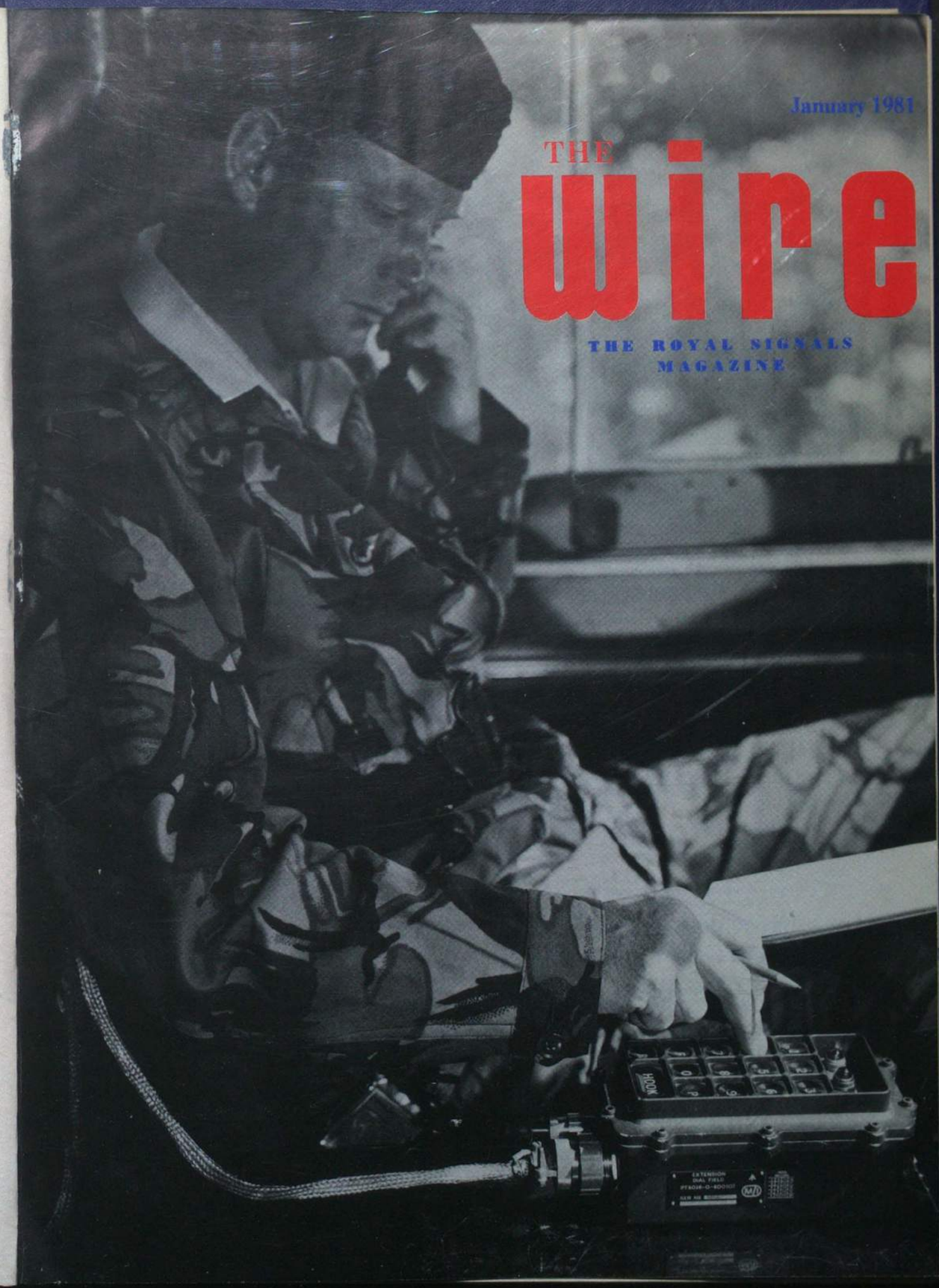
January 1981

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

January 1981 (New Series) Vol 35 No 1

Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs J. C. Lucas

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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Is it possible, as we move forward into a New Year, to identify the most significant event bearing on our great Corps during 1980? — possibly not. Perhaps the placing of the PTARMIGAN production contract will be judged historically as being of great importance. The shape of 'things to come' is reflected in our first cover picture of 1981. The former OC Ptarmigan Trials, operating the Single Channel Radio Access Terminal Extension Unit from the front seat of a Landrover. (see page 7)

NEW YEAR HONOURS

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

MBE

Maj (TOT) M. Butler
Maj T. E. Knight (V)
WO2 (FofS) G. Rothwell

BEM

SSgt (Supvr R) W. J. Dodds
SSgt S. J. Tucker
Sgt M. M. Frid
Sgt Dharmaraj Gurung QG Signals
Sgt S. J. MacDonald
Cpl W. W. Roberts
Cpl C. F. Swailes

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We, also warmly contratulate the following who received awards and commendations for service in Northern Ireland during the period 1st May — 31 July 1980.

MBE

Maj R. J. Holmes
Capt (QM) C. Speight

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

WO2 (FofS) C. L. Priestley
SSgt M. J. Forster
SSgt S. H. Harrison

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Will our contributors please note the importance of 'copy' being despatched to reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication?

Please support the reports of significant events by good quality black and white gloss photographs. Colour photographs are, also, acceptable but they do not process into our magazine as well as their black and white equivalents.

May photographs please be numbered and supported by captions typed on a separate sheet?

Finally, may we thank the majority of contributors for meeting our guide lines during the past year.

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF VISITS REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

Our **Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips GCVO** visited Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals at Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea on 20 November. Her Royal Highness was attended by **Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke** the Lady in Waiting.

The Princess was received by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** and by the Regimental Secretary, **Col John Francis. Lt Cols Ron Murray, John Beale** and **Denis Dickson** were presented to Her Royal Highness.

The main purpose of the visit was for the Colonel-in-Chief to meet the members of our staff and talk to them about their work. Her Royal Highness chatted to every single member of Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, including our delighted lady cleaners. Her visit was a truly enjoyable occasion for all of us, and we are grateful to our Colonel-in-Chief for her kindness and interest.

HRH arrives at RHQ, attended by the Master of Signals and meets Col John Francis the Regimental Secretary

WHAT IS RHQ

What is RHQ you ask? It is the heart of all Corps domestic affairs, located in the Kings Road, Chelsea. It is a meeting place for the Corps Committee chaired by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** which decides all important matters of Corps domestic policy.

RHQ is run by **Col John Francis** the Regimental Secretary who is Secretary and Treasurer to Corps committees which manage Corps policy and finance, the Band, the HQ Mess, the Games Club and the Yacht Club. He collects in all Corps Subscriptions and manages the day-to-day payment of Corps monies. He looks after Corps silver and property and issues the White List. He arranges all Royal Visits by our Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Anne, and acts as personal staff officer to the Master and the Colonels Commandant. Co-located at RHQ are the Royal Signals Association and the Royal Signals Institution.

The 'RHO Team' in front of Cheltenham Terrace. In the centre is Col John Francis chaperoned by the Master of Signals, Maj Gen Peter Bradley. To identify the team members, see follow-on photos

The Association General Secretary is Lt Col Ron Murray who deals with all matters bearing on the Association including Benevolence and Finance and edits 'The Wire'

The Institution Secretary is **Lt Col John Beale** who is Editor of 'The Journal', arranges the Institution lectures, manages Corps prizes and is Director of the Corps Museum. Other members of the Institution's permanent staff are based at the Corps Museum at Blandford. They are our new Historical Officer **Maj Alan Harfield** our resident Curator **Maj Leslie Taylor** and **Mr Leslie Evans** our Librarian who is in charge of the Historical Library.

Lt Cols John Beale, Secretary Institution and Denis Dickson, Historical Officer, just retired

In the broadest sense, RHQ maintains the Corps traditions, policies and history. We welcome correspondence and visitors of all ranks. This is the home of the Corps!

Our Chief Clerk (centre) 'Chad' also known as Sgt Chadwick, TA. Malcolm Mealin who looks after the Institution and 'giggles' the secretary, Karen Jury!

The Corps Treasury team, George Latko ex WO1 RAPC and Debbie Rutland, Corps subscriptions

Our Welfare Officers, Margaret Cook and Doris Ward

Alex Walsh, just retired after 22 years service with the Association

Carol Penfold, Association accountant

David Greenbrook, ex RQMS of the Corps, Assistant to the General Secretary. Also Sharon Jackson, Corps sales and distribution The Wire

Mrs. J. C. Lucas is the newly appointed Assistant Editor of The Wire. Hazel is the widow of the late Col Charles Lucas who many of our readers will recall served in the Corps from 1943 until 1974.

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From our "In" Tray

VALE

MAJ GEN W. T. MACFARLANE

Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane, better known throughout the Army as **Bill,** was born in 1925 and enlisted into the Corps at the age of 20. After being commissioned from 150 OCTU in 1947 he joined 1 Egypt Command Signal Regiment as Assistant Adjutant, and later took command of the largely independent Suez Detachment as a temporary Captain following the amalgamation of the two Egypt Command Signal Regiments in 1949. During this tour in the Middle East, he accompanied the Chief Signal Officer, **Maj Gen C. M. F. White** on a grand tour of the Sinai desert; including a visit to Petra, paying official calls on the Arab Legion and Transjordan Frontier Service in Ma'an and Amman, and visits to operational units in Palestine. On return to the UK in 1950, he was posted to the Army Apprentices School (as it was then known) at Harrogate, and appointed Adjutant. In 1953 he was posted to BAOR to become Chief Duty Signal Officer, Rhine Army and returned to UK to take the parachute course at Aldershot in 1954. After successfully completing the course he was again posted to fill an appointment as Adjutant this time with the 42nd (L) Infantry Divisional Signals Regiment (TA).

Then followed a spell as a Platoon Commander/Company Instructor at RMA Sandhurst before attending the Staff College at Camberley in 1958. Promotion to acting Major from Staff College marked the first of two active tours of duty in the Far East, on this occasion as the GSO 2 Signals to **Brig Eric Swainson** at GHQ Far East Land Forces in Singapore from 1959 to '61. He returned to UK to command 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron (later redesignated 216 Signal Squadron) and had the unique distinction of taking over as DAA and QMG of the Brigade, which was then in Greece, for the last few months of his tour, while continuing to command the Signal Squadron. He recalls that, as the senior staff officer, he accompanied the Brigade Commander on the Annual Inspection and drafted the final 'outstanding' report on the Squadron! Then followed attendance at the Joint Services' Staff College course in 1963 and subsequent posting back to GHQ FARELF this time as Military Assistant to the C in C. An eventful tour followed during which he served successively **Generals Hewetson, Jolly** and **Carver.** This was during the so-called period of 'Confrontation' and the Cs in C regularly visited their troops in Malaya, Brunei and Borneo. Additionally, however, there were many fascinating VIP visits to other countries including India, Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. In 1967 it was back to regimental life with 22 Signal Regiment in Germany to learn something of the BAOR scene before assuming command of 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment later that year. Then followed tours as a Services' representative in the Secretariat of the Cabinet Office 1970-72 and, on promotion to Brigadier, as Commander Corps Royal Signals 1972-73 and Director of Public Relations (Army) 1973-76. He was promoted Major-General in 1976, to be Chief of Staff, HQ UKLF, in which appointment he somewhat surprised his staff by parachuting with members of one of the Regiments he was visiting during their annual Camp in 1977. In October 1978 he assumed his last appointment as Chief of the Joint Services Liaison Organisation in Bonn from which he retired on 4 January 1981, having been appointed a Colonel Commandant in 1980.

SSAFA CHRISTMAS FAIR 1980 R SIGNALS INVOLVEMENT

The above photograph shows **Mrs Sylvia Birtwistle** at the Royal Signals stall of the 1980 SSAFA Christmas Fair presenting Lady Crookenden with a cheque for over £9,000 representing the efforts of members of Royal Signals and their families worldwide, in support of SSAFA. As in previous years it is thanks to the hard work of many people that we have been able to raise such a worthwhile sum of money.

PRESENTATION

Our photograph is of **WO1 D. Connell MBE** R Signals being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by **Gen Sir Robert Ford KCB CBE, ADC,** Adjutant General, on the occasion of his recent visit to the RAEC Centre, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield.

WO1 Connell is currently serving as the School Sergeant Major of the Army School of Languages at the RAEC Centre. He enlisted into the Corps in 1952.

RETURN TO MARESFIELD, 1980

Report by Len Parrack, Brighton Branch

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals, Brighton Branch, Royal Signals Association held a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Bartholomews Church, Maresfield, at 1500 hrs on Sunday 26th October, by the kind permission and co-operation of the **Rev. G. W. R. Berry,** who conducted the ceremony.

The congregation of about 80, including a contingent from Eastbourne Branch, was greeted by a special peal of bells by the local ringers, and the Standards of Brighton and Eastbourne were carried in procession and laid on the altar, to the processional hymn 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. The organist was **Maj Gen S. W. Joslin, CB, CBE,** and the Lesson read by Branch Chairman, **Maj R. Purkis.**

In his address, the Rector, welcoming past and present soldiers of the Corps, recounted the history of Royal Signals, and paid tribute to its activities in every theatre of the 1939/45 war. In the Far East area, he had had personal contacts with them. It was his wish that the Collection be donated to the Benevolent Fund.

After the service, all present were invited to a buffet tea in the village hall, the meal excellently prepared and presented by the willing and tireless lady branch members, to whom sincere thanks are due.

Among many bemedalled veterans, several Founder members were recognised, one of them being **Joe Cotterell,** our great Cross country champion for several years in the early 1920's. Sadly, the All India M.W. champion of 1927 was absent, **'Dolly' Gray** having died the previous week.

Other familiar figures of the past were remembered, **R.S.M. Nolan, Sgt's Tommy Hewitt** and **Parsons** of the Riding School, **Trumpeter Rafferty,** who roused us with Long Reveille in the pre-dawn of icy mornings, the Wire's first great cartoonist **'Barlow',** and many other great characters. Where are they now?

So the truly memorable Thanksgiving and Reunion closed in the Autumn dusk, on a note of nostalgia for many, and with expressions of gratitude to those who conceived and brought to successful conclusion our tribute.

Once more, the Royal Corps of Signals were On Parade at Maresfield, sixty years on!

Brighton Branch Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at Maresfield

RSM GETS THE PUSH

Normally **WO1 (RSM) Vic Zimmer** of 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt does the chasing, but just for once he was being pushed around by the wives of his soldiers. The event was a Charity Marathon organised by the Regiment to raise funds for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA). As well as the 70 individual runners and four relay teams who completed the gruelling 42.192 kilometre course, the wives got together two pram teams and with their 'babies' pushed the prams for 20 kilometres of the course.

A cheque for £2,000 collected from last year's Marathon was given to Mr Charles Dunham, the General Secretary of BLESMA, who had been invited by the Regiment to come out from England and be the official starter of the run. It is hoped that the amount raised this year will be greater than last year's total.

WO1 (RSM) Vic Zimmer is the bouncing baby in the pram, pushed by the wives as their contribution to the charity marathon in aid of BLESMA

First home in the Marathon run was **LCpl Pete Bullen,** attached to 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. He completed the course in the very good time of 2 hours 46 minutes. Second place was taken by **Lt Ian Wells** of the Regt. To round off the fund raising weekend, members of the Regiment's Angling Club, staged a charity fishing match on a river near the Barracks.

PTARMIGAN PRODUCTION CONTRACT

At a press conference on Monday 27 October 1980, the Plessey Company announced formally that they had been awarded a contract, worth £150M to begin the first phase of the production of the PTARMIGAN communication system for the British Army and the RAF in Germany.

The award of the contract is a significant milestone along the road to the introduction of a modern replacement for BRUIN in BAOR. Development of the system has been in progress for over seven years and it is confidently expected to enter service within a few years. Various elements of PTARMIGAN are even now undergoing trials at Blandford and Christchurch where, in co-operation with the Contractor, members of the PTARMIGAN Trials Squadron are engaged in putting the equipment through its paces.

PTARMIGAN is a computer controlled, trunk communication system. Using the radio relay channels provided by the UK/TRC 471, 'TRIFFID' (already in service with BRUIN), it will provide a comprehensive network of voice, facsimile, telegraph and data communications between the Formations and Headquarters of BAOR and 2 ATAF in the field.

A PTARMIGAN Trunk Node, which replaces a BRUIN COMMCEN, will consist of five radio relay installations, a switch vehicle and a node command vehicle. This basic node may be enhanced by a telegraph store and forward vehicle, equivalent to TARIF, and/or an operational system control vehicle which is used to provide the information needed to manage a number of trunk nodes spread over a large area of the combat zone. The functions of the BRUIN COMMHD will be assumed by one or two radio relay detachments together with an appropriately sized switch vehicle, which will provide all the communications facilities needed by a modern Headquarters.

Perhaps the most signifcant innovation of PTARMIGAN is the Single Channel Radio Access sub-system (SCRA). Using a number of Centrals (similar to a two frequency rebroadcast station) connected by cable or radio relay into a trunk node, full communications facilities can be extended to commanders in their rovers, wherever they happen to be on the battlefield. The SCRA terminals seek out automatically, the best signal from a Central and maintain contact with one or other as they move. The inter-linked computer switches of the trunk system are able to find any subscribers, connected to the system, in a matter of a few seconds, even when significant elements of the network have been destroyed or damaged.

The system currently planned for BAOR will have twice the number of trunk nodes that BRUIN has COMMCENS and this increase in numbers, together with the increased number of channels provided on each radio relay link, will give the PTARMIGAN system the survivability needed in communications in war conditions.

A DISTINGUISHED GUNNER

From: Maj Gen R. J. Moberly CB OBE

Dear Sir,

I am reminded, by the death of General Sir Roderick McLeod, of his great help to Royal Signals.

He was a distinguished Gunner whom I knew throughout my service. In particular he is remembered in the Corps for his Chairmanship of the 'McLeod Committee' of which Brigadier G. S. Knox was a member. The Committee toured the world to discover why Corps resources were so inadequate for its commitments, and to make recommendations. The report made early in 1955 included 118 recommendations, most of which were accepted by the then Army Council, with lasting benefit to Royal Signals.

A few years later, when I was SOinC, it became possible to form a Regimental Headquarters in Government Accommodation, with paid staff, and for us to give up renting 88 Eccleston Square. However it was difficult to find anywhere in Central London, where we were determined to stay. We were lucky to obtain our present site and when Gen McLeod became GOC in C Eastern Command he took a great personal interest and helped us to obtain all the alterations and improvements we needed.

I hope that General McLeod's name in connection with Cheltenham Terrace will not be forgotten.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. Moberly

Steeple Cottage
Westport Road
Wareham
Dorset, BH20 4PR

THE PIGEON TRAILER

From: Col P. R. Davies
HQ UKLF

Dear Sir,

I thought this might amuse your readers.

During a visit to Paris I came across an exhibition laid on by the French Signal Corps. I could not resist having my photograph taken in front of their fully furnished, operational message pigeon trailer. Perhaps the ATCC Committee should be approached to authorise one trailer per BAOR Signal Regiment to cover radio silence periods. I am sure there would be many a Yeoman of Signals who would appreciate an increment to his present 'belts and braces'.

Yours sincerely,
P. R. Davies

ALDERSHOT BRANCH— ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of The Aldershot Branch will be held on Saturday 9 May, 1981 at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants at 8pm. Assembly is at 7.30pm. All enquiries and bookings can be made to **A. V. Ient MSM** 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants or Telephone Aldershot 23658.

FAREWELL

From: Ex WO2 A. F. J. Curnow

Dear Sir,

May I, please, through the medium of The Wire bid farewell to all the many friends and acquaintances that I have made during the past 22 years service with the Corps. I am retiring to the below address on the 19th January when my service terminates and I shall carry with me many happy memories of my service.

I should also like to thank you and the Association for the help which you have extended to me in recent months.

Finally I should like to wish everyone the very best of luck for the future.

Yours sincerely,
A. F. J. Curnow

29 Sterte Avenue,
Poole, BH15 2AJ

UNIT ANNUAL SILVER RETURNS

All units and messes holding Corps Silver on charge are reminded that in January they must,

—Check holdings against their Shuttle copy. (If you cannot find it, tell Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals quickly please).

—Sign and send in the Shuttle copy to Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, with a letter explaining any damage, deficiencies or problems.

—Check that your silver insurance policy is valid, (valuations up to date?), and the premium paid; this is your responsibility.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and egaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in theCorps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions.It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9. Cheques to:-

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AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 33 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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Movements

Officers

DECEMBER 1980

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj W. K. Butler	30 Sig Regt
Capt N. J. Cory	22 Sig Regt
Capt W P. Crowley	633 Sig Tp
Maj R. E. S. Drew	16 Sig Regt
Maj R. H. G. Elford	MOD DASD
Capt N. F. Fisher	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj N. D. Illman	28 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Johnstone	233 Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) F. M. Orr	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj S. S. Paul	HQ Northern Ireland
2Lt D. W. Powel	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (QM) C. H. Richardson	7 Sig Regt
2Lt S. J. Richardson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Skaife	JDSC
Capt V. T. Smedley	21 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) C. Speight	11 Sig Regt
2Lt R. F. Strawbridge	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj P. A. Treseder	31 Sig Regt (V)
Maj M. S. Wallis	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj M. C. Wilkinson	MOD DTA&C
Lt Col A. M. Willcox	RMCS

JANUARY 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt R. Adamson	21 Signal Regt
Col B. F. Allen	DSS (AD)
Maj M. J. Anderson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj M. C. Barrett	British Gurkha Transit Camp Nepal
Maj R. W. Barry	DCGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Capt J. Blake	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt N. P. Blampied	School of Signals
Capt R. W. Blom	11 Sig Regt
Maj E. T. B. Bolt	30 Signal Regt
Lt Col K. P. Burke	7 Sig Regt
Maj J. C. Chambers	RAF Staff College Bracknell
Capt A. J. Clark	Trg Gp R Sigs & Catterick
Maj S. Coltman	MOD DPS(A)
Capt J. R. B. Cook	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. J. Crane	Jnr Regt R Signals
Maj J. R. Dawson	DOAO/DOAE
Maj P. J. K. Dickinson	HQ BAOR
Maj (TFC OFFR) K. H. Dewis	240 Sig Sqn
Capt R. J. Evans	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj R. J. Ebdon	HQ BAOR
Capt M. J. M. Emslie	GS03 RM Lympstone
Capt S. D. Galpin	632 Sig Tp
Maj G. J. H. Grist	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt C. R. Harper	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt N. P. Harrison	RMAS (RCC 24)
Maj D. R. Hodges	HQ NORTHAG
Maj R. J. Holmes	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Jessett	School of Signals
Lt Col B. F. Kavanagh	SHAPE
Capt D. G. Kirkup	8 Signal Regt
Maj S. M. A. Lee	Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. H. May	School of Signals
Maj M. J. McCann	NDC Latimer
Capt M. D. McMahon	HS 11 Signal Regt
Maj G. Meakin	DSS(AD)
Capt P. J. Myatt	HS RAPC Training Centre
Maj J. E. Neeve	RMA Sandhurst
Maj M. A. Rice	Project BATES Military Team
Capt M. S. Reid	RMCS Shrivenham
Col A. J. Sammes	SHAPE
Maj I. C. Shuker	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col R. A. C. Siderfin	DSS (AD)
Lt P. C. A. Smith	7 Signal Regt (Belated)
Capt (QM) C. Speight	38 Sig Regt (V)
Maj J. R. Stuart	D Mov (A)
Maj R. D. Symonds	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Capt K. M. Soar	School of Signals
Lt J. A. Terrington	RMAS (RCC 24)
Capt N. J. Thompson	Att HQ NORIRELAND
Maj M. A. Thorne	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt R. J. R. West	RCMS Shrivenham
Maj E. G. Williams	CA (PE) (AE)
Maj M. J. Wilton-Steer	USA 7th Army Germany

WOs and Senior NCOs

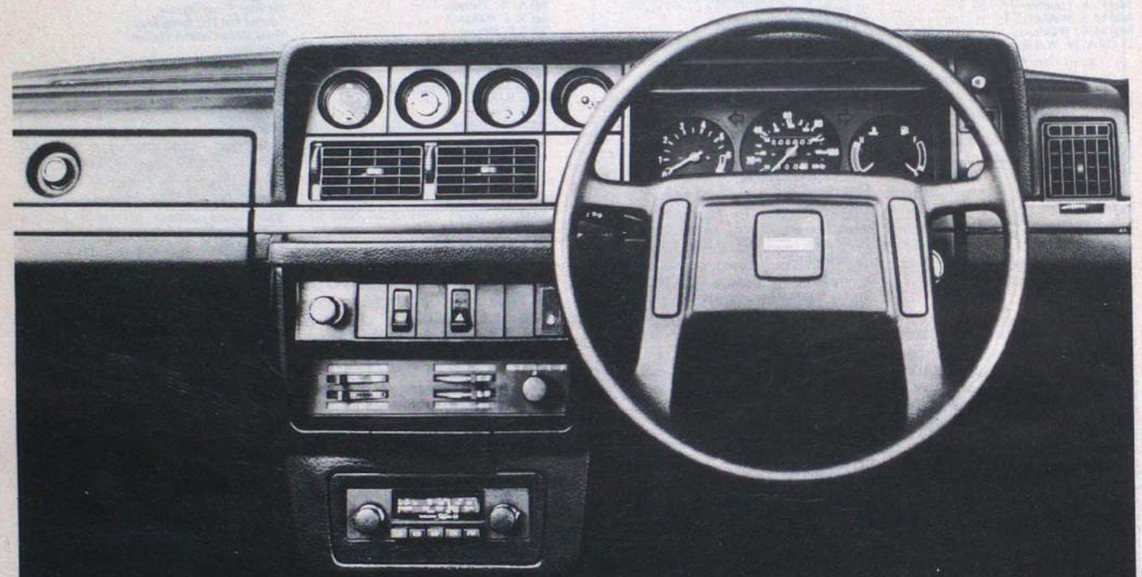
DECEMBER 1980

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 K. R. Clark	8 Sig Regt
WO1 R. Townsend	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
WO2 A. E. Nash	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
WO2(FofS) H. E. Connor	9 Sig Regt
WO2(FofS) R. N. Howes	AACoII Harrogate
WO2(YofS) R. W. Badger	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
WO2(YofS) C. H. Birchall	16 Sig Regt
WO2(YofS) G. F. Devine	RMA Sandhurst
WO2(YofS) L. R. Harvey	6Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2(YofS) G. A. Letori	HQ Trg Gp & Catterick Garrison
WO2(YofS) N. J. H. Naylor	LSP Oman
AWO2(YofS) G. S. Gibson	240 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. Harkin	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. J. Nesborough	Battle Gp Tac Trailer (UK)
SSgt(FofS) M. S. Still	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt(FofS) A. C. Mockford	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt(FofS) C. E. Napier	31 Sig Regt
SSgt(FofS) A. H. Halfpenny	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt J. Seddon	14 Sig Regt
SSgt S. Harrison	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. L. Gilder	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Wray	10 Sig Regt
Sgt G. S. D. Douglas-Hiley	3Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt S. S. Fergusson	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. L. Hair	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. R. Lincoln	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt P. E. Childs	AACoII Harrogate
Sgt D. Chester	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. Sharpe	8 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Doubtfire	20 Maritime Regt RCT
Sgt T. Burns	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Marshall	AACoII Harrogate
Sgt C. J. Bell	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt D. Savage	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Thomas	Jnr Regt Royal Signals
Sgt R. J. Williams	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Bryant	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Hague	9 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Ferry	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Stanley	7 Sig Regt
Sgt N. DeOweneley	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Rice	16 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Crossley	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Herrington	8 Sig Regt

JANUARY 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 R. J. Sheldon	MOD DSS(AD)
WO1 A. J. Millington	School of Sigs
WO2 R. J. Duffy	8 Sig Regt
WO2 M. A. W. Besant	13 Sig Regt
WO2 D. Osborne	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 J. W. F. Tierney	39 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. W. J. Wall	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) T. J. Evans	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) A. J. McArthur	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AWO2 J. H. Harman	7 Sig Regt
SSgt B. P. Matthews	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt T. N. Morris	16 Sig Regt
SSgt D. M. Taylor	School of Sigs
SSgt M. D. Davison	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt T. Theis	16 Sig Regt
SSgt B. N. Douglas	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt D. B. Robertson	School of Sigs
SSgt (FofS) J. Terry	School of Sigs
SSgt (YofS) P. L. Gethin	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt J. J. Thompson BEM	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt N. P. Stevenson	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. V. Baker	14 Sig Regt
Sgt N. W. Collis	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt E. R. Millard	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. E. Ward	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Bean	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt L. Morris	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. E. Sheppard	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Woodmason	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt I. G. Barnes	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Chapman	30 Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. East	8 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Enefer	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. D. Evans	9 Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. Gemmell	School of Sigs
Sgt W. J. Hitchens	16 Sig Regt
Sgt I. McAuliffe	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Roberts	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Turfrey	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Taylor	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Aitken	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. W. Ellis	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. Thomson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Swaine	28 Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Counsell	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Thomas	HQ BAOR
Sgt P. J. Cuckow	22 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Bell	HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)
Sgt R. N. L. Wade	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. D. Smith	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Evans	ADP Dev Team UKLF
Sgt D. F. Brown	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Walker	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt B. J. F. Leaman	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. D. Reynolds	8 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Murphy	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Baker	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. Kerrigan	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. G. Bayley	School of Sigs (Courses)
Sgt P. H. Clarke	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt G. T. Bennett	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. G. Kingdom	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Peet	10 Sig Regt
Sgt R. S. Jarvis	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Bavington	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. L. McMillan	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Spick	242 Sig Sqn

COMMAND MODULE



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VOLVO EXPORT

Welfare

OCTOBER 1980

Number of cases assisted financially:	41
Amount spent:	£3541.58
Number of clothing parcels sent:	21

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	8
Amount spent:	£323.52

NOVEMBER 1980

Number of cases assisted financially:	38
Amount spent:	£3226.25
Number of clothing parcels sent:	14

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	3
Amount spent:	£162.56

ONE OF OUR CASES

Widow of Corporal who died in 1978. She has striven to bring up her three young children without help, until her home was burgled and money stolen from her pre-payment meters. The Association helped her with a grant of £55, and clothing parcels for the children are also being sent. Her letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my most sincere and profound gratitude to the Royal Signals Association for their kind and generous assistance. Your response to my plea for aid was exceedingly prompt and eradicated a considerable burden of worry from my mind. Being a young widow responsible for the upbringing of three small children is a demanding and at times a harrassing experience. Your offer of clothing will certainly be a Godsend. I really search in vain for the words to adequately convey exactly how I feel regarding your kindness.

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

Mrs. J. M. Copestake; Capt C. P. B. Smith; Lt Col C. J. Bayfield; Maj E. J. Buirski; Capt B. T. Lord; Cpl & Mrs K. Pearce; Lt Col D. A. Dickson; Mrs. J. Robinson; Lady Chetwynd; Mrs. K. N. Smartt; Mrs. E. Fladgate; Mrs. R. McInnes; Maj Gen & Mrs. E. S. Cole; Mrs. I. G. Swan; Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Morgan; Maj & Mrs. M. P. Walker; Mr. J. L. Smith; Mrs. R. Glassman; Mrs. E. Glassman.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1980.

RAC Commanders Fund	£100.00
Bournemouth Regatta & Carnival Committee	£100.00
14 Signal Regiment	£ 46.63
16 Signal Regiment	£ 37.69
F. C. Wilson Esq	£ 22.90
Maresfield P C C	£ 18.46
St John's Church, Sparkhill P C C	£ 15.00
Cpl R. E. Potter	£ 10.00
Reading Branch R S A	£ 10.00
In Memory of Col T. J. F. Fuller	£ 10.00
H. Lilley Esq	£ 6.90
J. I. Johnstone Esq	£ 6.00
G. M. Lewis Esq.	£ 5.00
Maj A. M. Lynch	£ 5.00
Col P. R. Hoskins OBE TD	£ 5.00
F. E. Foulds Esq	£ 5.00
G. B. Hollings Esq	£ 5.00
Mr & Mrs K. W. Crowther	£ 5,00
Capt E. C. Barker	£ 5.00
L. V. Goodman Esq	£ 3.00
R. L. Cartwright Esq	£ 3.00
F. Veness Esq	£ 3.00
G. D. Webster Esq.	£ 2.90
W. McCombie Esq	£ 2.90
J. H. Westaway Esq	£ 2.90
R. G. Jones Esq.	£ 2.90
E. Whiffen Esq	£ 2.90
J. Milburn Esq	£ 2.90
P. A. Tully Esq	£ 2.90
G. W. Cook Esq.	£ 2.09
G. A. Jenkins Esq	£ 2.00
Mrs A. Foote	£ 1.90
Lt Col C. B. Minns	£ 1.50
Miscellaneous donations	£ 14.30
	£469.67

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1980.

Mrs I. Harvey	£10.00
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe	£ 7.90
Lt Col W. F. O'Meara	£ 7.42
Maj R. C. Roberts	£ 5.60
R. N. Hutchings Esq	£ 5.00
Mrs J. L. Power	£ 5.00
R. Chitty Esq	£ 2.90
P. B. Cairns Esq	£ 2.90
P. M. O'Mahoney Esq	£ 2.90
E. Sinden Esq	£ 1.75
Miscellaneous donations	£ 4.95
	£56.32

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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.

BIRTHS

Brannigan—To Bob and Carole, a daughter, Leanne Kristiana Carole on 11 November 1980 at BMH Rinteln.

Hadfield—On Sunday 23 November 1980 at Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, to Cathy (née Hancock), wife of Captain Ken Hadfield, a son (Robert Kenneth Guy). This is a grandson for Capt (QM) Ken Hadfield (Retd).

Scott—On 13 December 1980 at RAF Hospital Wegberg to Sue and Sgt Bob Scott a daughter, Helen Emma Rose.

DEATHS

Bennett—Ex WO2 Thomas Nuthall Bennett enlisted into the Corps in September 1946. He served in the Middle East, Far East, BAOR and the United Kingdom. Leaving the Army, he lived and worked in Leeds. Later he moved to the British Legion Club, North Ferriby, Nr Hull, where his devotion and good humour will be sadly missed. He died suddenly at the age of 52 at North Ferriby on 3 October 1980.

James—Gordon John (Jack). Bath & District Branch regret to report Jack's sudden death on 10 November. He joined the Corps in 1936 and was demobilised in 1946 as a WO2 (CSM). He served in India before and during the war and also took part in the Burma campaigns. A Life member of the Association, he joined the branch after a recent move to the West country.

FOR SALE

WO or SNCO's Mess Kit, comprising: George Boots, size 9 Trousers—Waist 34"-36" Cummerbund, Bow Tie, Jacket—Chest 42". Badges of rank for Sgt, SSgt, & WO2, Waistcoat: Price £100. Write: A. F. J. Curnow, 29 Sterte Avenue, Poole, BH15 2AJ.

- Brand new Herbert Johnson SD cap 7¼—£30 ono.
- No 4 Tropical SD. Worn only twice Height 6' 2", Weight 14 stone—£50 ono.

Enquiries to: Lt Col P. S. Reader OBE, R Signals, AG11 MOD. London Road, Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4PZ.

1970 Georgian three bedroomed townhouse, all services, many improvements. Close to Sudbury Hill underground station on the Piccadilly Line and at the foot of Harrow on the Hill. Fully furnished price £45,000. Mr. P. E. A. Hall, telephone 01 908 0202.

'CALLING ALL CORPS SAILORS'

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will take place at 1415 hrs Tuesday 14th April 1981. The meeting will be held in the MOD Main Building Whitehall, in the North West Conference Room. 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.

WE APOLOGISE

We apologise to our subscribers for the late production and distribution of this issue of The Wire. This is attributable largely to the Christmas/New Year holiday period which disrupted our production schedule.

PERSONAL

Maj (Retd) F. A. Stork (1941-73) is often on the Continent and if anyone in BAOR is interested in 'twinning' he would be delighted to go along and talk to them. He, also, sends his good wishes to his many friends, serving and retired. Major Stork's address is: City of Leicester Twinning Association, Secretary's Office, The Town Hall, Leicester LE1 9BG (Tel 0533 549922).

VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (TA) WITH 69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) IN LONDONDERRY

A vacancy will exist in May 1981 for a Non-Regular Permanent Staff Officer as Administrative Officer of 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron (V), part of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), at Londonderry in Northern Ireland.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3. The upper limit is 56 and normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an Annual salary of £7,081 on appointment and rising to £8223 after 6 years.

Applicants should have served as Officers or Warrant Officers in the Rgular Army, TA or UDR and have experience in administration.

Applications including brief details of experience and Service, date of birth and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

The Adjutant
32 Signal Regiment (V)
21 Jardine Street
Glasgow G20 6JU
Telephone 041 339 8401

KING'S SCHOOL, BRUTON, SOMERSET CCF REQUIRES SSI

A vacancy exists for a SSI (School Staff Instructor) for the flourishing King's School Bruton Combined Cadet Force. The appointment is suitable for a Warrant Officer or Senior NCO leaving the Regular Army, aged between 30-42 years. Duties include routine office work, administration of stores and equipment, care of weapons, shooting and attendance at Adventurous Training and Annual Camps plus Annual District and Bisley shooting competitions. In addition, he should be able to offer some other skill of value to the School in his application. Salary negotiable from £5,000 reviewed annually, dependent on experience, qualifications and accommodation arrangements.

Applications with the names of two referees should be sent to the Headmaster, King's School, Bruton, Somerset. Interviews will be held late February or early March.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

A KOREAN INTERLUDE

Report by Capt K. A. Childs Gurkha FD Force HQ & Sig Sqn

THE INVITATION

On 20 October I received an invitation from **Maj Gen Kang Kyun Soon** of the Republic of Korea Army to take the British Forces Hong Kong Tae Kown Do team to Seoul to attend the first International Military Sports Council Tae Kwon Do Championships from 30 October till the 7 November. I should perhaps explain at this point that as Admin Officer of Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn one of the several hats I wear is OC Tae Kwon Do Club. I should also explain further that Great Britain is not a member of the International Military Sports Council and so the invitation to attend the Championships as an observing delegation with all expenses, except the air fare, paid was indeed a great honour. I suspect our Korean instructor, **Mr Shin Jae Kyun**, had a hand in obtaining the invitation for us, but would accept no thanks for it.

THE PARTY

After the invitation arrived, we had ten days to organise the composition of the party, hopefully some assistance with air fares, and visas for the Gurkha members of the party. After much deliberation the final names selected to go were as follows. **Capt Keith Childs** head of the party, **Mr Shin** Team manager and the following 'gladiators.' **Sgt Ratnabahadur Pun** of Gurkha FD Force HQ and Sig Sqn, **Cpl Chandraparsad Gurung** of HK Gurkha Sig Sqn, **Sgt George Garrow** of G Branch HQBF, **Cpl John Watson** of the Sek Kong Det of HK Pro Co and **Mr Ramesh Goshai** the son of a school teacher at Sek Kong Gurkha Childrens School.

THE FARE

With the list finalised, we approached various air lines serving the Hong Kong—Seoul route to see if any would be prepared to look favourably on transporting us cheaply to Korea. Again **Mr Shin** came into his own and somehow persuaded Korean Air Lines to give us a 75% discount on the return fares! Not quite believing our luck, I arranged for visas for Korea to be stamped into the Gurkha soldier's passports. Final clearance for the trip was obtained from the MOD and we were off.

ALL FIRST CLASS

The team assembled at Kai Tak on 30 October, still not really not really believing that all the arrangements had been made and all the problems solved. A DC-10 of Korean Air Lines transported us quickly and smoothly to Seoul where after passing through stringent immigration formalities we embarked on a once-in-a-life time eight days.

We were met by **Lt Park** of the Korean Air Force, who was our Liaison Officer for the duration of the Championships, and whisked into Seoul and booked into the most luxurious hotel in the city. While booking in, **Cpl John Watson** said to me 'I'm not going to pinch myself or I shall wake up back in the Duty Room in Sek Kong'. It was not a dream however, as the Korean Ministry of Defence had booked three complete floors of the hotel to house the 15 delegations of various countries taking part in the competition.

That evening we were left alone to settle in to our rooms and to sample the delights of the hotel disco which stays open until 4 am to allow for those who do not wish to abide by the midnight till 4 am curfew to dance the night away.

WARM RECEPTION

The following morning we were photographed and given security passes to be worn at all times and the team were taken to the stadium to practice for the opening ceremony to take place that afternoon. Although not allowed to participate, all the members of the team were required to take part in all the arrangements made for the competition.

Mr Shin and I were allocated seats on the reviewing stand to watch the ceremony, and after a display of Tae Kwon Do by two hundred

The British Team Marching On
From Front to Rear: Sgt Ratnabahadur Pun, Cpl Chandraparsad Gurung, Cpl John Watson, Sgt George Garrow

Back Row: Sgt George Garrow RAOC, Cpl John Watson RMP
Front Row: Lt Park, Cpl Chandraparsad Gurung, Sgt Ratnabahadur Pun

splendidly disciplined members of the Korean Special Forces and a display of National Dancing, the teams of the participating nations marched into the arena behind their national flags. The British Team under the command of **Sgt Ratnabahadur Pun** drew a special cheer from the audience for their smartness and bearing and their 'eyes right' to the Minister of Defence as they marched past would have delighted the toughest drill instructor at Pirbright.

SECONDARY FOOD

That evening all of the teams were taken to dinner and a show, as guests of the Minister of Defence, in another of the large hotels in Seoul. One of the acts was a group of very attractive Australian girls who performed clad in next to nothing. I was very amused to see some members of the British party couldn't take their eyes from the stage and didn't even notice the waiter remove the plate of now cold food from in front of them!

HAMMER AND TONGS

The programme for the week then became clear. The mornings were spent in visiting Tae Kwon Do schools, local places of interest and Government Departments. The afternoons were taken up with watching the Championships in the arena and the evenings were spent at parties or receptions where we rubbed shoulders with many senior officers and Government ministers. Tae Kwon Do is almost a cult in Korea where children are taught the skills from the age of 5. I found it rather unnerving to see a school hall full of tiny tots going at each other hammer and tongs, the main difference being mum was on hand to console a little one when hurt as opposed to the loser getting a polite round of applause when he hobbled painfully from the hall in the Championships. We watched the Koreans steadily win their way to all the Gold medals except one, which was won by an American, and suddenly the closing day was upon us. Medals were presented and the closing ceremony and speeches were gone through again.

THE EXCHANGE DEAL

That evening a reception was held in the hotel for everyone to say goodbye to all the friends that were made during the last week. Souvenirs were exchanged between delegations, with cap and collar badges being very popular. Several Americans are walking round with Queens Gurkha Signals cap badges and one Korean Military policeman now proudly sports a red MP arm band.

RESPECT AND ADMIRATION

Suddenly it was all over and after rounding off the evening in the hotel disco we all went upstairs to our rooms knowing there would be a few thick heads in the morning. The next day we booked out of our rooms and were whisked back to Seoul airport, where we boarded the aircraft to return to Hong Kong. The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity that has left me with several lasting impressions. The efficiency of the championships organisation was almost unbelievable, with no detail being overlooked. The respect and admiration still felt for the British Army in Korea and the high esteem in which Great Britain is held is very heartening. The efficiency and skill of the Koreans at Tae Kown Do is undoubted as it is their National Sport, but **Mr Shin** who trains our team here was adamant that we could have won several silver medals had we participated. Next year the American Armed Forces are hosting the competition in Los Angeles, California. Who knows . . .

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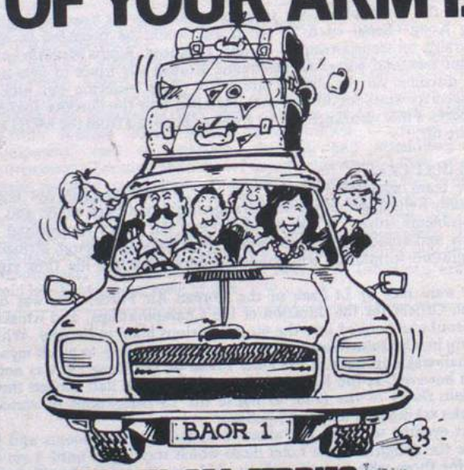


NORTH SEA FERRIES

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

THE PENALTY

3 Bde Sig Sqn has not appeared in the Wire since last summer. Here, at last, is what you have been waiting for the next episode of life in Portadown. Picture a Saturday morning in November, OC's conference in SHQ, the Quartermaster's beady eye on the therms going up in smoke, and cries of 'shut that door' (Our 'Save it' campaign is working!).

The dreaded subject comes up—apart from BFTs that is—WIRE notes. 'Too busy!' is the cry from the 2IC downwards. Mutterings and undercurrents of subversion abound in the lower echelons of middle management. To create time the OC decreed that three hours of sleep would be lost (That's three nights in this Brigade!)—result—gloom, and the following notes.

THE INVITATION

TM stands for Technical Manoeuvres, or, dodge the Brigade Comms Officer's hair-brained schemes. Seriously though folks the recently arrived technician to the Province is really thrown in at the deep end. New equipments and techniques to be mastered, self reliance of prime importance and indeed expected by all ranks. It is probably fair to say that nowhere in the Corps at the present time is greater responsibility placed on the shoulders of the young technician.

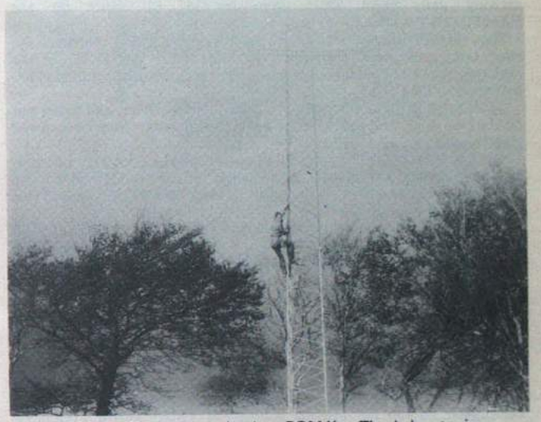
The Brigade Duty Tech has to know the Comms situation in fine detail, he will be expected and required to turn out to any of over fifty ops rooms and eleven unmanned hilltop sites during his week's tour of duty, usually during silent hours. He must then rectify the fault or advise on comms problems, fully realising that soldiers, RUC and civilian lives depend on his skills.

If you like travel, hard work, have a sense of purpose (and humour) and most importantly require job satisfaction together with an absolute minimum of administrative nausea, then TM 3 Bde Sig Sqn is the place for you—requirements T1 or T2 Radio or TE Techs plus a current driving licence (Records please note!) End of TM advert.

TV SERVICE AT A STROKE

Forkhill has always been a TV 'dead spot', a fact freely admitted by both BBC and IBA. No amount of expensive antenna arrays with masthead amplifiers will produce an acceptable picture. 'Shame!' you might say, but when your only form of relaxation and hold on the reality of the outside world is a colour TV set, then its importance to the soldiers and RUC based at Forkhill SF base becomes crystal clear. The British squaddie assumes that it is his divine right, nay his heritage, to fiddle with the TV set and aerial if the picture doesn't suit him, which normally in Forkhill it doesn't. After some time of no picture, the Brigade Signal Squadron is called in to sort it out.

This cycle was a regular occurrence in this calendar and many ways were thought out to get round it. **SSgt Dennis Usher** had the best idea, of course promptly leapt on by the FofS, **WO2 Allan Hall.** Install our own broadcaster, not as silly as it may sound, because a system does exist to enable isolated communities to purchase a system and install it to improve reception. So on a windy morning, a Wessex helicopter obtained by the 2IC/Comms Officer/Sqn Scrounger **Capt Peter Hryhoruk** (Canadian—Ukranian would you believe) took the 2IC, OC Green Ops and outside Areas **WO1 (RSM) Ken Thurley,** Supervising Clerk of works **WO2 (FofS) Allan Hall,** TV Tech Extraordinaire **Cpl Andy Robilliard** and Combat Radioman/Antenna Rigger/Gopher **LCpl Mo Mahomet** to Foxfield Piquet a pimple high above Forkhill, to install the automatic TV rebro.



They call it overstretch when RSM Ken Thurly has to rig

Who forgot the clamp? RSM Ken Thurly and LCpl 'Mo' Mohamet rigging on a hilltop site

The RSM and 'Mo' rigged the antennas with amazing speed, hardly surprising since the border is only a mile away and thoughts of bullets in the backside are a distinct possibility, while the Foreman installed the tech bit closely supervised by **Cpl Andy Robilliard.** Result—perfect TV (when the high winds don't blow the RSM's antenna round). The system is owned and maintained by the Bde Sig Sqn—eat your heart out 4 Sig Gp, this beats BFBS TV and was completed in only six weeks from idea to commissioning.

WAR STORY

Not to be outdone, our Sneaky Beaky Staffy Tech, **Ken Rankin,** whilst demonstrating some equipment to the roulement company in Crossmaglen was persuaded to actually go out on patrol with them. Not only did our Ken go, he took the Coy Comd with him. To cap it all they found something and the scaleys are now the greatest thing since sliced bread in XMG. Kens not quite sure who built a brick wall fastest, him or the Company Commander.

QM's DEPT

Report by Cpl L. M. Turner

It has been a very busy period for us in Portadown. At present our leader, **'Maj J. M. Haydon,'** is away on a Civil Labour Course, which I might add is just one of his many talents as QM. Whilst the 'leader' is away, our RQMS/Acting RSM is holding the fort, with football dominating most of his spare time.

Sgt 'Nick' Brown (RAOC) and **Mrs Glenda Biggs** (RQs wife) are as usual, snowed under with wrong part-numbers from tech workshops and LAD. Also they are burdened with the constant flow of stores arriving daily from Ord. Otherwise its' all quiet on the FAMTO/FATSO front.

SSgt (SQMS) Hogan 9/12 L and **Sgt Binsley** (RAMC) continuously, ring, talk, chat, and 'look into', problems with our DOE on the maintenance of our picturesque camp, which is set in the dull skyline, and never ending rain.

Sgt 'Clazy' Ben Lee . . . well, its' difficult to see him, and when you do shut the door, and wait until he has come up for air from his beloved serial numbers, and 1033S.

Cpl Les Turner (that's me), the man with all the contacts, all legal, with no unofficial adjustments made, works on any job. Cheap!

Sig Dave Mulot say's he's prepared to work on hire, for a small fee, any where anytime.

The RAOC element of the Sqn consists of **Cpl John Braidford, LCpl Paul (Pete) Hone, Pte Dave 'The head' Bennett, Pte Smudge Smith** (the civi), and last but not least **Pte Fogyfish Fogarty** (bound for the AAC).

They have all stated, quote 'I would be proud, honoured, and love to serve with the Corps anytime, anywhere.' Please note this appeal for work with the Corps has been noted by RAOC and Signals records alike! By the way, contrary to popular belief, we do work on Saturdays.

COMMS TP REPORT

Over the last two months Comms Tp have been kept busy not only with the build up of maintenance tasks in preparation for winter but also with a number of Operations supporting our Infanteers. At the beginning of October, an intrepid team led by **2Lt Grant Carter** with **Cpl Bob Innes** and **Sig Rob Booth** took over a hilltop site in support of Op Canine. The Op was a long term one and has kept eight men from the Sqn busy for the last two months. This has enabled the commcen Ops to join the rest of the Sqn in pulling up a sandbag and swinging the lamp as they also have provided some personnel for the guard group e.g. **Sig John Thorp, Sig Carl Marsland** and **LCpl Paul Griffiths.**

The changeover of the South Armagh Battalion was successfully completed in October with the help of a dedicated net provided using Clansman, a hilltop site and staunch help from 8 Bde Sig Sqn.

With the recent disturbances in the province caused by the H Block protestors the Bde Tac HQ rover group has been fully loaded and is awaiting dispatch to any corner of the Bde TAOR. **Sgt Don Chester** and **Cpl Frank Durcan** who are the two crew commander are both leaving shortly and both have their fingers crossed that they go before the Tac HQ does.

Sgt Don Chester has been leading a team in an effort to revamp our manned rebroadcast site at Slieve Croob. He has been so successful that people are volunteering to go there now and rumour has it that OC Comms held a parade up there at Midnight on 28 Nov and was joined by a couple of bricks from 39 FD Regt RA trying to recover a 4 tonner blocking the only track out.

The Commcen have been working steadily and efficiently as usual.

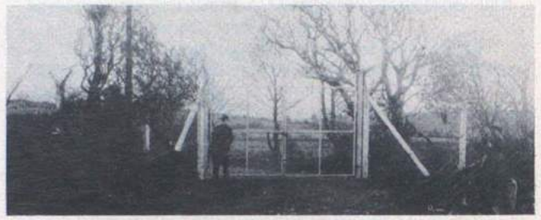
ANOTHER WAR STORY . . .

Sig Paul Saxton and **Sig Brian Quinn** driving a covert vehicle to deliver a message from Portadown to Ballykinler were fired at in the Castlewellan area. The follow up found one x 5.56 empty case confirming the shooting. Any volunteers for the SDS service please contact Records!

LOOKING BACK

It must have been dull in the Province 9-10 months ago because Comms Troop have had a spate of births. Congratulations go to: **Sgt** and **Mrs Andy Melville, Sgt** and **Mrs 'Chas' White, Cpl** and **Mrs 'Shamus Mooney, LCpl** and **Mrs Colin Luckham, Sig** and **Mrs Lloyd Brown** and finally **Sig** and **Mrs Al Kingdom.**

Congratulations on their promotion also goes to **LCpl 'Brad' Bradbury** and **LCpl Dave Peacock.**



I don't think much of the home comforts!! Sig Andy Evans mans the gate

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Despite the pressure of work, we still find time to field a few sports teams which turn in some respectable results. We are currently the Northern Ireland minor units Cricket and Soccer Champions. Our Soccer team has only lost one match so far this season and by the time these notes go to print we will be embarking on the Army Cup Trail. This season we have also been successful in reviving the Rugby team even though this has meant dragging the OC out of premature retirement! Even he is not the oldest player in the team. **SSgt Taff Ricketts** of Aden fame still hooks a useful ball and as he has recently bought a new pair of boots we expect him to play for a while longer yet. The hockey team, well supported by members of Bde HQ Staff finds a problem in picking a team as many of their players are also in the soccer or rugby teams and anyway, someone has to stay at work on a Wednesday afternoon.

Perhaps next issue we will produce a photograph or two if there are any amateur 'Armstrong Jones' reading this, we need you here!

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GCHQ If you are about to leave HM Forces, or have left, consider a career with us. We are the Government Communications Headquarters, based at Cheltenham. Our interest is R & D in all types of modern radio communications – HF to satellite – and their security.

THE JOB All aspects of technician support to an unparalleled range of communications equipment, much of it at the forefront of current technology.

LOCATION Sites at Cheltenham in the very attractive Cotswolds and elsewhere in the UK; opportunities for service abroad.

PAY Competitive rates, reviewed regularly. Relevant experience may count towards increased starting pay. Promotion prospects.

TRAINING We encourage you to acquire new skills and experience.

QUALIFICATIONS You should have a TEC Certificate in Telecommunications, or acceptable equivalent, plus practical experience.

HOW TO APPLY For full details on this and information on our special scheme for those lacking practical experience, write now to **Robby Robinson, Recruitment Office, GCHQ, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ, or ring 0242-21491 ext 2269.**

GCHQ

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

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	Maj M. W. H. Roberts
2IC	Capt R. Baxter
Admin Officer	Capt R. A. Ross REME
QM	Capt G. W. E. Hope
OC Comms Tp	Lt A. L. Pearce
MTO	Lt J. W. Clark
RSM	WO1 (RSM) B. P. McGerty
FofS	WO2 (FofS) A. V. Lamb
YofS	WO2 (YofS) D. C. Lister
RQMS	WO2 (RQMS) D. T. Hancox
ORSQMS	Ssgt (ORSQMS) C. P. Martin

LONDONDERRY ROUND-UP

Unfortunately life in 8 Bde has been far from peaceful during the last two months. The murder of a Corporal from 1 A and SH whilst waiting outside the Altnagelvin hospital provided the greatest shock of the period, but the attempted murder of a part-time Greenfinch served to remind all of us of the nature of "the opposition".

The hunger strike at the Maze has brought out daily groups of 20-30 people who disrupt traffic in and around the city. Their regularity has brought many an appointment, west of Foyle, to an abrupt end as everyone rushes off to avoid the traffic jams. The RMP, who man the border check points, have not been left out of it. Their routine changeovers of personnel have attracted several shootings—fortunately the 'marksmen' haven't succeeded.

The firemen's threatened strike produced a considerable workload, when the Bde staff thought that the ideal people to control and train the standby firefighters would be the Sig Sqn. Prior to this the prison officers strike had, and still has, us looking after the communications and part of the running of a temporary prison, HMP Foyle.

The various contingency tasks kept M Tp busy installing radios, and Comms Tp busy operating them. Comms Tp still managed to find time to provide assistance to 3 Bde in the shape of air head comms for a heliborne relief operation and a Clansman rebroadcast station a short distance from the border.

COMMANDER'S FAREWELL

Friday 28 November saw us saying farewell to **Brig C. T. Shortis CBE** and his wife **Sylvia** and our best wishes go with them as they move on to RCDS London. We extend a warm welcome to **Brig W. K. L. Prosser MC MBE** and his wife.

The Comd on his farewell tour receives a presentation from the Comd of Rover Group, Cpl Ramsey. The RSM looks on

The Comd 'sailing' out of camp

HMP FOYLE

The Prison Officers' strike meant a great deal of work, as a temporary prison, HMP Foyle, was constructed out on Magilligan Point. A prison seems to soak up a lot of telephones, pocketphone systems, intercomms and links with the outside world. Magilligan, being an isolated spot, is not overly endowed with British Telecomms line plant, and Comms Tp in the shape of **Staff McCrindle BEM, Cpl Bailey, Cpl Ramsey** and **Sig Primarolo** installed radio relay circuits to the nearest military exchange.

As ever the technicians were there installing an Ops Room and a couple of talkthroughs. The motto 'Ubique' could well be applied there as the requirement for radio sets to talk to the police, local UDR Bn, prison guard force, neighbouring regular battalion, and Bde HQ resulted in a proliferation of loudspeakers, antennae and handsets. Order was created out of chaos as **Cpl Price, Cpl Roberts** (now Sgt) and **Cpl Cooper** worked away under the guidance of the **FofS Vince Lamb.**

The line team of **Sgt Mick Reed, Sgt Al Huggins** and **LCpl Thompson** gained a new recruit in the form of **YofS Dave Lister.** A few days of humping 30 pair cable, wiring BTs and overhead cabling qualified the YofS as a B3 lineman. All the other depts of the Squadron became deeply involved as we provided cooks, drivers, watchkeepers and general duties men for the temporary prison.

AN OLD RELATIONSHIP

The commitment to control and run the temporary Army Fire Stations in Londonderry fell to the Sig Sqn. The 2IC became Fire Chief Londonderry (designate); the QM's dept delved into the intimate mysteries of the Green Goddesses, and the D & E P1, MT and Comms Troop produced one of the Goddess Crews.

The initial training and preparation kept everyone busy until the arrival of our Royal Navy Fire and Rescue team. The 12 strong team produced a leavening of considerable expertise. Continuation training with them brought all the crews to a high degree of proficiency as the talk became one of diffuser nozzles, water walls, foam equipment and the like. The presence of the Navy was a particularly welcome one especially as in Londonderry they were establishing an old relationship. Ebrington Barracks was at one time HMS *Sea Eagle.*

The squadron Goddess springs into action

The joy of winning: Cpl Coulson

FAREWELLS

The Squadron have also been "issued" with a new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) B. P. McGerty.** We trust that he and his wife **Paula** enjoy their tour and we bid a fond farewell to **WO1 (RSM) K. R. Clark** and his wife **Flo** as they depart a sun drenched Ireland for a similarly drenched Catterick.

The Squadron, also, bid farewell to one of its institutions, **SSgt 'Search, Find and Keep' mcCrindle,** the scourge of the PSA . We don't know if Catterick will be able to hold him and sailing will just never be the same.

An archway of water courtesy of the squadron firemen

LONDONDERRY—THE FORGOTTEN STATION

Ten years have passed; ten summers, with the length
Of ten long winters! and here, still, we remain.
The Foyle's murky waters, rolling past our station,
The life-long witness to our present situation.

Through their long absence, our operators toil,
Not for them the splendour and comfort of foreign soil.
But oft, in lonely rooms, and 'mid the din of Derry's spires,
They wait, patient, whilst their time expires.

To the DCN, our prestigious hosts,
We offer an invitation to appreciate our posts.
Be but a vain belief, we ask?
Could DCN in their shrine of Medenham
Contemplate a visit to this small Bedlam?

When DCN for COMSTAR our messages peruse,
Remember these little, nameless, unremembered facts,
There lies a little commcen amid the Creggan
And the Rossville flats.

ANON (The Yeoman)

Maj Gen Matthews DPS visits the squadron

SPORTING SCENE

The nautical side of the Squadron's sporting activities has taken something of a back seat although some new boats and equipment has been acquired. OC Comms Tp **Lt Adrian Pearce** will be guiding the brawn of his troop for the winter maintenance tasks.

The football, rugby and hockey teams continue to slog their way through their respective leagues.

The technicians of M Tp showed their expertise in map reading and running by winning the Squadron orienteering competition. **Cpl Griffiths** of M Tp came in some 10 minutes ahead of anyone else.

The boxing team fought its way to victory against 39 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn under the direction of **Sgt Huggins** and **Cpl Ramsey.** The match was a close one with some excellent novice boxing on both sides. The next opponent will be the Northern Ireland Regiment AAC.

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

PERSONALITIES

OC Maj J. P. Munnery
2IC Capt N. C. Jackson
Admin Offr Capt D. J. Clark, RAOC
OC Comms Tp Capt L. K. Byrne
2IC Comms Tp Lt C. R. Lawrence
TOT Capt (TOT) J. D. Knox
QM Maj (QM) F. M. Orr
RSM WO1 (RSM) H. Lund
RQMS WO2 (RQMS) B. F. Williams
MTWO WO2 R. J. Grant, RCT
FofS WO2 (FofS) W. Davies
YofS WO2 (YofS) A. Knott
Chief Clerk SSgt (ORSQMS) R. J. J. Hancox

OPERATIONAL SCENE

An era in Belfast has drawn to a close with the vacation of the Grand Central Hotel as a Security Force Base and the withdrawal of the North Belfast roulement unit. Operations in this area have now become the responsibility of the Aldergrove resident battalion, operating from Girdwood Park. These changes have involved the complete replanning and redeployment of all radio in the area; UHF nets have now been stretched to cover areas for which they were never originally intended. We have built a completely new battalion Tac HQ from scratch as well as resited ops complexes for ATO, Pointer Teams and other agencies who once lurked in the dusty cellars and corners of 'GCH'.

We have been keeping a careful eye on the current H-block campaign—not the least with Heli-Tele. As attention is focused upon the hunger strikers, terrorist activity has been at a low level with a very few 'cowboy' bombings and shootings only. We await Christmas with bated breath!

Cpl Les Stimson with a new 'fit' after GCH

COMMCEN

The traffic load in our COMMCEN has shown a marked increase over the last two months. The main contributions have come from the closure of Grand Central Hotel and new circuits to 1SG Tac HQ and 1UDR. Thus we continue to be kept busy—our monthly traffic total being some 13,000 messages.

A system of 2 week attachments for Signalmen and Lance Corporals with the West Belfast roulement battalion is now underway. As it requires the operator to become an Infantry soldier for two weeks, each and every one of us has the opportunity to see how the other half lives. Our first was **Sig Bob Curtis** and no doubt all those of the Corps who meet him in future will hear his stories of operating in West Belfast. **Sig Loz Middleton** is next, and he is looking forward to his forthcoming attachment.

Sig Loz Middleton deep in thought

ROVER GROUP

The group has recently been catching up on a few drills by completing a CQBP course organised by **Sgt Alan Hibberd.** This has entailed PT, unarmed combat, riot drills, contact procedures and the use of close quarter weapons. Such was the enthusiasm of the participants that **LCpl Bob Smithson** broke a bone in his hand during the unarmed combat. (**Cpl Ron Jaffray** now lays claim to the offence).

Cpl Ron Jaffray will soon be moving on to 522 Coy RPC CAD Kineton, however the CQBP course was a warm welcome for **LCpl Geordie Keers** and **Cpl Hammie Hamilton. Cpl Hamilton** is an Army and Combined Services soccer star; with the season in full swing has little time to spare between his Rover Group duties and football commitments.

Rover Group (left to right)—LCpl McGing, Pte McDonnell, LCpl Charalambous, Dvr Eaton, Sgt Hibberd and Cpl Gorton

FIRE ALARMS

The recent threat of firemen's strikes causes a flurry of activity in this unit. Whilst many of our sister units have been struggling with the intricacies of Green Goddess fire engines, Combat Section was tasked to fit radios to 18 escort landrovers from all units of the Brigade as well as a number of Ops Rooms. Such was the priority that it was a case of all hands to the pumps—literally as it poured with rain all day. Despite the conditions the job was done in eight hours flat and the happy owners could go on their way.

Cpl Micky Hayes and Cpl Jesse James prepare fire escort rovers

LCpl Billy Belton with the new 'wet look'

TM TROOP

With all the comings and goings recently we've all been working quite a bit of overtime. As a result **'TOT' Capt John Knox** and **FofS Bill Davies** have been looking on with great interest at the increasing amount of insanity creeping into the troop. **Sgt 'JR' Smith** has found himself a new toy and is now well into his 'souped up' mobile talk through. **Sgt 'Gramps' Skinner** is in tight control of our young pups **Cpls Bruce Dale, Pup Savage, 'Ada' Broadbank** and **LCpl 'Baby Tech' Clarke** but is having to use his 'extra' years of experience to keep on top of the situation. Able support is fortunately coming our way from **Sgt Jim** (I'm under pressure) **West** and **Sgt Barry** (You want it when!?) **Dawson** our popular paper pusher and FATSO reps respectively.

CAPT (QM) C. SPEIGHT MBE

We are alas saying a sad farewell to our QM, **Capt Chris Speight** and his wife **Rita. Capt Speight** is after 29 years service moving onto the rewards of civilian employment. His career has seen him in many places and a wide variety of jobs. Apart from travelling the world seeing such exotic sights as Singapore, Malaya, Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, N Africa, Germany, France, Belgium and Holland—who said travel was dead in this man's Army—**Capt Speight** has been with 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and has commanded 227 Sig Sqn (ALFCE). Of late however he has been spending the last few weeks spreading a sort of creeping paralysis amongst the Officers, SNCOs and soldiers of the Sqn. This normally strikes during the morning after the night before celebrations; to which the QM appears totally immune, despite repeated exposure!

Capt (QM) Chris Speight caught by surprise

Sig Paddy Gibson helps the 'Old Man of the Masts', Sgt 'JR' Smith

SPORT

Boxing, a new addition to the unit's curriculum, has quite suddenly become a major centre of interest. Our newly developed team fought 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn in Londonderry on 18 Nov 80. In a close fought contest there were some notable displays of up and coming talent. Congratulations 8 Bde on beating us by one bout—we wish you well for future rounds.

Football, the Squadrons strongest sport has seen us go from strength to strength. Our most recent victory has been a fine success, 6—2, over our arch rivals 233 Sig Sqn. This has left us in pole position in the N Ireland Minor Units League. With three games to go all stops are out to retain our record.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Capt Chris Speight** on his well-deserved MBE, as with **SSgt Ivor Demain** and **LCpl Neil Butterworth** on their GOC's commendation. Congratulations also go to **LCpl Tony and Kay Bentley** on the birth of their son Mathew.

THE ADMIRABLE AIM

As Christmas approaches each unit has 'charity' at the forefront of its mind and this unit of course is no exception. This time 8 WRAC members of the Squadron held a 'Darts Marathon' ably organised by **Cpls Rimell** and **Rimell** with a little guidance from **Lt Dorothy Ryder** WRAC in aid of the Special Hearing Unit of the Lisburn Central Primary School and Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

The aim of the exercise was to gain 1,000,001 points within 40 hours. The team consisted of 8 players:

Lt Dorothy Ryder	— OC WRAC Troop
Lt Sue Marriott	— OC Comms Troop
Sgt Lynda Jackson	— S Troop
Cpl Judi Naylor	— S Troop
LCpl Fran Rimell	COMMCEN Troop
Pte Mitch Uddin	COMMCEN Troop
Pte Vivian Devies	COMMCEN Troop
Pte Lorraine Pearce	COMMCEN Troop

£700 RAISED

The event was held in the Peake Inn (Squadron Club) and commenced at the unearthly hour of 0800 hrs Sat 6 Dec 80 when we had only 2 players and 2 markers present, but as the day progressed and the players eyes got better and arms got weaker, the supporters were present in force. To help raise more money an auction was held on Sun 7 Dec 80, in which such items as soap on a rope to old boots were ably auctioned by **Sgt John Hodkin** (he is the only person I know that could probably get blood from a stone). Although the team were allowed 40 hours, the marathon was completed in 34½ hours and the total sum raised was £700. **Note from the team:** Our sincere thanks to all the markers and all those who sponsored this worthy cause.

Team Line Up
L—R: Lt Sue Marriott, Pte Vivian Davies, LCpl Fran Rimell, Sgt Linda Jackson, Lt Dorothy Ryder, Pte Mitch Uddin, Pte Lorraine Pearce, absent from photograph: Capt Judi Naylor

ADMIN TP

Welcome: **Sgt Mair**—our new Trg Sgt (and odd job man!)
Cpl Coyne—'Oor Wullie'
Sig Cadwallader (another Dvr!), **Sig Rees** (another CLK Tech!)
(TOT—Hands off!!)

Farewell **Sgt** (the one and only) **John Bryant**—Best of luck in Hong Kong and don't forget the AO's Rum.
Sig 'Mad' McGann—sorry it was such short notice but it is better to be over there and free than over here and locked up!

'Baddies' **Sig 'Quiet' Knight**—who bashed the OC's car then? Icy roads, on a sunny Irish day? Huh!
Sig 'Chippy' Wood—a 7 day 'holiday'—What a way to learn a lesson!
Sig Cadwallader—came here and said his nickname was 'Compo'— then changed it to 'Charwallah'—Now its 'Boris'—God!
LCpl 'Maggot' Lindsay—swore off drink and women for his pre-SAS training but we saw him drunk in a woman's arms!—Weak.
LCpl Dolan—by not picking a better team, led us to utter defeat in the hockey.

'Goodies' AO—**Capt (Len) Jeffery**—had to step in and save the Troop team from defeat in the 'Brains' contest (so modest!)
Sig Rees—got a good placing in the Cross Country—Keep at it.
Sgt 'Phil' Cotton—keeps hard at it even though his office is not heated and he only complains once a day.—Never mind one day you will be warm all the day long!

COMMCEN TROOP CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

This year it was Commcen Troop's turn to kick off the annual Christmas festivities as early as 28 Nov 1980 in the guise of a Draw with dancing to the sound of French Connection supported by the Richard Disco. The cabaret was a humorous interlude provided by the Irish comedian **Mark Jones,** who returned to an encore, by popular demand.

Sgt John Hodkin organised the function (as ever), supported by a small band of volunteers. His one failing was ensuring the OC Troop, **Capt Dave Tunmore** won several draw prizes and the OC Sqn **Maj Don Overton** went away empty handed.

TROOP SPORTS TROPHY

The Christmas function also brought us to the end of our first 'Annual' inter troop sports competition. The teams were Day Workers, A, B & C shifts. Competition was sometimes fierce, at other times fun, however after a close finish, 'Day Workers' took the Cup. We wish 'C' Shift better luck next year.

The 'Cup' was presented to 'Days' team Captain, **Cpl Jeanette Allen,** by OC Troop, **Capt Dave Tunmore.** The final league table is reproduced below:

	P	W	L	FOR	AG	PTS
DAYS	18	14	4	114	45	40
C SHIFT	18	12	6	69	78	36
B SHIFT	18	8	10	98	72	28
A SHIFT	18	2	16	43	88	16

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

COMSTAR

On the 12 Nov 80, the Director WRAC **Brig A. Field, CB Hon ADC** visited WRAC members of the Squadron, gathered in the Commcen. During this visit, **Brig Field** presented a Bronze Comstar awarded to WRAC members of Commcen Tp. This particular award was effective in respect of the traffic passed during the period 1 Jan 80-30 June 80 and is in fact the sixth Comstar won by Commcen NI, a reflection of the high operating standards within the Province.

COMSTAR Award Presentation
LCpl Jones accepting COMSTAR Award from Brig A. Field on behalf of all members of COMMCEN Troop, with Squadron Commander Maj DGMcH Overton

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We wish to welcome the following new arrivals into the troop. **Sgt Bob** and **Querida Lynn Smith, Cpl Al** and **Sue Warburton, WCpl Judy Naylor, Sig Carlos** and **Lynn Sinclair, Sig Paul Baxter, Sig Steve Holt, Pte Lorraine Pearce, Pte Anita Pitt-Kerby, Pte Stella Marshall, Pte Amanda Thwaites** and **Pte Caroline Booth.** We hope that your stay with us will be both enjoyable and rewarding.

We say farewell to **Sgt Bob Harrison, Cpl Vaughn Phillips, LCpl Charlie Drake** and **Sig Paul Biss.** Thank you all and good luck in your new postings.

TECH TROOP
THE MANAGEMENT

TOT	— **Capt (TOT) Nick Lynn**
F of S	— **WO2 (F of S) Colin Ramsay**
Troop SSgt	— **SSgt Terry Sutherland**
Installations	— **SSgt Andy McBain**
TE	— **Sgt Vince McGarry**
Radio	— **Sgt Dave Colley**
Radio Relay	— **Sgt Bob Pullan**
Line	— **LCpl Kevin Fitzpatrick**

WORK V VISITORS

Since our last report the amount of work carried out by all sections of the Troop has almost been equalled by the number of visitors we have had. The end result has been a lot of satisfied visitors, sore throats for the management team and a shiny workshop floor.

The 'Paddy Bruin' Erastos network is spreading its tentacles even further. A new circuit is now into Armagh with the installations team working in very close harmony with some members of the RUC. The existing installation at RUC Knock now boosts a 20 line auto exchange, compliments of **Sig Pete Hirst, LCpl Simon Welby** and full supporting cast. Planning is now well ahead to get another circuit into the Derry area where a further group of customers eagerly await the intricacies of Bruin STD dialling.

FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

We bid a fond farewell to **Sgts Brian Rogers, Stew Fergusson, Cpls Roger Brown, Steve Gill, Ben Cartwright, Dave Horne, Bill Allen** and a special farewell to **F of S Laurie Priestley** who was led struggling into his brand new Saab and richer but not perhaps better pastures of SHAPE.

Greetings are extended to **F of S Colin Ramsay, Sgts Dick Lewis, Perce Richardson, Ken Smith, Bob Hamilton, Cpls John Leask, Alan Pratt, Phil Fielder, Nigel Quille, LCpls Kevin Fitzpatrick, Bob Evans** and **Sig Bob Roan.**

VICTOR TROOP

Hello, Good evening and welcome.

Well, sadly with my hand on my heart and a tear resting in the corner of my eye and just waiting to commit suicide by jumping into the OC's coffee, which I am making (because it's been over ten minutes since he last had one) I write these notes from 'Ye Olde Victor Troop'.

Yes folks the pressures of the space age have finally caught up with us and we have to pack our belongings into a huge handkerchief and move a whole 100 yards to our new dwellings. I hear you ask yourselves 'What do Victor Troop do between coffee breaks'? Well why don't you put in for a posting here and find out. Who knows by some miracle you might enjoy it and if not we'll make you. At this point in the proceedings I'd like to print some masterpieces. These are a list of quotations you will *never* hear.

OC—Capt R. A. Baker	— 'No thanks, no coffee for me'.
Y of S—George Coles	— 'Can't go to the Happy Hour, got to go home'.
Sgt Dave Smith	— 'Can't play rugby today, got work to do'.
Cpl Barny Stephens	— 'Can I do some work please?'
LCpl 'Craig' Ballantyne	— 'Any chance of an extension?'
LCpl 'Megaphone' Massingham	— 'I think I'll go for a run'
Sgt 'Taff' Powell	— 'Don't need any Troop funds lads—Got enough'

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

We welcome to the Troop, **Sgt Eric Foggin, LCpl 'Spasky' Weston** and finally **'Victor'** the Budgie (New Troop Mascot) we sadly say farewell to **LCpl 'Cas' Cassling** who is posted to Commcen Troop, **Pte One-One Evens** who is posted to Hong Kong and finally **LCpl Judith Gay** who is posted to 16 Signal Regiment. We wish them all the best for the future.

WHISKEY TROOP

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Capt Peter Neale**
Y of S	**WO2 (Y of S) Roger Childs**
Foreman	**WO2 (F of S) Fred Brown**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Chris Stone**
Library	**Sgt Ginger Walker**
Software	**Sgt Jock Gibson**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Since last we wrote the troop has undergone yet another upheaval with **WO2 (YOS) Jack Cowen** 'deserting' us for the Sultan of Oman's Forces. Also we have lost **Cpl Paul Buff** to 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Andy** and **LCpl Fran Rimell** and **Pte Trish Dent** all to the Commcen prior to posting.

We would like to extend to the following a very warm welcome to the troop **WO2 ((YOS)** and **Mrs Roger Childs, Pte Dee Wyatt, Cpl Eck Stewart, Pte Dawn Boddington** and **Cpl Dave Metcalfe.**

MCKELVIE HOCKEY

On 2 Nov the 6-a-side hockey tournament took place. Teams from Admin/Delta, Comms, Commcen, Tech, Victor and of course Whiskey Troops took part. After a very hazy start, the toss of a coin decided which two teams from league 'A' would go through to the semi-finals as all three teams in that league had won one game. Commcen Troop lost the toss and Whiskey and Comms breathed a sigh of relief. In the semi-final Whiskey troop played . . tech troop, the winners of league 'B' and ran out worthy winners (the lads had finally woken up). In the other semi-final Comms troop showed Victor troop how it should be done. The scene was now set for the Grand Final, Comms v Whiskey, Comms being favourites as they had previously beaten Whiskey in the League. Whiskey, though, showing plenty of grit, determination and not a little skill, ran out worthy 2-0 winners.

Whiskey Troop team:
Capt Paul Buff (Capt), Sgt Jock Gibson, Sgt Tim Broomfield, LCpl Keith Robinson, Sig Eddie Edwards and **Sig Steve Gorman.**

Rumour has it that the pitch was invaded by a boisterous member of the crowd, **Lucy Neale** (Aged 3 months).

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals

Blandford Camp

Dorset

CLOSE TIES MARKED BY PRESENTATION

The Pipes and Drums of Queen's Gurkha Signals have had an extremely eventful year: on 13 May 1980 they had the unique honour of being presented with a new pipe banner by **HRH The Princess Anne,** and from 10 August to 9 September they took part in an historic trip to Canada where they played in many cities, to help raise money for the Canadian Gurkha Welfare Trust.

During the period between the Pipe Banner Presentation and going to Canada, The Pipes and Drums Queen's Gurkha Signals stayed at the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, and were accommodated by the Royal Signals Corps Band. They carried out several joint engagements and formed many friendships.

On 1 October, to mark the close ties between the Pipes and Drums and the Band, the Pipe Major, **WO2 Tejbahdur Rai,** presented a picture of himself carrying the Royal Banner, to the Commandant, School of Signals, **Brig R. Benbow, Brig Benbow** represented the Director of Music of the Royal Signals Band, **Lt Col K. R. R. Boulding,** who could not be present as he was with the Band on an engagement in Eastbourne.

PRESENTATIONS

At a special ceremony after the Corps Guest Night held at HQ Mess Blandford on Wednesday 22 October two separate presentations were made by **Maj Gen E. J. Hellier CBE,** MGA HQ UKLF. Firstly **Maj** (Retd) **Andrew Stewart** was presented with a 'Corps Statuette' to mark his long and loyal service as Mess Secretary of Headquarters Mess. A task he has carried out since 1 September 1971 both as a serving and retired officer.

Andrew Stewart's familiar figure is now to be seen in the corridors of Headquarters School where he ably occupies the desk of Staff Captain (A) having completed the circle. He was DAA & QMG HQ School from 1966 to 1969.

The second presentation was made to **Lt John McIntyre** on being awarded The Whistler Subalterns Trophy for 1980. **John McIntyre** is a Troop Commander in 8 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron and was awarded the trophy for oustanding service during the past year which included service with the Monitoring Force in Rhodesia.

AGAR MEMORIAL PRIZE
The Commandant, School of Signals, Brig R. Benbow presenting the Agar Memorial Prize to 2Lt Neil Couch on 25 Nov 1980. The Agar Memorial Prize is awarded by the Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to the best young officer of his Course to be Commissioned into Royal Signals

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS FAREWELL TO COMMANDANT

On the evening of Thursday 13 November, 108 officers of the School of Signals sat down to dinner in Headquarters Mess to bid farewell to **Brig Bob Benbow.** In his Farewell Speech he gave a witty 10 minute summary of his 2 years in command of the School. After dinner, the Corps Band portrayed his career in musical fashion. This was followed by members of the CQ Course who, with apologies to **W. S. Gilbert** sang their version of the Major General's song from the Pirates of Penzance. To conclude the musical entertainment the Director of Music invited the Brigadier to conduct the Corps Band playing 'Be Gone Dull Care'. The Brigadier then bade farewell to Senior officers of the School and members of Headquarters Mess Staff before being towed away from the Mess.

We wish to thank **Brig Bob** and **Pauline** for all their hard work for the School during the past 2 years and wish them both every success for the future.

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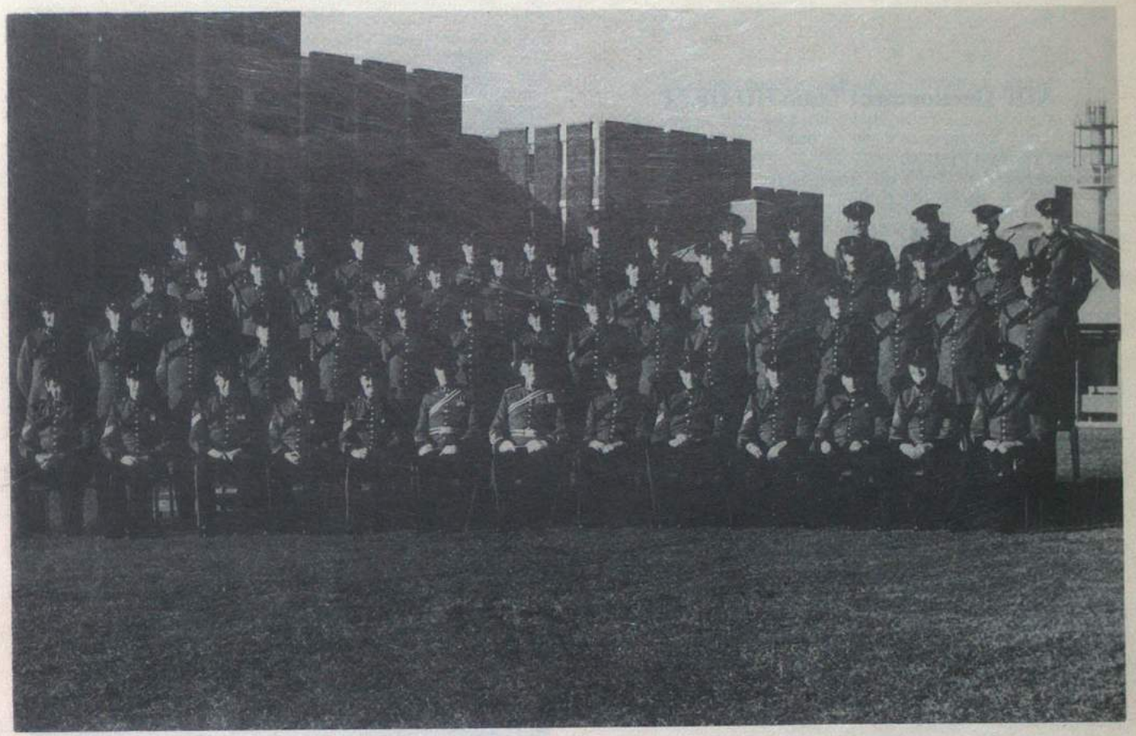
THE CORPS BAND



A rare photograph at our magnificent Corps Band 'off-duty'

A LOOK BACK AT 1980

Looking back over 1980, it would appear that it had many of the qualities of other years — 12 months, 52 weeks, but now I've got it, of course: 366 days. That's why we feel a little tired! Lots of travelling during the year. Overseas journeys have taken us by air to Northern Ireland, Cyprus and of course BAOR—the hardy annual. Our coach 'joy rides' mostly head up the M1 to Catterick, but engagements and duties all over the country add up to a total of around 24,000 miles.

A GLITTERING FUNCTION

One of the glittering functions attended by the Corps Band annually is the dinner given in February by 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) at which the principal guest is the Lord Mayor of London. For 1980, we resurrected the Corps Orchestra led by **Sgt Victor Lenthall.** It was a great success and many favourable comments on the orchestra's performance were received.

MAGNIFICENT CYPRUS

Just one week later we emplaned at Lyneham and flew off to Cyprus to musically prepare ourselves and the Corps Units for the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief. It is true to say that we all thoroughly enjoyed every moment (except one) of that truly magnificent visit. The exception?! . . . at 4 mile point, when zealous members of the Security Unit practically tore every instrument apart after finding a toy cap-pistol in the drummers' effects box!

During the flight home, the crew warned us that our plane (Hercules!!) had been diverted to Khartoum as part of the Rhodesian independence celebrations. The Band personnel were told that they would be left there for three weeks pending the final outcome of local politics. This was not popular. However, the plane crew decided to continue to UK afer the Director of Music explained that we were needed in Catterick for a Pass-Off Parade!!

MANY CONCERTS AND LOVELY ALDERNEY

And so the year went on with concerts at Eastbourne, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Liverpool and many other venues including three or four days on the lovely Island of Alderney with 30th Signal Regiment.

PIPES AND DRUMS OF QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS

Mid-summer brought with it a welcome addition in UK to the Signals musical family. For two months we had staying with us the Pipes and Drums of the Queen's Gurkha Signals and what a really super bunch of fellows they were. Nothing was ever too much trouble and their ability as showmen was much commented upon by their audiences. The streets of Eastbourne were packed with cheering holiday-makers as they made their way through the town and into the hearts of thousands. We were proud to have been associated with them.

THE SELL OUT

Eastbourne had a total of 85 concerts from the Corps Band this year including five performances of the 1812 Overture with accompaniment of fireworks and effects and a repeat of 1979's concert with **Harry Secombe** at the Congress Theatre. An absolute sell-out!!!

A GREAT EXPERIENCE

During the winter months, the usual heavy programme of dinner nights for other units has been somewhat curtailed by the 'Moratorium' but, thank goodness, our own units have not suffered. Once again, for the third successive year we were able to play in Wembley Arena for the visiting Russian Gymnastic Display Team, a fantastic experience for everyone.

SO INTO A NEW YEAR

Christmas functions and a well-earned leave take us into 1981 with already a very full diary—and lots to come!

ADP Development Team HQ UKLF

A STIMULATING PERIOD

December sees the Team still frozen in the grip of the Defence Moratorium, as well as the Wiltshire winter. Luckily, the environmental demands of the computer mean that this is one installation where the heating cannot be switched off arbitrarily, a perk of the job which **Sgts Tony Jewell, John Hutchings** and **Bob Evans** are quite happy with, especially when the outside Headquarters are batting below zero! Our thoughts are with those of our comrades who have to endure weekends on Point 309, the Bielstein and elsewhere! If **Tony Jewell** is smiling more thinly than the others, its probably because he's thinking of his imminent posting to Harrogate, and the prospect of rugby refereeing on the rock hard pitches of the frigid North! In the meantime, he and **Bob Evans** are hard at work on their handover/takeover, while **Sgt John Hutchings** carries the load of program testing and **Mrs Marion Hankins** cheerfully dispenses help and advice as the duty operator.

This last period of Wire Notes has seen the analysts section working as hard as ever, with **Maj Mark Illingworth** 16/5L, taking over responsibility for advising on the introduction of microprocessors into District HQs in UK, and **Capt Howard Crosse** 16/5L working with **Maj Tom Moncur** on developing further ADP aids for the staffs within HQ UKLF. Particular attention is being directed towards Movements and Logistics staffs, following on lessons learned during *'Crusader'*. In the areas of programming and operations, activity continues on a high, with **Mr Ian Sey** and **Mrs Megan Pritchard** clearing an unprecedented amount of programming backlog, and **Maj Roger Lewenz,** REME, wishing he had an extra pair of arms as he copes with demands for User training, production of new manuals, system testing and overall responsibility for keeping the computer 'on the road'. Altogether a stimulating time, which has kept everyone from Senior System Designer, **Mr Ron Reakes,** downwards fully occupied.

GOOD OMENS

In the midst of the activity, the Chairman of the HQ UKLF ADP Steering Committee, **Col Peter Davies,** formerly Royal Signals, visited the team. As our photograph shows, he had more than a passing acquaintance with the hardware! The Steering Committee is, of course, the 'task master' of the Team, and defines the projects and priorities for implementation. The Chairman obviously believes in keeping in touch! At the same time **Capt Tony Gibb,** just back from the onerous (?) task of conducting the affairs of G(PR) in East Africa, also dropped in for a briefing, and was later seen retreating to his own domain, clutching a sheaf of notes on ADP buzz-words and phrases with which to extend his PR vocabulary, all the while wondering if he shouldn't have done the language course first!

Little now to add, except that **Sgt Gerry Griffiths,** RWF, has made lots of friends and influenced people among the local innkeepers as he conducts recces for the Team party, and how the fact that these Notes appear at all is a testament to the ability of typists **Mrs Jan Redman** and **Mrs Kate Emery** to work under last minute pressure! The prospects for 1981 look to be encouraging — last month saw the highest ever usage of the computer in a non-exercise month, the Team Pools syndicate produced a winning line, and **Mrs Marion Hankins'** daughter-in-law produced her a grandson. All good omens!

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

'You don't mean to tell me that this will replace all of HQ UKLF!' Col Peter Davies and Capt Tony Gibb look politely sceptical as Maj Tom Moncur explains about disc backing storage

'Explodes if I touch that button? Don't believe it!' Sgt John Hutchings explains the control teletype to Col Peter Davies, while Sgts Tony Jewell (rear) and Bob Evans keep the ADP system on an even keel

'. . . and if you move that lever it prints the Football results.' Sgt Tony Jewell unfolds the mysteries of the line printer to Sgt Bob Evans

RMCS SHRIVENHAM

SHORT OF AN OFFICER OR TWO?

You may have wondered to where all the officers seem to be disappearing, and possibly looked for a source of that rare commodity—subalterns. Well they are all here at Shrivenham! Not all really, but we do have a fair complement working hard for first or second degrees. In all we have 34 subalterns, incldiuing **Kevin Fisher** who holds an Army University Bursary, one Captain, one Major and four Lieutenant Colonels on Directing Staff (DS) duties. In addition we have **SSgt Bob Porter** and **Sgt Dave Walker,** and an ex-Corps Lieutenant Colonel, the Academic Registrar—**Peter Knott.** Should one fail an examination you can be sure that AG11 is waiting in the slips!

VACATION ACTIVITIES

Summer Vacations are not one long glorious holiday as some may think—or expect—but is filled with workshop practice sessions and unit attachments or adventurous training. The 12 R Signals officers on 33 Degree Course spread themselves all over the globe; **Stan Young** and **Kevin Fisher** (brother to Mike and Neil in the Corps) to Hong Kong, **Ian Foxley** sailing in the Adriatic, **Tim Inshaw** to Cyprus, **Dick Good** to Austria, **Don Steele** in Portugal, **Rich Evans** and **John Thomas** in the States and some even went to Germany and the United Kingdom.

The 8 officers from the Corps on 34 Degree Course covered Hong Kong, Cyprus, Austria, UK and Germany. **Neil Swainson,** who won an academic prize at the end of his first year, ended up in Berlin. 35 Degree Course, who have just arrived with their 14 strong Jimmy-bearing contingent are planning an equally wide spread set of attachments, including **Mike Lithgow** who wants to go para training with the 82nd US Airborne, and **Kevin Barratt** who is plotting his way to Gibraltar and Morocco.

THE OLDER AND BOLDER

This august contingent includes **Capt John Stabler** doing an M Phil, **Maj Mike Rice** reading for an MSc in between orienteering, and a 'correction' of DS—if that's an acceptable collective pronoun. **Lt Col Peter Burke** is off soon to command 7th Signal Regiment; **Lt Col Ed Mulley** who has just left Catterick; **Lt Col Bill Roper** recently arrived from MOD; and the current Corps Representative, **Lt Col Bill Kennedy.** Have I forgotten anyone? Of course, the Army Staff Course now up to its full strength of all 3 divisions completing the final stretch before going to Camberley—a further 11 R Signals Officers. In addition we have 2 Canadian Signals officers and 2 from Australia, plus 6 Royal Navy communicators on the RN Dagger Course. We will soon welcome **Lt Col Tony Willcox** from 2 Armoured Div Signal Regiment, and have recently said farewell to Col's **Micky Topple** and **Terry Eamey** both on promotion. Perhaps for the next article we shall be able to assemble this mighty throng for a photograph.

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Commissionaire. Hill St. W1. £5250. A good reliable applicant wanted with presence. Non-Corps uniform.
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Houseman (Plain Clothes). Caxton St. SW1. Approx £4000.
(Near St. James Park U/G) Log 297
Security. Lower Regent St. £70 pw+. Reliable man wanted for secure post. Log 265
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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

News from Regiments

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

WE STAY

Well it's happened at last—the Army Board must have read our last Wire notes—the decision has been made that we are to stay here at Ouston in the long term. All we need now is a few million pounds to establish ourselves properly; well, mentioning a problem in the last Wire notes seemed to work! Unfortunately we don't actually have a published establishment, AFG 1198, enough personal weapons for the juniors . . . But what we have got is a first rate cadre who are prepared to work all hours of the day and night and at this moment 530 junior soldiers under training. It must be the worst time ever to form a new regiment with all the cuts in public spending but with the spirit that is here at Ouston this is an additional challenge. The formation was marked by a playing of retreat by the Corps band, followed by a regimental cocktail party. Apart from the senior official guests it was a real pleasure to be able to entertain a large number of the local civilians who have helped us so much in the past. The actual effective date of formation was 1 August but because of summer block leave and a certain Exercise *Crusader* the formation ceremony did not take place until 3 October.

J/Sigs White, Olive and Hayes at the front entrance of the Regiment

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Regiment is situated at Albemarle Barracks, Ouston, some 10 miles West of Newcastle upon Tyne—not the Ouston in County Durham prospective visitors please note! The barracks is a former RAF airfield and rumour has it that the RAF handed Ouston over to the Army in 1975 because it was too windy for the planes to take off!

The Junior Signalman Squadron was formed in 11 Signal Regiment in May 1972 but in anticipation of a reduction in the junior intake it was moved to Harrogate in September 1973. But the statisticians got it wrong and the junior intake increased, forcing the junior squadron back to Catterick with a chartered strength of 200. In 1975 even greater increases in junior recruiting were prophesied, hence the move to sunny Ouston, where two squadrons of juniors were formed with a charter strength of 425. This charter strength is now 550 at any one time.

So here we are at Ouston, or at least we think we are going to stay here at Ouston, or at least we think that it's more likely that we're going to stay at Ouston than move to Catterick or elsewhere. The absence of this particular decision is an additional factor contributing to the lack of resources in the barracks. The cry always used to be, 'Ah, but when you become a Regiment' but this has now changed to, 'Ah but if we knew you were staying at Ouston.' Understandable to a finance conscious Staff officer but difficult to explain to the 20 boys in the Squash hobby with one court to play on.

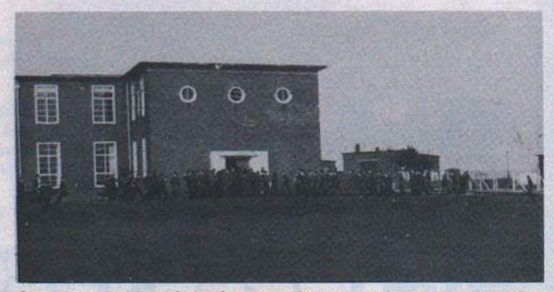
The North end of the camp, dominated by the hangar (our greatest asset, especially in the snow) and on the right the portakabin military studies wing

AFFILIATED REGIMENTS

We have two junior squadrons at Ouston. Each comprises six troops—total twelve. Each troop is affiliated to a particular regiment or unit in the Corps and the boys take particular pride in their notice board displays within troop lines which illustrate these associations. The current twelve troops are:

1 Sqn		2 Sqn	
Beaufighter	21 Signal Regt	Rapier	22 Signal Regt
Kohima	2 Signal Regt	Kukri	Gurkha Signals
Triangle	1 Signal Regt	Quadrant	4 Signal Regt
Ulster	Northern Ireland units	Battleaxe	28 Signal Regt
Bruno	10 Signal Regt	Lightning	13 Signal Regt
Whitespear	7 Signal Regt	Iron	3 Signal Regt

If any member of these regiments are in the area, perhaps on leave, we would be delighted to see them and the boys themselves would be thrilled to hear about their associated regiment at first hand.


One of the problems in having a cookhouse which only seats just over 400 with over 500 junior soldiers to feed

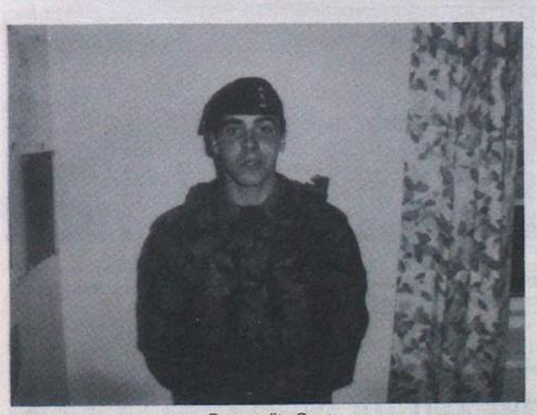
OUR JUNIORS

We run either a 28 or 35 week course here for 16 year old boys. The course is the Common Military Syllabus (ie basic military training) with large dollops of sport, adventure training, hobbies and military studies (what used to be known as education). A large number of boys are not well qualified enough academically to go to Harrogate although some Ouston boys do go on to Catterick and complete Technician and Telegraphist courses. Some Ouston boys have the necessary qualifications for Harrogate but prefer not to complete the longer more academically intense course. At Ouston a great deal of training is out-of-doors and with the Otterburn Training Area only 40 minutes drive, there are a large number of exercises included in the syllabus.

CADRE REQUIRED

Calling all corporals and sergeants who enjoy the outdoor life, in particular adventure training, sport and Otterburn Training Area. Ouston needs you. In addition you need to be able to advise and counsel young men at all times of the day and evening in such diverse matters from: what to write to the girl friend; to what their future career holds for them. As a Troop NCO you are a member of a small, close-knit team of three or four who are directly responsible for the well-being, behaviour, administration, welfare and training of about fifty teenagers. It is a challenging and demanding job but one where your efforts can be seen to take effect before your very eyes. If you think that you're man enough for the job, let 'Records' know. As some compensation for all the evenings and weekend work you also get block leave at Christmas, Easter and Summer.

J/Sig Mills at the bench in the modelling hobby—one of 31 hobbies including such diverse activities as Art, fishing and toxophily


Personality Spot

Junior Sgt Bill Agnew has just left for training as a combat lineman at Catterick. He was born 'down under' in Melbourne but moved to Plymouth at the age of 8. As an ex member of Quadrant Troop, the champion troop, he has a lot to offer the Corps. We wish him well

At a Regimental Guest Night Maj Alan Alfred MBE, now at the Scarborough Signal Training Centre but the man who put the camp to rights as the first QM at Ouston, presents a mounted 'Jimmy' to the CO, Lt Col Ian Crouch. This piece was especially made under Maj Alfred's instructions as a personal present to mark the formation of the Regiment; part of the plinth is made from a piece of timber taken from a tree at Albemarle Barracks

A WORM'S EYE VIEW

(Sgt 'Butch' Maycock is one of the recent additions to our Cadre and to give all the prospective instructors reading this article some idea of Ouston, an account written by him is set out below. He is 25 years old, a Telemech Class I with 7¼ years service.)

MOBILISATION

Having joined the army as a 'young soldier' (aged over 17 but below 17½) I thoroughly enjoyed my basic training at 11 Signal Regiment. So much so, that I vowed to go back there one day and 'put in what I had taken out'. I reached a stage in my career where, as a Class I in my trade I felt I needed a 'break' (the meaning of this word will become apparent later), from the routine of normal, everyday army working life. Never getting anywhere with applications to go to Northern Ireland, a job at the training regiment became a must for me. I became very impressed with 11 Sig Regt whilst on my Detachment Commanders Course and on returning to my unit in Cyprus applied to go back there but to no avail, as there was (and still is I am told), a shortage of Telemechs. I tried a number of times subsequently with the same negative reply from both unit and Records offices. However, on one of the monthly newsletters (I had a standing order with the Chief Clerk), I spotted a likely position available at the Junior Signalman Wing of 11 Sig Regt. I had had no previous experience whatsoever with junior soldiers and set out to find if what our popular national media reported was true. I picked up some mottled accounts of the good old days at Denbury and Troon from one or two oldies in the squadron, and although I was greatly impressed by the tradition of it all there was very little concrete evidence to go on. There were two young signalmen in the unit who were products of Ouston (Ouston?—where's Ouston says I) who gave me a few reminiscences of their stay, but again people only tend to tell you what happened to them personally. A number of the more senior members of the unit did tell me that it would be good for my career personally and—to use their own words—'you haven't done anything until you've been to a Junior Regiment'. I decided then that I would have a go at what everyone described as one of the biggest challenges I could take on.

This is where I had a stroke of luck in that the newly arrived 2IC of the squadron **(Capt P. Rouse)** had previously served as the Adjutant of 11 Sig Regt and notwithstanding the previous negative replies from Records he decided to get me to 11. How he did it I don't know, although I'm sure it was on the 'old boy' network. I began to pick his brains and he told me of really hard, demanding work. Long hours but good leave, and, most attractive to myself, a good end product at the end of 28 or 35 weeks. I still thought though, that I hadn't gathered all the 'info'. (I firmly believe that no matter what people hear from other people they never believe it until they see it in print). My wife in particular was interested in the quarter situation, wives clubs, local shopping etc (we do not have a child of school age, so this wasn't of immediate importance). Again I stress the importance of something in print. There's nothing wrong in advertising.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Actually arriving at Ouston (after visiting Stamfordham, Wylam and Matfen) was a little bit of a disappointment as the quarter was not ready to take over. After leaving it a week, I took over the quarter. It was small, but cosy in a way (ideal for just a one child family perhaps). It was in a poor state of repair with leaking taps, a broken window, very poor carpets and badly in need of decorating, to say the least. Some of the furnishings were replaced by the BIA, but the repairs remained until I moved to a C type quarter later on.

A WHIRLWIND

My first day at work was a whirlwind of activity. A new term was starting and I had a new troop to kick off with. I had as my 'oppo' a very well seasoned and experienced sergeant. Without him I'm sure I'd never have made it this far! A guiding hand is a must for Cadre new to the job. I met my recruits at Newcastle Station not knowing when or where they were coming from. This proved to be a somewhat tedious task for obvious reasons and I thought an office or even a sign for new arrivals may be available for both the recruits and the person meeting them. Even calls of nature have to be limited in case you miss one of the boys. This has been rectified to a degree as now two sergeants go down to meet boys but only on intakes of more than two troops.

THE LONG DAY

The first seven weeks of the term are an 18 hours a day job (although I went on a Weapons Course in the middle of the term), but you can see the difference in the recruits after only two weeks. The training is very hard and demanding for a 16 year old boy. It is very hard and demanding for the Cadre, and an extra LCpl or Cpl on the staff of each troop would vastly improve not only the 'lot' of the Cadre but I'm sure would be most invaluable in the boy's training, especially early on. Administration, drawing of kit and the like take up time and that is in very short supply here at Ouston with something like 14 or 15 hours a day of the boys 'programme' needing a lot of attention (this of course includes after actual programme work). Most important, I think we tend to lose some boys who would have stayed in, if more time could be devoted to them as individuals. With a troop of at least 50, it is sometimes difficult to 'spot' problems which if quickly remedied or at least talked over could mean the difference between passing off and discharge. It is also difficult on training such as Fieldcraft (out of doors) and live firing. Training wing staff are not always (more not than often) available and on live firing in particular where coaching is an absolute necessity to the backward shot, it cannot be given for safety reasons. Another aspect of training that I think is lacking in some little way is realism. The prime example being fieldcraft. With such a shortage of blank ammunition the interest of the soldiers wanes to a degree that it may become a chore rather than an enjoyable part of a soldier's way of life. Again, on Pyrotechnics, if boys are shown beforehand how to use trip flares and the like before they go on Battlecamp, the camp could be used more as a test rather than for teaching what fieldcraft etc is actually about. Obviously most of these points are outside the control of the training establishment and we all know money is tight. All things considered, the training is very complete and it would need a very strong argument indeed to change any of it.

ON TOP EVERY TIME

On the actual teaching side of life, for a member of the Cadre, some (myself included) obviously find it difficult to start with but with courses, experience and time the problem is invariably solved. The accommodation of the boys leaves a lot to be desired in most cases. Although some work is being done to rectify this at the moment, a lick of paint would work wonders even if on a self help basis only. The boys themselves are a breed of human beings in their own right. To compare a boy in only his second term with a similar boy in civvy street, in aspects of character and personality alone, I'm sure the Junior Signalmen would come out on top every time. One particular aspect of their character is that they are on the whole extremely loyal (or I have found most to be so). You can knock them down a dozen times a day (not literally) and they will get up every time and follow you. They quickly learn a sense of loyalty to their own troop/sqn or regt. Woe betide anyone who chides their particular troop. It is a very impressive sight to see a squadron of 200 or so boys in their troops running around the airfield chanting their troop songs. Job satisfaction can be gained every working day. One of the aspects of the job of troop Cadre which I'm sure I didn't think of initially, was that not only does the troop sergeant have to be a drill or any other type of instructor, but he has to be a father figure, counsellor, and above all, a good listener. Just listening to a boy getting something off his mind can solve the problem as far as the boy is concerned. There is no disputing the fact that at Ouston, a soldier who hasn't any problems gets on well with his training and his comrades. You can see the difference it makes when the weight is lifted.

WELL EARNED

The families of the Cadre have to put up with a lot of long lonely hours, but the wives are a very friendly bunch in Wade Avenue and that makes all the difference. Also the large amount of leave helps to 'reconcile' the lost hours. I have never enjoyed my leave so much! You feel as if you have really earned it when you've worked a term at Ouston. Since the Junior Signalman Wing has become a Regiment in its own right, apart from a few new extra faces, not a lot has changed, although there are many new things and changes in the pipeline. The camp itself, although somewhat isolated is well laid out and clean. Really, it's not all that isolated if a family has a car as it's only 20 or 30 minutes easy drive right into the centre of Newcastle.

Only one thing I personally miss is my individual involvement in sport. As a keen soccer player, I miss a Regimental (Cadre) Soccer Team. This, of course, applies to all sports, not just soccer. There are a few local teams, but one can't guarantee to be able to turn up every time, due to commitments at work and even if the commitment to turn up could be made it would mean taking time out from the family. However, I get a lot of satisfaction from running the boys' Regimental Team. The Junior Regt requires, from its Cadre, more hard work and dedication than most people could ever dream of giving until they actually arrive here; but for all the moans and groans about long hours, it's very difficult to stay away from the troop or even stop thinking about them, even when you're at home watching your favourite TV programme. Such is the affinity that is struck up between a troop and its Cadre."

THE ARMY JUNIOR SOLDIERS CHALLENGE CUP

The season started for the Junior Regiment back in September with a trial match under the critical eyes of Team Manager **WO2** (QMSI Weapons) **Geoff Northey** and Team Coach **Sgt 'Butch' Maycock.** Some 50 or so prospective Kevin Keegans played but this was whittled down to about 25 'stars' to start some hard and serious training for the competition.

The first round saw us up against a Kings Division side which, like us, were yet to have a match under their belts. After a slow start however, the Junior Regiment came up 2—0 winners and earned a quarter final home tie against the Prince of Wales Division. The Regiment ran riot in this match, overpowering the plucky POWs 6—0 with **JSigs White, John, Hattersley** and **Taylor** starring.

Due to a major flue epidemic the team had not even kicked a ball for some five weeks and the semi-final saw us up against a well seasoned and physical Junior Parachute Battalion side, which filled many of our players with feelings of apprehension. The Paras were like a whirlwind and were one up in the first ten minutes, but **JSig 'Ginge' Heyworth** shot us back into contention with a superb half volley into the top left hand corner of the net.

After containing wave after wave of pressure from the Paras the Junior Regiment went ahead thanks to a fine effort from **JSig 'Dave' Davidson** with only eight minutes of the 1st half remaining. After the interval we lost skipper **JSig 'Chalkie' White** and despite some fine work from keeper **JSig Larry Laurillard** and **JSigs Jasper Reynolds** and **Eddie John** the Paras drew level. The next half hour saw the Junior Regiment at their best and **JSig 'Ginge' Heyworth** got his second goal after converting a penalty. Then with **JSigs 'Moz' Morris** and **'Scouse' Hale** chewing away non stop at the Para defence and **JSig 'Caz' Caswell** coming up well from the back, **JSig Dave Davidson** put the match beyond doubt with a superbly taken goal after a fine run and cross from **JSig 'Robbo' Robinson.** In all it was a fine display by both teams and a credit to Army Junior Football.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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

REGIMENTAL PATROL COMPETITION . .

Thursday the 30 and Friday 31 October saw a large part of the Regiment taking part in the Patrol Competition. No less than nineteen ten man teams took part, including one guest team from 8th US Infantry Division HQ and HQ Coy from Bad Kreuznach. The competition was split into four main parts. All teams started with a formal inspection prior to leaving barracks. Part two was a hard and fast march around a series of six test stands. The tests included NBC, First Aid Recognition, Map Reading and the provision of a Bridge Demolition Guard. This was a most exacting part of the competition and finished at last light with all teams moving to Squadron concentration areas.

The third phase was a tactical problem which involved a close recce of an enemy camp and in most cases anti-ambush drills. This phase closed at first light on Friday 31 Oct.

WO2 (SSM) Jim Willock and Cpl Jones of 1 Sqn deal with a casualty at the First Aid Stand

Another casualty, this time at the NBC Stand

The result of the competition rested on the 'march and shoot' stage on the final morning—8km in 1½ hours with full kit followed by a battle simulated 'Britannia' shoot. **SSgt Hudson's** team from Task Force Alpha were always looking good and they got through the shooting without mishap to secure 1st place.

Two teams looked to be in contention for 2nd place—**SSgt Sutherland's** team from 2 Sqn and **2LT Rowley's** team from 3 Sqn—but the linemen from 3 Sqn faltered at the last hurdle and slipped to 5th place, while the 2 Sqn team shot well to come 2nd. With a late challenge, **Capt Campbell's** team of mixed cap badges from 3 Sqn came bounding into 3rd place.

CROSS COUNTRY

A brief look now on the sporting scene. On Friday, 14 November the Divisional Cross Country championships were held in Celle. The Regimental team stormed home to an easy victory over our nearest rivals 1 R Anglian, beating them by some eighty points. The team results were as follows:

1st	**Sig Little**
2nd	**SSgt Holden BEM** (Also 1st veteran)
4th	**LCpl Bailey**
5th	**LCpl Talbot**
6th	**Sig Martin**
7th	**Sgt Probin**
11th	**SSgt (FoS) Turvey**
15th	**Sig Kelly**
16th	**Capt Rescorle**
46th	**LCpl Sykes**

The team continue to go from strength to strength and is a direct reflection of the immense amount of hard work that goes into attaining and maintaining this high level of competitive fitness. As this is being written the BAOR finals are only a few days away. We wish the team the best of luck.

STOP PRESS

Winners BAOR Cross Country Championships—1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. For a full report, see the next edition.

BOXING

The Inter-Squadron Novices Boxing Competition took place in the Gymnasium on 20 and 21 November. The preliminary bouts saw some plucky and courageous performances with the eventual outcome that Task Force Bravo Signal Squadron went into the finals in an almost unbeatable position. That did not, however, detract from the excitement of the evening which saw some outstanding displays. Task Force Bravo maintained their strong position to emerge as winners and to receive the trophy which was presented by the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Carr-Smith.**

The victorious TF B Sig Sqn Novices Boxing Team

FOCUS ON 3 SQN

OC	**Maj R. F. Baly R Signals**
AO	**Capt F. M. Campbell R Signals**
OC B Tp	**Capt T. P. Rimell R Signals**
OC Echo Tp	**Capt R. Blum R Signals**
OC Line Tp	**2Lt J. Rowley R Signals**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. Russell**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) K. Underwood BEM**
SQMS	**SSgt G. Holden BEM**

THE UNPREDICTABLE

Early in the planning stages, Line Troop volunteered to take their Troop Camp later in the year than Echo, Bravo and TM Troop, who took theirs in May. By doing this it would not only help the Squadron in providing duty personnel, but the weather would most likely be warmer in July and better for canoeing and camping. How wrong they were! The weather in May was perfect; while the heavy July rain had swollen the Mosel, making it very fast flowing, and all the camp sites were sodden. So much for **Sgt 'Ginge' Doak's** careful planning!

THE MONSOONS

Undaunted, Line Troop established their camp in the swamps round Bernkastel. The monsoons continued unabated so there was nothing to do except take to the water. While the instructors—**Sgt Tony Crilly** and **LCpl Szabo**—inspected the raging Mosel, Line Troop looked on in horror. Fortunately, near the camp site there was a harbour, and this turned out to be ideal for learning the basic techniques and safety drills. After a couple of days in the harbour, the intrepid canoeists ventured into the main stream and soon found themselves several kms down river with a long walk back. Eventually a small tributary to the Mosel was found, which although not without its dangers, provided a slightly safer home for Line Troop canoeing!

Other activities attempted during the camp were: volleyball, water-skiing, football, visits and, occasionally, tasting some of the local Bernkastel produce. Two interesting games of football took place; one at Hahn against the USAAF base and one against a touring Belgian side. **Sig 'Hargy' Hargreaves** masterminded both matches and, of course, Line Troop won both, otherwise the games would not be mentioned here!

As a result of the match against the Belgians, Line Troop were invited back to Belgium for a return match in November. Line Troop won again; and also captured the fair play trophy to boot.

Line Troop in more usual surroundings
Back row: LCpl Vorus, Sig Boardman, LCpl Jennings, Sig Firth, LCpl Bascombe, LCpl Hargreaves, Sig O'Brien, LCpl Higson, LCpl Pickles, LCpl Cowan, Sig Fryer, Sig Brown, Sig Adams, Sig Lowe, Sig Brown. Front row: Cpl Duffy, Cpl Horton, Cpl Waterston, Sgt Doak, 2Lt Rowley, Sgt Robinson, Cpl Wilkinson, Cpl Taylor

EX 'AUTUMN LEAVES'

The 'Moratorium' is upon us, which basically put the mockers on our Regimental Exercise. However, a great deal of value was obtained from the Exercise despite the financial climate. The week started with an Active Edge call in and for the remainder of Monday and Tuesday an internal ORTT carried out checks and inspections around the Squadrons having an 'in house' look. This was followed by the Regiment 'Plugging Up' on the main square. The work was rounded off by two days ARU type tasks in preparation for our own report early next year. Who needs petrol anyway!

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

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 14 November the command of 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt changed hands. **Lt Col Tony Willcox** is pictured handing over the much coveted Morrison Cup for athletics along with the following RHQ personalities: **Lt Liz Lemonde** the Assistant Adjutant, **WO1 Clive Mason** the Superintending Clerk and **WO1 (RSM) Vic Zimmer.** The new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Sam Cowan,** has just left a post on the directing staff at the Staff College Camberley.

The Commanding Officer travels to the Mess with his officers for his farewell dinner. The eleven-seater bicycle is suitably equipped with headlights, indicators, 5 gears, a cassette system and a beer-rack

Keep your unit notes **SHORT!**

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

The handing over ceremony came at the end of a very hectic period for the departing Commanding Officer. High spirited farewell evenings involved rides on an eleven-seater bicycle and a forklift truck. He even had to judge a cooking competition, tasting delicious morsels of rabbit cooked in mess tins over tiny burners! The same unfortunate creatures that the RSM, wicked grin on face, used to produce feminine screams in the corridors of RHQ!

Lt Col Willcox finally rode out of the camp gates on a magnificent horse borrowed from the Life Guards at Detmold and accompanied by the plaintive sounds of a Royal Scots Dragoon Guard Piper. The Regiment wish him and **Gwenda** good luck and every happiness for their tour at Shrivenham.

OUR NEW GOC

On 3 Nov, the new GOC 3 Armd Div **Maj Gen J. N. S. Arthur** arrived at St Sebastian Bks to take up his appointment. He was met by the CO, **Lt Col F. R. Maynard** and a Quarter Guard commanded by **SSgt (SQMS) Holmes.**

The GOC inspecting the guard

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 INTER SQN COMPETITION

The second half of the Inter Sqn Competition is now drawing to a close with just two events to go. Overall 1 Sqn has been able to dominate the competition. 2 Sqn had a very good win in the 7s Rugby winning both the A and B League without losing any matches. However the winds had changed the next day in the Soccer. HQ Sqn put on a fine display winning the competition.

EX 'SKILFUL SOLDIER'

Ex *Skilful Soldier*, designed by our own Infanteer, **Maj Peter Chisholm,** was divided into two phases—Ex *Market Garden* a military skills competition and a March and Shoot. Here 1 Sqn showed their dominance winning both events.

Lt Mike Tucker commander, Sgt John Cadwallader driving with Sig Mark Brown and Scouse Anwyll both who are now qualified drivers

Fire Control Orders. Cpl Dusty Miller being briefed by WO2 (Geoff) Harmer. Awaiting orders L to R LCpl Gary Cronin, Sig 'Bamba' Saunders and LCpl 'Spud' Taylor

The March and Shoot Team

Lt Col Roy Maynard presenting the winners trophy to LCpl (Bob) Pullan

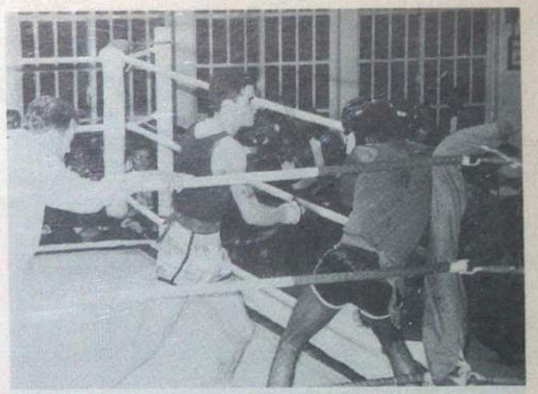
NOVICE BOXING COMPETITION

A most successful contest was held in November, between all the Sqns, who competed at Novice level. All the Sqns managed to fill all the weights from Bantam up to Heavy. The quarter finals saw some exciting aggressive boxing and ended with 2 Sqn and 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn well up the points list. The semi-finals brought the crowds in, and again tension mounted as skilful footwork and solid punching lasted throughout the afternoon.

SUPERB EVENING'S BOXING

The finals in Salamanca Barracks Gymnasium took place before a gathering of some 600 all ranks, with the usual ceremonial proceedings. The first bout (Bantam) started the evening well with **Sig Deary** (2 Sqn) proving too strong for **LCpl Wright** (1 Sqn) and the bout was stopped short in **Deary's** favour. The Featherweight was also a short bout with **Sig Thomas** (2 Sqn) doling out some hard punishment to **Sig Turner** 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn, and stopped short in **Thomas's** favour. The Lightweight contest continued to the last round when **Sig Carthy** (2 Sqn) proving too strong for **Cpl Harris** 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn, who failed to meet the second count. The Lightwelter bout saw a stronger **Sig Lacy** 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn attacking all the way to a stubbon defence by **Sig Jordan** (2 Sqn). The points majority was in favour of **Lacy.** After the interval the Welterweight contest had **Sig Messenger** (202 (33 Armd Bde) Sqn) and **Sig Shirley** (1 Sqn) fight each other almost to a standstill. it was a very close decision in favour of **Shirley.** The Lightmiddle bout revealed the skill and fitness of **Dvr Bowering** (HQ Sqn MT), who was in-all faster, stronger and more aggressive than **Sig Lowe** (2 Sqn). **Bowering** put **Lowe** against the ropes several times with little retaliation. A unanimous points decision gave **Bowering** the bout. **LCpl Christou** (HQ Sqn LAD) entered the Middle-weight bout somewhat fresher than **Sig McLaughlin** (2nd Sqn), by obtaining a bye and a walkover through injury. However both boxers gave their best and some strong punching was in evidence. A majority points decision gave **McLaughlin** the bout. The Light Heavy contest was perhaps the most applauded bout of the evening. **Lt Johns** (2 Sqn) versus **Sig Hocking** (HQ Sqn). Skill and aggression on both sides certainly was not lacking. Although **Hocking** won by a majority points decision, **Lt Johns** was awarded the best loser of the evening, a considerable feat after his Cup Rugby game that very afternoon. (the Regiment won). The Heavyweight bout, last of the evening, was short and perhaps not so sweet for **Sig Ffitch** 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sqn who although much taller, was not nearly so skilful as **Cpl Riding** 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn, who had little problem in knocking him down in the first round. At the end of a superb evening's boxing the outright winners of the competition were the 2 Sqn team, ably captained by **Sgt Pollard,** with a total of 20 points. The second place, with 14 points, was a tie between HQ Sqn and 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn. Fourth was 1 Sqn with 11 points. The awards were presented by the Commanding Officer.

Lt Johns (left) and Sig Hocking battling it out



Dvr Bowering trapping Sig Lowe in the corner

The CO presenting trophies to Sig Lacy (right) and Sig Jordan (left)

SHOOTING REPORT

The Regimental Inter Sqn Shooting Competition, with a little help from the **Training Major Peter Chisholm** and **Lt Ken Wilson,** was held in almost perfect conditions after several weeks of less clement weather. Some very good shooting was produced by all teams. The Divisional Headquarters team in the pistol event were quite untouchable once **Maj Wally Torrington** and **Maj John Mclennon** had got their eye in. The Divisional headquarters team beat all comers in the Falling Plate competition. The final result of the days competition was, 1st 1 Sqn, 2nd 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn, who also won the team trophies for the SLR and SMG, 3rd 2 Sqn.

TF Foxtrot winners of the SLR and SMG team events and overall 2nd, back left to right, LCpl Drain, Sig Golton, Sig Gannon, LCpl Coatsworth, LCpl Scott, Cpl Peat, Cpl Ackerley, SSgt Walton. Front left to right: SSgt Massam, Cpl Hall, Cpl Wooff, LCpl Rutland, Sig Willimont and Sig Newman

Sgt Dick Wittingham receiving the winning Sqn trophy from the CO

HIGH LEVEL TREKKING IN BAVARIA

No it's not true that SQMS, 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn **SSgt Bob Rylance,** always has his head in the clouds, but whenever he gets fed up with counting socks, he gets away from it all by climbing mountains. Recently, ably assisted by **Cpl Chris Wooff,** he organised a week of high level trekking in Bavaria taking eight other members of the Sqn with him, his report is as follows:

THE FELLOWSHIP OF 206 (6 ARMD BDE) SQN
Report by SSgt (SQMS) Bob Rylance

It came to pass that in the days of the Octoberfest a Fellowship was chosen, to journey into the land of the Misty Mountains of the Southern Alps, their quest to climb the dark mountains called Zugspitz (2,996m) and Karwendelgeberge (2,980m).

So it was written that on the fourth day of October the fellowship did depart the land of Soest and went forth unto the Misty Mountains. It was late that same day that the fellowship did arrive at the foot of the dark mountain called Zugspitz and here in the little town of Hammersbuck they didst make their base camp, then they did visit the local tavern, to eat and drink their fill and as the evening mists gave way to a million stars, they talked of many things, of the dark mountain and her shadowy secrets and of the local grog called Lowenbrau, and all was peace and contentment on that first day.

On the second day the fellowship did strike camp and had started on the slow trek through the ancient village of Hammersbuck long before the sun had risen. **Cpl Boromir Riding** was chosen to navigate the first leg of the route and set about his task with much enthusiasm. Soon a pace was set that all could keep and by late morning, with the sun high in the southern sky, the fellowship had been swallowed deep into the revines of the dark mountains.

Passing through the ice caves and over the many footbridges that spanned the deep crevasses, they presently came upon the lonly outpost of Holmklan. It was here that **Cpls Pippin Rutland, Legolas Sheehan** and **Candolf Mabbott** astonished the few hardy locals of the Inn by producing from their bergens the many wonders of the 24 hr ration pack, whilst **SSgt Frodo Rylance, Cpls Strider Wooff** and **Merry Laybourn** decided the local grog Lowenbrau was needed to refresh the parts other drinks cannot reach.

They tarried not long and soon were moving deep into the desolate wastes of the mountain. Presently they were confronted by a massive buttress over two hundred feet high, a silent sentinel guarding the upper lands from the grass lands below. The only way up a steel ladder that disappeared into the mists above. It was here that a silence descended upon the fellowship, for none wanted to lead the way, then **Sig Sam Wurze Newman** shouted 'Forward the gluwein awaits us' and rapidly ascended the ladder, followed in hot pursuit by the remainder of the fellowship.

Presently, the party walked out onto the upper slopes of the Zugspitz, a most desolate place. By now the sun was a pale pearl in the west and the shadows of the mountain were lengthening, creeping towards them. It was here the fellowship did make camp to wait for the sun to return.

The early morning brought clear blue skies and the summit of the dark mountain could be clearly seen, yet it was to take another five hours of hard climbing to reach it. The trek became harder and dangerously exposed in many places, but it could not daunt the fellowship and by early afternoon all sat in triumph on the summit.

In the fading light the fellowship made their way down to a little cabin cradled in a valley, on the southern slope, one thousand metres below the summit, where they negotiated a fair price for beds in the lager then each ate and drank his fill and slept restfully that night.

The following day the fellowship left the dark mountain far behind, their trek took them 30 km to the little village of Mittenwald situated at the base of the Karwendelgeberge and it was evening when they erected their camp. High over the mountains, the sky turned black and angry, rain clouds rolled over the lower peaks. The fellowship knew the weather was changing and that the rain in the valleys would mean snow higher up.

With an early morning start and in ceaseless rain the fellowship battled its way to the top of the Karwendelgeberge. At first through the rain, then as they gained altitude through snow. Stopping at the summit only long enough to drink the sacred grog gluwein, they quickly descended the the slopes past the Damkarhutte and once more into the village of Mittenwald. It was here **SSgt Frodo Rylance** and **Cpl Strider Wooff** made a command decision deciding that many lessons had been learnt, the navigation had improved and the survival techniques were better and so the quest was brought to an end.

Thanks to the hospitality of the American forces in Garmisch Partenkirchen, the fellowship spent a restful two days R and R in the General Abrahams Hotel before departing for the land of Soest and a return to reality once more.

FROM THE SCRAP BOOK

We welcome back **Sgt Paddy Goslyn** who has recently returned from a six month detachment in Zimbabwe. To his surprise, he arrived in Zimbabwe to find he was training recruits rather than being employed in a Signals role.

Sgt Goslyn with a section from a recruits cadre

Despite economy measures there are some forms of training which must continue. For 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn this means maintaining a pool of APC drivers.

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn were the overall winners of the inter sqn basketball both teams doing well in their leagues.

Maj Gerry Barrett the OC with the squad. Left to Right: back, Cpl Riding, WO2 (YofS) Wilkinson, the OC, Cpl Dunleavy, Pte Hewson, Sig Brown. Front, LCpl Coatsworth, SSgt Walton, LCpl Jones, WO2 (SSM) Dodson, Cpl Peat, SSgt Rylance and LCpl Drain

Sig Mike Williams of 1 Sqn has had an excellent athletics season. Second in the BAOR 400m he went on to represent the Army at Aldershot against Surrey and Hampshire and the BAOR team against the UK team. Not satisfied with that he represented the Army against the Navy and RAF and was in the winning 4 x 400m Combined Services team running against Middlesex, Wales and Southern Counties.

Sig Mike Williams receiving his Army colours from the CO

On a recent visit to HQ 6 Armd Bde the Corps Commander, **Lt Gen N. T. Bagnall CVO MC** joined the Sqn for lunch.

The Corps Commander with Maj Gerry Barrett, Pte Rick Saunders and LCpl Billy Messruther

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

FOUR NATIONS ON PARADE

British, Dutch and American troops joined 1200 German soliders at Nienburg at a parade to celebrate the Bundeswehr's 25th anniversary. **Oberst Baron v. der Recke,** Commander of the 3rd German Panzer Brigade, told the assembled troops that it was by the efforts of the NATO allies that peace had been maintained during the past 25 years. He warned, however, that this was not so throughout the world—and that the allies must remain vigilant.

The British contingent included sappers from the Nienburg-based 1st Armoured Division Engineer Regiment and troops of the 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment and Task Force Bravo of the 1st Armoured Division. The Netherlands and the United States were represented by German-based artillery units.

The parade ground was flanked impressively by the German brigade's Leopard tanks, Marder armoured vehicles and M-109 self-propelled guns.

Our detachment was commanded by **Lt Wayne Coupland** and comprised **SSgt (SQMS) Tony Freudenfeld, Cpls 'Butch' Bragg, 'Ronnie' Brent, 'Mic' Nicholson, LCpls 'Amon' Andrews, Jim Large, 'Bruce' Lee, 'Kieff' Meares** and **Sigs 'Nobby' Holohan, John Knighton, 'Albert' Lee, 'Dl' Rennison** and **'Wolfie' Wilson** (249).

Everyone worked hard under the direction of **SSgt Tony Freudenfeld** and were well rewarded on the day by their fine turnout and drill, not to mention the civic reception after the parade where the sekt flowed freely as did a very potent looking orange drink! This insight into our NATO comrades ended all too quickly as we had to return to Herford before our own overworked SQMS threatened to put in a chit for overtime.

Dutch, British, German and American troops on parade under the gun-muzzles of Leopard tanks at the ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the Bundeswehr at Nienburg

Oberst Baron v. der Recke and Burgomeister Folker Radtke of Nienburg inspect Dutch, British and German troops at the parade to celebrate the Bundeswehr's 25th anniversary

CANADIAN CAPERS

A Report by **Lt Col (QM) P. McNaughton** R Signals

I have always wondered how people got to write about faraway places and unusual jobs in the 'Wire Column', well now I've found out.

The CO, **Lt Col Bob Cook** received an invitation to visit the 4 CMBG at Lahr for their Annual Signals Conference which unfortunately for him happened at the same time as our own ARU. This is how I, as a Quartermaster, came to get an unusual job in Lahr, which is about as faraway as you can get in Germany without actually crossing into Switzerland or France. The Colonel helpfully suggested that I take a companion in the person of **Capt Carl Widdowson** who has the title of Families/PRI officer, an unusual partner for an unusual job. But the CO told me to take him along for a 'rest' as it would do him good. This 'rest' was to be a three day event 2 to 4 Dec 1980 and because my old Volvo may not have made it there and back we agreed to travel to Lahr in the Talbot Rancho belonging to **Capt Widdowson.** All the necessary arrangements were made with 4 CMBG.

Tues 2 Dec 1980 dawned grey, cold and miserable with the first flakes of snow gently falling, but off we set undaunted at 8.37 am. Before too long we realised that we were in for quite a day. A violent snow storm which was to last all of that day and half the night closed in on us. The driving snow freezing as it hit the car forcing us to stop at every second or third layby to defrost the windscreen and wipers. In the twelve and a half hours it took us to reach the Black Forest Officers Mess, I doubt if we reached a speed of above 60km per hour and more often than not battled on at 40km per hour or below while our German friends in their woofers sped carelessly on in the fast lane. Thus it was no surprise to see a succession of them in the wayside ditch. German civil cars were also travelling far too fast for the atrocious conditions and more than once we were alarmed by the spectacle of these cars waltzing to and fro across all three icy lanes fortunately not coming to much harm or damaging others, due more to luck than good judgement. I asked **Carl** if he was enjoying his first day of rest!

By 9pm we had arrived at the Black Forest Officers Mess only to find that the 4 CMBG Sig Sqn's 'Happy Hour' was still going on in the Squadron Block. Codene and Banks insisted that we put one 'into the bank' before we left, of course we obliged.

Maj Mike Johnson, WO Bert Haines and the others of 4 CMSG Sig Sqn gave us a hearty welcome by inviting us to have a drink and tuck into the lasagne that had been the meal a few hours previously: 'Try the far corner an dig deep it's still warm', was the comment from the OC, **Mike Johnson** who eventually took us home to his flat where his wife **Julie** gave us a good cup of tea and Canadian cookies. Finally at midnight we made it to bed and **Carl** at last was able to rest his weary eyes—peering through a windscreen and snowstorm for twelve hours is not the Families/PRI officer's usual daily routine.

On Wednesday the 3rd we slept late and had all day to ourselves this being the Canadian day when, as they put it, they washed out their dirty linen. The evening however was another social occasion and we attended a Cheese and Wine party in the Black Forest Mess—5 white, 4 red, plenty of cheese and excellent company what more can I say? The second day of **Carl's** rest?

The highlight of the visit was then upon us, International Day, Thursday the 4th. The theme for the day was 'Change of Command and Move of Div HQ'. The Canadians have recently formed a Div HQ & Sig Regt in Canada and they were asking their allies to show them how it was done so that, in their words, 'We can put it all together'. Once more we obliged.

Presentations were given by the French, German, British (well done **Maj Guy Meakin**) and American representatives and finally **Col Campbell** summed up on the way he would tackle it in his Div HQ & Sig Regt back in Canada.

Carl and I again went home with **Maj Mike Johnson** for tea and cake and it was an excellent opportunity for me to renew my acquaintance with the Johnson children **Tracy** and **Trevor** whom I had not seen since 1975 when **Mike** and I had served together in 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt.

Finally on the Thursday evening a Mess Dinner was held in the Black Forest Mess, we were sumptiously entertained until the 'wee sma hours', yes the hospitality was marvellous. Rest **Carl** you can go home tomorrow!

Friday was an anti-climax, we were home in just over seven hours in spite of the snow and ice everywhere. We would have made it in six if we hadn't run into another severe snowstorm outside Lemgo. We were reduced to a crawl and this put an hour on to our journey. The benefits from our trip were not technical but rather in the furtherance of the 4 CMBG/4 ADSR affiliation which we hope will now continue with many exchanges of officers and soldiers between the two units.

P.S. **Carl** did enjoy his rest!! He's volunteered to go again next year.

FAREWELL TO THE SHERIFF

A day at the end of Oct 1980. **Sgt Alan Thomas,** the Provost Sgt, was having a quiet beer with a few friends in the mess. The door to the bar burst open and in walked a gaggle of Deputies. (the RPC Regtl Police), 'we are looking for the Sheriff' they said. Espying him in the corner they arrested him, handcuffed him, put a star on his chest, a stetson on his head and escorted him from the Mess.

Outside the Mess awaiting his arrival was the RSM, with camera, and a four legged police vehicle, a 'horse'. The Sheriff was unceremoniously bundled on the horse, and paraded around the regiment. He was then ridden out of town. We would like to say a fond farewell to **Sgt Alan Thomas,** his wife **Ann** and son **Andrew** and wish them well in their new posting as 'Sheriff' at the J/Sig Regt at Ouston. We would also like to say welcome to **Sgt (Jamie) James,** his wife **Judy** and their family. **Sgt James** is posted to us on promotion, from 7 Sig Regt, as the new Sheriff.

High Noon at Hammersmith Barracks. Sgt Thomas casting his eyes around the barracks

Afternote: Many thanks to the Garrison Saddle Club and in particular Mrs Jackie Rothwell for the use of the horse. Jackie is seen in the photograph taken outside the Sergeants Mess watching the proceedings.

RHQ SWEAT SHOP

With the regiment battling its way through another ARU, the RHQ steeled themselves in preparation for the annual visit of the Unit Documentation Inspection Team. With three members of our staff assisting the regiment in the ARU our depleted staff prepared itself for the conflict to come. 'Fitness is the key word to success' said **WO1 (SC) John Roberts,** as he led his men on a series of stamina building runs (some managed to cover over a 100 yds by the end of the 2nd week of training). The Gym staff gave advice on how to strengthen the muscles of the right hand and 45 AEC gave lessons on how to write illegibly.

With four weeks to go preparations began, everyone was at a peak of physical fitness, (a clerk was even seen to run through the Orderly Room. His name will not be revealed to protect him from malicious gossip). The clerks worked late into the day, often as late as one o'clock (pm). Soon the docs Clerk **(Cpl Nicol)** announced that all was prepared. 'One final check' the boss said (for the fifth time). Pens scratched, rubbers erased, clerks 'sweated'. At last all was ready. 'The team were here'. Secluded away with our precious docs all that could be heard were the groans of men defeated by their task. After a mammoth session they emerged totally overawed. The clerks had won. The team wearily retreated back to that place from whence they emerged.

The following week the Team's report arrived, 'good, satisfactory', 'well above average'. 'Is that the best they can say', the clerks chorused. 'It's not what they have said, it's what they haven't said', said the boss. Blank expressions greeted this remark.

Success has not gone to our heads but we reluctantly had to turn down the Records Office request to run a Documentation Course for BAOR Clerks. We're far too busy advising other units on the real way to pass a Docs Inspection!

COMMISSIONING 'FOURTH IS FIRST'

We believe the regiment has just broken another record. Three of our WO1s have just been selected for commissioning. Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) Andy Keenan, WO1 (YofS) Stan Vannan** and **WO1 (FofS) John MacDonald.**

REGIMENTAL STOP PRESS—'VERY NEW ARRIVAL'

Congratulations to **SSgt (YofS) Lemmy Lomas** and **Mrs Iris Lomas** on the birth of their son **Martin** on 7 Dec 1980.

Now we know how he spends his time when not climbing mountains or canoeing.

A.R.U.

'2IC write an Exercise for this year's ARU' said the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bob Cook** to **Maj John Higton.** 'It is to cover three days, Day 1 everybody will do a BFT; Day 2, a military training exercise, Day 3 a Formal Inspection of the regiment by the Garrison Commander. The Garrison Commander will also spend a day in the field on day two watching the exercise.

The 2IC then set to work; each squadron would set up and run two stands, making eight in total. They would encompass practical tests on, NBC, first aid, weapon handling, range work, assault course, ambush, VCP and a written test on Soviet recognition, drill etc. Each squadron would also, depending on their strength, produce teams of 20 men to 'March the Course'. The squadrons were then left to prepare. In the following weeks there were many road runs, VCP's in barracks, weapons frequently in and out of Armouries for range work, weapon handling, ambush drills. In all the regiment was a hive of great activity.

DAY 1

The QMSI Muscles, **WO2 Pete Perrott** APTC and his men set up shop in a 9 x 9 outside the Barracks and for the rest of the day teams reported and completed their BFT, a very high rate of passes were obtained. Those who failed are now doing the 'Dreaded Remedial'.

DAY 2

The outline programme was as follows.

0415 Reveille
0445 Breakfast
0515 Draw weapons
0530 Onwards, enbus and out to the Exercise Area.

The Exercise began at 0830 in the form of a team competition. A special mention must be made here of all the non participants who the previous day had gone out to the Exercise Area.

THE RANGE

Not the best of conditions to get an accurate score with our LMG, but another team from 2 Squadron attempt to notch up more points. **SSgt Tony Fill** RPC is the Ring Master and **Sgt Ian McNaughton** in the background watches warily.

THE ASSAULT COURSE

Two logs, between 17 and 20 men, lots of snow, the last round is a cissy. Even in the very slippery conditions the times were good. The winning team is shown demonstrating how it should be done. In the foreground catching?? the log, **LCpl Mears,** holding the back end **Cpl Wandless,** and just about to assist **Sig Arnold.** In the background leaving the 10 ft wooden wall, carrying log No 2 is **Sig Stringer, Cpl Kirkham** and **SSgt Daisey.**

The remainder of the team were:
Lt Coupland Team Fuhrer
Cpl Brent
Cpl Murray
Cpl Lord
Cpl Trivett
Cpl Walker
LCpl Hughes
Sig Bowers
Sig Shelly
Sig Wilson
All of 1 Squadron.

We the writers of this article thought that this unique photo must be entered. The photo is of 'Line Troop' not all of them just their team. They are from left to right,

Standing: LCpl Thompson, Cpl Hitchin, Sig Patterson, 2Lt Westerman OC Troop, Sig Pierson, Sig Watts, LCpl Seely, Cpl Woodcock

Kneeling: Cpl Corsar, Cpl Cox, Cpl Bartlett, LCpl Hadland, Sgt Kerr Tp Sgt, Sig Jones, LCpl Parker.

They set up in appalling weather conditions and remained in the field for the night to ensure all was ready for an early start.

At 0830 hrs teams had been dropped off at their 1st stand and away they went. Each team was to complete a stand, march to the next, and so on until all eight were completed. The Competition was run on a timed basis, and there was loss of points for being over time.

The following is a brief pictorial run down of the Exercise.

A 2 Sqn team arriving at the NCB stand. They are **Sig's Turner, James** and **Stokes. SSgt Davies** 3 Sqn. DS on the stand is seen in the background. The weather conditions are self evident.

More of the NBC stand. In the bottom left corner **WO2 (SSm) Paul Glover** is quizzed by the Garrison Commander **Col W. E. Winder** CRA 4 Armoured Div. In the foreground **SSgt Davies** watches a casualty being attended to. Slightly to the right and in the background is the CO in Combat Jacket, behind the bush **Maj Hugh Stott** RA, the DQ at Garrison HQ. To the left is **Lt John Terrington** our Div Recce and Ops officer, and to his left is **SSgt Vic Shuttleworth,** another DS.

The First Aid stand. Scenery land rover and trailer is blown up by a land mine, a clearing patrol hear the explosion and go to investigate.

They are to arrive tactically and assist the wounded. Our picture shows **Lt Mike Baddick** ACC our SCO leading a HQ Squadron team through the stand. **LCpl 'Willy' Williams** is kneeling attending the wounded. We must at this point say a big thank you to the boys of Field Ambulance for their expert assistance.

The final result of the Competition was:
Winning Team 'B' Troop 3 Sqn
Winning Squadron 1 Sqn.

DAY 3

Was a formal walk round the barracks by the Inspecting Officer and his team. **Col Winder** spent a long time asking the 'boys' all kinds of questions about their work, welfare, social life: The difference between a WO2, YOS, RQMS, were explained to him, he still looks a little puzzled. The final two events of the whole three days were drinks in the Sergeants Mess, followed by lunch in the Officers Mess. The Regiment was praised on all counts by the Inspecting Officer, for a good year, a well written and planned ARU.

Goodbye A.R.U. until next year!!

TASK FORCE GOLF SIGNAL SQUADRON

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Howard Culley**
2IC	**Capt Hugh Bardell**
Admin Offr	**Lt Mike Complin**
OC Battleaxe	**Lt Graham McNeill**
SSM	**WO2 Jim Coffey**
YofS	**WO2 Bob Wright**
Asst Admin Offr	**SSgt Ron Smith**
SQMS	**SSgt George Cairns**
FofS	**SSgt Dave Edwards**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Bill Winder**

FAREWELL TO COMMANDER

The outgoing commander of Minden Garrison, **Brig A. K. F. Walker,** paid his farewell visit to the squadron on 24 Oct. After addressing the squadron and announcing that it was now official that we will become 11 Armd Bde Sig Sqn on 7 Jan 81, he was towed round the camp in a mockup of 9 Tango made by **Cpl Bob Gillespie** and the lads of the LAD before departing by helicopter to catch his flight to UK from Hanover Airport. He went, not with a bang, but in a cloud of smoke; orange in colour, of course.

PASS OFF PARADE

At the conclusion of a fairly arduous JNCOs cadre run by the squadron, the new Commander, **Brig G. J. Johnson,** took the salute at the pass off parade on 8 Nov and presented the LS & GC Medal to **Sgt Barry Evans,** our MT Sgt.

The Square was covered in ice and snow but the parade commander, **LCpl Geordie McAllister** and the Cadre never looked for a moment as if they might be about to fall apex over top. Despite the obvious desire of **Christopher Edwards,** the six year old son of our Foreman of Signals, to pelt the Brigadier and the Squadron Commander with snowballs the parade went well and was followed by a very welcome curry lunch for the squadron in the Green Scarf Club.

VISIT BY NEW COMMANDER

Three days later **Brig Johnson** paid his first official visit to the squadron on taking over as Commander Task Force Golf. After a presentation on the organisation and operation of the Squadron by the OC, **Maj Howard Culley,** and the 2IC, **Capt Hugh Bardell,** he inspected the vehicles on the square. All went well until he came to his caravanette. The Brigadier, who is not a small man, asked **Dvr 'Griff' Griffin** RCT to set up the bed and then proceeded to try it for size. After extracting himself, not without a little difficulty, the Commander turned to the OC and said: 'Either cut a hole in the windscreen for my feet or get it into the Station Workshops and get it modified'.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

1980 has been another successful year for the Squadron. Although few in numbers, we still manage to field teams in most major sports. Some of these highlights were:

CROSS COUNTRY/ORIENTEERING

Under the close supervision of **SSgt (FofS) Bill Duncan** and **Lt Mike Complin** the teams climax of the season was to win the Divisional Minor Units Cross Country League Competition. Unfortunately the team have lost their old retainer **Bill Duncan** on posting and promotion to 22 Sig Regt (Our loss, their gain).

SOCCER

Although a greatly changed side since last year the team managed to win the highly coveted 'Inter Task Force Signal Squadron Cup'.

ANGLING

Congratulations are due to the second team who, to the embarrassment of the first team, won the Regimental Inter Squadron Trophy.

ATHLETICS

Our star of the year has been **Cpl Micky Morgan** (REME) who retained his BAOR and Army Champion status in the hurdles.

RUGBY

Although again no major/minor honours the team continue to give a good account of themselves. Sadly we lose the driving force of **Sgt Paul Crook,** on posting in the New Year to Dover for his last six months service.

HOCKEY

Going from strength to strength the team seem to be one to look out for next season. You have been warned!

SAILING

This year's sailing exercise took place in the Baltic waters bounded by Kiel, Copenhagen, Skargen and Kristiandsands. The yacht we chartered is the Royal Signals boat *Petasus*, a 32 foot sloop with 6 berths, which with the crew changes at Copenhagen and AArhus, enabled 15 soldiers to go offshore sailing.

'Serene I fold my hands and wait,
nor dare for wind, nor tide, nor sea
I rave no more against tide or fate
for lo my own shall come to me'
John Burrows 'Waiting'

The first crew joined the yacht at BKYC Kiel and their part in the exercise was to sail the boat to Copenhagen over a period of seven days, stopping at places of interest on route. We left BKYC on 24 Jul at 1330 hrs bound for Marstal. On this leg the crew learned the drills of tacking, gybing and man overboard. Once those tasks were learned, we settled down to a very good sail from Copenhagen to AArhus via Kristiandsands on the South Norwegian coast, over a period of 14 days. Once away from the City of Towers, the usual drills were practised and we made our way to Norway, the only port of call on the outward leg being Skargen on the most northern tip of Denmark. The trip across the Skaggerrack proved to be very interesting as we had to beat into a force 7 wave height of 25-30 feet.

After a pleasant stay in Kristiandsand we sailed back to Denmark with a very large flowing sea of some 30-35 feet waves. The ports of call on our route back to AArhus were Fredicksaaven, Anholt and Ebletoft. Once in AArhus our third crew joined us for the final part of the exercise back to Kiel. Over the final 7 days of the trip we visited Ebletoft, Kerteminde, Nyborg, Svendbourg, Farbourg and so back to BKYC. On 24 Aug we berthed having sailed 1,300 nautical miles in all conditions possible, by day and by night.

Offshore sailing is a very good way of spending the quiet months of July and August, however as any member of Task Force Golf Signal Squadron who took part in the exercise will tell you it's a demanding, tiring, exhilarating but very enjoyable way of spending a few days in Denmark.

'Believe me my friend there is nothing—
absolutely nothing half so much worth
doing as simply messing about in boats"
Kenneth Graham
'The Wind in The Willows'

A worrying moment at sea. LCpl Peper, LCpl Moore, SSgt Smith and LCpl McAllister

CONGRATULATIONS

To the OC and his wife **Caroline** on the birth of their son, **James Nicholas,** on the last day of Ex *Spearpoint*. Young **James** started off well by coming along and supporting the Squadron Soccer team voluably from the depths of his pram on his first day out of hospital.

POSITIVELY THE LAST WORD ON EXERCISE 'SPEARPOINT'

As their parting shot on the above subject, Task Force Golf Signal Squadron offered the following true story. Once or twice during the exercise the outgoing 2IC **Capt Mike Anderson** had occasion to visit the Cami-Casi. After one such visit he noticed, as he left, **Sig McGinn** standing waiting to use the same facility. Seconds later **Capt Anderson** heard screams of anguish and on turning round saw to his astonishment that the trusty thunderbox had completely collapsed with the unfortunate Signalman well and truly aboard.

Our cartoon completes the picture.

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

TWELVE COMMANDING OFFICERS HONOUR FRAU BROSE

'I started my life with the British Army as one of eleven million refugees. When I arrived from the East to work for them I met friends and they gave me responsibility.' 31 years later **Frau Ursula Brose** was not only invested with a British Empire Medal by our Ambassador at Bonn, **Sir Oliver Wright,** but also received — what was for her a unique present — a gold necklace paid for by her previous 12 commanding officers, all of whom commanded what is now 7 Signal Regiment.

Lt Col Story placing the necklace around Frau Brose's neck
The Bürgermeister of Herford Herr Dr Schrober looks on

Placing the necklace round her neck, the CO, **Lt Col Chris Story,** said that the gift was no more than a token of thanks for the immense service that **Frau Brose** had given to the Regiment as head of civil labour and unofficial German liaison officer to the town of Herford.

The town's Burgermeister, **Dr. Schober,** who attended the presentation celebrations, thanked her for all she had done for Anglo-German relations and said that the honour done to her was an honour to every citizen in Herford.

Frau Brose still writes to all 'her' commanding officers. They are **Maj Generals Bradley, Pentreath and Birtwistle, Brigadiers Clarkson, Sherratt, King and Oehlers, Colonels Johnson, Barnes, Davies and Topple and Lt Col Story.**

THE OLD

'If you opened both outside doors at the same time the air pressure blasted you out and the whole building started to sag'; said 7 Signal Regimental Officer **Malcolm Smart** describing the old airhall gymnasium at Maresfield Barracks, Herford. 'It finally split in half in a gale and we haven't had a gym for over a year.'

THUMBS UP FOR THE NEW

This is why the regiment has given a big thumb's up to the teamwork of the various agencies who managed to build a brand new physical recreation and training centre in just over a year — well within the planned completion time. And this was despite problems with the substructure which demanded the sinking of deeper foundations. Made out of pre-cast concrete and clad in facing brick with an internal timber lining, the six hundred thousand pound gym can be used for several different sports. Thanks to redesigned floor, the central area can now be divided up by special net partitions to form either four badminton courts or individual volleyball, tennis or basketball courts. Unlike the older gyms no longer will there be problems with court floor marker lines. These are now built into the Phenoloc resin impregnated chip block floor. Each sport has a different colour.

Maresfield Gym in all its glory

A man envied by other Physical Training Instructors—Sergeant Major Instructor Gordon Young APTC runs the new gym

THE FINAL LUXURY TO FOLLOW

Further improvements are the basketball nets which can be electrically lifted out of the way, air conditioning, and an advanced built-in fire alarm system. The sports facilities are complemented by those of the changing and wash rooms. The final luxury, yet to be installed, is going to be a sauna. But the regiment will have to pay for this!

POPULAR CONTRACTOR

The gym was built by the general contractors Firma Oevermann under the supervision of the PSA, the German equivalent — the Finanz Bauampt, and the project liaison officer **Lt Col Vivian Stephens.** The firm was determined to do the job on time, within the budget and without damaging the environment or inconveniencing the regiment. They succeeded so well that the Gym is still surrounded by mature trees and the relationship with the Royal Signals is such that the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Chris Story** organised a special lunch on completion of the project to thank all for their co-operation.

OPENED BY GOC

The Maresfield Gymnasium was opened by **Maj Gen John Akehurst** General Officer Commanding 4th Armoured Division. The new facility will do much to help 7th Signal Regiment, already known for its rugby and hockey, to make their mark in indoor sports.

NEW SQUASH COURT COMMISSIONED

Quality of life is improving in Maresfield Barracks. A new gymnasium opening in November and a new Squash Court just opened. It was decided to commission the new court with a game between a Sergeants Mess five and the Officers Mess. The opening game was between the commanding Officer, **Lt Col Chris Story** and the **WO1 (RSM) Ron Collins.** Each point was hard fought with the RSM running out the eventual winner 3—0. After this opening game some pretty exciting squash ensued. Especially worthy of note being the game between **WO1 (ASM) John Reynolds** (REME) and **Maj (QM) Brian Cleaver** 3 games to 2 to the ASM, winning the last game 10—9. The Sergeants Mess were the eventual winners 4 games to 1. No trophy yet, but we are still hopeful!

Other results were:-

WO2 Billy Hunt (SSM 3 SQN) beat **Maj Jonathan Lowe** (Ops Officer) 3—1; **Sgt Williams** beat **Maj Roy Shiner** (2i/c) 3—0 and finally **SSgt Stu McDougal** (REME) lost 3—0 to **Maj Mike McCann** (ex 2i/c).

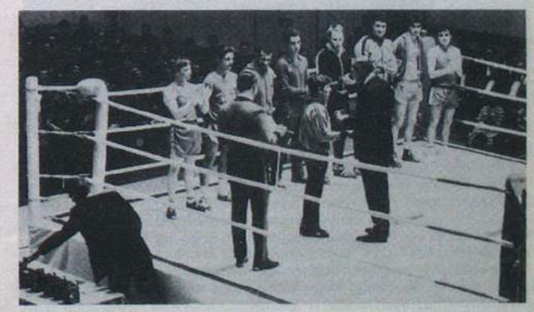
RSM does a little 'curtsy' for the CO

A SPORTING HIGHLIGHT

13 November (unlucky for some) saw the finals of the Regimental inter squadron novice boxing competition. One of the sporting highlights of the year, this event promised to be well worth watching. Although the evening was cold the temperature inside the gymnasium was running high with the whole atmosphere electrified. The RSM stepped inside the ring and in true Albert Hall fashion announced the evening's entertainment. Competition was keen, with the boxers showing true guts and determination in all the bouts: two outstanding bouts are certainly worth a mention, bout No5 the Welterweight contest between **Sgt McKay** RAPC and **Sig Williams** of 5 Squadron. The other being the special demonstration bout between **Sig Purslow** 5 Squadron and **Sig Kevins** of 4 Squadron.

The Welterweight bout was a true battle with both boxers showing courage and skill the whole time. At last the bell rang in the final round bringing to an end a most exciting bout with both boxers being congratulated by the referee.

The special demonstration bout proved to be extremely skilful to watch, with **Sig Kevins** boxing **Sig Purslow** for three rounds. Again both boxers were congratulated, bringing the evening to a successful close.



LCpl Vella receiving the winners tankard from the CO. Left to Right: Sig Kevins, Sig Nash, Cpl Carmagnole, Sig Barr, Sig Nobbs, LCpl Ward, Sig Williams, Sgt McKay

TEN-PIN BOWLING

The team, in its present form, has been bowling together for the past 16 months. From very modest beginnings it has progressed to achieving some very notable results. This has, in no small way, been due to the backing given by the Regiment enabling us to compete in all the major army ten-pin bowling competitions. Combining this with the sponsorship we have received from **McRae** group the team is now shaping nicely.

TO BE RECKONED WITH

The drive of our captain **Cpl John Rolls** and the ambition and dedication of all team members has made us a team to be reckoned with. Our first result of any note was achieving 3rd place in the Bielefeld Services League last year and this provided the necessary boost to our ambitions. Since then the team has distinguished itself both individually and as a team. In April this year **Sgt Mal Boor** and **Cpl John Rolls** came a creditable fifth in the doubles at the Army Championships in UK out of a total of 196 entrants. In the BAOR competition two months later **Sgts Les Bennett** and **John Roberts** went one better. Our major successes came in July at the Royal Signals tournament **Sgt Boor & Cpl Rolls** achieved 3rd place in the doubles and **Sgts Bennett & Roberts** bowled the highest doubles game, **Cpl Gus Hales** bowled the highest three game series of the whole championship and overall in the masters tournament **Sgt Roberts** was beaten in 2nd place by the narrowest of margins with **Sgt Willy Craig** 4th, **Sgt Ben Nelson** 7th and **Sgt Mal Boor** 8th.

RECENT SUCCESS

Our most recent success has been winning the Bielefeld Services League in both the Scratch & Handicap sections. We are now looking confidently forward to next year's major tournaments, particularly as our newly joined member **Sgt Willy Craig** is in the top class of Army Bowling.

The Alleycatz
7 Signal Regiment Bowling Team with the seasons trophies
Left to right: Cpl Gus Hales, Sgt John Roberts CO, Cpl John Rolls RSM, Cpl Dave Higgins, Sgt Wully Craig, Sgt John Bennett, absent on leave—Sgt Mal Boor

INTER SQUADRON COMPETITION

The second annual Inter Squadron ten-pin bowling competition was held at the Elite bowling centre in Bielefeld on 6 October 1980. Each Squadron entered 3 teams and 15 individuals. The day started at 0945 hrs with the individual competition and proceeded throughout the day with the team events in the afternoon. Prize giving by **Mrs C. E. R. Story** at 1830 hrs.

The champion squadron cup was won by 5 squadron and the Master Bowler was **Sgt W. Craig.** Many other prizes were awarded due to the generosity of the sponsors.

A second competition was started this year for the CO's 5 and a subalterns 5. Much to the chagrin of the subalterns, who boasted a mispent youth, the CO's 5 won convincingly.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS

This annual international event is held between European Corps Signal Regiments with ourselves, the Germans, Belgians and French entering teams. The past two years have been hosted by the Germans in Koln and the French in Trier, this year it was our turn. Nations enter teams of 30 competitiors in representative ranks over a circuit of about 5 kms. Monday 10 November dawned with a blinding blizard and sub zero temperatures, not really cross country weather. Spirits were high and competition keen as the starter set off the runners over a hilly and snowbound course.

Runners jockeyed for position and soon the field spread out behind the lead man. At the finish **LCpl Steven Needs** came home first closely followed by **Capt David Chipp** RE and **Sig Billy Butler** 3 Squadron.

The final result was:
1st France
2nd 7 Signal Regiment
3rd Belgium
4th Germany

The evening took the form of a social occasion with British hospitality being afforded to the teams. A most enjoyable days sport.

LCpl Steven Needs receives winner's prize from Mrs Story, wife of CO 7 Signal Regiment

1980 TENNIS REPORT

We are not known as a 'tennis regiment' but we do have three good tennis courts and a number of enthusiastic players. A report appeared in the July edition of the Wire of the R Signals BAOR Tennis tournament held at Maresfield Barracks in May. Following those championships several individuals did well in the Garrison tournament. **Sig 'knobby' Robbins** reached the semi final of the singles and **Sgt Bruce McKay** and **LCpl Sanjai Sharma** (both RAPC) were beaten in the semi finals of the doubles. During the light evenings of late May and early June the Regimental team practised for the 1st round of the Army Cup against 4 Armd Wksps REME. This proved to be a rather easy match and in the next round the Regiment formed up against 39 Fd Regt RA. This was a much tougher match but the team played well to win comfortably and move into the 4 Armd Div final against HQ 4 Armd Div. This proved to be an excitingly close match held in the heat of an early September afternoon. The regimental team formed up with **Maj Jonathan Lowe** and **Capt Jim Evans** together, **WO1 (YofS) Colin McLoughlin** playing with **Sig Knobby Robbins** and the Pay Corps providing the third pair in **Sgt Bruce McKay** and **LCpl Sanjai Sharma.** HQ 4 Armd Div produced a team of some experience with the lowest rank being a Major!

The regimental team started slowly, **Maj Lowe** and **Capt Evans** playing the HQ 4 Armd Div first pair lost the first set and had to struggle to win the second. At this stage the match was suspended in order not to keep the other players waiting and in the hope that a result could be obtained without it. In the other two matches in the first round the score was 1—1. In the next the regiment won 1 and lost 2 but reversed this in the 3rd round leaving the score even at 4—4 with the one match from the 1st round outstanding.

DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

So at 6pm after a strenuous four hours of tennis already played **Maj Lowe** and **Capt Evans** returned to the court to finish the match against **Majs Newby** and **Jarman** of HQ 4 Armd Div. This was a thrilling climax to the afternoon and a very even 3rd set. Eventually the regimental pair came through to win the set 7—5 in just over an hour and 7 Signal Regiment became the 4 Armd Div champions.

ARMY CHAMPIONS TOO STRONG

Unfortunately in the next round of the competition, the regiment had to travel to Rheindahlen to take on the strength of HQ BAOR. In a good afternoon's tennis the regiment went down 7 matches to 2 to the team which have now become the Army Champions we were, once again, rather outranked as the C in C BAOR, **Gen Sir William Scotter** played. The score sheets for the teams matches are:-

v 4 Armd Wksps REME	won 8½-½
v 39 Fd Regt RA	won 6½-2½
v HQ 4 Armd Div	won 5-4 (4 Armd Div Champions)
v HQ BAOR	2-7

In addition to those named **Maj John Heath** Royal Australian Signals has represented the regiment. **Cfn Cowen** REME has stood by as a faithful reserve and did well himself in the REME BAOR Championships. **Capt Jim Evans** represented 4 Armd Div and BAOR and was awarded his divisional Colours.

BEM PRESENTATION

WO2 Ray Cardwell receiving his BEM from His Excellency the British ambassador in Bonn. Our congratulations go to him for this well deserved award.

Ray, a popular and hardworking member of the Regiment looks after the Regimental Football and Boxing Teams. In his spare time he runs the Garrison Bingo which has so far donated over £4500 to cancer research.

A WEIGHT OFF HIS MIND

Lt Col Ed Mulley looks gratified as **Lt Col David Dudley** signs 'on the dotted line', when Command of the Trade Training School changed hands on 29 August 1980.

VERY CREDITABLE RESULTS IN NE DIST COMPETITIONS

Over the period 17 October 1980 to 19 October 1980 HQ NE Dist sponsored a District march and shoot competition designed to test teams at sub-unit level under competitive conditions in fitness, basic military knowledge and shooting skills. Two competitions were organised, Ex *Maiden Scurry* for the women's forces and Ex *Stainton Chase* for the remaining forces with both competitions including Regular and TA units.

The Regt entered four male teams and one WRAC team. All the teams spent a considerable amount of their own time before the competition practising the skills required and this proved to be of benefit on the day. The Regiment's placings in *Stainton Chase* out of a total of 75 teams were: 3 Sqn 8th, 1 Sqn 12th, HQ Sqn 19th and 2 Sqn 42nd.

The WRAC team are to be congratulated on coming 2nd and on winning the best regular team trophy in the *Maiden Scurry* competition. On 7 November the Deputy Commander NE Dist **Brig C. D. H. Wilson** presented the regular team trophy in the Trade Training School.

Left to Right: Team Capt 2Lt Penny Smith, Deputy Commander NE District Brig C. D. H. Wilson, Adjt Capt Ian Noble, and LCpl Cath Watt who is a clerk in RHQ

INTER SQUADRON BOXING

On the 29 October 1980 the Inter Squadron Boxing took place with the 3 training squadrons participating with great enthusiasm and producing a very high standard of boxing. The bouts were well fought with the verdicts being majority decisions in many cases and from the final bout 3 Sqn emerged the victors. They were presented with the Fighting Cocks Trophy by the Second in Command **Lt Col Peter MacGillivray** and **Sig Taff Jones** of 3 Sqn was presented with the most promising boxer trophy.

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

COMMANDER VISITS

The Regiment welcomed **Brig J. P. Hart OBE,** Commander 2 Signal Group during november 1980 as Inspecting Officer. Throughout the month, at various intervals, the Commander visited RHQ, HQ and 2 Sqn based at Hounslow, 3 Sqn at Aldershot and 1 Sqn at Wilton and some of the many COMMCENS and Exchanges widely dispersed over the whole of Southern England which provide an ever increasing service to subscribers serving in the many formation HQs and units. The visit was a success and the Commander took the opportunity of meeting both military and civilian staff from all elements of the Regimental organisation in their working environment.

Brig Hart inspecting the Quarter Guard

Brig Hart inspecting Radio Troop accompanied by OC 2 Sqn Maj L. G. Fraser and Capt Dianne McVicker WRAAC

Brig Hart presenting the LS & GC Medal to Cpl (Dutch) Hollands

Brig Hart presenting the LS & GC Medal to Sgt Joe Bevan

BATTLE CAMP

This year the Regimental battle camp named Exercise *Evergreen* took place on Dartmoor. This was the first time that our male and female soldiers trained together and undoubtedly the experiment was a success. The weather was, to say the least, unkind and gusting winds bringing drenching rain alternated with thick fog. However, in spite of the adverse conditions everyone managed to complete the programme in good heart. A number of individual exercises were incorporated into the programme and a few of the lighter moments deserve a mention.

WELL CLAD

At the start of the camp all participants received a briefing which covered how to survive in cold climates and a certain WRAC private of 1 Squdron evidently took this to heart. On Exercise *Molars March* she was observed to be perspiring heavily as he made her way to a check point on top of one of the many Tors for which Dartmoor is famous. On further investigation it was revealed that she was wearing the following layers of clothing; an anorak, a combat jacket, a padded combat liner, a track suit top, a jersey heavy wool, three civilian pullovers, a thick shirt and . . .? At this stage it was decided to halt the investigation but someone was heard to remark that she would never make a career as a stripper as her audience would die of boredom half way through the act!

A rather bleak aspect on Rough Tor

No, not Christmas Carols but Sgt Garrett issuing Sgt Sampson, LCpl Heyes, Cpl Alcock, Cpl Hicks, Pte Parker and Pte Jacob with sketch maps

MENTIONED

Ex *Prowler Bear* was a thirty six hour exercise during which the Oke Tor Warriors battled with the Rough Tor Rangers to gain possession of each others sheikdoms. The following are hereby mentioned in dispatches:

WO2 (SSM) (Phoenix) Curry for winning his Camper Craft Badge using only one match. (The dictionary describes a 'Phoenix' as a bird of ancient legend which, having lived for 500 years, burnt itself and rose again from the ashes). The Lance Jack from Radio Troop who carried the radio on the final assault on Rough Tor. He was seen charging up the hill holding his antenna in one hand and talking urgently into his handset, unaware of the fact that his radio set had dropped off two hundred yards back. A thorough search in extended time later recovered it. We promised not to mention his name but in 'cherry stone' parlance it comes somewhere between tinker and solider! (rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief).

Cpl Murray on attachment from the Royal Australian Signals for his efforts to get back 'down under' by diving head first into a stream whilst crossing a ford. It was an eventful exercise for **Cpl Murray** as he later stepped on an adder. They both ran away!

RIGID RAIDERS

The Regiment are particularly grateful to No 1 Raiding Squadron Royal Marines and their coxswains for the excellent and extremely stimulating programme that they arranged for us. They were kind enough to issue us with enormous one piece waterproof suits. We are not sure that these will 'catch on' with our more fashion conscious girls but they really did make all the difference. In the initial briefing we were informed that the way to tell that we had our suits on the right way round was to check whether the boot covering of the suit faced the front. After a number of death defying manoeuvres during which we were enveloped in spray, each member of the Regiment had a chance to drive the Rigid Raiders themselves. We are still, however, trying to work out how our WRAC **SSM, WO2 Livings,** managed to arrange to be driven by her own Royal Marine Commando Coxswain when all the other Rigid Raiders had eight passengers!

EXERCISE 'NIGHT ENDEAVOUR'

This was a night compass exercise through six check points. **Maj A. W. de V. Hunt** the Second in Command was at the first check point with a radio set and when everyone was through followed the last detachment around the course. The following conversation was heard to take place.

Second in Command (on radio): 'Hullo Two, this is One. Am with detachment 8 and will be in your location in about twenty minutes, over.'

WO2 (YofS) Watson, two yards away, manning the second check point, and sounding slightly surprised: 'Here I am Sir, you are in my location'.

Second in Command, unperturbed: 'My goodness, doesn't time fly when you are having fun!'

THE RANGES

The shooting competition during the first week was won by **Sig Boyd** from 2 Sqn and **Pte Vicky Hall** from 3 Sqn. On the second week it was won outright by **LCpl Jo MacDonald WRAC** from 3 Sqn and our

photograph shows the CO **Lt Col D. M. O. Miller** presenting her with the prize. The R Signals shoot was won by **Sgt Bevan** from 2 Squadron (SWS Tp) and the WRAC shoot was won by **Pte Sally Barnes** from 3 Squadron.

DIRECTING STAFF

The Directing Staff lead by the Second in Command consisted of **WO1 (YofS) Hall, WO2 Preston, WO2 (FofS) Smart, WO2 (YofS) Watson** and **WO2 (SSM) Curry.** It will be of interest to the Regiment that the West route of Exercise *Molars March* was reconnoitred by **SSgt Crook** who was also in charge of giant boiled potatoes. Our thanks go to the QM's department and their helpers led by **Capt Harry Meekings,** not only for keeping us well supplied and administered throughout, but also for making up the 'QM Crookhallandey' tribe who provided the various ambushes and terrorised us generally.

. . . AND FOR THE FUTURE

The Regiment returns to Dartmoor again in March. This time we are hoping that the weather will be better and that **Sgt Smith** from 1 Sqn brings his own cigarettes! The planning is again in progress and on occasions the Second in Command can be seen muttering darkly about mountaineering, abseiling and the like.

1 SQUADRON (WILTON)

it used to be called Summer Camp but no-one had the nerve to call it the Regimental Camp for 1980 by so obvious a misnomer when it was to be held on Dartmoor in October! So to Regimental Battle Camp we went. And let it not be said that discrimination exists in 10th Signal Regiment, the cry from the female ranks of, 'We did our camp in May!' went completely unheeded and for the first time camp was a mixed affair. It wasn't a case of anything you can do we can do better, more anything you can do we can survive, and survive we did. The camp as ever with a shift working unit had to be split into two weeks, and in those two weeks Dartmoor managed to conjure up every facet of the English climate so loved by us all, except sunshine. In this case study of how to survive Dartmoor the WRAC way we will follow the exploits of a section as seen through the eyes of an impartial observer (well almost impartial).

THE CAST

Capt J. R. 'Nobody falls behind me' **Meehan R Sigs**
Sgt 'Nobody goes in front of me' **Lofty Lofts**
Cpl 'Head Chef' **Dick Gigg**
W/Cpl 'I've lost something' **Scotty Bell**
W/Pte 'This is *too* easy' **Jan Alexander**
W/Pte 'How many more hills *are* there?' **Sharon Johnson**
W/Pte 'You promised me that was the last hill' **Denise Wormley**

DAY ONE

A relatively gentle affair. The drive from Salisbury to Okehampton was achieved with ease (despite well laid plans we didn't manage to break down) and in comfort (the author was *not* in the 4 tonner) and we arrived in time (wonders will never cease). And just to get everyone in the right mood for the rest of the week a nice gentle run in the afternoon. Uphill in the rain!

DAY TWO

This was just a little more strenuous, it started with a good if wet (you begin to get the picture) day spent on Willworthy Ranges before a teatime move to the South Moor and our Camp site for the night. Now before you get the wrong idea about cosy evenings spent around the camp fire let me tell you about this gentle little moonlit stroll organised by that so thoughtful gent **WO2 FofS Smart,** (it should be noted at this point that the offending FofS retreated in the most dastardly fashion to the safety of Tropo Troop where he is safe from female retribution).

The best way to describe the evening's activity was as a race with the weather, some sections were unlucky and got a thorough soaking, our heroes managed to win the race and made it back to the base camp by midnight, just before the heavens opened. By this time we had decided that there was somebody up there who definitely didn't like us. Anyone of you who has ever tried to sleep in a bivvy during a raging storm in a boggy wood can imagine the amount of sleep our heroes didn't get that night.

DAY THREE

Time for another gentle stroll this time courtesy of the QM. There were two routes to choose from, one to the east, one to the west which gave much reason for argument when it was all over and everyone was clean and dry. There was no doubt that one route was longer than the other and our luckless heroes managed to draw the short, or should it be long straw. There was however one point on which all parties agreed the QM had given himself a problem, we all needed new boots. But wait no mention of the weather, surely not a day without rain . . .

DAY FOUR

Thursday was definitely the highlight of the week, even though we did get wet yet again. It was back to the comfort of the 4 tonners and an early morning start for the Royal William Yard, Plymouth the home of No 1 Raiding Sqn RM. Note at this point it was not raining. On arrival we were briefed on the role of the Sqn and the various equipments in use before going for a quick spin around Plymouth Sound. The consumption of large quantities of tea and stickies at this stage in the proceedings was regretted by some, but more of that later. The first stage was to get everyone kitted out with waterproof clothing, and it was at this point that some of our sticky-eating friends friends proved that some people will never learn! That star of the Wilton MT **LCpl Scotty Bell** was having problems, now 'Wee Scotty' had the deepest sympathy of yours truly because I'm only two inches taller than she is, but this was not the case with all those who witnessed this most remarkable fashion show. Let is also be noted at this point that the remarkable items of clothing being donned came in one size only—large, (and by large, I mean to fit the average 6ft tall marine wearing size 12 boots and carrying full kit/).

Now an innocent comment from our ever smiling MT NCO that she had definitely lost something vital in there somewhere was fully appreciated by at least half the people there because we were all suffering from the same problem but not so by a certain senior rank who shall remain nameless. The fact that he is 6ft 4in tall and found the waterproofs to be a perfect fit may have been an excuse for a quiet chuckle to himself in private; and if he really did have to roll around the floor curled up in unseemly laughter he should have had more sense than to climb into the same boat as the now very disgruntled lady five minutes later. (Aside—the author committed the same error—as I said some people never learn). The next half hour was spent on the water with the RM coxswains proving themselves to be true experts in the art of watermanship. Then the fun really began, up the river to a quiet stretch of water and it was our turn to drive. And who should be the first in line, none other than the one and only **Scotty Bell.** Famed throughout the South West for various landspeed records she now proved that what you can do on land is just as easy on water, well almost. Amid cries of 'Mind that ship!' and 'Hey watch out for that thing sticking out of the water in front!' (Tamar Bridge) **Scotty** proved her skill. She also proved the coxswain right when he kept assuring us that they are *very* hard boats to sink—who was he trying to kid. Everyone was wet, and one person seriously regretted the number of sticky buns you can manage to fit into a 6ft 4in frame. Now who was it who was heard to chuckle quietly as we returned to the transport and announced with great glee that she was driving back to Okehampton.

DAY FIVE

Friday saw us back to the Moor with a chance to put into practice all the things that we had been taught as the Rough Tor Raiders. It rained all day! But miracles notwithstanding turned into a very cold but clear night as the section set off to attack the evil Oke Tor Warriors. As ever, someone managed to get wet, but then again there is nothing in the rule book that says you can't jump headlong into a stream when you get ambushed. All returned victorious and just in time to get under cover before . . . yes, you guessed, down came the rain.

DAY SIX

Saturday morning saw a final attack by the Oke Tor Warriors (I keep saying that some people will never learn) before the return to Okehampton and the usual sound of handing in kit and cleaning weapons.

The next few hours were perhaps the most important phase of the camp, spent in serious preparation for the evening's activities, most slept, some thought about a game of golf but decided that their feet would probably go on strike if anyone mentioned walking any further, so like everyone else they slept. What I want to know is who was the man fool enough to risk letting us loose at a Carnival!

So that was Camp 1980, next year it will be in April, same venue, and who was it who said they heard the author quietly laughing into her gin and tonic about a posting order for March?!

SQUADRON OFFICE AND MT SECTION

On 21 November 1980, **WO2 (YofS) Watson** was presented with his LS and GC Medal by **Brig N. A. Butler CBE,** CSO UKLF. The presentation was made in the WO and Sergeants Mess UKLF, with the kind permission of **WO1 (RSM) W. T. G. Grieg** 4/7 DG.

WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson celebrating the presentation of his LS & GC Medal

WO2 (YofS(Watson was one of three incumbents to receive his presentation and in due course the 3 'gongs' were well and trully 'wetted'. **Mrs Watson** and family were able to attend and the occasion was a happy gathering of the many cap badges, one finds at HQ UKLF.

During October 1980 the men (well soliders) of 1 Sqn went to war at Okehampton for two weeks. They were missed terribly, so much so, we could hardly lift a pen or telephone. How we got through those awful days and nights I don't know, but at long last they returned to the loving arms of 1 Sqn, tired, cold, but victorious.

Oh the joy of having a man back in the Squadron. At last there was a meaning to our life, some man to make coffee for, what joy. A man to race round the office like a lunatic, looking for a letter we didn't receive, what joy. The month of November has been the normal routine and perhaps a bit of an anti-climax after battle camp.

2 SQUADRON—HOUNSLOW

Radio Troop. November was a hectic month for the troop with three State Occasions and their rehearsals in the space of two weeks. Due to a few months lapse since the troop was last on duty in London, some members, who shall remain nameless were on creash diets to fit their No 1 Dress. Fortunately greatcoats were the order of the day. **LCpl Eddie Connelly** (The Gnome) was confined to the London District Ops Room for all three events to man the control station. This obviously displeased him as he has recently volunteered for a Unit Photographers Course, in the hope that we will let him out, in civvies of course, to take photographs of the troop in action. It must have been due to **Capt Harry Ross** continually demanding photographs for Wire Notes.

One of the troop stalwarts **Cpl Paul Ferris** departed in October. His familar figure with rucksack will no longer be seen jogging round the streets of Hounslow. The troop is once again without an officer, our Australian Captain, **Dianne McVicker** having recently departed after four months. She couldn't be persuaded to transfer. Rumour control is already speculating on our next OC, 'boy' or 'girl'?

Oscar Troop. A small party was held at Horse Guards to congratulate and say thank you to **Mrs Linda Cleary** for thirty years of loyalty and service at the London District Telephone Exchange, where she is now the Supervisor. The party was attended by the operators, past and present, members of 2 Squadron and London District Signals Branch.

The troop bids farewell to its OC **2Lt Louise Garvey** and wishes her all the best on her CQ course after which she will become a real Signal Officer. We welcome **Capt Pauline Binnie** in her stead.

Congratulations to **Sig Paul Evison** on his marriage to **LCpl Sue Hopkinson,** we should now be well in with RHQ? Also to **Sig Perry Scully** and his wife **Lynn** on the birth of their first child.

3 SQUADRON—ALDERSHOT

Again it was time for our Annual Battle Camp. This time however—battle camp with a difference. The *mixed* camp at Dartmoor certainly proved to be far more 'warlike' and realistic than previous camps—even for the male members. Not content with being saturated for most of the day, **Pte's Taff Tranter** and **Toni Oldham** managed to pitch their tent over streams both nights out. **Capt Jayne Petty** spent her first week as 2IC 3 Sqn being indoctrinated by the Regiment in battle tactics and succeeded in relieving the tension of a section action by offering boiled sweets all round.

LCpl Jo Macdonald excelled herself by winning the shooting competition overall with **Pte's Vicky Hull** and **Sally Barnes** winning the WRAC prizes. **LCpl Jo Macdonald** also achieved a 'ton' in .22 shooting during an Army Training Weekend and is still eagerly awaiting her bottle of champagne.

FAREWELL

3 Sqn say a sad farewell to **Maj Anne Stead** who left the Sqn after seven years and four ranks. A very popular member of the Sqn and Regt. She will be greatly missed by both civilian and military staff at all levels.

Maj Anne Stead's Farewell
From Left to Right: WO1 Sylvia Pratt, Maj Anne Stead, Mrs Mary Southby, Capt Peter Sharpe, Cpl 'Remo' Cotton, Mrs Yvonne Pettinger

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQN ADULT RECRUIT INTAKES

2 TROOP

Intake 8012 passed off on 26 September, 1980. The Reviewing Officer was **Councillor J. D. Bagley. Sig Crozier** from Bainbridge, County Down, who is to train as a technician, was the best all round recruit and **Sig Marlow** was the best shot.

Sig Crozier—Best all round recruit

3 TROOP

Intake 8013/14 passed off on 10 October 1980. The Reviewing Officer was **Mr. K. Henshaw** QPM Chief Constable of North Yorkshire. The prize for being best all round recruit was awarded to **Sig Robertson** who comes from Milton Keynes and is to train as a Combat Radioman. The prize for best shot was awarded to **Sig Loton** who comes from Holywell Clywdd.

Sig Robertson—Best all round recruit

4 TROOP

Intake 8015 passed off on 24 October, 1980. The Reviewing Officer was **Brig N. A. Butler CBE** CSO UKLF. The prize for best all round recruit went to **Sig Fisher** from Telford who is to train as a Combat Radioman. The prize for best shot was awarded **Sig Jelbert** from Cheadle.

Sig Fisher—Best all round recruit

5 TROOP

Intake 8016 passed off on 7 November, 1980. The Reviewing Officer was **Councillor Roy Cross** Richmondshire District Council. **Sig Loch** from Motherwell who is to train as a Radio Telegraphist was the best all round recruit and **Sig Kent** from Maidstone was the best shot.

Sig Loch—Best all round recruit

INSTRUCTIONAL WING

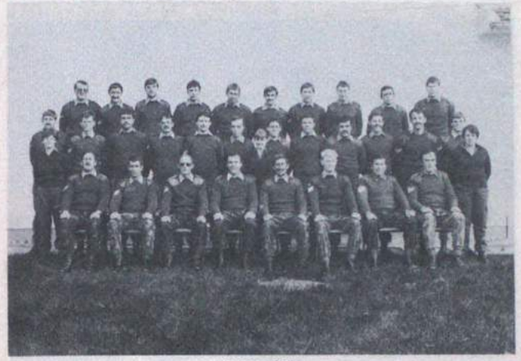
Staff Sergeants Course No 168 ended on 10 October 1980. The top student was **Sgt Hammett** from the School of Signals.

Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course No 168
Back Row L to R—Sgts Hammett, Chilcot, Smith, Sherwood, Chapman, Parish, Whytock
Centre Row L to R—Sgts Marshall, Atkinson, Tosh, Wright, Franklin, SSgt Morgan, Sgt Taylor
Front Row L to R—Sgt Doherty, SSgt Bell, SSgt Licence, WO2 (SSM) Brown, Capt Prees, Capt Longhurst, WO2 Townsend, SSgt Pinder, Sgt Cummings

SPOTLIGHT ON O TROOP

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Capt (TFC) Geoff Powell** (Pipe Smoker of the Year 1944)
2IC/YofS	**WO1 Harry Cooke** (Gone for a haircut)
YofS	**SSgt Andy Stokoe** (Gone fishing)
Troop SSgt Gary Mason BEM	(Leave it wiv me Sir!)



O TROOP
Back row l to r: LCpl Roberts, Cpl Joughin, LCpl Cunningham, Sig Old, LCpl Block, Sig Gregory, LCpl Manderson, Sig Dale, LCpl Gibson, Sig Carter
Third row: LCpl McGoldrick, Cpl Hewitt, Sig Cullingworth, Cpl Anderson, Cpl Stack, LCpl Betts, Sig Tyldsley, Cpl Tremain, Cpl Brown, Cpl Groom, Cpl Keenan, Cpl Hayes
Second row: Pte Kay, Pte Bracegirdle, Pte Dolman. Front row: Sgt Burns, Sgt Swinfield, SSgt Mason BEM, Capt (Tfc) Powell, WO1 (YofS) Cooke, SSgt (YofS) Stokoe, Sgt Shields, Sgt Grayshan

THE SHOPFLOOR—represented by:
Shift Supervisor A **Sgt Clive Grayshan** (Stuntman for The Hulk)
B **Sgt Brian Cullen**—yes, the golfer
C **Sgt Dave Cloake**—yes, the gopher
D (This space is reserved for **Sgt Stan Shields** who is on drop—again)

LONG AWAITED REBUILD

In June 1979 **Capt Powell,** complete with Shovels GS (hi-jacked from a passing 21 Sig Regt landrover) put blade to turf and started the long awaited rebuild of Commcen Birgelen. For the next 12 months or so he toiled away day and night (and even Wednesday afternoons when the golf course was unplayable) and with the assistance (or was it hindrance) of a couple of local German contractors, the job was completed in November 1980. It was intended to have a photographic record of the stage by stage build but our recently departed Yeoman really 'Haycocked' it up, and after a year of taking a couple of snaps per month, opened said camera and discovered the film hadn't wound on. It is therefore with great regret that such artistic pearls as **LCpl Doggie Manderson** and **Sig Taff Dale** testing WC pans in the open air, the boss **Capt Powell** doing his digging bit etc etc are not even going to reach the ever watchful eye of our resident Wire Note censor, OC 1 **Maj Keith Danby** . . . not as though he would have approved anyway . . . or would he?!!!

OPENED BY CSO

Capt Powell returned to his desk and proceeded with planning and preparation of the opening ceremony, when we welcomed the new CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild** MBE. The installation and technical planning for the move was masterminded by **SSgt (F of S) Terry Spicer** and his 'merry' bunch of TE techs and Tele(vision?) Mechs and the whole move was carried out without interruption or problems and we prepared for the opening ceremony. Technical expertise really was tested at this stage in the design of a suitable set of curtains for the plaque. The **WO1 Foreman Brian Pettifer** organised nine practice plaques using the skills of our REME metalsmith **Cpl Frank Slade** and produced the fine example in the accompanying photograph. The TOT, **Maj Ken Rutter** didn't like the material although we're not sure whether it was the width and quality he didn't like or the colour-Cypress Green.

CSO BAOR Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE opening the new commcen at Birgelen

L to r: SSgt (FofS) Terry Spicer, Sgt Les Wood, Cpl Pete Draper, Sgt Colin Turner (partly hidden) Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE (CSO BAOR) Sgt Ray Randall, Cpl Steve Wardle, Sgt Tony Hunt, Sgt Colin Macdonald, Cpl Shane Overton. (Sgt Ian Haldane missed the photo call but was a vital member of this team)

SSgt Paddy Payne receiving his LS & GC medal from Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE

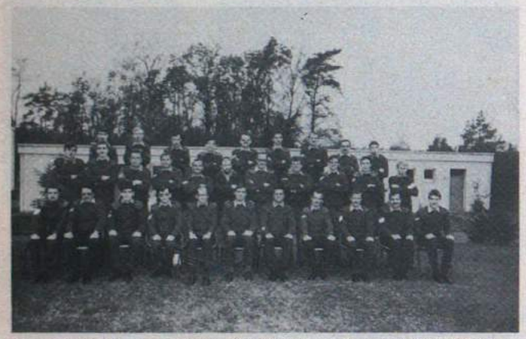
However, agreement was reached and on the 3 December the CSO arrived and like a white tornado so did the snow, a fairly infrequent sight in sunny Birgelen. After a tour of our facilities (care of Cooke's Tours Incarcerated) the CSO signed and released the opening signal to Moduk Army. **Cpl Mick Brown** the Shift Supervisor (standing in for **Sgt Clive Grayshan** who was away organising the Troop Christmas Party—has he got his priorities right?) almost had heart failure (and almost had a haircut) when **Maj Gen Hild** added an additional line to the already 'poked up' signal but in true full screw Data Telegraphist style smartly passed the buck to **LCpl Kev Block** who grunted something and with his best bratwurst sized fingers and thumbs deftly typed the unrehearsed addition and the tape was duly inserted into said tape reader under the watchful eye of **Sig Lofty Byrne** for the CSO to transmit.

A celebratory glass of Sekt (German Sparkling Wine—the effects of the moratorium precluded the real stuff) was served by one of our resident WRAC Data Telegraphists **Pte Gill Dolman** and the Commcen was well and truly opened.

H TROOP MANAGEMENT

OC	**—Capt Malcolm Sinton**
2IC	**—Lt Peter Cant (Capt David Rawlings desig)**
SSM	**—WO2 Dave Hooks**
FOS	**—WO2 Pete Downie**
Ops WO	**—SSgt Ken Wilford**

Since our last report, which seemed to be quite a while ago now, we have had many personality changes, as old members will see from the new troop photograph.



(Top) LCpl Meadows, Pte's Nightingale, Taylor, LCpl White, Sgt Deeming, LCpl Gordon, Sgt Rodgers, Sgt Sherwood, Pte Willmot (Centre) Cpl Goddard, LCpl Patchett, Sgt Bradshaw, Cpl Paige, Sgt Tyler, Mr Scott, Sgt Reddish, Cpl Vaughan, Cpl Robinson, Cpl Gillan, Pte Meredith. (Bottom) SSgt Wilford, Sgt Willmot, SSgt Verity, Sgt Devlin, Lt Cant, Capt Sinton, WO2 (SSM) Hooks, Cpl Smiley, SSgt Mapp, Sgt Clark, Cpl Glazzard

WELCOMES

The Troop would like to welcome **WO2 (SSM) Dave Hooks, WO2 Harry Parkinson, SSgt Neil Mapp, Sgt John Tyler, Sgt Paul Clark, Cpls Johnny Johnston, John Gillan, Dave Robinson, 'Farmer' Vaughan, LCpls Paul Meadows, Eddie Callaghan, Mick Dighton, Tony Patchett, Bob White** and **Ptes Willmott, 'Scouse' Howe, Rick Meredith** and **Steve Nightingale.** From a total strength of forty the upheavals have been minimal and the settling in period brief but we hope enjoyable.

FAREWELLS

With the arrival of so many people it is inevitable that we say farewell to a few old friends. **WO2 (SSM) Andy Evans, Sgts Phil Sales, Pete Stickland, Harry Reay, 'Brad' Bradshaw, Roger Hern, George Muir, Taff Millard, Dave Colley, Cpls Jim Black, Paul Smith, Geoff Godsell, LCpl Al Crussel, Ptes Garry Willmot, 'DJ' Smith, Colin Hagan** and **Steve Prattley.**

PROMOTIONS

We congratulate **Bob Allum** and **Phil Sales** on their promotion to Sgt and **Paul Glazzard** and **Dave Robinson** on their promotion to Cpl—especially **Dave Robinson** who was invited to the 'Club Am Turm' for promotion drinks, ordered a beer and said 'Who's buying then?' 'You' replied the OC. **Cpl Robinson** then smiled and bought a round—breaking at least two of his normal habits.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Our Entertainments Committee, ably led by **Sgt Tom Robinson** and **Cpl 'Farmer' Vaughan,** have activated our vocal chords, wet them and stimulated our imagination with a variety of functions, the most notable being the Halloween Night with our guests the Bundeswehr and Radio Supervisors Course, and **Pete Goddard's** never-to-be-forgotten Table Top Rally. The SSM changed the next month's military training to navigation.

The highlight of the year's Anglo-German relations culminated in the cocktail party held in the 'Club Am Turm'. All the local dignitaries were there practising their English while most of the Troop were trying out their 'Dannenberg Platt' German. Later in the evening after copious amounts of Sekt, Gluhwein, Beer and English Schnapps, it was anyone's guess who spoke what to whom! A presentation was also made from the Troop to **Herr Wojhan** of a Troop plaque and a cheque for the community centre of Siemen.

SSM Dave Hooks, OC Capt Malcolm Sinton, Sgt Paddy Sherwood, Herr Jurgen Meyer and Bürgermeister Klaus Wojkan

SPORT

The main sport in Dannenberg is football and the Troop team run by **SSgt Ken Wilford** plays in the Dannenberg IV league, but are having a lean season at present due to the changeover of troop members. However, Team Capt **Cpl Paul Smiley** assures us the team will improve and escape relegation. On the friendlies side, we continue to play in local tournaments—latest successes were 1st in Schnackenburg, 5th in Hitzacker and 6th in Berlin, where we played in the Grosstadt during October in a tournament organised to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of SV Manken. Playing on artificial grass was a new sensation for the team but we were well received and came back with yet another cup for the trophy cabinet and a Berlin Bear.

Cpl Paul Glazzard entertained the troop with an orienteering day which turned out remarkably successful—a second is planned in the near future. Badminton, tennis and volleyball are now played on the all-weather court opened by the CO, **Lt Col Garton.**

H Troop football team l to r: (Top) Phil Gordon, Tony Patchett, Paul Glazzard, Arthur Verity, Steve Meredith, John Gillan, Capt Sinton, Brad Bradshaw. (Bottom) Eddie Callaghan, Neil Mapp, Ken Wilford, Paul Smiley, Bob Deeming, Gary Willmott, Steve Hall

On the shooting scene, while most of the troop members were enjoying themselves in Berlin, two scratch teams participated in the Bundeswehr shoot near Luneburg. After two sighting shots with a German G3 rifle the first team were shocked to find they had all hit the target. With great confidence, they then fired all their other rounds and were even more surprised when they came overall 3rd, the second team can also be proud of the fact that they came 23rd out of a large number of teams competing.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Bundeswehr Lichtenfest is next—a formal evening in a beautiful German camp in Neu Tramm, followed by the most easterly Christmas Draw in Germany. The committee, led by **Sgt Pete Rogers** is busily collecting money for what looks like being the party of the year.

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

Most team positions are now settled, but in order to fill the team, some individuals have been persuaded to throw away their walking sticks to relive days of glory. The team are becoming used to crowd scenes at home matches, and kissing and cuddling is a problem we don't have to contend with—have you seen **Cpl Ginge Field** without his teeth!

We have made a good start to the season, having won two and drawn one, but having such a small squad, we now go through a lean period, losing **Cpl Del Ypey,** on posting and **LCpl Paul Skieth** and we now wait for **Cpl Nigel Rock** and **Sig Chris Moye.**

Despite these drawbacks we continue to enjoy our football, and hope to do quite well this season.

BIRGELEN BEARS R.F.C.

The rugby team has had a mixed season so far, since, as the majority of club members are shift workers, we cannot guarantee a full side every Wednesday. Hence all our fixtures are 'friendlies' and we do not play in any of the leagues. We have a mixture of experienced (over 30) and novice players who run their legs off every game. We started the season with a match against AFCENT, being our first game and so as not to embarrass them we let them win 35 to NIL.

Our next game was against Willich Wasps. We took this one seriously (I found out we had drawn Bracht in the Cup) and we won 26 to 4.

Next, came RAF Wildenrath (Seconds). We excelled again and won 12 to 9. By this time Bracht were hearing noises about our happy little club, so they really started training.

The warm-up game before the Cup match was against the Rhinos (Seconds). They got a lucky try and won 4 to NIL.

On Wed 12 Nov our big day came. Bracht arrived and a comment came from our changing room—Quote 'What do that lot get fed on?' or words to that effect. Our team had high hopes of a giant killing win and for the first 15 minutes we held them. Then against the run of play they scored a lucky try and proceeded to score a few more as the game progressed. The result was, we came second.

The following Saturday a game had been arranged with RAF Bruggen (Seconds). After our gallant efforts on Wednesday we were looking forward to a game at our own level. Unfortunately Bruggen decided to be clever and sen' their first team which in fact is the RAF Germany side. Needless to say we came second again.

Another comment from the dressing room 'I wonder if we could fit in the All Blacks next Wednesday?'.

As you may have gathered, Birgelen Bears RFC is a team that enjoys its rugby, win or lose, and will take on any team no matter what standard. By majority vote we will be playing a few teams that are well below our standard during the rest of the season.

10 MARCHE INTERNATIONAL DE L'ARMISTICE SAIVE BELGIUM 10/11 NOVEMBER 1980

No Paris march this year, so an alternative had to be looked for and was found in the Saive event. 'D' Troop provided the backbone of the team, but once again the team was led by **RSM Ken Woods. WO2 John Bandey,** having just arrived from 14 Signal Regiment, had to unpack his marching boots rather quickly. The night march of 12kms was put away in fine style, as was the beer afterwards. Of course the RSM had forgotten his money again, and **SSgt Tony Turner,** administrator and marcher was willing to fund him, but 'D' Troopers led by **SSgt Pete Forster** stood the pace until the RSM found his money. Afterwards the gentlemen of the team, **SSgts George Prideaux** and **Tony Turner** escorted **WLCpl** (now **WCpl**) **Terri Johnstone** back to the Belgium Army Barracks. Next day the RSM did have his Swedish Longjohns on when **WLCpl Johnstone** gave the team reveille, she muttered something about who is keeping the team waiting now; well, women do have to wash their hair before a night march. The 30kms day march was completed in a blistering 5hrs 10mins. Our orange leader's anorak (**Cpl Alf Sewell** was in civvies due to a neck injury) stopped several Belgium buses from ploughing through our ranks. A very tough course and well marched. The remainder of the team of nine were **Cpls Don Richmond** and **Ellis Page. WCpl Kath Page** is not letting her husband come again, well he did fall asleep on the settee. Welcome to married life **Ellis.**

14 Sig Regt (EW)
B.F.P.O. 23

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON FOCUS

Since our last report there has been a large turnover of personalities. Some of the newer management:

OC HQ	**Maj Frank Williams**
Trg Offr	**Lt Bill Cheesman**
QM Tech	**Capt Tom Keany**
TOT	**Capt Bob Wherry**
PMR	**Maj Peter Wilkinson RAPC**

MT TROOP

Over the past few months the cut back in the use of fuel has bitten deep (cutbacks have teeth). The most used transport now appears to be the QM's trolley and word has it that the local bicycle shop is doing a roaring trade. However, it has given the troop much-needed time to sort out its problems and we approach the new year with paint on the bumper and hope in the heart.

We have said farewell **Cpl Phil Brittan** (AAC Harrogate) and **LCpls Lenny King** and **Swampy Marshall** (633 Sig Tp) and welcome **Cpl 'Flash' Ruddiman.** MT finally won a football match when we beat J Troop 2-1. **Sig Bob Anthony** scored the winning goal, the other being scored by the opposition. This solitary goal makes **Bob Anthony** leading scorer.

TM TROOP

Since our last entry in The Wire, we have had a few arrivals and departures. We would like to welcome our new TOT, **Capt Bob** (who is getting the beers in next) **Wherry** and **SSgt Jim Seddon.**

We have said goodbye to **Capt (TOT) Dave Sugden, WO2 (FOS) Colin** (you won't get me on the streets) **Batchelor, Sgt Ron Kirkwood** who is off on his FOS Course, **Cpl Frank Grant** (Hong Kong here I come) and **Cpl (now Sgt) Cy Fawthrop** who wangled a posting to Zimbabwe.

Finally **Sgt Bob Alexander** who leaves us for Civvy Street. **Bob** is one of the founder members of the troop and claims he can remember "14" back in Worcester. He insists that he will be sorely missed!

TEN PIN BOWLING CLUB

1979 saw the birth in the Regiment of the largest participant sport in the unit—ten pin bowling. With a current membership of 124, the club meets weekly at the Bowling Centre Scheuen, with the two teams from 1 Sqn bowling at Brunswick.

In their first year of bowling, the club already have the R Signals individual Champion in **Sgt Dave Murray,** and the Doubles Champions in **Sgt Rod Fox** and **Cpl Bob Cuff.**

The Bowling is run by the Regimental Sports Centre (Tech Workshops) and the dubious task of handicapping and fixture fixing is performed by **WO2 (FOS) Colin Batchelor** and **Sgt Tony Brooks** (both **Colin** and **Tony** deny using the troop computer to work out the Handicaps and the fact that both **Rod Fox** and **Dave Murray** are technicians and **Colin Batchelor** always walks off with a prize from the league is purely coincidental).

The present Champions are 54 SU (RAF) who bowl under the apt name of the Penguins. With the new season under way, all BAOR Signals units take note, we are out for a clean sweep at the next Signals Championships.

1 SQN FOCUS

In a typical spirit of delegation, the Squadron Commander invited the 3 operating troops of the Squadron to contribute to The Wire. Their (almost) uncensored notes follow.

ALPHA TROOP

September saw the troop busy with preparations for and eventual participation in Ex *Crusader 80.* Even though we all pressed our combats every morning we failed to make the big time on TV. The exercise did not prevent our continuing sporting Anglo-German relations, with many of the troop playing Alte Herren of Adersheim. We lost the match but won the apres football. Sport has featured strongly this quarter with **SSgt John Skipper** missing our Regimental in-house exercise in October to take part in the Cyprus walkabout. John enjoyed being off work so much he decided to continue his absence in BMH Hannover. We all wish him a speedy recovery. **SSgt Dave Hooper** continues his hockey playing career in the Regimental Hockey Team and has just returned from a six match tour of Berlin. The Alte-Herren return match at Adersheim was a very close affair with our own **WO2 Alex Gaw** guesting for the Alte-Herren, scoring the winning goal against us. Our troop football team again suffered in the hands of Lady Luck in the Little Trophy Inter-Troop Competition, the

team finally being eliminated when non-playing manager **Sgt Fred McLoughlin,** who was running the line, sportingly disallowed a goal which would have given us the lead. The pre-Christmas sporting scene was wound up with a game against 11th Coy, Fernmeldebataillon 120, our Bundeswehr partner unit, a thrilling game on a slippery pitch finally ending up 4-2 in favour of the 11th.

The coming festive season is also bringing a change of faces in the troop. We welcome **Cpl Steve Haynes** and say farewell to **Cpl 'Bergy' Bergmeir** and **SSgt 'Rab' Butler.**

DELTA TROOP

And so we came to the end of another year, September being the most hectic and important of the past four months in which we took part in Ex *Crusader*.

EX 'CRUSADER'

Billed as the biggest exercise since the Normandy landings. This was certainly the case for the Regiment and in particular Delta Troop. After weeks of preparation, toil and strife we were able to put out all our Detachments fully manned and kept them fully operational throughout the exercise. The results obtained by the sensors were unsurpassed and the overall participation by the troop was praised by all and sundry.

Two lighthearted events spring to mind involving one **LCpl Noddy Norris.** One was when he decided to go for a stroll and got captured, blindfolded with his own first aid bandage (he says) and frog-marched away. Luckily for his Det Commander he was released two hours later. Secondly (not Noddy's fault), an American from the famous 'hell on wheels' outfit decided rather late to pull his jeep onto the road **Noddy** was travelling on—crash! One American jeep written off and **Noddy's** Land Rover towed away.

On the sporting scene the troop took part in the Little Trophy (Football) at Celle, coming away with the following results: played four lost four. **Sig Snowy Snowden** producing some burning attacks down the left flank. Unfortunately after 10 minutes he was burned out. Anyway the joy isn't so much winning as the participation. **LCpls Packwood, McDonald** and **Armstrong** keep representing the Regiment at Hockey and **Cpl Douglas** and **LCpl Hartley** at Rugby.

The social scene is at a lull—this is before the Christmas storm which will include the Troop Christmas do being on the 12th December, more of that in the next issue.

We welcome back **LCpl Painter** and **Sig Broadhurst** and **Baines** from detachments across the globe, also welcome to **LCpls York** and **Packwood** and **Sig Armstrong** and **Wills** who join us from the warmer climate of Cyprus.

Congratulations to **Sgt Bob Harrison** on his promotion and welcome to Mess life; it could not have happened at a better time. To **Cpl Steve Palfreyman** and **Chris Bell** congratulations on their promotion.

The winter weather now descends upon us as we await the esoteric pleasures of the forthcoming ARU (BFTs, March and Shoot).

SUPPORT TROOP

The recent configuration of the Squadron was completed by mid-November and on the 17th our new troop was formed by personnel from A Troop and HQ Troop. The first few days of our existence were rather hectic, when the phrase 'shift work' took on a new significance (you name it—we shifted it). The Troop Admin Warrant Officer, **WO2 Colin Gibson,** was located in three different offices in as many hours. He is still not convinced that he is not going to be moved again.

The Troop Commander, **Capt Laurie Storey,** arrived from the UK on the 1st December and, by the 2nd, he was already familiarising himself with the local area clad in a track suit and proceeding at a leisurely pace to the 'Half Way House'. His concern for the men soon became apparent when he acted as 'whipper-in' during the Squadron's weekly run.

The Troop was barely two weeks old when we had our first departure. **Phil** and **Felicity Bland** left the Regiment for pastures new and we wish them good luck in Berlin (as if that isn't lucky enough). The New Year will also see its flock of departures when **Dickie** and **Ellen Henderson** leave and **Robbie** and **Donna Seaword** proceed on a course at Muelheim.

3 SQUADRON

Having been formed only this Summer, the infant 3 Sqn has now matured into a cohesive unit. It consists of the following troops and personalities.

OC Sqn	**Maj Bill Legge**
OC J (Jammer) Tp	**Capt John Berry**
OC N (Non-Comms) Tp	**Capt David Beach**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Graham Norris**
OC RCP (Regt Comd Post) Tp	**Capt Adrian Morgan**
Admin/Ops Offr	**Lt George Cox**

AT WORK AND PLAY

With the dreaded 'Moratorium' biting deep (moratoria have teeth too), the Sqn has been working hard on its training programme, with training in trades, visits, sporting activities, etc all being pursued with vigour.

RCP Tp had a Border Visit organised by **Capt John Berry,** but the 'Reds' refused to take any of them, and they all returned safely. Later, while doing section attacks on the local German Ranges, an out of control Leopard Tank narrowly missed **SSgt Pete Tarrant's** new car, despite the encouragement of one of the RCP rifle sections. Pete was 'not amused'. On the 3rd December, RCP held a private car 'rally' in appalling conditions of snow and icy roads. Despite the blizzard, the event was a tremendous success. Thanks go to **LCpl Barry Spiers** for organising the rally, and congratulations to **Cpl Roy Grinsley** and **LCpl 'Petal' Violet** who won the event. (Cries of amazement—Lineys winning!?!)

RCP Tp also offer their congratulations to **Capt Adrian Morgan,** who has recently announced his engagement to **Miss Sally Richardson.**

J Tp have been busy with their training programme and Exercise *Mixed Blessing*, 1st-3rd Dec, took place in the blizzard, but with every success—(although many 'tootsies' got rather cold).

N TP

Since Jul much has happened to N Tp, not all of it bad either. The highlight of the year must be the move from the depths of Ironside Bks back to Wesendorf. A sigh of relief for all until the realisation that work had to go on. Thanks must go to the pay office for bringing Wesendorf ten miles closer to Celle than it used to be.

After Ex *Spearpoint* the Tp deployed on Ex *Broadview* some 1200 miles to Carlisle. Not a common thing to take a Tp plus equipment and vehicles back home. The thrill of the trip was supplied by an LSL demonstrating how well it could roll on a wet lawn, and even better when at sea. The pleasant smell of Chinese cooking supplied by the crew did much to destroy any budding seaman's stomach.

However much against the odds all the vehicles completed the round journey with no more drama than a stuck light switch. Now of course they are all in workshops just to prove how lucky we were—nothing like an RL with a sense of humour and occasion.

So on to more personal happenings. **Sig Ashley** is congratulated on his recent marriage (quick work **John**) and of course our Australian, **WO1 Marks** on the way he has settled in. A simple matter of adjusting the Tp to suit him. A fond farewell to **WO2 John Bandey** now back at the 13 Sig Regt he knows and loves so well, and of course goodbye to **LCpl,** now **Mr. Gary Setterfield.**

3 Sqn sport continues to astound the rest of the civilised universe! At the R Signals BAOR Orienteering Competition four members of 3 Sqn and two 'others' came fourth overall, an excellent performance. The team was **Maj Bill Legge, Lt Graham Norris, SSM Fred Bancroft, SSgt Chris Conroy, SSgt Ian Blair** (TM Tp), and **Sgt Brian Sly** (TM Tp).

Capt Adrian Morgan and **Sgt Harry Kirkham** were both members of the victorious 1 Armd Div Hockey team in the Inter Div Tournament, and **Adrian** has been selected to play for the Corps (BAOR) side to play in the Inter-Corps tournament.

The Little Trophy, for Inter-Troop Football, was organised by **Capt John Berry** and **Sgt Noddy Baugh** and took place on Monday 17 November. RCP and Radio Tps botn reached the Semi Finals, and beat TM Tp and LAD/MT Tp respectively to meet in the final. RCP Troop were favourites, but after 15 minutes found themselves down by two fine goals from **LCpl 'Paddington' Wright** and **Sig 'Ginger' Willimont.** A magnificent fightback then occurred, with goals by **LCpl Barney Phillips** and **LCpl Baz Jones.** Encouraged by their Captain, **Cpl Chris Heeles,** RCP piled on even more pressure and eventually scored through **Sig 'Blackie' Blackburn,** emerging as fine victors, 3-2. It was a superb finale to an excellent day's football, with 3 Sqn scooping first and second places. RCP Tp also won the Inter-Troop League Trophy. We look forward to even greater success as a Sqn in the future.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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

IT'S ALL BEEN HAPPENING

Throughout October and November, it has all been happening. Keeping pace with all the goings on has left many of the regiment breathless; particularly those who have been involved in the planning. the organisation, and, not least, the doing! In the last edition of The Wire we left you in the following position: the 2IC and **QM (Tech)—Maj Strong** and **Orr** respectively—were organising a regimental stocktaking board, plans were being made for a host of forthcoming events from a local Saint Martins Day pageant to a Fireworks party, Remembrance Day parade at Rheinberg Military Cemetery, visits by Commander 4 Signal Group, AG11, Deputy OIC Manning and Record Office, Christmas Fairs and parties, young officers winter essay writing and presentations; and the sound of vehicles returning from Exercise *Crusader* could still be heard in our ears. Certainly, everyone was still talking about the exercise.

8 PLATOON ARE HOME

On 26 November the Northern Ireland enhancement platoon formed from both 16 and 21 Sig Regt returned to Germany with its host regiment 19 Field Regt RA. The regiment is really delighted to see all members of the platoon safely home. The CO was pleased to be able to visit them in Ulster and see them before their return. The second half of their tour saw a change in the role. The platoon rotated through a serious of tasks including deployment as part of the brigade reserve to Fermanagh; manning vehicle check points (VCP); conducting soft target protection operations out of St Angelo, Beleck, Kinawley and Lisnastea; and supporting 11 UDR during the August marches. These tasks provided a welcome change from the rather tedious task of guarding the Maze Prison.

(L—R) Sig Cole, LCpl Stringer and Sig Lock on patrol

ACTION MEDEOR

Whilst the CO was in Northern Ireland, a party of 40 officers and soldiers visited Action Medeor, a St Tonis based organisation that buys medical supplies in bulk for distribution to countries of the third world. Over coffee and biscuits the party was shown slides and film of the work carried out. On behalf of the regiment, the 2IC, **Maj David Strong** presented a cheque for DM 1,000 to **Herr Fuchs,** the joint managing director of Action Medeor. When the party was informed that DM 1,000 represented over DM 5,000 worth of medical supplies bought in bulk, and distribution costs are kept to a minimum by using shipping and German Air Force training flights, it was apparent to them all that the money, part of the monies collected at Bradbury Fayre in July, would be well spent.

MONUMENT TO ROYAL SIGNALS IN BRADBURY BARRACKS KREFELD

Four days later on 20 October, **Col A. D. Lewis,** Commander 4 Signal Group, visited the regiment in barracks. After a busy morning he attended a small ceremony to commemorate the association of the Corps with Bradbury Barracks. The story of how this monument was conceived is best told by the CO in his address to the Regiment:

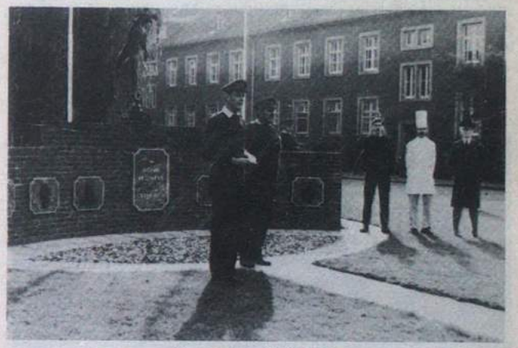
"The British Army moved into these barracks, known to the Germans as the Neue Kaserne, in 1945 and we have remained here ever since. For most of that time there has been a Signal Regiment here: first 10 Sig Regt, then 2 L of C Sig Regt, and, since 1962, 16 Sig Regt. None of these units, however, left their mark in the barracks and it was this fact that inspired **Maj Orr** last year, the year in which our Colonel-in-Chief visited us, to design a monument to commemorate the association of the Royal Corps of Signals with Bradbury Barracks. He realised from the outset that the services play a vital part in the role of the regiment and so the monument you see in front of you, although surmounted by the handsome figure of Mercury, Messenger of the Gods, features prominently the badges of the 6 Corps that serve closely with us. This afternoon, of course, the badges have been brought alive.

Well, it was one thing to think of the idea and quite another to put it into practice and, in particular, to pay for the scheme. And so the 'Jimmy Fund' was launched to raise money for the statue, the plinth and the badges. **Maj Orr** is a persuasive salesman and he charmed the money from our pockets with the minimum of pain. A total of DM 8,000 was raised with a certain amount still to come, much of it coming from the proceeds of sponsored activities such as swims and walks.

So thanks to the inspiration of **Maj Orr** and your generosity we now have a fine centre-piece to commemorate the long standing occupation of these barracks by Royal Signals. Something we can be proud of.

It is now my great pleasure to invite **Col Lewis,** Commander 4 Signal Group, to christen this monument.'

It took several attempts but, finally, **Col Lewis** succeeded!



Christening of 'Jimmy'

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

AMERICAN VISITORS

Following several liaison visits, the advance party of Company C, 249 Engineer Battalion (US Army) from Karlsruhe arrived in Bradbury Barracks on 28 October, led by **Lt Peter Rowan** US Army. They are to be based with us until Christmas to complete a building at Monchengladbach concerned with the American Army POMCUS project; what we call PUE (Prestocked Unit Equipment). **Sgt Duckworth,** our SI APTC, couldn't believe his luck when he found out that nearly all the american engineers played basketball. Our own regimental squad has taken full advantage of their skill and type of play and are showing signs of developing 'Harlem Globetrotter' style of game.

THE LEICESTER TROPHY

As Company C drove into the Barracks the CO and **Mrs Moss,** and the **RSM, WO1 Miles** drove out en route for Leicester, their cars filled to capacity with **Lt Leigh, Sgt Hedgeley,** the **Cpls Thomas, LCpl Bywater** and **Sig Sowerby.** The Lord Mayor and City Council had invited the Regimental party to a small ceremony during their full Council meeting on 30 Oct at which the regiment was presented with the Leicester Trophy 'to mark the close association between the regiment and the city'.

It is a magnificent piece of craftsmanship designed and made by **Mr Derek Buckley** and fellow craftsmen of the Leicester Polytechnic. The Trophy will be presented twice yearly to the winners of our Regimental Inter-Troop sports competitions which cover 10 summer and 12 winter sporting events. The regiment is enormously grateful to the Lord Mayor and City Council of Leicester for this outstanding gift; and to previous Commanding Officers and soldiers of the regiment who paved the way to promoting the excellent relationship with the City we now enjoy.

Lt Col Moss receives the Leicester Trophy from the Lord Mayor, Councillor Herbert H. Sowden

GUIDE DOG FOR THE BLIND

Whilst in Leicester the CO took the opportunity of handing over a cheque for £500 to the Leicester representative of the organisation Guide Dogs for the Blind—**Mrs Ann de Voil.** The money had been raised by members of the Regiment at succesive Bradbury Fayres—the annual regimental charity fayre. We were delighted to hear that the money will go a long way towards paying for and training a guide dog. In recognition of our donation the CO was asked to name the dog. He had no hesitation in asking that it be called 'Jimmy'.

Mrs Ann de Voil of Guide Dogs for Blind and 'friends'

UP COUNTRY

Up at the 'sharp-end' 4 Sqn, based in Bielefeld, has been busy raising yet more money for charity. A Dutch Auction in their newly opened Jimmy Club raised DM 400 which was donated to WRAC memorial fund and to St Georges Church Bielefeld and, then, a Flea Market run by **SSM 'Joan' Page, Sgt Rene McGregor, Cpl Lynn Etherington, LCpls Laura Scragg** and **Linda Morton,** and **Pte Fiona Gibbons,** raised a further DM 270. **Col A. D. Lewis** called in to see the Squadron at work . . . And the CO undertook an expedition to Sennelager where he had pleasure in presenting a Bronze Commstar award to the static commcen.

YofS Altham and his merry men at Sennelager: (L—R) Sig Jim Green, Sig Joe Hall, Cpl Jock Durlick and LCpl Dave Clarke. It also appears that the barber wasn't in a very good mood!

FOCUS ON 1 SQUADRON

OC Maj WA Le Gassick WRAC
OC O TP Capt (TFC) J. T. Noon R Signals
OC X TP Capt V. Evans WRAC
SSM WO2 C. A. Austin WRAC
YofS WO2 P. J. Hockram R Signals
FofS WO2 S. M. Simms

'Spotlight on 1 Sqn' said the 2IC. Grease paint and flood lights to the fore and the script will unfold.

SCENE 1—SHQ

In a far flung corner of Rheindahlen Garrison, occupying a damp leaking building—superb place for mushrooms to grow—the SHQ staff beaver away. **SSM Carol Austin** is packing madly to make her escape to Northern Ireland. She seems to be taking most of X Tp with her but we wish her well all the same! and thank her for all her endeavours over the past 2½ years—grey hair is quite becoming! Our share of the TGW11 has lost its local rep—watch out 20 Sqn RCT **Pte Lisa Calcutt** is on her way. She leaves behind **Cpl Joanne Fisher, Pte Lesley Smith** and **Pte Pauline Simpson.**

SQMS Tom Harrison is practising not being recognised (so what's new!). This is all part of his role of Squadron Soviet Recognition instructor.

PTI **Cpl Bev Acres** has an ally in Admin **Sgt Jan Greenwood,** who is the most enthusiastic BFT runner in the squadron (just as well as the OC and the SSM would have nobody to goad them along in training).

The Squadron Hockey Team did not do so well this year in the Regimental Inter Troop competition but we had a great time, names like **Austin, Furber, Fugill** and **Calvert** put fear into the opposition and a smile on the face of the local RADC sadist. This scene closes in the knowledge that **Sgts Mick Reid, Eric Sharp** and **Dave Walker** have received their LS & GCs from the CSO **Maj Gen Birtwistle.** Congratulations to them, and thanks to their wives **Mary, Monica** and **Pat** for the support they have given their husbands and this unit with which they have served.

(L—R) Maj Le Gassick, Mrs Walker, Sgt Walker, Sgt Sharp, Mrs Sharp, Sgt Reid, Mrs Reid, General Birtwistle

SCENE 2—XRAY TROOP

The JHQ Rheindahlen Exchange which serves HQ BAOR and HQ RAF G is run by Xray Tp (and a fine bunch of folk we are too!). We work hand in hand—or should that be glove??! with our RAF colleagues in the operation of the new JHQ switchboard. An all singing all dancing automatic, push button operated beastie. The new switchboard was opened in Dec 1979 and since then we have had our share of problems with it, but we are slowly evicting the gremlins one by one, and things are looking up. (Does anyone want 2,000 homeless gremlins??). The new board is really very nice but we do hanker after our old PABX 3 and all those lovely knotty cords . . . Alas those days have gone forever. For those of you thinking of joining us in this paradise the qualifications required are; the patience of Job, a keen sense of humour and a great affection for the blue jobs! Oh yes, and it may be to your advantage to be of modest height since our new OC (**Capt Vikki Evans** WRAC) arrived, so that she can look you in the eye. Come to think of it, our Chief Supervisor isn't so big either, Flight Sergeant (HI ya fans) **Cottell** who is also recently arrived and whom we welcome to the fold. Amongst our other new arrivals is Sgt **Angie Crouch** who has come from Northern Ireland and brought with her **Cpl Jackie Laing,** they arrived just in time to join us on the fabled Exercise *Crusader* and haven't stopped working since. Oh it's a hard life out here at the sharp end! **Cpl Karen Bradshaw** warrants our congratulations as she has now reached the dizzy heights of Cpl (rumour has it that it's just because she's a redhead).

Air Marshal Sir Peter Terry, C-in-C RAF G, chats to Pte Hancock

Our goodbyes would fill a book if we were to mention everyone who has recently left or who is about to depart on postings all over the world (well Northern Ireland and UK) but we must mention **Capt Lesley Smith** WRAC who left us (before Exercise *Crusader*—it was noted) to join the ranks of 29 Coy WRAC, we wish her luck and thank her for all her hard work. We must also say farewell to **LCpl Maureen Nevison** who leaves us for 242 Sig Sqn during October and to those two terrible twins **Pte Anita Pitt-Kerby** and **Tracy** (shaggy haired) **Guardham,** both of whom are heading for Northern Ireland in the not too distant future. **Pte Dianne Elliot** also leaves us soon for Aldershot we wish her well and congratulate her on finally passing her driving test after an extremely prolonged series of lessons.

Well we will leave you there. **Cpl** (blue job) **Ron Brocklehurst** is busy making his coffee bar during night shifts . . . **Cpl Joyce Grimes** is being a satisfied soldier in Ipswich (who's she trying to kid??) and last but not least **SSgt Nerys Owen** is getting a hair transplant, poor thing has pulled most of her hair out as a new OC, Chief Supervisor; and two other new supervisors all arrived within a week of each other, it has been very much a case of follow my leader where ever she goes. She's done a sterling job though, well done!

We will let you know how they all got on. Finally, we would like to say Farewell to our Sqn SSM **WO2 Carol Austin** who is going to Northern Ireland in November. We didn't quite manage to convince her that switchboard operators have an average IQ of 140 and are all members of Mensa but we will keep trying and hope that Ireland will carry on our good work! We join with all members of the regiment in offering our congratulations to her on the presentation of her LS & GC medal.

An unexpected call from Herr Bruns, Chairman of the local St Martins Day Committee, who presented the CO with a Weckmänner (Gingerbread man) in appreciation of the help given annually in supporting the St Martins Pageant in the barracks. Also in the photograph Mrs Moss and our resident man with the 'beady eye' and who directed operations for this years pageant Sgt Nichols, RP Sergeant

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FAREWELL

The month of October saw the beginning of the farewells for **Lt Col M. F. H. Colman.** They began on the evening of 7 October when **Lt Col** and **Mrs Colman** were dined out by the Officers and their wives in the RAF Wildenrath Mess. This was an excellent evening at which **Lt Col** and **Mrs Colman** were presented with a pair of engraved entree dishes as well as the statutory beer mug, **Lt Col** and **Mrs Colman** kindly presented a picture to the Regiment which now hangs in the corridor of power at RHQ.

The WOs, SNCOs, and wives of the regiment dined out **Lt Col** and **Mrs Colman** in the Sgts Mess on 10 October, a splendid meal superbly conducted by **WO Ted Marsh,** the RAF Mess Manager and his staff, culminated in a presentation to **Lt Col** amd **Mrs Colman** of a carriage clock to remind them of the many!! wonderful, and we hope, not too many, not so wonderful times spent in the regiment. The dinner was followed by a night of revelry rarely seen in the RAF Sgts Mess.

RSM, Mrs McGurk, Mrs Colman, CO, Mrs Borland, PMC. Prior to the WOs & SNCOs dining out

IN STYLE

15 October saw the Sqns saying farewell to the CO in their own unique ways. The afternoon began with **Lt Col Colman** inspecting a a quarter guard commanded by **SSgt Ken Morris.** After thanking the quarter guard it was on to 1 Sqn where the CO was greeted by **Maj Warren Armstrong** who invited the CO to inspect his Sqn. It seemed at first glance that 1 Sqn were at last fully up to strength. On closer inspection the extra men turned out to be Fig 11 Targets, in fact, we seem to have more Fig 11 Targets than soldiers in the Sqn. Inspection completed, the dulcet tones of the SSM, **WO2 George Cook** were heard to bark out, whereby four wine waiters in the shape of **Cpl Munroe, Cpl Vincent, LCpl Carr** and **LCpl Smith** appeared with silver trays, glasses and champagne. The champagne duly distributed the Sqn drank the CO's health and wished him bon voyage.

On to 2 Sqn where the CO was met by the OC, **Maj David Jessett** and the SSM **WO2 Robbie Burnett.** The OC invited the CO to inspect yet another quarter guard, this time under the command of local acting **Capt McDouall** (substantive rank signalman). It was hastily explained that the quarter guard had been thrown together as a last minute touch and that some of the members were more out of touch than others.

L-R: SSgt K. Morris, LCpl Goodall ACC, Cpl now Sgt Rodgers Sig Ingleson, Cpl now Sgt (It pays to be on the Quarter Guard) Goodacre *Rear Rank L-R:* Cpl O'Neill, Cpl Hague, ACC, LCpl Webster REME, LCpl Murrell (hidden)

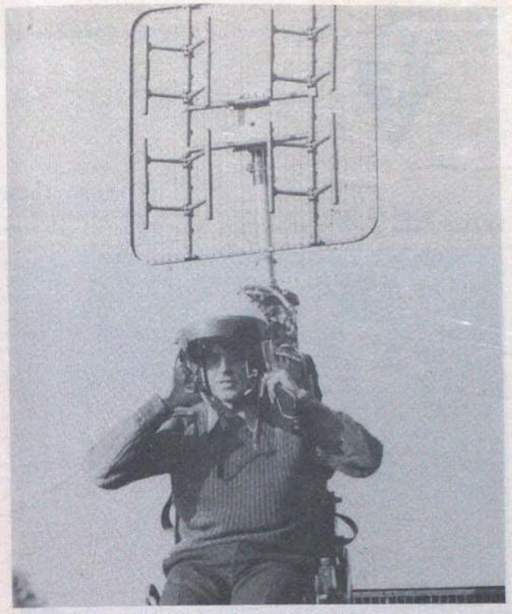
Lt Herniman, LCpl McDonald and Cpl Winkler. Capt Crowther FOFs Jones and Sig Bywaters SQMS Sinon. *In Front:* CO and OC 2 Sqn. Hurriedly thrown together Quarter Guard. CO holding his new 'Decision Maker'

Before strapping the CO into the Harrier Chariot, **Maj Jessett** presented him with a 'Staff Officer's Decision Maker' to take the hard thinking out of **Lt Col Colman's** next appointment. It randomly selects one of six staff options open on any matter, ranging from yes through laugh to file 13. After a good long run with the chariot showing no inclination to get airborne 2 Sqn delivered **Lt Col Colman** to the tender mercies of K Troop.

On to the airfield to visit K Troop. The CO was met by the Sqn OC **Maj Sid Falla,** OC K TP **Capt John Piper** and the SSM, **WO2 Ian Borland,** and the TP SSgt, **Charlie Peach**—A very rare sight, for all the members of K Troop were present to say goodbye in the K Troop tradition. Their bar has always been a talking point. After a shorter visit than we would have wished **Lt Col Colman** was introduced to the Davis Digger on one of its rare visits from Rhine area workshops, to keep the damage to a minimum we towed him out.

Lt Col Colman's final visit was to HQ SQN where he was presented with a pair of eagles on behalf of the soldiers of the regiment by **Sig George Poultney** before being towed out of the gates on an immaculate landrover by the Officers, WOs and SNCOs.

We would like to wish **Lt Col** and **Mrs Colman** the best of luck for their future posting down the road to HQ NORTHAG and thank them for all they have done on our behalf.



Last 2 Sqn Sortie: Strapping in

George presenting a pair of eagles but at the same time showing off his recently acquired four good conduct stripes

Still not at take off speed

WELCOME

We welcome our new Commanding Officer **Lt Col David Burton** and his wife **Tricia** and trust they will both enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

PRESENTATIONS BY COMMANDER

On Friday 31 October we were visited by Commander 4 Signal Group **Col A. D. Lewis** who spent the morning visiting all departments of the regiment in Rheindahlen and Wildenrath. We then took the opportunity to invite **Col Lewis** into the Sgts mess to present the long Service and Good Conduct Medals. After a lengthy presentation **Col Lewis,** the recipients and mess members adjourned to the bar for a well earned lunch!!

L-R: Cpl Hayward, Mrs Hayward, Sgt Maroney, Mrs Seymour, Cpl Seymour, Mrs Brock, Sgt Grant, SSgt Brock, SSgt Norris, Cpl Males, Mrs Males, Col Lewis, Mrs Loben, AQMS Alderson, Mrs Alderson, Sgt Loben ACC, Sgt Carnegie. *Front:* Darren, Samantha Loben

A GENTLE PROMISE

On Friday 17 October the Regimental Inter Troop and Novice Cross Country Competition was well supported by 183 entrants who believed OIC Cross Country's promise of a gentle four miles.

Having surived 4¼ miles of ducks, hills and quarries, the 'ageing' legs of **Cpl Sid Hayward** brought him home as 1st novice, 7th overall, after a very fine run. 2nd and 3rd novices were **Sig Amarjit Singh Thind** and **Sig 'Woody' Wood,** 8th and 9th overall.

The Inter Troop Competition was won by a combined C and D Troop team (OIC M & R please note) which included **SSgt Roger Minty, LCpl Dave Carr** who was first equal overall with **LCpl Charlie Foster** of K Troop, **CPls Sid Hayward** and **Elton Prince,** and **Sigs Phil Organ** and **Kenny Collins.**

The prize for the old and bold was won by 'The White Flash' **Maj Alan Stutchbury** our 2IC, whilst a very thirsty **RSM Dave McGurk** earned the beer for the first Warrant Officer home.

'K' TROOP IN SARDINIA

'K' Troop is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the RAF's communications on the NATO air base at Deccimomannu in Sardinia. The RAF have a permanent unit which supports visiting squadrons who carry out live firing and bombing practice, together with the American, German and Italian air forces.

A SNAG

The recent visit was made to lay cables to new buildings in preparation for an increased comms requirement, so that two squadrons can be accommodated. On arrival we found it hot and dry, so after breaking most of the digging tools on the rocky sunbaked soil we were forced to call on local contractors to finish the trenching. Further inspection of the airfield revealed damage to existing cables, which required additional joining equipment to be flown from Wildenrath. There was nothing for it but to visit the beach and await the next aircraft. Incidentally when the equipment did arrive, the courier was none other than the squadron commander, who thought he should see the problems for himself.

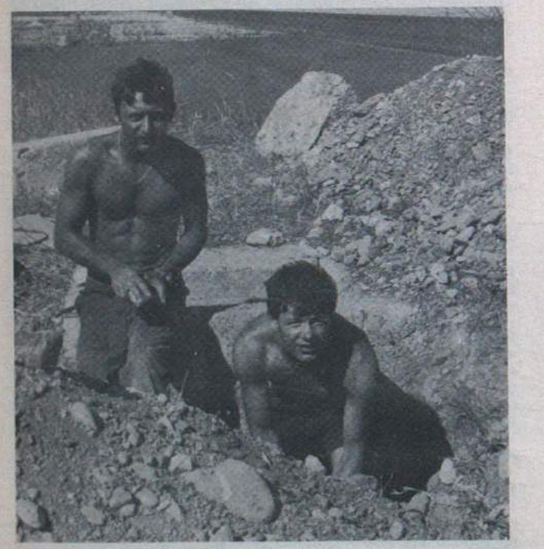
JEALOUSLY GUARDED

The island is virtually unspoiled by the tourist trade although there is a superb holiday village; occupied mainly by German & Dutch tourists. A first class 18 hole golf course just outside Cagliari remains sadly unused other than by a few local wealthy businessmen, who languish at the poolside and club restaurant. One snag in the past has been the hazard of kidnapping, but this is perhaps not a problem on the military salary!

The Troop jealously guards its responsibility to RAF Support Unit, Deccimomannu and there is never a shortage of volunteers to work long hours in the sun.

Sgt Weir and Sig Denby installing a new cable termination

Sgt Hannibal and Sig Graham prepare for jointing damaged cable



Cpl Gillings and Sig Pines repairing damaged party cable at RAF Deccimomannu Sardinia

C in C's COMMENDATION

Congratulations to **Capt Reg Heath** on receiving a Commendation from the C in C (RAF G).

FRAU BUSSE

Frau Busse receives 25 years certificate of service

On 19 September 1980 the Civilian Clerk at L Troop RAF Laarbruch, Frau Busse, received her certificate of service from Group Captain R. J. Kemball, the Station Commander at RAF Laarbruch, present was Capt J. T. Worrall OC L Troop, 3 Squadron 21 Signal Regiment. Frau Busse will be remembered by the many past and present members of the regiment for her loyal service when the headquarters of the regiment were at RAF Laarbruch, and as Clerk of L Troop after the headquarters was moved to RAF Wildenrath

THE ANSWER

RHQ's answer to the moratorium: *L-R* 2IC Maj Alan Stutchbury, Adj, Capt Andy Whiddett, Ops Offr Capt Jim Ferguson, Chief Clerk WO2 Tony Millington, RSM

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MORATORIUM

The period post *Crusader* and pre Xmas had all the ingredients of a bleak time for the Regiment. The Moratorium is now famous, adding another word to the QM's dictionary, but coupled to another fuel crisis the planned training and maintenance had to go out the window. In 22 Signal Regt the crisis has been averted and Regimental activities have increased rather than declined. This will be amply illustrated in some of the stories that follow which demonstrate ingenuity if not outright novelty. The Regiment will be fit and ready by the time the fuel and stores begin to flow again.

WE TRAIN THE ZIMBABWE ARMY

The title of this story may well be a slight exaggeration, but despite that the efforts of **SSgt Jimmy Flockhart** should not go unnoticed. **Jimmy** went out to Zimbabwe in May '80 to start the training at the Zimbabwe School of Signals. The initial month was spent preparing training aids for the first courses since due to the insurgency all training had ceased. After that he was involved in training the advanced wing.

In his time there **Jimmy** got about a great deal visiting the Kariba Dam, Victoria Falls, Wankie Game Reserve and many other places.

On one of these visits **Jimmy** caught a crocodile (a smallish one) which now resides in the School of Signals fish pond! Some of the highlights of the tour were a cabby in a captured T55 and a visit by **Gen Bramall.**

SSgt Jimmy Flockhart and Gen Bramell in Zimbabwe

SSgt Jimmy Flockhart in the captured T55

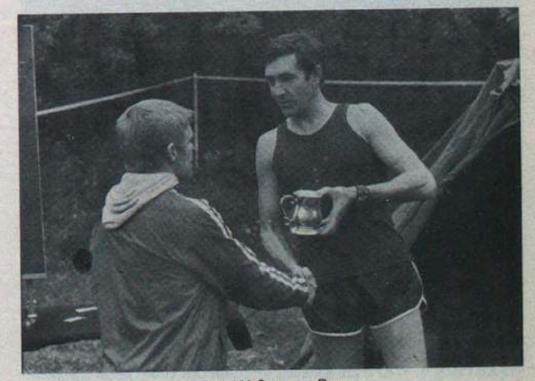
CANOES FROM LIPPSTADT TO WESEL

Continuing the Adventure Training theme from previous issues, 2 Sqn decided to have theirs late. The exercise aim was to paddle canoes from Lippstadt to Wesel. This involved negotiating the River Lippe until it met with the Rhine. This was a paddle of 100 miles, to be completed in six days. The weather was atrocious, and no doubt was a major contribution to the low number of capsizings. **Sig Keith Yates** and **Sig Spase Sprason** led the field in capsizings closely followed by **Capt Peter Jones. SSM Keith Purkiss** gained great distinction among the squadron by losing his paddles not once but twice. **Maj Chris Urquhart** (Sqn OC) and **Sgt Dave Courtenay's** claim to fame was that they managed to successfully trap the safety boat in a weir. Congratulations to 2 Sqn for completing the paddle and especially to **YofS John Floyd, Sgt Tom Carberry** and **Sig Chris Begg** who managed to avoid getting wet.

Ex Lippe Triangle—some of the brave

A TRADITIONAL FEATURE

A traditional feature of the calendar is the annual cross country run. It happened also to coincide with the most sought after leave period! This year however there was a very high turnout for the gruelling 5 mile race. So high was the turnout that **Supt Clk Joe George** was spotted at the start line. The course was set by a sadistic **SSM Dougie Baikie** who managed to come second. Congratulations to **SSgt Peter Dring** who came in an easy first. The over 40's prize was won by **Capt Bob Scriven** after an intentional breakdown by the sprightly CO **Lt Col John Almonds.**



Regtl X Country Run
SSM Dougie Baikie gets his prize

TRIANGULAR SHOOTING MATCH

Another traditional feature is the annual shooting match between the officers of the Regiment—7 Fernmelde Bn—and the Lippstadt Police. This was held in Churchill Bks this year and turned out to be a great success. Unfortunately our officers were beaten into second place by the Police. All was not lost, however, since it is reported that they won the Boat Race afterwards. Congratulations to **Maj Derek McLean** and **Maj Rodney Clare** for gaining creditable scores. The rest of you had better buck up before next year!

Maj Chris Urquhart does his bit

RECORD MAKING

Sgt Alan Morecroft is a man of many talents. In addition to being the PR photographer, a member of a folk group, holding down a technician's job in a busy squadron, he was able to fit in the time to make a record. The recording was made at the BFBS studios in Cologne and although it is not yet in the Top 20 it certainly will be heard a lot around here.

Record Making
Asters (left) gives Sgt Allan Morecroft a few hints

FAR AWAY PLACES

LCpl Richard Connaughton had been detached from the Regt for three months to do a tour at Batus. He was fortunate enough to find himself with one month off from his task and took advantage of it. The first ten days were spent in the Canadian Rockies, Adventure Training on the Columbian Icefield. Not content with that **Richard** made his way to Hawaii. We hear he got to be well known by the dusky maidens on Waikiki Beach. Well done **Richard** we think this shows great initiative and enterprise, there are many people in the Regiment who wish they could be as lucky.

STAFF VISIT BY CCR SIGNALS

Currently the Regiment is preparing for the ARU test exercise but happy in the knowledge that a good ARU staff visit is over. The visit provided the inspecting team and the Regiment some humour after the formal inspecting. Commcen Uniform showed **Brig Alexander** how they coped with the petrol shortage with a novel march past. This is well illustrated in the photograph.

ARU Staff Inspection
SSM Brian Eason surveys the petrol starved Comcen

ARU Staff Inspection
Tp Comd's transport Lt Bob Williamson

MARCH AND SHOOT

The aim of the March and Shoot Competition was to provide a testing event demanding the application of leadership skills, stamina, and shooting ability. It was certainly all that, and a blizzard was thrown in for good measure. The competition involved an eight mile run followed by team shooting to Bisley rules. The march was preceeded by individual shoots of personal weapons. Despite the weather, which made target identification difficult, a good standard of shooting was achieved. The winners of the competition by a good margin were 1 Sqn who should be congratulated on a fine performance.

4 Sqn won the march section by a large margin and should also be congratulated. Other prizes were given to: LMG Best A pair **Cfn Mark Austin, Cfn Ian Taylor,** LMG Best B pair **Sig Steve McGinnigle, Sig Steve Clopham,** SMG Best A **LCpl Andy Mahon,** SMG Best B **LCpl Ray Counley,** SLR Best A **Cpl David Haman,** SLR Best B **Sig Mark Compton.**

The competition was a large undertaking for the Regt administratively, especially when so much else was going on. It went without a hitch and **Maj Derek McLean** and **Capt Frank Worrall** with those of 1 Sqn who prepared it, get our vote of thanks.

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BUSY MONTHS

After the relative quiet of the months of August and September when our colleagues of British Army of the Rhine were deeply involved in Exercise *Crusader 1980*, October and November were extremely busy for us with a major exercise, several visits and a theatrical production.

C IN C VISIT

Exercise *Able Archer*, one of the two Northern Army Group/Second Allied Tactical Air Force staff exercises during the training year saw the regiment deploy, for the first time, two geographically separated Switches (COMMCENS). Despite very bad weather conditions, with temperatures down to -15 C, the new configuration worked very well indeed and the regiment was able to show its communications facilities to **Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB,** the newly appointed Commander Northern Army Group, when he visited two field locations during the Exercise.

FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER

In late October it was with great pleasure that the regiment welcomed for a one day visit, **Lt Col P. G. Goodeve-Docker** who had commanded from 1954 to 1956. **Lt Col Goodeve-Docker** was welcomed to the barracks by a Guard of Honour and after being briefed on the role of the regiment, had the opportunity to meet many present members of the regiment informally in their respective Messes, pass on many memories of the early days of the regiment and discuss how signallers of the 1980's fulfil their tasks.

Maj Gen Archie Birtwhistle accompanied by Lt Col Paul Webb, inspects the Barrack Guard commanded by Sgt John Davis, consisting of from left to right, Cpl Martin Bamford, LCpl 'Slinky' Sleeman, Cpl Mick Ward, Sig Paul Allwright, Cpl Ian Drinkall and Sig Ian Webster

Lt Col Goodeve Docker and Maj (QM) Charles Timson BEM, in reflective mood whilst the training Maj, Maj Bob Aitken Royal Signals hovers nearby

FAREWELL VISIT BY CSO

In mid November **Maj Gen Birtwhistle** made an informal farewell visit to the regiment. During his visit he presented LS&GC Medals to **Sgt Roy Pickersgill** and **Cpl George Hardstaff. Sgt Pickersgill's** presentation was particularly noteworthy for it was in the General's Squadron in 1964 that he started his career in the Corps. Before having an informal chat with members of the regiment, the General presented the Inter Troop Competition Shield to **Capt John Morrison** of Alpha Troop, 1 Sqn.

The CSO shares a joke and a drink with some of the members of Alpha Troop, winners of the Inter Troop Competition 1980. Left to right, Cpl John Standen, Sig Laidlaw, Sig Roger O'Neil, Sig Donny Smith, Sig Rupert Boylen, Sig Cycil Wicham, Sig Bambi Mawhood, Sig Garth Hughes

The CSO shares a joke and a drink with some of the members of Alpha Troop, winners of the Inter Troop Competition 1980. Lft to right, Cpl John Standedn, Sig Laidlaw, Sig Roger O'Neil, Sig Donny Smith, Sig Rupert Boylen, Sig Cycil Wicham, Sig Bambi Mawhood, Sig Garth Hughes

DAPL SEES THE REGIMENT

In early December, **Brig A. Ridings,** DAPL, visited us to meet members of his Corps serving in the regiment. After being briefed on the role of the regiment, he presented a twenty five years' service certificate to **Frau Ursula Schneider,** the Quartermaster's Civilian Labour Clerk. In the company of **Capt Gordon Spalding,** RPC, the OC HQ Sqn, **Brig Ridings** went on to meet members of his Corps and their families.

Brig Tony Ridings DAPL, is flanked by (left) LCpl Danny Mills and his wife Bernie, and right LCpl Derek Riley and his wife during an informal get together for RPC personnel

AND OTHERS

It must be recorded that we were also visited during the period covered by these notes by **Col Angus Robertson CBE,** Deputy Commander Rhine Area, **Col Peter Reader OBE** and **Lt Col Rick Davidge** from AG11, and **Lt Col Hugh Nealon** from our Manning and Record Office. Furthermore, LS&GC Medals have been presented to **Cpl John McDermaid, Sgt Alf Scott** RAOC and **Cpl Ron Hutchinson.**

THE PANTOMIME

Once again in late November the regiment presented a Christmas Pantomime. Written by **Capt Gordon Spalding** and loosely based on Treasure Island, it displayed Thespian talents hitherto unknown. It would be impossible to make mention of everyone involved, but spirited performances by **Lt Carolyn Wilding,** WRAC as **Jim Hawkins, 2Lt Adrian Thornton** as Martin, **SSgt Sid Coleman** as Long John Silver and **Sgt Rickie Rickard** as the Dame were noted by the audiences at the two performances.

NOT ALL SOCCER

Although known throughout the Corps as a football regiment, the remarkable efforts of the rugby team must be recorded. Under the guidance of **Capt Keith Allcock,** REME, the team has in the last fourteen months, gone from strength to strength. In late November, in the second round of the 1981 Army Cup Competition, the regiment met 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Bracht, last year's BAOR finalist. It was a very tough and equally matched game and when the final whistle blew, the regiment had only just lost by 10 points to Nil. Stars of the match were: **Cpl Jay Allen; Sig Paddy Campbell** and **Sgt Dave Arundel** the Captain. The team now go on to play the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment in the next round of the BAOR Cup.

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Blandford Camp

MIXED SQUADRON IN CYPRUS

While others were recovering from Ex *Crusader,* October saw a mixed squadron of 150 men under **Maj Dick Sanders** taking part in Exercise *Moonbase IV* in Cyprus. This was a military training exercise designed to practise military skills in a non-European environment of the kind encountered on overseas contingency operations and covered most aspects of minor tactics and internal security. On arrival the main body was subjected to a rapid series of briefings before being split in two, half remaining at Radio Sonde Camp where the OC **Maj Sanders** and the Adjt **Capt Jack Wraith** took over the only available permanent accommodation on the grounds of controlling the entire exercise, while the other half moved into a completely tented (and dusty) bivouac area on the beach, with the first two weeks being spent as separate groups, swapping over in the middle. At Radio Sonde the accent was on military training with **SSgt Ray Georgeson** and **Sgt 'Prince Charles' Watts** putting groups through their APWT on the ranges, while **Lt Ray Hyams** put everyone through their paces in section attacks and the like. This latter activity taught all involved a healthy respect for the Cypriot sun and thorn bushes! In addition a day was spent on house clearance, in which **Capt Wraith** seemed to take great delight in 'blowing up' various careless members of the Regiment. Could this lead to him introducing new disciplinary measures back in Blandford? On the beach, training was based on internal security with ambushes, route clearance and road blocks being among the subjects covered, the latter producing some imaginative ideas when various 'natives' were required to smuggle various items through the check points, the details of which are best left unsaid! Let it be said that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"!

A STERN TEST

There was also a day of watermanship activities which covered canoeing, boat handling and windsurfing. Sad to report no one really mastered this last art though **Sig Steve Mournian** and **Sig Bob Nelson** seemed to fall off the board slightly less often than many. This easy life was rudely ended with a night march across the training area which involved a number of deep ravines which proved a stern test of both map reading skills and the toughness of the feet. **2Lt Fraser Grant** lost a few friends over that night, judging by the comments of the footsore bodies at the end of the course.

AND RELAXATION

Next on the agenda was two days well earned R&R which were used to good effect to get over the exertions of the previous ten days, and then things got under way again with an inter-section sports competition organised by **QMSI Len Crawford** in the morning followed by a football match in which I am glad to report that the Regiment beat 259 Sig Sqn 2-0.

ESCAPE AND EVASION THEME

At this point we were joined by the CO, **Lt Col Tony Sammes,** for the three day exercise. This began with an escape and evasion phase with a little extra interest injected into it by the presence of guard and tracker dogs from the local Dog Training Unit who helped ensure that the 'enemy' got a sizeable 'bag' by the end of the day. Mind you they did not have it all their own way, **LCpl Alfie Birch** managed to hijack **Cpl Dave Lombard's** land rover at knife point! Once the 'prisoners' had been freed again they moved into a patrol base phase for the night, and next morning on to a military skills competition which involved a series of stands covering the various aspects of the training on the exercise. After another night in patrol bases the exercise finished with a company attack on a location defended by a band of desperados who bore a strange resemblance to members of the DS, which may go some way to explaining the great enthusiasm shown by the assaulting sections. The attack went well, apart from the delay due to having to put out a fire caused by the abundant pyrotechnics and the terrorists were duly destroyed, allowing the weary sections to return once more to the comparative ease and comfort of Radio Sonde.

The next day was the skill at arms competition which produced some good shooting, and also considerable ingenuity from those facing the task of eating a salad without the aid of plates or mess tins. The individual winners were **LCpl 'H' Hammond-Haley** (SLR), **Cpl Lawrie Booth** (SMG) and **Sig Jake Jacobs** (Pistol) while the team was won by **Cpl Tom Ruth's** team from B Section.

The grand finale was the command tasks day, a respectable 'Jeux sans Frontiers' which pitted muscle and brainpower against a series of

Sig Pete Vennal and Cpl Phil Alford

Sig Bob Wheller and Sig Norrie Cook

Command Tasks

ingenious and improbable tasks mostly involving areas of shark-infested custard and numerous pieces of scaffolding. By the end of the day several members of the Regiment were well on their way to becoming proficient engineers, while others had found that their future could well lie in taking up slapstick comedy. 'The Screen', produced the greatest range of imaginative and ill-fated balancing attempts from all concerned.

SUCCESS FOR A1 SECTION

All that remained was for the CO to present the prize for champion section to **Cpl Brian Amor** and A1 Section and for all to wind down at the endex barbeque before packing up and flying home to a cold and bleak Blandford to watch their suntans fade after an enjoyable and worthwhile exercise.

'. . . AND WE WILL DEFEND THE COMMCEN AS WELL'

So ended the final brief by **Maj Tony Whipp,** OC 3 Squadron (Logistic Support Group Signal Squadron), for Exercise *Dyers Penn.* The Squadron was to adopt its Commcen Whiskey role on Beacon Hill near Bulford. The aim was to practise Bruin and line comms with various South of England locations, with some assistance from 6 FF Signal Squadron.

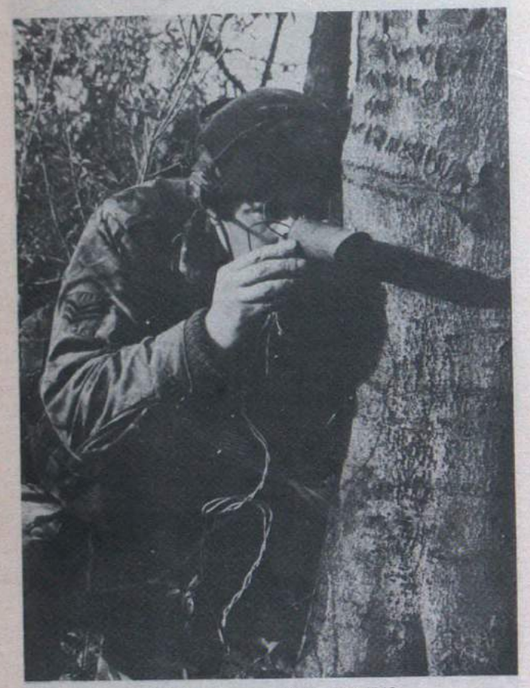
THE BEAST

Most of this had been done before said **YofS Alf Edwards** as he slaved over the CEI. This view was echoed by **FofS John England** as he finalised a major rewire on the complex vehicles. The Comhead Troop had a new Message Centre to use. This had been built in an old E21 Commcen Cabin trailer (size —very large) by **Cpl Wally Wolverson** and **LCpl Nobby Rutter.** A book was opened by the rest of the Regiment that this 'beast' could not be towed up the hill and into location. The pundits were very nearly right. Halfway up it got stuck and whilest **Capt Stephen Galpin, SSgt Jeff Battisby, Sgt Max Paterson,** and 20 men tried in vain to move it, the heavens opened for two hours. The 'beast' was put into location eventually using the double header principle, plus 20 men. This was watched with great delight by **SQMS** (I want men) **Buffery** as he supped his mug of tea muttering 'Glad I'm Q'.

Having a Rest! SSM Pete Franks and SSgt Tony Buffery

THE MOLE

As the vehicles were camouflaged and connected up, and as the admin was built and tents erected, the OC Squadron arrived with strange boxes in his rover. Each trench (lovingly dug) was supplied with an individual weapon sight and after dark a night observation device. But to give even earlier warning **SSM (They shall not pass) Franks** liberally sowed the area with Iris and Tobias devices. He was given great assistance by **Csgt Skringe** from Warminster. Information from these devices was fed to the consoles in the Comms Command vehicle which gave watchkeepers early warning of enemy approaches. This saved a great deal of unnecessary alerts and stand to. There was only one false alarm; a Tobias geophone gave warning of much activity but nothing was seen with the night scopes. It was later discovered that a mole had made a temporary home beside the device.



Sgt Max Paterson aligning the IRIS

IT WORKED WELL

However, we did successfully practise our other aim—communication. The Message Centre worked well under **Sgt Ivor Green's** supervision. The radio relay paths gave little trouble much to the relief of the Radio Relay officer, **Lt Ray Hyams** who was thus able to do his usual trick of confirming that the maps were accurate. His Troop Sergeant, **Sgt Vince Wilby** did sterling work in relay resupply until he fell off the POL truck and left the exercise injured. The power engineers **Sigs David Clarke, Gus Galashan, Martin Shield** and **Martin Lockyer** (the latter detached from the School of Signals) provided the Squadron with ample amps. They actively defended their 10 KVAs during each stand to.

AND AU REVOIR

A lot was learnt on the exercise especially about defence of a Commcen. With suitable aids the limited manpower assigned for defence can put up a creditable performance. It was the last exercise for **Capt Stephen Galpin** who becomes OC 632 Signal Troop, Outer Hebrides in January 1981. We wish him and **Jo** all the best.

THE DAY 2 SQN WENT TO JAIL

Imagine our surprise when we returned to Blandford after a three week military holiday in Cyprus, to find that we would not be able to take our three days promised leave. As we debussed in Blandford, **Ayatollah Cunningham** greeted us with boxes of compo, mask kits and the promise of another free holiday in NE Yorkshire. We spent the weekend packing and after a short delay in our depature due to a double booking we left on 11 November for the start of the Op. Our job was to provide comms from York to Frankland prison in Durham, using 2 RRBs and 2 terminal stations. The link worked extremely well once **LCpl Al Ming, Sigs Jack (Kero) Horn** and **Scouse Hatton** had stopped moving about the country. Once this was achieved 249 Sig Sqn went home leaving us to carry on.

HAPPY TOURS

The terminal at York was crewed by **LCpl Scouse Marshall, Sigs Kev Rattray** and **Bins Hardy** who settled into their accommodation after installing the jukebox from the NAAFI into their 9x9, and the remote into the WRAC block. The other terminal at Frankland was crewed by **LCpl Jock Waldron, Sigs Jim Neeves** and **Eddie Philips** who saw the guests of HMP Frankland arriving in coaches, some aptly named 'Happy Tours!' The other RRB was crewed by **Cpl Bill Clark, LCpl Terry Cole** and **Sig Norrie Cook** who seemed to have had a comfortable time living in two tents—one tent inside the other. Our thanks to the Resup crew, especially **SSgt Al Cunningham** (we'll make a radioman of him yet) who is our favourite Staffie (must be worth AT LEAST 100 Brownie points) and **LCpl Johno Johnston** who managed to get 14 hours sleep a day! The op finished on 13 November and there were sighs of relief when we were told to pack up. And so we returned to good old Blandford on the 14th and our well earned three days leave.

ALDERNEY DAY

The President of the States of Alderney, **Mr Jon Kay-Mouat** and his wife **Mrs Martine Kay-Mouat** visited 30th Signal Regiment on Friday 14 November 1980. They were accompanied by **Mr and Mrs Lawson,** the **Rev and Mrs Harkness-Brown,** and **Mr and Mrs Bates.** After being welcomed by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col A. J. Sammes,** all the guests were given a quick review of the Regiment's activities over the last year. They then proceeded outside for a photograph with all the Regimental officers. Unfortunately due to the fact that no one could forecast the weather, the back row was totally obscured by the wind blown long hair of the front row!

During a buffet lunch in the Sergeants Mess the President, **Mr Kay-Mouat** presented LS&GC's to the following personnel: **Sgt Colin Thirkettle, Sgt Bill Jacques RAOC, Sgt Mick Harvey. SSgt (FofS) Colin Mitchell** also received his HNC which he gained while attending his Foreman's course.

After lunch, suitably clad for the Blandford weather, our visitors moved to the 30 metre range where they watched and participated in the military training being undertaken by a CT course.

In the evening we had our annual Alderney Dinner, during which we said goodbye to the following guests: **Brig** and **Mrs Benbow, Lt Col** and **Mrs Dudley, Maj and Mrs Wilkins, Capt and Mrs Maxted, Capt and Mrs Crane** and **Mr and Mrs Prince.** The evening was a great success which in no small way was attributable to the presence of the Corps band directed (in the early part of the evening) by **Lt Col Boulding.**

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

The Regiment has seen several new faces over the last few weeks and said goodbye to some others.

Maj John Wilkins and **Capt Dave Maxted** have moved across to the School of Signals and Ptarmigan. **WO2 (FofS) Ken Suckling** has been posted to 40 Signal Regiment (V) and **WO2 Keith Rudland** has joined the Junior Leaders Regiment in Taunton. And finally we say goodbye to **WO2 (FofS) Len Green** who has left the Army; we wish him all the best in the future.

We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Pete Barron** who has joined us to take over as Yeoman of 2 Squadron and **SSgt Dave Yates** who has come to take over as Q Pay. We hope that all our new arrivals will enjoy their tour with us.

SIGNALMAN PHILIP CHILD

It is with deep regret the Regiment learned of the sudden death in Cyprus of **Signalman Philip Child** aged 22 years. Our sympathies go to **Philip's** parents, family and friends.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

ALMIGHTY BANGS

At approximately 8.35pm on 2 December, two bombs exploded within minutes of each other outside different entrances of our Regimental Headquarters at Hammersmith. Fortunately there was no training during the night in question and there were no serious casualties.

Cpl Robert Glazier, caretaker of the Hall who was with friends in his Drill Hall flat when the bomb went off said 'I was sitting in my flat watching television when it went off with an almighty bang. Everything was lifted clean off the floor'. **Cpl Glazier** reacted swiftly and greatly reduced the extent of fire damage. **LCpl Martha Biggs** raised the alarm and within minutes the Hammersmith area was saturated by the police and anti-terrorist squads.

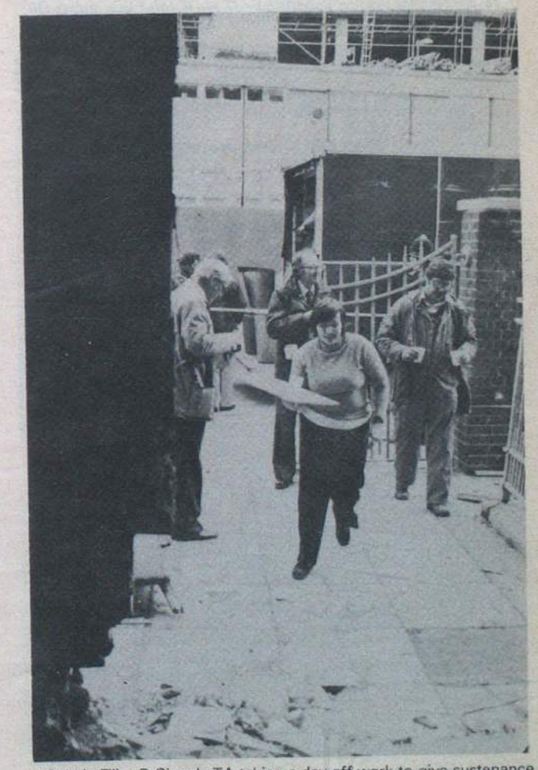
VOLUNTEERS ON SITE WITHIN THE HOUR

Within an hour, a nucleus of TA members were on site and the clearing up operation started as soon as **Commander Duffy** had given the all clear. The fire and blast damage was extensive and **Col Bev Austin's** office, the Orderly room and the RSM's office certainly showed signs of 'being hit by a bomb'. The Officers Mess on the first floor also suffered considerable damage but fortunately the colours and drums were unharmed. Two pictures were destroyed in the fire and a number suffered minor damage.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By the morning of Wed 3 Dec, the team of volunteers continued to grow and the Drill Hall was ready for 'business as usual' training that evening. In fact, the devastated centre saw a record turn-out with over 80 volunteers on parade.

Hello! Hello! Hello! what's been going on here then?



LCpl Liz Elliot R Signals TA taking a day off work to give sustenance to the workers

Business as usual next morning Chief Clerk SSgt Fred (Mack) Mackender on the hot line

THE FACTS

The effects of the incident are still being assessed but the following facts can be confirmed:

- The damage in the RSM's office was not caused by 'heat and wind' prior to Tues 2 Dec.
- **Col Bev Austin** (who handed over the regiment in December) does not wish to hear any more comments about 'going out with a bang!'
- OC HQ Squadron's claim that a quantity of sleeping bags were being stored in the Orderly Room at the time of the blast has not been substantiated.
- The Officers Mess wine cabinet escaped and 'bomb damage' write-offs will not be accepted.
- The Chief Clerk put on a brave face when he learned that all unacknowledged correspondence had not been destroyed.

The photographs, taken by **SQMS Mackins,** indicate the damage and the clearing up operation.

Maj Tom Knight, Admin Officer of the TAC, picking up the pieces in the Officer's *Mess!*

'I'll leave you to sort this one out Quartermaster' the Commanding Officer Lt Col Bev Austin tells Capt (QM) Colin Stephens

STUBBORN AND SORE

Arduous Training designed to give soldiers experience in the Military Skills of leadership, navigation and survival in mountainous terrain in all weather conditions, which will test one's endurance and fitness. Ex *Grampian Grouse II*—6/21 Sep 1980 'There's Whisky and Soda left; will you take Soda?' 'Certainly', I replied, not knowing that six hours later I would be suffering from a very sore backside with remaining patience in short supply, having scored a low mark in leadership. So ended a day of pony-trekking in the mountains on an extremely stubborn pony. That was only my opinion; others went back for a second time! Some endured yet more bruises by hurtling down a slope on grass skis, more often than not, ending up in an undignified heap having just failed in trying to evade one of the numerous bumps; we'll concentrate on steering next time.

SURVIVAL

Survival was the order of the day when a canoe trip was chanced; seven miles down the River Spey from Loch Insh to Aviemore. First we had to prove our competence in a cold session on Loch Morlich, which included capsize drills (both voluntary and involuntary) and H-formation rescues. Starting in conditions which tested our experience, we headed across the Loch battling against a head wind which made our surroundings look more like a storm-lashed sea, before reaching the relative calm of the River Spey. It was easy all the way then; until we went over the rapids sideways . . . yes, it was worth practising capsize drill beforehand!

FISHING

Fishing—another important Military skill—was also attempted, providing good catches of trout and mackerel—an excellent supplement to Compo rations. I am sure that it was only a rumour that suggested that fishing was to be included in the next Recruits' Course.

SCENIC

As for the mountain walking; (well, it was the reason for going!) apart from those that fell by the wayside with severe cases of blisters, or just sheer fatigue having climbed out of bed that morning, it was enjoyed by all. To some, Mount Cairngorm (4,084ft) with its splendid view, was the summit of their achievement. Others walked further afield in the Cairngorms. With the weather on our side for some of the time, the longer walks turned out to be the most scenic. The climax was provided by the two-day expedition along the Lairig Ghru from Rothiemurchus to the welcome shelter of the Etchachan Bothy, for an overnight stop. The concrete floor was comfortable enough for four of the party while the remaining three preferred to take on the elements for the comfort of the turf under the groundsheet of their tent.

Lunch stop at the summit of Mount Cairngorm (4084')

The two day Expedition party on their way up Glen Derry
L-R LCpl Peter Still, Cpl Bill Young, Cpl Mick Dawton, 2Lt Jan Harper, LCpl Dave Hall, Cpl Bob Glazier

THE RETURN

The return trip to Rothiemurchus was made on the second day via the summit of Ben Murchus (4,296ft). Fine navigation was required over the tops as we found the early sun obscured by a thick mist giving us a visibility of less than 20m most of the time. Using all seven compasses to check our bearings, we managed to keep to our planned course most of the way until gale force winds rose to accompany the mist. Common sense persuaded us to beat a hasty retreat off the tops, to continue the journey by the safety of an easily manageable footpath.

With the two weeks of mountain walking, canoeing and climbing behind us it was a pity that we were not presented with our BFTs; those 40 of us that had attended would have certainly returned an A1 pass! We look forward to Grampian Grouse III—(with trepidation?).

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

FOCUS ON 69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

69 (NIH) Signal Squadron had its first Annual Camp under the all new team of OC **Maj John Pinkerton, SSM WO2 George Wylie** and PSI **SSgt Phil Atherton** and participated with some success in the Home Defence communications exercise run concurrently with Ex *Crusader 80.*

Recovery from our three dimensional sea crossing was pretty quick and communications were soon established. We maintained a high level of circuit availability throughout Exercises *Red Shoes* and *Final Fling*, doubtless helped by not having to move in the middle weekend. We were originally to have spent the first week in Leek and to have moved to Rawlston for the second week, not because MOD could not afford to bulldoze Anzio Camp, when they should, or to replenish the gas supply at Rowlston. We were able to stay at Leek for the fortnight.

