress of Knowsley **Cllr & Mrs J. Bohannia** also made a special effort to find time to visit us, as of course did our Honorary Colonel, **Col Paddy Bryson OBE, TD, JP, DL, LLM.** In addition we were delighted that **Mr Steve McLean** and **Mr Harold Troughton** of the Prescot and Huyton Reporter were able to spend a few days with us to provide material for an article in their paper to apraise the public of their local Regiments activities. A very worthwhile PR exercise.

TESTING TIME

During the final week trade tests were held, the Recruits Course Pass Off parade was inspected by the Group Commander, and sporting and social events were completed. HQ Sqn (V) won the inter Squadron football competition, 59 Sqn (V) held a barbeque on the beach, and other Sqns held parties at various restaurants and clubs in the neighbouring towns.

It was a new venture for 'Thirty Three' to hold a purely individual training camp, without any form of Sqn or Regimental Exercise. It gave us time however to get down to basics and it was certainly a well worthwhile experiment. We are now looking forward to putting our improved skills into practice during the next Regimental Exercise in October.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Knowsley, Cllr & Mrs J. Bohannia, share a joke with SSgt (Odd Job man) Roger Iredale and SSgt (ORQMS) Laura Nuttall WRAC at RHQ
(By Courtesy of South Lancs Newspapers)



The CO, Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD, at the head of the Regiment for the March Past. Maj Green Peter Sibbald OBE takes the salute—supported by The Honorary Colonel and the Deputy Commander 11 Signal Group (V)
(By Courtesy SS Barton, Truro)



Brig Godfrey Curl inspecting the Recruits Course 'Pass Off' parade



Brig Godfrey Curl visits the Recruits Course in the field

RIGOROUS CRITERIA FOR NIJMEGEN

Report by Lt G. H. Stow

Despite last year's resolution of 'never again' the 33rd Signal Regiment team duly mustered at the end of February to commence training for the Nijmegen Marches. The original squad had 21 members but these were gradually reduced as training progressed and the rigorous selection criteria was enforced. (Do you support Liverpool Football Club? Can you drink eight pints of beer at one sitting? Are you

physically fit?) The final team of 13 had five new members including two members of 80 Squadron, **SSgt Harry Sahari** (PSI) and **Sgt Barry Shone.** The war stories told by the one year veterans from 59 Squadron were temporarily stilled when **SSgt Sahari** announced that the 1979 Nijmegen Marches would be his Sixth!

For **SSgt Tom ('march or die') Padden,** this Nijmegen was to be his last regimental commitment before posting to Cyprus and his third visit to Nijmegen (it is rumoured that he also once went with the Royal Artillery as—bike orderly?).

Obviously unnerved by the team's success in 1978, UKLF failed to nominate the team for the 1979 marches. However, **Brig Gen J. P. Le Clerc** kindly accepted the team as one of the three AFCENT entries, the other two teams coming from 227 Signal Squadron and AFCENT itself.

DAY 1

We arrived at Maastricht in the early hours of Sunday morning after a 21 hours journey in our mini-bus. At 0900 hours we paraded with the other AFCENT teams to practice the march past. We survived this without causing **WO1 (RSM) Hudson** of 227 Signal Sqn too much pain (why did he make us march at the back?) The following morning we moved to Nijmegen and eventually, after one or two administrative difficulties (I thought 'It will be alright on the day' and 'it's all changed' were only TAVR sayings?), we occupied 15 man tents provided by the Dutch Army, a great improvement on the 100 man tents of last year.

That evening we took part in the opening ceremony in the Nijmegen Sports Stadium and participated in the march past the Prime Minister of the Netherlands. We were also pleased to see that the rumours about the regular Army not having No 2 Dress were unfounded, although as we wore berets, perhaps they do not have any blue hats!

SMILES AND KIND WEATHER

The marching began on the next day and took its usual painful and yet hilarious course. We will always remember the American team's dancing to our rendering of 'Hokey Kokey', the look of disdain on the face of the English Police team at **LCpl Ralph Harwood**'s admonition that they 'should be home catching Jack the Ripper', and the look of panic on the face of the Captain of a famous Infantry Regiment's team when advised 'Eh Ay Adio your all out of step!'

The weather was kind to us and the temperature remained at a reasonable level, cool enough for marching but warm enough to enable us to drink our beer in comfort. The beer obviously affected **LCpl Steve Donoughue**'s eyesight, as he protested bitterly at our unwillingness to give 'eyes right' to a Belgian General (a Dutch postman) and strenously resisted the saluting of a Dutch railway guard (a British General).

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

On the final morning were were delighted to meet both **Maj Gen P A C Baldwin** and our Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD** at the famous pontoon bridge. The Colonel's presence here and at the march past was a tremendous fillip to morale. Having finally finished (and taken mischievous pleasure at being in front of the other two AFCENT teams) we marched with the Dutch contingent into Nijmegen. At some stage the band and the remainder of the parade left us and we enjoyed a splendid solitary triumphal procession of our own down the crowded streets into Nigmegen (we are still at the back), **Brig Gen J. P. Le Clerc** taking the salute.

Altogether it was another wonderful experience. Yes, we will go again. The team gained the following medals:-

1 Sixth time medal
1 Three time medal.
5 Second time medals.
4 First time medals.
1 Orderly's medal.
1 Team Medal.



Lt Graham Stow leading the Regimental Team through Nijmegen at the end of the four days march

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

DVT & C SEES 49 SQN

The Director of Volunteers Territorials and Cadets, **Maj Gen J. H. Foster,** visited 49 Sig Sqn at Harewood Barracks, Leeds on the evening of the 12 June. It was a busy day sandwiched between a Squadron weekend at beautiful Hornsea and a Regimental exercise at the somewhat less beautiful Catterick Training area. **Gen Foster** had only 30 minutes with the Sqn, and a whirlwind tour was arranged so that he could meet as many members of the Sqn as possible. He was met by **Lt Col David Jolly,** CO 34 Sig Regt and **Maj Peter Sutherland,** OC of 49 Sqn together with **SSM J. Child.** In the Drill Hall the DVT & C talked to each one of a dozen recruits, giving them a brief respite from the Drill instruction of **Sgt C. Howells. Gen Foster** then moved to the miniature range where **SSgt A. Vance** was conducting shooting practice. He then went on to talk to **Sgt J. (Dusty) Miller,** who was giving initial interview and intake tests to potential recruits. Last stop was the trade training section which proved to be of particular interest, so ending an encouraging but all to brief visit.



Gen Foster and SSgt A. Vance obviously find something funny in the way the CO (off picture) 'tells them'



The DVT & C meets SSM J. Child

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Apart from being *extremely* busy over the past few months with exercises and other bread and butter matters, we have been pleased to welcome a number of distinguished visitors:

The QMG—**Gen Sir Patrick J. Howard-Dobson KCB**
GOC North East District—**Maj Gen H. G. Woods MBE MC**
Director of Volunteers, Territorials & Cadets—**Maj Gen J. H. Forster CB**
The Master of Signals—**Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO**
and the Assistant Director of WRAC UKLF to name but a few.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Our Training Major, **George Finney** has escaped to MOD London and will be sadly missed by all those members of the Regiment who, during his three year reign of terror, managed to avoid participating in any of his exercises. We wish him well in his new appointment in MCP 31a. The address is important, not only for the Mess Secretary but so that we may send on his replacement Mess Kit trousers—but that is another story!

We extend a warm welcome to his replacement, **Graham Elliot,** who has now joined us from 30 Sig Regt at Blandford. As our Summer Camp consists of a four day exercise en route, a three day ex at Camp location and a four day repeat of the first ex on the journey home, we shall follow this stage of his career with special interest.

Peter Studd, our Adjutant, could stand the pace no longer. Taking to heart the maxim, 'those who can, do, those who can't, teach and those who can't teach, teach others to teach,' has exchanged his pips for a crown and is now installed as OC HQ Sqn at AAC Harrogate.

Our peace however was short lived. **Chris Nind,** apparently tired of the sun, has joined us from HQ Land Forces in Cyprus. We understand it has been renamed 'HQ Landscape Forces' in recognition of **Capt Nind's** skill at marrying his ability to delegate with that of an artist.

We are sad to report the moves of two long serving Volunteer Officers:

Maj John Smith TD, formerly Second-in-Command, has joined 12 Group as Watchkeeper.

Maj John Thew TD has moved north to 72 Engineer Brigade.

Camp will not be the same this year without them, the Padre will have to buy his own pipe tobacco for one thing!

Preparations are well under way for our Annual Camp, this year 'somewhere in darkest England' Through Regimental and Squadron exercises the whole behemoth known as 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V) is calibrating every nerve to be in tune for this event. Naturally I am unable to share with you any details of these advanced training methods, though if they speak nicely to us, we may tell all to 36 & 40 Regts at the next Gp Study Weekend.



Capt Peter Studd (now Major) on the occasion of his presentation on leaving the Regiment prior to posting to AAC Harrogate
Left to right in picture: WO2 (FofS) James, WO1 (RSM) R. Mills, Capt (now Major) Peter Studd, Maj (2i/c) Bill Illingworth

Freedom Parade

FREEDOM CEREMONY

34 (N) Signals Regiment (V), with its RHQ at Middlesbrough in the County of Cleveland, exercised its right of Freedom to march through the streets of that town on Saturday 5 March. The Parade consisted of two squadrons of soldiers drawn from Middlesbrough, Darlington and Leeds, together with one Squadron of WRAC—all Volunteers.

The Mayor of Middlesbrough, **Councillor John Stokes,** and other Civic officials entertained 350 all ranks of the Regiment to a Dinner Dance. This was held in the Dragonara Hotel Middlesbrough, on the evening before the parade.

150 all ranks formed up outside Middlesbrough Town Hall to be inspected by the Mayor. Parade personalities included:

Maj Bill Illingworth TD	— the Parade Commander
Maj Ron Atkinson TD	
Maj Geoff Berry TD	— the three Squadron Commanders
Capt Mary Nicholson	
Lt Terry Cushen	— Motorised Contingent Commander
WO I. H. Bent	— Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer.

The saluting dias contained:

The Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough, **Cllr John & Mrs Mary Stokes**
The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO**
The Honorary Colonel of 34 Sig Regt, **Col John Davies TD**
The Lord High Sherrif of Cleveland, **Capt Southland**
The Commanding Officer of 34 Sig Regt, **Lt Col David Jolly**
The Commander of 12 Group, **Brig Ronnie Stonham**
The Commander of Catterick Garrison, **Brig Alan Yeoman**
and three previous CO's **Col Keith Olds**—now commanding 1 Sig Group
Col Mike Stewart—Col Commandant of Cadets Cleveland
Lt Col Colin Beadle.

After some kind words of welcome, the Mayor presented the Regiment with six silver goblets. We reciprocated by presenting the town with a figurine, depicting a Royal Signals Officer in Dress Uniform. Following an inspection of the Parade by the Major, the Band of the Regiment, **Bandmaster Mr Farrington,** led the Parade through the streets of Middlesbrough, much to the delight of its citizens, many of whom lined the route.

The weather was kind and this very successful ceremony ended with tea at the Dragonara Hotel. Here wives and children were able to mingle with the Parade participants and the Town Councillors of Middlesbrough.



Left to right: Maj Bill Illingworth TD, Parade Commander; Lt Col D. J. Jolly, Commanding Officer 34 Sigs; WO1 Bent, Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer; Col John Davies TD, Hon Colonel 34 Sigs; Councillor John Stokes, Mayor of Middlesbrough



The Regiment marching through the streets of Middlesbrough, led by Lt Ray Clifford and SSM North, both members of 90 (NR) Sqn based at Middlesbrough

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

Report by Maj (TOT) John Wall

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHT

Considering that Annual Camp is the highlight in a TA Unit's calendar, readers of these notes will not be surprised to find Camp 1979 emerging as the dominant theme in this contribution—particularly in view of the unique contribution played by NORTHAG Signal Support Group in Exercise *Wild Rover*.

FIRST TIME

For the first time a major TA Unit has exercised in the UK with eleements from the Belgian, Dutch and German forces, and we consider it a feather in our cap, and a matter of some considerable satisfaction that a policy we have been advocating for some years has, at last, come to fruition.

CONTINUITY

Exercising in Germany as we do every other year inevitably means that there is a big turnover of personnel on both sides—particularly amongst the ranks of our Sponsor Unit 28 Sig Regt, and the mainly conscript armies of our NATO Allies. Clearly there is a continuity problem, and anything we can do to alleviate this problem makes sense and must lead to better understanding. You can imagine our feelings, therefore, when we learned that a party of Belgian, Dutch and German Signallers would be joining the Regiment for the first week of Camp, which on this occasion, took the form of a highly mobile communications exercise—appropriately named 'Wild Rover'.

ENFORCED DELAY

The party of 45 men and 12 vehicles were originally scheduled to arrive by LSL four days before Camp, on Tuesday 3 July, but due to the ship's breakdown they were forced to amend their plans so that they literally drove off the ship at Marchwood (Southampton) and made straight for Cannock Chase, the location chosen by 35 Sig Regt (V) for Switch Charlie—on Phase 1 of exercise '*Wild Rover*'. By the time **Maj Chris Dakin** (28 Sig Regt Ops Offr) and his party had arrived, the Volunteers (and Permanent Staff of course, I was taken to task by the RSM, **WO1 Joe Albon** for neglecting to mention them on the pre-Camp Press Release) had deployed from TA Centres in Birmingham, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Rugby, Shrewsbury and Hereford—and were set up and busy establishing comms over a wide area, stretching up to Lancaster.

TECHNICAL BOOST

Included in the party were eight from 28 Sig Regt—seven of them Technicians. These were immediately absorbed in the TCC and ACC complex, providing a welcome boost to our own Technical strength at this year's Camp. This being the year when approximately one third of our total strength have either attended or are due to attend Recruit, Trade or Qualifying Courses in lieu.

QUICKLY INTEGRATED

Meanwhile the eight Linemen from the Netherlands Signal Squadron were quickly integrated with our own Linemen in C Troop under the Command of **Capt Ed Noortwijk** (Royal Netherlands Army)—OC Line Platoon. The role of the 19 strong German Radio Relay contingent from 840 Fernmelde Bn, Essen Kray was slightly different inasmuch that they were tasked with providing a discreet Radio Relay Shot into Switch C, resulting in their OC, **Hauptfeldwebel Wolfgang Mollenhauer** spending a very busy few hours attending briefings, plotting routes, and generally getting his detachments ready for their task. Similarly, **First Sergeant Major 'Fred' Van-der-Waerdem** and his Belgian H. F. Radio detachments from 13 cie TTR Squadron were quickly on the road to the Maer Hills to make contact with our Bravo Troop. Our friends from Northag certainly had no time to get acclimatized, it was straight in and go forthe next seven days.

PRESS INTEREST

A Press Release issued before Camp and widely distributed throughout the West Midlands had received the hoped for reaction, so besides dealing with enquiries before the Exercise, two of the largest newspaper groups in the area sent their reporters and photographers to record this unique gathering of Signallers exercising for the first time in the UK with a TA Unit.



Photograph taken soon after our NSSG visitors arrived at Switch Charlie on Cannock Chase showing *Left to right:* Cpc Heinz—Georg Sieffert—840 Fernmelde Battalion, Cpl Stef Dera—NL Sig Sqn, Cpl Steve Schoevarts—13 (BE) Cie TTR, discussing proposed routes with Pte Allison Stretton (WRAC)—Ord Room Clerk, Sgt Bill Bishop—MT Tp

Photograph taken by Robert May, Staff Photographer Birmingham Evening Mail



When there's work to be done it's all hands to the wheel. LCpl Colin Tunnicliffe (right) a Combat Radio Relayman with 'X' Tp in Shrewsbury finds willing helpers on Ex *Wild Rover*' in the form of, left to right, Cpl Uwe Radmacher, Sgt Wolfgang Gruner and Cpl Heinz-Georg Sieffert (The wheel on this occasion being a 10 pair cable drum at Switch Charlie)

ON THE MOVE

Cannock Chase was an excellent choice for the Switch location on Phase 1 of Ex '*Wild Rover*'. Apart from Y Troop who are based in Hereford, it was a convenient drive for the rest of the Regiment, and as the Deputy Commander West Midland District **Brig Ian Rose** remarked when he visited the Regiment, 'It is probably the nearest equivalent to a German Forest our friends from Northag are likely to encounter—at least in the Midlands'.

Phase 2 location was to be Halton Bridging Camp near Lancaster—approximately 120 miles north, therefore, once **Lt Terry Phillips'** U Troop from Rugby had established an inter-switch link between Halton and Cannock, Phase 1 gradually gave way to Phase 2, and the centre of activity moved from the Midlands to the North West. The 'hairies' of C Troop now under the Command of **Capt Ed Noortwijk** really got a soaking—moving ahead of the main party to Halton they ran into typical Lake District weather—the only rain of any consequence encountered during the whole of camp. Fortunately, by the time the main party arrived late on Sunday evening (8 July) the weather had cleared and we were in good heart for the Commander 11 Signal Group, **Brig Godfrey Curl's**, visit the next day.

To make doubly sure we were doing our stuff, NSSG kept tabs on us too in the form of **Maj Jef Goetelin** SO S3, who stayed for three days, and the new Deputy Commander NSSG, **Lt Col B. O. Haw** (Royal Signals), who was with the Regiment on and off for a week. I gather they were well satisfied with the results, especially the way our Belgian, Dutch and German and 28 Sig Regt friends had integrated into their first UK exercise.

VISITORS DAY

Almost every day saw a visitor to Camp, but Tuesday 10 July was set aside for the main influx—the venue being the non-tactical location alongside the River Lune at Halton. Hardly the ideal conditions to show visitors around but Switch sites are not easy to find in that part of the country. Leading the group was the Deputy Commander (V) South West Midland District **Col A. B. Griffiths TD**, together with ADWRAC, **Lt Col S. P. Richards (WRAC)**, ADEME(V), **Lt Col D. Drury TD** and the CO of our 11 Signal Group colleagues—33 Sig Regt (V) **Lt Col P. F. Jolliffe**, who, for once, had no distance to travel, living barely 2½ miles (as the crow flies) from Halton Bridging Camp.

ACROSS THE PENNINES

Hardly had the visitors departed than it was 'up sticks' and away, this time to Strensall Training Area, York—a route which takes you through some of the most beautiful scenery in England. Surely a real eye opener for our Belgian, Dutch and German friends. X Troop, Commanded by **2 Lt John Hodges**, had the demanding task of bridging the Pennines between Halton and Strensall, it took three relays, one of which was provided by U Troop.

The move into the Phase 3 location at Strensall was accomplished at nightfall, and the Switch was again back to a fully tactical mode, giving our NBC Officer, **Capt 'Nick' Candler** his first real opportunity to practice his NBC procedures. The move was not without incident. The German Radio Relay Crew, unfortunately, drove across a boggy piece of ground in the dark and, despite repeated attempts to winch the vehicle and trailer clear, it needed the LAD recovery team in the form of **Sgt Cliff Glassborow** and **LCpl Michael Heningham**, with the faithful old Scammel, to finally do the job. For the LAD it made a welcome change from dealing with Bedfords and Commers. Previously, whilst still at Halton, they managed to keep one of the Mercedes on the road. Perhaps the main thanks should go to HQ Squadron, **SSM Jack Chambers**, who, hearing that the main UK dealers had interrogated their computer and declared there was not a replacement bendix unit for a starter motor for a 1965 model in the whole of Britain—went to Morecambe and, through a superb piece of scrounging, returned with a brand new one for £15.00. Truly some people are gifted that way!

THE FUNERAL

Someone else seems gifted, in quite another field. I refer to **SSgt (FOS) Mick Killick,** who disclosed his previously undiscovered talents as an undertaker, when he master minded the most impressive funeral for M Troop's latest (and sadly lamented) mascot—Sig 'Bird'. Sig 'Bird' was a Pigeon who wandered into M Troop's complex at Halton, was adopted by the 'Technicians', but, who unfortunately died between Halton and Strensall. Death, I hasten to add, was through natural causes, not as some wag unkindly remarked, 'The result of **Cpl Alan Boyle** over enthusiastically trying to feed it by ramming corn down his throat with an eight inch screwdriver.' Be that as it may, the Foreman and his able lieutenant decided he should have a full military funeral, and FMF he had complete with Guard of Honour and Bugler. Six hymns were sung, all to that grand old tune 'Lloyd George Knew My Father'—there was not a dry eye in the place. The Foreman was magnificent, and could well do worse than take up Funeral Directing (if that is the correct term) when he leaves the Service.



ANNUAL CAMP 7-21 JULY 1979

Who said we never took photographs of the permanent staff? Second from right: Capt (QM) Bob Peake BEM enjoying a drink with some of his PSI colleagues outside the Officers Mess, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough

Left to right: SSgt Bernie Burnett, Sgt Chris Smith, SSgt John Telford, WO1 (MTO) Ted Percival, Capt (QM) Bob Peake, SSgt (ORSQMS) 'Mac' MacGregor

Fortunately the other 'hitch hiker', a budgerigar which flew into U Troop's multiplex vehicle, also at Halton, survived the journey, and because he steadfastly refused to leave was adopted by 89 Sqn and is now settling down nicely in Rugby—Ahh.

What our Continental friends must have made of all this, I do not know, but by this time the exercise had gone so well they probably thought it was the TA tradition to celebrate a successful exercise in this manner. Not that exercise '*Wild Rover*' was over at this stage—far from it. Moves were still taking place, circuits were humming and generally everything was going to plan—enabling the CO, **Lt Col Ken Smith**, to devote more time to conducting the numerous visitors around.

Thursday 12 July saw two more, The Honorary Colonel REME (V) West, **Col D. E. Filer TD** and **Miss Sheila Whitehead** the Post Offices 'Courier' reporter, who came to renew old acquaintances and write a feature on Post Office personnel at Camp.

THE LAST LAP

And so to Phase 4, which involved the gradual swinging of comms onto the sports field in Burniston Barracks, Scarborough—a superb site overlooking the North Bay, and a fitting climax to a unique multi-national exercise. For our Northag colleagues it meant a swift de-brief, preparation for the journey back and a well earned break to savour the delights of Scarborough. In fact some of them, those off shift at the time, had even managed a few hours in Blackpool when Switch was at Halton, and York when we were in Strensall. It was a brief but just reward for their hard work and total commitment towards the exercise. As **Cpl Heinz-Georg Sieffert** replied in answer to the Birmingham Mail reporter at Cannock Chase, 'We are one Army, whether we are German, British, Belgian or Dutch.' That about sums up what exercise '*Wild Rover*' was all about.

MINI-REUNION

On Saturday lunchtime, the Officers had their traditional fish lunch, thanks to some hard bargaining by **Maj Derek Eve** (PSO) on Scarborough Fish Quay at the crack of dawn, and superb preparation by the mess cooks **Cpl Neil Miles** and **LCpl Stephney Gibbons.** These days the event is taking on the form of a mini-regimental reunion with many ex members of the Regiment attending—some even breaking caravan holidays in order to do so. The guests were too numerous to mention, but I don't think anyone will mind if I single out **Col John Eversfield ERD** Deputy Commander 11 Signal Group, who spent a weekend with us.

SLEEPING?—CERTAINLY NOT

Our Chaplain, **Capt Max Lucas,** held his customary non denominational service in the Gym on Sunday, with the CO, **Lt Col Ken Smith**, reading the lesson. Happily the Chaplain's sermons are always topical and lively so it's not difficult to keep awake. This was certainly true (well, with one exception) when the OC of The Signal Training Centre, Scarborough, **Maj (QM) ASR Alfred MBE,** gave his well known lecture on Drill and Discipline to the Officers and Seniors

later in the week. One poor soul (a 2Lt in the WRAC who shall be nameless) happened to close her eyes for a few seconds and henceforth became the focus of **Maj Alfred's** attention. What had all the appearances of being a boring dry lecture turned out to be just the opposite, well done **Maj Alfred** and your staff—and hard luck 'Mo'.

WEEK TWO

The second week of Camp was dominated in the main by three specific events. Monday and Tuesday being set aside for Military Training at Strensall; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday being taken up with in-camp training in Basic Signalling Skills, Det Commanders Trade and Recruit Courses. And in the evenings an inter-squadron type football competition.

MILITARY TRAINING

The two day event on Strensall Training Area devised and directed by a team lead by OC 48 Sqn, **Maj Bob Titterington**, the idea being for teams made up of Corporals and below to tackle a series of seven stands which taught and tested military skills. One of the best received was the ETR fire task, where the team leader directed the fire of the LMG and the remaining seven SLRs against targets which appeared unpredictably. A section attack found many Corporal team leaders rusty at Infantry Skills, and a night ambush tested the reactions of everyone.

Whilst individuals from 48 Sqn took eight out of the top ten places, it was 89 Sqn who won the team competition by just one point. They also provided the individual winner in **Sig Paul Fundak. Pte Phillipa Henwood** was declared winner of a slightly modified competition for WRAC. The GOC West Midland District, **Maj Gen J. A. Ward-Booth OBE,** having arrived in Scarborough the previous evening and spent Tuesday with the Regiment, rounded off the proceedings by presenting prizes to the winners.

Wednesday 18 July saw another influx of visitors to observe trade training and in the case of the CO and CO designate of 28 Sig Regt, **Lt Cols T. R. Eamey** and **P. Webb**, to evaluate the Exercise and discuss plans for next year's Camp in Germany. Also paying a welcome visit was the Honorary Colonel, **Col A. Fender TD ADC DL**, and a return visit by the Commander 11 Signal Group, **Brig Godfrey Curl.**

SPORTING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

As previously mentioned, the evenings were taken up with the football knockout and the various squadron parties. The football competition, in which even some of the girls took part (nobody worried about how many played in a team), was eventually won by the permanent Staff who beat HQ Sqn in the Final—much to the relief of the RSM, **WO1 Joe Albon** and the consternation of the Volunteers, who were convinced the Referee, **Sgt Trevor Jones (RAPC),** had been 'got at'.

The week in Burniston Barracks provides an opportunity for each of the Squadrons to have its party and after many years of Scarborough camps all of the good pubs are well documented and patronized. The WRAC girls do rather well out of this because all of the five Squadrons do not have WRAC and, therefore, there is keen bidding from those who are without to get them to their particular party. The CO and 2 i/c, having attended all five parties in two nights, were looking decidedly jaded by Friday morning, but their efforts to get round and attempt to have a drink with everyone were appreciated.

The opportunity is also taken for the Officers and Warrant Officers and Sergeants Messes to have Dinner Nights.

NOTABLE GUEST

The Officers were pleased this year to have as their premier guest **Col F. E. B. Jones OBE TD DL JP,** an ex Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and a founder member of the Corps, who was celebrating his 80th birthday. 80 years young is the only way to describe him, and we hope that he will grace our table for many years to come.

MENTIONED

Camp 1979 is now over but before leaving the subject for another year may I be permitted to single out a few individuals for special mention.

Our thanks to the ACC Cooks under **Sgt Chris Allen** and **Sgt Roy Wallace**, who once again produced some excellent meals with the minimum of help.

Congratulations to U Troop for being adjudged to be the most proficient Radio Relay Troop at Camp and winning the Woodbridge Trophy. **Sgt Dick Cox** stepping up to receive the Cup from the 2 i/c, **Maj David Moore,** in the absence of his OC, **Lt Terry Phillips**, who was not able to attend for the second week of Camp.

Well done **WO2 (AQMS) Roger Jennings** and his colleagues in the LAD for working such long hours and coping so well with the extra load.

Our sympathy and appreciation to **Maj (TOT) Alec Peebles** who, though prevented from attending Camp because of a family bereavement, nevertheless did his usual meticulous pre-Camp planning and thus made sure that his deputy, **SSgt (FOS) Mick Killick** and the 'techs' from 35 and 28 Sig Regt, were able to step into the breach, and ensure exercise '*Wild Rover*' went off without a hitch.

And finally to **Capt Ed Noortwijk, Hauptfeldwebel Wolfgang Mollenhauer,** and **First Sergeant Maj 'Fred' Van-der-Waerdem** who, before they set off for the Continent, presented Commemorative Plaques to the Regiment on behalf of the Dutch, German and Belgian contingents respectively—our sincere thanks and warm appreciation for your efforts. We look forward to meeting you in Germany next year—and in the UK in 1981 (NSSG please note).

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

These notes would not be complete without thanking our retiring Training Major **Mike Brock** for his contribution over the last twelve months. We regret his stay was so short, but wish him and his wife **Sue** a long and happy 'retirement', rose growing in Guernsey.

By the same token we welcome from 8 Sig Regt **Maj Richard Harrison** who takes over as Training Major albeit if only until next January. And hopefully for a little longer, two new PSIs, **Sgt Darell Allard** from SHAPE, and **Sgt Chris Smith** from 7 Sig Regt.

STOP PRESS

The news that the Government is to implement the recommendations of the Shapland Report is a real shot in the arm for the TA. I am not in possession of details, but if reports are true the increases should provide a tremendous stimulus to recruiting as well as encouraging the trained soldiers to re-engage.



The WO's and Sgts being marched to the Officers Mess in Burniston Barracks, Scarborough for the traditional lunch-time drinks by Sgt Helen Gardner (WRAC)—whistling would you believe it 'Colonel Bogey'

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION

37th Sig Regt (V) Bristol

BACK IN PRINT

After an absence of over two years from the pages of The Wire the new management of 37 (Wessex & Welsh) Signal Regiment (V) has decided to reassure the rest of the Corps that it still exists. For the uninformed, the Regiment covers a wide area of Wessex and Wales embracing the three Districts of South West, West Midlands and Wales. With 43 Sig Sqn (V) in Bridgwater, 53 Sig Sqn (V) in Cardiff, 57 Sig Sqn (V) Bristol and 67 Sig Sqn (V) in Stratford upon Avon and Signal Troops in Cheltenham and Stourbridge the RHQ Regular permanent staff based in Bristol spend many miles on the road making the necessary liaison visits.

THE PERMANENT STAFF

Within the past three months the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Keith Brown TD** has seen virtually the whole of his Regular staff in Bristol change over. Even now he is contemplating his own handover programme for October when **Lt Col Mike Jennings** takes over the reins.

At this time an introduction to the Regular staff at RHQ will at least be almost up to date.

CO	**Lt Col Keith Brown TD**	
QM	**Lt Col (QM) Terry Cantle MBE**	
Trg Maj	**Maj Vernon Smith**	
Adjt	**Capt Derek Howshall**	
RSM	**WO1 Cliff Moore**	
MTWO	**WO1 Pete Kearns**	
FOS	**WO2 Keith Zoing**	
YOS	**WO2 Ron Butcher**	
RQMS	**WO2 John Hunt**	
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Ken Yarker**	**designate SSgt John Richardson**
R Tech	**Sgt Alan Dorritt**	
TE Tech	**Sgt Fred Smith**	

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Early June saw hectic activity as the Regiment prepared for Summer Camp at Scarborough. **Capt Derek Howshall** took over the job of Adjutant from **Capt Richard Mardo** who then disappeared halfway through camp to join 229 Sig Sqn in Berlin. **Maj Vernon Smith** arrived from the corridors of the Ministry and stepped into the still warm chair as Training Major vice **Maj Peter Chase** who was by then concentrating on being resettled.

Maj (QM) Des Thomas found the strain of Camp all too much and decided to stay in Yorkshire. He handed over to **Maj (QM) Terry Cantle** who had arrived hot-foot from 14 Sig Regt (EW). At this point we must register our special congratulations to **Terry Cantle** on his well earned promotion to Lt Col and the award of MBE. Not a bad year so far! 14's loss is our gain.

The list of recent handovers continues. **WO2 (YOS) Wes Clarke** carried us through Camp and then heaved a great sigh of relief, handed over to **WO2 Ron Butcher** and headed off to BAOR to join 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. **WO1 Tony Perkin** passed his well organised MT emporium to **WO1 Pete Kearns** (late 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) and moved up the Motorway to Birmingham UOTC. **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Hazel** transferred his ledgers to **WO2 (RQMS) John Hunt** and moved to 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.

The musical chairs continues with **SSgt Ken Yarker** preparing to hand his files over to **SSgt John Richardson** at the end of August. This leaves only the RSM and the CO as the continuity men and as already stated **Lt Col Keith Brown** is now 'days to do'. Our best wishes to all past members of the Regiment. Thanks for your efforts. To their successors, best of British, you'll need it.

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

So, in addition to our personality changes what else happened? Well, Summer Camp proved an outstanding success with a large part of the credit due to **Maj (QM) Alan Alfred MBE** and the staff of the Signal Training Centre, Scarborough for their willing and efficient assistance.

The fortnight's camp was devoted to trade training with a fair number of sports and social activities for good measure. An enjoyable time was had by all and much valuable trade experience and upgrading was achieved.



The Commanding Officer's parade was a good effort and certainly brought the Regiment together. It also provided a fitting occasion for the presentation of the Territorial Decoration to **Capt Tim Gibson**, a volunteer officer who regularly attends training with 53 Sig Sqn (V) in Cardiff despite living in Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire.

During the period of the camp we were pleased to welcome the following distinguished visitors who all expressed their satisfaction with the activities being undertaken by the volunteers.

Brig A. L. Dowell	Comd 2 Sig Gp
Brig I. M. Rose	D Comd WM District
Brig J. G. Starling	D Comd SW District
Col Sir John Wills Bt TD JP	Honorary Colonel
Lt Col S. P. Richards	ADWRAC SW District

We congratulate **Cpl Angela Franklin WRAC (V)** on passing out top of the WRAC Detachment Commanders course and all the girls for their efforts under the threats, guidance and encouragement of **WO2 Kay Pope.**

THE TRICYCLE

A fitting finale to the camp came on the last day when the Commanding Officer became suspiciously aware of various happenings about which he had not been informed. The Burniston Escape Committee which was an underground organisation heavily infiltrated by the WRAC contingent formed up for the final escape bid, clad in 'kits escaping various' and assorted useful implements. **Lt Col Brown** was unsuspectingly led into a tour of inspection of this motley crew . . . meanwhile the rest of the Regiment was formed up on the main square and the 'tricycle' was prepared. A word of explanation. The tricycle was an LAD inspired feat of dubious engineering produced for the Nijmegen March Team as support vehicle. A necessary addition to the team as it was found that the chosen 'bicycle orderly' could not 'bicycle'. Hence the tricycle.

Eventually, the CO was induced to risk his life and manhood by riding out of the camp. This symbolic act was thus to mark his leaving the Regiment after two years in command as this was the last occasion before October when the majority of the Regiment were gathered together.

In spite of hazards such as inherent instability and lack of brakes the CO successfully reached the camp gates and was symbolically ejected.

A fitting end to a successful and worthwhile camp.



STOP PRESS: Our team has returned triumphant from the Marches with a team medal. We applaud their effort as this was 37's first time at Nijmegen with a team of three Regular PSI's, **WO2 (FOS) Keith Zoing, SSgt Tony Ashton REME** and **SSgt Chick Cheetham** and ten volunteers.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

SCARBOROUGH 1979

Camp 79 in May, was once again in Scarborough. The STC has been the venue for our UK camp for many years and is well known by the Ulster Volunteers. The weather was kind and we had an enjoyable camp, both militarily and socially. The emphasis was on military training in week one and the second week saw the Squadron exercises and the Inter Troop Competition. During both weeks we held trade boards and a recruit course, so we used our time fully.

The competition was won by E Troop from Lurgan and was a welcome present for the new Tp Comd, **2Lt Jimmy Woods. Jimmy** joined the camp in the second week after passing his commissioning course at the RMA Sandhurst.

On Sunday 20 May, the Regiment paraded for our Honorary Colonel, **Col John McCann, CBE, TD.** This was followed by our thank you, guest lunches in both the Officers and Sergeants Mess. The Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough attended, as well as our many friends from the Town and 34 Sig Regt (V).

As it ever was, we hosted many visitors from Northern Ireland and the Mainland. We were particularly pleased to see **Brig Norman Butler, CBE, CSO,** UKLF and **Brig Ronnie Stonham** our 12 Sig Gp (V) Commander, take a good look at us. We were equally pleased to be the resident unit during the ARU visit to the STC BY **Brig Alan Yeoman,** Comd Sig Trg Gp. Now the training and build-up for our Continental Camp in 1980, but come 1981 it will be once again—Hello Scarborough!



LSL Sir Bedivere loaded with Regimental transport, anybody any good at jig-saws?



'Into Battle', elements of 66 Sqn on exercise. Who said this was a good place to sleep



Regimental march-past, Hon Col of the Regiment taking the salute, Col J. McCann CBE TD



Brig R. Stonham Comd 12 Signal Group, chats with members of the Regiment on the firing range



Brig A. Yeoman, Comd Trg Gp Royal Signals, inspects a Quarter-guard mounted by members of the Regiment, during his ARU visit to the STC

News from Squadrons

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

Report by WO2(Y of S) Dave Thomas

LOOKING BACK

1979 started predictably enough when the OC, **Maj Mike Patterson,** in a fit of alcoholic remorse shattered the peace and tranquility of the festive season and launched the Squadron into two months of training—starting with individual skills and culminating in a squadron exercise. The usual number of shake down problems occurred:- **Cpl 'Smudger' Smith's** FFR charging system disappeared in clouds of smoke, his crew **Sig Kev Newbon** abandoned rover, and the fire was put out by **Cpl Mick McGuigan** who was 'only along for the ride'. Shortly afterwards technician (groan) **Cpls Whyle** and **Rowlstone** won the 1 Tonne Parking Award for March with an unbeatable '20 mph, onside, in ditch! Keep it up lads!

SKIING REPORT

The newly formed Sqn Ski team, recruited by **Capt Howard Ham,** attended the Scottish Ski Meeting in March and achieved a very creditable overall team position of 15th out of over 30 teams. **Cpl Steve Major** finished a well deserved 8th and should go onto greater success next season. The team comprised of the following: **Maj East** from Force HQ, **Capt (let me drive) Ham, Sgt Scouse O'Brien, Cpl Steve Major, Sgt 'Spoons' Martin** and **Sig 'Charlie' Brown.**

EX SHOOTING STAR

As April approached, dark rumours of Battlecamp spread like compo margarine and the Squadron braced itself for the annual ten day action man course. In retrospect everyone had a good time. The Chief instructor, **Sgt Tom Appleyard** RPC managed to devise a programme of ranges incorporating weapons ranging from the pistol to the 84mm MAW. A lot of physical exertion kept the blood circulating during the bad weather. In fact snow produced the April parking award which went to **Sgt Ovington** with a skilfull "¾ ton landrover sideways drift into ditch". Other awards included the misfire trophy won by **Cpl 'Ginge' Fordyce** who copped five sub calibre misfires on the 84mm with two misfire Heat rounds. In addition thanks must go to **Cpl Jim Crickmays** troop for singing, **Cpl Jim Taylors** troop for trying (very), **Cpl Steve Majors** troop for shooting (joke) and finally **Sig Albert Luke** for his special contribution to the NAAFI rebate.

INTO THE SUN

The most pleasurable way to dispel a winter of miserable weather and strikes is to fly off into the Mediterranean sunshine. Exercise *Lion Sun III* offered the Squadron just this opportunity, combining a Force CPX with adventerous and military training giving everyone, including the Commander as wide a variety of activities, that only Cyprus can offer. Although the squadron provided the administration, we were joined by soldiers from seemingly every other unit in the south of England; this worked, allowing both TAVR and recruits from Catterick the chance of visiting and working with a regular unit under ideal conditions.

BEACH COMBERS

SSgt Spud Budden, designated CSO Evdimou Beach, became a legend in his own lifetime as the first SQMS to have twenty million tons of sand and a thousand million gallons of sea water on charge. He ran the water based activities without actually getting his feet wet but managed to win the golden blanket award for most time spent examining the inside of his tent.

The wind surfing provided some of the best entertainment for both participants and spectators. **SSgt Bill Tatnall** and **LCpl Pete Peakall** making solo dashes for Haifa or North Africa depending on the vagaries of the wind. **Cpl Len Fairclough** on loan from 249 Sig Sqn came close to manslaughter when he threw a snake into **Spud's** lap when he was least expecting it. Fortunately the snake was dead, but since **Spud** didn't know this, his heart nearly suffered a similar fate.

BITSA BAR-B-QUE

Exercise Venus Rock III was unusual to us in that we took over some of 262 Sig Sqn's communication commitments but not, alas, their WRAC personnel. 262 proved unstinting hosts in both their help on the exercise and their hospitality at the Bar-B-Que afterwards. **Lt John McIntyre** belatedly presented **Maj Martin** with our Squadron plaque in thanks for all his help.

The East End also housed our shooting team and range classification efforts. They may not have shot many rounds but they all managed to get sun tans which made the immigration control at Brize Norton look twice at all their passports.

ESCAPE FROM TROODITZ

The mountain proved too much for all but the stoutest heart: because of his flaming red hair **Lt John McIntyre** stayed there the whole time, eventually earning the title 'Milk bottle of the year!' Rain was undoubtedly the controlling factor although the tough mountain training did much to make the 'guests' wish they had booked with another tour operator.

Sgt (I know a short cut) Mugford combined rock climbing with what should have been a straight forward hill walk, so his section didn't get to enjoy their picnic after all. The overnight camping brought nostalgic memories, especially when the compo beans and singing started.

Our thanks once again go out to the local Signal unit who proved excellent hosts, this time in providing opposition at football, basketball, volleyball and drinking, all of which they won hands down. This from only a troop (259 Mountain Tp) shows to what efforts they went to be helpful.

ITS A SPLASH OUT

The final week brought all the detachments into Radio Sonde for the first time, thus allowing two days for internal competitions of an unusual kind. Taking 'Its a Knockout' as a theme we planned our games in the same way, except in this version everyone gets wet in every game. The day was carried by the 'Techs' calling themselves the Sun Valley Gama Grabbers, followed closely by Hickeys Honkies (249 Sig Sqn) and the Sunshine Shimffers, our valiant RPC section. The management kept a low profile, although the sight of the 2IC, **Capt Howard Ham** and the QM, **Lt Col Fredie Marsh** racing down the beach in flippers, snorkles and mask carrying an inflatable raft will long be remembered by all who saw it. The day was rounded off by a Kangaroo court inquiring into the theft of 2.5 centimetres of suntan from the QM's nose. **Sgt Tom Appleyard,** our RPC Sgt, was found guilty (of course) and sentenced to death by the OC, **Maj Mike Patterson.** The sentence was summarily carried out by the MTO, **Sgt Al Liddell** and **Sgt Mick O'Brien,** much to the amusement of the rest of the Squadron.



Flipper Freaks! The QM and the 2IC try to escape with an inflatable dingy under the watchful eyes of Sgt 'Spud' Burden, YofS 'Groucho' Thomas

SPORTS REPORT

Throughout the month three unit Football matches were played all against strong opposition, fully acclimatised and playing on their home grounds. The overall results of one fine win and two narrow defeats reflects admirably on the spirit and determination of the team as a whole. A special mention must go to **LCpl John Meikle** for his sterling goal keeping, and **Sgt Barry Statham** as Capt and fine exponent of the game. **Dvr Bob Cherry** without a doubt was man of the match against QLR, and **Cpl Vic Francis,** both showed just how well individuals can play when they are at their best.

As in all things Ex *lying in the sun III* as Tom Appleyard's wife insisted on calling it, had to close. Besides there is a limit to how much sun you can take in a short space of time. Now it's back to Bulford in time to move to Tidworth, (yes Jellalabad again) and for the fortur few Denmark or Italy, but more about that next time.

BERLIN

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

ARMY SWIMMING CHAMPIONS—FOURTH TIME RUNNING

Our big news this month is of course the success of our swimming team in winning the Army Minor Units Swimming Championship for the fourth year in succession. Their victory at RMA Sandhurst on 28 July could not have been more convincing—the Squadron gained maximum points, coming first in every one of the six events and beating our nearest rivals (HQ & Trg Cen RADC) by a margin of 13 points. Undoubtedly our most impressive win came in the Freestyle Relay, when the team set a new Army record time of 2 mins 29.6 secs, beating the previous mark by an amazing 5 seconds! **Sig Alan Patterson** also set up a new Army record in the Individual Backstroke event.



229 SIGNAL SQUADRON (BERLIN) SWIMMING TEAM

Back row, left to right: Sig Roger Bradley, LCpl Geordie Iley, Cpl John Scurr, Sig Andy Glenn
Front row, left to right: Cpl Tony Hodgson, Sig Henry Newton, Maj Peter Webster, SSgt Paddy Lavery, Cpl Mick Brady, Sig Dickie Bird
(Sig Alan Patterson is missing from this photo)

—AFTER DISAPPOINTMENT

For our swimming team, the win was a just reward after the severe disappointment of losing their BAOR Minor Units title to C Bty RHA when the BAOR Finals were held in Berlin recently. Having won all four individual events in new BAOR record times, the team looked to have come an easy first in the 4 x 50m Medley Relay and set yet another BAOR record, only to find themselves disqualified for a takeover infrigement, thereby losing all their points for that event. Little wonder that in the final event, the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, they lost vital seconds in making sure that they satisfied the judges—another disqualification and they would have been ineligible to compete in the Army Championships which, as subsequent events have proved, would have been a tragedy. Fortunately all went well and, although sorry to be BAOR Runners-Up instead of Champions, our swimmers are delighted to have proved themselves in the 'big one'.

THE CREDIT

Much of the credit for the success of the team must go to **SSgt Paddy Lavery,** who has devoted many long hours to coaching the swimmers and bringing on new talent. The fact that apart from the unfortunate disqualification the team has lost only one event in competition this season, and has established so many new Field Force, BAOR and and Army records, shows what excellent results he has achieved in a unit where swimming standards were already very high indeed.

Among the swimmers themselves, consistently fine performances have come from **LCpl Geordie Illey, Sig Henry Newton** and **Sig Alan Patterson** in the individual events. They have been admirably supported in the relay events by the other team members, all of whom have achieved personal best performances this season, and by the reserves. They all agree that superb fitness and an excellent team spirit have been the keys to their success. Following the Army Finals, **Sig Newton** and **Sig Patterson** were selected for the Army Swimming Team. So the Army Minor Units Swimming trophy returns to Berlin for the fourth time. We are now looking forward to the 1980 season and the chance to make it five in a row!

VISIT OF C IN C

On 16 July the Commander in Chief, British Army of the Rhine, **Gen Sir William Scotter KCB OBE MC,** visited Berlin, including 229 Sig Sqn. After a very worthwhile expedition to the Squadron in the field, **Gen Scotter** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Sgts Barry Merrick, 'Taff' Murphy, Terry Machon** and **Cpl Brian Brown.** The medal presentations were made in the Kuppelsaal area of London Block and were followed by drinks with **Gen Scotter, Maj Gen Richardson** (GOC Berlin), **Brig McMicking** (Commander Berlin Fd Force), and the OC Squadron, **Maj Peter Webster.**



CORPS WEEKEND

The Berlin Garrison were given a special treat during the weekend 9/10 June in the form of the Royals Signals Corps weekend. It goes without saying that the weekend was a hugh success which was made possible thanks to the close co-operation between 3 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt and ourselves, working under the guiding hand of CSO, **Lt Col Roger Cemm.** 3 Sqn supplied the organising ability and we supplied the muscle! I hasten to add that we could have supplied both had we not also been involved in hosting the Morrison Cup minor units athletics meeting.

Giving credit where credit is due, it must be made clear at this point that the whole weekend would have been a non-event without the Corps Band. Under **Lt Col Keith Boulding,** Director of Music, they succeeded in winning the hearts of the many people who were lucky enough to hear and see them play. Our sincere thanks go to them all.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

2Lt Gordon Rafferty, who led the Sqn's Nijmegen March team this year, writes:

"8 am on Sunday 15 July saw 13 members of the 229 Sig Sqn team trying to pack themselves, and their equipment (including a bicycle) into a 17 seater Minibus: this took some doing! However, by 8.30 am we were on our way to Nijmegen. The long drive from Berlin was completed without problem, thanks to our three men at the wheel (*not* at the same time!)—**Sgts Brian Cantwell** and **Angus Whitton,** and **Sig John Cawley.** On arrival at the military camp, we suddenly realised just how great was the scope of the event: everywhere to be seen were soldiers from almost every European and many overseas countries.

EARLY RELAXATION

Monday was spent recovering from our long drive, but after sorting out a few administrative points, the team went into Nijmegen itself. As there was a Summer Festival in full Swing, the town was filled to capacity: it offered much in the way of entertainment. After initial sightseeing, most of us sat in the main square and listened to various live musical performances.

THE CRUNCH

Tuesday morning was the crunch day. Reveille at 0330, and after an enormous queue for breakfast (most of the 8,000 camp inhabitants seemed to be equally hungry) we were off on the first leg of our 100 mile march. Many local people arose early to cheer us on our way too. It wasn't long before songs from the various contingents were being swapped and sung with great abandon. The American teams had a very good marching song which we all quickly adopted, and the whole atmosphere was quite different from anything we had experienced before. We were 13 amongst 17,000; as far as the eye could see there were groups of marching men and women.

CONFLICTING COMPLIMENTS

The routes were always on roads or tracks and it was thus we passed through numerous small towns and villages. Children came running up to hold hands and march with us, which made it very difficult to keep in step! We encountered many senior officers en route and gained much experience in the art of paying of compliments. **Maj Gen P A C Baldwin,** for instance, CSO BAOR, received a very hasty eyes left in one village at a time when most of the team were being held on to by at least two small children!

The day's marching normally ended mid afternoon. After a shower and change, sleep was the order of the day. No one needed much encouragement for this. Having our own RAMC medics in the team was a great help because our feet certainly took a hammering.

FINALE

On the final day we left camp at about 0430 and nothing could have stopped us from completing the course. After this last 25 miles we threw off our webbing for the last time, but only 10 minutes later we were to be on the road again for the final parade! The roads were packed to capacity on both sides with eager spectators, and they made even the 17,000 competitors seem few in number. They were all cheering, ringing bells, blowing horns—numerous other musical instruments combined with these almost to drown out the sound of the military band leading the march-past. After about an hour, we reached the Saluting dias, and the salute was taken by **Maj Gen Baldwin.** After a quick dismissal, only the coach-ride back to Berlin separated us from our much needed celebratory drinks."

EXERCISE 'FIRST TRY'

For the first time in many a while the Squadron was able to depart 'en masse' from its Olympic Stadium home and venture into the wilder parts of Berlin for a three day exercise. As well as practising our operational role, and brushing up on 'life in the field' we had a most enjoyable (but not easy!) night map-reading exercise in the Grünewald using Landrovers: convoy lights only of course!

Although the occasional sidelight was spotted by eagle-eyes **WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Elliott,** many scratches and bruises testified to the fact that the rules were generally obeyed. This was thought by many to be the 'highlight' of the exercise!

ADJUTANT GENERAL VISITS

Gen Sir Robert Ford, KCB OBE, visited Berlin on 10 and 11 July. During his full programme he found time to chat with some of our wives over tea and biscuits: rumour has it that this was his only tea break during the whole visit!

ARRIVALS AND DEPATURES

Arrivals:
Sgt Sam Coomber, Sgt Mick Reynolds.
Depatures: Sgt Mick Turvey, Sgt Terry Machon, Sig 'Klinger' Leitch, Sig Steve Richmond, LCpl Carl Strefford, Sgt Tom Delaney, Sgt Bob Welch.

To all those departing we offer our best wishes for the future, and thank them for their hard work over the past couple of years. No doubt many of them will appear in future issues of 'The Wire' and we will read of their exploits with interest. We seem to have far fewer people arriving than departing, but they are exceedingly welcome nevertheless!

242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh



SSgt (F of S) Duncan MacPhail was one of 320 graduands in the Scottish region who received their degree from the Open University in the imposing McEwan Hall at Edinburgh University on 5 May. This was the culmination of six years part time work which resulted in a general History degree.

SUMMER CAMP

The Sqn set off on the yearly pilgrimage to Loch Rannoch on the 11 of May and the two weeks of hard work and hard play produced the usual crop of amusing incidents. We were fortunate, in the main, with the weather although one of the trips up Schiehallion, the nearby 'munro', was conducted in a blinding snowstorm—so much for Scotland in late spring.

Items on the agenda included fell walking, yachting, canoeing, cycling and rock climbing for which pursuit we were lucky to have the services of **Mr Peter Cliff,** author of a very useful book called 'Mountain Navigation'—with a name like his it's difficult to imagine what other occupation he could have followed. 241 Signal Squadron supplied their fair share of the permanent staff, prominent among them being **Foreman Jim Rogers** in charge of the yachting and **Cpl Jack Gibson** who ran the bar and everybody's errands with permanent good humour.

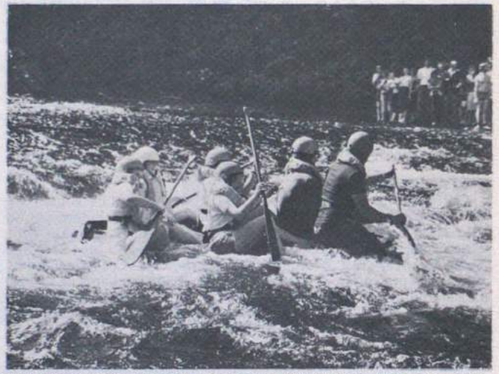
The night-time entertainment was up to the expected high standard. Contributors of note in this field were **Sgt Arnie Fleischer** of NATO FSS Collafirth Hill and **Cpl Sam Coltman** of NATO FSS Saxa Vord both of them accomplished guitarists and singers, **Sam Coltman's** progressive folk being particularly well received. **Sgt Trevor Broadley** (Mormond Hill) will never do Percy Edwards out of a job but created his share of laughs with his bird impressions and **Cpl 'Benny' Price** of 632 Troop Benbecula kept the first week amused.

The OC assumed the role of the Great Marvo on both cabaret nights and nearly succeeded in turning **Cpl Brian Rainey** into a Signalman with a wave of his magic wand when the 'assistant from the audience' pocketed a vital prop. O i/c Camp, **WO2 SSM Terry Mumford** organised the 'It's a Knockout' team game with the enthusiasm of a Butlins redcoat and designed them with the sadism of a prison guard—come to think of it those two occupations are not that far removed from one another. He also played the part of Captain Jerk in the take off of Star Ship Enterprise but took up so much stage time that he may well have to join Equity.

Newcomers to the Squadron who may well have wondered what they had let themselves in for included **Capt (TOT) 'Bill' Cochrane, FofS George Crabb, W/Ptes Bayley, Fatkin, Crutchlow,** and **Jarvis.** As is usual, the sun shone its brightest when it came time to leave Rannoch and return to work, but memories of the week should keep comcen and switchboard morale up for some time to come.



LCpl Hardiman, Pte Westall, FofS Rogers



This photograph, taken during the Tay Raft Race in June, shows the 242 Sig Sqn team:
Rear pair: Pte Linda Fatkin WRAC; LCpl Faith Neville WRAC
Middle pair: Lt Sue McFarlane WRAC; LCpl Isla Fergusson WRAC
Front pair: Sgt Rick Christie; Sgt Maurice Farquhar



LCpl Phillips, Sgt Jarvis, Sgt Clark, Sgt Pringle

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Bulford

WRONG AGAIN

Someone in the Squadron said that the period between coming back from Norway in February and going to Greece in September was going to be a 'quiet' time for us. He was wrong.

The Squadron had arrived back from Norway and had completed its move from Old Sarum to Ward Barracks, Bulford. We were all glad to be rid of the snow for another year, when due to importation of snow by QM **Maj Jack Simpson** Royal Signals into north England we were in it again. The eight unfortunates, **Cpl Jock Greig, Cpl Bob Shortis, LCpl Dave Browne, LCpl Brian Monkman, Sigs Geordie Turner, Gary Pitts, Marty Hyett** and **Bob Weeks**, plus the inevitable REME support, duly departed for the barren wastes of Catterick and surrounding area. We travelled to Catterick by train, and after settling into our accommodation for what was promised to be 'just a few days', we collected our Volvo (Snowcats) from Stockton-on-Tees amid acclaim from both national and local press. After a short journey lasting 'six hours' we arrived back at Catterick, two of the vehicles being towed in. The next day spare parts were airlifted in and Op Barrow was under way.

LIVESTOCK TARGETS

The object of the operation was to deliver foodstuffs and also to rescue livestock on the dales. The party was split into detachments and sent to different areas of the dales where they worked in conjunction with the farmers. **LCpl Brian Monkman** and **Sig Bob Weeks** along with **Cfn Jackson** REME were sent to Cumbria where they carried out their tasks from the comparative luxury of an 'Hotel'. **Cpl Jock Greig** and **Sig Gary Pitts** were sent to Weardale and during their time there were accommodated by various farmers. During the operation they moved 30 tons of foodstuffs through drifts of up to 20 feet, to outlying areas and rescued numerous sheep which had become buried in drifts. They were also interested spectators to a pitched battle between rival TV crews, and managed to supplement their vocabulary quite considerably. During this time the REME worked non-stop to maintain vehicles. The only serious mishap was when **LCpl Dave Browne** was injured in a collision with a horse box, which had become buried in the snow; happily he is now fully recovered. **Cpl Bob Shortis** and **Sig Marty Hyett** took over his remaining tasks. They also carried out the recovery of another Snowcat which had become stranded high up on the dales. After 11 days ('just a few days'?), strenuous effort the operation stood down, **Cpl John Levins** and **CFns Reed, Robinson** and **Bateman** REME arriving just in time to be too late.

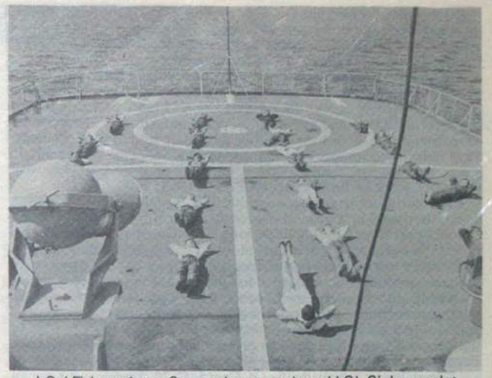
TEN TORS SUPPORT

On Wednesday 16 May a large proportion of the Squadron Deployed in support of the Annual Ten Tors Expedition. This expedition is mounted by the Armed Forces and youth groups between 14 and 19 years old compete over distances of 25 to 55 miles. We were required to provide communications on all the manned Tors for control and safety purposes. Though the Squadron is exclusively a radio unit we also engineered and ran a multiplex telegraph land line between Holming Beam and Okehampton Camp. This line was provided courtesy of SWS Troop Okehampton and has been dug in by them straight across Dartmoor. Three of the Tors are totaly inaccessible by vehicle so these dets were dismounted and air lifted into location by Royal Marine Wessex. The comms achieved during the exercise were the best standard we have achieved for a long time and there was hardly an Officer or Senior rank in sight!

