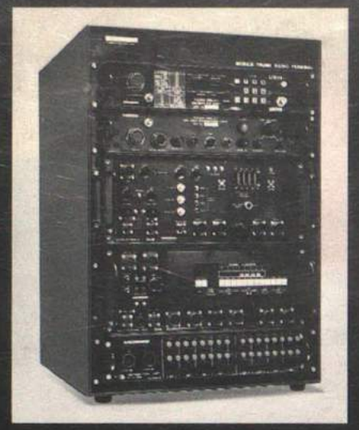
January 1984

# THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

# 1/10 ACTUAL SIZE



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Week commencing January 2, 1983. Vol 3, Number 1.
Price — 70 pfg.

Inside your super new Echo:

RADIO AND TV GUIDE Page 15

OUR PET E.T. IS HERE! Page 3

ELSIE TANNER SPEAKS Page 6

TOP AWARD FOR BAOR CH

NEARLY 60 BFG personnel past and present have been named in the New Year's Honours list. Commander-in-Chief General Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen is honoured as Knight Grand Cross. Colonel Colin Carrington late Royal Corps of Transport is appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Group Captain Kenneth Hunter OBE, RAF at HQ RAF Germany is appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Honours list for Germany is as follows but does not include awards to civilian members of BFG as these are not notified through a central agency.

New Year's Honours List BAOR

Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath as Knight Grand Cross: General Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen, late Scots Guards, Commander-in-Chief.

Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire as Commander: Colonel Colin Edward George Carrington, late Royal Corps of Transport, formerly Deputy Chief of Staff Headquarters 1st Armoured Division.

Six Ac... appointed ...

...to become ...attack role.
...ing himself, and to ...mination" the citation ...

...Force in 1961, and has since ...

...one ...

Cont'd Page 2

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# THE WIRE

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Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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Royal Signals Corps Fund

## EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

We are indebted to Brigadier Alan Yeoman for his report (see page 4) covering the farewell parade and celebrations at Dortmund to bid a very fond farewell to our Fijian friends who served the army and the Corps so well during the past 22 years. A sad moment as the Fijians 'march off' for the last time. If you can spot them, you will recognise WO2 Keith Zoing, SSgt Sammy Degei, Sgt Seph Drika, Cpl V. J. Vijaynard, WO2 Alex Kubu and Sgt Syd Soqo

## NEW YEAR HONOURS

We warmly congratulate those of the Corps named below whose awards were announced in the New Year Honours List.

**OBE**

**Lt Col J. D. Bromley**
**Lt Col D. Hunt**
**Lt Col P. R. H. Thompson TD R. Signals ( V)**

**MBE**

**WO1(RSM) T. J. Friend**

**BEM**

**WO2 G. Cromack**
**SSgt W. H. Carey (V) (now discharged)**
**SSgt M. Williams**
**Sgt S. N. Jackson**
**Sgt G. M. Tilley**
**Cpl J. S. Donachie**

## – From our "In" Tray –

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION'S 1983 LONDON LECTURE

The Royal Signals Institution's 1983 London Lecture was held on the evening of Wednesday 23 November. This winter lecture is always the Institution's main annual event, but this year the occasion was very special indeed. **Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne,** who is Patron, was attending one of our lectures for the first time.

The photograph shows the Chairman of the Institution, **Maj Gen A. J. Jackson** being presented to **HRH** by the Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock.**

The lecture entitled 'Giving Advice to Governments' was given by **Professor J. M. Ashworth DSc FIBiol,** Vice-Chancellor of the University of Salford. **Professor Ashworth's** lecture drew on his experiences as the first Chief Scientist in the body popularly known as the Government's 'Think Tank', more properly referred to as the Central Policy Review Staff.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion in which **HRH** took a full part. After the lecture **HRH** stayed to dine with Institution members and their guests. Three receptions were held during the evening when a large number of members and guests had the honour to be presented to **HRH.** The whole event proved a very memorable one which was greatly enjoyed by all those who had the good fortune to be present.

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS MEMORIAL CHAPEL CATTERICK CHAIR APPEAL

Following the second world war, a Memorial Chapel was incorporated into St Martin's Church, Catterick to commemorate the 4,631 officers and soldiers of the Corps who died on active service between 1939 and 1945. The late Colonel in Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal,** unveiled a Memorial Plaque in 1949 and performed a service of dedication in the old chapel on 17 May 1953. Recently it was reluctantly concluded that, because of very high maintenance costs, St Martin's should close and it has now been demolished.

The new Royal Signals Memorial Chapel in the Garrison Church at Catterick was dedicated by the Colonel in Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** on her visit to the Royal Signals Association Reunion on 26 June 1983.

On moving the Chapel and its stained glass windows to the new Garrison Church, the Royal Signals Association took the opportunity to purchase new furniture. Thompson 'The Mouseman' was commissioned to make new pew frontals, altar rails, a kneeler, 16 chairs, and a case for the new roll of honour commemorating the Corps dead in all theatres before and after World War Two. The Chapel is now complete, but in order to have matching chairs throughout, a further 16 are required. An example of one of the chairs is shown in a photograph and they cost £150 each. They are individually made in oak and hand carved.

It has been suggested that units of the Corps might wish to 'donate' a chair, with a suitably inscribed brass plaque, to the chapel as a memorial or purely as a gift. Two minor units might even combine if the cost of a whole chair is too great.

Any unit wishing to purchase a chair and present it to the chapel should write to the DCOS G1G4 at the Training Group Royal Signals in Catterick. He will then make the necessary arrangements for its manufacture and installation.

## THANK YOU RICHARD WINTERS

When **Richard Winters** decided to attend the Association's 1983 Catterick Reunion, he decided to walk! This involved a trek of some 150 miles from Loughborough to Catterick—preceded, needless to say, by much preliminary training.

It all worked according to plan, starting on 15 June with a steady 15 miles a day. This sponsored walk enabled **Richard** to make a donation of £690 to our Benevolent Fund early in December 1983 and all will wish to applaud his enterprise and endurance.

**Richard** served with the Corps as a National Serviceman between 1948 and 1950 and as a keen 'ham' has maintained his link with the Corps through the Amateur Radio Society—he currently serves as its Secretary.

It would be wrong to end this brief report without paying tribute to **Richard's** aide, his wife, who was never too far away with the car and refreshments. Some five months after the event, **Richard** tells us 'I thoroughly enjoyed the walk and suffered no ill effects save for a rather badly cracked wisdom tooth due to a surfeit of that well known commodity Kendal Mint Cake when the energy was flagging one day—all is now well thanks to a good dentist.'

## A FRIEND IN ATHENS

**From: Capt (Retd) K. F. J. Mogridge**

Dear Sir

I have been living in Greece since 1976 and am now the Warden of St. Paul's Anglican Church in the centre of Athens. I am well acquainted with Greece, having served here with 4 British Division and the British Military Mission during the Civil War period which followed the departure of the German Army of occupation in 1944.

My reason for writing to you is that I have recently read the report by **Sgt Paul Wilson,** Comms & Sy Gp (UK), in the September 1983 issue, under the title Ex *Delphic Oracle*. His final sentence indicated that the exercise might become a regular event, in which case I would very much like to meet any future participants and offer any help to make their stay in Greece as happy and profitable as possible.

Any military visitors must presumably be aware that there is a Defence Office at the British Embassy, comprising a Brigadier, plus representatives of the Royal Navy, RAF with supporting administrators. I am often in contact with the various members of the Defence Attaches staff and so could always act as Liaison Officer!

Perhaps I could enlist your aid to pass on this information and offer of assistance to **Sgt Paul Wilson** and anyone else you think may be interested.

Yours faithfully
**Ken Mogridge**

4 King George Avenue
Poseidonos 17455
Alimos
Athens
Greece
Telephone:
Home 982 9409
Church 323 4790

## ARMY RAISES THREE NEW BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS

The Army Board is to raise three new brigade headquarters in the Wales, Western and South West Army Districts. The titles, locations and dates of formation are:

Headquarters 43 Infantry Brigade at Exeter on 1 April 1984

Headquarters 143 Infantry Brigade at Shrewsbury on 1 January 1984

Headquarters 160 Infantry Brigade at Brecon on 1 January 1984

The establishment of these headquarters is designed to improve the supervision of peacetime training of the currently unbrigaded units in the three Districts. It constitutes the final phase in the provision of one-star headquarters for United Kingdom Land Forces, begun two years ago, to enhance the effectiveness of the command structure.

## CAN YOU HELP

**From: 2Lt J. Luckins Royal Signals**

Dear Sir,

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, formerly known as 216 Sig Sqn underwent a change in becoming 215 Sig Sqn on 16 December 1983. It has been difficult to find any details of the history of 215 Sig Sqn, which existed for little over a year and was in the Middle East in 1959-60. I do know that the Squadron was previously 51 (Independent) Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron between 1957 and 1959.

If there are any readers who have recollections or relics of the Squadron, I would be delighted if they would contact me at the address below.

Yours faithfully
**J. Luckins**

**1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn)**
**Jellalabad Barracks**
**Tidworth**
**Hants**
**SP9 7AB**

**From: Mrs Joyce M. Davies**

Dear Sir,

Service wives have never gone down on record for services rendered in 'following the flag', and as an ex service wife myself I thought it time to remedy this matter.

I am compiling an anthology and would be grateful if through your columns I could appeal for personal experiences, anecdotes, poems, letters, papers, photographs and documents from wives past and present, of all nationalities. Pre war material would be particularly appreciated.

All submissions will be carefully handled and returned.

Yours faithfully,
**Joyce M. Davies**

7 Blacksmiths Road
Longwick
Aylesbury
Bucks
Tel: 08444-6382

## HADRIANS HIKE 1984

Hadrian's Hike is an annual 60 mile trek which follows the course of Hadrian's Wall from Harlow Hill in Northumberland to Burgh Sands in Cumbria. The event is sponsored by The Junior Regiment Royal Signals (26th) and is open to teams of eight from the Armed Forces, the TA and invited teams from the Police Force. The 1984 Hike will take place from 18 - 20 May.

The Hike is undertaken in three sections each of twenty miles with two overnight camps within organised sites. The event is not a race but a reasonable standard of physical fitness and preparation are needed to complete each section within the specified time.

Any team wishing to enter the Hike should contact the Junior Regiment for further details. The latest date for entries will be Monday 12 March 1984.

## OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

Dates for 1984

Corps Dinner London Press Centre—9 May

Corps Luncheon Headquarters Mess, Blandford Camp—16 June

Ticket application forms will be sent to all serving officers and retired members in March 1984.

## THE WHITE LIST

This was sent out to all serving officers and to those retired officers who subscribe in December 1983. If your copy did not arrive, please advise RHQ. Copies may be purchased by non-subscribing officers, and by Warrant Officers by application to RHQ with a cheque for £2 made payable to 'Royal Signals Corps Fund'.

# FIJIAN FAREWELL

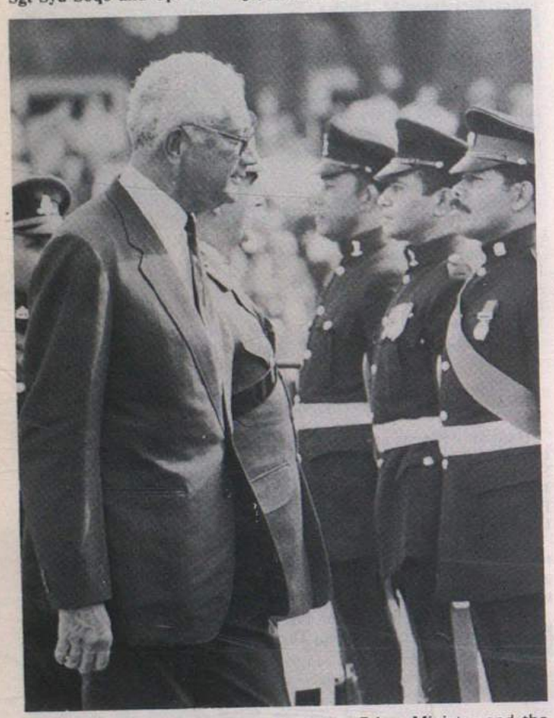
**Report by Brigadier A. Yeoman**

### WITH FLAIR AND DISTINCTION

In November 1961, a recruiting team was sent to Fiji to enlist 100 Fijians into the British Army. The response was so great that authority was given to more than double the number to be recruited, to 212 and to raise entry requirements above the normal British Army level. Of those 212, 29 joined the Corps and served in many of our units with flair and distinction. To say the least, their contribution both at work and at play has always been of the highest order and their skills on the rugby field will be remembered by many for years to come.

### A REAL OCCASION

The majority of those still serving complete their 22 years service this year and in Dortmund over the weekend 24 and 25 September all was set aside to say 'Farewell' to our Fijian friends. Saturday dawned warm and sunny, perfect conditions for the first event, a full cermonial parade. Centre spot was occupied by a 32 strong Fijian detachment whose right marker was **WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing** and included **WO2 Alex Kubu, SSgt Sammy Degei, Sgt Seph Drika BEM, Sgt Syd Soqo** and **Cpl 'VJ' Vijaynand.**



A proud moment on parade—The Fijian Prime Minister and the Corps Commander inspect the front rank with WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing and SSgt Sammy Degei to the force

The parade was commanded by **Brig Mike Jones** Commander Royal Artillery of the 3rd Armoured Division and VIPs watching included **Sir Jock Taylor,** Her Majesty's Ambassador to Bonn. **Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall,** Commander in Chief, **Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale** Commander 1st British Corps and **Right Honourable Sir Kamisesett Mara,** the Prime Minister of Fiji. It was a truly spectacular occasion which left many tears in eyes and lumps in throats.

### THE GOLF MATCH

The second part of the day was again appropriate—a golf match between the CinC team led by **Maj Gen Guy Watkins** and a Fijian team led by the Prime Minister himself. Taking part in this event were **Brig Alan Yeoman, WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing, WO2 Alex Kubu** and **Sgt Seph Drika** — all well known bandits on the golf course. Needless to say the match was played in true Fijian style, keen competition but plenty of good humour throughout.

Members of the Corps who took part in the golf match. *L to R:* Sergeant Seph Drika, Brigadier Alan Yeoman, WO2 Alex Kubu and WO2 (FofS) Keith Zoing

### A SPECTACULAR EVENING

As soon as the lunch was finished and whilst the golf match was being played preparations started for the Fiji-style Barbeque to be held that evening in 19 Fd Regt barracks. About 500 Fijian families and friends were there in a huge schutzenfest tent.

The high point of the evening was the 'pig raising'. A whole pig, cooked in a pit on hot stones was dug out by three Fijians wielding spades. Sparks, steaming earth, smouldering cloth and helpful advice from the onlookers made the event spectacular and kept the spectators minds off the rain. The pig was perfectly cooked. It was a happy occasion with many old friendships renewed. The Fijians, of course, were in a situation that suits them best—giving a party! By the end of the evening about 50 of them had taken over the stage to sing in close harmony.

The evening party—SSgt Sammy Degei, Captain Max Springer (from Barbados—how did he get there?) and their wives

### A FITTING TRIBUTE

The final event of the weekend was a church service which was attended by every Fijian who took part in the weekend. So ended a fitting tribute to our Fijians. I am sure all readers will join me in both thanking all our friends from Fiji who have served the Corps so well over the years since 1961 and in wishing them 'Good luck' in the future. We will miss them all.



# AN OLD SWEAT—'39-'61
## PART 4—GREYHOUNDS OF NORWAY 1940

On passing out as an operator I was posted to 'ACK' Section, 49th (WR) Div Sigs (TA) then assembling in Masham, Yorkshire, ready to proceed to Finland, under attack by Russia. We embarked in the Forth but again disembarked as the Finns had made peace. Thank heavens they did! with hindsight it would have been a disaster.

Shortly afterwards in April '40 we again embarked in the MS *Batory*, the flagship of the Polish Lines which had escaped Poland. As we boarded we were issued with two kitbags into which we had to stow away snowglasses, fur gloves, fur hat, sheepskin lined winter coat, four pair sea boot stockings, boots two sizes too large, leather jerkin, and a huge roll necked white pullover. We were obviously going to Norway which had just been invaded by the Germans.

I was detailed to sit in the ship's wireless room to listen to any broadcasts from Norway, which information I had to pass on to the 'Red Tabs'. History records our higher command knew little about events there, hence my peculiar duty. To a man, we all felt highly excited and like conquering heroes, that we would confidently soon clear up this mess.

Our huge convoy arrived in the fjord outside Harstad, in the Lofoten Islands, hundreds of miles within the Arctic Circle. I was very impressed with the beauty of the surrounding mountains and vowed some day to return. My wife and I did just that in 1982 and were received as VIPs everywhere we visited—the Norwegians never forgot we tried, albeit weakly, to help them. Their token of friendship remains today as firm as then by their annual gift of the Christmas tree to London.

If I may detract from my report: during our visit to Norway many expressions of concern were voiced that London could not afford to accept the tree, and the Norweigans felt very unhappy at this. I promised to take the matter up with the appropriate authorities expressing their dismay. This I did, and was happy to send back to Norway a categorical reply that 'despite all the cut-backs, we considered that this gift of appreciation could not possibly be refused or made subject to any economies'. I think we English applaud those sentiments—and deeply appreciate our Norwegian friends. 'Nuff said'.

Returning to my report, when our ship laid anchor outside Norway, I was amongst a small detail of operators to disembark on to a destroyer hove to beside the *Batory*. I had not a clue why! since we carried no equipment apart from our personal stuff. Then on came all the 'Red Tabs' who were obviously commanding the force. I always remember then that over the destroyer's tannoy a voice of angry authority shouted 'Get a b..... move on there, I do not want to be caught here with Jerry bombers'. Whomsoever it was certainly had no respect for rank—it was his ship and that was that!

Eventually we disembarked on the quay and we small group of signallers were placed into a small hut at the end of the adjacent coaling pier. We were handed an Aldis lamp and told to keep contact with the cruiser *Southampton* out in the fjord and pass any messages to the Grand Hotel, Harstad, which had been taken over as Force HQ.

Although our basic training had been predominently on wireless and line, we had been trained to use lamp and flag—which we thought was outdated and would never be used. We were to learn later that signallers are called upon to do many tasks which completely mystified us—but noting the Editor's call for brevity in notes—I will continue my report next issue—if permitted—concerning the many incidents which I have spent hours at our Public Records Office trying to get to the bottom of—but of that later.