ABLE HELP

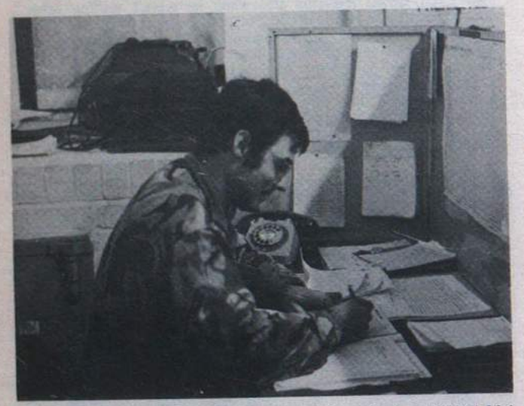
Due to the shortage of Squadron Officers we brought along **Capt Heinz Tittmar** from Queens University OTC, who very quickly adapted to the intricacies of the Conrad system. We also made competent watch keepers out of OC LAD **Capt John Chown,** the MO **Capt Brian Williams** and when he wasn't visiting other locations with the RSM, the Regimental Training WO, WO2 Jim Sims. Our lone cook, **Cpl Raymond Wylie** was assisted by yet another transferee, **Cpl McKay** from 51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (V). Having dined somewhat unexpectedly with us, the Group Commander, **Brig Hart** was in complete agreement with Hotel Raymondomac's three star rating (even though they awarded it themselves). Our grateful thanks must go out to **SSgt Bob McArthur and LCpl Wylie** from Catterick without whose help we would not have been able to communicate.

Our doctor Capt Brian Williams testing his latest theory that if you don't actually light your pipe, smoking can be quite harmless

Our new Padre Capt John Silcox working on a method to save the souls of 69 Sqn

'The Good the Bad and the Ugly'—but which is which? The RSM WO1 Pete Clarke admiring the view with RQMS WO2 Bill Taylor and the SSM WO2 George Wylie

Our PSI SSgt Phil Atherton showing the SQMS SSgt Jackie Deans the finer points of operating a Bunco Booth



Capt Heinz Tittmar from QUOTC wondering why he allowed Maj John Pinkerton to talk him into an attachment to 69 Sqn for Annual Camp

'I'll scratch my own back, thank you'. SSgt Andy Deans, Cpl Davy Johnston, LCpl Harry McClay, Sig Pyper, LCpl Hart wondering just how much kit there is left

OC LAD Capt John Chown about to 'beam up' before Cfn McAuley can demonstrate to the CO Lt Col Chris Cross how to perform a vasectomy with a pair of metalsmith's tongs

ASDIC operators Sig Keith Chambers and LCpl Wylie at work

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PRESENTATION TO STADT MOERS

On 25 September 1980 the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Gavin MacKay** returning from his inaugural visit to HQ AFCENT called on the Burgermeister of Moers, **Herr Willy Brunswick,** Burgermeister of the twin town to our local Borough of Knowlsey, and presented him with a Regimental Shield for display in the Rathaus. The Burgermeister was very touched by the gesture and promised to return the call when he next visited Knowsley.

(By Courtesy of PRO Stadt Moers)

VISIT OF BOYS OF WHARFDALE ASSESSMENT CENTRE

Headquarter Squadron were delighted to act as hosts to 25 boys from Wharfdale Assessment Centre, Ilkley, West Yorkshire at the TA Centre Huyton and to introduce them to some basic military training during the weekend of 11/12 October 1980.

A very full programme was arranged by **SSgt (SQMS) Tommy Watkinson** which included Weapon Training culminating in a shooting competition on the miniature range, a demonstration by 4th West Lancs Cadet Bty RA of the 25 pounder Gun, a display of First Aid by **Sgt Ken Almond** RAMC, and a presentation of Vehicle Recovery by **LCpl John Watkinson** REME followed by a ride around the TA Centre grounds on the LAD's Scammel.

On the Saturday evening there was a Disco Session with partners for the boys provided by WRAC members of the Squadron.

The following day the Sqn was put at the boys' 'disposal'. One request concerning **Pte Pamela Birkett** was however turned down!

After a hearty midday meal prepared by **Cpl Bobby Jones** ACC the party left for Wharfdale leaving behind some pleasant memories, half their kit, and also I am pleased to record **Pte Birkett** WRAC!

Members of Wharfdale Assessment Centre clamber aboard the LAD Scammel for a ride around the TA Centre at Huyton

THE FESTIVE SEASON

Once again 'The Baron' in his capacity as Officers Mess Secretary was required to wave his magic wand and transform the Regimental Headquarters into a suitable venue for the Officers Ball on 29 November.

The GOC North West District, **Maj Gen Michael Hicks OBE** and our Group Commander, **Brig Godfrey Curl** and their wives as the guests of honour were received by the Honorary Colonel, **Col Paddy Bryson OBE TD** JP DL LLM, the Commanding Officer, and PMC **Maj Doug Murray TD.** The Mayor and Mayoress of Knowsley, **Cllr** and **Mrs Peter Walsh** also attended as guests of the officers.

As in previous years, the evening was an enormous success highlighted as usual by the magnificent buffet prepared by our regimental cooks under the direction of **WO2 Ron Gawthorne** ACC. We danced till the early hours until eventually exhausted but fully replete and happy we returned home to bed just before the milkman!

The Honorary Colonel, Col Paddy Bryson and his wife start the dancing at the Officers' Ball

The PMC, Maj Doug Murray TD and the Regimental Cooks present the Buffet at the Officers' Ball. Didn't we do well!

The WOs and Sergeants held their Annual Christmas Draw and Dance at the same venue on 6 December 1980, when they entertained the Honorary Colonel, the CO, Squadron Commanders and Officers of the permanent staff with their usual generous but sometimes over-zealous hospitality.

As this was the last occasion on which **Col Paddy Bryson** was to be entertained by the Sergeants Mess before his retirement as Honorary Colonel in February 1981, the opportunity was taken to present him with a matching pair of bronze figures of Jimmy and a Royal Signals Officer in full dress.

The Honorary Colonel reciprocated by presenting the Mess with a set of three cut crystal ships port decanters, suitably mounted on an antique oak base. A really magnificent and most useful gift which will be highly treasured and no doubt well used by members of the Sergeants Mess in future years.

The Christmas Draw and Dance is always a real family occasion, when those fortunate enough to be present enjoy good fellowship, good food and perhaps a little too much liquid refreshment! However what fun it is to be able to relax and enjoy oneself so much amongst so many good and old friends.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Birmingham

THE TIME FACTOR

I am always consious writing Wire Notes this time of the year that betwixt pen and publication a lot of water will have passed under the bridge. It's quite illogical really because the time scale varies very little from edition to edition, but the fact that I start writing in November and notes are ready say in February with Christmas and the New Year in between makes the two months in between seem longer.

THE DRIVE FOR MORE YEOMAN

In fact our story this month begins on Monday, 6th October when 95 Sqn decided to pre-emt the TA Autumn Recruiting Campaign by launching their own local campaign in Shrewsbury. Spurred on by the success 58 Sqn were making of recruiting in North Staffordshire, the Shropshire Yeomen proud of their 200 year old pedigree, decided they could not let those upstarts from 'next door' steal a march on them. Enlisting the help of the Manager of the Bradford and Bingley Building Society in Shrewsbury, they mounted a very professional looking shop window recruiting display. The fact that the Manager also happens to be **Sgt Sid Deas,** a member of the regimental pay staff obviously helped 95 Sqn secure this prime town centre site for two weeks.

OFFICIAL OPENING

A display directly opposite a statue of 'Clive of India' obviously called for a formal opening, and so to the amazement of **Mr Deas** customers, the Bradford and Bingley suddenly filled with men in uniform on the Thursday morning (9th November) to witness the Mayor **(Councillor) Mrs. Jean Marsh** officially declare the display open.

95 Sqn were represented by four members—their new OC **Capt Brian Elliot-Williams, Cap Charles Baalham** (PSO), **WO2 (SSM) Colin Lewis** and **Sig Malcolm Picken.**

'It makes a change from training lads'
Sgt Brian Matthews (95 Sqn MT Sgt) pressed into service to demonstrate the C41 to Recruits Charmaine Bloore 19 (centre) and Jackie Goode (right). Two of the 8 to be trained by X Tp as Combat Radio-Relay 'Persons'?

'What shall I call you RR Persons'
Lt John Hodges OC X Tp (centre) having the novel experience of interviewing women recruits for a job in his troop
(Left) Mrs. Charmaine Bloore (19) (not yet attested), (right) Pte Jackie Goode (18)

OBJECTIVE REALISED

Sig Picken earned his right to represent the Sqn by winning the Top Shot in the Young Soldier Category on the Sqn range week-end. However the main reason for his presence was to present a cheque for £210 to the Mayor—the proceeds of the Squadron Collection towards The Mayor of Shrewsbury's £1¼ m. Cobalt Unit Appeal for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital—which incidentally has already topped the £1 m. figure.

'For a worthy Cause'
Sig Malcolm Picken X Tp 95 Sig Sqn(V) presenting a cheque for £210 to the Mayor of Shrewsbury, Councillor Mrs Jean Marsh. The cheque represents the proceeds of the Squadron collection towards the Mayor's Appeal for a Cobalt Unit at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

The party was made up of the CO **Lt Col John Billingham,** the **RSM WO1 Walter (Sid) Crumbie, Sgt Sid Deas,** and yours truly. The display achieved its objective, it attracted a certain amount of publicity, it ensured 95 got off to a good start in the Autumn Recruiting Campaign but equally important, successful as it was, it forced everyone concerned to examine the problem of window displays, particularly the desirability of having your own set of display stands. It was the use of such aids (borrowed from 58 Sqn and the AC10) which caused the Trustees of the Shropshire Yeomanry to pass the comment that 'it was the most professional display of its type they had seen for years' praise indeed.

MOTOR SHOW PARADE

Reference was made in our last contribution to rehearsals for the Birmingham City Motor Cavalcade parade which, having been specially arranged to coincide with the Motor Show at the NEC, took place through the City Centre on 18 October. Unlike the regiment's previous excursion through the City which honoured it with the Freedom in 1971—the weather was good. Coaches were used to convey Squadrons to the parade marshalling area near old Snow Hill Station (that name brings back memories)—spare seats as usual being allocated to the enthusiastic families who love to follow their relatives on these occasions. The RSM had a difficult baptism, trying to form the Regiment into its pre-arranged marching order amidst new and vintage cars, floats, jazz bands and other trappings of Lord Mayors' parades. Nevertheless dead on the stroke of 11 a.m. the CO **Lt Col John Billingham** gave the appropriate word of command and the regiment moved off behind the Band of RRF (TA). At this point I could willingly have fallen in behind the band and marched myself, but putting such thoughts behind me I raced ahead along Colemore Row looking for suitable places from which to photograph the parade. Knowing how little time **RSM Crumbie** had to lick the regiment into shape, and bearing in mind every Sqn contained a sprinkling of new recruits making their debut in a Lord Mayors Parade, I think the marching and drill was good.

Whilst the remainder of the Lord Mayors Parade continued to wind their way through the City Centre, the regiment turned into Colemore Row for a second time and came to a halt outside The Council House, where the Lord Mayor **Councillor Joseph Bailey JP** and the **Hon Col, Col Michael Haycock TD** DL waited to inspect the regiment. It was a difficult manoeuvre trying to dress five Sqns in such a confined space, but with the Lord Mayor determined to make the most of his first

inspection of an Army Unit it was necessary. Being at the rear 95 Sqn were the first to be inspected followed by 89, 58, 48 and finally HQ/RHQ/LAD. The inspection over, the regiment marched off with due ceremony to the marshalling area where the coaches were waiting to transport everyone to 48 Sqn's TA Centre at Golden Hillock Road for a buffet lunch. Following behind in a little bit more comfort was the Lord Mayor and his wife in the Mayoral Rolls LOM 1, carefully nursing a fine cut glass vase which he presented to the regiment during the lunch.

'35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) awaits your inspection Sir' The CO Lt Col John Billingham inviting the Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Joseph Bailey JP to inspect the Regiment during the Birmingham City Motor Cavalcade in October.
Also in the picture (extreme left) The Padre Maj Max Lucas, and the Hon Col Michael Haycock TD DL (Saluting)

'Eyes Right'
Lead by new OC Capt Bob Haysham, 58 (Staffs) Sig Sqn(V) passing the Saluting Base during the Lord Mayor's Motor Show Parade in Birmingham, followed by 89 & 95 Sqn's

'Who parked this old banger here'
The RSM WO1 Walter (Sid) Crumbie trying to make the most of a bad job as he marshals the Regiment amidst all the other participants of Birmingham City Motor Cavalcade parade in October

'One for the Album'
The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham commemorate their visit to the Regiment in October with a photograph left to right: Councillor Joseph Bailey JP, Mrs. Shirley Billingham, Mrs. Francis Bailey, the CO Lt Col John Billingham

'This won't be used for drinking purposes'
The CO Lt Col John Billingham received on behalf of the Regt 'A Fine Cut Glass Vase' from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Joseph Bailey JP. The Vase was to commemorate the Lord Mayor's visit to the Regt after Birmingham City Motor Cavalcade in October

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Another Civic Head, the Mayor of Newcastle-u-Lyme **Councillor Jack Beech** finished up having lunch with members at the regiment this time at Cross Heath TA Centre with 58 Sqn on Remembrance Sunday. Prior to entertaining the Mayor 58 Sqn paid their tribute to all the Servicemen who gave their lives in two World Wars by mustering 66 for their Annual Parade to St. Giles Church—probably their best turnout for years. Perhaps it was just as well the standard of marching matched the turnout, otherwise 58 might have incurred the displeasure of the Mayor. From his Saluting Dais on the balcony of the Civic Offices, **Councillor Jack Beech** had an excellent vantage point and first class credentials for assessing the performance of troops on parade—he was once a WO2 (RQMS) in Royal Signals.

THE YEOMANRY REMEMBERS

Numbers were higher than usual at Shrewsbury, where 95 Sqn took part in two wreath laying ceremonies. The first one was carried out by OC Y Tp **Lt (now Capt) Malcolm Luing** in conjunction with the main civic parade and church service at St. Chads. The second was laid at the Shropshire Yeomanry War memorial in St. Mary's Church by an old Yeoman **WO2 (SSM) Colin Lewis.** Also laying a poppy wreath on behalf of the Queens Own Mercian (V) was their new CO **Lt Col Hugh Pennant-Williams,** who many will remember as a subaltern in the Shropshire Yeomanry Cadre who were associated with '35' at one stage.

'We will remember them'
OC Y Tp Lt (now Capt) Malcolm Luing laying a poppy wreath at the Towns War Memorial on behalf of 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) during the Remembrance Day Parade in Shrewsbury

TRANSFORMATION

I make no apologies for returning to 58 Sqn for a moment. I hadn't been to Cross Heath for a while and the first thing I noticed as I approached the TAC was the smart new name board to go with the freshly painted buildings—TAVRA must be very pleased at the way things are going in Newcastle these days. Compared with a few years ago the transformation is dramatic. Bulging with recruits and radiating enthusiasm, 58 are now reaping the benefits of much soul searching and hard work. A lesson for us all perhaps? Clearly it is no coincidence that 18 year old **Philip Smith** gained the coveted Best Recruit Award on TA Recruits Course No 92 (8-22 Nov) at 11 Sig Regt. Ironically it was none other than our own CO **Lt Col John Billingham** who was invited to be Inspecting Officer and take the salute on Recruit Course No 92. As a result the CO was in the happy position of not only congratulating **Sig Smith,** but two other Volunteers from the Regiment. **Sig Paul Fathers** X Tp (Shrewsbury) for gaining the award for Best Shot and **Sig Colin Hyett** Y Tp (Hereford) who gained a marksman award. Alas 58 Sqn will not have the benefit of 11 Sig Regt's training for long. **Sig Smith,** an ex CSM in Newcastle-u-Lyme High School, leaves to join the Regular Army in January. He leaves with our best wishes for a long and successful career.

THE FESTIVE SEASON

It doesn't take much imagination, I can visualise the scene now, people looking down at their waist lines next Jan/Feb, shaking their heads in disbelief and vowing that *next* Christmas they will go easy on the food and drink. Well the festive season is nearly upon us and all but the real dedicated weight watchers are hard at it once again.

REGIMENTAL DINNER

The Officers started the ball rolling with their Regimental Dinner Night on 28 November. In keeping with established Custom since being granted the Freedom of the City of Birmingham, it was held in the Banqueting Suite of The Council House, Birmingham with the Lord Mayor **Councillor Joseph Bailey JP** as Principal Guest. This was **Lt Col John Billingham's** first Regimental Dinner since joining the Regiment in July and in consequence his first opportunity as CO to propose the toast to the visitors, and make the usual 'state of the Union' speech. Which in accordance with tradition contained a resume of the regiment's activities over the last 12 months.

Taking a leaf out of the CO's book I will be brief and restrict my remarks to a minimum, but three items in the CO's address deserve a mention, mainly because they drew the warmest applause. Firstly, his acknowledgement to the Lord Mayor for honouring the regiment with his presence and the debt we owe to the City Council for allowing the regiment to use the splendid facilities in the Council House. Secondly, the regiment's appreciation to the Corps Band for giving another memorable performance, and our sorrow that this would be **Lt Col Keith Boulding's** last function in Birmingham as Director of Music. And thirdly he expressed on behalf of everyone present our grateful thanks to **Maj Derek Eve** (PSO 58 Sqn) for making such a magnificent job of organising the Dinner once again—the last before he retires in May 1981.

Replying on behalf of the guests, the Lord Mayor paid tribute to the part the regiment were playing in Britain's defence and thanked the regiment for their hospitality and support in Civic Parades, especially the Birmingham City Motor Cavalcade in October.

Other guests included the Mayor of Newcastle-u-Lyme **Councillor Jack Beech, Councillor Bill Marsh** representing his wife the Mayor of Shrewsbury; **Brig Godfrey Curl** Comd 11 Sig Gp (V); **Col John Eversfield TD** ERD Dep Comd 11 Sig Gp (V) (now Dep Comd UKLF); **Col Ken Bright OBE** DL Secretary WM TAVRA; **Lt Col Brian Haw** Dep Comd NSSG; **Lt Col John Bromley** AA QMG W Dist; **Lt Col Paul Webb** CO 28 Sig Regt and **Lt Col Keith Boulding** Director of Music.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Another pleasing feature of Regimental Dinner Nights is the appearance of a large number of ex Officers of 35 Sig Regt (V) who are now Honorary Members. Space precludes my listing them all, but I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning two. **Col Kevin Kirkby** and **Lt Col Ian Maclean**—both ex CO's of the Regiment. There is something reassuring when ex CO's keep in touch in this way; we are extremely grateful to them for doing so and travelling such a long way to be present. There would have been a third present, but unfortunately **Lt Col Ken Smith TD** (CO until July 1980) was abroad on business and sent a cable instead.

SAD LOSS

Incidentally talking about CO's. The whole Regiment was deeply distressed to hear of the death of **Lt Col David Woodbridge** and although letters of sympathy were sent to his family, we would like to take this opportunity of publicly paying tribute for the contribution he made to the Regiment's development during his tour in 1970-72.

MOVEMENTS

Since our last report under this heading in the September edition of The Wire, there have been quite a few changes in the Permanent Staff Structure.

Dealing with departures first. To School of Signals—**WO1 (RSM) Joe Albon** and **Sgt Ron Appleyard;** to 13 Sig Regt—**SSgt (ORSQMS) (Mac) MacGregor;** to 4 Div Armd Sig Regt—**Sgt Ron (Grobag) Allard,** to 8 Sig Regt—**Cpl Alan Boyles;** and finally to Civvy Street—**WO1 (MTWO) Ted Percival.**

We thank them all for their service and wish them every success in their new appointments or careers.

Arriving over the same period. From 13 Cdt Tg Team—**WO1 (RSM) Walter (Sid) Crumble;** from 22 Sig Regt—**WO1 (MTWO) Gordon Haughie;** from 16 Sig Regt—**WO2 Graham Griffiths** (for last 6 months); from 4 Comms Unit—**SSgt (ORSQMS) John Morgan;** and finally from 7 Sig Regt—**Sgt Tony Rains** (also for his last six months).

A warm welcome to all the new arrivals.

CONGRATULATIONS

It appears 89 Sqn (Rugby) hit the jackpot on the RMA Course at Sandhurst (2-15 Nov). All three Offr. Cdt's stayed the course and have now been rewarded with appointments within the regiment. Two stay at Rugby **2Lt Pat Bannigan** as 2I/C U Tp, **2Lt Steve Brady** as 2I/C B Tp. The third **2Lt Duncan Lickorish** follows his SSM to Birmingham. **2Lt Lickorish** to C Tp 48 Sqn, **WO2 John Dillon** to Q Tp as RQMS. Congratulations to all four.

Finally on behalf of the regiment may I wish all our ex comrades and friends through the Corps a belated Happy New Year.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

CHANGE OF COMMAND

In these days of short notice to move and frantic handovers we bring you news of another kind, the two and a half year handover between **Lt Col Gerry Birch** and **Lt Col Willie Allan.**

Maj (now Lt Col) **Allan** has just completed 2½ years as 2IC to **Lt Col Birch.** The need for an extensive handover has, therefore, been unnecessary. The new CO is well acquainted with the TA skeletons lurking in the shadows of the drill halls across London, East Anglia, Kent and Sussex!

All books on Gurkha history (**Lt Col Birch** has done two tours with them) can now be returned to their respective libraries. In exchange books on the Royal Artillery (**Lt Col Allan** is an ex Gunner) and beginners books on how to play the bagpipes or how to smile when someone else is playing, should be taken out on long term loan.

Lt Col Birch now departs for a change of air at SHAPE Headquarters in Brussels whilst **Lt Col Allan** assumes the dual role of technical sales representative and Commanding Officer.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Hard work and weeks of preparation ensured the squadron were ready for *Crusader.* The movement went well and all vehicles arrived in Dortmund on time with the exception of **WO2 Ken Radley** and **Cpl Liz Day** who arrived about ten hours late! **Sgt Peter Day** closely interrogated him and eventually believed his excuse of alternator trouble. After arrival in Dortmund the squadron disappeared into its cellars and offices and the barracks took on an efficient (sleepy?) air.

44 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

They had a good camp and morale was good despite 50 consecutive hours in Noddy suits.

Pte Debbie Long still at her printer despite prolonged spells in her Noddy suit

LCpl Dick Wright and Pte Fay Scott studying their route to camp. They made it!

Presentations
The above photo shows Brig Bulter CSO UKLF flanked by Mr G. C. Cant who was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for 25 years excellent service and WO1 Larry Gray our SVWO who was awarded the 2nd bar to his Efficiency Medal. WO1 Gray started his service career in 1951 and has already completed 27 consecutive camps. Well done both of you

45 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

We forgot to arrange the rain and mud for them and they responded well with good communications. **Capt Arthur Beeton** the Admin Officer was difficult to trace, every time someone telephoned him they were told he was in the shower.

54 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Their annual camp was off to a good military start with their squadron HQ centre being used as an infantry stronghold. Barbed wire, sandbags and soldiers brandishing weapons gave a second world war scenario to encourage their send off. As their first road party attempted to leave the centre they were waylaid by demonstrators crying 'Troops out—you will not go to Germany'. So realistic was the ensuing scuffle between our soldiers and the demonstrators (Really regular soldiers) that the local newspaper reporter was about to ring his editor with the scoop when he was let into the secret.

45 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

There was a Guard of Honour when **Sally Thomas**—a private in the Territorial Army—married **Andrew Twitchett** at Colchester Register Office on Saturday 18 October. Her colleagues in the 45 Signal Squadron (V) turned out in force at the wedding, and after the service the couple were carried away in an Army jeep. In civilian life **Sally** works for Eastern Tractors and **Andrew** is a self-employed builder.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

VALE

It is right that we begin this month's edition with a farewell and tribute to **WO1 (RSM) Cliff Moore** who has recently left the service after 22 years to begin a second career as a manager with National Car Parks in the Bristol area. **Cliff** served with 37 Regiment as RQMS from 1973 until 1975 under the then **Quartermaster Capt (QM) T. J. Cantle.** Being a glutton for punishment, he returned to the Regiment as RSM in 1977 to complete the rest of his service only to find that **Lt Col (QM) T. J. Cantle MBE** also then returned for a second tour. There must be something special about Bristol! **WO1 Moore** over the years had developed a detailed and accurate perception of what makes the Volunteer tick. His experience, knowledge and good humour will be missed by all members of the Regiment who wish him well in civilian life.

TRADITIONAL GATHERING

The CO, **Lt Col Mike Jennings** was fortunate to be able to find a new RSM from within the ranks of his own permanent staff. Consequently **WO2 (RQMS) John Hunt** took over the office of RSM after just over a year in the regiment. **WO1 (RSM) Hunt** breathed a sigh of relief, or was it the onset of panic, handed over his AF G 1098 ledger to **WO2 (RQMS) Graham Leake** who had joined from Blandford, and began to write a speech for his first Regimental Sergeants Mess Dinner as RSM.

This occasion came all too soon on the WOs and Sgts Training Weekend in November. This weekend is the RSM's only opportunity outside the bi-annual Training Camp to muster his warrant officers and seniors and so he decided that such an event should not be wasted. It should be relevant, worthwhile and especially . . . hard work! A theme of 'Back to Basics' with the emphasis on drill, weapon training, first aid and NBC liberally applied by the PSIs ensured that the volunteers worked and sweated but above all, enjoyed themselves.

The Dinner Night is a traditional gathering on such a weekend and the Regimental Sergeants Mess most impressively hosted the CO, the regular officers and the permanent staff admin officers to a splendid fare. It was also the occasion of **ex-RSM Cliff Moore's** dining-out from the Mess. He received a digital watch from the members and in return presented a silver field gun and limber (for passing round the After Eights). Little sympathy was felt for the RSM, though, who had almost lost his voice from his earlier excesses on the drill square. (Well, you see, he just doesn't get the practice. There is normally no one about for him to shout at).

The formality of the dinner was relaxed once the port had been passed and then the members and guests were treated to a melodious performance by our embryo group, the Gateway. PSIs **SSgt John Burns** and **Sgt Terry Roper, Sig Mark (Dipstick) Mantle,** ably assisted on the vocals by **WO2 Kay Pope** aim to establish their position on the local musical scene. They are certain to be a hit for both Regimental and Squadron social events, as well as in demand for outside gigs.

FAREWELL

We are always sorry to lose a PSI. This jack of all trades works long hours (plus a few more) to ensure that when the TA members arrive for training, all is ready. His efforts frequently go unsung and he is usually left to clear up the debris after the volunteer has departed. Our thanks go to **SSgt Paddy Gass** for his hard work and good humour at the Stratford and Stourbridge TA centres. His posting to Task Force Hotel should be adequate compensation for three successful years with 67 Squadron of the Regiment. We welcome **SSgt Max Williams** in his place from 2 Division and hope that he finds the transition a relatively painless one.

GROUP COMMANDER AND HONORARY COLONEL VISIT

A Regimental Officers Training Weekend was held in October and the CO decided that as the lessons of Exercise *Red Shoes VII* and Exercise *Square Leg* were still fresh in our minds, the weekend would concentrate on looking at the troop and squadron organisations.

The Officers traditionally dine on such a weekend and the Regimental Officers Dinner saw the Group Commander **Brig J. P. Hart OBE** and our Honorary Colonel, **Sir John Wills Bt TD JP** as the principal guests at another very successful evening.

FOCUS ON 43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Since our last report, we have been swept along by the tide of events leading up to Exercise *Square Leg* in September and this dictated the pattern of our programme. With the build up to the Exercise our activities have been based on unit rather than individual training, with the three Troops of the Squadron practising deployment and communication skills. Thus we took part in the inevitable Regimental Exercises with a 2 Signal Group Exercise in May involving the 4 Regiments in the Group. It was encouraging to see the standard of communications improving from Exercise to Exercise with our ageing D11s (no replacement yet) performing well. Unfortunately, because of our static role, we do not have a great variety of locations to use at weekends and we now know one or two camps very well. This has not however affected the enthusiasm of the radio operators to 'get through'!

Although the Regimental commitment was heavy, as a complete break, a field camp was established on the Bovington Training Area for a weekend in August. This gave us the opportunity to use our Land Rover mounted sets for a change with a wide variety of military skills being practiced. This weekend was however in the 'rainy' season of the 1980 summer and the taste of rain with compo will not be forgotten together with the fact that NBC Shelter Trenches can fill with water remarkably quickly.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING

We have had notable success in Regimental Weekend Range competitions and our teams achieved 1st place in both Pistol Tile Shoot and SMG Competitions and 2nd place in the Pistol Competition on one Weekend with team members being **Cpl Harry Turbyfield, Sigs Steve Anstey, Gerry Huxtable, Harry Turbyfield Jnr, Grat Brown** and **Bob Smith.** In addition **Cpl Turbyfield, Sigs Turbyfield, Smith** and **Huxtable** were also selected for the Regimental team at Bisley. Another first this year were attachments to 4th Division Armoured Signal Regt in BAOR and six volunteers participated in two major Exercises with the Regt.

CAPTURE AND RECOVERY

Exercise *Square Leg* was the major event of Annual Camp with the first week being devoted to a 2 Signal Group Exercise. The 3 Troops deployed to Westdown, South Cerney and Okehampton with tactical sites and communications were quickly established. Both Exercises proved to be very successful and were completed without major problems. 899 Tp under command of **Capt John Bosley,** must hold the record for the number of generators used and were known as the 'genny wreckers', whilst the record for the number of aerials used must be held by 866 Tp under command of **Lt Robert Parry.** The unexpected incident did happen and this occurred to the OC of 867 Tp **Capt Rosemary Tuhey** who was captured by 3 Para who were attacking a position held by 1LI some 100 yds away during Exercise *First Slip.* She was safely recovered shortly afterwards. To add to the realism during Exercise *Square Leg,* use of the telephone was banned. This probably not only contributed to reducing the Defence Budget, but enabled our Sqn Comd **Maj Norman Harvey** to reduce the paperwork in the absence of calls from the Regimental Command Post. All ranks enjoyed the Exercise and the success achieved was a notable culmination of our training.

The recruiting strength of the Squadron has been maintained at a high level and we continue to see a steady flow of recruits. For the future the Squadron is about to enter a new phase with a re-organisation in hand. In addition to our existing role, we are assuming two additional tasks with a new Troop being established in Exeter. We do however, have to say farewell to our Troop in Cheltenham who are forming a new Troop with 57 Squadron of the Regiment as part of the re-organisation.

Cpl J. W. Criddle ACC and now Sgt C. Parsons with OC Sqn Major N. R. Harvey TD following presentation of Lord Lieutenants Certificates.
(Photograph courtesy Jack Beale, Taunton)

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED

On the personality front, Lord Lieutenant Certificates have recently been presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset to **Sgt Colin Parsons,** and **Cpl John Criddle** ACC. We have unfortunately said farewell to **Capt John Crothers** who is now with the newly formed Exeter University OTC and **Capt John Bosley** is now our 2IC.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

ANNUAL CAMP 1980

In common with the other Regiments of 2 Signal Group, '38' spent their two-week annual camp on Exercises *'Red Shoes VII'* and *'Square Leg'.* In general terms, the first week was taken up with *Red Shoes,* with the Regiment scattered around the north and west of England. Most of the Regiment, with the exception of the Gateway, moved into alternative locations for the second week, for Square Leg. CO **Lt Col Alan Hawksworth** was kept fully occupied in visiting the Regiment and controlling our part of the exercise, whilst the Regimental command post was run by the 'top brass' of RHQ and 87 Squadron, ably assisted by **Maj John Tyler,** who joined us for the exercise. The opportunity was taken to fit in general military training where possible, as the Squadron reports show.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

OC **Maj John Wardley** was fully occupied with his duties as Camp Commandant at Nesscliff and his RHQ watch-keeping duties, and the day-to-day Squadron training was run largely by **Lt John Marman.** Apart from the essential general duties which are the lot of members of this squadron, general military training culminated in a two-day (and night) exercise involving all the basic military skills.

46 (DERBYSHIRE) SQUADRON

At the beginning of camp the Squadron moved to Proteus Camp, expecting a fairly peaceful week. They found, however, that part of the camp was an exercise key-point, zealously guarded by a succession of infantry units.

Also taking part was an equally determined 'enemy', so that the Squadron was well and truly caught in the middle. On the basis that if you can't beat them, join them, the members of the Squadron joined the defenders, and had an exciting, though exhausting time. It was with some relief that the Squadron moved to more peaceful surroundings for Square Leg. At last communications were the top priority, and a good exercise rounded-off an enjoyable camp.

64 (SHEFFIELD) SQUADRON

At the beginning of camp two troops moved to Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, and two to a deserted farm near Malton. A relatively uneventful first week was enlivened by **Sig Simon Blagden's** 18th birthday party, with a dinner provided by **Cpl Mal Earl** and **Pte Eric Jackson.** Things started to happen as the Squadron deployed on Exercise *Square Leg.* A few vehicles were lost, and **Cpl Gerry Gillott** will never again boast 'I never break down!' It has not been possible to confirm that 902 Troop took the only key to the barracks when they left, but . . .

Square Leg went very well, with the Squadron achieving all that was necessary, much to the relief of OC **Maj Toby Seymour.** 902 Troop struck it rich—they were reinforced by so many regular servicemen that there seemed to be a whole shift to handle each message. A good camp closed with a faultless move back to Sheffield, though a certain Corporal did admit to leaving his keys at Scarborough. A rather tired **Capt David Wing** was 'volunteered' to take him back to collect them, resulting in a rather late return to Sheffield.

Sgt Danny Palmer of 64 Squadron 'operating' on a teleprinter

Cpl Sue Wilks, 64 Squadron, on switchboard duty 'somewhere in the North of England'

87 (NOTTINGHAM) SQUADRON

As the Gateway squadron, the personnel were fairly fully occupied on communications matters. OC **Maj Roger Merryweather** and **WO2 (SSM) Peter Bacon** had located transmit and receive sites about a mile apart, resulting in some intensive activity on the part of Line Troop OC **Lt Colin Slaughter** and Troop Sergeant **William Dunn.** They had the task of deciding how to route the lines without driving on the well-kept grass around the camp. Exercise *Red Shoes VII* settled down rapidly with Yeoman **Dennis Waterson** and Yeoman **John Turner** not only keeping the WRAC happy but also keeping the traffic flowing! During this phase we had a brief visit from the CSO UKLF **Brig Norman Butler.**

Week two and exercise *Square Leg* started with the Gateway being closed down for 24 hours. The anticipated chaos was not forthcoming however, as at least two of our Squadrons didn't want to talk to them anyway! On opening up things returned to normal very quickly, and the only trauma concerned frequent signals with Group Headquarters on circuit state formats!

During week 2 we had a visit from the Deputy Controller Commandant WRAC, **Brig Nolan,** who met many of the WRAC personnel involved. Other visitors included the Chairman of the East Midlands TA Association, **Col T. E. Forman-Hardy,** who arrived in his own helicopter along with the Association Secretary **Col Stephen Clarke.** The pilot expressed relief at seeing the 'wings' of his landing guide **WO1 (RSM) Dave Longhurst.**

93 (EAST LANCASHIRE) SQUADRON

Compared with the Gateway, 93 Squadron had a rough time. They moved location twice, ending up at Nesscliff eating compo cooked on hexamine cookers. The Warcop training area provided variety during week 1, both in the weather and the activities. A number of military training 'incidents' were arranged some being less unsuccessful than others. OC **Maj Nick Henwood** set out with 2ic **Capt Dave Smith** and PSI **Sgt Mick Kenny** to lay down a 'gas cloud' from a rapidly-moving Land Rover. Unfortunately the aerodynamics of the vehicle proved unsuitable, and the intended victims watched in amazement as three spluttering people fell gasping from a smoke-filled vehicle! On another occasion Troop OC **Lt Bruce Ramsay** leapt into his vehicle to drive away, only to find the steering wheel missing! Fortunatley the LAD detachment just happened to have a 'spare'.

Week 2 provided an opportunity for new locations and excellent communications. We must not forget the Radio Relay sub-troop; **Cpl Barry Crewdson** and his detachment on Sutton Bank had a week of total solitude. Camp finished at Nesscliff, with intensive military training and an equally intensive Squadron Party. A good time was had by all, but the return to civilian life provided a well-earned rest.

The assault course at Nesscliff—on top Sig Ian Pollard, at the bottom LCpl Jeff Poulter. The 'middle man' is Sig Paul Todd

Pte Helen Thompson, 93 Squadron, lends an arm to Sgt Carol Brown

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

THE MAGIC WORD

To the uniniated
Our Army's underrated
We're no match for the Ivan or the Chink
By far too few in number
To wreck pillage, rape and plunder
And a lot is to be said of what they think

Tho' tis true there's little chance
Of us marching to Murmansk
Or of opening a NAAFI in Peking
We have still an 'ace' to play
(It's top secret by the way)But for stopping troops it's really just the thing

Now it may seem quite absurd
But our 'ace' is a new word
Multi-purpose and impervious to fault
Should the time to fight draw nigh
'Moratoriums' the cry
That can bring an army to a grinding halt

Thus the Russkis have no chance
'Cos the moment they advance
And the cry of 'moratorium' rings clear
Fuel for battle tanks and cars
And for boiling samovars
Will disappear till early March next year

Cossack troops will gape with awe
As their saddles we withdraw
Bits and bridles, every buckle, every strap
Joseph Stalin's A.C.C.
Will cease cooking lunch and tea
They'll have chips, but we'll just withdraw the fat

Cans of sardines will be drained
Even grease from bacon strained
Zippo lighters confiscated till squeezed dry
A dearth of petrol, oil and grease
Including soldiers too obese
Are affected by the Moratorium cry

So we're ready any time
Should the Commies cross the line
None shall pass; from Top Brass to raw recruits
We'll be there should England call
That's providing that Whitehall
Haven't gone and Moratoriumed our boots.

A Foot WO1 (RSM)

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Under the Command of **Lt Col I. Graham** 40 (U) Signal Regiment marched from Clonaver TA Centre, Clonaver Park to their Parish Church, St Mark's Holywood Road, Belfast, on 9 November for a Service of Remembrance. The Regimental Pipes and Drums led the Parade of Volunteers of both sexes and the N.I. Branch of The Royal Signals Association and Old Comrades Association The Parachute Regiment were, also, on Parade.

The Service was conducted by The Rector, the **Rev J. E. Moore** MA and the Lesson read by **Col I. Graham.** During the Service there was a wreath laying ceremony. After the Service the Regiment "marched past" and the Salute taken by the Hon Col, **Col J. McCann CBE** TC.

After the March Past friends and relatives of the members of the Regiment and members of the Old Comrades Association were entertained to Lunch.

40th Colour Party

Lt Col I. Graham, Commanding Officer Col McCann Hon Col and Mrs Graham arriving at the Church for the Service of Remembrance

PRESENTATION

During a 'Crusader' visit to 40 (U) Regt (V) at Olen Camp Belgium **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle,** CSO BAOR, visiting the 40th Sgts Mess presented **SSgt Clive Harris** with the LS & GC Medal. **SSgt Harris** served with 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) as a Radio Tech PSI from 1945 to 1977 and is at present with 608 Signal Troop, Belgium.

To mark the occasion **WO1 Budsworth, RSM** presented **Brig Birtwistle** with a 'Crusader' tankard.

A few words with SSgt Harris and family after the presentation

PRESENTATIONS BY COMMANDER

On a farewell visit to 40 (U) Signal Regiment (VO at Ballykinler Camp on 2nd November, **Brig R. Stonham,** Comd 12 Signal Group, at a Regimental Presentation Ceremony, presented Decorations and Awards to nine serving members of the Regiment:

Territorial Decoration (TAVR)
Maj E. Squance WRAC
Maj J. A. H. Scott R. Signals
Maj N. Geddes R. Signals
Capt D. G. W. Baxter R. Signals

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal:
SSgt S. Bondin R. Signals

First Clasp to The Efficiency Medal (TAVR)
WO2 T. H. Smith R. Signals
Sgt R. McCartin R. Signals

Efficiency Medal (TAVR)
Sgt K. Cleland REME
Cpl H. Ewing R. Signals

Maj E. Squance receives her T.D. from Brig R. Stonham

Brig R. Stonham congratulates Maj J. A. H. Scott after presenting him with the T.D.

Brig R. Stonham congratulates SSgt S. Bondin after presenting him with the LS & GC Medal

A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

HQ SQN LOOKS BACK AT CRUSADER

Crusader 80 really started for the regiment on 5 Sep the day the first contingent left Clonaver en route to Belgium. However planning and preparation had been going on for much of the previous year so that when the first contingent arrived in Olen Camp in mid evening of Friday 5 Sep after a direct flight from Aldergrove to Brussels, it was in a sense the 'end of the beginning'. After an initial briefing, soon after

40th arrival, Brussels Airport

arrival, of the Officers and Senior NCOs by the CO, Training Major and QM, the regiment commenced preparation to deploy into the field. HQ Sqn consists of a body of people who provide very necessary services for the rest of the regiment. Those from HQ Sqn who were in the first contingent set about their respective jobs in their usual efficient way.

JUNIOR RANKS CLUB

For many, Camp really commenced with their first visit to the JRC. On the evening of arrival, only draught beer was available! Unfortunately the beer pumps failed to work properly, so apart from the non-drinkers many went to bed thirsty — thankfully mutiny was avoided.

The supplies for the JRC had been ordered from the NAAFI three months previously so the first task on Saturday morning was to collect these supplies. The JRC was now fully operational. Due to the NAAFI being closed on Sunday and Monday there had to be sufficient stock to keep everyone happy until the following Tuesday.

However, such was the thirst of the regiment on Saturday night that the JRC Bar was about 'drunk dry'. Had it not been for the fact that the regiment deployed on Sunday the JRC would definitely have been out of stock by Sunday evening. As it was there was sufficient stock to keep the bar going until Monday, when most fortunately new supplies were obtained. There is no doubt that when 40 Sigs get thirsty they get thirsty in a really big way.

Throughout Camp the JRC provided an excellent service to the regiment, particularly through the efforts of **Cpl D. Hunter** and **LCpl T. Hagan.**

FILMS

This Camp the Regiment tried a new innovation by providing film shows, both at base camp and in the field. Two films were hired for showing in the first week and two in the second. Two projectors and the associated equipment had been brought over from Clonaver by the advance party so that the main work was concerned with arranging to show the films and particularly arranging the projectionists. The regiment's qualified projectionists are mainly PSIs so that the films could only be shown when **Sgt Boyce** or some other qualified projectionist was available. From all reports the showings were enjoyed, particularly by those in the field. The films proved to be a useful morale booster and showings should become an accepted feature of Camp.

TELEPHONES

At Camp in Belgium in 1978, the regiment provided a telephone facility to enable those who wished to phone home. This Camp the same facility was provided on a more restricted basis. Certain members of the regiment made extensive use of the service with one individual running up a bill of over £30 in calls to his wife. Love, can indeed be costly. However, the service did not break down despite the regiment being limited to about ten calls per day. For many it was a case of 'well its too costly to ring' or 'I'll send a card instead', and probably for some it was a case of 'out of sight out of mind'.

PAY

Unlike other Camps when everyone was paid in Barracks, this year a large number of personnel were paid in the field, while on exercise. This gave **Maj Nesbitt** a lot of additional work as did the currency conversion from Sterling to Francs or Marks. Everyone was of course paid in Belgian Francs of German Marks. Also those who intended to spend only a part of their pay had the opportunity to have the balance changed to Sterling before returning home. Many stated their intention to take home much of their pay but in many cases the level of spending meant that the intentions could not be realised. After all the path — to where is it — is paved with good intentions. **Maj Nesbitt** combined his role of Paymaster with being one of the official regimental photographers. His visits to the various locations were combined with the taking of numerous photographs.

ECHELON

Echelon which could be described as the control centre for Olen was the responsibility of HQ Sqn. **Maj J. Chambers** had overall responsibility for Echelon. Through the duration Camp, Echelon was manned 24 hours per day. The day was split into three shifts with an Officer and a Senior NCO manning each shift.

DUTY FREE

For better or for worse the regiment provides a duty free facility at each camp outside the UK. Proformas are distributed giving a list of items which may be purchased — completed proformas together with the appropriate payment are collected usually by the PRI Officer. The individual items on all the proformas are totalled and a bulk order is then placed with NAAFI. At the end of Camp the duty free supplies are distributed to those who ordered them.

On the face of it the provision of a duty-free facility seems simple, but in reality it is quite involved. This year in particular, due to many members of the Regiment being paid in the field, the completed proformas and accompanying payments also had to be collected in the field, usually at the same time as the men are being paid. This meant that the collection of the proformas was spread over much of the first week. Since the duty-free orders were distributed on the last day of Camp, this meant that orders had to be made up individually for easy distribution.

Virtually every member of the JRC took home duty-free supplies, so that when they got home they had something with which to celebrate the success of the regiment during *Crusader*.

'CRUSADER' — 85 SQN STYLE

By 0100B. on Sunday 7 September the Regiment had arrived at Olen Camp for the big one — *Crusader 80*. Reveille came early for some, by 1700 hrs on Sunday 85 Sqn had deployed into the field. We were sent out to communicate and communicate was what we did. By 1300 hrs on the 8th 40th had taken over from 16 Signal Regiment who had been in the field prior to our arrival.

Everyone on the sites worked extremely hard and once the comm's were established we set to work to make our various humble abodes more comfortable — in fact we had all mod cons at Commcen November — complete to a shower? A bright blue plastic bucket hose and a watering can rose. Full marks to REME (Patent applied for).

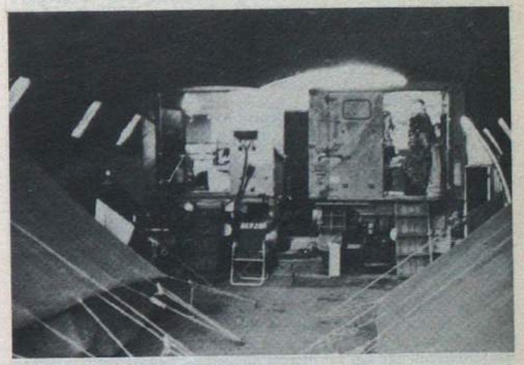
THE ULSTER PALATE

The cinema at Commcen November was very welcome even if we did see the same film 5 times and once backwards for good measure — 'Confessions of Something or Other'.

The detachment at Ostende had had a cushy time although the delights of Belgian Navy cuisine were not appreciated — not at all suitable for the Ulster palate. The gourmet delight of tinned mackerel did not compensate for a good old 'Ulster Fry'. One meal was described as 'Boiled combat jacket'.

A local Belgian Civilian Flying Club was adopted by us and provided at least one Officer with flying lessons — ie, after visiting the Airport bars at Bruge, Amsterdam and Ghent he was 'flying'. Our reciprocal arrangement resulted in an unusual meal — Curried Radio — after a G.S. table collapsed and delivered the radio into a dixie of Curry (Nothing but Indian music now). Apart from the lighter side *'Crusader 80* was a valuable training ground and an exercise in which we are proud to have participated.

Officers Mess 40th. Olen Camp



Communications at Grobbendonk

The Spoils of War, Sig Dunbar

66 (CITY OF BELFAST) SIGNAL SQUADRON REPORT

SQUADRON COMMANDER'S LOG

Stardate 5 September
We are boldly going where no sane volunteer has gone before. We have been beamed into Olen Camp by RAF and Belgian buses—I think one of my chaps left the RSM behind at Brussels Airport (mental note—must promote him). Many complaints from JRC—no soft drinks (will anybody believe this!!).

Stardate 6 September
Rest of Squadron beamed in minus **Cpl Ken Jones** who broke his ankle at a Rollder Disco! Can we casevac anybody out to *Crusader*? Much hard work today, equipment in good order.

Stardate 7 September
Our voyage into the unknown commenced today—luckily most of us were going 10 Ks up the road to Emblem. **Cpl Sammy McMurray, LCpl Ronnie Gilliland** and **LCpl Jim Murray** have replaced Lootenant Uhuru on the C41's — I preferred her legs. Over at Grobbendonk Bravo Tp have temporarily relinquished their D11's and borrowed a C41—will they cope? Of course they will, **SSgt Billy Johnston** says they will. Somewhere towards Germany **Lt Gerry Fleming** (helped a little by **Cpl Billy Ashe**) is digging in—in a Belgian Training Area, while up in Germany **SSgt Jackie Donaldson** and **LCpl David Gillespie** are sorting out 16 Sig Regt. Not much sleep tonight.

Stardate 8 September
I looked into Comcen Emblem today—its getting busy—I thought I saw some Kryptons or perhaps they were Zombies—DSO's **Capt Jenny Trevithick, Lt Trish Riley** and **Sgt Sarah Young.** Many of the DTG's are new and quite inexperienced I hope they bear up if we get a meteorite attack. (Editor's Note: they did!)

Stardate 9 September
2IC **Capt John 'Curtains' Anderson** has locked himself in our new Squadron Command Post and is covering the walls with charts, maps, lines and diagrams. The Training Major has threatened him with 'the brig' for doing the diagrams with his 'Rescuers' pen set and not official Starship Command Equipment.

Stardate 10 September
Not much time to write—the rest of the battlefleet is assembling, 'things' are hotting up. **Sgt Davy Clarke** has unravelled the lines and learnt the intricacies of a Belgian Post Office Pick-Up Point.

Stardate 11 September
Off to Brussels Airport today—I think we met Biggles or was it Pilot Officer Prune? Why didn't he want to use our communications? **Capt Ian Henderson** and **Sgt Liz Mercer** applied their razor-sharp minds to the key problem—how do you cook 'compo' on the aircraft pad at Zaventem Airport if they won't let you use petrol or gas cookers? Answer supplied by supertechnician **Sig Pete 'Jock' Pollock**—suspend the 'compo' tins behind the engine exhaust of a Sabena Boeing 737. (Thinks-will this work?)

Stardate 12 September
It didn't work—withdrew from Brussels Airport. The Brylcream Boys are on their own.

Stardate 13 September
Boats and Planes arrive thick and fast. We go into orbit.

Stardate 14 September
Orbit stabilised. Hundreds of Welshmen arrive to guard us but they don't know the password.

Stardate 15 September
Total power failure at Emblem in the middle of the night. Standby gene does not power 1+4s. Much lateral thinking needed. Then the main Emblem switchboard failed—I'll go to bed. Warp One, Mr Spock.

Stardate 16 September
Chief of Staff 'drops' in at a relay somewhere in Belgium—does not know password—**LCpl Jim McDougall** (ex-Para) therefore does not let him in. After some discussion (heated I think) CoS does get in. CoS' ADC seemed somewhat glum. (Thinks: does anyone on *Crusader* know the password?!) Sometime later Belgian Army tanks straddle the relay with HESH. It's just like being at home but I don't remember seeing this in 'Kukri Blade' scenario. Realism can be taken too far.

Stardate 17 September
We are being withdrawn from the front line of the inter-galactical strife. Casualties have been light, I feel we must go back to Belfast for R&R.

Stardate 18 September
Handing Back kit today—everyone else goes into orbit. **SSM Ray Cairns** can sort out! and he did.

Stardate 19 September
Beam me up—Scottie!

PS Whatever happened to Mr Spock? Must inspect everyone's ears.

TRG SQN FOCUS

OC Maj T. E. Canale
2IC Capt R. D. Wymbs WRAC
Lt P. Riley WRAC
Lt L. Robinson WRAC
WO2 W. Woodrow
WO2 C. Cameron WRAC
Sgt R. Barry
Sgt S. Young WRAC
Sgt E. Blake
Sgt H. Butler WRAC
Cpl K. Mercer
Cpl J. Worthington
LCpl C. Crawford WRAC
LCpl B. Wilson

Our first year as Trg Sqn had its 'ups and downs' but by the end of the year we were well and truly established. We celebrated in true Ulster fashion our 1st birthday on the 7 March. Representing the Commander 12 Signal Group was **Col W. F. Gillespie TD** Royal Signals. Other guests were our Hon Col, **Col J. McCann, Col I. G. Graham,** OC WRAC, **Maj L. Squance,** PSO, **Capt C. McMahon.**

Our Trg officer **Lt P. Riley** was sadly missed as she was taking her Lt/Capt promotion exam, which she was successful in passing. A lively evening was had by all. The SSM ensured that everybody was well looked after. The centrepiece was a superb cake made by **LCpl Dempsey** ACC.

JUNE—SCOTLAND

The advance party moved out on Thursday 5 June to prepare a tented camp at Castle Kennedy, SW Scotland for the Squadron's arrival late Friday night.

An interesting and varied number of military skills were practised:
Camouflage
First Aid
Defence/Attack Drills
P.E.
Tent Erection—camp beds/sleeping bays.
Map Reading.
Range Course SLR/SMG.
Evening Entertainment—Barbecue.

All members of Trg Sqn arrived back at Clonaver Park tired and thoroughly satisfied with the week-end. A lot was learned.

PASS OUT OF RECRUITS

A number of successful recruits have 'passed off' on 7 parades.

Trade Trg—a hard year's work in getting all our soldiers/WRAC trained for *Crusader 80.*

A Recruit Course—Krefeld—during 'Crusader 80'

Sig Herridge	12-26 Sep 80	**Instructors**
Sig Lutton		**Sgt Blake**
Sig Roberts		**Cpl Worthington**
Sig Kirk		**LCpl Wilson B**

11 Sig Regt provided one instructor, **Sgt A Cummings** who gave the recruit course instruction as per regular soldiers receive. The course benefited very much from this as **Sgt Cummings** is the Fieldcraft/Weapon DS on SSgt Course at 11 Sig Regt.

40—on the Course (2 Troops)—40 (U) Signal Regiment recruits filled in well as usual.

Social Evening at the end of Course.

A Tp—**Sgt Blake**

B Tp—**Sgt Kitson,** 34 Signal Regiment.

At the party—Conkers Competition—Draw.

So the two Tp Sgts had to compete with each other. Needless to say **Sgt Blake** won.

After Pass Out which was taken by **Gen Birtwistle** the squad gave demonstration of skills learnt at the course. Very successful—General very pleased.

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bromley

PERSONALITIES

Much has happened in '71' since our last report in The Wire. The Regiment is now 110% recruited and all eleven TA Centres are busy preparing for the winter training season.

A quick check of the RHQ permanent staff reveals some new names since the list was last published.

Commanding Officer	**Lt Col C. A. Brown**
Training Major	**Maj A. F. Browne**
Adjutant	**Capt C. C. McColville**
Quartermaster	**Capt (QM) R. C. Brodie**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) J. M. Newman**
MTO	**WO1 (MTO) H. G. Arnold**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) M. J. Smith**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) P. Araniello**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) R. L. Holt**
ORSQMS	**SSgt (ORSQMS) G. Davies**
Training PSI	**Sgt M. Francis WRAC**

We have just said 'goodbye' to **Maj Arthur Merrick** and **Jayne** and we wish them success at Staff College. In his place, we welcome **Maj Alan Browne** and his wife **Sue** on posting from Andover.

We also have some new faces among the TA Officers in RHQ and we welcome our new Second-in-Command, Operations Officer, Traffic Officer, Senior WRAC Officer and Regimental Medical Officer. The complete list is:

Second-in-Command	**Maj J. R. Stevens TD**
Operations Officer	**Maj P. D. Smith**
Traffic Officer	**Maj G. W. Giles**
Quartermaster	**Maj (QM) J. C. Clark**
UPM	**Maj P. G. Marriott TD**
RMO	**Maj C. B. D. Fearn**
TOT	**Maj D. Hawkins**
OC LAD	**Maj R. S. Godwin**
SWRACO	**Capt A P Cox**
A/Adjt	**Capt E. J. B. Keith**
Trg WO	**WO2 E White**
WRAC WO	**WO2 M. Cox**

ANNUAL CAMP REPORT

The culmination of two year's training was Annual Camp 1980 which, under cover of the name—*Crusader 80,* included Exercises *Red Shoes, Final Fling* and *Square Leg.*

Perhaps we might be permitted to tell the story of 'RHQ at Camp', in pictures.

DEPLOYMENT

RHQ was situated at the Proof and Experimental Establishment, (P&EE) Shoeburyness where we were the guests of the (mainly) Royal Artillery, Military Wing. Most of the members of RHQ, however, managed to get around the countryside and visit the other squadron and troop locations.

68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, based in the London area occupied eight locations for the exercise and then moved to Bisley for the last two days. The many facilities of the Guards Depot were put to good use—the square, ranges, the square, assault course, the square . . .

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron deployed to five main locations in East Anglia, but also took part in the Eastern District FTX by using C11 Landrover detachments to simulate Battalion rear links.

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron shunned the offers of Kedgeree and Buck's Fizz on the road to Southampton and in fact set up camp in the most unlikely place—in the middle of Aldershot. It is rumoured that they were so well organised that each tent had its own daily delivery of milk, rolls and morning paper! Three other main locations were used by Troops of the Squadron and, again, C11 Landrover detachments were deployed throughout the area.

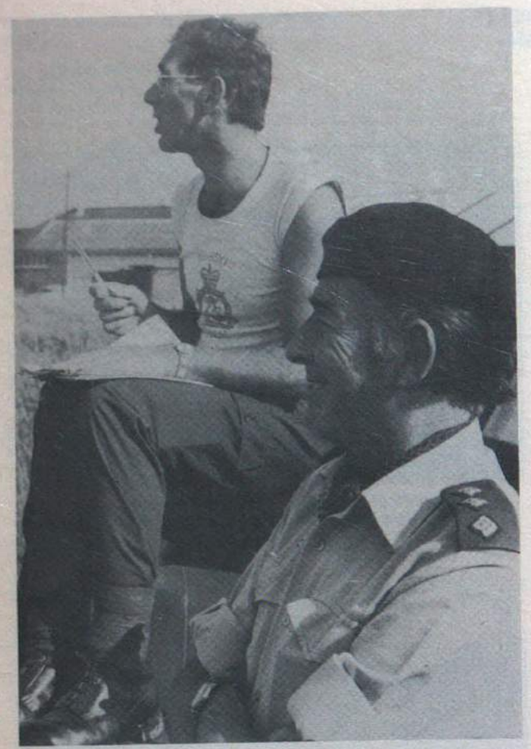
265 (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) deployed to . . . well, we almost lost track of the number of locations! Detachments and troops moved to Rhyl, Cambridge, Prestatyn, Thetford, Shoeburyness and within the London Area. The men and women of the squadron proved to be flexible and were successful in maintaining high standards wherever they went.

The final verdict?—A highly successful fortnight, with many lessons learned while much experience and enjoyment was gained.

Everything starts with a recce—the Yeomanry Way!
From L to R: Capt Tony Jewell, Capt Craig McColville, Lt Col Colin Brown

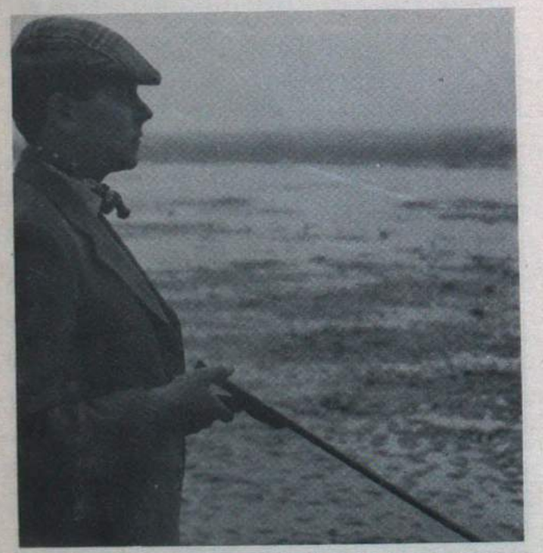
We found a charming cottage by the sea. The Officers' Mess at P&EE Shoeburyness

The Area had to be secure WO2 (RQMS) Richmond assisted by Sgt Cathy Tickner keep a close watch for any enemy



Capt Ian Cobbold thinks he has seen something—Capt Jim Esson is not so sure

The WRAC Officers joined in the hunt in Athletic Costumes Lt Kay Brown, Capt Alison Cox but is that a local Indian in the background?



And the Adjutant was despatched with Shotgun to remove the enemy from the beach

LOOKING BACK AT 1980

It is worth commiting to print the main activities of the year.

March: Regimental Dinner Night at Lincoln's Inn where the Guest of Honour was the Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army) Mr Barney Hayhoe MP.

April: 20 Volunteers took part in a ski-ing and external leadership Exercise in Bavaria under the guidance of the Adjutant and **SSgt Mick Grimshaw,** one of the Regular PSI's.

May: Officers Study weekend, hosted by 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in SOEST.

June: 40 Volunteers assisted 1 and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regts on Exercise *Javelin.*

July: Regimental Shooting Team at Bisley gained first place in the TA Rifle Association match for R Signals units and the Mercury Cup.

68 (IC&CY) Sig Sqn detachment paraded at the special performance of the Royal Tournament to celebrate the 80th Birthday of **The Queen Mother,** who is Royal Honorary Colonel of the Squadron.

September: 15 minute broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on the WRAC of the Regiment.

October: Team from RHQ gave a 40 minute presentation on the video approach to training to all London TA Commanding Officers, in the presence of Inspector General of TA, **Gen Sir Frank Kitson,** the Director of the TA, **Gen Boswell** and GOC London District **Gen Langley.**

November: 22 members of the Regiment represent the TA at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Televised on BBC 1.

We now look forward to 1981 and wonder what the New Year will bring!

Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 1

PERSONALITIES

Many moons have passed since you received a report from this outpost of the Corps in Hong Kong, and so it was decreed that pen should be put to paper to rectify the fault. To begin this epistle is easy; here is a list of some of the personalities in the Squadron. If some of the names seem familiar, they are alive and well and struggling through a tour here at Sek Kong:

OC	**—Maj John Neeve**
2IC	**—Capt Dick Crombie**
Admin Officer	**—Capt Keith Childs**
OC A Tp	**—Lt Bob Weston**
2IC A Tp	**—2Lt Don Macaulay**
SQGO	**—Capt(QGO) Balbir Thapa**
OC TM Tp	**—WO2(FofS) Don Knox**
RQMS	**—WO2(RQMS) Brian Wray**
Yeoman of Signals	**—WO2(YofS) Ross Graham**
SSM	**—WO2 Ekbahadur Rana**

There are, of course, many others, but to list them all would take up too much space.

GETTING A FEEL

Our first and foremost task is to support and administer the Headquarters of Gurkha Field Force and to provide radio, radio relay and line communications throughout the New Territories of Hong Kong. The anti illegal immigrant operations on the Sino-Hong Kong Border occupy a lot of time for a high proportion of the Squadron. Fore **Don Knox** and his team of British and Gurkha technicians are kept very busy drying out ancient Pye Pocketphones that have been dropped into the Mai Po marshes, and repairing the other items of radio equipment damaged by the constantly changing battalions on the border.

A scheme recently implemented by the OC ensures that members of the Squadron spend at least one night on the border to get the feel of what the Infantry soldiers have to ut up with. On one such occasion **Sgt Andy Hickling** who is Captain of the colony Rugby Team and built like a brick out-house, rose out of the ground beside a group of illegal immigrants and literally terrified them into immobility. Mind you he has been known to have the same effect on the rugby field.

Although the border operations take up a lot of our time, other elements of the Squadron function normally and go from strength to strength. The Commcen run by **Sgt Jim Tate** has recently added a Bronze Commstar Award to its impressive tally of Golds and Silvers whilst **SSgt Bill Tuplin** and **Sgts Alan Smith** and **Peter Coll** in the Line Troop, try and keep the Colony's telephones working day and night.

'I'm a Rebro Det, Fly Me—Please?'
Left to Right: Cpl Purnaparsad, Cpl Gopal Chhetri, Sig Lokbahadur Gurung, Cpl Yubakumar Rai (hooking up trailers a speciality), Sig Amrit Limbu, Cpl Narbahadur Gurung

A CREDITABLE PERFORMANCE

The long hot summer draws to an end and the Squadron swimming team, managed and coached by **SSgt(FofS) Chris Fielding,** finished runners up in the Minor Units in the HQBF Swimming Championships. A creditable performance considering the difficulties involved in keeping a team together for long periods of training.

CHANGES

Old Hong Kong hands will remember the single track railway from Kowloon to the border station at Lo Wu. This is now being widened to two tracks and electrified. **Capt(QGO) Tikaram Gurung,** who commands the Line Troop, looks after the cable that ran under and beside the old tracks. **Tikaram Saheb** and his multi-national team of linemen have had their work cut out, if you excuse the pun, keeping all their telephone lines intact while the workmen construct the second line of tracks. 'A' Tp recently said goodbye to their OC, **Lt Jo Fletcher** who

Lt Jo Fletcher's Farewell Exercise—A Tp Group Photo
The very white one is Lt Bob Weston!

has departed on a posting to Harrogate, via Exercise *Crusader.* He took with him a party of Gurkha soldiers who took part in Crusader and then returned to us. In Jo's place we welcome **Lt Bob Weston,** who has joined us from Ouston.

Capt David Bannister has relinquished his 2IC's chair to **Capt Dick Crombie.** David has gone to pastures new as Staff Captain A in Dharan, Nepal. He says he knows someone in AG11. We welcome **Capt Dick Crombie** and his wife **Sue** to the Squadron and hope their tour is a happy and enjoyable one.

Congratulations are also in order for **SSgt(FofS) Jim Travers,** who recently arrived in the Squadron having passed his Foreman of Signals Course. A successful Foremans Course followed by a posting to Hong Kong must mean a guardian angel keeping a benevolent eye open.

A WARM WELCOME

Life here is pleasant and judging by the regular submissions of applications for extended tours, most people enjoy life in Hong Kong. Manning and Record Office, however, realising that, half the Corps would give their eye teeth to serve here, have a problem! The occasional vacancy does however occur, so keep sending those dream sheets in. If you make it you will be sure of a warm welcome.

A QUOTE

Lastly, the quote of the year from a certain Infantry Company Commander when asking to borrow an Alpha Troop radio vehicle:

'We want it to do some dry training in the Mai Po Marshes.'

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Tidworth

THE BIGGEST

'The biggest exercise since the second world war'. It certainly was for the Squadron. The Headquarters 'grew' from its normal fairly small size to a three ringed circus of 230 people and 60-70 vehicles including the R/R dets and 'lineys' from 55 Sig Sqn (V). The QM **Lt Col Freddie Marsh** and **SSgt Tom Stirzaker** should be congratulated on managing to feed everyone and providing a handsome profit for PRI from their 'goodies shop'!

The Squadron did a great deal of moving around during the exercise. We started off on Salisbury Plain, then motored to Otterburn (350 miles). We spent two days in Otterburn with **Sgt Chris Bunn** the D&E Pl and 55 Sig Sqn (V) recruits defending the Headquarters from all and sundry—including Vulcan Bombers. After a quick two days campaign we drove down to Stanford and spent 36 hours on Frog Hill. **SSgt Geoff Shergold** took the worries of the world on his shoulders as he took over as RSM as **WO1 (RSM) Palmer** left the exercise to join the BMATT Zimbabwe.

ENEMY DEFEATED IN NORFOLK

After thrashing the Russian hordes in Norfolk, 8 Field Force left Ex *Square Leg* and returned to SW DIST for Ex *First Slip*. Much excitement about expected Para attack on HQ which failed to materialise much to the disappointment of all concerned. Our 2IC (**Capt Matt Helm**) headed up the Force reserve which had to be deployed by Puma to rescue the Dept Comd SW DIST **Brig Starling** who had been ambushed by snipers. The force reserve was made up from the Squadron D&E Pl, DTG and TE Techs commanded by **Cpl Bob Taylor** and another section made up and commanded by a JNCO from 55 Signal Sqn (V).

The end result was that the Brigadier was saved and his driver and escort rescued. VC's all round.

THE STRETCH

The following day we found ourselves back on Salisbury Plain having travelled miles and used 15,000 litres of petrol. The final communications proved how stretched we could be. Our three rebros were no less than 100kms apart. Two rebros were three way and the other two way. It is to the credit of OC A Tp, **Lt John McIntyre, WO2 (YOS) (Corky) Corcoran** and of course ALL the operators that we provided comms from an all informed net stretching from Sennybridge, to Barton Stacey, to Blandford Camp to Okehampton. (And also the Comd 2000ft up in a helicopter).

HELICOPTER TRAINING

On 12 November we were fortunate enough to have the assistance of 72 Sqn (Wessex) RAF from Odiham, to help train 20 of our more adventurous warriors in the 'Art of Helicopter Training'. At the appointed time of 1000hrs our dubious band of warriors were waiting at the appointed landing point for the arrival of the Wessex. The day was clear, but very cold, which produced a lot of nattering teeth (more with fright than cold one suspects). The arrival of the Wessex was greeted with a mixture of cheers and groans, (most of the groans coming from our notorious air traveller **LCpl Albert Luke**). The Wessex was piloted by two charming, but completely mad Scots and an equally mad Loadmaster from Wales. (The opinion of most, after the morning was over).

We started off with a comprehensive brief from the Loadmaster on the Wessex and all the usual safety factors. The men were then split into three chalks being led by **Cpl Al Eley** No 1 Chalk, **Cpl 'Lurch' Peakall** No 2 Chalk and **Cpl (dizzy) Wicken** RPC leading Chalk 3.

AN EXCELLENT MORNING

The big moment came when all the chalks were taken to do emplaning and deplaning drills which covered Hover jumps and Roping down. During this hour's flying **LCpl Albert Luke** was seen jumping out of the helicopter carrying a sick bag (this has to be an improvement from Rhodesia where he was seen emerging with two sick bags). The Hover jump for **Cpl (dizzy) Wickens** chalk was equivalent to jumping off a house (one of the pilots was under training) **Sig (Porky) Hopkins** was heard to scream on the way out and seriously damaged the landing site.

Maj Gen Sir John Acland talking to Mrs Mugford, Sgt 'Taff' Mugfords' mother on occasion of Sgt Mugfords' BEM presentation for outstanding Technical Expertise in Designing & Building the 1st Mobile Tass Station in UK. In the background Sgt Rog Key

BEM Presentation. Maj Gen Sir John Acland meeting Cpl Crickmay's family on occasion of his presentation for outstanding service on op Ag. L-R Cpl Crickmay, Gen Acland, Darren, Damien, Collette and Mrs Crickmay

Cpl Al Eley had an equally unusual occurence when waiting to emplane his chalk. The helicopter side slipped to within 6ft of the chalk and **Sig** (I shouldn't be here) **Crombie** decided that his time had come and made a dash to get away much to the amusement of the pilots. After the hour's flying the Sqn did half an hour doing Hook Ups and Marshalling followed by a Tactical exercise as would be practiced in NI. The general opinion was that it had been an excellent morning's work and we now have 20 would be pilots and loadmasters in our midst.

RECTORY EXTRAVAGANZA

As there initially wasn't a garrison firework display this year the Squadron (under prompting of OCs wife **Maureen Young**) got together with the local parish church to put on an extravaganza in the garden of the rectory.

Sgt Nick Nicol and A Troop were tasked with building the bonfire. The D&E Pl lifted the Vicar's sacred turfs and put up the tents. **LCpl Boris Ford** cooked the food and sold them for a handsome profit. **Cpl Smudge Smith** made the Glue Wein (Very Good, five gallons went in one hour). The firework display was organised by **SSgt Tom Stirzaker** ably assisted by **LCpl Shep Shepherd.** It was, in all, a successful evening even though a few rockets went astray, and everyone enjoyed it even though in the end the guy made by the church was preferred to the one nominated by the Squadron!

EX SAXON HORSE

Unfortunately our KAPE tour was cancelled due to the moratorium. One of the highlights of the tour was to be an HF Net to link UK Schools to signals units in UK and BAOR. Having organised this net, borrowed freqs etc, we decided to carry on with the net. Over 15 Units participated ranging from AAC Harrogate to 7 Sig Regt and R Signals Rear Links with some Infantry Bns. The general opinion was that the exercise was well worthwile, especially from the training angle. Our 'straight from the egg' operators **Sig Argust** and **Dobson** benefited certainly they now know how to switch a 320 on!

EX LONG STOP

The morning of 11 October was cold and wet. Ex *Long Stop* (the 8 Field Force Festival of Sport) was about to begin, 40 teams from the 6 regular Battalions/Regiments and the numerous minor units took part in this knock out competition. Each team consisted of 40 men, the Sports covered were cross country, 6-a-side football, 7-a-side rugby, 6-a-side hockey, tug of war and basketball. As a minor unit we entered one team, and didn't do too well but the enthusiasm was there. This competition is to be an annual feature so you can be sure we will do better next year.

ATTS AND DETS

There have been a number of arrivals in the Squadron including:

WO1 (RSM) Hunt and his wife **Millie**
WO2 (YOS) Corcoran and his wife **Marlene**
Sgt Rog Key
Sgt Larry Little
Cpl Brian Hayward
Cpl Bob Linnett
Cpl Ricky Power

and the whole of 559 Rear Link.

We hope you have a happy stay. We would also like to say farewell to the following wishing them best of luck to the future.

WO2 Palmer to BMATT Zimbabwe (Does he know something we don't).
Sgt Taff Mugford and
Sgt 'Spoons' Martin off together on their Foremans Course.
Sgt Scouse O'Brien to 22 Sig Regt.
Cpl Derek Whyle and
Cpl Andy Hockley on their TI in Catterick
Sig Joey Marsden to 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt
LCpl McLaughlin to 14 Signal Regt

229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN)
B.F.P.O. 45

JEUX SANS FRONTIERES

We did not like to cast Ex *Crusader* in the shade earlier so our news for this issue starts back in September with our own exercises. By way of tipping the swimming pool water from our ears, we started the month with a three sided 'search and destroy' communications exercise which was won, with considerable gamesmanship by **Cpl Mo Armitage** and his detachments. Then we progressed to one of our bi-annual exercises with the French and the Americans. This time Ex *Rondo* (the nineteenth) was organised by the French. Over two days, detachments consisting of one French, one American and one British member competed for prizes. **Sig Phil Briggs** was the British member of the winning detachment and this was only just ahead of the detachment led by **LCpl Billy Flemington.** After the formalities of the prize giving in front of the allied brigade, or equivalent, commanders, everyone adjourned to a magnificent 'field' lunch arranged by the French. We are not expecting the spit-roast lamb to appear in our compo just yet.

We followed up *Rondo* with a full scale joint FTX with the French which provided even more scope for international co-operation—particularly in ration testing: the French 24-hour pack appears to consist of a loaf of bread, a hunk of cheese and a bottle of wine!

GOC'S VISIT

On 30 Sep the new GOC Berlin, **Maj Gen J. D. F. Mostyn CBE,** paid an initial visit to the Squadron. It could reasonably be called a 'flying' visit. After climbing the six flights of stairs to SHQ he went on (at a rate of knots that only someone with Royal Green Jacket training can achieve and maintain) to visit other areas of the well spread out squadron lines and managed to speak to many members of the Squadron. **Gen Mostyn** returned on 14 Nov and, after a swift look at our living-in soldiers accommodation, presented LS&GC Medals to **SSgt Rick Levett** and **Cpl Barney Smith.** He also presented the Foreman of Signals, **SSgt Mac McDonald,** with his HNC in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

The GOC Maj Gen Mostyn meeting LCpl Ray Spencer and Sig Ashley McManus

WATERMANSHIP TRAINING

In October the Yeoman, **WO2 Brian Alway** and **Sgt Mick Phillips** managed to squeeze in one of their extended training extravaganzas. As well as more usual events such as throwing grenades and firing anti-tank weapons, there was some extensive watermanship training. Those who have not been to Berlin may not appreciate that we have a network of waterways throughout the city including lakes stretching the length of the city which almost cut off the western districts of the British Sector. 'There was no wrecks and nobody drowned. In fact nothing to laff at at all'. (Apologies to **Stanley Holloway**).

On the way to the water (L to R) Unknown Sapper, Sig John Harris, Sig Ricky Barratt, Sig Taff Price, Sig Taff Heatherington and Cpl Tony Reynolds

The Commander talks to LCpl Ray Spencer before going on to inspect Sig George Fisk, Sig Tony Marshall and Sig Gary Johnson

Cpl Tony Reynolds and Sig Taff Heatherington drive while an anxious owner stands back

Sgt John Mold telling Cpl John O'Connell and Sig Steven Wainwright how to push a ladder. The G2, HQ Berlin Field Force, Maj C. D. Farrar-Hockley looks on

Sig John Harris and Sgt George Myerscough fixing phones

DEPUTY OIC MANNING AND RECORDS

We welcomed **Lt Col J. H. T. Nealon,** the Deputy OIC of Manning and Records in October. In conjunction with 3 Sqn of 13th Signal Regiment we set about the task of discovering why all of us have not been promoted despite our obvious credentials! However, after a well lubricated evening, some of us may go somewhere desirable.

DEPARTURE OF SSM

On 5 Nov (an appropriate day?) the **SSM WO2 Taff Elliott,** was loaded on to a trolley specially prepared for the occasion by the RQMS, and pushed away for a tour of serious sunbathing in Belize before his eventual retirement out there. Before he went the SHQ staff entertained him to a magnificent farewell dinner in East Berlin—but we could not persuade the Soviets to keep him. We welcome **WO2 Brian Wilson** as his successor and wish him and his wife, **Gloria,** an enjoyable tour in Berlin.

ARU

After a six inch fall of snow the previous day the Field Force Commander, **Brig J. A. M. Evans,** inspected us for our ARU on 4 Dec. The day started with an inspection of the Quarter Guard with **Sgt John Mold** in fine form as Guard Commander. The Commander followed a highly technical programme worked out by **SSgt (FofS) Mac McDonald** and **Cpl Phil Cutforth,** designed to let him see all those taking part in a skills competition and the remainder of the Squadron in the gaps.

Having met the SHQ staff—which is so large we can mention all those present: **Sgt Keith Bowes** (Chief Clerk), **Cpl Merv Wright** (Everything Else Clerk) and our typist **Mrs Jane Kent**—the Commander looked at a team being tested on trade skills by **WO2 (YofS) Brian Alway** and **Sgt Mick Phillips.** Then he looked over the RQMS, **WO2 Mick Fogg,** and his department.

The next part of the competition was Basic Signalling Skills which were tested by **Capt (TOT) Jim Phillips, Sgt Rick Richards** (Line), **Sgt Bob Cook** (Tech) and **Cpl Phil Abbott** (Power). The remaining tests were out in the snow. First the Commander watched **Sgt John Mold's** team almost literally tied in knots as they crossed an initiative testing obstacle (successfully) with ropes, poles and a ladder, while being assessed by **Capt Hugh Hancock** (2IC) and **Sig Garry Johnson** (APTI). Then there was an interesting demonstration of the snowbound assault course which tested the judgement of **SSgt Rick Levett** and **LCpl J. R. Moore** (also an APTI). The last part of the competition watched by the Commander was a Section Range Shoot (called the Rafferty Trophy?). The range was being controlled by **Lt Gordon Rafferty,** OC Radio Troop, with **Sgt Sam Coomber** and **Sgt Mick Hogben.** On returning to the warmth of the Commcen the Commander met **Cpl Brian Prichard** and **LCpl** (our only member of the WRAC) **Jane Abbott.** The inspection ended with the Commander kindly presenting the competition winners with trophies. The winning team were **Cpl Billy Haslam, Cpl Barney Smith, LCpl Ray Spencer, LCpl Chris Sugden, Sig John Cawley, Sig Steve Rogerson** and **Sig Taff Hetherington,** all ably led by **Sgt Bill O'Hare.** It is rumoured that the winning shooting team were offered **Lt Rafferty** as a trophy but refused to accept him!

SPORTS

The sporting scene has been very busy especially for football and hockey although squash, basketball and others keep appearing in the calendar. The football team has had a few changes from last year and has already played 21 league, cup or friendly matches. We are in the semi final of the Kemsley Cup, the semi final of the 2 Armd Div Minor Units Cup and the third round of the BAOR Minor Units Cup. In the Berlin Minor Units League we have not done quite so well, however we are winning more than we lose.

HOCKEY SUCCESSES

The hockey team has been more successful. After an inter troop six-a-side contest to find a team, we won the Berlin season's opening Minor Units Knockout Competition. We have followed this up and at present we are top of the Berlin Major Units League (that's right, *Major* Units) and we have reached the Quarter Final of the BAOR Minor Units Competition. We have reached the final of the 1 Armd Div Minor Units Competition without playing a match; we won it last year but we had not thought our reputation that daunting. **Cpl Don Boscoe** is our top goalscorer while **Sig Dickie Bird** and **Cpl Tony Reynolds** are our chief experts in foiling the opposition. **Sig Taff Thomas** has had his leg in plaster for the past few months but he compensates for his absence from the pitch with the noise he makes from the touchline.

WO2 (RQMS) Mick Fogg is running a very successful squash team, consisting of himself, **Sgt Ian Duncan, Cpl Keith Glasby** and **Sig Garry Johnson.** They have won five out of six matches and, with eleven out of twelve points, are currently at the top of the Berlin Minor Units league.

The brilliant basketball career of **WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson** has been stopped in its tracks, temporarily, on his discovery that he has been playing with a broken thumb for six weeks. However before that discovery he had helped the rest of the team in an even handed performance winning two matches and losing two.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Departures to whom we say 'Bon Voyage' include: **Cpls Tony Hodgson, Lenny Dunford, Zack Tracey, Kev Page, Bob Grant** and **LCpls Pete Jones, Mick Leek, Alan Patterson, Harry Roberts** and **Pat McCreadie.** We extend a warm welcome to Berlin to: **Cpls Colin Deering, Keith Glasby, Steve Barrington** and **Barry Iseton.**

CONGRATULATIONS

And finally this month news of two Squadron marriages. **Sig Mick Polmear** to Miss **Jane Marian Trott** and our civilian typist, Miss **'Sam' Kristoff** to **WO1 (RSM) Jim Adamczyk** (RMP). Our heartiest congratulations to both couples.

240 Sig Sqn York

NEARBY PLACES

'240 Signal Squadron? Where is that?' do I hear you ask. Well if there were a section in The Wire devoted to 'Nearby Places and usual Jobs' we would fit quite neatly under that heading most of the time (Well, even we have our moments of excitement). For the benefit of all those interested in 'Nearby Places and Usual Jobs' here is a quick resume of what we do:

The Squadron along with 241, and 242 Signal Squadrons and 10 Signal Regiment are responsible for static communication (telephone and telegraph) in the UK (excluding Northern Ireland). 240's area of responsibility is North East and Eastern Districts which in fact covers the whole eastern half of UK from the Scottish border down to the Thames. If you like travelling, then the Squadron Commander's job would suit you fine, as **Maj Trevor Grice** will surely testify during his attempts to visit all members of the Squadron.

Our main function though is providing UK based Units and Headquarters with communications and to do this we have Exchanges and Commcens manned by civilian operators. Also part of the Squadron are SWS Troops Eastern and North East Districts commanded by **Maj** (TOT) **Don Capon** and **Maj** (TOT) **Ian Rose.** In addition we administer Signals personnel with FSS Stations Brizlee Wood and Stenigot. We have a small section of WRAC operators who are on constant standby to support any Exchange or Commcen that is short staffed due to sickness or leave. The girls say they enjoy this trouble shooting type of work although our Admin Officer, **Maj (Retd) Johnny Johnston,** can now produce movement orders in his sleep. **Maj** (Tfc) **Bryan Abbiss** heads Operating Troop ably assisted by **Mr Ian Peberdy** (Telecomm Supervisor 'A') and **WO2 (Y of S) Alex McArthur** who together 'keep the show on the road' through thick and through thin. They are assisted by technicians **Sgt Brian Richardson** and **LCpl Brian Jenkinson** and 'Crypto-kings' **Cpl Howard Swift** and **Bill Taylor.**

COMSTAR AWARDS

Many of our Commcens are single person Commcens and the Comstar Award Scheme offers a challenging way to improve personal skills. On 1 September, **Brig J. P. Hart, OBE,** Commander 2 Signal Group visited our Commcens and Exchanges at Bassingbourn and Waterbeach and took the opportunity of presenting a Silver Comstar Award to **Mrs Carol Barry** of Commcen Waterbeach and a Gold Comstar Award to **Mrs Dorothy Waldock** of Commcen Bassingbourn.

After the formal presentation of Mrs Waldock's Gold Comstar Award a more relaxed attitude was adopted with the assistance of a glass of 'bubbly'. *L to R:* WO2 (Y of S) Alex McArthur, Mrs Dorothy Waldock, Commander 2 Signal Group, and Lt Col K. Woodrow, Royal Anglian, CO Depot Queen's Div

FULLY MANNED

Increased communication coverage was required for Ex *Square leg* and several part-time stations became 24 hour stations. The extra staff required for this were drawn from 8 Signal Regiment course personnel, and we found ourselves receiving, sorting out and despatching Data Telegraphists (still in their six weeks of basic training) and Radio Telegraphists (fresh off their Class 3 Course) to the various Commcens and Exchanges. The live experience gained by these individuals during the course of the Exercise will be invaluable to them in their future careers. We did however have one of our 'exciting moments' when one young soldier relayed a classified message over the 'phone. Needless to say, he soon discovered that there are better ways of meeting 'new and exciting people'.

Much praise is due to the staff of those Commcens and Exchanges that were reinforced and who looked after, helped, sorted out, 'phoned up and got called out. At the end of the day it all went well.

FOCUS ON FSS STENIGOT

SSgt C. E. Walker	Station Chief	The Management
Sgt A. W. Lythaby	Chief Technician	2
Sgt R. Snape		
Sgt J Gilmour		
Sgt L. L. Adams		
Sgt R. F. Studd		The Workers
Sgt W. J. Anderson		
Sgt T. Smith		
Sgt F. Thompson		
Sgt P. Garratt		
Cpl N. J. Cannings		
Sig R. Capper		

Our station forms part of the Ace High Network in UK within the Central Region Signal Group. FSS Stenigot lies on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds and our 'dishes' can be seen for miles.

Having got the preamble over let's get down to personalities which is why people read the 'Wire' in the first place. In early October we said farewell to **SSgt Roy Habergham** who left us for BAOR and welcomed **SSgt Charlie Walker** from Swingate/Dover. I wonder why three members of the troop put in for postings around then?

We are administered locally by RAF Binbrook and compete in their sport league. This year we retained the 4-a-side hockey having one player in the other side in the final as a safeguard. The winning team consisted of **Sgts Bill Anderson, Jim Gilmour, Fred Thompson** and **Nick Cannings** and our 'traitor' was **Sgt Russ Studd.**

We shared the Cross Country Shield with DOE thanks to the efforts of **Sgts Roy Snape, Pete Garratt** and **Sig Bob Capper.** We reached the final in the volleyball and summer hockey and the semi-final in the 5-a-side football. We were awarded the Station Overall Winners Cup for the best performance.

Sgt Fred Thompson represents Binbrook at Rugby and **Sgts Bill Anderson** and **Jimmy Gilmour** represent them at football. **Sgt Bill Anderson** also plays cricket for the Station.

Remember, remember the 5 of November as **Sgt Russ Studd** was presented with his LS&GC Medal by **Group Capt Cowley AFC** the Station Commander of RAF Binbrook, at Stenigot. All Station personnel enjoyed a drink afterwards and wondered, 'If he can get it . . . .'

We lose **Cpl Nick Cannings** on his T1 upgrading shortly and wish him all the best in the future.

Sgt R. Studd being presented with his LS&GC Medal by Gp Capt Crowley AFC the Station Commander RAF Binbrook

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B.F.P.O. 58

PERSONALTIES

OC	**Maj Lionel French**
2IC	**Capt Derek Robertson**
Tfc Offr	**Capt Terry Lightfoot**
TOT	**Capt Cliffe Webb**
OC Fd Tp	**Lt Jane Sugden (when she returns from Australia!)**
SSM	**WO2 Jim Humphreys**
RQMS	**WO2 Colin Easton**
F of S	**WO2 Alan Mockford**
F of S Cape Greco	**WO2 Brian Carter**
Y of S	**SSgt Percy Beynon**

VISIT OF COMMANDER

On Monday 20 October 1980, the Squadron was visited by **Air Vice Marshal R. L. Davis,** who had recently assumed his appointment of Commander British Forces Cyprus vice **Maj Gen W. R. Taylor.**

The CBFC was given a tour around the squadron lines to meet as many of the squadron as possible, and also included the new radio relay site.

CBFC is shown in the photograph with our OC **Maj Lionel French.**

CYPRUS WALKABOUT

An annual trek around the Troodos hills for those amongst us who are made of more muscle than brain. This year's competition, (it used to be a jolly!!), really sorted the men from the boys as it held quite a few surprises with regard to the route; so much so, that at the end of the first day, once everybody had arrived at the trout farm at Platres, the field had been cut by over half. Feeling more sorry for himself than people can imagine, the 2IC, **Capt Derek Robertson** dragged his body back 'down' the mountain on the second day. Names of other team members who unfortunately were not able to complete the race are written in blood along the route:

Sgt Hugh Lovejoy
Sgt Phil Baker
Cpl Sue Catterall
Cpl Tony Lobb
Cpl Buddy Fowles
Cpl Tanky Sherman
LCpl Faith Neville
Pte Desire Martin

Congratulations to them all, for they most definitely derserve it. Now, about next year . . .

KING RICHARD SCHOOL COMBINED CADET FORCE

Sometime late 79 early 80, it was decided to form a CCF in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) of Cyprus and that it was to be badged Royal Signals. The Dhekelia Garrison Commander, **Col J. D. F. Alexander,** was the authority and driving force during the early stages of getting the contingent off the ground.

The response shown by prospective cadets was good enough to warrant a contingent strength of 50. The Garrison Q staff were then tasked with providing the necessary stores and equipment and the onus was on King Richard School to recruit training staff. The resident infantry battalion volunteered their services for the majority of subjects. For drill, the **GSM WO1 John Maskell** RCT and **WO2 (SSM) Jim Humphreys** were enrolled.

THE PARADE

For the first five weeks, the priority was on drill instruction in preparation for a badging parade on 31 October. The day finally arrived and with the band of the Royal Green jackets, the cadets marched on to the square. The cadets put all they had into their parade. Having been presented with their Royal Signals cap badge by the Garrison Commander, and the Contingent blessed by the Padre, the cadets marched off the square to the Corps march.

THE FUTURE

This Contingent is badged solely Royal Signals and as sponsor unit we have now taken on the commitment to train them into signallers.

Any other unit who sponsor a CCF/ACF Signals Unit may wish to get in touch with us and who knows what may be able to be arranged.

The photograph highlights **Cadet Kenny Resoun** who is at this moment awaiting his attestation papers to join the Corps as an apprentice.

MILSKILLS

This year's Milskills Competition was held on 14 November at Episkopi under the control of 3 LI, who organised and ran the whole competition. The competition took in first aid and IS duties as well as the usual five mile plus speed march, followed very quickly by a shoot on the ETR. Having started the day with a 0530hrs breakfast, the team was ready for the pint that awaited them at just after 1100hrs having completed the tests! It was then a case of raise your glass to the other teams as they completed the speed march. The final result placed us seventh from ten teams competing, and in the words of our OC, **Maj Lionel French,** 'Watch out 259 our climb up the order of merit puts your No 1 spot in jeopardy!'

THE TEAM

WO2 (SSM) Jim Humphreys, SSgt Mick Schnable, Sgts Mick Green and **Pete Grist, Cpls Stu Mullen, Tony Lobb, Ken Jones, LCpl Stanton,** and last but not least, **Sig Jimmy Neild.**

HI'S AND BYES

Hi and welcome to the following: **WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford, Sgt Phil Mosley, Cpl Dave Hall, LCpl Steve Bullimore, LCpl Michael Linkins, LCpl Debbie Withey, Ptes Maria McKay, Glynnis Ball, Tina Acklaw, Carol Jewell, Tania Frampton, Shirley Stant** and **Diedre Burrows.**

Goodbye to **WO2 (FofS) John McIlree, Sgts Dave McMillan, Derek Boyd, Dave Shaw, Dave Bavington, Ray O'Keeffe, Martin Kerrigan; Cpls Colin Nowell, Steve Bennett, Dai Jones; LCpls Dave Ashley, Steve Robertson, Roy Smith, Stan Holden, Vivienne Grainger, Jeannette Cook, Julie Hillman, Geordie Dyble, Anne McNally.** We wish all of you and your families the very best for the future.

Association News

Dear Member,

PROPOSED VISIT TO KOREA APRIL 1981

Next April is the 30th anniversary of the Imjin River Battle. A visit to Korea by members of the Gloucestershire Regimental Association is being planned, and the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, has kindly extended an invitation to our Association to take part. Our President, Maj Gen Brodie, is keen that the matter be widely circulated among our members, and the Area Representatives are asked to circulate members in their areas AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. Ladies are of course included, and it is hoped to fly from UK, and not France.

At this stage, costings for air travel are provisional, and are given as follows:—

a) £400 per person return, for 100 passengers.
b) £300 per person return, for 400 passengers.

In addition there are accommodation costs, plus of course spending money. For the moment, an upper bracket of around £500 per person, air fare and accommodation, has to be considered. Several of us have been back there in recent years; we guarantee anyone who goes will not regret it, really the chance of a life-time. If, based on the information above, you would like to go, please complete the attached, and return it TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE FORM. Please mark your envelope Korea Revisit top left, and finally, please advise me!

Send your completed form to:—

RHQ The Gloucestershire Regiment,
Custom House,
31, Commercial Road,
GLOUCESTER, GL1 2HE

Yours sincerely
Sam Mercer
Hon. General Secretary

To: RHQ The Gloucestershire Regiment
Custom House
31 Commercial Road
GLOUCESTER GL1 2HE

PROPOSED VISIT TO KOREA APRIL 1981

(TO BE RETURNED TO RHQ BY 22 DEC 80)

1. I wish to make a firm bid to participate in this visit.

2. My party will consist of:

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(Name, initials, title in block letters)

3. I undertake to pay the costs indicated at paragraph 3 of your letter by 27 Feb 81 if required.

Signed . . . . . .

Date . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Tel No. . . . . .

(Editors Note:- We are glad to publicise this statement from the Hon General Secretary, The British Korean Veterans Association.)

Sport

ANNUAL CORPS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

The ninth annual Corps Badminton Tournament took place in Blandford Camp from 27 to 31 October. Despite the enforced Moratorium, it was well supported with 42 entries which included a large contingent from BAOR. After the normal administrative problems had been sorted out by **Capt Phil Noble** and **Sgt Colin Thirkettle** and **Dick Ellis,** the actual tournament got under way. Whether it was the incentive of three new trophies this year or the fact that the heating in the gymnasium had been turned down, the enthusiasm and standard of play was extremely high. As always with this tournament the sportsmanship of players and spectators alike was outstanding.

The results were:

Mens Singles —		
Winner	**LCpl Tom Pollard**	4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runner Up	**Lt Stan Hargreaves**	4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Mens Unit Doubles —		
Winners	**LCpl Tom Pollard**	4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
	LCpl Jim Moore	4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runners Up	**Sgt Ian Gilbert**	21 Sig Regt
	Sgt Om Chhetri	21 Sig Regt
Mens Open Doubles —		
Winners	**Sgt Om Chhetri**	21 Sig Regt
	LCpl Tom Pollard	4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runners Up	**WO1 Peter McLoughlin**	28 Sig Regt
	Sgt Dick Ellis	School of Signals
Veterans Doubles —		
Winners	**Maj Eddie Holland**	School of Signals
	Sgt Ian Gilbert	21 Sig Regt
Runners Up	**Sgt Dick Ellis**	School of Signals
	WO1 Peter McLoughlin	28 Sig Regt
Mens Singles Plate —	**LCpl Jim Moore**	4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Mens Singles Saucer —	**Cpl Clive Atherley**	4 Sig Group
Mixed Doubles —		
Winners	**Cpl Clive Atherley**	4 Sig Group
	Mrs Ann Clay	School of Signals
Runners Up	**Sgt Sid Steele**	30 Sig Regt
	Mrs Joan Sammes	30 Sig Regt
Mixed Doubles Plate —	**Sgt Stew Croot**	School of Signals
	Miss Clare Manville	School of Signals
Ladies Doubles —		
Winners	**WO2 Val Jepson**	36 Sig Regt
	Mrs Sue Nesbitt	36 Sig Regt
Runners Up	**Miss Janet Hincheliffe**	School of Signals
	Miss Clare Manville	School of Signals

On completion of a thrilling mornings finals tournament the trophies were kindly presented by **Mrs Joan Sammes,** wife of **Lt Col A. J. Sammes,** President of Corps Badminton.

The main winners from the Corps championships

Mrs Joan Sammes presenting LCpl Tom Pollard with the mens singles trophy

ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS

Statement by Capt Harry Meekings
Secretary Corps Golf.

SOME MAJOR CHANGES

There have been some major changes recently in the structure and running of Corps Golf, and I thought the best way of promulgating them would be by this statement. You are all probably aware of the 'growth factor'. We have 138 registered golfers, and I recently circulated a computer print-out showing all the relevant details.

As most of you will know, we have a number of regular fixtures each year against other Corps/Regiments, Staff College, RMA Sandhurst, RAF Signals and so on. In the past, teams have consisted mainly of serving and retired officers. Team selection was the responsibility of the Captain of Corps Golf. Before the season starts, the Secretary circulates a list of fixtures to all potential players, asking for bids. From these replies the Captain selects his team, and usually these are the best available players for each fixture.

Most of these fixtures were 'officers only' teams. Recently I have corresponded with the Secretaries of all the teams we play, and with two exceptions, we have agreed that future fixtures should be open to all ranks. The two fixtures which are restricted to officers only are:

The Army Golfing Society Meeting (Army Officers Society)
Ironsides GS (RTR)

Apart from these two fixtures, our tems will be representative of all ranks, serving and retired, and taking handicaps into account.

NEW VENUE FOR TWO DAY MEETING

The next major change is in the venue and programme for our Spring and Autumn meetings. Catterick has been running a successful two day Spring meeting for many years. In the South we have had two one day meetings, one in March and the other in September, both at Woking GC. These days have become expensive with the rise in green fees and catering costs. From this year the two one day meetings at Woking will be transferred to a two day meeting at Tidworth GC. This will be cheaper than Woking, it is a semi-Military club, and military accommodation is readily available.

SIMILAR PROGRAMMES—SPRING AND AUTUMN

So there will be two day meetings each year, run on similar lines. The Spring meeting will be at Catterick, and the Autumn meeting at Tidworth.

The programmes are likely to be:

Day 1 — Morning 18 holes Stableford for Individual Handicap Challenge Cup.

Veterans Trophy (Over 60s).
Afternoon Foursomes Challenge Cup (Partners drawn)

Day 2 — 36 holes at net and scratch for:
Open Championship (Scratch)
Championship Challenge Cup (Scratch—Regular Officers only)
Handicap Challenge Cup (Net)
Team Championship (Net Team Score)

Day 1 is expected to give our retired members an opportunity to meet old friends rather than the more gladitorial events of Day 1, but I know a number of our retired members will take part in both days. At the end of Day 1 it is intended to hold the AGM at a small evening get-together.

UNDER REVIEW

We are moving towards a more selective system for the award of Corps Colours. We should favour our best players (those who represent the Corps in the big events such as Ordnance, Egypt and Royal Irish Rangers Cups) and those who excel elsewhere (such as the Cyprus Army Champion). Performance should be considered as well as the number of times a player is selected. (I have been keeping a record of performances). The awards now have to be proposed by the President of Corps Golf **Major General A. J. Jackson** in accordance with the revised Corps Memorandum.

In the past, prizes have not been awared at our meetings. We are looking into ways whereby prizes for our major competitions could be given, probably on a self-financing basis. All players selected to represent the Corps will continue to contribute £3 per match to Corps funds—to offset the cost of green fees.

AREA SECRETARIES

Finally, in order to spread the gospel to as many players as possible, we have appointed Area Golf Secretaries to assist the Hon Secretary in identifying golfers and disseminating information to them. I also intend to have each Area Secretary send me an end of season report. The Area Secretaries are:

Royal Signals (North)

Royal Signals (North)	**Capt Dave Shakespeare**	8th Signal Regiment
Royal Signals (South)	**Capt Dave Palmer**	School of Signals
Northern Ireland	**WO2(FofS) George Coles**	233 Signal Squadron
BAOR	**Capt Ted Noon**	4 Signal Group
Cyprus	**Capt Terry Lightfoot**	262 Signal Squadron
Hong Kong	**Maj John Elliott**	Hong Kong Signal Squadron

Please get to know your local secretary and help him. If there is anything you want to know, do not be afraid to contact him and in particular assist him in organising a better Golfing Season for you. Please alert him to the arrival of new golfers, I am sure he will be very grateful.

HERE AND THERE

7 REGT

ODE TO A PADRE

When called to The Cloth, a labour of love,
You are always with the one above,
Everyone knows that a Sky Pilot ought'er,
Keep his hands dipped in holy water,
But his smalls, for what they are worth,
brings Padre Springford back down to earth.

10 REGT

2Lt Sharon Vincent in the aim

16 REGT

Sgt Rene McGregor and Pte Dawn Webster giving Comd 4 Sig Gp a hard time—well the OC said speak your mind! Pte Sandra Horry seems to be enjoying the joke

22 REGT

March and Shoot
'Nice day for a stroll'

35 REGT

Off to join the 'Regular Corps'
Sig Philip Smith seen here stowing away C41 Yagi Aerial Mast gear in 58 Sqn's TAC, will soon be packing up kit of a different nature. He leaves to join the Regular Army in January 1981

40 REGT

Presentation to Brg R. Stonham of Waterford Crystal by Lt Col I. Graham on behalf of the Officers Mess

233 SIG SQN

Directors Visit
L—R: Pte Lesley Ballantyne, LCpl Fran Rimell, Pte Lorraine Pearce, Lt Dorothy Ryder, Brig A. Field

BRIGHTON BRANCH ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Brighton Branch Service at Maresfield a few of the congregation

OP AGILA

Dear Sir,

This unit was heavily involved in Op *Agila* Dec 79—Mar 80. When **Maj Patterson** left the Squadron in May last year he presented us with an original oil painting by **David Pritchard** of an Assembly Place in Zimbabwe during the Operation.

The picture is of interest to every unit who served on Op *Agila* but especially the Royal Signals.

We have managed to get photographic prints made of the picture and would like to offer these out to the Corps as a whole. The sizes available and prices are as follows:

a. 10" x 7½" (as enclosed)	£3.60
b. 12" x 10"	£5.40
c. 15" x 12"	£10.00

Anyone interested should send their order and cheques made out to:

PRI 8 Field Force HQ & Signal Squadron
Jellalabad Barracks
Tidworth
Hants

Yours faithfully

A. Helm

From:- Capt A. Helm R Sigs
8 Field Force HQ Squadron
Jellalabad Barracks
Tidworth
Hants
Tidworth Mil Ext 2321

(Editors note:- This colour 'photógraph' is reproduced in black and white.)

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 375, please.

	Overseas £	UK £
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	32.00	36.80
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.50	7.50
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.90
Corps table mats (set of six)	22.00	25.00
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.00	6.90
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	6.60	7.70
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.25	3.60
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" x 4½"	1.10	1.25
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	3.80	4.35
Crested glass ash trays	1.15	1.35
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1.90	2.20
Car badge—square, acrylic	2.90	3.25
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.45	0.50
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.30	2.60
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	2.20	2.40
Corps transfers—large (10" x 7½")	0.85	0.90
medium (7½" x 5½")	0.80	0.85
small (3" x 2⅜")	0.75	0.80
Identity card holder	0.20	0.22
Blazer buttons—large	0.50	0.55
small	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
Vinyl "coasters" with Corps Crest (set of six)	1.45	1.55
Calf leather comb case complete with comb	0.45	0.50

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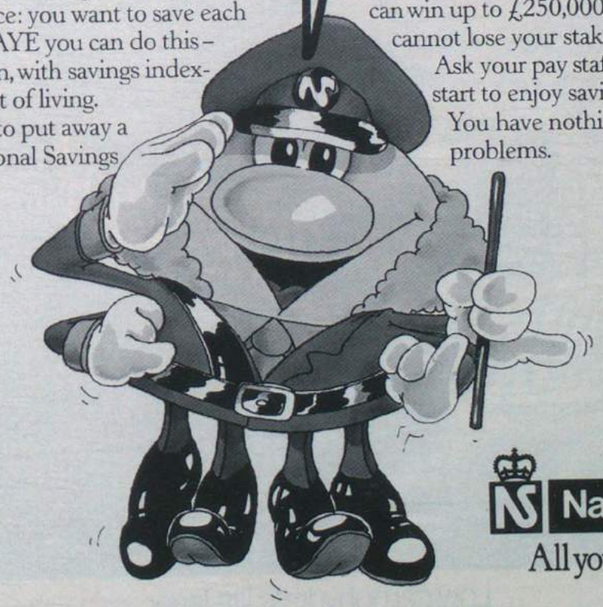

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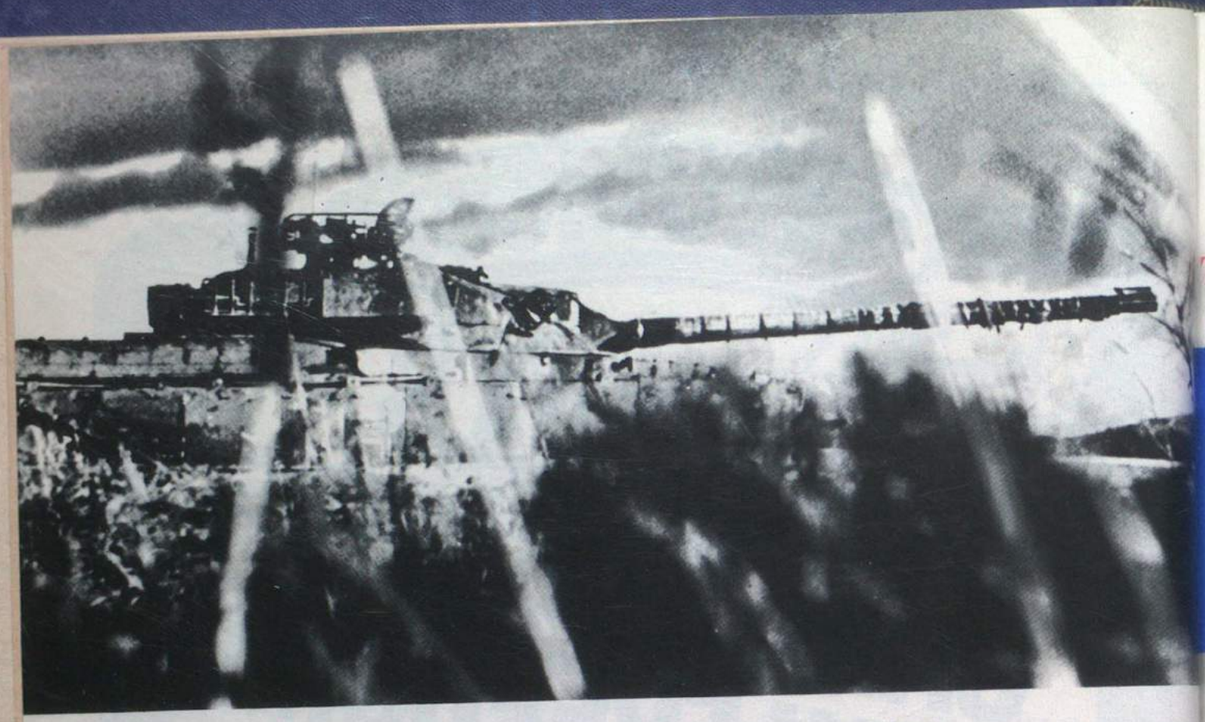

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And devised simple display windows so you can read the situation at a glance.

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And the Field Test Equipment – by running full computer analysis – can check each and every one of the 1800 channels without manual work.

The British Ministry of Defence has specified Clansman UK/VRC 353 as the only VHF/FM vehicle radio to be installed in armoured and soft-skinned vehicles of all three British armed services.

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MSDS

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A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

Marketing Department,
The Grove, Warren Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LY, England.
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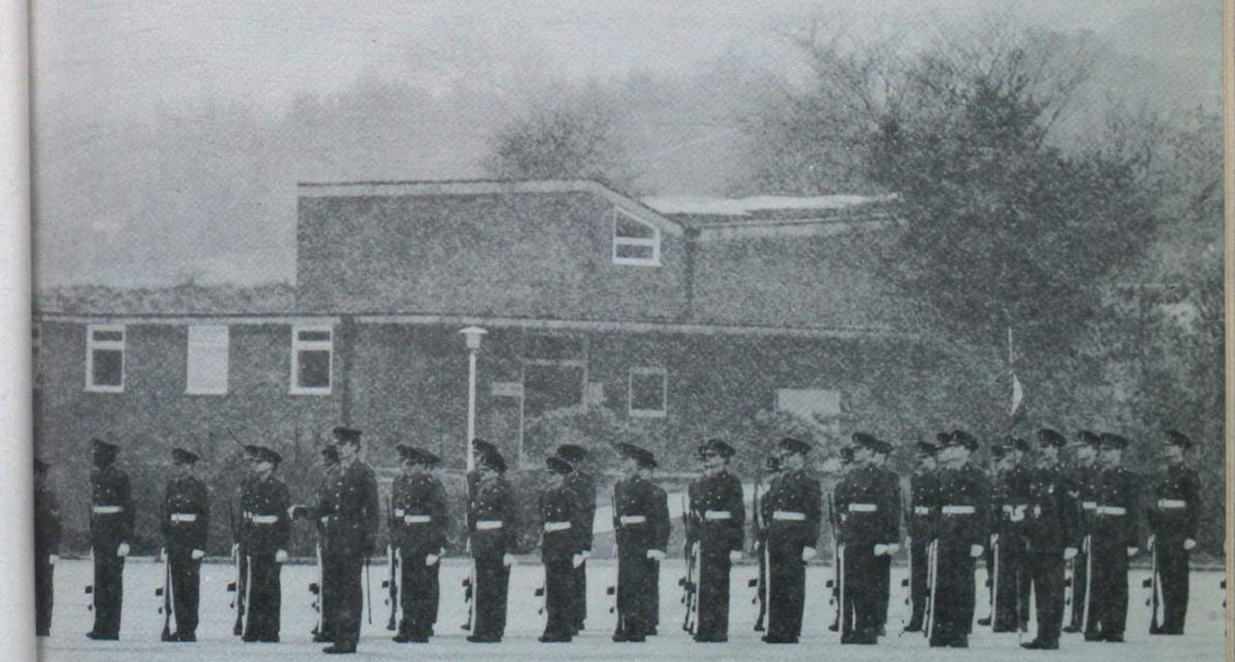
March 1981

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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Dow Chemical is one of the world's leading chemical companies with annual sales over 9 billion dollars and an outstanding record of growth and profitability. Our manufacturing site at King's Lynn has five widely differing production units, and with the recent implementation of the latest technology we are looking to strengthen our Instrument/Electrical Department.

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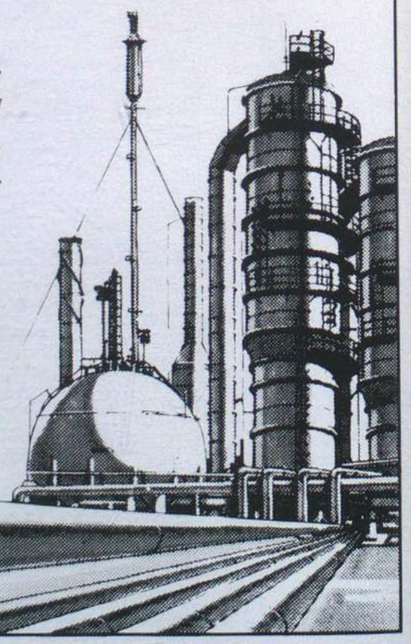

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

Printed in Great Britain

THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
March 1981 (New Series) Vol 35 No 2
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs J. C. Lucas

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Remittances should be made payable to:
Royal Signals Association

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Catterick as you may remember her!
On the sixteenth of January the Deputy Commander, North East District, was the reviewing officer for the pass off parade of Intake 8020/21. The parade took place in a blizzard.

FOCUS ON 1980

BENEVOLENCE:

The financial year of our Association ends on 31st December and audited accounts now permit us to look back objectively on 1980.

For many, our Association is synonymous with Benevolence and few would wish to quarrel with this judgment. Help to our Members and their dependants in distress is our most important activity—and was always so. Over 1,000 applications for assistance were received by our Welfare Section during 1980—a high proportion from the elderly. Our Welfare Committee—which meets every Wednesday morning has a retired officer as its Chairman and a serving officer and NCO as its Members. Some 794 grants were made during 1980, involving an expenditure of some £37,600. Additionally, some 485 clothing parcels were despatched during the year. This activity is made possible by the generosity of many serving and retired members of the Corps who despatch or deliver clothing to our offices in Chelsea.

THE WIRE:

Our six issues of 1980 were contained in 536 pages. This represents an increase in published matter of some 12% over 1979. Possibly more significant from a financial standpoint is the fact that it represents an increase of some 20% over 1976 when The Wire was published monthly with an annual subscription rate of £3.

The financial subsidy to The Wire for 1980 amounted to some £12,900.

May we again urge our contributors to report significant events as concisely as possible.

—From our "In" Tray—

YOUR CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Report by: Col J. A. D. Francis, Regimental Secretary & Corps Treasurer

What happens to your Corps Subscriptions? You have a vague idea that they are used for 'Welfare'. True, so far as it goes, but whose welfare, and what sort of welfare?

And then welfare, although very important is not the whole story. Your subscriptions are used to support a lot of other things too—mostly to do with *you*, the serving soldier.

Lost interest already? But wasn't it you who reckoned you got nothing from it? So read on. Let me have your attention for just two more minutes.

1980 SPENDING—Last year the Corps spent,

WELFARE—Widows, help with the fuel bills, convalescent holidays for the sick and elderly, special operations on dangerously ill soldiers, treats for kids on the breadline, funeral expenses, and a bit of sugar for Corps pensioners; including donations to the Army Benevolent Fund, and other institutions. **£76,000**

THE WIRE—Cost you 35p a copy or less. You get it for less than half the production and distribution cost. Total subsidy, for 1980, **£12,900**

CORPS SPORTS—New equipment, team strips, entrance fees, entertaining the other team, travel expenses. **£13,700**

ADVENTURE—For several soldiers to go to strange foreign places with the expedition called Operation Drake. **£2,800**

(Thank *you*, **Sgt Topping**, of 8 Sig Regt, **LCpl Bland**, 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, and **Cpl Shortis** 4th Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt for your 'Thank you' letters to us!)

THE CORPS BAND—you buy all their instruments and uniforms. Have a closer look next time you see them. They could not play without your support. Cost of instruments and uniforms, **£11,000**

THE CORPS MUSEUM, BLANDFORD—You haven't seen our wonderful museum yet? Ask for a posting to the School of Signals or 30 Sig Regt!—To maintenance and improvement of displays etc **£1,400**

It is planned to build a new extension to the Museum during 1981, to make the Museum better than ever. The estimated cost is **£45,000.** Whilst we hope financial provision for this may come from Public Funds all or part of the cost may have to be met from Corps Funds.

That will do for now, but watch this space for further articles on how your Corps Subscriptions are used.

Coming shortly,

—What is that covenant all about?

—Who spends all that Corps money? Personalities and responsibilities on the Finance Committee!

—If I have a great idea, (like paddling a bath tub down the Rhine), how do I get some financial backing from Corps Funds?

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS 1981

13 May—Corps Dinner, to be held at The London International Press Centre, 7.30 pm. Cost of Ticket will have to be increased a little. The Corps Band will play. It will be a good party, so make a note in your diary now. There should be room for everyone.

13 June—Corps Luncheon, to be held at HQ Mess, 12 Noon. The excellent buffet lunch will be provided as usual. Tickets are always scarce, so apply early.

Ticket application forms will be sent out to Dinner Club Members during March.

AMAZING GRACE

Mrs Grace Foster of 61 Lakeside, Darlington retired on 17 Dec after a civil service career with the Army Department which spanned 38 years. Many members and former members of the Corps will remember her as personal secretary to the Commanders Training Group Signals and Catterick Garrison during the past eight years.

Little did young **Grace Rodger,** as she was then, imagine in 1942 when she joined HQ Durham and North Riding Coastal Area at Darlington as a temporary shorthand typist that in future years she would be personal secretary, friend and confidante to Generals, Brigadiers and senior Army officers holding command appointments in the region.

During the war years, besides Darlington, **Grace** worked in military headquarters at Scotch Corner Hotel and Gosforth. In 1951 she moved with HQ Northumbrian District to Catterick where she was personal secretary to both the Deputy Commander, **Brig Henry Grant** and the senior staff officer **Col Andrew Mann.** This was the start of her long association with the Garrison and those who worked there.

It was at Catterick that she met **Mr Ted Foster** a civil servant who had recently retired from the Regular Army. They married in 1953.

Mrs Foster continued to act as PS to succeeding Deputy Commanders until 1956 when she became personal secretary to the GOC Northumbrian District, **Maj Gen William Hulton Harrop.**

Since then she has been PS to no less than five further GOC's at Catterick and following the disbandment of Northumbrian District in 1972—apart from a short break—continued to 'look after' the senior officer in the Garrison—the Commander Training Group Signals and Catterick Garrison.

Over the years **Grace Foster** gained the affection and respect of not only the senior officers for whom she worked but equally those members of both military and civil staff who were associated with her.

On 16 Dec in recognition of her loyal and exemplary service she was guest-of-honour at a luncheon given by **Brig Alan Yeoman,** Commander Training Group Signals and Catterick Garrison and officers (both serving and retired) of the Headquarters. At the luncheon **Mrs Foster** was presented with a gold and enamel brooch depicting the Catterick Garrison insignia which was subscribed for by her many friends both past and present.

The following day—the day of her retirement—**Grace Foster** was given a farewell party at the Headquarters where she had worked for so many years. Her friends and colleagues presented her with a cut crystal posy basket with a matching rose bowl and a bouquet of flowers. There was a further bouquet from 11 Sig Regt.

Grace Foster's final departure was conducted with due pomp and ceremony. **Brig Alan Yeoman** personally escorted her to his staff car which was to take her home. There were four out-riders from the White Helmets who escorted her to the Garrison boundary and she left—tearfully—to the good wishes of the military and civil staff who had come to bid her farewell.

Prior to the luncheon in her honour Grace Foster and Brig Alan Yeoman pictured outside the Garrison Officers Mess. Grace is wearing her gold and enamel presentation brooch

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ARMY SQUASH CHAMPION

Capt Neil Stewart had a convincing win over **SSgt Robby Robinson** (RAOC) to once again become Army Champion for the sixth occasion. It was a fiercely fought match that was full of excitement and high class skills. The pace of the game was extremely fast, which proved to be an advantage to **Neil Stewart** as **Robby Robinson** made vital mistakes which lost him the Championship (3-0).

Maj Ernie Webb surprisingly had some good fortune to reach the final of the Plate, which he lost to **CSgt Howes** (Green Howards) (3-0).

Maj Gen Jimmy Hellier lost to **Lt Col Allan Payne** in the Veterans Semi-Final (3-0).

Cpl Larry Tulett lost in the third round match to **Capt Chris Wilson** (3-0).

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

We congratulate **Cpl Alex Hamilton** (39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) who was selected to play in the British Armed Forces Soccer Team against the French Armed Forces in Paris on the 21 January and against the Belgian Armed Forces at Aldershot on the 4 February. Both matches were drawn.

REUNION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED WITH 21 REGIMENT 1964-1970

Mr N. P. Miller is organising a Reunion for those who served in 21st Signal Regiment between 1964 and 1970. **The venue is:-**

35th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
T A Centre
Stoney Lane
Balsall Heath
BIRMINGHAM B12 8AT

The date is Saturday 18 April 1981. Mr Miller has already contacted many to attend what, it is hoped, will be a memorable function. If you have not heard from him and would like to attend please drop a note to:-

Mr N. P. Miller
34 Chauntry Road
Haverhill
Suffolk (Tel: Haverhill 2180).

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS—1981

Our Reunions this year are scheduled for:

BLANDFORD — 17 May

CATTERICK — 27/28 June

The AGM of the Association will take place in the Baghdad Gymnasium at mid-day on Sunday, 28 June.

Administrative instructions covering these notable events have been issued to Branches of the Association—and individuals who requested them.

CORPS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

The Corps Historical Library requires a copy of Royal Corps of Signals Corps Memorandum No 7 1955 (Dress) and also the previous edition of No 7 believed to be 1949 edition.

Any unit or establishment holding a copy of these regulations please contact the Historical Officer, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp (Telephone 0258-52581 Ext 413).

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9. Cheques to:-

Mr P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT.

Movements

Officers

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
	FEBRUARY 1981
Maj (Tfc Offr) B. Abbis	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Maj W. H. Backhouse	Def Sales Org (PE) (AE)
2Lt H. T. Bradley	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Col A. B. Byng	Misc Appts (Home)
Maj R. F. Baly	MOD DM(A)
Maj C. P. Conlon	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. D. Cox	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt M. W. Edwards	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj T. G. B. Fish	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. H. Fisher MBE	RMA Sandhurst
Capt I. N. Greig	AFCENT SP GP
2Lt Gillespie	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt S. G. Hughes	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj R. N. C. Harrison	MOD MGO Sec (PE) (AE)
2Lt S. L. Hawkes	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt G. H. Howson	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. Hunt	16 Sig Regt
2Lt A. M. Johnson	16 Sig Regt
Lt G. R. Kenyon	28 Sig Regt
Maj G. P. Maddren	7 Sig Regt
Capt A. M. D. Marvin	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt S. J. May	7 Sig Regt
Capt M. D. McMahon	SMIU Northern Ireland
Capt A. J. Raper	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj V. J. Reed	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. S. Reid	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj R. J. Sanders	Jnr Regt R Signals
Maj M. P. S. Shaw	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Maj M. W. Simms-Reeve	HQ EDist R & L Staff
Lt P. G. Stock	21 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. E. R. Storey	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Lt K. Taylor	School of Signals (CS)
Lt Col R. D. Thompson	30 Sig Regt
Maj P. D. Tidey	11 Sig Regt (HS pending Rtd)
2Lt J. P. Wilson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col M. G. H. Wise	HQ AFNORTH
Maj J. T. Worrall	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
	MARCH 1981
Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj R. A. L. Anderson	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Maj W. J. Armstrong	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj A. R. Bailey	DSS (AD)
2Lt N. J. Bateson	C/S School of Signals
Lt Col C. A. Brown	London District
2Lt S. J. Callaghan	C/S School of Signals
Maj B. C. Carpenter	H/S 11 Sig Regt (Pending Retired)
Maj D. F. M. Collyer	22 Sig Regt
2Lt M. A. Couper	C/S School of Signals
2Lt N. R. Davies	C/S School of Signals
2Lt S. C. Dexter	C/S School of Signals
Maj R. G. Drake	32 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt K. J. Durward	C/S School of Signals
Lt Col J. V. Fielding	School of Infantry
Lt J. W. L. Frost	School of Signals
Capt M. N. Grieves	BMATT Zimbabwe
Capt I. W. Griffiths	BDLS (Army) Canberra
Maj G. J. H. Grist	BDS (Army) Washington
2Lt Hargreaves	C/S School of Signals
Maj J. D. M. Ingram	HQ Br Forces Belize
2Lt A. E. Kendall	C/S School of Signals
Maj I. E. Kerr	229 Sig Sqn
Maj A. T. Kimber	MOD DTA & C
Maj G. J. Mann	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt D. E. A. McAllister	C/S School of Signals
2Lt C. D. McGrory	C/S School of Signals
Maj D. S. McLuckie	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt T. J. Peacock	C/S School of Signals
Lt G. Platts	21 Sig Regt
Lt Col W. D. A. Poole	School of Signals
Maj P. J. Pritchard	MOD DAMS MS6
2Lt S. R. Renfrey	C/S School of Signals
Maj J. R. Smith	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
2Lt R. G. S. Sparshatt	C/S School of Signals
Lt Col M. C. Spence	DGGWL (PE) (AE)
Maj M. R. Stephenson	BMATT Zimbabwe
Maj J. D. Tydeman	21 Sig Regt
2Lt T. C. Wadey	C/S School of Signals
2Lt T. J. P. Watts	C/S School of Signals
Lt I. Wells	30 Sig Regt
2Lt M. P. Wise	C/S School of Signals
2Lt N. J. Yoell	C/S School of Signals

WOs and Senior NCOs

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
	FEBRUARY 1981
WO1 (FofS) A. G. Turner	AA Coll Harrogate
WO1 (YofS) O. S. Vannan	LSP Brunei
WO2(YofS) M. J. Tivenan	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
WO2(YofS) R. D. Wright	20 Maritime Regt RCT
WO2(EW Op) P. Westwell	13 Sig Regt
WO2(Supvr R) B. P. J. Claffey	BDLS Australia
WO2(FofS) L. Proctor	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2(FofS) J. L. McIlree	7 Sig Regt
WO2 J. J. M. Campbell	30 Sig Regt
WO2 B. A. Davies	34 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. Upton	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (Supvr R) M. D. Farmer	13 Sig Regt
SSgt(YofS) B. E. Lawrence	Comms & Sy Gp UK
SSgt (FofS) J. Millar	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt K. E. Clark	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt J. W. White	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt V. E. Bingham	11 Sig Regt
SSgt D. M. Nixon	AA Coll Harrogate
ASSgt E. Marsh	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. F. Manning	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Flynn	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt D. B. Clarke	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Goodacre	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
Sgt I. R. K. Cameron	6 CTT
Sgt D. A. Coker	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Smith	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Read	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Taylor	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Biddlecombe	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Godfrey	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Sharp	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt F. Hughes	16 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. Innes	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Fraser	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Hodges	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Edler	8 Sig Regt
Sgt B. C. Turner	Army School Mech Tpt
Sgt A. Burnett	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Reid	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. Gorham	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt A. Jewell	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt S. R. Aitken	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)
Sgt D. F. L. Cox	16 Sig Regt
Sgt F. P. Hartley	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. G. Hunt	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. W. Moir	13 Sig Regt
Sgt C. F. Simpson	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Walker	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Anderson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. M. Kent	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt D. J. Bracey	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. G. Hagan	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Boyd	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt H. E. F. Nanty	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. P. Crook	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. P. Paulley	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt A. J. Shaw	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Whitley	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. J. Broadley	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. R. Henderson	RMAS
	Unit to which posted
Rank and Name	MARCH 1981
WO2(FofS) C. R. Bachelor	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2(FofS) J. R. Cook	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. Steen	28 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Meyers	13 Sig Regt
SSgt(YofS) D. Barnett	School of Sigs
SSgt(YofS) J. Bestford	8 Sig Regt
SSgt(YofS) G. I. Hartley	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) M. Smart	321 EOD Unit RAOC
SSgt(FofS) P. G. Taylor	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. N. White	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt T. C. Ginty	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Woodger	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. Slater	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Peart	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Ashwell	School of Inf (Warminster)
Sgt G. D. Wilson	30 Sig Regt
Sgt I. F. MacKinnon	11 Sig Regt
Sgt N. J. Clanachan	11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Holmes	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Smith	577 Rear Link (Inf Bn)
Sgt D. S. Rickard	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt D. Snowdin	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Woolridge	604 Sig Tp
Sgt S. J. Parrish	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt P. B. Mitchell	14 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Flaherty	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Nichol	28 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Broomfield	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Graham	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Sgt T. Hall	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt A. K. Welch	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. B. Charlton	604 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Cumiskey	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Sgt M. Webb	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt I. E. Sargent	School of Sigs
Sgt G. T. Pennington	30 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Nevins	233 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Martin	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. L. Ball	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Hickling	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. M. Neil	608 Sig Tp
Sgt A. M. Roberts	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. G. Roberts	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt C. S. Donnelly	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt G. Marlow	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. K. Phillips	22 Sig Regt

Welfare

DECEMBER 1980

Number of cases assisted financially:	Ordinary grants:	47
	Christmas grants:	228
		275
Amount spent: Ordinary grants:		£2465.40
Christmas grants:		£1275.00
Number of clothing parcels sent: 27		£3740.40

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	2
Amount spent:	£132.56

JANUARY 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	29
Amount spent:	£2900.32
Number of clothing parcels sent:	43

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	2
Amount spent:	£83.14

ONE OF OUR CASES

Corporal, war time service, now unable to work. The Association made a grant of £100 to help him, his invalid wife and two children. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I would very much like to thank you for your help in making our Christmas a happy one. Thank God for people like you who have seen and heard of the suffering of other people. Although this seems inadequate, it comes from the heart. I shall never work again, but you have helped to make things more bearable. If there was anything I could do to help you, I would willingly do it.

During the months of December and January, gifts of clothing, bedding, toys, books etc, have been gratefully received from the following:-

Col G. M. Welsford; C. H. Storey, Esq; Krefeld Thrift Shop; Misses M. & E Boorer; N. H. Chadwick, Esq; Mrs J. R. West; Mrs K. N. Smartt; Lt Col & Mrs D. A. Dickson; Maj & Mrs M. P. Walker; Col P. S. Davis; A. H. Wright, Esq; Mrs J. Crowder; Maj I. E. Kerr; C. Fry, Esq; WO2 (YOS) T. J. Taylor; Anonymous donor in Dover; Maj Gen M. D. Price; Blandford Garrison Thrift Shop; Lt Col I. D. Hunter; Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow; Mr & Mrs H. W. Palmer.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1981.

Certa Cito Lodge	£50.00
Lincoln Branch R S A	£10.00
Anonymous Donation	£ 5.00
Maj N. J. Coslett	£ 1.90
Per Trolie Esq	£ 1.70
Maj A. Gould	£ 1.00
S. Tearse Esq	£ 1.50
Miscellaneous Donations	£27.10
	£98.20

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1981.

A. D. Trevethick Esq	£100.00
In Memory of the late Brig H. R. Firth	£ 99.30
42 Sig Regt Officers Club	£ 40.00
30 Sig Regt	£ 26.77
London Weekend Television	£ 20.00
A. F. Crick Esq	£ 20.00
In Memory of the late Capt C. Baalham	£ 20.00
In Memory of the late Col P. H. Jones MC TD DL	£ 15.00
R. E. Parsons Esq	£ 5.00
The Earl Kitchener	£ 2.00
M. E. Holdsworth Esq	£ 1.00
	£349.07

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.

BIRTHS

Moncur—On 1 February at Odstock Hospital Salisbury, to Cathy and Tom, a son, Angus Lachlan. A brother for Caroline.

DEATHS

Baalham—Capt Charles Baalham died in the Royal Hospital Shrewsbury on 14 January 1981, having remained in a coma, following a road traffic accident on 22 December 1980. His wife Mary was also killed in the accident.

Charles' association with the Corps spanned almost forty years. He enlisted into the Corps in 1942 and served with the Guards Armoured Division. From 1944-47 he saw service in India, after which he left the Corps, with the rank of CQMS and joined the Metropolitan Police. In less than twelve months he was back in the Corps and spent the next six years with units of the Training Brigade. Over the following ten years he served in the Far East, Cyprus and the UK and in 1963 was appointed RSM of 58 Sig Regt (V). In 1965 he was commissioned and served in 13 Sig Regt and 8 Sig Regt until 1970 when he retired from the Regular Army to become Permanent Staff Administrative Officer with 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V). He was still serving there at the time of the tragic accident. Those who knew Charles will remember him as a man who was capable, diligent and fair minded and who devoted his life to the service of the Corps he loved.

Burgess-Winn. Colonel Godfrey Ives Burgess-Winn, OBE was born in Simla, India on 31 October 1907. He became a Cadet at the RMA Woolwich on 5 February 1926 and was commissioned into Royal Signals on 1 September 1927. He served with 2nd Divisional Signals and A Corps Signals at Aldershot until he was posted to the Signal Training Centre, Jubblepore as an Instructor on 8 July 1931. After sick leave in the UK he was posted to 1 Indian Divisional Signals at Rawalpindi. In October 1933 he moved to the Zhob Signal Section on the North West Frontier and remained at that station until 1 April 1936. During this service he was awarded the Indian General Service Medal, 1908 with the 'Mohmand 1933' clasp. He continued to serve in India until 24 August 1940 when, as a Captain, he was posted to the 5th Indian Divisional Signals in the Sudan. He was soon appointed 2IC as a Major and on 4 January 1941 became Staff Officer to CSO HQ Troops Sudan and Eritrea and whilst in this appointment was Mentioned in Despatches. On 17 October 1941 he was promoted to Lt Colonel and appointed to the command of 4th Air Formation Signals. He returned to India and on 15 March 1943 was appointed OC Indian Air Formation Signals (Bengal and Assam). This tour was short lived as his special knowledge of Air Formation communications earned him a posting to GHQ (India) as the Deputy Chief Air Formation Signals Officer, Air HQ (India) an appointment he assumed on 3 July 1943.

On the formation of HQ Air Command, South East Asia Command in June 1944 he was appointed Deputy CAFSO with the rank of Colonel. Whilst serving in this appointment his wife—Mrs Elsie Burgess-Winn designed and made, in their New Delhi house, the first 'Beaufighter' Air Formation Signals 'flash'. On 27 November 1944 he was appointed CSO, Air Formation Signals Staff, HQ BAFSEA. He and his family returned to the UK in April 1945 when he assumed the appointment of DD Signals, (AF Sigs) Air Ministry. After attending a course at Camberley in January 1947 he was appointed SO I (Sigs) at the Combined Operations HQ and remained there until 10 February 1948. After a brief detachment to the Staff College at Quetta (Pakistan), his next appointment, on 4 October 1950 was as AQMG, HQ West Africa Command. He remained in West Africa until November 1953 when he returned to the UK and took up his final appointment as CO Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment where he remained until his retirement from active service on 14 May 1956. He was awarded

the OBE in September 1942 for his services in the Middle East theatre of operations.
He died suddenly at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh on 3 December 1980.

Brett—Maj Thomas Percy Brett, was born in London on 25 March 1901. He enlisted into the Corps on 20 June 1920 and served in India from January 1921 until May 1925. He was appointed to an Emergency Commission as a Lieutenant in the Corps on 13 December 1939. He served in the BEF with 4 RTR Signal Section until 26 March 1940 when he joined 66th Div Signals. He was then posted to 59th Div Signals on 25 June 1940 and remained there until 14 November 1943 when he was posted to 48th Div Signals and embarked with that unit for India. He was appointed 2IC 19th (Indian) Div Signals on 17 September 1944 and served in Burma with that unit. He was wounded in Burma and eventually returned to the UK on 11 July 1945. He was released on 21 December 1945 and received a Mention in Despatches in the London Gazette of 10 January 1946. He died on 23 January in Kent.

Butler—Maj Bernard Butler, MBE, TD, was born in London on 9 June 1917 and enlisted in the Middlesex Yeomanry on 13 February 1935. He continued to serve with the Yeomanry until he was commissioned into Royal Signals as a 2Lt on 16 August 1942. He served as OC Signal Section with 87 Field Regt in the Middle East and later saw service with the 6th Indian Divisional Signals. From August 1946 he served again in the Middle East followed by appointments in Palestine and Mauritius. In the New Year Honours List for 1950 he was awarded the MBE. He then served in the UK, HQ BAOR and Singapore. In september 1959, he returned to his original unit when he was posted to 40th Signal Regiment and retired on 7 April 1960. He died in hospital on 18 January 1981.

Chidgey—Major (QM) Ernest George Chidgey was born at Taunton, Somerset on 28 October 1908. He enlisted into the Corps as a boy on the 16 June 1923. He continued to serve in the Corps and was commissioned as a Lt (QM) on 18 October 1945. He then served in India and in 1948 served with the reformed Hong Kong Signal Squadron. After two tours of duty with the TA in the UK he returned to the Far East and saw service in Singapore. This was followed by a tour of duty with Ghana Signal Squadron and HQ Accra Garrison. During this time he was awarded the Ghana Republic Day Commemorative Medal. On return from Ghana, he served in BAOR until his retirement when he took up a retired officer appointment at Signals Branch HQ BAOR in October 1961. He served there until his retirement from the civil service in 1973 when he returned to the UK and settled at Wrexham. He died on 22 November 1980.

Firth—Brig Henry Raywood Firth was commissioned from RMA Sandhurst into the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1918. He served with them in India and was seconded to the Corps whilst serving in Rawalpindi in 1924. He continued to serve with 1 Indian Divisional Signals after his transfer to the Corps in 1926 and remained at Rawalpindi until 1930. He was largely responsible for putting the Corps on the map in the Great North of India Horse show and it was due to his enthusiasm that his unit began to feature largely in the prize lists. During his stay in India he became middleweight champion of Northern Command. From 1931 to 1934 he served with the Training Battalion at Catterick where he trained motor cyclists and was responsible for the running of the Royal Signals Display Team. The team at that time featured a mixed equestrian and motor cycle programme. he continued to serve in the UK from 1935 until 1938 during which time he was Adjutant of the 56th (City of London) Divisional Signals.
Early 1939 saw him back in India where he obtained his majority. He served again in Rawalpindi and was actively employed on the North West Frontier where he was twice mentioned in despatches. This active service was followed by a training appointment in Southern Command (India). He again returned to Rawalpindi, this time as Chief Signal Officer, North Western Army in India and in the rank of Colonel. From service on the North West Frontier he moved to Burma where he took up the appointment of Chief Signal Officer, HQ 33 Corps. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier and became responsible for the organisation of communications for 33 Corps during the Imphal-Kohima operation. Communications for the advance to the Chindwin was provided by 33 Corps with the HQ being located on the Tamu road.
After returning from India, he served in the UK but was soon to be posted to the Control Commission in Germany in the rank of Brigadier. He achieved considerable success in this appointment both formally and socially when his convivial table became well known to his contemporaries of the Allied forces.
From Germany he returned to the UK and served in AA Command and finally as Chief Signal Officer, London District. It was during this tour that he organised and ran a series of Dinner Club functions which were reputed to have been the most successful the Corps has known. He retired from active service on 31 December 1951 and took up the appointment of General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, a post he continued to hold until December 1962. He had already, whilst still serving as CSO London District, taken over the Editorship of The Wire.
A farewell dinner was held at the Victory Services' Club on Saturday 8 December 1962 to mark his retirement as General Secretary. A total of 200 attended the dinner, many of whom were senior officers of the Corps. Major-General C. M. F. White, who was at that time Chairman of the Association stated '. . . he was always tireless, attending dinners, giving lectures, exhorting further money raising efforts, advising how to increase membership and explaining first hand what wonderful work the Association was doing for the unfortunates of our Corps.' This was a fitting tribute to a tireless, energetic man who had devoted himself to the Corps. Following his retirement as General Secretary, he continued to act as Asistant Editor of The Wire until November 1966. He died at his home in Banstead, Surrey on 3 February 1981 aged 81.

Flannagan—We sadly report the death of ex-**Sig Steve Flannagan** in a road accident in January. He was disabled by a terrorist bomb while serving in Northern Ireland and left the Army in October 1977.

Gavey—Capt Geoffrey Alfred Edward Gavey joined KRRC in 1917 and later served in India where he joined the Corps. He remained in India until 1938. After a short period out of the Army he re-enlisted and served in Egypt, Greece and Crete where he was taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war in Germany. He eventually left the Corps in 1948 as a Captain and joined the Tower of London as a Yeoman Warder. He retired in 1967 and died in Jersey, where he was born, aged 81.

Halsall—Signalman Andrew Halsall was tragically killed in a motor cycle accident on 6 February in Limassol, while serving with 259 Signal Squadron. He was a most cheerful soldier, greatly liked and respected by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Antje and to his parents.

Ibbertson—SSgt Barry Ellis Ibbertson enlisted in the Corps on 13 January 1958 and trained as a driver. He served in the UK, Germany, France and Belgium. He was discharged on 12 January 1980 after 22 years service. Barry will be remembered for his much devoted time to the Scouting Movement. It was for this that he was awarded the British Empire Medal on 3 June 1972. Barry died suddenly at his home in Spalding, Lincolnshire on 17 February.

Jones—Col Percy Hudson Jones, MC, TD, DL was born at Cricklewood, London on 13 December 1897. He served in the ranks of the 2/28th London Regiment from 7 April 1915 until 1 January 1916 when he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers Signal Service. He served in France and Flanders from 11 August 1916 until 2 July 1919 when he was demobilised. During that time he was first with 1 Signal Coy, RE and then became Section Officer of 3rd Infantry Brigade Signals. He was awarded the Military Cross whilst serving with 3rd Infantry Brigade. He became a volunteer officer in the TF (Reserve) in November 1921 and remained in the reserve until he was embodied, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, with 48th (SM) Div Signals at the outbreak of the Second World War. He served with that unit in the BEF and was Mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette of 20 December 1940. He was released from active service on 24 November 1941 and finally retired from the TA on 29 May 1948. He died in hospital in Warwickshire on 28 January.

Spindler—Lt Col (TOT) Edgar Howard Spindler (Spin) enlisted in the Machine Gun Corps in 1917 and served in France. After the Armistice he transferred to RE Signals to serve with the Army of Occupation becoming Sgt i/c HQ Telephone Exchange and Signal Office in Cologne. He transferred to the Corps on its formation, and did a tour in India which included Quetta and Jubblepore, returning to the UK in 1932. He was promoted WO1 and appointed RSM of 2nd Div Signals in 1936 and was commissioned in 1938 as an IPC (Inspector of Permanent Communications). Col Spindler did a post-war tour in Malaya and on retirement from Crowborough in 1952 moved to York to take up an RO appointment as SOII (SWS) CSO's Branch, Northern Command, retiring from the appointment in 1964 after a 44 year connection with the Corps. Older members will remember Colonel Spin as a knowledgeable and meticulous servant of the Corps, well read and with a good sense of humour. Up to a year ago he was very active but then underwent an internal operation. He seemed to have recovered well, but sadly died on 12 January aged 82 years.

PERSONAL

Our congratulations to **WO1 (FofS) P. R. Wagstaff** who was recently awarded the degree of Batchelor of Arts of the Open University. Credits were gained in the following courses: M100—Mathematics—A foundation course, T100—The Man-Made World—A foundation course, TM 221—The Digital Computer, TS 282—Electromagnetics and Electronics, T 291—Instrumentation, T 321—Telecommunications Systems, M 251—An Algorithmic Approach to Computing, T 391—Control Engineering.

DISPOSAL OF 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 Devine Camberley Mil Ext 431 or Camberley (STD Code (0276) 63344 Ext 431) has formalised a Signal Wing Shop on 'thrift club' lines.

He is prepared to 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 they reserve the right to return items that remain unsold for 12 months—this has never been a problem as demand continues to outstrip supply. Please note that items of clothing should be dry cleaned before submission to the Signal Wing.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION

On Friday 3 April 1981, The Master of Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO,** will be the Guest of Honour at the fourth birthday celebrations of 6 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.

The highlight of the day will be a show in the Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot which will include the White Helmets, The Blue Helmets (The Corps Free Fall Parachute Team), The Red Devils, The RMP Mounted Display Team, and a Jeux sans Frontiere (Spiel ohne Grenzen—no expense spared).

The show starts at 2 pm. There is no entrance charge, but a collection will be taken in aid of the Year of the Disabled Fund. Please come along and join in the fun.

PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER—CARDIFF

A vacancy will arise in Oct 81 for a non-regular Permanent Staff Administrative Officer with 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron (V) based at Park Street TA Centre, Cardiff.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TAVR Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 3. The upper age limit for applicants is 56 and normal retiring age 60. The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with a salary of £7,081 on appointment, rising to £8,223 after 6 years.

Applicants should have held commissioned rank in the Regular Army and have experience of administration, service funds accounts and training, preferably with a communications background. They must be available for handover/takeover starting 1 Oct 81.

Applications are to include brief details of experience and former service, date of birth and the names of two referees and are to be submitted by 16 Apr 81. Write to: The Adjutant, 37 Signal Regiment (V), Horfield Common, BRISTOL BS7 0XL (Tel: 0272-40284).

A BOARDING SCHOOL FOR SONS OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS
THE DUKE OF YORK'S SCHOOL, DOVER.
(FEES: £600 PER ANNUM APPROX)

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover is an independent boarding school for 450 boys aged 11 to 18 years. Officers and Soldiers both serving and retired, who have a minimum of four years service in the Regular Army are eligible to register their sons as candidates for entry to the school. The School is largely financed by the Ministry of Defence.

Entry is at 11+ in September each year and is based on competitive examinations and father's service. Boys may be registered on their eighth birthdays and registration for entry to the School in September 1982 closes on 1 November 1981. Boys who are over 11 years but under 12 years old on 1st September 1982 will be considered for entry in September 1982. Special conditions, including a waiver of fees, exist for boys in compassionate circumstances.

The School is situated in beautiful grounds of 150 acres just outside Dover and offers excellent academic and sporting facilities. It provides a normal secondary education to GCE Ordinary, Advanced and Scholarship levels and on leaving school the boys proceed to university or enter the professions, commerce and industry. To arrange a visit or to obtain a Prospectus contact the Headmaster in writing or by telephone (Dover (STD 0304) 203012 Ext 25).

Faraway Places... ...Unusual Jobs

THE BRITISH MILITARY ADVISORY TRAINING TEAM ZIMBABWE

Report by WO2 (YofS) P. L. Gethin

AT A STROKE

Imagine my annoyance at being called off the firing point during the RAF G shooting competition to answer a phone call, it just had to be important, (it had better be I thought). It was **Capt Laverick** our 2IC phoning from 227 Sig Sqn AFCENT. It was a good news/bad news opening. Naturally the good news first I said, 'You're posted with promotion', now the bad news, 'You've got ten days to get to Zimbabwe as a Training Co-ordinator'. I'm sure readers will appreciate how the next 10 traumatic days went, packing boxes, hiring a mini bus to UK for a weekend, handover/takeover of the house, driving my wife to UK, calling in at the School of Signals for additional equipment and naturally reams of procedure/theory pamphlets.

ZIMBABWE BOUND

On 27 June I reported in at Heathrow with 34 others, all just as confused as myself as to exactly what our future employment was to be. I was the only Pronto amongst them, the rest seemed to cover just about every cap badge I knew.

14 hours later we touched down at Salisbury airport in heat which seemed to us stifling, not realising it was mid winter. A slick reception team from BMATT were there to meet us and assist our passage through immigration and customs.

Within an hour we were sitting down in the briefing room inside Army HQ, waiting eagerly for news of employment. Of the 35, all but six were split into two groups, the first for training at Guinea Fowl Farm approximately 15 kms E of Gwelo, the second for training at the School of Infantry, Gwelo. I was one of the six remaining, all tagged 'Training Co-ordinators'.

THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY

It may be prudent at this stage to explain exactly what events had taken place since February. During the Cease Fire, approximately 30,000 ZIPRA and ZANLA terrorists surrendered to numerous Assembly Points (AP's) strategically placed around the country. The question was, what to do with them? This question had been covered in the Lancaster House talks, when it was hoped that a new army could be formed from ZIPRA and ZANLA, incorporating the existing Rhodesian Army. This is where the British Army, it was hoped, could help. To this end, BMATT invented their so called training 'Sausage Machine', which it was hoped could facilitate the training of 9 Infantry Battalions, 1 Commando Regiment, 1 Para Regiment and 1 Armd Car Regiment in just 24 weeks.

Starting in mid June, 350 ex terrorists (50% ZIPRA 50% ZANLA) were taken from their AP's and moved to the Depot Regiment, Bulawayo for induction, documentation, medical etc. They were then moved to Gwelo and distributed between the School of Infantry and Guinea Fowl Farm. The former training establishment is for 'senior and middle management' (all Officers, Warrant Officers—Senior NCO, necessary to form a basic infantry battalion) and the latter consisted of training 'junior management'. (Corporals and Lance Corporals). For four weeks both establishments ran basic courses in drill, wpn trg (MAG and G3) and tactics. The School of Infantry ran basic officer selection courses in order to select the Bn Comd, 2IC and 6 Coy Comds.

THE TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Each new Battalion on formation has a Co-ordination team attached to them, consisting of a Major and WO2, their job is as the title suggests, plus many others.

We met our Battalion during their second week of training at the School of Infantry. We remained here for the next few weeks in order to get to know our senior management and acquaint ourselves with their Trg/Wpns, and hopefully become accepted by them. The latter proved to be a real problem, after all, the European had been his enemy for over ten years. Fortunately a Union Jack displayed on one's shoulder at least put you apart from the Rhodesian.

On completion of four weeks training our senior, middle and junior management were moved back to the Depot, Rhodesian Regiment to await the arrival of a further 650 ZIPRA/ZANLA who were to be newly inducted. They were then moved into the various Companies in order to make up the required orbat for the Battalion.

A further four weeks of training was undertaken, during which time each Company trained in basic Inf skills in the morning. The afternoon was spent 'on the job training' from Battalion Commander down who would sit alongside their opposite Rhodesian number.

TAKING THE GAP

From the time of the Cease Fire, approximately 40% of the old Rhodesian Army decided that the future was not to their liking. They duly submitted their notice and did what is commonly known as 'Gapped It', either moving down to South Africa and joining the Army or emigrating to other parts of the world. This left a terrific gap at all levels, from instructors, mechanics, chefs, pay corps etc.

At this time the Rhodesian Pay Corps had an efficient pay system, controlled by Computer. The majority of individuals responsible for managing this system decided to leave, consequently the whole pay system collapsed to such an extent that chaos reigned, resulting in additional servicemen leaving after becoming disenchanted having received no pay for 3-4 months.

Pay for the first two months was our biggest headache, due mainly to the fact that the African has many names, trying to get him not to use his Chimaringa name was our problem. My boss **Maj John Cooper** (who insists he's the youngest Major, KOSB) and I would burn the midnight oil trying to work out who was who, a difficult task when you consider names such as Ncube, Ndebele, Ndlovu and Moyo each appear at least 50 times. Many a time we've sat back convinced that we'd cracked the nominal rolls only to find problems during the next pay parade. Our final solution was to parade each Company and take the individuals details directly from their pay book (also their ID card). This worked out fine until we realised that the Induction Pay Team had issued duplicate army numbers; back to the drawing board.

By the fourth week at the Depot, we'd managed to obtain from each Company their orbat from officers mess steward, signallers and batmen etc. The big question now was, where do we go? Each day produced a new rumour as to the Battalion's new barracks location, from Rutenga down south, to Mtoko in the north and finally to Connemara situated in the Midlands. We couldn't believe our good fortune, we were actually moving into brick built accommodation!

BEHIND BARS

Connemara at this time was a prison with over 400 inmates, plus married quarters for the prison staff. They were given just three weeks to vacate their houses and move 350 prisoners, leaving us with 50, housed in a smaller prison, but still kept within the confines of the barracks, to be used as work parties by us on a permanent basis (what a pleasure!!!!).

The Battalion was then sent on leave for three weeks, during which time we had to liaise with Public Works for repairs to sewers, toilets, fresh water and refrigeration to name a few. We organised the location of barrack accommodation, offices, stores, cooking facilities, rations, bedding, UET and BRE etc. At this stage very little help was forthcoming from either the military or civil authorities, they just would not accept the situation and wanted nothing to do with it, quite understandable when you consider recent events. This was when BMATT came into its own, not only did we have our own Major General on the Joint High Command, but also a high powered back up staff in Army HQ Salisbury. Many times a discreet phone call to our HQ was all that was needed to produce immediate results.

The Battalion returned from leave via the Depot, then train to Hunters Road just 5 kms from Connemara. With an impressive police escort they marched en masse down the main Salisbury/Gwelo road into camp, all 950 of them with just 13 absentees.

The last four months we've assisted, instructed and advised in just about every conceivable military subject from drill, wpn trg, tactics, A, G & Q administration, forming an Officers and Sergeants Mess, POL accounts, writing instructions for duty personnel, forming a Provost P1 and educating them to the intricacies of a detention barracks. On top of this we had to do their training programmes and give instruction for the first month until individuals returned to the unit having completed drill and wpn courses etc. How many RSM's can claim to having over 950 men on parade at one time for a couple of hours drill. To coin a Rhodie phrase, 'What a pleasure'.

CONCLUSION

Recent adverse press reports have been published in the British papers, most of which have been exaggerated out of all proportion. Our Battalion has not had one inter faction problem, proof in itself that the men want it to work. It'll take a good two years before standards reach anywhere near 'average'; the will is there though.

The feeling of satisfaction, seeing the change from week to week as these men bond together as one really is quite something.

On reflection, the very thought of forming over 950 men together seems such an immense task that had I been briefed prior to leaving AFCENT, I'd have laughed at the suggestion.

THE FUTURE

There are still over 30,000 ex terrorists who are either still in AP's or who have been withdrawn from their AP's and brought into camps within urban areas. It is hoped to employ these men on Government projects. Frustration has been setting in, which resulted in interfaction shoot-outs lately in Bulawayo, but fortunately tremendous efforts to resolve these problems are being made.

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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 1980/81 are £650 per term. The Rector will be pleased to forward further details on request.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

MT TROOP MISCELLANEA

This month sees the departure of the **MT Sgt, Les Middleton.** He will be missed by the MT and indeed the whole Bde staff, for the help he has given with transport over the last two years. A warm welcome is extended to **Sgt Pete Hughes** who will be kept busy for a few months getting used to the 'rubber wheels' world in the province. Other 'truckie' arrivals include **Dvr John Featley** and **LCpl Robert Kerr.**

The long awaited REME increase in establishment has manifested itself in the inter province transfer of **Sgt Mick Burbridge** from the FRT, who has taken over the reins of the LAD. The cleanout over the last couple of weeks has uncovered a second servicing pit and the talk is now of man hours, job cards and health and safety at work act!!

It has been a busy but uneventful couple of months with the winter road conditions taking its usual toll. Defensive driving techniques are a main topic and it is hoped that their application will reduce the number of FMT 3's.

TM TROOP EXPOSITION

For those of you who have been fortunate enough to serve with any of the Brigade Signal Squadrons in NI, commercial radio will hold no mysteries; however for those who have not, the way in which communications are achieved may be of interest. As has been said, commercial radio is the mainstay, with a little 'green stuff' in the form of clansman and larkspur scattered thinly around. The radio works on a crystal controlled twin frequency simplex system i.e. the sets either transmit or receive but the TX and RX frequencies are different, thus direct communications between two sets is not possible. A 'talk through' radio is employed, strategically sited to cover a particular area. The talkthrough receives the signal from the normal radio and rebroadcasts it on the receive frequency of the normal radio. As long as the user can 'see' the talkthrough he can communicate with users over distances not possible using a single frequency one to one system. Conversely two adjacent users may not be able to communicate unless they can both see the talkthrough.

This in a nutshell is the way in which communications are achieved in the province and requires radio technicians who are adept at accepting new ideas. Its a far call from BAOR with SOP Comms. Here the unusual is the norm.

The TE technician in the main deals with the normal equipment found anywhere in the Army but liaises very closely with the radio technicians and requires a fair knowledge of commercial radio to appreciate the constantly changing comms situation fully.

End of the 'expo'; **WO2 (FoS) Allan Hall** thought it would be a good idea for someone else to contribute to his wire notes, and who better than the newcomer, fresh from the cadre of 8 Sig Regt in beautiful downtown Catterick, **Sgt Geoff Douglas-Hiley.** Here are his initial impressions of a 'Posting to NI?' (who said out of the frying pan . . .?).

REFLECTIONS ON A NORTHERN IRELAND POSTING

'Just a bit north of SHAPE . . .' that's what the Chief Clerk said to me, that remark set my mind racing, but I was soon brought down to earth. 'You are going to 3 Inf Bde at Portadown, Northern Ireland. Well the family were naturally 'thrilled', needless to say, and we all studied a map carefully that evening. I could see they were calculating how far from and how easy it would be to get home again!

Eventually the day of departure from the mainland arrived. The weather was true to form—Rain!! We almost floated along the road to Liverpool. The ferry crossing was uneventful and on a cold dark morning we ventured on to the quay at Belfast. All around the area were soldiers in 'Patrol Order' guarding the Terminal as cars and people disembarked. I went to the Movements office to enquire if the escort arranged to meet us, was there—No such luck—and no message. Eventually the matter was solved, the escort was on his way. In the meantime the soldiers had left the area. The movements representative nonchalantly informed me, as he pulled down the shutters on his desk 'I am off now and this area is unsecure'!!

AT A PACE

We sat in the car for about an hour feeling more and more like the proverbial 'sore thumb' until a bright yellow land rover arrived. Then followed a drive through Belfast that must rank with a cross between the final stages of the Monte Carlo Rally and the 'Italian Job'. I would not have believed that my escort could, change lanes, turn corners without warning, accelerate, or brake so violently. The only thing he didn't do was fly until we reached our destination. I might add that the vehicle in question, which obviously had a mind of its own, has since passed to the great scrapyard in the sky.

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

That afternoon we moved into a quarter and so began our tour. From this shaky begining things have gone from strength to strength. We have a very nice quarter with a Community centre nearby. Great efforts are made to keep families occupied and work itself, which is why we are here, is both rewarding and interesting.

I might add, that quite soon after one arrives, just as you think you are 'coming up for air', you are sent on a NIRTT Course. The initials are ominous. Take out the 'R' and they are very apt. So you double round Ballykinler for a week doing all sorts of exciting military things ranging from urban patrolling to jumping out of helicopters hovering above the ground!! It's an excellent course if you want to go on a crash diet—you don't have time to eat very often and there is plenty of exercise.

Anyway it's now a matter of getting back into the normal, I use the word advisedly, routine of a Signal Squadron.

Anon.

So it's back to keeping the alligator at bay (2IC note!), time to lurch to the next crisis. Think of us sometimes and mind the trams. Woe to fos.

COMMCEN

Since the last time of going to press we are happy to report the marriage of **LCpl Mick Newell** to **Miss Grace McDonald** on 18 Oct at Lurgan Register's office. The reception was held in the WOs & Sergeants Mess after the ceremony and there was more than a few hangovers the following morning. **Mrs Newell,** (SIC), is a civilian telephonist in the unit exchange and met her 'better half' during the course of her duties. We wish the happy couple Bon Voyage and a very pleasant tour in Cyprus.

In Oct, the troop took over a one-man-detachment in Crossmaglen and the present incumbent there is **Sig John Prowse,** who, because he was getting bored, volunteered his services to 1 QLR for street duty, which was, of course, greatly appreciated. We are informed by said gentleman that his Xmas and New Year celebrations will begin in Mar 81!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Finally it is time to say a number of farewells and hellos.
Farewell to **LCpl** and **Mrs Mick Newell**—Cyprus
Sig Kevin Jones to Afcent
Sig James Redpath to Cyprus
Wishing them well in their new postings.
Welcome to **LCpl Paul Griffiths** from 22 Sig Regt
LCpl and **Mrs Dave Peacock** from 4 Div
Sig David Clarke from 4 Div
And hoping they all enjoy their stay with us.

FOOTNOTE

Operator to new arrival—'No problems around 'ere mate, very quiet area, tell the wife not to worry'.
New arrival—'Thanks for the info, that will please my missus no end'.
(ten hours later—'Bang', 400 lb car bomb in West Street, less than 1½ miles away)—Whoops!

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

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj M. W. H. Roberts**
2IC	**Capt R. Baxter**
Admin Officer	**Capt R. A. Ross REME**
QM	**Capt G. W. E. Hope**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt A. L. Pearce**
MTO	**Lt J. W. Clark**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) B. P. McGerty**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) A. V. Lamb**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) D. C. Lister**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) D. T. Hancox**
ORSQMS	**SSgt (ORSQMS) C. P. Martin**

THE OPERATIONAL SCENE

Christmas was really made when the hunger strike at the Maze ended. The preceding months had seen tension rising daily and the culmination of the strike was awaited with a certain dread anticipation. The whole mass of contingency comms were tested. January saw the changeover of our neighbours, the resident battalion in Ebrington Barracks. We said farewell to 1 Staffords and welcome to 2 R Anglian. As ever there will be the settling in period as we both get used to each other and as the mysteries of Northern Ireland communications are 'taken on board'.

It is sad to report that the tour of 1 Staffords ended on a sad note with a shooting in which one soldier was killed and another badly injured. We wish them well as they head for sunnier climes after a short stay at Weeton.

2R Anglian's first weeks have been far from quiet with the Bloody Sunday Anniversary marches, the killing of a part-time UDR soldier and the PIRA's nautical escapade when they scuttled a collier in Lough Foyle.

VISIT BY GEN BIRTWISTLE

The SOinC(A) descended on Ebrington Barracks by Wessex, complete with some very unusual sunshine. After being whisked off for a coffee and brief on 8 Bde, he was off to tour various tactical locations with Rover Group, meeting members of the squadron at most of them. After the Cooks tour of Londonderry it was time to visit the MT, QM and support departments of the squadron. With time running out rapidly there was a pause for lunch and—not even lunchtime is sacrosanct—presentations of the LS&GC medal to the Superintendent Clerk **WO2 Will McBurney RAOC** and **Sgt Tim Abbott** head of the TE tech dept. After lunch and the presentations, on the way to the HLS, was a chance to meet members of Comms Tp complete with some of their contingency vehicles. It was certainly a whirlwind visit.

WO2 McBurney receives his LS&GC

SOinC(A) at the Nixon's Corner Border Vehicle Check Point with CR Signals, OC Sqn and 'support'

. . . and Sgt Abbott

COMMUNICATIONS FRONT

The comms front has been active with the dismantling of HMP Foyle, on the return of the prison officers to work, and dismantling the communications equipment set up in anticipation of the firemen's strike. A new mast was erected at Clady PVCP and various intercomm systems were installed in an effort to get the UDR and RUC talking to each other at this lonely border post.

M Tp and the riggers have been busy installing UHF and VHF talkthroughs to improve coverage in Garvagh and the Plumbridge Valley. Old hands in Londonderry will be pleased to hear that the old black spot looks as though it will be tamed at last!

Comms Tp have been off lurking on frozen hill tops with RRB's trying to pretend that they are back in Germany. A new arrival to the troop was heard asking, on the way down from his mountain top, where he could find a Schnell Imbiss, he has now been educated!

The Commcen too have done well earning themselves a Silver Commstar. Well Done!

CHRISTMAS ROUNDUP

The Christmas programme could well have been marred, but fortunately the Maze hunger strike ended and Christmas could be enjoyed. The social whirl was devastating with all the usual draws and drinks. The Old Folks Christmas party was, as ever, enjoyed and it is hoped that not too many OAP's felt too many ill effects.

Again this year, a group of travelling players from Durham University came and played to the troops. This year DUST (Durham University Sensible Thespians) took in even more locations than on their last visit and received a rapturous welcome—particularly from the roulement troops.

MT NOTES

At last an offering for the Wire has been extracted from an unwilling MT. The editor of these notes has promised not to limit journalistic freedom so here they are:

In recent times MT has been far busier than is normal. Two PRE's have been seen through, the first that of the resident battalion 1 Staffords—requiring operational assistance in the way of all our landrovers and most of our civilian vehicles whilst they took their own fleet off the road. This left **Cpl Bill Rowlands,** details clerk, staring for days at the vehicle placement board in search of inspiration. The remainder of MT troop came into their own later during the second PRE—ours! Many late hours were worked under **Sgt Den Hayden** and **Cpl Jim McComish** to finally have the vehicles up for their inspection. During this period the children's christmas party 'happened' with **Cpl Willie Wilson** doing a lead role in musical chairs with sound effects not being what they should be, leading to a comment from the Commander to the effect that he had not known, seen or heard musical chairs without music before. On a lighter note it is nice to see **Lcpl Archie Fulton** on the road again after breaking his arm in a rigging accident after a record of 165 days and 8 plasters. **Archie** does not seem too keen to return to rigging yet. We would like to congratulate **Sig Jock Orr** on his wedding arrangements and his choice and wish him and his wife all happiness in the future.

THE SPORTS SCENE

On the sports scene, the rugby team is supported by **Cpl Pat Thornton, Lt Jim Clark, LCpl Archie Fulton** and **LCpl Doug Foley.** The boxing team is supported by **Cpl Bill Rowlands, Dvr 'Jock the Glock' McLaughlin, Dvr 'Skin' O'Reilly.** The hockey team is supported by **Cpl Pat Thornton** and **Sig Jock Orr.** The Tudor Bar on occasions has been supported by the whole troop.

WELCOME

Into the troop we welcome **Mick Heelan** who is to be the Commander's driver after he settles in and learns the area (and dislikes of the Commander). Also **Sgt Joe Rogers** (probably to be Buck) who takes over the full time responsibility of MT Sgt (and MTO) as the MTO hopes to spend the year adventure training!

SPORTS MISCELLANEA

The rugby team is doing well now having beaten three major units in the league and despite waterlogged pitches have managed to entice a few teams to Londonderry for a home game. The team, known as the Waterats RUFC, are well named—will mask and flipper become de rigeur for players?

The hopes of the novice boxers came to an end when they met NI Regt AAC and after some notable bouts were unfortunately beaten. Better luck next time.

The next session of adventure training is also on the horizon with the skiers and winter mountain walkers looking forward to Aviemore in February.

Cpl Price and Sgt Cooper installing the Foyle Ops Room

Cpl Bailey and Sig Hilton at HMP Foyle installing equipment for ground to air comms

IF

If you can break your intercoms and task us
To send them back again as good as new,
You might be interested enough to ask us
What we've learned in the process about you.

If you can break the buttons in the centre
By shoving them so hard they fall to bits,
Or attacking them with rifles in dementia;
You really are a lot of flaming twits.

If you can strike the front with something pointed,
And drill that pretty facia full of holes,
Your messages are bound to be disjointed
As by then you will have mucked up the controls.

If you can rip the wires and connections
Right out of the machine, and then complain
To the Signal Squadron that it is not working,
We might not let you have it back again.

If you find that teleprinters are capacious,
Then store your cigarette butts in the keys;
If you should find the tape head is rapacious,
Then give it lots of bread and butter please.

If you have anything that needs attention,
Please do not hesitate to give a shout.
Our mechanics world now has a new dimension—
They're all transferring, or they're going out.

(ANON—an old member of the Squadron)

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

OPERATIONAL REPORT

Christmas in Belfast was relatively quiet, with the ending of the Maze hunger strike apparently coming as much as a surprise to PIRA as it did to ourselves. It would appear that there has now been a certain amount of regrouping and change of tactics by the opposition as the new year has begun with a significant number of incidents and casualties.

Following the very poorly supported West Belfast 'H Block Victory March' in December, the possibility of a new hunger strike is now generating more marches in support. Heli Tele will play its important part in monitoring these activities.

NEW LOOK

As part of our policy of continued product improvement, as well as a result of additional responsibilities, it was decided that we should undergo a small internal reorganisation. Communications troop has now been split into two smaller organisations—Alfa and Bravo troops.

'A' TROOP

Grouped together in Alfa troop are all our mobile detachments and maintenance teams. Responsibility for the Bde Rover Group contingency detachments, maintenance teams, powermen and standby crews has fallen fair and square into the lap of 'A' troop. The troop is some 40 strong and commanded by **Capt Lance Bryne,** with **Sgt Alan Hibberd** as Troop Sergeant.

'B' TROOP

Static communications including the Bde Ops Room, Bde Tac Ops Room (RUC Castlereagh), Bde Radio Room, Bde Commcen and Divis Mountain Rebro site have been collected together under the aegis of Bravo tp. This troop too is some 40 strong and commanded by **Lt Colin Lawrence,** supported by **SSgt Bert Connon.**

This now gives us a structure better able to meet any further demands on our organisation.

SQN OPS ROOM AND PROJECTS

As our situation has changed, there has become a need to establish an organisation which can take on the responsibility for our increased commitments to various communications projects and trials that are taking place in the Bde area. To enable the squadron to deal with these effectively, **Capt Lance Byrne** has taken on the additional responsibility of Unit Projects Officer. In addition the unit has constructed an Ops room from salvaged items where our trials, monitoring, 'massaging' of communications problems and future projects can be controlled. As a result we will be able in future to improve the Brigade communications system to a point where it is better able to meet the demands.

PRISON SERVICE

At the end of December one of our resident units, 1st Battalion Scots Guards, was given the responsibility of providing the guard for HMP Foyle. This unit was tasked with providing some operators; those involved were **Sig Jack Ford, Harry MacFie-Jones, Chris Belfield** and **Dave Will.** In mid-January the squadron was tasked with forming a composite platoon to assist Scots Guards in these guard duties. This must have been considered the ultimate industrial sanction for within two days of our platoon reporting for duty the Prison Officers elected to return to work!

COMMANDER'S ARU VISIT

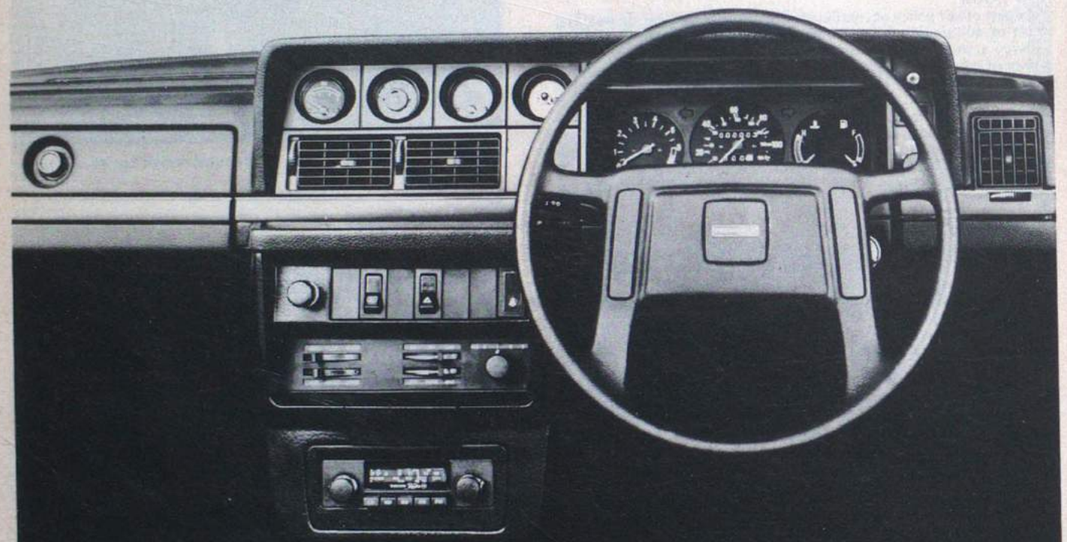
On 5 Feb, the Brigade Commander, **Brig A. B. Crowfoot MBE,** carried out his annual ARU visit to the squadron. A full programme had been arranged involving all elements of the unit which was comprised of visits to all departments in the morning, followed by a curry lunch in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, culminating in visits to some of our more remote sites by helicopter in the afternoon. At the same time an inter troop military skills competition was run throughout the day, involving shooting, first aid, MT, signals, volleyball and soccer competitions.

The theme for the day was to rehearse our Spearhead deployment procedures, from the issue of a battalion reserve pack by our Quartermaster right up to the establishment of a full suite of battalion communications based on Moscow Camp in East Belfast. We are grateful to 233 Sig Sqn for turning out for this occasion and making the whole thing even more realistic by providing a radio relay rear link from "Moscow" to Lisburn.

UHF faults team on standby under the command of Sgt Vince Skinner

Sig Pete Youdale with the 'beat the fuel crisis' mobile UHF talk-through. Also note canine implications of troop withdrawals.

COMMAND MODULE



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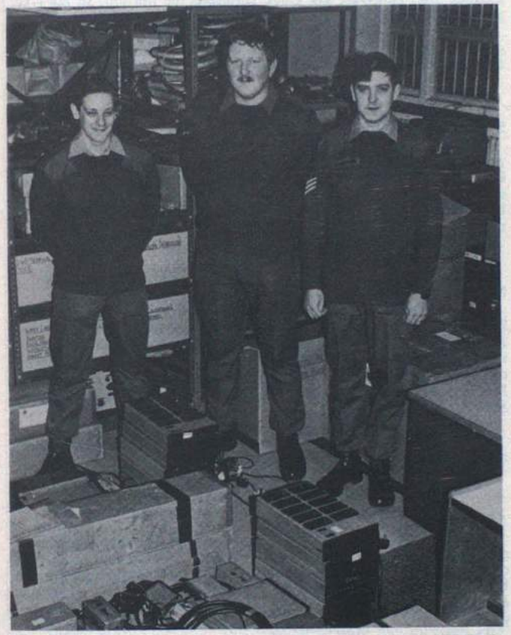
VOLVO EXPORT

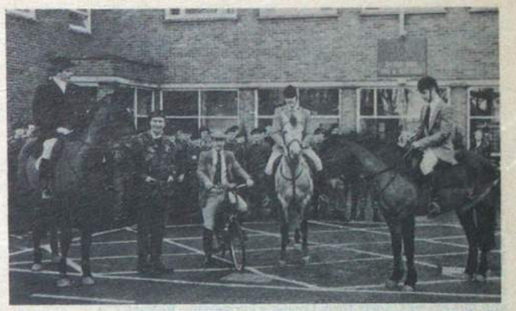
As if this wasn't enough the Brigade Staff had a few tricks of their own up their sleeves. These included a snap inspection (rather less thanks to 233 Sig Sqn for this!) and a requirement to prepare a horse-mounted Rover Group for the Deputy Commander to take on the South Down Hunt (achieved by essential assistance of the TM troop bicycle-mounted UHF talkthrough!) Snap topics introduced throughout included terrorist recognition, cash checks and even personalities being ordered to drop down with a range of complaints ranging from broken legs, through burns to gunshot wounds. At one stage the Commander declared the RSM to be suffering from second degree burns and asked the assembled company what their reaction would be; the response will be left to the reader's imagination!

The day culminated with the final of the inter-troop soccer competition, as part of the military skills event. The Commander having made his point of view clear as to whom the winning team should be, over lunch, the organisation hastily arranged the afternoon's events so that the Brigade Headquarters team won overall, with TM troop coming a close second. All went very well indeed and we have been assured of a good report!



ARU—QM's department in action—issue of a reserve battalion radio pack—Sig 'Paul' Lewis; LCpl 'Tiny' Reynolds; Sgt 'Peter' Woodward.

ARU—Cpl 'Adrian' Broadbank tries to explain himself to the OC, Maj John Munnery and the Brigade Commander.



ARU—Deputy Commander's Rover Group! *Left to Right*—Col P. B. Stevenson; Brigade Commander; LCpl 'Bob' Smithson on bike-mounted talk-through; LCpl 'Robbo' Roberts; Pte 'Taff' Jamieson.

ARU—Terrorist recognition by 'A' Troop—LCpl 'Dave' Cordingley, Cpl 'Terry' Northedge; Cpl 'Strings' Stringer; Sig 'Terry' Taylor; Cpl 'Ray' Martin.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to **Capt Nigel Jackson** and his wife **Lyn** on the birth of their son **Richard;** to **Sgt 'JR' Smith** on the birth of their daughter **Stephanie;** and to the OC's English Setter on her litter of pups!

SPORT

After a certain amount of computation, replayed matches and casting of the runes it has now been confirmed that we are Northern Ireland Minor Units Soccer Autumn League winners. We are now two games into the Spring League, both wins. Many congratulations to the RSM, **WO1 Harry Lund,** and the rest of our team; and to **WO2 Pete Duffy** the Brigade Superintending Clerk, who is our team manager.

LAST WORD

The TOT **Capt 'Sir John' Knox** recently discovered that **Sig Dave Williams,** one of our clerks, was a qualified aerial rigger. An order was quickly prepared telling **Williams** to join a team preparing to mount an assault on the RUC Andersonstown 200 foot tower—requesting in particular next of kin details! In the blink of an eye an anonymous order was processed detailing the TOT to report to the Northern Ireland Reinforcements Training Team! At this stage honours were declared even and the status quo maintained.

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

A POINT OF EMPHASIS

The beginning of 1981 saw as much activity as 1980 finished with: the only difference was that December seemed to be all play, but January was all work. We had several visitors, including the SOinC **Maj Gen Birtwistle** whose visit to the Province is covered elsewhere in the Wire, the new Chief of Staff HQ Northern Ireland, **Brig Rougier,** and 40 Officer Cadets from Queen's University, Belfast.

VISITS

The C of S's visit is covered photographically and there is little to add. He stayed for a pub lunch with some of the seniors and officers of the squadron before whistling off to complete his introduction to the Province.

WO2 (SSM) Ray Marshall talking to the new Chief of Staff HQNI Brig CJ Rougier during his first visit to the Squadron. The OC, Maj Don Overton looks on

Brig Rougier talking to Pte Linda Windsor and Capt (Tfc) Dave Tunmore in the Commcen

A visit of a different sort took place on Sun 25 Jan when **WO2 (QMSI) Matt McBirney** brought 40 Officer Cadets from Queen's University OTC to see the work of the squadron. Knowing that the best way of holding their attention was through their stomachs, they were entertained in the Peake Inn to curry and 'refreshments' before proceeding on a lightning tour of the squadron, the high spot of which was to have been a trip by Wessex helicopter to the Divis Mountain Comms Site. However, low cloud shrouded the hill top, so the Navy pilot 'ad-libbed' with an aerial tour of Belfast instead.

The following evening many of the students returned to join in a games night in the Peake Inn, and showed that they knew more games than we did. The SSM still winces than at the thought of it.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Both our football and basketball teams have done well this season, winning the Northern Ireland Minor Units round of their respective Championships. The football team unfortunately lost in the next round at Aberdeen, to the Scottish Infantry Division Depot, and the basketball team has, at time of writing, yet to play 11 Sig Regt in the next round of their competition.

SAFE DRIVING

If you've owned a car in Northern Ireland and wondered why the insurance is so high, the answer could be because of '233's drivers'. The Admin Officer, **Capt Len Jeffery** and MT **Sgt Phil Cotton** decided to improve the situation by holding regular safe and skilled driving competitions between the troops. The first one was held at the end of January and won by Tech troop. The best individual driver was **Sig Roy Knight** of Admin troop.

(PS. Shortly afterwards Tech troop crashed an Escort—But that's another story!)

ADMIN TROOP

Looking back over 1980, the troop has gone through a number of changes in personnel, cars (!) and has had an extremely busy time coping with all the administration of this, the biggest squadron in Ulster. All ranks of the troop rose to every challenge/task which was completed with enthusiasm and professionalism—Well done to all of you.

The message for 1981 is simple—keep at it—I know it is hard to smile when you seem to be constantly on Mobiles/Guards/Escorts/Ranges/Details/SDS/Standby/Training/Tevni/Sport/PT/BFT/Fire Picket/Fatigues—just to name a few of your weekly jobs—but just remember that the squadron depends upon you to do your job—Go to it!

GOODIES

AO Cpl Coyne	Stood in for all and sundry at Xmas—then got New Year at home. (Och Aye!)

BADDIES

Sig Lindsay	— Easy come—Easy go!
Sig Wood	— Who wrote off the CR Signals car then?
Sig McGill	— Asked for a posting to a far away place under an assumed name—wonder why?
Sig Rees	— Who slept in?
Sig Shalliker	— Who spent an hour explaining all his problems to the OC in the Peake Inn—then discovered the OC was not with him and could not hear, see or talk—then cried!

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EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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COMMCEN TROOP

January has been a quiet month for Commcen troop, giving everyone a chance to catch up after the hustle of Christmas.

MISCELLANEOUS CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Geof Glover** and wife **Shirley** on the birth of their son **Peter.** Congratulations also to **Cpl Mick McCue** and **Ann** on the birth of their son **Kevin.**

Well done, also, to **Cpl Pete Madeloso** and **LCpl Jim McLachlan** for having successfully suffered the hazards of 11 Sig Regt and passing their Detachment Commanders Course.

Welcome to the 'B1 Club' to **WCpl Sandy Cope, Cpl Ken Mace, WLCpl Jill Legge** and **Sig Dusty Millar.** Well done on passing your Class 1 Course.

DEPARTURES

We say a fond farewell to our troop 'Girl Friday' (and Tfc's PA), **WCpl Jeannette Allen,** who is accompanying her husband to 262 Signal Squadron in sunny Cyprus. Thanks for everything and good luck to you both.

Farewell, too, to **Sgt Bob Harrison** and **WCpl Parkin,** off to Blandford and Cyprus respectively. Good luck to you both in the future.

ARRIVALS

R Signals Records and WRAC Records have been kind to us in that we have had in excess of twelve new arrivals, far too many to list individually. May we just wish you well and hope that your stay with us will be enjoyable and rewarding.

TECH TROOP

Troop life continues at a fast pace, be it work, sport or social. The big news of the month is that the Admin Officer has achieved what he has been threatening for some time—we now have our full complement of technicians and rumours abound that **Sgt Vince McGarry** is following in the Task Force shoes and asking for a separate squadron number for systems control.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

We recently said farewell to our one and only Tele Mech **Cpl Billy Allen** who also filled the role of troop Superstar and comedian par excellence.

It was only fitting that an extra special farewell had to be arranged. Suitable extroverts were cajoled into performing excerpts from his early life in Fiji. **SSgt Andy McBain** caused a sensation with his performance as dusky nubile maiden and the SSM, **Ray Marshall,** was a very convincing witch doctor although the pace stick gave the more intelligent in the audience a clue who it was.

The evening was a great success, giving **Billy Allen** the resounding send off his hard work all over the Province thoroughly deserved.

COMMS

The RR Section is eagerly awaiting yet more C50 equipment to be deployed in the most unlikely places and **'Paddy Bruin'** to spread another tentacle. A Bruin phone is not now considered just a status symbol—people actually understand how the system works and no longer jump on their chairs every time the phone rings.

The Northern Shot Microwave System is shortly to be extended to Stormont once we work out how to get two 6 ft dishes up the outside of the concrete 170' tower.

HOBBIES

SSgt Terry Sutherland counts tower erection amongst his many other hobbies and recently took the day off to pop down to South Armagh to supervise and control the erection of a 200 foot lattice tower for 3 Bde. Despite working with a local labour force he managed to get it up the right way although one or two sticky moments were encountered. Now he understands why the confidential report includes resourcefulness and adaptability. Staff's only comment when finishing the job was 'Beat that, Gladwin' which must mean something to someone.

—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

MANY CHANGES

By the time you read this, the College will have undergone quite drastic changes for in the Spring Term we shall lose (at the time of writing), the Commandant and eight other officers, and the RSM plus thirteen other members of the College. If that doesn't leave the incoming Commandant a clean slate to work on, little else will. However, we do wish all those who are departing good luck in their new posts, and may their moratorium never grow greater.

WE HOLD OUR OWN

Despite the pressures of work we continue to hold our own on the sports field. All are worthy of mention but, as space is limited, just a word about a rather neglected section of our community, the Permanent Staff.

THE INTERNATIONAL BERMUDA MARATHON

Report by Cpl Andy Robertson

After departing from Brize Norton on 16 Jan I arrived in the Mariners' Club, Hamilton, Bermuda, via Baltimore USA, on the following day. A twelve mile training run helped me loosen up and got rid of any trace of 'jet lag'. A meeting with **Gina Swainson**, the former Miss World, on Sunday, also worked wonders for my morale. This really was a day of rest. After watching the weekly 'fun run' held in the Botanical Gardens I was driven round the marathon course and then taken to lunch at the Henry VIII pub.

Back to work on Monday and down to the ritual of the run before breakfast followed by another in the afternoon. Tuesday saw me installed in the magnificent Elbow Beach Hotel, the official race headquarters. Wednesday was quite eventful, I was interviewed by **Leo Callahan** and later met ultra-distance runner **Dave McGillvary** who, for starters, ran across America to raise funds for cancer research.

Just a word of warning to all Bermuda-bound visitors; never, unless you are cannibal, order a rare beef burger—they come up raw!

On Wednesday night, I saw a video recording of the New York 80 Marathon and picked out a certain **Sgt Venus** wending his way leisurely through the city.

Thursday's weather continued hot and humid and the hotel filled up rapidly with teams from USA and further afield. I was fortunate to meet **Grete Waitz**, world champion and womens marathon record holder.

On Saturday I had my last training run before the race and then went to see Liverpool's **Geoff Smith** gain a crushing victory in the 10 km race held in rainy and very humid conditions.

26 miles + is a long way— Cpl Andy Robertson centre

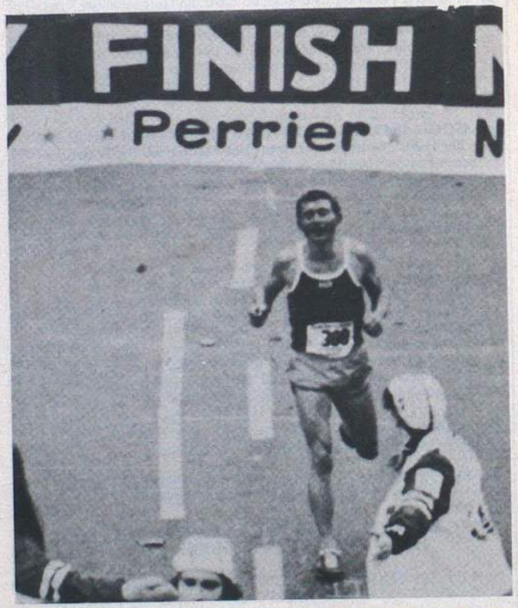
A PERSONAL BEST AND SECOND PLACE

Sunday 10 am saw the race under way in less humid conditions but over a very hilly course. The field of 350 included over 20 internationals; 7 of them had achieved much better timings than me in the past. Britain's three time champion **Andy Holden** was the eventual winner in 2 hrs 16:57; I was very happy with second place in a personal best of 2 hrs 17:20.

I am most grateful for all who helped to make my trip possible for I gained valuable experience in terms of training, racing and being able to face up to the problems which one encounters in a strange country, leading up to a big race. My intention is to return in 1982 to win.

THE NEW YORK MARATHON

Sgt 'Chip' Rafferty ran for the Army in the 1980 New York Marathon and finished a very creditable 57th overall, 3rd Army and 8th British runner in a personal best of 2 hours 23 minutes 9 seconds. He even managed to pass **Lasse Viren** on the way round. Considering there were 14,012 starters he has every right to be pleased with himself.



Sgt 'Chip' Rafferty completes the course in the New York marathon

ISRAEL MARATHON

Following his success in New York, **Sgt Rafferty** was invited to compete, with 500 others, in a marathon held on 4 Jan along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The race was run in extremely wet and windy conditions which, after training in Harrogate, suited him so well that he came in 9th in a time of 2 hrs 24 minutes, just 8 minutes behind the winner **Jim Dingwall** of Scotland.

Whilst preparing for the race **Sgt Rafferty** worked on a kibbutz where he earned his keep by baking bread and picking oranges.

SOCCER

Whilst our runners were gaining honours far afield, a little nearer to home our Permanent Staff football team had managed to win the combined NE/NW District Minor Units Cup, which gave them a place in the inter-district finals. Sad to say, in a nail biting match against the Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, who were the Scottish winners, we went down to a 4—3 defeat. Once again considering the problems that **Maj Bob Peake**, the team manager, has in even trying to turn out the same team for two consecutive matches, the team did very well.

THE HARROGATE HILTON

On 8 Jan our new permanent staff Z accommodation, the first in the Army in the UK, was officially opened by **Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE**, GOC NE District and named Baker Block. No longer do our single, junior ranks live in barrack rooms but in blocks of self contained flats with single fully carpeted bedrooms each containing fitted wardrobes and a vanitory wash basin. Each block of 13 flats has its own sitting room, kitchen with cooking facilities, drying room, bathrooms and toilets. The flats share a launderette and a telephone and are built on a Roman villa-type layout around an attractive, paved rose garden. Who said Army life is rough!

GOC North East District formally opens 'Baker Block'

Maj Gen Baker talks to some of the inmates

GRADUATION DAY, WINTER 1980

The traditional rites and ceremonies of Graduation Day were observed on Thur 11 Dec in weather that was, for once, considering the season, bordering on the clement. The Parade, always the highlight of the day, lived fully up to expectations. It was commanded by **AT RSM C. N. Macray.** Fittingly, as Reviewing Officer, we had the SOinC

The SOinC inspects the Senior Term

(Army). **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE** who presented prizes as follows:

Master of Signals' Award for the best all round Apprentice of the Senior Term	**AT Sgt R. J. Young**
Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award for the best all round Tradesman of the Senior Term	**AT Sgt L. G. Bowlby**
Director of Army Training Award for the best individual performance of the Senior Term	**AT SSM J. E. Richardson**
Commandant's Prize for Conduct, Discipline and Example	**AT SSM A. D. Young**
Director of Army Education Prize for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College	**AT G. W. Hockham**
Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to the best Apprentice of the Senior Term in each trade	
Technician	
Terminal Equipment	**AT Sgt L. G. Bowlby**
Radio Relay	**AT G. W. Hockham**
Radio	**AT Cpl M. Smyth**
Telegraphist	
Special	**AT P. R. Davey**
Radio	**AT LCpl A. J. Reed**
Data	**AT B. P. Croxford**

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Technician	**AT SSM. J. E. Richardson**
Telegraphist	**AT D. Ray**

EXERCISE SNOW SCAPE III 12-19 DECEMBER 1980
Report by Sgt J. D. Hatch

Exercise *Snow Scape III* was a skiing exercise held in Leysin, Switzerland during the College Christmas leave. The aim was to introduce apprentices to Alpine skiing, to get those who could ski to a higher standard thus producing a pool of young skiers for the Corps.

Our party comprised 26 apprentice tradesmen and 4 permanent staff and the members started dry ski slope training at the Harrogate Ski Slope on Wednesday afternoons under the eye of **Capt Bob Kinnaird,** now a BASI 2 Ski Instructor. As the weeks passed the group skiing progressed from falling over to a fair standard of competence.

Leysin is the fifth largest ski resort in Switzerland. Before 1952 it was one of the world's biggest TB cure centres because of its clean air and sunshine record. However, with the introduction of antibiotics, most of the clinics were turned into hotels and it became a ski resort.

As party organiser I arrived in Leysin four days before the rest of the party to check the hotel and the skiing conditions, much to the envy of the other members of the party who were involved in Graduation practice. Well done lads.

ATTRACTIVE PROSPECT

12 Dec dawned with bright sunshine, blue sky and a few feet of snow outside the Granditz hotel. A large coach pulled up outside the hotel and disgorged the party of 30. They had been escorted to Luton Airport from Harrogate by **SSgt (Biff) Matthews** of Rawson Squadron.

In response to questions such as 'What's the hotel like?', 'What's the food like?', 'Have we got attractive ski instructors?', there was a sharp intake of breath when I said we were sharing the hotel with about 200 young girls. All thoughts of skiing seemed to vanish for some reason. The rest of the day was spent fitting skis and boots, checking the bars and games rooms in the hotel and relaxing after the journey in preparation for the welcoming disco that night.

PERFECT

Sat 13 Dec, breakfast 0700 hrs with the weather perfect, looks of anticipation were on all faces at the thought of all those slopes to be conquered. Our apprentices were then handed over to the Leysin Swiss Ski School for their ski lessons. As most of the instructors are English, Australian or American, trying to find a Swiss national is quite hard, but at least the language is not a problem. In the afternoon it was free skiing. The idea being to put into practice what had been taught that morning. During the afternoon various bodies could be seen making holes in the snow, **Sig (Banzi) Chew, ATLCpl Chris Nelson** and **AT Sgt Tim Roberts** to name but a few.

REMEMBERED FONDLY

After a hard day's skiing I thought everyone would be ready for a quiet night, but no. Another disco in the hotel, then a trip to a place with the dubious name of Club Vagabond. It will be remembered fondly by all members of the party.

A few people stood out on the dance floor, **AT (Headbanger) Coulson,** with his impression of Status Quo and **AT Cpl Billy Freear** in what looked like red coveralls, although he assured me they were not.

ALL ROUND IMPROVEMENT

The weather remained good for most of the week and skiing improved all round. However on Tues 16 Dec it snowed all day complete with high winds which closed the cable car.

Some decided to go to Geneva for the day shopping and sightseeing, while the remainder went ice skating under the guidance of **Cpl Phil Perry** RADC. Before long they were going backwards and forwards if not always on their feet. Due to **Cpl Perry's** patience we all learnt something and had a good day.

The next morning **Capt Kinnaird** decided that **SSgt Biff Matthews, Sgt John Hatch, Cpl Chippy Wood and ATLCpl Chris Nelson** should learn the art of powder skiing 'Just keep you weight central, skis flat and together, and off you go'.

A quick demonstration from our BASI instructor which looked simple enough and then it was our turn. Four intrepid skiers were seen to disappear in clouds of powder with bodies scattered all over the slopes groping blindly for lost skis. After many falls it got better but not a lot better. That afternoon **Capt Kinnaird** and I found some unskied snow fields and made some smooth, and some not so smooth tracks in them.

Sig Chew and friend say 'cheese'

Even the most expert must rest

THE TEST IS PASSED BY ALL

Thurs 18 Dec, ski test day and all took and passed either the Swiss Ski School Bronze or Silver test which is an internationally recognised standard of skiing.

A GREAT SUCCESS

The time to return to England had arrived and the party walked out to the coach which was to take us to Geneva Airport, helped by what seemed like all the girls who had stayed in the hotel with us. The exercise had been a great success and everyone had enjoyed both the skiing and the apres ski to the full.

As a result of the experience, another trip on the same lines is planned to Italy during Easter leave. 10 apprentices are also trying to arrange another trip to Switzerland for themselves. Obviously the thrills outnumbered the spills.

ADP Development Team HQ UKLF

BACK INTO GEAR

After the long holiday break, the ADP Development Team performed a quick bootstrap routine to haul itself back into gear for the events that were to come in 1981. A bare week's breathing space was allowed before the computer system was to implement a new system of user access—a task which fully occupied system designers, software writers and operations staff alike, so **Ron Reakes, Ian Sey, Megan Pritchard** and **Maj Roger Lewenz** had their time well taken up in no uncertain fashion.

January also saw the arrival of our new programmer, in the attractive shape of **Mrs Jenny Bates,** who brings the total of our computer ladies to three—as you can see from our photograph, they are all obviously happy at their work! Perhaps it's because **Marion Hankins** is just proving an enthusiastic squash player, and **Megan Pritchard** had just learned of a forthcoming happy event later in the year! **Jenny** we hope, is just happy to be here!

ADP DEV TEAM UKLF
How's this for a Software Group?—Jenny Bates, Megan Pritchard and Marion Hankins seem to think it's a good idea!

The other new arrival to the team was our new GSO1(W) **Lt Col Peter Ost,** REME, fresh from successes at the Project Wavell Team. He has been heard to say that he knows more officers and soldiers in R Signals than in any other Corps. We wonder if that also includes REME! **Lt Col Ost** has already made an impression by demonstrating an undisputed expertise in manipulation of the Rubic's Cube puzzle—we hope that organising the team will prove just as simple!

Workwise, the team is in the middle of a very exciting time, with proposals for a two level enchancement of the team being lodged at MOD, and extensive consultation taking place with the HQ Staffs over the form of our future ADP systems. This is something which keeps our User Liaison Analyst, **Maj Tom Moncur** and **Capt Howard Crosse** 16/5L, well and truly on the move. Quite appropriate, in view of the exploits of the former on the cross country running scene, and the enthusiasm with which **Capt Howard Crosse** tackles his daily fitness runs.

Sgts John Hutchings and **Bob Evans** are now settling in well on the operations side, and still find time to run the team's 5-a-side football and squash activities. Their current ambition is to persuade the new GSO1(W) to play in goal! Perhaps next month will tell!

Stop Press: **Cathy** and **Maj Tom Moncur** have just become the proud parents of a son, on 1st February. Ever seen a marathon runner with bags under the eyes?

RMCS Shrivenham

HEAVY CONCENTRATION

From a cool, windswept, little known spot in the White Horse Vale these few notes are penned to keep the Corps informed of the activities of a heavy concentration of its officer body. Our numbers have diminished a little since 15 Army Staff Course left for Camberley but we still boast 46 officers, and our sole representative of the WO's and Sgts mess—**SSgt Harry Porter.** 6 R Signals officers have recently arrived with Division II of 16 Army Staff Course, and a further two are due to arrive on Division I.

We have so far received two visits from our SOinC, an ex Deputy Commandant of RMCS. He came to give the Military Lecture on 14 Jan and stayed for our photograph—a very wet day—and to meet many of those serving or suffering at the College. His other visit was on 29 Jan, to discuss Corps degree matters. Our only Directing Staff change concerns **Lt Col Peter Burke** who now commands 7 Sig Regt, and **Lt Col Tony Willcox** who arrived to relieve him and to be Corps Representative.

As we sign off please give a thought for the members of 33 Degree Course who are making their final run-in in the Graduation stakes.

RMCS
Back Row: Lts D. M. Steele, N. R. N. Wood, A. Field, C. Owen, N. H. D. Austen, A. J. H. Harrison, I. W. MacKenzie, C. R. King, C. N. Burtenshaw, T. J. Gigg, D. J. Whitby, M. E. Pincott, R. J. Good
Centre Row: Lts K. W. Goodfellow, P. King, P. A. Pratley, R. F. M. Cousins, S. J. S. Young, I. A. Foxley, N. A. Swainson, G. R. Leach, P. J. Filby, P. T. Nicholson-Taylor, M. Butler, P. C. J. Taylor, M. Lithgow
Front Row: Lt D. E. Rowlinson, Lt R. O. N. Evans, Capt J. Blake, Capt R. J. R. West, Lt Col A. M. Willcox, Maj Gen R. F. Vincent DSO, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE, Lt Col W. C. A. Kennedy, Lt Col E. Mulley, Lt Col W. Roper, Capt R. J. Evans, Capt M. S. Reid, Lt J. E. Thomas

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Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

LOOKING FORWARD

Well, it's goodbye to Rapier troop and hello to a new Rapier troop as we start off the new year with lots of encouraging financial news from our many recent high ranking visitors including the GOC, **Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE** and **Maj Gen E. J. Hellier CBE** from UKLF. Work is now pressing ahead on the new Sgts Mess building and cash has been made available to modernise the cookhouse. We currently have 501 junior soldiers under training and look forward, this year, to consolidating our position here at Ouston. We badly need qualified external leadership instructors in particular rock climbers, so, if any sergeant or junior NCO wants a really worthwhile job as well as enjoying first rate climbing—let us know.

THE GOODIES OF OUSTON

The Dec pass off parade included the presentation of the LS & GC by the Commander, Training Group, **Brig A. Yeoman** to **WO2 (SSM) John Drake, SSgt Colin Wing** and **Sgt Stu Herrington. WO2 Drake** is affectionately known by the boys in his Sqn as 'action man', because that's what he is—whether it's organizing a Christmas party or chasing round the drill square; Zebide mark 2! **SSgt Wing** is SSI weapons in our training wing when he isn't organizing film shows for the boys, training for Nijmegen marches or holding down at least one Sgts Mess committee job. **Sgt Herrington** was the man at the 'coal face' as a Tp Sgt but has now left us for 8 Sig Regt: he was obviously so overcome by receiving his medal that he dropped it whilst marching off parade—it was quickly recovered before 250 juniors left their boot print on it and dropped once again after the parade but this time by the RSM into a glass of champagne in the Sgts Mess.

ARMY JUNIOR SOCCER CUP FINAL

The whistle blew and **JSig 'Scouse' Morris** started the Army Junior Soldiers Challenge Cup Final 1980-81, against C Coy, Queens Division Depot on 11 Dec at Aldershot Military Stadium. Everybody was suffering from nerves despite **WO2 Geoff Northey** and **Sgt Butch Maycock** having spent many hours trying to quieten everyone down.

The game got off to a hectic start with mistakes on both sides. In the eighth minute C Coy were awarded a free kick about 10 yards outside our penalty area. The 'wall' formed and **JSig 'Spike' Laurillard** covered his goal. However the shot was mis-hit, came off the legs of the wall and trickled into the goal. 1—0 to C Coy.

Straight from the restart we came storming back at the Infanteers and in quick succession **JSigs 'Scouse' Morris, 'Scouse' Hale, 'Cas' Caswell** and **'Dave' Davidson** all had near misses or shots miraculously saved. Unluckiest of all was **'Cas' Caswell** who having beaten the goal-keeper with a superb lob had the ball kicked off the line under the crossbar by the Queens' centre half who was running into his own goal at the time. **Half** time came ending a half of fast football with the majority of the play and chances going to the Junior Regt R Signals, although only sterling defensive work by **JSigs 'Jasper' Reynolds, 'Robbo' Robinson, 'Eddie' John** and **'Skipper' Winston Whyte** kept out the few C Coy attacks.

The second half started as the first ended with the Queens defending resolutely and relying on the quick breaks. As the match wore on **JSigs Eddie John** and **Winston Whyte** moved up field in an effort to put the ball in the Queens' net. This left **JSigs 'Jasper' Reynolds** and **'Robbo' Robinson** to pick up any 'loose' ends.

The Queens defended well, and more miraculous saves and near misses from **JSigs Pat Hattersley, 'Ginge' Heyworth** and **'Scouse' Morris,** saw our players getting more and more frustrated.

In the dying minutes of the game we were awarded an indirect free kick only eight yards from the Queens' goal. **JSigs 'Scouse' Hale** and **'Scouse' Morris** had an open goal as the Queens' defence was in disarray. However hesitation lost the chance. Eventually the final whistle blew and the cup was on its way back to Bassingbourn, home of the Queens Division.

Junior Regiment Royal Signals soccer team finalists in the Junior Soldiers Challenge Cup 1980/81

Sgt C. Maycock (Coach), JSig John, JSig Douglas, JSig Robinson, JSig Laurillard, JSig Reynolds, JSig Heyworth, JSig Gathercole, JSig Morris, WO2 (QMSI) G. C. Northey (Manager), JSig Caswell, JSig Hale, JSig Whyte (Capt), Lt Col I. J. Crouch (CO), JSig Hattersley, JSig Brown, JSig Folkes, JSig Davidson, JSig Taylor.

Disappointment masked the players faces as they lined up to collect their runners-up trophy. However they had given their best for eighty minutes, but the luck so badly needed in Cup football had deserted them.

The ball-boys at the match were **JSig Ollie Oliver, 'Jock' Stevenson, Martin Haythorne** and **'Jock' Davidson,** who are all members of the Regimental Team. Substitutes **JSigs 'Jock' Brown** and **'Folksy' Folkes** did not play in the final but gave valued displays in the previous rounds.

OTHER SPORT

Although the soccer cup final was disappointing we are still in with a chance in the rugby and our boxing team shortly attempt to 'duff up' the junior gunners at Bramcote. We've just acquired two more sailing boats, ready for the summer and the permanent staff scratch hockey team recently beat 1 RHA in a cup match 3—2. The squash team are now going flat out in preparation for the junior championships at Aldershot. Looks like being a normal sort of term.

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

ALPINE SKIING

The team gathered only days before the Divisional Ski Meeting with **LCpls Phil Philemon** and **'Basi' Jones** coming from hard training in Switzerland and **Capt Tony Marvin** and **Sgt Gordon Townsley** from perfecting their snowploughs at *Snow Queen!* We had no problems defending our reputation as the best team in 2 Div, though **Gordon** tested our nerves by deciding to test a gatekeepers knowledge of the rules! He then went on to show the Langlauf team how to ski downhill by joining them for the patrol race.

TITLE AT STAKE

The serious work of defending our title of Army team champions took place in Ischgl in Austria. We got off to a flying start with **Phil** taking the individual slalom title and the next day winning the team race by over 14 seconds from our great rivals, 22 Sig Regt. The individual and team giant slalom followed with disaster and bad weather. A light in the darkness—**Gordon,** runner up in the individual race. Light relief provided by **Basi** 'I think I would have won if I had not fallen over and bent my ski'! We managed a third place as a team so all was not lost.

SUCCESS ON FAST COURSE

The weather changed and the conditions for the Downhill were cold, sunny and fast (the course is fast in any conditions!). One team member went so fast he missed a gate but we won't embarrass you by putting your name in print, OK **Phil!** There it was, convinced we had failed, leaving the prizes to 22 Sig Regt. Our surprise that we had actually won the combination was soon drowned in nine litres of Moet et Chandon and the knowledge that three members of the Army team of seven, were us. The lucky trio chosen to ski against the other services and foreign forces were **Sgt Gordon 'Gramps' Townsley, LCpls Phil Philemon** and **'Basi' Jones.**

From left to right: LCpl 'Basi' Jones, Sgt Gordon Townsley, Capt Tony Marvin and LCpl Phil Philemon

212 (12 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIG SQN

ECHOES OF GLORY

After a delightful two weeks in the field hoping for a brush with the enemy, the 'Endex' came through. A disappointed platoon of Mercians had left us three days earlier for 'Brum' ('Don't want to miss the Villa on Saturday'), having spent a week digging invisible trenches, priming thunderflashes and thirsting for action: Orange Forces really let us down on *Spearpoint.* The Brigadier was delighted and even the OC was quite pleased with us so the squadron loped home in various stages (to break it gently to Osnabruck?) in fine spirits.

AFTER 'SPEARPOINT'

With the words 'We'll have a breather after *Spearpoint*' from the OC, **Maj John Ambrose,** TFD rumbled off to war. Therefore it was a dubious bunch of diehards who covered themselves in mud, having removed said substance from the vehicles. At least our tracked wonders were at last revealed in their true colours: Racing Khaki and Pronto Piccaninny. 'The Foz', Foreman **John Smith,** closeted himself and his techs in their lair to mend things etc, whilst the 2IC, **Capt Simon Kidner** begged from our neighbours (no names mentioned) the use of a washdown point.

The 'Q', **SSgt Don McLennan,** went through an assortment of colours when he learnt that a Board of Officers loomed in mid October . . . he did, however, compose himself in order to be awarded the LS & GC along with **Sgt 'Maxi' Williams.** The awards were made in our new club, The Delta Shelta, and making the presentations was the Garrison Commander **Brig Kenny.**

AUTUMN 80 (AND ALL THAT)

The Board of Officers came and went, leaving behind them battered hopes and tattered storemen (well, one anyway). But we came through with flying colours—another shining Delta triumph. Things sorted themselves out and started to resemble their pre-exercise condition. A hand picked group departed for a three day sojourn on the border with East Germany. The patrol, led by **2Lt Patrick Windsor Brown,** had hoped to return with a souvenir dissident but instead had to content themselves with the memory of **Pte Geordie Morgan's** imitation of a General. The latter's appearance drew the attention of many pairs of eyes and a huge zoom lens in one of the watch towers.

The Garrison Winter Sports Day, on 21 Nov, injected the squadron with new purpose and various sporting groups gathered to practice their art. Our efforts bore fruit when we achieved the overall position of 6th place in a field of 21 teams.

An assortment of new arrivals appeared to amuse the gnarled veterans of TFD: **Sig Martin Brown** was quickly followed by the birth of his daughter. A soldier who does rather frighten the natives is **Sig Brown.** On being requested by his Troop Commander to apprehend the latter's transport to the Sergeants Mess Christmas Draw outside the camp gates, he flagged down a passing bus at gunpoint. He would have argued with the bus driver (and his seven perplexed passengers) ad infinitum had the transportee not turned up to rectify the matter!

A WHITE-ISH CHRISTMAS

A dozen intrepids ventured south for a skiing Christmas and all passed *Snow Queen* proficiency standards; though some with greater ease than others:

Sig Cressey	'And that's how easy it is'
Sig Mohide	Equipped with man portable mattress
Sig Mayled	'I could have dozed all day'
Sig Palmer	'Easy once you know how'
Sig Thomas	Airborne (again) Forces
Sig Cookson	'So that's how it's done . . .'
Sig Grimes	Will NOTHING wake him?
Sig Firth	'Stopping is the difficult bit'
Sig Childs	'Just crouch down and go like ——'
LCpl Strapp	David Bailey on skis?
LCpl Flippance (RCT)	'It's the cap badge that does it'
2Lt Windsor Brown	'What happened to the queue?'

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 106

THE PROUDMAN TROPHY

In 1966 **Lt Col Geoffrey Proudman,** then commanding 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt in Bulford gave the regiment a silver bowl for the 'Best All Round Soldier'. It was his wish that all ranks below Sergeant would be eligible to compete for the trophy and would be assessed in military skills, trade skills and sport. Sadly, while the regiment was at Bulford the trophy was lost. When **WO1 (RSM) John Kirkman** arrived in the regiment, having been its first winner in 1966, he restored it as one of the regiment's annual competitions.

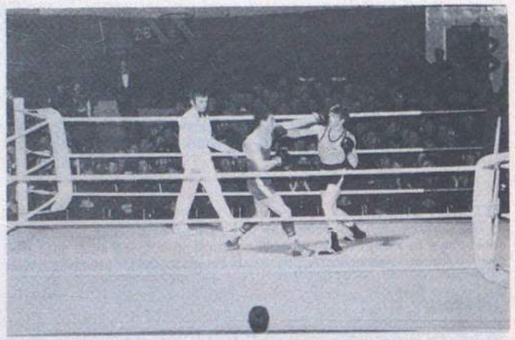
In 1980 Proudman Trophy was won by **Sig Eric Strefford** of 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. Since then **Sig Strefford** has been promoted and is now with 7 Sig Regt. We wish him all the best knowing that it is our loss but the Corps' gain.

WO1 (RSM) John Kirkman presenting the trophy to Sig Eric Strefford. From one winner to another.

REGIMENTAL BOXING

After a successful inter-squadron competition the team was chosen to represent the regiment in the Div Novices Competition. Under the care and guidance of **SSgt (YofS) Dulton** and **Sgt Pollard** the team carried out a full and exacting training schedule. The preliminary stage of the competition saw the regiment drawn against the 1st Bn Worcester & Sherwood Foresters. On home ground, and with rousing support the regiment won the match by five bouts to four. Newly promoted **LCpl Deary** took his opponent all three rounds and although receiving some punishment was awarded a majority decision. At Featherweight **LCpl Worsell** was not strong enough and was stopped in the final round. **LCpl Carthy** was unable to continue in the third round of the Lightweight having injured his hand. **Cpl Maskrey** took and gave fair punishment but the final decision was in favour of the 1WFR. At Lightmiddle **Cpl Green** was too strong for his opponent who was knocked out in the second round. **Sig Williams** followed this with another victory at Middleweight when the referee stopped the fight in his favour. **Sig Hocking** received a walk over at Light Heavy at the 1WFR had no contestant. At Heavyweight **Pte Saunders** was knocked out in round two, so much depended on the final bout with the score standing at the regiment 12, 1WFR 11. **Dvr Bowering** did not fail us and was awarded a points decision.

This victory took the regiment into the semi-final where we met 26 Field Regt RA at Dortmund. Unfortunately our teams experience was not enough to equal their grit and determination. Against a slightly stronger and more skilful opposition the regiment lost seven bouts to two. Our two winners were the **Bowering** brothers both in MT Tp. So ended this year's attempt at the championship but the team gained valuable competitive experience and show great promise for the future.



LCpl Gary Carthy and his opponent exchange blows

BLUE PETER

You probably saw the Soest International Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale attended by **Simon Groom** on TV. Organised by 3 Armd Div Sig Regt the sale was an outstanding success and over DM22,000 was raised for the handicapped.

Most of the credit must go to **AQMS Stu Knight** and the boys from the LAD who did the backwork. Each troop brought something to the sale, the PRI donated a colour TV and the Sergeants and Corporals Messes gave £100 each.

Rebro Troop had a special part to play in that **Cpl Ian Foster** and **LCpl Graham Westall** made a large Blue Peter flag for the event. It is now held by the TV presenters and should appear on the Blue Peter programme.

As **Simon Groom** said in his thank you letter, 'this sale will be of great benefit to many handicapped people.'

Just a few of the 4,000 plus visitors to the Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale at Soest arranged by 3 Armd Div Sig Regt

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GCHQ

WINTER JOINS THE DIV HQ

For Regimental Cross Country read 'Snowman Building Competition'. So decreed the CO when heavy snowfall made the going difficult under foot. The result was a 2 squadron competition which soon degenerated into a snowball raid on rival efforts. Few let the chance go by as the RSM became the number one target.

Judging by the size of 2 Sqn's snowman it could only have been modelled on our Adjutant, **Capt 'Big Jim' Shaw.**

Finishing touches being made in the snowman competition

206 (6 ARMED BDE) SIG SQN

EX BOBSLEIGH

Over the New Year 13 of the Sqn set out from Salamanca Barracks to spend a week in the Harz. Knowing that the Walkenried hut was near the East German border **Cpl John Ackerley** became very perturbed when rounding a corner in the rover he was confronted with a barrier across the road. Losing confidence in his navigator **Sig Bruce Sunley** he pulled over and took charge of the map only to realise that it was a level crossing. Although the snow was disappointing throughout the week, all enjoyed the break from the camp. Our thanks to the British Frontier Service who gave us a tour of the border.

FAREWELL TO THE BRIGADE COMMANDER

We recently bade farewell to our Brigade Commander, **Brig I. MacKay MBE MC**, who commanded the Brigade throughout the period it was Task Force Foxtrot. As the various units of Salamanca Barracks lined the roads of the camp the squadron pulled the Commander's rover through lines of cheering soldiers.

The Bde Comd being towed out of camp by members of the Regt

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

REGIMENTAL SMOKER

On the evening of 22 Dec, the Officers and SNCO's of the regiment carried out the time honoured tradition of serving the living in soldiers with their Christmas Dinner. The meal, which was a credit to its creator, **WO2 John Barnes ACC,** was the forerunner to a most enjoyable evening's entertainment in the form of a regimental smoker.

Each of the four squadrons were tasked with providing a number of sketches to supplement the professional entertainment, in the form of a magician and a lady contortionist.

The highlight of the evening however, was the sketch performed by members of Bravo Tp, 3 Sqn and compered by **Sig Otty (Eamon Andrews) Ottewell** with the star guest, a very surprised 'This is your life' **WO1 (RSM) Andy Keenan.** The fact that **Sig Otty Ottewell** is now a Lance Corporal proves that the RSM has a sense of humour and does not bear grudges!

EX 'SNOW QUEEN'

With the Christmas and New Year festivities behind us and with the return of those who enjoyed UK leave, the regiment gradually returned to full strength—but not for long. January saw the commencement of Exercise *Snow Queen* and the fortnightly departure of groups of potential Jean-Claude Killys descending to the ski slopes of Nesselwang in Bavaria.

REGIMENTAL RANGE WEEK

A Regimental Range Week was held at Sennelager Ranges during the last week in November, the aim being to classify as many Regimental and Div HQ personnel as possible in SLR PWT/APWT.

The range and administrative details were organised by personnel from 3 Sqn who were encamped, for the duration of the week's shooting at Sennelager, under the watchful eye of **Lt Dave Poole** and **WO2 (SSM) 'Dinger' Bell.** Transport left the regiment daily at 0600 hrs to ensure that the first detail of 12 men were on the firing point ready to send the first rounds down the range at the official starting time of 0800 hrs.

In addition to classification and zeroing, three mandatory test stands were incorporated in the area adjacent to the ranges, namely NBC—**Sgt Fred Peebles,** SER—**Sgt Ian Durrant,** and weapon training—**SSgt Mick Davies.** Not forgetting the most popular and mandatory for another reason, 'Bratty' stand run by **Cpl Steve Wall.**

Despite the weather conditions, which alternated between awful and even worse, for most of the week, a high pass rate was achieved in both PWT and APWT, mainly due to the excellent tuition given by our two Pioneer Corps experts, **Lt Jim Coffey** and **SSgt Tony Fill.**

All in all the week proved to be most satisfactory and the high success rate achieved, proved that the travel and setting up time saved by the administrators being in situation, when converted to additional firing time, gives the Range Week a big plus over the Range Day.

LSGC MEDALS PRESENTED BY COLONEL GS

SSgt Mick Davies

On Mon 24 Nov the regiment was honoured to say a fond farewell to **Col P. G. Brooking MBE. Col Brooking** took the salute at an LS & GC presentation Parade and presented the medals.

SSgt Mick Birnie

SSgt Tony Freudenfeld

SERGEANTS MESS

Col Brooking was dined out by the members of the Mess and as can be seen from the photographs all was done in the accustomed style.

Col Brooking is presented with a small token of appreciation from the Mess Members

Col Brooking takes his leave of the Mess Members in the early hours of 8 Nov 80

'Your transport awaits you, Sir'. The taxi is driven by Cpls Clarkson and Childs from 2 Sqn

CATERING BRANCH

SCO—Lt Baddick ACC
SQMS—WO2 Barnes
Sgt—Sgt Morgan

The Catering Branch have produced a remarkable five-a-side soccer record for 1980. They have won the 4 Armd Div ACC Association five-a-side cup in the Spring and the Summer. They have been to Berlin and won the Berlin ACC Competition and also the BAOR five-a-side Cater Cup.

Front row (Left to Right): Sgt Coyle RPC, Sgt Stewart, LCpl Jarrett, LCpl Thornhill, WO2 (SQMS) Barnes, LCpl Wakeham.
Rear (Left to Right): Mr Spingett, LCpl Nelson, LCpl Wilkinson, RSM (by invitation only), Sgt Morgan, Pte Oswald, LCpl Robinson.

CROSS COUNTRY

The regiment's x-country team have once again been active in the 4 Div Quadrant League. it is unfortunate that the majority of the regular runners have been unable to compete for various reasons, but it has given some of the lesser known runners in the regiment a chance to prove their worth for next year.

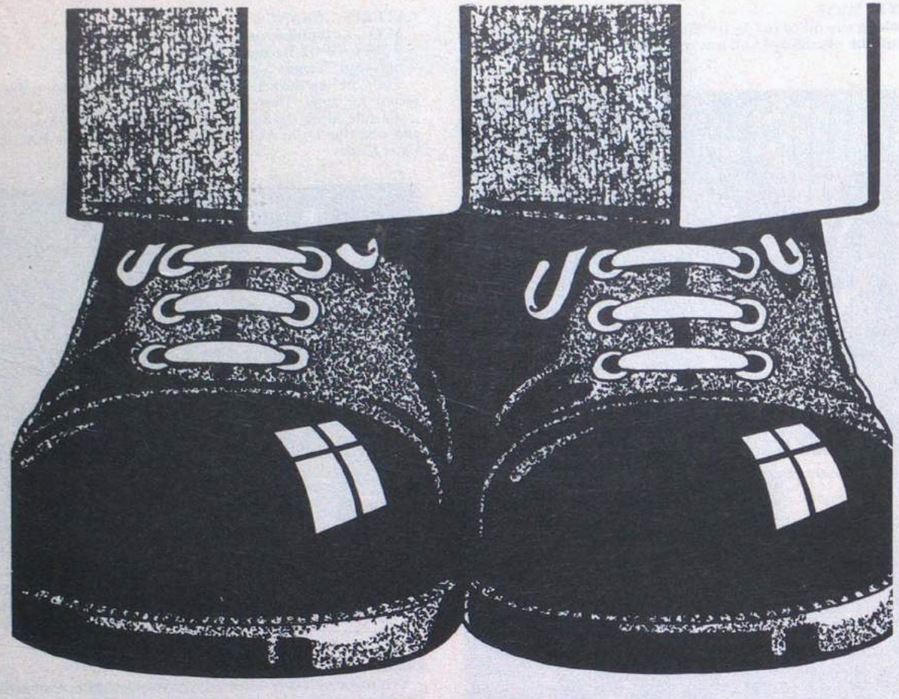
There have been two races in January, one at Hameln, sponsored by 28 Amph Eng Regt and the other at Detmold, sponsored by 71 Aircraft Workshops REME. On both occasions the conditions were not conducive to good x-country running, with both snow and packed ice on the courses.

In the race at Hameln on 7 Jan, the regiment achieved 4th place, only four points behind 25 Fd Regt RA, and eight points behind the second place team. Some fine individual performances were made by **LCpl Steward** and **Sig Bell** in their first race of the season.

The race at Detmold proved to be even harder than the Hameln event, with at least one foot of snow on most of the course. In these conditions the regimental runners again put in a gutsy performance to finish in 3rd place, only seven points behind the second place team. Notable performances were made by **LCpl James,** recently returned from the Divisional Ski meeting in Austra, **Lt Baddick** ACC and **Sgt Phillips.**

With the Task Forces once again reverting to a Brigade type role, the runners from these Sig Sqns are now completing as part of the Garrison HQ team. This has resulted in the emergence of HQ Detmold Garrison as a strong force in the Minor Units section. The team is primarily made up of 200 Sig Sqn members, lead by **SSgt Mick Bailes** and ably supported by **Cpl Lidstone,** two of the runners who made the regimental team a force to be reckoned with last season.

SSgt Bailes must also be commended for a fine run in the Inter Divisional Championships held at Korbecke on 14 Jan. In blizzard conditions he achieved second place in the Divisional team which was amazing when it is taken into consideration that he had only been asked to run the day before. With only two races remaining, the Divisional League is now beyond the grasp of the regiment. However with a full team expected back during the next month, better results are anticipated.



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LCpl Tom Pollard and LCpl Jim Noore being presented with the BAOR Inter-Unit Shield (won for the third time) by Col J. B. Carter Chairman of BAOR Badminton

RUGBY

The regimental 1st XV had a mixed start to the season, losing in the Army Cup to 28 Engr Regt. However revenge was had in a return friendly. By the end of the first half of the season, the team was playing some good rugby and put together some good results with victories against The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, The Life Guards, 20 Elect Workshops and the Lubbecke Layabouts. All this despite a long weekend playing rugby, amongst other things, in Berlin. Hopefully this winning streak will continue, despite the loss of old hands like **Maj Bill Backhouse, Maj Chris Harper, WO2 John Barnes** ACC, **WO2 Bob Cockburn** and **Cpl Dave Showell.** Leaving the old faithfuls, **WO2 'Stew' Gray-Cowan, Cpl 'Skin' Mason, Cpl 'Mal' Vale, LCpl Jim Wilkinson, Mr Dave Edges, Cpl Mike Know, Cpl John Tyreman, Cpl 'Tich' Davis, Sig Jim Knighton, LCpl 'Plum' Plummer, Sgt Gordon Shelley** and **Sig Jamie Alleyne,** led by **Lt Paul Moseley** (sometimes even on the field) to battle on.

BASKETBALL

The Regimental Basketball team is having a very successful season with a pool of ten to twelve good players. Our success is mainly due to the enthusiasm of manager **Capt Henry Jennings** and the fine coaching of **Capt 'Mac' McCombie** our DOPT.

The arrival of **SSgt 'Mattie' Mathews** has made our first five much stronger having arrived in time for our match against 25 Field Regt, RA, the BAOR champions. In a close fought contest the regimental team lost 45-50, a good result against such talented opposition.

We have a good blend of youth and experience in the squad with up and coming players **Sig John Fradley** and **Sig Stewart Fell** combining well with the experience of **Capt Steve Hardy** REME, **Sgt Colin Elstrob** as well as fresh from retirement **WO2 (SSM) Paul Glover.**

Our next game is the semi-final of the Divisional Challenge Cup against our neighbours 7 Sig Regt, which, if we win, will ensure us of a place in the BAOR finals.

On the domestic front, the Inter-Troop Basketball League is underway with an entry of 11 teams from the regiment. In the early stages of the completition the old and the bold, in the form of **Maj Billy King-Harman** RA, **Capt Henry Jennings, Capt Steve Hardy** REME, **Capt 'Mac' McCombie** APTC, **Lt Dave Poole, SSgt 'Mattie' Mathews, WO2 Mick Raybould,** and **Sgt Steve May,** representing SHQ Tp, 3 Sqn, are sweeping all before them and on the current showings are firm favourites for the trophy.

VOLKSLAUF

For the uninitiated a Volkslauf is a cross between cross country running and road racing. Most German towns and villages organise their own Volkslauf meetings catering for all members of the family with runs ranging from short distances for children, to 20km distances for the more adventurous. Plaques or medals are awarded to all those who complete the course.

Sgt Ian Durrant, our Volkslaufer-in-Chief, and other members of the regiment's jogging fraternity, combine the sport with camping and in addition to competing most weekends in Germany have entered for events in Apeldorn, Holland and Milan, Italy.

If you are in Germany and would like more details of the Volkslauf calendar contact **Sig Ian Durrant.**

GET THE HABIT

Sig Taffy Thorne from RHQ, is certainly giving the thumbs up, but it is not sure if it was for the pass book he was holding or the delightful company he keeps!

Sig Taffy Thorne was invoted to take part in the opening ceremony for an un-named Building Society who have recently opened an office in conjunction with NAAFI in Herford.

CHAMPAGNE START TO FINAL DAY

Lt Col (QM) V. H. Stephens R Signals, the QM(A) of 7 Sig Regt had a champagne surprise provided by 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to start his final day of regular service.

As the photograph shows he was toasted by:

Maj (QM) Colin Richardson (his successor), **Lt Col (QM) Stuart Dunlop** QM(T) 2 Armd Div Sig Regt, **Lt Col (QM) Peter McNaughton** QM(T) 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Capt C. F. 'Nobby' Clarke** QMa) 1 RTR, **WO2 (RQMS(Brian Peel, WO2 (RQMS) Bill House** 7th Sig Regt, **WO2 (RQMS) George Firth** 4 Armd Div Hq and Sig Regt, **Maj (QM) B. Cleaver** 7 Sig Regt, **Maj (QM) James Bertrand** MBE, 5 Innis DG QM (A) 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Lt Col (Retd) Tony Taylor** SSO Herford Garrison.

It is only fair to point out that **Col Stephens** is an ex member of the regiment, having served as RSM from Oct 64 to Aug 65; he was then commissioned and stayed in the regiment as the Families/PRI Officer until Apr 68, so it was fitting that this 'surprise' to a member of 7 Sig Regt was sponsored by 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

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

REPORT FROM THE BRIDGE

January and the regimental tiller was passed between Commanding Officers in the ever eventful voyage of Seven. It was a sad farewell to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Story** and we wish the family good fortune for the future as they leave with many happy memories of the regiment. We also cordially welcome **Lt Col** and **Mrs Burke** and family to Maresfield and sincerely hope their stay will prove to be enjoyable.

Lt Col Burke is certainly no stranger to Herford having previously served with 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt and HQ Royal Signals.

A pictorial record of both the departure and arrival says it all.

Lt Col Story receives a very handsome presentation from Cpl Cliff Fullbrook representing the Corporals Mess. Cpl Steve Ludlum looks on

Lt Col Story presents a tasteful and practical addition for the Officers Mess patio

The planting of the ceremonial tree outside the RHQ

A fond farewell from the regiment as the old Commanding Officer leaves barracks

The new Commanding Officer tours the regiment. He is seen here with 6 squadron, SSgt (SQMS) John Farrell looking on

DOWN UNDER SLANT

Rolf Harris would have been green with envy had he been in Maresfield gymnasium on Friday night 23 Jan. Kangaroo tail soup, jum buck stew, Aussie beer, sorry no Fosters and Aussie red and white wine, not to be pooh poohed at. Films and slides all ensured a successful Australian day, sorry night.

The regimental wives club, sponsored by OC 6 Sqn **Maj John Heath,** his good lady **Pat** and assisted by the squadron promoted this memorable occasion. Our gymnasium was transformed into a travel bureau cum picture house cum pub (with beer) and a wine tasting lodge. Eats in abundance ranging from various Aussie foodstuffs to bratties heavily disguised as platypus bangers. Weeks before the event posters were painstakingly produced and displayed. Handbills were distributed throughout the garrison and BFBS plugged the evening. OC 6 held a couple of rehearsals to ensure that the night went off like a well oiled water hole gantry?

SUCCESSFUL AND INFORMATIVE

The gym quickly filled up with some 250 people all eager to taste the delights of Aussie beverages and sample the succulent taste of Vegimite covered biscuits and a choice of Aussie cheese. Wine tasting was popular with many enjoying the bouquet of Van-de-Alice springs and Chateau Abbo's armpit.

Capt Andy Forster fresh from a *Long Look* attachment produced an enjoyable and most interesting slide programme accompanied by a talk on the outback. To add to this already colourful occasion the barman dressed in appropriate trappings, French Aussies indeed!

A tremendous amount of hard work was put in by **Maj John Heath** prior to the event. He was well rewarded for his labours, for the night was extremely successful and certainly informative.

THE WORKERS

Mrs Jill Gadman, Sgt Alan Cook—Pom Aussie, Mrs Carol Scott, Capt Mal Smart—Frog Aussie, SSM Carl Bellamy, Mrs Ann Smart, Mrs Ann Hetherington, Maj John Heath—Aussie Aussie, Sgt Dave Tennick—Jock Aussie, Mrs Ann Bellamy—in front of 'Sid' the bear, SSgt Tom Wood—Frog Aussie, Mrs Jean Tennick, Sgt Mick Ashworth—Rag order Aussie, SSgt Bob Stewart, showing off new suit, Sgt Nick Nicholson—Southampton Aussie, absent Mrs Pat Heath collecting door tickets

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

(Anonymous)

Dawn broke over 4 Dec with the wind and snow howling across the Westphalian steppes.

Not the weather to send a dog out in. As the first pathetic shafts of daylight penetrated the naked tree line to the rear of the RHQ scores of figures could be seen busily going about their tasks. Men clad in every type of military accoutrement, festooned in webbing and equipment eager to get to grips with what fate had in store for them that day, were being fell in.

The dulcet tones of a pride of Sergeant Majors could be heard shattering the dawn chorus with, would you please be so kind as to fall in gentlemen? Officers could be seen huddled together in small O groups discussing tactics and who or who did not have the coffee and sandwiches. The RSM was seen on his knees in a remote and quiet corner of the square offering prayers to the great adjutant in the sky not to send any more snow (a parade was planned for later that day).

Every able bodied man was to take part in this annual occasion. The wind chased away the last clinging shrouds of darkness as a menacing snow filled sky loomed over Maresfield. Like the ripples in a pond that radiate from the centre so the fighting squadrons of the regiment sallied forth into the unknown, about to be tested in our ARU.

Each squadron was given a task to perform ranging from NBC tests to a march and shoot competition and covering all the basic soldier skills. 'Seven', well used to the unexpected, got on with the job in hand.

The fighting second squadron (Commcen Bravo) built an Alamo type defensive position determined to turn the location into an impregnable fortress. The spirit that generated from these gallant defenders was all inspiring. They shall not pass, not even the OC? was the cry.

In the midst of a snow laden wood and in awful weather these intrepid soldiers dug in and disappeared like moles below the surface of the earth waiting to be attacked or sent home.

In the meantime 1 squadron (Commcen Alpha) got themselves gassed and played that ever popular military sport of decontaminating each other, after you with the blot and dab sweetie. A gruesome sight awaited the men of 3 squadron (Oscar) with mud, blood, broken bones and no doubt many a pain in the posterior. Bandages and splints in hand looking like a scene from M.A.S.H. the saucy third had been given first aid as their task .The big yin **SSM Jock Cairns** loved by all linemen surveyed the carnage before him with an experienced eye.

When asked by a member of the testing staff what he, the SSM, would do for the man lying before him who was unconscious, bleeding badly, obviously in a desperate state, the sympathetic SSM quietly replied, charge him sir, he isn't wearing puttees?

The spearhead squadrons of the regiment namely 4 (HF/VHF) and 5 (PAPA) doubled out of the base location with a fury unsurpassed in annals of the regiment.

Sections could be seen disappearing in all directions, with map and compasses on a march and shoot competition. Parties of determined soldiers stalked their way through woods using every navigation method known to man, which side of a tree does moss grow on?

Taking advantage of the lull in the battle

After an extremely bracing walk all the sections arrived on the objective in a jubilant mood ready to shoot, in respirators?

Some time later both SSM's hobbled in, in deep and heated religious argument with reference to St Luke Chapter 6 verse 39. Not to be outdone by the combat squadrons, HQ successfully carried out a BFT and PFA programme without a coronary problem. My spy in HQ squadron did comment that many a beer belly suffered as a result of the vigorous exercise. OC HQ was so overcome with the success of his squadron that he has promised them extra PT periods.

THE CULMINATION

This enjoyable and most successful day culminated in a parade on the square in best bib and tucker with CCRS inspecting. A number of LS & GC medals were presented by the Brigadier bringing the curtain down on yet another episode in the colourful history of 'Fighting Seven', at least for another year.

Sgt Mick Ashworth receiving his LS & GC

A LEGEND IN HIS TIME

Lt Col Vivian Stephens, a Royal Signals legend in his time, is retiring from the regular army. Having started his military career as a private soldier, he has ended it as a Lt Col (QM) of the regiment. He is one of the few officers left in the Army who saw active service in World War 2. He was in Burma.

During his 37 years' service he has been posted seventeen times! He has spent many years in Herford. It was there that he met and married his German wife Marianne, and because of the number of contacts he has in the town he has earned himself among the British Forces the nickname of the 'Burgermeister of Herford'.

Lt Col Stephens regards the Corps as a family. He has little time for those who knock today's Army. 'People talk about the old days, but the soldier today is just as good,' he insists.

It was a sad moment for him when he finally handed in his kit—sad for him but also for his many friends. However, he will not lose all contact with the regiment; he is off to fill a retired officer appointment with 4 Signal Group at Hannover.

EXERCISE 'ZULU WARRIOR'

On 1 Jan, a new squadron starts forming in the Regt; the new squadron will enable us to 'go modular' when it becomes operational later in the year. Most of us anticipate technical, administrative and managerial problems with the modular Commcen concept and felt it was time that we studied the problem. A CPX was developed from an idea by **Maj Ray Boulter** our Tech Adjt and Ex *Zulu Warrior* took place during the week 8-12 Dec. It proved to be a powerful tool for developing ideas, testing the concept and training and informing potential managers. The CO, **Lt Col Christopher Story,** said that he anticipated many more CPX's of this sort during the moratorium on fuel.

Our photograph shows **Maj Nick Mayne,** the future operations officer, and **Capt Robin Dodman** planning and issuing instructions to move a modular element, (Two Triffids and a multiplex vehicle) from Commcen Zulu to Commcen Alfa. Two and a half hours later the modular element arrived at Commcen Alfa and the OC **Maj Peter Pritchard,** flew into Excon from his Commcen command on the Regimental Square. He is shown (2) discussing his plans with the controllers, **Capt Peter Richards** and **WO1 (FoFS) Frank Gadman,** to accept a shot from Commcen Golf while recovering the multiplex vehicle which had gone off the track at the bottom of his location.

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is wishing to know the whereabouts of two lost souls in the shape of **Capt Geordie Gainford** and **Capt Bill Kent**—we've found them. Please apply in writing enclosing travel warrants to OIC Wire Notes 7 Sig Regt. Seriously we welcome **Geordie, Brenda, Bill** and **Sylvia** to the regiment and hope their tour proves to be a happy one.

PERSONALITY PARADE

Sgt Eddie Turner triumphantly displays his victory over the dreaded BFT, his last one in the service. **Sgt Eddie** shortly retires after completing 22 years, most of which has been spent in Germany. During his tour with the regiment he has successfully run the units small bore shooting club, taking it from strength to strength. We all wish **Eddie** and his wife and family all the very best in civvy street, with or without BFT's.

SANTA IN S.D.

As a result of our financially successful fete held in the summer a number of tape recorders were presented to BMH Rinteln. It is hoped that these machines will help brighten up the day of many a patient.

Our photograph shows **Capt Robin Cuthbert** assisted by **LCpl Reid-Simms** and **LCpl Johnson** presenting the gifts to the CO of the hospital.

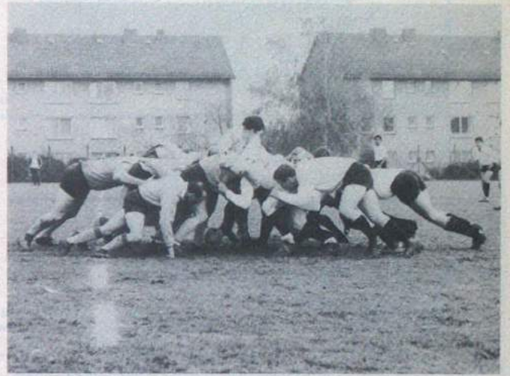
DELIGHTFUL DITTY

As related by a member of A Troop 6 Squadron and taken from a popular magazine.

On a recent exercise the command radio operators were getting slightly bored one night until suddenly a voice asked over the air 'are there any friendly bears listening?' After a moment another voice replied: 'Yes I'm a friendly bear,' and then another: 'I'm a friendly bear too.' At this point an irate staff officer broke in on the net, letting rip at the operators for fooling around on an important link. When he had finished taking everyone to task a pregnant silence followed, then a reply came back—'You're not a very friendly bear!'

EIGHT IN CORPS RUGGER SIDE

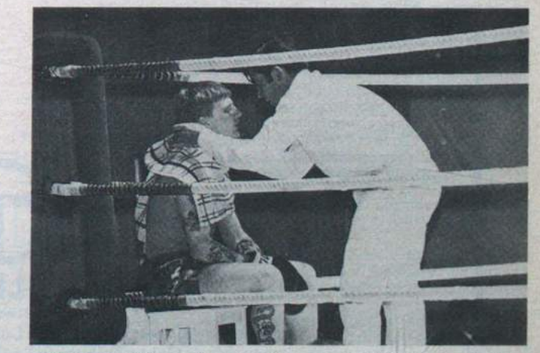
The regiment were well represented in the Corps match versus the Royal Artillery in November at Herford. Eight members of the regiment were selected to play which meant that the team settled down quickly but the Artillery team had an equal number of 7 RHA players in their side which provided them with a good nucleus to work from. Both sides were well drilled and evely matched but despite the cold weather and damp conditions there was some excellent open rugby. The regiment were also represented on the score card with a try from **Cpl Steve Peacock,** a dropped goal from **LCpl Dave Wood** and a conversion from **WO2 (SSM) Ian Cairns.** There were also good performances from **LCpl Taff George** and **Cpl Gus Hales.** The final result was a well deserved win by the Corps 20 pts to 9 pts. **Cpl John Rolls, Cpl Taff Williams** and **LCpl Jim Wallace** also represented the Corps in this match.



A clean strike by the Corps pack

BOXING

In December the regiment matched skills and valour with the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the 4th Division Inter Units Novice Championships, Quarter Finals. Although our boxers fought with tremendous courage, skill was on the side of the RWFs with the Infantry winning the competition. A hard won victory for the RWF.



Welter weight—Sig Blood with team coach WO2 Ray Cardwell

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RCS 5

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE NEW LOOK

To bring readers up to date here is the new management:

Commanding Officer	**Col C. N. Last OBE**
Officer Commanding TTS	**Lt Col D. G. Dudley**
Administrative Commander	**Lt Col P. A. MacF MacGillivray OBE**
Regimental Adjutant	**Capt I. A. Noble**
TTS Adjutant	**Capt D. Kirkup**
OC 1 Squadron	**Maj R. Pickard**
OC 2 Squadron	**Maj E. Tye WRAC**
OC 3 Squadron	**Maj W. J. L. Fiskel**
OC HQ Squadron	**Maj M. O. N. Bird**
QM (General)	**Maj (QM) R. A. Webb**
QM (Technical)	**Capt (QM) C. Markie**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. A. Stephenson**

THE SQUEEZE

With the return to work in the New Year the Regiment started a revised five day training week and faces this year the largest number of trainees it has ever had to train. Inevitably despite a large increase in the number of courses, there is some backlog and some signalmen have to wait for training. We are looking currently at the possibility of shift working, as one alternative to improve throughout further. With the greater emphasis upon training sadly our sport has been affected and time off for training for example has become a thing of the past. However despite this the natural talents of our soldiers have shone through. In the major sports our records show:

Rugby—Knocked out of The Army Cup in the 4th Round by 1 Welsh Guards.

Soccer:

Knocked out of The Army Cup in the 1st Round by 1 Kings Own Royal Border Regiment. Still in The Yorkshire Services League—next game is the semi-final against the Kings Division.

Hockey—Still in The Army Cup—waiting for the Green Howards to play 1 RHA to find out who our next opponents are.

Cross Country—Retained the Northern Championships for the second year running—see the report below.

Other sports, badminton, fishing, basketball, volleyball etc continue on an inter squadron or individual basis out of trade training time.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Sunday 25 January, the Regimental cross country team travelled to Allenbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe where they were successful in defending the Northern District Championship. In a fast run race the team amassed only 104 points which was easily good enough to retain the title. The best individual result was that of **LCpl Steve Needs** who finished third, a special mention should be made of **Sig 'Tiny' Cowan** who showed tremendous spirit in running the course minus one shoe and still finishing twelfth. The team under the able leadership of their captain **Cpl Stev Ible** are undergoing hard training in preparation for the Army Championships in Aldershot.

INTER SQUADRON BADMINTON COMPETITION

An Inter Sqn competition was held from 26-29 January which as expected turned out to be very competitive and was enjoyed by all competitors. All squadrons including TTS entered two teams each consisting of three players. Two competitions were played for within the same structure, Individual Team and Squadron with the scores of each squadron team being added together to give a squadron total. The winners of the squadron trophy were 1 Sqn (again), the individual winners were 1 Sqn (yet again) and the runners up were 2 Sqn. It was suggested that the Regimental Badminton Officer was biased towards 2 Sqn but as you can see by the results he failed yet again.

CANOEING

It is now six months since the canoe club was started, and it gives me pleasure to report that the club is a thriving success. Thanks to the backing of RHQ and PRI we were able to purchase sufficient equipment to re-start the club. Straight away the response was amazing and we had to buy more canoes to accommodate the number of members. Catterick 'if for nothing else' is ideally situated for canoeing. North Yorkshire's rivers offer over 80% of the best white water (rapids) in Britain, which you can be sure we do not let go to waste.

The club's aim is primarily to give people a chance to try canoeing and see if it is the sport for them; but we are now able to sport quite a strong 'white water' racing squad, and nearly every weekend members can be found racing in British Canoe Union (BCU) competitions. Although we are well supported we are by no means at our limits and plans are underway to increase the number of training courses for 1981.

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

CPL IAN DOMMETT

Cpl Dommett was taken ill with cancer over three years ago but recovered sufficiently to continue work. For the last two years, his calm efficient manner guided 10 Sig Regt radio communications through numerous State occasions in London. His cheerful outlook and courage in bearing his illness was always an example to everyone who served with him at Hounslow. Sadly a relapse forced his return to hospital in Sept 1980, and he died on 7 Feb.

Shortly before his death, he was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Brig J. P. Hart OBE, Commander 2 Signal Group, on 17 Dec, at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich.

Cpl Dommett in receiving the LS & GC Medal continued a long family tradition of service going back to his great grandfather! His father served for 26 years in the Regular Army and the Emergency Reserve. His grandfather was in the Royal Navy. Both were awarded Long Service Medals. We offer our condolences to his wife Tricia and his son.

HQ SQN—ACE HIGH TROOP MAIDSTONE

October saw various members of the station on Dartmoor for 'Summer' Camp with the other far flung squadrons of the regiment. As to be expected for the time of year at this infamous place, the weather was atrocious for most of the time, but spirits remained high. It could have been something to do with the town of Okehampton being only 10 minutes away by car, with its varied 'Nightlife'??, or the fact that for the first time we were accompanied by some of our WRAC. Anyway, it would appear that we are off to Dartmoor again this year, so please QM, could you put an indent in now for some sunshine?

Xmas Day came and went with **Sgt 'Jam' Nason** and **Chris Pederick** playing Santa to the 10 KW power amplifiers and mumbling something that sounded like 'I didn't have anything else to do anyway'.

January has been so quiet that you could even hear **WO2 (FofS) ('The Boss') Geoff Chaloner** talking to himself, apparently something to do with a posting, and if it doesn't get here soon he'll have to unpack his boxes again.

We, like the rest of the Army these days, seem to get periods of personnel shortages for one reason or another. I wouldn't say that we are in one of those periods but **Sgt Mick Newall** is seriously thinking of moving his bed up to the site.

During January we welcomed a visit from the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Dave Brough,** who is still bemused at the sight of water cooled valves! It is not true that he is still muttering something in RHQ about the age of steam radio.

1 SQN WILTON 'C' SHIFT

Keyboard Serenades—(With apologies to Longfellow)

'O' Lord, it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way
That's us in Commcen Salisbury
And we get even better each day.

2 Sig Gp say we're over statistical
'A' Shift can't think what they mean
But someone must tell Mick Palmer
That two threes just can't make thirteen.

Now 'B' Shift are great communicators
And they keep telling us now,
That one day they will send out a message
As soon as Keith can remember how.

'C' Shift now, they love to type
They're wizards of the keys
But the most important thing at night
Is the coffee and the teas.

'D' Shift with gay abandon
Are sending signals all over the globe
Even those supposed to be going
Just to District down the road.

We mustn't forget our Switchboard
And from you they'd love to hear
So call and ask for a number
And cringe when they ring in your ear.

Three techs we have, Dave, Dick and Jim
Who between them know no fear
Although we have the Technology
It's the parts we ain't got, Dear!

'O' Lord, it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way
It gets you like that in Salisbury
And they're coming to take us away.

Anon. (With apologies to Hank Davies).
And God bless us all,
Everyone
Said, Tiny Tim

MY ARRIVAL

When I arrived in 1 Squadron
On a sunny winters day,
I heard the Civvies shouting
'HIP HIP HIP HIP HOORAH'
But to my disillusionment
It's only fair to say,
That they were cheering Debbie,
As she was on her way.

My Sgt stood in front of me,
And to my great surprise,
She wasn't half as bad as I thought,
And only half the size.

My OC came to welcome me,
And cup in hand he cried,
'Make me a cup of tea my dear,
And welcome to our side'

The morning of the 19th came,
The day poor Deb would leave us,
We said that we would miss her bad,
But she would not believe us.
And so the weeks have gone on by,
And I am in the team,
If I hadn't joined the Service,
Where would I have been?

by Pte Ruth Young

A SHIFT

Xmas and New Year 1980/81, came and went with very little of significance except that everybody seemed to be going on grant, apart from those unfortunates working in Commcen HQ UKLF. As the HQ virtually 'closed down', from 30 Dec until 5 Jan, and with BAOR and Northern Ireland having similar holidays, the work load in the Commcen dropped away to a mere trickle!

The Junior Ranks, and single members of the squadron had their Annual 'Xmas Nosebag' on the 18 Dec, and those who should have been working also managed to attend, thanks to the kind-hearted, and generous gesture by the SNCO's of the Commcen who 'volunteered' to work, while they went to the table, and 'filled their bellies'. But we were amply rewarded when two figures, namely **WLCpl Neath** and **Pte Daly,** appeared at the Commcen door clutching boxes of fruit, nuts and sandwiches, along with unmentionable 'liquid refreshments', who had a taste of what it was like to work on the shop floor again after having spent many an hour sitting, staring with blank expression from the depths of the 'fish bowl'.

Although the squadron is not of sufficient strength to enter into sports as an individual unit, we still have the sportsmen and women (sports persons?) within the squadron who play for the UKLF Regt in most representative sports. **Cpl Dick Gigg** who takes an active interest in basketball, football and hockey, **Cpl Jim Murray,** who assures us that he does play basketball, **Cpl Gordon Smith** who professes to be a 'Globetrotter of the future', **Sgt Mick Palmer** basketball, **WPte Denise Wormley** hockey, **Cpl Barry Weaver** badminton and **Sgt Keith Turner-Howe** hockey. To name but a few, so we do manage to keep ourselves in a reasonable state of fitness and health, despite having to work in a block of concrete! But last but no means least, there are a couple of 'oldies' who are budding **Tony Jacklins,** namely **Capt John Meehan** and **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson.** Now I know where they go on Wed afternoons!

B SHIFT

After the Crusader Exercise everything for super B settled down nearly back to normal, what with Christmas to look forward to and especially the shift dinner, all looked rosy, but alas after the dinner which we had on 11 Dec in the Cross Keys in Salisbury (which I can recommend) we were told that due to personnel shortages we would have to go back onto a three way shift (anybody want a Posting to Wilton?—the more the merrier).

Christmas was rather a drab affair with the HQ all being off from the 19 Dec to 5 Jan. Everything here was closed and a lonely place it was too. After 5 Jan we eventually went back on to 4 way shifts. Now all we have to look forward to is Wintex, and of course a 3 way shift again. So as you can see we do have some changes.

D SHIFT

Since last writing the main event has been the Christmas and New Year break, which this year gave most of the Sqn a nice long rest. However as usual the shift workers had to plod on and keep the Sqn operating, but everyone seems to have had a merrier time than last year. D Shift has gone through a large change in faces having said goodbye to **Pte Billy Lane, Pte Joyce McDougall,** both on marriage. Some people will do anything to leave us! We wish them the best for the future. **Pte Gail Benton** and **Pte Carol Richardson** have also left the ship and gone to shall we say hotter climates. We wish them all the best in their new positions. New arrivals to our midst are **Cpl Helen Bond, Pte Skelly Sampson** and on attachment from AMF(L) **Cpl Dougy Douglas.** We welcome them with open arms and hope they enjoy their stay in Wilton.

MT SECTION

Since our last notes, a few things have taken place. Notably our new **'Gaffer' Cpl Dave Whittaker,** who arrived midway through Dec to replace **LCpl Keith Evans,** who in an exchange deal was posted to Hounslow, the latter costing nothing.

Another departure **LCpl Wendy Parker** to the bright lights of Woolwich. Talking about work, were we?, which has run smoothly as per normal, one exception **Pte Kathy McKenna's** first works parade, lights on! on! on! and on, battery's flat. Our MTO **Capt Meehan** who is obsessed with golf and doesn't feel guilty about it? still insists his handicap hasn't increased, impossible!

THOUGHTS OF THE SW DIST HOCKEY FINAL

by Pte Eaton

How was I to know that **LCpl Millard** our PTI was sitting at our table at tea one evening? All the talk of how we played hockey for our counties at home (Boast, Boast). All the training and trophies we'd won (ha, ha). Then my face dropped as she said there were hockey trials that evening. **Pte Jacobs** didn't have any eyebrows left as she raised them they disappeared to the back of her head somewhere.

Pte Wormley had to get a cloth to wipe the dinner that had just dropped off her fork on to her skirt. 'We were all going out at 2000 tonight' I said quickly.

'Not to worry, we'll all be back tonight before 1900, 'and slowly the smirk on her face widened.

That was only the beginning. It started off training once a week and ended up three times. We all thought it was good getting the odd afternoon off work to play hockey, but half-way through a game we all sure did wish we were back there. By the end of each warm-up session we were ready for our beds. But no, not our PTI, only 25 minutes each way this week she would say, every week was only 25 minutes.

Then the day arrived. South West District Hockey Trophy waiting for us to take back. It's surprising how your own horns appear from behind your ears when you get on a hockey pitch, and your hockey stick turns into an axe. But honestly we did play fairly, had some very good games that day, except we had to settle for runners-up. If we had only trained that little bit harder, we would have won that trophy! It showed that day, that the winning team had trained hard, because the trophy is theirs. So next year we'll make sure our horns stay in and our training is non-stop.

P.S. I never did get out at 2000 that first night.

'NIGHT AND DAY' (ALDERSHOT EXCHANGE)

The new troop officer to 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt was very curious to know what happened to the girls during the night shift or during the day when she was not there. She asked the girls to recount a few tales and although reluctant to tell them for fear of disciplinary action, a couple of amusing incidents came to light.

Pte Lang revealed a story about a **LCpl Laing** who used to be in the squadron who was infamous for her sense of humour and practical jokes. One day everyone came into work as usual, the phones were ringing, the lights flashing, the switchboard was as busy as ever, when suddenly from behind the exchange supervisors' chair came the chirping of a bird. **Mrs Harding** the exchange supervisor leapt about three feet in the air and stood back looking at the chair in absolute amazement. The girls all kept very straight faced and tried to pretend nothing had happened. After a few minutes the supervisor sat down and started working again. Suddenly the chirping started, again **Mrs Harding** leapt in the air. This happened several times; but she finally decided that she was not going to put up with it. She looked around and saw that all the girls had smirks on their faces and were giving sideways glances and sniggering. She soon realised what was happening—there was certain quietness as she walked round to the back of her chair and there hooked underneath it was a 'chirping birdie'! **Mrs Harding** unhooked it and held it in the air for all to see and everyone fell around laughing—including **Mrs Harding,** fortunately.

Other tales have come from the girls which have happened while they have been on the switchboard. **Cpl Coyle** had a subscriber, once, who phoned through to the exchange chewing a very sticky toffee—of all things. He tried to splutter out a number but found that all his teeth had got stuck together and all that could be heard down the line were gaffaws and giggles rather similar to those of Mutley of Wacky Races fame. Although the exchange are very good at finding numbers for callers, it is rather difficult when the number is coming through a sticky toffee as well as a telephone line!

There are always those subscribers who think that there is only one Tom, Dick or Harry in the whole of Aldershot. So many people phone up and ask to speak to 'Tom, you know the one that woz down disco last night—'e gave me this number'—what can you do? But one subscriber in particular was called to mind by **Cpl Coyle.** She was a doddery little old lady who asked for extension 0252—hum, thought **Cpl Coyle,** that is the civilian code for Aldershot, so she tried to explain.

'Who do you wish to speak to?' asked **Cpl Coyle.**

'Mr Blackdown' said the old lady proudly.

That was just as useless as the first bit of information because Blackdown is RAOC Depot which is one of the satellites to the Aldershot switchboard. The poor old lady was so confused!

Finally **Pte Shackleton** has written a poem describing the atmosphere of a nightshift.

THE NIGHT SHIFT

Someone's got their money stuck,
The pips are going like mad,
'Hullo . . .'
'Yes . . .'
'A bent 5p?!'
Boy it makes you mad.

'You want to speak to Pte who?
Which Regiment or Corps?
There's lots of soldiers here ma'am
Ten thousand, maybe more!'

Another caller on the line,
'Can I speak to my son?
He's in the Royal Artillery,
His cap badge is a gun?!'

It's calls like this that get you down
On night shift there's this bloke
He rings us up and says rude things
Enough to make you choke.

Then there's the accents,
Some so broad it gets you lost,
Geordies, Taffies, Paddies, Jocks,
It fair gets your wires crossed.

The night shift's not so bad though
Even though half the girls are daffy,
There's always someone to make tea,
And it's not from the Naafi.

We don't use cups and saucers,
We drink our char from mugs,
hang on . . .
What's that?
Oi, tea's up girls,
So come on out all plugs.

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1 SQUADRON ADULT RECRUIT INTAKES

6 TROOP

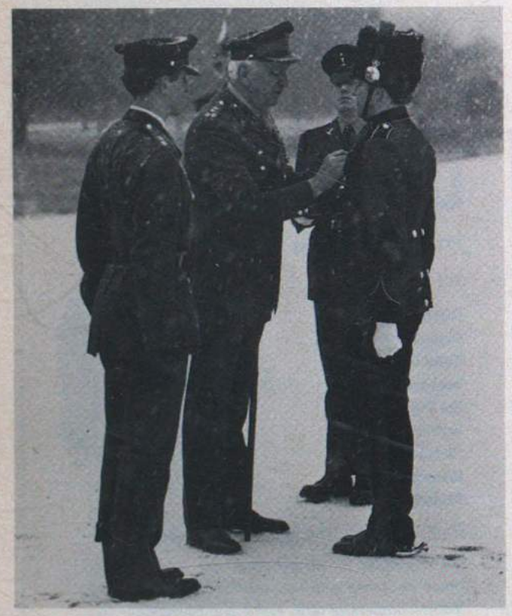
On 21 Nov 80 recruit intake 8017/18 were inspected by **Mr E. R. James O St J., FBIM.** The prize of best all round recruit was awarded to **Sig P. R. Bell** a former postman who comes from Luton. Best shot was awarded to **Sig R. C. Smith** who comes from Lincoln. Both are now to train as technicians.

1 TROOP

Intake No. 8018/19 passed off on 3 Dec 80. The inspecting officer was **Chief Superintendent A. S. Dawkins** of the Richmond Police Force. The prize for the best all round recruit went to **Sig N. T. Inman** who comes from Durham and is to train as a Tele Mech. The prize for the best shot was awarded to **Sig P. Divers** who comes from Consett.

2 TROOP

On 16 Jan 81, **Brig C. D. H. Wilson** the Deputy Commander of North East District was the reviewing officer for intake 8020/21. The parade took place in a snow blizzard as our photograph shows. The best recruit was **Sig D. Watkins** and the best shot was **Sig P. Dunn** both



from Manchester. During the parade the LS & GC medal was presented by the reviewing officer to **Sgt N. Fox** of the Royal Signals Band. Our photograph shows **Brig Wilson** making the presentation flanked by the CO, **Lt Col A. F. Carter MBE.**

3 TROOP

Our photograph shows **Col K. H. Olds,** Commander 1 Signal Corps, arriving on the square to review intake No 8022 which passed off on 30 Jan. He is being met by the CO and RSM. The prize for best recruit of the intake was awarded to **Sig N. F. Hancock** from Lincoln who is to train as a musician and intends to join the Corps Band. The best shot of the intake was **Sig Yasities** who comes from Cheshire.

The CO and RSM meet Col K. H. Olds on the Square

INSTRUCTIONAL WING
RSSC Nos 169/170

Staff Sergeants Courses Nos 169 and 170 ended on 12 Dec 80. The top student was **Sgt T. W. Jack** from the School of Signals.

Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course No. 169

Back Row: Sgts Blyth, Dent, Morrall, Mugford, Randerson, Cormack, Jack, Naylor, Kirkwood
Centre Row: Sgts Spray, Bibby, Frith, Martin, Lorrigan, Hoyland, Hilton, Dowie, Burridge, Scott, Nayson
Front Row: SSgts Bell, Pinder, Capt Longhurst, Capt Prees, SSgt Licence, Sgt Cummings

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

Christmas passed in a blur with countless functions taking place in Messes and Departments. Our photographs show the CO comparing his knees (he says) with **WO1 Harris** at the 1 Squadron Cadre party. The wives of 1 Squadron have obviously seen it all before. The Royal Hussars kindly loaned us a scorpion tank for the deprived childrens' party run by Instr Wg. **Mrs Carter** is shown with two of the children—the tank commanders' mince pies obviously didn't agree with him.

UNIT ARU INSPECTION

The GOC NE Dist **Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE** inspected the unit on 25 Nov. The inspection went well and we gained an exemption from same in 1981. Our photograph shows the General during his tour of the unit.

The GOC inspects the Quarter Guard

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13 Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 42

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Major Mike Taylor**
Ops Offr	**Capt David Thorp**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Tom Friend**
SQMS	**SSgt Barry Watson**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) John Mellors**

Since our last Wire notes the squadron has been a hive of activity (so what's new!) in preparing for, and completing with flying colours, the ARU in early December. The formal inspection was carried out by the GOC Berlin—**Maj Gen J. D. F. Mostyn CBE,** who after the event, congratulated the squadron on an extremely successful day.

Barely had the door closed behind the GOC than it was being opened once more to welcome, on 17 Dec, **Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB,** CinC BAOR. Accompanied by the GOC Berlin, his visit coincided almost exactly with a major power failure which extinguished all the lights in the building throughout his visit. The OC's briefing was carried out by lantern light and the tour of the unit lit by electric lanterns and the odd anglepoise lamp—all in keeping with the festive season. Despite this (or perhaps because of it!) the visit was a tremendous success and everyone quite obviously enjoyed it very much.

On 31 Dec we welcomed the new CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE,** who, accompanied by the CR Signals Berlin, **Lt Col R. A. Cemm,** paid an informal and enjoyable visit to the squadron.

Throughout the period we have, of course, also been busy with the usual Christmas festivities. This year the task of organising the annual Christmas Party fell to **SSgt Rog Manser** and **Cpl Terry Morrissey.** The evening was a tremendous success due entirely to the hard work and preparation by the organisers. Less than a week later it was the turn of the children, **WO2 Tom Friend,** ably assisted by **WLCpl Ros Crabbe, LCpl Jim Boyle** and **WO2 John Neal,** organised the party, film show and games, and finally supervised the appearance of that well-known person Santa Claus (alias **Sgt Steve Lidstone**).

C IN C'S COMMENDATION

A memorable event during the latter half of last year was the award of a C in C BAOR's Commendation to **Cpl Martin England. Cpl England** was awarded the commendation for his actions during a fire in a married quarter block. The citation noted that he showed initiative, urgency and a courageous disregard for his personal safety in preventing what could have been a major tragedy.

Brig J. A. M. Evans, Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade, presents Cpl Martin England with his C in C's Commendation, while Mrs England looks on

VOLKSLAUF/VOLKSWANDERN

The Squadron 'runners and walkers' are still taking part in the Volkslauf/Wandern events organised by local sports clubs. In November some 40 members of the unit took part in a sponsored walk on behalf of the Across Trust and gave a good account of themselves. On 15 Nov the walk was held in conjunction with the IVV 2nd International 'Volkswandertag', an event which attracted over 2,000 participants. The rain held off for most of the time and the walkers enjoyed the pleasant route through the forest at Wannsee. The strong party of walkers from the squadron took a bed along with them, complete with a large British Flag! The bed had its element of sponsorships and finished the walk in a good, although reclining style! The unit, under the leadership of **WO2 John Mellors,** provided 40 of the 180 British walkers and produced sponsorships of DM 1,700—which included funds collected by the **Barker, Manser** and **Mellors** children.

The Cubs were also well represented. **WO2 Adrian Bradshaw** and **Mrs Sallie Bradshaw** brought along the Charlottenburg cubs whose combined sponsorships exceeded DM 750. The cubs and the squadron qualified for commemorative plaques in recognition of the large groups that participated.

Some of the Squadron Members who took part in the Sponsored Walk
L to R—Mrs Hilary Moore, SSgt Tony Moore, Cpl Dave Smith, WO2 John Neal, Cpl Aline Carney (in the bed!), LCpl Dave Poulter, LCpl Lance Marshall, LCpl Henry Kiertzner, Mrs Carolyn Kiertzner, Capt Mike Hill, Miss Alysia Merrick, WO2 John Mellors, Sgt Doc Goodall, Sgt Caroline Johnson and SSgt Jan Duff

SPORT

One of the few all-year-round sports that one can engage in is volleyball. In Oct the squadron entered a team in the Berlin 'All Units Volleyball Tournament'. We reached an extremely creditable '2nd' placing in the competition—coming runners-up to one of the Berlin major units, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. Making up our team were: **Sgt Bill Emery, Sgt Nicky Nicholson, Cpl Dave Street** (Capt), **Cpl Scouse Coulling, LCpl Clive Evison** and finally, from BMH, **Sgt John Healey. Bill Emery** has since been posted and we wish him and his wife **Linda,** all the best. We have since played the Grenadiers again in a friendly (?) match with a couple of team changes and including **Cpl Terry Morrissey** and **LCpl Dave Richards,** with reserves **Cpl Steve Warnecke, LCpl Nick Ranier** and **LCpl Lance Marshall.** After we beat them in five straight games, the Guards finally conceded—leaving us the undisputed (albeit unofficial) Berlin champions. What about it, 229 Sig Sqn, want to try your luck??

Not to be outdone, our recently formed ladies' volleyball team entered the first Berlin Ladies Volleyball League. Few of the ladies had any previous volleyball experience but, ably coached by **Cpl Dave Street,** they sooned changed from a motley rabble into a well-disciplined rabble. Joking apart, the ladies did extremely well by reaching second place out of eight teams. The trophies were presented by the Brigade Commander, **Brig J. A. M. Evans,** who congratulated the winners (WRAC Berlin) and runners-up on their final placings and high competitive spirit during the competition. The Brigadier said a special 'Thank You' to **Mrs Rita Wingfield** who was instrumental in the formation and organisation of the league.

3 Squadron Ladies' Volleyball Team
L to R—Rita Wingfield (Capt), Cath Clark, Joan Heyland, Cpl Dave Street (Coach), Cheryl Nicholson, Jacqui Street, Gill England, Glen Oldfield

CROSS COUNTRY

On a bitterly cold Berlin afternoon more than 200 runners from the Allied Forces and the Berlin Police Force participated in the Annual Berlin Cross Country Championships. The race was divided into categories of Major Units, Minor Units, Allcomers and Veterans. Our team comprised **Sgt Paddy Heyland** (Capt), **Capt Mike Hill** (KOSB), **Cpls Manny Calland** and **Terry Morrissey,** and **LCpls Steve Foster, Dave (Chunks) Richards, Nick (Nico) Ranier**—and an ally from BMH Berlin. All completed the course with **Sgt Paddy Heyland** finishing in overall 3rd place. In the Minor Units section we were placed third with only six points separating us from the Runners-up. Still a good performance all round and perhaps next year we may win. We also took part in the Berlin Cross Country League, participating as one of the Minor Units. This started in Sep and ran (pardon the pun) through until Dec. By the close of the season we finished 3rd yet again—proving that three must be our lucky number.