EXERCISE AGATE EXCHANGE

Early on Sunday 3 June the Squadron main party left Bulford for Marchwood, near Southampton. By evening all personnel and vehicles were safely on board RFA LSL Sir Lancelot. It should have been a quiet uneventful journey as the weather was perfect, however there were a few notable incidents. A fishing competition was arranged by the ship's crew using drop lines over the port side. No fish were caught —but they caught **Sigs Bimson** and **Cowie**—they put their names down on the list! To relieve the boredom on ship we had PT on the flight deck. **Maj Fisher** was obviously very keen, he attended all four sessions. **LCpl Fisher** (not the OC's son) ran German Lessons. As dawn broke on the 6th June we landed somewhere on the mainland of Europe, to begin the exercise.

Historically, communications in this area have always been difficult and there were some fears that the Exercise could become troublesome for the Squadron. During the warm up phase Mobile Troop lived up to their name and by moving all over the area were able to build up a good local communications picture. This gave indications that some smaller hills were better than nearby larger ones as RRB sites, that some areas were virtually 'dead' as far as VHF communication were concerned. At the same time Main Troop were producing the goods by maintaining HF comms both locally and back to UK. As a result of the hard work put in early in the exercise what could have been a bad exercise turned into a very successful one. Even the Soldier who went to Copenhagen and back twice, because he overslept, managed to catch his plane out in time!



LCpl Fisher takes a German lesson on board LSL Sir Launcelot



Maj Fisher takes PT on the Flight deck of LSL Sir Lancelot

EX CANTERBURY TALES—

Report by SSgt A. D. Bowen—Main Troop

The Exercise took place in Belize over the period 2-6 July. Three detachments took part, one being attached to Battle Group South, one attached to Battle Group North and the third detachment attached to 633 Signal Troop as a control station. From Airport Camp to BGS, the distance involved was 103 miles, to BGN it was 60 Miles and between the two BGs it was 70 miles.

The BGS det deployed, by Puma, at 0900 hrs on Monday 2 July. The journey took 55 mins and by 1600 hrs the detachment were in situ, ready to work. Unfortunately the teleprinter refused to function and, due to all aircraft being grounded, no technical support could be made available until early Tuesday morning, however voice comms were established with BGS and maintained. BGS eventually were on the air, in green by 1200 hrs Tuesday 3 July. Apart from power failure and inclement weather comms were maintained until Endex. The det were situated in Rideaux Camp in the south of Belize, they were administered by 1 Bn Irish Guards, for whom they had nothing but praise.

BGN were, unfortunately, not so lucky, their equipment was installed in two landrovers of 633 Signal Troop and they deployed at 1600 hrs on the Monday. It was a 3½ hours journey over roads classed fractionally over abysmal. Their location was very cramped and a dipole could not be erected. A 43' mast was initially used. No contact was gained with BGN and assistance was sent early Tuesday morning where, on arrival, it was found that the C11 SSB had a fault. As technical assistance had already been despatched to BGS the BGN det were brought back to base location for repair by Force Workshops. They redeployed on the Wednesday morning and were on the air, in green, by 1400 hrs. Comms were maintained until Endex. They were administered by 1st Bn Black Watch.

The control det were located within 633 Signal Troop Commmcen lines. They were in a ground dismounted role working off Commcen mains. Apart from a four hour period on the Thursday when, during a violent thunderstorm, water got into a C11, the det functioned well. Difficuilties arose over frequencies when the det interfered with commcen working, but, with good liaison, these were soon overcome.

Overall, comms were good, apart from eqpt faults and adverse weather conditions, due to it being the rainy season in Central America. All concerned were impressed with the facilities provided by the dets and spoke highly of the professionalism shown by the crews. Particular mention must be made of the help and support given to us by 633 Signal Troop, especially the OC **Capt I. G. M. Strong** and **Yeoman WO2 Wood.** The det members without exception, worked well under arduous conditions and proved themselves worthy members of 249 Signal Squadron.

SUCCESSFUL ENDURANCE MARCH

This year we entered a team of volunteers for the 6 Field Force Endurance March. We heard about this event about three weeks before it took place. As a result it was very much a case of 'pack your rucksack—get your rifle—here's a map'. We managed to get three in the first ten, indeed **Sgt Bernie Temmen** not only won the event, but he currently holds the record for the 40 mile march along the South Down Way—9 hrs 33½ minutes. **Sig Aitken** (I thought he only played golf), came third and **Lt Cox** was ninth. We are hoping to go back next year and do a little better.

FAREWELL

Special mention must be made to the Officer of 'Many Hats', **Maj (QM) A. J. Simpson**, who has gone to sunny Korbecke to join 3 Armoured Division Signal Regiment. We understand that the QM Tech telephone has already been moved into the Squash Courts. We wish him, and his family, every good fortune.

We have also said goodbye to **WO2 Y of S Ron Butcher**, off to 37 Signal Regiment TAVR, and **Sgt Pete Coll,** off to the Gurkha Field Force Signal Squadron, Hong Kong, in the last few months. We hope they are now settled in their new jobs.

55 Sig Sqn (V), Liverpool

PRIME LOCATION

Following our short introductory notes in last months Wire we have since been sought out by a number of visitors, astonished that a thriving Signal Squadron should be here in the heart of 'Scouseland'. On the 28 June we were honoured by the visit of the Chief Signal Officer UKLF, **Brig N. A. Butler, CBE.** The CSO saw us at our mid-week training session 'Drill Night' and with the Squadron on parade presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to our Chief Clerk, **SSgt Ray Williams** and the Efficiency Medal—TAVR to **Cpl George Suffler.** After congratulating the recipients the Brigadier talked to the Squadron and gave us some encouraging news about our future. After three hearty cheers and some parched throats the squadron retired to the bar and the CSO took the opportunity to meet and talk to everyone present.

PERSONALITIES

Last month we introduced our permanent staff. Here are our volunteers, most of whom are well known in the Corps:

2IC	**Capt Chris Dennis, TD**
SSM	**WO2 Harry 'H' Ravenscroft**
OC A Tp	**Lt John Langan**
OC B Tp	**Capt Geoff Purdy, TD**
OC C Tp	**Lt Stanley Quayle**
OC D Tp	**Capt Allan Burden TD (Cardiff)**
Ops Officer	**Lt (TOT) Mike Everett**
OC Holding Tp	**2Lt Philip Bridge**

Exercise Gryphons Gallop

Commanded by **2Lt Philip Bridge** a detachment participated in Gryphons Gallop, providing two RLD to 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. Exercising in BAOR was a new experience for most and it gave them an opportunity to meet their 'Regular' opposite numbers. One of the detachments came from D Troop Cardiff and was made up of **SSgt Richie Morgan, Sgt George Tucker** and **Cpl David Gorshkov.** The others from A Troop, Liverpool, consisted of **Sgt Terry Buss, Cpl Alan Cowley, Cpl Dave Davidson** and **LCpl Don Titherington.**

All enjoyed the exercise and gained a great deal from it and through these notes extend their thanks to 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. Sad note: They never did meet the Pied Piper.

Nijmegen Marches

This year we have a team and in fact they represent the North West of England. With **Lt Stanley Quayle** in charge you can see them out most nights steaming along the roads of Merseyside with their cycle orderly (cycle by courtesy of the GPO) **LCpl Rice** in hot pursuit—but more about that next time and some pictures too.



Congratulations Cpl George Suffler from the CSO

754/818 SIG TPS (V)

Not very much is usually heard from Bedford TAC, the home of 754 and 818 Sig Tps (V). It could be that the members of these troops take steps to keep things that way, or it may be simply that no-one listens anyway. Recently, however, this almost idyllic isolation was disrupted by a visit from the Commander, 12 Signal Group (V), **Brig Stonham.**

The visit took place on Thursday evening, 7 June. On his arrival, the Commander was met by the OC R Signals at Bedford TAC, **Capt Malcolm Touchin.** He was then taken up to the Officers Mess to meet the remainder of the Officer strength of the centre—**Lt Derek Blake**—and also the Commanding Officer and Squadron Commander. It was here that he heard the details of the success of the recent recruiting drive at Bedford, in which, by means of cunning, even devious, advertising and publicity, at least 60 enquiries had been received, of which approximately 30 had either joined or were in the process of doing so. In fact the success of the campaign is probably due to a rather extravagant bet, in which **Derek Blake** bet the Sqn Commander the sum of £1 that Bedford would get more recruits during the campaign than any other centre in the Regiment. With such a sum at stake, **Derek Blake** had no choice but to ensure the success of the centre's efforts. **Brig Stonham** was most impressed with the results, and congratulated the centre on it's achievement.

The Brigadier was then taken to meet the SNCOs of 754 Tp, **SSgt Ralph Collingridge, Sgts Bob Barker** and **Sally Heffer,** and the PSI, **Sgt Ed Vaughan.** He was then introduced to a further success, which the centre boasts, that of **Sig Rob Rostron,** who was awarded Best Recruit on his recent recruit's course at Catterick.

The training arranged for the evening (nothing special, of course) was in the nature of trade training, and the Comd spent the next hour and a half looking around the training and talking to both trainees and instructors. he started with **Cpl Roger Cater's** Radio Relay detachment, set up just outside Bedford, and supervised by **SSgt Dolly Gray,** of 818 Sig Tp. He was then shown around the training, back in the centre, which comprised of Line training under **Cpl Bob Major,** Radio Relay training under **SSgt Collingridge,** Telegraphist training under **Sgt Heffer,** and the all important Recruit training under **Sgt Barker.**

After that, it was up to the bar for a long awaited beer, and a special oriental-style buffet, supplied by **Sig 'Sid' Sidar** from his own curry emporium in Luton. Here in the bar, the Brigadier was able to watch a presentation of a shield by **Lt John MacKay** of the local ACF detachment to the Sqn Comd, **Maj Mike Sexton.** This as in recognition of the assistance afforded to the cadets by the unit in the past. Eventually, **Brig Stonham** was obliged to tear himself away from the hospitality of the bar and, thanking us for a most enjoyable and worthwhile evening, bid us farewell.

All in all, a most successful evening and a good effort from all the members of the troops at Bedford.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OTC

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHT

On Friday, 8 June, past and present Wing members and guests met in St John's College for the annual highlight of the Wing's social calendar—the now traditional Lindsay Bequest Dinner. The principal guests were the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen A A G Anderson** and the Chief Signal Officer, HQ UKLF, **Brig N A Butler CBE.** Other guests included **Maj D Cook** from 7 Field Force HQ & Signal Squadron and **WO1 C Webb** from HQ UKLF together with the Commandant and Adjutant of the OTC. The evening was concluded by adjourning to the OTC Quayside Mess for additional liquid refreshments under the avuncular eye of **Sgt 'Fred' Croft** whose recollections of the exploits of erstwhile OTC members expand with each passing year and glass of Scotch!

POSSIBLY A FIRST

The origins of the Dinner are of interest in providing a reflection on the change of values. **Capt R L G Lindsay** took command of the Wing in 1929 and held the post for 4 years. At that time the training syllabus included mounted cable laying, wireless operation visual and radio telegraphy and signal office operation in addition to the normal infantry drills and tactics. The rudiments of horsemanship were also expected to be known to enable the cable laying to be performed successfully (?) and it was through a lack of suitable horses or possibly a desire to emulate the mechanical attractions of Armoured Corps Wing that **Capt Lindsay** procured a Fordson tractor to tour the cable laying waggon—perhaps one of the first attempts at mechanised cable laying?

Capt Lindsay died unexpectedly, being succeeded for a short period by the late **Lt Col Donald Portway, RE,** Honorary Colonel of the OTC, and who will be well remembered by the many engineering undergraduates who passed through Cambridge. It was **Donald Portway** who guided the investment by **Lindsay**'s mother of money to provide funds for a suitable commemorative occasion—the annual income then amounting to £7.50! A port and strawberry tea taken in the Coton tea gardens quickly became established as a May Week social event and this tradition is perpetuated by the inclusion of both items in each Lindsay Dinner.

The Dinner forms an appropriate finale to the year's training before the members of the Wing face the rigours of a three month holiday or the more demanding prospects of real work or simply the imminent departure for a two-week annual camp—of this year's visit to 1 Armoured Division in BAOR more anon.

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

NEW ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

Major-General J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE was elected to office as Chairman and Treasurer of our Association on 1st July, vice Major-General M. D. Price CB OBE. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting are included on page 374 together with the audited accounts of the Benevolent Fund for 1978.

REUNIONS—1979

BLANDFORD

Sadly, 20 May, 1979 at Blandford was a wet day, to say the least. Some 500 members of the Association, many with their wives were denied the pleasure—and privilege—of enjoying the outdoor events on a carefully planned programme. Nevertheless, the wet weather programme ensured that all saw much of the superb facilities which are incorporated in the School.

CATTERICK

It will be a bold person who attempts to compare the quality of one Catterick Reunion with another. For many, however, 30 June/1 July, 1979 had a special sparkle. The weather we had, the Corps Band superb and every item of the week-end was splendidly staged. Our photographer did his best to capture a superb occasion



Members of the Hartlepool Branch enjoying the evenings entertainment in the 8th Regiment WOs and Sergeants Mess



Sheffield Branch members—and their ladies—'United' (or 'Wednesday') in the corner of 11th Regt WOs & Sergeants Mess. The Treasurer seems to have dropped the 'Kitty' or is he praying?



'By gum that was hot'. A handful of the Indian Signals Association casting their minds back to the North West Frontier



Our two stalwarts of the Reception Staff having a well earned refresher in the evening. Dave Greenbrook (Association HQ) on the left with Alan Foot (Reading Branch) in the centre. With them is 'Del' Delaney (Colchester)



The Corps Band playing the 'March On' of the Old Comrades Squadron to the Church Parade. Conducting is Band Sergeant Maj G. D. Grover



28 Branch Standards were paraded to the Church Service on Sunday and are seen here being led by the Catterick & District and the Sheffield Branch Standards. The Standard Marshal (not in picture) was Mr Ted Moore (Catterick & District Branch)



The parade, after the Reunion Service, was commanded by Lt Col Brian Blackwell, then Commanding 11 Signal Regiment and now retired



Maj Gen David Price speaks to The Right Reverend M. H. St J. Maddocks, The Bishop of Selby after the Reunion Service on Sunday morning. The Bishop served in the Corps—National Serviceman in the late '40s. Col Leslie Wright, Vice Chairman of the Association (right)

Dorset Branch



Maj Gen R. J. Moberly, CB OBE, (our President) presenting Honour Member badges of the Association to Jimmy Wilds (*left*) and Sam Henwood (*right*) on 20 June at Blandford

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, 1 July, 1979

PRESENT:

Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB CBE DSO, Master of Signals and President; **Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB OBE,** Chairman; **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB MBE; Col L. W. Wright, TD,** Vice-Chairman; **Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE,** General Secretary and some 134 Members of the Association.

The Chairman welcomed the President, Commander Training Group & Catterick Garrison and Members attending the Annual General Meeting. He went on to congratulate the Corps Band on their superb standards. **Gen Price** thanked the Bishop of Selby for his address at the Reunion Service. He further congratulated Members on a good parade. **Gen Price** reminded all members that the organisation of the Church Service for the past eleven years had fallen on **Maj Gordon Nation** who would retire later this year. In thanking **Maj Nation,** he also wished to place on record the sincere appreciation of the Association and its Members to **Mrs Edna Nation** whose beautiful flower arrangements in St Martin's Church had been a notable feature of Reunion Services over many years. Finally, the Chairman thanked **Brig A. Yeoman** (Commander Training Group & Catterick Garrison) his staff and the many components of the Training Group—and the wives—who had enabled another immensely successful Reunion to be staged.

MINUTES OF THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

These were approved unanimously by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

BRANCHES:

1978 saw two new branches established—the Cotswold Branch and the Eastbourne Branch and since April this year new branches have been established at Bradford and Dundee. I congratulate those energetic Members who have brought this about; it is most encouraging. We also hope to see a branch established in Hong Kong shortly. Our Association now has 60 Branches and the majority of these are active.

MEMBERSHIP:

According to Association HQ Records, we gained some 90 new Life Members and 57 Annual Members through Branches during 1978. I must also record, with regret, the known deaths of some 78 Members, including my loved and respected predecessor as Chairman, **Brig Guy Tucker.**

WELFARE:

The Welfare Section has been very active, as always. In 1978 some 746 cases received financial support, involving an expenditure of some £25,900 (against 668 cases costing £23,700 in 1977). The Section maintained its unique activity in despatching clothing parcels. In 1978 some 433 parcels were involved (compared with 558 in 1977). This activity, which is so greatly appreciated by the recipients, is made possible by the many serving and retired Members of the Corps—and their wives—who either despatch or deliver clothing to the Association offices in Chelsea. To them I record my most sincere thanks.

During last Autumn, at the suggestion of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Association started to help serving soldiers to purchase Calor Gas heaters and thus assist to reduce heating bills in badly insulated married quarters. Over 200 soldiers, mainly in Catterick, have received an interest free loan of £100 and we have been very glad to be able to help some of those who give us so much. This Scheme is administered by the Welfare Section.

Miss Margaret Cook, our Senior Welfare Officer and her assistant, **Mrs Doris Ward** are to be congratulated on so successfully competing with a demanding year.

FINANCE:

Our accumulated funds at 31 December, 1978 stood at £305,807, against £267,906 a year previously; an increase of 14%. The book value of our investments rose by about 10% during the year to £271,718. The market value rose by some £21,000 to £355,949.

I need hardly tell you that this is a healthy situation which arises primarily from the income which the Association derives from the serving officer and soldier under the One Days Pay Scheme. I thank them most sincerely for this tremendous support. Some of you may wonder whether the Association is right to go on building up its funds at this rate. In addition to inflation (and we are not keeping much ahead of that) one has to remember that the strength of the Corps in the last war was some fifteen times bigger than that of the late thirties. On the basis that most of our welfare cases are over 60, this means that in 8–10 years time we could be facing hugely increasing demands. It is against this probability that we are continuing to build our reserves.

THE WIRE:

In mid 1978, the printing of *The Wire* was moved from the Westminster Press to Holbrook & Son at Hilsea where our new printer uses the latest computerised litho equipment. Our costs have dropped slightly and printing has been done on time.

The Wire has been printed bi-monthly since January 1978. The loss, borne by Association Funds during the year was £4,255 compared with £8,706 in 1977 when *The Wire* was printed monthly. In these days of still mounting costs, it is clear that the subscription rates will have to rise, if not in 1980 most certainly in 1981.

REUNIONS:

The Blandford and Catterick Reunions of last year were well supported and successful. The charge to Associations funds for Blandford in 1978 was £373 (£647 in 1977) and the costs for Catterick amounted to £1,671 (£2,118 in 1977). We maintained charges at the 1978 rates for both Reunions this year but we will have to face up to an increased contribution in 1980, certainly for guests.

As some of you will know, Blandford unfortunately suffered from a very wet afternoon this year, I must not leave Reunions without thanking the Commandant School of Signals and Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison and the many officers, soldiers and wives who make these annual events so outstandingly enjoyable.

STAFF:

The staff of Association Headquarters, supporting our General Secretary, are as follows:

Miss M. Cook	— Welfare.
Mrs D. Ward	— Welfare.
Mr D. Greenbrook	— Assistant to the General Secretary & Records.
Mrs C. Penfold	— Accounts.
Mr F. Shelbourn (part time)	— Accounts.
Mrs G. M. Crawford	— Assistant Editor, *The Wire*.
Mr A. Walsh	— *Wire* records and distribution.
Mr P. Richards	— Petty Trading and Mail.

I would like to thank them all for their encouragement and support during the 7 years that I have been Chairman. Some of those years were not easy ones but they never failed to get things done willingly and cheerfully.

The Chairman's Report and the audited accounts for 1978 (included on page 383) 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 & Treasurer: **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB MBE** (Election)

Vice-Chairman: **Colonel L. W. Wright, TD** (Re-election)
Brigadier T. I. G. Gray (Re-election)

T & AVR Representative: **Lt Col W. J. C. Foster, TD** (Election)

Maj Gen R. J. Moberly, CB OBE, proposed a vote of thanks to **Gen Price** on his retirement as Chairman after holding that office for the past seven years.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING STATEMENT:

Gen Price expressed his admiration for the high standards maintained by Branches of the Association, including the notable contribution of the ladies. He went on to thank all Members for making his tenure as Chairman so enjoyable and worthwhile. **Gen Price** informed the Meeting that he had received a telegram from the Colonel-in-Chief. He informed the Meeting that he was sure Her Royal Highness would wish him to say that this communication was a compliment to the Association and its Members as well as himself.



Gen Price presented engraved 'RSM's Tankards', on behalf of the Association, to the Sergeants Messes of 8 and 11 Regiments who give such sterling support to the Association. They were accepted by **RSM D. Hughes** and **RSM G. M. Lumley.**

Gen Price concluded by extending his best wishes to his successor.

REUNIONS IN 1980:

The General Secretary informed the Meeting that the Blandford Reunion was planned for **18 May, 1980** and the Catterick Reunion for **28/29 June, 1980.** Details of both events would be circulated to Branches and Individual Members, requesting them, early in March 1980. (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.)

HONOUR MEMBERSHIP:

The President reminded the Meeting that the award of Honour Membership was reserved to Members who rendered outstanding service to the Association. He pointed out that he had known **Gen. David Price** from his early years of service in the Corps as a young officer. **Gen Bradley** informed the Meeting that the Central Committee of the Association had approved the award of Honour Membership to **Gen David Price** in recognition of his outstanding service as Chairman and that it gave him great pleasure to present the Honour Badge to its 62nd recipient—a measure of the high standard which the Central Committee associated with the award.

The Meeting warmly applauded this tribute.



Sport

CANOEING—ARMY CANOE UNION SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

This years championships were held at Llandysull on 25, 26 and 27 May. 22 members of the Corps competed. The first day produced two winners, **SSgt White** (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) winning the Canadian Singles Event and **WO2 Croot** (32 CTT) the Veterans Event. It was particularly encouraging to see five Junior Signalmen from Ouston taking part in the Novices Event.

Saturday saw two more winners—**Lt Edwards** (Junior Signalmans Wing 11 Sig Regt) winning the Intermediate Event. **LCpls Owens** and **Dobson** did extremely well to win the Canadian Doubles Event. The final day (Sunday) produced yet two more winners to complete the Championships. Army Apprentices College, Harrogate (**AT Sgt Woolaston, ATS Newman** and **Walker**) winning the Junior Team event and **Woolaston** himself winning the 1st Prize as the best junior.

In the open event no less than 9 corps paddlers were eligible to take part (out of 29) in itself a splendid achievement. **SSgt White** finished 3rd, **Capt Cornforth** 4th, **LCpl Owens** 5th and **Lt Edwards** 7th. For the first time an inter-corps/Regimental team event was held. Four teams were entered. They finished 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th.

In addition to the splendid efforts and successes of the competitors, the Corps was very much involved in the running of the Championships—The organiser of a very well run meeting was **WO2 Croot** and the communications were provided by **Sgt Harrison** and members of 8 Sig Regt.

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Royal Signals glider pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Games Fund for the period December 78 – November 79 *NOT* later than 18 November 79 to:

Lt Col (Tfc) W. C. Lombard Royal Signals
Classified Equipment Group
8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Garrison
Yorkshire DL9 3PS.

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 1979 and total launches.
- Cross-country Kms 1979.
- 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 day's pay scheme.

TAVR ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM BAOR TOUR—EASTER 1979

Report by Sgt M. Smith, 38 Sig Regt (V)

The Squad assembled at Cavalry Barracks, Colchester on Good Friday evening, 13 April, where we were accommodated until the following morning. On the Saturday we set off for Mönchengladbach, where we were to be hosted once again at the Rheindahlen HQ by the BAOR FA. On the Sunday bright sunshine made our training session very tiring and unfortunately **Sig Alan Sutcliffe** tore ligaments in his knee which necessitated him being detained in hospital until Thursday evening and resulted in him not being able to play any football at all on the tour.

Corps representation in the Squad this year was **Maj (TOT) Stuart Cottage** as manager; **Sig David Romaine,** 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V); **Sig Alan Sutcliffe,** 55 Sig Sqn (V). **Sig Alan Hawcroft** and myself from 38 Sig Regt (V), as players.

MONDAY 16th

TAVR v RHEINDAHLEN GARRISON SELECT TEAM

The Squad soon blended together to produce some good open football and it was no surprise when after twenty minutes **Pte Sammy Campbell** was on hand to finish off a move started by **Pte Alan Mitchell.** After dominating the match we scored once more when **Sig David Romaine** scored with a fine shot in the sixteenth minute. There being no further scoring we were satisfied with our first game and win.

On the following morning three more injured players, **Pte Gordon Thompson, Rgr Billie Smith** and **Pte Roy Bird** had to report to the Military Hospital which resulted in them having heat treatment for the week and were allowed to carry on playing, but not to train.

Due to the injury situation **Maj Cottage** decided to cancel football training for this day but to take us off to the local swimming pool in Rheindahlen Village, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

WEDNESDAY 18th—TAVR v BAOR

We made an early start on our long journey to play the BAOR Team at the stadium at Sennelager, stopping for lunch on our way at Lippstadt. This game turned out as expected to be the hardest match of the tour. The BAOR side were well organised and played some good football as the result of having played together throughout the season.

We were the first to get the ball into the net but the Referee disallowed the goal with an offside decision. Our side was matching the BAOR XI for football but later the Army scored and this one counted. We desperately pressed for an equaliser and were never out of the Army penalty area for the last fifteen minutes of the game, with close missing efforts from **Pte Thompson, Rgr Smith** and **Sig Alan Hawcroft,** but the BAOR Keeper, **Sgt Burgess** (R Signals) managed to keep us out. We were very disappointed and did not deserve to lose!

FRIDAY 20th

TAVR v RAOC BAOR

Our final game was played against the RAOC BAOR at Bracht. In this match we brought into the side all the members who had not previously played on the tour. After ten minutes of the game I strained a thigh muscle and had to be substituted. The RAOC scored first but we equalised when an effervescent **Pte Thompson** headed a great goal. Half time 1—1.

Early in the second half after a move involving **DVR Alan Williams** and **Pte Peter Ness, Pte Thompson** showed his experience by scoring with another superb header. He had taken one or two knocks in the game so we decided to bring him off and play **Pte Colin Idiens** at centre forward. Our many reorganisations and player tiredness showed in the second half as the RAOC gamely fought back to score three quick goals to make the final result 4—2 in their favour.

On Saturday we finally relaxed when some of us went to take a busmans holiday as we watched Borussia Mönchengladbach play Hertha Berlin whilst the rest did their final family shopping. Once again another tour was over and thanks must be given to everyone concerned for the hospitality given to us throughout the week and thanks given in particular to **Maj Cottage** for ensuring that everything ran smoothly for us all.

TOUR PARTY:

Manager: Maj (TOT) S. Cottage TD (38 Sig Regt (V))
Trainer: Dvr J. W. King (CVHQ RAOC)

Team: Goalkeepers:	**Kgmn E. Pines (5/8 Kings (V))**	
	Pte N. Smith (10 Para Bn (V))	
Defenders:	**Sgt M. Smith (38 Sig Regt (V))**	
	Sig A. Hawcroft (238 Sqn RCT (V))	
	Pte R. Bird (10 Para Bn (V))	
	Cpl T. Grimley (5/8 Kings)	
Midfield:	**Pte B. Welch (Capt) (10 Para Bn (V))**	
	Pte A. Mitchell (1 Bn Yorks Vols)	
	Rgr W. Smith (4 Irish Rangers)	
	Pte P. Ness (1 Bn Yorks Vols)	
	Sig A. Sutcliffe (55 Sig Sqn (V))	
Attack:	**Pte S. Campbell (RAPC 103 LAD Regt RA)**	
	Pte G. Thompson (1 Bn Yorks Vols)	
	Pte C. Idiens (10 Para Bn (V))	
	Sig D. Romaine (63 SAS Sig Sqn (V))	



TAVR REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAM 1979–80

Any members of the TAVR, UOTC, ACF and CCF who are eligible to represent the TAVR at Association Football who wish to be considered for the Squad should write to:

Maj (TOT) S. Cottage TD
TAVR Sports Board (Association Football)
c/o HQ Eastern District
Flagstaff House
Colchester Colchester (0206) 5121 Extn 2406

stating the following particulars:

a. **No** **Rank** **Name**
b. Home address & telephone no (or contact no)
c. Unit address and telephone no
d. **Age** **Height** **Weight**
e. Present team/s and league/s with dates
f. Past team/s and league/s with dates
g. Playing position.

OFFSHORE SAILING

SKYWAVE, skippered by **Lt Col John Alexander** with **Maj Bob Wright** as navigator and **Capt Alan Davies, Maj John Selby** and **Cpl Frank Jones** crewing has again repeated last year's success in the Army Sailing Association Regatta. In two races sailed around the buoys in the Solent on 23 and 24 June she took line honours in one, but could not save her time, and won the other convincingly. In the passage race on 25 and 26 June, which took place around the Isle of Wight and the Nab Tower in hard weather, she won by one second on corrected time, thereby retaining the Watney Mann Cup. In the Services Offshore main race, when **Col John Russell** joined the crew, she was less successful. The race was to St Peter Port, Guernsey, and was sailed against light headwinds in poor visibility. SKYWAVE was seventh in Division 3. The return race was off the wind and SKYWAVE won Division 3 on corrected time comfortably.

CORPS SKILL AT ARMS MEETING BULFORD 25-29 JUNE 1979

Report by Maj G. A. S. Exell, Captain of Corps Shooting

The shooting standards at this meeting showed a great improvement and in every case the winning team scores of both major and minor units were better than in 1978. Once again over 130 competitors were entered of whom 80 came from overseas units. We were also pleased to welcome a team from JSW of 11 Sig Regt to sample the 'big time'.

Two new trophies were awarded at the meeting. The first is a splendid silver mounted kukri presented by the Queen's Gurkha Signals for the best individual aggregate in the first and second stages of the rifle championship. The second is a handsome bowl presented by **Maj Ken Goulding** on his retirement for the best individual aggregate in the combined SLR and SMG matches.

For a change we were blessed with good shooting weather throughout the week. The major unit championship was battled out by nine units, seven of which were from BAOR. 13 Sig Regt fielded a strong team virtually the same as that in 1978 and once again they dominated proceedings by winning five of the eight team matches. 21 Sig Regt showed their expertise at the shorter ranges by winning both the SMG matches while 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt demonstrated their 'speed on the draw' by taking the Team Snap. The School of Signals saved their best until last and belied their grey hairs by surprising everyone in the Falling Plates.

The minor unit championship was a Gurkha benefit and the Gurkha Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn won every team match by wide margins. 8 Field Force (winners in 1978), 262 Sig Sqn and 590 Rear Link Det (of 1 Queens — **Sgt Burn**'s own!) fought valiantly for 2nd place and eventually finished in that order. Despite their excellent display of team shooting, the Gurkhas could manage only one individual success — in the pistol match where **Sgt Lilbahadur** ('LIL' to all and sundry) took the runner's up medal!

The Individual Championship was a triumph for **SSgt (YofS) 'Corky' Corcoran** who had come back to shooting after a two year absence and managed barely more than a week of training. Not only did he take the Army 100 Cup and the Championship Trophy but also the much coveted Kukri which our top shots had been hopefully eyeing all week! Eleven shots only qualified for both the SLR and the SMG finals. **WO1 (FofS) Barry Hassall** stayed the course best to become Champion at Arms and the first winner of the Goulding Bowl. A summary of the winners of individual medals and bars is as follows:—

	BEST CLASS A	BEST CLASS B
Roupell	**Sgt Roberts** **21 Sig Regt**	**Sig Gil** **8 Fd Force**
Whitehead	**SSgt Provart** **13 Sig Regt**	**LCpl Savill** **13 Sig Regt**
Association	**WO1 Hassall** **RSA**	**LCpl Savill** **13 Sig Regt**
Roberts	**Sgt Watts** **13 Sig Regt**	**Sig Mann** **3 Armd Div**
Army 100	**SSgt Corcoran** **HMS Mercury**	**LCpl Savill** **13 Sig Regt**
SMG	**WO1 Hassall** **RSA**	**Cpl Boxhall** **30 Sig Regt**
Pistol	**Sgt Hunt** **13 Sig Regt**	

We were delighted to have with us the SOinC **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** who presented the prizes and wished good luck to those going on to RASAM. Our President **Brig R. L. Stonham** thanked the many individuals and units responsible for preparing and staging the meeting. These were drawn maingly from 30 Sig Regt, 244 and 249 Sig Sqns and we are indebted to them for their uncomplaining and efficient help. The President also gave special thanks to **Maj Bill Turney** who has now relinquished his post as Secretary and to him goes much of the credit for the undoubted success of the meeting. The post of Secretary is in the hands of **WO1 Barry Hassall** at the Signal Wing, RSA, who 'volunteered' to fill the gap.

REGULAR ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING (RASAM) HELD AT BISLEY 3-14 JULY 1979

The brilliant weather experienced at Bulford continued and also our high standard of shooting. This was a good Bisley from a Corps viewpoint and several pieces of silver came our way. 83 R Signals competitors from nine major units and three major units shot in the Championship. Individually pride of place goes to **SSgt (YofS) 'Corky' Corcoran** who produced again the form he showed at Bulford. He won outright the Roberts Cup with a magnificent highest possible score of 200. He followed this with a 177 in the Army 100 Match to finish 15th overall in the Championship — our best placing since he himself was 10th in 1975. **Sgt Marty Roberts** and **Sgt Bob Watts** also reached the Army 100 scoring 165 and 164 to finish 49th and 64th respectively. With ever increasing standards at RASAM it was gratifying to claim a larger haul of medals and bars than in 1978, as follows:—

Roupell	**—22nd Sgt Hunt**	**13 Sig Regt**
	34th SSgt Lamont	**1 Armd Div**
	44th Sgt Roberts	**21 Sig Regt**
Whitehead	**—7th SSgt Provart**	**13 Sig Regt**
	20th Sgt Watts	**13 Sig Regt**
Association	**—24th Sgt Narbahadur**	**GFF HQ & Sig Sqn**
Roberts	**—WINNER SSgt Corcoran**	**HMS Mercury**
	16th Sgt Burns	**590 Rear Link Det**
Moving Tgt	**—3rd SSgt Corcoran**	**HMS Mercury**



A Champion Team in all respects. The DAT, Maj Gen M. J. H. Walsh presents the minor unit Section Match Cup to the Gurkha Field Force HQ & Sig Sqn—one of the 5 trophies they won at RASAM

The main team honours were taken by the Gurkha Field Force HQ & Sig Sqn who won no less than four match trophies plus the RASC Cup for the Minor Unit Championship. This was an outstanding performance and never before has a Signals unit won the RASC Cup

although 259 Sig Sqn came close when they were placed 2nd in 1977. The Gurkhas won both SMG Matches, the LMG Match and the Section Match thus largely repeating the excellent scores they produced at Bulford.

41 battalions out of an entry of 62 teams competed against our eight major units. It was thus very difficult for R Signals units to gain places in the top third of the order of merit. Nevertheless some very good team scores were achieved and it was no disgrace to see our best major unit placings as follows:—

Rifle Match	**30th**	**School of Signals**
SMG Match	**20th**	**21 Sig Regt**
LMG Match	**40th**	**School of Signals**
Section Match	**28th**	**28 Sig Regt**
Team Snap Match	**30th**	**21 Sig Regt**
PARA (SMG) Match	**14th**	**21 Sig Regt**
Pistol Tiles	**2nd**	**21 Sig Regt**
Pistol Team	**8th**	**13 Sig Regt**



SSgt Provart receives the Tyro Tankard from Brig P. D. F. Thursby, won in the Bisley Cup match at Rasam

As in 1978, the School of Signals improved on their showing at the Corps Meeting by winning the Bisley Trophy for the top placed R Signals major unit.

The Methuen Team put up their best performance since 1973. Great excitement was caused after the first two practices which put us in with a real chance of winning. The first detail of rapids kept up our hopes but unfortunately the scores fell away from the required level in the 'gamble' (practice 4). Nevertheless our total of 930 averaging 155 per man was highly respectable although the Sappers did better still to put up a record score to take the Methuen itself — as well as denying us the Woolwich Bowl. Congratulations to the Sappers on a 'cracker' of a shoot.



ROYAL SIGNALS METHUEN TEAM 79
Standing L to R: Sgt Narbahadur Pun (Reserve), Sgt M. Roberts, Sgt Lilbahadur Gurung, Brig R. L. Stonham—(President of Corps Shooting), SSgt (FofS) M. A. Provart, SSgt (YofS) M. Corcoran, WO1 (FofS) B. Hassall (Reserve). *Kneeling L to R:* SSgt C. T. Hall, Maj G. A. S. Exell (Captain of Corps Shooting) Sgt R. J. Watts



A proud moment—SSgt Corcoran receives the Roberts Cup from Gen Sir Edwin Bramall CGS

Each year these notes remark on the increased standards at RASAM. 1979 was no exception and compared with 1978, 13 more points were required to qualify for the Second Stage and 18 (no less) for the Army 100. These increases make it even more meritorious that we managed 24 into the Second Stage and the three in the Army 100, as already described. We have every reason to take pride in **SSgt Corcoran's** winning of the Roberts and the magnificent team shooting by the Gurkhas. However, the general overall improvement of the Corps performance can only be maintained by constant effort particularly at unit level. The message is clear—even the top prizes can be reached if the shots themselves are given the necessary opportunity, encouragement and training.



SSgt Corcoran displays the Imperial Tobacco Trophy he won for the top aggregate of deliberate shoots at the NRA Meeting

SERVICE WEAPON EVENTS AT THE NRA MEETING AT BISLEY 16-19 JULY 1979

This was the most successful NRA meeting for the Corps since we provided the UK NISHAN Team in 1973. **SSgt 'Corky' Corcoran** continued his remarkable run of consistent shooting by winning the Imperial Tobacco Cup for the Rapids Aggregate—a trophy last won by a Corps member in 1970. He followed this with placings of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th in other matches and capped his performance by reaching the second stage of the Queen Mary and finishing 7th in the Service Rifle Championship (out of 540). **SSgt Chas Hall** shot to his usual high standards but really 'went to town' in the Queen Mary match with successive scores of 175 and 183, a feat which earned him second place just two points behind the winner. **Staff Hall** was a highly creditable 21st in the Rifle Championship and thus finally qualified as an X Class in this his (positively!) last year of shooting—having used part of his 'resettlement' to shoot at Bisley!

Team-wise the results were equally impressive. Our shots won the Cheylesmore falling plates match—last won by the Corps in 1963 when a certain **Maj Exell** was a team member! We then proceeded to win bronze medals for a 2nd in the Brinsmead (deliberates aggregate) and 3rd in the Canada (Queen Mary aggregate). A 4th place in the Mappin and 5th in the Hamilton Leigh rounded off a highly satisfactory meeting. All these matches are for teams of 4 four but it is worth noting that our six shots in the Canada match (identical to the Methuen) totalled 979 which was some 49 points better than our Methuen score just five days earlier. C'est la vie!

Our team at the meeting was, of necessity, selected from UK based shots only. Their successes in terms of bars and medals won was as follows:—

SSgt Corcoran—HMS MERCURY (O class)
—9 bars (plus the Imperial Tobacco Cup, a silver cross for an HPS in the Bisley Bullet match and Rifle Championship badge).
SSgt Hall—School of Signals (O class)
—8 bars (plus a silver medal for the Queen Mary and Rifle Championship badge).
WO1 Hassall—School of Signals (O class)
—7 bars (and shot in second stage of Queen Mary)
Maj Exell—School of Signals (O class)
—5 bars
Capt Grey—School of Signals (T class)
—5 bars
Sgt Pinder—School of Signals (T class)
—5 bars



ROYAL SIGNALS SERVICE WEAPON TEAM AT THE NRA MEETING
Winners Cheylesmore Cup, 2nd in Brinsmead and 3rd in Canada Matches. *Standing L to R:* SSgt C. T. Hall, Maj G. A. S. Exell, Sgt D. J. Pinder. *Kneeling L to R:* SSgt M. Corcoran, WO1 B. Hassall

SUMMARY

All three of the meetings described above show a trend of improvement overall in Corps shooting. This is doubly welcome when compared with our somewhat dismal showing in 1978. Many people are responsible for this improvement, not least the SOinC and our President who have badgered and cajoled units into taking positive action to raise our shooting standards. It is acknowledged that it has not been easy with so many other commitments but 1979 has shown that it can be done. We took eight trophies from Bisley this year; let us make an all out effort to improve on that in 1980!

NRA MEETING 1979; FULLBORE TARGET RIFLE EVENTS

Six competitors for places in the Corps teams attended the Target Rifle part of the meeting this year, to be joined as ever by the old faithfuls, **Paddy Walsh** and **Tommy Thompson.** Three of us, **Col Richard Gilbertson, Jim Evans** and **Nick Blampied,** had the advantage of a three-day work-up with the Army Target Rifle Squad on Stoney Castle Ranges before the meeting. We were joined on the Friday by **John Cox** and a newcomer, **Sgt Atherton,** who is serving with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Rear Link Signal Troop and who was accompanied at the meeting by his wife, who was shooting in the Service Weapons events in her own right as a member of the TAVR. She sported a splendid blue bruise on her cheek; her SLR hits her pretty hard. **Philip Grey** came from the School.

After Friday's shooting, it was clear that preliminary training had paid off. At the NRA meeting, there are many hundreds of competitors, and an individual's chance of a major win are small; the aim is to get your name into the top hundred in each match, or aggregate, as often as possible. The coveted Prize List entitles you to a 'bar' to be hung on a commemorative NRA medal; a bronze medal for three bars or less over the meeting, a silver medal for over three. In the events before the start of the Grand Aggregate, **Jim Evans'** name appeared in three out of the four possible prize lists; and although **Nick Blampied** and the Colonel scored one point each more than **Jim** in aggregate, they only made one Prize List each. However, this was a good start, and after some deliberation, the Captain selected **John Cox** to join the three for the Corps Team, leaving **Philip Grey** and **Sgt Atherton** to try to show how badly they had been misjudged.

In the ten individual matches in the Grand Aggregate, it was **Jim Evans'** turn to lead the Corps field, with a total of 569 points out of a possible 605. The Colonel followed with 568, and **Nick** was close behind with 564. All three appeared in the main Prize List for the Grand Aggregate, being placed near the bottom end of the first hundred. **Jim's** performance was very even, and in the event he made no single Prize List; though **Nick** and the Colonel scored rather less overall, they each made three Prize Lists with individual good scores. **John Cox** had several good shoots, collecting two bars but finishing well out of the Grand; **Nick** capitalised on his Tyro status to collect our only piece of real silver, the Challenge Trophy for the Tyro placed highest in the Grand.

The Corps Team did very well, without achieving the top honours. In the Belgian, the aggregate of members scores in three matches at 300x, 500x and 600x, we were placed 10th in a field of 39 teams, with a total score of 566, to Manchester Rifle Club who scoed 581 (ex 600). In the Steward, a similar match, we came 11th out of 43, with 555, to Jersey RC with 570 (also ex 600). In the Bank of England, open to club teams and counting their complete Grand Aggregate scores, we were 14th out of nearly 50 teams, with a score of 2254; again Jersey RC were the winners, with 2292 (ex 2420). Our best result was in the Ranelagh, a competition limited to Service teams, and based on the First Stage of HM The Queen's Prize; with 392 out of 420, we collected the Bronze Medals for second place, to RAF Strike Command, with 401.

In the two main Individual Championship events, the Queen's and the St Georges, we had mixed success. In the Queen's, **Jim Evans** and

Nick Blampied both got into the Second Stage, a thirty shot match over 300, 500, and 600 yards. Nick survived into the Tie for the last few places in the Final, the Queen's Hundred, but after their first five shots, there were only a few places left. **Nick** dropped his first 'sudden death' shot, and was out. The Colonel and **Jim Evans** both got through the First and Second Stages of the St Georges, shot at 300 yards and 600 yards respectively, fifteen rounds a time.

In the St Georges Final, fifteen shots at 900 yards, the wind was tricky and conditions blazing hot. **Jim Evans** scored 69 out of 75, to finish 72nd, thee Colonel could only manage 67, in 75th place. (In this match, the score of the previous stage is added on, and as the Colonel had 73 out of 75 at 600 yards, while **Jim** had only 71, they both finished with 140, **Jim** 'counting out' the Colonel with the higher score at the longer range).

The Corps played its usual strong effort in the Inter-Services Matches. The **Colonel, Jim Evans,** and **Nick Blampied** were selected for the Short Range Match (300 and 600 yards). **Philip Grey** took the Colonel's place in the Long Range Match, at 900 yards. The Regular Army was placed behind (in fact, well behind) the RAF in both Matches, but in the Long Range Match, **Nick** and **Philip** did very well indeed, with 49 each out of 50, the highest scores made by any member of the team.

Our regular Welsh Internationals, **Jim Evans** and the **Colonel,** appeared as usual in the National and Mackinnon Matches. In both Wales was placed behind England and Scotland, and in spite of a very close finish in the Long Range Match, the Mackinnon, fired at 900 and 1000 yards, with only fifteen points separating all five teams (Canada was also competing) we finished bottom of the field. However, the Corps gained another shooting International, as **Nick Blampied** was selected to shoot for his home island, Guernsey, in the Kolapore, the premier team event of the Meeting. Well done, **Nick;** we hope to see your name in many Prize Lists over the next thirty years or so.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

THE CORPS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1979

The tournament took place at Blandford from Thursday 5 July – Saturday 7 July 1979 in sunny and dry weather. Indeed, it was especially hot playing on the Friday and most competitors came off court looking very sunburnt. The tournament coincided with the final week of Wimbledon and, when our standard of play did not provide enough excitement, spectators were able to turn their attention to the televisions in the Marquee! The number of entries this year was very fair, there being 32 competitors for the singles and about 14 pairs for each of the doubles events. It meant that to get through the number of matches, and 79 in all were played, we occasionally had to use the older and windswept tarmac courts on the far-side of the Camp. Otherwise the matches were played on the red, all-weather courts beside Headquarters Mess.

Play began at 1400hrs on 5 July, although not all competitors were immediately available at that time. There was however good representation from 10 Sig Regt, 8 Sig Regt, 224 Sig Sqn, and AAC Harrogate, in addition to a good turn out from the School and 30 Sig Regt. Provided competitors gave the times they were available, they could generally be allocated matches at those times, although the pressure on playing off a number of the draws was becoming quite high by Friday afternoon. It was intended to allow a smooth run through, playing a few remaining matches only on the Saturday morning in preparation for the finals during that afternoon. Friday evening was reserved exclusively for the mixed doubles competition and it was followed by a Barbeque on the lawns by the courts.

Despite hopeful predictions that competitors who had won through to the finals would not arrive there drained of all energy from constant play, it was inevitable that this happened to a few when Saturday opened with two matches in the Singles going to three sets. To add to this, one of our most likely finalists had to be away from Blandford by 1630hrs that afternoon in order to attend an important function in Cardiff that same evening! Thus matches began early and others were played through the lunch hour. Up to this moment the sun had been shining, but some large black clouds accompanied by gusts of quite strong breeze added to the anxiety of getting everything played off in time.

Nevertheless the finals were well fought out, whilst spectators also kept eyes on the Borg/Tanner Men's singles final which was providing the excitement at Wimbledon. **Mrs Pauline Benbow,** wife of the Commandant School of Signals, kindly gave the prizes which were as follows:

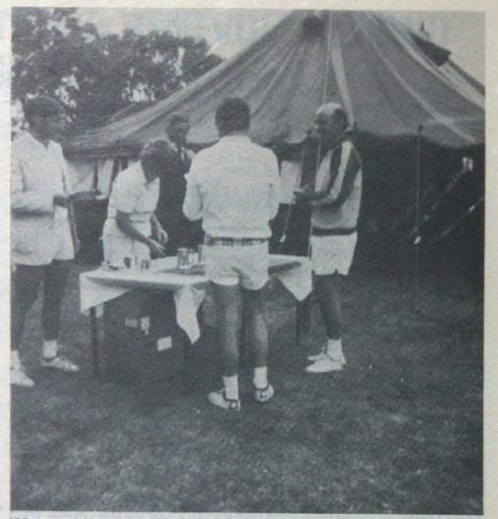
Open Singles:		
Maj R. A. C. Siderfin	**Runner-up:**	**WO2 (YofS) Watson**
Open Doubles:		
Maj Siderfin and Maj Chubb	**Runners-up:**	**Lt Col Gordon and Capt Binham**
Inter-Unit Doubles:		
Lt Col Gordon and Maj Chubb (School of Signals)	**Runners-up:**	**Maj Maclean and WO2 (YofS) Watson (HQ UKLF)**
Mixed Doubles:		
Maj Siderfin and Mrs Atkinson	**Runners-up:**	**Lt Col (Retd) Maclean and Mrs P Wyatt**
Singles Plate:		
Cpl Atkinson	**Runner-up:**	**Sig McReedy**
Doubles Plate:		
A/T Freear and A/T McClellan	**Runners-up:**	**Sgt Grinnel and A/T Howse**

The whole event was properly rounded off when the Mess brought out a trolley full of strawberries-and-cream tea!

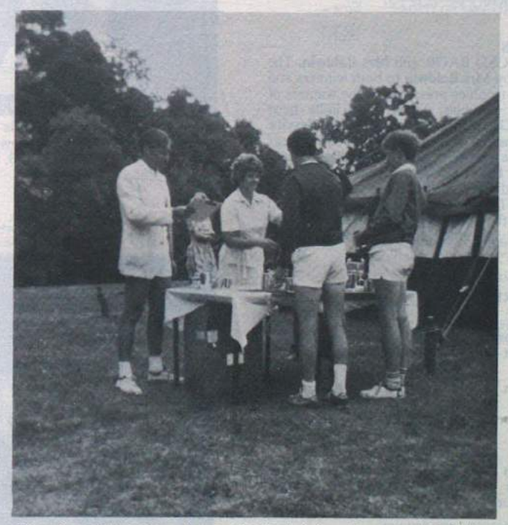
Next year's Corps Tennis Championships will be played at Blandford 10–12 July 1980 (the week after Wimbledon!).



Winner of the Open Singles, Maj Bob Siderfin, receiving his trophy from Mrs Pauline Benbow. Also in the picture are Maj John Maclean (Secretary) and Lt Col Gerry Corden (President).



Winners of the Inter Unit Doubles: Lt Col Stan Gordon (Captain of Tennis) and Maj Brian Chubb of the School of Signals.



Two of our future stars, Apprentice Technicians Freear and McClellan from Harrogate, won the Doubles Plate.

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

30 COMPETITORS

The first Annual Royal Signals (BAOR) Tennis Championships, under the sponsorship of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, began at Soest on Thursday 7 June. 30 competitors converged upon Soest from all corners of Germany including Verden, Lippstadt, Wildenrath amongst many other places. The tournament commenced with the Singles competition and progressed through Open Doubles, Inter-Unit Doubles, Singles Plate and Doubles Plate. The weather was good throughout the competition and all the players enjoyed 3 full days of tennis.

THE FINALS

The finals commenced on Saturday morning with the Singles Plate (players knocked out in the first round of the Singles). **Cpl Alan Geddes** and **Cpl Steve Groom** both played a fine game which went to the best of three sets with **Alan Geddes** eventually winning 6—2, 6—7, 7—5.

Next came the Doubles Plate which turned out to be an all 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt final. **Capt Bob Axton** and **Cpl Clive Young** faced a couple of youngsters in **Sig Tommy Gilbert** and **Sig Paul Loftus** and this was another three setter which finally went to the youngsters 6—1, 4—6, 8—6.

The Inter-Unit Doubles followed with **Capt Neil Stewart** and **Sig Steve Mathison** representing 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt facing **Capt Mike Podmore** and **Capt Bob Axton** from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the final. This was another hard fought match which finally went to the 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt pair 6—3, 3—6, 6—2.

On the Saturday afternoon the Singles was the first event. **Capt Mike Podmore** and **Capt Neil Stewart** gave the spectators an entertaining three set match with the final point going to **Mike Podmore** who won 2—6, 6—3, 6—4.

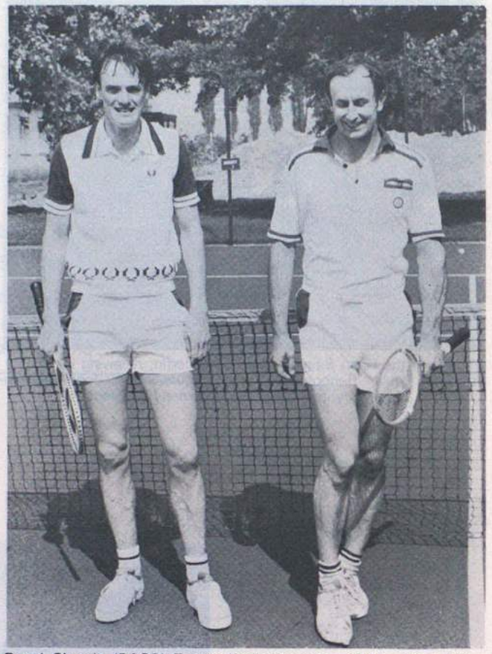
The final game was the Open Doubles between **Capt Neil Stewart** and **WO2 Bill Miles** against **Capt Mike Podmore** and **Cpl Dave Hall.** The 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt pair proved to be too strong for their opposition and had a comfortable victory 6—2, 6—3.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

The finals were attended by the CSO BAOR and **Mrs Baldwin.** The individual trophies were presented by **Mrs Baldwin** to both winners and runners up. There were also major trophies presented to the winners of the Singles, Open and Inter-Unit Doubles. These had kindly been donated by Robbs Menswear, O Girke Insurance and Travel Service and Sir Frederick of London. **Graham Jones,** the Robbs Menswear representative presented **Capt Mike Podmore** with the Singles Trophy and a three-piece suit of his choice. **Paul Lewis,** the representative from Sir Frederick of London, presented **Capt Neil Stewart** and **WO2 Bill Miles** with the Inter-Unit Doubles Trophy and **Mrs Baldwin** presented the O Girke Cup to the winners of the Open Doubles as their representative, **Les Muise,** was unavoidably detained and therefore unable to attend.

FINAL RESULTS

Singles:			
Winner	—	**Capt M. Podmore**	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runner-Up	—	**Capt N. Stewart**	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Open Doubles:			
Winners	—	**Capt N. Stewart** **WO2 W. Miles**	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runners-Up	—	**Capt M. Podmore** **Cpl D. Hall**	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Inter-Unit Doubles:			
Winners	—	**Capt N. Stewart**	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
		Sig S. Mathison	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runners-Up	—	**Capt M. Podmore**	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
	—	**Capt R. Axton**	
Singles Plate:			
Winner	—	**Cpl A. Geddes**	21 Sig Regt
Runner-Up	—	**Cpl S. Groom**	7 Sig Regt
Doubles Plate:			
Winners	—	**Sig T. Gilbert**	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
	—	**Sig P. Loftus**	
Runners-Up	—	**Capt R. Axton**	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
	—	**Cpl C. Young**	



Royal Signals (BAOR) Tennis Championships 1979—Capt Mike Podmore beat Capt Neil Stewart in the Mens Singles by a score 2—6, 6—3, 6—4



Royal Signals (BAOR) Tennis Championships—Open Doubles—Capt Neil Stewart, Cpl Dave Hall, Capt Mike Podmore, WO2 Bill Miles

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1978

1977 £		£	£	1977 £		£	£
	ACCUMULATED FUND				INVESTMENTS AT COST		
250,820	Balance at 1 January 1978	267,906			Quoted (market value £355,949 — 1977 £334,752)	271,719	
17,086	Excess of income over expenditure for the year	37,902		234,301	Deposit — National Savings Bank	—	
267,906			305,808	13,000	Unquoted — Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited	5	
7,639	SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES		6,000	5			271,724
				247,306	LOANS TO SERVING SOLDIERS		9,700
£275,545			£311,808	4,889	STOCK AT COST	2,389	
				160	Less: Provision for slow-moving items	100	
				4,729			2,289
				5,472	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS		5,567
				3,542	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		4,536
					CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		
				13,511	Deposit accounts	15,178	
				977	Current account	2,792	
				8	Cash	22	
				14,496			17,992
					Chairman: M. D. Price *Secretary:* R. L. Murray		
				£275,545			£311,808

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

In our opinion the above balance sheet and annexed income and expenditure accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31 December 1978 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

Southwark Towers,
32 London Bridge Street,
London SE1 9SY.
4 April 1979

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1978

GENERAL

1977 £		£	£	1977 £		£
	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			279	SUBSCRIPTIONS	260
	Salaries, national insurance, superannuation contributions	2,453		50	RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES	58
1,908	Pensions to former employees	532		15,919	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	21,564
517	Other administrative expenses	3,515		2,190	BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST	2,804
3,941			6,500		SUNDRY INCOME	
6,366					Income from sales of Corps clothing, badges, records of Corps music and diaries and other fund raising activities	447
8,706	CONTRIBUTION TO COSTS OF PUBLICATIONS		4,255	403	PROFIT ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS	3,566
2,749	COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS		2,076	5,166		
197	DEPRECIATION OF FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		—	£24,007		£28,699
5,989	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		15,868			
£24,007			£28,699			

BENEVOLENT

1977 £		£	£	£	1977 £		£	£
	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES					DONATIONS		
6,629	Pension and gratuity for former employee	135		1,216		Individuals and local branches	10,531	
	Salaries, national insurance, superannuation contributions	8,853		2,245		Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals	1,379	
8,053	Postage of welfare parcels	429			3,461			11,910
505	Sundry expenses	179				RECEIPTS FROM CORPS FUNDS		
394				11,549		Officers	11,611	
15,581				61,836		Other ranks	63,374	
21,975	BENEVOLENT GRANTS		9,596		73,385			74,985
	DONATIONS		23,851		1,795	BENEVOLENT GRANTS REFUNDED		1,292
27,000	Army Benevolent Fund	30,000						
2,050	Others	1,403			£78,641			£88,187
29,050			31,403					
938	CONVALESCENT HOLIDAYS		1,303					
11,097	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		22,034					
£78,641			£88,187					

SUMMARY

—	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME GENERAL ACCOUNT		—		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	
	OVERALL EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED FUND			5,989	General account	15,868
17,086			37,902	11,097	Benevolent account	22,034
£17,086			£37,902	£17,086		£37,902

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

The 1980 Corps Diary—This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. OVERSEAS .60p HOME .65p.