## — Movements —

### Officers

DECEMBER 1983

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Col B. J. Austin | 8 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt L. B. Campbell-Black | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| 2Lt C. M. Clark | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt Col J. V. Fielding | JFHQ BFFI (AE) |
| Maj (TOT) W. F. Graham | ROCCHAN (BALADO BRIDGE) |
| Maj P. J. Grey | DGGWL (A) (PE) (AE) |
| Maj R. P. Harrison | 10 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. S. A. Henderson | HQ NEDIST & HQ 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt Col R. F. Hills | AAC Harrogate |
| 2Lt D. B. Hudson | HS Queens Gurkha Signals |
| Lt Col D. J. Jolly | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt N. D. Kennedy | HQ BR Forces Belize |
| Lt J. S. A. Lancaster | 7 Sig Regt |
| Capt S. J. Leach | 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L) |
| Lt Col S. M. A. Lee | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt D. A. Lynam | MGO SEC (PE) (AE) |
| Capt (TOT) K. R. McRae | DSS (AD) |
| Capt N. T. Moore | 10 Sig Regt |
| Col P. S. Reader OBE | HQ NORTHAG (SP) (BAE) |
| Maj J. M. Shaw | HS 11 Sig Regt (DEPOT) |
| Capt P. G. F. Wilkin | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Maj D. J. Wills | HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot) |

JANUARY 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col R. C. Armstrong | RMCS |
| 2Lt P. A. Bailey | HS 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj R. A. Baker | Sangcom |
| Lt Col R. F. Baly | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt N. J. Bateson | Jnr Regt R. Signals |
| Capt R. W. Batho | RMAS |
| Capt R. Baxter | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| 2Lt A. D. R. Broad | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt C. J. Burton | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| 2 Lt R. N. Cary | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj G. O. Chester | 7 Sig Regt |
| Maj W. M. Clarke | 7 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. W. Cornforth | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Lt N. D. Couch | Jnr Regt R. Signals |
| Maj W. P. Crowley | DSS (AD) |
| 2Lt J. W. Dakin | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI FORCE) |
| 2Lt M. Davis | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt N. H. Denning | School of Signals |
| Capt P. H. Eaton | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt M. W. Edwards | 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj G. R. Elliot | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt A. T. Evans | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj M. S. Fisher | School of Signals |
| Lt E. M. Flint | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj R. A. J. Gardner | SEC C-IN-C BAOR |
| Maj G. H. Goodman | 7 Sig Regt |
| Capt P. K. Gorford | HQ ARTY DIV |
| Maj J. A. Grierson | UKCICC |
| 2Lt N. J. Griffiths | HS 30 Sig Regt |
| Capt T. Guest | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt H. A. R. Hancock | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Lt R. L. Harnden | 1 GORDONS |
| Capt J. A. Harris | 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj N. K. P. Hope | ACGS (OR) |
| 2Lt I. Hume | 21 Sig Regt |
| Maj R. M. J. Hussey | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj R. H. Hoyle | HS AA Coll Harrogate |
| Capt A. M. Jones | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Brig C. N. Last | DGGWL |
| Maj S. M. A. Lee | DSS (AD) |
| 2Lt C. M. R. Lewis | 2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj R. J. Little | HQ NORTHAG (BAE) |
| Maj A. M. Lovatt | 229 Sig Sqn |
| Capt (TOT) A. Lynn | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt J. A. Macfarlane | RAC Centre |
| Brig F. R. Maynard | HQ Trg Gp R. Signals & Catterick Garrison |
| Capt C. C. McColville | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Capt D. McDowall | 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |
| Maj A. W. Merrick | HQ QG Signals |
| 2Lt A. Metcalfe | HS 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Capt A. G. Morgan | 16 Sig Regt |
| Maj (TOT) A. J. Murray | 4 Sig Gp |
| Maj C. V. Nind | HQ NORTHAG (BAE) |
| Maj D. F. Palmer | NICSMA |
| Capt P. Parfitt | School of Signals HS |
| Maj D. C. Podevin | Army Air Appts (STC) |
| Maj T. E. M. Richardson | DSS (AD) |
| 2Lt A. G. Ross | 16 Sig Regt |
| Col A. J. Sammes | ACBGS (OR) (HS) |
| Maj A. J. Saunders | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj A. J. Schuler | 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt B. J. Scott-Morton | HS Army Staff Coll Camberley |
| Capt (TOT) R. C. Scriven | HQ 4 Sig Gp |
| Capt G. M. S. Shipley | HS Army Staff Coll Camberley |
| Capt S. J. Smith | School of Signals |
| Capt K. Taylor | School of Signals |
| Lt N. A. Thomas | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt G. J. Trevis | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Lt C. H. Turner | 633 Sig Tp |
| 2Lt H. M. Wareham | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt Col (TOT) K. J. West | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt D. J. Whitby | 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| 2Lt R. P. Wilson | 7 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt D. G. R. Wood | HS 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |

## WOs and Senior NCOs

DECEMBER 1983

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (YofS) D. I. Gilchrist | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| WO1 R. Hails | 38 CTT |
| AWO1 D. Brough | HQ BAOR |
| WO2 (FofS) D. Wooff | 2 Sig Bde |
| WO2 (FofS) G. B. Clark | School of Signals |
| WO2 (FofS) A. R. Threlfall-Searson | 10 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (Supvr (R)) A. C. Bird | 14 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (EW Op) A. Duncan | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (EW Op) B. Ward | 14 Sig Regt |
| WO2 P. C. Bawden | 14 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. J. Simpson | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 F. A. Winton | 10 Sig Regt |
| SSgt F. Lunness | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. E. Woodbridge | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. Brown | 14 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt W. Henderson | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt C. W. Young | 29 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. G. E. Howells | School of Inf |
| Sgt N. E. Baugh | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Poland | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. J. Walton | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt K. J. Stock | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt D. A. Bristow | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. P. Grist | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. J. Robinson | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. M. Sullivan | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. M. Moorhead | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. S. Smith | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Halstead | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. G. Coltman | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. E. G. Thomas | School of Signals |
| Sgt P. N. Dawson | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. M. White | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. D. Peaper | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. Sharman | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt P. Matthews | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. Ellis | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. J. Smith | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. G. Clark | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt C. P. Shead | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Nicol | 14 Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. M. Short | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt T. J. Machon | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt F. Green | 262 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt W. R. J. McIntyre | 633 Sig Tp |
| ASgt D. Whiting | School of Signals |
| ASgt R. J. Maskell | 527 Rear Link Detachment |
| ASgt G. S. Davison | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. D. Clifford | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASgt P. R. Hickinbottom | AA Coll Harrogate |

## WOs and Senior NCOs

JANUARY 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 A. M. Evans | Army Personnel Selection Centre |
| WO2 (FofS) J. L. McIlree | HQ Northern Ireland |
| WO2 (FofS) A. Davie | School of Signals |
| WO2 (FofS) W. B. Smart | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| WO2 (FofS) B. C. Vanparys | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) P. G. Cross | 642 Sig Tp (Gibraltar) |
| WO2 M. D. Bailes | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| WO2 R. R. Coffill | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 D. A. Hand | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. M. Taylor | AA Coll Harrogate |
| WO2 J. W. F. Tierney | School of Signals |
| WO2 R. C. Yeomans | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| AWO2 J. Reid-Robertson | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt (FofS) P. A. Martin | AA Coll Harrogate |
| SSgt (FofS) J. F. Haniffin | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (FofS) K. Zoing | 242 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (YofS) R. R. Burrell | NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn |
| SSgt (YofS) P. Tharme | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt (Supvr R) J. Hudson | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (Supvr R) B. J. Parsons | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (S Tg) P. J. Jarrold | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. Smith | 233 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt H. C. Britton | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. S. Bailes | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. E. Chester | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. M. Matthews | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt F. J. Share | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. M. Hooper | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. Pickersgill | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt K. M. Sanderson | 259 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt O. W. Henvey | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt C. J. Edler | 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. G. Hughes | AFCENT Sp Gp |
| Sgt M. D. Murphy | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. C. Thompson | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. R. A. Bowers | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. R. Sizeland | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. F. L. Cox | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. B. O'Sullivan | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. K. Rushton | 2 Sig Bde |
| Sgt W. R. Baker | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. Rose | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. J. Dooley | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. W. McCartney | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt D. A. Brack | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. J. Calland | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. C. Sipson | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt J. M. P. Leggate | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. F. Meachin | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. Cox | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. T. Bemrose | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. J. Knight | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. A. Archibald | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt E. T. M. McCathie | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. Copland | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp |
| Sgt A. Craven | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt H. W. Harding | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt A. J. Smith | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt C. J. Lowe | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. McFarlane | 244 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. L. Blood | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. A. C. Davies | R Signals Demo Team |
| ASgt B. Arnold | 262 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt A. P. R. Teague | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. G. Weaver | 233 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt S. Stevenson | 233 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt L. Deeming | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. German | 244 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt J. Jenkins | 568 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt G. M. Robinson | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. P. McGrath | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| ASgt W. W. Roberts BEM | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASgt P. Donovan | 13 Sig Regt |

## Welfare

**October 1983**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 37 |
| Amount spent | £4547.12 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent | 12 |

**November 1983**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 49 |
| Amount spent | £5231.63 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent | 42 |

**SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES**

Ex-Sgt who served 12 years, now completely disabled with multiple sclerosis, a substantial grant was made to enable him to purchase an electric wheelchair so that he can get about.

A widower of 78 years, who served during the War suffering from angina and diabetes urgently needed new bedding and furniture. A grant was made for these items and arrangements made for a home help and meals on wheels for him.

An ex-Cpl. recently needed two by-pass heart operations. As a result of his illness he had been unable to work for the past three years, and as he has three young children the family were in financial difficulties. A grant was made to meet their outstanding bills and the cost of hospital fares.

During October/November clothing has been received from the following:

**Lt Col M. Spencer, Mrs Polley, WO1 and Mrs Francis, Maj Stewart, Mr and Mrs H. Palmer, Mrs Oakley, WO1 and Mrs McInnes, Maj and Mrs Copeland, Col and Mrs J. Francis, Thrift Shop, 13 Sig Regt North London Branch, Royal Signals Association.**


# Friars School

Great Chart
Ashford, Kent, TN23 3DJ

Telephone Ashford (Kent) 0233 20493

Pre-Preparatory 4½-7 years (Day) and Preparatory 7-14 (Boarding and Day, including weekly boarding) Boys only.

Friars School is situated in 10½ acres. It is within easy reach of Heathrow, Gatwick, the Channel Ports and Charing Cross. Classes are small. There is a close-knit community with a friendly atmosphere. Every consideration is given to the boarding needs of the boys. Syllabus determined by Common Entrance requirements.

Soccer, rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics are major games. Numerous extra-curricular activities.

**Special reduction in fees for Service personnel. Scholarships available up to 50% of fees to boys under 9 on Sept. 1st next. Examinations in February.**

Apply, quoting ref. CSPW to the Headmaster, Mr J. M. Stevens, BA, CertEd.


## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1983

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Lt Col J. E. Woodward OBE | £168.00 |
| Bristol & District Branch RSA | £100.00 |
| In memory of Hanley Dale Esq | £ 85.00 |
| In memory of Brig R. G. Miller CBE | £ 58.00 |
| Capt B. T. Lord MSM | £ 19.05 |
| In memory of Mrs Erica Rowley | £ 10.00 |
| G. A. Jenkins Esq | £ 6.00 |
| Mrs J. L. Power | £ 6.00 |
| J. F. H. Mitchell Esq | £ 5.80 |
| G. D. Webster Esq | £ 5.00 |
| E. D. Knight Esq | £ 5.00 |
| E. C. Partridge Esq | £ 5.00 |
| A. F. Whitmarsh Esq | £ 5.00 |
| Brig C. G. Moore OBE | £ 5.00 |
| R. Glyn Jones Esq | £ 2.90 |
| Maj A. Gould | £ 2.90 |
| K. J. Smith Esq | £ 2.90 |
| R. A. F. Chitty Esq | £ 2.90 |
| R. W. Moyle Esq | £ 2.90 |
| Capt S. W. Creaton | £ 2.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 2.30 |
| | £501.65 |

The following donations were greatly received during December 1983.

| | |
|---|---|
| R. Winters Esq | £690.00 |
| Berlin Garrison | £ 89.64 |
| 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt | £ 40.00 |
| Maj H. D. V. Chappell | £ 25.00 |
| F. C. Wilson Esq | £ 22.90 |
| A. V. Smith Esq | £ 17.90 |
| H. Liley Esq | £ 17.90 |
| R. N. Hutchings Esq | £ 17.90 |
| RSA Lincoln Branch | £ 15.00 |
| Maj D. S. A. Hutley | £ 15.00 |
| St John's Church PCC | £ 15.00 |
| RSA Southport & District Branch | £ 11.00 |
| Gillespie | £ 10.00 |
| D. R. Handley Esq | £ 5.00 |
| Mrs F. E. Stagg | £ 5.00 |
| Maj Gen C. M. F. White CB CBE DSO | £ 5.00 |
| H. A. Simons Esq | £ 3.00 |
| J. Milburn Esq | £ 2.90 |
| P. A. Tulley Esq | £ 2.90 |
| | £998.14 |

**CLOTHING is still required by the WELFARE SECTION**


# FINANCIAL PLANNING

**ITS PURPOSE** is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

| | |
|---|---|
| FINANCIAL PROTECTION | —against the effects of possessions lost or damaged |
| FINANCIAL SECURITY | —for present or future dependants |
| HOUSE PURCHASE | —immediately or in the future |
| EDUCATION EXPENSES | —for present or future children |
| COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT | —based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve |
| TRANSFER OF ASSETS | —to the next generation |

**WE ADVISE** on the use of savings from income, the investment of capital, the use of other assets where applicable, insurance against ill health and the insurance of possessions. We help clients to lay the foundations of sound plans, to develop existing plans and keep them up to date, and then to make the best use of resources when the time comes to meet commitments.

**GOOD INFORMATION** is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

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

**OUR ADVICE** is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 35 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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# Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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**—To **Maj Jon Henderson** and **Trysh Henderson** on 21 November in Camberley, a daughter, **Jemma**, little sister for **Ryan** and **Kirsty**, final member for Dad's 'O' team!

## DEATHS

**Harvey—Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake** writes as follows of ex: **WO2 L. H. Harvey.**

'Friends of **'Len' Harvey** will be saddened to learn of his death at the age of 66, following a long illness most cheerfully borne. He enlisted in his county Regiment, The Royal Sussex in 1940 and subsequently saw service in the Western Desert including Tobruck and El Alamein, other theatres of operations in the Middle and Far East before demobilization in 1946. In 1950 he re-enlisted in Royal Signals and served in UK and BAOR as well as Norway, Singapore and Borneo where he was mentioned in despatches. He retired from the Corps in 1969 in the rank of SSM and took up his appointment as a Yeoman Warder of HM Tower of London. **'Len'** stepped out of uniform finally in 1981 and took up residence at Duston, Northampton where he died on 20 December. His funeral was attended by his widow, **Florence** and his three daughters, others included serving and retired Yeoman Warders and old comrades.'

**Howcroft**—We sadly record the death of **ex WO2 William George Howcroft** at Brecon on 24 November 1983. He enlisted in the Corps in 1933 and saw service in Egypt and Palestine from 1935-1937. In 1939 he went to West Africa and from there to service in India and Burma. **WO2 Howcroft** served in BAOR after the war and was discharged from Germany in 1954. **Mr Howcroft** is survived by his two sons and two daughters.

**Miller—Brigadier Ronald George Miller CBE** was born in London on 18 Nov 1913. He was commissioned into the Corps on 1 Feb 1934. After leaving 19 Q Course, where he gained a reputation as a motor and motor cycle enthusiast, he joined 5 Div Sig. It was whilst serving with this unit that he received severe head injuries when an Austin 7 Wireless car in which he was travelling overturned. His injuries were of such severity that it was questionable whether he would be permitted to continue with his chosen career.

It was also whilst with 5 Div that **Ronnie** as he was known, built a telephone exchange for the Barracks at Scarborough. **Lt Col Leofric Thorpe** recalls the event, **'Ronnie'** always had a great knack with electric and electronic circuitry. When he left the Q course and joined 5 Div Sig at Scarborough they needed a telephone exchange in the barracks. He designed and made a 10-line auto exchange, making all 10 phones to go with it. I think the cost of all components from the junk shops in Lisle Street totalled £3.00. It was a switchboard of the 'linefinder' type, and must have been one of the first ever used in the army. It was in use there for very many years and when something bigger was called for it went to a school where it went on working for a couple of decades.

After a short tour of duty with 1 Div he joined STC Catterick in Oct 1938 and in Sep 1939 served for a year as an Adjutant. He was appointed as a GSO2 at the War Office in Sep 1940 and remained there until Mar 1945. After a brief seven months tour as OC 1 Special Wireless Group in BAOR he again took over a staff appointment at HQ BAOR and this was followed by service at the School of Signals and Cambridge University. In May 1951 he became 2IC 1 Corps Signal Regiment in BAOR a post he held for two years.

**Ronnie** was again posted to a staff appointment in Apr 1953 when he became GSO1 (Signals) at HQ NORTHAG. This was followed by a two year appointment as OC Royal Signals Wing at the School of Signals. After this posting he returned to a staff appointment and was Colonel GS Signals 3 at the War Office a post he held until he became Assistant Director (Comms) to the Master General of Ordnance department in Sep 1960. Then followed a short tour as CSO HQ Comcan a post he held until his appointment as Chairman of the European Military Communications in France. For his final tour of duty **Ronnie Miller** was with the Ministry of Aviation. He retired on 17 Nov 1968. **Lt Col Thorpe** writes as follows, 'He was a brilliant teacher, either sitting alongside a dunce who wanted to learn in order to get through his exams, or at the other end of the spectrum as a lecturer to an advanced class. He had the knack of imparting knowledge. When he retired from the army he took a post as Senior Physics Master at a public school and he carried on in this post for several years. He then joined the staff of Muirhead as part-time consultant, and at the same time gave private lessons to pupils in maths and electronics with all his old ability.

He married **Betty Chalmers**, the daughter of **Dr. Chalmers** (Doctor of Mathematics) who was assistant editor of the journal 'The Engineer'. **Betty** died some years ago. They had three children who survive him, two sons and a daughter. The youngest, **Jeremy**, became an officer in the Corps and retired early. I shall remember him best for his unbounded enthusiasm for all he undertook, and his readiness to help anyone in any way, however much the trouble.'

**Ord—Cpl Jerry Ord** was born 18 August 1947 in Sacriston Co Durham. He enlisted into the Corps on 3 October 1972 and served tours in Cyprus BAOR, Northern Ireland and UK. His last tour was with K Troop 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support). He died on the afternoon of 4 November and was buried in Rheindahlen Garrison Military Cemetery on the 14 November. Our deepest sympathy go to all his relatives and in particular to his wife **Ann** and the children.

**Rowley—Mrs Erica Sylvia Rowley,** wife of the late **Col Brian G. Rowley** died on 19 November 1983, at Godalming. **Mrs Rowley** gave invaluable service to the Welfare Section to our Association during and immediately following the second world war.

**Swaby—Capt Peter Swaby** died in Wellington, New Zealand on 24 November 1983. **Brigadier K. H. Olds** writes, **'Peter Swaby** and I did not meet until fairly late on in our respective careers, he as a WO1 Foreman and me the squadron commander of 249 Sig Sqn then stationed in Singapore. **Peter** was technically in charge of, what was in those days, the latest and most potent equipment for contingency communications, the airportable D13 station. Always a master of technical wizardry and improvisation, **Peter** rapidly established a reputation for excellence for his troop and his radio station throughout the Far East. He and the team roamed far and wide and it was always a pleasure to come upon them, usually in the most remote of places, busy but 'thorough' and never without a warm welcome and an invitation to accept whatever hospitality that redoubtable team had managed to arrange through an adroit mix of clever administration and individual initiative. The spirit that developed within **Peter's** team was always first-rate and his personality and character was ever the moving spirit behind it. He was a big man in size and personality and I would sum him up as one of those rare individuals who combined strength and gentleness in a unique mix which made him a man to be depended upon for both material help and wise, compassionate advice. All in my squadron loved him and he was a great character.