BOWLING

The Squadron Bowling Team, affectionately known as the 'Grunnie Pigs', have enjoyed moderate success over the past two seasons.

Last season they finished third in the handicap league and, with a little bit of luck, could well have won the league.

This season, after a bad start, the team eventually managed to pull itself together and are currently fourth in the table. They also hold the high game handicap score, and with only one week remaining should pick up trophies for fourth position and high game handicap. Two members of the team are also in line for trophies. They are **Sgt Nicky Nicholson** and **Mrs Brigit Pye.** The other members of the team are **WO2 John Mellors** (Team Capt), **SSgt Rog Manser, Sgt Phil Wingfield, Cpl Dicky Pickup** and **Mr** (ex-Cpl) **Frank Pye.**

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Finally we would like to welcome to the squadron:

Capt Tim Fetherstonhaugh, WO2 Phil Bland, Sgt Maurice Farquhar, Sgt Doc Goodall, Cpl Brian Barker, Cpl 'Manny' Calland, Cpl Dave Smith, Cpl 'Jock' Ronald, Cpls Mick and **Jean Morby,** WCpl **Dee Winnett** (Now **Lidstone**), **Cpl John Cairns, LCpl Dave Richards, LCpl Dave Poulter, LCpl Nick Ranier, LCpl Simon Hayward** and **WLCpl Lisa Barlow.**

We hope that their stay here will be a happy one.

We also, unfortunately, say farewell and best wishes to—

Capt Mike Hill, WO2 John Clark, WO2 John Sharrock, Sgt Bill Emery, Cpl Frank Pye, Cpl John Richardson, Cpl Al McCoubrey, LCpl Smith, LCpl Woollard, WLCpl Wendy Fortey and **Sig Oliver**—who have left us for pastures new.

ARMY GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 1980

The Army Gymnastic Championships were held in Aldershot during the period 24-28 Nov. The regiment was represented by **LCpl Harry Gallagher,** RPC, **LCpl Jim Andrew** RPC and **WPte Nikki Calder** who had all won titles at the BAOR Championships some weeks earlier.

After a very hard fought and intensive period of competition the regiment won the following events:

Inter-Unit Team Trampoline	**LCpl Andrew**
Champions	**LCpl Gallagher**
Intermediate Standard Trampoline Champion	**LCpl Andrew**
3rd	**LCpl Gallagher**
Women's Individual Gymnastic Champion	**WPte Calder**
Women's Novice Trampoline Champion	**WPte Calder**

This was an outstanding performance by the team members as they were in competition with some very experienced opposition, several of whom were members of the APTC.

Army Gymnastic Championships 1980
L to R—LCpl Jim Andrew, Sgt George Myers, WPte Nikki Calder, LCpl Harry Gallagher

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSES

The Training Wing Staff

OC	**Lt (Barney) Hill**
SSM	**WO2 (Rex) Couch**
Clerk	**LCpl (Mandy) Carpenter** WRAC
Instructors	**SSgt (Neil) Brown**
	Sgt (Pete) Root
	Sgt (Eddie) Winterburn

The Regimental Training Wing runs 8 Signals Detachment Commanders Courses each year for BAOR-based Signals NCOs. Here is a student's view:

'The Signals Detachment Commanders course No. 1/81 assembled on 11 Jan and unfortunately for 12 of our number, it ended on 12 Jan; still better luck next time lads.

Our kind, noble-hearted, helpful, intelligent instructors (I'm writing this before the final grades have been given) were headed by **Lt Hill** and most ably assisted by **WO2 Couch,** known to us as Coochy Baby (when out of pace-stick range), **SSgt** (Whizzy bits) **Brown, Sgt** (Bod) **Winterburn** and **Sgt Pete** (or was it Beet) **Root.**

The first day seemed to flash by in a haze of Toets, Intake Written Test, BFTs, Opening Address and nice little chats about how welcome we were going to be (ha ha!) We struggled through the first week, the highlights being drill on ice, show Parades in snow and thanks to the PT Staff we were allowed to run around Birgelen carrying logs, running, running up a sand quarry, running up a sand quarry carrying someone, circuit training, running and more running.

Week two went on with drill every morning. This was when we smashed the bull off our boots that we spent all the night before bulling up, then on with the rest of the day's work which included weapon training, weapon theory, NBC DT, field-craft, first aid, method of instruction, military discipline, internal security and of course more running, thanks to the Gym staff.

Week 3 saw us off to Belgium to a nice training area/Nuclear dumping ground called Grobbendonk (pronounced hell) where we were allowed to dig holes in the ground called trenches. These lovely artistic creations were our homes for the first night. (Meanwhile the DS had to make do with individual tents containing 1 bed, 1 mattress, sheets, pillows, blankets and heaters).

After surviving the first night of attacks, recces and stand-to's the DS made sure we were wide awake for the next day's fun by giving us great

mouthfuls of CS gas. Then it was fill in trenches and section attack our way through the day until it was time to—dig some more trenches. This process was repeated until some of us were falling asleep as we were marching!

Thursday saw us back in camp and cleaning all the equipment used, then over the weekend we cleaned our own kit up and slept.

That brings me up to now which is the last week of the course and we are now doing all our testing. (We still do drill and have block inspections though). So another two days should see us through and well and truly RSDCC'D for the future. Before I leave for my boots, here are a few tips for anyone coming on the course.

Be humble, quiet and obedient. If you come from Ireland, Scotland or Wales (or even England for that matter), don't come! Try to disguise a scouse, cockney or scottish accent. Some of the phraseology used here might throw you so here are a few helpers.

Bungalow—Someone with nothing up top.
Hima Howa—Hima Howa.
Dough Bag—Someone related to the Trg Wing Staff.

I'll sign off sending all the future RSDCC courses one last piece of advice—bring a sense of humour because the joke's on you!'

MUSHING

The rather unusual sport of mushing (sled dog racing) has crept into this year's winter sports calendar. **WO2 Mick Jackson** has been competing in the German and Dutch International Championships with a C1 class (3 dog) team of Siberian Huskies. The only British musher competing in a sport which now attracts up to 150 teams at a meeting, he qualified for the International Championship race at Todtmoos and has had varied success during the racing calendar, best placing being 7th at the International Meeting at Nurburgring.

Mushing
WO2 Mick Jackson—German Championship Race at Clausthal Zellerfeld

REGIMENTAL CAMERA CLUB

The Regimental Camera Club has been revitalised during the last six months. With help from PRI the club has been fortunate enough to purchase a new enlarger, with a colour head, and is at present organising a number of practical educational evenings with the help of the photographic section at RAF Wildenrath. The club recently ran a photograph competition and around 60 photographs were exhibited.

Cpl Pete Ramshaw won both the colour and black and white sections and runners up were **Sgt Steve Turnock** in the black and white and **Maj Phil Hodges** in the colour. It is hoped that the club will be able to lay on a display for the Regimental Fete at the end of May.

A NEWCOMER TO THE REGIMENTAL SCENE

The newcomer referred to is not a person but an activity! Amongst all the activities and sports that the regiment supports in the way of clubs etc, there is a serious omission and it is hoped to form a new club to cater for this activity. The activity? It's road running or the gentle art of keeping fit and enjoying yourselves, organised under the leadership of 'Gentle Giant' **Capt Chris Stevenson, MBE.**

It is hoped to call the club the Hermes club and the main aim will be to provide not only for the seasoned runner, an alternative outlet for his skill to the boring round of track, cross-country or orienteering that one finds these days in most regiments, but also to encourage the old, sick, lame and lazy to get out into the fresh air, not only to keep fit or start to get fit, but also to get a chance to see some of the country that they usually only see from the seat of a car.

We hope to enter for road running events ranging from 10 kms 'Run Runs' to Marathons (42 kms). However, the main aim for this year will be two-fold, firstly to get the club on it's feet (sorry about that) and then to enter a team from the club in the 8th Berlin International Marathon in Sep. If the club membership is strong enough then future plans will include sending a team to the 1982 London Marathon.

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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE'

'CONTINUE THE MOVEMENT'

December and January continued the way of October and November: no change in the weather and no change in the number of activities and events in which the regiment were involved.

THE LORD MAYOR POPS IN

At the beginning of December the Lord Mayor of Leicester, **Councillor Herbert H. Sowden,** paid an official visit to Krefeld and, despite a tight schedule of engagements arranged by the Stadt over a long weekend, he took the time to visit us and meet some of the officers and soldiers of the regiment.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester meets SSgt O'Rourke of Alpha Troop

PUSH FOR CHARITY

In the wee small hours of 10 Dec a team of volunteer runners set off to the cheers of well-wishers to push a specially modified 'wheel barrow' from Krefeld to the BFBS station in Cologne. The 40 mile route was divided into six stages to be covered as fast as possible in the treacherous road conditions and in temperatures below freezing throughout. This meant a warm time for the pushers, but a cold one for the three WRAC girls who took it in turn to be passengers. Early morning commuters in Cologne blinked as the runners entered the city

Midnight—and ready to go

nearly 10 hours after they set out and made their way to the BFBS Radio studios where they joined presenter **Dave Raven** in his morning show.

The event raised some DM 2.000 which has been divided between Wireless for the Blind and Tom Hughes orphanage in Nepal. **Mr Brian Lawson,** husband of the HQ Sqn clerk, and **Sig (now LCpl) Bruce Lee** dreamt up the whole idea, **Maj Ben Bolt** nourished it, and the volunteers made it reality:

Sgt Paul Duckworth APTC, **Sgt Bob Walton, Cpl Jenny Thomas** WRAC, **Cpl Dave Thomas** (husband and wife—with dog **'Glen'**), **Sig Scotty Sherrard, Sig Taff Austin, Sig Darrell Skimming, Sig Steve Wellum, Pte Steve Davies** ACC, **LCpl Sue Edwards** WRAC, **LCpl Sue Raiburn** WRAC, **SSgt Mick Burton** (Support Vehicle)

FITTING END TO 1980

The Charity Push heralded the start of the many traditional end of year parties: Troop, Squadron, Wives Club, Messes and Anglo-German Society. Three children's parties were staged on the same day to which 80 German children from the Marianum Kinderhof, a Krefeld orphanage, were invited. **SSgts (FofS) Brian Billsberry** and **'Drew' Robertson** and **SSgt Pete Graham** with all their helpers, had their work cut out keeping the children entertained, but they all did a magnificent job and the parties were an outstanding success. On 12 Dec the final event was staged in the 1980 Leicester Trophy Inter-Troop Sports Competition. Alpha Tp took the honour of receiving the new Leicester Trophy, recently presented to the regiment by the City of Leicester.

The following photograph illustrates the final 'working' day of the year when, after a Regimental Carol Service, a selection of Officers and SNCOs served dinner to the junior ranks of the regiment in the restaurant.

WO1 (RSM) Miles is all smiles on this occasion as he serves Sig Swithenbank and LCpl Dickinson their Christmas dinner.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

RHINE AREA NOVICES BOXING.

Throughout December and the Christmas period a small select band of volunteer boxers led by **Sgt Payat** and **Cpl Parkinson** were quietly going about the business of preparing themselves for their big night on 30 Jan. This was the night our boxing team was to fight against 21 Sig Regt in the Rhine Area Novices Boxing Championships. And what a night it was; a night of precision, colour, excitement, guts, determination, skill, and a night when emotions of every description were clearly expressed by those who packed the gymnasium to capacity to see the results of all the training both boxing teams had gone through.

The opening Bantam bout between **Sig Wilson** (16) and **Sig Blundell** (21) set the pace for the remainder of the evening; a hard fought contest with both boxers receiving the congratulations of the referee and an ovation from the spectators, and **Sig Wilson** gaining the decision. At Featherweight, **Sig Butterworth** (21) proved too strong for **Sig Colquitt** (16)—a late entry into the team. The Lightweight contest was another hard fought bout acclaimed by the spectators with **Sig Hunt** (16) beating **Sig Marshall** (21).

At Lightwelter a real tussle ensued with **Sig Cunningham** (21) eventually getting the majority decision over **Sig Bauress** (16). **Sig Bauress** had the consolation, however, of being awarded the title of best loser of the evening. At the half-way stage the points tally was even 6-6. There followed a special (non-scoring) bout between **Sigs Thompson** (16) and **Bratton** (21) which went the distance in **Thompson's** favour. Back to the competition, and at Welterweight **Sig Beggs** (16) fought bravely but was defeated by **Cpl Scott** (21) the better boxer. **LCpl Richards** (16) got a bit of a shock in his opening round with **Cpl Barlow** (21) but by round three proved to be too strong and took the points.

In the Middleweight contest **Sig Sherrard** (16) had a unanimous decision over **Cpl Crawford** (21); a decision which was reversed in the Light Heavyweight contest which followed between **Sig Donnally** (16) and **Sig Grayam** (21). With the points level and one bout to go the scene was electric. The support given to both boxers by their respective supporters in the final contest of the evening was deafening. After a very close fought contest **Sig Brown** (21) was awarded the decision over **Sig Dear** (16).

And so, 21 Sig Regt team took the honours on an outstanding sporting evening and were presented with the Rhine Area Novices Boxing Championship Shield by **Col A. D. Lewis,** Commander 4 Signal Group, (representing Commander Rhine Area) who summed it all up by saying how sad it was that one team had to lose. Our congratulations to the 21 Sig Regt team and our thanks to all the officials who made the evening possible. And on behalf of all the spectators the writer thanks **WO1 (RSM) Miles, Sgt Duckworth** APTC, the gymnasium staff and the working parties from the regiment who transformed our gymnasium into a boxing 'arena' worthy of the boxers who performed.

It's all over and well done team. *L-R (standing)* Sgt Steve Hemmings, Cpl Mick Ross, Cpl Mick Harrison (*kneeling*) WO2 (SSM) Bill Wilson and Cpl Dave Upton

A BID TO ESTABLISH A RECORD

The scene changes to the Krefeld Bowling Centre. It is 3 pm on Sat 31 Jan and the Regimental Bowling Team of **WO2 (SSM) Bill Wilson, Sgt Steve Hemmings**, and **Cpls Mick Ross, Mick Harrison** and **Cave Upton,** commence bowling in a bid to set up a Ten Pin Bowling Record. Exactly 24 hours and 235.7 games later, five somewhat jaded bowlers looked rather pleased that the event had ended. Within seconds their faces were wreathed in smiles as the statistics were revealed and the congratulations of the many spectators were heaped upon them. The team scored a total of 36,251 pinfalls which, for those to whom this figure means little or nothing, may perhaps be better expressed as 8.58 miles of pins laid end to end knocked down by 31.35 tons of balls. We anxiously await ratification of the result as a record in the Guiness Book of Records.

This venture was in support of a series of events aimed at raising money for BLESMA pioneered by **WO2 (SSM) Wilson.** The team were sponsored to the tune of DM 6,000 which when added to the monies already received means that the whole venture has so far raised DM 17,000. The final tally will be announced after the Grand Raffle—first prize a Talbot Solara saloon car—on 19 Mar, and arrangements are being made to hand over the monies to BLESMA in Apr. **WO2 (SSM) Wilson** and the team wish me to thank all those who supported them and in particular **Mrs Morag Wilson** and **Sgt Bruce Cooksey** who, respectively, kept detailed records and scored virtually non-stop throughout the 24 hours.

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GCHQ

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

NOTABLE

December heralded a series of festive activities too numerous to document. There were two functions worthy of note though. Firstly, the annual christmas party given to some of the less fortunate children of Krefeld. It was on 12 Dec that fifty extremely handicapped children of the town's Heilpädagogisches Zentrum arrived in the camp together with their nurses and were immediately involved in a traditional party. Father Christmas, loaded with presents, came from on high, by courtesy of the Army Air Corps, and **Capt Sandy Reid,** the PRI, and a band of very willing helpers dispensed christmas delights to all those

Handicapped Children's Party: Father Christmas, Mr John Perrott, assisted by In-Pensioner Harry Hume distribute presents to the children

attending. The afternoon ended with everybody singing German carols and folk songs and agreeing to meet again in a year's time. The Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw is the second function of note. It was held, for the first time, in a large hall kindly made available by Stadt St Tönis. It was a first class venue for the evening which was masterminded by **WO1 (YofS) Pete McLoughlin** and a small committee. The success of the evening was undoubtedly attributable to the music played by 'Mercury,' an excellent dance band formed from members of the R Signals Band who had come specially to the regiment during their leave period. It was ironic, perhaps, that their return to Blandford was delayed because of a sick mini-bus. During their enforced stop-over, however, they kindly volunteered to play at the regimental christmas lunch and also in the Officers' Mess when the Sergeants' Mess members of the regiment and will be made exceptionally welcome when they return at some future date.
honorary members of the regiment and will be made exceptionally welcome when they return at some future date.

THE NEW YEAR

With Christmas and new Year festivities over, it was back to work in January and the start of a year's extensive training. The regiment deployed into Belgium for a seven day communications exercise immediately followed by a redeployment back on to the more familiar North German plain for a further five days exercising within the Northern Army Group Signal Support Group. Concurrently, **Capt Keith Allcock** REME and **WO2 Eddie Wellings** APTC had set up the regimental skiing camp at Murnau in Bavaria. The camp which is housed within and run in conjunction with a German Mountain Battalion will continue until early March and give members of the regiment, both male and female, the opportunity to learn how to ski and then enjoy the delights of the slopes within the Oberammergau area.

Skiing in Bavaria: *Left to Right,* Sig John Law; WO1 (FofS) Gerry Sullivan; SSgt (YofS) Sid Coleman; LCpl Fergie Anderson; Sig Frank Clarke; Cpl Andy Chalmers; Sig Ricky Blackmore; Sig Radar Noote; LCpl Foggy Dewhirst; Sig Taff Lewis; LCpl Geordie Maughn; LCpl Dave Alexander; Sig Colin East; WO2 (QMSI) Eddie Wellings; and the Regimental Skiing Officer Capt Keith Allcock REME.

NO DISGRACE

In the last report in this magazine it was mentioned that the regiment was trying to make a name for itself on the rugby front. Sadly this was not to be but the loss of an Army Cup Match to the Glosters with a score of 18 points to 13 points is in no way a disgrace. It was a very even match and could have gone either way. **SSgt Paddy Black,** the team coach, must be congratulated on his efforts during the last two seasons in bringing the rugby team up to a standard that is to be reckoned with anywhere in Germany.

A GREAT SADNESS

To end, it is with great sadness, that the death of In-Pensioner **Dick Osgood** has to be recorded. **Dick** had been associated with the regiment for over five years and had been a guest of the regiment every summer and christmas. He was very much part of the regiment and admired by all. He had an intense literary talent and he was capable of composing a poem for any occasion. **Dick Osgood** was with the regiment on 17 December when he passed away peacefully in his sleep aged 72. He will be remembered by many and sadly missed by all.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 23 January, the command of 30 Sig Regt changed when **Lt Col A. J. Sammes** departed on promotion for SHAPE and **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson** took command.

Lt Col Tony Sammes had taken command of the regiment in October 1978 and since then has travelled far and wide: Hong Kong, Rhodesia, Cyprus, Antigua and Norway to mention but a few! He was dined out of the Sergeants Mess on 9 Jan and from the Officers Mess on 16 Jan. The regiment said farewell to him in the traditional manner by towing him away in a swan carriage, with the Corps Band playing, the soldiers of the regiment lining the road, and his wife **Joan** following closely behind. We wish both of them the best of good fortune in the future.

We welcome **Lt Col Roger Thompson** and his wife **Aureole** to the regiment; they have joined us from SHAPE, although they are by no means strangers to the regiment. We hope their tour with us will be a happy one.

Lt Col A. J. Sammes *(right)* hands over command to Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson

OPERATION DRAKE—1978/80

On 13 December 1980, the brigantine *'Eye of the Wind'* sailed into St Katherine's Dock next to Tower Bridge, ending its voyage around the world and bring operation Drake to a conclusion. Throughout the 2½ years of the operation, 30 Sig Regt had maintained an HF radio rear link between the *'Eye of the Wind'* and the Op Drake headquarters in London, via a radio/GPO patch at Blandford. It was therefore appropriate that the regiment should be represented at the exhibition arranged to celebrate the homecoming and the task of producing a stand was given to **SSgt Pat Garreby** and his team of operators who had controlled the radio link during the voyage. From comparatively modest original plans the stand developed into an impressive, and much larger exhibition which, when eventually deployed in the Royal Signals demonstration team tent monopolised so much space that the Quicksilver and Apprentice College stands had to be practically moved out. However, by the early hours of 12 Dec the stand was eventually set up on its final site in pride of place opposite the ship's berth.

EXHIBITION SEEN BY THE PRINCE OF WALES

The *'Eye of the Wind'* and the exhibition were open to the public from 13 to 19 Dec. During this period **SSgt Pat Garrehy** and **Sig Paul Spilling** played host to a large number of visitors, explaining to them the regiment's vital role in the success of operation Drake. The SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE** visited the stand on 15 Dec and was given a conducted tour by **Maj Pat Kington**, OC 1 Squadron, who had overall responsibility for the Op Drake communications.

The SOinC, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE talks to Sig Paul Spilling (centre) and SSgt Pat Garrehy

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The regiment's stand was especially honoured on Fri 19 Dec by a visit from **HRH Prince Charles,** patron of operation Drake. This visit was unplanned and was particularly gratifying as the regiment's stand was the only one so honoured. **Prince Charles** showed great interest in the communications and spoke to Blandford on the PRC 320, wishing **Sig Michael Ashley** (the Blandford operator) a very happy Christmas. The exhibition marked the end of 2½ years of daily worldwide schedule working for the Op Drake communications team. The success of their efforts is accurately reflected in the statistics: 769 days, 3448 Tx/Rx formal messages, 409 remote conversations, 1884 unregistered messages and a 97.7% success rate with communications. These achievements could not have been accomplished without the help and support of many people and to them the regiment extends its sincere thanks.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

Congratulations go to the following members of the regiment who received awards in the New Year Honours List:
WO2 (FofS) Graeme Rothwell MBE
Sgt Steve Macdonald BEM
Mr Les Prince MBE

BADMINTON

This month the regiment took part in the West Area Badminton Championships at Perham Down. Representatives of the regiment competed in the majority of the events and were successful in the following:

MEN'S SINGLES PLATE

Winner **LCpl Ian Wells**

MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES
Winners **LCpl Ian Wells** and
LCpl George Dudley

MEN'S UNIT DOUBLES
Winners **LCpl Ian Wells** and
Sgt Andy McAlpine

The following competitors reached the semi finals:

MIXED DOUBLES
Mrs Joan Sammes and **Sgt Andy McAlpine**
Mrs Margaret Morris and **Sgt Colin Thirkettle**

SEMI FINALS OF SW DIST
TEAM KNOCK OUT COMPETITIONS
Team: Sgt Colin Thirkettle (Capt)
Sgt Andy McAlpine
Sgt Sid Steel
LCpl George Dudley
LCpl Ian Wells

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

It looks as if 1981 will become known as the year of change for a number of well known faces. **Maj Dick Sanders** has handed over HQ Sqn to **Maj Ben Bolt. Dick** leaves us to go to the Junior Regiment having had a successful tour, the highlights of which include his promotion to major, his conversion to Reg C, the birth of his daughter and his marriage, not necessarily in that order. **Capt Nick Thompson** hands over Alfa Troop to **Lt George Howson** who joins us from his Q course. **Nick,** complete with duck, is off to HQNI as a watchkeeper. **Capt Stephen Galpin** gives up the chair as 2IC 3 Sqn and is off to Benbecula as OC 632 Signal Troop. **Maj Keith Butler** has taken over as OC 2 Sqn with the permission of **Maj Bill Lidster BEM** who is moving across to the School of Signals. **Lt Keith Derrick** is now established as our MTO having taken over from **Capt Phil Noble** who left us to join 5 Field Force as their QM. To all who have left us we wish them well in their new postings and to all the newcomers welcome.

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SERVING HER MAJESTY'S ARMED FORCES WORLD WIDE

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

MEDAL PRESENTATION PARADE

On 19 Oct, the GOC North West District, **Maj Gen W. M. E. Hicks OBE** presented the Territorial Efficiency Decoration and Medals to twelve members of the Regiment at 'Gilwern' TA Centre Chester. Amongst the recipients was the Second in Command, **Maj Chris Webber.**

The Honorary Colonel, **Col J. G. Bryson OBE TD JP DL LLM** attended the General on parade.

GOC North West District, with the recipients of the Territorial Efficiency Medal after the Presentation Parade at Chester on 19 October. *L to R:* SSgt R. J. Jones, SSgt E. K. Smith, Sgt C. A. Parsons, WO2 W. E. McMillan, Cpl J. Condon, SSgt R. Hulse, Maj Gen W. M. E. Hicks OBE, Sgt J. Forbes, Sgt J. Benson, Cpl J. H. Myatt, WO2 C. Moorhouse, Cpl D. B. Clarke

DINING IN OF NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

The new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Gavin Mackay,** was 'Dined In' by the officers of the Regiment on Saturday 24 Jan.

Apart from the excellent dinner prepared under the direction of **WO2 Ron Gawthorne,** the evening will be best remembered for the after dinner games which were so energetically performed that the Doctor, **Capt Colin Ford RAMC,** had to be called from his bed to administer a stitch or two to the cut eyebrow of one Field Officer!

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34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

Report by Rev Alan Hughes CF

RESTRAINTS

'Owing to the acute shortage of D10 cable, the regiment is going to have to work much closer together for the remainder of the financial year!' So began, in a typically humourous vein our C.O.'s Christmas message to the regiment given at a recent training weekend at Scarborough. Of course, as we all know only too well, behind the stoical front presented by the Corps and indeed the entire Armed Forces, there lies a daunting challenge to Commanders to rethink training priorities whilst maintaining interest and morale—especially following *Crusader 80* and a National Recruiting drive.

Trade training, re-equipping, adventure training and recruiting will continue as before but squadrons will be encouraged to increase their co-ordination and accountability programmes and define their transport priorities. This will have the effect of both stimulating thought at every level whilst raising overall regimental efficiency in the long term—rather than simply implementing a 'cut and run' policy useful only in and for a short term crisis.

USEFUL

Taking to heart the Biblical moral apophthegm 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap' and being of the opinion that we should neither 'Make hay (only) when the sun shines' nor 'Let the grass grow under our feet whilst resting on our proverbial(?) laurels', being neither farmers nor florists, the CO has kept us busy since *Crusader.*

At this stage we interrupt this article to point out that the writer has recently completed a Unit Press Officers Course at Bovington under **Onslow Dent** and **John Wright,** excellent value (free) and highly recommended—bids to HQ UKLF (PR), Wilton, you too could write paragraphs such as the one preceding this ad.

A FIRST

The major exercise challenge came from the Annual Maiden Scurry and Stainton Chase Weekend on Catterick Training Area. These are competitions open to TA and regular teams from all arms, designed to test the endurance and ingenuity of both men and women. 34 managed to field two teams from each of our four squadrons giving us four chances in both the male and female categories—no mean feat less than three weeks after Crusader. All of our teams completed the course, but of one in particular are we justifiably proud, **O/Cdt Gill Cable** 'tells the tale . . .'

'Last year our team were runners-up, this time as we drove towards our Maiden Scurry blind date we were determined to overcome the little obstacles planned for us.

Initially there was a short march to be undertaken in a bogey time of 13 mins. followed by a static target shooting competition. The, a timed non-tactical obstacle—this one involved moving a complete 'Rover' wheel from one side of a gulley to the other, without either it or the team touching a 'minefield' below. A sharp appraisal by our team leader and a concerted effort by the whole team ensured us maximum marks at this point, and of course raised our hopes. The final leg involved a long march relying solely on prismatic compass and we lauded the challenge.

Maiden Scurry 1980 Top TA Team—*L to R* Pte Ann McLaughlin, Pte Angela Barnard, O/Cdt Gill Cable, Pte Sue Neale

'Doing a wheelie', an obstacle on Maiden Scurry 1980.
L to R Pte Angela Barnard, Pte Ann McLaughlin, Pte Ann Whitehead, O/Cdt Gill Cable.

Stainton Chase 1980—the men of 34, working well but just failed to win a prize, unlike our girls on the female exercise equivalent 'Maiden Scurry'

Our team comprised **Sgt Sue Barclay** (Leader), **O/Cdt Gill Cable** (Navigator and maximum score NBC examinee), **Pte Ann McLaughlin** (Demon Driver), **Pte Sharon Doi, Pte Sue Neale, Pte Karen Tindall, Pte Ann Whitehead** and **Pte Angela Barnard** (on Falcon pipe and Clan tobacco—insect repellent!). Four of these had only recently joined the regiment. Our reward was to be judged overall best TA team in the competition receiving our Trophy and individual silver goblets from the Deputy District Commander NE District.'

DEPUTY COMMANDER VISITS

As **Gill** mentioned, **Brig David Wilson,** visited Brambles Farm TAC to present the teams prizes, after the ceremonies he made a full tour of RHQ and the squadron's offices before being entertained in the Sergeants and Officers Messes.

. . . AND GOC

We were further honoured shortly afterwards by a visit from GOC North East District, **Gen Baker.** Both he and **Mrs Baker** were welcomed by **Col Illingworth** and after signing the visitors book and undertaking an inspection of RHQ and both 90 and HQ Squadron areas accompanied by Adjt **Tom McMahon** and **RSM Bob Mills,** they were guests on honour at a luncheon in the Officers Mess prepared by **Sgt Ronnie Nelson** and his team and at which all RHQ Officers and their wives were present. It was a very relaxed occasion during which the GOC kept us abreast of developments within District and also congratulated the CO on our performance during Crusader. Before moving on to join 50 Squadron at Darlington, **Gen Baker** was presented with a Regimental Plaque by the CO.

SCARBOROUGH BY COACH

All of our Squadrons each managed a training weekend during October and November of 1980. The entire Regiment, in an unprecedented display of co-ordination, converged as one on Scarborough for the Annual Christmas weekend. Fuel restrictions prevented a tactical move, so 'civvy' coaches put in human 'shots' from Gateshead, Darlington, Middlesbrough Leeds and Hull—all necessary training equipment being crammed onto a few 4 tonners. Everyone arrived on the Friday evening allowing enough time to be briefed for the next day's training. In essence this differed little from previous years other than that it all took place within Burniston Barracks. Saturday evening did allow us to relax and so a Christmas Dinner was planned and rounded off with a party. Next morning the cobwebs were smartly dusted off however. Drill training on the square ironed out creased limbs before the Regiment marched to St Mark's Parish Church at Newby, two miles away, where they 'enjoyed' a Christmas service complete with Carols all arranged by the Vicar, **The Rev David Purdy** and 'yours truly'. After the service at which our Band played throughout, under the baton of **WO1 Derek Farrington,** we marched back to Barracks with the Band at our head, to be inspected by our Commanding Officer. During the inspection, attended by our Hon Col, **Col John Davies,** the CO presented 90 Squadron with The Illingworth Plate.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Roughly about August time, someone in Middlesborough Borough Council notices in his diary the words 'Remembrance Sunday' and quickly rings up 34 Signal. Traditionally we arrange the ceremonies for the town of Middlesborough, from the provision of the Guard of Honour and The Band, down to printed programmes and individual invitations to VIP's and all groups who regularly parade. The 1980 service was introduced by **Father Crowley,** Chaplain to the Catholic Mayor of Middlesborough, **Coun Derek Biewer,** I was then privileged to preach the Address following the Act of Remembrance after which Father Crowley and I shared the prayers. This was the first occasion at which Catholic and Anglican Clergy had shared such a service in Middlesborough. In addition to the Mayoral party, other dignitaries included **Mr Arthur Bottomley** the former Overseas and Commonwealth Minister and now MP for Middlesborough East, and **Mr Ian Wrigglesworth** MP for Middlesborough West. The service drew a remarkable number of citizens proving that such services are still considered by many to be a useful part of our national life.

The CO recently accompanied Commander 12 Group and other CO's on a conference with the Deputy CinC UKLF, **Lt Gen Sir Frank Kitson KCB CBE MC.** One aspect of this meeting involved each CO in presenting an outline of his Regiment's operational role.

TOUGH GOING

We always tend to think of ourselves as a pretty sporting bunch, men and women alike. Activities at which we excel have been football and volleyball. Alemein Barracks formed the backdrop for an encounter which rivalled the great battleground itself for its unadulterated butchery. A combined Regimental team from HQ, 90 Sqn and the REME LAD faced a hairy horde from 218 RCT Hull (V). The first half saw some exciting football but was patently dirty, our team being held (kicked more like it) to a draw at half time. The second half showed that we had learnt something from our Black Belt Coach, we quickly rattled off six goals, traded for only seven injuries—one personal best being **Sig Steinmetz** exchanging a black eye and a broken nose for two goals. Other scorers included **Sgt Davidson, Cpl Riley, Sig Coulton** and **Cfn Jowers** who all scored one each. The final result was 6—3 in our favour, bringing our total for the last two games to 12 goals and ensuring a place in the semi-final of The TA North East District Cup.

RUNNERS-UP

Our 90 Sqn Volleyball match was equally exciting though less violent. We were pitched against B Coy of The Yorkshire Volunteers based at Stockton Road, hartlepool. 90 had already knocked out last year's winners in the Semi-Finals of this the NE Dist Inter Sqn Competition and faced the new challenge with great hopes. However, after a tremendously sporting match we were just beaten into the position of Runners-up. Team coach **SSgt John Goodman** has already started Thursday training in prep for next year!

CONGRATULATIONS

In amongst all this promotion and relegation we must add some Military promotion. We congratulate **Maj Mary Nicholson** on her promotion which now makes her Senior WRAC Officer with 34 Signal Regt. **Lt Sue McWhinney** has had a double promotion, being both married and elevated in rank making her now **Capt Sue Shears,** necessitating a brand new ID Card. **Louise Carlisle** of whom we wrote in the last edition, has now completed her Camberley Course and passed out on 21 November. She now moves on to a Young Officers Course at Blandford until Easter. Farewells this month include **SSgt Steve Tucker** and **SSgt Dick Simms** who have left for Northern Ireland **Sgt John Middleton** who has just begun a T1 Course at Catterick—haste ye back!

Maj Mary Nicholson on the occasion of her promotion, she now becomes senior WRAC Officer. *L to R* Maj Mervyn Jenkins RHQ Ops Offr, Maj Mary Nicholson, Elsie Davies, wife of the Hon Col and Lt Col A. W. Illingworth TD

Lt Sue McWhinney who, shortly after this photograph, became Capt Sue Shears, having been both promoted and married.

35 Sig Regt (V) Birmingham

Report by Maj (TOT) John Wall

GREAT SADNESS

Elsewhere in this edition there is an obituary to **Capt Charles Baalham** PSO with 95 Sig Sqn (V) at Shrewsbury. The tragic death of **Charles's** wife **Mary** and subsequently **Charles** himself has caused great sadness in the regiment and our hearts go out to his daughter **Cynthia** and son-in-law **Sgt Bill Quinlan** who having bought a house in Shrewsbury, so looked forward to spending more time as a family when **Sgt Quinlan** retired early next year.

Both funerals were held at Shrewsbury Crematorium, **Mary's** on 31 Dec and **Charles's** on 22 Jan. The Padre **Maj Max Lucas** was involved in both funerals, but I was particularly impressed with his handling of **Charles's** Military Funeral which I thought was memorable. Indeed I imagine **Charles** would have been proud of the whole spectacle, especially the turn out which included the Comd 11 Sig Gp (V), **Brig Godfrey Curl** and representatives of many Units and organisations.

TAKING NEW SHAPE

With all four Sqns now firmly under new management, let us first turn East to 89 Sqn in Rugby where **Capt Terry Phillips** has now taken over the reins from **Maj Brian Foxon** who has moved nearer to the fountain head as OC 48 Sqn in Birmingham. According to my 'correspondent' **Maj Harry Hall** (PSO) 'the Sqn is taking new shape, with **Capt Sandy Livingstone** as 2IC/Tg Offr; **Lt Bob Hawkes** as OC B Tp; **Lt Toni Lee** Tp Offr A Sub Tp; and fresh as paint **2Lt's Pat Bannigan** and **Steve Brady** as OC U Tp and 2 IC B Tp respectively. Another Volunteer stepping up is **SSgt Ben Moore** who has the unenviable task of following in the footsteps of the popular long serving **WO2 John Dillon** as SSM'.

DINNER DANCE

Our pre Christmas activities consisted as usual of the All Ranks Dinner Dance on Sat 13 Dec and the Children's Party on Sat 20 Dec—both were well supported. Traditionally the Dinner Dance is the occasion when the OC gives a resume of the squadron's activities during the year. The new OC, **Capt Terry Phillips** is to be congratulated on all three counts, his maiden speech was interesting, concise and witty.

The OC also took the opportunity of presenting on behalf of the squadron parting gifts to two long serving members of the Unit. To his predecessor, **Maj Brian Foxon** (now OC 48 Sqn) a superb set of crystal whisky glasses—and to ex SSM, **WO2 John Dillon** (now RQMS with HQ Sqn in Birmingham) a silver statuette of a combat soldier. Reciprocating, **Maj Foxon** presented his ex colleagues with a shield, and **WO2 Dillon** donated a cup to be known as The John Dillon Trophy for the best Detachment Commander. Our grateful thanks for two fine trophies which will be competed for annually. The CO **Lt Col John Billingham** then neatly wrapped up the formal part of the proceedings by replying on behalf of the guests, and presenting the winners of the various squadron competitions with their awards.

CHILDREN'S PARTY

The following Saturday it was the childrens turn to be entertained at the TAC. Some 30 children between the ages of 4-14 eagerly awaited the arrival of Father Christmas who bearing a striking resemblance to **Sig Tony Turner,** eventually appeared in a wicker basket drawn by an 'elephant'—origin unknown.

After a film show, games and a quick demolition job on the jellies and cakes, the children went home clutching presents, tired but happy.

MAYOR'S VISIT

The new year started with a full training programme mapped out until Camp by **Capt Sandy Livingstone** who now has the satisfaction of catering for a steady flow of recruits—male and female. On Tues evening 20 Jan we enjoyed a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Rugby, **Councillor and Mrs. Keith Judge.** This was a normal training evening which the Mayor had expressed a desire to see on a previous visit. Our visitors were very impressed to see the volunteers of both sexes undergoing normal practical training, which on this occasion consisted of RR, NBC, and for the B Tp personnel an HF link to London and Belfast. Before leaving their Worships said they enjoyed speaking to the volunteers, and were full of admiration for the time and effort men and women put into the Territorial Army.

48 SQN 5 58 SQN 1

You cannot keep 58 Sqn out of the news these days—**Maj Derek Eve** their PSO will see to that. If he's not making the news, he is writing it as the following report shows. The last few weeks have been quite eventful. First the bad news. Our newly formed Soccer team were beaten 5-1 by 48 Sqn. The good news—they hope to get better!

OPTED FOR CHANGE

In the previous years the squadron have always held an informal Christmas Dinner in conjunction with a training week-end at Leek WETC. This year we opted for a change holding the dinner in our own TAC with the CO **Lt Col John Billingham** and the RSM **WO1 'Cid' Crumbie** as guests of honour. (The RSM took me to task for using his correct name **Walter.** Apparently he was inundated with enquiries from his colleagues throughout the Corps, wanting to know who this **Walter Crumbie** was? (PRO). **Pte Allison Blomley** and **Sig Phillip Smith** were both awarded trophies by the CO. They had respectively gained the highest marks on a recruit course of any squadron member during the preceding year. Competition for the WRAC trophy was particularly keen, **Ptes Carmen Anglin** and **Ruth Johnson** failed to get the award by only two points.

Another well merited award went to **Sig Philip Child** for obtaining outstanding results on RR Course at Catterick. Congratulations all three—keep up the good work.

'I must remember to tell that one to the Gp Comd'
95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) Offrs & Sgts Dinner Night. *Left to Right:* Capt Malcolm Luing OC Y Tp, Capt (now Maj) Brian Elliot-Williams OC 95 Sqn, Maj (TOT) John Wall Regimental PRO, Lt Col John Billingham (CO), WO1 (RSM) 'Cid' Crumbie.
(Photograph taken by Bob Carter, Shrewbury Chronicle)

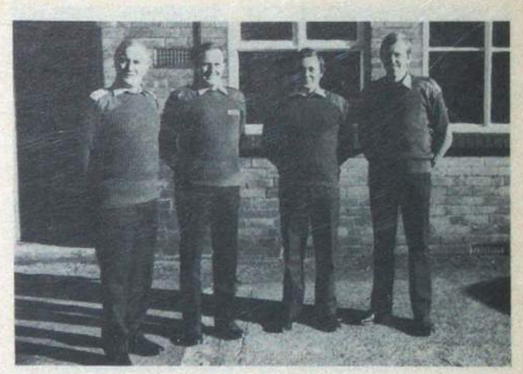
HEREFORD'S TURN

The two halves of 95 Sqn have been getting together more recently. On 10/11 Jan it was Y Tp's task to organise training in Hereford and X Tp's from Shrewsbury turn to travel. OC Y Tp **Capt Malcolm Luing** and his PSI **Sgt Bruce Ozzane** had laid on an interesting and varied week-end programme including a visit to a local unit where the Sqn took part in helicopter loading practice. No squadron week-end is complete without a party, and one was duly held in Bulmers Social Club—thanks to the good offices of a high proportion of Y Tp who work in the cider industry.

On 30 Jan, the Officers and Sergeants of 95 Sqn held a Dinner Night at Territorial House, Shrewsbury—the first formal function the combined mess have held for some years. Only three guests had been invited. The CO, **Lt Col John Billingham,** the RSM **WO1 Cld Crumbie,** and the Editor of the Shrewsbury Chronicle **Mr. Derek Bourne.** I am all in favour of establishing close contacts with the local press—it pays off handsomely in the end.

MAKING HISTORY

1 Feb will surely go down as a unique day in the annals of 35 Sig Regt (V). After all it is not every day that four Sqn Commanders are promoted from Capt to Maj on the same day. Unfortunately for the promotees the CO **Lt Col John Billingham** with great foresight had decreed 1 Feb to be a regimental study day. As a result their faces paled a little when they realised just how much their bright new crowns were going to cost them. Who were the cause of all this excitement—**Majs Paul Renecle** (HQ Sqn), **Bob Haysom** (58 Sqn), **Terry Phillips** (89 Sqn) and **Brian Elliot-Williams** (95 Sqn).



A unique occasion—Four Captains promoted on same day. *Left to Right:* OC 95 Sqn Maj Brian Elliot-Williams, OC 58 Sqn Maj Bob Haysom, OC HQ Sqn Maj Paul Renecle, OC 89 Sqn Maj Terry Phillips

'60 YEARS ON'

In fact it turned out to be quite an eventful day. Not only were we honoured to have present **Col Michael Haycock TD DL** our current Honorary Colonel, but two of his predecessors **Col Tony Fender TD DL** and **Col Eric Jones OBE TD DL JP**—at 82 the 'Father of the Regiment'. Someone obviously had done their homework because in the course of the inevitable lunch time party in the Officers Mess the CO suddenly called for order and proceeded to present **Col Jones** with a beautifully inscribed iced cake together with a large anniversary card (signed by members of the Regt.) to commemorate his having been commissioned into 48 Sig Regt TA—60 years to the day.

The significance of **Col Tony Fender's** visit also became apparent shortly afterwards, when he was presented with a superb silver candelabra to mark his appointment as Honorary Colonel from 1975-1980.

A Trio of Honorary Colonels
The CO Lt Col John Billingham *(Extreme Right)* poses for the camera with *(Left to Right)* 'sitting tenant' Col Michael Haycock TD DL, 'Father of the Regt' Col Eric Jones OBE TD DL JP and Col Haycocks predecessor Col Tony Fender TD DL

LEAVING THE REGIMENT

The party was not without its sadder moments, such a moment occurred when the CO **Lt Col John Billingham** on behalf of the Mess presented mementos to mess members who were leaving the Regt for various reasons. Going to 11 Sig Gp (V) we have ex 2IC, **Maj David Moore**; To RARO ex OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Walter Jenkins** (the last of the ex Shropshire Yeomanry Officers serving in 35 incidentally); ex OC 58 and 48 **Maj Richard Entwistle** and ex OC A Tp **Lt Yvonne Claridge WRAC.** Completing the list is **Maj Harry Hall** who is retiring from service as 89 Sqn's PSO at Rugby.

IMPROVED TRAINING FACILITIES

Having been informed that 48 Sqn had now installed two Commcens for training purposes, I recently made a special detour on my way to RHQ to take in Golden Hillock road and see for myself this model of co-operation between the TG Office, M Tp and members of the Sqn, which everyone seemed to be talking about. I was impressed not only with the Commcens which will prove an invaluable asset, but also with the whole TAC which, now that it has been re-decorated on top of the improvements inside and out, must make Golden Hillock Road one of the best TAC's in the area.

'Just like the real thing'
Three members of 48 Sqn's A Tp get in some practice in their new Commcen. *Left to right:* LCpl Sharon Bresland, Pte Angela Dodd, Pte Jackie Roche

'See what you have let yourself in for'
Post Office Technician LCpl Garry Cullen demonstrating a C41 Yagi to Y Troop's Hereford contingent of WRAC recruited for RR. *Left to Right:* Potential Recruit Karen Williams, Pte Jill Taylor, Potential Recruit Karen Trumper, Pte Lyn Baker, Pte Jay Jones, Pte Alison Jenkins, Pte Diane Grundy.

News from Squadrons

6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Aldershot

FAREWELL TO MAJOR AYRTON

The handover of the squadron by **Maj Mike Ayrton** was a sad occasion. Following the formal handover to **Maj Hywel Thomas** and a final address to the parade, **Maj Ayrton** was chaired out of Arnhem Barracks and through Montgomery Lines to the barrier. The fears of the traditional cleansing ritual in the Basingstoke canal were apparent on his face but the memories of his great efforts in the formation of the squadron museum and the publication of his book on the history of the squadron and its antecedents saved him from the ducking. We shall miss **Maj Mike** and his charming wife **Rosemary** and wish them every success in their new posting.

Handover/Takeover of Sqn Comds. *Left:* Maj M. Mcl. Ayrton and *Right* Maj H. G. S. Thomas

Chairing out Maj Ayrton

WELCOME TO MAJOR THOMAS

We welcome **Maj Hywell Thomas** and his wife **Carole** to Aldershot and hope that it will prove to be better than the charms of the Royal Marines.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The first pleasant task for **Maj Thomas** was to present to members of the squadron the awards and trophies recently won at the highest levels:

To **Sig Mike McCarthy** the Gold Medal won as a member of the British Joint Services Team in the World CRW Parachute Championships recently held in Florida USA. This was a superlative performance in achieving a new world record in the team event, just reward for the hard work and expense involved in the training. To **LCpl Malcolm Edwards,** the Army Athletics Association awarded him the Cotterell Cup in recognition of his achievements in representing Great Britain, Wales, Combined Services and the Army in the 800 metres track events in athletics. The squadron also think that he is a great motivator as a PTI in the gym but difficult to keep up with.

A recent arrival, **Sig Anthony Rowden** soon made his mark when he won the Army Novice Gymnastics Championship. The award of the cup compensated for the hard work, weekend training and injuries that he endured without complaint.

Cpl Pete McElwee was the patrol leader in the annual Turner Trophy patrol competition. His winning patrol comprising of members of Charlie Troop came out of the two day military tasks with record top marks and were awarded the trophy.

OC presents Gold Medal to Sig Mike McCarthy

OC presents the Turner Trophy to the winning patrol (C Tp patrol) led by Cpl Pete McElwee

VISIT BY COMD 1 SIG GP

A busy programme was planned for **Col K. H. Olds** for his visit on 2 Feb. After coffee with the Officers and SNCOs including the preview of the squadron's video equipment and 50 inch screen TV he went on to inspect the Commcen and present the Bronze Comstar Award to **Sig Pete Tracey.**

A presentation of the LS and GC medal to **SSgt (YofS) Peter Tapsell** followed in the Sergeants mess and then lunch with the SNCOs. **Maj Thomas** showed **Col Olds** the new exhibits in the museum and the visit ended with a meeting with the Force Comd, **Brig Beckett.**

Presentation of Bronze Commstar Award
Left: Col Olds. *Centre:* (holding trophy) Sig Pete Tracey, *3rd from R:* Maj Thomas, *2nd from R:* Capt Cudlip and *Right:* Sgt Vince

SOCCER FIVE A SIDE COMPETITION

Maida gym was the scene of cut and thrust when the inter troop knockout competition took place on 9 Feb. Starting promptly at 1800 hrs, each troop produced at least two separate teams and rivalry was intense. Claims of cheating by the officers team when it was given a first round bye were disproved when they won their way to the semi-final. The referees were kept very busy in one match when, with both teams tied for goals, penalties in extra time put Charlie troop through to the final to meet Alpha troop. The final was a cliff hanger with Charlie troop the worthy winners and the trophy was presented by **Mrs Carole Thomas.** Thanks must be given to the able referees led by **Sgt Brian Le Bretton** but most of all to the organiser . . . **Sig Kieron McMahon.**

EXERCISE 'MONTEZUMAS REVENGE'

Report by Cpl Paul Cooper

The chill winds of January in Aldershot were soon behind 10 members of the squadron when they took part in a Belize exercise. 3 HF radio dets were flown by RAF Hercules with an overnight stop in Gander and staging at Pope airbase North Carolina USA. Needless to say we broke down at Pope and had to rough it in accommodation that included colour TVs and showers in soldiers billets. The late arrival in Belize meant overnight work for the early morning departure for the exercise areas. **Cpl Ray Short**'s det with **Cpl Phil Cooper** and **Cpl Derek Deegan** had a rough 130 mile trip to the south over very bad tracks to the Punta Gorda area whilst **Cpl George Johnson** with myself and **Sig Dai Matthews** went the 70 or so miles to the western San Ignacio area. The remaining det was in Airport Camp but **Sgt Tony Glover, Sgt Garth Pickersgill** and **Sig Jeff Murrells** were very busy.

The last member was **Capt Tony Cudlip** who seemed to spend most of his time as umpire with the enemy in the south hacking his way thro' swamp or doing Marine landings from ramp powered lighters.

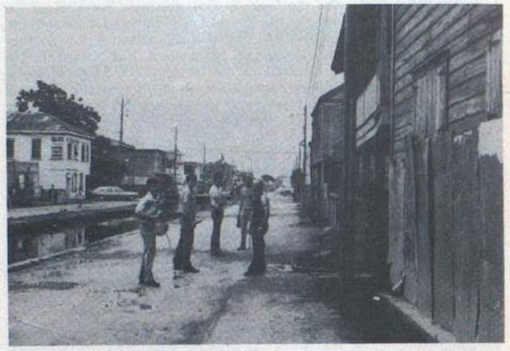
We soon adapted to the different conditions and learned a lot of the radio techniques. My det discovered an enormous spider next to the batteries so we made sure that we checked them during daylight.

Five of us managed to enjoy two days r and r at San Pedro near the Mexican border, a trip in a glassbottomed boat to see the Barrier Reef and fresh coconuts coupled with good food made the trip from UK worthwhile.

The remaining members took advantage of 633 Sig Tp's kind offer to join a sea trip to English Caye and enjoyed a great day out on a typical tropical isle with sun, sea and palm trees.

The return flight to UK over the same route was different. We not only broke down at Pope again and changed aircraft but also had to spend two nights at Gander and also change aircraft.

Thanks must go to our exercise sponsors in Belize, the FSO **Maj Thwaites,** the OC and Y of S of 633 Sig Tp.



'Dogs of War' downtown Belize City. *L to R:* Cpl Paul Cooper, Sig Dai Matthews, Cpl Derek Deegan, Cpl Ray Short and Cpl George Johnson

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7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

NORTH WALES AND STAMFORD

The squadron having safely returned from *Crusader* has been able to fulfil most of its training commitments during the months of October and November. The financial restrictions did have certain effect on the Adventure Training which was originally planned to take place in North Wales. The result was that the local area saw many happy Signalers sailing, canoeing and map reading around the nearby beauty spots. The following week was dedicated to Skill at Arms under **Sgt Mick Lloyd-Williams'** expert guidance. The squadron shot both their APWT and their secondary weapon test during the week. In addition a night shoot and grenade throwing were also arranged.

The second week of military training took place at Stanford, in the form of a Battle Camp organised by the **2IC Capt Gordon Shipley,** before the squadron finally finished its four weeks training revising its vital Comms Skills.

Cpl Eric Canton takes off in front of the OC, Maj J. S. Doody

VISIT OF CSO UKLF

The squadron was honoured by the visit of the CSO on 10 December. The visit included a display and competition of driving skills arranged by the Sqn MTO **Capt Barry Hobson RCT. Cpl Brian Tanner** escorted the CSO around the recently opened Cpls' Club, before the Sgts' Mess completed the occasion with lunch time drinks.

J TP (BEHIND THE SCENES) PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Lt J. A. Harris R Signals**
Tp Sgt	—	**Sgt D. F. Brown**
Tp Cpls	—	**Cpl D. R. Piggott (DTG)**
		Cpl P. J. Searle (CBT DVR)
		Cpl C. K. Fitzsimmons (CBT LMN)
		Cpl K. Rollinson (CBT RMN)

RESPONSIBILITIES

J Troop provide the Bruin element of the 7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, producing a main and step up Mode Headquarters. Our two CSO Radio Relay Stations are ably commanded by **Cpl Keith Rollinson** and **LCpl Pete Griffiths** and are mounted on ½ ton Fish Fry trailers. The line section is efficiently organised by **Cpl Scott Fitzsimmons** and his crowd of merry linemen **Dave, Kevin, Graham** and **Macha. Cpl Pete Searle** runs a very effective and slick SDO with his gang of drivers **Nigel, Jeff, Paul** and **Paul (Knocker).** The DTG's are controlled by **Cpl Lester Piggott** and **LCpl Trevor Keates** who are, as always, happy and cheerful in all that they do.

NEWS

Lt Jim Harris who not only does the inevitable task as RECCE officer has also recently been selected as the Unit PRI officer, a job which he, no doubt, will eventually come to enjoy. **Sgt Derek Brown** has recently taken over a troop Sgt from **Sgt Dave Davies** who must now learn to relax and look forward to his new job as troop Staff Sergeant in 3 Infantry Brigade.

SPORTS

J troop won the squadron March and Shoot Competition and the Cross Country Competition, and provide a major source of competitiors and spectators for most sports played at squadron level.

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

J troop say a fond farewell to **Sgt Dave Davies, Sig Pete Taylor** and **Sig 'Albert' Ali** and wish them all the best in their new postings, and welcome **Sgt Derek Brown, Cpl Keith Rollinson, LCpl Pete Griffiths** and **Sig Charlie (007) Drake.**

OUTSTANDING SIGNALMENS COURSE

The RSM, **WO1 Gordon McInnes** arranged for outstanding signalmen within the squadron to attend a course of selected skills, for example drill, ranges, weapon handling and PT. The course proved a resounding success and from it the following five soldiers received their first tape: **LCpl Gardiner** (top of the course), **Mitchell, Watson, Smith** and **Fraser** (soon to join the White Helmets).

PANTHER WIVES CLUB

The Wives Club have maintained an active programme. In early November the President, **Mrs Jan Doody,** led a party of 20 wives to Manningtree to the Confectionary Warehouse of **Maj Harry Woolrich** a local ACF officer. Here the wives purchased a wide range of Christmas German Confectionery at wholesale prices.

On Wed 3 Dec, 45 wives sat down to a Christmas Dinner in the Sergeants Mess. A team of waiters led by the OC and RSM provided a Savoy style service whilst **WO2 (AQMS) Lee Robins** and his wife **Anne** gave a splendid folk song show. This was followed by an unusual conjuror show by **SSgt Barney Maloney's** father, **Mr Ivor Hansen** who manipulated cards, eggs and managed to eat a light bulb accompanied by gasps of amazement from the wives.

This concluded a very successful year of activity for the Wives Club and they now look forward to an equally full and entertaining programme in 1981.

HERE AND THERE

The squadron has even provided assistance for the Prison dispute. **Cpls Mick Boniface** and **Richard Taylor,** now both local Sgts, now have new homes in MCTC as warders. The possibility of firefighting duties has also seen members of the squadron reacquainting themselves with the Green Goddesses.

A parade was held to celebrate the Battle of Goojerat fought on 21 Feb 1846. The parade consisted of a contingent from each of the units sharing the Barracks with us, namely 1 Sqn RCT and 7 Fd Force Field Ambulance. The parade was taken by **WO1 (RSM) Gordon McInness** and the salute by **Brig K. Spacie OBE. SSgt (ORSQMS) H. Forsyth** was presented with the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal by **Brig Spacie.**

EASTERN DISTRICT MINOR UNITS SQUASH CHAMPIONS 1981

The squadron completed a successful tournament by beating HQ E Dist in the final 5—0. The team comprised the Sqn OC **Maj John Doody, Sqn Ldr Gordon Woolley, Capt Nigel Moore, WO2 Mick Ager** and **Sgt Dixie Dean.** In all the previous rounds the score was also 5—0 demonstrating the current strength of the squadron in this particular sport.

FOOTBALL

The Panthers have had a fair season compared with previous ones, in only reaching the semi finals of the E Dist minor units cup being beaten by The Queens Depot, but skipper **Sgt Malcolm Dilley** thinks he has the groundwork for a first class team.

BASKETBALL

The Basketball team under the supervision of skipper **LCpl Trev Keates** reached the final of the E Dist Championships but were beaten by the better team on the day, namely Depot The Queens Division. The event was well supported with over 16 teams entering the competition.

THE BOXING TEAM

This is a new sport in the squadron and under the expert guidance of **SSgt Jon King** and **LCpl 'Spanner' Cooper,** it entered the Eastern District Boxing Competition. Against tough opposition the squadron managed one finalist in the Flyweight division, although **Sig 'MacDonald** unfortunately lost on points. The team included the

following squadron members: **LCpl Cooper, Sigs Thomas, Stevens, MacDonald, Mitchell** (now LCpl), **Wise Burgess Niles.**

RUGBY

The squadron rugby team led by **SSgt (ORSQMS) 'Bruce' Forsyth** are having quite a good season: Thanks go to good hooking by **Col Pryer.** After reaching the last 16 of the Army Cup Competition before being narrowly beaten in a hard fought match by 8 Fd Wksp, the squadron team went on to reach the Eastern District Cup Final.

The opponents in the final played on the 15 Dec were The Depot Queens Div. The squadron led at half time by 6 pts to 3 pts. The pts were scored by **LCpl Trev Keates.** After sustaining heavy pressure during the second half the squadron finally gave way in the very last minute when the Depot Queens Div scored a try which was converted, giving The Depot Queens Div victory by 9 pts to 6 pts. Since the final the squadron team has been strengthened with the arrival of **Capt J. Huskisson, Queens** and **Capt G. White RE**, a very capable No 8 and hooker respectively.

RUGBY
E DIST MINOR UNIT RUGBY CUP FINALISTS 1980/81
Back Row, From L to R: WO1 (RSM) M. G. McInnes, Sig Bob Carroll, LCpl Trevor Keates, Cpl Phil Rosslee, Sig Andy Fraser, Maj J. S. Doody OC, LCpl Dave Fox, Sgt Georgee Bremner, Capt John Huskisson, Sig Steve Preece
Front Row, From L to R: SSgt Bruce Forsyth, LCpl Spanner Cooper, LCpl Nigel Thomas, Sig Colin Pryer, Cpl Dave Mason, LCpl Rod Ray, Cpl Scott Fitzsimmons, Cpl Shane Tiffin

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country Team has done exceptionally well this year with the added bonus of **Brig Spacie** who helped the team win the E Dist cross country championship by coming in first. After this victory there was no holding the team back, who then went on to win the Eastern area qualifying rounds and secured themselves a place in the Army Finals.

CROSS COUNTRY
ARMY CROSS COUNTRY FINALISTS 1980/81
Back Row, From L to R: Sig Mark Hood, Sig Paul Watterson, Sig Gary Debenham, Sig David Stait, Sig Mac MacDonald, WO2 (RQMS) R. D. E. Kennington
Front Row, From L to R: LCpl Ian Comerford, SSgt Colin Thackwell, Brig K. Spacie OBE Comd 7 Fd Force, Maj J. S. Doody OC, Capt G. M. S. Shipley 2IC, LCpl Mitch Mitchell

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Tidworth

BACK IN PRINT

After a short absence of 3½ years, Bravo Troop is back in business in 8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn. The troop was disbanded when 5 Aptbl Bde was re-roled as 8 Fd Force in April 1977 and the squadron strength was reduced from over 200 to less than 100. This latter decision has now been reversed, and the squadron is once again expanding. As part of this programme, Bravo Troop has been re-established, and we thought it would be a fitting tribute for the troop to be formed officially on the Commander's farewell parade—he having been instrumental in achieving this change. So, on 3 Dec **Brig J. H. Learmont CBE,** the Commander 8 Field Force inspected the new troop under the Command of **Sgt Nick Nicol** on a formal parade and then took the salute as they marched past. The parade was watched by OC Bravo Troop (Designate)—**2Lt Trevor Bradley** who joins in February and who came from the School of Signals for the day.

The Comd 8 Fd Force, Brig J. H. Learmont CBE, accompanied by the OC Maj John Young, inspects the Troop for the first time. On parade are Sgt Vic Ovington, Cpl Pete Peakall, and Cpl Bob Taylor

THE REORGANISATION

Now that there is a second troop, Alpha Troop no longer rules the roost. Bravo Troop has now taken back the power, line, commcen and D11 HF Tg rear link detachments while Alpha Troop retains all the net radio and Inf Rear Link Detachments. Both troops are still heavily under strength but during the next six months they will receive their extra manpower, equipment and vehicles—as the new Commander remarked 'You are in a growth industry'. This makes a welcome change after several years of running things down.

566 RLD

The detachment under the command of **Sgt Larry Little** is currently serving in NI with 3 PARA. Because the det is still under strength, several RTgs in the squadron volunteered their services. Currently serving with the 566 crew of **Cpl Brian Slattery** and **Sig 'Porky' Parker,** the RLD heavyweight, are **LCpl John Gil, LCpl 'Bonka' Bowker** and **Sig Chris Newman.** They are holding the fort until mid February when a relief crew will take over for the rest of the tour and they prepare for this year's exercise season.

OP PADDOCK

Our responsibilities in support of the Op at HM Prison Rollestone, commonly called Rollestone Camp on Salisbury Plan Training Area, continued over the Christmas and New Year period. The support we now give is only on a repair and maintenance basis, trying to unfix that which other fingers have managed to cause. Those who have continued to be involved are the Lineman and TE Techs—**Cpls Martin, Chapman** and **Alan Eley** and **Sgt Mick Coxon** and **LCpl Nige Parry.** The Op continues but looks like ending soon when the work of dismantling the system will become the Lineman's next problem.

HELICOPTER TRAINING

Following the successful training last November, another sortie was flown on 22 Jan under the auspices of **Sgt Roger Key.** This time the training was more advanced and was carried out in full kit. It also involved a number of missions flown in darkness and after the final mission those involved were dropped off and given a patrol task to pick up a 'resistance' worker and get him back to the barracks. Everything went smoothly apart for one incident during a helicopter move earlier in the afternoon. We are however unable to print here the comments that the Airloadmaster made when **Cpl Brian Hayward** tried to take him with him down the rope on a rope descent!

THE NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

As part of the Comd's Training Directive for 1981, we are undertaking weekly NBC instruction and wearing of NBC Suits and respirator. All this is under the eagle eyes of **Sgt Vic Ovington** and **Cpl Pete Peakall** who have rejoiced in seeing us all leaving the CS Chamber choking and spluttering—especially OC A Tp **Lt John McIntyre** whose respirator wouldn't come fully off when he tried to give his number rank and name inside the chamber.

For those who have tried to contact the squadron on Fridays during the year should be warned to have patience for the person they are trying to talk with—remember he does have a respirator on!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Two days after the Bravo Troop formation parade **Brig J. H. Learmont CBE** departed from 8 Fd Force after an eventful two years as Comd to go to RCDS in London. His departure from the Headquarters was not by his usual form of transport by but that provided by 22 Engr Regt. As the photograph shows he was flanked by members of the squadron who cheered him on his way.

Others who have departed for pastures new are **Cpls Derek Whyle** and **Andy Hockley** who have gone to be educated on their TI course at Catterick. **Sgt Chris Lagoutte** our MTO is now languishing in the sun in Belize and **Sig Walton** who no sooner had he come from 559 RLD than he volunteered for the White Helmets.

To the squadron we welcome the new Comd, **Brig M. J. A. Wilson OBE MC, SSgt Alan Bushell** as MTO, **Cpl Colin Way** to the MT, **Cfn Dennis O'Toole** to the LAD, **Cpl Brian Hayward** to B Tp and the Rugby Team and **Sig Kraweckyj** to A Tp (where everyone is having trouble trying to pronounce his name).

Temporarily attached to the squadron from CT Tp of 11 Sig Regt are **Sigs Andy Bulmer, Roy Hallam, Scouse McCartney** and **Wack Wakefield** to B Tp and **Sigs Bob Geelan** and **Tony Greenhill** to the MT. They are all joining in squadron activities for their short stay with us while awaiting trade courses at Catterick—even the NBC training!

Brig J. H. Learmont CBE leaves the Headquarters for the last time—in his mobile Gabian Sangar courtesy of 22 Engr Regt, accompanied by members of the Squadron. *(L/R* Sgt Vic Ovington, SSgt Jeff Shergold, WO1 (RSM) Paddy Hunt and WO2 (YOS) Corky Corcoran

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PRINS FERRIES

229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN)
B.F.P.O. 45

THE WHIRL

For everyone December seems to disappear in a whirl of parties, shopping, celebrations and days off—oh, and a bit of military activity as well. Before we cracked into our New Year's Eve celebrations we were pleased to see the new CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** during his flying visit to Berlin; we look forward to a longer visit in due course.

DANCING LIGHTS

New Year's Eve is German Fireworks Night and in Berlin especially so. Most of the squadron managed to reach some vantage point overlooking the city and observed a spectacle that was variously described as 'all the city's lights getting up and dancing' (by the romantics) or 'as if World War Three had started' (by the pessimists).

SNOW

Inevitably January brought snow which perhaps was just as well as the planned theme of the month's military training has been Winter Warfare. Temperatures have been well below zero but although snow and ice have been a permanent part of the scene the snow has not been deep enough for snow holes. **Sgt Mick Hogben,** our instructor, was unable to demonstrate the joys of building and then soaking-wet living in a candle centrally heated hole. However he was able to use his Arctic experience, gained with 3 Commando Brigade, to train the squadron in the various aspects of fighting, working and surviving in extreme cold.

BOXING

During the last week of January a few members of the squadron challenged the might of the three infantry battalions in the Berlin Infantry Brigade Novices Boxing Competition. In the preliminary bouts **Sig Gary Johnson** and **Sig Paul Matthews** had fierce 'slugging' matches for the full three rounds but lost on points. **Sig Davey Paterson** beat his man in two rounds to reach the Semi Finals with **Sig Steve Stephen** who had a bye.

The infantry boxers showed their greater experience all through the semi finals, nevertheless they had to struggle with our two who both went the distance. **Sig Davey Paterson** was particularly unlucky not to win his bout—he even had opposition supporters cheering for him—however he did win the medal for the best loser in the competition. We add our congratulations to those of the chief Referee to the whole team for their splendid performance.

HOCKEY

To make up for losing **Sgts Chris Mooney** and **Derek Woodford** this season, half the football team have defected, or are moonlighting, for the hockey team and are doing well under the able tuition of **Sgts Alan Reece and Ian Duncan.** We finished January with a hard hockey match against D Battery 7 RHA in the Final of the 1st Armoured Division Minor Units Competition. Although we had most of the game D Battery were very dangerous on more than one occasion. Some brilliant stopping by **Sgt Bob Lewis** in goal and clearing action by the OC, **Maj Peter Webster,** at right back saved us. This was exploited by **Sig Dickie Bird** at right half and **Cpl Phil Cutforth** on the wing who managed to keep the pressure up and enable **Cpl Don Boscoe,** at centre forward, to ease one past their keeper to make us the Divisional Minor Units Champions for the second year running.

1st Armoured Division Minor Units Hockey Champions

Back Row Left to Right: Cpl Graham Hughes, Sig Dickie Bird, Sgt Bob Lewis, LCpl Dave Cawkwell, Sgt John Mold, Maj Peter Webster (OC)
Centre Row Left to Right: Sgt Ian Duncan, Sgt Alan Reece, Sgt George Myerscough
Front Row Left to Right: Cpl Paul Tuite, Cpl Don Boscoe, Cpl Tony Reynolds, Cpl Phil Cutforth, SSgt (FofS) McDonald
(They do not all play at once—we can count too!)

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON AMF(L)

The Squadron worked hard to keep up its Arctic Training despite having returned from Norway in April. Recruiting engagements included some 10,000 people on the Sqn Snowshoe Walk at the Aldershot display.

AFTER THE COUP

Arriving in Turkey only a week after the military coup the advance party of **Lt Jim Barry** and the PAP net found only sunshine and smiles but still seemed a little relieved when the rest of the sqn deployed to join them.

This was the first Southern Flank Exercise for the AMF(L) for six years. It was also very important for the Corps. Despite the very dry and dusty conditions ('just like Salisbury Plain without the trees'—anon) the Clansman equipment worked well and impressed our allies. Like the Clansman the sqn was put through its paces but was always made sure to remain inside the exercise perimeter after dark, especially because of the helpful armed Turkish guards!

REWARDING

As the exercise ended the sqn returned the best time in the NATO march and shoot competition but narrowly failed to win the competition outright due to mediocre shooting.

Members of the sqn had to say goodbye to their various pets; lizards, tortoises and a host of insects and depart back to wintry Bulford after a very rewarding exercise.

Multi National Squadron, Cpl Rameshkaji Rai, Cpl Greig and Cpl Oswin RAS during deterrent Ops

'It's the same as any other country only harder'. Lineman Sig Conchie and Sig Richmond dig in

'What do you mean move it'. Sgt Calow keeping his sense of humour

Visit of D. Saceur
Lt Gen Sir Jack Harman KCB, OBE, MC with the OC talking to LCpl Nelson, Cpl Oswin and Sig Vear

GERMAN OPPONENTS

The usual football match with the German Wire Coy (after we had built a pitch) turned into a very tense and exciting game with some very good play despite the thistles and some interesting refereeing by **Maj Basso,** OC USA HQ Coy. The result 2—2?

The Big Match—The two teams (249 in skins) explain the rules to the referee Maj Basso USA

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

LOOKING BACK

It is with pride and optimism that we move into 1981 and it is appropriate that we should reflect on some of the successful events of late 1980 on the social, sporting and technical scenes.

TECHNICAL REPORT

The CPA team under the guidance of **WO1 (FofS) Danny Rotherham** and **SSgt (FofS) Kent Preston** have kept up their good work in installing 'new' Radio Relay System and Akrotiri Main went unmanned in Dec 80. Well done men; don't stop. Erecting 12 ft dishes on masts at the top of Troodos Mountain in mid-winter was no easy task and we are very grateful to DOE and the aerial riggers of the RAF.

MILSKILLS HAT-TRICK

The Squadron achieved its greatest military success in the Island-wide Milskills Competition. Everyone on the island was 'out to get us' but **Lt John Steed** ably supported by **SSgts Mick Carpenter** and **Dave 'Foxy' Fox** held off strong challenges from 48 Comd Wksp and 58 Sqn RCT to turn out winners for the third time running by just 30 points in 2000. Our shooting, first aid and IS skills were all up to scratch but surprisingly we were one minute late on the route march; more fitness training next year!

SPORTS ROUND-UP

The Squadron rugby team remains unbeaten in the minor unit matches. We were sorry to see the departure of **Sgt Glen Pennington** who scored a try in his final game, the annual 'friendly' against 262 Signal Squadron. What a hooker and what game; we won 46-6. We believe our success stems from the experience (or old age) of the over 30s; **Maj Cliff Walters, SSgts Pete Whitbread, Rod Gladwin, Davy Fox** and **Sgt Bruce Casburn.**

The hockey team captained by **Sgt Keith Tillman** starts the new year at the top of the league thanks to the excellent goal keeping of **Cpl Derek Leggatt** who held the RAF to a draw almost single handed.

The football team has lost the youthful **WO2 (SSM) Davy Osborne** but **Sgts Liam Currell** and **Chris Gardner** continue the good work.

The squash team of **Maj Cliff Walters, SSgts Bob Atkinson** and **Mick Carpenter** also start the new year at the top of the league. Unfortunately we now lose **Mick Carpenter** and will be fortunate if we maintain our present position.

SOCIAL DIARY

As ever, December was hectic with a multitude of Squadron and Troop social events. The most enjoyable for most and especially **LCpl** 'Father Christmas' **Steve Strafford** must have been the children's party in the 3Rs Club. We would like to thank **SSgt Latchford** ACC and his staff for excellent food and to **Cpl John O'Donnell** for organising such a memorable occasion.

The 'Booze-Up' of the year goes to the Wives Club who hold their annual Xmas dinner at the Sovereign Club. No Santa Claus here; just **Cpls John O'Donnell** and **Brummy Seaton, Sig Bob Shotton** and **Mrs Jo Whitbread** to provide entertainment.

The Squadron Xmas draw belonged to **Sgt Paul Baines** who unveiled the OC's past in the first live showing in Cyprus of 'This is Your Life'. Tech Tp spared no expense in flying the OC's coloured brother, alias **Cpl 'Wolfy' Wolfendale** and his long lost mother, **Sgt Andy Dipple** (who was either speechless or drunk) all the way from Bradford!!!

VISITORS

We have had the pleasure of visits by four senior officers during late 1980. The Squadron said farewell to CBFC **Maj Gen W. R. Taylor** and greeted **Air Vice Marshal R. L. Davis.** We were honoured that **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB MBE** paid a brief visit in November during his SKC tour. His previous visit was as SOinC on 5 February 1973. Finally we were able to show **Monsignor D. N. McMillan** Principal RC Chaplain and Vicar General (Army) how Royal Signals communicates with its flock.

259 (SSM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron is beginning to take on the look of a breeding ground for SSMs. Apart from promoting our own SQMS into **WO2 (SSM) Brian Morrison** we have also in 1980 provided **WO2 (SSM) Davy Osborne** for 1 Div Sig Regt, **WO2 (SSM) Rob Burnett for 21 Sig Regt, WO2 (SSM) Mick Carpenter** for 7 Sig Regt and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould** for 4 Div Sig Regt. What is more we have more budding SSgts in the wings (OIC Manning & Records please take note).

SHQ PERSONALITIES

Front Row (L to R): Litsa (typist), Maj Cliff Walters, Capt Philip Rouse, WO2 (SSM) Davy Osborne.

Back Row (L to R): Tony (cleaner), SSgt Mick Carpenter, Cpl John O'Donnell, Sig Paul Baker, SSgt Arthur Jones.

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News from Troops

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

AS SHE REALLY IS

You will have read about it in your daily papers, you may even have seen it on the TV, well now you can hear about it from the horse's mouth. Belize as she really is, the heart of the Caribbean basin. To clear up any misconceptions—Royal Signals in Belize do work (hard), there *are* numerous Caribbean paradise islands located not far from Belize on the Barrier reef and six months is probably long enough to pack in a host of experiences, both on and off duty, the like of which you are unlikely to find anywhere else in the Corps.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Well that's the advert over—all volunteers most welcome, posts available for almost all trades, six months unaccompanied and we've even got LOA (again).

It has been a hectic time since our last Notes. The hurricane and wet seasons are over, our regular Force Exercise, Ex *Montezumas Revenge* has been completed and **Capt Bob West** finally left for further education of an academic nature and **Capt Paddy Crowley** arrived for further education of a Belizean nature.

One of the experiences not to be missed is the joy of Joint Service working. That means not only do we have the normal problems of working with the Staff and the Gunners but also the RAF. It had been intended that, as foremost exponents of the art, **LCpl Boss Downes** and his band of Linemen **LCpl Munch McGreevy, Sig Young Pete Frankland** and **Sig Chris Scales** should write a short article on their efforts in that direction. Having recently been involved in 'a discussion' with a pyromaniac LAC operating a flame-thrower, followed swiftly by 'a discussion' with an RAF Officer on moving the RAF Ops room—something about moving the coffee table and not the phones!—it was felt better in the interests of Joint Service relations that it be left to the reader's imagination.

NOTABLE RESPONSE

Cpl Beetle Bailey has moved on from Radio APC (our local BFBS station, run by volunteers) and has been succeeded by **Cpl Bray.** Various members of the Troop and camp followers, namely **Cpls 'CJ the DJ' Joannes, Paul Curley, Sigs Funky Gibbon** and **Pete Gibbs** and **Carol Davey,** continue to provide the entertainment on our radio system around Airport Camp. All were involved, with volunteers from the other units, in raising approximately 3,500 Belizean dollars towards the Wireless for the Blind appeal.

Ex *Montezumas Revenge* offered a chance for some of the Troop to get out of Camp as umpire's drivers. Not many stories have come to light yet—either they are all bashful or they have got something to hide! The umpires left Belize yesterday so perhaps we will now start to hear some 'war stories'. 6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn sent three dets and a Tfc Offr to sort us out and reinforce us. After a bumpy and long flight and a little help from their friends they disappeared into the jungle, leaving **Tfc Offr Capt Tony Cudlipp, Sgt Tony Glover, Sgt Garth Pickersgill** and **Sig Burrows** here in camp. After sampling the delights of Belize the dets began their long haul back to UK. The last we heard they were still at Pope, in the States, grounded with a sick Hercules.

Since most of the stories about the exercise and the Troop seem to revolve around the new OC these will be left out. Suffice it to say the Piccolo equipment will have a silencer fitted prior to the next exercise on pain of more stand-to's! Finally a thought for today—6 months is 182 days and nobody has got 6 months to do.

Association News

BRIGHTON BRANCH

This branch concluded its social activities for 1980 on 6 Dec, with the Annual Dinner and Dance, on this occasion designated the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, in honour of the 60th birthday of our Corps. The highly successful event was held as on previous occasions, at the Sackville Hotel, Hove, with nearly 90 members and guests attending.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by **Capt E. J. B. Keith,** and that to our Colonel in Chief by **Maj L. Caldicot MBE, TD. Mr L. Parrack** offered a toast to Royal Signals and The Association, to which **Ken Flint** made a very witty reply.

The guest of honour was **Col K. D. Brown, TD,** who in reply to the toast to Our Guests, proposed by the Chairman, **Maj R. Purkis,** expressed his pleasure at the way in which former Regular soldiers and serving members of the Corps in the Territorial Army, combined harmoniously and successfully to advance the aims and interests of this thriving branch.

Following an excellent dinner, a presentation of an onyx Parker desk set was made to **Mr Bill Harvey,** in recognition of his many generous donations to Branch Funds.

Before dancing began in the spacious ballroom, the Grand Christmas Draw was presided over by the Guest of Honour, assisted by no less a popular and topical visitor than Santa Claus, in person, and familiar costume. To conclude a very pleasant pre Christmas celebration, dancing continued into the early hours, with a generally expressed view that the same venue be engaged for the next similar occasion, on 5 Dec 1981.

The well attended AGM was held on 6 Feb 1981 with the President; **Col Tom Boileau** and Vice president **Maj Leo Caldicot** in attendance.

Most regrettably, Chairman **Robin Purkis** is by doctors orders unable to continue for the present in his energetic activities on behalf of the Branch. In his place, **Bob Bailey,** former vice chairman was elected unanimously and took the chair for the remaining proceedings during which the smooth election of new Branch Officers and Committee was concluded, and a cordial vote of thanks expressed to the retiring Chairman and Committee members.

Fortunately, our Hon Secretary, **Dave Tupper,** agreed to continue his arduous duties for a further period, by common consent, hopefully a long one.

The meeting was followed by a Social Evening, which included a splendid buffet supper organised and prepared by Social Secretary **Peter Philips,** assisted by his expert lady members, to whom our thanks are presently expressed.

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

NEWCASTLE & DISTRICT BRANCH

Report by Jim Robson

At the beginning of Dec the Branch held a Christmas social in the hotel of our Chairman, **John Graham,** the occasion also being the launching of the Chairman's new career as a publican.

Although there was an absence of T. A. members owing to an unforeseen clash of dates with a T.A. exercise, the night was a great success, and the opportunity was taken to present our new Darts Challenge Shield to the tournament winner, the same **Mr Graham.** We intend to have more socials of a similar kind during the summer, (if any). The Branch continues to have a fairly steady influx of new members and we extend a warm welcome to all 'Geordies' leaving the Corps in the near future.

John Graham with the Darts Trophy

YORK BRANCH

A flood-lit York Minster on a clear evening provided a splendid backdrop to the ancient Merchant Taylors' Hall, once again the venue for the highlight of our social calendar, the Branch Annual Dinner, still happily under the Presidency of a spritely-as-ever **Lt Col G. R. 'Nat' Gould.** Inside the Hall, a mighty open log fire and candle-lit tables were a welcoming setting for a most enjoyable evening; the arrangements being once again a tribute to the efforts of our Branch Secretary, **Tony Leavesley** and the Committee. The date this year was 6 Feb, and we were delighted and honoured to welcome the Association Chairman, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** as our principal guest—the more so as he left a sick wife to be with us and dashed home again on the night train. Most welcome too were **Lt Col A. F. Carter MBE,** CO 11 Sig Regt and **Mrs Carter.** As would be expected, the after-dinner speeches by the Chairman and **Col Carter** were of a high order, informative and spiced with hunour, and were much appreciated.

The Branch membership showed an increase during 1980 and our monthly meetings continue to be well supported. We have been pleased to welcome **Col A. H. Dennis** who has moved to York on retirement. We also welcomed at our January meeting, **Maj K. H. Dewis** who has replaced **Maj Bryan Abbiss** in 240 Sig Sqd. We much appreciate the support **Maj Abbiss** gave the Branch during his tour here. The company of **Joe Franklin** a stalwart Branch member who has recently emigrated to Canada will also be missed. Christmas activities included a Social Evening held at the Central Conservative Club, York. This was well supported and enjoyed—but don't some people get all the luck in Raffles! The Committee are busy planning further social activities to stimulate interest, and members are already looking forward to the Annual Reunion at Catterick in June.

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Sport

BASKETBALL

UK TOUR 21—30 NOVEMBER 1980

Report by Capt (TOT) T. J. Everett

ASSEMBLY AT BLANDFORD

Most of the Squad of 13 players, the coach and myself had assembled in the gymnasium at Blandford on 22 Nov. Training was to start at once, coach **SSgt Doug Poultney** setting about his annual attempt to create an effective basketball side from the assembled enthusiasts.

SLOW START

The Weymouth side, who dominate the Dorset league and also play in the Exeter league duly arrived on Sunday morning. After a very slow start to the match by both sides the score being 2—6 to Weymouth after 10 mins the score rate stepped up just a little with Weymouth edging ahead to a 29—17 lead at the half, the second half followed much the same pattern as the first and the final score was Corps 34 Weymouth 57.

TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY

Sunday's afternoon game is traditionally a friendly match versus the Blandford Garrison side to give those members of the corps squad that may not have played in the morning a competitive game. The garrison scored the first basket and managed to keep that margin to a score of Corps 23 Garrison 26 at half time. An aggressive start to the second half took the garrison further into the lead at 44 to 33 at the ten minute point. By this time the garrison had lost the two old men to injuries **Capt (TOT) Terry Everett** in the first half and **Capt (TOT) John Kirton** in the second half both ending up at Poole hospital at the end of the match. In the 14th minute our campaigner from the Royal Australian Signals, **Capt Joe Thompson** was awarded his 4th and 5th fouls and had to leave the court. From here to the end it was a matter of survival for the garrison who just managed to hold on for a win with the Corps closing fast as the seconds ticked away; Corps 51 Garrison 52 **Sgt Bob Mahoney** playing for the garrison on this occasion and scoring 18 of their points.

SUCCESS

Monday and the coach working hard at trying to organise the teams play pattern and sharpen individual skills. The evening arrived, all too soon, and the next match against the RCT. The RCT were first to score and went to a 7—3 lead in the sixth minute; we recovered to level in the same minute and went on to a 21—11 lead by the ten minute point. RCT fought back for a half time score of Corps 37—RCT 35. In the second half the RCT scored two quick baksets to go into the lead this was followed by nine minutes of sustained cohesion from the Corps to go to a 65—47 lead by the 10th minute; a scrappy but even finish Corps 79 RCT 58.

EVEN THROUGHOUT

Tuesday and our opposition was to be the Ferndown Basketball Club. The match was relatively even thoughout with good defence on both sides but Ferndown managing to score a couple more baskets in each half and ran out winners 49 to 40. A match that a more aggressively confident Corps side should have won quite comfortably.

DISAPPOINTING RESULTS

Wednesday and a trip to Aldershot to play the Services side. An evenly fought first half ending at Services 27 Corps 21—mediocre play from the Services side without the full support of their Captain and playmaker **QSMI Chris Bunnett APTC** should have enabled the Corps to take command but in the second half it was Services that managed to achieve psychological supremacy to run out winners at 68 to 49. Another match where we failed to take the initiative.

Back to Blandford on Thursday to play the Royal Navy. A good side who entered the Southern League this year to get more experience. We started the match determined to do better. A slow start to 13 each at the ten minute point, then evenly fought to the half with the Navy just stealing the edge 34 to 29. The second half and the Senior Service came on court to demonstrate the sort of hustle and commitment necessary for survival in Southern League Basketball. Putting on a full court press and double teaming the man in possession of the ball caused the less experienced Corps team to lose many possessions, often before they managed to get any sort of offensive play started. This combined with good breaking and penetrating offensive play against a defence which was unsettled and off balance led to a match score of Corps 48 Royal Navy 82.

THE TRIANGULAR

On saturday to Aborfield for the triangular with REME and APTC. Team morale was still good, the players cheerful, but resigned to the belief that they could not win. This was obvious from the first jump ball when even those players that had done well earlier in the week failed to produce their form. A thankless task left to the likes of **SSgt Geoff Back** who worked unstintingly throughout the day, despite injury, to try and lift the team performance. The results were Corps 40 APTC 83 and Corps 36 REME 97.

A disappointing finish to a disappointing week. A lot of hard work was put into the tour by everyone concerned. **SSgt Doug Poultney's** task as coach, which at first sight of the players had looked as though it might be reasonably easy, in the event turned out to be very difficult, not helped by having to RTU after the Wednesday match handing over to **Staff Tony Bird** to complete the tour and coach during the harder matches towards the end.

One of our aims this year in the absence of many of the senior players was to expose as many new young players to Corps basketball as possible, this left the balance too much towards youthful enthusiasm with not enough clam steady experience in the side to control it. The players all exhibited some good basic skills and understanding of the game from time to time but as a group failed to improve, learn and adapt to the requirements essential to raise the team performance to Corps standard, which is several large steps above the general standard of unit level basketball. It is hoped that experience will inspire them to greater efforts to improve personal skills and game awareness and achieve a better overall result on future tours.

Standing Left to Right: SSgt Doug Poultney (21 Sig Regt (Coach)), Sgt Mick Palmer (10 Sig Regt), Sgt Dave Smith (233 Sig Sqn), LCpl Mick Wilkerson (28 Sig Regt), Capt (TOT) Terry Everett (School of Signals (Secretary)), LCpl Gaz Crouch (21 Sig Regt), Sgt Colin Elstob (4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt), Sgt Bob Mahoney (30 Sig Regt), SSgt Geoff Back (7 Sig Regt).

Sitting Left to Right: Sig Jimmy Peat (39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn), Cpl Martin Widdicombe (233 Sig Sqn), Sig Taff Chiplin (22 Sig Regt), SSgt Tony Bird (13 Sig Regt (Capt)), Cpl Gary Gillings (21 Sig Regt), Cpl Knocker Hardie (7 Sig Regt).

HERE AND THERE

7 REGT

The CO presenting the parade to CCR Signals

16 REGT

The last few yards to the BFBS Radio studios in Cologne

8 REGT

Sgt Steve Hilton competing in the Yorkshire Championships

Pte Elly Garland WRAC in a party mood

35 REGT

'You will soon get the hang of it'
Hereford Post Office Technician LCpl Garry Cullen (*Left*) demonstrating the C41 RR Set to Y Troop's first member of the WRAC to be trained for RR. Pte Margaret Baker

'It will come in handy during power cuts'
The CO Lt Col John Billingham presents a silver candelabra to Col Tony Fender TD DL to mark his term of office as Hon Col

8 FD FORCE

Some members of the Squadron take the quick way down during recent helicopter drills—training which we carry out regularly in preparation for our Priority 2 worldwide role

249 SIG SQN

LCpl 'JC' Craven 'eyeing' potential recruits

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Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 375, please.

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Corps table mats (set of six)	22.00	25.00
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Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.25	3.60
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Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	3.80	4.35
Crested glass ash trays	1.15	1.35
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1.90	2.20
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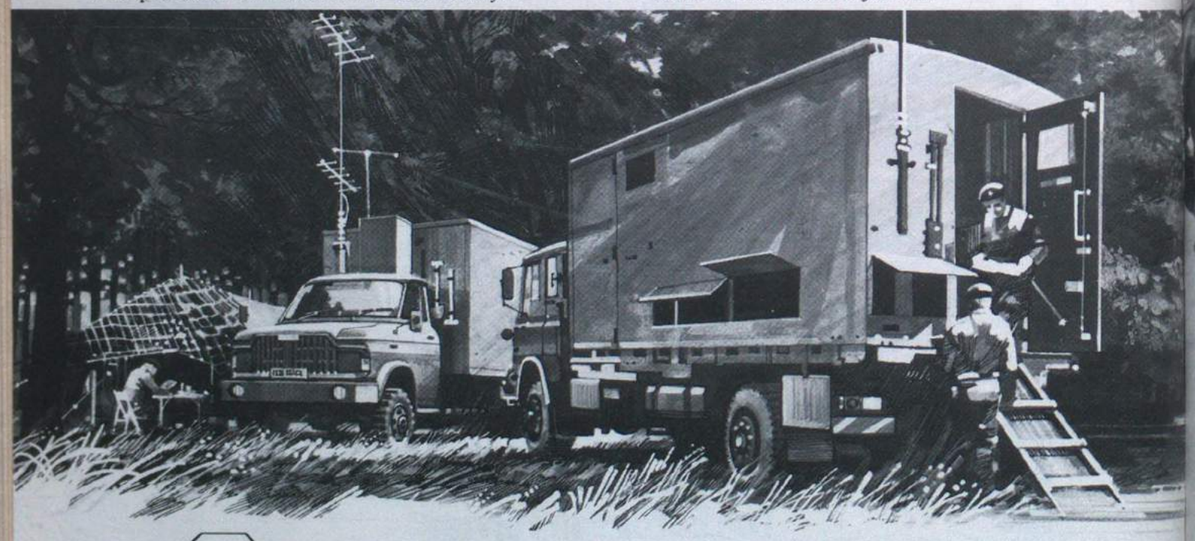

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THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

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THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Many congratulations to 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment who are Army Cross Country Champions 1981. (L to R) CO, Capt Mike Rescorle, LCpl Stuart Little, Sig Jim Brebner, Sgt Pete Probin, SSgt George Holden BEM, Sig Scouse Kelly, Sig Dougie Martin, LCpl Bill Bailey, Sig Mac McPhilbin, RSM, LCpl Talbot. (See report on page 198). (Photo courtesy PR HQ 1 Armd Div)

BGS Signals Reviews Corps Affairs

BGS Signals (Army), Brig P. J. Evans MBE ADC, addressed Branch representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on 25 April. We are pleased to publish the substance of his talk with the knowledge that it will be of interest to our readers.

INTRODUCTION

Last year's addresses to the Association was given by Maj Gen Anderson. He was replaced, as you know, by Maj Gen Bate who died suddenly and tragically in September. Royal Signals could ill afford the loss of an officer of the quality of Gen Chris Bate and we owe him our deepest thanks for all that he contributed to the Corps during his service. The Corps marked his passing at a special memorial service in London on 17 October 1980.

Gen Birtwistle is indisposed and is very sorry not to be with you today, I am very pleased to deputise for him and to address you at this important Annual Meeting.

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

One of the highlights of the Corps programme in the past year was the presentation of a Royal Banner to Queen's Gurkha Signals in May. The custom of wearing banners on bagpipes is well established in the bands of Highland and Gurkha units but Queen's Gurkha Signals have the distinction of having a Royal Banner. The original banner was presented by HRH The Princess Royal in 1956 and shortly after Princess Anne took up Her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief Royal Signals she agreed to present a replacement Royal Banner to Queen's Gurkha Signals. This resulted in a magnificent presentation ceremony in Buckingham Palace where Queen's Gurkha Signals were represented by the Regimental Pipes and Drums; a Parade Contigent drawn from Gurkha Signallers serving with the United Kingdom Gurkha Infantry Battalion or attending various training courses in the United Kingdom; and a large number of members of the Gurkha Signals Association and their ladies as spectators.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

The Princess's first formal visit to a Royal Signals Territorial unit (38 Signal Regiment Sheffield) was a great success despite heavy rain showers. This was followed by a reception held by London Territorial Army signal regiments last month. As usual the enthusiasm of Her Royal Highness and of the Territorial Army shone through and the evening was a memorable one. The Colonel-in-Chief has now seen the Territorial Army in barracks in Sheffield and at a social function in London. The next occasion planned is a visit to a Territorial Army signal regiment in the field and we hope to arrange this during the 1982 training season.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

In November, the Princess paid a call on RHQ in Chelsea. This was a particularly informal visit and provided a great morale boost for the staff of the small but hard working organisation who look after the domestic interests of the Regular, Territorial and Retired Corps.

ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE HARROGATE

In the face of a typically Northern showery day, Her Royal Highness visited the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate early this year. Despite the adverse weather and a very uncomfortable helicopter journey for the Princess, the visit went very well and the Apprentices were delighted at the interest the Princess took in their activities.

ADMIRATION

I think you will have detected from my comments that we are extremely lucky to have Princess Anne as our Colonel-in-Chief. Wherever she goes, I receive glowing reports of admiration for the way

she conducts her visits with charm, genuine interest and good humour — so often under trying circumstances.

OPERATIONS

IRANIAN EMBASSY SEIGE

You will all have seen the dramatic media coverage of the breaking of the Iranian Embassy seige by a Special Air Service team. Needless to say, the assault was part of a larger operation the details of which must obviously remain classified. However, I can tell you that the operation included a large proportion of Royal Signals personnel — some serving as badged SAS, some serving with 264(SAS) Signal Squadron and a few experts from the School of Signals. As a Sunday Times Insight article stated shortly after the seige:

'Communications are of such importance to the SAS that a gifted signaller will be particularly cherished by the Regiment'.

VANUATU

Gen Anderson was able to report on the activities of 1 Signal Group in the successful transition to independence operation in Rhodesia last year. A similar, though smaller, operation took place in the New Hebrides (now called Vanuatu) later on last year. The widely publicised 'Royal Marines Force' actually included over 50 signallers from 30 Signal Regiment and 6 Field Force HQ and Signal Squadron. The signallers established rear link HF communications to the United Kingdom via Australia and this gave them a very welcome opportunity to work with our colleagues in Royal Australian Signals.

Within the New Hebrides, force liaison nets and inter-island nets for both British and French forces were provided by the Royal Signals contingent and I am pleased to report that communications were excellent throughout.

NORTHERN IRELAND

In Northern Ireland our four signal squadrons plus some 60 emergency reinforcements continue to provide conventional command and control communications as well as providing a vital element in intelligence gathering and bomb disposal operations.

HONG KONG

In Hong Kong, Queen's Gurkha Signals with two squadrons deployed, provides communications for the operations in the New Territories designed to stem the tide of illegal immigration into the already overcrowded colony.

BELIZE

In our last remaining South American colony, Belize, 633 (Caribbean) Signal Troop provides rear link and in-theatre Force communications. With the large Guatamalan Army massing on the frontier and with internal politcal factions creating additional security problems, the situation remains tense. Although there is talk of independence in the near future, it seems likely that the 70 or so Royal Signals personnel will remain in Belize for some time to provide communications for security forces and perhaps to provide signals training advice for the local Belize defence forces.

CYPRUS

We continue to maintain a large presence in Cyprus including the equivalent of a signal squadron serving with the United Nations peace-keeping force.

EX 'CRUSADER'

You will all have read in the press and The Wire of Exercise *Crusader* which was the largest exercise carried out by the British Army since the 1950's. Royal Signals were, of course, heavily involved. Approximately 500 officers and men from the Corps training organisation reinforced regular Royal Signals regiments and squadrons in BAOR to enable them to practice their war role at full strength. In addition, Territorial Army signal units from UK practiced their home defence and BAOR reinforcement roles.

Communications in general were very good and the importance of the Territorial Army in complementing the Corps' wartime Order of Battle was brought home to everyone. Many lessons were learned and the Post Exercise Report will be of immense value to us in arranging our training, procedures and organisations for the future.

MANPOWER — MANNING

Increases in our manning strengths, which we have been anticipating for some time, are at last materialising. Wastage rates, the other side of the manning equation, are still declining satisfactorily while the length of service given by our soldiers continues to be above the Army average. Our training units are fully stretched absorbing the extra manpower and we have recently formed the Junior Regiment Royal Signals to help cope with this most welcome of problems.

Although some restrictions have been placed on further recruiting for financial reasons, we are cautiously optimistic that our current shortfall of 900 men in the Corps will be progressively reduced over the next few years.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS WITHIN ROYAL SIGNALS

Studies into the wider employment of WRAC have been going on for many years and we have recently examined all Royal Signals establishments to identify posts which will be suitable for filling by either men or women.

The Dual Post Review, as it is called, is now complete. Within the Corps, 38 officer and 388 soldier posts have been identified as suitable for filling by either WRAC or male R Signals on an equal basis. These include posts which will give selected WRAC officers the opportunity of a full career to Lieutenant Colonel within the Corps; and, for Servicewomen, posts in employments which have hitherto not been open to WRAC. It is expected that ultimately up to about half of these posts will be filled by WRAC officers and Servicewomen at any one time.

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

The problems of financial constraint under the Governments strict cash limits policy forced an almost total moratorium on defence equipment expenditure towards the end of last year. Some exceptions were granted (for example vital communications projects in Northern Ireland), but few projects have emerged unscathed. Some communications projects have been cancelled and the in-service dates of many others have been delayed. On the bright side, tactical satellite communications enter service officially next month. You may remember that we sent prototype tactical satellite stations to Rhodesia last year and they proved a great success. The production models will be issued to 30 Signal Regiment in Blandford and to 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron.

SPORT

Despite the distractions of operations and major exercises, we have not been idle on the sports field where our results over the past twelve months have included:

Shooting—SSgt (YofS) Corcoran won the Queen's Medal at Bisley.
Rugby—7th Signal Regiment were defeated by only one point in the BAOR Rugby Championships.
Soccer—28th Signal Regiment were beaten by only one goal in the final match of the BAOR Soccer Competition whilst 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) were similarly pipped at the post in the BAOR Minor Units Soccer Competition.
Skiing—22nd Signal Regiment were runners up in the Army Skiing Championships.
—2nd Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment won the Army Alpine Skiing Championships.
Cross Country —1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment retained the Army Cross Country Championship for the third year in succession.
Squash—The Corps Squash Team were runners up in the Army inter-Corps Championships and Capt Neil Stewart is the Army Squash Champion for the sixth time.
Swimming—229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) won the Army Minor Units Swimming Championship last year for the fifth year in succession.
—The Army Apprentices College Harrogate were runners up in the Army Junior Water Polo Championships.
Athletics—Cpl Peacock of 7th Signal Regiment won first place in the Army Athletics Championships last year and at the same Army Championships, Cpl Cain of 8th Signal Regiment won the Army 5000 metres race.

CONCLUSION

Gen Birtwistle has asked me to pass on the following message to you.

'During my first year in post I hope to visit as many Corps units as possible and I have already visited a number in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Having just come from Germany, I also have a feel for the state of the Corps in BAOR. I can, therefore, confidently tell you that despite the pressures forced on us by the Government's financial policy and its unpleasant effects in terms of cuts in manpower, equipment and training time, the Corps morale remains extremely high. Wherever I go, I find well-motivated, cheerful and intelligent soldiers and I have no doubt that although we are currently a bit short on quantity, there is no shortage in quality.

As I see it, the problems ahead of us are no different from those being experienced throughout the country. We need strong leadership from all officers and seniors to maintain motivation and morale as the effects of the depression and financial constraints and cuts bite deeper. I am confident that we have the quality of officers and seniors to provide this leadership—we certainly have the quality of soldier for them to lead.'

THE PRINCESS ANNE VISITS THE ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE HARROGATE

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

A Royal visit is always a very special occasion, doubly so when that visitor is our Colonel-in-Chief. So it was, that on the morning of Tues 10 Mar, we were making last minute preparations for the visit of **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne.**

Here at Harrogate, we know a thing or two about parades and occasions and, with practiced smoothness, we made the last adjustments to timings and programme during rehearsal. **Lt Col Jess Weir,** master-mind of the arrangements, was looking contented, the Apprentice who doubled for the Royal Helicopter, folded his rotors, his moment of glory passed.

The Master of Signals, SOinC, **Brig Yeoman** and **Col Ryan** watched the fickle Harrogate weather produce fog, wind and drizzle. Urgent telephone calls were made whilst eyes searched the sky and approach roads, finally to learn that the North Yorkshire Police were providing a speedy escort from RAF Leeming.

After a surprisingly short delay, the Princess was greeted at the Officers' Mess, to start a very memorable day for us all. The weather eventually enabled that elusive helicopter to land and as the photographs show the visit proceeded unimpeded.

Her Royal Highness inspecting the Quarter Guard pauses to speak to AT Sgt Woods. AT LCpl Coomber is to the left of the picture

Maj Robin Ovenden presents Sgt Tepielow and Mr K Backett

In the Play School, Mrs Kate Parriss introduces Vicky Ashwell, Kerry Haines and Della Cameron

AT LCpl Black demonstrates equipment during the visit to Radio Group. AT Fuller is in the background

The mysteries of a microprocessor explained by AT Sgt Gill, Maj Tom Stoddart and Mr C. Shrimpton look on

AT LCpl Godbold and AT Lockley, covering the finer points, watched by Maj Richard Harrison; during the sports display

Sgt J. D. Hatch receives his LS & GC Medal

Princess Anne talks to members of the band. AT Cpl Matthews, ATs Haynes and Collins

8 year old Elizabeth Cerqua presents a bouquet on behalf of the Penny Pot Cubs and Brownies

The Colonel in Chief leaves the new junior ranks' accommodation accompanied by the Commandant and ADC, Lt Jo Fletcher

The last act of the Royal occasion. AT RSM Mackay and the College's RSM, WO1 T. Connor IG, lower the Royal Standard

A group photograph captures a memorable day

—From our "In" Tray—

YOUR CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS

'COVENANTS'—WHAT ARE THEY ALL ABOUT?

Report by: Col J. A. D. Francis, Regimental Secretary & Corps Treasurer

In the last year all trainees on entry to the Corps have been asked to 'Covenant' their 'Days Pay' subscription to Corps Funds. Now we are asking all members of the serving Corps to covenant their subscriptions too. A so-called 'Covenant' is just a simple agreement or contract between two parties, in this case you and the Corps. Because the Corps is considered to be a 'Charitable Fund' by the Tax man, RHQ can *claim back* the Income Tax that you have *already* paid on your Days Pay subscription. So for example if your Days Pay subscription was £10, then you have probably already had tax deducted at source by the Paymaster for this £10, and this tax, about £4 can be claimed back and used to help Corps welfare, benevolence and so on.

There is no way that you personally can claim this tax back yourself. It is either lost to the tax man, or used by the Corps for charitable purposes. It does not cost you personally a bean! It does not increase the cost of your subscription in any way. A covenant has to run for seven years, by law, if you stay in the Army. But if you decide to *leave* the Army then the covenant will cease automatically, and without any argument.

Lastly, (and this gets a bit more technical), some of you who know a bit more about tax returns and rules may claim that when you covenant, you lose out by not being able to claim a tax allowance for so-called 'Professional Subscriptions'. But in fact the Tax rules about 'Professional Subscriptions' are that they are only allowed where such subscriptions are in effect compulsory. Your 'Days Pay' subscription is not compulsory, so you could not claim this allowance anyway.

ANNUAL TAX RETURNS—CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is the time of the year when many of us are not sure what to include in our Annual Tax Returns (1980-1981). This may help.

Officers Only—Corps Subscription

Lt Cols & below should enter on their Tax return the amount shown under 'Regt/Corps Subscriptions' on the annual statement sent to them by the Paymaster. (P60 Substitute)

Cols & above should enter on their Tax return the greater figure shown on the R185 (AP) which they receive from RHQ for signature and return.

Officers cannot claim their Corps Subscriptions under the Tax Return heading of 'Professional Expenses' because the only obligatory part of their subscription is to the HQ Mess, and this contribution is combined with the larger, non-obligatory part of your subscription that goes to Corps Funds in general.

Soldiers—Corps Subscriptions

The Army Paymaster sends you a regular statement of account form, (P60 Substitute). You may hold it, or your unit Paymaster. On it is a figure in a box marked 'Regt/Corps Subscriptions'. This figure needs to be added by you on your Annual Tax Return in the section marked 'Covenants'.

Soldiers who are members of the Royal Signals Institution, (a few senior ranks only) may include this separate (£2.00 a year) subscription on the Annual Tax Return under the heading of 'Professional Expenses'.

If there are any queries about this necessarily rather limited guidance, please write or phone the Assistant Corps Treasurer at RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH. (London District Ext. 372).

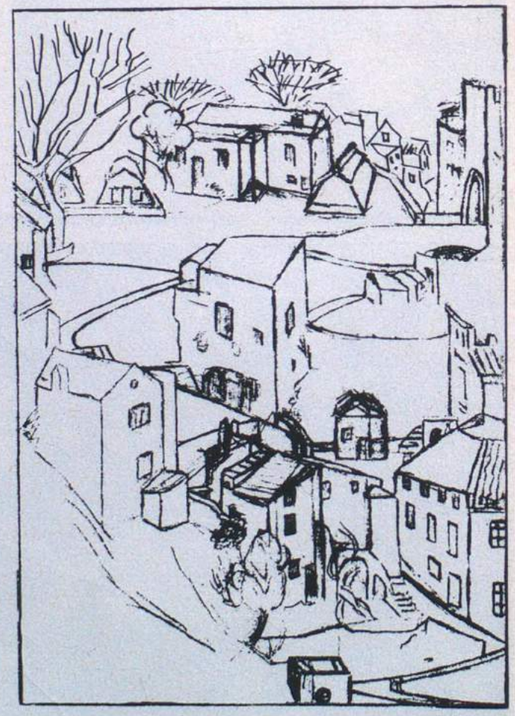
WORLD WAR 2 SIGNAL SCHOOL AT LAURO, SOUTHERN ITALY APPEAL FOR HELP WITH EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

In the far off days of World War 2 a Signal School was established in the old castle at the village of Lauro, near Naples, and a transit camp was set up in the village fields. For a time the village of Lauro became very much part of the Corps and **Col Charles Danby OBE,** the first CO, is said to have made the parish council remove a sign, 'Mussolini ha sempre ragione' and stuck up 'Keep Yourselves Clean' instead! The Corps were the only troops in the valley and became very involved with village affairs.

When the recent Italian earthquake occurred **Lt Col Roger Moore** a former instructor at the school wrote to the British Consul at Naples to find out what damage had been done to Lauro, and was told that 600 families had lost their homes. A great deal of help is needed.

It has been suggested that anyone who went through the School or Transit Camp at Lauro might like to contribute to an appeal fund. We will do our best to ensure that the money is properly used for genuine relief of earthquake victims.

You are asked to send cheques made to 'Royal Signals Corps Funds', to RHQ Royal Signals at the Association address in 'The Wire'. Later, we will publish details of the response, list those who have made donations and tell you what has been done with the money.



A sketch of the village of Lauro by Lt Col F. R. B. Moore, c. 1944. The Castle (Signal School) entrance is top right

THE OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS SCHOOL AND DEPOT CMF ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SIGNALS—AUGUST 1944, TO LAURO CASTLE

Lt Rice Instr Lines R Signals Wing, Capt (from S Africa) Instr RSI Wing, Capt ('Mac') TKO
Capt Bellamy Instr Wireless R Signals Wing, Lt Currie Instr RSI Wing (Depot), ?? Lt ? Instr Cipher School, Capt Pike Instr RSI Wing ? (Depot), Lt A. Van Zyl (from Rhodesia) Asst Adjt, Capt Cottrell Instr Lines R Signals Wing, ? (Depot), Capt Singh OC Indian Wing, Capt ? 2i/2 Depot, ? (Depot), Capt Storey QM
Capt Goold-Adams Adjt, Maj Philp OC Depot, Maj Liddington Chief Instr, Maj Gen Sir L. G. Philips Dir of Signals, Lt Col Danby Commandant, Maj Gen Nicholls SO C AFHQ CMF, Maj Crook OC R Signals Wing, Maj Gittings OC RSI Wing, Capt Burton OC Cipher School

MEMORIAL SERVICE—FIELD MARSHAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK GCB GCIE CSI DSO OBE

A memorial service will be held at Westminster Abbey on Friday 5 June 1981 at noon.

Tickets will be scarce, but those who wish to attend may apply to the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

INDIAN DIVISIONS' MEMORIAL

It is proposed to set up a memorial at the RMA Sandhurst to the Indian Divisions which fought in World War 2. It may be in the form of a series of carved, illuminated wall plaques, one for each division.

The details are not yet decided. Further information about how those of you with Indian Army connections may participate in this project will be published in future issues of 'The Wire'.

WHERE IS HE NOW?

We have had a letter from the wife of **Colonel R. P. A. Helps OBE MC** asking if we can help to trace his former batman whose name is **Bolland.** They served together in 1940-42. If anyone knows the whereabouts of **Mr Bolland,** will you please write to **Colonel John Francis** at RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

SWORDS NEEDED

The Corps has a pool of swords which is kept at HQ Training Group, Catterick, but more are needed.

If you are prepared to offer your sword on long loan to the Corps we will refurbish the sword if necessary and have it mounted with your name. It will then be used on loan by officers from all regiments on ceremonial occasions.

Any offers please to:
Colonel John Francis
Regimental Secretary
RHQ Royal Signals
Cheltenham Terrace
LONDON SW3 4RH
Phone 01-930-4466, Ext 393

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS 1981

Corps Luncheon, 13th June, Blandford

The HQ Mess, Blandford, 12 Noon. Price £5.50. Wives are welcome. Ticket applications as above. Almost all tickets have now been sold, so hurry!

THE LONDON MARATHON

Many congratulations to **SSgt W. W. Venus BEM** (attd Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines) who finished 40th in the London marathon on 29 March. (Time 2 hrs 22 mins against the winning time of 2 hrs 11 mins)

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL—REPRESENTATIVE MATCH
Report by: Lt Col Pat Massey—Army F.A. PRO
Royal Navy 0 Army 2 played at Portsmouth on 18 March

LCpl Ian Good, 22 Signal Regiment, made his Inter-Service debut in the above game. He played in the central defence but scored both goals by which the Army won and retained the Constantinople Cup (having earlier beaten the RAF 2-0).

A second Corps player in the Army party was **LCpl Billy Freear**, 244 Signal Squadron although he did not play on this occasion.

I met a former member of the Corps at the game—**Maj Bert Hamilton** (now 76) who lives in Portsmouth. **Bert** served in the Corps from 1921-1961.

Combined Services	1	Football Association XI	1
Army F.A.	0	Wiltshire F.A.	0

LCpl Ian Good, 22 Sig Regt, made his first appearance in a Combined Services side when he played against the Football Association XI at Aldershot, on 1 Apr.

LCpl Billy Freear, 244 Sig Sqn, played his first full game for the Army, against Wiltshire, in the South West Counties Championships, at Swindon on 24 Mar. **LCpl Ian Good** was also in the side—his second appearance.

Rugby

The following were capped for the Army in the Inter Services games at Twickenham versus the Navy and RAF. **Cpl Peter Lytollis**, 10 Sig Regt, **Cpl Harry Glean,** 6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn and **Cpl Harry Elkan,** 8 Sig Regt.

Cpls Peter Lytollis and **Harry Glean** also toured the USA with the Combined Services team during May and June last year and also represented the Combined Services against Zimbabwe in October at Aldershot.

Cpl Peter Lytollis was also selected to play for Combined Services versus Scotland B at Murrayfield.

The Army Colts XV also had Royal Signals representation versus the Navy **AT R. Dent**, AAC Harrogate, and against the RAF **Sig A. Poulson, Sig G. Hexter** 8 Sig Regt, **Sig R Munson** 7 Signal Regt. Replacements were **AT R. Dent** and **LCpl B. Graham** 223 Sig Sqn.

VOLUNTEERS FOR AIRBORNE DUTY

As there are now two in-role Parachute Battalions, the Corps is required to man two Parachute Rear Link Detachments and maintain a Parachute trained reserve. Volunteers (particularly R TG) are always needed to fill these posts. Applications should be forwarded through unit orderly rooms to R Signals Manning & Records Office. Volunteers will be called forward for selection and training in Aldershot and on successful completion of training will be posted to Airborne Troop.

LEARN TO HANG GLIDE THE PROFESSIONAL WAY

Have you glimpsed hang gliders floating effortlessly above you and wished that you were that intrepid birdman? Now at last you can be, for the Army Hang Gliding Centre opened on 5 Apr 1981 and can teach you to be at one with nature in the ocean of the air.

The Centre will train Servicemen to hang glide from basic to instructor level, using the British Hang Gliding Association (BHGA) Pilot Rating System and will offer, in addition to 'free-flight' hang gliding, powered hang gliding as well.

A good student on a Basic Course, should get his BHGA Pilot One Certificate (P1) in four days, so he will be on continuation flying for the remaining six days, given good weather. Thus, he should return from his course a safe, competent hang glider pilot, who can ridge soar, and it will have cost him only about £70 for his 10 days flying.

Cost of each course will be in the region of £12 per day's flying training and will cover full board, tuition, hire of equipment and transport during the course. However, once the student has achieved the aim of the course, he will then merely pay for the hire of the equipment and a small accommodation charge.

The Centre and its accommodation are located in the Sennybridge Training Area camp though the training slopes used, will depend entirely upon the day's weather.

If you want to fulfil your ambition and hang glide, then choose your course *and an alternative* from the programme below and send the dates, together with a £20 cheque as your deposit, to:

AHGA Centre
c/o HQ Wales
The Barracks
Brecon, Powys
UK

COURSES AT THE ARMY HANG GLIDING CENTRE TO SEPTEMBER 1981

Course No (a)	Course Title (b)	Assembles (c)	Disperses (d)
B7	Basic	7 Jun	19 Jun
A3	Advanced	14 Jun	19 June (1)
B8, B9	Basic	21 Jun	3 Jul
Instr 1	Instructor	5 Jul	17 Jul (2)
B12, B13	Basic	19 Jul	31 Jul
A5, A6	Advanced	2 Aug	7 Aug (1)
Centre Closed		10 Aug	7 Sep
A7	Advanced	7 Sep	13 Sep (1)
B15	Basic	13 Sep	25 Sep
B16, B17	Basic	27 Sep	9 Oct (3)

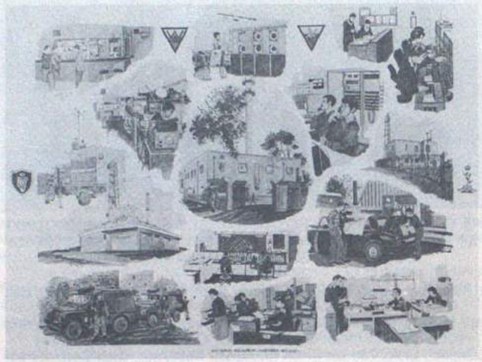
NOTES

1. BHGA P1 a necessity.
2. You require:
   A recommendation from your club
   Two years HG experience
   BHGA P2
3. Good preparation for the Army HQ Championships in mid-Oct 81.

AIMS OF THE COURSES

Basic: BHGA P1 and further continuation flying
Advanced: All the tasks and the written exam for BHGA P2
Instructor: To complete the syllabus for BHGA Instructor Courses
Expedition: As for Advanced Courses

ATTENTION ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF 233 SIGNAL SQUADRON



A painting depicting some of the scenes and work of 233 Signal Squadron has been commissioned, and colour prints are now available from the PRI, 233 Signal Squadron, BFPO 801. The prints measure 50 x 66 cm and cost £3.00 plus £1.00 for postage and packing, and are accompanied by a short description of each section.

JOINT SERVICE EXPEDITION

Approval has been given for a Joint Service Expedition to the Andaman Islands, Bay of Bengal to be held from January-April 1983. The science is to be primarily ichthyology, but there will be some research carried out on land.

The leader is **Maj J. D. Griffiths,** Royal Signals and a DCI on the project will be published in May or June 1981. The DCI will outline the aims and call for volunteers.

INTERNATIONAL MEDAL WALK—LICHFIELD

From: Mrs Jean Laikin

Dear Sir,

Book the date. Sunday 18 October. That's the date of the Lichfield International Medal Walk being organised by Help the Aged in conjunction with the Lichfield depot of the Prince of Wales Division.

Prizes for the event, both for teams and individuals, are now being received by Help the Aged. Specially designed 'Prince of Wales' medals are being made so that all walkers will have a permanent memento.

Walkers will be given the choice of three country routes—10 miles; 20 miles or 30 miles.

Entry fee will be £2.00 per person.

Application forms, and full details, will be available after 1 June, 1981, from the Britannia Building Society, 15 Market St, Lichfield, Staffs, or telephone 0533 431649.

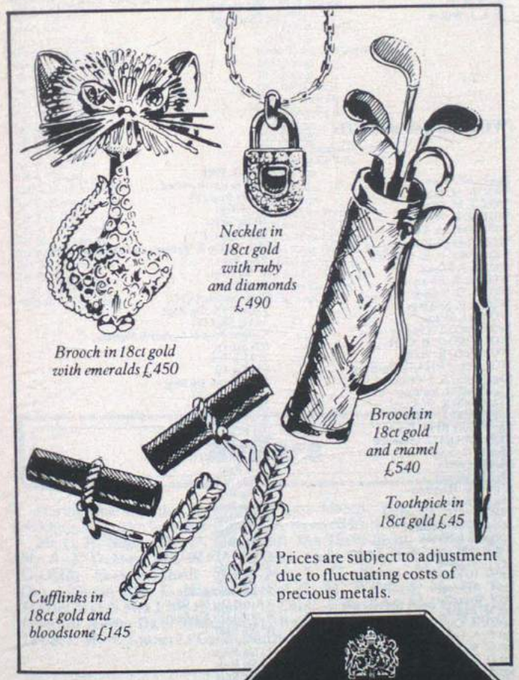
Yours sincerely,
Jean Laikin

Court Cottage,
Thurnby,
Leicestershire

Your badge... and other jewellery

You know someone who would be proud to wear this brooch. It can also be made in silver, or set with gems – and there are regimental scarf or tie pins and cuff-links too. Garrard of course offer a superb range of jewellery and other gifts.

Ask the Military Department for a copy of the Garrard Catalogue.



Prices are subject to adjustment due to fluctuating costs of precious metals.

Enquire about tax-free overseas prices.

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The Crown Jewellers

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LONDON W1A 2JJ
TELEPHONE: 01-734 7020

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

From: Maj J. P. Munnery
R Signals

Dear Sir,

A short history is being prepared of Headquarters 39 Infantry Brigade. We are a little short of material covering the period 1951-1968. Whilst we have copies of our historical record for this period, it is somewhat lacking in personal recollections or details of equipment in use at the time.

I should therefore be most grateful if any ex-members of 39 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop, 213 Signal Squadron, 39 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron or 39 Airportable Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron willing to contribute could contact me.

If anyone can be so kind as to furnish photographs these would be especially welcomed. The very best of care will be taken of such material which will, of course, be returned to its owners.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. Munnery

39 Infantry Brigade,
Headquarters &
Signal Squadron
B.F.P.O. 801

From: Maj R. P. Smith

Dear Sir,

I am collecting material to produce a book called 'Dogs and Mad Englishmen'. It will be a selection of stories about soldiers and their families and the special relationship they established with animals during their service overseas.

I should be grateful to receive contributions from readers about their experiences, not only with dogs but from the wide range of animals that fall into the category of 'pets'.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Smith

Editor,
The Men of Harlech,
(Regimental Journal of the
Royal Regiment of Wales)
The Barracks,
Brecon, Powys
LD3 7EB

ACCOMMODATION IN DURHAM

From: Lt Col D. A. Brown

Dear Sir,

I am writing to enquire whether it would be possible to advertise in any way amongst members of your Association, the excellent accommodation we have to offer here at Trevelyan College for overnight stops or for holidays during University vacations which are normally: mid December—mid January, mid March—mid April, July, August and September.

Trevelyan College is set in parkland within one mile of the City centre and is one of the most exciting buildings in the North-East, having gained a Civic Trust Award in 1969.

There are 22 double rooms and 219 single rooms, each comfortably furnished, fully centrally heated and each with its own wash-hand basin.

The bedrooms are grouped on landings of six with adjacent bathrooms and pantries.

For the convenience of guests, there are lounges with colour televisions, a licensed bar and a well stocked College shop.

Durham, with its magnificent Norman Cathedral makes an ideal overnight stop for motorists travelling to and from Scotland. Our charge for bed and breakfast is presently £5.75 per person/night, exclusive of V.A.T. which you will agree is most competitive.

I would be most grateful for any help you can possibly give me.

University of Durham
Trevelyan College
Elvet Hill Road
Durham DH1 3LN
Telephone (0385) 61133

Yours sincerely,
D. A. Brown
Bursar

Movements

Officers

APRIL 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj G. A. Allen	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Maj J. D. Ambrose	H/S Army Apprentices' College Harrogate to 7 Sep 81, then HS RAPC Trng Centre
Lt B. V. Avison	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. Mc I. Ayrton	School of Signals
Maj C. D. A. Blessington	HQ LF Cyprus
Capt W. E. Brewin	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Col D. G. Cattermull	HS 11 Sig Regt (Pending Rtd)
Lt Col M. E. G. Chandler	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Maj J. W. Cornforth	JSMTC Scotland
Capt P. J. Costello	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Cartwright	DSS (AD)
Maj D. W. Dobson	MOD Army Dept Radio Branch
2Lt M. W. Edwards	7 Sig Regt
Maj N. C. Fairley	30 Sig Regt
Maj L. G. Fraser	School of Signals
Maj R. D. M. Graham	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Griffiths	School of Signals
Maj I. J. Hamilton	RSA Larkhill
Capt (QM) J. M. Haydon	608 Sig Tp (Eqpt)
Lt Col A. J. Hill	SHAPE (Sp Int (BAE)
Lt J. E. Hogan	5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col G. A. M. Holland	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Capt R. T. Hoole	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt J. S. A. Lancaster	11 Sig Regt
Maj D. Lycett-Gregson	HQ 12 Sig Gp (V)
Capt M. J. McKinlay	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj C. B. Mercer	HQ London District R & L Staff
Lt Col J. A. Montague	School of Signals
Lt Col N. Moss	HQ BAOR
Maj E. Pickup	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Maj D. C. Provein	10 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Poppleton	School of Signals
Maj W. A. Price	Army Apprentices' College Harrogate
Col D. F. Raeft	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. H. Richardson	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col H. S. De N. Rogers	23 Liaison HQ 1 (NL) Corps
Lt Col P. G. Rogers	HQ BAOR
Col J. A. P. Russell	SHAPE (BAE)
Col M. U. Ryan	HQ NORTHAG (SP) (BAE)
Maj G. J. Thomas	School of Signals
Lt Col G. C. Verdon	Army Apprentices' College Harrogate
Maj D. J. Walden	HQNORIRELAND
Capt W. G. Wallace	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj P. B. Webster	School of Signals
Lt Col (Tfc Offr) W. Weir	HQ BAOR
Maj A. D. Whipp	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Maj R. F. Willsher	HQ North West District
2Lt M. P. Wise	H/S 11 Sig Regt until 01.06.81, then C/S School of Signals

Postings—Belated

FEBRUARY

2Lt J. Marman (SSVC)	244 Sig Sqn

MARCH

2Lt S. Swithenbank (SSVC)	3 Armd Div HQ
Lt T. A. Perkin	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

APRIL

Capt (QM-Traffic) S. Pratt WRAC	HQ Trg Gp R Signals & Garrison (HS).

MAY 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj H. M. Adams	22 Sig Regt
Capt B. J. Barton-Ancliffe	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Capt A. D. Beach	c/s School of Signals
Capt A. K. Chapman	HQ AFNORTH
Maj D. W. Cook	HS 11 Sig Regt (Language Trng)
Capt C. M. Cox	c/s School of Signals
Capt M. D. Crowther	c/s School of Signals
Lt Col A. F. Eastburn	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. T. Evans	c/s School of Signals
Lt J. M. Gale	Junior Regt R Signals
Capt A. H. Gibb	School of Signals?
Capt I. R. Grant	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt M. N. Grieves	BMATT Zimbabwe
Capt A. W. H. Harrison	c/s School of Signals
Maj J. F. Higton	ACGS (OR)
Maj (Tfc Offr) A. M. P. Howie	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Lt Col W. C. A. Kennedy	School of Signals
Capt D. J. Lawson	604 Sig Tp
Capt (Tfc Offr) C. N. Lightfoot	HS 10 Sig Regt
Capt P. L. Maloney	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Capt T. S. Maynes	c/s School of Signals
Capt D. McConnel	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj C. D. Melhuish	DSS(AD)
Col J. D. Morris	DSS(AD)
Maj N. C. Muir	HS BDLS(A) Ottawa
Capt (Tfc Offr) J. T. Nichols	7 Sig Regt
Capt R. W. Palmer	HS RMP Trg Centre
Capt D. S. Pawlow	Junior Regt R Signals
Lt K. Pritchard	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt E. H. Le Quesne	259 Sig Sqn
Maj B. Robinson	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Maj T. N. Singleton	Army Dept Radio Branch
Capt M. R. S. Stanners	21 Sig Regt
Capt N. H. Stewart	c/s School of Signals
Capt (TOT) G. J. Sullivan	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Thewlis	8 Sig Regt
Maj I. Turner	RARDE (PE) (AE)
Maj C. R. Urquhart	CA (PE (AE)
Lt Col S. G. Walker	HQ SW District
Lt P. G. F. Wilkin	Junior Regt R Signals
Lt D. L. Wise	10 Sig Regt
Capt C. L. G. Wright	c/s School of Signals
Lt G. Yule BEM	HQ AFCENT SP GP (Shetland Det)

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST — MAY

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt P. A. Brown	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt R. N. Clapp	RMAS (PUS 23)
2Lt F. J. Connor	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt N. D. Couch	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
2Lt S. P. R. Lowe	RMAS (PUS 23)
2Lt A. W. McComb	249 Sig Sqn
2Lt C. R. Owen	3 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn
2Lt M. J. Perry	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt G. J. Trevis	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt P. R. Towers	233 Sig Sqn
2lt A. J. Wilson	7 Sig Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

APRIL 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 W. H. Leslie	31 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 G. M. Lumley	8 Sig Regt
WO1 M. R. Wringe	10 Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) A. Locke	HQ 1 Sig GP
WO1 (FofS) R. Cooper	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
WO1 (FofS) P. R. Wagstaff	8 Sig Regt
WO2 T. J. Friend	11 Sig Regt
WO2 M. McBirney	9 Sig Regt
WO2 A. G. Neilson	Birmingham UOTC
WO2 B. P. Neillings	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 P. J. Skinner	34 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) T. Crawley	Comms Project Agency R Signals
WO2 (FofS) G. B. Clark	608 Sig Tp
WO2 (FofS) K. Zoing	259 Sig Sqn
WO2 (Supvr R) D. G. Burnham	633 Sig Tp
SSgt (YofS) A. J. Cerqua	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) J. Haldane	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) K. P. Straw	28 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) A. Watts	A A Coll Harrogate
SSgt (Supvr R) M. Smart	321 EOD Unit RAOC
SSgt (EW Op) G. Cromack	13 Sig Regt
SSgt N. Hyland	HQ AFNORTH
SSgt L. Collins	8 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Garbutt	School of Signals
SSgt T. E. Harrison	21 Sig Regt
SSgt A. S. Brooks	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) C. J. Fielding	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt C. W. Cushnie	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt B. L. Crook	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (EW Op) J. E. W. Sinden	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt T. A. Dean	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Hayden	30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. Mogg	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Ovington	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt M. Ryder	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Cormack	14 Sig Regt
Sgt E. A. Gold	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. W. Barber	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Thompson	14 Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. McLoughlin	13 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Murgatroyd	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Wainwright	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Manger	14 Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Okeefe	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Bruce	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Bailey	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Smart	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Blythe	608 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Pullan	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt N. P. Martin-Law	9 Sig Regt
Sgt I. M. Urquhart	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. S. Shelley	3 Cdo Bde & Sig Sqn
Sgt G. A. Huzzey-Morgan	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Kingswell	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. J. Hill	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. P. R. Coleman	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. B. Bennett	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Brockman	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Kidd	608 Sig Tp
Sgt A. S. Barber	6 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt A. B. Harper	10 Sig Regt
Sgt S. C. Fawthrop	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. M. Abrams	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Henderson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. R. Guy	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt P. G. Smith	HK Gurkha Sig Sqn
ASgt M. W. Blythe	574 Rear Link Det
ASgt T. E. Bain	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
ASgt T. A. Mortlock	8 Sig Regt

MAY 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 A. A. Nicoll	UK Support Unit SHAPE
WO1 (YofS) M. Campbell	School of Signals
WO1 (YofS) J. D. Rayment	UK Support Unit SHAPE
WO2 G. Scott	11 Sig Regt
WO2 B. Wray	11 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) D. A. Gruncell	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) D. Bowden	3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) P. J. Walker	UK Support Unit SHAPE
SSgt (Supvr R) W. J. Dodds	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) P. V. Forster	9 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) R. J. White	13 Sig Regt
SSgt S. J. Mason	241 Sig Sqn
SSgt B. M. Burton	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. Millar	LSP Brunei
SSgt E. C. Callaghan	71 Sig Regt
SSgt T. R. Craven	HQ LF Cyprus
ASSgt B. J. Parkhill	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. S. Bailes	262 Sig Sqn
ASSgt J. E. Hodges	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Owen	8 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Bridger	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Mitchell	ACIO Oxford
Sgt P. Handibode	School of Signals
Sgt P. Doomer	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Kerr	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt L. R. Searle	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. McIntosh	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt B. L. Mountain	14 Sig Regt
Sgt G. J. Lander	10 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Varvel	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt W. J. Parry	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt T. J. Payne	6 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt G. P. Scott	28 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. M. Burrow	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Nation	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt A. J. Clifton	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Thorpe	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. McHale-Smith	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt E. Postlethwaite	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. I. Scott	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt S. T. Manders	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Tankard	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Hedgeley	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt S. S. Tallack	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. Meredith	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt R. Walker	546 Rear Link Det
ASgt B. J. Stevenson	30 Sig Regt

Welfare

During the months of February and March, gifts of clothing, bedding, toys, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:-

Mr C. H. Story; Mrs D. Mansfield; The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt; Mr A. J. Oakley; Mrs M. L. Willway; Lady Chetwynd; Mrs C. M. Goodall; Krefeld Thrift Shop; Mrs I. G. Swan; Maj W. G. Cunningham; Mrs L. Newell; Lt Col G. M. Welsford; Mr W. R. Fraser; Maj & Mrs F. W. Natolie; Lt Col C. J. Bayfield; Maj Gen E. S. Cole; Mr & Mrs D. S. Mulholland; Mrs D. M. Purser; Mrs R. Truby; Lt Col J. M. N. Lyons; Lt Col D. A. Dickson; Mr C. Fry.

FEBRUARY 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	28
Amount spent:	£3017.56
Number of clothing parcels sent:	54

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	5
Amount spent:	£359.35

MARCH 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	44
Amount spent:	£2782.12
Number of clothing parcels sent:	56

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

NIL

ONE OF OUR CASES

Corporal, 14 years' service. Since his wife's death in 1977, he has cared for three children in spite of ill health. The Association helps the family with clothing parcels, and a grant of £100 was recently made for essential needs. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I was very grateful for your coming to my aid so quickly, but, believe me, you are receiving our most lasting gratitude. It is just so helpful that I don't think gratitude is enough, but I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For ever in your debt.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1981.

Bedford Branch RSA	£98.95
In Memory of Maj E. Jordan	£10.00
Maj H. D. V. Chappell	£ 5.53
Maj K. W. Jordan	£ 5.00
Maj E. P. Hughes	£ 2.20
G. W. Cook Esq	£ 2.14
Miscellaneous donations	£ 8.36
	£132.18

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1981.

Shrewsbury Branch—RSA	£350.00
Thrift Shop—RAF Wildenrath	£ 53.42
Mrs F. Stanley	£ 25.00
Brighton Branch—RSA	£ 25.00
Guernsey Branch—RSA	£ 14.27
Lt Col C. B. Minns	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ 6.95
	£479.64

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1 The Company provides technical services such as photofinish, timing, film and video patrol, CCTV, public address, race commentary and starting stalls on all UK and many overseas racecourses

2 The Services Manager, who manages the mobile technically based field staff working on racecourses throughout the year is leaving shortly and we need a replacement. He should be a practical, numerate and articulate chartered engineer or technical graduate with an interest in racing and a working appreciation of photography, television, public address or motor transport

3 A successful person between 35-45 who has run a field unit, is willing to travel, likes variety, has a sense of humour, can get on with people and has the skill to lead experienced unionised staff might well fill the bill

4 Anyone likely to be available in the fairly near future 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

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.

BIRTHS

Henderson—Jon and **Trysh Henderson** are delighted to announce the arrival of Kirsty Louise on 9 April in BMH Rinteln—a partner in crime for Ryan.

DEATHS

Beaumont—Maj Leslie Beaumont was born at Sheffield on 23 April 1916. He enlisted into the Corps on 6 February 1934 and served in the ranks until he was commissioned as a 2Lt on 16 August 1942. He served in the Middle East from July 1943 and joined 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals in time to take part in the Normandy landings. Whilst still serving with that unit he became a prisoner of war on 23 September 1944. He was released and returned to the UK on 24 April 1945. In February 1946 he joined 4 Infantry Divisional Signals and on 10 July 1946 became an Instructor, Regimental Signals School, British Liaison Unit, Greece. He continued to serve in Greece in various appointments, finally taking up the appointment of SO 2 Signals, C Corps, Greece, on 27 October 1947. He remained in that post until 23 May 1949 and in August of that year he was posted to Berlin Signal Squadron where he remained until he became Adjutant of 2 L of C Signal Regiment in October 1951. From March 1954, until November 1957, he served in various posts within the Training organisation at Catterick. He returned to the Middle East in February 1958 when he joined Tripolitania Signal Troop, which was later re-designated 219 Signal Squadron. Returning to the UK in April 1961 he saw service with 240 Signal Squadron (Northern Command) until April 1964 when he was yet again posted to the Middle East, in command of 222 Signal Squadron (Air Formation) and he remained in that post until 10 May 1966. He returned to the UK in May and was posted to 24 Signal Regiment and 11 Signal Regiment from which unit he finally retired on 29 April 1969.

He was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette of 15 February 1942, and was also awarded the Coronation Medal, 1953. He died on 7 February.

Crutchley—Ex Sgt Frank Crutchley died in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on 8 April, aged 52. He joined the Corps in 1946 and served in Korea, Malaya, Singapore, Libya, Germany and Cyprus. He was a keen sportsman having played for the Corps at cricket, football, and golf. He was also a motorcycle trials rider, and took part in both the UK and BAOR Championships and also the Welsh three-day trials. On leaving the Army in 1971, he became a Life Member of the Shrewsbury Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

Cumbers—Frederick Baden Cumbers, BEM, served in the Royal West Kent Regiment during the 1st World War. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was called-up and in 1940 joined the School of Signals at Catterick. Soon after his arrival, he was selected to serve as an Officers' Mess steward and remained in that post, both as soldier and civilian, for twenty seven years. He retired in 1967 when the Headquarters Mess moved from Catterick to Blandford Camp. During his service, he met all Corps officers passing through the Mess at Catterick and he will be remembered by many still serving. He died in hospital on 20 April.

Finch—WO2 (RQMS) Ralph Finch, died suddenly on 7 April 1981, aged 40. Ralph trained as a Radio Operator in 1959. He served in Malaya, BAOR and the UK including a tour with 24 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron from 1968-70. He then served with 18 and 16 Signal Regiments and Sheffield UOTC. He joined 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in 1978 coming to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in May 1980 for service on the Long Service List.

Fuller—Lt Col Tuffley John Foster Fuller, was born at Kasauli, India on 9 June 1912. He was appointed to a Regular Commission in the Corps from RMA Sandhurst on 28 January 1932. He joined A Corps Signals in June 1933 and served with that unit until embarking for India on 24 October 1936. His first unit in India was 'A' Corps Signals India with whom he remained until October 1940. During this time he was awarded the India General Service Medal, with the Clasp 'North West Frontier'. On 21 July 1941 he was appointed 2IC, 17 Indian Div Signals and assumed command of that unit in Burma on 24 March 1942. He returned to India and took over the command of the Madras Signal Company where he remained until he was repatriated to the UK in September 1944. He was appointed SO R Signals, 4 Liaison HQ on 26 May 1945 which was followed by two other staff appointments within BAOR, namely, SO I R Signals, HQ BAOR and GSO I HQ Corps District. After a short stay in the UK he was appointed 2IC of 18 Air Formation Signals, MELF, from January 1947 until September 1947. In January 1948 he joined the British Military Mission, Saudi Arabia and remained there until April 1949. On return to the UK he became SO 2 (R Signals), HQ South West District until May 1951 when he took up his final appointment as 2IC Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, at Catterick Camp.

He retired with the Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 5 September 1953. He then became a Captain in the Territorial Army with his commission dating from 18 October 1954. He finally retired from the TA on 15 January 1961. Lt Col Fuller was a keen medal collector who specialised in collecting medals of personnel who had served in the Telegraph and Signal Sections of the Royal Engineers. He died on 19 September 1980.

Hawthorne—Joe Cotterell sadly reports the recent death of Ex-**Sgt 'Sailor' Hawthorne** one day before his 78th birthday. He enlisted in the Corps in 1921 and will possibly be best remembered by his contemporaries as a member of the 3 Div cross country team. He subsequently served in Gibraltar, the Middle East (World War 2) and came home after being injured at Anzio for discharge. He recovered sufficiently to give further service with the TA at Bedford and always attended the 3 Div Reunion until his health failed.

Hepper—Brig Montague Geoffrey Alaric Hepper, CBE was born on 24 March 1909. His Grandfather joined the Royal Engineers in 1859 and his father was also a Sapper and saw service in the South African War. Brig 'Monty' Hepper was commissioned into the Corps on 3 February 1926 and was posted to 'E' Section, 3rd Divisional Signals where he remained for three years. He left Bulford with the newly formed 'G' Cavalry Troop and moved to Egypt where he served in turn with the 12th Royal Lancers and the 11th Hussars. He returned to the UK after five and half years in Egypt during which time he developed a great interest in desert navigation and the use of the sun compass. After a short tour with the Signal Training Centre he was posted to The War Office and was employed in MGO 13 Branch. He remained at The War Office for seven years. By the time he left The War Office he had expanded the department and in January 1944 was in charge of a staff of a hundred. Under his able leadership his devoted team was able to cope with the varied problems concerning the supply, demand and delivery of signal equipment. In 1944 he served as a Major in both 43rd and 52nd Divisional Signals in France, Holland and Germany. His knowledge and expertise was soon in demand again and in April 1945 he was sent to India to take over the responsibility of organising the provision and supply of Signal equipment at GHQ India. In August 1946 he became the Commanding Officer of 5th (India) Divisional Signals at Ranchi. His second-in-command at that time was Major A. C. Iyappa, later to become Major General and the Director of Signals at Delhi. With independence he had to leave India and give up command of his regiment. His next posting was to Germany where he became DCSO at Hannover and then C.R. Signals, 7th Armoured Division. In 1949 he returned to the UK to command 1 Training Regiment at Catterick and whilst in that appointment was instrumental in organising a number of improvements in the Headquarters Mess, which at that time, was at Catterick. In January 1951 he was promoted to Colonel and served as CSO West Africa Command for three years. In 1954 he was promoted to Brigadier and served, in turn, as CSO Anti-Aircraft Command and Western Command. He retired on 1 January 1959 and was, during his last appointment, awarded the CBE.

His great interest was in music and he had a very comprehensive record collection and throughout his service devoted much of his spare time to organising gramophone recitals. His first venture into this field was as early as his first posting to Bulford he then went on to form the Cairo Gramophone Club in 1934 and during his tour in West Africa became well known for his 'Tuesday Club' in Accra. He died on 4 May in Kent.

Jones—Maj I. B. C. Jones, Chairman of the Bath and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association, died suddenly in the Royal Masonic Hospital London on 7 April. (See page 245)

McClay, Margaret Ann—wife of Major John McClay (40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V).) died in hospital on 7 April. The sympathy of the Regiment is tendered to Major John McClay and his family.

McComb—SSgt Alan McComb—It is with deep regret that 22 Signal Regiment report the death on 23 February of SSgt McComb. He was a highly respected member of the regiment who will be greatly missed.

Pickles—We sadly record the death of **Ex SSgt (SQMS) L. Pickles, MSM** who served in the First Lancashire Regiment and the Corps. He subsequently worked as a Security Officer in the Hospital Service. He died on 27 April aged 71.

Price—Cpl Mathew Simon Price died tragically as the result of a motor accident near Osnabruck, West Germany, on 10 April. Cpl Price, who was serving with 212 (12 Armd Bde) Signal Squadron, captured the affections of all those who knew him and will be remembered for his cheerfulness and love of life.

Stoneman—Lt Col Frank William Stoneman CBE TD PhD was born on 23 September 1916, the son of Lt W. T. Stoneman, an Infantry Officer who was killed in action during the First World War. He was commissioned as a Territorial Army 2nd Lt in the Corps on 20 May 1939 and joined 42 Divisional Signals TA. He went with that unit to join the British Expeditionary Force in France in April 1940. After the withdrawal from the Continent, he served as OC A Section in the UK until March 1941. During that month he took up his first staff appointment as SO 3 to CSO 11 Corps. From July 1941 until January 1942 he became Acting CSO to HQ 110 Force, this was followed by an appointment as Signal Officer, Glasgow Area. With the formation of HQ Expeditionary Force in March 1942 he was appointed SO R Signals at that HQ. In November 1942 he joined BNAF and HQ 1st Army as SO R Signals and served in that appointment until he was made 2IC 15 L of C Signals in May 1943. In March 1944 he became 2IC of 11 L of C Signals and remained in that post until February 1945. He took over command of 8 Army Signals, CMF in April 1945 and remained there until November 1946 when he was appointed OC 12 Special Wireless Squadron, British Troops in Austria. He attended the Technical Staff Course at RMCS from October 1947 until October 1949. He became TSO 2 in Signals 3, The War Office following his course and in November 1951 moved to another technical staff appointment when he became TSO 2 Aircraft E ST, in the Ministry of Supply. During the latter months of 1953 he served on the UK Services Liaison Staff in Australia and was involved with the Atomic experiments at Woomera. His accounts of his experiences were recorded in 'The Wire' of 1954 (pages 216-218, 280-282 and 297-299) under the title 'Big Bangs or Nuclear Noises'. His final service appointment was in the combined role of CSO Cyreniaca and OC Cyreniaca District Signal Troop. He retired on 5 October 1954. He was awarded the MBE (Military) in the London Gazette of 23 September 1943 and his Territorial Decoration was published in the London Gazette of 15 June 1951.

It was whilst on his technical staff course at the RMCS, during the years 1947 to 1949, that he completed a lot of his work for his PhD and this was awarded to him by London University in 1950.

After leaving the service he devoted himself to service in industry and export and for his valuable contribution to the Nation in this sphere he was appointed CBE (Civil) in the Birthday Honours List of 1969. He died at Newbury, Berkshire on 25 February.

Thompson—Sig Brian Thompson was tragically killed in a fall from a train when travelling to Glasgow on leave on 2 April, 1981. Sig Thompson joined the Corps in 1977 and served as a Telemech with 21 Sig Regt, The School of Signals and latterly 10 Sig Regt.

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25th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMY PRESENCE ON ST KILDA

In July 1955 the Minister for Defence announced the building of a guided weapons range in the Outer Hebrides. The nature of the Range and Weapons to be fired required another location to be chosen where tracking and surveillance radars could be sited. In June 1956 a tri-service reconnaissance selected, as ideal, the island of Hirta, largest of the St Kilda group, 48 miles west in the Atlantic. So began 25 years of the Army's presence on St Kilda.

June 1981 will therefore mark the 25th Anniversary of the Army's presence on St Kilda, but it also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the National Trust. To mark this latter event the British Post Office are to issue a set of five stamps, the 25p of which features St Kilda. To commemorate the Army's presence the RA Range Hebrides will issue their own special first day cover (FDC) for the St Kilda Stamp on the first day of issue, 24 June 1981 to be cancelled on the island by a Sapper of the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Services using a special one day hand stamp BFPS No 1750.

The cover will depict an Army landing craft arriving in Village Bay with the Detachment Camp in the background; the special handstamp is of circular design with a puffin in the centre and Regiments/Corps of soldiers of the St Kilda Detachment, RA Range Hebrides designated on the 'spokes'. All covers will be posted from St Kilda and carried to the mainland by HMAV *Ardennes* and a catchet to this effect will be applied. There will be a limited number of covers with the 25p St Kilda Stamp available signed by the Commanding Officers of the RA Range Hebrides and HMAV *Ardennes*. Details of covers and costs are:

Cover with Full National Trust Issue	£2.00 each
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Limited edition of Signed covers (Numbered) bearing the 25p (St Kilda) Stamp	£3.50

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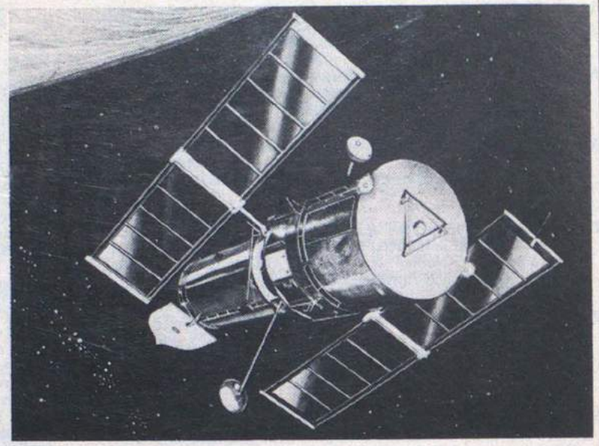

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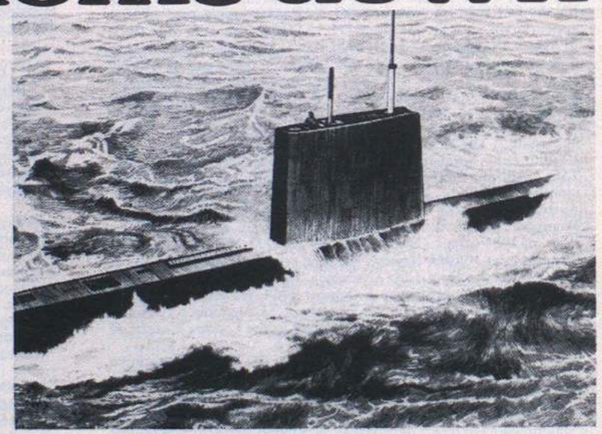

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VISIT OF HRH PRINCE CHARLES TO THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL

Report by SSgt (YofS) Bob Waller

NEPAL

For the benefit of those readers who have not served with the Gurkhas I shall begin with a brief description of Nepal. The Kingdom is situated in the Southern Central region of Asia bordered by India to the South and Chinese-occupied Tibet to the North. The Northern border is dominated by the Himalayas. Covering an area of 54,000 square miles Nepal has a population of approximately 1,700,000. It is a poor country and for many years was 'closed' to the outside world. Now, with the help of foreign aid in construction, schooling, communication and farming, the country is progressing rapidly.

During the last two World Wars the whole of the Nepalese army was placed at the disposal of the Crown. At the end of World War Two over 160,000 Nepalese were enlisted into the Gurkha Brigade and other units of the Indian Army. The present Brigade of Gurkhas was formed in 1948. Today all Gurkha soldiers are recruited through one of the two British Camps, Pokhara in the West and Dharan in the East.

THE ROYAL VISIT AND QG SIGNALS

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was scheduled to visit Nepal from 6-13 Dec 80 after a three week tour of India. For part of this visit, the Prince was to trek in the foothills of the Himalayas in the West of Nepal near Pokhara. The Nepalese Government was responsible for the whole visit. It was felt however that during the trek the Royal Party should be in contact with the outside world. It was for this reason that a Queen's Gurkha Signals Detachment was needed in Nepal.

PLANNING

After various signals had been sent to and from Hong Kong, the British Embassy in Kathmandu, HQ British Gurkhas Nepal and Pokhara it was decided that 10 Queen's Gurkha Signals personnel would be sent from Hong Kong to assist with the trek. For economic reasons it was decided that six Gurkha soldiers due to go on leave in Nepal at the end of November would wait at Kathmandu and Pokhara and would take part in the operation before proceeding on leave. Once in Nepal we were to split into three separate detachments: to work in the British Embassy in Kathmandu; to operate the Control Station in Pokhara; and on the actual trek. We were to take 4 PRC 349 for communication between the different elements of the trek.

On Tues 2 Dec 80 **Sgt John West** of Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn, **Sgt Jim Tate** of Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn and I boarded a Royal Nepalese Airline Boeing 727 for Kathmandu via Bangkok. The flight was on time as we touched down at Tribhuwan International Airport in Kathmandu. We were met and quickly escorted through customs although the Clansman radios in our suitcases gave the customs officials a field day! We were driven to the Ambassador Hotel and, having booked in, we paid a visit to the Embassy to meet **Lt Col Keith Robinson,** the Defence Attaché. **Sgt Jim Tate** was earmarked to stay in Kathmandu with **Cpl Debendraraj Limbu** and **Sig Sukraj Rai** (who had only recently arrived back from Exercise *Crusader*). We checked the sets and antennas and after meeting the Embassy communications staff, we retired to the hotel for a meal and a glass (or two??) of local beer.

The following morning **Sgt John West** and I left Kathmandu on a 40 minute domestic flight to Pokhara. This flight must rate as one of the most picturesque in the world, as the view of the Himalayas towards Annapurna was truly magnificent. On arrival at Pokhara's grass airfield we were met, installed in a hotel and then driven the three miles through Pokhara to the British Gurkha Camp. There we met the final members of the detachment, **Sgt Reshamlal Gurung** (who would be the technician on trek), **Sgt Gambahadur Pun** and **LCpl Chetbahadur Thapa**. The last two and I with three civilian operators (ex Gurkha soldiers) would man the control station. We then set about checking out the sets, antennas etc and opened up a CW link to both Kathmandu and Dharan. The sets we were using were the Racal 906 on a broad-band dipole. These sets worked very well and because there is only a small amount of HF communications in Nepal the frequencies were remarkably clear. We also had a Racal 1860 set as a backup.

Now we were ready for the trek! The Gurkhas paused to make final preparations for their leave (some had six days' walking ahead of them after the trek to reach their villages). **Sgt West** and I returned to the hotel to confirm all systems were 'go' with **Col (Retd) Jimmy Roberts**, who runs a firm called 'Mountain Travel' which organised the trek.

Now we had two days to spare. **Capt Rogers** of 1/2 GR who is the 2IC at Pokhara Camp very kindly arranged for **Sgt West** and I to visit the Agricultural Farm at Lumle, about 15 miles west of Pokhara. It is run by British Overseas Development Aid and its main function is to increase and spread techniques of modern farming to the local hill farmers. It took us seven hours to walk there, largely because we kept stopping to admire the scenery, take photographs or barter with the many traders we saw en route. We spent two very pleasant days at Lumle (at a height of 5,300 feet) before returning to Pokhara.

THE TREK

By the morning of 9 Dec, the day the Prince was due, our HF circuits had been working for 24 hours. Bright and early the trek party assembled at 'Mountain Travel' camp site. We were given tents and sleeping bags. We discovered to our delight that all of our equipment was to be carried for us by porters.

The Royal Party consisted of **HRH Prince Charles, HRH Prince Dhirendra**, and a small entourage of nine. By the time the party was assembled, however, it totalled in excess of 100. Nothing was left to chance—one porter even carried a special 'Loo', built with loving care by the PSA at Dharan! When all was ready the Advance Party moved to the start point by bus. **Sgt West** was horrified to find his 'seat' was the roof—with 20 others!

The trek and control detachments at Pokhara Camp. Left to Right: Sgt Jim West, LCpl Chetbahadur Thapa, LCpl Radheshyam Thapa, Sgt Reshamlal Gurung, Cpl Maniparsad Pun, Sgt Gambahadur Gurung, SSgt (YofS) Bob Waller

Having seen his detachment depart, I returned to the hotel roof garden overlooking the airfield. The Royal planes were due to land at 1000 hrs. By 0945 hrs a few thousand people lined the perimeter fence of the airfield. Exactly on time the Nepalese Avro landed followed, two minutes later, by an Andover of the Queen's Flight, piloted by HRH. Once he had met some local dignitaries HRH departed to change for the trek which set off at about midday. No press representatives were allowed which gave the Royal Party time to relax.

Leading the trek was **Pertemba Sherpa**, who comes from Khumjung, a village near Everest. He is not only an experienced trekking guide but also one of the Nepal's finest climbers. He is the only living Nepali to have climbed Everest by two different routes, the conventional South Col in 1979 and the South West face with **Bonnington** in 1975.

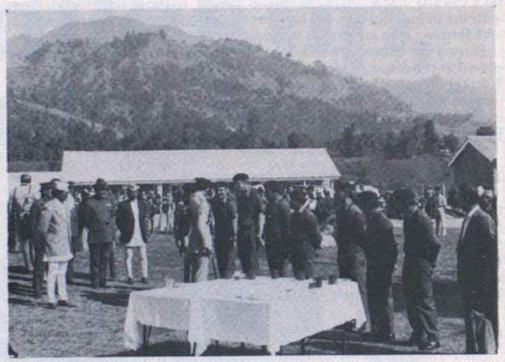
The first day's trek covered a distance of only four miles but the party passed through several villages where soldiers have been recruited. Many Gurkhas from this area have in fact joined 2nd King Edward VII's Own Ghurkha rifles, a Regiment of which **Prince Charles** is Colonel-in-Chief. The party arrived at the pre-arranged camp site after a few hours, where a hot Nepali meal (goat!) was waiting. A very relaxing evening was spent in the shadow of the Annapurna range. From the camp site spectacular mountains could be seen, ranging from Dhaulagiri (8172m) in the west to Annapurna south (7195m) and Machhapuchare (699m) or 'Fishtail' as it is known by mountaineers all over the world.

On day two the trek party met many villagers who lined the route and presented the Prince with garlands. Most villagers in this region are Gurungs and Chhetris and many have served with the Brigade of Gurkhas. Lunch was taken over a 2½ hour period while **Prince Charles** proceeded to commit the scenery to canvas. The trek continued in the afternoon at a fairly leisurely pace before reaching the next camp site, which was again excellently organised. That evening **Sgt John West** was invited to dine with the Royal Party and sat next to the Prince who chatted very freely about his communication experiences whilst Captain of HMS *Bronington*. After dinner the group were entertained by local Gurung dancers.

On day three the party covered a distance of about 12 miles and climbed to a height of about 4,500 feet before descending to a lake called Begnas Tal. This was crossed by means of dugout canoes. Once on the other side the party covered the last quarter of a mile to the camp site. That evening the whole of the trek party dined around a huge log camp fire where they enjoyed local foods prepared by the Sherpa womenfolk. Radio contact was maintained throughout the trek, but we did not have much traffic to pass. The first message was a request for the score at the Oxford/Cambridge rugby match being played in the UK. Fortunately, Cambridge had won!

On completion of the trek we were all officially introduced to HRH at Pokhara Camp along with some Gurkha pensioners, three of whom held the VC. All had travelled for days for the occasion. The Prince spent over an hour talking to the assembled guests. After he had left for lunch at the Fistail Lodge, we cleaned and packed all our equipment, the Gurkha soldiers departed for a well earned leave and **Sgt West** and I hurried back to the hotel to get ready to go. We had been due to fly the next day but we were offered places on the King's flight which was taking the Defence Attaché and other dignitaries back to the capital that afternoon. This meant we would have an extra day in Kathmandu!

Two days later, on 14 Dec, we started our trip back to Hong Kong, once again via Bangkok. Looking back we must thank the Defence Attache in Kathmandu, Gurkha Movements Staff Kathmandu, the Staff of Pokhara Camp and HQ British Gurkhas, Nepal, all of whom helped make our job easier and our stay both interesting and pleasant.



HRH meets SSgt Bob Waller, Sgt Jim Tate and the QG Signals detachment

HRH talking to Gurkha pensioners

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ NORTHERN IRELAND BFPO 801

VISIT OF SOinC(A)—MAJ GEN A. C. BIRTWISTLE CBE

WELCOMING BOMBS

Gen Archie Birtwistle's first trip to the province, and his first formal visit as SOinC(A) took place on 26-28 January. The main aim was to introduce the SOinC(A) to operations in Northern Ireland and give him some idea of the contribution made by the Corps. In some 50 hours it was impossible to visit all of the 20 locations from which the approximately 700 signallers operate, as well as visit the TA. it was, therefore, a very rushed tour to see only the major elements of the Corps in the Province and even this probably left the SOinC(A) suffering from a signicant lack of sleep, as well as physical and mental indigestion.

The Provisional IRA produced their own particular brand of welcome, on the first day of the visit, with a province wide series of bombs, one of which cut the Belfast-Dublin railway and another destroyed a whole shopping street in the centre of Portadown, causing damage reported to be £3M.

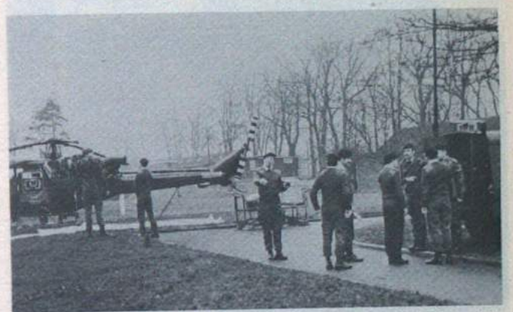
DAY 1—CR SIGNALS BRANCH, 233 SIG SQN, INT & SY GP (NI) AND EOD

Within an hour of arriving the General had received a background briefing by CR Signals, **Lt Col Russell Maynard**, gulped a quick bite of lunch (the longest lunch break in the visit was timed at 25 minutes) and met the members of signals branch and other signal officers serving in HQ NI. He then started the long haul around the Province accompanied by CR Signals. The first unit to be visited was 233 Sig Sqn, where the OC, **Maj Don Overton** took him on a tour of the central communications complex, the two major computer systems and introduced him to the various other activities in which the squadron is involved. Unfortunately there was little time to chat to old friends or to renew acquaintances but he was able at first hand to see how the squadron met its formidable range of responsibilities. Other parts of the unit were included later in the visit. In the early evening SOinC(A) was briefed on the role of the two signals troops involved in the counter bombing campaign and was given a bomb disposal demonstration by 321 EOD Unit, during which he met some of the combat radiomen on emergency tours from BAOR signal regiments. This was followed by a briefing by **Capt Charles Le Gallais**, TRLO Int & Sy Gp (NI), on the work of signallers within the Group, who the General subsequently met over a glass of beer in their club.

Sgt Linda Jackson showing the SOinC the HQNI switchboard with L. to R.: Pte Julie Wilding, Pte Caroline Booth, Pte Pam Watson and the OC Maj Don Overton in the background

DAY 2—39 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN, 3 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN, 40(U) SIG REGT (V)

OC 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, **Maj John Munnery** started the second day with a briefing on communications in Belfast and its surrounding area. SOinC(A) then toured the squadron. He saw, among a whole range of activities, a Scout helicopter being prepared for a heli-tele sortie at the Maze prison, the problems of rigging on the Brigade HQ mast, the Commcen/Radcon, and special task vehicles being fitted out.



During the visit to 39 Bde SOinC is shown over the Heli Tele mobile ground station with the airborne station in the background. The RSM provides the right regimental flavour!

One of the few relaxed moments in the visit, SOinC meets Cpl Barry White, Cpl Paul Duffy and Sig Geordie Brown in the 3 Bde 'Huntsman' Club

In Portadown, after a snack lunch in the 'Huntsman' club, SOinC(A) was shown by **Maj Ian Turner**, OC 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, how the unit provided communications over half of Ulster using some 3000 radios, a mixture of Clansman, Larkspur and commercial equipment. The General then flew down to Crossmaglen to see the conditions in which the two signals detachments worked with the infantry company in the security force base. On the way back from the fort the helicopter overflew the site where the north-south railway had been cut, and before landing at Portadown took a low-level look at the devastated street in the town centre.

OC 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn Maj Ian Turner, CR Signals, SOinC and Foreman Alan Hall noting the rate at which Clansman antennas are broken on patrol in South Armagh

The SOinC inspects the fitting of a commercial radio in a vehicle used in the Province. Cpl 'Cookie' Cook and Capt (TOT) Nick Lynn in the background

After a tour of the squadron **Gen Birtwistle** went on to 40(U) Sig Regt (V) to be shown around the unit by the CO, **Lt Col Ian Graham**, and to have a very brief supper with the officers. The General was then taken to Girdwood Park, that familiar SF base between a totally derelict area and the Crumlin Road Jail. There he met E Troop 233 Sig Sqn and after that the 39 Bde UHF faults team. The party then moved off in the two faults team armoured 'Pigs' through the hard republican areas of West Belfast to the new SF base at Whiterock. The evening was rounded off on the way back through West Belfast by a classic stoning incident when a piece of broken bottle bounced off the Pig's bonnet on to the General's lap. The Brigade Commander's Rover Group then returned him to Lisburn in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

DAY 3—THE DIVIS SITE, 8 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN

By 0800 hours the SOinC(A) has been driven up through the mist to the top of Divis mountain, overlooking (on a clear day) Belfast. After a tour of the luxuriously appointed communications site on this windswept mountain he was treated to the traditional Divis breakfast. A Wessex helicopter then lifted the General, CR Signals and the bodyguard over the Sperrin Mountains, in unusually fine weather, to Londonderry. **Maj Martin Roberts**, OC 8 Inf Bde Hq & Sig Sqn took SOinC(A) on a tour of the old city, to the Buncrana VCP and into the Creggan and Bogside.

The last part of the visit was to the E Troop detachment in Clooney park after which the Wessex took the SOinC(A) to Aldergrove to catch the 1630 shuttle back to Heathrow.

So ended a hectic three day visit to the Corps' only operational theatre. During this time the General was able to meet some 200 members of the Royal Signals in a wide variety of employments, manning an even wider range of equipment, much of it peculiar to Northern Ireland. We look forward to welcoming him back later in the year to meet the other 500!

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OC'S FAREWELL

It was a sad occasion when the squadron bade farewell to **Maj Ian Turner** in the squadron club. He was presented with an antique clock from the squadron, as well as further individual gifts from each department. He was then escorted around the camp in traditional style. The accompanying pictorial record says it all. We wish him, his wife **Gloria** and family, good fortune for the future.

We cordially welcome **Maj Gareth Mann** and his wife **Jenny** to the squadron and sincerely hope their stay will prove to be enjoyable.

'Ground control to Maj T'

'Sorry about the ferry booking'

COMMS TROOP—RADIO SECTION

Although nothing tremendously out of the ordinary (for this place anyway) has happened since last going to press, Radio Section led by **Lt Steve Leach** and the newly promoted **Lt Grant Carter** (whom we'd all like to congratulate) are still trying to fit 28 hours in a day.

The rigging team are still more off the ground than on, and recently a trip to the other Bdes' hill top site has left them all agog. So much so that **LCpls Mo Mahomet** and **Alan Kingdom** are still wandering around our own Bde muttering something about 'Divis' having running water (hot and cold) and a phone.

Meanwhile those of us who keep our feet firmly on the ground are still trying to fathom out how two young Signalmen, **Ivor Oakey** and **Jon Fisher** managed to bog down the rover over 500 mtrs from the road, in a particularly boggy area without leaving any tracks; they both insist that it was very easy and promised not to do it again.

On the whole though, a generally busy couple of months and for that we should be thankful.

The section says goodbye to **Lt Grant Carter, SSgt 'Big Norm' Siggs, Sgt Tom Perkins, Cpl Carl Strefford, LCpl Jimmy Miller** and **LCpl Mo Mahomet.**

And the question of life, the universe and everything is passed to welcome newcomers **SSgt Davies, Cpl Morton, Cpl Emerson, LCpl Mac McLaughlin, Sig Ivor Oakey.**

TM WORKSHOP—PERSONALITIES

WO2 (FofS) Allan Hall (The Wandering Minstrel)—has now forsaken his workshop bench for a comfy seat and desk in the YofS/Bde Comms Offrs office. Rumours say that if the sunlight ever catches the seat of his, now shiny, trousers one would be blinded for life!

SSgt Ken Rankin (New Ruler of the Tels Empire). That fine upstanding handsome young SSgt whose valiant efforts were rewarded with a fortnight's leave (wow). If you haven't guessed, I'm writing this. Better known to the net as 'Fetch Short Fat Pronto'!!

Sgt Geoff Douglas-Hiley (The Pipe)—has recently paid out a small fortune in ransom demands, after a spate of pipe-smoking. Perhaps if he changes from Sobranie to something a little less potent these incidents could well decrease!

Cpl Steve Wilson (Fingers)—After a recent basketball accident (so he says) the index finger of his right hand has swollen out of all proportions. Rumour has it that he now intends taking up snooker as his main sport.

Cpl Dave Little and **Cpl Larry McHale**—Better known as Little & Littler—shortly to be seen strutting around the beaches of Ibiza like rampant cockerels.

Sgt Jess White—We all felt for poor **Jess** when he received notification of his posting—2 weeks in a Liverpool Hotel, 4½ months Florida followed by 2 years AFCENT (American Sector) rough!

Sgt Ian Barnes—'Why can't I do my BFT in June when I'm 30'.

NEW ARRIVALS

Cpl Dean Ward (R Tech) and **Cpl Martin Ormerod** (Te Tech) wishing them both enjoyable tours in the Province.

DEPARTURES—CPL ANDY ROBILLIARD

With only days to do, we would like to thank **Andy** for all the good work he has put in over the last two years, and wish him and his family all the best for their move to SHAPE. We hope on SHAPE LOA he can afford his new Ford Escort.

P.S. **Sgt Paul Watson** REME (R Signals Failed) NIRW—what can you say about this man? Superb wit and a wonderful repartee artist—I only wish that he would stop squeezing whatever it is always in his right hand. (Wrist strengthener).

GENERAL SCENE

The commcen has remained very busy during the last month. Despite the pressure they still remain as cheerful as ever.

MOVEMENTS

In—We wish **LCpls Major** and **McKinnon** and their respective wives a safe and happy tour with us. Out—This month we bid farewell to **LCpl Mick Newell** and his wife **Grace** and wish them both good luck in Cyprus.

QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT

Since our last report we have had several comings and goings in the department. Comings, to whom we extend a warm welcome, are **Cpl John Braidford,** RAOC, **Sig Cliff Hurley, Sig Dave Hibbett** and **Pte 'Scouse' Shearin.** Goings, **Sgt Tommy Boyle, LCpl Paul Hone** and **Sgt Cyd Binsley** (who moved all of 9 miles down the road to Armagh). We wish them all the best.

As if this is not enough, we are about to lose our QM **Maj John Haydon** to 608 Signal Troop. If that unit doesn't already go skiing or play golf it soon will be doing. The QM Designate **Capt Gordon Wallace** paid us a liaison visit at the beginning of March and, contrary to popular belief, he has not decided to retire from the Services.

Every lunchtime sees **Cpl Les Turner** pounding away round camp with some ridiculous weight in his rucksack. No one is quite sure whether he is in training for his SAS selection course or for his forthcoming marriage to **Val.** Whichever it is, we hope he makes the grade.

Saturday 21 Mar saw the quarterly 9mm Pistol Competition. The QM gave strict instructions, before he left on a visit to BAOR, that our Dept team should not be last and so win the 'W's' Trophy again. (This happened on a previous shoot when he was away). Needless to say, when he arrived back to work, the disugsting trophy stood gleaming in the centre of his desk. After the **RQMS WO2 Derek Biggs** explained that he wasn't to blame and that it was the second team that had won it, peace was restored. Who called the RQMS a coward!!!

Finally two notable occurrences:- Congratulations to **Dave Bennett** on promotion to LCpl and we managed to persuade **Sgt Ben Lee** to prise himself away from the accounts and take some well earned leave.

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

TACTICAL ROUNDUP

The relief of the Festive Season has been short lived as the hunger strikes start again at the Maze and tension starts to rise. The outcome of local elections in Londonderry and the result of the by-election in Fermanagh we also viewed with some trepidation.

Life has been far from peaceful within the Bde TAOR. Popular shopping centres normally considered safe such as Limavady have been bombed and numerous shootings at RUC and Army patrols have taken place in both rural and urban areas. The saddest and most despicable of recent events must be the shooting of the Census Form collector in Londonderry. The revulsion of the local people at this cowardly killing of a young woman, on her own, can only be guessed at, but both PIRA and INLA have, as can be expected, disclaimed responsibility.

The future is seen with little optimism, although recent H block marches have been poorly supported, the Easter period this year could prove to be more violent than last.

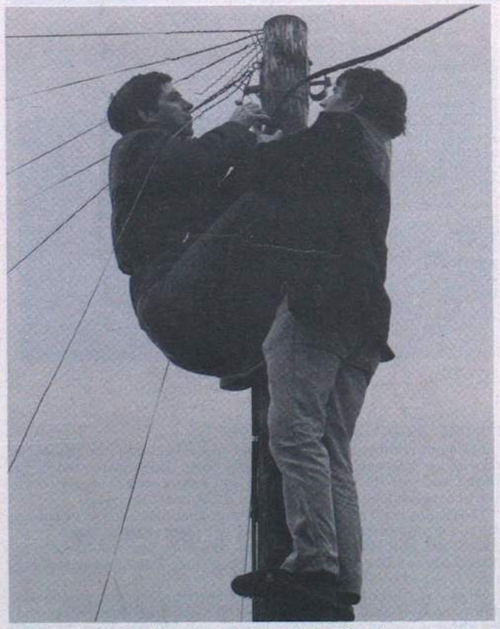
THE ARU

Confucius is believed to have said that a picture is worth a thousand words and no better illustration of this can be had than in the photographs of the ARU carried out by our Comd **Brig W. F. Prosser MBE MC.** Suffice it to say the day went well and let the pictures speak for themselves.

ARU—the Comd prepares to ascend a 500′ tower

The squadron Comd follows

The Comd visits the Kindergarten and receives a painting lesson



Sgt Huggins up a pole with the Comd

The Comds Rover Group demonstrate a contact drill

VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND

It is always a pleasure to have **Lt Col Keith Boulding** and the Corps Band visit us. Their programme in Londonderry was a busy one—with concerts for schools and playing at parties for local dignitaries.

Lt Col Keith Boulding and assistant enjoy the Concert

THE 'GREATER' COMMS TROOP

Comms Tp, with its set of characters, **Sig Haynes, Primarolo, Rideout, LCpl Temple** and all, have obviously decided that the proximity of Comms Tp to both the Sqn and Bde HQ was just too close for comfort. The ideal location for them soon emerged—under the Sqn SNCO's Club—The Foyle View. Who would retire there—only the 2IC on promise of beer from the Yeoman, **Dave Lister. SSgt 'Tom' McKnight** saw the attractions immediately—closer to his account. To the 'Lads' the location was ideal, with both the Charwallah and the Sqn Club close at hand. And there was always the hope that our of 'sight' meant truly out of mind.

CONGRATULATIONS

It is not often possible to devote a paragraph to congratulations, but this bi-monthly period deserves it. The Commcen won their first Commstar—a Silver—since 1976. Those outside Ulster who may decry this achievement should think of the large volume of operational and high precedence traffic that is processed. The Commstar was accepted, on behalf of **YofS Dave Lister, Sgt McSorley** and the men of the Commcen, by **LCpl Lenny Hilton** from the Bde Comd. **Pte O'Neill** the boxing cook—don't complain about the food—fought his way to success through several bloody encounters in the NI Individual Boxing

The Comd presents the Commstar to LCpl Lenny Hilton. Sgt McSorley smiles and who knows what Cpl Keatley's eyes are saying

Championships. But pride of place must go to **LCpl 'Doughnut' Doughty** and his GOC's commendation for his part in the dismantling of the Creggan mast.

SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TRAINING

The sports and adventure training side of life continues again, with teams competing in everything from rugby to orienteering.

Adventure training has centred around skiing at Aviemore, with groups taking pot luck as to whether they skied on snow, or grass and boulders.

The sailing season has started with **Lt Adrian Pearce, Capt John Bingham, Cpl Mark Brunning, Sig Stan Haynes** and **Pte Pat Meagher** setting sail for the south of England **Cpl McCues** reputation, and incidentally that of the 2IC and YofS, rests on the success of the HF link to the boat.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

New arrivals to the unit over the past few weeks are **WO2 Colin Bachelor, Sgt Mick Boyle, Sgt John Godfrey, Cpl Sandy Campbell, Cpl Steve Chilton, LCpl Al Coutts, Sig Steve Jenkins, Sig Phil Bennett, Sig Ben Cooley, Sig Stephen Brisk** and last, but not least, **Sig Charlie Roost.**

Sad farewells are also in order for the people who have gone to the land of LOA, **Sgt Den Hayden, Sgt Mick Read, Cpl Kev Hunter, LCpl Bob Guiney** and **LCpl John Wellard.**

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

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

OPERATIONAL SCENE

Recent activity has taken on many unusual features, with a mixture of normal PIRA tactics, armed robbery, H-Block protest marches, Carson Trail Paisley rallies and the Bobby Sands election campaign. Consequently the squadron has seen considerable activity in support of the SF covering these events. Our technicians have been particularly active providing UHF cover and the 'A' Troop Heli-Tele Mobile is in constant use. The most notable event has been the assumption by the Bde of responsibility for HMP Maze. This has involved considerable work in fitting new radio, recrystalling and accounting—with further work to come. No doubt this and the Irish penchant for marching will keep us busy for some time.

AVIEMORE

February saw the squadron active on its annual adventure training winter exercise, planned and organised by **Lt Colin Lawrence.** Ex *White Powder* saw 34 members of the squadron in Aviemore for a two week period of downhill skiing. The two parties, of 17 each, spent a week in ardent pursuit of snow. All members managed to get on to the slopes, although this has been the worse winter for snow in many years. As for the bulk of our lads, this was the first time on skis and there were many humorous moments. **Sigs Jock Ford** and **Jimmy Burns** had a particularly difficult time staying on the T-Bar going up the slope, let alone trying to come down.

Lt Colin Lawrence, LCpl Bass Jones, LCpl Steve Dixon and Sig Kev Martin take a tumble

TWO HIGHLIGHTS

Two of the highlights of the trip were the visit to the Vielhaber Ski factory and the Glenfarclas distillery. The Vielhaber Ski factory is the only one of its kind in Great Britain and the complicated process by which a quality pair of skis are produced was an eye opener to all.

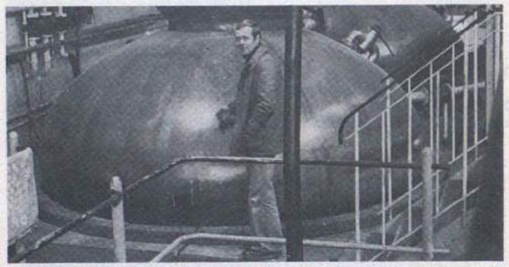
Possibly an even greater interest was generated at the Glenfarclas Whisky distillery. Our tame Scots, **SSgt Bert Connon, Cpl Charlie Ralston, Sigs Jock Ford** and **Jimmy Burns** being particularly appreciative of the aroma that permeated from the building, and all of the free samples afterwards. **Sgt Eric Sharp** had a particularly possessive glint in his eye on sighting the enormous stills.

Our return journey was not without its problems, as our MT proved cranky and our pleasant trip on P & O passenger ferries turned into an interesting journey amidst the containers and juggernauts of a later cargo ferry.

OUR CORPS BAND

The first week of April provided us with some excellent entertainment in the shape of the Corps Band. Their brilliant performances at the Families Concert, WOs' & Sgts' Mess Dinner Night, Officers' Ladies night and later in Belfast City centre were enjoyed by all and much appreciated.

Cpl Charlie Ralston, Pte 'Warwound' Flannery, Sigs Ian Garrity and Scouse Shields at the Vielhaber Ski Factory



Sgt Eric Sharp taking a possessive hold at the Glenfarclas distillery

SHQ

This month we thought our unsung heroes in SHQ deserved a mention after their long labours through the winter. Often unseen and unheard, these industrious workers? provide great support to the remainder of the squadron. **Capt David Clark** RAOC, our Admin Officer, ably seconded by **Chief Clerk Robin Hancox,** leads a fine team in **Cpl Dixie Dean, Cpl Geoff Biss, LCpl Mick Cole, Sig Dave Williams** and **Sig Jimmy Peat.** Sadly we have to say farewell to **Cpl Dixie Dean** and **Sig Jimmy Peat** who are leaving us on posting. Our congratulations though to **Cpl Dean** on his promotion to Sergeant.

QM DEPT

Further hidden heroes are to be found in the depths of the QM Stores. **Maj Fred Orr** leads a particularly strong department at the moment after a period of re-organisation and expansion. **RQMS Darkie Williams** seconds an able team, consisting of **Sgt Pete Woodward, Cpl Neil Chatterton** and **LCpl Taff Dilling** in the central office with **Cpl Barbour** and **Sig Phil Baker** on the radio store shop floor. **LCpl John Vernon** and **Sig Steve 'Capt Beaky' Ward** do an able job in G1098 and **LCpl Tony Reynolds** and **Sig Dave Stevenson** labour in FATSO. The work of these stalwarts controlling the 1800 + radios, ancillaries, G1098 and miscellaneous stores is often unsung and unseen, but not unappreciated.

SPORT

The squadron has had some notable successes recently in the field of orienteering. After winning the NI R Signals Championship in February the team ran to victory in the NI Minor Units Championship in March. The team, **Capt Robin Hill, Capt John Walsh** (R Anglians), **Cpl Mick Strefford, Cpl Pip Piper** and **LCpl Mark Worrall** are now training hard, in preparation for the UKLF Championship in May.

Not only in orienteering have our runners done well. The Tickle Fitness Competition on 27 Mar produced a 97% pass rate, one of the highest in the contest. Our only failure failing by barely five seconds. The Army Marathon on 29 Apr is our next destination and we wish our runners **Cpl 'Strings' Stringer, Cpl Geoff Biss, Cpl Pip Piper, Dvr Doug Fairbanks** and **Cpl Steve Bland,** the best of luck.

CONGRATULATIONS

To: **Cpl Bill 'Heli-Tele' Smith** and his wife **Joan** on the birth of their son **Donal. Sig Eddy Bolton** and his wife **Anne** on their baby son **Glynn. LCpl Stan Mathews** and his wife **Lynn** on their baby girl Kirstie.

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

ON THE HOP

The squadron continues to be busily employed around the Province. Comms Tp have recently been working with 8 Sig Regt on Ex *Kelpy*, and also doing trials to improve and enhance the Erastos trunk communications system. In fact the troop has been so busy that they haven't had time to write about their exploits for the Wire! (That's their story, anyway.)

ADMIN TROOP

Admin troop never stop, but they still manage to write something:

CHAIN OF COMMAND:

OC	—	**Capt Len Jeffery**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) Mick Longstaff**
ORSQMS	—	**SSgt (ORSQMS) 'Mac' MacDonald**
MT Sgt	—	**Sgt Phil Cotton**
Trg NCO	—	**Sgt Alec Mair**
'Q'	—	**Sgt Sandy Sanderson**

GOODIES

Sig 'Radar' Crawford **Sig Dave McKinnel** **Sig 'Taff' Dunn**	—	Crawlers!
Sig 'Chippy' Wood	—	'A' for effort—But get better soon.
LCpl 'Lofty' Marshall	—	But—Where Are You?
LCpl Kev Baxter	—	But—Where Were You?
LCpl Ross Dolan	—	But—Is He Still Here?
Sgt 'Mac' MacDonald	—	Congratulations on your selection for SSgt (ORSQMS) and posting.
Sig 'Maggot' Lindsay	—	'Hi-de-Hi'!
AO/RQ	—	Although naturally (by right) included in the 'Goodies' we both wish to disassociate ourselves from the rest of the unkempt and unwashed—ie too good to be true!

BADDIES

Sgt Phil Cotton	—	Complained loudly about the lack of heating in his office and pinched the AO's office. The AO gave him the flu—serves him right.
Sig Roy Shalliker	—	Must learn to be polite.
LCpl Dave Tuck	—	Nearly!—But had a smashing time.
Sig Rees	—	Was a bad boy and was sent to paint the toilets outside the Peake Inn. Sorry, but they looked better before you started.
AO	—	Put the Peake Inn bar prices up then went on leave (again).
Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader	—	Still drives like a maniac.
Sgt Sandy Sanderson	—	Not as slim as the AO
Cpl 'Oor Wullie' Coyne	—	Not as handsome as the AO.
Cpl Mick Arnold	—	Just because he's got a posting to Cyprus doesn't mean he can harp on about it all day long.
Sgt Alec Mair	—	We know you're here, but what do you do?

SPORTS REPORT

In this issue of the Wire we are concentrating on sport, and in particular on our successful season for the Volleyball and Basketball teams. But these aren't the only sports that we've made a good showing in: the football squad led by **SSgt 'Scrubber' Stone** and the hockey team with **WO2 (YofS) George Coles** at the helm have both had their moments. The rugby team too have played well but need more ex-7 Sig Regt players! In the sports where the individual counts, we have also had a good season: **Sgt Pete Hirst's** cross-country team and **Sgt Campbell Lapsley's** orienteering team have both run close behind the winners. We congratulate **Campbell Lapsley** on his selection to run as an individual representing Northern Ireland at the Army Orienteering Championships.

BASKETBALL

Over the past five years the squadron has consistently held its own in the Northern Ireland Basketball scene. The 1980/81 season however has seen the team come to the fore and dominate both the N Ireland Minor Units Cup and the Winter League Competitions.

233's Victorious Basketball Team . . .
Back Row L to R: Sgt Dick Russell, LCpl Mint Cobban, WO1 (YofS) Andy Locke, LCpl Biggles Foster, Sgt Chris Evis, Cpl Paul Milner.
Front Row: Sgt Dave Smith (Capt), LCpl Craig Ballantyne, Maj Don Overton (OC), Cpl Dougie Wright, Sgt Graham Huzzey-Morgan.
Absent: Sgt Keith Leighton

ACHIEVEMENTS

The squadron currently holds the NI Army Minor Units Cup which was won in 1980, and is also favourite to retain the trophy this year. The team did not have everything their own way in the NI Winter League, however. The 3 Para team were unbeaten when they, very obligingly, were posted out of the Province before the end of the season! The squadron met 3 Inf Bde HQ Sqn in the play-off between the top two teams for the league trophy. The team played magnificently to take the title convincingly from our old adversaries from Portadown.

In the Army Minor Units Championship, the team met and beat some very tough competition on the way to winning the NI section. We travelled to Harrogate in the next round to play 11 Sig Regt. In a very close game we lost by only two baskets. Without wishing to detract from 11 Sig Regt's deserved win, it should be pointed out that we put in a very poor performance both individually and collectively. (It must have been the Yorkshire air!!)

THE TEAM

At the beginning of the season the squadron had a squad of 13 keen basketball players of varying levels of skill. During the season due to hard work by all concerned, especially the manager **WO1 (YofS) Andy Locke** and the captain **Sgt Dave Smith**, even our weaker players can now hold their own on court. By Christmas we had lost one of our key forwards in **Cpl Billy Allen** who was attracted to the sunnier climes of Cyprus. His individual style of basketball was always very entertaining. If losing one forward was not enough. **Cpl Martin Widdicombe** followed the Cyprus trail in February. However, whilst on embarkation leave, he motored up to Harrogate to participate in our ill-fated game against 11 Sig Regt. What dedication!!

The next few months will see a fairly major exodus from the team and **Sgt Dave Smith** will have his work cut out to keep the team at the top. If there are any good basketball players due for a posting soon and wishing to further their sport with an established team—need we say more! Those leaving are: **WO1 (YofS) Andy Locke** to HQ 1 Signal Group, **Sgt Craham Huzzey-Morgan** to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl Paul Milner** returns to 21 Sig Regt and **Sgt Chris Evis** to SHAPE as a civvy. To compensate M&RO have posted in **Cpl Tony Sylvester**, but there are still vacancies. And finally a mention for **Pte Carol McIntyre** WRAC who is our scorer and a valued member of the squad.

VOLLEYBALL

The Squadron is relatively new to competitive volleyball. At the beginning of the 79/80 season we were asked if we would participate in the Northern Ireland League. The OC Sqn **Maj Don Overton** asked for a volunteer: **'Sgt Sweeting'** 'Yes, Sir' 'You've played volleyball before; you're the new Sqn rep' 'Yes, Sir'

However the season was already underway, so when the word went out that a volleyball team was to be formed, it was feared the response would be poor, and that all the best athletes would already be playing other sports. But the offers to join poured in and the job of moulding the team together began. In the first season we had to be content with only being the runners-up in the League, but we had gained valuable experience. Prior to the start of the 80/81 season, a lot of training was done and we warmed up with friendly matches, so that by start of the season spirits were high and we began a steady succession of wins. Towards the end of the season we were lying first in the league table and thus we entered the Northern Ireland Championships on 31 Mar, along with five teams, all from other Corps. Our first game ended in defeat at the hands of the REME, but after 'talk' from the team captain, all was well and the team settled down to win the four remaining matches with some good volleyball, which was very important as the opposition was tough. After some hasty arithmetic it was all over, and we were the Northern Ireland Champions.

233's Victorious Volleyball Team
Back Row L to R: Sgt Dave Smith (again!), Sig Chris Mountain, Sgt Wayne Sweeting.
Front Row: Cpl Vinnie Hunter, Sgt Phil Cotton, Cpl Mick Arnold.
Absent were Cpl Dave Murphy and LCpl Tigger Howarth

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, London W.1.

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The hospital has both private rooms and small wards, and well-equipped X-Ray and Physiotherapy Departments.

Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the shared rooms. Other patients are asked to pay at the rate of £245 per week for a private room and £210 for a shared room or ward bed. If, however a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his maintenance (now over £450 per week) this is much appreciated as it helps others. Consultant's fees are a matter for personal arrangement between patient and Consultant. There is a generously administered Benevolent Fund for those in straitened circumstances.

BUPA give friends of the Hospital a 15% reduction on their BUPACARE subscriptions and PPP a 25% reduction on their Family Masterplan subscriptions, if payment is made by direct debit.

The hospital is currently handling over 2300 in-patients and 700 out-patients a year. It is not part of the NHS and is therefore reliant on voluntary aid via subscriptions, donations and legacies for which there is an increasing need as the number of patients grows.

If you would like to receive information or become a subscriber please write to the Appeals Secretary, 6 Buckingham Place, London, SW1E 6HR, or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

ARMY JUNIOR SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Report by AT LCpl Pete Farmer)

After last year's foray into the ski scene, we were determined to come as high as possible, given the time available for training. We hoped for third place, as we expected the Junior Leaders Regt Royal Artillery and the Junior Leaders Regt Royal Corps of Transport to come 1st and 2nd. Both those teams had been training in Germany and competed in the Divisional and in the case of the RA the Army Championships. The team was chosen from apprentices who could ski, so all we had to do was to teach them to race through gates. The team members were **AT LCpl Pete (McMouth) Farmer,** Scott Sqn, **LCpl (Loopy) Lewis**, Bradley Sqn, **AT Simon (Poser) Howie**, Bradley Sqn and **AT David (Hoggy) Hart,** Rawson Sqn. The training started during the College half-term plus an extra day added to each end of the break—18-24 Feb.

The team rented a cottage in Kirkmichel near Glenshee as a base. We then hunted for patches of snow large enough on which to race train. During the week **Capt Bob Kinnaird** had all the team racing through courses he had set up and generally tuned up everybody's skiing. By the end of the week, all the team members skiing had improved 100% and while not the neatest skiers on the slopes, they certainly showed plenty of aggression.

After the half-term break came the usual remarks, ie, have a nice holiday, etc etc. (If only they could have seen the worn out bodies asleep at nine every night). We continued training at Harrogate on the dry slope. The team was lucky enough to be able to use the College video to see how they were skiing and examine individual faults.

The second phase of our training started in Aviemore on 12 Mar, prior to the Championships starting on the 16th. 17 Mar dawned bright sunshine and blue skies for the Junior Army Team event. All the team had their start numbers and were ready to go. **Capt Kinnaird** and **Sgt Hatch** said a final prayer for none of the team to fall. All of the team completed the course in just enough time to qualify them for the Team Giant Slalom the following day. The team skied well enough to compete every day of the meeting and the final results were: Army Apprentices College Harrogate: Junior Army Team Championships—3rd, Team Giant Slalom—15th, Royal Signals Individual Champion—**Capt Bob Kinnaird** (in the absence of the Corps better racers in Germany).

Considering the amount of race experience we had, the team were very pleased with the results. There were only seconds between us and the Royal Artillery for second place in the Junior team race. Who knows what awaits us next year?

Finally a word of thanks for all the time and effort put in by **Capt Bob Kinnaird** and **Sgt John Hatch,** for without their enthusiasm, the team wouldn't have got off the ground.

COLLEGE THEATRE GROUP'S FESTIVAL SUCCESSES

This year's Nidderdale and District Drama Association's Festival of One-Act Plays was, like last year's, by kind permission of the Commandant, **Col M. U. Ryan,** staged in the College theatre. twelve plays were presented by the different societies from 18-21 Mar, under the adjudication of **Mr Geoffrey Holmes.**

The College Theatre Group won the two cups presented by Nidderdale Drama Association for the Best Play, while **AT Cpl Kevan Bolam,** although aged only 17 and competing against far more experienced actors, deservedly won the award for Best Actor, for his performance as the ubiquitous Mr Farnsworth in 'Festival Nightmare'.

The play, by Nina Warner-Hooke, was directed by **Alan Lyons,** one of our civilian members. Stage management was in the capable hands of **David Tyrie**, until recently an instructor at the College; **SSgt Brian Hulme** did the Sounds; **Sig 'Sid' Chew** found time, between driving the Commandant hither and yon, to play a part. The College Theatre Group now go forward to the Yorkshire final, to be held at Sedgefield on Sat 11 Apr.

RUGBY NOTES

This season has been the most successful for a number of years for the College Rugby Team. The under 19 'Colts' team won the Army Rugby Football Union Youth Challenge Cup and the under 17½ team were runners up in the Junior Challenge Cup. In addition we have had three players in the Army under 19 side and one in the Combined Services side.

College under 19 team
Winners of the Army under 19 Youth Rugby Cup

The Army under 19 Cup was gained by beating the Army Apprentices College Arborfield 9 points to 6 in what was a hard fought but rather undistinguished final. In fact, as is often the case with cup rugby, the path to the final provided much better quality football than the final itself. The most exciting game and the one which best demonstrates the quality of determination and resilience which has been the hallmark of the team, was the semi final match against the Army Apprentices College of the ACC from Aldershot. This was played in normal Harrogate weather—low temperatures and a howling gale from the South West. Always slow starters, and to make matters worse playing against the bitter wind, the College were 10-16 down by half time and against such quality opposition (including two combined services and one Army player) things looked black. In the second half, however, the College played some excellent rugby and with the aid of tries by **Neighbour, Graham** and **Watson,** clinched the match by 22 points to 16. By comparison the final was an anticlimax.

In the under 17½ Cup the College had to choose from only the younger players but the team was nevertheless unlucky to lose a final in which they did most of the attacking and hit the upright twice, once with a drop goal and once with a penalty. The second time that it happened convinced us all that the double was just not 'meant to be'.

In non Cup rugby the team has also had a very good and enjoyable season playing a mixture of Club Colts sides, Grammar Schools and the occasional adult side. The Colts and the Schools have provided the best fare and have contributed most to the development of the College teams.

On the under 19 representative side the College has also done quite well. **AT Munson** played at second row for the Combined Services and the Army and our captain and stand off half **AT LCpl Dent** played regularly for the Army side gaining his colours against the Navy and RAF playing on the wing. **AT Graham** has also played on the wing for the Army. Although it is hardly fair to single out individuals in what is essentially a team game, the following certainly deserve a mention. In the backs **LCpl Watson** for his tackling, **LCpls Amos** and **Dent** for their half back partnership and the 'front five' which have included **Cpl Daniels, Sgt Nolan, AT McKissock, AT Simister, AT LCpl Longley, AT Taft** and, of course, **AT Munson.** When all is said and done, however, this may not be the most talented team that the College has produced but it must rate as one of the most determined and it is this determination which has brought it success.

College under 17½ team
Runners up in the Army under 17½ Junior Rugby Cup

AT LCpl Dent (Represented Army under 19), AT Munson (Represented Combined Services under 19), AT Cpl Graham (Represented Army under 19)

SOCCER

The term has been a difficult one from the soccer point of view. Owing to the wet weather many games had to be postponed or cancelled and some that did take place could hardly be called football matches. It is worth mentioning the excellent service we received from our 'amphibious' groundsmen **Mr Clough** and **Mr Lister.** They never flinched from trying to prepare paddy fields into playable pitches and on several occasions the College provided the sole match in the Yorkshire Services League.

The PS team continued their fine form and despite a defence with the average age of 39.5 years, led the Yorkshire Services League, Division 2, having been defeated only once in 18 games.

The College Apprentices team has had mixed fortunes. Having lost the majority of last season's players it had to be rebuilt and like all new formations, has taken time to settle and perform well. The signs are good for next season with many of the current promising young players. **AT LCpl Eddie Blight,** our 'old fashioned' centre forward, scored over 30 goals and also a few for the Army Youth team. **AT Billy Grierson,** our smallest player, proved that size isn't everything. He has played regularly for the Army Youth team and had the rare honour of playing for the FA English Colts XI versus Charterhouse. We wish them both well in their postings to 21 Sig Regt.

At squadron level, the competitive spirit has produced excellent results. Penney are the Army Apprentices Cup winners and Scott Sqn—for long, under dogs of College soccer—reached the final of the Army Youth Cup, only to be beaten by one goal (2-3) after two very hard fought games with C Company, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow.

DIRECT FLOW

In line with the College policy of direct flow of information to even the lowest levels, the following information notice was spotted in the clothing store: If we've naffin gorrit, Yow ain't naffin avin it, If we ain't naffin gorrit, Yow con naffin gerrit. Any naffin lip an yow will gerrit. So Naff Off.

Thus are the practical consequences of the moratorium brought home.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

ADP Development Team HQ UKLF

CHIEFS AND INDIANS

Having devoted some considerable space in the past to the middle management, we decided this month to feature some of the other levels of responsibility within the team. As you can guess from their photograph, **Miss Betty Mullins, Sgt Gerry Griffiths** and **Pte Denise Bennett** work in close harmony in the Orderly Room, and not as distant from **Mrs Kate Emery**, our typist, as the separate photograph might imply! Our other typist, **Mrs Jan Redman**, was unfortunately not available to be photographed, being temporarily 'excused boots' for inadvertently damaging a few toes on a door—we don't think she was practising karate at the time! It was probably a frustration indicator at having to decipher the reams of feverishly written texts that have been submitted lately for typing—but more of that later! The work level is on a high, and it's no coincidence that **Mr Ron Reakes**, our Senior System Designer, has an intent look as he scans yet another supplier's handout, or that **Lt Col Peter Ost** and **Maj Roger Lewenz** have temporarily forsaken the quill and paper for the keyboard and computer!

'They're not holding me down—honest!' Miss Betty Mullins and Pte Denise Bennett do a flanking movement on Sgt Gerry Griffiths, against an appropriate military backdrop

'Me?—Camera shy?' Mrs Kate Emery gives the typewriter a chance to cool down

'What do you mean, how do you spell it!' Mr Ron Reakes vets the claims of yet another hardware supplier

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

The cause of all the activity, of course, is the need to define the operational requirement for the new ADP system which is to replace the present CTL Modular-One configuration, hopefully within the next twelve months. A tight timescale, which **Maj Mark Illingworth**, 16/5L, our GS02(W) Plans, readily conceded, and wherewith promptly proceeded to involve the rest of the team in producing drafts of the relevant sections. All this coincided with *Wintex 81*, and the trial operation of a remote data link, something which let **Capt Howard Crosse**, 16/5L, off the hook, as he struggled manfully against the vagaries of circuit ins and outs to keep the HQ staffs supplied. For the rest of us, it was a case of write while one could, be it on mornings, evenings or the wee small hours, as we maintained a 24 hour availability throughout the exercise. Thankfully, the end of the task is now in sight, and we have high hopes that our submissions for the new equipment will meet with success in MOD. **Mr Ian Sey** and his software group, comprising of **Mrs Megan Pritchard** and **Mrs Jenny Bates**, are looking forward to the new system with just a little trepidation—we think they suspect that BCPL the dreaded compiler language, isn't quite dead and might emerge reincarnated in the new configuration!

OUT AND ABOUT

As the year goes on, Wilton lives up to its reputation as being the bit on the intersection line of the weatherman's map, and thus gets a bit of everything. Wind, rain, sun and snow are all as naught, however, when it comes to using up one's unexpired leave. **Maj Tom Moncur** was first off the mark (again!) with a spot of absence on paternity in February, closely followed by **Sgt Bob Evans** who turned his MGB towards the fleshpots of BAOR for a quick return visit to his his old stomping grounds with Project *Wavell*. **Sgt John Hutchings**, on the other hand, by now hardened to the rigours of life in UK, elected to stick things out at Wilton, possibly as part of a toughening up campaign to withstand a couple of weeks at the British seaside later in the year. Not that one needs leave to get away from work of course—the HQ UKLF Summer Sports competition is due to start again soon, and even if impending motherhood prevents **Mrs Megan Pritchard** from repeating her run-scoring successes at last year's cricket competition, she is very well placed to give **Mrs Marion Hankins** and **Mrs Jenny Bates** a bit of coaching! As last year, the ADPDT is linked with Signals Branch for this contest, and we shall look forward to producing selected highlights in the coming months. Signed action photographs can be produced on request!

'OK, you've put a cross there—I'll put a nought here!' Lt Col Peter Ost and Maj Roger Lewenz test the system

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NEW GROUP

For those who have not had their ear to the ground over the past few months, we are a new unit, formed by the amalgamation of 224 Sig Sqn and 4 Comms Unit (now sub-units of the new group and titled 2 Sqn (Radio) and 4 Coy (Comms) respectively. The unit is commanded by **Lt Col John Dobson** who took over last month from **Lt Col Mike Greaves.** Currently serving in the new unit are **Maj Owen Lewis (2iC), Capt Bill Clark (Adjt), Maj Fred Searle (OC 2 Sqn), Maj John Healey (OC 3 Coy), Maj John Lovett (OC 4 Coy), Maj John Morley (London Det), Capt John Markham (OC HQ Sqn), Capt Steve Bloom (QM), WO1 Jim Crannage (RSM), WO2 Dave Berry (Chief Clerk).** The formation of the Group was marked by an Amalgamation Parade and an eye-witness's account is given below.

AMALGAMATION PARADE

Mon 3 Nov dawned bleak and grey but thank goodness it was dry. All round camp anxious eyes were cast skywards trying to convince themselves that it would not rain. Only the RSM was confident that it would remain fine. 'Wouldn't dare rain' he was heard to comment. As the time approached 1100 hrs the stentorian voice of the RSM gave the order 'Get on Parade' and the troops marched on to the square—224 Sig Sqn leading, 4 Communications Unit following. On to the respective right markers they marched.

The Inspecting Officer was **Col C. J. Gilbert**, who afterwards stated that he was very impressed with the drill and bearing of all on parade. The previous three weeks' practices obviously bore fruit!

After marching past the Inspecting Officer as two independent units, the 224 Signal Squadron Pennant was lowered for the last time and presented to the Office Commanding that unit—**Maj Peter Treseder.** The Flag of the new unit was raised and trumpeter of the Royal Corps of Signals Staff Band played a suitable fanfare 'Arrival'. The parade then formed as one unit under the new title of Communications & Security Group (UK) and marched past the Inspecting Officer.

On completion of the parade, the Inspecting Officer, all Officers and families present, plus all Sergeants Mess members and families adjourned to the Sergeants Mess to drink the health of the new Group, whilst the Junior ranks did likewise in the JRC. After this short aperitif, everyone adjourned to their respective messes for lunch.

All-in-all the day went very well. A milestone in the history of this organisation. An occasion tinged with a little sadness at the disappearance of two units for ever, but pride in being present at the formation of a new unit.

VISIT BY GOC

On Fri 6 Feb the Group was visited by **Maj Gen R. E. J. Gerrard-Wright CBE** GOC Eastern District. It was a very brief tour of all the Group's departments, and it is hoped that next time we will be able to see the GOC for a longer period.

SPORT

Considering the constant change in personnel, due to trade training, the Group manages to do extremely well in most sporting activities.

FOOTBALL

The Group football team has had a mixed season in the local Thursday league, played on a Wednesday!! But in the Army Eastern District Competition we have fared much better and are now the proud owners of the Eastern District Cup for the second season running, as well as the Eastern Area Cup. We now plan to go one better than last year and hopefully win the Army UK Minor Units competition.

The team itself comes under the strict but fair (we had to say that) supervision of **WO1 (RSM) Jim Crannage**, and has a good sprinkling of experienced campaigners who have been through it all before. We would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to a stalwart of the team **Yeoman Gus Hartley** who has decided he likes exercises more than football and is off to the sunny climate of North Germany and 14 Sig Regt (EW). Lots of luck to **Gus** and family and thanks to all players this season. Long may they keep their boots clean.

BADMINTON

In the Eastern District Badminton Championships held at Colchester the Group sent a small group of players. Although they did not manage to win any of the competitions, most gained valuable experience. **Sgt Tom Morrall** was beaten in the quarter final of the singles, and with his wife **Wendy** as his partner also failed at the quarter final stage of the mixed doubles competition. **SSgt Brian Inglis** with his partner **LCpl Chris Lowish** managed to reach the semi-finals of the men's doubles where they were beaten by the eventual winning pair. Better luck next year.

X-COUNTRY

The Group Cross Country Team has been very successful so far this year. Keen runners from almost every department of the unit have formed a powerful team, and have won the Area League Trophy and become runners up in both the Eastern District and Eastern Area Minor Units Cross Country Championships, qualifying for the Army Championships to be run in the very near future.

The team captain **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick** and fellow runners **Cpl Yogi Yeoman, LCpls Danny O'Brien, Sean Weldon** and **Les Vass** have propelled their mud-spattered bodies through many a mile of tortuous terrain and have enjoyed every agonising pace. I hope that in the next issue we can boast an Army Championship Trophy!

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 17 Jan after a very short but extremely invaluable period as the first CO of the newly formed Group, it was time for **Lt Col Mike Greaves** to leave. After paying his respects (a new name for having a farewell drink) with the Group's SNCOs at the Sergeants Mess, **Lt Col Greaves**, in driving snow, did a final circuit of the camp in the back of an open Landrover pulled/pushed by the SNCOIs by **WO1 (RSM) Jim Crannage.** The rest of the unit lined up around the camp circuit to bid the Colonel a fond farewell. At the Guardroom it was time to switch transport to the staff car but not before **Sgt Colin Green**, resplendent in Mess Kit, proffered a certain Scottish brew renowned for its medicinal properties, to the Colonel, the 2IC **Maj Lewis** and to the RSM. After toasting the Group it was finally time for **Lt Col Greaves** to take his leave with the sound of three cheers ringing in his ears.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Commanding Officer **Lt Col John Dobson**, and hope that his tour will be a happy one.

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HQ 4 SIGNAL GROUP

HQ 4 SIGNAL GROUP

Four long-serving civilian staff from 4 Signal Group are to retire during the next few weeks after clocking up a combined total of 163 years crown service—95 of them with British Army of the Rhine.

The four officers were guests of honour at a lunch at Rheindahlen on 2 April. Our picture shows them with **Maj Gen Henry Hild**, CSO BAOR. From left to right they are **Mr Harry McKeown, Mr Eric Dobson, Mr Archie Drummond** and **Mr Duncan McInnes.**

Eric Dobson began his career in 1937 with the Post Office. During the war he served in the RAF and saw active service in the Far East. In 1953 he seconded from the Post Office to Telecoms Group BAOR and transferred to MOD in 1969. For the past seven years he has been the Senior Telecommunications Officer Hannover area. He is to retire to Suffolk.

Harry McKeown also joined the Post Office in 1937 and remained with them until 1946 when he seconded to the Control Commission BAOR. He transferred from the Post Office to the MOD in 1969. **Harry** has achieved 35 years unbroken service in Germany, the last seven as Senior Telecommunications Officer Bielefeld area. He intends to retire to Norfolk.

Archie (Jock) Drummond was a farm labourer, laboratory assistant and Post Office employee before the war in which he served in the Royal Corps of Signals, seeing active service in North Africa, Egypt, Italy and Greece. After a spell back with the Post Office he seconded to Tels Group BAOR in 1964, transferring to MOD in 1969. He has been in Rheindahlen for the past seven years, where he has made a major contribution to the planning and bringing into service of the new BAOR telephone exchange network. He is to live in Bournemouth after retiring.

Duncan (Mac) McInnes served in the Royal Navy from 1935 until 1960. During this time he saw active service with the North Atlantic and Arctic convoys, in the Indian Ocean, the China Seas and Sumatra. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1956. He joined Tels Group BAOR in 1968 and for the past five years has been 4 Signal Group TV Liaison Officer, where he has played a key role in bringing British television to Germany. His future home will be in Perth, Western Australia.

SIGNALS WING THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

Royal Signals Staff at the Royal School of Artillery
From left to right: SSgt M. I. Hill, SSgt (YofS) C. A. E. Copestake, Lt Col W. D. A. Poole (the Senior Instructor), WO1 (FofS) B. Hassall and Cpl R. MacKintosh

On 13 Dec SSgt (YofS) C. A. E. Copestake was presented with his LS & GC medal by the Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery, Brig D. M. Jones.

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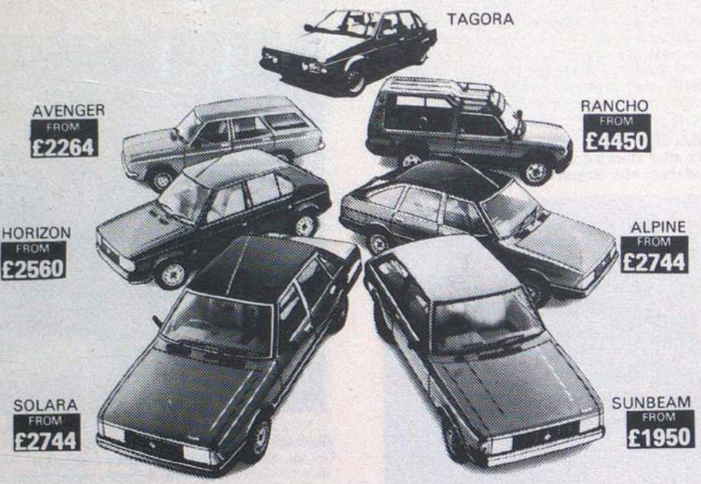

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TALBOT

FIRST FOR EXPORT

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

COMMANDANT INSPECTS THE SCHOOL REGIMENT

The School Regiment, that little known unit hidden in the depths of the School of Signals has, like every other regiment in the Corps, to complete an ARU. This year the CO chose Thur 12 Feb when the weather in Blandford was 'typically cold and windy'! The Inspecting Officer was the new Commandant, **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE.**

Unbeknown to the regiment, the inspection started early when the Brigadier visited the soldiers cookhouse for breakfast. Afterwards he was overheard telling his wife that he now knows where he can get a cooked breakfast on time! After such a nourishing start to the day, the Brigadier began the inspection proper when he inspected a Quarter Guard provided by the School. **LCpl Ron Perry**, a member of the Guard was told of his promotion to Cpl by the Brigadier, and now volunteers to do all Quarter Guards that are provided by the School! The Quarter Guard was presented by **WO2 (SSM) John Hornby** who has since left on promotion to WO1, as the MTWO of 71 Sig Regt (V); he now inspects Land Rovers and 4-tonners instead of soldiers.

SERIES OF COMPETITIONS

Three of the four squadrons in the regiment (HQ Sqn, 1 (Training Support) Sqn and 2 (Trials) Sqn) were involved in a series of inter-sqn competitions where they were able to demonstrate (or re-learn) their technical and military skills. A selection of the regiment completed their APFAs in the gym—dressed in Army issue PT kit. We have decided it would not be fair to include any pictures of the participants!

The three squadrons also competed in a Triffid Radio Relay exercise which was won by Trials Sqn. (Surprise, surprise—they include the Ptarmigan Trials Tp). The remaining competitions were a shooting and NBC stand and an assault course race. The RSM was horrified when the Brigadier used his pace stick to measure the depth of the ditch: the varnish will never be the same again.

The fourth squadron in the regiment, the Corps Band, made a surprise entry in the day, when they greeted the Brigadier as he toured the single soldiers accommodation. For once the stereos were silent as the block echoed to the strains of 'My Boy Willie'.

The Commandant meets the Triffid Radio Relay crews before starting the competition. He is seen talking to Cpl Ivor Bailey of 2 Sqn. No doubt he was discussing the merits of fire extinguishers in box bodies and kitchens. (Shortly before the ARU Cpl Bailey's kitchen burnt down!) OC 2 Sqn Maj Alan Jackman is in the foreground

. . . AND PRIZES

The Brigadier presented the prizes in the cookhouse. Three crates of beer were included in the prizes: one each to HQ and 1 Sqn who shared the overall prize, and one to 2 Sqn for the Radio Relay competition. The beer was swiftly consumed by the participants, leaving only a trophy to be shared between HQ and 1 Sqn for the remainder of the year.

LSGC MEDALS PRESENTED

The Inspection finished with a presentation of LS & GC medals, in the Sgts Mess, to **SSgt Alistair Sykes, Sgt Brian Bennett** and **Sgt Mark Eaton. Sgt Bennett** suffered a double performance as the medal fell off the first time. This was followed by an excellent curry luncheon in the Mess, for all the Officers, WO's and SNCO's of the regiment (and back to work a little later than usual!)

'So that's what pace sticks are for!'
The Commandant measures the depth of the ditch in the assault course, being watched by Maj McKail, (DAA of QMG)

Presentation of LS & GC Medals:
The Commandant is pictured here with Sgt B. S. Bennett, SSgt A. D. Sykes and Sgt M. Eaton, with their families after the ceremony

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

A MILESTONE

On 7 Apr, the new Sergeants Mess was officially opened by the GOC ending a difficult 6 year period when the Officers and Sergeants had to share one building. The new Mess is the old RAF Sergeants Mess which has been completely refurbished. We are now looking forward to an extensive 'face lift' over the next 12 months and this will include modernisation of all the junior soldiers accommodation and the married quarters, new roads and street lighting, additional changing facilities and showers in the gymnasium and modernisation of the main cookhouse.

The GOC, Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE addresses the Sergeants Mess Members having cut a red ribbon away from the front door. WO1 (RSM) Barry Hives listens attentively and in the background the Chief Clerk WO2 Harry Johnson acts as scissor orderly

RAZZLE DAZZLE

The Razzle Dazzle variety show was held just before half term. All the junior troops and most departments produced an act and the whole affair was cobbled together in a few weeks by our SEO, **Maj Bryn Griffiths**, who at the time was heard to mutter, 'never again', but he's already planning the next one for Oct.

Battleaxe Troop do their own Razzle Dazzle version of 'It ain't 'alf 'ot Mum.' *From left to right* Jnr Cpl Geordie Crawford, Jnr Sigs Neil Frank, Hurricane Higgins, Broken nose Moore, Oxo Oxtoby and Andy Staff

NORTHUMBRIA CULINAIRE COMPETITION

Our Regimental ACC cooks cleaned out the top awards in a National Catering Competition held in Newcastle on 7 Apr. In total they won 10 awards including the coveted Supreme Trophy, the Henry Smith Cup. As far as we're concerned the judges only confirmed what we already know in the regiment—our cooks are the tops!

Our cooks with their 5 cups and certificates, as well as a few examples of their handiwork. *From left to right* LCpl John Davidson, Cpl Derek Coates, LCpl Paul Wilkinson, Cpl Bob Graham, Pte Ivan Kerr, Pte Steve Hunt, the CO Lt Col Ian Crouch, Cpl Paul McCafferey, Pte Mark Lavery, Cpl Tony Knights, Pte Mark Nicholson, Pte Ian Kerr, Sgt Keith Blackwell and the Master Chef WO2 Mick Aldridge

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PASS OFF PARADE

Ex-Oustonites reading this article will never believe it but the pass-off parade on Thu 9 Apr was held in beautiful sunshine with hardly a breeze to be felt! The SoinC was the inspecting officer and Kukri, Quadrant, Triangle, Kohima and Beaufighter Troops marked the end of their training here with a truly superb parade. Kukri as Champion Troop took pride of place on the right of the line.

The SOinC Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE inspects Kukri Troop and is here talking to Jnr Cpl John Tristram; Jnr Sig Mark Innes waits his turn in the foreground and 2Lt Mike Wise Kukri Troop Commander looks on

The SOinC Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE presents the Commanding Officer's Prize for the best overall junior soldier passing out from the whole intake, Jnr Sgt Martin Haythorne of Kukri Troop. In the background are the CO Lt Col I. J. Crouch Royal Signals and Mrs Birtwistle

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

CHANGES

The new year started with many changes in the regiment; the CO, **Lt Col Carr-Smith**, became Comd Comms and all our Headquarters staffs left to be replaced by a lot of strange letters and numbers as we 'went NATO' in our staff titles. Still, the faces looked familiar as did the members of Task Force Alpha and Bravo, who, on 1 Jan, became 207 (7 Armd Bde) and 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqns respectively.

Another significant change since Christmas is that all of our Verden based Sqn Commanders have changed. We now have **Maj S. Bill Morgan** commanding HQ Sqn and **Maj Mike Anderson, Carl Conlon** and **John Grierson** commanding 1, 2 and 3 Sqns.

ARU

On Fri 6 Feb we were inspected by our Garrison Commander, **Brig D. J. Atkinson MBE**. Following the successful format of last year we staged a Regimental Patrol Competition and were able to show **Brig Atkinson** that not only can we communicate efficiently but we are also proficient soldiers. Almost everyone in the regiment either competed or acted as DS for a variety of tasks including March and Shoot, First Aid, NBC, BFT and drill—yes drill! A very full and demanding day which, judging by the Brigadier's smile, was also very successful.

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

In common with our fellow 1 (BR) Corps Regiment, Exercise *Flying Falcon* in early February was curtailed because of fuel economies. These fuel economies were perhaps a blessing for us as the Regimental Cross Country Team was able to concentrate on training for the Army Championships at Aldershot on 19 Feb.

After a very close race the **RSM** (and Team Manager) **WO1 Brian Young** was biting his nails as the scores were totalled; it was going to be a very close thing between ourselves and 3 Para. Jubilation! Thanks to determined running, particularly by our back markers, we were Army Champions for the third consecutive year by a mere 18 points.

Our runners on the day, who had trained so hard for the success were: **LCpl Stuart Little, Sgt Pete Probin, SSgt George Holden BEM** (now 40 years old and the team trainer), **LCpl Bill Bailey, LCpl Andy Talbot, Sig Jim Brebner, Sig 'Scouse' Kelly, SSgt John Turvey, Sig Duggie Martin** and **Capt Mike Rescorle.**

SHOOTING SUCCESS

Out of the blue one February morning came an ARA circular which was almost put in the 'pending tray' until the sharp eyed Superintending Clerk, **WO1 Tom Pengelley**, noticed that our name was on it. Closer investigation revealed we had won the King George V Cup for Other Arms and Services, the Artillery Cup and the Royal Signals Trophy in the Tickell Skill at Arms Competition. This success came from the aggregate scores of a Regimental Shoot, not the efforts of a few gladiators.

(Photo courtesy PR HQ 1 Armd Div)

Capt Richard Hoole (Rt) and SSgt Henry Banks proudly display the King George V Cup, the Royal Signals Trophy and the Artillery Cup, all won in the Tickell Skill at Arms Competition.

BUSY YEAR

At the time of writing we look forward to another busy year of exercise, camps, expeditions, sport and play. We have many new faces in the regiment whom we welcome. Many old faces have left us, to whom we wish good fortune and thanks for their contributions to life in Verden, Soltau or Hohne.

PLOMBIERES PLODDERS

Frau Irmgard Cornelsen, the Leiterin (Principal) and the children of the Verden-Eitze School for the Mentally Handicapped, gathered in their school hall the other day to welcome back **LCpl (Michael) Smudger Smith** and **Sig Robin Spittal.**

The two of them, together with **Sig Charlie Farley**, all of them from 3 Sqn of the regiment, had entered the famous Plombieres-Houffalize March at the end of last year, and had got the members of their unit to sponsor them for a charitable cause.

The Plombieres-Houffalize March is a 110 kilometre march in Belgium, which many teams, civilian and military, from all over Europe enter. **LCpl Smudger Smith** and his two walking companions completed the whole course in 22 hours, with 'only a blister or two to show for it'. But their aches and pains were well rewarded, for, on return to Verden they set about collecting their sponsorship. And it was a cheque for DM 870.00 that **LCpl Smith** proudly presented to **Frau Cornelsen.**

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GCHQ

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

204 (4 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Squadron Personalities:

OC	**Maj I. C. Shuker**
2IC	**Capt P. L. Maloney**
Admin Offr	**Capt A. D. J. McVeigh**
OC Comms Tp	**2 Lt M. Campbell**
SSM	**WO2 G. Brogan**
SQMS	**SSgt R. Pollitt**
FofS	**SSgt M. Crowe**
YofS	**SSgt B. Greenwood**

A LETTER HOME

Dear Mum and Dad,

Life has been relatively quiet since the end of Exercise *Crusader* 80. We are in the middle of some severe fuel economies which have meant that our vehicles have virtually been grounded. I haven't had a really good cabbie in my 432 for a couple of months now. I hope I can remember how, when we go out on Exercise *Flying Falcon* next week.

We got a new boss in January. **Maj Chris Shuker** took over from **Maj Noel Harrison.** One came out from the Ministry of Defence and the other went back to it. Typical isn't it? We're all very sorry to see the **Harrison's** go, but it was only after a long season of Christmas parties.

You may have noticed that my address has changed. Yes, I know that's the umpteenth time since I've been here! Well, hopefully this time it's for good. On the first of January, Task Force Charlie became 4th Armoured Brigade and now wears the emblem of the Desert Rat. Our Desert Rat is black and faces to the right whilst 7 Armoured Brigade's is red and faces to the left.

At the same time, although, in effect, we became 4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, we are to be designated 204 Sig Sqn but remain part of 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt. I pity the Forces Post Office who have to cope with our title changes. We actually had a letter addressed to '204 Armoured Brigade' last week. **Maj Shuker** is wondering whether to apply for the acting rank of Brigadier!

Field Marshal Lord Carver of Shackleford GCB, CBE, DSO, MC who command 4 Armoured Brigade came to visit us on the 20 Jan. He presented **SSgt Bob Pollitt** and **Sgt Dave Frost** with their LS & GC awards and then visited the Brigade Headquarter vehicles set up on the square. I have enclosed a few photographs of the Field Marshal talking to the lads. **Cpl Rod Stoddart** and **Sgt Jim Withinshaw** looked as smart as carrots, with their number one dress uniform and lances, at the entrance of the officers mess.

Field Marshal Lord Carver meets LCpl Chris Pritchard OC Maj Chris Shuker centre

Twenty two members of the Sqn went skiing **2Lt Mark Campbell** on Ex *Snowqueen.* Two weeks on skis can't be bad can it? They all looked a bit healthier when they got back. In fact I'm sure it helped get the slower ones through their Basic Fitness Test this week. I think I'll ask to go skiing next year.

I have been keeping fit in other ways though. What with the BFT, a series of basketball and indoor soccer matches, LMG live-firing, and so on. Nevertheless I'm looking forward to the first exercise of *Flying Falcon.* Nothing like a bit of compo and frost-bite.

I've said goodbye to quite a few friends recently. **SSgt Eddie Marsh** and **John Sture, Cpl Steve Bland, Cpl Fred Pearman, LCpls Jock Kerr, Rod Stoddart, Chris Pritchard, Mark Chimiczewski** and **Sig Dinger Bell.** But of course we've had reinforcements in the form of **SSgt Mike Davidson, Sgt Mark Ellis, LCpl John Garner, Sigs Dave Hodge, Mick Gray, Neil Wheatley, Russ King** and **Simon Windus.**

I'll probably write again soon but you know how busy things can get across here.

Your loving son,
Jimmy

212 (12 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OUT WITH THE OLD . . .

Since our last Wire contribution, the squadron has said farewell to a number of people: **Sgt Derek Coker** left us for pastures new in February, ebullient in the knowledge that two people were being posted in to replace him. He claims to have been doing the work of two men but several of us think that he simply left such a huge back-log of work that both **Sgt John Hodges** and **Roy Smith** will be needed to clear it. Will MT ever be the same again? That department seems to have a jinx about it, because **Sgt Hodges** has *already* negotiated a posting out in May!

'Di' Walker is flitting back to the UK and somehow the Orderly Room will never be the same again.

The OC, **Maj John Ambrose,** leaves us shortly after a long sentence with the squadron—having lived through more squadron titles (4 Sqn, TFD Sig Troop et al . . .) than he'd care to relate.

IN WITH THE NEW . . .

The new OC, **Maj Derek McLuckie; Sgt Allan Welch; Vi Brown** (combat typist) and assorted others (poor fools, if only they knew!). Welcome to them all.

In the wake of an exercise-less winter, we thought it time to stretch our tracks and do some communicating. So the 2IC, **Capt John Ewbank**, dragged us out into the bundoo for 48 hours of organised chaos (no change there). Then the OC 'had a go'. All was going well until someone realised we'd set up in a nature reserve . . . getting out of that place was our fastest move ever. The SSM, **Cas Frances** (Recce, Bratwursts, confusion etc) claims that all was OK but somehow we don't believe him . . .Signing off . . .

KAPE

The UK bound Kape Tour Team look keen to be off impressing the inhabitants of North East District. The leader, Lt Bob Brannigan, is seen with his team just before their departure in the early hours of Friday morning, 27 March. The team drove their vehicles to Antwerp to board an RCT LSL bound for Marchwood, determined to leave behind a host of future recruits when they return.

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

CHANGE OF COMMAND

As we go to print, some major management changes are imminent. We will shortly be saying our farewells to the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bob Cook**, on his posting to HQ BAOR and **Maj John Higton**, the 2IC to MOD.

THE SECOND IN COMMAND

Maj John Higton has served with us for over three years, initially as the SO2 Signals in Divisional HQ; and then he took over his present appointment as 2IC two and a half years ago. **Maj John** and his wife **Anne** will be missed by all in the regiment and we wish them the best of luck in the corridors of power at MOD.

OSKAR RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF TAILORING

After nearly 30 years as the Regimental Tailor, **Oskar Riediger** is retiring. Now **Oskar** is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren, but hopes to maintain his ties with the regiment.

Oskar was presented with a handsome silver rose bowl by the CO, Lt Col Cook, as a token of the appreciation felt by all of those for whom Oskar has worked

MAJOR UNITS HOCKEY FINAL

The 4 Armd Div Major Units Hockey Final was played in fine style at Hobart Barracks between 25 Fd Regt RA and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The first half saw some exciting end to end play with **LCpl Jasper Jarrett** scoring an early goal. The gunners equalised just before half time from a short corner. We were quick to score again in the second half and despite great pressure from the gunners it looked as though the score would remain at 2-1. But a final burst of enthusiasm in the last 10 minutes produced 3 more goals resulting in the final score of 5-1, an unexpected but most welcome result and our first Divisional championship win in 10 years.

The Major Unit Hockey Champions

Back Row (*left to right*) Cpl Brolan, Sig Ferris, Sgt Hanlon, Cpl Skeene, LCpl Jarrett, Cpl Griffiths, Cpl Pickwick
Front Row (*left to right*) Sig Miles, Cpl Meggitt, WO2 (SSM) Raybould, Cpl Davis, Cpl Taylor, Cpl Wright

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

OC	**Maj R. J. Holmes MBE**
2IC	**Capt R. R. Holmes**
OC A Gauntlet	**Lt R. Cocks**
OC B Gauntlet	**2Lt M. S. Holman**
SSM	**WO2 J. Bonnett**
YOS	**WO2 A. G. Rayner**

STAFF CHANGES

Maj J. G. Reith PARA has taken over from **Maj A. J. K. Calder** R ANGLIAN as Brigade Major and we noticed the change on the first squadron exercise of 1981, in which we suddenly found ourselves without our vehicles and re-organising into an infantry company, albeit lightly armed. In this guise we spent a cold snowy three days on Stapel Training Area preparing and occupying a field defensive position. After gallantly routing all manner of attacks we had a memorable six kilometre withdrawal in contact followed by another twelve kilometres back to Detmold in which all the Brigade Staff, from the Commander down, participated. It could be argued that we had no reason to expect anything else!

CHANGE OF TITLES

As of 1 Jan 1981 the title 'Task Force Hotel Signal Squadron' was changed in line with the re-introduction of brigade titles to '200 (20th Armoured Brigade) Signal Squadron' and to mark the occasion the 'new' flag was raised bearing the distinctive Gauntlet. On this parade **Cpl Dave Cunliffe** was presented with his LS&GC medal by the Commander **Brig J. J. Stibbon OBE** as the photograph shows. After the

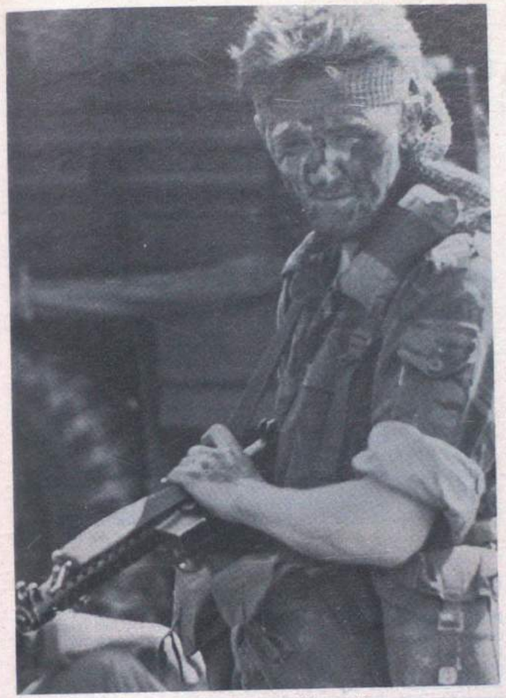
parade the Brigadier presented **Maj J. D. M. Ingram**, the outgoing OC, with a Brigade shield and welcomed **Maj R. J. Holmes** who has taken over. **Maj Holmes** is no stranger to Detmold having served here for four years between 1970 and 1975; we welcome him, his wife **Anne** and their two children to the squadron. **Lt Nigel Harrison** handed over command of Bravo Gauntlet to **2Lt Mike Holman** before leaving for England where he has joined RCC 24 at Sandhurst to become a 'proper' officer and continues to wear the maroon jumper of 20 Armoured Brigade. By coincidence, **Cpl Mike Cost**, late of Bravo Gauntlet also left for RMA Sandhurst at the same time to begin SMC 26 and we wish him good luck and congratulations in advance for his August commissioning.

EXERCISES

Exercises since our last notes have, as usual, been many and varied and on the scene at all times has been **Lt Roger Cocks** with his roving camera, convinced that he is some sort of Lord Snowdon in khaki and featured here are some of his more memorable scoops!

Our annual battle camp at Vogelsang produced a variety of moods, ranging from that of a murderous **LCpl Taff Marenghi** seen acting enemy 'Chindit style' and **Sgt Len Reeves**, arm raised, calmly telling his runner that as his radio op has been shot he now only requires 4 NATO standard coffees. On *Crusader* it came to our notice that one of our American brethren, **Master Sergeant 'The Bear' Sullivan**, was another year older and so we made him a birthday cake (ginger pudding Compo style) topped with real candles from **Sig Tome Hornby's** previous celebration and a card made from the compo cardboard.

The whole affair convinced the Americans that the 'crazy Brits' could fix anything. During the same exercise **Sgt Tom Crawford** found himself with a spare moment in which to make use of his experience in weapon instruction to go through some basic moves with the Armalite/grenade launcher with members of 'C' Coy 2/48 (US) Mech Inf Bn of 2nd Bde 3rd Armd Spearhead Div.



Chindit style—LCpl Marenghi

Birthday Celebrations

Master Cpl Lawson (Canadian Army) demonstrates the benefit of Yoga during cold stand to's

This year's Flying Falcon had its moments too, some quiet, as **WO2 (YofS) 'Rod' Rayner** demonstrates during his daily two hours sleep.

The weather wrought its usual havoc on our FV 432s and 'Heineken' (it reaches the locations other rebros cannot) failed to live up to its name.

We thought coffee was a stimulant—WO2 (YofS) Rod Rayner

SPORT

In the world of sport we have acquitted ourselves well. Our cross country team dominated the Quandrant Minor League teams, with consistently good performances from **SSgt Mick Bailes**, the team Captain, **Cpl 'Gaz' Watkinson, Sig Paul Sadler** and **Cpl Andy Lidstone**. Unfortunately we could not attend all the events and our overall position suffered badly as a result.

Under **WO2 (SSM) 'JR' Bonnett** the football team played a full season, while **SSgt (FofS) Dan Matthews** and **SSgt Darrell Allard** have re-activated the Rugby team which won its first game 25-0 against 4th Armoured Division Ordnance Company and looks set for a highly successful season. **2Lt Mike Holman** has taken over the Marching and we have entered the Nijmegan Marches with a team of 11 who will be displaying the Gauntlet flag throughout the four day event. Our volleyball team reached the Divisional semi-finals with a very creditable performance considering the very short time available to pick the final team. Our Squash team too reached the Divisional semi-finals, only to be narrowly beaten by 65 Corps Support Sqn RE.

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

BERLIN—A BRIEF ENCOUNTER
Report by Lt Peter Smith

In mid December a party of some 20 men from 5 squadron, including some Sappers from Corps Lighting Troop made a pre-Christmas visit to Berlin. The party used the British military train to get there and this gave most our first glimpse of a Russian in the flesh. With some relief, we saw that they were not 6'6" tall muscle men but ordinary guys looking just as cold and fed up as we would have been having to stand on guard on a train in mid-winter. We arrived in Berlin at about 7 o'clock and settled into our accommodation, kindly provided by 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers. Most members of the party lost no time in getting out on the town and sampling the night life for which Berlin is justifably famous. **Sig 'Nigel' Williams** (of bath and mobile laundry unit fame) took an especial interest and made the most of the opportunity to practice his command of the German language.

After the sorties of Saturday night Sunday was spent relaxing and looking around Berlin. Monday morning was taken up with a guided tour of East Berlin laid on by 229 Sig Sqn. The drabness of the East in comparison to the colour of the West was a very vivid contrast. In the afternoon **Sgt Roberts** and **Sigs Richardson** and **Richardson Sig Williams** and **Sig Murray** visited the Berlin BFBS studios, and were given a guided tour by D.J., **Tonie Davis.** After last minute shopping, Tuesday morning saw us leaving Berlin on the military train. All of us enjoyed our visit and look forward to returning soon.

NEW WHEELS FOR COMMANDER

On a recent exercise 7 Sig Regt roving photographer snapped **Brig P. D. Alexander** about to move out of location in his new vehicle. This tailor-made custom-built landrover, one of the new senior staff officer vehicles, replaces the 4 ton box body caravan.

The Brigadier is delighted with the new addition which will also make things much easier for his driver **Cpl Keith Boxall.**

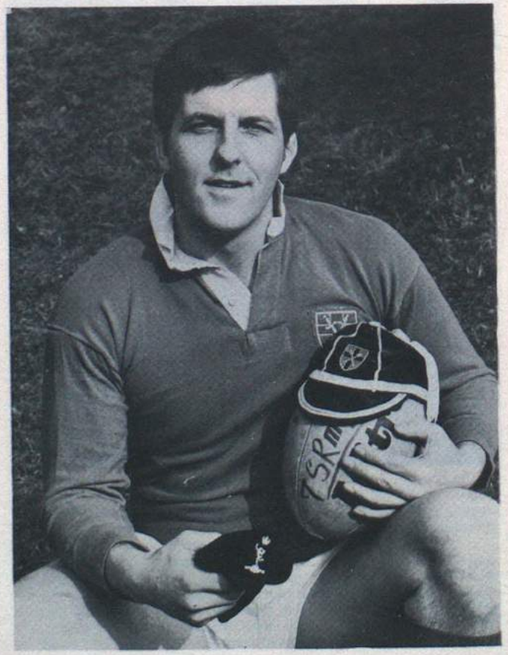
If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

SMALLEST AND YOUNGEST

Our ever roving cameraman recently snapped this picture of the youngest—and certainly the smallest member of the regiment. Six year old **Jonathan Burke** son of the CO proudly shows off his combat kit to the ROS **SSgt Graham Reynolds.** Lot to be said for starting young!

CAP THAT!

Former Middlesborough and Yorkshire rugby player **Cpl Steve Peacock** has just been capped for the third time. He has received a coveted British Army of the Rhine cap for his outstanding contribution to the game with Royal Signals in Germany. **Cpl Peacock,** aged 25, was previously capped by the Army in Britain in 1974 and by Yorkshire in 1976. 'The BAOR cap is presented only two or three times each season,' he said. 'It's a prestige thing more than anything else, I think'.



THE BOX WILL TRAVEL

SSgt John (insists on being called Mr) **Lawrence** of HQ Sqn is shortly to retire after 22 years service. He is to take up the post of Northern Germany rep for the Government Freight Agency, MFO removals. As an expert German speaker he sees no problem in dealing with local German Authorities. **John** will be based in Bielefeld where he has purchased a house and intends to settle with his wife **Erica** and children **Martin** and **Peter.**

Picture shows **SSgt Lawrence** receiving a presentation from **WO1 (RSM) Collins** on behalf of the Sgts Mess.

STILL GOING STRONG

Arrival at the crossroads in life has not deterred **Capt Geordie Gainford** of the regiment from continuing to pursue an active interest in rugby. He has no intention of hanging up his boots as player manager of the regimental side. He recently celebrated his 40th birthday in true rugby club style and now looks forward to taking the regimental first XV through the BAOR semi-final and on to the final. His long career in the sport includes combined services Far East 1966-68, skipper of the Royal Signals first XV BAOR and UK 1972-77 and has played for Aldershot services 1977-79. **Capt Geordie Gainford** has played on numerous occasions for BAOR in the past.

Capt Geordie Gainford proudly displaying one of his birthday presents

BASKET BALL
Report by SSgt (SQMS) Geoff Back

The regimental Squad hasn't faired as well as we expected in the league, this has been mainly due to regimental commitments and injuries sustained throughout the season. Nevertheless, we did somewhat better in the Div Championships, where we went out in the semi-finals to our friends down the road, '4'. It was a very close and exciting match—at the end of the first half '7' were winning by a narrow margin—but by the end of the match '4's' superior talents won out.

The regiment hosted a Corps Weekend 31 Jan-1 Feb. Corps players from all over Germany participated—we had a few 'last minute' cancellations but we still had a reasonably strong squad comprising mainly of 'new talent' with a sprinkling of the 'old and bold' including **SSgt Geoff Back,** of '7', **Sgt Colin Elstob** and **SSgt Matty Mathews** of '4'. Even **Capt Roy Stark** of '28' managed to get a bit of court time. We started training at 0900 on Saturday with **SSgt Dougie Poultney** of '21', our old time coach, trying as he put it 'to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear'. Saturday afternoon was a 'warm up' match against a 4 Div Select Squad. Although both squads were not up to full strength, the game produced a high level of basketball skills, with both sides taking full advantage of any defensive errors. At full time the score was 54—54; in extra time 4 Div proved their worth as Div champions and ran out winners 62—58. Although we lost, the 'youngsters' of the Corps learned a lot and were better prepared for the Inter Corps match scheduled for Sunday afternoon—more training on Sunday morning and another chance for **SSgt Dougie Poultney** to make his silk purse.

The Inter Corps match, R Signals v RCT, didn't live up to our expectations as the RCT are still building their squad, and the Signals ran out easy winners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave up their time and money to make the weekend the success it was. It was a pleasure to organise and a pleasure to play in. Finally I would like to thank the gym staff for their 'overtime' and not forgetting **Cpl Sid Smellie** and his wife for their help in all our basketball ventures and the CO, **Col Burke,** for the use of the facilities of '7'—we are all looking forward to the next weekend—probably in Krefeld.

RUGBY
Report by Capt Geordie Gainford

The rugby season commenced under the new management of **Maj Roy Shiner, Capt 'Geordie' Gainford** and **WO2 (SSM) 'Jock' Cairns.** Although our fixture list is not as strong as we would like, owing to the standard of rugby in BAOR not being equal to that of UK, we have nevertheless had some resounding victories. One of our Army Cup wins led to a possible Guinness Book of Records entry—174—0 with **WO2 'Jock' Cairns** scoring 52 of the points. Only 4 teams during the season held us to less than 30 points. Among our notable wins was the 23—9 defeat of a very strong representative RAF (G) side, who were leading 9 points to nil at half time. Although we had 4 newcomers to the side, namely, **Maj Geri Maddren, 2Lt Steve May, Sgt Andy Hickling** and **Lt Mark Edwards,** after a stern 'talking to' at half time we overcame the opposition with a great team performance to run out victors. Scorers were, tries—**Sig 'Kip' Hearns, LCpl 'Taff' George, Maj Geri Maddren, WO2 'Jock' Cairns**—goals—**Maj Geri Maddren,** 1 penalty and 2 conversions. Unfortunately, during the game **Capt Andy Forster** was injured and has been unable to take any further part in our quest for the Army Cup. We also recorded a win against the Duke of Wellington's Regt by 12—10.

Our quarter-final was played in snow conditions against 50 Missile Regt RA and saw us gain a creditable win by 36—0, scorers were—tries, **Sgt Gus Hales** (2), **Cpl John Rolls** (1), **Capt Geordie Gainford** (1), **Cpl Steve Stephenson** (1), **WO2 Jock Cairns** (1)—goals—**Capt Andy Forster,** 4 conversions.

The semi final, although delayed for a number of weeks for various reasons, was eventually played—minus 3 of our key players—in pouring rain against 1 Glosters. Despite their spoiling tactics and our disappointing form we managed to scrape home by 12 points to 3. Scorers were—2 dropped goals by **LCpl Dave Wood**—Try, **WO2 Jock Cairns,** conversion by **Maj Geri Maddren.**

Then came the big day, the BAOR Cup Final against 7 RHA which we were all confident of winning—excuse me while I wipe my eyes, again—after very hard training under **WO2 (QMSI) Gordon Young** we left for Bad Lippspringe, the venue for the game, with morale extremely high. However, we were again denied success in the very last

seconds of the game by a penalty kick. Despite several individual spirited performances the side never reached its true heights. The final score being 15—16. Scorers were—tries, **Cpl Steve Stephenson, Cpl Steve Peacock**—Goals, **Maj Geraint Maddren,** 1 penalty and 2 conversions.

I would like to thank the CO **Lt Col K. P. Burke,** all the Squadron Commanders, the SCO **Capt Stuart Coll, WO2 (Q) Ash** and their staff for all their help and co-operation in our preparation for the game. Thanks also to our wonderful band of supporters, in particular, the wives of the players, who travelled all over Germany in all weathers to support the team. Finally, but by no means least all other Royal Signals Units for their help.

Matches played during the season are as follows:-

P	W	L	PF	PA
22	21	1	1074	94

The regimental squad

Back Row Left to Right: LCpl Phil Price, Cpl Taff Williams, Sgt Nobby Ellis, LCpl Taff George, Lt Mark Edwards, LCpl Ian Ward, Cpl Steve Stevenson, 2Lt Steve May, Maj Ron Shiner, Sig Kip Hearns, Maj Gary Madden, Steve Gainford, son of team manager, Capt Andy Foster, WO2 (QMSI) Gordon Young

Front Row Left to Right: Sgt Gus Hales, Cpl John Rolls, Cpl Dave Higgins, Sgt Andy Hickling, Team Capt WO2 (SSM) Ian Cairns, Cpl Steve Peacock, Sig Vince Fellon, LCpl Rod Pocock, Capt Geordie Gainford, LCpl Dave Wood

We are now approaching the sevens (7's) time of year where we hope to add a few more trophies to our collection. A KAPE tour to Wales is planned for Sept 81 with a possible trip to Hong Kong in early 82. Our main aim is, hopefully, to bring the Army Cup at last to where we feel it belongs. Any player interested in helping us achieve our aim, please contact us.

STOP PRESS: Winners and runners-up of 4 Div 7's competition, both teams now go forward to the BAOR 7's.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

May we, the many students who have enjoyed the 7 Sig Regt Snow Queen courses, take the opportunity through the Wire to thank the permanent staff. Through their hardwork, enthusiasm, excellent instruction and patience (plenty of patience) they transformed us into bronzed God-like creatures, expert in the art of skiing? As a result we are now utterly out of our element when not careering at breakneck speed through the Bavarian countryside, with or without skis?

As a final note, our broken limbs are steadily mending and we are getting over the frost bite and snow blindness. Nevertheless it was all worth it.

From us all—very many thanks.

The permanent staff of 7 Sig Regt Snow Queen. *left to right:* Dvr Ug Marshall, Sig Andy Brown, LCpl Pete Gillard, Sgt Dave Roberts, Lt John Armitage, Sgt Roger Fairfield, LCpl Tess McBride

AUF WIEDERSEHEN FELDWEBEL EDDIE VON YEOVIL

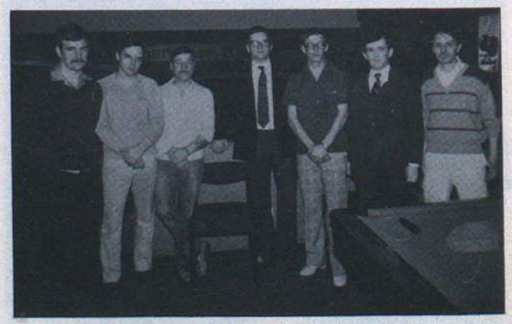
This month sees the discharge of **Sgt Eddie Turner** of 6 Sqn on completion of 22 years service. **Sgt Eddie** has been a member of the regiment for seven years, during which time he has promoted and fostered the regimental smallbore club. Starting from nothing, he coached and trained the club forward, winning the Army Winter League during the 79/80 season. As an active member of 4 Company Schiessen Gesellschaft in Bad Salzuflen, he has helped to weld a warm affiliation with the company and the regiment by organising many shooting and social events.

Shortly to settle in Yeovil with his wife **Margaret** and children **Carol** and **Paul** he intends to organise a smallbore club in the town. He feels, however, that his uniform may look a little out of place in Somerset!

Sgt Eddie Turner pictured in his 'kit'

PIONEER MUTUAL WIN INTERNATIONAL BOWLING COMPETITION

An International Bowling Competition, organised by **Sgt Willy Craig** of 7 Sig Regt, was held on Sat 28 Feb at the Herford Bowling Alley. Three German and nine British teams battled all day for a number of individual and team prizes. The Highest Scoring Individual Game Trophy went to a local Herforder, **Gert Hagenow,** with a score of 225. The Individual Top award went to **Dick Chadwick** of 3RTR, and the Team Trophy went to Pioneer Mutual, the RAF Wildenrath team. The CO 7 Sig Regt, **Lt Col K. P. Burke,** kindly presented the prizes.

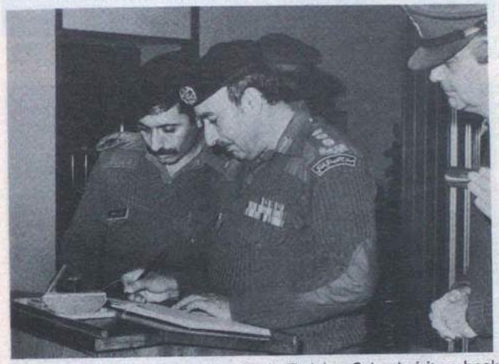


The regimental bowlers: *Left to right*—Sgt Roberts, LCpl Stewart, SSgt Boar, Lt Col K. P. Burke, Sgt Craig, Lt J. P. Moreland LCpl Speed

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

VISIT OF JORDANIAN SIGNALS OFFICERS

The Commandant of the Royal School of Signals, Jordan Armed Forces, **Col Nasser Al Taweil** visited the regiment on 27 Jan accompanied by his Staff Officer **Lt Col Naji Solem.** The purpose of their visit was to examine the Royal Corps of Signals training methods and equipment.



Col Nasser Al Taweil signs the Trade Training School visitors book while Lt Col Naji Solem and Lt Col D. Dudley OC TTS look on

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

On 23 March the CO, **Col C. N. Last OBE** presented Army and Regimental Colours for canoeing and badminton. The recipients were:

CANOEING

Sgt Stephen Hilton	Regimental
Cpl Stephen Jackson	Army and Regimental
Cpl Stephen Cocksedge	Army and Regimental
Cpl Kevin Truby	Regimental
Cpl Ian Hugill	Regimental

BADMINTON

WO1 Alexander Nicoll	Regimental
Cpl Keith Rumsey	Regimental
Sig Stephen Hearns	Regimental
Pte Angela Irving WRAC	Regimental

On 24 and 25 February some of the WRAC took part in an inter-squadron Badminton Doubles Competition. The teams consisted of 3 members from each of HQ, 1 and 2 squadrons and TTS. After several very close games and an exciting final the TTS team won the tournament. A play-off for the runners-up position was necessary between 2 and 3 squadrons, with 2 squadron emerging the victors.

BRAVO TROOP 2 SQUADRON

Earlier this year the WRAC personnel of the regiment were integrated into the squadrons and whiskey troop, which was responsible for the administration of all WRAC personnel, was re-designated Bravo and became a mixed troop. The new management is:

OC	**2Lt R. E. A. Farrant WRAC**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John Salter**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Andrew McConnell**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Pauline Marr WRAC**

If a female OC is a novelty for the 'male' two thirds of the troop, then they really had an eye-opener when one young signalman decided to step out of line and found himself being promptly double-marched down to the guardroom by **Cpl Pauline Marr.** Bravo troop has definitely got its feet well and truly under the table. We are here to stay!

'A' GRADING

The first 'A' grade award made to a technical upgrader for over a year was presented recently to **Cpl Downie** who attended a Radio Relay Technician 2-1 Upgrading course. **Cpl Downie** also obtained a TEC Diploma with full merits.

Lt Col D. Dudley OC TTS presents the 'A' grade certificate to a happy Cpl Downie

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC MEDALS

On 11 Feb, the GOC North East District, **Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE** presented LS & GC Medals to six members of the regiment in the entrance hall to the Trade Training School.

Presentation of LS & GC medals

From left to right: Sgts Charles Cook, Barry Jackson, Jerry Dalquen, Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE, Col C. N. Last OBE CO, Sgts Chick Cushnie, John Jones and Cpl Steve Jones

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

WELL EARNED

WO2 John Wallace our erstwhile Training SSM having just arrived from RMA Sandhurst, returned there in December to receive his BEM. The photograph shows **John** receiving his award at the Sovereign's Parade on 12 Dec. Well done **John!!**

Gen Sir Robert Cyril Ford, KCB, CBE, presenting the BEM to WO2 (SSM) John Wallace at the Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst on 12 Dec 80. Also shown is WO2 (CSM) M. Collier, Irish Guards

The New Year Honours List saw **SSgt Jim Dodds** being awarded the BEM. **Jim** is well known locally for the amount of off-duty time he spends organising fund raising activities for charity and the award is a well deserved recognition.

Congratulations also to **SSgt Ivor Demain** and **LCpl Niel Butterworth** on receiving GOC Northern Ireland commendations for service in the province.

FAREWELL TO WO1 (FofS) G. HALL

George Hall, a well known personality in the Corps, was dined out of the WOs and Sergeants Mess on 16 Jan. Special guests on the night were **Capt (TOT) Rastus Collins** and **Capt Jerry Jarrett** who had both served with **George** in previous postings. **Sgt Jim Cruickshank** set the tone for the evening, with a galaxy of tunes on his bagpipes and we promise not to ask for so many encores next time **Jim**. That **George** was seen off in the proper manner can best be judged by his comment in the early hours that he 'could not drink any more'. Everyone here thought you had hollow legs **George. George** and his wife **Rita** started their farewell parties in December and were still going strong two days prior to their departure at the end of January. Our best wishes go with you both on your posting to 32 Sig Regt(V) for your last six months service.

VISIT OF COL C. J. GILBERT

Col C. J. Gilbert visited the regiment at the end of January and his first official function was in the WOs and Sergeants Mess. During the evening he met some 126 mess members and their ladies and yet retained the stamina for a dance, or two or three. He can rest assured though that we will not divulge what caused his aching muscles. **Col Gilbert** visited all areas of the regiment and saw us at work and play. It is fitting that his last port of call was to be the place where it all began, the WOs and Sergeants Mess, where he presented LS & GC medals to:-

WO2 (YofS) John McKenzie, Ssgt Dickie Henderson, Sgt Dickie Roxborough and **Sgt Steve Swinfield.**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome our new CO **Lt Col Tony Boyle** and his wife **Ann** to the regiment and wish them both a happy and successful tour.

To our new RSM, **WO1 B. J. Beadle** also welcome.

To all whom have recently departed (too numerous to list) good fortune and to all new arrivals—Welcome!

Col C. J. Gilbert presenting LS & GC medal to WO2 (YofS) John McKenzie

Col C. J. Gilbert presenting LS & GC medal to SSgt Dickie Henderson whilst Sgt Alec Palmer stands by with his cushion

Sgt Dickie Roxborough receiving his LS & GC medal shares a joke with Col C. J. Gilbert

Sgt Steve Swinfield receives his LS & GC medal from Col C. J. Gilbert

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

HQ SQN ROUND-UP QM TROOP

The situation since Christmas has remained stable, that is until the arrival of **Sig Michael John Francis McCann**, who believes a store is a place of untouchable non-existent abundant supplies. Many people have tried to confuse our QM, **Maj Harry Meekings** (many congratulations on recent promotion) in the past, but few have succeeded so well in such a short time. He has, under duress, promised that he will not pass on any of his well kept secrets to other members of the regiment—much to the QM's relief. We say farewell to **LCpl 'Steve' Redshaw** and his charming wife **Liz**, departing for 16 Sig Regt and **Steve's** first taste of Germany. **LCpl Sharman** is his replacement and is busy working out the strange accounting system he is to take over. Mutterings of Einstein and the theory of relativity have been heard recently.

RHQ

A hearty welcome to **Capt Lynn Relph** WRAC as our new Adjutant—a much prettier member of RHQ than our outgoing Adjutant, **Capt David Lawson** on posting to Radio Tp, and also sad farewells to **LCpl Sue Evison** on posting to HQ BAOR and one of our more lovely Clerical Assistants **Beverly Mahn** on transfer to Feltham (carried out of RHQ ceremoniously mid-day Fri 10 Apr).

MT

The annual Cheese and Wine Party was organised in the traditional efficient manner by MT led by the **MTWO WO2 Jim Preston.** Guests were heard to whisper that they did not believe all that cheese could be acquired at a fee of £1.50 a head. The MTWO assured us, however—with finger up the side of his nose—that all was perfectly legal but . . . he has a secret supplier.

TURBULENT TIMES

To say that life is turbulent is a gross understatement. 10 Sig Regt is not only dispersed across the whole of Southern England but also acts as host to many sub units ranging from a predominantly female RCT troop to an entirely male (so they say) Ace High Station. Our 200+ WRAC outnumber the bewildered (ecstatic) male element by almost 2:1) and, bolstered by our civilian ladies make 10 Sig Regt an excellent example of sufferage. The CO suffers, the RSM suffers, the Chief Clerk suffers . . .

TO SUM IT UP

Despite the problems caused by distance, women, over-independent squadron Commanders, and 2 Signal Group we handle our many commitments with efficiency. These commitments include: The provision of PA and Radio support for numerous State occasions and recruiting events including **HM The Queen's** Birthday Parade, State visits, The Royal Tournament etc. ACF training assistance to a large number of ACF/CCF units including UOTC combined with many liaison visits, lectures, administration and loans of essential radio equipment. Training advice and assistance to voluntary organisations. Attachments to training organisations throughout the UK for NI and other training, to the Royal Marines for exercises in Norway and other attachments to Australia, Belize and Cyprus. The provision of SDS/Commcens/Exchanges for 3 District HQs, their sub units and HQ UKLF. The provision of communications for Ex *Crusader* and many other exercises as well as hosting partly trained reinforcements from training group and employing them effectively in various locations.

Now who was it said that the Regiment was static? One other role is looking after members of the Corps who are Casevac to Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich. Those who are undergoing lengthy treatment are often posted to our held strength until they are well again. Others we visit to ensure that no welfare problems exist and to extend a helping hand if they do.

THE PAPER CHASE

As you might imagine the dispersal of the regiment causes many headaches for our long-suffering (it's that word again!!) Chief Clerk. In an attempt to cure some of the problems **WO2 (ORQMS) Dave Brough** decided to visit the squadrons. He was last seen capering wildly around Stonehenge supposedly on his way to Wilton.

OTHER PAPERCLIPS

The new Adjutant didn't take long to appreciate the situation and less than a week after arrival was seen departing at high speed towards HQ UKLF and Ex *Wintex*. For this incredible feat she has been elected President of the RHQ Escape Committee. The 2IC, **Maj Tony Hunt**, was discovered one Friday evening under a heap of paper entitled Annual Camp (Volume 20) or the Hitch Hiker's Guide to Dartmoor and Sennybridge. It was during this time that he broke his no smoking pledge and along with others continued to contaminate everything in sight. (He also started similing again!). Last, but by no means least, the Ops Offr, **(Capt Alex Leitch).** He is normally to be found surrounded by dried out tea bags, draft SOPs with dried out tears, a broken crystal ball (destroyed through sheer anguish because of its action replays) and a Teach Yourself Book on 'How to be an Admin Officer' without really crying!

1 SQUADRON REPORT—SHQ

The Sqn HQ merry band under the thumb of **Sgt 'Woolfie' Latus** prepared for the invasion of our privacy by the RHQ 'Command' element, who arrived to exercise control over the communications for Ex *Wintex/Cimex 81*, for HQ UKLF. Our SHQ embraces the MT section under 'boss man' **Cpl 'Scargill' Whittaker**, all working hard out on the road. Fortunately, moratoriums or not, SDS/SDR stagecoach service must carry on.

Ex *Wintex/Cimex 81* saw this close knit, fun loving, female dominated domain extremely busy, serving HQ UKLF and Ex HQ with a demanding SDS Timetable. It might be worth quoting the contents of an average SDS bag—in addition to signals traffic, we had 'breakfast bacon', sacks of potatoes, mail and papers, and the odd passenger on urgent business, (get me to the nearest bookies in time to lay on a bet for the 2.30 pm at . . .'). After the exercise some of our drivers chose to unwind by taking a trip to Cherbourg, others decided on sports afternoons, playing, or learning to play squash. Also, speaking of sport, we have a new arrival to our flock, called **Pte Beech.** She is a Class III soccer referee and is football mad, which suits **Cpl Whittaker** because she's playing for the team.

ADVANCING PROMOTION PROSPECTS

A mention must go to that golf fanatic in SHQ, who shall remain anonymous, who recently decided that promotion was slow, hit a wayward six iron and struck the CO, UKLF Regiment with a golf ball on the local course. It appears only pride was damaged, no promotion slot was achieved, and our mystified Tfc Officer was last heard phoning AG11, reference the vacancy in the Foreign Office which he was told to fill, by an officer with a golf ball wedged in his mouth, or maybe the words were a bit indistinct!!

COMSTAR AWARDS

On 17 Feb a Silver Comstar award was presented to the staff at Marchwood Commcen by the Commander of 3 Transport Group RCT, **Col G. G. Blakey.** The photoraph shows **Col Blakey** making the presentation to the Senior Operator, **Mr K. Mooney**, (formerly Cpl Radio Telegraphist Royal Signals) and **Mrs J. McIntyre** (formerly Cpl Data Telegraphist WRAC). Both operators serve the Army in the small but busy Commcen which provides a unique link between land based administrative units at Marchwood and seagoing ships of the RFA.

Mr Kevin Mooney served with 244 Sig Sqn (Air Support) at Benson and Brize Norton, 602 Special Communication Tp and 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L) before donning mufti, and **Mrs Jackie McIntyre (nee Scott)** served at Northag Commcen and 262 Sig Sqn Cyprus.

FINALLY

On the finer aspects of life, we have three future marriages pending, **Ptes Kundiss** and **Le Merrer** and **LCpl Parker.** Our best wishes go with them all. The marriage bureau is now in recess.

3 SQN 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The past two months have been busy for 3 Sqn, mainly interrupted by Exercise *Wintex* which everyone took in their stride, although rather frustrated by the strenuous shift roster. Nobody complained too much and we are now happily settling down to the prospect of a varied summer, and the delights of Annual Camp. Practice was started for the S E Dist Skill at Arms competition which 3 Sqn are entering—apparently the first WRAC team to do such a thing. The results will be reported later. 'Leadership Training' weekend took place at Groombridge near Tunbridge Wells. Activities included Rock Climbing, Abseiling and Canoeing. it was very wet and cold but everyone enjoyed it. A more extensive report and photographs will be in the next issue.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

A sad moment for the regiment came when **WO1 Sylvia Pratt** left 3 Sqn to become the first WRAC Traffic Officer. She has done so much for the regiment in her three years with us and the Sqn's gratitude was shown by the many dining-outs she was given by her troop, the civilian element, Sqn HQ and finally a Commissioning lunch. A farewell presentation was also made at one of 3 Sqn's Happy Hours with a very moving speech by **Pte Sally Jarvis.** We wish her the best in her new job in Catterick.

We extend a warm welcome to our new SSM, **WO2 Jill Walker**, from Guildford and **WO1 Jill Trainor** from Edinburgh to replace **Miss Pratt**, and sincerely hope that their tour with the regiment is both rewarding and happy.

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1SQUADRON ADULT RECRUIT INTAKES

4 Troop

Intake 8023 Passed Off 13 Feb. The Reviewing Officer was **Brig C. J. Curl** Comd 11 Sig Gp. The prize for Best All Round Recruit was awarded to **Sig S. M. Rogers** who before enlistment was a metropolitan policeman. Best Shot was awarded to Sig S. A. Croft who comes from Robertsbridge, Sussex.

Sig S. M. Rogers—Best All Round Recruit

Sig S. H. J. Allan—Best All Round Recruit

1 Troop

Intake No 8102 Passed Off on 27 Mar 81. The Inspecting Officer was **Capt H. M. Balfour MVO** Royal Navy. The prize for Best All Round Recruit was awarded to **Sig R. J. Salmon** who comes from Ger-Y-Fron, Newport. The Best Shot was awarded to **Sig I. E. Rogers** a former electronics student from St Leonards, East Sussex. Both are now to train as technicians.

2 SQUADRON

To those readers who are confused by the title of this libellous tract let me circumvent your confusion by informing you that we were once known as Instructional Wing. It was considered essential for reasons of historical record to mark the passing of Instructional Wing with some form of written record. This is to mark what would otherwise be a wholly forgettable turning point in Corps history. In addition to the written word it was also thought that many NCOs in the Corps would be grateful for a visual reminder of their days of wine and roses spent in

2 Squadron Instructors

5 Troop

The Reviewing Officer for the Pass Off of Intake No 8024 on 27 Feb 81 was **Col M. Topple** from MOD (PE). Best All Round Recruit was **Sig S. H. J. Allan** from Renfrewshire who is now to train as a technician. The prize for Best Shot was awarded to **Sig N. J. E. Church** a former labourer from Carshalton who is now to train as a combat radioman.

6 Troop

On 13 Mar 81 **Col C. N. Last OBE**, CO 8 Sig Regt, was Reviewing Officer for Intake No 8101. The prize of Best All Round Recruit was awarded to **Sig J. T. Brookfield** from Deal, Kent. The Best Shot was awarded to **Sig C. Cadman** from Leicester.

the company of the Instructional Wing Instructors.

For those of you whose memories may have been dimmed by the passage of time or so suffused with loathing that you cannot remember detail, a few words about each individual on the photograph are added for the sake of posterity. Starting at the left of the rear row:

WO2 Jim Salter. You may wonder what a nice pleasant personality like **Jim** is doing in such company. It must be said that this is what Jim wondered, from the day he arrived, until he was finally discharged at the end of his service. As it did not affect his pension or gratuity **Jim**, being the decent soul that he is made no fuss and has escaped to civilian life relatively unscathed.

SSgt Dave Pinder. Now **Dave** is a bit of an enigma. He is a technician which just goes to show that you should all think twice before failing your Foreman's Entrance Exam. **Dave** teaches Service Funds on the Staff Sergeants' Course and is also responsible for the re-education, brainwashing and re-programming of all Royal Signals Technician Military Training Courses. He is a constant source of worry to the OC because he smiles all day long and seems happy in his work.

Sgt Pete Doherty. A highly trained killer with a mean look and the ability to split paving stones with his bare hands **Pete** would be a great asset to the Wing. Unfortunately our part time QM and Regimental Football Officer, **Maj Paddy Henry** will never release him to us for long enough.

Sgt John Hodges. Much to the consternation of RAF Strike Command, **John** has now been posted to an unknown location in BAOR. The RAF Regiment are desperate to recover the 2 Rapier Missile Systems, 4 GPMGs, 2 84mm Atk weapons and the truckload of Combat Suits he still has on temporary loan. Those of you that know him will understand the heartfelt sigh of relief heard by the QM when he left. If you are still out there somewhere **John** please let us know what you would like done with the Harrier in the corner of the Drill Shed.

SSgt John Bell. John is living proof that geriatrics need not be confined to wheel chairs. By careful dietary control and controlled alcoholic frenzy he is able to produce an outstanding performance on most Wednesday afternoons during the football season. Allegations have been made that he teaches Q Accounts to Staff Sergeants and Detachment Commanders' Courses. **SSgt Bell** would like it to be made known through the medium of this article that these allegations are a scandalous mis-representation of the truth. Furthermore, disciplinary action will be taken against anyone spreading such rumours.

Sgt Dennis Duncan. Dennis works very hard. It is not commonly known that **Dennis** did all the voices and operated **John Hodges** for almost the whole time he was here. Twice winner of the Military Ventriloquist of the year award, no one ever saw **Dennis'** lips move once whilst **John** was telling the jokes, a superb professional performance.

Sgt Andy Cummings. Andy has been an inmate for a long time and has finally been declared sane. He still wakes up screaming on the odd occasion during Battle Camp and has to be fed on a diet of hard boiled sweets and cold tinned kippers for 24 hours. **Andy** does not really want to leave Yorkshire but has decided that if he is to preserve his new found sanity he must get away from the lunatics he has been working with for the last few years.

Front row left: **SSgt Rick Licence. Rick** took over from that Corps renowned extrovert and Irish Mist Salesman **Paddy Moore.** It took **Rick** longer than most to realise that the most essential qualities required to work successfully in Instructional Wing were all round mediocrity and frequent bouts of manic depression. Once he accepted the inevitable and came down to our level he found no further problems. He is beginning to overcome the sudden blind urges to play football, basketball etc and will no doubt soon settle in the same anaesthetised state as the rest of us.

WO2 (SSM) Charlie Brown. To be saddled with the appointment of SSM to an organisation like Instructional Wing could, to most normal sane men, be a recipe for a cataclysmic nervous breakdown. **Charlie Brown** however is well ahead of the game. His highly developed sense of humour and good natured approach to life ensure that he is never reduced to banging his head against the wall. He leaves us for civilian life very shortly and has managed to escape virtually unscathed.