	Overseas £	UK £
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.40	7.40
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.75
Corps table mats (set of six)	17.00	18.90
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	5.10	5.70
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	5.65	6.40
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.20	3.50
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	2.75	3.05
Crested glass ash trays	1.10	1.25
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1.45	1.70
Car badge—square, acrylic	2.40	2.70
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.30	0.30
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.20	2.50
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	2.00	2.20
Corps transfers—large (10" x 7½")	0.65	0.70
medium (7½" x 5½")	0.60	0.65
small (3" x 2¾")	0.40	0.45
Identity card holder	0.16	0.17
Blazer buttons—large	0.50	0.55
small	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (members only)	0.25	0.27
Corps scarves—woollen	3.60	4.05
Corps squares—terylene	2.55	2.85

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UK price £3880.00.
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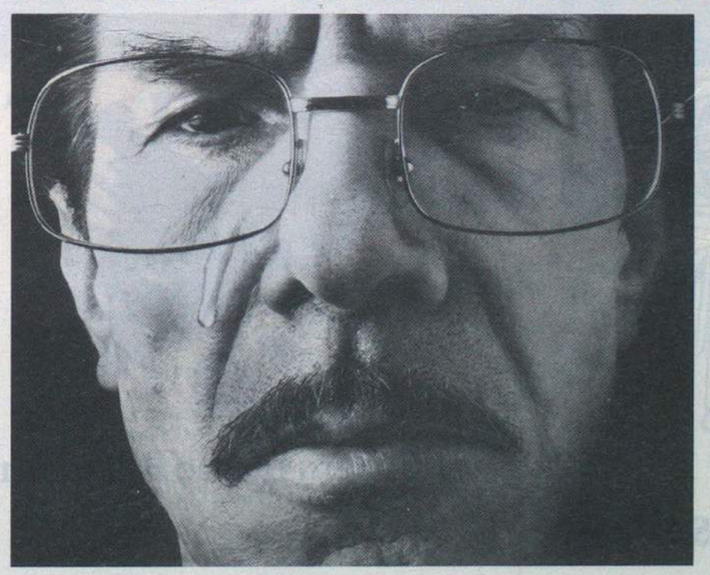
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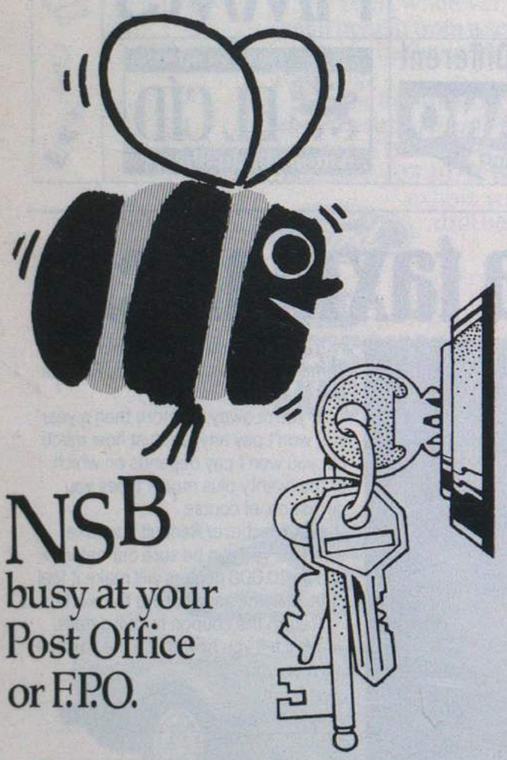
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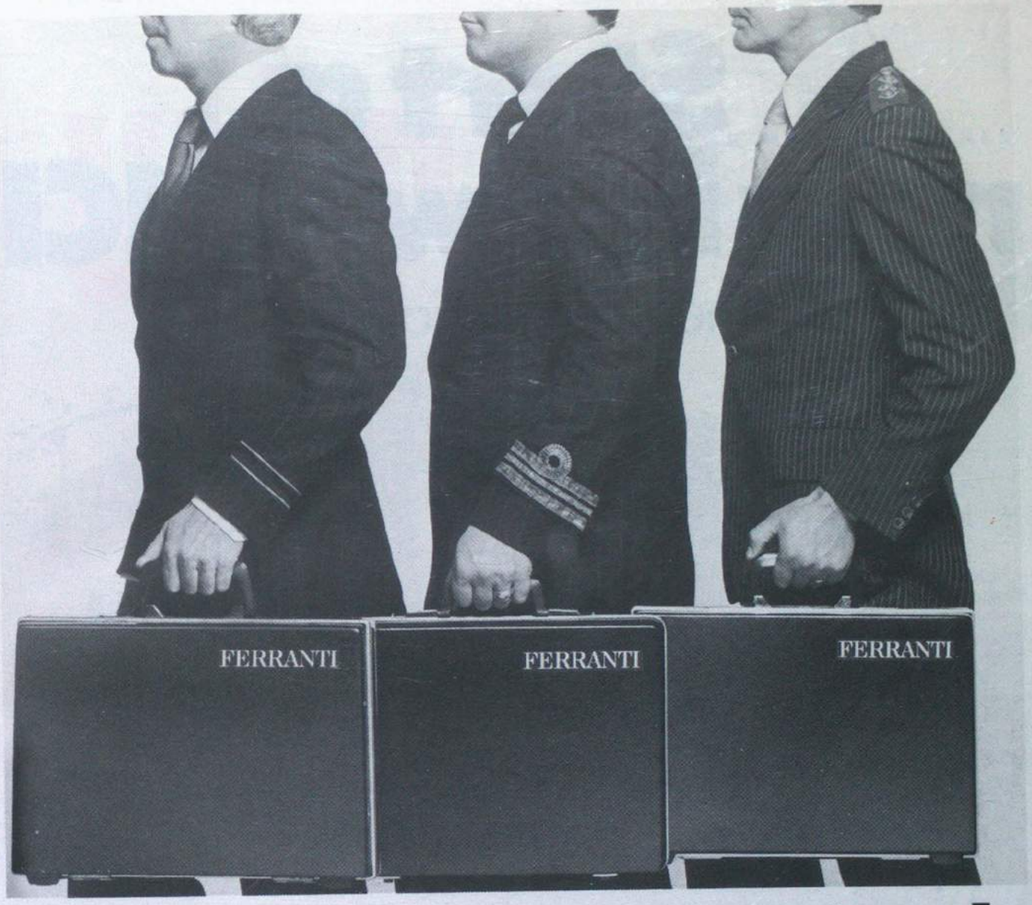


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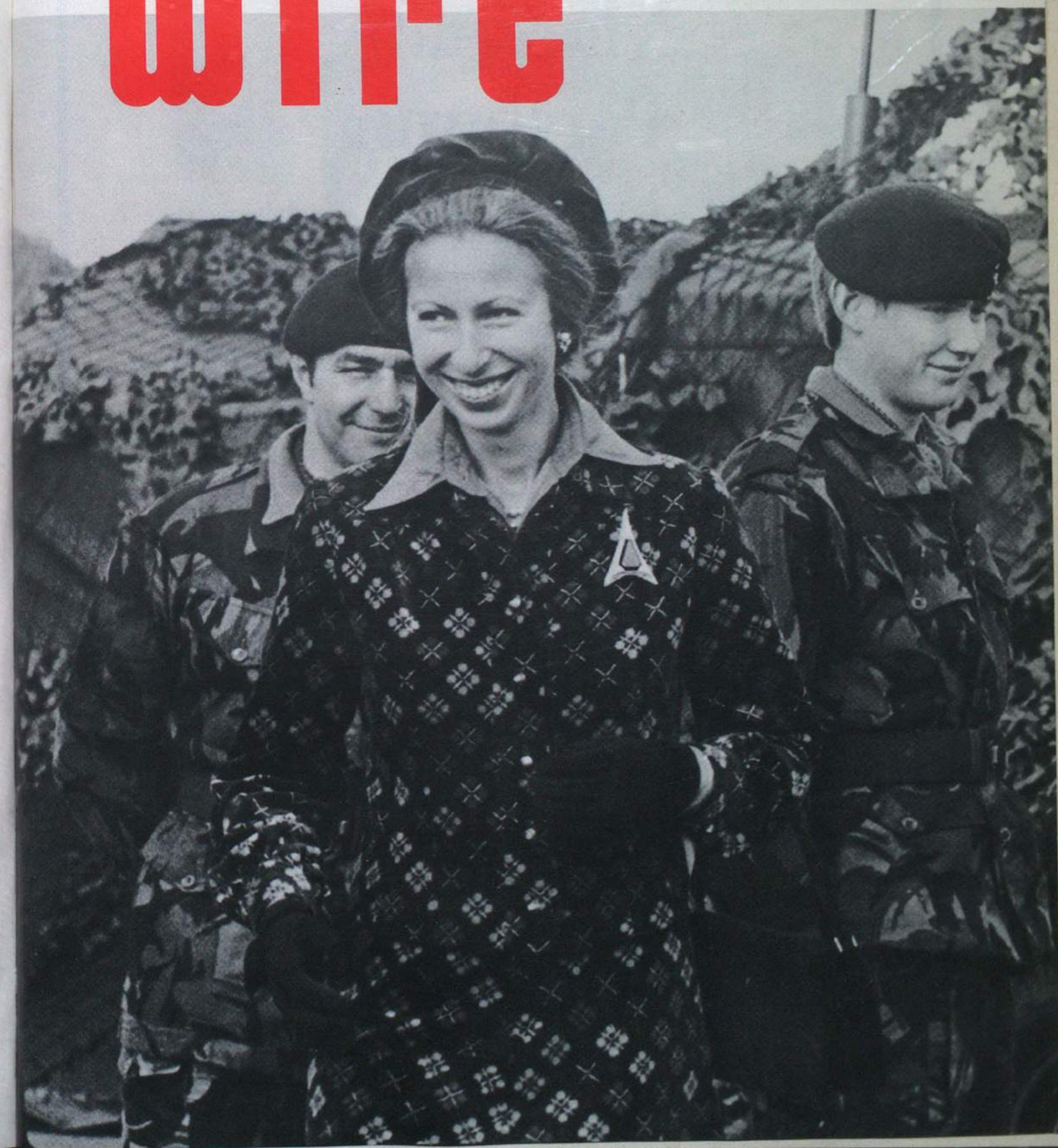
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ICI Wilton

November 1979

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



Marketing Personnel

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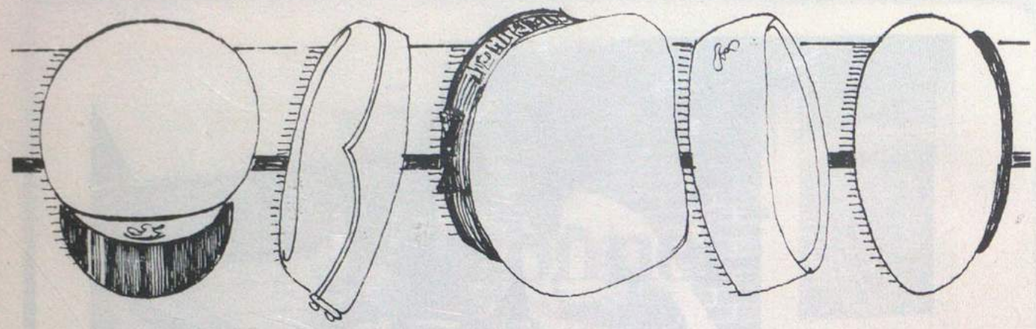
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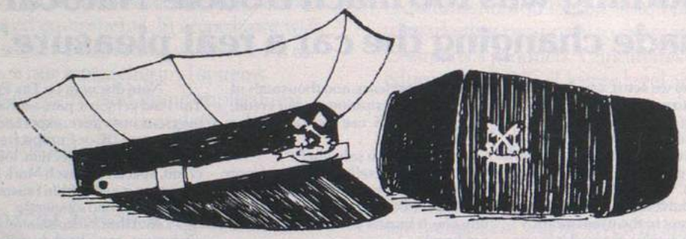
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Export price subject to eligibility. ASN'11'CE

Name/Rank _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone (Home/Unit) _____

I have been serving overseas less/more than 12 months (delete as applicable).
To: Toyota (GB) Ltd. (Export Dept.), Brighton Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 3YA, England. Tel: Downland 56226. Please send details of the complete Toyota range. ☐

£1,084 OFF.



Corolla Liftback 1600.
UK price £3880.00.
Export price £2796.00.
(Prices are for vehicle on the road.) Export price subject to eligibility. ASN'11'CL

Name/Rank _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone (Home/Unit) _____

I have been serving overseas less/more than 12 months (delete as applicable).
To: Toyota (GB) Ltd. (Export Dept.), Brighton Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 3YA, England. Tel: Downland 56226. Please send details of the complete Toyota range. ☐

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Keep them by the Bread Bin.

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

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NOVEMBER **1979**

Vol 33 *(New Series)* **No 6**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE
The Colonel-in-Chief enjoyed part of the Tactical Display by 1 Signal Group with SSgt Paul Salloway and Sig Garry Oliver.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS . . .



The Master of Signals and Mrs Bradley send to all members of the Corps, past and present, and to their wives and families, their best wishes for a joyful Christmas and for a happy and successful New Year. As do we all, they send especially warm wishes to those whose duty separates them from their loved ones at this season.

. . . AND SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

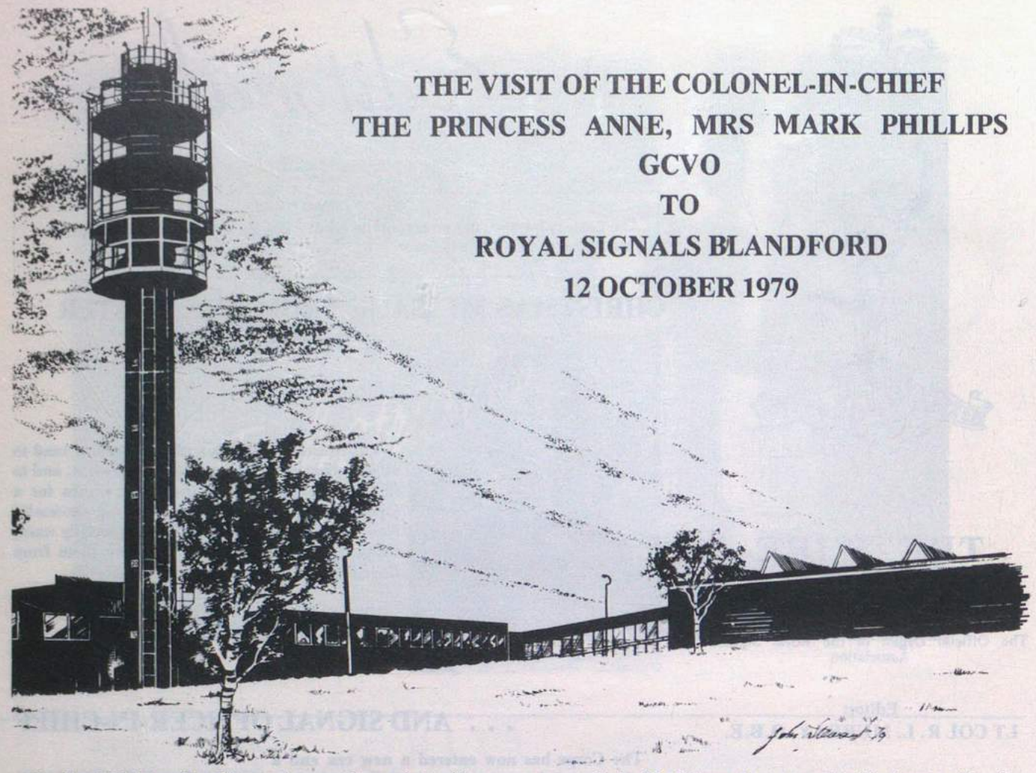


The Corps has now entered a new era and a whole range of new communications equipment will be in the hands of units over the next few years. Many of you will have had the opportunity to see and use the new range of Clansman combat net radios; experimental small dish ground satellite communications terminals have already been deployed operationally and on numerous exercises; Triffid, our new radio relay equipment, will be coming into service next year followed by Ptarmigan, Wavell and the many other exciting projects in the pipeline. Our Corps will be the best equipped Signal Corps in the world for many years to come.

We have also had considerable success in raising the authorised establishment of the Corps over the past year and have high hopes of raising it further before the end of next year. I recognise that units are short of men and that these increases will mean that we are even less able to meet our commitments in full until there has been a dramatic improvement in the retention rates of our most valuable asset—the trained soldier. We must do all in our power to hold on to our soldiers for a full career.

I know from talking to many of you over the last two years that the vast majority of us enjoy our work and appreciate the vital role we play in the provision of the means for commanders and staffs to command and control the Army. We perform a difficult task admirably and are held in the highest esteem by those we serve.

I thank you for the splendid way you have continued to carry out your tasks whether you are in Northern Ireland, Belize, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, BAOR, the Shetlands, Benbecula or elsewhere in the world and for the contribution you and your families make to the community at large. My wife and I wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Health, Happiness and Prosperity in the New Year.



THE VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF THE PRINCESS ANNE, MRS MARK PHILLIPS GCVO TO ROYAL SIGNALS BLANDFORD 12 OCTOBER 1979

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne made a private visit as Colonel-in-Chief to Royal Signals Blandford on Friday 12 October 1979. Concern about the weather lifted when the sun broke through as The Princess arrived by helicopter just after 10 o'clock to start a full and busy day.

In the morning our Colonel-in-Chief saw the every day work of the School of Signals and 1 Signal Group (including a Guard of Honour found by 30 Signal Regiment). Luncheon was taken in Headquarters Mess and thereafter community life of Blandford Garrison was on display with the added attraction of a free-fall descent by The Blue Helmets—their first before the Colonel-in-Chief. Her Royal Highness's programme included time for tea with **Sgt** and **Mrs Licence** in their quarter before **The Princess Anne** returned to Headquarters Mess for a Reception organised by the Royal Signals Dinner Club attended, in the main, by retired officers and their wives.

Her Royal Highness made a presentation of Princess Mary Medals prior to the Reception. The recipients were **Lady Scott** who received the award on behalf of her husband, the late **Gen Sir William Scott** and **Maj Gen A. M. W. Whistler CB CBE.** A report of the presentation and reception will appear in the Winter issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

The accompanying photographs tell the story of a very happy day for us all.





































From our "In" Tray

ULSTER AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

We congratulate the following who received awards and commendations for service in Northern Ireland.

MBE
WO1 (FofS) J. M. Smith

Mention in Despatches
WO2 (YofS) T. W. Sherwin

GOC's Commendation
Sig B. D. Brooks
Cpl D. E. Chester

A Regimental Partnership between 1 HQ and Signal Regiment and 1st (Canadian) Signal Regiment

In recent years a firm friendship has built up between these two regiments. There has been a Canadian exchange officer with the British Regiment for a long time, officers of the Regiments have exchanged visits and they have shared training exercises, as for example when an officer and ten men of the British Regiment joined the Canadians for Arctic training.

There is already, of course, a formal Alliance between the Royal Corps of Signals and the Communications and Electronics Branch, Canadian Forces. The two Commanding Officers therefore proposed that they form a 'Regimental Partnership'.

This proposal, having been endorsed by the Corps Committee and the Canadian Authorities, was submitted to The Princess Anne who is our joint Colonel-in-Chief. Her Royal Highness graciously approved the proposal and extended her best wishes to the Regimental Partnership.

REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT 1980

The Colonel-in-Chief has graciously approved the appointment of Major-General H. A. J. Sturge CB as Representative Colonel Commandant for 1980. As Representative Colonel Commandant he will act for the Master of Signals at ceremonial and social occasions throughout the year.

Major-General Sturge is at present serving as Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals) in the Ministry of Defence. His previous appointment was as Chief Signal Officer, British Army of the Rhine.

OPERATION DRAKE

Most readers of the Wire will be aware of the 2 year, around-the-world adventure, 'Operation Drake'. The Corps has been fully involved throughout providing the vital radio links between the 150 ton brigantine 'Eye of the Wind', the expeditions (Panama, Papua New Guinea and soon Sulawesi and Sudan), the scientific projects and UK. Unfortunately the opportunity for members of the Corps to take part is drawing to a close as most signallers posts have been filled. However, there are still some vacancies left as follows:

Mar–June 80 } Signaller aboard the 'Eye of the Wind'
July–Nov 80 }
July–Sept 80 Up to four signallers in Sudan.

If you fancy taking part as a communicator in one of the most ambitious adventure training exploits of the century then write NOW (before it's too late!) for details to:
Capt R. J. Lloyd-Jones Royal Signals
Tactics Group
School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset DT11 8RH.

CAMBRIDGE AS IT WAS

From: Brig J. D. Haigh OBE

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to see the contribution from the Royal Signals Wing, Cambridge University OTC in the latest issue of the Wire. It brought back many happy memories of the three years (1926–29) I spent in the Signal Section (as it was then known). Captain Lindsay, or 'Lin' as he was universally known, was the driving force behind the section, ably assisted by J. A. Ratcliffe, a lecturer at the Cavendish Laboratory who was later to become Director of the Radio Research Laboratory. Our 'father figure' was Professor 'Chubby' Stratton who had served with distinction in Signals in the first war and was to serve again in the second.

Cable laying was one of our favourite activities as it enabled us to get some free riding but, as reported, it was impossible to get a six-horse team together—let alone three drivers!—and we relied on a tractor driven by our PSI, S/Sgt A. Dann. Not only did he drive the tractor but he was the only one who was able to start it!

There is a photograph of this cable-laying detachment in one of the volumes of photographs (probably 1927 or 28) in the Corps Museum. As I recall, the photograph shows Sgt Dann at the wheel and amongst the members of the section to be seen are the late Colonel E. C. Thompson and myself.

I wonder if the annual signalling competition against Oxford still takes place? In my day it was a lamp and flag affair but no doubt this has been replaced by something more sophisticated. If the competition has been allowed to lapse I would strongly recommend its reinstatement since, held in alternate years in Oxford or Cambridge, it led to some memorable parties!

In 1927 there was a total eclipse of the sun with the centre line of the eclipse passing through Catterick. Professor Stratton (who was an astro-physicist) arranged that we should go there (to enjoy the spectacle) for our annual camp. Needless to say, thick cloud prevented us seeing anything—but the party the previous night made up for the disappointment!

I imagine the activities of the Royal Signals Wing are very different from those we enjoyed. No more early morning flag wagging practice along the 'Backs' (in preparation for the match with Oxford) followed by a monumental breakfast with 'Lin' and his parents at No. 2 Brookside.

But, whatever their current activities, I hope they enjoy them as much as we did!

Yours sincerely
James Haigh

Old Rectory,
Tockenham,
Swindon.

From: Annie Wood

Dear Sir,

Each Sunday lunchtime our family favourites programme 'Worldwide' is hosted by Iain Anderson. The editions feature greetings requests and messages for families and friends here in the West of Scotland.

In the programme which runs from September until May '80 we would like to feature correspondence from your regiment. During the last series 'Worldwide' linked up live with Canada, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Malta, Ireland, Bahrain, Cyprus and Riyadh. While 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 is to contact all the Scots in the services. With your help I should like the soldiers in your unit to know that the programme 'Worldwide' is here for their messages to their families and friends in the West of Scotland. Through your magazine I hope we can make them aware of our facility.

Yours faithfully
Annie Wood

Radio Clyde Ltd.
Ranken House, Blythswood Court,
Anderston Cross Centre, Glasgow G2 7LB.
Telephone: 041-204 2555.

CORRECTION

Maj Gen C. M. F. White, CB CBE DSO

Please note that the telephone number shown in the 'White List' is wrong. It should be: 0749 840 498.

Movements

Officers

OCTOBER 1979

Rand and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt B. P. Avison	11 Sig Regt
Brig A. C. Birtwistle CBE	Att DAT
Maj D. L. Copeland	241 Sig Sqn
Lt B. A. Coram	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt W. P. Coupland	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt R. F. M. Cousins	RMCS (No 34 Degree Course)
Lt P. H. Eaton	Cambridge University OTC
Maj S. G. Falla	21 Sig Regt
Lt A. Field	RMCS
Capt N. F. Fisher	School of Signals (ORLO Cell)
Maj F. R. Fletcher	2 Sig Gp
Maj L. G. Fraser	10 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. Goldney	DMO
Capt (QM) J. D. Griffiths	241 Sig Sqn
2Lt S. A. Herniman	21 Sig Regt
Maj D. P. Hughes	264 Sig Sqn
Lt R. M. Hyams	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. L. W. Jennings	37 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt D. W. Larkham	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt G. R. Leach	RMCS
2Lt G. R. Leyland	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt S. O. Lunn	Cambridge University
Lt I. W. Mackenzie	RMCS
Lt D. McDowall	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj D. L. McLean	22 Sig Regt
2Lt G. J. McNeill	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt A. N. Morphet	22 Sig Regt
Lt P. T. Nicholson-Taylor	RMCS
Capt (QM) P. A. Noble	30 Sig Regt
Brig G. R. Oehlers	DSS
Lt P. A. Pratley	RMCS
Maj R. A. F. Reynolds	4 Sig Gp
Lt P. Robertshaw	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col T. I. McL. Robinson	HQ North East District
Lt J. W. Rollins	Birmingham University
Capt (QM) C. E. Stephens	31 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt J. M. Sugden (WRAC)	262 Sig Sqn
Lt N. A. Swainson	RMCS
Lt K. Taylor	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
2Lt D. A. Tiffin	Queen's Gurkha Signals
2Lt M. F. Tucker	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TFC) D. J. Tunmore	233 Sig Sqn
Lt Col P. Valder	NDC Latimer
Lt Col N. A. Vandyck	HQ AFNORTH
Capt R. A. Wannell	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) C. G. Webb	262 Sig Sqn
Col T. H. Wheawell	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Capt A. G. Whiddett	21 Sig Regt
Capt C. L. G. Wright	BDLS (Army) CANBERRA (HS)

WOs and Senior NCOs

OCTOBER 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 (FofS) P. A. Araniello	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) J. R. Jasiok	School of Signals
WO2 (FofS) R. Scriven	16 Sig Regt
WO2 M. I. Weston	10 Sig Regt
WO2 A. W. Boag	31 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. D. E. Kennington	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) A. P. Lomax	Royal Brunei Malay Regt
WO2 (YofS) R. G. Pond	School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) T. Wilkinson	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt H. Service	2 Armd Div Hq & Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) M. R. Channing	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) M. Freedman	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) A. R. Tait	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt P. B. Walker	28 Sig Regt
SSgt M. L. Jolliffe	22 Sig Regt
SSgt G. S. Davies	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. J. Price	HQ NORTHERELAND
SSgt P. F. J. Leniston	UK UKLF
SSgt R. B. White	30 Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. MacGilp	SOLF
SSgt S. Walley	632 Sig Tp
SSgt M. Collins	HQ AFNORTH
ASSgt B. E. Pridmore	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt E. A. A. Formosa	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt C. P. Martin	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Mawhinney	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. S. MacDonald	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. O. M. McKeating	9 Sig Regt
Sgt T. A. Morrall	4 Comms Unit
Sgt A. E. Hatton	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt T. J. Powell	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Flaherty	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Landsborough	537 Rear Link Det – Fd Regt Lt Gun
Sgt G. MacRorie	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. C. Reynolds	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Blakley	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Cole	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. C. Thompson	HQ 3 Cdo Bde & Sig Sqn
Sgt I. J. Robinson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Millward	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Sgt S. J. Hemmings	16 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Bickerstaffe	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Duffill	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Smart	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt R. I. Bayliss	30 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Carbury	22 Sig Regt
Sgt V. A. Wilby	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Murphy	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt P. E. H. Smith	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt F. A. Lowry	14 Sig Regt
Sgt E. R. Millard	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Franklin	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt A. N. Fleck	School of Signals
Sgt M. D. Turvey	School of Signals
Sgt W. P. Adam	9 Sig Regt
Sgt V. T. Beard	633 Sig Tp
Sgt A. J. McClumpha	633 Sig Tp
Sgt L. J. Croome	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt F. M. Sage	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. J. D. Brown-Greaves	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. R. Smith	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. Cutherbertson	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt D. J. Ewers	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Hunter	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. I. Maroney	21 Sig Regt

NOVEMBER 1979

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. W. Lockwood	30 Sig Regt
WO1 J. George	22 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) W. D. Carr	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 J. G. Humphreys	262 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. M. M. Newman	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) G. J. Sharp	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 (FofS) K. A. Underwood	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. Barrowman	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) C. H. Birchall	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
SSgt (YofS) D. G. Bartlett	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) J. H. MacKenzie	RSA
SSgt (Supvr R) A. E. Grisdale	9 Sig Regt
SSgt H. Rowlands	14 Sig Regt
SSgt C. W. Beston	39 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. McComb	22 Sig Regt
SSgt A. H. R. Bradshaw	22 Sig Regt
SSgt K. F. J. Perry	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt R. J. R. McArthur	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Jones	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Gall	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. M. Durrant	4 Sig Gp
Sgt J. Carter	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt A. C. Rose	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. B. Smith	9 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Whaley	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Morrison	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Sgt J. W. Cowperthwaite	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. W. Tungate	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. L. Parkinson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Nichols	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. A. Flynn	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. F. Wood	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Dunford	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. B. Kerrigan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Allen	568 Rear Link Det (Inf Bn)
Sgt S. Knox	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. G. Taylor	9 Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. S. Wickham	RAPC Computer Centre Worthy Down
Sgt W. H. Witchard	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt J. B. Wooders	AA Coll Harrogate

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

Welfare

AUGUST 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	30
Amount spent:	£2,607.93
Number of clothing parcels:	22

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	8
Amount spent:	£342.08

SEPTEMBER 1979

Number of cases assisted financially:	45
Amount spent:	£2,622.67
Number of clothing parcels:	36

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	5
Amount spent:	£220.00

ONE OF OUR CASES

Driver, 1938–47. Because of a progressive disease, he is now unable to propel his hand-controlled wheelchair and needs an electrically driven one which is not available through State sources. His wife is too frail to push him in a chair. Royal Signals Association and the Army Benevolent Fund made a joint grant of £500 to help him with the purchase of a suitable electrically driven chair to enable him to remain as mobile as possible.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

My wife and I wish to thank all concerned for the very generous grant towards the cost of an electrically propelled chair. This will now enable me to get about on my own, which I have not done for a very long time. I shall now be able to go to the shops, and also meet people to talk to once more. It is like a new life to me.

During the months of August and September, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Maj E. J. Buirski; LtCol I. E. Simpson; Mr. P. Richards; WO2 (YOS) T. J. Taylor; Brig & Mrs. J. H. Hild; M. Holmes, Esq.; Brig & Mrs. J. D. T. Brett; Mrs. K. N. Smartt; Dorothea, Viscountess Chetwynd; LtCol N. A. Vandyck; Blandford Garrison Thrift Shop; LtCol D. A. Dickson; Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Palmer; Mrs. Brough.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1979:

7 Sig Regt	£194.65
Capt B. T. Lord MSM	£ 11.70
40 (Ulster) Sig Sqn (V)	£ 10.00
Col J. A. J. Massey MBE	£ 7.00
H. Liley Esq	£ 6.30
R. E. Hodges Esq	£ 5.00
W. G. J. Kidson Esq	£ 5.00
A. J. Barley Esq	£ 1.25
Miscellaneous donations	£ .90
	£241.80

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1979:

Lincoln Branch, Royal Signals Association	£10.00
Anonymous donation	£10.00
R. Chitty Esq	£ 6.15
G. B. Hollings Esq	£ 5.00
In Memory of Vic Kontzle	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ 3.50
	£39.65

RADIO OFFICERS-

COMPLETING YOUR SERVICE WITH H.M. FORCES? -

If your trade or training involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the Composite Signals Organisation.

A number of vacancies will be available in 1980/81 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, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

On successful completion of 40 weeks specialist training, appointees move to the Radio Officer Grade

Trainee Radio Officer	Radio Officer
Age 19 £3271	Age 19 £3961
20 £3382	20 £4107
21 £3485	21 £4243
22 £3611	22 £4359
23 £3685	23 £4571
24 £3767	24 £4854
25 £3856	25 £5166

then by 5 annual increments to £6981 inclusive of shift working and Saturday, Sunday elements

For further details telephone Cheltenham 21491 Ext 2269 or write to the address below.

GCHQ

Recruitment Office

Government Communications Headquarters

Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham GL52 5AJ

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.

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations are in order for Sgt A Carey and SSgt (YofS) D. L. Walker on their recent engagement.

DEATHS

Capel—Maj Bertie Henry Capel enlisted in the Somerset Light Infantry in 1907 where he trained as a Regimental Signaller. He served in Malta from 1908 to 1911 when he moved to China where he remained until 1913, when his Battalion was posted to India. He transferred to the Indian Signal Corps in 1915. He took part in the 3rd Afghan War of 1919 when he was Mentioned in Despatches. He was commissioned as a Quarter-Master in 1928 and retired in 1945. During the last war he served as Records Officer at Jabalpur, being appointed MBE in 1944. After retirement he settled in Salisbury, Rhodesia and took up residence with his daughter after his wife died in 1951. He died on 4 September at the age of 90, having served 36yrs overseas out of 37yrs in the Army, of which 30yrs were in the Indian Signal Corps.

Haywood—Maj Robert John Haywood enlisted in the Prince of Wales Own Regiment as a boy in 1935 and served with the regiment for thirtyone years, being commissioned in 1964. He saw active service in Malaya and Arabia and also served in BAOR with the regiment. He transferred to the corps in 1966 and was posted to the Admin-wing at the School of Signals from where he retired in 1975. He was a first-class shot and represented the Corps at Bisley in 1967-68 when we won the Woolwich Trophy. In 1968 he captained and trained the highly successful school team which won a total of 22 trophies. He himself becoming the champion shot of the Corps and winning the Elizabethan Bowl at the London and Middlesex rifle meeting. He died at Poole in October just a few days before his 59th birthday.

Hoyle—Mrs Christine Hoyle, wife of Sgt Vic Hoyle, 21 Sig Regt, in a traffic accident in Belgium on 20 August.

Jackman—Miss Maureen Jackman died in Darlington Memorial Hospital on 3 October. She served as Personal Assistant to successive Commanders of the Training Brigade and Training Group Royal Signals at Catterick for some 18 years. In this capacity a great many will remember her for her quiet competence, courtesy and unfailing helpfulness at all times. Although ill for some time previously it was always expected that she would return to her post and she will be sadly missed. The Commander and Staff of Headquarters Training Group attended the funeral of Miss Jackman in St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington on 8 October.

Malins—Maj P. W. (Pat) Malins enlisted in the Indian Army and transferred to the Corps in 1934. He was granted an Emergency Commission in 1939 and was taken Prisoner of War by the Japanese when they over-ran Singapore. After the War he served in Hong Kong, Korea and BAOR. He was Admin Officer at 1 Training Regiment from 1957 to 1959 and OC Signal Park Squadron at Donnington from 1959 until he retired in 1961. He died whilst on a visit to Spain on the 28 October at the age of 70.

McIntyre—Maj Neil McIntyre enlisted in the Corps in 1942 and was commissioned in 1943. During the War he served with Special Wireless Units in West Africa and the Central Mediterranian Forces. After the War he was in India, Hong Kong, and BAOR for three years in each country. His last appointment, before retiring in 1965, was at the School of Signals where he was responsible for the new Computer Installation. After retirement, he was employed by ICI in their Computer department. He died after a short illness on the 1 November just before his 61st Birthday.

Meeson—Ex WO2 Donald Thomas Meeson was discharged from the Corps in 1972 after 22 years service and we record, with regret, his death in Grimsby on 24 September at the age of 57.

Oram—Maj Richard Drummond Oram whose Father was an officer in the RAMC was commissioned into the Corps in 1939. He served for the majority of the War on the Burma Front with 23rd Indian Divisional Signals and HQ 14th Army. After the War he held the appointment of Adjutant of 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signal Regiment TA and was for three years in the Sudan and later with 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment in BAOR. He was made redundant in 1958 and took up teaching at Crawley. He died on the 14 October at the age of 60.

Wheatley—Maj Gen Mervyn Savile Wheatley CB, CBE, was commissioned into the Dorset Regiment in 1918; he served with the Regiment in Ireland, India, the Sudan and Egypt; whilst in India he took part in the Malabar Operations of 1922. He transferred to the Corps in 1925 and was appointed Adjutant of 1st Divisional Signals, from there he was posted to the RMA at Woolwich as one of the two Royal Signals Instructors. At the outbreak of War in 1939, he was DAAG at AG7 in the War Office and in 1940 took over Command of 1st Armoured Divisional Signals. He subsequently filled a number of Staff Appointments in the UK, North Africa and Italy which included CSO 13 Corps and DD Signals at the War Office, when he was appointed CBE. After the War, he held the appointments of Commandant of the STC, Commander of Canal South District MELF, Deputy Commander Mid-West District, CSO MELF, when he was appointed CB and finally Director of Signals (which was retitled SO-in-C) from 1954 till he retired in 1957. After retirement he settled in Windlesham, Surrey till 1966 from where he moved to Farnham and finally to Fleet in 1971. He was a Colonel Commandant and Honorary Colonel of Princess Louise's Kensinton Regiment TA from 1957 to 1962. General Mervyn Wheatley was a member of the Aldershot Branch of the Association and for many years was one of the Chairmen at the weekly Welfare Meetings at Association HQ. He died peacefully in Frimley Park Hospital on the 13 November at the age of 79.

Classified Section continued on pages 454 and 460

CATTERICK—NOW AND THEN

Report by Col D. G. Cattermull

It is hoped that the photographs, which are published in this edition of The Wire, will be of interest to the many thousands of all ranks who have served in Catterick over the years—and possibly of most interest to those who knew Catterick of old but have not seen the substantial changes in recent times.



The statue at the entrance to Vimy Barracks. The plaque reads: 'THE QUEEN unveiled this statue on 10th July 1975 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS IN CATTERICK'.



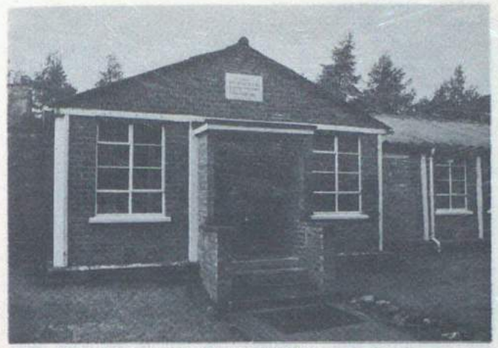
In Vimy Barracks, with the Trade Training School left rear, and Vimy 'C' Sandhurst Block right rear.



8 Regt Sergeants' Mess, completed in Jan 1977 at a cost of £700,000. It can accommodate 100 livers-in and seat 250 at a Mess function.



Katharine House, named after HRH The Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief WRAC. Completed in Feb 1974 at a cost of £180,000, it can accommodate over 100 WRAC. Facilities include a cell!



The Corporals' Club.
Built as a Model Signal Office and subsequently used for HQ Signal Training Centre (re-named Training Brigade R Signals 1955). Saved from demolition as part of the Vimy Project by personal intervention of Gen Blacker then Adjutant General.



Vimy Social Club.
Built on the site of the old School of Signals Sergeants' Mess. Completed in Oct 1976 at a cost of £600,000. In the background, Katharine House.



Schemes Group offices and garages located in the old Baghdad Lines after refurbishing (£215,000). Completed 1977.



Civilian driving instructors who had served the Corps for up to 23 years, with their Certificates of Appreciation presented by Maj Gen Tighe, then SO in C. (Responsibility for driving training was transferred to the Army School of MT in 1977).



The Miniature Range, located between Vimy Sandhurst Blocks B and C. Believed to be the oldest military building remaining in Catterick, but scheduled for demolition.



Virgin Villas continue to survive, though threatened at one stage with demolition. Currently used as overflow accommodation.



Aisne/Ypres c 1920 . . .



. . . and 1978, showing the garage previously used by the LAD and now occupied by the Demonstration Team. In the background, the new Baden Powell Housing Estate.



Camp Centre Past (1950) . . . with the Officers Club, built in 1918, on the left.



. . . and Present the Club having been demolished in 1967. Only the squash courts and Tyler's Taxis remain.



The Hospital That Was . . . Originally built 1915, reconstructed 1925, demolished 1978.



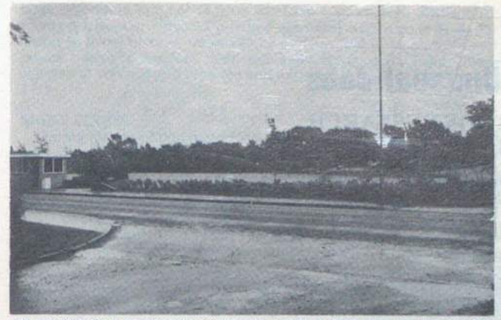
. . . replaced by The Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, opened by the Duchess of Kent in 1977.



The Garrison Cinema in Richmond Road, originally built in 1917 as the Garrison Theatre, was demolished in 1964 . . .



. . . and replaced by the NRYCC Medical Clinic opened in 1968.



Site of the Camp railway station. Opened in 1915, the last 'Catterick Flyer' ran in 1964 and the station was finally closed in Dec 1969. Area was landscaped 1974.



Site of the Classic Cinema in Shute Road, demolished in 1977. Previously known as the Ritz Cinema, then The Essoldo. There is now no cinema in the Garrison.



The Garrison Swimming Pool, built in 1956 with Nuffield Trust funds reopened 1977 after being closed for two summers to have a roof put on it.



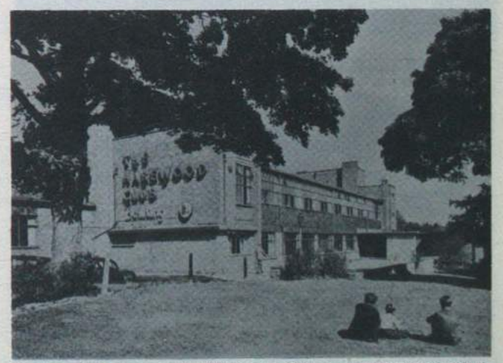
St Oswald's Garrison Church Hipswell Cross Roads. First built as a temporary structure 1915, later reconstructed. Demolished 1964.



Loos Road YMCA. Original building opened 1916, present building opened 1966. Closed Feb 1978 due to competition from Vimy Social Club.



Sandes Soldiers Home, opened 1928. Struggling to survive in the face of lack of custom due to closing of old hospital, and enforcement of new fire regulations.



The last of the post-war NAAFI Service Clubs, the HAREWOOD Club with its residential Wing (Swale House) was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal in 1949. Closed in 1977 due to lack of support and since then partly destroyed by vandals.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

JOINT SERVICES CHAGOS RESEARCH EXPEDITION 1978/79

Report by: WO2 J. H. Smith Expedition Communications Officer
Patrons: HRH The Prince of Wales,
Captain J Y Cousteau
Vice Patron: Major General C B Pollard
Organisers: Dr David Bellamy Phd Bsc FRGS
Capt J D Griffiths FRGS
Royal Signals (Expedition Leader)
Dr Charles Sheppard Phd BSc

The Chagos Archipelago is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory and lies in the centre of that ocean. The land of Chagos consists of only eight small islands and four atolls, but underwater there is a complex topography of submerged reefs, banks and channels forming the largest coral structure of its kind in the world, with a diameter reaching 150 nautical miles. The islands were probably discovered in the 16th century and were settled in the 18th century for copra production. Today apart from a Forces base at Diego Garcia the Chagos group is uninhabited and the islands are returning to their natural stage. Only occasional fishing vessels visit the rich seas of the bank, and it remains one of the most remote regions of the world.

THE EXPEDITION AND ITS BACKGROUND

In 1972 and 1975 two joint service expeditions spent a total of five months carrying out ecological surveys of a small part of the Chagos Archipelago of Egmont atoll and the islands Eagle, Danger and Three Brothers, under the scientific direction of **Dr David Bellamy.** Underwater the reefs were studied to 45 metres deep and were seen to support some of the richest and most colourful collections of coral to be found in the Indian Ocean, showing that Darwin was wrong when he concluded from Moresby's data that Chagos was dying and had 'little live coral'. The reefs of Chagos are not dead but team with fish and 'large' carnivora.

In the Autumn of 1978, the Expedition returned to Chagos for approximately one year to investigate the submerged reefs of the Great Chagos Bank and the atolls in the North of the group, all so far totally unstudied, and to return to those parts already visited. It built onto the work of the previous expeditions, and if expectations continue to be justified, proposals will be laid before the appropriate authorities to seek complete protection for the area and to designate it as an International Marine and Nature Reserve.

The expedition was run in phases, with a small nucleus being based on the islands for the full period. Personnel were selected from all branches of the Services, with several civilian scientists whose qualifications enabled the aims of the expedition to be fulfilled. Apart from being experienced divers all personnel had at least one of the following skills: Medical, Surveying/Hydrography, mechanical or electrical engineering, photographic, radio operator or scientist. The expedition worked as a team with all members assisting in the field work as required.

SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

Geography and Geology of the Group.
The island vegetation; what it is now, what was there before man's interference.
The nursery cultivation of native plant species.
The island birds. Numbers and distribution of the species.
Reef Biology.
The charting of the complex reef structure and the distribution of coral forms and species.
Radio, labelled carbon and calcium experiments.
Phosphate metalbolism and nitrogen fixation.
Taxonomy and distribution of molluscs, echinoderms, crustacea and algae.
Taxonomy of the fish, with population studies of selected species.
Water chemistry. Total phosphorous, nitrogen and chlorophyll in the water columns within and outside the lagoon.

SELECTION AND PREPARATION

Selection for the expedition was through written application, as published in a Joint Service DCI, and interview by a tri-service selection board held at MOD in January 78. Those provisionally selected attended a week of lectures and diving in May 78 at the Joint Services Sub Squa Diving Centre Plymouth.

After the publication of those selected to form the expedition the preparation began in ernest. Outboard courses were run by Johnson and Suzuki, compressor course run by Shark Sports and a recompression chamber familiarisation course run by the RE Diving School Marchwood. The Stores were centralised at Portsmouth, packed and despatched to Diego Garcia in June and August 78 by the bi-monthly Hercules training flight.

The UK preparation culminated in a press conference held in Whitehall in Oct 78 which was attended by **HRH Prince Charles** and representatives from all services and those civilian firms which sponsored the expedition.

With the social side over, stores despatched and farewells made the first phase departed from Brize Norton on 28 October 1978 by VC 10 for Diego Garcia. Those to follow had to travel in less luxurious style . . . by Hercules taking three days to reach Diego Garcia.

On arrival at Diego Garcia personnel and stores were transported by the SS Bamburi (by kind permission of a Kenya cement company), the Naval Stores Tender (harbour tender supplied by the RN) or by Paille-en-Queue our 55 ft support ketch skippered by **Peter Winch.**

LIFE ON THE EXPEDITION

A tented base camp was established on Il Du Coin in the Peros Banhos atoll with some of the existing buildings being used as scientific laboratory, photographic laboratory, workshops and store.

The average day started with reveille and sun up at about 0700—in practice many had been up for sometime preparing boats and equipment for the day's diving. Breakfast was taken, and the first boatload of divers were usually well on their way to the dive site by 0800.

The days diving may have involved working with **Dr Charles Sheppard,** coral collecting, **Dr Ed Drew** measuring rates of coral growth and calcification, **Ralph Rayner** installing oceanography recording instruments, **Drs Alan Emery** and **Rick Winterbottom** collecting fish for classification, collecting data for comparison with Landsat Satellite photographs or as just plain 'shark guard' for any of the above mentioned tasks. During a tour of duty as shark guard you were allowed to float, sit or stand providing that on the appearance of sharks you positioned yourself between *them* and the working divers—not easy when surrounded by fast moving sharks. As shark guard you lead the dive, signal time up or when the need arises, freeze—in the hope that the sharks will ignore you and your kind and return to the deep. Armed with a bang stick which can fire a .303 round you prod the sharks—never daring to actually fire the bang stick. Grateful when the time comes to surface and you, the last man are safely into the boat. Even though you have been engrossed in your duty there has still been time to take in the many different corals, the hundreds of different brightly coloured fish and the vast amount of shell life all in visibility of more often than not of a 100 ft plus.

As the boat returns to base to enable the cylinders to be recharged, the scientists reflect and decide if we are to return there again or go elsewhere for our next dive. The cycle of diving and recharging being carried out three or four times each day, with only a short break for lunch, all through until the evening meal at 1830 hrs. After the evening meal has been taken and the briefing for the next day has finished individuals settle down to complete scientific papers, diaries, write letters, write articles for magazines, complete survey logs or diving logs. In my case I would withdraw to the communications centre—a clearing in the undergrowth with a flysheet to keep the sun off—to establish communications with the American Forces in Diego Garcia, our yacht Paille-en-Queue, the Naval Stores Tender or the detachments deployed onto the other islands. Communications are via PRC 320: with traffic passed the working day drew to a close.

With the near perfect climate and desert island surrounding it could almost be paradise . . . however the administrative tasks to enable a large expedition to function from day to day are endless. Water to be pumped from the well and purified—checked with regularity by the doctor to avoid disease, rations to be carried, fuel to be pumped and moved, engines serviced and repaired, boats maintained diving equipment serviced and repaired and batteries charged to mention but a few.

MANY FIRSTS

During the expedition many firsts were achieved in the scientific field both above and below the water. The experience gained by individuals enormous. To know that remote regions can be successfully visited gives a satisfaction of achiement . . . all that remains is the years of post expedition experiments, report writing, not to mention the 26 tons of stores to be sorted and returned.

No matter how much work was undertaken, everyone was of the same opinion—we were surely very fortunate to get close to paradise.



Dr Charles Sheppard and Mr Ron Crosby laying a grid in preparation for coral study



Canadian Icthyologist Drs Rick Winterbottom and Alan Emery recording shark details assisted by Miss Holly Arnold and Jenny Cook



Cpl Bob Perry RE entertaining (*left to right seated*) Dr's Alan Emery, Rick Winterbottom, WO2 John Smith, Capt John Griffiths Royal Signals expedition leader and (*standing*) crew from RFA Tarbatness



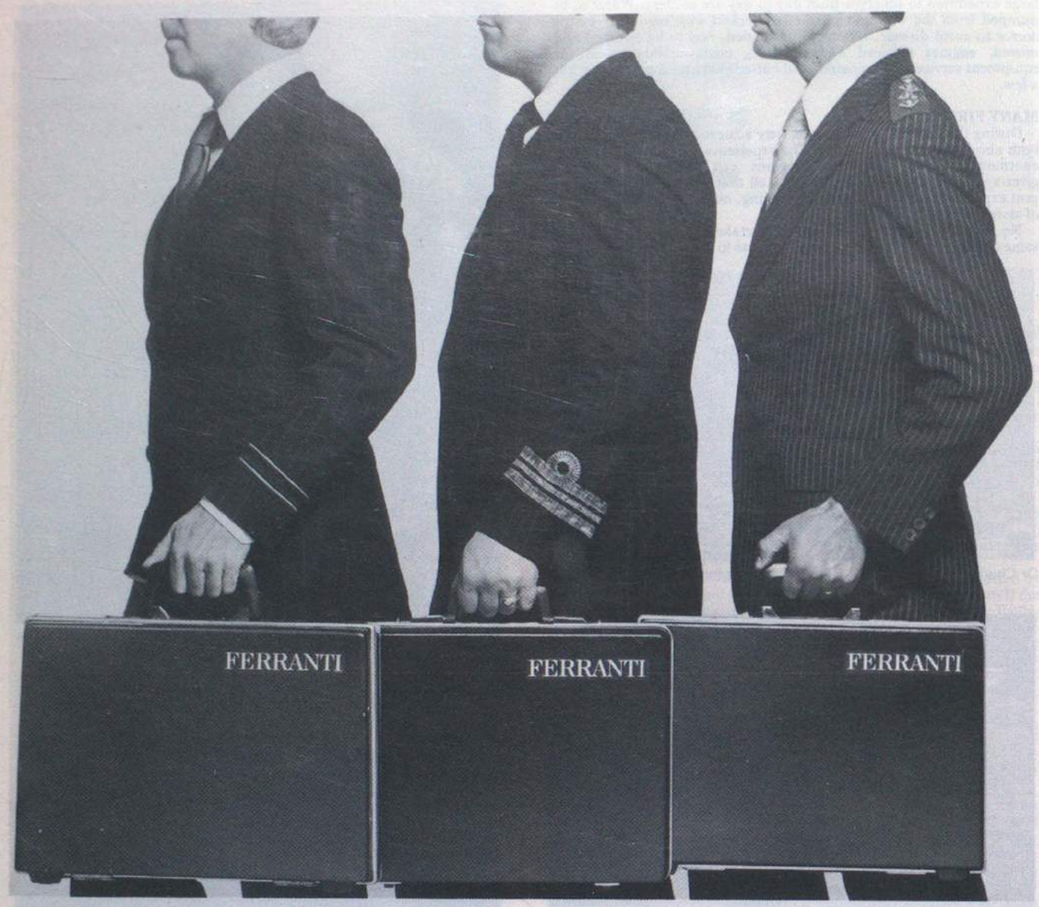
WO2 John Smith Royal Signals placing prepared samples on a secured platform at 120 ft for a coral experiment



WO2 John Smith Royal Signals with a resident turtle



WO2 John Smith Royal Signals and REA Burdes RN surfacing from a photographic dive



The Ferranti team has a touch of the military about it.

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THE 1979 FASTNET RACE

Events on Her Majesty's Sail Training Yacht 'Fluter' from the evening of Monday 13 August the morning of Wednesday 15 August

Report by MAJ JOHN MACLEAN, Skipper R Signals

CREW

Maj Simon Newman RCT
Maj David Lowe R Signals
Maj Barry Rowe R Signals
3/Officer Diana Coad WRNS



A LAZY START

We had rounded Land's End and were some 3 miles North West of the Longships when, at 1750 hrs on Monday 13 August, we listened to the first weather bulletin which indicated that a gale might be on the way. There were some 300 yachts in this 28th Fastnet Race, and of these, there were 60 in the smallest class in which, as a Contessa 32, we competed. Most of the big yachts were now approaching the Rock and the rest of us were past Land's End and strung out behind them along 150 miles of open sea in the Western Approaches. The lazy breeze, which picked up every so often, did little to disperse the fog and we drifted in poor visibility and lumpy seas into the shipping lanes between Land's End and the Scillies. We had seen other boats of our class but we were not sure how well we were faring against them. We had stood out into the channel right from the start to get the benefit of a forecasted Sou'westerly but this never materialised and the yachts who had worked along inshore might well have reaped the advantage over us. So there we were, faced with a Southerly gale which, if cruising, would have had us looking around for a suitable haven. As we were racing, we relished the thought that we would soon be speeding towards the Fastnet and perhaps making up a few places on the rest of the fleet.

A Russian ship loomed out of the fog and only altered course after we had lit a white flare, passing us some 100 yards astern.

STORM JIB

With **David** and **Simon** on watch from 2000 hrs—midnight the wind picked up from the South progressively. On the foredeck I assisted **Simon** to take down the No 2 Genoa. The steady Westerly swell of the sea had been temporarily flattened by wind coming in from the Southerly quarter and Fluter was training along superbly with her lee rail occasionally dipping under and the phosphorescence flying to leeward. This was exhilarating. But we all knew this was just part of the blow beginning to work itself up and by midnight, still on the same course for the Rock, we were down to No 1 jib and 7 rolls in the mains'l. In fact, with us all up at the change of watch, we decided it was a good moment to put up the storm jib. Shortly after there was a hint of a gust greater than Force 7 and the strop on the head of the storm jib broke with the jib halyard disappearing up the mast. We reset it using the spinnaker halyard and saying that in the morning someone would have to go up the mast to retrieve the other halyard, which by then was flying out horizontally in the near gale. Little did we know there would be no hope of this, although when **Simon** took the weather at 0015 hrs, it was announced that a severe gale was now on its way. SW Force 9 was forecast and apparently this had been broadcast on Radio 4 at other than weather forecast times throughout the evening. At 0025 hrs we reefed down further to approximately 12 rolls, but continued to steer a WNW course as the seas began to mount up from the South. Diana was helming when suddenly a wave flipped itself up and broke across the cockpit wetting us all. We put in the remaining 2 washboards leading into the cabin and reefed the main even further. I took the helm and for the next half an hour had difficulty in laying a course, which was still effectively WNW, and avoiding a large fishing boat which appeared on the starboard bow keeping a roughly parallel course.

At 0115 hrs, the strength of the wind and the waves in particular forced us to change course to Northward. The mains'l had to be rolled all the way down and I had to cut the kicking strap to do this.

FORCE 9

By 0245 hrs we were under bare poles heading in a Nor'westerly direction. The wind was a good Force 9 and each successive wave seemed to be larger than the last as they lifted us up and purposefully rolled underneath us. **Diana** went down to read the barometer leaving **Barry** and myself up top. The glass continued to fall phenomenally dropping about 3 points an hour and finally coming to the bottom at about 990 mbs later on that night. It seemed appropriate to conserve as much strength as we could and **Diana** was told to stay below and rest. **David** turned the radio in to 2182 KHz, the international calling and distress frequency, and by 0330 hrs it was apparent that a lot of yachts were getting into distress.

AND TEN

At 0400 hrs **Simon** relieved **Barry** on deck and he and I conned the yacht as the wind and waves increased yet more. It was blowing Force 10 and as we reached the top of the ever growing waves we got the full blast, a shriek of wind that I have only heard before when putting out from a shelter of a boulder on a Scottish hill top. There was some speculation now as to whether it was in excess of Force 10. We were certainly not in a position to begin fiddling with the small plastic ventometer to test the strength and we were helming grimly. Fortunately, as **Simon** came up to take over, he had slammed the cabin hatch shut with such force that it knocked out the brass lock of the washboard. This lock had been some concern to me because it was jammed in the lock position and we had not before been able, or indeed had particularly wanted, to close the cabin hatch completely. For the next hour and one half we continued under bare poles with sky in the East slowly lightening, to show low grey scudding clouds and the occasional watery blue patch. More dramatic was how the sea became revealed to us in the gathering dawn. All around were white horses with their spray flurrying horizontally and slashing against us with the added impetus of the occasional rain squalls. But these white horses were just the top of some monster waves which hunched up, their tops flaring with spume, and marched on leaving us high at one minute so we could glimpse round and then bringing us some 50 ft down into their troughs so we could appreciate the enormity of the next wave following. Some waves had boiling foam all over them where they were moving through the break of a previous wave, or when the foam had fizzled away, they were deep green from the disturbance of the water. Otherwise the sea was black.