I met him some years later as a TOT with 22 Sig Regt and it was during that time that he re-married and decided to leave for a new life in New Zealand. I heard occasionally from him after he had emigrated and it was clear from his letters that he had made his mark in that country as he had within our Corps. This was borne out by his widow **Ann** who wrote to tell me the sad news and to say that over two hundred people turned up to pay their last respects at his funeral.

**Peter** was an unforgettable character, the kindest and most helpful of men and a great credit to Royal Signals. All who knew him will be deeply saddened by the news of his death at an early age and would wish to join me in offering deepest sympathy to **Ann**, his widow, and their family'.

**Wall—Major Eric Raymond Courtney Wall** was born at Tarvin, Cheshire on 15 Feb 1922. He enlisted into the Cheshire Regiment TA on 24 Apr 1939 and was later transferred to the Sappers. After service during 1940 and 1941 with various AA units he joined 2nd Army Signals in Mar 1945 and then joined 6th Airborne Division. He took part in the Arnhem operation and continued to serve with the Division during the Normandy campaign. After the end of hostilities, he served with various training units both in the UK and the Middle East. He served with the TA with 49 Div Sig Regt from Sep 1956 until Aug 1959 and then moved to Hong Kong to serve with 27 Sig Regt. On his return to the UK in Oct 1960 he served with 252 Sig Sqn and 26 Sig Regt until he was commissioned on 1 Feb 1962. After commissioning he returned to the Far East and served a three year tour with 19 Sig Regt at Singapore. He then spent two years, from Jun 1965, with 22 Sig Regt in BAOR and this was followed by another tour of duty with the training organisation, firstly with 24 Sig Regt and finally with HQ Catterick Garrison. He retired in Mar 1971 and then held a TAVR commission until Nov 1974.

**Eric** settled in Darlington and became a representative of SSFA. In 1981 he returned to reside in his native city of Chester and continued his work with SSAFA being appointed assistant secretary to the Cheshire Division. He was, also, an active member of the Royal Signals Association and the Upton Branch of the Royal British Legion.

**Eric's** funeral took place at the Blacon Crematorium on 16 Sep 1983. The Royal Signals Association was represented at the service by a number of Corps officers including **Lt Col E. Thompson** and **Lt Col J. Ellis**.

**Editor's Note**

We announced the death of **Lt Col J. H. St G Hamersley** in the November 1983 issue of The Wire and greatly regret the incorrect spelling which arose in the notice.

## PERSONAL

**Mrs K. Carpenter,** who lives at 74 Moorside Road, East Howe, Bournemouth, Dorset, would be pleased to meet anyone who served with her late husband **Cecil** during 1942-1945. **Cecil Harry Carpenter** served with the Corps attached to the 23rd Hussars and died of wounds in 1945.

**Mrs Barbara Drake** would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Corps who have sent messages of condolence on the death of her late husband **Pat—Paddy** as he was so affectionately known. **Barbara** wishes to keep in touch and welcomes letters from friends.

Ex **Sig Kenneth F. Legge** would like **Sgt H. J. Mullinex** and other former members of 101 Signals Section to contact him at 65 Bedminster Road, Bristol BS3 5MX.

**WO1(FofS) Matthews** writes as follows:-

Due to my secondment in the Gulf and job hunting on my return I have been out of circulation. I find time has really caught up with me, I am well into my discharge leave and have had no contact with the many friends I have served with in my 22 years in the Corps. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well in their careers and hope that we will meet again.

I can be contacted at Plessey Military Comms Ltd, (01-478-3040 Ext 2896).

**LIPPSTADT MARCHES**

The Lippstadt Marches will be taking place on 3 and 4 March 1984. Applications to **WO2 (YofS) Haycock,** Lippstadt Mil 437.

**FOR SALE**

Mess Dress, Sgt. Waist 34", Inside Leg 33", Chest 40", complete and in good condition £75. Contact Ex **Sgt M. D. Harrison,** Farnham (0252) 724295.

**WANTED**

**SUPPORT YOUR CORPS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM**

The White Helmets are always in need of No 1 Dress uniform. If any past or present serving Officer, SNCO or soldier has a suit available for donation to the team it would be gratefully received.

Contact OC White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
Tel: Richmond 83 2521 Ext: 2556

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**VACANCIES FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SSGT SQMS IN 37TH (WESSEX AND WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

Vacancies for four NRPS SSgt SQMS will arise within the unit for employment by 1 April 1984 with squadrons located at:

Bristol, Bridgwater, Cardiff and Stratford

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The posts carry the rank of SSgt (TA) at a daily rate of pay of £22.80 on appointment.

Further job details are available on request. Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of military stores accounting systems and be capable of operating with a minimum of supervision.

Applications including two references and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded by 10 February 1984 to:

The Adjutant
37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
TA Centre
Horfield Common
BRISTOL
BS7 OXl

**VACANCIES FOR NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SSGT SQMS IN 37TH (WESSEX AND WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) AND 71ST (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

Vacancies for 4 NRPS SSgt SQMS will arise with the following units for employment by 1 April 1984 with Squadrons located as shown:

37 Sig Regt (V) Bristol, Bridgewater, Cardiff and Stratford.
71 Sig Regt (V) Chelmsford, Bexleyheath, Whipps Cross (NE London) and Windsor.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The posts carry the rank of SSgt (TA) at a daily rate of pay of £22.80 on appointment.

Further job details are available on request. Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of military stores accounting systems and be capable of operating with a minimum of supervision.

Applications including two references and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded as appropriate to:

The Adjutant, 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol BS7 OXL. (Tel No 0272-519898).

The Adjutant, 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Hill House, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent BR2 ODA (Tel 01-460-6571/7832).

**VACANCY FOR A NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF MT WARRANT OFFICER**

A Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) MT Warrant Officer is sought for service with 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) in Bristol. The appointment commences in November 1984.

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit for applicants is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (TA) at a daily rate of pay of £30.14 on appointment rising by three increments to £30.44 after 9 years in the post.

The appointment calls for:

A sound knowledge of MT procedures including POL and stores accounting and vehicle servicing.

The ability to co-ordinate driver training and driving instruction.

The ability to assist in such other unit training as may be necessary.

Applications including two references and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded by 31 July 1984 to:

The Adjutant, 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol BS7 OXL

**VACANCIES FOR NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF OFFICERS—BRIDGWATER AND STRATFORD UPON AVON**

Non-Regular Permanent Staff Officers are sought for 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) for appointment to 43rd (Wessex) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) in Bridgwater and 67th (Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) in Stratford Upon Avon. The appointments are to commence in August 1984.

Applicants should have served as officers in the Regular Army and must have a sound knowledge of administration, stores and financial accounting.

The upper age limit on appointment is 56 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post currently carries the annual salary of £9380.50 rising by six annual increments to £10898.90.

Applications enclosing CV and two references should be sent to: The Adjutant 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol BS7 OXL. The closing date for applications is 30 April 1984.

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If your trade or training involves Radio Operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post.

Candidates must have had at least 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

On successful completion of 35 weeks' specialist training, promotion will occur to the Radio Officer grade. Registered disabled people may be considered.

**SALARY AND PROSPECTS:**
Trainee Radio Officer: £4,579 at 19 to £5,4581 at 25 and over. On promotion to Radio Officer: £6,270 at 19 to £8,182 at 25 and over. Then by 4 annual increments to £11,182 inclusive of shift working and Saturday and Sunday elements.

*For full details please contact our Recuritment Office on Cheltenham (0242) 32912/3 or write to:*

GCHQ

Recruitment Office, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 5AJ.




# REPORT FROM ULSTER

**8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
**BFPO 807**

**OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

Since our last report and as we approach Christmas PIRA and INLA activity seems to be increasing, especially attacks on members of the RUC and UDR. On 22 October there was a hoax bomb and shooting attack on the PVCP at Clady, an observant policeman noticed a car parked close the VCP and as SF personnel evacuated the buildings, they came under fire from the car. Fire was returned and gunmen made off into the Republic without any injuries being sustained by the SF. A part-time member of the UDR, was ambushed and killed as he left his farm near Aughnacloy on 24 October. Another murder took place on 28 October in Londonderry when an unarmed community policeman, was shot as he left a house in the Shantallow district. An off duty member of the UDR, and his brother had a lucky escape near Strabane on 3 November when they were ambushed by a gang of four gunmen whilst stopped at a petrol station. On 4 November in Strabane a large van bomb destroyed a Pub and seriously damaged several houses. Ten people were badly injured in the blast. At Carrickmore on 12 November there was a mortar attack on the RUC Station which killed one and seriously injured three members of the RUC. Most of the buildings were destroyed or badly damaged.

In and around Londonderry there has been considerable action, on 15 November a RUC Detective was ambushed on his way home from work and suffered serious gunshot wounds. Four days later an off-duty member of the UDR was attacked as he left work in the Waterside. However he managed to return fire before his attackers fled and he only suffered minor cuts. On 1 December another detective was attacked by three gunmen dressed in school uniforms as he waited at traffic lights on the Craigavon Bridge on his way to work. He was seriously hurt but managed to drive his car forward out of the killing zone.

The major success of the past weeks was when on 4 December a covert army patrol came across three armed gunmen on a country lane near Coalisland and in an exchange of fire two terrorists were killed. The remaining terrorist escaped in a car which was found later to have several bloodstains in it.

Commander's Rover Group rehearsing prior to visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester

Brigade Commander inspecting Rover Group after rehearsal. *L to R:* Lt Gordon James (Deputy for VIP), Brig Mattingley, Cpl Dave Parry

**NEWS FROM THE TROOPS**

**COMMS TROOP**

**Capt Trevor Bradley** is now fully ensconced in the OC's seat and has his feet firmly under the table. He has finally tracked down all the stores he signed for when he arrived four months ago, and has discovered what a multitude of communications Comms Troop provides for the Brigade. Its tasks are many and varied. Its personnel are highly professional and extremely well motivated. Never does a day pass without some form of adventure.

The first and most important role of the Troop is the manning and operation of the Brigade Radio Room (the nerve centre of the Brigade), **LCpl Steve Brisk** is often to be found here answering radio checks and ensuring that the Watchkeeper is doing his job properly. Providing the ground cover, at the sharp end so to speak, is Rover Group. It provides vehicles, communications and escorts for the Brigade Commander, **Brig Mattingley**, and the Deputy Commander, **Col Tarver**, should they require green vehicles either to visit any part of the TAOR or especially to any incident. At the moment it is commanded by **Cpl Dave Parry.** He speaks with the pride of a War Veteran when on one occasion Rover Group escorted **Sig 'Tank' Sherman (Rigger)** to change a bulb on a tower at Masonic. When he was halfway up a barrage of bricks and bottles came flying over the perimeter wall. Needless to say the job which would normally take one and a half hours was done in five minutes. According to **Cpl Dave Parry**, Rover Group took it all in their stride.

There is a green hill far away (well not that far) with a high barbed wire fence surrounding it. Every two weeks a JNCO and Signalman are dragged screaming up to the Gortin hilltop site. There they have a battle against the elements; zero visibility, horizontal rain and below freezing temperatures. So remote is this site that the Admin Officer, **Capt Trevor Lindsay REME,** has only managed to visit it once in this two years with the Squadron.

One of the most regular visitors is the Squadron Commander, **Maj Richard Farrimond**, who frequently mounts suprise attacks, the most recent of which was countered by the quick thinking of **Sig 'Thommo' Thompson** who met the OC with a Bacon Butty and mug of tea!

Gortin Radio Site with Pte Carl Rose out on guard awaiting a helicopter

The Rigging Section commanded by **Cpl Mick** 'Stay out all night' **Roe** is responsible for all the Masts, Towers and Antennas in the Brigade area. They have been kept fairly busy with Op deployments, new installations, maintenance and repairs. They have only had two stonings. Mind you its only to be expected if they go climbing a mast which is next door to a Pub—AT CLOSING TIME!! The Troop has recently said farewell to **Sig 'Foxy' Fox** who is off to 244 Sig Sqn (AS) and **Sig 'Sam' McLeod** who is posted to the School of Signals. Finally we offer our congratulations to **Sig 'Tank' Sherman** on his recent marriage to **Kay.**

**M TROOP**

Our new OC, **WO2 (FofS) 'Norman the Foreman' Blavins** has been in the chair for nearly eight weeks now having found his feet very quickly. Together with the Line Section working under the directions of **Sgts 'Butch' Cassidy** and **Dick Taylor,** all have been kept busy moving Ops Room for 6 UDR at Omagh, 1 QUEENS at Lisnaskea and Omagh, 2 QUEENS at Rosemount, Fort George and Ebrington Barracks, and 176 Pro Coy at Clooney Base. In addition the rewiring and replacement of Intercomms at Ballykelly, Omagh and Fort George has caused some problems, not least for the Lineman who have been called upon to travel in various modes of transport including, Pigs, Land Rovers, Helicopters and Rigid Raider boats—what next we ask, a Hot Air Ballon?

**MT TROOP**

The MTWO, **WO2 Peter Yates RCT** continues to wield his loaded Works Ticket Folder and everybody cringes or hides away, that's if they are not on detail. Our mileage increases every month and our accident rate falls; that is apart from the OC's driver **Sig Ken 'Crasher' Marshall,** who managed to bend the OC's car within three week's of its arrival.

**Q TROOP**

The QM, **Capt Jimmy Akehurst** (no relation to the General), continues to spend his time playing Golf, Dominoes, Darts and lately Tennis whilst the RQMS, **WO2 Tom Sharp,** and Radio Stores Boss **Sgt Brian Donegan,** run the stores. The infamous 'Gang of Three', **Akehurst, Donegan** and **Sharp** are believed to be arranging a new Golf Classic; well, that can be the only reason they are away so often!

**SHQ**

The new 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent** believes himself to be firmly in control but the **YofS (Ops), WO2 Alan Bodimeade** believes otherwise! However it has been noted and well documented that both the OC, **Maj Richard Farrimond,** and the YofS have been taking at least two days a week off on highly questionable visits and meetings, this adding more credence to the rumour that small officers are taking over the Squadron! Our ORSQMS, **SSgt John Symes,** continues with his bid to cover all the walls in his office with new and more elaborate and colourful boards, his work has not gone unnoticed and the 2IC has decided to put his name forward for a Queens Award to Industry for keeping the manufacturers of perspex fully employed. The Admin Officer, **Capt Trevor Lindsay REME,** has received notice of his posting in April and is already packing up the PRI and seeking backloading instructions for his NI Boots. Finally we would pass on ours, and the Squadron's best wishes and congratulations to **Ann Kelly** our Clerk who married **LCpl Andy Reason** of M Troop on 10 December—Good luck to you both.

## SPORT

**FOOTBALL**

The team continues to prosper and fielded a strong team in the needle match against 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn on 2 December in the semi final replay of the York and Lancaster Cup, the final score being 3—2 to us. We now go forward to the Final against 176 Provost Coy, our neighbours here in Londonderry.

**BASKETBALL**

The Squadron team run by **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade** has had a very successful season and has participated in a number of competitions.

**HOCKEY**

For the 1983/84 season, the Squadron Hockey team have entered for both the Northern Ireland Minor Units, and Major Units league. This gives us a fixture list of three games each fortnight, and, coupled with the difficulty of arranging the game with opponents due to operational commitments, is not as easy as at first seems. At the time of writing, we stand fairly high in both leagues, including several notable wins over the Major Units, always a boost to a Minor Unit teams morale. In the Minor Units league our most important performance was when we entertained our great rivals from 233 Sig Sqn. On a day when we turned in our worst performance of the season, 233 turned in a magnificent team performance to run out as 5—1 victors. This is to date, our only defeat in the Minor Units league. On the Cup front we have reached the semi final of the NI Minor Units Cup where we meet Ordnance Depot Kinnegar, in defence of the trophy we won last season. Personalities of note within the team are, **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** who is out stalwart centre-half, and in the process of being converted from the football to more gentlemanly pursuits, **Sgts Kev Thorpe** and **'Chic' Williamson** who are vying with each other to be top scorer with 18 goals between them in nine games, and **Lt Gordon James** continues to be our inspiration with his undoubted skill and ability when he is here. Other regular performances are, **Sqn Ldr Roger Clements, Majs Mike Hart and Alistair Cumming, Capt Lloyd Roberts, Cpls Graham Hughes and Neil March, Sig Paul Baker, Jon-Jon Mackrodt and Tom Naylor.**

**SPORTSMANS DINNER**

Our end of summer sports season dinner took place in the Waterside Inn on 18 November. The Guest of Honour was the Deputy Commander 8 Inf Bde, **Col Mark Tarver OBE.** Following an excellent meal the Dep Comd made presentations of Unit Colours to the members of the athletics, cricket, swimming and tennis teams.

**VERDEN MARATHON**

The Squadron were fortunate this year in being able to enter a team for the Verden Garrison Royal Signals Marathon. The Squadron team consisted of **Sgts Terry Davies, Kev Smith RAOC, Cpls Clive Quantick, Dave Clark, Dave Parry, 'Ash' Ashley** and **LCpls 'Chippy' Wood, Martin Rowley** and **Steve Brown** who had just returned from his honeymoon. The team was under the management of the Admin Officer, **Capt Trevor Lindsay REME,** whose contacts enabled him to run the whole affair very smoothly. All members of the team gave a creditable account of themselves, on a course where the elements as well as the distance and open spaces had to be overcome. The first member of the team to cross the finish line was **Sgt Kev Smith RAOC,** followed by **Sgt Terry Davies,** both fairly experienced Marathon runners. For the remainder of the team it was their first marathon and all managed to finish. The event was well organised and the whole team enjoyed the experience.



# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**OPERATIONS**

Following 'The Great Escape' from the Maze Prison a series of searches of the prison resulted in a number of weapons finds inside the 'H' Blocks. The Inspector of Prisons, **Sir Charles Hennessey** is conducting an inquiry into the escape but the findings are not yet published. Of the original 38 escapees 19 have still not been recaptured.

Both the RRW in W Belfast and 1 GREN GDS in S Armagh have now reached the first milestone of their tours. The relieving units 3 QUEENS and 1 STAFFORDS have just completed their initial recess and the Signal Squadron briefing team led by **Capt Terry Canham** is spending one week in England and one week in Germany briefing the new regiments on N Ireland communications.

There have been a number of terrorist incidents in South Armagh recently. At Crossmaglen a car bomb exploded and hit a patrol of 1 GREN GDS. One soldier was seriously injured and later died in hospital. Three people were killed and several injured when a group claiming to be the 'Catholic Action Force' opened fire on a protestant congregation in church, close to the village of Darkley, County Armagh. This shooting has triggered off a new wave of sectarian violence within the Province.

**SPORT**

We are now well into the Winter Sports season and the Squadron has made a promising start.

Belated Entry. The Squadron Tug of War Team show off their trophy: *L/R Back Row:* Cpls Geordie Brown, Sharky Smith, LCpl Danny Webb, SSgt 'Pig Pen' Hogben, LCpl Chris Hull *Front Row:* LCpl Colins, Sig Taff (civvie) Davies, Parky Chalice, Taff Mallaney, Cpl (switch the lights off) Jennings

**SOCCER**

The soccer team has made a very good start to the season. Sadly due to operational commitments **WO1 (RSM) Dave Osborne** has been unable to field our best eleven players in any one match. However, out of six matches played in the Minor Units League the Squadron has won five and drawn one. In the Army Minor Units our team is now in the Semi Final facing the dreaded enemy 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

**HOCKEY**

The Hockey team has not, however, had such a good season so far. Four League matches have been played to date and we have lost all four, (23 goals against 0 for). We can reassure readers that team Captain, **Maj Martin Wilkinson,** is not in any way responsible for this poor performance!