Capt J. V. Prees. A balding somewhat portly middle aged person who can often be seen in his self appointed role as the oldest Military Swinger in town. The outward manifestations of this syndrome are his appearance at Warcop complete with map, compass and Bergen. Even his closest friends, both of them in fact, have found it necessary in view of his chronic back ache and acute Sgts' Mess Bar Elbow, to advise him to grow old gracefully and more over, we believe it only fair to give a friendly warning to 22 Signal Regiment of their impending 'recruit'.

Capt A. R. Longhurst Kings own border. We are not yet sure quite who **Capt Longhurst** Kings Own Border upset in the Kings Division, but we would like to inform whoever it was that he was paid in full. When he arrived in the regiment he was a happy, enthusiastic and outgoing person. Full of good humour and kindliness towards the human race as a whole, he has found the somewhat onerous task of teaching basic soldiering to Royal Signals NCOs almost too much to bear. At times close to total breakdown he can often be spotted, wreathed in pipe smoke and clutching a half empty Grouse bottle, striding across the Cumbrian Fells doing his excellent impression of Gandalf the Grey. After many fervent pleas to be returned to an infantry environment where he can be re-united with such luxuries as radio sets, vehicles etc he is due to be paroled in November of this year.

WO2 (QMSI) M. K. Townsend DCM. 'Q' Townsend is in fact owned and controlled almost entirely by 'Owen', the dignified if slightly hirsute gentleman on the right of the front row. He is allowed out, now and again and derives endless amusement from chasing startled members of Staff Sergeants' Courses up and down the Warcop Training Area. Displaying a marked intolerance of any lack of fitness or professionalism, **Mel** has worked long and hard to revise the standards of the Basic Military Skills throughout the Corps. The strain is beginning to tell, of late he has taken to disappearing for long periods with a 70 lb Bergen on his back muttering about preferring secondment to the East Cheam Brownie pack. We shall keep you all informed of his progress.

RSSSC NO 172/173

Staff Sergeants' Courses No 172 and 173 both ended on 21 Mar. Top students were **Sgt Halstead** (No 172) of the School of Signals and **Sgt Hodds** (No 173) of 2 Armd Div and Sig Regt.

REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY

Our Regimental run took place on 11 Feb. **Lt P. M. Telford** R Signals was the winner but our photograph shows the CO, winning veteran, telling **2Lt F. J. W. Dennis** WRAC, winning lady, the secret of his success.

The CO and 2Lt Dennis

FAREWELL NOTES

Our photograph shows a group of the 1 Squadron Cadre drinking farewell to **Sgt Toby Slater, Cpl Brian Cox** and **Cpl Steve McKechnie. Toby** and **Steve** are bound for BAOR and **Brian** is joining the ranks of the licensed brewers on leaving the service.

SSGT LEWIN—DEPOT TROOP

SSgt Michael Barry Lewin has served as Troop SSgt of Depot Troop since Jan 79. **'Spike'**, as he is popularly known throughout the Corps, leaves the Army in March this year. During his service he has served in Berlin, Benghazi, Singapore, BAOR and UK.

He will no doubt be remembered by the vast legions of soldiers who have passed through the Depot during his reign and his cheerful manner and friendly approach will certainly be missed in the regiment by both the military and civilian staff. Throughout his tour, he has patiently given help and advice to countless numbers of soldiers, as his many friends and acquaintances in the Manning and Records Office will testify. We wish him all the best for the future, and hope to see him again at the reunions over the years.

COLDITZ HERO VISITS 11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Lt Col A. F. Carter MBE R Signals presented **Mr Dick Howe MBE** with a Regimental Tie and 1 Sqn Souvenir tankard after giving us a very interesting talk on his life and experiences during his years as a prisoner in Colditz.

The CO presenting a Regimental Tie to Mr Dick Howe MBE

BEAUTY SPOT

Miss Sue Smith of the PSOs Department recently won the title Dairy Maid of the Western Dales and now goes forward to the National Competition. Our photograph shows her wearing her winner's sash.

Miss Sue Smith—Dairy Maid of Western Dales

ATTESTATION OF A NEW RECRUIT

Sig Peter King son of **Lt Col J. King** BA RAEC was attested by the CO on 6 Feb. Our picture shows him taking the Oath of Allegiance. **Peter** passed off, after recruit training, on 27 Mar 81 and will now assist in recruit, leadership and continuation training before going to Cambridge University in Oct 81. He hopes to be commissioned into the Corps after he graduates.

Taking the Oath of Allegiance

13 Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 42

THE IDES OF MARCH

The month of March brought few contributions from the major sports organisers as they await the results of the winter season's competitions and the final events (they could be said to be in 'iding). However, this does give a chance to the smaller fry to publicise their activities. The next Wire Notes will, no doubt, involve reports from the Shooting Team who, after a very successful season, will finish with a bang (or two) competing in the finals of the BAOR .22 Shoot and the Rhine Area Full Bore Competition. They will be competing for space with the Orienteers who have progressed to the finals of the BAOR Orienteering Championships.

LS AND GC AWARDS

Although it has been relatively dry weather elsewhere, it was a very wet month in the Sgts Mess, where four of the nobility, **SSgt Mick Ford, SSgt Jim Hudson, Sgt Colin Burnett** and **Sgt 'Stump' Macdonald** were presented with their LS and GC medals by no less a personage than the Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Army), **Mr Philip Goodhart, MP,** during a brief visit with the Chief of Staff BAOR, **Maj Gen W. R. Taylor.** Our photograph shows the four nobles in relatively good humour just prior to the 'wetting' ceremonies.

L to R — Sgt Colin Burnett, Sgt 'Stump' Macdonald (Surprised), SSgt Mick Ford and SSgt Jim Hudson

MERCURY BOWMEN

After a hectic winter's indoor shooting, with various German Clubs, the season was finished off in grand style with the 'Das Wassenberger Schild' Tournament in which over 30 different German, Dutch and British (Military) Clubs took part. The regiment was represented by **Sgt Stu Birchall** and **Sig Dick Kilsby** who made their mark even though the standard was extremely high. Now it's summer, I think, we are back to the outdoor range with intense training for the BAOR Championships. Archery is becoming so popular—it must be the summer—that we have insufficient equipment and instructors to cope. Any qualified Archer want a posting to sunny Birgelen?

We would like to welcome to Mercury Bowmen **Capt John Gosnell, WO2 Mick Kippin, Cpl Steve Wardle** and young **Del** (11 years) **Fowler**—the youngest and fast becoming one of the best!

I hope my next article will be when Mercury Bowmen walk away with the Team Trophy from the BAOR championships, so until then 'Alles in Geld'.

'The Mercury Bowmen Song' The Target Archers
(To the tune of 'I am the cider drinker'.)

We are the target archers,
We shoots the golfers all day.
We are the target archers.
We always shoots on Sunday.

Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.
Oh arrow, arrow, Oh arrow, arrow.

Sunday's the day we meets on
And practise the afternoon through.
We aims arrows at the target
'Til five, having started at two.

Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.
Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.

Myxamatosic rabbits
Gathers round to join in the fun.
If they're not careful, they'll be
Live targets for everyone.

Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow,
Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.

If we don't watch it, we can
Get a bruise, or two, or three on our arm
So we always wears our bracer
And don't come to very much harm.

Oh arrgh! arrgh! arrgh! arrgh! Oh arrow, arrow.
Oh arrgh! arrgh! arrgh! arrgh! Oh arrow, arrow.

We plays the German schutzers,
Takes all the cups we can get.
We takes our bows for drinkies,
It's always our lips that gets wet.

Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.
Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.

So . . .
Why don't you come and join us?
Have lots of fresh air and fun.
And when it isn't raining.
We gets nice tans from the sun.

Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.
Oh arrow, arrow. Oh arrow, arrow.

Anne Arrow

Sgt Stu Birchall and Sig Richard Kilsby

'OK nobody move—we're armed'

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NEW ARRIVALS—J TROOP

We mentioned in our Wire Notes of last November that 48 per cent of the troop's wives were pregnant. This figure has, at the time of writing these notes, been reduced to 28 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent put in her appearance on 26 Jan. Our heartiest congratulations to **Cpl Gerry** and **Mrs Sheena Brewer** on the birth of their daughter **Amanda Margaret.**

SHOOTING

Five members of the troop entered a shooting competition run by the Unteroffizier Heim (NCOs' Mess) of the local Luftwaffe base. This was a team event using the German G3 rifle. At the close of the competition we ended up in a very creditable tenth position. (Please don't ask how many teams entered).

SHIFT TRANSPORT

The photograph shows five members of the troop with their shift transport, a Harrier of No 1 Fighter Squadron. Even with this, **Cpl Eddy Small** (not shown in the photograph) still manages to be late on shift.

Troop on parade
L to R: SSgt Al Thompson, Cpl Alex Findlay, Cpl Gerry Brewer, Cpl Dave Bould and Cpl Colin (Go for your guns) Horner

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

We bid farewell to **Rose** and **Colin Horner,** who have recently left us for sunnier Cyprus (see you soon), and welcome to the troop **LCpl Dave Smith** who holds the distinguished position of being the only single man on the Det.

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

14 Sig Regt (EW)
B.F.P.O. 23

HQ SQUADRON REPORT

Initially this year we were busy—the initials were ARU, BFT, APWT, APWA and M&S. The last has nothing to do with St Michael, but with the Regimental March and Shoot two-day competition. Apart from the physical stuff, in which lots of guts and determination were displayed, there was also map reading, NBC, first aid, Geneva Convention and WP equipment recognition. For the second day we were pleased to welcome guest teams from our sister/schwester regiments: 302 ASA Bn and 120 Fm Btn.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Welcome to **Lt Martin Hagger**, who admits its quite a change from the tour he has just completed with the US Army in Southern Germany. We will, before the next edition, be saying farewell to **Maj Danny Kay** and **Capt David Easton.** Good luck to you both.

MT TROOP NOTES

Since our last entry quite a lot has happened in our small section.

Christmas and New Year have faded into the dim and distant past and the latest arrival into the troop is 'Jason', newly posted in from the Battersea Dogs Home! In fact the real truth is that **SSgt (Geordie) Rowlands** has been reunited with his dog.

Sgt (Bald Eagle) Townson has gone on to the CB Network so he's been on a 10-4 since then!! or is it 1033-!! We welcome from RCP Troop our new Battery Hen! **Sgt Fred Waters**, he's taken over from **LCpl (Tony watch this space) Cryans** to whom we say farewell for the time being. Good luck **Tony.**

Still working hard in the Regimental Servicing Bay is **Cpl (Flash) Ruddiman!** The ASM is still looking for the steering arm that's disappeared from one of our Rovers!! **Cpl Ron Belcher** is still recovering after his 'This is your Life' spot in the recent Christmas Review! he was awarded the Silver Jerrican 1980 award! by none other than the CO. **Cpl Fred Cottington** is still running after the recent inter Sqn Orienteering Competition, but it's good training for the big competition in Denmark at Easter (or so he says!). **LCpls Glenn Tucker** and **Harry Thistelwhite** are, at the time of writing, on *Snow Queen*, skiing down the mountain sides in the early morning crisp white snow, or more probably in a guest house testing medicinal supplies. **LCpl (Spick) Singer** is still courting strong, there was even a rumour of an Anglo-German wedding in the making! **Sigs Ginge Ross** and **Bob Anthony** were brought down to earth with a bang recently, after returning from *Snow Queen* and were greeted with an order to change into combats ready for exercise deployment, immediately. **Sig Lennie Francis** had a fight with the hairdresser and was beaten, hence a steel helmet for 4 weeks. Only he knows that joke! **Sig Robbie Kerr**, known to the regiment as Atlas, skipped the light fantastic recently in Hannover and almost blew a fuse!

We say farewell to **LCpl (Doghead) Richardson** who has been posted to 13 Sig Regt, good luck dog in your new posting.

And finally if anybody has noticed a plastic bag with blue track-suit trousers, please give way to it because that will be our boss **WO1 Pete Cain** jogging south bound to his Qtr!

QM (GEN) DEPARTMENT

Come and Join Us, Come and Join Us
Come and join this happy band
There's always plenty of activity
But nothing that's not in hand.

You name it we do it
On more occasions than not
To try and keep you all happy
That is precisely our lot.

To start with our leader
What else can we say
Soon to be leaving this station
One **Maj QM Danny Kay.**

We wish him good luck in his venture
To Bristol, although not his heaven
We're sure that he'll make the most
Of his finale with thirty seven.

The RQMS to support him
Is a brick if nothing at all
A stalwart if ever there was one
A chap by the name of **Whall.**

Works Services, hygiene and quarters
Are all part of his job
Not forgetting MFO and fuel economy
He really has no time to sob.

Assisted most ably by one **Garbutt**
SQMS, accommodation to name but a few
By the time these notes have been printed
A residence in Blandford for you.

His fortes are ranges and clothing
And messing in the Sgts Mess
The wishes of those that remain here
Go with him, thanks and God bless.

One cannot forget our civilians
Without whom we would have to give in
For you **Michele Fox** we are sorry
To see you leave for Berlin.

In the cage where the clothing is kept
Is one by the short name of **Chad**
He's getting to know the routine now
Your task as a storeman's not bad.

Herman the German for bedding
A spritely young sixty six
A man who keeps going for ever
Never is he in a fix.

Last but not least is one cleaner
She also makes our coffee
So cheerful and happy she makes us
Good luck in the future **Debbie.**

So there you have the department
Each one dedicated and true
Without whom the place would be barren
Good wishes to each of you.

With apologies to William McGonigall

1 SQUADRON LOOKS BACK

The post Christmas period is traditionally a time for rest and recuperation, not so in snow-bedecked Langeleben. January and February have come and gone in a flurry of ARUS, demos, exercises. Arrivals and departures.

Amongst the many arrivals are two who bear witness to the changing face of the modern Army. In January **LCpls Murray Brock** and **John Bushby** arrived so we now boast two Bachelors of Art.

There have been two departures which will be noticed more than most. At the beginning of February we said farewell to the OC **Maj Stephenson** and to **SSgt Robbie Seaword. Maj Stephenson** has left us for Zimbabwe, after a short but lively tour, during which he tried to convert us into a VW Workshop (Author's note: The 2IC might prefer 'during which he considerably re-shaped the squadron'.) (2IC's note: affirmative). **SSgt Robbie Seaword**'s departure, as anyone who knows him will realise, has left an enormous hole in the Sgts Mess, which he will be invited to pay for when PSA have costed it. **Robbie** is a character; we wish him well at Muehlheim and look forward to seeing him back next year.

With regard to promotions, congratulations are extended to **Cpls Psycho Stapleton** and **Tommy Arthur** and to **Sgt Steve Jarvis.**

Sig Geordie Stobbs is rapidly establishing himself as a man of many talents. Having entertained us with his rapid wit at Christmas, he has gone on to show prowess on the rugby field and it is rumoured that he is to apply for a pilot's licence. He treated the new Sqn Commander to a display of aerobatics recently. Unfortunately it was in a half-ton rover!

CHANGE OF COMMAND

What of the new Sqn Commander? **Maj Randell** arrived in February and is now firmly in the chair. He was dined in on 14 Feb by the Sgts Mess and all present enjoyed a great night. All that is except **SSgt Mick Green** who unfortunately did the rugby tackle of the year on some rather expensive Disco equipment—a genuine accident greatly appreciated by all, except perhaps the DJ.

There will be further changes in the management shortly, since **Capt Gerry Corbet** is moving on to greater things in Scheuen, by way of JDSC. His replacement, **Capt Adrian Morgan** has a flying visit to the Squadron in April, and then vanishes for almost 3 months on Summer Camp and then JDSC.

The famous full-diary syndrome continues . . .

3 SQUADRON

The pen is mightier than the sword, and it is a pity that whilst we have an armoury full of horribly oily things, requests for HMSO pens are about as effective as sending milk bottle tops to Blue Peter. However, an abbreviated 3 Sqn dictionary follows; use it with a stick of charcoal:

HEAVISIDE-LAYER. n. hev-e-side-lare. A mythical ionized stratum in the upper atmosphere. Postulated by a Warrant Officer in 1902, who, fed up with speedy and reliable communications decided to confuse the communicators by a ludicrous postulation that one could bounce radio waves off a bit of the sky. An outstanding success; to this day thousands of otherwise intelligent men spend their lives pointing bits of wire at the sky and running around looking for the bounce back. Despite rumours, there is no documented proof of success. **WO1 Heaviside** is alive and well and now has plenty of time at Scheuen to avoid his BFT.

J-TROOP. n. Dusche/WC/Running hot and cold. Goes on exercise *Mixed Blessing* where seven detachments covered 30 kms in full kit with an ammo box for company. Obstacles include (simulated) drivers in blazing cab, recovering bogged vehicles, using winches, RV with a partisan, equipment recognition and generally being very uncomfortable. The troop repulsively dealt with an attack by **WO2 Bancroft** and the patrols were awarded marks for each stage of the exercise. **Cpl Pete Cornes** led his team (**Sig Flash Gordon** and **Sig John Baker**) to a narrow victory over **LCpl Tom Fraser's (Sig Stuart Couszins** and **Sig Jack Hawkins**). Power to the Powermen. Other activities include Genius of J Troop quiz. Less one sided this year due to the banning of **Daphne Wills.** The final was a real thriller between the Athletic Supports **(Cpl Pete Cornes, Mrs Sandy Heelan, Sig Flash Gordon** and **LCpl Eddy Edwards)** and the Jelly Babies **(Cpl Alan Patterson, Mrs Jane Smith, Sig Bruce Finlayson** and **LCpl Tom Fraser**). With the scores level at 63 each and only one question left, it was all down to speed of reaction on bell and buzzer. The final question was the easiest of the whole competition and **Flash Gordon** lived up to his name, beating the opposition by a split second. Who was Popeye's girlfriend anyway?

FLYING-FALCON. n. froz-en-chikn. A training shake out. The shakers being anyone junior to the person using the phrase. Startex is initiated by a bell at Bielefeld, struck by bits of falling brass monkeys. We escalated the venture this year and took every radio in sight out, joined all the big boys' nets and comms systems including the voice net within Bruin. A special dictionary is needed to understand commanders' briefings on this system:

Comcen Bravo is listening out for you . . .
. . . Hell, we had forgotten all about you.

We have refined our system engineering . . .
. . . We have found the on/off switch.

We have ironed out a few faults in the C50 . . .
. . . It is now out of the lake.

The men are in fine spirits . . .
. . . They are not totally out of control.

We experienced some difficulty on the move . . .
. . . I am the only one that arrived.

This has been a useful exercise . . .
. . . I have not slept all night.

Frequency management has improved . . .
. . . I know now that we need two for a C50.

Things go apace . . .
. . . I have not got a clue what is going on.

It has been a disappointing night . . .
. . . The guest house was closed.

Net radio has been stretched to the limit . . .
. . . I cannot see the other end.

We have had a good day . . .
. . . One shot held and two dropped.

We have had a very good day . . .
. . . Two shots held one dropped.

All comms are solid . . .
. . . I have been caught out at short notice, I must find out what is going on.

Good morning Brigadier . . .
. . . Lots of things are not working.

A very good morning Brigadier . . .
. . . Nothing is working.

Telegraph routine is good fun and provided endless hours of amusement for **Tech Sgts Tony Brookes (Buzz Aldrin)** and **Dougie Laing.** Eventually we had Solid Comms (see above) to an adobe hut in Aberdare; very useful.

STAR TURN

Star turn of the exercise was pioneering work done in opto-electronics by one of RCP troop's younger powermen. He connected his 'prickthrough' and switched on the attached bulbs, but, alas, zero. Unable to solve the mystery he called **LCpl Cryans**, who was reduced to a gibbering state on finding that the prickthrough was attached not to 'flat twin' but the radio detachment's carrier quad.

The exact gradient required to tip over 15 out of 16 four ton trucks was determined to an accuracy of 0.01 Fagin.

ARU

Hay-are-you. As in 'Hay, are you responsible for . . .'. This is best avoided, try leave, sickness, suicide and coincident visits to the opposite points of the globe. If all else fails, don an NBC suit, remove name tape and mill about. Light entertainment by joining sweepstake to guess how quickly **Maj Bill Legge** will lose his temper (bet in the micro-second range).

IS

Eye-s. A surprise exercise of undeclared duration. **Cpl Ken Shaw** tells wife he will see her later that day and returns in time for his unseen child's 21st. **LCpl Jake Martin** discusses glaring inaccuracies on map and becomes locationally disorientated for a brief period of time. **LCpl (Irish Wizard) McKitterick** had to join the local air traffic control net and paint roundels on his 1 Tonne. **Lt Graham Norris** concludes sleep deprivation trials.

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

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

EXERCISE 'SNOWPLOUGH'

2 Sqn held their annual skiing camp in the Winterberg area of the Hochsauerland. The aim of the camp was to teach sixty soldiers the basics of either downhill or langlauf skiing. The exercise was planned and coordinated by **Capt Phil McDouall**, the squadron 2IC. This was his third year as organiser and rumour has it that he got it all right this time (totally unfounded naturally). The first day was spent travelling from Wildenrath, setting up the hall and issuing equipment. Because the heating in the hall was very limited (ie non-existent) we all lived in tents set up inside it. This may sound ridiculous, it looked hideous, but it certainly worked.

The next morning the two groups travelled to their respective beginner's areas. The langlaufers (or longloafers) under the instruction of **Lt Paul Oldfield** commenced operations in a field behind the hall. After one days 'intensive'?! technique training we went off to find some prepared tracks. The rest of the exercise was spent touring the area, with technique improvement taking place 'on the job'. Everyone progressed and by the end of the week could actually choose which snowdrift to 'blow out' into. The subtle difference between downhill and langlauf skiing was soon discovered. The downhill skier is gently pulled up a slope which he then uses to get himself effortlessly to the pub at the bottom. The langlaufers have at least 5 km slog up a hill to get to the pub, only to find it's a 5km slog back afterwards!

The last day's skiing included a race in two classes, the complete beginners (ie completely unco-ordinated) and the veterans (ie able to walk). The race was over a 10km course. The beginners class was won by **Sig Doherty** in a time of 51 mins; and the veteran's class was won by **Cpl Jeff Morris** in a time of 45 mins.

FOR THE DOWNHILL SKIERS

The first 2 days were spent at Zuschen, where we divided into 3 classes; Novices Intermediates and Experts. Our instructors being **Sgt Eddie Doyle** (RAF), **Cpl Bruce Barnes, LCpl 'Jock' Lambe, Sig 'Dobo' Dobson** and the 'Skiing Medic' **Cpl John Gouldie** (RAF).

Day one, for some, was spent relearning how to stop and generally stay on their skis; the more adventurous ones were waltzing up and down the slope. There were times that a long figure was seen repeatedly emerging from the drifts he had created. My source of information tells me that it was **WO2 Robbie Burnett** doing a recce for his 'Tug of War' team.

The Slalom race was marked by **Cpl Barnes** and Co, time keeping by OC Sqn. The results were: Novices—1st **Sig Hunt**, 2nd **Sig Yarborough.** Intermediates—1st **LCpl Carpenter**, 2nd **Sig Rodie.**

Despite a very full skiing programme, there were a few lighter moments. The first "happening' was the 1st International Hildfeld Bob Bag Championships. This new winter sport consists of a 500 metre long channel in the snow, with various bumps and sharp corners. The channel is about 2ft deep and rounded at the bottom. Each competitor climbs into a large 'poly bag' which reaches up to the shoulders. He then lies in the channel and is hurled down the channel by a few sadistic types who fail to realize it's their turn next. Having been launched, the next problem is to stay in the channel and avoid the snowballs from the spectators. Being on a very sharp hill, speed of up to 35 mph can be attained, which leads you on to the next problem, how to stop! The afternoon proved to be a lot of fun, but next morning there were also a lot of bruises. If you can't take a joke . . .

The extremely full social calendar culminated in a revue show. Each troop produced a sketch, designed to extract the maximum embarrassment from the other troops and the squadron management. The judges proved themselves to be well picked, by voting F Troop the winners!

Finally the last morning arrived, a confusing scene of wagons being packed, skis assembled, tents being taken down, cooks making packed lunches, fatigue parties cleaning up, while everyone else insisted on walking on the area just cleaned, and, above it all, the sweet sounds of the chief organiser, the SSM, adding chaos to what was otherwise only total confusion. Somehow we all got away and made a fair remake of the retreat from Moscow back to Wildenrath. Now everyone is looking forward to their summer holidays,—foot slogging over the Bavarian Alps. And finally our thanks to the attached personnel, who made it all possible. **Sgt Doyle**—The Downhill instructor from RAF Gutersloh, **Cpl Gouldie**—The Medic, **Cpl Jones** and his 'Muck in the Truck' crew and **Cfn Dale**, the long suffering grease monkey.

TUG OF WAR

After winning the first two of the five Rhine Area meets, the regimental teams are now in a vigorous training scheme under the beady eye of our coach **WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett.** A fairly new team this year, but we still have some experts from previous years. Namely **Sgts Mick Scull** and **Chuck Walker, Cpls Rich Shingles** and **Bruce Barnes, LCpl Joe Fitini** and **Sig John Fisher**. Some of our new and up and coming pullers are **Cpls Steve Meachin, Chris Barlow, Mick Buchan, LCpl Bud Abbott, Sigs Kev Winkles** and **Geordie Strike.**

RHINE AREA CHAMPIONS
L to R Back Row: LCpl Scott, Sig Graham, Cpl Crawford, Cpl Barlow, Sig Brown, Sig Bratton
L to R Front Row: Sig Cunningham, Sig Marshal, SSI Haase, Sig Blundell, Sig Butterworth

After winning Rhine Area Indoor Championships

Back: Sig Lloyd Brown, Cfn Jim Jarrett, WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett, Sgt Chuck Walker, LCpl Joe Fitini
Front: Sgt Mick Scull, Cpl Chris Barlow, Sig Hanibal Hayes, Sig John Fisher

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

Since our last notes there has been much to report on the sporting achievements of the regiment. This has naturally run in parallel with a busy exercise programme.

SUCCESSFUL SKIING SEASON

This season has proved to be the most successful season for the regiment to date. The Divisional Championships were won for the second year running and the team came third in the Army Championships. **Cpl 'Dins' Percival** and **Cpl Stevie Power** were both selected to ski for Great Britain in the International Lowlanders Championships.

Sig 'Trigger' Hogton managed a double by winning both the Divisional and Army Novice Trophies. **Trigger** has subsequently been selected to ski for the Junior National Biathlon Squad. **Cpl Bob O'Dea** has been the regimental instructor for three years. He has coached the team from relative obscurity to being the name in Army Nordic Skiing.

In the Alpine events the regiment also did well, being winners of the 3 Armd Div Championships in the downhill, slalom, giant slalom and combination cups. In the Army Championships the team were runners up to 2 Div Sig Regt in a nail biting finish. Although all the team deserved mention perhaps **LCpl Paul Ford** could be singled out for outstanding achievement. He was the Combined Services runner-up, first in the Army Individual Giant Slalom and totalled five first places in the 3 Div Championships.

LCpl Paul Ford on his way to victory

Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams—*L to R Rear:* Sig Powel, Cpl Sudron, Capt Leather, LCpl Atkinson, Cpl Percival, Sig Patterson. *Front:* Capt Ferriman, Sig Elliot, Sig Hogton, Cpl O'Dea, Cpl Power, Sig Henshaw, Sig Richardson

In The Princess Marina Cup which is a combination of achievements in both Nordic and Alpine Skiing, the regiment came a very close second.

As a result of the regimental teams' success in the Army Div Championships, it was found necessary to supply an armed escort to return the silver to barracks!

HOCKEY TOO

The regimental hockey team has, also, been doing very well. In the 3 Div Major Units Cup Final, we beat 26 Fd Regt RA five nil. This added to the winning of the 3 Div League undefeated, was a magnificent 'double achievement'. Unfortunately the team lost in the BAOR semi-finals on penalties. It is perhaps hardly surprising that the team has done so well having the Adjutant **Capt Tom Richardson**, the **RSM WO1 Terry Mumford** and **WO1 Bill Olive** in starring roles. To add a touch of the divine, the team has been coached by the Padre, **Maj Alister Heagerty.**

Hockey Team—*Left to Right Rear:* Rev Alister Heagerty, SSgt Bill Tatnall BEM, WO2 (SSM) Keith Purkiss, Capt Tom Richardson, WO1 (RSM) Terry Mumford, Cpl Dave Till, Cpl Tommy Hope, Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell. *Front:* Cpl Geordie Lowes, LCpl Derek Sexton, Sgt Dave Courtenay, SSgt 'Lenny' Rowland-Jones, WO1 Bill Olive, Capt Nick Ferriman, LCpl Brian Durlik

BASKETBALL

Not to be outdone by others, the Basketball team has contributed to the regimental silverware. The team, led by **Capt Mike Jennings** won the 3 Div finals but were unfortunately knocked out of the BAOR Cup. **Sig Taff Chiplin**, who has been selected for the Army side, assures us that next year '22' will be a real force to contend with in the basketball world.

Basketball Team—*Left to Right Rear:* QMSI 'Chalky' White, Cpl 'Webby' Webb, Cpl Bob Oliver, Capt Mike Jennings, SQMS Bill Metcalfe, Capt Bob Scriven. *Front:* LCpl Ian Barnes, Sgt Stuart Meadows, Sig Stuart Le Friec, Sgt David Ross, Cpl Andy Laidlaw, Sig Taff Chiplin

PAGE TROPHY

During March and April, the Regimental Page Trophy Competition has been taking place. This competition involves all members of the regiment in at least one sport. In this way much new talent can be spotted. It also tends to be a very busy time for the medical staff.

The 4 Sqn Tug of War team pulling in the Page Trophy— *L to R:* Cpl Burt Sands, WO2 (SSM) Charlie Manning, LCpl Dave Speechly, Sig Kev Johnson, Sig John Simmons, LCpl Keith Robinson, Cpl Neil Henly, SSgt SQMS Ken Richardson, Sgt Tom Flood

VISITS

During Ex *Flying Falcon* and Ex *Wintex* the regiment was visited by the CSO **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** and **Lt Gen Sir Michael Gow** respectively.

Maj Gen Hild saw at first hand the difficulties of moving a Commcen in severely inclement weather conditions.

Lt Gen Gow visited the 4 Sqn TEV commanded by **Cpl Mick Vavasour**, who was supplying Bruin Comms for 3 US Corp.

Gen Gow visits 3 US Corp TEV. *Left to Right:* Lt Gen Gow, Cpl Mick Vavasour, Capt R. Gosnall 7 US Signal Brigade

ATTESTATION

The MTO **Capt Mike Jennings**, is doing his bit to keep internal recruiting high. The photograph shows him ensuring fair play whilst the CO **LT Col John Almonds** Attests **Mike Jennings** Jnr.

Internal Recruiting—*Left to Right:* Capt Mike Jennings, Mike Jennings Junior, Lt Col J. H. Almonds

LS & GC PRESENTATIONS

The CSO **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** visited the regiment again (He also likes it here) on 26 Mar. LS & GC's were presented to **WO2 Alan Strachan** and **Cpl Allport ACC.**

AQMS Alan Strachan receiving LS & GC

SQUADRON REPORT
2 SQN

During April, the squadron bid farewell to **Maj Chris Urquhart. Maj Urquhart** had commanded the squadron for 2 years during which he had built up a reputation as a 'throttle happy assault boat helmsman'. An excellent farewell party was held in the Sergeants Mess for **Maj Urquhart** and his wife **Esther.** We wish them success for the future.

ARRIVALS

In February **Lt Tony Adams** arrived in the squadron to command the Radio Relay Troop. **Tony**, is from 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt (V).

DEPARTURES

Capt Mike Dent has been transferred to 1 Sqn to help them communicate! **SSgt Mick Jolliff** left the unit to cast a reign of terror on Liverpool UOTC. **Mick** was posted on promotion to WO2 (SSM).

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

OFF THE GROUND

The period covered by this report has been an exceptionally busy one for the regiment; with the preparations for the Annual Report on the Unit Inspection and a major NATO wide exercise, Exercise *Wintex* 1981, and the normal sequence of regimental events and activities.

It was early in the year that the CO **Lt Col Paul Webb**, decided that the overall intellectual standard of the regiment should be raised. To this end he instructed that a room should be prepared to house a sub branch of the Army Library. **Maj Bob Aitken**, the Training Major, was landed with the task and after considerable effort found a room and had it decorated and fitted out with the necessary shelves, he was then able to tell the CO that the venture had got off the ground. **Mrs Maureen Shepherd**, wife of **Capt John Shepherd**, the Technical Adjutant, arranged for the books, and in mid February **Lt Col Webb** performed a small opening ceremony and borrowed the first book.

The CO Lt Col Paul Webb, ceremonially opens the Branch Library. The Cushion Orderly is SSgt Colin Ross who is carefully watched by Mrs Maureen Shepherd, the Librarian

AT FIRST LIGHT

A day in the second half of February had been pencilled in to the forecast of events for some time, as the day of the Annual Report on the Unit Inspection. **Brig Peter Chiswell CBE**, a Senior British Officer in HQ Northern Army Group was to be the Inspecting Officer. To everyone's surprise a call was received in the early hours of the day concerned stating that all personnel were to report to barracks immediately, and that the regiment was to prepare to deploy at first light to a survival location in the field. During the day the Brigadier was able to see the regiment deploying and setting up tactically on a local training area. Additionally he had the opportunity to meet many members of the regiment carrying out their operational roles. Never to be outdone, the Officers Mess staff, under the guidance of **Sgt Fred Buchan**, produced a formal luncheon in the field complete with a candelabra. While in the field Brig Chiswell presented the LS & GC Medal to **Sgt Keith Mathers** and after a visit to the Northern Army Group/ Second Allied Tactical Air Force Joint Communications Centre at Rheindahlen, he presented a further Medal to **Cpl John Cook.**

Sgt Keith Mathers receives his LS & GC Medal from Brig Peter Chiswell CBE. Sgt Yorkie Layton is the Cushion Orderly

TRADITION MAINTAINED

Last year the CO invited the Carnival Prince and Princess of Stadt Tonisvorst to visit the Regimental Barracks as part of the Stadt celebrations.

The new Prince and Princess and the Royal Household were invited to come again this year in early March, and so a tradition was established. After having been welcomed at the barrack gate by the CO the Prince and Princess and Royal Entourage were escorted to the various Messes by a Lance Guard found from Senior NCOs and commanded by **SSgt (YofS) Sid Coleman.** In each of the Messes refreshment was taken and old friendships renewed and new friendships made. As part of the Stadt Carnival celebrations the regiment produced a float in the Carnival Procession; the theme being Francisca Indians. The float was the inspiration of **Capt Keith Allcock**, the Light Aid Detachment Commander, and all the artistic paintwork was carried out by **Mrs Norma Timson,** wife of **Maj Charles Timson** the QM, and **Mrs Anthea Garrod**, wife of **Maj Frank Garrod**, OC 2 Sqn.

The RSM Ted Banham takes wine with Stadt Tönisvorst Carnival Prince and Princess

IN ONE PLACE AT ONE TIME

So to Ex *Wintex* 1981. The CO was determined that at least once in his tour he would assemble all his officers in one place, at one time and have a photograph taken. Despite many difficulties he achieved his aim the day before deployment and we include the result within this report. No it is not true that **Maj Bob Brewis**, the 2IC, is a dog lover. He just borrowed one of the Adjutant's, **Capt Alan Hutt's**, two dogs to give balance to the photograph. We were deployed on the North West German plain for two weeks and worked hard at providing communications facilities for the Commander Northern Army Group, **Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB**, and his staff.

The Officers of the regiment
Rear Row Left to Right: Capt John Morrison, Capt Wilf Howard RAPC, Lt Guy Kenyon, Capt Sandy Reid, Capt Mary Croft WRAC, Capt Paul Gorford, Capt John Shepherd, 2Lt Adrian Thornton.
Centre Row Left to Right: Capt Keith Allcock REME, Capt John Fletcher, Maj Colin Smith, Maj Charles Timson BEM, Maj (Retd) Harry Newsham, Maj Nevell Armitage MBE, Maj Bob Aitken, Capt Roy Stark, Lt Carolyn Wilding.
Seated Left to Right: Capt Gordon Spalding RPC, Maj Ray Etheridge, Maj Bob Brewis, Lt Col Paul Webb, Capt Alan Hutt, Maj Frank Garrod, Maj Neville Illman.
On the Floor Left to Right: Trash, Winston, Echo

AN EXCITING FINAL

The Exercise was punctuated by the regimental football team travelling to Sennelager to play against 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment in the final of the British Army of the Rhine Stage of the Army Cup. Unfortunately the regiment lost by 2 goals to 1, in what was considered by the pundits as the most exciting final seen in Germany in fifteen years. Just after the end of the exercise the Regimental Team were once again in action winning the Rhine Area Competition against 21 Sig Regt by 5 goals to 1, this being the twelfth year in succession.

NOT QUITE

To end this report, in what are the early days of spring, it is interesting to note, as preparations for the annual vehicle TUV inspection go ahead and the colourful yellow daffodils flower, that the regiment has opened up its own WRAC Officer Cadet School so that it can help AG11 solve officer manning problems. No! that is not true; nine Officer Cadets from Sheffield and Southampton University OTC were attached to the regiment for a two week period. **Lt Carolyn Wilding**, who commands Papa Troop, was made 'mother' for this period and she arranged an extensive internal and external programme for her charges including having their photograph taken with the CO.

Back Row Left to Right: OCdt Valerie Wilson, OCdt Angela Sole, OCdt Jenny Rollinson, OCdt Fiona Gibson, OCdt Alison Wallmore, OCdt Carol Lee.
Seated Left to Right: OCdt Judy Irwin, Lt Carolyn Wilding, Lt Col P. Webb, OCdt Karen Kirkpatrick, OCdt Kate Luney

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

OP PADDOCK (PHASE TWO)

On Feb 2, 30 Sig Regt took over as Guard Sqn of Her Majesty's Prison Rollestone for a period that turned out to last three weeks.

Maj Tony Whipp, who had taken his men on a military training exercise on Salisbury Plain was recalled, and given the task of forming the Guard Sqn in just four days. Having successfully bid for most of the regiment, the Guard totalled approximately 150 officers and men; the requirement being three guard Tps of thirty men each commanded by **Lts Ray Hyams, Richard Warren**, and **Frazer Grant,** and an Admin Tp commanded by **Capt Keith Derrick**. The four days preparation were taken up with recces, planning and orders, with the odd parade thrown in.

MOST DANGEROUS THING

Finally, the big day arrived and we deployed from Blandford Camp all the way to Salisbury Plain (those in 3 Sqn were suffering from a feeling of 'deja vu'). By midday we had successfully taken over HMP Rollestone only to find that we outnumbered the inmates 15 to 1. The most dangerous thing around the Prison was the guard dogs, who were trained to bite anything that moved (even soldiers in combats!). By the third day the number of inmates had risen to around 90, reducing the odds to just under 2 to 1 in the regiment's favour.

The guard duties were not particularly strenuous but required much vigilance and concentration. Our three main jobs were, firstly to provide sentries to man the Raised Sentry Boxes. We also had to man the main gates into the Prison and lastly provide a Quick Reaction Force in case anybody tried to break out or in! Because it was not possible to take R&R the Admin Tp was tasked with providing amenities.

Sig 'Fran' Morgan calling for assistance from his Raised Sentry Boxes!

One of the Guard Troops relaxing
Left to right: SSgt Jeff Battisby, Sgt Colin Thirkettle, Cpl Shaun Sutton, Cpl Ian Garrett, Cpl Keith Licence, Sig Paul Fisher, Cpl Steve Marlow, Lt Ray Hyams

VIDEO TO THE FORE

The most valuable was the regiment's video tape recorder, which showed 'The Battle of Britain' umpteen times until other film cassettes could be acquired. Other amenities included board games and many packs of cards. The Admin Tp ran a canteen selling the usual stickies.

TO THE END

On the original briefing, the duration of the operation was given as two weeks. However, the replacing Gunner unit was 'outbid' for the last week. And so we saw Operation *Paddock* through to the end. Looking back, the Operation was a great success. It gave the regiment the opportunity to try their hand at something else, so far we have been soldiers, fire fighters and prison warders, one wonders what will happen next!

IN THE FRIDGE

If you put your hand in the freezer compartment of a fridge you will discover how warm it can get in a snow-sheet 'bivvy' in Norway in the middle of winter. Nineteen of Alpha Tp, 1 Sqn were out in Norway from 23 Jan until 18 Mar, taking part in Ex *Cold Winter 81* with the Royal Marines. The aim of the exercise was to practise tactics and survival in arctic conditions, and it was our job to provide the communications back to the UK.

ARCTIC WARFARE TRAINING

On arriving in Norway we collected our arctic equipment from 3 Commando Brigade HQ, the most important items being our Chairman Mao suits and moon boots. We then moved to Midtsonder Camp at Trondheim where we were staying in luxury holiday chalets!

The actual course consisted of cross country skiing and sleeping in 10 man tents, 8 man tent-sheets and 4 men snow-holes. This was extremely dodgy as a loud snore could cause an avalanche! **Sig Smudge Smith** surpassed us all by becoming the only person deemed capable of mastering snow-shoes, but on skis his chances of avoiding a yeti (remaining upright) were very poor, with or without his 'special green'. But to the Tp's credit we all gained a ski-pass from the course, proving that we were all capable of sweeping down icy slopes with 40kg packs on (some hope!).

SHEER LUXURY

The luxury of our modern Norwegian log cabins was only spoiled by the fact that to move from one end to the other we had to cover an assault course of 'bergens', suitcases and clothes. Still, they were warm and dry, and far better than a snow hole where any movement was likely to cause a roof fall. The camp was very comfortable and we were extremely well looked after by the Commando Logistics Regiment, who organised discos, films and live entertainment. We stayed at Midtsonden Camp until the end of February, during which time we took part in Ex *Global Swan*, as well as several run up exercises in preparation for Ex *Cold Winter*.

THE LUMINOUS CUE BALL

For the main part of the exercise we were transported by sea to Lygen Fjord, east of Tromso. The RFA looked after us extremely well, providing at least two up-to-date films every day, excellent food, and to crown it all, the sea was calm! The disembarkation went smoothly and in no time at all we had set up and were ready.

To our surprise, living in the north was not as bad as we had expected. We had a large tent plus liner and a space heater to keep us warm. The temperature outside was rarely less than -30 C, which is quite warm for Norway! Our main problem was that we were supposed to be tactical. This was like trying to hide a luminous cue ball on a pool table. We pulled white camouflage nets over everything, but with the generators roaring 24 hours a day underneath 80 foot masts with red lights on the top, situated on a bare headland sticking out into a frozen fjord, this was slightly difficult.

VALUABLE AND INTERESTING

There were also a few problems with the local and long range communications, but this was mainly due to the Northern Lights and other atmospheric interference. But with the co-operation and help from the staff and operators at Stanbridge (our base station), communications got steadily better throughout the final phase of the exercise and in the end a satisfactory result was achieved.

The exercise was valuable and very interesting. The food, skiing and night life were also of a very high standard and we would all like to thank Commando Logistics Regiment and 3rd Commando Brigade for their help and hospitality.

AT IMBER

A sunny but cold March weekend saw 3 Sqn on exercise at Imber village which was to prove different to say the least. At 1100 hrs the Sqn took over Imber Court, which was meant to simulate a HQ in Northern Ireland. After we settled in and got a brew going, strident panic stricken tones issued forth from the Ops Room encouraging 1, 2 and 3 sections to move out and patrol Imber village for a house clearing exercise. We received a hostile reception from the 'villagers' who remarkably resembled members of 1 Sqn and the remnants of 3 Sqn not needed as section personnel.

After our first taste of 'action' we settled down to a routine of 2 hrs street patrolling, 2 hrs standby patrol (basically forming the mobile section) and 2 hrs guard duty at Imber Court. All this followed by 2 hrs rest if we were lucky. Several arrests were made of people with suspect ID cards, who were transported back to HQ by the mobile patrol for interrogation and eventual release back to 'civilisation?'.

AN ANGRY MOB

The evening and night promised to be entertaining and for certain people with nothing else better to do than walk around with white armbands on their arms, I suppose it was. But when an angry mob of drunken 'villagers' (they even had their own bar) descended upon the HQ with the intention of 'springing' some of their compatriots held in detention, 2 section were not amused. Especially when their uneventful guard duty was shattered by a deluge of empty beer cans and the like, as the full weight of the frontal attack descended on the main gate. Retaliatory action was obviously needed and came in the form of a CS gas attack. Unfortunately the gods were not on our side, and neither was the wind; it became evident as the gas promptly returned to whence it came, to the tear-jerking/choking sounds of those not too quick with their gas-masks. Apart from the routine patrols the rest of the night passed with relative ease as the villagers exhausted from the rigours of giving us a hard time curled up in their sleeping bags, to leave us at the mercy of a cold March night.

WEARY BUT WISER

The first half of Sunday morning proved virtually uneventful, however not so the second, as the villagers renewed their attack hurling abuse and beer cans and generally causing as much nuisance as possible. The situation soon deteriorated into a mass riot, and shortly all the patrols were on the street. Co-ordination between sections did leave a little to be desired, so a box formation was formed using all 8 sections which would hopefully defeat the terrorists and capture the trouble-makers among the villagers in one swift blow. This was achieved by use of a snatch squad, which, after a few fruitless attempts, managed to bag the terrorist leader who was escorted back to HQ within the confines of the box formation, and this culminated with the end of the exercise. And so 3 Sqn returned to sunny Blandford tired and a little worse for wear but none the less rather wiser.

MRS EDNA RICHARDS

Emotions are always mixed when an old friend retires after many years of service. On the one hand we are pleased that she will now be able to find time for all those things that she has wanted to do for years; on the other hand we will be sorry to lose a familiar and friendly face from the everyday scene. A farewell party to mark such an occasion took place on Fri 27 Mar when **Mrs Edna Richards** retired.

A local girl, born and bred in Blandford, **Edna's** service with the 30 Sig Regt began in 1960 and coincided almost precisely with the arrival of the regiment at Blandford from its previous base at Middle Wallop. When she first came, Blandford Camp was no more than a hutted camp erected in 1939, on the site of a similar camp dating from 1918. During her stay here, she has seen the older camp dismantled, to be replaced by the modern buildings we know today. She has served with ten Commanding Officers, and has seen the comings and goings of detachments to all corners of the world and, at her desk as Leave Clerk, it is quite possible that she has personally seen and spoken with every soldier who has served with this regiment over the past 21 years.

Lt Col Thompson, the CO, presented **Edna** with a rose bowl and a vase, both in attractive lead crystal. In addition he produced a beautiful bouquet, magically it seemed, from somewhere beneath the table. In his speech, the Colonel paid tribute to civilian staff in general and **Edna** in particular, for the administrative back-up given in support of the regiment, especially during detachments abroad. He stressed the value of continuity and reminded us that **Edna** had served the regiment for 21 years and that **Ben**, her husband, who was present and who retired last year, had completed about 30 years on the Garrison. To **Ben's** delight and **Edna's** polite objection, the CO went on to suggest that **Edna** would now be able to find the time to help **Ben** in the garden

Mrs Edna Richards with her husband Ben, being presented with various gifts from the regiment by the CO, Lt Col Roger Thompson

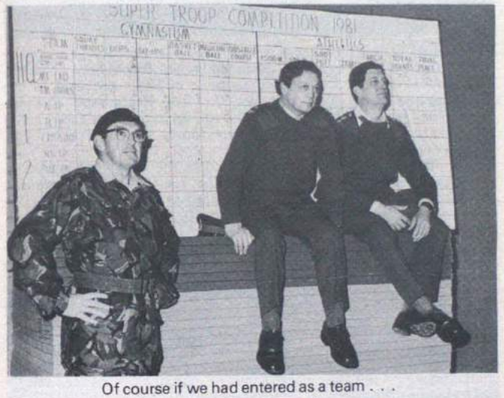
and ended by expressing on behalf of everyone, the hope that **Edna** would quickly recover from her recent illness and that she and **Ben** would together, enjoy a long and very happy retirement, assuring them of a welcome at any time that they might wish to visit and renew old and happy acquaintances.

FAMILIAR GROUND

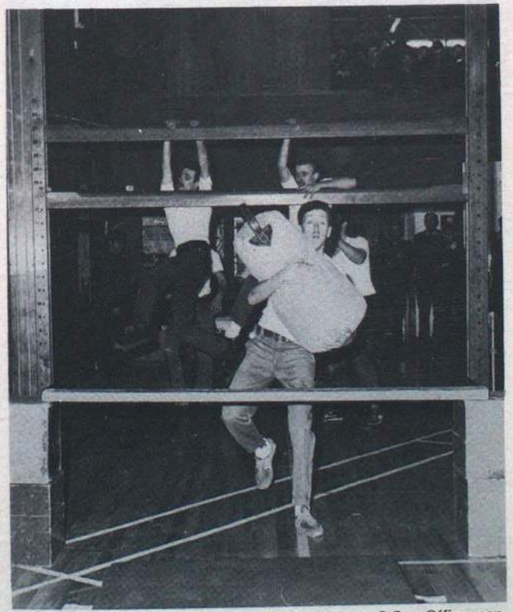
On Mon 30 Mar the regiment received a visit from the SOinC. Although he had been a member of the regiment when it was 5 Corps Regt, and 90 Sig Regt, this was his first visit since commanding the Bruin Sqn in 1967. After an initial briefing he met some old friends, **Maj Ben Bolt** OC HQ Squadron, the **ORQMS WO2 Slim Cheetham** and three of our civilian staff, **Mrs Mollie Clark, Mrs Marilyn Offord** and **Mrs Pam Wade**. This was followed by a tour of Sqn equipment displays which included Initial Contact Link Station, D13 and Satcom from 1 Sqn, Pri 2 communications from 2 Sqn and Logistics Support Group Trunk Communications from 3 Sqn. During this part of the visit the SOinC met and talked to some 100 soldiers of the regiment, in spite of the driving rain. He met a certain Signalman in 3 Sqn which went something like this:

General: And what is your name, young man?
Sig: **Taff**, sir.
General: Yes, but if it was displayed on your combat jacket what would it be?
Sig: **Donovan**, sir.
General: That's not Welsh is it?
Sig: No, sir, its Irish.
General: And how tall are you?
(looking down at said soldier)
Sig: 6 foot 3 sir! (**Donovan** is 5 ft 3—who said 3 Sqn exaggerates!)

Having survived his visit to 3 Sqn the SOinC went on to see the Campbell Centre and met some of the wives of the regiment including **Mrs Margaret Wraith** and **Mrs Deanne Sleightholm**. After being refreshed by a cup of Campbell Centre coffee the next stop was the Gymnasium to meet **QMSI Lenny Crawford** and watch the finals of the regiment's Super Troop Competition. This was won by **Lt Fraser Grant** and Net Radio Troop. The SOinC kindly presented the trophy to the



Of course if we had entered as a team . . .



Lt Ray Hyams showing LCpl Martin Gritton what a 3 Sqn Officer can do as a competitor in Super Troop, Cpl Duncan Forteath is the one escaping with the bag

winners. Next to the Jubilee Hall to present the British Empire Medal to **Sgt Steve MacDonald** who also received his LS&GC along with **WO1 (YofS) Jim Rayment** from HQ 1 Sig Group.

The SOinC with the MacDonald Clan after presenting Sgt Steve MacDonald with his BEM and LS&GC. Also in the picture is WO1 Jim Rayment from HQ 1 Signal Group

At this point it was the SOinC's turn to receive something, a Regimental Print which was presented by **Pte Edith Goodale** a D Tg from 2 Sqn.

Pte Edith Goodale presents a copy of a Regimental print, depicting various aspects of the unit and painted by Capt John Thewlis as a farewell gift to the previous Commanding Officer

After posing for photographs **Gen Birtwistle** was lunched in the WOs and Sgts Mess with the **RSM, WO1 Jim Campbell**. Here he met and talked to the regiment's SNCOs. All too quickly the time for departure arrived and the SOinC took his farewell, with a promise that on his next visit we will arrange to get the weather right.

FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS

This month we have said goodbye to a few familiar faces. **Maj Tony Whipp** is about to hand over 3 Sqn to **Maj Nigel Fairley. Tony** is posted to RSRE Malvern. **Capt John Thewlis** has handed over the post of 2IC 1 Sqn to **Capt Keith Derrick. John** has now been posted to 8 Sig Regt to manage their computers. **WO2 Andy Neilson** leaves us on promotion to take over as RSM at Birmingham UOTC.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

DINING OUT OF THE HONORARY COLONEL

Col J. G. Bryson OBE, TD, JP, DL, LLM, and **Mrs Jean Bryson** were dined out by the Officers on 14 Feb, at the conclusion of six years in office as Honorary Colonel of the regiment. The Hon Col was received by the CO **Lt Col Gavin Mackay**, supported by his three predecessors, **Lt Col Pat Jolliffe, Lt Col John Bromley** and **Lt Col John Booth**, who had all served during the Honorary Colonel's tenure of office.

The Hon Col, Col J. G. Bryson OBE, TD, JP, DL, LLM being received by the CO, Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay (right), on the occasion of his dining out on 14 Feb
L to R Mrs Jean Bryson, Maj Edward Emett, Maj Doug Murray, Mrs Joan Murray and Mrs Sheila Mackay

(By courtesy of South Lancashire Newspaper Group)

The Hon Col supported by his four successive Commanding Officers
L to R: Lt Col John Bromley, Mrs Jean Bryson, Lt Col Pat Jolliffe, Mrs Oonagh Jolliffe, Col Paddy Bryson, Lt Col John Booth, Mrs Sheila Mackay, Mrs Carol Booth, Lt Col Gavin Mackay

(By courtesy of South Lancashire Newspaper Group)

It was a splendid gathering, some seventy Officers and their Ladies sitting down to a superb dinner ably prepared by **WO2 Ron Gawthorne** ACC and his cooks, and presented by Mess Sergeant, **Sgt Frank Conlan** and his 'Volunteer' staff. The Band of 34 Sig Regt (V) performed magnificently during dinner by kind permission of their CO, **Lt Col A. W. Illingworth.**

The very special arrangements that were made for the Band to travel all the way from Teeside to Liverpool to play for us at the dinner were very much appreciated. Thank You 'Thirty Four'.

Col Paddy was such a great source of strength to all his Commanding Officers and also to All Ranks who had the privilege to serve with him during his tour with the regiment, and when in the early hours he was escorted to the boundary of RHQ it was an emotional moment for everyone present.

It is with much regret that we must report that since this very special event, **Mrs Jean Bryson**, the dearly loved First Lady of the regiment died very suddenly in March.

FULL SCALE

Ex *March Hare* was the first full scale Regimental Tactical Communications and Deployment Exercise of 1981, and held in the Mid Cheshire Area. This was also the first Regimental Exercise commanded by **Lt Col Mackay**, and the run up to Summer Camp to be held this year on the North Yorkshire Moors and at Scarborough Training centre.

Over 300 men and women participated in the weekend exercise. A very good turnout, taking into account that members of the regiment were also deployed on Ex *Wintex* in Germany at this time. Our new CO was unable to bring a change to our normal exercise weather—snow, sleet and driving rain, but did provide bright sunshine at Endex!

In spite of the appalling weather and muddy ground conditions, full communications were quickly established. Thank you Blandford for the successful frequency plot. With the communications going well the squadrons were able to concentrate on local defence, NBC drills and camouflage improvement. An all round higher standard was apparent, was this to impress our new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Ron Upton?**

The Ex gave the new OC 59 Sig Sqn (V), **Maj Doug Murray** the opportunity to appraise his new Sqn organisation, a Switch Tp commanded by **Capt Dominic Ion** and a Commcen Tp commanded by **Lt Graham Stow**, operating in the field.

Maj Chris Byrom, an ex Regular Royal Signals Officer, and now OC HQ Sqn (V) had his first taste of commanding a TA unit. He's still with us!

We generally take the LAD for granted but it's reassuring to have them on location, especially when the weather makes the Exercise sites change from hard ground into squelching mud so quickly!!

It's a sad occasion when it's the last exercise for any TA soldier and on this occasion it was farewell to **Maj (TOT) Reg Bissell** and **WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Carruthers** after many years loyal service.

WO2 Jim Carruthers on his last exercise helps Sgt Bill Wilkes and his son Sig William Wilkes erect an antenna

(By courtesy of PRO North West District)

Taking a break from the Exercise are members of HQ Sqn (V), and although cups of soup are in evidence, weapons and NBC kit are close at hand too

(By courtesy TA PRO North West District)

'This is where we are girls'. Lt Christine Parkinson briefs her WRAC detachment on arrival at the Ex site
L to R Pte Pauline Brereton, Pte Angela Smith, Pte Valerie Thomes, Lt Christine Parkinson

(By courtesy TA PRO North West District)

Communications established, Capt Len Hinds giving encouragement to his technicians Sgt Joe Barlow (holding telephone) and Sgt John Hebden

(By courtesy TA PRO North West District)

WINTEX

Personnel on Ex *Wintex* came from all three of the regiment's communicating squadrons—59 Sqn from Edge Lane, Liverpool; 42 Sqn from Norman Road, Manchester; and 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Sqn from Gilwern, Abbot's Park, Chester.

Although members of the regiment train abroad every other year on average, many of them put in extra time on shorter exercises than their normal fortnight's annual camp. For this exercise, which took place in the countryside around Liege, the volunteers were working alongside Regular and conscript soldiers from the Armies of Britain, West Germany, the United States and Holland.

In charge of the 33 Regiment contingent was **Capt Len Addison** and **Sgt Alan Heritage**, who is due to retire this year after more than 25 years' service with the Territorial Army. **Sgt Heritage,** who comes from Ormskirk, is a member of 59 Sig Sqn. He was speaking for everyone in the party when he said, 'When you think about it, it is incredible how people from vastly different backgrounds and jobs can come here and quickly slot in with British colleagues, and men from other NATO Armies. There is a bit of a language problem at times, but it is really nothing and everyone gets on with the job and gets on well with each other.'

Although the exercise involved long hours on duty, often with little sleep, in weather that was far from kind, the 33 Regiment volunteers did get a little time off at the end of the exercise to go souvenir hunting in the Dutch town of Maastricht, scene of the recent EEC 'Summit' meeting.

A helping hand from the Bundeswehr for two WRAC members of 59 Sig Sqn (V) as Capt Gert Wilde of the German Army assists Ptes Ann Cooper (*front*) and Jeanett Doyle

(By courtesy of PRO BAOR)

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

Report by Rev Alan Hughes CF

A BIG GUN

'An old Canon friend of mine (one of the big guns in the Church actually!) was very fond of saying "cobbler's children are always the worst shod you know **Alan**", he was very good with names. At the hundreth recitation however it did set me thinking, 'why is it that we so often urge others to do what we ourselves find difficult?' I have another original thought, 'why is it that we identify faults in others that we are unable to overcome within ourselves'—still, that one can wait until the September issue. For weeks now I have been urging my Congregation to give up during Lent, sorry, to give up something during Lent. I feel so hypocritical, for try as I might I have found it impossible to resist writing an article for the Wire. It's not as if I had any copy to work on, March has been a typical month for '34' really, still I suppose it is often the ordinary things of life which are most tempting.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Ho Hum, well now, where's my diary, what have we done? One BEM, 9 Efficiency Medals, 4 Clasps to EM, and 2 LS & GC medals. Lord Lieutenants Dinner at RHQ hosted by **Brig Claude Faithweather** vice Lord Lieutenant and attended by **Lord Gisborough**, ADWRAC popped in to see us; 6 regular WRAC attached to RHQ living in Married Quarters; new RSM arrives; **Brig Burrows** first visit to Regiment; Regiment exercises its Freedom Rights in Darlington; **Col John Davies TD** Hon Col dined out; **Maj Peter Todd BEM**, Trg Major appointed by the Football Association as the FA area adviser for the Combined Services FAs in all matters appertaining to the training of soccer referees, promotion exams at Scarborough, Regimental Band Concert Tour of Germany; Commemorative Service for 50 Div in Darlington. Three Generals, five Brigadiers, four Colonels and all previous CO's of 34 entertained by Mess—no, nothing much there. I keep telling the CO, do something and then I can write about it. Och well! (I worked in Scotland for 10 years) back to padding out.

CONGRATULATIONS

Warmest congratulations to **SSgt Steve Tucker** on being awarded the British Empire Medal, richly deserved for his work as PSI 49 Sqn at Leeds. **WO2 Keith Coates** was awarded his Efficiency Medal at a presentation at Burniston Barracks Scarborough by **Col John Davies,** Hon Col along with **SSgt Goodman, Sgts Harris, Robson, Beckley** and **Jennings** and **Cpls Fox, Buccilli** and **Bartram. Sgts Bassett, Carter** and **Dadson** gained 1st Clasp to their EM along with **Cpl Summers. SSgt Dave Wright** and former **Sgt Stone** were presented with LS&GC medals.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT

Brig Claude Fairweather CB, CBE, TD, JP, DL, former Hon Col of '34' is a Vice Lord Lieutenant of The County of Cleveland and as such hosted the Annual Lord Lieutenants Dinner at RHQ among those present were **Cyril Hargreaves**, Chief Executive of Cleveland County and Secretary to The Lord Lieutenant and **Lord Gisborough**. Shortly after the Dinner **Lord Gisborough** was himself made Lord Lieutenant.

WELCOME ASSISTANCE

As ever we were very pleased to entertain ADWRAC when she came to visit five regular WRAC girls who have been helping out at RHQ prior to a Docs inspection—incidentally two of the girls are twins. Their 'Mother Hen' is **Cpl Heidi Humphries** who has been working as Staff Car Driver. They all live together in Married Quarters at Brambles Farm.

NEW COMMANDER

Brig Burrows was a very welcome visitor during March, he visited a regimental training weekend at Scarborough and visited RHQ at Middlesbrough and 50 Sqn. We wish him well as our new Group Commander—he can always be sure of a warm welcome from the regiment.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We also welcome **RSM Skinner** who comes to us from Liverpool OTC to replace **WO1 Bob Mills** and **WO2 Brian Davies** our new MTWO. The Dining Out of **Bob Mills** was a happy event by all accounts, evidently he was stripped and carried on to the square at Scarborough before being sprayed with red dye also **WO2 Yvonne Swinney** managed to knock out **Sgt Chris Rooney**'s front teeth, nice to know people can still enjoy themselves in the old fashioned way! We wish **Bob** and his wife **Sue** every happiness in Cyprus where he goes to take over as Training Officer with 9 Sig Regt. Farewell also to **WO1 John Scrutton,** MTO who leaves us for Civvy Street—or The Solent. **WO2 Dave Wright**, yes he has been elevated to the Peerage, who says 34 is a backwater? We wish him every success at 7 Signals. **Sgt Cowperthwaite** TE Tech at RHQ and **Sgt Nevins** also return to civvy street and will be much missed. Congratulations to **Sgt T. M. Dunn** on his well deserved promotion to SSgt and sadly we release him to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

FREEDOM PARADE

The regiment was granted The Freedom of Darlington in 1977 as a mark of the town's esteem for the regiment as the successor to 50 (Northumbrian) Sig Regt after the reorganisation of the TA in 1967—our Darlington Sqn is numbered '50' marking a link with our forebears. On Sat Mar 14, we exercised this Right of Freedom of Entry to The Borough for the first time. Prior to the Parade the Mayor, **Cllr Priestley** gave a Reception in the Council Chambers. **Maj Ron Atkinson TD**, 2IC commanded the Parade which was attended by **Gen Ian Baker** GOC NE Dist, **Brig Alan Yeoman** Commander Training Gp Royal Signals, **Brig Claude Fairweather** former Hon Col, **Col Sir William Lee** former CO and Hon Col of 50 Div, **Col John Davies TD** Hon Col 34, **Col Bill Foster** Dep Commander 12 Gp, **Col Mike Stewart** Hon Col designate 34 and **Lt Col Bill Illingworth TD**, CO 34. The Parade was watched by many of the citizens of Darlington as it marched through the streets with the Band at its head, a proud day for the regiment and attested to by the many letters of congratulations received the following week.

Maj Mary Nicholson TD, Senior WRAC Officer suggesting a left wheel to the Mayor

Maj Ron Atkinson, 2IC 34 and Pde Commander leads the regiment past the Saluting Dais

HONORARY COLONEL DINED OUT

The Dining Out of **Col John Davies TD**, our Hon Col, must rank as the most impressive we have ever held—the guest list alone paying tribute to both the regiment and **Col John**. Sat Mar 21 at Catterick saw the Master of Signals, the SOinC, **Brig Paddy Evans** first CO of 34th, **Brig Alan Yeoman** Commander Training Group, Royal Signals, **Brig John Burrows** Commander 12 Group, **Brig Norman Butler** CSO UKLF, **Brig Claude Fairweather** former Hon Col, **Col Keith Olds** Commander 1 Signal Group and former CO 34, **Lt Col David Jolly** previous CO 34 (thank you for letting me share your room!), and all previous Commanding Officers of 34th. **Lt Col Bill Illingworth** our CO in his after dinner speech expressed his pride at presiding over such a gathering which included 42 Officers of the regiment. The regiment was deeply moved by **Col John's** parting gift, his personal copy of the Cease Fire signal presented to him when serving on 'Monty's' Staff in Germany at the end of the Second War.

L to R— Lt Col Bill Illingworth TD, CO Col John Davies TD, Maj Ron Atkinson TD 2IC 34 WO1 Derek Farrington Bandmaster 34

Col RM Stewart TD new Hon Col

Brig Paddy Evans, BGS Signals (A), first CO of 34 with The Master

SOinC and Commander 12 Group at the Dining Out of Col John Davies

Lt Caroline Catcheside plus SOinC's Cap??? now there's ambition for you! Lt Andrea Walker admires the zoom lens!

Two Majors
Maj Peter (Sweeney) Todd BEM Trg Major, Maj Mervyn Jenkins TD Ops Officer, the only Officer in the Corps to have flown Meteor and Canberra Jets and Sunderland Flying Boats—this was whilst waiting for our box bodies to come through

WELL DONE

Congratulations to **Capt's Angus Turner** and **Philip Walker** on passing their promotion exam and to **Mary Corbett** and **Brian Parsons** from Lt to Capt—thank heavens, the regiment will continue in the 80's!

OUR BAND

Our Band goes from strength to strength, not only do they play but they march as well! No mean feat considering that together the 32 members have chalked up 625 yrs of service. In addition to Freedom Parades, Dining Out, Guest appearances with other regiments and Civic Concerts, they undertake foreign tours. Darlington is twinned with Mulheim in Germany and the Band have been on tour there also visiting Krefeld to see old friends at 16 Sig Regt.

IMPRESSIVE AND MEANINGFUL

We have already mentioned 50 Div and our associations with that regiment which served so faithfully in both Africa and Germany. April 5 brought with it a most memorable occasion when we firmly cemented our links with the proud name carried by our Darlington Sqn. In 1952, in the presence of **HRH The Princess Royal** then Colonel-in-Chief, a Memorial and Book of Remembrance, containing the names of all Officers and men of 50th (Northumbrian) Div Sig Regt (TA) who died in the last War, were dedicated in St Cuthberts, the Parish Church of Darlington. Now 34th, stimulated by a suggestion from **Col Sir William Lee** former CO and Hon Col of 50 Div and nurtured by our CO, was to hold a service of Re-Dedication. Why? Well, the original intention in 1952, was that the pages of the Book would be turned weekly for all to see the names of those who paid the supreme sacrifice. As this practice had fallen, we felt it only right that we should be the ones to revive it. The **Rev John Treadgold**, the Vicar and himself a former service chaplain, kindly agreed to such a service.

The preacher was **Bishop George Holderness**, Vicar of the Parish when the memorial was first dedicated and Senior Chaplain to 50 Div who went on to become Bishop of Burnley before retiring to York. Many members of '34' were present and a remarkable number of former members of 50 Div and their families. The CO read the lesson; I took the prayers and **Bishop George** said the words of re-dedication before the Regimental Band played Last Post and the National Anthem. Altogether a most impressive and meaningful act following which, each week, under the direction of **Maj John Douglas** OC 50 Sqn, a member of the Regt will turn the Book of Remembrance. Perhaps they will remember the words of our preacher **Bishop George** who quoted the Memorial at Kohima, 'When you go home, tell them that we gave our tomorrow for your today'.

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GCHQ

35 Sig Regt (V) Birmingham

Report by Maj (TOT) John Wall

FOCUS ON 95 SIG SQN (V)

Quite a lot has happened in 95 since our last notes. We have deployed twice on weekend exercises in the most appalling weather conditions, received a visit from the Salop Amateur Radio Society, upgraded our first women RR Ops, and welcomed out stand-in PSO from 58 Sqn, **Maj Derek Eve.**

OMINOUS TITLE

Perhaps it was tempting providence, mounting a full scale RR Ex on top of hill tops in February. But when the Squadron set out on Ex *Cold Knight* on the Saturday morning, the weather gave no indication of what lay in store—although the Ex title should have.

Most territorials get itchy feet during the winter, therefore what better way is there to satisfy this urge, blow away the cobwebs and blood new recruits than a week-end in the field—especially in our own lovely counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire. The concept was sound, set up message centres near Shrewsbury and Hereford, and using both 'X' and 'Y' troops establish RR links between them. On that score the weekend was a qualified success. Granted there were problems, but these were only to be expected after the long winter break. The main problem was to come later in the form of heavy snow 12—18 inches deep. This began falling about 1800hrs on the Saturday over a wide area of the West Midlands, and it soon enveloped the whole of the exercise area. With the OC **Maj Brian Elliot-Williams** away at Sutton Coldfield on the 11 Sig Gp (V) CPX, and OC 'Y' Tp **Capt Malcolm Luing** confined to his sick bed. It was left to OC 'X' Tp **Lt John Hodges** as senior officer present to run the exercise. Drawing upon his experience as a solicitor, **Lt Hodges** decided after conferring with the DS early on Sunday morning that discretion being the better part of valour, it would be wiser to abort the comms side of the exercise and concentrate on getting everyone safely back to their TACs!

NOT EASY

With two RR Troops spread out on the tops of hills from Shrewsbury to Hereford this was easier said than done. The only Det to experience little difficulty was **Cpl 'Ginger' Thomas's** Y Tp relay at Shobdon Hill near Leominster. His troop colleagues manning the terminals and message centre on Westhope Hill were not so lucky. It took O/C **Helen Little** and her Dets 5 hours hard graft, plus the assistance of the local farmer and his tractor to get down. Even then they were forced to leave three generators until the snow melted later on in the week. Incidentally this was **Helen Little's** first Ex with the squadron, and she came through with flying colours. Over six feet tall she towers over her colleagues—indeed one Hereford wag was heard to comment 'you could always tell it was **Miss Little**—she was the only one with head sticking out of the snow drifts'.

Meanwhile down the road at Church Stretton **Cpl Paul Turford's** X Troops relays were even more unfortunate. Situated on top of the Longmynd, vehicles could neither get up or down. All seven were left with no alternative but secure their vehicles near the gliding station and fight their way through the snow to waiting landrovers below.

It would be wrong to leave Ex *Cold Night* without mentioning the girls. When the squadron decided to recuit women as RR ops last Autumn, there were sceptics who said women would never make the grade, or cope with the conditions. The critics have been proved wrong on both counts. 95 Sqn now has its first women B3 RR Ops in **Pt Elizabeth Baker, Pte Diane Grundy, Pte Alison Jenkins, Pte Andrea Wall** and women have certainly proved themselves in the field, not just on Ex *Cold Knight* but on the Regimental Ex on 21/22 March. This took place to the accompaniment of incessant wind and rain over a wide area of the Midlands—and again the girls took the cold, the wet and the mud in their stride.

AMATEURS SEE PART TIMERS

On Tues evening 10 Mar the Squadron played host to their friends from the Salop Amateur Radio Society (SARS) whilst this is only the second time the 'amateurs' have officially visited the 'part timers' the two organisations meet quite often at shows and public displays. The volunteers endeavoured to make the Society's visit as interesting as possible by supplementing their normal squadron display of RR, line, NBC, data-teleg, weapons etc with some equipment from other squadrons—namely A D11 manned by **Sig Geof Cavers** from 89 Sqn (Rugby) and test gear demonstrated by **Sgt PSIs Michael Underwood** and **Martin Kerrigan** from M Tp HQ Sqn (Birmingham). By holding the event on a normal drill night the squadron had the added bonus of being able to demonstrate to the newer members, facets of the regiment they would not normally see. In addition the amateurs brought along some of their own equipment which they demonstrated to groups of

'How would you like to lay a mile of that' WO2 (SSM) Colin Lewis conducting two potential recruits around 95 Sig Sqn (V) display on the occasion of Salop Amateur Radio Society's visit to Territorial House, Shrewsbury. Left to Right: School Teachers, Marlene Hotkiss and Janete Green

Sgt PSI Michael Underwood M Tp explaining the workings of the TDMS to British Telecom Engineer Ken Linney G8 DIR during Salop

A group of volunteers from 95 Sig Sqn (V) listen intently as Sgt PSI Michael Underwood M Tp demonstrates telegraph test equipment on the occasion of Salop Amateur Radio Society's visit to Territorial House on Tuesday evening 10 March. *Left to Right:* Pte Angela Strawson, Pte Ann Walker, Pte Jackie Goode, Sig Clive Winstanley, Sgt Underwood, Potential recruit Pte Louise Pincher and Sig Dave Baguley

Volunteers throughout the evening. The visit concluded with a buffet-supper prepared by the caretakers **Mr and Mrs Dave Baxter** in the JRC. The Radio Club warmly thanked the squadron for their hospitality, and said they very much appreciated the time and effort put in by the regiment on their behalf.

WELCOME

Finally the squadron bids a warm welcome to **Maj Derek Eve**, who has delayed his well earned retirement from his job as PSO with 58 Sqn Newcastle-u-Lyme for eight months, in order to look after the shop at Shrewbury following the tragic death of the PSO **Capt Charles Baalham** in January.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

DAY OF RECKONING

Late January, we knew that a new Group Commander, **Brig J. R. Burrows**, had been appointed from 6 February, and that his first visit to the volunteers would be our regimental exercise the following day! Suddenly the exercise had assumed a new significance—already we had the normal problems of training, assimilating new recruits, first large exercise for three months and the weather, now we had a new Group Commander as well. Plans were restudied and in some cases rewritten, instructions given and the Commander's programme issued, we now awaited the day of reckoning.

ALL WELL

The weather was the first encouraging sign, cold and dry, which at that time of the year was a good portent. The extra instructions had filtered down to troop level and all strategic detachments had deployed on Friday night, by first light their administration had been completed and all were camouflaged and ready to communicate. The Group Commander arrived at midday and spent the next nine hours touring our locations. He thought our camouflage was good and the lessons learned were good value.

AIMS ACHIEVED

Morale was good and turnout was almost an embarrassment, one site for where we would normally expect 14, had 42 soldiers. Communications after one or two siting problems were good and the extra personnel were used to attack sentries and practise our NBC drills. Sunday afternoon we arrived back at our centres having achieved our aims of communicating, soldiering and even managing to enjoy ourselves.

Sgt Mick Stone listening carefully to the Group Comd's suggestions

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WR/6

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

NEW TROOPS GALORE

1981 has seen a welcome increase to our establishment with the formation of three new troops and the adoption of one other. The regiment is now responsible for forming, recruiting, equipping and training three County Military Headquarters (CMHQ) Signal Troops to provide home defence communications for the twenty counties in our area. The challenge of finding an additional 120 officers and soldiers to work in small detachments has been met with enthusiasm in these otherwise bleak days of cut-backs and moratoria. In less than three months the new troops at Exeter, Brecon and Stourbridge are already attracting several ex-regulars and good quality volunteers in encouraging numbers. The future looks very bright indeed.

HISTORIC LINK RENEWED

The CMHQ troop at Exeter has formed in the TA centre at Butts Road under the leadership of **Capt (Tfc) Mick Back. Mick** is an ex-regular Yeoman of Signals who served 22 years with the Corps. He followed in the steps of his father, **RSM 'Showie' Back** who served for 27 years. Now **Mick's son Nigel**, plans to follow the family tradition by joining Royal Signals. The arrival of this new troop in Exeter is re-establishing 43 Signal Squadron's link with the city which began in 1908 and lasted nearly 60 years, until the TA Signals unit was disbanded in 1967.

Pride of place in the squadron's recruiting effort in Exeter is taken by the historic silver bugle which was presented to the squadron by the people of Devon in 1920 in appreciation for its service in France and Salonika during the Great War. It is fitting that the bugle can now return to its place of origin.

The inscribed bugle, shown here by the troop commander, Capt (Tfc) Mick Back is still as treasured a part of the squadron silver as it was when first presented over 60 years ago. Also in the picture (*left to right*) Sgt John Kelway, Maj Norman Harvey TD, holding the unit's press cuttings book dating back to 1908 and WO2 (SSM) Sid Lang

(By courtesy of Express & Echo, Exeter)

A WELCOME IN THE HILLS

Meanwhile in Brecon, our Welsh squadron is equally involved with raising a new CMHQ Troop. Although still in its infancy, the response from volunteers in the area, the number of ex-regulars coming forward to join and especially the efforts of **Cpl Peter Burgess**, our co-opted PSI, will ensure its success.

Cpl Burgess is in reality the GOC's driver/operator, but recently he has found that what little free time he may have had, is now devoted to the TA.

YEOMANRY INCREASE

Our third new troop is located at Stourbridge in Worcestershire and here the problem was eased by the fact that 871 Signal Troop was already located there, in a very good recruiting area. By re-roling in the location and juggling the personalities 871 Troop is now located in Stratford, with 67 (Queens Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry), its parent squadron. The CMHQ Troop is now alive and flourishing in Stourbridge. Under the leadership of **Capt Stan Cartwright** and **SSgt Dave Willetts** training is now in full swing and the troop strength gets closer to its establishment each day.

57 SQUADRON

As part of the re-organisation within 2 Signal Group the regiment is now responsible for Conrad Control Troop. **2Lt Anne Baird** commands the troop, based in Cheltenham, which is co-located with Transmitter Troop of the Gateway Squadron. As **Anne** used to be 2IC transmitters it will be interesting to see where her loyalties lie when it comes to interviewing potential recruits.

Within our Bristol location, Receiver Troop has spawned a new Commcen Troop, command by **2Lt Mary Rogers**, which should make for even greater equality in the squadron. There are no male chauvinists here—they would not survive!

ATTACHMENTS TO BAOR

In these times of training restrictions, it is heartening to be able to send some volunteers to join BAOR regiments on exercise. This year's Annual Camp is in May and not all volunteers are able to attend owing to their work or family commitments. By the time this issue is published five members of 57 Squadron should have enjoyed(?) the experience of joining 1 and 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regts for Ex *Morning Glory* and Ex *Bronze Key* respectively. Last year this type of attachment proved very worthwhile for the volunteers involved and we hope that those fortunate enough to go this year will have an equally rewarding time.

CADETS

All UKLF Signals units have a responsibility for CCF contingents and ACF detachments in their area. With a total of twenty seven units the task of visiting, advising and supporting their activities is a considerable one. We are fortunate in having **WO1 (YofS) Pete Cadman** who since joining us for his last six months in Jan 81 has devoted all his time to training our CCF contingents. His efforts have been rewarded by a steady flow of successes at the Signals Classification Test and a closer liaison between the units and the regiment. In particular he has taken a dozen cadets of Kings College, Taunton from scratch through the test and they are now a regular station on the CCF National Radio Net.

The opportunity of showing the cadets what we can do was taken in mid-February when the regiment deployed to greenfield locations on Ex *Cold Comfort*. On what was the coldest night of the year, with the sleeping accommodation being tents there was lots of cold and very little comfort. It was an unprecedented number that volunteered for the night shift and most of the cadets soon realised where the heat was generated. The boys expressed themselves impressed by what they had seen and voted the visit a unanimous success—once they had thawed out.

57 Squadron recently hosted both male and female cadets from our local ACF detachments who spent an evening touring a variety of stands showing all aspects of training from weapons to NBC and medical. We hope that this opportunity of talking to the volunteers about their jobs and seeing the equipment in action will encourage young men and women on leaving the cadets to consider a future with the TA. OC 57 Squadron, **Maj Gary Grant** is a schoolmaster and OC CCF, Wycliffe College to boot. Consequently he was not backward in coming forward to request assistance for his boys for their exercise on Salisbury Plain. As this coincided with our ARU weekend at Bulford he was in luck.

Brig J. P. Hart OBE, Comd 2 Signal Group visited the Range Weekend and saw DTg training at Bridgwater. The following week he spent visiting most of our TA centre accompanied by the CO, **Lt Col Mike Jennings.** He attended drill nights at Bristol and Stourbridge and expressed himself well-pleased with the health and morale of the regiment.

BOOST TO CHARITY

Our final story is one of considerable success. The girls of 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron (V) based at Park Street in Cardiff certainly rallied round to support the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. In less than four months they raised £800—this would have been more but for the success of the Welsh rugby team!

Lt Gill Jones was the driving force behind this formidable woman-power which mobilized to extract the maximum amount of cash from all the members of the squadron. A Halloween Dance, Jumble Sale and a Sponsored Walk and Shoot plus many raffles brought the money rolling in until the sight of WRAC bearing down on them, raffle books in hand, was too much for some of their male counterparts.

The final and most lucrative fund raiser was a lunchtime Cheese and Wine party prior to the Wales v England rugby international match at Cardiff Arms Park. The ground backs on to the TA Centre and so people without tickets were invited to attend the party prior to watching the match on two hired television sets. In this way the viewers had the full excitment of the game with the roar of the crowd in their ears. In the event over 300 people (including the Army Rugby Squad) helped raise £300 in the afternoon. However **Gill** admitted there was one problem 'Every time Wales scored the men would jump up and knock over their glasses which all had to be paid for out of the takings'. For those looking forward to repeating the event next year, please note—drinks will be served in plastic mugs!

Lt Gill Jones and the girls of 53 Squadron proudly display their cheque for £800 raised for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

SOINC VISITS

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE paid a brief visit to the regiment on 27 Jan during his visit to Ulster. The General, on arrival, was briefed by the CO **Lt Col I. Graham**, on the role of the regiment; then a quick 'Whistle Stop' tour of the Centre to see training in progress and chat briefly with the Volunteers. Later in the Sergeants Mess there was a short ceremony when **Gen Birtwistle** presented **Maj Adams** with the Territorial Decoration and **Sgt Welsh** with the Territorial Efficiency Medal. To mark the occasion of his visit to the regiment **Gen Birtwistle** was presented with a Regimental Crest by the **RSM, WO1 Budworth**. Then to the Officers Mess meeting the Volunteer Officers for Supper. To round off an all too brief visit **Lt Col Graham** presented a Blackthorn walking stick to the General on behalf of the Officers.

Presentation of the Territorial Decoration to Maj Tom Adams by Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle. Maj Adams was commissioned into 66 Signal Regiment in October 1964 as a 2Lt posted to 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) on its formation, serving continuously since with the regiment

Presentation of the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Sgt Welsh by Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle. Sgt Welsh joined the TA in 1968 and served for 6 years with 323 Signal Squadron until 1965. He joined 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) on its formation, serving continuously since with the regiment

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

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

On Tuesday evening 10 Feb the regiment ran an 'Employers Evening' at Clonaver Park. All the guests, with the exception of Headmasters or Careers Masters from local schools and colleges, were employers of Volunteers serving with the regiment, covering a wide spectrum of Industry and Commerce within the recruiting area. The object of the evening was to better acquaint the employers with the Regiment's role and establish personal relationships.

Guests were welcomed at Clonaver by the CO, and after a sherry reception, were entertained to a buffet supper in the Officers Mess. Then **Col Graham** gave a presentation on training and the role of the regiment. This was followed by short presentations by **Maj Lynda Squance** WRAC and **Maj Ian Henderson**, on 'My Other Career' (TA).

The guests were then handed over to their hosting officers (Volunteers) and taken on a tour of the Centre where they were able to see training in progress, examine equipment and talk to Volunteers, in many cases their own employees.

The formal programme ended with an 'Open Forum' which produced lots of questions and some lively discussion, over-running the programme. The message from the assembled employers was clear—'you have our full support.'

COMMANDER 12 SIGNAL GROUP VISITS

On the weekend 14-15 February **Brig John Burrows** paid his first visit to '40th' as Group Commander and spent the weekend with the regiment at Ballykinler Training Camp, after a brief tour of the Centre at Clonaver. During Saturday the Commander visited training locations and met many of the volunteers during the course of the day. In the evening a visit to the Sergeants Mess was followed by a Guest Night in the Officers Mess. Other guests included **Lt Gen Sir Richard Lawson** GOC N Ireland and **Lt Col A. G. Ross**, Scots Guards, MA to GOC. It was also the occasion for the dining out of **Maj Norman Geddes** who has served with the regiment since 1972. **Maj Geddes** is leaving 40th to take up a post as watchkeeper with 12 Signal Group (TA).

On Sunday morning a Regimental Parade was held during which **Brig Burrows** presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **Cpl Sammy McMillan** who has served with the regiment since 1968. The Commander then inspected the WRAC recruits who have completed their recruit training and took the salute at their passing-out parade.

Brig J. R. Burrows, Commander 12 Signal Group (TA) presents the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Cpl S. McMillen who has served with 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) since March 1968

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The regiment continues to contribute to local hospital and community services. During the Christmas period 1980 the Wives Club distributed Christmas food parcels to local Old Age Pensioners; this is an annual event.

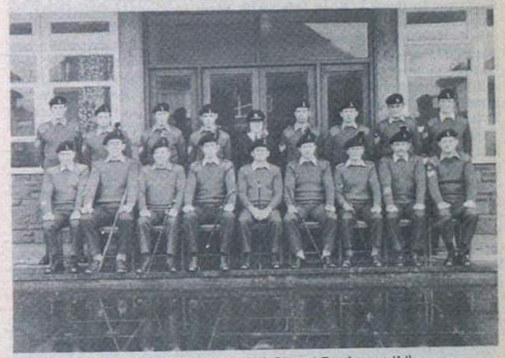
In addition the following received contributions from the regiment: Ulster Volunteer Force Hospital for Ex Servicemen—£50.00. Glendhu Childrens' Hostel—£30.00. The Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, Heart Foundation Fund—£20.00. Earl Haig Fund—£50.00.

HQ SQN ROUND-UP

There was a good turnout of the Sqn at the weekend training camp at Ballykinler during 14-15 February. A feature of the weekend was the helicopter training and those members of the Sqn who took part found it most exhilarating. As normal the Sqn provided the back-up for the rest of the regiment through cooks, R.M.P., etc. A most enjoyable disco was held in the JRC on Saturday evening.

LAD

In the early part of the year the LAD were engaged in preparing for the periodic REME examination which took place early in March. Currently the Detachment is practising hard for the Northern Ireland Skill at Arms Meeting in mid May.



Permanent Staff, 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)
Clonaver Park, Belfast. March 1981
Front Row Left to Right: WO2 A. M. Evans, WO1 Budworth, RSM, Maj F. C. McMahon, PSO, Maj M. J. Cartwright, Trg Maj, Lt Col I. Graham, CO, Capt A. M. Jones, Adjt, Capt E. T. A. Webster, QM, WO1 M. R. Wringe, MTWO, SSgt Barstow.
Back Row: SSgt K. W. Suckling, Sgt P. Whifield, SSgt D. L. Walker, LSgt D. W. Forbes, ASgt K. M. Mercer WRAC, Sgt J. E. Pearson, ASgt A. J. Havlin, SSgt M. C. Buzzard, REME, Sgt A. G. Wood, LSgt J. G. Peck

CHANGE IN COMMAND

Maj R. D. Gilpin TD has assumed command of the Sqn having taken over from **Maj B. Darrah. Sgt Maj Lemon** has taken over from **Sgt Maj Loveday.** Both these changes took effect on 1 Apr.

85 SQUADRON

The 85 Sqn New Year got off to a 'damp' start with a junior officers conference at HQ NI Lisburn. The regiment and 85 made what was an 'eye popping' presentation on the varied ways young officers can be kept in the ranks, with **Lt (now Capt) Trish Riley** exposing her all (or most of it) in the interests of 40th; but variation was the spice!

Training has been kept at a low key due to spending cuts after *Crusader* when 40 so excellently showed its true blue and green. However special training with helicopters, skill at driving and many other specialised military skills featuring, has been organised to keep the hands in.

In mid February the regiment spent what was, for this regiment, a quiet weekend in Ballykinler training camp. Ballykinler saw the start of training for Pied Piper, the NI TA's prestige infantry section competition.

The 85 team has been brilliant, never less than full turn out for any training! We are progressing very well under the experienced eye of **Sgt Tommy Caines**, 85's now famous detachment commander. To try and improve on last year's not totally outstanding performance, we have even taken the unprecedented step of pounding the roads around the TA centre (incognito, of course!).

So far vehicle casualties have not exceeded last year's flying ace trick of **Cpl Hugh Magill** (85's answer to the Hell Drivers), however one ½ ton did come off rather the worse for an anti-ambush drill!

Finally I shall end by bidding a fond farewell to **Maj Denis Gilpin** and **WO2 'Big Doc' Dave Doherty** who leave 85 for other 'attachments', however in the same breath a warm welcome is extended to **Maj Brian Darrah** and **WO2 Ray Cairns** who join us to re-fill the ranks.

MR ERNIE ROBINSON

Enlisted into the supplementary reserve (forerunner of TA) as a mechanic in the RAOC in July 1939. Went to camp in Portstewart in Aug 1939 and stayed for 6½ years. Must be one of the longest camps in history. In Dec 1939 he went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He served in France until his unit was evacuated from Saint Nazaire in Jun 1949, 2 weeks after Dunkirk. He remained in England until Dec 1940 when he was 'shipped' to Egypt with the 8th Army. He remained in North Africa until the invasion of Italy in 1943. He served in Italy until he was repatriated to England for demob in Sep 1945.

After his demob he took a civilian job with the REME WKSP Kinnegar where he remained until 1951. He joined the TA on its formation in Sep 1947 and served with 53AA WKSP REME at Girdwood Park until 1951, when he transferred to 245 LT AA regt RA also in Girdwood Park. He took a civilian TA clerk's job with 245 on his transfer. he served with 245 as a volunteer and civilian clerk until 1967. He was awarded the BEM for services to the TA in 1965. **Mr Robinson** retired from the TA in 1967 and transferred his civilian job to 40 Sig Regt in Apr of that year. He has worked as enlistments clerk throughout his time with the regiment.

Ernie

Mr E. Robinson is presented with a Gold Watch and Chain by the CO, Lt Col I. Graham on behalf of 40th (U) Signal Regiment (V) on his retirement

News from Squadrons

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

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	Maj Smith	UK
2IC	1Lt Vanherle	NL
OC Tps Tp	WO2 (YofS) Badger	UK
SSM	AOOI Van Lambaart	NL
IC Wksps	Adjt Engelen	BE
RQMS	HFW Grass	GE
Chief Clerk	Sgt Pollard	UK
MTO	Sgt Alexander	UK

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 31 Mar, **Maj D. W. Dobson** handed over command of the squadron to **Maj J. R. Smith.** Having been in command of this quadri-national unit for two years, he was heard to comment on departure that not to hear discussions in four different languages would be a change and he only hoped that in his new job, within MOD, they would forgive him if he occasionally started talking to them in French, German or Dutch.

Maj Dobson and Maj Smith outside Squadron headquarters on handover

EXERCISE WINTEX

The squadron having just completed Ex *Wintex*, and with the aid of our Belgium Augmentation Platoon, who are 95% reservists and all French speaking, and detachments from 35 Sig Regt, we once again produced all that was required of the squadron. The weather was unkind and we lived in a 'bog' for two weeks, but all enjoyed the exercise to the full.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

The squadron is once again attempting to obtain the excellent results of last year (winners of JOC sports competition run throughout the year, and the JOC superstars competition), having had wins at tennis and football already and, having **SSgt Graham Campbell** and **SSgt Dick Davis** to organise our many teams, it is hoped that we may achieve our aim.

EX 'SPRINGSLIDE 2'

Ex *Springslide 2* took place in Bavaria during February, members of the squadron and their families departed from Liege not knowing in most cases what to expect, but returned with sun-tans and all being able to ski. We have **SSgt Tony Hand** and **Cpl Stu Huntington** to thank for the arrangements and instruction. All are even now looking forward to participating next year.

Maj Dobson leaves the Sqn in the good hands of **Maj Smith** who after 3½ years in NI will obviously find life here very different.

6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Aldershot

SQUADRON ANNIVERSARY

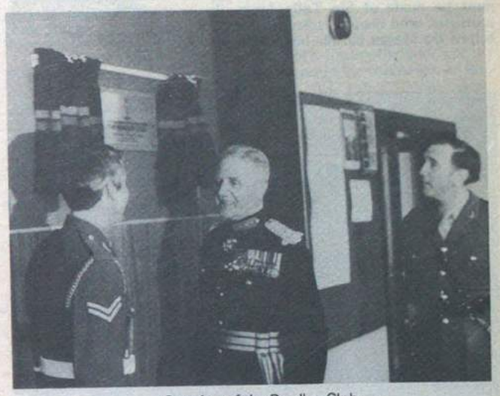
News that '216' will move to Tidworth at the end of the year with 6 Fd Force was treated as an April Fool's joke by some people at first, but the decision to celebrate the squadron anniversary on 3 Apr soon became somewhat of a nightmare for the planners. After "brain-storming" sessions well into the January evenings the plans were made, and, amazingly, everyone asked to take part agreed.

We were honoured by the presence of the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Peter Bradley** and his wife, **Peggy**, throughout the anniversary celebrations, which started with a cocktail party on 2 Apr for serving and retired Corps officers living in the South of England.

OUR NEW CLUB OPENED

On Fri 3 Apr the formal visit to the squadron started with an inspection of a quarter-guard commanded with panache by **Sgt Garth Pickersgill**, made up of soldiers wearing seven different cap badges. Next the Master and **Mrs Bradley** met members of the squadron and their wives in our new club which was formerly opened as the Bradley Club: well done **Mrs Lawson**, the curtains opened beautifully.

Inspecting the quarter guard



Opening of the Bradley Club

L to R: Cpl Ray Short, Master of Signals, Maj Thomas

A GOOD PARADE

Under the watchful eye of the Adjutant, **Maj Andy Nelson**, R IRISH, spectators and participants then took their places for the parade. Even **2Lt David (where's my shoes?) Jones** made it on time. The parade was a great success, thanks to hard work and effort put in by everyone, under the firm grip of **RSM (Flash) Gordon Philbrook.** 3 troops, each of 60 men, together with 9 officers (sword drill courtesy of the 2IC, **Capt Cedric Burton**) combined to put on a display which warmed the hearts of the many spectators huddled under their blankets. It is not true that the Master spoke to everyone on the parade, he missed 2 or 3 in the back rank of SHQ/MT!, but not **LCpl (do I look as if I'm married!) Mason.** The Staff Band of the RCT, who had not had the advantage of rehearsing at our special squadron 'pace', supported us well throughout the parade.

After the parade, the intricate photograph drill, masterminded by a heavily disguised **WO2 Stewart,** our TCWO, allowed us to sit down to lunch in good time.

The march past

OUR SPECIAL AFTERNOON GUEST

Our special guest for the afternoon, **Miss Joan Collins** the actress, joined us for lunch with her children. **Capt (QM) Frank Rogers** had the job of escorting **Miss Collins**, but somehow the OC, **Maj Hywel Thomas** ended up carrying her handbag. **WO2 Len Popplewell** produced a fantastic lunch for 400 soldiers and their families and our Corps Band played an imaginative programme of popular music. Special mention must be made of **Sig Taffy Jones**, the youngest member of the squadron, who made a splendid speech welcoming our visitors and helped the Master cut the birthday cake.

Miss Joan Collins with the White Helmets.
LCpl Dave Duncan and LCpl Joe Fraser

THE SPECTACULAR

After lunch we all hurried to the Rushmoor Arena for the Signals Spectacular. Despite the morning's dull weather, the sky suddenly cleared and, after the glamorous **Miss Collins** opened the Show, the large crowd enjoyed an afternoon of high entertainment. First came the White Helmets for their first public show of the year. As usual they were breathtaking in their daredevil performance and the Master had the very pleasant task of presenting White Helmets to new members of the team; Next came the Parachute Regiment's Freefall Team, the 'Red Devils', who gave an excellent show of controlled freefalling and canopy stacking, which in the swirling wind was most impressive.

The Royal Military Police Mounted Display Team, with their beautifully groomed horses, followed with a skilful display of tent pegging and a competition for lance, sabre and pistol. A superb display by the Blue Helmets, the Corps own freefall team brought the first part of the afternoon to a close. Ex *216 Stalwarts* **WO1 (RSMI) George Devine** and **Lt Mike (with the mike) Lithgow** took part and showed how professional our 'amateur' team has become.

Full marks for the smooth running of the show must go to **Capt Brian Jackson** and his 'small hand picked team; next year, the Royal Tournament **Brian**!

GENEROUS RESPONSE FOR THE DISABLED

This year is the Year of the Disabled and when **Maj Hywel Thomas** asked **Miss Collins** to help arrange a charity show for the disabled, she readily agreed, and during the afternoon she made a charity appeal to the crowd asking for generous support for disabled organisations. The sum of £350 was collected through the able work of **WO2 (AQMS) Johnson's** dustbin brigade.

THE KNOCKOUT

The final 'act' of the afternoon was **Capt Frank Rogers** 'It's a Knockout'. Teams from A, B, C, MT and SHQ competed for the splendid silver cup presented by RACAL. Needless to say, rivalry was high between the colourful and 'high spirited' teams. The final winners were SHQ Troop led by **WO2 (YofS) Len Harvey** who hasn't washed his hand since he received the trophy from **Miss Collins**! Congratulations to **Capt Rogers** who must now be a cert to take over from **Eddie Waring, WO2 Bob Webb** and of course his dog.

MT/LAD team waiting for the off!

Presentation of the Racal Trophy
L to R: Miss Joan Collins, Capt Frank Rogers, WO2 (YofS) Len Harvey, Maj Thomas

A SPLENDID EVENING

During the evening a dinner was held in the Sgts Mess, at which the principal guests were **Maj Gen Bradley, Brig N. A. Butler**, CSO UKLF, **Brig E. H. A. Beckett**, Comd 6 Fd Force, **Col M. U. Ryan**, Comdt AA College Harrogate and **Col K. H. Olds**, Comd 1 Signal Group. A number of Squadron 'Old Comrades' were also present and a splendid evening was enjoyed by all. **2Lt David Jones** is to be congratulated (again!) for his rendering of the 'Lanyard' speech.

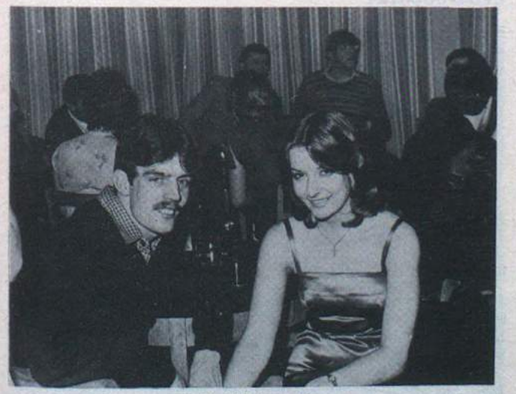
Mrs Bradley was entertained to supper by **Mrs Carole Thomas** and the wives of the squadron officers and warrant officers.

THE CLEAN UP

On Saturday, after all our guests had gone, the squadron set to with a will and cleared up Rushmoor Arena. The Grand National was missed by most, but in the evening the final part of our busy programme, an All Ranks social, was held in the Bradley Club.

Everyone contributed to the success of the anniversary, not just those singled out in these notes, however, mention of one more personality must be made. For weeks **2Lt Charlie Miller** had listened to stories of how illustrious ADCs of earlier years had 'blown it'. Did he? Just ask him about the General's trousers.

Enjoying the squadron party
L to R: Cpl Rich and Vicky Carey, Cpl Paul and Joy Cooper, LCpl Chris Brad



Cpl Sel Harris and friend

7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

BATTLE OF GOOJERAT PARADE

The Battle of Goojerat was fought in 1849, during the Sikh war of 1848 to 1852, and it marked the turning point in the campaign, as the British firmly established control over the sub-continent. The squadron's barracks are named after the battle and it seemed appropriate to mark the occasion with the parade. The parade consisted of the Signal Squadron and, in addition the two other Units that also share the barracks (1 Sqn RCT and 7 Fd Force Fd Amb). Under the guidance of **RSM Gordon McInnes** Royal Signals, the parade was thoroughly rehearsed before the day itself on 20 Feb when the Commander 7 Fd Force **Brig K. Spacie OBE** took the salute.

Goojerat Day Parade—Cpl Gray (Pennant), Sgt Brown, RSM McInnes

SHOOTING

6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn kindly invited 9 members of the squadron to participate in their annual shooting competition at Aldershot. **Lt Jim Harris** quickly assembled the team consisting of **WO2 Lee Robins** REME, **Sgt Mick Lloyd-Williams, Cpls Brian Tanner, Martin Drake, LCpls Trev Keates, Mac Gardiner** and **Sigs Libby Lidbetter** and **Bruce Leigh.**

The competition was spread over three days and the squadron although coming 3rd and 4th in the Pistol managed to come 1st and 2nd in the following events:- Section Match, SMG Match, Roberts Cup and the Falling Plate. In the SLR and SMG pool bull competition, the winnings went to **Lt Jim Harris** and **LCpl Mac Gardiner** for the SLR whilst **Cpl Martin Drake** won the SMG. Overall a very successful shoot for the squadron members who took part and our thanks to 6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn for a well run competition.

FORCE RSMS' CONVENTION

On 25 Feb the first 7 Fd Force RSMs' Convention was held at Goojerat Bks. Twenty RSMs spent the day confined to the Sgts Mess discussing points of interest. Amongst the guest speakers was **Chief Inspector Wyatt** from Colchester Police, who gave a very interesting talk on crime in the community. By the end of the day, the Mess Manager **Sgt Bert Malseed** was, however, rather busy calculating the amount of bar stock that had been consumed during the day's work!

RSO'S CONVENTION

The second 7 Fd Force RSO's Convention was held in Colchester on 26 March. It was attended by RSOs and assistant RSOs from each of the Force Major and Minor Units.

The theme of this convention was Electronic Warfare and the introduction and familiarisation of new equipment into the force such as Clansman, Ptarmigan and SCRA. **Maj S. M. Siddall** from MOD presented the EW threat and **Maj M. J. Bowen** lectured on Ptarmigan and SCRA. Our resident Gunner Regt (The only fully 'Clansmanised' unit in the Force (less CSSH)) displayed the full range of current Clansman combat net radio as working displays, which attracted and aroused much interest amongst the other units.

The convention was not all lectures; during the lunch break, by kind permission of the RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. G. McInnes,** a combined lunch was held in the Goojerat Bks WOs and Sgts Mess. This loosened many tongues and the afternoon Open Forum Session qualified and resolved many Force communications queries. In all a very successful day. We are now working towards our 3rd convention which is to be held on the 27 Nov 81.

FIRE WOOD!

In response to a request from a local paper, the Colchester Express, members of the D and E platoon under **Sgt Dave Clark** have been collecting and chopping up firewood. The wood is for local pensioners and having now chopped up the required wood, the team from D and E are involved in helping to distribute it.

Firewood—*Left to Right:* Pte Bill Parsons, Cpl Peter Gahagnin, Ptes 'Scotty' Scott, David Ramsted, Peter Brooks, Jummy Travill, Sgt Nobby Clark

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sig David Strait** and his wife **Yvette** (Gopsill) and also to **Sig Chris Wilks** and **Christine Eatock** on their recent weddings.

CPLS' CLUB

The Cpls' Club have recently been shaving off their moustaches for charity. It is hoped the sum will reach £200 and this will be presented to the Turner Village Hospital.

Moustache removal *Left to Right:* Cpls Driver, Davett, Glass, Wooller

THE SQN FOOTBALL TEAM VISITS COLCHESTER UTD FC

Courtesy of OIC soccer **Capt N. T. Moore** and commercial manager **Mr Eddie Keegan** the team visited Colchester Utd on 25 Feb. It was a chance for us to see what really goes on behind the lines! **Sgt Malcolm Dilley** RAPC Club Captain and all the players squeezed into the 'make or break office.' **Sqn Ldr Gordon Woolley** asked about the income to the club. 'Well this is where the qualities of the commercial staff comes in' said **Eddie.** We need a gate of 6,000 to cover the running expenses each week, and, asked **Sig Barry Hiles,** 'what's the average gate?' Answer 'Oh! about 2,500' was the reply! 'Mind your heads lads!' warned **LCpl Griff Griffiths** R Signals as he narrowly missed an iron girder, when we threaded our way through the damp passages under the main stand. Hanging there under row 3A of the underside of the stepped stand above us, were dozens of assorted soccer boots. 'Anyone see a pair of 8½s' said **Sig Dave Elliott** hopefully. Through the changing rooms **Cpl John Clark** RAPC remarked that our own facilities are better than these! Highlight of the next stop was the washing machine; long overdue a visit to the scrapyard thought **Cpl Alan Santer,** (who unselfishly provides all the back-up arrangements for the unit side), as he twanged a thick piece of string, which appeared to be holding the whole contraption together!

From the peeling walls and dimly lit passages we moved upstairs to the Social and bar rooms. This is where the directors host business people before (and hopefully after) the matches. The wheeling and dealing for the injection of cash to the club takes place here. **Sigs Geordie O'Neill, Tony Stevents** and **Alex Eades,** had a smile on their faces as they viewed the splendid decor of the bar, that, incidentally, club players themselves had built in their spare time. The boardroom wall was adorned with large photos of their historic win over mighty Leeds Utd 3—2 in the FA Cup many years ago. 'We wish we could lose the tag of the team who beat Leeds' said **Mr Keegan** thoughtfully' but the only way that it will happen is when we do the giant killing act again . . . Good Luck Colchester!!

HOCKEY

The squadron started the Spring Season in energetic fashion with matches arranged for every week—most of which have been won in convincing fashion often against Major Unit Competition. Progress in the E Dist Cup Competition has been equally steady with wins against Queens Depot (3—1) and 7 Fd Force Fd Amb (5—1) en route to the final, which is to be played against the Sqn's old foes, 8 Fd Wksp. Preparation for the final has been interrupted by Ex Commitments involving key players; nevertheless it is hoped that Tp recover **Cpl Kamal Singh** and the 'Nobby Styles' of the hockey pitch, **Sig Bob Carroll,** and both will be on form and that we will be able to record a victory in the next edition.

CROSS COUNTRY

This year the Squadron has finished the season on a bright note. The team, with the exception of the Force Commander **Brig K. Spacie OBE** and **SSgt Colin Thackwell,** were all novices. From a shaky start with only 6 men (no reserves) way back in October we finished with a squad of 12 with the following successes: 7 Fd Force Major and Minor Units League; 3rd Place (1st Minor Unit); Eastern District Minor Units—Winners; Eastern and London Area—Winners; Army Championship Minor Unit—8th.

Overall a very creditable performance, and a lot of experience was gained for the next season 1981/82.

BELIZE

Within the HQ and Sig Sqn there are two FAC's, 601 and 603 TACP. The OC 601 TACP, **Maj M. Howes** RRW and his operator **Cpl Ken McCartney** R Signals flew to Belize for six weeks in support of RAF Harriers and Pumas. Amongst the varied wildlife they encountered, it was a charging crocodile on the ranges that caused them most consternation. Another highlight was the six mile waterski race in which **Cpl Ken McCartney** was using all types of signal equipment (HF, UHF, VHF) to ensure the participants' safety.

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Tidworth

THE WHITE HORSE MANAGEMENT

OC	Maj J. C. Young
2IC	Capt A. Helm
AO (Desig)	Capt D. E. P. Cox
QM	Lt Col F. G. Marsh MBE
QM (Desig)	Capt Meridith
OC 'A' Tp	Lt J. McIntyre
OC 'B' Tp	2Lt H. T. Bradley
RSM	WO1 W. Hunt
FofS	WO1 J. Smith
YofS	WO2 M. Corcoran
ORSQMS	SSgt N. H. Hastie
MTO	SSgt A. Bushell (RCT)

NEW ARRIVALS

It is not possible to welcome by name all the new arrivals to the squadron. Suffice it to say we have had more 'initial interviews' since 6 Jan than the whole of the previous year. Those of you who know the squadron will be pleased to hear we are now all regular and looking forward to a bright future. A special thanks to Records for producing 'the goods' so quickly, although it would be nice to have the posting order before the man!

THE FRIDAY SCENE

The first few months of this year have seen the squadron concentrating on NBC training. **Sgt Geordie Ovington** and **Cpl Pete Peakall** have done the bulk of the instruction with **Sgt Chris Bunn** now taking over from **Geordie 'O'.**

As part of our NBC training the squadron has been in full 'noddy' kit with respirator for a three hour period each Friday morning since early January. Since this was started it seems our staff officers work load has increased dramatically. This would account for the mass exodus from Force HQ at 0900hrs each Friday. They do seem to finish their 'away' work at about 1200hrs but, unfortunately, our training is finished by the time they park their cars and get back to their offices. The writer of these notes would like to offer his personal congratulations to **Maj Ron Clark, WO2 Charlie Bain** (both RAPC), the Provost staff (all RPC), and many others who got through the morning's training in full NBC kit, with respirators and still managed to have smoke filled offices, full ash trays and hot half filled coffee cups!

GSM PRESENTATIONS

GSM's (Northern Ireland) were presented to 3 Para rear link on their return from Ulster. Nice to see them back safe and sound. Our congratulations to **Sgt Larry Little, Cpl Brian Slattery, LCpl John Gil,** and **Sig Chris Newman** for a very successful operational tour. **Sgt Little** and **Cpl Slattery** are part of 566 RLD while **LCpl Gil** and **Sig Newman** are members of our own 'A' troop who volunteered for the tour.

FIELD CONDITIONS

March saw the squadron setting off to the Aldershot training area on exercise, The Chancellor had just announced a 20p increase on a gallon of petrol so the OC decided we would take all remaining stocks into the field. (**LCpl Skelton,** RCT, has not been seen since). **Capt Matt Helm,** our recce officer, did a splendid job making sure locations got more muddy as each day passed, what a pity he couldn't stay to the end, still I'm sure **SSgt Jeff Shergold** will give him the benefit of his experience for future exercises. **Cpl Terry Clarke** was seen talking to the D11's, **Sgt 'Nick' Nicol** wouldn't talk to anyone and **Cpl Smudge Smith** never stopped talking.

The exercise went well and it was particularly good to see our new members settling in so well. The award for boob of the exercise went to **Cpl Martin Chapman** for putting the RMP info post phone in the RSM's tent. The golden blanket was awarded to **LCpl Davey Crookeston** RCT, the OC's driver.

A week's R & R in barracks and away we went yet again and this time to our local training area SPTA. The recce officer managed to get exactly the same weather conditions but this time we were all allowed to wear our waterproof? Noddy Suits. Yet again all went well and in spite of the CS spray, rain and mud the squadron were still in cheerful mood as they moved into nuclear shelters for a 24 hours stay. Unfortunately the OC, 2IC, RSM, FofS and YofS had to return to barracks as this phase got underway. The squadron was left in the capable hands of **Lt John McIntyre** who, apart from sending **Sig Duncan Dewar** round the bend, handled the situation very well.

SHOOTING

Report by WO2 (YofS) Corcoran

Well here we go again, up early getting wet, cold and miserable, not to mention snowed upon (once). The bright spot of the day, as usual is when the Bulford Red Shield Canteen arrives, and the glue and patches are once more rubbed off team combats (so the team can get their hands in their pockets).

It's never an easy life on the range is it lads. Team members at present are **Lt (Ve hav vays oft making u talk) Collinson** 81 Int Sec, **Sgt** (The Smurf) **Bunn** RPC, **Cpl Martin Champman, Cpl Brian Hayward, LCpl (Below!) Gil, LCpl (Shh) Linnett, LCpl (Mutter, Mutter) Dullaghan** and **Sig (Skippy) Hopkins.** The team has had very little time on the range up to now, but progress is being made. Only two of the Sqn have ever shot at competitive level before, and those who coach will know how hard that makes it. The team is managed, administered, and coached by our resident (is he really) Master Coach, **Sgt Roger Key.** Following behind all is the ever present shadow (when the sun is out) of **WO2 YofS (Get the Yellow Flag Out) Corcoran.**

For all other minor units; we have a month in Cyprus on Ex *Lion Sun III* during May and hopefully we will be able to get some good sessions on the range, so look out, we're on your tails.

LOOK FORWARD

Busy times ahead include Ex *Lion Sun III* (Cyprus), Ex *Pegasus Trail* (June), Ex *Navy Landyard* (July). The latter two are both airborne exercises and give the Sqn a chance to practice in or new intervention role. As part of our airborne commitment the Sqn is moving to Aldershot in December this year.

PARA

There have been some important developments as far as the future of parachuting in Royal Signals is concerned, in recent months. We already have 566 Para Rear Link (3 PARA) in the Sqn, and by the end of the year we will also have 565 Para Rear Link (2 RARA) with us. This means that for the first time since the demise of 216 Para Sig Sqn all Royal Signals parachutists will be concentrated in one Sqn.

As a result this Sqn will be taking over responsibility for running pre 'P' Company courses from 1 June, and after the move to Aldershot the newly created Airborne Tp will be an integral part of the Sqn. The Tp will include not only both Para RLDs and TACPs, but also the parachute trained reserve who will be shadow posted from within the Sqn. OC Airborne Tp, who will also be OC Alpha Tp will be a parachute trained officer. Therefore by the end of the year 6 Fd Force Sig Sqn will have handed over the parachuting 'banner' to us, so that they can concentrate on their UKMF Role. We for our part will be placing increasing emphasis on our worldwide role, as those who follow parliamentary debates will already know.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

SW DISTRICT MARATHON

Shortly after Christmas the squadron hosted the SW District Marathon. The event was organised by **Lt Scott Ewing** and **SSgt (YofS) Wilson** with over 120 competitors taking part. The squadron entered a team of eight who put on a very creditable performance, the best time being run by **Cpl Fitzpatrick,** 3 hrs 2 mins 45 secs.

The squadron Marathon Team: *L to R.* Cpl Chopping, Sig George, Maj Fisher, WO2 (SSM) Marshall, Cpl Fitzpatrick, LCpl Dawson, LCpl Dean, Cpl Riding

The 'Cossack' Turn—as illustrated by Maj Danny Fisher

EX 'HARDFALL 81'

At the beginning of February the squadron deployed on Ex *Hardfall 81* for its annual winter warfare training in Norway. The advance party, led by the QM **Capt Ray Danells,** was ably assisted by our three Liaison Officers, **Capt Magen Fosse** and **Fenriks Morten Lødøen** and **Tøro Møller,** who made sure of our comfortable reception in Norway.

SKI TRAINING

All soldiers in 249 have to be Arctic and ski-trained. In addition, this year we had A Troop 244 Sig Sqn and some members of 11 Sig Regt attached to us. This made for a record number of students on our ski cadre. However almost ideal weather conditions made for extremely high standards as can be seen below.

Sig Kingston (11 Sig Regt) illustrating how not to keep your balance

SURVIVAL TRAINING

But it's amazing what a difference 10 days concentrated practice makes: at the completion of ski training, and after the ten kilometre ski race, the squadron was heli-lifted up into the mountains to practise survival shelters. During one night 128 members of the squadron lived in snowholes that they had freshly dug.

TACTICAL TRAINING

Once all the Arctic skills had been acquired Main and Support Troops were pitted against each other in Ex *Wolverine Ambush*, the squadron tactical winter training exercise. The final outcome was much argued about, however, no one disagreed that a lot of valuable lessons had been learnt by all those involved.

FINAL TEST

The climax of *Hardfall 81* was the Inter-Troop Biathlon competition skied over a 15 kilometer course. The winners this year were again Main Troop although some pretty creditable performances were put up elsewhere, notably **LCpl Bunt** who succeeded in doing 22 kilometers and 'OC **Des**' who was silly enough to arrive out in Norway for takeover just before the race.

The Troops deploy: Members of Support Troop high above Haugsvik in the Vossevangen Mountains

On stag again!—Sgt Calow manning the radio during Ex *Wolverine Ambush*

FAREWELLS

To round off the exercise and say goodbye to Norway, for 10 months, the squadron held a Concert Party which provided much mirth and not a little character assassination.

Another farewell was said to OC **Maj Danny Fisher.** During his two years he has led the squadron to peak performance and handed it over in fine form to the new OC **Maj Mike Shaw.**

The Chelsea Pensioners: Sig Slaney alias 'Sergeant-Major Spud Marshall' and Pensioners Redman, Hoolahan and Barker in wheelchairs at the squadron concert

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

ARCHANGELS DAY—ONE MILE HIGH

'The OC and all Ranks Mountain Troop and Troodos Detachment 9 Sig Regt request the pleasure of the company of . . . to the Royal Signals Archangels Dinner. Well, that was the invitation and I believe not many people knew what they had been invited to. In fact it was a grand affair as was appropriate for such a gathering of eminent communicators. Undoubtedly the low point of the evening was when **SSgt (FofS) Kent Preston** took off his enormous shoes in order to do nasty things with a broom handle. Thankfully, **Sig 'Spud' Murphy** achieved the same results fully attired. The high point was an excellent dinner and we would like to thank all those concerned including **Lt John Steed, Sgt 'Archangel' Mick Parsons, Sgt 'Sky Pilot' Dolby** and the Mount Troodos cookhouse staff for all their hard work. Perhaps it will become a custom!!!

HODGSON SHIELD

Our 13 sport Hodgson Shield competition is approaching completion with Tech Tp now forging ahead and only orienteering and tug-of-war to come. In the hockey competition Tech Tp, with two Cyprus Army players, in **SSgt Pete Whitbread** and **Sgt Keith Tillman,** could not be matched. But in the 9-a-side soccer they were given a hard time and the technicians captained by **Sgt Liam Currell** shared the honours with Episkopi (Line) Tp who were ably supported by **SSgt Bob Atkinson, Cpl Tam Tulloch, Cpl Strafford, Sig Frampton** and **Sig Cairns,** who ended up in hospital for his troubles. The rugby 7-a-side was again keenly contested, but **Sgt Andy Dipple's** techs took the honours despite a virtually 'international' Airfield Tp which included **Capt Miles Stockdale, Lt Bill Mawer, WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing, SSgt Dave Marsden, LCpl Barry Griffiths** and **Cpl Dave Boyle.** It is little wonder that the squadron side remains unbeaten at minor unit level.

EX 'MARCH HARE'

It is not often that 259 takes to the sea, beaches, woods and hills of Cyprus on military exercise; but March was an exception. **Capt Philip Rouse,** assisted by **SSgt Pete Wilson,** put 32 members of the squadron through an inter-section leadership exercise that was worthy of commando training. The day broke at Evdhimou with a beach landing and assault. **Cpl Steve Green** at 6ft 5ins was OK but the **SSM WO2 Brian Morrison** at 5ft (plus a bit) 'found it a bit deep'! Following a few 'tabs' around the hillside looking for friendly agents, detonators and explosives, the Kandou Dam bridge was finally blown (4 times) and we flew off to the ranges in a Whirlwind of 84 Squadron RAF for the final march and shoot. Victory eventually went to the section commanded by **Cpl Tony Gretton** with most of the humour coming from **Cpl Ron Taylor** and **LCpl Barry Griffiths.**

SPORTING SCENE

Throughout the year we have reached a high standard in all our sporting activities and, as the season comes to an end, our success is reflected in the number of players who have represented the Army in the Inter-services matches. Volleyball—**Cpl Paul Jennings,** Golf—**SSgt (now WO2) Mick Raybould,** Cricket—**SSgt (now WO2) Mick Raybould** and **Maj Cliff Walters,** Hockey—**SSgt Pete Whitbread and Sgt Keith Tillman,** Table Tennis—**Sig Eton Francis,** Rugby—**Cpl Steve Green and SSgt Dave Marsden,** Squash—**Maj Cliff Walters,** Athletics—**Sgt Mick Parsons, Sgt Al Bruce** and **Sig 'Scouse' Garnett,** Basketball—**Sig 'DC' Declancy.**

Well done lads—keep it up—Corps secretaries take note.

DEPARTURES

We seldom dwell on our departures, but in the near future we lose a significant number of stalwarts. They include **Maj Brian Turner, Capt Miles Stockdale, SSgt (FofS) Frank Running, SSgt Rod Gladwin, SSgt Arthur Jones, SSgt (FofS) Chris Vanparys, Sgt Andy Dipple, Sgt Paul Brabbins, Cpl 'Kayser' Bond, Sgt Steven King, Sgt Ian Bemrose, Sig Shaun Bowes, Cpl Dave Boyle** and **Cpl 'Scotty' McLay.** Good luck to them all.

Beach landing at Evdhimou

(L to R): Cpl Colin Peck, Sig Steve Frampton and Cpl Mick Kelly boarding a Whirlwind of 84 Sqn RAF

262 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 58

A LOOK BACK

DEE DAH DEE DAH DEE DAH!!! Police—Ambulance? No, just our friendly fire brigade turning out to 'rescue' Santa from the roof of the Bitsa Club when he visited the children's Christmas party. The party, organised by the squadron wives club under the guidance of **Mrs Ann French,** was thoroughly enjoyed by the children especially the Cartoon show which was probably appreciated more by the 20-30 year olds!! As can be seen from the photo the party fare was a success and seemed to disappear at an alarming rate, perhaps due to the eagerness to push the time along faster until the eventual arrival of Santa (**Sgt Bob Hassall**) who, having been 'rescued' handed out the gifts.

EX 'LONG LOOK'

Lt Jane Sugden our wandering 'soldieress' is back in the fold from a very exhausting Ex *Long Look.*

Having departed from UK on 12 August and taking three days to arrive in Sydney Australia, **Jane** was then transported on to Melbourne the home of 6 Sig Regt. Once the initial sightseeing was over, **Jane** managed to move around the various Signal Units, taking part in exercises and actually managing to accomplish some signalling before getting back to the sightseeing and the eventual journey back to Cyprus. True to form, **Jane** even managed to arrange a four day holiday in Bahrein on the return trip! A more detailed report on Ex *Long Look* will appear in the near future. Welcome back to *work* **Jane.**

PERGAMOS CABLE

Continuing with FD Tp for a while, the line section continues to be kept busy. Having had the TA out last year to assist in the completion of our Pergamos cable project, a rather long pole route, sadly, it was struck by lightning. The strike travelled along the cable at a distance of 260 metres, blew out the jumpers, welded the fuses, cracked the frame, continued on through the frame and destroyed a joint. The cable itself was burnt to such an extent that a large section had to be relaid.

OUTSIDE SUPPORT

During the period 5-9 Jan, Radio section (**SSgt (YofS) Percy Beynon, Cpl Ken Jones, LCpl Terry Crosby** and **LCpl Dave Wills)** gave instruction in basic voice procedure to 45 members of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron R.E. After three days of theory in the classroom a small exercise took place to test our friendly Sappers on their new found skills. Off into the 'Bondu' they were sent equipped with A41s (and semaphore flags—just in case!) to emerge several hours later, all agreeing that the easiest part of the exercise to understanding was—endex!! However, they did achieve a fair amount in a short period of time and were a credit to those who instructed.

SPORT—HOCKEY

Squadron hockey continues to flourish with the influx of new blood and we are hoping to better last year's results. **Sgts Mick Green** and **Dave Critchlow** (recently promoted—congratulations) and **Cpl Ken Jones** were selected for the Army (Cyprus) squad.

GOLF

Capt Terry Lightfoot was fortunate enough to be one of a band of 72 sportsmen selected to represent Cyprus Services in Hong Kong on a recent sports liaison trip which took in most sports. The golf was thoroughly enjoyed, so also was the stopover in Columbo on the return trip. Having left Cyprus on 5 Jan, 13 Jan saw the return of the sportsmen, tired, but happy.

BOXING

LCpl Mal Barrett was the squadron's sole representative in the Cyprus Services Novices Boxing Championships held in Episkopi on 30 Jan. His opponent was Cpl Kent of RAF Akrotiri who gave a very good performance indeed. Fighting at Light Welterweight, **LCpl Barrett** soon realised that he faced strong opposition, but did extremely well. After having to suffer the indignity of being put down, he came back to win by a majority decision. Well done!

CAPE GRECO

The origin of this month's notes is a desk in what may be a comparatively unknown detachment in Cyprus—Cape Greco. There have been the usual spate of telephone calls for news items, and, to cap it all, we 'loaned' some small items of interest to the writer of last month's notes. Anyhow—here is this month's offering. For starters—welcome back to **Capt Derek Robertson,** the 2IC who has just finished his Junior Generals course. Any unwanted wargames or model soldiers to the 2IC's office please.

On the farewell side, it's goodbye to, **Capt Terry Lightfoot, Lt Jane Sugden, Sgt Mick Tankard, Cpl Stu Mullen, Cpl Chris Marshall** (WRAC) and **Sig Jimmy Nield.** We wish you and your families all good luck wherever you may serve.

SPORTING LIFE

A look at the Sporting Life now. The OC, **Maj Lionel French** came runner-up in the Army (Cyprus) Squash Championship Plate Match. **Capt Terry Lightfoot** won the Army (Cyprus) Squash Veterans Cup and also came third in the Army (Cyprus) Golf Championship.

The squadron Rugby Team was formed only this season and already has won the St Davids Day seven-a-side Cup and also the Carlsberg seven-a-side Plate.

There would appear to be some competition within the squadron between the football team and the rugby team. As an ex-rugby player I am completely impartial and unbiased—still, I can't understand why footballers use round balls. Talking of football, **Sgt Jim Scoular** recently represented the Army (Cyprus) in an inter-service match against the RAF. Needless to say, the Army won, 2—0.

Still talking Sport—but now with a difference. Congratulations go to **LCpl Faith Neville** who has just (at the time these notes were compiled anyway) completed her 8th descent out of 10 on a free-fall para course. The course is run by the Cyprus JSATC, based at Pergamos. **Faith** completed three days 'ground' training followed by six static line descents. These descents, which were followed by four dummy pull descents, were made from a light aircraft from a height of 2,500ft. The main equipment comprised a main chute and an emergency, or reserve, chute with an automatic opening device. Rather you than me, **Faith.**

Now for a glimmer of light on 'The Cape'. Cape Greco is a detachment situated on the side of a large 'rock' on a south-east peninsula, about 30 miles from Dhekelia. The Station is manned on a 24 hour shift system, and headed by a WO2 FofS. We also have two dogs, Bruno and Schaltz, and an assortment of various rodents, snakes, heards, and over-large spiders, not to forget the occasional wandering tourist.

The favourite station pastime by the way, is luring unsuspecting visitors into the bait suit. Could be why we don't have many unsuspecting visitors.

Finally, a run down on Station personalities . . . just in case someone out there knows any of us!

WO2(FofS) Brian Carter, Sgts Bob Thomas, Les Brown, Jim Scoular, Dave Kingdom, Jim Graley, Al Roberts, Russ Thompson, Nigel Varley, Dave Critchlow, Ralph Maddison and (just leaving for 3 Div) **Mick Tankard. LCpls Taff Morgan** and **Mick Bird.** (Guess who makes the coffee?). Our lads on the RPC side are, **Cpl Jim Fallon, LCpls Andy Williams, Jock Launder, Mick Linkins,** and **Mark (Jetlag) Philips.**

In closing, firstly promotion congratulations to **Sgt Archibald** and **Sgt Keith,** and secondly welcome to the following: **Sgt Dave Kingdom, Sgt Nigel Varley** (actually welcome back **Nigel**), **Cpl Jim Fallon,** and **LCpl Jock Lauder.**

News from Troops

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

VISIT BY CSO UKLF

Life is as hectic as ever here in the sunny Caribbean. Since our last notes we have had our usual share of visitors, inspectors, CPA teams and VIP's, notably **Brigadier Butler,** CSO UKLF during February. Despite the progress of the talks on the future of Belize, the improvement and consolidation of all the troop comms systems has continued at a pace. The Radio Room move is now complete and we are going for a 'Guinness Book of Records' entry—the most Royal Signals and associated equipment in the smallest space! For those of you lucky enough to know the rabbit warren we call home, there are now even more holes for operators and technicians to hide in when **Staff 'Taff' Elliot** is looking for 'some lucky boys'!

EXERCISE CASUALTY

Another APC exercise has passed by, as usual, with incident. The heroes of the Transmitter Site, ably led by 'Sgts two' **Stu Gane** and **Stu Anderson** showed remarkable discretion in allowing the enemy to completely destroy an empty bunker near their position, and not much valour in remaining discreetly out of sight and out of mind! An observant umpire in a fit of pique decided that they should not be allowed to get away with such action. He awarded them one casualty and since no-one had actually fired on them it was decided, in the interests of realism, that one of this valiant band had fallen off the roof in their excitement!

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Resident Force Signals Officer (at least we had all assumed he was permanent) finally departed Belize after 20 months of 6 month tours. Best wishes go from the troop to **Maj Dick Thwaites** in his next appointment as OC 244 Sig Sqn. As an ex-member of the Red Hand Gang I feel honour bound to warn you to get your leave in quickly. Welcome to his successor **Maj John Ingram** who by the time this gets to print will be an 'old-hand'.

FOCUS ON CBT PMN

The MT/Plant section approached their resident genius (he is the one with a pen, who knew which end to hold) and asked him to produce a few words in the midst of the UEE, a month long process here in Belize: 'As the UEE approached the Cbt Pmn found themselves with rather a lot of work on and lo and behold: - **LCpl 'The Swamp Rat' Marshall** found himself exposing his lilywhite hands to the sun (their normal place of residence being his pockets); **Sig Charlie Chalcraft** panic tanning, using a new suntan oil based on a little known Caribbean mixture of diesel, dust and coca cola; **LCpl John (The) Mist** discovering the subtle delights of masochism whilst trying out his new red skin; and finally **Sig Geordie Nicholson**, the newcomer doing all the work — or so he reckoned. No one had the heart to tell him that he was taking parts off working genes to get others working'. Despite their self-appointed title of troop 'Lemons' the Cbt Pmn, led by **Cpl Mick Harris**, 'forehead' glinting in the sun, all agree that job satisfaction is the norm and enjoyment is the result.

AT FULL STRETCH

The CSO visited Belize from 24 to 27 Feb, meeting some part of the troop each day. Although only in the country for three days the CSO managed to visit all parts of Belize in a full and demanding programme. He visited the main part of the troop on Wed 25 Feb, spending some 2 hours meeting a cross section of the troop at their places of work. By a fortunate coincidence the troop was involved in all its possible contingency operations during this period and the CSO was able to see us at full stretch. The COS then moved on to other units in Airport Camp and later to visit an RPL det in Belize City for whom we provide comms and operators.

A Royal Signals barbeque was held in the evening, and apart from the 9 o'clock meal time slipping to half past ten (a normal Belizean occurrence!) a good time was had by all. The CSO met those members of the troop he hadn't met during the day.

Thursday 26 Feb involved a flying programme. After the party the previous night, the OC was more than happy to drop out at lunchtime, once the CSO had visited our RRB det at Baldy Beacon and the Commcen at Belmopan. The photos of the event can be made to tell differing stories, the real one being that all the troop enjoyed the CSO's visit and appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Brigadier on all sorts of subjects both social and operational.

The CSO is met by OC, Capt Paddy Crowley and SSgt Taff Elliott

The final straw for the FSO. He washes his hands of the whole affair as the CSO meets Cpl Mick Bray and Cpl Chris Joanes outside Radio APC/BFBS Belize

Sig Charlie Chalcraft tells the CSO all about Belize. Cpl Harris keeps an eye on him and waits for any deliberate mistakes

Association News

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

A GREAT LOSS

Ian Jones, the Chairman of the Bath and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association since **Maj Max Keeling's** death in 1972, died suddenly in the Royal Masonic Hospital in London on April 7. He had for some time been expecting to have an operation for a gastric condition which all had expected to be entirely successful and relieving, and his death was a severe shock to his widow **Georgette** (who a quarter-hour earlier had been told of successful progress) and to all his friends.

Ian, a West-countryman, born and bred in Weston-Super-Mare, joined the Corps as a boy apprentice in 1935. After pre-war service in Palestine and Syria he was on continuous active service in the Middle East, Sicily, Italy and Europe until the end of the war, when in Belgium he met and married his wife on 25 April 1946. He was then commissioned as a Lieutenant, and soon attained Captaincy and was released in 1947.

Ian and **Georgette** then emigrated to South Africa. Meeting a congenial and helpful character, **Ian** was advised to join the South African Signal Corps, and did so, serving in the rank of WO2, since a language bar hindered his commissioning. He attended a year's Yeoman of Signals Course at Catterick in 1948 and later left the South African Signal Corps to return to Bath and civilian life, when he joined what was then the Admiralty. In 1952 he joined the Army Emergency Reserve as a Captain, later Major, in a local unit, until 1969. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1956. During these years **Ian** was an early member of the Bath and District Branch of the Association and formed firm friendships with all ranks of the local R Signals TA Units, when we all met at annual camps and weekend exercises.

Ian's services as Chairman of the Branch were really incalculable, in the extent to which they brought and kept together members of the branch, in pride and pleasure of membership. He was quite tireless in his efforts to bring members together in social and official occasions and to weld them together as a Branch. His quiet humour and firm determination to have things done properly and effectively were respected and loved by all. In another capacity, in which he virtually established, with **Admiral Griffin**, and kept going, the Bath Youth Adventure Trust, he brought in the Corps with the result that a Bath and District Branch of the Association's Bursary will ensure a perpetual benefaction in the name of the Corps as an annual grant to some boy or girl to carry out a useful and character-forming venture.

The Branch members will remember **Ian** with affection and gratitude as one who had served the Corps faithfully and well.

CHESTER BRANCH

Speaking at the 35th Annual Dinner of the Branch, **Brig Curl** said, 'The Army was too modest in the acknowledgement of their own achievements. One in five of the service personnel involved in the Rhodesian Settlement were Royal Signals, who within thirty minutes of the arrival at their destination had established a satelite link with the United Kingdom. This performance utilised equipment which surpasses anything from any other country, including America.'

The Mayor of Chester, **Councillor Harold Tomlins**, himself ex Royal Signals, in his address to members and guests, recalled that the Corps was formed in 1920 by Royal Warrant, which was published by the then Under Secretary of State for War, **Winston Churchill.**

The old recruiting slogan, 'Join the Navy and see the world', is equally true of the Corps. Wherever British interests demand, there is a Signalman to make sure that the message gets through.

Chairman of the Chester Branch, **Keith West**, in thanking the Mayor and Mayoress for attending, wondered how many of the 61 Association Branches nationwide, could claim the honour of having a Mayor on their strength?

MAYOR AT HOME TO THE ROYAL SIGNALS

The Mayor of Chester displayed his own special brand of the 'Common Touch', when he invited the Royal Signals Association to hold their November meeting, as his guests, at the Town hall.

it is the first recorded time that a Mayor of Chester has invited a local ex-serviceman's organisation to hold such a meeting, notching up yet another first for **Councillor Tomlins**; for he is the first Mayor to come from Blacon, the first Sheriff to come from Blacon and the first magistrate.

The Chairman of the Branch, **Mr Keith West**, speaking to a packed gathering observed, when thanking the Mayor for his hospitality, 'that the Association was moving from strength to strength, at a time when similar organisations were lacking support'.

Chester has a long tradition of attachment to Royal Signals, being a centre for operations during the last war. The 'Old Comrades' formed directly afterwards and have 'held fort' ever since.

DERBY BRANCH

The Annual Dinner was held, by kind permission of **Maj Michael Wright**, at the Kingsway TA Centre on 21 Mar. The President, **Col J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor**, extended a warm welcome to all, and especially to our guests, **Brig R. A. Plummer** of Nottingham, and **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE**, the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association **Capt Pauline Veitch** (Hon Secretary) and the committee, a very pleasant evening was enjoyed. The occasion was very much a family gathering of the former 46 (North Midland) Sig Regt TA and 307 Company WRAC TA. It was a particular pleasure to have with us **Col** and **Mrs Arthur Haslehurst.** It is good to note the strong interest taken in the Branch by the 46th Sig Sqn (V). Long may this flourish.

DORSET BRANCH

Our fourteenth Annual Dinner was held at the WOs & Sgts. Mess, School of Signals, on Friday, 10 April.

We were delighted to have as our guests: **Maj Gen & Mrs J. W. M. Badcock** (Chairman, Signals Assoc.) ; **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson** (Colonel Commandant); **Brig & Mrs J. O. C. Alexander** (Commandant, School of Signals); **Chief Inspector** and **Mrs J. Peach** (Dorset Police); **Lt Col & Mrs H. A. Morrison** (CO School Regt); **Lt Col & Mrs R. D. K. Thompson** (CO 30 Sig Regt); **Lt Col & Mrs K. Boulding** (Director of Music); **WO1 & Mrs Evans** (RSM 30 School of Signals); **WO1 & Mrs Campbell** (RSM 30 Sig Regt); **WO2 & Mrs Sharp** (PMC WO & Sgts Mess).

A total of 96 attended the Dinner. Our President, **Maj Gen Moberly** proposed the toast to our guests.

He also mentioned that he had been President of the Branch since 1967 when, with the assistance of **Mr Sam Henwood** and **Mr Bob Simpson**, he had formed the Branch. He had now decided to stand down and was delighted that **Maj Gen Anderson** had agreed to become our president in October. This is greatly appreciated by our Members also.

On behalf of the Branch he thanked the RSM, PMC and staff of the WO & Sgts Mess for their kindness in allowing us to use their delightful Mess for our Annual Dinner, and for the excellent meal and the high standard of service which they provided.

Maj Gen Badcock, in reply, gave us a very interesting review of Association affairs. It was thriving and increasing in numbers. For those who may not see things like balance sheets, it might be of interest to point out that the Association had given considerable financial assistance to Corps sporting activities and the new Junior Leaders Regiment. On behalf of the guests he thanked **Maj Gen Moberly** and the Branch for a most enjoyable evening and excellent dinner.

Our thanks go to **Mr Jimmy Wilds** for the floral decorations and especially to **Maj Les Taylor** for the very efficient organisation of the event.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

The branch Annual General Meeting was held on 7 Mar, followed by the Annual Dinner, at St. Martin's Hotel. **Brig Norman Butler**, CSO HQ UKLF, attended the AGM and he and his wife, **Barbara**, were the guests of honour at the Dinner.

Following the formal business of the AGM, **Brig Butler** told members of the current work and financial position of the Association as a whole. Those attending were very pleased to have such close contact with HQ despite their somewhat remote location.

The Committee Members elected to serve for 1981 were **John Rudkin**, Chairman (re-elected): **Alvaro Salazar**, Vice-Chairman: **Len Barbe**, Hon Sec (re-elected): **Jim Remfrey**, Hon Treas (re-elected): **Edna Chester**, Social Sec (re-elected): **David Paul**, Committee Member.

About 40 members and guests attended the Dinner.

During an address and formal welcome to the guests of honour, the Chairman spoke of the changes in the basis of Army discipline over the years and of the increasing role played by the Corps in providing the whole of the mechanism for command and control of military operations and their logistic support. He said that the Army had been in the business of managing large numbers of people for centuries before the industrial revolution brought similar needs into civilian life, hence it is only to be expected that the Army should have learnt more about it than anyone else. One might wish that the leaders of industry and commerce would learn the lessons in leadership to be drawn from the Army's example. Again, in the technique of command and control, the Army was in the lead for it was Gen Wavell, one-time GOC MEF in World War 2, who first recognised it as a subject in its own right, long before such recognition dawned in civilian life and the word cybernetics was invented.

In welcoming **Brig Butler** as an honoured guest, the Branch was complimenting an officer who had experienced and helped to lead the changes both in the basis of Army discipline and in the role of the Corps. Like other senior officers of the Corps, he was now involved in applying the technology of a science, cybernetics, which had not even been generally recognised as such when his career commenced. He had experienced command at every level and had also held important staff and advisory appointments at national and international headquarters, and with a foreign army. Nevertheless he had found the time to be an all-round sportsman and is today the Chairman and Captain of a touring cricket club—the Pioneers—which includes national and international players. The Branch was equally privileged to welcome **Mrs Barbara Butler**. On behalf of the Branch, the Chairman presented a souvenir to **Brig Butler**—a framed coloured print of St. Peter Port from an original by a 19th Century artist.

Replying, **Brig Butler** complimented the Branch on the enthusiasm and spirit of the members which had developed in the mere three years of its life. He went on to speak of the high standard of today's recruits to the Corps ('You would be proud of them') and of the advanced technology and high performance of the equpment now in use, such as Clansman. He said that the morale of the Corps is high despite the 'cuts' which had their effect just as on everyone else. **Brig Butler** went on to pay a tribute to the impressive young junior leaders serving in the Corps and Army as a whole. Today's commitments called for more leadership and less driving.

Brig Butler thanked the Branch for the unusual and unexpected souvenir. He concluded 'It is a happy and active Branch'. The formalities ended with the presentation of a bouquet to **Mrs Barbara Butler** by the Branch Social Secretary, **Edna Chester.** Toastmaster for the evening was **Tom Remfrey.**

Brig N. A. Butler, CBE is presented with a framed print of a 19th Century drawing of St Peter Port by Guernsey Branch Chairman John Rudkin *(Photo: Guernsey Evening Press)*

Sport

BOXING

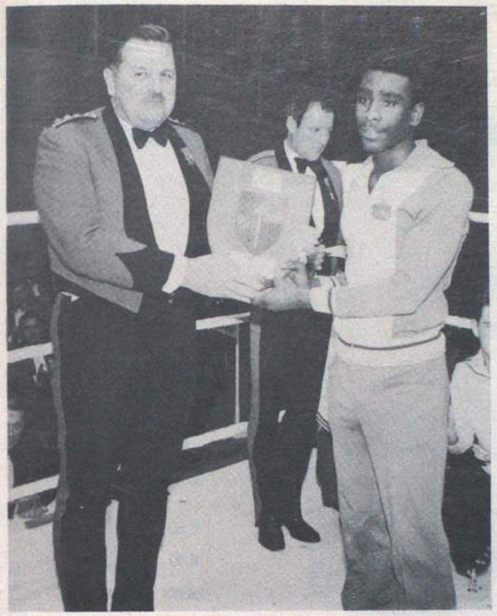
RHINE AREA NOVICES BOXING FINALS 1981

This contest was held at Krefeld on 30 Jan, being the first for many years. The final score of five bouts to four gives only a slight indication of how close the contest was. For those unable to get to Krefeld, to witness this spectacle of skill, courage and nerves, here is a brief account of the bouts.

At 2000 hours, the first two boxers stepped into the ring, to cheers that chould be heard in Wildenrath. Bantam weight, **Sig William Blundell** (MT Tp) who was really a fly weight, against **Sig Wilson,** who had height and weight advantage. This was a close fought contest, **Wilson** using his reach to his advantage won an unanimous decision. Feather weight, **Sig John Butterworth** (2 Sqn) versus **Sig Colquith.** From the bell **Butterworth** dominated with fine punches to the head and body. In the second round, the referee intervened to prevent **Colquith** from taking further punishment. Light weight, **Sig Kenny Marshall** (H Tp) versus **LCpl Hunt;** this had promised to be a good bout as both boxers had boxed before. This was not to be, as both boxers were over-anxious. **Marshall** was unable to settle down and suffered defeat. Light Welter, **Sig Vince Cunningham** (H Tp) versus **Sig Bauress;**—this bout was by far the best with two very skilled boxers boxing at a fast pace throughout all three rounds. **Cunningham** achieved a very deserved win with **Sig Bauress** later being awarded the best losers prize. Welter weight, **LCpl Scotty Scott** (M Tp) versus **LCpl Beggs;** this was a one sided fight, totally dominated by **Scott** who gave **Beggs** a lot of punishment over three rounds. **Beggs** showed considerable courage by lasting the three rounds to hard hitting **Scott.** Light Middle, **Cpl Chris Barlow** (1 Sqn) versus **LCpl Richards; Cpl Barlow** had a very hard fight on his hands against the vastly more experienced **Richards.** The referee had no hesitation but to call a halt in round two as **Cpl Barlow** was taking a lot of punishment. Middle weight, **Cpl Tom Crawford** (HQ Sqn) versus **LCpl Sherrard;** this was a bout we thought we would win, but **Cpl Crawford** boxed way below par in what can only be described as a slow fight. This bout went to 16 Sig Regt on points. Light Heavy, **Sig Auvil Graham** (K Tp) against **Sig Donnaley;** this was an aggressive bout with most of the aggression from **Graham.** Even though **Graham** ran into a punch early into the fight and had to take a standing count, he outboxed **Donnaley** and received a unanimous points win. This made the contest four bouts each and the atmosphere was electric. The Heavy weights finally climbed into the ring with **Sig Lloyd Brown** (C Tp) against **Sig Dear** (who was far from one). The battle of the giants got off to a very fast start. **Sig Dear** was getting into a rhythm when a short straight right from **Sig Brown** buckled him at the knees. After a standing count of eight it was back into the fray. The last round found our two giants very tired and at the bell **Sig Brown** had won by a margin of four punches only. 21 Sig Regt (AS) had won the Rhine Area Boxing Championship.

COMD 4 SIG GP PRESENTS PRIZES

Congratulations to 16 Sig Regt on a very hard and extremely close fought competition and also for the excellent arrangements and organisation which went in to the evening. Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col A. D. Lewis** then presented the Rhine Area Shield and individual prizes to the winners.



LCpl Scott receiving the Rhine Area Novice Boxing Trophy from Commander 4 Signal Group Col A. D. Lewis. WO1 (RSM) Bill Miles still can't believe it

SAILING

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB (KEEL BOATS) YACHT MASTERS REPORT

After a most successful season during 1980 I am looking forward to another good season this year. The Club purchased a replacement Hull for Quicksilver in January, with the acquirement of a three year old Contessa 32 (for those of you who remember the older Quicksilver she was a Westerly Tiger). The replacement yacht has a much enhanced sailing capacity, extra berthing arrangements and offers much more exciting possibilities than the older yacht she replaced. In December last year I wrote to all units in the UK including Northern Ireland and the response was so good that both Skywave and Quicksilver are on charter for June, July, August. However there are still some periods in May and September, so if you have a free period during these months please let me know. As a reminder I am contactable on Blandford military 344 and a phone call will secure a charter. Incidentally for those units who have difficulties in producing the necessary Qualified Crews I will supply a fully Qualified Skipper with the yacht. Cost of charter is £15 per day inclusive!

GOLF

ROYAL SIGNALS v STAFF COLLEGE
WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 1981
Report Captain of the Day: Col (Retd) D. D. Fairman OBE

The weather was not very good but the match was completed without anybody getting too wet. The match was played on a four ball handicap basis and resulted in a win for the Corps by three matches to one. The highlight of the match was without a doubt the win by **Gen 'Jimmy' Jackson** and **Maj 'Budger' Terry** after being three down with four to play. **Col Len Hill** and **Brig Jasper Peck** were too sturdy for their opponents. The only loss was registered by the acting captain **Col Don Fairman** and his partner **Col Bill Kennedy.** Nobody seemed to appreciate the captain's remarks about sacrificing themselves for the sake of the side and taking on a pair of robbers in the Ali Baba class.

RESULTS

Royal Signals

Maj Gen A. J. Jackson **Maj F. A. L. Terry**	1 Up	1	**Lt Col Buchart** **Capt D. N. Smith**	0
Capt H. A. C. Meekings **Capt H. F. Rogers**	3/1	1	**Lt Col P. Symes** **Capt K. Prentice**	0
Col D. D. Fairman **Lt Col W. C. A. Kennedy**	0	0	**Brig J. Bettridge** **Lt Col P. Kenny**	1
Brig O. J. Peck **Col L. R. Hill**	4/2	1	**Capt N. Wallace** **Maj I. A. Johnstone**	0

Result: R Signals won 3 matches to 1

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9. Cheques to:-

Mr P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT.

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 375, please.

	Overseas £	UK £
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	32.60	37.50
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.50	7.50
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.90
Corps table mats (set of six)	22.00	25.00
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.00	6.90
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	6.60	7.70
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.40	3.75
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" x 4½"	1.10	1.25
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	3.80	4.35
Crested glass ash trays	1.35	1.55
Corps ties—terylene 3¼"	1.90	2.20
Car badge—square, acrylic	2.90	3.25
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.45	0.50
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2.60	2.90
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	2.20	2.40
Corps transfers—large (10" x 7½")	0.85	0.90
medium (7½" x 5½")	0.80	0.85
small (3" x 2⅜")	0.75	0.80
Identity card holder	0.20	0.22
Blazer buttons—large	0.50	0.55
small	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
Vinyl "coasters" with Corps Crest (set of six)	1.45	1.55
Calf leather comb case complete with comb	0.45	0.50

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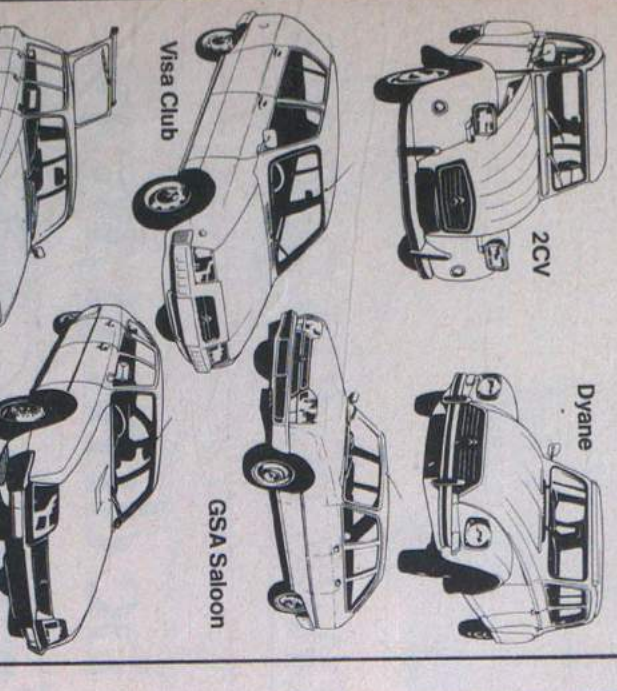

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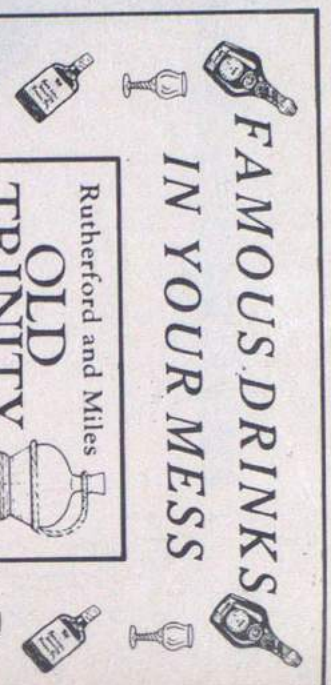

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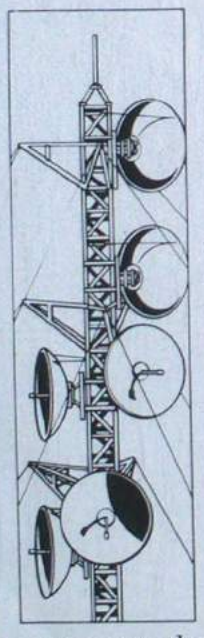

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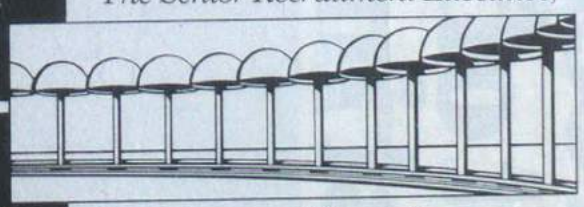

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July 1981

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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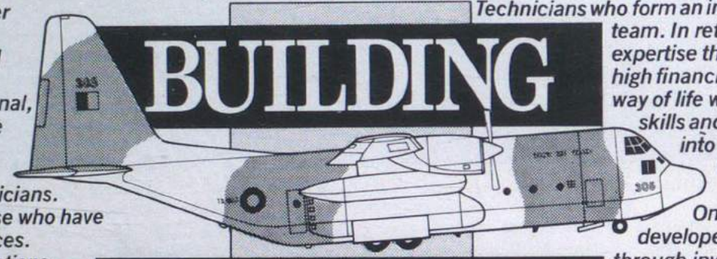

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THE WIRE

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July 1981 (New Series) Vol 35 No 4
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs J. C. Lucas

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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

During May, 16th Signal Regiment emerged as the winners of the BAOR six-a-side Football Championship—the first time a Regiment of the Corps has won the competition. Well done indeed. The Regimental Sixes Team: *Standing (L-R)* LCpl Bob Gregory, LCpl Ian Brereton, Sig Precious Wiltshire, Sgt Chris Sinnett (and son), Capt Tom Guest, Cpl 'Humph' Thompson, SSgt Bob King. *Squatting:* LCpl Dave King, Geoff Hurst, SSgt John O'Rourke, Sig Jimmy Hayes, Cpl Steve Goater
(Full report on page 306)

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List:

CB
Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane (now retired)

CBE
Brig P. J. Evans MBE, ADC

OBE
Lt Col R. P. Myhill TD, R Signals (V)

MBE
Maj (TOT) D. W. Capon
WO1 (Supvr R) D. G. Wills

BEM
Cpl (A/Sgt) F. Alexander
Sgt R. G. Cartwright
Sgt R. E. Edge
SSgt (YofS) P. L. Gethin
A/Sgt R. G. Harrison
Cpl W. Ireland
WO2 (L/WO1) Balkrishna Rai
Queen's Gurkha Signals

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We, also, warmly congratulate the following who received awards for service in Northern Ireland:

QGM	MM	BEM
WO1 (now Capt) J. T. Nichols	Sgt (A/SSgt) McG. Wells	Sgt M. J. Read SSgt S. J. Walls

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THE UNION JACK CLUB

THE SERVICEMAN AND SERVICEWOMAN'S CLUB IN LONDON

Two very important and rather revolutionary changes have just been made to the membership rules of the Union Jack Club and, as it is now over five years since the Club opened the doors of its new premises opposite Waterloo Station to its members and their families, this might be an appropriate moment to remind our readers of the Club and the facilities it has to offer. Since 1975 many thousands of Servicemen and women, wives, and children have stayed in the Club or used the many amenities available there. Of course, many more have not been to the new Club either because they did not require accommodation or Club facilities in London, or simply because they haven't wanted to come here for one reason or another. But there must also be lots of others who just don't know about the Club and what it has to offer or, perhaps, don't even know how to find it.

Although the Club is a mere three minutes walk from the main platforms of Waterloo Station, from which it is incidentally well signposted by British Rail, the description 'opposite Waterloo Station' is very confusing because the station has a number of different entrances. Go straight from the central platforms and turn right out of the main concourse and you will see opposite you a grimy and sooty building with jumbled letters on the wall which once said 'Union Jack Club Annexe'. Some of the letters are missing but unfortunately there are still just enough of them to suggest that this might be something to do with the Club or, worst still, the Club itself. In fact this building no longer belongs to the Club and has long since ceased to have any connection with it at all, but the jumbled letters remain to confuse and distract those who do not know.

The new Union Jack Club is, in fact, in the opposite direction in Sandell Street which is the street which faces you when, after leaving the main station concourse and going down the stairs, you emerge into Waterloo Road with the rail bridge on your left. The main entrance is a few yards down Sandell Street on the right. You will see the two Union Jacks flying above the door and, in the background, the twin towers, the smaller of which contain 6 floors of accommodation for families and the larger 22 floors for single men and women.

Every bedroom—and there are 417 singles and 63 doubles—has hot and cold running water, fitted cupboards, and an electric alarm clock. Cots are also available for very young children. The Public Rooms are on the ground floor. There are two reception desks, one for families and the other for single members. There is a Members' Bar and lounge and a smaller, snugger, Families Bar with a children's playroom next door. There is also a families writing room and, beyond the Members' Bar and lounge, a library and quiet room with panelling and bookcases which came from the old Club and were donated by the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association. There are two television rooms with coloured sets and, downstairs, a launderette with automatic washing machines and spin-dryers. Last but not least, there is a large restaurant which operates a cafeteria service for all meals, starting with breakfast from 7.30 am to 10.00 am, lunch from 12 noon to 3.00 pm and dinner from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Although these facilities are designed for single members on the one hand and families on the other, there is, in fact, no segregation and people use the different parts of the Club as and when they wish.

In spite of the efforts made by the Club to publicise itself among the Services in general and Recruit Training Establishments in particular, there must still be some Servicemen and Servicewomen who do not realise that they are automatically members of the Union Jack Club as long as they are serving and remain below commissioned rank, and for this they do not have to pay any form of annual subscription. It would, therefore, seem sensible to make use of the facilities which are there for the asking, specifically planned and designed to meet the requirements of the Services and their families and, by all accounts, considered excellent value for money.

Ex-Servicemen and women are also eligible to be full members of the Club for an entrance fee of £3 and an annual subscription of £2. Up to now an Ex-Serviceman or woman needed three years service to qualify for membership but the first of the changes mentioned earlier has just reduced this to two years—a very important concession—which will enable former National Servicemen to become full members of the Union Jack Club.

A second and equally important innovation has just been approved by the Governing Council by which widows of Service or Ex-Servicemen can now be treated as Temporary Honorary Members and allowed to use the facilities of the Club when staying there. Temporary Honorary membership would be granted whilst accommodated at the Club. Applications for accommodation should be made in writing and it will be necessary for applicants to complete a Temporary Honorary membership form showing the service particulars of their late husband. Personal callers must be in possession of evidence of their late husband's previous service. Members of the TA can also stay in the Club at membership rates when on duty and as Temporary Honorary Members when staying privately.

What, then, is the Union Jack Club? It is not, as some believe, a Ministry of Defence Establishment but a completely independent charity. This does not mean that it is in business to distribute charity to Servicemen and women but simply that it is not required to make a profit beyond that needed to cover its operating costs nor is it subject to taxes which a profit-making company has to pay.

The Union Jack Club exists and operates for the benefit of Servicemen and their families, Servicewomen, those who have served in the Forces of the Crown, and the widows of Servicemen and Ex-Servicemen. It is neither an official nor a private profit-making organisation and its profit margins are, therefore, very narrow indeed. To survive in these difficult times it relies on the goodwill and steady practical support of its many members.

OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The Master of Signals **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** sent a bouquet of flowers and a message of congratulations on behalf of all ranks of Royal Signals to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Anne on the birth of her daughter on 22 May.

The Private Secretary to the Colonel-in-Chief has since responded by letter saying that Her Royal Highness deeply appreciates his congratulations, and asked the Master to convey her warmest thanks to all members of her Corps for their kindness on this happy occasion.

THE PRINCESS ANNE ATTENDS A RECEPTION AT THE SKINNERS HALL

It was with pride that the four London Territorial Signal Regiments welcomed our Colonel-in-Chief at an evening reception on Fri 20 Mar, in the splendid Livery Hall of the Worshipful Company of Skinners. It seemed particularly appropriate that the last public engagement of **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** before her confinement should have been with her Corps and with the Volunteers at that.

By the late afternoon of 20 Mar, over 300 men and women drawn from all ranks of the four London Territorial Army Signal Regiments, from Honorary Colonels to newly joined Signalmen, began to assemble at Skinners Hall in Dowgate. They represented 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment based in Hammersmith, 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment based at Wanstead, 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment from the City and 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment with its RHQ at Bromley. In practice, however, because of the wide geographical spread of Volunteer Regiments, those attending had travelled from almost every part of the country.

The Colonel-in-Chief is received at the Skinners Hall by Dr W. A. Holmes-Walker, the Master of the Skinners Company, and Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO, Master of Signals

The senior guests including the Signal Officer in Chief, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle,** and the General Officer Commanding London District, **Maj Gen H. D. A. Langley,** and their ladies having positioned themselves, a fanfare by the Corps Trumpeters announced the arrival of Her Royal Highness. **The Princess Anne** was received by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, **Col Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe;** Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London, the **Baroness Phillips;** the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley;** and the Master of the Skinners Company, **Dr W. A. Holmes-Walker.**

During the next two hours **Her Royal Highness** chatted with almost 200 men and women, and showed a lively interest in their backgrounds, their occupations and experiences. Although well behind schedule **Princess Anne** declined to be hurried, and insisted on speaking individually to all those presented to her. Everyone was impressed by the Colonel-in-Chief's charm and personal interest in them, and by her wide knowledge of Corps affairs. Her departure at 9pm brought to a close a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Finally, the London Territorial Army Signal Regiments would wish to express their thanks to the Worshipful Company of Skinners for their unstinting help with the evening's arrangements.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY MESSAGES

The Master of Signals despatched the following telegram to the Colonel-in-Chief to mark Princess Royal Day (28th June).

"Today the Royal Corps of Signals celebrates Princess Royal Day and the 61st anniversary of the formation of the Corps. On this day, all ranks of her Corps, wherever they may be serving, send their affectionate greetings and warm good wishes to their Colonel-in-Chief. May we also take this opportunity to reaffirm once more our loyalty and devotion to Her Royal Highness and, through the Colonel-in-Chief, to Her Majesty The Queen.'

The following reply was received from **The Princess Anne.**

'I was delighted to receive your kind message of loyal greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day and would ask that you convey my very warmest good wishes to all members of my Corps wherever they may be. I have shown your kind message to Her Majesty The Queen.
Anne
Colonel-in-Chief'

Gen Bradley received the following message from Royal Australian Signals:

'The Corps Committee together with all serving and retired members of Royal Australian Signals extend warm greetings to all members of Royal Signals on your celebration of Princess Royal Day on 28 Jun 81. We recall with much pride the similarity of the origins and subsequent development which provides the foundation for the bonds which exist between our two Corps. The strengthening of these links through identical idealism and professionalism with the close association and co-operation established between members of our Corps both in war time and in peace ensure the continuance of the comradeship which has endured since the Australian Corps of Signals was formed in 1925. Please convey to all members of Royal Signals our hearty congratulations and best wishes for the celebration of your 61st anniversary.'

He responded as follows:

'Please convey my thanks and those of all ranks Royal Signals to the representative Colonel Commandant, Director and all ranks Royal Australian Signals for their kind message of greeting on the occasion of Princess Royal Day. Our very best wishes to you all.'

—From our "In" Tray—

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER VISITS THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

On 12 Mar **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** took the salute as inspecting officer at the Final Parade of Direct Entry Course Number 17 of Victory College, The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Commanding the parade was **2Lt Neil Yeoell** Royal Signals, a Direct Entry Graduate from Hull. An Honours Graduate in Mathematics, **2Lt Yeoell** was selected from a course of fifty-nine to command the parade. Afterwards, at a reception, he had the honour, together with **Capt Ken Hadfield** Royal Signals, The Adjutant of Victory College, of being presented to Her Majesty. All in all, it was a great day, not only for The Royal Military Academy, but also for the Corps. The photograph shows Her Majesty inspecting the parade escorted by **2Lt Yeoell.**

APPOINTED COLONEL COMMANDANT

Maj Gen Jimmie Hellier was appointed a Colonel Commandant in Feb 81 and as such joined the Corps Committee at their meeting in May. We are very pleased to see him involved in Corps domestic affairs once more.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Colonel T. W. Bolleau, OBE entered RMC Sandhurst in 1922 and was one of the first six second lieutenants commissioned directly into the Royal Corps of Signals. After a notable career, including five years service in India from 1929 to 1934 and war time service which included France (BEF), South East Asia Command (Staff of the then Admiral Lord Mountbatten), **Col Bolleau** retired in 1953.

He was privileged to be closely associated with Boys Training. First in Catterick in 1934/35, and subsequently in 1938 when he Commanded the Boys Company. His wife, prior to her death in July 1980, was well aware of this most significant aspect of his career and had expressed a wish that they should both present to the Corps a bronze figure of Mercury as a tribute to the great contribution made to the Corps by those coming through Boys Service.

A fuller account of this presentation is to appear in the Summer issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

INDIAN DIVISION MEMORIAL PROJECT

It is proposed to create a memorial for the Indian Divisions of WW2 at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, to commemorate the remarkable spirit of comradeship, trust and respect established between both British and Indian units, and individual officers and soldiers of diverse races and creeds within these 'Indian' divisions, which enabled them to achieve results in battle as great as any in the history of war.

The Memorial will probably consist of a series of panels, one for each division, which will show the divisional sign, battle honours, and the list of units serving in the division.

The estimated cost is £25,000. The unveiling is planned to be in November/December 1981.

The contributions of those who may have served in the 'Indian ' divisions are requested. Cheques should be made out to 'Royal Signals Corps Funds'. If you wish your contribution to go to a particular division plaque, please say. The sponsor for the appeal, for the Corps is **Maj Gen David Horsfield.**

ISM FOR MR TED MOORE

Mr Ted Moore, 60, a specialist instructor with the Army School of Mechanical Transport detachment at 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for long and exemplary service with the Civil Service, Army Department. The presentation was made by **Col Michael Duddridge**, Chief Instructor Army School of Mechanical Transport, RCT, on Fri 10 Apr in the Sergeants Mess, 8 Sig Regt.

Mr Moore is a 'Londoner' who served with the Corps from 1939 until 1954. After leaving the Corps, he joined the Civil Service and became a driving instructor. He married a Yorkshire 'lass' from Harrogate and they live at Colburn. For many years, he has been the Secretary of the Catterick Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

PRESENTATION

CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** recently presented the Clasp to the LS & GCM (Mil) to **WO2 (RQMS) D. R. Daniels** of HQ Rheindahlen Garrison. The ceremony took place at the Garrison Sgts Mess in the presence of **RQMS Daniels'** family and many serving and non-serving members of the Corps stationed at Rheindahlen

During his 35 years services, **RQMS Daniels** has served the Corps during the latter stages of World War 2 and subsequently overseas in Egypt, Iraq, the Far East and many stations in NW Europe. He entered the Long Service List in 1971

A UNIQUE RECORD

229 Signal Squadron won the BAOR Minor Units Swimming Trophy for the sixth time, on the occasion of the BAOR Swimming Championships on 16 July. The result was achieved by winning all the races; believed to be a unique record in the Minor Units Competition.

PRESENTATION TO MUSEUM

Maj (Retd) W. E. Parks presenting two Corps figures, a mounted lineman and a Corps Fanfare Trumpeter to Maj (Retd) L. J. Taylor, MBE, The Curator of the Corps Museum, at Blandford Camp on Apr 15 1981. Maj Bill Park is a well known military figure modeller and is having an Exhibition at the Fareham Library during this summer

ROYAL SIGNALS SUMMER SKI CAMPS

Two summer ski camps are being run by 2 Armd Div Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt for Royal Signals skiers of any unit in the Corps.

NORDIC SUMMER SKI CAMP

This will be run by 22 Sig Regt in Schwarzenborn, a Germany Army training area some 50 kms south of Kassel in West Germany. Dates are 1 to 31 Aug. The course will include running (100 km a week), ski ganging, lectures, roller skiing, co-ordination games, shooting (twice weekly), swimming and circuit training. Anyone interested should contact **Capt Ferriman**, 22 Sig Regt, BFPO 107, Tel. Lippstadt Mil 331, for more details.

ALPINE SUMMER SKI CAMP

This will be run by 2 Armd Div Sig Regt in Zermatt, Switzerland. Dates are 15 Aug to 19 Sep. The course is intended primarily for the Alpine teams of 22 Sig Regt and 2 Armd Div Sig Regt, but others may be found places. If you are interested contact **Maj Kemp**, 2 Armd Div & Sig Regt, BFPO 46, Tel Bunde Mil 230. For any queries on either camp, or on any aspect of Royal Signals skiing contact **Maj G. R. Funnell**, 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, BFPO 106, Tel Korbeck Mil 245.

ARMY TARGET PISTOL SHOOTING

Report by Maj Mike Payne Royal Signals

The Corps has long been known for its prowess at the more traditional forms of target shooting, and has recently broken into the more specialised field of target pistol shooting.

Maj Mike Payne currently serving in the MOD, and **Lt Keith Goodfellow** at RMCS, are both members of the 1981 Army Pistol Squad from which Army teams are drawn. The Army has fired in four matches so far in the 1981 season, against the Royal Navy, the Police Athletic Association, South East Region and a representative England team. The Army has achieved success in all matches, winning three outright.

The Army Team consists of four or six squad members depending upon the event, and at each match the Corps has been well represented; **Keith Goodfellow** has shot once so far with the team, and **Mike Payne** has represented the Army in each of the four matches, most recently against England at Bisley on Saturday 13 June 1981 firing Centre Fire (full bore) and Standard Pistol (small bore) events.

CORPS FUNDS—YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND WHO CONTROLS THE SPENDING

Report by: Col J. A. D. Francis, Corps Treasurer

THE FUNDS

The Corps Committee, advised by its Finance Committee, directs the general financial policy of the Corps and exercises control of all Corps funds, except those of the Royal Signals Association and the Royal Signals Institution.

The various Corps, Association and Institution funds are:

Royal Signals Headquarters Mess Central Fund
Royal Signals All Ranks Fund
Royal Signals Officers Fund
Royal Signals Trust Funds
*Royal Signals Officers Benevolent Fund
*Royal Signals War Memorial Fund
Royal Signals Band Fund
Royal Signals Yacht Club Fund
Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund
Royal Signals Institution Fund

*The Royal Signals Association, who administer these funds, is responsible to the Corps Committee for all assistance given from them.

THE PURSE STRINGS

The Members of the Royal Signals Finance Committee are:

Maj Gen C. E. Page CB MBE—Chairman
Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL—Vice Chairman, and Association Chairman too
Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge CB—Colonel Commandant
Brig P. J. Evans CBE ADC—BGS Signals (Army) representing the SOinC
Brig A. Yeoman—Commander Training Group and Chairman Games Club
Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE—Commandant School and also responsible for the HQ Mess, the Corps Band and recently for all Corps recruiting. He is also a senior member of the Yacht Club Committee.
Col D. A. B. Crawford CBE ERD TD—representing the TA, (whose officers also contribute to Corps Funds)
RSM 11 Sig Regt—speaking for serving soldiers generally, and for the Headquarters WO's & Set's Mess at Catterick
WO1 (Staff Assistant) HQ BAOR—speaking for BAOR generally
Col J. A. D. Francis—the Corps Treasurer

Note that not only are these people very distinguished in their own right, but also that there is *a majority of serving officers and warrant officers*, who are well able to watch over your interests.

THE DAYS PAY SCHEME

Almost every member of the Corps subscribes under the 'Days Pay Scheme' to Corps Funds, but how is it used?

WELFARE & BENEVOLENCE

This is the most important and the largest item. Serving and former members of the Corps and their dependants 'in need' are the recipients. (£37,600 in 1980)

CORPS GAMES AND SPORTS

Annual grants are made to support all sports. Occasional loans and grants go to 'gladiators'. (£13,700 in 1980)

THE WIRE

Our Corps magazine receives a substantial subsidy to keep the cost to *you* down. (£12,900 in 1980)

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS

The 62 Branches of the Association are financially self supporting and many make an annual donation to the main Benevolent Fund. Members and their wives pay a subscription to attend the two Annual Reunions at Blandford and Catterick but both events are subsidised. (£2,400 in 1980)

These four components of expenditure are met by the Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund, which is controlled by the Association Central Committee.

THE CORPS MUSEUM

The normal running costs of our Corps Museum are modest but special provision is needed to cover the cost of major improvements to the Display.

THE JOURNAL

The Journal of the Royal Signals Institution is issued free to full members who pay a separate annual subscription to the Institution (All officers and some Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs). The cost of publishing the Journal in 1980 was £6,000.

PRIZES

A number of prizes are awarded to officers and soldiers of Royal Signals for professional attainment, enterprise and individual achievement, in employment training or on specified courses. (Cost in 1980 was £1,300)

There is also the Chenevix-Trench Prize Essay Competition open to all members of the Institution. (Cost £200 in 1980)

LECTURES

Minor costs arise from the staging of the annual Institution lectures in London and Blandford and from local branch lectures. (£800 in 1980)

These four components of expenditure are met in part by the Royal Signals Institution Main & Museum Funds, which are controlled by the Institution Council. The balance is found from Corps Funds.

THE CORPS BAND

Our splendid Corps Band requires substantial financial support for instruments and their special ceremonial uniforms. (£6,400 in 1980)

THE MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM (WHITE HELMETS)

Is financially independent, except for the occasional loan, which is good.

RECRUITING

Funds are allocated to the SOinC for Corps and unit level recruiting. (£5,700 in 1980)

ONE-OFF ITEMS

There are dozens of requests made for special loans or grants every year which are considered on their individual merits.

EXPENDITURE FROM OFFICERS FUNDS

The Headquarters Mess, at Blandford, receives an annual grant. (£14,000 in 1980)

The 'White List' is published annually and issued free to officers. (Printing costs were £3,700 in 1980)

The annual Corps Dinner (London) and Luncheon (Blandford) is subsidised. (£2,100 in 1980)

The costs of special Corps Entertainment throughout the serving units of the Corps is met. (£11,000 in 1980)

These are examples of expenditure controlled by the Corps Committee, advised by its Finance Committee.

A LAST THOUGHT

And one last thought. Have you some brilliant idea to improve conditions in your unit, or some burning personal ambition, which needs financial backing? Then ask the Corps for help; a short letter through your CO is all that is needed. If you would like some advice or guidance before taking the plunge, then drop a line to me at RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, LONDON SW3 4RH.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICER RECRUITING

Report by: Maj L. G. Fraser, R Signals

Everyone should be on the look-out for boys and young men who have the qualities which will make them effective officers in the Corps. If you gain a young man's interest in a commission in Royal Signals, you should forward his name to me at the Officer Recruiting and Liaison Cell, School of Signals with sufficient detail for me to make effective contact. I will invite him to the School for a short visit to discuss career opportunities and to assess his potential. Last year only 7% of our contacts were introduced by the Serving Corps. We must do better this year. Why not start looking around your own family and friends as well as those with whom you work?

CORPS SUBSCRIPTION COVENANTS—NEW 1981 TAX RULES

Report by: Col J. A. D. Francis, Regimental Secretary & Corps Treasurer

Tax advice that was given in our April/May Wire is now changed!

The 1981 tax arrangements are such that private individuals giving to charity by covenant are now effectively entitled to full tax relief. This means that you may now be able to give the same amount at less cost. But first for those who don't know already what exactly is a covenant? Broadly, a covenant is a legal document under which you promise to pay an agreed amount each year to charity.

In the past, some people have been understandably nervous of signing such a document, because they had to commit themselves to an annual payment each year for seven years. In 1980, however, the minimum period was reduced to four years.

Now comes the change

But the really important change introduced in the 1980 Finance Act is effective from April 1981. In the past, charities have only recovered basic rate tax. So if you paid £100 net under covenant in 1979/80, the charity recovered £43, giving it £143 in all.

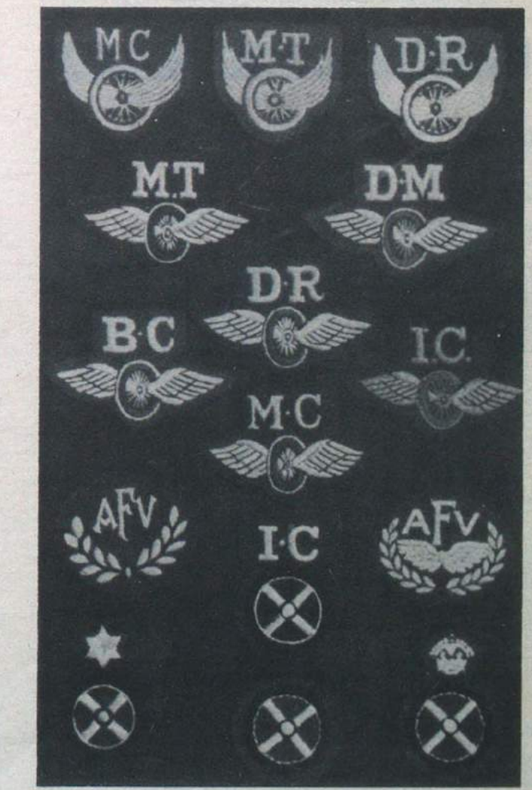
That hasn't changed. The charity still gets its £43. But if you pay income tax at the higher rates above the basic rate, in future *you* will be able to claim relief against the higher rate tax on your covenant. So if your top tax rate is 50..., you will get another £28 tax relief—and it will only have cost you £72 to give £143 to the Corps.

Action Recommended

As this change was introduced effective April 1981, it does not affect the Income Tax Return which you may have recently completed for last year (6 Apr '80 to 5 Apr '81). But it will affect your next Tax return to be completed after April 1982. We will remind you again then.

ARM BADGES—DID YOU WEAR ANY OF THESE?

The tradesmen and skill at arms badges shown in the two illustrations are known to have been worn by serving members of the Corps at various times. A comprehensive list is being compiled as to when these badges were worn, by whom and in which theatres. If you are able to identify any of the badges it would be appreciated if you could give details of the wearing etc to—Historical Officer, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.



CORPS FUNDS HELP YOUNG OFFICERS' EXPEDITION TO KENYA

In April the Finance Executive reacted quickly to a request for a partial subsidy to help with the expenses of several young officers who wanted to walk some hills in a remote part of southern Kenya during their Easter break.

This is just one example of how officers' subscriptions to Corps Funds have been used in recent months. Similar requests are welcome, and you may be sure of a prompt response from your Finance Committee. A thank-you letter addressed to the Corps Treasurer is below.

'Dear Colonel Francis,

On behalf of all members of Exercise *Samburu Seven*, the Royal Signals Young Officers expedition to Kenya, I should like to thank you for the vital grant made by the Corps Fund to enable us to go.

The expedition was successful and a full report is being written. An article has been completed for the 'WIRE' and a presentation of slides given to the Headquarters Mess.

The experience gained should stand us all in good stead as we leave the School for our first postings. It was a marvellous opportunity from which we all benefited.

Yours sincerely
Mark Perry
2Lt

Movements

Officers Postings—Belated

MARCH

Maj H. J. P. Exon	School of Signals

JULY 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt A. E. Abbott	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (QM) H. Bell	Aberdeen UOTC
Lt M. G. H. Campbell	233 Sig Sqn
Capt G. J. Cary	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj G. A. Carmichael	33 Sig Regt (V)
Lt K. A. Childs	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt R. O. N. Evans	School of Signals
Lt I. Foxley	249 Sig Sqn
Maj (Tfc Offr) K. M. French	4 Sig Gp
Lt T. J. Gigg	259 Sig Sqn
Lt R. J. Good	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt K. W. Goodfellow	28 Sig Regt
Lt N. P. Harrison	c/s School of Signals
Lt T. G. Inshaw	8 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) R. A. Jones	10 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) R. W. Kay	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt (TOT) R. B. Kelbie	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt (TOT) R. M. Limb	7 Sig Regt
Lt J. E. Lovell	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc Offr) F. C. McLoughlin	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Maj (QM) H. A. C. Meekings	39 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col D. G. Mitchell	MANS (ORG) — ADP DACD
Lt Col E. W. Penny	HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)
Capt (QM) J. V. Prees	22 Sig Regt
Maj S. W. Read	Sigs 36b2 DSS MOD (A)
Lt D. E. Rowlinson	21 Sig Regt
Maj C. I. Spencer	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. W. Stark	8 Sig Regt
Lt D. M. Steele	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col C. E. R. Story	SHAPE (BAE)
Brig R. L. Stonham	MOD (A) DMO
Lt J. E. Thomas	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt J. A. Wraith	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt S. J. S. Young	Queens Gurkha Signals

Postings—Belated

JULY

Maj G. H. Goodman	HS HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)
Lt B. Young	4 Armd Div HQ & Signal Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

JUNE 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) D. G. Lunn	Joint Work Study School
WO2 (YofS) R. W. Badger	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. H. Beresford	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
WO2 (YofS) A. L. Hawkins	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) W. M. Rattray	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) P. D. Shawyer	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) D. Dallow	SHAPE Sp (International) (BAE)
WO2 (FofS) R. B. McInnes	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. J. Gerrard	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. H. Latham	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (Supvr R) S. J. Chudleigh	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (Supvr R) R. G. Watson	Comms & Sy Gp UK
WO2 J. M. Downie	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. France	Junior Regt R Signals
WO2 R. Hails	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 I. D. Turner	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 M. J. Barstow	30 Sig Regt
WO2 G. S. Davies	28 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) D. Coleman	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) G. A. Atkinson	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) J. L. England	632 Sig Tp
SSgt (FofS) F. C. Running	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt J. R. Farrell	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt R. A. Freudenfeld	Tayforth U OTC
SSgt C. J. Laughlin	7 Sig Regt
SSgt M. W. F. Prior	School of Signals (Cadre)
SSgt D. P. Poultney	4 Sig Gp
SSgt J. T. Crooks	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt P. T. Connors	40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V)
SSgt C. P. Martin	HQ BAOR
SSgt M. F. Schnable	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt R. Bradley	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt J. E. P. Telford	Hong Kong Sig Sqn
ASSgt T. N. O'Brien	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
ASSgt C. G. Parsonage	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. C. Morgan	Junior Regt R Signals
ASSgt A. R. Hale	Comms & Sy Gp UK
ASSgt G. Harwood	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt E. P. Dolby	A A Coll Harrogate
Sgt W. G. Graham	Cdo Log Regt
Sgt P. C. J. Lavers	Int Centre Ashford Kent
Sgt H. G. Squires	Int Centre Ashford Kent
Sgt R. W. Branson	School of Signals
Sgt A. Malcolm	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt J. E. Dickinson	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt W. D. McLean	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt J. A. Shorter	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. S. Bennett	21 Sig Regt
Sgt I. M. Stewart	22 Sig Regt
Sgt H. E. Dudey	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Farmer	641 Sig Tp
Sgt J. G. Chapman	A A Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. Snailham	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Buckberry	A A Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. B. R. Leighton	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Davies	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp for att to Cdo Trg Centre RM
Sgt M. G. A. Langley	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt F. A. Bennett	3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt D. F. Simms	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt R. J. Bowman	A A Coll Harrogate
Sgt H. R. Allison	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt A. W. Blackwell	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt S. K. Rushton	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Major	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Abdulrahman	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt H. Dillon	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt T. M. Perkins	21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. Hayward	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt B. Wilkinson	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt M. Kindness	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt D. Bowstead	587 Rear Link Det
ASgt M. Jenkins	229 Sig Sqn

JULY 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. Cheetham	22 Sig Regt
WO1 G. C. Blood	37 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 D. A. Gouldsmith	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) J. Atkinson	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) W. S. Balding	Hon Artillery Coy
WO2 (YofS) R. M. R. Graham	R M A Sandhurst
WO2 (YofS) D. G. Wright	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. Hough	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) M. Banks	38 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. E. Mellors	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (FofS) J. C. Matthews	L S P Oman
WO2 (Supvr R) J. W. Thomasson	9 Sig Regt
WO2 J. R. Illingworth	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 J. D. Welch	FSS Mossy Hill
WO2 S. P. Glover	13 Sig Regt
WO2 B. F. Williams	16 Sig Regt
WO2 F. A. Brown	HQ 11 Sig Gp
AWO2 F. E. Bentley	11 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FosS) J. R. Smith	Comms Project Agency R Signals
SSgt (YofS) N. J. I. Cox	C D N
SSgt (YofS) K. B. Stevens	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) K. D. Harris	REME Data Centre
SSgt (FofS) A. Davie	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt (EW Op) M. W. Green	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (EW Op) R. S. Oldfield	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt J. R. Farrell	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt K. Morris	7 Sig Regt
SSgt V. A. Hoyle	HQ Training Gp R Signals
SSgt D. B. Barlow	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt G. Chaplin	22 Sig Regt
SSgt G. A. Y. West	School of Signals (Cadre)
SSgt J. I. Ratcliffe	16 Sig Regt
SSgt G. D. Middleton	6 Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt G. Hardaker	21 Sig Regt
SSgt J. R. Atkinson	7 Sig Regt
SSgt J. A. Chambers	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. J. Stanley	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. G. Metcalfe	13 Sig Regt
SSgt S. R. Kent	R M A Sandhurst
SSgt H. C. Britton	9 Sig Regt
SSgt A. E. Turner	31 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt I. C. Stewart	HQ BAOR
ASSgt C. M. Kinnear	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt R. B. Wyllie	School of Signals (Courses)
ASSgt J. I. Davis	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Rice	School of Signals
Sgt E. J. Sandison	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Sparkes	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt B. Davies	Aa Coll Harrogate
Sgt N. S. Stewart	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt G. R. Anderson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt N. W. Wadey	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. K. Barden	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Richards	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt R. S. Lewis	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt E. D. Alibolus	633 Sig Tp
Sgt P. Wilson	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt P. Wilson	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt C. Wilkie	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt R. Reay	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt A. W. McMahon	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt S. A. Farrar	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. J. Morgan	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Kent	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt G. R. Nicol	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Scott	595 Rear Link Det
Sgt M. McDermott	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt K. B. Hatton	21 Sig Regt
Sgt L. J. Hodds	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt K. Sainty	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt A. F. Cashen	30 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Donald	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt B. P. Gardner	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Hooley	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt D. K. Mable	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. Roberts	Int & Sy Gp Germany
Sgt T. F. A. Christian	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Aveson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Hatch	22 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Barrett	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Watson	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt S. J. Atkinson	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. H. Chilcott	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt N. J. Hammett	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Marshall	16 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Thomas	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Wright	School of Signals
ASgt W. Tosh	22 Sig Regt
ASgt S. J. Whytock	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASgt M. A. Chapman	233 Sig Sqn
ASgt C. Calow	R M A Sandhurst
ASgt D. C. L. Brown	HQ AFCENT Inter Sp
ASgt A. Marshall	32 Sig Regt (V)

Welfare

APRIL 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	35
Amount spent:	£2408.76
Number of clothing parcels sent:	23

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	13
Amount spent:	£555.00

MAY 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	35
Amount spent:	£3241.21
Number of clothing parcels sent:	31

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	4
Amount spent:	£142.87

ONE OF OUR CASES

Widow of a Signalman who served from 1952 to 1959 and died in 1980, leaving her with two small children. The Association helped financially with the Funeral and other expenses, and, with the help of the Army Benevolent Fund, a holiday was made available for the family at Pontins. The widow's letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I just do not know what to say to you all; the holiday is like a gift from Heaven. I can hardly believe it. When we were down last year, you helped us, made our Christmas, took away our worries, and now are giving us this holiday. I can only say a big big thank you, and this comes from the bottom of my heart.

During the months of April and May, gifts of clothing, bedding, toys, etc. have been gratefully received from the following:-

Lt Col & Mrs D. A. Dickson; Latimer Thrift Shop; Lt Col R. L. Murray; F. Stockdale, Esq; Yeoman Warder A. Copestake; Capt B. J. Lord; Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin; Mrs. I. G. Swan; Royal Signals Assn, Bristol Branch; Lt Col P. D. E. Gregory; Mrs W. G. Tucker; Lt Col C. J. Bayfield; RQMS Selles; Krefeld Thrift Shop; Mr & Mrs H. Palmer.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1981.

In memory of Maj Aylmer Hort MBE TD	£28.00
In memory of Brig H. R. Firth	£20.00
Lt D. S. Ewing	£10.00
Maj J. F. Everard	£ 4.00
Anonymous donation	£ 3.00
Capt S. W. Creaton	£ 3.00
Miscellaneous	.75
	£68.75

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1981.

J. W. Talbot Esq	£ 82.87
A. T. Branigan Esq	£ 55.00
3 Tp, 11 Sig Regt	£ 35.70
Mrs. H. Doze	£ 25.00
In memory of Maj Aylmer Hort MBE TD	£ 24.00
Reading Branch RSA	£ 20.00
2Lt C. D. McGrory	£ 20.00
In memory of A. T. A. Keepen Esq	£ 10.00
R. N. Hutchings Esq	£ 5.00
In memory of Maj A. J. Mansfield	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 7.20
	£289.57

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

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.

BIRTHS

Costello—Capt Peter Costello and wife **Sharon** wish to announce the birth of their daughter **Samantha Louise**, in BMH Hannover on 13 June.

CONGRATULATIONS

Savage—To **Maj** and **Mrs W. C. Savage** on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 20 July 1981 from all the family.

DEATHS

Benson—SSgt Alan Benson. It is with great regret that we have to report the sudden death of **SSgt Alan Benson** (aged 36) Chief Clerk of SHAPE Signal Support Group who suffered a heart attack on the night of 10 June 1981 whilst at home in the evening. He had worked for two years as Chief Clerk in this large International Group and was due to finish his tour at the end of June. He will be remembered for his cheerfulness and willingness to help everyone who came to him for assistance on matters however trivial. The funeral was held in his home town of Newcastle and was well attended by Officers and members of SHAPE including the Caravan Club and Bowling and Darts League. He is survived by his wife Pauline and two children to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Betton—SSgt H. T. Betton died suddenly on 19 May, aged 38. Harry first joined the TA in September 1959 when he served with 10th (TA) PARA BN for three years. He then served with Royal Signals for nine years in Germany, Singapore, Cyprus and U.K., leaving with the rank of Corporal. Following a period in the reserve he rejoined the TA in October 1976 and served with 48 Squadron of 35 Signal Regt (V). He was quickly promoted, becoming a Sergeant in July 1978 and Staff Sergeant in April 1980. He was buried with military honours at Solihull cemetery on 27 May.

Blaycock—Sig Mark 'Manuel' Blaycock. It is with deep regret that 202 Signal Squadron report the death of **Sig Mark 'Manuel' Blaycock** in a traffic accident. He had been a member of the Corps since October 1978 serving both in BAOR and UK.

Cross—Sig Brian Cross. It is with regret that 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn report the death of Sig Brian Cross as the result of a road traffic accident on 4 July in Lisburn.

Erridge—Robert W. West sadly reports the death of **ex-WO2 Reginald Alfred Erridge** who died on the 31 May 1981 in hospital in Montreal, Canada, aged 68. Enlisting as a boy soldier in 1929, he served throughout the 1939-45 war with 5th Divisional Signals. A Memorial Service was held on Sunday 28 June at Christ Church, Eastbourne.

Green—Maj William Henry Green was born in the London borough of Paddington on 11 January 1902. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers on 16 February 1920 and transferred into the Corps on 27 November 1920. He served in India from 30 December 1920 until 27 April 1929 and again from 11 February 1937 until 1 March 1939. He was commissioned as a Lt (Quartermaster) on 26 February 1941 and served with 38th Divisional Signals until August 1943 when he was posted to Malta. He served with the Malta Command Signals from that month until April 1946 when he returned to the UK and joined 5 AA Group (M) Signal Regt. In November 1948 he returned to the Middle East and remained there until May 1949. He served, as a Captain (Quartermaster), at the Malayan Basic Training Centre FARELF, in Singapore, from October 1951 until August 1954. After briefly returning to the UK on leave he returned to the Middle East and was employed at 156 Transit Camp, MELF until April 1956. He retired from the Corps on 26 September 1956. He died at St Asaph Hospital Clwyd on 15 March.

Hill—Maj Ernest Lynn Hill, MC, DCM was born on 3 October 1889. He enlisted as a soldier into the Royal Engineers and was appointed to a commission, as a 2Lt, in the Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers from 29 November 1914. From his early commissioned service he was employed in signals duties. From May 1915 until October 1917 he served with 28 Divisional Signal Company in Salonika and in October 1917 became Staff Captain in 82nd Infantry Brigade in Southern Russia where he remained until 30 October 1919. On return to the UK he was posted to the 2nd Bn and on 16 August 1922 was seconded for service with the Corps. He served with Southern Command Signal Company from November 1923 and in July 1924 transferred into the Royal Corps of Signals. From February 1929 until December 1933 he served in India with the Signal Training Centre and then B Corps Signals. On return to the UK he was stationed at Catterick Camp until his retirement on 27 July 1935. He was recalled for service at the outbreak of war and was employed with Southern Command Signal Company until he was finally released in September 1940. During the First World War he was awarded the DCM on 28 October 1914 whilst serving in France and Belgium and in January 1919 was awarded the MC for action in Serbia. He was mentioned in despatches four times during the years 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1919. he died on 8 April 1981.

Hort—Maj Aylmer Victor Dyson Hort, MBE, TD was born on 9 November 1897 at Harrow-on-the-Hill. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the RE on 22 March 1917. From July to December 1917 he served with BQ Cable Section, with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. On 8 December 1917 he was wounded in action and did not rejoin for active service until March 1918 when he became OC 179 Inf Bde Signal Section serving with 60 Division in the EEF. In November 1918 until April 1919 he served as OC Maintenance Section, Railway Telegraphs EEF. He was demobilised in June 1919. On 30 November 1921 he was commissioned in the TA for service with 3rd London Corps Signals. On 1 July 1922 he transferred to 56 Divisional Signals TA. He was mobilised on 25 August 1939 and saw service with 4AA Bde Signals, 151 OCTU and then from November 1941 until June 1945 served first as 2IC War Office Signals and then as 2IC and Chief Instructor 1 OTB, Catterick. He was released from the service in June 1945 and died on 15 May.

Jordan—Maj (QM) Edgar Jordan was born on 2 June 1910 at Hastings. He served in the Corps from 22 August 1928 until 8 November 1946 when he was commissioned as a Lt (QM). During this time he saw service in India, Palestine, Middle East and North West Europe. On commissioning he was posted to the Middle East Special Wireless Group where he remained until October 1947. After service in the UK he was posted to 11 Air Formation Signals in September 1957 and to 1 Div Signal Regiment from December 1959 until June 1960. He retired on 1 October 1960.

Mansfield—Maj Albert James Mansfield was born on 30 November 1900 and enlisted into the Royal Berkshire Regiment on 16 December 1918. In 1925 he was transferred into the Supernumerary List for employment with the Indian Signal Corps. He transferred to Royal Signals on 1 July 1927 and was appointed as a 2Lt in the Corps from 15 January 1940. He served in Lucknow District Signals until 10 April 1942 and was then posted to 10 Indian Divisional Signals, in the Middle East in April 1942 and appointed Adjutant. He remained with that unit until 19 September 1943. In January 1944 he returned to the Signal School in India and served there as an Instructor until January 1948. He was released from the service in December 1948. He died suddenly on 24 May 1981.

Matthewson—Maj John Alexander Matthewson enlisted in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers on 19 January 1923 and by 1939 had attained the rank of WO2 (RQMS). He was commissioned into that regiment on 9 December 1939 and joined the 2nd Bn in France. After the evacuation of the BEF he was posted to West Africa where he served with 4 Gold Coast Regiment. He remained with that regiment until August 1944 serving as 2IC and eventually as Commander. In March 1945 he was posted to Austria and became Assistant Camp Commandant of the HQ Allied Commission where he remained until December 1947. On 30 September 1949 he transferred to Royal Signals and served with 3 Trg Regt at Catterick and from April 1955 until September 1959 with HQ AER Royal Signals. He died on 27 March 1981.

Richmond—Sig Stephen Richmond. It is with deep regret that we have to report the tragic death of **Sig Stephen Richmond** of 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L). **Stephen** died during a squadron athletics meeting on 29 April. He was an extremely popular member of the unit and will be missed by all. Our sincere sympathies go to his widow, Sheryl.

Withers—Maj Allan Cuthbert Hamilton Withers was appointed to a Commission as a 2Lt in the TA on 4 July 1936 and joined 44 Home Counties Divisional Signals. He was embodied for service with that until 2 September 1939 and saw service with that unit both in the BEF and in the Middle East. In January 1943 he moved to Eritrea Signals and remained with that unit until May 1944. From May 1944 until March 1945 he was employed as Staff Captain at HQ Palestine and then moved on to India where he saw service with the Allied Forces Staff of HQ Air Command, SEAC. In August 1945 he was appointed OC of 5 (India) Air Formation Signals. In January 1946 he served a three months attachment on the Air Formation Signals staff at HQ BAFSEA and from April 1946 until December 1946 served as SOI Air Formation Signals AIR HQ SEAC. He was retired due to a disability in September 1947. He died on 2 April.

Petty—Maj Robert Henry Petty TD was born at Cloughton, Yorkshire on 28 May 1908 and commissioned as a 2Lt, in the Territorial Army, for service with 1/54th East Anglian Divisional Signals on 12 July 1939. Within a month he was embodied and from September 1939 to June 1940 served with the BEF. From January 1941 to December 1942 he served with Railway Signals, first in the Signal Training Battalion and then as OC 71 Railway Teleg Op Sec, Northern Command. After a brief period in the Signal Training Centre he was employed in North West Europe from February 1944 until March 1947. From June 1947 until October 1951 he served in Germany. From November 1951 until his retirement on 25 May 1960 he served in UK.

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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 40 Branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with employers. It provides all services free. During the period 1 Apr 1980—31 Mar 1981 the Association placed some 4,500 men and women from the Services in employment; of these jobs 1,885 were for men and women from the Army and 202 served in 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.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9.25. Cheques to:-

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Faraway Places... ...Unusual Jobs

TO KENYA TO FIND SNOW

THE TEAM AND THE CONCEPT

Expedition Leader	**2Lt S. P. R. Lowe**
2IC/Accountant	**2Lt M. J. Perry**
Photographic Officer	**2Lt P. A. Brown**
Medical Officer	**2Lt F. J. Connor**
Rations Officer	**2Lt N. D. Couch**
Equipment Officer	**2Lt A. W. T. McComb**

As it is with many good ideas, Samburu Seven was conceived over a quiet drink in the Headquarters Mess on a dark winter evening. The plan was to do some adventure training during the Easter break in our Communication Qualifying course. A 'hard core' of six young officers emerged and planning began in earnest. Having selected Kenya as a likely venue, in true military style we considered our aims. Initially Mount Kenya was discounted as it would be the wrong time of year to attempt any serious climbing. The isolated area of Samburu was chosen and it was decided to attempt seven peaks in the time available—hence the exercise name. With a lot of help in the intricacies of administration, an application was duly submitted to HQ SW District. However, with a month to go, the plan had to be amended as Samburu was out of bounds. Thus the final aims were:- to explore some of the peaks of Mount Kenya, to explore the Loldaiga range of hills to the north of Nanyuki and to give all the officers concerned experience in organising adventure training in a foreign country.

A LATE CHANGE

Preparation had begun earlier, but the last minute change of plans meant a fairly frantic last week. To add to this, the RAF flight was sooner than expected (alas we had to miss an exam) and we were on exercise for the week prior to our departure. Without the help of **Maj Bill Lidster** at this stage, we would never have made it. Our equipment came from everywhere—climbing breeches from Welbeck College, tents and ropes from RMA Sandhurst, water bottles from 30 Sig Regt and sleeping bags from the School of Signals. Time was not available to go through the usual channels. Cash in lieu of rations was decided on for the duration of the exercise, as compo was not available in Kenya. A week's supply of dehydrated rations was invested in, and very wisely, as it turned out. When the possibility of return by a civilian flight became apparent, representation was made to the Corps Fund, who generously agreed to help us out. Without this support, we could not have carried on with our plans.

VC 10 TO NAIROBI

On Sat 11 May, after a farewell cream tea, we set off for RAF Brize-Norton where we spent the night at the Gateway Hotel. The RAF were very helpful and tolerant of the piles of rucksacks and ice-axes. Slightly ruffled at 0400hrs the next morning, we boarded the VC10. The flight was smooth and uneventful and we arrived in Nairobi at 1630hrs local time. We were whisked off through the 'back door' to the British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) compound in Kahawa Garrison. We arrived amidst swarms of Scots Guards preparing for their return to UK. Unfortunately our early arrival caught the staff unawares and we were unable to get all we had asked for immediately. It was decided to disappear onto the mountain for a week and then sort everything out when the dust had settled.

Our departure was delayed, as we discovered that in order to cash our travellers cheques, we needed to have officially entered the country. This entailed a lot of explanation to bemused and slightly sceptical immigration officers, but it was satisfactorily sorted out. After a quick visit to the NAAFI and the purchase of gas supplies in Nairobi, we boarded our four-tonner for the mountains.

THE GOING HARD

Phase I began two miles into Mount Kenya National Park on the Naro Moru Trail. The lorry dropped us off at 8000 feet as the track was impassable and we did an acclimatisation walk up to the Meteorlogical

2Lt Lowe communicating with the 30 Sig Regt Det based in Nairobi. 2Lt Perry giving energetic support

Station lodges at 10,000 feet. This was our first taste of carrying the packs containing food for a week, climbing kit, tents and a radio. With the added effects of altitude we found the going hard. The lodges, when we reached them a few hours later, were very comfortable and we were successful in contacting Nairobi and Eldoret with a dipole on our PRC 320. With buffalo grazing in the clearing in front of us and our first dehydrated meal gone, we felt content.

AN UNCOMFORTABLE DAY

The next day we decided on another acclimatisation walk and set off in glorious sunshine—a mere 1000 feet later one of the team was stricken with severe stomach cramps and vomiting and had to return to the hut. The rest of us pushed up to 12,000 feet, but a very heavy downpour on the 'vertical bog' brought the day to a soggy end. That night, as we dried off in the hut, our Medical Officer performed a minor operation on a neighbouring British tourist's foot. An earlier start was made the next morning to try to avoid the rain. We had just reached the top of the vertical bog when the rain arrived. It was another heavy downpour and noticing signs of exposure an hour later, **2Lt Simon Lowe** decided to call a halt to warm up—so we made soup and donned our HD's. The call for 'packs on' came and almost immediately **2Lt Fred Connor** collapsed with stomach cramp. After managing to gasp that he'd had his appendix out already, he lapsed into semi-consciousness. A tent was rapidly erected over him on a near impossible slope (he kept rolling out) and then **2Lt Phil Brown** and **Mark Perry** went ahead into the Teleki Valley. Fortunately about two miles further was Teleki Hut and in four journeys all the kit and the intrepid Medical Officer were transported to shelter. We cooked supper and settled in for an uncomfortable night at 13,000 feet.

RECUPERATION

Next morning we hung as much as possible out to dry and decided to rest a day to allow people to recuperate. We managed to work to Nairobi on a whip for the first time—keeping them informed of our progress. A recce party went into the valley and found, first MacKinders Camp and then a Rangers Hut. Here we were treated to a cup of hot native porridge by the fireside. They very kindly invited us all to dry off, so we rejoined the others, packed up our kit and moved into the Ranger Station. They had been warned of our arrival—a VHF net is in use by the Nairobi Parks Department. We were able to dry out most of our kit and had an early night in preparation for the next day's climbing.

SNOW

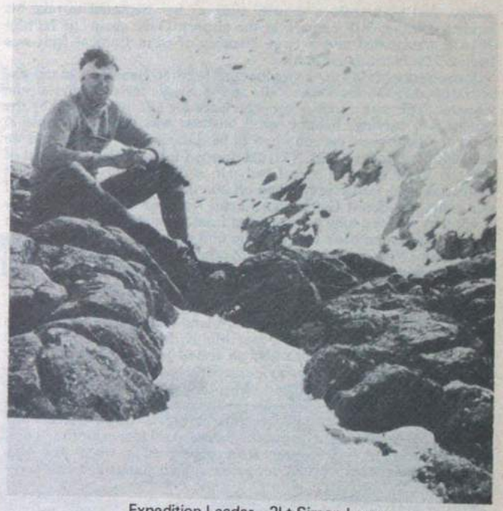
Dawn brought us a stark, beautiful view of the inner peaks of the mountain. We left in good spirits and were halfway up a large moraine before the snow came down. Some trepidation was felt about the accountant's map-reading at this stage, but we struggled on to eventually reach Top hut. The cloud stayed down for the rest of the day and we felt very isolated in our snow-surrounded refuge at 15,000 feet.

Countless brew-ups involving the melting of vast quantities of snow kept us amused. **2Lt Fred Connor** was found to have a secret bar of chocolate, which he eventually agreed to meticulously share out. At mid-afternoon a party of young people reached the hut, which, by now, we had rather monopolised. Most were suffering from being inadequately equipped. We lent them sleeping bags and gave them a hot drink, but they went back down again the same day. That night was very cold, but the sight of the moon above the peaks, enshrouded in a fine mist, was very moving.

THE SUMMIT AND BREATHTAKING BEAUTY

Our assault on Point Lenana (16,355 feet) begun before breakfast on Easter Sunday. It was cloudy on the way up and most of the team had never used ice-axes and crampons before, but all was forgotten on reaching the top. As if by magic the cloud lifted and we were dazzled by the brightness of the sun on the snow—quickly remedied by donning our snow goggles. We were lucky enough to see the phenomena known as 'Bröken spectre'—caused by the projection of one's shadow on to the cloud below. The result is an outline on the cloud, surrounded by a fringe of rainbow—unfortunately attempts to photograph it were unsuccessful. After a series of historic poses on the summit (displaying our Corps flag) and the tricky manipulation of an ageing camera's timing device, we recorded the occasion for posterity. Reluctantly we began the trek down to the hut and our routine breakfast of apple flakes. The views seen on this journey were breathtaking—especially that of the top peaks, Batian and Nellion, towering over the Lewis glacier.

2Lts Connor, Couch, Lowe, McComb and Perry of 18 CQ Course 'Mission Accomplished'



Expedition Leader—2Lt Simon Lowe

THE RAT

With breakfast over, we decided to take advantage of the good weather and push back down to Klarwills Hut in the valley. It was thoroughly enjoyable to be going down instead of up! We stopped briefly at the Ranger's hut to express our gratitude and reached the hut as the daily downpour began. The afternoon was spent experimenting with antennas and chasing hyrax. These are rodents, the size of small dogs, which infest the rocks of the alpine region of the mountain. At first we had been amused by them, but whilst they fought outside the hut we quickly tired of them. Their population growth seems to be unchecked as we saw no evidence of any predators. That night we were to be invaded by a far more sinister beast—a real rat! As we lay on a raised platform, six in a row, **2Lt Mark Perry** felt something walking through his hair. Bravely trying to ignore it, he could no longer restrain himself when it reached his face and he jumped up, shouting. This caused a certain amount of consternation amongst the team and things had just settled down again when **2Lt Neil Couch** jumped up, yelling it was now down his sleeping bag. No evidence was found, but an uneasy night was had by all.

BACK TO NAIROBI

The next day we continued down the mountain, finding the vertical bog just as tiring on the return trip. We reached the Met Station in good time and once again set up the radio to confirm the pick-up timings for the next day. Food had by now run very low and we found ourselves dreaming of real solid foods such as bread, cheese and meat. **2Lt Phil Brown** disappointed us all with his surprising lack of enthusiasm for making the twenty mile journey to the nearest shop! An early start was made the following morning, for the last ten miles down to the Park gates. On the way we saw bongo—a rare species of antelope found only in the bamboo thickets of Mount Kenya and the neighbouring Aberdare Hills. The pick-up time came and went and we started to worry (and feel hungry). Dragging all the radio kit out, we had just set up when (predictably) a British Army Landrover bumped into view. We loaded up and squashed in for a rapid journey to the Naro Moru River Lodge for a huge lunch. Thoroughly bloated, we dozed all the way back to Nairobi.

With the departure of the Scots Guards, Kahawa was deserted. That night we contacted **Capt Joseph Igweta** and **Maj Ask Njoroge**—two Kenyan Signals officers recently at Blandford. They treated us to a very convivial evening at their Mess and left us with an invitation to lunch before our return to UK.

PHASE 2 AND THE EQUATOR

All our kit was ready for collection, including the two landrovers. We spent the day packing and sorting out our requirements. **2Lt Mark Perry's** first run in his landrover to shop in Nairobi was marred only by a flat tyre in the city centre. **2Lt Neil Couch** went one better and was

almost shot by a zealous security man, as he attempted to take his landrover into a VIP carpark at the airport! Once again the faithful NAAFI was visited and a large quantity of fresh tropical fruit was bartered for in the native market.

Early next morning saw us on the road north to Nanyuki. On the way we stopped to see the Thika Falls and to haggle for souvenirs on the Equator. This was a harrowing experience for all, but judging by the quantity of carvings bought, good business was done. Attempts to trade the landrovers for ivory had to be discouraged! At Nanyuki we booked into bandas at the Nanyuki Sports Club, for the only night of the trip to be spent in a real bed. On a disquietingly vague set of instructions the leader and 2IC set off into the bush to search for one of our contacts—**Count Gottie' von Cheki.** An hour later down a dusty track they received only hostile stares from a spear-bearing tribesman and hastily turned back to eventually find the ranch only five minutes from town. With his help and that of other friendly locals in the Club bar that night, we finalised our plans to get to the Loldaigas.

AN ARMED GUIDE

The Loldaiga hills are on private farmland and we were kindly given permission by the manager, Rodney Minns, to camp where we liked and do as we pleased. He provided an armed guide to show us a likely place to start from—this alarmed us a little but apparently there were lion in the vicinity. We pitched camp and made our routine call to Nairobi using a sloping wire with great success. That night we were treated to the full orchestra of an African night—frogs, crickets and baboons filling the air, as we hunched about our large campfire. There was no disappointment shown later that evening when **2Lt Alan McComb's** 'lion roar' turned out to be a moth fluttering against the canvas!

THE HIGHEST FEATURE

The next day four of us set off for Black Rock—the highest feature in the western range. The morning was bakingly hot as we followed the ridge. Along the way we saw zebra, eland, impala, a large eagle and the ever present baboons. A large lion print in the sand did not go unnoticed! We reached Black Rock by mid-afternoon, but 50 feet from the peak the heavens opened and the close proximity of the lightning stopped our conquest. Our return journey was lengthened, as we crossed the ridge into the valley for a closer look at some of the erosion features. We did not recognise the guard party as we came into camp—they had fallen asleep in the sun and all that could be seen of them was the whites of their eyes. Needless to say they suffered a few rather uncomfortable nights!

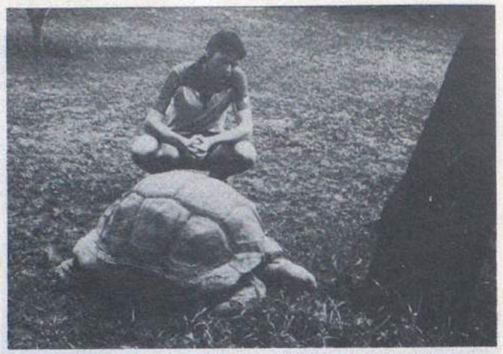
We decided to cross over to the western ridge the following day and having established camp, a walking party went out. On their way they saw warthog and kudu. That night we cooked maize on an open fire—it was enjoyed by some, more than others. By now we felt that we had exhausted the opportunities of the Loldaigas and on the advice of a local farm planned to follow the East African Safari Rally route to Lake Baringo.

A SUPERB DRIVE

No maps were available for this superb drive, so we went from farm to farm using hand sketched maps. At every halt we were very hospitably received—notably so by **Mike Littlewood** of Mpala Farm and **Jim Colderwell** of Colceccio Estates. The route was rough and bumpy involving long periods of four wheel drive, deep river crossings and a torrential downpour (during which of course we had to dig out our bogged in vehicle). We saw giraffe, ostrich, a tortoise and a variety of antelope. The tribespeople appeared untouched by civilisation—wrapped in bright blankets, carrying spears and tending their herds. We arrived at the Lake in the evening and set up our camp in the dark. The early morning sun on the lake woke us up. Fishermen in traditional wooden canoes were already out—catching the delicious tilapia which we were to sample later. We spent the day walking along the shore of the lake and finished off with a swim and a meal at the Safari Lodge. That night we saw native dancers from the local tribe performing their pre-battle work out. We were glad not to have to face them after that!

THE MENANGAI CRATER

Nakuru was our next stop. We spent the morning re-supplying in the town. In the afternoon we went up to the Menangai Crater—a huge basin with steam gushing from fissures in the thick green vegetation. The customary downpour on the return trip turned the track into a raging torrent, which caused a considerable amount of excitement. After a brief stop at the Rift Valley Sports Club to see an old friend of **2Lt Mark Perry** we set up our camp on the shores of Lake Nakuru—famous for its flamingoes. Unfortunately during the rainy season they all migrate, but we did see a lot of antelope, pelicans, cormorants and nearly came to grief with a warthog which dashed onto the track.



Doctor Doolittle (2Lt Brown) 'talks to the animals'

KILIMANJARO

Our next plan was to get to Kilimanjaro. This entailed a four hundred mile drive south through Nairobi to the Masai Amboseli Game Reserve, on the Tanzanian border. We stopped at the Namanga border post and discovered the value of one's clothing when trying to get souvenirs cheaply from the local people! We reached the game reserve in the early evening and the sight of snow-capped Kilimanjaro towering over the flat dusty plain, filled with grazing game, was awe-inspiring. An hour later we reached the campsite and set up amidst dire warnings of the dangers of elephant and monkeys. Although we saw a lot of elephant, none ever bothered us. The same was not true of the monkeys—even with all six of us by the tent they would be looking for opportunities to steal food. An important discovery here was that for a small fee we could use the facilities of the Safari Lodge and so were able to swim and have a decent meal. During the next two days we saw a lot of game, including lion, elephant and wildebeest. The mountain is on the other side of the border which was unfortunately closed at the time. **2Lt Phil Brown** and **Mark Perry** travelled to the border town of Oloitikitok to see if anything could be arranged, but there was no way round. On their way back they performed a dramatic rescue of seven Swiss tourists whose vehicle had crashed while trying to avoid an elephant. They were duly rewarded with a night's free drinks at the hotel.

AND BACK TO BLANDFORD

Time was running out and we reluctantly left this picturesque place to travel by a different route back to Nairobi—passing on the way many of the still proudly primitive Masai warriors. Having missed lunch, we spent the evening saying goodbye to the Kenyan officers and their families. The next morning we handed in our kit—miraculously we had not had a single loss or breakage. We each had to make up a large parcel to send kit back to ourselves by post, as the civilian airline baggage allowance is not as generous as that of the RAF. The afternoon was spent shopping and sight-seeing in Nairobi and that night we had an excellent meal at the best hotel in the city. Unfortunately this left us a little short to pay for the taxis to the airport, but a quick bartering session solved this problem. All went smoothly on the return journey with Kenya Air and in no time at all we were back in Blandford—disappointingly only a day late for the last three weeks of our course.

Exercise *Samburu Seven* was the first of its kind and fairly ambitious. However, all aims were successfully achieved. In this achievement a lot of work was done by people not necessarily directly involved, for which we would like to express our gratitude. To be given the opportunity for such freedom and adventure while still on a young officers course was a real privilege.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

INFANTRY ROLE

The recent deaths of the hunger strikers has seen an increase in tension in 3 Bde area. Like other units the Sqn has been called upon to supply men to act in the infantry role. Of the many operations undertaken two stand out particularly. Firstly, a composite R Signals and RPC platoon was sent down to reinforce 5 INNIS DG. While there they were involved in patrolling and PVCP's along the Monaghan border. The advent of heli-teli for Newry saw a task force deployed to back it up. The ground forces ably led by **Sgt Perkins** had the comfort of knowing they had the eagle eyes of **Cpls Innes** and **Bradbury** R Signals, plus **Cpl Spicer** and **Pte Head**, RPC all to provide top cover.

Cpl Bob Innes and LCpl Howard Bradbury return from providing top cover

LIFE GOES ON

Despite our role as the combat ready shock troops of the 3 Div (oops), Bde, training to fulfil the more normal role of the Sqn continues. Under the critical eye of **SSgt Ricketts** the pace has been stepped up on BFTs. **Cpl Mick O'Brien** RPC points out the objective to a bemused **Pte Baldry** during military skills continuation training. **Sig Andy Cooper** keeps close guard on one of our few C42's against attack by rival Sqns while **Sig Jimmy Salkeld** secures a 200 ft mast against pick pockets.

VIEW FROM THE HOLE

Now that **Sgt Keith Bradley** has departed from our midst to other shores, **Cpl (Walt) Disney** has finally found himself a place in the 'Hot Seat'. Driving himself to a frenzy organising the Commcen to a self imposed place of work. Is there a psychiatrist in the house?

Our latest new arrival is **LCpl Phil Maden**, vice our very own **Sig (Salty) Saxton**, who is doing part time in Catterick.

The shift work in the Commcen has had a big change recently (big idea from the man in the chair). Seven men on days, two on nights with a booster in between. It has suffered a lot of antagonism, but we have all finally accepted the idea, that is except for the other half, i.e. **Cpl (Tubs) Cornwall** and **LCpl (Fish) Griffiths,** who feel that they are entitled to a supplementary benefit or at least time off, to go water skiing, and pulling the bar pump.

Cpl Mark Harvey, LCpl Howard Bradbury, Sig Jimmy Salked, Sig Ian Tomkinson prepare to move out

Cpl Mick O'Brien RPC making a point to Pte Baldry RPC

The adjoining workshops **Cpl (Luke Skywalker) Lucas** and **Cpl Marty Ormerod** are still doing their emergency runs down to Bessbrook to keep the WRAC (Commcen manning) happy with the vitals of life, with the escort volunteer, every time, **Sig John Thorp.**

HI THERE

The Sqn welcomes **Capt Danny McConnell, Lt Kalvin Owen** and **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden** to our ranks, hope you enjoy the stay.

Sig Andy Cooper with C42 in background

Sig Jimmy Salkeld hanging around

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. W. H. Roberts**
2IC	**Capt R. Baxter**
Admin Officer	**Capt R. A. Ross**
QM	**Capt G. W. E. Hope**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt A. L. Pearce**
MTO	**Lt J. W. Clark**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) McGerty**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) C. Bachelor**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) D. C. Lister**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) D. T. Hancox**
ORSQMS	**SSgt (ORSQMS) J. T. Crooks**

OPERATIONAL ROUND UP

Life in this ancient city has been rather violent over the last two months. The hunger strikers have pursued their fast to its ultimate conclusion, bringing in their wake destruction and violence on a scale not seen in Londonderry since the early seventies. The escalation in violence is not restricted to Londonderry itself, but covered the whole of the Brigade area; shootings, bombings and funeral processions became common occurrences in the Province. The funerals of hunger strikers **Pattsy O'Hara** and **Francis Hughes,** brought many thousands of sympathisers on to the streets of Londonderry and Bellaghy. The normal para military entourage accompanied the coffins and there was the familiar symbolic firing of weapons over the graves.

Comd's Rover Group and the Hele-Tele mobile crew relax while Francis Hughes is buried ½ mile away in Bellaghy. L-R: Sgt Hall, Pte Stanley, Lt Pearce, Pte Carrick, Cpl Salkeld, LCpl Temple, Cpl Brunning and Sig Haynes

The considerable workload that violence creates, also necessitated the Signal Squadron providing contingency forces at Strabane PVCP, Magherafelt and within the city itself. Although life has been somewhat arduous, the squadron's morale has maintained its high level, and was given considerable boost with the successful killing of two terrorists and capture of a third by a 'Lone Soldier' in Londonderry. Numerous communications requirements have kept TM and Comms Tps extremely busy, installing town schemes, Hele-Tele and rebroadcast stations in remote and dangerous areas.

One notable success during the squadron's tour, occurred during a riot incident, when local youths built a barricade across the Lifford Bridge. A quick snatch operation over the barricades, revealed that a man arrested was an On The Run (OTR) Terrorist, who has now been sent for trial. All in all the squadron performed well, under circumstances which were not only unusual but very demanding.

HELE-TELE SUCCESS

It is during situations such as we have been experiencing, that one begins to appreciate the capabilities of the various equipments currently in use in the province. Hele-Tele for instance, has often provided valuable monitoring facilities for commanders who are divorced from situations on the ground.

GREEN BRICKS

Another important contingency, which has been performed by the squadron, was the provision of eight men to act as escorts for emergencies across the city. The Green Bricks as they are known, are often deployed at short notice, to provide cover for the various situations which occur. It was after a recent shooting incident in the Shantallow estate, that **Cpl Bill McCue, LCpls Thomo Thompson, Foley** and **Glaister** were ordered to secure a helicopter landing site in the Shantallow. With the minimum of delay, they deployed to the area and secured a temporary landing site for the evacuation of RUC casualties. Their prompt action earned the sincere thanks from the local Police Superintendent and once again proved the diversity of tasks that the squadron has been called upon to provide.

RUC HELICOPTER COMMS

The ability of the helicopter to monitor incidents, has led to the RUC requesting its usage for their own particular operations. This entailed the provision of radio communications between the RUC and the helicopter without the necessity of purchasing additional equipment. The technical brains of the squadron, under **WO2 (FofS) Colin Bachelor** and **SSgt George Fotheringham,** devised another 'Black Box' to interface the existing RUC Double frequency system to larkspur equipment. The end result has proved successful, with the RUC now controlling the helicopter direct from their own operations room.

MAGILLIGAN

Even though time is at a premium, there is still a necessity to practice our military skills, upon which we all depend. We have just completed our annual Magilligan training under the able eye of **WO1 (RSM) McGerty** where all members of the squadron have completed a 24hr period of military skills, culminating in an all night endurance march/swim across the peat bogs. Included were first aid casualties, rope crossings and abseiling. **Cpl Read** led the winning section, proving that even D Tgs are fit and militarily proficient.

TUDOR TROPHY

A five-a-side football competition was fitted in on a Saturday in April and was won by Research Office who beat Bde HQ in the final. The RMP beat the old Timers of SHQ into second place for the Plate.

MOURNE MOUNTAIN

22 Miles in 10hrs up and down the Mourne Mountains was what **Lt Jim Clark, Cpl Brunning** and **LCpl Elliott** completed. A hard course from which many lesser mortals were evacuated by helicopter, after suffering from exhaustion and hypothermia.

CONTINGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

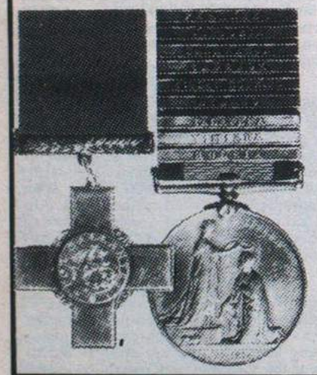
Over the past weeks there have been several redeployments of units and communications within the Brigade area. One such redeployment, involved the provision of a secure rebroadcast station to extend the Brigade Command Net into Magherafelt. Unlike BAOR, where the dreaded 'Cam Up' or 'Stand To', is answered with a barrage of adjectives, in Northern Ireland an appreciation of defence is realised by all. With an obvious personal concern, the rebroadcast crew of **Cpl Bill McCue, Sigs Ginge Bloomer, Nigel Harris, Steve Armstrong** and **Dave Crossland,** under the lofty eye of **Sgt Nobby Hall**, dug in with enthusiasm. At an eventual depth of nearly six foot, 'Grave' doubts, about the ability to retrieve oneself, were echoing around the station. Nevertheless, an excellent defensive position was established, for a situation that was fraught with dangerous possibilities. It goes without saying, of course, that communications were successful throughout the four day period. In addition, our Mobile Talkthrough vehicle, manned by Sigs **Pete Primarolo** and **Nigel Harris,** was deployed to provide communications for the 1 A and SH during rioting in Swatragh. The village became, for a day, a no-go area, with 7 barricades of hijacked and burnt out buses with 1 A & SH being tasked to clear the routes. Our brave team were the third vehicle into the village, providing continuous UHF Pocket Phone coverage, and were heavily stoned for their efforts, whilst all the Infantry were in Armd 'Pigs'. A brave and gallant performance.

The OC about to shoot the MTO on Sanger duty at Strabane

STRABANE PVCP

Owing to the increase in activity throughout the Brigade area, manpower was sought from support units, to assist the Infantry in various roles. One such role was the manning of the vehicle check point (VCP) in Strabane. This placed considerable burden on manpower, but the persuasive talents of **Lt Jim Clark** and **RSM McGerty** mustered sufficient 'volunteers' to complete the eighteen man task. During their tour of duty they were confronted with several harrassing situations. At one stage, the base was totally surrounded by H-Block demonstrators, who were far from friendly. What with petrol bombing, barricading of roads and the usual verbal abuse, the men conducted themselves with commendable restraint.

Unfortunately, **LCpl Dougie Foley,** whilst driving an Armoured 'Pig' in Strabane, sustained burns to his face from a petrol bomb, which exploded through the window slats of the vehicle. We are pleased to report, however, that **LCpl Foley** has recovered from his injury, and is back on duty with MT, no doubt better off for the financial compensation he is hoping for!



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

OPERATIONS

Followers of this column will no doubt be only too aware of the heightened activity of operations in Northern Ireland in general, and in Belfast in particular, during April and May. Needless to say the squadron was heavily involved in all aspects of operations, including deploying communications for four regular battalions in the city, receiving a Spearhead battalion, setting up two new battalion TAORs with the necessary radio and operations room facilities, as well as supplying reinforcements in an infantry role (a total of 56 men at our most stretched period). At the same time we have absorbed the Maze Prison into the TAOR; its Army Guard Force is now under command of 39 Brigade and their communications are our responsibility.

REINFORCEMENTS

Over the period of 23—27 May there was serious rioting in Toomebridge with several vehicles being hijacked and set on fire, and continued harrassment of the local police station in the form of petrol bombing, bricking and bottling. The assistance of the Army was called for and, as no regular infantry could be spared from Belfast, the squadron was tasked to provide three 'bricks' and an officer to guard RUC Toome. This has, in past years, been a commitment for a full infantry platoon. Initially under the leadership of **Lt Colin Lawrence**, and later **Sgt Stan Taylor**, our 12 defenders remained deployed until 15 May. Their deterrence was effective, for apart from some 'Black Flag' marches and some minor 'aggro' there was no real trouble at Toomebridge during the difficult time. Communications for this ad hoc force were basic—lovers of Larkspur will be pleased to know that the A41 is alive and well and has been working in RUC Toome!

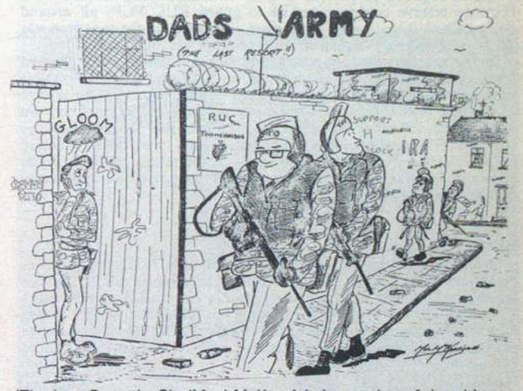
As the situation worsened we were called upon on 1 May to reinforce the roulement company base at North Howard Street Mill with 4 'bricks' as well as to take over the responsibility for guarding Hastings Street RUC Station. Various duties were undertaken including foot patrols, sangar guards, escorts for administrative details, control of street barriers and guards for various sapper tasks. Excerpt from **LCpl Gary Shepherd's** Sangar log:

Time: 1945. Event: At the time stated I was informed by a usually reliable local source that I was a 'Brit b.....d'. Remarks: I returned his kindly remarks and asked him to go away. 2010: 2 x Youths observed filling a bottle with petrol but could not set light to it! They eventually smashed the bottle in disgust and went away in a huff.

On 4 May a further four 'bricks' were deployed to the Woodbourne Company for similar duties. Our support to West Belfast was maintained until the first week of June. These duties were undertaken by all concerned with great spirit, despite cramped and unpleasant conditions, and many messages of thanks and congratulations for a job well done were subsequently received.

COMMUNICATIONS

As the unit deployed its 'bricks' in the infantry role, the rest of the squadron swung into a roulement system of working. Leave was cancelled, operations went onto a 2-way shift system whilst technicians and installation teams worked round the clock to produce the required results. 3 RRF, the Palace Barracks resident battalion, was given its own TAOR based on Woodbourne base. This required us to re-site a battalion's worth of talkthroughs, to build a complete battalion headquarters operations room, to furnish two additional company headquarters and shortly after to provide a telegraph link with operators. All this was carried out amidst petrol bombing, bricking and general 'aggro' of a level not seen for many years. The Spearhead battalion, 1 RRW, was deployed following eight hours notice to move. In this time we activated the Spearhead accommodation at Moscow Camp (cleverly rehearsed in our ARU earlier this year!) This required a full installation of the Operations Room, even including Heli-Tele, with associated line and communications. The battalion had been alloted a TAOR in the City Centre, which required the deployment of a full talkthrough suite. At the same time, talkthroughs of other units previously employed there had to be resited in their new areas. In addition, a full battalion communications brief was carried out. Reinforcements to all battalions were made, not only using elements of



'The Last Resort'—Sig 'Mac' McKenzie's impression of the ultimate defence of RUC Toomebridge—a four-man 'brick' comprised of the RQMS, TOT, QM and Admin Officer!

Sig Ian Garrity on surveillance duty at RUC Hastings Street

LCpl 'Shep' Shepherd covering movement in the Divis Flats area

the Spearhead battalion, but also 'ad hoc' platoons of clerks, storemen and the like-all of which required additional radio. Brigade reserve companies were formed with a 'go anywhere' role; those who are familiar with the limitations of fixed-frequency pocketphones can imagine the ensuing communicators' nightmare. The solution was to overlay a grid of UHF interfaces on top of the battalion systems, and by some clever throwing of switches reserve companies could be brought up on to any one of the four battalion multi-control command nets. Telephones become a problem; extra lines were put in to the new company operations rooms at very short notice. At North Howard Street Mill, accommodating four companies at one stage, a C41 link was established in a co-operative venture with 233 Sig Sqn in order to provide extra lines.

At midnight on the day before Sand's funeral, we suddenly found ourselves required to provide a rural communications scheme for a Province reserve company tasked to guard RUC VCPs all around Belfast City—this at a time when every single man in the squadron was deployed! Needless to say an effective solution was found.

As the security situation returned to its normal 'acceptable' Belfast level, and additional troops were withdrawn, the squadron continued to work round the clock to re-establish our original systems. Our reserve equipment is now back on the Quartermaster's shelves having been fully tested. Throughout this difficult time the Brigade had no significant communications problems, and we never allowed communications to become any sort of limitation to deployment planning. Our various contingency measures have now been fully tested and have been proved highly effective.

HELI-TELE

Heli-Tele airborne stations are now all held in Lisburn, which potentially allows better management and response to faults. **Cpl Bill Smith**, our resident Heli-Tele technician is now looking for a bigger workshop! The new system was proven in mid-May when we flew sorties in all 3 Brigade areas on consecutive days. A change of long-range antenna has been undertaken at Lisburn, with a little help from a Scout helicopter.

Replacing a long-range Heli-Tele antenna on a 120' mast—Rigger Sig 'Chris' Spendiff, with Sig 'Paddy' Gibbons hiding behind the aerial base!

LCpl 'Kev' Martin checks in an RWF 'brick' at North Howard Street Mill

THE ARRIVAL OF PIGLET

At last the Belfast armoured landrover has arrived! OC A Troop, **Capt Lance Bryne**, has been seen rubbing his hands with glee over his new toys, which are now used by Rover Group, and shortly will equip Combat Section. A commercial radio fit and other required 'extras' has been designed and installed by **Sgt 'Shaft' Mogg** and **Cpl 'Apache' Martin.**

The 'Piglet' and its trials team—*Left to right*—LCpl 'Jacques' Boroway, Cpl 'Apache' Martin, Capt 'Lance' Bryne, Sgt 'Shaft' Mogg

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GCHQ

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sport, regrettably, has taken a back place. Unfortunately the 'troubles' forced us to withdraw our team for the UKLF orienteering Championships, for which we were amongst the favourites for the minor units award.

We offer our congratulations to **LCpl Tim Timby**, who has been awarded a Royal Signals Institution Prize for attainment in trade training. We have raised some £250 for the 'Save the Children Fund' through a Wives' Club 'sponsored slim' and sponsorship of five soldiers who ran in the Army Marathon in April at RAF Swinderby. The 'slimmers' were **Mrs Bridget Crowfoot, Mrs Lesley Taylor, Mrs Joyce Walker, Mrs Denise Chatterton, Mrs Doreen Jones** and **Mrs Jenny Gunn.** Other runners were **Cpl 'Pip' Piper, Cpl Geoff Biss, Cpl Steve Bland** and **Cpl 'Strings' Stringer** and **Dvr Doug Fairbanks.**

LCpl 'Tim' Timby receives his Royal Signals Institution Prize from CR Signals, Lt Col R. F. Maynard MBE

'Save the Children' Fund raising—the Wives Club Sponsored Slimmers and the Squadron Marathon Runners. Holding cheques are Cpl 'Strings' Stringer, Mrs Marion Allan (Area Save the Children Organiser), and Mrs Karin Munnery

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

GREAT SADNESS

April, May and June have been busy months for the squadron, operationally and socially. It was during this period that we were very sad to hear of the death of **Andrea Mowforth,** wife of **Cpl Stu Mowforth** of Comms Tp, after a short illness in hospital. The whole squadron sends its sympathy to **Cpl Mowforth** who is now serving with 908 Signal Troop.

OPERATION 'YONDER'

During April and May, several inmates of HM Prison Maze decided to enter the Slimmer of the Year Competition, and the upsurge in violence which resulted from their deaths put pressure on the infantry currently in the Province. To try and relieve some of this pressure, the squadron found a platoon's worth of manpower to take over some of the infantry's tasks in and around Belfast. On Tues 5 May, 38 men from all parts of the squadron were hastily kitted-out with riot equipment by the RQMS's department and sent out to their new homes for the next three and a half weeks. For some it was 'move directly to jail, do not pass go, do not collect £200' for they were to guard the Crumlin Road Jail. Twelve others went to two of the segment gates in Belfast city centre. These gates control pedestrian access to the city's main shopping centre. The two gates for which we were responsible are overlooked by the notorious Divis Flats, and it was at one of these that a soldier of 1 RRF was killed earlier this year. The gates are considered too dangerous for the normal civilian search teams and so the job of frisking the shoppers is done by a team of four soldiers and a female searcher from the WRAC. Six more men went to the Divis Mountain Comms Site—as guards rather than communicators!

CONTINGENCY ROLE

No sooner were these men deployed, than the order came to deploy our contingency comms to some SF bases in Belfast, requiring a further 10 men. As it became clear that these commitments were going to last for more than the few days we had originally planned for, a system of admin runs was established, and to ensure that the men did not get too tired or complacent, they were rotated between the locations. This was done at night, which was incidentally when the violence in West Belfast was at its highest. However despite the time when the SSM's landrover broke down in a not very pleasant area, all went well. In fact there were always too many volunteers to go on these admin runs, just to get out of the office! Meanwhile back in the squadron, the troops had to continue with the work: for most this meant two way shifts; for others, a change of employment: several of the girls from Sierra Troop joined the squadron office, the RQMS's department and MT to help out with the work, and they proved to be invaluable.

WAR STORIES

Inevitably from such events there are always some stories, such as: Little old lady to soldier on a segment gate: 'Lovely day isn't it?' Soldier, absent-mindedly: 'What the hell's it got to do with you!' or the time when **Sig 'Ratso' Atkinson** was minding his own business and was attacked by a drunken woman—that's his story, anyway, or seems that **Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke** from Commcen Tp has gone off ground-glass sandwiches ever since that nice lady gave him one whilst he was on duty, or why did the Admin Officer, **Capt Len Jeffery,** always come back smiling when he'd been to make sure the wives who were left behind were all right? Finally, nobody escaped from the Crumlin Road Jail while we were there!

Cpl 'Shaky Shaun' Kirk and his C41 vehicle set up in North Howard St Mill SF base

Meanwhile back in camp the RQMS's department take a break! WO2 (RQMS) Mick Longstaff, LCpl Kelly Pitt-Kirby, Sgt 'Sandy' Sanderson, and Pte Mo Lees

ADMIN TROOP

Despite the busy time we've had, there are still goodies and baddies:

GOODIES

Sgt Phil Cotton	—He organised the Squadron Safe & Skilled Driving Competition—which Admin Troop won.
LCpl 'Lofty' Marshall	— Congratulations on your marriage to **Pte Denise Thomas.**
Sig 'Maggot' Lindsay	—Congratulations on your marriage to **LCpl 'Taff' Jones** (they're inseparable).
Cpl Mick Arnold **LCpl Kev Baxter**	—Best of luck to you and your wives on your respective postings.

BADDIES

Sig 'Lofty' Blackledge	—A £70 phone bill for four days—you must be lonesome!
Sig Roy Shalliker	—Who got the worst score on the Highway Code, then?

COMMCEN TROOP

FAREWELL YEOMAN

On Thurs 26 March, the troop gathered in the Peake Inn to wish **WO1 (YofS) Andy Locke** and his wife **Sandra** farewell on their posting to 1 Signal Group. The function took the form of a cheese and wine supper and was well supported by all members of the troop and many wives. A small impromptu cabaret was presented from within the troop in the form of a recitation by **Sig Derek (Pam Ayres) Lever,** aptly titled 'An Ode to a Yeoman'. **Sgt Barry Dawson** and his 'Diddy Men' followed with a rendering of Whistling Jack Smith. Finally, **Sgt John Hodkin** produced an 'action replay' on a day in the life of a Yeoman. The main props for this act was a very large 'In' tray and an even larger waste bin. He was ably supported by many members of the troop all playing the parts of aspiring Yeomen or would-be basketball internationals (or possibly both). At the end of the evening, the OC Troop, **Capt Dave Tunmore,** presented both **Sandra** and **Andy** with a silver salver and an engraved carriage clock. He joined everyone present in wishing them every success in Tidworth.

WELCOME YEOMAN

We welcome into the fold **WO1 (YofS) Joe Farndon,** (fresh and suntanned from an unaccompanied tour in the Oman) and his wife **Avril.** We wish you both well in your tour with us here in Northern Ireland.

SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION

On Sat 30 May the squadron held its second Safe Driving Competition, which took the form of a series of manoeuvring exercises within the confines of the unit lines. Our team of intrepid 'rallyists' were **WCpl Kim Neale, Cpl 'Jenks' Jenkins** and **Cpl John Gibson.** A fine effort was made and the team produced a credible second place and **Jenks Jenkins** a well earned individual second position. A certain amount of derision was noted on the arrival of **Kim Neale** to the 'area of battle', however in the final result she managed to beat 13 other (male) competitors. Well done **Kim.**

VICTOR TROOP

McKELVIE TROPHY

The McKelvie Trophy is awarded annually to the troop which gains the most points in the various inter-troop sports held throughout the year. Victor Troop have just won the trophy for the second year running, despite close competition from Tech Tp. The troop went into the hockey and basketball competitions as possible favourites, but only managed third place in the hockey, and due to some dubious tactics by Tech Troop's **Cpl Billy Allen,** came second in the basketball—not too good a start. However, they then came second in the squash and won both volleyball and badminton. At this stage there was little in it between Victor and Tech, and fifth place for Victor in the rugby closed the gap even more. But a win in the football and a second place in the athletics assured Victor's overall lead. All members of the troop deserve congratulations for this achievement—well done lads.

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND MARRIAGES

We welcome to the troop **Sgts Alan 'Silver Fox' Hill** and **Paul Hartley, Cpl Steve Bush, LCpl Paul Rowden, WLCpl Pam Fielding, Pte Mary Whitehouse** and **Sig 'Bullet Hulme.** We wish them all a happy tour. We would like to say farewell to **Sgt Dave Morris** on his way to civvy street and **Cpl Barney Stephens** who is joining the Intelligence Corps.

Congratulations to **Cpl Andy Hill** on his recent marriage to **Pte Vicky Bruce.**

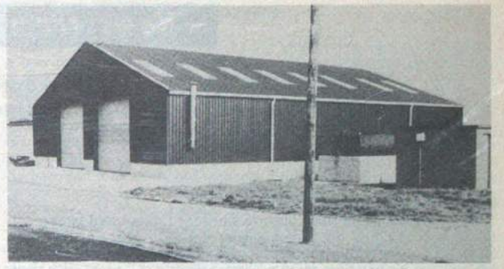
COMMS TROOP

NEW TRANSMITTER BUILDING

The troop's HF section is proud to announce the opening of its new premises. With new equipment coming for use on our DCN link to the mainland, an extension was planned for our existing transmitter building. But as these things have a habit of doing, the project grew and grew and now we have a brand new building complete with not only a transmitter hall, but also a workshop, office, rest room and training room. What luxury! The latter will prove very useful as it is intended to centralise all morse training in one place, not only for RTGs but also for Combat Radiomen who want to convert to Radio Operator. All we need now are the new transmitters, to be fully operational in the new building.

NEW GARAGES

As if one new building wasn't enough we also took possession of our new garages. The story is told by Combat Powerman **LCpl 'Nasa' Benson:** 'In Jan 1980, when I first arrived in the troop, there was an open space opposite the troop office which was muddy and covered with



At last, the Comms tp garage is ready!

bricks and planks. 'That' I was told, 'is your new garage'. However it still looked like an open space to me. 'Ah well, you see', came the explanation, 'the company that was building it went bankrupt and now we're waiting for a new contractor'. And that, I thought, was that. Some months later I went on my B1 course, and lo and behold when I returned in November there was this giant skeleton of a building. Even more exciting, there were workmen swarming all over it. Over the next few months it all took shape, and despite such minor setbacks as the doors being too low to get the vehicles in, we eventually took the building over. Just in time too, because it was PRE time!

PS Could somebody please come and fix the 16 ton vehicle hoist?'

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Taking advantage of a few days off over the Easter weekend, a get-away-from-it-all trip was organised to Ballykinler, an Army Camp on the southern coast of the Province. The party mostly consisted of members of Comms Troop with some WRAC girls from the squadron. The weather was kind and this contributed to a great weekend for all. All sorts of activities were arranged including canoeing and riding, and an enjoyable games evening with the resident unit, the Royal Scots. The high point, however, was the barbecue held on the last night. **Sgt 'Sandie' Sanderson** cooked a splendid feast (not bad for a tech storeman!). The whole event was repeated several weeks later for the benefit of some Belfast children, and was an equal success, due very much to the help given by the UDR and the Royal Scots.

COMINGS AND GOINGS, UPS AND DOWNS

Comms Troop congratulates **Cpl Gary Lee** and **LCpls Stevie Harrison** and **Steve Feeney** on their recent promotions. Welcome to **Sgts 'Cass' Cassidy** and **Lee Searle, Cpls Jock Waldron** and **John Muir,** and **Sig Matt Laird.** and farewell to **Sgt Dougie Scott, LCpl Mark Scholfield, Sig Steve Webster** and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith.**

SPRING SOCCER SEASON

Report by SSgt Chris Stone

Since Christmas the Squadron Soccer Squad has enjoyed considerable success in the Minor Units Cup, Major Units Cup, and of course the Minor Units League. Starting with the Minor Units Cup, '233' won the Northern Ireland section by beating 26 Sqn RCT thus reaching the quarter-finals of the UK section. This was played in Aberdeen against the Scottish Infantry Depot. After leading 2—0 at half time the squadron finally succumbed to a fitter team by 4 goals to 2. The major units Cup was one competition we entered with not a little apprehension, and in the first round we were drawn at home against the Argylle and Sutherland Highlanders.

After several attempts to get the game played (delayed by waterlogged pitches and operational commitments) we finally played on a rather sticky Wallace Park, with the surprise result of 233—8, A & SH—0. Round two, however, saw us drawn away to 1 UDR in Ballymena. Here we lost by 4 goals to 1 after we had squandered three of the best chances of the game. Moving on to the League, which this season was split into two sections to cut down on travelling and games, thus giving all teams the chance to complete their league fixtures. This culminated in a two-leg play-off between the winners of the sections. After a very successful run which resulted in only one defeat in our programme we won our section of the League. Unfortunately, in the play-offs, the bubble burst and we were comprehensively beaten by a very good 33 Sqn RE (pride forbids me to publish the scores). Player of the Year: **Cpl Stu Mowforth,** Leading scorer: **LCpl Jimmy McLachlan**

THE LAST WORD

We are a bit worried about a 1771 claim from **Sig 'Sandy' Beach** for a '£4 birth'. Will this make medical history?

—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Before departing on block leave in April the College said farewell, in fitting style, to both the Commandant and the RSM. **Col Ryan** has opted for the doubtful pleasures of civilian life whilst **WO1 Connors** IG has rejoined his battalion prior to commissioning. All ranks wish them and their families the very best of good fortune for the future.

Our new Commandant, **Col G. C. Verdon OBE,** comes to this wind swept heath direct from the School of Signals and was, on one of our better days, heard to complain about the cold. The RSM joins us from an even more sun drenched Caterham. However they both braved the elements, in shirt sleeve order, for a brief session with the College photographer and then spent the rest of the day hammering back their goose pimples. We wish them both a very happy and successful tour here in the College.

Col G. C. Verdon OBE and WO1 (RSM) L. F. A. Bailey COLDM GDS survey their new empire

PERMANENT STAFF FOOTBALL

Under the careful guidance of **Maj Bob Peake** and **SSgt Dave Nixon,** the College permanent staff soccer team had a very successful 1980-81 season. It was decided from the very beginning that apprentices would not be used to stiffen the side and this gave us a chance to show off some of our more experienced, and aged, talent. In defence, **Lt Col McMahon** (RAEC), the senior player in the side, used his experience to help to prevent too many goals against. He received plenty of assistance and occasional advice from **Sgt Dave Aldous, Sgt Dave Arnot, Sgt 'Tep' Tepielow** and **Cpl Terry Lofthouse** whose combined total experience is considerable, to say the least. Our midfield stars did their fair share of work. **SSgt Kevin Greef** (APTC) and **Sgt 'Mac' McCarthy** combined experience with fitness and agility and **Cpl 'Ginger' Turnbull** never failed to make the opposing forwards aware of his presence. Up front three black flashes **Cpls Tous Cameron, Chalky Atkins** and **Pte Chalky Thorpe** (ACC) scored over 40 goals between them and frequently baffled opposing defences with their speed, ball control and anticipation. **LCpl Kev Robinson's** speed and power of shot gave us considerable punch on the left and **Sgt Stevie Owen** and **Cpl Pete Wathey** were reliable and versatile substitutes. Last, but probably most important, goalkeeper **LCpl Ray Iddles** improved consistently throughout the season and made several vital saves at crucial moments.

The N E District Cup Final was played against the King's Div Depot in wintry conditions at Topcliffe and fitness and stamina brought eventual success when **Cpl Tous Cameron** scored the winner in extra time. In the quarter final of the Army Minor Units Cup we lost to the Scottish Div Depot, who went on to reach the Army Final.

Several memorable pep talks from **Maj Bob Peake** helped to maintain morale and motivation, **SSgt Dave Nixon** and **Sgt Stevie Owen** alternated very effectively between playing and organising and we eventually emerged winners of the Second Division of the Yorkshire Services league, dropping only four points throughout the season.

Permanent Staff Football Team 1980/81
Back Row (Left to Right): SSgt Nixon, Lt Col McMahon, Sgt Arnot, LCpl Atkins, Cpl Wathey, Sgt Aldous
Front Row (Left to Right): LCpl Robinson, Sgt Tepielow, SSgt Greef (Capt), Maj Peake, Cpl Cameron, Sgt McCarthy, Cpl Lofthouse

MORE SKIING

Following the highly successful exercise to Switzerland in December last it was decided that another trip to the Alps this season was a must. **Capt Bob Kinnaird** and **Sgt John Hatch** once again did the organising and 30 Apprentices and Staff set off for the Italian Alps on 21 Apr for a week's spring skiing. Although Italy had suffered from particularly bad snow conditions throughout the season, the party were able to ski on good snow at higher altitudes. Most skiing took place at Sestriere about 10Km from the French border, where there were more than 20 lifts working and up to 3,000ft of good skiing. The backbone of the College Ski Club took part in the exercise, although **AT Loopy Lewis** missed the plane and arrived two days late whilst **AT Hoggy Hart** spent more time sleeping than skiing. Novices on the exercise included **AT LCpl Rob Mulholland** and **AT Cpl Pete Derrick,** both now converted skiers. **Sig Sid Chew** won the prize for good relationships with the locals but **AT Pete Brooker** carried off the trophy for obtaining local 'talent'.

The exercise ended a good season for the College and there are plenty of ideas for next year already. Meanwhile the College Ski Club will continue to thrive, using the local dry ski slope and, if fortune smiles, maybe some summer skiing.

Exercise 'Snowscape 5' — Italy April 81

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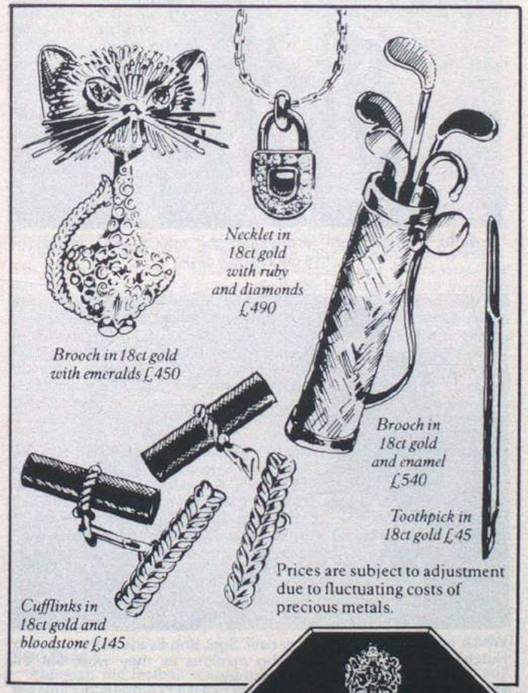

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EXERCISE 'RIBBLESDALE RESCUE'
Report by AT Cpl Tasker

On the evening of Fri 23 May a party of 30 ATs set off, by 4 Tonner, to take part in a 'voluntary' exercise in the wilds of the Pennine Way, on Pen-y-Ghent. The aim was to provide a labour force to assist the Dales National Park warden, **Mr Joe Chevlin** in draining a bog and a surrounding small valley which had become too wet and soggy even for the fell walkers attempting the Pennine Way. On Friday afternoon the advance party organised by **Sgt Filer** assisted by **Lt** (this 9 x 9 canvas won't fit the poles) **Gareth Smith** (NB—it was a 7 x 9 canvas), arrived at the base camp location and proceeded to erect tents and ferry all the equipment up from Horton-in-Ribblesdale, the nearest point of civilisation. At about 1900hrs the main party arrived and after a 'pleasant stroll' up to the base camp, on their way pointing out that the weather was just a little damp, and muttering about the loss of a Saturday night out amongst the bright lights, of down-town Harrogate. On arrival at the base camp we erected the remaining tents (**Lt Smith** still couldn't get the canvas to fit), were briefed as to the aim of the exercise, and were issued with all the necessary equipment—wellies, picks, shovels. I complained bitterly that I was going to be a Tech and if I developed blisters I wouldn't be able to play my violin, but to no avail. After a can of beer we all settled down for the night to dream of the task ahead.

At 0600hrs we were happily awakened by **Sgt 'F'** and eagerly prepared ourselves for the coming onslaught. There was one bright point to reveille, we learned that **2Lt Kevin Thornber** had slept under the open window of his tent and had been duly introduced to the joys of aquatic sleeping. After a hearty breakfast, care of **LCpl Jim Campbell** our intrepid ACC chef—to whom we owe everlasting gratitude—we picked up our picks and shovels and set off for the work areas some 1 to 1½ miles up Pen-y-Gent, once again in the pouring rain, to the tune of 'Hey Ho, Hey Ho, its off to work we go'.

The fact that everybody, including **Cpl Chippy** (I'll never get my hands clean) **Wood,** our squadron scribe, **Sgt** (Blast, my boots are dirty) **Filer** and our two, too keen for comfort, leaders did some spade work, helped to dispel the idea that this was forced labour. During Saturday we changed the existing course of the stream to drain the bog, by digging a ditch approximately 20m long by 1½m deep and 2m wide. It was fascinating to watch **AT Sgt Chips Gill** trying to shovel black oozing slime, he won in the end but he will never be the same colour again. **AT 'Boris' Meadows** cultivated the habit of getting stuck up to his knees in mud and having to be pulled out by the other lads, only to step back into the same spot again. After a hard day's work we trudged wearily back to our base camp to be greeted by a monster meal. Some of the lads appeared to eat more food than the amount of mud shifted. After a can of beer and an impromptu game of football in the dark, we settled down again to a well earned night's rest.

Our Sunday task was to transport, by brute force, two huge, no, massive railway sleepers and a load of snow fencing up to our river. The sleepers were to form a new bridge and the snow fencing was to be laid flat around the area of the stream, to stabilise the ground and allow the grass to grow through it, in order that the area will eventually appear undisturbed. Special thanks should go to **AT John Taylor** who improvised rope handles which made the task of moving those sleepers, dare I say, easier.

At the completion of our bridge building, and as we left the area for the last time, it was noticed that all the walkers took special care to avoid our new bridge. No sense of adventure that's their trouble. I'm sure Brunnel never had our problems.

This exercise was hard work but now we are back in Harrogate we can say how much we 'enjoyed it', and look forward to someone else doing exercise Ribblesdale Rescue 2.

MARATHON MATTERS

Since last going to press our two marathon maniacs, **Sgt 'Chips' Rafferty** and **Cpl Andy Robertson,** have continued their string of successes. **Sgt Rafferty,** competing in the London marathon, had a personal best of 2 hours 20 minutes to finish in 19th position. In the Inter Services Marathon he was fifth behind his stable companion **Cpl Andy Robertson** who retained his title in a new record time of 2 hours 19 minutes 6 seconds. In the cross country field **Andy Robertson** has, this season, won the Army Championship, was placed 5th in the Inter-Services and 8th in the Combined Service match v England. To round off the cross country season he was placed 6th in the AFCENT match in Holland. In preparation for the Sandbach International Marathon on 21 June he has recently competed in two road races finishing 2nd to international **Steve Kenyon** over a 6 mile course and winning the Hull 20 mile race in a time of 1 hour 41 minutes 52 seconds.

ADP DEVELOPMENT TEAM HQ UKLF

ACTIONS ARISING

A heading which springs readily to mind, this, as the ADT DT continue to progress the requirement for our replacement ADP system through the various committees at HQ UKLF and MOD level, with **Lt Col Peter Ost, Mr Ron Reakes, Maj Tom Moncur, Maj Mark Illingworth** and **Capt Howard Crosse** all being variously involved as Chairman, delegates and secretaries, as we push on to meet the various deadlines set out in the procurement schedule. Below the policy making level, work continues on the analysis of the various manual sub-systems within HQ UKLF which have been identified as being likely to benefit from ADP assistance. These cover everything from the construction of staff tables, through signals equipment maintenance to word processing, and the work involves just about everyone in the team, including **Mrs Jan Redman** who has adapted readily to the super-word-processor facilities available on the present Modular-One configuration. Nowadays she just uses a typewriter to pose for photographs!

Just give me a tank and I'll show you what I can really do!' Capt Howard Crosse 16/5L, has a tactical pause in his analysis

'I never giggle when I have my photograph taken . . .!' Mrs Jan Redman retains (momentary) composure for our camera

OTHER BUSINESS

In May we welcomed **Maj John Bushell,** R Anglian, to join **Sgt Gerry Griffiths** as the other Foxhound in the ADP DT pack, and apply the fruits of his hard-won expertise from the DADPTC Systems Analysis course. Despite having a house near Portsmouth, he has already decided that he likes Wilton so much, he is going to move nearer. An obvious case for a quick posting! **Mrs Jenny Bates** probably wishes that she also lived a bit nearer—wouldn't have to worry so much about the condition of her cars . . .! Not that she lacks for advice about cars of course, for **Maj Roger Lewenz,** REME, repairs them, **Sgt Gerry Griffiths** and **Maj Tom Moncur** buy and sell them, everyone else drives them, except **Pte Denise Bennett,** who just admires them! We have to give **Sgt Bob Evans** a special mention—he drives a sports car, and in UK! We rather think that the real reason he signed on for a Computer Course in Southampton was so that he could enjoy a weekly return burn-up at the Company's expense!

'Smile for a photograph! At my age?' Maj John Bushell, R Anglian, trys out his new desk

Which one got the biggest pay rise? Sgts Bob Evans (left) and John Hutchings seem to have varying opinions as they work out the economics

POST SCRIPT

No missive from the Wiltshire heart of rural England would be complete without a mention of that summer sport dearest to the CSO's heart—cricket. Unhappily, despite a miscellany of talent, and a plethora of willing volunteers, the opposition in the CinC's Cup Competition have so far been unable to raise a team against us! The plot to recruit **Sigs Botham, Willey** and **Boycott** as special ADP operators has therefore been put aside in favour of making use of domestic talent. Mind you, they might just be tempted into a temporary TA attachment, if the projected opening attack of **Hutchings, Evans** and **Griffiths** doesn't measure up! Hopefully, by next month we may have a few scorelines (if not headlines!) to report.

COMMS & SY GP (UK)

LOOKING BACK

With the long winter months now ending and spring looming large on the horizon a soldier's fancy turns to Summer Camp?? But more of that in the next issue. What have the past months held for Comms & Sy Gp (UK).

DO WE EXIST

Everybody has heard of M.A.S.H. but has anyone heard of Garats Hay? Garats Hay, the home of Comms & Sy Gp (UK) is situated about four miles south of the university town of Loughborough. Life in the sunny East Midlands is quite easy going at this time of year. After all the inmates have vacated their rooms and had their daily bread according to the gospel of the A.C.C. we then get down to a hard day's work. Living out here, as we do, not many of the Corps know we exist, but morale is high and on the whole everyone gets along very well.

After a hard day's training we can take part in many social activities in and around the camp area. Keeping fit plays quite a big part in camp life and for those who bother to don sports kit and get down to the gym or sports field there is always a game of football or rugby going on. Inter-troop and inter-squadron sport is very competitive and for the more daring there is always parachuting or karting in Nottingham. For those of an equestrian nature there are plenty of riding schools in the area. If you're not the sporting type there is not really a lot going for you, with the exception of the occasional NAAFI disco, unless you have transport and can get out to the major towns in the area which have all the usual amenities.

This area offers quite a lot if only Mr 'Average Squaddie' would get out and take an interest in the area. So if you ever get here don't moan about the place but get out and do something.

THE SPRING HANDICAP

On Wed 15 Apr the Group held its first golf competition, which took the form of a 'Spring Handicap'. It is hoped to hold the competition three times a year in the Spring, Summer and Autumn. The venue was Lingdale Golf Club which is situated about two miles south of Woodhouse Eaves. This is the home of Comms & Sy Gp (UK) golfing fraternity as eight of our players are already members of the club.

The competition took the form of an inter squadron competition. The teams were SPA, 2 Squadron, 3 Company and 4 Company. The morning round was an eighteen hole stableford competition in which each player scored points for his team. The morning round was also used to ascertain who was to be the individual winner. The afternoon round was an eighteen hole better ball matchplay competition played for team points. The day started off cold and miserable but after two or three hours the sun broke through the cloud and it turned out to be a very pleasant spring day; in fact there were a few red faces at the end of the day.

At 6pm, after a very enjoyable day's golf, everyone congregated in the clubhouse to see who had won the trophies, which were to be presented by the CO, **Lt Col John Dobson.** The team event winners were SPA who narrowly pipped 3 Company for first place, 2 Squadron were 3rd and 4 Company were presented with the wooden spoon. The individual winner was **Sgt Bob Hales** of 2 Squadron, and there were three runners-up for the individual event. These were **Maj John Healey** of 3 Company. **WO1 Lou Hammond** of 4 Company and **Cpl Keith Armstrong** from SPA. After a little consultation between **Maj Healey** and **Cpl Keith Armstrong** they kindly awarded the trophy to **WO1 Lou Hammond** as this was his first round on this course.

All in all it was a very successful and enjoyable day's golf.

FOOTBALL

Although the football season has finished, one of the team is still training and playing as hard as ever. **LCpl Billy Freear** has been an ever present member of the Army UK football squad this season and he has even drawn the attention of a couple of professional club scouts.

ORIENTEERING

The afternoon of Wed 4 Mar was one of much movement as the British Army wandered aimlessly around the local countryside aptly named 'Outwoods'. The event? Comms & Sy Gp (UK) annual orienteering competition.

The course (designed to get rid of as many of the participants as possible—permanently) was formulated by **SSgt Brian Libby.** In all 26 teams took part with colourful names such as 'Hot Gossip' (overdressed according to the CO **Lt Col John Dobson**) 'Escargot' and the 'Jungle Fairies'. There was a prize for the best dressed competitor, which was won by **LCpl Chalkie Clinton** who wore a full length leather coat, track suit bottoms, DMS boots which seemed more suited to 'Top of the Pops' rather than orienteering. The organised chaos was enjoyed by all and the credit and thanks for this must go to the organiser **SSgt Brian Libby** and to his officials **Capt Kate Dyer** and **LCpl Danny O'Brien.**

The eventual winners were Mens Open—**Sgt Dave Kent,** Mens Veteran—**Capt Jim Bone,** Team Event—**Sgt Dave Kent, Sgt Robin Spence, Cpl Yogi Yeoman** and **Cpl Bob Seaton,** Veterans Team Event—**Capt Jim Bone, WO2 John Thomasson** and **SSgt Brian Lawrence.**

On a more serious orienteering note, the Group team entered for the Eastern District Orienteering Competition held at Aldershot in March. The weather was good and the ground was dry (in most places), the course varied between hills, scrub, forest, enough variation in fact to keep even the most experienced orienteer on his/her toes.

We did well, especially the female members of the team. **WPte Budden** came first, **Capt Kate Dyer** came second, which meant that they have won the WRAC Eastern District Championship and the Zone A Championship. For the men, **SSgt Brian Libby** and **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick** did well with **Brian Libby** coming second and qualifying for the UKLF Championships.

The all conquering Comms & Sy Gp (UK) X-Country Team. From left to right: LCpl Danny O'Brien, LCpl Sean Weldon, LCpl Les Vass, Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick, Cpl 'Yogi' Yeoman, Capt Kate Dyer and Pte Mal Briggs

THE LONDON MARATHON

Report by Sig Walters

On 29 Mar, I went to London to take part in the first London Marathon. There seemed to be thousands of people, all with the same idea, travelling towards London. It was expected that at least a half a million people would line the route to watch this very special occasion.

At 0830hrs the competitors began to prepare for the start. All 7,500 of them!! Dead on 0900hrs the cannon was fired that signified the start of the race and the gates opened for the beginning of the London Marathon. At first it was very hectic as everybody tried to get a good start. After about one hour the pack had thinned out and I was in a long trail of runners. Everywhere along the route there were crowds all shouting encouragement and there was a policeman at every corner to make sure no one got lost (impossible). By the 15th mile my feet were getting sore but I was determined to make it. When I felt like stopping the crowd would cheer me on and all along the way little children ran alongside me even if it was just for a couple of yards. Finally after 4hrs and 18mins I could see the finish line. I had almost made it! In those last few yards I felt really proud to be finishing and to have taken part in such an unforgettable spectacle. My final time was 4hrs and 20mins.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

MEETING THE QUEEN

On Wed 25 Mar Her Majesty The Queen visited the Headquarters and Depot of the Intelligence Corps at Templer Barracks, Ashford, Kent. Communications and Security Group (UK) were represented by **Lt Bill Webster, SSgt Brian Libby, LCpl Chris Lowish, WLCpl Sally Johnston** and **WLCpl Karen Parcell.** The Queen, to whom all representatives of Comms & Sy Gp (UK) were presented, showed a keen awareness of the Group's activities and the contribution made by the personnel trained and employed within the Group.

SSgt Brian Libby being presented by Lt Bill Webster to Her Majesty The Queen with Brig B. A. H. Parritt looking on

SNCO TRIES FOR NEW 'EXTRAS' RECORD

'Sir, I think I love you' was the message scribbled on the back of a menu, and passed hurriedly among the green and scarlet Mess Jackets to the RSM's table. Was the RSM genuinely flattered or amused? Or had he already made out next months Duties Roster? Whatever the answer, the impulsive author of the note escaped the pronouncement of 'Take Five' (or worse) but the incident did reflect the convivial atmosphere in the Sgts Mess on the occasion of the Dining-In of our new CO, **Lt Col John Dobson.**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Gus Hartley** and the Group resident comic **SSgt (Supvr R) Max Scott.** We wish you well in your new units. At the same time we would like to welcome to the fold **SSgt (YofS) Brian Lawrence, Sgt Stu Parrish, Sgt Dave Kent, Sgt Roy Davis, Cpl Brian Bower, LCpl Kev Cunningham** and not forgetting **2Lt Caroline Kett.** May your tour with the Group be a happy one.