BALING FURIOUSLY

At 0530 hrs we were knocked down. A wave reared up behind us, **Simon** on the helm had the boat reasonably well positioned with the wind coming aft over his left shoulder, but the wave slammed into our port quarter. We broached under this massive weight and turned nearly upside-down, but righted very quickly. On our harnesses, we are all right in the cockpit but below **Diana** was flung from the port berth across the cabin roof, grabbing for the handholds on the starboard side. **David**, who had for some while been lying in the navigators berth (which when wearing full oilskins takes a contortionist to get into) came out in about half a second as the rush of water through the washboards and hatch floated him out. Objects, such as the cooker, were thrown bodily across the cabin and the contents of the cool storage locker were released as the top dropped onto the cabin roof under the unaccustomed direction which the force of gravity was now operating.

Back in the cockpit, we had the buckets out and were baling furiously, for the extra weight of water inboard had made us sluggish and liable to be pooped. Under the pressure of the water during the knockdown I discovered that my glasses had disappeared. I then gave two orders, the first to prepare the escape kit, to include our blow-up dinghy as well as the quick release life-raft and for the crew to don lifejackets and take knives. This was all in case we should receive another knockdown which might stove in the cabin top or pull out the mast. Secondly as an afterthought I shouted down to the apprehensive crew below '... but don't worry!'

David came out to relieve **Simon** and we cut off the flailing dodger, our sail number printed on canvas along the guard rail. On going below, **Simon** found all were ready to abandon ship if necessary. The rubber dinghy had been dragged aft, the radio was ready, the box of flares were there and **Diana** had been inserting bars of chocolate in some of the bags we were taking. When clearing up we were later to find these gooey messes in all sorts of corners.

MOUNTAINOUS WAVES

At about 0830 hrs, I went down below and **Barry** relieved me. The waves were still mountainous with rain and spray lashes stinging those in the cockpit, with an occasional surf sweeping all the length of the boat. Apart from the washboards, which let in splurges of water every so often, there were no apparent leaks elsewhere and even the forehatch remained firmly sealed. As a result of an earlier swamping, **Diana** had become very cold and we decided to risk taking her oilskins and lifejacket off and wrap her in warm clothes in a sleeping bag and rug. This paid off, since she recovered her strength and was able to take care of the others when they came below later on, absolutely frozen and unable to make much effort to dry themselves down. Also, when we were all in a bit of a relapse after the worst of the storm had passed, **Diana** was able to take the helm for a few hours to give us all the necessary breather. But, back to 0830 hrs which saw **Simon** in fairly good heart below, **Diana** wrapped up on the starboard bunk and feeling slightly sick, myself trying to get a Radio Direction Fix (which I eventually did and plotted a 10 mile 'goose egg' on a sodden chart) and **David** and **Barry** grim faced above squaring one transom to the seas as we were blown Eastwards at about 4 knots under bare poles.

MATCHWOOD PROSPECT

I was then back up in the cockpit whilst **David** went to get warm below and **Barry,** who believed at first there was a magic technique to helming under these conditions, quickly discovered that, like jumping in the deep end, he could easily master the ability. The problem was to avoid the broach which could occur through the acceleration of the boat down the wave—and sometimes the bow was pointing down at the sort of angle one descends a Cornish hill—or it could occur through a wide swipe of a smaller vicious wave which would run surfing at right angles to the main fetch. We didn't talk in the cockpit the concentration and anxiety we felt made idle chat irrelevant. When **Simon** came up to relieve **Barry** we tried a burst of 'Old MacDonald Had A Farm' to keep our spirits up but we were defeated when it came to imitating in a Force 10, the Hoinck Hoinck Hoinck of the pigs!

I watched the waves closely. The tops would break but the main bulk of water would pass through. That is, even when the wave got too heavy and began to break down itself, the surf never reached more than about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way down the wave. Added to this, I think the storm had lessened just a fraction, it no longer being an excessive Force 10 but tempering to a moderately severe storm only! I edged the helm over and set a course Northward ready at a moment to pull back and reset Fluter on her downwind course if the seas proved too much. But I found she could be held and this was certainly a relief since we had inexorably been heading towards the North Cornish coast. Perhaps we could now claw our way from a lee shore where these mountainous waves would break far out to sea and surf onto the beaches at Newquay, Trevose Head or wherever. They would carry us in, broken like matchwood if we allowed ourselves to be taken closer shorewards.

I took another RDF at about 1100 hrs and became worried that we were seemingly maintaining an Easterly set at about 2 or 3 knots. I suggested to **Simon** that we put up sail.

AWAY FROM DANGER

'John's gone barmy' were **Simon's** words when he got down to the damp warmth of the cabin. **David** had come to relieve him and I mentioned my idea to him. We had no trysail but with **David** on the helm I edged forward and unreefed the mains'l a fraction only. We sailed forward making a couple of knots in a Northerly direction sometimes broadside in the troughs sometimes high on the top of a rearing wave. The motion for those below had definitely improved and with good judgement we could work our way through these waves which now presented themselves as ordered yet majestic sentinels bound for the Cornish coast, and we were able to treat them with a familiarity. Indeed I even spoke to a few and probably to those below confirmed Simon's suspicion that I had indeed 'gone barmy'! Under these conditions,

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David achieved a hove-to position, the yacht lying a-hull with the helm lashed over. We tested this for five minutes or so and decided that, such was the excellence of design and build of a 32' Contessa, we could safely leave her to bounce up and down with the minimum of attention.

But the proximity of the Cornish coast continued to worry me since it still seemed from the hazy Radio Direction Finding that we were making considerable leeway in that direction. I wanted to claw away and it seemed that, to maintain momentum whilst in the wave troughs, it would be a good idea to use the engine. The batteries were under water and **Barry** and **Simon** eventually got the thing started manually. In fact, this short statement covers a sequence of violent action and cursing, which included bashing a new starting handle into a renewed crank shaft, and finally bringing the ever-faithful engine to life. For the next hour, I drove some five to six knots away from danger. We even hoisted the storm jib. Below I am not sure if they appreciated this when sometimes the yacht's bow would be pointing skywards and the next minute corkscrewing across the back of a wave. We would climb and climb up the front of the monsters and hopefully ease over the other side. If, on reaching the top, we found the wave beginning to break, great care was needed to prevent the boat slamming down. Below, they gripped hard onto their bunks and watched with mild amusement as on each knock an egg would fire out of the forward locker and land with a splat on the cabin floor. After an hour, I reckoned we were safely out of the danger of the lee shore and we hove-to to take stock of the situation.

BIRD ON THE AIR

We were all most concerned to get a message through to the coastguards firstly to report our position should anything untoward now occur and secondly so that our relatives would get some indication that we were alive. On board we had an Army PRC 320, a small HF manpack radio which we tuned to the distress frequency of 2182 KHz. The air was crowded, with most yachts seemingly in a worse pickle then ourselves. However, try as we may, with a small wire aerial that we threaded, we had no luck against the more powerful sets of getting through to Land's End radio. **Diana** had a go: 'Hello Land's End Radio . . . Please hear me'. 'Hey', came a reply 'There's a bird on the air!' and the other transmissions quietened allowing her just long enough to get our position and future intentions through.

COURSE FOR THE LONGSHIPS

These intentions now became the subject of some discussion. There we were in a gale, albeit somewhat moderated, in part of the Bristol Channel between Land's End and Milford Haven but closer to the Cornish coast which I calculated to be some 25 miles to the South East at its nearest point. We were fairly cold, the cabin and all our kit was wet and in a frightful state. After the relief of getting a message through to the coastguards, we all now wanted to get safely to a harbour to telephone our relations to reassure them that we were indeed all right. There was a strong lobby to go to Milford Haven some 10 hours away.

I resisted this and blithely set a course for the Longships off Land's End. This proved to be a more popular decision as time went by and our fatigue lessened with each of us getting a sound hour or two of sleep during the approaching night. However, when this discussion was first initiated, we were hove-to comfortably making a couple of knots Northwards. **Simon** was alone in the cockpit and with the success of our communication, he felt there was cause for celebration. I passed him out a gin and tonic and a King Edward cigar! Shortly after he was also passed a rocket since thrown up on a wave top, we had briefly glimpsed a fishing vessel which we hoped might pass us a better indication of our position. The rocket shot off, **Simon** dropping the case like a hot potato, and we watched as the dazzling white flare swung away quickly downwind. No reaction at all came from the direction we had last seen the boat and we reluctantly agreed that our attempt to attract attention had been ignored.

FOOD AND A SEA KING

I didn't get much reaction either when I went down to cook up a goulash. I had opened a couple of tins of the meat and was busily getting on with brewing it up on the calor gas stove when I noticed that there was a rather drawn silence and the occasional mutter of not being hungry. So, despite the uplift of the radio chat, the tiredness and fatigue had obviously taken its toll and all were very low. Faced at last with the food slopped into bowls in front of them, the crew grudgingly ate it and then fortunately with more relish as it began to revive them.

Anyway, it provided enough stimulation for **Barry** to go forward and raise the storm jib. We tacked hoping to make a South Westerly course for Land's End but at this stage both the wind and waves would not allow us to make better than due South. Thus we turned and worked our way on our original tack in a North Westerly direction as the wind and seas very gradually abated, eventually putting about some 4 hours later to make a landfall off St Ives in the bright sunlight of Wednesday morning.

As dawn broke, we saw a flare but after an exhaustive search of the horizon we could not identify anyone's life-raft. However there was a fishing boat in the area and we hoped they would spot any luckless souls. The buzz of a Sea King helicopter was the next diversion and the pilot brought the machine down to a low hover as he noted our sail number. There was a lot of waving and thumbs up signs from us as he sped off into the sunny morning sky. A fishing boat, which had presumably been assisting as a lifeboat in the rounding up search, hove-to and we exchanged shouts, their parting words being, 'we'll radio through you are okay Flutter!'

HARROWING ADVENTURE

And so to a safe haven. Plymouth, our final destination, was too far and as there was yet another gale forecast to blow from the South West, it seemed best to get round the corner past the Lizard and put in to the shelter of the Helford River. The moment for the rubber dinghy had at last come, but in much better circumstances than we had dared hope. We paddled ashore at 11 pm that night to catch the landlord of the Shipwrights Arms, Helford just before he put up the shutters. He and his wife gave us a tremendously comforting welcome and after drinks, coffee, and the all important telephone calls we staggered back down to the village quay, unhitched the dinghy painter and made our way back to the relative warmth of the stout little yacht that had carried us safely through this harrowing adventure.

BOOK REVIEW
FROM RECRUIT TO STAFF SERGEANT
by N. W. Bancroft

Published by: Ian Henry Publications, 38 Parkstone Avenue, Hornchurch Essex RM11 3LW
111 pages, including Appendices and Epilogue—Price £4.95

This is the Autobiography of a Gunner who spent the whole of his service in India from 1833–1866. He enlisted at the age of 9 and after leaving the Army he served a further 22 years in Calcutta in charge of a 'lunatic asylum'. In spite of being court martialled and reduced from the rank of Staff Sergeant to Gunner he had regained the rank of Staff Sergeant when he retired.

The Autobiography was first published in 1885 and is written in the somewhat flowery, but very readable language of the period. The story covers in detail the way of life of a soldier in those days when conditions were exceptionally hard both in peace and whilst on active service. For example movement from one station to another in India was generally on foot and marches of up to 3 months were not uncommon. The author took part in a number of campaigns and describes in some detail the tactics and conditions of the two Sikh Wars between 1845–1849. This new edition of the biography includes an introduction and epilogue by Major General B. P. Hughes CB CBE, who is chairman of the Royal Artillery Historical Society, which explains the military background and army procedures at the time of the author's service and adds to the interest and understanding of the biography.

Although this book is not concerned with 'Signals' it is a fascinating story and is strongly recommended to anyone with a historical interest as well as those who enjoy a 'good book', particularly those who have served in India.

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OPERATION DRAKE 'ROUND THE WORLD'

Report by Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones, School of Signals

THE STORY SO FAR

Operation Drake is a two-year adventure involving hundreds of young people in scientific exploration and community projects all over the world. It is based on the voyage of a 150-ton Brigantine called the 'Eye of the Wind' which carries a permanent crew of Directing Staff plus up to 24 specially selected youngsters known as Young Explorers who change over at regular intervals. Support is being given to Operation Drake by the Services, industry and numerous sponsors.

Following a Royal send-off by **HRH Prince Charles** the ship sailed from Plymouth last November across the Atlantic. On arrival at Panama a major expedition was mounted there between January and April of this year. A further expedition is now in progress in Papua, New Guinea, and two more are planned for Sulawesi and Sudan next year before the ship returns to Plymouth. The Corps has been actively involved in Operation Drake from the outset providing the vital operational links between the HQ in London, the 'Eye of the Wind', the Tac HQ in the field and the expedition projects.

PANAMA BOUND

(Report by **SSgt Steve Gair** of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, the Panama Expedition Communications Officer.)

In mid-November last year, all four signallers destined for the expedition in Panama met each other for the first time in snowy Blandford. They were **Cpl (later to be LSgt) Alec Gill** Scots Guards, **LCpl Phil Wilson** 17/21 L, **Sig (later to be LCpl) Dave Gamble** from 9 Sig Regt and myself. We were put through a mini signalling course where CLANSMAN plus other techniques and skills were taught. After our few days at the School of Signals we all met next at RAF Lyneham ready for take off in a Hercules.

All went according to plan and we were soon on our way to Goose Bay in Canada. Whilst the remainder of us were content to doze, our eccentric archaeologist **Mark Horton** of Cambridge University sat atop the cargo and proceeded to plan his excavation. Around his neck he had an old World War II gasmask bag filled to the brim with every type of sweet and chocolate imaginable. This bag of sweets was to last him until landing in Panama, 3 days later.

Goose Bay Canada; 13 degrees and 3ft of snow. The accommodation lock was opened on the third attempt by an irate Chief Tech in the RAF with a hacksaw. The heating contrast between inside and outside was about 100°F! Take off again the following day and five hours later we landed in Charleston USAF base, South Carolina. Immigration complete we were shown to our 2 men rooms. Water cooler, colour TV, and telephone were in the room but disappointment was expressed at the walk down the corridor to the Coke machine! At this stage we were starting to feel the effects of jet lag and 'herc' noise which meant we all slept during the next flight from Charleston to Miami; all, that is, except **Mark Horton** who was desperately trying to finish off his gasmask bag of sweets! A quick hour in Miami (who could refuse that) and then the final leg to Panama. The notorious Bermuda triangle was crossed without mishap and we landed safely at our destination.

PANAMA CITY

At Tocumen Airport, near Panama City, an overcast sky belied the heat we were later to experience. After customs and immigration we boarded a Guardia Nationale bus which convinced us that accurate and decisive horn blowing must be part of the standard driving test for Panamanians. We were assured the horn on the bus had completed more miles than the actual bus!

At Fort Clayton 193 US Army Brigade kindly allowed us to use their transit accommodation which included toilets without doors (open planners and economists please note). British ingenuity prevailed and a 'modesty screen' was obtained. Although the Panama Canal cannot be seen from Fort Clayton its presence is made known by the upper superstructure of tankers, liners and cargo ships which can be seen slowly moving through the jungle, an eerie sight. All facilities were open to us at Fort Clayton which included canteens, cinemas, bars, swimming pools and the inevitable Coke machines.

The next day **LSgt Alec Gill** and **Sig Dave Gamble** left us and went to Tac HQ, located in a magnificent house in the suburbs of Panama City. **LCpl Phil Wilson** and myself remained in Fort Clayton awaiting transport down to Caledonia Bay and the jungle. As luck would have it our container ship was late, so we helped to sort out the radio equipment. We cajoled the dockers to get our container off first. We should have included the crane operator because he placed every other container around ours! More negotiations and our container appeared with the back doors easily accessible. The next problem was that the radio equipment was at the front which was blocked by 5 tons of compo and outboard engines. Greenback dollars flew around and a crew was assembled to unload and re-load it after extracting a Plessey PRC 320 and MEL VRC 321 with ancillaries. We set the stations up at Tac HQ and I was ready to leave Panama City for Caledonia Bay in an LC(M) of World War II vintage. First, however, the container had to be unloaded into the LC(M). Once bitten twice shy, so a quick telephone call to Colon prison produced us 9 hardened criminals, 14 Guardia Nationale and 16 shotguns! The prisoners duly loaded the LC(M) without protest or comment.

Myself, **Sgt Harry Elliott RE** and civilian **Jim Kendal** of Plymouth were due to sail down with her that night but bad weather delayed our departure for three days. At this point I should mention our personal body guard, **Guardsman Bradley** of the Panamanian Guardia Nationale who looked after us admirably in one of the most notorious ports in the world. Perhaps his hip-slung .38 pistol had nothing to do with our safety but his knowledge of people, places and methods was unique. He seemed to know everyone and managed to teach us delicate Spanish phrases on the promise we wouldn't use them in Spanish-speaking company!

CARIBBEAN CRUISE

At last the night came when the weather was suitable and we set off from the port of Colon for the 160-mile trip to Caledonia Bay on the Atlantic side of Panama. After leaving the harbour mouth, we hit the remains of the gale which had kept us port bound for three days. The old LC(M) tossed, turned, corkscrewed and at times nearly stood on her stern until about four in the morning when she settled down and only the occasional wave broke over the bows. I managed to make a bed atop the cargo and was quite happy until the heavens opened up and nearly drowned us all. As all the tarpaulins were rotten no 'basher' could be made so the remainder of the night was spent sleeping anywhere under cover which just happened to be next to an over exuberant cockerel who expressed his disgust by starting to crow at six in the morning. (He did incidentally manage to survive the journey!)

Daylight saw much calmer weather but the boat still slewed. Breakfast was offered by the Panamanian chef consisting of fried rice, a scrap of chop and scrambled-type eggs which were very tasty. However, when the coffee came up I took one sip and then poured the rest over the side. The taste of that one sip was to stay with me for 5 days!

Throughout that day we steamed slowly down the coast and between the San Blas Islands pulling into a Cuna Indian village for the night. We were surprised to see TV antennae and later found the Cuna village women playing bingo, some happily breastfeeding their children. This lasted for an hour then an argument started which resulted in the local policeman wading into them, truncheon drawn.

I managed to sleep that night and early next morning we left for the last leg of our voyage passing some beautiful Coral islands of the San Blas Group. Breakfast was accepted but coffee declined! At 1630 hrs on the 21 December 1978 the doors of our LC(M) dropped onto the jungle beach of Caledonia Bay.

HISTORIC CONNECTION

In 1698, Caledonia Bay was colonised by the Scots who built Fort St Andrew. They were to last only 2 years in Fort St Andrew. This was due primarily to disease (there was no paludrine in those days) and the raids of the Spanish who were the main force on the Atlantic coast in those days. Visiting ships pulled into Caledonia Bay to resupply Fort St Andrew and one, the visiting French Treasure ship Maurepas, sank in the Bay.

On Christmas Eve the crew, suitably 'oiled', attempted to sail from the bay to escape the biting sandflies and managed to put her on a reef. Another ship, the Olive Branch, burned and sank. This was due to some thieving matelot attempting to steal brandy from the ship's cargo. Having drawn off a man-sized tot it is thought his pipe managed to drop into it and, 'whoosh', up went all the brandy setting fire to the ship.

The archaeological project was to uncover the remains of Fort St Andrew and the RAF diving team were there to sift around the wrecks. As our famous archaeologist keeps reminding us, 'the way to the future lies in the past'. Rain forest is currently being chopped down at a conservative estimate of 50 acres per minute so the third project was to analyse the rain forest canopy which led to building a walkway 75 to 120ft up in the jungle.

COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHED

However, before any projects could get off the ground (if you will pardon the pun) an airstrip had to be hewn out of the jungle. Towards this **George Thurston** (ex Signals Officer RM), **Capt Jim Winter RE** and others had done sterling work. Trees had to be cut down, dragged away and burnt, grass burnt, then the back-breaking, hand-blistering work of sod bursting began until one thought the mattock or machete was an extension of their body. Jungle juice was consumed in vast quantities and the thought of ice became chronic.

Communications were set up from Caledonia Bay using a Plessey PRC 320 to Panama City which was using a MEL VRC 321. Both Panama City and Caledonia Bay were able to talk with Blandford, Panama City maintaining a daily schedule. Thanks to **SSgt Mick Long** and the lads of 30 Sig Regt for bearing with us especially in the initial stages. Daily traffic was passed between Caledonia Bay and Panama City. At first, night time gave us some problems but trial and error with frequencies and antennae produced some reliable results and gave us the ability to work 24 hrs a day if needed.

SEASONAL FESTIVITIES

Christmas Day came and a rest was called on airstrip construction. The morning started off with gunfire delivered by **Maj Jeremy Groves** 17/21 L, the expedition leader, **George Thurston** and **Capt Jim Winter.** Whisky outpaced tea by at least 200% and many civvies who were unaware of gunfire spent half an hour gasping and coughing. Breakfast was cooked by our gunfire trio and the day's festivities began. Most people went diving for crayfish in the morning, the remainder considering it was their duty to attack some beer. After lunch and the return of the diving party with two massive crayfish we had our sports afternoon. We split into three teams, Army, civvies and blue jobs (RAF).

Dinner, again cooked by our trio, was great. All thanks to the victualling depot who packed it along with a custom made Christmas card signed by all at the depot. Crayfish cheese starters, followed by a full dinner of usual season's goodies with Xmas pud to follow. It was no mean feat when you consider a full Christmas dinner was cooked to perfection on two Number 2 burners. After washing up, another games evening and Scottish dancing was our entertainment.

The ravages of Christmas Day were felt at 0630 hrs on Boxing Day. Every time the mattock struck earth a pain would shoot through the head in sympathy. This was to last till lunchtime when a halt was called. The scientists then got on with their tasks. The Ornothologist studied fiddler crabs(?), our Entomologist vanished into the jungle with her net held high like a banner and our Batwoman (can't spell the scientific name) strung nets between trees.

ACTION STATIONS

The camp settled down until dusk when Batwoman came back with 15 small bags all heaving and throbbing with her catch. These she weighed, sexed, measured, observed and collected parasites from (ugh)! Suddenly one bit her finger and as most bats are rabid the emergency system was swung into action. Tac HQ was contacted on the radio which then contacted the Gorgas Hospital in Panama City which supplied the advice. She had to have serum within 24 hrs of the bite and the only way to get it there was by air. Our runway was to be tested next day or else the serum would be dropped in by parachute. Early next morning we cleared the runway of the volley-ball net and the camp fell silent, listening for an aircraft engine.

Around 1000 hrs the sound of engines was heard and excitement grew but the 'plane wasn't ours and flew straight on. About midday, when patience was worn, from out of the blue a Cessna beat up our airfield. The pilot flew over twice and the third time it was apparent he was landing. With crash crews and fire extinguishers standing by he landed with yards to spare then taxied up to the parking area. The serum had been delivered but more important to the majority of us was his cargo of ice. Batwoman **Kathleen McKenzie** was given her serum and to date has no fear of water and isn't frothing at the mouth.

STAYING ALIVE

Next day an unannounced visitor was a Panamanian Civil Air Authority pilot who landed, made a few constructive criticisms, declared our airfield well and truly opened and told us that it would appear on relevant air literature.

All during this time, we were attacked by vicious sandflies, no bigger than a pin head but a bite as huge as the Titanic. How anything so small can bite so hard was beyond belief. Insect repellant flowed as fast as jungle juice and our nurse handed out anti-scratch pills to everyone. The solution, experience showed us, was not to drape the mosquito net over the bed, but to wrap it around us double before retiring. This at least gave the mossies a chance but they were infinitely more tolerable than those sandflies. At this stage repeated scratching of the same patch tore the skin resulting in sores and ulcers but our MO, **Dr Nigel Pearce,** always managed to patch us up (Hydrogen Peroxide stings like the devil on flesh wounds!)

Land crabs abound in our area and it is not uncommon for someone to put one in a person's bed. Toads the size of footballs are particularly active around the camp site as are massive bird-catching spiders which seem to like mossy nets. Smaller brilliantly coloured frogs of black, green, yellow and red can be found. These are highly poisonous and a cottage industry among the Cuna Indians is collecting their poison. They do this by roasting the frogs over a fire and collecting the secretion which is poison.

Snakes are uncommon in the camp. There have only been two incidents. Firstly a 6ft Fer-de-Lance was killed by **Capt Jim Winter** when he set foot ashore. Even when cut in half the head struck a few times. The second time **WOI (CDR) Mark Moody RAOC,** the diving team log recorder and diarist, was bringing his paperwork up to date when a 4ft Boa Constrictor slid over his foot. Instant reflexes resulted in the snake being propelled over two tents and sliding away unhappily into the jungle. Rustlings in the bushes at night are wisely ignored.

NEW ARRIVALS

On 2 January another visitor was **Gen Omar Torrijos,** the head of the Guardia Nationale. His private military plane landed unannounced. He looked around our camp site and was very impressed, promising all the help he could give us. We were later to find out how invaluable his help was when we came to the jungle walkway project. **Gen Torrijos** and his entourage stayed for compo lunch during which time further planes landed carrying the Young Explorers who had the day previously docked in Colon. Amid rucksacks and suitcases they were introduced to **Gen Torrijos** who clearly enjoyed meeting them. It was a variegated party consisting of Gurkhas, Brits, New Zealanders, Canadians, Americans and one lone Icelander. English was the common language with **Gen Torrijos** working through a Spanish-English interpreter.

The General clearly enjoyed talking to the Young Explorers and asked many questions. I'll always wonder if he enjoyed his lunch of pilchard, compo biscuit and jungle juice! Towards evening, having visited Fort St Andrew and a Guardia Nationale (GN) camp up the track, he left us.

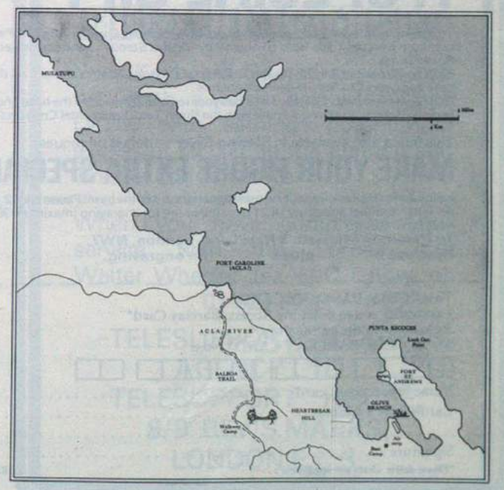
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

The Young Explorers soon settled in and everyone got to know everyone else in the form of an impromptu party held in the dining tent that evening. Indoor games were once more to the fore.

Later on they were taught jungle survival and how to operate the Plessey PRC 320 with a wire antenna with some voice procedure thrown in. There were no problems equipment wise, but voice procedure caused some hiccoughs. One stalwart replied to every callsign (a Control operator's dream?) Yet another insisted on speaking into the pressel switch. After a couple of days they were let loose onto the different projects.

ARCHAEOLOGY

The archaeology project is equipped with a Plessey PRC 320



Archaeological Sites

operated by a Young Explorer (YE). Falling coconuts were their biggest worry. Some here weigh 15lb plus and one of these falling on your head could cause problems. Excavation continued well with our archaeologist going into raptures over every find.

Our engineer **Sgt Harry Elliott** went over the site with a mine detector and discovered a cannon ball in a spoil heap (red faces all round!) The more adventurous continue to look for the graveyard. General belief is that they are grave robbers but so far the cemetery has always eluded them.

JUNGLE SURVIVAL

This consists of a Guardia Nationale instructor, half a dozen YEs, some Directing Staff, one shotgun and no food. The project lasts 6 days and is aimed at teaching jungle craft. Food usually consists of bananas, birds, bananas, crayfish, bananas, iguti (a large rodent) and bananas; not necessarily in that order and not every day. This group forage about in the jungle living off whatever they can get, sleep rough and have an excellent instructor in our Guardia Nationale man.

Again communications are provided by a Plessey PRC 320 operated by a YE and they always get through, though sometimes they have to be helped by Control at Caledonia Bay. Despite the heat, hunger, discomfort and tiredness this is a popular project.

DIVING

This takes place aboard the giant inflatable raft 'David Gestetner' and takes YEs into an underwater world which lots of them have never seen before. They assist in log-keeping, pump running and assisting the Diving Team underwater. Conditions are not always good in the Caribbean but they are always watched by an experienced diver. Again the Plessey PRC 320 provided communications, a watertight compartment having been built aboard the inflatable.

AERIAL WALKWAY PROJECT

This project is probably the most spectacular of them all. Three spans have been constructed between 75 and 120ft above the ground. This allows the Ornithologist, Entomologist and Biologist free access to the rain forest's canopy. Construction started using a catapult to fire a thin rope into the branches, then a thicker one was used and so on. Logistics demanded moving Dexion, XPM (expanded metal), masses of rope, rations, POL and other essential stores into the jungle about 6 miles away. Here **Gen Torrijos'** influence was felt as the country's air-



SSgt Steve Gair, Panama Comms Officer, catching the fish course for dinner in the jungle

force supplied us with a Skyvan aeroplane to bring these stores from Panama City and a helicopter to lift them from Caledonia Bay to the site itself.

The site is on the banks of the Turdi river and is free from most biting insects. Protection is supplied by a detachment of GN who take the camp personnel out hunting at night to supplement the menu. Crayfish are readily caught in the river which supplies fresh water, bathing and washing points. Glorious butterflies and moths flutter about while humming birds all but perch on one's shoulder. Several rainstorms have caused the river to periodically rise above the dry season level and the rush of water down is fantastic, carrying with it tree trunks and branches.

The object of this study is to see how birds and insects affect the pollenation of rain forests. Many species of plant have been found but ratification is needed as to whether they are new species or not.

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BASE CAMP

This is the hub for all the projects in respect of resupply, organisation, fact correlation and administration. It comprises stores, cook tent, medical centre, radio shack, diving stores and, across the airfield, our jetty for the numerous inflatables that operate in the bay.

Daytime routine starts at 0630 hrs with reveille. Washing and camp clear-up takes us up to breakfast. After breakfast we disperse to our own tasks then there is a light lunch at midday for those in camp, the main meal being about 1700 hrs with our Coral Bar opening between 1800-2300 hrs on the beach. Radio schedules are maintained with the projects throughout the day with base camp maintaining a listening watch until after the last schedule. This is in case of snake bites or more often machete bites. Fortunately there has been no former but a few of the latter have been felt, which allows our MO to do some stitching. Should an emergency arise during closed down time all out stations can contact the Guardia Nationale in Panama City who in turn can contact us via their GN detachment in Caledonia Bay. Touch wood, there has been no need to use this facility yet.

We have no fresh water in base camp. It is all collected on a daily basis which means a boat run. Most washing is done in the sea but we do have a small fresh water river about a mile away. This was very popular until a 6 ft alligator was shot there by the GN. Because we are in the dry season animals use it for watering and big cat spoor has been found in the area. This means a minimum party of three armed with a machete. Fortunately there are no leeches around.

All the usual illnesses have affected us. Cuts and scrapes soon fester unless properly treated and a particularly nasty form of impetigo hit some unfortunates. **Spr Kirk Drinkwater** went to have a blind boil treated and the MO dug 3 maggots out of it. Two of the diving team bought some local rum from the Cuna Indians and after getting truly sloshed went down with fever and diarrhoea for 3 days. A second bat bite called for the evacuation of both biter and bitten for a rabies check. Fortunately this proved negative and both were set free into the jungle again to go their respective ways.

Evenings are generally spent on the beach swatting sandflies. Occasionally a school of dolphins flash across the bay followed by their phosphorus trail, a most spectacular sight. Soon most people are tired out and drift off to bed hoping for a breeze to cool them and keep away the sandflies. Despite all the discomforts, expedition life on Operation Drake is a priceless experience which I can recommend to anyone in the Corps.

THE LAST WORD (By LCpl Dave Gamble of 9 Sig Regt)

'Hullo 62, This is Zero, Radio check, Over'.

'62, OK, Figures 2 Yankee Echoes, 3 Golf Novembers, Molar and our Sunray have left this location with the casualty and their ETA at the water hole is 1830 hrs. Over'.

'Zero, Roger. Dolphin will meet them and take the party to the Skyvan which will casevac to Panama City, Over'.

'62, Roger. Out'.

Having been selected as part of the communications team for Operation Drake, this is one of the many problems I have had to cope with on the expedition. A young nurse had been stricken with a mysterious fever in the depths of the jungle and was being carried out by stretcher. She is just one of many people involved with various scientific and community projects in Panama. The nurse who was being evacuated had been helping to construct a 140 ft walkway, suspended 90 ft above the ground in the canopy of the tropical rain forest.

The movement of over 80 tons of equipment from England and more than 100 personnel from all round the world has proved a logistic nightmare and the organisers of Operation Drake rely on Royal Signals to help keep everything running smoothly using CLANSMAN radios loaned by Plessey, MEL, MSDS and Racal.

Most of my time on the expedition has been spent in the Base Camp 150 miles from Panama City where a Plessey PRC 320 enables me to coordinate such emergencies as the evacuation of the nurse from the aeriel walkway. Amongst the other tasks I have is the relaying of medical information from specialists in Panama City to the medical team in the remote islands of the San Blas on the Caribbean coast of Panama where they are studying the effects of malnutirition against the Cuna Indians and co-ordinating helicopter resupply of drinking water to a stranded group of Young Explorers, Servicemen from England and Guardia Nationale who are attempting to cross the Panamanian Isthmus.

The highlight of the expedition for me was when I accompanied a jungle survival party into the jungle for six days as their radio operator. The Plessey PRC 320 on my back and my special responsibilities did not absolve me from going through all the sufferings of the Young Explorers. The Guardia Nationale instructor took us up thick jungle-clad hills and down rocky rivers where I was often forced to wade up to my neck in water with my radio and pack held high above my head. The surroundings were just what everyone imagines the jungle to be like, towering trees with 100 ft vines and creepers hanging to the ground, endless sounds of birds and insects which only showed themselves for brief moments. At night we lay in hastily constructed shelters and could hear larger animals moving about. After a 36 hr compulsory starvation period, hunting parties were sent out at night to try to supplement the roots and fruit that we had been living off. Sheer hunger improved the taste of snake, vulture, iguti and jungle turkey, and while awaiting the return of a hunting party we all tried our hand at fishing, either with improvised lines or by catching the fresh water crayfish in the beam of a torch and then slashing at them with a machete.

The opportunity to take part in these unusual situations and put my radio training into practice on Operation Drake has provided me with experiences which I will remember always.

AFTER NOTE

By the time you read these notes the 'Eye of the Wind' will have safely completed its long voyage across the Pacific with **Capt Jim Heck** on board as Radio Officer. The signallers in Papua, New Guinea, are now providing links between a number of different projects in some of the toughest terrain in the world. These include diving, jungle canopy investigation, volcano ascent, river exploration and several small island ventures.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

As the turnover in Squadron management has reduced of late, we have decided not to take up space with a personalities list this month. Instead, a quick run-down on the department most badly hit by recent postings:—

THE QUARTERMASTER'S

The photographer was persuaded to make the journey to the QM's and take the accompanying group study. The civvy in the middle is the Quartermaster, who has provided us with an explanation of what everyone does.

Sgt Ken Jones is in charge of G1098, including all our radio kit, and he has continuity men **Cpl Bob Burnett** and **Sig Ian Metcalfe** to help him. No-one knows how long **Bob** has been here, only that it's not long enough.

In the Bedding/Sports Store we find **LCpl Bob Guiney** and **Pte Mick Dawkins RPC** keeping fit with MFO boxes. Back in the main block **Cpl John Browne** looks after our Arctic survival clothing, whilst the terrible RAOC twins **Sgts Bert Dovell** and **Mick Daly** look after FATSO and FAMTO, whatever they are.

Last but not least, the shadowy figure of **LCpl Rolly Kay** who wears a red beret and gives things away from his expense store. To tell you all the things the QM, RQMS and SQMS do would take too much space, so we won't bother.



L to R, Back Row: LCpl Bob Guiney, Sig Ian Metcalfe, Pte Mich Dawkins, Sgt Ken Jones, Cpl Bob Burnett, Cpl John Browne. Front Row: Sgt Mick Davy, WO2 (RQMS) Tom Hazel, Capt (QM) Bob Hope, SSgt (SQMS) John Bailey, Sgt Bert Dovell. (Absent: LCpl Rolly Kay).

THE BEACH PARTY

To take our minds off the hard grind of operations, **Maj Tim Waugh** decreed that Summer would be on Friday 17 August this year, and we would celebrate with a beach party on the golden sands, organised by—you've guessed it—QM department.

Well . . . the advance party arrived on beach at 0900 hrs where a gale was blowing and the rain was persisting down. They passed this news on the radio and asked for permission to abort. No such luck. With reckless leadership the OC sent "weather will improve after 1200 hrs, go ahead as planned". Anyone who has put up a 160 lb tent in high winds will need no further description of the next three hours.

Midday came, and with it the blue skies. Very shortly we were all enjoying barbecued steak, bingo, horse racing games, sailing, and saying what a good idea it had been. Can there be a moral here somewhere?

CAPSIZE

One of the more ambitious entertainemnts at the beach party was dinghy sailing in the Atlantic in a force 5 wind. Our potential round the world yachtsmen, **Cpl Bill Martin** and **Cpl Dave Phillips** were the lucky volunteers. They set out through the surf after much preparation and advice from the officers—and the photograph tells the rest of the story. They did succeed later, but discovered that coming ashore through surf in a dinghy is even more difficult than going out . . .



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MAGILLIGAN TRAINING WEEK

As promised a couple of issues ago, our military training exercise *Free Wheel* proved so popular with the lads that it has recently been repeated, with fresh twists of the OC's imagination. In military terms the objects of the exercise were to complete APWT, BFT, NBC training and practical map reading—or to put it in the vernacular—blazing off a lot of rounds, trying to convert the lungs from oxygen to CS, playing russian roulette with a map, doing things with a landrover trailer that were never intended and collecting blisters!

Almost everyone in the Headquarters and Squadron took part, split into three groups, each of which went to the Training Centre at Magilligan for two days. These groups formed five sections of five and six each, under a senior NCO. The exercise was on a competitive basis, though you wouldn't have guessed from some of the map reading exploits—**Sgt Mac McDermid's** team went on a-sightseeing tour of some of the local villages—pity they weren't on his map . . .

There were many outstanding team performances in individual parts of the exercise, but it was consistency which produced the winners, **Sgt Paul Gardiner RAOC** and his team: **Cpl Kermit Kerwin, Cpl Alf Ramsey, Sig Bean Cunliffe** and **Sig Taff Mills.** An excellent effort by them, and by **Sgt Jim Macdonald's** team, who were the runners up. Milky Way bars were awarded to **Sgt Ken Jones'** team, who came seventeenth out of sixteen teams competing. It was generally agreed that everyone enjoyed it very much, despite the very hard work involved.



SSgt Joe Robinson's team giving it all they've got at Magilligan.



Cpl Derek Draper RAOC discovering what concentrated CS gas can do.



Dvr 'Skin' O'Reilly hoping that his section leader, Sgt Bob West, has a plan which is going to work, but fearing the worst.

TAC HQ TO CARNLOUGH

In case our Wire Notes seem to suggest that it's all play of one sort or another in Londonderry, we would like to report on a recent 'live' deployment. For some time the Squadron has had the ability to deploy a mobile vehicle-borne Brigade Tactical Headquarters with all our normal communications facilities. This is necessary because of the sheer size of our area (easily the size of a Divisional Area in BAOR).

On 13 August Comms Troop, led by **Lt John Ewbank**, took the Headquarters out for the first time to Carnlough, near Larne, to give the Brigade Commander and his staff the ability to monitor a march which was felt likely to lead to sectarian violence. As this is the nearest we have ever come to 'going on exercise' à la BAOR it was something of a novelty and the whole Squadron wanted to go! In the event a number of us camped out for the night, and the photographs show how much we enjoyed it as a change from the normal routine.



Maj Tim Waugh discussing tactical deployments at Carnlough with GS03 OPS, Capt David Hills RHF.

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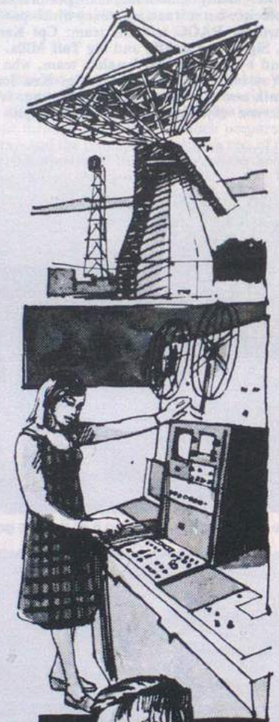
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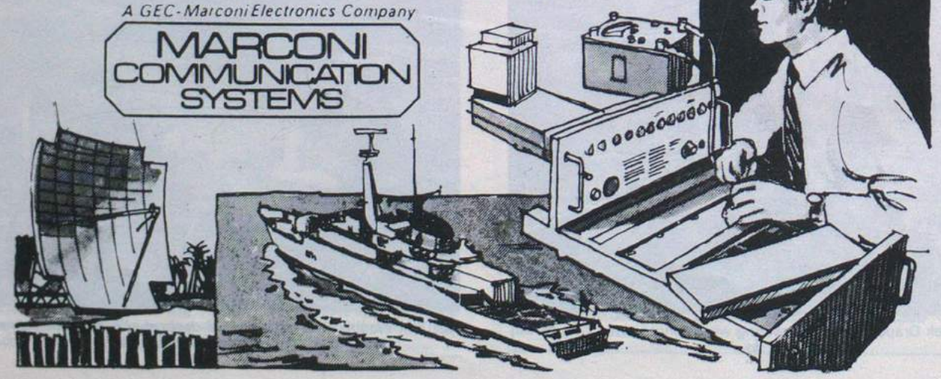
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THE CAIRNGORMS

Whilst others were enjoying the sun and sand in Cyprus (see last issue) our intrepid explorer **Lt Adam Ewell** was 'organising' the Squadron's annual hillwalking exercise in the Cairngorms. This involved two parties of ten, with a small permanent staff consisting of **Lt Ewell, LCpl 'Petal' Bethune** and **Cpl 'Digger' Fuller ACC. LCpl Bethune** was in charge of MT matters and took under his wheel all sorts of things, including one of **Cpl Fuller's** cookers . . .

Each party spent six days actually in the exercise area. The first two days were spent on introductory 10km hikes; after a rest day the main event was a 45km walk over two days, including three good-sized peaks. On the last day a much steeper walk was undertaken without heavy packs. After all this, and the early morning runs and late evening PT, everyone was quite glad to return to Londonderry for R and R!

The second course was much improved by the addition of two WRAC girls from 233 Sig Sqn. **Sig Terry Shutt** kept a friendly eye on **Pte Maggie Williamson,** and **Cpl Lynn Jackson** was never far from her fellow countryman **Sig Archie Fulton.** Despite the distractions, or perhaps because of them, their teams produced very good performances, so we will be keen to repeat this co-operation next year!



I could have sworn they said it was canoeing.

RUNNERS-UP

On looking back at Squadron sport over the summer, we seem to have been second in everything. At the Command dinghy sailing Regatta we were narrowly beaten by 3rd Royal Anglians. Maybe next year will be our year, and to that end 13 members of the Squadron have just completed basic and intermediate RYA courses at Coleraine Yacht Club. Second again in the Northern Ireland Tennis Championships to 3rd Royal Greenjackets, after beating 1st Green Howards, 26 Squadron RCT and 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn to reach the final. The last named had their revenge on us in the Northern Ireland minor units cricket however, and we were runners-up again. Perhaps the soccer and rugby teams will actually win something this winter?



Maj Charles Vyvyan RGJ and Father John Ward, our RC Padre, in the Final of the Northern Ireland Tennis Championships.

HAPPENINGS

Cpl Bill Martin set off for Papua/New Guinea to join Operation Drake— we hope he receives his copy of The Wire this month; **Lt John Thomas** completed a summer attachment from RMCS Shrivenham with the Squadron and had his outlook permanently changed; and **Lt Adam Ewell,** the oldest teenager in the Squadron, went to a Stranglers concert in Belfast.

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

THE SCENE

The past two months have produced some hectic work for all departments within the Squadron. The key events were the Anniversary of Internment and the Anniversary of Ten Years of the British Army being deployed in the Province on internal security duties. During this period West Belfast was out of bounds for all routine maintenance work and the 'Yoblet' element kept security forces busy with a wave of hijackings, stoning incidents and riot situations. Needless to say we are now working at full capacity to make up for time lost.

At last! After many stonings we can report that the Brigade Commander's Rover Group has finally been 'whitewashed'. **LCpl Butterworth RPC** (Compensation form in hand), a veteran of many brickings, was very nonchalant about it—after all, the vehicle PRE is now over!

VISITORS

Mr Philip Goodhart, the Parliamentry Under Secretary of State (Environment) for the Northern Ireland Office was a recent nocturnal visitor to the Squadron. After a tour of all Squadron departments and a brief on communications in Belfast during the evening, he joined all of the officers and SNCO's for dinner. The debrief for all who attended was slightly unpleasant as it was conducted on the BFT run the following morning!



The QM, Capt Chris Speight, explains the Province Reserve Radio Pack to Mr Philip Goodhart on his recent visit. Onlookers, WO2 (RQMS) Darkie Williams, the Brigade Commander, Brig D. J. Ramsbotham OBE and the OC, Maj Keith Turner.
Note the QMs hand "You can Para drop this equipment—just like that"!
Photograph by courtesy of Neil Chatterton

The new Deputy Commander, **Col C. M. Brennan MC,** and Deputy Garrison Commander, **Lt Col G. A. Thom RHF,** have also toured the Squadron recently, during daylight hours.

GARRISON FETE

The Lisburn Garrison Fete took place on Bank Holiday Monday. This for many of our wives was D Day, the culmination of many months of sore fingers from endless rows of knitting and umpteen items of sewing. The Wives Club, under the guidance of **Mrs Carol Turner,** organised and equipped large Handicraft and White Elephant stalls. At the end of the day almost everything had been sold and together with the other Squadron stalls, a considerable amount was given to charity. Other stalls concentrated on making an honest penny or two by fair and foul means—especially TM Troop's 'Throw a Welly' stand. Who'd handle the TOT's DMS boots anyway? In the arena events, the Squadron Tug of War team, under the guidance of **Sgt Bill O'Hare,** acquitted itself well and retired gracefully to the Tea Tent. However, our Obstacle Course team did extremely well in achieving very good times and physical extortions and sweeping all before them.



The RSM, WO1 Alan Bailey, the Garrison Adjutant, Capt Ron Seabrook REME and QM, Capt Chris Speight discuss the home brew.



The Squadron Tug of War team in full cry with Cpl John Boughey leading the pack. Cpl Ray Pickering is anchor man and Sgt Bill O'Hare appears to be whispering into Cpl Mick Jeffery's ear.

PRE

When we last wrote we were preparing for PRE. Despite one or two last minute panel beating sessions, as the brickings became more frequent, our MT Troop guided all vehicles through and achieved an impressive 100% pass rate. We're still not sure if this is a record. But, as they say on the TV programme 'That's Life'—if you know better?!

PRESENTATIONS

LS & GC medals were recently presented to **WO2 (YofS) Nick Naylor** and **Cpl Geordie Lishman.** The Yeoman was presented with his medal by the Brigade Commander, **Brig D. J. Ramsbotham OBE** in the Sgts Mess. Quick as ever to react, the Yeoman issued Warning Orders for 'Ex Snorter'. After the ceremony the RSM laid down the challenge to all officers for a 'Shoot' (This for the uninitiated is a duel between Messes using Air Pistols, unsteady hands, blurry eyes—oh, and a target). In any event, a draw was declared after a well fought and contested match.

Cpl Lishman, now with 16 Sig Regt, was presented with his medal by the CR Signals, **Lt Col M. Marples,** in the Horseshoe Club. Once again the event was celebrated in suitable style by all JNCOs.

It should be mentioned that the Quartermaster, **Capt Chris Speight** has had a Birthday! We can't tell you how many years it is but the tray of candles carrying his 'egg banjo' would have done the Brigade HQ block proud during the last power cut.

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RECIPE FOR BLACK COFFEE

The OC, 2IC and SSgt of Comms Troop had a nasty experience through their incessant coffee drinking recently. As the last drops of milk were drained from the carton a dead mouse dropped neatly out. Turning a pale shade of green the guilty three reported to the Medical Centre envisaging stomach pumps and other unpleasant acts. We're glad to report, however, that their convalescent programme is over, and the myriad of expletives used did not damage the dairy's reputation, but they all drink black coffee now.

SPORT

Soccer, basketball, rugby and hockey are now all under way. Each deserve a mention, but space will be restricted to soccer in this report. Under the iron whip of their trainer, **Sgt John Moody,** they are currently leading the NI Minor Units League after the first three matches. Our hardest match yet was against 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn and a fine low shot from **LCpl Bob Snow** in the last two minutes of play clinched a hard fought, but cleanly played, league match. In the Army Cup we lost 4–2 to 10 UDR, the UDR champions for the last 5 years, but the team didn't go down without a fight. The match produced some excellent football but we could not quite match the sharp play of the UDR team, most of whom play for civilian league clubs. This standard of opposition brought out the best in our players and will, no doubt, be beneficial to the team in future matches.

Our next match is against RAF Bishops Court—watch this space!

DEPARTURES

Lt Tim Maynes has departed from Catterick to command a computer! **WO2 Mac MacNiven RCT,** our MTWO, spent his last week with us as a WO1 before posting, and is now a Lt RPC! **Cpl Denis Hayden, Dvr Tony Welch, LCpl Ron Suett, Dvr John Lawrence, Pte 'Budgie' Avery, Cpl 'Mugsy' Mulroy, LCpl 'Welp' Adams RAOC, LCpl Dave Baggley RCT, Sig Dave Judd, Cpl Geordie Lishman** and **Cpl Jimmy Smith** have all recently left us on posting and we wish them the very best of luck.

ARRIVALS

Lt Colin Lawrence from 7 Sig Regt. **Cpl Jim Beddows, Dvr 'Taff' Lloyd RCT, LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson, WO2 Bob Grant RCT, Dvr Mick Yates RCT, LCpl Ian Savage, DVR Ben Sherman RCT, Pte Richie Hewitson RAOC, Dvr Leslie Payne RCT**—We hope their time in the Squadron will be enjoyable!

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

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We are delighted to report that, on the latest Operational Awards List, **WO1 (FofS) Joe Smith** (late of Tech Tp) has been awarded a well deserved MBE, and **WO2 (YofS) Trevor Sherwin** (late of W Tp) a no less merited Mention in Despatches. Our congratulations go to them both. **Joe Smith** is now with 8 Fd Force Sig Sqn and **Trevor Sherwin** is a member of the Project Bates Military Team.

EMPIRE BUILDING

It has been another very busy two months in the Province and life in the Squadron has continued at its customary steady gallop!

The new 'Divis Hilton' is nearly complete—those who know the weather conditions on Divis Mountain will not be surprised to hear that there was a little slippage in the building programme due to bad weather! The task was not helped by the recent Engineering Workers Strike which held up delivery of some vital parts of the building—like doors and windows! W Tps extension/rebuild is about half way to completion, that for V Tp has now been drawn up by the PSA and Comms Tp Transmitter 'shack' is next in line for rebuilding. The Squadron Commander's master plan for the 80s includes annexing the land between the present Squadron compound and the Medical Centre. Where will it all end?

The Traffic Officer, **Capt John Ankers** left us in October on posting to Italy! Three years in the NATO Communications School at Latina! We welcome his replacement **Dave Tunmore QGM** and trust he will enjoy his tour in Lisburn.

McKELVIE TROPHY

The 79/80 Competition is now well under way. The competition consists of a series of inter-troop tournaments run from Sep 79 to May 80.

Results so far this year are:

Hockey tournament:	Winners Admin/Delta Tp
	Runners-up Victor Tp
Orienteering Championships:	Winners Victor Tp
	Runners-Up Admin/Delta Tp

The League tables for the first month of the competition show Tech Tp leading the field in the Squash and Whiskey Tp at the top of the Badminton. With Football and Rugby tournaments to be played before Xmas and another three competitions in the New Year the destination of the trophy is far from settled. With the honours being evenly spread at the moment it looks like being a close and hard fought competition.

HOTLY CONTESTED PISTOL COMPETITION

Not part of the McKelvie Trophy Competition, the inter troop 9mm Pistol Shoot was hotly contested and produced some 'star performers'. With only two points separating the top three teams, the winners were Tech Troop. **SSgt Rod Gladwin, Cpl Dave Horne** and **LCpl Gary Dodd.** The only 'possible' of the day was scored by **Cpl Barry Dawson** of the COMMCEN.

CR SIGNALS PRESENTS LS & GC MEDALS

The Squadron acted as hosts for the Squadron Commanders Conference held in September. A full programme of alternative, interesting (and educational?) attractions was provided for Yeoman, Foreman and the like. We took the opportunity to ask CR Signals, **Lt Col Mike Marples** to present five LS & GC Medals to members of the Squadron. Our photograph shows the recipients, with their wives, after the ceremony. Any eyes closed on the photograph could be in prayer for grateful thanks at remaining undetected after 15 years, or more likely in surprise at the sight of the sun making a ten minute appearance.



LS & GC recipients and wives.
L to R: Sgt and Mrs C. S. Murray, Sgt and Mrs J. Cole, Sgt and Mrs M. MacDonald, Cpl and Mrs B. J. Dawson, SSgt and Mrs G. J. Mason.

GARRISON FETE

The Garrison Fete this year raised £1270 for the Lord Roberts Workshop. A very popular stand was the WRAC Ducking Stool. **Sgt Eric Tait's** 'Castle Dracula' (made for the Sgts Mess Christmas Draw) was put to good use as a back drop, and it was only the onset of hypothermia among the volunteers that stopped the fun.



Whose next for the early bath?
3 hardy WRAC girls, Ptes Ann Martin, Carol Hughes Bailey and Kay Hopper and the Ducking Stool.

WRAC NEWS

Talking of the WRAC, 11-18 September saw **Cpl Linda Jackson** and **Pte Margaret Williams** braving the wilds in the Glengorm Mountains Scotland with our neighbours from 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn. They returned suffering from blisters and anxious to prove that every night wasn't a pub night. But we haven't seen the pictures yet!

During the past weeks there has been much movement amongst the WRAC and we would like to say Hello and welcome to **Ptes Pam Watson, Oenome Evans, Lesley Davies, Deborah Fisher, Ann Mitchell, Christine Dixon, Viccy Bruce, Karen Moss, Lesley West, Lyn Bosworth** and **LCpls Gill Legge, Sue Parkin** and **Jane Stone.**

Farewell and good luck in their next tours to **Pte Rue Towlson, Carol Hughes Bailey** and **Gert Thomas, Julia Rogers** and **Sue Woodhouse.**

WHISKEY TROOP

At last the long awaited building programme within the troop has begun. Initially six rather large trees had to be felled to clear the ground before the builders could start and three members of the troop namely **Cpl Andy Rimell, Sigs Gary Bromage** and **Ricky Heaton** took a crash course in the use of power saws. Needless to say the heating bills of certain members of the troop should be fairly reasonable this winter.

The Troop have held a couple of very successful barbeque parties, and rumour has it that the Troop OC, **Capt Alan Chapman** has finally run out of home brew. 'Seeing is believing'.

We welcome **Sgt Chris Evis, Cpl Geordie Scott** and **Sig Steve Gorman.** We say farewell to **Sgts John Cole, Dave Hopkins, Eddie Pridmore, Andy Thompson** and **LCpl Joe McAvoy.**

Congratulations on their recent promotions to **Sgt Jock Gibson, Cpls Paul Claringbold, Andy Rimell, LCpls Jim Prince** and **Keith Robinson.**

WHISKEY WIVES ON TARGET

The wives of Whiskey achieved remarkable success recently when they easily reached their target of 1,000,001 in the 45 hours set aside for a sponsored Darts Marathon. Backed by a large group of cheerful and patient male supporters the marathon got off to a good start with three scoring arrows thrown by **Mrs Denise Marples** wife of CR Signals. Eight wives then took shifts of 1 hour throwing and 3 hours resting. After about 15 hours of play it became evident to the scorers that if the wives and supporters could sustain the pace they would reach their intended aim of 1,000,001. Thanks to all the help given by the male support team and the last minute substitution of **Mrs Jacqui Forster** of Comms Tp the weekend was a great success. Look out all you sponsors — the wives are after your pledged monies. It is hoped that the Darts Marathon, together with other schemes as yet in their planning stages, will raise over £500 for local charities, by Christmas time.



Weary Whiskey Wives Celebrate Success.



Cricketers collect the NI League Cup.
L to R: SSgt Mal Forster, SOPT, Sgt Eddie Pridmore, Cpl Pete Cavill, Sig 'Trill' Potterton, Cpl Colin Deering, Sgt Mick Langley, Maj Peter Chaddock, Sgt 'Ginge' Walker, Sgt Mick Kilvington.

NI CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

The Cricket season stretched on and on this year — but thanks to **SSgt Mal Forster's** perseverance with the fixture list, our rewards came in the shape of the NI League Cup which is contested by major and minor units. In fact the team only lost one match all season, unfortunately that was to 39 Bde in the KO Cup. Undisputed man of the season was **Sgt Mick Kilvington,** but **Capt Paddy Crowley** and **Sgt Stu Parris** gave good support with the bat, and **Sgt Mick Langley** and **SSgt Mal Forster** helped to bowl the opposition out. Our picture shows the Squadron Commander receiving the Trophy from the SOPT **Maj (Retd) Gordon Ormsby.**

FOOTBALL

Yes it's that season again, having lost so many good players the SSM had his doubts as to whether he could get a suitable squad together to retain the two Cups the Squadron won so magnificently last season. Well, we may not have the flair of last years team but we certainly do not know when to give up. The Green Howards found this to their horror — after leading two nil for most of the preliminary Army Cup Match they were defeated four goals to three after extra time (super star **Cpl Mick Applegarth** providing all the surprises).

In the league the manager must be happy: played three, won three, goals for twelve against two. (Happy Days).

Current squad, **Steve Potterton, Geordie Scott, Ginge Schofield, Ron Russell, Scouse Marooth, Ginge Walker, Mac McKenzie, Mal Hyndman, Mick Applegarth, Dave James Steve Teggart, Gary Mason, Steve Francis, Nobby Clarke** and little help from our friends (?)