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Despite the heavy workload in W Belfast Alpha Troop still manage to supply the majority of the cross country team—even if **Cpl Stan Sudron** and **LCpl Corkey Corkett** do sometimes get back a minute before the transport is due to leave! The team is doing well in the Northern Ireland Cross Country League and there is a rumour that someone in the team will beat the RQMS! At the moment the team is placed second in the League.

## NEWS FROM TROOPS

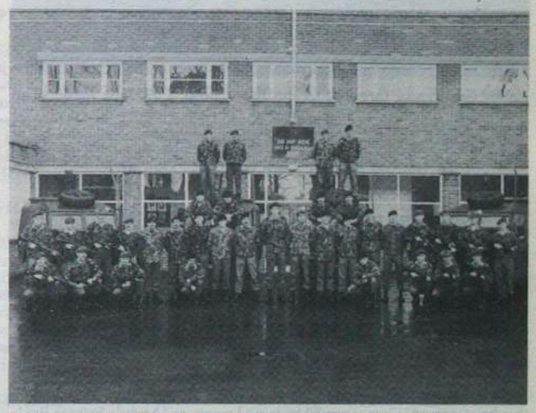
**ALPHA TROOP**

Alpha Troop has had a busy time since the last issue. **Cpl Harry Fellows** and his team of **Sig Taff Mackey** and **Jack Turner** have built a new Bn Ops Room for the Holywood Bn—a vast improvement on the previous one. Clansman radio is now creeping gradually into our Bde communications plan and **Cpl Harry Fellows** has been learning the differences between fitting a 353Z into an ops room as opposed to a Green Vehicle. Ingenuity and resourcefulness are required!

1 Bn GREN GDS complained that some of their ops rooms were untidy (Ops room we must stress built by the old 3 Bde and not by 39 Bde!), so **Cpls Brian Mackey** and **Geordie Brown** headed a rewiring team and completely rewired ops room at Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton and Forkhill within the space of a week—no mean feat. Hearing that the new comms plan in S Armagh was not giving the best possible coverage, **Sig Mick Stout** and **Jack Turner** went off on temp detachment to 1 GREN GDS. They went out on patrol with CQP 632s to find out what the comms coverage was like. The comms coverage, as we thought, was very good but we now have to put up with numerous war stories from **Jack and Mick!**

**NEW COMMANDER**

The annual troop photograph on Sunday 20 November was followed by a troop curry lunch in the Horseshoe Club. The Bde Comd **Brig Hobbs** came to have his photograph taken with his Rover Group; possible his last because he leaves us in December to make way for our new Bde Comd, **Brig Rose.**



Alpha Troop: *Back Row: (left to right)* Ptes Webb, Vince, Stenhouse, Sig Hickling *Second Row:* Sig Easby, LCpl Corkett, Cpls Jenning, Brown *Front Row:* LCpl King, Pte Chalice, LCpls Hull, Tayne, Cpls Mathews, Wikeley, Sig Stout, Mallaney, Sgt Moses, Capt Durward, Cpl Gay, LCpl Jones, Cpl Fellows, Sig Bradley, Dvr Hollis, Pte Holloway, LCpl Fenton, Pte Turley *Kneeling:* Pte Hill, LCpls Molloy, Artingstall, Cpl Mackey, Sig Turner, Cpl Estabrook, LCpl Francis, Sig Ingram

Rover Group, on one of the quieter days played host to a visit from Friends School. **WO1 (RSM) Dave Osborne** showed the children round the Squadron, the high point being a visit to Rover Group's arsenal. **LCpl Paddy Irwin** and **Pte Andy Holloway** demonstrated the weapons and equipment used by the Group.

LCpl Paddy Irwin, Pte Andy Holloway and LCpl Chris Hull show off their weapons to Friends School

Rover Group say farewell to the Bde Comd. *L/R Back Row:* LCpl Irwin, Cpl Estabrook, Ptes Chalice, Turley, Holloway, Hill *Front Row:* LCpls Fenton, Francis, Hull, Col Campbell, Cpl Gay, Brig Hobbs, LCpl Molloy, Dvr Hollis, LCpl Artingstall *Kneeling:* LCpl Tayne, Sig Ingram, LCpl King, Cpl Homewood

Farewell to **Cpl (OB1) Connelly** and **Pte Junior Walters** and we welcome our newcomers **Cpl 'Yet to arrive' Mitchell** and **Sig Scouse Bradley.**

**BRAVO 'HANDBAG' TROOP**

Over the past few months there have been many changes, many troop members have come and gone and there has been a complete rebuild of the Commcen, Cypher Office and Tp Office. This rebuild resulted in a temporary move for the Commcen into the Tp kitchen and rest room, all 9ft times 12ft of it, including the kitchen sink. For this brief period, Commcen 39 became known as 'Abduls Burger Bar'.

We welcome **Sig Dave 'Wonder Boy' Richards** into the troop and say farewell to **Sgt Paul 'Tp Funds' Hayward, Cpl Tim Timby, Cpl Ian 'Nick' Nicholson, LCpls Tim 'Civvi' Shepherd, Jimmy 'Dusty' Miller, Sig Mick 'Stretch' Barnes, John Griffin** and **Barry Morrin.**

We held a fancy dress party in September along the lines of a 'Tramps Ball'. The highlight of the evening centred around squashing the RSM, Tp OC, YofS and Sgt into dustbins and then tipping beer, chips, fag-ends and anything else that came to mind over their respective heads. **Sig 'Diedre' Darlington** learnt afterwards that the RSM **WO1 Dave Osborne**, doesn't forget a face, especially if you pour a pint of beer over him. By the end of the evening the club looked more like a council tip; however, an excellent time was had by all.

B Tp would like to thank **Sig Epps** for his contributions to Troop morale over the past year and state that the lack of Comstars can in no way be attributed to his working on C shift.

The burning of classified waste is a subject close to the heart of **Sig Dave Old**—not only did he burn the waste, but his hair, eyebrows and eyelashes as well!

B Tp would like to congratulate **Sig Les Marsden** and **LCpl Graham Bryson** on increasing the membership of the 'Tufty Club' by two. Commiserations are, however, extended to **Sig Dave Old** and **Rus Darlington** on becoming domesticated by their recently acquired wives. In conclusion, it must be reported that plans to rename the Tp 'Citrus Tp' because we always get lemoned, have been turned down at high level.

**QM DEPT**

Our normal heavy workload has been made even busier recently by a chain of events. First the Maze breakout, then the visit of the Defence Auditor and now the problem of sorting out our new issue of Clansman Radio.

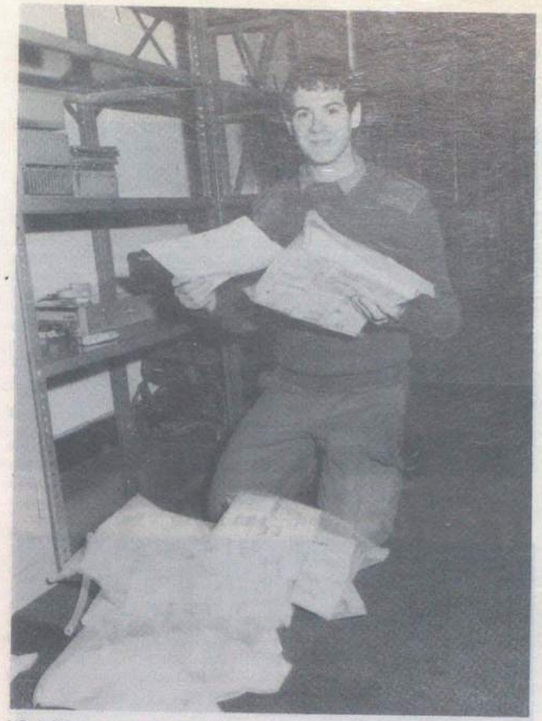
November sees the departure of **Cpl Paddy McIntyre**—off to Belize on promotion. We wish him well. In his place we have **Cpl 'Monty' Moore** from Herford who has also just been promoted.

Cpl (now Sgt) Paddy McIntyre 'This register is a mess Conlon!'

**CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION**







LCpl 'Brainchain' Hilton, 'Why on earth did you ask for these Conlon?'

**MT TROOP**

On 6 November **LCpl Stewart Swan, Dvr Doug McDonald** and **LCpl Phil Cox** represented the Squadron in the Northern Ireland Safe and Skilled Driving Competition. Out of the 30 teams entered we came 13th. Not a bad result but if we had known the Highway Code we would have done better!

**LCpl Stewart Swan** and **Dvr Martin Terry** are representing the Squadron in Ex *Roadmaster 83*, the Army's Landrover Rally in Bulford. We wish them well in what, for them, is their first competitive event. Thanks also to the training team of **LCpl Bill Logan, Cpl Steve Jones** and also the Garrison LAD for their valuable advice and assistance.

LCpl Stewart Swan and Dvr Martin Terry with their rally Rover

**TM TROOP**

In the past two months there has been considerable change in the man power of TM Troop, with the arrival of **SSgt Mick Partridge** from HQ Int and Sy Gp (G), **Sgt Dave Rutter** from 9 Sig Regt, **Sig (now) LCpl Kevin Cotton** from RMAS Sandhurst and **LCpl 'Tank' Patterson** from 4 Div, **Sig Brown** from 71 Sig Regt (V) and **Sig Tim Hayter** from 13 Sig Regt, who joins his brother **Cpl Martin Hayter.**

As with all new postings in, we must lose members of the troop, wishing all the best to the following: **Cpl Steve Carr** who is attending his Class I Course, **Cpl Steve Bland** who is going to get his knees brown with 259 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Gerry Carr** who is leaving the Army at the end of November. Also to **Sig Tony Squirrell** on posting to 30 Sig Regt and finally **Sig Dave Harris** who is going for the implant treatment, and retrain as a Technician.

Congratulations to **Sgt Barry Briggs** on his promotion and to **Cpl Martin Hayter,** who finally had luck in the raffle.

Even with the above changes in the troop, the work load never varies, but under the ever watchful eye of our TOT **(Capt Ben Lawson)** and our 'Lone Yachtsman' **WO2 (FofS) Paul Cross,** work is completed without too many technical hitches. A sports afternoon has been promised for all the troop, 'December 84' I think was the proposed date!

Finally with the festive season almost upon us all, let us spare a thought for **Capt Ben Lawson** and his merry band (some not so merry) of 'Slimmers of the Year' competition. I'm sure the results will be published in our next *Wire* notes.

**EXERCISE *MONTE BIANCO '83***
**Report by 2Lt Paul Hudson**
**MULTI-NATIONAL**

Exercise *Monte Bianco* is a multi-national training exercise which is designed to introduce all ranks of the three British Services, plus members of the Canadian Forces to high altitude snow and ice climbing in Italy. The exercise is divided into two phases: Phase One—preliminary training in North Wales, Phase Two—mountaineering in the Monte Bianco Massif, Italy, under the guidance of Italian Alpine instructors. This phase culminates in the ascent of Monte Bianco.

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn provide the admin staff and non-climbing equipment. Attached for the Italian phase is a mobile bath unit, as there are inadequate washing facilities at the base camp. The Canadian Army sends some climbers who are normally extremely competent in all aspects of climbing, including snow and ice work.

**PHASE ONE**

This took place at Capel Curig Training Camp, seven miles from Snowdon in North Wales and surrounded by excellent rock climb and scramble sites. Week one was spent selecting the patrol leaders and I was lucky enough to be selected as a patrol 2IC. Week two saw the arrival of 35 novices all of whom wanted to go to Italy. However, because there was a limited number of Alpine guides available, only 11 novices could go. After two more weeks of intensive training, the 11 were selected and we departed, via RAF Lyneham and a noisy Hercules, for Italy.

**PHASE TWO—ITALY**

On arrival at Turin Airport we boarded Alpine coaches for the 200km journey to Val-Veni, our camp site. There we were pleasantly surprised to find that our tents had already been erected by the advance admin party, and that there was a hot meal of mince 'n' mash waiting. What we didn't find out until the next day was that the mince was in fact cat food brought by a cook who couldn't read Italian and only went by the picture of meat on the tins! Val-Veni is at 7000ft, very warm during the day but very cold at night, the snow line starting at about 10,000ft.

**TUNING**

Our Alpine guides came from the Scula Militare Alpina, which is a large training school at Aosta, with detachments near Monte Bianco and the Matterhorn. We spent the first week in Italy going for short walks in the snow at between 10 and 12 thousand feet, trying out our crampons on the toe of a glacier and practising the use of 'ice screws', 'ice belays', 'dead men' and 'snow bollards'. In week two we were to try out our knowledge on some more hazardous climbs and we moved to the refuge hut at 11,000ft. We set off each morning at 0500 hrs to climb the local peaks. The first one of these was just over 13,500ft high and gave most of us our first taste of altitude sickness: at 15,000ft there is only half the oxygen in the atmosphere that there is at sea level. Having negotiated all the local peaks, we returned to Val-Veni for a well earned rest. During this rest, as I went to tie up the tent flap,

I bent down and sat upon the point of my ice axe. After giving vent to my feelings, I found I was bleeding profusely so, with the aid of a Medical Officer had the offending wound stitched. This incident amused everyone except me, and it proved a most uncomfortable place to have a wound.

**A LONG HARD SLOG**

We returned to altitude on 16 July, travelling up by cable car and thus saved a hard day's walking in favour of snow work. We spent several days up on a glacier practising on snow and ice, crevasse rescue and generally toning ourselves up for the ascent of Monte Bianco itself. Monte Bianco (Mont Blanc in French) at 15,857ft is Europe's highest peak. The climb is technically fairly easy—it's just a long hard slog. By the final week of the exercise the Alpini and us were confident in our ability to climb Monte Bianco. On 21 July we set off on our attempt.

**PATROL SPLIT**

The kit we took with us was the very minimum, headlamp, clothing, foot, full body harness, ice axe, crampons and various other important items, not least a camera. Our five patrols split, two going from the West and the other three from the East. My patrol took the cable car to the Torino Refuge, from where we crossed the Glacier du Geant to the Aig du Midi. This walk was only six km in length, but took three hours as the snow was very soft after the hot midday sun. From the Aig du Midi we moved to a small refuge just below. It was at this hut that we tried to get a few hours sleep.

**ABOUT TURN**

Having had a light 'breakfast' of dry bread and warm cocoa, we set off at 0100 hrs for the final ascent. Each patrol was roped up as usual for snow work, with about 20ft between climbers, three to a rope and 100ft between patrols. We crossed the flat Col du Midi within an hour and from then on it was all uphill, a climb of 4000ft. For the next four hours we crossed crevasses, negotiated snow bridges and climbed a 200ft ice wall. At first light the weather conditions gave the Alpini cause for alarm, thick cloud was coming in from the East. After much deliberation we turned back and morale took a 100 per cent dive. After descending about 500ft we turned about as the Alpini thought the weather had improved sufficiently to continue, this cost us about an hour in lost time.

**THE TOP OF EUROPE**

By 0800 hours the patrols had slowed as the altitude began to take its effect, every moment was incredibly tiring, every step an effort. We were now close to the summit; all that remained was a steep 65° climb of about 500ft which took us well over an hour as we became even more tired.

At 0935 hours we finally reached the summit of Monte Bianco—the 'Top of Europe'. After a quick photo session, it was time to start down the other side. By 1730 hrs that afternoon we were on a track, waiting to be picked up, having had to negotiate a glacier field on our way down.

We were informed later that two civilians had been killed on Monte Bianco that day, and five had been killed three days before; this made us very relieved to be back at base camp in one piece. After three days R and R we travelled back to Milan Airport for our flight home. At 1700 hrs, 28 July we stepped on to the tarmac of RAF Lyneham and Ex *Monte Bianco '83* was over.

Exercise *Monte Bianco* is one of the very few exercises held by the British Army in Italy. During the last 16 years strong links have been established with the Alpini and local population. The exercise presents a unique opportunity for novice climbers to undertake high altitude mountaineering.

Short break on an earlier peak, approx 14,000ft

View from Monte Bianco

The author on summit of Monte Bianco, 15,857ft



## 233 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 801

**THE CONTROLLER'S CUP**

In the last issue we broke the news that COMMCEN Lisburn had won the Controller's Cup. This is the first time it has been won by an Army unit. We apologise for the somewhat lengthy write-up, but anything that causes Comd Comms to jump up and down for joy must be worth it! On 11 August 1983, Controller DCN released a signal to COMMCENs and Units providing for the Network, which read: 'For a most significant contribution to efficiency of DCN by operational excellence in telecommunications by COMMCENs/Stations providing facilities vide Annex A to DCI RN J436/81, RAF J186/81 (as updated and replaced by BR33 and by joint Army/RAF GAI, in print) awarded 1983 to Lisburn (inc NIZE) Northern Ireland.

**CITATION**

The communications complex in Northern Ireland known as COMMCEN Lisburn currently performs a wide range of functions and comprises the last remaining major DCN manual tape relay (TRC), special handling and system control facilities, radio, HF transmitter and HF receiver sites, the Northern Ireland DSSS Zone Exchange and the Northern Ireland cryptographic distribution agency. For several years, under the trying conditions inherent in Northern Ireland and not encountered as consistently and continuously elsewhere within the DCN, and despite long working hours and high staff turnover, COMMCEN Lisburn has provided a highly efficient, expanding DCN communications service for, and to and from, the defence community in Northern Ireland. During 1982/83, COMMCEN Lisburn undertook even more work and responsibilities. Of particular note is the considerable activity generated since the Post Office Northern Ireland (PONI) circuits, previously terminated at the HQ's of the three resident brigades, were anchored in the COMMCEN. These PONI circuits pose unique problems, not least because all 16 terminals are invariably manned by infantry clerks who are not formally trained in communications procedures and whose turnover is high. Thus, a large proportion of the traffic received in the TRC has to be reprocessed into the correct format to ensure compatibility with the automatic Central Message Switching Network.

Although the COMMCEN staff continuously provide on-the-job guidance and training to these field operators, this reprocessing inevitably involves painstaking work by the Royal Signals and Womens' Royal Army Corps staff of the COMMCEN. Their diligence, together with aids introduced locally, has ensured that no delays, losses or transmission violations have been recorded against the COMMCEN throughout this year.

The Controller DCN, Gp Capt Price presents his cup to the Tfc Offr, Capt Terry Lightfoot

'The workers' surround Capt Terry Lightfoot, Gp Capt Price, WO1 (YofS) Mick Thornton and OC Sqn, Maj Pat Kington

**SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS**

The recent additional responsibilities have, in no way, degraded the high standard of the communications service provided generally. Indeed, there have been significant improvements during the year. Notably: HF circuit threshold failures have been reduced, despite a difficult radio path; the availability of the COMMCEN's obsolescent terminal equipment has increased through the introduction of locally developed training modules for equipment maintenance; and special handling, secure speech and cryptographic distribution services have been enhanced by improvements in working and operating conditions and procedures, initiated locally.

**JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE**

Throughout the recent past, but especially during this year, COMMCEN Lisburn staff at all levels have ensured by their dedication, resolution and initiative that the DCN communications services associated with Northern Ireland have been maintained at an increasingly high level of effectiveness under conditions far from ideal. As recognition of the significant contribution to the efficiency of the DCN, and as a tribute to their excellent performance and high morale and the fine example set by all the staff, the award of the Controller's Cup to COMMCEN Lisburn for 1983 is justifiably merited.

**COMMCEN RESPONDS . . .**

**. . . OFFICIALLY**

It was first amazement then justifiable pride that struck the members of COMMCEN Lisburn on being informed that they had been awarded the Controller's Cup for 1983.

Being one of the busiest COMMCENs still using a dated system, fairly old equipment and being staffed, in the main, by inexperienced operators, requiring a large amount of on the job traininhg, they had still managed to reach and maintain the very high standards necessary to be selected for the award.

To improve standards and facilities is the on going aim and it is due to the combined efforts of the Operators in the COMMCEN and Special Handling Section, the technicians who keep our equipments serviceable and systems working and finally the members of Comms Troop who provide the HF back up circuits, that so impressed the members of the Functional Review Team to nominate us for the award.

We will endeavour to maintain and where possible even improve the standards already set and continue to provide a significant contribution to the efficiency of the Defence Communications Network.

**. . . AND UNOFFICIALLY**

'If winning the Cup is so important, does that mean that Officer Commanding will buy us all a drink?' was one remark heard at the breaking of the good news. Another one overheard: Customer at COMMCEN hatch, 'What is this DCN Cup you have won?'

Proud Operator, 'It is the equivalent of winning The World Cup at Soccer.'

The news of the award took some time to sink in but when it did it made all the hard work of the past year worthwhile. Not so much work of the operating type but more the moving and changing of equipments etc. It seemed akin to a housewife moving into a new home, 'We will put it here, no on second thoughts it would be better over there. Let's have rubber matting on the floor! No I think carpet would be better,' and all the other associated problems moving and expanding communications systems. It was done to try and improve the system but at times it was difficult to appreciate this. Now we have the Controller's Cup it all seems to have been worth the effort. The next entry from the shop floor is from two members of A shift and although the Poet Laureate has nothing to worry about it does sum up the thoughts of all involved in the success of COMMCEN LISBURN.

In the COMMCEN we seem many
The praises are but few
But now at last we are recognised
For the sterling work we do

With two circuits to the mainland
Four more helpful tribs
Add sixteen PONI stations
You now know how we live

We'd like to thank our oppos'
Be they big or be they small
For without their co-operation
We couldn't have won at all

Although we work in Lisburn
In foul weather or in fair
Linked up to that beastie
Lovingly called a TARE

We haven't been forgotten
We have kept our chins up
And now we've been rewarded
With the Controller's Cup

But we're looking to the future
We won't move down a gear
Just 'cos we won a trophy
And didn't get a beer

Our uniforms may differ
But the Aim we share is true
For no matter how bad conditions
Communications must go 'THROUGH'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**SPORTING FIRSTS**

The basketball team won the NI Basketball Cup, beating 1 Cheshire who were favourites 58—47. This was a particularly good effort as it was away from home.

NI Basketball Champions. Back row (L to R) Sgt Roberts J, Cpl Hiorns, LCpl Heath, LCpl Allan, Sgt Bond. Front row (L to R) Sig Walters, Sgt Roberts C, Sgt Stevenson, SSgt Dyson

**RUGGER FIRST TOO**

In the NI Minor Units Rugby Knockout Trophy final, the Squadron team beat 17 Sqn RCT by 19—8, having been 8—0 down at half time. This is the first time that the unit has won this trophy, but hopes are high for its retention next year. Any Rugby players who want a job as well, put in your preference postings!

The team: Back row (L to R): LCpl Estridge, Cpl Loveridge, Sgt Roberts, Cpl Brunton, LCpl Allan, Sgt Bond, LCpl Bavister, Cpls Billingham, Evans
Front Row (L to R) Cpl Graham, Cpl Malley, LCpl Stacey, Capt Roberts, Cpl Simpkins, LCpl Barnes, Sig Anderson and Dowdle

The COS, Col J. F. W. Wilsey OBE presenting the NI minor units Rugby Trophy to Capt Tony Roberts. Maj Chris Wright (Comms Branch) in the background

On 2 November, the Squadron's runners went to Ballykinler and won the NI Cross Country Relay Race for Minor Units. The major units running at the same time were all slower than our team except for 1 Cheshire 'A' team who managed to pip us by 25 secs. A fine effort by the team of: **Cpl Dave Cresswell, SSgt Graham Campbell, SSgt Trevor Mortlock** and **Sig Jack Frost.**

**NEAR MISSES**

The NI Volleyball Championships were held in Lisburn on 1-2 December, the whole event having been organised by our very own **Sgt Chris Bond.** The Squadron team played their way into the final with little real effort but went down 3—0 to a very well trained 33 Fd Sqn RE side. Nevertheless it was a much closer match than the score suggests and some extremely entertaining play was produced by both sides. The other 'near miss' was in the NI Quiz, in aid of the Lord Roberts Workshops. An extremely well run inter-troop quiz competition was run by **SSgt Ginge Gibbons** and members of Victor Troop. This was won by Admin/Echo Tp. Then three brain surgeons were selected from all those who had competed, and the Squadron team comprised: **Cpl Skratch Skinner, Sgt Ian Knight** and **LCpl Snowy Snowdon** whose knowledge of matters obscure was truly unbelievable. They managed to win their NI semi-final but were knocked out in the early stages of the final.

**ORIENTEERING**

The military value of orienteering must be obvious to all, and under the guidance of **WO2 Brian Libby** of Echo Troop the sport is receiving plenty of interest from Squadron personnel. **Cpl Dave Cresswell** was runner-up in his class in the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships in England, and the team of **Sgt Alex Armstrong, Cpl Jock Dengate** and **Sig Jack Frost** put in a spirited performance. A NI night orienteering competition was held recently, and **WO2 Brian Libby** managed to finish third. Several wives and children entered as well, and being so close to Hallo'een night all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A WRAC event has also been staged in Hillsborough Park, with **Cpl Caroline Underhill** of Tech Troop winning outright.

**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS**

Halfway through the season the Hockey team are looking very good indeed. They are in the final of the NI Minor Units Cup and will play 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn on 11 January 1984. They are also topping the league, having dropped only one point in seven matches. The goal difference tells the story: 35 goals for, four goals against.

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

Welcome to **Lt Ernie Hocking** who has seen the light and transferred from 2 Para to the Corps, and to **2Lt Mark Alexander** who has taken over Comms Tp. Also farewell to **SSM Tony Hand** who has had a very successful tour with us. We will be sorry to see him go. Having said that, welcome to the new 'Gripper' **SSM Benny Bingham,** and we hope you enjoy your time in 233.

**LS&GCs**

After a fairly informal visit to the Squadron, the Chief of Staff HQNI, **Col J. F. W. Wilsey OBE** presented LS&GCs to **Sgt Chris Jones** of Echo Tp and **Cpl Tony Sylvester** of Commcen Tp.

**WHISKEY TROOP**

First things first: Congratulations to **OC Capt David Beach** and wife **Jo** and to **LCpl McCarthy** and wife **Caroline** on the birth of their respective sons **Anthony James** and **James Michael.**

Like Winter in the Arctic, Christmas comes early to Whiskey troop and lasts a long time. The troop party held on 2 December saw the troop in ebullient garb and the ladies looked very attractive too. The Lew Grade of the troop, **Sgt Bryan Hair,** produced yet again. (He has been doing the job for four years, however) The festive season nearly over, the troop looks forward to the New Year when the OC can launch his sailboard again and dream of winning a National newspapers £1,000,000 and the McKelvie trophy. Both events equally unlikely!

**TECH TROOP**

The annual troop SNCOs Vs JNCOs Soccer Match occurred recently, and once again the 'pensioners' showed the 'pups' how to do it, eventually winning 6—4. This was mainly achieved by **Sgt Chris 'Megabelly' Bond** blocking the goal-mouth. Also worthy of note was **Sgt Mal Metcalfe** who made up numbers on the juniors' side but still managed to show where his true allegiance lay!

Adventure training literally took off with a trip to the Isle of Man, courtesy of 655 Sqn AAC Lynx. The party consisted of **SSgt Pete Dyson, Cpls Taff Evans, Mick Stanyer, LCpls Jock Allan, Steve Robinson** and **Sig Colin Usher.** No sooner had they walked from Ronaldsway to Douglas than they discovered a coachload of young ladies on their way to a pyjama party. It's a wonder we ever got them to go back! Many thanks to **Maj Buck AAC** who arranged flights in really miserable weather conditions.

Finally, congratulations to **Sgt Dave Smart** and his wife **Denise** on the birth of their son **Damien** (sounds like a DS solution) and to **Sgt Mal Metcalfe** and his wife **Sandra** on the birth of their son **Michael.**

**COMMCEN TP**

Like Whiskey Tp, the Commcen swung into the Festive Season early with a fancy dress Christmas Party organised by **Sgts Alex Bissett** and **Al Kinchington.** Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

The high percentage of girls in the troop means that cupid is a regular visitor, and sure enough he's been at it again. **LCpl Fifi Gibbons** really was a blushing bride when she married **Cpl Buck Rogers** of Tech Troop. She was then promoted and posted, and **Buck** will follow shortly. Congratulations also to **Pte Dawn Rutter** and **LCpl Drew Collins** (Victor Tp), and **Sig Chris Adams** and **Miss Nicola Feeney,** on their recent marriages. Last but by no means least, farewell and good luck to **Sgt Linda Ellis,** our exchange supervisor who left us for Aldershot after an extended stay. Don't forget to wear your Jimmy! Welcome to her successor, **Sgt Janice Pepperell.**

**VICTOR TP**

Last issue we welcomed **Capt Catherine Snedden** to the troop, and now we must congratulate her on becoming engaged. Some people don't waste any time! The lucky man is **Capt Richard Palmer RMP** (at least he's ex-Signals!).

The troop adopted a more leisurely approach to Christmas activities than some others, and at least waited until the fairy lights were twinkling from the top of the Lisburn pipe tower.

The party was a great success, and once again **SSgt Ginge Gibbons** demonstrated his talents as Mr Fixit when it came to collecting raffle prizes.

Best wishes to one of our number who didn't see Christmas in NI: **SSgt Stu Baxter** who is held strength Victor Troop but is in fact living a life of luxury in the Falklands! Good luck **Stu,** and we look forward to seeing you again before your 'real' posting to SHAPE.

**ADMIN TP**

It has been a busy time for the drivers recently, not only with the increased Christmas activity, but other things as well. **Cpl Sammy Shiels** and **Cpl Bob Quinn** ran a successful Inter-Troop Safe and Skilled Driving Competition, comprising tests in manoeuvring and Highway Code. Congratulations to **Sig Snowy Buckley** and his wife **Sue** on their wedding, and to **Cpl Andy Norris** on gaining his second stripe. The MT **SSgt Dave Sparkes,** returned from his SQMS 'Boots and Socks' course recently. We understand that the 'Q' image will be complete when he has attended a dog handler's and a golfer's course.



## — News from Headquarters —

# Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**INTRODUCTION**

Since out last contribution the College has continued to 'tick over' at the same frenetic pace. The only noticeable change being the reduction in wind speed down to Force 7 and the fact we have survived the ARU conducted by Comd Trg Gp, **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE.**

**APPRENTICES SPONSORED SHOOT FOR BLESMA**
**Report by AT SSM David Rook**

In November 1982 apprentices of Bradley Squadron took part in a sponsored shooting competition to raise money for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association. The shoot was held in one of the College's indoor ranges. The idea was to score as many points as possible—the higher the points, the more cash raised.

Sponsor forms were taken home by the apprentices and the money collected during the following leave. Bradley apprentices shot their way to raising over £600. BLESMA matched this amount and an electric wheelchair was purchased.

**Mr Reginald Bell,** 61, who is one of the more disabled members of the Leeds BLESMA branch has over recent years developed heart

trouble preventing him from using his artificial legs. On 2 November, **Mr Bell** and other members of BLESMA joined together with the apprentices of Bradley Squadron and **AT SSM David Rook** presented **Mr Bell** with the wheelchair on behalf of the Squadron.

The wheelchair's maximum speed of 4 miles per hour was put to the test while **Mr Bell** learnt the basics of manoeuvring his new transport. He led the way to the Junior Ranks' Restaurant for a meal with the apprentices. After the meal in the College Restaurant it was back to Leeds where we hope **Mr Bell** will enjoy a new lease of life.

**EXERCISE *TIERCEL***
**Report by AT Cpl Reed**

Everyone climbed aboard the coaches as the time had arrived to go on Ex *Tiercel.* It was not long before the moutainous jungle loomed in front of us and our excitement turned to dread. We found the camp site and began constructing camp site Papa. Then later, after a briefing, we all got our heads down, well, all except Rawson Squadron who re-enacted Monty Python's 'In search of the Holy Grail' inter-mixed with random extracts of 'The Life of Brian'.

Day two, the wind was howling and there was talk amonst the hierachy of cancelling the high route and sending us on a lower one. Eventually everyone agreed that we should do the original route and we all set off. The wind was very strong and apprentices all over the lake district were involuntarily doing dramatic impressions of 'Superman'. I was in section 5 and we did the route which took us along a thin mountain top called Fairfields. We managed to negotiate our way successfully to camp site Alpha without sustaining any injuries, which was quite a good achievement as most other sections contained one or more injured hero.

Day three, today we were to walk the northern route. This was the longest one, although the first part was very picturesque with waterfalls. The last part was hard with checkpoint Bravo being on top of a mountain with nothing around to hold on to and with the winds blowing at gale force. We were glad to return to Alpha where we could have a nice warm shower.

Day four, by now we all had a blister or two and we were fatigued but keen to get on with the last leg of the walk. For a change the skies were blue and there was not a breath of wind. Earlier in the week, one of the apprentices had his tent inner blown off his ruck sack and in bad visibility he lost it. Well he was in luck today because we crossed a ridge called the high street and we found it; it felt quite good finding

something familiar like that in the middle of nowhere. Later, on the journey, we came across a sheep that had ensnared itself in a length of barbed wire, we freed it with the use of razor blades and a jack knife. We then started off for the last checkpoint. This was the hardest part of the whole walk as we were exhausted. We were jumping for joy when we got to Ambleside where we found our transport and a chip shop. We bought a bag of chips and looked back on the walk, glad that it was over.

**EXERCISE *HARD ROCK 83***
**Report by AT Sheppard**

At about one o'clock on Saturday 24 September the Harrogate Apprentice Technicians arrived at Capel Curig training camp. As we got off the coaches we met the Telegraphists who had finished their week of external leadership. They had mixed feelings about their week but the general impression was that it was going to be a hard exercise with many surprises.

The next morning we woke up and packed our rucksacks accordingly for the day's activity. We discovered from the programme that we were climbing so we feared the worst! We collected our climbing equipment and drove to the mountain to find that most of the day would be taken up in just walking to the climb. The walk was a climb in itself but fortunately we made it and were split up into climbing groups. When we reached the foot of the rock face, **Sgt Tyreman,** our climbing instructor, kept shouting to us different methods of climbing up the rock face. Our group was convinced that **'Sergeant T'** was really Spiderman but we all remained silent and tried to look as intelligent as possible. When it was our turn to climb we just tried to keep to the same route as **'Sergeant T'** but due to nerves and lack of confidence most of us just froze to the rock face.

We all finally made it but our confidence was really boosted when **Maj Bowles** plummeted to the ground whilst demonstrating the safety devices. All we heard was a yell and the thud as he landed on the ground very sharply on his backside, fortunately he was all right and escaped with a few cuts and bruises. We finished in darkness and walked down to the parked rover at the foot of the mountain. Everybody fell asleep on the journey back as it had been a very long and weary day.

We woke up the next day, packed rucksacks, washed and shaved and with the afterburn still in our stomachs of a compo bacon grill, we jumped into the back of the four tonner and were driven to the dropping off point of the one day walk. It was time now, or never, that we would learn the art of packing a rucksack as most of us had odd cans or hexamine burners sticking in our backs. We walked about eight miles in the first few hours including quite a few hills which made the going harder. We eventually reached the finishing point which was the canoeing site for the next day. At this point we were halfway through the course.

The next morning we were met with early morning PT, it basically consisted of jogging a few miles but keeping up with the instructors. For most of us it was all right but for a few, some lagged behind and consequently had a little extra to do. The canoeing started a short time later after we had had some breakfast and had washed, one thing was for sure; we were going to get wet.

We started off with the capsize drill which if done correctly first time without panicking won a 'Jam Butty' with real bread. One of the group managed this but shared it later with the rest of the group as it was really a group effort. Now the fun started, with races at being first to sprint fifty metres, jump into the boat, spray decks on and to be at least ten metres from the shore. The venture ended with most of us capsizing straight away. The training lasted the morning and in the afternoon most of us were proficient enough to be able to canoe in a straight line. We canoed down the lake for about two miles and then back again with all of us capsizing several times. Any training we had forgotten resulted in various aquatic sports such as press-ups, capsize drills and 'Gondolas'. Gondolas consisted of paddling down the lake with another person standing up with one foot in each canoe and repeating the famous lines 'Give me just one cornetto, give it to me'. We finished the day on a high note and when we got back to the camp site we packed our rucksacks for the next day, the two day walk.

We were met the next day again with PT but we all survived and started the walk about ten o'clock. We trudged up the hills in great spirit and when we stopped for lunch we were absolutely starving. We started again and walked for a few more hours until we set up base camp next to a lake a few miles from the foot of Snowdon. We had an early night and the next day had a small lie in, in preparation for the hard day's flog ahead. This was the climax of the course, actually reaching the summit of Snowdon. It was a steep climb, but in good spirit, we reached the top to find that man had been there before and had actually built a cafe there! We refreshed ourselves and had a bite of lunch, it was time now to look over the course and to look forward to the walk down the mountain to the waiting transport to take us back to Capel Curig.

**RUGBY**
**Report by Maj (TOT) Dickie Dyer**

The College Senior XV have started this season in good style with some outstanding wins. These include Prince Henry School Otley by 26 points to 3, Ripon Teachers Training College 34—0 and two good wins on our half term visit to Dorset where we defeated the Royal Armoured Corps Junior Leaders 28—0 and Wimborne Colts by the same margin.

In the Army Cup we have won the Semi Final against AA Coll Arborfield and now await the result of the other to determine our opponents in the final. (Postcript: Our opponents are AA Coll Chepstow). Earlier in the season we were the Plate Winners in the NE/NW/Scotland 7-a-Side competition which we hosted here at the College.

**AT Sgt John Forbes** has skippered the team well and leads by example. **AT Charlie Matthews** and **AT Cpl 'Doc' Halliday** have both been selected to represent the Army, **AT Cpl Smudger Smith** so impressed the Army Coach with his Semi Final display at Arborfield that he awaits his call now.

With many of the 1st XV squad being also eligible for the Junior Cup we expect great things in the New Year when our opponents in the first round will be our own Junior Leaders Regiment at Ouston. Leading the Juniors charge will be lock forwards **ATs Bob Vowles** and **'Porky' O'Rourke,** with **AT Duncan Fielding** a convert from Rugby League and Wigan as outside half.