STOP PRESS

Cpl Andy Robertson won the Sandbach Marathon in a time of 2 hrs 14 mins 23 secs and should now gain a place in the British team to compete in the European Cup Marathon in France on 13 Sep 81.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

Signal Wing, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

PERSONALITIES

CI	**Maj J. E. Neeve**
RSMI	**WO1 (YofS) G. F. Devine**
YofS	**Even Team WO2 (YofS) B. McAneny**
YofS	**Odd Team WO2 (YofS) D. Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt M. Davey**

Since our last contribution to The Wire there have been too many arrivals and departures to mention them all by name. One of the departures we will mention is the RSMI **WO1 (Yof S) Paddy 'Chuck' Paddison** who has left on commissioning to 16 Sig Regt. Good luck **Chuck** and **Trudy** in BAOR. We welcome the new RSMI **WO1 (YofS) George Devine** and his wife **Margaret** to Sandhurst and hope that the move from the running, jumping life of Aldershot to the running, jumping, swimming, marching, canoeing and if time permits, instructing life of Sandhurst does not upset him too much. He thinks it won't.

'Do you know you have pudding in your ear, RSMI?'

THE CI DEPARTS

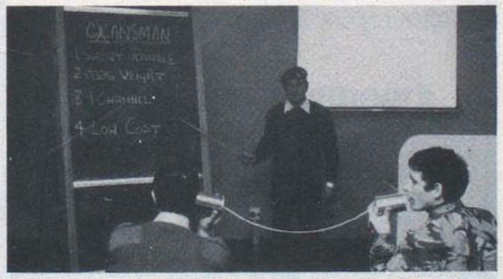
Maj Alan Eastburn left the Wing on a high note by being dined out by the seniors in the Wing. The picture tells the story of his journey to the mess on a 'fixed' bike which caused the odd weather beaten feature to crease into a wry smirk!

The following evening, the whole wing said goodbye to the CI and his wife, **Anthea,** with a 'Wild West' party at which they were presented with lead crystal glasses and a cut glass rose bowl. A further surprise gift for the CI was a reconditioned Flymo to replace the one that the MT lads had spent two unsuccessful years trying to repair! We are sad to see **Maj** and **Mrs Eastburn** leave and welcome **Maj** and **Mrs John Neeve** in their place.

Maj Eastburn fails the B3 bicycle trade test

'CANSMAN' TRAINING

Now that Larkspur is on the way out the Wing has started a programme of training on the new radio system in use here at Sandhurst, with an eye on cost of course. As can be seen from the photograph, **SSgt Mick Davison** has little trouble explaining the working of this new wonder equipment 'Cansman' to **Sgt Eddie Doubtfire** and **Sgt Derek Hefferman** RA. We decided to get a few opinions from the rest of the army and here are a few typical comments: **House hold Division** . . . will only use the system if it's made of wood. **Parachute Regiment** . . . interested but only if they can eat the cans afterwards. **RAC** . . . not interested—they've got enough tin cans already. **WRAC** . . . fascinated by the prospect of further developments—the can-can? **AAC** . . . currently trialling flexible air comms with the string replaced by elastic. **RAOC** . . . report that in future only fresh food will be issued as all cans are being stockpiled for extended trials. **The Army Board** . . . interested but immediately asked whether savings could be effected by shortening the string, and finally, **The IRA** . . . are conducting trials along similar lines but using one can and two pieces of string.



SSgt Davison instructing Sgt Hefferman RA and Sgt Doubtfire in Cansmanship

CLASSROOM GOODIES

Heard over the simulated Fd ambulance net run for the doctors, dentists and chaplains:
Fd Ambulance: (in response to a call) Ø Starlight speaking over.
RMO: 1 Starlight Minor speaking, have a casualty with no legs, bleeding to death. Advise over.
Fd Ambulance: Ø fetch Padre over.
RMO: 1 Wilco out.

WHAT DO WE DO ALL DAY?

The Signal Wing at the RMAS exists to teach officer cadets how to operate a basic radio net and for this job two teams of RTg SNCOs work under one of the two YofS team leaders. The MT section under **Sgt Letford** are equally important however, as they drive and man the CPs for the many exercises and whatever their trade they all rapidly become competent operators. To provide the technical and Q support we have **SSgt Talling's** team of Radio Technicians, **Cpl Frankel's** line party and **SSgt Davey's** stores. Nobody knows what the CI and RSMI do, so it must be very important. The work is often hectic, the games are rare but appreciated and the breaks are long and deserved! Come and join us.

SHAPE B.F.P.O. 26

Report by WO2 (FofS) A. S. Eames

REPORT FROM SHAPE HEADQUARTERS

BAOR Minor Units Hockey Cup Winners 1981—United Kingdom Support Unit (UKSU) Shape. Eight of the first eleven in this year's successful Army hockey team are Royal Signals.

Standing Left to Right: SSgt Greaney, Cpl Nobby Clark R Signals, Sgt Terry Inman R Signals, Sgt Taff Roberts R Signals, Sgt Chris Christian R Signals, WO2 (FoS) Laurie Priestley R Signals, Maj John Hughes-Wilson
Kneeling Left to Right: WO2 Mick Owsley RCT, Sgt Tom Delaney R Signals, WO2 (FoS) Alan Eames R Signals, Captain SSgt Pete Harrison RAOC, Cpl Billy Bergin R Signals, Cpl Steve Mills RPC.

After winning the 1980 Rhine Area Minor Units Cup, the 1981 season was 'capped' by capturing the 'Big One', the BAOR Trophy. This was achieved by defeating HQ Minden Garrison 1-0 at Rheindahlen on 9 Apr. The route to the finals was as follows: Rhine Area Prelim. round v. 28 Tpt & Mov Regt—Result 11-4. Rhine Area Quarter Final v FOD Dulmen—Result 5-0. Rhine Area Semi-Final v Re Willich—Result 3-2. BAOR Quarter Final v J Battery RHA—Result 2-0. BAOR Semi-Final v C Battery RHA—Result 5-1. BAOR Final v HQ Minden Garrison—Result 1-0.

SHAPE unfortunately did not achieve the double in 1981 however, as we were beaten in the Rhine Area final by CPO BAOR at Rheindahlen by two goals to one in a close but hard game.

As SHAPE would like to retain the BAOR Cup in 1982 and a couple of key R Signals players are shortly to be posted, Royal Signals Records might help to fill the gaps with renowned Hockey Players!!! As Records often need a reminder by way of a posting application, all keen Corps hockey players take note and get writing! (Remember, you do not have to learn French here in the Wallonian Wilderness, just bring your own chewing gum and Coke).

TEAM TRAITS

Goalkeeper: **Taff Roberts**—Roughie toughie para (slept in the goalmouth at Utrecht Festival). Full Back: **Laurie Priestley**—Gritty and hard (broke his arm near goalmouth at Utrecht Festival). Full Back: **Pete Harrison**—'I don't recognise a Red card Ref—I'm colour blind!' Wing Half: **Mick Owsley**—'Can't I use *both* sides of the bat!' Centre Half: **Alan Eames**—'The rest of the lads are supposed to carry me home when I can't walk'. Wing Half: **John Hughes-Wilson**—'As the only Rodney, I give cultural lessons on the coach'. Right Wing: **Billy Bergin**—Bionic Bill, learnt the trade playing Hurling in 3 Div. Inside Forward: **Chris Christian**—'What do you mean I have to run in the second half as well'! Centre Forward: **Terry Inman**—Goal getter, fast car driver and Mr Smoothy. Has been known to drown the Ref's whistle when asking for the ball. Inside Forward: **Tom Delaney**—Very quick, trains on Becks goes faster on Heineken. Left Wing: **Nobby Clark**—Converted soccer specialist—will only pass to special friends! Sub: **Steve Mills**—Bus card-sharp, guaranteed to see you off. Sub: **Frank Greaney**—Steady—got to be keen to travel two hours every time we play.

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

CHAMPION TROOP

The June term invariably ends in a frenzy of activity and this year is no exception. One of the major reasons for all the rushing round is the fact that six troops are scheduled to pass off and all the Champion Troop competitions are that much more complex with so many taking part. Eventual winners were Ulster Troop who won the assault course, shooting and drill competitions outright. The cross country was won by Iron, and the March and Shoot by Bruno. For the first time the Junior Sergeants took their own troops on the drill competition with Cadre as spectators only; it was a very proud moment for **JSgt Taff Weaver** of Ulster Troop, although a lot of credit must go to the troop Cadre, OC **2Lt Nick Kennedy, Sgts Bill Richardson** and **Jim Denehy** and **Cpl John Marooth** now detached to the Display Team.

HOCKEY

More in hope than anything else the regiment entered the N E Dist Hockey knock out competition and ended up by beating 8 Sig Regt in the final 3—0. All the goals in that last match were scored by **Lt Paul Wilkin** who made a very timely appearance on posting from BAOR. En route to the final we despatched 1 RHA and ACC Harrogate. It was almost a full adult team but **JSgt Kevin Moorish** of Whitespear Troop played in every match at centre forward and made his presence felt. A great deal of credit for this fine team performance must go to **Sgt Brian Mower** who is now trying to establish indoor hockey within the regiment.

INTER SQN BOXING COMPETITION

The morning of Thurs 28 May saw **2Lt Laurie Harnden** and **SSgt Pat Kaufman** APTC busily rushing around trying to complete the final arrangements for the inter squadron boxing competition to be held that evening. Eventually by 1930 hours everything appeared to be in order and under the control of the Master of Ceremonies **WO1 (RSM) Barrie Hives,** the lights dimmed and the boxing got under way. Boxers from both squadrons fought extremely well with the scores staying almost neck and neck right up to the last bout of the evening. The competition ws then decided by an extremely hard fought contest between **JSgt George 'Grog' Borrows** and **JSig Gary 'Gaz' Jones. JSgt Borrows** eventually won the bout, clinching the competition for 2 Squadron

Special mention should also be made of **JSig Guy Roberts** of 1 Squadron who won the award for best boxer of the evening and to his opponent **JSig Mick Beeton** who earned the title of best loser.

ARMY CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1981 (SLALOM)

For the first time, the Junior Regiment participated in the Army Canoe Championships at Llandysw, South Wales. The team consisted of **2Lts Laurie Harnden** and **Nick Kennedy,** Driver **Mark Holden** RCT and 7 JSig. **2Lt Kennedy** did extremely well and was placed 12th overall. Also worth a special mention are **JSigs Mark Yates** and **Hugh Little** who were placed in the top fifty novice canoeists in the Army.

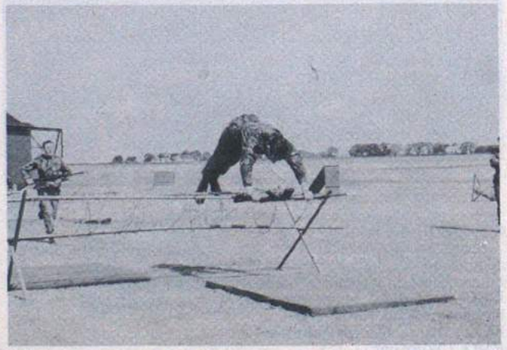
CRICKET

We are now poised to play the quarter final of the Army junior cricket cup having beaten AAC Harrogate here at Ouston, in what can only be described as typical Ouston conditions—wet and windy. This win against Harrogate was a very fine team performance, but special credit must be given to **JSig 'Cas' Caswell** with bowling figures of 5 for 13, which helped to ensure that the Harrogate total was kept to 48 and **JSig Keith Ritchie** with a fine knock of 28.

DISPLAY TEAM

The April output from Ouston produces the Royal Signals Junior Display team and this year it is commanded by **Lt Roddy Nicholson.** So far they have completed 18 displays with another 23 to go before the season finishes in August. The display is based on a race between 2 teams of 10 who have to recover one of their injured members, by stretcher, over a series of obstacles, including one flambé. Venues include the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show and the Catterick Reunion. Their last performance of the year will be at the Inverness KAPE from 3-6 August.

2Lt Nick Kennedy demonstrates how easy it is



Display team practice with JSig Tommy Handley doing a forward roll over the barbed wire, closely following by JSig John Warren

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Maj Gen E. J. Hellier, the inspecting officer on the pass off parade on 18 Jun, stops to talk to JSgt Taff Weaver of the Champion Tp, Ulster

JSgt 'Chalkie' White receives the Commanding Officer's prize from Maj Gen E. J. Hellier CBE after the pass off parade. This prize is awarded to the most outstanding junior soldier of the intake which in this case numbered 249

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

THE MAJORITY ON STRETCHERS

The last week in April saw the majority of the regiment lying on stretchers on an exercise designed to practise the TA medical services in the wartime role. **Sig** 'Do I have to' **Bonner** died three times but was RTU'd (unfortunately) the last time. **Sgt Chris Bond** and a truck load of stretcher cases, were taken on the scenic route to the field hospital though 'critically wounded' **Sgt Bond** managed to get out at a garage and buy a map and show the TA driver that he had followed the route card in the opposite direction. **LCpl Andy Snaith** gave a very convincing imitation of a head case, patrolling the wards with two 'dogs' on lead (= 1 DMS boot and 1 washbag).

A STERLING EFFORT

In May the Regimental Orienteering team competed in the BAOR championships and came second, to qualify for the Army meeting in UK. A sterling effort by all concerned as they left Exercise *Hurst Park* at the last moment and returned to finish the job. The team was made up of: **Capt Mike Rescorle LI, Capt Stuart Swalwell RAEC, Capt David Etherton** 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, **Capt Malcolm McKinlay** 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, **Sgt Pete Probin, Cpl George Mayne.**

Cpl Mayne assures me he was not in charge of the packet which got lost on the move back to camp.

IN CANADA

Lt Col Carr-Smith is at present leading an expedition to unexplored reaches of the Great Lakes as part of the regiment's annual visit to 1 Canadian Signal Regiment in Kingston. My mole on this venture will report back on their return and an unexpurgated account of the goings-on will feature in this column at a later date. (Wives order your copy of this now!). Other explorers include **Lt Bob Bates** ('Sombody has to look after the CO'), **WO2 (SSM) Jack** 'the terrier' **Russell** and **Sig George Lemon**—is going to show the natives how to make tea.

FOCUS ON 201 (22 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

SQUADRON PERSONNEL

OC	**Maj Mike Macklin**
2IC	**Capt Dave Etherton**
2IC Des	**Capt Peter Costello**
OC A Tp	**Lt Nick Denning**
OC B Tp	**2Lt Ian Bucklow**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Paddy Lavery**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dave Weston**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Eddie Harper**

CHANGE OF TITLE

With the formation of 22 Armd bde on 1 Jan, the squadron changed name from Task Force Bravo to 201 (22 Armd Bde) Signal Squadron. The main change, however, was the swopping of our 'Bee' emblem for a stag's(?) head. We are sorry to lose the Bee and everything that was associated with it; the famous Bee Stingers cocktail, The Beehive Social Club, the Busy Bees wives club, somehow a 201 stinger doesn't sound quite the same, but at least we can have plenty of stag nights!

22nd Armoured Brigade was formed in 1939 in North Africa, Italy and France before finishing the war in the Soltau area close to its present home. It was disbanded in 1945. The title 201 Signal Squadron was given to the squadron supporting HQ 51 Infantry Brigade Group in 1960 and lasted until 1962 although not formally disbanded until 1964. We would like to hear from any ex members of HQ 22nd Armoured brigade or 201 Signal Squadron.

FIRE FIRE FIRE

A major disaster was narrowly averted in February when the MT garages caught fire. Fortunately due to the vigilance of **Pte Gordon Slater** RPC the fire was spotted early. His main problem was convincing anyone at one o'clock in the morning that he was not having them on. Special mention must be made of **WO2 (SSM) Paddy Lavery** who not only drove two burning Land Rovers from the garage but won the prize for style by doing it in mess kit.

FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY STING LIKE A BEE

This appropriately describes the performance of the squadron's boxing team when they had a notable victory in the Regimental Boxing Championships. The team was: Heavy weight—**Sig Williams** (Runner up and best loser), Lightweight—**Sig Rankin** (Champion), Middle-weight—**Pte Marston** (Champion), Light Middleweight—**Cpl Shiels,** Welterweight—**LCpl Ashley,** Light Welter—**Cpl Donaldson** (Runner up), Lightweight—**Sig Wynne,** Flyweight—**Sig Johnson** (Runner up), Bantam weight—**Sig Adams** (Champion).

SOCCER

Despite the apparent independence of our title we remain part of the regiment for sport, although we enter our own team in some Divisional competitions. **SSgt Tommy Ponton, Sgt John Boyd** and **LCpl Harris** have all played regularly for the Regimental Soccer team. **Sgt John Boyd** has also played for the Corps team, which he has captained, and for BAOR.

SKIING

Lt Nick Denning (then serving with 2 Sqn) and **Cpl Sammy Shiels** were in the Regimental Langlauf team at Axams where the squadron also combined with HQ 22 Armd Bde to send a downhill and a langlauf team to Axams. Although winning no prizes the langlaufers were, as you can see, whiter than white.

The CRA, Brig D. J. Atkinson MBE inspecting the HQ and Sig Sqn Langlauf team at Axams. Maj Francis De Vivenot RA, Cpl Malcolm Donaldson, Cpl Kev Dale and Sig Roger Smith

PARACHUTING

2Lt Ian Bucklow has organised a parachuting course for members of the squadron with the Dutch Army, who have their own club and aircraft here in Hohne. So far nearly a dozen members of the squadron and HQ 22 Armd Bde have jumped.

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

THE SHORT MEMO

(Report by A. N. Other)

Whilst sitting quietly last November a short memo arrived. (Funny how the shorter a memo is the more work it means!). 'The regiment is reserve for a KAPE tour next year and you have been chosen to be the OIC KAPE'. (Ha! I bet the others heard about it first and hid!). Ah well I thought we are only reserve.

GO

Two weeks later in December came the news that we were no longer reserve but on the tour. OK! when do we go? 'April' . . . April! One week later the British Army went on leave for Christmas not to return until January hangovers were well gone. A week after that found me in the Army School of Recruiting being told all the intricacies of recruiting and all the preparations I should have done at least eight months ago! Prior to my return to BAOR, I managed to show my face at the recruiting offices of the North East that was to be our area. The utter despair that had been instilled into me at Woolwich, along with doom, was somewhat eased by the tremendous help and advice given by all we were to work with on the tour.

THE TEAM

On my return I had to decide who would be in the team. A task made easier by the major regimental change that was going on and other factors like 'He's too valuable', or 'Yes, but he is in 'jail' at the moment'. Enter now into this tale of mystery and intrigue the rest of the cast: **SSgt 'Bomber' Brown** (2IC), **Sgt 'Badgy' Churchward, Cpl Newman, LCpl McAndres, LCpl Pollard, Sig Parker, Sig Tarrant, Sig Coffin, Sig Cook** and our Lineman **Sig 'R2-D10' Dunn.**

Considering all the activity that was going on in preparation for the role change of the regiment (we are now the only true Armd Div Sig Regt) all credit must go to the squadrons for releasing the people that they did and the equipment. (If any staff officer is reading this you now know where your radio or teleprinter was during Ex *Bronze Key*).

The week of departure arrived only six weeks later, **SSgt 'Bomber' Brown** was getting concerned . . . I was getting ulcers!

Tuesday: **Sig Remmer** walked into my office having been in hospital and on convalescence leave. 'What did you get?' 'One month light duties!' 'Have you unpacked your bags yet?' 'No!' 'Don't bother!' Guess where **Sig 'Geordie' Remmer** had just come back from and where he was going back to!

UNDER WAY

Friday 0430hrs: We were on our way with the sound of the cheering and farewells, from the gathered throng of the one guard who opened the gate, still ringing in our ears! After a night on Sir Galahad, the LSL moored in Antwerp docks, we set out to our waiting public in the UK. (For those of you who have travelled on LSLs before and now await tales of seasickness, 'hard luck', the crossing was like a mill pond!).

SNAGS

Marchwood Military Port greeted us with the news that they did not have a crane suitable to lift our 4 tonners off the top deck where they had been placed in Antwerp. So, we spent an hour watching the Chinese crew running backwards and forwards with hammers and the like, hitting the jammed loading-ramp in carefully calculated places until it freed. The cheers of the drivers faded rapidly when they saw just how steep the slope on the ramp was!

The long haul to Catterick was uneventful apart from the 4 Ton GS breaking down twice and arriving the next day, the FFR Speedo not 'speedoing' and the Safari trying to turn right on braking, then switching off and sulking at every traffic light.

THE HIGH GLOSS

The first week in Catterick, hosted by 8 Sig Regt, was spent gathering all the display items that a working regiment has not got. Our thanks must go to the Corps Mobile display Team 'Quicksilver' who not only made us some display boards and lent us some 'professional recruiting equipment' but gave us full access to their workshops and expertise.

'Have you stopped laughing at our rover yet'? Due to overzealous preparation the Safari was looking worse for wear so having obtained a tin of gloss green I despatched **Sig Remmer** to spray it in the Quicksilver workshops. 'Do you really want it sprayed with this Sir'? 'Is it Gloss Green'? 'Weeeelll, yes I suppose so'. 'Then what are you waiting for? Spray it!' . . . Have you ever seen a Light Brunswick Green Safari???? We waited until dark then crept down to the REME workshops with it and they kindly turned it back into an Army Landrover again once they cleared the tears from their eyes. Now the Divisional Public Relations Officer knows the full story of why his gloss green Safari Landrover returned matt green

KEIGHLEY FIRST

After transferring our base to the Army Apprentices College Harrogate, ready for the first week, our first display day dawned and we were on the town hall square at Keighley. A good steady introduction for the tour. It was very busy at lunch time until a teacher arrived to remind all the kids that they should be back at school!

AND SKIPTON

The next day was Skipton's turn. We think that the Chief Inspector told his men to set up a rota to visit us as they had forgotten to cone off our area in the market. The back of a car park is not a suitable substitute.

BRADFORD AND RAIN

A dismounted display in the Arndale Shopping Centre in Bradford was the next venue and for future reference an FFR Rover will go through the entrance doors to the centre . . . just! We finished the daytime displays for the week by doing one for Richard Dunn Sports Centre for their Superkid Competition, except that they cancelled it, but we displayed anyway (it rained)!

A tight squeeze through the doors of the Arndale Shopping Centre, Bradford

WEEK 2

The second week of our tour found us showing at Middlesborough, Peterlee, Billingham, Redcar and Stockton, returning our vehicles each night to 34(V) Sig Regt Middlesboro' and ourselves to a hostel in Billingham.

VARIETY AND DISCRETION

The last week allowed us to bring enlightenment to the people of Whitley Bay (it snowed), New-Biggen by Sea (it was closed) South Shields twice (sunburn the first day, frostbite the second; yes it snowed again) and Sunderland (playing at home—we packed up before the final whistle as they lost). Each night we wended our way back to our base for the week—Ouston (stop cringing all you ex-Juniors, you loved it really!!).

SO IN C ADDRESSES CADETS

We also did four evening presentations to Army Cadets and one to a Scout Group, which were thoroughly enjoyed by both sides. One of these evening sessions, for the Cadets of Northallerton, was made special by the visit of the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE** who comes from Northallerton and gave the Royal Signals a boost with his talk to the Cadets. 8 Sig Regt again put up with us for the final week, when all the borrowed equipment was returned, things cleaned up and the vehicles made ready for the return to BAOR.

ANOTHER MILL POND

The return journey was routine with yet another mill pond crossing on the LSL, followed by a round robin trip to drop off members of the team at our outstations of Munster, Osnabruck and Lubbecke for them to prepare to join the regiment in the field on exercise, except **SSgt Brown** who found out he was to return to Antwerp to collect some vehicles the next day, probably the ones that were unloaded from the same boat as us!

CASUALTIES

All in all, an enjoyable exercise in public relations that was well received in the area. Casualties? **Sig Remmer** broke his collar bone again, **Sig Tarrant** damaged his foot playing football against some cadets and **LCpl McAndrews** got married!

—AND THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the people and organisations that helped us to make it a worthwhile tour.

Notes for future KAPE Teams: Do get every last detail in writing from civilian organisations. Do not underestimate the strength of the public. What is soldier-proof is not civilian-proof. Do not underestimate what they will try to 'borrow permanently'. Do not say that you support anyone but the home team, a 9 year old's fist does hurt doesn't it **Sig Parker?** Who am I? Well, just in case I get posted to your regiment and someone suggests that I do it again, I will keep that a secret!!

All set up for recruiting on Redcar seafront

SSgt Brown was obviously as asset to the recruiting effort!

LCpl McAndrews with some of the keen young onlookers

The first three in the 1500 metres. *From left to right:* Sig Tony Mee of 1 Sqn; the winner, LCpl Pat Coleman of 2 Sqn; Sig Sammy Preece of 3 Sqn

Pole Vault — Cpl Mick Brady of 212 Squadron

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS MEETING

Following a week of glorious sunshine 22 May dawned to show heavy clouds with accompanying showers. Nothing daunted the seven squadrons of the regiment, who assembled their respective teams at the Jahn Stadium in Herford and the contest began. An early struggle between 2 and 3 Squadron set the tone for the day with 1 Squadron fighting hard in their wake. Notable performances from **Cpl Davies** with 42m in the Hammer and **Pte Anderson** with 2 mins 05 secs in the 800 metres, drew the spectators' minds to future hopes in the Morrison Cup, whilst the roars of encouragement from the Tug-of-War area soon heralded the anticipated victory by HQ Squadron, (the Lubbecke lads had again been body-building on Barre Brau). During the ever brightening afternoon 204 and 212 Squadrons made their presence felt, with good wins in the 3000 metre Steeplechase and 100 metres/Pole Vault whilst **Cpl Killen** clinched his accustomed win in the Victor Ludorum with a 58.2 400 metre Hurdles run. **Cpl Bird** pushed to a close second in this individual battle with a fine 7.13 metre Long Jump whilst **Sig Shakespeare** was steadily leading up to a bounding 1.85 metre clearance in a close High Jump match. 3 Squadron finally triumphed in sunshine to retain the trophy. Following a good humoured presentation of the prizes by **Lt Col Sam Cowan** a successful regimental day ended with a final cloud of smoke from the overworked Bratwurst Stall and the organisers envying 4 and 7 Regiments' proximity to such a modern, well kept stadium.

Morrison Cup—here we come!

HOCKEY

The Regimental hockey team enjoyed a very successful 1980/81 season, winning the Divisional cup and Divisional league competitions. The team also reached the semi-finals of the BAOR and Divisional 6-a-side competitions and the BAOR section of the Army Cup (losing to the eventual winners).

We say farewell to **Maj Mike Crane** and **Lt Paul Wilkins** on posting to Ouston and **Cpl Mick Orange** on posting to the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. Their hard work in organising fixtures, kit and refreshments was much appreciated. We are now of course expecting quantities of budding Corps/Regimental standard players from these two Junior establishments.

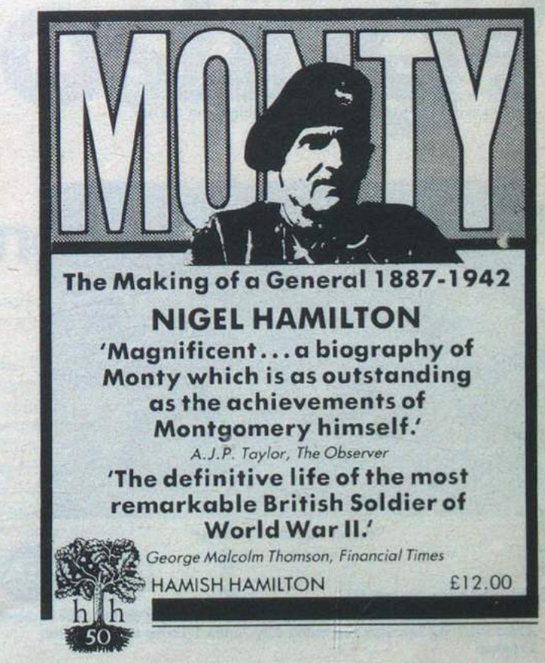
SSgt Peter Havlin has taken over the centre half position from **Maj Mike Crane** and the Captaincy from **Lt Paul Wilkins.** His experience of Army level hockey has certainly contributed to the team's success. A mention must be given to our two Corps standard goalkeepers **SSgt Paddy Kelly** and **Cpl Jeff Young** who have extricated the team from many sticky situations.

This summer will see a number of players posted—**Maj Steve MacIntosh** RE and **Maj Chris Brightman** RA—our thanks for their support.

We are now looking for quality players who want to play good competitive hockey with a will to win. If you think you meet the bill ask for a posting to 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt!

MORRISON CUP ATHLETICS—KREFELD 3/4 JUNE

We made it! Congratulations to the Athletics team for their victory at Krefeld. It was a very close run and nerve-wracking contest. The outcome hung on the last two relay events, the 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m. 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were just one point in the lead at this stage, but a final impressive effort from our team saved the day, winning these events and the Morrison Cup. Good luck in the Divisional Championships at Sennelager.



3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

BFPO 106

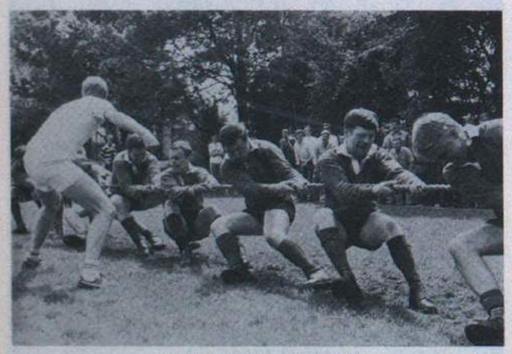
THE ARU

This year the regiment deployed in its SOP role. Throughout the morning of the inspection **Maj Gen J. N. S. Arthur** toured the various locations with his staff checking equipment, procedures and mandatory training.

'Which lone tree?'

REGIMENTAL SPORTS DAY

Wednesday 13 May was an excellent day for regimental sports. The weather was splendid, the competition was keen. The Tug o' War and the Chain of Command race were the highlights of the day.



'Heave! You too Cpl Lodge!'

STAFF COLLEGE DEMO

The Staff Colleges Demonstration is the showpiece of BAOR. 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn were represented by Alpha 1 Troop and Squadron Echelon.

FofS SSgt Terry Witts at 6 Brigade (206 Sig Sqn) echelon

MOTO FRENZY

Ex *Moto Frenzy* is the regimental MT driving competition. Each team entered one 4-tonner, one 3/4-tonner and one 1/2-tonner. The winners were **Capt Cox** and **Sig Wright.**

How close can you drive to the obstacle? Sgt John Syer and Dvr Jim Stevenson find out

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team have had an excellent season, dominating the 3 Div League throughout. The final race, hosted by the regiment, was won convincingly with 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th places.

The Colonel and the cross country team
Back row left to right: Lt Col Royston Maynard, Lt Jim McKee, FofS SSgt Peter Martin, SSI SSgt Peter Brierley, LCpl Smudge Smith, Lt Max Springer
Front row: LCpl Earl Wigglesworth, LCpl Jerry Thomas, Sig Andy Campbell, Sig Higgy Higgins

THE NANDA PRASAD RAI TROPHY

LCpl Nanda Prasad Rai of Queens Ghurka Signals was a keen member of X-ray Troop during his stay with 1 Sqn. On his departure **Nanda** presented X-ray Troop with his kukri. The kukri was mounted and named the Nanda Prasad Rai Trophy, to be presented half-yearly to the best all-rounder in the troop. **LCpl Titch Wright** won the trophy, but **Sig Dicky Dawkins** was so close that he was presented with a specially engraved plaque.

The Nanda Prasad Rai Trophy
Left to right: SSgt Tony Slater, LCpl Titch Wright, Sig Dicky Dawkins and Capt Merv Johnson

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WR/7

THE MORRISON CUP

The Morrison Cup is the athletics meeting for all Royal Signals units in BAOR. It is a large and colourful event and the quality of athletes is excellent. This year the weather interfered, causing some events to be cancelled, but it did not spoil the meeting. There were many tense moments and the spectators had an exciting time. The Regiment fought hard again this year and were only just overtaken in the last event, the 4 by 400 metre relay. We finished second, only four points behind 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. A magnificent team effort! Well done lads! We'll get them next year!

The Morrison Cup team. Well done lads!

LCpl Smudge Smith steps onto the hurdle in the 3000 metre steeplechase—a gruelling race which will be remembered especially for the extra 400 metres

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

A FULL LIFE

Since our last 'Wire Notes' 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has continued to lead a full life. Some of the main events during the period have been—

Maj Bob Graham replaced **Maj Alistair Hood** on 3 Apr as SO2 Comms in HQ 4 Armd Div. This allowed **Maj Hood** to be posted the vast distance from Wentworth to Hammersmith and replace **Maj John Higton** as 2IC. **Maj Higton** left us on 10 Apr on posting to MOD.

On 1 Apr we participated in a three way Boxing Tournament with our brother major units of Herford Garrison—1 RTR and 7 Sig Regt. Of which more later!

The last week of April saw us out on our annual Divisional CPX Ex *Mainbrace,* practising for that other well known event Ex *Summer Sales.* During the exercise one of our squadrons set a new world record for radio silence!

In early May we had the privilege of commissioning the well known artist **Ken Howard** to paint a water colour for us. We asked **Mr Howard** to paint a picture which would represent the unique aggressive role of our regiment. **Ken** obliged with a superb painting of our Armoured Forward Headquarters preparing for action. The photograph shows the moment of completion and the obvious satisfaction of the artist.

While LCpl King, Lt Col Cook (CO) and Maj Hood (2IC) are obviously also pleased WO1 Keenan, our RSM looks slightly dubious. Perhaps he believes that, like drill, painting should be done 'by numbers'

Sgts Lee and Peebles get in on the Act by asking the RSM to read out a few 'choice messages from name place cards'. On the RSM's left WO1 Dave Gilchrist (YofS) and on the CO's right WO1 John Roberts (Supt Clerk)

A Court Martial is arranged. The President standing, (although he does not look as if he is) WO2 AQMS Jim Gardner REME, on his right WO2 (FofS) Bob McInnes, on his left WO2 (QMSI) Pete Perrott. The Guy with the flashy jacket is the CO's defending officer Sgt Fred Peebles

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SNCOS' DINE OUT THE COMMANDING OFFICER

10 men wisely led are better than a hundred without a head—The Thoughts of Chairman Mao.

To Dine Out a CO. Invite him in, Wine and Dine him, make a presentation, get him smashed, Court Martial him, Sentence him, see him out at the Mess in an adequate manner. The Thoughts of the WOs' and SNCOs' 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Our CO **Lt Col Bob Cook** was dined out at the Sgts Mess on Fri 8 May. At the same time his good lady was being taken out to dinner by **Joyce Keenan, Margaret Glover** and **Jean Beswick.** Rather than a long winded story a pictorial record of the event with a few choice comments is better.

The 'Sentence' is pronounced. The CO's escorts are with the Headscarf and Cigar Sgt Dick Woodfine, with the Mac and black hair, Sgt Morgan. The President has stood up to pronounce sentence and lost his trousers. Shame!

The RSM presents the CO with a momento from Mess Members

The CO is escorted from the Mess. The trapeze is to enable his carriage to be propelled from the Mess to the Main Gate. His carriage consisted of a pair of downhill Ski blades mounted on castors with an armchair on the top. The CO has become a proficient skier since visiting Ex *Snow Queen*

The Hordes assemble to pull the CO to the Main Gate. They were assisted by a panzer. The use of the CO's crash helmet now becomes apparent

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The period has ended for us with a change of Commanding Officers. **Lt Col Bob Cook** departed on 15 May, for that well known haven of peace and tranquillity, HQ BAOR and **Lt Col Alan Eastburn** arrived from RMA Sandhurst. While the departure of **Lt Col Cook** was marked in several appropriate ways, including a full ceremonial parade, the photograph shows perhaps the most appropriate! **Col Cook** has taken with him to HQ BAOR his own personal mobile armoured multi-gym. It was of course a great disappointment to us all that, at the moment of departure, the multi-gym failed to start and had to be towed off the premises. There was however no lack of volunteers to help with the towing!

Lt Col Cook giving a victory salute!

The final departure

EXTRA MANPOWER

On 21 Apr, 10 cadets arrived from Renfrew and Bute detachment ACF, under the command of **Lt Jim Docherty.** Their rigorous 11 days programme covered a spectrum of both military and adventure training activities. During a section attack a cadet, who will remain nameless, executed a front somersault into a three foot deep pool of muddy water under the supervised gaze of **Col Sutro** (Col GS ACF). **Cdt Sgt MacKie** found it easier to walk on water than progress in a straight line—a canal. Climbing provided a stage for **Cdt LCpl Hadgie** who exclaimed when peering over the top of a 200ft drop, 'You'll n'aye git me dun' it,' but **SSgt 'Ken' Clark** and his tram have persuasive powers. Success did not escape **Cdt Smith** who was awarded a tankard for winning the orienteering. Others might be praised for their ability to conceal themselves and only register at the minimum number of check points. **Cdt LCpl Taggart** proved himself to be an expert in the latter. Despite a tough 12 hour training programme, the regiment's cadre were most impressed by the enthusiasm of the group and look forward to planning an even more demanding programme next year.

EX 'EASTER PADDLE'

17 novice paddlers began basic instruction at Gravembruche on the River Erfte. Many of the novices had not experienced being in a canal before and so the frequent dippings provided great amusement for their '(sadistic)' instructors **Lt 'Bogg' Coupland, LCpl Shane Wright** and **Sig 'Tug' Wilson. Sgt 'Jessy' James** was said to be having an affair with a mermaid, because he spent much of his time in the water; however he was not alone as at Grimlinhauson Weir, **Lt 'Paracetemol' Ridley-Jones** became a water baby. Despite the love-hate relationship with the river and departure of **Lt 'Bogg' Coupland** to 11 Bde, canoeing is still a buoyant squadron sport.

TUG OF WAR COMPETITION

From the wet to the dry. The Inter-Squadron Tug of War took place on 6 May. After a series of eliminating pulls 1 and 2 Squadrons emerged as the finalists. 1 Squadron, the favourites, managed to take the cup. The victorious team was **Sgt (Bill) Stadius, Sgt Martin James, Cpl Ian Taylor, Cpl 'McGinty' Flanagan, Cpl Mickey Brolan, LCpl Mick Bradshaw, Sig Mac McTague** and **Sig John Keating.** Just prior to the final, an interesting novelty match took place between the Sergeants and Officers Messes. **SSgt Keig** (coach and trainer of the squadron team) states that the downhill slope had nothing to do with it, despite being lighter the Sergeant's technique ensured their victory.

BOXING

The regiment had not entered the Boxing World for a long time. It was decided by the CO to get the Boxing going again. The RSM 'volunteered' to take on the job of Boxing Officer and other volunteers assisted named **WO2 (QMSI) Pete Perrott** APTC, **WO2 (AQMS) Jimmy (Cpl of Horse) Gardner** REME. The Boxing season commenced with an Inter Squadron Boxing Competition which was very keenly contested and eventually won by 2 Sqn.

REGIMENTAL TEAM

The Regimental squad was chosen from the boxers who had done well and looked as if they had potential. Training commenced on a full time basis for our first match in the 4 Armd Div Inter Unit Novices Competition. Our first opponents were the Queen's Own Hussars at home. The regiment won this match fairly convincingly by 6 bouts to 4. The team for this match consisted of: **LCpl Campbell** (Bantamweight) 2 Sqn, **Sig Livesey** (Featherweight) HQ Sqn, **Sig Tierney** (Lightweight) 3 Sqn, **Sig Fearn** (Light Welter) 1 Sqn, **Cpl Allen** (Light Middle) 3 Sqn, **Sig Pedder** (Middleweight) 1 Sqn, **Cpl Hitchin** (Light Heavy) 3 Sqn, **Sig Patterson** (Heavy) 3 Sqn, **Sig Maloney** (Welter) 2 Sqn.

Other members of the team participated in special bouts but the results did not count in the competition: **Sig Waite** (Welter) 3 Sqn, **LCpl Duff** (Middle) 3 Sqn, **Sig Watts** (Middle) 3 Sqn, **LCpl Horne** (Light Middle) 3 Sqn.

The next round of the Div was against 28 Amph Engineer Regt on their home ground in Hameln. This match was boxed in the sports finest tradition. No quarter was given on either side. All bouts went the full distance, there were no knock downs. The result was a win for the Sappers by 7 bouts to 2. The final event in the regiment's Boxing Year was a three way Herford Garrison Boxing Evening between 1 RTR, 7 Sig Regt and ourselves. It is hoped that this event will become an annual Garrison Boxing Evening, that is designed to further the enthusiasm for boxing within the three regiments. The occasion was hosted by 1 RTR who did a magnificent job in organising and administering the evening. The GOC 4 Armd Division, **Maj Gen J. B. Akehurst CBE** presented the prizes. Our competitors in the event were: **LCpl Campbell, Sig Livesey, Sig Tierney, Sig Young, LCpl Jarrett, Sig Maloney, Cpl Hitchin, Sig Patterson.**

The regiment came out overall winners by winning six bouts and losing two. To complete our boxing write up a word of thanks on behalf of all the boxers to all those who assisted in the training, and administration. A very special word of thanks to the following: **WO2 (SSM) Mick Davies** 10 Sig Regt in Hounslow who was with the regiment until recently.

SSgt (SSI) 'Big Jim' Evans APTC from 1 RTR for his assistance in coaching the team.

Sig Maloney a member of our Gym Staff receives his winners trophy

BADMINTON CHAMPIONS

Under the leadership of **Lt Stan Hargreaves** the Regimental Badminton team has successfully met all unit challenges in BAOR. After winning the Divisional Championships the team went forward to the Inter Divisional Knockout Finals at Bielefeld. After this, **WO1 (YofS) David Gilchrist** became aware of the strength of the team, which balances youth in the form of **Cpl Tom Pollard, Cfn Steve Hardie, Pte Neil Neilson,** and **Cpl John Chapman.** This formula certainly proved effective in successfully beating 25 Engr Regt and HQ Rheindahlen Garrison, to reach the final. A hard fought final against 21 Engr Regt resulted in the team becoming BAOR Champions. **Lt Stan Hargreaves** is still looking for a suitable team outside BAOR to create an Army final. Are there any takers?

LCpl Jarrett ACC receives his winner's trophy

Lt Hargreaves, Sgt Chapman, Cpl Pollard, LCpl Moore, Cfn Hardie, WO1 (YofS) Gilchrist

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

MARESFIELD GYMNASIUM
Report by WO2 QMSI Gordon Young

The new complex within 7 Sig Regt has now been in operation for five months or more and is proving to be a great asset and has in that time seen many pounds of labour of love and tears disappear for ever. Also heard on the vine 'How did we ever manage before, for so long'. Various activities are organized which are proving to be popular amongst all members and dependants within the garrison.

AROUND AND ABOUT THE REGIMENT

Patio builders of 6 Squadron club find themselves in the missing jig saw piece situation. **Sgt Gus Graham** and his worthy team endeavour to find where the final slab should be placed. The budding landscape gardeners have made a terrific job of the club's new addition. Rumour has it that there may be half a chance of getting a little soldiering out of them, now the construction work is completed.

Lonely are those in command. **SSM Carl Bellamy** of 6 Squadron is seen relaxing in the shade contemplating his next earth shattering decision, or perhaps when and where will his next cup of coffee come from.

Victory was sweet and certainly well deserved. **Maj (QM) Brian Cleaver** is seen winning the old soldiers race by a neck from **Capt Geordie Gainford.** Demonstrating there's life in the old dog yet, the QM broke all previous records, even if he was assisted by the odd bottle of Carlsberg.

'Hoots Mon' it was a memorable evening. To stirring shrill of the pipes accompanied by many a charged glass of port, the officers of 4 Regiment entertained our own regimental officers. An excellent get-together proving that we speak to each other. Everyone now awaits patiently for the return match.

YOU JUST CAN'T KEEP GOOD OLD UNS DOWN

Teeth were taken out and lovingly immersed in pints of bitter. Wigs were tenderly taken off, combed dusted and placed into cardboard hat boxes. Pension Books were secured under lock and key together with rows of glittering LS and GC's. Old bones creaked as strips were pulled over wrinkled and weather beaten faces. The stuff that 'Fortifies the over Forties' was liberally passed around from trembling hand to trembling hand. Not a scene from Chelsea but a 'Golden Oldies' rugby match between ex Royal Signals Corps players and 7 Sig Regt first XV recently held at Herford. The arrived festooned in slightly tarnishing rugby medals and a colourful array of regimental rugby jerseys. The ground echoed with past glories of names long since forgotten not to mention a selection of stories of high spirited nights in a score of Rugby

Clubs as far off as Hong Kong and Halifax. Despite the obvious age disadvantage, these warriors of the 'Oval Ball' gave a tremendous account of themselves against the youth and dash of the Regimental first XV. Drawing on every ounce of strength, determination and skill, not to mention yet another crate of the stuff that reaches where other liquids do not, the old and bold battled it out.

The score? Well the Golden Oldies only just lost, but in doing so gave a packed ground of supporters an excellent afternoon's sport. After the match the stalwart few hobbled back to the peace and tranquility of many a nursing home, until the replay?

BERLIN HOCKEY TOUR
Report by Maj R. Leaver RAPC

Having paid a fleeting weekend visit to SHAPE in Belgium for a hockey game in 1980, the regimental team thought it would be nice to travel to Berlin this year for a short tour of three games against Resident Units.

229 Sig Sqn (Berlin) kindly agreed to act as Sponsor and **Sgt Alan Reece** arranged fixtures and umpires. The touring squad set off on Wednesday 11 Feb at 10am and after travelling by coach and military train arrived safely at their destination at 2000hrs. The weather did not augur well, as snow was falling as the team were arriving. Our first fixture against 229 on Thursday had to be cancelled as the pitch was covered with an inch of snow and was quite unplayable. On Friday a slight thaw set in and after a little snow clearing by local groundsmen, bully off took place against an invitation XI. Play was only possible with a cricket ball and the ball had to be struck extremely hard to make it move at all. The team soon discovered that the ideal tactic was to chase every ball as they rarely went off the field of play. The touring team eventually ran out winners by 4—1. After fresh snow on Friday evening we were not optimistic about the whistle being blown in Saturday afternoon, however, after both teams had removed the larger patches of ice from the pitch the final match against a Combined Services team got under way. We had most of the ball in the first half, however, were unlucky to turn 2—0 down, the opposition having made the most of their chances, our going just wide. A third goal by Combined Services did not deter us and eventually our continuous pressure was rewarded with a goal. The final score being 3—1 in favour of Combined Service. The match was a credit to both teams in the prevailing conditions.

Some unscheduled matches took place although nobody has yet reported the scores. These took place in the evening, usually after 10pm and included amongst the opposing teams, King George's Club, Pony Club, Society Club, La Poupee Club and the Cafe Keese. The accompanying photograph shows some of the touring team, . The team members being **Maj (Thin Lizzy) Leaver, WO1 (The Sponge) Harrod, WO2 (Carpet Shop) Peel, SSgt (Interpreter) Lawrance, SSgt (I need Interpreter) Whelan, SSgt (Bathtub) Farrall, SSgt (Feather) Mills, SSgt (Muscles) Burton, Sgt (Pretty Boy) Pylee, Cpl (Puff) Buff, Cpl (Secret) Sharma, LCpl (Quiet Man) Belcher, LCpl (Dashing) Harvey** and **Sig (Panties) Verrall.** Names in brackets were allocated after evening performances.

HEREFORD GARRISON YOUTH WEEK

Our story hunting 7 Sig Regt reporter has been busy following up events as part of the BAOR youth week in aid of the Shaftesbury Society for Handicapped Children.

Division Youth Leader **Mr Terry Collinwood** ably supported by Garrison Youth Leader **Mr Keith Hanbury** helped by many parents and children planned a full programme. Sponsored entertaining events ranging from a Rag Ball to a Cheese and Wine (parents only) held during the week to a mad, mad football competition made for a well organised and profitable period. Friday saw the whole idea come to a successful ending, when a packed crowd of excited spectators watched several colourful fancy dress football matches, with custard pies.

Organised by **Sgt Len Moore** of the local Postal Unit, the games ranged from an 'all in' with the kids taking part, to a German School Bus Drivers team v a School Children Escorts team. The gallant ladies team gave an exciting if not too scientific account of themselves snatching victory in a 5—0 score. Towards the evening Lister school hall resounded with echoing beat of a Disco laid on for the youngsters.

An excellent week where kids, parents, Youth Leaders, and anyone else came along to enjoy themselves in aid of an extremely worthwhile cause.

MISS TRIFFID LAUNCHES ZULU

Miss Christine Dyer is seen about to cut the tape and launch 3 Sqn 7 Sig Regt. The new squadron, Comm Cen Zulu is equipped with a number of Triffid radio relay vehicles which have more than lived up to expectations as far as signallers who use them are concerned.

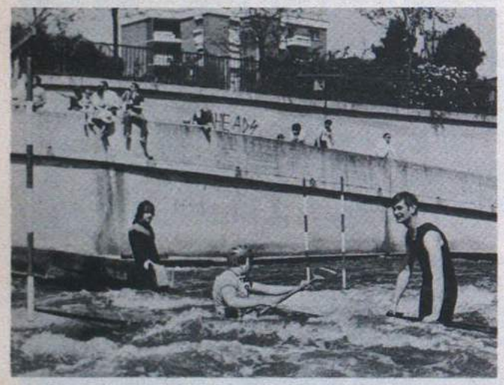
The Sqn Comd, **Maj Phil Cooper** standing left waits patiently while **Christine** cuts the tape to see his squadron roll out of Camp. **LCpl Johno Johnson** and **Sig Ben Gunn** in the cab and standing right **Sig Chippie Wood** look on.

A SIGNAL VICTORY

Success in the field of Small Bore Shooting goes to **SSgt Terry Beckett** (Left) and **Sgt Ken Fisher** of 7 Sig Regt.

Victory came in the shape of a gold and silver medal for the quick draw signallers in winning the NSRA Army Individual short range target rifle championships.

Both have shot for the Army on many occasions and **SSgt Beckett** is to represent the service against Scotland.



REGIMENTAL DIVERS HELP OUT

A cry for help was answered recently when a local German Life Saving Club—the Herford DLRG—found itself short handed when asked to provide safety cover at the annual Herford canoe club slalom. Several 7 Sig Regt members of the Garrison Sub-Squa club gave up their weekend to help out. The picture shows **Cpl Simon Watts** beside the Weir race in the sweltering heat of one of the hottest Sundays so far this year.

FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES	
OC Sqn	**Maj Gerry Maddren**
OC H Tp	**Capt Richard Thurston**
OC T Tp	**Lt John Armitage**
SSM	**WO2 John Peacock**
YOS	**WO2 Keith Finch**
FOS	**WO2 Mick Banks**
SQMS	**SSgt Paddy Crabtree**

2 Squadron had a successful year in 1980 with both Ex *Javelin* and Ex *Crusader*, both of which were spent on a well known feature with a swimming pool conveniently nearby. Ex *Crusader* gave the opportunity for the families of the squadron to visit the men in the field, so that they could see the extremes of conditions suffered.

ARU day in December was a welcome change from the normal task of 2 Squadron, the Squadron deployed to the field as a company in defence. This was after a hot tip, the previous day, that our ARU task was to be NBC, which resulted in everyone spending the night reading yellow pages.

THE BREAKAWAY

The New Year heralded a new period for 2 Squadron. Over the previous year Commcen Zulu had been forming within Bravo and 1 Jan saw them breakaway and form 3 Squadron. At the end of the month, **Maj Nick Mayne** who had been OC 2 for 18 months handed over to **Maj Gerry Maddren.** Two days after taking over, the new OC 2 deployed the squadron to Ex *Flying Falcon,* which was extremely successful. 2 Squadron wish **Maj Nick Mayne** all the best in his new job, behind the bars of the Ops Cell, but please do not give us all the tasks.

TRAINING AT HALTERN

The last week in April the squadron spent at ATA Haltern for a week's military training. This was an enormous success. The squadron was split into two platoons one commanded by **Cpl Bruce Murdin,** the other by **Cpl Tom Simpkin** attached from the LAD. Each platoon spent two days on the ranges under OC T Tp and the SSM. Then two days in the field with OC2, OC HTp and the SQMS. During the field phase, the platoon set up a patrol base from which they sent out recce patrols, set up an ambush and carried out section attacks. This exercise brought out some important points: never let **Capt Richard Thurston** near a trip flare, life does exist without an early morning whistle, **Sig Kev Jarvis** enjoys playing in the sand, **Sgt Fred Green** can live without beans, **Lt John Armitage** and **Sgt Dave Roberts** have feet not skis at the end of their legs and **Cpl Phil Paine** has a group to rival Adam and the Ants.

SUCCESSES IN SPORT

Life at 2 Squadron is not all exercises, we have had our sporting times as well. 3rd and 4th place in the Indoor Hockey League, 2nd in the Basketball League. Tug 'O' War is not our strong point, but then we have more brains than brawn. Under sporting achievements can also be listed the following: New arrivals to **Taff** and **Janet Hughes, Andy** and **Annette James, Phil** and **Anita Constable, Dave** and **Christine Johnstone, Jackie** and **Bob Foote,** to them all congratulations.

FAREWELL

The squadron also says farewell to those who have left in the past year and welcome to all arriving. Then until the squadron next appears in the wire: Does **Maj Gerry Maddren** really want snow on every exercise. Does **FofS Mick Banks** have SOP kit? Is it true **Sig Mick Hazelgrove** has a private tailor? Does **Sig Gilly Angilley** stop eating between meals? Can **Cpl Eddie Gregory** make coffee? These and many more questions will be answered in the next edition of SOAP (Squadron Operational Annual Publication).

GENUINE KIT

- WOOLLY PULLYS
- PARA SMOCKS
- BOOTS
- BERETS
- 58 WEBBING
- DOWN S/BAGS
- O.G. TROUSERS
- PUTTIES

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE GREAT ESCAPE

On Wed 29 Apr a 13-year association between 8 Sig Regt and the MOD Constabulary at Catterick came to an end. The occasion was the realisation of the Classified Equipment Group Escape Committee's ambition to get everyone outside the barbed wire simultaneously! Now we have moved from these ancient buildings, we regretfully have to dispense with the services of the boys in blue. The new CE Group occupies two floors immediately above the new RHQ and it is assumed that the mere presence of the RSM below will deter any intending miscreants! Be that as it may, we shall miss our friendly constables and remember with gratitude the reduction in duties they made possible. They certainly relieved many Custodian Officers of a lot of worry over the years.

The exchange of presentations between Lt Col (Tfc) W. C. Lombard and Inspector Harry Smith with Constable John Wood looking on, who incidentally did the very first shift in September 1968 and has now carried out the last one

Left to Right, Back Row: SSgt (FofS) Pete Braithwaite, Cpl 'Doc' Docherty, Sgt Tubbs Simister, WSgt Gill Campbell, Mr Roy Warmsley

Middle Row: WO2 (YofS) Tony (Givus a fag) Young, Sgts Terry Davies, Tony Wise, Jerry D'Alquen, Alan Beall, Colin Roberts (just), Constable John Wood, Sgts Trevor Mortlock, Alan Muir, Joe McKenzie (best profile), Jim Waterson, WO2 (YofS) 'Gone for a run' Geoff Downey

Front Row: Inspector Harry Smith, Lt Col (Tfc) W. C. Lombard R Signals

THE NEW PLACE

Our new place is much more pleasant, roomy and efficient, but it is clear that it will never, ever, achieve quite the same character as the old buildings, which, by the time you read this, will be gone—an era will have passed.

A CORNER OF THE VEIL

The history of the buildings is naturally shrouded in secrecy, but in this enlightened age we can lift a corner of the veil and reveal that: In 1939 our **QM (Gen) Maj Ray Webb** was kitted out therein as a boy soldier. In 1951 it was certainly in use by 1 TR to instruct E Techs in the mysteries of 5UCO. The Cipher School proper is believed to have originated in Herne Bay (?), then 3 Intelligence School at Ilkley, 3 Intelligence School at Harrogate, then 4 TR at Gaza Lines followed by Brighton, whence it arrived on Whinny Hill in the mid 60s. Since then it has variously been known (in random order of course) as Old Moore's Alcatraz, Chater's Chain Store, Pilkington's Palace, Bob's Coe-Ed Crypto School, Fort Lockie, Barretts Home from Home, Reed's Paper Mill, Burge's Blockhouse and Lombard's Launch-pad.

Under the 30-year rule we cannot reveal the origin of these names, but there are no D-Notices on guessing, or indeed in writing in and complaining that we have got it all wrong!

Chief Clerks Course 26OUR-3

Left to Right, Back Row: Sgts Chris Carveth, Pete Cuckow, Loukumar Chhetri, Paul Connors, Tony Dark, SSgt Pete Dean, Sgt John Pope

Front Row: WO2 (ORQMS) Ian Dudding (Instructor), SSgt Madan-Kumar-Gurung, Sgt Mitch Thompson, Civilian Instructors George Wright, Arthur Moon, Sgt Bill Winder, Mick Hague, Chris Bell, WO2 (ORQMS) Ray Duffy (RHQ Chief Clerk who just happened to be passing!)

Absent from photograph: Assistant Adjutant, WO2 (ORQMS) Brian Dearman who was attending a cadre Officers/Warrant Officers military training week!!

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

On Fri 22 May, **WO2 Jim Preston** and **Sgt Dave Knell**, were presented with their LS & GC medals by the CO, **Lt Col David Miller.** Both recipients were proudly supported by their families, **Mr Preston** senior and wife **Maria**, with **Mr** and **Mrs Knell** senior, and father-in-law **Mr Dennis Bramley,** an ex Royal Signals Sgt who completed his 22 years with 21 Sig Regt and took the opportunity to renew many old acquaintances! The Bruno Club (where else) was the venue and all ranks enjoyed the generous hospitality of **Jim Preston** and Dave Knell—so much so, that the former still has the hint of a tear in his eye when the bar bill is mentioned. Seriously though, this was a splendid family occasion, and both recipients are a credit to the corps, and shining examples to younger members of the unit. Well done lads.

Lt Col D. M. O. Miller congratulating WO2 Jim Preston on his award of the LS & GC Medal

Lt Col D. M. O. Miller congratulating Sgt Dave Knell on his award of the LS & GC Medal

FOOTNOTE

In particular the LS & GC presentation serves as a memorable occasion for **WO2 Preston** who received the GOC's commendation in the latter part of last year for his magnificent achievement in rescuing a party of soldiers in the Cairngorms during Mar 1980.

Presentation of GOC's Commendation to WO2 (SSM) J. M. Preston

EXERCISE 'EVERGREEN'—ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE PARTY

10 Sig Regt again set out for Dartmoor on the first of the two battle camps of the year. The advance party arrived in the middle of a blizzard and soon Dartmoor was covered in heavy snow drifts. The news was received that five Air Cadets were missing out on the moor and the CO **Lt Col D. M. O. Miller**, together with **WO1 (RSM) Wringe, WO1 (YofS) Foulger, SSgt Coll, Sgt Murphy** and **Cpl Hicks** set out with the Dartmoor Rescue Team to look for them. The event received extensive coverage in the national news media. Mercifully the air cadets had been well trained in survival techniques and, under the leadership of a gallant 15 year old, managed to walk themselves off the moor after two nights. The regiment received kind letters from the Dartmoor Rescue Team and the parents of the boys concerned.

ACTIVITIES

The Camp activities included a day on the ranges, followed by a night compass march. This was followed by a detachment competition over the Royal Marines scramble course, abseiling run by instructors from 5 Cadet Training Team and an exciting session with No 1 Raiding Squadron Royal Marines in their Rigid Raiders. After this the regiment ran its own 10 Tors Expedition over two days, followed by a blister disco. The camp concluded with a day practising infantry tactics, followed by a night in Okehampton town. This left the Directing Staff a day to recover, before the arrival of the second contingent and a repeat programme.

LEST WE FORGET

Scene:—Detachments erecting bivouacs after the first day of the ten tors expedition. Enter **WO2 (SSM) Walker** WRAC loudly exclaiming 'I want six men!'. It did sound a little greedy, however, she still maintains that it was for a fatigue party. Scene:—The day with No 1 Raiding Squadron Royal Marines, with a boatful of WRAC dressed in waterproof suits and thus hardly discernible as the female sex. As they passed a naval vessel they tried to chat up some sailors, somewhat to their astonishment, as from a distance they had been mistaken for Royal Marines. We hope that this did not have the effect of dimishing any reputations. Scene:—Apopleptic local farmer overhearing conversation in public house between two WRAC soldiers on whether or not the wearing of a bra would slow them up on the 10 tor expedition. In 10 Sig Regt with our high proportion of WRAC we became fairly used to this type of discussion. However in deepest Devon it caused some surprise.

We are not really making a Spider Web, Just Rock Climbing!!

'We're Ready—What about you lot?' *Left to Right* Pte Lynne Brown, LCpl Alison McClelland, Pte Mandy Hayward and Pte Ann Marshall

'Help—What do I do now?' LCpl Elaine Jones tried a hand at abseiling

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **Sgt Burns, LCpl Borwell, Pte Clapton, Cpl Hillyard, Pte Brennan, LCpl Dixon** and **Pte Greger** for winning the detachment competition in week one, and to **Sgt Quick, Cpl O'Mahony, Cpl Whittaker, Cpl Annison, Pte Halligan, Pte Shimmin, Pte Simpson** and **Cpl Sparks** for winning it on week two.

There was a rumour flying round the camp that the RSM, **WO1 Wringe** had booked a double room in a hotel for the one night in-between the two camps under the name of Mr and Mrs Smith. It should now be definitely stated that there was no winner of the Mrs Smith competition.

The Directing Staff, christened 'the Dogs of War', spent a high proportion of their time perched on the top of tors amongst fog, wind and rain. **WO2 (YofS) Foulger** took the Landrover where other landrover tyres would fear to 'tread'! It was at one stage, perched precariously on top of a snow drift at an angle of 45°, propped up by a stretcher. The successful recovery by **WO2 (YofS) Foulger** was a most impressive test of courage.

The admin party under the able leadership of our **SQMS SSgt Crook** certainly deserve a mention. Not only did they cope heroically with all the various short notice demands that occurred, but christened as detachment 69 gave everyone a run for their money on the second leg of the 10 tor competition.

CONCLUSION

Thus another exercise 'Evergreen' was successfully completed. The 2IC **Maj A. W. Hunt** is even now brushing up on his abseiling having achieved the impossible feat of managing a somersault on the way down, which, to say the least, prevented the day becoming dull for the instructor. It is hoped that the next camp will again take place on Dartmoor and by then the 2IC designate, **Maj R L Windmill** will be in the harness!

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON (QM DEPARTMENT)

The day is Fri 10 Apr, the time 1000 hrs and the order of the day 'Smile', that is for the merry/happy band of men and women belonging to the subversive 'Breakaway' movement of 10 Sig Regt. They head South beneath a rare and almost forgotten phenomena, bright sunshine, for Browndown Training Camp, Gosport, leaving the grotesque silhouette of Colditz II (Hounslow) where they hoped it would remain—out of sight, out of mind. After a gruelling 1½ hours on the road the trusty leader, **Maj Harry Meekings** notices an abundance of stiff legs and numb bums in his convoy, also the **RQMS Len Collie** and **SQMS Tim Crook** appear to be severely dehydrated. With the welfare of his troops foremost in his mind, he takes the only available refuge in a local hostelry. First aid is rendered and the low spirits of his force are topped up and again they head south.

Meanwhile at Browndown, the advance party, led by **Cpl 'Dutch' Hollands,** surfaces with expert timing from their pits, and, as the main party arrives, they can be seen putting the final touches to the tent they erected on the previous night. Nice one **'Dutch'.** Everyone having settled in, and the **SSM ('It's not MO it's Maureen') Livings** having finally become the proud owner of a camp bed, the primary object on the agenda was who could cook an edible meal? The attempt on the first evening meal was made by **Cpl Lee Howe-Jones, LCpl Paul Sharman** and **LCpl 'Windy'** (with gusts force 8) **Redshaw**, their degree

of success, although not bettered by other teams on following occasions, is still a matter for public debate. After the meal, **Maj Harry Meekings** was presented with a cake appropriately enscribed 'Major Disaster', and to help celebrate his promotion he produced a couple of bottles of bubbly. Thank you Sir and congratulations.

The evenings entertainment took the shape of a historical trek to the nearest consulate of the local brewery, its historical interest being, why didn't we come down here last year? Once everyone was seated the ceremonial 2 litre boot was filled (courtesy of the QM) and the ancient tribal , 'Don't spill it, sink it, or pass it to someone who can,' began. This ceremony bought upon several acts above and beyond the call of duty (and the call of nature), those most noteworthy being from **LCpl Kim Gray** who after draining the contents of the boot, did likewise with the contents of her stomach. Also **SSM (MO sorry Maureen) Livings** who broke all three cardinal rules, she spilt it, failed to sink it and then passed it on to someone who could. That someone being **SQMS Tim Crook** who deserves a special mention, as not only did he empty the contents of the boot on no less than three separate occasions, but he also walked back to the camp without the aid of a safety net. This ancient ritual over, everyone made tracks back to camp through the torrential rain whilst **Debbie Oldham** and **Davies** fought a rearguard action against the local Constabulary, who they tell us only wished to enquire what tobacco **Debbie Oldham** was smoking in the QM's pipe.

The evening culminated in a sing song, going on into the early hours; speaking of which at 0500hrs **SMS Maureen Livings** was seen departing her tent wearing nothing more than her DMS Boots, a short Waterproof and a pair of pink Frilly Knickers, and if you think that's colourful, you should have heard the vocal rainbow she emitted as she fell over the guy rope. Her objective is unconfirmed, but the toilet roll she was carrying could account for her unflagged determination.

Reveille at 0730 was met with an enthusiasm which could only be likened to the eagerness of a Christian Lion tamer performing at Caesar's birthday celebrations, however the NATO standard coffee courtesy of **Mr Johnny Johnson, Cpl Dutch Hollands** and **LCpl Debbie Davies** stood our stomachs in good stead for the mornings activities; a visit to 20 Maritime Regt RCT Portsmouth. The happy band was also joined for the day by **Maj Christine Green** and by **Maj Tony de Vere Hunt** and it must be said of the latter that he got well into the Breakaway spirit.

The morning began with a well prepared and presented lecture by our host **WO2 (YofS) Bob Wright**, which enlightened us all as to the roles and establishment of 20 Maritime Regt RCT (from the signals point of view). Despite thick fog our host was able to arrange a launch trip around Portsmouth Harbour (was that a foghorn or **'Windy' Redshaw**) and had procured the services of several of HMS including HMS Bulwark, Invincible and Hermes, purely for our entertainment. The morning's visit was crowned by an eagerly accepted invitation to the 'Mars Bar Club', and although there was no sight of thick, thick chocolate, a few thick heads were in evidence.

Back to camp for a sports afternoon with volleyball followed by a game of rounders, which produced a unique star in **Maj Tony de Vere Hunt** who, after striking the ball, ran with all his vast reserves of energy and determination, directly to 4th base, much to his and everyone else's amusement, he discovered his slight error in time to be stumped out at first base. May I suggest a slice of **Maj Meeking's** cake Sir?

A bonfire planned for the evening was eventually ignited against all odds by **SQMS Tim 'Look no eyebrows' Crook,** who accompanied by a live jerrycan performed an extremely convincing impression of suicidal Buddhist monk. With this performance over it was a sing song 'Pixie' style accompanied by **Sig 'Emu' Eamus** and his guitar, interrupted by the occasional munching of jacket baked potatoes.

The previous nights amusements finished, along with the contents of several bottles, it was a late Sunday lunch before setting sail for HMS Victory via the Gosport-Portsmouth ferry. We arrived mid-afternoon, having made a brief stop en route to scuttle the Ark Royal Public House, and enjoyed a leisurely tour around the historical flagship, although it was rather perturbing to find that it is still in dry dock. Back to camp and whilst the fellas were showering and splashing it all over, in preparation for the long awaited visit to that well known nightspot The Royal British Legion, the females were also getting into the party mood. Their efforts took the shape of a girls only, stand up and sing, sit down and drink. The loudest song was apparently instigated by **LCpl 'Randy' Poole** and was curiously named 'Colonel'. We were warmly received on our visit to the Royal British Legion, but none as warmly as **Cpl 'Dutch' Hollands**, who became something of a celebrity among the more senior of local ladies.

Then it was back to base and an early night. At 0630 QM **Maj Harry Meekings** and **RQMS Len Collie** woke the troops with a gentle shake and a cup of coffee. A quick breakfast and everyone got stuck in with the packing and we were away at 0930. Another Breakaway had come to an end! When is the next one?!

3 SQUADRON

Ex *Short Hop* was a leadership training exercise which took place during a weekend in early April in Groombridge near Tunbridge Wells. The weather proved to be typical English springtime variety, which meant most of the weekend was spent up to the knees in mud. However, this made sleeping in tents very comfortable because of the soft surface!

Having travelled down on Friday night and set up camp, it was a relief to find a kindly local pub who dined and wined us well over the weekend. Saturday morning was spent rock climbing sand stone rocks which were particularly frustrating, so the afternoon was spent abseiling which was much easier, particularly after the visit to our friendly local pub at lunch time! However, although it is easier coming down, most people had to battle with their nerves when they peered off the top and saw the drop below especially **LCpl Elain Jones** seen in the photograph. **LCpl Jayne Garrick** suddenly lost her bubbling sense of humour as the instructor gave her a helpful shove off the top, and then told her as she was dangling halfway down that her harness was coming undone. 'What do I do now?' she yelled with her hands folded in prayer! She was extremely relieved to see the evil smile appear on his face telling her that he was joking. Everyone eventually made it. Having become extremely cold and wet we then returned to camp and the more inspired of the group cooked up a compo stew followed by an egg and spoon race which caused endless amusement with **LCpl Elain Jones** ending up in the mud.

The next day started with the rain pattering on the roof of the tent, but as we were canoeing it did not really make much difference. The idea of having to do the capsize drill in the murky Medway was not inspiring. There was much relief when wetsuits were produced along with canoes.

Everyone climbed gingerly into their canoes or rather tried to. **Pte Mandy Hayward** had a few problems and had done her capsize drill, unwittingly, about five times before she finally got the hand of sitting in a canoe. Everyone then paddled down the river for about three hours, but it was so cold and wet that the instructors decided to have a waterfight, which was not appreciated, particularly by one member of the party **Lt Annabel King**, who just as she was about to leap out of the canoe, was pushed in by an over enthusiastic instructor. The journey back to Aldershot seemed a long one but Duchess of Kent Barracks, bath and food for once, seemed a great luxury. It was a weekend thoroughly enjoyed by everyone—although they may not have thought so at the time! Our many thanks go to 15CTT led by **SSgt Peter Day**, who were our very long suffering instructors who did so much to make exercise *Short Op* run smoothly.

SEDSAM 1981

Back in March a South East District Order appeared with details of the South East District Skill at Arms competition. With sudden inspiration from 3 Squadron's 2IC **Cap Jayne Petty** and the Sports Officer **Lt Annabel King** 3 Squadron decided to enter. From that day on things escalated into nearly all out war. It seems a simple task training a shooting team of six WRAC, but, be assured, it it is not.

The first problem was getting a range, of course they had all been booked months in advance by the 'Professionals'! The initial training started with two days on the range selecting a team. That was the easy part, after that Ranges were hard to come by, but the Range staff couldn't have been more helpful, combined with getting the girls released from work at very short notice and ringing round various team captains, asking if they would mind having six girls coming on the range, the team was finally established; it consisted of **Lt Annabel King, LCpl Jean Charters, LCpl Mary Anne Ferguson, Pte Cheryl Grainger, Pte Lynne Brown,** and **Pte Cathy Benn.**

Serious training began! **WO1 Brian Foulger** must have had rather a shock when he was detailed to come and spend two days on the ranges as Range Officer for a WRAC team, at least his comments when

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arrived certainly showed this. He was rather dubious as to the standard of weapon handling but got rather a pleasant surprise when he discovered that, in fact, girls are perfectly safe with SMGs. Rather swallowing his words at the end of the day he very kindly said that he would offer his services anytime!

The next instalment was a switch from 50m SMG range to the 100m which would be used in one of the competitions. Very few of the team managed to actually hit the target and morale was very low, but after firing at 200m on Battle Camp, 100m seemed very close and morale was boosted as the scores went up. Then the weapons started jamming and one even gave up altogether—panic! So a manoeuvre had to be found. Fortunately 2 Para took to the womanly touch very well and made a super job of renovating all the weapons.

The next stage was the team Captains Meeting. **Lt Annabel King** very gingerly went along and was greeted with—what on the earth are you doing here—looks by about fifty men. It was all very demoralizing, however the G2 was very paternal and made sure **Lt King** knew what was happening, and gave her preferential treatment with squadding cards etc . . . much to everyone's disgust!

Competition Day arrived and everything was in order. Our supporters came along to give moral support, these were **Lt Col David Miller, Maj Patrick Templeman-Evans, Cap Jayne Petty**, and **2Lt Shelagh Quinlan.** The first shoot was the individual SMG and first to do so were **LCpl Jean Charters** and **LCpl Mary Anne Ferguson**. They did very well and gave the rest of the team confidence. Everyone got through unscathed although **Pte Lynne Brown**, unfortunately, had her weapon jam which pulled her score down dramatically.

The next competition was the parachute cup which consisted of a team of three—**Lt Annabel King, LCpl Jean Charters** and **Pte Lynne Brown** with **Sgt Ian Wilmot** coaching. Fortunately they kept their cool and the weapon handling looked very slick which made a few people swallow their words. Unfortunately the scores were not so slick, but the point was that the team did not come last. Having been rather the centre of attention throughout the competition the team had proved that they were perfectly capable of handling weapons as well as any of our male peers. The fact that the team did not come high up on the scores did not really matter, because it must be remembered that more pressure was put on them than any other teams. However, the standard of their weapon handling had all that could be desired and this was only due to the very good training and encouragement that they had all along. **Lt A King** would like to thank all the instructors that gave their time to helping; 15CTT, **WO1 Brian Foulger, SSM Davies, Sgt Ian Wilmot, Cpl Fairburn**, and also **Cap Jayne Petty, RSM Innes, Miss Jill Trainor** and **2Lt Shelagh Quinlan**, for their co-operation with everything that the team required.

Results and photographs will be published next issue.

THE OFFICER COMMANDING'S CHALLENGE

The OC, **Maj Patrick Templeman-Evans**, challenged the squadron to a 5 mile run, a 5 length swim and a shooting competition on Wed 27 May. Much to his surprise seven accepted his challenge!

The challenge started at 1330 hrs with the 5 length swim. The competitors were looking fit and were practising warming up tactics. **Cpl Taff Allerton** was looking very professional with her goggles and sun tan. **Pte Heather Lang** was swimming up and down the pool perfecting her breast stroke—with the encouragement from her husband **LCpl Andy Lang. 2Lt Shelagh Quinlan** achieved great heights with her diving!

The OC was playing it cool by staying well clear from the water's edge, and only on the start of the race touched the water. The race was started by **Capt Jayne Petty**, who along with **SSM Jill Walker** gave great encouragement to all. The race was hard going and the OC was placed under much pressure as **2Lt Quinlan** beat him with yards to spare!!

After the swim everyone assembled outside the Duchess of Kent Barracks for the start of the 'Great Race'. So with wet hair and cold hands everyone set off, down hill towards the long and winding route we had been tasked with. As the race progressed **Cpl Taff Allerton** and the OC broke away from the main party of the race to begin their own personal race—which **Cpl Taff Allerton** won with no breath lost! In hot persuit came **WO1 (RSM) Wringe** and **Pte Lynn Brown** followed by **Pte Gail Lammiman** and **2Lt Shelagh Quinlan**, then only a few yards behind followed **LCpl Charters.** Then last, but not least, **Pte Heather Lang** shouting words of encouragement to **LCpl Alison McClelland.** The race was won by **Cpl Taff Allerton** with **WO1 (RSM) Wringe** in second place. Then came the OC, with **Pte Gail Lammiman, Pte Lynn Brown** and **2Lt Shelagh Quinlan. LCpl Charters** followed, then **Pte Lang** and **LCpl McClelland** came in last with sore feet and muddy boots.

The shooting competition showed no problems for **LCpl Jean Charter** and **Pte Lynn Brown**, who had been practising a few weeks before, for the skill at Arms competition. A good time was had by all and much to the OC's surprise it was not quite the 'walk over' he had anticipated. It just goes to prove that the WRAC members of the squadron are a force to be reckoned with!

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON ADULT RECRUIT INTAKES
2 TROOP

Intake 8103 Passed Off on 24 Apr. The Reviewing Officer was the Master of Signals **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO.** The prize for Best All Round Recruit was awarded to **Sig V. G. Ramsdale** from Lincoln and the Best Shot was **Sig R. D. Inglesant** from Leicester.

3 TROOP

On 8 May **Col K. Kirkby** reviewed Intake 8104 and our photograph shows **Maj J. E. Ient** R Signals, **SSgt R. Stanton, WO1 R. Harris** and **Cpl J. W. Shiels** leading 3 Troop past the saluting dais. The Best All Round Recruit was **Sig K. P. Greenwood** from Lincoln and the Best Shot **Sig A. Gordon.**

March Past of 3 Troop

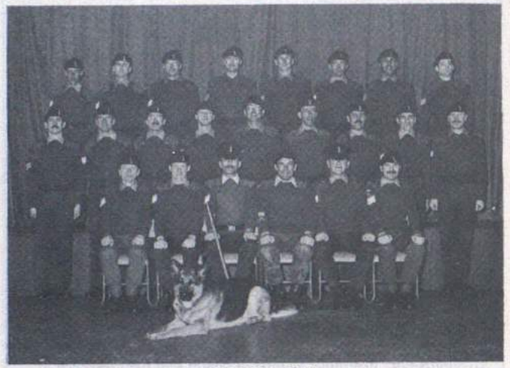
4 TROOP

Intake 8105 Passed Off on 22 May 81. **Sig A. J. Strickland** from Harrogate was the Best Recruit and **Sig D. W. Toombes** from Dagenham the Best Shot. The Inspecting Officer was **Maj (Ret'd) R. O. Edwards** who enthralled both staff, recruits and parents with his stories of 54 years association with the Corps.

2 SQN
ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF SERGEANTS COURSES (RSSSC) NO 174 AND 175

RSSSC's 174 and 175 both ended on 2 May 81. Top students were **Sgt D. Boyd** (174) of 34 Sig Regt (V) permanent staff and **Sgt P. D. Cooper** (175) of 9 Sig Regt.

RSSSC No 174
Back Row: Sgts Chhetri, Clarke, Hague, Cawley, Lunney, Clanachan, Turfey, Boyd, Robinson, Winder
Centre Row: Sgts Smith, Duffin, Bennett, Bathe, Doak, Baker, Pape, Bogie, Cook
Front Row: Instructors



RSSSC No 175
Back Row: Sgts Smith, Murray, Green, Ker, McAllister, Armitage, Nichol, Hyde
Centre Row: Sgts Hitchens, O'Brien, Graley, Gladwin, Cooper, Jeffrey, Terry, Ward, Jackson
Front Row: Instructors

BASKETBALL

The regimental team had an excellent season. We won the N E Dist/Northern Ireland zone final, beating 223 Sig Sqn in the final. This gave us a place in the Army Minor Units final which was in the form of a play off in Aldershot on 13-15 Mar. We won one game and lost two and were narrowly beaten into third place.

The Basketball Team
Back Row, Left to Right: LCpl Hay, Cpl Nall, LCpl Hamilton, Sgt McLeod
Front Row: Cpl Bennett, SSgt Pinder, SSgt Licence, Cpl Farrer, WO1 Buckley

SOCCER

The photograph shows our soccer squad the winners of The Yorkshire Services Association Football League Cup 1980/81.

The Regimental Soccer Squad
Back Row, Left to right: Mr Hoban, LCpl Major, SSgt Bell, Sgt Doherty, Sgt McConnon, LCpl Hamilton, Mr Holbrook, Cpl Hale, Cpl Waddingham
Front Row: Mr Hunter, Sgt Stachini, WO2 Warren, CO, SSgt Licence, Maj Paddy Henry and Kelly, Cpl Shiels, Sig Tolmie

FAREWELLS

WO2 Tom Sharp, SSM 1 Sqn left the regiment in May after a long association. We wish him well in his new post at Beaconsfield and will miss his wisdom and experience. **Tom** had become quite a well known character locally and by permission of The Northern Echo we reproduce a photograph and article that appeared in the local paper when he moved on.

TOM CALLS TIME AT THE PUB TO RE-ENLIST

When **Tom Sharp** shouts 'time, you'orrible lot' people sit up, drink up and take notice. That's the trouble when you have a Sergeant Major for a pub landlord. Especially when he's straight out of the It Ain't 'Arf Hot Mum mould of Windsor Davies.

The pints platoon down at Richmond's Oak Tree pub need tremble no more. **Sgt Maj Sharp** is moving on, signed his life away yet again for another 15 years with the Professionals.

It's not only a man's life in the British Army, it's a double life too. By day **Tom** is shouting himself hoarse on the parade ground drilling young recruits into shape. By night he's pulling pints down at the Oak Tree but still has enough voice left to croak 'last orders'. The same cropped haired lads he left exhausted on the drill square, get quite a shock when they escape barracks for a quick pint and find the Sergeant Major behind the bar. 'Quite a few of them come in for a drink, they find it a novelty', said **Tom,** 40. 'But they always behave themselves'. Actually it's **Tom's** wife who has the pub because no serving soldier is permitted to hold a licence. But after over a year behind the bar the couple are giving it all up. **Tom,** who serves with the 11 Sig Regt at Catterick, already with 22 years Army life behind him, has just signed on for more service. 'Having a pub has been great. But the Army is more a way of life than a job and I cannot tear myself away from it', he said. At Catterick he's the one who knocks the slack out of the recruits and gets their backs ramrod straight. I have to do a lot of shouting. That's why I wake people up in the pub when I bawl 'Time'. He is off to a posting in Buckinghamshire but the Oak Tree will not lose its military touch, lads. It won't be any more peaceful either.

Taking over from the **Sharps** is another Army Warrant Officer—**John Dawson,** ex-bandmaster of The Green Howards.

They say he will be getting the glasses in to the sound of a big bass drum.

Tom Sharp calling time

THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

24 April was a significant day for **WO1 (RSM) G. M. Lumley.** It was his last day in the regiment. The Master of Signals presented him with his LS and GC medal and his last Passing Out Parade took place in the gymnasium as we suffered the worst snow storm for many a year. We congratulate the RSM on the news of his future commission and wish him success and better weather in the future.

The Master congratulates the RSM in the WOs and Sgts' Mess

The RSM and Master brave the storm

13 Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 42

OFFICERS' MESS CHANGES

As Spring moved into Summer, March saw the departure of the Officers' Mess Chief Steward, **Sgt Eddy Boxall**, for England to become House Sergeant to the DC in C UKLF, **Lt Gen Sir Frank Kitson**. He and his wife **Susan** were given a presentation salver by the grateful Officers' Mess members in appreciation of his efforts, which had included preparations for the visit of **Princess Anne** and many other VIPs. His place has been taken by **Sgt John Mathieson**, who started life here with the Sgts' Mess after his arrival from 9 Sig Regt Officers' Mess last December. His first task was to preside over the dining out of our OC HQ Sqn and PRI, **Maj Bill Parkes**, and his wife **Dorothy**, who generously presented a 'PMC's throne' for use on Dinner Nights, which **Majs Keith Danby** and **David Anderson** have been the first incumbents to christen!

APRIL HAPPENINGS

Maj Bill Cunningham, our second bachelor Sqn Comd, arrived from Blandford to take the HQ Sqn reins from **Maj Parkes**, allowing him to take a well-earned rest in Ibiza before assuming his RO post in CSO's Branch, HQ BAOR. Old golfing soldiers do not die or lose their balls or fade away, they merely change into civilian clothes and work nearby! The week before Easter saw 'B' Troop of 1 Sqn winning the arduous Colonel's Cup assault course and shooting competition, in front of many visiting officers and sergeants from 14 Sig Regt, here for a Study Day, which included lively Games Evenings in the respective Messes.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS DAY

Fri 1 May, the German May Day Holiday, saw the regiment deploy to the Athletics Field for **Capt Chris Stevenson MBE** to direct the Inter-Squadron Athletics Competition, won by 1 Sqn for the 12th year running, ably coached by **Sgt Jim Leivers.**

The 2IC Maj John Radford, wins the Old Soldiers' Race, helped by a large handicap for years of service, to gain victory over the CO, Lt Col Conrad Garton, Majs David Anderson and Phil Hodges

HOCKEY NOTES
(Regimental Sixes)

The regimental six-a-side competition took place on 2 May at Mercury Barracks. Although the weather was unseasonally harsh with a cold wind and some occasional rain, there was a very good turn out of spectators. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves watching the hockey or adorning the beer tent. 12 teams had been entered for the competition, drawn from troops or departments within the regiment. Some of the more 'seasoned' players who were seen earlier sharpening their sticks or inserting new nails in them, later were forced to use them as walking aids or merely to stay upright. The early part of the competition was organised into 4 mini-leagues of 3 teams each. The top two in each league went forward into the main Knock-out competition and the bottom teams into the plate competition. Quarter finals, semi-finals and the final of both the main and plate competitions took place in the afternoon. 1 Squadron were very prominent in the spoils with A Troop, led raucously from the side-line by **LCpl Edon**, deserved winners in a keenly fought final with D Troop as the runners-up. The Plate winners were B Troop who, although managing to get themselves thoroughly beaten by TM Troop in the morning, achieved some fame or notoriety by playing with 7 men on the field without the Umpires noticing.

Some mention must be made of the WRAC team who, with **WCpl Sue Blackburn** at the helm, played magnificently throughout the day, only to be beaten by D Troop in one of the Semi-finals. All in all, the day was a great success and a credit to the many officials and organisers who helped the prime mover, **WO2 Rod Goddard**, to make it so. Not least, our thanks to **Mrs Kathy Garton**, wife of the CO, for braving the horrible weather to grace the occasion by presenting the many prizes.

The CO's wife, Mrs Kathy Garton, giving D Troop's Sgt Terry Buckley his 6-a-side Hockey runners-up trophy, as Cpl Joe David queues awaiting his cue from Hockey Officer, Maj Stan Brice on 2 May

Sgt Graeme Barber outnumbered by girls Cpl Sue Blackburn and LCpl Lynne Barnes

In summary of our Hockey season, we did not win but we did manage to field 2 teams in the Rhine Area leagues, honour all of our fixtures and provide a large number of players with the opportunity of a regular game, which is the main purpose of participating. We have, therefore, had a very successful season! Details of our two teams' performances follow: 1st Eleven—After the successful previous season, in which the regimental 1st team won promotion, the 1980/81 season began disastrously with the 1st team picking up only 1 point from a possible 14, although playing well enough to draw with the powerful RAF Bruggen Side. There were many reasons for the decline, including the between-seasons posting of some key players, roulement tours and detachment of others, all of which required drafting in of young and relatively inexperienced players. Towards the end of the season there was a distinct improvement as the team began to blend together and the second half of the season saw the 1st team collecting 17 points out of a possible 22, to evade relegation to Division Two. The improvement came too late, however, for the team to win any glory: 2nd Eleven—As with the first team the season was not particularly auspicious for the 2nd Eleven. The reasons were much the same as for the 1st team, but it has been very heartening that, despite all difficulties, it was always possible to field a full side. In the light of the apparent apathy from some units in the league, as far as the players themselves were concerned, it was a reasonably successful season. It is hoped that the many newcomers to the game will continue in the same spirit next season, for this should ensure very different results at the conclusion of the 81/82 league competition.

1 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP
Exercise 'Spring Away V' (May 8-16)

This year's exercise took place, just for a change, in the 'beautifully scenic' Grobbendonk Training Area. 'A' Troop were second to sample this year's compo and the following is an account of its effects on them:

At 1430 hrs on 'Day 1' two 4 tonners left 13 Sig Regt, complete with 'A' Tp, a section from 'O' Tp and one or two odds and sods from 2 sqn, bound for Olen Camp. Famous among the 'O' Tp personnel was **WPte Boris Topham.** On arrival, all BFT failures and those not already tested this year had to attempt the Olen Camp BFT course, while the rest of us formed 2 rather large football teams for a no-holds-barred game.

After a quick shower and something the DS staff called the evening meal, the OC, **Maj Keith Danby**, welcomed us to Olen Camp and assured us we would enjoy our stay. **WO2 'Uncle Bill' Garner** then took over . . . The theme of this year's camp being Internal Security, he opened our eyes to some of the types of boobytrap devices we could some day come across, giving practical demonstration of many. He also had on display various kinds of knots and ropes and advised all non-boy-scouts to learn them, without explaining why! Various personnel were told of the Command Task they would be expected to perform the next day and he then handed us over to **SSgt Al Hale**. Being an excellent orienteer, he had devised an Orienteering Exercise for 'Day 3'. This was aptly titled Hot Boot. **WO1 Harry Cooke**, **SSgt Brian Crook** and **SSgt Tony Turner** were the other infamous members of the DS staff, while **Sgt Clive Grayshan** looked after the bar and cook-house.

We were split into 2 syndicates for the duration of the camp, syndicate leaders being **Sgt Stan Shields** and **Cpl 'Glyn' Glynne-Jones.** The first Command Task was issued to **Cpls Mick Martin** and **Pete Hewitt**, their job being to organise a games night to take place later that evening. Not many people can remember the games, but I hear the SSM can tell a good joke or two. It seemed that no sooner had we got to bed than someone woke us up to start 'Day 2'. Transport took us to good old Grobbendonk. Despite the rigours of the games night, only one person, **LCpl Benny Edon**, failed to 'stomach' the 20 minute journey. The first Command Task of the day was Weapon Training. **Cpl Sid Daniels** and **LCpl Steve Thompson** took us through our paces with the LMG, **Cpl Dave Irving** and **LCpl Mick Reehal** showed us the SMG and **LCpls Jock Frazer** and **Benny Edon** handled the SLR. From there we progressed to the ranges which were controlled by **Sgts Jim Leivers, Eric Sadler** and **Al Lindsay.**

Lunch was cooked, arms, ammunition and rations issued, and off we went on phase 2. Taken on patrol, we experienced harassment from 'drunken locals'. **Sgt Al Lindsay** deserves an Oscar for his performance in this role, practice obviously making perfect! Further down the road we came across the famous Grobbendonk Assault Course. Setting off in pairs in full webbing and carrying an SLR, we found this course something of a challenge. Everyone completed the course with the exception of **Sig Gary Tyldsley** who damaged an old knee wound half way round.

THE DEATH SLIDE

This consisted of a pulley and cable, the cable being attached half way up a tree at one end of a lake and connected to a 4 tonner at the other end. Everyone attempted the slide, **LCpl Chris Garrill** actually landing backwards! **Cpl Daniels** had an unfortunate 'accident' when, for some reason, the driver of the 4 tonner backed up about 3 feet. This had the effect of lowering the cable just as **Sid** was coming down the slide and it stranded him waist-deep in the middle of the lake. The wagon was driven forward to take up the slack once again and poor **Sid** continued his journey to the far bank. It was at this stage that we noticed **Cpl Dave 'Smurf' Irving** was in a bad way. The combined efforts of the hot sun and the assault course left him suffering from heat exhaustion. **Cpl Hewitt** administered First Aid with the help of **SSgt Crook** and the OC and within an hour **Smurf** was back to his old self again.

Sig Pete Bennett cools off during the Grobbendonk 'Death Slide'

It was at this point that 6 members of A Tp and one from O Tp tackled the assault course for the second time, but without the webbing and weapons. Out of the 5 troops that attended this year's Summer Camp, **LCpl Neb Young** completed the course fastest overall.

OPERATION WET NECK

Four members of the troop were given Operation Wet Neck as their Command Task—**LCpls Jock Frazer, Chris Garrill, Mick Keech** and **Sig John Cooper.** Their mission was to build a raft to ferry 'injured' personnel and supplies across the lake and to build a rope bridge to carry the remainder of the troop. Two men swam the lake to get things organised at the other side, **Cpl Sid Daniels**, who was already wet, and **Sig Phil Day**. The building of the raft proved to be no problem with **Sig John Cooper** in his element. A smaller 'one man' raft was also built using a wooden door and several empty jerry cans. The rope bridge took a bit more time and brute strength, but eventually took shape. **Cpl Glynne-Jones** decided to test it, in the absence of the DS staff, but found that it sank just a little bit too much in the middle. Both ropes were tightened and the real test awaited. **Cpl Mick Martin** volunteered to be first across and with both rafts in attendance, in case of a mishap, he set off. All went well until, within 15 feet of the far bank, the SSM shouted across for the next person to start crossing. Unfortunately, the next person wasn't intending to cross. His job was to stand on the top rope to make sure it didn't move. On hearing the SSM he said 'Not likely!' and jumped off the tree. The top rope immediately shifted about 3 feet to the left and **Mick** started the most amazing acrobatic act ever seen. The bottom and top ropes decided to change position and he was now upside down. He managed to right himself only to be thrown upside down again. The two rafts came in closer for the expected rescue, but once more **Mick** managed to right himself. **Cpl Hewitt**, in the one-man raft, was in hysterics and didn't notice that he was sinking until it was too late. There were howls of laughter all round and this proved too much for **Cpl Martin** who then lost his footing. The top rope now being loose, he found himself waist deep in the lake. **Cpl Daniels** came to the rescue and **Cpl Hewitt** made his own way to shore. So much for Operation Wet Neck!

This was followed, once we had calmed down, by Operation Castle Keep in which we practised many IS Drills including Road Blocks, house clearance and searching of suspects. Unfortunately after a scorching hot day the heavens opened and we were all soaked to the skin. Once back in Olen Camp sleep came easily.

DAY 3—EX 'HOT BOOT'

For the Orienteering Exercise we were divided into 3-man teams leaving at ½ hour intervals. Only the grid reference of the first checkpoint was known, each checkpoint, when reached, revealing details of the next. We were told that the last checkpoint left us somewhere enjoyable and this turned out to be Bobbejaanland. Those of us who got there early enough and could afford the entrance fee had a great time that afternoon. Day 3 ended, we returned to Olen Camp, packed our kit and journeyed back to Birgelen. I am sure everyone agreed it was the best Summer Camp for a long time.

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

On 11 and 12 May the Regimental Small Bore Shooting Team found itself once again at Sennelager for the finals of the Rhine Army shoulder-to-shoulder shoot-off. On the 11th the individual championships were held, with two members of the regiment taking part, **WO1 (FofS) Brian Pettifer** and **Sgt Steve Turnock. WO1 (FofS) Pettifer** took the championship this year after being narrowly beaten into second place last year. The 12th was the Major Units' turn to show their mettle, the regimental team defending the title they won last year. At close of play of the morning session the regimental team were 14 points in the lead and were under the impression it was in the bag. This was not the case as the Infantiers fought back and at the start of the final shoot our lead had been cut to 3. With bated breath the team waited for the final count. After three recounts it was discovered the regiment had won by one point. The score was 1284, to the 1 DERR score of 1283.

Below is a summary of our achievements during the past 12 months:

RHINE AREA

Service Rifle, Major Units	—1st
Target Rifle, Major Units	—2nd
Target Rifle, individual champion	—**Cpl Frank Slade**, REME

RHINE ARMY

Service Rifle, Major units	—1st (second year running)
Service Rifle, individual champion	—**WO1 (FofS) Pettifer**

BAOR

Target Rifle, individual champion	—**Cpl Slade**, REME
Target Rifle, winter league, team	—2nd

ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION (ARA)

Target rifle, winter league, team (Match 120)	—1st
Target rifle, women's individual Champion (Match 112)	—**LCpl Diane Twibill**, WRAC
Air rifle, individual champion (Match 121)	—**Cpl Slade**
Air rifle, individual champion (Match 122)	—**Cpl Slade**
Air pistol, individual championships (Match 133)	—Runner up—**Cpl Slade**
.22 pistol, winter league, team (Match 131)	—3rd
Target rifle, team of six (Match 113)	—3rd
Target rifle, long range (Match 115)	—**Cpl Slade** 4th
Target rifle, individual championships	—**Cpl Slade** 5th
.22 pistol individual championships (Match 130)	—**Cpl Slade** 5th

REGIMENTAL REME TEAM

REME BAOR Target rifle team, winter league	—1st
REME BAOR Target rifle individual champion	—**Cpl Slade**
REME BAOR Service rifle individual championships	—**Cpl Slade** 1st **LCpl Bill Greenwood** 2nd **Sgt Dick Acland** 3rd
REME Corps Target rifle winter league, team	—2nd
REME Corps Target rifle individual championship	—**Cpl Slade** 1st **LCpl Greenwood** 3rd

So ended a very successful season for the Regimental Small Bore Shooting Team. Full marks must go to the Team Captain **Cpl Frank Slade** of the REME. He spent many hours coaching the team and without his help it is felt we would not have achieved all our successes. He will be sadly lost to the team when he leaves the Army later this year.

The Regiment's BAOR Small Bore Shooting Champions' Team: Sgt Steve Turnock, LCpl 'Sam' Barraclough, LCpl Bill Greenwood, Cpl Bill Looker, LCpl Ian Barnes, LCpl Diane Twibill WRAC, WO1 (FofS) Brian Pettifer, Sig Pete Tall, Cpl Frank Slade, Sgt Dick Acland, Cpl Shuggie Brunton, and LCpl Ken Jefferson with their many trophies. (LCpl Martin Sullivan missed the photograph)

PROFILE OF CPL FRANK SLADE, REME

Cpl Frank Slade, our REME metalsmith, is captain and coach to the Regimental No. 8 and Match Rifle Small Bore Teams. He also coaches the Rheindahlen Garrison Club and a civilian pistol club in Roermond, Holland, and is helping to form an air weapons club in Roermond for English and Dutch juniors. He has led the No. 8 team for the second year running to victory in the Rhine Area championship and to the Rhine Army Finals in May at Sennelager. With the REME team of himself, **Sgt Dick Acland, Cpl Bill Looker** and **LCpl Bill Greenwood**, (a great team selection as there are only four REME attached to the regiment) he managed to win the BAOR REME Target Rifle team match and come third in the No. 8 team match. He also won the BAOR REME Individual Match Rife and No. 8 rifle championships. He is the current BAOR REME individual champion and Rhine Area Champion in Target Rifle, Air Rifle Winter league winner and Hampshire Air Pistol Winter league winner. He won through to the semi-finals of the NSRA-Ely national championships in prone rifle, 3 position rifle, air rifle and air pistol.

Needless to say he also represents BAOR, Rhine Area, Corps and County teams and has been a regular member of the Army twenty team for over 5 years.

He has done remarkably well in this, his last year of service.

Small Bore Shooting Team Captain Cpl Frank Slade receives the BAOR Maj Units Trophy from Brig B. H. C. Emsden, Comdt Sennelager Training Centre

HOTEL TROOP NOTES

TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Malcolm Sinton**
Ops Offr	**Capt David Rawlings**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Hooks**
FoS	**WO2 Pete Downie**
Ops WO	**WO2 Pete Westwell**

DEPARTURES

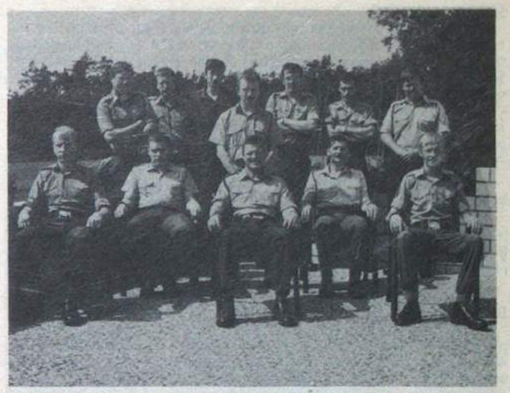
The troop has recently said farewell to **Lt Peter Cant,** who was dined out in Club Am Turm. **Sgt Hughie Devlin, SSgt Ken Wilford, Sgt Tom Robinson** and **Pte Pete Taylor** RPC) also departed for various parts of the world.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to the new Ops Officer, **Capt David Rawlings, WO2 Harry Parkinson, WO2 Pete Westwell, Sgt Fred McLoughlin, Sgt Steve Wainwright, Sgt John Tyler, Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson, LCpl 'Billy' Furey, LCpl Les Richardson, LCpl Kev Sargent**, and **Pte Mark Britton.** We hope you have a pleasant and rewarding tour.

THE NEW PATIO

What was originally cost at DM 17000 by local contractors, was built on a self-help basis for DM 7000. All the volunteers in the photograph gave up their leisure hours and sleep days and in three weeks built a 110sq metre patio with walls 1 metre high and landscaped the supporting area. Fir trees, donated by the local Forstmeister were planted to put the finishing touches—all that is now required is a neon sign to read Hotel Troop.



Hotel Troop Patio construction party: Pte Jim Howe, Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson, Cpl Pete Goddard, Pte Stephen Hall, LCpl Les Richardson, Pte Pete Taylor, Cpl 'Farmer' Vaughan, Pte Richard Meredith, Pte Mark Britton, WO2 (SSM) Dave Hooks, LCpl Ted Baker and Pte Stephen 'Wingnut' Nightingale

THE ANNUAL VISIT

The Annual Visit was carried out by **Brig A. R. G. Mullens OBE**, the Commander Soltau Garrison, on Fri 6 Mar. Unfortunately, the snow melted the previous day revealing horrors that had lain frozen for many weeks—and bodies with bass brooms flew around the camp before the Brigadier arrived at 11 o'clock. The next British Army unit is approximately 75 miles away so visitors never arrive easily or unexpectedly. After a briefing in the Operations Block, **Brig Mullens** met the operations staff—the guided tour organised by **Capt David Rawlings** and **WO2 Pete Westwell.** Lunch followed in the Club Am Turm (The Tower for non-German readers). After lunch the Brigadier saw **WO2 Westwell** take a class in weapon training in a chemical environment. The next activity was the SSM giving a demonstration of the H Troop salute followed by Fieldcraft and Fire Control Orders. The Brigadier then visited the MT, the Troop Office and Stores.

H Troop's Annual Visit — WO2 Pete Westwell, OC Capt Malcolm Sinton, Maj Beck and Brig Mullens

SCHUTZENFEST

H Troop may not be the only British Army Unit to be invited to march in a German Schutzenfest but it must be the only unit invited to three. The troop members marched in the Breese in Der Marsch Schutzenfest on 28 May, in June we march in the Langendorf Fest and in July the Dannenberg Schutzenfest. The Highlight of the Anglo-German Partnerschaft so far has been the Bundeswehr for the Spannferkelessen. Anyone who has never attended one of these massive pork-eating, schnapps and beer-drinking competitions obviously shows commonsense, by avoiding the headaches one gets from eating pork.

FISHING

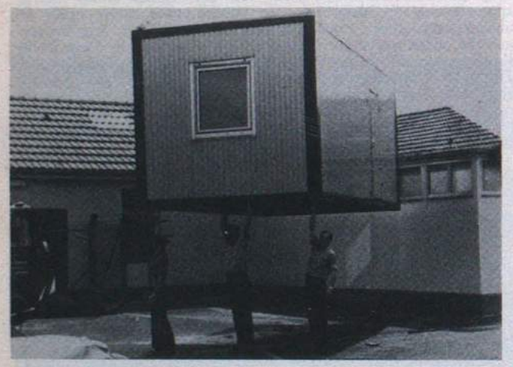
Two fishing trips to the Ost See were well attended and quite a few cod were caught—both trips having fine sunny weather. Thanks to **SSgt Neil Mapp** for organising one, and **Herr Heinzi Henne** for the other.

SPORTS

A new Trimm Dich has recently been constructed from a set of old plans signed by someone called De Sade, and everyone (except over-40s) enjoyed the opening ceremony on Tuesday morning early PT session. Every Tuesday morning early, the troop are entertained by one member being given the Command Task of being a PTI for an hour. Some very interesting old methods of medieval torture have recently been unearthed!

OFFICE MOVES

1 Sqn's return from Summer Camp was celebrated by the removal of 1 and 2 Sqns' HQs former temporary homes, the Portakabins, back to the contractors. OC 2 Sqn's remark that a rat's nest appeared to have been under their cabin led another officer unkindly to comment that he thought this had been inside! The building of the new Commcen has allowed both SHQs to move inside Block 30, where greater integration should be easier.



Up Up and Away! WO2 (SSM) Bill Garner, Maj Keith Danby and SSgt (SQMS) Tony Turner help their old HQ 1 Sqn on its way up and out

REGIMENTAL FETE

Sat 30 May saw **Maj Bill Parkes** back from his holiday to see his plans for the Regimental Fete come to fruition under **Maj Bill Cunningham.** A sunny afternoon ensured good takings for the Paymaster, **Maj Bill Griffin**, and the events were enlivened by supporting displays from the local Fire Brigade, Bundeswehr, RMP, Civil Police and the Karken Band, including our musical Adjutant **Capt Mike Sheehan,** whose wife **Ruth** is to be congratulated on the birth of their daughter **Natasha** in January. Medical support was provided by the RMO, **Capt Ian Crate,** RAMC, whose wife **Sue**, is also congratulated on the birth of their daughter **Katrina** in May.

BARE FACTS

The Gymnasium/Swimming Pool Complex, or Gymplex for short, has just been blessed with the addition of a sauna to relax our aching muscles. Photos of full-frontal confrontations between the sexes are not available, and segregated timings are expected to reduce this possibility.

The Karken Band including the Adjt, Capt Mike Sheehan, plays at the Regimental Fete on 30 May while Majs Bill Parkes and Bill Griffin conduct an earnest discussion by the trees

1 Sqn, Maj Keith Danby keeps cool at the Regimental Fete helped by wet sponges thrown by some of his command. LCpl Stephen Till takes 'stock' of the situation as his leader is pilloried

3 SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 1 June the officers gave a farewell lunch for **Maj Mike Taylor** who left 3 Sqn for the MOD in June. The CO, **Lt Col Conrad Garton,** thanked him and his wife **Mary** for all their efforts and welcomed their successors, **Maj Gus Vigurs** and his wife **Sue. WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason,** who moved to relieve **WO2 (SSM) Tom Friend**, in March, on promotion from O Troop, will doubtless enjoy the challenge of responding to the new hands at the 3 Sqn helm.

MORRISON CUP ATHLETICS

The 2IC, **Maj John Radford**, took busloads of our soldiers to Krefeld to help 28 Sig Regt prepare for the Royal Signals Morrison Cup Athletics Meeting on 3 and 4 June. Showers dampened the track, but not the competitors' enthusiasm, and the regiment's team sportingly beat only two of the ten other regiments entered.

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

DEPARTURE

Lt Col Moss relinquished command of the regiment at midday on 25 Mar. His handover programme began in the middle of the second week of Exercise *Wintex* which enabled his successor to see something of the regiment in the field in its communicating role. On returning to barracks he was dined out by the Sergeants Mess on the evening of 23 Mar and, in the small hours of 24 Mar he was 'lifted' over the barrack gates by a forklift truck decorated with hockey sticks and squash rackets. Later that day it was the turn of the officers of the regiment to say their farewell at a Ladies Dinner Night and **Lt Col Moss,** accompanied by his wife **Edelgard,** were seen away in great, albeit noisy, style in the small hours of 25 Mar, as the Sqn Comds pulled them from the Mess to the main barrack entrance in an immaculate landrover decorated with the Corps colours and sporting two enormous postage stamps. At precisely 12 o'clock midday **Lt Col Moss** appeared at the entrance to RHQ, shook the hand of his successor . . . climbed into the same landrover to be pulled finally to the barrack gate, this time by a team of all ranks and cap badges, along a route lined by all members of the regiment. With everyone in close attendance one final act was performed. **Sig Bauress** presented **Lt Col Moss** with his Regimental Sports Colours for squash, hockey, tennis and cricket; the sports in which he had represented his regiment throughout his tour in command. The regiment thanks **Lt Col** and **Mrs Moss** for their dedicated interest in its life over the past 2½ years and wishes them a happy and successful tour in Rheindahlen.

Lt Col Moss hands over the regiment to Lt Col Hunt at the entrance to RHQ watched by Maj Strong, the 2IC, and Capt Elford, the Adjt.

Farewells and introductions at the Krefeld Rathaus: *(L-R)* Dr Hans Vogt, Mrs Inge Hunt, Lt Col Moss, Oberbürgermeister Hauser, Mrs Edelgard Moss, Lt Col Hunt, and Oberstadtdirektor Stephans

Farewell to the regiment. The landrover is drawn by *(Front to Rear)* Sig Lippe, Pte Karen Hawkins WRAC, Cpl Benny Regan ACC, Sig 'Tich' Anderson, Pte Kay Hopper WRAC, Sig Phil Greed, Cfn Al Pixley REME, Sig Roy Robertson, Sgt Paul Duckworth APTC, and Sgt Brian Coull RAOC

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to our new CO **Lt Col David Hunt** and his wife **Inge** and we sincerely hope they enjoy their tour in the Regiment and Krefeld.

BAOR HOCKEY FINALISTS

Three years ago it was about as much as we could do to put eleven men on a hockey pitch to represent the regiment. This year we are just a little bit proud of the fact that our regimental team made it to the final of the BAOR Inter Unit Hockey competition. A comfortable win over 26 Fd Regt RA in the qualifying match put us into the quarter-final against a young 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team full of running. We had the edge, however, and won by the only goal of the match. The semi-final game against 22 Sig Regt was a hard, close encounter. The regiment took the lead after 20 minutes and held it until 10 minutes from time when 22 Sig Regt were awarded a penalty flick and scored the equaliser. So into extra time during which **SSgt Rowland Jones** of 22 Sig Regt saved a penalty flick to force the game into further extra time. The game was finally decided on penalty flicks. Our young goalkeeper **Sig Adrian Meek** saved the first two 22 Sig Regt penalties and the game eventually went in our favour when their fourth penalty flick went wide. The final was played at Herford against 5 Hy Regt RA who have dominated this competition for the past six years. The final score line of 0—4 is an indication of the quality of the opposition but not a reflection of the way we played or how close the game actually was. The team enjoyed the game, the experience and the level of hockey and will be all the more determined to seek success next year. In the meantime, we have the next game to play and enjoy.

RHINE AREA VOLLEYBALL

No one thought that our somewhat hastily thrown together Volleyball team stood much of a chance in the Rhine Area Volleyball Knockout competition which took place on 7 Mar in Dusseldorf. The competition was organised on a two league basis with the first and second teams in each league playing off to decide the championship. Despite losing one league match, against 13 Sig Regt, our squad reached the final against—would you believe—13 Sig Regt. The result was a win for the regiment in two straight sets and the award of the Rhine Area Shield. Well, how wrong we all were, and congratulations to the squad of **SSgt John Lopata** RAPC (the coach), **LCpl Steve Roden, WO2 (SSM) Keith Russell, Cpl Dennis Parkinson, Cpl Robbie Hall, Sig Derek Donnelly, Sig Vince Kevians, Capt Paul Robertshaw** and, the officer who spearheaded the team effort, **Capt Tom Cran.**

RHINE AREA SQUASH

In the final of the Rhine Area Squash competition the regimental team of **Capt Paul Robertshaw, WO1 (RSM) Bill Miles, Lt Col Moss, Sgt George McAvoy** and **SSgt John O'Rourke** defeated HQ Rheindahlen Garrison by three games to two. This was the first occasion for many a year that HQ Rheindahlen Garrison had been beaten, making the result that much more satisfying.

Rhine Area Squash Champions: *(L-R) Standing*—WO1 (RSM) Miles, Sgt McAvoy, SSgt O'Rourke. *Kneeling*—Capt Robertshaw, Lt Col Moss

CORPS COMPETITION MOTOR CYCLES

The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association has been in existence for some 10 years. The BAOR Branch is now based on 16 Sig Regt because of this regiment's known interest in Motor Cycle Trials and Cross Country Competitions and the fact that the Regiment runs a thriving club. The Corps in BAOR has taken part in a number of events over the years using OSSA machines which are now long past their best. Replacement machines have now been purchased by the Corps as a result of exhortation from **Capt Gordon Park,** the Corps Motor Cycle Officer serving with the regiment. Four Suzuki PE models now reside in Bradbury Bks to be used by Royal Signals riders in both military and civilian competitions. **Capt Park,** an ex-despatch rider by trade, is ambitious to put Royal Signals riders to the forefront of competitive motor-cycling once again.

The new Corps competition motorcycles are proudly displayed by Lt Col Moss, Sgt Dennis Tope and Capt Park

ST GEORGES SCHOOL VISITS
THE RHEINDAHLEN EXCHANGE

Class J4 of St Georges School in Rheindahlen paid a visit to the exchange manned by X Troop of 1 Squadron. Young **Ian Hendy** wrote about the visit: 'A bus drew up outside our school and we lined up in pairs and got on. We drove to the big house security gates. The security man stopped us and spoke to **Mrs Brown** and then let us through. We drove round to the telephone exchange with **Sgt Bottell** we got out in our pairs and lined up. **Sgt Bottell** let us into the building and up the stairs into a room. Then we met the people who were going to take us around. We took our coats off and then they decided to take the girls into the switchboard room. So the boys went back down to the stairs and went outside and round a corner. Then we went down the cellar stairs into the cellar and **Mr Bailey** showed us the cables that came in from all over the world. Then we went back up the cellar stairs and round the corner and up the stairs again and into the wire room. All the wires come up from the cellar. After that we went into the exchange room. I thought that was the best room. We saw all switches and whenever a telephone rings the switches move. Then we went into the battery room and the voltage was 60. After that we went into the switchboard room. We had a telephone with a lead on it, I went to a lady with ginger she was very nice. She let me dial numbers and answer one of the calls. She was very busy like all the other ladies. Then when I finished I went with **Simon** into the enquiry room and the lady looked up **Simon's** dad's number in Queen's school then she looked up my dad's number. We found it very quickly. After that the lady looked up to see if my dad and **Simon's** dad name were in a book. They had two different kinds of books one was for the army and the other one was for the RAF and civilians. When I came out I went to where our coats were and they gave us Orange and biscuits. After we had our Orange and biscuits we went over and got our coats and they gave us pads. Some people got their autographs but I didn't. Then we went down the stairs and passed the check box. We got on the bus and drove back to school. Later on **Michelle** and I rang up and said thank you very much for letting us come and look around. It was very good and I learnt a lot going there.'

SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

On 3 May, throughout Germany, the preliminary stages of the 1981 BAOR Six-A-Side Football Competition were played. This is an annual competition which is sponsored by Rothmans the tobacco firm. In the Rhine Area stages 16 and 21 Sig Regts qualified for the finals to be played on 10 May in Rheindahlen. The weather on the day of the finals was kind to the spectators but not to the players, it was very hot and sunny without any breeze at all. 7 Sig Regt had also qualified for the finals, in their area preliminary stages, so the Corps was strongly represented in the sixteen finalists. 16 Sig Regt progressed through the early stages of the finals without too much difficulty until the semi-final game when we played 7 Sig Regt. This was the opposition we had feared and our fears were justified. At the end of normal time the score was 0—0 so extra time was played, during which both teams scored in the first three minutes. At the end of extra time 16 Sig Regt proceeded to the final having scored the most corners. The final between 16 Sig Regt and 4 Armd Div Wksps REME was played at a furious pace in spite of the heat and the number of games the teams had played. 16 Sig Regt were winning 2—0 with two minutes to go when 4 Armd Div Wksps REME scored a goal, but we held out to win 2—1. This is the first time a regiment in the Corps has won this competition. This win was a wonderful end to a successful season of football in the regiment.

WHAT A WEEKEND THAT WAS!

The weekend of 30/31 May will long be remembered by many in the regiment, and in particular those who contributed to the success of four of our sports teams who returned with a host of trophies and achievements. Fishing in the final match of the season, the Krefeld Rod Benders (the Regiment's Angling Club) were in great form with **SSgt 'Alf' Hall, Sgt 'Dave' Wools** and young **Nigel Lettin** (s/o **George Lettin,** one of our civilian policemen) winning their sections and picking up other major awards of the day: 1st Individual—**Nigel Lettin,** 4th Individual—**Sgt Wools,** Heaved Fish—**Sgt Wools,** 6th Individual—**SSgt Hall.**

The result of this match decided the Rhine Area Angling Championship. The 'A' Team finished third, **Sgt Wools** took the individual championship title and **Nigel Lettin** the Junior Championship title. At the BAOR Women's Services Athletics Championship **Cpl Barnard** won the 200m, **Pte Smith** the Shot Putt, and **LCpl Last,** now fully recovered from her injury, which prevented her competing last year, won both the 400m and the High Jump. The Regimental Canoe Team competed in the 3rd Division BAOR League Race (Inter Paddle 3/81) and returned to Krefeld well pleased with their endeavours:

What a weekend that was!

Premier White Water	1st **Cpl Story**
Open White Water	2nd **Cpl Trivett**
	3rd **LCpl Redshaw**
Open Slalom	1st **Sig Primrose**
	2nd **Sig Potter**
	3rd **LCpl Farrington**
Ladies Slalom	1st **Mrs Liz Redshaw**
Team Event	1st A Team
	5th B Team

Meanwhile, at the Royal Signals (BAOR) open Tennis Championships the **Miles/Birchall** 'combo' seemed to have it all their own way:

Singles Champion	—**WO1 Miles**
Singles Runner-Up	—**WO1 Birchall**
Inter-Unit Doubles	—**WO Miles**
	—**WO1 Birchall**
Open Doubles Runners-Up	—**WO1 Miles**
	—**WO1 Birchall**

What a weekend that was!

VISIT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF HQ BAOR

As a follow-up to his visit to the regiment in the field on Exercise *Flying Falcon,* the Chief of Staff HQ BAOR, **Maj Gen W. R. Taylor** accompanied by **Maj P. J. Knox** RWF, came to see us in barracks on 27 May. He was met by the CO, **Lt Col David Hunt** and a Quarter Guard. During his visit he presented LS & GC medals to four members of the regiment and, following a tour of our 'cellars' and a visit to the Tare hehn Standby Detachment, he saw and met a good number of soldiers and servicewomen taking part in military training.

The Commanding Officer greets the Chief of Staff

The LS&GC presentation: *Standing,* the recipients WO2 (SSM) Coffill R Signals, SSgt Hallworth RAPC, Cpl Davies REME, and Sgt Cooksey REME. *Sitting (L-R):* Mrs Coffill, Mrs Hallworth and daughter, Chief of Staff, Mrs Davies, CO and RSM

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

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Boarding fees for Session 1981/82 are £765 per term. The Rector will be pleased to forward further details on request.

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

THE CHICKEN AND EGG

As must be the case for every intrepid Wire correspondent, the two month's respite to collect new material comes around all too quickly. This period is no different to any other, the unfortunate thing being that the Regiment will not slow down to let me catch up. One can but try.

LIPPSTADT MARCHES

Once again the Regiment hosted the Lippstadt Marches, and attracted in the order of 2000. This event which was inaugurated three years ago has become a major preparation for those military marchers going on to Nijmegen, and also a permanent feature in the Lippstadt town calendar. Once again **Sgt Blod Williams** was the prime mover in the organisation, and once again everything ran very smoothly indeed. Teams were entered from all over BAOR, the town of Lippstadt, and many individuals too, of various nationalities.

There were a few novel events in the course of the two day marches, not the least of which was the sight of the QM Tech, **Maj Bill Barnes** cooking hot soup for the marchers. One other event will go down in many soldiers notebook, and that was the sight of the new OC 4 Sqn, **Maj David Collyer**, disappearing in the wrong direction at a blistering pace pushing a pram.

The marches proved to be a tremendous social event, the marchers being rewarded for their blisters by receiving a 22 Regt medallion.

Lippstadt Marches

ALTSTADT FEST

The Regiment with 27 Fd Regt RA were invited by the Stadt to provide a military stand for the Altstadt Fest. **Sgt Brian Rogers** commanded the 22 Dets which were supplied by **Cpl Wayne Ratcliffe** and **Cpl Brian Hales.** After a quiet start they were beseiged by German visitors who seemed to have been briefed to mutilate everything in sight. So hard did the lads have to work that the organiser took pity on them and provided light refreshment. **Sig Albert Farmer** took time off from his stand to show the Gunners some misfire SOP's on their Blowpipe. **Sgt Brian Rogers** and **Cpl Mick Brown** should be commended for keeping their Mufaxs working for a whole day!

Altstadt Fest

ORIENTEERING

Continuing the diary of the Regimental sport success, this month we report on the expoits of the Orienteering Team. In November last the Regiment entered a team in the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships, and came away with the first prize. Spurred on by that success the sport has blossomed, and by the time the 3 Div Championships came around we were able to enter two teams. The 3 Div Championships were won by the Regiment by a good margin; **Capt Nick Ferriman** and **Sig Bob Anderson** turning in particularly good times. The success in this competition allowed us to go on to the BAOR finals. Unfortunately in this competition one of the members lost his race card and that put the team out of the running. No names! **Sig Bob Anderson** however did qualify at this meeting for the Army Championships where he came a creditable 5th. The victorious team were:

Capt Nick Ferriman
Capt Adam leather
SSgt Philip Atkinson
SSgt (Don't lose the card) Kerr
Sgt Chas Saveall
Sig Bob Anderson

Lt Des Maloney would like to point out that he would have made the team but turned in slower times due to the size of his ears.

MORRISON CUP

The Athletics team attended this the largest Athletics meeting in BAOR. Although we came 8th, a position we are not accustomed to, a great deal of effort went into getting there. **SSgt Pete Dring** produced our best result winning the 3400m steeplechase in a very fast time despite some lap counting hitches.

RUGBY CLUB TRIP

To mark the end of another season the Rugby Club took advantage of a long weekend to travel to Denmark and take part in a 7 a-side tournament. The club members were looking forward to the customary post match joviality, and were spurred on by their success in the BAOR 7 a-side competition where they came runners up in the plate competition.

In the Danish competition there were 16 teams taking part from as far afield as Berlin, France, Romania and Sweden. By mid afternoon on the first day one of the teams had reached the quarter finals after some fine running in the late stages by **Cpl Cliff Hunt.** The second team had been knocked out by a fine French 'A' Team. On the second day the A team was knocked out of the competition by a fast and furious

Rugby Club Trip

Danish team, and then had to play out 3rd position with the French team that defeated the 'B' team. Again a very close match was fought out at a staggering pace. **Sgt Joe Fairburn** and **Cpl Steve James** having some fine runs. With time running short the team was losing 10-6 and a defeat looked imminent. **LCpl Woodie Power** didn't agree and picked up the ball deep in his own half and produced a dazzling run to even the score. His brother **Cpl Steve Power** stepped up and converted the try to bring victory to the team. It was indeed a thrilling climax. No rugby trip could go by without some antics, and this was no exception, fortunately nobody ended up in a foreign nick, and thus all were present to organise the final match of the season. This is the annual Rugby Club Ball where the players thank the wives for their understanding and patience through a busy season.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS
2 SQUADRON

During the first two weeks of May, the Squadron held its annual Battle Camp at Schwarzenborn to the south of Kassel. During the camp a wide range of military training was carried out culminating in an escape and evasion exercise covering a route of 110km. The camp proved to be most popular, and especially so were the various initiative tests thrown in to see if people were still thinking. These normally entailed engineering tasks with oil drums and planks of wood, and naturally getting wet.

The Sqn would like to extend its best regards to **LCpl Bob McCarry** of SHQ Tp on the occasion of his marriage and promotion. Congratulations are also extended to **Cpl Phil Gower** of F Tp on his promotion. **LCpl Sooty Sutcliffe of** F Tp also deserves special mention for his attention to detail with reference to proving Newton's Laws of Motion. The instruments of **Sooty's** proof were a Bedford and an unnamed Beech tree!

4 SQN ON EXERCISE AGAIN AND AGAIN AND A . . .

Shortly after the May Day celebrations 4 Sqn departed for Battle Camp in the Sauerland ready for anything. It didn't take long for anything and everything to come along. The two week camp tested the squadron in every military skill, and left everyone aware of their shortcomings and strengths. Too much occurred to recount in detail, suffice it to say the humourous events are here for posterity. The camp was organised on competitive lines, the winning section being led by the ebullient **Cpl Fred Worgan**, whose spirit and enthusiasm were never dampened despite every effort. Some members of his winning section followed his example. **Sig John Harris** was the organiser of the Sqn Sheep Sounding competition, and **LCpl Ratters Ratcliffe** defying popular opinion on his terminal apoplexy turned in a sprightly BFT time.

On the 15km patrol competition **Sig Paul Davies** discovered the meaning of being chin strapped. Poor lad has only just got married and the strain is showing.

The night orienteering competition was going very well indeed, (in fact the OC, **Maj David Collyer** and the 2IC **Capt John Hudson** even managed to find the first checkpoint) up to the fifth checkpoint. Or was it the fifth checkpoint? For more details of this write to **Capt Adam Leather** who could organise a phantom fifth checkpoint for you. His name was heard a great deal that night in parallel to the sheep sounding competition practises.

Finally some sad farewells to members of the Sqn who have battled on through thick and thin.

Sgt Keith Sainty
Cpl Mick Brown
Cpl Chunky Leyland
Cpl Bert Sands

4 Sqn Battle Camp

3 SQN

It should be no surprise to those of you who have got this far that 3 Sqn also had a Battle Camp in this period. The climax of their camp was an escape and evasion exercise. I wonder why we seem so keen on these. 94 Loc Regt acted as the enemy and took it very seriously too. It was a good reminder that the aim was not to get caught. Despite their energetic efforts the Gunners appeared a little light on their knowledge of radio, or were they. **Sig Neil James** gave away details of a radio set with a 5km range that used the short wave. We still do not know who was kidding who.

SSgt Mal Channing, with his partner in 50 Msl Regt RA have been having some notable successes in rallying. Their successes are a string of first places in the Rhineland, Rhueberg and Appsende Rallies. It's all adding weight to his demands for time off to practice. It won't do him any good.

The OC, **Maj Mike Ahlden** and **Sig Gossy Fagg** have also been doing well coming 5th in the Corps Sailing Regatta at Kiel.

Congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Dave Jackson** on his promotion, and we all note his claim that he is not getting too old to go orienteering but that the hills are getting steeper with age.

We should also like to say farewell and good luck to the following, wishing them every success in pastures new.

Cpl Terry Foster
Cpl Wyn Neish.

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

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

THE CONCEPT

It was soon after his arrival, in October 1979, that the CO, **Lt Col Paul Webb**, decided that MPTH (Multi Purpose Training Hall) was a most uninspiring name for the regiment's largest building. He felt that it should have a permanent name associated with communications. It did not take long to decide that it should be named after the late Admiral of the Fleet, **The Earl Mountbatten of Burma KG GCM OM DSO** and formal permission was sought from **Countess Mountbatten of Burma** and this was graciously given. But, for the CO that was not sufficient and he further asked that at some suitable date a member of the Mountbatten family could attend a formal naming ceremony and unveil a suitable commemorative plaque. It was with great pleasure that the regiment heard in late 1980 that **Margaret Prinzessin von Hessen und bei Rhein,** a cousin by marriage of **The Earl Mountbatten,** had graciously agreed to formally name the building.

The Prinzessin Margaret unveils a plaque naming the Mountbatten Hall

THE GREAT DAY

After considerable preparations and rehearsals the great day arrived, 21 May, and at precisely eleven o'clock **The Prinzessin Margaret** accompanied by her niece **Beatrix Prinzessin von Hohenloe-Lagenburg** arrived at Francisca Barracks. The Royal Party were escorted by two Aide de Camps for the day, **Capt Mary Croft** WRAC and **2Lt Helen Thompson** WRAC and the motorcade was led by two motor cycle outriders, **Cpls Cheddy Richardson** and **Paddy Cregan**, both looking remarkably like members of the White Helmets. After being welcomed by the CO and the Adjt, **Capt Alan Hutt, The Prinzessin Margaret** was invited to inspect an Honour Guard formed from all squadrons within the regiment and commanded by **SSgt Bill Anderson.** A quick visit to the Officers' Mess enabled **The Prinzessins Margaret** and **Beatrix** to meet the Regimental Guests, **Maj Gen J H Hild MBE**, the CSO BAOR and **Mrs Hild**; **Brig J M C Thornton OBE MC**, the Commander Rhine Area, and **Mrs Thornton** and **Col K O Rauchmann**, the Commander of Northern Army Group Signal Support Group and **Frau Gemalin.**

The Prinzessin Margaret inspects the Honour Guard accompanied by the CO, Lt Col Paul Webb. Seen in the Guard from left to right are: Cpl Martin Brown, LCpl Al Clements, Sig Dick Rutherford, Sig Phil Lithgow and Sig Taff Jones

FORMALLY NAMED

At eleven thirty **The Prinzessin Margaret**, accompanied by the CO, in front of members of the regiment and the Regimental Guests, mounted a small rostrum and a welcoming Fanfare was played by the trumpeters of the Alamein Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment. In a short speech **The Prinzessin Margaret** referred to **The Earl Mountbatten's** long association with communications and formally named the building 'Mountbatten Hall' and wished everyone who used it all success. In reply the CO thanked **The Prinzessin Margaret** for naming the building and, to mark the occasion, presented her with a brooch based on the Royal Signals cap badge and incorporating the Regimental title.

The CO presents Prinzessin Margaret with a brooch, depicting the Royal Signals badge and the Regiment's title, to commemorate her visit

After bouquets had been presented to **The Prinzessins Margaret** and **Beatrix** by **Dawn** and **Marie Ross, twin daughters of SSgt Colin Ross**, the Royal Party and Regimental Guests and members of the regiment were then invited to tour the inside of the Mountbatten Hall where displays showing many varied aspects of Regimental life had been set up. Time allowed **The Prinzessin Margaret** to speak to most members of the regiment involved.

ARENA DISPLAY

Luncheon in the Officers' Mess with the Officers and their wives and their Regimental Guests was followed at two o'clock by the opening of the Regimental Open Day by **Mr Richard Astbury** of BFBS. The Royal Party and Regimental Guests watched an hour long arena display which included a band performance by the Alamein Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment, under the direction of **Maj F R Fitch** LRAM ARCM psm RTR; a Royal Air Force Police Dog display and a Silent Drill Squad display by members of all squadrons within the regiment and trained by **WO2 (SSM) Tony Cartwright.** The arena display was followed by the Northern Army Group Signal Support Group 'It's A Knock-out' competition which was organised by **Capt Paul Gorford,** compered by **WO2 (SSM) Ricky Garrod** and participated in teams from the regiment, 840 Signal Battalion from the German Army, 13 Communications Company from the Belgian Army, a Netherlands Signal Squadron, the Northern Army Group Multi National Air Support Radio Squadron and guest teams from 16 Sig Regt and Stadt Tönisvorst. **Mr Astbury** was invited to select the 'best joker' and after some thought awarded a medallion to a live joker in the form of **Daniel**, the three year old son of **Cpl Jo Harris.**

While the 'It's a Knock-out' competition continued into the afternoon **The Prinzessins Margaret** and **Beatrix** were able to visit the stalls set up for the Regimental Fête and to mingle with and meet many more members of the regiment and their families. After a visit to a static display on the Regimental Square where the Royal Party saw Go Karts, Service Gliders, BAMA Rally cars, displays by the German Fire Brigade and Police, all of which had been organised by **Maj Neville Illman**, it was time for tea in the Sergeants' Mess with Members and their wives. The **Prinzessins Margaret** and **Beatrix** were welcomed by the RSM, **WO1 Ted Banham** and **Mrs Jan Banham**, and the PMC, **WO2 (SSM) Ray Steen** and were able to meet most of those present.

All too quickly it was time for the Royal Party to depart and a most enjoyable visit came to an end with the motor cycle escorts leading the Royal Car past the Honour Guard and onto the Autobahn leading to Darmstadt.

1 SQUADRON THE VICTORS

The 'It's a Knock-out' competition continued and at the end of the afternoon **Col K O Rauchmann** presented winners' Medallions to the Regimental 1 Squadron team and guest team winners' medallions to the Stadt Tönisvorst team. Finally, and just a few minutes before the first rain of the day, **Mrs Paul Webb** was invited to draw the winning tickets for the grand raffle and the luckly winner was **Sgt Ian Robinson** with **Capt Pierre Verschaeve** of the Belgian Company winning second prize.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING

Although the regiment devoted a lot of effort preparing for the Royal Visit, other activities carried on, notably Full Bore Shooting. The Shooting year started with the Northern Army Group Signal Support Group Skill at Arms Competition held at Maastricht on 28 Apr. This was a challenging shoot, firing with the SLR, SMG, M16 and UZ1 weapons at 100m. Points were awarded for the size of the groups on unzeroed weapons. The 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) team won the competition against Belgian, German and Dutch teams together with teams from the Dutch Police and Dutch Customs Authorities.

The first formal Skill and Arms Meeting for the regiment was the Headquarters Northern Army Group Skill at Arms Meeting held in early May. The regiment entered two teams, each of four members, and against stiff opposition gained second and fourth positions respectively. Among other prizes won, was the Best Overall Rifle Shot by **Cpl John Whitmore.**

These two compeitions provided excellent training for the team and this proved itself when the regiment won the Rhine Area Skill at Arms Meeting in mid May. It is of note that the Major Units' Rifle Match was won by the regiment.

The Shooting Officer is **Capt Paul Gorford** and the Captain, **Sgt John Davis**, coached by **WO2 (SSM) Ricky Garrod** and consists of **Sgts Dave Mathers** and **Mick Whithouse** REME, **Cpls Taff Carr, Bob Crossley, Ted Edwards, Nick Horn, John Whitmore, LCpl Pat Keating, Sig Kenny Wilson** and **Pte 'Super Chuck' Lindsay** RPC.

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

HERC LAG

Half way through April, about 120 men from the regiment plus 30 from the IDB Warminster took off for Cyprus for a four week exercise. Most of us were lucky—flying by VC10, but the unfortunate few who looked after all our baggage arrived in Cyprus suffering from severe 'Herc Lag'! Due to a change in flight timings we arrived in Cyprus two days earlier than expected. This was spent 'acclimatising'. It included two days of sports, swimming and generally getting used to being back in Cyrpus.

UP THE HILLS

After our acclimatisation, we spent four weeks covering all aspects of military training, including combat survival training, watermanship, range work and tactics. In the tactics phase of the exercise the IDB Platoon acted as instructors for this five-day phase. We were lucky to have them with us and several people will not forget their insistence on us doing section attacks up the hills!

THE WIPE OUT

The final week was spent on Exercise *Hot Sweat*. This started with a beach landing which entailed us jumping into the sea to drive the 'enemy', represented by the IDB, from the hills. This also involved section and platoon attacks followed by various patrols to find their base. On the morning of the final day we wiped them out with a company attack, which would have been a complete surprise for them if it had not been for one particular trip flare.

WITHOUT INCIDENT

The return to Blandford went off without incident, provided you don't count 94 people in one Hercules for eight hours as an incident! In all, a very worthwhile exercise and our thanks must go to the IDB for all their hard work and to all the other instructors who gave up their time to spend a month in Cyprus.

BADMINTON INTER CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 3 Apr an Inter Corps Championship was held at Tetley Gymnasium Aldershot. Teams representing the Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, REME, Royal Engineers and the Corps took part in the three day Army Corps Championships.

The Corps Team comprised of **Capt Keith Derrick** (Corps Secretary), **Sgts Colin Thirkettle** (Team Manager), **Andy McAlpine, Sid Steele, LCpls George Dudly** and **Ian Wells** of 30 Sig Regt, **Sgt Dick Ellis** (Team Captain) School of Signals CPA, **WO2 (RQMS) Roy Brown** (21 Sig Regt), **Sgt Steve Croot** School of Signals and **Cpl Keith Rumsey** (233 Sig Sqn).

In the first match, we played the Sappers and playing with tremendous confidence won 8-1. On the second day, we continued in winning way with a 6-3 victory over RAOC and a convincing 8-1 win over the Pay Corps. These results put us in an unassailable position. On the Sunday we played REME and lost 5-4. One of the best matches of the Championship was between the REME pair and **WO2 (RQMS) Roy Brown** and **Sgt Sid Steele,** which the Corps pair narrowly lost—not without **Roy Brown** losing a few pints of liquid from the celebration of the night before!

The Team was very grateful for the support of the Corps President, **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson,** who visited the Championships on the Saturday, pleased with the progress of the team.

The Championship Shield was presented by **Lt Col P. Westcott** RE, Chairman of the Royal Engineers Badminton Association.

EX 'FOUR ARMS'

This was a CPX like any other for 6 Field Force, or was it? 3 Sqn were responsible for the Control Headquarters on Stanford Training Area and a TEV A and CSO det to 6 FF main and rear. **LCpl Talbot** having missed a turning, thought he'd turn round in a lush green field. Wrong! What he succeeded in doing was bogging down an E13 message centre, two ¾ ton Land Rovers and a REME recovery vehicle. He wasn't driving all of them, the latter became stuck trying to extract the message centre from its predicament. An AFV 432 eventually rescued the stricken party.

Hardier members of 3 Sqn volunteered to be the enemy. Armed with nothing but thunderflashes they pitted their wits and skills against 6 FF main, and had their 'Illustrious Leaders' not sent them up the wrong track they would have gone against the Blues and Royals. **LCpl Talbot**—yes the same one—even went against Royal Signals, he destroyed his own section!! However, the exercise seemed to have been enjoyed by all.

EX TEN TORS

(Yet another report from 3 Sqn)

For those of you who do not know what Ten Tors is, it is basically a two days walk on Dartmoor, over a distance of 35, 45 or 55 miles, with an overnight stop under canvas, the lucky competitors (victims) having to carry their own kit. There are six people per team, ages range from 13 to 19 years, both male and female. The teams have to pass over a pre-set route, stopping at 10 check-points which are on top of the 'Tors' (hills), hence the name. It all sounds so easy, doesn't it?

We arrived at Okehampton Camp on 13 May. It was raining and blowing and cold! It always is on Dartmoor. Next day, the fortunate few who were actually running the Tors, were taken to their penthouse suites (actually a few bits of canvas, with ambitions to become airborne in a Force 9 wind), some by road, some by helicopter. We set up Control and made a final comms check with those Tors parties who hadn't yet blown away, and all was set for the main event next day.

GO

We were awakened about 0400 hrs on Saturday morning by the singing of 'Abide with Me' being played over the Tannoy. The competitors, who arrived the previous day, were collecting their kit and making their way to the start. At 0700, after a prayer, the local mayor said 'Go'. Imagine 2,400 people suddenly tearing off up the slopes, like the starting of a cross-country event, and you have some idea of what it was like.

When they had departed, it was back to Control to find the first casualties already coming in, and there were reports of the first drop-outs. This was the norm for the rest of the day until 0200 hrs Sunday, when the last report was made. The weather worsened throughout Sunday, and cases of exposure were not uncommon. One wondered at the sanity of some of the competitors.

EXPOSURE PROBLEM

Of the original starters, over 400 did not finish. Individual cases were much too numerous to describe, but one case stands out. Two young ladies, suffering from exposure were rescued and returned to safety, but refused to allow anybody to extract them from their sleeping-bags, or touch them at all, for that matter. The reason for this, it transpired, was that they were near naked in the sleeping bags!

ALL ACCOUNTED FOR

In the end, the exercise ended with all safely accounted for. No mean effort! This, of course, was due to the R Signals personnel; it was a combined effort, so no individual mentions. We only hope that we don't have to do it again next year!

ALL CHANGE

30 Sig Regt is going through an 'all change' of personalities at present, with the Adjutant complaining that petticoat power is taking over.

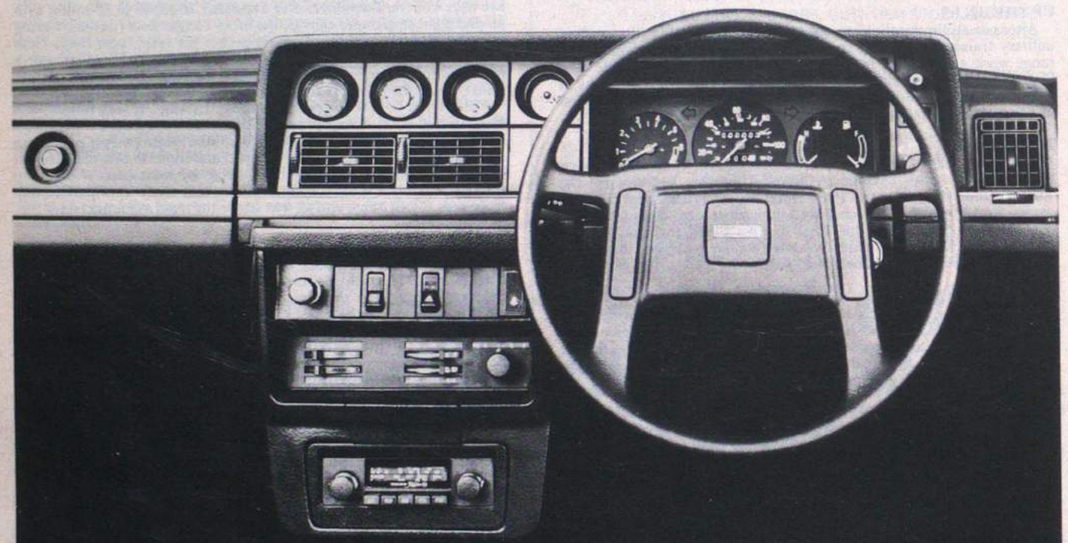
We say farewell to the Adjt, **Capt Jack Wraith**, Asst Adjt, **2Lt Renata Symes** WRAC, OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Pat Kington** and Chief Clerk **WO2 'Slim' Cheetham.** Welcome to their replacements, **Capt Brian Scott-Morton, 2Lt Deborah Rice** WRAC, **Maj Tony Sugdon** and **WO2 Barstow**. Leaving to answer the call of intellect at Shrivenham are **Lts Mike Rough** and **Fraser Grant.**

More arrivals in the shape of **Lt Jane Stockdale**, until recently **Miss Sugden. Capt Miles Stockdale**, her husband, is on a TEM course at the School. Posted in as Training Officer is **Lt Vic Zimmer** recently commissioned. In fact he missed the final day of his commissioning course to join Ex *Lion Sun 2* in Cyprus—can't be bad!

We have said farewell to **Foreman England, Foreman Kelbie** who is being commissioned in July and **SSgt Stanley.**

The regiment, as always, is scattered on exercises, detachments etc. If only we could catch up with them to write for The Wire!

COMMAND MODULE



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VOLVO EXPORT

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

CHANGE OF COMMAND

After his sabbatical nine months (did the moratorium cut it down from the traditional year?) we have a new CO. New did not seem quite the right word, as **Lt Col Peter Thompson** indicated when saying how pleasant it was to be dined in to the Mess, of which he had been a member for 12 years.

We welcome too, **Maj Peter Treseder** who has taken over as Training Major from **Maj Graham Williams,** and from only 'down the road', in Hounslow our new MTWO **WO1 Bill Leslie** who follows **WO1 Dave Freeman,** who, we hear, is now in the security business as a civilian.

LOCAL LIAISON

On 11 Apr during a break in the rain **Maj Colin Stenning** and **2Lt Jan Harper** found themselves leading (?) a joint detachment from the four London-based Signal regiments in the London TA Banner Parade at which **HRH The Duke of Kent** took the salute. Our thanks to the RSM **WO1 Gus Boag** for achieving remarkable results in so little time!

King Street Hammersmith welcomes HQ Squadron led by Maj Bob Simpson, 2IC Capt Jim Allan, OC LAD Lt Steve Martin and Lt Terry Exell.

ADOPTION

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham adopted HQ Squadron early in April. To mark the occasion the squadron under the command of **Maj Bob Simpson** marched from Brook Green to the Town Hall in King Street, via Hammersmith Broadway. Oh yes, it's the logical route, but the fact that it was also Boat Race Day added a little zest to the proceedings. The salute was taken by the Mayor **Cllr W. Smith** in the presence of **Baroness Phillips** HM Lord Lieutenant for London and **Col G. Wixley DL** for Hammersmith. At a reception in the Town Hall Scrolls were presented to the squadron and the other units taking part in the parade and an excellent buffet lunch was laid on for all ranks. The Band of Middlesex Yeomanry OCA under the command of **Col Bill Williams** led the parade.

ONE ARMY

At 41 Squadron at Easter our PSI **Sgt Ron Galpin** demonstrated his belief in the 'One Army' concept by marrying a Volunteer **Pte Jackie McGee**. At the lively reception in the Drill Hall after the event the Squadron Commander was heard to ask: 'Is it a sign of old age when the bride's father looks young?'

83 SQUADRON

The satisfied smirk on **Capt Jim Mill's** face, seen in the photo above, reflects the early danger signs from 83 Squadron. We have a lot of super recruits with only the shortage of man-training days to cast a shadow. Then Exercise *First Hurdle* and the smirk disappears. Lots of reasonable cam. **WO2 (SSM) Lafferty** has quadrupled checked the sentries, looked longingly towards his 'scratcher' and, unwisely, yielded to temptation. Mongol hordes were not in it. Some extraordinary Green Jackets (**SSgt Bill Hatton** and **Sgt Dave Rayner** bagged a couple for the O.C., **Maj Don Grocott**, to hang on the wall in the Command Post) ran amok in Switch India at about half past one that cold March night.

Pte Jackie Upson bravely confirmed the 'Fortiter in Re' part of the WRAC motto. A pity about our Comms—not 'Suaviter in Modo'—and no one is smirking in Cobham where **SSgt Tom McCarthy** and **Sgt Glyn Jones** have reorganised with a superb intake of first class recruits. Many are from that happy resting home of Squadron Commanders, Walton on Thames, (it ran to three and the 2IC of the fourth in its hey-day). With Annual Camp scheduled to be rigorous trade training, the smirk will probably return to the 2IC's face.

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DINING IN OF NEW HONORARY COLONEL

Col M. C. Stanley MBE took up his appointment as our Honorary Colonel in February and was 'Dined In' by the Officers at Regimental Headquarters at Huyton on Sat 11 May.

The Honorary Colonel, Col M. C. Stanley MBE being greeted by the CO, Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay, and Members of the Mess Committee on being 'Dined In' by the Officers of the regiment
L to R. Lt A. J. Dixon WRAC, Maj E. J. P Emett MC, Col M. C. Stanley MBE, Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay. Maj A. C. Leech TD, Capt J. M. Hindshaw WRAC
(by courtesy of South Lancs Newspaper)

TO NORWAY

On Mar 23 **Capt J. M. Willis** once again gave up his Adjutant's Duties and departed for BOBC Norway for a two week Langlauf Skiing Expedition—known as Ex *Bamse IV* (Norwegian for Teddy Bear). The expedition was a combined services expedition and included some adventurous members of the WRENs. The expedition was split into four groups, **Capt John Willis** going with Group 2, as its task seemed relatively easy compared to Groups 1, 3 & 4! The aim of the expedition was to cross the Jotenheimen mountains, starting not far from Lillehammer and going on to cross the Hardangevidda Glacier Plain, a total distance of around 350 Kms. The group set off in high spirits but soon learned that Langlauf fitness was different from running fitness, but by day three the aches and pains were beginning to wear off. The group moved from mountain hut to mountain hut, stopping at a hotel every three or four days to stock up and enjoy the luxury of a hot shower. The huts belonged to the Norwegian Tourist Board and were well stocked with food and essentials: being open to the public, items could be purchased and the money left in the huts for collection—the whole system working on the basis of trust.

During the trek the group rapidly picked up the basics of Langlauf Skiing, but even so, high speed descents with a 30 lb pack proved often amusing as out of control skiers careered off the beaten track. En route, many Norwegian, Danish, German, American and even a party from Newcastle passed the group. The Scandanavians casting curious glances at the noisy and often hilarious team.

As the group approached the final point on the expedition, the Norwegian press, who had heard tales of a strange collection of would be skiers, finally caught up—flying in by plane and landing on a frozen lake. It was a pleasure to rest and pose gracefully on the top of the Group's Landrovers for the benefit of the press and to the amusement of numerous spectators. During the expedition the weather had often been bad giving the group a taste of survival tactics—by comparison the necessarily lengthy and slow journey home to England proved a far greater test of endurance! The expedition was a great success enjoyed by all and much recommended to any Langlauf Skiers.

WELSH 1000m PEAKS RACE

In January the Paymaster, **Maj Peter Edwards**, and the Adjutant **Capt John Willis** began the long task of training a team for the Welsh

Training for the Welsh 1000m Peaks Race
L to R. LCpl William Taggart and in background OCdt Alan Jenkins

1000m Peaks Race. It was difficult to get the potential team members together on many occasions, but a number of weekends were spent in the peaks of Wales: on one occasion the team came across a group from 55 Sig Sqn (V) also busy training. They looked very fit which spurred the team to greater efforts.

The race is an annual event starting at Aber on the coast, and finishing on the top of Snowdon—with the odd little hill in between! During training the Paymaster and the Adjutant had the distinction of never actually conquering Snowdon, though they tried a number of times, failing through weather or lack of time. (At least that's what they said!)

May 30 was the big day and by then the regimental team consisted of the following:- **Maj Peter Edwards**—Captain, **Capt John Willis**—Manager, **O/Cdt Alan Jenkins, LCpl John Harwood, LCpl William Taggart**—Reserve, **LCpl David Mountfield**—Admin.

Some 500 competitors gathered near a savoury manure heap by the beach at Aber: the competitors were divided into a number of classes including a Regular Army class and a TA class. Some 34 Regular Teams were taking part as well as some 14 TA Teams. Looking at the Gurkhas who tend to be rather good at this sort of thing, the regimental team felt distinctly unfit and ill-prepared! Just to finish as a team would be good enough!! Finally the moment came, and with the sun shining the teams were off: the regimental team got off to a slow start, preferring to save energy initially—but it had one advantage: navigation was no problem, as the sight for miles ahead resembled the retreat from Stalingrad. Gradually the team began to work its way up, with the Adjutant muttering about blisters and the Paymaster acting as a sheepdog in keeping the team together: 15 miles out and **O/Cdt Jenkins** wasn't even sweating! Having descended Dafydd the team put the reserve, **LCpl Taggart** in to replace **LCpl Harwood** who, at 47 years of age, had made a tremendous effort! Finally Snowdon came into sight and with dragging feet and eyes fixed on the summit the team staggered on. At last, exhausted but elated, the team reached the summit—then the bad news; the last train had gone! However, with refreshments provided by **Lt Angela Dixon** WRAC the team soon recovered. Later at the prizegiving the team found that they had come 8th out of 14 teams. Not bad for a first attempt. Next year . . .

A POPULAR VENUE

Annual Camp this year is based on that very familiar and popular venue—Scarborough STC. During the second week, as these notes are written, the regiment is deployed across the North Yorkshire Moors on what is obviously a very exciting and testing Exercise, involving lots and lots of movement and related deployment drills, resulting no doubt in the subsequent updating of SOP's.

A Regimental Inter-Tp Competition involving Military Skills and Physical Fitness Tests was held in the first week to get rid of the

Royal Signals, REME and WRAC members of HQ Sqn (V) clamber aboard the Scammel in high spirits for a photograph prior to moving off to camp from their TA Centre at Huyton
(By courtesy of PR North West District)

Pte Beverley Darsey WRAC of 80 Sig Sqn (V) making the best use of cover in the Fieldcraft test during the regimental Inter Troop Competition.
(By Courtesy of PR North East District)

One of 80 Sig Sqn (V) teams under Command of Lt Richard Ellison crossing the Assault Course in the Regimental Inter Troop Competition.
L to R. Lt R. Ellison, Sig David Sutch, LCpl Jeff Smethurst, Sig Neil Davies, LCpl Peter Dixon
(By courtesy PR North East District)

'cobwebs' and as a warm up to the Regimental Exercise, *Yorkshire Relish 81*, teams from all Sqns participated and considerable inter Tp and Sqn rivalry developed as the competition progressed. Each Tp had to compete in ten different events which included an Assault Course, Log Race, River Crossing, NBC, Fieldcraft, an Escarpment Climb, Personal Weapon Test, and of course Communication Skills.

The Directing Staff had a very difficult task in deciding on the winning team and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Gavin Mackay** was finally required to adjudicate. In his address to the regiment prior to the prize giving the CO stated how impressed he had been with the enthusiasm, grit and determination every one had shown throughout every phase of the competition, however due to 'Murphy's Law' no competition was entirely fair and taking all factors into consideration, he declared No 2 team from 59 Sig Sqn (V) the winners by the shortest of short heads.

The winning team commanded by **Capt George Townley** were presented with a silver trophy and four bottles of champagne by the Honorary Colonel, **Col M. C. Stanley MBE.** Each of the other ten teams being awarded a case of cold beer.

VISITORS

A small detachment from HQ AFCENT under the command of **Hauptmann Winifred Pohl** GEA visited the regiment for the first week of camp. They were attached to one of the teams for the competition and during the River Crossing, **Hauptmann W. Pohl** was alleged to remark 'How did we ever lose the war'!!! At the same location **2Lt Denise Avery** WRAC was being dragged up the far bank by one of the male members of her team.

Other visitors—so far—have included the Group Commander 11 Signal Group (V)—**Brig G. J. Curl**, and his deputy, **Col Jim Greenhill**, the ADWRAC NE/NW Districts **Lt Col Anne Bray,** and the Secretary TAVRA North West of England and Isle of Man, **Brig D. L. Ormerod CBE.** The officers also entertained the Mayor of Scarborough, Cllr, **Mrs E. Mackenzie** and other civic dignitaries to Curry Tiffin after they had entertained the Warrant Officers and Sergeants to a 'Happy Hour' on the first Sunday at camp. This year the UPO has co-opted **Sgt Jolliffe** of HQ Sqn (V) and his video equipment to produce a film for PR and Recruiting purposes with some very interesting results!!

To be continued in the next edition!!

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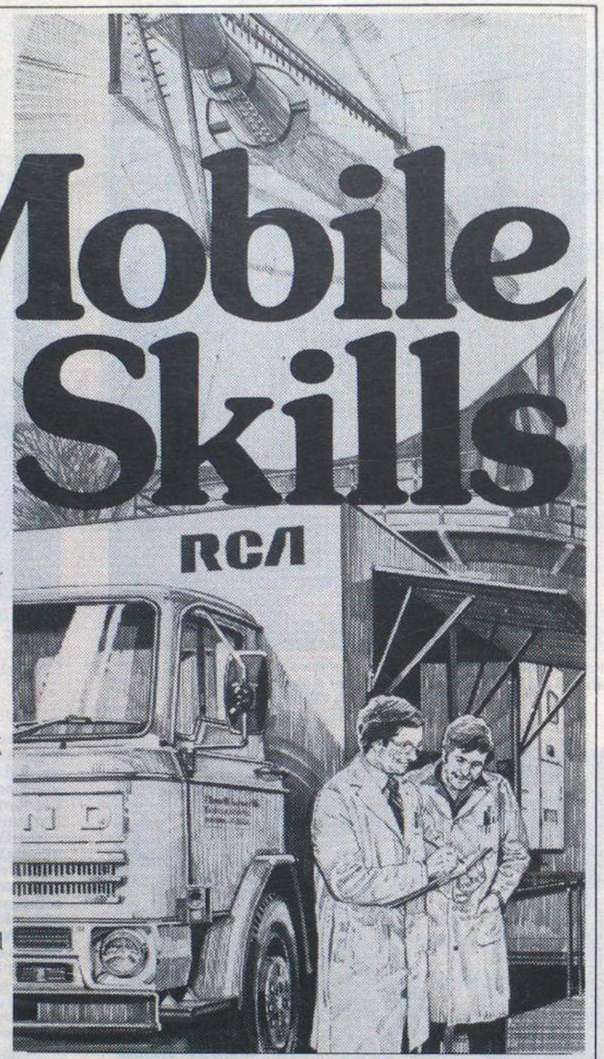

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Report by Rev Alan Hughes CF

BAND ON TOUR

At the end of April our band undertook a tour of West Germany. This was in support of the Borough of Darlington, home of our 50 Sqn, which is 'twinned' with Mulheim. The 34 members of the Band of '34' (yes, the Band of '34' were indeed a Band of 34!) were accompanied by their President **Adjt, Tom McMahon, WO2** and **WSSgt Sparks** and **SSgt** and **WSgt Dadson.** The party, together with the Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington travelled by coach to Krefeld via Felixstowe and Zeebrugge where the Adjt wisely suggested a boat.

THE CASTLE BROICH

After enjoying the splendid hospitality of our good friends at 16 Sig Regt, next day the Band were received by the Oberburgesmeister, **Dieter aus dem Siepen** and members of Mulheim City Council at Castle Broich. The Castle dates from 1648 and has been restored to serve as a school, the reception ceremonies took place in the Knights Hall, a crypt vaulted chamber. Following the formal words of welcome, a short film was shown describing various aspects of life in Mulheim. Some were sampled at first hand later as Der Kreisverband der Kriegs und Wehrdienstopfer entertained the Band to dinner at the Handelhoff Hotel. Following dinner a dance was hosted by the citizens of Mulheim. The Band may have had some questions after watching the film, but by the end of the evening they certainly were full of Hansa's! The purpose of the Band's visit was to give concerts in support of the Mayoral party from Darlington. Undoubtedly the two major events were an open air Concert in the City Centre shopping complex and another before an invited audience in Mulheim Town Hall. The former drew an audience estimated at over 3,000! and the latter a capacity total of 500.

The Band of 34 taking a well deserved bow at Mulheim

FIVE SUCCESSFUL DAYS

Appropriately enough the Band rose on Easter Sunday to travel home, no doubt reflecting on five very full and successful days. In addition to their musical duties, they had visited the British Military Cemetery at Overloon in Holland, Winterberg near Bonn and wine cellars in the Ahr Valley. In 1982 the City of Mulheim visits Darlington and no doubt the Band will renew friendships which have arisen from their goodwill tour.

Owing to current financial restrictions the visit was only authorised on condition that the Band financed and insured the trip itself. This it did willingly at £45 per man with thanks to 16 Signals Regiment for their help and the City of Mulheim, whose expenditure on Band Hospitality alone, was in excess of 3,000DM—a tribute in itself to **WO1 Derek Farrington** and his happy Band!

VOLUNTEER PASS OFF PARADE

On Fri 10 Apr our CO, **Lt Col Bill Illingworth TD** travelled to 11 Sig Regt at Catterick to undertake a unique engagement. He had been invited by **Lt Col Andrew Carter** to take the Pass Off Parade of recruits. The reason for the invitation being that the Parade comprised entirely of Volunteer Soldiers, all from TA Signals Units. The CO was also invited to be guest speaker at Leeds Retired Sgts Assoc Annual Dinner. The invitation came from the PMC **Mr Les Wilder** who had organised a formal dinner at Harewood Barracks, attended by many Sgts of 49 Div Sig Regt who had served in both the 1st and 2nd World Wars together with serving seniors from our own 49 Sig Sqn. The CO took the opportunity to update past and present Sgts, on Regimental and Corps matters.

GROUP STUDY PERIOD

11/12 Apr brought with it the first 12 Group Study Weekend led by **Brig John Burrows.** Easter in Mulheim, Palm Sunday in Kensington—it's done nothing but good having a Padre in 34! In addition to his three regiments and their Honorary Colonels, **Brig John** hosted the DTA & C **Gen Sandy Boswell,** the SOinC **Gen Archie Birtwistle,** CSO BAOR, **Gen Henry Hild** and BGS, **Brig Paddy Evans** a former CO of '34'. The undoubted highlight of the weekend was a presentation by a team led by **Trg Maj Peter Todd BEM. Capts Tom McMahon, Peter Arkless, Benny Newell** and yours truly if not with Equity (they wouldn't let us join) certainly with equanimity, shared with the Group 34 Signals tried and tested methods of Military and Trade Training Recruits, Junior NCO's, Cadets and Officers to Field Rank and above.

REGIMENTAL BALL

The Regimental Ball was a tremendous success, restored as it was to its original venue, the Drill Hall at Brambles Farm. The Band played under silk parachute drapes surrounded by flowers and plants kindly provided by Middlesborough Borough Council. Guests were waited on by **Sgt John Braven** and his staff and weighted down by **Sgt Ronnie Nelson** and his catering team. Official guests included **Councillor Norman** and **Patricia Swash,** Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough. **John** and **Millie Foster, John** being Chief Executive of MBRO Borough Council also **Harry** and **Hilda Rogers** their counterparts in Darlington.

Our new Hon Col, Col Mike Stewart OBE TD and his wife with Councillor and Mrs Norman Swash, Mayor and Mayoress elect of Middlesbrough

Maj Jim Smiles TD² (he has *two*!) Paymaster with his wife Joan at the Regimental Ball

Maj Peter Taylor much beloved PSO with Nan Tunstall, wife of Maj Ted Tunstall PSO 50 Sqn and Peter's daughter Gillian

Walter Ferrier, the Leader of the Council also attended, with his wife **Pat** who is Chairman of Recreation and Amenities. The Ball also marked the first major social event attended by our new **Hon Col, Mike Stewart** and his wife **Tricia.** It was heartening to see many former Officers amongst the 130 guests.

NEW GARAGES

News 'just in' from 49 Sqn cub reporter **Lt Steve Robson** is that new garages to house the replacement kit for 49 Radio Relay Troops have just been officially opened by **Gen Baker** GOC N E Dist. The Ceremony in Carlton Barracks Leeds was attended by the Hon Col, CO, **Maj Peter Sutherland** OC 49, members of Yorkshire and Humberside TAVRA and of course squadron members and their families. **Gen Baker** appeared impressed, not only with the new buildings, but also the high standard achieved by the soldiers of 49 who formed a Guard of Honour.

Gen Ian Baker, GOC N E Dist unveiling the plaque, Carlton Barracks Leeds seen with Maj Peter Sutherland OC 49 Sqn

MAYOR WITH CORPS CONNECTION

The regiment has long had happy associations with the Civic Authorities of Middlesbrough and these were reinforced by a series of kind invitations by the newly elected Mayor shortly after he took office. **Councillor Norman Swash** has opened his Parlour on a number of occasions to all ranks of the regiment. During these informal functions we learnt that he was recruit trained at Catterick before joining the Corps in Southern Command at Aldershot prior to service in Greece and Palestine.

WIVES DINED

It has long been Regimental Tradition for the Officers to entertain their wives to a formal dinner prior to attending Annual Camp. As we were shortly to enjoy the sumptuous accommodation at Crowborough, guilt kept our sights high as we sought a suitable venue. Finally we settled on baronial Crathorne Hall where the dining room was put at our disposal and the CO presided over a most excellent repast.

CIVIC DUTY

Our final Civic Duty before Camp was to lead the Annual Mayor's Sunday Parade. The Band under the baton of **WO1 Derek Farrington** marched behind a Police escort as they led the regiment and other representative groups from within the Borough, past the newly installed Mayor, before a Service in Sacred Heart Church Middlesborough at which our Fanfare Trumpeters performed with precision and dignity.

The Thin Brown Line, 90 and HQ Sqns Mayor's Sunday Parade

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

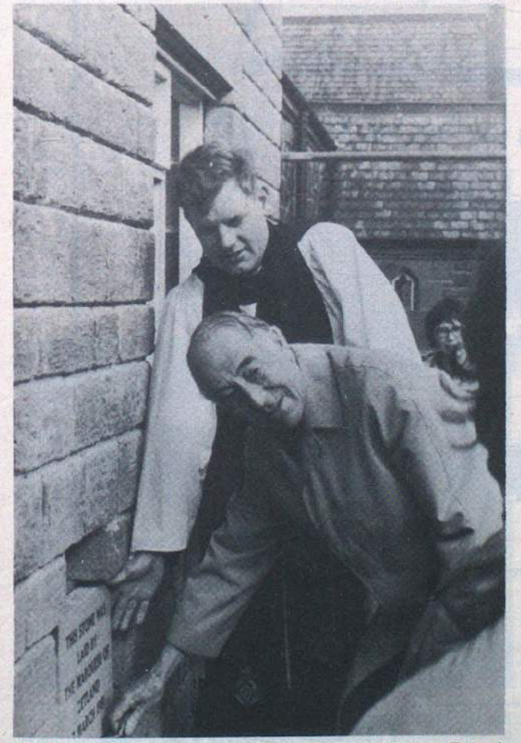
News from the squadrons: 90 Sqn Ace Reporter, code name O/Cdt D10—(let the reader understand) has some domestic news. **Pte Ann McLaughlin** WRAC has married fellow civil servant **Stephen McMillan** and sadly will be unable to attend Crowborough owing to a four week honeymoon in Barbados. **Pte Sharon Doi** WRAC another DTG and **Sig Keith Steinmetz** 90 Sqn Lineman met at Okehampton and also married recently. Another inter-squadron tie is between **Pte Susan Neale** DTG and **Sig Christopher Neale. LCpl Lynne Steinmetz** one of our Switchboard Operators and sister of **Keith** married **Stephen Roberts** a work mate. **Pte Ann Whithead,** an insurance underwriter recently became engaged to **Sig Glen Wicks** an apprentice electrician; they have known each other three years having first attended school then joined 34 together. Another bit of exciting news is that one of our twins has herself had twins. **Pte Susan Davies** gave birth to twin boys **Paul** and **Andrew** on 1 May. **Susan** and her twin **Kathleen Waldon** was a very popular member of the Regiment before 'retiring'. Perhaps the birth of twins was inevitable, there are four sets of twins on the **Waldon** side and a history of triplets of the **Davies** side!

What of 50 Sqn our Darlington Darlings? We are proud to hear that the Sqn acquitted itself well at the N E Dist Skill at Arms Meeting at Bellerby; in the SMG competition **Cpl Farrell** scored 91 out of a possible 100. A Military Trg weekend at Feldon proved a useful preparation for Camp when E Troop was told to get lost so that the remainder of the Sqn could track it down. As **Lt Caroline Catcheside** commands E Tp it was an ideal target, she finds it easy to get lost and provides an excellent incentive to would-be pursuers! **Capt Peter Woodhead,** we are told, soon found E Troop and proceeded to make a series of night attacks on **Miss Catcheside's** position!

News from RHQ is that **SSgt Carol Sparks** WRAC **Capt Carol Drake** WRAC and **Cpl Jane Riley** WRAC have written to 233 Field Ambulance for application forms, we hope to have more details shortly after Camp.

Cpl Angela Soakell on gaining her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Cpl Angela Soakell who served the regiment faithfully until moving on to 12 Coy WRAC at Mill Hill, was recently presented with her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award by **Lt Col N. Robertson.** It took her two years to complete the scheme which consists of five sections. **Lt Judy Walker** WRAC represented the regiment at the presentation. At a later date, she will go to Buckingham Palace to receive her Gold Award Certificate.

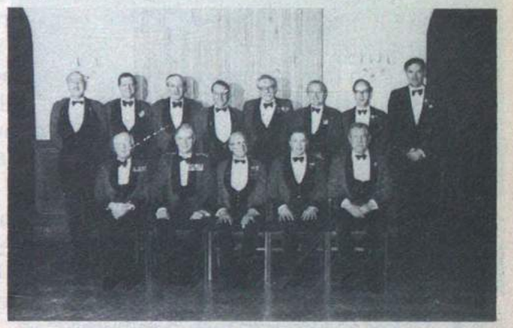


Our Padre, Rev Alan Hughes CF, GSM, CG (Retd) with Lord Zetland laying the foundation stone of his new Parish Hall

We had to say farewell to **Lt David Ward** of 49 Sqn during April, he has transferred to RARO. Also **Lt Rosemary Turner** also 49 who is retiring to have a baby, we wish her well and await news of the birth from **Capt Angus Turner** her husband.

Welcome to our new Yeoman, **SSgt Sid Coleman** and also **Maj Andy Bell** who, in September takes over as PSO 50 Sqn from **Maj Ted Tunstall.**

Why might this be the last offering on 34 from me? I'm glad you asked that, at least it proves you are still reading! Well, I am building a new Church Hall and funds are running low, so on 12 July at 1pm I shall make a Sponsored Free Fall Parachute Descent over my Parish and, hopefully land in it. Donations please to Padre, 34 Signal Regiment, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. This is NODUFF, repeat NODUFF MSG.



One for the archives! Col John Davies TD retiring Hon Col 34 with The Master, SOinC, BGS, 12 Gp Commander, Commander Training Group, CO and former CO's

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Report by Maj (TOT) John Wall

TRAGIC LOSS

Regrettably my last regular contribution starts on a sad note. I refer to **SSgt Harry Betton's** sudden death from a heart attack on Tues 19 May at the age of 39. A British Telecom engineer, **Harry Betton** was buried with military honours at Robin Hood Cemetery, Solihull. His funeral service was held at St Andrews Church, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham on 27 May attended by a large contingent from the regiment led by the CO **Lt Col John Billingham.** On behalf of everyone in 35 Sig Regt (V) I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our deepest sympathy to his wife **Christine**, his three children and all his family on their tragic loss.

GOC'S VISIT

I now report less dramatic events, beginning with Ex *Second Look* on 25/26 April. The only man to glean any satisfaction out of this miserable, cold snowy weekend was the RSM **WO1 'Cid' Crumbie**, who, when I suggested to him that I will have to have a word with the Padre if our appalling run of bad weather on exercise continued said, 'Don't you dare, this sort of weather is just what the TA needs to toughen them up'. The RSM is, of course, right. Much as we all enjoy soldiering in fine weather, I doubt if we will have much say in where or when we fight if ever the TA is mobilised. Certainly the slush and snow did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the younger element, both men and women, who continue to turn out in large numbers whatever the weather. Switch and Echelon were on this occasion initially deployed at Cannock Chase, and it was here that the regiment received a welcome visit from the GOC W DIST, **Maj Gen J. A. Ward-Booth OBE**—his first visit to the regiment in the field since Annual Camp in Germany last year. The GOC spent Saturday afternoon touring the various dets in Switch and Echelon whereupon, soon after his departure, preparations were made to move both complex into new locations in the Wyre Forest. Obviously the RSM must have had his prayer mat out, because this signalled a marked deterioration in the weather. Once again heavy snow blanketed a wide area of the Midlands making movement and subsequent recovery extremely difficult. One member of A Tp 48 Sqn who did not make it back to Birmingham immediately off Ex *Second Look* was **Pte Jill Turner**. She was taken ill on the exercise and was rushed to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital with appendicitis. Fortunately, apart from losing her appendix, she is none the worse for her ordeal, and at the time these notes were compiled is now home making a good recovery.

'Stop or you will have me in tears'
The CO Lt Col John Billingham sees the funny side as OC 'A' Tp Capt Anna Barrington-Ward (centre) forcibly puts the womens view to Maj Gen Ward-Booth (left) during his visit to Sw C on Ex *Second Look*

'The GOC stops for a welcome cup of tea'
The GOC (left) finding a welcome break from the weather as he stops to chat to Cpl Kathy Jackson WRAC Med Ord (right) in the Field Cookhouse during his tour of Echelon on Ex *Second Look*. Accompanying the GOC is the CO Lt Col John Billingham (centre) and the GOC's ADC Capt Tony Rose (second from right)

Two members of 58 Sqns growing number of RR Ops learning the complexities of a MUX vehicle the hard way on Ex *Second Look. Left to right:* Ptes Kath Brown and Leslie Fryer

EX 'SEVENTH HEAVEN'

The final pre-camp exercise took place over the weekend 16/17 May when the regiment once again provided Area Comms for 30 Eng Gp (V) Annual CPX. Conditions were a little better overhead, but not much underfoot, especially at Switch where the tracks cut up very badly. Opening the Exercise De-brief the CO congratulated the regiment on a successful exercise, adding that although comms had gone very well and we had provided everything that was asked for, we must not get complacent. This theme was developed by the 2IC **Maj Bob Titterington** who as the 'Architect' of Ex *Seventh Heaven*, said for the first time in his memory the RCP had run out of green tape to make up the circuit state board. He stated that R Tp (58 Sqn) took the honours for being first in with comms on the initial move and X Tp (95 Sqn) for being first to re-establish Comms on the Phase 2 move. The De-brief

'In the pursuit of Knowledge'
Sgt Keith Spencer (R Tp 58 Sqn) makes good use of a quiet period on Ex *Seventh Heaven* to instruct Sig Michael Lockett (left) in RR theory in their C41 vehicle at Sw C

over, it was time for a quick lunch and then all hands to the pump as Seniors and Officers (the CO included) formed themselves into the most high powered working party **SSgt Dave Cottom** has ever mustered, to take down and load the combined mess tent before the rain came.

YEOMANRY DINE

Earlier in the month, in much more congenial surroundings 95 Sqn combined Officers and Senior Mess had organised another of their excellent Dinner parties, which I had the pleasure of attending along with the Adjt **Capt Reg Hill** and the caretakers of Territorial House, Shrewsbury **Mr** and **Mrs Dave Baxter**, who do so much to help make life comfortable for the Yeomanry Signals Squadron. Incidentially **Mr Baxter** is also a WO2 in the County ACF HQ who share the TAC with 95 Sqn. Welcoming the guests the OC **Maj Brian Elliot-Williams** welcomed into the mess **Maj Derek Eve** who is standing in as PSO until November and new **Sgts David Lait, James Gurney** Y Tp **George Alderson** X Tp and **Bob Findlay** X Tp, who have all been promoted in recent months.

'One for the scrap book'
95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) Officers, Sergeants and guests pose for the camera after their combined mess dinner at Territorial House, Shrewsbury on 9 May

CHANGES AT 59 SQN

Signifcant changes have taken place elsewhere in the regiment too. Over at 58 Sqn in Newcastle-u-Lyme **Maj Peter Tidey** has now got his feet firmly under the PSO's desk and three long serving members have moved over to make way for the new blood. **WO2 (SSM) Dougie Roberts** is now 2IC R Tp, being replaced as SSM by **SSgt Vince Hemmings, SSgt (SQMS) Geof Robinsons** is now i/c Recruit Tp in place of **SSgt Tony Parsons** who is retiring on age grounds, with **SSgt 'Sailor' Eccleston** transferring his allegiance from R Tp to SHQ as SQMS. As a result of this reshuffle, the squadron now has two new Sgts, **Bill Lambert** and **Keith Milford**, who at twenty four is now the youngest Sgt in the regiment. Last but not least **LCpl Philip Child** has also taken his first step up the managerial ladder by being appointed Offr Cdt and 2IC V Tp in Birmingham.

SUPREME SACRIFICE

It would appear 58 Sqn Newcastle-u-Lyme had more than a passing interest in our next item too, which concerns **SSgt Bernie Burnett** (PSI) HQ Sqn. Clearly with the words of his OC **Maj Paul Renecle** 'look here staff, its about time HQ Sqn got a mention in The Wire' still ringing in his ears, he made the supreme sacrifice and got married on 2 May to **Sally Edwards** in Newcastle-u-Lyme. Furthermore who should be there to make sure he did not get cold feet, was none other than 58 Sqn PSI **SSgt Ryan** his Best Man! Amongst the seventy guests invited to the wedding, and the reception at 58 Sqn TAC was the CO **Lt Col John Billingham, Trg Maj Ivor Oddie, Maj Derek Eve** (PSO) **Adjt Capt Reg Hill, RSM WO1 'Cid' Crumbie, WO2 (RQMS) Ray Martin** and **SSgt John Telford** together with their wives. **SSgt Burnett** and **Sally** spent their honeymoon in Greece. A belated best wishes to both. Meanwhile three of the new bridegroom's HQ Sqn colleagues have been keeping their tailors busy. Promoted to SSgt are **Sgts Dave Cottom** and **Bob Heaslegrove** and to Sgt, **Cpl Michael Keanney** ACC—congratulations.

'Next time you can do the donkey work'
RR Tech Sgt Colin Bermingham (shouldering antenna mast) instructing an all female class in RR mast erection at 58 Sqn TAC Newcastle-u-Lyme. 58 Sqn now have 10 members of their WRAC contingent training to be RR Ops

ORIENTEERING

Congratulations too, to our Orienteers who managed to pull off a significant double in the Army Orienteering Championships held at Pippingford Park, Sussex on 9/10 May. Entered as an HQ Sqn Team, the three runners, **2IC Maj Bob Titterington, SSgt (PSI) Denis Glanville** and **LCpl Paul Fundak** won the TA Team Championship, with the prize for the Best TA Individual Orienteer going to our veteran **Maj Bob Titterington.** Incidentally, whilst we have won these events before, it is the first time a team from 35 has won both. Also competing were three members of the WRAC from 89 Sqn, **Lt Toni Lee, LCpl Lynn Tucknott** and **Pte Eileen Logie.** They did not figure amongst the winners, but at least they made the effort and as a result gained valuable experience.

MOVEMENTS

Posted out from HQ Sqn to civvy street **Sgt (PSI) Steve Johnson**, and from 48 Sqn to Hong Kong Ghurka Sig Sqn **SSgt (PSI) John Telford.** Posted in, from 7 Sig Regt to HQ Sqn **Sgt (PSI) Jim Kingswell,** and from 242 Sig Sqn also to HQ Sqn for his last six months **Sgt Eddie Higgins.** A warm welcome to the new arrivals. Our thanks and best wishes for those leaving us.

Finally I am sure everyone in the Regiment must be delighted to hear the news that our late CO **Lt Col Ken Smith** has been appointed Brevet Colonel. Well done **Col Ken.**

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

BUSY TIME

This first week of June sees the deadline for these notes drawing threateningly near, the Adjutant, **Capt Derek Howshall** is packing his bags for HQ BAOR and at the same time writing handover notes for his successor **Capt Tony Manders** who arrives hot-foot from the TEM course at the end of June, and the regiment is just starting to recover from a very successful but physically demanding camp at Scarborough. Life is hectic but we shall try to produce something of coherence from the activities of the last couple of months. 67 (Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) will lead off!

THE WARWICKSHIRE YEOMANRY MUSEUM

After three years fund raising and planning, the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum has been formally opened. 67 Sig Sqn, as a successor unit to the Yeomanry, has been involved in both promoting the appeal and raising money towards it. Many squadron members attended the opening ceremony when the Mayor of Warwick, **Councillor Mrs Sheila Rouse**, handed over the lease of the 17th Century cellars at the Court House, Warwick. The cellars had been out of use for many years and a chance meeting three years ago between the chairman of the museum trustees, **Col Michael Haycock**, and the then Mayor of Warwick, **Councillor Bryn Brewster,** paved the way to their new use.

At dinner, **Col Haycock** explained the problems the trustees were facing in finding a new setting for the hundreds of uniforms, weapons and other items of militaria in their possession. **Cllr Brewster** suggested that the Court House cellars might be ideal.

A £20,000 appeal was launched and a professional designer was appointed to convert the vaulted cellars into an unusual and fascinating showcase. The main section, depicting the Yeomanry's history from 1794 to the First World War is now complete and another wing tracing the Yeomanry's World War Two role is nearing completion. The new museum is the third military museum in Warwick, the others being those of the Queen's Own Hussars and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The Yeomanry had its headquarters in Warwick until the defence cuts of the late 1960's forced a move to Stratford on Avon. Declaring the museum open, the Mayor of Warwick said she was both pleased and proud to welcome the Yeomanry 'back home'.

ANNUAL CAMP 81

Camp took the squadron to the Burniston Barracks Signal Training Centre, Scarborough, from May 15-30 for an invaluable two weeks of trade and military training with the rest of 37 Sig Regt. The Squadron was heavily involved in running a successful detachment commanders course which included a damp 24-hour defence exercise at Strensall training area. For the rest of the camp, however, the weather was kind and squadron members enjoyed the challenge of a 20-mile section of the Lyke Wake Walk, 21C **Capt Ron Hartill** leading in the fastest team in just 6 hrs 20 mins. In the Tickle Test fitness competition, the regiment's first man home was 67 Sqn's **Sig George Bomford** who covered the three miles in a shade under 19 minutes—not bad for a 35 year old. The accent at camp was firmly on fitness training with runs at 0615 led by **WO2 SSM Derrick Smart** and **SSgt John Mayfield.** The squadron won the potted sports competition but at heavy cost, OC **Maj David Hardy** took a tumble in the hop, step and jump section and pulled a hamstring. Consequently he finished camp supported by a walking stick and was rolled into the squadron smoker in state, aboard the NAAFI stores trolley!

With camp over, we look forward to putting all this new-found fitness to use in the busy training year ahead. **Maj Hardy** remains at the helm, ably assisted by PSO **Maj Ron Page MBE**, 21C **Capt Ron Hartill** and Troop Commanders **Capt Stamford Cartwright, Lt Peter Rhodes** and **Lt Andrew Berncastle**. The squadron WRAC officer, **Lt Maura Waine**, has recently married and we wish her well.

EX 'LYKE HIKE'

67 Sig Sqn (V) have already claimed more than their share of credit for Ex *Lyke Hike* which was part crossing of the Lyke Wake Walk undertaken by just over sixty members of the regiment. In total, 58 starters completed the course on a day when the sun shone on Yorkshire and the heavens opened on the rest of the country. **Lt Peter Rhodes** claims responsibility for the sentiments expressed below and many of the regiment will share his view.

There's a famous seaside town called Scarborough
Renowned for its fresh air and fun
Where the Wessex and Welsh held their annual camp
For a fortnight in May 81
Now, a real health-food fan was their Colonel
A devotee of bran loafs and buns
Who made sure each squadron got plenty of fibre
Which accounted for all 't morning runs.
Anyroad, when he wasn't promoting some new fangled diet or fad
He was spurring his men to go out and get fit
And generaly trim off the flab.
'Have a jog' he would say at the start of each day
I want to lead hard men, not soft 'uns
So we'd throw back the sheets and we'd pound round the streets
Aye, even 21C—but not often
Now, the Colonel had heard tell of much fiercer things
Like Tickle Test and Potted Sports
But his ultimate ploy to sort men out from boys
Was a 20-mile hell—Lyke Wake Walk.
It were published in orders—there was terror in 't mess
With shudders of fear running through it.
But each well-thought excuse simply seemed to amuse—
Colonel laughed—then said 'Bloody well do it.'
So we set out one morning with sleep in our eyes
And soon, we was splashing and paddling
Aye, we slithered and slipped—except Major Smith
Who was suddenly tied up on admin.
With the sun beating down, how we longed for a beer.
And at lunch we could suddenly quaff it,
At a fiver a can from a white mini-van
Run by Two Ronnies well into profit.
Then the going got harder; the spirits they flagged.
So 't padre he opened 't good book
Those that listened he spurred with some well-chosen words

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GCHQ

Those that didn't he beat with his crook
We had started the day with us best boots well bulled
So shiny and bright they looked lacquered.
And on Fylingdale Moor we found three 'normous balls
Which made the point well—we was . . . really rather tired.
And even the CO was having some doubts
At gravity of 't situation
For killing men bold through exposure and cold,
Well, it doesn't help one's reputation.
But at last it were over. The RMO's men fell to lancing the blisters with passion.
The weak walkers they gave a strong sedative
Then split up their watches and rations.
Well, the RMO took a dim view of all this
And looked on with something like loathing

As he diagnosed fainting in all of the girls
And set about loosening their clothing.
At the end of the day we had one casualty
A Welsh girl you couldn't call teeny.
'Stretcher team was despatched and they got her safe back
With eight bearers, two trucks and the REME.

So that was the Lyke Wake; we covered the course
and ourselves in a measure of credit
And at some future camp, over moors shall we tramp
And gather new blisters?
Forget it.

The photograph below shows that select body of chaps (?) known as the Regimental Walking Team.

Regimental Walking Team
Left to Right: SSgt Max Williams. PSI 67 Sig Sqn (V) 'Airborne, Airborne!', Sgt Brian Riggs. 'Just along for a slow walk'. The CO. 'Leading from the front'. Sgt Sue Farey. 'Lost without her HGV'. Lt Mary Cockings. 'With these glasses, surprised she didn't get lost'. Maj Norman Harvey. OC43 Sig Sqn (V). 'But I'm really the Sports Officer'. LCpl Tony Hull. 'CO's driver less one Cortina'. WO1 Pete Kearns. 'I'm hiding so they will not recognise me when I'm commissioned'. Sgt Ivor Collins. 'What's in the pack, medic?'

COMBAT PADRE

One of the highlights of the camp was the passing-off parade at which our Padre, **CF4 David Sutch** joined the WRAC Det Comds Course and thereby became an 'honorary girl'. **David** had come to camp determined to get involved in as many activities as possible and to join the maximum number of volunteers on training. Consequently he attended lectures on various subjects, fired weapons, drove vehicles, operated radios, slept out on the night exercise and completed the Lyke Hike and Tickle Test run. At the end of all this he was very, very tired but his spirit did not fail. He also performed his normal duties in the Chapel and dealt with several compassionate cases with understanding and sympathy. By the end of the camp **David** had well and truly earned the accolade of 'Combat Padre'.

WRAC Det Comds course on parade with their 'extra girl', Padre David Sutch. In command was WO2 Kay Pope WRAC. The other man was right marker Cpl Beedon

HELP FOR THE DISABLED

During the period of the camp the regiment held various functions at which funds were raised for a local charity. It was with great pleasure that the CO, **Lt Col Mike Jennings** was able to present a cheque for £407 to **Mr Frank Showers** chairman of the Scarborough Disabled Association. This money was gratefully received and will enable the Association to purchase two wheelchairs and complete the money required for a submersible stretcher to help severely disabled persons in the swimming pool.

Left to Right: The CO, with Sqn representatives Cpl Valerie Thomas, Sgt Gordon Aylett, Sgt Alan Dorritt and Sgt Sandy Warner, presents a cheque for £407 to Mr Frank Showers, chairman of Scarborough Disabled Association

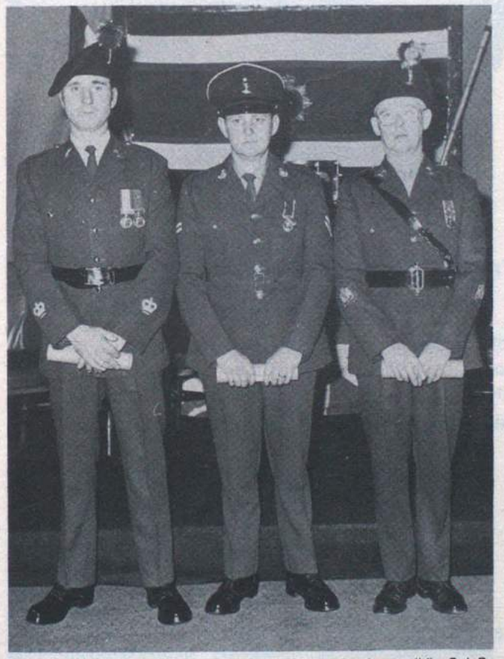
OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATES

At a ceremony on 12 Apr at Sunnyside Street TA Centre Belfast, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Down, **Col W. N. Brann,** presented Certificates to three Volunteer members of Royal Signals who have given prolonged and continuous outstanding Service beyond the normal high standard expected of all members of the TA. The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit is regarded as the highest honour which can be bestowed on an individual at City or County level. It is the personal prerogative of the Lords Lieutenant as the Queen's Representatives. The Award is second only to an honour bestowed by The Queen. It is the second year in which such Awards have been made.



L-R: WO2 W. R. Woodrow of 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V), Cpl S. Stewart of 32 Scottish Signal Regiment (69 (NIH) Signal Squadron), WO1 J. Mitchell of 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)

TRAINING SQUADRON

The squadron re-mustered after Ex *Crusader '80* and immediately made preparations to receive kit and train recruit course 3/80. This two part course started on 30 Nov . Part 1 (female) finished on 15 Feb and the best student was **Pte E. Montgomery.** Part 2 (male only) continued until 5 Apr—the best student was **Sig V. Wall.** At the passing out parade on 5 Apr the CO **Lt Col I. Graham** presented the awards to the two successful candidates and in addition presented the two annual awards to **Sig J. Barr** and **Pte R. Cush** who were considered the best all round students over the past 12 months.

In March the squadron celebrated its second birthday in the true Ulster mode. Some of the achievements attained by members of the squadron in the last 12 months are worthy of mention. **Sgt Eddie Blake** top student on R Signals SSgts' Course TA. **LCpl Barry Wilson** top student on Det Commander's Course TA. **Sig J Barr** top student on R Signals recruit course. These results do the squadron much credit. Well done!

The highlight for the squadron was undoubtedly the award of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's of NI Certificate for Meritorious Service to our own **SSM WO2 W. R. Woodrow** (Piggin Billy) at a simple but moving ceremony in Belfast on Sun 12 Apr. **The Lord Glentoran** presented him with his certificate. The OC would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all ranks in the training squadron to add their own congratulations and to record that he is indeed a credit to the squadron and the regiment.

Our congratulations also go to OC Recruit Troop **Capt Trish Riley** on her recent promotion and we hope that the extra weight on her shoulders keeps her feet firmly on the ground!!

It was with regret that we said farewell to **Cpl Karen Mercer** who has been promoted to Sgt and has now taken over duties in the training office on a full time basis. We would like to thank her for all her hard work with the female recruit element and to wish her well in her new post.

To **Cpl Rosie Auld** we would like to say welcome aboard and hope that her stay in the training squadron will be a long and happy one.

Best Recruit, Recruit Course 3/80
Sig Wall receiving his award from the CO Lt Col I. Graham

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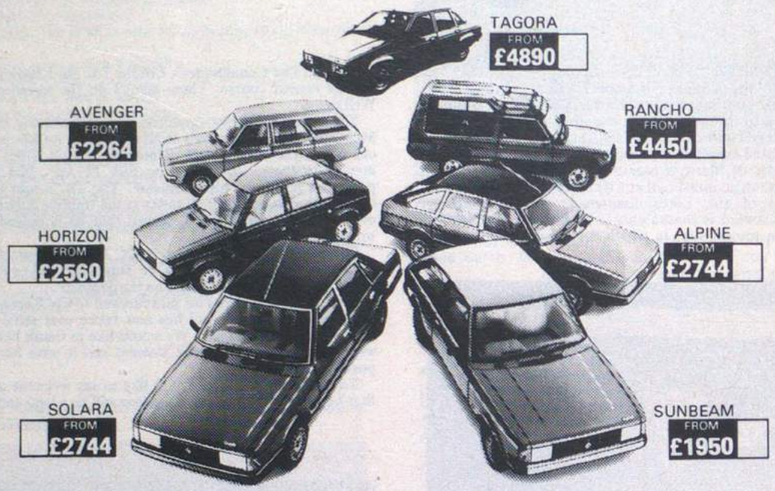

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TALBOT

FIRST FOR EXPORT

Best Recruits of the year 1980
Pte R. Cush WRAC, Sig J Barr receive their awards from the CO Lt Col I. Graham

CO Lt Col I. Graham makes a presentation of Cut Glass on behalf of the Officers to Maj Mike Cartwright on the occasion of his 'Dining Out'. Best wishes to Maj and Mrs Cartwright on their new posting

Presentation on behalf of the Permanent Staff by the CO Lt Col I. Graham to WO1 Wringe on the eve of his departure on posting. Best wishes to WO1 and Mrs Wringe

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

PERSONALTIES

OC	**Maj H. Grenville-Jones**
2IC	**Capt R. J. Turnbull**
Adjt	**Capt M. J. Flynn** QUEENS
QM	**Maj (QM) A. Noble**
MTO	**Capt W. H. Carter** RCT
OC A	**Lt J. E. Hogan**
OC B	**Lt P. N. Ellis**
RSM	**WO1 B. J. Minter**

AT HALTERN

Ex *Pot Shot* was a three day military training competition run at Haltern. The five troops (A Tp, B Tp, TM, MT and Heinz 57 (QM, SHQ, RPC, etc)) started with a night march into the ex area, before bivvying until dawn. The following day they moved tactically from stand to stand, completing tests in first aid, map reading, NBC, weapons, vehicle fault finding, military knowledge and an initiative test. After bivvying again, on the last day they finished their final stand and returned to control HQ.

The sections laid ambushes against each other, if they met en route. However, the most dangerous section to come across were the WRAC let loose from the Commcen. The girls got into the spirit of the exercise, although they weren't competing as such. They frightened **LCpl Waddington** stiff, as they practiced first aid on him as the mock casualty (no pun intended).

One of the answers in the military knowledge quiz also had its humourous side. The question: What rank does a Colonel wear? The answer: Any damn thing he likes. Perhaps the most amusing stand was the initiative test, as the picture shows. Some rare acrobatic feats were displayed, as the teams attempted to cross 'shark infested waters' by

use of the aids available. The competition went very well and was enjoyed by all. Well done to **Cpl Colville** and his team who eventually won overall. It obviously must have done him good as he is promoted in September, and goes to Dundee.

MT Troop struggle with the initiative test

EX 'GRYPHONS GAMBIT'

This year Ex *Gryphons Gambit* was split into two distinct phases, the first phase being a Field Force study period, and the second comprising comms trials by the Battalions in the exercise. I can only say this in hindsight, as prior to the exercise it was a case of 'hats on hats off Sgt Major' as the powers that be decided what was actually wanted!

The principal and most important part of the study period was the dinner night, at which 240 officers attended. This took place in the gymnasium at Liebenau Camp, under the auspices of the QM, **Maj Noble**, and was a great success. The main consequence of this was that, despite a spirited attempt at humour by the staff during the following day's lectures, more noise came from the audience pushing out zzzs than from laughter. Possiby the best entertainment to be found that weekend was by the soldiers, led by **LCpl Waddington**, improving relations between the regulars and TA, i.e. chatting up the visiting QARANCs. The field location in the second phase also had its comforts. Carpets and easy chairs in the briefing tent and officers' mess lent tone to the occasion, and the bar, well run by **Cpl McArdle** and **LCpl Rimmer**, allowed the TA to return happy with their duty frees.

The exercise was the first for some, as we welcome **Lt John Hogan** (having completed a straight swap with **Lt John Gale** who has gone to Ouston) and the new MT management of **Capt Harry Carter** and **Staff Elliott.** It was the last for others as we lose **Sgt McAveety** and **Sgt McEvoy**, both going to RLDs on promotion. It also gave **Foreman of Signals Proctor** a chance to practice his map reading, although he does prefer the pretty route.

The Sqn's ARU took place on the first day out in the field. This went very well, and communications also were excellent. They must have been good as the 2IC, **Capt Bob Turnbull**, was often prepared to desert the location to pedal over the surrounding hills. The troops were convinced he carried his cycle out of sight down the hill so nobody would see him fitting stabilisers on the back wheel, rather than to avoid punctures on the stony track. The worst thing to come out of the exercise was a strange bug which swept the HQ forcing eight soldiers to be casevaced to Osnabruck. The origin of the lurgy is still not known exactly, although it was proved it could not have come from **Cpl Ball's** excellently run cookhouse (Hombre's Hilton) as the rebros were also affected.

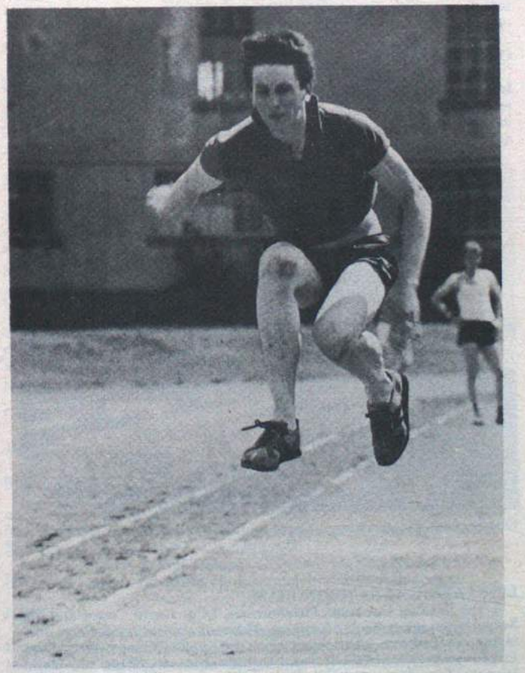
And the best thing was the swelling of Bravo Troop funds by the canteen run for the soldiers by **Cpl Taff Thomas.** British industrial enterprise could learn a lot from this venture.

Staff Pawlak keeps a smile on, despite having to walk with one of the sections

ATHLETICS COMPETITION

The inter-troop athletics competition took place in glorious sunshine on 20 May. Four teams took part: A Tp, B Tp and combined teams from Force HQ, LAD and MT, and SHQ, QM & TM. The stars of the day were **Cpl Francis, Cfn Naisbett** and **Sig Shardlow** on the track, **Cpl Wood** and **Cpl Thomas** as the heavy weights on discus and shot, and the technician **Cpl Draper** winning the high jump. As well as counting towards the overall inter-troop competition the purpose of the day was to select a team for the Morrison Cup on June 3/4. With the talent on display (and I don't mean the wives in their summer frocks, lovely though they were) we should be in with a good chance for the Minor Units trophy.

Left to Right: Sigs Shardlow (winner), Quirey and Laverick, LCpl Smith, Sig Dunn



Sgt Figura

6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Aldershot

QUARTER GUARDS

Sgt Garth Pickersgill now has an immaculate pair of 'best boots', thanks to the many Quarter Guard ceremonies performed by the squadron in recent weeks.

Comlandjut Lt Gen Dr G. Kiesling inspects the Quarter Guard commanded by Sgt Garth Pickersgill

SHOOTING

SSgt Larry Formosa had only just recovered from the excitement of the birth of his first child, when he was called upon to coach the squadron shooting team for the forthcoming South East District Skill at Arms Meeting. Considering the lack of time available for training, the team put in a creditable performance narrowly failing to qualify for Bisley. **Cpl Al Thornton, LCpl Graham Timmis, Sigs 'Grebo' Gration** and **'Hissing Sid' Suffolk** make up the Charlie Troop element of the team.

SSgt Larry Formosa looks sceptically at the Ordnance Company's equipment

ATHLETICS

In preparation for the South East District Athletics Championships, an inter-troop athletics competition was held on 28 May. **WO2 (QMSI) Bob Webb**, aided by members of the Army School of PT, organised a very worthwhile and enjoyable afternoon. **SSgt (FofS) Mick Stocks** showed the 'youngsters' the way, by winning the 1500m. The OC, **Maj Hywel Thomas** and the RSM, **WO1 Gordon Philbrook**, won the shot and javelin respectively— which only goes to demonstrate that technique is all important. At the end of the afternoon SHQ Troop

were the winners, just beating Alpha Troop.

This competition obviously benefited members of the squadron athletics team judging by their performance at the S E Dist Athletics Championships on 3 Jun. **LCpl Mal Edwards** easily won the 800m, **Maj Hywel Thomas, Cpl 'Jock' Campbell** and **LCpl Harry Glean** were runners up in the shot, discus and 200m respectively. Towards the end of the competition we were lying in second place, but a slight slip up (literally!) during a changeover in the 4 x 100m relay resulted in our finishing in third place. Nonetheless we have qualified for the Zone 1 Unit Championships.

CHARLIE TROOP

This month's Wire notes are contributed by Charlie Troop, a dedicated group (to which cause the OC is none too sure!) of linemen, data telegraphists and combat radiomen. The troop is managed by:

OC	**Capt Andy Ward**
2IC	**2Lt David Jones**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Larry Formosa**
Rebro	**SSgt Chick Kinnear**
Line	**Sgt Bob Sharp**
Commcen	**Sgt Dave Vince**
	Sgt Garth Pickersgill

EMPIRE BUILDING

In early April the word was passed around that Bravo Troop was to be no more. As part of the squadron reorganisation, Bravo Troop was absorbed into Charlie Troop who 'gave away' the technicians to SHQ Troop (sighs of relief from **WO1 (FofS) Ben Lawson**). **Capt Andy Ward** strenuously denied that this was 'phase 1' of a plan to take over the whole squadron. However old habits die hard and **Cpl Kenny Colbeck** has only just learnt to say 'Charlie Troop stores' when answering the telephone.

FORCE LINE LAYING COMPETITION

Impressed at the skills displayed by the line section during his farewell visit to the squadron, the then Comd, **Brig J. Reilly DSO**, conceived the idea of a line laying competition for units of the Field Force. So during 26-28 Mar teams from major, minor and TA units each spent a day (and much of the night) threading their way across Barrossa Common.

The planning and organisation for the competition was done by our GSO3 Signals, **Maj Pat MacCulloch** ably assisted by **Capt (Tfc) Tony Cudlip, Sgt Chris Biddlecombe** and his successor **Sgt Bob Sharp.** Teams were tested in all aspects of line laying, including various types of crossings, fault finding and cable recovery. The Comd, **Brig E. H., A. Beckett MBE** visited the competition and was very pleased with the efforts made by everyone—so pleased that next year's competition will

Cpl Pete McElwee receives the Minor Units team prize for the Force Line Laying Competition from the Comd Brig E. H. A. Beckett MBE

involve weapons and NBC equipment! We were delighted to see **Cpl Pete McElwee's** Alpha Troop team (all radio telegraphists) winning the minor units title. Organising the competition seems to have had a strange effect on many of those involved—**Maj Pat MacCulloch, Sgt Chris Biddlecombe, Cpl Andy Murray** and **LCpl Paul Creevy** have all been posted. Coincidence perhaps, but more likely in search of a quieter life.

P.S. The 'Wooden spoon' was awarded to **Sig Chris Walker** who managed to check out a 200m length of cable from the CP and return 45 minutes later having got lost on the way back!

7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj John Doody**
2IC	**Capt Nigel Moore**
Admin Officer	**Maj Brian Moody RPC**
OC A	**Lt David Meyer**
OC J	**Lt Jim Harris**
OC B	**SSgt John King**
QM	**Capt John Richardson**
MTO	**Capt Laurie Dolan RCT**
RSM	**WO1 Gordon McInnes**
FofS	**WO2 John Matthews**
YofS	**WO2 Alan Doane**
RQMS	**WO2 David Kennington**
AQMS	**WO2 John Owen**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Bruce Forsyth**

Away on Courses at present is **Capt Gordon Shipley** who hopefully will shortly return to his role of 2IC.

HURST PARK

This was our first exercise in BAOR this year. It introduced our new MTO **Capt Laurie Dolan** RCT to the fascinating manner in which the squadron deploys. Instead of the short trip from Colchester to Harwich or Felixstowe and then Bremerhaven, we travelled round to Dover and then Zeebrugge. Once in Belgium we were picked up by some lithe Belgium Military Policewomen to escort us through to Holland at the staggering speed of 20 mph. The MTO, whose rover kept breaking down, was thus given ample opportunity to catch up. Having eventually deployed and renewed our acquaintances with 1 Armd Div Sig Regt the exercise got underway. It proved once again the great flexibility of the squadron, as the Commander, yet again, chose another unforeseen option. Needless to say swift thinking enabled completion of the task.

QUARTERMASTER CHANGEOVER

The squadron has now settled down to its new Quartermaster, **Capt John Richardson** and hope Cyprus has also settled down after the arrival of **Capt Eric Le Quesne,** our old Quartermaster! For the information of **Capt Le Quesne,** our new Quartermaster can say no just as frequently.

Quartermaster's Handover—Capt John Richardson and Capt Eric Le Quesne

LINE LAYING AT SANDRINGHAM

J Tps linemen **Cpl Scott Fitzsimmons, LCpl David Cooke** and **Sig Scouse Chapman,** having performed so well in the 6 Fd Force line laying competition, were called upon for greater things. They were tasked with laying line at Sandringham and we gather the Royal household was impressed with their performance.

VISITS

Since the visits of the Zimbabwean NCOs, the squadron has played host to some meeker visitors. The first was Old Heath Primary School, who were drawn from ages between five and seven. They proceeded to dash around the barracks at great speed visiting the displays **Sgt Mick Lloyd-Williams** had arranged. All the staff were totally worn out by the frenzied activity, but we hope in 10 years' time the fruits of these labours come forth.

Lt David Meyer played host to our second visit by the local Roteract Club. The OC had mentioned the party included some young ladies and that **Lt Meyer** should make himself available. In fairness, it must be said he did at least try. The highlight of the visit was the Assault Course when the party were put through their paces with 'helping hands' from **PTIs Sigs George Rahman** and **Gary Smith.**

The next visit was from a local cub pack and yet again the boundless energy of the visitors provided the Training Wing Staff with another exhausting day.

The final visit was of a **Sgt Arrah,** ex Royal Fusilier, to the new Goojerat Barracks, having previously served in the Old Goojerat Barracks between 1930-33. He was hosted by **Sig Ian Knott** who, at the time, was the youngest serving Signalman in the Barracks.

Sig Knott and Sgt Arrah

ATHLETIC STANDARDS

Under the watchful eye of **RSM Gordon McInnes,** the squadron has been training hard for the Athletics season. The training incorporated all members of the squadron at all events and led to the trophy, for the best all round athlete, being awarded to **Sgt Malcolm Dilley** RAPC. **LCpls Peter Griffiths** and **Bob Carroll** finished second and third respectively.

ARMY SEVENS FINALS

The Sqn, under the leadership of **SSgt Bruce Forsyth,** emerged from a hard season to play in the Army Courage Sevens Finals. This was just reward for the effort put in by the team, over the previous few months, and whilst success eluded them, next season appears to show great promise.

INTER TENNIS COMPETITION

OIC Tennis **Capt Nigel Moore** was unfortunately unable to win his own competition, as he and the Chief Clerk **SSgt Bruce Forsyth** narrowly lost in the final to **Maj David Lawrence** RAPC and **Capt Simon Lane** RAPC. However, hopes are high for success in the Eastern District Competition over the coming months.

GOLF

At the Eastern District Spring Meeting in Bury St Edmunds, **Sgt Dennis Petty** was runner-up in the competition.

ALFA TP

Alfa Tp is due for a change of OCs as **Lt David Meyer** is brushing up on his Bruin as he is to assume command of Juliet Tp. **Capt Nigel Moore** who assumes command of Alfa is equally busy reading School of Signals radio precis, whilst relinquishing his post of 2IC.

Congratulations to **Cpl Duncan Gray** and his wife **Susan** and **Sig Jake Lowe** and his wife **Marie** on the respective births of their sons.

JULIET TP

J Tp bids farewell to **Cpl David Piggott** and **LCpl Smudge Smith** on their respective postings to Germany. Congratulations on the recent marriages of **Sig Nigel Atkinson** and **Sig Nigel Clow** to **Sabine** and **Geraldine** respectively.

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Tidworth

EXERCISE 'LION SUN 3'

Report by WO1 (FOS) J. M. Smith

After months of rain and many exercises in the wet woods of Salisbury Plain the whole squadron was looking forward to our annual exercise in Cyprus. Any lingering doubts among the lovelorn about being away from wives and girl friends for a month were rapidly extinguished by the blizzard that hit Tidworth as we were packing to leave. So, leaving the girls to look after the gardens and the cars—if they could find them under the snow—we were off!

UNDER WAY

We bussed to South Cerney where we joined the endless processing queues so beloved of RAF transport teams. When every one of our documents had been minutely examined by everyone in the RAF, and their packing teams had squashed every suitcase to their satisfaction, we were shepherded into our VC10 by **2Lt Trevor** (Why am I always made Packet Commander?) **Bradley** and we took off into the sunrise.

ARRIVAL IN CYPRUS

We landed at Akrotiri and were whisked through to the waiting buses. Compared to our advance party, who met us at the airport we looked white and anaemic but had otherwise survived—with the possible exception of **2Lt Bradley** who had gone prematurely grey during the trip. We soon reached our final destination—Radio Sonde Camp, just outside Episkopi Garrison. Radio Sonde is a tented camp (one or two buildings)—and it was to be home (Intermittently) for the next four weeks.

WEEK 1

After unpacking personal kit and freight, we spent the day plumbing ourselves into Radio Sonde. This first week was devoted largely to Military Training around Episkopi and weapon firing on Dhekalia ranges, and, at least as important, the acquisition of a sun-tan in about half the time recommended by our worried medics **LCpl Measham** and **Pte Slack.**

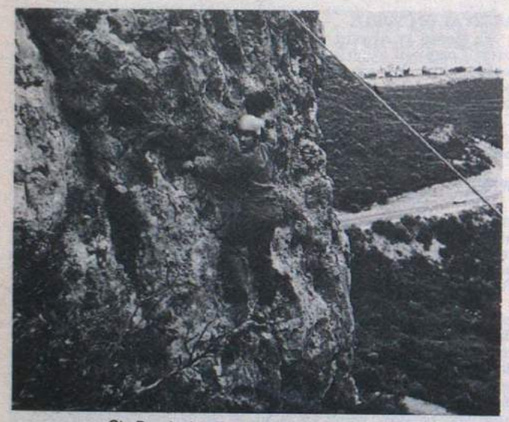
Days started lazily with our Run/PT Sessions at 6 am—these were enjoyed by all but our few third-degree sunburn cases. Morning work finished at 1330hrs and the afternoons were left free for sport. We were coached in a variety of military skills by experts from 3LI and by a Sergeant-Major from the SAS. The highlight for most people was the survival demonstration including the making of animal traps (of the mangle—dangle—strangle variety) and the construction of a simple water producing still. **RSM Bill Hunt,** an old hand from County Cork, wasn't overly impressed with stills that produced only water and he volunteered to liven up proceedings next year.

Cpl Taylor getting expert instruction on the GPMG

WEEK 2

This was another busy week. Range work again (this time on the ETR at Akrotiri)—Hill Walking, Navigation, Orienteering and Climbing in the Troodos Mountains—and Watermanship Training (or Drowning-by-Numbers) run by **SSgt Jeff Shergold** and **Sgt Bill Henderson** at Evdhimou Beach.

Climbing was an optional activity, with the alternative being a 25 mile walk over the steepest hills in Cyprus. Amazing how popular climbing became! Under the eagle eye of **Maj Phil Clarke** RAChD (I climb to be nearer to God) and **Lt John McIntyre** (I climb to let God get nearer to me) the squadron scraped, scrampled, slithered and slipped up and down the Cyprus rock faces. The grade of climbs varied from easy (where you don't faint until you are half-way up) to difficult (where you faint in the queue below), with the occasional grade of variable. This unusual grade was created by **Pte Jock Duncan** (D&E Platoon) who, when ascending an easy, managed to kick off a crucial outcrop which converted the climb instantaneously into v. difficult—and caused massive fainting in the queue below! Abseiling produced its crop of drama with a reluctant **Capt Matt Helm** (I must remember to cancel my UEL course) being forced to abseil after unwisely visiting the climbing site to see how things were going. Fans of **Capt Chris Donaghy** (G3 INT) (of upside-down drinking fame) will be delighted to hear that he has added upside-down abseiling to his repertoire. Some of the squadron proved quite talented at climbing, with one stalwart **Sig Chris Newman** actually managing to ascend a previously unclimbed route (no kidding!). He hasn't yet named it but if you go to Cyprus you can't miss it—it is the only climb with teeth marks!



Sig Booth showing how easy it is . . .

Cpl Fordyce, LCpl Howell-Walmisley, Dvr Wilson and Sig Edwards on the 'walk back' Troodos . . . only 20 miles to go

WEEK 3 Was a week of EXERCISES!

LCpl Daughtry and friends on patrol during Ex 'Saxon'

EX 'LION CUB'

This was a patrol exercise over two days and a night where the squadron moved off on newly hardened feet (tempered by the 'walk-back' from Troodos to Radio Sonde—25 miles) to practice what they'd learned in Weeks 1 and 2. The exercise started at 'sparrows' on Monday with a beach assault landing and for the survivors—continued with 20 miles of patrol, recce and general low profile movement in the Cyprus 'bush'. It proved to be a good solid exercise in very hot weather (remember us complaining of the Snow!) where water consumption was approximately 2 Jerrycans per man per day.

To select an incident at random . . . **LCpl Mal Clark** (No 5 Section Comd) just before his assault boat hit the beach yelled—in best John Wayne fashion—'Follow me lads' and then jumped over the bow. Unfortunately, he had jumped fractionally early and found himself in a seven foot sea. He swam on somewhat miffed by the failure of his 'lads' to follow him, but decided to keep his mouth shut in case his gaff was noticed and details were sent to the Wire . . . wise man!

EX 'SAXON PRIDE'

Another winner! This was designed to practice the section attack, search-and-destroy, and use -of-dogs know-how that had been covered in Week 2. It was assumed that trek-distances would at last be reduced to the odd kilometre with an occasional 50 yard dash during the section attacks. Sections later claimed that distances covered were larger than the patrol exercise and that the final attack runs compared favourably with the BFT course! Otherwise, a good Exercise was had by all and when the dust and smoke of battle cleared everyone agreed that they were ready for their long weekend.

EX 'SHORT SWITCH'

This was the HQ staff's contribution to the war and was a CPX run over two days at Episkopi and Dhekalia. After much early recce work by **WO1 Ralph (Supt Clk) McKee**—who seemed to know everyone in Cyprus—the OPS Rooms appeared, the communications worked, the war was won (or at least drawn), the Commander **(Brig M. J. A. Wilson OBE MC)** seemed happy, the staff breathed a sigh of relief—and promptly got back to the serious busines of sunbathing!

LONG WEEKEND

The squadron split itself into loafing, sporting and sight-seeing parties. The loafers collapsed on the roof of our building at Radio Sonde and bribed the duty section to rotate them every 20 minutes to extract maximum benefit and minimum risk from the Cyprus sun.

The sporting party fanned out all over the island to try their hands at water-skiing, wind-surfing, sailing, gliding, diving, horse riding . . . etc and tried hard to gain the bumps, breaks, and bruises that the training had failed to inflict.

The sight-seers split into local and overseas groups. The 'locals' toured the well known and not-so-well-known attractions of Cyprus. The more affluent formed the overseas group and, after shelling out £50 per head, disappeared on a whistle-stop tour of Israel. The QM (**Capt Colin Meridith**) declined this trip on the basis 'They can't teach me anything in Israel that isn't covered in detail on the QMs course!'. The weekend finished with a trip to the local KEO Brewery which, as the bus bringing the trippers back could heard at a range of three miles, was generally agreed to be very educational.

FINAL WEEK

The week opened with our attempt to win the Quadrangular Sports Meeting between 8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn, 254 Sig Sqn, 262 Sig Sqn and 259 Sig Sqn. It slowly dawned on us that (with the possible exception of OC 259 Sig Sqn) nobody really cared who won and we settled down to enjoy one of the best sports days, in the super surroundings of Happy Valley, that I can ever remember. In spite of the KEO-induced euphoria we did well in most of the sports, particularly in the football where **Sgt Bill Henderson** and his stars produced a performance worthy of England. The Tug-O-War produced real drama and we lost narrowly to 259 Sig Sqn in the final.

The remainder of the week was a whirlwind mix of packing, parties, panic-tanning and goodbyes to friends old-and-new and before we knew it we were back at the airport with a lot more baggage (and a lot less money) than on arrival.

The Sqn Volleyball Team (on the right) in action against 259 Sig Sqn in Happy Valley

THE TRIP BACK

The RAF had swapped our VC10 for an historically important Hercules and we duly bundled aboard for our scheduled seven hour return flight. To say it was congested would be an understatement, but the Herc' somehow managed to lumber aloft with the kit, bags-of-oranges and bodies of 8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn. With the latest RAF anti-noise equipment in position (cotton wool in the ears!!) we settled back to enjoy ourselves. Only the desperate used the toilets as (with the congestion) getting to the rear of the plane involved scrambling up a net, balancing along a 8 foot high bar with a final 6 foot leap to arrive at the toilet. Getting back was even more fun. Ten hours later, after an unscheduled stop at Nice, we landed at Lyneham. After collecting our kit, and our bags-of-oranges which the RAF had thoughtfully converted into orange squash, we headed home to Tidworth.

P.S. Judging from the petrol-bills the girls had found the cars but hadn't been as successful in finding the gardens!

QUOTES OF THE EXERCISE

From **Sgt Woof Woolford** RAPC (CSE Geography failed) on trip out . . . 'I wonder what the beach is like at Nicosia?' From **Choggie Shop Wallah** at Radio Sonde, his remark issued free with every tea and hot dog . . . 'I'm not making any profit on this, you know.'

A story of major enterprise . . . As the Ice Cream van arrived at the gates of Radio Sonde on Day 1 it was met by a tall gentleman in shorts and flip-flops . . .

Tall Gentleman: 'Where do you think you're going?'
Ice Cream Man: 'I'm going in to sell my ice creams.'
Tall Gentleman (after a pause): 'You can't come in here unless you give me a free ice cream every day.'
Ice Cream Man (without a pause): 'Push off, sunshine, or I'll report you to your OC Sqn!'
Tall Gentleman: 'I am the OC Sqn!'
Ice Cream Man: 'Vanilla or Raspberry Ripple, Sir?'

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

OC	**Maj M. P. S. Shaw**
2IC	**Capt N. K. P. Hope**
QM	**Capt R. L. Danells**
Comms Offr	**Lt J. A. Barry**
OC Main Tp	**2Lt A. W. McComb**
OC Support Tp	**Lt D. S. Ewing**
SSM	**WO2 S. G. Marshall**
YofS	**WO2 M. Altham BEM**
FofS	**WO2 K. J. Bradley**

SOCCER

In spite of the fact that the squadron has spent much of the recent season away from Bulford on various commitments, the unit soccer team managed to win through to the South West District Minor Units final. After a hard fought match against the Junior Soldiers Battalion Taunton we finally conceded defeat. However, all agreed that the final score of 6—4 was a true reflection of an excellent game which could have gone either way.

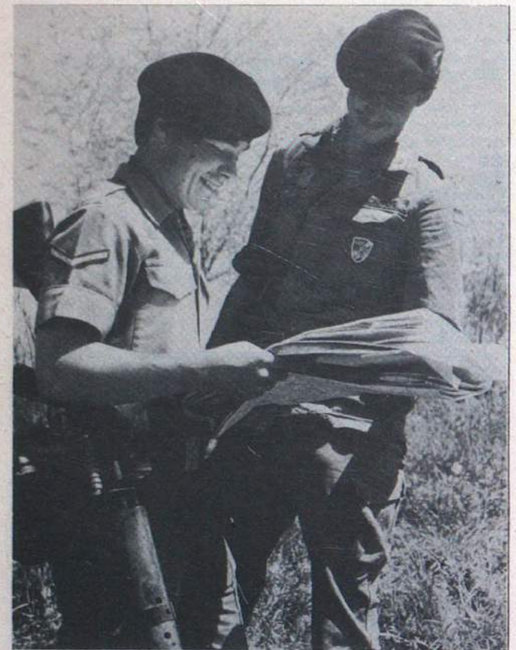
IN NORTHERN ITALY

The beginning of May arrived to find the squadron deploying to Northern Italy for an Ace Mobile Force (AMF) CPX. In true AMF fashion we despatched our vehicles by sea, having been given vague assurances that we would see them about a week later at Venice docks. For anyone who lives by the saying 'Never separate a soldier from his kit', the AMF can sometimes be a bit of a nightmare. Following a week of extensive military training in Bulford, we flew to the exercise area to find, that not only had the vehicles actually arrived as promised, but that the rain that we had left behind in the UK had somehow found its way to Italy as well. We felt quite at home. However, within 24 hours of our arrival the weather changed and, in glorious sunshine, the squadron settled down to its daily routine of battle PT and 'pockey' drill followed after breakfast by the testing of all radio equipment prior to the onset of deterrent operations.

The Key detachments were duly despatched to their various national host units and favourable reports on their performance were received from all. **Cpl Kevin McGready** and **Sig Phil Harris,** both attached to the 509th US Airborne Battalion, not only took a full part in deterrent patrolling, but even joined in the early morning PT sessions lasting, we are told, longer than many of their American hosts.

With the onset of combat operations the squadron, in true Jekyll and Hyde fashion, melted away beneath its camnets and set about the business of providing the staff with communications. Endex arrived to find trips to Venice on many minds and over half of the unit managed to visit the 'sinking city' before we were eventually whisked by VC10 back to Brize Norton and yes—the rain.

A field somewhere in Northern Italy. Deterrent Operations or 'Showing the flat' AMF style. The Alps form the backdrop



LCpl Andy Dawson and a German airborne soldier during deterrent operations

Cpl George Williamson with sack of chalk, leads his work party up the hill to the Kiwi (for the umpteenth time)

The finished product

THE BULFORD KIWI

The week immediately following the units return from Italy witnessed much activity. BFTs and rangework were the order of the day as preparation for the annual march and shoot competition got under way. Fitness training was augmented by the bi-annual Kiwi clean up, when all available members of the squadron—suitably armed with shovels and sandbags—spent Wed 20 May weeding and refilling the famous Bulford Kiwi.

Readers of previous issues of both the Wire and Soldier magazines will be aware that the Kiwi has now become a firm part of squadron life and that a bond of friendship has been cemented between 249 and the old comrades of the New Zealand Retired Services Association. This bond was recognised recently when the OC, **Maj Mike Shaw**, was invited to New Zealand House to meet the Chief of the New Zealand Army General Staff, **Maj-Gen B. M. Poananga CB CBE.** The general presented the OC with a very fine plaque in recognition of the squadron's efforts in keeping alive a part of our Commonwealth heritage.

With apologies to our friends in New Zealand we now publish the following poem which was found laying around the squadron office. The author is, of course, anonymous but rumour has it that **Cpl Gus (Wordsworth) Taylor** of the LAD has been at work again.

Our Pet Kiwi
It sits on a hillside
gleaming and bright
but it takes too much hard graft
to keep Kiwi white

They left it behind them
when they all went back
Oh, how that I wish
we could paint it all black

We're all tired of taking
sacks and spades from the shelf
so come back you skivers
and clean it yourselves

Don't worry Kiwis, by the time autumn comes he'll be ready to do it all over again.

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

On Fri 22 May the annual Inter-Troop March and Shoot competition got under way and by mid-morning it became apparent that the whole affair would be a close run thing. The 'old style' 10 mile bash placed the Support Troop 'D' team, under **Cpl Mick Fitzpatrick**—one of our best Marathon runners—in the favourite position with a time of 107 minutes. However, as is so often the case, the final positions were to be decided by the range phase of the competition and the Admin Troop team with **WO2 (YofS) Mick Altham** in command eventually won the day with an overall average of 87 per cent hits on their targets.

Our photograph shows the Deputy Commander South West District, **Brig J. G. Starling CBE MC ADC**, presenting the winners trophy to the Yeoman. **WO2 (FofS) Kev Bradley** and **LCpl Paul Norrie** look on.

STOP PRESS

We are happy to announce that 249 again won Commander 1 Signal Group's Cup Competition on 18 June. Further details will follow in the next issue.

Don't be disappointed!

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

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

HODGSON SHIELD FINAL

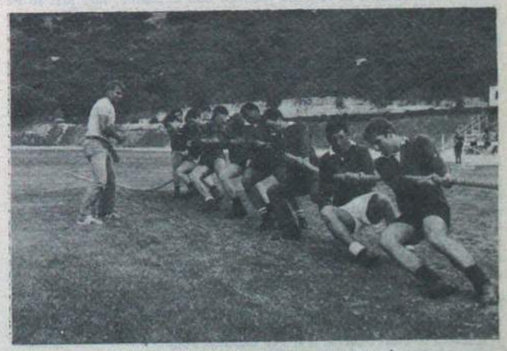
The 13 sport OC's Hodgson Shield Competition was finally won by the brains of the squadron (Tech Troop). They were worthy winners beating Airfield Troop into second place by 12 points in 55. Following the Tug of War Competition **Mrs Judy Walters** presented the Shield to **SSgt Dave Fox.**

The new season is now under way and last year's wooden spooners, Mountain Troop, have started well, by winning the Athletics Competition in which there were good performances by **LCpl Jim Richardson**—Javelin, **SSgt Dave Marsden**—Discus, **Sig Dale Edgar**—High Jump and **Cpl Eric Clarke**—Sprints. We now look forward to doing well in the Island Wide Minor Units Athletics Competition.

SSgt Dave 'Smile Please' Fox received the Hodgson Shield from Judy Walters

QUADRANGULAR SPORTS MEETING

On 26 May 8 Fd Force Sig Sqn, 254 (UNFICYP), 259 and 262 met in the ideal setting of Happy Valley to air our differences at potted sports. 8 Field Force were on holiday!!! and it seemed an ideal time to play hockey, volley ball, soccer, cricket and tug of war. The result is unimportant but 259 won. In fact, it wasn't a bit like that, and the sport was an excuse for CR Signals, **Lt Col Chris Blessington**, to give away six crates of KEO to winning teams, and the participants, visitors and many spectators alike had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



Episkopi Troop tug-of-war team at work
Left to Right: SSgt Bob Atkinson, LCpl Martin Fielding, Sig Joe McCalman, LCpl Jim Richardson, Sgt Mike Read, Sig Arthur Nicols, Sig Steve Griffiths, Cpl Tam Tulloch, Sig Steve Frampton

The victorious Mountain Troop athletics team Sgt Mick Parsons, Sig 'Ripples' Hartley, Sgt Tom Shanahan, Cpl Bob Drysdale, LCpl Lee Adamson, Cpl Paul Jennings, Cpl Eric Clarke, Sig Dale Edgar, Sig Bruce Wardle

ANNUAL TREASURE HUNT

The Annual Treasure Hunt sponsored by Andy Spyrou Motor Mart was held on 22 May in the Limassol Area and the results were definitely fiddled to give the OC and **Judy Walters** first prize. **Sgt Bill Erskine** and **Lynda** were much more worthy second placed and **LCpl Neil Buckingham** and **Angela** were third despite the severe handicap of two children. The event was organised by **Capt Ray Tricker** and such was the standard of the clues in poetry (with correct spelling) that we know he must have been assisted (well done **Claire**).

WIVES CLUB

The Wives Club is now one of the most active Clubs on the Island and on 2 June they combined with the ladies of 12 Signals Unit to give a fashion show in the 3Rs Club which was attended by 100 wives. The dresses were by a local boutique and were modelled by wives from the two Clubs. The outcome was professional and rumour has it that the barman's (**Cpl Steve Green**) eyes were on stalks as **Jo Whitbread** paraded a see-through creation. Also, **Pat Fox** was heard to shout 'Pass me the bottle' in preparation for her parade. Well done ladies! but do not relax—the Episkopi Fete Cake Stall and SSAFA raffle are next!!

CR SIGNALS VISIT

On 24 May **Lt Col David Mullineaux** made his farewell visit to the squadron. We would like to wish him and **Phillipa** well in UK and at the same time welcome **Lt Col Chris Blessington** and **Sorel** to Cyprus and hope they enjoy their tour.

262 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 58

WELCOME

Starting with new arrivals, we would like to welcome into the squadron, **2Lt Sally Holt** (WRAC), **WO2 (RQMS) Rod Gladwin, SSgt Steve Bailes, Sgt Keith Bridger, LCpl John Vernon, Pte Karen Taylor** (WRAC), **Sigs Taff Treeby** and **Jim Burgess,** just in time for lots of work, a sun tan and Summer camp.

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the squadron wish to congratulate **Lt Jane Sugden** on her marriage to **Capt Miles Stockdale,** and **Cpl Tony Lobb** on his marriage to **Pte Jo Thomas.**

NEWSFLASH

31 May 1981 . . . to all past members of Field Troop . . . 'We regret to announce the death of our little set up,' as of 2359hrs on this date, please send condolences, wreaths and money to **SSgt Tom Hornby.** As this newsflash indicates, we have had a re-organisation within the squadron. Field Troop is now disbanded with the line section joining Maintenance Troop and the MT joining Communications Troop, and everyone is working very hard to get sorted out. This is especially true of the RQMS and his merry band of storemen, **Sgt Bob Hassall, Cpl Mick Swallow** and **LCpl John Vernon.** The RQ, having relieved **Sgt Bob Hassall** of the pressures of running the department on his own, will now be able to find time to re-write the Sub unit accounts, and just so he doesn't get bored he is also going to organise a Sqn Beach Barbecue.

SPORTS

The Sqn has been very active in the sporting sphere over the last two months. In the Eastern Sovereign Base Area Squash Championships, three members of the Sqn reached the quarter finals. At this stage the OC, **Maj Lionel French** and **Sgt Mick Green** were knocked out of the competition in two very close matches. **Cpl Ken Jones** went on to defeat the number 2 seed 3—2, but lost the finals in a very long and arduous match against the number 4 seed.

The Sqn hockey team closed the season in grand style with a traditional booze-up, at which the following awards were presented. Top Scorer: **Sgt Les Brown** (who did extremely well considering he had never picked up a hockey stick before this season!) Most Improved Player: **SSgt (YofS) Percy Beynon** who worked tremendously hard in training. Best Player: **Cpl Ken Jones.** The team did exceptionally well, coming 3rd in the league, winning 10 out of its 15 matches.

Well done all those girls who took part in the Minor Units Athletics Meeting. There was no victory, but a valiant effort nevertheless by **Cpl Val Dixon, Pte Dierdre Burrows, LCpl Faith Nevill, LCpl Debbie Whitely, Pte Desi Martin** and **Pte Carol Jewell.**

The Sqn has played two cricket matches so far with some notable performances so early in the season. 262 v 3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt by 20 runs. **Sgt Green** 50 not out **Sgt Higgins** 3 for 26. 262 v 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt by 16 runs. **Sgt Green** 56 **Maj French** 37.

Cpl Ken Jones receiving his cup from the Garrison Commander after the Area Squash Championships

Also congratulations go to **Cpl Allen** who represented the Army at basketball.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

Comms Tp would like to say farewell to **Capt 'Terry' Lightfoot,** and to **SSgt Mick Schnable** who moves on to sunny Verden. The sailing club will miss you. Field Troop also bids a 'dying' farewell to **Lt Jane Sugden** and hopes that the domestic life suits her well. Also farewell to **Roy 'Jimmy ' Nield** who has left us for BFPO 811 (hush hush!), and **Sgt Dave Sparkes** and family who have left for Exercise *Land.*

Finally, we hear there have been strange happenings up at Cape Greco recently. What's all this about **LCpl 'Taffy' Morgan** being mown down by an armed Mars bar? Can **FofS Carter** really interpret dreams?

News from Troops

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

ON OUR TOES

Time seems to pass by very quickly in Belize and this is largely due to the hectic and busy life we lead. Our normal commitments to the 5000 mile DCN HF link and to comms within Belize usually provide enough challenges and problems to keep us on our toes. The situation and events here in Belize over the past few months have added spice to our lives and, of course, interesting jobs invariably involve extra work.

ONE LESS INCOME TAX OFFICE

Over a period of a few weeks following the announcement of the Agreement between UK and Guatemala, tension built up in Belize. The most notable event being the allegedly politically motivated arson in Belize City, which resulted in the Income Tax Office and several houses being burnt to the ground. Troops and RAF personnel were deployed to assist the fire fighting services in Belize City and consequently some members of the troop were involved even at this early stage.

HEIGHTENING TENSION

It was shortly after this incident that the troop became involved in providing comms from Force HQ to a Tac HQ in Belize City. This completely new departure for the troop provided some challenges and involved some long hours and hard work. The establishment of the Tac HQ in the Eastern District Police HQ in Belize City and CBF's desire to 'rove', further compounded our intial problems. These were soon resolved by **Sgt Jock Rice** and his Radio Room gang, who established a link into the HF Command Net and, perhaps indicative of Belize's move to HF Clansman comms, a VHF 'Guard' Net. **WO2 (FofS) Russ Davey,** ably assisted by **SSgt Taff Elliott** and **Sgt Gordon Bennett,** established a C41 link, providing telephone comms between HE the Governor at Belmopan, Commissioner of Police and Tac HQ in the Police HQ and CBF and HQBFB at Airport Camp. 30 Sig Regt were caught just departing for their weekends on Fri 3 Apr and tasked with providing extra C41 equipment for this link. Thanks to their efforts, the equipment arrived late on the Saturday night and by Sunday lunchtime it was installed and working.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

These comms were being provided against a background of heightening tension. On Tues 31 Mar the Public Services Union went on strike, effectively bringing most of the country and certainly Belize City to a standstill by Thur 2 Apr. Essential services had ceased and shops and businesses in Belize City were closed for 'stocktaking'. At the same time militant groups of the opposition were demonstrating in Belize City and other smaller towns. These demonstrations led to some minor rioting and looting by the hooligan elements of the crowds. The Belize Defence Force were commited to assisting the Police maintain law and order. At this time, apart from the Tac HQ, British troops were held in reserve and this was to remain the case, apart from some minor tasks. A State of Emergency was declared by HE the Govenor at 1430 hrs on Thurs 2 Apr. The imposition of various regulations under the State of Emergency ensured the re-establishment and maintenance of essential services and the curtailment of demonstrations.

THE THREE WAY STRETCH

The roulement of 1 QUEENS/1 GORDONS and the RA Batteries led to the Garrison (Force) Troops being deployed as a stop-gap to cover the handover/takeover period from 7-11 April. Having stretched our equipment resources, our manpower was now displaying its remarkable elastic qualities. The arrival in Belizean waters of HMS *Cardiff* and the subsequent requirement for operators and comms to the ship further extended the troop.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

The following report has been received from our correspondent at the sharp end:

'The peace of a sultry Caribbean afternoon was shattered for **Cpl Andy Wilson** as his boss, Commander British Forces Belize City (CBFBC) **Maj Jon Ingram,** otherwise known as the Force Signals Officer, gave him his orders. 'Get ready for a patrol, we have a vital mission. From information received it is clear that the only survivor, possibly the last in Belize, is lurking in the shopping centre of the city!' Leaping to his feet—very difficult from a hammock—**Cpl Wilson** got his bodyguard together. Well he thought they were his and he seemed such a nice guy that CBFBC did not like to disillusion him. And so off they set led by CBFBC himself. This courageous band of stop-gap infanteers braved not only Brodies but also Romacs and the Vogue, no mean feat for those of a weak constitution or troubled stomach. Then there it was, their objective! It may not have been perfect; it may not have been reliable but it was British and it was certainly rare in Belize. Yes, they had managed to find CBFBC a new pipe!

THE CAVALRY ARRIVES

By week four of the Emergency the troop was starting to feel the strain. Not only were the workers confined to camp, but they were expected to work overtime as well! No greater fury hath man than a shift worker working on his day off! Under this threat of severe disruption of the sleeping habits of the lesser working shifter, the OC requested assistance from 30 Sig Regt, this time in the shape of bodies. The Adjutant popped down to the QM Stores and drew four cans of instant soldier, namely **LCpls Ian Green** and **Dusty Miller** and **Sigs Geordie Ditch** and **Robbo Roberts. LCpl Paul Hamer** had somehow managed to get here earlier. Resisting the temptation to put our new found work force on to preparations for the MGA's visit, this team of highly trained specialists were soon deployed providing a much appreciated respite for the troop.

THE END?

At 1230 hrs on Fri 8 May, HE the Governor lifted the State of Emergency. The troop maintained the contingency comms over the next week in anticipation of further disturbances. However, it remained quiet over the following week and on Sat 16 May we finally withdrew from the Police HQ. The situation is far from resolved and equally determined, if somewhat more peaceful, opposition to the Government still exists. The troop remains on standby to deploy the contingency comms to Belize City. As this commitment draws to a close we begin our preparations for our Hurricane contingency comms. Never a dull moment!

MGA'S VISIT

After many weeks of preparation and the inevitable pre-inspections the MGA UKLF, **Maj Gen E. J. Hellier CBE** arrived in Belize on 5 May for his annual visit. During his visit the MGA took the opportunity as Colonel Commandant to pay particular attention to Royal Signals. The MGA visited Radio APC joining **Cpl Micky Bray** and **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice** 'live' on the 277 Request show; flew to our RRB site on Mountain Pine Ridge, meeting **LCpl Gaz Hughes** and **Sigs Wilkie Wilkinson** and **Steve Murton;** attended a Royal Signals Barbeque complete with Carribean Steel Band and, of course, came to see the troop at work in the Commcen area. The combination of the lifting of the state of emergency and the culmination of the MGA's visit provided irresistible momentum for many a 'happy hour'—some even managed to extend that to a 'happy weekend'!

LIAISON VISITS

As a vitally important unit in the Corps and as the operational situation demands, we are fortunate to have regular liaison visits from a cross section of interested parties in the UK. Apart from that, there is the Caribbean, the Cayes and the weather! Recent visitors, some too secretive (or too semi-official!) to be mentioned, have included **Maj Norman Cox** from CPA and **SSgt (FofS) Colin Mitchell** and **Sgt Carl Trayler** from 30 Sig Regt. As for volunteers, all are welcome—trips with **SSgt Taff Elliott's** white knuckle airways dependent on how inventive your justification is for coming to Belize.

FAREWELLS

As ever, in a short tour troop like ours farewells (Gozomees) and welcomes (Moonies) are a regular occurrence. Some come and go with a quiet decorum, some with a noisy display. Well, we finally got rid of **WO2 (YofS) Dave Gruncell,** and it seemed fitting after six months of working despite/with/for and because of the RAF, that he should be sent to 244 Sig Sqn (AS) at RAF Brize Norton. Decorum or display? The author must protect his sources, so let us say we enjoyed your display of decorum Yeoman and all the best.

VOLUNTEERS

Despite all rumours the troop will be here for some time yet. Volunteers are still welcome, the job is still here to be done and indications are that there will be a few more six month tours before we finally leave. The troop offers job satisfaction, travel and sport—all the things people used to join the Army for!

One of the nicer jobs in the Troop. LCpl Gaz Hughes providing comms for a diving expedition on Half Moon Caye

WO2 (YofS) Dave Gruncell receives his farewell plastic mug from the OC

Royal Signals Detachment
HQ 20 Maritime Regiment RCT Gosport

After yet another long period of silence we thought it only fair, if only to our ex members, to let you know we are still here—and what has been going on at Gosport.

WHO'S WHAT AND WHERE

The Boss	**WO2 YofS Bob Wright**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Frank Leigh (He's back again)**
HMAV Ardennes	**Sgt Don Burst**
	Cpl Harry Smith
	LCpl K. B. Smith
HMAV Arakan	**Sgt Eddy Doubtfire**
	Cpl Dave Quinton
	Cpl Bill Martin
HMAV St George	**Sgt John Bird**
	LCpl Chris Poll
Commcen	**Cpl Dave Armstrong**
	Cpl Paul Forryan
	Cpl Arthur Joy (ON G1098 Scaling)
	Cpl Ron Leach
	LCpl Ken Orme
	Cpl Chris Rose
	Cpl Keith Williamson
	Cpl Dave Wilbraham

THE JOB

A small elite band of radio telegraphists our job (in brief) the provision of radio communications from RCT vessels at sea to the RHQ in Gosport. We, of course, man both ends of these circuits which normally work morse. We also work schedules with the Royal Navy and are also responsible for the Army Commcen Gosport. All the operators are volunteers (YofS excluded) and the employment offers a great chance to put to practical use skills learnt in basic trade training and at the same time a chance to see the world (UK Shoreline).

WHAT'S NEW

Our current Fleet of two LCLs (Landing Craft Logistic) is soon to be swelled by the commissioning of a new vessel currently being built in shipyards in North Devon, the HMAV *St George* designed for the specific task of transporting bulk ammunition. Launching is expected during July with acceptance trials during the period Sep—Nov 81.

VISITORS

The regiment were visited recently by a mixed party (incl WRAC) led by **Maj (QM) Harry Meekings** from 10 Sig Regt. After a very comprehensive Portsmouth Harbour guided tour, the party located the real reason for the visit, the Mars Bar (Unit Club) and not a moment too soon judging by the ladies stampede to powder their noses. We would like to thank 10 Sig Regt for their presentation of a unit plaque and can assure them it has pride of place, strategically sited near the Commcen hatch.

MYSTERY

Perhaps the highlight so far this year, was the presentation of the LS & GC to **Cpl Ron Leach** (hence the mystery), seen here being presented with his medal by the Commander 3 Tpt Group. **Col Kenny** on 24 Mar.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

For the most, it would appear that NI supply our volunteers and 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt the posting that follows a tour here, however one or two do slip through the net. We bid fond farewells to, **WO2 (YofS) Bill** and **Gwen Burnham** who leave us on posting to Belize, although we expect to see more of them in the future, having bought property locally. **Cpl Dave** and **Stephanne Smy** leave us on posting to (guess) yes, 1 Div, our loss their gain. Soon to depart is **Sgt Don Burst**, on completion of his service, **Don** leaves us for that great unknown (Civvy Street). **Sgt Eddy Doubtfire** and his wife **Angella** are off to, yes again, 1 Div but this time, a Rear Link detachment. **Cpl Ron** and **Joan Leach** leave us in September going to 14 Sig Regt. Some expected replacements, **Sgt R. L. Terrett** and **LCpl C. G. Warnes.**

GOSPORT AREA

In closing, as an outpost we tend to lose track of Corps matters and gossip and would welcome any visitors who are in the area, who fancy a cup of coffee and a quick chat, please do drop in. We are always looking for new recruits too, so if you fancy something completely different why not make a few enquiries with your orderly room?

Association News

Aldershot Branch

Report by Mr Vic Ient

It's so many months since notes have been written from the Aldershot Branch, so let us look back at what has been happening here in Aldershot.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on 1 Apr at the new Bradley Club at Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, by kind permission of **Maj H. G. S. Thomas**, Royal Signals of '6 Field Force', based here in Aldershot. The attendance was good and the following were elected. To remain as President, **Brig P. M. P. Hobson DSO**; the remaining members of the Committee were also re-elected: that is:- **Maj D. P. Gardiner TD**, Chairman & Honorary Treasurer; **Mr A. V. Ient MSM**, Honorary Secretary; **Mr A. H. Green** Deputy Chairman.

Co-opted to the Committee was **SSgt G. Pickard, MSM**, Royal Signals, who has done so much sterling work for the Branch. He has arranged for some of our meetings to be held at the Army Youth Selection Centre (South) at Deepcut with the kind permission of **Maj H. G. Greatwood**, Officer Commanding the Centre. A vote of thanks was made by the President, **Brig P. M. P. Hobson DSO**, to the Committee and **SSgt G. Pickard** for all the work done in the past 12 months.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Branch was held at The Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, on Sat, 8 May. Seventy sat down to dinner at 8pm which included many notable guests. The Chief Guest of the evening was **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association. Many came from quite good distances including a party with **Mr Terry Rawlings** from High Wycombe, also from Reading, **Mr A. E. Foot**, the Secretary of that Branch, and the ticket sales lady, all the way from Dorset—**Mrs Janice Pickard.**

The President, **Brig P. M. P. Hobson DSO**, presided over the Dinner with Guests like **Mrs J. Tucker** and **Mrs L. Allen**—widows of our two late Brigadiers, who were presidents of the Branch at one time.

Lt Col Ron Murray, our General Secretary, joined the party with **Maj H. G. Greatwood** and his wife. Many old stories were told after the Dinner with **Mr W. Hart, MSM**. Speeches came from the following Members in this order.

SSgt Pickard proposed the Toast of The Corps and the Association which was responded to by the General Secretary, **Lt Col Murray. Maj D. P. Gardiner** proposed the Guests which was replied by the Chairman, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**. The President, in wishing all those present well, proposed the Toast to Her Majesty The Queen and our Colonel-in-Chief. A jolly evening for all which turned into quite a reunion. I must add that we were glad to have with us **Maj (Retd) (QM) J. Bowie**, from Northern Ireland and **Maj (Retd) (QM) J. F. McQuade** from the London Branch. Also several of the Senior Officers of HQ 2 Signals Group, based in Aldershot. We are still firmly on the map and our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Bradley Club, Hollinghurst NAAFI Building, Arnhem Barracks (top of the Queens Avenue opposite the Maida Gym) by kind permission of **Maj H. G. S. Thomas**, OC 6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn.

FARAWAY PLACES!

— UNUSUAL JOBS!

SEND US THAT STORY

SSgt Gordon Pickard MSM proposes the Toast of the Corps and Association

The Chairman of the Aldershot Branch, Maj D. P. Gardiner TD

The Chairman of the Association speaks after the Dinner

BRIGHTON BRANCH

Thirty three members and guests spent a most enjoyable day at the Blandford Reunion on 17 May, and once again our thanks are passed to all concerned with our reception and entertainment during our all too short annual visit.

On the following Saturday we were saddened to receive news of the sudden death of **Maj A. Mansfield**, R Signals who had spent a happy day with us at Blandford. Accordingly, on 3 June, a delegation from this Branch, including the Vice President, Chairman, and Secretary, and several other old comrades, attended the cremation service at Worthing of our late member. The Branch Standard and Union Flag carried by **Derek Swann** and **Len Parrack** respectively, preceded the cortege, and a sheaf of Spring flowers laid among many other floral tributes.

EASTBOURNE BRANCH

On Saturday 7 Feb the Eastbourne Branch of the Royal Signals Association held their first Dinner/Dance at the Royal Engineers Association Hall at the T.A. Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne.

The principal Guest was **Maj Gen Jimmy Jackson,** and others included **Maj Reg Matthews**, (REA) and **Maj R. V. Purkis**. The evening was presided over by **Col Don Fairman**, and his two Vice-Presidents, **Lt Col C. Minns** and **Capt Trevor Boocock.** The evening's success was due to the hard work put in by the Branch Secretary, **Mrs. Anne Hemsley** and the Branch Chairwoman, **Mrs. Daphne Brown.**

Gen Jackson gave a potted history of the Corps events over the last year, congratulated the Branch on the progress it had made in the two short years it had been in existence and hoped that the same progress would be made over the next year.

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

On Fri 27 Mar, the Shrewsbury Branch of the Royal Signals Association held their Annual Grand National Draw at Territorial House, Shrewsbury (by kind permission the OC, 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn V). As usual the draw was organised by the Branch Secretary, **Jim Goggin**, who exclaimed that 'If I have to lick another stamp, or fold another draw ticket I will scream'. (Never mind **Jim**, it only takes place once a year.) As a result of **Jim's** efforts, and the support of branches and units stationed throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, **Jim** had at least the compensation of presenting a cheque for £350 to the Treasurer of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, when he attended the Branch Representatives meeting in April. Also present at the draw were members of the Committee together with their wives—who kindly provided the refreshments.

The next function will be the Autum Buffet/Dance to be held at Territorial House on Fri 18 Sep. In the meantime, the Committee are investigating the possibility of the Branch becoming involved in a local charitable project.

Left to right: Eric Oakley, Mrs Ivy Harrington, Mrs Elizabeth Leach, Jim Goggin

Sport

ATHLETICS

THE MORRISON CUP 1981

Report by 28th Signal Regiment

The annual Royal Signals Inter Unit Athletics Championship for the Morrison Cup took place in the Edelstahl Kampbahn Stadium, Krefeld on 3 and 4 June.

The Problem

The overall impression of this year's competition can be summarized in one short word—wet!! However, we must not forget the glorious sunshine of the first afternoon, which worked wonders in drying out the track, ably assisted by members of the arena party, using old mattresses as giant 'squeegee' mops!!!

This year's hosts for the Morrison Cup Competition were 13 Sig Regt and 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) and each supplied a gallant Major to act as organizers; **Maj John Radford** masterminded the running of the actual competition while **Maj Ray Etheridge** starred as the Administrative genius. Unfortunately we must return to the weather which dampened everything, except the spirits of the athletes and their supporters. The presence of large pools of water on the track on the first morning of the competition persuaded the organizers to rearrange the programme. Eventually the majority of the field events took place on the first day with the exception of the discus and long jump, which proceeded as scheduled on day two. Some good results were produced in the field events, a notable first was **Cpl Killen** from 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the Shot. On day two **Cpl Killen** gained second place in the Discus and some creditable results in track events confirming his potential as an Army decathlete. Fortunately, during the latter part of the first morning, the sun appeared and, while the track steamed gently, the organizers went into consultation over the afternoon's programme. Eventually it was decided that the heats for the 100 metres could be run, followed by the heats for the 200 and 400 metres. The finals of the 800 metres, the Minor Units 1500 metres and finally the 3000 metres Steeplechase, brought the afternoon to a close. The deterioration of the track throughout the afternoon and its increasing slipperiness was indicated by a bad ankle injury in the Steeplechase.

By the end of the first afternoon, the score board showed 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to be in the lead, closely pursued by 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, with 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) third. Would this be an indication of things to come? Having been unable to complete the original planned programme, the organizers were faced with the problem of crowding the remaining events into the final day. However by praying for good weather and starting the day's events earlier, they were confident that there would be no problem.

MORE RAIN

Unhappily all Morrison Cup participants awoke to the sound of heavy rain on the second morning, and, upon arriving at the track, they discovered that the pole vault, the 400 metres hurdles and the Minor Units' high jump had all been cancelled in the interests of safety. However, the remaining events proceeded as schedules and the finals for the 5000 metres marked the beginning of the day's track events. Elsewhere the discus competition was in full swing and still the rain continued! By the end of the 5000 metres the track looked very sticky and it was apparent that it was unlikely that any records would be broken in this year's competition. By mid-morning the rain had eased slightly and **Mrs David Hunt**, the wife of the CO of 16 Sig Regt presented medals to the winners of the 3000 metres Steeplechase, the Hammer, Triple Jump and Javelin events. Fortunately the Long Jump was not too affected by the weather and the morning's spectators witnessed a very close competition. **LCpl Newell** from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt eventually clinched first place with a final leap of 6.72 metres. The finals for both strings of the 100 metres produced exciting finishes with very little to choose between any of the competitors as they crossed the line, and this trend continued into the 400 metres finals. In the following 200 metres finals **Sig Lewis** from 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt secured a double victory, having previously won the premier sprint. This race was run in rather watery sunshine and, taking advantage of this welcome change in the weather, **Mrs David Burton**, the wife of the CO of 21 Sig Regt, presented the medals for the High Jump, Shot, 800 metres, 5000 metres and the Minor Units' 1500 metres and Shot events. Predictably the sunshine did not last and, by early afternoon, umbrellas once more flourished around the stadium.

Sig Mattis, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt winning his final in the 200 metres

LCpl Bird, 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt leaping into second place in the Long Jump

Cpl Morgan, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, the winner of the 110 metres Hurdles, being presented with the gold medal by Mrs A. D. Lewis. Pictured right is Cpl Killen, 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, the silver medal winner

However, the weather did not detract from a fine Minor Units' 800 metres final. After a hard fought race **SSgt Campbell** of 227 Sig Sqn broke the tape ahead of **Sig South** from 5 Fd Force Sig Sqn. During a break in the Finals' programme, the winners of the 100 metres and 400 metres events were presented with their medals by **Mrs Noel Moss**, the wife of **Lt Col Moss**, from the Chief Signal Officer's Staff. The next event of the afternoon produced another double victory, **Sgt Cain**, the winner of the 5000 metres now added a win in the 1500 metres, increasing 21 Sig Regt's total of gold medals. The rain then threatened to win the next finals as the worst downpour of the day ensued. However the members of the 21 Sig Regt Tug-of-War team struggled gamely against their opposition, and the weather, to secure a fine win by two straight pulls.

Mrs A D Lewis, the wife of the Commander 4 Signal Group also had to battle against the elements in order to present the medallists in the 110 metres Hurdles, 200 metres, Discus and Long Jump events, with their awards. However an excellent umbrella orderly in shape of **Capt Mike Sheehan**, the Adjt from 13 Sig Regt, saved the day! Fortunately the rain eased for the remaining events of the afternoon's programme, the 4 x 100 metres and the 4 x 400 metres relays, and the final presentations by **Maj Gen J H Hild MBE**. Perhaps the CSO can communicate on higher planes!! Both the relay events were won by 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, ably demonstrating the advantages of well rehearsed teams. There followed a slight pause in the programme while all the teams lined up in the centre of the stadium for the presentation of the remaining medals by **Maj Gen J H Hild.** These went to the winner of the 1500 metres, and the Tug-of-War and Relay teams.

A CLOSE THING

Then, after furious addition, checking and rechecking of totals, came the culmination of two days of exciting athletics—the presentation of the Morrison Cup. After a very close competition 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt won the Major Unit's Championship with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt second, and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt third. The winners of the Minor Unit's Championships was 227 Sig Sqn with 5 Fd Force Sig Sqn as runners-up.

Teams then cleared the arena to begin the long trek home, some even to return to exercise, and, as the final irony, they departed in beautiful sunshine.

A rain soaked stadium. Numerous officials with stop-watches at the ready await the end of the 1500 metres

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

The winners of the Major Units' Championship—2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, Maj John Reed collecting the trophy from Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE

Maj Stewart Law collecting the winner's trophy for 227 Sig Sqn in the Minor Units' Championship

The 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 4 x 100 metres relay team, being presented with their medals by Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE

CYCLING

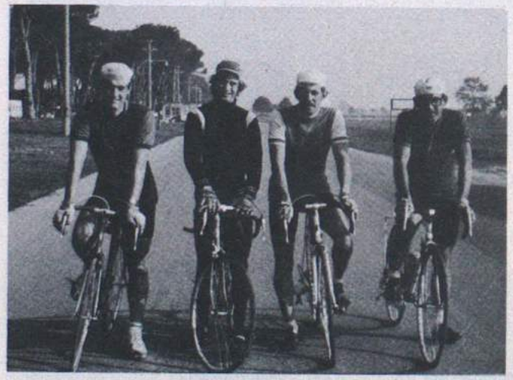
Report by 5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn

From the world of cycle racing comes a brief report on the activities of three Corps members—**Capt Bob Turnbull, WO2 (YofS) Nigel Fox** and **LCpl Rob Young**. With the 1981 season well under way in BAOR, these riders have been putting in some creditable performances to date. The pre-season training, including two weeks training at Pisa in Italy has started to pay off. The first event of the season was a two day 'Classic', held at SHAPE, and organised by **Nigel Cox**. The event gave the riders an idea of their performance and included an individual 10 mile time trial, a 40 mile road race and a 25 mile team time trial. With **Rob Young** and **Bob Turnbull** riding for the BAOR A team and **Nigel Cox** riding for the SHAPE team in the team time trial, it was a case of flat out for 25 miles. A total of eight teams took part including RAF (UK) and RAF (G). The end was a nail biting finish with the BAOR A team taking third place, just beating **Nigel Cox's** SHAPE team by the smallest margin possible—a second. **Nigel Cox** unfortunately crashed on the last lap, which spoilt for him, a most successful ride.

The next event on the calendar for the three riders was the Inter Service Time Trial Championship held at RAF Honington near Bury St Edmunds. It was decided to enter as a representative Corps team. With a field of fifty three riders in the individual 25 mile time trial, the Corps riders were up against some top class competition, especially from the RAF riders. With a strong wind against the riders for most of the course, times were slow. The following times were recorded: **LCpl Rob Young**—1.09.27 (3rd Army rider), **Capt Bob Turnbull**—1.10.19 (4th Army rider), **WO2 Nigel Cox**—1.14. (5th Army rider).

The team time trial was held over a different course, measuring some thirty nine miles. With some good riding, the Corps team recorded a time of 1.40.20. to finish in seventh place out of sixteen teams, and to be placed first Army team (thus winning Army colours).

It was a thoroughly successful weekend and the riders have now turned their attention to the next series of Classic and Inter Service Events held in BAOR and in the UK.



A break during training at Pisa in Italy
Left to right: LCpl Rob Young, Gerald Tüss (Dutch Signal Corps), Capt Bob Turnbull, WO2 (YofS) Nigel Cox

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

GOLF

SPRING MEETING 1981

Report by Maj Harry Meekings

Catterick in the spring, as we all know, is a wonderful place to be, if only for a short visit. On the 30 Apr—1 May, 60 of the Corps golfers met for the first big competition of the year. However, a few days before the competition Catterick was in the midst of a snow storm, which left four inches of snow over the whole garrison. But, as ever, the Corps golf secretary for the North of England **Capt Dave Shakespeare** had his prayer mat out and on the competition days we had fine but windy weather, so much for good clean living **Dave.** The Captain of Catterick Garrison Golf Club is a mean man and derives great pleasure from seeing golf players suffering, as only golfers can. he ordered the cutting, of the already fast green, to be cut on both mornings of the meeting. Hence the tall, weird and wonderful stories of problems that had beset everyone, was forthcoming at that well known hostelry called the 'Nineteenth Hole'.

The first day was given over to some of the locals with the results being:

HANDICAP CHALLENGE CUP	1st	**Sgt David Price**	145
	2nd	**Capt Bill Cochrance**	147
	Winner 1st Round	**Maj John Ient**	73
	Winner 2nd Round	**Capt David Shakespeare**	70
OPEN SCRATCH TROPHY		**Sgt Chris Carveth**	154
	Runner up	**Brig Alan Yeoman**	164
REGULAR OFFICERS CUP	Winner	**Brig Alan Yeoman**	164
UNIT TEAM TROPHY	Winners	8 Sig Regt 'B' Team **SSgt David Lumb** **Sgt David Price** **WO1 Ken Clark** **SSgt John Shepherd**	223

Friday saw three seasons weather, rain, snow and sun, in as many hours, but the sun prevailed for the most part and we were off again for another 36 holes. The morning round was an 18 hole Stableford competition for the Individual Challenge Cup.

Winner	**WO2 Pat Baldwin**	37 points
Runner Up	**SSgt Tom Wilson**	37 points

and the afternoon 18 holes was an 18 hole Stableford competition for the Foursomes Challenge Cup.

Winners	**Sgt David Price** and **Mr Harry O'Mahoney**	42 points 42 points
Runners Up	**Sgt Chris Carveth** and **Maj John Ient**	33 points 33 points

Prizes were presented in the Club House by the SOinC **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle.** The SOinC was to have played at this meeting. But he had a chest complaint (falling off a ladder) and cracking some ribs. Hard luck Sir, but the Autumn meeting will be delighted to receive you.

As a player of this event I would like to thank all the members and ex members of the Corps who turned up for this event. Unfortunately, for many reasons BAOR and Cyprus were unable to make it, but we do look forward to seeing them in the future. I would like to make an appeal to the young golfers of the Corps, these meetings are an annual event and it is nice to see friends, if only once a year and enjoy a couple of days golf on one of the best courses in the country. It is from these meetings that the Corps Golf organisers can see the potential for the future and make their choice for Corps Golf representation, so make the effort and come along and support the event.

The Corps Autumn Golf meeting is to be held at Tidworth on Sep 24 and 25. See you there!

ROYAL SIGNALS v STAFF COLLEGE

Wednesday 25 March

Report by Captain of the Day: Col (Retd) D. D. Fairman OBE

The weather was not very good but the match was completed without anybody getting too wet. The match was played on a four ball handicap basis and resulted in a win for the Corps by three matches to one. The highlight of the match was without a doubt the win by General **'Jimmy' Jackson** and **Maj 'Badger' Terry** after being three down with four to play. **Col Len Hill** and **Brig Jasper Peck** were too sturdy for their opponents. The only loss was registered by the acting captain **Col Don Fairman** and his partner **Col Bill Kennedy.** Nobody seemed to appreciate the captain's remarks about sacrificing themselves for the sake of the side and taking on a pair of robbers in the Ali Baba class.

RESULTS

Royal Signals

Maj Gen A. J. Jackson **Maj F. A. L. Terry**	1 Up	1	**Lt Col Buchart** **Capt D. N. Smith**	0
Capt H. A. C. Meekings **Capt H. F. Rogers**	3/1	1	**Lt Col P. Symes** **Capt K. Prentice**	0
Col D. D. Fairman **Lt Col W. C. A. Kennedy**	0	0	**Brig J. Bettridge** **Lt Col P. Kenny**	1
Brig O. J. Peck **Col L. R. Hill**	4/2	1	**Capt N. Wallace** **Maj I. A. Johnstone**	0

Result: R Signals won 3 matches to 1

ROYAL SIGNALS v RN COMMUNICATORS

Report by Maj Harry Meekings

On 8 May the Corps team arrived at Liphook Golf Club in a buoyant and confident mood! Last year's fixture produced an overwhelming win for the Corps, and many of the team who had played in that game were confident of repeating their success. Needless to say, the weatherman got it all wrong again because we all had extra clothing and wet weather gear, but spent the day in glorious sunshine (so much for meteorological satellites). Enough of the preamble and on to the golf. The morning's matches consisted of 8 Singles and although not everyone 'fired on all cylinders' we led 4½—3½ as we went into lunch. Our winners in the morning being—**Sgt Max Paterson** (30th Signal Regiment) plus **Sgt Mick Richards** and **Capt Dave Palmer** (School of Signals).

The Navy then played their trump card. A few beers, followed by a huge lunch accompanied by a couple of glasses of wine (supplied by **Maj Harry Meekings**—we think he was bribed by the opposition). The ploy worked, because in the afternoon's fourball matches we lost by 2½—1½ (our winners being **Sgt Mick** and **Capt Dave** again), with the overall result being a 6 all draw. I think it was only fitting that we should play for a draw, as it is not 'Crucket' to win on your opponents course, they may not invite you back! We did, however, learn a few lessons: Let 'Trevino' play his own shots. Our attempts resulted in lost balls and dented cars. Read the local rules, just in case you win and then discover you've halved because you had been out of bounds—my story and I'm sticking to it! (Said **WO2 (YofS) Ian Sleightholm**). Take no notice of the weather forecast but don't blame me if you get wet.

We would like to thank **Lt Cdr Rob Wilton** for organising an excellent day and look forward to playing against them on our home course.

ROYAL SIGNALS v ROYAL ENGINEERS

26 MAY

Report by Col G. D. T. Harris

After a fine start the Bank Holiday rain returned before anyone had teed off. The Sappers expected to be two short but in the event their best player failed to turn up, the Corps thus started with three matches in hand. Of the five singles played all were won by our side, the scores being a dog licence, two at 6 & 5, a two and one, and two up—in this last match our player gave strokes away instead of playing off the stick. **Harry Meekings** took on the best ball of our two tail-enders, giving them strokes and went round in three over par.

Throughout the morning the rain was almost continuous and very heavy, resulting in flooded greens and much casual water.

Whilst we were enjoying a very pleasant lunch the weather cleared and we were told that we could play 'target golf' in the afternoon. **Ray Windmill**, the Captain of our society left to fulfil a business commitment, and **Bruce Beattie**—an RO in the Sapper Directorate deserted to team up with a fellow club member and player as a foursome from Roehampton. This pair gained the only Sapper point of the day beating our last pair, **Everett** and **Harris**, two and one.

The final result was thus Royal Signals 11 RE 1 (dubious one).

Singles

	Royal Signals			Royal Engineers		Result	
1.	**Meekings**	(4)	v			1	0
2.	**(Windmill)**	(3)	v	**Fulford**	2/1 (7)	1	0
3.	**Sleightholm**	(9)	v	**Adams**	7/6 (9)	1	0
4.	**Beattie (RE)**	(13)	v	**Sandy**	6/5 (11)	1	0
5.	**Everett**	(13)	v	**Stockley**	2 up (18)	1	0
6.	**Hall**	(14)	v	**Ivilson**	6/5 (18)	1	0
7.	**Leitch**	(16)	v	**?**	W/O	1	0
8.	**Harris**	(18	v	**?**	W/O	1	0

Foursomes

1.	**Meekings Hall**	**Wilson** 18 **Fulford** 7	4/4	1 0
2.	**Sleightholm Leitch**	**Sandy** 11 **Stockley** 18	3/2	1 0
3.	**Everett Harris**	**Beattie** 13 **Adams** 0		0 1
4.		W/O		1 0

Match Royal Signals 11 Royal Engineers 1?

ROYAL SIGNALS v RCT

Report by Captain of the Day—Col Stan Schofield

Tues 9 Jun was overcast but rain which threatened throughout the day fortunately never arrived. Because of a great deal of rain in the previous week the going at Blackmoor was soft, but the course was in very good condition. The Corps has been very fortunate, in the last few years, by inflicting big defeats on the RCT. This year they turned out a very strong team, and because their Secretary **Maj Derek Moorcroft** is a very hard person to get on with, the match was off scratch. However, the Corps team accepted the challenge and the singles in the morning was notable for the failure of our big guns to gain more than half a point, but the tail-enders rallied magnificently to enable us to go into lunch all-square. In the afternoon a slight re-shuffle in our team pairings produced the desired result—a win by three matches to one and an overall victory by seven matches to five. The heroes were undoubtedly our last two—**Jasper Peck, Dave Palmer** and **Frank Rogers,** each of whom scored maximum points morning and afternoon.