THE LISBURN LIBRAS

The Rugby team have started the season well and are working hard for a trip to the Mainland in the Minor Units Challenge Cup. We are undefeated at the time of writing with results as follows:-

33 Ind Fd Sqn	Win	18-15
3 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn	Win	37-12
8 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn	Win	50-0
2 Para (Major Unit)	Win	26-20
Maze Prison Offrs	Win	18-0
RAF Aldergrove	Win	44-4
Maze Prison Offrs	Win	26-6 (they asked for the return half)
33 Ind Fd Sqn RE (Minor Unit Cup)	Win	11-3

We have a young side and what we lack in experience is made up for in fitness and aggression. The team is managed by **SSgt Gary Mason BEM** with **Sgt Sammy Degei** as Trainer/Coach (a hard task master). **Cpl Willie Weatheritt** is team captain with **Cpl Bill Allen** vice-captain. **Sig Rick Forster** (late 8 Sig Regt) is dipping his shoulder every chance he gets and **LCpl Mo Eyre** has turned over a new leaf this season and is catching everything. **LCpl Steve Hartland** (recently converted from Egyptian PT) is learning with every game, one thing he has learnt is that you do not stop a player running at you head down by letting him bounce off your chest. **Cpl Steve Teggert** (scrum half) is getting good protection from his wing forwards **LCpl Taff Rumble** and **LCpl Martin Widdicombe** (they let the opposition through now and again to keep him on his toes).

If when you read this you feel you would like to work hard in an operational environment (and if you play a good standard of rugby as well) Manning & Records Office are always looking for volunteers!

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—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College

Harrogate

THE CORRECT CALL

Anything less like a Summer Graduation Day than 9 August 1979 would be hard to imagine. It was pelting at dawn; it was still pelting at 1000 hrs; it had eased to mere cats and dogs when the Commandant, **Col Ultan Ryan** had to toss the coin for inside or out. Typically, he called correctly: the parade was held in its traditional setting of The Square; **RSM T. Connor IG,** murmured happily, if RSM's *can* murmur, about 'the luck of the Irish', and the Padre started unpacking his kit again. Under the stentorian command of Apprentice Tradesman, (AT) **RSM Andrew Marjoribanks,** of Edinburgh, the Parade forded the rivers with great aplomb and all its customary verve—and a jolly good parade it was too, as the Reviewing Officer, **Maj Gen M. J. H. Walsh DSO,** Director of Army Training, said even before the Apprentices marched off.



Maj Gen Walsh inspects the senior term



WO2 (RQMS) J. A. Woolley receives his long service and good conduct medal

PRESENTATIONS

During the Parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 J. A. Woolley, SSgt T. Witherington, Sgts J. A. Tope, C. Barrett, J. T. Faulds** and **J. T. Grinnell** and the St John Ambulance Brigade Grand Prior's Badge and Certificate to **AT R. W. Corner.**

After the parade, the traditional prize-giving ceremony was held. **Col Ryan,** as usual, opened the bowling with a review of the term's successes—also as usual, too numerous to list here, in the spheres of technical, military and academic training as well as sports and hobbies.

THE WAY AHEAD

Gen Walsh, (no stranger to Harrogate; he was born here) created the unusual precedent of bringing his mother, **Mrs Victor Walsh,** to the parade. He told the Senior Term that they were 'going to a great Corps, which has a vital role to play in the Army of today.' At the College, he said, most of their life had been planned for them, but 'now you are men—Signalmen—and must decide for yourself what you want to do.' Remember two old Yorkshire sayings: 'If you don't ask, you won't get' and the cry of that great Yorkshire comedian Wilfred Pickles, 'Have a Go!' **Gen Walsh** concluded by saying that it had taken him 34 years to go from Private soldier (in the King's Royal Rifle Corps) to Reviewing Officer: 'Let's see if any of you can do it quicker'.

NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION

Before presenting the Borough of Harrogate Prizes, the Mayor, **Cllr Graham Harper King,** said that although this was his first visit as Mayor, he had known the College for years. 'Commandants come and Commandants go, but the spirit goes on; it has never been higher than now'. He added that he could not exaggerate the contribution made by the Bands to the highly successful civic visit made by the Borough to its twin town of Luchon. 'They proved themselves excellent ambassadors', he said: 'a credit to themselves, their instructors, and to the armed forces of Her Majesty'.

THE PRIZE-WINNERS:

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD
for the best all round Apprentice of
Senior Term ..... **AT SSM R. G. Dykes**

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD
for the best all round Tradesman of
Senior Term ..... **AT SSM A. S. Cupper**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY TRAINING AWARD (New award)
for the best individual military
performance of Senior Term ..... **AT W. J. Bishop**

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE
For Conduct, Discipline and Example ... **AT RSM A. D. Marjoribanks**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE
for outstanding academic progress
whilst at the College ..... **AT LCpl S. P. Davis**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE
to the best Apprentice of the Senior Term in each trade

TELEGRAPHIST
Radio ..... **AT SSM M. Hope**
Data ..... **AT Sgt S. N. Guildford**
Special ..... **AT Cpl P. Meadows**

EDUCATION PRIZES
for the best academic progress during their
time at the College
TELEGRAPHIST ..... **AT Cpl P. Meadows**

THE WESSEX TROPHY
Presented by the Bristol Branch of the
Royal Signals Association and awarded
to the best all round Apprentice from
the West Country ..... **AT SSM R. G. Dykes**

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZES
for the best essays on local Government
TECHNICIAN ..... **AT G. Thorpe-Willett**
TELEGRAPHIST ..... **AT M. J. Simmonds**

ATHLETICS

During the Athletics season, **Sgt Rafferty** (APTC) and **LCpl Robertson** have been running long distance road races and achieved the following performances:

26 May — Hull 5 miles	8th — **LCpl Robertson**	24 min – 27 sec
	15th — **Sgt Rafferty**	25 min – 55 sec
24 June — Manchester 20km	17th — **Lcpl Robertson**	1 hr – 03 min – 48 sec
	33rd — **Sgt Rafferty**	1 hr – 06 min – 8 sec
27 July — Sunderland 5 miles	4th — **LCp! Robertson**	25 min – 17 sec
	13th — **Sgt Rafferty**	26 min – 13 sec
4 August — Sale 15 miles	2nd — **LCpl Robertson**	1 hr – 14 min – 44 sec
Redcar 10 miles	7th — **Sgt Rafferty**	50 min – 11 sec

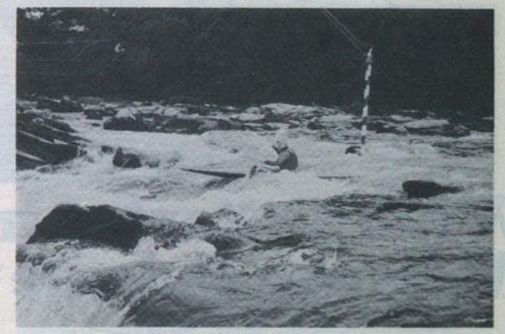
22 September — Milton Keynes International Marathon
9th — **LCpl Robertson** 2 hrs – 21 min – 51 sec
18th — **Sgt Rafferty** 2 hrs – 27 min – 22 sec

This was their first marathon both running first class times. **LCpl Robertson's** time being under 2 hrs – 23 min, qualified him to become a member of the British Marathon Runners Club (BMRC). This makes **LCpl Robertson** the No 1 Marathon runner in the Army at the present and his time in the Milton Keynes Marathon was the second fastest ever recorded by an Army athlete.

CANOEING

The 1979 Slalom season culminated for us in the Inter-Service Championships held at Grantully, Perthshire on September 12th–16th. Three ATs' and two members of Permanent Staff had been selected to attend the Championships and **ATs' Chris Newman, Tony Woolaston** and **'Harry' Hartridge** together with **Sgt John Smith** and **Capt John Cornforth** all made the pilgrimage north. In the selection event on the Wednesday, **Hartridge** and **Sgt John Smith** narrowly missed being selected and **Newman** unfortunately found himself without a partner for the Canadian double event.

The individual competition took place on Friday in near perfect water conditons (unlike the heavy water of last year) and the Army team struggled gamely to try and close the gap on a very impressive RAF squad. It is worth mentioning from the College's point of view that of the 18 members of the Army Team, 6 were Royal Signal canoeists all of whom have, at some time, served as Apprentices or PS at the College. Despite some very impressive paddling by **AT Sgt Tony Woolaston** (the current Army Junior Champion) in Saturday's Team event, the RAF emerged as clear winners once more—but the event was nevertheless a thrilling occasion as the photographs show.



AT 'Harry' Hartridge successfully negotiates gate 11



AT Sgt Tony Woolaston crossing for gate 13

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TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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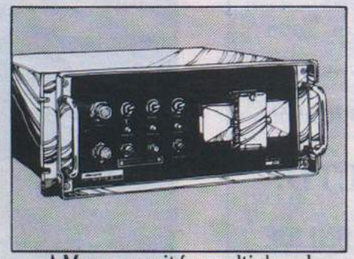
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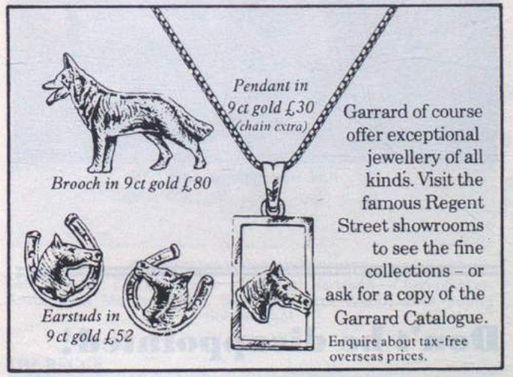
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SURPRISE:

As you read in the July issue, the loan service team in Qatar is small, so small that at times the CO can't find them. After five years of silence as far as readers are concerned, you must be astonished to see us appearing in print twice within a few months. Don't worry, we will only disturb your peace when we have an item of note to report, and once again, we think we have something to be proud of.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Being classed as a remote post has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. One blessing is that we are not inundated by the usual mountain of paper from all and sundry staffs who think we ought to know about 'It'. So, when the CO received a letter from **Lady Ford** asking for contributions to the funds of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, it was quite an event. Knowing that a whip-round would not produce much because out of the seven lone servicemen three were on leave in UK, thinking caps were donned to see what could be done. The answer was a masterpiece—a sponsored swim—which meant other people did the really hard work.

With the advice and support of the Embassy, the swim was held on 24 August at the private pool of The British Bank of The Middle East. Because the event was organised by British servicemen, for a British Service charity, we had to run it within the British community to avoid offending our host country. Add to this the problem of it being the home leave season, the numbers we could approach were severely limited. Under the circumstances we would have been happy to raise enough to send a cheque home for a hundred pounds. As it turned out, the response was beyond our wildest dreams. Banks, business houses, and swimmers came up trumps, and when it was all over we found we had raised QR6186/– which, converted to sterling produced a cheque for £735.00.



Trevor Spence watches John Todd (rear view) handing over gifts to a participant in the sponsored swim

POSTSCRIPT

Our next charity event will be held during April 1980, when the expatriate community, and the team, should be at full strength. So, watch out for us next year; we have every intention of beating this year's total—inshallah. What's more, we are not going to let you forget we're here. Visitors welcome at any time except during school holidays!

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

Royal Signals Demonstration Team

PERSONALITIES
OC Lt Col F. C. Lockwood OBE Royal Signals
ADJT Capt D. Shakespeare Royal Signals
SSM WO2 A. A. Nicoll
SQMS Sgt J. Fitzpatrick
I/C WKSPS Sgt R. Thompson

DISPLAY SEEN BY THOUSANDS

July was a very busy month for the team starting on the 1st with a very successful Old Comrades Show at 8 Sig Regt; even the weather was on our side, but the OC did say it would be. Immediately the public had gone it was 'all hands on deck' (the OC loves sailing) to dismantle the show and load the vehicles to embark for Earls Court and this year's Royal Tournament. Early Monday morning saw the unusual sight of the SSM and Workshops personnel leaving Gaza Barracks for the long drive to London in perfect convoy order. On arrival at Earls Court the static display area was swiftly and surely erected awaiting the arrival of the display personnel and their equipment. This work was completed by our own team assisted by **Sgt Bell** and four Juniors kindly loaned from the Junior Signals Wing at Ouston.

The display this year was headed by a Trade Training display organised by HQ Training Group Royal Signals and ably backed up by contingents from 30 Sig Regt (Jungle), 249 Sig Sqn (Artic), 6 Fd Force (Para) and our own White Helmets. The Training Group display showed aspects of the basic trade training offered in the Corps highlighted by elements from 8 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt, AA College Harrogate and the School of Signals. The Co-ordinator of the display was the OC, **Lt Col Lockwood** with brave comments from the SSM. The Project Officer was **Cap Phil Daniel** 6 Fd Force, assisted by **WO1 (YOS) Mansfield** 8 Sig Regt. Leading up to the first Public Performance there were inspections by **Col K. H. Olds,** Commander 1 Signal Group, **Brig P. J. Evans MBE** and the SO in C **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson.**

The SO in C's visit was followed two hours later by the first official public performance. The final result was well worth the hard work put into the preparation by all participants. The efficient and smart way that the display personnel presented themselves and their equipment to the many thousands who visited our display will, I am sure, encourage many to take up a career in the Corps which after all is our aim. Immediately the last performance was over the background workers (RSDT) dismantled the display and headed back for the sun at Catterick. All those involved enjoyed the experience and will remember Royal Tournament '79 for years to come (any volunteers).

Footnote: The SSM is not allowed to drive with the team anymore; *his* vehicle broke down going to Earls Court and again coming back!



8 Signal Regiment Stand



AAC Harrogate Stand



30 Signal Regiment 'Jungle' Stand

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Signal Wing, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

POETIC JUSTICE

Ever since we moved into the new Signal Wing, situated behind the Faraday Hall, the MT section, headed by **Sgt Jock Letford,** has been agitating for new accommodation. (What's good for the goose . . .) So the geese at the top decided to ask the 'Q' Staff to have a gander at the MT to see if they could improve the situation. A date was agreed and the great men appeared. The Chief Instructor, **Maj Alan Eastburn** and **Sgt Letford** explained how we needed more room and better office facilities. The great men listened, agreed, commiserated and finally promised a solution would be sought. Two months later a Troop from 44 Sqn RCT was moved in and now shares the accommodation! We have, however, been informed that a new MT Complex is planned.

(Historical note: The new Signal Wing took 8 years from planning to occupation!)

SKILL AT ARMS

On 21 May 79, we held a Skill at Arms meeting in which all members of the Wing participated. The event was organised by **SSgt Dave Scott** and was a resounding success, culminating as do most of our functions, with a pint in the Wing Club. The prizes were presented by the Academy Chief Instructor, **Lt Col K. Hitchcock LI** as follows:

Champion-at-Arms	— **Cpl 'Herby' Herbison**
Best Senior Shot	— **Maj Alan Eastburn**
Best Young Soldier Shot	— **LCpl Ian Webb**
Best SMG Shot	— **SSgt Tony Cartwright**
Best SLR Shot	— **Cpl 'Stevie' Alexander**
Best Pistol Shot	— **LCpl 'Mo' Morris**

The falling plate competition for a crate of beer was won by the SNCO team headed by **WO2 (Y of S) Bob McLaren. (SSgt Scott** later showed the Corps flag by winning the Best SMG Shot in the Academy Skill at Arms meeting against stiff competition from all other Arms in the Academy).



THE SIGNAL WING BEST SHOTS
Left to right: Cpl Alexander—SLR, Cpl Herbison—Champion-at-Arms, LCpl Morris—Pistol, (kneeling) LCpl Webb—Best Young Soldier Shot

THE RECCE

Although 7 and 8 September were the only two clear days we could find for Summer Camp this year, the CI felt that it was worthwhile and gave the go-ahead. **SSgts 'Paddy' Quinn** and **'Paddy' Elliott** were given the job of organising the whole thing. They very quickly found a camp in Gosport and then took two days off to recce it! Their recce was very successful, however, and they came back with lots of ideas and useful contacts in the area.

THE NIGHT-LIFE

We all travelled down to Gosport on Wednesday afternoon and most of the Wing spent the first night out on the town unsupervised. **WO2 Dave Gilchrist, SSgt 'Marsh' Davey** and **SSgt John Wallace** decided to go and 'do' Lee-on-Solent—they had such a good time that they didn't get back until 2230hrs! **SSgt Davey** observed, 'They don't bury their dead in Lee-on-Solent, they prop them up in the pubs!'

POPULAR RAFFLE

Thursday morning started with the inevitable early morning 'practice BFT' with respirators and swimming kit! After breakfast we played some games and then went off to visit HMS Dolphin where somehow the Seniors got mixed up in a raffle in the Mess at lunch and **Sgt Mick McDermott** staggered away with a 1¼ litre bottle of Whisky, **SSgt 'Paddy' Quinn** won a bottle of Port and **Sgt 'Jock' Letford,** although warned against it by the Matelots, took the Mystery Prize which turned out to be a box of German goodies—wine beer, wurst etc. After lunch we visited HMS Vernon and HMS Victory but neither could be persuaded to hold a raffle! The late afternoon was spent playing more exhausting games, a well organised but happily uneventful Barbecue was held in the evening.

NO LIST

Friday morning started, before Sparrows, with us all attempting to pass the BFT (it is rumoured that the RSMI, **WO1 (Y of S) 'Paddy' Paddison** and **Cpl Neil Hatton** are still running!) The rest of the day was taken up with some very weird games—French Cricket, Chinese Baseball, Mafia Murder Ball and other international tortures, thought up for us by our resident sadists, **SSgt John Wallace** and PTI, **SSgt Barry 'I used to be in the Signals, but I'm alright now' Woom.** (These two gentlemen further improved their popularity later by losing the list of those that had passed the BFT!)

ALL IN TWO DAYS

Without exception, everyone enjoyed themselves on the Camp and we certainly proved that it is not impossible to hold a Summer Camp in two days—it's simply exhausting!

WELCOME BACK

The Royal Signals Cocktail Party was held on 11 July when an old friend of the Signal Wing returned as a guest. Many members of the Corps will remember **Mrs Violet Smith** who served as the Wing typist from way back in 1949 until December 76. **Mrs Smith** stayed long enough to brief our current typist **Mrs Madeleine Cauchi** on how to run the Wing and also found time to tell us stories about some, by now Senior, Officers of the Corps!



Mrs Violet Smith outside the Signal Wing

FROM THE DIARY

Tops

We congratulate **LCpl Mick Halford** on gaining an 'A' grading on his Combat Radioman Class 1 Course.

Wrecker
One of our new arrivals, direct from training in Catterick, **Sig Shaun Dickinson,** has been nicknamed 'wrecker' by the MT section after taking out two vehicles in two days and having two breakdowns—still that's what 'continuation training' is all about!

Our Hero
Members of the Corps should note that **WO2 (Y of S) Bob McLaren** has at last been decorated. He was awarded the NMM (No Medal Medal) on leaving the Academy!

Squirrel
On leaving the Academy **Cpl Alex Sampson** handed back all of the items he held which 'may come in handy'. It seems there was no way he could move them by MFO.

Teaser
Who horsed around at the Horse Show and got put in the paddock? Answers please on a lineman's clean conduct sheet!

Boxing
It was **Dave 'Boy' Green's** big night on 25 September when he met members of the Wing after his victorious International Welterweight contest against Steve Michalerya (USA) at the Empire Pool Wembley.

DEPARTURES
We bid farewell to eight old friends on posting:
WO2 (Y of S) Bob McLaren, SSgt Tony Cartwright and **Janine, SSgt Alan Rutherford** and **Morag, SSgt Dave Scott** and **Carol, Cpl Alex Sampson** and **Sandra, Cpl Ray Bowden** and **Jane, Sig 'Noddy' Baker** and **Sig Ian Cooper.** The best of luck in your new jobs.

ARRIVALS
Welcome to our new members, **WO2 (Y of S) Brian McAneny** and **Carol, SSgt Mick Stone** and **Dot, SSgt Mick Rea** and **Jean, Cpl Tony Davison** and **Jean, Sig 'Compo' Brewer** and **Sig 'Wrecker'Dickinson.** We hope you have an enjoyable tour.

GENERAL BALDWIN JOINS IBA



Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin relinquished the appointment of Chief Signal Officer British Army of the Rhine on 23 November 1979 and is to retire from the Army. He has been succeeded by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE.**

The changeover took place at short notice to enable **General Baldwin** to assume a new appointment of Deputy Director of Radio with the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and I am sure that the whole Corps will wish him every good fortune in his new and important post.

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News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

HULLO CANADA
In June **Maj Tony Singleton** led a party from the Regiment to visit our Canadian partners. The other unfortunates who had to undergo this ordeal were **Capt John MacFarlane, Lt Nigel Keleher, RSM Brian Young, WO1 (FofS) Bob Scriven, SSgt (YofS) Joe Haldane, Sgt Glenn Harwood, Sgt Campbell Morrison, Cpl 'Slug' Henry, Cpl 'DingDong' Abernethy, Lcpl 'Geordie' Jones, Sig Graham Elson, Sig Colin Murby, Sig Alan Rowe, Sig Chris Szabo.** Reluctantly the despondent bunch dragged their feet onto the coach at Verden still moaning about the duties, fatigues and squadron runs that they would have to leave behind for the next two weeks.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, **Lt Col Ted Campbell** and **RSM Bob Russell** of the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment put the finishing touches to their masterplan. Friday 8 June 1979, 1730 hours local—H hour. The two parties faced each other across the no man's land of Ottawa Airport's forecourt. The Canadian CO made his first brilliant move—'RSM Russell, tell the Brits their beers are getting warm in the goddamn coach!' H+1 second—unconditional surrender. Secure in the knowledge of our total defeat we bowed down to our victors and settled in to enjoy what must surely be the best two weeks any British soldier spent in captivity.

KINGSTON BY COACH
We climbed aboard the air conditioned coach and set off for Kingston, the home of the National Defence Staff College, the Military Academy, the School of Signals and, of course, the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment. As we arrived many many more members of the Regiment were waiting to greet us and, armed with very little else except a six hour jet lag, we all adjourned for a further six hour 'pre-dinner drinks party' before making vague excuses about it really being 6 o'clock in the morning not midnight, and heading for our beds. The next few days flashed past very quickly with a tour of the Regiment, a visit to Old Fort Henry, and a senior ranks barbecue with everyone else discovering the delights of Kingston night life.



Left to right: Lt Molnar (1 Cdn Sig Regt), Maj Singleton, Sgt Morrison and FofS Scriven greet RSM Young on his release from Old Fort Henry

MONTREAL VIA UPPER CANADA VILLAGE
On the Sunday we set off for Montreal in the air conditioned bar again, stopping off at Upper Canada Village—a reconstructed village of the 1800's with all the original trades still taking place— which proved most interesting. The Montreal night life proved equally memorable; with **SSgt Joe Haldane** using every conceivable facet of his PR skills in trying to sell the Canadians one of their own water fountains; **Lt Nigel Keleher** abysmally failing his recce officer selection board by confidently leading all the officers into what turned out to be the one and only 'Hellow Sweetie' bar in the city; and everybody narrowly avoiding lifelong injury from the special 'guillotine' action of the Montreal Metro doors; and with **Sig Chris Szabo** and the Canadian Linemen still trying to remember what they got up to that night! The next day was spent touring Montreal, with the officers visiting the Forces Mobile Command HQ with **Lt Col Campbell,** and everyone else taking the opportunity of seeing the Olympic stadium and, for many, the first baseball game. The following day we set off for Pettawawa Training Area but still managed to fit a quick tour of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police School and the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa.



Left to right:
Lt Col Campbell (Co, 1 Cdn Sig Regt) LCpl Jones, Sig Murby and Cpl Henry enjoying the ride around Upper Canada Village

PAIRED OFF
From Wednesday to Saturday we joined the Signal Regiment on exercise with each of the party being paired off with his opposite number in the Canadian Army. These few days proved how valuable the trip really was with a whole host of ideas flowing both ways at all levels. There was an added opportunity for those at the two nodes (Commcen) to witness the field trial of the new Canadian computer controlled switch equipment.



Left to right:
SSgt (YofS) Haldane, Foreman Bennett (1 Cdn Sig Regt) and WO1 (FofS) Scriven adopting the Supervisory position on exercise in Pettawawa

TRADITIONAL FIELD BARBECUE

The end of our visit was timed to coincide with the end of the first phase of the Canadian Exercise and, naturally enough, the traditional Canadian barbecue in the field. **Maj Tony Singleton, RSM Brian Young** and **Cpl 'DingDong' Abernethy** all made presentations on behalf of the regiment to the respective messes of 1st Canadian Signal Regiment; needless to say, **Cpl Abernethy's** 'one for the boys' being met by a standing ovation.



Sgt Glen Harwood struggling with a 'childs portion' at the barbecue in the field



Lt Nigel Keleher and Capt John MacFarlane with Sig Alan Rowe and Sig Colin Murby in the foreground. A Canadian cook looks on unbelievingly



Maj Tony Singleton presents Lt Col Ted Campbell CO 1 Cdn Sig Regt with regimental statue and painting at the final barbecue on exercise in Pettawawa

A TRULY GREAT VISIT

With such an excellent end to a truly great visit it was with some sadness that we shook hands with our Canadian partners for the last time, and we all look forward to hosting them on their return visit.

FAREWELL TO CO

After a day spent around the Regiment saying goodbye the farewell was rounded off in the Officers' Mess with a party which lasted well into the night. Each of the Squadrons undertook a small cabaret; 2 and 3 each singing a song, the QMs coming on with a Welsh Bardic job and 1 Squadron doing a skit on a 'Conference Call' which, understandably, had the best audience reaction of the night.

After the speeches the CO made a special presentation to the 2IC of an Executive Decision Making machine with six 'choice' decisions which could be applied to any situation that **Maj Neil Walter** may find himself in. (1) 'YES' (this response is programmed to appear only once in the machine's lifetime); (2) NO; (3) CRASH OUT; (4) JOG (this reflects the CO's peculiar predilection); (5) AS AR (automatically given to every question after 1200 hrs on Fridays); and finally (6) RESIGN (the ultimate answer).

We wish **Col Peter Davies** every good fortune in his new appointment as Col GS SD at HQ UKLF, and we welcome **Lt Col Stephen** and **Nicky Carr-Smith** to the Regiment.



'FAULT FINDING WITH STYLE'

The CO is seen fault finding on a BPO 250, with a little help from Sgt Thompson, Maj Baly—and the Regimental wine.



'KEEP FIT AND STAY FIT'

On the occasion of his last run, (Lt Col Peter Davies has been known to delay leave for a good run) the CO being presented with a memento of the Regiment's sporting achievements over the past two years and impressive they were. Army double champions—Squash and Cross Country—quite a swan song



'FAREWELL LT COL PETER DAVIES'

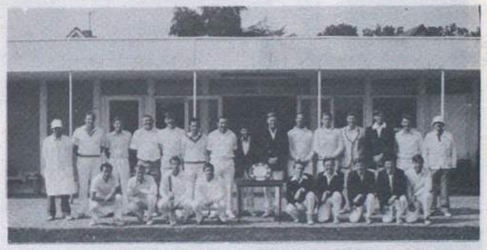
On Tuesday 17 July the Regiment said farewell in its own individual way, as the CO was driven around the camp in his own opened-topped Rover, stopping off at each Squadron to bid farewell

A NEEDLE MATCH

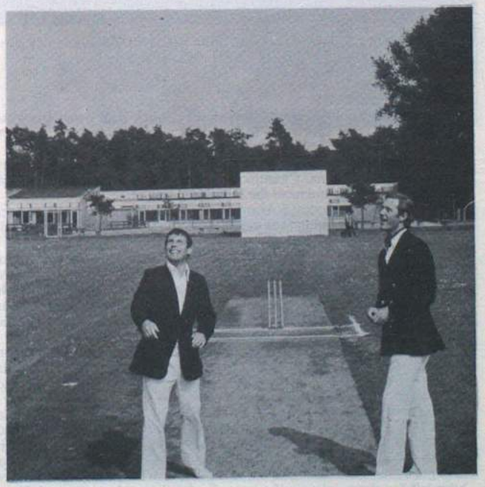
For some reason, not totally unconnected with our latest new arrival an Officers v Sergeants cricket match was arranged for an afternoon in late August. Before the match the CO, in agreement with the RSM of course, had carefully (some said cunningly) decided on the rules which ensured that on each side 10 players bowled and the accomplished batsmen reversed their stance after scoring 20 runs. With due ceremony the toss took place and the Sgts batted first. Determined batting against, at times, some doubtful bowling by the officers (were there not 8 wides bowled and 3 in one over?!) ensured a respectable total of 91 runs in 20 overs. The sight of **SSM Bill Miles** batting left handed after completing his 20 runs was an excruciating experience for the purist and of **Sgt Christ Bond** puzzling out how to bat against evilly flighted balls so high that they appeared from somewhere out of the sun almost as if they had been in orbit, caused much amusement to the large number of spectators present who had come to see this (now) annual needle match.

The Sgts' score presented an interesting but, they thought, impossible task to the officers. With the score at 40, wickets began to tumble. **Lt Mike Gilyeat** reversed his stance having reached the magic total of 20 runs, and the CO skillfully adjusted his batting order to meet the situation—was it rigged or brinkmanship we asked?

7 runs an over for the last 5 overs with 4 wickets to fall was an interesting challenge. The gap closed, 2 wickets fell, and with two overs left **Capt Tim Cross RAOC**, from the gilded staff, flung his bat at everything. The last over arrived, 5 runs required, a wicket fell on the second ball, such drama! With the CO and **Maj Mike Carson** there to ensure the honour for the officers—a quick and cheeky single off the RSM's bowling—then a fitting end with the new CO hitting the RSM for 4 off the 5th ball of the last over. The officers had won—was it fixed they cried?! But beers all round, bought by the losers of course, ensured that everyone departed happy after an amusing and exciting day's cricket.



The line up before the needle match



At least the RSM (left) and CO (right) appear friendly as they toss up at the start of the needle match

SHOOTING A LINE

At the Corps Shooting Meeting at Bulford we managed an excellent shoot in one match, the Team Snapshooting, where our tactical ideas paid off and our shooting was 'on'. For this we took the 'Cowshill Bowl' and the 6 team members gained a medal. Our eventual position was second overall in the Major Unit Championship out of nine units taking part.

At Bisley we had originally hoped to gain 4 places in the Army 100, with known shots **SSgt Lamont, SSgt Banks, Sgt Campbell** and **Sgt White,** but as the matches went on a clear picture emerged, with **Lamont, White** and **Campbell** going through to the second stage. **Sgt Campbell** was the only survivor and in the Army 100 Championship he pulled out all the stops to come 3rd, only three points separating him from the Army 100 Cup. **SSgt Lamont** and **Sgt Campbell** both gained medals in the Roupell match. As a team we pulled up 4 places on last year's position which was a very encouraging result.

SINGALONG-A-BING

We were privileged to listen to a performance of the choir of All Saints Parish, Bingley during their tour of North Germany as guests of the parishioner of Fischerhude, near Bremen. The performance was given in the Regimental church at the invitation of our Chaplain, **Rev Brian Pugh** and very good it was too.



The Choir of All Saints Parish Church Bingley outside Caithness Barracks Verden/Aller, home of 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

ELEMENTARY DEAR WATSON

Our football fraternity has been all of a dither since the word got out that English international **Dave Watson**—late of Manchester City and now with Bremen—had come to live only 5 miles out of Verden. Integration being second nature to us he was quickly adopted by the Regiment. He sends his children to our school, he is a regular attender at the Sgts Mess, he has signed hundreds of autographs and has already attended and presented prizes at our Inter Squadron football competition.

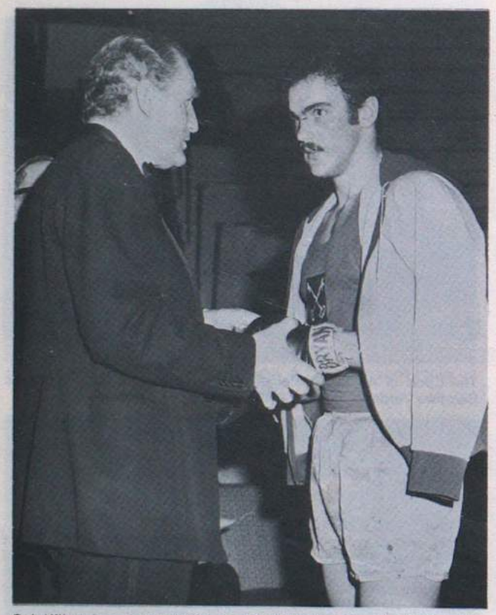
KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

B.F.P.O. 46

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR (Apologies to the BBC!)

Every Regiment has one . . . you know the all round Sportsman who performs miracles, trains all hours of the day (in their own time of course!) pulls off the most amazing wins in the face of overwhelming opposition, and still manages to put in the mandatory twenty-five hours work a day in an overstretched Squadron! **Cpl Paddy Killen** is such a man. He has so far managed to achieve the following results: BAOR Lightheavy-weight champion, runner up to the Army Lightheavy-weight champion, winner of the Regimental Victor Ludorum trophy for athletics, member of the successful 1979 Athletics Team which were runners up in the BAOR Championships, winners of the Viking Trophy for field events in the same championships and third in the Army Athletics Championships in Aldershot. **Cpl Killen** then capped a successful season by representing the Combined Services in a meeting at Crystal Palace against the Southern Counties AAA and Achilles (a combined Oxford and Cambridge Universities team), and represented the Army in an inter-service decathlon championship where he achieved the Overall position of second. (For this latter event **Cpl Killen** had to learn to pole vault in a total of 10 days and managed to clear three and a half metres). **Cpl Killen** now returns to the Regiment for the start of the Boxing Season so the whole process can start again. (Watch this space next year!)



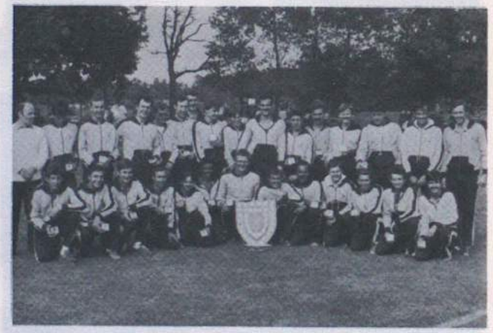
Cpl Killen is congratulated on his achievement of winning the BAOR Lightheavy-weight Championship

SPORTS NEWS ATHLETICS

Capt Mike Crane, our athletics officer, has been forced to sit at his desk, between sailing trips, to write this article after a most successful Athletics season. Now read on . . .

The season began in May with the Regimental meeting when it became evident that there was plenty of talent in the Regt including: **Sgt Brian Turner, Cpls Paddy Killen, Lee Hodds, Dickie Bird, Nick Orange, Bill Cain** and **Steve Lancashire.** Our first meeting, the 2 Armd Div event in June, proved this when we were runners up to 40 Fd Regt RA, beating 1 Gren Gds by only one point after some very exciting relays. This meant that we had qualified for the BAOR meeting at Sennelager along with 1 and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regts, 7 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt. The Morrison Cup, with our Colonel in Chief in the stand for the final day, proved to be a fascinating rehearsal. The first day's events provided a keen battle between 2 Div, 7 and 21 but we finally took the lead with a first in the pole vault and good results in the 1500 and 5000m and the jumping. Sadly, we faded on the second day because of the unfortunate absence of one of our sprinters, and we finished in 4th place.

In the BAOR Meeting at Sennelager, our prowess was proved when we came second to 1 Cheshires with our field events team coming first to win the Viking Trophy. This excellent result qualified us for the Army final at Aldershot and despite a heavy exercise programme our team kept up their training schedules. Despite last minute administrative changes the team set out for UK in the 'Herky Bird' (C130) in great heart. It was truly a great meeting for the team with many producing personal bests, namely **Cpl Paddy Killen,** shot, **Cpls Dickie Bird** and **Nick Orange** in the long jump, **Sig Gerry Cain** in the 400m, **Pte Colin Anderson (RPC)** in both the 200m and 400m, **Cpl Bill Cain** in the 5000m, **Cpl Stevie Lancashire** and **LCpl Bobby Hugill** in the 3000m steeplechase, **Lt Ian Wells** a remarkable 800m, **Sgt Brian Turner** and **SSgt (FofS) John Smith** polevault and **LCpl Neil Gabb** and **LCpl Ned Horton** in the javelin. Every team member gave of his best not forgetting our coach **SSgt (SSI) Ray Mather,** whose patience is infinite, whose energy boundless and whose hair is disappearing! The result was we came third behind 1 Cheshires and 50 Missile Regt RA which is an excellent team effort.



1979 Athletics Team seen here after the BAOR Athletics Championships with the Viking Trophy and the Runners up Shield

SPORTS ROUND UP

Whilst the athletics team have been doing their stuff away from the Regiment our other sportsmen have quietly made progress in their own fields.

Our cricket team has had a very successful season this year. They have won the Divisional Championships beating a team from 3 PARA in a very close final, and head the Divisional league.

They now go on to play 3 Armd Div Engr Regt in the BAOR quarter finals, and if successful in that match will meet 13 Sig Regt in the semi-finals.

Our canoeists, **Cpl Shuggy Hugill, LCpls Ian Dobson** and **Mike Owens** represented the Corps in the Army Slalom Championships, coming 4th as a Corps team and an even better 2nd, as a unit. **LCpls Dobson** and **Owens** were 1st in the C2 class. **Sgt Derek Coker** joins them when they leave shortly for the UK where they will represent the Army in the Inter-Service Slalom Competition.

Sig Dennis entered the Army Motorcycling Championship held in Catterick in June and in only his third competition achieved the results of Best Novice and 5th Overall. He has only been riding for one year so certainly has a bright future ahead of him.

LCpl Ned Horton and **Sig Steve Priestly** entered 'June Bug' a BAMA Rally held in BAOR and managed to come 12th out of 46 starters inspite of 30 or more of these being quite expert. They are both new to the Rallying scene, and their placing of 2nd in the Novice Class is a good omen for the future. Finally, rumour has it that the Skiers have left for ski training in Zermatt. Gosh it is tough at the top! Some have been heard to say 'Didn't know that they had actually returned!'

OTHER NEWS

This year's Kohima week was an undoubted success with several 'firsts' for the Regiment. Twelve veterans from the Battle of Kohima visited the Regiment for the celebrations which included the Kohima Ball, a Dinner Night, The Kohima Fete and memorial church service at which **Brig the Reverend Charles Nettleship,** Commanding Officer of the Regiment at Kohima, addressed the gathering. The 'transport' to the Kohima Ball was a surprise when a red London bus arrived at the CO's house to take the VIPs to the Ball in the tender care of **Dvr 'Yogi' Edwards** our RCT bus conductor!



All aboard for the KOHIMA Ball!
The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Willcox is ushered onto the bus by the conductor Dvr Yogi Edwards



The KOHIMA veterans assemble here to say farewell over a glass of champagne

The summer (what summer?) has been punctuated by the disappearance of troops escaping from the daily routine for their annual camps. Most favoured areas have been the Moselle and Bavaria as each Squadron leave determined to make the most of 1979. (Have you looked at the exercise plot of 1980?)

During August **Brig G. R. Oehlers** visited the Regiment to present Long Service and Good Conduct medals totalling two hundred and twenty-five years service in the Army. The presentation was in two parts, firstly in the Corporals Mess and secondly in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess.

PS. A quick look at what goes on behind the closed doors of the Orderly Room (does it ever open you ask??!!) . . .



'This time, get it right.' The discipline clerk Cpl John Pape administers justice to LCpl Betty Samms



'Anything not in here, just ask me.' Cpl Basil Glossop seen here in a quieter moment



'Just a minute your bolt is crooked.' Cpl Jackie Dyce and Cpl John Harradine the Part 2/3 Order Team



'Madame Mason, can I help you.' A surprise photograph discovers the Superintending Clerk's weakness

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

BFPO 106

LOST LEGION OF 2 SQN

An almost impregnable veil of secrecy was drawn around the happenings at 2 Squadron's summer camp. A limping haggard party with drawn faces, cheek bones sharply etched, deep shadows around the eyes and pure animal fear flashing nervously from sunken haunted eyes, aroused compassion and morbid curiosity when they returned from the first session at a remote German camp situated at Murnau in Bavaria. Those old enough to remember the newsreels of the survivors of Dachau and Belsen will be able to visualise the scene.

LES MISERABLES

On being questioned they drooled and shivered in terror as they lapsed into gibberish and became totally incoherent. The only understandable words were, 'The Beast', 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. It is hoped that complete isolation in dimly lit messes and bars, with a constant diet of ice cold beer will eventually restore them to some semblance of sanity.

PLAY ON WORDS

The brochure issued prior to deployment had obviously been compiled in conjunction with a travel agency specialising in Spanish holidays. This promised an idyllic ten days in the most picturesque area of Germany communing with nature. Activities included canoeing, orienteering, country rambles, adventure pastimes, buxom barmaids, Bavarian beer, a vist to Munich and friendly camp staff.

On arrival they found a dilapidated hanger masquerading as a two star hotel, battle fitness tests, canoeing in glacial lakes, survival training, escape and evasion exercises and various other pastimes which have been extinct since the Spanish Inquisition.

GLEE CLUB

The camp's equivalent of Butlins Redcoats had all suffered obvious personality mutations and were transformed from liberal minded blokes into muscle tormenting fanatics. Their only humane characteristic was that they refrained from making . . . lamp shades. These included such jovial characters as **Capt Rob (Jekyll or Hyde) Symonds, SSgt Tom (The Beast) Muir, Cpl Rab (The Rabbit) Galbraith, Sgt Ron (Whispering Grass) Cossou, SSgt Alf (BFT) Hilton** and **LCpl Supersonic Sid Davies.**

WONDER OF THE DEEP

Perpendicular mountains proved to be ideal BFT courses, the honour lies in participating not passing. These invariably finished at a picturesque Bavarian Lake where **Cpl (Grouch) Riley** and **Cpl Dennis (The Log) Woof** would revive them with canoeing training and swimming tests; euphemism for drowning and freezing. Fortunately squadron funds did not run to Pirhana, on second thought perhaps they did, but emaciated bodies did not titillate their palates. Some of the hardier souls attempted suicide by carrying out Eskimo rolls, unfortunately through being light headed from exhaustion and lack of sustenance, they invariably righted themselves.

FUGITIVES

Map reading exercises and country rambles eventually built up to survival training under **Sgt Bob (The Evader) Rylance** and culminated in a full blooded escape and evasion exercise. This served to imprint the articles of the Geneva Convention on every participant's mind, as each one was contravened a thousand times. The prisoners were allowed to escape from the back of a truck and cover 70 to 100kms depending on map reading ability, of gruelling mountainous country in perverse weather conditions ranging from torrential rain to scorching sunlight. A party of soldiers' friends under **SSgt (The Beast) Muir** roamed the route and gave exhausted men a lift which added 10km to their journey and denied them the use of boot laces. Only two, **Cpl Graham Douglas** and **Sig Graham Westhall** managed to evade capture and complete the whole course.

FLESHPOTS

The brochure did not lie: everyone visited Munich However, due to extreme physical exhaustion everyone dozed off and have no clear recollections of the delights of the fleshpots.

IT KILLED THE CAT

The perversity of human curiosity was demonstrated by the fact that other parties proved to be keen to go down to Murnau Holiday Camp and test the veracity of the report. They were not disappointed. A massive defection to the East is anticipated when they regain strength. We should have vacancies in 2 Sqn for anyone who likes the physical aspect of soldiering ready for the next holiday in 1980. Logic circuits should be removed before applications are submitted, Ex Light Infantry members would be welcome.

UTOPIA FOR 3 SQUADRON

Take an azure sky, rugged picturesque mountains with sheer rock faces and gentle walks, a picture book emerald green lake surrounded with pine trees, bracing mountain air and comfortable accommodation, sprinkle liberally with soldiers eager to enjoy themselves and you have a perfect recipe for the squadron camp. This was the combination **Capt Colin Meredith** found for the members of 3 Sqn.

Days sped by as soldiers exhausted themselves with such activities as canoeing, rock climbing, swimming, orienteering and other adventure type activities.

ONE FORWARD AND TWO BACK

The local Alpine Club stood and marvelled at **LCpl Brad Bradbury's** masterly abseiling on a particularly sheer pitch. They went into raptures at the excellence of his technique as he plummeted in a blur of motion down pitch after pitch. Their enjoyment was somewhat marred when it was explained that he was actually endeavouring to climb the sheer face.

SILLY BILLY

On another occasion **Sig Ricky Stoneman** demonstrated all the agility of a mountain goat when, with a pack of D10 on his back, he beat the cable car to the top of the Karlwendelsberg. The fact that there was a cold can of Carlsberg at metre intervals possibly helped. The remainder of the Squadron are now praying that this activity will not be included in Army Sports and Pastimes.

ABOMINABLE NO MAN

Training in rock climbing culminated in a climb by the whole of November Troop to the Heimgarten Hütte. Having set time limits for the various sections and started everyone off, **Cpls Chopper Chopping** and **Mick North** the Troop's adventure training instructors set off with **Capt Meredith** to climb the opposite, shorter, route. The aim was to RV some three hours later with the main body. **Capt Meredith** appreciated the consideration of the two rock climbing buffs when they fitted him with oxygen, he is not used to climbing at such extreme altitudes. He is still trying to work out why Alpine climbers also need flippers and weighted belts. Could this be the reason that the RV was made some six hours later? and the Bavarians are now searching for the Abominable No Man.

ALL THAT GLISTERS

A move to the cool silent depth of the lake found **Sig Scouse Strefford** quartering the floor of the lake searching for World War Two treasures. He obviously paid close attention to **Capt Meredith's** war stories. Like all prospectors he refuses to reveal whether he was successful. However, close friends suggest that, if he had been German he would now be a perfect sauer Kraut. He feels sure that El Dorado will be his next year.

MOBY DICK

Another aquatic star was **Sig Taff Cork,** a soldier of somewhat generous proportions, who showed considerable prowess at swimming enormous distances underwater and emerging in the most unexpected places looking like a cross between Moby Dick and Jaws. He refused to add a touch of realism by transforming the OC into Capt Ahab on the grounds that his legs were pimply, hairy, white flaccid objects designed to nauseate even a ravenous whale.

NO MIRACLE

The Troop's tame technician **Cpl Tony Johnson** being a non swimmer and obviously believing the doctrine of the Technician Training Wing of 8 Sig Regt tried to walk on water. His demonstration of the JC technique was most impressive. As he sank gracefully beneath the waves with a look of utter disbelief on his face he could be heard muttering about the mechanics of his depth gauge. The Troop are sure that Jacques Cousteau must be proud of his latest disciple.

BEAUTY OF NATURE

The natural beauty of the area impressed **Sgts Charlie Wickham** and **Ken Phillips,** Royal New Zealand Signals, on Exercise Long Look. They sat for hours with eyes glazed in wonder as they murmured in awe 'What a magnificent pair of peaks. I've never seen anything like those before, wonder what it would be like Down Under?' Eventually someone had to break the spell by moving between them and the barmaid before she became embarrassed.

HOLOCAUST, MAD LUDWIG AND TOOT SWEETS

The camp was rounded off with a series of trips to the tourist attractions of Dachau War Memorial, the Munich Olympic Stadium, site of the ill fated 1972 Olympics and Neuschwanstein the famous Bavarian fairy tale castle. This was the location used in 'Chitty, Chitty Bang, Bang'. The troop were disappointed that there were no Toot Sweets, wicked barons or the RSM to sing 'Posh With A Capital P'.

THE NAME'S THE SAME

Everyone enjoyed the experience and there is miles of colour film recording every facet. The location of this holiday extravaganza, would you believe Murnau, a spot which means all things to all men.

SHOOTING STARS

The Regiment's shooting team have completed its most successful season for some time and travelled to UK to take part in the Roberts Cup at Bulford. In this event **Sig Niel Mann** of 1 Sqn demonstrated his prowess and after some outstanding shooting won the cup for the Best B Class Shot.

BISLEY BUT NOT BOOTSIE

Following this the team moved on to Bisley where **Sig Mann** went on to score 390 points in stage 1 of the Bisley Cup. In the SMG Pairs Competition the Regimental team of **LCpls Dereck Hannon** and **Mick Harris** took third place behind two excellent Gurkha pairs. In the Bisley Moving Target Competition **Sig Colin Philemon** won a share of the sweepstake with a score of 40 out of a possible 50. This was a noteworthy achievement when we consider that the 1978 team hardly scored 40 points in toto.

A NEAR MIRACLE

The journey to the UK was not without event for **LCpl Dereck Hannan** and **Sig Colin Philemon.** They were travelling on board LSL St Tristram in thick fog when they were wakened from their slumber by a loud thump and a violent shudder which shook the vessel from end to end. This was followed by the sound of feverish activity on deck and the roar of the engines going into reverse thrust. Hastily donning clothes they scrambled up on deck to discover that in the darkness and fog the ship had collided with, and sunk a German freighter.

Arc lights blazed on cold grey menacing sea, at times almost obscured by evil yellow fog, as the crew sought desperately for survivors. All but one were quickly accounted for and hurried off to warm blankets and medical care. There followed an agonising hour-long search. When red-rimmed eyes were almost convinced that all hope had gone he was spotted treading water with his baby daughter held above his head. The baby was almost totally dry and as a result of her father's superhuman effort completely unhurt. Under the conditions prevailing at the time this was a miraculous escape.

THE HARE DID NOT COMPETE

On the return journey to Germany **Cpl Brian Tortice** scrounged a lift from **Capt David Wills.** What he failed to appreciate was the fact that he would be travelling 500 miles in a 1937 Austin 10 at 25 mph. **Cpl Tortice** is now contemplating changed his name by deed poll to Tortoise.

A FLICK, FLICK, FLICK OF THE WRIST

This memorable journey was enlivened by driving through most incessant torrential rain. In common with most cars of this vintage the windscreen wipers had long since given up the ghost so **Cpl Tortice** had to frantically flip the windscreen wipers from side to side by hand for mile after agonising mile. Eventually moisture seeped in and the interior of the windscreen fogged up with condensation. Demister! the driver snapped; as the vehicle obviously did not posses such a luxury, **Cpl Tortice** huffed and puffed as he blew on the windscreen to dispel the offending moisture. Any church experiencing problems with organ bellows can obtain his services by contacting 1 Sqn of this unit.

SPEED COPS

After joining the Autobahn they noticed that a German Police car was shadowing them. After 5 miles the police pulled out and passed them with a disbelieving shake of the head, having satisfied themselves that they were capable of the minimum permissible speed. The fact that this stretch was down hill helped. Motoring enthusiasts will not be surprised to learn that the mechanical geriatric completed the journey successfully and is still going strong. **Cpl Tortice** is not made of such stern stuff and is inclined to blow a little on hills.

LCpl 'Dusty Miller

It is with deep regret that we report the death of LCpl Dusty Miller of Task Force Echo Signal Troop who was killed on 6 September 1979 in a motor accident whilst returning from an exercise. Dusty, who was 26, was born and brought up in Glasgow and had been in the Corps since December 1971, serving in both BAOR and the UK. He was a quietly spoken, likeable man with a firm sense of values who thoroughly enjoyed the army and the outdoor life and obviously had a bright future ahead of him. We offer his family our deepest and most sincere condolences.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

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Gleeful escapees prepare for the 'Off'

GREAT ESCAPE

The German populace of the Soest area were recently treated to the greatest escape bid since World War II. The memorable and spectacular escape from Colditz and other POW camps pall to insignificance against the great St Sebastian escape. A total of two hundred and ninety-nine men took part in this mass break out. Included in what can only be described as a classic field were such notables as the CO, **Lt Col Roy Maynard** the 2IC, **Maj Gerry Funnel,** The RSM, **WO1 John Kirkman** and numerous Officers from the Divisional Headquarter Staff.

On a prearranged signal from **Mrs Jill Maynard** they all dashed out of camp and tore off into the woods in an effort to escape from all the oppressions of Div HQ soldiering. The escape route planned by **Capt Mike Podmore** took them through dense woods and over some of the most rugged, hilly terrain in the area. This was designed to foil pursuit by **Cpl John Taylor** and the other greyhounds of the Regiment's Provost Staff. Unfortunately **Capt Podmore's** ancestry must include members from the Emerald Isles, after five lung searing, energy sapping miles, the escapers with the hearts pounding and legs like lead found themselves back at the gates of St Sebastian Barracks. **Capt Podmore's** excuse for this fiasco is, that he thought that he was organising a Regimental cross country run.

NO DOPE

The first man home was **Sig Mark Higgins** of 2 Sqn who was almost a minute ahead of his closest rival in second place was **LCpl Martin Smith** of HQ Sqn closely followed by **Capt Rob Symonds** of 2 Sqn. The RSM came in looking remarkably fresh in twentieth position and declined the steward's request for a saliva test. The GOC is eager to discover the secret of his remarkable turn of speed, he feels that it could possibly improve the performance of his horse Diamond Bill. The CO's tea was obviously less liberally laced as he came in very comfortably at forty-seventh.

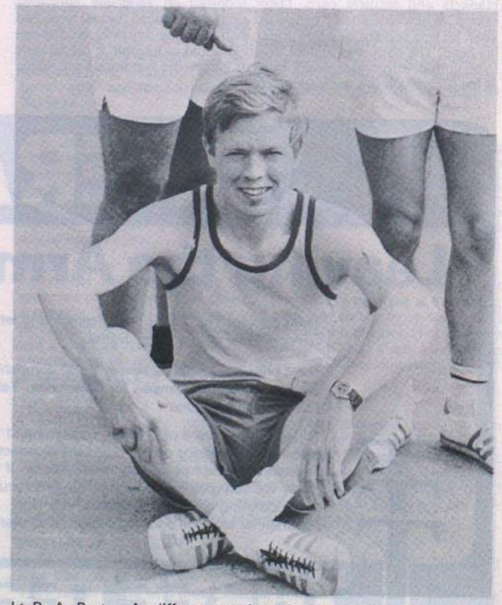
STEAM DRIVEN

The event's veteran model, **Maj (QM) Jack Simpson** demonstrated its robustness and dependability by surpassing many of the modern models. Apart from odd spurts of steam escaping from slightly blown gaskets he looked in first class condition as he crossed the line at one hundred and tenth. I feel sure that the ancient guild of QMs will disown him after this performance.

FIERCE COMPETITION

A titanic struggle developed between **Capts Frank Clewes ACC** and **Jack Fiskel** for the prestige position of two hundred and ninety ninth. After a fiercely fought tactical race with the advantage constantly passing between the two, **Capt Fiskel** was narrowly beaten for the laurel wreath.

The team event was won by 1 Sqn with 208 points second was 2 Sqn also with 208 points: you cannot be much closer. The positions were decided by the position of the tenth man in each team.

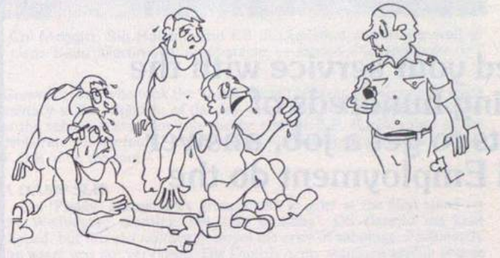


Lt B. A. Barton-Ancliffe conserving his energy prior to the Great Escape Bid

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

SPARE A THOUGHT

As the summer leave period fades to a memory, the forgotten few in the Regimental Orderly Room prepare feverishly for the docs inspection. The notice on the door says 'Keep Out, come back next week', the in tray overflows and the telephones just ring. However, those with courage to persevere beyond the inner door will find the few with feet up, snoring loudly. It's not true of course. Under the eye of the Superintending Clerk, **WO1 John Roberts,** all those involved burned the midnight oil knowing that their reward, after the inspection, would be the opportunity to take part in the RHQ morning runs as we approach the BFT deadline once again.

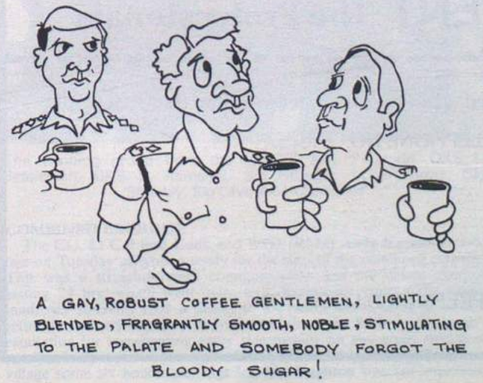


The first such run was a resounding failure because neither the 2IC nor the Adjt were allowed to win. This honour fell to **LCpl Scouse (I love Liverpool) Mahoney** who deserves special praise having recently become both a father and a LCpl. It is alleged that his son was born with a blade of Anfield grass in his ear and football boots already fitted. Those who also ran were:

Sgt Bill Winder; Cpl John Nicol; Cpl John Chapman; Cpl Steve Logan; LCpl Mac McLachlan; Sig Vince Smith; Sig Barny Barnes; Mrs Jan Wilby.

STUDY DAY WITH HAPPY MEMORIES

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bob Cook,** has for some time been saying that his officers lack culture. Consequently **Capt Mike Fisher** was tasked with arranging a study day on the Rhein to discover some of the secrets of the grape. A select band of officers and their social secretaries received a full day's instruction on all aspects of the wine grower's art from a proud and eloquent **Herr Franz Joseph Saufter.** How refreshing it was to hear an expert talk with such enthusiasm. The highlight of the day was the wine tasting in the comfort of **Herr Saufter's** house. We all left with very happy memories. *After Note:* Since our return the Commanding Officer has given us some cause for concern as our illustration may indicate.



ROB ROY—UNDER OBSERVATION

The Regiment recently received its annual visit from the Defence Auditors. The following observation was raised:

'OBSERVATION 4—MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT

It was noted that the Regimental Horse 'Rob Roy' was not listed as being on charge. On inspection of the beast, it was further noted that it was not branded on the appropriate hoof with his Regimental Number. You are requested to bring the animal on charge and ensure that its hoof is branded.'!!

The Commanding Officer submitted the following reply:

'The horse has been brought to charge by CRV 0186 copy attached and arangements have been made for the unit farrier to brand the horse with the number R 339. The horse has been ordered to commit his Regimental number to memory! Sadly the unfortunate beast died soon afterwards and, in accordance with Queen's Regulations (1878 edition) the branded hoof was returned to the Defence Auditors.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

We were recently visited by OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records Office. During lunch the subject of PRI watches was raised. Whilst discussing a particular line which normally sells at DM 120, the Commanding Officer was heard to offer an unsuspecting **Col Baker** the same item for DM 80 in return for 4 Combat Radiomen!