This year we welcomed back from the soccer scene **AT Cpl Andy Williams** who insisted on bringing his own supporters club to away matches. **AT SSM Dave Rook** and **AT Sgt Ian Budd** are welcome additions to our pack and at full back **AT Cpl Barney Barnett** has had an excellent season scoring both our penalty goals to see us through to the final. Incidentally the semi final was the first occasion this season when **Doc Halliday** has failed to cross our opponents' line.

On the management side **Sgts Dave Tennick** and **Brian Neill** run the side, their main claim to fame is discovering a 'Pub' within two hundred yards of Arborfield Garrison with an ex Corps member as landlord

**INTER SQUADRON RECRUITS SPORTS COMPETITION**
**Report by Capt Paul Robertshaw**

Tuesday 6 September 1983 saw the arrival of 240 recruits at the College. After four weeks of military training the Inter Squadron Sports Competition got under way. The aim of the competition was to give the recruits an added incentive to work as a member of a team, to introduce them to sport at the College and enable OIC sports to spot any new talent. With this aim in mind the following sports formed the competition: Basketball, Hockey, Football, Rugby, Cross-Country and Swimming. At this stage it should be pointed out that the competition was organised by **Capt Perkin** and **Sgt Hollis** and between them they produced a very exacting and slick competition.

**BASKETBALL**

About two hundred recruits in the large gymnasium watching the competition meant a very noisy time with a lot of support for all the teams involved. This helped produce some very exciting and close games of basketball with some noteable individual performances. But there must be an overall winner of course and on this occasion Penney Squadron's recruits came out on top followed closely by Scott, Bradley and Rawson.

**HOCKEY**

Each Squadron had to play each other in this competition and the competition was spread out over a couple of weeks. Again some very good games were played and once again Penney Squadron came out overall winners. The other places being taken by Scott, Rawson and Bradley.

**FOOTBALL/RUGBY**

At the time of writing these two competitions have yet to be completed but to date there have been some very exciting games indeed. Played on occasions in some pretty appalling conditions with a lot of enthusiasm a number of very good players came to light. Their skills will no doubt be a great asset to their respective College teams later on in their apprenticeships.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The race was run over approximately three miles mostly on very heavy ground in very damp and foggy conditions. The race was started by the Director of Studies, **Lt Col Wishart** and after that it settled down to quite a quick pace with the front positions changing rapidly all the time. Everyone involved in the race was very impressed by the guts and determination that all the runners displayed but at the end of the day Rawson Squadron came out on top with **Rct Moreman** coming first overall. Well done everyone.

**SWIMMING**

The Inter Recruit Troop Swimming Gala took place on Thursday 6 October in the College swimming pool. The level of the noise was quite deafening and the recruits, who were supporting their respective teams, gave the event a carnival atmosphere. The most exciting race of the Gala was without doubt the 4 x 55 free style with Bradley Squadron coming from an almost impossible position some three quarters of a length adrift to win by half a length, due entirely to a swim of remarkable speed by **Rct Timothy Banting** swimming the last leg. The overall positions at the end of the Gala were as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1st** | **Bradley Squadron** | **— 36 points** |
| **2nd** | **Penney Squadron** | **— 33 points** |
| **3rd** | **Scott Squadron** | **— 24 points** |
| **4th** | **Rawson Squadron** | **— 16 points** |

**CROSS COUNTRY**

No sooner had the College restarted after the summer break than the running season started with a 5.3 mile road race at Menwith Hill, Harrogate's local USA base. The College entered 14 runners in a competition of 300. **AT Sgt Paul Morton** came second with a time of 29m 24 sec with **Cpl Charlie Foster** fourth, 29m 51 sec with **LCpl Peter Freeman** fifth, 30m 08 sec. The Apprentices College were the overall winners.

Wednesday 5 October saw the first of the North East District Cross Country League fixtures at Wetherby. This was the first event for many apprentices and all enjoyed the event.

The apprentices had their first team event against other junior units and schools on the 8 October organised by the Army Apprentices College Chepstow. This was the eleventh annual cross country relays



(6 x 400m), for the Beachley Trophy staged at Beachley. **AT Sgt 'Nuts' Nutley, AT Sgt Paul Morton, AT LCpl 'Ghandi' Hawkins, AT LCpl Alan Holyoak, AT LCpl Ian Williams, AT John Marlow** unfortunately didn't retain first place from last year but came second overall ready to regain the title in 1984. The event however was not without its adventure as the return journey saw **Cpl Dave Carr** and the apprentices being entertained by 219 RCF Sqn (V) Scarborough Barracks Doncaster after their landrover has broken down outside the unit.

165 runners arrived at the Apprentices College on 2 November for the second NE Dist fixture. The course is apparently the hardest of the league events, a six mile run which includes the famour crags. All had a very good run and the Apprentices College A team were third overall with **Sgt Billy Cain** coming first and **Cpl Dave Carr** second.

The Cross Country teams for both Permanent Staff and Apprentices are now training for the Army Relay Championships in December. After Christmas all attention will be concentrated on the Army Championships in February.

**PENNEY SQUADRON RECRUIT TROOP**
**Report by Rct Karl Curtin**

On 6 September, the College took in over 200 unsuspecting recruits. Penney Squadron formed a Recruit Troop of 78, all of which have come to differing conclusions about their time in the 'Rook Troop'.

Having been drilled by the Company Sergeant Major, **WO2 Ray Young** (who is a Grenadier and has a 44in chest), frightened by **Sgt Mick Orange,** amused (for varying reasons) by **Sgt John Riley,** and cajoled, 'rifted', guided and prodded by **Lt Patrick Windsor Brown,** the recruits went on the Squadron weekend at Whitburn, in their sixth week at the College.

The following account is by **Rct Karl Curtin**. 'We were going to Newcastle for the weekend on Penney Play II. It was at a place called Whitburn which is right on the coast and everybody from Penney Squadron went.

The first night we walked down the ranges with **Sgt Riley,** losing sight of him now and again as he walked into small folds in the field, and when he slid and disappeared from sight in cow pats. We went to see **Sgt Orange** and a few corporals, showing what not to do during the night ie: smoking. **Sgt Orange** did the smoking bit, as he's always smoking (he'll go down with something one of these days).

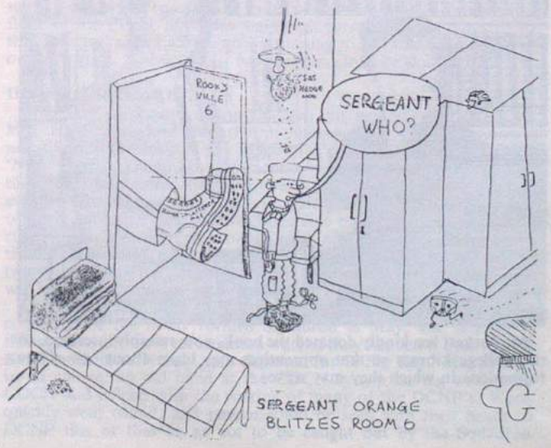
After cleaning the cow dung off **Sgt Riley** we went to bed at about 2230 hours, only to be woken up at 0530 hours. We were taken for a run down to the beach to do exercises, which I must say everyone thoroughly enjoyed, and after a refreshing sprint back to our tents we washed before going to breakfast.

Whilst waiting for breakfast we saw **Capt Lockwood** and **Lt Windsor Brown** going in with matchsticks holding their eyes open. I'm not saying they couldn't take the strain but they were a bit tired. Later on in the day we had drill with the CSM, who was not at all tired because he's a Grenadier Guardsman and has a 44in chest.

He had us doing warm-up drills until we were on the point of dehydration. Then we started marching. At the end of our session the CSM showed us a few pictures of a lady friend and said 'that's what you get if you stick your chest out'. It was the first time I'd seen him smile.

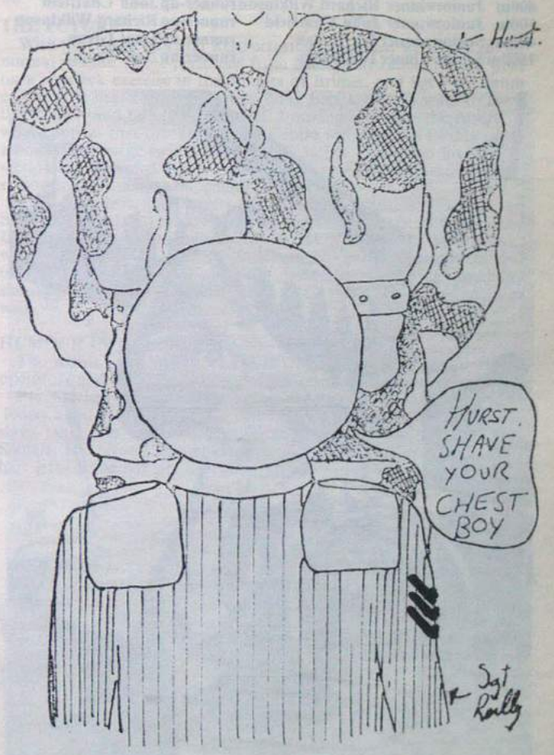
All in all the weekend was good, but everyone was tired'.

Some memories of Recruit Troop were more tangible than others; the first room inspection, for instance....




And that first inspection on the square....

In the end however, Recruit Troop Made A Man out of everybody; even **Recruit Hurst,** who arrived at the College not much more than 5ft tall....



## CYCLING

**Report by Capt (Ret'd) A. Green**

The Autumn Term started with a success in the Triangular Games Cycling which is included in the Army Festival of Cycling week. A one point victory against the odds revealed the character of our team led by **AT Sgt 'Tex' Dallas** and **AT Cpl Neil Cooper.** These two also piloted our Senior Team into second place in the Army Senior League, and gained Combined Services Awards for their efforts.

As the nights close in most riders hang up their bikes for the winter, but some turn their attention to indoor events. The College is one of those clubs equipped to compete on Rollers. Preparation for the Army Roller Championships commenced in October with a complete overhaul of the club's roller racing bicycles. Matches against Pennine CC and Knaresborough CC were used to sharpen up the team. This year the Bradford based team beat us twice, but the other civilian clubs were trounced.

Arborfield was the venue for the Army event on 19 and 20 November. The junior team races started the programme, and by the end of the 400m we had established an impregnable lead. **ATs Richard Wilkinson, John Chatfield, 'Tony' Bennett, 'Andy' Sole, Alan McGibbon** and **Andy Baker** taking the first seven places. The team then swept to victory by obtaining the first six places in the 1000m event.

Our Senior team were faced with doing as well as the younger squad and also retaining the Senior trophy for the ninth successive year. **AT David Alderson** gave us a good start with 17.3s, but eventually found himself in sixth place behind the five other members of the team **AT Sgt 'Tex' Dallas, AT Cpl Neil Cooper, AT LCpl Ian Toft, Capt Alan Green (OIC)** and **AT Pete Middleton.** A clear sweep was also recorded in the 1500m race leaving the College 66 points clear of their nearest rivals from the eight other units represented.

The individual title winners were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **400m** | **Juniorwinner Richard Wilkinson** | **runner-up John Chatfield** |
| **100m** | **Juniorwinner John Chatfield** | **runner-up Richard Wilkinson** |
| **400m** | **Senior winnerTex Dallas** | **runner-up Capt Green** |
| **1500m** | **Senior winnerTex Dallas** | **runner-up Neil Cooper** |

AT Sgt Dallas (background) leading AT Cpl Cooper in the 400m Senior Individual semi final

AT Sole beating JSig McIntyre in the Junior 1000m team event

## PRESENTATION

The College Librarian, **Mrs Margaret Wakefield,** receives 'The Iron Division' from **Mr Ken Backett.**

**Mr Ken Backett,** an Instructional Officer in Telegraphist Wing, was attached to 3 Armd Div Signal Regiment for a familiarization Exercise in April 1983. He made such a good impression on his hosts that the RSM of 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, **WO1 Steve Marshall,** presented him with a copy of the history of the Division, 'The Iron Division'.

**Mr Backett** has kindly donated the book, now suitably inscribed, to the College Library so that apprentices may learn about one of the formations in which they may serve.



# HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
# BFPO 1

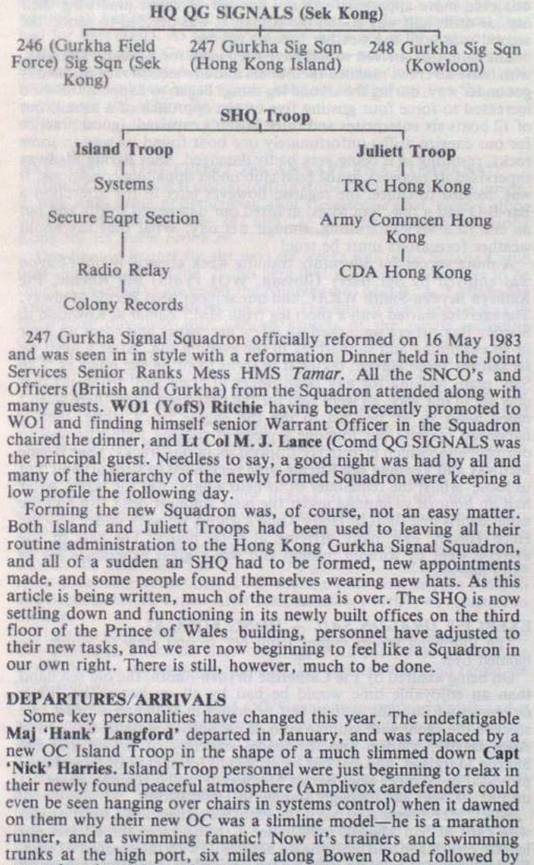
## FOCUS ON 247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Key Personalities

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC/CDSO** | **Maj (Tfc) K. M. French** |
| **21C/OC Island Troop** | **Cap (TOT) D. J. Harries** |
| **OC Juliett Troop/ACDSO** | **WO1 (YofS) W. Ritchie** |
| **FofS (Systems)** | **WO2 (FofS) J. A. Watson** |

## RESTRUCTURING

Since our last contribution much has changed in sunny Hong Kong. The two Troops (Island and Juliett) which run the DCN communications set up used to belong to the Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron, but as a result of restructuring within Queen's Gurkha Signals they have joined up to form a Squadron of their own, and 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron has now reformed. Queen's Gurkha Signals and 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron now look something like this:




247 Gurkha Signal Squadron officially reformed on 16 May 1983 and was seen in in style with a reformation Dinner held in the Joint Services Senior Ranks Mess HMS *Tamar.* All the SNCO's and Officers (British and Gurkha) from the Squadron attended along with many guests. **WO1 (YofS) Ritchie** having been recently promoted to WO1 and finding himself senior Warrant Officer in the Squadron chaired the dinner, and **Lt Col M. J. Lance** (Comd QG SIGNALS was the principal guest. Needless to say, a good night was had by all and many of the hierarchy of the newly formed Squadron were keeping a low profile the following day.

Forming the new Squadron was, of course, not an easy matter. Both Island and Juliett Troops had been used to leaving all their routine administration to the Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron, and all of a sudden an SHQ had to be formed, new appointments made, and some people found themselves wearing new hats. As this article is being written, much of the trauma is over. The SHQ is now settling down and functioning in its newly built offices on the third floor of the Prince of Wales building, personnel have adjusted to their new tasks, and we are now beginning to feel like a Squadron in our own right. There is still, however, much to be done.

## DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

Some key personalities have changed this year. The indefatigable **Maj 'Hank' Langford'** departed in January, and was replaced by a new OC Island Troop in the shape of a much slimmed down **Capt 'Nick' Harries.** Island Troop personnel were just beginning to relax in their newly found peaceful atmosphere (Amplivox eardefenders could even be seen hanging over chairs in systems control) when it dawned on them why their new OC was a slimline model—he is a marathon runner, and a swimming fanatic! Now it's trainers and swimming trunks at the high port, six miles along Bowen Road followed by twenty lengths of the pool! Rumour has it that no one in Island Troop will have any problems with their Battle Fitness Test this year.

**Capt David Tunmore** (formerly OC Juliett Troop) having taken command of the newly formed Squadron in May, and steering it through the turbulent reformation waters, duly handed it over to **Maj Ken French** in early July, and departed for 10 Sig Regt. **Maj French** is, of course, an old hand at the CDCN system having worked in CDCN and helped with the writing of many of the DCNP's. Word quickly went round, and people could be seen with their heads in DCNP this or that so as not to be caught out by the Squadron Commander who seems to be able to quote them verbatem.

As a result of restructuring **Yeoman Bill Ritchie** found himself moving from behind the green door of the Cipher Distribution Agency to take the reigns as the first WO1 Troop Commander of Juliett Troop. Juliett Troop used to sport a Traffic Officer and two Yeoman, now it has just one WO1 YofS Troop Commander so the current incumbent is not complaining of lack of work! **Yeoman Ritchie** will be departing for 7 Sig Regt in January 1984 and is due to be replaced by **WO1 (YofS) David Gilchrist** who is currently serving with 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

## ROYAL VISIT

In the midst of getting ready for restructuring, Queen's Gurkha Signals were honoured by a visit by **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne**—Colonel in Chief of the Regiment. Besides visiting the Regiment in Sek Kong, **Her Royal Highness** also paid a visit to the Joint Commcen and Systems Control in HMS *Tamar.* There was, of course, the usual flurry of activity prior to the visit, and for some strange reason things that had required attention for years were suddenly top of the priorities list for works services—Magic! New doors, new signs, paint here, new notice board there etc. Rumour has it that the QM was overheard saying 'never mind the expense', a phrase which is not normally in any QM's vocabulary!

The end result was, however, well worth the effort. **Princess Anne** charmed everyone, and took a great interest in the working of the Joint Commcen and Systems Control—so much so that she overran her stay by 15 minutes.

## THE FUTURE

With the Royal Visit and Restructuring behind us, we settled to our normal routine. Some personnel from Island and Juliett Troops went on a six week exercise in the Jungles of Brunei, and **Sgt Pete Smith** can now be heard singing 'Bonga Bong Bonga I don't want to leave the Conga' and telling war stories. Looking ahead to the future, it would appear that our Tape Relay Centre will have the facility of an automatic message switch in 1986. OC Juliett Troop and his STATS section can be heard muttering about message switch questionnaires, so something must be happening.

The Squadron now runs its own transmitters (located on Stonecutters Island) which provides the HF Comms to Brunei and Dharan—the receivers being based in Sek Kong. Both these circuits were previously provided by Cable and Wireless transmitters and receivers. It is intended that our transmitters/receiver capability should be expanded to enable us to fulfill our CRL commitment as well.

## HUMOUR IN UNIFORM

The recent introduction of the BID/1100 has amazed our cipher operators and produced some unusual results as our cartoon shows.

**Pte Shirley Stant,** having nothing better to do one long and lonely night in HQ POLMIL, decided to produce a witty ditty about slave labour in the Joint Commcen under a certain Yeoman of Signals. The present incumbent insists it's not him as he still has some hair left—some but not much!