Royal Signals		RCT	
Singles			
Maj Meekings	½	**Maj Lambert**	½
Maj Gen Jackson	0	**Brig Booth-Mason** (1 Up)	1
Lt Col Schofield	0	**Lt Col Croombridge** (1 Up)	1
WO1 Heyes	0	**Maj Moorcroft** (3/1)	1
Lt Col Kennedy	½	**WO2 Parry Jones**	½
Brig Peck (3/1)	1	**Maj Turnbull**	0
Capt Palmer (3/2)	1	**Capt McDougall**	0
Capt Rogers (1 Up)	1	**Maj Fisher**	0
Foursomes			
Meekings and **Jackson**	3/2	**Lambert** and **Booth Mason**	0
Heyes and **Kennedy**	0	**Croombridge** and **Moorcroft** 3/2	1
Schofield and **Peck** (6/4)	1	**Parry Jones** and **Turnbull**	0
Palmer and **Rogers** (4/2)	1	**McDougall** and **Fisher**	0
Result	7		5

ROYAL SIGNALS v RAPC

Report by Lt Col N. Kennedy

Our match against the RAPC Team took place at Worplesdon GC on Mon 15 Jun. The course was in excellent condition with true but fast greens. Disaster befell our intrepid team in the singles match in the morning. **Maj Jim Potts** had a very good win over **WO1 Brooks**—a first class player in fine form, **Maj Eric Gill** recorded our second win, and **Lt Col Roy Williams** had an immaculate putting round in halving his match against **Maj Jackson.** Regrettably the rest of the team lost—though many by only one hole. Thus at the half way stage we were down 5½ to 2½. After a fine lunch—and promise of continued fine weather (at last)—the team embarked on a recovery in a St Andrews Foursomes. **Maj Jim Potts** teamed up with the Captain, **Lt Col Bill Kennedy,** to win the opening match by 2 and 1. Our side was fortunate for we had to give up a won hole because we played out of sequence—but honesty paid off in the end. **Jim Potts'** one-iron drives were prodigious in length and his putting sure. **Lt Col Roy Williams** and **Maj Eric Gill** again triumphed with a fine 5 and 4 win. Sadly both pairs, **Sgt Mike (?) Patterson** and **Maj Doug Burt,** and **WO1 Des (?) Heyes** and **Capt David Palmer,** went down 5 and 4, and 2 and 1 respectively. Overall we recorded a defeat by 7½ to 4½ points.

The match was played in fine sunshine and good spirits, our opponents being friendly and sporting. We look forward to next year's return—hopefully with our anchor man **Maj Harry Meekings** being able to play. A fine day's gold marred only by defeat. Well done RAPC!

Singles

Royal Signals		RAPC	
Maj J. D. Potts	1	**WO1 Brooks**	0
Lt Col H. R. Williams	½	**Maj Jackson**	½
WO1 D. Heyes	0	**WO1 Rennison**	1
Sgt M. G. Patterson	0	**Maj Law**	1
Lt Col C. A. Kennedy	0	**Lt Col Younger**	1
Maj J. E. Gill	1	**Col Bowen**	0
Maj D. G. Burt	0	**Maj Price**	1
Capt D. Palmer	0	**Capt Jones**	1
Foursomes			
Potts		**Brookes**	
Kennedy	1	**Younger**	1
Patterson		**Law**	
Burt	0	**Price**	0
Williams		**Jackson**	
Gill	1	**Bowen**	1
Heyes		**Rennison**	
Palmer	0	**Jones**	0

RAPC win by 7½—4½

HOCKEY

The 1980/81 Season

Report by Maj (QM) J. A. Rose, Secretary

Days before the Corps trials were held at Blandford the moratorium was announced and with it the withdrawal of authority for Corps teams to travel at public expense. It is to the credit of all Corps hockey players that they confirmed their wish to go ahead with the programme of fixtures and volunterred to pay a match fee to help defray travelling expenses. Although no matches were cancelled because of our inability to field a team, sadly it was decided not to attend the Bournemouth Festival at Easter 81.

Over the season, some 36 players played in the Corps team. Although the majority came from the Blandford and Aldershot areas there were a number who continue to travel long distances from the North.

Results

Corps Outdoor Fixtures (excluding the Inter Corps/Service Competitions)

R Marines	Drawn	1—1
RAPC	Lost	1—0
RMAS	Won	2—1
RCT	Won	4—1
REME	Won	2—1
INF	Won	1—0
RMCS	Drawn	1—1
RAOC	Lost	1—3

Summary: Played 8 Won 4 Drawn 2 Lost 2 Goals for 12 Against 9

Army Outdoor Inter Corps Competition

The Corps played well to reach the Semi-Final where they lost to the Infantry in a closely contested game.
Summary: Played 6 Won 4 Lost 2

Indoor Competitions

The Army Indoor Competition was cancelled. The Corps indoor team was selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Service competition. The Corps team played hard and with great spirit but were unable to win any of their matches. **Sgt Brian Mower** has continued to manage and train the Corps Indoor team, and has retained the appointment of Army Indoor Coach.

Award of Royal Signals Hockey Colours 1980/81

SSgt A. A. Bott	6 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Cpl M. W. Dawson	6 Fd Force Sig Sqn
LCpl A. Marston-Weston	30 Sig Regt
Sig A. Oakman	6 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Col G. C. Verdon	AAC Harrogate
2Lt S. P. Wallis	244 Sig Sqn

Re-Awards

SSgt S. W. Bromidge	School of Signals
Maj D. J. Lowe	MOD
Sgt B. E. Mower	Junior R Signals Regt
WO2 A. G. Neilson	30 Sig Regt

Conclusion

Winning is not everything, nevertheless we can look back on a good season. In the indoor game, while we did not scale the same heights as last year, the Corps team represented the Army in the Combined Services Tournament. Outdoors, a record of eight wins, two draws and four defeats indicates that we have maintained our position in the upper bracket of the Army teams.

First Award of Corps Colours include a number of promising young players who should serve Corps hockey well in years to come. Lastly, a word of appreciation for the work of **Col Kevin Kirkby,** who has fostered in no small way the upsurge of Corps Hockey in UK. We wish him well in his new job in the USA. He hands over the appointment of President, Corps Hockey to **Col Paddy Verdon.**

Royal Signals Hockey 1981/82 Season

A new Corps Hockey season gets under way with Corps trials (outdoor) on 24/25 Sep at Blandford and (indoor) on 7 Oct at Aldershot. Are you a Corps standard player, if so, please contact the Secretary Royal Signals Hockey, at 33 Sig Regt, Telephone No: 051-489 8331.

SAILING

ROYAL SIGNALS BALTIC REGATTA

Report by Maj E. W. Hunt

Results
Kiel to Copenhagen—Mermaid Cup
202 Sig Sqn/3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Skippers : **Maj Bob Wright**
Capt John McLeod
Crew : **LCpl Dunne**
Sig Pearce
Sig Slack
Winning boat overall—Dickinson Telescope
202 Sig Sqn/3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2nd—Cannon Cito
14 Signal Regiment
Skippers : **WO1 Tarrant**
Sgt Cherry
Crew : **Capt Wherry**
Sgt Budden
Cpl Ruddyman
3rd
201 Sig Sqn
4th
211 Sig Sqn/4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
5th
22 Sig Regt
7 Sig Regt
7th
16 Sig Regt
8th
5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn—Retired owing to damaged boat.

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP BAOR

Report by WO1 (RSM) W. V. Miles,
Hon Sec Royal Signals Squash BAOR

The Royal Signals Squash Championships (BAOR) took place in Herford home of 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and 7 Sig Regt during the period 1-3 Apr. There were twenty nine entrants for the event which included an Open, Under 25, Veterans and Plate Competition.

The championship was dominated by **LCpl Tom Pollard** of 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. He is, in fact, becoming one of the top players in BAOR. In the final of the Open he defeated **SSgt (YofS) Ben Gilhooly** (Veteran) 3-0 and also took the Under 25 by defeating **Cpl Mark Potts** by the same margin.

One of the Corps' more under-rated players, **SSgt (YofS) Ben Gilhooly** took the Veterans final by defeating **WO2 Jim McGovern** 3-0. **WO2 McGovern** will prove a more difficult opponent next year, once he has retained full fitness after an illness. The Plate final proved to be an outstanding match which went to five games, but **Lt Stan Hargreaves** (Veteran) succumbed eventually to the younger man, **Cpl Neil Mabbit** after putting up a tremendous fight. On reflection, it was good to see some new young faces playing squash. The standard of play is rising fast and the Corps should be able to field a very strong team in the forthcoming winter season. The full results are as follows:

Royal Signals Open BAOR
Winner **LCpl Pollard** 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runner Up **SSgt Gilhooly** 7 Sig Regt

Royal Signals Under 25
Winner **LCpl Pollard** 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runner Up **Cpl Potts** 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

Royal Signal Veterans
Winner **SSgt Gilhooly** 7 Sig Regt
Runner Up **WO2 McGovern** 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

Plate Competition
Winner **Cpl Mabbit** 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runner Up **Lt Hargreaves** 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 375, please.

The 1982 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 75p HOME 90p.

	Overseas	UK
	£	£
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	32.60	37.50
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.50	7.50
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.90
Corps table mats (set of six)	22.00	25.00
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.00	6.90
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	6.60	7.70
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.40	3.75
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" x 4½"	1.40	1.55
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	3.80	4.35
Crested glass ash trays	1.35	1.55
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	2.10	2.40
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Blazer buttons—large	0.50	0.55
small	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
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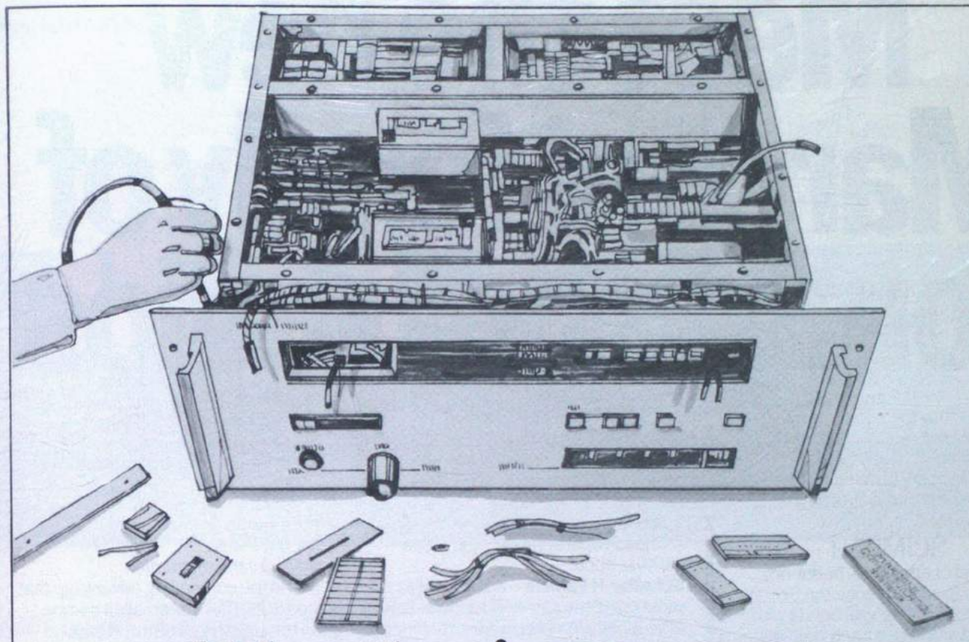

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THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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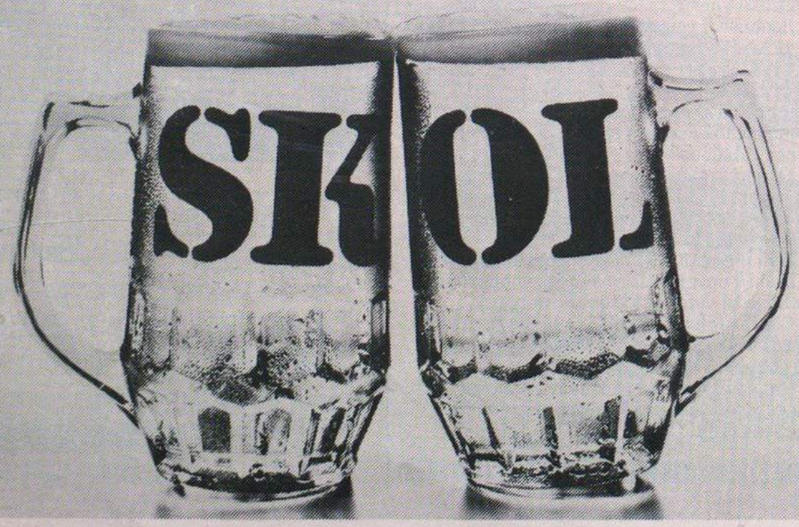

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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE
52 Sig Sqn of 32 Sig Regt (V) pictured at the Summit of Ben Nevis.
See page 409 for full report.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO 'THE WIRE'

We are glad to advise our readers that there will be no increase to the subscription rates for 'The Wire' in 1982.

Our individual subscribers will know that subscriptions are renewable annually on 1st January. A component of you pay by 'Bankers Order' and no action is needed, if you wish to continue to receive our Corps magazine in 1982. Your bank account will be debited with the sum of £2.10 on 1st January. If, however, you do not wish to receive 'The Wire' in 1982, will you please advise us in writing and instruct your Bank to cancel this payment, in favour of The Royal Signals Association.

A further component of our individual subscribers renew their subscriptions annually by making a cash payment. In view of the heavy postal charges, you will not, as in previous years, receive an individual letter inviting you to renew your subscription. If you wish to do so, will you please complete and return the counterfoil below by 31st December 1981? We need to define our printing commitment for January by this date, so your co-operation is sought in implementing this new procedure.

Finally, may we emphasise that 'The Wire' is not sold to the general public. It receives a substantial subsidy from the funds of The Royal Signals Association and is supplied only to present and past members of The Royal Corps of Signals and their dependants and those who have been closely associated with the Corps.

The Editor,
The Wire,
Royal Signals Association,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea,
LONDON SW3 4RH

I wish to receive 'The Wire' in 1982 and enclose my subscription of £2.10.
I am an existing subscriber*
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I wish to pay my subscription by 'Bankers Order'. Please forward a 'standing order' form to me*

Date ..... Signature .....

Name in block letters .....

Address in block letters .....

.....

.....

*Delete as appropriate

BIRTHDAY OF OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The 15th August was the birthday of our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Anne Mrs Mark Phillips GCVO.**

The following telegram was sent to **The Princess** by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** on behalf of the whole Corps,

'Please convey to Her Royal Highness from All Ranks of Her Corps our affectionate good wishes for a very happy and enjoyable birthday'.

The following reply was received from **The Princess Anne.**

'I would be most grateful if you could convey my warm thanks and good wishes to all ranks of my Corps for their kind message of birthday greetings
Anne
Colonel in Chief'

—From our "In" Tray—

GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE GIVEN BY HM THE QUEEN

As a result of invitations most generously provided by our Colonel-in Chief, the following members of the Corps were invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, given by **Her Majesty, The Queen.**

Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO Master of Signals
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson Representative Colonel Commandant
Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE Signal Officer-in-Chief
Brig G. R. Oehlers DOR4 (Army)
Brig R. L. Stonham MOD (Army)
Brig P. J. Evans CBE BGS Signals (Army)
Col J. Westlake Sigs 31/33
Col K. Kirkby BDS Washington
Col D. A. B. Crawford CBE ERD TD
Maj P. Johnson 10 Signal Regiment
WO1 S. Evans RSM School of Signals

The wives and unmarried daughters were also invited.

Before the party, those attending assembled at the Regimental headquarters, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea for a short briefing by **Col J. A. D. Francis** the Regimental Secretary. A fleet of staff cars was provided by RHQ to take the happy group to Buckingham Palace. There they were presented to the Colonel-in-Chief, and were able to see other members of the Royal Family and **Lady Diana Spencer** at close quarters. We are grateful to Commander 12 Signal Group and his staff for their help, and for the use of their offices on this occasion.

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB—1982

Dates for your diary:

Corps Dinner 12 May 1982 at the London International Press Centre.

Corps Luncheon 12 June 1982 at the HQ Mess, Blandford. This will include a band concert after lunch as a new 'item' for next year.

'WHITE LIST' (List of Royal Signals Officers)

This will be issued to all serving officers, and the Retired Supplement to those Retired Officers who subscribe to Corps Funds in *October 1981*, which is the new month for it to be distributed. Those Retired Officers who do not subscribe to Corps Funds, may obtain a copy upon application to RHQ.

CONVENANTING OF SOLDIERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS TO CORPS FUNDS

This year all units of the Corps are doing the documentation to make all soldiers' subscriptions to Corps Funds *covenanted.*

The effect is to increase the income to Corps Funds by a substantial amount, about £50,000 per annum, without extra cost to the individual soldier. This money will be used for welfare, sport and to meet the special requirements of units and individuals.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

The Royal Signals Corps Committee at their May meeting decided,
—to make the SCF 'a preferred Corps charity'
—that £1,000 should be contributed to the SCF in 1981 from the All Ranks Fund, and that this donation should be linked with the name of the late SOinC, **Maj Gen Chris Bate.**

It was **Maj Gen Chris Bate's** idea that as our Colonel-in-Chief is President of the SCF that the Corps might try to help the SCF too.

The 'preferred charity' status means that if units or messes are planning a money raising event, they should consider giving some part of the proceeds to the SCF. All monies should be sent to RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH, please.

LAURO APPEAL

In the May edition we published an appeal for funds to assist the earthquake stricken village of Lauro near Naples, which had been the site of a World War 2 signal school.

The sum of £80 has been contributed by:

Capt H. E. Strype, Capt R. Moore, Col C. C. Danby, Maj K. G. Crook.

The British Consul at Naples will be asked for advice about the best use which can be made for this money.

If you missed it before, please make your contribution now to 'Royal Signals Corps Funds', it is not too late.

In the next edition we will let you know how the money has been used.

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

Rather like the Chancellor of the Exchequer, **Col J. A. D. Francis** the Corps Treasurer puts together a budget at about this time for 1982 expenditure.

The 'big spenders' produce details of their money requirements, examples are the Games Club, the Corps Band and the HQ Mess at Blandford (for Officers funds). The Royal Signals Association must also be allocated their major share of your 'Day's Pay' subscription for welfare and benevolence, and to subsidise The Wire. The Royal Signals Institution must receive their portion—largely from officers' subscriptions, to support the Journal and other Institution activities.

Special requirements for monetary support are also examined such as the project to expand the Royal Signals museum, and for individual or group expeditions of an adventurous nature.

The Royal Signals Finance Committee then meets in October chaired by **Maj Gen C. Page.** The Commandant School, Commander Training Group and the BGS (Signals) from the Signals Directorate, MOD represent the needs and views of the serving Corps.

In November, the Corps Committee, chaired by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Bradley**, will review and approve a final budget for 1982.

So now is the time to feed in your requirements, both the regular spenders and those who feel they have a special requirement. All that is needed is a short letter, through 'Corps channels' please.

A PEN FRIEND

From: Miss H. M. Robins

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you can help me. I know many young men in the services who spend a great deal of time away from home and are grateful to receive letters.

Therefore, I am wondering if either you can put me, or someone in touch with me, who I can write to on a regular basis, as I have a lot of spare time, and know what it means to receive a letter.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah M. Robins (Miss)

4, Montagu Gardens,
Wallington,
Surrey.

A WONDERFUL EFFORT

From: Maj Gen A. M. W. Whistler CB CBE

Dear Sir,

The 'Five of Clubs', an organisation of men who served with No 5 Special Wireless Section in Burma, have sent a donation of £170.50 to the Burma Star Association, 'in memory of Supremo' (Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma). This will cover one year's standing charges for the Welfare Bungalow.

A wonderful effort from such a comparatively small unit: many of its members are also members of the Burma Star Association.

Yours sincerely
A. M. W. Whistler

Tigh-na-Leven,
By Tarbert,
Argyll
PA29 6XZ

ANOTHER KIWI

From: Yeoman Warder A. Copestake

Dear Sir,

As an ex-member of the Corps who served as an Infantryman before, as a Gunner during, and as a Signaller after the 39-45 War in Bulford, I was pleased to read in July 1981 'Wire' the news that 249 Signal Sqn had rid the Bulford Kiwi of his/her fowl pest.

Alas! Your work is half done. Yes! there is yet another Kiwi nearer Salisbury, (I was a schoolboy in Salisbury) which can still be spotted, overgrown now with the dreaded fowl pest.

It is located in the hill to the left as one nears the railway arch on the A30 approaching the road junction Lavenstock-Winterbourne Gunner. My eyes are not what they were, take your binoculars.

This comes to all readers of the 'Wire' with best from five ex-Royal Signals, Yeoman Warders of Her Majesty's Tower of London.

Yeoman Clerk Nobby Russell, Yeoman Warders Len Harvey, John Maher, Mike Thurgood.

Yours sincerely
Alan Copestake

No 28 the Casemates
H.M. Tower of London,
London E.C.3

PISTOL SHOOTING

From: Brig C. H. Stoneley

Dear Sir,

I was pleased to learn from the report by Maj Mike Payne in the July 1981 issue of 'The Wire' that he and other members of the Corps are doing so well with the Army Pistol Team, and I feel sure that we all wish them continuing success.

Perhaps I may also be allowed to pay tribute to some past achievements of the Corps in this field. It is, I think, fair to say that the Corps 'broke into this more specialised field of target shooting' in the 1930's.

In 1934, at the ARA Central Meeting at Meerut, India, Lt (as he then was) W. R. Smijth-Windham became a member of the Revolver Thirty.

In 1937, 1938 and 1939 he was a member of the Army Revolver VIII in the annual Inter-Service Whitehead Cup match at Bisley, which the Army won in 1937; and in 1939 he was one of the British Pistol VIII in a postal match against the U.S.A.

I am grateful for this opportunity to remind present-day readers of 'The Wire' of some pistol shooting success by a member of the Corps nearly half a century ago!

Yours sincerely
Crew Stoneley

Tarrant Monkton,
Dorset.

633 SIGNAL TROOP (CARIBBEAN)

The troop now has available Troop Sailfish plaques. Any past member of the troop who wishes to have a memento of their tour in Belize should write to: OC, 633 Sig Tp, BFPO 12, enclosing a cheque for £7.00 made payable to Central Fund Airport Camp.

GENERAL BAKER PRESENTS ISM TO MR ALF RAPER

Dunkirk veteran **Mr Alf Raper** joined the Corps in 1938 and has served the Army in uniform and plain clothes for almost 44 years. Seeing action at Dunkirk and with the Eight Army in North Africa he was 'demobbed' as WO2 and joined North East District Signal Works Service in 1950. He is the leading hand of the York and Scarborough detachment and is at present serving with 240 Sig Sqn based at Imphal Barracks. Aged 61, **Alf** was recently presented with the Imperial Service Medal. The photograph shows **Alf** receiving his medal from **Maj Gen Ian Baker CBE** GOC NE District.

PRESENTATION TO RAF DIGBY

Members of the Corps attending Course No AEB1-81/82 at the Aerial Erector's School, Royal Air Force Digby, chipped together and presented a Shield to the School. The Shield—to be kept in the School—will be 'presented' to successive winners of the School's Superstars' Competition. The Competition, with its emphasis on physical fitness, forms an integral part of the Course's syllabus. Course members compete in the Shot, Discus, Javelin, High Jump, Long Jump, Badminton, Basketball, Chin-Ups, Dips, Squat Jumps, Bench Jumps, Press-Ups, Swimming, 100 metre Sprint, 1500 metres, Table Tennis, Paddle Ball Penalties, and other seasonable sports.

From left to right: Sgt Mick Pells, Cpl Tes Pead, Sig Plug Willis, Flt Lt Malcolm Hassall, the School's CO, Sig Maca Miles, LCpl Spud Taylor, Sigs Mac MacLeish and Slug Jack, Cpl Gordon Thursfield, Sig Bob Roan, LCpl Rob Bastow, Cpl Bob Loew and LCpl Superstar Richardson (Course winner)

CHANGES IN ARMY ORGANISATION AND TITLES

The recently announced decision to reorganise 1st British Corps, which involves the relocation of a divisional headquarters to the UK and a strengthening of the three other armoured divisions, has in turn led to the need for changes to strengthen the Army's 'one-star', Brigadier level, command structure in the UK. Headquarters 2nd Armoured Division, currently at Lubbecke, will on moving to York, amalgamate with Headquarters North East District and will have the dual role of a district and divisional headquarters. As Headquarters 2 Infantry Division it will command three infantry brigades; one regular brigade, currently 5 Field Force, and two new brigades consisting primarily of Territorial Army units whose role in time of tension or war will be the reinforcement of BAOR.

The two new brigade headquarters will be raised on 1 January next year to command the Territorial Army units most of which already exist and merely have to be grouped together. They are:

HQ 15 Infantry Brigade
HQ 49 Infantry Brigade

At the same time, to strengthen the command and control arrangements in South East District, a new brigade headquarters, Headquarters 2 Infantry Brigade, will be formed. It will be based on the existing Shorncliffe/Dover Garrison Headquarters. The two one-star headquarters in Scotland, Headquarters Highland Area and Headquarters Lowland Area, will also be retitled Headquarters 51 Highland Brigade and Headquarters 52 Lowland Brigade respectively.

On the same date to complete the readoption of the title 'brigade', a process which was started at the beginning of this year when Task Force Headquarters were retitled 'Brigade Headquarters' in BAOR, the Field Force formations will be retitled 'brigades':

5 Field Force will become 24 Infantry Brigade.
6 Field Force will become 1 Infantry Brigade.
7 Field Force will become 19 Infantry Brigade.
8 Field Force will become 5 Infantry Brigade.

The following Arms Groups will also be retitled:

23 Artillery Group will become 23 Artillery Brigade.
29 Engineer Group will become 29 Engineer Brigade.
30 Engineer Group will become 30 Engineer Brigade.
2 Signal Group will become 2 Signal Brigade.
11 Signal Group will become 11 Signal Brigade
12 Signal Group will become 12 Signal Brigade.

WANTED—CORPS HEADDRESS

It is hoped to build up a comprehensive display of all types of approved headdress worn by members of the Corps; however, the Museum lacks the following items:

Caps, Field Service, blue—Officers pattern, circa 1937.
Caps, FS (fore and aft), for wear with walking out dress, circa 1937: WO1 and WO2 pattern;
Substantive Sergeants and Company Quartermaster Sergeants pattern;
Rank and file below the rank of substantive Sergeant pattern.
Caps, General Service, khaki.

Any member or ex-member of the Corps who has any of these types of headdress and would be willing to donate it to the museum, or, if you are in possession of such an item but do not want to dispose of it, but would consider loaning it to the Museum, in order that it can be photographed in colour, are asked to contact the Historical Officer, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH (Telephone number 0258 52581 extension 413).

26 NATO SIGNAL OFFICERS COURSE

Instructional Wing, School of Signals has just finished the hosting of No 26 NATO Signal Officers Course—an annual event lasting two weeks, which is guaranteed to age visibly the Course Conducting Officer. This year's course had slightly fewer students than normal, though the pace of social activities was probably more hectic—with the added attraction of a Royal Wedding thrown in! The course consisted of 9 American, 3 Dutch, 2 Canadian, 1 Norwegian, 1 Danish and 1 German officers (plus 8 accompanying wives and 3 children). In addition to an intensive military programme, for the students, a varied and busy social programme ensured that all visitors had a memorable and enjoyable stay. As proof of this fact, the Norwegian government submitted a bid for 2 vacancies on next year's course, before this year's had even finished!

Back row left to right: Maj Fincke, Maj Akob, Maj Fisher, Capt Theodore, Maj Dodge, Capt Louwe, Maj Wells, Maj Cockerill, Maj Warren.
Front row left to right: Maj Silseth, Maj Helms, Maj Herron, Lt Col Graf, Brig Alexander, Lt Col Pope, Lt Col Rakutt, Maj Kromrey, Capt Geijtenbeek

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

CORPS GOLFERS REPRESENT THE ARMY

Many congratulations to **Maj Harry Meekings** and **Sgt Chris Carveth** on being selected to represent the Army against the TAVR at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot in May and in June against the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society at Worplesdon.

The Army had a strong team cut against the TAVR and had a resounding victory of 11—1. However, this was the first year that the fixture has taken place and the TAVR will be out to reverse the result next year. The Oxford and Cambridge match was held at Worplesdon and became a hard fought match with the Army going down by 7—5.

Congratulations, also, to **Sgt Chris Carveth** on becoming Captain of the Army Golfing Association.

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Royal Signals glider pilots, qualified or under training, should forward their individual claims for grants from the Games Fund for the period December 80 to November 81 not later than 20 November 81 to:

Maj R. W. Stark R Signals
Trade Training School,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North 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 1981 and total launches; Cross-country Kms flown in 1981; 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.

Do not be deterred from claiming because you have only just started gliding. All members of Royal Signals and WRAC serving with Royal Signals are eligible.

SOCCER—1981/82

Date	Visiting Team	Venue	Kick Off
25 Sep 81	RAPC	Aldershot	1400 hrs
9 Oct 81	RCT	Catterick	1400 hrs
23 Oct 81	RAOC	Catterick	1400 hrs
16—2 Nov 81	Quadrangular—RA, RE, R Signals and REME	Woolwich	To be notified

Any soccer player who considers himself to be of Corps standard should contact either: **Capt (QM) C. Markie** R Signals or **WO2 (RQMS) Large**, 8 Sig Regt on Catterick Military extension 2622 or 2623; or **WO2 (RQMS) Tierney** (Corps Coach), 39 Sig Regt (V) on 01247 extension 8749 or 5594.

MAJ PETER WEBSTER ON THE CENTRE COURT

Heads
John McEnroe calls as umpire Maj Peter Webster prepares to spin the coin prior to the 1981 Wimbledon Men's Doubles Final

Many readers may have been watching their television sets on 22 June when the Wimbledon defending champion, **Bjorn Borg**, stepped out on to the Centre Court with the young American player **Peter Rennert** to begin the 1981 Championships. What many may not have realised was that the umpire for that match was a serving officer in the Corps, **Maj Peter Webster.** Although being selected to umpire the opening Centre Court match was quite an honour in itself, a far more important appointment was to follow when **Peter** was later chosen to be the umpire for the 1981 Men's Doubles Final in which **John McEnroe** and **Peter Fleming** beat **Stan Smith** and **Bob Lutz.** The often volatile **McEnroe** was on his best behaviour during this match, and there were no incidents or upsets. This was the first time that a serving member of the Army, or indeed any of the Armed Services, had ever been selected to umpire a final at Wimbledon, and it confirmed **Peter's** position as one of Britain's top tennis officials.

It is a position that has taken him over sixteen years to attain. He joined the Lawn Tennis Umpires' Association of Great Britain in 1965, responding to an advertisement in the programme for that year's Championships, which he attended as a spectator. The following year saw him working as an umpire and linesman at Wimbledon for the first time. He describes the experience as 'Very exciting—almost overwhelming.' One year I was a spectator struggling to get a decent view of the Centre Court from the free standing area, and the next there I was sitting as a linesman on the hallowed turf itself!' Since that time, **Peter** has officiated at Wimbledon whenever his military duties have permitted, and has umpired at many other major tournaments and events both at home and overseas.

The most unusual event at which he has officiated, he says, was the Dubai Golden Tournament in November last year, when sixteen of the world's top players were invited to play at a specially constructed arena for a total prize money of over £350,000. It was the richest tournament ever played, and players and officials were flown out to the Middle East specially for the event. For **Peter** the week was a memorable one; he was selected to umpire the final, and one of the finalists was the tempestuous Romanian player **Ilie Nastase**, who behaved so badly that he came very close to disqualification. 'Those kind of matches says **Peter** 'are the ones that every umpire would like to forget!'

The huge increase in prize money in recent years has brought about many changes in the tennis world, including a demand for a very high standard of officiating. To meet this demand, the International Tennis Federation invited each country to send their top officials on Grand prix courses. **Peter** attended the course in Paris in 1979, and is now one of a select band of ten British umpires holding the internationally recognised qualification. It is a distinction he shares with **Bob Jenkins**, the umpire of the Wimbledon's Men's Singles Final this year (who incidentally was until recently a Royal Signals TA officer). His Grand Prix qualification has led to a number of major of appointments, including the final of this year's British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth. He was also selected as a neutral umpire for two of the non-zonal ties in the current Davis Cup competition—West Germany v. Argentina in Munich and, more recently, Sweden v. Australia in Borstaad.

Like every other Wimbledon umpire, **Peter** hopes to achieve eventually the game's top honour for officials—the Men's Singles Final. In the meantime, the news that tennis is to be included as an exhibition sport in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles has brought a gleam to his eye. 'If British officials are invited to the Olympics' he says 'I would very much like to be one of them'.

Movements

Officers

AUGUST 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. S. Mc K. Anderson	School of Signals
Maj (TOT) C. N. Armitage	240 Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) W. A. Barnes	11 Sig Regt
Maj H. B. Bennet	DGGWL(PE) (AE)
Capt T. J. Bryning	School of Signals
Maj (TOT) R. C. Boulter	4 Signal Gp
Capt (TOT) J. V. Bridgeman	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col B. J. Burke	RSRE(PE) (AE)
Maj (TOT) D. W. Capon	HS HQ 2 Signal Gp
Maj M. J. P. Collins	7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) A. J. Cowe	21 Sig Regt
Capt D. E. P. Cox	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt R. C. T. Cuthbert	HQ BR Forces Belize
Capt P. R. Day	BMATT Zimbabwe
Maj (QM) J. J. C. Finch	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. J. Gareze	Junior Regt R Signals
Maj J. Graham	HQ British Forces Belize
Capt K. J. Hadfield	28 Sig Regt
Lt Col R. F. Hills	12 RSME Regt
Capt (QM) G. W. E. Hope	21 Sig Regt
Capt N. C. Jackson	RMA Sandhurst
Maj (TOT) R. E. Jenkins	30 Sig Regt
Col K. Kirkby	BLO ACOS (C & E) Washington
Maj (TOT) I. R. Lidstone	Comm Projects Agency R Signals
Capt S. Lockie	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Capt (TOT) A. Lynn	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Capt A. McVittie	School of Signals
Capt I. O. Robertson	Queens Gurkha Signals
Maj (TOT) R. Stather	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj M. R. Stephenson	MOD DASD
Capt K. C. A. Stewart	8 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc Offr) L. T. Waumsley	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
Capt J. W. Wedgbury	28 Sig Regt
Maj R. L. Windmill	10 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. Cocks	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. G. P. Akehurst	Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt A. A. Goff	CS School of Signals

SEPTEMBER 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. Barnett MBE	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt J. A. Barry	HS Depot Para
Maj M. E. Bradbury	HQ Br Forces Hong Kong
Maj D. J. Case	HQ 11 Sig Gp
Maj W. M. Clarke	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Lt M. R. Complin	Junior Regt R Signals
Lt I. A. J. Condie	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj C. J. Dakin	8 Sig Regt
Capt R. B. Davis	1 R Hamps
Lt Col B. A. R. Driskell	HQ BAOR
Capt R. J. J. Ellis	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj R. C. Etheridge	37 Sig Regt (V)
Lt A. D. Gallie	Junior Regt R Signals
Lt Col R. W. Garlick	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt F. N. Grant	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt M. D. J. Hancock	c/s School of Signals
2lt A. P. Hearn	c/s School of Signals
Maj (QM) D. Henry	HQ Trg Gp R Signals & Catterick Garrison
2Lt A. C. Holland	c/s School of Signals
2Lt K. P. Fisher	RMAS (POSUC 10)
Maj W. A. C. Griffiths	DA Man S
Capt R. T. Hoole	16 Sig Regt
Maj B. J. Hughes	16 Sig Regt
Maj A. W. de V. Hunt	NDC Latimer
Capt A. J. Hutt	HQ Br Forces Belize
Lt R. M. Hyams	Junior Regt R Signals
Maj J. D. M. Ingram	School of Infantry
Capt T. Jarrett	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) R. E. Jenkins	AAC Harrogate
Lt S. J. Leach	Queens Gurkha Signals
Lt S. A. Leigh	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj G. J. Mann	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj A. R. Martin	NDC Latimer
Lt Col M. J. McCann	DSS(AD)
Lt G. J. McNeill	16 Sig Regt
Lt A. N. Morphet	Junior Regt R Signals
Lt R. G. Nicholson	8 Sig Regt
Maj W. C. Nicoll MBE	UKCICC
Lt G. P. Norris	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt G. J. T. Rafferty	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt M. A. Rough	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt C. P. Ryan	HS RAPC Trg Cent
Capt J. A. Shepherd	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Sinton	DGGWL(PE) (AE)
Maj F. Smith	HQ 2 Sig Gp
Lt M. L. Spoors	229 Sig Sqn
Maj (TOT) T. M. Stoddart MBE	8 Sig Regt
Lt R. F. Strawbridge	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt D. A. Sullivan	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col J. W. Swindells	NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp
Lt D. A Tiffin	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj L. R. J. Tilson	HQ Br Forces Cyprus
Lt M. F. Tucker	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt C. H. Turner	RMAS
Capt P. G. Walker	8 Sig Regt
Capt R. A. Wannell	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj A. J. Welch	Misc Appts Home
Lt I. D. Westerman	RMCS Shrivenham
Col D. C. Whitehead	DSS(AD)
Lt Col G. W. Young	HS BDLS Washington
Lt K. A. Childs	HQ 2 Armd Div & Sig Regt (Belated)
Lt P. Kearns	7 Sig Regt (Belated)

WOs and Senior NCOs

AUGUST 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) B. Hassall	Comms Projects Agency R Signals
WO1 D. J. Bell	9 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) K. R. Finch	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) B. McAneny	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) C. G. Stubbings	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
WO2 (Supvr R) R. Carty	13 Sig Regt
WO2 G. J. G. Coude	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt (FofS) J. B. Connolly	School of Signals (CADRE)
SSgt (FofS) B. Law	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. Platts	641 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) M. Freedman	School of Signals
SSgt H. H. Loates	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt A. P. J. Dark	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt R. J. J. Hancox	Ministry of Defence DM (A)
SSgt D. D. Fox	School of Signals
SSgt B. E. Slavin	22 Sig Regt
SSgt A. M. Cunningham	16 Sig Regt
SSgt N. G. Brown	22 Sig Regt
SSgt B. A. Thomas	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
SSgt A. Gauillet	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt T. Becket	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt P. J. Day	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt M. Willoughby	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt I. R. S. Plenderleith	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt S. G. Goslyn	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt P. A. O'Brien	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. D. Parrotte	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. A. Cummings	School of Signals
Sgt R. K. Edge BEM	641 Sig Tp
Sgt C. F. Marshall	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. S. Smith	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. J. Smith	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Hogben	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. T. Bennett	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt J. Gilmour	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt C. McIntosh	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt P. Cotton	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. Hancock	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. A. C. Davies	16 Sig Regt
Sgt F. Waters	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Campbell	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Wilson	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Jarwood	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Hague	642 Sig Tp
Sgt F. G. Graham	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Sellars	School of Signals
Sgt C. T. MacDonald	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. C. Vine	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Budden	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Honey	16 Sig Regt
Sgt G. L. Crossland	15 CTT
Sgt M. L. Drake	School of Signals Courses
Sgt G. C. McAvoy	School of Signals Courses
Sgt A. F. Crilly	School of Signals Courses
Sgt B. Lebreton	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt E. A. Doubtfire	580 Rear Link Det
Sgt D. J. Manser	School of Signals Courses
Sgt R. H. Wood	8 Sig Regt
ASgt A. F. Glover	School of Signals Courses
ASgt I. W. Walker	584 Rear Link Det
ASgt C. D. G. Storey	School of Signals Courses
ASgt S. G. Alexander	532 Rear Link Det
ASgt R. Bruce	ACIO Coventry

SEPTEMBER 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) L. Tanner	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) O. J. Burrows	School of Signals
WO1 (YofS) D. R. Heyes	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) P. J. McLoughlin	HQ UKLF
WO1 R. Harris	14 Sig Regt
WO1 P. J. E. Hilton	HQ 12 Sig Gp
WO2 (FofS) P. B. Baldwin	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. R. Smith	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
WO2 A. Kubu	7 Sig Regt
WO2 S. G. Marshall	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 R. Russell	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
WO2 J. A. Woolley	Aberdeen University OTC
WO2 P. Campbell	13 Sig Regt
WO2 R. C. Charlesworth	AA Coll Harrogate
AWO2 (YofS) D. Bowden	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) K. Price	School of Signals (Cadre)
SSgt (FofS) P. G. Cross	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) J. G. Turvey	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) L. C. Lightfoot	633 Sig Tp
SSgt (Supvr R) B. A. F. Thompson	9 Sig Regt
SSgt J. E. Phillips	13 Sig Regt
SSgt B. G. Watson	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
SSgt P. O. Whitbread	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt S. Walley	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt M. G. S. Burnett	16 Sig Regt
SSgt J. B. McSherry	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. W. Banks	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt J. T. Sharp	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt G. L. Fuller	7 Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt N. H. Hastie	HQ 1 BR Corps
SSgt J. Fowler	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt M. MacDonald	HQ 4 Sig Gp
SSgt J. E. O. McConnon	14 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Davis	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt W. D. Collinson	28 Sig Regt
SSgt L. E. Willmott	7 Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. MacGilp	30 Sig Regt
SSgt A. J. Birkett	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt G. Gair	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. C. Ross	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt A. S. Hunt	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt J. I. Baker	8 Fd Force Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. J. Buckler	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt B. Warburton	Bristol University OTC
ASSgt D. R. Toleman	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt B. Johnson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Garvie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Beeley	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Allen	7 Sig Regt
Sgt W. K. Cleves	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Cawley	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Wheatley	7 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Winterburn	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. F. Shrive	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. N. Haddock	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt H. J. West	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. S. Rogers	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Johnson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Buck	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt D. R. Burbidge	28 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Bartlett	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Napier	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. Twisse	14 Sig Regt
Sgt E. D. Jones	ACIO Gloucester
Sgt G. L. Hegarty	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt N. Pearson	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. A. Murray	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. A. Hope	8 Sig Regt
Sgt F. A. Bennett	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Ramsay	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Cooke	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. Franklin	30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. B. Williams	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Foley	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Laflin	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Leivers	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt B. W. Caffrey	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt R. L. Terrett	20 Maritime Regt RCT
Sgt L. S. Pilling	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt R. Sparrow	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt K. Bolton	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. Heapy	593 Rear Link Det
Sgt C. Ashworth	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Kendle	39 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt T. E. Bain	28 Sig Regt
ASgt J. F. Gibson	NORTHAG Air Supp Radio Sqn
ASgt P. R. Rumsey	1 Armd Div Sig Regt

Welfare

JUNE 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	43
Amount spent:	£3762.54
Number of clothing parcels sent:	34

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	15
Amount spent:	£623.61

JULY 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	37
Amount spent:	£3571.99
Number of clothing parcels sent:	71

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants:	13
Amount spent:	£386.48

ONE OF OUR CASES

Driver, 1940-1946. Due to ill health, he had to cease work 2½ years ago, and, although he and his wife have made every effort to keep clear of debt, they began to run into difficulties. The Association made a grant of £89.00 to put them straight, and his letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I wish to tender my grateful thanks for your kind assistance. It has helped me to square up my very worrying debts. Worry is not the best thing to experience when one has a severe heart problem, and now a great load has been lifted. Thank you all.

Since the beginning of June, gifts of clothing, bedding, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:-

Mrs M. P. Walker; Mr & Mrs D. Brough; Mr & Mrs M. J. Camm; The Thrift Shop, 10th Sig Regt; The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp; Maj Gen M. D. Price; Lt Col & Mrs J. J. H. Swallow; R. Signals Assn, Reading Branch; Mr & Mrs A. Foot; Capt & Mrs J. Stockill; Lt Col I. E. Simpson; Mrs E. J. Beale; Maj Gen & Mrs E. S. Cole; G. H. Little, Esq; Mrs O. Mackintosh; Mrs K. N. Smartt; Lady Chetwynd; Mrs A. Kaye; Mr & Mrs D. S. Mulholland; Mrs Tucker; Lt Col C. J. Bayfield; Capt A. E. Abbott; Col W. G. Neilson; Maj H. D. V. Chappell; Mrs I. G. Swan; Lt Col P. E. E. Gregory; Mrs J. L. Purdon; SSgt G. Pickard, Mr & Mrs R. Truby; Mr & Mrs A. V. Ient; Mr C. Fry.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1981.

7 Sig Regt	£215.05
Catterick Garrison Church (Reunion Service)	£136.93
Wives Club, Scarborough Sig Trg Centre	£100.00
N. E. Chadwick Esq	£ 20.00
In memory of Mrs E. E. Smith	£ 10.50
In memory of A. T. A. Keepen Esq	£ 10.00
W. G. J. Kidson Esq JP FRSH	£ 5.00
Lt Col G. M. Welsford	£ 3.00
LCpl N. T. G. Patrick	£ 1.80
Miscellaneous	£ 6.83
	£509.11

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1981.

Mrs I. Harvey	£30.00
Capt C. Herbert	£10.00
In memory of Mrs D. Simons	£10.00
A. E. Roberts Esq	£ 8.00
In memory of Maj A. Hort MBE TD	£ 5.00
Maj B. L. White	£ 1.40
Miscellaneous	£ 4.45
	£68.85

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

Carter—Lt Alistair Grant Carter died on 20 July, as a result of a canoeing accident in Bavaria, whilst on exercise with his squadron. **Alistair Grant Carter** was born in Scotland on 7 June, 1960, educated at Welbeck College and the RMA, Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Corps as a Second Lieutenant in April 1979. After serving five months at the School of Signals he was posted to 3 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron Northern Ireland. He was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1981 and was posted to 7 Signal Regiment as a troop Commander in 2 Squadron. He was a keen and competent sailor, hang-glider and swimmer, indeed a lover of all sports. He was cremated in Edinburgh on 30 July and will be missed by all members of the regiment. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents and family.

Hodges—Maj D. R. Hodges, who died on 30 July in Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, was a beloved and respected husband and father, an admired field commander, a talented engineer and a meticulous and professional staff officer. **David** joined the regular Corps in 1963 after graduating from London University with an engineering degree. He then commanded signal troops in 22 Signal Regiment, 11 Engineer Brigade and 12 Mechanised Brigade until 1967. After attending the fast TE Course he was posted to 19 Signal Regiment in Singapore in 1968. A tour of duty in UK followed and his natural ability as an instructor then led to his appointment to the teaching staff of the School of Signals for a year. He then joined Division 1 Army Staff Course in 1972, from whence he was selected to fill one of the highest grade appointments for Camberley graduates: that of an instructor at Junior Division of the Staff College. In 1976 he assumed command of the Communication Centre Squadron of 2 Signal Regiment Bunde and then a year later moved on to command the Regiment's detached Squadron in Lubbecke, a testing appointment during which he was principally responsible for strengthening the bond of friendship between HQ 2 Armoured Division and the town of Lubbecke. The highlight of his personal crusade for better Anglo-German relations was the Freedom parade which he organised and led in 1977. Indeed, wherever he and his wife were posted in Germany, old Anglo-German bonds of friendship were strengthened and new ones established. His considerable engineering skills were brought into play in his next job, which involved working on Clansman CSSH and then on Ptarmigan at RSRE from 1978 to 1980. In early 1981, he assumed a staff appointment at HQ Northern Army Group, His health had been deteriorating badly and he was flown back to UK for treatment in May. He died of Lukaemia two months later. **David** was a loving, patient husband and father as well as being an outstanding gardener and had great talent as a cabinet maker and antique restorer. His quiet competence, good humour and generosity will be sorely missed by all those who had the privilege to know him. For the last few months of his life, **David** was almost constantly in great pain. He bore this pain and knowledge of his forthcoming death with a fortitude and courage which was a source of admiration and inspiration to all with him. He leaves a widow, Anne and three sons. We extend our deepest sympathy to them.

Price—Cpl Stan Price was killed in a road accident during the return move from Ex *Bronze Key* on 10 April. 12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn provided a coffin-bearing party for the funeral in the United Kingdom and a memorial service was held within Osnabruck Garrison on 24 April. Stan will be remembered for his cheerfulness, which was always in evidence in the Foreman's workshop, in which he worked.

Symonds—SSgt Leslie Symonds—It is with deep regret that we report the sudden death, on duty, of **SSgt Leslie Symonds** on Saturday 11 July. The last 5 years of his 23 years service with the Corps were served in Schemes Troop and 3 Squadron of 8 Signal Regiment. **Leslie** was a dedicated solider who had a cheerful approach to life and was always ready to help others. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow Ingrid, his three sons and daughter.

Watson—Col Louis Robert Cameron Watson was born on 20 April 1900 and was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers on 20 December 1918. Promoted to Lieutenant on 20 December 1920 he was later seconded to the Royal Corps of Signals on 4 August 1922. He transferred to the Corps in the rank of Lieutenant on 3 September 1924. He attended Staff College and was awarded 'p.s.c.' in 1937 and promoted to the rank of Major on 1 August 1938. He was at that time serving as a GSO 3. During the early years of the Second World War he served as a GSO2 and GSO1 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 18 September 1940. On 11 February 1944 he was appointed CSO and promoted to the rank of Colonel. He retired on 8 April 1950 and took up the post of Bursar at Reading School shortly after his retirement. He remained there for many years and retired from that post in 1968. He died on 23 June 1981 and the funeral took place in the School Chapel on 2 July.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

If you are seeking employment in or around London please call in and discuss job opportunities. Please bear in mind you will be at a disadvantage if you do not live locally.

We still have a number of residential posts for which we need reliable applicants *without* young children.

Reception, New Malden, Surrey—£4500-£5000	Log 148
Housekeeper, Bishopsgate EC2. Experienced—£96 pw.	Log 231
Housekeeper, Cornhill EC3. Age 40-55—£5500 pa+	Log 146
Reception, High Holborn WC1—£3500 neg.	Log 137
Reception/Security, Trafalgar Sq. WC2—£100 app. pw.	Log 124
Showroom Duties, Berkeley Sq. W1—£78 pw.	Log 14
Security (Nights), Mayfair W1—£6000 pa.	Log 133
Commissionaire, Old Bond St. W1. 3 days/week—£3000 pa	Log 120
Security, New Bond St.—£100 pw.	Log 119
Security, Muswell Hill N10. 2 men wanted. Age 21-50. Shift work (7 am—7 pm). Clean driving licence—£5000-£6000 pa.	Log 149

Reception Security (2) Greenford, Middlesex.
Available Nov 1981. First class applicants only—£6000-£7,000 pa
Log—

Residential Porter, Kensington Gore SW7. Accommodation and all meals + approx £50 pw. Responsible, reliable applicant needed, not too young (50) Log 164

Night Porter, Victoria Embankment WC2. Smart reliable applicant (strict TT)—£4500-£5000 pa Log—

Reception, Security. Fitzhardings St. W1. Well spoken first class applicant able to mix with important clients. Age 45-50—£5000-£6000 pa Log 163

Showroom Duties, Berkeley Square W1. Imposing smart helpful applicant needed for prestigeous post. Salary negotiable. Needed by Sept 81 Log 14

Security. Clean driving licence. 2 shifts covering 7 am—7 pm. 2 men 21-55. Muswell Hill N. London—£5000-£6000 pa Log 149

Reception. High Holborn WC1. 2.30 pm—7.45 pm—£3500 pa neg. Log 137

Security Guard. Kingston Hill, Surrey 10.00-19.00 hrs—£5000 pa neg. Age 40-50. To be fit and active Log 155

Reception. Security. New Malden, Surrey. 7 am—6 pm. (40 hr basic week + 15 hrs OT).—£4500-£5000 pa + perks. To live locally. Age 35+. Log 148

Supervisor (3 Messengers). Receptionist GOA. Coleman St. EC2. Aged 45-50. Fit, disciplined with good knowledge of London. 8 am-4 pm. £5220 pa + 5% bonus. Free lunch Log 161

The Corps of Commissionaires
3 Crane Court,
Fleet Street,
London EC4A 2EJ
Tel: (01) 353 1125/6/7

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Report by 2Lt Kalvin Owen

Nice little comms job, sun and scenery they said, a week of unsurpassed relaxation. Only one snag, it all is to happen in South Armagh. We set off on the trip in the luxury green landrovers, then transferred to our helicopters for the flight to the sun. **Cpl Emerson** and **LCpl Bradbury** set up communications and got things powered whilst the rest of me unloaded the helicopters, well it seemed that way. We soon settled down in our all mod-con-cave, our thanks to 1 RGJ for the guard. Great ere ain't it, home from home, time, to settle in. All too soon this Op is over and it's time to go back to base. Welcome back they said, nice to see you they said, got a little job for you! Fermanagh is a beautiful County. Is that really Monaghan over there, doesn't look any different. Manning a permanent vehicle check point can be fun, think positively. Haven't we been here before my gallant 'bricks' asked? You, the reader may ask what a 'brick' is, in this case it is **Cpl Harvey, Sig Finnimore, Sig Hurley, Sig Evans** and **Sig Brown**, plus our gallant RPC attached. Don't unpack they said, we know how much you enjoy being out! X-My-Glen or something like it? Still the helicopters waiting, must dash. Rifle, flack jacket, thought it was in Scotland or . . .

Left: 2Lt Owen. Right: Cpl Harvey

FETE-A-COMPLISHED

The 4 July may be connected with some American festival but to those who are really in the know it was the date of our HQ and Sig Sqn Fete. The day dawned at the usual time and frantic activity, led by **Capt Alan Faux** RPC, saw preparations completed before the grand opening at 1400 hours. Popular star attractions included a free fall demonstration—with parachutes—and a dog handling display. It didn't need **LCpl Griffiths** alias **Gypsy Rose Lee** to tell it would turn out to be the success it did.

RUN FOR YOUR MONEY

A Sqn team with signals representation from **Capt D McConnell, Cpl Little** and **Cpl Harvey** took part in the 16 mile 'Mini Marathon' in aid of cancer research, run in Fermanagh. We are glad to say all survived and are scheduled to do their BFT any time now.

MT SECTION—WALK ON WATER

Under the supervision of the **MTO, Bob Smith**, the MT Troop are discovering a new mode of transport—water skiing. This has now developed into a very popular pastime both with the soldiers and their wives, to the extent that most of the Signal Squadron can now 'walk on water'.

In addition to this very exhilarating sport, a sub aqua course is being run by **Cfn 'Taff' Evans.** There will soon be those amongst us who are also proficient at walking under water! During the past month or so we have said a sad farewell to **Cpl 'Yorky' Padgett**, who has gone to a much different lifestyle on the Brecon Beacons. **Cpl 'Baz' Baldwin** is seeking a transfer to the RAPC and the picturesque views of Worthy Down. **Cpl Frank Self** (of REME fame) has gone to BAOR taking **Cfn 'Monty' Montgomery**, a 4 ft rock python with him. **'Monty'** was the LAD pet and has already been replaced by **Cfn 'Beefo' Cans** (that's what it said on his box). He is a 6 ft reticulated python with rather a large appetite. **'Beefo's'** trick of going AWOL within the confines of the LAD complex has had a considerable effect on the number of visitors to the workshop, especially among the smaller members of the troop. (Has anyone seen **Dvr Jeff Jones** recently?).

WELCOME

This only leaves us to mention our additions to the 'rubber wheels' troop and we welcome **Cpl Mick Jirat** (REME), **Cpl 'Paddy' Colhoun, LCpl Chris Taylor, Dvr Jeff** (it's dark in here) **Jones** and **Sig (Jimmy) Nield** and hope their stay is not too wet in this resort.

GENUINE KIT

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- BOOTS
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- 58 WEBBING
- DOWN S/BAGS
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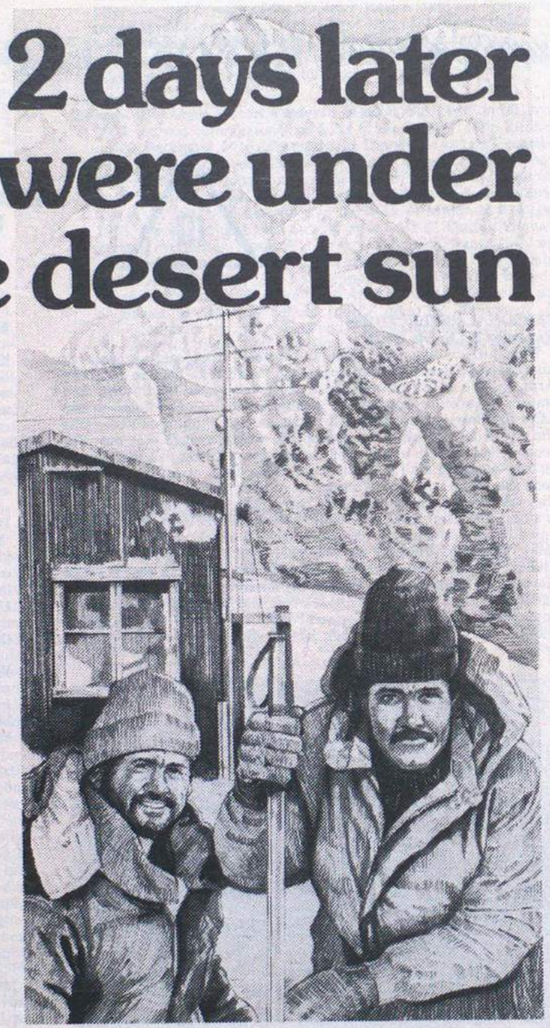
2 days later they were under the desert sun



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

TACTICAL SCENE

Since last writing, Londonderry and the surrounding rural areas enjoyed a brief lull in activity before the deaths of McElwee and Lynch re-escalated the level of violence. The two funerals followed the now familiar pattern of para military escorts and shots fired over the grave. The successful chase of a van containing some para military escorts was largely made possible by the use of Heli-Tele.

AMALGAMATION

It is no longer a secret that 8 and 3 Bdes will amalgamate in the not too far distant future, under the title of 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. The squadron is now very busy preparing to extend communications into new areas. C42 No 3 working over 200 kms will certainly keep the Comms Tp busy. The sheer size of the area is staggering—the technicians, riggers and linemen may succeed in bankrupting the pay office with their 1771s. As can be imagined all troops and Depts are working up to fever pitch as everything from crystals to accommodation are procured and put in the correct place. New buildings are going up and new masts and sites wait to be rigged and fitted out with radio.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The brief lull in terrorist activity allowed the squadron to do some training, play some sport and enjoy a little relaxation. Events included the Magilligan training week, the squadron Beach Barbecue, the Coleraine 24 hr Dinghy Race, a sailing trip to Iona and another graveyard tidying up trip to Rathlin Island.

As they say a picture is worth a thousand words and the photographs speak for themselves.

LCpl Gaz Rhodes entertains the children at the Beach Barbecue

VISITOR

The squadron enjoyed a visit from **Lt Phil Prately** from Shrivenham. Although only with us for six weeks he managed to carry out a survey of comms equipment in SF bases, help man a RRB and get himself petrol bombed in Londonderry. We hope he enjoyed his stay and that it wasn't too much of a shock to the system after the academic ivory towers.

Sgt Dave Rodgers, Cfn Link Cooper and LCpl Taff Myerscough, form a gun team on the Magilligan training week

VOYAGE TO IONA

The OC skippered a crew from the squadron in a voyage to Iona following in the wake of St Columba. They took with them messages of greeting and 10 lbs of Irish Bacon from **Dean Good** of St Columba's Cathedral to the head of the religious community on Iona.

The followers in the wake of St Columba toast the voyage before setting off

GOLF

The squadron's answer to Arnold Palmer, **RSM B. P. McGerty**, came away with the trophy at the NI Golf Meeting. His protestations of hardly ever touching a golf club are no longer believed.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The squadron bids a fond farewell to the QM, **Bob Hope**, and his wife **Brenda** and trust they will enjoy their tour with 21 Sig Regt. The OC was seen sighing with relief—one less **Robert** in the squadron, having a 2IC, QM and Admin Off all with the same Christian name can be a little confusing!

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

OPERATIONAL SCENE

We continue to be kept busy! 12 Jul saw the Sqn deployed in its now usual role, supporting the SF cover for the Orange Order marches celebrating the Battle of the Boyne. A subsequent lull though has been followed by considerable activity as the latest group of Hunger Strikers have passed on. As a result, the Sqn has been exercised in several directions, including the now familiar deployment of bricks 'Downtown' in reinforcement roles.

With a new Battalion arriving in W Belfast the Sqn has activated several plans for the deployment of temporary Ops rooms and refurbished many of the existing ones. In particular the Springfield Rd Bn Tac Ops has had its long awaited refit—a great relief for all involved in its maintenance and operation. Whiterock too has seen much work with two new ops rooms and the replacement of the GPO DP after it was burnt out by a petrol bomb.

Heli-Tele has been particularly busy, with its deployment rising to 3 or 4 times a week. As a result the mobile has travelled far and wide in all three Bde areas, including Londonderry, Dungiven, Dungannon and Cappagh. Considerable coverage has been given to all the Hunger Strike funerals and some notable successes notched up, including the recovery of weapons and arrest of known terrorists.

Finally, the demise of 3 Bde has required considerable liaison work by the Sqn hierarchy, in preparation for our take over of some of the old 3 Bde TAOR. As we go to print this liaison has begun to result in considerable work on the ground, which will, no doubt, keep us busy for some time.

CLF's VISIT

On 9 Jul **Maj Gen C. R. Huxtable, OBE,** Commander Land Forces, paid us a flying visit. During the course of it the CLF saw several departments in action and spoke to many of the Sqn personnel. The CLF was particularly interested in the TM Troop computerised welcome and the Bde Rover Group's collection of weaponry.

CLF shares a joke with Cpl Bob Snow and LCpl Scouse Kewley of the Brigade Rover Group

THE WEDDING

In common with the rest of the UK, the Sqn celebrated the Royal Wedding in grand style. A much appreciated day's stand-down was topped off by a highly successful All-Ranks Dance and Bar-B-Que. The mild weather, good music and an entertaining comedienne resulted in a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

OC Squadron Maj John Munnery receives Sig Tiny Little's Royal portrait

A particular highlight of our celebrations was the presentation by **Sig Tiny Little** to the Sqn Comd of a very fine drawing of **The Prince and Princess of Wales.** As can be seen from the accompanying photo **Sig Little** has considerable talent, which he has tried without success to keep well hidden!

QM's DEPT

Over the past few months the QM Dept, led by **Maj Fred Orr**, aided and abetted by RQMS—**WO2 'Darkie' Williams** and **Sgt Pete Woodward** has seen considerable action. Many late night issues and receipts, increases in holdings from 3 Bde and the Defence Auditors Inspection have kept the QM personnel burning the midnight oil. Changes in personnel too, have had their effect and the QM team has taken on a new look with the arrival of **WO2 (RQMS) John Farrell** to replace **WO2 'Darkie' Williams.**

QM dept's new team: *Back row, left to right:* Sig Dave Stephenson, LCpl Taff Dilling, LCpl Tiny Reynolds, Sig Lurch Warde, Sig Billy Baker, Sig Paul Lewis
Front row: WO2 (RQMS) John Farrell, Maj Fred Orr, Sgt Peter Woodward

SUBALTERNS COME . . .

This year the Sqn was 'visited' by **Lt Nigel Wood** fresh from the rigours of RMCS Shrivenham. For a total of seven weeks the Sqn has been delighted by the hard work?!! and unusual approach of **Lt Wood** to N Ireland operations. Our RQMS, **'Darkie' Williams** (a soldier of the 'old school') was particularly interested to be informed that, when he had been to a 'working unit', he would not be so generous with his masking tape! Rather than write on, it was felt that the accompanying illustrations summarise this visit rather well.

SPORT

The Sqn has not had much opportunity to exhibit its sporting prowess of late, due to operational commitments. The N Ireland Minor Units Athletics though on 17 June saw a fine performance by the squadron's team. A particularly close finish led to some tense moments in the final race—4 x 100m relay—when **Sig Paul Lewis** came from behind to bring 39 Bde into an overall equal second place with Kings Depot.

OFFICERS v HORSESHOE CLUB CRICKET MATCH

A little light relief took shape in the form of the Officers v Horseshoe Club Cricket Match on Sun 12 July. After a close fight the officers gracefully conceded the victory to the Horseshoe Club. **Capt Nigel Jackson** was voted 'Man-of-the-Match' after his stirring performance with bat and ball. (Out for a Duck and knocked for six!).

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

Amongst the many movements of people to and from the Sqn have been included many of the Sqn's most stalwart members. **Capt Nigel Jackson,** 2IC, has moved on to the pleasures of Directing Staff at RMA Sandhurst. **Capt Geoff Cary**, fresh from the TEM Course, has ably filled his place. **WO2 (RQMS) 'Darkie' Williams** has ended a long reign in the QM Dept by moving on to 16 Sig Regt, his place taken by **WO2 John Farrell. Sgt Ian Walker** of well known 99N fame has left amidst the splendour of a farewell fancy dress Roman Orgy to go to the delights of . . . Minden.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Bob Snow** on his second and **LCpl Chris Belfield** on his first—well done!

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SQUADRON FETE RAISES OVER £1,000

On 6 June, despite the rain, the squadron held its annual Fete on the Lisburn Sports field. The stalls were run by the Families Club and by members of the Troops. All the traditional Fete activities took place: the ducking stool, stocks, cake stall and many others all proved to be as popular as ever. Later in the afternoon, entertainment was provided in the centre of the arena by the Lisburn Tae-Kwon-Do Club who put on a Martial Arts Demonstration. One of the members of the Club is **WO2 (SSM) Ray Marshall** (or should that be Martial?) and interest in the sport is such that there is now a club within the Garrison. To round the afternoon off there was an inter-troop 'It's a Knockout' Competition. So much energy went into the races that for **Cpl Bobby 'the Bear' Ward** of Comms Troop it nearly was a knockout, when the wheelbarrow he was driving did a cartwheel. Both he and his daughter **Amanda**, who was the passenger, sustained injuries, but are now fully recovered. The end of the competition involved horses, maidens in distress and lots of water filled sponges. Even now it's difficult to say who won, but certainly both participants and spectators alike thoroughly enjoyed it all. At the end of the day over £1,000 had been raised for BLESMA and local charities. The next day a families barbeque was held in the tents, providing a chance for a rest after the activity of the fete.

Summer Fete—Commcen Troop's horse heading for an early bath in the 'It's a Knockout' competition. Sgt Barry Dawson is looking for something for the roses

ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

The squadron decided that the Royal Wedding should not pass without a celebration. A 'street party' for the children was arranged, while the mums and dads enjoyed a drink and a Bar-B-Q in the sunshine. Games for the children were organised by **Sgt John Hodkin** assisted by Commcen Troop members, **Cpl Fran Forbes** WRAC, **LCpl Gill Legge** WRAC, **Cpl Willie Williams, LCpl 'Trill' Potterton**, and **Cpl Derek Styles**. And when the children (and organisers) were worn out, each child was presented with a commemorative mug. Celebrations continued long into the night with a disco in the Peake Inn. As can be seen from the photograph, everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Thanks are due to all those who helped, especially to **Mrs Pat Hodkin** and the members of the Families Club who organised the food and activities for the children's party.

Members of the squadron celebrating the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana with a party

SPONSORED PRAM RACE

On Sat 8 Aug the squadron Rugby Club, the Librans, organised a sponsored 'pram' race around the Garrison, in aid of BLESMA. Six teams entered and a fine effort was put into the construction and the pushing. The course was a tough one and the first thirty minutes saw several vehicle casualties, but five of the teams managed to finish the three hour marathon with roughly the same vehicle as they started with. The winners were the Rugby club who completed 50 laps, and Whiskey Troop were awarded a prize for the best decorated 'pram'. About £400 was raised, and the bar profits were boosted by many thirsty customers.

VICTOR TROOP

Victor Troop was first formed in November 1974 and has been housed in the same temporary accommodation since then. However with new equipment coming, a permanent building was required. So, on a cold morning in November 1979 the surveyors set up their equipment on a piece of open ground between the Garrison Medical Centre and the main squadron building, and work began on the new building. Throughout the planning and building stages the troop OC **Capt Bob Baker, WO2 (YofS) George Coles** and others have guided the project so that by June 1981 the building was ready and operational—and everything was as the troop wanted it, except for the shower unit adjoining the OC's office. He's still waiting for that! The Data Telegraphists are now known as Zombies for some reason, but they're glad to be back on three-way-shifts after the changeover period which required two-shift working. In addition several divorce petitions have reportedly been withdrawn! Now, any D Tg operator posted to Victor Troop can now move into an ultra-modern building with all the comforts of home. You have to supply your own slippers to work in the Ops room.

The Victor Troop building in February 1980

The same in June 1981

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND PROMOTIONS

We would like to welcome to the troop **Sig Flint Cresswell, Sig Derek Lever, WPte Sue Dyer** and **WPte Pat Millar.** We wish them all an enjoyable tour. Sadly we say farewell to **Cpl Don Corbett**, and **WPte Rose Benson** on their departure to Civvie Street and **LCpl 'Clutch' Ward** and **WLCpl Pam Maycock** on posting. Finally congratulations to **Cpl Bob Knights** (now Sergeant), **LCpl John Fisher** (now Corporal) and **Sig Chris Mountain** (now Lance Corporal) on their recent promotions.

COMMS TROOP

After a long spell on the streets of Belfast, Comms Tp is now back to its normal role, but busier than ever. With the formation of a rigging section in the troop, and several members playing at being technicians in Systems Control, the rest of us have been very busy. We are now the proud owners of two more C50 vehicles courtesy of 7 Sig Regt and a great deal of work has gone on preparing them to suit our needs. We are now finding interesting places to go to test them out. In mid-July we sent a C41 into Whiterock SF Base to provide contingency phones, when the PO lines were destroyed by petrol bombers.

We say farewell to **LCpl George Skinner** (finally), **LCpl Dave Thornber** and **Sig Chippy Chapman.** Welcome to **Cpl Chippy Carpenter** and **Sig Gary Blackett.** Finally, we send heartiest congratulations to **Mrs Frances Terry** on the birth of a beautiful baby and **Cpl Taff Wade** and **Cpl John Muir** on their respective marriages.

RIGGING SECTION

At last the rigging section has got off the ground (excuse the pun) and has a base to work from. Previously the riggers, under the direction of **SSgt Andy McBain**, worked under the auspices of Tech Troop. The section has now been brought into Comms Troop and consists of **Cpl Jock Waldron, LCpl Bob Taylor, LCpl Steve Harrison, Sig Andy Terry** and **Sig 'Murph' Murphy. Cpl Jack Waldron** and **LCpl Steve Harrison** have recently completed their Digby course and are now putting the theory to use. While they were away the other members of the section spent some happy days sorting out the masts at Divis. Finally a mention for the good work and help given by **Cpl Kev Fitzpatrick, Sig Bruce Bragg** and **Sig Bob Roan** of Tech Tp, both in the past and, we hope, in the future.

TECH TROOP

A fairytale by SSgt Terry Sutherland

Have you experienced that pre-thunderstorm feeling? There is a stillness in the air, static electricity stands your hair on end. There is a choking feeling deep in the throat. Tech Troop had just that sort of experience on the 13 Aug 1979. The whisper quickly went round the Workshop. 'He's upstairs with the OC now.' Nine posting applications and six PVR's were on the Chief Clerk's desk two minutes later. One minute later a mass of confetti was seen drifting out of the OC's window. Thirty seconds later the names for the Squadron Athletics team were announced. Yes, you guessed, it was 15 strong. **Capt (TOT) Nick Lynn** had arrived. Shortly afterwards a diminutive track suited figure exploded into the then **SSgt Rod Gladwin's** office (the MO has now sent **Rod** on a rest cure to Cyprus counting socks or whatever RQMS's do). 'I want all section heads in my office now.' **WO2 (FofS) Laurie Priestly, Sgts Terry Sutherland, Bob Pullan** and **Stev Fergusson** and **Cpl Billy Allen** duly jogged in. 'My policy is quite clear, gentlemen, lunch and the evening meal will be taken at the work bench, I've no objection to the men going to the toilet as long as it's in their own time. Work has top priority except when it interferes with Athletics.'

Bob Pullan lasted quite well under this regime (young, don't you know)—several months in fact, before he was short-toured by a month and sent to Hong Kong to prepare the way for the TOT. **Stew 'I've seen it all before' Fergusson** also lasted quite well but in the end succumbed and was sent to the TA in Edinburgh where he could get some solid granite castlework around him. As for **Sutherland**, he went quite mad, so they promoted him before he could do any more harm and **Billy Allen**, Tele Mech and sportsman supreme, strangely enough did very well in the troop and is now lounging in Cyprus, getting ready to sew on his third tape. (They must play sport as well).

Laurie Priestley failed completely, in that he got 672 holes dug in the Province but only got the DOE to fill in 23. However, he did get them to rebuild most of the squadron's buildings. (Still running SHAPE, **Laurie**?) Since the TOT's arrival, the next 23 months and twelve days (a tour in Ireland is normally two years) were strangely blurred with Auto Exchanges, Microwave Shots and Comms Towers appearing all over the province, and Happy Hours with the well-known phrase: 'No no, it's my round', and 'that's strange, I seem to have forgotten my wallet'. Then, of course, there was the ritual TOT, FofS, Troop SSgt and section head's meeting every morning at 0830hrs, called for some very appropriate reason—Morning prayers. This was to dissect each section's comms performance of the previous 24 hrs. It went something like this:

TOT: 'Well, FofS, what's been happening?'
WO2 (FofS) Colin Ramsay: 'Well I've put the frequency plot on the micro-computer, Sir, and it's working very well. When I remember where I've put the computer, I'll show you.'
TOT: **'Sgt Lewis**, what's been happening in your section?'
Sgt Rick Lewis (IC Radio Section): 'Sorry, Sir, I didn't know anything had been happening.'
TOT: **'Sgt Nevins?'**
Sgt Brian Nevins (IC Radio Relay Section): Eh, um, is that today or yesterday, Sir?'
TOT: 'Yesterday, **Sgt Nevins**.'
Sgt Nevins: 'OK Sir. Well, this morning . . .'
TOT: **'Fitz**?'
Cpl Kev Fitzpatrick (IC Line Section): 'I played cricket yesterday, Sir.'
TOT: 'Well done, **Cpl Fitzpatrick.** And you, **Sgt Turfrey**?'
Sgt Mal Turfrey (IC TE Section): 'Well, Sir, I've got this problem. The lads won't tell me what's going on.'
TOT: 'And you, Staff?'
SSgt Andy McBain (IC Rigging Section): 'Well Sir, the wine's fermenting OK, but the bubbles keep getting up my wife's nose.'
TOT: **'Staff Sutherland?'**
SSgt Terry Sutherland (Troop SSgt): 'ZZZ'

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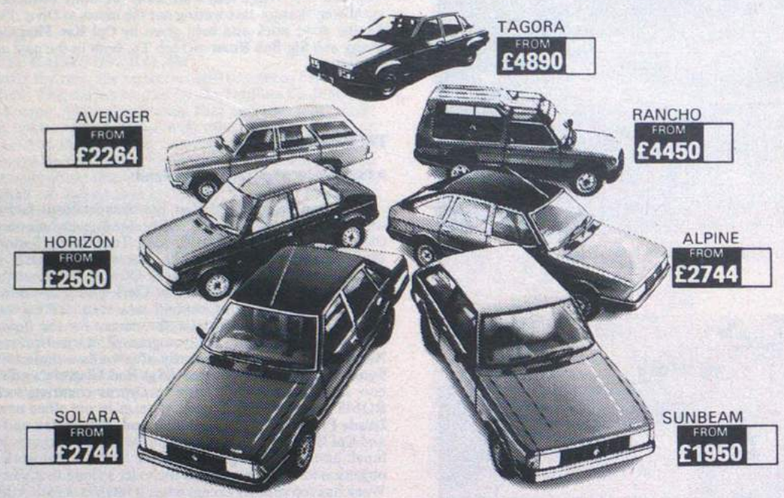

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TALBOT

FIRST FOR EXPORT

FAREWELL

Eventually it was time to say farewell. This lasted for approximately 31 Happy Hours. A Troop Party, an Officers Mess Dining-Out, and Sergeants Mess Dining-Out (or should that be Sergeants Mess Breakfast out?) all followed in quick succession. On 25 July **Capt (TOT) Nick Lynn** finally left. We still have the mess bills to prove it. Look out Hong Kong.

Capt (TOT) Nick Lynn being 'chaired' out of camp by members of the squadron

ADMIN TROOP

Normally in the Spring a young man's fancy is supposed to turn to love. Most of the members of Admin Troop (who are young enough) rarely think of anything else. This has resulted in a large number of marriages and the announcement of an engagement.

We send our congratulations to: **LCpl Ross Dolan** and **Gertie, LCpl Dave Tuck** and **Kate, Sig Eddie Edwards** and **Joyce, Sig Taff Dunn** and **Elaine. Sig Chippy Wood** and **Carol** and to **Sig Roy Shalliker** and **Diane** on their engagement. Not content with these increases to Admin Troop strength, we congratulate **LCpl Dave McKinnel** and **Julie** on the birth of a baby boy. **Sgt Sandy Sanderson** comments: 'So it wasn't indigestion after all'.

Despite the Admin Officer, **Capt Len Jeffery**, deserting us for business (?) in Inverness, the troop once again has kept up the high standards of work and morale that everyone has come to expect. The RQMS **WO2 Mick Longstaff** has become so jealous of the living-in members social life, that he's sent his wife to Aberdeen and become a beanstealer. Mind you, he nearly had to live in his own stores, accommodation is so short! Staying with the RQMS's department, we congratulate **LCpl 'Radar' Crawford** on passing his driving test (at the 7th attempt!).

FIRE DRILL

As well as being the Admin Officer, **Capt Len Jeffery** is also the Unit Fire Officer. Could it be that he set fire to his waste bin deliberately just to test our fire drill? Clue: he smokes about 40 cigarettes a day.

FAREWELL AND WELCOMES

We recently said farewell to our MT Sgt, **Phil Cotton**, and his wife **Kay** on their posting to Berlin. The message is good luck and thanks for everything. In his place we welcome **SSgt Taff Morgan**, and other recent arrivals **Cpl Chippy Wood, Sig Roy Johnson** and **Sig Lancaster.**

GOODIES AND BADDIES

Goodies
Sig Roy Shalliker—he really is 'performing' well.
AO—Captain Cupid.
Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader—I had to mention him or he threatened to desert.

Baddies
LCpl 'Maggot' Lindsay—Who tried to head the TOT then?
Sig 'Chippy' Wood—Where are our rubber ducks?
Cpl Willie Coyne—Stop beating about the bush and name the day.
Sgt Sandy Sanderson—Got the AO depressed.

ATHLETICS

It's been another successful season for the squadron Athletics team. We started the season with some good performances at the NI Athletics meeting at Antrim on 17 June, and were the Minor Units winners. The next meeting was the Zone Finals at Catterick on 15 July, where we were again the Minor Units winners. This took us to the Army Finals at Aldershot where against very stiff opposition we came sixth.

All concerned were pleased with the team's performance, greatly affected by lack of training both before and during the season. Under the guidance of **Capt Matt Campbell** there is every reason to expect an even stronger team next season. Our thanks go to **Capt Nick Lynn** for his work in previous seasons.

LCpl Barry Graham being awarded a trophy as Athlete of the Competition by Col John Greenaway, Col G. S. HQNI, himself a previous holder of the title, after the Northern Ireland Championships

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—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

A REPORT BY THE OC—TACTICAL EXERCISE TROOP

Earlier this year, whilst serving with 3 Division in Soest, I received orders posting me to the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. Knowing very little about the College, I began to canvass the opinions of those who had served there. Most said how lucky I was to be posted there and many speculated on what my job might be. Within a week I had convinced myself that I was to be 2IC of a squadron. Imagine my surprise, therefore, when I received a letter from the Commandant informing me that I was to be OC of Tactical Exercise Troop (Tac Ex). None of those who had served at the College seemed to know much about this department: I was soon to learn!

THE TASK

The job of the troop is to organise and conduct tactical communications exercises, designed to teach and practice the apprentices in their trade role. The exercises vary in length and content depending on the trade concerned and the stage of training reached. The first exercise lasts for one day and gives an introduction to basic radio installations, voice procedure and map reading. After this, the schemes become more complex culminating in the final exercise involving the senior term apprentices. This exercise lasts for two weeks and is conducted in a fully tactical setting evolving around a typical BAOR scenario.

Assisting me in the troop, I have a staff of twenty. Missing from the photo is **Sgt Cliffe Marshall**. He is at present enjoying a sojourn at that other bastion of excellence, 11 Sig Regt, attending a Staff Sergeants Course. As a troop, we spend about nine weeks of each term on exercise. When not on exercise, we are either repairing from the last one or preparing for the next. In addition to much technical equipment we have on charge approximately forty vehicles and trailers and some seventy generators of varying capacities. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at the College and consider myself lucky to have such an interesting and rewarding job, backed up by a loyal and hard working troop.

CONGRATULATIONS

The congratulations and best wishes of the whole troop are warmly extended to **LCpl Gary Dando** and his bride **Karen** on their recent marriage. We wish them all the very best for their future together.

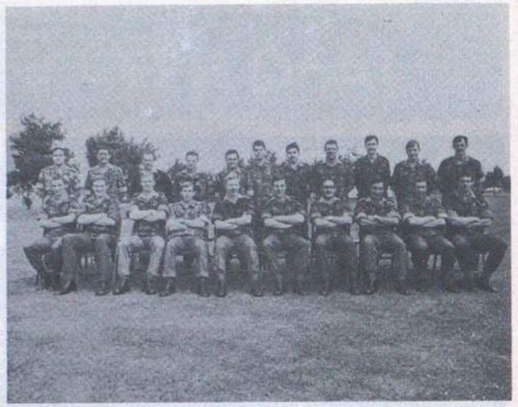
BONUS

Incidentally, there is a bonus to my job as OC Tac Ex. The troop office faces South and the window sill provides an excellent area for growing tomatoes.

VALE

Maj (Retd) Phylis Broad—Matron and Confidante

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to **Maj Phylis Broad** who has been Matron at the College for six years. **Phylis** is, of course, well known throughout the College and indeed throughout the Army Nursing World. During her time here, she has been nurse and confidant to over 3,000 apprentices. She will be missed by both apprentices and permanent staff. All members of the College join in



THE HEROES OF HARROGATE—TAC EX TP 1981

Back row L—R: Cpl G. Dodd, Cpl W. Woodhead, Mr. B. Whitehead (Civ Storeman), LCpl G. Dando, LCpl F. Mason, Sig K. Mitchell, Sig K. Weaver, Cpl Brittan, Sig A. Slater, Sig R. Gamble, Cpl L. Robinson
Front row: Sig R. Robson, Sig J. Jones, Sgt R. Smith, Sgt P. Hayward, Capt B. J. Barton-Ancliffe, SSgt (YofS) D. H. Jepson, Sgt P. Childs, Sgt C. Young, Sgt B. Sutherland, Sgt J. Tyreman—absent on duty Sgt C. Marshall

wishing her a long and happy retirement. Meanwhile we extend a warm welcome to her successor, **Maj Jo Cushen.**

ATHLETICS

Congratulations are in order for **Cpl Andy Robertson** on his selection as an international athlete. For a long time **Cpl Robertson** has been well known for his achievements mainly over longer distances. His more recent results include first place in the Sandbach Marathon in June. His time for this race of 2 hrs 14 min 23 sec borders on international standard and this has led to his selection for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team in the European Cup Marathon, due to take place in September in Agen, France. His international track debut, however, came in August with his selection to represent Scotland at Meadowbank in the 10,000 metres versus Denmark and the Republic of Ireland. The whole College, and no doubt the Corps, wish him the best of luck in Agen.

The wave of congratulations continues, this time for the College athletics squad. The Triangular Games athletics match between the apprentice colleges of Harrogate, Arborfield and Chepstow was held here at the College in July. The result was a resounding win for the Harrogate team with 59 points. Aborfield came second with 45 points and Chepstow third with 28. Several personal best scores were achieved, the most notable being the pole vault performances of **AT LCpl Amos** and **AT Allan**. Their vaults of 3M 50 cm set a new Army Junior Record.

SAILING

Also in July, the Army Junior Sailing Championships were held at Pontypool, South Wales. The College gained a very worthy fifth place, this result counting also as second place in the Triangular Games. A noteworthy performance was achieved by **AT LCpl Needham** who was placed third in the Individual Section. He is also to be commended for his sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the event. Well done!

WALLY MADE 'HOLE' AGAIN

A figure well known through the Corps, **Capt Wally Lockwood** has been giving cause for concern recently. On exercise at Beckingham he was bitten on the hand by a monstrous horsefly. Thinking nothing of this unprovoked attack (those who know **Wally** will testify to his bravery!) he brushed off the fly. However, within days, the wound turned septic and he was forced to seek medical assistance. This resulted in a transfer to Catterick Military Hospital where he spent three weeks as an in-patient and underwent two minor operations on the damaged hand. it was, at one stage, feared that he might lose a finger but this danger has now passed. We are happy to report that **Wally** is now back at work with yet another 'war story' in his repertoire.

STOP PRESS

Cpl Andy Robertson finished in fourth place in the 10,000 metres at Meadowbank. A very creditable performance at, what is for him, a middle distance run.

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ADP Development Team UKLF

NO LET UP

The summer months saw little let-up in activity as the ADP DT continued to focus their attention on the procurement of a replacement ADP system for HQ UKLF. This accomplished, **Lt Col Peter Ost** REME and **Mr Ron Reakes** engaged on a hectic round of meetings and discussions, as finer points of detail were ironed out.

In the midst of this, the main day to day business of supplying a service to the staffs at HQ UKLF had to continue, and the main event here was the planning and preparation for a remote terminal facility. This is a task which has involved just almost everyone, from **Ron Reakes** in liaison with CTL to ensure our VDU will be compatible, though analysts **Maj Mark Illingworth**, 16/5L, **Maj Tom Moncur** R Signals and **Maj Roger Lewenz** REME, employed in liaising with Movement Staffs, CPA R Signals, HQ Eastern District and British Telecom, to **Sgts John Hutchings** and **Bob Evans.** Hopefully, all will go well, and another success notched up for the ADP in military staff work.

TO THE HILLS

Away from the office, the cavalry element of the Team showed a predilection for the Welsh hills, with **Maj Mark Illingworth** defying his (claimed) advanced years in Basic Mountaineering Course, and **Capt Howard Crosse** orbiting Brecon Beacons at high speed. The remainder of the team have been struggling manfully in the Commander-in-Chiefs Cup Competition, but, unfortunately, we failed to 'peak' at the right time and must say goodbye to any chances of a hold on the Trophy for this year. There has, however, been a lot of enjoyment derived from the competition, and if we didn't win much, **Mrs Jan Redman, Mrs Jenny Bates, Mrs Marion Hankins** and **Pte Denise Bennett** did grace the tennis courts with their presence, and turn more than a few heads in the process. For the moment we are enjoying a well earned break, before unleashing our energies on the winter competitions in October—maybe the cold weather will bring out more sporting talent!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Lastly, we regretfully had to say goodbye to **Mrs Megan Pritchard**, who leaves the Team to take the imminent role of motherhood, and takes with her many good wishes and grateful thanks for the long hours of hard and cheerful work at the programmers' bench. The numbers were kept in balance by the arrival of **Capt Greg Collins**, REME, to fill the post of GSO3(W) prior to the departure of **Capt Howard Crosse**. We welcome **Greg** and his wife **Fionee** to Wilton, and hope that they enjoy their first tour in the empire of ADP.

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A WINTER'S TALE

On Fri 24 Apr winter weather struck with a savage blow. The temperature was near freezing and there was continuous sleet. Nothing surprising about that as it was the start of Comms & Security Group first summer camp. With many a 'Hi Di Hi' the convoy set off for sunny Beckingham holiday camp. On arrival the weather had improved. There was now snow on the ground!!! After 'disembarking' from the transport it was time for a briefing from the camp RSM, **WO1 Tony Lowry**. This was followed by a talk from the CO, **Lt Col John Dobson** and then it was down to the serious business of training. The SSM 2 Sqn, **WO2 Len Hutton**, showed two films on fire fighting and as this seemed to warm everyone up it was time to retire to the luxurious air conditioned rooms. The next morning started with the friendly camp RSM bursting in at 0630 hrs with the good/bad news that PT had been cancelled due to the inclement weather. The rest of the training programme started at 0800 hrs. The Range Classifications were cancelled after the visibility became the same as the temperature—minus 2. Some training did take place covering such subjects as first aid, map reading, NBC training and dry TOETS on all weapons. Finally at 1700 hrs the weather proved to be the master and the CO **Lt Col John Dobson**, wisely decided to call off the rest of the camp. After expressing disappointment at the cancellation (not too loudly) it was back to Garats Hay Barracks where weapons were handed in and Arctic Survival Certificates Issued!!!

PRESENTATIONS

On 7 May, our 'Elder Statesman' **WO2 (CSM) Tony Orrell** was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal. The whole camp paraded in the gymnasium to witness **Brig B. A. H. Parritt CBE** present the medal to **WO2 Orrell**. The Brigadier in his address stressed the importance of the occasion and that it reflected 30 years devoted service. The Brigadier offered **WO2 Orrell** and his family his warmest congratulations.

At the same time, the Brigadier presented the LS & GC medal to **WO2 (SSM) Tom Muir** and **WO2 (FofS) Tony Collard**. Families of the recipients were present at the ceremony and afterwards adjourned to the Sergeants Mess where the Brigadier and Officer guests drank the health of the medal recipients and Mess members and families remained for a buffet lunch.

SPONSORED WHEELCHAIR PUSH

On Wed 20 May, personnel from the Group were invited to participate in a sponsored wheelchair push for the handicapped residents of Roecliffe Manor, our local Cheshire Home. The event got away to a fine start, led by the 2IC **Maj Owen Lewis, Capt Bill Clark** the Adjutant and **2Lt Caroline Kett** the assistant Adjutant. In all, 15 volunteers took part, each pledged to push a wheelchair at least four miles over a fairly demanding course. After approximately 200 metres, all up hill, **SSgt Brian Inglis** discovered that wheelchairs do have brakes and that it is easier to push them if they are in the off position. **Sgt Bob Hales** and **LCpl Danny O'Brien** decided it should be more of a sponsored run than a walk and proceeded to sprint around the course. It wasn't clear whether the excited shouts of encouragement from those being pushed, were of enjoyment or terror, but it is enough to say that everyone completed the course in good heart. Overall, an excellent afternoon spent in truly superb company and to top it all the walk raised £205 for charity—not a bad effort!

SWINDERBY MARATHON

A team of five runners were entered by the Group for this year's Combined Services Marathon held at RAF Swinderby over a distance of 26 miles. Apart from a strong blustery wind, conditions were ideal for the race. Of the five runners in the team, only one had ever run a race of this distance before. The field consisted of 329 runners and 256 of these managed to finish inside four hours. After the first five miles, **Sgt Bob Hales** was the front runner for the Group's team followed by **Cpl Yogi Yeoman** and **Sig Wally Walters.** The aim of the team was to finish the race inside four hours, but unfortunately by the fifteen mile marker **Cpl Yeoman** and **Sig Walters** had to retire with blistered feet. **Sgt Bob Hales** at this stage was still plodding away, closely followed by **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick** and **Sgt Dave Kent**. By now the team had been running for close on four hours and so with one last concentrated effort **Sgt Bob Hales** crossed the finish line in 3 hrs 48 mins, **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick** in 3 hrs 49 mins and **Sgt Dave Kent** in 3 hrs 50 mins.

7-A SIDE RUGBY

One day, **WO1 Jim Hague** feeling bored with life, decided that the Group needed 'Pruning' and decided to organise a seven-a-side Rugby tournament to see how many of the Group's personnel could be 'killed off'.

Seven teams entered the competition, made up from different departments within the Group. It was apparent from the start that by far the strongest and most experienced team was the one entered by SPA, who completely over-ran 2 Sqn A team. In the other matches 2 Sqn B team played against a Trainees team. **Sgt 'Big John' Mortimer** decided he did not like the odds and so he created his own form of GBH to whittle down the opposition. (One broken finger, one crushed shoulder, one stitched lip etc.) His plea of 'well they stood in my way, sir' seemed to convince the referee, and the crowd and so **'Big John'** led his men to a mighty 28 pts to nil scoreline. The other match was played between RHQ and 3 Company, where the front three of the RHQ team, **WO1 (RSM) Jim Crannage, SSgt (SQMS) 'Zippo' Grocott** and **Cpl Ian (I would rather play cricket) Anderson**, used their weight and experience to destroy the faster but lighter 3 Company team. With the Trainees B team having a bye into the semi-finals, the stage was set for some entertaining rugby. The first semi-final brought together, what was generally accepted as the best two teams, SPA and 2 Sqn B team. It proved to be a very hard fought match with the only score, a try, by **Cpl Keith Armstrong**, separating the two teams in the end. In the other semi-final RHQ just managed to win a very close match against the Trainees B team, and so that meant a final between SPA and RHQ. Although RHQ tried valiantly, led by **WO2 (QSMI) Brian Pyle**, SPA were not to be denied, and they ran out worthy winners with tries by **Cpl Keith Armstrong, Cpl Gi Whiteford, Sgt Keith Holt** and **LCpl Billy Freear**.

So ended what was a very enjoyable competition, with **WO1 Jim Hague** achieving his objective in whittling down the number of trainees thanks to his 'hit man' **Sgt John Mortimer. Lt Col John Dobson** presented the medals to the winners and runners-up.

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GCHQ

WELSH 1000 METRE PEAKS RACE

Just two weeks before the Welsh 1000 metre Peaks Race, the Group decided to enter the event. The team consisted of two ladies **Capt Kate Dyer** and **Capt Angela Wood** with **Sgt Bob Hales** and **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick**. Incidentally **Kate** and **Angela** were the only female competitors. After meeting at a campsite near Bangor, North Wales, it was time to start the race. The competitors had nine hours to cover 21 miles (so they said) as the crow flies, but it was more like 30 miles as the squaddie walks . . . The finish to be the peak of Snowdon. **Sgt Bob Hales** managed to complete the course with 20 minutes to spare and our gallant female element managed to complete the course in 9½ hours. **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick**, not wishing to pay for the hire of a helicopter to evacuate him from the mountain, retired at the foot of Mount Snowdon with a sprained ankle. An enjoyable weekend, but not for the unfit or the fainthearted . . .

CRICKET

Cricket is booming in the Group at the present time, in this the first season, as Comms & Sy Gp (UK) and in line with other sports are already a force to be reckoned with. We have so far reached the final of the Eastern District's Knockout Cup (which we won last year as 224 Sig Sqn). The side has been strengthened by the addition of one or two good players, namely **SSgt John Sinden, Sgt Stu Parrish, WO1 Andy Peyton** and **Cpl Chris Marshall. John, Stu** and **Chris** are representing the Corps team this season. All the signs are that we are going to enjoy a very successful season.

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

We say farewell to **SSgt Brian Libby** and **LCpl Alex Anderson** and wish them well in their new Units. At the same time, we welcome **WO1 Dave Smith, Sgt Mick Smith** (no relation), **Sgt Bill Parry** and **Cpl Bob Coulling.** May your tour with the Group be a happy one.

VISITS

On Thu 19 May the Group was honoured with a visit by the SOinC **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE.** Although the visit was run to a very tight schedule, **Maj Gen Birtwistle** still managed to meet many of the Group's personnel and tour all the Group's activities. The photograph shows the SOinC being met by the CO, **Lt Col John Dobson** with the Adjutant, **Capt Bill Clark**, and the **RSM WO1 Jim Crannage** both in attendance.

On 3 June the Navy came 'in-shore' when the Group was visited by **Rear Admiral J. K. Robertson**. During his visit to the Group, the Admiral presented the LS&GC medal to **Sgt 'Taff' Crowley.**

THE HIGH LIFE

Half past six on a Saturday morning found twenty members of Comms & Sy Gp (UK) outside the Guardroom at Garats Hay, all bright eyed and bushy tailed (at least that was the theory). All set we were for the unit's first basic parachuting course. After all there's nothing to it, is there? Gravity makes you come down and the parachute does the rest. If you really believe that, try telling your wife, girlfriend, mate—maybe even the SSM—that you are going parachuting and watch the expression on their face. Incredulity is swiftly followed by a look of satisfaction or concern as they realise that you really are as lunatic as they had always suspected.

NOTHING LIKE IT

However hard they try, no-one can tell you what jumping out of an aircraft at 2500 ft feels like. As with a few other activities in life, you have to know it for yourself. Anyway, our twenty adventurers were not all novice. **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick**, who really organised the whole thing, is a fairly experienced parachutist having, amongst other achievements, completed a free-fall course at Sennelager and having certificates from no fewer than five basic parachuting courses! **LCpl Mark Turner** is also no newcomer, having come to Comms & Sy Gp as a trained parachutist.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LANDING

The course was civilian run and short but quite intense. Classroom instruction in the theory of parachuting and all the do's and don'ts lasted about six hours. After that there was about four hours practical ground instruction in aircraft drills, emergency drills, how to fit a parachute harness and, perhaps most importantly, parachute landing falls. Why most important? Well other people can pack your parachute, put you in the aircraft, fly you to a height and, if need be, push you out. The parachute will bring you down without any help. However, landing is the bit you have to get right all by yourself. What is parachute landing like? The instructors told us that 'It's like jumping off a 4 ft table onto the ground', which is not too difficult. It was only some way into the course that they added " . . . blindfold and travelling backwards at 5 mph or forward at 15 mph." Ah well, 'If you can't take a joke, etc.'

READY TO GO

By the time we had completed the ground training we were all 'psyched up' and rearing to get into an aircraft and go. At this point we learned another lesson of parachuting. Patience! Very sensibly, the instructor will not allow a jump unless the windspeed is less than 10 mph. Eventually, the call to the aircraft came and the first four trudged off in full kit, with fixed grins on their faces and minds full of rapid rehearsal of all the drills.

UP AND AWAY

Into the aircraft then. Packed four plus an instructor in the back of a small Cessna with no door. Rather like sardines in a tin, placed on its side without the lid. But then falling out is the eventual aim. At 2500 ft, the pilot throttled back to reduce the slipstream and Number One of the trainees shuffled up the floor of the aircraft until he was sitting in the doorway with his legs dangling in the fresh air.

LAST IS LONELY

There is more than one opinion as to which number it is best to have. Number One takes the leap into the unknown first but, however uncomfy he may feel about it, can't really fail with an instructor and three pairs of DMS boots behind him, inches from his back. Anyway, he is quickly out of his suspense. Numbers Two and Three forget their own worries in the consuming curiosity to see what some other idiot looks like falling through space. Number Four, the last out, sees it differently. The aircraft is empty except for pilot and the instructor, grinning wolfishly, who beckons you into position. No difficulty there; lots of room to move about in and you have, by then, got bored of seeing intense or plain worried faces disappearing out of the door and have had time to rehearse the drills in your mind. Being last is lonely.

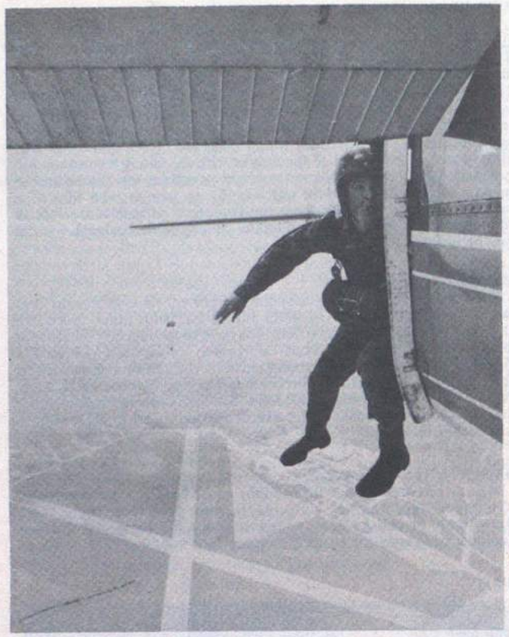
THE FIRST JUMP

At last you have arrived in position for exit. Well, that's why you came ain't it? Ground doesn't look real, just like a photograph. Come on! Get with it and concentrate. Oh, . . .! The pilot's operating a wing mounted camera to record the historic moment. Please, please don't let me be sick now. Hands in position. Braced and set. 'Go!' from the instructor. Don't think, just move. Muscles seem full of lead as you push out and turn X-shaped to face the airflow. Can't smile for the camera while yelling a four second count. The aircraft seems to rocket away into the sky. 'Check!' Look up and there it is, that big, safe, mushroom canopy open above you. Cracked it!

FLY THE 'CHUTE

Now it feels like fun. Way up in the sky and no sensation of falling, just the wind blowing gently. Now see if you can fly the 'chute the way you were taught. Reach up for the toggles that you can't see but should be just above you head. Got them. Just where the instructor said they would be. Pull down on the right one. It works. The 'chute slowly turns round and tries to fly into wind. This is great! Try once more pulling on the left toggle. What's that mucky-looking thing you can see between your feet? Yes, that must be the drainage pond for the pig farm that they warned us about. Pig farm! Where's the airfield! Stop playing games and let the 'chute run downwind as fast as it can to get you into the drop zone.

Cpl Paul Glazzard
'Oh, happy day!'



Sig Jimmy McGhee
'But . . . but . . . but!'

Cpl 'Beans' Bamforth
'Let me go!'

BACK TO EARTH

No good. Not going to make it. Choose somewhere else, fast. That field looks good but what about the hedge? Too late to worry now. No choice. Should clear it anyway. Ground seems to rush up now and is also streaming by under your feet, very quickly. You haven't turned the 'chute into wind to slow your ground speed. Quick! You've probably left it to late already. Brace! Feet together; knees together. Good old 'chute has braked off almost all speed across the ground. Back—right landing . . . Now! The earth feels very good and, what is more, so do you. Even the cow-pats smell fresh.

FUNNY STORIES

So, back to barracks with a fistful of funny stories. **Sig Jock Campbell's** first ever flight in any aircraft and he jumps out of it! A 100% score of take-offs without landings must be some kind of record. **Sig Tim Howe** who managed his first descent under two canopies both his main and reserve 'chutes having deployed. No, you don't come down any slower that way. 'Honest Sarge, I never touched it!' The unknown soldier, who never turned his 'chute and was last seen disappearing face first into a field of barley at a good fifteen knots, making like a plough. **Sig 'Beefy' Allmark** who managed to land one side of a hedge with his chute on the other side. Knotty problem that one. And the unit 2IC, **Maj Owen Lewis** who, despite being old enough to have learned sense, made like a bird for the first time but managed to miss an airfield 1.5 km by 2.5 km. A feat the instructors reckoned was impossible. **'Beefy' Allmark** kept him company in this achievement however, on the premise 'Anything you can do . . .'

SO MUCH FUN

With so much fun from a short course, it is little wonder that eight of the group are continuing parachuting with the aim of free-falling in the near future. There also seems enough enthusiasm for a second basic course to be run this year, on which we hope to see some of the WRAC girls. Do try it if the opportunity of sport parachuting comes your way. Alternatively, come to Comms & Sy Gp (UK) and we'll give you a new perspective on life. Learning something new is always worthwhile and, maybe, you'll learn something about yourself too.

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SCHOOL OF SIGNALS SPORTS DAY

Luck held out and on one of the few sunny afternoons we experienced in June the School of Signals Athletics and Tug-O-War Inter-team Competition was set in motion by our attractive announcer, **Lt Clarrisa Woodcock WRAC,** calling competitors for the first event, the 5000 metres. On the start line eight competitors lined up to do battle and were sent on their way by our starter **Capt (TOT) Bob McKay** who also was the meeting organiser. Meanwhile under the eagle eye of our Chief Field Judge, **QMSI Lenny Crawford** of 30 Sig Regt, the Javelin and Triple Jump competitors had started. An excited and cheering crowd of spectators greeted the 5000 metre winner, **2Lt Simon Renfrey** of 19 CQ Course, who later also took the 1500 metres title. His team colleague, **2Lt Colin McGrory,** won the 800 metres giving the Instructional Wing Team a good points lead. With a throw of 43.85 metres **Cpl James Smith** of Trials Squadron Team won the Javelin event and 31.72 metres gave him the winner's medal for the Discus. **Cpl Roger Crossley** of HQ Squadron Team won the Triple Jump and our clerk of the course, **SSI Dave Hoare,** helped to increase their points total by winning the Shot Putt. The High Jump competition attracted a lot of attention with an eventual surprise win for **2Lt Malcolm Coupar** of 19 CQ Course.

Back on the track again Long Jump winner, **Sgt Charlie Dowie** of 46 FofS Course, won easily the 100 metres sprint event and runner-up, **Cpl Kev Luckham** of 1 Sqn, made sure of the 200 metres title. In a time of 54.0 seconds **WO1 (FofS) Jan Jasiok** won the 400 metres. The last track event, the 4 x 100 metres relay, gave victory to the Instructional Wing Team increasing their overall points lead and making them the Inter-team Champions 1981.

The last event on the programme was the Tug-O-War Final and Team Coach, **SSgt (FofS) 'Bonner' Law** of Trials Squadron, saw his keen team easily defeat 1 Sqn with two straight pulls.

The Commandant, **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE,** presented the prizes to bring the meeting to a fitting close.

2Lt Coupar—High Jump Winner

Tug-o-War Team

Qatar Armed Forces

UPS AND DOWNS

Since our report a year ago the team in Qatar has weakened, having recently lost **Lt Cdr Tony Wray,** to retirement, without replacement. However, we are not expecting this trend to continue; indeed, we should have a tri-service team in the near future with the arrival of three RAF flying instructors. Other changes are the departure of **Cdr Jack Gale,** the arrival of his successor **Cdr Mike Hunter,** and we look forward to the arrival shortly of **WO1 Geoffrey Leach** REME to swell our numbers.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE DISABLED

The British community in Qatar, with the approval of the government, decided to raise funds for the Disabled Unit at St Thomas's Hospital, London, as their contribution to the International year of the Disabled. Following the success of our sponsored swim in 1979, we decided to do our bit to swell the funds. Consequently we organised another swim during the Easter school holiday, but on a grander scale than in 1979. The event was held at the pool of the luxury Ramada Hotel in Doha, complete with sideshows, snacks, and a raffle. The first swimmers entered the water at the drop of a flag, controlled by His Excellency **Mr Colin Brant CVO**, British Ambassador to Qatar, and this was followed by three hours of hard swimming by sixty three young people aged 4 to 18 years.

It took a long time to gather in the sponsor money, but having done so and balanced up the books, we had raised the incredible sum of QR 33,478.75. At the exchange rate valid at the time of writing this converts to £4,770.00. The Qatar wide target is £10,000 and so we have contributed almost half and we are all feeling very smug about it.

The Ambassador starts the swim

The proceeds are handed over

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

THE CONCEPT

At last sanity returns to RHQ. The RSM's office has been restored from a map store. What's happened? Hadrian's Hike is over. The idea of the hike was conceived in Mar 81 when the RSM **WO1 Barrie Hives** spent 5 minutes reading the Nijmegan Marches file and found that the regiment had not been included. He decided that what the North East wanted was a march of its own and recruited the help of **WO2 Sandy Catterall.** With the blessing of the Commander Training Group R Signals, Hadrian's Hike started to take shape. It was decided that each R Signals unit in the North East would enter 2 teams to walk 60 miles in 3 days along Hadrian's Wall. Teams from the Junior Regt R Signals, 8 Sig Regt and 11 Sig Regt accepted. Unfortunately AAC Harrogate had just accepted their new intake and could not enter. A small team from the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital took turn in walking and assisting throughout the hike.

Our Hadrian Hikers—*from left to right:* WO2 Harry Johnson, Sgt Paul Bettin RAPC, Mrs Mary Underwood, LCpl Mac McIntosh, LCpl Brian Hibbert leaning on Sgt Joe Gill and LCpl Sammy Lee. In the background the RSM, WO1 Barrie Hives looks suitably unimpressed!

UP AND AWAY

After much planning and recceing, the teams assembled on the airfield in Albemarle Barracks on 9 Jul. After a complete briefing the Sgts Mess entertained the WO/SNCOs while the Phoenix Club looked after the JNCO/Sigs. The next morning all teams prepared to depart, some feeling better than others. The first day was about 22 miles and took the hikers to the Roman fort at Houseteads on the military road, Northumberland. The sun blazed all day and although the walkers tried to resist the temptation they had to retire to a pub for lunch. All arrived safely at the base camp where our two lovely nurses from the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital administered first aid to the blistered feet. A film was arranged for the evening and all retired by 2300hrs. At midnight a thunderstorm! It was still loud and clear at 0600hrs Saturday morning, but did subside for 52 tired bodies to crawl out and prepare for the second day.

At 0800hrs the first team departed. A further storm caught all the teams in the open. The second stage was about 26 miles, taking the marchers across the National Park towards Carlisle and the second base camp. 8 Sig Regt's Schemes Troop kept a watchful eye on them by providing safety vehicles some 7 miles apart, thereby ensuring contact with the base camp. Towards the end of the second day most of the walkers were feeling the strain but kept cheerful and enthusiastic throughout.

TRAGEDY

At this juncture, the hike was marred by the sudden and tragic death of **SSgt Les Symonds** from 8 Sig Regt who collapsed whilst apparently walking in a cheerful and unconcerned manner. Despite the rapid arrival of medical assistance, nothing could be done. The team from 8 Sig Regt Sergeants Mess withdrew from the hike, but after considerable thought it was decided that the remainder should continue, albeit in a sombre mood.

THE THIRD STRETCH AND SUCCESS

Sunday dawned a muggy day, but the first team departed at 0800hrs. The third stretch to the end was approx 20 miles, taking the walkers through Carlisle to Burgh by Sands, Cumbria. This was the testing stage! The route took them along country lanes, across farmland and through the suburbs of Carlisle. The last stretch of about six miles was along a quiet country road ending at a pub. Once again feet were repaired, thirsts quenched and the CO **Lt Col I. J. Crouch** presented all the walkers with their medallion and certificate. Because of the great success of this, the first North East Hike by R Signals Units, it has been decided to make it an annual event and possibly next year invite units from further afield. Could this be our answer to the Ten Tors?

JSSAM 81 (BISLEY)

Training started in earnest with **Sgt Brian Mower** acting as team manager/coach, admin and range/butts Officer on his own for three weeks before the arrival of **Cpl Dell Ikin** (swollen parts and all) having just recovered from an operation to save on ammunition and only fire blanks! Ponteland and Bellerby became scond homes to the shooting team even with its elephant grass.

Mon 13 June saw the selected team of 10 together with their team captain and assistant coach leaving for the sunny south of England. Eight hours of travelling saw us safely at the gates of the famous 'Bisley' Camp, our home for the week was 2 delightful 160 lb tents.

Tuesday was practice day, designed settle everyone on to the new ranges and iron out any last minute problems with weapons. Pool Bull and other prize competitions were held and **JSig (Jock) Stenhouse** even won 35p, for an outlay of 50p! Wednesday saw the start of the main competitions first of all on the SMG Range. In practice **JSig (J.J.) Jones** had done well, but nerves played a major part on the day and results were not true to form. However, team results were generally good. The next competition was the Team Snapshooting, a shoot which had been virtually impossible to practice so hopes were not too high. However, we decided to give it a go. Clearing the range obstacles which included jumping on **Sgt Brian Mower's** back to get over the wall proved popular; the team managed a time of 55 seconds and were in a good position for the second phase. However, in this phase we had our first disaster with **JSig (Jock) Stenhouse** having a hard extraction at a vital time!!!so losing valuable points. Dinner breaks were proving a success with 'pie and chips' the normal menu, followed by a spot of sunbathing. The afternoon saw our worst performance on the gallery range, when nothing seemed to go right for most people except for **J. J. Jones** and **JSgt (Goth) Gotheridge** who had good shoots. Thursday saw the team in a determined mood and again we started off on the SMG range, with practice 4 of the Hotchkiss Cup. Results were better than hoped after limited practice, and we beat out close rivals the Armoured Corps. This was followed by a return to the Gallery Range for the 500m Shoot. Here we did very well, in particular **JSig J. J. Jones** who just missed a medal place. The final shoot on Thursday was on the ETR Range and for the first time the Pirbright sun stopped and the rain appeared. However, this did not dampen spirits and with a tricky wind blowing **JCpl (Triss) Tristram** and **JLCpl (Ozy) Barker** made 2 high scores.

SHOOTING

During May, a Regimental Junior Shooting Team was formed from the junior soldiers who had passed off in April. After some very limited training, the team entered the NE District Skill at Arms Meeting (NEDSAM). Everything was new to the team, but, to everyone's surprise, they did remarkably well. The rifle team came 8th out of 53, the section team came 23rd out of 51 teams and the best pistol pair came 26th out of 90 pairs. Although no prizes were won the basis was there for a good squad.

SUCCESS AND CELEBRATION

Thursday was celebration night as from the results board we had won the 'Other Arms Cup', beating our close rivals the RAC by one point. However, both teams enjoyed a drink together and even a few songs and a dance! Cabaret was brought to the table by **Triss Tristram**, but she couldn't be enticed to sing. The boys had a special song for the Gurkhas who were running the ranges with such precision and they were glad of our appreciation. Friday morning saw the celebration had been premature as, following a re-count, the RAC had snatched the Cup by the odd point. In the afternoon the Falling Plate Competition was held with our two teams selected and ready to give it everything. The 'A' Team easily won the preliminary round then fell in the 1st round. The 'B' Team got to the second round then also fell to the favourites the Guards Depot. Following the Plate Competition the Prize Giving was held and to our pleasant surprise we had won four medals.

Overall results were as follows:

Match	*Other Arms Position*	*Overall Position (Major Units)*
Iraq Cup (SLR)	2nd	6th
Green Howards Cup (SLR)	2nd	8th
Hotchkiss Cup (SMG)	1st	6th
Team Snap	1st	6th
Overall positions	2nd	7th

Other Arms & Services Trophy		
J L RAC	1st	15 pts
Junior Regt R Signals	2nd	14 pts
J L RE	3rd	4 pts
J L RCT	4th	3 pts

Individual Honours		
Iraq Cup (200 entries)		**Prize**
3rd	**JCpl (Triss) Tristram**	Bronze medal and Bar
8th	**JLCpl (Ozy) Barker**	Bronze medal and Bar
Other Arms & Services Class		
1st	**JLCpl (Ozy) Barker**	Gold Medal and Bar
2nd	**JSgt (Goth) Gotheridge**	Silver Medal and Bar

Non-Medal positions or near misses!

JLCpl (Ozy) Barker, **JSgt (Goth) Gotheridge** } Two hits from qualifying for the rop rifle XXX

JSig (J.J.) Jones One point from a bronze medal in the Green Howards Cup.

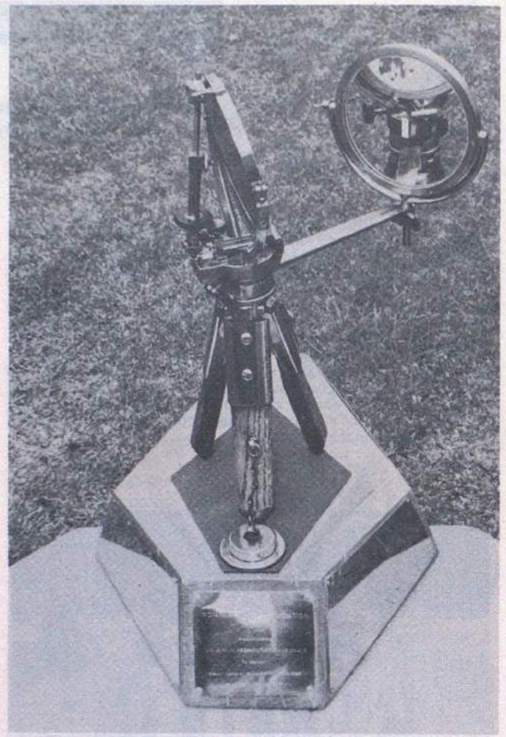
The team consisted of: **Sgt Brian Mower** (Team Manager/Captain and Coach), **Cpl Dell Ikin** (Asst Coach Vasectomy and Scar), **JSgt (Goth) Gotheridge, JLCpl (Triss) Tristram, JLCpl (Ozy) Barker, JLCpl (Geordie) Westlake, JLCpl (Bunny) Quinn, JSig (Jock) Stenhouse, JSig (JJ) Jones, JSig (Jim) Slater, JSig Terry, JSig Cotgrave.**
Reserves: **JSig (Tiny) Haynes, JCpl (Cleggy) Clegg.**

THE HELIOGRAPH

The Indian Signals Association have presented to the regiment a heliograph which has been mounted on a plinth. The presentation was made by the President of the Association, **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE**, at the annual luncheon on Sat 27 Jun in the Kings Head Hotel, Darlington. This magnificent trophy will be presented to the winners of the Champion Troop competition and will be competed for next April for the first time. The Indian Signals Association have made this presentation to commemorate the service given by their past president, **Maj Gen R. J. Moberly CB OBE** and also to complete a historical link between the young men of the Corps today and all ranks Royal Signals who served in India prior to partition in 1947.

OFFICERS MESS SILVER

As can be seen by the accompanying picture, we are very fortunate to have been lent some magnificent silver which belongs to the Middlesex Yeomanry. A formal presentation was made of the silver by one of its trustees **Col J. J. (Jumbo) Collins MC TD** Hon Sec of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association. These pieces have been hidden away in the vaults of 31 Sig Regt (V) in Hammersmith, but are now in daily use or on display. The presentation was made at a Regimental Guest night on Thu 25 Jun and also present were, the Master, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO**, CO 31 Sig Regt, **Lt Col P. R. H. Thompson TD** (V) and **Maj Whittle** OC of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sqn, a sub unit of 31 Regiment.



The Heliograph—The Indian Army Association Trophy

The silver of the Middlesex Yeomanry on loan to the Officers Mess

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

FAR AND WIDE

The Regiment has been spread far and wide as squadron and troop camps got under way. 1 Squadron held a technical camp in Pinewood Camp Liebenau where the emphasis was on refurbishing and inspecting all the commcen radio relay and terminal vehicles. 2 Squadron held a shooting camp on the ranges at Rendesburg in Schleswig-Holstein. This was also an opportunity for the squadron to say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Jim Downie,** who, on the last morning of the camp, was towed out in a bath complete with mast and sail. The soaking he received from the fire bucket was to help him acclimatise to the rigours of UK sailing. Our thanks and best wishes to **Jim** and **Sue** for their tour in Bristol. 3 Squadron took to the Hartz Mountains to carry out troop adventure training camps while the QM Dept went to North Germany, also to do adventure training, including 40-50 kilometres cycle rides, which left many sore in various parts of their anatomy.

EXERCISES

Our two major exercises for the year have been Ex *Hurst Park* and Ex *Summer Sales*. Ex *Hurst Park* was the GOC's divisional CPX held between 11-15 May while *Summer Sales* was the 1 (BR) Corps CPX 29 June-8 Jul. 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn with additional communications and administrative resources from the regiment provided the Control HQ for *Summer Sales*. Both exercises demonstrated our ability to carry out our operational role and our flexibility in meeting unforeseen exingencies. A soldier who joined the regiment just before the exercise found himself to be famous, after appearing on the personnel state board in the RCP three days in a row: The following conversation was overheard: CO: What name is that on the board? Asst Adjt: Northeast sir. CO: Not which way, which name? Asst Adjt: Oh, **Sig Northeast** sir.

SHOOTING

In the divisional skill at arms meeting our shooting team, under the captaincy of **SSgt (SQMS) Henry Banks,** finished a creditable fourth out of the twelve major units, thus qualifying for Bisley. **Sgt Campbell, Sig Neville** and **LCpl Bray** won the pistol tiles competition and a special mention must be made of **LCpl Biddlecombe** who, in his first shooting season, finished 12th in the Champion at Arms. The team is at Bisley now and we hope to be able to record more successes in the next edition of The Wire.

SPORT

ATHLETICS

Our regimental athletics meeting was held on 4 May on the all weather track in the Verden Stadt Stadium. Our guests in the meeting were athletes from our partner regiment in Germany, Fermeldebataillon 1. Some very good performances were recorded during the day including a win in the Old Soldiers race for the second year running by our QM (Admin) **Maj Eric Herrington.** The CO is already reviewing the handicap for next year. The final placings hung in the balance until the last relay race when 2 Squadron emerged as overall winners of the meeting. On 25 June Fermeldebataillon 1 held its athletics meeting, in which we entered a chain of command team of all ranks from Lieutenant Colonel to Signalman. In an exciting race the CO, **Lt Col Carr-Smith** beat **Lt Col Siegel** in the last 200 metres to give us victory. **Sgt Probin** and **LCpl Bailey** also took 1st and 2nd places in the 5,000 metres while **Sig Brebner** and **Sig Scott** gained 1st and 2nd in the 1500 metres.

GOC'S FESTIVAL OF CRICKET

The annual GOC's Festival of Cricket was held at Verden during the period 21-24 May. The GOC's X1 played the Stragglers of Asia, Hohne Garrison, Soltau Garrison and a Verden Garrison side, 10 of which were regimental players and which was the only side to gain victory over the GOC's X1. The score was GOC's X1 151 all out, Verden Garrison X1 152 for 3 with **Lt Col Carr-Smith** scoring 41 not out and **WO2 (SSM) Willock** 37 not out.

NEWS ROUND UP

Our congratulations to **Maj Eric Herrington** LI and **Maj Bill Morgan** (OC HQ Sqn) on their award of the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Also to our 2IC **Maj Nigel Wood** on being selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1982.

AG11 visited the regimet on 19 June and we hope that they left with palms suitably crossed with silver. Our thanks to the team headed by **Col Reader** for their frank and informative talks.

We have recently said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Young** (now Lieutenant) on his promotion and posting to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. our best wishes to him and **Judith** and we welcome **WO1 (RSM) Hails** and **Rita**, and wish them a happy and successful tour in the regiment.

A FERRY TO ELBA

Exercise *Aquarius Diamond* was a diving expedition off the Isle of Elba by 14 members of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt from 27 May to 6 June, the aim of which was to carry out a sustained period of diving training.

After one overnight stop with the USA Forces Recreation Centre at Chiemsee, and one on the road, the main body arrived at Piombino to catch the ferry to Elba. It was interesting to note that the exorbitant cost of the ferry tickets decreased in direct relation to our increasing ability to bargain in Italian. No sooner had the ferry cast off than a 4 Tonner was noticed still sitting on the quay, so **Sig Garry Milner** who hadn't been able to find his tickets in time, had to wait to catch the boat the following day. On arrival at the camp site the party quickly settled in and prepared to start diving on the following morning. The bay on which we camped shelved quickly away from the beach to a depth of 4 metres and then gently to 10 metres before dropping off again. This was excellent for training the novice divers as visibility was very good, even close in to the beach. A short boat trip to the east or west took us to headlands with very interesting diving, and the experienced divers were easily able to work down to 30 metres and several dives of 37 metres, the maximum allowed by the Army Sub Aqua Diving Association, were made.

The routine for each day started with a swim in the bay before breakfast, followed by a briefing for the day's diving, which for the first week was aimed at the trainees in the party, all of whom passed their basic tests. **Sgt Al Russell** of 7 Armd Wksps REME also ran a boat handlers course in the mornings and evenings and all who took part passed their final assessment. The final few days were devoted to second class training and **Lt Nick Denning, SSgt Al Halfpenny** and **Cpl Paul Hilton** could be seen tugging at each other with ropes as they prepared to do underwater rope search dives. This proved to be very useful later when **Sig Roger Smith** picked **LCpl Andy Skerritt** up by the ankles and watched him surface having lost his spectacles.

LCpl Skerritt (right) leads a diving expedition

THE CHALLENGE OF A FIRE

Our good relations with the local population were cemented after we had put out a fire which had started on a hill-side and would undoubtedly have spread very quickly if we hadn't been on the spot.

All too soon it was time to set off for home after a most rewarding and enjoyable expedition. Those who took part were: **Lt Nick Denning, SSgt (FofS) Al Halfpenny, Sgt Al Russell, Sgt Dell Pickstock, Cpl Al Taylor, Cpl Des Davoll, Cpl Steve Ellsworthy, LCpl Chris Stannard, LCpl Gary Ashley, LCpl John Fail** (ACC), **Sigs Gary Milner, Tony Casser, Roy Smith, Pte Tony Mason** (ACC), **LCpl Andy Skerritt.**

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

FROM MORRISON CUP TO ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Morrison Cup Winners: Ours again, despite the cancellation of two of our prime events! After a first day's near maximum score a relaxed, sporting victory was clinched at the end of the Meeting by two superbly exhilarating Relay Runs. The 'young upstarts' in the opposition must wait another year to try again! Congratulations too, to the Tug of War Team for reaching the final.

The Divisional Champions: Preparation for this Meeting failed to produce miracle stars for the Distance Events and we began 10 June in some disarray with **Cpl Killen** severely weakened by sickness. However, rewarding performances from our younger men, notably **Sigs Lewis** and **Westall**, set us well on our way and at the end of a nail biting afternoon, slick baton work from our improvised Relay squads saw us to a clear victory over 1 LI.

The BAOR Championship—Runners Up: Flushed with success our training performances improved and **Cpl Bird** (Long Jump), **Cpl Davies** (Hammer) and **LCpl Gabb** (Javelin) raised our hopes with ever increasing distances. On the day, the anticipated losses in the distance events left too great a margin for recovery. Nevertheless, it was an exciting competition with positions constantly changing, the final result being decided very much by the sterling efforts of our 2nd String men. **Sgt Hodds** (Shot), **Sigs Shakespeare** and **Taylor** (High Jump) and **LCpl Plevin** (800m) completed with style and determination whilst **Pte Anderson** produced a storming 3rd leg in the 4 x 400 Relay that shook the opposition and left the rest of the team hoarse as they cheered **Cpl Killen** over the line as an easy winner. 50 Missile Regt, RA took the title with the Runners-Up Shield for us. We were able to reverse this order in the field events to win the Viking Trophy for the third consecutive year.

A CREDITABLE AND HARD WON SUCCESS

The Army Championship—Third: With no free flights to help us we moved to Aldershot by car and though training was decidedly damp 27 July proved warm and dry for the climax of our season. Despite a disappointing morning, lightened only by a fine 2nd String Hammer throw by **LCpl Yates**, we began the afternoon in determined style. **Maj Reed** and **Sgt Priddice** produced valuable maximum points in the Discus and once again **Cpl Killen** (now the Army Decathlon Champion and Record Holder) produced another powerful win in the 400 metre Hurdles. **Sig Lewis** swept to the tape in an easy 100 metre success, to lift us into third place. Fighting efforts in the remaining events reinforced our position and so we ended the season having been beaten only by the BAOR Champions and by the new Army Champions (a very strong team) 1 IG. Well done the team—a creditable and hard won success.

KOHIMA 1981

Once again the regiment has returned to the memories of the Second World War and celebrated that well known, at least by 2 Armd Div battle of Kohima. For those of you who could not make the battle, it took place in early 1944 when the Japanese forces had pushed across the Chindwin River and surrounded Imphal and Kohima (two villages in northern Burma). The 2nd Division were rushed to the area from some 2,000 miles away and after 12 days and a great deal of fighting, with a perimeter of no more than 350 yards in any direction, the Division turned the Japanese advance into a retreat.

This year the battle was remembered in the usual way . . . lots of drink, food and fun, in that order. After many weeks of planning things started to take shape with the arrival of **Brig the Rev C. Nettleship OBE, TD,** who commanded the Signal Regiment at the battle, and about twenty 'old and bold' who had made their way from the UK just for the celebrations. First on the list was the Grand Charity Ball which was held at the Stadtgarten in Bunde on 11 June. This event was organised by the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs and was attended by local officials and members of the Officers and Sgts Messes. It was an excellent night starting with the arrival of the officers and guests in a 'Red Double-decker London Bus', for Majors and 'Crusty Captains', and a 'Noddy Train' for the Subalterns and the CO, **Lt Col Sam Cowan**. The evening ended(?) with **Capt Jimmy Akehurst** auctioning three 'great' prizes—well he said they were! Once again our thanks must go to **WO1 (RSM) Neillings** and the members of the Sgts Mess for an excellent night's entertainment. I thing that some of the 'old boys' felt worse after that one night than they did after twelve days of fighting.

The Kohima Memorial and those who remember it well

The GOC Maj Gen Farndale takes the march past at the Kohima Memorial Service

THANK YOU LADIES

Then came the big day of the fete and the weather was perfect. The locals swarmed into the camp, attracted by the results of 1 Sqn's advertising effort co-ordinated by **Lt 'British' Leyland** and **LCpl 'who wants a poster' Eric Ball**. At 1430 the fun began with a fanfare and then the opening addressed by **Lt Col Cowan** and the **Burgermeister** of **Bunde, Herr Herbert Voss**. The crowd had hardly stopped clapping when the men of the Joint Services Parachute Association from Bad Lippspringe made their first descent of the afternoon. The rest of the afternoon was split between the arena and a whole host of side shows, laid on by all the departments of the regiment. Once again we were pleased to see the wives doing 'their bit' with their White Elephant, cake and handicraft stalls. Many thanks to you ladies, we don't know what we would do without you!

A GREAT DISPLAY

The main attraction of the day was the display by the RAF. There was hardly any movement on the ground as a Harrier 'Jump Jet' was put through its paces combining hovers, slow and fast flypasts, in a fantastic display of skill by the pilot. The display by the RAF ended with a short flying demonstration of the Puma Helicopter. We are indebted to the pilots and men from the RAF Gutersloh for putting on this part of the afternoon's entertainment.

This year the proceeds from the Charity Ball and Fete are going to the Jimmy Savile Stoke Mandeville Appeal and a local charity, which has still to be nominated.

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Lt Adam Ewell of 1 Squadron receives his just desserts

VETERANS PRESENT

The celebrations ended this year with a Memorial day service, which was based on the order of service for the Unveiling of the War Memorial of the Second Infantry Division at Aldershot in 1951. During the service, which was attended by many families, the Lesson was read by the CO, **Lt Col Cowan**, and the reading by the GOC 2 Armd Division, **Maj Gen M. B. Farndale CB**. We were all honoured and pleased that **Brig the Rev C. Nettleship** agreed to read the address, before doing a quick change act so that he could join the veterans in the Regimental march past.

The veterans left for the UK a few days later, happy with the knowledge that the Division still remembers the battle and those who died during it. Next year will be the 2 Armd Division's last Kohima before it reverts to the title of 2 Inf Div. Let's hope that we can manage the same as this year despite the fact that the great driving force of **Jimmy 'I'm on my way to Hongkong' Akehurst** to help us. You never know he might be able to rustle up some of the 'opposition' for the next one!

12 ARMD BDE SIG SQN

The first week in May was taken up by Ex *Queen's Crown*, as a result of which our recce officer, **Capt Frank Atkins**, has been asked to avoid fields of garlic in the future. Our catering department, notably the Belize-bound **LCpl Bob Mayes**, weren't sure whether the location wasn't a subtle dig at their culinary products.

The end of May featured a week of jollying in the form of a number of 'sport and leisure' activities. Volleyball, basketball, a tug-of-war, a shooting competition and hockey were the order of the week. **Pte 'Ted' Carr** exhibited a previously unknown ability to 'keep' a hockey goal; **Sig Pete Thomas** displayed a flair for basketball, and **Sigs 'Toff' Childs, 'Fozzy' Foster** and **Steve Firth** showed an ability for orienteering: Possible new recruits for the Orienteering Team?

ORIENTEERING TO THE FORE

May was also a month for the orienteering team to remember: The writer is a discipline of the 'Thought Sport' but we can honestly pat ourselves on the back for coming 2nd in the Divisional Minor Units Championship, and 5th in the BAOR event. **Sig Rich Cressey** went on to compete in the Army finals and managed to hold his own, whilst not adding to his silver collection.

PRESENTATIONS

In mid-June the CO came down from Bunde to present the LS&GC to **WO2 (FofS) John Smith** (now living in the Blandford Bowl, wondering how he managed to escape) and **Sgt Roy Smith** (now working on his own escape, too, we think!)

MISCELLANEA

Summer Sales for us meant two week's sitting in a field of mud communicating and running the divisional Lowcon site. All rather boring but I'm told the volleyball score at the exercise close was something like:

Sig Ops Mafia 5
Complex Rats 3
(Hard Rover hit-men still building their team!)

We now look forward to a fairly long summer which will allow us all to get our leave in as well as giving time for military training, Baltic Sailing and a border patrol before we umpire the autumn exercise.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

THE MÖHNE FEST

The Möhne Fest is a large fair held annually by the regiment on the sportsfield. It is one of the most spectacular events of the regimental year and is open to all. As in all events of this kind, there are far too many people involved behind the scenes to mention all of them. **Cpl 'Scooby' Roberts** RPC and his team did a lot of hard work setting up the marquees. One of the most popular stalls was the ducking stool organised and run by **Cpl 'Buster' Harris** and the lads from November Troop. **Sgt Bob Hope**, 'the phantom voice', struck again on the PA system. The money raised, some DM3250, went to charity; DM2250 for a PRI video to BMH Iserlohn, DM500 to the Red Cross and DM450 for the Save the Children Fund. Well done lads!

'I'll get you sunshine!' SM Dick Hamilton takes a dive on the ducking stool

The Regimental 2IC, Maj Jerry Funnell giving a cheque to Herr Hans Kaldewei for the German Red Cross

FAREWELL COLONEL

Fri 17 July was a sad day for the regiment. **Col Roy Maynard** spoke briefly to the regiment on the square before being driven to the gate on the GOC's hard rover. This was only one of many farewells. The sergeants, the officers, the ladies all said farewell in their own way, along with numerous personal good wishes for the future. How did **Col Roy** and **Jill** manage to survive? Congratulations on your promotion Colonel, and we wish you both every success for the future.

A parting gift to the regiment. Col Roy presents the Maynard Cup—to be given to the best all round sportsman of the year—to Cpl Sammy Green. Sammy has represented the regiment at cross-country, athletics, soccer and boxing

The handover of the regiment recorded in the Regimental History. The end of an era for Lt Col Maynard but a beginning for Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh MBE

The ladies of the regiment saying farewell to Mrs Jill Maynard and Mrs Diane Kirkman

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For full details please contact Dina Shobbrook, our Recruitment Officer on Cheltenham (0242) 21491 Ext 2269 or write to her at:-

Recruitment Office, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 5AJ.

GCHQ

Col Roy was given a right royal send off by the Sergeants Mess. A Mercedes, the Colonel's favourite car, was commissioned specially for the occasion. RSM John Kirkman, who will leave at the end of August himself, was the host

A sad moment as Col Royston Maynard is escorted to the front gate by the regiment on the General's hard rover. The driver was Sig Eddy Beale. The commander was LCpl Steve Littlewood

206 (6 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

Once again 206 headed south to Bavaria on the annual adventure training camp. With Zugspitz still closed, we had to content ourselves with lesser peaks. However, the Heimgarten Clam proved more than compensating. **SSgt Derek Reynolds** found a good stretch of the River Iser for canoeing; at weekends it turned into the local nudist colony for all of Munich. **SSgt Bob Rylance** and **Cpl 'Taff' Thomas** ran the rock climbing. They managed to find a 125 ft crag which looked daunting to beginners. However, all succeeded in getting up. One of the more spectacular events during the camp was the dramatic rescue of **Cpl 'Muppet' Mabbott** by **Cpl 'JR' John Rutland. Muppet** fell badly from a rock face and in spite of receiving severe rope burns, **JR**, hanging on, just managed to break the fall. He then rushed to the bottom and drove the unconscious **Mabbott** to hospital. **Muppet** is back to his old reckless self.

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

DIVISION CRICKET FINAL

The regiment won its way through to the final for the second year in succession, after good wins against 4 Armd Wkps REME by 89 runs and 71 A C Wkps (last year's winners) by 8 wickets. The Cup Final on our own ground against 25 Field Regt RA who were strongly fancied, we won the toss, elected to bat and were immediately in trouble, off only the second ball of the match, when **LCpl Jeffery Watts** was caught at fine leg for 0. At the other end his brother **Cpl Billy Watts** settled down for a good 2nd wicket partnership of 67, with **WO2 Colin Pursooth**. Both these went, with **Billy Watts** getting 28 and **Colin Pursooth** 36. **WO2 Mick Raybould** went for the big hit and was well caught on the boundary, bringing in **Maj Nigel Brown** WFR; he scored a good 20, the CO **Lt Col Alan Eastburn** made 8 before he was run out. **Sig Steve Miles**, a quick 12 and tail ender **Sgt Tony Lea** 16 not out, left the score at 164 for 9 off the allotted 30 overs. The bowling honours for the Gunners were evenly distributed.

BOWLING BRINGS VICTORY

When the Gunners batted **LCpl Brian Johnson**, their No 1 batsman, he started in fine style—but no-one seemed able to stay with him, with the notable exception of **Bdr Tony Holmes**, who made 24, the last 5 wickets falling for 7 runs. Our bowlers did rather well with **Cpl Billy Watts** 4 wickets for 5 runs, **Sgt Dick Woodvine** 2 for 13, **Maj Clive Collier** 2 for 22, **Sgt Tony Lea** and **WO2 Colin Pursooth** getting one each. And so the regiment came out on top by 87 runs and go on to meet the winners of the 2nd Armd Div Cup in the BAOR Semi Final.

BAOR INDIVIDUAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a build up to the athletics season, eleven athletes from the regiment were entered into the BAOR individual athletics meeting at Sennelager on 27/28 May. Good performances were achieved by all those competing from the Unit with more notable achievements from **Cpl Mick Morgan** and **Cpl Del East**, first and third respectively in the 110m hurdles and third places to **Cpl Geordie Wandless**—3000m Steeple Chase, **LCpl Andy Watson** RPC—400m and **SSgt Steve May**—Triple Jump. **Cpl Mick Morgan**, who is ranked first in the Army in the 110m hurdles was again selected for the Army team.

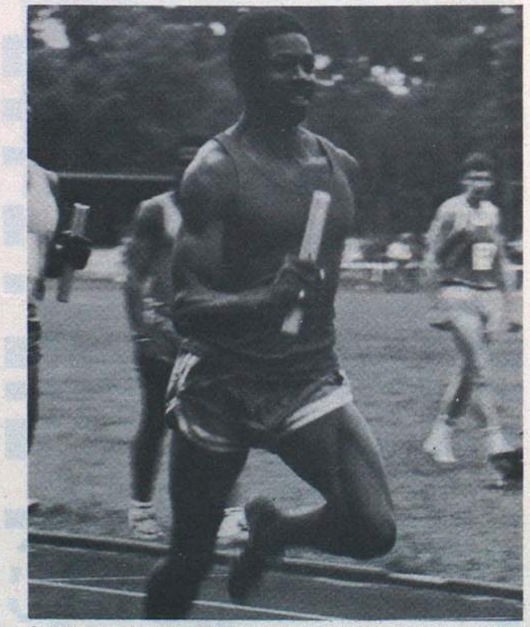
MORRISON CUP

The first opportunity to see the athletes perform as a team, came in the Morrison Cup. With only a comparatively small squad of twenty one athletes, all of them competing in more than one event, we viewed our chances of improving on our last year's position of fifth as quite good.

The first day of the competition saw the regiment's athletes reaching the 'A' finals of their events and with the completion of the first days field events we found ourselves to be in fourth position behind the big three, namely 2 Div Sig Regt, 3 Div Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt.

On day two of the competition our hopes took a setback, when two of our more fancied events, the 400m hurdles and the pole vault were cancelled due to the very wet conditions. As the day progressed however, and with fine performances from our sprinters and middle

Cpl 'Del' East well clear of the opposition in the 100m Hurdles



Sig Winston Mattis anchoring the winning 4 x 100m relay team with a smile

distance men, namely **Cpls Mick Morgan** and **Del East, Sigs Winston Mattis** and **Jamie Alleyne, LCpl Andy Watson, Cpls John Tyreman, Tom Pollard** and **Steve Fisher** and excellent throwing by **Cpls 'Hitch' Hitchen, Tom Morgan** and **Sgt Dave Arnold** RAOC, we progressed to third position 2 points behind 2 Div and 8 points behind 3 Div with only the relays to run. After a quick calculation and having assessed the opposition, we realised that the team we had to beat was 3 Div and therefore make up a deficit of 8 points. An excellent run by the 100m relay team saw us finish in second place to 2 Div with 3 Div in fifth—six points recovered. The 400m relay, in which we led for 3¼ of the four laps, saw **LCpl Andy Watson** pipped at the post by **Cpl Killen** of 2 Div with 3 Div in third place—a further 2 points recovered, which, by our calculations placed us in equal second position with 3 Div. Our jubilation was short lived however, when we heard the news that 21 Sig Regt had been disqualified in the 100m relay, thereby elevating 3 Div from fifth to fourth position in that event and giving them an extra two points and undisputed second place overall.

Despite this setback we thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and were pleased to have been involved in what must have been one of the closest fought Morrison Cup competitions for many years. We would like to convey our thanks to the organisers, 13 Sig Regt and **Maj John Radford** for a well organised meeting, despite the atrocious conditions and to 28 Sig Regt and **Maj Ray Etheridge** for making us so welcome at Francisca Barracks.

DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 4 Armd Division championships were held at Sennelager on 11 June, giving the team just enough time to get their breath back after the Morrison Cup. In contrast to the Morrison Cup, the pressure was on us, as holders of the Divisional Trophy to defend our title in the face of mainly unknown opposition.

After the first event of the day, the 5000m and despite good runs by **Cpl Steve Fisher** and **LCpl 'Jamie' James**, we found ourselves fourteen points adrift of the lead. As the morning progressed, however, we gradually pegged back the points and personal best throws by **Capt 'Mac' MacCombie** APTC and **LCpl Dave Hart** in the hammer saw us in second place at the lunch break, six points behind the leaders 35 Regt RA.

With our strongest events yet to be run, team manager **Lt Dave Poole** was looking slightly less concerned and with fingers crossed behind his back confidently predicted to the CO, **Lt Col Alan Eastburn**, that the day would be ours. The prediction coincided with a great revival and a string of first places by **Sigs Jamie Alleyne, Winston Mattis** and **Ian Shaw, Cpls John Tyreman, Dave Meggitt, 'Titch' Davies, LCpl 'Hammy' Hamilton** and **Pte Roy Flowers** RPC and second positions by **Cpl 'Geordie' Wandless** and **Sig Dave Clarke**, plus wins in both the relay races saw us well clear in the lead by 69 points from our old friends and rivals 7 Sig Regt in second place, both teams qualifying for the BAOR Championships. The Divisional Athletics trophy was presented by the GOC, **Maj Gen J. B. Akehurst CBE** to **Lt Dave Poole** who was then ceremoniously dunked in the water jump pit.

Lt Dave Poole surfacing after having been 'Baptised' by the victorious athletics team

BAOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

With strong entry of teams from all 4 Divisions plus Rhine area, the first day of the competition consisted mainly of heats to decide who would go forward to the 'A' or 'B' finals the following day. With again excellent performances by our sprinters and middle distance men, all our athletes qualified in the 'A' finals of their events and with a good showing in the three field events held, found ourselves to be in sixth position at the end of day one. The first event of day two, the 5000m, saw us drop to seventh position but with the knowledge that we would gain a minimum of 10 points in each of the track events yet to be run, we were fairly confident that we could improve our position and make ground on 1 WFR and 1 LI lying in fifth and six places.

Personal best performances by **Cpls Tom Pollard** and **Del East** in the 800m and High Jump respectively, saw the team string together a number of results producing near maximum points and with the relay events yet to be run, found ourselves in third position ahead of 21 Sig Regt and the two infantry units with the remainder of the teams out of contention. Despite slightly depleted squads, the two relay teams ran exceptionally well, with gutsy performances by our two stand-in runners, **LCpl Paul Nelson** ACC and **Cfn 'Jock' Hardie** REME, gaining third and fourth places in the 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m respectively, to consolidate our third place overall and extend our lead over the fourth placed team to 39 points.

ANGLING—4 DIV HOTRODS

The small but select club has once again been at the water's edge for the past few months. One of the main competitions in this year's calendar was the 4 Armoured Division Championships. The match took place on the River Weser on 15 Jul and 14 teams of five took part. Unfortunately the 'Hotrods' couldn't retain the trophy that they won last year although, until all the results were tabulated, it seemed as though they were in with a shout. Still, well done Detmold Garrison and we'll take our trophy back next year.

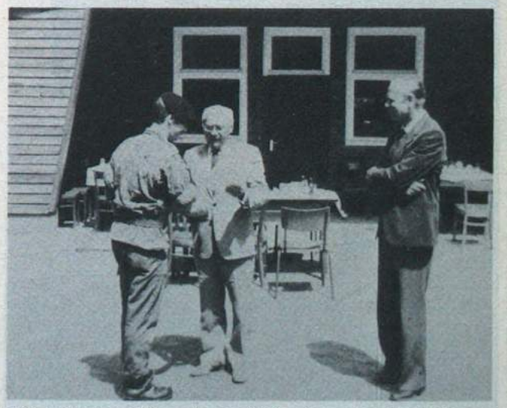
The BAOR Championships are the next big match and this year we will be fielding two teams in the final. A very good achievement considering that the B team consists of 5 novice anglers. Perhaps we can improve on our 6th place last year.

On top of all the club activities—League—KO—Tri Matches and Anglo-German affairs, a series of matches were held to determine the top 10 from the Division to compete for a place in the BAOR team. The following members of the 'Hotrods' got into the top 10:- **Capt Henry Jennings, WO1 Jim McClarence, Cpl Kev Kelly, Cpl Jim Read.** Of the three final matches for a place in the BAOR team, the first two proved to be real gruellers—most of the top matchmen struggling to catch. However, on the last match the water came into its own and produced a string of good weights. **Capt Henry Jennings** and **Cpl Kev Kelly** were selected to fish for the 15 strong BAOR team. Perhaps the icing on the cake was the fact that both **Capt Jennings** and **Cpl Kelly** were subsequently selected to fish for the Army team in the Inter Services Competition in the UK.

SHOOTING MATCH USING BUNDESWEHR WEAPONS

On Sat 13 June, 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn were invited to send a team of four to join the SLO, **Mr Roy Dobin**, as the representatives of the British Army to shoot in the annual match organised by VKK 352, the local German TA, at Cammer Ranges. Teams taking part included those from local government, the police, the Bundeswehr, German TA and reservists and local shooting clubs.

After a disappointing start in the pistol competition, the team recovered its name by putting in the best results in the rifle shoot. Both pistol and rifle were those used by the Bundeswehr; the Walther P38 and the G3 rifle. **LCpl Levins** distinguished himself by putting in the best individual result with the rifle by scoring 48 out of 50.



LCpl Levins receiving his certificate from the Head of local government in Kries Minden-Lubbecke

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

VISIT BY HAYLANDS BOYS CLUB

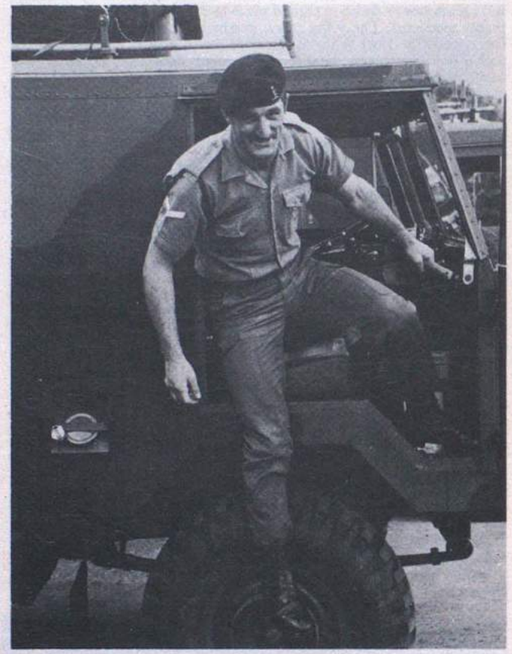
Sixteen boys from Bedford accompanied by four social workers, visited the regiment for a week and were given a dose of 'basic recruit' style training by 3 Squadron. Instruction included making beds—army fashion, drill, weapon training and first aid. The boys, most of whom had never seen the inside of a barracks or been outside Bedford, thoroughly enjoyed their stay. The training culminated in a 36 hour map reading and camping exercise. Blisters were equally shared between the boys and **Duncan Innes,** an ex-member of the regiment, who dreamed up the idea of taking the club 'somewhere different'. After the exercise the 2IC **Maj Roy Shiner** presented each boy with a memento of their visit and a plaque for their Clubroom.

Maj Roy Shiner presents a roll of sticky plaster to Michael for having most blisters

PERSONALITY PARADE

Sgt Alan Cook and **LCpl Martin George** both of 6 Sqn are shortly bound for foreign climes. **Sgt Cook** is off to Australia as part of the 'Long Look' programme. His attachment is with the 1st Australia Signal Regiment, Brisbane, and **Alan** being a Geordie we feel there is bound to be a slight language problem. He has promised to bring us all a stick of rock back! **LCpl Taff George** is off globe trotting in Wales as a member of the regiments KAPE tour. Proudly displaying his recently won BAOR rugby cap, **Taff** looks forward to the tour and the chance to be understood by other people!

Sgt Cook



LCpl Taff George

A RIGHT ROYAL CELEBRATION

Pop, cakes, jelly and fancy hats were in abundance at the Enger married quarter estate near Herford on Wed 29 July. This memorable occasion was celebrated in true army fashion, as the residents, headed by **Mrs Eileen Ellis,** wife of **Sgt Ellis,** 7 Sig Regt, set too to entertain the children. Lines of colourful bunting, hundreds of Union Jacks and naturally scores of red Welsh dragons decorated the local BFPS School, adding a carnival atmosphere to the great day. Towards evening the children toddled home full of the delights of their splendid tea and no doubt many a tummy ache.

FOCUS ON 4 SQUADRON

Sqn Personalities:

OC	**Maj J. H. Roberts**
2IC	**Capt Geordie Gainford**
OC Bravo Tp	**Lt L. Garvey WRAC**
OC Charlie Tp	**Lt J. Dryburgh**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) I. Cairns**
YofS	**WO2 W. Donnelly**
FofS	**SSgt I. Kelly**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) M. Linton**

A FEW MINOR ADJUSTMENTS

The new Bravo Troop Cdr arrived at the end of May. **Lt Louise Garvey WRAC,** or Juliet Bravo as she is more commonly known, caused only a few minor adjustments to be made to the troop's way of life . . .

Lt Louise Garvey daintly making exit from radio vehicle, after consuming yet another cup of coffee

In the field, a lady and a gents loo are now sited—four miles apart and are differentiated by the height of the hessian. Bad language is 'out' and there is no truth in the rumour that a skirt makes a difference when acquiring a new carpet for the troop office. On the week's military training it was a matter of either sharing a tent with 2IC **Capt Geordie Gainford** or making **SSM Ian Cairns** homeless. (The SSM was seen with a dejected look under a poncho basher!)

On the ranges the lads looked on in amazement when she fired the pistol and passed her APWT, let alone hit the target and then proceeded to pass on her alternate weapon as well! Besides all the Sqn passing their APWT, the rest of the week was spent on map reading, night navigation, first aid, night recce patrolling, security and NBC. It's not true that half the Sqn hung back on the BFT run so that **Miss Garvey** could lead the way.

EX 'SUMMER SALES'

With cries of 'Rock on Tommy' and 'Roll 'em out 10-4' Comhead 'Oscar' hit the road on *Summer Sales 81.* We were all looking forward towards an Exercise in hot summer weather (suntans through cam-nets may start a new craze!) you'd think we would learn, it rained. It wasn't too bad in Bielefeld (vehicles don't bog in on tarmac!). The field locations were however, a different matter, **Cpl Jim Brooks** was heard to remark that it reminded him of the Somme. Heard in 'S' Mess, 'I've just seen two lumps of mud walking around' Answer, 'They must be the linemen.' This was the last Exercise for some of our old hands; **SSgt John Chambers,** who for the last (x) years has secreted himself in, around, on top and under TV control, finally came out and was seen in places like the Message Centre and ASSC. **FofS Jim Kelly** kept away from Tech Control but still managed to operate the 6 Channel Terv, 40/160 and Commhead comd, all at once. **Sgt Roger Fairfield** managed to pop up now and again between shifts in Commhead Comd (who pinched his rifle sling?). We'll miss them on future Exercises. New personalities were noticed. **LCpl Rusty Rust,** who had a verbal love affair with Tech Control intercom. **Cpl Gaz Thomas** who is quoted as saying, 'the only person who hasn't visited the 40/160 is Buzby!' **Sig Big Bad Hart,** still does animal impersonations in his sleep. Line Troop were there, if not up to their necks in mud, they were climbing trees with remarkable dexterity. Diamond 9 personnel were amazed that **Sig Trev Harrison** never lost his way this exercise. Although the Exercise was very hard work, with miserable weather, spirits were high and we all enjoyed ourselves. Now for a period of R and R before the next round.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Goodbyes: **SSgt Chambers**—To Cyprus: **Sgt Fairfield**—To 6 Sqn: **Sgt Norman**—To PSA: **Cpl Hellawell**—To HQ Sqn: **Sig Lar Keady**—To Civvy St: **Sig Nasty Witheridge**—Civvy St: **Sig Netley Nev Nicholson**—Civvy St: **SQMS Beckett**—UK: **Sgt Bennett**—NI: **LCpl McGonagle**—5 Sqn: **Sgt Peaper**—5 Sqn: **LCpl Gellatly**—HQ Sqn.

Hello to: **Mrs Dryburgh** on marriage to **Lt Dryburgh, Mrs Thomas** on marriage to Cpl Thomas, The Triffid Crew?—**Cpl Smallman, LCpl Sanders, Sigs Allen Foxton** and **Watkins. SQMS Linton, Sgt Goulden, LCpls Baird, Belcher, Rust, Welch, Grant, Sigs O'Connor** and **Hague.**

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE NEW LOOK

After many threats and false alarms, RHQ finally moved in the early part of May from the old wooden building to the new RHQ located in Queens Avenue.

The 'old' RHQ building finally comes down

The 'new' RHQ

RHQ Staff

Standing left to right: Cpl Barry Phillips, Pte Kay Bellamy, Cpl Lynn Cummings, Sig Phillip Lloyd, Cpl Chris Whitwood, Mr David Wilson, LCpl Julie Dickinson, Mr Robert Skeoch, Mrs Iris Smith, Mrs Jackie Ward, LCpl Tont Gilmartin, Mrs Jenny Hollins, Mr Jimmy Newton, Mrs June Fowler, Mr Irwin Brook, Mrs Mada Riley, Mrs Isobel MacGillivray, birdwatching behind Cpl Joe Cotterill, LCpl Cathy Watt, Mrs Nan Love.

Seated left to right: Sgt Geoff Marlow, WO2 (ORQMS) Brian Dearman, WO1 (RSM) Mick Stevenson, Lt Col M. C. Deverill 2IC, Col C. N. Last CO, Capt Ian Noble Adjt, Mr Alan Gibson CAO, Maj (Retd) John Dean RAO, WO2 (ORQMS) Ray Duffy.

Absent: Maj Bill Griffiths Trg Maj, Sgt Chris Carveth, Mr Jim Croft

2 SQN REPORT

SHQ	
OC	**Maj J. M. Ball WRAC**
2IC	**Capt N. E. Ladds**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) G. F. Escott**
Sqn Clerk	**Mrs V. Thompson**
Typist	**Mrs J Hilliard**

It has been a period of comings and goings of late. More recently **Maj Eileen Tye WRAC** succumbed to the call of the south and left us for the milder climes of Blandford, to be replaced by **Maj Judy Ball WRAC**, the event being suitably marked by a cadre expedition to the local hostelry. **Capt Norman Ladds** has also recently been elevated from 3 Sqn to keep the 2IC/Admin Officer chair, vacated by **WO1 Alec Nicoll**, warm. A long overdue touch of glamour has also been added to A Tp where **Capt Stephanie Westall WRAC** has relieved rugby playing **Lt Keith Pritchard**. We wish them all well in their new ventures. There has also been a move of accommodation with SHQ now occupying its rightful position above the other sqns in smart new offices!

The annual inter-squadron swimming competition has been run over the past two months with weekly heats and the finals on 9 June in the Garrison pool. The Sqn team was beaten into second place by the narrowest of margins but we had some excellent individual performances. **Sig Garry Warn** was outstanding and won the 66 yds freestyle, 33 yds butterfly, 4 x 33 yds individual medley and was runner-up in the 100 yds freestyle. Look out 7 Fd Force!

WO2 (SSM) Gavin Escott is keeping on the move too! Apart from dodging the RSM, he also passes his time whipping people across the local training area trying to convince them that running is good for them. He must have had some success as he recently led a regimental wine tasting (sorry!) orienteering team to the Army Championships in BAOR.

GREAT PROMISE

Our most recent acquisition on the sporting scene is **Sig Clarence Callender**, who recently arrived for trade training from 11 Sig Regt. At the Royal Signals Training Group athletics meeting in Harrogate, he swept to an easy victory in the 200 metres. He then went on to take the Army Individual Senior Championship at 100 metres in Aldershot in a time of 10.9 secs. Aged 19 he has gained junior representative honours at all levels in the past and would, but for injury, have run for England. He now represents the Army at senior level. We wish him luck in what promises to be a distinguished athletic career.

Sig Clarence Callender handing over the Army 100 metres Challenge Cup to Col C. N. Last for safe custody in the RHQ trophy cabinet

3 SQN ROUND-UP

'Keep a low profile and maybe the OC will forget we are here and detail someone else'. Such was the comment made by **Sgt Dennis Rawson** to **Sgt Paul Smyth** when the Royal Signals Annual re-union was approaching and the word was out that 3 Sqn would again be building the display arena and erecting the tentage. Using his faithful gun dog the OC, **Maj Jack Fiskel**, soon had them winkled out of their

Just aim for the peg in the middle!

hiding places and briefed as to this years requirements. **Sgt Rawson** being the regimental tent master was detailed, in a supervisory capacity, to train recently arrived **Sgt Smyth** on how to do it, so that the expertise would be maintained. Having been allocated a large chunk of sports field and on the arrival of mountains of canvas, ropes and pegs—Delta Tp was set to work! In true military style all the marquees had to be 'right dressed' and lined up in a certain manner. As the first tent took shape the field was paid a visit by a high powered entourage from RHQ including **WO1 (RSM) Mick Stevenson** complete with pace stick and even more advice on how to do it! Luckily the weather was fine and the tents went up in record time: 14 panel marquees, 9 x 9 tents, all lined up using theodolites, plus guesswork and a few bits of string. As the work progressed Delta Tp were given the added duties of performing Voodoo anti rain dancing (by numbers) and guard duty on the arena to ensure that the marquees would stay up. Then on to the arena with roped areas, chairs to line up etc, etc, etc, ad nauseam. The whole lot from collection of stores to final inspection took 8 days. That which goes up must come down and the pace was phenomenal (possibly due to the promise of a long weekend). In one day the whole lot had been dismantled and packed ready for return. The following day the only sign of what had been a superb weekend were two souvenir scorch marks in the grass left behind by the Display Team of the Junior Regiment Royal Signals. Delta Tp can be well pleased with a job very well done and took their long weekend in the sure knowledge that their efforts contributed in no small way to a highly successful Sunday.

REGIMENTAL CANOEING

It has been some considerable time since we could muster canoeists of such outstanding ability in the regiment, as those who have contributed in all departments of the sport during the first half of the year. After only narrowly missing a Moscow Olympic place, **Cpl Steve Jackson** has maintained his bid for honours, by being selected for the Great Britain K4 squad and has paddled for his country several times during the late spring and summer. **Steve** is currently canoeing upside down in Australia in the Murray River Marathon.

REPRESENTATIVES

Sgt Steve Hilton, Cpls Steve Cocksedge, Kevin Truby and **Ian Hugill** all paddled for the Army team, which won the White Water Championships at Sanquhar in March. Our girls too wore Army vests at Nottingham in the National Water Sports Regatta in July. **WLCpl Alison Green** and **Pte Esther Moth** found out what top level canoeing was all about, but it didn't overawe either of them, as you will read later. **Steve Cocksedge** received selection for the Inter Services team which paddles in September. All in all, a very successful season.

COLOURS

Col C. N. Last OBE presented colours to **Steve Hilton, Kevin Truby, Ian Hugill** and **Steve Cocksedge**. **WPte Lynne Brown** had recently left us for Hounslow and her well earned colours were forwarded on for presentation.

Front Man—Sgt Steve Hilton—'The OC canoeing wants shooting for this!'

Rear Man—Col C. N. Last—'Think I'll shoot the OC canoeing!'

PRE-MONMOUTH TRAINING

Although it is always nice to parade our stars, a large part of our effort here goes into identifying potential canoeists, finding out what discipline they favour and then getting them into a boat, as often as possible, in the short time they spend here on courses. Fortunately every one of our instructors has spent a lot of personal time and effort in training young prospects, either in basic skills in the Garrison Pool, or on waters, often 25 miles away, in evening sessions. The total amount of time allowed off for Monmouth for our team was 3 days. All other time was personal time, which reflects the spirit and team morale.

ARMY SPRINT AND LONG DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

These championships were held in the lovely setting of the Wye at Monmouth. The weather was dull and humid, but the canoeing was superb. A record entry and a record number of events produced some very high standards. There is no doubt that Royal Signals dominate Army canoeing these days, and the championships rapidly developed into a scrap between 8th, 10th and 16th Signal Regiments, with the Krefeld team winning both days and winning them very well indeed. Our team came second overall in both mens and ladies on both days—a very creditable performance indeed considering that many of our team rank novices only six months prior to the event.

LADIES EVENTS

Our girls showed remarkable grit and determination against an experienced 10 Sig Regt team and lost to them very narrowly on both days; it was soon clear that we had approached our short intense period of training successfully when **Esther Moth, Alison Green** and **Tracy Hamilton** appeared out of the spray and turbulence of the premier event, the Ladies 500 metre sprint, to take 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. In the Long Distance K1 events; **Alison, Esther** and **Tracy** racked up 1st, 3rd and 4th. Total commitment from our other girls saw **Jane Perry** and **Marianne Lowe** gain 3rd place in Slalom events, and the fact that **Joan Scarrat, Sgt Pat Stanton** and **WO1 Jackie Foulds** competed and finished the course, reflects great credit on them, their trainer **Steve** (give us a snarl) **Hilton** and the vocal chords of the wives, girl friends and families of the team!!!

MENS EVENTS

Our mens K1 challenge continued with **Steve Cocksedge** gaining a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd in his events—consistently good paddling. **Steve Hilton** and **Kevin Truby** were promoted from C to B in the mens K2 and paddled with some rare company to get a 3rd and possible Army selection. **Sgt Chas Cooke** and **Cpl Chris (cactus) Custus** finished in grand form to place 3rd in the mens class C K2. A great effort by **Cpls Bob Lee** and **Stuart Price**, pushing a heavy class 4 boat over a gruelling 9 miles got a 4th. Credit too must go to **Sigs Oliver, Englishby, Connolly, Boylan, Cannas, Wainwright**, to **Cpls Dodds, O'Brien, Whatins** and **Thurston** who seemed to spend the whole day on the water paddling their way into one or the other of endless finals.

BOUQUETS

To **Debbie Hilton** and **Viv Price** whose millboards and enthusiasm helped everyone, to **Chris Cocksedge** and **Marje Cooke** whose support was most welcome. To **SSgt Carl Brownhill** and his workers, who travel the country providing communications for canoe championships.

We now look forward to the White Water Championships in November and to the return of some of our young canoeists on upgrading courses!

JIMMY'S ANGELS

Report by SSgt John Burns

On arrival at 8 Sig Regt in January **SSgt John Burns** was informed that the CO had expressed his wish that the regiment form a shooting team. I, having done my share of running up and down various ranges dotted all over this fair land, was equally interested. As all members of the Corps who are interested in shooting will know, the forming of a shooting team is not for the days away from work on the ranges training or for a week away at the Corps shoot. Not even for the three weeks away at Bisley. No—it is, of course, to further an individual's skill with small arms—well who would like all that time away from work?

With the CO's words echoing in my ears, I set forth to build this shooting team. In this large regiment there was bound to be enough man power around to supply an interested few, as the basis of a team to train and coach for the North East District match and then forward to Bisley; for years I had been waiting for such an opportunity. So I published details on orders, on notice boards and in the various messes. I awaited eagerly for a massive response, and I waited, and waited and apart from a converted few I am still waiting! It was then that I heard of rumours that the wives club were interested in shooting. I thought would they perhaps be willing to form a shooting team? I approached my first evening in the miniature range with the wives with some slight feeling of apprehension. There were about eight ladies present, and shock upon shock, when it came to shooting they actually knew which end to point down the range! Well that was some months ago and since then the girls have gone from strength to strength. After a few weeks of getting accustomed to one another and once I had worked out who the boss was (all of them) the shooting standards have risen and the club now has 19 members. The club has a number of .22 target rifles, including four Ansutz model 54's, very expensive indeed. We have joined the NSRA and are taking part in this year's winter league and by way of training, we have competed against local civilian teams. The first match being against the Durham and Cleveland rifle association, which resulted in a win for Durham with 756 points and the Ladies club 727 points.

The second match resulted in Darlington Cummins Sports club scoring 686 points and the Ladies club 738 points. Another match was arranged against Durham resulting in a win for them with 768 points against the Ladies with 713. So having fired three shoulder to shoulder matches, won 1 and lost 2, all against good all male teams, the girls are quite pleased. The progress of the club has come along so well that we have now come to be known as 'Jimmy's Angels' and have our own club badge. Apart from the winter leagues we are looking for inter unit competitions for both male and female teams. If your unit would like to challenge our teams, it would also be possible to arrange a postal competition, then please contact **SSgt John Burns** on Catterick Military extension 2559.

'Jimmy's Angels'
Rear left to right: Mrs Last, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Baker, Mrs Burns, SSgt Burns, Mrs Kingsley
Front left to right: Mrs McLaughlin, Mrs Dodds, Mrs Smeaton, Mrs Andrews, Mrs Melton-Scott, Mrs Halsey

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

ATTESTATION OF MARK BEADLE

On 18 May **Mark** the son of **WO1 (RSM) Brian** and **Jan Beadle** was formally enlisted into the army as a boy soldier. **Mark** who has been a stalwart of RHQ Troop sport, during his short stay, has now left Cyprus to join the Army Catering Corps Apprentice College and we all wish him every success in his chosen career. (However—don't forget your boots at Christmas **Mark!**) The photograph shows **Mark** after taking the formal oath of allegiance.

Celebrations
From left to right: Capt D. A. Lynam (Adjt), Lt Col A. H. Boyle (CO) Mark and proud parents Jan and Brian Beadle

LS AND GC PRESENTATIONS

On 26 May, **Col D. G. McCord, MBE,** the Gar Comd paid an informal visit to the Regimental Sergeants Mess to present LS and GC medals to five members. The medal recipients are shown in the photograph below celebrating with the Gar Comd.

LS and GC Medals Presentation
From left to right: RO Pat Teed, Col McCord, Sgt John Etherington, Sgt Roger Berry, Sgt Paul Rowland, Sgt Roger Perkins and WO2 Dave (Jesse) Luckett

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

RHQ

RHQ held their annual beach party on Sat 21 Jun. With food being provided by the cookhouse staff and plenty of liquid refreshments, even the youngest member was catered for. **LCpl Scouse Mahoney** after fortifying himself with Carlsberg decided to show everybody how to water ski on his bottom. He was so successful that the wives had to have a go and **Lynn O'Brien** had to be taken round an extra three times before letting go of the towing rope. After lunch everyone took to the water to do their own thing whilst **LCpl Tony Glass** and **Sig Dave Ward** guarded the refreshments (did we really only take so little). The Adjt, **Capt David Lynam,** was seen trying out his snorkelling techniques inshore whilst **Sgt Mick Hague** and **LCpl Pete O'Brien** could be seen disappearing in the distance. All too soon tpt arrived, to take lots of weary families home from an enjoyable day very well organised by **LCpls Tony Glass** and **Helen nelson.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Sgt Robert Harrison** who received the BEM in the recent Birthdays Honours list. The award was given for his achievements whilst serving with 14 Sig Regt.

ATHLETICS

Although at the time of going to press the season is by no means over, the regiment has had an excellent year by winning the Cyprus Services Athletic League and success has, also, been the operative word at Minor Unit (Sqn) level.

The season got off to an excellent start, with high standards setting the pace at the Inter-Sqn Championships in May. **Sgt Alex Middleton** led 2 Sqn to victory after his team had already won the talent-scouting standards competition the previous month and their strength proved insurmountable at the Dhekelia-Ayios Nikolaos inter-garrison meeting, where they came away with the Minor Units Trophy.

Fine individual performances have been sparked in both field and track events and keen competition from both ends of the island has improved personal bests. On the track, **Cpl Chris Laycock** has had an excellent season at 5000 and 1500m in the face of tough opposition, well supported by **LCpl 'Scouse' Clee** and **LCpl Andy Majoribanks** who is also proving to be a useful discus thrower. The regiment has been well represented in the gruelling steeplechase by **Cpl Mick Honeyman** and again by **LCpl 'Scouse' Clee.** Walking 3000m is no joke under competitive conditions in 90° and **Cpl Martin Saxton**, a newcomer to the event, has gone straight to the top of Army representatives here in Cyprus, hotly pursued by, but invariably out of reach of, the author.

Talent and potential abound in the sprint squad for the 110-800m events. **Sgt Walley Gray** and **SSgt Art Weaver** have represented us well in the 110m hurdles and the 100m dash has seen **Sgt John Smith** and **LCpl Jock McNelly** also add valuable points to the league match totals. With **Sgt John Smith** and **Cpl Tony Woolaston** in the 200m and **Cpls Dave Randle** and **Mo Eyre** in the 400m and 800m respectively, the athletics team has proved its strength in depth and guaranteed consistently good point-winning placings. **Cpl Dave Randle** and **LCpl Johnathan Gower** have notched up superb timings and have had few rivals to match them in the 400m Hurdles making them virtually unchallenged in this event. **LCpl 'Greg' Gregory** joined **Randle, McNalley** and **Smith** in the Relay putting in some fine sprinting.

Out in the field **Sgt John Smith** demonstrates a sprinter's versatility by logging very competitive distances in the Long Jump and similarly **Sigs Steve Davies** and **Ewan Hall** in the Triple Jump. While **Cpl Dave Randle** and **Sig 'Mac' McNaughton** have been registering steadily good performances in the High Jump, newcomers to the Pole Vault **LCpl Steve Goring** and **SSgt Ian Haig** have had an extremely successful season as their experience has widened. The Javelin and Discus have been thrown with increasing flair by **Cpl 'Lenny' Munday** and **Sig Mark Littlewood** respectively whilst **Sgt Andy 'The Hulk' Melville** has regularly hurled the Hammer half a metre beyond rival attempts and **Sgt Alex Middleton's** Shot Putting has similarly outclassed the rest of the field in all meetings held to date.

An excellent season therefore with full credit to the lads for their hard work and enthusiasm and to **WO1 'Red' Rigley** for his highly professional team management.

A GOOD MONTH!

July has proved to be an excellent month in many ways. Pride of place must go to our participation in the Royal Wedding on 29 July, following which we are to parade at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 8 Dec to be inspected by Her Majesty The Queen. This is a rare honour, and the preliminary work has already started.

Other achievements include winning both the Ladies Canoeing Trophies at the Army Championships, a Bronze Medal for **Cpl Steve Jackson** in the World Canoe Championships, Army Tennis Colours for **Lt Shelagh Quinlan**, and the first appearance by a Ladies Team in the South East District Skill-at-Arms Meeting. Finally, three of our stalwart and long-serving civilians were awarded C-inC's Certificates. Now read on!

CERTIFICATES FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

We extend our congratulations to **Mrs L. Cleary**—Supervisor LONDIST Tel Ex., **Mr Wilfred Jacques**—Head Maint Elec SWS Tp 3 Sqn., **Mr Walter Barnett**—Elec Mech 1 Sqn, on being awarded the Commander in Chief's Certificate for Meritorious Service in June.

HQ SQUADRON ROUNDED UP

At last, it's Friday 19 June and once again it's time to round 'em up and move 'em out, as the Breakaways set off on another adventure, this time to Brackenbury Camp, Costa Del Felixstowe home of 1 Troop 49 EOD Sqn. The main party arrived in good cheer (hic) after temporarily losing **WO2 Dave Brough** and his minion of girls. Congratulations all round for the advance party led bravely into battle by **Cpl 'Dutch' Hollands**. They erected not one, not two but all five of the tents necessary to accommodate the Breakaways.

After erecting the kitchen the Breakaways gave their undivided attention to **Maj Meekings** who demonstrated the use of the Field Burner (Well done 'Big H'). It was decided that **WO2 Dave Brough, LCpl 'Sniff Sniff' Sharman** and **Pte Jackie McShane** (from 3 Sqn) would cook the first meal which consisted of roast pork chops, fried potato, boiled potatoes, a disguised third veg and gravy, (or was it soup) this was much appreciated by us, even though some did disappear during the course of the meal. When spirits had been raised, 'Big H' was presented with a farewell cake, as it was his last Breakaway. AHH!! (we'll all miss you). He then took on the role of wine waiter serving a mixture of red wine and bubbly (it was different, but it went down well). At this point in the festivities QM designate, **Capt Tony Jones**, arrived and was welcomed in good spirit (whisky was found to be his drink). After a few songs and a bit more liquid refreshment the breakaways retired to their tents, where they made ready for the night's entertainment. Many thanks to **Capt Brian Lloyd** RE, the OC of Brackenbury Camp, for making us welcome in the Camp Club, which had been put to the test the previous evening by **Cpl 'Dutch' Hollands** and his merry troops who found the club very friendly with carpeted floors (an asset when your spirits are running high!!).

We all rendezvoused at 2015hrs in the main tent, before departing to the club under the guidance of the advance party. When everyone was settled 'Big H' entered brandishing the Breakaway Boot (2Lts of glass perfection) which, once filled, was passed from person to person. Holding the toe of the boot up high **Pte Carol Clinton** was to discover her error when 'Whoosh' she was drenched with its contents (they never learn). After a few more rounds of the boot, a cry was heard of 'Who's going for a swim tonight', coming from **SQMS 'Timbo' Crook**. Many agreed to the idea until it was time to put it into practice and only two remained, **SQMS 'Timbo' Crook** and **Pte Tex Hill** (the reprobates).

The next morning found **Capt Tony Jones** and his band preparing breakfast for the Breakaways, he is now suffering from dish pan hands. After breakfast it was off to a lecture and demonstration on the working and role of 1 Tp 49 EOD Bomb Squad, which was enjoyed by all. That afternoon, some of the girls **(Cpl Sue Payne, Pte Randy Poole, Pte Debbie Oldham, Pte Carol Clinton** and **Pte Jane Lancaster)** decided to venture out of the camp and mingle with the locals in the town. The camp was now in silence except for the occasional sound of laughter coming from the Main Tent where 'Big H', **RQ Len Collie, Mr John Johnson, Cpl Dutch Hollands**, and **LCpl 'Sniff Sniff' Sharman** all huddled around a table. On closer observation it was discovered they were playing 'Knap' and between 'Big H' and **John Johnson** it was hard to fathom who was winning. On returning from a beachcombing trip **Pte Tex Hill** proudly produced a frizby and a football, at which point **WO2 Dave Brough** and **SQMS 'Timbo' Crook** decided they must have a go (they looked like demented ballet dancers flitting about). When the

girls returned from town, they decided to charge about with the football (eat your heart out Pele). Thoroughly drained, the Breakaway football team went for a nap in anticipation of the Disco and Buffet 49 EOD had arranged, to which the Breakaways had been invited. On setting out that evening for the club, the Breakaways looked sufficiently recovered and eager to join in the Boot ritual once again. During the evening 'Big H' was pulled on to the dance floor and seated on a stool while the girls danced round him using him as a Maypole. The next joint effort was the Row Boat song where even **Capt Tony Jones** and **RQ Len Collie** sat on the floor and rowed with everyone else, the two coxswains were 'Big H' and **Tex Hill**. The good humour continued as we headed back to the main tent, where **Mr Burt Parsons** and **Mr Johny Johnson** gave us their rendition of various well known colourful songs.

Sunday gave us some lovely weather and off we went on a six mile route march after which a few went for a swim. That's what it was called but there was a lot of pushing and shoving to get **Pte Jackie McShane** into the water but she didn't stand a chance against **SQMS 'Timbo' Crook**. After the swim a period of sunbathing was called for, to get warmed up and our bevy of girls looked lovely in their bikinis!

Monday morning came as a shock to our systems for it was time to pack up the tents and head back to sunny Hounslow and 10 Sig Regt.

1 SQUADRON

MT

The MT at 1 Sqn is ticking over very well at the moment, due to a lot of hard work. We've just had our annual VEE inspection which went very well, even if the inspection team were kept in coffee and biscuits all week. Quite a few departures are due shortly, **Pte Kundiss** has already left us and **LCpl Parker** and **Ptes Michele, Lemerrer** and **Pam Widders** will be spoken for shortly. We wish them all the best of luck. Also we have two new arrivals, namely **LCpl Lynne Smith** and **Pte Lorraine Moore**.

Recently the MT were represented in the Ridgeway Walk by **LCpl Smith** and **Ptes Bev Sykes** and **Sue Shiel**, but due to the tight trousers and blisters, the complete distance of 85 miles was not done, but all involved made a good attempt.

Our MTO has decided at last to burn his Golf Clubs and get down to some serious work as did **Cpl Dave Whittaker** (our Gaffer) a long time ago. Although he still plays soccer.

SALISBURY

We would like to welcome **LCpls Sue Sadler, Sonia Brown** and **Ptes Di (Diet starts tomorrow) Salmon, Helen Jones** and **Sandra Martin** to Salisbury Exchange—We do have one! We would also like to bid a fond farewell to **LCpls Chris Thomas, Die (Boris) Flake, Denise Waldren** and **Ptes Ann Richards** and **Sharon Johnson**.

2 SQUADRON

Since our last notes there have been several personality changes within the Sqn. For those of you who like to keep track of old friends or wish not to be pestered with old enemies, produced below is the new look Sqn Comd element.

OC—Maj David Podevin—slightly bemused by the amount of different activities the Sqn is involved in.

2IC—Capt Harry Ross—buried in paperwork for State Occasions, radio trials, Squadron Military Training and, most important, canoeing.

OC Oscar Troop—Lt Louise Carlisle (WRAC)—recently arrived from the School of Signals indoctrination course.

OC Radio Troop—Lt David Wise—Under the misapprehension that this would be a more relaxing tour than a Corps Signal Regiment.

OC SWS Troop—Maj (TOT) Phil Johnson—still soldiering on and on and on.

OC Tropo Troop—Capt Trevor Kay—quietly working away with Tropo in Swingate until he is let loose on camp with camouflage cream and night marches.

SSM—WO2 Maureen Livings—Now a battle hardened warrior, equally at home in skirt or combat kit, successfully controlling a mixed squadron.

YofS—WO2 (YofS) Bryan Foulger—soon to qualify as part of the inventory, becomes slightly amazed or amused when people talk about communications rather than Tors and snow and Dogs of War.

FofS—Mr Colin Hatcher—already part of the inventory.

CTO—Mr Bert Hounsome—now fully settled in and controlling our civilian communicators ably assisted by the Witley Council.

We say a fond farewell to the old OC **Maj Lauchlin Fraser** affectionately remembered as Superbiker. To **Capt David Lawson** late OC Tadio Troop, one time Adjutant 10 Sig Regt and to **Capt Pauline Binnie** stolen from us in our hour of need, to go and rescue 1 Sqn. Leaving us from the lower echelon have been some of the stalwarts of the Bruno Club, **Cpl Cookie Burns, LCpl Chris Wright, Sig Paul Evison** and **Sig Alan Evans**, your darts and drinking expertise will be sadly missed. Also missing from the line up **Cpl Bill Isles, LCpl Leslie Skinner** and **Sig Hammy Hamilton**—our best wishes to them all.

VISIT OF MAJ GEN BIRTWISTLE

On 23 Mar the regiment acted as host to the SOinC; he visited several of the Sqn areas and met many members of the Sqn.

SOinC talking to LCpl Rose Borwell one of the first of the Corps WRAC Technicians

SOinC talking to LCpl Debbie Davies SDS driver with London Central Commcen

RADIO TROOP

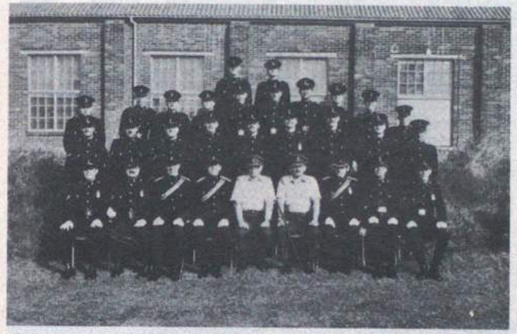
Before we start, these notes were vetted by the Sqn 2IC, but we de-vetted them afterwards. In case you wonder where we have been these past few months, where were you at: The State Visits of the President of Nigeria and King Khaled of Saudi Arabia, Beating the Retret on Horse Guards Parade, Trooping the Colour, more Beating the Retreats, The Royal Tournament, Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, The Buckingham Palace Reception, before the Wedding, The Wedding, Breakfast after The Wedding.

If you couldn't make those, then see you at Remembrance Sunday, The State Opening of Parliament and Help the Aged Day.

THE WEDDING

We would like to take the opportunity in thanking the 'Dirty Dozen' from Harrogate, who swelled our ranks for 'The Wedding of The Century', also the technicians of SWS Tp; **Sgt (Oh my ribs) Harper, Cpl (Oh my stomach) Jordan, Cpl (Oh my minibus) Hicks** and **Cpl (Oh my canoe) Jackson**. The motorcycle DVRs **Sig (I'm still in one piece) Whales** and **Sig (I'm not really stupid) Proctor**. The personalities on the day were of course the Sqn Comd **Maj (I had a very good view) Podevin, Capt (I had a better view) Ross, Lt (now wiser) Wise, WO2 (YofS) (my radio doesn't work) Foulger**. We must not forget 'The Dead Horse Patrol', **Sig (I was in the procession) Dickinson** or **Sig (I was on 'Nationwide') Thomas**, and least of all the hardest working member of the Troop, **Sgt (I have no more men) Murphy**.

It must be said at this stage that Radio Troop (did I overhear someone say JIF Troop) do undertake other tasks, Regimental Recruiting and Information Team Displays, advisors and benefactors to many ACPs anf CCFs (do you remember what No 12, 31, 38 or 62 sets look like). Rumour has it we might be able to dust off our D11s and do some real signalling before the end of the year.



Radio Troop and reinforcements from AAC Harrogate pose with the CO Lt Col D. M. O. Miller and WO1 (RSM) Wringe—The morning after The Royal Wedding

REGIMENTAL CANOEING

The Regimental Canoeing Team were faced this year with the prospect of defending the regiment's reputation of three times Army Champions with no canoeists of any stature remaining in the regiment. At the eleventh hour **Cpl 'Steve' Jackson** returned from 8 Sig Regt (T1 Course) only to be snatched away by the British Team for the World Championships.

Fortunately what was lacking in expertise was replaced with enthusiastic beginners and under **Capt Harry Ross** and **LCpl 'Muscles' Skimming** the team spent an enjoyable week training and competing in the Army Sprint and Long Distance Championships. Although little was expected in results from the men's team, several team members achieved good individual placings with **LCpl 'Jeff' Lloyd** and **Sig 'Andy' Cook** achieving a well deserved second in the Long Distance Class 4 Doubles, having been allowed to use the 'Barracuda' instead of the 'Submarine'.

SAVED BY THE LADIES

Our reputation this year was saved by the 'Ladies' who won both the Sprint and Long Distance Ladies Team Championships. Detailed results of the ladies events were:

Ladies 250m Slalom	1st **LCpl 'Debbie' Davies,** 2nd **Sgt 'Liz' Maclean.**
Ladies 500m Slalom	1st **Pte 'Lynn' Brown,** 2nd **LCpl 'Debbie' Davies.**
Ladies 500m Class 3	1st **Pte 'Lynn' Brown,** 2nd **LCpl 'Rose' Borwell.**
Ladies 500m K2	1st **Cpl 'Kathy' Hould** and **Pte 'Lynn' Brown.** 2nd **LCpl 'Rose' Borwell** and **LCpl 'Debbie' Davies.**
Ladies Long Distance K1	2nd **LCpl 'Rose' Borwell.**
Ladies Long Distance Class 3	1st **Pte 'Lynn' Brown.**
Ladies Long Distance Slalom	1st **LCpl 'Debbie' Davies.** 2nd **Pte 'Maggie' Stewart** 3rd **Sgt 'Liz' MacLean.**

Our congratulations also go to **Cpl 'Steve' Jackson** on his success at the World Canoe Racing Championships at Holme Pierrepoint, Nottingham, on 2 Aug. **Cpl Jackson** was a member of the British K4 crew, who won a Bronze Medal in the 10,000 metres, the first time Britain has won a medal in a major competition since the 1959 European Championships.

3 SQUADRON

In mid June we said goodbye to our OC **Maj Patrick Templeman-Evans** and welcomed **Maj Andrew Biggs** as our Squadron Commander. He already seems to have settled in very well and we hope his tour with the squadron is a happy one.

The squadron has enjoyed success, both in the rounders and tennis and we had a particularly satisfying win in one rounders match, over our long standing rivals 10 Company WRAC who share our Barracks. One of our girls, **Pte Lynn Brown**, was very successful in the Army Canoeing Championships, where she won her own individual races, and the regiment took the Team 1st prize. At tennis, **Lt Shelagh Quinlain** reached the Semi-Finals of the Army Tennis Championships and was selected to play in the Inter Service Match at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon. Our PTI, **Cpl Taff Allerton**, won both the 800 and 1500 metre races in the Army individuals Athletic Championships.

On Tues 9 June our Exchange Supervisors conference took place in Aldershot. About forty Exchange Supervisors attended a very informative and interesting day.

The programme included a lecture on security by **Maj Tony Hunt** and a review of exchange documents and records by **Mr Peter Petley.** A view into the future of communications was given by **Mr Jack Hendry**, who amazed and worried the members of the Conference on what one could expect in the next twenty years. The afternoon was spent at 2 Signal Group, who showed some interesting pieces of equipment including Teltag, and Word Processors—it was a fascinating couple of hours. The day ended with the presentation of the Bruno Cup, and we were happy to hear that one of our Exchanges, Longmoor, was joint winner of the Cup with Salisbury. Congratulations to **Mrs Mary Cullen** for the efficient and effective way she runs the Exchange at Longmoor.

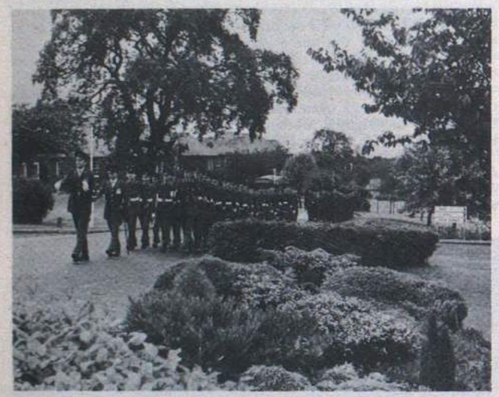
Brighton Commcen achieved success on 26 June when they received a Gold Comstar Award from **Col P. E. Morrison MBE** (late RE) the Commander of Brighton Station. Pictured below are, left, **Mr T. E. Bell**, centre, **Mrs M. W. Heather,** right, **Col P. E. Morrison MBE.**

July saw the temporary loss of one of our Troop Commanders, **Lt Annabel King**, when she let herself loose on the United States of America for three weeks leave. She safely returned to us, having had a wonderful holiday with Diplomatic Relations with the USA still intact.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON ADULT RECRUIT INTAKES
5 TROOP

Intake 8106 Passed Off the square on 19 Jun. The Inspecting Officer was **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE,** Commandant, The School of Signals. Our photograph shows 5 Troop marching from the square led by **WO2 (SSM) B. Wray** and the Tp Cdr **WO1 R. I. Buckley.** The prize for best all round recruit was won by **Sig H. Richardson** from East Feltham. **Sig N. Nixon** from Jarrow was the best shot of the intake.



5 Troop march off the square

Sig H. Richardson—Best Recruit Intake 8106

6 TROOP

Lt Col G. D. A. MacKay R Signals, OC 33 Sig Regt (V) was the Inspecting Officer from Intake 8107 which Passed Off on 3 Jul. The best all round recruit for the intake was **Sig A. D. Fife** from Gosforth. **Sig B. Thomas** from Port Talbot was the best shot of the Intake.

2 SQUADRON
ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF SERGEANTS COURSE NO. 176

RSSSC No 176 ended on 26 Jun. The top student was **Sgt R. P. Logan** of Junior Regt R Signals.

Sig A. D. Fife—Best Recruit Intake 8107

RSSSC No 176
Back row: Sgts Kerr, Wilson, Alexander, Francis, Nation, Wainwright, Belshaw, Taylor, Logan, Sand, Hatch
Front row: Sgts Paterson, Hegarty, Wood, Williams, Dallaghan, Gallagher, Mullender, Abbott, Smiley, Hughes, Hodkin
Sitting: Sgt Cummings, SSgt Licence, Capt Longhurst, SSgt Pinder, Sgt Doherty

WIVES' CLUB CRICKET

The wives soundly defeated the husbands by 55 runs to 3 at a 'Cricket Match' which was definitely not cricket on Mon 6 Jul. Our photographs show **Mrs Carter** looking for a quick run while the CO looks as if he needs one. The RSM shows impeccable style as he bowls, watched by **Mrs Friend,** but unfortunately his figures would not compare with the opposition.

The cricket match

FAMILIES WEEKEND IN THE LAKES

Our Adventure Training Staff at Torver on Lake Coniston hosted families of the regiment for the weekend 25/26 Jul. Nine families took themselves off to the Lakes to sample the hard outdoor life. Activities for all included abseiling, rock climbing and canoeing. Our photograph shows **LCpl Peters** instructing children in canoeing.

13 Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 42

TOT DINED OUT

After the damp athletic start to the month of the Morrison Cup Meeting at Krefeld, the Officers Mess had a Ladies' Dinner Night on 12 June to celebrate our TOT **Maj Ken Rutter's** retirement. He and **Betty** were presented with a clock, and generously returned the compliment by donating a PMC's gavel and a wall-clock, which helps thirsty Mess Members to know when 'Time' is called in the excellent Bar, which he helped to redesign and rebuild. We wish them well in their new life in England.

MERCURY RESTAURANT OPENED

On 16 June, Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. M. C. Thornton OBE MC**, visited and officially opened our new Junior Ranks' restaurant to the delight of our Master Chef **SSgt John Pengelly**, ACC, and Messing Officer **Maj Joe Adams**, who can now retire happily in August. The Officers Mess gave **Joe** and his wife **Irma** a Candelabrum at their farewell Ladies' Night on 17 July, and they kindly gave us a barometer, which will be very useful for other golfers deciding whether to brave the elements on our 9-hole course which **Joe** worked so hard to develop. The regiment's good wishes go with them in their new life in Sennelager.

SSgt John Pengelly ACC and Brig J. M. C. Thornton, Comd Rhine Area, at the opening of the Mercury Restaurant

CinC BAOR, Gen Sir Michael Gow, visits the new Mercury Restaurant with his ADC Capt Jeremy Stopford, the CO, Lt Col Conrad Garton, and Maj Joe Adams, our MTO and Messing Officer

RSM's FAREWELL DINNER

WO1 (RSM) Ken Woods was dined out of the WO's and Sergeants Mess in fine style on 26 June. The now customary, excellent repast was laid on by **Sgt Doug Endean** and his Mess Staff and all Members made the most of it. Farewell speeches are never easy to make, as how do you summarise 22 years of service in a few minutes? However, **Ken** somehow managed and presented the Mess with a Candelabrum to grace the top table. The meal was only the start to the evening and after the room had been cleared a Court Martial was convened, under the strict guidance of Justice **WO2 (SSM) Bill Garner**, to pass sentence on the heinous crimes of **Ken Woods**: over indulgence at the barbers and carrying a pace stick whilst in combat kit (howls of horror from the assembled mob!). **WO2 (SSM) Rex Couch** read out the list of offences as Clerk of the Court, while it was apparent that any form of defence was not going to be permitted. **Ken** had already been found guilty, judging by the presence of the executioner **Sgt SI George Myers** APTC. Finally Justice **Garner** donned his black cap and passed sentence. **Ken** was relieved of his outer garments by members of the WRAC who were present and led out dressed in only a sheet to his transport—motorised stocks. The assembled Mess finally escorted the prisoner outside the gates of Mercury Barracks to await his transport home. All Mess Members wish him and his wife **Valli** the best of luck in civilian life, and welcome the new RSM, **WO1 Paul Glover**, from 4 Div.

2 SQUADRON REPORT

Soon after our short spell of fine weather ended, and the grey skies re-appeared, **Lt Chris Sanderson, WO1 Eric Ross** and **WO2 Mick Jackson**, set off on a camping trip known as Exercise *Summer Sales*. They all returned refreshed and invigorated ready to apply the lessons they had learned to the everyday life at Birgelen, e.g. how to dig a storm trench correctly and how to light a barbecue in the rain, all skills which are in great demand this summer.

Sgt John Sands recently returned after successfully completing a Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course and is now back to managing the schoolboys' football team. 'Taking you a stage further with the throw-in!!'

Visitors in July have included **Brig R. M. Koe OBE, ACOS G2** BAOR, on the 9th and the C in C BAOR, **Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC** (Gen), on the 21st and the CSO BAOR **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** on the 30th. All visits went well with the VIPs seeing our Mercury Restaurant and visiting the training Wing to look at our Gymnasium and Sauna complex, proudly shown round by **Capt Barney Hill, WO2 (SSM) Rex Couch** and **Sgt SI George Myers.**

On the sporting front **WO2 Mick Kippin** was selected for the BAOR archery team which took second place in the recent inter-services championship held in the UK.

2 Squadron was well represented when the regiment officiated at this year's Morrison Cup competition and members of the squadron are again participating in this year's Nijmegen marches. Congratulations to **SSgt Roy (Wheelies) Woosey** on being selected as reserve tor the Army motorcycle team, entered for the forthcoming World Champion ships to be held on the Island of Elba.

This has been a relatively quiet period with only a few changes. We recently said goodbye to **WO1 Ray Matson** who is off to Bulford and to **Sgt Mick Smith** and **WSgt Gill Block**. We wish them and their families all the best in their new postings. We welcome **SSgt Mick Green** and **WO1 Tom Chalmers** and hope they and their families have a happy tour with us.

Socially, the Phoenix Players, under the direction of **WO2 Bill Hogg** and **WO2 Mick Jackson**, entertained us with a Revue held in the local school hall. A very enjoyable and successful evening was had by the large audience, who were coaxed into a sing-a-long by **SSgt Bill Irving.** The performers in a one-Act Playlet included **Sgt Bob Hodges, WO2 (RQMS) Mick Besant** and **Maj Keith Danby** with spirited singing from **Mrs Gwen Bone** and **Mrs Trish Thompson**, and **WO2 (SSM) Bill Garner** giving some very funny comic performances.

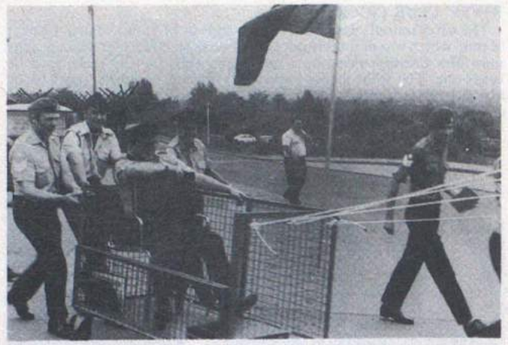
This year's 2 Squadron day of entertainment for the children and families on 18 July was followed by a Dinner, Dance and Cabaret in an hotel just across the border in Holland. **Lt Chris Sanderson** who had 'volunteered' to organise it all, let out a loud sigh when the transport had seen the last reveller home.

Finally a few congratulations, to **WO2 Steve Howard** on his recent promotion and to **WO2 Brian Boyle, SSgt Roy Woosey** and **Sgt Pete Modley** and **Sgt Roy Murgatroyd** on their recent successful passes in a German Language Course.

3 SQUADRON ROUND UP

There had been many recent changes within the squadron. In April we said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Tom Friend**, who left on promotion to become RSM of 11 Sig Regt. On his departure he was arrested and transported to the Brigade Sgts Mess never to set foot in the Squadron again!

The month of May passed and with it brought a change of OC. It was a very sad occasion for **Maj Mike Taylor**, who didn't want to go,



Maj Mike Taylor is dragged away in captivity from his command of 3 Sqn

and we were forced to cage him to get him away. During this proceeding he remained perfectly calm; however, his expression soon changed when he saw his method of transport: a helicopter (he doesn't like them). Horror spread across his face when he saw the pilot; he was heard to mutter something about 'being dropped in the East'; (we think he has met the pilot somewhere before). However all ended well and **Maj Taylor** enjoyed his last bird's eye view of the Squadron before departing to the sanctuary of the Ministry of Defence.

The next big hole in the squadron's command came with the departure of **WO2 (FofS) John Mellors**. After much wining and dining during the months of June and July, he left us pretty sober and upstanding. He will be missed mainly for his prowess as a runner, organiser of Laufing at the weekends for the Sqn families, and supervising the BFT runs, and the Berlin local community will sadly miss his presence in the Grunewald, most evenings, where they used to have the rare pleasure of seeing him with at least two or three red-faced members of the squadron in tow. He may wish to know that these activities are continuing and our entries for the Berlin marathon are submitted. To all those above we wish every success in their new appointments.

SHQ now reads:

OC	**Maj 'Gus' Vigurs**
Ops Offr	**Capt Dave Thorp**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason BEM**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Pete Shawyer**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Barry Watson**

The new management had no sooner got its feet under the table than they were thrown in at the deep end. Since taking the helm, **Maj Vigurs** has seen no fewer than 34 Official Visitors pass through his squadron. These visitors included—**Brig R. M. Koe OBE, Rear Admiral Brown** and **Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin**. The GOC Berlin has also visited us three times during this period. In spite of all these visits the squadron has continued to work in its normal professional manner and has also managed to find the time to participate in all the military and sporting events which have been held in Berlin as follows:

MILITARY

We were placed overall fourth in the Berlin Skill-at-Arms meeting and were winners of the SLR match with **Cpl Chris Glasgow** taking the Number 16 shot for Berlin with the SLR.

RUNNING

In May, more than 3500 runners took to the streets of Berlin for the inaugural 25km Road Run; included in this number were 22 squadron members, many of whom had never before competed or run over such a long distance. All members successfully completed the distance with **LCpl Dave Richards** in 98th position, **Capt Tim Fetherstonhaugh** in 155th and **Cpl Manny Calland** in 161st position. The wives of the squadron also had representation with **Joan Heyland, Jean Morby** and **Gill England** tackling the course, which all three finished in under 2½ hours.

ATHLETICS

The Annual Brigade Athletics Meeting was the next event. The squadron was one of six minor units taking part. The best squadron performance came from **LCpl Nick Ranier**, who won and set a new record in the High Jump.

VOLLEYBALL

We reached the Semi-final of the Berlin British Sector Competition and the Semi-finals of 1 Div Competition.

FOOTBALL

The squadron was placed third overall in the Berlin Minor Units League. Still in the sporting line the squadron has also participated in the cross country, basketball and hockey events and the cricket season is now with us and the team is forming well.

SOCIAL

The squadron 10 pin Bowling League Competition has finished and the OC presented the prizes at Tempelhof Bowling Lanes.

The family weekend Laufing continued to be popular with about 35-40 people attending each meeting. The newly-formed squadron Entertainments Committee are now hard at work organising our social calendar for the remainder of the year.

Finally, we would like to say farewell and every success in your new postings to: **Cpl Bob** and **WCpl Wendy Coulling, Cpl Jock Ronald, SSgt Bob Oldfield, Cpl Dick Pickup, Sgt Martin Foster, WO2 Dewi Blythin, SGT Geoff Taylor, Sgt Chris Billington, LCpl Jim Boyle, WLCpl Jackie Derrick.**

Welcome and we hope you have a good posting with us to: **WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason, SSgt Geoff Cromack, WO1 (Supr Radio) Graham Eagle, LCpl Dave Smith, WO2 (FofS) Pete Shawyer, LCpl Phil Gordon, LCpl Tim Ward, LCpl Mick Brennan, Sgt John McEwan, WO2 Dave Hankins, WLCpl Lauren Wade** and **LCpl Tim Wood.**

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS SUMMARY

This season started much the same as last year with heads rolling and eyes glazing over as the dreaded words 'standards competition' were heard once again. As the snow and rain swept across the sports field in late March, OIC Athletics **Capt Chris Stevenson MBE** was seen to gaze forlornly across the half acre of land which had been rugby and soccer pitches, as he tried to visualise an Athletics track in less than a month's time.

Despite the weather, the standards competition went off well and enabled the squadrons (including 3 Sqn in Berlin) to get some idea of what talent was still available or hidden from last year's teams. On the 1 May, the Regimental Athletics Meeting was held; the most memorable points were the superb state of the track and well run meeting due to the unceasing efforts of **Sgt (SI) George Myers** and his band of helpers, the fact that 1 Sqn won (again), **WSgt Gill Block's** clean sweep of the WRAC events (only eight golds) and the rain.

On 30 May, the Regimental team competed in the Rhine Area Stage of the BAOR Athletics season and did very well in finishing second to 21 Sig Regt and being selected to represent Rhine Area in the higher stages of this competition. All the team went well that day with **Sgt Ian Haldane, Sgt Les Wood** and **Sig 'Budgie' Burridge** being just some of the winners. This result put the team in good heart for the major event (for us) of the season, the Morrison Cup. In spite of having the smallest major unit team, we did well coming ninth out of 11 teams, only a few points short of coming in sixth place. The 'highlights' of the meeting were the weather (rain again), the 4 x 400m relay team of **Sig Nigel Antonio, LCpl Keith Dawson, LCpl Chris Moye** and **Sig John Griffin's** second place in their final, **LCpl Moye's** win in his final of the 400m, **Sgt Wood's** second places in both 1500 and 5000m and **Sig Burridge's** win in the high jump. Since then both **Sgt Wood** and **Sig Burridge** have represented Rhine area.

Our short season is now over, but we hope that with the cross-country and road-running teams during the Autumn/Winter months we will be able to keep fit and produce another good team next year.

MERCURY BOWMEN

So far Mercury Bowmen have had a fairly successful summer—if you can call it summer— sending a team to the BAOR Championships, and with two of their members representing BAOR at the Inter-Services Tournament in London.

In the BAOR Championships **WO2 Mick Kippin, LCpl Charlie Drake** and **Mrs Anne Birchall** won the Novice 'Winchester' Trophy with **Mick Kippin** also winning the 'Kevin Bates Plate' for the best novice archer, and **Anne Birchall** taking third BFG Lady. There is a rumour going round that **Mick Kippin** left his arrows behind and only shot well because he had to borrow **Sgt Stu Birchall's** arrows, which are specially designed only to go into the red or gold. Now that left **Stu Birchall** in a bit of a fix, but after chopping a few branches down he made do with 'Robin Hood' type arrows to take second BFG Gent in the Tournament. For the technically minded, 'Archie', **Stu Birchall's** mascot—who was hung at the BAOR tournament, but has nine lives—has just taken the world record for a 'Clout' shoot, achieving a distance of three feet nine and a half inches using a longbow of seven and a half inches AMO, draw weight one oz., fitted with a three strand cotton string and twin match-stick stabilizers, a pin plus wood sight

Mercury Bowmen WO2 Mick Kippin, Mrs Anne Birchall and Sgt Stu Birchall with their Archery trophies and Archie, the mascot

and shooting one and a half inch, one thousand spine arrows fitted with dagger points. This record was officially recorded at the Inter-Services Shoot.

The following month **Mick Kippin** and **Stu Birchall** plus 'Archie', of course, were off to London as part of the BAOR team for the Inter-Services Tournament. Although the team did not win, honour was still upheld by the Army as the UK Army team came first with BAOR second. Valuable experience was gained at this tournament—the standard being extremely high—especially from the Police, who may be able to give you directions in a town, but who have a funny way of inviting you out for a meal. They always do a five mile BFT around London first before deciding on a restaurant. Flat feet? Mercury Bowmen hope to show their faces in other tournaments before the summer is over and then to join up with our German friends again for the winter shooting. So until we win a few more trophies—'Alles in Geld'.

VOLLEYBALL

The Regimental Volleyball team, which has been a force in Rhine Area volleyball for the past two years, once again qualified for the BAOR Inter-Unit championships which took place this year on 5/6 May in Dortmund.

10 teams from BAOR qualified for this competition and the standard of volleyball throughout indicated the great strides the game has taken in BAOR in recent years.

The Regimental team, led by **WO2 Stan Welsh**, proved they hadn't been left behind by winning their league and qualifying for the semi-final play-offs. The semi-final, against 1 Armd Div Sig Regt, gave **SSgt's Dave Savage** and **Tony Bird** the chance to display their superior ball skills, often confusing the opposition with well-timed 'Dumps'. The experience of **Cpls Bill McDonald** (RE) and **Chris Skelton**, stalwarts of the team for the past three years, together with the 'Spiking' of **Cpl John Wheater**, proved too much for 1 Armd Div who eventually lost the match by two sets to nil. The finals, against last year's winners 9/12th

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Lancers, proved to be a very close fought contest with both teams displaying a high degree of volleyball skills. The match ended in a 2-0 win for 9/12th, 15—10, 15—11. It was a great pity that time restricted the match to the best of three sets as there was still a great deal of volleyball left in both teams.

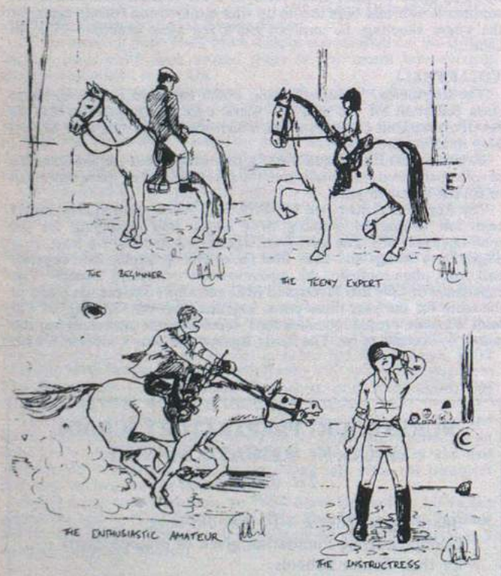
A special mention for **Sigs Steve Prowse** and **Ritchie Maddock**, both newcomers to the Regimental team, for their coolness and determination in what proved to be a tough, both mentally and physically, BAOR volleyball championship.

BIRGELEN SADDLE CLUB

Shortly before Easter this year, 13 Sig Regt was fortunate in the arrival of **Mrs Jane Wells**, wife of **WO2 Terry Wells**, who had run and acted as Instructress for the Saddle Club at 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus. The presence of such expertise and enthusiasm was too good a chance to miss, and it was decided to restart the Birgelen Saddle Club which had lapsed in 1978 with the departure of the previous Instructress. **Capt Mike Sheehan**, the Adjt duly assumed the appointment of Equitation Officer and left **Jane** to get on with the work. A few hundred yards from the end of the camp is the Manege Rothenbach (the local riding stables) which has just had a new Indoor School and new stalls built, The initial suspicions of the owner were quickly dispelled and we now have the use of up to 12 fine animals.

The questionnaires which were sent out to gauge the level of support for the Club yielded replies from eight adults and three children. Over the week, the numbers have increased dramatically to 26 adults and 10 children, with more enquiries almost weekly. **Mrs Wells** now takes classes of one hour's duration on Sunday afternoons at 4 o'clock (novices) and 5 o'clock (elementary), on Wednesday afternoons (intermediate) and Thursday afternoons (children).

Now that the club is established on a firm footing—or should I say with a secure seat— we are hoping to organise a Gymkhana in late September, and social evenings once a month. Next we will be looking forward to hacking out in the local woodland, for a morning's ride and picnic.



Our Adjutant, Capt Mike Sheehan's impressions of Birgelen Saddle Club 1981

14 Sig Regt (EW)
B.F.P.O. 23

EXERCISE 'SOUTHERN COMFORT III'

For the third year running the regiment has been down to the Berchtesgaden area of Southern Germany for its annual camp. The exercise was a month long, with the emphasis on adventure training.

Altogether, including permanent staff, about 250 members of the regiment attended the Camp, and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. A comment from one departing soldier—'Only one complaint, Sir, it should have been longer. Mind you, if it had been I would probably have come back married'. There is a young lady in Berchtesgaden who doesn't know how lucky an escape she has had.

1 SQUADRON

The squadron's visit to Berchtesgaden for Summer Camp took place in early May and after a very wet start soon developed into a gloriously sunny week of thrills, spills and adventure. When not risking death rock climbing, canoeing or building up confidence on the confidence course, many tested their fitness with **SSgt John Skipper** as he sped round his orienteering course shepherding togher the less able souls. This year was the third successive time for the regiment at Berchtesgaden and the general consensus of opinion was that it was the best ever. Certainly as weary suntanned bodies returned the widely held opinion was that the week had been 'shatteringly' successful.

OTHER EVENTS

In April we carried off the Regimental Skill at Arms Trophy. The heroes of this event were **WO2 Arthur Henderson**, who showed he had been hiding his light under a bushel for far too long, when he comfortably won the pistol shot, and **Sig Steve Broadburst** who won just about everything else.

Two teams from the squadron took part in the Harz Walkabout Orienteering Marthon, held in the Harz mountains on 25 and 26 May. One team consisted of **SSgt John Skipper, Cpl Steve Palfreyman** and **LCpl Pete Ridlington**, and the other of **WO2 Jim Hardy, LCpls Mick Hartley** and **Gary Painter**. Out of 82 starters, **SSgt Skipper's** team came 14th and **WO2 Hardy's** team 23rd. An excellent performance by all.

On the rugby field the Langeleben 'Moufflons' team enjoyed a full if unsuccessful April, the highlight of which was a three nation tournament held in Brunswick. The Germans beat us on points; the French tried to beat us on knock-outs, but we out sung and out drunk them all!

In addition to all that we have been on exercise a few times as well!

Left to right: LCpls Ridlington, Palfreyman and SSgt Keith Skipper on the road near St Andreasberg

HELLO/GOODBYE

On a sadder note, we have said farewell to a number of old hands. Having seemingly been here since Friedrich the Grosse, **WO2 (SSM) Bernie Neillings** finally said goodbye in April. We wish him well as RSM at Bunde. We also took our leave of stalwarts such as **Sgts Tom Lorrigan, Fred McLoughlin** and **Steve Wainwright. SSgt Geoff Cromack** has gone off to win all the prizes at someone else's Christmas Draw and **SSgt (FofS) Tony Reah** has gone off to become even cleverer than he is now.

On the plus side we have been joined by a host of new faces. Welcomes are extended to **SSgts Ken Wilford, Chris Fielding, Sgts Geoff Taylor, Martin Foster, Gordon Edgar** and **Tom Robinson** and last, but by no means least important, **LCpls John Honneyman** and **Paul Cullum.**

HARZ WALKABOUT

The Harz Walkabout is a two-day 80 Km orienteering event held annually in the Harz mountains. The regiment entered five teams of three this year. Of the 82 teams who started ours finished, 10, 14, 20, 21 and 23. In the Veterans (over 35) class **Maj Legge's** team were winners, and the CO's were runners up.

3 SQUADRON

We are now one year old and as it was our turn with the Regimental teddy bear, **LCpl Bob Dobson** posed for our birthday photograph on the SSM's chair.

Birthday photograph for 3 Squadron. LCpl Dobson, Regimental teddy and WO2 (SSM) Bancroft's chair

Electronic Warfare continues to be great fun and we are concentrating this month on Jammer Troop. Their task is to prevent people from establishing successful communications, a business dear to the heart of many a staff officer. The troop is commanded by **Capt John Berry.**

The troop is very active and manages to participate in many exercises and enjoy visits. One of the best was to Gutersloh to have a look at Harrier operations and the Recce Int Centre. The RAF gave them a great day and an even better night.

The troop operates in forward areas and has regular visits to view the IGB under the guidance of the British Frontier Service. In the period 13 to 15 Apr, **Mr Fred Hope** of the BFS gave them a royal tour that was both interesting, depressing and a shot in the arm to the 'why are we all here' brigade.

J Troop. The 13 most wanted men. (By the RSM)

J Troop at the IGB with Mr Fred Hope of the BFS

Murphy's law was fully active during the visit of the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen Hild**. He bravely agreed to have a go at taking morse generated by our resident computer, that immediately decided to start sending at 200 words per minute as an exercise in humility. We moved on to simpler things; **Sig Pick** with his sledge hammer (we have a fine sense of employment in 3 Sqn) attacking an earth spike.

Jammer Troop have, in fact, a strong affinity for Murphy's law, feeling that they are both concerned with disruption of a communicator's peaceful life, and have decided to gather information to produce the definitive study.

So, if you have ever commanded a detachment that has that wonderful ability to give up the ghost when anyone over the rank of unimportant visits, send your contribution to: **Sgt Heelan**, J Troop, 14 Sig Regt (EW), BFPO 23.

The other troops and departments in the squadron are alive and well. **Capt Adrian Morgan** made the mistake of successfully communicating in the field and has been posted to 1 Sqn, leaving RCP troop in the hands of **WO2 (YofS) Greatbanks. Sgt Geoff Lindsay** continues to swap troops every Monday and **LCpl Barry Spiers** swaps squadron alternate Wednesdays.

Lt Graham Norris, SSgt Chris Conroy and **SSgt (YofS) Gus Hartley** continue to keep Radio Troop in fine form, shuffle men, radios and the squadron tent around to meet the latest panic.

Welcome to our new Admin/Ops Officer, **Lt Denise Ashton;** arrived on Wednesday, APWT'd on Thursday, BFT'd on Friday and on exercise ever since.

UNUSUAL COMMITMENT

There has been an important change at 'higher level', in the shape of our new SSM—**WO2 Pete Tarrant. WO2** (now WO1 RSM) **Bernie Neillings** left us for a tour of duty with 2 Div HQ & Sig Regt. We wish him, his wife **Nan** and their family a successful time in Bunde.

As a form of 'welcome' to our new SSM, he was tasked with arranging a squadron Wives Study Day. This was held on 26 June and proved to be a most informative and enjoyable day for all concerned. The wives were invited to erect and camouflage a tent, under the wary eyes of **SSgt Taff Jones**; drill a squad of soldiers under directions of **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Dave Green**; carry-out a crossing of the squadron pool on a makeshift raft, under the watchful eyes of **SSgt Dave Hooper**; strip and assemble (think carefully!) weapons, with commands from **SSgt Dave Cook**; take part in cross-country driving and also negotiate our 'home-made' assault course, carefully monitored by **Sgt Paul Budden** and **SSgt John Smee** respectively. At lunchtime the wives prepared and ate their own compo rations, supplied and aided by **SSgt (SQMS) Gordon Air**. Most remarked on the difference in taste, but seemed to enjoy it! There were six teams of ladies in all and, with no apparent scheming by the SSM, it was noted that each team managed to win one of the seven prizes that were available.

On 27 June the squadron Football Team, managed by **WO2 Colin Gibson**, ventured to Dannenberg, as guests of H Troop, 13 Sig Regt, to take part in their own soccer tournament. It proved to be a worthy trip as the team returned with the First Prize Trophy. Our stars were many, although mention should be made of the top goalscorers—**Cpl Nick McCreedy** and **Sig 'Killer' Armstrong**.

We celebrated American Independence Day by inviting our nearest American neighbours, Field Station Wobeck, to our camp for a day of sports, swimming and an outdoor barbeque. Our OC, **Maj R. J. O. Randell** greeted their OC, **Capt R. L. Zeigler** and presented him with a squadron plaque. In return the unit was presented with a photograph of their detachment duly signed by all members of the unit. The day was a huge success, although some members of our unit and indeed some of our visitors may not have enjoyed our traditional method of taking a bath.

1 Squadron wives experience the joys of 'square bashing' during Langeleben Ladies Day

Two methods of crossing the water obstacle—by willing it across (Mrs Cumins) and using a Christmas pudding stirring spoon (Mrs Beavis)

SUCCESSFUL BALL

Our final event of note was the highly successful Summer Ball, held on 11 July. The evening was superbly organised by **Sgt Steve Jarvis**, ably assisted by **Cpl Tommy Arthur, Cpl Steve Rofe** and **LCpl Jack Honeyman**. The evening's entertainment included a magician, who stopped the hearts of many wives, when attempting to remove **Mrs Dawn Skipper's** left hand. Even **SSgt John Skipper** could not watch.

(**P.S.** There was another families military teach in at Ironside Barracks earlier this year. The photograph shows **Master David Cox**, the son of **Capt George Cox**.)

Master David Cox, the son of Capt George Cox

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

THE HEAVENS OPENED

The regiment took part in exercise *Summer Sales* and provided elements of the control headquarters in Hameln, 2 Sqn provided the Regen commcen in the form of commcen kilo. Most soldiers, well those who have got their knees brown anyway, would be hard pressed to remember a *Summer Sales* exercise where the sun did not shine and the fields were not full of golden wheat waving in the breeze. This particular exercise did not follow the general pattern; the rain was torrential and it was very windy. 2 Sqn arrived at its appointed hill top in the late afternoon and settled in, this was the sign for the heavens to open. Most of the site turned to mud and the commcen took on the appearance of a black and white minstrel show; the predominant colour, of course, being brown!! Once the wellies were issued the exercise got under way properly and all departments functioned as they should. There were lighthearted moments caused by such people as **SSgt (SQMS) Paddy Dickenson** who was heard to remark, 'I've got one last pair of wellies, both left footed, size 3'. This was the last exercise for our leader, **Maj David Case** who squelched around with us for the whole period; we wish both him and **Gale**, his wife, all the best for the future. The overriding interest of the exercise was a cribbage ladder organised, rather unfairly we might add, by **SSgt (FofS) Drew Robertson**. The top five on the ladder were:- **Capt Peter Thompson**—Poker face; **SSgt (FofS) Drew Robertson**—I'll talk you out of it yet; **SSgt Bob King**—The nice guy; **Sgt Paddy Coull**—Miss deal, my box; **SSgt Paddy Dickenson**—No one loves a loser.

We are saying goodbye to **SSgt (YofS) Pete Tharme** we wish him luck in his new posting to 4 Sig Gp. His replacement is **WO2 (YofS) Alan Hawkins**.

CANOEING IN 16 SIG REGT

Report by Cpl Bob Story

When I arrived at Krefeld and met the only other canoeist **Capt Paul Robertshaw** we charted the course of action for the 1981 season. We decided upon a very ambitious programme of competing in the 'BAOR Downriver League' and both the BAOR and Army Sprint and Marathon Championships, and hopefully winning them. After extensive advertising for many weeks with no volunteers I started having doubts whether our hopes would materialise. Then one day I managed to persuade my boss **SI Paul Duckworth** to come canoeing and that seemed to be the breakthrough, as the word got passed around that the water wasn't really that cold. We started to get the bodies we needed. **Sig Kev Potter** was the next to join us (I thought press ganging was a thing of the past) persuaded by **Capt Robertshaw** that canoeing was the way to pass the time. **Cpl Andy Trivett** (a canoeist of some experience) was posted in and joined us, **Sig 'Sass' Sassen** started coming along and kept us amused with his magic roundabout antics on the water. **LCpl Dave Farrington** decided he needed cooling down, after his shifts in the regimental restaurant and **LCpl Steve** (Iron lung) **Redshaw** was posted in. **LCpl Kenny Primrose** was prised away from the Officers Mess and convinced that, as he was keen on swimming, he should take up canoeing.

Regimental Canoeing Team *Left to right:* LCpl Primrose, Cpl Story, LCpl Redshaw, Sgt Duckworth, Sig Potter, LCpl Farrington, Capt Robertshaw, Cpl Trivett (missing Sig Sassen)

SPIRITS HIGH

In April we took part in the first BAOR league race and all did fairly well, and at the end of May we competed in the second BAOR league race and virtually wiped board. By now, team spirits were high and everyone was competing with one another to be in the 'A' team. By the end of June we were ready for the BAOR Sprint and Marathon Championships and travelled to Osnabruck to compete in the Sprint Championships on Saturday and the Marathon on Sunday. To cut a long story short, we won 11 of the 13 events. Now training was becoming very intense and life more hectic, preparing for the Army Championships at the end of July. We travelled to Monmouth in time to take part in the Royal Engineers Championships and once again all did well. A typical days training at Monmouth consisted of, an early morning run, a paddle over the marathon course starting at 10am and a spring and interval session at 4pm. During the week we finalised the team and decided who was paddling with whom and in what events. We were ready! The big day dawned and we were up at 6.30am to load canoes and dash down and grab a parking space near the water. Racing commenced at 0900 and finished at 1730, with a race every 4 minutes on average. Mention must be made here of super duper Alpha Trooper **Kev Potter** who not only competed in numerous heats, semi-finals and finals (winning all 3 events entered) but at the end of his last final, had to retire to bed exhausted. On Sunday we all started in our respective classes and toiled around the 12 mile marathon course. Coming down the river after the turnround, I could see all the team were in the lead in their classes and things were looking good.

A JUST REWARD

During the weekend 16 Sig Regt won the Army team spring championships and the Army team marathon championships and individual prizes too numerous to catalogue here. Seven of the nine, who competed for the regiment, have been selected to represent the Army in the Inter Service Championships at Nottingham in September. This is a just reward for all the time and effort shown by the whole team throughout the season.

TORCHLIGHT ON 'M' TROOP

Report by WO1 (FofS) R Scriven

First then a change in management. **WO1 (FofS) Scriven** took over the troop from **WO1 (FofS) Auther Brittenden** in mid-June. Good luck to him in Larkhill. Secondly, we have said farewell to **SSgt Pete Graham** who has been 'Forward 3 'd' to 1 Sqn. Thanks for all his hard work and good luck at the blunt end. To replace him as Troop 'Staffy' we have borrowed from 'F' Troop, **Sgt Fraser Kerr**. There are not many 'M' Troops in the Corps that can boast (I think that's the right word) a data-telegraphist. It will be interesting to have a non-tech with us for a while, to see the problems involved with running the 'Work' shop of the regiment. Talking of work, we have just had a visit from the RSIT. That's enough work. On to sport then. The inter-troop cricket competition revealed so much talent in the troop, that we simply waltzed through to become the winners. It was a full troop effort but I must single out **Cpl Paul Goddard** (RR Tech) (On loan from Swimming Training) and **Cpl David Cornfield** (Tech Stmn) whose batting and bowling really made the job so easy. Let us hope that this is the start of a trend that will kill, once and for all, the saying 'It makes a change for 'M' Troop to win something'. We are now looking forward to the Freedom Parade, followed by a six day battle camp at Vogelsang. We feel confident that with the troop as it stands, we can take these in our stride and still maintain the high standards of work expected from us.

A TA HOUSEWIFE'S ATTACHMENT TO 16 SIG REGT

Report by Capt Diana White 12 Sig Gp (V)

Thank you for the friendly greeting of my rather early and unexpected arrival. After my invitation ceremony into the regiment by a couple of male subalterns, I began my attachment with visits to 1 Sqn, including the BAOR Commcen and Auto Exchange, and 4 Sig Gp including Starrnet. These were very interesting and most enjoyable visits. Next on the agenda was Ex *Summer Sales* with 2 Sqn. It was a beautiful summer's day. The sun was beating down on us as the packets left the square at 10 minute intervals. Finally it was our turn.

Away we went up into the Corps area. Kilo was off to do a job on Ex *Summer Sales*, very different to its usual role. Everyone was keen and eager to try out a different task. The move into location went well and everyone was immediately busy setting up after the long journey. The following day there was a bad thunderstorm and several people's sleeping accommodation and the admin area were awash. It rained for most of the week that I was there, with the inevitable mud. The 'shots' were slow in coming in, as not everyone else was yet deployed. The staff did not move out until the following week, so the last of the shots were not in until a week after our move out. This meant that people were restless. There were visits to the GB at the weekend, so that everyone did get away from the site for a day at least. Then a crib ladder was started. This created a great deal of interest. It was hardly possible to move, without seeing a game going on somewhere, when people were not on shift. It certainly appeared to do morale good! So did the bread pudding. Well, thank you 16 Sig Regt, I have had a marvellous attachment. You are a great bunch of people. I think 2 Sqn at HMS *Kilo* deserve some special award for putting up with me and my unfortunate laugh so well. Remember 'if given a lemon you could turn it into a lemonade'. I was sorry to have to leave HMS *Kilo* before it sailed back to Krefeld. It will be many days before I stop seeing flashing lights and hearing the printer clatter and buzzing alarms, along with the cries of 'YofS' and 'FofS' and 'give me a loop' FDM, PCM etc, etc. Not forgetting of course the 'glug' and 'squelch' of every step. Till the next time, take care.

IT ALL HAPPENS IN 4 SQN

Since our last notes life has been going along apace. As a picture is worth a thousand words—and as I don't know a thousand words—here are some pictures, all taken by **Cpl Ian Gelsthorpe**, 4 Sqn Official Photographer.

EX 'LONG WALK': DETMOLD TO BIELEFELD

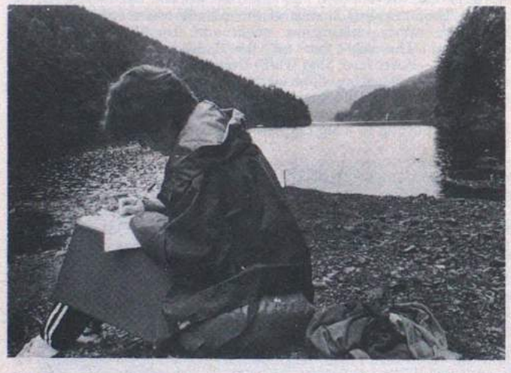
This little escapade raised DM900 for local charities.

SUMMER CAMP: HARZ MOUNTAINS

The pictures explain the activities, which also included walking, potholing and climbing.

Capt Judi Griggs hangs on for dear life

All smiles at the start



Sometimes I just sits—2Lt Nichola Thomas in idyllic surroundings

Look No Hands—Sig Mike Waldron lets go

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

CINC ROYAL AIR FORCE GERMAN COMMENDATION

Capt Reg Heath was presented with the CinC RAF Germany Commendation by the D Cdr RAF Germany, **AVM J. M. D. Sutton CB. Capt Heath** has commanded N Troop in RAF Gutersloh since October 1975 and his success in this post, in a joint service environment, is best summed up by a direct quote from the citation 'By his diligent planning and high sense of duty he has cemented a bond of trust and understanding with his Royal Air Force colleagues. His loyalty and devotion to duty are in the highest traditions of service in the Royal Air Force and the Royal Corps of Signals.' We feel sure that all members of the Corps will join us in congratulating **Capt Reg Heath** on this award.

RAF GERMANY KARTING CHAMPION

Cpl Jim Beecham of 'N' Troop gets his enjoyment from a sport which is not yet recognised by the army—karting. At speeds up to 70 mph, sitting a quarter of an inch off the ground he races at weekends in RAF Germany and German civilian race meetings. He first experienced karting in Cyprus in 1974 and returned to the sport on being posted to 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) in June 1978. He was RAF Germany 100 National Class Champion in 1979 and 1980 represented RAF(G) at the RAF Championships and the Jersey International Hill Climb and Sprint meeting in both years. In 1980 he gained 6th place in Jersey from a field of some of the top British and French drivers. His ambition for 1981 is to win the RAF Germany Championships and be in the first three at the Jersey International Meeting.

Cpl Jim Beecham in his usual position at the head of the field

SHOOTING

The Regimental Skill At Arms meeting 1981 was held at Arsbeck ranges during March. 'F' Troop (A), consisting of **Lt Paul Oldfield, SSgt Mal Forster, Sgt Harry Thorne, Cpl Geoff Bonelle** and **Cpl Bruce Barnes**, proved to be the best team, winning all but three of the team prizes. A special mention for **Geoff Bonelle** for winning the Champion Skill At Arms, which is awarded to the competitor with the highest agrregate score from the rifle, SMG and pistol matches. The D Cdr of Rhine Area **Col A. F. F. H. Robertson CBE** presented the trophies and medals to the teams and individual winners:- Champion Team—F Troop (A); SLR Team—F Troop (A); SMG Team—F Troop (A); Pistol Team—F Troop (A); LMG Team—C Troop; Falling Plate Team—E Troop (C); Champion Guest Team—16 Sqn (RAF); SLR 1st—**LCpl Clifford**; 2nd—**C. F. N. Marsh**; SMG 1st—**Lt Oldfield**; 2nd—**Cpl Bonelle**; Best B Class—**C. F. N. Marsh**; Pistol 1st—**Sgt Thorne**; 2nd—**Cpl Bonelle**; Best B Class—**Sig Cooley**; Champion At Arms—**Cpl Bonelle**; Champion Guest—**Flt Sgt Thompson (RAF).**

F Troop Regt Skill at Arms Champions
Left to Right: SSgt Forster, Cpl Bonnelle, Col Robinson, Sgt Thorne, Lt Oldfield, Cpl Barnes

Cpl Geoff Bonnelle Regt Champion showing off his medal

RHINE AREA SKILL AT ARMS

The Rhine Area Skill at Arms SAM meeting was held at Haltern range from 11 to 15 May. The good weather resulted in the team arriving back in the unit with two cups, the Individual Champion at Arms and Sun Tans. The standards this year were higher than the previous two years and this was reflected in the close battle for honours between the four major units teams entered. 21 Sig Regt (AS) won the SMG cup for the second year running and the Pistol cup for the first time in 12 years. With four matches fired it was all on the LMG match for Champion team with 28 Sig Regt as our rivals. The result of the LMG match was a win for 28 Sig Regt—thus giving them the aggregate points needed to clinch Champion team with 21 Sig Regt (AS) a close second. Champion at Arms (best combined SLR and SMG score) was **Sgt (Dirty Harry) Thorne** of 21 Sig Regt (AS). Bisley selection results ended with 16 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt winning places to the ARA Championships to be held at Bisley at the end of June—beginning of July. 21 Sig Regt (AS) team at Rhine Area consisted of: **SSgt John Hobley, Cpl Mike Harmsworth, Sgt Harry Thorne, Sig Russ Broadhead, Cpl Geoff Bonelle, Cfn Graham Harding, Cpl Geoff Copley, Sig Paddy Moore.**

Rhine Area Champion At Arms
Sgt 'Dirty Harry' Thorne

LMG team winners
Sgt Taylor, Cpl Barlow

J TROOP

Troop Personalities

OC	**Capt 'Allan' Duncan**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt 'Trev' Denton**
Radio Sgt	**Sgt 'Concorde' Chew**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt 'Lenny' Payne**

Looking through 'The Wire' over the past year, very few of them have notes from the 'outback' of Gutersloh. Back into print we go! The first three months of 1981 were extremely busy due to the arrival of 230 Sqn (PUMA) RAF. As a result, the Troop exercise commitments have been heavy with detachments to Denmark (ex *Jaeger Korps*); Sauerland (ex *Snow Plough*) and the various 'one off's' which seem to be designed to ensure that the Troop OC will eventually end up in the Retired Army Officers Home for the Bewildered (RAOHB).

THE DANISH SYNDROME?

For some inexplicable reason the *Jaeger Korps* Exercises seem to be the most popular. So far this year two have been completed, the *Jaeger Korps* (Danish version of Special Forces) Officers and OR's selection, with the Pumas of the 'Tiger' Sqn in Support. The stories, including the one about a girl called M.S. (?) are too numerous to mention here. (In fact they would probably cause some severe editing of our contribution). On a more serious note, the exercises are extremely hard work and our RTGs find them extremely challenging.

EX 'FROZEN TIGER'

An aptly named exercise which was the first major deployment of 230 Sqn (Puma). The exercise was a great success, with the J Troop operators acting as instructors in cold weather survival (Combat Radiomen definitely have a knack!). The weather was extreme and on one occasion **Capt Allan Duncan** plus **Cpl 'Roy' Boultons** RRB crew manpacked the complete C42 Station to the top of a 450m feature. Although taking 7½ hrs, it did indicate to our new Puma Sqn that J Troop takes its communicating seriously. **Cpl 'Roy' Boulton**, recently arrived from 94 Loc Regt RA, is wondering exactly what he has let himself in for.

PHOTOS

To brighten up our notes we have attached one or two photos which we hope will bring back happy memories to Ex J Troop members everywhere.

Arrivals—Welcome to **Cpl 'Roy' Boulton**—from 94 Loc Regt RA.

Depatures—Bye to **LCpl 'Jock' Smith**—7 Sig Regt; **Sig 'Mick' O'Brien**—Northern Ireland; **Cpl 'Paul' Milner**—5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn.

Births—Good Patch. **Cpl 'Fred' Tedby** & wife **'Debbie'**—a son called **Fred.**

Marriages—Every Happiness to **Sig 'Gaz'** & **Christine Thornton**—what a party!

Promotions—**LCpl 'Frank' McCubbin** to Corporal—about time!

Births pending—Five—Crusader???

Back Row: Sig O'Brien (NI), Sig Haresign, Sig Thornton, LCpl Martin, Sig Riney, LCpl Ovenden, Sig Hart
Third row: Sig Spencer, LCpl Lee (233 NI), LCpl Robinson, LCpl Anderson, Sig Westwood, LCpl Smith, Sig Turner (Civvy), Sig Montgomery, Sig Gault, Sig O'Brien, LCpl Holcroft
Second row: LCpl Kirk (233 NI), LCpl Smith (7 Sig Regt), LCpl Grandison, LCpl Lambe, Cpl McGarr, LCpl Berry, Cpl McCubbin, LCpl Raku-Evans
Front row: LCpl Haswell, Cpl Tait, Cpl Wilson, Sgt Chew, Capt Duncan, Sgt Denton, Sgt Payne, Cpl Prince (3 Div), Cpl Milner (5 Fd Fce)

Cpl McCubbin seen here explaining the Secure Teleprinter (VHF) set up at control, to the new CinC RAF Germany Air Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy KCB AFC RAF with OC 230 Sqn and OC J Troop in attendance

TUG OF WAR

The Tug of War season came to a very successful conclusion with the Regimental Team winning the Morrison Cup Final by beating 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt by two straight pulls. In fact we beat all our opponents by two straight pulls on the way to the final. 7 Sig Regt, 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, and 14 Sig Regt, other notable successes over the season are: Rhine Area Indoor League — Winners; Rhine Area Catch Weight League — Winners; Rhine Area Prudential Cup — Winners.

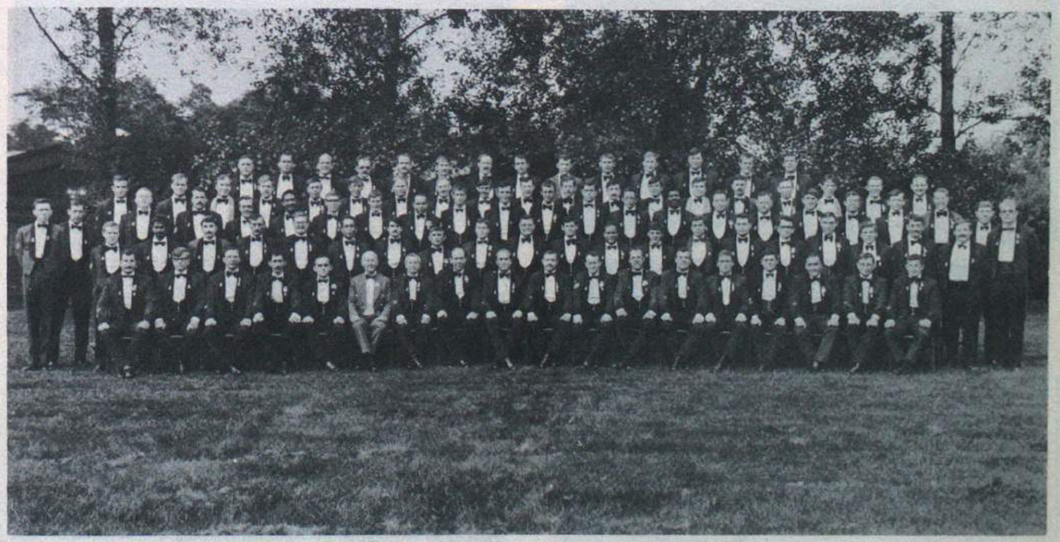
We qualified for the BAOR finals in Bunde where we gained a lot of experience, but, unfortunately, no prizes. Thanks for all their hard work in training and organising the team this year to **Capt Rod Paul (REME)** and **WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett.**

SERGEANTS MESS DINNER NIGHT

On Fri 4 June, a record number of WOs and SNCOs assembled at the Sergeants Mess RAF Wildenrath to say farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Matt Campbell** on his commissioning and subsequent posting to NI, **WO2 (RQMS) Roy Brown** and **SSgt Ken Pullman** who are both leaving the Army after 22 years service. The evening began with a Mess photograph. The CO **Lt Col D. T. Burton** had never seen so many of his WOs and SNCOs in one place at one time, so the opportunity to capture the occasion on film was not missed. The dinner, superbly organised by **WO2 Fred Winton** and his committee, was followed by the presentations. All the mess members then adjourned to the ante room to witness (if that's the correct terminology) **Matt Campbell's** Court Martial. The accused was, needless to say, found guilty and for his sins sentenced to spend the rest of his Army career in the Officers Mess!!! Ugh!!!! There followed a hair raising journey for **Capt Campbell** as he was escorted (for want of a better word) to the Officers Mess in a cage, especially built for the occasion where he was welcomed by the Officers who had been awaiting his arrival in eager anticipation. The minor problem of how to release **Capt Matt Campbell** from his cage was solved by the TOT **(Capt Brian Meachin)** who produced the key. The Officers then re-adjourned to the bar together with their chief guest. After a suitable interval for the odd drink or three, the CO presented **Capt Matt Campbell** with the customary inscribed tankard. The tables were then turned when the chief guest presented a small statue, bearing an uncanny resemblance to the presenter, to the CO. **Capt Campbell** was then re-invited back to the Sergeants Mess to finish off the morning as their guest.

We would like to wish **Matt** and **Barbara Campbell** good luck in their next posting. We would also like to wish **Roy** and **Chris Brown** and **Ken** and **Ann Pullman** happiness and every success in their new careers — good luck to you all.

RSM, WO1 (FofS) Matt Campbell, CO, WO2 Roy Brown (with (FofS) sword) SSgt Ken Pullman



WOs and SNCOs of 21 Sig Regiment (Air Support)

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

1 SQUADRON LOOKS BACK

During the first six months of 1981 the squadron has been involved in numerous events, to mention a few are: Jan—*Snow Queen*, Skiing in Bavarian Alps (23); Feb—Ex *Sweet Martini, Flying Falcon, Winter Sales* (All); Mar—Ex *Wintex* (Most); Apr—Lippstadt Marches, CO's Inspection of the Regt (All); May—Ex *November Folly*—Sqn Battle Camp (All) + Friends!; Jun—Ex *Sweet Martini*, Comms Plug Up leading to *Summer Sales* (All).

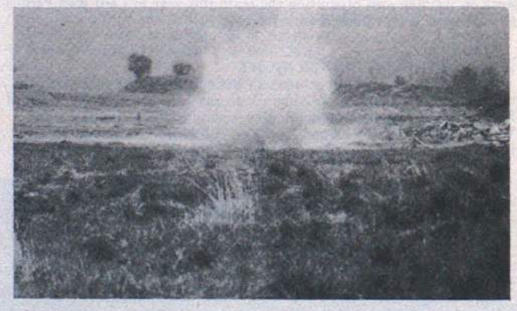
Besides being involved in the above, the Page Trophy Winter Sports took place with successes in the 7 a side Rugby competition and the Inter Squadron Boxing. The latter event being highlighted by **LCpl (now Cpl) Bruno Brown's** bout with **Sig (Syco) Cox.** This, the last bout of the evening, and at heavyweight, saw both boxers giving their utmost to win this contest. **Cpl Bruno Brown** eventually won, being stronger and nastier than his opponent, much to the delight of 1 Sqn supporters.

THE HIGHLIGHT

The highlight of the squadron's first half year must have been our Battle Camp. Prior to departing the usual moans were to be heard 'Ugh early morning PT and all Military Training'. This was not so and to the amazement of most people reveille was not until 0630hrs. The aim of our Battle Camp was to qualify as many of the squadron personnel in the mandatory yearly tests and develop the leadership qualities of our JNCOs. This was successfully completed with time for periods of relaxation. We stated our Battle Camp with two days at Sennelager ranges where most classified in their Annual Personal Weapon test. Background activities such as TOETS on the SLR, SMG & LMG & Pistol took place whilst the classifications were being fired. **Capt Frank Worrall's** instruction on the SLR turned out to be amusing for one detail when he said quote 'You gently squeeze the trigger and keep it squoozed!!' unquote, as you can imagine, it left a look of bewilderment on some peoples faces. From Sennelager we travelled south to Schwarzenborn Training area where we spent the next eight days. The first three days were mainly taken up by field firing, both by day and by night. A very interesting day on unit demolition was given by the Royal engineers. This proved popular with our new arrivals and for those who have never blown logs to smithereens as the pictures show. During the field firing stages instruction also took place on the 66mm and grenade. We were fortunate in having a certain amount of grenades and 66mm sub calibre to fire, giving the chosen few a chance to put their training into practice. After almost five days range work the weekend was upon us, this meant time for relaxation and some adventurous training. A programme was made out for Saturday which included rock climbing, canoeing and raft building. **Lt Tony Morphet**, in charge of the rock climbing thought **LCpl Jim Torrie's** attempt at abseiling was a cross between sky diving and hang gliding (without the hang glider!). Fortunately no injuries occurred and **LCpl Torrie** left much the wiser! On the raft building scene **Cpl Alex Carmichael** set a problem to a group, whereby given a few cans, a length of rope and a couple of logs, a raft was to be constructed in the shortest time, floating for a period without sinking.

Not so easy is it?

Getting ready for . . .



The explosion

IMPORTANT VISITORS

Sunday's programme, which included a visit by our wives and girlfriends, was to start with an Inter Troop .22 Shooting Competition. Unfortunately the heavens opened up completely washing it out. The coaches carrying our wives and girlfriends were to arrive at 11 o'clock, the rain was beginning to ease off. At 1130 the first coach was spotted and thankfully the rain stopped, leaving our camp area rather sodden. Despite this, we all had a barbeque lunch, excellently prepared and cooked by our ACC **Cpl Ian Mather** and **Pte Skee**. Our thanks go to them for all their hard work and most appetising meals cooked during Battle Camp. The families had a chance to 'Look us over' for a few hours, so the comms complex was set up and **YofS Taff Dunbar** organised an air rifle range, this proving most popular with the children.

A light tea was prepared for the families and at 5 o'clock we watched the coaches leaving for Lippstadt. The rest of Sunday evening was taken up by briefings for the following 48 hours. A Commhead Defence exercise.

We hear nothing speak nothing but talk a lot!

HELICOPTER DRILLS

Monday morning arrived along with a helicopter from the AAC. After instruction on helicopter handling drills the squadron, along with all the comms vehicles, departed for their hide. **Lt Tony Morphet** and his marauders, who were to be the infiltrators, were all that remained at the base camp. The next 20hrs Commhead November was set up in hide being defended against our gallant marauders. Tuesday morning saw our Commhead come under its heaviest attack with our defenders having to bug out from their location. This was fine until at a set RV point **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Nelson** was waiting to tell them the good news. For the rest of the day they were to travel by foot over a set course with command tasks at various points. These included rock climbing and first aid (this also included carrying a homemade stretcher and live body for approx 1½km). This sorted out the men from the boys and brought wry grins to the faces of those, who minutes before, had complained that the exercise was not as tough as they were expecting! Comments heard at the end of the Battle Camp were favourable, it seems that most people enjoyed themselves!

POSTSCRIPTS

After sorting Alpha Troop out **Capt Mike Dent** moves to 2 Armd Div Sig Regt to do the same?

Our Inter Troop Shooting competition finally took place, much to the delight of **Sgt Jim Wells**, the organiser of the event. SHQ Troop being the overall winners and **LCpl Stap Stapleton** taking the trophy for the highest score. Now we are off to Norway (C Tp) white water canoeing (A Tp) and Italy (The OC and anyone daft enough to follow). But more of that another time.

2 SQUADRON REPORT

The Management of 2 Sqn and their associated minions, normally referred to en masse as SHQ Troop, took itself up to Kiel for Ex *Pegasus Triangle*, on 14 July. Originally it had been planned for us to do four days' sailing in the Baltic. However due to circumstances beyond our control, arrival at the BKYC was late and also our boat had been dismasted the previous week. So as to ensure everyone had a chance to partake in the joys of the sea, (for as we all know the British are a seafaring race, that being true then some of us have false nationalities on our passports), it was necessary to split the party into two 'gangs' and take one 'gang' out each day. By night, however, we were able to discover the delights of the Oslokai and a sociological study was thoroughly carried out.

On Friday morning the majority set off on cycles to return to Lippstadt with an admin party leapfrogging to set up a camp each night and also to repair and collect any VOR bikes. Saturday night found us camped on the outskirts of Hamburg and the majority managed to visit the cultural attractions that city has to offer. **Sig Whizz Allan** lost himself and returned to the site by a devious route consisting of two buses, one police car and a train, (for the CO, don't worry, Sir, they were friendly policemen and we're all back safely). **Sig Earth Spike Waby** (a new member of the troop and on his first visit to Germany) found it painful to try and take his cycle in certain underground garages. Sunday saw cycling start with a vengeance, albeit with sore heads. The cycle party left the camp site at 1000, and arrived in the new site that evening, with **SSgt (YofS) Floyd** complaining that his gearless Black Beauty had a rather hard seat resulting in his feeling pain in parts of his anatomy. Tuesday night all the cycling party seemed to be walking. However, as they were now in Bad Oeynhausen it was decided to make a run for Lipstadt on Wednesday, which was successfully completed at about 1500 with the arrival all together in camp.

Those taking part were: Cycling and Sailing Party: **Capt P. S. Jones, WO2 (SSM) Purkiss, SSgt (YofS) Floyd, LCpls Chris Begg, Nobby Gower, Bones Jones, Sigs Psycho Cox, Whizz Allan, Steve Nelson** and **Paul Sprason**. Sailing and Admin Party: **SSgt (SQMS) Whaley, Cpl Zak Tracey, Sigs Tommo Tomlinson** and **Earth Spike Waby**. Mention should also be made of **Pte Basher Baines**, our Super Chef, who kept us replete and satisfied with some excellent cooking.

Our sympathies go out to Echo Troop who tried hard to get to Bavaria for canoeing but due to a number of mechanical disasters ended up paddling around the Lippstadt area.

Our commiserations also go to Foxtrot Troop who following their immersions in the River Erft near Dusseldorf appear to be attempting to use the regiment's entire supply of Government property for the year.

4 SQUADRON ROUND-UP

Eyeball Snooper, the 4 Sqn society voyeur, recounts in photographic form some of the moments of the month.

Maj Bill (QM) Barnes, known to his friends as **'Bill'**, not known to have enemies, left the regiment and was dined out of the Corps on 10 July. **Bill** is one of the few 'old sweats' left around and has some extraordinary stories to recount . . . 'Man, he laid line for Kitchener . . . '. His G1 Admin, **'Alfred'** and the rest of us wish him and his wife **Ellen** all the best for the future.

A LIKELY TALE

An amusing little tale concerning one **Sig 'Dog' Humphreys**; having spent the whole of this year's exercise food and accommodation refund (about nine months worth) on a trip to Hamburg—the art gallery I believe— **'Dog'** needed to change trains at Paderborn. After a while he realised that Braunschweig was a little off his route and took a back bearing. The story goes that he made it back to Lippstadt and coffee cup before first 'works'—having run out of trains and trudged sixty-two kilometres that night.

Maj Bill Barnes departs 'a la Carlsberg' atop his barstool and trailer on his farewell dinner. Junior officers listen intently to stories

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

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

OUR AFFILIATED TROOP

During the period covered by these notes it has been noticeable that the regiment has not been involved in any formal communications exercises. It has however been a very busy period for activities outside our operational role.

On 18 June, **Maj Brian Robinson,** the Training Major, visited the Junior Regt at Ouston to be present at a Pass Off Parade. The main reason for the visit was that the regiment's affiliated troop, Battle-axe Troop, was one of the Troops 'Passing Off', **Maj Robinson** was able to watch the parade, meet many members of the Troop and present a suitably inscribed shield to the Troop's Best Recruit, **JSgt Burrows.** Additionally the Troop Permanent Staff were presented with the Northern Army Group symbol, the Franciscan Axe, to wear with uniform on all formal parades.

The presentation of a Regimental shield to the Best Recruit.
Left to right: JSgt Burrows, Maj Robinson, Cpl Ikin, Lt Spoons and Sgt Campbell

SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION

The end of June saw a Safe and Skilled Driving Competition organised by **Capt Roy Stark** and **SSgt Barrie Pottinger.** The competition was organised in two parts; HGV for the professional drivers in the regiment and BFG cars for the remainder including wives and dependants. After considerable competition **Sgt Dougie MacTaggart** won the HGV section with **Sig Simon Cooper** winning the BFG cars section. **Mrs Penny Brewis,** wife of the 2IC won the ladies' trophy.

SUCCESS AT BISLEY

In the middle of June, the regiment was offered an unfilled vacancy at the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting (RASAM) at Bisley. Needless to say in-trays were emptied, excuses made to wives and girlfriends, arms were packed and by 28 June the team were on the hallowed ground of Bisley. At the Meeting this year, 61 Major Units competed, 42 of them being infantry. Although the standard of shooting was very high, the team did in fact leave the meeting with one trophy: The Royal Signals Cup presented to the highest placed Royal Signals Team in the Long Range Target Rifle competitions. The team that won this cup consisted of: **Sgt Mick Whitehouse** REME, **Cpl Taff Carr, Cpl Bob Crossley.**

The remainder of the team at RASAM were: **Capt Paul Gorford, Sgt Dave Matthews, Cpl Nick Horn, Cpl Slim Whitmore, Cpl Ted Edwards, Sig Tug Wilson, Pte Stevie Lindsay** RPC.

. . . AND DENMARK

After Bisley all sights were set on Denmark. This was because at the beginning of the year the shooting team received an invitation to the 8th International Firing Competition. The competition takes place annually at the Danish Signal School at Hoveltegard. For the past six years a 20 km march has also been included in the meeting. On 23 July the team set off from Krefeld heading North on route E3 in an Army mini bus. They arrived at the Danish Signal School in time for tea. In the evening an impromptu party at the barracks welcomed them to Denmark. In all about 40 teams attended, representing the British, Dutch, German, United States and Danish Armies together with some police and customs units. On 25 July the team competed in the 20km march in pouring rain, followed by firing the Danish service rifle and pistol in two teams of four. As is normal on such occasions the B team got the best score! They scored 104 points compared with a winning score of 119. By the time everyone had dried out from the torrential rain, it was time for the farewell party to be given by our Danish hosts. On leaving Denmark the next morning the team had two team shields and individual marching medals to remind them of three happy days with the Danish Signal School.

SUPPORT FOR UK EXERCISE

During July a group of 2 Officers, 10 SNCOs and 31 Soldiers, including 2 Belgian females, formed the Northern Army Group Signal Support Group contribution to 35 Sig Regt (V) Exercise *Wild Rover 81* in the United Kingdom. The convoy of fifteen vehicles and ten trailers travelled from Antwerp to Marchwood during the period the night of 6/7 July. For some of the detachment of German, Belgian and Dutch soldiers, this was their first visit to England. The arrival of a NAAFI van at the dockside was their first chance to sample the delights of real English tea and sticky buns. After a night stop and refuelling at South Cerney the group moved off for its final leg of its journey to Birmingham.

The Exercise began on 11 July with an early deployment to the exercise locations. The Belgian contingent and parts of the German contingent remained in Birmingham, whilst the remainder deployed to Cannock Chase and Swynnerton. Throughout the week various moves occurred through Chipston Forest and Ripon Park. The Communications part finished on Fri 17 July with everybody gathering at the STC Scarborough. The fine weather, that had lasted throughout the week, finally broke on Friday morning as the first vehicles moved into barracks and a steady downpour dampened everybody throughout Friday afternoon. Saturday was a day to relax and sort out prior to the return journey to Germany. Departure time was early on 19 July. A number of 35 Sig Regt personnel turned out to say goodbye to the party and lots of names and addresses were swopped and appointments made for next year, when 35 Sig Regt will journey to Germany for their 1982 Summer Camp. Sincere thanks are extended to the CO and all ranks of 35 Sig Regt (V) for their hospitality throughout the period. Those who took part from the regiment were: **Capt John Shepherd**—Contingent commander, **Cpl Glenn Dyer, Cpl Larry O'Kane, Cpl Phil Welham, Cpl Chris Aubrey, Cpl Tom McLean** REME and **LCpl Garry Lee** ACC.

THE NIJMEGEN CHALLENGE

Members of 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) competing in the Nijmegen Marches on Fri 24 July. *From left to right:* WO2 (SSM) Smith, SSgt Temmen, SSgt (YofS) Coburn, Sgt McFarlane, LCpl Brown, Sig Webster, Cpl Winstanley, Cpl Drinkall, 2Lt Thornton, Sig Reid (with Banner) and Sig Clark

Once again, the regiment discovered there are still Lunatics in uniform, when people volunteered to do the Nijmegen Marches. Especially as the team started in March by going for 30km walks on Sunday afternoons. On one of these marches the regiment won a Bundeswehr military march.

Then in early July twelve men were entered for the Rheindahlen Allied Marches. This was a 40km march which was used as a training event, but also to decide the final team for Nijmegen. The team finished the event well, and in due course the names of those selected for Nijmegen were announced. Everyone successfully completed all the marches and the regiment gained a team medal in addition to individual medals. Those who took part were: **2Lt Adrian Thornton, WO2 (SSM) John Smith, SSgt Bernie Temmen, SSgt (YofS) Paddy Coburn, SSgt Mac MacFarlane, Cpl Howie Winstanley, Cpl Joe Keen Drinkall, LCpl Martin Brown, Sig Geordie Reid, Sig Frank Clark, Sig Webster** and **Sig Freddy Brown** (Bike Orderly).

THE BIGGERSEE

For those members of the regiment not involved in Shooting, the TA exercise or International Marching the first three weeks of July was a military training camp by the Biggersee in Sauerland. During the period two camping sessions took place, the first run by **Maj Raymond Etheridge** and the second by **Maj Frank Garrod.** The aims of the military camps were to develop leadership and fitness and practice those military skills which are not normally directly associated with a Signal Regiment. The activities and stories are too numerous to recall, but mention must be made of three. Firstly the patience and expertise shown by **Sgt Pat Dooher** in instructing many members of the regiment in basic canoeing. Secondly the 'Beating Retreat' arranged by **LCpl Joe Dublin** as part of 1 Squadron's farewell to **Maj Etheridge.** Lastly, the day that **Maj Garrod** arranged a comprehensive section exercise and missed seeing most of the activities because the grass was too high! Apart from a few sore feet and some blisters, everyone who attended, including WRAC, learnt a lot and many war stories were swopped over a pint of beer back at barracks.

IMPORTANT VISITS

The last week in July saw three important visits to the regiment. The first was by **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE,** the CSO, BAOR, who was making an introductory visit to the regiment. He was welcomed at the barrack gate by a Guard of Honour commanded by **SSgt Colin Ross,** and after inspecting the Guard he was whisked away for a briefing on the regiment, given by **Maj Bob Brewis** the 2IC. This was followed by a brief look at some of the communications equipment and an opportunity to meet many members of the regiment. **Maj Gen Hild** then moved to the Corporals Mess where he presented the Rhodesia Medal to **Cpl Pete Peakall.** This was followed by a visit to the Sergeants Mess where, after having been welcomed by the Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 (RSM) Ted Banham,** and the President of the Mess Committee, **WO2 (SSM) Ray Steen,** he had the opportunity to have a chat with Mess Members. The visit came all too quickly to an end after the CSO had had luncheon with the Officers.

The next day the Commander of Northern Army Group **Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC (Gen)** visited the Northern Army Group/ Second Allied Tactical Air Force Communications Centre and Switchboard at Rheindahlen. **Gen Gow** was met by the CO and introduced to the Squadron Cdr, **Maj Frank Garrod,** and the

Lt Guy Kenyon describes to Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE how the Tropospheric Scatter system owned by the regiment works. Looking on thoughtfully from left to right are: Capt John Morrison, Capt Alan Hutt and Lt Col Paul Webb

Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE has an informal chat in the Sergeants Mess with *from left to right:* Sgt Taff Taylor, In Pensioners Harry Hulme and Tom Goldsmith and Sgt Roy Pickersgill

Commander Northern Army Group, Gen Sir Michael Gow discusses the problem of exchange operating with Sgt Linda Ellis WRAC, the shift supervisor while Maj Colin Smith and Lt Col Paul Webb look on

Lt Col Audrey Smith WRAC outside the WRAC accommodation at Rheindahlen with *from left to right:* WO1 (RSM) Ted Banham, Maj Frank Garrod, Capt Mary Piers, the Rheindahlen Troop Commander and Lt Col Paul Webb

Communications Chief, **Maj Colin Smith.** During his brief stay **Gen Gow** was shown all departments and had an opportunity to meet most members of the 'On Duty' shift.

On 28 July the regiment was visited by **Lt Col Audrey Smith,** ADWRAC, HQ BAOR. After an introductory briefing by **Maj Bob Brewis, Lt Col Smith** was shown by the CO the communications equipment used by the regiment. During this, she was able to meet members of her Corps who work in the Regimental Barracks. Luncheon in the Officers Mess was followed by a visit to the WRAC Accommodation at Rheindahlen and the Northern Army Group/ Second Allied Tactical Air Force Communications Centre and Switchboard, which is manned in the main, by members of the WRAC.

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

VISIT BY COLONEL COMMANDANT

The Regiment was visited by **Maj Gen E. J. Hellier CBE** on 20 July. His visit started with an introduction to the officers (and coffee), and then the CO, **Lt Col Roger Thompson**, gave a briefing on the role of the Regiment. This was followed by an equipment display by 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons, during which he took the opportunity to meet a large proportion of the soldiers. The programme continued with a visit to the Campbell Centre and the chance to chat to some of the wives. The Campbell Centre is the Regiment's community centre which is run by some of the wives. Before departing **Maj Gen Hellier** was presented with a print depicting past operations and exercises the Regiment has been involved in, in Cyprus, Germany, Rhodesia and the New Hebrides.

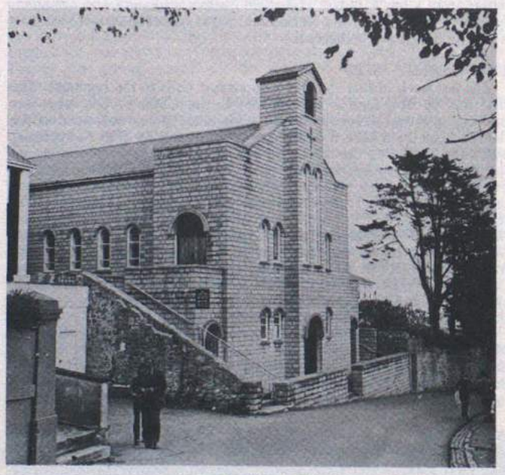
Maj Gen Hellier meets a smiling Lt Jane Stockdale, OC Comhead Tp, whilst RSM Campbell looks on

Maj Gen Hellier CBE being presented with a Regimental Print by Asst Adjt 2Lt Debbie Rice WRAC, in the CO's office

ANNUAL VISIT TO ALDERNEY

Every year, normally the first two weeks in June, the Regiment visits Alderney in the Channel Islands. This year's visit marked the 10th anniversary of our adoption by the people of Alderney, and meant that we just had to celebrate! Each year during the visit the Regiment has undertaken a project to benefit the Islanders, this year's was the 'simple' task of putting three bells weighing approximately 600 lbs into a church tower too small for them? 'The impossible we do at once, miracles take a little longer'!! However, it only took the lads a week to perform this miracle.

'Just put this lot . . .'



. . . up there lads'

Undaunted, our lads put that lot, up there, and undertook other smaller projects around the Island. All were completed under the watchful eye and guidance of OC HQ Sqn **Maj Ben Bolt** and **Capt Vic Zimmer**.

Movement of personnel to and from Alderney was a major task, especially when taking into consideration the fact that the Corps Band and the White Helmets Motorcycle display team came over and put on a mini-tattoo for the Island. Our thanks must go to the RCT for kindly assisting with an LSL craft, and the Navy who operated a ferry service on HMS *Alderney*.

BY CORPS YACHT AND LSL

Maj Barry Rowe chartered the Corps Yacht for the period, and with a capable crew of the Asst Adjt, **2Lt Debbie Rice WRAC, Capt Ian Wells, WO1 Livesey BEM** and **Cpl Robinson** sailed over to Alderney. Apologies to the lads and officers who had to endure eight hours on the flat-bottomed LSL, in a force five crossing the Channel, but there was only room for five on the yacht. Further apologies for taking your steak, the cooks issued your rations to us and vice versa! It was difficult eating 35 men's worth of steak in two days, and we couldn't cook the chips!! The bread was put to good use, making steak butties!!

A MINOR MISHAP

The middle weekend of the two weeks, 'Alderney Weekend', saw the arrival of the CO, QM, RSM and wives, **Mrs June Zimmer** and **Mrs Julie Bolt**, who only stayed for the weekend. It was a busy and memorable weekend both for the Regiment and the Islanders, beginning with a ceremony and church service to inaugurate 'the bells' which were so professionally hung. Only one mishap occurred during their hanging, in which part of the President's wall, part of the stone cross on the church and the entrance lamp over the church door were demolished!!

The rest of the weekend went very smoothly, finishing with a Sunday luncheon during which the CO made a speech of thanks to the Island for its hospitality and uttered the pun of the week, 'there's a story to be tolled'. On that note we leave Alderney!

SPONSORED MARATHON—JUNE

As their effort to raise money for the year of the disabled, 15 members of 1 Sqn ran a 600 mile sponsored marathon.

Originally it was planned to run from Largs, Scotland to Blandford, passing through 15 Police Counties. The mammoth task of organising was taken on by the then OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Pat Kington**, and an admin team of **Sgt Mick Harvey, Cpl Phil Jarvis, LCpl Mitch Ashley, Sig John Jordan, Sig Paul Smith.**

Unfortunately due to problems with obtaining clearance from the police to run on public highways during silent hours, and their concern from the safety point of view, the marathon was eventually run in laps around Blandford Camp. Each runner completed 40 miles, in five mile solo laps, resting between laps whilst someone else ran. A 'guess the correct time' raffle was held, the person nearest the correct time winning a black and white portable television.

THE FASTEST LAP

It took the fifteen man team a total of *74 hrs 23 mins* to complete the 600 miles. The fastest lap of *30.5 mins* was run by **LCpl Martin Sloman** and the team achieved a very impressive average of 36.7 minutes per lap. The marathon attracted local press coverage, the start and finish being covered by a live link with local 2 Counties Radio of Bournemouth.

A TREMENDOUS EFFORT

A total of over £1,000 was raised towards the year of the Disabled. The team which comprised all ranks, ages ranging from 19-39 years are shown below at the finish of the marathon with the CO, RSM and OC 1 Sqn. Well done lads, a tremendous effort all round from those who ran, and those who supported (stirring the Pot Noodles!) Well done also **Cpl Roger Low,** who collected the highest amount of money for sponsorship, he collected £167.50.

Back row left to right: LCpl Martin Sloman, SSgt Chalkie White, Cpl Clive Thompson, Cpl Sammy McElreavey, Cpl Roger Low
Centre row left to right: RSM, Cpl Laurie Booth, SSgt Pat Garrehy, Lt George Howson, Sig Dave Parvin, Sig Pete Gillespie, WO1 Campbell
Front row left to right: LCpl Lenny King, Sig Roy Emblem, WO2 Mick Nevill, Maj P. Kington, LCpl Mick Evans, Cpl Scotty Steven, CO Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson

PRESENTATION BY THE HOME SECRETARY

Capt Keith Derrick accepting, on behalf of the regiment, a painting of HMP Rollestone and a plaque from the Home Secretary. The presentation was made on behalf of the Staff of HMP Rollestone, which the Regiment manned during the recent prison officers strike

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9.25. Cheques to:-

Mr P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQO 2QT.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

TRADITION

As is traditional in our alternate non-overseas training years, the regiment returned to Burniston Barracks, Scarborough for its annual training from 13-27 June. Almost 350 members of the regiment attended, and the main objectives set by the CO, **Lt Col Peter Thompson**, i.e. training of our new recruits and intensive HGV and trade courses, were all fully achieved despite long hours, little sleep and the usual hectic social life. Add to this such little 'extras' as a full Regimental Parade, squadron parties, a chance for some to visit the nearby RAF Flyingdales early warning station, an overnight road movement exercise back to TACs and it was no wonder that at least one Squadron Commander claimed to have slept for 16 hours afterwards!