EXERCISE ODIN MERCURY (A JAUNT TO DENMARK)

As a reward for organising the Regiment's Adventure Training Exercise in Bavaria, 1 Squadron was granted the privilege of 'holidaying' with the Radio Company, 1st Telegraph Battalion, Royal Danish Army, at Hovelte Kaserner, situated some 25kms north of Copenhagen. The advance and ammunition parties, ably led by **Maj Roger Barry, Capt John Wedgbury, WO2 (SSM) Ken Thurley** and **Lt Doug Rollinson (RMCS)** departed Herford in the early hours of Friday 24 August arriving safely, after an uneventful trip, in the late afternoon. Monday the 27th saw the departure of the Main Body, led (?) by **WO2 (FofS) Bob McInnes.** Their trip was not so smooth. By the end of the one hour ferry trip from Puttgarden to Rodbyhavn several members of the Squadron were decidedly unwell. **Sig 'Baggers' Bagnell** developed a colour very similar to that of the storm tossed sea. A very dirty green. However, undeterred, they pressed on and around 1930 hrs the Foreman maintained his unbeaten map reading record by driving past the turn off for the Camp!

HOSPITAL AT A STROKE

The rising sun on Tuesday found the Squadron brushing up on SLR and SMG drill prior to parading with the Training Company. The grass covered drill square proved to be a new experience for most of the men. The Parade was followed by a social gathering designed to let the men get to know one another. Being a very sociable race, the Danes quickly produced several crates of Tuborg, which the Squadron proceeded to drink just as quickly. Having despatched the beer to warmer parts, mixed groups were formed in preparation for the Patrol Exercise. This consisted of a 30 kms walk in several stages (except for **LCpl Steve**



A different method, LCpl Mitchell and Sig Thomason give a helping hand to KSE B Evers and SG T. A. Hentze keeps a watchful eye

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LCpl Meggitt, Sig Holland and KS JL Juelslhoj combining well to clear 'Sean' Martin over an obstacle. Lt Johnny Erickson looks on

Greaves group who took the 'scenic route') between stands testing basic military skills. Highlight of the day was **Cfn Kevin Knapp's** inspection at the vehicle stand. Not only did he and **OKS F. Karlson** find all the deliberate vehicle faults, they found so many more that the vehicle was V.O.R.'d on the spot!

A DAMP SLIP

Cpl 'Paddy' Emmerson's group came to grief at the fiirst stand on the Wednesday morning, the 'lake crossing'. DS claimed the knot slipped, but this did nothing to dispel the cries of sabotage. Fortunately the water was not very deep. The Danish Army standard assault course was stand two for the day. This comprised fifteen obstacles as diverse as a two metres deep pit to a seven metre high rope ladder spread over a distance of 300 metres. Fastest time of the day for a group of seven men was a little over 9 mins.

KEEN COMPETITION

On Friday, the sun shone brightly for the Telegraph Company/Signal School Athletics match in which the Squadron competed. Several successes were scored in the swimming with **Sig 'Pepsi' Cola** winning the 100m freestyle quite easily and leading the 4 × 50m team of **LCpl Martin Henley, Sig 'Elsie' Lawrence-Crockford** and **Sig Al Keen** home in first place by putting in a storming last leg to wipe out a five metre deficit. Honours of the day must go to **Cpl Geordie Wandless** who, under a blazing sun, on a course that was by no means flat, won the half marathon (21km) by a clear 3 mins. During the weekend most of the squadron surveyed the sights of Copenhagen and visited the castles of North Zealand.



The winning group from the left KS KTL Peterson, OKS L. Jespersen, OKS S. Ramshoj, Sig Stringer, LCpl Murray, Sig Sheeley, Sig Lawrence-Crockford

COMBINED EXERCISE

The CO, **Lt Col Bob Cook** and **WO1 (RSM) Andy Keenan** arrived late on Tuesday afternoon ready for the start of the combined exercise. This was a straightforward communication and movement exercise lasting 24 hrs. which went quite well. Except for yours truly whose landrover suddenly took a dislike to the petrol it was being given and refused to go any further in the middle of the night. With the Foreman's reputation for investigating every side turning on any given stretch of road, nobody was concerned, until **LCpl Dave Meggit** arrived at Main village some six hours later. **Sgt Ian McNaughton** was not impressed when the Danes came to get a sitrep with flashing lights and much tooting of horns. We were sleeping at the time. **Cpl Frank Wilson,** REME, soon had things put right, in time for Endex of course.

CARBINE FOR SLR

Thursday afternoon saw a shooting competition with the Danes firing the SLR and the British firing the Danish carbine. The Danes invented some new holds for the SLR, some more effective than others. **LCpl Billy Waite** was top shot on the carbine with 185 out of a possible 200.

HONOURS EVEN

The Colonel, RSM and their long suffering driver **LCpl Hunter,** having seen the tourist sights during the day and found fresh eel that was just in season delicious, the SSM, Foreman and **SQMS Tony Freudenfeld** entertained them in Copenhagen's version of a German Beer Cellar during the evening.

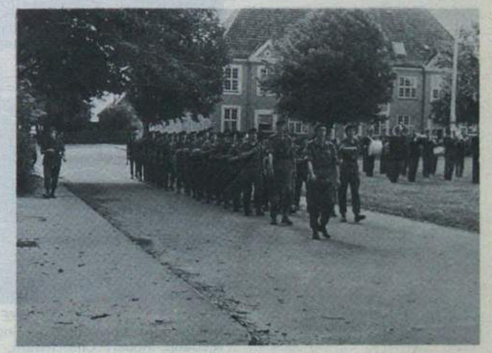
The Colonel's departure in the morning also meant the departure of the 1st and 2nd Eleven Soccer sides and the 'Frisbee' team. The 1st team played well but were outclassed in the second half of a good match. The 'Frisbee' team drew a lighthearted match in the interval between the soccer matches. The 2nd eleven won easily against a team suffering from the previous night's revelry. Honours even. A quick shower and change, a bite to eat and then off to the Tuborg factory. Say no more!

EXCELLENCE

With only one more social event left, the trip was nearly at an end. The farewell disco on the Saturday night was voted an overwhelming success. **Cpl Curtiss,** ACC and **Sammy** the MSO cook put the finishing touch to two weeks of hard work for them, by producing an excellent buffet supper. **Capt Hugo Jurg Jensen,** OC Radio Company, was on parade at 0600 hrs on the Monday to bid the Squadron farewell. Shortly after the parade, the main body commenced the long trip home, followed some two hours later by the rear party.



Lt Col Schnor, CO 1st Telegraph Battalion takes the report of Capt Jensen, OC Radio Company on the parade of 27 August



The Squadron leave the parade ground

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

BEHIND THE SCENES

The last 12 months have been excellent as far as recruiting goes, with our figures increasing by 5.

In August 1978, **Alan Churchward,** son of **Sgt Ernie** and **Mary Churchward** was attested by our 2IC, **Maj Mike McCann. Alan,** sorry **A/T Cpl Churchward** is now enjoying life and serving his apprenticeship at Harrogate. Not to be outdone by his brother, **Robert** second son of Sgt Ernie and Mary was attested in August 1979, bound for Harrogate. Both are now together in Bradley Squadron, best of luck boys. Watch out Dad you've got some competition now.

August 1979 saw yet another attestation this time it was the turn of **Eddie Fisher,** son of **Cpl Ken** and **Ingrid Fisher,** he is also now serving in Harrogate, best of luck to you too **Eddie.**

In September 1979 the CO, **Lt Col C. E. R. Story** attested **Mark Bruton** son of **Sgt Mike** and **Marian Bruton. Mark** is off to the Royal Military Police. **Sgt Mike** will have to curb his ways now. Best of luck to you **Mark.**

Last but not least **Kevan Dyer** son of **Capt Dicky Dyer** was attested in July 1979, already seen in The Wire and is now serving with the Corps. PS: There is not an ounce of truth at all in the rumour that the CO gets a week's leave for every attestation performed in the Regiment?



Maj Mike McCann seen here having attested Eddie Fisher. Proud Cpl Ken and Ingrid Fisher seen in the background



The Commanding Officer Lt Col C. E. R. Story seen shaking hands with Mark Bruton. Sgt Mike Bruton & Marian proudly look on



Maj Mike McCann seen here having attested Robert Churchward with Sgt Ernie Churchward proudly looking on



ONE FOR THE FAMILY ALBUM
Left to right: Cpl Ken Fisher, Ingrid Fisher, Eddie Fisher, Maj Mike McCann, Robert Churchward, Mary Churchward A/T Cpl Alan Churchward (on leave from Harrogate) and Sgt Ernie Churchward

ONE MAN'S VIEW OF A WEEK IN VOGELSANG

A week in the scenic beauty of the Eiffel will do wonders for your morale, fitness health and training. But when 3 Squadron debussed under the grim façade of the Van Doran block, our thoughts were more of Colditz and escape to . . . to where? But things improved, the first day dawned clear and bright and the rumour that Vogelsang used to be a human stud farm stirred long forgotten feelings in **Sgt 'Jeff' Norman** and **Cpl 'Brooksie' Brooks.** Even **Cpl 'Larry' O'Kane** felt the odd stirrings. We all knew it was to be a hard week of varied activities culminating in a visit by CCR Signals, **Brig Gordon Oehlers,** for our ARU. All our activities were to be marked and the largest trophy in the Regiment, The Topple Trophy, was to be the reward for the winning Squadron.

Our Squadron team of 60 was split into three sections ably led by **SSgt 'Will Fix it' Chambers, Sgt 'Roger' Fairfield** and **Sgt 'Jerry' Taylor.** The team was led by **Lt 'Paul' King** and **SSgt 'Terry' Beckett** in the absence of **Capt 'Derek' Robertson** (who was organising Potted sports, Orienteering and Swimming, and anything else that RHQ could think of) and Squadron **SM (WO2) 'Paddy' Hunt** (who was running assorted ranges). While our OC, **Maj 'Jonathan' Lowe** filmed the squadron in every conceivable position.

The assistant adjutant, **WO1 'Barny' Hill** kept his cool while the Regiment threw 440 grenades in 3 days. The joint top prize for grenade throwing went to OC 5 Squadron, **Maj 'Craig' Treeby** for almost reaching the priming bay with his throw **SSgt (YOS) 'Ben' Gilhooly,** OIC Priming bay, swears he will catch up with OC 5 someday, if only he could stop limping; and to an unnamed soldier who, when forcibly raised to spot the fall of his grenade, immediately dropped his pants.

Meanwhile **WO2 (SSM) 'Paddy' Hunt** was organising a small financially based pistol competition. By sheer coincidence he allowed the CO to take first prize. Potential—**RSM Hunt** selected the opposition, marked the CO's card personally, then ate it to avoid the embarrassing protests. For those disbelievers, **SSM Hunt's** eating skills are well recorded although it is noted that he doesn't like frogs' legs. **SSgt 'Jeff' Back** of 4 Squadron was also having animal problems on the 66mm range. All firing took place at 100m because **SSgt Back** saw a grass snake at 200m. And **Sig 'Scouse' Fielder** proved his fitness by running away from a frog.

Our picture shows the squadron dry training on the LAW range.



3 Squadron dry training



Appointment with fear on the 66mm range
SSgt Geoff Back with students



'Don't throw the pin Sir' says SSgt (Y of S) Ben Gilhooly to CCR Signals



'When I was in Burma' WO1 Barny Hill relates his war stories



Capt Mal Smart singing to CCR Signals with the CO looking on

POPULAR WATER

By mutual agreement watermanship was our most enjoyable afternoon. **SSgt 'Don' Kelly** of 5 Squadron organised a varied series of tasks culminating in 'get your team across the lake on a raft made for thirty' or 'up the creek without a paddle'. The photo shows **Capt (NAVAL-REME) 'John' Hemming** ferrying CCR Signals on the raft HQ Squadron built. HQ Squadron were under the impression that a brigadier could order back the waves and they would keep dry.



Watermanship. Capt (Naval REME) John Hemming seeing his pension disappear holding the raft for the CCR Signals

Battle Inoculation was a disappointment—some soldiers, wrongly as it turned out, felt they had been cheated and the GPMG's were firing blanks. Lucky you didn't stand up for your convictions isn't it **Sig 'Stevie' Needs?** Everyone (except **Cpl 'Tim' Hardy** and **Sig 'Rosie' Rose**) found crawling the most difficult part, and our wives still cannot believe that sore elbows and knees come from battle Inoculation.



On the Battle Inoculation and Grenade Range

Heads are kept well down as the men experience live firing

At orienteering, patrolling and potted sports the Squadron excelled. At swimming **Lt 'Paul' King** demonstrated his skill at not breathing (a skill learned in the gas chamber) by coming second to **Cpl 'Gas' Dodd** in the plunge. It was here in the swimming pool **WO2 (SSM) 'John' Hornby** of 2 Squadron was sent back by a fastidious Belgium attendant for a second shower. Never mind sergeant major while you were away cleaning yourself your Squadron pipped us at swimming.

But we regained our premier position by winning the singing in the canteen that night (and it turned out that 5 Sqn's ring was of no interest to Madame du Bier the Canteen manageress). The canteen was strategically placed above the Officers' Mess for which **RQMS 'Tom' Foody** received his contract of DM 100 (+ 6 extras) and which accounted for the loudness of the chanting and stamping. OC 3 noted the chief rabble rousers to be **LCpl 'Jimmy' McLachlan, Sig 'Tom' Holmes** and **Cpl 'Trev' Payne.** Interviews back home in Herford will be painful.

Sgt 'Dave' Prinn and **Cpl 'Mick' Bohanan's** casualty simulation was so realistic that the mobile canteen lady (Mme d'Armentiers) refused to visit again. It's the way we have with Belgian ladies. Not that she was the only one to suffer, **Sgt 'Roy' McAllister** felt bloody in the mouth and **Cpl 'I Think I'll Lie Down a Minute' Carr** couldn't stand the sight of his own broken arm; while **Sig 'Glen' Ralston's** make-up was voted a distinct improvement.



The Grenade and Battle Casualty Stimulation

Here we go 'M.A.S.H.' all over again

GAINS AND LOSSES

At the end of the week we counted our gains and losses. The sports and training had been a lot of fun and **SSgt 'Terry' Beckett** received the Topple Trophy for the Squadron from the Brigadier after a very close competition. But the real winners were the lads themselves—**LCpl 'Mollie' Molloy** for keeping morale high, **LCpl 'Mark' Toner** for his one-eyed affair and **Sig 'Terry' Smith** for helping the SSM to finish his buffet.

Was it all worth it? Definitely despite an ARU report which noted the Regiment's skill with the GPMG. Oh the futility of it all—we were using LMG's.



A BROAD VIEW OF THE ARU

SSgt Terry Beckett receiving the Challenge Trophy from CCR Signals

FETE IN THE RAIN

Report by Capt Mal Smart

For those who have served in the Regiment will well remember how popular the annual fete is to both the military and civilian communities. Old members of the Regiment will also remember that the weather cannot be relied upon here in Herford. Well it happened again on Saturday 21 July, it poured down.

The week prior to this annual event was as the weather men say 'Sunny with periods of rain'. So in between 'periods of rain' the fete organisers got busy with bunting, stalls and all other paraphernalia which makes for a good fete. This huge and difficult task fell squarely on the shoulders of **Maj Frank Cooper** and **Capt Alan Abbott.** Not to be put off by the weather forecast, these two staunch comrades began to get everything in motion. **Maj Frank Cooper** was seen days before pacing and measuring the square, ensuring everything should fit properly down to the last stall. It was thought at one stage that he was understudying the RSM as he had become so familiar with the square. In the meantime **Capt Alan Abbott** had got to work running off tickets and collecting all the prizes which were either purchased or donated, his office began to look like a supermarket. The squadrons fell in as normal with great enthusiasm and ingenuity producing some 35 stalls. These ranged from small lotteries to highly ingenious stalls requiring an immense amount of skill and cash to win anything at all, but all providing good clean fun. On the day, **Maj Frank** and **Capt Alan** stood ankle deep in water on the square, and not a soul in sight, both convinced that the whole thing was a cunning plan to discredit their hard and much planned efforts. Then as if by magic, out came the sun and people flocked in from all directions, determined to make a day of it. Our stalwart pair were seen to be smiling from ear to ear promising each other a visit to church on Sunday.

GREAT SUCCESS

As with everything that 7 gets involved in, the whole day was a success. Yet it rained again during the afternoon but no one was seen to be bothered about the awful weather. Hot dogs, chips and tea were sold by the barrow load thanks to **Capt Stuart Coll** and his cooks. All the fun of the fair was in evidence and at the end of the day a much harassed paymaster, **Maj Bob Leaver** took stock of all cash to a grand total of some DM 14,600; not bad for a fete held in a monsoon. This amount was given to both British and German charities once all overheads had been paid.

We would hope for good weather next year, or perhaps choose a day in December when we will be sure to get sunshine?



NODDY Train mechanics: Cpl Ian Berry; Cfn Rodger Peacock; Cfn Peter Hendry; Cfn Scottie Barnett



Capt Alan Abbott seen here in his Supermarket



YE OLD STOCKS

Soldier (who wishes to remain anonymous) having bad eggs thrown at him by little boy remarkably like the son of Commanding Officer

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TOWNSEND THORESEN
The European Ferries



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Lt Col and Mrs Story accompanied by the Bürgermeister of Herford Dr Kurt and Frau Schöber



GO FLY YOUR KITE

Interest stand put on by Capt David Taylor R E

RUGBY
Report by Capt Dicky Dyer

The Regimental Rugby got off to a good start with a 94-0 win at home against 2 Armd Div HQ; the following week we travelled to Wildenrath for the Double Diamond Competition and were unlucky to lose to Bracht in the final by 6 pts to 4.

Then came the big one—we took on the old enemy 1 DWR at Minden whilst our second XV entertained their opposite numbers at Herford. We ran out winners by 19 pts to 7 and the second XV also played well winning by 10 pts to nil.



Gus Hales limbers up—so far this season he has scored 14 tries

TEE TIME in SENNELAGER

Once again the Regiment has been able to show its metal at sport, this time it was golf. 14 to 15 September saw the Corps meeting at the British Army Golf Club Sennelager. The first day saw **WO2 (QMSI) Gordon Milne APTC** (Handicap 6) from the Regiment win the Scratch Cup, unfortunately he was unable to take possession because he is not Royal Signals, sorry **Gordon** but congratulations. He did, however, share the prize and received a decanter, the winner receiving the glasses, they will have to get together on that.

Sig Steve Catlett, 3 Squadron (again?), with a handicap of 12 won the 'Nearest the Hole' competition at the par 3 eleventh, this he achieved also on the first day. Well done **Steve.**

The second day saw **Gordon** and **Steve** pair up for the Regimental pairs, this they won with a net of 73. Congratulations gentlemen.



WO2 (QMSI) Gordon Milne APTC (on the right) and Sig Steve Catlett seen here proudly displaying the Royal Signals BAOR Regimental Pairs Cup and the tools of their success

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

Unique Ceremony

An unusual, if not unique, ceremony took place in Vimy Barracks on Monday 20 August. **WOI (RSM) D. Hughes** formally laid the foundation stone of the new Vimy Barracks Regimental Guard Room and Armoury building. The building, costing some £200,000, is part of the final Phase of the Vimy rebuild programme. This programme, planned during the 1960s, is due for completion mid-1981 by which time 8 Signal Regiment will be housed in the most up-to-date accommodation in the Corps costing upwards of nine million pounds.

This was a quiet 'unit affair' with **RSM Hughes** accompanied by **Mrs Hughes** and supported by the Commanding Officer, **Col I. R. D. Shapter** and **Mrs Shapter**, the Adjutant, **Capt John Snowdon**, OC HQ Squadron, **Maj Alan Brown** and the QM (General), **Maj Ray Webb**. HQ Training Group was represented by the AQMG, **Lt Col Kevin O'Malley,** Royal Irish Rangers, and PLO Catterick, **Maj** (Retd) **Bill Bain,** ex QM of the Corps. Also in attendance were **Mr Gerry Johnson,** Project Consultant, and **Mr Tony Roylance,** Project Architect, together with representatives of the building firm responsible for the final phase of the Project, Fairclough's, and the two PSA Clerk of Works who have been involved in the majority of the Project.

Typical Catterick weather produced a dull, dreary day which, for August and contrary to the forecast, was a bit of a let down. The Quartermaster, responsible for co-ordinating the ceremony, was frantically trying to find sufficient umbrellas at the last moment but the rain eased off at the critical time and allowed the Commanding Officer to introduce the RSM with a short speech welcoming guests and outlining the reasons why he wanted the RSM to lay the foundation stone. Briefly, his feelings were that the RSM would be remembered by the many members of the Corps who will have passed through Catterick during his tour of office and in the future students returning on upgrading courses would be reminded of him. The Guard Room was synonymous with any RSM and it was more appropriate to have the foundation stone laid by a respected and well-known Corps disciplinarian than by an unknown three or four star officer, leastways unknown to the rank and file of the Corps.



RSM Hughes thanked the Commanding Officer for allowing him the privilege of performing the ceremony, saying what an honour it was to be remembered in this manner. He also thanked the guests for attending and particularly the Project Contractor for the close co-operation that existed between them and the unit during a difficult two and a half years re-building programme scattered about the Regimental lines. The bearer of the trowel, **Sig Geordie Ramsey,** stepped smartly forward carrying a cushion draped with the Corps flag upon which rested the trowel which the RSM used to tap the stone and announce 'I declare this stone well and truly laid'.

The Commanding Officer then invited **RSM** and **Mrs Hughes** and the guests to a special lunch in Vimy Barracks Officers Mess. A truly memorable occasion which will be marked by the very attractive foundation stone to be seen by all of you entering Vimy Barracks.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

THE MANAGEMENT

CO	**Lt Col D. M. O. Miller**
2IC	**Maj W. P. B. Thomas**
Adjt	**Capt D. J. Lawson**
RSM	**WO1 W. H. Leslie**
ORQMS	**WO2 J. George**
Designate	**WO2 M. Weston**
Ord Rm Cpl	**LCpl S. Jefferson WRAC**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The 'hierarchy' are shown above. Those who have passed through 10 Sig Regt over the years will be pleased to know we still have in RHQ one of the best civilian clerical and typing staff working ever; namely **Wyn Johnson** (newly promoted to Clerical Officer) IC documentation, **Kath Brown, Margaret Hanlon** and **Tracy Roberts** in the typing pool, **Beverley Mahn** on despatch and **Josie Roberts** on Moves and Courses. Goodbyes to **Lt Col Peter Goldney** who, during his tour, has made many changes and achieved incredible improvements in both communications and administration. We at last administer the WRAC in the unit most efficiently—no mean achievement! **Mrs Penny Goldney** will be missed by all the wives, her organisation of the Garrison Community was admirable.

Goodbye also to **WO2 Joe George** who has left us to take up the appointment of Superintending Clerk 22 Sig Regt. He and his wife **June** have to move out of their officers quarters at Twickenham (which some of our Warrant Officers have been lucky enough to occupy) but it is felt they will be ably compensated by LOA in Germany. Welcome to **Lt Col David Miller** who has taken over command of the Regiment. **Lt Col Miller** has come from UKCICC at UKLF. We hope that he and his wife **Mary** have an enjoyable tour at Hounslow. Welcome also to **Capt David Lawson** who has joined us as Adjutant on posting from 21 Sig Regt. We also hope he and his wife enjoy their tour at Hounslow.

UP HILL AND DOWN DALE
Report by LCpl Sue Jefferson

Exercise *Breakaway* was a very informal relaxed weekend spent toiling up and down mountains, canoeing torrential rivers, hiking through vast uncharted regions of forest and recuperating in the local pubs. Vauxhall Training Camp was the venue for our exciting fun packed weekend but we arrived to find a ghost town. The usually vast empty rolling green fields were awash with a sea of litter, debris, fenced off areas and marquees. After searching for the male members of our party and the ladies toilet, to no avail, we opted to follow a sign which read 'Arabs This Way', well, we didn't find any Arabs but we did find **Cpl 'Have a Cigar' Hayles, Sig 'Cactus' Custus, Cpl 'Dutch' Holland** and **Cpl 'I'll Drink to That' Bazeley** putting up the tents. Thankfully the mystery of the ghost town was soon solved as the men explained that an Agricultural Show had been held on the site the day before.

MODERN COMFORTS

We began to unload the lorry. Well, all I can say is when the QM's department goes camping they don't believe in roughing it. We unloaded sofas, easy chairs, TV's, candelarbras, automatic washers, field ovens—you name it the QM had brought it. Once all the hard work was over, we sat down to enjoy the culinary delights of **Cpls Hollands** and **Bazeley** who made us swear on oath not to tell their wives that they could cook. **Mrs Bazeley, Mrs Hollands** they can't cook but they sure do know how to wash up. The rest of the evening was spent being briefed by **Capt Harry Meekings** on the following days activities and getting to know the locals in their natural habitat 'The Black Bull'.

EARLY START

At 0600 hrs the next day, the birds were singing and the sun was shining or so our OIC Sports, **LCpl Ally 'BooBoo' Smith** told us as she dragged us unmercifully from the warm safe confines of our luxury sleeping bags to play Volleyball of all things. Even **2Lt Sharon Vincents** cries of 'You can't do this to an Officer' went unheeded, so there we were covered in goosebumps, bashing a ball across a net, unenthusiastically.

A LITTLE JOG

Breakfast seemed to end almost as soon as it had begun and before we knew it, it was time for our little jog. For those who weren't aware of the fact, 15 miles is the QMs idea of a little jog. **SQMS 'Wink' Martindale** and **RQMS Collie** much to their dismay, arrived just in time to join us. Sadly they were unaccompanied by **WO2 'Greasy Joe' George** but we managed to look on the bright side when we realised that without him there would be enough food to go round. The walk/BFT was quite pleasant in parts, the scenery was beautiful and if that didn't take your breath away the altitude did. Saturday afternoon was spent sightseeing, shopping or just doing your own thing. I didn't want to do my own thing so I went to bed in a state of utter exhaustion. The hardier members of our party like **LCpl Steve Redshaw** and **LCpl 'I'll show you how to drink coffee' Biddell** went canoeing.

BROWNIE STYLE

At our OIC Entertainment, **LCpl Redshaws** suggestion Saturday night was spent Brownie style with us all sitting round telling jokes singing songs, and enjoying a super barbeque. Once again time flew by and no sooner had we said our good-nights than **LCpl Smith** was saying good-morning and yet again explaining the benefits of early morning PT. However, the ordeal of the day was soon over after which we went swimming, well, it was supposed to be canoeing but since not all of us are proficient . . .

The afternoon, however, was quite different, 10th Signal Regiment was challenged to a game of Volleyball. We were beaten.

SOBERING ACCIDENT

Sunday evening was a sad time for all of us as we bid farewell to the natives. They didn't seem too upset until we told them we would probably be returning next year. 0900 hrs the next day we were on our way to Costa Del Hounslow along the long boring motorway, but it did not remain so for long. A motorcyclist passed us in the next lane and as he did so he lost control of his machine. As if in slow motion he slipped from his machine and hit the tarmac. We stopped — and the panic began. **Cpl Hollands** and **Cpl Bazeley** dragged the now wreck of a bike to the grass verge while **Capt Meekings** and **Cpl Hayles** directed traffic away from the body. Luckily he was alive and had no obvious broken bones, just severe concussion. We sat with him until the ambulance arrived to take him to hospital and watched it disappear into the distance. I thought about the weekend that and wondered about the boy and his bike, if he would ever ride it again or play football, and suddenly I felt very very lucky.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

Since the last edition of The Wire, 2 Squadron has been busy as usual in its role of manning and supporting the many COMMCENS and Exchanges in the London area. However, as will be seen from the notes from our 3 Hounslow based Troops, it has not been all work and no play. The majority of the Squadrons have managed to fit in a bit of Summer Leave, have taken part in assorted sports or in the case of a few gone off on courses.

OSCAR TROOP ROUND-UP
by Cpl Terry Silverton

We start off by welcoming the following new additions to our badly overworked but happy family: **Sgt Smith** from 7 Sig Regt; **WLCpl Barnard** on return to the fold from a short stay in 'civvie street'; **Ptes Botorek, Freer, Shilliday** and **Wheatley** from basic trade training; and last but not least **Sig Evison** from HQ Squadron. We hope they will enjoy their tours with Oscar Troop. Sadly we say farewell to: **Cpl Walt Disney** and his wife **Sandy** to sunny Aldershot; **Pte Bosworth** to Northern Ireland; **Pte Hotz** to Cyprus; **Ptes Davies, Le Merrer, Raftery** and **Whincup** to Wilton; **Pte Brockies** to BAOR; **WLCpl Freaks, Sig Price** and **Pte Morton** to civvy street'. Bon Voyage to them all.

We would like to congratulate **WLCpl Arscott** and **WLCpl Steers** on their recent promotions; **Cpl John Griffiths** on obtaining an 'A' pass on his crypto course; **Cpl John Clare** on his selection for the Army Angling Team; and lastly **Sgt Joe Wells** on his recent award of the LS&GC Medal.

Our Troop has also been active on the sports field. We entered five teams in the recent inter-troop hockey competition. The final was played between Oscar A and RHQ Select. Owing to the antics of the RHQ goalie, **WO2 'Charlie' Joe George,** we were robbed of the chance to score goals and the match ended in a 2-0 victory to RHQ. After the match we retired to the Bruno Club for drinks all round on the PRI.

RADIO TROOP
by LCpl Chris Hunt

We welcome to the Troop **2Lt Sharon Vincent**, who, as rumour has it, is to be the next Troop OC, but **Capt Ian Brown** also appears interested in the job. An anonymous reporter has noticed them playing monopoly, and states that the loser will get the job. Best wishes go to newly promoted **LCpl Ally Crook** and **Sig Taffy Williams,** off on their respective courses. We have warned the OCs of their new units.

On a serious note, Radio Troop has been heavily committed in the normal round of state occasions that go with the London scene. We must own the 'most pressed' suits of No 1 dress in the Army.

Summer Camp is with us again, and hearsay has it the Troop Sgt, **Sgt Keith Bolton,** is offering a prize for the best excuse to miss what has become the social event of the year.

SWS TROOP
by Cpl Steve Hilton

On the work scene there is not much to report, not we hasten to add that we have not been doing any work, but because it has just been everyday stuff, keeping all our lines and circuits in order.

We would like to welcome **Sig Dick Heyes** to the line section, and **SSgt Bob Bradford** as our new Troop SSgt. We say farewell to **Cpl Stu Bower** and his wife **Mary** off to Catterick, **Sgt John Arbury** and his wife **Doreen** off to 'Civvy street', along with **Cpl John Gauchi.** They will all be missed.

On the sporting scene, congratulations must go to **Cpl Steve Cocksedge,** who, with help from **Cpl Bob Blakeman** (LAD), managed an excellent 4th place in the K2 long distance race, while representing the Army in the Inter-Service Canoe Championships. Keep it up **'Cozy'.** Our other canoeist, **Cpl Steven Jackson** came first in both the K2 500m and 1000m sprint races, aided by **Cpl Bob Storey** (HQ Sqn). **Jacko** was also selected to represent Great Britain in the International Sprint Regatta, held at Munich recently. In competition against canoeists from Spain, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy and West Germany, he achieved a third place in the K2 10,000m (sprint) race. Well done **Jacko.** Finally, **LCpl Ade 'Bl soon' Downs** states categorically that 'his wife is not pregnant, it's just good living'.

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

THE CHICHESTER MARCH

Sat 11 Aug soon approached, came and went. The time had come for the assembled team from 3 Sqn to move to our new location. **LCpl Phil Jefferson** arrived from Ace High to ferry the girls. Our means of transport was an old three ton Bedford (!) **Sgt Wendy Barton** took control of the back of the vehicle (though who took control of the singing is open to debate). **LCpl Penny Nicholaides** and husband **Sgt 'Nick'** took the landrover (which a certain accompanying officer had difficulty in getting into second gear).

On arrival we set up camp—all in a neat row. Our evening meal was different to say the very least. Steak, tomatoes, peas, fried egg rice followed by coffee and grass (!). The next morning all (?) were up bright and early—(early, yes, bright, well we are not so sure). **LCpl Jefferson** and **Sgt Nicholaides** agreed to do the washing up whilst we were on the march (Camp followers anonymous).

The merry band set off for the star with **Ptes 'Danny' Daniel** and **Lynn Shepherd** in good form. Once at the start we formed up under the 10 Sig Regt pennant with our mascot Herman tied to the pole. (He had an awful headache at the end). **Cpls Liz McLean** and **Carol Hoban** followed the banner with **Pte Zoe Bloomfield** carrying the first aid kit.

Needless to say **Lt Nannette Wilson** set off at a pace that would have done the Light Infantry proud, but which her team would not allow. Throughout the 40 Km the team kept 'in squad' and in full voice. A good job was done on the singing side by **Ptes Mandy Wiltshire** and **Viv Bancroft.** We even sang louder than the RAF and the Navy. As the day wore on we all got our second wind, six hours ten minutes and 40 Kms later we marched past the finish, still in step and with good dressing. We were then told that as well as gaining our gold medals for completing the 40 Kms and our team scroll, we had also won the Ladies Team Prize. After a quick change into No 2 Dress we set off again for the parade through town. (This was almost more difficult than the march itself). On completion of the parade **Lt Wilson** went to the Town Hall to collect the prize from the Provost Marshal and the Mayoress of Chichester. Thus ended what we hope will be first of many marches.

(We have just found out that our new CO, **Lt Col Miller** was pitched next to us on the same campsite—we are all trying to work out if we did anything wrong!!!)

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

This year a team from the Junior Signalman Wing took part in the Nijmegen Marches, as part of the research being carried out in the Regiment into how fast Junior Soldiers can acquire blisters! The following took part:

Lt P. C. A. Smith R. Signals
SSgt N. S. Finney (I'll Clog you too)
JSgt R. Maddox (I'm sure I put my suitcase on the train)
JCpl D. Bunt
JCpl W. Eardley (Grandad)
JCpl A. Stevens
JSig A. Bell (Tiger)
JSig D. Bowsfield (Bowser)
JSig G. Clark
JSig T. Crane
JSig B. Raine
JSig S. Thompson



GETTING THERE

Despite departing for Holland on Friday 13 July, minor disagreements with British Rail on the movement of bicycles on High Speed Trains, (which is against British Rail regulations), and the loss and recovery of certain baggage, the trip went smoothly. Upon arrival in Nijmegen, the team soon settled into its area of the deluxe Marquee erected especially for the occasion and recce parties were sent out to look for suitable nocturnal watering places. Sunday and Monday were spent confirming the locs discovered on Saturday and preparing for the marches.

THE MARCHES

Tuesday dawned bright and early and off the team went. The first two days were much the same, miles of flat roads occasionally winding past a canal or two or through a town where **Lt Smith** as team leader had to play Spot the General. The third day we were warned, had the dreaded 'Seven Sisters' set of hills in it. The team was not too sure if it had followed the official route when it got back to camp, as we had not noticed any hills to speak of. Still, training around Ouston and Catterick probably spoiled us for hills! On the last day a slight rivalry developed between ourselves and the Junior Green Jackets team as to who would get back first and thus be at the front of the marchpast. Early on in the morning the Green Jackets blazed past at a true light infantry pace, only to be caught and overtaken at the next rest point and then left behind. The team was the 5th British team to complete the last day's march out of 50 taking part and the first Junior team back. All members had acquired their blisters by the end of the 4 days marching and so qualified for the KNBLO (Knock knees and Bandy Legs Organisation) individual Medal and a Team Medal as no one had dropped out.

SOUVENIRS

Most members of the team acquired souvenirs of the marches and Holland. The most notable of these was perhaps **SSgt Finney's Clog** which he did on occasion brandish in the air and threaten unruly team members with. Finally the result of the teams survey on young ladies in Nijmegen came to the conclusion that the 'Doris's outnumbered the 'Eric's by about 3 to 1.



11th Signal Regiment CHICHESTER March Team 1979
From left to right:
Back row: Capt Emslie, Cpl Mick Walden, LCpl Mark Jones, Cpl Dougie Dorian
Front row: Cpl Mac McLean, LCpl Gary Major, Cpl John McCaffery

THE SEEDS

In mid June while **Cpl Mick Walden** was engrossed in reading his favourite magazine 'The Great Outdoors' (Tongue in cheek), he spotted an advertisement for the annual RMP March at Chichester to be held in August. Having watched **Lt P. C. A. Smith** train his band of Junior Signalmen and march them to Nijmegen for the 4 day marches there, **Cpl Walden** felt that the JNCO Cadre should also show willing by going down for the RMP Marches. There was an immediate response to **Cpl Walden's** suggestion and a dozen of the Cadre put their names forward. (How come there are only 6 on the Photograph? You say at this stage). To cut a long story short, only a selected few managed to win through the arduous routes and rugged pubs set out by **Cpl Walden** in his training work up.

IMMUNITY CONCEPT

Once a team had finally emerged from the holocaust of training A. N. Officer had to be found to give the party a legitimate leader, and to add a touch of class to what otherwise might have been a sweat-soaked amble through the Sussex pastoral scene. **Lt Smith** was still resting on his Nijmegen laurels and did not deign to participate, and so **Capt Emslie** in the belief that doing the march would give him one year's immunity from the RMP Traffic police became team leader. The scene was now set for the march which was to take place at Chichester on Sunday 12 August 1979. The team's aim was clear in their minds—to complete the 40Km march within 6 hours. Limiting factors were the drive down to Chichester on the Saturday, the disco held in the RMP Barracks that night, and the need to drive back on Sunday night to get back for first parade on Monday morning.

The drive down was uneventful, and the team were received by the March Committee and led to their accommodation, which due to the dozens of visiting teams was the squash court. (In more ways than one.) After a meal and a shower the team was ready to sample the delights of the disco in the huge marquee. (The Isle of Wight was never like this). **Gary Major** made the fatal error of dusting himself down with foot and body powder instead of talcum, which reduced his chances somewhat. (chances of what you may ask?)

MAGNIFICENT SCENERY

The morning of the march dawned. The weather was overcast and 'muggy' (as used by the BBC). The team was also there as proved by the photograph. (*Not* taken in Helles Barracks, for the unbelievers). **Cpl Vinney Fleming RAPC** was our safety vehicle driver, and performed the greatest exertion of his day by pressing the button on **Cpl Dorian's** camera to record the occasion.

The march was a 40Km route winding from Chichester, up through the outskirts past Goodwood Race Course, and into the wooded downs above the town. The scenery at points was magnificent (both of them as **Cpl McCaffery** remarked) and the team made good speed, pausing only to buy **Capt Emslie** a lollipop (to take his mind off the scenery). All too soon the march was over and the team leader practised being a General by pinning all the medals on, and murmuring 'well done! good show'. And other niceties. After a quick shower and a change we were back on the road to sunny Catterick and arrived back for Monday morning. The trip back was not so uneventful as the trip down—but that is another story.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

The September edition of The Wire is traditionally the hardest to find something to write about as everyone goes on leave. We notice that Fleet Street suffers from the same problem, that is when we actually receive our newspapers! However, here we have had a surfeit to report about as many families have been unable to get away because of the high level of activity laid on for the Youth. Teenagers have actually demanded to stay here rather than sun themselves in the South of France. **Maj Bill Parkes** laid on, with the assitance of other accomplished members of the Regiment, activities from swimming to driving a car, from canoeing to golf and from horse riding to squash lessons. They were greatly appreciated by everyone. In September we held our first Golf 'Open' during which **Mrs Judy Baldwin,** wife of the CSO, took a few minutes off to plant a new vine which is a replacement for one she planted ten years earlier but has since died.



Mrs Baldwin plants the new vine outside the Officers' Mess

FAREWELL TO LOYAL FRIENDS

On Friday 31 August the Regiment said goodbye to 5 loyal friends. The 3 MSO dog handlers and their 2 guard dogs were on parade for the last time before being posted to 3 BAD at Bracht. To mark the occasion a small ceremony of locking away the dogs was held at Mercury Barracks. The Deputy Commander of Rhine Area, **Col L. P. Weeks,** took the farewell salute with **Lt Col C. T. Garton** the Commanding Officer, in attendance. At the buffet lunch after the parade each of the dog handlers was presented with a commemorative plaque.



The dogs are locked away for the last time as their masters look on



Stanislav Zobec receiving his plaque from Col Weeks. Stanislav Zobec has served with MSO since 1953

JEVER DETACHMENT

Once again we make our presence felt, a pebble amidst the mountains of squadrons and regiments. Our detachment of seven families continues to thrive.

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to **Sgt John** and **Jenny Ruddy, Cpl Mick** and **Sheila Agnew,** both families being posted to 'Civvy Street', and goodbye to **Cpl Dave** and **Taryn Oakley,** making their own way over land and sea by car to Cyprus.

Hello to **SSgt Al** and **Norma Thompson, Cpl Alex** and **Chris Middleton** and **LCpl Steve** and **Rose O'Dare,** hoping that your stay will be a happy one.

NAVY LARK

Families of the detachment visited HMS Ardent whilst she was berthed at Wilhelmshaven. We were treated to a tour of the ship, culminating with drinks in the ship's mess. In turn we invited a few Navy lads back to our club for a meal and a night ashore. An entertaining and unforgettable night followed, enhanced by Petty Officers' Mess party pieces called 'Spoons' and 'the Funnel'. Mess Jesters should write to us for details.

LAST KICK-OFF

Cpl Dave Oakley was presented with a plaque by the Bürgermeister of Heidmühle on the occasion of his last game with the team. He has played for Heidmühler's first team for over a year and has scored many of their goals. **Cpl Alex Middleton** has taken his place in the team and we hope that he will be just as successful.

HQ SQN ROUND UP

Since the last notes from Headquarters Squadron, a few changes in personnel have taken place. New arrivals are as follows: **Maj John Radford** as 2IC, **WO1 John O'Kell** as Estate Warden, **SSgt Dave Hooks** as SQMS Accommodation, **SSgt Don Shrives** Radio Workshops, **Sgt George Myers** APTC, and **Cpl Slade** our new metalsmith.

They replace **Lt Col Graham** to Northern Ireland, **SSgt Bill Anderson** to civilian life, **WO2 Bill Garner** on promotion to RQMS, **SSgt Dusty Miller** to civilian life and **Cpl Withers** to REME Training Regiment. Our best wishes are extended to those old members **SSgt Bill Anderson** and **SSgt Dusty Miller** on their entry to civilian life. **WO1 John O'Kell** has proved a valuable asset to the Regiment, both in his estate duties but also the spheres of fishing and swimming.

In the sporting sphere the squadron has won both the inter-squadron cricket and swimming. The swimming competition for the fourth consecutive time.

In the cricket competition, the squadron provided a bit of a surprise by winning, thanks to good performances from some of our 'non-cricketers'. Well done. **Maj Radford** and the Commanding Officer, of course, were well to the fore in the competition but an unknown **Maj Joe Adams** wields a mean bat, and is extremely capable with his bowling.



Back Row, left to right: SSgt Shrives, Cpl Anderson, Cpl Hollis, Sig Moye, Cpl O'Dare, Sgt Lister, WO2 Peyton
Front Row, left to right: Maj Radford, WO2 Groves, Lt Col Garton, SSgt Luckett, WO1 Good

REGIMENTAL CRICKET REPORT

Rhine Area Cup Winners. 13 Sig Regt. 139—8 HQ BAOR 70
Rhine Area League (Div 1) Winners. Beaten by HQ BAOR in the league champions play-off.
BOAR Major Units Cup—Finalists. Beaten by 1 Duke of Wellingtons Regiment. 13S R 154—6 1Duke of W 155—5

THE BAT

With a seasonal average of 42, skipper and Commanding Officer, **Lt Col C. T. Garton** took all the batting honours and it was his aggressive batting which brought many a cliff-hanging result to a favourable conclusion. **WO1 Dick Good** and **WO2 Andy Peyton** withstood the opening onslaughts with experienced aplomb while **SSgt Dave Luckett, Cpl Ian Anderson** and **WO2 John Groves,** sloggers all, wielded the willow to good effect.

THE BALL

Sig Chris Moye emulating Geoff Thompson (Aus) in both style and pace caused many a heart to falter, while **SSgt Dave Luckett** from the other end grabbed the wickets. **Maj John Radford** arriving mid-season used all his experience to take 21 wickets at a cost of 7 each. **Sgt John Sinden's** spin confused many, some say his slower one is still on its way!

THE FIELD

Reflecting last year's performance the fielding and catching was of a very high standard. In particular **Cpl Ian Anderson** consistently held the most difficult of chances in the gully. **SSgt Don Shrives** patrolled the covers and **LCpl Steve O'Dare** and **Cpl Steve Hollis RAPC** vied for the keeper's position. **Sgt John Lister, Cpl Barney Stephens** and on return from Ireland **Sgt Stew Parrish** completed the team.

OFFICIALS

Cpl Mal Mudd provided the caustic not out's and football results. **Sgt Steve Lidstone** made pictures in the score book. **Mrs Chris Anderson** and **Mrs Mary Luckett** poured the tea while the famous 13 Signal Regiment rabbits ate the mat.

A season enjoyed by all, who look forward to renewing their acquaintance with the BAOR Cup next year.

MERCURY BOWMEN

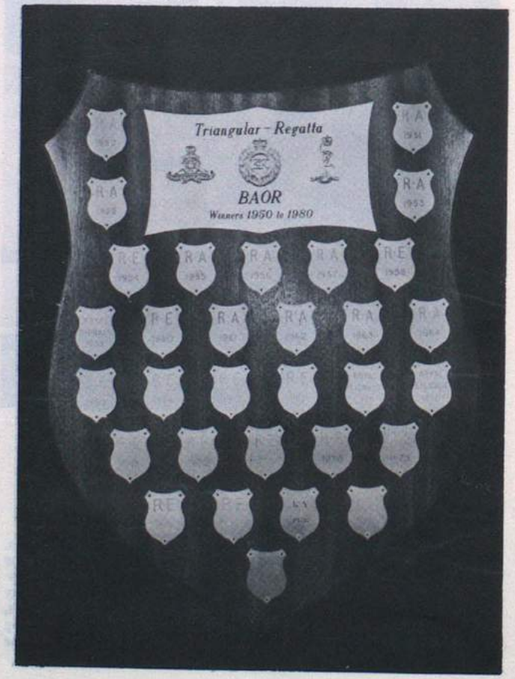
Regimental Team: **Sgt Rick Retallick**
Mrs Wendy Retallick
SSgt Ray Jones
Mrs Barbara Jones

It has been another successful year for our Mercury Bowmen. The team has taken almost all of BAOR's individual team and end-of-season prizes, bringing more of an avaricious glint to the RSM's eye as he contemplates his full trophy cabinet. In August we were hosts for a BAOR tournament, and were glad to welcome members of three local German clubs to the two day event. Anglo-German relationships blossomed, and language barriers disappeared as the bar stocks ran down at a prodigious rate.

Sgt Rick Retallick and **SSgt Ray Jones** continue to disappear from the unit at odd times, to represent the Army at Inter-Service matches in the UK, but the shortfall they cause to the manning figures is now halved as **Rick** and **Wendy** have moved to the UK and will be greatly missed in BAOR archery. **Sgt Stew** and **Mrs Ann Birchall** have taken over the running of the club and will be glad to hear from anyone interested in archery.

CORPS DINGHY SAILING SUCCESS:

It was a matter of great excitement this year for the Corps team to win the coveted Triangular Trophy beating the Gunners and Sappers in a two day event on the Mohne See. As you can see from the photograph of the shield, which is the trophy for the event, the Corps has only won it 3 times before in its 29 years of being sailed for; the last time being 1970. So it was matter of great pride for the team, which included **Maj Homfray Vines, Martin Roberts** and **Dickie Bird, Capt Stabler, WO2 Jim Downie, SSgts Rod Goddard** and **Peter Dowdall, Cpl Hardstaff** and **Sig Ian Barnes** to capture the trophy. It is hoped that we shall make an extra special effort next year to regain it in its final year, making the score 5 out of 31.



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C IN C VISITS

The Regiment was honoured by a visit from **Air Marshal Sir Peter Terry KCB AFC**, RAF Commander in Chief Royal Air Force Germany. The programme for his visit, which was his first to RAF Wildenrath, was rather full; however he had time to meet some of the Regiment and also some of the Warrant Officers and Seniors in the Sergeants' Mess for a lunch time drink.

He was well briefed on the Regiment's role within RAF Germany by the Commanding Officer. It is hoped that during his tour he will be able to visit the Regiment in depth.



An informal discussion between the AOC SSgt Dave Bayley, WO2 (YofS) Tom Wilkinson and Sgt Tom McGuinnis over a lunch-time drink in the Sgts' Mess.
The caption should read 'Will you tell him or shall I?'



The Commanding Officer introduces the RSM to the AOC with the Adjutant Capt Tim Bushell in attendance

FULL BORE SHOOTING

The Regimental team carried on their fine efforts from the Rhine Area Skill at Arms Meeting to the Corps SAM and Bisley. In the Corps SAM they won the Para and SMG Cups. In the Order of Merit for the Champion Shot of the Meeting **Sgt Marty Roberts** was placed 5th, **Capt David Elson** 6th and **Cpl Geoff Copley** 7th. The team was placed 3rd on equal points with the 2nd team 1 Armd Div Sig Regt.

At Bisley the team were the second placed Royal Signals team. **Sgt Marty Roberts** again collected medals. He qualified for the Army 100 being placed 49th, a bronze medal in the Roupell Cup and a few pounds in sweepstake prizes. The pistol team won silver bars in the Southern Command Cup and were placed 15th in the pistol team match. The team, full of enthusiasm are looking forward to next season. We are losing our team Captain, **Capt David Elson,** who is off to ride motor bikes in Catterick. We wish him well and thank him for his efforts for the shooting team.

High Jump Champions

A major success in our athletics team this season has been the form of our high jump team of **Cpl John Watts** and **Sig Dobo Dobson.** They started the season by winning the Rhine Area title and then won the Morrison Cup and BAOR titles. They went to Aldershot and in the Army Single Event Championships they took the Army title equalling the Army high jump record.

SUCCESSFUL REGIMENTAL FETE

The weather Gods smiled and gave us marvellous blue skies and blazing sun on a Saturday in July when the Regimental Fete to raise funds for charity was held at Pegasus School. The fete was opened by **Mrs Colman** and the variety of stalls was enormous. Thanks go to everyone for such a display of initiative and ingenuity. It is difficult to single out particular stalls for special mention, the sight of **WO2 (SSM) Ray Drew** and companions drowning in custard certainly created many a smile. It was a great delight to see so many of our families gathered together once again, and also to see the Comd 4 Sig Group, his wife and other members of his staff. It was particularly pleasing to note the generosity of all the visitors, the sum of approximately DM5000 (subject to recount) being raised for charity.

OFFICERS V SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET

The annual cricket match between the Officers and WOs/SNCOs took place on a gloomy Sunday. At one o'clock saw the cricketing gladiators and many more hangers on (supposedly supporters), gathered at the Station cricket pitch for the annual contest. The curry lunch was consumed with gusto and much quaffing of liquid refreshment prior to the match kicking off(?). At about 2 pm the pitch was inspected by the two captains, the Commanding Officer and RSM. Naturally the Sgts' Mess won the toss and put the officers into bat first with the weather being remarkably good. Some fine and more not so fine batting eventually gave the officers a score of 86 all out, at which a second time out was called. **Sgt Mick Price** took his life or was it his career into his hands when he inadvertently bowled and caught the CO and took OC HQ Sqn's wicket with the next ball. Shades of Freddie Truman methinks.

Suitably refreshed the teams took to the field once more. The weather however, decidedly changed for the worse and the teams were subjected to rains of monsoon proportions during this innings. The QM (**Lt Col G. A. Stephenson**) of course was suitably attired in yellow wellies, shorts and bowler hat, all well protected by his brolly. Hockey rules applied by **WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Edmunds** and decidedly unbiased(?) touch judging by OC 2 kept the game lively and with **WO2 (SSM) Ray Drew** scoring with mathematical precision ended with the Sgts' Mess running out the winners with a score of approximately 88 for 8. A very enjoyable, if somewhat wet day for both participants and spectators and the teams are to be congratulated on completing the match in the face of such inclement weather.

MORRISON CUP—10th YEAR IN SUCCESSION



Even the miserable weather could not stop our team winning the Morrison Cup for the 10th year in succession. How fitting it was that the Regiment managed to win the cup, in view of the very stiff opposition from 2 Armd Div and 7 Sig Regt in the presence of **Gen Morrison** who presented the trophy in 1950 and for our athletics officer and team captain **Capt Dick Hoyle** to receive the trophy from our Colonel-in-Chief.

Standing left to right:
LCpl Holton, Sig Brown, LCpl Carr, Cpl Atherton, Sig Smith, Sig Young, WO2 Baikie, LCpl Raku-Evans, Cpl Aspin, SSI Haase, Sgt Wood, Sig Scott, LCpl Kent, Sig Grimes, Cpl Howe, Sig Jarvis, Cpl Prince, Cpl Tedby, Sig Dobson.
Seated left to right:
2Lt Slaski, Lt Leach, Maj Hughes, Capt Hoyle, Lt Col Colman, WO1 (RSM) Homewood, Cpl Watts, Cpl Stevenson, LCpl Foster

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PERSONALITIES

OC 4 Sqn, **Maj Mike Galloway;** 2IC, **Capt Peter Bowles, SSM Mick Ledwards,** YOS, **SSgt Dave Pentland,** SQMS, **SSgt Dave Nixon;** OC Bravo Tp, **Capt David Kirkup;** 2IC Bravo Tp, **SSgt Colin Lawrence;** OC Juliet Tp, **Lt Les Plumb;** 2IC Juliet Tp, **SSgt Ted Bentley;** OC Kilo Tp, **Lt Adam Leather;** 2IC Kilo Tp, **SSgt Ken Clark.**

SUNSHINE ON WEBBED FEET

This month's Wire notes are written by 4 Squadron, an enterprising formation, comprising a headquarters and 29 independent detachments. Our responsibilities are many and therefore our standards of individual leadership have to be high. It is with this in mind that we plan our training and our Summer Camp this year was a fine example. The term 'fine', is used advisedly, since Exercise Webbed Feet gave us splendid weather throughout. The name was chosen by OC, **Maj Mike Galloway,** in defiance of fate, after the floods of last year's Exercise Heat Stroke.

Lasting 10 days, the Squadron was grouped into sections and camped above the valley of the Edersee. Each section was assessed on its performances by the directing staff to introduce an element of competitiveness. Sections rotated through a programme including orienteering, canoeing, rock climbing, section attacks, march and shoot, a 48 hour escape and evasion exercise, sightseeing and the inevitable one day of pan bash.

Memories are numerous. **SSgt Ted Bentley** (no hard feelings lads!) gave many added reasons for escape and evasion; the ticks and bugs which nearly had us quarantined on our return; our 3–0 defeat at soccer by the local villagers (to our shame); the local visits and of course, the presentations for individual merit. This year's Chocolate Frog Trophy went to **Cpl Mick Gaffney's** section from Bravo Troop and the award for best overall effort went to **Sig John Hartshorn** of Kilo Troop.



Part of the winning section parade for SSgt Ted Bentley's escape and evasion briefing



Sig Ray Parry 'deceased'

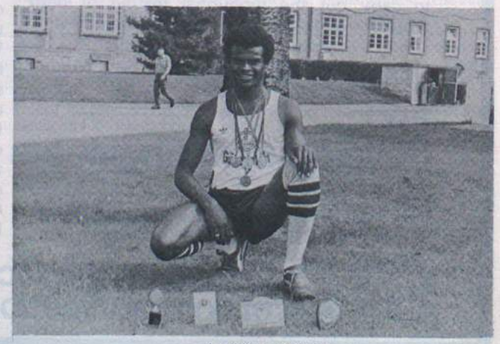


SSgt Colin Lawrence briefing for war. Left to right: Sig Ray Parry, Sig Phil Child, Sig Chris Towell, Sig Dennie Denton, Sig Big Jock Burns, Cpl Andy Shaw, Sig Tony Bamford

SPORTS PERSONALITY

We are proud to have with us **LCpl Kris Akabusi,** who has recently become the East Westfalian 400 metre Champion, equivalent to County standard in the United Kingdom. **Kris** runs, in his spare time, for L G Gütersloh in the Regional League. Other praiseworthy achievements this year have been, BAOR 400 metres second, BAOR 200 metres 3rd, Army 400 metres 3rd and representing the Army in the Inter Services meeting, fourth in the 400 metres.

We wish him even greater success in the future and hope that he achieves his wish, to be considered for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.



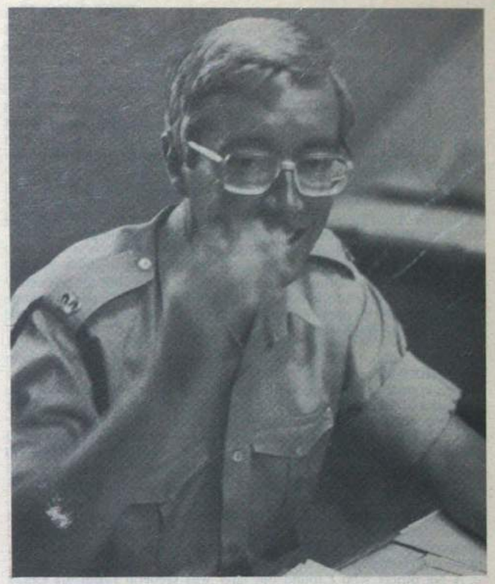
Lcpl Kris Akabusi

VISITOR FROM 36 REGT

54 Sig Sqn (V) of 36 Sig Regt (V) is similarly comprised of small independent detachments and it was with interest, as well as pleasure, that we were able to welcome **Capt Brian Taylor** for a 3 week attachment in August. Asked for his comments before leaving, **Brian** tells us that this was the first time that he has not been barrack bound when in BAOR. Indeed, within 24 hours of arrival, he completed two days recce, 'touring Germany with frustrated rally driver, **Sgt Alan Culton**' (his words not mine). That will teach him to visit during the Summer leave period.

We hope that he will visit us again, next time with his Squadron. His facial resemblance to the OC Squadron gave his temporary role of 2IC a new meaning.





Capt Brian Taylor and Maj Mike Galloway. Will the real OC 4 Sqn please stand up?

TRAGEDY

It was with stunned dismay that on 2 August we learned of the tragic death of **Sig Paul Reece,** who lost his life after only two weeks of service in N Ireland. A member of Bravo troop, he is fondly remembered here, yet his death has served to bond us more closely as a team.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

All three Troop Commanders have left for the United Kingdom during the last two months; **Lt Andy Field** to be educated at RMCS Shrivenham, **Lt Paul Eaton** to be entrenched at Cambridge University and **Lt Nick Handy** to be indoctrinated to 'civvi' street to study law at Bristol Univeryity.

We welcome **Capt David Kirkup, Lt Adam Leather** and shortly, **Lt Les Plumb** (when he has fiinished a brief rest).