Sung to the Tune of Three Wheels On My Wagon

Three hours in this commcen
The tapes are up to me neck
Did someone shout—that bodd is out?
And that's not all coz so's Whitehall
But we're singing a happy song

*Chorus:*
Singing higgerty haggerty haggerty ho
Life in the commcen goes ever so slow
Higgerty Haggerty Higgerty hi
You can watch the WRACs go whizzing by

Six hours in this commcen
It looks like a bomb's been dropped
The Yeoman says that heads will roll
And soon we'll all be drawing dole
But we're singing a happy song
*Chorus:*
Nine hours in the Commcen
Not even time for a brew
I wish I'd been a switchboard op
Coz Kowloons monitors tangled up
But we're singing a happy song
*Chorus:*
12 hours in this commcen
The Yeomans having a fit
He's over there, he's got no hair
He's going mad but we don't care
Coz we're singing a happy song
*Chorus:*
All night in this commcen
The boss comes staggering in
Oh Capt, please don't swear
We know you've crawled from the Bull and Bear
But we're singing a happy song
*Chorus:*
Minutes left in this commcen
And we're all ready to go
Now we're off down the China Fleet
Where the rest of C shift we will meet
And we'll drink to this happy song.
*Chorus:*

**VISIT OF (EX) CPL BERRY R SIGNALS**

On 27 Sep 83 **Mr Edward Charles Berry,** an ex corporal from Royal Signals, visited Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong. **Mr Berry** served between 1937 and 1946 and carried out his trade training as an Operator Wireless and Line at Catterick.

During the period 1939 to 1941, he served in Quetta and Trimulgherry with 11th Indian Infantry Brigade and as part of 4th Indian Division (Red Eagle Division) in Egypt. In 1941 he, again with 11 Bde; consisting of 1 Camerons, 1/6 Rajputana Rifles and 4/7 Rajputs served in Eritrea. In 1942, following **Gen Auchinlech's** departure, he was posted to Divisional Headquarters which was just as well as 11 Bde were in the 'Bag' at Tobruk three days later!

His connection with Gurkhas arises from the reinforcement of 4th Division by Gurkha Battalions in 1942. The introduction of Gurkha Battalions at this stage (El Alemain) set high standards.

Mr Berry and Maj Lee discuss the finer points of today's modern communications (note 246 are still equipped with C42)

During his visit to QG Signals **Mr Berry** met **Lt Col M. J. Lance** in HMS *Tamar,* the modern hub of the British Forces in Hong Kong. This was followed by a helicopter move to Sek Kong, to see 246 (Gurkha Fd Force) Sig Sqn set up on the Airfield in a 'display' setting designed to educate the staff. **Mr Berry** was escorted by **Maj S. M. A. Lee** and commented, on his walk round, that there was little change from his day!

The visit ended with a tipan tapan lunch in the WO and Sgts Mess where the RSM **WO1(RSM) Prembahadur Pun** insisted that **Mr Berry** meet all the Mess Members. I am sure that **Mr Berry** enjoyed his brief visit and for those who would like to discuss old memories his address is Caren, Maraly Crescent, Birchington, Kent.

**SAILING**

The first Queen's Gurkha Signals Regimental Sailing Regatta, was held on 23 August at Stanley Services Boat Club, the Regatta was organised by the Adjutant, **Capt Stephen Leach** and **SSgt Bernie Medway,** the race organiser.

The forecast for the day was moderate winds with some rain in the morning clearing with long sunny spells, all looked well for a good day's racing. The first race was completed, but it was noticed by the participants that the wind was a bit stronger than 'moderate'. This was even more apparent from the number of crews practising their capsize drills half way round the course, it was decided to cancel the second race until the weather became calmer.

The calm that arrived would have been ideal for a second Dunkirk, with haste all crews manned their boats and the second race of the day got under way, during the second leg things began to happen, the wind increased to force four gusting five on the approach of a squall, out of 12 boats six enterprises and three bosun's capsized, (good practice for our capsize drills) unfortunately one boat found its way to some rocks, resulting in it being very badly damaged. **SSgt Bernie Medway** supervised its recovery to the boat club under appalling conditions. It was decided to cancel the regatta; however later in the afternoon a Bar-B-Q and a few 'San Migs' uplifted our dampened spirits and put an end to a very interesting, though wet day. What they say about weather forecasters must be true!

A more successful adventure training week aboard *White Dragon* was enjoyed by **Sgt Barry Glossop, WO1 (YofS) Bill Ritchie, Pte Kathryn Bryden-Smith WRAC** and our skipper **SSgt Bernie Medway.** The exercise started with a short leg from HMS *Tamar* at Kowloon to Stanley Bay, where we picked up a few necessities and spent an hour or so swimming and sunbathing in the evening sun. After a meal we set sail for Hebe Haven, taking it in turns to sit on the bows as 'Lap Sap' man, looking for any large pieces of 'Lap Sap' (rubbish) that may get in our way, all went well for the first few hours, there wasn't much wind so we decided to use the engine for a while, then it happened, despite our lookout a piece of sacking found its way to our propellor which effectively stopped us in our tracks. **SSgt Bernie Medway** and **Yeoman Bill Ritchie** were persuaded to strip off and 'cut us loose' whilst the remainder of us held a light over the bows. After half an hour of swimming under the boat amongst dead fish and the usual debris one finds in Hong Kong's waters we were under way for Hebe Haven, eventually arriving at 0500 hours. The rest of the exercise went by without mishap and was a great experience for us 'land lubbers'.

**EXERCISE *DRAGON SAIL* — HONG KONG 83**

The following report comes from her second crew to whom we handed over.

On being assured by **Pte Catherine Bryden-Smith,** the old sea hand than an enjoyable time would be had by all on board the *White Dragon,* and intitially getting our priorities in the correct order, we stocked the yacht with vintage vino de collapso—compliments of **Pte Alice Davies,** Martini and lemonade—courtesy of myself and **Pte Sharon Margison,** and last but by no means least, cans of San Miguel provided by Skipper **SSgt Bernie Medway.** Finally, rigged, we set off on our 10 hour sail through Stanley to Hebe Haven.

After three attempts to moor the yacht we settled down for the night with cans of San Miguel, only to see a racing yacht three times our length, cruising in and mooring up besides us with the greatest of ease. So flabbergasted were we, that we felt obliged to invite the Skipper on board for drinks—just to tell us how its done!

Next morning, found with San Miguel heads, we were detailed off by the Skipper to scrub the decks or walk the plank.

**Capt Steven Leach**—chef a la supreme, prepared a hearty breakfast; we then set sail for Po Toi stopping at a deserted sandy beach, where we anchored for lunch and sampled the local delights and water sports—like splashing around trying to catch additions for my fish tank! Later, we prepared the yacht for the long haul to Po Toi and took advantage of the strong winds blowing.



We finally reached our destination, anchored safely, then found we could not get ashore. Alas—not to be outdone, we nominated the Skipper to haggle the price of a sampan to take us ashore. There, we spent a few hours in an open air Chinese restaurant—not to mention the sanitary conditions—who would have thought that even the Chinese had thunderboxes!

After sinking umpteen bottles of San Miguel, we returned to the yacht where Skipper's wife **Joan Medway,** made the first boo boo of the day. Whilst trying to scramble on board she decided to take a horizontal position, with her feet on the Sampan and her hands on the yacht. Her cries for help were answered by **Pte Alice Davies** shouting—'Save the wine'.

On our final day we sailed for two hours, the motored through Hong Kong's floating village—Aberdeen. We hoisted the spinnacker sail, and cruised past HMS *Tamar* (much to the envy of all those still at work) and finished the three day adventure at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.

Just to show our appreciation of blue seas, sunshine and occasional strong winds, **Pte Sharon Margison** and I were invited as members of the second crew. Once again we set sail from HMS *Tamar* and headed for Hebe Haven, Lamma Island and then on to Cheung Chau Island, returning to the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club after three days.

Apart from myself and **Pte Sharon Margison** the rest of the crew were mainly first time sailors, so we had quite a bit of sea sickness on board, especially when putting up the spinnacker sail and the Skipper wanted all hands on deck. (Must have been the luncheon meat they had for breakfast). As the second crew were not as organised as the first, we settled for Gurkha Compo Rations—not a luxurious Chinese restaurant this time! All in all we had a swaying time. We now look forward to next year when we can have yet another spell on the ocean waves with the *White Dragon.*

**EXERCISE *PALM FRONT 29*—ANNAPURNA COMPANY**

Having heard several discomforting stories about the Brunei jungle, it was with some apprehension that 'selected' (what have I done wrong?) members of 246, 247 and 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns left Hong Kong for Ex *Palm Front 29.*

Our base in Brunei for the next six weeks was to be Sittang Camp near the town of Tutong. It was here that we formed what was to be called Annapurna Coy under the command of **Maj R. A. L. Bahadur Anderson,** OC 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn. The aim of the exercise was to familiarize ourselves with various aspects of the jungle including navigation and survival and carry out basic infantry training up to platoon level. Each phase of the exercise was made into a competition in order to ascertain an overall champion platoon.

It soon became apparent that the programme gave little time for relaxation on the deserted beach nearby. After extra jungle kit had been issued, the Coy went straight into preparatory lectures on jungle patrols, survival and map reading, the instructors being provided by Training Team Brunei, assisted by instructors from within the Coy who had completed a Jungle Warfare Instructor Course.

Everyone was, of course, just itching to get into the 'ulu' and it wasn't long before we set out on *Navex 1.* This was our introductory map reading exercise which proved not too difficult, but gave us a good idea of the problems we would face later, noticeably, that what was on the map wasn't always on the ground! A tactical night was spent practising harbouring drills and the following day on Platoon and Section contact drills. After that, smelling sweetly, we returned to Sittang.

The next day, under the direction of **Lt Nick 'Guts' Kennedy,** the Coy practised a tactical river crossing. With the threat of roaming crocodiles and snakes it was reported that some people didn't even get their feet wet!

**Lt Col M. J. Lance,** Comd QG Signals then paid us a visit and a programme of Inter Pl sports was arranged in the form of relaxation. But, of course, the jungle soon beckoned again, and back we went for a couple of days jungle survival and *Navex 2.*

Having had lectures on survival we were searched by **Capt (QGO) Shyambahadur 'Pig Hunter' Pun** for any contraband rations. It was later obvious that many of us had seen the film 'The Great Escape' and had emergency rations just in case—and there were no cases of starvation, even on the meagre supply of fish that were caught. *Navex 2,* as expected, proved to be somewhat harder than *Navex 1* and the sound of banging mess tins could be heard as sects tried to locate checkpoints. A torrential downpour didn't help to brighten our spirits as we slogged on for two days. Don't Bergens get heavy when they're wet?

Binturan ranges was next on the agenda where we had a full programme of firing on the IBSR, CQB and ETR ranges together with some having the chance to fire 66mm HEAT. A Scorpion demo was arranged by the Armoured Squadron Royal Brunei Malay Regt (RBMR), who even trusted some of us to drive them at mad speeds around the range. After two weeks of continuous training a welcome day off was arranged where we could see something of the outside world. Visits were organised to Seria and the capital Bandar. It was a very welcome break and the duty souvenirs were duly purchased.

RBMR came into their own the following day with a period of Helicopter familiarisation. They brought two Hueys and a Bolkow and gave us a demonstration showing us the various techniques of entry and exit from them. This was put into practice later with a demonstration of tactical flying below tree level, this was a real treat and several people had a second breakfast sitting! It was while making his exit from a Huey that **Sgt Pete 'Winger' Smith,** on testing the durability of his newly acquired jungle boots, bruised his ankle. Some say he was leading his men, but there are others who say that with the threat of *Navex 3* looming he fell "awkwardly".

Ambushes were next on the programme and the following night was probably the most miserable we were to have. The rain came down as usual to add to the boredom of waiting for enemy to appear. Sure enough at dawn the OC came strolling down the track. Now, ARISs on automatic make an awful lot of noise, but there is no truth in the rumour that the OC was seen to tighten his gaiter elastics after the noise subsided.

**RETURN TO SITTANG**

Wet and bedraggled we return to Sittang to prepare for *Navex 3,* the final navigation test over a course of 25 km as the crow flies and was to take three days. All sections completed the course without too much trouble, although a helicopter was tasked a couple of times to assist the map reading of some of them, and **Sgt Eric 'Water on the Rocks' Sharp** and **Cpl Les 'Insect Feeder' Duncan** had some problems.

Ex *Palm Front 29* culminated in a five day tactical exercise called *Thulo Losish* (*Big Effort*). The Coy was helicoptered intok the jungle in order to clear away some terrorists, ably acted by Recce Pl 6 Gr. All the things which had been taught over the previous four weeks were put into practice and despite the discomfort the exercise was enjoyed by all.

Phil and friends on their homemade raft. *L to R:* (Standing) Sgt Eric Sharp (Raft Captain), 2Lt David Watson (Auto trimming device), Sgt Pete Smith (Rafts Pet), Cpl Les Duncan and Sgt Phil Cooper (Rafts QM)

**RELAXATION**

With the exercise finished we had a few days to spare before being flown home to Hong Kong, courtesy of the RAF. So there was time for R & R and Adventure Training. Trips were arranged to various points of interest together with sailboard instruction given by our medic **Sgt Dave 'It won't hurt' Nicol RAMC.** For the more adventurous of us, a crocodile hunt was arranged combined with a raft trip down the Belait river. Led by **Lt Kennedy** a party built rafts by the river, and, to the amusement of some local villages, precariously balanced themselves on them to begin their journey. Balance was found to be rather critical and **2Lt David 'Boy' Watson** got a fair share of abuse every time he inadvertently tested it. Maybe it was lucky that no crocodiles appeared and we all made the three day trip in one piece despite **Sgt Phil 'the Loaf' Cooper's** attempts at eating all the rations.

So ended five weeks of interesting purgatory where a lot was learnt by all and will be talked about for months to come.

## ALL ABOUT HONG KONG THE RURAL VIEWPOINT SEK KONG

**Report by Cpl V. G. Braint**

The purpose of this article is to try and tell you a little about the life here in Hong Kong from a married/accompanied point of view.

The colony can be split into three areas; Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Kowloon although part of the New Territories is regarded as separate. We are separated from Kowloon by a range of hills some nine hundred and fifty metres in height. On Kowloon side there is a thriving city. Look to the otherside and you see a rural area. On this side at the foothills you will find Sek Kong Village. Two miles further North you will come to Borneo Lines home of 246 (Gurkha Field Force) Signal Squadron.

I will not go too deeply into the work aspect but will mention the main area to which I belong, the Communication Centre. The British staff consists of one Sergeant and four Corporals, all Data Telegraphists. The Corporals are DOBs for each shift looking after the secure side of the Commcen. The Sergeant is the overall controller. The shifts are made up of Gurkha soldiers. They are all Radio Telegraphists. They have proved to be excellent communicators; and this is testified by the twelve commstars received in the last nine. years.

I live in Sek Kong Village, more commonly referred to as 'The Village'. We live in a flat in a two-storey block. We have four bedrooms, two bathrooms and three WCs (one is used by the Amah). There are also three-bedroomed flats and two-bedroomed bungalows. The bungalows although sub-standard are very popular. The best months of the year are September to December. It is hot but not too humid. December to March are dry but colder and April to August are hot and humid. Even as I write this the perspiration is pouring off me. We also have severe tropical storms which develop into typhoons.

We have the KCR (Kowloon Central/Railway); the bus service; the mini bus service and inevitable taxis. A local town called Yuen Long, some six miles away can be reached by bus for ninety cents (approximately eight pence); by mini bus for two dollars and by taxi for twenty dollars. To travel to Hong Kong Island you can go to Tai Po and catch a train to Kowloon Tong. From there take the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), which is like the underground to Central. Otherwise you can catch a bus to Tsuen Wan and join the MTR there. To travel is neither difficult nor expensive.

In Sek Kong we have two play schools and a primary school. For secondary education the children have to travel into Kowloon.

In the village we have two swimming pools, the families pool and the community centre pool. The Dolphins (a swimming club) is primarily to teach children to swim and also to improve their swimming. The families pool can be hired for splash nights.

There is a library in the village and a four-lane bowling alley. Many servicemen and their families use this facility participating in leagues and competitions. For eating our Yuen Long offers a wide variety of Restaurants. Entertainment is usually provided by top names from England, America and Australia. To enjoy these talents you need to travel to Hong Kong Island or Kowloon.

The standard of living in Hong Kong, on the whole, is high. The cost of feeding a family is higher than in the United Kingdom because most goods are imported from abroad. The Local Overseas Allowance offsets the difference. You can enjoy an Amah on a full time basis. The cost is approximately one pound per hour.

A unit of electricity is the same price as in the United Kingdom but there are no Summer low/Winter/high quarters. In the Summer the ceiling fans are used constantly, whereas the air conditioners, although only installed in the bedrooms are very expensive and usually used at night just before going to bed.

'T' shirts, shirts and shorts are all cheap but the quality is lacking. Clothes do not last as long as in the United Kingdom.

Hi-Fi, cameras and videos are the same price as in England. You have to be careful when buying televisions to take back to the UK as the voltage is different.

Cars are relatively cheap and the insurance is not very high. Unfortunately the road tax is about three hundred pounds, so the job here is to buy the road tax and have the car thrown in for free!

The Leave Scheme is a scheme which enables you to take a break for a couple of weeks. You can use it to offset travel to distant countries or to cover a flight to nearby places, such as Singapore, Thailand or Malaysia. My family and I went to Thailand for fifteen days last February. We had a memorable holiday.

When you first arrive the admin officer will ask you if you want to have a telephone in your quarter. Transferring ownership costs ten pounds and installation fifty pounds. There is a system called IDD which enables you to call anywhere in the world. To England the rate is eleven pence for six seconds. Internal calls are all free in Hong Kong. The telephone line has always been good and it costs very little to keep in touch with relatives at home.

## THE CITY HONG KONG ISLAND

**Report by SSgt (FofS) S. L. Randle**

Hong Kong's better points are to be found in all tourist brochures and are readily brought to mind by those posted here previously. However the changes have been so rapid of late that even the best that Hong Kong has to offer is being marred slightly by 'progress'.

Having lived in all quarter areas on Hong Kong Island, available for allocation to Queen's Gurkha Signals RO's recently, I'm aware that there are certain difficulties to be faced by families posted to the Island. I'm also aware that the degree by which these difficulties effect ones lifestyle varies considerably with each family and by areas even if these areas may be only a few hundred meters apart. If you are coming already or you are considering applying for Hong Kong then I hope this article will not deter you but help reduce the disappointment when you discover that it's not the same as it was a few years ago.

If I was asked to specify the single most adverse condition to be suffered on the Island I would have to say simply 'noise, noise, noise'. From the piledrivers of the continual constructing to the bumper to bumper line of cars, buses, lorries and trams on the roads. The noise on its own is tolerable but together with heat, humidity and fumes gradually wears a person down until even the most mild-mannered become aggressive and bad tempered at times, this being particularly noticeable in children. All quarters on the Island are blocks of flats and as such present the usual problems of high-rise living. The cost of running air conditioning deters most people from using them and living rooms of quarters are not issued with them anyway, so using fans, opening windows and doors consequently letting in outside noises become the only alternative.

The high population turns a trip to town into a minor expedition and only occasionally can a person guarantee to find what they are looking for at the right size, price and quality. It's fun at first but becomes more and more frustrating, especially if you want a particular article and don't wish to spend all day getting it. Travellers, other than pedestrians on the crowded footpaths, have no choice but to join one of the traffic jams and move along with it as the underground Mass Transit Railway is not yet extended fully around the Island. A journey of only a few miles can vary in duration by as much as an hour depending on the time of day and this has to be considered when moving between jobs or to and from work.