THREE DECADES OF RSM

A bonus of returning to Burniston Barracks was the usual warm welcome extended by Camp Commandant **Maj (now Lt Col) A. S. R. Alfred,** himself a former RSM of 31 Regiment from 1970-71, and when **Lt Col (QM) T. P. O'Connor** (Ret'd), RSM of 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Regiment TA from 1961-63 dropped by to see us, and, no doubt, 41 Sqn in particular, then a camera just had to be produced. We congratulate **Lt Col Alfred** on his recent promotion and thank him for the help and support he gave us during camp.

Three Decades of RSM
Left to right: Lt Col (QM) A. S. R. Alfred, WO1 (RSM) A. W. Boag, Lt Col (QM) T. P. O'Connor (Retd)

THE OTHER WEDDING

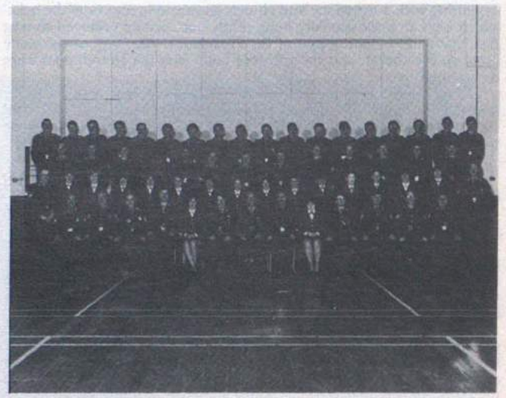
41 Sqn now boasts two of its three troops being commanded by a husband and wife team; on 18 July **Lt Linda Coe** (47 Sqn, Harrow) married **Lt Ian Webber** (83 Sqn, Cobham), and in the post camp 'musical chairs' of officer appointments, when the music stopped, they were found to be both posted to 41 Sqn (Coulsdon) commanding a Commcen Troop and the HF Radio Troop respectively. Coincidence or does a romantic lurk in the depths of RHQ . . .?

SOME OTHER MOVES

Having passed QM **Capt Colin Stephens'** most stringent tests (i.e. to be able to count) **WO2 (SSM) Alan Lafferty** moves across the square at Southfields leaving 83 Sqn for promotion to WO1 (RQMS) and a new life in the stores. His place in 83 Sqn is taken by newly promoted **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Fenge**, who, in turn, has handed over his military training role to **WO2 Henry** (of RHQ Orderly Room fame) **Holman.**

47 SQUADRON

Based at Harrow, Middlesex, 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn is the direct successor to the Middlesex Yeomanry, a distinguished cavalry and later signal unit, which traces its history back to 1797. This historical link is preserved in several ways, the most unusual being the retention (when in No 2 Dress) of the badges of rank of the Household



One for the album—the annual squadron photograph of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn; note the unusual badges of rank (traditional) and the OC's short socks (also traditional).

Cavalry. Staff Sergeants in the squadron wear four stripes and a crown whilst Corporals and Lance Corporals wear the same badges of rank—the two chevrons and crown. The origin of this distinction is obscure; there is a theory that it was granted by Queen Victoria, in recognition of the number of travelling escorts provided by the Middlesex Yeomanry (and coincidentally it was almost 100 years ago, on 16 July 1881, that a mounted escort was provided for their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales. Whilst the serving Squadron would be delighted for history to be repeated, rumours that Sqn OC, **Maj Paul Whittle**, is in the market for good second hand horses are completely unfounded!)

NEW TOYS

Having taken delivery of new VRC 321s, to replace our ageing C11s, the regiment now eagerly awaits the arrival of the first C50/C70 vehicles. It's hard to believe that, after so many years, our traditional radio relay pastimes such as 'Winching the Yagi' or 'Hunt the Crystal' will soon be things of the past.

GROUP COMMANDER INSPECTS WRAC

Escorted by OCWRAC Capt Eileen Carter, the Group Commander inspects the WRAC Squadron. (Units wanting engineer support should contact either of the two WRAC Squadron Officers; Lt Jane Hart (left) redesigns hospitals whilst Lt Jan Harper (right) modestly claims to be 'rebuilding Birmingham Airport')

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

EXERCISE 'BIG BEN' (OPERATION DUKE OF YORK)

It was probably the Adjutant's fault (after all he normally gets the blame) for not keeping the CO snowed under with work and allowing him to escape on leave. It was fate that **Lt Col Chris Cross** chose to tour the Western Highlands and who could have foreseen that on viewing the towering heights of Ben Nevis that such was his devotion to military manoeuvre, that he should immediately start to contrive a way to get his regiment to the top. The Colonel's enthusiastic return to Glasgow and his excited expounding of his master plan was greeted by the Regular Staff displaying a mixture of disbelief, horror and applications for leave over the weekend concerned. The volunteers' reaction was far less alarmist and many sagas were dusted off about how it had all been done before. The Adjutant and RSM set forth on a recce to ascertain that Ben Nevis would indeed still be there on the weekend in question and to tackle the problem of accommodating, as well as feeding, the 'five thousand' on its slopes. The QM solved this problem by drawing up two thousand five hundred bivvies!

The weekend approached and although all of the administrative arrangements were going to plan, there was an uneasy awareness that all would be lost on the day if the weather went against us. The CO had several private consultations with **Padre John Silcox** on this matter. The results were spectacular with the rain ceasing and the clouds drifting away as the advance party wound its way up Glen Nevis to the selected base camp site. Quartermaster, **Maj Ron Acott,** and his team set about throwing up tented accommodation and admin areas, as the sun beat down and all manner of blood-sucking insects decided that it was time to come out of hibernation. The morning had arrived and over several acres of camp site drab figures were to be seen crawling out of their bivvies and peering at the summit shrouded by the morning mist. The local guide paced up and down staring at the heavens, sniffing the air and occasionally poking a finger skywards to test the wind. He finally confirmed that the climb was on. The Regular Staff hastily scoffed their breakfast and set off to man the checkpoints up the mountain track. They resembled native porters, being laden down with such essentials as radios, splints, survival kits and bagpipes. It fell to **RSM Pete Clarke**, Adjutant **Capt Ewen Cameron** and **Padre** (nearer my Lord to thee) **Silcox** to man the summit checkpoint. The main body followed in staggered (and staggering) groups of ten. As the procession wound its way up and up, the last remnants of the mist disappeared and the day turned into probably the finest so far this summer.

PRESENTATIONS AT THE SUMMIT

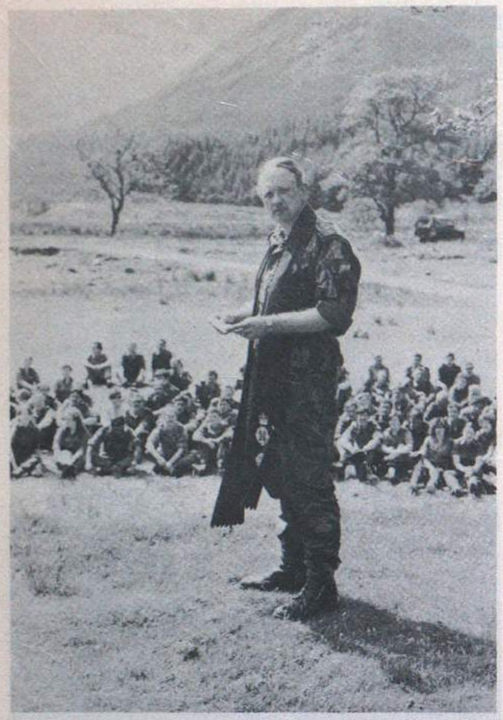
Our guest of honour was **Col Brown OBE TD,** the Deputy Commander 2 Signal Group. It transpired that Group Headquarters had got wind of our venture and had decided to send someone to confirm that we had all gone mad. To convince him that this indeed was the case the regiment was formed up on Parade at the summit and he was invited to present **Capt John Chown** REME (our OC LAD) with his TD and Paymaster **Maj Tim Straton TD** RAPC with a clasp to his decoration. All of this was witnessed by a bemused group of German hikers who were searching in vain for a Gastatte. The ascent and the weekend in general were outstanding successes. Of the two hundred and thirty individuals who set out to scale the heights, over two hundred reached the top. The small admin party worked wonders in setting up the camp and catering for the masses.

The weekend was concluded by an open air service at the foot of the mount. The collection from this is to be combined with the sponsorship takings and is to be presented to the Servicemen's Home at Erskine.

Col Brown presents Capt Chown REME with his TD

High powered catering. Maj Bob Drake, Capt Jimmy Jamieson, RQMS Bill Taylor and Capt Nick Nicholas preparing 300 packed lunches

What goes up must come down. 51 Squadron personnel at the summit prepare for the descent



Sermon on the mount. Padre John Silcox conducts an open air service at the foot of Ben Nevis on the day after the ascent

remained undaunted and continued to appear before our sights. This gave us much practice, and we hope it will enable us to retain our present first and second places in the Regimental .22 shooting competition.

69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

After a lapse from participation of some six years the OC, **Maj John Pinkerton TD,** gave an undertaking last year to the G 1 Training to enter a squadron team for Exercise *Pied Piper 81. Pied Piper* is basically an infantry exercise, but it, none the less, covers the basic skills required by all soldiers. It was only in the cold sober days following the Christmas festivities, when the run up to the exercise started, that our eager band of volunteers began to realise just what was in store for them. **OCdt Keith Chambers** had the unenviable task of picking a team of eight, plus two reserves, from an initial twenty volunteers, but he was aided by the vigour of the training course. The team trained very hard and got excellent support and guidance from **RSM WO1 Clarke, WO2s Wylie and Sims** and from the Sqn SNCOs. To come thirteenth, out of an initial entry of 27 in the actual exercise, was a considerable achievement in view of our particular role and the time available for training. It is unlikely in the present economic climate that we will be able to enter a team in next year's exercise.

At the end of May we hold our Annual Parade to commence the breaching of the Hitler Line for the Canadians in Italy in 1943 for which the North Irish Horse were awarded the unique 'maple leaf' battle honours. The salute at the parade was taken by **Maj J. T. Eaton TD** father of the late **Col Oliver Eaton,** Deputy Group Commander 2 Signal Group. The Sergeants Mess wives produced the usual superb spread, as part of this effort to produce funds for the children's Christmas Party.

We are all looking forward to a rigorous annual camp in darkest Scarborough in the late summer. (We are still waiting for early and mid summer!)

69 Squadron on Ex *Pied Piper*. Cpl Johnson, Sigs Duddy, Laird and Platt and Sgt Morris at the double

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON

61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron have recently enjoyed one or two interesting schemes. On 29/31 May under the direction of **Capt Ron McNaught** provided communications for the West Lowland Hike, as we have done for a number of years. The hike is a major Boys Brigade event, and teams come from all over Scotland to compete in the two day march. Great emphasis is laid on the safety aspect, in which our communications play a major role. The local police were very co-operative and even suggested at one point that they should alert the local C.B. net. This suggestion was received with some embarrassment when **SSM Davy Watt** pointed out that his civilian job involved tracking down and prosecuting C.B. users! The police then retired in some confusion!

On 6/7 June the squadron moved to Otterburn for a weekend of NBC training, organised by **SSM Watt.** Wearing a respirator with microphone and loud-hailer attached, he both looked and sounded like a character from Star Wars as he gleefully supervised our efforts at eating and drinking in the CS Chamber. **Capt Pat Heslin** taught us all about detector papers and marking contaminated areas, **2Lt Alastair Hall** initiated us into the mysteries of vehicle decontamination, and we all tried our hand at first aid in an NBC environment. The weekend concluded with an exercise in which we practised our skills. **Lt Jimbo Black** has now learnt that it is not advisable to kick thunderflashes or throw CS Canisters back at the DS. **2Lt Alastair Hall** has learnt that caution should be exercised when retrieving one's pipe from the depths of one's riding mackintosh, as the pockets can hold CS gas for many hours. In the meantime, we can congratulate the following on their promotion to provisional Lance Corporal. Now at least they have an excuse for dictatorial tactics! **Sig McDonald, Sig Manson, Sig Stobie, Pte L. Bruce WRAC (V), Pte R. Burce R. WRAC (V), Pte Cowan WRAC (V), Pte Staples WRAC (V).**

Finally, on 27/28 June the squadron deployed to Dreghorn ranges to shoot the APWT. Among a landscape of yellow grass, parched gorse, and stunted trees, all prettily embellished with spent shell cases, we shot the enemy from every conceivable position. The enemy, however,

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

ANNUAL CAMP AT SCARBOROUGH

On Sat 30 May the squadron left Alamein TA Centre in brilliant sunshine. After an uneventful trip the squadron arrived at Burniston STC in Scarborough and proceeded to settle in.

On 1 June the squadron deployed into the field, which turned out to be a somewhat boggy location—but with the able assistance of **Sgt Morrison, LCpl Tran** and **Cpl Webster** of the LAD, plus a few willing hands, the squadron soon found a position on firmer ground. That evening the squdron went off on an 8 mile march led by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Chris Byrom**: was this a sign of things to come thought the squadron? The next day the rain set in, SOP exercise weather. Another 1½ mile bash before breakfast set the blisters throbbing—things were definitely getting serious . . . later that day the WRAC had a chance to fire the SLR on the range, which turned out to be a useful and enjoyable experience. On Wednesday the squadron returned to Burniston Camp and set off on the Annual BFTs—the pace was certainly hotting up! The next day saw the start of the Commanding Officer's inter troop competition and the reasons for the vigorous activity of the past few days became clear! The first task comprised a tactical approach march, followed by a steep escarpment climb carrying a weighted stretcher: this was organised by the Adjt, **Capt John Willis** and nearly saw the expiry of certain members of the team! Then a river crossing, great fun and 'no sinkings' were encountered due to the efforts of the squadron's master boat builder **Sig McCormick.** The Assault course next and a few minutes of sheer hell . . . **Cpl Brough's** body came in particularly useful, when it came to supporting the Land Rover tyres, as did **Pte Dean's** 'Any way which you can' methods in getting **Pte Quayle** WRAC over the obstacles! The Communications Skills posed less of a problem and were completed without incident. Late that night the squadron set off for the night march: with the Padre, who seemed to possess some form of inspired inertial guidance, the team managed to complete the task in good order. A few hours sleep later the Squadron, still alive, started the final tasks of the competition. The NBC Ex task posed few problems but one of the markers on the orienteering course became 'invisible' which made things a little awkward. The Fieldcraft task saw the team dressed to kill, looking like a band of native warriors. The shooting competition went well with the squadron score being suitably lifted by our two Annie Oakleys—**Cpl Smith** and **Pte Claus!** The final event was a course over which was carried a substantial log—however, with the vociferous encouragement of the OC and the unending enthusiasm of all, a fast time was obtained with **Cpl Kane** and **LCplWalker** being dragged across the finishing line!

Back to Burniston, tired, dirty but satisfied with our achievements for the Commanding Officer's presentation. The week ended with a fitter squadron with a new nickname—'Byrom's Buccaneers!!'

59 SIG SQN (V)

The weeks before annual camp 81 were, for 59 Sig Sqn, based at Edge Lane, Liverpool, full of apprehension. After several months of cut-backs in man-days and vehicle movement . . . 'rumour-control' predicted that camp was to be a tough one with lots of movement between locations and the emphasis on tactics.

The first week's exercise was a squadron one planned by the Sqn Comd **Maj Doug Murray TD** and although it proved to be physically tough, due to the fact that attendance at camp was nearly 40% below establishment, all went well and when the work was done those 'off-shift' enjoyed the much-appreciated Yorkshire sunshine . . . one memorable comment from the Switch site was 'Every silver lining has a cloud'. The second week of camp featured the Regimental exercise *'Yorkshire Relish'* which featured several moves and continued air of mystery concerning future locations. Despite the normal SOP for weather and despite the fact that it looked as though it was about to break . . . it held (just) and *Yorkshire Relish* proved to be successful both from a communications point of view, as well as in the practise of hitherto 'not so oft' practised tactical drills.

The highlight of camp was undoubtedly exercise *'June Bug'*, a 2-day team competition of several events (including the assault course, river-crossing and night navigation exercise). Organised by the regular staff the competition was tough at times, but turned out to be great fun, though a few suffered injuries. Thanks to the efforts of our team the Sqn won this rough competition, which was good for Sqn morale.

One achievement of the exercise was to demonstrate to many unsuspecting soldiers and 'soldieresses' just how unfit they were. Post-camp morale was very high and reflected the hard work put in to organise a UK camp full of interest and activity . . . a much appreciated alternative to the normal UK training camp.

34 Sig Regt (V) Middlesborough

Report by Rev Alan Hughes CF

HAPPY LANDING

The Eagle has landed!—well, the Regimental Bird of 'Pray', well I think it's punny. Our last report ended with news of a free-fall parachute descent by yours truly. All those who would gladly give their eye-teeth to have my job writing notes for The Wire can keep their dentures for another day. My sponsored descent into New Marske Parish went off smoothly. Low cloud posed some problems but I managed a 10 sec delay from 3,500 ft out of a Cessena 172 before opening at around 1800 ft through low cloud and landing a few yards from my Church. I raised just over £1000 for our New Church Hall Fund.

After!
Padre Alan Hughes with new style cassock and surplice

CROWBOROUGH

The major event to share with you this month is of course our Annual Camp at Crowborough in Sussex. Small beer in the wake of *Crusader 80* it may have seemed but Annual Camp, like life, is what you make it and we feel we made plenty of Crowborough. We enjoyed *Crusader* immensely and learnt a lot from our experiences in BAOR and so the CO, **Col Bill Illingworth** and his Training Staff were determined to consolidate in preparation for BAOR 82; Trade training at all levels was the main priority. Military training was also a major feature especially with our Detachment Commanders Course. This became something of a camp within a camp under the direction of **SVWO Harry Bent.** Our potential SNCO's survived a gruelling 15 day course which culminated in their own night exercise, *'Operation CB'*. In addition to a UK Camp giving us the freedom to trade train, there were other significant advantages. We could have a daily camp routine, invite visitors and organise sporting and social events. Reveille was at 6 am with PT at 6.30, training beginning at 8 and continuing until 5.30 pm leaving the evenings free for inter-Squadron sports fixtures and a healthy social life in the NAAFI and messes.

MANY WELCOME VISITORS

We were extremely fortunate to be visited by so many important people who, during the year, assist the regiment so tirelessly and take an active interest in our work. Week one began with a visit from **Lt Gen Sir Frank Kitson**, the Inspector General of the TA, who flew in by helicopter. **Maj Gen Sandy Boswell** the DTA&C spent a whole day with us as did **Brig Geoffrey Westbrook** the Secretary of North of England TAVRA. The SOinC, **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle** was another welcome visitor; he stretched his visit to watch the final of the Inter-Sqn 7 a side Rugby and presented the winners, 90 Sqn, with their trophy, also shields to the runners-up, our overworked PSIs. One of **Gen Boswell's** first tasks was to present **Yeoman Alan Tibbet** with a Royal Warrant, on his promotion to Warrant Officer. 'I haven't presented one of these before', said the General, 'I haven't received one before Sir', replied **Alan.** The next day **Sir Frank Kitson** presented **SSM Tony Gallagher** of 50 Sqn with his Warrant at a similar ceremony in the Sergeants Mess.

Sir Frank Kitson and CO with husband and wife SSgt Alan Vance and Sgt Gaynor Vance of 49 Sqn (Leeds) in Sergeants Mess Crowborough

PSI's—Runners Up in the Inter Sqn 7-a-side Rugby

Yeoman Alan Tibbett receiving his Royal Warrant from Gen Sandy Boswell

90 Sqn (Middlesborough) Winners of 7-a-side Rugby with SOinC

Fri June 19 saw a highly successful Cocktail Party in the Officers Mess; guests included **Col Foster**, Dep Comd 12 Gp, **Col Kentish** REME TA, **Maj Lycett-Gregson** SO2 HQ 12 Gp, **Lt Col Ann Bray** WRAC ADWRAC HQ N E DIST, **Brig Paddy Evans** the BGS, **Col Keith Olds** Comd 1 Sig Gp, **Lt Col David Jolly** GSO1 UKLF, all former COs and **Maj Hatfield** OC 56 Sig Sqn (V).

DUTY CALLS

Saturday brought with it the Regiment's day off, leaving behind a small skeleton staff, most people headed for Brighton, the more sedate for Eastbourne. Perhaps remembering the old chestnut, 'Harwich for the Continent but Frinton for the incontinent' **Maj John Douglas,** OC 50 Sqn was the most adventurous. He took a hovercraft to France on a day return defraying the cost in saved duty.

SOME IMPERFECTIONS

Speaking of skeleton staff, we almost had some real ones. **Capt John Ruff,** OC Designate of 49 Sqn, made the mistake of remaining seated whilst flushing the toilet in the Officers Mess only to be rewarded by the cistern with scalding hot water instead of cold. One Signalman, perhaps hearing of this, rose to flush his piece of mechanical porcelain and the cistern fell off the wall and broke his foot. **Maj Jim Storey,** OC LAD, turned on a tap in his workshop then executed a neat backward flip, thanks to 220 volts emanating from the tap. Can anyone tell me, has 40 Regt been doing maintenance work at Crowborough lately?

A FULL DAY

Sunday morning began with a Service of Worship in the open air, indeed each morning began with a service in the Camp Chapel. The whole regiment assembled, as the Band marched through the trees behind Bandmaster **Derek Farrington**, resplendent in white gloves, with red sash and sword over his No 1 Dress. With the regiment in such good heart, the Band lifting our singing and the addition of fine weather the event was worthy of its purpose. Sunday afternoon was reserved for sports and the standard of competition paid tribute to the fitness of our 'soldiery'—either that or the 6.30am daily PT really worked. 90 Sqn won the Rugby together with the overall Sports Trophy. Volleyball was won by 50 Sqn. The Illingworth Silver Plates for football and rounders were both won by HQ Sqn, as was the Trophy for the Tug-o-War. After a shower, the victors then went off to join squadron socials held in Crowborough hostelries.

WEEK TWO

Monday of week two began with Exercise *Wealdon Haze*, a 48hr bash devised by Ops Offr **Maj Mervyn Jenkins** assisted by TOT **Capt Ron Williams** and SWRAC Officer **Maj Mary Nicholson.** Issued with 24hr person packs for rations, squadrons deployed into the vegetation to practice in the field those skills they had learned in the classroom the previous week and simulate their BAOR commitment. All went well for two days and one night thanks to fine weather. One unclassified story, which can be told is the tale of **Yeoman Ken (Royal and Ancient) Graham.** A keen golfer, he was mysteriously deployed to the local golf course! Has he a friend in the Trg Office—has anyone a friend in the Trg Office? His stay was short lived, he ordered an immediate 'crash out' on finding that they were double-booked with a large colony of ants—for the technical, and I'm told there are some who read this magazine, 'insect of the family Formicidae of the order Hymenoptera latin name formix', unfortunately he was not sure which of the 3,500 species they belonged to.

Immediately the exercise ended it was back to the classrooms as Trade Boards were completed over Wednesday and Thursday. During this time we received our Hon Col, **Col Mike Stewart** and our Civic guests. These included **Councillor** and **Mrs Norman Swash,** the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough; **Councillor** and **Mrs Stenson,** Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington. **Mr & Mrs John Foster—John** is the Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Borough Council. **Mr R Bowler-Hunt,** Darlington's Borough Engineer. Further military guests included our Group Commander **Brig John Burrows, Brig Anne Field** DWRAC and **Lt Col J. D. Nixon MC DL** the Secretary of Yorks and Humberside TAVRA, all of whom stayed for a Regimental Officers Mess Dinner.

FULL COMMITMENT

The Honorary Colonel's Parade on the final Friday was preceded by an address to all ranks of 34th by the CO who praised them for their commitment to what had been demanded and achieved over the two weeks. **Col Stewart** took the opportunity to present some medals on his Parade, these included the TD to SWRAC Officer **Maj Mary Nicholson** and a bar to **Cpl Hilda Fishers TEM, Hilda** serves with 49 Sqn, having joined in 1947, Crowborough was her 28th Camp. The regiment departed Crowborough 0400hrs Sat 27 June and all packets arrived at home TACs before 5.30 pm having staged at CVHQ RCT at Grantham, as indeed they had on the outward journey. Our MTWO, **WO1 Brian Davies** presented the Commandant of the HQ with a Regimental Plaque in appreciation of their kindness to us.

Col Mike Stewart Hon Col 34 presenting Cpl Hilda Fisher 49 Sqn (Leeds) with her umpteenth Efficiency Medal on her 28th Camp—she joined in 1947

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PRINCESS ANNE

The following Saturday The Colonel-in-Chief visited Teeside Racecourse to inspect St John's Ambulance Brigade Cadets. The CO was on hand as the Regiment was tasked to provide Communications Controls during the visit. (Middlesbrough based 90 and HQ Squadrons.) On the evening of The Colonel-in-Chief's visit the CO was guest of honour at the Regimental Sergeants Mess Ball; next day he undertook an inspection of all squadrons in preparation for the UEI veh insp.

THE LAKE DISTRICT

Flushed with success in the Camp sports, HQ Sqn organised a highly successful Adventure Training weekend in the Lake District 18/19 July in which they canoed, climbed, abseiled, sailed and orienteered. 90 Sqn are to do the same in mid-August followed by 49 at the end of the month.

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY VISIT

On 31 July the Chairman and Secretary of North of England TAVRA, **The Viscount Ridley** and **Brig Geoffrey Westbrook** visited Regimental Headquarters.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

A final pot-pourri: **SSgt Micky Dunn** sadly leaving us for 4 Div came 117th out of 12000 in the Great North Run through Newcastle and Gateshead. **Cpl Gerry Ord,**who has survived two COs (or they him) as Staff Car Driver, leaves 21 Regiment: we wish **Gerry,** his wife and two children every happiness in their new posting, **WO2 Ken Naylor** also congratulated on his appointment to SSM 49 Sqn at Leeds. **Cpl Bob Titler** of 50 Sqn at Gateshead is now promoted Sgt. **Capt John Ruff** was promoted Major as he took up his new appointment as OC 49 Sqn in Aug in succession to **Maj Peter Sutherland** Regimental 2IC designate. **2Lt Diane Lilley** joins 49 Sqn from Leeds UOTC. **Lts Nellie Woodhead** and **Rosemary Turner** both leave the regiment having produced potential Officer Cadets!—gone, but we won't be able to forget them, with both husbands still serving the regiment.

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WR/9

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

"ODE TO 36"
Off to camp we wend our way,
At Burniston, Scarborough, we will stay,
One two two our vehicles all,
They all make it there with never a stall.

Trailers ninety-four have we,
All clanged and crawled down to the sea,
Four four nine decide to go,
That includes the regulars, the whole darn show.

HQ Sqn they arrive on time
Fed on crisps and cheap red wine,
Major Archie looked around, reached for handle,
Opened door and showed neat sandle.

44 Sqn had the longest haul,
Eleven hours of Kerbway crawl.
Major Ian did the trip in style,
Had a brand new coach on which to while.

45 Sqn with yet another OC handover,
Major David arrived in smart Range Rover.
Captain Douglas in his old jalopy,
For a new OC it looks so sloppy.

54 Sqn, full of country squires,
Came in fast with screeching tyres,
Major Mike he was calm and cool,
Had compass, camera and spare spool.

Our LAD arrived in last,
Ready for a large repast,
Captain Jim by a quirk of fate,
Rolled in fuelless through the gate.

All our transport now spread out,
Gives Mr Foody room to shout,
Training Major, all agog
was always looking for his dog.

Pay Office staffed and ready for go,
Major Don he runs the greatest show.
Adjutant and RHQ primed and set,
Doors and windows open, fine or wet.

Conferences start to fill the void,
Each one difficult to avoid.
Meetings too they branch and grow,
Venues various, where to go?

Parades begin to take on shape,
Hair is now removed from nape.
The Officers also start to drill,
But of halts and turns they have had their fill.

Two parties daily is the ration,
Attend them all is quite in fashion.
Work all day and dance all night,
Breakfast time is quite a sight.

Visitors day we have but two,
All shown around with no ado,
Our SOinC came on first day,
He charmed us all with his pleasant way.

The second day our visitors came,
Out came the sick, the idle, the lame,
Competition time, down came the rain.
Oh, the agony! Oh, the pain!

Assault course hard and muscles taut,
Run time came, most teams were short,
Gallant competitors feted and cheered,
Beat even the weather which most had feared.

A quarter guard trained and keen,
Weapons held high, they do look mean,
As they stand there so smart and tall,
Our Group Commander inspects them all.

Day off at last it comes around,
Into town and country too we bound.
Bags of breeze, lots of sun,
A lovely day for a bit of fun.

Exercise now for three full days,
Full of sunshine comms and praise.
The sites were good the food was great,
Our gods had won, a lovely fate.

Now church parade, the big march past,
HQ Sqn first, our ladies the last.
Our Corps of Drums beat out the pace,
All drilled away with serious face.

Reverend John on verse one two four,
Sings of horror, hope and eternal war.
Now the National Anthem sung clear and fine,
That's surely last John, Please call time.

Our Colonel Willie on the stand,
Looks extra smart and rather grand.
Round wheels the parade, past they march,
Full of confidence, made of starch.

Now back we go, all's in reverse,
As down the country we traverse.
A great camp that and now the plea,
Can we please go back in eight-three?

AFTERNOTE:

A five pound note is a lot of money
Said Chief to all—it's not that funny.
Ten pounds a year I am allowed,
Regulars, bountyless, are not well endowed.

VISIT BY SOinC

During Annual Camp the SOinC paid a visit to the regiment. After lunch in the Officers Mess, a visit to the Trade Training School, the HGV driving course and a tour of the Camp was made.

SOinC chatting to our girls
Left to right: Pte Sharon Waylen, Pte Pat Welsh, LCpl Brenda Squires and LCpl Paul Taylor watches his style

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON REPORT

RAN OUT

The trip by HQ Sqn to Annual Camp at Burniston Barracks Scarborough was pretty uneventful, until we were told that the LAD had run out of petrol on the way there, so we were pretty lucky that none of us broke down, we could have had a long wait!

It was straight down to work the moment we arrived. But we took the first Monday night off to have our Sqn party at a local hostelry where food and beverage was in abundance.

A COMPLETE SUCCESS

Technician training courses were jointly run at Camp by **SSgt (FofS) Dave Coles** (Reg) and **SSgt (FofS) John Gard** (TA) and was a great success with a high pass rate. The remainder of the regiment's technicians directed by **SSgt (FofS) Colin Hooper** (45 Sqn) worked hard to modify trailers and equipment in time for the Regimental Exercise during the second week.

Driver training at times made the square look like a miniature version of Brands Hatch, with light and HGV using it at the same time, but with QTO **SSgt Keith McGregor** in control, it all went smoothly. The Regimental Exercise on the first three days of the second week, started with a crash move to various parts of North Yorkshire, the exercise was a complete success with good comms, good food and good weather.

A NOTORIOUS CLIMB

Our return to Burniston Barracks from exercise locations was made more interesting by the fact that our OC **Maj Archie Gibson** decided that the Sqn would return to Scarborough via Sutton Bank a rather notorious one in four climb with two hairpin bends. After depositing his passengers in various other vehicles, on the grounds that he would be more comfortable, he and his 2IC **Lt Frank Jepson** set off and waited at the top of the bank hoping that all his vehicles would make it. The Q vehicle with the SQMS **SSgt Pete Boultwood** made it, but had a puncture on the carpark at the top and had to wait for LAD assistance. Our vintage 'commers' gave us some hair raising moments, one passed the test, but the oldest, driven by **Cpl Pat O'Shea** and abetted by **Sgt Roy Bilby** just wasn't successful and they had to reverse halfway down the bank and turnabout, much to the consternation of the civilian traffic; they travelled home the scenic route, good try lads!

SUCCESS

Our Sports day was very successful, we won a couple of football matches and also reached the semi-finals in the tug-of-war for the Trotman Cup.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations must go to two newly appointed Senior NCOs. Cpl now **Sgt Liz Day**, WRAC who as Officers Mess Stewardess had the Officers well and truly looked after. Cpl now **Sgt Welshman** who went to Camp as the provost Sgt, after doing a short course at Colditz, once in Burniston Barracks you required a shoehorn to get out again, so security this year at camp was very good. Also Lt now **Capt Jim Rennie** (must be for repairing that flat tyre). Our thanks and fond farewells must go to **SSgt Keith McGregor** who retires from the TA shortly after Camp. **Keith** was one of those devoted seniors whose efforts and cheerfulness will be sorely missed.

IT WENT WELL

Yes! this year's camp went very well and a good time was had by all; we all look forward to another spot of Scarborough Sunshine in 1983, this time we will take plenty of crutches for people who attempt the assault course and do not quite make it.

45TH SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS) REPORT

Commcen India enjoyed a very good exercise in both phases. The move on the first location got underway as we were 'crashed' out of Burniston Barracks. The harbour party under the command of **Capt Douglas McLay** proceed to the RV arriving at first light. A party of six were sent into the site to clear the area, but surprise, surprise, an enemy vehicle was using our site as a car park; however it did not take **Sgt Malcolm Harlow, LCpl Alan Sparkes** and the CO long to round them up. I think we even saw the rare sight of the **FofS Colin Hooper** cocking his weapon! The enemy main party were now foolhardy enough to try and capture our harbour area, but it was securely held by our WRAC under **LCpl Marilyn Brown** who acted as OC Defence and Chief Traffic Cop!

As the main party moved in things started to happen fast, as the Radio Relay Troop, under the command of **WO1 Larry Gray** with **Sgt Malcolm Harlow** and acting radio Sgt **Cpl Phil Hunt** started getting their det commanders—**LCpl Vaughn Tiller, LCpl Ken Blackman, LCpl Paul Garnham** and **Sig Jeff Inns**—to get their shots in. 'There's life in these C41s yet' yells **Larry Gray** as his boys bring in their circuits most professionally. Soon **Foreman Hooper** and **Tech Sgts MacLethbridge, George Green** and **Mick Treeton** are lining up circuits 'like there's no tomorrow'. **SSgt Roy Cooper's** girls, **Mandy Brown, LCpl Mary Evans, Ptes Rose Henry, Maggie Binks, Jackie Betts** and **Helen Hare** are running around with arms full of message tapes. Just after our evening meal our early morning visitors return to be captured again and again! At last Sqn Commander **David Milne** says 'enough's enough' and gets **SSgt Bryan Mumford** to take them and drop them 15 miles away so that they never return.

Presentation of clasps, medals and Lord Lieutenant's Certificates on 18 June at Colchester Centre to members of 45 Sig Sqn (V), from *left to right:* Lt Col Willie Allan, Brig J. R. Burrows, Col J. H. C. Parker, MCDL (Dept Lord Lieutenant of Essex), WO2 Colin Dyball, Cpl Bob Self, LCpl Malcolm (Chopper) Hales, Mr Henry Rodgers, Sig David Griggs, SSgt John O'Mara and Cpl James Lefley

Just as we are getting comfortable, up goes the cry 'move Commcen India'. On arrival, the recce party cannot believe it, a deserted farm on a hill only 4 shots to the full height of one section and no enemy. This is all getting too easy as **Capt Roger Buston's** Commcen troop give a text book demonstration of how to move in. Even the CO, **Lt Col Willie Allan** is impressed as he watches linemen **Cpl Brian Rogers, LCpl Cyril Clark, LCpl John Mitchel** and **LCpl 'Johno' Johnston** lay in the tails. It's all down hill now as the shots bury themselves in and before long its time for Commcen India to return to Scarborough with its soldiers feeling 10ft tall as OC, **Maj David Milne** congratulates them on at last beating our old rivals at 'Lima'.

Whilst the Commcen Troops were enjoying their enemy infested wood **Lt Tony Robertson's** 751 Troop were deploying to Bellerby. After a long drive **SSgt Pete Minshall** secured the area and it was not long before radiomen **Cpl John Coale** and **LCpls Davie Rush** and **Shane Goodhall** had both HF and VHF comms working. After their move to Dishforth **Lt Robertson** soon organised aerial recces, from the local gliding club when eleven of his troop got cut price rates in 'Gollies' flying circus.

Meantime **Capt Jackie Grenville** had to carry RHQ on her back at 752 Troop's LMC. Despite a reported shortage of linemen, it was not long before data telegraphists were finger busy. The switchboard was one of the busiest in the network because of the co-location but **Pte Sharon Waylen, Pte Kim Saunders** and **Sig Tim Grant** managed to keep things going through. **LCpl Paul Smith** and his SOS boys have already got their comforts going, but the move in the second day helps to make re-move difficult. The line crew **LCpl Peter Kay, Sig Colin Marchant, Sig Dave Ratcliff** and the infamous **Sig Rodger** (who everybody knows but nobody's met) have done their work, so it's down to their secondary trade of guard.

2Lt Phil Penfold is undertaking his first camp with 817 Radio Relay troop with both detachments co-located in both phases. **Cpl Ray Symonds** is digging holes for slit-trenches, **Cpl Dave Levillette** in charge of the library and **Sig Melvin Fernandes** the milk bar. **Sgt Les Woods** soon kept up the 817 traditions of always getting through with both shots from India to Lima. But back to Burniston, keeping everything safe, was **LCpl Chopper Hales** and **Sig Steve Millock** but nobody told them that the armoury was empty!

ESCAPE AND EVASION EXERCISE

During the squadron exercise day we ran an escape and evasion exercise on the Yorkshire moors. Teams of four or five led by the JNCOs had to avoid being spotted by C11 controlled vehicle patrols, manned by the squadron officers and seniors. The best military team was led by **Cpl Mick O'Brien** despite a strong challenge by the Courage Trophy team led by **Cpl Ross Bannister.** The fastest WRAC team by a country mile was led by a very resourceful **LCpl Mandy Brown**. However, despite our keeping PSI **SSgt Bryan Mumford's**

minibus tied down at the finish, it was noticed that they had hardly worked up sufficient thirst to drink the prize, so **LCpl Mary Evan's** team was declared the winner.

All in all the squadron enjoyed a very successful camp from all aspects, and this was confirmed by the individual stories overheard in squadron clubs up and down the length of Essex.

SQUADRON CHANGES

As a result of the unexpected departure of our OC, **Maj David Milne**, to a new civilian job in Portsmouth, a reshuffle of the squadron organisation was needed after camp. The hot seat is taken by **Maj Douglas McLay** whose job as operations Officer is filled by **Capt Andy Trimble**. **Capt Jackie (Mini Maam) Grenville** leaves 752 Troop to **WO2 Colin Dyball** and takes on the job of squadron training officer. The new SSM is **SSgt Pete Minshall** who leaves 751 Troop to former storeman **SSgt Lloyd Drakes**. The 'Caribbean Clowns' place in the stores is taken by our new **SQMS Sgt Davie Dunn**. Finally **2Lt Phil Penfold** takes on the challenge of Radio Relay at 817 Troop.

707 & 755 TROOPS

The date was Thu 11 Jun, the place Norwich TA Centre and the event a training evening for the members of 707 and 755 Signal Troops (V). This particular Thursday night the two troops were to be visited by their squadron OC and SSM, **WO2 Colin Royall**. **Maj Mike Sexton** was to have as busy an evening as any of the soldiers under his command. His evening started with a greeting and briefing by the Detachment Commander **Lt Mike Stewart** followed by a tour of inspection of all the Royal Signals accommodation in the centre. The author is delighted to report that **Maj Mike's** comments on this part of the evening were all good. **Maj Mike's** next event took him outside the centre into the last of the little sun we had on that day, where he met **Ex Cpl Jim Turner** to present him with his Efficiency Medal TAVR. On the parade, which was held after this informal meeting, **Jim** was praised by the OC for his 13 years of enthusiastic, dedicated and loyal service to the TA. **Maj Mike** then congratulated the Troop's PSI **Sgt Ralph Smith**, on his outstanding achivements in the last football season. **Sgt Smith** managed to win several trophies with his local football team; and OC is seen in our photo congratulating him on winning one: The Trophy for Clubman of the year. The final part of the OC's evening was spent in an informal get together with the two troops in the bar.

OC presents Soccer trophy to Club man of the year, PSI Sgt Ralph Smith

FAREWELL SEASON

Some of our old soldiers have decided that it is now time to hang up their boots. We say fond farewells to **Maj Derek Latchford** who is off to pass on his expertise to the cadets. **Derek** leaves after 24 years service. **Maj Ken Harvey** who joins HQ 12 Sig Gp (V) leaves after 17 years service and **Sgt Derrick Randall** who leaves after 30 years service. Our caretakers at Ilford TAC **Kit** and **Sam Stokes** leave after a mere 29 years service. Good luck to you all, the regiment will never seem the same without you.

The regular staff dismayed at so many quotes of long service, decided to play the ace of trumps, 38 years service and still going strong, by our **Quartermaster Bill Gahan**. For the record **Bill** has served in eight countries, had 14 postings and 12 army quarters. He was also one of the last in the corps to hold the rank of Lance Sgt. He still turns out for badminton each lunchtime and still manages to teach us youngsters what it's all about. Congratulations **Bill** on a fantastic record!

Our Regular QM, Maj Bill Gahan

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

37 Sig Regt (V) Bristol

PERSONALITIES

Over the past few months the CO, **Lt Col Mike Jennings,** has seen a large turnover of his regular staff. The regular staff RHQ 'line up' is now as follows:

CO	**Lt Col Mike Jennings**
QM	**Maj Danny Kay**
Trg Maj	**Maj Vernon Smith**
Adjt	**Capt Tony Manders**
RSM	**WO1 Gordon Blood**
MTWO	**WO1 Jim Downie**
RQMS	**WO2 Graham Leake**
FofS	**WO2 Jim Cook**
YofS	**WO2 Ron Butcher**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt John Richardson**
Conrate PSI	**SSgt Chick Cheetham**
Tech	**Sgt Brian Hughes**
Tech	**Sgt Frank Pitt**
CO's Driver	**LCpl Fewkes** (from Sep 81)

It is with much regret that we say goodbye to **Lt Col (QM) Terry Cantle** who has been a mainstay of the regiment during his tour. He will also be badly missed from the badminton courts. We all hope that he enjoys his 'new' occupation—of quartermastering (Perhaps now, someone else can win a game!)

We welcome **Maj Danny Kay** fresh from 14 Sig Regt (it is the third time in succession that he has taken over from **Lt Col Cantle**!), and also to the new RSM, **WO1 Gordon Blood.**

This month the news comes from our Bridgwater squadron.

43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

On looking back over the last few months, the major event has been Annual Camp which the squadron attended with the regiment at Scarborough STC. With the objective of improving individual trade and military qualifications, the majority of personnel took part in the various courses with good overall results being achieved. All those undertaking trade and HGV driver training courses passed and seven soldiers and two of the WRAC passed their respective Detachment Commanders Courses. Unfortunately similar successes were not achieved on the Regimental Sports Day even though there should have been some advantage with the programme being organised by OC Sqn, **Maj Norman Harvey.**

Whilst on the subject of physical fitness, early morning training runs were enjoyed by all in preparation for the Tickle Test. Although our numbers decreased slightly due to the inevitable sprains a very creditable result was achieved and our PSO, **Maj Ron Oakley,** was a welcome sight at the finish with a glass of 'Bucks Fizz' for everyone. Good results were also achieved for the crossing of the 21 mile section of the Lyke Wake Walk, with times of 7 hours or under being recorded. At the end of Camp a very successful social was held, during which the excellent sum of £200 was raised, thanks to the efforts of **Sgt Alan Dorritt** and the girls, towards a presentation made by the regiment to Scarborough Disabled Association.

In place of their Camp, four of the Squadron's Senior NCOs attended a Staff Sergeants Course with 11 Sig Regt at Catterick, which they all passed and **Sgt Paul Darley** achieved 2nd place overall. **Lt Andrew Cornish** has also just completed a two week attachment with 7 Sig Regt, Herford and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Mention has previously been made of our recently formed CMHQ Troop at Exeter, and they continue to move from strength to strength under their OC, **Capt Mick Back** and are achieving success with the squadron on recent exercises. They are learning new skills quickly and are proving to be a valuable asset.

In conclusion, we have unfortunately said farewell to **Lt Sue Thomas** and, for the time being, **Capt Rosemary Tuhey WRAC,** and also to **Sgt Rita Smith WRAC,** who had completed a long and valuable period of service with the Sqn.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

SQUADRON HANDOVER

On 1 May command of 64 (Sheffield) Sig Sqn (V) changed hands.

(By courtesy of Sheffield Newspapers Ltd)

The photograph shows **Maj (Tfc) Toby Seymour**, on the right, handing over to **Maj David Wing TD**. **Maj Seymour**, a former regular officer, is now an educational administrator, whilst **Maj Wing** is a schoolmaster.

MILITARY TRAINING COMPETITION

Later in May a large part of the regiment moved to Strensall Camp and training area for a weekend Military and Tactical Evaluation exercise (now known as MATE!). Teams from each squadron took part in a number of events over the weekend, with very little rest. Main events on the Saturday were full-bore and pistol shooting, map reading, first aid, NBC, the assault course, and a team command task. After a brief pause teams set up bivouac sites on the training area, where they were judged on layout, field hygiene and catering. A night march started after dark, though a bright moon made the task easier than was intended. A well-earned rest was followed next morning by a march and shoot event. Despite fatigue and blisters all teams completed the event, though some of the smiles were a little strained.

The squadron with the highest aggregate score was 93 (East Lancashire) Sig Sqn, and the trophy was presented by the CO, **Lt Col Alan Hawksworth**, to 17-year old **Sig Tony Brocklebank**. The individual team trophy was won by the HQ Sqn 'B' team, led by **WO2 (RQMS) Jack Lovatt**.

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

The final event of the period was the annual skill-at-arms meeting held on Beckingham ranges in June. This event always produces fierce competition between the squadrons for the Regimental Trophy. Teams from each squadron competed in five events, and the overall winners were 93 (East Lancashire) Sqn's 'A' team, who won the SLR, Pistol and Section matches. Runners-up were last year's winners 46 (Derbyshire) Sqn, whose teams won the male and WRAC SMG matches and the LMG Pairs match.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

66 (CITY OF BELFAST) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

It's been 'all change' in the squadron since our last contribution, as the post-*Crusader* glow slowly disappears and the realities of reduced man-training days sink in. At the end of March, **Maj Norman Geddes TD** relinquished command of the squadron to take up a less taxing position in 12 Group as Watchkeeper! We wish him well. At the same time, **SSM Ray Cairns** made the short move across Clonaver Park to get a grip on 85 Sqn!

HERE AND THERE

The year, so far, has seen only two squadron Exercises—'*Third Party*' based in Northern Ireland and '*Double Indemnity*' in S. W. Scotland. The latter was a complicated Exercise. 85 Sqn brought the vehicles to Stranraer the week before and did their Exercise whilst we travelled over the next week, without vehicles, but picked up those left behind by '85' at RAE West Freugh. This saving in taxpayers' money was conceived, adapted and executed by **Maj Warren Armstrong**—alias Biggles—alias Training Major. Needless to say, he flew there and back!

THE MOURNE WALL WALK

Just to prove that the squadron contains fitness fanatics, as well as dedicated Signallers—**SSgt Harry Lee** and **Sig Noel McBride** took part in—and indeed completed—the 22-mile Mourne Wall Walk. This is the longest mountain walk in Northern Ireland with hundreds taking part, and finishing in the bad weather, which prevailed, is quite an achievement. Rumours that **LCpl Hagan** is in training for next year's walk are believed to be unfounded!

CONGRATULATIONS

The sound of wedding bells has been quite ear-splitting in the squadron in the last few months. **Capt Jenny Trevithick** OCAI Troop—(NB Commander Radio Relay Troop)—took the plunge with **Bamford Wilson.** Two of our WRAC LCpls—**Lilly Greer** and **Pauline Fyvie** married stalwarts of HQ—**Cpl Brian Manton** and **Cpl John Greenaway.** To all we extend our heartiest congratulations.

TAILS UP

Bravo Troop have returned to their HF Radios with their tails up, on the arrival of VRC 321s in the regiment. New equipment training is in full swing under the (usually) eagle eyes of **2Lt Dave Baxter** and **SSgt Billy Johnstone**, with a little assistance from **PSI Sgt, Pete Whitfield.**

COOKERY COMMUNICATIONS

The troop's biggest achievement was to take part in the TA Cookery Competition—but not as cooks! Security Comms were provided for the DS from Magilligan to the Ops Room at Ballykelly using 321s. These were combined with an Adventure Training Weekend. **Cpl Malcolm Toye** provided the smooth front for the ACC while **Cpl Tommy Maguire** played nurse to a sick Onan. Anything else which happened is best unrecorded!

WELCOME

Finally, a big welcome back to **Sgt Joe Seeley** after a trying illness.

RUNNERS UP

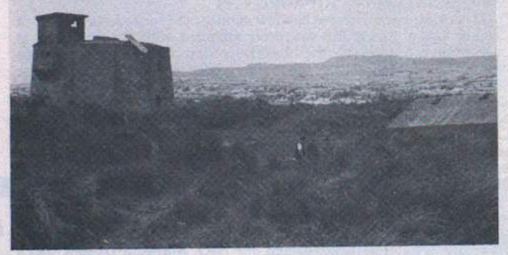
There is no truth in the rumour that TA cooks produce nothing but stew. And this was proved when TA cooks from the Army Catering Corps attached to 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers) and 152 Ulster Ambulance Regt RCT (Volunteers) took part in the Northern Ireland TA Field Cookery Competition last weekend.

The two-day competition held at Benone Strand, Magilligan was sponsored by the Army's No 7 Catering Region and drew ten entries of four men each. On the first day, the teams had to set up their field kitchens, a task which also exercised their military skills, as they had to set-up defensive positions including the digging of slit trenches and the use of camouflage.

The second day was the time to demonstrate their culinary art, producing a menu comprising chicken soup, boiled gammon with parsley sauce, lyonnaise potatoes, boiled carrots, buttered cabbage, followed by souffle fritters with apricot sauce—no mean feat without the aid of a modern kitchen!

The winners were 211 ambulance Squadron RCT; second 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers).

Cpl Tommy Maguire confronts the sick 'Onan'



'B' Troop's barbecue at Magilligan, overlooked by the Hills of Donegal

Brig C. J. Rougier, Chief of Staff HQ NI, presenting SSgt T. Burtonwood ACC with his Certificate

6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Aldershot

BUSY AND VARIED

The pace and tempo of life in the Fd Force continues to be frantic and varied. Many of the soldiers will remember the month of June as being a military blur . . . without weekend overtime!

ZIMBABWE MEDAL

The month opened with the presentation of the Zimbabwe medal in the Bradley Club. This medal was presented to the soldiers in the

squadron who took part in Op *Agila*. Our photograph shows the Commander of the Field Force, **Brig E. H. A. Beckett MBE,** presenting the medal to **LCpl Ken O'Meara,** the other recipients are from right to left, **LCpl Bob Estridge, LCpl Mick Sutton, LCpl O'Meara, LCpl Tich Hill, Cpl Geordie Sinclair, Cpl Geordie Short** and **Sgt Basil Le Breton.**

SPONSORED WALK

On Sun 14 June, the squadron plus families set off on an endurance march along 10 miles of the Basingstoke canal. The walk was aimed at raising money for the Year of the Disabled and £700 was duly pledged. The carrot at the end of the long, hot trek was a barbecue at Hawley

Lake. Our photograph shows **LCpl Malyon** ACC beginning to feed the hungry hoards! The administration of the event was masterminded by **WO1 (FofS) Ben Lawson.** Being a member of the DS, he excused himself the walking part.

FAREWELL TO OUR TAME RANGER

12 June marked the departure of our Adjutant and Admin Officer, **Maj Andy Nelson** R IRISH. His wealth of experience has been a great asset to the squadron during the three years he served with us. Friendly advice to young soldiers and fierce rollockings to young subalterns were always part of a normal day when **Maj Andy** was in the chair. He will be greatly missed. Our photograph shows him being chaired out of the unit lines in an Irish Rolls Royce!

FAREWELL TO OUR NOT SO TAME COOK

'A round peg in a round hole' . . . was a passing remark heard on exercise about **WO2 Len Popplewell** ACC and the description is apt. Superlatives about **Len's** performance in camp and in the field would be wasted. Suffice to say that the catering for the Sermon on the Mount must have been done by **'Popps'.** The only cheering note about his departure is that he has not been lost to the Corps. 7 Sig Regt brace yourselves!

THE LONG WEEKENDS

Two of the Infantry Battalions in the Fd Force, being TA, can only come out to play over the weekends and to ensure that they were up to scratch the HQ and Sig Sqn all but fully deployed over two consecutive weekends. We even managed to get the RQMS out of his store! The first weekend took us to Stanford Training Area, where 5 QUEENS were duly harassed and harried. Highlight of that weekend must have been when the CO of the battalion came to an 'O' group and managed to lose his landrover. Our tame Pioneers claim they had absolutely nothing to do with it . . . but I have my doubts! The following weekend took us on to the local training area with 10 PARA who claim to have enjoyed their non-stop digging and tabbing. Full credit must go to both battalions who certainly showed us that the 'Terries' are a fully integrated part of the Force.

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF

In between the two exercises the squadron was visited by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE. Gen Birtwistle** spent a full morning, meeting as many of the squadron as was humanly possible. The General managed to find time to present the Dennis Tankard to **Cpl Geordie Frazer** and the Bardies Cup to **SSgt Alan Bott,** both of Alpha Troop.

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Tidworth

EX 'PEGASUS TRIAL'

For the first time ever the Sqn was involved in running the Comms for this annual airborne exercise. We had no sooner arrived back from Cyprus on one Hercules than some were preparing to go off on exercise on another. The exercise took place on the Island of Mulloway (very similar to the Mull of Kintyre) and a Para Bn Gp (PBG) was parachuted in to secure an airfield before Fd Force Tac HQ was airlanded with the Sqn Comd leading his men into battle from the aircraft. Because of the shortage of aircraft the majority of vehicles involved with control and en/umpire comms had to motor north. This included 4 RRBS (one from 249 Sig Sqn) and a recce vehicle. That journey took over 30 hours, however; for those who travelled by Hercules, it took only 90 minutes! The exercise lasted just over 36 hours before the recovery phase took place, however once again because of lack of aircraft all the vehicles had to drive south. During the move south OC A Tp organised a small RRB exercise with the four RRBs led by **Cpl Bobby Naylor, Cpl Di Rees, Cpl Alan Daughtrey** and **Cpl Fitz Fitzpatric** of '249'. The exercise involved testing out various radio paths, which were to be used during Exercise *Caledonian Express*. Unfortunately, **Cpl Alan Daughtrey's** vehicle broke down on the first part of the journey and he was stranded near Kilmarnock for 24 hrs. All the vehicles, which had been at Machrihanish, seemed to get an extra embellishment during their stay there. A visiting RAF Air Sea Rescue Sqn helicopter crew managed to stick Dayglow Ducks on, not only the vehicles but also on the Brigadier's helicopter.

THE BIGGEST FOR SEVEN YEARS

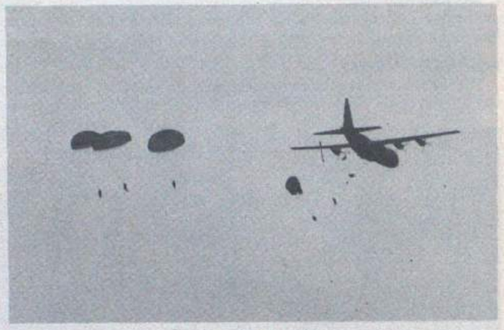
Exercise *Navy Lanyard* was the biggest parachute exercise for seven years. The participants included TAC HQ 8 Field Force HQ & Sig Sqn, 565, 566 RLDs and 2 and 3 Para.

The scenario was of a coup in a friendly African Country and subsequent capture and holding hostage of British Passport holders. The TAC HQ comprising only 7 vehicles, 30 men and a boxed TAC SAT COM det arrived at the AMC on P -24 after spending some time at RAF Lyneham to practice loading the aircraft which were to Airland the HQ. Here also we met up with other parts of the airlanding party, half a battery of Light guns from 4 Fd Regt RA and the SHQ vehicles from 9 Para Sqn RE. Eventually we went, processed satisfactorily through the AMC system and only had to wait keeping in contact with the forward mounting base by a 321 link. Following insertion of the Pathfinders the night before, 3 Para including **Sgt Larry Little's** RLD parachuted in at first light on Thursday and took the first objective, the airfield at RAF Upavon. The RLD made their way to the Heavy Drop DZ to retrieve their vehicle which had been dropped on an MSP.

As soon as 3 Para had secured the airfield the airlanded element was called forward. The TAC HQ having motored to the FMB were loaded onto waiting C130's. After a quick application of cam cream and a short flight of twenty minutes, TAC HQ bounced (three times) down the grass strip. The 2IC **Capt Matt Helm** and **Sig Peter Ball** turned prematurely grey as one LR bounded in sympathy and almost trapped them in their seats! (The pilot got 1 out of 10 for style but 10 out of 10 for entertainment value!) While the aircraft was still taxiing, the drivers leapt in the vehicles and as soon as the plane stopped and the doors opened the vehicles drove out closely followed by the grey haired and shaken passengers led by **Sig** (let me outa here) **Wright.** The TAC HQ set up by the side of the airfield. The squadron were tasked to provide the Umpire and Control Comms as well as the Force VHF Comms (ably controlled by **Cpl John Lewis**) Force HF Comd and FMB rear Link. Our new 321 under the command of **2Lt Trevor Bradley** and **SSgt Jeanette** worked admirably—a great improvement on our old D11s. The TAC SATCOM Det from 30 Sig Regt had a few teething problems—but this was very much of a trial run, as they had only had the equipment for a couple of weeks. However, a secure speech list was established to the FMB using a double hop via Defford.

Next to arrive were 2 Para slightly delayed, who dropped in near Imber on Friday morning. With them came 565 Para RLD under **Sgt Granitza.** Imber was soon seized by coup de main, and the process of rounding up hostages was well under way.

At midday on Friday, after all the hostages had been rescued, the first of the evacuation C130's arrived having been called forward from the FMB. The hostages and casualties were lifted out first, then 2 Para were evacuated. The TAC HQ were evacuated on the 9th C130 after



566 Para RLD in action!

Sig Willimont praying it still all works after the drop

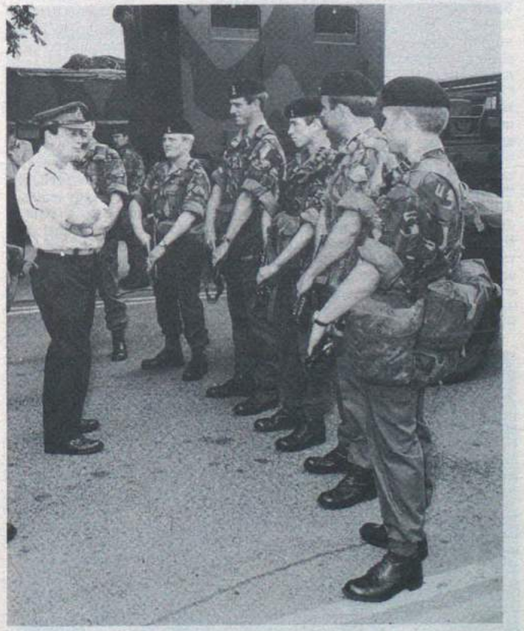
A speedy exit by G Ops after that bumpy landing

having simulated the destruction of the vehicles, followed by 3 Para who fought a rearguard action. The last man to go was **Sgt Larry Little** who maintained the Force Rear Link on a PRC320 in his bergen until just before he leapt on the aircraft. The evacuation was hectic and hairy with up to three C130's on the grass at once! So ended a very enjoyable and topical exercise which was of great value to everyone and gave the Signal Sqn a possible foretaste of things to come.

VISIT OF THE SOINC

After various pre-inspections 23 June finally dawned and the squadron was ready to receive the SOinC **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE.** A quick brief on the role of the unit from **Maj John Young** and then on to Jellalabad square where men, vehicles and equipment were on parade for the visit. We certainly got value for money as the General spoke to just about everyone and listened, with interest, to all views expressed.

Finally, after a last chat with **Sgt Larry Little's** 566 Para RLD it was time to head for the Sergeants Mess and the presentation of the LS & GC to **WO2 (YofS) Martin Corcoran.** This was followed by a small buffet lunch and a chat with the mess members. Sadly, all too soon, it was time for SOinC to move on but we do hope for another visit once our move to Aldershot is complete.



The SOinC chats to the 'Lineys' of B Tp

How to run an airport with two men and a PRC 344!

After presentation of his LS & GC, WO2 (YofS) Corcoran keeps a wary eye on the camera while Mrs Corcoran chats to the SOinC

EXERCISE 'CALEDONIAN EXPRESS'

This was OC A Tps biggest Exercise yet with 10 RRB stations including three from 249 Sig Sqn, and two other dets with the aim of establishing a VHF RRB chain from Aberdeen to Lands End. Not doing things by halves it even involved moving 2 RRBs and the Aberdeen terminal det by Hercules to Scotland. Deployment started on 5 Jul by road, with the air move taking place the next day. Unfortunately **Cpl Di Rees, LCpl Mal Clark, Sgt Larry Little** and their crews were all in for a shock. Instead of landing at RAF Leuchars (Scotland) the aircraft landed at RAF Leeming (Yorkshire) to drop off **Cpl Di Rees** and then to Lossiemouth to drop off the others! This delayed the deployment somewhat, but not so badly that by the morning of Jul 7 most of the chain had been established. This would have been achieved much earlier, however, with the amazing results being achieved a quick reshuffle of locations was carried out before the chain was established. By the afternoon of Jul 8 **Sgt Larry Little's** det at Stonehaven had spoken through 8 RRBs to **Sgt Graham Reynolds** det at Lands End. This was a reasonable feat considering most of the kit was C42's with ordinary 36-60 elevated antenna. The best path for RRB use was 190 Kms between sites but on other occasions distances of 265 Kms and 315 Kms were successfully achieved! Most of the RRB Crews are now experienced mountaineers, since their sites were all above 300 m and some even over 840 m high. Rumour has it that after the success of this Exercise, OC A Tp now plans another RRB Exercise—did I hear from London to Bielefield?

VISITORS FROM MANNING AND RECORDS

On the 23 Jul the unit was graced with the presence of ten members of our industrious Records Office, under the watchful eye of **Capt J. E. Stockill** (OIC D Wing). The unit had extended an invitation to Records in appreciation of the gallant efforts made, in producing promptly the additional manpower required on the reforming of the squadron as an all regular unit.

Those lucky enough to win the raffle, to get away from the office for a day, were to see for themselves the routine of a working unit and at the appointed hour were duly met by the OC Squadron, **Maj J. C. Young** and the RSM **WO1 Bill Hunt.**

After a short presentation by the OC and a welcome cup of coffee, the party descended upon B Troop, commanded by **2Lt Trevor Bradley**, and saw the vehicle mounted VRC 321's and our unique TASS equipment. This was followed by a tour of the Tech Wksps (M Tp) under the watchful eye of **WO1 (FofS) Joe Smith MBE** (of previous wire notes fame). Much ear bending followed during the buffet lunch held in the Junior Ranks Club and Corporals mess, but cautious promises were made regarding exotic postings and 'why wasn't I on the last promotion board?' An interesting display followed lunch when **Cpl Di Rees** (of UEO Notoriety) showed us what a fully air prepped L/R and trailer should look like for an airportable move, whilst **LCpl Les Waite**, in all his glory, revealed what, as a member of 566 Para RLD, 8 Field Forces answer to Action Man should look like, when leaping out of a Hercules.

Lt John McIntyre, OC A Troop, hosted the next hour at a locally well known and much loved spot on Salisbury Plain called Chalk Pit Hill, where his troop were suitably integrated into the scenery in three detachments. Unfortunately at this point the ever threatening rain could hold off no longer and evacuation was necessary thanks to **Capt Stockill's** trusty umbrella. On return to SHQ the party were revitalised with a further cuppa prior to departure back to Reading. A worthwhile visit enjoyed by all, with one point to note—have you got your name down for next year's visit!!

A select band from the staff of R Signals Records came to see what we really do for a living

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229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN)
B.F.P.O. 45

DRAMATIS PERSONAE (Chief spear carriers)

OC	**Maj Iain Kerr**
2IC	**Capt Hugh Hancock**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson**
OC Radio Troop	**Lt Gordon Rafferty**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Rick Levett**
OC Commcen Troop	**WO2 (YofS) Brian Alway**
OC MQ&L Troop	**Capt (TOT) Jim Phillips**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Mick Fogg**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Mac McDonald**

The last five months have encompassed the whole spectrum of military life in Berlin, apart from general war and writing of Wire Notes. To a newcomer, the problems of stepping off the roundabout of Berlin life to give pause for reflection and composition seem insurmountable. But from this comparative haven, in the lee of the marching, sporting and exercise seasons, here goes.

THE NEXT CYCLE

The next cycle in Allied communications training began with Exercise *Rondo*. 229 Sig Sqn found ourselves hosts to French and US player detachments and the inevitable control detachments from both Sectors and the Allied Staff Berlin. Exercise *Rondo* began as a British concept some 10 years ago. It has evolved into a series of tests of military and communications skills for tripartite detachments and proved once again to be invaluable in breaking down individual and national barriers to inter-communication. 'If all else fails try broken German—it's something we all use' reports **Sgt John Mold** who found himself in charge of the Exercise *Control*. Other memorable lessons included **Sgt Rick Richards** practical demonstration of the dangers of using tomato sauce, for casualty simulation makeup in the woods, where the ants were just emerging from winter slumbers—'unconscious casualties became highly mobile when bitten repeatedly. Or perhaps they were tempted by the passing girls High School nature study teams. Allied catering, as well as communications' skills came to the fore during *Rondo* when detachments subsist on national rations. While the British and US vehicle crews enjoyed compo and K rations, the French vehicle crews wrestled with the problem of cooking pasta and fresh vegetables. They were also sadly disappointed to find the wine bottle contents had mysteriously turned into water and oil for a salad dressing. Exercise *Rondo* ended with a formal social occasion, when the Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade, **Brig J. A. M. Evans**, presented trophies to the two most skilful detachments. The squadron then hosted the three Allied Brigade Commanders, **Brig Evans, Brig Gen J. E. Rogers** and **Col Huon de Kermadec**, at a buffet lunch in the Jahnplatz of the Olympic Stadium complex. Most embarrassing moment went to the female US Signal Corps officer discovered by the US Sector GOC, leaving the building and unable to salute while in the possession of a six pack of British beer.

Exercise *'Rondo XX'*
The 'winning' crew of Sig Pete Onn, SP4 Gritonis (US) and Pte E. Pellison (FR) displaying their trophies and certificates. The less successful crews try to conceal their jealousy and thirst for the refreshments to follow

CHANGE OF COMMAND

That all too distant period saw a change of helm (or hand on the racquet perhaps) of the squadron. **Maj Peter Webster** left to take up the duties of instructor in Tactics Wing of the School of Signals, occasionally relieved by tennis umpiring at Wimbledon (or is it the other way around?). **Peter** and **Jenny Webster** enjoyed an extensive round of farewell parties from all their friends and colleagues in Berlin. Most notable of the presentations made was a special award to **Maj Webster** in recognition of his service to tennis in Berlin. The squadron had their last laugh and **Maj Peter** left on the GOCs Rover appropriately bedecked for Wimbledon. The new incumbent **Maj Iain Kerr,** recently paroled from HMP MOD Main Building has let the fresh air and green trees go to his head.

Umpire's Departure
Lt Gordon Rafferty, WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson and Sgt George Myerscough amongst others check Maj Peter Webster's umpire's seat before his departure

ON AND ON

After worrying the 2IC, who regards BFTs as unofficer-like behaviour, it was on to longer and more challenging runs. The Berlin Infantry Brigade 18km Road Race on Wed 8 Apr attracted over 20 runners from the squadron—all of whom finished in good times. Heartened by the ease of over-coming 18kms, it was on to the Berlin 25km City Race, the first to be run from the Olympic Stadium through the streets of Berlin on Sun 3 May. Eighteen volunteers aged 18 to 41 joined some 3,500 runners of over 15 nations on a beautiful day's run. Although British, French and US runners were fancied to win the race in near record time, the actual 1st, 2nd and 3rd turned out to be Turkish marathon runners especially imported by a Turkish businessman. All of our 18 finished, although one or two are a little hesitant over their time and place number. Our best performers were **Sig Astley McManus, LCpl Scouse Matthews** and **Sgt Rick Richards,** who all finished together in 1hr 54mins 46secs. Some of the real enthusiasts went on to try a real Marathon on the following Sunday, organized by a local Sports club. Others plan to join the Berlin Marathon in September and are training hard.

SINCE AUGUST 1945

Another round of parties was organized in April to mark the retirement of **Herr Guenther Jannsen,** our longest serving German civilian employee. He had been working for the squadron since August 1945 and had lots of tales about the hard times of the Airlift and the Wall. The GOC, **Maj Gen David Mostyn,** having made a short tour of the Brigade Command Posts continued an informal visit to the squadron by meeting some of the boys behind the scenes in Radio and MQ&L Troop. The General then joined a buffet luncheon in the Squadron Club to present **Guenther Jannsen** and **Frau Jannsen** with a small oil painting of an English scene to mark his retirement. Some fifteen of the former Squadron Commanders and Technical Officers Telecommunications subscribed to the painting, so it was a genuine memento of **Guenther's** unique service record.

The spirit of fun running—Sgt John Mold (1870) of 229 Sig Sqn well to the fore in the Berlin City Run on the way out down the Kurfurstendam
(Photo courtesy 'Sport in Berlin')

Something nasty in the Command Post
GOC Berlin (British Sector) Maj Gen David Mostyn temporarily baffled by Clansman harness. WO2 (YofS) Brian Alway and Maj Iain Kerr are quietly confident that the visit briefing will pay off later

At the Berlin Infantry Brigade Skill at Arms meeting in early May we hid most of our musketry lights under a bushel. However the LMG team of **Cpl Billy Haslam** and **Sig Jimmy Stephens** won the Minor Units trophy with a score close to that of the Major Units GPMG team. Perhaps their skills will rub off for next year.

Berlin Infantry Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting
Brig J. A. M. Evans presenting the Minor Units LMG trophy to Cpl Billy Haslam and Sig Jimmy Stephens. SMI Blenkin checks for safety!

A NEW CHALLENGE

Our sportsmen of various specialities have got involved in another sort of game altogether. We have struck up friendship with VSV Wilmersdorf, a local group of disabled sportsmen who play a special game called football-tennis. Our team, led by **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Fogg,** including several stalwarts from the soccer team, found themselves soundly beaten in a football-tennis tournament. It is quite something to see guys with artificial legs or arms really effectively playing a vigorous game. However **Cpl Billy Haslam, LCpl Willie Young, Sigs Bob Donaldson, Ashley McManus, Paul McLellan** and **Steve Burns** bear no shame in being 'chopping blocks' for VSV and we look forward to continuing contacts and visits to their clubhouse and perhaps to the Zone to another tournament.

A FASCINATING MAGAZINE

A VSV contact was able to return us a favour and organized a visit to the Berlin Magazine—an explosive store and workshop in the Grunewald—and then to a museum of the many unexploded bombs and shells dealt with in Berlin by civilian ATOs. Since no Berliners are allowed firearms and explosives, except under rare licence from the Berlin Senat, and few Berliners or outsiders get to see either the Magazine or the museum, this was a rare honour. The party led by **WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson** and **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Fogg,** included the football-tennis players and had a fascinating day out. Not least amongst the pleasures was a chance to pick a souvenir from the junkyard of military memorabilia—shellcases—bayonets etc.

PARADES

Much of May and June is taken up with two of Berlin's noted military parades. First the Allied Forces Day Parade where **Lt Gordon Rafferty** and most of his Radio Troop led the British vehicle column—a proud sight and a compliment to all the graft they had put into the vehicles and their kit. However, we found that flesh coloured NBC gloves were necessary to cover the blisters and scars of many of Radio Troop's tug of war team, who had been honourably defeated in the Brigade Tug of War Championships the previous day. Allied Forces day demanded all sorts of behind the scenes activities from special radio nets for parade control to emergency line detachments. The linemen, under **Sgt Rick Richards** and **LCpl Dave Brown** managed to quiet one last minute flap by confirming that the only apparent sabotage had been inflicted on a power cable unconnected with the parade. The radio operators, under **Sgt John Mold** and **Cpl Mo Armitage,** found themselves in strange places from commentary towers to tank parks. Finally our public address detachments under **SSgt (FofS) Mac McDonald** and **Sgt Alan Reece** provided facilities for public commentary and announcements.

Relief of hot feet and even hotter vehicle tyres after the Allied Forces Day Parade merged quickly into the agonies of preparations for the Queen's Birthday Parade (Berlin), which is celebrated a week before the occasion in the UK. Although not involved in the square bashing and with our vehicle entry reduced to two Land Rovers we found ourselves more than fully employed behind the scenes. From **Sgt Alan Reece** puzzling over the problems of water (and horse manure) proofing of microphones to the TOTs discrete electronic tailoring for the Parade Commander; from the bunting arrangers under the artistic eye of **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Fogg,** to an army of wine waiters and strawberry and cream carriers, the talents of 229's soldiers have been fully tested and proven. The parade itself, at which the Sovereign was represented by the **Duke of Kent,** was a memorable day, described by The Duke as one of the best parades he had ever seen. So there was a mixture of pride in a job well done and relief at the end of the 'marching season'.

Berlin Allied Forces Day Parade 1981
Lt Gordon Rafferty and Radio Troop 229 Sig Sqn (Vehicle commanders) SSgt Rick Levett, Cpl Mick Dawson, Cpl Billy Haslam and Cpl Tony Brine lead the Berlin Infantry Brigade vehicle column past the three Allied Commandants

Queen's Birthday Parade Berlin 1981
Sgt Bill O'Hare (far right) and Sgt Rod Fox (second right) keeping a close eye on the vehicle column commander (RCT)

WELCOME RETURN TO THE CONVENTIONAL

The remainder of June saw a welcome return to conventional military training with Brigade CPXs in the Grunewald and full preparations for Berlin's specialization Fighting in Built-up Areas (FIBUA). FIBUA is not brawling outside Joe's Bier Haus (although that can occur) but a topic seriously studied by all Allies.

The Berlin roundabout of activities is only complete with its alternate slices of sporting activities. 229, although known for its swimming team, attempts to participate in all feasible events and our efforts are generally well rewarded.

MINI-MINOR SOCCER SUCCESS

Winners BAOR Mini-Minor Units Knockout Cup 1980/81

Back Row: WO2 (SSM) Wilson, Cpl Phil Cutforth, LCpl Ray Spencer, LCpl Billy Flemington, Maj Kerr (OC Sqn), Cpl Billy Haslam, LCpl Paul Matthews, SSgt (FofS) MacDonald.

Front row: Sgt Keith Bowes, Cpl Robbie Davies, Cpl Keith Glasby, Sig Ashley MacManus, Cpl Don Boscoe, Sig Paul McLellan, LCpl Willie Young

Our soccer team, created from a group of enthusiasts late last year has concluded a season of frustrated Cup Final hopes with one triumph. Having fought their way through to the finals of the BAOR Minor Units Cup, 2 Armd Div Minor Units Cup and the Berlin Minor Units Cup, we were sadly defeated in all three. However our last competition, the BAOR Mini-Minor Units (confined to units of less than 120 men) Football Knockout proved the success story we needed. Having defeated our local rivals, 62 Tpt & Mov Sqn RCT, 2—1 in a stormy match, we went on to beat 4 Armd Div Ordnance Company by 5—1 in the Northern Final on 15 June. The final of the Mini-Minor Knockout Cup was played against 113 Provost Company RMP of Munster. Unable to find a suitable neutral ground and backed up against the end of the soccer season and Exercise *Summer Sales,* we ventured into the lion's mouth. After an overnight stay with 204 Sig Sqn, the team emerged fresh on to one of Munster's more remote soccer pitches and spent 90 minutes convincingly winning the Cup. Goals from **Sgt Keith Bowes, Cpl Robbie Davies** (2) and **LCpl Willie Young** amounted to a 4:2 margin. **LCpl Billy Flemington,** as team captain, finally got the pleasure of receiving a cup and winners medals for all. The team manager, **SSgt (FofS) 'Mac the Teeth' McDonald** splashed out the bubbly which he had been keeping for the occasion.

A CLOSE THING

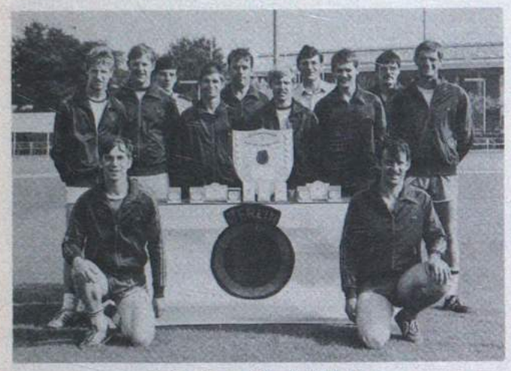
Our basketball team, led by **WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson** and **Sgt Bob Lewis,** found themselves stalled in the semi finals of the Berlin Basketball Knockout competition, having defeated old rivals 'Stadium' led by **Lt Col Roger Cemm.** However a little publicity on Berlin Sports Desk by our semi detached BFBS engineer, **Sgt Ian Duncan,** unstuck the problem. We found ourselves closely matched in the final game against 14 (Berlin) Field Workshop REME but after a vast number of non-scoring penalties on both sides, we won by the closest of margins 36:35.

BERLIN HOCKEY TROPHY

The squadron hockey team went on to complete a successful season by adding the Berlin Hockey League Winners trophy to the 1 Armd Div Minor Units Hockey Cup. The Berlin League is played against the might of our big battalions and RAF Gatow. Winning as a minor unit is a unique achievement of which we are justly proud. Perhaps because the hockey had strayed into the cricket season, we have had some difficulty in getting the cup presented formally. **Sgt Alan Reece** has been pursuing the league secretary for some time hoping to get his picture in the Berlin Bulletin, our local newspaper. His efforts were finally rewarded. Again, confused by the return of wintry weather in June, we enjoyed a triangular hockey tournament with Berlin clubs and were shown a clear pair of boot heels by the Spandau Club which beat our hockey stalwarts 3:2.

ATHLETES COME GOOD—ALERT TRAINING

Now do we get to the swimming? No! first the Berlin Brigade Athletics. Here, perhaps because of our swimming form, we were not strongly fancied. However some strong all round performances (and remarkably little training because of the Parades) by our team produced success. **Sgts Alan Reece, Ian Duncan, John Mold** and **Bob Cook, Cpls Billy Haslam** and **Phil Abbott, LCpls Willy Young** and **Dave Brown** and **Sigs Dicky Bird** and **Garry Johnson** are most pleased with their achievement. Our celebrations were cut short by a Brigade alert exercise—the rest of the evening being spent swatting mosquitoes in the Grunewald.



Berlin Infantry Brigade Athletics
Minor Units Champions—1981
Front: LCpl Willy Young, LCpl Charlie Brown
Centre: Sig Garry Johnson, Sig Dickie Bird, Cpl Tony Brine, Cpl Keith Glasby, Sgt Ian Duncan, Cpl Billy Haslam
Back: Lt Gordon Rafferty (manager), Sgt Bob Cook, Maj Iain Kerr (OC), Sgt Alan Reece

Berlin Infantry Brigade Athletics 1981
Brig J. A. M. Evans checking the Shield before awarding the Minor Units Champions trophy to LCpl Willy Young. Maj (MAA) Vic Freeman worries about his minor SD!

Berlin Infantry Brigade Tug of War Championships
Radio Troop's team (R to L) Cpl Tony Reynolds, Lt Gordon Rafferty (lying back): Sig Steve Burns, LCpl Dave Grindal, Sig Phil Briggs, LCpl Charlie Brown, LCpl Billy Flemington and SSgt Rick Levett urged on by Sgt Tom Bartlett to blister their hands a little more in a pull against 1 Grenadier Guards

THE BIG ONE

The Berlin Swimming Gala on 17 June is the high point of this report. Although quietly confident that our determined training would prove our strength in swimming, we found that other Berlin Minor Units were determined to wrest the title from us. Stalwart efforts by 38 Field Squadron RE, helped by their Army Pentathlete **Capt Mike Mumford,** forced us to a thrilling finish dependent on the outcome of the final race, the 4 x 50 freestyle relay. This we won but only by a touch. Nevertheless the day's swimming produced several record-breaking performances including 4 x 50 medley relay in 2min 10.8sec and 50m freestyle (by **Sig Mark Richmond**) in 26.0sec. Both of these performances are well inside the BAOR record times so we look forward to an exciting competition in the BAOR swimming championships.

The swimming team, coached by **Sgt Ian Duncan,** consisted of **Sigs Dicky Bird, Bob Donaldson, Ricky Richmond, Nobby Noble, Spiny Campbell, Gary Johnson, Russell Martin, Chris Aspinal, LCpls Dave Grindal** and **Ray Spencer** are to be congratulated on that early success, the sixth consecutive winning of that competition. Our prayers go with them for the next stage towards their defence of the Army Minor Units Swimming Cup.

FAST AND ENTERTAINING FINAL

In the Water Polo, where Minor Units are mixed with majors, we found no difficulty in winning through to the final, defeating 1 Kings Own Border and 2nd Royal Regiment of Fusiliers en route. The final against 1st Grenadier Guards who had just won the Major Units swimming trophy, proved to be a more demanding challenge. Both teams were well drilled and fit, providing a fast and entertaining game. But the Grenadiers having more depth to their team could substitute more effectively and their strength showed through in the final result, the Guards winning 9—2.

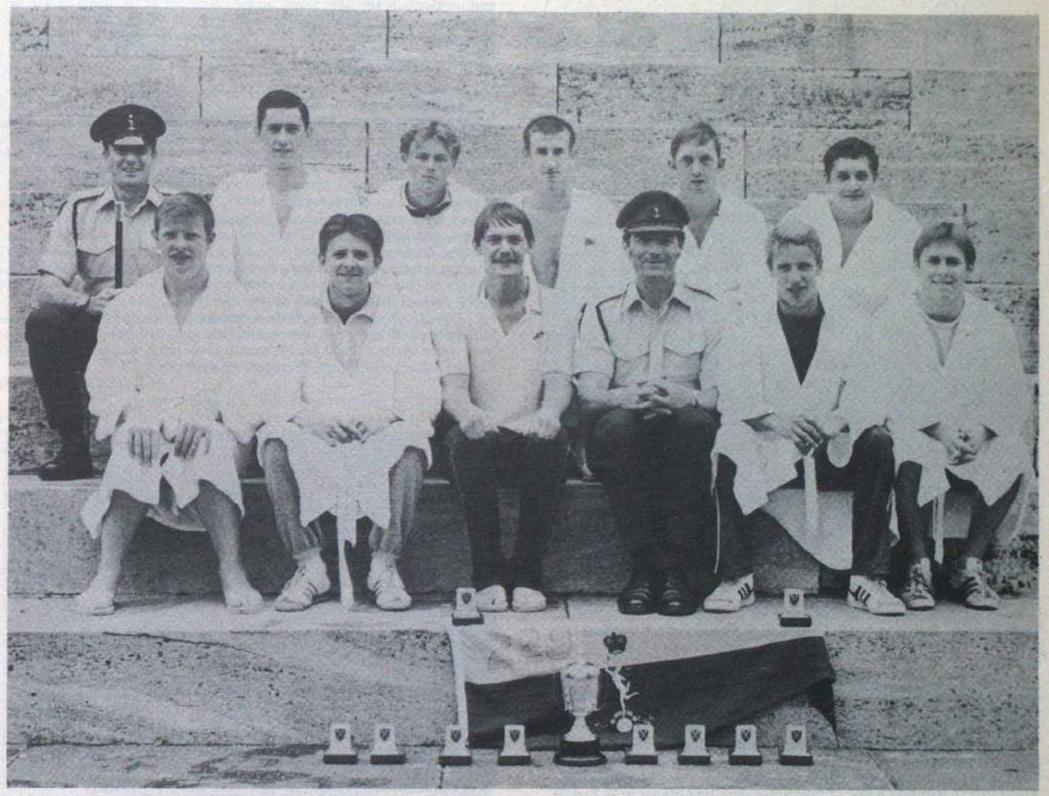
COLOURS AND HONOURS

Final sporting notes are that **Cpl Mick Dawson** has been awarded his Royal Signals Corps Hockey colours and that **Cpl Robby Davies, Sig Ashley McManus** and **LCpl Willy Young** have represented Combined Services Berlin in Soccer. **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Fogg** having been elected a member of a local German Squash Club is playing better than ever in both Service and civilian leagues.

Berlin British Sector Swimming Championships
Sig Nobby Noble receiving the Minor Units trophy (ours for the 6th consecutive year) from the Chief of Staff Col J. G. de Cordova

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

ARMY SWIMMING CHAMPIONS—AGAIN



Back row: left to right: WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson, LCpl Ray Spencer, Sig Russell Martin, Sig Mark Richmond, Sig Bob Donaldson, Sig Christopher Aspinall.

Front row: left to right: Sig Michael Bird, Sig Paul Noble, Sgt Ian Duncan (Trainer) Maj Iain Kerr, (OC Sqn), Sig Garry Johnson, Sig Robert Campbell

229 Sig Sqn (Berlin), retained the Army Minor Units Swimming Championships at the RMA Sandhurst on Thur 6 August 1981. The team confirmed their strong all round form and the promise shown at the BAOR Championships, by obtaining the maximum possible points through winning every event. The team's strength and depth of ability was further confirmed by their beating best performance times in five of the six races and through their obtaining two new Army records on this great occasion. The events took place in a 33⅓ yard UK Swimming Pool, there being a shortage of Olympic standard pools, such as ours, available in the UK. However, this disadvantage did not deter 229 Sig Sqn's swimmers, who had completed their preparations with a weeks all out training with the Army Apprentices College Harrogate. Since several of the team are graduates of the College, it was an opportunity for reunions and to spread the word about opportunities for swimming in Berlin.

WINNING IN STYLE

The performances on 6 August included:- 66⅔ yards Freestyle, very strong swim by **Sig Mark Richmond** who surged ahead from the start, obtaining nearly ½ of a bath's length lead by the end of the race and finished in 32.9 seconds—**a new Army record** and new best performance for the event: 66⅔ yards Breastroke, another convincing win, this time by **Sig Paul Noble**, whose time of 47.0 seconds beat our 1979 best performance: 100 yards Freestyle, **Sig Mark Richmond**, making a rapid recovery, made another sterling effort to win this race in 54.1 seconds. Another best performance, beating our 1980 record, and only fractions of a second slower than the major units time recorded in the previous race: 66⅔ yards Backstroke, **Sig Gary Johnson**, nursing a burst finger obtained while over enthusiastically practising turns in training, managed to beat his own 1980 performance and to win in 40.93 seconds: 4 x 66⅔ yards Medley Relay, all our first string swimmers joined in producing outstanding performances, which combined to beat the Army Record for this event (held by 229 Sig Sqn since 1974) with a new record time of 2 minutes 48.4 seconds. The swimmers being **Sigs Gary Johnson** (Backstroke), **Paul Noble** (Freestyle), **Bob Donaldson** (Breaststroke) and **Mark Richmond** (Butterfly): 4 x 66⅔ yards Freestyle Relay. This final race allowed the second string swimmers, whose continued dedication during training had greatly assisted the first swimmers in their performances, to come into their own. In an exciting race, in which the lead twice slipped from 229 Sig Sqn, the squadron produced a strong finish by and won comfortably in 2 minutes 35 seconds. A good performance by **LCpl Ray Spencer, Sigs Robert Campbell, Michael Bird** and **Russell Martin.**

HIGH STANDARD

The teams' overall performances and achievements were, also due to the consistently high standards of training and management by **Sgt Ian Duncan**, who can pass on the reins as the Sqn's swimming 'King', confident that his successor has the highest standards to continue from.

229 Sig Sqn's most successful swimming team are pictured (after their BAOR success in Berlin, there being no PR photographers at the Army Swimming Championships).

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

'THE RED HAND GANG'

OC	**Maj R. C. A. Thwaites**
2IC	**Capt S. W. Jones**
OC A Tp	**Lt N. D. Couch**
OC B Tp	**Lt S. P. Wallis**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) R. Jeffery**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) E. R. Sreeves**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) D. A. Gruncell**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) R. Gibson**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) J. S. Symes**

HOME NEWS

In April we said farewell to **Maj Chris Melhuish** who has left us for the Directorate at the MOD. Rumour has it that they needed him there to sort out the mound of paper he sent them for the squadron during his two years in command! We wish **Chris**, his wife **Lilly**, and his family all the best in the future. We welcome, in his place, **Maj Dick Thwaites** who came to us from the sunshine and beaches of Belize and almost immediately joined us in the sunshine and beaches of Greece. Life can be so hard sometimes! We also said farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Keith Bark** who spent just three months at the sharp end. We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Dave Gruncell**, also from Belize and hope he enjoys his stay. He found the Mountains and Midnight Sun of Norway quite an interesting and exciting change on his first exercise. He also found that Norwegian policemen are really quite friendly, if expensive!

AWAY NEWS

The Red Hand Gang has had exercises and detachments in Belize, Peru, Norway, Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, BAOR and Greece this year.

BELIZE

During February to April we provided the Admin Net for the RAF Ornithological Society (RAFOS) expedition to Belize. **Sig Martin Glover** covered the first period and **Sig David Knight** the second period. Both of them managed to see a considerable part of the country taking in places of historical interest as well as those of ornithological interest. Apart from time spent at Airport Camp they managed to visit Thousand Foot Falls, The Humming Bird Highway and Mountain Pine Ridge just to mention a few of the exotic sounding places in Belize. It wasn't all work of course and some time was spent relaxing, if that's what you call Bronco Busting at Banana Bank Ranch. The expedition was a great success and over 400 different species of birds were recorded.

Sig David Knight plus friends whilst on the RAFOS expedition to Belize

PERU

Yes we have a man in Peru! Or at least he should be there by now. **Sig Charlie Kerr** was selected from a cast of thousands to act as a 'Jack of all trades' on Exercise *Cusai Chaca Project*. As a Radio Telegraphist and incidentally the only Royal Signals member of the team he will be expected to drive, service generators, provide lights, dig holes, cook and wash up as well as operate. The expedition began at the end of April with a five week sea voyage before starting work. We're still waiting for the first sitrep Charlie!

TACOMMEX 6/81

Don't get confused by this complicated numbering system it just means the June Tacommex, and the June Tacommex inevitably means Northern Norway. For some members of this exercise it was the second time to Norway this year but this time, no snow, or at least very little. The 2IC however, did manage to find one small drift which halted progress down a track for several hours. This Tacommex is linked with a Norwegian exercise, *Samba*. This gave everybody a chance to work to Norwegians and it proved very valuable. After the success of the exercise we came back down to earth with the **YofS Dave Gruncell's** physical training course. This proved a tremendous strain for the RAF who found that they had to get out of bed early. This course culminated in the Annual football match against the Norwegians. A chance at last for **LCpl Schofield** and **Sig Andy Armitage** to show off their skills and for **Sig Brett Britton** to show, contrary to popular belief, that he did have some. After a hard fought match on a pitch which looked more like the Sahara desert than Wembley we went down 3-1.

Capt Steve Jones with Maj Rollo Rumford R Signals (HQ 38 Gp RAF) in conference during Tacommex 6 in Norway

FORTHCOMING REUNION

Ex-members of the squadron will be interested to hear of next year's anniversary. In June 1982 Tactical Communications Wing RAF, for whom 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) work, will be twenty years old. A birthday party seems in order and a reunion for all past members of TCW (RAF and Army) is in the process of being planned.

If you served with 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) in the last twenty years or worked for TCW in any other capacity and would like to attend the reunion please write to the squadron at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Exact details have not been worked out yet and will depend on the response to this and other appeals. By writing now, however you will be registered for further information.

In twenty years many people will have left the Army and may have lost contact with the Corps. If you know someone who ought to come to our reunion but will not hear in any other way, please pass the information on. We look forward to seeing you all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally we have a spate of marriages to report. **Cpl Jim Webster, LCpls Mick Purves, Chris Gopsill, Jock Bryson, Stan Dudden, Derek Tidswell** and **Jerry Warren, Sig Jerry Edwards** and **Chris Young** all tied the knot recently. We congratulate them all and welcome their wives into the Corps.

Further congratulations are sent to **Cpl John Ward** and his wife **Sheila** on the arrival of their first baby, **Steven**. We hope the patter of tiny feet is not too loud!

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

COMMANDER'S CUP COMPETITION

The squadron, having returned from a wet and windy exercise in Northern Italy, has been as usual involved in many and various activities. One such being the Commander's Cup Competition which this year the squadron retained in a keenly fought battle. The team led by **Lt Jim Barry** practiced and competed vigorously and will no doubt pass on this expertise to next year's team.

KAPE TOUR

The month of June saw the departure of a KAPE team to the counties of Kent and Sussex. The team led by **Lt Scott Ewing** and **Sgt 'Barney' Barnard,** visited various towns, where they were well received by the locals (some members of the team were even better received, but the less said the better). In Hastings the team was advised by the local Special Branch that they would be the target of local extremists. This materialised in the form of three individuals handing out leaflets which nobody wanted. The net reward for their pains were a £50 fine for littering the highway!

NORWAY CLEAN UP

Also during June elements of the squadron returned to Norway to pick up litter left from the winter exercise. Expecting to find a sunny and green land they were surprised to find areas still locked in mid winter.

The team hard at work picking up litter, Sgt Wand, LCpl Catchpole, Sig Leach and Sig Holt

OFFA'S DYKE

As part of our fitness training and to add variety to life in Bulford, the unit recently walked the length of Offa's Dyke in Wales; half the squadron going from north to south (downhill?) and the other from south to north (uphill?). The total distance of 180 miles was covered in 8 very strenuous and tiring days.

SAILING

Further adventure training was conducted in the Channel on board HMSTY *Kukri* during a two week period in July. For many of the crew this was their first experience of sailing and consequently they spent time 'feeding the fishes'. On returning to camp comment was also passed on the suntan that participants had acquired. Unfortunately this only extended from the neck upwards and was due solely to wind, rain and spray. Hopefully next year the unit will venture further afield in an attempt to seek sunnier climes.

GOC VISIT

On 24 Jul **Maj Gen Acland,** GOC SW DIST, briefly visited the squadron on one of his periodic visits. Whilst with the squadron he inspected a quarter guard and visited a display of the squadron's equipment.

The quarter guard: SSgt Vivian, Cpl Johnston, Sigs Barker, Redman, Slaney, Campbell, Johnson, Kirk, Slaney, Hayward

FAREWELLS

Sadly we have to say farewell to the **SSM WO2 Marshall** and his wife **Myrtle.** He moves onto bigger (possibly not better) things at 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt as the RSM. By the time members of that regiment read this, he will already have arrived so we cannot warn you about his sporting instincts.

The art of public speaking, the SSM with an attentive audience at his dining out

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn

THE PRINCIPAL EVENT

The real summer is now with us here in Nicosia with the shade temperature each day between 95—104, usually nearer the latter. The principal event of July was the visit of the SOinC. After arriving and receiving a background brief by **Maj Greig** the SOinC toured the squadron. His first post of call was the Commcen. He then moved on via the Line Det and Tech Wksps to Radio Troop.

In the picture, **SSgt Gary Beattie** can be seen introducing the SOinC (L to R) to **Master Cpl Sully Sullivan, Sig Jock MacDonald, Sig Bill Hardy, Pte Dave Leduc** and **Cpl Tony Moses.**

The SOinC was then whisked away to meet various UN personalities, but he later reappeared in the Squadron Club where he met more of the soldiers and the squadron wives as well. At the Club he was presented with a squadron plaque and then, after lunch, went off to meet the Green Howards.

A week previously the Deputy Chief of Staff, **Col Hewson**, Canadian Armed Forces, visited the squadron. At the end of his visit, a small medal parade was held and some Canadian members of the squadron received their UN medals.

MANY CHANGES

Around the troops there has been the usual high turnover of personnel. New faces seem to come and go faster than Task Force Headquarters! **Lt Bob Cousins** has come across on a six week visit from RMCS Shrivenham and has done the absent **Capt Steve Turpin's** work so efficiently and effortlessly, that most members of the squadron believe that he has had nothing to do at all. In the Radio Troop, **YofS Mick Tivenan** has moved sideways to the Commcen. His job is now being done by **SSgt Gary Beattie** who arrived from 7 Sig Regt in June. **Sgt Fred Hubble** (Canadian) is returning to Canada and being replaced by **Sgt Neill Lobdell** (Canadian). Elsewhere the squadron has said goodbye to **YofS Bill Balding** and **Sgt Dave Phillpott** from the Commcen and **Sgt Peter Underwood** from the Tech Wksps. The gaps made by the last two have been filled by **Sgt Harrison** and **Sgt John Beach**. The gap left by **Bill Balding** has been well and truly plugged (as previously mentioned) by **Mick Tivenan's** ample frame.

SOFTBALL

Finally, a mention of sport. Early in the month the Canadian Contingent in the squadron challenged the Brits to a game of Softball. This is a bit like Rounders except that the stick is bigger, all the fielders wear gloves the size of dustbin lids and the ball is as big as a grapefruit. Indeed, the most instructive lesson of the afternoon was that the ball can be replaced by a grapefruit painted white, with hilarious results! It should be duly noted, however, that the Canadians did, not surprisingly, win. Three weeks later came the return game, this time it was cricket. Unknown to the Brits, the Canadians had been secretly practising at 6 o'clock in the morning for two weeks previously. Come the day of the match the Canadians were put into bat and they made a reasonable total. The 'Home' team then opened their innings. Shock set in when we lost two wickets without scoring and another went soon after. The next two batsmen, however, settled down and the Canadian total was passed with eight overs and seven wickets in hand. The Canadians seemed to be very happy that they only lost by one run.

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

VISIT BY GEN BIRTWISTLE

With only two hours to spend in Episkopi the SOinC raced around the units almost without drawing breath. After meeting the Headquarters staff and being briefed on the activities of the squadron, the first troop to be visited was Tech Troop. **Capt (TOT) Ray Tricker** introduced his RR Techs and **Sgt Colin Peck** outlined how the controllers manage to keep an eye on the island-wide system from Radio Relay System Control. Then across to the line control room where **Sig 'JC' Copley** gave a clear briefing on the duties of the line fault controller. In so doing he managed to 'dis' CR Signals home telphone; well done **'JC'** quite a neat dissertation!!!

Sgt Colin Peck explains the 'ins and outs' of system controlling. (The arm of the law belongs to the TOT)

The SOinC meets Litsa Anastasiou our civilian typist, SSgt Pete Wilson, SSgt Ray Smith, Capt Philip Rouse and CR Signals, Lt Col Chris Blessington, look on

Meanwhile down at the 3Rs Club the Squadron Wives had the pleasure of entertaining **Mrs Birtwistle** and explaining the delights of Cyprus to her. **Mrs Lalita Rouse** presented a fully illustrated book 'Cyprus, This Sweet Land' on behalf of the Wives Club and in appreciation of the visit.

Following a quick visit to see **Sgt Bill Erskine** and the PABX staff (and having ordered the Ericson tone generator for the Corps museum) the SOinC visited the Squadron Club where he presented LS and GC medals to **SSgt Peter Otto Whitbread** and **Sgt Bruce Casburn.** He also presented long service certificates to **Michael** and **Stellos**, two of our locally engaged civilians, who have served for over 25 years. Before finally relaxing the General kindly renamed the Club—The Jimmy Club—and at last we all sat down on the patio to a well earned buffet and drink where the SOinC also met **Sgt Mick Blyth** and the 3LI rear link detachment.

BY HELICOPTER TO MOUNT TROODOS

The view of Mount Troodos from a helicopter is breathtaking and the SOinC arrived on a clear warm day. However, it can be cold when flying in shirt sleeve order, as the General was to find out. On arrival **Sqn Ldr Mike Good**, CO 280 Signals Unit, gave an outline of the deployment and **Lt John Steed** gave a briefing on the roles and responsibilities of the highest Royal Signals troop in the world. **WO1 (FofS) Danny Rotherham** introduced the CPA installation team and the students on the GEC Radio Relay course. **Cpl 'Brummy' Seaton** had the pleasure of explaining why the Alfa Net never works!! and after doing PR for the day **Cpl Paul Jennings** had his photograph taken by the SOinC. In the afternoon we ventured even higher to the Olympus Site, where **Sgt Tom Shanaham** and **Sgt Chris Bough** showed the SOinC some very old and very new equipment.

From the highest point in Cyprus. Flt Lt Mike Good and Lt John Steed point out the ground to the SOinC. On a clear day you can see Turkey!

FOCUS ON AIRFIELD TROOP—RAF AKROTIRI

The final day was to be the honour of Airfield Troop which was commanded by **WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing.** So, in fact, the football was thrown out of the window and there was reminiscing about '. . . rugby . . . times in 7 . . . etc'. At least that was until **Sig Mick (Elvis) Senior** got into the act and suddenly Nottingham County were on the scene. Later, whilst touring line projects on the Airfield, we were suddenly concerned that **Sig Les Lloyd** had enticed the SOinC into a cable pit and was not going to get him out again, but all was well in the end and **Gen Birtwistle** departed for his aircraft following a very hectic visit indeed.

HODGSON SHIELD SPORT

Following the victory of Tech Troop for the 1980-81 season, they are off to a fine start in the current competition. With athletics, cricket and swimming already completed, they have a head's start over Airfield Troop. In the recent Swimming Gala **Sgt Merv Cox** led a very strong team to victory but they were pushed hard by Airfield and Mountain Troops. After all, where can you train for swimming one mile up Mount Troodos!! The event was a credit to **Capt Philip Rouse** who so set the rules that 60% of the squadron swam on the day.

MILITARY MATTERS—OR DOES IT?

Ex *July Sale* saw 16 members of the squadron battling against the Cyprus elements—mainly beating sun. **Sgt Dicky Henderson** rechristened the A41—but we cannot tell you what he called it! **Sgt**

With the Tele Mechs of Episkopi Troop—*Left to right:* WO2 (FofS) Gerry Bannister, CR Signals, SOinC, OC, Sgt Alec Cheetham, LCpl Martin Fielding, Sgt Mick Reed, Cpl Martin Rabbetts, Cpl Mick Kelly and Sig Ken Clay

The SOinC investigates a cable pit with Sig Les Lloyd

John Thompson's voice procedure was also lacking during the following transmission: 'Hullo one this is two; send location over'. 'Half-way up a . . . one in two precipice. Out'!

July also saw the passing of Ex *Venus Rock*; the island-wide annual IS exercise. The only worthwhile comment lay on the T shirt of a departing Episkopi Troop NCO—Venus Rock is a hoax.

FOCUS ON SPORT

The cricket team has become the Houdini act of the leather and willow. In the five most recent matches they have won four by the narrowest of margins and tied the other. This means that **Sgt Ron Bragg** and his team can still win the league, provided they win the final five matches! **WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing, Sig Craig Wrath** and **Sig "Franny" Francis** have all "come good" at the right time to keep the team in with a chance.

On the athletics track we have provided some very good inter-service performances with **SSgt Dave Marsden**—Discus; **Cpl Steve Green**—Hammer; **LCpl Jim Richardson**—Javelin doing particularly well. **Cpl Eric Clark, LCpl Jim Richardson** and **Cpl Rhodes** (227 Provost Coy) were the winning team in the Decathlon with a new Island record—well done!

Sgt Paul Baines and **Cpl John O'Donnell** spearheaded the basketball team to victory in the minor unit league, having only been beaten by the local American side.

With the hot summer coming to a close, we now look forward to getting our boots back on. See you on the soccer, rugby and hockey fields.

TECHNICAL TIT-BITS

Printing your own T shirt is a Cyprus pastime. We wonder if any of these definition attributions are correct: 'Top of the Pops—The Epi-Oly shot. It gets all the big hits' **SSgt Pete Whitbread**. 'Happiness Mountain Troop Style—Riding a Steed', **SSgt (FofS) Pete Higson**. 'Water Skiing—Walking on Water', **SSgt Dave Fox**. 'Tele Mechs do it up a pole', **Sig 'Jockcon' Cairns**. 'DMS. Dems My Shoes', **Sig 'Franny' Francis.**

262 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 58

THE SOinC VISITS THE SQUADRON

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE visited Cyprus in early July. During his tour of units on the island he spent a relaxed and enjoyable morning with 262 Sig Sqn in Dhekelia. After a talk with the OC, **Maj Lionel French**, he toured the various departments in the squadron. The General also made presentations to 2 of the squadron personnel:- **WO2 (RQMS) Rod Gladwin** was presented with a GOC(NI) Commendation, and **Sgt Hugh Lovejoy** received his LS&GC Medal.

Throughout the morning the General put everyone at their ease by his friendly and informal manner, and the visit was undoubtedly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

In the Commcen the General chats to Pte Glynnis Ball and Cpl Sue Catterall

The General meets MT Section. *Left to right:* Sgt Keith Bridger, Cpl Mark Wright-Jones, LCpl Bob Stanton

HI'S AND BYE'S

We would like to welcome **SSgt Pete Underwood** and family to Dhekelia, all the way from Nicosia. Congratulations **Pete** on your promotion. We would also like to mention **Sig Taff Morgan, Sig Trevor Bailey** and **Sig Steve Corner.**

Goodbyes are due to **SSgt Howard Loates** and family, **Sgt Ralph Maddison, Sig Dave Smith, Sig 'Billy Blood' Simpson** and **Sig Paul Carter.**

The General, Maj Lionel French and Sgt Trevor Lund

Members of Radio Section giving the General an impromptu lesson on the windsurfing trainer. *Left to right:* The General, 2Lt Mark Byers, SSgt Steve Bailes, Lt Sally Holt.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes for the future go to **Sgt Phil Baker** and **Q Pte Julie King** who recently got married. We also congratulate **Cpl Tubby Sherman** who was posted at very short notice to 8 Sig Regt on passing his T1 entrance examination, and **Sgt Pete Grist** who has just been selected for the FofS course.

Our most recent arrival, but not by VC10, must be the latest addition to the **Keith** family, a son born to **Lindsay** and **Sgt Martin Keith** on the Royal Wedding Day. Last, but not least, congratulations on promotion to **Maj (TOT) Cliffe Webb** and **Lt Sally Holt.**

THE SPORTING SCENE

WINDSURFING

SSgt Steve Bailes, one of our new arrivals from Germany, couldn't believe his luck when he was appointed PSI windsurfing immediately on arrival. The squadron can surely claim the record for the largest number of R Tg windsurfers!

SWIMMING

The squadron team put on a good show in the Garrison Gala, and has been contributing team members to the Garrison Team in the all island Gala series.

CANOEING

Sgt Hugh Lovejoy recently spent a gruelling 10 days paddling around the island of Rhodes on Ex *Brown Paddle*. Well done **Hugh**!

PARACHUTING

Cpl Faith Neville has managed to persuade more of the Commcen staff to jump out of aeroplanes. The mad trio concerned are **LCpl Kathy Clegg, Pte Deserie Martin** and **Pte Tanya Frampton**. Well done girls.

SAILING

Five members of the squadron enjoyed a five day course on the Yacht 'Brigand of Changi' during May, and four more are just about to depart on a similar venture. **WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford** has managed to persuade the crew that sailing beats working any day, and, to prove his point, he followed the first course, by a 10 day trip to Rhodes to deliver the CSYC yacht 'Highlight' to the island, to embark on its summer cruising season. **Sgt Paul Archibald** is about to depart for Bombay on a leg of Ex *Bezonian Adventure*. Good luck **Paul.**

News from Troops

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

'DEAR MUM'

Belize being the sort of place it is (unaccompanied, sunny and 5,200 miles from home for the uninitiated) a lot of letters are written, whether they be to wives, sweethearts or mums (some even write to their own wives!). This month's notes consist of letters intercepted by our troop censor and considered too good to miss. In no special order let us begin with the line section, which is now largely telemech for those of you who remember the good old days of the 'hairies' in the troop.

CARIBBEAN CRAZY

'I arrived on 26 May and requested a posting on 27 May. This was no sudden impulse, I had in that short time already met my boss—**FofS 'Crack on lads' Russ Davey**—and quickly established that there was every possibility that I would have to work on this tour. However, after a night of introductions to my workmates, **Cpl Geordie Deeming, LCpl Steve 'I must do my exercises' Kemble, Sig Chris 'When I've had me fag' Scales** and the delights of downtown Belize City, I was in no state to write, never mind in triplicate nor to go through an interview with the OC. So there I was, gone. I fell into the routine of work like a brick in to water. As a humble hairy, I soon began to feel like an ED trying to fix Blackpool illuminations. Not only 49 more pairs than I was used to, but I was expected to joint all 50 of them! I soon came to dread the FofS's briefing sessions—'Another little project lads . . . '—Not unlike sunbathing in the Arctic and normally more uncomfortable. It invariably involves digging up yet more of the swamp, which surrounds Airport Camp and is, where possible, to be avoided at all costs. I even volunteered for a spell in the experimental wing of the Station hospital to avoid a particularly nasty 'project'. It's a good job I'm enjoying myself here, what with the Cayes trips, the fishing trips and the 'relaxed' atmosphere, otherwise I think I might go a little Caribbean Crazy.'

HOUSEWIFE'S CORNER

'Last night we attempted the tasks you requested. All too soon it became obvious that they could have been completed to a more desirable standard had one or two of a housewife's basic tools been to hand. One could not envisage the average suburban housewife attempting even the most minor of the tasks set, let alone the major projects, one finds, when trying to clean up behind basically untidy, unhygenic males. To ensure a satisfactory standard of domestic bliss it is requested the the following items be made available: (There now follows a list of items which, to quote the author, make housewives jump with glee)

A letter from home to a negligent husband perhaps? Any wife recognise the 'males' referred to? Well this was from our happy band of Commcen staff to their taskmaster **YofS Bill Burnham**. We have the same sort of complaints from them about the few bits of Commcen work they have to do!

The author of Caribbean Crazy—Sig Jake Jacobs 'Now what do I do?'

LCpl Kemble smiles for two reasons: Cpl Deeming is doing the work and they have managed to find a dry spot in Airport Camp to dig

FISHERMAN'S TALE

There has been an increase in the popularity of sea fishing in the troop, mainly thanks to the efforts of **Sgts Jock Rice** and **Angus Witton.** The following is one of the two letters written following our fishing trips. The other one would have been here as well, but the OC edited it so much that all that was left was a description of the storm we spent most of the day following around the Caribbean! (Needless to say the OC didn't actually catch anything except the proverbial cold on his trip.) 'You ask why fishing is so popular in the troop? Well, the normal size of the total catch coupled with some ice cold Belikins proves irresistible for beginner and expert alike. Even on our first trip out, despite a slow start, we managed a sizeable haul. **Sig Jake Jacobs** caught the big one of the day. According to the locals it was a grey tipped shark, weighing in at 110 lbs and measured a shade over 6ft. It certainly caused a few grey hairs when it was brought on deck. For three long minutes most people's ankles and all of **Jock Rice** were in mortal danger, until in true 'Clockwork Orange' fashion the boatman despatched said fish with a few short sharp blows to the pointy end. The final total included 12 barracuda, 2 jack, 2 king mackerels, 18 Spanish mackerels, 48 Belikin and Heineken and 24 assorted soft drinks.'

All in all a good day's outing!

Just to prove that not all Fishermen's tales are imagination

CONGRATULATIONS

Cpl Ireland was awarded the BEM in the Birthday Honours List 1981 for his work at the School. Our warmest congratulations.

MOST MEMORABLE 1981 REUNIONS

BLANDFORD

The many Association Members and their families who arrived at Blandford on the morning of Sun 17 May feared the worst! It was a grey forbidding sky from which the rain fell steadily. Few would have guessed that the day was to blossom into a very passable spring afternoon. And what can be said at the end of the day. Many old friends met. A carefully planned and varied programme was executed with precision and superb professionalism. Only superlatives can adequately give an impression to readers of the Display by the White Helmets and the Ceremony of Retreat by the Corps Band.

Perhaps the only disappointment was to be found in the numerical count which disclosed somewhat smaller numbers than preceding years. To Association Members who nearly came, you missed a memorable day. To the Commandant School of Signals and All Ranks of 'The School' who staged the event; the White Helmets; the Corps Band, a most sincere thank you.

Our Members, their wives and children, enjoying the hospitality shown by the WO's and Sergeants Mess, Blandford Camp

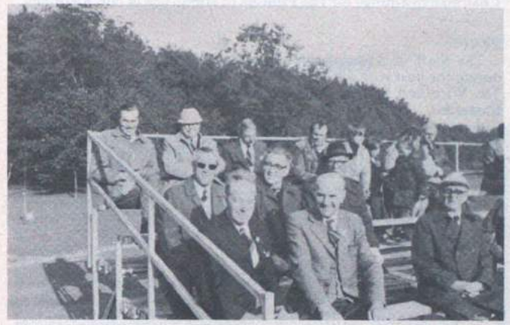
Four 'Well known Gentlemen' enjoying a pre lunch drink. *Left to Right:* Brig P. M. P. Hobson (Aldershot Branch); Mr Trevor Dexter (Indian Signals Asssociation), Maj Gen R. J. Moberly (Dorset Branch) and Mr Macnab

Six of our Chelsea 'In Pensioners' attended the Blandford Reunion. One of them was overheard to say 'Please sir, we are over 18—or at least I am'. (Note the empty table in front of them!) The two sticks are a 'Very Priceless Piece of Equipment' (VPPE) as they contain most of the Cap Badges (Ancient & Modern) of Regiment and Corps of the Army

. . . CATTERICK

It is difficult to express adequately the quality of every component of the weekend's programme and the enjoyment of all those who supported this most significant event in the Association's calendar. We were delighted to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle** and greatly honoured that they could both be with us. To our superb Corps Band and the 'professionals' of the Junior Regiment, 8 Signal Regiment and 11 Signal Regiment who set it all up, a most sincere thank you.

The **Reverend John Harris,** Senior Chaplain HQ Training Group, sadly, was attending his last Reunion Service, prior to moving to Chatham and we thank him especially for his support over the years.



'We don't need umbrellas this year but perhaps sun vizors will be more appropriate'. A handful of Members & families awaiting the start of the 'Playing of Retreat' on Helles Square

Our magnificent Corps Band

'This is not the only reason—albeit a very nice one—I come to Catterick for the Reunion. Amongst others is to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society' In Pensioner J. G. A. (Wally) Lamb enjoying his visit to the Reunion

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle seen talking to two of our Chelsea Pensioners; In Pensioners S. Gordon and J. Hulme

29 Association Branch Standards paraded on the 'March Past' after the Reunion Service in Catterick. The Standard Marshal is Mr C. E. (Ted) Moore (Catterick Branch). Congratulations, Ted, on your recent award of the Imperial Service Medal as reported in the July 1981 issue of The Wire.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, 28 June, 1981

PRESENT:

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB MBE DL, Chairman; **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE; Col L. W. Wright, TD,** Vice-Chairman; **Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE,** General Secretary and some 135 Members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by extending a special welcome to the SOinC. **Gen Birtwistle** responded by thanking the Association for inviting him to attend their important Annual Reunion. He went on to refer to the considerable publicity given to the recent Defence Review and informed the Meeting that the Corps is in very good heart and not greatly affected by the slightly smaller projected Army.

The Chairman congratulated Members on a good parade and thanked Major the **Rev John McKellar** for his address at the Reunion Service. He continued by reading a message from the President, The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB CBE DSO** who apologised for his absence and wished all Members a happy and successful Reunion.

MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were approved unanimously by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRANCHES

Since we last met, a new Branch has been established at Southport. We are now based on 62 Branches.

MEMBERSHIP

We have gained some 266 new Life Members and 26 Annual Members through Branches during the past year. I, also report, with regret the known deaths of some 87 members. Amongst those was our past General Secretary, **Brig Henry Firth** who died at his home in Banstead on 3 February, aged 81. Many of you will be aware of the distinguished and devoted service which he gave to our Association as its General Secretary between 1951 and 1962. Early in April this year, we also lost **Maj Ian Jones,** Chairman of the Bath & District Branch, a stalwart Member who many of you knew.

WELFARE

The Welfare Section has successfully coped with a demanding year. During 1980, some 794 grants were made, involving an expenditure of some £37,600. (789 cases expended £34,800 in 1979). Through the generosity of many serving and retired Members of the Corps who despatch or deliver clothing to Chelsea, some 485 clothing parcels were despatched during the year. (595 in 1979). I congratulate **Miss Margaret Cook,** our senior Welfare Officer and her assistant, **Mrs Doris Ward** for competing with a very busy year.

FINANCE

It is difficult for me to thank our Serving Officers and Soldiers adequately for the financial support we derive under the One Day's Pay Scheme. In 1980 this amounted to some £115,000. It is our life blood. Our accumulated funds at 31 December 1980 were some £392,200 against £347,200 the year previously; an increase of some 12.9%. The book value of our investments increased by about 14% to some £344, 600. The market value rose by some £130,400 to around £524,600.

I need hardly tell you that this is a very healthy situation enabling the Association to fulfil its objectives without undue financial restraint.

THE WIRE

The costs of printing and distributing The Wire continue to rise. The subsidy required from Association funds during 1980 was some £12,900. Your Central Committee at their meeting last month decided that subscription rates should be maintained at their present level for 1982.

MEMORIAL TO THE 'FALLEN'

The Royal Signals Corps Committee has asked me to consult both the Commandant School of Signals and the Commander Training Group at Catterick and to make recommendations on the form and location of the Memorial to our 'Fallen'. As you will all recall, our Memorial Chapel is contained in St Martins Church, Catterick, now closed.

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

You all know, from The Wire, of the immensely successful visits by our Colonel-in-Chief, **The Princess Anne,** to the Corps at home and overseas. I hope it will be possible during my tenure of office as your Chairman to arrange for **The Princess** to attend one of our Reunions.

STAFF

The Staff of Association Headquarters has been reduced by one during the past year with two newcomers **Mrs Lucas,** Assistant Editor, The Wire and **Miss Jackson** who replaced both **Mr Walsh** and **Mr Richards.**

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Brig P. M. P. Hobson, DSO (Aldershot Branch), proposed that the audited accounts of the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund be approved, (included on pages 443 and 444). The proposal was seconded by **Maj F. G. Bolam** (York Branch) and 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:

Chairman & Treasurer	—**Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB MBE DL** (Re-election)
Vice-Chairman	—**Col L. W. Wright, TD** (Re-election) **Brig T. I. G. Gray** (Re-election)
TA Representative	—**Col W. J. C. Foster, TD** (Re-election)
Zone 'B' Representation	—**Mr F. Elwood** (Sheffield Branch) vice **Mr J. J. Goggin** (Shrewsbury Branch)
Zone 'C' Representative	—**Mr E. P. Wilds** Dorset Branch) vice **Maj A. R. Burden,** TD (Cardiff Branch)
Zone 'D' Representative	—**SSgt G. Pickard, MSM** (Aldershot Branch) vice **Maj F. V. B. Philp** (Lincoln Branch)

The Chairman thanked the retiring Zone Representatives, **Mr Goggin, Maj Burden** and **Maj Philp** for their contributions to the Central Committee.

THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Following a statement by the Chairman, the Meeting approved unanimously by a show of hands an amendment to the Rules of the Association.

Rule 9—Central Committee defines 'The RSM of the 11 Sig Regt' will be an ex-officio Member. This is to be deleted and 'The RSM of the 8 Sig Regt' is to be substituted.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY MESSAGES

The Chairman informed Members that a message had been despatched to the Colonel-in-Chief by the Master of Signals and a reply had been received from **The Princess Anne.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs I. Harvey (Manchester Branch) asked if more seating could be made available in the Messes on Saturday evening. The General Secretary undertook to follow up this suggestion.

CLOSURE

In closing the meeting, the Chairman expressed the importance of Branches making bids for their Members to attend Reunions in conformity with the Administrative Instructions issued annually by Association HQ early in March. He went on to thank, on behalf of all Members, Commander Training Group & Catterick Garrison, **Brig A. Yeoman** and the many components of the Training Group who go to so much trouble to make Reunions so enjoyable.

1982 REUNIONS

Reunions in 1982 are planned for the following dates:
Blandford—16 May
Catterick—3/4 July

Brighton Branch

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of **Frank Wiseman** on Saturday, 11 July, 1981. **Frank** was a very regular attender and recently visited both Catterick and Blandford with the Branch. He joined the Corps in December 1942 after serving with the London Fire Service for four years, all of his Corps career was spent in action in many different places, one of them being Arnhem. **Frank** was badly injured on the last day of the war in Germany and spent many months in hospital and was left partially disabled as a result. His Cremation Service was attended by six members of the Branch, the Standard was carried by his good friend **Don Bewick** and the Union Standard by **Len Parrack;** flowers were laid by our Chairman, **Bob Bailey** and **Carol Vardy.** He will be sadly missed by all of us.

Scarborough Branch

Report by W. L. Grandsome Esq.

Royal Signals Association— Scarborough Branch and military staff of Burniston Barracks

The Scarborough Branch over the past few months has had a lively and enjoyable social calendar. Obviously the logical sequence of the notes would be in time order but news received in June most certainly warrants priority. The CO of Scarborough Signal Training Centre, **Maj (QM) A. S. R. Alfred MBE** had confirmation of his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in August. On behalf of the Committee and all members of the Scarborough Branch we offer heartiest congratulations. **Lt Col Alan Alfred** has always given our Branch his complete dedication and support. His generosity and concern for our well-being has been unstinting and we are particularly pleased that he will continue in command at Burniston Barracks.

On the evening of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 Apr, the ladies took over the 'Jimmy' Club. Due to **Mrs Marjorie Alfred's** inspiration and general organising ability, a very successful and remunerative 'Bring-and-Buy' sale was held. The sales proceeds, together with spontaneous amounts, swelled the general cash effort to the amazing sum of £100. This was quite remarkable. A cheque for this amount is forwarded to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. **Marjorie Alfred** and other wives of the military staff made a most concerted effort contributing all manner of gifts, which were duly and attractively presented in the 'Jimmy' Club. It is worth mentioning that all the arrangements of the tables etc was done on the evening before the event by many willing helpers. I, for one, will remember this most happy 'Bring-and-Buy event as will many others. We are all looking forward to the next one. Once more we extend our thanks and appreciation to **Marjorie** for her kindly interest and for having the idea in the first place.

On the 27 Apr, Scarborough STC was visited by the SOinC—**Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE,** and the Commander, Training Group Royal Signals, **Brig Alan Yeoman.** They toured the Barracks complex and saw all the facilities that the barracks has to offer. **Lt Col Alan Alfred** invited the Scarborough Branch Committee to attend and we were introduced to the SOinC and **Brig Yeoman** in the 'Jimmy' Club during lunch.

Mrs Marjorie Alfred presenting a cheque for £100 to the Branch Chairman Mr Harry Harper *from left to right:* Mrs 'Toots' Coatesworth, Mrs Maureen Kenny, Mrs Marjorie Alfred, Mr Harry Harper, Mrs Cindy Gibson

The Branch Annual Dinner was held on 16 May at the Clifton Hotel. The guest of honour was The Chief Executive of Scarborough Council, **Mr Russell Bradley.** Other guests included **Lt Col Alan Alfred MBE** and his military staff. The Scarborough Concert Band, under their Director **Mr Alan Horton,** provided music throughout dinner. After an excellent meal, the cigars aglow and the speeches over, the Chairman made a notable announcement. He explained that whilst in London attending the Branch Conference he made representation for an award to be granted to one of our members.A few days later the Chairman received confirmation that **Mr Len Pearson** had been made an Honour Member of the Association—the citation aptly described **Len's** long and very distinguished service to the Scarborough Branch. We are all extremely pleased that **Len** is the first recipient of the award in our Branch. It is certainly well deserved.

On Sun 7 June the Branch members were invited to Burniston Barracks to have a Branch photograph taken. After many adjustments to medals and ties and calls of 'cheese' we were all in the box. Later everyone enjoyed a curry luncheon which the ladies especially appreciated.

As will be seen from our photographs many of the old and bold are still 'soldiering on' and express their best to all old comrades wherever they may be.

The presentation of honour membership to Mr Len Pearson

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PART III HOMES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

(Editor's note: We are glad to publish the following details which have been provided by The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres.)

It is wished to bring to your attention the two Part III Homes administered by the Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, a registered Charity. These Homes accept as permanent residents ex-members of the Armed Services and Merchant Navy; widows of such men and ladies who have served.

New Belvedere House in Stepney can accommodate 28 male residents in single rooms. Hollenden House at Bexhill-on-Sea, set in most attractive grounds, has mainly single rooms for 45 male and 7 female residents. Both Homes are equipped with smoke detectors and fire doors and an emergency alarm system is operable from all rooms and bathrooms. A night watchman at Hollenden House adds to the high degree of safety provided. The Homes have excellent standards of decoration and furnishing and are well staffed thus being able to give most adequate care and attention to the residents. The Wardens-in-Charge are each helped by two Assistant Wardens, all resident and a number of Care Attendants. In addition there are cooks, kitchen hands and cleaners.

Residents are, within reason, free to spend their time as they wish; their rooms are cleaned by domestic staff; the meals are of a high quality and variety and medical needs looked after by the doctors retained by EFC who make regular visits to the Homes as well as responding urgently in the event of emergencies. Clothing is provided when necessary. The current weekly maintenance charges (agreed annually with the appropriate Local Authority) are £55.37 at Bexhill and £64.47 at Stepney which compare favourably with the average charges for Part III Homes. Residents must of course have the statutory weekly pocket money of £5.45 in addition to the above figures. The majority of residents are supported financially by Local Authorities under the terms of Part III, the National Assistance Act 1948 or the Department of Health and Social Security.

There are vacancies in both Homes at the moment and if you know or hear of any potential residents please contact:

The Administrator
EFC
8 Lower Grosvenor Place
London SW1W 0EP
(Telephone: 01-828 2468)

Sport

GOLF

ROYAL IRISH RANGERS' BOWL
Report by Maj Harry Meekings

The Royal Irish Rangers' Bowl was held at the Tidworth Golf Club on the 11/12 Jun. All the Corps and Regiments were well represented. It was disappointing that the Corps BAOR players, **Capt Willie Brewin** and **Capt Len Yates** were unable to attend; pressure of work prevailed. They were sadly missed.

However, the Corps selection committee delved into their lists of players and came up with a young man who plays for the Catterick Club in the Teeside league, and incidentally had made a reasonable reputation for himself as a 'bit of a bandit'. On further investigation the young man turned out to be a more mature gentleman (records need updating) the Commander of the Trg Gp **Brig Alan Yeoman.** The final member of the team came from the South of England, from the depths of the Blandford Garrison. An experienced gentleman whose golf had made great strides forward in recent years, **Yeoman Ian Sleightholm.** The stalwarts of the Corps team remained, **Maj Harry Meekings** and **Sgt Chris Carveth** who had recently returned to the golfing scene after an arduous period of courses to try and get qualified for promotion.

In the first round we were drawn against a strong Infantry side led by former Army Champion **Lt Col Chris Wallace** RGJ. The match was won by the Corps with all the team playing very well. **Maj Harry Meekings** decisively beat the AGS Captain **Col John Arthur** and **Brig Alan Yeoman** smooth talked the AGA Captain into submission.

Sgt Carveth	v	**Lt Col Wallace**	halved
Maj Meekings	v	**Lt Col Arthur**	won 7 up
Brig Yeoman	v	**Maj Holmes**	won 3 up
WO1 Sleightholm	v	**Pte Platts**	lost 2 down

In the quarter finals we were drawn to play the Medical Corps who had resoundedly and somewhat surprisingly beaten the REME 'A' team in the first round. The match see-sawed all afternoon and although all members of the Corps performed creditably we lost by 2 holes.

Sgt Carveth	v	**2Lt P. Hill**	lost 1 hole
Maj Meekings	v	**Lt Col Lutter**	won 3 up
Brig Yeoman	v	**WO2 Greaves**	lost 3 down
WO1 Sleightholme	v	**Maj Grieve**	lost 1 hole

Friday saw the Corps going out to play and try to repeat last year's excellent performance in winning the REME shield. Our reserve for the week **Sgt Max Patterson** came into the side replacing **Brig Alan Yeoman** (preparing his bowler etc for his appearance at the Trooping of the Colour). The team scored 104 points but this unfortunately was not good enough.

A footnote to this event is one of sizeable incredibility. During one of the matches on Thursday **Brig Alan Yeoman** managed to win the par 3 12th with a double bogey five (after losing a ball). That in itself is plausible, but when one adds his opponent was only 15 yards from the pin in one stroke, then one's imagination runs wild. It must be a case of 1 out of 10 for effort, and a good story.

ROYAL SIGNALS (NI) GOLF MEETING

The Royal Signals Golf Meeting was held at Castlerock Golf Club on the North Antrim Coast on Mon 6 July. 28 golfers teed off for the morning Medal round and 30 for the afternoon Stableford round.

Castlerock is a typical links course and gave us varied weather. The course itself was in very good condition, but during the morning it was raining, very windy and the high scores reflected this, However, in the afternoon the sun came out, the wind died down and some good scores were returned.

In the absence of CR Signals, **Maj (TOT) Reg Banham** of CR Signals Branch kindly presented the prizes to the winners.

Best Gross Score	**Sgt Jock Gibson**	233 Sig Sqn
Best Handicap Score	**WO1 (RSM) Paddy McGerty**	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Best Stableford Score	**WO2 (YofS) George Coles**	233 Sig Sqn
Best 24 Handicap	**SSgt Ken Rankin**	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn

Maj Banham thanked the secretary for allowing us to use the club, the greens staff for the excellent condition of the course and the catering staff for the good service they provided.

ROYAL SIGNALS V ROYAL ARTILLERY
Report by Maj Harry Meekings

The 1981 Golf match against the Royal Artillery took place on 28 July at the Berkshire Golf Club. The Berkshire is making a big effort to improve the fairways and greens and during the last few weeks of dry weather extra attention has been given to watering and the greens staff have had their reward. The course is in superb condition.

The morning singles started in very warm conditions. (This could be our summer). All matches were off the stick as the handicaps were very close. Although the weather and course were very good the Corps team did not rise to the occasion and at the end of the morning we had only three wins, coming from **Maj Gen Jimmy Jackson, Lt Col Ken Evans** and **Maj Harry Meekings.**

Lunch, as ever at the Berkshire was delicious—and with the level of the Claret sinking (or rising depending on where you were) we had 'high' hopes that our opponents would not return such good scores in the afternoon. The foursomes were arranged to bring out the best in our team and the trick nearly worked for the afternoon gave us three wins with **Col Jock Linton** and **Col Blocks-Harris** just beaten by the last putt of the day.

Therefore the days' results turned out to be a six-all draw, which under the circumstances was a good finish to probably the best days' golf of the year.

Singles — **Result**

Royal Signals			Royal Artillery			
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson	(2up)	V	**Maj F. Williams**	(-)	1	0
Lt Col S. Schofield	(-)	V	**Lt Col M. Stoneham**	(2/1)	0	1
Maj H. A. C. Meekings	(3/2)	V	**Maj R. Gard**	(-)	1	0
Lt Col K. Evans	(5/4)	V	**Col P. Allardyce**	(-)	1	0
WO1 R. Hall	(-)	V	**Lt Col S. H. Gurney**	(1up)	0	1
Lt Col B. A. Beattie	(-)	V	**Brig P. Ellwood**	(1up)	0	1
Col Linton	(-)	V	**Brig A. E. Killick**	(2/1)	0	1
Col G. D. T. Harris	(-)	V	**Maj P. Stoney**	(6/5)	0	1
					3	5

Foursomes						
Jackson/Schofield	(6/4)	V	**Stoneham/Killick**	(-)	1	0
Meekings/Evans	(5/3)	V	**Williams/Ellwood**	(-)	1	0
Hall/Beattie	(3/2)	V	**Gard/Gurney**	(-)	1	0
Harris/Linton	(-)	V	**Allardyce/Stoney**	(1up)	0	1
					3	1

Match Draw 6—6

ROYAL SIGNALS V ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
Report by Maj Harry Meekings

Blackmoor Golf Club is one of many small golf clubs tucked away in the corners of Hampshire. Over the last few years it has been well maintained, and with the addition of some well placed bunkers it has become a course on which it is hard to score.

Both teams had players who had not seen the course before and it was decided to have the foursomes in the morning. Then, as we found that we had the course to ourselves we rearranged the foursomes into a four ball match.

The Corps seemed to have their pairing right and at lunch we had a winning margin of 3—1. After a ploughman's lunch the singles were led off by **Gen Jimmy Jackson**. The General played against a **WO2 Tony Dryland**, who in the morning round had such a bad time that he had a lesson from the professional at lunchtime. it seems to have had the desired effect for the young giant went round the course in one over par, with General going down by two holes. However, this is the second time, this season, that the General has lost at Blackmoor! (Selectors please note). Four good wins were registered from **Lt Col Stan Schofield, Lt Col Ray Williams, Maj Harry Meekings** and **WO1 Richard Hall.** Together with the two hard fought halves from **Maj John Ient** and **Maj Badger Terrey** gave the Corps an afternoon win margin of 5-3.

This was a very good days' golf on a superb course and a very good win for the Corps.

Singles — **Result**

Royal Signals			REME			
Maj Gen Jackson	(-)	V	**WO2 T. Dryland**	(2up)	0	1
Maj H. Meekings	(3/2)	V	**WO2 M. Stevens**	(-)	1	0
Lt Col Williams	(4/2)	V	**Lt Col Hastings**	(-)	1	0
Lt Col Schofield	(2up)	V	**WO1 Dando**	(-)	1	0
Maj Ient	(½)	V	**Lt Col Mortimer**	(½)	½	½
Maj Terrey	(½)	V	**Capt Powell**	(½)	½	½
WO1 Hall	(3/2)	V	**Col Morrison**	(-)	1	0
Capt Leitch	(-)	V	**Col McLaughlann**	(5/4)	0	1
					5	3

Foursomes						
Jackson/Schofield	(7/5)	V	**Dryland/Stevens**	(-)	1	0
Meekings/Williams	(3/2)	V	**Dando/Hastings**	(-)	1	0
Ient/Terrey	(-)	V	**Powell/Mortimer**	(3/1)	0	1
Hall/Leitch	(4/3)	V	**Morrison/McLaughlan**		1	0
					3	1

Match 8-4 Win

SAILING

ROYAL SIGNALS AND QUADRANGULAR (BAOR) REGATTAS 1981
Report by Maj W. Coxon R Signals

The Royal Signals and Quadrangular (BAOR) regattas 1981 were held at the Dummersee Sailing Club during the period 27-31 July 81.

Seven major and one minor unit competed for the BAOR major and minor trophies plus the new dinghy league trophy presented by CSO BAOR. The first day's racing took place in a force five which makes the Dummersee difficult water to sail. It was decided that team racing in these conditions was impractical; it was therefore decided to bring forward the individual competition.

The individual competition, for the 'Maunsell Trophy', consisted of three races all results to count in deciding the winner. The winner of this competition with two firsts and a second was **Capt Vaughan Smedley** from 21 Sig Regt with **SSgt 'Bernie' Medway** from 22 Sig Regt as runner up with two third places and a first.

The winner of the major trophy, the Canon 'Certa', was 22 Sig Regt with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt a close second. Both teams had obviously worked hard to establish and train their unit teams with active support from their respective Commanding Officers.

The minor unit trophy was a 'walk over' for 212 Sig Sqn the only minor unit to enter for this competition. They were presented with the 'Rhino Cup'. This event was a sad reflection on our minor units in BAOR. There is considerable apathy in these units towards sailing as a sport. This, of course, is not confined to minor units. Two of the largest units could not find six sailors to take part in this annual event!

The finals of the new dinghy league competition took place on 29 July and was won by 22 Sig Regt with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt as runners up. The new trophy, a model of a dinghy in full sail, copper dipped and mounted on a wooden plinth, was presented by **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE,** CSO BAOR to encourage inter unit sailing throughout the season. Units can take advantage of this competition to train their teams for the annual regatta.

The competition trophies and individual prizes were kindly presented by **Mrs Janet Hild** who earned our heartfelt thanks by taking a full part in the regatta activities, despite the competition from the 'Wedding'.

To summarise, the following units took part in the regatta:

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
4 Div HQ and Sig egt
13 Sig Regt
16 Sig Regt
21 Sig Regt
22 Sig Regt
212 Sig Sqn

Competition Results

Major Unit	22 Sig Regt
Minor Unit	212 Sig Sqn
Dinghy league	22 Sig Regt
Individual	**Capt Vaughan Smedley** 21 Sig Regt

QUADRANGULAR REGATTA (BAOR) RA, RE, R SIGNALS AND REME

This annual event is organised by each Corps in turn, it was our turn this year.

There are three competitions in this annual match:

The Quadrangular Cup—RA, RE, R Signals and REME.

The Triangular Shield—RA, RE and R Signals.

The Hadrians Cup—REME and R Signals.

The competitions were organised over two days with 12 races, each team sailed two matches against each other, the match score and points to count towards the three competitions.

The winner of the Quadrangular Cup was REME with five match points a close second was the RA with four match points. The winner of the Triangular Shield was the RA with four match points with R Signals in second place with two match points.

The winner of the Hadrians Cup was the REME. This was a closely fought competition, each team won a match but REME won on points: REME 19½ points—R Signals 22 points. The R Signals team: **Capt Vaughan Smedley**—21 Sig Regt; **SSgt 'Bernie' Medway**—22 Sig Regt; **LCpl 'Chas' Cowell**—1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

An excellent week's sailing and despite our lack of success in the quadrangular we now have many new sailors coming forward. 22 Sig Regt and 3 Div Sig Regt are to be congratulated on the high standards of team sailing they produced.

I would ask all COs to 'encourage' their sailing officers to get their men on the water at any of the four excellent clubs within BAOR at the start of the 1982 season. The dinghy league competition is designed to help you in this respect to focus attention on sailing from the start of the season in April.

Finally, I would like to thank the Commodore and Staff of the Dummersee Sailing Club for their kind and considerate co-operation during these regattas.

GUNNERS SAIL TO GIBRALTAR

Recently a crew from the Royal School of Artillery decided to sail the RA yacht St Barbara out to Gibraltar as part of the celebrations of the granting of the freedom of Gib to the Gunners. They wanted a radio link however to maintain contact with the UK and turned to the Signals Wing of the School to help. This was quite clearly a job for one of our Royal Signals men and who better than our very own Yeoman of Signals? Accordingly, **SSgt Clive Copestake** was despatched to Gosport armed with a PRC 320 and suitable DIY antenna equipment. Suffice to say that a working link was established between St Barbara and Larkhill, which worked well throughout the trip. The only real problem occurred when the yacht was tacking in an 'inappropriate direction' during a transmission (the yacht's antenna was a sloping wire running up the forward main stay); the error was soon identified and a quick tack put into effect!

The exercise report later stated: 'The primary frequency assigned was found to be a little low when predicted and was subject to a certain amount of commerical FST interference—consideration should be given in future to using around 14-15 MHz for SSB voice schedules of this nature.' On enquiry as to who has contributed this latter piece of advice, it turned out to be the Wing's **FofS WO1 Barry Hassall**. Quite how he got an input to the report nobody knows and he certainly wasn't telling!

SSgt (YofS) Clive Copestake making sure his ship to shore comms are working

THE HISTORY OF RUGBY IN THE ARMY

In late 1982, the Army Rugby Union is to publish the 'History of Rugby in the Army'. It will cover the game at Unit, Corps and Army levels and recount some of the notable matches and personalities in Army Cup, Inter Corps, Territorial Army and Inter Service Championship Matches from 1878, the first recorded year of the game being played in the Army. It will make fascinating reading and the book will be illustrated. The author is a knowledgeable Rugby Historian. The book will be attractively bound and contain some 350 pages. It is to be published in conjunction with Evans Bros Ltd of London and will cost service readers £6, some 25% less than the full publication price. To reserve your copy, send no money now but write to **Maj M. J. Bowen,** Secretary Royal Signals RFC, RSRE, Leigh Sinton Road, Malvern, Worcestershire. Rugby officers might like to consider it as a gift to opposition teams instead of conventional plaques or pennants, it would be a good competition or raffle prize, birthday or Christmas present for the Rugby 'widow'. 2000 copies will be printed, book early to obtain your copy of this limited circulation volume.

Don't be disappointed!

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

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet — 31 December 1980

£	1979 £		£	£
		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
	301,615	Listed (market value £524,636, 1979 — £394,224)		344,641
	5	Unlisted — Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited		5
	301,620			344,646
	17,645	LOANS TO SERVING SOLDIERS		11,415
		CURRENT ASSETS		
6,191		Stock at Cost	7,023	
200		Less: Provision for slow-moving items	200	
5,991			6,823	
5,294		Sundry debtors and prepayments	5,802	
5,900		Income tax recoverable	6,020	
10,192		Deposit accounts at bank	27,397	
7,507		Current account at bank	8,557	
7		Cash	3	
34,891			54,602	
		LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
6,911		Sundry creditors and accrued charges	18,440	
	27,980	NET CURRENT ASSETS		36,162
	£347,245			£392,223
		Represented by:		
	£347,245	ACCUMULATED FUND		£392,223

Chairman: J. M. W. Badcock
Secretary: R. L. Murray

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

We have audited the accounts in accordance with approved Auditing Standards. In our opinion, the accounts which have been prepared under the historical cost convention give, under that convention, a true and fair view of the state of the Fund's affairs at 31 December 1980 and of its excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
Chartered Accountants

13 May 1981

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31 December 1980

GENERAL

£	1979 £		£	£
		INCOME		
	28,621	Investment income		30,450
	2,513	Bank deposit interest		5,404
	1,996	Profit on sale of investments		9,653
	254	Subscriptions		585
	57	Receipts from branches		60
	121	Sundry income		238
	33,562	TOTAL INCOME		46,390
		EXPENDITURE		
		Administration expenses:		
1,238		Salary costs	1,561	
649		Pensions to former employees	742	
5,428		Other administrative expenses	6,080	
7,315			8,383	
		Contribution to costs of		
5,978		publications	12,953	
2,401		Cost of Association reunions	2,405	
	15,694			23,741
	17,868	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		22,649
	23,569	ADD EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR BENEVOLENT FUND		22,329
	41,437			44,978
	305,808	ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY		347,245
	£347,245	ACCUMULATED FUND CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER		£392,223

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31 December 1980

£	1979 £	BENEVOLENT FUND	£	£
		INCOME		
		Receipts from Corps Fund:		
	14,102	Officers		18,200
	81,275	Other ranks		96,671
	95,377			114,871
		Donations:		
1,041		Individuals and local branches	4,501	
1,568		Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals	1,166	
	2,609			5,667
	763	Benevolent grants refunded		1,289
	98,749	TOTAL INCOME		121,827
		EXPENDITURE		
	27,484	Benevolent Grants		30,256
	—	Royal Signals Games Club grant		13,712
		Donations:		
32,000		Army Benevolent Fund	33,000	
2,135		Other	5,359	
	34,135			38,359
	1,794	Convalescent Holidays		1,935
		Administration Expenses:		
10,530		Salary costs	13,486	
237		Pension for former employee	467	
674		Postage of Welfare parcels	697	
326		Sundry expenses	586	
	11,767			15,236
	£23,569	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		£22,329

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE THREE

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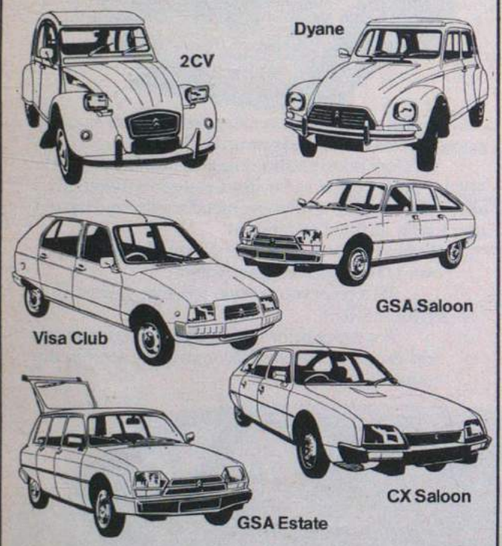

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Visa Club	£2,439	CX Pallas Injection (5-speed)	£6,571
Visa Super E	£2,631	CX GTi (5-speed)	£6,855
Visa Super X	£3,031	CX Pallas Automatic	£6,721
GSA Special	£2,820	CX Prestige (Automatic or 5-speed)	£8,203
GSA Club	£3,230	CX Safari 2400 Super (5-speed)	£5,776
GSA Pallas	£3,454	CX Safari 2400 Super (Automatic)	£6,310
GSA Pallas (C-Matic)	£3,618	CX Safari 2500 Diesel Super (5-speed)	£6,445
GSA Special Estate	£3,047	CX Familiale 2400 Super (5-speed)	£5,887
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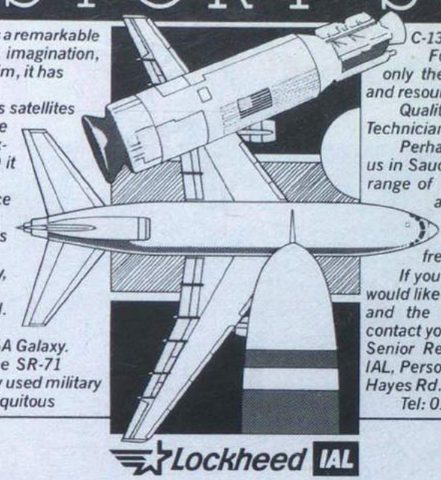

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November 1981

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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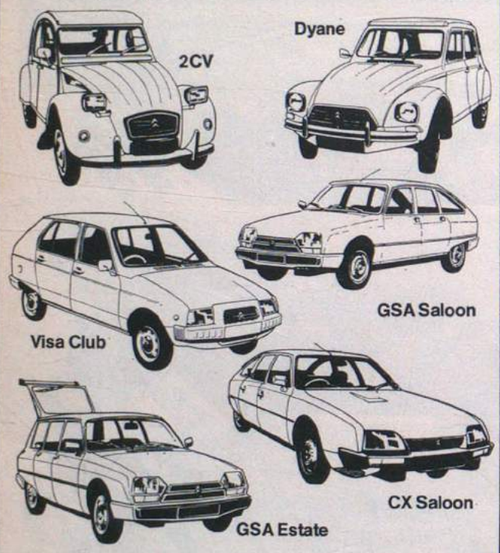

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Visa Club	£2,439	CX Pallas Diesel 2500cc	£6,560
Visa Super E	£2,631	CX Pallas Injection	£6,701
Visa Super X (4-sp.)	£2,971	CX Pallas (Automatic)	£6,855
Visa Super X (5-sp.)	£3,164	CX GTi	£6,855
GSA Special 1130cc (4-sp.)	£2,820	CX Prestige (Automatic/5-sp.)	£8,490
GSA Special 1300cc (4-sp.)	£3,043	CX Reflex Safari 2000cc	£5,640
GSA Special 1300cc (5-sp.)	£3,202	CX Reflex Safari 2400cc (Automatic)	£6,321
GSA Pallas (5-sp.)	£3,622	CX Reflex Safari Diesel 2500cc	£6,445
GSA Pallas (C-Matic)	£3,805	CX Reflex Familiale 2000cc	£5,757
GSA Special Estate 1300cc (4-sp.)	£3,047	CX Reflex Familiale 2400cc (Automatic)	£6,435
GSA Special Estate 1300cc (5-sp.)	£3,431	CX Reflex Familiale Diesel 2500cc	£6,561

Prices correct at time of going to press.

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THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

November 1981 (New Series) Vol 35 No 6

Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE

Assistant Editor Mrs J. C. Lucas

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Royal Signals Association

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Our cover picture shows the successful 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) team which won both the NATO Challenge Cup and the Shooting Cup. (See page 524 for full report).
The successful NATO Challenge Cup Team
L to R: Top Row: Sgt Cook, LCpls Talbot, George, YofS Altham, Lt Foxley, SSM Campbell, Sigs Payne, Slaney, LCpl Fraser, Cpl Yeomans
Centre Row: Cpl Clifford, LCpl Vowden, Sigs Burnett, Goddard, O'Shawnessey, Barker, Cpl Iverson, Sig Holt, LCpl Ball
Front Row: Cpl Griffin, Sigs Leach, Tambs, Hartshorne, Sgt Barnard, Cpl Douglas, Sig Williams

A SEASONAL MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS . . .

Mrs Bradley and I send to you all and to your families our best wishes for a joyful Christmas and a peaceful, happy New Year. We think particularly of those who may be separated from their loved ones at this time by reason of their duty and we hope that they will soon be happily reunited with each other.

. . . AND SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

My first task as SOinC a year ago was to send you all my Christmas message. The apparent speed with which the year has gone by is but a reflection of the enjoyment I have had in my many visits to units both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Thank you for your unfailing warm welcome and hospitality. Thank you also for your loyal and hard work as we take our share of the inevitable stringency at this time of national recession. Your obvious high morale is a testimony to your pride in your professionalism. In turn, I and all Royal Signals Commanders are proud of you.

I send you all my best wishes and those of my family for a very happy Christmas and a New Year full of enjoyment for you and your whole family. We hope that 1982 will enable us to widen even further our circle of friends in Royal Signals throughout the world.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

BEM
Sgt R. J. Bowman

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
SSgt (A/WO2) (Radio Supvr) R. J. White
Sgt A. R. Guy

WORLD CANOEING BRONZE MEDAL WIN BY CPL STEVE JACKSON

Cpl Steve Jackson of 8 Sig Regt wearing the Bronze Medal that he won in the World Canoeing Championships at Nottingham on 2 Aug. He was a member of the K4 crew which took part in the 10,000 meter sprint coming 3rd with Russia being placed 1st and Poland 2nd. **Cpl Steve Jackson** was also placed 1st in the following events during the Inter Services Canoeing Championships on 13 Sep, K1 500 metres, K2 500 metres, K1 1000 metres and K2 1000 metres. Many congratulations.

THE OFFICERS' WHITE LIST

This year's White List will be distributed in November. It has been delayed by minor production problems with our new printer, and by a considerable number of amendments generated by the new year's changes to military addresses such as the re-introduction of brigades.

New features this year will be:-

—a white cover for the White List (which has always been buff coloured) and reduction to A4 size, both done to save money.

—A list of WOs1 for the first time, thought to be a useful aid.

We now wait for the usual letter from 'disgusted Tunbridge Wells' who prefers the White List the way it always was. Did you hear that when we first introduced Christian names, a furious (retired) officer wrote to say, 'what was the point, he had never used an officer's Christian name in his entire career!' If any Warrant Officers 1 wish to have a copy of the White List they are asked to write to RHQ.

CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS—YOUR COVENANTS

The response to the SOinC's appeal to all soldiers asking them to sign covenants for their Day's Pay subscriptions to Corps Funds, has been very good indeed. As a result, the Corps Treasurer estimates that the Corps will 'claw back' £10,000 from HM Inspector of Taxes during 1982. The figure for 1983, when all your forms have their full effect will be much more. We are most grateful for your contributions.

INSPECTION OF 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT BY HM THE QUEEN

On 8 Dec, HM The Queen, at her personal request will inspect a detachment of about 30 members of 10 Sig Regt with their vehicles and equipment in the inner quadrangle of Buckingham Palace. This honour has been given to the regiment because of their work on Royal duties in London. Those on parade will be watched by their families, and they will all get together afterwards for a party. The work done by 10 Sig Regt on Royal duties is very demanding, and is usually unnoticed, so we are particularly delighted that they will be able to enjoy this very special occasion.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO 'THE WIRE'?

In case any of our individual subscribers did not focus on the Editorial of the September issue, it is repeated below.

We are glad to advise our readers that there will be no increase to the subscription rates for 'The Wire' in 1982.

Our individual subscribers will know that subscriptions are renewable annually on 1st January. A component of you pay by 'Bankers Order' and no action is needed, if you wish to continue to receive our Corps magazine in 1982. Your bank account will be debited with the sum of £2.10 on 1st January. If, however, you do not wish to receive 'The Wire' in 1982, will you please advise us in writing and instruct your Bank to cancel this payment, in favour of The Royal Signals Association.

A further component of our individual subscribers renew their subscriptions annually by making a cash payment. In view of the heavy postal charges, you will not, as in previous years, receive an individual letter inviting you to renew your subscription. If you wish to do so, will you please complete and return the counterfoil below by 31st December 1981? We need to define our printing commitment for January by this date, so your co-operation is sought in implementing this new procedure.

Finally, may we emphasise that 'The Wire' is not sold to the general public. It receives a substantial subsidy from the funds of The Royal Signals Association and is supplied only to present and past members of The Royal Corps of Signals and their dependants and those who have been closely associated with the Corps.

The Editor,
The Wire,
Royal Signals Association,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea,
LONDON SW3 4RH

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I am an existing subscriber*
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Signature .....

Name in block letters .....

Address in block letters .....

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*Delete as appropriate

33 DEGREE COURSE GRADUATE

A cheerful band of relieved young officers of 33 Degree Course pictured with their wives and girlfriends at Shrivenham on Graduation Day. Without mortar boards, but equally relieved at the 100% success record, are **Brig Paddy Evans**, the BGS, and **Lt Col Tony Willcox**, the Corps representative at the College. Graduates, from left to right are: Lieutenant: Stephen Andrews, Richard Evans, John Thomas, Dick Good, Ian Foxley, Keith Goodfellow, Stan Young, Tim Gigg, Donald Steele, Douglas Rowlinson, Tim Inshaw and Kevin Fisher

7TH ARMOURED DIVISION OFFICERS' CLUB

The Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 2 December in the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly.

Maj Gen G. D. P. Roberts, a former commander of the Division, has succeeded **Maj Gen Sir Cecil Smith** as President and **Maj Gen John Cowley**, a one-time Paymaster-in-Chief, is the Hon Treasurer.

Existing members of the Club will be receiving details of the Dinner by post; others wishing to join (whether they served in the Division during or after World War 2, the President wishes to emphasise) should please contact the Hon Secretary at once:

Maj Christopher Milner
Mill Lane, Radford,
Inkberrow, Worcester WR7 4LP
Telephone: (0386) 792262

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Officer in Charge Royal Signals Manning and Record Office has in his possession an interesting photograph, taken in London on 15 November 1940, of a group of Royal Signals soldiers who signed themselves:-

Geoff Jagger
Jack Hartley
Ted Hopkins
Les Chapman
'Curly' Heyes
Bill Garnett
Tom Henderson
'Rockey' Carter
Jimmy Gregory
Bob Lupton

Were they cable-jointers who helped repair Post Office cables damaged during the blitz on London? OIC Manning and Records would be interested to hear from any of the group or from anyone who has knowledge of their whereabouts. Letters should be addressed to:-

OIC R Signals Manning and Record office
(Attention SO2 Coord)
Balmore House
Caversham
Reading
Berks RG4 8NT

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

As you know, this is now a Corps 'Preferred Charity', and our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Anne is their President.

The following contributions have been received from units,

16 Signal Regiment the proceeds of the 'Bradbury Fayre'.
£100

3 Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment.
£100

We are most grateful for these contributions, which have been passed on to the SCF.

CORPS FUNDS—SPENDING

By far the greatest expenditure is on Welfare and benevolence, either paid out directly through the Association Welfare Committee, or through our lump-sum contribution to the Army Benevolent fund which in turn supports us, without fail. The expenditure on welfare up to September 1981 was some £33,000.

Some of the other grants made by the Finance Executive in recent months are:-

Improvements to the Blandford JRC.	£1,500
Purchase of two ponies for Cyprus.	£ 500
Canoes for 10 Signal Regiment.	£ 240
Sandhurst Rugby players tour of the USA.	£ 300
Purchase of sailboards, Cyprus units.	£ 888
Loan towards purchase of a glider.	£2,000

THE LAURO APPEAL

The final sum collected is £80. We are now writing to the British Consul in Naples to see how this money can best be used.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

From: Lt Col (Retd) R. Goodwin Jones

Dear Sir,

I read 'The Wire', still, after leaving the Corps in 1977 and may I say how much I enjoy it. I have had an idea which I discussed with another retired member recently and am now writing to put it to you for consideration.

There is very little in The Wire for former members of the Corps. I mean, of course, matters which concern retired folk, not their continued interest in the Corps. I also believe that there would be much benefit to those serving hearing more about what life is like on the other side of the fence, as it were. My suggestion is that in each issue you commission from a retired member of the Corps an article which relates that person's experiences in the immediate period after leaving the Army. I would suggest that these are directly related to the work/job that the writer is doing so that over a period of time those serving will get an idea of the problems, benefits, ideas involved in setting oneself up in civilian life. I would think that people would find it most useful. It would also be of great interest to retired people. Obviously there is scope for more ideas on this topic, one may include perhaps tales of travel around the World which some manage. There might be a problem in that some serving members may decide that it is better 'outside' and call it a day, but I doubt it!

Anyway, I have given you my thoughts. I would be prepared to set the ball rolling, if you wish, by doing an article on farming, which should appeal to many. We farm in lovely West Wales, sheep and cattle, with fishing on the farm, shooting etc., it would be of value too since finance, and property is involved.

Yours sincerely,
Danny Goodwin-Jones

Waunlasonnen,
Abergorlech Road,
CARMARTHEN,
Dyfed.

(Editor's note: I judge this excellent thinking and have invited Lt Col Danny-Goodwin-Jones to forward his article on farming for publication in a future issue. May I take this opportunity to urge other former members of the Corps—wherever you may be in the World—to consider letting me have a statement covering your 'second careers').

IT'S A GOLD FOR CATTERICK!

Meticulous work by members of the Catterick Garrison Communications Centre was rewarded on 28 Sep when **Maj Gen Ian Baker** GOC North East District presented them with a Comstar gold award. The Catterick Garrison Comcen operates 12 hours a day Monday to Friday and over the six-month period ending 30 June had handled 18,316 messages without error.

The staff at the Comcen are:-

Supervisor **Mr Tom Blake** who served eight years with the Colours after his boys service in Kemmel Lines, Catterick. He has worked in the Comcen for the past 23 years. **Mr Blake** was on leave at the time of the Comstar presentation.

Mrs Linda Cummings—acting supervisor during **Mr Blake's** absence—was a member of the Women's Royal Army Corps attached Royal Signals and served as a comcen operator with 233 Signal Squadron. She has been at Catterick for seven years.

Mr Eric Brindle, ex-Royal Signals sergeant and currently serving in the TA with 34 Sig Regt (V), Middlesborough, has been with the Comcen for three and a half years while **Mr Graham Chapman** also an ex-sergeant with the Corps at HQ UKLF has been at Catterick for two and a half years; he was on late shift and did not attend the presentation.

Latest arrival, who has worked at the Centre for one year is ex-Yeoman of Signals **Mr David Snowdon** who was formerly with the Training Evaluation Team, Training Group Royal Signals at Catterick.

In the picture are (left to right) **Maj Gen Ian Baker, Mr Eric Brindle, Mrs Linda Cummings, Mr David Snowdon, Sig Dennis Pearce,** on attachment from 11 Sig Regt.

ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH MILITARY HOSPITAL AND OTHER HOSPITALS IN LONDON SQUIRE HOUSE

INTRODUCTION

The requirement for cheap short stay sleeping accommodation for visitors to patients in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital (QEMH) has been voiced for some time, especially by servicemen and their families abroad. In order to meet this need a scheme has been put into operation to convert the top floor of an old Sergeants Mess which stands in the grounds of the QEMH. The house is known as Squire House and it will be ready for visitors on 1 Oct 1981.

Although approved by the Ministry of Defence the project is not funded from public money. The cost of the conversion work and the necessary capital to provide a sound basis for the first few years has been raised mainly by contributions from SSAFA and service charities. The running costs, which should not be unduly high, will have to be met by a charge to those using the accommodation.

FACILITIES

Squire House will not be a hotel: visitors should expect nothing more than clean, comfortable sleeping accommodation. There will be a wash basin in every room most of which are double, and bathrooms and toilets for general public use. There will also be a small lounge and a utility room for washing and ironing. Meals can be purchased in the hospital which is within easy walking distance. Visitors will be expected to keep their rooms clean and to make their own beds. A Warden will be appointed to supervise the general running of Squire House and to clean the public rooms.

ENTITLEMENT

Any visitor to any patient (civilian or service) in the QEMH or to any service patient in any London hospital will be entitled to apply for accommodation in Squire House. Priority will be given to the immediate family of a patient and to those visiting service patients (the term 'service' in this respect includes dependants of servicemen). Children under 18 years of age will normally only be admitted if accompanied by an adult responsible for them. There will be some cots for babies. Dogs or other pets will not be allowed in Squire House.

COST

The cost of accommodation in Squire House will be £3.50 per person per night exclusive of meals. Children under 13 years of age will be admitted at half price and babes-in-arms will be free.

BOOKING

Bookings can be made with the Chief Wardmaster, Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich, London SE18 6XN. These should normally be made in writing or, in an emergency, by telephone on Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Military Ext 2282. The civil number of this exchange is 01-856-5533. The normal maximum permitted length of stay for any one booking is 48 hours for visitors from the UK and one week for visitors from abroad. However longer stays may be requested if there are special reasons.

ARRIVAL

The address of the accommodation is Squire House, Baker Road, Woolwich SE18 4QJ.

The Warden's telephone number (for enquiries but not for bookings) is Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Military (Civil 01-856-5533) Ext 2528. Squire House can be reached by public transport using the train from Waterloo East, Charing Cross or London Bridge to Woolwich Arsenal Station. From there a 122A bus goes to the QEMH. The station also has a taxi rank. All visitors must report in the first instance to the reception desk at the QEMH. Visitors are asked to arrive on a day other than Wednesday and to do so between 0900 and 1700 hours, although arrivals outside these hours can be accepted, when absolutely necessary. If possible, departure times should be arranged within these same normal hours. Visitors must be responsible for their own travel and financial arrangements whilst at Squire House and should make provision for these before arriving.

YORKSHIRE DALES

STAINFORTH HOUSE

Newly opened for a small number of retired ladies and gentlemen in attractive Dales Village. Long or short stays. Spacious comfort in lovely surroundings. Each room has colour TV and private bathroom. Large lounge with splendid views. Formal dining or room service. Bridge played. Fishing by arrangement.

For further details and appointment to view, contact:
Maj (Retd) S. J. Lockett, (late Royal Signals)
Mrs N. E. Lockett, SRN

Stainforth, SETTLE, North Yorkshire. BD24 9PH.
Tel. Settle (07292) 3579.

THE ALDERSHOT MILITARY HISTORICAL TRUST

What picture does the name Aldershot conjure up in your mind? Serried ranks of red brick Victorian barrack blocks; Sergeant Majors, drill, and freezing barrack rooms? Or perhaps it is the clusters of concrete cubes familiar to the present generation.

Over a million soldiers have passed through Aldershot since the Second World War and perhaps there are still another million who knew it before the war. But to most of them the camp will be largely unrecognisable as the modernisation of the last two decades has swept away almost all of the Victorian barracks and visitors returning after twenty years or more can hardly believe the transformation.

Prior to the establishment of the 'Camp at Aldershot' in 1854 no garrison nor camp existed in the whole United Kingdom for the concentration or training of troops on a large scale. The British Army was stationed in long established garrisons most of which had been military centres from the earliest times and the soldiers occupied castles, forts or similar old defensive installations. There had never been a sufficient number of troops concentrated in any one area to permit even brigade size field days. Troops not stationed in such recognised garrisons were quartered in the main cities and county towns, for the most part in small detachments billeted on the civil population.

As part of the training programme for the Army in 1853 a summer camp was established on Chobham Common in Surrey under the direction of Lord Hardinge, who had succeeded the Duke of Wellington as Commander in Chief, and exercises were conducted for two divisions in succession. The success of this experiment and the imminent enclosure of much common land in the vicinity led to a proposal for a permanent training camp in the area. Aldershot Heath was selected; the proprietors agreed to sell for £12 an acre and so a tract of ten thousand acres was purchased early in 1854.

Only a summer tented camp was first envisaged but the need to accommodate the militia called out during the Crimean War led to the erection of two hutted camps, each for a division, north and south of the Basingstoke Canal. Construction began in February 1855 and the first troops moved into their huts in North Camp in May that year. At the same time permanent brick barracks for another two brigades of cavalry, infantry and artillery were built close up against the village of Aldershot which then had a population of about 850. Although intended only as temporary accommodation for training purposes, the hutted camps soon became the permanent home of troops returning from the Crimea.

In the 1880's and 1890's these camps were replaced by permanent brick barracks including schools, hospitals, a reservoir, sewage works, gas works, power station, indeed everything, even its own bye-laws, needed to make Aldershot Camp the only complete military town built in the Kingdom since the Roman occupation.

Aldershot became the home of the 1st and 2nd Divisions comprising the bulk of the 1st British Army Corps and it was from Aldershot that the British Expeditionary Forces set out for France in 1914 and again in 1939. Reviews, manoeuvres, sporting events, the famous Searchlight Tattoos and a military population of 25,000 had made Aldershot synonymous with 'The Home of the British Army'.

Long before their creation as a separate Corps in 1920 the Royal Signals have been closely associated with Aldershot. In the earliest days of the camp they were an integrated part of the RE establishment but were formed into a separate RE Signal Service in 1908, then in Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot, and later at Longmoor as well.

When the Divisional Signals of the 1st and 2nd Divisions formed out of the Divisional Engineers in 1920 they continued to share Gibraltar Barracks but as they expanded the need for other accommodation became pressing. Mons Barracks was built for them in 1926-27 and was their home until 1939, the barracks thereafter housing the Mons Officer Cadet School.

Life then revolved round reviews, manoeuvres, training, sports and tattoos. The Searchlight Tattoo was a regular feature of military life in Aldershot before World War 2 (and it continues in a somewhat different form now as the Aldershot Army Display). The first Torchlight Tattoo was staged in front of the Royal Pavilion for Queen Victoria and her guests in May 1894. This event developed into the annual Aldershot Military Fete in the grounds of Government House, the GOC's residence, where displays, sports, refreshment tents and a fairground were enjoyed. As dusk fell the massed bands would march and countermarch in the light of flaming torches. After the Great War the event was revived as the Grand Searchlight Tattoo held, from 1923 onwards, in the Rushmoor Arena, a new stadium with seating for 50,000. Every year a great battle scene was re-enacted in a magnificent finale to an evening of military displays. The Silver Jubilee Tattoo in June 1935 attracted 483,000 spectators.

In 1939 when the main body of the regular Army departed for France, Aldershot became the base for the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom for the duration of the war, while many British units and formations continued to use Aldershot as a transit area before embarking for North Africa, Europe and almost every theatre of war. When the Canadians left in 1945 a complete change was to take place in the character of the camp for it became a great training centre for the National Service army, including the famous Mons Officer Cadet School. It embraced too the depots and training centres of eight Corps of the British Army, and the home of the newly created Parachute Regiment. Soon the Camp's outward apparance was also to change.

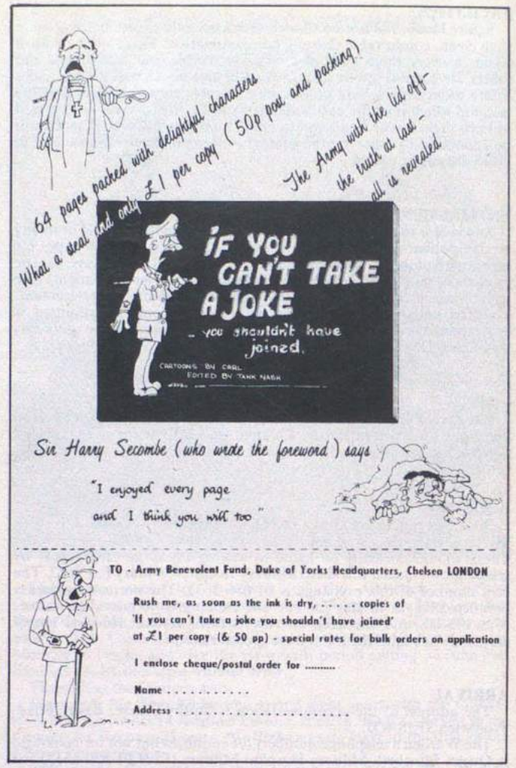
The latest rebuilding programme started in 1960 but it was not until 1970 that the Aldershot Garrison Historical Committee was formed at the instigation of the then GOC Aldershot District, **Maj Gen Penfold** and his Deputy, **Brig (now Maj Gen) Mans.** Conscious of the losses to local military history resulting from the almost complete rebuild of the camp they sought to preserve Aldershot's military history 'both in its written and material form'. Much valuable material was initially collected but there was nowhere to display it and enthusiasm gradually waned. It was to be rekindled with the arrival of **Brig Reed** as Garrison Commander in 1978.

The Historical Committee was reconstituted and two years later, with valuable help and encouragement from Hampshire County Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the Southern Tourist Board, a charitable trust was created with His Grace the **Duke of Wellington** as President and three Vice Presidents, **The Marquess of Anglesey, Gen Sir Edwin Bramall** and **Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley.** The Trust's aim is to preserve the history of military Aldershot and present to the public the story of the most famous military town in the world. Most of the fascinating old military buildings have, alas, been lost forever but fortunately enough remain from the previous camps to see in Aldershot a panorama of military buildings covering the last 125 years, that is the whole period since the Army has been quartered in custom built barracks. Among the Victorian buildings still standing are the last pair of bungalow type barrack blocks which used to cover the whole of North Camp. These unique buildings have been saved from demolition and the surrounding area has been landscaped. One is available for lease by the Trust now; the second, in a few years' time when its present military use ceases. So our plans cover two phases. Phase 1 is to create in the first block a Visitors Centre and Museum of the Camp where the public can see the history of Aldershot laid out in chronological order with plans, maps, photographs, models, films and recordings. A section of the building will be recreated as a barrack room at the turn of the century. The main themes of the museum display will be:

Aldershot pre 1854	Historic Buildings
The Hutted Camp	Road Names and origins
The Victorian Barracks	Barrack Names and origins
A Barrack room c.1900	Sports
Historic Events	1939-45: The Canadians
The Royal Connection	Post-war Aldershot
Cradle of Military Aviation	The rebuilding 1960/198?
Military Organisation pre 1939	Guide to local Regimental Museums

To guide the public around the historic features of the camp a trail is being created and the buildings and monuments included will be provided with plaques briefly describing their history and significance. Visitors will also be directed to the many local regimental museums. Phase 1 should be completed by early 1983. The post 1939 era will be greatly expanded in the second phase. If anyone has documents, letters, militaria, photographs etc relating to Aldershot or knows the whereabouts of any barrack furniture of pre WW2 vintage the Hon. Director of the Trust would be very pleased to hear from them.

Aldershot, Home of the British Army, is part of the national heritage and we owe it to posterity to preserve its history and its treasures and present these to the public for the recreation, education and interest of both present and future generations. The Museum and Visitors Centre will stand too, as a fitting tribute to the British Soldier, past and present, in the Home of the British Army. But the project will not be cheap and we cannot draw on the public funds of the Ministry of Defence which are, of course, required to meet our direct defence needs. The Trust is a registered charity and donations of any size will be greatly welcomed. There are many ways of giving eg cash, legacies, covenants, deposited covenants, interest free loans etc. Further details, donation and covenant forms can be obtained from the Appeal Director, Aldershot Military Historical Trust, FREEPOST, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BR. The first two phases will each cost about £200,000, a total of £400,000, at today's prices, and the Trust seeks the support of all who feel that the story of this unique and famous military camp should not be forgotten.



SERVICE WITH THE SULTAN OF OMAN ARMED FORCES

Foreman of Signals and Terminal Equipment Technicians

A number of vacancies exist for the appointment of Foreman of Signals and for Terminal Equipment Technician. These are contract service, uniformed posts and are for a 3 years unaccompanied term initially. There are three free leave air passages to UK annually with a total of 60 days leave. A first class gratuity is paid at the end of the contract.

Applications are invited from high calibre Royal Signals personnel who are shortly leaving the Corps and looking for a new challenge and responsibility in a stimulating environment.

For further information send CV to:
Lt Col M. E. G. Chandler,
Commanding Officer,
The Signal Regiment,
Sultan of Oman Land Forces,
P.O. Box 897,
Sultanate of Oman.

Movements

Officers

Postings—Belated

SEPTEMBER

Lt R. I. Buckley	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt D. McConnell	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt C. R. Owen	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt I. P. Brownlee	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj J. S. Doody	RARDE
Capt D. J. Etherton	LSP Brunei
Lt Col M. J. Flynn	HS HQ Trg Gp & R Signals
Maj R. D. M. Graham	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt R. S. Hewitt	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Jeffries	HS ADP Trg Centre (Temp attachment)
Capt (QM) W. G. Wallace	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn

OCTOBER 1981

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt N. J. Bateson	16 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Cadwalleder	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
2Lt S. J. Callaghan	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Lt G. Clark	35 Sig Regt (V)
Maj (Tfc) J. H. Cotton	Man S (Org) (Temp Att)
2Lt M. A. Coupar	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
2Lt N. R. Davies	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
2Lt S. C. Dexter	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Lt K. J. Durward	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Lt M. W. Edwards	8 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col C. T. Garton	HQ AFCENT
Lt D. A. Hargreaves	6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt A. O. Harkins	School of Signals
A/Capt A. E. Haslam	602 Sig Tp
Lt Col A. J. Hervey	NDC
Maj B. C. P. Higson	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Capt R. H. Hoyle	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt A. E. Kendall	30 Sig Regt
Lt J. M. Kirkman	7 Sig Regt
Lt C. R. Lawrence	259 Sig Sqn
2Lt D. E. A. McAllister	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
2Lt C. D. McGrory	22 Sig Regt
Maj J. P. Munnery	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Lt P. J. Oldfield	Junior Regt R Signals
Lt T. J. Peacocke	21 Sig Regt
Lt D. W. Powell	Cambridge UOTC
2Lt S. R. Renfrey	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Maj P. Richards	HQ BAOR
Lt A. P. R. Roberts	8 Sig Regt OC Quicksilver
2Lt R. G. C. Sparshatt	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) R Stather	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt R. J. Steed	254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
Lt P. R. Towers	Cambridge UOTC
Lt Col P. Valder	School of Signals
Lt Col M. J. P. Vann MBE	38 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt T. J. P. Watts	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Lt N. J. Yeoll	Queen's Gurkha Signals

POSTINGS

Belated—August

2Lt T. C. Wadey	School of Signals

Belated—September

Lt Col C. E. Grundy	HS 11 Signal Regt
Lt Col (SL) B. O. Haw	HQ 4 Signal Gp
2Lt S. P. Hunt	RMAS (POSUC 10)
Lt Col E. Pickup	AA Coll Harrogate

Belated—October

Lt J. MacDonald	2 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt

November 1981

Lt Col A. R. J. Ainsworth	HQ BAOR
Lt Col J. H. Almonds	HQ BAOR
Capt M. Anderson	16 Flight AAC
Maj D. F. B. Anthonisz	HQ NORIRELAND
Maj (TOT) R. Banham	HS Comms Project Agency R Signals
Capt J. F. Burnage	HS 11 Signal Regt
Lt Col P. E. A. Chaddock	22 Signal Regt
Lt Col C. H. D. Cross	HS 11 Signal Regt
Capt A. H. G. Elford	HQ Arty Div
Lt P. N. Ellis	2 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt
Capt D. J. Elson	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt M. S. Fisher	HQ Northern Ireland
Maj G. H. Goodman	HQ NORTHAG STAFF (BAE)
Capt R. T. Hoole	16 Signal Regt
Capt C. L. Le Gallais	3 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt
Lt J. McIntyre	8 Signal Regt
Brig A. W. MacL. McKinnon OBE	HQ UKLF
Maj P. C. Pearson	26 (Junior) Signal Regt
Maj I. M. G. Strong	3 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt
Capt N. J. Thompson	HS School of Signals
Capt (Tfc Offr) D. J. Tunmore QGM	Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Sqn
Maj P. Williams	22 Signal Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
	OCTOBER 1981
WO2 (FofS) A. J. Hall	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) W. B. Smart	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 (YofS) K. J. Bark	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 (YofS) A. G. Rayner	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 (Supvr R) D. Fowler	9 Sig Regt
WO2 J. W. Drake	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 P. S. Forster	21 Sig Regt
WO2 R. W. Lockwood	9 Sig Regt
WO2 I. L. Dudding	HQ NORTHAG
AWO2 D. B. Robertson	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) B. K. Billsberry	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) M. S. Still	242 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) S. J. Howard	Gurkha Fd Force Sig Sqn
SSgt (EW Op) R. J. Manser	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt J. P. Warren	632 Sig Tp
SSgt W. H. Anderson	Edinburgh and Heriot Watt University OTC
SSgt J. Aspinall	13 Sig Regt
SSgt H. Forsyth	HQ NORIRELAND
SSgt K. T. Yarker	R Signals MRO
SSgt C. Conroy	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt K. King	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
SSgt E. M. Sutherland	16 Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Mills	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. O. Airlie	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Poole	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt R. J. Underhill	HQ NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp
ASSgt A. W. Landsborough	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt T. Crawford	583 Rear Link Det
Sgt A. Brown	537 Rear Link Det
Sgt G. Greaves	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Caffrey	576 Rear Link Det
Sgt C. Mitchell	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Cunningham	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt R. Walker	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt T. J. Powell	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. E. H. Smith	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Matthison	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Mustard	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Hailstones	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt J. W. Letford	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Rees	School of Signals
Sgt R. Shaw	29 Engr Gp (V)
Sgt R. Cranny	8 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. S. Nelson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Barnes	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Lawrence	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Hume	10 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Hindle	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. F. Vilday	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. B. Francis	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Hirst	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt K. J. Leighton	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. E. Abbott	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Boyle	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. Greig	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. R. Stadius	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt T. Thornton	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Ashworth	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. B. Jackson	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt P. J. Fitzmaurice	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt J. G. Carnegie	8 Sig Regt
Sgt L. L. Adams	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Fenton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. H. Diamond	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Little	10 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Jowsey	10 Sig Regt
Sgt B. M. Resoun	233 Sig Sqn
ASgt W. J. Gillan	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
	NOVEMBER 1981
WO1 (FofS) R. F. W. Livesey	Comms Project Agency R Signals
WO1 (FofS) P. H. Davis	D of Army Management Services
WO1 (FofS) P. C. Smurthwaite	School of Signals
WO1 (FofS) B. P. Pettifer	21 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. D. Godwin	Project Wavell Mil Team
WO2 (FofS) B. G. Carter	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. B. Vince	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) F. C. Brown	13 Sig Regt
WO2 B. R. Brown	Oxford University OTC
WO2 A. Cross	7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 B. H. W. Garner	35 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 T. E. Trent	HQ AFSOUTH
WO2 P. Burdes	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. Hodge	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt M. J. Price	5 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt G. Cairns	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) C. H. F. Macqueen	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) D. Rogers	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. J. J. Kelly	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) G. D. Crabb	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (EW Op) K. M. Hall	13 Sig Regt

SSgt W. S. Stewart	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt K. Rankin	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Dyson	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt I. D. F. Haldane	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Watson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. F. Peebles	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Dixon	28 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Lowe	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt A. E. Kinchington	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Hanlon	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Gregory	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt L. E. Gill	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Pickstock	608 Sig Tp
Sgt J. N. Hardy	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. B. Watson	30 Sig Regt
Sgt V. E. Skinner	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. G. G. Corsar	School of Signals
Sgt A. L. H. McAlpine	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt S. D. Higgins	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Barton	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. White	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt J. Masters	21 Sig Regt
Sgt E. B. Vargas	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. Green	608 Sig Tp
Sgt T. R. Lund	Comms Project Agency R Signals
Sgt C. B. Peck	School of Signals
Sgt P. Nason	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. J. Mitchell	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Rose	9 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Foley	13 Sig Regt
Sgt G. E. Garratt	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt D. W. Henvey	233 Sig Sqn
ASgt L. Powell	21 Sig Regt

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. It exists to help the non-commissioned ranks of the three Services to resettle in civilian life when they leave the Forces, and in particular to help them to find suitable employment. It also takes a long term interest in ex Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association has 40 Branches covering the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with employers. It provides all its 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.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1981.

Maj R. H. Blizard	£40.00
259 Signal Squadron	£36.20
Capt B. T. Lord MSM	£18.50
J. Johnston Esq	£ 6.00
LCpl E. E. Lanigan	£ 5.49
G. C. O'Shaughnessy Esq	£ 2.90
H. A. Simmons Esq	£ 2.05
Miscellaneous	£ 1.30
	£112.44

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1981.

RAC War Memorial Benevolent Fund	£100.00
Glossop & District Royal Signals OCA	£ 23.95
A Walsh Esq	£ 15.00
Anonymous donation	£ 14.00
Anonymous donation	£ 9.25
G. S. Fackrell Esq	£ 5.80
In memory of R. L. Summers Esq	£ 5.00
E. C. Partridge Esq	£ 4.90
R. L. Cartwright Esq	£ 3.00
Maj N. J. Coslett	£ 2.90
Cpl T. Burbidge	£ 2.00
Miscellaneous donations	£ 6.10
	£191.90

Welfare

Since the beginning of August, gifts of clothing, Bedding, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:-

Col P. R. Hoskins; Mr & Mrs H. H. W. Palmer; Lt Col & Mrs M. P. Walker; Dorothea Viscountess Chetwynd; Col P. R. Davies; Mrs. G. M. S. Baxter; Mrs J. A. D. Francis; Mrs O. M. Campbell; Maj Gen & Mrs E. S. Cole; Col & Mrs I. G. Swan; Lt Col E. R. Nanney Wynn; Wing Commander D. E. Bennett; Mr and Mrs D. S. Mulholland; Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock; WO2 (YofS) & Mrs T. J. Taylor; Mrs D. H. Evis; Lt Col L. V. McNaught-Davis; Miss M. Hyde Parker; Mrs Y. J. Duke; Mrs J. St. C. W. Robinson; Mr & Mrs D. Brough; Maj J. F. Bedford; Col R. Chell; WO2 (YofS) Taylor; Lt Col P. B. G. Gambier; Maj & Mrs A. G. Harfield.

AUGUST 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	39
Amount spent:	£4933.15
Number of clothing parcels sent:	34

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	6
Amount spent:	£374.87

SEPTEMBER 1981

Number of cases assisted financially:	49
Amount spent:	£3658.54
Number of clothing parcels sent:	57

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	8
Amount spent:	£768.48

ONE OF OUR CASES

Widow of a Corporal who served 1937-46. Since his death in 1972, she has worked to bring up her two children. In December last, she was knocked down by a motor bicycle and is still incapacitated. The Association made a grant of £100 to help with her mortgage and other commitments, and her letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

I am writing to thank you for your grant of £100 and the clothing parcel which was very acceptable. It was such a load off my mind to know that the mortgage arrears have been paid. I am deeply grateful and thank you once again for everything.

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

China—Capt Louis Philippe China was born in Esher, Surrey on 16 September 1920. He served in the Corps from 4 November 1939 and was commissioned on 4 October 1941. He then served in 1st Air Formation Signals from 5 February 1943 and with 2nd Air Formation Signals until 21 May 1944. He then joined 19th Air Formation Signals in India and served with that unit through the initial formation stages prior to the unit moving into Burma. He then served with 2 AA Group (M) Signal Regiment from 14 August 1945 until 17 September 1946. He retired on 18 September 1946 and then served in both the Territorial Army and the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers until attaining the age limit for service in 1975. He died on 19 April.

Collins—Maj (QM) Edward Rollin Collins was born at Gillingham, Kent on 11 October 1905 and joined the Corps as a boy on 28 February 1921. He joined man's service, and G Company, in 1923. He was posted overseas and served with No 1 Wireless Coy, Egypt from November 1924 until May 1932 when he was posted to the STC in the UK. In May 1936, he moved to India and served with the 1st Indian Divisional Signals A Coy remaining with that unit until his posting to Waziristan District Signals in October 1937. he remained with that unit until April 1940 and then afer a brief stay with the Deccan District Signals he joined 5th Indian Divisional Signals in the Sudan. he was commissioned into the Corps on 5 December 1941 and remained with the 5 Indian Div. From December 1941 until October 1942 he served in the Middle East with 6 L of C and then joined 4 L of C where he remained until March 1943.

In July 1943 he joined 12 Air Formation Signals and was posted to 2 Army Signal Park, BLA in August 1944 where he stayed until May 1946 at which time he joined 12 L of C Signals in BAOR. November 1946 brought a further move to 11 Air Formation Signals BAOR and in February 1947 he joined Northern Command Signal Regiment. In June 1949 he was posted to Hong Kong Signals where he remained until May 1952 and on his return to the UK he joined 3 Training Regiment where he served until January 1955. In July 1955 he moved to East Africa and served as Camp Commandant at Kahawa remaining there until June 1958 when he returned to the UK and retired from active service. He died on 10 July.

Costen—Lt Col Arthur Hugh Costen was born at Gosport, Hampshire on 24 December 1910. He enlisted into the Corps on 2 January 1929 and in the following year qualified as a DR. He served in India from January 1931 until March 1936. On the outbreak of the Second World War he was appointed WO (SSM) in 1st Army Signals and in the following year on 17 August 1940 was commissioned as a Lieutenant with 5th Corps Signals. From May 1941 until March 1942 he served as an instructor at 151 OCTU at Aldershot and then saw service with 33 Guards Brigade Signals. He returned to India and was appointed Acting Lieutenant Colonel in March 1944 when he temporarily took over command of Waziristan Signals. He then moved and became CO of 2nd (Indian) Air Formation Signal Regiment and in December 1944 was appointed Air Formation Staff Officer at ALFSEA and SEAC. He returned to regimental duty in May 1945 when he was appointed 2IC of the 4th (Indian) Air Formation Signals. In June 1946 he was appointed to the command of 'J' Line of Communication Signal Regiment in India where he remained until November 1946. On return to the UK he served with 5 AA Gp (M) Signal Regiment and this was followed by an appointment at the Royal Signals Record Office at Reading. In March 1952 he moved to BAOR and served with 1 Corps Signal Regiment and in January 1953 was appointed 2IC of 7th Armd Div Signal Regiment. In December of that year he became CO of 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment where he remained until returning to the UK in January 1957 when he became CO of 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals. He retired on 21 February 1959. He died on 28 April 1981.

Dangerfield—Capt John James Dangerfield was born at Ecclesall, Sheffield on 21 June 1911. He enlisted into the Corps on 29 May 1928. In March 1930 he was drafted to No 3 Company, Egypt Signals but his stay in that country was short as he was transferred to India in October 1930 and joined A Corps Signals. He spent a year, from March 1931 until March 1932, with Zhob Signal Section in Baluchistan. After further service with A Corps Signals he moved to the STC at Jubbulpore. He returned to Karachi in December 1932 and remained with A Corps Signals until January 1935 when he returned to the UK. He spent nine months with 1st Cavalry Bde Signals at Aldershot before transferring to the reserve. He was mobilised on 1 September 1939 and served with the BEF in France. On 17 January 1941 he was appointed to a commission in the Corps as a 2Lt and joined 11th Armd Div Signals and served in the Middle East campaign. He returned to the UK and served with various units before arriving at West Scotland District Signals where he remained from July 1944 until April 1945. From April 1945 he served with 7th Air Formation Signal Regiment until September of that year. He was released on 16 January 1946 and died on 22 April 1981.

Eden—Mr Frank Eden joined the Royal Signals in 1945 and was trained as a technician and served mainly in West Africa. After leaving the Corps he served in the Communications Branch of the Tanganyka Police before joining the civilian instructional staff of the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate in 1960. **Frank** joined 8 Signal Regiment in 1968 on promotion and became the first Programming Officer of the Trade Training School in 1970. He was promoted to Superintending Instructor in 1972 and held the appointment of Superintending Instructor Engineering until his death after a short illness on Friday 21 August 1981.

Elsmore—Lt Col Bertram Alan Elsmore, MBE was born on 10 March 1896 and was the son of Staff Sergeant Arthur Elsmore who had served in the Telegraph Battalion, Royal Engineers. He was educated at Peter Symonds School, Winchester and joined the Royal Engineers on 26 September 1911. After service in the 1914-1918 War as a Wireless Operator he transferred to the Corps in 1920. He became a Foreman of Signals in 1922 and was promoted to the rank of WO1 (Foreman of Signals) in 1935. He was commissioned as a Technical Maintenance Officer in the Corps on 13 August 1937. He was employed with Mobile Divisional Signals at Salisbury. Soon after the outbreak of the Second World War the Mobile Division was renamed 1st Armoured Division and during that period he served as Adjutant. In 1941 he served with the Guards Armoured Division and then became SO R Signals at HQ RAC and Home Forces GHQ. In 1945 he became SOI HQ 21 Army Group and was awarded the MBE in the first Honours List after the D Day landings in Normandy. He was promoted to the rank of Major (TOM) on 1st July 1946 and employed in the War Office as DADOS in 1947. In 1953, from 23 August of that year, he was posted to Southern Command (M) Signal Regt and employed at Aldershot. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel on 10 September 1955 having completed 44 years service. He died on 7 October 1981.

Johnston—Maj Arthur Reginald Johnston was born at Portsmouth, Hampshire on 13 March 1903. He enlisted into the Corps in March 1921 and served with G Company until 1931. He then served with Eastern Command Signal Company. He was commissioned as a Lt (Technical Maintenance Officer) on 3 August 1940 and in April 1941 became a Staff Captain in the Ministry of Supply dealing with the provision of signals equipment. On 1 July 1942 he was appointed DAAG and in March 1943 became a Military Technical Officer, Class 2 in the Signals Research and Development Establishment. He continued to serve with that unit until December 1946 when he became Deputy Assistant Director, in the Directorate of Telecommunications and he remained in that post until 15 December 1949. He served with the Sudan Signal Squadron, MELF, from April 1950 until May 1951 and then served an attachment to the Arab Legion. He retired from the service in October 1951. He died on 6 June 1981.

Lang—Sig N. C. Lang and Sig D. C. Lang. It is with the deepest regret that 249 Signal Squadron (AMF (L)) have to report the tragic deaths of brothers **Nicholas** and **Douglas Lang.** in a traffic accident on 19 Jul. They were both fine members of the unit and a great loss both to their parents and the squadron. Our deepest sympathy goes to their parents **Mr** and **Mrs Rodney Lang.**

Ray—Capt George James Ray was born at Portsmouth, Hants on 10 December 1905. He enlisted into the Corps on 5th March 1924 and served with the 2nd Divisional Signals from June 1924 until December 1926. He then served with L Company in India until April 1932 and was then posted to D Wing, D Battalion from April 1932 until February 1937. In February 1937 he returned to L Company in India and remained with them until March 1939. In 1941 he was commissioned and served in the Middle East campaign with the 3rd Independent Motor Brigade Signals Section. He returned to the UK in September 1943 to join 18 Air Formation Signals and served with them both in the UK and in the North West Europe campaign. He was awarded the Indian General Service Medal, with clasp 'Burma 1930' whilst he was serving with L Company. He retired from the service on 10 December 1945 and died on 29 April 1981.

Richardson—Capt Robert Laurie Richardson was born at Richmond, Surrey on 12 February 1916 and enlisted into 1 AA Divisional Signals, Territorial Army on 31 October 1938. He was commissioned in that unit on 9 January 1941. He served with 7th Air Formation Signals and embarked with that unit for North Africa in May 1943 and later became Adjutant. In September 1944 he served with 2nd Air Formation Signals, in North Africa, and in March 1945 moved to 5th Air Formation Signals, CMF. In October 1945 he was posted to the Disarmament Control, N.W.E. and took up the appointment of SO Air Formation Signals. He remained in that appointment until he retired from active service in April 1946. he died on 17 June.

Saunders—Capt Albert Henry Saunders MBE was born in Barnham, Sussex on 17 November 1907. He enlisted in the Corps on 18 March 1927 and served between that date and January 1943 in the UK, Egypt and also in Madagascar and South Africa. In January 1943 he arrived in India and served there until he was commissioned in the Corps on 16 September 1945 at which time he was appointed QM in an Indian Divisional Signal Regiment. In January 1946 he moved with his Regiment to Japan and served there until September 1947 when he returned, with his unit, to India. He was then posted to 5 Divisional Signal Regiment at Ranchi and in March 1950 was posted to HQ Eastern Command, India as an S03. He retired from service in July 1955. He died on 8 June.

Tyers—Capt Bill Tyers died on 15 September 1981, aged 68 years. **Bill** was personally known to many members of the Corps. When he retired on the 30 September 1973 he had completed nearly 42 years service with Royal Signals. He enlisted in December 1931 and served at Catterick, Colchester and Canterbury. In 1935 he was posted to India. Prior to the outbreak of World War 2 he returned to the UK and was posted to 51 (Highland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment TA and saw active service in North Africa, where at El Alamein he was severely wounded. After the war **Bill** was posted to Edinburgh OTC as a PSI and 1948 he returned to Catterick. In 1951 he was promoted to WO1 (RSM) and was posted to 11th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in Herford. He was commissioned in 1955 as Quartermaster to 51st (Highland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment TA in Aberdeen. He retired from the Regular Army in 1960 but continued to serve with the TA as Administration Officer. On the reorganisation of the TA in 1967 he became the AO to 51st (H) Signal Squadron (V) of the 32 (Sc) Signal Regiment (V) an appointment he held until he retired in 1973. **Bill** will be sadly missed and to his widow, **Edna**, and his two sons **Peter** and **Michael** we extend our deepest sympathy.

Wilce—Lt William Charles N. Wilce was born at Cirencester on 30 June 1909 and enlisted as a boy into the Grenadier Guards in September 1920. He transferred to the Cheshire Regiment in 1924 and into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1925. he served with G and L Companies in India between December 1925 and November 1927. He returned to the UK and then served with 4th Divisional Signals in the UK, Egypt and Palestine remaining with them until July 1939. He then joined London District Signals and was commissioned as a Lieutenant on 5 October 1940. he then moved to Catterick in June 1942 and remained with the training organisation until his release from active service on 15 October 1945. During this time he served with 1st STC, 4 TT Bn, 2 Op Training Bn., 2 TT Bn and finally with 5 TT Bn. He died on 15 December 1980.

FOR SALE

Private collector, ex Corps, disposing of large mint and used collections of World, GB and Isles issue stamps, F.D.C.S., PHQ Sets, booklets, min and whole sheets. Also cased Royal Mint 1977 Jubilee Crowns. Send S.A.E. with specific requirements. Prices half market values. Mr. P. E. A. Hall, 'Kohima' 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HQ0 2QT.

Wanted

Collector requires copies of The Wire. Will purchase or exchange. Please forward list (and price asked) to:- David Barker, 6A Blomfield Court, Kewdale, WA 6105, Australia.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Resident caretaker required from late January 1982. Applicants must be reliable but if married husband may be able to consider additional employment.
All details from:
Capt E. Carter, Administrative Officer, (or phone (01) 427-6890).
47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V)
TA Centre
Elmgrove Road
Harrow, Middlesex.

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

The Editorial Staff wish to thank all Contributors for their reports during the past year. In extending every good wish for Christmas and the New Year to you all—near and far—may we urge you to support all significant events during 1982 with really good quality black and white 'gloss' photographs. We are particularly grateful for the trouble taken to despatch 'copy' to reach us here in London by the due date.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

Despite the limited number of good jobs on offer at the moment it is wished to stress that it is well worth your while recording your requirement with the Corps.

Once you are logged you will be advised of any suitable vacancy in your own area at the time you are due to leave the Forces.

We often have Residential posts on our books which are worth consideration if you haven't already purchased a house.

Reception/Security (2). Urgently needed. Greenford, Middx. Shifts. £5800 (c)—Log 189

Caretaker—varied duties. Hounslow, Middx. To live locally—able to drive. £101 pw + Log 178

Reception/Commissionaire 08.30-17.00. Cheerful disposition pleasant personality. Urgently needed. Reading Berks. £5000 pa neg. Log 188

Security Patrolmen, 40hr week—shift system over 7 days. Basic £74 + allowances. Usually £95 pw. Reliable fit men wanted up to age 55. Own transport needed. Chesham, Bucks. Log 196

Security. Private Residence. Kingston, Surrey. 10.00 hrs-19.00 hrs. £5000(c). Age 40-50 Log 155

Reception/Security (2). Moorgate EC2. Shifts 06.30-14.30. 12.00-20.00 hrs. Below 45 if possible. £5000. Wanted 7 Dec 81. Log 196

Reception/Security. Park Street W1. £4900 pa. Log 195

Night Porter. YWCA. Weymouth Street W1. 7.30 pm-6.30 am. 5 nights pw inc. Sat. Sun. £20 per night. Log 193

Security. Bond Street W1. Smart—well mannered applicant for 'high class shop'. 6 day week—salary negotiable. Log 192

Office driver/runner with interesting duties involving publicity displays. Regency Street, Westminster. £4000 approx. A good opportunity to learn a business. Log 194

Commissionaire. Jermyn Street SW1. £4000 pa + OT Under age 60. Log 191

Post room/Messenger. London Wall EC2. £4500. Log 207

Security/Reception. Marylebone Road NW1. £4600. Log 210

Reception Security, Brewer St. W1. Misc. Duties. £3900. 14.30-20.00 hrs. Another man will be wanted Jan 82 for AM duties. Log 198

Security/Door. Non-Smoking. New Bond St. W1. £4000 neg. Log 199

Night Security. Weymouth St. W1. £100 per 5 nights. Log 193

Messenger. Grays Inn Road WC1. £4050. Log 208

Security. Trafalgar Sq. WC2. £100 pw. Log 124

Commissionaire/Security. St. Albans St. SW1. £85 pw. Log 212

Night Reception. Templeton Place SW5. £84 pw. Log 175

Driver/Handyman, Virginia Water. Age 45—Married—No children. Residential Flat over Garage. Wanted spring 1982. Log 202

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 interview on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Men are advised to bring their Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them and any other references they may have.

The Corps of Commissionaires
3 Crane Court
Fleet Street
London EC4A 2EJ
Tel: (01) 353 1125/6/7

THE BLACK HORSE HOTEL SHERBORNE—DORSET

The Black Horse Hotel, in Sherborne, Dorset is under the management of an Ex-Corps Member, **Graham Painter** and his wife **Jan. Graham** is an ex National Serviceman who served in Malta during his two years.

The Black Horse Hotel is situated in an attractive and quiet position overlooking Sherborne Old Castle ruins and countryside and within a few minutes' walk of Sherborne Castle, the home of Sir Walter Raleigh and of the Digby family since 1617. It is only a matter of five minutes' walk to the beautiful Abbey and the centre of this wonderful old town with its wealth of ancient buildings. Sherborne as a centre has no equal. Places of interest within easy access are Longleat, Stourhead, Compton Acres, Montacute and Abbotsbury, to name but a few; and the town lies equidistant (approximately 40 miles) from Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter and Bath. The wonders of Dorset are many, with its villages such as Cerne Abbas, Milton Abbas, Purse Caundle, Ryme Intrinseca, Sydling St. Nicholas, Sandford Orcas, etc, its Manor House, its spacious and rolling countryside and magnificent views, and its varied coastline with places such as Poole Harbour, Chesil Bank, Lyme Bay and Lulworth Cove. If you want beauty and solitude, an unspoilt countryside through which to motor, walk or ride, then visit Dorset and stay at The Black Horse Hotel. Comfortable Bedrooms with H & C, Lounge—Television, Dining Room, Two Bars. Bed and Breakfast, Lunches, Dinners, Bar Snacks, Picnic Lunches by arrangement.

Jan and **Graham Painter** offer a warm welcome to any member of the Corps—past or present—to the Black Horse Hotel.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9. Cheques to:-

Mr P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj G. J. Mann**
2IC	**Capt G. J. Cary**
QM	**Maj (QM) F. M. Orr**
Admin Offr	**Capt D. J. Clark RAOC**
TOT	**Capt (TOT) J. Knox**
OC A Tp	**Capt L. K. Byrne**
OC B Tp	**2Lt C. Owen**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) H. Lund**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Farrell**
ORSQMS	**SSgt (ORSQMS) D. B. Barlow**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) A. Knott**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) J. Chilcot**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) P. G. Cross**

OPERATIONAL SCENE

The gradual decline in effect of the Hunger Strike leading to its cessation on 3 Oct has allowed the Sqn to withdraw its reinforcements downtown and enter a period of refurbishment, consolidation and stock-taking. Consequently, the Sqn is about to enter the winter months with a clean bill of health. Of greatest significance to us, as communicators, has been the extension of the Bde area into the old 3 Bde areas of South Down, including the Lurgan-Portadown area and the Mourne Mountains. The addition of this large area has considerably affected our role. At this time last year our major concern lay with Belfast City and urban communications. Now we have trebled our Bde area expanding North and South. Consequently we have acquired a major commitment to Rural ops and communications. Our Bde Command nets have had to be extended over long distances, as a result of which we now have in use a large number of remote hilltop sites. Furthermore we have taken responsibility for UDR Bn Ops Rooms and a large number of UDR Coy Ops rooms with their inherent communications. This increase in our commitments has kept TM Troop busy with the new installations on hill-top sites and two massive re-crystalling programmes to bring the eqpt we have gained onto 39 Bde's systems. The QM dept has of course taken on responsibility for accounting for the large quantity of additional eqpt and the problems of storage, particularly in terms of space and room. 'A' Tp too has extended its activities by the maintenance of the UDR Ops rooms and the provision of standby crews. These latter, along with other working parties, have had a busy time adapting to the restrictions and peculiarities in movement of the southern area. Unlike the majority of our previous travelling, movement in rural areas, and all that implies are new to us. However, we have quickly picked up the necessary skills.

CHANGE IN COMMAND

Thurs 8 Oct witnessed an event of great impact on the Sqn, with the Change in Command from **Maj John Munnery** to **Maj Gareth Mann.** After a week of dining outs and farewells **Maj John Munnery** handed over the Keys of the Sqn to **Maj Gareth Mann** and was despatched in style on the back of an old wreck, towed by the RCT drivers and Sqn personnel. Three occasions through the week were particularly noteworthy; Fri 2 Oct—**Maj John Munnery** and his wife **Karin** were dined out by the Officers of the Sqn in fine style with pipers and a specially prepared 'meal'? On Mon 5 Oct **RSM Harry Lund** and the SNCOs of the Sqn dined out the Sqn Comd in full regalia before presenting him with a souvenir to mark his passing—a Hunger Strikers black flag 'acquired' in the course of operations. Finally on Wed 7 Oct it was the turn of the lads to say farewell with drinks in the Horseshoe Club. **Maj Munnery** presented the Sqn with a new Sqn print (now available from PRI for a small sum!!) and large (24") horseshoe to be mounted in the club. We would all like to thank **Maj** and **Mrs Karin Munnery** for all their efforts in looking after the Sqn over the last two years and wish them well in their next tour. Welcome too to **Maj Mann** and his wife, **Jenny.** We look forward to the next two years under your command.

Maj Mann receives the key to the Sqn from Maj Munnery; RQMS Farrel holding the Plaque

Maj John Munnery served by Capt Geoff Cary (Mess Waiter) with his special 'meal'

Maj John Munnery presents the Sqn with a new print. Cpl Apache Martin receiving with Maj Fred Orr, CR Signals Lt Col Maynard, Capt Geoff Cary and Lt Colin Lawrence looking on

Maj John Munnery presents the Horseshoe Club with a new horseshoe!! Cpl Martin PMC receiving

VISIT OIC MANNING AND RECORDS

Col A. J. Jackson visited the Sqn on Tues 6 Oct and gave a very interesting presentation on the work and methods of Manning & Records. Many of the Sqn personnel learnt much of the problems involved in the posting and promotion within the Corps and a greater appreciation of the situation was found by all. Subsequent to the formal presentation a very enjoyable Quiz night was held in the Sqn Club. The winning team, TM Troop, only just beat the Officers team led by **Col Jackson** in a very close final.

TM Troop's winning Quiz Night team—Cpl Steve Bland, Cpl Bill Smith, Cpl Clive Soutar and Cpl Mick-Mac MacDonald

VISIT OF DEP COMD

Col R. C. Rothery OBE formally visited the Sqn on 9 Sep in his position as Dep Comd of the Brigade. The Dep Comd visited all departments, seeing much of the work we do and spent a considerable time talking with Sqn personnel.

Dep Comd, Col R. C. Rothery OBE talking with Maj John Munnery and RSM Harry Lund during his visit to the Sqn

GARRISON FETE

On Mon 31 Aug Lisburn Garrison held its annual Summer Fete. The Squadron contributed to the stalls with Crepe Paper and Darts run by **Cpl Terry Northedge** 'A' Tp, Roll-a-penny run by **Cpl John Griffiths** 'B' Tp, SHQ/Bde contribution organised by **Capt David Clark** RAOC, and **SSgt Dave Barlow** was the 'Teddy Bears Picnic'. Not to forget the wives' bottle stall organised by **Mrs Karin Munnery,** wife of the then Squadron Commander. At the final count and after deducting the initial expenses the squadron raised £275.90 which will go to both Lord Roberts's Workshops and SSAFA.

SPORT

The Sqn has gradually been picking up its sporting interests after few opportunities during the busy summer months. The Sqn were runners-up in the N Ireland League Cricket Championship after a hard fought competition. **Capt Geoff Cary** has moulded a fine orienteering team who are in heavy training for the new season, having taken place in a number of local competitions. On 11 Oct the team—**Capt Geoff Cary** (team captain), **Maj Robin Hill, 2Lt Calvin Owen, Cpl Geoff Biss, Cpl Steve Bland, LCpl Mark Worrall** RAOC, **Sig Dave Stephenson** and **Pte Flannery** RAOC—came a well deserved second out of the 25 teams participating in the R Engineers N Ireland Championship.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The Sqn has introduced a monthly competition to exercise its members in their soldierly skills and fitness. Each dept enters a different team each month, results are recorded and go towards a fine trophy to be awarded later in the year. Our congratulations must go to 'A' Tp whose teams were outright winners in August and joint winners in September. Team members included **Cpl Jesse James, LCpl Billy Belton, LCpl Chris Belfield, Sig Dave Sill, Cpl Terry Northedge, LCpl Stan Matthews, LCpl Bass Jones** and **LCpl 'Shep' Shepherd.**

TM Tp Military Skills team at the First Aid Stand. Cpl Mick-Mac MacDonald and Sgt Hugh Allison examining Sig Dave Will. Sig Geordie Spendiff with mortally wounded tree behind

Congratulations LCpl Billy and **Lindon Belton** on their wedding on 5 Sep, **LCpl Terry Taylor** on his promotion, **Dvr Doug** and **Sheena Fairbanks** on their wedding on 8 Aug, **Cpl Andy** and **Lorraine Tempest** on the birth of their son, **LCpl Andy** and **Mandy Millard** on their wedding on 22 Aug, **LCpl Barry** and **Caroline Egan** on their wedding on 5 June.

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

TO SCOTLAND

At the end of August, 40 members of the squadron went off to Garelochhead in Scotland for some adventure training and relaxation away from the Province. The camp was run by **Lt Paul Towers** who was spending 4 months with us, prior to starting a three year degree course at Cambridge. As he was dropped in at the deep end, metaphorically speaking, **Sgt Alec Mair** was sent along to make sure all went well. The activities included rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking, some canoeing, orienteering and lots of early morning PT. The success of many of these activities was due to the help received from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines at Faslane, who provided instructors and let us use their magnificent Sportsdrome facilities. Because of shift work, the camp catered for two separate groups for one week each. Both parties included WRAC from the squadron, who proved to be as resilient as the men. Even those who were apprehensive about the abseiling had a try and were soon quite proficient. Rumours that **Sgt Ken Smith**, the hill walking instructor, got lost are unfounded. It was all part of his pre-Foreman's training, when aimless wandering is considered normal.

Too many cooks . . . Sgt Alec Mair (right) threatens the next man to pinch his sausage. *Left to right:* Cpl Derek Styles, Sig 'Murph' Murphy, Sig Roy Johnson, Cpl 'Geordie' Jones and Cpl Simon 'Look at my Smile' Welby, enjoying a barbeque during the summer camp

VISIT OF CLF

The CLF listens to Cpl Paul Salmon as he demonstrates one of the logic boards which control the new telegraph system

In September, the Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, **Maj Gen C. R. Huxtable CBE**, visited the squadron and was shown the new Telegraph System which came into being at the beginning of the month. But for several months before, **Sgt Vince McGarry BEM** and his team, **Sgt Steve Higgins, Cpl Paul Salmon**, and many others, spent many long hours designing, building and testing the circuit boards and control boxes necessary to make the new system work. At the same time **SSgt (YofS) Mick Chapman, Sgt John Hodkin** and **Cpls Willie Williams** and **'Nobby' Clarke** were hard at work writing new operating procedures and training the outstation operators, most of whom are infantry regimental signallers. In simple terms all the Battalions and independent support units will have a telegraph circuit, which terminates at the Lisburn Commcen. In the long run, the new system will save manpower and allow the necessary re-formatting of signals, due to go over the DCN, to be done centrally.

SUPER SOLDIER

On 10 Oct a military skills competition was held between the troops to find the Super Soldier and the best troop team. The weather was kind and the day went most successfully. Teams moved around a series of stands covering such subjects as initiative, individual battle skills, general military knowledge, NBC, first aid, basic signalling skills and map reading. The team competition was decided by a gruelling assault course race. As well as the conventional answers there were a few novelties, such as the new appointment title 'Stingray' for the Sqn OC from one contestant at the basic signalling skills, or some original methods for the transmission of diseases in the hygiene test.

The winning team, Comms Troop, was presented with a suitably engraved NI baton, and the Super Soldier **LCpl Brian McClements** was awarded a pewter statue of a NI soldier on patrol. As if that wasn't enough, he also acts as OC Sqn for a day (possibly 29 February, 1982). Next year's competition is already being planned, and this time we hope to include a WRAC team.

Members of Whiskey Troop team, LCpl Nigel Kirkby and Sig Kev Blackledge, treat a victim of a knee-capping, played by LCpl Ian Trask on the First Aid stand of the Super Soldier competition

The assault course being demonstrated by the DS team: WO2 (FofS) Colin Ramsay goes over the top while SSgt Dave Toleman and Sgt Ken Smith struggle on the lower echelons

We would also like to offer our congratulations to **Sig 'Chippy' Wood** and his wife **Carol** on the birth of their son **Anthony**, and also to **Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader** on getting his B2.

COMPETITIONS

The latest in our troop is between the AO, RQMS and MT SSgt, to see who can get home to the mainland most often, and longer to their wives. Results so far: AO—Often; RQMS—2 Weeks (to put a new roof on his garage); MT SSgt—Not often, not long, (but trying very hard).

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING PLUS SUPER SOLDIER

These competitions were not great success for Admin Troop, although they provided some amusement. We came last in both, our only comfort was from **Sig 'Chippy' Wood**, who came 4th overall in the Super Soldier.

FAREWELL

In October, we said goodbye to **Capt (Tfc) Dave Tunmore** and **Lt Sue Marriott**, OC Commcen and Comms Troop respectively. **Dave Tunmore** has seen many years of service in the province and it seemed like the end of an era as he handed over to **Capt (Tfc) Terry Lightfoot** and hitched a ride on a passing rickshaw (well almost) and headed off to Hong Kong. **Sue Marriott** has been in the province far less time than **Dave**, but has made her mark as the first WRAC Troop Commander in an operational theatre, and even the Daily Mirror ran an article on her (not Page 3). Fame indeed! She is succeeded by **Lt Grace Harrison** whom we welcome.

AROUND THE TROOPS
COMMS TROOP

The change of the Brigade areas in the Province has meant lots of work for the troop with the re-configuration of the Erastos System. At the same time, the normal work goes on. Training, too, is in full swing and dit-dit-dahs fill the air as budding radio ops get into their new skills. Out on the roads the RR Ops are brushing up their driving—so much for road safety!

Congratulations to **Sig Stewart Freeman** and **Alison**, and to **Cpl Alex Alexander** and **Sue** on their recent additions. As well as the troop OC, **Lt Sue Marriott**, we also say goodbye to **Cpls Alex Alexander, Gaz Lee** and **Bobby Ward**, and to **Sig Gary Howe**. In their place we welcome **Cpls Dave Buckley, Paul Brickle, LCpls Tony Holcroft, Andy Craig** and **Sig Jake Lowe.**

VICTOR TROOP

Once again the troop got off to a good start in the McKelvie Trophy Competition by winning the basketball, with two newcomers, **Cpl Andy Anderson** and **Sig 'Ted' Heath** contributing to this well deserved victory. From September to November the troop's turnover in manpower will be the largest for some time, with more than half the troop involved.

First, we would like to say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) George Coles** who has swopped his Yeoman's badge for that of SSM. He tells us that he is going to Zimbabwe for six months, but we believe it's another one of his golfing excursions. Other farewells are **Sgts 'Taff' Powell** and **John Valentine, Cpls Dougie Wright** and **Dave Murphy, LCpl Craig Ballantyne, Sig Keith Demoulpied** and **Sig 'Trotsky' Smith.** We wish them all the best for the future.

We welcome to the troop **WO2 (YofS) Geordie Atkinson, SSgt Pete Mills, Cpl 'Andy' Anderson, Sig 'Ted' Heath, Sig 'Drew' Collins, Pte Pat Millar** and **Pte Clair Roberts**. We wish them a good tour.

ADMIN TROOP COMINGS AND GOINGS

We would like to welcome to Admin Troop: **SSgt 'Paul' O'Brien** and **Cheryl, Cpl 'Pete' Hunter** and **Beth, Sig 'Dave' Johnson, Sig 'Sid' Elliott, Sig 'Dave' Brading.**

We would also like to say goodbye to: **LCpl 'Maggot' Lindsay** and **Taff** to 16 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Eddie' Edwards** to 13 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Roy' Shalliker** to 8 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Glen' Belfit** to E Troop.

GOODIES

Sgt 'Sandy' Sanderson	Yet another extension.
LCpl 'Ross' Dolan	We still don't know if he is here.
LCpl 'Dave' McKinnel	At last he has done something right.
Sig 'Chippy' Wood	Admin's Super Soldier

BADDIES

AO	Got Sgt Sandy depressed.
SSgt 'Taff' Morgan	When is your NIRTT?
Cpl 'Pete' Hunter	Third time lucky?
Cpl 'Woody' Wood	Who's Diane then?
LCpl 'Dave' Tuck	What's wrong with Admin Troop?
LCpl 'Radar' Crawford	Having a 'smashing' time.
Sig 'Taff' Dunn	How's the ROPs?
Sig 'Sid' Elliott	What's that brown ring Sidney?
Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader	Trying Harder (B2).
Sig 'Dave' Johnson	Who's a Military cabbage?

GENUINE KIT

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- PARA SMOCKS
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- FACE VEILS
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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

So many old faces have left the Headquarters in the last few weeks that it is definitely a case of 'Under New Management'. **Lt Col C. E. Grundy** has moved on and **Lt Col E. Pickup** has taken over the mantle of Deputy Commandant. **WO1 (SC) Dave McCluskey,** now a civilian, is believed to be running a Leisure Centre in Leeds and **WO2 (ORQMS) Roy Charlesworth** (who wants a cuddly toy!) has taken over as Chief Clerk. Both Sergeant Clerks were promoted on posting, **SSgt Vic Hoyle** to HQ Training Group and **SSgt Paul Connors** to 40 Sig Regt. Their replacements **Sgt John Chapman** and **Sgt Barry Jackson** respectively are, in view of the good fortune of their predecessors, expecting great things from their stay in the College. The resident College civilians view all these changes with the stoicism born of a country villager, as the establishment settles down to week of training 3 of the Winter term, with Christmas looming on the not too distant horizon. Meanwhile the 243 recruits of Intake 81C are beginning to appreciate the niceties of Army life and the balmy climate of Harrogate.

MOTOR CYCLE SAFETY COMPETITION

The 'John Page' trophy was won this term by **AT Sgt Bolam** of Penney Squadron. The trophy was donated by the parents of the late **AT John Page,** killed in a motor cycle accident last year and the competition, open to all apprentices, is designed to promote motor cycling safety.

Lt Col E. Pickup presents the 'John Page' Trophy to AT Sgt Bolam, and WO2 (CSM) T. Marshall supervising the prize giving

CYCLING

An outstanding success was the unanimous verdict on the 'Army Festival of Cycling' organised by our College cycling fraternity and held in the College and surrounding countryside. The Festival was the first ever held in this form by the Army and it attracted riders from UK, BAOR, Gibraltar and Cyprus based units, plus several competitors from the RAF, RN and civilian clubs. Eleven events were staged in eight days, including all the races for the Army Junior Championships and the Triangular Games. **AT Cpl Garry Haslam** proved himself to be the leading young rider in the Army and gained several placings in the Army championship results. He was never beaten in a Triangular Games race, but sadly Army Apprentices College, Chepstow just pipped us for the 'Rose Bowl' by 6 points (144-138) with the Arborfield team trailing well behind. Our Junior team also finished in second place to the Chepstow contingent after the 8 race series. Each event was closely fought as the final points score reveals: Chepstow 1766, Harrogate 1730. Several fine individual rides produced best-ever times but the greater experience of the Chepstow competitors saw them through. **AT Justin Ewart** took second place in the opening event, third in the second, whilst **AT Mark Anderson** improved throughout the championships to take third place in the last event. We have once more competed in the 'Ackrill League' with some useful individual rides. **Garry Haslam** was our leading points scorer backed by **AT LCpl Norman Phillips** and **AT Peter Hawker.**

GRADUATION DAY

The Graduation Ceremony was held on Thurs 13 Aug. The parade was commanded by **AT RSM M. A. Ridley,** whose performance earned congratulations from both our Commandant and **Maj Gen A. J. Jackson,** Representative Colonel Commandant and reviewing officer for the day. The Commandant welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate, **Councillor and Mrs Thackray** who were visiting the College for the first time in their official capacity.

Prizes were presented as follows:

The Master of Signals Award—AT RSM M. A. Ridley for the best all round apprentice of the Senior Term.

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award—AT Cpl W. Nelson for the best all round Tradesman of the Senior Term.

Director of Army Training Award—AT SSM T. M. T. Roberts for the best individual military performance of the Senior Term.

Commandant's Prize—AT SSM T. M. T. Roberts for Conduct, Discipline and Example.

Director of Army Education Prize—AT A. M. Wilks for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College.

Prizes awarded by The Royal Signals Corps Committee to the best Apprentice of the Senior Term in each trade:

Technician
Terminal Equipment—**AT Cpl D. Young**
Telecommunications Mechanic—AT Cpl W. Nelson

Maj Gen Jackson talking to AT Sgt Marchant, watched by the Commadant and AT Sgt Taylor during the Graduation Parade

Telegraphist
Special—**AT Sgt A. B. Marchant**
Radio—**AT Cpl R. Rigg**
Data—**AT LCpl Q. M. Rose**

Education Prizes for the best academic progress during their time at the College:
Technician—AT Cpl D. Young
Telecommunications Mechanic—LCpl R. J. Carter
Telegraphist—AT G. C. Williams

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. Won by **AT Sgt G. P. Adams.**

The Council of the Borough of Harrogate Prizes
Technicians—AT G. Walker
Telegraphists—AT S. M. Kellet

One of the highlights of the parade was the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Sgts J. Keohane, R. Smith, B. J. Watson** and **D. Cowin (REME).**

SAILING

The Summer Term was a relatively busy period for the College sailors and once the ice had broken on Thruscross Reservoir, at the beginning of term, there was no stopping them. At weekends there was gentle rivalry between the College and Leeds Sailing Club. Our congratulations go to **AT Martin Hayter** for finishing 4th overall in the Summer series, an excellent result as some of the best sailors in the country belong to Leeds Sailing Club. We also congratulate **AT RSM Graham Wilson** for his contribution as crew to **AT Martin Hayter.** Passing on to the Corps Dinghy Regatta where we achieved an equal fourth, with the **Hayter/Wilson** combination tying with **AT SSM Doug Hassell** and **AT Sgt Coleyshaw. Maj John Ambrose** and **AT LCpl Ned Needham** finished a fighting ninth.

Resulting from our successes in the Dinghy events we were invited to enter crews in the Corps Yacht Club Regatta at Seaview, Isle of Wight. Under the expert tuition of our Commandant, **Messrs Wilson** and **Hassell** soon became acquainted with the 'Mermaids' and finished a very creditable ninth overall.

The established firm of **Hassell** and **Hayter** were selected to represent the Corps in a very successful match against the RAF at Grafton Waters. Following this, at the invitation of the Army Sailing Association, the same pair competed in the Army Dinghy Championships on Southampton Water and, at the end of six hard fought races held over two days, they emerged as Army (under 21) Champions.

Sporting rivalry between the three main Apprentice Colleges culminates annually in an event aptly named 'The Triangular Games'. For the sailors this competition was combined, for reasons of economy, with the ASA Junior Regatta held on Llandegnedd Lake, near Pontypool. Here, not only did we produce results, as an added bonus we acquired sun tans. **AT LCpl Ned Needham** and his crew **AT LCpl Ian Harris** finished a very worthy 3rd overall. Supported by **ATs Stephen Allan, Tony Wood** and **Ed Postlethwaite,** not forgetting **Recruits Thompson, Kelly** and **Fleet,** the College team finished 5th overall in the ASA Junior Regatta and 2nd in the Triangular Games.

Technicians in Communications

GCHQ If you are about to leave HM Forces, or have left, consider a career with us. We are the Government Communications Headquarters, based at Cheltenham. Our interest is R & D in all types of modern radio communications – HF to satellite – and their security.

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LOCATION Sites at Cheltenham in the very attractive Cotswolds and elsewhere in the UK; opportunities for service abroad.

PAY Competitive rates, reviewed regularly. Relevant experience may count towards increased starting pay. Promotion prospects.

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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

True not just in the sense that 1981 is almost gone, but in several other ways as well. For one thing, out with the old year will go our present title—with effect from 1 Jan 1982 we shall be known as the Automated Management Information Systems Branch (AMIS) UKLF, a change brought about by the adoption of NATO nomenclature throughout HQ UKLF from that date. Also, at that time, the sponsorship of the Team will pass from ADP Co-ord (A) to HQ UKLF, and our photograph shows both present and future masters in the respective forms of **Col David Cook** of ADP Co-ord(A) and **Col Peter Davies,** Colonel GS SD HQ UKLF. The latter will assume the title of DACOS (Co-ord), and will continue to be Chairman of the HQ UKLF ADP Steering Committee, the body guiding the day to day affairs of the Team. As if new sponsorship, new names (and probably new offices) are not enough, we will also see new faces in the forms of **Maj Alan Pollard** and **Maj Tim Connell,** due to report in December as replacements for **Maj Mark Illingworth** and **Maj Tom Moncur,** who are going off to fill 2IC appointments at the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC and SHAPE SSG respectively. But the main event, which is eagerly awaited and sustains the gleam in the eye of **Lt Col Peter Ost,** is the advent of our replacement computer system, due to be delivered in February or March next year. When one considers that the successful contractor is only due to be selected this month, the speed at which procurement has moved can be appreciated—things more fast in the ADP world!

Back Row: L to R: Pte D. Bennett, Sgt J. Hutchings, Maj J. F. Bushell, Sgt G. Griffiths, Cpl K. Sharman, Maj R. G. Lewenz, Sgt R, Evans, Mrs M. Hankins.
Front Row: L to R: Maj T. F. Moncur, Mrs J. C. Bates, Col D. Cook, Lt Col P. L. Ost, Mr R. Reakes, Col P. R. Davies, Mr I. Sey, Maj M. A. Illingworth.
Not Shown: Capt J. Cusick, Capt I. G. R. Collins, Mrs J. Redman, Mrs K. Emery

ANALYSIS, DIVIDE AND RULE

It will be apparent that this is a particularly busy time—the team analysts have already been occupied for some time examining in detail the various sub-systems which the activities of the HQ comprise, and are producing a steady output of facts for the programming team of **Mr Ian Sey** and **Mrs Jenny Bates** to utilise in writing the system software. The process of information gathering, documentation and coding are exacting, concentrated and meticulous, as errors at this stage could have profound effects later when the new system becomes live. This will involve some period of parallel running, and thanks to the reorganisation taking place in HQ UKLF early next year, it will be possible for adjacent rooms to be utilised. Now that the space problem has been overcome, our operating team of **Mrs Marion Hankins, Sgt John Hutchings** and **Sgt Bob Evans** are wondering how to divide themselves in two and operate two machines simultaneously! To support this increase in hardware (and effort) **Sgt Gerry Griffiths** has successfully managed to increase his clerical staff, by securing the arrival of **Cpl Kay Sharman** to join **Pte Denise Bennett** in the Team Office—the loss of the Message Distribution Centre is our gain, and we hope she will have a happy association with the Team.

MISCELLANEOUS

Another new arrival to the Team is **Capt John Cusick, RE** who joined us from Chatham, and who has been promptly packed off to Blandford on a COBOL course at DADPTC where he will be temporarily co-located with **Capt Greg Collins,** while the latter completes the final stages of the Basic Systems Analysis and Design Course. Away from work and courses, **Sgt Gerry Griffiths** is putting his Welsh background to good use, in organising the HQ UKLF Rugby side, and the squash combine of **Ost, Moncur, Evans** and **Hutchings** meet regularly to do battle on the courts. **Lt Col Peter Ost** and **Maj Tom Moncur** continue to demonstrate their masochistic side by turning out regularly for that increasingly popular weekly event, the Wilton Hash. The fact that it provides one with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the local pubs is purely coincidental! **Mr Ron Reakes** eventually managed to get off on leave, and has returned refreshed from the idyllic haven of the Channel Islands, ready to plunge back into the activity at Wilton. Indeed a busy time, with much happening and everyone involved, but nevertheless a time in which two events occurred which made everyone notice. One was **Sgt Bob Evans'** haircut—'Fell asleep in the barber's chair, when I woke up it was almost all gone', he claims—and the other was **Mrs Jenny Bates '** car passing its MOT, which nobody (not even **Jenny**) expected. Luck seems to be with us for the time being! Let's see what 1982 brings!

Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

SPORT

'Mens sana in copore sano'. Whilst it is unusual to see a great deal of military activity around the camp area, as all the soliders are busy either instructing or undergoing training, the camp springs to life around 1700 hours daily. Track-suited figures appear everywhere engaged in a multitude of sports, and the locals are beginning to believe that we are an annex to Loughborough College. All this training began to come to fruition, when, in June, seven members of the group took part in the Great North Run. Running with some 12,000 others the group team led by **WO2 (QMSI) Brian Pyle,** enjoyed a good run, particularly as they were shouted on by the many Geordies among the spectators, **WCpl Karen Turnbull** however did feel it a little unfair to hear the continued shout of 'Awa the lads'. The whole team completed the distance in excellent time, **Bob Hales** being the leader who was pleased to have been one of the many to beat **Kevin Keegan** in. All in all, a very successful participation by the Group, particularly as this was for a charitable cause.

ATHLETICS

After qualifying at Colchester in the District athletics meeting, 15 July saw the athletics team competing in the UK Minor Units Athletics meeting. Considering the lack of time available for training and although the Group finished last, it should not distract from a very creditable performance.

The team was as follows: Team Manager—**Maj F. P. Searle,** Team Captain—**YofS Lawrence,** Athletes—**Sgt Kirkpatrick, Sgt Mortimer, Sgt London, Sgt Davis, Sgt Holt, Cpl Bower, Cpl Creswell, LCpl Holsgrove, Sig Crowther, Pte Fraser**

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CRICKET SEASON

Winners—Eastern District Knockout Cup	**—2nd year running**
Winners—East Area Knockout Cup	**—2nd year running**
Army Minor Units Semi-finalists	**—2nd year running**

Our main aim, as the Comms & Sy Gp Cricket Club this season, was to try and improve on last season's results and also give as many people in the Group as possible a competitive game of cricket. To this end we formed our 2nd team. This resulted in 39 members of the Group playing in a competitive game. Our results equalled last season's efforts but the 'big un' still evaded us.

Our cup run started on 27 May on a cloudy day against the RAVC Centre Melton Mowbray. Because of the weather skipper **Sgt Stu Parrish** decided to put Vets into bat—they were all out rather quickly for 30 runs which we knocked off without loss for a 10 wicket win. In the semi-final of the Eastern District Knockout Cup we played Leicester Station at RPO Leicester. On a very unpredictable wicket we batted first and were very disappointed to score only 90 runs all out. Our bowlers certainly rose to the occasion and rescued us, bowling out Leicester Station for 34 runs. Bowling figures **WO1 (RSM) Jim Crannage** 9 overs 8 maidens 4 wickets for 2 runs. **Sig Tony Hoare** 9 overs 4 maidens 2 wickets for 6 runs. **SSgt John Sinden** 4 overs 2 maidens 2 wickets for 3 runs.

So we went through to the Eastern District Final. This was played at Colchester on 23 June on a very bright and hot day. Our skipper won the toss and did not have too difficult a decision in electing to bat first. Our opponents 7 Fd Ambulance must have been pleased to see our two openers depart with the score at only 30 for 2. From this point on the onslaught on the Fd Ambulance was merciless with **Sgt Stu Parrish** and **SSgt John Sinden** really hammering the bowling. **Stu** scoring 58 and **John** scoring 45. After these two departed it was a matter of a 'quick thrash' for the final few overs to score as many runs as possible. We finished our allotted overs with 8 wickets down and a mammoth 197 on the board. The last few overs gave the spectators something to cheer about, with our suicidal running to try and top the 200 mark. 7 Fd Ambulance opening batsmen walked to the wicket looking as though they were going to their execution, (they were)! Wickets began to fall at regular intervals and 7 Fd Ambulance were never in with a real chance and only one batsman made double figures and he scored more than half their runs. So we coasted to another easy victory. 7 Fd Ambulance all out for 64 runs, a win by 133 runs. No team has scored more than 100 against us yet!! We now went into the East Area final full of confidence. This final was played at RA Woolwich on 2 Jul against PCCD RE, our old enemies from London District.

Skipper **Stu Parrish** lost the toss this time and the Posties decided to bat. It was clear from the start that the opposition was stiffer than anything we had faced so far this season and we had to work hard for our breaks. We bowled well but our fielding wasn't up to our normal high standards with 3 catches going down and when one of the opposition started to 'slog', our fielding looked ragged but we kept plugging away and had PCCD RE all out for 104 in 34 overs, the highest score yet against us. Our openers **WO1 Andy Peyton** and **Sgt Ian Anderson** took the field with the knowledge that they needed less than 3 runs an over to win. They played themselves in and never looked in any trouble and soon passed 50 without loss. Things looked to be going our way and the game was swinging away from the Posties. **Sgt Ian Anderson's** 50 came and the writing was on the wall. The 100 came and now the only question was would the openers see off the remaining 5 runs without loss. The 104 was passed with a well hit 4 to **Sgt Ian Anderson** 64 not out and **WO1 Andy Peyton** 32 not out. This partnership was perhaps our most clinical piece of batting all season.

We were now into the Army Minor Units Semi-Final for the second time in two years. We now learned that we were to lose two of our most valued members to a RSSSC, our skipper **Sgt Stu Parrish** and **Sgt Bob Hales**. This was a bitter blow to our hopes but we all went into the game determined to give it our best 'shot'. On a batting pitch at the Officers' Club Aldershot our stand-in skipper **SSgt John Sinden** lost the toss and we were doomed to a hot exhausting afternoon in the sun. Our opponents Trg BN Depot REME batted very well and were obviously a very good team. We chased every ball and bowled to the best of our ability but could not stop them scoring 206 in 40 overs. Not impossible but quite a task. We went into bat determined to have a go. We started slowly and were pinned down by some good accurate bowling. Trying to push along the score we started to lose wickets. Our luck, that had been with us all season, seemed to desert us and we lost a couple of valuable wickets very cheaply. **WO1 Andy Peyton** batted very well for 37 but we had no one to support him. We were all out for 150 and left thinking of what might have been. Full credit to Trg Bn Depot REME—they were the better team on the day. Our cup team squad with officials was as follows:-

OIC Cricket—**Maj John Healey**, Captain—**Sgt Stu Parrish**, Vice Captain—**SSgt John Sinden, WO1 (RSM) Jim Crannage, WO1 Andy Peyton, SSgt Brian Inglis, Sgt Keith Holt, Sgt Bob Hales**, Secretary—**Sgt Ian Anderson, Cpl Chris Marshall, Cpl Colin Samuels**, Treasurer—**Cpl Jim Whiteford, LCpl Tony Ballard, LCpl Pete Pearson, Sig Tony Hoare.**

EXERCISE 'PACE MAKER'

During June, ten men from various departments within the group participated in a short but reasonably physical exercise in the area of Kinder Scout, Derbyshire. This exercise was designed to practice and test map reading skills, and give a taste of ridge and fell walking to those taking part.

DAY 1

The first day was taken up with travelling to Edale where a base camp was established. The evening was spent map reading, preparing kit and a gentle stroll to reconnoitre the local environment, thirsty work!

DAY 2

This was spent in checking the practical map reading of the group with a walk of approximately 18 miles. Those who had not visited the Peak District before found that adapting of the muscles to fell walking was no easy task, and that suddenly the little hills began, after a few miles, to appear like Mount Everest. During the course of the walk the party visited the Speedwell Cavern, the Blue John mines and lunched at a very familiar monument erected all over the area dedicated to somebody named 'Tetlet Ale'.

DAY 3

Time for some real walking, Kinder Scout via Jacobs Ladder. Ladder did someone say? If it was, the rungs had certainly been removed, and as the weather was not exactly good, it was more like a slide. It was worth the climb though, because once we had reached the top the views were magnificent. The weather was very kind on this day and all members of the party had an opportunity to lead across the ridges, thereby doing some practical map reading. After a good hard day's walking the conversation in the evening consisted of such comments as 'Well I don't see how people get lost in this area and it isn't very hard really'. At this, the senior members **Capt Peter Welch, WO1 Dave Smith** and **WO2 John (I want to tell you a story) Thomasson** remained silent and hoped that the weather might change.

DAY 4

The last day of our short exercise and now some real work. A hard fast 10 miles, up and over a couple of ridges to the Snake Inn for lunch. The last ½ mile covered along the road in a light rain, grins beginning to form on the faces of the seniors. Half an hour break and off on the Snake path, plan to go round the reservoir, back up Kinder Scout to Kinder Downfall and then to base. It was a good plan and it was completed, but what should have been a good walk became a rain soaked nightmare, in which the real dangers of the district became obvious to one and all. With the rain came the mist and all the map reading, training and use of compass bearings came to fruition. It was an excellent day's training and a quieter and more thoughtful conversation was noted that evening.

DAY 5

Time to pack up and return to camp. Exercise *Pacemaker* was a good exercise that, in the short time available, met all its objectives, and was enjoyed by all.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to **SSgt Bill Souter, Sgt John Laflin, Sgt Keith Holt** and **Cpl Giles Whiteford** and wish them well in their new Units.

At the same time we would like to welcome to the Group **Sgt Jim Leivers, Cpl Ken Harding** and **Cpl Geof Shaw.** May your tour with the Group be a happy one.

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THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT 1981
Report by WO2 (SSM) P. J. Welch

This year saw the Corps well represented at the Royal Tournament, featuring the Royal Signals White Helmets commanded by **Capt David Elson,** Royal Signals with Team Sergeant, **Fred Alexander BEM,** master of operations in the arena. The Corps Band directed by **Lt Col K. R. R. Boulding** fulfilled their role superbly as the Tournament resident band. Around the arena (for those who have not ventured into Earls Court during the Royal Tournament) are a number of static displays and once again the Corps was well represented.

EMPHASIS ON YOUTH

The Royal Signals Demonstration Team commanded by **Lt Col F. C. Lockwood OBE,** Royal Signals, had the responsibility of co-ordinating and producing the static display, drawing personnel from different units to demonstrate many of the activities of the Corps. This year the emphasis was on young soldiers and therefore the Training Group bore this burden.

THE BUILD

On the morning of 8 July, **WO2 (SSM) Phil Welch** (Team Sergeant Major of the Royal Signals Demonstration Team and Project Officer Static Display Royal Tournament 1981) moved the building party from WLAS Victoria Barracks, Windsor, along the M4 to start the Static Display Build. **Sgt Eddie Saxton,** carpenter RSDT, **Cpl George Gibson, Cpl Pete Bashford, LCpl Nigel Carr, Sig Paul Rendle, Sig Mick Lewis** and **SSgt (YofS) John Chapman** and his merry men and women started humping, sawing, hammering, nailing, masking, painting and all the other tasks. By day three of the build, the Earls Court suntans were maturing and **Sig Mick Lewis** decided he was tired of painting and was rushed off to Woolwich Hospital to have his appendix removed. We thought the pain was too many pints of 78p Lager at the 'Knights Tavern'. By now the building party was enjoying the hospitality afforded us by **Sgt Bill Smith** (LSL), the Mess barman during the evenings in Windsor. Even the daily fight with the London traffic had its compensations by the wonderful views experienced in slow moving traffic (mini skirts are back).

THE FRUITS

Wednesday 15th arrived, the opening day, by this time we had been joined by **Sgt Andy Wilson** and party from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, **Sgt Dave Hogben, Sgt Jim Denehy** and party from the Junior Regt R Signals from Ouston. **SSgt (YofS) John Chapman** and his party from 8 Sig Regt removed their paint stained attire and donned their best uniforms in readiness to man their displays. All the hard labours, starting from the planning conference in January through the process of inspection, were now ready for the world to see.

Before the doors of Earls Court were closed on the final performance of the 1981 Royal Tournament, seventeen days had elapsed and many thousands of people had visited the Tournament, which included many senior officiers of the Corps notably the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE**, the BGS, **Brig P. J. Evans CBE, ADC,** Commander, Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig A. Yeoman.** Commander 12 Signals Group (V), **Brig J. R. Burrows,** CO, Junior Regt R Signals, **Lt Col I. J. Crouch.** The pictures tell a story better than words and to a man (and 2 WRAC) everyone enjoyed performing an interesting and unusual task.

Sig Paul Mynett giving professional advice

Sig Kevin Morrison with his ear to the ground

Sig Alan Fielding White Helmets recruiting

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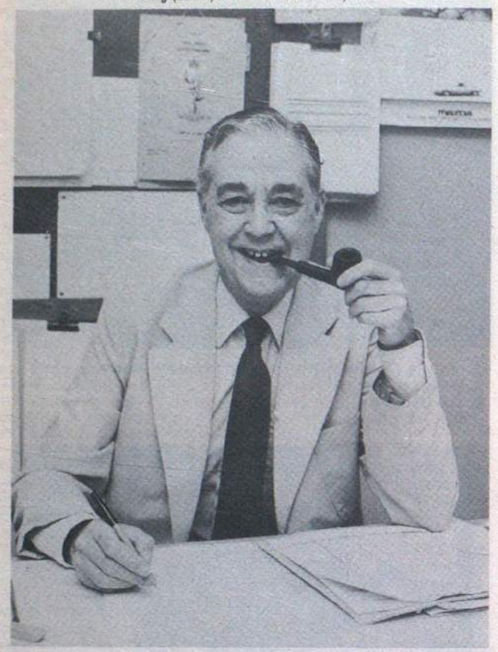
Maj (Retd) F. F. ELLIS MBE, TD



In July Signals Branch HQ BAOR said goodbye to **Maj Frank Ellis** who finally left the Army after forty five years continuous service with Royal Signals.

Frank first put on uniform in 1930, at the age of fourteen, when he joined the OTC of Rossal School. Six years later he was commissioned into Royal Signals (Territorial Army) and joined 42nd (East Lancs) Divisional Signals. He went with the Regiment to the Continent at the outbreak of the Second World War and commanded J Section, in support of 125 Brigade, throughout the fighting in Belgium and France where he was mentioned in despatches. He was evacuated from Dunkirk in June 1940. He went on to command 3 Sqn of 42nd Divisional Signals and, in 1943, was posted to 13 Air Formation Signals as OC 1 Sqn. He returned to the Continent with his new unit in the Normandy landings and served throughout the campaign in North West Europe, finishing up in Celle at the end of the war. He was awarded the MBE for his war service.

After the war he served in a wide variety of regimental and staff appointments around the world. He commanded 1st Malay Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron in the early 1950s during its anti-terrorist operations in various parts of Malaya and later served in 7 Signal Regiment as Second-in-Command. He held signal staff appointments in the War Office, HQ Northern Command, HQ Middle East in Cyprus, Signals Branch HQ BAOR and his final appointment in the Regular Army was as SO2 (Signals) Malta. He retired in June 1970 to take up a Retired Officer post on the CSO's staff at HQ BAOR and held this appointment for eleven years, finally retiring at the age of 65 in 1981. During his time at Signals Branch HQ BAOR, in uniform and as an RO, Frank served nine CSOs (**Anderson, Pentreath, Mansergh, Horsfield, Roper, Sturge, Baldwin, Birtwistle** and **Hild**). His incomparable experience of Royal Signals over so many years has been used directly or indirectly to the benefit of vast numbers of the Corps, both past and present.

His friendly and helpful personality and unfailing charm (as well as the ever-present pipe) will be remembered by all those who knew him personally.

Frank has retired to Cheltenham where, of course, he intends to join the local branch of the Royal Signals Association. We wish him and his wife, **Else**, a long and happy retirement.

HQ 1 (BR) Corps BFPO 39

EXERCISE SILVER SHIELD 1981

GETTING IT OFF THE GROUND

A good two years ago now the embryo of an idea was formed by the CCR Signals, **Brig Paul Alexander**, and his GSO1, **Lt Col Ray Bell**, to take the Corps Signal Regiments—7, 14 and 22—to a Brigade Battle Camp at the Vogelsang Training Area down in the Eiffel, the hilly border of Germany with Belgium. Of course it wasn't easy, as the opportunity to get all three regiments together, bearing in mind the normal yearly programme coupled with booking the area, required a lot of preplanning! However, it was finally decided that the best time was Sep 1981 and the wheels were set in motion.

The mastermind for the detailed staff work was **Maj Craig Treeby**, the DQ, and in March he called together a convocation of the Regimental representatives, **Maj Roy Shiner** from 7, **Capt Bill Cheesman** from 14, and **Maj Rodney Clare** from 22. The plan that evolved was to go for a fortnight and split the programme into two halves with, what might be called, a natural break in the middle. The first week was a training period, where we would split the regiments into platoon groups of about 30 led by an officer or warrant officer. Each platoon would then be given an opportunity to go through a series of military activities including both the mandatory military skills tests and other activities, such as demolitions, grenades, combat survival and watermanship.

The second week was split into further confirmatory and progressive training for those remaining in the camp, with 62 chosen members of 7 and 14, already trained in survival on Exercise *Sweaty Palm*, moving out to pit their wits against the 22 Sig Regt hunter force on Exercise *Main Line*, an escape and evasion exercise directed by **Lt Col Bill Robins** of 14 Sig Regt and run by **Maj Tony Hervey** and **Capt Gerry Corbett**.

THE BUILD UP

Preparation for the exercise was every bit as complicated as a major operation and involved helicopter recces, acquisition of kit from all over Europe, and detailed instructions to rival the D-Day contingency plans. Some indication of the scale of the enterprise can be gained from the fact that **Capt Vic Prees**, the QM of 22 Sig Regt, took 50 tons of stores—and a fork lift truck to move them around.

Finally, all preparations complete, the Camp moved into full swing with detailed coordination provided by the Brigade Staff with **Capt Pat Maloney** controlling the ranges and safety and **Maj Jim Heck** as Administrative Commandant, ably assisted by **WO1 Ted Butterworth** the Staff Assistant.

THE TRAINING BEGINS

The Advance Party moved into take over the accommodation on Friday 4 Sep, and the Main Body followed over the weekend so that by Monday 7 we were all ready to go. A great deal of mutual assistance took place between the regiments and there was a fair amount of friendly rivalry. Therefore, the way that I continue these notes to some extent does not reflect the cooperation and spirit that existed during the period of the Camp. However, in order not to appear biased in any particular direction, I reproduce articles written by the regiments themselves—not, I hasten to add, in the traditional beauty contest order, but in straightforward numerical precedence.

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

To many in the regiment, the sight of the daunting Van Dooren block was all too familiar, having stayed there some two years previously. This time the tempo seemed to have changed gear and the first week proved to be a real test of stamina. Not to be outdone, the regiment's two lady officers, **Lts Nanette Wilson** and **Louise Garvey**, led platoons of their own in all the activities, including the assault course, speed march and demolitions; making a very convincing case for their qualification for the 'X-Factor'. The regiment's own team of experts, assisted by coaches from 14 Sig Regt, ran the main classification ranges. One of the prime aims of the first week's training was to allow time for SLR firers to be coached and correctly zeroed, before being exposed to the full classification. Having gained in confidence the platoons were phased through **Lt Peter Kearns** 24 lane sausage machine, thus hopefully bolstering this year's shooting statistics.

Whilst some members of the regiment were completing the first week training, a small party of would-be urban-guerillas joined members of the Brigade staff and 14 Sig Regt on the anti-tank combat range. The training was led by a Belgian Army Warrant Officer who deftly demonstrated how to survive being run over by a tank. The students were then invited to repeat the procedure! After a number of other confidence gaining exercises, petrol bombs were manufactured and used against a tank bulk on the range. In all it proved to be quite an illuminating period of instruction.

The main feature of the second week was a defence exercise which introduced, to many for the first time, the full implications of setting up a defensive location, including digging into rock hard soil and constant patrolling. After three days it was a weary regiment that returned to its home in Van Dooren; however recovery was quick and the camp was rounded off with a big party on the last evening.

14 SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE 'SWEATY PALM'

Sweaty Palm was the name given to the combat survival exercise run by 14 Sig Regt over the whole fortnight of Silver Shield. During the fortnight 62 students, of whom 11 were from 7 and the remainder from 14 Regt, were instructed in the practice and theory of staying alive in adverse conditions. We were lucky to have a unique nucleus of talent among the instructors: **Capt Gerry Corbett**, who ran the exercise **SSgt Pete Whitehead** and **WO2 Harry Maddison**. They and **Sgt Peter Davies** (kindly loaned by 16 Sig Regt), **Sgt Peter Leadbetter**, and **Cpls Andy Barbous, Bob Thompson, Jock Douglas** and **Stephen Palfreyman** allowed the students, who responded magnificently to the treatment, to gain a lot of experience (which they won't forget) in a short time.

The days started quite early with runs, sometimes carrying logs, down to the lake, a swim round the torch-bearing marker, and back up the hill. Instruction was given on the training area, which has an abundance of flora and fauna, on trapping, fires, water, building shelters (and sleeping in them), and feeding for free, as well as navigation, agent contact procedures, lying-up and crossing water obstacles (ie swimming with all your kit). We were lucky in having with us **Capt Charles Sidebotham** RAMC, who taught primitive medicine. **Sgt Davies**, apart from giving advice on what fungi to eat, is an expert on escape lines. His exhibits from Colditz supplemented a fascinating talk by **Capt Van Der Kraap**, formerly of the Royal Netherlands Navy. It's quite humbling to listen to a man who actually did escape.

The culmination of *Sweaty Palm* was Exercise *'Main Line'* of which more later. Suffice to say at this stage, from the runners point of view, it was unpleasant and uncomfortable, but nobody regrets having done it. It gave a rare opportunity for each one to extend himself more than he thought possible and as a result learn a bit more about himself in the process.

Crossing the lake

22 SIGNAL REGIMENT

WEEK 1—THE TRAINING WEEK

On arrival at Vogelsang training camp, the CO **Lt Col John Almonds**, was there to greet the regiment, and in his own inimitable way lucidly explained the reason for our being there, lest anybody had forgotten. **Capt Nigel Cory**, the Administrative Officer then presented a short history of the camp and explained how it had been devised by Hitler and was originally used for specialist and youth movement training during the last war. By now, there was doubt, as to what the future held.

The Command Post staff discuss tactics for the escape and evasion exercise. *L to R:* Capt Tom Richardson (Adjutant), Capt Brian Gould, Capt Mike Jennings, Lt Tony Adams (Berks Yeo), Capt Bob Scriven, Capt Nigel Cory

During the first week, each day began with a brief but painful period of twilight PT under the supervision of **WO2 (QMSI) Chalkie White** and his PT staff, followed by a full programme of instruction from members of all three regiments.

22 Sig Regt was responsible for instructing on no fewer than nine subjects, which comprised combat survival techniques, patrolling, defence of a commcen, I.S., 84mm, first aid, prisoner detaining techniques, grenade throwing, 66mm and the use of various types of mines.

84mm Training

Cpl Nick Tecza, 22 Sig Regt, giving a presentation on combat survival

Sgt John Jackson of 22 Sig Regt demonstrates remote detonation of grenades to the CSO

3 Sqn on the forced march

A platoon of Black Watch infantry soldiers demonstrated their exceptional skills in camouflage and concealment, but were hard pressed for a sensible answer when a young Signalman asked them how they managed to get their camp beds into such a small trench. **SSgt Mick Mutlow**, who is never lost for words, must be praised for his quick witted retort to a statement made by an Intelligence Corps Lieutenant that a bar mine couldn't catch a Scorpion, but suggesting that if the said Lieutenant was setting a mine to catch a Scorpion, he was on the wrong chuffing side. Condolences must be offered to **Sgt Archie Croft**, who, in his successful attempt to evacuate the grenade throwing pit, (when a certain Corporal decided to throw it backwards instead of forwards) received a full blooded punch on the nose from the panic stricken gentleman.

CCR Signals **Brig Alexander**, and the Officers of the Regiment visited the WO's and Sgts Mess on Wednesday evening for informal drinks and light video entertainment. During the course of the evening, the Brigadier was presented with a Souvenir Regimental Plaque by the RSM, **WO1 Terry Mumford**, who, on behalf of all present, wished him well in his new appointment, which he takes up later in the year.

Lt Ashton WRAC leading the 'Gallant few' of RCP Tp.
L to R: LCpl Croft, LCpl Cooper, LCpl Lamont, Lt Ashton WRAC

Capt Cheesman and Maj Gen Hild look on as a patrol ensures that a comrade is made as comfortable as possible.
L to R: WO2 Crofts, Capt Cheesman, Maj Gen Hild, WO2 Liddell

WEEK 2—EXERCISE 'MAIN LINE'

The transformation of 22 Sig Regt from a Rear Corps Signal Regiment to a fully equipped and trained Hunter Force took precisely two days and by midday on 15 Sep, the Force was ready for exercise *Main Line*, which began with a spectacular Cordon and Search Operation—code named 'Intercept'.

The 62 runners from 7 and 14 Sig Regts were attending a briefing on the exercise rules, when the operation was sprung. Suddenly the peace and security of the lecture room was shattered when six members of A Company, supported by 10 Alsatian dogs from No 1 Army Dog Training Unit, and an outer Cordon from C Company (4 Sqn) surrounded the building. Three brave men made a break but were caught by the Cordon troops. For the next three hours, the prisoners were extracted from the room in groups of four and each taken to a separate room where they were stripped and searched. All of them had made elaborate efforts to hide money and other survival items in their clothing. One man had hidden his watch in the heel of his DMS boot and another had sewn a hacksaw blade into the lining of his combat jacket. Money was hidden everywhere! After the search, the prisoners were taken to the POW Cage where **Capt Mike Jennings** and his team, dressed in Soviet Army uniforms, gave them the normal hospitality accorded to Prisoners of War under the Geneva Convention and plenty of hot (well quite hot) green stew with rock cakes served up in a pig trough.

A group of prisoners from 14 Sig Regt await their fate in the POW compound

Under the watchful eyes of a prison guard the prisoners are treated to a meal of boiled potatoes!

Despite captivity morale is still high

THE HUNT WAS ON

Later that night all the prisoners were driven under escort towards Coblenz where permanent POW accommodation was available. Unfortunately the convoys were ambushed at two separate locations by Blueland partisans and the prisoners made their escape. Partisan agents issued each man with a rudimentary sketch map of the area and set of instructions sufficient to enable them to find the first agent RV. The hunt was on!

By 2200 hrs on 15 Sep the Hunter Force was deployed to the first ambush locations on the first main stop line. At midnight, D Company (HQ Sqn), commanded by **Capt Tom Richardson**, deployed as Covering Force forward of the Stop Line. The Hunter Force comprised four companies, each of two platoons. Platoons operated in four man half sections or 'Bricks'. The whole Force was commanded by **Lt Col John Almonds** from a tactical Headquarters, which controlled the deployment of the forward companies, Puma and Scout helicopters, dogs, the Quick Reaction Force and 'covert agents', the movement of prisoners of war and the passage of intelligence which is vital for this sort of Operation. Forward communications were maintained by Clansmen HF and VHF radio and rearward communications to the Main Headquarters and prison Compound were established using Bruin Triffid equipment.

A HASTY RETREAT

At 0130 on 16 Sep, the first man was captured by C Company commanded by **Maj David Collyer**. By the end of the first night, the Hunter Force had captured 10 men. The acquisition of the sketch maps, carried by those men, was of considerable value to the staff of the Tactical Headquarters, who were able to select likely agent RV locations as ambush targets. This policy paid off during the second and third nights when the capture rate increased dramatically. It was also discovered that runners who were unable to reach the agent RVs were telephoning Ex Control for further instructions and this enabled the covert agents, operating in civilian cars to avert the luckless escapers in villages. **Capt David Lane**, the Unit Paymaster, and **WO2 (SSM) Dougie Whittrick** arrested 10 men in three days in the paymaster's private car. One local German got a nasty shock when he stopped to talk to three escapers on his way back from the local pub. **SSgt Bernie Medway** drove round the corner in the CO's staff car, leapt out with his pistol drawn and ordered the three escapers to lie on the ground. The German beat a hasty retreat!

Individual stories are too numerous to mention, but suffice it to say that the Exercise was a resounding success. We hope that the escapers enjoyed the challenge as much as we did. We certainly admire their courage and determination.

POSTSCRIPT

I cannot let the occasion pass without adding a few points at the end of the article recording one of the rare moments in the history of the Corps when the three Corps Signal Regiments were together doing anything other than communicating (do I hear cries of 'Intentionally?' in the background?). We were very pleased that the CSO, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE**, was able to visit the Camp to meet so many members of the regiments, and to attend the Barbecue given by the officers of 7 and 14 Regts and organised by **Maj Ron Abbott.**

Few of those who attended the Valhalla Dinner Night will ever forget it. But I won't dwell on that; for the stories will remain around for a long time yet and better told by subalterns over a pint of beer in messes around the World, than in print in the cold light of day.

Perhaps I should just record that it was all organised by **Maj Derek McLean**, assisted by his Mess Secretary, **Capt Frank Worrall**, and express heartfelt thanks to **Sgt Andy Kirk** and all the cooks and soldiers of 22 Sig Regt, who put in so much work to make it possible.

Having dwelt upon things of the flesh, one must not forget the drum head service conducted by the **Rev Alistair Heagerty** on Sunday morning. There was some doubt which regiment sang the loudest, but the setting was inspiring and I would be surprised to be told that even the original occupants had generated more spirit than was apparent that day.

Finally, since no endeavour is successful without a lot of hard work, it remains only to thank all those who did so much to make *Silver Shield* the memorable time that it was, especially all those who entered into the spirit of it whilst they were there.

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals, BFPO 1

TO KOREA FOR TEN WEEKS

Report by Lt D. G. Macaulay QG Signals

'Take twenty-seven Gurkha signalmen from the two squadrons in Hong Kong (most of whom have done little drill since recruit trg) and mould them into a competent ceremonial drill platoon, then join a highly prestigious Honour Guard in Korea for ten weeks'.

This was the task assigned to me in early April 1981. I was given a Pl Sergeant in the form of **SSgt Dilkaji Gurung,** whose last job had been senior technician of the Sino-Hong Kong border: During the next turbulent four weeks the Pl was assembled, issued with extra equipment, innoculated, 'drill trained', 'lectured at' and finally documented in ways the Head Clerk did not think existed. The preparations were made more difficult because this was the first time that a QG Signals detachment had undertaken this duty. While the clerks of the Regimental and Sqn HQs busied themselves with the paperwork, it was up to the P1 personnel to learn a considerable amount of complex drill. There were two major parades to rehearse which contained not only American words of command but also different movements, the result of a rationalisation of our two countries drill manuals. Training time was never on our side due to extra commitments. However, despite all the obstacles I was proud of the high standards we had achieved . . . a debt of gratitude is owned to the presence and invaluable assistance of **Lt (QGO) Ekbahadur Rana, Lt (QGO) Gauprasad Gurung,** and **WO1 (RSM) R. Hannagan,** Garrison Sergeant Major. My Admin Corporal and I then departed a week early on the Advance Party; on 9 May the two of us watched the C130 Hercules, with the main body, touch down at Osan Airbase, Korea. A few days later I was leading 14 Gurkha signalmen plus detachments from Thailand and the Philippines on parade as the United Nations Platoon of the 'UNC Honor Guard'.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The UNC, Eighth United States Army Honor Guard Company was organised during the Korean War as 'General MacArthur's Honor Guard'. It originally comprised US Army infantrymen only. At the signing of the Armistice Agreement between North Korea and the United Nations (27 Jul 1953) ending open hostilities, the Guard was reorganised and an order was issued reducing the number of UNC contingents. The company now has, in addition to US soldiers, British, Thai, Filipino and Republic of Korea (ROK) servicemen. The British Army provides a 30-man detachment as the United Kingdom's continued commitment to the UN Command in Korea. This is found by units in Hong Kong who provide their detachment for about two months on a rotation basis.

OUR MISSION

The UN P1 holds a comprehensive instruction which lays down the extensive nature as a guide to the P1 Comd and his Sergeant on all aspects of 'Honor' Guard Coy life. It therefore provides the essential continuity between the different detachments. Our tasks split into three categories. By far the most important was Ceremonial Parades. This was because, despite the large military force in Korea, the only visible sign of a United Nations presence occurred during these parades. In addition to this the Honor Guard received a phenomenal amount of television and newspaper coverage in the summer months. Guard duties accounted for another large portion of the signalman's workload. Two key posts on the UN Command Bunker were allocated to us during the night guard for twelve hours. In view of certain incidents involving North Korean infiltrators one of our guards carried a loaded 45 cal pistol and had very basic opening fire instructions. We also could be called upon to provide a ceremonial guard detachment for Military Armistice Commission Meetings.

The QG Signals Korean Honour Guard Party commanded by Lt Macaulay

TO THE FIELD

The 'field' was a barren, rectangular piece of ground bare apart from the odd marker. It is a familiar landmark to the servicemen in Yongsan Garrison where we were stationed, but few have been privileged to march on it. This place has become almost sacred ground to the 'Honor' Guard personnel; we quickly realised the high standards that were expected of us in this unusual unit. When a parade is in progress the field is transformed into a small ceremonial realm, complete with the most senior officers and ambassadors of many different countries. This was the view of one newspaper reporter:

'Suddenly, the 'Honor' Guard marches into view, 178 members strong, spit'n polish boots and white gloved fists swinging to and fro in coupled rhythm. With precision moves the company quickly establishes itself on the field in laser-straight ranks, boots crunching into the hot yellow sand, and the ceremony begins'.

Over the next ten weeks we would get to know every inch of the square both in training and on the actual ceremonies.

PARADES

During our tour we completed 23 parades, and 8 more were cancelled due to bad weather. This period, during May and July, is the most busy for the Honor Guard who often only get 24 hrs notice of their commitments. The main type of parade, called 'Retreat', is held at least once a week on Friday. The basic drill format is also to bid welcome and adieu to dignitaries and to bestow awards or accolades on deserving individuals. In addition to these we took part in the Americans' two most important parades of the year, Memorial Day (their Remembrance Sunday) and Independence Day. In keeping with American tradition there was a 21 and 50 gun salute on each parade respectively. It was a memorable experience being completely enveloped by a cordite cloud, from the battery of 105mm Howitzers, while on parade. The other parade was called a 'Garrison Flag'. This took place on public holidays and aimed at being a display for the public rather than the senior military or diplomatic spectator. In fact the parade was fairly simple. All we had to do was lower a UN Flag, which measured 18ft by 36ft, from its flag-pole and neatly fold it in a military manner so that three men abreast could carry it away—all without touching the ground of course! We were only tasked with three of these parades.

Garrison Flag Parade

THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION

At the end of the Korean War an Armistice Agreement was signed by the major participants. The talks leading up to this act had lasted almost two years, during which the bitter and bloody fighting continued. These discussions are still regarded as one of the most clear insights into how Communists negotiate.

The Military Armistice Commission (MAC) of each side together with their respective Secretariats (SECs) are responsible for enforcing the terms of the agreement. It was decided that Joint Observer Teams would investigate reported violations. The North only participated in a few investigations in 1953 and since then have refused to send a team. The UN however, continues to carry out a detailed analysis of all the evidence which relates to violations. A body of UN personnel called the Special Investigation Team (SIT) are responsible for this work, and pass their findings to the North.

NORTH KOREAN INFILTRATION

The average visitor to Seoul is unlikely to spot the low key security arrangements in the city. Should one attempt a photograph from the fourth floor, or above, of any building the deadly serious reality of the situation would become clear. No photographs, postcards or drawings of the city's layout exist. These measures are designed to stem the passage of information to the North. In despair the North Koreans have trained and indoctrinated three man armed infiltration teams. They are sent across the border to either carry out a recce, contact other agents or occasionally destroy a target.

At 0430 on 5 July I was called into UNCMAC SEC to assist in an infiltration investigation. The SIT comprised **Maj Jeff Schefferman** (SIT Comd), **Capt Lee** (ROK LO), two photographers, an interpreter and I. We had various reports of an infiltration which we had to confirm and then locate the various key witnesses and build up a more detailed picture. A long Sunday was spent roaming various army camps near the Demilitarized Zone (effectively a rather wide 'border'). Slowly **Maj Shefferman** and I pieced together a detailed chronological sequence. While my interpreter and I finished the final interview which dealt with the act of shooting the North Korean spy, the rest of the team photographed the body.

Equipment found on N Korean infiltrator

A reception committee, headed by **Rear Admirals Horstedler** and **Stormes,** required us to give an immediate brief on our findings. After some hard questioning a decision was made to call a MAC meeting to present the evidence to the North. The mutually agreed date was two weeks later and only three days before our departure from the Republic. The time was spent writing statements, preparing charts and collecting the physical evidence.

THE 406TH MAC MEETING

In a small low building surrounded by the world's pressmen and full of delegates from both sides everything was set. The formalities were concluded with the entrance of the senior delegates of the commission and the meeting began. The first statement by the UN dealt directly with the reason for the meeting—an armed infiltration into the Republic of Korea. During this part **Maj Schefferman** and I were chosen to point at the charts to emphasize details they contained.

The North avoided any mention of the infiltration in their reply and simply made unfounded accusations about UN violations. The two Secretariats would amend previously prepared statements during the other side's speech, and then give a document to their Senior member. He is the only one who actually speaks, bar the interpreters who repeat it in the two other languages. When the meeting broke up there was no sign that they accepted our evidence, but the press looked fairly convinced by the morning's proceedings.

OFF THE FIELD

Our time in Korea was busy, however, with the aid of the Americans I managed to organise a small number of visits to several military installations of interest. Equally important was the availability of the football pitch and basketball courts which provided an essential break from the work routine.

Other forms of military training with the Americans also served as a welcome break for the Gurkhas who were involved in a small patrol exercise and saw a devastating 'live fire' demonstration by an Air Cavalry Sqn.

'Now if you were in the American Army'

GOING HOME

The continual grind of life in an Honor Guard was wearing down the members of our detachment towards the end of our ten week tour. They were content to leave the hamburgers and ice cream, and instead take their old meal of curry and rice. Swinging a baseball bat was fun for a while but it just did not seem right somehow. As for trying to emulate the Americans who spun their M14 rifles in the Drill team . . . 'I'm sure if the SLR was intended for spinning, they would have designed it better, Thamprasad!'

The memories of farewell parties, final parades and goodbyes to our many friends now blur together against a backcloth of scorching hot sunshine and the distant thunder of 105mm cannons. The official, and the unofficial, momentoes will grace the walls of twenty eight all ranks rooms for many years, a proud reminder of the time when they represented the British Army in the United Nations Command Honor Guard Company.

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AT A PACE

The Winter term has started at a frantic pace with a very welcome but messy spate of activity by building contractors, an intense period of training for the cadre and a new intake of juniors to bring our strength up to 475. A tremendous amount of work is underway on the juniors' accommodation with three of the seven blocks already modernised; a new synthetic floor has been put down in the hanger as an addition to the gymnasium area and this will provide pitches for indoor soccer, and hockey as well as two indoor tennis courts.