NEW TETRATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 18/19 September 1979 at Sennelager Training Centre, the first of a new series of 1 (BR) Corps Tetrathlon Championships was held. This competition, open to all members of 1 (BR) Corps involves running 3,000 metres cross country, swimming 200 metres freestyle, shooting with 9mm service pistols and riding a service motorcycle or horse. The Competition was introduced by the Corps Commander **Lt Gen Sir Peter Leng,** and following the success of this year's 'pilot' competition it is certain to be an annual event.

FROM A COMPETITOR'S STANDPOINT

Here is a description of the event from a competitor's point of view, written by **Sig Joe Cox,** a member of the very successful 22 Signal Regiment team.

Half past four on Friday 17 August—Place—Regimental Square —We were all standing on parade waiting for dismissal for the weekend, generally getting bored, when all of a sudden someone shouted at us to gather round a certain officer—**Maj Rice**—who was to become our slave driver for the next month or so. 'Who wants to be a superstar sportsman?' Says he. No reply! Then, in a slightly more pleading voice . . . 'Anyone interested come and see me after the parade'. About fifteen of us handed our names in, and were given details of tests that we would have to do the following week, starting with a 3km road run first thing in the morning (many groans and looks of regret!).

Anyway, we all turned up on the Tuesday morning. **Maj Rice's** little computer timing machine was set going, and the first test was under way. That afternoon we were taken out onto a patch of rough ground in the barracks where 2 motorbikes awaited us. These bikes were kindly lent for training by **Cpl's Wyn Harris** and **Martin Taylor.** We rode the bikes over a short but rough course with **Cpl Harris** judging our skill. After a shooting test later in the afternoon, we all met at the Lippstadt indoor pool for a swimming test. Two swimmers turned out to be a little faster than the others— **Sig Cox's—Joe** and **Brummie** (or Wayne) to their friends.

A TYPICAL DAY

The following morning **Maj Rice** announced the names of the training squad of nine: **Cpls Martin Taylor, Dave (Ginge) Biddell, Mick Scott, Mick (Moneybags) Stelmach RAPC, Sigs Joe** and **Brummie Cox, Brummie Edwards, Jim McDougall** and **Cfn 'Budgie' Burgess** of the LAD. We were all given an exhausting training programme covering the next four weeks. A typical day of this would start with a run of anything up to 15kms—which felt like 100kms sometimes! at 11 o'clock we would go to the pool with our two friendly (?) AIPT's—**LCpl Bob O'Dea** and **Stevie Power,** assisted by the two **Cox's.** Then back to the range, under either **SSgt Bernie Thomas, SSM Brian Eason,** or in the final stages the Regimental Bisley Coach, **SSgt 'Uncle Ted' Bentley.** Finally, under the watchful eye of **Ginge Biddell,** we rode the motorbikes over a variety of hair raising obstacles. In the last week we had a great day riding Army BSA's thanks to 3 Sqn RCT. These turned out to be a bit different to the light weight trials bikes we had been using!

THE TEAM

Maj Rice kept us waiting until the Friday before the Competition before telling us the team, which was **Cpl Taylor, Cpl Biddell, Cfn Burgess** and **Sig McDougall.** Come the Monday morning and **Cpl Biddell** had injured himself—disco dancing! First reserve **Sig Joe Cox** was brought into the team.

THE TENPACK INCENTIVE

The swimming event was the first thing on the evening of Tuesday 18 September. I got a shock to recognise several swimmers from the BAOR Championships in Berlin two years ago.

I was first to swim for our team. **Maj Rice** had offered a tenpack (Unit of local currency—pack containing ten bottles of Herforder Export) for anyone getting over 1,000 points in any event, and it turned out to be quite an expensive competition for him. **Jim McDougall** and I both scored a tenpack that evening in the pool, and two more were won the next day on the motor-cycling. At the end of the evening we went back to Lippstadt, with the team lying in third place.

The Wednesday opened with the shooting, which nobody was looking forward to because none of us were exactly up to Annie Oakley standards. Luckily, neither was anyone else so the team was able to keep its position. With two good runners and all competent motor-cyclists, we all felt optimistic about the final outcome.

I scored a tenpack on what was a fast but technically very easy motorcycle course—**'Budgie' Burgess** did the same, but unfortunately **Cpl Taylor** went a bit too fast and had an accident which lost him some time. With all the motorcycling scores in, it started to look as if we could have taken the lead.

RUNNERS UP

The crunch for me was the running—not my best event! **Jim McDougal** and **'Budgie' Burgess** both had good runs, which left **Cpl Taylor** to get in our final score and decide our placing. Off he went, with the CO and RSM shouting encouragement, and he turned in a very good time (he was 6th individual in this event out of 128 starters). Over we went to the big Master Scoreboard where the results were being worked out. In the end we found that we had come second, 195 points behind 4 Armd Div Engineers who won the cup. Still, as we drank 'champers' from our runners-up mugs we felt very pleased that all the training had been worthwhile (even the 28km run from Bielefeld to Detmold dreamed up by **Cpl Biddell**—who incidentally was unable to take part in the run through a dancing injury).

A big officer who I found out later was **General Leng**, the Corps Commander came up and asked us two questions—Was it good fun, and will you do it again next year? The answer to both was a positive Yes!

TO THE TOP OF DENMARK

As a climax to the year's sailing activities, 22 Signal Regiment organised a two week sailing expedition on board Flamingo the flagship at the British Kiel Yacht Club. The original aim had been to try and reach Norway during the trip but long before the date of departure this ambition had to be modified as postings and other commitments thinned out the ranks of experienced sailors. In its place therefore a plan was drawn up to introduce novices to sailing and to fully test their endurance at sea.

THE CREW

The crew of Flamingo consisted of the following:

Permanent Skipper	— **Pte Laurie Campbell BKYC**
Mate	— **Capt Alan Jones R Signals**
The 'Noisy'Watch Leader	— **Sig 'Biddy' Baxter**
Hand (Radio Op)	— **Sig Jim Gray**
Hand	— **Sig Ken Hill**
The 'Late Watch Leader	— **Lcpl Mick McKenna**
Hand	— **Sig 'Enoch' Powell**
Hand	— **Sig 'Stan' Stanley**

The watches earnt their titles early in the trip, one by virtue of the fact that no-one off watch could sleep for the noise on deck, the other because they were invariably late on deck (if they made it at all). By the end of the trip we managed to cure both watches of their vices, however they had picked up many more in their place.

LIMITATIONS

Experience was limited. **Capt Alan Jones** was a fairly recent Skipper 35 and the two watch leaders **Lcpl Mick McKenna** and **Sig Biddy Baxter** were both previous offshore hands and could at least distinguish between the sharp end and the blunt end. The remainder of the crew were total landlubbers.

We joined Flamingo at Kiel and took over a superb, spacious yacht, gleaming and ready for us. The Permanent Skipper, **Pt Laurie Campbell** of the Parachute Regiment was waiting for us and looking forward to the long charter which would enable him to sail a bit further than normal. We stored our gear and equipment just in time to take shelter from a monster storm which chased the Artillery Regatta into Kiel. After sorting all the gear the remainder of the first day was spent by the permanent skipper showing us around Flamingo, its safety points and peculiarities. An early night was had by most and the next morning we shook ourselves awake at 0500 to start the cruise.



The crew, from the left, Capt Alan Jones, LCpl Mick McKenna, Sig Ken Hill, Sig Jim Gray, Sig 'Stan the Mess', Sig Enoch Powell and Sig Biddy Baxter

UNDER WAY

Flamingo soon slipped from the Yacht Club at Kiel and we were out in the harbour approaches practising sail changes, tacking, gybing and man overboard drills. Once the skipper felt he could face the open waters with his motley crew we set sail for Svendborg in Denmark on the first leg. For those who are not familiar with Flamingo she is an old German yacht built in 1935 and is still very much as she was then, including the original mast. She is a sloop, 57ft LOA and carries 100sq metres of sail (which is her rating) under normal conditions. We took with us 2 PRC 320's, the HF manpack set, kindly lent by 27 Fd Regt RA.

These were taken to work back to Lippstadt, where a VRC 321 would anchor the link, to report progress of the yacht. The radio operator was **Sig Jim Gray** who worked well under varied conditions to demonstrate the excellent capabilities of the set.

A GOOD START

The first day went well with a brisk wind allowing us to reach up to Skoldnaes in comfortable style. We anchored off the light at Skoldnaes firstly to practice anchoring drills and then to have lunch. **Sig Ken Hill** soon demonstrated the dangers of going overboard in the Baltic, even during the summer. Diving overboard in his wet suit he was soon clamouring to be retrieved. This proved impossible until all the corn-dog sandwiches had been consumed and the crew had built up sufficient energy to haul the blue faced **Hill** aboard.

Arriving in Svendborg after a pleasant days sail, we were all rudely surprised by the strength of the current in the harbour itself. Although warps were put ashore on the floating jetty smartly enough, the current held us firmly off for at least half an hour while the crew winched and heaved to get Flamingo alongside, no sooner had we done so than the Harbour Master ambled up to tell us we had moored to a floating jetty which they were in the process of replacing and would we mind choosing another bit of wall to tie up on. This was soon done but involved mooring in a less than ideal position. After the first day's uneventful, but enjoyable, sailing the new 'old salts' headed for their first taste of Danish Beer, (Expensive enough to be classified as liquid gold).

A FAST RUN

An early start the next morning found Flamingo leisurely moving down the Svendborg Sund bound for Fredrikshavn at the top of Denmark. We estimated at best a passage time of 36 hours. With the light winds we experienced at first we expected to take much longer. However by late morning and our entry into the Great Belt the wind had picked up and we were soon close hauled and making 8 knots. We soon had our first reef in and had changed down to No 1. It was at this stage that some of our gallant crew began to experience the first signs of mal de mer. The rest of the trip to Fredrikshavn was simply miserable for **Sig's Jim Gray** and **'Enoch' Powell.** For most of us though it was terrific. We sailed hard through the night and by morning we were approaching Fredrikshavn. We reached Fredrikshavn a bare 24 hours after leaving Svendborg averaging 8 knots the whole way. We moored in the Naval Harbour at Fredrikshavn amongst a constantly active group of small naval vessels. The Danes very kindly allowed us to use their showers and we decided to rest there to allow the sufferers to recover from their ill effects.



LCpl Mick McKenna helms through the Svendborg Sund

COPENHAGEN BOUND

Fredrikshavn itself is a busy ferry port with a quiet night life (as far as we could see anyway). Which was a good thing as we had another early start the next morning. We set off for Laeso a small island about 20 miles from Fredrikshavn. We reached under light winds through a dull overcast morning to moor in Osterby Haus for lunch. Osterby is a small fishing harbour in the north of Laeso, which itself caters mainly for tourists cycling and hiking on the island.

After a quick lunch we were off bound for Copenhagen. The wind backed to southerly and we were faced with having to beat the whole way. The wind continued to shift all the trip to disadvantage us, so we were working hard, tacking frequently. That night tiredness and sea sickness began to show its effects when both watches had difficulty in concentrating on the tacks. On more than one occasion the time taken to go about and inexperience in handling the running backstays caused complete revolutions as the helmsman went too far off the wind, right round and accidentally gybed. To the dismay of the skipper the very bright moon appeared to be screaming all round the horizon at 100 knots! After a great deal of leaping around the deck the watches soon settled down to a long beat.

The following evening saw Flamingo labouring in slack winds and against the current emptying from between Sweden and Denmark at Helsingor. (Veterans at this years Royal Signals Regatta will remember this current). Eventually we gave up and charted our way into the superb harbour at Helsingor. Overlooked by the legendary Elsimore of Shakespearian fame (Hamlet), the harbour is controlled by a very friendly harbour master who quickly saw us into a comfortable berth. It was Friday night and the crew were soon cleaned and ready to hit the high spots. A good night was had by all although **Sig 'StanThe Man'** definitely missed his opportunity!

At 5 o'clock the next morning Flamingo slipped (rather short crewed on deck) and had a quiet sail down to Copenhagen. It was a dull drizzly morning and we were pleased to make Copenhagen. Mooring next to a rather splendid hotel, Flamingo crew were then let loose in Copenhagen. Much quieter than it's reported to be, for most the high spot of Copenhagen was definitely the Sauna arranged in the hotel.

5 STAR WATER

The last few hours before making Copenhagen had seen the crew feverishly polishing the brasses and dusting out the corners and so Flamingo lay gleaming for the many tourists and locals who ambled past. The following morning being Sunday meant a slightly later start than we were used to and the slow replenishment of the water supply. This was done by a stream of 'volunteers' trekking from the yacht to the very superior hotel and filling up a 5 gallon container from a very smart loo. Fortunately the management appeared to be used to the spectacle.

A TESTING TIME

We left Copenhagen to return partly the way we had come, by way of Helsingor on route to Kerteminde to include another long sail. The start was dull and we had very slack winds. Because of the increasing fog we decided to call in at the Swedish island at Ven. Here we had lunch in a very pleasant little harbour which was well worth a visit. Soon the sun managed to burn off the fog and we motored out through a series of 'Cod holes' where fishing boats of every description filled the sea.

We motored to Helsingor where the wind eventually picked up sufficiently to switch off the 'iron spinnaker' to the relief of all. Once again we encountered a strong current and this time in our favour. The wind increased again during the night (from completely the wrong direction again) and we were forced to beat through increasingly stormy water. This soon required a reef and some fast sail changes on a pitching fire deck in the darkness. Flamingo is not over endowed with the more modern safety lines so some pretty nifty footwork was required to maintain balance.

For the newcomers to sailing this was a testing time, a far cry from their previous idyllic image of leisurely cruises in amongst sunbaked islands. The crew rose to the occasion and soon all was well, but **Sig Jim Gray** had to face recurring bouts of sickness. Despite this he still managed to maintain voice communications in very difficult circumstances on the 320. With both him and the radio lashed to the deck and getting soaked in a force eight, he still managed to use his morse skills in a situation he had never previously envisaged!

However he forfeited his popularity for the remainder of the trip with the skipper, **Laurie Campbell.** In one of his rushes to reach the deck he opened the forehatch at the same time as a monster wave arrived to soak the skipper's berth (and **Jim**). We made a good run back down the Samso Belt to reach Kerteminde in late afternoon for a late lunch of chicken curry (again). Kerteminde was another typically pleasant Danish harbour but as we were well out of season, it was also very quiet.

FAST GOING

The following day a fast beat took us at a great rate of knots through heavy seas to Aarhus, the second largest town in Denmark. The town was impressive but the main harbour where we stayed is rather dirty. We were away from Aarhus smartly the following morning once again to beat through fresh winds en-route to Middelfahrt.

This day we took the opportunity to give **Sig Biddy Baxter** the chance of demonstrating his navigation skills and left it to him to take us into the little belt. This he successfully did after a lot of wrestling with sightings and a perverse wind which consistantly altered to disadvantage us.

As it grew dark we berthed in Middelfahrt, a very pretty but small harbour between two bridges crossing from the island of Fyn to mainland Jutland.

The next morning saw us off with a reef in already and down to the No 1 in a very fresh wind. This rapidly picked up as we beat down the Little Belt and soon we were reefing right down with our No 2 up. It was hard wet work, but we managed to take on and beat a large 3 masted schooner coming on the same tack plunging through a force eight hard on the wind until we reached the entrance of Lyo Knig. We then turned to run before the wind taking the mainsail down and putting up twin head sails. At this point the spinnaker boom became caught up to start thrashing around the foredeck, knotting the sheets in the process. **Sig Biddy Baxter** and **Capt Alan Jones** leapt forward to wrestle



Sig Biddy Baxter searches for something to take a sight on

with the boom and sheets and after a long hard struggle managed to put all to rights. We leapt into Faaborg and were pleased to catch our breaths in the most popular harbour south of Fyn.

The next morning was the start of our last day and when daybreak came we knew we were in for a fitting end to the sail. We left Faaborg in company with Petard, the sapper yacht but crewed by members of 3 Para—our skipper's parent unit. They were returning to Kiel as well and the trip soon became a matter of honour to arrive there first. We had the advantage in size but they could carry almost as much sail and their skipper was a recognised veteran.

After a long contest, hand fought through the shallow channels leading from Faarborg we rounded Skoldnaes in the lead. This we maintained and increased when Petard lost a sail in the increasing winds and despite our losing a running backstay due to corroded linkage.

HEAVY WEATHER

Our last day was certainly the one with heaviest weather. Heavy hail storms which obliterated any chance of vision and cold heavy seas poured into the cockpit. We learnt later that two coasters had gone down in the skirms with the loss of 4 lives and that some yachts from the club had become storm bound in harbours around the Baltic.

Flamingo however was large enough to take it in her stride and provided a much more experienced crew with an exciting and challenging end to the sail.

On reaching Kiel we had covered 830 miles in the 12 days. Good winds had ensured that we had met all our original targets in plenty of time allowing adequate rest and recreation between sails.

OUR THANKS

The crew had all learnt and increased their experience from widely different base levels. They had managed to get on remarkably well in wet and uncomfortable conditions and had their nerves tested in slippery dangerous conditions in some of the roughest weather the Baltic could produce. Our thanks go to the BKYC for the opportunity, and the loan of Flamingo, to **Laurie Campbell** the permanent skipper for putting up with some of our more landlubberly antics and to the Regiment for letting us all go.

Classified Section Continued

SITUATIONS VACANT

If you are a Tele Mech concluding your service with the Corps and looking for interesting and rewarding employment in the London or Greater London Area we would be pleased to hear from you. **Telephone Mr Paul Leonard, Group 4 Total Security Limited, (Technical Services Division) 01-228 6464 for a chat.**

RETIRED OFFICER POST AT READING

A vacancy will occur in December 1979 for a Retired Officer Grade 3 at Royal Signals Manning and Records READING. The duties of the post include planning the postings, promotions and careers advancement of a section of the Corps. Only applicants with service in Royal Signals will be considered. The salary will be £4,750 a year (from 1 January 1980) rising by 3 annual increments to £5,700.

Terms of service are laid down in AGAI Chapter 40 but MOD will supply full details to all applicants.

Serving Officers about to retire should apply through AG11 in the form laid down in AGAIs. Officers on the retired list should apply by letter to MOD CMS(4) f, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RX.

WANTED

Mess Dress: Height 5'9", chest 38", waist 30", inside leg 31" or anything close. Please contact Sgt J. M. Kirkpatric, 242 Sig Sqn, HQ Army Scotland, PO Box 85, Edinburgh EH1 2YX, Tel: 031 336 1761, Ext 6562.

If you live anywhere north of Watford Gap, driving home from the Channel Ports can be a shattering experience.

Especially with a family in tow.

Which is why we suggest you take the easy way out: Sail with North Sea Ferries from Rotterdam (Europoort) or Zeebrugge to Hull.

On a North Sea Ferries ship you'll find everything you need to keep you, your wife and your children happy.

There are bars, lounges, duty-free shops, a dance floor and colour television. As well as comfortable cabins where you can get a good night's sleep.

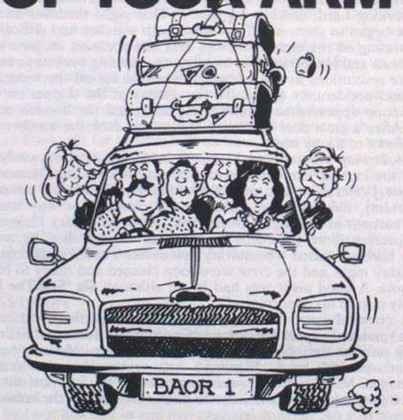
And a slap-up dinner, morning tea and full breakfast are all included in the fare.

Speaking of the fare, it's very fair. We give concessional rates to all servicemen and their families stationed on the Continent.

In fact, when it comes to looking after your army, we're the professionals.

For further details, write to: North Sea Ferries, Dept. Beneluxhaven, Europoort, Postbus 1123, 3180 AC Rozenburg, Holland or your local Continental travel agent.

IF YOU'RE GOING HOME ON LEAVE, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR ARMY.



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An associate company of P&O Ferries

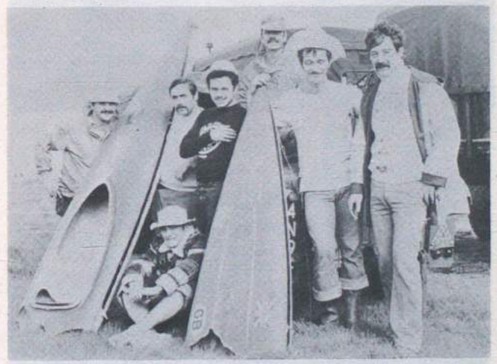
7 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

PROBLEMS OVERCOME

It is only 600km from the Swiss, German, French border on the Rhine at Basel to Krefeld (and that's with the current) so canoeing is no problem—well not too much. We still haven't found the bloke who thought up this painful expedition, but the hunt continues.

The inevitable hazards of trying to get an expedition off the ground were overcome. There was the vehicle problem; where no one was interested in giving away any valuable vehicle to a group of NORTHAG layabouts to do a royal trip of Germany. There was the manning problem; where everyone wanted to canoe but no-one was interested in the dirty job of shore party. However, on 3 August, a group of three vehicles, loaded to the gunwales, broke out of Francisca Barracks, gingerly drove onto the Autobahn and headed South. We managed to get a third of the way when a thick black cloud appeared from the engine of our borrowed RL and that was the last time it did any work.

Sig Smudge Smith peered into the black hole in the dim light of dawn, shook his head, gave the solemn words 'it's . . . a tow bar job'. And so began the cheapest journey ever. 3,500km and no fuel was used! We managed to reach Basel and set up a comfortable campsite on the banks of the great river Rhine. The expedition began in earnest the next morning. The shore party waved us farewell with the inevitable bottle of Sekt. Unfortunately, we had only paddled a short distance when **Sig Radar North** had a vicious attack of cramp in both legs and he decided that it would be best to become a permanent member of the shore party.



The Shore Party: Sig Smudge Smith; Pte Ali Milne (sitting); Sig Thomo Thompson; Sig Radar North; Sgt Pat Burrows; Sig Terry Taylor; LCpl John McClurg

RAPIDS HAZARD

The French have built large hydraulic dams and would not permit us through the locks. This meant that we had to carry the canoes around the overflow dams and continue our way in the slack water; along with the fishermen, the pleasure sailors and the sun bathers. To add interest to the canoeing, there were a number of rapids which quickly brought us back to our senses. One in particular claimed all but four of us. It came as a surprise to most to find that the water decided to turn half way down it. Unfortunately, **Sgt Pat Burrows** managed to end his chances of a photographic career when his treasured Penta took a river burial with no last rites being administered.

The canoes were soon emptied and the group returned to its routine with the cry of 'Bernie's in front'—or something like that.

A GREAT TARGET

The lunch breaks were a great psychological target and also a very welcome halt. **Sigs Thomo Thompson** and **Terry Taylor** always appeared at the right place (and at the right time), even though their routes may have been somewhat interesting. We always received the sandwiches and drinks, often with unusual flavours like benzine butties, benzine Mars Bars or a crunchy benzine Granny Smith.

On our arrival at the campsite in the evenings, when muscles were beginning to revolt, **LCpl John McClurg** had everything arranged so that we could get changed immediately after the hot soup had been 'slurped'. After a couple of welcomed beers **Pte Ali Milne** proved, yet again, that the Pioneer Corps are Jacks of all trades, by producing appetising evening meals. In fact, I must thank the whole shore party for looking after us so well and administering to our every need—well, most of them.

AT A PACE

The paddling continued and the speed of the river increased as we left the French border. This meant that we did not have to work quite so hard. The barges and pleasure cruisers also helped to give us the fun that the weather had decided to deprive us of. The pace was fast and we surged ahead of schedule such that we could afford a day's rest in the Rhine Gorge.

INDIAN STYLE

We spent a pleasant Sunday in a campsite ten minutes walk from the picturesque village of St Goar. It was at this campsite that we met up with a group of fun loving Germans who were paddling the short stretch of the Rhine Gorge in twelve-man Indian style canoes. They had a few spare seats and we took up their offer of this unique experience. They kindly let us sit in the front so that we could admire the countryside between strokes, but they failed to tell us that with every wave it was us who were drenched. However, they did manage to find two Weinfests for halts and so we didn't feel the cold for long.



At last, cheers! Sig Colin East; Sig Carl Hales; Lt Phil Filby; Maj Bob Aitken; Sig Lene Witts; Sig Bernie Dyer; Sig Jock Begley; Sig Paul Finnegan; LCpl Steve Bartlett; Sgt Pat Dooher

NOTABLE DONATION

We got straight back into the normal routine on Monday and set off down the river. That day was to have its excitement. **Sig Bernie Dyer** failed to clear a buoy and somehow found himself broadside on and capsizing. He managed to get out as the current began to rip the canoe into two pieces which then disappeared. However, having furnished him with another boat, we continued on our way. At Koblenz, a police launch came out to meet us and showed us to the bank where they had dumped the two halves of the canoes with his clothes still inside.

The expedition continued without any more dramas and finished a day early under Uerdingen Bridge to be met by **Maj Bob Aitken** with the celebratory champagne. It is calculated that a cheque of about DM2000 will be sent to the Cancer Research Fund.

PRESENTATIONS

The Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. M. C. Thornton OBE MC** visited the Regiment on Wednesday 11 July. During his short stay he presented the LS & GC medal to **Sgt Ken Pullman** and **Sgt Jim Lander.**



Sgt Jim Lander being presented with his LS and GC



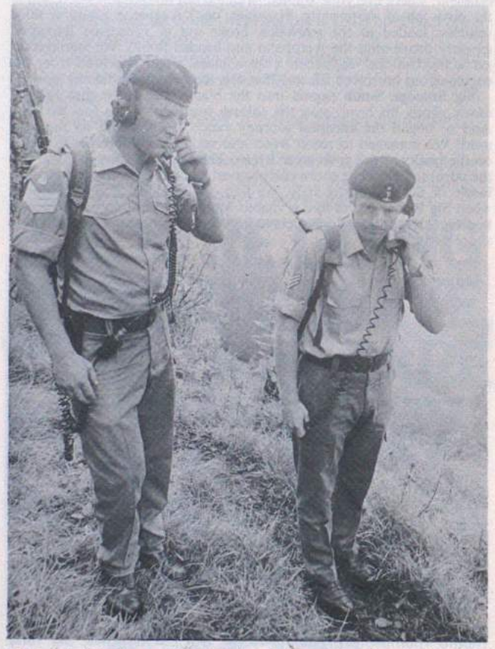
Sgt Ken Pullman being presented with his LS and GC

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

A LONELY OUTPOST

Amid the volcanic rocks and gaunt peaks of this lonely outpost in the middle of the Atlantic, 87 men from 30 Signal Regiment and 38 Group Comms Wing, set up their equipment, for a two week test of long range communications. The weather was arid, volcanic dust settled on everything and a change of site had even cooks and 'medics' shifting kit. Humour prevailed and the job was done although it was a close thing when a cable proved to be short. Either the 80ft mast had to be moved, or a radio cabin. A workers' meeting chose the latter! The first part of this exercise was concerned with links back to UK. A second phase saw Cyprus as the other end of the circuit. Both HF radio and satellite equipment were used and provided excellent communications.



SSgt John Stanley and Sgt Stephen McDonald on Green Mountain

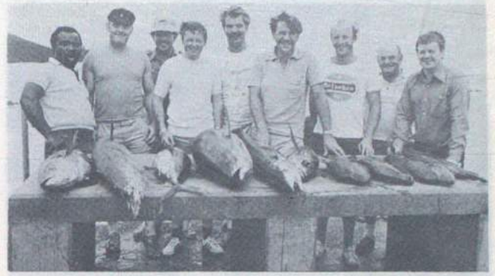
GREY DUST

The volcanic dust made everyone and everything go grey. It eliminated any need for camouflage! Coupled with the dry hot wind, it made working in daytime most unpleasant. Also the hard, bare rock made banging in the four foot mast-stakes, just a little difficult! All in all, a very good test of comms as well as patience, humour, etc.

RELAXATION ON ASCENSION

In the middle of the South Atlantic, 1900kms from Africa and the same from South America, lies the tiny island of Ascension (population about 2000). There is no TV and so the main pastime is what is called 'socialising'! A great deal of it goes on in a place called the Two Boats and our first visit was for the darts match. As we rather outnumbered the locals, one or two of us played for them—and won! Revenge came in a cricket match also played against the BOATS. With **Sgt Birch** (4 for 24, plus 24 not out), **Cpl 'Stonewall' Taylor** and **LCpl Bolton** (winning hit—a six!), how could we lose? We did lose a football match against the capital Georgetown.

By far the biggest of our eye-openers, was the fishing trip arranged by Cable and Wireless. **YofS Bark** caught an 85lb tuna, **FofS Livesey** a 70lb Wahoo and **Sgt Birch** topped the lot with a 120lb shark! Even **'Smokin-Reel' Cloney** caught a Wahoo! Thanks a lot **Ernie** and **Dave** for a great trip.



Some members of 1 Squadron with the results of a day's fishing



SSgt 'Cas' Francis bartering over the price of a day's rations with the local NAAFI Manager

EX RED GROUSE

This exercise was devised (by persons who shall remain nameless) to ensure that the Squadron had held on to some military equipment!! We should have been able to soak up the sun and rejuvenate our exhausted bodies (broken by the rigours of 'civilian' employment over the past six months).

Looking back, we may have taken the wrong turning at the 'border' . . . instead of arriving at Utopia in time for lunch, we ended up in Rollestone Camp at the start of a week that was to be sheer hell. It seemed that just as soon as we collapsed into our beds, some maniac turfed us out again!

HOME FROM HOME

After weeks of no hot water in our block back at Blandford, cold 'HOT' showers on this exercise were no surprise to the lads at least. The SSM however got such a shock that he tore off part of the fittings, slipped on the soap and finished up in a grovelling heap outside the shower. Asked for a replay, his answer was **most** unhygienic!

THINGS THAT GO BUMP . . .

The night phase of the exercise began with some drying out (emptying our boots) and the applying of camouflage cream. The total result was a cross between the Black & White Minstrels and a herd of wounded zebras. The area was also being exercised over by the Welsh Guards and . . .

Scene 1 Time 1am.
(R Signals patrol meets Welsh Guards patrol)
R Signals: 'Halt, who goes there?'
W Guards: 'Ello boyo, are you the Signals then?'

Scene 2 Time 1.30am
(R Signals Major springs ambush with much smoke and thunderflashes.)
Plaintive voice: 'Wrong!&!* exercise boyo!'

We left the OC with his fireworks. With our night vision and morale ruined, we limped on to a well earned bath and breakfast before returning to Blandford.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

FIRSTS FOR THE LAD

Members of the Regiments LAD REME took part in Exercise Southern Craftsman 1979. This exercise is a weekend competition between REME units from Maidstone to Plymouth and was held in the Aldershot area. The competition covers all aspects of unit training from vehicle mechanic tasks and a manufacturing job to night marching and driving.

The LAD did extremely well and although understrength won the 'Turners Company Shield' which is presented to the overall winner, the 'Hammond Trophy' presented to the winner of the vehicle recovery task and also the 'Martin Brown Trophy' for winning the vehicle repair section. Altogether a fine achievement for our LAD which reflects the high standard of training within the unit.



'THE GLORIOUS VICTORS'



SSgt Cook PSI LAD & SSgt Collins TA waiting to move out on exercise

SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT

Saturday 23 June marked the start of Annual Camp for the Regiment and, once again, members appeared at their Drill Halls all set for another SOP move to Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. But things weren't what they used to be! All ranks were greeted on reception with a unit mobilisation exercise—the aim was to proceed from one administration cell to another and eventually end up with the correct documents to enable the holder to proceed to Scarborough via the A1 (and not the M1 as in previous years). The only missing Mob Cell was that which should have been provided by the Unit Paymaster (**Maj Martin Whipp-Goode**—please note for future). Those who expected their ES call out gratuity were sadly disappointed! However, as expected, all went very smoothly.



Lt Sue Fenney ready to move out on the infantry exercise



WO1 (RSM) Keith Childs demonstrating to the regiment how to walk on water

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL

Following a brief settling-in period, a concentrated trade training programme occupied the mental (some trades) and physical (other trades) needs of students during the first week of daylight hours. One Squadron, however, was seen by a few early birds to extend their training activities to spells of pre-breakfast PT. Was this a cunning plot by **Maj Bob Simpson** (OC 41 Sqn) to prepare his 'enemy' forces for the forthcoming infantry exercise which he was planning—this thought haunted our other Squadrons who did not have the benefit of knowing what was in store. For further details—see later.

OUR VISITORS

During the first week of camp we had the opportunity to welcome a number of VIP visitors. These included:

Brig G. J. Curl (Comd 11 Sig Gp (V))
Councillor & Mrs D Rouse (The Mayor & Mayoress of Harrow)
Brig G. N. Ghika (COS London District)
Brig A. J. Woolford MC (Secretary TAVR Association for Greater London)
Col A. F. Nickirk (Chairman of TAVRA for London District)
Col K. P. Walker OBE TD (Colonel TAVR South)
Lt Col C. G. Parsons WRAC (ADWRAC London District)
Lt Col D. Kentish TD REME (ADEME (V) SOUTH)

We were also delighted that our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE** was able to spend a few days with us and thus experience our activities at both work and play. The highlight of his visit was the Medal Presentation Ceremony when he made the following presentations:

LS & GC MEDAL
SSgt (YofS) Brian Alway, Sgt Tony Hand
EFFICIENCY MEDAL TAVR
Sgt Terry Lee (RAMC), Cpl Brian Taylor, SSgt Jack Mileham (1st Clasp to EM)

And special mention to **Cpl Lionel Cross** who was presented with his Efficiency Medal at Hammersmith (After Camp) by **Col B. R. Wood OBE TD DL** on 11 July '79.

Congratulations to all concerned.

THE GREAT RIVER CROSSING

The climax of Ex Yorkshire Grey the Infantry Exercise, in our second week of camp was the infamous river crossing which had constantly been on the minds of all participants in the first week—however, much to the disappointment of the awaiting ambush party, the River Swale had by this stage in Late June been reduced to no more than a fast flowing stream with the result that the advancing patrols hardly got their feet wet. It was, however, reassuring even for the rawest recruit that **WO1 (RSM) Keith Childs** and Adjutant, **Capt Ian Wilson** had erected safety ropes which would have done justice to the White Nile in full spate.

EX EBOR HANDICAP

The final phase of camp was a communication exercise (devised by some Regimental racing enthusiasts) designed to move the regiment from Scarborough back to our local Drill Halls. As with most moves back home, this exercise experienced above average communications and below average vehicle break-downs.

HELLO & GOODBYE

During the last few months we have given a warm welcome to:
Sgt Roger Kiddle, Sgt Goff Adams — Sgt Pete Cole, Sgt Pete Wilson, Cpl Danny O'Mahony
and have bade fond farewells to:
Sgt Tony Hand—On Posting and Promotion to SSgt, **Sgt Alan Harding**—Sadly on Discharge.



Two WO1s hard at work!! (WO1 (RSM) Keith Childs and WO1 (SVWO) Bill Mills)

GUIDE DOG 'JIMMY'

On Saturday 30 June **Mr Peter Frost,** North West Regional Organiser of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, presented a signed framed photograph of Guide Dog 'Jimmy' to the Regimental Nijmegen Marches Team. Guide Dog 'Jimmy' was trained with the money raised by sponsoring the Regimental team in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. This completes the saga of Guide Dog Jimmy!



Lt Graham Stow and members of the Regimental Nijmegen Marches Team receiving a signed photograph of Guide Dog 'Jimmy' from Mr Peter Frost, North West Regional organiser of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association accompanied by his wife and their faithful Guide Dogs.

HILLS AND LAKES

Report by SSgt (YofS) Kevin Straw

During the early months of 1979 the Training Major, **Maj Malcolm Bradbury** decided to plan the annual Permanent Staff Summer holiday. The outcome of his thoughts was a 5 day stroll around the Lake District based at the George Starkey hut in Patterdale at the southern tip of Ullswater.

On the morning of 9 July all permanent staff who hadn't got an excuse to miss the jaunt assembled at Alamein TAVRC. The party consisted of the following:

Maj Malcolm Bradbury	—	**Training Major**
Maj John Rose	—	**QM**
Capt John Kay	—	**Adjt**
SSgt Kevin Straw	—	**YofS**
SSgt Jim Millar	—	**FofS**
SSgt Harry Sahari	—	**SQMS 80 Sig Sqn (V)**
SSgt Roger Iredale	—	**Chief Clerk**
SSgt Tom Padden	—	**SQMS 59 Sig Sqn (V)**
SSgt Bob Skinner	—	**REME PSI**
Sgt Taff Audsley	—	**PSI HQ Sig Sqn (V)**
Sgt Mick Spinks	—	**PSI 59 Sig Sqn (V)**
Sgt John Murphy	—	**Technician**
Sgt Norrie Anderson	—	**Technician**
Sgt Ivor Williams	—	**Technician**
Sgt Marge Ackroyd	—	**WRAC PSI**
LCpl Chris Brew	—	**CO's driver**

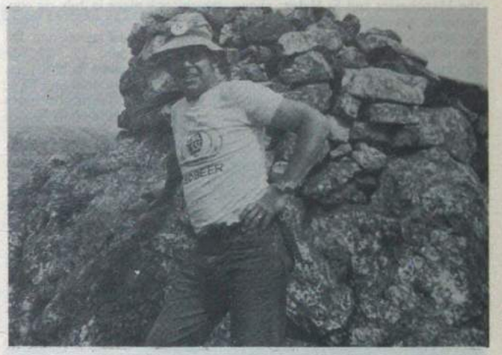
All arrived safely at the hut before lunch and then made ready to climb Black Crag. It turned out to be a brisk stroll over a 2000ft hill to enable us to catch the ferry from Howtown to Glenridding, followed by a stroll along the lake back to the hut. **Sgt Marge Ackroyed WRAC** had brought along her tame poodle Scamp for the holiday and he enjoyed the stroll and the boat ride, especially as the bar was open.

The first night was spent receeing the local pubs and establishing good relationships with the locals.

SCA FELL AND HELVELLYN

On Tuesday, the Adjutant planned an assault on Sca Fell Pike accompanied by the Training Major, **Foreman Jim Millar, Sgt Norrie Anderson** and **Sgt John Murphy.** The rest of the party declined the invitation and instead investigated Ullswater with the aid of four canoes. The weather was good and made for a pleasant day on the lake.

Wednesday morning saw us all preparing for a day out walking over Striding Edge to Helvellyn (3000ft plus). It was a warm ramble to the top where we admired the scenery and enjoyed the haversack lunches prepared by **Sgt Marge Ackroyd WRAC.** The return journey was achieved slightly faster to ensure the maximum advantage was made of the opening hours at the Travellers Rest, Glenridding.

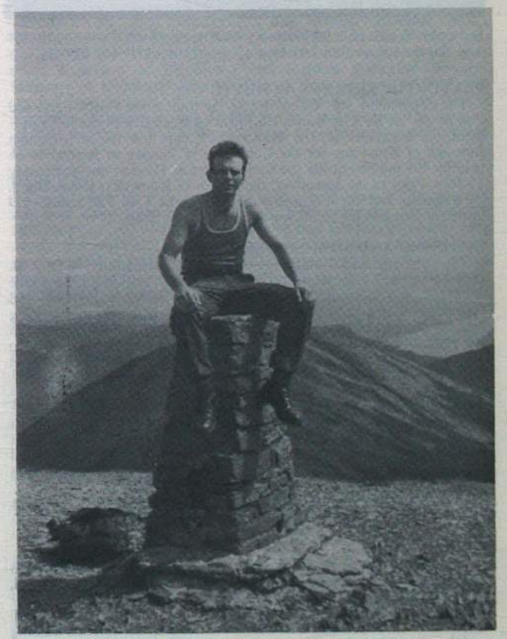


"Fame at Last!"—Sgt Norrie Anderson on the Summit of Sca Fell Pikes

On Thursday the Adjutant had planned a pleasant climb over Great Gable, he was joined by the Training Major and **Sgt Norrie Anderson.** Again the remainder elected to canoe and sightsee. That evening we enjoyed a splendid dinner at Base Camp prior to saying our farewells to the locals.

Friday was a bit hectic after breakfast as bodies swept through the hut to return it to its original form for the owners. On completion the vehicles were loaded and we all returned to Liverpool to a weekend of 'Rest & Recuperation'.

Everyone enjoyed the welcome break and are looking forward to a similar holiday next year!



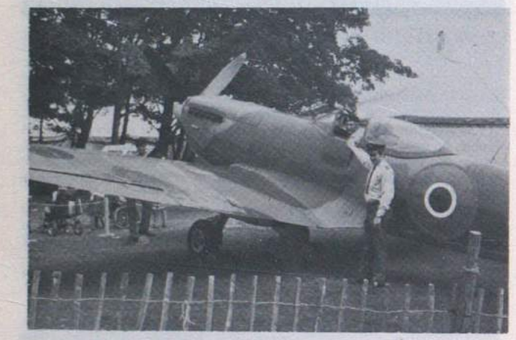
LCpl Chris Brew 'mounted' on Trig Point at Helvellyn

LIVERPOOL ARMY TATTOO AND MANCHESTER AND ST HELENS SHOWS

This year 33rd Sig Regt (V) attended the Liverpool Army Tattoo and the Manchester and St Helens shows, which took place in July on consecutive weekends. The 'Liverpool Army Tattoo' was, as its name suggests, a purely military affair, with a wide variety of stands and displays by many arms and services, both Regular and TA. 59 Sqn represented the Regiment and sent 3 vehicles to represent its activities. There were teleprinter and telephone links between the Command Post, radio relay and multiplex vehicles, and pre-prepared teleprinter tapes produced familiar pictures, such as 'Snoopy' and a Spitfire plane, which were very popular with visitors to the show.

The Manchester and St Helens Shows were larger events with military and civilian displays ranging from an enormous flower tent to the famous Battle of Britain fly past. HQ Squadron staffed the recruiting caravan which held a good display of photographs of the Regiment and its activities. The HF Radio link from one side of the caravan to the other went down very well with many of the young people at the show.

Attendance at these three shows was an excellent opportunity to show the people of Merseyside and Greater Manchester what the Regiment does—and incidentally gave the personnel who staffed the displays a good day out!



Sgt John Wates (59 Squadron) with the aid of Cpl Terrance Hodge at the props about to 'take off' from the St Helens Show

PLAYING OF RETREAT AT HUYTON

The opportunity was taken, during the tour of the Corps Band and that of the 1st Bn The King's Regiment to arrange with the full agreement and assistance of The Mayor and Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley for the Ceremony of Playing of Retreat to be held for the public outside the Civic Centre at Huyton on Wednesday 18 July. Prior to the ceremony, the Mayor of Knowsley, **Councillor J. F. Bohanna** and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col. Pat Jolliffe TD** hosted a reception for local civic and military dignitaries.

INSPIRING AND MEMORABLE

The combined bands under the direction of Bandmaster, **WOI J. B. Dawson** of the King's Regiment provided a most inspiring programme of music and a colourful ceremony much to the enjoyment and appreciation of a large audience from the town despite the evening being cool and overcast. Afterwards there was a dance for all ranks in the Ballroom of the Civic Centre, when the Regiment were able to entertain the Mayor and Members of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley. A most memorable and enjoyable occasion.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING WEEKEND

On the evening of 7 September, some 200 members of the Regiment assembled at Altcar Rifle Ranges (The Bisley of the North), to take part in a Regimental Range weekend. They not only fired the shoot to kill course on their own personal weapon, but also had the opportunity to do so on all alternative personal weapons.

On the Saturday night everyone took part in a night firing exercise, an entirely different experience for the younger soldier.

VISIT OF SO IN C

We were delighted to receive a visit from the SO in C, **Maj Gen Alistair Anderson** accompanied by the Gp Comd, **Brig Godfrey Curl,** to RHQ and HQ Sqn (V) at Alamein TA Centre Huyton on Thursday evening 20 September. There was a good attendance and the SO in C was able to meet a large number of Volunteers as he watched training and the usual Thursday night administration in progress!



The SO in C Maj Gen Alistair Anderson accompanied by Brig Godfrey Curl Comd 11 Sig Gp (V) being received by the CO, Lt Col Pat Jolliffe TD and WOI (RSM) Gordon Platts at Alamein TA Centre on the occasion of his visit to the Regiment

(By courtesy of the South Lancashire Newspapers)

After which he was entertained by **WOI (RSM) Gordon Platts and the PMC, WO2 (SSM) Les Goble** in the Sergeants Mess prior to taking Supper with the Officers before his departure.

TICKLE TEST TO KRYPTON FACTOR

After successfully completing her Tickle Test at Annual Camp our senior WRAC Officer, **Capt Jennifer Hindshaw** successfully fought her way through to this year's final in the ITV KRYPTON FACTOR Competition. The only member of the fairer sex so to do. A magnificent achievement. The Regiment is anxiously awaiting resumption of transmission by ITV to watch the outcome of the final of the competition.

Classified Section Continued

WANTED

OFFICERS' UNIFORMS—RMA SANDHURST

In the past the Signal Wing at the RMA Sandhurst has been prepared to try and sell second hand items of Officers' uniforms on an occasional basis. This has proved to be so popular that the RSMI (WO1 Paddison Camberley Mil Ext 431 or Camberley (STD Code 0276) 63344 Ext 431) has formalised a Signal Wing Shop on 'thrift club' lines.

We can advise on prices and would be happy to hear from anyone with surplus items of uniform. The following are especially popular and sell quickly:

Service dress, Sam Browne belts, mess kits, hats (No 1, No 2 and sidecaps) mess wellingtons, spurs, cap badges, collar dogs, stars and British Warm overcoats.

Unfortunately storage space is limited and only good quality items of 'in-service' equipment can be accepted (no battle dress blouses please!). In addition we reserve the right to return items that remain unsold for 12 months—this has never been a problem as demand continues to outstrip supply.

FOR SALE

Addressing Machine—RHQ Royal Signals have an addressing machine for sale. It is an ELLIOTT, DYMO hand-operated, using cardboard address cards supplied by HMSO. A substantial number of blank cards and tubes of ink are available with the equipment.

The machine can select different categories of address by means of holes punched in the cards. It is in good working order. A special typewriter and filing cabinet for the cards is included.

Sale price £185 o.n.o. First reasonable offer secures.

PERSONAL

(Special Telegraphists)

Ex Sgt Rick Mead and his wife **Pat** would very much like to hear from anyone knowing them whilst he was serving. Old friends who write will receive a reply in due course and anyone coming home for Christmas leave will be welcome to contact us at: 34 Stonebeck Avenue, Harrogate N. Yorks, Telephone: Harrogate (0423) 65182.

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

OKEHAMPTON IN STAGES

Last year Germany, this year Okehampton in Devon. Over 400 male and female soldiers left their T.A. Centres in Middlesbrough, Hull, Gateshead, Darlington and Leeds on the morning of Saturday 25 August, to take part in Exercise Southern Jaunt. This was an exercise devised by our Training Major, **Graham Elliot,** who is to leave us soon for Staff College. Over five days the Regiment moved progressively South West beyond Birmingham staging overnight in Worcestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Devon finally ending up on the outskirts of Okehampton Camp. We moved by night and communicated during the day, a task which needed to be practised for our BAOR role. 120 vehicles were deployed in relays over distances of up to 100 miles. We had good weather, thanks to the presence of our Padre, **Capt Alan Hughes.** In spite of rumours to the contrary, we did not 'live off the land' ;but kept morale intact entirely on compo—even the water was canned! We were very pleased to welcome **Brig Ronnie Stonham** for part of the exercise.

VISITORS IN COMBAT KIT

Once we had cleaned the mud off our boots and berets we welcomed more visitors to our Okehampton 'ome. 34 Sig Regt is proud to have the Freedom of both Middlesbrough and Darlington and so the Mayors of both towns were invited to spend a few days with us. **Cllr** and **Mrs Gill** of Darlington and **Cllr** and **Mrs Carter** of Middlesbrough spent two days meeting volunteers from their areas in the field, at Squadron parties and were guests of honour at a Regimental Officers Mess Dinner. They spent a great deal of their visit in combat kit and eating compo, much to their credit and to the delight of the volunteers.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, Clln and Mrs A. Gill, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough, Cllr and Mrs A. A. Carter, watching the Hon Colonel's Parade at Okehampton



Col John Davies TD, Hon Col 34 Sig Regt taking the Salute at the Hon Colonel's Parade, Okehampton Camp



The RSM of 34 Sig Regt, WO1 Bob Mills welcoming the DC in C UKLF to Camp, Lt Col David Jolly, CO 34 Sig Regt in background

BAND TO THE FORE

The Dinner night was preceded by the Band of 34 Signals, under the direction of Bandmaster, **WO1 Derek Farrington,** playing retreat for our guests. Who, on this occasion included **Brig Geoffrey W. Hutton** D.D.C. NE District, **Col Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison TD** Chairman of TAVRA, North of England, **Lt Col John Nixon MC TD,** Secretary of TAVRA York and Humberside, **Brig Ronnie Stonham ADC,** Commander 12 Group, **Col John Davies TD,** Hon Col 34 Sig Regt, **Col Bill Gillespie,** Deputy Group Commander 12 Group, **Harry Rogers** Chief Executive of Darlington and **Stephen Robinson** Borough Secretary of Middlesbrough. The Dinner, organised by the PMC and Second in Command of the Regiment, **Maj Bill Illingworth,** was a memorable occasion seating 55 Officers and their guests. The Band of 34 Signals, the only TA Signals Band in existence, played during Dinner.

EARLY PT

One of the main features of Camp was the 6.30am PT Parade and run held daily following a roll call. Friday sunrise heralded the Honorary Colonel's Parade and, knowing that **Col Davies** would never miss a morning run, the Band paraded in Fancy Dress for him to inspect. As **Lt Col David Jolly,** our CO later remarked, 'the Band, were a major factor in the maintenance of morale at what was a technically and physically demanding Camp'.

IMPRESSIVE PARADES AND BAND CONCERT

The Honorary Colonel's Parade itself was most impressive, **Col Davies** took the salute as the Band led the Squadrons past him. The Mayors and Mayoresses of Middlesbrough and Darlington were amongst the spectators. On Sunday of the middle weekend, the whole Regiment assembled for the traditional Church Parade. Conducted by our own Padre with music provided by the Band. The service passed off without incident in spite of the fact that the Padre was wearing a borrowed 14½" collar instead of his usual 16½" following the disappearance of his kit—later to turn up.

The Band completed their Camp with a Band Concert in the market place Okehampton, much acclaimed by local residents who could not recall ever having been entertained by a Band from any previous training unit.

BLOOD FIRST

Another 'first' for the Regiment was a Blood Donor Session conducted by a team from Aldershot. 34 Signals broke the record by supplying 129 pints in one afternoon. Aldershot Military Hospital was down to its last few pints and so a helicopter carried the goods away as fast as we could supply them.

BASIC SKILLS TESTED

Back to the Training! Monday saw the start of Exercise 'Equal Pleasure' this was designed to practise and test basic military skills and fieldcraft, or how to survive on Dartmoor with 2 whistles, a length of rope and 2 compasses. One good tip we learnt was to follow water to a road, east or west there is never any more than 8 miles between roads. Credit for the success of this part of our training must go to **Maj Geoff Berry,** OC of HQ Sqn, this was his first Camp as a Major.

Ex Equal Pleasure managed to consume 24 hours and a night in the field. During this time we had two distinguished visitors. The Dep C in C UKLF, **Gen Sir Peter Hudson KCB CBE** and **Brig Geoffrey Hutton** Dep Comd of NE District. They spent much of their visit in the field and were obviously impressed to witness the Regiment return to Camp only to change clothes before taking part in briefings for the next exercise.



Left to right—Sgt John Dunning, Capt John Ruff, Lt Col David Jolly CO 34 Signals, Gen Sir Peter Hudson DC in C UKLF, Lt Caroline Catcheside and the QM Maj Dai Rees

This went under the alarming code name of 'Strange Encounter' aptly named by its organiser, the Regiment's 2ic, **Maj Bill Illingworth.** An infantry orientated 36 hour exercise designed to give signallers an appreciation of infantry tactics and virtually 'fit them for anything'. Squadrons were deployed at three locations on Dartmoor 'Tors'. They were to hold the ground allotted to them whilst attempting to capture the territories of their two opposing forces. An added dimension was provided by the RSM, **Bob Mills** and the WRAC volunteers acting as terrorists armed with thunderflashes. After manpacking their equipment and food, not to mention A 41 sets, expending countless blanks and tripflares in mist and fog, the Regiment returned from the Moor 'bloody but unbowed'—yet pleased to be signallers!

ONE OF THE BEST

Proving that hard work does no harm when morale is high, we held one of the best Regimental parties in living memory only a few hours after the exercise ended. After a good night's sleep of 2½hrs the Camp was prepared for handover next morning and the squadrons made their way north in convoy, staging at Swinnerton—much of the conversation fixed on the plans for meeting up again next year, in Germany.



The Two Cpl Gallaghers of 34 Sig Regt on the occasion of their marriage. Their honeymoon was spent at annual camp on Dartmoor at two separate communications centres!

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

AFTER THE SHOW

Report by Maj (TOT) John Wall.

Compiling the first Unit Wire Notes after the Annual Camp edition reminds me of that saying "After the Lord Mayor's Show . . .' — or how do I follow that. It is difficult, Camp is generally considered to be the main activity in the life of a T.A. Unit, and the period immediately following invariably seems like an anti-climax, especially when it coincides with the holiday season.

THE LAKES

58 Sqn once again embarked on their annual 'adventure type' exercise in the Lake District, this time led by **Capt Bob Heath** OC 'R' Tp. Base Camp was established at Ambleside on Friday evening 17 August, and bright and early on Saturday morning groups of five or six began setting out from their allotted locations for a days walk across the fells.

I am told the weekend was not without it's mishaps. **Sig Garry Scott** in trying to emulate Sir Walter Raleigh by helping **Ptes Linda Amison** and **Jill Cooper** across a stream, fell in and had to be ignominiously rescued together with **Pte Jill Cooper** by burly **Cpl Bill Lambert** — muttering unprintable words under his breath as he did so.

This slight mishap should not detract from the girls fine performance however. **Lt 'Mo' Hunter-Choat, Ptes Linda Amison, Jill Cooper, June Hubbard, Julie Baskefield** and **Carmen Anglin** completed the course in good heart despite all having an abundance of blisters.

A group from 95 Sqn, obviously keen to show their Staffordshire neighbours a thing or two, practically ran their allotted route, essentially I am told, in order to 'get one in' before closing time. Sadly they were disappointed, the pub had just closed! Still, they made up for it in the evening when the CO, **Lt Col Ken Smith** joined the party for a welcome chat and a pint.

CO-OPERATION

A considerable amount of inter-unit co-operation takes place nowadays with Units outside the Regiment. On Friday 19 October the Regiment deployed on Ex *Sixth Sense* the annual three-day tactical comms exercise with 30 Engineer Brigade. This year 2 Mercian (V) will be taking part following on the very useful relationship 89 Squadron from Rugby have established with D Company 2 Mercian Volunteers. As **Maj Harry Hall (PSO)** reports 'we all know how little 762 ammo is issued to Signals Units in comparison with Infantry Units — well by virtue of the good offices of one of our ex SAS members, we were able to initiate our Signallers in a joint Infantry skills weekend with the Mercians who showed us how to clear a Switch of enemy troops — and what its really like to experience the nerve racking ordeal of a night ambush—even if we knew it was due to take place. Of course the GPMG complete with Blank Firing Attachments, plus the BFA and ammo for the SLR made all the difference—in return for which our ex SAS colleague spent a weekend teaching the Mercians a thing or two about survival—how to kill and cook rabbits, make simple shelters—or pack their kit to make floats for river crossings. I understand he is now trying to 'swop' cross country ski-ing instruction for a couple of veteran D11's'

RANGE DAY

The main Regimental Range Day this year was on Sat/Sun 15/16 August, **WO2 John Dillon,** SSM 89 Sqn, being tasked with the job of ensuring maximum use was made of the 30 metre and Electronic Target Ranges. The ETR has had a dramatic effect on the numbers classifying, Range Officers and their assistants are now able to spend far more time and personal attention with the inexperienced, and individual coaching to the 'shots' with promise. In this category, I am told **Sgt Dick Cox** of 89 Sqn showed everyone how it should be done—together with **Cpl David Evans,** 95 Sqn, who shortly afterwards emigrated to Canada where I understand he has already received an invitation to join a reserve Signals Unit.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Travelling around the Regiment in the course of my PR duties I am struck by the number of married couples now serving in 35—some were married before they joined the T.A. but most I understand married as a result of serving together in the Regiment which I find rather heart



'What's this for Dad?'
Two father and son teams serving with 58 Sqn at Newcastle-Under-Lyme.

Left to Right:— Sig Michael Durber, Sgt Joe Durber, SSgt Tony Parsons and Sig Richard Parsons
Picture taken in Radio Relay Training Room by Chris Rushton, Staff Photographer, Staffordshire Evening Sentinel.

warming. At present, Birmingham lead the way with three distributed between HQ, 48 Squadrons and the LAD, 89 Sqn Rugby has one, and 95 Sqn Shrewsbury also has one. It appears the only Sqn without a husband and wife team are 58 at Newcastle-Under-Lyme. I cannot understand why, they have some exceedingly pretty girls in the WRAC, perhaps 'potters' are a little shy—or prefer the masculine connection, bearing in mind they do have two father and son Volunteers serving at the present time. **SSgt Tony Parsons** and his son **Sig Richard Parsons** and **Sgt Joe Durber** and his son **Sig Michael Durber.**

Returning to the married couples now serving, (there are many others who have since left), they are:—

Sgt Graham Gardner (LAD) and Sgt Helena Gardner (48).
Cpl Alex Hurley, (HQ) and LCpl Helen Hurley (HQ).
Sgt Dave Blackford (HQ) and Cpl Andrea Blackford (HQ)
Sig Rod Howat (48) and LCpl Linda Howat (48).
Sgt Gordon Ferguson (89) and Sgt Pat Ferguson (89)
LCpl Tim Barr (95) and Cpl Heather Barr (95).

RECRUITING

By the time these notes are published we will have recovered from that bane of every Sqn Commanders life, the U.E.I., and will hopefully be evaluating and processing the results of the forthcoming TA Recruiting Campaign which starts with the National Campaign on 15 October and ends with the Regional Campaign on 17 November.

There is no doubt the increase in Bounty arising from the Shapland Report has had the desired effect—recruiting is definitely improving. Whether the £300 upper limit will have the same impact on trained soldiers perhaps it is too early to gauge, but clearly everyone will be watching the three year men with interest to see how they react. A substantial cut in the wastage at this level will make a big difference particularly now there are so many recruits to be trained.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to **Sgt Alan Egan** from NATO/FSS Saxa Vord—a much needed RR Tech, replacement for M Tp—and congratulate **2Lts John Hodges** (95), **Maureen Hunter-Choat** (58) and **Penny Wakefield** (48) on their promotion to Lt—and **Sgts Bill (Sailor) Eccleston** (58) and **Bill Bishop** (HQ) on their promotion to SSGT.—Well Done.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

EXCELLENT PENHALE

The Regiment went to camp at Penhale in September, a pleasant change from the exercise locations of last year. The camp facilities were excellent, the weather favourable (on the whole) and the result was a very enjoyable fortnight.

WEEK ONE FOCUS

The first week was occupied with intensive trade training, whilst a Detachment Commanders course ran throughout the period. A full sporting programme enabled the inter-Squadron competition to be fitted into a single week, with 64 (Sheffield) Squadron the eventual winners. The first week ended with a formal Regimental parade, at which the inspecting officer was the C.O., **Lt Col Alan Hawksworth,** who was escorted by the Adjt., **Capt Derek Rutherford** (the other half of the Rutherford duo). During the parade the CO presented a number of awards, including the LS & GC to **Sgt Brian Milne,** PSI with 93 (East Lancashire) Squadron, who was in his last few weeks of Regular service. Other presentations were the TD to **Capt (QM) Keith Headleand,** the 1st Clasp to the TEM to **SSgt Douglas Parkinson** and **Sgt Bert Laycock,** and the TEM to **Cpl Malcolm Earl** and **Cpl. Brian Granger.** Visitors during the first week included the CSO UKLF, **Brig N. A. Butler,** CBE and the Deputy Commander N.E. District, **Brig W. Hutton.**

VARIETY

In the second week each Squadron 'did its own thing', using training areas on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor and the local Penhale area. The activities concentrated on military and adventure training, and Squadrons were visited by **Col John Craig,** Deputy Commander 2 Signal Group.

HQ Squadron used the local training area for exercises and training devised by the OC, **Maj John Wardley** and **Maj John Tyler. Cfn Peter Fletcher** of the LAD had the distinction of acting as Parade Commander of the detachment Commanders pass-off parade, whilst **Sgt Wilf Simpson** left camp in week 2 to distinguish himself in the 'Lorry Driver of the Year' competition. Not only did he win his class, but came second overall, a great achievement.

46 (Derbyshire) Squadron took off for the Oakhampton training area, and were to be seen moving over the moor in small groups in an exercise devised by the OC, **Maj (TOT) John Rose.** This was his final fling, as, after a service career stretching back into the 1940's (sorry John!) this was his last camp with the regiment.



Top brass watching the exercise at 46 Squadron's field location are (left to right) Capt Derek Rutherford (Adjt), Lt Col Alan Hawksworth (CO) Major (TOT) John Rose (OC) and Col John Craig, (Deputy Commander 2 Signal Group)



Cpl Maurice Fidoe (top with LMG) keeps an eye on his flock during a pause in 46 Squadron's

64 (Sheffield) Squadron moved to the southern edge of Dartmoor, where the OC, **Maj Toby Seymour** made use of his local contacts to arrange a brief but exciting visit to 42 Royal Marine Commando's Tarzan Rope Course at Bickleigh. This was very popular, and was followed by a 24-hour escape and evasion exercise on the moor.



A final trip-flare demonstration by Sgt. Rod Wilson of 64 Squadron is watched by (standing) Pte Josie Pike and Sig Jim Moss, with (kneeling) Cpls Malcolm Earl, Jerry Gillott, Gail Knight and Ray Toulson.



Pte Helen (Radar) Widdowson and Sig Michael Williams of 64 Squadron make a safety call during their exercise.

87 (Nottingham) Squadron visited the Merryvale area of Dartmoor where, despite rival claims, they set up their base camp. A brisk trot to the top of Beardown Tor (512m) put everyone in the right mood for two days of strenuous activity organised by the OC, **Maj Roger Merryweather.**



Capt Terry Lea (second from right) brings his section down from Beardown Tor.



OOPs—one of 93 Squadron's rafts in trouble. In the water are Sig Ray Massey, Sgt Eric Noden and Pte Helen Pennell, whilst those still dry (but not for long) are Sig Ian Newham, Cpl Steve Holgate and LCpl Pat Morris

93 (East Lancashire) Squadron, commanded by **Maj Nick Henwood** used Davidstowe, on Bodmin Moor, as their base camp, and then moved off on an exercise involving sections searching for crashed aircraft, eliminating enemy agents, and finally carrying out a number of command tasks. The most interesting from the spectators' point of view was the crossing of Crowdy Reservoir on improvised rafts, during which some people got very wet, including **Pte Alison Lovett** who suffered total immersion.

(The photographs were taken by Capt. John Millar.)

FARAWAY PLACES!

— UNUSUAL JOBS!

SEND US THAT STORY

40 (ULSTER) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

On Sunday 12 August **Lt Col Bill Michie** stood for the last time in front of his regiment before leaving to take up his new posting in SHAPE. Both **Col Bill** and **Angela** will be remembered for their active involvement and encouragement to the regiment, during their 2½ years in N Ireland. We welcome in their place **Lt Col I. Graham** and his wife **Eva** and wish them a happy and successful tour.



Lt Col Ian Graham (left) who has recently taken over command of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment Volunteers, based at Clonaver Park, Belfast, with Capt Crawford McMahon and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Billy Bell, when they visited him at the City Hall.
Reproduced by courtesy of The Belfast Telegraph

71 Sig Regt (V) Bromley

CAUGHT AND RELEASED

We would like to welcome to the Regiment the following members of the Permanent Regular Staff:

Capt (QM) Ron Brodie, Capt Craig McColville, Adjutant, WO1 (RSM) John Newman, WO2 (YofS) Bob Holt, WO2 (FofS) Peter Araniello, SSgt Russ Doolols, SSgt Bob Davies, Chief Clerk and **Sgt Rick Lewis.**

They have all been told their stay will be enjoyed! We wish the following the best of luck in their new appointments:

Maj Trevor Hendren who is off to Saudi Arabia and Money! **WO1 (RSM) Ian Rothwell** to BAOR and Mess Bills. **WO2 (FofS) Jan Jasiok** to School of Signals and promotion. **SSgt David Vockings** to MOD and he could not believe it! **Sgt Jerry Lilley** to BAOR, and **WO2 Babs Johnstone WRAC** to FHWS and problems.

There is always a changeover of personnel in a TA Unit just as in Regular Units the difference being, as we lose the Old and Bold we gain new recruits. This year, our gains have exceeded our losses by 42, which brings the Regiment that much nearer to its established strength and growing fast.

LOOKING BACK

The events that have taken place since we last appeared in The Wire are many. The end of May saw the culmination of 5 months of Military Training (at weekends only) with the Passing Off Parade of the Regimental Detachment Commanders and Cadre Courses. The Band of the Royal Yeomanry played for us on this occasion. The salute was taken by **Brig A. Dowell,** Commander 2 Signal Group.

After the parade everyone including visitors and parents had a superb buffet lunch provided by the Army Catering Corps members of our Regiment, namely **Sgt Peter** (Burniston Barracks) **Lucking, Cpl Barry** (Disco) **Wakelam, LCpl Chris Payne (WRAC) LCpl Ron Parker, Cpl Ken Murtagh, Pte Chris Bloom (WRAC), Pte Sue Pope (WRAC),** and **Cpl Janet Middlehurst (WRAC).**

CAMP AT SUNNY SCARBOROUGH

This year we spent the days between 8 and the 22 September at Sunny Scarborough (the weather was great). The first week was over in no time but we managed some Trade Training which was interspersed with Competitions and an Open Day.

The Open Day was on Wednesday 12 September, when all the guests from our four Yeomanry Squadrons, plus those from Scarborough itself visited us at Burniston Barracks to see the Regiment at work and play.

HIGHLIGHTS

It was somewhat difficult to decide if one of the teams was doing some offshore fishing with long beach casters or Aerial Erecting. The Corps Band played for us later in the afternoon with their usual excellence, this was followed by a sparkling display of courage and skill by the White Helmets. A recent recruit (that afternoon) to the Display team, was heard to say of the jump over the Rover Car 'I think I'll try that'. The recruit turned out to be none other than our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Max Sawers.**

In the second week we had a Communications Exercise spanning the country from Otterburn down to Ripon. It was just prior to move out, which was supervised by the RSM and the MTO, that the Adjutant gave a quick lesson in worrying to two of the Squadron Commanders



I think I could do that trick

Maj Casstles of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sq (V) and **Maj Smith** of 265 (Kent Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Sig Sq (V). The move out to locations went smoothly.

The highlight of the whole camp must without doubt be the sight at 0630 hrs daily of the RSM and his assistant, **Pte Lyn Heyne (WRAC)** doing regimental warm ups to the theme music of Ippi Tombe. This brought peels of laughter at the start and tumultuous clapping at the end. The whole thing was very enjoyable.

VIDEO

The Regiment is in the throes of a new era in training. We have at the moment somewhere between £8000 and £10,000 of Video equipment. This will eventually be around £40,000 worth of equipment all told, to be used in each of our 11 TAC's. The idea is that we get continuity of training throughout the Regiment by standardising the lesson. This will be recorded and then copied to each TAC. Should a soldier miss a particular lesson, it can be played to him at the next of his training nights, so that he does not miss out on a particular lesson of a series. Whilst at camp, a team toured the area filming many activities so that we could all see what went on during the time at Camp. These films are stored on Video Tape and can be seen at any time. Copies of certain activities will be made for distribution.

SINCERE THANKS

The conclusion of these notes brings to an end my tour with the TA. I did not want to be the RSM of a TA Unit when I arrived here in July 77! However, after a very hectic 30 months I am off to a Regular Field Unit in BAOR, and I can honestly say that I would serve with the TA again at any time, because what they lack in skill (and they are not too short of that) they make up for in enthusiasm and a willingness to learn from their PSI's.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all ranks of 71 (Y) Sig Regt (V) for a good tour which I would extend if possible.

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

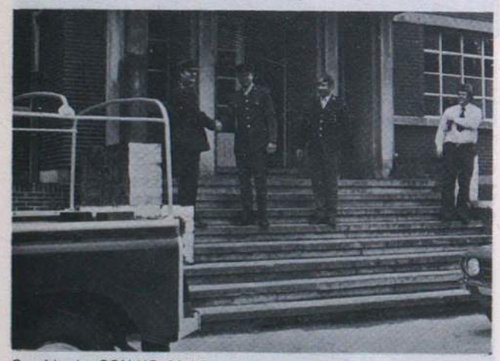
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj D. W. Dobson**	**UK**
2IC/Ops Officer	**Capt C. Heynen**	**NL**
Y of S	**WO2 (YofS) P. M. Castle**	**UK**
SSM	**AOOI V. Lambaart**	**NL**
RQMS	**HFW N. Grass**	**GE**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt D. A. Hand**	**UK**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt G. H. Pollard**	**UK**
MTO	**Sgt B. Johnston**	**UK**

Who are they, never heard or read about them before—we can see the 'greying matter' trying to locate us. But, yes we do exist although it is fair to say that even on being warned for posting here it can take some considerable time to locate us in the backwoods of Belgium. For the unenlightened we are a quadri-national unit responsible for the provision of Air Support communications for NORTHAG, and from the administrative point are responsible also for 641 Signal Troop and Northag Air Support Staff JOC BAE.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN

The squadron said farewell to **Maj 'Dicky' Drew**, who has been the OQ for the last two years. We wish him and his wife all the best for their next tour in Bielefeld (Blast, missed NI again). **Maj** and **Mrs. Drew** were dined out in true quadri-national style, British organisation, German efficiency, Dutch flair and Belgian tenacity—a good night was had by all. The night culminating in **Maj Drew** being presented with a small gift from all ranks, a 'Pin Ball' machine. Dinner guests beware aperitifs are out, playing to see who is paying, will now be the norm!!



Outside the SQN HQ. Maj Res Drew hands over the SQN to Maj D. W. Dobson

GOING CONTINENTAL

Our exercise season has almost reached its zenith, with very good results to-date. Our first major exercise being WINTEX, which went very well. The HF dets in particular worked very hard producing the required goods, which resulted in a lot of traffic being passed. The admin back up for this exercise was a Belgium augmentation platoon, 95 per cent reservists and all French speaking. Out of the window went traditional British exercise food, in through the tent flaps came continental cooking, superb. The Brits missed their English style breakfast but not for long, they soon got used to black coffee, rolls etc.

NSSG SHOOTING COMPETITION

This was held on the range at Maastricht on 6 September with NASRS, 28 Sig Regt, NL Sig Sqn, 840 Fm Batt and 13TTR competing. The Politie Tongeren were also invited to participate.

At the end of the day the squadron were victorious and the Chief Clerk is to be congratulated on his unbiased attitude as official scorer. The results were:

NASRS	1222
840 Fm Batt	1077
13TTR	1042
28 Sig Regt	1006
Politie Ton	911
NL Sig Sqn	826

The following were the best shots of the day:

SLR	**Kapt Heynen**	**NASRS**
UZI	**Gfr Stern**	**NASRS**
Pistol	**Capt Ross**	**28Sig Regt**
Overall	**Kapt Heynen**	**NASRS**

SPORTS ROUNDUP

The squadron continues to do well in the JOC competition, with fine victories in football and swimming. The football team will surely miss **SSgt Keith Russell** and **Sgt Pete Campbell**. Ageing Corps soccer players your future is with us, Brian Clough had to start somewhere. Our congratulations go to **Sgt Graham Parker** for winning the REME BAOR individual angling championships. Our commiserations go to **Sgt Brian (Fonz) Johnson** attempting to cast for fish he landed a cocker spaniel sat behind him. (He had the cheek to try and weigh it in.)

FAREWELLS/ARRIVALS

SSgt Keith Russell to Rheindahlen, **Sgt Peter Campbell** to Ireland and **Sgt Martin McLean** to 641 Sig Tp. Best wishes for the future. We would like to extend a warm welcome to **SSgt Tony Hand** and **Sgt Graham Pollard**.

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS

LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

7Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn

Colchester

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj J. S. Doody**
2IC	**Capt M. Bevan**
AO	**Maj W. G. Mortimer RPC**
Comms Offr	**Capt J. J. C. Gareze**
QM	**Capt E. H. Le Quesne**
OC A Tp	**Lt I. R. Fielder**
OC J Tp	**2Lt N. Wood**
MTO	**Lt B. Hobson RCT**
RSM	**WO1 M. G. Springer BEM**
RQMS	**WO2 J. G. Humphreys**
YofS	**WO2 A. C. Doane**
FofS	**WO2 J. C. Matthews**
ASM	**WO2 J. Baker REME**
ORSQMS	**SSgt H. Forsyth**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 1 August **Maj David Cook** finally took his leave, having survived the round of parties and farewell drinks. He has departed for the MOD. We wish him and his wife **Patricia** all the best for the future.

Stepping into **Maj Cook's** place is **Maj John Doody.** We welcome him and his wife **Jan** to the Squadron and hope they will enjoy their stay in Colchester.

AUGUST IN BRIEF

The Sqn spent the first part of the month preparing for block leave. With an eye firmly fixed on September exercises A and J Tps had most of their vehicles and radios serviced.

By Thursday the 9th things were well in hand and the Sqn adjourned for its Potted Sports Competition. Despite attempts by the weather to force us indoors, the planned programme was followed. A combined SHQ/Q Troop team were the day's victors with A Troop a close second. Finally on the 10th the Squadron stood down for a well deserved three weeks.



Left to right: Lt Bullivant, OC 82 Int Sect, standing on the right hand belonging to Cpl Lee, staff clerk. Maj Cottington SCO confidently leading the way from Capt Rayner, the HQ G3 RE

VISITS

The Squadron has always seemed to be popular and August was no exception. We had two important visitors within a week. On 2 August CSO UKLF, **Brig N. A. Butler CBE** came for a brief visit and lunched in the Officers' Mess. 7 August saw the visit of **Mr Barney Hayhoe,** Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Defence for the Army. **Mr Hayhoe** was given a brief insight into the role of the Sqn and was particularly interested in the CAREERS Information Team.

RAFT RACE

On 8 September, Brightlingsea Round Table held their annual charity raft race, from Rowhedge ferry, 5 miles down river to Bateman Tower. Bravo Troop entered two rafts constructed from oil cans and jerry cans, in a vain hope to complete the course and win a certificate.

The two, four-man crews worked feverishly on design and construction for three days beforehand. The two skippers, **Cpl Matt Mattison** and **Cpl Ian Johnstone** took the rafts for sea trials and successfully wiped out the many initial teething problems. Setting off at 1430 with a 1½ knot tide with them and a 4 knot headwind they paddled off into the unknown. **Cpl Ian Johnstone** battled on to gain a time of 2hrs 34mins, coming second in his class and 7th out of 33 starters. He was just beaten by MCTC who made it in the new record time of 1hr 20min 3 sec.

Cpl Mattison did not quite finish the course under his own steam and was towed, rather cold and waterlogged, for the last 800 metres.

A good effort earned him a merit certificate, all the same, both teams enjoyed themselves. The afternoon ended with the Troop winning the £50 prize for selling most raffle tickets. We hope to donate the prize to a local Colchester Charity.



Cpl Mattison and crew taking it slightly easy. Sig 'here I go again' Hume looks down pensively.
(by courtesy of Essex Newspapers Ltd.)



Cpl Johnstone and crew paddling down the Ganges at Brightlingsea
(by courtesey of Essex Newspapers Ltd)

SEPTEMBER IN BRIEF

During the last two weeks of September a Field Force Training Period was held at Sennybridge in South Wales. A squadron communications exercise was held during the first week in the area South East of Aberystwyth which proved extremely testing, as canvas was carried away and clark masts blown over by some typically Welsh weather.

The middle weekend of the trg period was occupied by a 7 Field Force Sports Festival, in which the Squadron distinguished itself by winning the overall 'Victor Ludorum' Cup, with individual teams coming third in Volleyball, second in Football, Hockey and Orienteer-

ing and fourth in the Cross-Country. A very creditable achievement in view of our small size and heavy Ex commitments.

Next came Exercise Welsh Panther, which was being run by HQ 7 Fd Force and involved all members of the Sqn in the erection of marquees and other canvas to act as the non-tactical Control HQ.

After Welsh Panther came the Fd Force March and Shoot Competition. A 15km march followed by a gruelling assault course and a falling plate range shoot. We take our hats off to the Headquarters Staff whose team finished in front of that of the Sig Sqn—for once, but congratulations to **2Lt Wood** and his team for finishing fourteenth; forty-three teams competed.

SUFFOLK ACF SUMMER CAMP

Report By **Cpl B. G. Tanner**

On 28 August a small party of Sqn personnel left for Stanford PTA to take part, as instructors, in the Suffolk ACF Annual Summer Camp. All concerned had been granted local Sgt for the 2 weeks we were to stay, to enable us to mess with the other staff.

On arrival we were shown to the Signal Office where we were met by **Capt Harry Woolrich** who made us most welcome and outlined the job in hand. We were to teach basic Signal Skills to the new recruits and a slightly more advanced level of skills to the 'old sweats'. Having met the lads (ranging from 4ft 3ins to 5ft 7ins, how they ever got uniforms to fit I will never know!) we were off to the Sgts Mess for coffee and met the RSM. He told us that as far as he was concerned we were Sgts and hence had better behave as such. A good opportunity to see how the other half lived. He also explained the aim of cadet training and the problems of kit shortages.



The Squadron's instructors at the ACF Cadet Open Day
Left to right: 'Sgts' McCartney, Orr, Grey, Tanner, Johnstone

PERFECT PUPILS

The next morning we sorted the cadets into classes and set to work. I was amazed at the amount of interest and the keen way in which these 13, 14 year olds asked questions and literally pumped us for information on VP, Antenna theory, batteries, etc. They turned out to be perfect pupils. For 2 weeks they learned and studied in good humour and then we told them about 'the exam'. We used the tick test for basics, from the training package put out by 8 Sig Regt and set the pass mark at 50%, yet again we were suprised and very pleased by the results. Marks ranged from 96 to 60%, quite an achievement. I must say we worked hard but had a lot of laughs and some very good nights in the Sgts Mess for which I would like to thank the RSM and all those who made us so welcome.

I would also like to say well done to all the young cadets for doing so well, and if they were ever thinking of a career in the Army then I am sure the Crops would be very pleased to have them. In closing, I would like to say that our time was well spent and would advise anyone else who is sent on this type of detachment to work hard at it, and they will find it very rewarding and satisfactory. We would all be pleased to go again next year if the Suffolk ACF would have us.

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

We say a sad farewell to **WO2 Forster, Cpl Reynolds, Cpl Davies** and **LCpl Sutton.** Good luck with your new units. We welcome **SSgt Thackwell** and **LCpl Meldon** to Colchester.

MARCHING AND SHOOTING—PANTHER STYLE!

The Force Training Period ended rather as it had begun—with a flurry of activity. In their divine wisdom our leaders at Eastern District imposed upon the multitude a March and Shoot competition designed, thoughtfully, to make the best of natural obstacles, namely the Welsh hills! In the true spirit of leadership our own Headquarters 7 Field Force entered a team and despite operating under the handicap of age (half a dozen over 35) and limited scope for selection (a team of 20 from a staff of 21 left little room for choice) took the whole thing very seriously. An intensive training programme in weapon handling, NBC, map reading, first aid, stamina and assault course techniques (all the activities one normally associates with a Staff Headquarters) developed a pretty formidable unit of fighting desk jockeys.

Cynicism was evident amongst the opposition but come the day of the event was effectively replaced by astonishment as this most senior group of staff officers and youthful clerks romped home 4th overall in a field of 43 entries. With a time for the 15km march within 5 minutes of the leaders (2 hours 02 minutes) and over one hour ahead of the tail enders, and an equally respectable score in the military skills section of the competition, the consequent ailments of sciatica, rheumatoid arthritis, gout and military schizophrenia (desk or assault course?) all seem worthwhile.

55 Sig Sqn (V), Liverpool

ALL GO

It's all go—with preparations well under way for our Annual Camp in October, training on Salisbury Plain for the first week and then moving up to Scotland on exercise for the second. Old sweats would much prefer to go further afield Cyprus, Germany perhaps but the younger element of the Squadron look forward with enthusiasm to Salisbury Plain and Bonny Scotland.

GONE TO THEIR FEET

Our Nijmegen team have returned complete with bike, medals and some assortment of uniforms of other nations. As our picture shows they look pretty 'chuffed' about the whole business and so they should be, it's first time across the water for many of them (except of course to Ferry across the Mersey). This weekend they are off again for the Chichester Marches — It really has gone to their feet!

MEMORABLE WEEKEND

An excellent weekend was spent in July with our detachment in Cardiff by the Officers and Seniors. On the Saturday evening a Regimental Dinner was held in Park Street which got everyone in a good mood for the serious business the following day. Thank you 53rd Squadron for your assistance and the use of your Mess.



In Picture: Left to Right
Cfn Dave Powell, Cpl Robert Taylor, LCpl Don Titherington, Cpl Eric Jameson, LCpl Brian Ralston, Cpl Philip Farley, Sig Gary Furlong, Lt Stan Quayle, LCpl Harry Rice.

Hidden:
Sgt Fred Sunderland, Sgt Allan Harman, LCpl Brian Davey, Cpl Colin Svenson

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

ANOTHER FIRST

No, it's not another boring 'how we won the trophy' story! The 'first' in question was the Squadron involvement in the new Berlin Summer Playscheme, sponsored by Berlin Field Force in support of Toc H. To give all the mums a break during the Summer holidays, a group of youth leaders flew over here to provide an activity scheme for about 80 children between the ages of five and eleven. Our task was to provide the stores and administrative backing. For weeks beforehand Radio Troop gleefully watched their Sunray Minor staggering back and forth with armfuls of plasticine, sticky paper, cricket bats and orange squash. However, **2Lt Gordon Rafferty** emerged from the experience looking remarkably cheerful — perhaps the fact that most of the playleaders were young, female and attractive had something to do with it. He was last heard asking the OC if he could 'volunteer' again next year!

RONDO XVII

Our biannual communications exercise with the French and US signal troops in Berlin was held, as usual, at the beginning of September. For the information of those readers who have yet to savour the delights of a Berlin posting, these 'Rondo' exercises provide a great chance for our radio operators to work together in tripartite detachments, sample the French/US field rations (better than Compo!) and have a fantastic booze-up afterwards (the attractions are not necessarily listed in order of priority). This time it was our turn to act as hosts.



EXERCISE RONDO XVII
Trs Fenouillet (FR) throws some light on the subject as SP4 Britton (US) looks for the nearest 'Bratty' stand. Sig Chris Sugden stands by to place the order.

THE BRIEFING

Squadron Commander: (to OC Radio Troop) The Brigadier is keen that we should pep Ex Rondo up a bit this time. I want you to give it a sense of urgency, make it purposeful, bring in a few new ideas. What about a sort of treasure hunt? And you'd better try and work Clansman into it somewhere. Fix up the usual shooting on the range, and this time I'd also like to see the boys doing a bit of night navigation — on foot, of course. By the way, VIP guest list for the Rondo lunch — the GOC, French and American Generals and their sidekicks, and half the Allied Staff, say a top table of twenty. Give them a good meal won't you, but don't spend too much. Oh, and remember — keep it simple.

Capt Jack Boyle: Gasp!

THE EXERCISE

An outstanding success, thanks to hard work put in by all involved, especially **SSgt Paddy Lavery** and **Cpls Bob Grant** and **Paul Tuite.** Congratulations to **LCpl 'Smurf' King** on being a member of the winning trio; he may not speak French but he sure is good at waving his arms about.

THE COMMENTS

Maj Gen R. F. Richardson (GOC Berlin)	—	Excellent
Brig Gen William C. Moore (US Army)	—	Just Great!
Col André Faury (French Army)	—	Magnifique!!
Maj Peter Webster (OC)	—	Amazing!!!
Capt Jack Boyle (Lemon)	—	Thank God!!!!

SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATION

On 28 July **Sgt Jock Rennie** and his wife **Mary** celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in a unique way. They went through the marriage ceremony for a second time at St Georges Church in Berlin. **Jock** and **Mary's** celebration brought together a gathering of their Clan — son **Adam** (currently serving with the Marine Commandos, and having just completed a world tour on HMS *Fearless*) son **John** (an able Seaman on HMS *London*) son **George** (who works in Berlin) and daughter **Marie** (living in Salisbury). All were accompanied by their families making a grand total of 13.

It was a happy day for the Squadron, many of whom were present to see **Jock** and **Mary** renew their vows. We wish them all future happiness and hope they will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in similar style.



SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATION
Sgt Jock Rennie and wife Mary pictured at their reception with guests (left to right) Mrs Grace Cemm, Lt Col Roger Cemm (CSO Berlin) Mrs Jenny Webster, Maj Peter Webster (OC).

VISIT OF OIC MANNING

On Friday 21 September, we had the pleasure to see OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records, **Col A. P. Baker.** In the morning he was kept extremely busy and by 1200 hrs, having delivered two presentations and skilfully dodged the occasional loaded question, he was more than ready for the liquid refreshments and buffet that followed. In the time honoured tradition that accompanies this annual visit, the Squadron Club was opened; then commenced the bending of many elbows and one pair of ears!

However, **Col Baker** took it all in good heart, and we did our bit by ensuring that he was given ample opportunity to explore the many attractions that Berlin has to offer. Well done, **Sgt Barry Merrick** — so that's how you got your posting to AFCENT!

EXERCISE JOINT ACCOUNT

The Squadron's latest exercise involvement came during the period 24-27 September with Exercis *Joint Account* the 1979 joint British/American FTX sponsored by Berlin Field Force. The aim of the exercise was to practice Allied co-operation and procedure at Task Force level and below. For us, of course, it meant all the difficulties of running mixed nets, not to mention all the control communications required.

We took to the woods on the morning of 24 September to take part in a warm-up signals exercise with the signals elements of the two infantry battalions (one British, one US). After many many DRILL DRILL DRILL messages had been passed, the 2IC, (**Capt Richard Mardo**—better known as Mercury with three pips!) finally let the infantry go back to barracks. Like all good communicators, we stayed out in the field and in anticipation of sleepless nights to come, settled down to the serious business of 'putting some ZZZs in the bank'!

The next day battle commenced, and as usual we were fighting the Fantasians. However, there was one minor problem: they were on the other side of the River Havel and all the bridges were blown. So along with the rest of the Allied Task Force, we took a trip on the ferry, courtesy of our neighbours 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE. This phase of the exercise gave **Cpl Wally Westrop** the chance to demonstrate that he really could walk on water—sadly, he failed the test! The next day and a half were spent chasing the enemy non-stop through the Grünewald. When the US Battalion finally caught up with them they were in a U-Bahn station—waiting for transport back to Fantasia, perhaps?

INTER-TROOP CROSS COUNTRY

'You are old, Sergeant Major' the 2IC said,
'And your hair is amazingly short.
Your moustache it exceeds the width of your cheeks—
Does it not slow you down in your sport?'

'Right Sir' he agreed (thinking hard to himself)
'I am ancient, and well past my prime;
So I'd better let you represent SHQ—
I am sure you will run a good time!'

(Anon—with apologies!)

Ably organised by **Sgt Phil Toye** and run over a difficult 4½km course, this fantastic event attracted an enormous entry of famous competitors, including **YofS 'Harrier' Hockram, FofS 'Crusher' Coles, SSgt 'Loper' Lavery** and last but not least, **2Lt 'Rapid' Rafferty.** It was also good to see two of our recent Harrogate arrivals, **Sig Ashley McManus** and **'Gaz' Johnson**, getting stuck in.

The individual winner was **Sgt Phil Toye** (after all, it was his party) he crossed the finishing line half an inch ahead of **LCpl Geordie Iley. Sig 'Radar' O'Brien** came third—lets hope his forthcoming marriage doesn't slow him down too much! Veterans (over 33) champion was **WO2 (YofS) Pete Hockram**, who cheered up his Commcen Troop team afterwards by providing the beer. A double success! And the team winners—Radio Troop, of course! Who else?

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Arrivals: **Sgts Frank Lunness and Paddy Bartlett, Cpl Brian Pritchard, Sigs 'Scouse' Burns, Bob Donaldson, Dave Fearnley, 'Gaz' Johnson, 'Ash' McManus** and **'Roly' Queen.**
Departures: **Sgts Brian Cantwell, Adam Fleck** (on promotion) and **Steve Hemmings, LCpls 'Smurf' King** and **Sam McElreavy, Sigs Tim Taylor** and **Steve Woodford.**

ARMY COLOURS

On 9 October the Field Force Commander, **Brig T. N. McMicking,** presented **LCpl Alan Patterson** with his Army Swimming Colours, together with the Record Certificates gained as a result of the Army Championships. There is no truth in the rumour that 'Big Al' is going to sew his colours on his pyjamas to go with his newly-acquired chevron.



ARMY SWIMMING COLOURS
Brig T. N. McMicking, Commander Berlin Field Force, giving LCpl Alan Patterson another badge to sew on his pyjamas.

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SILVER AWARD FOR ARMY COMMCEN DHEKELIA

At an informal parade, the Commander Royal Signals (Cyprus) **Lt Col D. S. Mullineaux** presented the Silver Comstar Award to **SSgt Jess Provan** the Commcen Supervisor. The award was achieved by the staff of the commcen for handling traffic during the six month period Nov 78– Apr 79 with only two operating errors, one in each message! The proceedings were rounded off by a small buffet and a couple of (!!) glasses of the local vintage (1979) wine in the sumptuous surroundings of **SSgt (YofS) Dave Bowden's** office. The rumour that the cost of the wine provided by the Yeoman and **SSgt Jess Provan** somehow ended up on **Capt (Tfc) Terry Lightfoot's** bill are completely untrue.



Commander Royal Signals (Cyprus) Lt Col D. S. Mullineaux presents the Silver Comstar Award to SSgt Jess Provan

MT SECTION

Under the threat of a strike by the drivers unless they see their name in print, we proudly (?) introduce MT Section:

Sgt Dave Sparkes	*MT Sgt* 'On the wallbars . . . Go'
Sgt Keith Dale	*MT Sgt* (Docs Clk) Now made friends with Records
LCpl Buddy Fowles	*Yard NCO* The third Reich has nothing on me
LCpl Frank De-Souza	*Cbt Powerman* The perfect Union member
Sig 'Mongo' Slade	*MT Foreman* Our local yokel
Sig Jimmy Neild	The MT Combat Sailor
Sig Paul Carter	The tree-felling truckie

As can be seen nobody actually does any driving.

OFFSHORE SAILING

After much planning and preparation by our resident matelots **SSgt (YofS) Dave Bowden** and **Sgt Martin Kerrigan** and the more intrepid members of the Squadron took to the sea in Brigand of Changi namely: **Cpl Mick Biglin; W/LCpl Debbie Kennedy; W/LCpl Viv Grainger; Sig Steve Roberts.**

The cruise down to Paphos was quite uneventful, in fact it was that uneventful that the two girls managed to scrape 30 hours sleep on deck. The only dodgy moments came when the engine refused to start about a mile off the harbour entrance but this was soon overcome and we were alongside in Paphos harbour next to a Lebanese 'Gin Palace'. The skipper, **YofS Dave Bowden** then put on a demonstration of how to go to the top of the mast—no, not to see how far he could see, but to replace a snapped flag halyard. We are convinced that this show of daring and not the presence of the two girls was the reason that late in the evening we were invited aboard the Gin Palace for supper and drinks on the after deck. What occurred on board must remain a mystery to all except those present, suffice it to say that the Lebanese did not buy the girls and the skipper and mate did not get jobs. After being stormbound for a day, we set off on the return trip and managed to make Larnaca in under half the time it took us to get down there.

During the second week the four deck hands were replaced by four new members of the Squadron namely:
SSgt Martin Davis; Cpl Rab Young; Cpl Kenny Niblock; Sig Jimmy Neild.

ESBA MINOR UNITS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The meeting took place on 27 June at Dhekelia Garrison where the Squadron is based. The meeting was very well supported by competitors and supporters alike on a blistering hot day. 262 Sig Sqn took 6th place overall, with praise going to **LCpl Carter** who came 3rd in the 400m hurdles and particular praise going to the following in the field events: **LCpl West** 1st in the Shot with a distance of 12.37m and also 2nd in the Discus with a distance of 28.98m, **Sgt Anderson** taking 2nd place in the Javelin with a throw of 42.46m.

MAINLY FACTUAL

The story you are about to read is a true account, only the facts have been changed to preserve a reputation. We wrapped up our annual military training in a seven-day package tour of the Troodos mountains and Evdimou training area, during September. Four camps were run by **Lt Andy Bowering** in the mountain resort of the Troodos training camp, where the cool but rarefied atmosphere enabled us to exert ourselves in the height of the Cyprus summer. **SSM Jim Allen** and **Sgt Dave Sparkes** organised a daily run before breakfast, which gave them a shorter working day than any civil servant. Military training, range work and orienteering culminated in a 48 hr exercise involving a beach landing from the good ship 'Eden', a helicopter move and much harassment from a band of guerrillas in the distinctive shapes of **SSgt Martin Davis** and **Sgt Dave Sparkes.**



Sgt Dave Bavington wrestles with problems as old as soldiering itself

During the exercise we found that our Corps does not have a monopoly of embarrassing failures when 10 Port Sqn suffered a breakdown of the landing craft in rough seas, which in turn caused **Sgt Barry Watson** to suffer even worse things. The only consolation we can offer him is that things could have been worse if the helicopter had broken down.

SQUADRON DINNER

On 4 October the seniors and officers met in the Dhekelia Sergeants' Mess to dine out **Maj (TOT) Benny Goodman, Lt Andy Bowering, WO2 (RQMS) Jim Willock, Sgts Bill Anderson, Mick Grant,** and **Dave Hope.** Also present was **Capt (TOT) Cliff Webb,** meeting the Squadron as the new TOT.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATIONS

SSgt Martin Davis and **Sgt Brian Resoun** were presented with their LS & GC medals in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess by the Commander Royal Signals Cyprus, **Lt Col D. Mullineaux** on one of his regular visits to the Squadron.



SSgt Martin Davis and Sgt Brian Resoun at their LS and GC presentation

News from Troops

602 Signal Troop (Special Communications)

PERSONALITIES:

OC	**Capt Jim Cadwallader**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Fred Calvert**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick Moffatt**
SNCO i/c Ops Sect	**Sgt Gordon Motherwell**
SNCO i/c Trg Sect	**Sgt Geoff Lindsay**
SNCO i/c I Det	**Sgt Jock Hammond**
SNCO i/c Wksp	**Sgt Colin Brown**

602 Signal Troop (Special Communications) has not previously contributed to The Wire but we hope to do so regularly in the future. We are based in Hereford, most of the Troop are Radio Telegraphists and alternate between operational detachments, either overseas or in the UK, and training based in Hereford. So far this year we have had training exercises in many countries:

ITALY NO PROBLEM

LSgt 'Jacko' Jackson took a small team to North East Italy. They worked back to UK very successfully and carried out a trial on some new low power radio equipment which we should get in the near future. The highlight of this exercise was a message that **Sig 'Stu' Taylor** had fallen in a canal at Venice—obviously he needs more training on gondolas.

CONNED IN HONG KONG

SSgt Mick Moffat and his team spent four weeks in Hong Kong working a CW and RATT link to another station in the Far East and back to UK. Considering the size of the equipment he did fairly well, but we don't accept that he was as hard worked as he tries to make us believe. With **Cpl Dunc Manser** out there as well the team probably spent spare time running marathons around Hong Kong. On their return they both completed the combined services marathon finishing in the top half of the field. The other members of the crew, **Cpl Pete Farrington** and **LCpl Mick Connell** were able to get a 'Singlies eye view' of Hong Kong and took every opportunity of meeting the locals, rumour has it that **Mick Connell** was conned twice, on consecutive days, in the same bar, and would you believe it, by the same girl.

OFTEN TO RHINE ARMY

We have had several trips to Germany. Training Section held the final exercise of Special Communications Course 2/78 as guests of 16, 21 and 22 Signal Regiments. Despite the cold weather a good training period was achieved. **Cpl Andy Baron,** who is less than 5ft 2ins tall is convinced that our trailer mounted station was designed for use by a giant, but **Yeoman Fred Calvert** (6ft 2ins) does not agree. **Cpl Steve Pollard** is still trying to work out how the OC, **Capt Jim Cadwallader** and the Yeoman managed to appear every time he had a brew going.

Later, on a separate exercise in Germany **Sgt Gordon Motherwell** was a very unhappy Scotsman when he bought a week's supply of meal tickets for food he found unsuitable for his palate.

BELGIAN SCENE

Sgt Geoff Lindsay's trip to Belgium was marked by his improvisation—and lucky for his team too. I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall at the border when this dyed in the wool Lancastrian from darkest Salford, who speaks no foreign language other than the one he has learned in his native north west, was verbally assaulting the ears of the official with only very broken English who thought he had the wrong papers.

AND NORWAY

SSgt Mick Moffatt, fresh from Hong Kong, somehow arranged to be sent to Norway as well. He and **Cpl 'Jacko' Jackson** spent ten days (in Norway) working for their living communicating to the UK with a very small radio. The compensation was the rate of SMA payable there. The pair enjoyed this exercise so much that they have volunteered to go back again but the OC is making sure they don't get too much 'cream'

DET IN CYPRUS

Sgt Jock Hammond is the only SNCO not based in Hereford. He commands the detachment in Cyprus. Like the other married men there he is accompanied on an 18 month tour. They are all enjoying the sun and amenities in Cyprus and many of them are helping 259 Signal Squadron on the sports field. Nearly all the detachment have learnt to ski (in Cyprus).

THE OTHER END

Ops Section do not spend all their time away and must still run our receiver and transmitter stations in Hereford—someone has to be on the other end.

DEPARTURES

Over the last few months we have said goodbye to **SSgt Tony** and **Norma Garrehy, Cpl Steve** and **Barbara McMahon, LCpl Kev** and **Pam Whitehead** all on posting, **Cpl Denis Addey, Cpl Mick Lally, Cpl Beasty** and **Diane Adam, Cpl Chris** and **Helen Hinds, Cpl Al** and **Dierdre Payne** and **Sig Paul Gilbert** all to civvy street.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following are congratulated on their recent unions, **LCpl Kevin Rankin, Cpl Dave Ruane, LCpl Snapper Dalton, Sig Molly Molyneux** and **Cpl Steve Pollard.**

Our congratulations go also to **WO2 (YofS) Fred** and **Jan Calvert** on the birth of their daughter **Lucy.**

SAILING SUCCESS

WO2 (YofS) Fred Calvert has been keeping the troop name alive in sailing circles this year and in addition to regular appearance for the Corps he won the Inter Unit Cup at the Corps dinghy regatta with **Cpl Andy Baron** as his crew.

PEAKS RACE WIN

This year the Troop once again put a team into the military class of the Welsh 1000m Peaks Race. The team consisted of **Cpl Andy Baron, Cpl Dunc Manser, LCpl Pete Freer** and **Sig Chris Parry.** The training was done under the guiding hand of **SSgt Mick Moffatt** who also ran in the race in the A class (fell runners).

It was difficult this year due to the bad conditions and the extremely long winter. Nevertheless we managed to snatch days here and there in the hills. Towards the end of April and May we had good training in and around the Snowdon area.

This race takes place every year and is usually held on the first weekend in June. Last year the weather was blistering hot and many competitors had to drop out due to severe dehydration and heat exhaustion. This year the weather was a bit kinder. Initially the conditions were good, but as time went on we had all four seasons in 1 hour (rain, snow, sunshine and wind) towards the summit of Snowdon.

The team plan was to stick together through the race and pass any military in front. This the team did very well and the only real challenge came from 4RRF. **Cpl Dunc Manser** came in first for the team with the other three bringing up the rear just ahead of the 4RRF fourth man. Had he got in front of our lads the RRF would have taken the Trophy. The other team in the class had lost men due to them dropping out during the race. Four need to start and finish the race and the time goes on the last man in. The team won the competition this year in fine style on their second attempt.

886 Troop, 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V)

CHICHESTER MARCH

For the first, and hopefully not the last time, the troop found sufficient masochists to enter a team in the Royal Military Police and City of Chichester March. Whilst not exactly raring to get going on the Sunday morning, (due to the usual problem of alcoholic poisoning and lack of sleep on the Saturday night), the team got under way, along with many others, at a little after eight o'clock. Being the first time that some of the team had marched any distance the pace was kept down, but at least the team stayed together.

All members who started the march reached the end and are now on the look out for other marches, with the eventual aim of Nijmegen, providing the team can be expanded a little.

Congratulations on completing the 25 miles 'go' to the following; **LCpl Roger (where's the pub?) Smith; Sigs Andy (where's the girls?) Hazell (Team Captain); Brian (the lope) Hunt; Colin (I think I'm dying) Parker; Dave (slow down) Byrne; and Dean (if he sings about beer once more, I'll kill him!) Lawrence.** Congratulations also go to guest marchers; **Cdt Andy Byrne** (Queens A.C.F.); **Cdt Mark Stuart** (Queens A.C.F.) and **Mrs Kathleen Stuart** (understanding and energetic mother).

Our thanks for their support at the checkpoints, go to; **Mrs Gloria Hazell** and **Miss Sheila Mills.**

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CIVILIANS . . .

Whilst doing the aforementioned march, the team decided to get themselves sponsored, the money raised to go to Parents Anonymous Lifeline (Staines). P.A.L. being a part of the nationwide parent self-help groups, provides a telephone and befriending service for any parent with problems involving children. The Staines group is self-financing and the marching team hope to hand over a cheque for £100+ in the near future, (once all the sponsors have paid up), to help keep this worthwhile organization in operation.

. . .AND MILITARY

The troop recently sent a team to 398 (Egham and Staines) Squadron, Air Training Corps, to demonstrate weapons and equipment used by the troop. The visit proved well worthwhile, although time was very short, and it is hoped that a further visit (after our annual camp) can be arranged to allow the cadets to handle the kit, instead of just look at it. The visit itself was arranged by **LCpl Dave Wallace,** with instructional aid from **Lt Frost** (Troop O.C.), **SSgt Martin Stubbs** and **Sig Rob (the animal) Scott.** Assistance (or otherwise) was also given by **LCpl Roger Smith, Sigs Brian Hunt, Vince Haigh** and **Andy Hazell.**

RECRUITING

Ever on the look out for recruits, and this being our first printing in The Wire, we would like to invite anybody (male or female) who is due for discharge, but who would like to keep in contact with the Corps, and who will be resident in the Chertsey/Addlestone/Staines/Egham area to drop us a line, or pop in one Tuesday night. All will be very welcome.

PS FROM THE CONTRIBUTOR

Anybody recognising the name 'Rndy H (LCpl Retd)' should feel free to drop me a line at Drill Hall, Chertsey. . . Bieeeee.

Association News

Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45 —11th Reunion

Editors Notes:— We apologise for an incorrect caption on page 373 of the September issue. **Maj J. T. Gibbs** speaks to the **Bishop of Selby** . . . and not **Maj Gen David Price.**

THE SCENE SET

Once again members and their wives took the road to Blandford for the 11th Reunion which commenced on 31 August 1979. On arrival at the Defence ADP Training Centre they found the Mess completely decorated to represent the Hong Kong scene, this had been carried out by **Lt Col Monty Truscott** ably assisted by **Jim McCrossan** the Systems Manager of the computer staff. A magnificent buffet was available in the evening and we received the very best of attention from the bar by **Harry Whitlock** and **Brian Perry** who are now regarded as well established friends.

Saturday saw a very busy programme starting off with the branch AGM in the morning, with **Harry Liley** elected as chairman 1980 vice **Maj Fred Ashford** who officiated at this function. **Harry Liley** alias SCOOPS lives in Germany and travels over each year to meet his old comrades, he together with **Lt Col Monty Truscott** and **Harold Copsey** were the founder members of this branch. After the AGM came the raffle under the direction of **Brak Brakenberry,** the prizes donated by members and tickets sold by the ladies headed by **Mary Binningsley** will go down as one of the longest and most successful raffles ever held.

Saturday evening we assembled for the reunion photograph followed by sherry in the Ante room. The trumpet call for dinner was sounded by the trumpeters of the Royal Signals and before Grace was said the 85 assembled members, guests and wives stood for a minute's silence in memory of Lord Mountbatten. During the dinner musical selections were played by the Royal Signals band under the direction of **WO W. Fraser.**

GREETINGS FROM HONG KONG

Our guests were **Maj Gen** and **Mrs C. M. M. Man** and **Lt Col** and **Mrs Keith Boulding.** The General and his wife were in Hong Kong at the time of the surrender, we knew him as **Capt Man** of the 1st Bn Middx Regt (The Diehards). He survived the sinking of the Japanese transport 'Lisbon Muru' sunk by the American submarine 'USS Grouper' in which the Hong Kong Signal Company lost over 50 per cent of its members. He took us on a trip down memory lane in his after dinner speech and told the story of how he was saved from drowning by a member of the Signal Company, **Arnold Topliff,** who later was awarded the BEM for gallantry. At the conclusion of the dinner **Lt Col Keith Boulding** was made an Honorary Member of the Company, **Mary Binningsley** then made a presentation to **Irene Truscott** who each year ably assists **Lt Col Monty Truscott** in the hard work involved with organising these reunions. At the dinner members and guests were entertained by the band with musical selections followed by the regimental marches of our guests. Greetings and good wishes were received from **Lt Col G. Verdon,** Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals Hong Kong, and the two Canadian veteran branches of Hong Kong in British Columbia and Quebec; **Mrs Mona Levett** widow of **Col Levett,** CSO China Command and **Alf Taylor** our member still resident in Hong Kong.

TENKO

On retiring to the bar an unrehearsed tenko (roll call) was held, **Hancho Dutchy Holland** marched in his working party comprising **George Carrol, Harold Bates, Joe Roelich, Bill Bevan, Bill Butler, Peter Moddrel** and **Bobby Cogbill** dressed in rags as in POW days. The inspecting Nip Officer in the guise of **Frank Bennett** fully regaled with Samurai sword, raised eyebrows when he ordered trousers down to expose hidden loot bags and then he finished with a fandusi inspection, it was hilarious.

It was in the early hours that the bar slowly emptied after the usual impromptu entertainment provided by **Bobby Cogbill** and **Bob Parkinson,** all agreed that this year's reunion was the best ever. Sunday morning after breakfast we said our farewells until next year and our thanks go once again to **Lt Col Monty** and **Irene Truscott** and the mess staff for a wonderful weekend.

Unfortunately next year may be the last reunion to be held in Blandford as **Lt Col Monty Truscott** is to retire early 1981. It is hoped that there will be a 100 per cent tenko (roll call) at the 12th Reunion next year.

Until that time

Sayonara

Frank Bennett alias Johnnie Johnson

2321687

ROYAL SIGNALS BALTIC REGATTA 1979

The results of the Royal Signals Baltic Regatta were:

Winner of the MERMAID CUP
First boat in Copenhagen: **Maj Peter Pritchard**
7 Signal Regiment

Winner of the Baltic Regatta
Overall 7 Signal Regiment

Winner of the Cannon Cito
2nd Overall Task Force Echo Signal Troop

Winner of the Dickson Telescope
Skipper of the Winning boat **Maj Peter Pritchard**
7 Signal Regiment

Results of the Regatta

1.	7 Signal Regiment	8¾ points
2.	Task Force Echo Signal Troop	14¼ points
3.	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt 'A'	16¼ points
4.	HQ Berlin	20 points
5.	22 Signal Regiment 'A'	25 points
6.	HQ BAOR	26¼ points
7.	2 Armd Div Hq & Sig Regt 'B'	27 points
8.	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	28 points
9.	22 Signal Regiment 'B'	33 points
10.	Task Force Golf Signal Troop	35 points
11.	16 Signal Regiment	39 points
12.	13 Signal Regiment	40 points



Kukri, with Task Force Echo, second overall, getting ready for the start of the final leg from Korjor to Kiel



Kris, 2 Signal Regiment, making her way towards Hundestedt

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Second Annual Royal Signals (BAOR) Badminton Championships, under the sponsorship of the CO 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Lt Col SR Carr-Smith**, was held in the Caithness Barracks Gymnasium in Verden on 27 and 28 September 1979.

The finals were played on the afternoon of 28 September before a packed crowd of spectators and they were treated to six excellent hard fought games of Badminton. The results were:

Singles:	Winner	—	**LCpl T. Pollard**	— 4 Armd Div HQ
	Runner Up	—	**Sig J. Moore**	— 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Open Doubles:	Winners	—	**LCpl T. Pollard** **Sig J. Moore**	— 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runners Up	—	**WO2 R. D. Brown** **Sgt I. Gilbert**	— 21 Sig Regt
Unit Doubles:	Winners	—	**LCpl T. Pollard** **Sig J. Moore**	— 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	Runners Up	—	**WO1 P. McLoughlin** **Sig R. Johnson**	— 28 Sig Regt
Veterans Doubles:	Winners	—	**WO1 S. Hargreaves** **WO1 P. McLoughlin**	— 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt — 28 Sig Regt
	Runners Up	—	**WO2 R. D. Brown** **Sgt I. Gilbert**	— 21 Sig Regt
Singles Plate:	Winner	—	**LCpl M. Holden**	— 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
	Runner Up	—	**SSgt D. Rodgers**	— 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Singles Saucer:	Winner	—	**Sig T. Riley**	— 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn

Once again our thanks must go to **WO2 Bob Duncan** and his PT Staff for all the time and effort expended in covering the gymnasium window walls. Although there were fewer competitors this year it was an excellent tournament which everyone enjoyed.

RADIO TECHNICIANS

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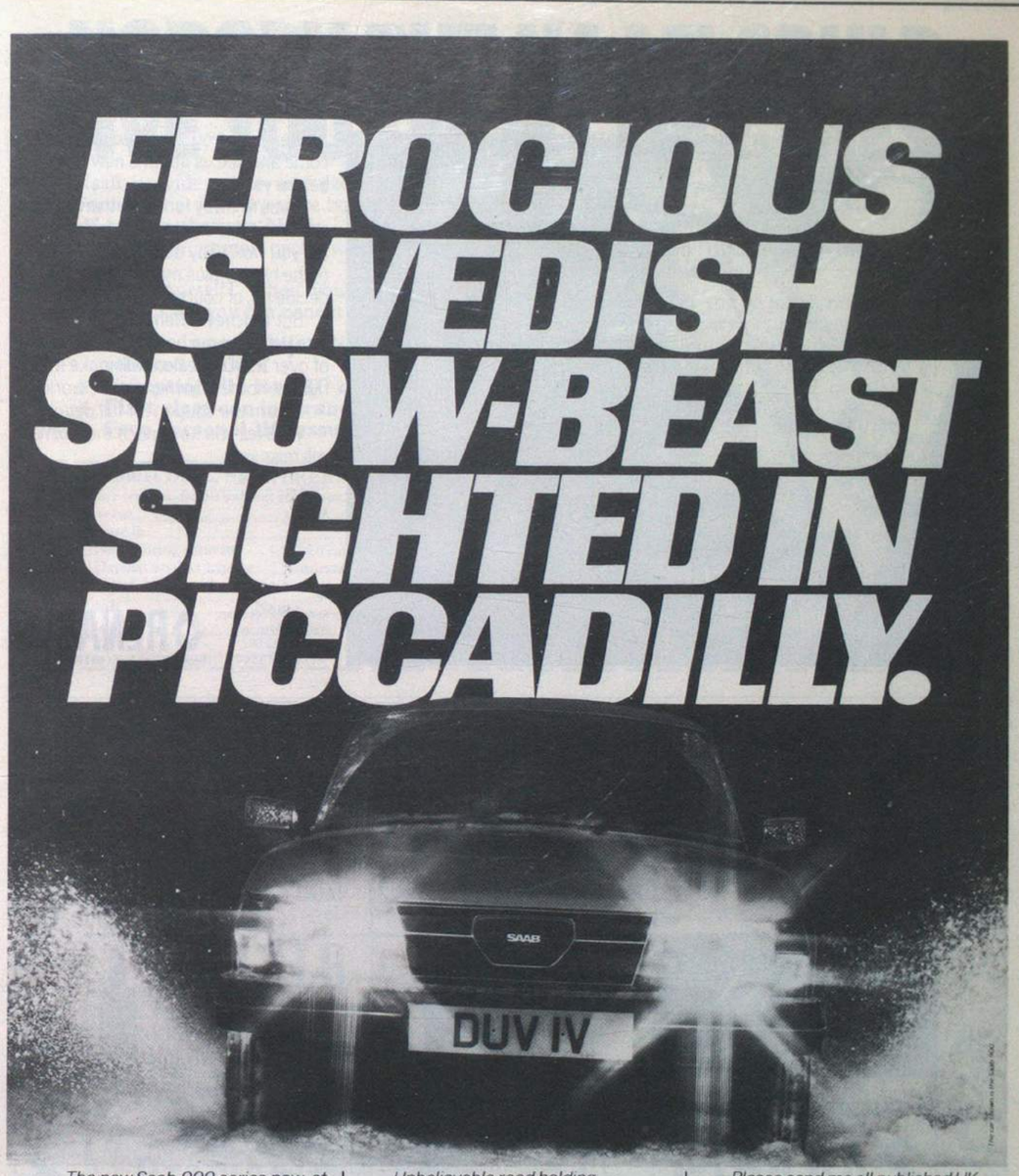
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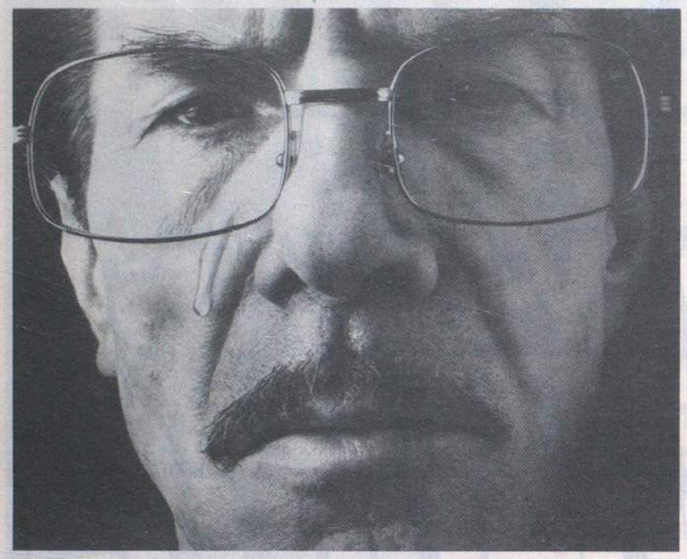
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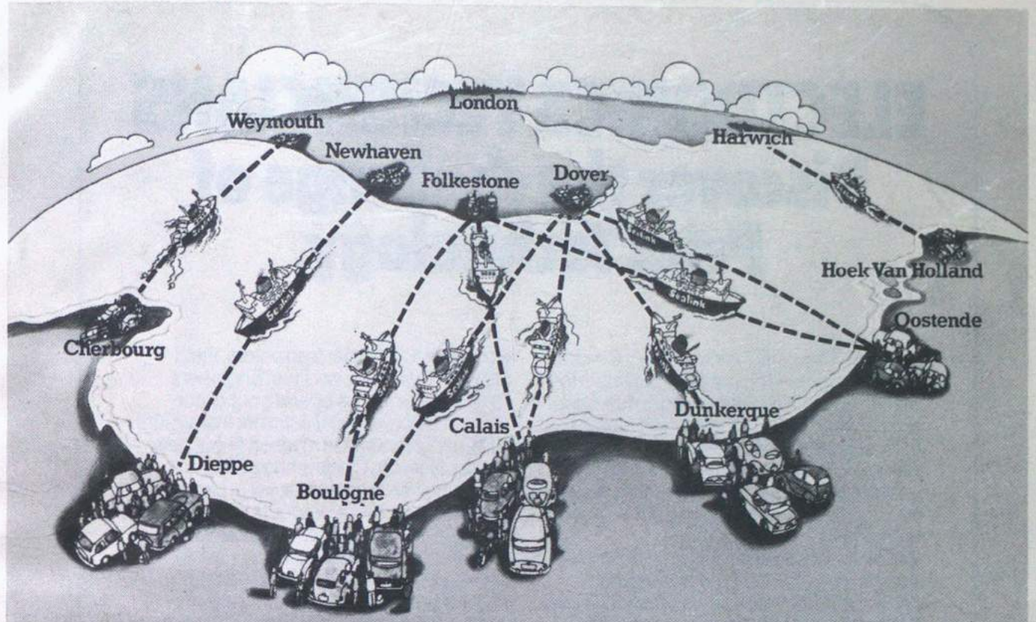
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