THE CADRE COURSE

All the cadre came back from Summer leave some five days before the start of term, in order to brush up on their knowledge of juniors as well as to complete some badly needed continuation military training. The course was divided initially into two parts with HQ Sqn on the ranges at Otterburn; **WO2 (QMSI) Geoff Northey** and the rest of I Wing had a few stories to tell of their experiences on the firing point—**Cpl Paul McCaffrey** ACC was advised that he would probably do better to charge the target and hit it over the head with his frying pan! The remainder of the cadre were lectured by a number of experts, including a very charming lady educational sociologist, on the art of keeping one pace ahead of the juniors. Finally both groups spent their final day brushing up on such esoteric subjects as the Geneva Convention and the Threat to Security.

COCKTAIL PARTY

The annual Officers Mess cocktail party was held on 24 Sep and our principal guests were **Brig F. G. Barton** Comd 29 Engr Gp and his wife and the Mayor and Mayoress of Castle Morpeth. Although the purpose of the party was to say thank you to the many people who have helped us over the last year, most thought that the real reason was that **Mr Roy Dixon**, one of our Burnham lecturers, needed to replenish his horse's hay which had been donated by a farmer at last year's party. It was very successful (he got the hay) and the occasion was enlightened by the presence of the band of the 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Lt Col Andrew Carter, CO 11 Sig Regt makes a point to the Mayor of Castle Morpeth, Mr W. J. Lough and the CO, Lt Col Ian Crouch

ARCHERY

The weekend 26/27 Sep saw the first outing of the Junior Regiment Royal Signals Archery team, the 'Albemarle Bowmen', when they participated in the Inter Services Archery tournament held at the UKLF Wilton Salisbury. The competition took the form of a two day event, with Bristol and American rounds being shot against a number of Junior teams. Although the entire team had only been together for some eight weeks, some good reults were achieved due to the skilful training and coaching of **Messrs Logan** and **Armitage.** After the first day battling against high winds the Albemarle Bowmen were close on the heels of the leaders, however the experience of the opposition proved a little too great and the Junior Leaders RAC pulled away after the second day. This pushed the Albemarle Bowmen into second position, which was no mean achievement for their first outing. The team Captain **JSig Hooper** won the Silver medal as an individual in his group. The medal was presented by **Maj Gen Hellier.**

The team is now under intensive training for the Inter Services indoor tournament.

TEAM MEMBERS

Manager **Sgt Armitage**, Coach **Sgt Logan**, Captain **JSig Hooper**, Team **JSigs Anderson, Dibble, Stanton, Vaughan, Hassall.**

REGIMENTAL SPORT

There is a lot happening on the sporting front with a 'scratch' cadre hockey team scoring 11 goals during their first two matches against 4/7 DG and 11 Sig Regt; in addition the juniors are making their mark with **JSigs Husskinson, Baker** and **Connor** being included in the Northumberland County under 19 hockey squad.

Both 1 and 2 Sqns field rugby teams in the local West Tyne League on Sunday mornings. In addition we field a full Regimental team against stronger local teams.

Once again the soccer season is upon us. Our deadly duo of **WO2 Geoff Northey** and **Sgt 'Butch' Maycock** have been seen lurking around corners, with notebooks in hand, looking for talent. They have been joined by **Cpl Brian Colvin** on the coaching side. The draws have been made for the Junior Soldiers' and Junior Leaders' Challenge Cups. We have drawn for the third successive season Junior Leaders' RA away, and are looking for a win to stop the run of losses. We have been drawn against Depot Queens in the Junior Soldiers' Cup and are hoping to get revenge for the 1-0 defeat in last year's final. Two teams were taken to Harrogate on 10 Oct to produce two games to enable a Corps youth side to be selected and to provide matches for an Army Referees' Course. **JSigs Paul Holden, 'Sucker' Sutcliffe, 'Hannibal' Hayes, 'Blatch' Blatcher** and **'Tone' Anderson** are to be congratulated for their selection for the Corps Youth Squad.

THE WAY AHEAD

It will be a change this Christmas to have no Pass Off Parade. Because of the reduced number of Juniors being recruited just now, the May 81 intake will soldier on until February 1982. At last we have agreement to return to Scotland for Winter external leadership training which the moratorium stopped us doing last year. We will miss the Lake District but hope to see lots of snow in Perthshire.

Maj Gen R. J. Moberly CB OBE with the CO, Lt Col Ian Crouch on the occasion of his recent visit with Brig E. D. Good CBE to look at the regiment

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

TO BATTLE

This time-honoured match was held on the afternoon of 12 Aug, and sunshine was specially booked by **WO1 (RSM) Ronnie Hails.** The RSM and the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Carr-Smith**, wheeled out their respective teams to do battle, the officers taking up the bat first. Several unusual figures cut a dashing swathe through the bowling, not least **Maj Colin Hogg** of Div HQ, who learnt to his cost just why a cricket box should be won. By unanimous consent the bowling prize went to the Adjutant, **Capt Bob Wannell**, who bowled five wides in eight balls. In the penultimate over, victory fell to the officers' side, and the CO's wife, **Nicky**, found herself presenting the trophy to her husband, and the CO the wooden spoon to the RSM!

THE GENERAL'S CUP

The day after saw the culmination of another cricket competition devised by the GOC, **Maj Gen G. W. Howlett OBE MC.** Earlier in May some 50 squadrons, batteries and companies within the Division had started out on the long road to this limited over final. And now, some three months later, the semi finals and finals were being held at Verden, with 3 Squadron the only team from the regiment to have won through. The semi finals were played in the morning, and that afternoon 3 Sqn found themselves facing HQ Sqn 9/12L in the final match of the competition. This match, well supported on both sides, turned out to be one of the most exciting close finishes of the competition. 3 Sqn batted first and set a good total, but 9/12L chased hard all the way. Finally a big six was required from the last ball of the match for 9/12L to win, but managing only three runs, victory fell to 3 Sqn. The team collected the match and individual trophies, plus a cheque for DM800 for squadron sports, from General Accident, the sponsors of the competition.

What Again! A dispirited RSM receives the wooden spoon for third time from the CO

The victorious 3 Sqn team win the General's Cup
Back Row left to right: SSgt (YofS) Atkinson, Lt Richardson, Cpl Bradick, Cpl Balderstone, Sgt Goodfield, WO2 (FofS) Underwood
Front Row left to right: WO2 Warren, LCpl Bascombe, Capt Campbell, Sgt Greenwood, Maj Carr

3 SQUADRON BATTLECAMP (or 'This is why I didn't join the Infantry')

This military bonanza was bestowed on 3 Sqn from 14-28 Aug, and was held at Vogelsang Camp. A wide range of military skills was practised (but rarely observed), and the camp culminated in a three day survival exercise. Having been told what could be taken, the participants were searched before leaving, and several sacks of 'goodies' removed by a grinning Acting SSM, **SSgt 'Taff' Assender.** A good part of the contraband was found hidden on the impressive person of **Cpl Andy Bellew,** his protestations being spoilt by six packets of sweets stuffed into his boot-tops. The squadron then lived on a combination of bramble tea, nettle soup and the occasional frog for the next three days, and on their return to camp astounded even the most experienced cooks—(What! more beans?).

VISIT OF CSO

At last the CSO, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE**, managed to visit the regiment in Verden when the CO was present. Leaving his wife, **Janet**, with **Mrs Carr-Smith** the CSO then visited the Regimental Inter-Squadron Shooting Competition, this year won by 201 Sig Sqn. The CSO and **Mrs Hild** attended a Regimental Officers Supper party that evening and then left very early the next morning.

ANGLO-GERMAN WEEKEND

This year's Anglo-German Weekend was held on 11-13 September. Following on from the award of the Freedom of Verden to the regiment last year, this year's celebrations were better than ever. The Anglo-German Ball, the Band Concert, the Children's Sports and the events in the Stadium were all very important but the highlight was undoubtedly the 'Bunte Weise'—the Regimental Open Day. Magnificently organised—largely by 3 Sqn—we had the best Open Day for years. A Children's Fancy Dress Competition; an international 'It's a Knockout Competition'—(we won, but our second team was last!); fabulous stalls that produced some DM1500 for charity; and the CO disappearing at the end in a hot air balloon! Later that evening we had a Anglo-German 'Knees Up' in the gymnasium, that went on well beyond official closing time.

NEDDY AND PAN'S PEOPLE

On 20 Sep Neddy Seagoon himself, **Sir Harry Secombe,** led a Lord Taverners Side (including 4 ex-England players and 3 ex-County players) against the CO's team which included seven Regimental players. However, the real delight—apart from **Sir Harry, Alfred Marks** and others, who had put on a show entitled 'Sir Harry Secombe and Friends' the night before—were four smashers who make up Pan's People, and seemed to spend their entire time with **Sgt Pearson** and the Regimental Police Staff. The RSM was furious and the RP staff have continued under his instructions, to move their feet very high and very fast ever since!

Pan's People on a recruiting tour. SSgt Scouse Williamson, LCpl Norrie Wills, Cpl John Kerr and Sgt Joe Pearson, obviously not enjoying themselves!

VISIT OF SOinC

It was a pleasure to receive the first visit of **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE** to the regiment as SOinC on 5-6 Oct. He attended a Regimental Officers' Guest Night and next day visited 2 Sqn undergoing military training. Before he left, he presented the Summer Page Trophy to 1 Sqn and also the Queen's Commendation for Bravery to **WO2 Paddy Lavery** SSM of 201 Sig Sqn for his part in a fire at Hohne in February. Well done!

SOinC and Sig Charlie Campbell discuss weapon training. Maj Carl Conlon, OC 2 Sqn, looks on

A delighted SOinC is presented with a 1 Sqn sweatshirt by Sig Russ Berridge. A surprised but pleased CO and Regimental Officers look on

SOinC presents 'The Summer Page Trophy' to LCpl Tony Fahey of 1 Sqn, this year's winners

SOinC congratulating WO2 (SSM) Paddy Lavery

MISCELLANEOUS

Congratulations to **SSgt Steve Hunter** on the award of the LS&GC medal, presented to him by Commander Verden Garrison, **Brig P. R. Duchesne OBE**, on his initial, official visit to the regiment on 6 Aug.

Lt Col George Lackonick, newly appointed CO of the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment, paid a flying visit to Verden on 7-8 Oct. We hope to see him back soon.

A happy SSgt Steve Hunter having been presented with his LS&GC by the Garrison Commander

Our thanks go to the eight volunteers from UK, led by **Ted Booty**, who provided such a great time for over 50 of our children on the Toc H Play-scheme during the Summer holidays.

2IC Maj Nigel Wood thanks Toc H play-scheme leader Mr Ted Booty

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GCHQ

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

HERE AND THERE

From our Comms Tp Correspondent

Since our last notes we have had our run-down period promised us after Ex *Crusader*. Leave took a certain priority in the squadron with Spain and Italy being favourite for those amongst us loaded with filthy lucre. (Have you noticed that seniors are like policemen, you can never find one when needed).

Some of our luckier sailing types managed a fortnight in the Baltic, pursuing a boatload of females around the German and Danish coasts and gaining some experience for next year! The dinghy team won the minor units trophy at the Corps Regatta (for attendance) and beat several major units for runners up in the 2 Div Regatta (for perseverance).

The footballers got off to a spectacular start in Berlin with a 15—0 win over BMH (It was noticed that **Sgt Ayatollah Welch** replaced his 'Rhino hide whip' after the match). It is not known which ward they were playing.

One shouldn't reach the conclusion that during this period we were running a holiday camp, a great deal was accomplished in the field of military training and the never ending task of 'Panzer' maintenance and modifications. The dreaded BFTs were run (which brought a lot of worms out of the woodwork) and **LCpl 'knees' Howie** finally passed his APWT.

Capt 'La longue Carabine' (Pathfinder to his friends) **Ewbank** led several radio recces for our forthcoming part in Ex *Red Claymore* and was awarded the chocolate frog award for achievements in map reading. **2Lt Patrick Windsor Brown** and **SSgt Mick Leitch** led a border patrol on which **Cpl Steve Cooper** was awarded the chocolate frog for disco dancing. (We couldn't allow 'Pathfinder' on this one on account of his map reading).

The following are currently rumoured within the squadron:-

The Yeoman is going on exercise. (Seen airing his sleeping bag). The 2IC knows what's happening on *Red Claymore*. The OC Sqn will be briefed by **Staff Mick Leitch** on arrival in location. **Cpl Eric Young** will brief **Staff Mick Leitch** on payment of his coffee fund. **Cpl Dick Gamble**, like the bumble bee, is aerodynamically unsound. The OC is growing a moustache. The 2IC has grown a moustache. OC Comms would like to grow a moustache. The SSM is organising another brewery trip. Support troop really exists.

SUPERSTARS 81

On the 25 September, 16 members of the regiment started two gruelling days of competition to find the regiment's Superstar. **Sgt Len Hunt** (making a brief visit to the regiment during a break from ski training) had put together 10 events of which each competitor had to do eight.

Seen here from left to right—Maj Charles Kemp, Sig 'Shaft' O'Connor and Lt Adam Ewell—all showing the strains of the 1500 metres

The end of the first day saw **Pte 'Andy' Anderson** leading the field after five events. The most interesting of these, from a spectator's point of view, being the penalties. **Sig Steve King** was voted the goalie least likely to make the regimental football team after an uneasy time in goal. Day two started with a cycle race, one mile uphill, probably the hardest event of the 10. The competitors raced in pairs and **Maj Hercules Kemp** (OC 3 Sqn) won the event after a fine ride. The final event (and compulsory) was the assault course. Once again they were set off in pairs with the rain making the course more difficult for the tired would-be Superstars. **Cfn Mick Nicoll** won this final event and gained fourth place overall.

Lt Col Sam Cowan praised the Gym staff for all their hard work in putting on the competition and paid special tribute to all those taking part for making the Superstars competition such a success. **Cpl 'Paddy' Killen** was overall winner with **Cpl Paul Davies** second, just ½ a point in front of **Pte 'Andy' Anderson** in third place.

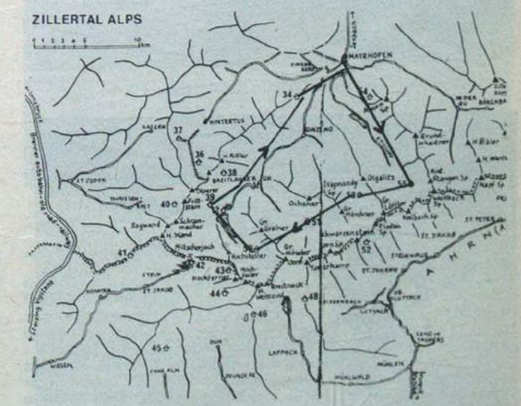
THE CHALLENGE FOR LUCKY 5 OF 3 SQN

Exercise *Gambler Locksmith*, 10—19 Aug 81, was an Adventure Training Exercise held in the Zillertal Alps of Austria. It was originally envisaged that a party of twelve would attend from the regiment. In the event there were only five participants. The exercise was led by **Maj Kemp**.

UNDER WAY

The aims were:- to give participants experience in high level hut touring, to give an introduction to Alpine rock climbing techniques and to climb some distinctive peaks in the Zillertal. Travel to Austria was by train. The participants all used a leave travel warrant to Jenbach to offset the travelling costs.

The party stayed each night in the Alpine huts. We were all members of the Austrian Alpine Club. This membership allows for half price accommodation in the huts, and, more important, guarantees a bed for the night. The price for a dormitory bunk is still very cheap, between 30—50 Austrian Schillings a night. The party took sleeping bags although all huts provide mattresses and blankets. The huts were very full this year. Particularly in the lower ones, there are a plethora of day trippers—mainly German. They do not add to the sense of isolation and adventure in the Alps. The huts used on Exercise *Gambler Locksmith* were as follows:-



Route taken—Ex *Gambler Locksmith*

Kassler Hut	a remote and very friendly hut with excellent food.
Greizer Hut	a more accessible hut and therefore very popular.
Berliner Hut	the biggest of the Austrian Huts—more of a mountain Inn. The clientele reflected this Status.
Fustschael Hut	a small elderly hut—somewhat expensive.
Olperer Hut	a quiet hut used more in the daytime than for night stops.
Friesenberg Hut	a remote forbidding building austere in its welcome and food portions.

COMPO PLUS CILOR

The party was granted 75% CILOR for the trip. We took 25% Compo with us and laboriously carried it day by day, its bulk and weight diminishing over the ten days. We purchased food from the huts. They are willing to sell fresh rations at somewhat inflated prices. The allowance for CILOR and the rations we took, covered 80% of our food costs.

THE PEAKS

The major peaks climbed were:- Schnobichler Horn 3135—Grade 2, Berliner Spitz 3253—Grade 2.

ECONOMICS

Overall costs of the expedition were as follows:-

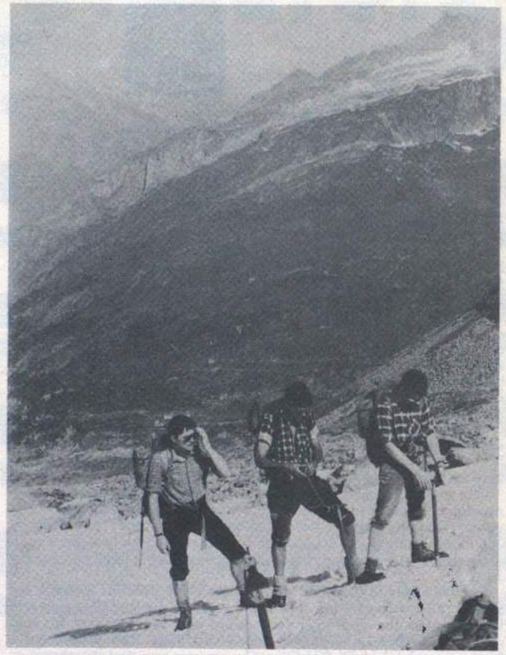
Food:	CILOR a/c	A Sch 3450
	Extra Food Prepared and unaccountable items	A Sch 1280
		TOTAL A Sch 4730
Travel & Accn:	Travel	DM 315
	Accn	DM 420
		TOTAL DM 735

IDEAL AREA

The aims of the expedition were achieved. The Zillertal Alps still provides an ideal area for taking a novice party to the European Alps. It is safe and confined and provides interesting routes and climbs.

Departure from the Kassler Hut

The approach across the Berliner Glacier



Berliner Spitz Gl—Gr Moseler in the background.
L to R: Cpl Robotham, Cpl Thorsby, LCpl Lee

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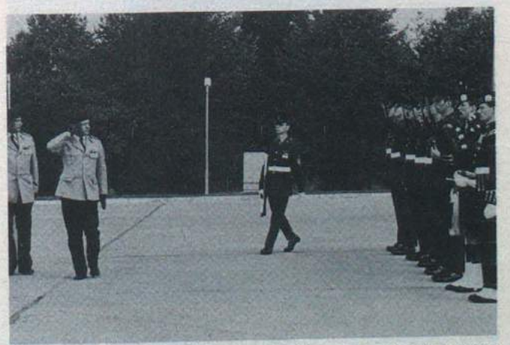
CRICKET SUCCESS

After a closely fought battle, the regiment narrowly beat 3 RTR in the Divisional Major Units Final. This was largely due to the prowess of **SQMS Don Holmes**, Red Dog to his CB fans and **SSgt Stan Stanbridge** of ERV fame. These two stalwarts were ably supported by **Cpl Nigel Scott** and the team's own 'Len Hutton',—**Maj Geoff Strivens**.

The Divisional Cricket Champions at the end of a successful season.
Standing L to R: Cpl Nigel Scott, Maj Mike Warren RE, SSgt Don Holmes, Sgt Gary Pullen, Maj Geoff Strivens, SSgt Smudge Smith, SSgt Dave Stanbridge, Mr Ricky Fields (Scorer).
Seated L to R: Capt James Shaw, Capt David Budge Gren Guards, Lt Col Tim Waugh, Maj Tony Moorby RA, WO1 Cliff Fields RA

VISIT OF GOC 7 PANZER DIVISION

On 17 Sep, **Maj Gen Frickinge** visited 3 Armd Div Headquarters where he was met by the GOC **Maj Gen J. N. S. Arthur**. The regiment provided the quarter guard which was trained by **SSgt Bill Hutton**. The guard commander was **Sgt Bob Hope** who presented his guard in German. The quarter guard were **Sigs Geordie Burton, Andy Bailey, Steve Bradford, Dave Chapman, Steve Barwis** and **Paddy Hatton**. The General was impressed not only by the drill and turnout but also by the fact that the parade was conducted in German throughout!



Maj Gen Frickinge followed by Sgt Bob Hope inspecting the quarter guard

2 SQUADRON IN BAVARIA

This year the Summer camp took the form of an adventurous training camp based at the Snow Queen hut at Petersthal in Bavaria. The arduous part was three days of hill walking, one trip being overnight, whilst the adventurous part included rock climbing and canoeing. Windsurfing was a popular alternative to canoeing and for most people this was their first chance to try this up and coming sport. The weather was variable to say the least. Oscar troop came back with tales of floods and downpours, whilst two weeks later Papa troop returned to camp as brown as berries. The remainder of the squadron, Rebro, Line and November Troops all had a mixture of the two extremes, but had enough good weather to enjoy themselves. When the weather was poor, local visits were arranged to places of interest by **Lt David Powell**. He ran the camp helped by **Lt David Sullivan** and together they led most of the walking.

Rock climbing was led by **Sgt Taff Crosby**, **Cpl Mick North** and **LCpl Robby Wiltshire** assisting him in teaching some basic techniques. This produced some very interesting moments with wet, slippery rock faces and novices 'freezing' on the climb, but 'face first' abseiling was the most unnerving experience for the beginners. **Sig Jock Sloan** wasn't too impressed at first but having seen others succeed, he realised that if they could then he could.

The canoeing was good especially for those keen to learn to roll. **Cpl Tim Wallis** taught everyone who cared to try and in spite of swallowing lots of water and numerous bow rescues, **LCpl Bert Wright** and **Sig Frankie Whitelegge** amongst others managed to master the technique. Even more enjoyment was had from the essential swimming tests held before the canoeing began. **Sig Tony Halsey** forgot to mention that he couldn't swim so that it wasn't until **Cpl Wallis** did a head count that he discovered he was one light. Once the panic and splashing had died down, **Sig Halsey** was duly dragged out of the water and **Cpl Wallis's** heart rate returned to normal. The newcomers to windsurfing seemed to catch on quickly in light breezes, but on the few really windy days they soon entertained the rest with spectacular crashes. All in all a very enjoyable two weeks in Bavaria.

Line troop cause havoc and disorder in the shipping lanes

A FAMILIAR SETTING

The hills and muddy river valleys of Lower Saxony provided the familiar setting for 3rd Divisions FTX Red Claymore in October, and Scharfoldendorf camp provided an even more familiar Control HQ. While noddy-suited 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sqn and 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sqn fought the Fantasions the rest of the regiment were controllers.

This left time for us to welcome the SOinC, **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle** and for **WO1 (RSM) Marshall** to host a 4-star lunch in his tactical mess. 2 Sqn ran a radio village containing a lot of mud as well as practically every cap badge in the division. **YofS Derek McLelland** mixed it with the handsets in Radcon, while **SQMS Dave Norris** prepared trout for OC **Maj Andrew Gale's** supper (trout was about the only thing 98B received all exercise).

Maj Gen Birtwistle having a chat to Sig Shocky MacGregor

SQMS Dave Norris tickling a trout

SSgt (YofS) Derek McLelland calmly reconfiguring his rebro plot by regrouping 98B with the CRA's 98C to make a double rebro (Y-split) to Red X-Ray through a frequency change on the outside leg of the comd 98A—and reading a book at the same time!

'Exercise is good for you, laziness is not' said **Lt Max Springer**, and **QMSI Pete Brierley** and **WOII (SSM) Mick Bailes** believed him, so off they went on a 7 mile jog along the Ith ridge.

The picture of the wrong end of a US Army Chinook was after a flight in gale force winds. **Cpl Sammy Green** (second from right) had to call for the brown bag, but oddly enough he is the only one who doesn't look pale.

POSTINGS

We welcome back an ex SSM of 3 Sqn, this time as RSM. We hope that **WO1 (RSM) Marshall** and his wife **Myrtle** enjoy their stay here. He takes over from **RSM John Kirkman** who leaves the regiment on commissioning for 7 Sig Regt.

As the new University year begins, we say goodbye to **Lts David Sullivan** and **David Powell** who are off to the RMCS and Cambridge respectively. **2Lt Shaun Swithenbank** (Botherington) of Cardiff University has been attached to the regiment and now returns to University to continue his studies into the physics of music—whatever that is.

SSgt Eddie Holmes REME, Sgt Sam Tate, Sig Basher Chapman, Dvr Gary Wadeson, LCpl Ron Blight, Cpl Reg Saunders, LCpl Martin Smith, Cpl Sammy Green, and LCpl Tiny Blohm looking happy at not having been an unlashing load

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

AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER

Members of 3 squadron spent a very pleasant two weeks in Denmark training with HQ Company of 4 Telegraph Battalion who are stationed at Hovelte in Zealand. The visit began with a full dress parade to welcome us to Denmark and here the difference between the armies was very obvious. On the one hand a fully professional highly disciplined team showing some very polished and traditional drill movements whilst the members of 3 squadron were not too over-shadowed. Despite the long hair, talk of unions and overtime, it soon became obvious that our Danish hosts were very much a force to be reckoned with and although some of them had 'muscles' in unusual places and filled their uniforms to perfection they proved that female soldiers can be as good, if not better than their male counterparts. Immediately after the parade we were introduced to a charming Danish custom of 'If in doubt, have a drink'. On this occasion it was a dry white wine although some considered 0930 slightly early for drinking.

A POPULAR PHASE

The majority of the first week was spent observing the Danes exercising in the field, practising for their major AMF exercise. It soon became clear that when a signals unit is having a warm up exercise for a major event, onlookers and passengers can easily get in the way, but, despite this, a good insight was obtained to the Danish way of providing communications.

On returning to barracks those who had been unable to deploy for the exercise, all the officers and senior NCOs, were quickly informed of yet another charming Danish custom. 'NBC de-contamination'. This proved a very popular stage of the visit. It consisted of all exercise personnel removing everything except their gas mask and walking through a tent containing showers. No one seemed to mind that the females also went in at the same time. Pity that we don't get anti-mist with the new respirators. We did get thirty six applications for the next Danish NBC instructors course!

IT GETS BETTER

If this is starting to read like 'Confessions of a Soldier' it gets better. A visit to various castles was arranged prior to doing a visit to the local Brewery. Despite a rousing chorus of 'we shall not be moved' we had to yield to the pleas of the workers whose working day ended at 1600 hrs.

A motor rally using land rovers may sound old hat but not Danish style, especially if it is preceded by swimming and there are no changing facilities. This did not deter the **YofS Lemmie Lomas**, he was only too keen to have a dip. During the changing into swimming costumes, a 200mm telephoto lense became worth its weight in gold.

A day on the ranges provided some thrills and excitement, the Danish attitude is more 'relaxed' than ours. We fired the Danish G3 carbine and they fired our SLR, SMG, LMG AMD GPMG. Telling a Danish girl soldier to fire in bursts of four to five was not successful. There was no way she was letting go of the trigger until the belt was fired. A smile and 'sorry my English is not good' was sufficient reason of course. **SSM Mick Raybould** demonstrated the LMG and **Sgt Ian Durrant** the GPMG. Danish shooting accuracy proved to be very good as well.

An even more charming Danish custom had in the meantime become apparent. For the younger members of the squadron it proved unnerving but for the majority it was 'magic'. Some of the girls lived in the same block as ours and of course shared the shower facilities. **Sigs Stu Fell** and **Albert Lee** had a record of eighteen showers in one day.

A GREAT SUCCESS

The final joint get together was the Regimental sports day with full participation from the squadron. The squadron finished a very creditable second with victories in the volley ball, football and another second place in the swimming. The many parties, mess dinners, discos and other social occasions need no mention except to say they were a great success and greatly enjoyed by all.

YofS Lemmie Lomas with Danish Soldiers (two)

SSM Mick Raybould instructing the LMG to Danish Soldiers

INTER SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY

The inter squadron cross country competition for 1981 was held on 1 Oct. The 8km course was set over the hilly Stuckenburg feature just east of Herford. In all, 320 members of the regiment and Headquarters participated in this event, which represented a large percentage of the in-station strength that day. The race was run in fine warm conditions, although the course was still very muddy from the previous week's heavy rain. The individual winner in a time of 32 mins 7 secs was **Cpl Tom Pollard** of HQ Squadron followed by **Cpl Geordie Wandless** in 33 mins 48 secs, and **Capt Murrey Martin-Rhind** in 3rd place in a time of 34 mins 31 secs. The first veteran home was **YofS Lomas** in a time of 39 mins dead.

The Inter Squadron Trophy was again won by 1 Sqn with 146 pts, with 3 Sqn in second place with 204 pts. In all, a fine time was had by everyone, although there were a few stiff legs to be seen the next day.

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

MANY CHANGES IN 5 SQUADRON

Goodbye, farewell, sorry to see you go, welcome to the squadron, hope you'll enjoy your tour here. These are phrases that most people in the Army become used to but in 5 Squadron this year we have seen so many changes that they are becoming key words.

With the departure of Kilo troop to 3 Squadron, the remaining troops reformed with the Technicians and Drivers forming SHQ Troop, the Operators and Linemen forming Papa troop and Corps Lighting Troop moving closer to the squadron area.

On the management side, as seen below the new team formed and tried to settle down to learning the squadron role.

	OUTGOING	INCOMING
OC	Maj Abbott	Maj Abbott
2IC	Capt Cuthbert	Capt Parsons
OC CLT	Capt Chipp	Capt Lewis
OC Papa	Lt Smith	Lt Smith
SSM	WO2 Scott	WO2 Carpenter
FofS	SSgt Napier	WO2 McIlree
YofS	SSgt Wingate	SSgt Wingate
Line Sgt	Sgt Dalton	Sgt Pearson
MT Sgt	Sgt Cawley	Sgt Wheatley

THE TEAM FORMS

The year started with a run up on a Regimental exercise designed to lead up to Ex's *Flying Falcon* and *Winter Sales*. *Flying Falcon* was to give us our first look at a popular Commhead wood 'somewhere in Germany' an area that looks bad enough when covered with a deep winter's snow and accessible only by snow chains—as we were to find out later this was a wood in its more mild setting. The exercise progressed well and we moved down to the more luxurious surroundings of Senne ranges for the weekend prior to *Winter Sales*.

WIVES SEE IT ALL

Hands up those married men who have not heard the cry 'It's all right for you having a good time travelling round Germany while I'm stuck at home looking after the kids'. Not many hands raised I think, **Maj Ron Abbott**, OC Commhead Papa, decided that if Mohammed can't go to the mountain then the mountain must come to Mohammed. It was Saturday, 21 Feb when the mountain, in the form of a bus carrying the squadron families, arrived in the exercise location. The families slipped and slid their way up the snow covered tracks to the Admin area where the OC gave a briefing on the role of the Commhead. A tour of the exercise area to see 'hubby' in his working role was followed by lunch (enjoyed by all) followed by **SQMS (Sandy) Geddes** handing out boiled sweets and chocolates to the children. The visit proved to be a great success all round, with the wives admiring the field cooking facilities and standard of food and the main benefit for everyone being the enjoyable break in routine.

Winter Sales passed without too many heart palpitations and the squadron returned to camp to recuperate and prepare for Ex *Wintex*. A static location at Bielefeld meant a lot of hard work initially laying lines, establishing comms with the Northag and Flank Germans but soon we had settled down and could divert our efforts to training. With the aid of **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Scott's** instructional ability, we managed to obtain HGV permits for a number of squadron personnel. The CO turned his hand to switchboard operating and Miss Wintex posters were swopped for German 'compo' rations.

AND SO TO WAR

April saw us invade the training area at Haltern, where the squadron practised its military skills. Shooting, mil tactics, night marches etc. were followed by a gourmet cooking lesson by the OC, take one live chicken, kill and cook, its amazing the number of people who enjoy their Sunday roast chicken, but blanch at the prospect of actually killing and preparing it. The exercise debrief was disrupted by a certain squadron member coming on parade complete with chicken on collar and leash.

With Regimental exercises in May and June to keep us on our toes, we hit our busiest month in July.

ABUNDANCE OF MUD

Ex *Summer Sales* saw us back in our favourite wood, only this time we faced knee high mud instead of snow. With **Sgt Dave Dalton** leading the badgers through the mud to lay the lines and **Cpl Tony Harrison** and **LCpl Carl Crofts** tweaking the triffids, we established comms and awaited the staff invasion. The exercise went well and we said farewell to **Capt Robin Cuthbert** and **Sgt Joe Cawley** who winched and pushed us from one location to another.

Between our exercise commitments the wives managed to fit in a visit to Hannover for the Tutankhamen exhibition and **LCpl Danny Viegas** bravely took a hockey team to Bielefeld to play the WRAC, nobody can remember the score but the social activities left a lot of sore heads.

'Triffids are Go'
SSgt John Tope leads out the Radio Relay
(Picture by WO2 (FofS) McIlree)

Cpl Bill Shields — Sgt Chris Webb
(Tech Controllers in action)

We have sappers too in this Sqn. Cpl Tufty Ellis

THE BAVARIAN TOUCH

Dreams of a mountain suntan faded as the rains washed through our camp site, making us wonder if we were back in that popular wood! Luckily a guardian angel turned up in the shape of the manager of the General Walker Hotel, who gave us the use of the underground bunkers nearby, where we could put our tents and keep dry. The adventure training activities got under way with the OC and **Sgt Mullsack Pearson** taking rock climbing, the SSM **WO2 Mick Carpenter** leading the way in the swimming tests, **LCpl Chris Ford** instructing canoeing, **Capt** (I'm going for a run) **Chipp** leading the mountain treks and **WO2** (that's entertainment) **John McIlree** running the tours and visits. The admin side of the camp was ably managed by **SSgt (YofS) Bill Wingate** and **Sgt John Roberts** while the REME det consisting of **Cpl Paddy Barratt** and **Lcpl John Fitch** changed engines, fixed gearboxes, clutches and kept us on the road (is **Cpl Barratt** the new OC LAD?). On the social side we managed to fit in two games of football against the female and then the male staff of the hotel, followed by a barbecue and challenge of a rounders match before our departure. We left Berchtesgarten for an eighteen hour journey home with fond memories and thoughts of how lucky we were to be given such a friendly reception.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Heard at OC's Conference: OC 'Now, about the Tutankhamen visit FofS: 'No problem Sir, I'll take him round Diamond 2 Sigs and you can show him the Admin Area.

'TOP OF THE POPS'

Lost in France—Siggy Bray & the Legionnaires, Tom, Tom, Turnaround—SSM, Blinded by the Light—CLT, 48th Crash—**LCpl Clive Southon.**

RUMOUR CONTROL

WO2 (SSM) Scott has opened a correspondence course in importing cars to UK at minimum cost.

HAPPY VOLTIGUER NOTES

Any illusions anyone might have had that a two week summer camp in La Courtine, situated in the Massif Central between Limoges and Clermont Ferrand, would be a holiday, were quickly dispelled by the publication of the training programme. Each morning was to start with a battle run and there was to be a three day exercise which meant at least two nights out in the cold! Nevertheless those selected were enthusiastic as the advance party left on 1 Aug for a three day drive across Germany and France. The journey was not without incident:

'Whilst travelling to La Courtine, the prize for getting lost was won by the tail end rover, skilfully (?) crewed by **Cpl 'Oggie' Ogburn, LCpl Stevie Barr** and **Cfn Bob Kirk.** On the way to the 2nd step, after having a problem on the road, we lost the convoy, but undaunted by this we carried on up the Autobahn, caution thrown to the winds. Not seeing the convoy for 10 mins we decided that they had left us. Passing a sign to the French border which was a two ton limit, we decided they couldn't have gone that way. Wrong. Arriving at a larger border post, **Cpl 'Oggie' Ogburn** leapt out of the rover and approached the border guards, mistake number two. Wrong border. Swiss. On approaching a (not known at time) Swiss border guard, above mentioned Corporal is looking at the wrong end of a 9mm pistol, with real bullets. After a hurriedly put together story, a very white and trembling **Cpl Ogburn**, returned to the rover, muttering something about 'thank god for puttees' and 'adrenanlin is brown', **LCpl Stevie Barr** decided he better drive, and in the opposite direction without regard for the speed limit. We were given directions to another (French this time) border, which you could just get a rover in.

We finally joined the convoy, with the humour of the OC and SSM, because we were late we didn't get a map which on the final leg to La Courtine proved fatal, as we lost the convoy again, but arrived in La Courtine half an hour before the convoy did. We didn't get lost on the way back!'

The main body did not leave until 3 Aug and travelled by rail to Ussel where transport eventually arrived to take the weary bodies to the camp of La Courtine. The camp buildings looked quite daunting and it came as no surprise that the Foreign Legion occupied several of the barrack blocks. Inside, as well, the accommodation was spartan, but having travelled for a day and a half everyone was pleased to have somewhere to sleep.

POUNDS SHED

Training began at the crack of dawn the following morning and the standard was set for the remainder of the 'holiday' when the squadron undertook an arduous run to familiarise itself with the camp and training areas. The only break from this routine was after the three day exercise, so by the end of our fortnight there were many fitter bodies and many pounds had been shed.

The aim of the exercise was mainly to practice the JNCOs in leadership. This was achieved by splitting the squadron into six sections each led by a Corporal with a LCpl as second in command. As military lessons were taught and learned, an intelligence scenario was gradually built up, to lead into the three day exercise in which all the skills learned would be put into practice. Therefore the initial days were spent practising section battle drills, patrolling, vehicle anti-ambush drills and the like. A lot of enthusiasm was shown despite the weather, which at times gave us glorious sunshine whilst at others without notice rain became torrential. **Sig Harrison** excelled himself in these opening days by losing two BFAs on consecutive days.

The drills were taught within the first week and the scenario had been set for the exercise. Each section was given various tasks and having been dropped off by helicopter at an FUP, each made its way to an RV where patrol bases were established. Recce patrols were sent out that evening but little was achieved so each troop swept across country with helicopter cover to try to locate the enemy. Reaction was good from both troops, but the enemy had been well briefed not to get involved. **LCpl Vinny Fallon** was getting more and more upset with **LCpl Stevie Barr** (playing enemy) who taunted him as he was running away time and again.

THE SNAKE

The OC must have a mean streak in him somewhere, as **LCpl Fallon** was placed in charge of a fighting patrol tasked with a snatch that evening and **LCpl Barr** was one of the enemy in the location. Needless to say **LCpl Barr** was captured and the OC had to intervene before **LCpl Fallon** took his 'interrogation' too far. Of the other night activities that evening, one went well, the other not so well. One section was ambushed and managed to get away to complete another task. The other section under the able leadership of **LCpl Martyn Davies** was tasked with laying an ambush, which the enemy was to walk through. The ambush was set quite efficiently and there was little noise (except for a few snores) for several hours. As the enemy was supposed to pass through at about midnight, by two o'clock people were becoming restless. Then the silence was broken by the following conversation.

LCpl Davies—'Sir, Sir', **2Lt May**—'Shut up', **LCpl Davies**—'Sir, I think I've got a snake crawling up my back'.

All in close proximity burst into laughter. The situation was eventually remedied, (mysteriously nobody saw the snake) and after a further two hours it was decided that the enemy was not coming. The Sergeant Major walked through as a token force and the area was illuminated with pyrotectnics for several minutes before the ambushers left, quite disheartened, for their patrol base. After a couple of hours sleep everyone was back again for the final assault, which was to have been heli-borne. Visibility did not permit this however and the advance started on four tonners. After several ambushes en route, both troops came together for the final assault, which meant ten minutes skirmishing with smoke grenades in abundance. The finale was gathering up the enemy, who were thown into a pit one on top of another. But it was not all skirmishing and patrolling. Although performance on the exercise and pre-exercise training counted for half the points towards the inter-section competition there was still the assault course, and the ranges to come. After the continuous assessment two sections were tying for the lead, 1 and 6 sections. 6 section then went on to win the assault course with 1 section second, so the whole competition all hinged on the ranges, which were held over two days. On day one on the 9mm range one section was trailing in

third, whilst on the 7.62mm range 6 section were well placed. The deciding factor was when the 6 section sharpshooters won the 9mm competition and 1 section, despite winning the 7.62mm shoot, had to settle for second place. So 6 section consisting of **Cpl Gibbons, LCpl Davies, Sigs Hammond, Hague, Harrison, Brooks, MacBride** and **O'Kane** won the competition. Winner of the best JNCO was **LCpl Davies** and winner of most improved private soldier was **Sig Wood** from 3 Squadron.

KAPE TOUR

Nominal Roll:

Capt Geordie Gainford	**LCpls Ian Ward**
2Lt Steve May	**Rod Pocock**
WO2 (SSM) Ian Cairns	**Dave Wood**
Cpl Gig Plumb	**Kev Stacey**
LCpls Vinny Fallon	**Kev Dyer**
Chalkie Atkins	**Sigs Kip Hearns**
Taff George	**Nobby Robbins**

The more observant amongst you will have noticed that the KAPE Tour was officially composed of 14 members of the regiment. As it was our intention to publicise the sporting side of Army life, as well as the type of work expected of us, and since the cricket season (if they have such a thing in Wales) was over, it was necessary for some to take leave and join us in Cardiff. The following gave up two weeks of their own time to produce the good image of the Army in general and the Corps and regiment in particular: **Capt Andy Forster, Sgt Andy Hickling, Cpls Danny Daniels, Taff Kessell, Harry Elkan, Willy Henderson.**

Although it did not start until early September, a lot of hard work had to go into the preparation and organisation of the tour in order to allow it to run as smoothly as it did, for which **Capt Geordie Gainford** was chiefly responsible. Many long hours were spent preparing the vehicles (2 Triffid vehicles and 2 one-tonne clansman) to go on view to the public and our thanks are extended to all those concerned in achieving the very high standard, which attracted praise and admiration from several onlookers.

BY LSL

The preparations completed, the team left Maresfield Barracks early on 3 Sep. In the excitement a window was broken on one of the one-tonners which delayed its departure, but the vehicle was soon able to catch up with the slower 4-ton vehicles on the autobahns. Customs posed no problems and we arrived on LSL Sir Lancelot that evening. The boat sailed the next morning and the long journey to Maindy Barracks, Cardiff continued the day after. Understandably everyone was tired after such a long journey—not too tired however to go to the Top Rank in Cardiff.

A NEW ROLE

Those who might have overdone it on the Saturday night certainly paid for it the next morning, at 0900 hrs we did something that very few people can state they have equalled—we were running, giving piggy backs and carrying out various other exercises in the centre of Cardiff. The afternoon was spent recceing the first location and conducting a practice set-up, before more rugby training starring the infamous tackle bags of which **Andy Hickling** seems so fond.

Our first show was at Kings Square (in Barry) about nine miles from Cardiff. The set-up was slick, the presentation looked immaculate and everyone was switched on to the task in hand, and this set the scene for the future shows. Various members of the team were at different times seen to be pushing prams, holding shopping and even cradling young children. After this first show, it was noticed that two shifts would operate more efficiently than having everyone around the vehicles at the same time, so the remainder of the shows were split between the 'A' team and the 'B' team.

MATCH UNDER FLOODLIGHT

From Kings Square Barry we proceeded to Barry Boys' School, where the local press came to take some photographs, and then to Cowbridge Comprehensive. This took us up to 7 Sep. In the evening we had our first rugby match against Beddau. The Welsh turned up late, so it was just as well that the stadium was floodlit. Our new-look team (already affected by injuries incurred in training) was leading 6-3 at half time, **Dave Wood** scoring two drop goals. A ten minute period in the second half lost us the game when Beddau scored two quick tries, a drop goal and a penalty. The team fought back strongly and pressurised the tiring Beddau team, but could not seem to find the finishing touches. Our efforts were rewarded by a consolation try scored by **Kev Dyer** from a line out near the Beddau line which **Andy Forster** converted. The final results—a 17-12 victory for the Welshmen. **Chalkie Atkins** had a glorious debut, making some very telling tackles which won him the man of the match award.

TO NEWPORT

The next day the 'A' shift was off to Newport to set up in John Frost Square, which involved taking off the triffid masts to gain access to the square. The Mayor of Newport put in an appearance, accompanied by the local press, who took a photograph of **Capt Geordie Gainford** saluting the Mayor, whilst the Mayor salutes back. If anyone should find this picture it would surely ruin **Geordie's** career. Day 9 saw the 'B' shift setting up at RAF St Athans in preparation for the Open Day at the RAF base the following day.

A SECOND MATCH

In the evening we played our second rugby match against Newbridge United. On a poor open pitch we were unfortunate to be 3-0 down at half time to a penalty. Just after half time the home team went 7-0 up, but our superior fitness again showed and we came back strongly to score a well made try. **Ian Ward** was the scorer after **Taff Kassell** had made a good break from loose play. Time ran out for us though and the final result was 7-4 against us.

THOUSANDS AT RAF ST ATHANS

The 'B' shift was on display at RAF St Athans the following day. The attendance was incredible. There were 50-60 thousand people swarming all over the camp. Our display once again gained many favourable comments from the numerous members of the public who climbed around the vehicles. The 'A' shift, not to be out-done put on an excellent show at the Vintage and Specialist Car Rally held at Tredegar House the following day. We were worried that this event would attract only the motor car enthusiast, and further worried that the incessant rain would deter the less keen. However our efforts and resilience to the rain were rewarded by a large turnout which showed a good deal of interest in our vehicles. The poor weather continued at a Swansea comprehensive school the next day and throughout the evening, when approximately 100 ACF cadets from neighbouring detachments came to play with our equipment. We then finished the display side of the tour with shows at Cwmbran and Caerphilly Carrefour.

THE FINAL MATCH

Day 15 was a day of cleaning up our accommodation and packing up our equipment for the return journey. We could not leave Wales, however without trying again to win a rugby match. We travelled to Cwmbran where, on a sloping pitch and in pouring rain, the home team overpowered us by some very slick movement of the ball which showed them to be well practised. **Willie Henderson** played a very good game which won him the man of the match award but the team lost by 18-0.

AND HOME

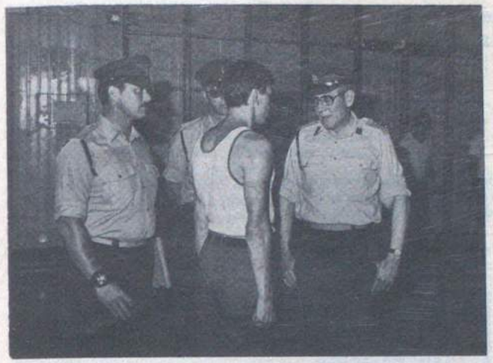
The return journey started the following day, setting out at 0530 hrs to begin the long voyage back to Maresfield. Looking back on the tour I think that everyone got something out of this display. The Welsh public were given a look at the men and equipment that their taxes pay for, and were, from many reports, well pleased with what they saw. As for the KAPE team, each member got a lot of enjoyment from coming into close contact with the very friendly Welsh and many lessons were learned on the rugby pitch. Most were a little sad to be leaving Cardiff and no doubt eagerly await out return (and to gain revenge on Beddau, Newbridge United and Cwmbran).

OUT AND ABOUT

The Brigadier General Staff, **Brig P. J. Evans CBE, ADC** recently made a flying visit to the regiment where he was shown the new range of radio equipment and our new gymnasium.

As a result of yet another successful regimental fete (without rain) a tidy sum was presented to the Bürgermeister of Herford for local German charities.

GOC 4th Division **Maj Gen J. B. Akehurst CBE** recently opened the regiment's new PRI Printing Press. On the press of a button the machine burst into action but, unfortunately, not for long. Now the teething troubles are over it's business as usual.



The Brigadier is seen talking to Sig Paul Sexby in the gymnasium

The annual multi-national Corps Signal Regiments parade was recently held at Köln and hosted by the Belgium army. The regiment was well represented with an extremely smart guard commanded by **2Lt Steven May.**

Maj Shiner presenting the cheque to the Bürgermeister of Herford. WO1 RSM Collins looks on

Maj Gen Akehurst seen starting the press with Cpl Alex Johnson explaining the operation

Following in Dad's footsteps young **Peter** son of **SSgt Dick** and **Janet Webb** was attested recently by the regiment's 2IC **Maj Shiner. Peter** is off to be a junior leader with the Queens and we wish him the best of luck in his new career.

The British Army of La Courtine rugby team which beat the French 20-0. 2Lt May and LCpl Fallon in foreground. Sig Bailey (hands on hips) and LCpl Barr bring up the rear of the line-out

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

MEDAL PRESENTATION

The Commander Headquarters Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig A. Yeoman** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and the Rhodesia Medals in the Sergeants Mess on 6 August.

Recipients from left to right, standing Cpl Leslie Brown, Sgt Kenneth Simister, Cpl Andrew Hockley, WO2 Davies 31 Comd Wksp REME, Cpl Nicholas Fordyce, Cpl Derek Whyle, Sgt Graeme Nicol. Sitting: SSgt David Lumb, Brig A. Yeoman, Col C. N. Last OBE, CO, Sgt Rodney Hicks

Recipients of the LS & GC Medal with their families from *left to right standing:* WO2 Davies REME, Mrs Davies, Mrs Dorothy Simister, Sgt Kenneth Simister, Cpl Leslie Brown, Mrs Mary Brown, Brig A. Yeoman, Mrs Brenda Lumb, SSgt David Lumb, Mrs Valerie Hicks, Sgt Rodney Hicks.
Sitting: Paul Lumb, Beverley Lumb, David Lumb, Jennifer Hicks

Recipients of the GSM Rhodesia being congratulated by the Commander and the DAA & QMG. *From left to right:* Maj Mike Patterson, Sgt Graeme Nicol, Cpl Nicholas Fordyce, Cpl Andrew Hockley, Cpl Derek Whyle, Brig A. Yeoman

1 SQUADRON TECHNICIAN UPGRADERS

On Sun 15 Mar, 13 intrepid fit Cpls commenced a marathon run from Thornton Witlass to Catterick Garrison, with the aim of raising as much money as possible for the Dales Special School, which is an excellent modern local school for physically and mentally handicapped children.

Sunday was a bright sunny day but not too warm for the runners who completed the marathon distance of 26 miles. The runners were:- **Cpls Fred Smith, Geof Dawson, Steve Ible, Gig Plumb, Chris Balaam, Tim Price, Willie Weatheritt, Ian Anton, Tony Johnson, Dave Boxhall, Bruce Milford, Paul Martin** and **Sean Kent**. The valuable backup team was composed of:- **Cpls Steve Jennings, Spud Murphy** and several wives. In particular **Mrs Kent, Mrs Balaam, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Prince, Mrs Plumb** and **Mrs Ible** who manned the checkpoints and provided much needed refreshments.

The sponsored money, as always, took a long time to collect, but a final total of £841.56p was collected with an extra £40 coming from the Cpls Mess. The money was presented to the school and has been used to buy a special contour slide which is guaranteed to be a great success, judging by the delighted expressions on the childrens' faces.

TE42 can rest assured that their efforts have been much appreciated.

Cpl Gig Plumb presents the cheque while members of TE42 admire the special slide

A FOAMING CHALLENGE

After the Spring and Summer disciplines of Sprint and Long Distance Canoeing, we approach the Autumn and Winter disciplines of White Water Slalom, and Long Distance Racing in White Water racing boats. Those of you who know this lovely country of North Yorkshire will also know that its rivers, notably the Swale and Ure, can be treacherous and the unwary canoeist learns some very sharp lessons very quickly.

The first White Water event which our canoeists have entered this season was a BCU event at Sleningford Mill, on the Ure. On Wednesday prior to the event our canoeists had to pick their way through a very rocky river bed and with little water about, it didn't look like the weekend was going to provide much of a challenge. Canoeists have special prayer mats and personal rain gods, however, for Thursday and Friday brought torrents of rain all day and night! By Saturday the river was in nice fettle—meaning that it was a rip roaring, foaming challenging stretch, of really testing Slalom canoeing for the two hundred or so novices who were to attempt it. Our composite teams did well and gained valuable experience. Paddling as a team in water conditions like those needs skill and determination and **Sgt Steve Hilton, Cpl Kevin Truby** and **Lee Llewellyn**, son of our Canoeing Officer, all found that they needed to work hard to stay in the points.

On Sunday the river had risen two feet and several of the Slalom gates had to be re-organised to cater for the very difficult conditions. Many of the younger entrants were scratched from the event, but our canoeists stuck with it and found some really good White Water conditions and enjoyed their individual runs enormously. **Capt Dave Llewellyn** wasn't very happy because someone sank his island under a foot of foam and he couldn't get his camera close ups, but some of the film came out OK!

Regimental teams will be entered in competitions all over the area in the 'run-up' to the Army White Water Championships at the end of November. There is a lot of activity here and a lot of enthusiasm. So if you like canoeing, you know where to come!

From left to right: LCpl Paul Jennings (1 Armd Div Sig Regt), Capt Dave Llewellyn (OC Canoeing), Cpl Dobbsy O'Brien, Sgt Steve Hilton, Mrs Debbie Hilton, Cpl Taff Thurston, Cpl Kevin Truby

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1 SQN—MT SECTION REPORT

Due to our boss **Cpl Dave Whittaker** being on his EPC Course for the last month, the MT has been in high spirits, for once peace and quiet reigns, no door slamming, no shouting and the supply of aspros lasts twice as long as normal. **WPte Sue B. B. Shiel** being the most mechanically minded in the MT is still learning how to jack a mini van up, well, at least the end that she wants up. **WPte Bev Sykes (Eric)** had an electrifying two weeks leave, (she came back curly). As for **WPte Lorraine Moore,** well, we'll say no more on that subject. At the moment **WLCpl Debbie Boulger** nee **Parker** is on honeymoon, with **WPtes Michelle Le-Merrer** and **Pam Widders** soon to follow suit. **WLCpl Linda** the MT can't run without me **Smith,** is still cracking the whip in the absence of **Cpl Whittaker** (boy is she ever). **WPte Lyn 'Rocky' Beech,** we are pleased to say, is being repatriated to 1 Sqn, Hooray! As for **WPte Tracey Beaman,** we appeal to you, Aldershot, to take her back or at least give us a solution to stop her talking, she's cracking us up!!!

EXERCISE 'EVERBLUE 1/81'

The squadron sponsored a Sail Training Expedition for a fortnight during the heatwave in August and members of the regiment both Royal Signals and WRAC enjoyed a splendid 14 days sailing in the Channel, under the expert supervision of **RSM Mike Wringe.** He skippered the Sail Training Yacht *Stormer* from the JSSC at Gosport, outward bound to Plymouth for the first week and then returning to Gosport after changing crews during the second week. HMSTY *Stormer* is a 27ft Halycon Yacht with 5 berths and was fully equipped down to full sea clothing for all the crew and proved to be very sound and seaworthy.

Apart from the marvellous weather and the expert WRAC cooking, some very pleasant sailing conditions allowed for some valuable crew experience and a chance to use the spinnaker on numerous occasions.

The cruise included a night sail which also included an encounter with false distress flares and rounding Portland Bill in a Force 6 charging along at 9 knots in heavy seas and rain. Poole harbour was notable, we nearly came to grief on a very large buoy and, but for the skipper's cool handling of the situation which saved the day, we might not have made it back to Gosport in one piece.

We are indebted to **Col Jumbo Thomas** and his staff at the Joint Services Sailing Centre Gosport for the provision of such excellent facilities and for allocating us one of his valuable yachts on which to spend such an exciting fortnight and it is hoped to repeat the expedition again next year.

1981 GOLF NOTES

The golf team at Wilton has recently been strengthened by **Sgt Jim Lander,** who arrived from Zimbabwe, having perfected his one iron tee shot, around the fairways of Salisbury (Rhodesia, not Wiltshire).

The Blandford Garrison Golfing Society meeting was held at Tidworth on 7 April and **WO2 (YofS) Watson** was a worthy runner-up in the singles Stableford competition. The Army Golf Association (SWDIST) held their Spring Meeting at Tidworth on 14 and 15 Apr. The partnership of **WO2 Steve Watson** (The Fonz) and **Capt John (JR) Meehan** were coasting towards an easy victory in the Stableford Foursomes, when **'JR'** became aware of his score and went 'out of bounds' on two holes and blew any chance of success.

The Royal Signals Corps Spring Meeting was held at Catterick over two days 30 Apr/1 May. This is a super social event and reunion and it's also alleged that some decent golf was played over the two days. **WO2 Watson** and **Sgt Lander** have been regular members of the UKLF Golf Team playing in the Wednesday Afternoon League with regular success. **Capt Meehan** played on occasions, this usually coincided with peak leave periods or exercise commitments.

The UKLF Summer Golf 'Open' Meeting was held at the Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Course 2 Sep. The Signals reps from 1 Sqn had a good meeting. **Sgt Lander** won the UKLF Championship; **WO2 Watson** won Division One (scratch—9 handicap), **Capt Meehan** was only there for the beer.

As a conclusion to the Golf season, although some of us do play right through the winter months using brightly coloured balls, the Royal Signals Corps Autumn Meeting was held at Tidworth over two days 24/25 Sep. The highly successful team of **Maj Ray Windmill, Capt Terry Lightfoot, WO2 Steve Watson** and **Sgt Jim Lander** won the Inter Unit Challenge Trophy—well done, especially as **Maj Windmill** was entertaining the 2 Signal Group Commander the night before.

To all our golf supporters in the regiment, may I extend on behalf of the 1 Squadron Golfing fraternity, our heartfelt thanks for your understanding and support. Keep swinging and watch the 'birdies'.

'D' SHIFTS ESCAPE FROM THE THREE MILE BOUNDARY

One day in July 'D' Shift led by **Sgt Bill** (you can't catch me) **Lofts,** boarded the mini bus and headed out of Wilton, you'll probably be surprised to know that we did make it further than the pubs in Salisbury. We started out for the RAC Camp at Bovington, as fifty percent of the shift had decided they wanted to drive a tank, unfortunately, or should I say fortunately for some, that was impossible to arrange, but we did have a quick look around the Tank Museum (if everyone could do their BFTs at the same speed, there'd be no problems). We then pointed our driver, **WPte Sue B. B. Shiel,** in the direction of Lulworth Cove, where we set compasses for the nearest pub; after re-fuelling, some of the girls decided to take out the row boats and play pirates out on the open sea, well, it would have been out on the open sea, if they could have stopped going round and round in circles. The biggest mistake of the day was finding out where the home made Wine Shop was, then it was scrumpy galore all the way to our next port of call, which was Tucktonia, where the little children of the shift went on the kiddies amusements. It was when we got on to the go-karts that our worst suspicions were confirmed, the driver couldn't drive but she managed to get us to Bournemouth, where the girls proceeded to lose their money in the amusement arcade and the men proceeded to lose theirs in the nearest pub. After going broke in the amusements the girls met up on the beach for a friendly game of football, which led by **WPte Skelly** 'you can't charge me' **Sampson** turned into a wrestling match, much to the amusement of the foreigners nearby. For our finale we made a human sandcastle using **WPte Liz** 'I hate the Army' **Duff.** After being spent-up, well lubricated and worn out we set off back, to within the three mile boundary.

2 SQN

THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT 1981

Each year the Royal Tournament is staged at Earls Court. SWS Troop, 10 Sig Regt have a heavy commitment for the communications and smooth running of the Tournament.

This year **Cpl Pete Alcock** was assistant producer and **Cpl Geoff Gardner** was Sound Effects Controller, helped by **Cpl Roger Brown, LCpl Glynn Brayley** and **Sig Andy Smith.** The SWS Troop section, led by **Cpl Pete Alcock,** moved in to Earls Court two weeks before the start of the show. An 18-station intercomm was cabled in; this provided two intercomm nets by which the Producer controlled the show. A 10-line Auto-Exchange was installed as a link from the Producer to the main control points, and point-to-point Field Telephones, all involving 800 metres of cable.

Once the installations were in, **Cpl Pete Alcock** assisted the Producer, **Maj Mike Parker** during rehearsals and all performances. As an assistant, his duties were: to time each act, and the intervals between acts, to turn on the Saluting Light above the Royal Box at the end of an act, to stand in for the Producer.

It so happened this year of the Royal Wedding, that **Mike Parker** was organising other festivities, so **Pete Alcock** was often in the Producer's chair. In this case, it is interesting that a Corporal, Royal Signals, should be responsible for: The Royal Tournament starting on time, the Guest of Honour, often Royalty, being brought in at the right moment, the Arena Master having each act ready behind the scenes, cueing each act and the Commentator, Lights and lighting changes, cueing sound effects and special effects from the roof.

Cpl Alcock took on these responsibilities with an (apparently) calm approach, on the basis that a TE Technician can cope with anything!!

A THIRD RESCUE BY MRS DAWN SMITH

For most of the time life at Tropo Signal Troop, Dover passes quietly with little to disturb the tranquillity. However, an air of hustle and activity recently enveloped us. **Mrs Dawn Smith,** wife of **Cpl Chris Smith,** started the ball rolling, when, for the third time in her life, she rescued a person in danger of drowning. To do this she swam about 100 yards off shore at Hastings to recover a man who had stopped breathing. She successfully revived him and saved his life.

THE LESS SERIOUS

Back in Dover, Tropo Troop was running well lubricated by multitudes of drinks, courtesy **Mrs 'Di' Tuck** our general dogsbody. Members of the troop 'volunteered' for the 10 Mile Dover Charity fun run. MOD policeman **Bob Watts** and the then **Sgt Paul Crook,** now **Constable Crook,** deserve special mention for their forward places at the finish line. **Sgts Mick Taylor** and **Terry Kidd** then persuaded **FofS 'Blair' Smart,** after a Mess meeting, to arrange a Swingate to Hounslow Sponsored Charity Run in aid of the 'Jimmy Savile Stoke Mandeville Appeal'. Seven runners and one reserve, **Cpl Kayser Bond,** ran the 104 miles from the troop in Dover to the HQ in Hounslow, in 14 hours, arriving in time for the All Ranks Dance at the Bruno Club. The total funds raised reached £371.23. The runners were **WO2 'Blair' Smart, Sgts 'Terry' Kidd, 'Mick' Taylor, Cpl Bertram** and **PC Bob Watts,** all veterans of the fun run who were joined by **Sgt Phil Peet** and 16 year old **Lee Smart.**

THE MORE SERIOUS

The serious side of station life includes a military training programme and noteworthy was the occasion when two appliances from the Dover Fire Brigade joined us for Fire Training. Timing was perfect, we were saying farewell when a live call was made and the ladder appliance was closely followed by a pump vehicle at high speed, lights flashing and klaxons blaring. What an exit, just like the end of shift change over.

FAREWELL

We have recently said farewell to **Constable Paul Crook** and **Mr Ray White** on their termination of service. We soon say farewell to **Foreman Smart** whose post is cut and **Sgt 'Mick' Taylor,** both on the move to Belgium and Germany respectively. This leaves **SSgt 'Beau' Joglekar, Sgts 'Dave' Trippier, 'Dave' Ramsey, 'Ralph' Maddison,** our newest gladiator ugh! and **Cpl 'B' Frape,** all nearly kept in order for most of the time by our OC, **Capt (TOT) Trevor Kay,** Troop Bridge Captain.

3 SQN REPORT

Life has been busy in 3 Squadron over the past couple of months, mostly because of many sporting activities. Apart from rounders, great things were achieved with tennis. **Lt Shelagh Quinlan** was selected for the Army Women's Tennis Team in the Inter Service Tournament at Wimbledon. We are now happy to report that she was a member of the winning team, the Army having beaten both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. **Lt Quinlan** was presented with her Army colours by the Director WRAC after presentation of the Cup by **Field Marshal Lord Carver.**

Cpl Taff Allerton has run in a few mini marathons, one being the Burnham Beaches. She was joined in this one by **LCpl Helen Cliffe** who made a marvellous effort and ran the race with ease.

Happy hours have taken place at regular intervals and one of the evenings was taken up with a trip to the Theatre to see 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist'—an extremely amusing and enjoyable play.

Finally the squadron entered two teams for an it's-a-knockout competition, which took place in Aldershot. It was great fun and the teams did not disgrace themselves. However poor **LCpl Elaine Jones** overdid a leap from the Trampoline and ended up having her leg in plaster for three weeks.

SQUADRON ROUNDERS

On Wed 19 Aug an Inter Troop Rounders Tournament took place. Three teams were formed, the Commcen, the Exchange and SHQ. The fun and games started first of all with the Exchange playing the Commcen. The Commcen had an obvious advantage having so many of the Squadron Rounders Team. However the Exchange had some unexpected star players—**Mrs Irene Harding** proved her talent at catching on fourth post and proved invaluable at removing the opposition from the field. **Mrs Jean Baigent, Miss Velma Atkins** and **Mrs Jean Royal** all surprised themselves at their 'Eyes for the Ball'. Together with the sole representative of the Squadron Team, **Pte Lynne Richards,** the Exchange was not disgraced in any way. Needless to say the Commcen won.

The second round between SHQ and the Exchange proved to 3 Squadron that next year's squadron team will see some new faces. Rounders were scored by **Capt Jayne Petty**—albeit a sneaky one, and **Maj Andrew Briggs**—the first ever and the Star Guest **Capt Ken Glevville** on attachment from 34 Sig Regt TA (we wonder if he knew what he was letting himself in for). SHQ actually managed to beat the Exchange although the impartiality of the judges remains questionable!

The third round was the shock of the day when SHQ, now fully into the swing of things and playing together very much as a team, actually beat the seemingly invincible Commcen. This meant they were the overall winners of the Tournament and were duly presented with their medals by the OC—**Maj Andrew Briggs,** who was thus faced with the confusing task of giving himself a medal. The 2IC—**Capt Jayne Petty** quickly deputised and all players and spectators enthusiastically headed for the Bar for happy hour.

Next night an 'inter sex' rounders match took place. The Women's Team did extremely well to begin with. However once the men had mastered the game there was no stopping them and the ball was hit where no team had hit it before. **Sgt Ian Wilmot,** after many misses, suddenly realised a rounders bat is thinner than a cricket bat and became the Boycott of rounders. **Cpl Kevin O'Brien** and **Cpl Brian Brown** also became very skilful at the game. **WO2 Jill Walker** made a valiant attempt to get **Cpl Tank Fairbairn** out and, in doing so, collided head on with him, which resulted in **WO2 Jill Walker** doing a 'no hands' cartwheel through the air. Rather indignant she climbed to her feet and **Cpl Tank Fairbairn** became duty signalman for the next month. However the men proved themselves unbeatable and as darkness stopped play, the match turned into a happy hour and any hard feelings were forgotten, though poor **WO2 Jill Walker** walked around with a rather pained expression as a result of her gymnastics.

As well as the fun, the squadron rounders team did extremely well this year, coming third in South East District. Congratulations to all the team for their hard work!

INGREDIENTS FOR A DAY OUT

2 Members of Oscar Troop plus families (swimsuits optional)
6 crates full of booze
5 loaves (made into sandwiches) and a fishing line
1 rubber boat with paddles
1 sunny day

METHOD

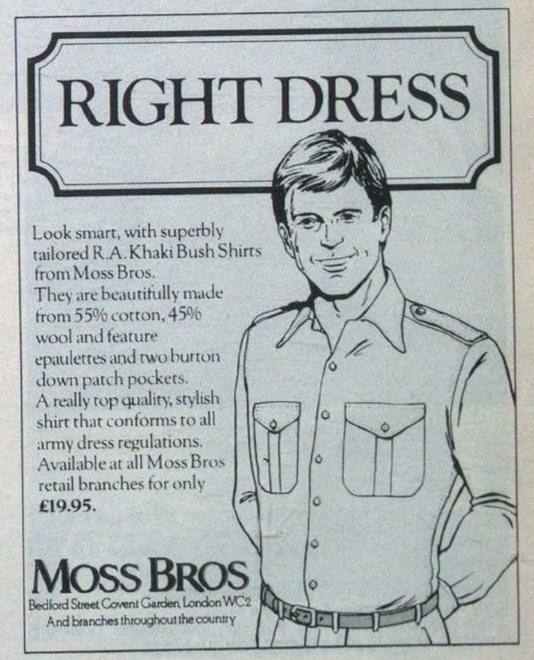
Mix all ingredients in back of 4 Tonner. Turn out on the banks of the Thames, spread over grass on blankets. When pickled immerse in water to remove dry covering, place in swimsuits to dry off.

ADDED EXTRAS

LCpl 'Chris' Nocetti used his ready supply of hot air to inflate the boat, aided and abetted by **Sig 'Buck' Buchanan** who collapsed after two puffs (and he was using the foot pump) **Cpl 'Joe'** (where's the beer) **Whittaker** had to be given mouth to mouth resuscitation . . . his mouth was put to the mouth of a beer can (or vice versa). **Pte Lynn Emery** was the first to prove that there may be nothing to a quick dip into the Thames. Everyone in the near vicinity was encouraged to follow her example and with the senior members of the troop and some of the more robust junior members in the river, a general flood warning was put out in the London area. **Sgt 'Mal'** (where's the Fosters) **Adams** on loan from the Kangaroo Army spent his time climbing trees . . . we think that he was homesick so we turned him upside down in the water to make him feel at home.

After a visit to the Happy Hour at Australia House, four members of the troop went for a hamburger and ended up with a bill for £75 in an Italian restaurant. **Lt Carlisle** is not going to be allowed to choose the menu again, even if she is the 'Catering Expert' in the Officers Mess.

All former Data Tg in London Central Commcen will be overwhelmed to hear that it is finally being refurbished . . . watch out for flying bacon.



11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON ADULT RECRUIT INTAKES
1 TROOP

Intake 8108 Passed Off the square on 14 Aug. The Inspecting Officer was **Brig G. R. Oehlers** DOR 4 (Army). The prize for Best All Round Recruit of the intake was awarded to **Sig S. A. Smoothy** a former electronic apprentice from St Ives, Cambridge. He is now to train as a Technician. **Sig P. Swailes** from Rochester was the best shot of the intake.

2 Troop

The reviewing officer for Pass Off of intake No. 8109 on 11 Sep was **Col A. J. Jackson** OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records. Best All Round Recruit was **Sig A. Jenkins** from Liverpool. Before enlistment he was employed as an Assessment Officer in the DHSS, and is now to train as a R Tg. The prize for Best Shot was awarded to **Sig A. Davies.**

2 Troop Pass Off Parade
Sig Jenkins—Best Recruit

2 SQN
Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Courses (RSSSC) No 177 and 178

RSSSC's 177 and 178 both ended on 7 Aug. Top students were **Sgt B. C. Howe** (177) of AA Coll Harrogate and **Sgt P. D. Manger** (178) of 14 Sig Regt.

Royal Signals Leadership Courses No 44

Our photograph shows the personnel who attended Leadership Course No 44 run by this Regiment from 6 Jul-7Aug.

RSSSC No 177
Back Row L to R: Sgts McMahon, P. Wilson, P. Wilson, Sanderson, Wilkie, Wood, Price, Martin.
Front Row L to R: Sgts Reay, White, SSgt Wyllie, Sgts Turner, Mahoney, Beeley, Aitken, Churchman, Howe.
Front Sitting L to R: Sgt Cummings, SSgts Pinder, Licence, Maj MacCulloch, WO2 Scott, WO2 Bentley, SSgt Bell, Sgt Doherty

RSSSC No 178
Back Row L to R: Sgts Hancock, Cherry, Hale, Parrish, Courtenay, Rodgers, Shaw, Marshall, Rees
Front Row L to R: Sgts Rogers, Millward, Manger, Pinkus, Wyse, Haydock, Leners, Parker.
Front Sitting: Sgt Doherty, SSgts Pinder, Licence, Maj MacCulloch, WO2 Scott, WO2 Bentley, SSgt Bell, Sgt Cummings

Royal Signals Leadership Course
Back Row L to R: Cpl Sykes, Sig Jacobs, LCpl Innes, Cpl Hunt, Cpl Wilkerson, Cpl Batchelor, LCpl Bunt, LCpl Herring, Cpl Nulty.
Front Row L to R: Sgt Parsons, Capt R. W. Blum R Signals, Capt L. J. Plumb R Signals, Sgt McCarthy, Sgt Jones

13 Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 42

The Regimental Cricket Team with their Trophies after winning the BAOR Cricket Championships at Rheindahlen on Sat 5 Sep
Standing L. to R.: Mrs Linda Emmott, (Scorer) Sgt Duggie Endean, Sgt Graham Manning, WO1 Dick Good, Maj John Radford, LCpl Chris Moye, Capt Mick Conway, Lt Col Conrad Garton
Kneeling L. to R.: Cpl Nigel Rock, LCpl Steve Young, SSgt Mo Emmott, WO2 Mick Ford, Maj Stan Brice

Our 2IC and Cricket Captain Maj John Radford receives the BAOR Trophy from CSO BAOR, Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE

Our CO Lt Col Conrad Garton receives his Cricketing Man of the Match award from CSO BAOR with Lt Col Peter Salisbury RA, BAOR Cricket Secretary, and Maj John Radford

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Friday 4 Sep saw a Ladies' Dinner Night in the Officers Mess to dine out our CO, **Lt Col Conrad Garton**, and his wife **Kathy**, our Technical Adjutant, **Maj Brendon Hughes**, and his wife **Jan**, and our Adjutant, **Capt Mike Sheehan** and his wife **Ruth. Maj Hughes** presented a print and **Capt Sheehan** a silver bugle in response to the CO's words of farewell, before the 2IC **Maj John Radford** rose to present the CO with a coffee table from all our Officers. The CO duly returned the compliment by presenting the Mess with a second 'throne' for future CO's to sit on at Dinner Nights, to match **Maj Bill Parkes'** gift of a PMC's chair, as featured in the July Wire.

The fortnight of handover to **Lt Col Mike Walker** started well with the BAOR cricketing success described below:

GIANT KILLERS DO IT AGAIN

For the third time in four years 13 Sig Regt won their way to the final of the Army (BAOR) Major Units Cricket Competition. In an ecstatic period of five days, the team, which was very much underrated by the BAOR cricket pundits, beat a strong Grenadier Guards XI from Berlin, demoralised the 1980 winners, 3rd Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and finally demolished the much fancied 8 Regt Royal Corps of Transport team at Rheindahlen on Saturday 5 Sep.

The final itself was a fitting climax for **Lt Col Conrad Garton** who was shortly due to relinquish command of the regiment after two and a half years, during which time he had played many memorable innings, but none so valuable as the 41 he scored in this game—and he was deservedly adjudged as 'Man of the Match'. The RCT side won the toss, elected to bat and made a slow but steady start to their innings. **LCpl Chris Moye** and **Cpl John Wheater** opened the bowling and restricted the opposition to 25 runs in the first 12 overs. **WO1 Dick Good** then produced an excellent display of the off-spinner's art and kept quiet the RCT's two BAOR batsmen, **Broome** and **Antrobus** for 8 overs. In the meantime, the Skipper, **Maj John Radford**, who admits to having been around for some time, took three wickets including the vital one of **Antrobus**, who is a potential match winner. **Cpl John Wheater** then returned to take two wickets in his final overs assisted by **SSgt Mo Emmott** who took one wicket.

The RCT innings closed at 140 for 8 wickets in the allotted 40 overs of play.

Bowling Analysis

Radford	3 for 26
Wheater	2 for 19
Good	1 for 24
Emmott	1 for 19
Moye	0 for 25

It was essential for the regiment to get off to a good start and this was provided by **SSgt Mo Emmott** and **Cpl Nigel Rock** who amassed 51 runs for the first wicket. The impetus was maintained by **Capt Mick Conway** and the CO with useful contributions by **WO1 Dick Good, Maj Stan Brice** and **WO2 Mick Ford**. Special mention throughout the cup run should be made of **LCpl Steve Young** whose fielding was always outstanding.

Leading averages during cup matches

Batting	Runs	Innings	Not Out	Average
Emmott	207	6	1	41.4
Garton	165	5	-	33.0
Rock	65	4	2	32.5
Ford	48	4	3	48.0
Brice	45	3	2	45.0

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Wheater	35	11	65	6	10.8
Radford	39	3	166	14	11.8
Emmott	38	4	125	7	17.8
Moye	41	8	102	5	20.4
Good	36	2	154	4	38.5

SOFTBALL FINAL

On Sat 12 Sep **WO2 Bob White** and **SSgt Mick Payne's** C Troop team narrowly beat 2 Sqn in a very exciting Softball Final, when **Lt Col Garton** presented the impressive Bill Hilger Trophy to the winners, commenting on the good sportsmanship and high casualty rate the game had created!

AUTUMN GOLF MEETING

On Sun 13 Sep the Autumn Golf Meeting was held on the Regiment's Course. An excellent day's golf was had due to the fine organisation of **WO1 Dick Good** and course preparation by **Capt Barney Hill** and **SSgt Bob Davies**. In the morning's medal round the gross prize went to **Maj (QM) Des Thomas** with **SSgt Bob Davies** winning the next prize. The inter-Sqn pairs competition was won by HQ Sqn with **Capt Barney Hill** and **WO1 (RSM) Paul Glover** returning the best score.

On a nostalgic note we said farewell to **Maj Joe Adams** who was the inspiration behind the Golf Course. It was also **Lt Col Conrad Garton** and **Mrs Kathy Garton's** last meeting.

1 SQUADRON—PUB LUNCH

At 1 Sqn Pub Lunch in the Quicksilver Bar on 16 Sep, OC 1 **Maj Keith Danby** gave the CO an 'Olen Mug' as a memento of their Summer Camp in Belgium this year. **WO2 (SSM) Bill** and **Muriel Garner** were also presented with a crystal set to show 1 Sqn's gratitude for all their cheerful support. The Theatre Club too, will miss their presence and we wish them well in Birmingham.

CO'S FAREWELL DRIVE

The handover fortnight climaxed with a farewell lunch on Fri 18 Sep to dine out **Lt Col Garton** and his wife **Kathy** after **Lt Col Mike Walker** and his wife **Pauline** had taken over the reins. Two Officers Mess photographs were ingeniously arranged by the outgoing Adjutant, **Capt Mike Sheehan** to record the 'before and after' situation. (These photos are now available for use as a 'Spot the Difference' competition for new arrivals). The **Gartons** were driven out of the regiment in a Pony and Trap along a route lined with their soldiers in best Royal Procession style. The regiment wishes them well in their new life at AFCENT and welcomes the **Walkers** to Birgelen.

Sgt John Smith tries sleep-walking beside the CO and Mrs Kathy Garton's carriage, as they are driven out of the Regiment on 18 Sep

FAREWELL TO THE MTO

Maj R. Adams known throughout the Corps as **'Joe'** was driven out of camp also by horse and carriage in August after serving in the Royal Signals since 1949. **Joe**, who had spent his last four years in service at 13 Sig Regt, as MTO/Messing Officer, has now taken up the post of OC SWS Troop at Sennelager as an RO. On the fateful last day he was given a grand send-off by the MT personnel, both military and civilian. Three horse drawn carriages assembled in the MT Park, and after a few ales to fortify his journey **Joe** was invited to lead the procession through the gates to take him home, where the local Fire Brigade had formed a Guard of Honour at his house. Once again a few ales were on hand to fortify the Fire Brigade and numerous people who had come to say farewell to **Maj 'miss the R' Joe Adams**.

Maj Joe Adams and Maj Bill Griffin RAPC prepare to drive away from the MT hanger on the MTO's last day of regular Army service

H TROOP

TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Bob Axton**
Ops Offr	**Capt David Rawlings**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Hooks**
Ops WO	**WO2 Pete Westwell**
Admin WO	**WO2 Harry Parkinson**
FofS	**WO2 Pete Downie**

VISIT OF CSO BAOR

CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** visited H Troop on 9 Sep. The CSO was met by the OC and SSM and then escorted to the Club 'Am Turm' to meet the administrative personnel during lunch. After lunch **Maj Gen Hild** was given briefings by the OC and the Ops Offr, and then met the unit staff guided by **WO2 Pete Westwell** and the Technicians under **WO2 Pete Downie**. The helicopter arrived on time escorted by **Mr Jones** of the British Frontier Service and the CSO was whisked away all too soon after his flying visit.

H TROOP SEPTEMBER 1981

Back Row from left to right: Sgt Bill Naylor, LCpl Bill Furey, Cpl Paul Glazzard, Cpl Mick Thompson, Sgt Paul Clarke, Cpl John Gillian, Pte Mark Gould, LCpl Steve Harris, Cpl Pete Goddard, LCpl Les Richardson, LCpl Paul McLoughlan

Middle Row: Cpl Mick Dighton, Sgt John Tyler, Cpl John Johnson, Sgt John Sherwood, LCpl Kevin Sargent, Cpl Steve Buck, Sgt Alfred McLoughlin, LCpl Robert White, Cpl Paul Smiley, LCpl Robert Cunningham

Front Row: Sgt Tom Lorrigan, WO2 Pete Estwell, WO2 Harry Parkinson, Capt David Rawlings, Capt (OC) Bob Axton, WO2 (SSM) Dave Hooks, WO2 (FofS) Pete Downie, SSgt Neil Mapp, Mr Mike Scott, Pte Rich Meredith, Pte Steve Hall, Pte Steve Nightingale, Pte Mark Britton, Pte Jim Howe

'H' TROOP STREET PARTY

All the troop married families live in the small town of Dannenberg in the centre of a German community, but the local council kindly allowed a street to be closed to traffic and decorated befitting a celebration in honour of the Royal Wedding. German residents, of course, were also invited. The weather was kind and the day thoroughly enjoyed by all, the costumes were colourful and the comments of the local people, loosely translated were: 'Cor, never seen anything like this before!', but they could have been referring to the slightly discordant community singing.

H Troop's Royal Wedding Street Party

METAL DETECTOR CLUB

The troop has started a metal-detecting craze, after troop members out on runs through the woods saw fox-holes. The German speakers among us found out from the locals, that at the end of the war there was a large battle between the US 9th Army and remnants of the German Army for the two bridges over the River Elbe. The club has now expanded to eight members and five extra diggers. So far the main area of search has been within ½ mile of the camp. The club has managed to find two pistols, one rifle, two gun-sighting systems, numerous bayonets, buttons, a variety of ammunition, and even a tank-hatch cover. We have also found nearly twenty hand grenades and three anti-tank missiles, one of which was near a housing estate in the local village. These items of course were disposed of by the local German disposal team. Next summer we hope to clear a larger area!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We finally said farewell to the OC, **Capt Malcolm Sinton**, and his wife **Margaret**, who were posted to UK, **SSgt Arthur Verity** left the local fishing grounds to take up residence in the arid areas of 14 Sig Regt. **Sgt Willy Wilmot** ACC, cut the restraining ropes after more than three years and left for Sandhurst, as Chef. **Sgt Pete Goddard** REME rejoined the regiment on promotion. Adieu also to **Sgt Pete Rogers, LCpls Goudie** and **Baker** and finally **Pte Pete Taylor.**

Welcome to our new OC **Capt Bob Axton** and family, we hope you have a rewarding tour in this far-flung outpost of the army.

New arrivals in the last three months were **Sgts Naylor, Lorrigan** and **Wainwright, Cpl Jones, LCpls Cunningham, McLoughlin** and **Sargent**, and **Pte Gould.**

JRC NOTES

From 1 Apr until 30 Sep there were a few bodies who willingly gave their all, and some who gave bits, to that good old Regimental institution, the JRC Committee. Being a very active committee the activities would be far too numerous to mention (eg, Bar-B-Que, Day Trips etc, etc) Besides, who cares now that they've been and gone? The target of at least one function a month was easily attained, often with the help of anyone we happened to come across. **WO2 Rod Goddard** was appointed President of the JRC Committee (ie Chief Hatchet Man) and was aided and abetted by **Cpl 'Stumpy' Owen** (PMC) and **Cpl 'Drops' Page** (PEC). A standard feature of the Detachment Commanders' Courses, which the regiment runs, is to challenge the JRC to a Games Night. As the inmates of the unit aren't really up to such things as the 400m Leopard-crawl or Re-pin the Grenade, it usually ended in the standard games; darts, drinking, drinking, darts and drinking. The JRC seems to have more than its fair share of drunken darts players, as they consistently won the contests. One exception being when the DC's, facing defeat, stole the trophy.

On 8 Aug we had our Summer Ball. Being a mean PEC, and big, **Cpl Page** managed to persuade many local firms to donate raffle prizes. Obviously his infamy spread as we even had two sets of ferry tickets donated. The only prize won by a senior rank was an iron. Needless to say he was given the instructions, just in case. All in all, it was a very good night, and thanks go to everyone who helped, and in particular to:- **Cpl Bob Ness, Cpl Shane Overton, WLCpl Maggie Thorpe, Sig Dave Simpson**. Thanks to everyone, but a special mention to **RQMS 'Spud' Budden** for his help and trusting us with his equipment. The committee have now been laid to rest, although some refuse to stay down and intend making a comeback. Once again, thanks to all for their effort.

THE MERCURY BOWMEN

The outdoor archery season for most 'fair weather' archers is drawing to a close, but not for the Mercury Bowmen. Since our last report 'Archie' has had two outings—he went to Fallingbostel on 5 and 6 September with the regimental team of **WO2 Mick Kippin, Sgt Stu Birchall, Mrs Anne Birchall** and a newcomer to the team **Sgt Mick Moir**. This tournament was for the **Mercury Plate**, so the **Mercury Bowmen** just had to bring it back to **Mercury Barracks**—which they did. **Mick Kippin** helped a bit this time by remembering his arrows, and took second place in the Hereford round. **Stu Birchall** had a real needle match in the York round, but also took second place. On the novice end of the shooting line **Mick Moir** was having a field day and won a well deserved first prize, while **Anne Birchall** came a good fourth. **Archie** just failed to better his world record of 3' 9½", but blames this on **Stu** for not fletching all his arrows for him.

On 25 Sep **Mick Kippin, Stu Birchall** and **Archie** went north to Odense in Denmark to shoot for BAOR against the Odense Archery Club. It was a close competition, but BAOR just managed to win. **Archie** ran into trouble at this shoot and now has competition as a mascot. **Mick Kippin** has found a Toxophasmurf (Smurf archer) to join the Mercury Bowmen's fanclub. That shoot heralds the end of the outdoor season and the team is now preparing for the indoor shooting with the local German clubs over the winter months.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
B.F.P.O. 23

1 SQUADRON FOCUS

Being the maximum leave period, August passed fairly quietly here at Langeleben. To change all that we welcome back to the Squadron **SSgt Arthur Verity** after just a short absence, also to **Cpl Letts, LCpl Fletcher** and his wife **Ray** and **SSgt McConnon** and his wife. Farewells during the past two months go to: **Cpl Bob Cummins** and his wife **Barbara, Cpl (Stumpy) Wilson, Sgt Paul Budden** and his wife, **LCpl Pete (Jack) Ridlington, LCpl Bernie Manley** and his wife **Hellan, Cpl Steve (Clums) Dorman**.

CONCURRENT

The highlights of September must be, of course, the two concurrent exercises *Sweaty Palm* and *Silver Shield*, both run at Vogelsang (just the name causes a dryness in the mouth). The squadron was reduced to minimum manning and the remaining lucky lads joined volunteers (?) from HQ and 3 Sqn at Vogelsang training area in the Eiffel. For the next two weeks (or was it years?) we played the role of the infantryman. Any applications for a transfer to the Black Watch? If there's one thing we brought back from Vogelsang it was a new found respect for these 'guys'. We found muscles which the MO has never heard of, only to have them ripped out by the unarmed combat instructors (who had better remain nameless). We discovered that grenades make a big bang—especially when dropped inside the throwing bay. We realised that the last assault course we did wasn't so hard after all and why the 84mm ATW doesn't come with a holster.

This and a lot more during the first week of *Silver Shield*, was designed to teach us some of the skills we would need if we ever found ourselves fighting to defend our complexes and commcens.

SKILLS INTO PRACTICE

In the second week we were generously given the opportunity to put our new learnt skills into practice. Ex *Magic Moments* (also known as *Maggot Moments*, I don't know why) had radio ops admin workers, mechanics, drivers and others, moving as shadows through the night, often in what was to become the famous 'Druid Formation' in search of the common enemy—yes, the dreaded and hated—DS!! While we pursued these leisurely activities, the chosen few on Ex *Sweaty Palm* discovered how to survive in a hostile environment with virtually nothing, ways to resist interrogation, how to sit in an open cage in the rain and remain sane, or better still—how not to get caught in the first place.

Well, we all returned in one piece, and after just a few weeks the feet are almost as good as new. I'm not sure if the chief aim of the fortnight was to increase our love for Langeleben but, if it was, by Jove, it worked!

3 SQUADRON REPORT

There have been lots of comings and goings in 3 Sqn this summer. Indeed, a paper has been written recommending that we grasp the nettle, take the bull by the horns, take the plunge and change our title to 3 (Transit) Squadron.

For example, Jumbo Troop has been reluctantly given up by **Capt John Berry** after two years in the chair. With him went **Cpl Pete Cornes** and **LCpl Martin Edwards**. All three were treated to a farewell party in the Glevum Club, at which **Sig 'Fender Bender' McDonough** provided the cabaret. **Capt Berry** was presented with a glass elephant to remind him of the troop, and in return gave a set of nameplates for the vehicles.

RCP Troop has changed hands twice—**Capt Adrian Morgan** moving to 1 Squadron via JDSC and a wedding, and the caretaker government of **WO2 John Greatbanks** eventually handing over to **Lt Denise Ashton**, our first lady officer. **Sgt Mick Drake** has gone to learn about the Yeoman's art, **Sgt Harry Kirkham** has been hijacked by N Troop, and **Sgt Geoff Lindsay** has set up shop in the PRI (he gets back from Monte Carlo next month). **WO2 Greatbanks** has been elevated to the prefectage and won't speak to anybody below the rank of Signalman. The summer's batch of new boys in RCP includes **SSgt Dave Cormack**, now fully rehabilitated after a tour with the Gunners, **Sgt Mick McDermott** from RMAS, and **Cpl Dunne** who shrewdly left 2 Div just in time to avoid all the hassle. **Bob Taylor** is now a Sergeant and has been learning German at Mulheim. Noch ein liter Jägermeister, bitte . . .

NEW MANAGEMENT

N Troop is also under new management. **Lt Rick Barfoot** having just arrived from University. Fellow academic **Lt Stephen Andrews** is the new OC Radio Troop, and **SSgt Sandy Maclean** has been posted in to keep an eye on him. There have been many other new arrivals—literally too numerous to mention—but welcome to all.

THE HIGHLIGHT

Highlight of the summer was our trip to Vogelsang for Exercise *Silver Shield*. It produced the usual crop of funnies. **LCpl Brian Cable** split his pants during the exertions, not too bad if he had been wearing anything underneath. **Cpl Chris Heeles** has become our fungi and stomach pump expert, and **Sig McKitterick** is now an authorised grenade expert. Perhaps the funniest part was watching **Maj Bill Legge's** face when he joined Exercise *Sweaty Palm* for the skinning demonstration. A fluffy little bunny was turned into dinner and a furry hat with a few deft strokes of the knife. It affects some people that way . . .

MISCELLANEA

LCpl Taff Fagan is to be married in October, and we wish him the very best of Welsh weather for the event.

Finally, farewell to **SSgt Pete Whitehead**, who is about to infiltrate UK once again, after two excellent years with the squadron: We wish him luck in his new job.

EXERCISE 'BEACHCOMBER'

Exercise *Beachcomber 1981* was masterminded and organised by **WO2 Dennis Weir** for Alpha Troop, 1 Sqn, 14 Sig Regt (EW). An agreement was drawn up with the council and spa authorities in the North German coastal resort of Cuxhaven, in which a total of thirty British soldiers would work for a period of two weeks, two groups of fifteen soldiers taking a week each, providing willing hands to do manual work wherever it was needed. The main aims of the exercise were to promote Anglo-German relations and to benefit from hard physical labour in the fresh sea air.

THE BURMA RAILWAY

The first fifteen were unlucky enough to work in the inclement weather which beset so much of summer 1981. Tasks undertaken included forming a brand new path through the woods, as the old one had eroded because it was too close to the lake; this became known as the 'Burma railway'. Also undertaken in Phase One was the cleaning up and regravelling of a seal pond; it was strongly rumoured that these are the only flesh-eating seals in captivity. Other tasks involved clearing the debris from tracks and sand drifts from the promenade so that the 'Kiddies' Beach Bus' could run and the rearrangement of the lobster pot-like basket huts, traditionally used by the Germans for sunbathing, so that the grass could regrow. Highlight of the week was undoubtedly the Royal Wedding when the spa authorities made a television available and in the evening threw a barbecue by way of thanks for the work done. The Union Jack was hoisted and suitable toasts were made to each member of the Royal family with enthusiastic German support.

TRENCH HAZARDS

The second fifteen's arrival coincided with probably the best week's worth of sunshine that Europe has had this year. Work undertaken this week involved the laying of a cable through a camp site by digging a trench 40cm deep and some 80m long. Unfortunately the camp site administration could not provide a map of previously laid cables, etc. to the detriment of at least two water pipes and one other electric cable. **SSgt Paddy Harding** managed to charm the holidaymakers into providing tea for the thirsty workers, prepared the English way of course. Ten minutes later he dug through their electricity supply. The other group came under the auspices of **Herr Werner Boeckelmann** teacher by profession and a dedicated conservationist. He guided the group through a series of tasks including litter collecting, clearing flotsam and jetsam thrown up by the tide, lining the 'Burma railway' with tree trunks and laying some sixty cubic metres of earth and sand on patches of heathland worn thin through sea and wind erosion.

Recreational and military-interest periods were provided, in that work was undertaken in the mornings from 7.30 till lunch. The afternoons were kept open for less demanding activities such as a visit to the nearby German Fleet Air Arm base, and sport was provided in the form of beach runs and swimming, both in the wave pool and in the sea.

TIDE RETREATS 10 MILES

On each week a full day was worked in order to allow a full day off, which was spent on a walk to the off-shore island of Neuwerk. A truly remarkable physical feature of the coast is that the tide retreats some ten miles at low tide. It leaves behind a soggy, sand-mud sea bed called the 'Watt' (pronounced Vat) which stretches as far as the eye can see. Thus the island of Neuwerk, which at high tide lies some six kilometres out to sea, is actually accessible on foot by a march of some eleven kilometres. The only way to walk this is barefooted because along the way are pools and streams which would soon pour inside even the most careful wellie boots' wearer. Unfortunately for Phase One the weather was too poor to risk the crossing to the isle, so their march consisted of a ten kilometre circle over the Watt for which they received a medal.

THANKS EXPRESSED

On the final evening of the exercise the authorities threw another barcebue as a thank you to the Phase Two team. This time the chief director of the spa authorities **Herr Demgen** attended the function and made a speech of thanks expressing the gratitude he had been asked to pass on from the forestry commissioner, the camp site administration, as well as from the council and spa authorities. He pointed out that in two weeks the soldiers of Alpha troop had achieved far more than had been planned for, that we had done work which he privately doubted with their own resources they would have managed to do in the next year and on top of that, we had done work which would not have been done at all because of lack of manpower and more pressing matters. He had heard nothing but excellent reports from all sides, including the general public, on the friendliness and cheerfulness of the British soldiers.

As far as the day to day Anglo-German relationships were concerned, not only did the exercise strike up what we hoped to be a long lasting friendship between the citizens of Cuxhaven and the soldiers of A Troop 1 Sqn, 14 Sig Regt (EW), but Cuxhaven serves as one of the few focal points for Germans to holiday by the sea. So not only did we befriend the Cuxhaveners but also Germans from all over Germany, including people who live in areas where there is no contact with the British Army at all.

The local press gave the exercise good coverage and even obeyed a well delivered speech in German by **Cpl Taff Thomas** to the point that the headline read, 'Twenty-nine Englishmen and One Welshman Get Stuck In'. In conclusion it must be said that all the soldiers who took part in the exercise thoroughly enjoyed themselves. All the aims of the exercise were not only met but surpassed, and as **Herr Demgen** said in his speech, 'we sincerely hope to see you here again next year'. So do we.

KAPE TOUR

This year **Capt John Berry, SSgt Ken Wilford** and **Sgt Geoff Lindsay** took their team to Gloucester (of which we have the Freedom), Bristol and the South West Country from 16 July to 7 Aug. Again (like last year) they discovered that combat kit and cam nets attract crowds better than highly polished equipment. During their three weeks tour the team appeared at schools, ACFs, shows and carnivals. An HF link was established back to BAOR from a number of places. These included the regiment itself at Celle, and 1 Glosters at Munster. The Mayor of Gloucester was able to talk over the air to the CO 1 Glosters, and 26 soldiers in the Battalion and 4 in the regiment talked to relations in Gloucester. Later, over a link to Tavistock, the Lady Mayor of Tavistock exchanged greetings with the Oberburgermeister of Celle, Tavistock's twinned town, and the exchange obtained good press coverage locally in both countries. In visits paid to the homes of **Lt Denise Ashton** (our first lady) in Cornwall and **Sig Kevin Jones** in Avonmouth the radio link to Celle was again successfully used.

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

Capt John Berry looks on as the Mayor of Tavistock speaks to the Mayor of Celle
(By courtesy of Western Morning News, Plymouth)

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

New arrivals in the Politburo:

Maj James Budd	**2IC**
Maj Brian Turner	**QM(A)**
Capt Tony Wood	**Tech Adjt**
Capt Patrick Neky	
WO1 Roger Harris	**MTWO**

who replace **Messrs Hervey, Kay, McVittie, Gribble** and **Cain.**

Tomorrow we will help you but will you help us - Today?

If you are interested in helping to organise fund-raising activities so that we may continue to care for ex-Service men and women all over the country, please write to the General Secretary

with Today's **Royal British Legion**

48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY

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

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHT

As the days grow shorter 16 Regiment, like many other Corps units, says farewell to summer activities and prepares for the Autumn exercise season. Cries of 'Square Dance/Post Box', 'Plain Sailing', 'Falling Towers', and 'Able Archer' echo around the lines and offices of squadron garages and corridors. It has been another good summer for the regiment. Stories abound of sunshine on leave. Summer has also seen much sporting action and successes, notably in canoeing (see last issue) squash, tennis, cricket and hockey. Squadrons have taken to the hills for their Summer camps and returned in good order. And three one-week battle camps have been held at Vogelsang. In the third week, some twenty or so WRAC servicewomen from Krefeld, commenced weapon training and fired SMG and pistol for the first time (officially!) Eat your heart out Bisley, here they come. The highlight of the Regimental year so far must surely have been on 11 September when the regiment was invited by the Oberbürgermeister of Krefeld to parade in front of the Rathaus and exercise its Freedom right to march through the City with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, pennants flying and drums beating. We took the opportunity of inviting the Lord Mayor of Leicester, **Councillor Archibald Berridge** and his wife, the Lady Mayoress, to visit the regiment and see us parade. As with most Corps Regiments, ceremonial is not part of daily routine. The high standards of turnout and drill achieved on the day was, therefore, a credit to the RSM, **WO1 Bill Miles**, his SSMs, **WO2s Roy Coffill, Keith Russell** and **Bill Wilson**, and the soldiers, both male and female, who took part. (Message from the Regimental 2IC: 'The Lance Party will march next year'). Following the march through the main shopping precinct, led by the full Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Stadt held a Reception in the Council Chambers of the Rathaus. The day continued with a luncheon for the officers and their guests in the Officers Mess and a small celebration drink (beer by courtesy of the Oberbürgermeister) in the Village Hall, the regiment's community hall, for all those on parade; the Lord Mayor of Leicester was particularly pleased to be able to meet and talk to the soldiers of the regiment. The All Ranks Dance held on the following evening was an outstanding success and all due to the efforts of the organising team of **Lt Graeme McNeill, SSgt (FofS) Rateliff, Sgt Chris Allen, Sgt Paddy Baxter, Cpl Tony Jenkins, Cpl Dave Upton, Sig Kenny Morrisey, Sig Keith Bagshaw.**

To round off a fine weekend, four regimental couples announced their engagements. Was it the beer I ask myself? We wish them every happiness.

The Adjutant, Capt Tony Elford, the 2 Sqn Guard, and Freedom Scroll Party, await the arrival of the 2IC and Regimental officers on parade

Maj Andrew Symmons leads the 3 Sqn Guard through the City of Krefeld

KÖNIGSTUHL RUN

The arrival of the official results, presentation mugs, and photographs of an event held earlier this year prompts us to write a short report. Fri 8 May saw our team of 11 runners led by **WO1 (RSM) Miles** on the start line of the 1981 Königstuhl Run. This annual event is a hill climb hosted by our 'partnership' battalion, the 43rd US Signal Battalion, near their barracks in Heidelberg. Under the leadership and personal inspiration of **RSM Bill Miles** the team were placed 2nd out of 12 teams with some very commendable individual placings being attained: **Sig Jimmy Hayes**—6th, **RSM Bill Miles**—7th, **Cpl Andy Trivett**—9th and **Sgt Paul Duckworth**—10th, out of 163 runners. **Cpl Jennie Thomas** WRAC was the second female to finish in a highly commendable 70th place.

The Hill Runners refresh those parts of their anatomy which need it most. The Regimental team in the 1981 Koenigstuhl Run: *(L to R) Back Row:* Sgt Paul Rylance, Cpl Andy Trivett, RSM Bill Miles, Cpl Guy Richards, LCpl Colin Dennis, Cpl Dave Thomas, our host E. Q. Casey

Front Row: Sgt Paul Duckwarth, Cpl Jenny Thomas, Sig Arthur Dodd, Sig Jimmy Hayes, Sgt Bob Walton

BISLEY

After securing one of the two available Rhine Area Bisley nominations and following as much range practice and weapon training as other higher priority activities would allow, the regimental shooting team led by **Capt Ray Briant** set off to experience competition shooting on the grand scale. If the results are hurriedly passed over, at least the purpose of the trip was achieved in that valuable experience of top level competition shooting was gained and hopefully the four B class shots in our 9 man team will have gained worthwhile experience for the future. Beware Bisley, 16 Sig Regt will be back next year.

TROOP NEWS—'T' TROOP

Since our last news letter, **Sgts Jim Nichols** and **Bernie Rice** have left us; **Jim** to civvy street and **Bernie** to sunny Blandford. **Sig Paul Stammers** has gone to Project Wavell, on well deserved promotion, while **Sig Geordie Warin** and **Sig Brillo Wademan** have gone on detachments to Norway and NI respectively. We welcome **Sgt Sandy Sandison** and **Pte Pauline Simpson** WRAC to the troop. Life goes on as usual in the troop, with us finding non existent transport for Freedom Parades, Vogelsang Battlecamps, and 'Admin' duties, and our OC **Capt Gordon Park** away in Wales or Sweden or Italy with the Army, managing the Army Motor Cycle Team.

ADVENTURE TRAINING SAILING COURSE

Report by 2 LT Tony Johnson:

Crew List:	
OC Party:	**2 Lt Johnson**
Crew members:	**Cpl Gooch**
	Sig Boyce
	Sig Banner
	Sig Emmess
Resident Skipper:	**Cpl Caderus Van Veen** (22 Signal Regiment)

After a long drive of some 6 hours the crew arrived at Kiel late on 31 Aug. The boat was then prepared to sail the next day. 1 Sep was used as a familiarisation day, to let the crew get to know the boat and how to handle her. This part took place in Kiel Fjoord under the close supervision of the resident skipper. The cruise proper began on 2 Sep when the crew left Kiel bound for Faarborg in Denmark. Due to very light winds for the first 10 hours progress was very slow. The wind actually died down completely in the early hours of 3 Sep and so, rather reluctantly, the crew accepted a tow from another British boat and reached Faarborg at approx 0630. It should be mentioned here that for the duration of the cruise, the engine was broken and so everything had to be done under sail, which made the trip somewhat more arduous and, at times, tiresome for the crew. Faarborg was used only as a breakfast stop before the yacht eventually set off again this time bound for Erikobing where in a small bay it was hoped to repair the engine. After numerous dives it became apparent that no-one was going to be able to fix it and so the crew spent the afternoon swimming and snorkelling. After a pleasant afternoon's attempted underwater engineering the crew decided to press on towards Svenborg. The Griskobing—Svenborg leg altered the trip from an adventurous sailing trip to an adventurous rowing trip. The wind again failed and so the crew had to turn to and pull the boat along, by rowing the small rubber dinghy with a rope attached to the yacht. After some time, a rather tired crew were rewarded with another tow which got them to Svenborg late that night. So far, as it may be apparent, the cruise had had small luck with a wind that did not wish to help at all. As the aim of the exercise was of an adventurous nature, the next day saw the crew sailing around the Island to another small cove from where they could see the Danish National Windsurfing championship. **Sig Banner** and OC Party decided to be a little over ambitious on the adventurous side and managed to purloin a windsurfer which, to the amusement of the crew, both fell off with regular and consummate ease. However, a new dimension had been added to their sailing experience. On the return trip to Svenborg a set of water skis was borrowed and the leading water sports expert **Sig Banner** again took the lead and gave an excellent display of just how to water ski properly, much to the amusement of the crew and the locals. Back in Svenborg the OC Party took the crew for a small walk around the Island—only about 25kms. This served to remind the crew that land did still exist, even if it was rather hard to walk on it after being at sea for a few days. The crew left Svenborg and headed for Maarstall via Rudkobing. The return trip was made in fog which added another dimension to sailing, because of the feeling that one is going round in circles and making no headway at all. It was also frightening at times because some larger vessels came perilously close. The crew again had to be towed in to Kiel because the wind died after some 14 hours of the return leg. However, BKYC was eventually found through the haze and the crew returned safely to dry land. The trip was of a highly beneficial nature because each of the crew was given a chance to be skipper and run the boat as he saw fit. The possible dangers of the sea were seen, especially at the end during the return in the fog. Due to good fortune such things as wind surfers and water skis were borrowed to give the crew some relaxation and amusement. Those members of us who had been used to doing shifts at night on military exercises, found that doing watches at sea was somewhat different, being rather colder, more exposed to the elements and more physically demanding and mentally wearing. This was a very worthwhile exercise and good sailing experience was gained by all.

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VISIT BY CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF AND C IN C

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham GCB, CBE, DFC, AFC, ADC, RAF Chief of the Air Staff and **Air Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy KCB, AFC,** RAF Commander in Chief RAF Germany visited RAF Wildenrath on 10 Sep. They paid a short visit to the regiment where they were briefed on the regiment's role by the 2IC **Maj Alan Stutchbury.**

Maj Alan Stutchbury and the Chief of the Air Staff

72 YEARS SERVICE COMPLETED

Lt Col Alan Stephenson, the Regimental Quartermaster, and **Maj John Finch,** the Regimental MTO, both left the Corps this August; **Alan** after 35 years and **John** after 37 years service. We will not dwell on the junketings that surrounded their departure, other than to say that HQ Sqn and both Messes only just recovered in time for the exercise season. Their service was as varied as it was long. **Col Stephenson** had served in the Navy during the war—there are not many soldiers wearing the Atlantic Star—and for much of his service with the Corps he was seconded to the SAS. **Maj Finch** was that rarity, a special op (now read S Tg) who saw the light and went RD. Both have contributed much to the Corps and to this regiment. We were very sad to see them go and our best wishes accompany them in their retirement to Devon and Wales respectively.

Lt Col Alan Stephenson raises his glass to the members of the Sergeants Mess. Daphne Stephenson, WO1 (RSM) Dave McGurk and Sonia McGurk share the moment

FAREWELLS

The weekend, 2, 3 and 4 October found 'H' Troop at RAF Bruggen saying farewell and congratulations to their Troop SSgt, **'Chopper' Aspinall** who is leaving on very well earned promotion to take up his new job as SSM 1 Sqn of 13 Sig Regt.

Thanks (and a few sighs of relief from the unfit) to **Staff** and his wife **Carole** for all the hard work and effort they put in on our behalf during their tour with the troop.

SSgt Aspinall presenting OC H Troop, Capt Morgan, with the 'Mong' Trophy prior to his departure

INTER TROOP VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

This competition took place at RAF Wildenrath on 5 Sep. A total of 23 teams took part which meant over one hundred members of the regiment actually took part in the competition and a general sports day was decreed. On the day the sun shone brightly and the breeze was sufficient to keep the supporters cool but not affect the standard of play. The beer and brattie stand did a brisk trade and several families turned out to bask in the sunshine. The standard of play was very high from the start which indicated just how much Volleyball has been played in the weeks prior to the competition. Courts had appeared all

M Tp winners of Inter-Troop Volleyball.
Left to right, back row: Capt (TOT) Meachin, LCpl Hobbs, Sgt Ewers, LCpl Osbourne, LCpl Godley, Cpl Rose and LCpl Danials.
Left to right, front row: LCpl Dos Martyres, LCpl Connolly, Sgt Chhetri, LCpl Playford, Sgt Burton

over Wildenrath and NAAFI sold out of training balls. M Troop appeared to do nothing but play volleyball and the Officers team were well and truly trounced in the first round even though they won the first point.

With all teams enjoying the day out the final match was between G Troop A and M Troop A. **Sgt O M Chhetri** of M Troop was determined to avenge the previous defeats by G in Training games and had a well disciplined side who knew more rules than are contained in the Jungle Rule Book. The final was always expected to be close and it lived up to expectations. Both sides showed a good deal of skill and the crowd was well entertained. Rallies were long and hard and the spiking by **Ossie Osborne** was foiled many times by **John Butterworth. Sgt Chhetri,** a Corps player, kept his team well disciplined, but must have felt a little worried when **Gaz Crouch** and **Kev Jarvis** were together on the net. Both are very good players and they worked well together. M Troop won the final in two sets, 15—8 and 15—12.

To round off the day's sport, **Mrs Anne Stutchbury** presented the medals and cup to the winning teams. A special word of thanks must go to the four umpires who worked hard throughout the day.

REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY

CO presenting the Cross Country cup to YofS Les Rix, Captain of 2 Sqn, Victorious team

CO, Lt Col D. T. Burton and Sig Pardew, winner of 1st under 20 and 1st Novice

'I don't believe it, someone must have made a mistake, let's have a recount'. So ended the Regimental Cross Country for 1981. The 8km course was designed for track runners, (all the hills had been flattened by order of the CO) and the first man home, **Sgt Billy Cain,** sprinted round in just under 22 minutes. The course was a mere leg stretch for **Sgt Cain** who is soon to return to UK so he may compete in the Harlow Marathon.

The Sqn competition was decided on the positions of 30 nominated runners, but anyone from the regiment was allowed to run. Therefore, even after a Sqn's team had all finished the course the remaining Sqn runners could still affect the outcome of the competition. The result was a resounding victory for the Communicators of 2 Sqn with a clear lead of 420 points over the 'mole-like' Linemen of 3 Sqn!

Special note must be made of **Sig Graham Pardew** who, in coming fourth, won two prizes; not only was he the first under 18 runner, but he was also the first novice runner. Amongst the other individual prize winners was **Yeoman Les Rix.** He wishes to thank the Tech Workshops for developing their high-speed pace-maker which enabled him to win the geriatric prize by coming 36th.

RESULTS

1st	**Sgt Billy Cain**	1st Novice	**Sig Pardew**
2nd	**LCpl Charlie Foster**	1st Under 20	**Sig Pardew**
3rd	**Cpl Stew Jones**	1st Over 35	**WO2 (YofS) Les Rix**
4th	**Sig Graham Pardew**	Champion Squadron	2 Sqn
5th	**LCpl Ros** (now Mr) **Kent**		

ALLEN TROPHY

On 28 July the Allen Trophy was presented to LAD REME 21 Sig Regt. The presentation was made by **Group Captain R. H. Palin, OBE** MA, Station Commander RAF Wildenrath. The photo shows **Group Captain Palin** with members of the LAD after the presentation. The Allen Trophy, which is awarded for the best troop performance in military training throughout the year, is being proudly displayed by **AQMS Alderson.**

LAD—Allen Trophy Winners

M TROOP

Despite a heavy turnover of personnel due to squadron commitments, the troop maintains a high standard of morale, this is shown in its sporting activities.

A big influence is **Sgt Billy Cain,** now reckoned to be one of the top runners in the army, he guided the troop to a victory in the RAF Wildenrath Coca-Cola road relay, the winning team being **Sgts 'Uncle' Kev Bickerstaffe** and **Pete 'Mara' Knight, LCpls 'Scotty' Scott** and **Andy 'Muppet' Hurley. Sgt Des Ewers, Sgt Bickerstaffe** and **Sgt Knight** have also entered the Bielefeld Marathon.

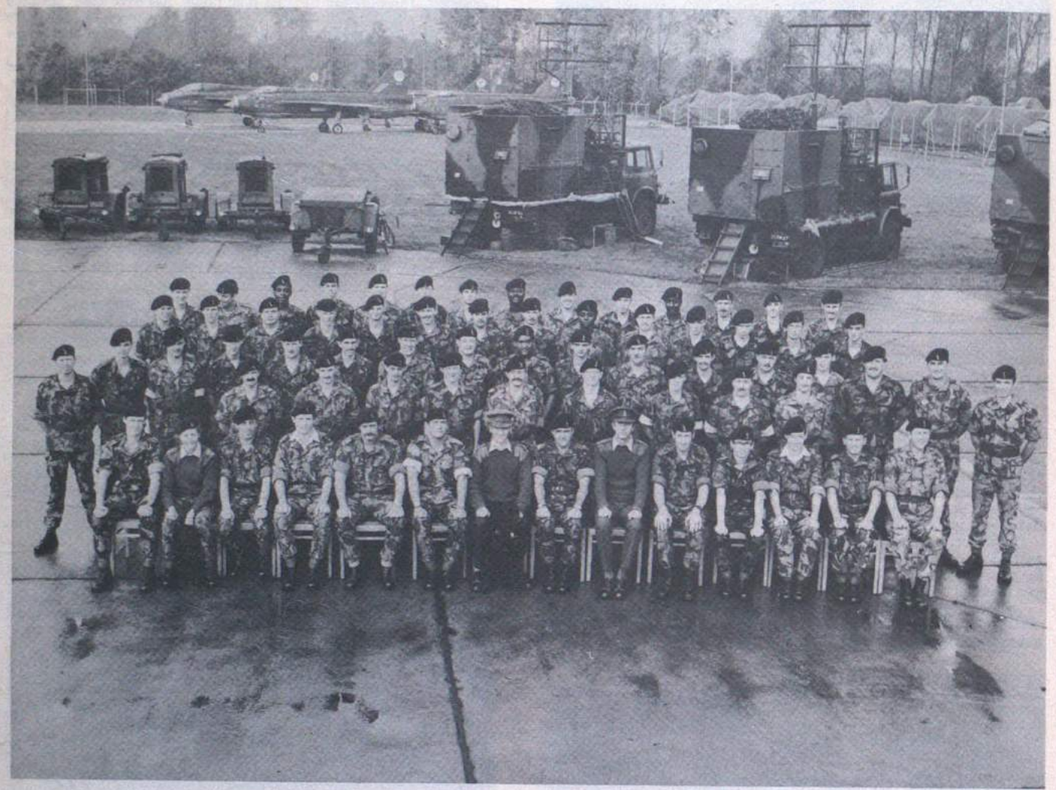
Since the arrival of **Sgt O. M. Chhetri** the troop has won the inter-troop volleyball competition, the intrepid Gurkha organising **Cpl John 'JR' Rose, LCpls Phil 'Half Pint' Playford, Jerry 'Ossie' Osborne, Ian 'Jogger' Godley, Tony 'Bones' Hobbs** and himself into a successful fighting force.

Capt (TOT) Brian Meachin, despite backing all these successes, runs the Regimental Rugby side in which **Cpl Rose, LCpls Osborne** and **Scott** play.

Sgts Chris 'Buffalo' Wise and **Dave 'Blanket Stacker' Burton** RAOC, the more experienced members of the troop, devote their talents in other directions. **Sgt Wise** organising the raising of right arms on Friday afternoons and **Sgt Burton** always combing his hair.

It has also been known for 'M' Troop to work as technicians and we hope any new arrivals keep up the high standards. We welcome **LCpls Vince Connolly, Gus Daniels, Callum Downie, John Barran, Chris Chiswell, Keith Hatton, Roger Southwick** and **George Dalton,** and hope they enjoy their stay in the troop.

FOCUS ON 1 SQUADRON



PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj John Tydeman**
2IC	**Capt Peter White**
SSM	**WO2 George Cook**
YofS	**WO2 Bob McLaren**
SQMS	**SSgt Elgin Davies**
FofS	**SSgt Phil Leach**
OC A Tp	**Capt Brian Potter**
FofS	**SSgt John Phillips**
OC B Tp	**Capt Stuart Lockie**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tom Harrison**
OC C Tp	**Lt Helen Burns**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Chuck Walker**
OC D Tp	**Lt Paul Stock**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Gordon Hardacre**
MT NCO	**Sgt Pete Walker**

Traditionally, August is not a busy month. The majority of folk think of their summer vacations and travel away to the sunny spots of Europe or even further afield. However, reflecting back over the past few months, amid the more mundane activities, the Sqn has managed to fit in its fair share of extra-mural activities. With June came the annual summer camp; this year the whole Sqn participated. Vehicles and men were seen disappearing from Wildenrath gates heading for the aquatic delights of Kamperland, a super (or is it last) resort in Holland. The Sqn had the opportunity to wind surf, water ski, canoe and fish—who said the 'Brown Jobs' prefer Terra Firma?

That's a bit more civilized LCpl Skinner, LCpl Nohar, Cpl Boyd taking it all in

COMINGS AND GOINGS

July saw some comings and goings of troops' personnel, notably from B Tp—**LCpl 'Dusty' Miller** to Sunny Bunde, **Cpl Dave Cullingworth** on retirement to settle here in Germany and **Pte Sonia 'Sonj' Rea** WRAC whose slimming programme was abruptly halted by the good news of her well earned confinement. We wish them all well, and all the best also to **Sig 'Abdul' Cole**, who left D Tp for civilian life.

Troop Commanders come and go and **Capt Peter White** is no exception! He stepped aside for youth (?) as OC B Tp and **Capt Stuart Lockie** assumed command in August. All was not lost, however, it was just a rest he needed, so he takes over from **Capt Dick Hoyle** (off to peaceful Harrogate) as Sqn 2IC.

SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT

And now a short note from an anonymous scribe in C Troop. C Tp is different from most Signal Troops, not because of the role it plays in BAOR, but because its troop OC is a female. **Lt Helen Burns** WRAC.

Being a troop OC is a hard enough task at any time, but for **Lt Burns** life is made even more so; after all when a woman is put in charge of a working situation with 12 strong, handsome? and muscular young men she is bound to feel a little different, but **Lt Burns** maintains a good working relationship with the men. You could almost say she is 'one of the boys', working on and under the vehicles; and joining in troop Sport.

The troop as a whole, although only small, partakes in many various sports. At the moment **Lt Burns, LCpl Nick Norwood** and **Sig Nick Organ** are sky diving in Cyprus, quite sad really because their chutes are still at Wildenrath.

Another popular sport is wind surfing, **Sgt 'Chuck' Walker** and **Cpl 'Tug' Wilson** can often be seen on the lakes at Roermond preparing for their round the world wind surfing attempt.

Other members of the troop, who are:- **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood, LCpl Ray Edge, LCpl Mick Licence, LCpl Bob Hugill, Cpl Dick Booth, Sigs, 'Hannibal' Hayes, Bill Pearce** and **Andy Whitmore**, content themselves with pursuing more conventional activities, football, hockey, cricket, (and chasing WRAFs!)

ROYAL WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH

To commemorate the Royal Wedding on 29 July **Mrs Marie-Clair Males**, wife of **Cpl Terry Males**, Bravo Troop, 1 Sqn, painted a portrait of the Royal couple. **Marie-Clair**, who has trained at the Royal Academy of Art, Brussels, used photographs to base her portrait on. In order to raise funds for the National Society of Deaf Children the portrait was raffled at the RAF Station Fete on 29 July. The portrait was won by **Flt Sgt Cornford** of the Station Education Flight. The amount raised was DM 665 (about £146). The picture shows **Capt R. H. Hoyle**, the Sqn 2IC, receiving the cheque from **Mrs Males** on behalf of the National Society of Deaf Children.

Capt Hoyle receiving a cheque from Mrs Males

CYPRUS COMBINED SERVICES PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIPS—AUGUST 1981

August saw the exodus of three members of 'Charlie' Troop 1 Sqn, to the sunny shores of Cyprus for the Parachuting Championships.

LCpl Nick Norwood and **Nick Organ**, kept in 'order' by **Lt Helen Burns**, departed to the Isle of Aphrodite, the first two to actually compete and the latter to 'officiate'.

The weather, needless to say, was excellent and the championships went well. There were teams from the Oman, the Marines, and units both from UK and BAOR. Competition was fierce and in the final scoring the Rhine Army Teams and the Marines emerged as winners. **LCpl Nick Norwood** jumping for the Rhine Army Team did particularly well, collecting four prizes for the Individual Accuracy, Team Accuracy, Relative Work and Overall Champions. **Sig Nick Organ**, who only having recently taken up the sport, did extremely well in the novices competition and will be returning next year to take the championships by storm.

The highlight of the meeting was a water jump into Cessac Bay, the winner being the one closest to the buoy. Again **LCpl Nick Norwood** was a prize contender, but this time let someone else win! A thoroughly enjoyable 'working' trip to Cyprus with an exciting sport which offers a challenge to everybody.

2 SQUADRON'S ADVENTURE TRAINING

E TROOP SUMMER CAMP 1981

E Troop, 2 Sqn Summer Camp was to have been an arduous training camp held in the Sauerland Area of West Germany. However, a change of Troop OCs early in the year changed the venue, and saw E Troop sunning themselves on the Dutch Coast.

The week before we were due to leave saw many of the troop rushing about collecting surf sails, canoes, life jackets, wet suits, water-skis and not least of all, the speed boat. As you may well have guessed by now this was to be a water sport orientated camp. Saturday morning saw the advance party led by OC, **Capt Kite**, leave Wildenrath for the Dutch Coast. The only casualty on this trip was to be the OC. The boat trailer he was towing was to shed a wheel! and some hours later turned up at the camp site with a friendly Dutch AA man and a good few guilders lighter in his pocket. The main party left on Sunday morning and by lunchtime all were safely on the camp site, this time with no mishaps. Sunday afternoon saw the finishing touches to the camp prepared by the advance party.

Settling in did not take long and the weather looked promising, this was not to be, however, and winds of up to Force 4 were experienced, and the OC was seen with a glimmer in his eye saying, 'Where's my windsurfer'? Monday morning, Day 1 of the camp, saw the whole troop up and ready (some not as ready as others, however, as the local brew proved stronger than first thought) for an early morning run. After breakfast everybody had to go through the ritual of swimming tests, and capsize drills, because the water was not very warm! In fact freezing, most of us did not take long to do the 25m 'freeze' style. We could now get down to the activities in earnest which were, wind surfing, water skiing, canoeing and land potted sports. For these activities the troop had been split into small sections and judging by the fierce competition in the potted sports anybody not in the same team was enemy. The weather was not ideal for the water sports. Squally conditions made surf sailing tuition difficult and were far from ideal for water skiing. The canoeists, however, were able to achieve a reasonable standard of competence. No matter what weather it did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm shown in the potted sports, the eventual winners being led by **Cpl 'Adolf' Wainwright.** Perhaps it was the two crates of beer that drove them on to greater things.

The evening's entertainment consisted of two very successful Bar-B-Ques with Dutch and German guests leaving in the early hours of the morning much worse for wear.

Friday morning our last day, the early morning run turned out to be not so much a run, but a swim. Leading the troop on the run, the OC ran straight on to the jetty and invited by everyone to return to shore over the pier end. We had no choice in the matter because retreat was blocked by **Sgt Jim (The Whale) Reeves.** What a way to get rid of a hangover.

The afternoon saw us pack up our belongings and prepare the campsite for handover to 1 Sqn, who being the masochists they are, were about to do the same thing all over again.

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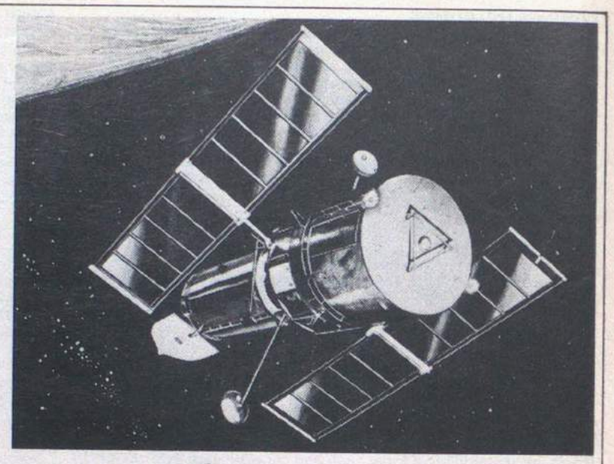

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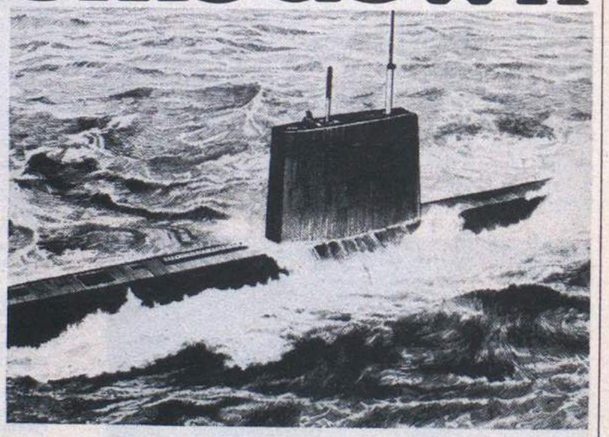

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F TROOP DID IT IN BAVARIA

'F' Troop took their annual Summer Camp, much curtailed this year due to ARU and PRE preparations. It was held on Murnau Training Area in Southern Bavaria. An advance party consisting of **Lt Paul Oldfield** OC Troop, **Sgt Pete Lumb, LCpl Rick Horrocks** and **LCpl Monkhouse** ACC, were there on Sunday evening ready to meet both the road and rail parties next morning. They were duly met and settled in and by lunchtime scattered on their various activities, i.e. wind surfing, canoeing and rock climbing.

DOING IT BACKWARDS

The first day was sunny, with warm inviting water, even the swimming test and capsize drills failed to daunt all but a few. The rest of the day was spent in practising the theory. After waking on the second day to very grey skies and lots of rain, we set off to cross the local lake (The Stafelsee) to the cafe on the other side. During the crossing, a few people, namely **LCpl 'Grunt' Hogwood**, had difficulty travelling in any direction but backwards. He was finally transferred to a double canoe and the party carried on to the cafe, only to find it closed—Ruhetag? After that there was only one thing to do, paddle back to camp again.

Day Three was spent on the River Lech, between Farchant and Eschenloe, eight kilometres of very cold water. **SSgt 'Mal' Forster** and **Sgt 'Chuck' Walker,** our gallant instructors, went down first to check the route, taking 1½ hours for the journey and negotiating a power station weir on the way. The rest then followed in two parties of five. We started from below the weir for obvious reasons. The journeys were enlivened by **LCpls 'Gerry' Stronach** and **'Phil' Pinchin** practising their capsize drills, and then **LCpl Stronach** and **Sig 'Geordie' Strike** literally catching a fish to end the day.

DOING IT STRAIGHT UP

While the less adventurous members of F Troop practised methods of contracting pneumonia, our five intrepid mountaineers led by **SSgt 'Denis' Brock** and **Sgt 'Pete' Lumb** set out to recce suitable high spots fearlessly scaling any bar stools that got in their way.

Next morning our instructors introduced us to a local cliff face. Apart from the occasional heavy shower the day passed peacefully until **Cpl 'Paddy' Lynch** showed us how to put scratch marks in solid rock by stepping into fresh air. For the third day our brave team, now joined by **Pte 'Steve' Eldridge** ACC, set off to conquer the Alpspite (8,500ft). Being nobody's fool the first half of the ascent was by cable car. Despite snow, ice and the odd American Squaddie, we finally reached the summit. After some photographs a quick snack and signing 'The Guest Book', (yes, there's one at the top) we began the descent, all the way this time, during which **Sig 'Jock' Elliott** and **Pte 'Steve' Eldridge** had the first June snowball fight of their lives. After much slipping and sliding, we arrived back at our base camp for a hot meal and cold beer. So ended our Summer Camp—Everest next year!

WE DID IT (JUST ABOUT) STANDING UP—THE WIND SURFERS

We all embarked on Summer Camp,
Where, we knew, it could be damp,
Windsurfers we were to become,
If the impossible was to be done.

The very first day was nice and calm,
So we thought there was no harm,
How wrong it all turned out to be,
When we all ended up in the Stafelsee.

As the days went by and by,
And the wind was getting high,
We found our balance in the end,
But what happens when we hit a bend?

Good fun was had by one and all,
And 'I've done it at last' was the call.
We got the knack at the end of the day,
As long as everyone keeps out of the way.

By a 'Beginner'
(Still)

G TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING

Exercise *Romeo Roams* was an adventure training camp which involved 25 members of the troop. It took place in the heart of the Mosel valley situated on a camp site at Berkastle Kues. The scenery was stunning and the weather was superb. The aim of the camp was to give the troop the opportunity to get away from the confines of camp and practice canoeing, climbing and hillwalking in an enjoyable environment. All this sounds very much a 'swan' but the lads had to work very hard during the day in temperatures associated with the desert.

The advance party arrived in Bernkastle and in no time at all set about repairing the vehicles that found the trip too much for them. **Sig Tex O'Sullivan** became the saviour of the day when, with a little improvisation, fixed the Genny which gave us power to switch the freezer on; cold beer at last. With a wine or music festival happening in every village that weekend the advance party did wonders for public relations in the local area. No sooner had the main party arrived on the Monday morning the sun disappeared. After a quick lunch and a sort out, the group was handed over to **Sgt Chuck Walker**, a 1 Sqn recruit, for the swimming test and capsize drill. With that out of the way and a lecture and demo on abseiling by our favourite dwarf **Sgt Toby Slater,** the troop proceeded to the last night of a local wine festival, where the local population were extremely friendly and all had a good time.

The next three days were very hectic and very tiring. All the lads tackled the training enthusiastically and all reached a very good standard at canoeing. The second period of canoeing involved a 12km route down a weir. **Sig Roby** arrived at the camp with 2IC, **Capt Mike Stanners**, and was subjected to this treatment, along with capsize drills, etc, and was left at one stage in the middle of the river standing on the front of someone else's canoe. Rumour has it, that the way he walked back to his own canoe, he is the new Messiah.

The hillwalking also proved popular as the route took the group around the local area and there were some stunning views from the tops of the vineyards. Apart from one group, who experienced a **Sig Doherty** detour, all groups managed to find base. Climbing was limited in the area but all had one or two attempts at a 100ft drop. Eventually **Sig Bold Boldero** took his life in his hands and reached the bottom instead of chewing his way back up.

The aims of this camp were achieved in full as everyone had a great time. The weather contributed a lot to the enjoyment of the camp and the friendliness of the local population. As we left Bernkastle the weather came with us. The success of the camp was also a credit to the instructors, the cook and our attached REME **CFN Jackson**, without whom we would not have trained, eaten or been able to come home.

EX 'ALPINE ROVER 81'—J TP

After much planning (and counter-planning) Ex *Alpine Rover* finally got off the ground. The equipment was begged, borrowed or stolen from various sources by our 'Grand Master' **Sgt Trev Denton.**

The exercise was based in 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt's ski hut at Bad Oy, and started in grand style. An advance party was deployed by road, leaving the remainder of the troop to be winged away from RAF Gutersloh to Bad Oy by 230 'Tiger' Sqn's Puma helicopters. Unfortunately due to refuelling problems the main party were left stranded at Mannheim. **Sgt Tony Chew** then came to the rescue transporting the troop to the local railway station, from where the remainder of the journey was done in the relative comfort of the Buffet Car.

Upon arrival, **Capt Allan Duncan**, the Troop OC split the Troop into four sections, two for swimming/canoeing and the other two for mountain walking. **Flt Lt Jim Kirkman** did a wonderful job teaching the troop the capsize drill in a canoe. His first demonstration consisted of drinking half of the lake and then being unable to get back into his canoe. He was, therefore, slightly taken back when **LCpl Chris Nutt** gave a demonstration that everybody understood and carried out.

On the mountain walking side of life, 3 and 4 sections were being ably put through their paces by **Cpl Mick Crampin**. Day 1 being just a warm up for the main mountain trek the following day. The excitement on reaching the summit, however, was slightly marred for everyone by being overtaken on the final assault by an 80 year old Bavarian who wasn't even breathing hard. The sense of achievement and view of the Alps from 4000ft was something that will always be remembered.

On the last day the troop plus RAF Support played the local Bavarian football team and narrowly lost 4—2. The evening being spent having a Bar-B-Que and plenty of drink.

All in all, the weather, accommodation and training were excellent and our thanks must go to all concerned and the hospitality of the Bavarian people.

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

TOP CORPS TEAM AT BISLEY

This year's shooting team saw the introduction of many new faces into the squad, including those of **Capt Nick Ferriman** and **Sgt Tom Carberry** as the new team captain and trainer. The team qualified for Bisley at the Divisional Meeting by coming 3rd behind 1 WFR and 1 BW. The most notable performance was in the section match where the team beat 1 WFR into 2nd place as a result of **LCpls 'Taff' Evans** and **'Geordie' Riddels** outstanding performance on the gun. Unfortunately there was no Corps meeting this year and at the Army Championships the team had to be content with retaining the Bisley trophy, awarded to the top Royal Signals Major unit team.

The team at Bisley *L to R (rear):* Sgt Tom Carberry, LCpl Geordie Riddell, Cpl Don Bruce, LCpl Andy Mahon, Cpl Stan Sudron.
L to R (front): LCpl 'Brummy' Cox, Capt Nick Ferriman, LCpl 'Taff' Evans, LCpl 'Mac' McDool (REME)

1 SQUADRON IN NORWAY

'Mountaineering in Norway' was Charlie Troop's aim for this year's adventure training exercise. The intrepid team travelled by Land Rover to Spiterstulen where they established their base camp. The team was led by **Lt Tony Morphet,** a frequent visitor to the 'land of the midnight sun'. **Lt Morphet** made quite an impact on his troop, when, for reasons best known to himself, he decided to fall on them from a 40 ft rock face. Fortunately, the only injury was **Mr Morphet's** broken thumb. During their stay in Norway the troop successfully scaled the Glitterind, Norway's highest mountain.

2 SQUADRON ROUND-UP

The past few months have been a rather hectic period for the squadron. After the wind and rain of *Summer Sales,* and the rigours of adventure training, the squadron was involved in Ex *Treaty* and *Vengeful Merlin.* The full programme unfortunately led to exemption from the Battlecamp at Vogelsang, however, we were able to provide a number of specialist instructors for the first week.

The squadron now has a new OC: **Maj David Lowe** joined the squadron just before Summer Sales. **Maj Lowe** is a keen sailor and is endeavouring to train the squadron in all matters nautical, in preparation for next year's squadron camp. Another new face in the squadron is that of **FofS Graham Chaplin.** As a newly qualified foreman he constantly has to be restrained from dismantling perfectly good operational equipment out of sheer enthusiasm and academic curiosity!

EX 'PADDLERS TRIANGLE'

Report by Cpl Bruce Payne

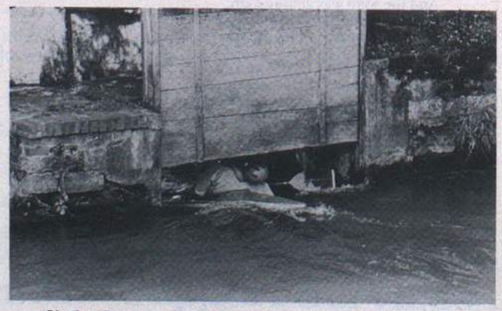
Echo troop's relentless search for adventure was undertaken in July with the aim of introducing the lads to the delights of white water canoeing. After a false start, due to mechanical failure, we eventually reached the still water of the Mohnesee and it soon became apparent to **LCpls Denis Feely** and **Bob Martindale** that paddling a canoe in a straight line was not as easy as it looked.

A 20 Km paddle down the River Lippe was next on the programme and included having to ferry-glide and practising the spontaneous and unrehearsed capsize drill. One member of the troop in particular, **LCpl Paul Lord,** had this natural ability of making capsizes look amazingly easy. The climax of the training took place on a stretch of the River Lippe where white water seemed to flow at a frightening rate of knots. **Capt Nick Ferriman,** our instructor, assured everyone that it was perfectly OK and proceeded to give a demonstration of how it's done—it looked so easy. **LCpl Paul Bawor** was the first to go down and said afterwards that he saw his life passing him by. **Sig John Pallister** and **Benny Ball** shot the rapids next without any problems at all, shouting to us on the bank what could only be described as words of encouragement. We later learnt that this stretch of river has been used in the past to hold the German National Slalom Championships!
All in all, Ex *Paddlers Triangle* provided elements of danger and many, many moments of fun. The lads of Echo look forward to next year's and hope it holds as much in store as this one.

EXERCISE 'LUSTIATE TRIANGLE'—FOXTROT TROOP

After squirming through the caves of the Harz in last year's *Phreatic Triangle,* it was decided to spend a little more time in the daylight and aim this year's adventure training exercise at canoeing. After much discussion with our instructor, **Sgt Derek Coker, Lt Ron Taylor** announced that F Tp were to explore the delights of 'brown water' canoeing on the fast flowing, high smelling, warm foaming river Erft near Dusseldorf. Before attempting the Erft it was necessary to spend some time in basic training on the wind surfer infested Mohnesee. After a lot of thrashing around and several near collisions we headed for the Erft.

LCpl Bob Martindale negotiating the sluice gate



Sig Syd Paterson unsuccessfully negotiates the sluice gate!

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An individual's first attempt at canoeing in moving water invariably ends in disaster, the members of F Tp are no exception to this rule. During the first day on the Erft it wasn't uncommon to see the instructor paddling his way through a sea of upturned canoes and spluttering would be canoeists. However one of the rewards of practice is eventual success and by the end of the exercise some quite promising canoeists were emerging. The talents and skills of the 'overnight discoveries' such as **LCpl John Badder** and **Sig Dave Warburton,** who always stayed upright, were further enhanced when compared with the attempts of **Cpl Andy Dingle, LCpl Hannibal Hayes** and **Sig Kev O'Riorden,** who were frequently seen capsizing even in still water!

By the end, most of the troop had acquired the distinctive taste of the Erft but were highly relieved that they no longer had to drink such enormous quantities of it!

4 SQUADRON REPORT

During a fairly hectic period in the summer the squadron achieved its ambition of building its own club in the squadron cellar. All troops had a hand in building the club, but a special mention must be given to **Cpl Tom Benson** and **Cpl Fred Worgan** for their enthusiastic efforts. The bar was opened on Aug by the OC, **Maj David Collyer.** Since its opening, the club has proved to be a great success and a lot of overtime for supervisors **Capt John Hudson** and **Sgt Colin Thirkettle.**

EX 'MEPPEN TRIANGLE'

Bravo Troop's adventure training exercise took the form of a canoeing expedition on the river Ems. After a day's intensive training from **WO2 Bill White** the troop were unleashed upon the Ems. The first weir proved no problem for most, but **Sig Ross Dempsey** and **LCpl George Grindy** decided to negotiate it by capsizing first. Later in the day **Sig Mick Stout** attempted to confirm his theory that emergency whistles could be heard underwater. Apparently all he heard was the sound of running water as it flowed in one ear and out the other!

At the end, the distance award was won jointly by **Sig Paul Serle** and **Sig Kev Laverick,** who, during the week, never once managed to canoe in a straight line! After the exercise the troop returned to the squadron fully refreshed and happy in the knowledge that they will not have to canoe again for some time, at least not until next year!

Finally the troop bids farewell to **LCpl Calvin Lambert, LCpl Jock Gillon** and **Sig Matt Murray.**

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

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

The two month period covered by these notes has been packed with events. However before these are recalled it is worth mentioning that almost fifty percent of the Officers have changed giving an injection of fresh blood into the management of the regiment. **Maj Brian Robinson** takes over as Training Major with **Maj Dick Stokes** taking over the command of Support Squadron. **Maj Neville Illman** moves from Regimental Headquarters and takes over command of 1 Squadron. **Capt John Wedgbury** becomes the new Technical Adjutant with **Capt Ken Hadfield** moving into the Adjutant's hot seat. **Capt Colin McLoughlin** is the new Operations Officer and **Capt Bob Kelbie** is the new Technical Officer Telecommunications. **Capt John Smith** now commands the Light Aid Detachment and **Capt David Sharpe** keeps the finances in order as the new Paymaster. Lastly **Lt Keith Goodfellow** takes over the Tropospheric Scatter Troop. A warm welcome goes to all the new arrivals and their families and all good wishes go to those who have left for new postings with the NATO experience well and truly under their belts.

SIX CADETS

In early August the regiment, once again, played host to six Women Officer Cadets from various Universities within the United Kingdom. **Lt Guy Kenyon** was the lucky Officer selected to look after them during their two week stay. He arranged a very comprehensive programme of military, extra mural and sporting activities and the regiment's thanks go to all those outside agencies who helped make the visit so successful. A special vote of thanks must go to the CO and all ranks of 4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, who, for two days, showed the visitors all aspects of an Officer's life in an Armd Div Regt. It is reported that **Lt Kenyon** is now eagerly awaiting the next attachment and is hopeful that he will be selected as the host.

MUCH TALENT

Throughout August, sport was high on the list of priorities and not a day went by without a cricket match being played, or activity on the tennis courts. These sports are part of the Regimental Inter Troop Competition and many members of the regiment displayed plenty of talent and skill in the two competitions, which were exciting right up to the last games. The tennis was won by RHQ Troop and the cricket by RHQ Troop.

MARCHING IN BELGIUM

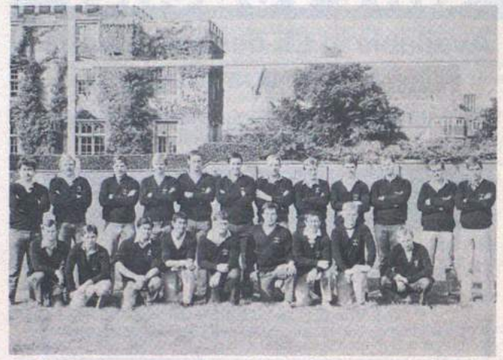
In the middle of August ten members of the Regimental Marching Team, after their success at Nijmegen, went to Belgium to take part in the one hundred kilometer Bornem Death March. With one exception all members completed the distance well within the allowed twenty hours and were awarded competition medals. Those taking part were: **Lt Adrian Thornton, Cpls Bob Beswick** and **Howard Winstanley, LCpl Martin Brown** and **Sigs Paddy Brown, Robin Godfrey, Robert O'Hara, Tony Murphy** and **Geordie Reid.**

VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

At the end of August, the Regimental Rugby Team, under the leadership of **Capt John Fletcher** travelled to the Midlands for a five day Rugby tour. They were hosted by the regiment's sister Territorial Army Regiment, 35 Sig Regt (V) and it was from the Headquarters in Birmingham that the team went out to play games against Birmingham Welsh, Rugby Welsh and Coventry Welsh. Although not winning any of the games the team gained very valuable experience of match play which will undoubtedly be of value in the future. The team's thanks go to the CO of 35 Regt for the hospitality given and facilities provided at Stoney Lane.

—THEN SO CAN WE

Towards the end of 1980, 25 Sep 1981 was written into the year planner as the day of the Annual Playing the Retreat. It was in mid July however that the CO **Lt Col Paul Webb** agreed that the occasion should be somewhat grander than the normal music and marching display performed by a Military Band, and so it was decided that a Silent Drill Display should be included for the first fifteen minutes of the evening. The CO was heard to say 'if the Royal Air Force Regiment can do it, then so can we'. So in early September **WO2 (SSM) Tony Cartwright** took over the Regimental Parade Ground and formed his squad of thirty volunteers from all parts of the regiment and covering most



The 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) Rugby Team on tour in the Midlands photographed on the Sports Field of Rugby School where the game started many years ago.
Left to right, Standing: Sig Charlie Ridd, Capt John Fletcher, LCpl Mac McDermott, Cpl Bev Bevan, Sig Taffy Jones, LCpl Mick Donovan, Sgt Kev Stock (Capt), Cpl Guy Young, Sig Scouse Maloney, LCpl Chris Meehan, Sgt Willie Weatheritt, Lt Adrian Thornton.
Kneeling: Cpl Foggy Dewhurst, Cpl Neil Colligan, Cpl Jimmy Logan, Sig Taff Johnson, LCpl Taff Lewis, Cpl Jay Allen, Sgt Yorkie Layton, Sig Smudge Smith, Sig Slab Henderson

Royal Signals trades. There were twenty five days before the event and these included a field deployment exercise for five of them. A very ambitious sequence of ninety two drill movements with arms being carried, was taken from the Drill Manual and dove-tailed together into, what proved on the night to be, a most spectacular display. It is hoped that the Drill Display did not overshadow the equally enjoyable performance by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the King's Regiment under the direction of Bandmaster **WO1 Patrick Smith** and **Drum Major WO2 Steve Donkin.** At the end of the performance and after 'Sunset' the Band played the St Tönis March, the regiment's own quick march and then marched off to Begone Dull Care and The Kingsman. The Burgermeister of Stadt Tönisvorst **Herr Richard Beckers** thanked the Band and took the salute at the March Off.

PRESENTATIONS

During the field deployment exercise in early September, **Brig P. I. Chiswell CBE,** the senior British Officer, Headquarters Northern Army Group, took the opportunity to pay a farewell visit to the regiment, prior to handing over.

On arrival at the exercise area at Leuth, **Brig Chiswell** was met by the CO and the Adjt and escorted to a suitable clearing where, for the third time during his tour, he found members of the Sergeants Mess formed up in a three sided square for the presentation of a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The worthy recipient was **SSgt (YofS) Paddy Coburn,** who as a result of some regimental magic, was watched by his wife **Mrs Ann Coburn.** After the presentation the group assembled in a tent to congratulate **Yeoman Coburn** in the traditional manner and **Brig Chiswell** had the opportunity to talk to the **Coburns** and most members of the Sergeants Mess. The next stop on **Brig Chiswell's** very tight programme was at the Officers Field Mess where **Capt Sandy Reid** had arranged a 'light' sit down luncheon. At the end of the meal the CO said a few words of farewell to **Brig Chiswell** and presented him with a bronze statuette, depicting a Royal Signals Officer in full Ceremonial Dress, as a memory from all ranks of his three year association with the regiment. For the remainder of his time in the field **Brig Chiswell** visited parts of the regiment tactically deployed and met many of those involved in providing field terminal communications for Headquarters Northern Army Group.

Brig P. I. Chiswell CBE congratulates SSgt (YofS) Paddy Coburn and Mrs Coburn on the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Lt Col Paul Webb presents LCpl Andy Edwards with his fifth BAOR Football Colours

Brig P. I. Chiswell CBE accompanied by the CO, Lt Col Paul Webb meets three members of the MT Troop.
Left to right: Sigs Stephen Eastwick, John Rheay, LCpl Kevin Baxter

INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS

Towards the end of September, it was very noticeable that all the Officers were becoming bookworms. The CO had set two battles as Officer Training projects and the feverish activity was the last minute getting together of historic detail and material. **Maj Neville Illman** led the group of Officers who presented the 1945 Rhine Crossing and **Maj Frank Garrod,** OC 2 Sqn, led a team who relived the Battle of Crefeld which took place in the Eighteenth Century. They were two most interesting days and included in each case an afternoon's visit to the battle site. The Rhine Crossing presentation was so interesting that **Maj Illman** volunteered to get his team together again, at some later date and, together with some of the local people in Wesel, give the presentation to the whole regiment.

THE SIGHTS ARE SET

The football season is with us again and sights are set on winning the Army Cup this season. **Capt Colin McLoughlin** is the Football Officer and **WO2 (RQMS) Rick Garrod** is the Trainer. The team has already got off to a good start by getting through the first round of the Army Cup by beating Rheindahlen Garrison by 4 goals to 1 and winning, only just, the Royal Signals BAOR six-a-side competition which was held at Verden. Additionally the Regimental Team, as a whole, represented Rhine Area in the Inter Division Competition and, although they only won one game, they certainly did not disgrace themselves against the might of the other three Divisional sides. One of the stalwarts of the Regimental Team, **LCpl Andy Edwards** who is a regular BAOR Team player, has been awarded his BAOR Football Colours for the fifth time!

VISIT BY CHIEF WRAC BAOR

In early October the regiment once again took to the Leuth Training Area for a tactical field deployment exercise to practise the drills and procedures associated with moving a Switch (Commcen). Yes, for former members of the regiment, you will be interested to hear that we have had two totally separate Switches for over a year and a half now, which, on occasions, have been linked by radio relay and now, as a result of this recent exercise, can actually move in the normal leap frog manner. It was during this exercise that Chief WRAC HQ BAOR, **Lt Col Audrey Smith**, made a second visit to the regiment, this time to see how it operated in the field and to meet some of the girls deployed at the various locations. During her visit she was escorted by **Capt Mary Piers** who commands the Rheindahlen Joint NORTHAG/TWOATAF Commcen Troop, but who works in the Regimental Command Post when the regiment is in the field. After seeing most aspects of field operations **Lt Col Smith** took lunch with the Officers, during which time the locality was subjected to an attack by an 'enemy' force commanded by **Lt Keith Goodfellow!** It is hoped that **Lt Col Smith** left the field with the impression that the regiment not only communicates but can defend itself, if the occasion demands!

Chief WRAC HQ BAOR, Lt Col Audrey Smith, talks to Pte Debbie Horton, wife of LCpl Ned Horton as she operates NORTHAG Trunks Alpha Telephone Exchange

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

ARMY DRIVING CHAMPIONS

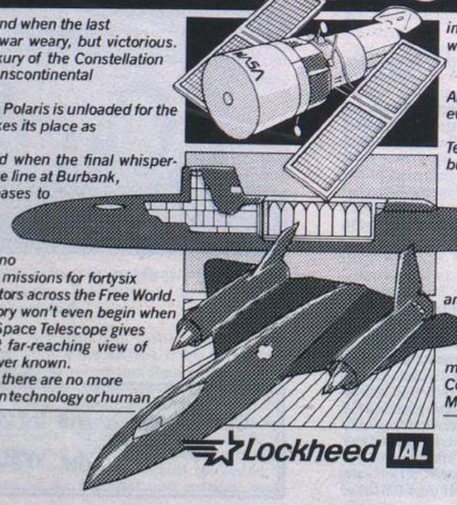
Lastly, everyone should be aware that the regiment are now the holders of the Army Driving Championship, as a result of a win by **WO2 (RQMS) George Gay** on Exercise *Magnum Spirit 1981* held recently in the Minden area. **George,** partnered by **WO2 Ken Benns** REME, also led the Rhine Area team to overall victory.

Exercise *Magnum Spirit* was held this year from Fri 2 Oct to Sun 4 Oct. Sixty competitors, using non-specialised landrovers, started from Minden at 2000 hours on Friday night. The Exercise consisted of two night navigation sections, each of over 200 miles, an afternoon of special stages, and several cross country and miscellaneous tests. Each crew had to be self supporting for the period of the exercise, including cooking, vehicle maintenance and repairs. No outside assistance was permitted, except for the provision of fuel. **George** and **Ken** held a slender lead after the first navigation section. Competition was keen, and they eventually arrived back in Minden at 0530 hours on Sunday morning, not knowing whether they had won or not. During the exercise they had visited over 100 time controls and 400 other checkpoints, and were almost exhausted by the time the event was completed. After a short wait, it was confirmed that they had scooped the pool. In fact, they won a total of sixteen cups and trophies, which must be some kind of record.

WO2 (RQMS) George Gay proudly stands against the landrover in which he won the Army Driving Championship for 1981 and upon which are displayed the numerous trophies that he collected as a result of the win

L——O——C——K——H——E——E——D

THE STORY GOES ON



Our story didn't end when the last Hudson came home war weary, but victorious. Or when the classic luxury of the Constellation gave way to today's transcontinental jet transports.

It won't end when Polaris is unloaded for the last time, or Trident takes its place as freedom's shield.

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

THE CAMBRIAN MARCHES PATROL COMPETITION

Land of *Whose* Father?—The CO has a great deal to answer for! In the DCI it all sounded quite a reasonable challenge, man versus the mists and the mountains over four rounds, each round lasting one day but when we re-read the very fine print at the end of the 1981 Cambrian Marches, on 13 Sep, we detected the power of a mighty pen, well worthy of the Eisteddfod Crown for Literature. The 'background' paragraphs, enticing the unwary into the depths of such unlikely names as Esgirberfedd, Llanerchgellyfelin and Cwmtwrchuchaf, and try saying that on an A41 for starters, read as follows:

March

The course is **approximately** 95 kilometres for the four day event, the major part of which is across **hilly** and **difficult** country in Central Wales. A team which is not **thoroughly** fit and trained in hill marching and navigation by day and night is **most** unlikely to complete the course.

Military Skills

During the march teams will be **tested** in military skills by day and **night**. All such tests will be within the normal competence of a **well trained fighting** patrol. There will not be more than four tests per day on the first three days of the March (no mention of the 4th Day!).

Shooting

Teams will be required to shoot by day and/or **night** on a range of **any** type using their own weapons or other weapons of **any type** including foreign weapons.

We have now emphasised the words which camouflage the hidden traps and it is now crystal clear why so few teams enter—8 teams from the whole of the Regular Army and one from the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps.

The Cambrian March takes place every year and is designed for the Gurkhas, Afghans, Welsh mountain infantry and such like people—including 30 Sig Regt? The three paragraphs above describe the competition, without mentioning the pain, agony and sheer hard work involved in both preparing for it and taking part. We started off a full three months before the competition with a squad of 20—with the aim of eventually ending up with a nine man team. During the three months we covered a fair amount of physical training and then moved on to the more military side of things, including shooting. By the end of the first six weeks we were reduced to about 15 men, all of whom were by then beginning to wonder if they'd really done the right thing when they 'volunteered' for this 'unusual job', in a very unusual and faraway place. Eventually, after about 200 miles worth of blood, pain and blisters, and a couple of thousand rounds (don't tell anyone in the QM's dept), the lucky (?) nine arrived at the RV in Wales, complete with its smiling support party.

THE OFF

We were briefed, and spent our last night of comfort (in bivis!) and started off the next morning. Each man was carrying about 50 to 60lb of kit, including a weapon (8 SLRs and 1 LMG) and vast amounts of blank ammunition. It would be pointless to give a blow by blow, blister by blister and bruise by bruise account of the March, suffice it to say that we didn't find it particularly easy. As for the military skills—well—can you identify an SES? (It's a Chinese automatic rifle) or decide quickly what to do when you're cold, exhausted, it's pouring down with rain, your patrol commander is 'killed off' and the patrol medic gets hit on the head and ends up lying unconscious in the mud?—or after three days of this, how do you fancy a quickish 10km speed tab (which the survivors did in 1 hr 6 mins)?

VERY TESTING

During the March, out of nine that started, four didn't make it. **LCpl Richard Skelland** was the first casualty; having to be casevac'd by helicopter with heat exhaustion (in Wales?). **Cpl Nigel Harwood** was the next, with a rash between his legs—funny now, but he didn't think so at the time! The other two, **Sigs Steve Rothwell** and **'Bels' McCombe** dropped out with 'immersion foot'. If you've never seen this condition—the best description of it is that your feet puff up, turn white, rot—and drop off! The five survivors?—**LCpl Kev Morgan**—our tame PTI who not only ran all the physical training, but took over as 2IC team halfway through, **Sig 'Taff' Howells**, whose local knowledge came in handy, **LCpl Martin Sloman** who acted as 'back man' of the team for most of the way—probably the worst position of all and **Sig Paul Hanlon** who was rather popular when he fell in love with all 27 lb of the LMG and wouldn't let anybody else carry it! Finally, **Capt Bernie Hewitt**, who didn't actually do very much apart from get on everybody's nerves by not letting the team stop every few yards.

In all, it was an experience that was well worth having, and which none of the team will ever forget. The overall result? Out of the nine teams which actually started the four day event, only eight finished, and we were placed sixth overall, not all that bad for a first attempt. Next year, knowing the score, we'll do better, but we've got a long way to go before we can even start to think about beating this year's winners—a team from 7 Gurkha Rifles. Finally—our thanks to **Sgt Dave Hollis** who completed nearly all the training, but had to drop out due to a knee injury, which did not stop him coming with us as OC support party.

SOME MINOR SNAGS IN DENMARK

Ex *Amber Express*, the annual AMF(L) and LSG exercise, took place in Denmark from 24 Aug to 2 Oct. An enlarged 3 Sqn, commanded by **Maj Nigel Fairley**, supplied the communications for the Logistic Support Group. (It was suggested that the title Logistic Headquarters and Signal Squadron would be bettern than 3 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt.)

The advance road party of about 20 personnel drove over, leaving Blandford on 20 Aug. They sailed on the RFA vessel *St Tristram*, arriving in Farum (about 20 miles from Copenhagen), late on Sat 22 Aug. The air advance party departed on Mon 25 Aug, spending the night at the Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney, and flew to Vaerlose, Denmark early Tues 26 Aug. The aim of the two parties was to set up a tented camp for the remainder of the exercise personnel arriving in early September. But they were not to know just what the system had in store.

A camp stores was set up at one of the Danish Army Camps and all Camp stores were sent from Thatcham by container. We were told that we could collect our 36 x 180 pounder tents, but there was only one problem, 'The pegs have not arrived yet'. Of course, we didn't bother!! We were then told that we could collect the marquees, 'But the ends haven't arrived yet. They are in another container'. Of course, we didn't bother!!

ATTESTATION

WO1 (FofS) Rothwell's son **Colin** recently 'signed on' for a career with the Corps. **Colin's** attestation took place in the CO's office, with the CO, **Col K. Olds**, and **Col Morgan** from Bournemouth Army Careers Office present, with **WO1** and **Mrs Rothwell**, and **Colin's** girlfriend **Debbie Cunningham** proudly watching. **Colin**, who is the second of **FofS Rothwell's** sons to follow an Army career, reported for training at 11 Sig Regt on 5 Oct. He will eventually train as an R Tg.

Left to right: Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson, WO1 (FofS) Rothwell MBE, Mrs Rothwell, Miss Debbie Cunningham, Colin, Col Morgan (Bournemouth Army Careers Office) and Col K. Olds

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

A RECURRING PLEASURE

It is one of life's mysteries that this regiment has never tired of going to Scarborough for annual camp (or for that matter that Scarborough has not tired of the regiment). It would appear that Burniston Barracks has been the venue every other year since time immemorial. Perhaps it was a foregone conclusion that we would end up there again this year—after all it was four years since our last extravangaza there (not counting the week's trade training camp last year).

The administrators around the regiment heaved a sigh of relief and dug the last Admin order from the depths of their bottom drawers. A quick change of date and names and it would be ready to reissue. MTWO **WO1 Terry Curtis** scored 'Route Cards' off his list of things to do. Even if the drivers did not know the way, the vehicles surely should.

The CO, **Lt Col Chris Cross,** decided that, as this was to be his last camp, it was to be all things to all men (including WRAC). **Training Major Bill Price** had already completed his third rewrite of the programme by the time he departed for the peace and quiet of AAC Harrogate on posting. No sooner had he taken over the desk than **Maj Bob Drake** was being prompted to produce version four. The Master Plan (mark eleven or thereabouts) consisted of the regiment being split into Leadership and trade training groups, with a small administrative staff. The aim was to upgrade as many of the Trade Trainers as possible and to produce a testing and devious programme of activity for the Leaders. Combine this with early morning PT (arranged by **RSM Pete Clarke**), evening sporting activity and a BFT for everyone at the end of camp and the process was to be one of natural selection or kill or cure. Alas the Colonel's schemes were all in vain with all of the TA surviving the experience (give or take a couple of heart attacks, the odd appendicitis, broken ankle and a variety of other lesser ailments for the medical officer **Capt Jack Mulhearn** to cure). Indeed, he fell so far short of his aim to extend the regiment, that certain anonymous individuals have actually been heard to say that they rather enjoyed it all!

It's so nice to be beside the seaside. Some of the Regimental Pipers and Drummer taking a breather during a concert engagement at the Spa, Scarborough

52 SIG SQN (GLASGOW) REPORT

After our exertions at Ben Nevis, the squadron had a quiet and uneventful summer, in preparation for the rigours of a Trade Training/Leadership/Keep Fit/Concentration Camp at Scarborough STC in September! **Capt Findlay** (Why me?) **Fountain** took the helm as OC for the period of Camp and for the entire fortnight he kept plotting a mass escape to the extent of having Escape Committee notices included in Sqn Orders.

Each squadron had to sponsor one day's training for the Regimental Leadership Training Group and 52 Sqn decided to inject a little excitement/terror in the form of six Command Task stands using 'real' 70ft cliffs etc. The Command Tasks were visited by Commander Lowlands, **Brig Stisted,** who was much amused at the raft building stand run by **Lt Allan Lapsley, Cpl Pat Cottingham** WRAC, **Cpl Margaret Goodfellow WRAC and Sig Joe McLean** where the respective

Maj Jimmy Rhynas literally sets his map to the ground during the Map Reading Exercise whilst Maj John Pinkerton (staying sharp), Capt Doug Bartlett and Capt Findlay Fountain await his confirmation that they are indeed lost

teams of **Maj Jimmy Rhynas** and **Maj Alex Ramsay** proved that raft design was not their forte. To dry out the unsuccessful raft builders there was another stand involving a stretcher evacuation up a 70ft cliff, before the teams were back into the water with **Capt Liz Campbell's** bridge stand.

The squadron won most of the Regimental Prizes at camp with **WO2 (SSM) John McCalls'** Male and WRAC Squads winning the Drill Competition, **Sig Archie McNeil,** best turnout military, **LCpl Pat Colins** best turnout WRAC, **Cpl Keith Anderson's** team, assault course competition, **Cpl Alister Grant's** team football, **LCpl Cottingham** .22 shooting contest and of course the Sqn won the Best Squadron at Camp Trophy—What better finish to the fortnight.

FAREWELL

Capt (TOT) Norman Gater retires this summer after 27 years' service and we wish **Norman, Maria** and family every success in the future.

51 SQN (ABERDEEN) FOCUS

The members of the squadron were participating in all aspects of activities during camp namely Leadership Group, Trade Training Group and Admin Group. The OC was acting as Paymaster while **Capt D. Bartlett** took over as OC for the duration. Those on the trade training course did themselves and the squadron proud with their level of success and achievement—many of them completing their trade from basic to class 3 standard and the remainder completing their class 2.

The poor unfortunates on the leadership group had a very varied and changeable programme. Most of the activities, that this group participated in, were of an outdoor nature and the weather for the two weeks was at least on their side—if not the organisers. Driving skills, or lack of them, were a feature of some of the tasks performed by the group, as was an ambush attack during a mobile patrol. The highlight was a group of eight WRAC charging at the enemy through smoke, firing SLR with BFA, venting blood curdling yells.

On a quieter note, but only in pitch, was the activity of members of this group in erecting tents, both on the football field and during the day of NBC training. Many of us had a free sauna and face pack (as well as potential heart failure) during this particular activity. On a really good day this group merely attempted a 30Km walk followed by a night march using a compass bearing (how they wished they had eaten their carrots). A day at Rolleston Ranges was fairly peaceful, when not being deafened during the competitions. **Cpl MacNally** and **Sgt Duncan** were successful in the LMG Pair Competition during this activity.

The final indignity for this group came when attempting command tasks. The success (or lack of it when tying knots for a bridge and a raft) was obvious by the number of wet clothed bodies walking round. When bridges and rafts turned turtle, the obvious way to become dry is to walk over a rope bridge—followed by coming down a death slide.

SSgt Ian McInnes (right) briefs his section on the next leg

Mutiny on the Bounty. Admiral (acting Lt) Jim Black, resplendent in beret, prepares to ward off mutineers with a line pole

ENJOYABLE AND FITTER

On the last Thursday there was a games and fitness competition. Our Assault Course team of seven men and three WRAC can take consolation in that they finished in the fastest time—however, once two sets of penalty points were added this placed them overall second. Our WRAC Tug of War Team had much better success when they won the WRAC section of this competition with their coach **Sig MacMillan.** Finally the Admin Group must receive some mention. The behind the scenes activity performed by the group, in order to make for the success of the other groups, was first class. At the darkest moment a hot meal would revive a group.

On reflection the squadron are glad to be home, however all the groups thoroughly enjoyed themselves and look forward to the next camp with fitter bodies and minds.

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIG SQN ROUND-UP

'Come, let us take a muster speedily
Doomsday is near; die all, die merrily'

Shakespeare has a word for everything, whether it be the French, imminent Armageddon, or merely a Regimental Camp. In fact, nobody did die, but there is no doubt that Camp this year was a heartstopping occasion, against which other events pale into insignificance.

However, before going any further, 61 Sqn proudly announces that it has retained the Whistler Bowl as the best all round squadron during the year. Banner headlines of the type '61 Squadron Best—Official' were contemplated for this issue but were rejected in the interests of modesty. Various other notable successes must also be recorded. Firstly, there is the award of the Myers Cup for best soldier to LCpl, now **OCdt Gavin Clark.** There is a strong body of opinion that believes this may be due to the fact that he sounds more like the RSM than the RSM, as he proved to the general confusion of all early one morning during the PT parade. To obscure matters further, the regiment now has two Mr Clark(e)s! Secondly, we can record that **Lt Anne Sweeney** was the best SMG shot at Camp. This was in keeping, since we also held onto our lead in the Regimental Shooting Competition, achieving first place overall. **Anne** had the misfortune to be Orderly Officer over the middle weekend of camp, and was therefore delighted to be told by **Staff 'Rab' Campbell** of 52 Sqn that luncheon had been arranged for her in the middle of the square, and would she like to go to her table now? It was a convivial affair, and general interest was heightened when the RSM appeared, contrary to information that he was to be out of camp. A graceful withdrawal at the end of the meal seemed appropriate. Thirdly, we note that the winning team in the Regimental map-reading competition consisted mainly of 61 Sqn, and was led by **Staff 'Big Tam' MacInnes.**

We concluded our Camp with a squadron party the night before our departure. A marquee— the knowledgeable would recognise it as a B shelter—was erected on the Officers Mess lawn, and champagne was served. The 'Wee Man' **LCpl John MacDonald, LCpl Brian Stobie** and **Lt Hall** appeared in drag, and are to be complimented on the standard of their dresses for this occasion. They might have been at Ascot. The B Shelter rapidly became uninhabitable (it had been used as a C.S. Chamber in the squadron NBC presentation and besides the champagne had run out) and so a move was made to the NAAFI. A few sore heads were in evidence the next morning for the return to Edinburgh, but all arrived safely.

69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIG SQN (LONDONDERRY) REPORT

69 Sqn went to camp this year with less than its established strength due to injuries, to a fall off in an hitherto high level of recruiting and in part to the training time restrictions. It was decided that the emphasis this year should be on trade training and that maximum use be made of the excellent facilities available at STC Scarborough.

For the remainder of the Sqn there was a full and varied programme of leadership training. We were tasked with providing a day's military training exercise. As a departure from the traditional lines, we roped in a new AO **Capt David Roy,** recently commissioned into the regiment from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, to run a stand on unarmed combat. This proved extremely interesting and enjoyable to all the participants and an object lesson to **Capt Roy** who hadn't reckoned on the aggressiveness of the WRAC!

In addition to all the class and field work, we started the day with PT (the SQMS **SSgt Jackie Deans** was even seen!) and finished with what was euphemistically known as 'evening activity' ie sport. We certainly all ended up at least marginally fitter, although our sincere sympathy is extended to the two unnamed personnel who had the misfortune to suffer some heart trouble as a result.

The middle Saturday of camp was particularly poignant for our Sqn as the North Irish Horse Guidon was trooped on our Regimental parade (the Honorary Colonel's parade). Also on that occasion the OC, **Maj John Pinkerton,** was presented with his Territorial Decoration, the PSI **SSgt Phil Atherton** with his Long Service and Good Conduct medal and (acting) **Sgt Freddie Boggs** with a bar to his Territorial Efficiency Medal. The fact that it was the OC's birthday went unmarked as the CO drew the line at the regiment singing 'Happy Birthday' on parade.

Unfortunately no major prizes were brought back across the water this year—we even came last in the MO's fickle finger of fate competition! We had, however, the satisfaction of winning the hockey (or should one say the 'ad hockey') competition and being first and second in the Tug of War.

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

REGIMENTAL LINE LAYING COMPETITION

The Second Annual Regimental Line Laying competition was held at Burtonwood Airfield over the weekend 19/20 September. Three squadrons competed for the trophy, presented by the CO, **Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay**, at last year's competition. The squadrons were:- 80 Signal Squadron (V)—last years winner, 42 Signal Squadron (V), 59 Signal Squadron (V). It was soon obvious that the competition was going to be hard fought, and it was equally obvious that climatic conditions were going to be far from ideal as 80 Sqn began the task in the early evening of 19 Sep. No sooner had the Adj, **Capt John Willis**, completed the initial briefing and inspection than the heavens opened and SOP Exercise weather set in in a big way!

A word about the competition: each squadron had to establish a 10 line magneto exchange in the base tent, lay a short 10 pr lay around a designated route and establish 10 locals in strict order of priority, commencing with the simulated Radio Relay dets. Every aspect was marked by the DS from enthusiasm and leadership through technical expertise to establishing of communications. As 80 sqn began the task, the rain became torrential and, as the light faded, their task became even more difficult—good old 'Liney' weather! However the team achieved a high standard and considering the conditions completed a good proportion of the task. 42 Sqn were next to go, early on Sunday morning and, whilst the rain had abated somewhat, the dawn had yet to break and there was a high wind blowing. Once again a fine effort was made by the team and it was obvious that the final result would be a close run thing. Next to go were 59 Sqn, who were all too aware of the standard they had to achieve—with the sun shining their enthusiasm and sheer hard work were outstanding and if the prize was to have been presented for those qualities, then it surely must have been theirs.

PRESENTATION BY HONORARY COLONEL

The Honorary Colonel of the regiment, **Col M. C. Stanley MBE,** arrived to award the trophy, whilst the CO **Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay** provided much appreciated liquid refreshment! After compiling the scores of the DS, **Capt Ron Meyer, Sgt Mav Merrick** and **Sgt Alan Palmer** the result was as follows:-

1st 80 Sig Sqn (V),
2nd 59 Sig Sqn (V),
3rd 42 Sig Sqn (V).

For a second year the Trophy is to remain firmly lodged at Abbots Park, Chester. Perhaps next year . . . who knows . . . ?!

An intimate union being established by members of 59 Sig Sqn's team.
L to R: Sig Michael Hampson, Cpl John Taggart, Sig Anthony Jones

The Regimental Hierarchy bears down on the competitors during the Line Laying Competition.
L to R: WO1 (RSM) R. Upton, The Adjt Capt J. M. Willis, The 2IC Maj A. C. Leech TD, the CO, Lt Col G. D. A. Mackay

Members of 42 Sig Sqn (V) teams awaiting the result of the Competition.
L to R: Sig Dave McLoughlin, Cpl Alan Saddler, Sig Jim Smith

The winning team from 80 Sig Sqn (V) enjoying 'a can' after the prize giving.
L to R: Back Row: LCpl Mike Flynn, Sig Paul Clarke, Sig Dave Day, Cpl Eddy Watson, Cpl Mike Mahoney, Sig Andy White
Kneeling: Sig Dennis Kelly, Sgt Eric Murphy
AWOL: LCpl Roy Cotgrave

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

Report by Rev Alan Hughes CF

TO THE LAKES

The Regimental Adventure Training programme in the Lake District, which started with HQ (Middlesbrough) Sqn's weekend in July, was continued into August by 50 (Darlington) Sqn, 90 (Middlesbrough) Sqn and 49 (Leeds) Sqn on successive weekends. Having sifted through many copious accounts of what took place on these four perambulations into Jos Naylor country, I offer the following as perhaps the most honest—it is unexpurgated!

Capt Philip Walker 2IC 49 (Leeds) Sqn with his wife Lt Andrea Walker on a Regimental Exercise

TRAINING AT CONISTON

Report by Lt Caroline Catcheside 50 Sqn

Departing from our Drill Hall by luxury Coach (Bedford RL) we headed for the Lakes expecting a good weekend's worth of sunbathing and drinking (tea only of course). Arriving in time for a swift half, served to compound this theory, and we all went to bed happily. The next morning a cheery **SSgt Holmes** woke us gently with the words, 'Out of bed, PT in 10 mins' it took about a second for his words to sink in, 'PT in 10 mins, it's only 6.20am!!' The exercises that followed soon dispelled any previous ideas we had about this weekend. Breakfast followed, then being split into two groups we went for our first encounter with abseiling.

Climbing from the rover and heading for the cliff, **Bill Williamson** demonstrated his bravery by jumping over a 20ft ledge and clinging to the top with his finger nails. Despite all our efforts he still managed to get back onto the track and we carried on to the cliff edge. Peering over and gazing at 1000ft drop (actually only 120ft) fear took over. It was only through the persuasion of the PSI that each quivering wreck in our group lowered themselves sheepishly to the ground. After completing one descent each, we realised it wasn't all that bad and spent the rest of the day going up and down like Yo-Yo's. Full of confidence now, the group moved on, after a light (Kit Kat) lunch, to rock climbing. On reaching the face we were to climb, a civilian expert gave us a demonstration (he must have been an expert because he had no equipment)—later he asked me out to dinner, but I said 'no', well after all he had no equipment! However, he got stuck and shouted for help, after the PSI extracted him he spent 15 mins explaining that if it hadn't been for a loose pinnacle he wouldn't have needed our help. He went off in a huff after **Jackie Cooke** and **Ian Plater** climbed the same face, including the loose pinnacle, without problem. After a few hours of this, the rains came and rather than get wet, we went for a swim in Lake Coniston. On medical advice, we followed this with local ale in the village hostelry.

TO CANOEING

After PT the following morning we turned to canoeing. After completing the swimming test, our instructor asked each one of us to demonstrate how to capsize. We tried to explain that this was the part we found easy, without practice, but he insisted we show him. Being so pleased with the way he capsized **Paul Smethurst** spent most of the morning doing just that. So the weekend came to a close, and although it had been a physically demanding two days we would like to thank all the staff at Coniston for a most enjoyable time.

TO SCARBOROUGH

Military training and trade training has continued at squadron level on weekends and Tuesday evenings with a three line whip out for the Regimental Exercise at Scarborough on 2-4 October. It appears that 'the wraps' were on for this one—no press allowed, top secret? or was it simply that I have my 15 days out of camp training in the bag? No photographs have come my way, the Trg Office were tight lipped, and that's not the only place where physical restrictions are obvious in that Dept. Rumour has it that the regiment was undertaking a conversion course from AM CB (Breaker) sets to the new FM in preparation for an exercise in December to oil the wheels for BAOR 82—but this is only a rumour.

VISITORS

Other recent visitors have included **Maj David Lycett-Gregson** SO2 HQ 12 Group, **Brig John Burrows** Commander 12Group, **Col Tony Dennis** a Retired Officer on the Staff of N E Dist.

A STRONG CONNECTION

Col Tony Dennis is a Royal Signals Officer with strong family connections in 50th (Northumbrian) Division Signals. His father commanded the Divisional Signals Regiment in the 1920's. He attended a Regimental Officers Dinner night and presented the regiment with a splendid cigar box in silver, which itself had been presented to his father by Officers of the Corps all those years ago. **Col Tony** had had it re-inscribed. The Dinner was held to Dine Out a number of Officers who were leaving the 34th. **Maj Ron Atkinson TD** Regimental 2IC leaves us to take up his appointment as Watchkeeper with 12 Group. **Ron** and his wife **Benita** have been very popular members of 34th and will be much missed. Joining the Green Howards in 1957 as a National Serviceman, **Ron** enjoyed the life so much that he joined the TA in 1962 with the 4/5th Green Howards on demob. He then saw sense and because none of us ever get any younger, he became a Royal Signals Officer in 1968 on the reorganisation of the TA. He commanded 90 and HQ Sqns before becoming 2IC.

Maj Ron Atkinson TD receiving a gift from the CO on the occasion of his Dining Out

Maj Ted and Mrs Nan Tunstall MM at Ted's Dining Out

Also being Dined Out was **Maj Ted Tunstall MM** PSO 50 Sqn. In his speech CO, **Lt Col Bill Illingworth** pointed out that after enlisting in 1937 with the Royal Artillery, **Ted** served in the Middle East, North Africa, Italy, Sicily, France, Germany and Darlington! In addition to the Military Medal he has no less than 19 medals, decorations and mentions in despatches. **Ted** has served the regiment as PSO since 1972 and no amount of praise could match his selfless dedication and qualities as an Officer and a friend.

CO 34th, Col Bill Illingworth TD with the three pregnant ladies of his regiment. *L to R:* Nellie Woodhead, Lt Rosemary Turner and Lt Sue Shears on their Dining Out

Three 'ladies in waiting' were dined out also. **Lt Nellie Woodhead** of 50 Sqn Gateshead Detachment and married to **Capt Peter Woodhead** of 50 Sqn. **Lt Rosemary Turner** of 49 Sqn married to **Capt Angus Turner** also of 49 and **Lt Sue Shears** also of 49 but, quite sensibly, married to someone outside the regiment.

Rev John Treadgold and his wife Hazel attending their last Regimental function before taking up a new appointment as Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor. As Vicar of Darlington, John has been a good friend of 50 Sqn and the regiment. Pictured also is Maj John Douglas TD OC 50 Sqn

REMEMBRANCE

In addition to giving away presents the CO also represented the regiment on a number of Civic Occasions. One, in particular, was the Launching of the Middlesbrough British Legion Poppy Appeal, to which he was accompanied by the RSM, **WO1 Skinner.** The ceremonies took place in the presence of **Councillor Charles Godfrey,** Deputy Mayor of The Borough, and **Sgt Charlton** of 34th Band played the Bugle. The regiment is in the process of planning, as it does each year, the Remembrance Day Service at Middlesborough Cenotaph. **Maj Peter Taylor,** RHQ PSO, recently sent me the following quotation from the Funeral Oration of Pericles, with the advice, *'Go at dusk, into a quiet corner and in the fading light of a still spring evening, read this quotation'. Let your thoughts dwell day by day on your country's true greatness, and when you realise her grandeur, remember it is a heritage won for you by dauntless men who knew their duty and did it. In the hour of trial the one thing they feared was dishonour—they failed not their motherland but laid their gallant lives at her feet. In one great host did they give themselves to death, but each one, man by man, has won imperishable praise, each one has gained a glorious grave—not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined, remembrance that will live on the lips, that will blossom in the deeds of their countrymen the world over. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes; monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land but on the far off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven, not on stone or brass, but on the living heart of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them remember that prosperity and true happiness can only be for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those-alone who have courage to defend it.'*

As we approach another Remembrance Sunday perhaps this reminds us that little has changed, since the Greece of 430BC, since the Remembrance Day we kept last year and surely that is all the more reason to keep 'Remembering'.

CONGRATULATIONS

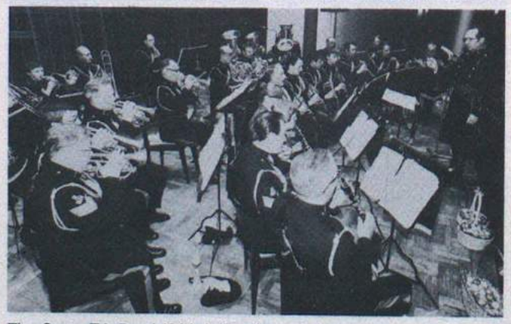
The CO also held a Conference and Promotion Board at RHQ on 26 Sep with the following results; **Ian Hall** and **Ann McMillan** of 90 Sqn become Regt O/Cadets, **Sgt Jeff Davidson** of 90 Sqn promoted to SSgt; **Sgt Graham Jennings** of 49 Sqn promoted to SSgt. The following are promoted from Corporal to Sergeant: **Barry Williams** and ex regular, now Tech Sergeant with 50 Sqn, **Don Rouse** of 90 Sqn, **Mick Buccilli** of 49 and **Mick Barnett** of 90 Sqn, also an ex regular soldier now in charge of a Radio Relay Detachment.

Congratulations also to **Gillian Cable** of 90 Sqn on passing her Camberley Commissioning Course. **2Lt Cable** now commands Juliet Troop.

WELCOME

Welcome to our two new PSI's. **Sgt Tony Hindle** joins us as TE Tech from 28 Sig Regt **Sgt Dave Dalton** as PSI Gateshead from 7 Sig Regt. It's good to have you with us, and remember, when the (micro) chips are down and the Comms are out, just smile and think of the TA Training Bounty.

WELL DONE

Congratulations are also due to members of 49 Sqn for their splendid effort in raising £720 for the Leeds Branch of Spina Bifida. **Cpl Maggie Bottom** of 49 had the idea of undertaking a sponsored walk along 43 miles of Hadrians Wall in Northumberland, with the aid of **Capt Bennie Newell** this was put onto a military footing for a bit of added interest and volunteers were recruited. Well done **Maggie** and 49.

The Corps TA Band (34th being the only Volunteer Regt to have a Band) playing at a recent Concert. Under the baton of their Bandmaster Derek Farrington

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

PERSONALITIES

CO—Lt Col Willie Allan. Volunteer CO who manages to combine travelling round UK for his civilian job playing the bagpipes, making wine and running a regiment. Oh for a bit of his energy! Called Sir.

2IC—Maj Peter Upton. Works for (or runs) British Telecomms. An expert on submarine cables in his civilian job and an expert on all matters. Called Peter One.

Trg Maj—Maj Colin Rayner. Has no civilian job, although he does have the time, usually out looking for Willow his dog. Willow usually out looking for Trg Maj. Called often.

Ops Offr—Maj Sally Cassanet. A civil servant combines her Ops Offr appointment with OC WRAC. Brings a lot of class into RHQ. Called Auntie Sal.

Adjt—Maj Peter McGann. Best looking officer in RHQ, next to Auntie Sal of course. Combines hard work, great charm, fantastic wit with the correct degree of modesty. Tipped by two people as next CO (one was **Mrs McGann** the other was the Adjt himself). Called Bighead Peter Two!

Co-ord Offr—Maj Chris Gale. Chartered engineer picks up all onerous tasks in RHQ which have been refused by others on humanitarian grounds. PMC Officers Mess. Called Chris.

QM Tech—Maj Bill Gahan. 38 years on and still a soldier. He was the subject of a separate article in last month's issue. Called Bill by friends and Sir by lowly officers who have lost stores.

OC HQ Sqn—Maj Archie Gibson. Diplomatic courier who travels all over the world. Sometimes gets mixed up about where he is at any given moment, who on earth would think of wearing sandals at camp. Called Archie.

2IC HQ Sqn—2Lt Frank Jepson. Works for the Bank of England, take home pay runs into millions of pounds. Called Green Bean on the CB radio net.

Tfc Offr—Capt Phil Blackburn. Boffin with common sense who even knows the meaning of army abbreviations. Path profile expert (is that anything to do with orienteering?) Called Phil.

TOT—Capt Paul Burton. Yet another British Telecomms employee. Has managed in just over one year to promote 90 per cent of his technicians. Called Sir, by newly promoted technicians.

OC LAD—Capt Jim Rennie. A civil engineer who is worth his weight in gold by being good looking and single. We have never failed to achieve at least a satisfactory report from a lady inspector. Called Jim.

Pmr—Maj Don Latham. An insurance consultant who manages to spend more hours in the TAC than a regular (he reckons more than the regulars combined). An expert on everything (author's note not Pmrs). Called Uncle Don.

QM Gen—Capt Barry Greenwood. Civilian Electrician who always manages to look smart in his uniform. Envious people say it is because he wears new kit every time (he does run the clothing store). Called Barry.

RSM—WO1 Tom Foody. Soon learnt the art of walking on water. Runs the ration accounting as well as playing five different sports. Called Sir.

MTWO—WO1 Dave Gouldsmith. Runs the MT with an iron rod and a multitude of charts and graphs. Called Sir.

In the next Wire notes we will introduce our Squadron personalities.

A FREEDOM PARADE IS PLANNED

The Regular Staff have returned from their annual holidays sunburnt, fresh and raring to go. In walks our CO **Lt Col Willie Allan,** listens politely to all our talks of dreamy beaches and duty free goods. Remarking favourably on our wise choice of resorts, gets up to face the hard civilian task of making money. 'By the way' he says 'I have decided to have a Freedom Parade next year, find out the form'. A cloud of dust and a puff of exhaust fumes and he is gone. Duty files, dated circa 1979, were exhumed and the format of the last occasion we exercised our rights closely examined. The Mayor stated he would be delighted to officiate on 24 Apr 82. Now the Corps band were approached the date was feasible but we must pay the cost of travel. London District asked for £200 plus for the coach but stated that they may pay say £125. Now off to each of our three TA Associations, could we please have about £250 each to help pay the costs of this expensive occasion. Now off to each squadron to say the parade is on, note it in your diaries, select squads of 60 men and women from each of your squadrons.

Public relations next and London District decide they are in charge (we have three Districts as well) and will control the press release to the newspapers, radio and television. Television! If it is that important we had better start rehearsing now. No time for any more as only seven months to go and uniforms need pressing. Order your next copy of the Wire now, this is history in the making!

A CONCEPT OF OPS

Report by Capt M. T. H. Stewart, R Signals (V)

Those of you who are enlightened will know that this is the new terminology being employed in communication circles. What many will not know is the literal meaning that can be attached to this, thought shattering, phrase. I first met this term, 'Concept of Ops', when I was allowed to spend my annual fortnight's camp in the Operations Office of 22 Sig Regt. You will gather from this that I am a TA Officer and I am, at the time of writing, a far more enlightened one than I was when I started my camp. Let me explain.

On the third day of my camp I was fool enough to visit the Ops cell of this famous 1 BR Corps Sig Regt. and ask of **Maj Hamish Adams** (the Ops Offr) had he got anything useful I could do. A look of total amazement crossed his face. His jaw dropped open, and he was heard to utter in English (the relevance of the English will be made clear later on) 'Someone wants something to do . . . I . . . Um . . . Er . . . let me think about it'. Two minutes later. **'Gus?!?** What can we give him to do?' . . . silence . . . 'I know, he can write a CEI'. I should explain at this point that no-one else had said anything and that the 'GUS' referred to is **Capt Gus Gurr** (Traffic Officer for the regiment).

And so it began. It is sufficient to say that: 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was . . . write a CEI'. Having been tasked to write a CEI (Communications Electronic Instruction) life really began to move on at a pace.

By the end of the day I had managed to commit pen to paper and achieve a fair start, despite the many interruptions by numerous people.

In two weeks we generated the CEI's, Co-ordinating Instructions, Op Orders, Admin instructions, chapatis and a lot of hot air and sweat. There is no doubt that the work pace is hectic, the output very high, the quality superb and the atmosphere ludicrous. But, in the end the tasks are always completed and even the 'Sahib' is seen to smile, as is the ever demanding, unmovable and unflappable **Gus Gurr.**

My thanks to all those in Ops for the chance to allow a little enlightenment into my life and for helping complete my education, and a special thank you to the 'Sahib' for making me welcome, at least I think that is what he said. If by now you still do not know the correct meaning of the 'Concept of Ops' well here is one explanation. It is what the Ops Officer thinks is going to happen, but as his crystal ball often gets very cloudy and because it is definitely difficult to communicate with, it is often a matter of conjecture as to whether it actually does or not.

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

THE RECIPE FOR ANNUAL CAMP

One again '38' set out in a variety of forms of transport to Penhale Camp in mid-September. The recipe was to be the usual one in the alternate years between Red Shoes exercises, with the emphasis on trade training. Accordingly, all was set up and ready by Sunday afternoon, when trade training, an NBC Instructors' Course and a Detachment Commanders' course commenced.

VISITORS

As is usually the case, we received a full quota of visitors. We were particularly delighted to welcome the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE** on his first visit to the regiment. The SOinC visited training during the day and stayed on as the chief guest at the Officers Mess Dinner. Other guests at the dinner included our soon-to-retire Honorary Colonel, **Col Richard Grimwood Taylor** and the Hon Col designate, **Col John Francis**, a former CO of '38'. Also present was **Lt Col Mike Vann**, our CO designate, who takes over from **Lt Col Alan Hawksworth** at the end of October.

The earliest visitors were **Col D. Kentish,** T.A. Colonel REME, and **Lt Col S. R. Thorley** REME who were naturally concerned with the REME members of our LAD, commanded by **Capt Charles Cartwright.** Then followed visitors from East Midlands TAVRA and Yorkshire & Humberside TAVRA, **Lt Col Bray**, ADWRAC for North East and North West Districts, **Col J. C. Eversfield**, Deputy CSO UKLF, and our Group Commander, **Brig John Hart**. Early in the second week we entertained members of the Royal Signals Association from Sheffield, Derby and Nottingham, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn. Finally our last visitor was **Maj Gen I. H. Baker CBE**, GOC North East District.

The SOinC talking to Sgt Ian Clifton, with the CO, Brig Hart and Maj Richard Gravestock

The Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn, Councillor and Mrs. Reg Edwards, with Maj Nick Henwood, OC 93 (East Lancashire) Sig Sqn and Capt Ted Hall, the squadron AO

SPORT

The weather in Cornwall was not, unfortunately, up to standard. However, we were able to include a full sports programme, organised by **Maj Toby Seymour**, which included the inter-squadron competition. This comprised five events, the tug-of-war and rounders (for WRAC) being won by 93 (East Lancashire) Sig Sqn, who also won the overall trophy. The volleyball and badminton events were won by 46 (Derbyshire) Sig Sqn, and the football by 64 (Sheffield) Sig Sqn. Trophies and medals were presented by the Honorary Colonel.

The other main 'sporting' event was the Tickle Test. The CO in his wisdom (?) had provided a trophy to go to the squadron which 'persuaded' the highest proportion of those at camp to pass the test. Every morning, before dawn, there were large numbers of people running around the camp in preparation for the ordeal. In the end, the trophy was won by 87 (Nottingham) Sig Sqn with a pass rate of 98% whilst the overall figure for the regiment was 96%. Obviously we were all much fitter than we had realised!

The Sunday afternoon Officers v WO's/Sergeants cricket match was a much less serious occasion, with the rules being bent with impunity. It is rumoured that the Officers only won because the scorers were **Lts Penny Wakefield** and **Ruth Dorries**!

PARADE

After dreadful weather on the middle Saturday, which was the one free day of the camp period, Sunday started with the usual Regimental Parade. The CO was the inspecting officer on this occasion, and he presented thirteen awards and decorations to members of the regiment. These were: the Efficiency Decoration to **Capts Paul Stafford** and **Ron Toft**, the first clasp to **Majs Ewart Pulford** (the Paymaster), **John Rose** and **John Tyler**, and the second clasp to **Maj Nick Bradley**; the Efficiency Medal to **WO2 (SSM) Jerry O'Connor** and **Sgt Eric Russell**, the first clasp to **WO2 (SSM) 'Moss' Elliott, WO2 (RQMS) Bill Evans** and **Cpl John Pulley**, and the second clasp to **SSgt Bill Verity.**

The parade was followed by a short church service conducted by our two padres **Mike Hiles** and **Tony Franey.**

WEEK TWO

Week two started with trade tests and the Detachment Commander's Pass-off Parade, after which everyone prepared for a two-day (and night) military training exercise on Dartmoor. This was to be a fairly tough assignment. On the first day two squadrons set out on a 12km compass march around the moor, with a number of DS located at convenient check points around the route. Whilst the standard of navigation was not always the highest, everybody returned safely though one or two were suffering from fatigue. Whilst this was going on, the other three squadrons were visiting training stands and preparing defensive positions for the night exercise. **Cpl Stephen Crompton** of 93 Squadron found that setting off trip flares was as easy as setting them up. The night attack exercise was packed with action and pyrotechnics, and there were a few injuries caused by the treacherous nature of the ground. **Pte Jane Sudall** injured a leg and was brought off the moor by stretcher and taken to hospital by the MO **Maj John Hunting**, but was then sent back to Penhale.

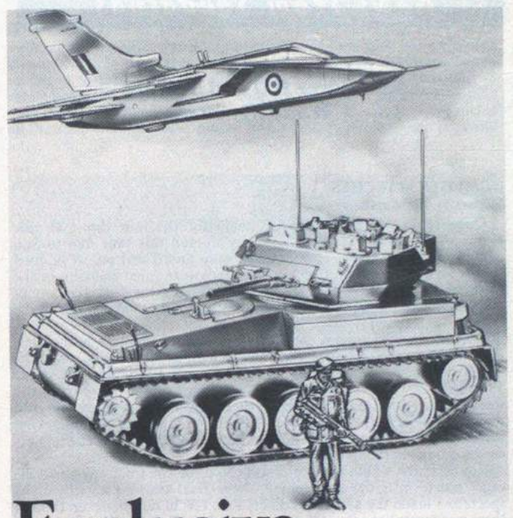
It had been intended that the second day would be a repeat of the first, with the squadrons changing positions. However, torrential overnight rain and heavy mist caused the second day's events to be curtailed, and by the time that the transport arrived to take us back to Penhale everyone was very wet. The squadron parties that evening were rather subdued affairs!

BETTER AND FITTER

The CO's closing address was his last chance to address a large part of the regiment, and was therefore a rather solemn occasion. However, we are all delighted to know that he will be around on the 2 Signal Group scene in the future. During his address the CO presented the Hawksworth Tickle Test Trophy, and also the awards to the best WRAC and male members of the Detachment Commander's course, the latter being won by **LCpl Yvonne Pinder** WRAC of 93 (East Lancashire) Sig Sqn and **LCpl Simon Blagden** of 64 (Sheffield) Sig Sqn.

Finally, we all travelled back home through rain and traffic jams after a successful and enjoyable camp, satisfied by the fact that we were better trained (and fitter) than when we left our homes two weeks earlier.

The accompanying photographs show some of the events of the fortnight.



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The CO presenting the Hawksworth Tickle Test Trophy to Maj Roger Merryweather, OC 87 (Nottingham) Sig Sqn

The winners of the Detachment Commanders course awards, LCpl Yvonne Pinder WRAC and LCpl Simon Blagden

No report on camp would be complete without a reference to the Adjutant. Capt Bob Pearce is seen here explaining an obscure administrative point

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

FAMILY TAKE-OVER

On 23 Sep 1963 **Cpl Dave Baxter** was attending Annual Camp with 302 Signal Regiment (TA) at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. Arriving in from a field exercise he was instructed to report to the PSO, **Capt Ormsby**, on doing so he was asked which do you want first, the good or the bad news, **Dave** the eternal optimist, elected for the good news. You are a father, a baby boy, Mother and son are both well, and! you are on guard tonight.

Eighteen years on and 40 Sig Regt are at Annual Camp, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, attending Camp. Father, now **Capt Dave Baxter**, 2IC HQ Sqn. No 1 son **2Lt David Baxter** 'Bravo' Troop and No 2 son **Sig Raymond Baxter**, on his recruit's Course and celebrating his 18th birthday.

40 Sig Regt has always had a strong reputation as a family regiment—Father and Sons, Brothers and Sisters, Husbands and Wives. However this latest must be some kind of record. For the future is it possible that 'Bravo' Troop be re-titled 'Baxter' Troop?

Latest member of the Baxter family to join 40 Sig Regt, David. Is attested by Lt Col Ian Graham. Father, Capt Dave Baxter in attendance

BALLYKINLER WEEK-END 8-9 AUGUST

CO, Lt Col Ian Graham makes a presentation of Cut Glass on behalf of the Officers of the regiment to Maj Dennis Gilpin on the occasion of his Dining Out

News from Squadrons

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

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

Report by Sgt Marsden

Once again the Sqn entered a team for the four day 100 mile Nijmegen Marches. Training was very limited this year due to Sqn commitments, however, 10 volunteers were found and set off in good spirits for Nijmegen. Sunday and Monday were spent relaxing in the town which was packed to capacity and offered much in the way of entertainment and liquid refreshment, most of the team favouring the latter.

Tuesday was the crunch day, Rev 0345, wash and shave in the dark and off to join the queue of about 8,000 for breakfast, once the 'delicious' meal had been devoured we were off on the first leg of our 100 miles. There were no great problems on the first day except the weather, and the team finished fit and very thirsty. The second and third day were somewhat more difficult with one or two members suffering from blisters and muscle problems, but full marks to them for carrying on even though they were in great pain.

However, the whole team was still there for the final day's march, eager not to miss the atmosphere of the final march-past where the spectators made the 17,000 marchers look few in number even though there was torrential rain. All went extremely well during the final day's march and we finished as we started, complete, in numbers and the proud owners of a Nijmegen Team Medal.

Team members: **Sgt Marsden, Cpls Perkins, Kelly, Clarke, LCpls Salisbury, Hailstone, Smith, Sigs Murray, Quirey, Simpson, Hand.**

EXERCISE 'FIELD MOUSE'

Exercise *Field Mouse* is the annual Sqn summer camp in Bavaria. We stayed in the Gasthof Engel, Moosbach, with the gorgeous **Gabi** waiting on us hand and foot. Everyone had a go at canoeing, sailing and hill walking for a day, and then a choice of one of these activities for a four day expedition. We also had a trip to Munich, on which **Cpl Polly Perkins** performed as usual in the Hofbrauhaus, and a sports competition at which we convincingly beat 2 Armd Div at both football and volleyball.

CANOEING

The white water on the R. Iller meant **SSgt John Moody** and **Sgt Martin Figura** had more people canoeing upside-down than the right way up. The OC, **Maj Grenville-Jones**, in particular, found himself swimming more often than paddling.

SAILING

The Alpsee appeared to be rougher than the Atlantic Ocean for the three weeks while we were there. The German boat owner from whom we hired the dinghies was not impressed as **Lt Paul Ellis** and **LCpl Bob Bastow** came in on successive days without a mast. **Cpl Steve Talbot** managed to turn turtle, so all the instructors had their moments of excitement. **Sig Peter Lee** won't forget it for awhile either, as he held onto the jetty as the dinghy he was in sailed off. You could have surfed on the wash from the wave caused by his belly flop in between boat and jetty.

More bailing than sailing

HILL WALKING AND ROCK CLIMBING

Lt John (let's get the cable car after I've got up at 11 o'clock) **Hogan** took the lads up the Nebelhorn, the Stuben and seemingly every other high peak in the Bavarian Alps. However his blisters provided adequate testimony to fact that he did cover many miles, more up than along.

CONCLUSION

Apart from the after effects of the Zotler Beer each morning everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and so it was a very worthwhile exercise.

Don't be disappointed!

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

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn Tidworth

ZIMBABWE MEDAL PRESENTATION

On 30 Jun, those members of the unit who served in Rhodesia during Op *Agila* were presented with the Zimbabwe Independence Medal (only to be worn whilst watching News at Ten) by **Col Olds**, Comd 1 Signal Group at the School of Signals Blandford.

The Zimbabwe Boys (or The Eee by Gum Ghums). The Signal by Jimmy should not be misconstrued

On 14 July the same members of the unit, plus Staff Officers from HQ 8 Field Force were presented with the Rhodesia Medal at Tidworth by **Brig J. H. Learmont CBE** the Deputy Commander of the Monitoring Force in Rhodesia and very appropriately the previous commander of 8 Field Force. We now have soldiers within the unit under the age of 20 who are the proud recipients of these medals (even if they can only wear one). It can't be bad!

Brig J. H. Learmount CBE presents medals to: SSgt Tom Stirzaker, SSgt Jeff Shergold (now RQMS) ('What did you do in the war Staff'?)

ON THE MOVE

September has been one of Squadron adventure training exercises, all cannot be revealed in this issue, 'truth to tell' many of the tell tale photographs have not yet come back from developing.

EX 'BENT KEY'

Ex *Bent Key* was A Tps exercise away from Tidworth, designed to practice long range HF comms from the Cairngorm mountains to Tidworth and our base camp at Boat of Garten, near Aviemore. This was combined with a public relations exercise working on the Strathspey Preserved Railway for a few days at the end of our stay. The Tp was split into 3 sections of 5 men each, there would have been more however certain members of the Tp were on 'holiday' with 249 Sig Sqn in Denmark, while others were with the Sqn 2IC in Morocco. The first two days were spent on low level walks in the Boat of Garten area, generally toughening up the feet and revising map reading. The nights, however, were spent improving Anglo Scottish relations in the local bar not 100 yards from our Campsite, in the Railway Station yard. The next three days were spent in the hills with a route covering over 45 miles across very rugged terrain. Section 1 led by **Cpl Smudge Smith** left Boat of Garten, in style, aboard one of the steam hauled trains of Aviemore from where they had to start the leg work into the Cairngorms and the Lairig Ghru pass. Sections 2 and 3, led by **Cpls Bobby Naylor** and **Jim Paine**, left after lunch on a different route, with a shorter trek to their overnight stops in mountain bothies. The next few days were spent moving about the hills and working schedules on PRC 320s to Tidworth using, more often than not, only the 2.4m whip although this proved less successful in the steep sided glens. A PRC 349 link was also established between sections with very favourable results, at times, distances over 15kms were achieved to the base station. The second day was certainly the hardest with distances of 25 miles over what sections 2 and 3 found was very rugged ground. Section 1 was more fortunate, they found a low level route and saved a lot of extra leg work. The last day saw sections 2 and 3 come back across the Lairig Ghru and down to Aviemore, while Section 1 appeared where the others had started near Nethy Bridge. Back at base camp that evening there were several people nursing very sore feet.

THE RAILWAY

The next few days were spent working on the railway, clearing a stretch of lineside of trees and broom to prevent any fires starting like one had some months earlier and spread into the garden of a house. The Tp quickly had to learn how to operate a railway with drivers, guards, signalmen and shunters all being required. The drivers, who required special training, were the TP OC **Lt John McIntyre** and the attached VM **LCpl Gaz Peters** of 10 Fd Wksp, who was also keeping the vehicles on the road. The guards and shunters came from the rest of Tp, but special mention is required for **Sigs Joey Edwards, Kev Argust** and **Phil Philbrick**. Signalmen—the lever pulling variety came in the shape of **LCpl Phil Stokes** and **Cpl John 'Molar' Lewis**—our QM. Our cook, **Pte Mick Sheehan**, even managed to get on the footplate of one of the steam engines and was apprentice fireman on the two weekends we were there! The trip to Speyside would not have been complete without a visit to a distillery and the Tp OC duly arranged a visit to the Glenfiddich Distillery at Dufftown, with most people being interested in tasting rather than seeing how the spirit was distilled. There were even a few attempts to obtain a free bottle, but we all had to make do with a wee dram.

SHOOTING REPORT

The shooting season (full bore) is now closed, for a little while, and this report has been left until now so that all stories (tales) could be told first hand. The saga of the shooting season 1981 follows!

Team members, Team Captain **Sgt** (I could shoot better than all of you with my eyes closed) **Key**. Mentor, **WO2 (YofS) Corky Corcoran, Sgt** (I'm too old for this) **Chris Bunn** RPC, **Cpl** (Oh my knees) **Brian Heywood, Cpl** (do I have to go) **Martin Chapman, LCpl** (but my wife's having a baby) **Bob Linnet, LCpl** (mutter-mutter) **Terry Dullaghan, Sig** (The Squire) **Pete Hopkins,** and **Sig** (all I seem to do is drive) **Kevin Argust**.

The team's initiation to competitive shooting started in February of this year in the snow, rain and mud, as we all know the best conditions possible for shooting. Only a few days in February, March and April were available and full use was made of these to develop individual marksmanship principles above and beyond that required for APWTS. The team found it quite difficult to remember the many different shoots that form part of the competitive competitions (let alone hit the target). However, luck was on our side from the training point of view, read on.

TO CYPRUS

Ex *Lion Sun 3* appeared for a first year team at just the right time, during this period 7 to 14 May the NESAM Land Forces (Cyprus) Skill at Arms meeting was held. We were invited to take part in the shoot for Honours only, but the time on the range and competitive practise was invaluable.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Corps Units and many others on the island who gave us great help and support during our stay. The Team shot extremely well under quite different conditions from UK, the wind across both Akrotiri and Dhekalia ranges does the world of good for proving 'you must aim off'. Our moment of glory came in the falling plates, having had four runs to get to the final, we were now pitted against B Coy 3LI 'A' team. **Sig (Skippy) Hopkins** was somewhat handicapped having pulled a leg muscle in the second run (but we've got this far). Well 24 Secs after the flag went down it was all over, the margin was exceedingly fine but we did it, nothing gives teams more confidence than winning, and the OC **Maj John Young** was still bouncing when we got back to the firing point. Not to be left out, the Team Capt **Roger** (fingers) **Key** was so excited he threw his combat hat in the air, only to find it stuck on the only telephone wires for miles around.

The team was quite worried on the return journey to UK, especially when the Hercules developed a fault which necessitated a stop at Nice Airport. We were due to shoot for a place at RASAM in the South West District Skill at Arms meeting starting on the very next day. Luck was with us again, we arrived back late evening, tired, but confident.

NESAM Shooting Team:
Back row, Maj J. C. Young, Cpl Hayward, Sig Argust, LCpl Dullaghan, LCpl Linnet, Sgt Bunn RPC, Sgt Key (minus combat hat).
Front row, Sig Hopkins, WO2 (YofS) Corcoran, LCpl Gill, Cpl Chapman

AND BACK TO BISLEY

After Cyprus the weather looked somewhat dull by comparison but after a few initial shivers we got down to the serious business of trying to win and qualify for Bisley. There were six men in the team, plus a non-firing team captain, this would have to be cut to a four man team for Bisley, so everybody was shooting for a place in the final team. Those not in the six were entered as individuals so gaining valuable experience. As we were not sure just how many teams were to qualify for Bisley, every man gave a hundred and ten per cent and we came away with a number of trophies and the one we were after, the Minor Units Cup. The biggest surprise was in the falling plates where we once again won the final against one of the 2nd Royal Irish Ranger teams. This was becoming a habit, but the team was to find out Bisley is a different kettle of fish and we were brought down to earth.

BISLEY

RASAM is inevitably a collection of some of the finest shots in the British Army; this year was no exception, the total number being some 736, and again the standards were high, this being shown in the cut of score for the Army Hundred. Nothing short of doing your best can be expected of a team going to Bisley for the first time, however the team did exceedingly well in coming 12th in the Minor Unit Championship out of 43. Those teams above being mainly Depots and the Gurkha Signal Sqn's (one being masterminded by a YofS). We are told Christmas Turkey will be served on the range in Hong Kong this year!

Next year, is the cry, we hope to do even better. The four man team for Bisley consisted of:- Team Captain (still) **Sgt Key, WO2 (YofS) Corcoran, Cpl Hayward, LCpl Gill, Sig Hopkins.**

Maj Gen Sir John Ackland KCB CBE presenting WO2 (YofS) Corcoran with the Minor Unit Cup, Four team trophies were won in all

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING

WO2 (YofS) Corcoran was the only member of the team who stayed behind to shoot in this meeting, forming part of the Royal Signals team, comprising six men, three of whom were from the Gurkha Signal Sqns. We all hoped **Corky** would do well, as he was disappointed with his RASAM results, having become a statistic because of a blown flash eliminator. **Mrs Corcoran** was also rushed to hospital with appendicitis on the 12th, just before the NRA, so **Corky** had to travel 80 miles every day to see her. Happily, **Marleen** is now recovered. We needn't have worried about the YofS though, he came back as NRA Rifle Champion, the first 'Royal Signaller' to win this competition. He was also picked for the Army 8 Squad and the Great Britain Service Rifle Team. It should be mentioned that the Royal Signals team won the NRA Unit Championship, a fine achievement.

Note. The (YofS) has been in Canada from 27 July to 4 Sep shooting against the Canadians, the OC we hear has applied for another YofS (Any offers?!!)

ALL SYSTEMS GO

The squadron is now virtually complete to enable it to carry out its main role. Bravo troop is now complete in its manpower and the upscaling of vehicles and equipment is in process of being updated. This should be completed in the near future, they have recently taken delivery of 4 x VRC 321 Clansman sets in exchange for 7 (yes) 7 D11/R234 installations. A vast improvement has been achieved on the comms side, (JOCOMMEX) due mainly to the reliability of the sets, and therefore the confidence of the operators.

The troop OC, **Lt Trevor Bradley**, has just returned (having passed of course) from his Skill at Arms Course, well done! (In getting on it in the first place). Alfa troop has just taken delivery of its new landrovers, and feverish work is being carried out to 'install' before the next exercise.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The squadron over these past months has been filling up at an alarming rate in order that we may meet our all regular strength. This has now been achieved with minor exceptions, since last going to print welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Coleman, SSgt Fowler** (Chief Clerk), **SSgt Baker** (A Tp), **SSgt Middleton** (SQMS), **Sgt Flamnagan** (FHQ). **LCpl Burn, LCpl Gibson, Sig Phillip, Sig Cefai, Sig Spring, Sig Philbrick, Sig Cody, Pte Smith** and **Pte Lealman**. It is now the turn of those who have left us to be mentioned, **SSgt (Nibs) Hastie** has retired to a more leisurely office (is it true) in HQ 1 BR Corps. **SSgt Jeff Shergold** now RQMS residing in 30 Sig Regt, after working harder than any two men. (There's three in there now **Jeff**). **SSgt Tom Stirzaker** says farewell to the Corps after serving 22 years, **Tom** joined the Royal Signals as a boy soldier in 1958 and completed his training at Harrogate. From 1960 to 61 he served in UK with 26 and 23 Sig Regts then 201 Sig Sqn; 1961 saw him going to BAOR with 25 Fd Regt RA, 207 Sig Sqn, then 7 Armd Bde until 1965. **Tom** was then posted out to sunnier climates, the Arabian Peninsula, where he was attached to the Trucial Oman Scouts from 1965 to 66. On completion and after a well earned suntan, **Tom** then went back to 7 Armd Bde (Soltau), until 1970. A posting of great distance was then issued, when he moved to 1 Armd Div at Verden from 1970 to 73. 1973 to 75 saw him serving in Northern Ireland with 8 Inf Bde, then back out to, yes you guessed, BAOR with 4 Armd Div until 1978. **Tom** then came to the Sqn and served as SQMS, and in the time he was here, he went out to Rhodesia (Op *Agila*), now Zimbabwe, as part of the Rhodesian Monitoring Force, where he was the Force Technical SQMS. He will be missed by all the friends he has made throughout his Army Career, however time creeps on and Civvy Street beckons, he is now a civvy (probably still in bed), **Tom** now resides in North Devon.

Sgt Lawrence moves on from FHQ (not a long way) to Bulford.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
B.F.P.O. 18

BACK IN PRINT

It is some time since the 'AFCENTers' graced the pages of the Wire and naturally there is plenty of interest to report, not least being changes in the management which now consists of:

Maj S. Law	
(designate **Maj P. J. Bonser** Apr 82)	
2IC	**Capt F. Laverick BEM**
Ops Offr	**Capt I. N. Greig**
TOTs	**Maj A. R. Taylor**
	Maj N. Walker
	Capt B. W. Maltby
Tfc Offr	**Capt L. Yates**
RSM (MCS)	**WO1 J. A. Allen**
FofS	**WO1 J. McNaughton**
YofS	**WO1 C. G. Stubbings**
SSM	**WO2 D. G. Edmond**
RQMS	**WO2 B. Smith**

CONGRATULATIONS

The event which gave all squadron members most pleasure during the year was the most deserved award of the British Empire Medal to **Cpl W. W. (Taff) Roberts** in HM The Queen's New Year's Honours List. The medal was presented to **Cpl Roberts** by His Excellency **Sir Philip Mansfield** at a ceremony held at the British Embassy in The Hague on Tue 9 Jun 81.

Cpl Roberts being presented with his BEM by Sir Philip Mansfield, The British Ambassador to the Netherlands. The Military Attache, Lt Col M. J. Woodcock RA looks on

BFT MARATHON

Although generally depicted as being a bit of a 'sleepy hollow' the squadron takes great pride in being the fittest Army unit in Holland (the fact that it is the only Army unit in Holland is immaterial!). It was therefore, decided to do something different to raise funds to form part of the CSO BAOR contribution to the SSAFA Christmas Market. **Sgt (now SSgt) Graham Campbell** came up with the masochistic idea of a sponsored Basic Fitness Test (BFT) Marathon. Surprisingly 26 competitors (including 3 guests) took up the challenge and attempted to pass the 3 mile BFT as many times as possible, in the time allowed for their age, during a period of 4 hours. Personnel competing were required to wear the standard BFT clothing and maximum possible attempts were restricted to 8 — 1 run every 30 minutes. The almost perfect weather ensured, at the expense of the sponsors, that most participants exceeded their target number of tests; indeed two runners, **Sig 'Kev' Roche** and **Sgt Graham Campbell,** completed all eight tests within the stipulated period — each covering 24 miles virtually without stopping! This novel event, believed to be the first of its kind (and incidentally to be repeated again this year) raised almost 1900 Dutch Guilders (approx £400) towards the SSAFA appeal.

Outward bound again—the strain starts to tell. LCpl Alan Martin, Sig Kev Roche, Sgt Graham Campbell, timekeeper Cpl Sel Robinson, Sgt Tony Paines and Maj Stewart Law

VISITORS

Recent events of note were visits from **Brig C. R. Grey CBE,** Commander of the British Army Element at AFCENT who presented LS & GC Medals to **Cpls J. B. Browne** and **D. R. Grant.**

CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** also recently paid us a visit and presented a LS & GC Medal to **Sgt W. J. Bogie.**

The CSO inspects the Ceremonial Barrack Guard at the entrance to Tapijn Kaserne.
L to R: WO1 (RSM) J. A. Allen, Maj S. Law, Sgt J. M. Kirkpatrick (Guard Comd), Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE, Cpl M. O. Murphy and Sig D. H. Marshall

The CSO congratulates Sgt W. J. Bogie after presenting him with the LS & GC medal

SPORT

Members of the squadron are encouraged to participate in the more popular outdoor sporting activities (there are few facilities for indoor ones) such as soccer, cricket, rugby and hockey, but despite the abundance of talent and determined application, the honours have eluded us with the exception of athletics in which the R Signals Minor Units Morrison Cup was retained for another year, but not without a close, hard fight. The squadron always shows the Corps flag at the Nijmegen Marches and 1981 was no exception. A short report on this sport (!) and the fast growing event of road racing follows:

MARCHING TEAM

This year the marching team was truly international with the United States, Germany and Britain forming the 227 Sig Sqn/Mobile Communications Sqn (MCS)/Tapijn Kaserne team. Training commenced in late March, and as warm-up marches for Nijmegen, the team competed in both AFCENT and Rheindahlen Allied Marches doing well in both events. Nijmegen again proved to be very successful for the team, with all members completing the four days in good style and thus securing the third Nijmegen team medal for the squadron. A special mention and congratulations must go to our only lady member of the team **Spec 5 (Sgt) Dana Crawford** USA, who not only completed all the marching events entered, but was always leading from the front in good form and fine voice. Though not necessary for a woman, she carried 22 lb in her pack, the same as the men. Congratulations must also go to **Cpls Paddy Piddock** and **Keith Fisher** who joined the team late in the training programme but nevertheless completed all marches.

The Nijmegen 81 final march past form up
L to R: WO1 Allen, WO1 McNaughton, Sgt Crawford (obscured), Sgt Wynant, Pte Fritzsche, Cpl Helson, SSgt Brenneman, SSgt Haycock (partly obscured), Cpl Piddock, Cpl Bottomley, Cpl Roberts, Sig Hawley, LCpl Chadwick

BERLIN ROAD RACE

The squadron was fortunate to be accepted to compete in the first Berlin 25 km Road Race held on Sun 3 May. Of the team of five that represented 227 all but one completed the course. Unfortunately **Sig Roche** injured his knee after 15 kms and had to withdraw.

The team: **WO1 (RSM) J. A. Allen, Sgt J. M. Kirkpatrick, Cpl T. Butters, Sig N. Hawley, Sig K. Roche.**

Our thanks and appreciation go to 229 Sig Sqn personnel who made us so welcome on our visit to Berlin.

NEW SENIOR RANKS MESS

When **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Smith** volunteered to take charge of Mess improvements in October 1980 he never realised the enormity of the task that he had set himself (will he never learn!) With many willing (and not so willing) hands over the ensuing months, the RQMS's stores empire were moved to a new location and the gathering of materials began for the big build. Due to many unforeseeable, but not insurmountable, problems the actual task of refurbishing the new accommodation did not start until 21 May and the last stroke of paint was applied on Fri 26 June, the night before **Brig C. R. Grey CBE,** the Commander British Army Element, HQ AFCENT, was due to perform the opening ceremony. Many guests representing a cross-section of the international community were present at what can best be described as a gala occasion. It is fitting that the seniors now have a 'home' which not only befits their status but which now has official UK Army backing and support. None of this would have been possible without the vision and dedication of **WO2 Brian Smith** who masterminded and orchestrated the entire operation. Special mention is also made of **Sgts Dave Rogers, Jack Goodacre** and **Terry Moorhead** who headed a motley crew of navvies who often beavered long into the night to meet a tight schedule.

Brig Grey performing the honours by pulling the first glass of beer in the Sergeants Mess with Sgts Fryer and Brisco looking on with smiling anticipation. Barman Cpl Fisher looks rather more pensive!

The Sergeants Mess Project Manager WO2 (RQMS) B. Smith flanked by his two artisans Sgt D. Rogers and Sgt J. Goodacre

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

KIWI TO THE FORE

Discerning readers of the Peterborough column of the Daily Telegraph and viewers of the Southern Television News will have seen that the squadron recently received quite some coverage in connection with its association with the Bulford Kiwi. It all concerned the visit of the New Zealand High Commissioner, who came down to see the Kiwi itself, and present the Squadron with a model in recognition of our hard work in restoring this well-loved national memento. Of course the bird had to be spruced up in honour of our visitors and the appearance on orders of such words as 'Kiwi Clean' produced muttered oaths, moans and groans from the longer serving members of the Squadron. However all put their backs into the arduous task of de-weeding, cleaning and scrubbing to such effect that within one and a half days our prized possession was again gleaming forth over the Plain.

On the day of the visit we held an individual March and Shoot competition in order to find a suitable winner for the Kiwi Trophy. The Vorlaufer was none other than the OC, **Maj Mike Shaw**, who, accompanied by his dog Wellington, set the bogey time of 100 minutes for the ten miles. The competition was eventually won by **LCpl Tony Ball** of Admin Tp, by a combination of hard running (!) and good shooting with an overall time of 99 minutes.

'Trimming the Kiwi's locks'. *Left to Right:* Sig Tony Redman, Cpl John Murray, LCpl Phil Harris, Sig Sid Payne, LCpl Phil Hesketh, Cpl Dave Catchpole

PRESENTATIONS BY HIGH COMMISSIONER

The New Zealand High Commissioner **His Excellency The Honorable Leslie Gandar** spent the morning with us, and after a full inspection of his national landmark, presented the prizes to the winners of the competition.

LCpl Tony Ball receives the Kiwi Trophy from the NZ High Commissioner. Admin Tp look on

TO DENMARK

Immediately after the Kiwi day, the squadron departed for Denmark and Exercise *Amber Express*. The airborne deployment passed relatively painlessly and we settled into our patch of real estate at Ringsted ready for the onset of the exercise. Neither the rain nor the sidelong glances from the other nations' soldiery, deterred us from our routine of Battle PT commencing at the ungodly hour of five o'clock (Zulu). Running concurrently were checks of all our radio equipment and 'R & R' trips to Copenhagen; it isn't hard to guess which alternative was always over-subscribed. Because of an active EW threat a large proportion of the combat operations was spent on radio silence, testing the alertness and endurance of all concerned. **Cpls Mick Fitzpatrick, Jeff Smyth** and (now Sergeant) **Jimmy Jameson** were given their heads, using their rebroadcast stations as tactical decoys; a good test of their williness and cunning in staying one jump in front, and sometimes behind, the 'live' enemy.

NATO CHALLENGE CUP

The end of all large AMF(L) FTX's is always fêted by the NATO Challenge Cup Competition, which is an international march and shoot competition. Memories of the Kiwi Competition coursed through the minds of those 'lucky' enough to be selected to participate. However with the pride of the squadron, Corps, Army and country at stake, the gallant 26, banners waving, coasted home to a well earned victory. Beating not only all the non-infantry units but also the infantry of the four nations competing, winning both the Challenge Cup and the Shooting Cup.

LCpl Tony Ball, Cpl Dave Iverson and LCpl Butch Vowden grind out the last few miles of the March

'The boys come home', featured *Left to Right:* Sigs Taff Williams, Keith Goddard, Ian Holt, Lt Ian Foxley, SSM Ian Campbell and Sig 'Brummy' Tambs

262 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 58

ALL GO

The last two months have been fairly hectic for members of 262 Sig Sqn. The preliminary rounds of the celebrated BITSA QUIZ took place in August. The final was then closely followed by the squadron's Beach Barbecue, ably organised by the RQ and his staff. Hot on the trail of the barbecue came the squadron's annual military training camp. However, I am pleased to report that things are now back to normal, and everybody's sights are now firmly fixed on the Christmas festivities.

THE BITSA QUIZ

This year **Sgt Ian Underhill** took it upon himself to organise the BITSA Club Quiz. He quickly appointed himself MC and inquisitor, and then, assisted by his scoring partner **Maggie**, proceeded to test the wits of personnel in the various departments of the squadron. **Sgt Ron Thomson** bent over backwards to avoid getting involved in the organisation of the Quiz and broke a few vertabrae in the process! However, his ploy failed to work as he was lemoned as soon as he came out of hospital. The initial stages of the Quiz were run on a league basis, so that teams didn't have to suffer the indignity of being knocked out during their first appearance. It also did wonders for the Club's bar profits! There were a total of 16 teams involved in the Quiz, which meant that **Mrs Gaynor Thomson** had to compile almost 1500 questions. She was therefore kept extremely busy between her visits to hospital!

The semi-finals of the quiz were closely fought with the Mensa Dodgers and Radio 1 emerging as the winners. The Mensa Dodgers consisted of **WO2 (RQMS) Rod Gladwin, Mrs Dee Beynon** and **Cpl Mick Swallow**, whilst Radio 1 was represented by **SSgt Steve Bailes, LCpl Dave Willis** and **LCpl 'Tiny' Brint.** (**Cpl Ken Jones** who was a member of the team in the early stages of the competition was unfortunately away in UK on yet another course). The Mensa Dodgers were the eventual winners, by the narrow margin of 74 points to 31. The Garrison Commander presented the prizes to the teams and the evening's entertainment carried on with a disco and cold buffet, which was enjoyed by all concerned.

The Winning team in the Bitsa Quiz. *Left to right* WO2 (RQMS) Rod Gladwin, Mrs Dee Beynon, Cpl Mick Swallow

THE SQUADRON BEACH BARBECUE

The RQMS, **Sgt Bob Hassall** and crew organised a splendid beach barbecue on 'Golden Sands' this year. The day was glorious (as usual) and all squadron personnel, their wives and families spent an enjoyable day on the beach, which the RQ had tried to convert into a tented camp during a force 10 gale the day before. The marquee almost flew away during preparations for the event, which resulted in members of Radio Section doing a little involuntary parascending! However, once prepared, everything ran very smoothly, and by mid afternoon the BITSA bar person **Pte Diedre Burrows** was doing a roaring trade.

The all island frisbee championships held on the beach resulted in a narrow win by the men over the ladies. The OC **Maj Lionel French** defeated 1st Bn The Green Howards (represented by **CSgt Kevin Aspery**) in the swing-ball championship final, whilst the rest of the squadron were busy soaking up the sun. At the end of the afternoon, the children had their food and watched a few cartoons, accompanied by the biggest kids of all. **Sgt Martin Keith, 2 Lt Mark Byers** and a selection of drivers (we saw you!!) During the evening **Sigs Tim Babbage** and **Dave Green** worked hard on their smooth DJ patter for the disco, and when the music temporarily stopped **Cpl Billy Allen** led everyone in his own brand of community singing. Many hands made light work of the clearing up on Sunday morning and the day will be remembered as a great success.

PLATOON ORGANISATION

This year's annual military training camp was devised by the 2IC, **Capt Derek Robertson.** (Did he have a flash of inspiration or was it just a headache?). The squadron was divided into four platoons, and the training programme run so that two platoons took part each week. The first endurance test was undoubtedly the coach trip up to Troodos on those Cypriot roads! The following four days of each week were taken up with radio, map reading, weapon training, observation and fieldcraft in preparation for the field phase. The resident unit fitness fanatics, **2Lt Mark Byers** and **WO2 Rod Gladwin** made sure that everybody was up bright and early for PT at 0600 each day, just to wake everyone up for the day's training and evening exercises.

Tuesday of each week saw a break in routine for the squadron in the form of a BBQ at the 'Dog and Partridge' produced by the (not so) skilful hands of **Pte Ripley** AAC. Our gratitude to the Green Howards, who kindly loaned us **Pte Ripley**, defies words!

The Sqn Battle Camp. Platoons boarding the beach landing craft during the field phase

Wednesday was spent on the ranges, followed by the issue of blank rounds and rations. The platoons were then taken to the training area by RPL. It was at this stage that 10 Port Sqn RCT decided to test the platoon's map reading prowess by landing them on the wrong beach! However, all went on undaunted and 36 hours of patrol, ambush and recces was successfully completed.

By Friday all concerned were in urgent need of a shower and rumour had it that the people in Episkopi could smell us coming for lunch! Once cleaned and fed everyone agreed that the camp was a great success. To close here are a selection of the Camps Top 10 . . . Ghost Town—**Cpl Jeanette Allen** (sharp eyed observation student), Rubber Ball—**Sgt 'Bouncy' Bridger** (spring loaded volleyball player), Concrete & Clay—**LCpls Terry Crosby** and **Steve Billimore** (cooks extraordinaire!), Disco Duck—**Midshipman Bartlett** and **Payne** (needs no explanation), River Deep Mountain High—**Lt Sally Holt** map reading or endurance exercise?), Black is Black—**SSgt John Chambers** ('over cammed' demonstration), We gotta get out of this place—everybody!

SPORT

The most noteable event of recent times was the ESBA minor units cricket knockout final which the Sqn unfortunately lost to 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt. A good performance was put up by 262 team with the following individual efforts:-

Sgt Mick Green 29, **Sgt Jimmy Scoular** 25 (not out), **Sgt Nigel Varley** 22.

The final 262 score was 92 for 5, and the team lost by 15 runs.

264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
Hereford

WE WANT YOU

The wind was beginning to get up as I waited beside the jungle clearing for the helicopter to take me back to base—the puma was already 10 minutes late. I got out my Sarbe, switched on the auxillary channel and called—no reply. There was nothing for it but to call base. A hastily coded message and through fives on the 316. Back came the message 'no heli before 1600'; dammit no hot meal for me tonight. What did the OC say? 'Write a couple of pages for the wire'. This seemed like as good a time as any . . .

Let me see now, the med last month, this week the jungle, exercises in Norway, Africa and New Zealand to come . . . Why aren't R Signals soldiers and officers falling over themselves to come to 264? God knows we need them. At least three years with 264 should be on the career calendar of every young man with a spirit of adventure and the desire to do a 'real' job.

He's kidding your thinking; they are all either mad or a bunch of bluffers—well, we have a few of both. Let me list a few of the things that you will not be expected to do:- Jump through windows, Eliminate agent X, Climb Mount Everest.

YOUR TASK

Your job will be to provide, or support, communications to forward troops (in whichever country your squadron happens to be working) and likewise communications to and from the UK. Of course if you want to free-fall, ski, sub-aqua, rock climb, etc (you name it) you will have the opportunity to do it. Provided that you are really good at your trade, have a balanced, well motivated and mature character, and are up to normal army standards of fitness, you could be serving in 264.

Some of you may have met our recruiting team during their recent BAOR tour; others of you will have been on leave or exercise, (I couldn't make it myself—the med looked more attractive). A lot of guys put their names forward as being interested. We hope to see them, and anyone else who is interested, on one of our 'Signals Selection Courses' soon. Find out more from your Chief Clerk or orderly room. Note that I said '264 Selection' not 'SAS Selection'. (If you want to attempt SAS Selection you'll be given every encouragement, if you are the right sort of guy—everyone isn't). Soldiers with trades not employed by 264 may apply to attempt SAS Selection direct from their units. We want you in 264 to communicate—the bonuses that go with it are enormous.

Now where the hell is that helicopter? . . .

News from Troops

608 Sig Tp BFPO 40

ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM (BAOR)

THIS IS NOT AN IRISH JOKE

What's got twenty legs, twenty-eight wheels, a tail, lives in nine different Sgts Messes, Six Officers Messes, visits 16 different locations every six months and travels 20,000 kilometres every year? It's none other than the Royal Signals Inspection Team (BAOR), also known to be called 'Re-sit', 'R-sit', 'R*hit', or as we call ourselves, 'The R-S-I-T'.

NEVER HEARD OF US?

Where have you been for the last six months? If you don't know who we are, or what we do, then you must be at a posting which is not in Germany, or in one of the few BAOR units that does not hold BRUIN equipment. Our job is to visit units twice annually, inspecting all their BRUIN installations, and to report all our findings. We have taken over from the old REME Tels Inspection Team, but our approach is somewhat different. We look at each installation separately to determine if it is capable of carrying out its task correctly and efficiently. An inspection report is then submitted for each installation, which Crew Commanders, technicians, unit Foremen or Troop Commanders can use to:- Wrap up their bratties and frittes, put into file 13, follow up and rectify, and keep a record of their Lotto numbers.

At the end of a visit a full report concerning the whole unit is compiled by the Team Leader (bow, scrape, grovel, touch forelocks). This then goes through an extensive reporting chain which includes COs, CREMEs, CCR Signal HQ 1 (BR) Corps, Comms Branch HQ BAOR, CSO BAOR, DEME BAOR, 'Which' magazine and Esther Rantzen. (NAAFI want a copy but we are resisting vigorously, despite an offer of a litre of Danish milk for only DM10 down and DM5 a month for three years).

SO JUST WHO ARE WE?

We are the owners of four ERVs four genes a 'black taxi', ie Army Ford Escort (hence the 28 wheels), lots of test equipment and masses of paperwork.

The team consists of the following starting with the Team Leader:

Bruno. Dark brown hair, four legs, lives on the end of a very long green lead. Variable temperament depending on whether you're a team member or not. He usually drags around with him:

Maj (Tot) Frank Smith. Team OC. Came to us via Singapore, Cyprus, Aden, BRUIN Trials Sqn, HQ 1 (BR) Corps and just about every other unit in Germany. Member of the Snowdon CB Club, Secretary of the Rheindahlen Coalminers' Union, Chairman of the Llandudno Holiday Homes Arsonists' Fraternity. Lives on a diet of Anglesey seaweed and leeks. Possibly originates from Wales.

WO2 (FofS) George Clark. Via Cyprus (more than once), St Tonis, Bulford, Maastricht, Lippstadt, REME Data Centre. 'Sets himself a low standard and consistently fails to achieve it'. Shortly dashing home to his native Liverpool to buy a house, having heard of a bargain going cheap in some place called Toxteth.

Sgt Dave Palmer. TE Tech, Troop Sgt. Via St Tonis, Hong Kong, Rheindahlen, Bunde, Air Formation, Cyprus and Soest. Completes 22 years at end of this tour, assuming Civvy Street pays LOA never having known different. Brilliant writer of 'Wire' notes (see also May 1974 edition, 2 Div, 3 Sqn).

Sgt Mick Kidd. TE Tech. Via Hereford, 'Quicksilver', Bunde, St Tonis. Originates from Halifax, lived in Australia. Now uses expressions such as 'There's trouble down at t'Mill, Sheila', and 'Tie me clogs down, sport'. Owns a moustache. Practices computer programming and cynicism.

Sgt Brian Neil. RR Tech. Via Herford, Malta, Ace High and Belize. A totally confused person. In vehicles always asking 'Are we there yet?'. Cannot understand why footballers use a round ball which they have to kick under the bar. Hangs his record player sideways on his lounge wall.

Sgt John Blythe. RR Tech. Via Herford, Soltau, Verden. Recently discovered jogging cassette players, so has had one implanted onto his ears. His second transplant since joining us, being MT rep, also has a hooter bolted to his forehead.

Sgt Stew Gane. R. Tech. Only just arrived via many tours in Belize, therefore, not much known about him. Wanted by 'Weight watchers' to be the 'Before' in their 'Before and after' ads.

LCpl Vince Walsh. Clerk and typist. Via Bulford, Worcester and St Tonis. Claims to be a football player. Has lots of stickers on his car featuring Aston Villa, not so much because he's a supporter, but to hold his car together in one piece.

ANYTHING ELSE?

Well, to answer the most consistent questions, we are part of 608 Signal Troop (Eqpt) which is at Viersen, but we are in a corner of Forward Ordnance Depot, Dulmen. We visit all units twice a year, at the time of writing having completed the first full phase of inspection visits. Many of our hosts have offered support and encouragement, although there has been a little wariness from some quarters, but we neither preach nor make excuses, merely offer the information that our official motto is 'Absit Invidia'—No offence intended. We hope none is taken. See you soon!

632 Sig Tp
Benbecula

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Capt Stephen Galpin**
FofS	**WO2 John England**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Syd Walley**
Commcen	**Sgt Mick Reynolds**
Line Section	**Sgt Ian Thorneycroft**
Stores	**Cpl Danny Gray**

THE TASK

The troop runs several telephone exchanges and commcens for the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides. These are sited on the Uists (Outer Hebrides) and one on the lonely Atlantic island of St Kilda (57° 40'N 8° 32'W). The RA Range is a training range for the live firing of LANCE, RAPIER and BLOWPIPE missile systems.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Summer brings very long days, a little rain and sun and quite a lot of wind. Winter brings very short days, lots of rain and few days with no gales. The islands are dotted with lochs and sea lochs which give very good fishing of all types. There are several 'mountains' to be climbed and plenty of beach and sea for sub aqua and sailing.

A view of the islands of Benbecula and North Uist, Outer Hebrides

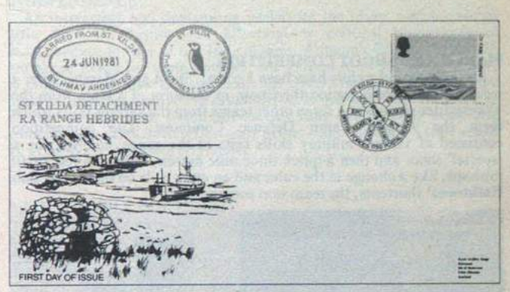
THE MONACH ISLANDS LINK

This small group of islands lie some 11 miles off the Hebrides and are used by local lobster fishermen as a haven in bad weather. To enable them to obtain information on weather and Range Danger Areas a radio telephone was installed. In fact it is the remotest telephone in the Army Telephone Network, Benbecula Military 281. The system uses a solar powered Stornophone radio. It requires occasional maintenance and is removed for the winter. Travel to the Monach Islands is by what is available. In the past this has been by Wessex, Wasp, Atlantic 21 foot rescue launch, RCT safety launch and even sea canoe.

Checking the Monach Islands Solar Powered Radio. *L to R:* Cpl Frank Gould, Capt Stephen Galpin, Cpl Jeff Shipton

A FIRST DAY COVER

25 June 1981 marked both the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the National Trust (which owns St Kilda) and the 25th Anniversary of Army presence on St Kilda. A special first cover was designed depicting St Kilda and a copy was sent to the Colonel-in-Chief. The photographs show the cover sent and the reply from Buckingham Palace.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE 21st July 1981

Dear Captain Galpin,

Princess Anne has asked me to write and thank you for the Special Cover to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Army's presence on the Island of St Kilda which you have so kindly sent. Her Royal Highness was delighted to receive it and considered the idea of a First Day Cover an excellent one in view of a unique occasion. The Princess was glad that members of her Corps should have been involved.

Her Royal Highness sends her warm good wishes to everyone in 632 Signal Troop and hopes that each of you has an enjoyable tour in your rather remote station.

Yours sincerely

Major N S Lawson, Private Secretary to HRH The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips

FAREWELL

The troop wishes to say farewell to the following and to show that postings from here cannot be that bad: **WO2 (FofS) Pete Shawyer**—Berlin, **Sgt Dave Brown**—HQ AFCENT (Germany), **Cpl Frank Gould**—HQ AFCENT (Holland), **Sig Chris Brearley**—Belize.

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

TOO GOOD TO PASS

I am sure that some of my fellow contributors have noticed how most important events, visits and of course COs brainwaves occur round about the 11 or 13 of the month and of course The Wire wants our works of art by the 12! Well here is one of those slightly dated items which is too good to leave out.

MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

Or, as it should rightly have been known, 'Shoot and March'. After a week of instant preparation the troop, in the form of a team from the Transmitter site took on seven other teams from the various units which form the Airport Camp Defence Company. The competition consisted of various military skills tests at the range, followed by a 'special' shoot and then a quick three mile march. Despite a few small mishaps, like a change in the rules and an extra mile on one of **Sgt Bob Hailstones'** shortcuts, the team won convincingly.

The victorious March and Shoot team—Sgt Bob Hailstones, Cpl Taff Wailes, Sig Cracker Squib, still have the strength to stand, and Sig Muffin Richardson and Sig Biggles Hicks seek support

BELIZE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

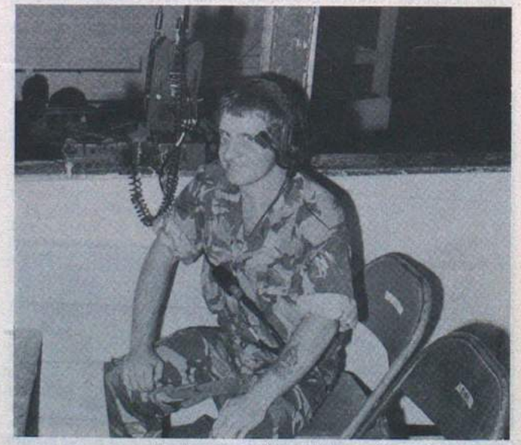
As was to be expected, the troop was heavily committed to providing comms for the Belize independence celebrations. What we were not prepared for was the numerous non-comms tasks which came our way. Flexibility was the name of the game and with a lot of lateral thinking and equipment from 30 Sig Regt, we managed to meet all our tasks and some more besides.

MILITARY AND POLICE TATTOO

As part of the Independence celebrations, British Forces Belize participated in a tattoo with the Belize Defence Force and police. Our involvement initially was limited to providing a PA system. 30 Sig Regt provided us with their PA det of **Cpl Graeme Tilley** and **Sig Joe McGinness** and associated kit. However, as operational demands and artistic temperament increased, we were tasked with providing generators, spotlights and finally comms! A team was raised from the troop consisting of **Sgt Jock Rice**—lights and comms; **Cpl Willy Ireland**—generators, control boards and general 'FSO-calmer-down' from Royal Engineer rushes of blood to the head; **Cpl Tilley** on sound and the OC along for the free seats. To quote Radio Belize 'the Tattoo was an event the like of which you will never see again.' I am not sure if they said it first or the Lights and Sound Director **Maj John Graham** (Force Signals Officer in his spare time).

Light . . . (Sgt Rice)

and Sound . . . (Cpl Tilley and Sig McGinness)



and finally comms. (Yes it's him again)

ROYAL VISIT

HRH Prince Michael of Kent represented the Queen at the Independence celebrations. HRH arrived on Fri 18 Sep and departed on Tues 22 Sep. During this time we were involved in providing security rear link comms from various sites to the Force Headquarters. We deployed three dets for the arrival and departure of the Royal VC10; for the visits of HRH to the District capitals of Corozal, Orange Walk, Dangriga and San Ignacio; for the Independence celebrations at Belmopan and the Royal residence at Government House in Belize City.

Cpls Chris Deary and **Albert Allison** and **LCpl Barry Willmore** travelled the country testing, checking and rechecking to make sure it would be all right on the night. A hectic but interesting time was had by all. **Cpl Allison** enjoyed a sense of power when giving HMS *Ariadne* the order to fire her 21 gun salutes. **Cpl Deary** had a momentary sense of panic when the Royal party landed about 3 miles away from the HLS he was 'guarding'. **LCpl Willmore** fell foul of that happy band of special signallers who seemed determined to wreck all the vehicles in Belize. After a spectacular 30ft drop, rolling in the recognised manner and playing 'headball' with a jack, he finally arrived back in Camp about 24 hours late! He now walks with a distinct limp having received blows to other delicate parts of his body during his free flight demonstration.

OLD AND BOLD

Throughout this period we produced our contingency C41 radio relay telephone system, which included HE the Governor's offices at Belmopan, Force HQ and the Police HQ in Belize City. For this occasion it was extended, with equipment courtesy of 30 Sig Regt, to include Government House and the BDF at Price Barracks. After much preparation, the good old C41 produced a high quality system. Our radio relay team led by **Sgt Roy Churm** assisted by **Cpl Dobbo Dobson** and our TA representative **Sgt Geoff Evans** from 36 Sig Regt, nursed and cajoled the system for six long days. A little gentle prodding from the **FofS, WO2 Russ Davey**; regular home comforts provided by **SSgt Taff Elliott** with his SDS team of **Sigs Muffin Richardson, Biggles Hicks** and **Davies the Chin**; and the 'power'-ful ministrations of **LCpl Dave Nadin** and **Sig Geordie Nicholson** ensured that the team was well supported throughout.

Cpl Dobson and Sig Nicholson at the Government House Det

Sgt Churm and LCpl Hardy with a WPC assistant at the Police Station

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The FSO called on his 'light and sound' team of **Sgt Rice, Cpl Tilley** and **Sig McGinness** for the symbolic flag raising ceremony at midnight on 20 Sep at Government house. To keep us on our toes a new commitment was passed our way, only one hour before the State Reception was due to start. That was how **LCpl Kiss Me Hardy** found himself on a barge in the middle of Belize harbour controlling a fireworks display. A torrential downpour, which began at 2300 and continued until a few minutes before the ceremonies started, effectively washed out the fireworks display only minutes after it started. However, in true stiff upper lip fashion the ceremony went ahead and at the stroke of midnight the new Belizean flag replaced the Union Jack and Belize was the newest independent country in the world.

INDEPENDENCE

An interesting and demanding period for the troop, which gave us little time to consider the historical or political importance of independence for one of our last colonies. Although British Forces will remain in Belize for some time yet, the ground rules are going to have to change to suit the new situation. Of course throughout this period many others were involved in assisting the 'Royal' team and those left to do our normal work found themselves fully extended at work and committed to extra duties. Certainly in one way or another a time which all of us in the troop will remember.

A MEMORABLE FORTNIGHT

Cpl Willy Ireland was presented with his BEM on 14 Sep by the Commander in Chief, British Forces Belize, His Excellency the Governor, **Mr J. P. I. Hennessy CMG OBE** on the occasion of his farewell dinner at Airport Camp. All this, plus the hectic time he and his team of Cbt Pmn had, made for a memorable two weeks for **Cpl Willy Ireland BEM**.

HE the Governor congratulates Cpl Ireland having presented him with his BEM

MOONIES

August saw the arrival of our new Force Signals Officer, **Maj John Graham** and his wife **Pam**. The troop is still waiting to see if he is really a Royal Signals officer, having come from HQ DAAC and having spent his first month in Belize working very hard on everything except comms matters! Welcome.

GOZOMEES

As our Project Officer in Chief, **WO2 (FofS) Russ Davey**, has been involved in many interesting, unusual and of course expensive projects. Having developed a taste for the high life he has left us for bigger and better things. Whilst the hard worked techs and linies heave a sigh of relief (based on an, as yet unseen, quantity, the 'new' FofS), there will be many, not just in the troop, who will be sorry to see **Mr FofS, Carol** depart the sunny Caribbean. Her cutting comments on Radio APC have kept many a friendly disagreement going much to her audience's entertainment. All the best in the UK—now you will really have to get fit!

Sport

CRICKET

Report by Maj S. A. Coltman, Captain of Corps Cricket

The season started with probably the worst weather for many years and the wickets were very slow. Fortunately, only two games were affected by the weather, that against the RM, where we lost a morning's play, and in the RAPC game where half an hour's rain ruined a finely-balanced match. Overall our playing record of **Played 9, Won 4, Drawn 3** and **Lost 2** was better than for some years.

Before the season began, we feared that we might be short of Cricketers and that our bowling would let us down. In the event, our bowling and fielding, with one exception was good. On occasions the fielding was excellent. Unfortunately our batting struggled and regretfully failed in several games, causing both defeats. The averages highlight this, with only 3 players exceeding an average of 20 and one century and 3 fifties being scored. We suffered a little from availability problems and we were unfortunate in that we had a crop of injuries towards the end of the season. However, I am thankful of the co-operation of Commanding Officers in releasing players for cricket.

What is more perturbing is the paucity of young players. Both last year in BAOR and again here, many of the side are those who have steadfastly represented the Corps for 15 years or more. A few younger players have appeared this year: **Sgt Bill Anderson,** 240 Sig Squadron; **SSgt John Sinden,** Comms and Security Gp UK; **Lt Paul Wilkin,** JLR R Signals; **Cpl 'Big H' Glean,** 6 Field Force Sig Squadron; **LCpl Andy Hill,** 10 Sig Regiment.

What we do need is for cricket officers to search for, develop and push forward good young cricketers.

The following are awarded Corps Colours:

SSgt John Sinden	Comms and Security Gp UK
Sgt Bill Anderson	240 Signal Squadron
Cpl 'Big H' Glean	6 Field Force Signal Squadron
Cpl Rob Frape	10 Signal Regiment

and are to be congratulated.

The following are re-awarded their Corps colours:

Maj Steve Coltman	MOD PS10
WO2 Dave Taylor	School of Signals
Sgt Stu Parrish	Comms and Security Gp UK

The following also played regularily for the Corps:

Maj Rob Symmonds	55 Signal Squadron (V)
Capt Chris Wright	School of Signals
Lt Peter Telford	11 Signal Regiment
Sgt Benny Grossmith	School of Signals
Cpl Gary Blondell	School of Signals
Cpl Ian Cambell	30 Signal Regiment
Sig Andy Deighton	30 Signal Regiment

We would also like to thank the Secretary, **Capt Dave Dyke,** 30 Signal Regiment, for all his hard work and assistance during the season. Finally at the end, the players felt that it was all worthwhile and that we had an enjoyable season.

MATCH RESULTS

RMCS Shrivenham	95 (**WO2 Taylor** 4-25, **Cpl Frape** 3-20, **Maj Coltman** 3-34)
R Signals	96-8 (**Maj Coltman** 63)
R Signals won by 2 wickets	
R Marines	144-6dec
R Signals	115-7 (**Maj Coltman** 41, **Sgt Anderson** 30)
Drawn	
REME	125-6dec
R Signals	103
REME won by 22 runs	
RMA Sandhurst	84 (**Sgt Mallinson** 3-13, **Cpl Frape** 3-24)
R Signals	85-7
R Signals won by 3 wickets	
R Signals	152-8 (Innings closed—40 overs) (**Maj Coltman** 80)
RAF Signals	94 (**SSgt Sinden** 5-27)
R Signals won by 58 runs	
R Signals	145 (**Lt Wilkin** 40)
and	216-6dec (**Sgt Parrish** 101, **Maj Coltman** 36)
	203 (**Sgt Anderson** 7-30)
and	151-7 (**SSgt Sinden** 3-37, **Sgt Anderson** 3-48)
Drawn	
RCT	146 (**WO2 Taylor** 4-18, **Sgt Anderson** 3-46)
R Signals	148-7 (**Sgt Anderson** 58)
R Signals won by 3 wickets	
RE	99 (**SSgt Sinden** 3-11)
R Signals	72
RE won by 27 runs	
RAPC	203-9dec (**SSgt Sinden** 4-56, **Cpl Glean** 3-43)
and	140-7dec (**Sgt Anderson** 4-32)
R Signals	108
and	156-6 (**Sgt Grossmith** 39, **Cpl Glean** 33)
Drawn	

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS CRICKET—AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
Sgt Anderson	10	3	221	58	31.6
Maj Coltman	10	0	291	80	29.1
Sgt Parrish	6	0	136	101	22.7

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Sgt Anderson	109.4	34	277	23	12.1
SSgt Sinden	74.3	11	238	18	13.2
Cpl Frape	76.4	11	194	12	16.2
WO2 Taylor	90	21	190	11	17.3
Cpl Glean	87	19	274	13	21.1

FIELDING

Maj Symmonds	13 catches, 1 stumping.
Cpl Glean	6 catches.
Maj Coltman	5 catches, 2 stumpings.
Sgt Anderson	5 catches.

GOLF

ARMY GOLFING SOCIETY—AUTUMN MEETING
Report by Maj Harry Meekings

The Autumn Meeting of the Army Golfing Society was held at the Berkshire Golf Club, near Ascot on 8 Sep. The competitions being played, were for the Autumn Gold Medal in the morning on the Red Course and the Regimental Foursomes in the afternoon. The Corps had six participants and with the course playing fairly short, due to the hard ground, it was hoped that we should do well.

Lunchtime saw some high scores coming in and it was evident that the course was still hiding some secrets. **Maj Gen Jimmy Jackson** returned a very good 78 for a net 70 and **Maj Harry Meekings** played very steady golf to come in with a gross 72 which was par for the course. His round was made up of five bogies and five birdies and the rest were pars. As can be seen by the ups and downs it was not easy golf and he had to work hard for the score. However, by the end of lunch it was found that no other player had bettered the score and **Meekings** had won the AGS Golf Medal for 1981.

The afternoon saw the foursomes start on the Blue course. **Maj Gen Jimmy Jackson** had teamed up with **Maj Harry Meekings** and it was expected that they should do well. However, the strain was too much and the team did not come through with the desired result. It must be said that it was **Meekings** that let down the side, not being able to retain the standard of the morning round.

ORIENTEERING

A GOOD RECORD

Orienteering is a sport in which the Corps has had a fair measure of success in recent years, both at unit and inter-corps level. This is as it should be; as a sport which demands a balanced mixture of both brain and brawn, it ought to be ideally suited to our intelligent and super-fit officers and soldiers! There is still a great deal of scope for improvement, a point which will be expanded upon later.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CLUB (RSOC)

RSOC is an officially recognised orienteering club, affiliated to the British Orienteering Federation. All serving members of the Corps are, in theory, members of RSOC, a fact which must make RSOC at the same time the largest and cheapest club in the country! The advantage of RSOC's affiliation is that any member of the Corps may compete in civilian events, and that the Corps may enter teams in civilian team competitions. The other major function of the club is the production and distribution of the 'Platform' newsletter, which goes out several times a year to all Royal Signals units, and to those individuals who may be regarded as the 'hard core' membership of RSOC.

FIXTURES

During a normal year, the Corps will field teams in about ten events, both military and civilian. The premier military event, the Inter-Corps Championship, has been held for the past few years in conjunction with a Southampton Orienteering Club event, in the New Forest. The other military fixtures are mainly other Corps' championships to which we are invited as guests.

The most important team event in the civilian calendar is the Harvester Trophy 7 man overnight relay. It is interesting that, from 1982 onwards, the Army has chosen to use this event to decide the Inter-Corps Championship, in place of the New Forest event. The other two civilian team competitions normally entered by the Corps are the Jan Kjellstrom international event held every year over the Easter weekend, and the British Orienteering Federation Relay championships.

TEAM SELECTION

Orienteering is essentially an individual sport. Team selection would therefore seem to be a straightforward process of selecting the required number of runners who are currently known to be 'on form'. Needless to say, it is seldom as simple as that. Our runners are widely spread geographically, and the available pool of talent is not as big as it ought to be in a Corps like ours.

RESULTS 1981

With only the Inter-Corps meeting yet to take place, our performance so far in 1981 has been fairly good, as the details below show:

Jan Kjellstrom Relay 19 Apr—17th out of 46 teams in the M35 (men aged between 35 and 42 yrs) class—although the class result was unfortunately ruled void due to an error in coding one of the controls.

Army Air Corps Championships 6/7 May—Day 1 (Cross-Country) 2nd out of six teams. Day 2 (Relay)—1st out of six teams (or put another way, 1st and 2nd out of 12 3-man relay teams).

RAPC Championships 16 May—3rd out of five teams.
British Relay Championships 24 May—50th out of 68 teams.
REME Championships 24 June—1st out of five teams.
Harvester Trophy 27/28 June—12th out of 75 teams.
RCT Championships 28 June—1st out of five teams.

PERSONALITIES

RSOC President	**Col Jack Westlake**
RSOC Secretary	**Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones**
Fixtures Secretary	**Maj Mike Rice**
BAOR Chairman	**Lt Col John Almonds**
BAOR Secretary	**Maj Roland Ebdon**

During 1981 so far the Corps have been represented by:

Majs Bob Titterington, Mike Ridlington, Mike Rice, Richard Farrimond, Les Smith, Capts Ray Lloyd-Jones, Geoff Cary, WO2 (SSM) Gavin Escott, SSgts (FofS) Mick Stocks, Ken Suckling, SSgt Dennis Glanville and **Cpl Steve Whitwood.**

It is pretty obvious that the Corps 'squad' is far too top-heavy in age and seniority. Whilst ours is a sport in which intelligence and maturity are important qualities, if we do not get a huge transfusion of new blood soon we will cease to be competitive. The answer must lie within the training organisation and within units, where committed and enthusiastic orienteers must encourage young soldiers and officers to take up the sport, and give them the training and competition experience they need to become really good orienteers themselves. If the Gunners and the Sappers can do it (RA Junior Leaders Regiment are Army Junior Champions for 1981, and REOC entered no less than five junior teams in the Jan Kjellstrom Relay this year)—so can we!

Maj Les Smith (School of Signals) finishing at the AAC Championships May 1981

Maj Bob Titterington (35 Sig Regt (V)) hands over to Maj Mike Rice (Project Bates Mil. Team) during 1981 Army Air Corps Championships Relay

SOCCER

A GOOD START TO THE 81/82 SEASON
Report by Capt (QM) C. Markie R Signals

Date			Result	Score	Scorers
24 Sep	Aldershot	ACC	Drawn	2—2	1. **Rock** 2. **Abbott**
25 Sep	Aldershot	RAPC	Win	5—2	1. **O'Hara** 2. **Brown** 3. **Brown** 4. **Abbott** 5. **Richards**

Team:

1.	**Cpl Hammy Hamilton**	11 Sig Regt
2.	**LCpl Charlie Holsgrove**	Comms & Sy Gp UK
3.	**Sgt Bob O'Hara**	8 Sig Regt (Capt) (Army Player)
4.	**Sgt Eddie London**	Comms & Sy Gp UK
5.	**Cpl Ally McKenzie**	8 Sig Regt
6.	**Cpl Bob Lond**	8 Sig Regt
7.	**Cpl Nigel Rock**	13 Sig Regt
8.	**Sig Kevin Joy**	2 Div HQ & Sig Regt
9.	**Cpl Sandy Brown**	3 Cdo Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (Army Player)
10.	**LCpl Billy Freear**	Comms & Sy Gp UK (Army Player)
11.	**Sig Yorkie Richards**	8 Sig Regt
12.	**Cpl Charlie Abbot**	30 Sig Regt
13.	**LCpl Mal Clark**	8 Field Force

R SIGNALS v ACC (24 SEPTEMBER)

R Signals dominated from the start and it came as no surprise when they went ahead in the 14th minute. A cross from **LCpl Freear** to the far post was headed back in by **Sig Richards** and **Cpl Rock** volleyed in. The Corps continued to dominate the first half but could not increase the score. The ACC were restricted to dangerous counter attacks. The second half started with **LCpl Freear** hitting the post within 30 seconds of the kick off. From the resulting goal kick the ACC equalised with a breakway goal. The ACC went ahead in the 20th minute against the run of play with a goal from a free kick just outside the penalty area. The Corps pressed forward for the equaliser and just as it looked that no equaliser would come **Cpl Abbott** picked up a ball midway in the ACC half and cracked the ball home from 35 yards passed a disbelieving ACC goalkeeper. The final whistle blew ten seconds later!

R SIGNALS v RAPC (25 SEPTEMBER)

In a topsy turvy first half R Signals played good football but were penalised for some bad defensive work. After four minutes RAPC were let through unchallenged for the first goal. The Corps equalised in the next ten minutes with a goal from **Sgt O'Hara** from a corner. In the sixteenth minute a bad back pass resulted in the RAPC going ahead once again. In the 20th minute the scores were level when **Cpl Brown** slipped the ball over the goalkeeper, as it was **Cpl Brown** who put the Corps ahead after a great through ball had put him clear. In the second half the Corps dominated and it was no surprise when **Cpl Abbott** added a fourth goal. **Sig Richards** finished the RAPC off with a tremendous goal. Picking up the ball on the left wing he whistled past his marker cut inside and crashed the ball into the roof of the net from the edge of the penalty area. A good result against an experienced RAPC side.

The Hon Sec Soccer would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Commanding Officers for making players available and enabling the Corps side to get off to a good start.

TA ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Any member of the Territorial Army, UOTC, CCF, or ACF who is eligible to represent the Territorial Army at Association Football and wishes to be considered for the 1981-82 squad is to write giving details as required to:
Maj (TOT) S. Cottage TD
Territorial Army Sports Board Association Football
c/o HQ Eastern District
Flagstaff House
Colchester
Tel: Colchester (0206) 5121 Extn 2406

Stating:

No: Rank: Name:

Unit Address and Telephone No.:

Home Address and Telephone No. or contact No.:

Age: Height: Weight:

Playing position:

Current team/s and league/s with dates.

Past team/s and league/s with dates.

If selected:

a. I will/will not be available to play against Cambridge University at Cambridge University on Tuesday 2 March 1982, K.O. 1415 hours
b. I will/will not be available to tour BAOR, West Germany Good Friday 9 April to Sunday 18 April 1982.

Signed: Date:

SKIING

ROYAL SIGNALS NORDIC DRY SKI TRAINING CAMP
Report by Sig Jim McDougall

FITNESS BUILDER

August this year saw the start of another Royal Signals Nordic Dry Ski Training Camp, a four week pre-season fitness builder held at Schwarzenborn some 50 km south of Kassel. This is the second successive year that Schwarzenborn has been used and the varying terrain, smooth roads and ample range space make it ideal for langlauf training.

Teams from 22 Sig Regt, 2 Div, 1 Div and 7 Armd Bde met at Churchill Bks, Lippstadt, on Sun 2 Aug and travelled down to Schwarzenborn. We arrived in the early evening and quickly settled into the Youth Hostel kindly made available by the local Bundeswehr regiment. After a short briefing by the OC of the camp, **Capt Nick Ferriman**, it was an early night for most of the 35 lads in anticipation of our introduction to training the following morning. Reveille was at 0630 and 0645 saw us trundling, bleary-eyed, to the summit of a mountain resembling the Eiger. A pause at the top for 15 minutes of 'warm-up' exercises and then it was back for breakfast. As it turned out we hadn't been up a real hill at all, but a gentle slope compared to some of the gems our two trainers **Cpl Dins Percival** and **Cpl Steve Power** managed to find. After breakfast we did a 10 km run ending with 2 km of almost vertical climb. This was followed by a lecture on the aims of the next four weeks. In the afternoon, much to the amazement of the local populus, we were given a demonstration of ski ganging—a revised John Cleese walk which helps you to learn to ski uphill. Next was our first attempt at roller-ski-ing and the lads who had skied before made it all look very easy. However, as we novices discovered there's more to it than meets the eye (any non-believers just ask **Sig Bob 'Flounder' Anderson** who still hasn't got the hang of it).

The rest of the week followed a similar pattern with lots of running, roller ski-ing, shooting and the odd lecture or video films of the British Biathlon Squads in action. On Saturday we had a 10 km time trial with runners starting individually at 30 second intervals. This helped our trainers to gauge our fitness levels and also helped us to race alone, as

Sig Trigger Hogton 22 Sig Regt, showing what arm and leg extension is all about

we will in future competitions. By the end of week one we had clocked up 80 km—a fairly easy week as **Cpl Dins Percival** cheerfully told us. Most of us had a few blisters but otherwise no major problems.

The pace increased in week two with us running 120 kms and squeezing in more roller ski-ing, shooting, circuit training and swimming. By the third week some of the novices were beginning to master the roller ski-ing, although they will be the first to admit they are still far from being experts. It was good to see that many of the lads took it into their own heads to spend free time in the evenings practising their roller ski-ing.

On 18 Aug **Gen Hild**, the President of Corps Ski-ing, paid us a visit. Demonstrations on all the various training and simulation exercises were laid on for him, so he could see and appreciate the levels of skill and fitness required for this sport. We also showed him a film we had made of some of us in action.

THE PACE TELLS

Saturday of week three was the day of our second 10 km time trial, the same course as two weeks previous, and I am happy to report that just about everyone's time improved dramatically—providing our first evidence that all the pain was worthwhile! By the fourth week we were down to about 25, a few having found it all a bit too much! We were also getting by this stage a few ankle and knee injuries due to the constant pounding of road running. However, most of us battled on and by the end of the camp we had each run somewhere in the region of 450 kms, most of it on steep hills! All agreed that, although hard, the course had been well worthwhile and we were a lot fitter by the end of it, even **Lt 'Frubs' Maloney**.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL MONTH

Many thanks to everyone who helped make it a very successful month, in particular **Sgt 'Boss' Whittick**, trainers **Dins Percival** and **Steve Power** (honestly, we don't hold any grudges!), cooks **LCpl Alex Brady** and **LCpl Paul Sieloff**, to **Lts Adam Ewell** and **Peter Gillespie** for their continuous banter, **Sig 'Pompey' Ebdon** for his very artistic poses for the camera and **Sammy 'masher' Preece** for generally giving us all a laugh.

Finally congratulations to everyone who managed to stay the distance —Good luck this winter!

HERE AND THERE

1 REGT

'You're supposed to be aiming here, sunshine'. Sig Phil Hayden coaching a visiting Oakham CCF Cadet

8 REGT

The lady on the left had a son, who served in Royal Signals, and he had a son who served in Royal Signals, and he had a son who served in Royal Signals . . . and two daughters who both married men in the Royal Signals . . . and both of the girls have sons . . .
Mrs Marion Llewellyn, grandmother of Capt David Llewellyn, 8 Sig Regt, who is the grandfather of little Matthew, son of LCpl and Mrs Paul Jennings of 1 Armd Div Sig Regt

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE THREE

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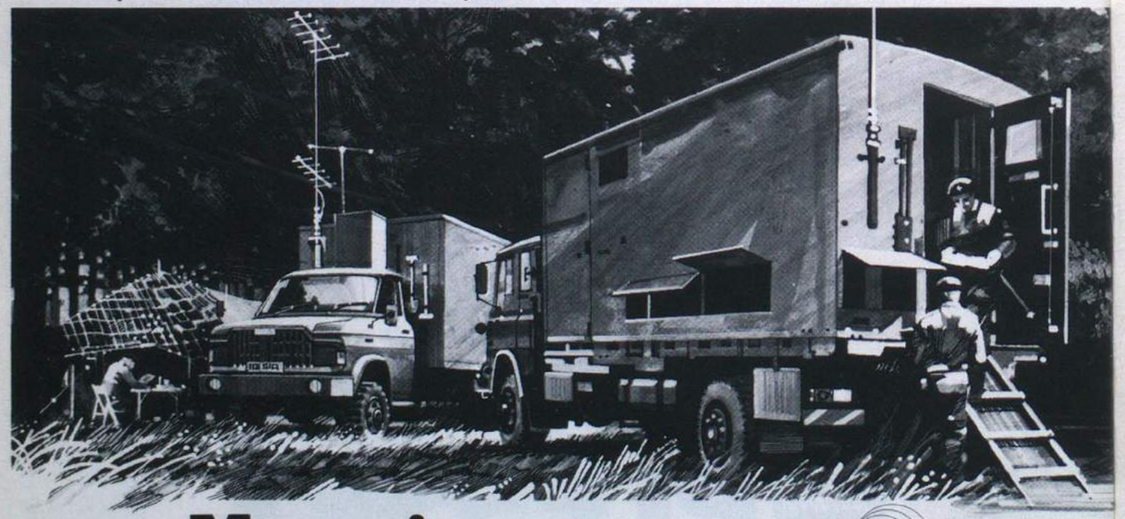

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