Only a few people choose to run cars here because there are so few open roads, lots of public transport, all be it crowded and slow moving, and they are very expensive to keep on the road. The car tax was recently trebled to an average of approximately HK2500 (about 250 pounds sterling) a year in a bid to force vehicles off the road. A plan is being considered to charge vehicle owners for using certain roads at certain times. To take a car off the Island by the cross-harbour tunnel and back costs about a pound sterling and can take up to an hour to get through depending on the time of day.

The place of work for all the Island based Queen's Gurkha Signals is HMS *Tamar* in a 28 floor building right in the heart of Central district. To give you an idea of the pace of change here, the building is only four years old but is now older and considerably smaller than six buildings within half a mile. The unit's work is varied, interesting and unusually challenging sometimes, not only because the unit itself consists of three nationalities but also because we are working within a joint service headquarters and are constantly liaising with the Police, Cable and Wireless, Hong Kong Telephone Co. and various other organisations.

The things missed most of all by my family and I are, the peace and tranquility of the countryside, lakes, parks and open roads on which we could get away from the hustle and bustle occasionally. Having emphasised the problems, I feel I ought to put them into prospective by saying that the opportunity to come to Hong Kong Island should not be missed because it's definitely not all bad and we are delighted to have experienced it.



# Royal Signals Manning and Records Reading

## A SPECIAL OCCASION

It takes an out of the ordinary event for your Manning and Record Office to feature in 'The Wire' but 5 October 1983 provided the necessary occasion. On that day the Signal Officer-in-Chief came to Reading to meet the staff of his MRO and to be briefed on the current manning situation in the Corps. **Gen Benbow** visited all departments and spoke to every member of the team. His searching questions had everyone on their toes but the exchanges were not without some good humoured two-way banter.

We learned a lot from him and know that he went away with a deeper understanding of the soldier manning scene. His visit certainly gave a boost to our morale and provided plenty of stimulus to our constant efforts to improve the management of Royal Signals soldiers.

We also took the opportunity to take some photographs of the event to include a few members of our staff who are involved with the careers and welfare of the WOs, SNCOs, JNCOs and soldiers of the Corps.

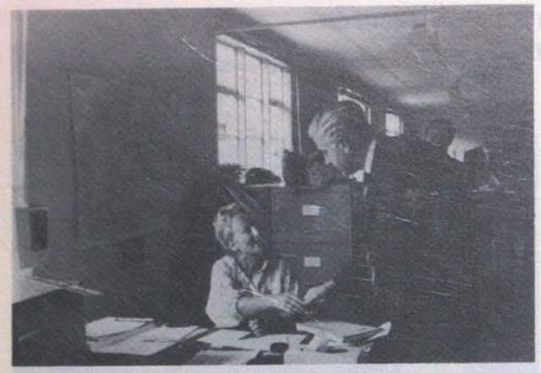
Gen Benbow greeted on arrival at Balmore House by the OIC Col M. F. H. Colman. In attendance SO2 Coord Lt Col N. G. Gallyer

The SOinC has a captive audience as he views a soldier's record on the VDU with *L to R:* the OIC, SO2 Coord, Mrs Bridget Parry (OIC Records Wing) and Mr Brian Ashton (OIC Division 2)

In 'Locations' the SOinC checks the whereabouts of his namesakes watched anxiously by *L to R:* Mr Malcolm Kidby and OIC Discharges Wing, Mr Mike Mayne

A pause in Records Wing to meet *(right)* Mrs Cathy Prior

Maj Henry Scott introduces Mrs Helen Allum to the General. In the background Maj Frank Sloan



Meeting Mrs 'Jo' Tompkins

The General with Mrs Dorothy Shepherd gets down to the intricacies of enlisting into the TA

Nick Church, our ADP expert, explains it all. Mrs 'Penny' Hyde (OIC Tech Services Wing) looks slightly sceptical

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

## BOARDING EDUCATION

North Yorkshire Local Education Authority maintains four secondary schools with boarding provision. Places are available for boys and girls for September 1984. Further particulars of the schools and application procedures may be obtained either by writing to the Head of the school or direct to the County Education Officer, County Hall, Room 143(SB) Northallerton DL7 8AE.

Admission to the three grammar schools is subject to the pupil's suitability for grammar school education. No charge is made to parents in respect of tuition.

### ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Voluntary Controlled Grammar School for some 575 boys situated on the eastern outskirts of the City of York having accommodation for about 45 boarders in a modern, purpose-built Boarding House on an attractive site within easy reach of the City. The School, founded in 1546, is now accommodated in modern premises (built between 1963 and 1974) and provides a wide range of GCE 'O' and GCE 'A' level courses. Each year 60 boys proceed to full-time courses of higher and further education. The Education Committee's proposals for the reorganisation of secondary education on comprehensive lines in the City of York in 1985 have been approved. Boarding facilities will continue for boys aged 11-18 thus including some boarding provision for pupils attending the proposed York Sixth Form College.

*Head Teacher:* Dr J M Frost B.A., Hull Road, York YO1 5HA.

### ERMYSTED'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Voluntary Aided Grammar School for some 500 boys situated in the market town of Skipton on the edge of the Dales National Park, having accommodation for about 50 boarders. The school is of ancient foundation and the Boarding House is integral to the school's historic premises. A wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils proceed to courses of higher and further education.

*Head Teacher:* Mr D M Buckroyd, M.A., Gargrave Road, Skipton BD23 1PL.

### RICHMOND SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Comprehensive School for some 1,500 pupils (with a sixth form of about 230 pupils) having two well appointed Boarding Houses set in their own attractive grounds, with accommodation for about 35 boys and 12 girls. There is a wide range of courses based on strong academic traditions, for pupils of all abilities leading to CSE, CEE, GCE 'O' and 'A' level examinations.

*Head Teacher:* Mr J D Dutton, M.A., J.P. Darlington Road, Richmond DL10 7BQ.

### RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Grammar School for some 660 pupils having two attractive Boarding Houses with accommodation for about 55 boys and 45 girls. A wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils go on to courses of higher and further education.

*Head Teacher:* Mr D B Stanley, B.Sc., Clotherholme Road, Ripon HG4 2DG.



## School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

**HOW IT BEGAN**

**Sgts Bob Nelson** and **John Graves** were returning from an installation task in the North of England.

'Them's the Pennines there.'

'Isn't there a footpath called the Pennine Way?'

'Yeah. I wouldn't mind having a go at that.'

This innocent conversation was repeated in Blandford during morning coffee break and revealed a few more people interested in 'having a go'. Hence Ex *Hard Flog* was conceived.

For those unfamiliar with the Pennine Way, it is the longest continuous footpath in Britain. Starting in Derbyshire at Edale and ending in the Borders Region of Scotland at Kirk Yetholm, a total distance of two hundred and seventy miles. Participants were **WO2 (AQMS) Ian Cowie, SSgt (FofS) Dave Woffenden, Sgt Bob Nelson, Cpl Joe McEnvoy** and **LCpl Ian Holmes.**

**THE OFF**

After much planning and letter writing, we eventually set off on Saturday, 3 September. A few days prior to this date the long hot summer ended with a vengeance. This was to be the hallmark for the weather during most of the exercise.

A decisive start!

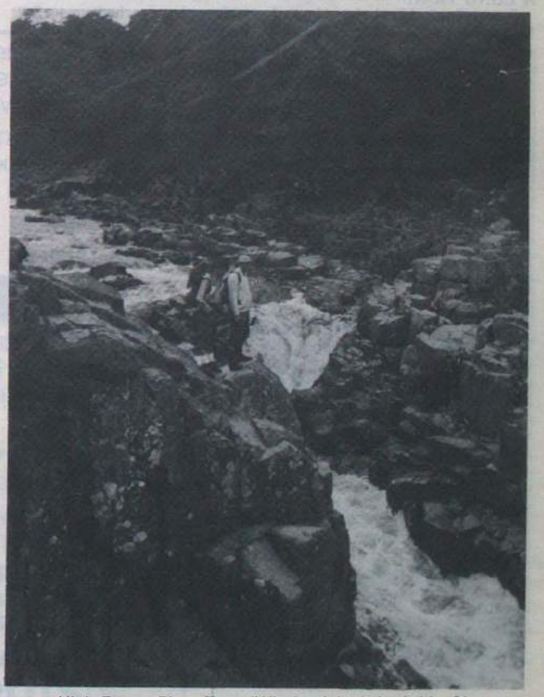
The start at Edale was to set the precedent for the majority of the route, rain cloud, peat bog and painful. We started to wonder what we had let ourselves in for. Kinder Scout, Bleaklow Head, Featherbed Moss and Black Hill are names that are etched in our minds. The peat bogs, sticky mud and rain were bad enough, but thick cloud at the summit of Kinder Scout had us hoping that we had transferred our theoretical ability with a compass into sound practice—we had. Emily Bronte country was our next prominent landmark, and a halt for a brew at Top Withens, the supposed inspiration for Wuthering Heights. The half empty reservoirs were proof of a long, hot summer, but, with water squelching in our boots, we felt certain that it wouldn't be too long before they were filled up again. At Gargrave we met the Leeds to Liverpool canal. Our resident Scouse, **Cpl McEvoy,** resisted the temptation to stow away and head for 'God's country'.

**SOGGY**

Day five was a day we were all dreading. Malham Cove, Fountains Fell and Pen-y-Ghent all in one day, not an enviable task. The rain held off until we reached the foot of Pen-y-Ghent and then started with a vengeance, making the climb wet and miserable. Instead of a triumphant walk into Horton in Ribblesdale we had a soggy stagger. Our route continued past pot holes and caves over moors to Hawes. Due to a hang gliding competition being held there, this little town was packed full. Hardrow Force, the largest fall of water in England (not including) subterranean) was our next port of call. Access to this waterfall is through the Green Dragon Inn upon payment of ten pence and definitely worth seeing. Another pub of interest is the Tan Hill Inn.

Leeds/Liverpool Canal 'Sorry Joe, next barge to Liverpool is tomorrow.'

This is the highest licensed establishment in England. Weary walkers are greeted with a sign which asks people with muddy boots to remove them before entering and so it was we entered bootless with soggy socks. One of the most pleasant day's walking was our ninth day. It didn't rain and this, coupled with picturesque scenes such as Low Force, High Force and Caludron Snout, three waterfalls on the River Tees, had a cheering effect on us. The day ended at High Cup, a



High Force, River Tees 'Who's nicked the bridge?'

Cauldron snout on the River Tees

spectacular gorge just outside Dufton. Day ten was to be the high point of the walk. Cross Fell is the highest point on the Pennine Way, standing at two thousand nine hundred and thirty feet. Unfortunately for us, Dufton, the start point for the day, is at six hundred feet, and all this before lunch. We eventually reached the summit only to see foul weather approaching from the Lake District. The descent from Cross Fell passes by Gregory's Hut, a mountain refuge. In the hut is a book where walkers can write down their thoughts, jokes and make comments. Not exactly a literary masterpiece, but well worth perusing. Our path led us over more moorland and through even more bog and up to Hadrian's Wall. DOE have kindly placed steps on some parts of the wall, but we felt that they should commission a survey to find the length of a human stride before building any more. With that thought in mind, and a great deal of respect for the Romans, we left the wall and headed into Wark Forest to end up knee deep in bog—again. From here to the Cheviots ther were no more spectacular sites, just mud and bog. Blakehopeburnhough, the longest name on the Pennine Way, deserves a mention, but only because of the name.

**A LONG TRAIL**

Storm Force 10 winds, rain and peat bog that reached up to **Sgt Nelson's** waist (and made his face go white) ensured we did not have an easy end to the exercise. So, two hundred and seventy miles after the start and fifteen and a half long, hard days came to an end at the Border Hotel in Kirk Yetholme. **Maj Pat Soward** was there to buy us a pint and help celebrate the end of a long, arduous trail.

A very special mention must be given to the marvellous administration of **SSgt (SQMS) John McGuinnes** and **Sgt Steve Graham.** Their hard work and excellent cuisine kept us going and was greatly appreciated by all.

**THE 4 JULY CELEBRATION**

**Report by Maj A. C. McRae MSc, BA, USA Signal Corps, Exchange Officer, School of Signals**

**THE LINK**

During World War Two, Blandford Camp was the location of the US Army 22nd General Hospital. On 30 May 1945, personnel of that unit dedicated a memorial to those who had died in the war and created a memorial park and garden called 'The Roosevelt Memorial Park and Garden'. The park is decorated with flowers and trees from some 22 different US states. Since the war and the departure of US forces from the camp, the park and garden have been maintained by the British. Since 1967, the camp has been the home of the British Army School of Signals.

There has been a US Army Officer on exchange to the School of Signals since 1964, and the British Army maintains a Royal Signals Officer on exchange to the US Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The exchange program between the two armies has always been a close one, and the participation of British military units in this celebration of American Independence Day is just one example of the close co-operation and mutual friendship which exists between the two countries.

**CUSTOM REVIVED**

In previous years, particularly 1977 and 1978, there was extensive celebration of the 4 July at Blandford Camp. This year, with the full and complete co-operation of the Commander, Blandford Garrison and the School of Signals, the custom was revived, and the event was a resounding success. The celebration, entitled 'A Salute to Great Britain and the United States of America', is described below.

**FREE FALL**

The event started at 1130 with a free-fall parachute demonstration by the Royal Marines Parachute Display Team, British Services' parachute record holders, who jumped at an altitude of 10,000 feet from two Lynx helicopters of the British Army Air Corps. During descent, the team gave a demonstration of free fall relative work, forming an eight man group, followed by two four man groups. After opening their parachutes, the team descended in a three man 'stack' with the bottom man flying the American flag from his parachute rigging, and a five man 'stack' coming in thereafter. After landing, the team presented the US flag to a member of the US joint service (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps) Colour Guard and saluted the reviewing officer, **Brig A. M. (Tony) Willcox,** Commander, Blandford Garrison and the School of Signals.

**THE BAND**

At 1145, the Band of Royal Signals marched on and began playing distinctly American music, including 'The Washington Post March' and 'Over There,' followed by songs loved by both American and British forces during World War Two, such as 'The White Cliffs of Dover' and 'Tipperary.'

**HONOUR GUARDS**

At 1155, the British and American Honour and Colour Guards marched on to 'The Stars and Stripes Forever.' The British Honour and Colour Guards were provided by the 30th Signal Regiment which is stationed at Blandford Camp and which played a major role in the Falkland Islands war. The US Honor and Color Guards consisted of seven Non-commissioned Officers and Petty Officers representing each of the US Armed Services (Army—one, Navy—two, Air Force—two, and Marine Corps—two).

**GEN SALUTE**

At 1158, the flags of both countries, Great Britain and the United States, were raised simultaneously on the two flag poles in the park. As soon as the flags reached the top, the Band of Royal Signals began playing 'God Save the Queen,' followed by 'The Star Spangled Banner.' On the first note of music, a firing section from Headquarters Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery (also a veteran unit from the Falklands war), began firing a 13 gun salute. The gun salute terminated exactly on the last note of the US national anthem.

**FLY PAST**

Exactly at 1201, a Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Hunter fighter-bomber made a low fly-past of the camp, directly in front of the assembled crowd, followed by a 'Victory Roll'.

**FINALE**

The Honour and Colour Guards then marched out of Roosevelt Memorial Park and Garden to 'Life on the Ocean Wave'—the regimental march of the Royal Marines, the US Marine Corps march, and 'Begone Dull Care'—the regimental march of the Royal Corps of Signals. During the dispersal of guests, the Band of Royal Signals played 'The Caissons Go Rolling Along'—the US Army song, and the Royal Artillery slow march, 'The Duchess of Kent.' Finally, the Band marched off to 'Begone Dull Care'.

Units participating in the celebration included:

School Regiment, School of Signals, Blandford Camp

30 Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp

The Band of Royal Signals, Blandford Camp

R Commando Company, Royal Marines, Poole

Headquarters Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, Plymouth

Two helicopters from the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop

A Royal Navy 'Hunter' aircraft from the Royal Navy Air Station, Yeovilton.

This event was viewed by approximately 400 soldiers, their families and children, and school children from both Blandford Camp and the nearby town of Blandford Forum. Following the ceremony, approximately 100 invited guests moved to Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, to join the Commander, Blandford Garrison and the School of Signals, **Brig Willcox,** and the US Army Exchange Officer, **Maj Arthur C. McRae,** in toasts to both nations.



**2 SQUADRON TRIALS**

**THE SQUEEZE**

The scene: Blandford, OC 2's Office School Regiment.

'Ah! the new SSM, welcome, organise a summer camp in September.'

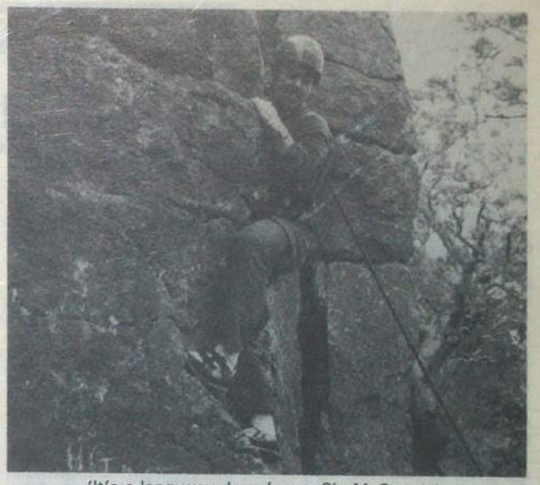
'September! are you sure Sir?'

Yes, we have two free weeks, we could just squeeze it in between trials'.

Yes Sir, certainly Sir.'

So it was that 60 members of 2 Squadron (Trials) set out in September for Halton Camp, near Lancaster. Halton was used as a base camp and windsurfing, fell-walking, rock climbing, canoeing and map reading took place in the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales.

Sgt 'Chuck' Walker shows how it's done



'It's a long way down' says Sig McCormick

**FUN**

The Camp was designed as a fun camp this year to give the Squadron a well earned break after the PTARMIGAN trials. The emphasis being placed on 'fun', a fact borne out by **Sgt 'Pete' Halstead** who was heard to say, after falling out of his canoe: 'This, is fun?'

As might be imagined the weather in September left a great deal to be desired. Our intrepid mountain leader, **Capt 'Nick' Blampied,** found out when blown off his feet by the wind, at the top of Hellvellyn. Always one to give the lads a laugh—nice one, Sir.

The end of the camp was marked by an inter-section football and volleyball knockout, with the old and bolt of the DS showing their mettle with a resounding win to take the football title.

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# SHAPE
# BFPO 26

**ORGANISATION DAY**

With the end of the Summer season, came once again the SHAPE Signal Group Organisation Day, a group picnic which has become an annual event. The talents of **WO2 (FofS) John Barrowman** were put to the test in organising the provision of food, drink etc for 500. Also much involved were all the squadrons of SSG, under the watchful eyes of **Maj Bill Nye CAF, Sqn Ldr Peter Woods RAF** and **Maj Lothar Petrak**, Bundeswehr. Among the guests who attended were ACOS CISD, **Maj Gen Joachim Sochaczewski,** the Deputy Controller NICS-COA, **Brig Gen Leo Childs,** US Army and the EXO CISD **Lt Col Ian Graham. Lt Col Dick Waterman,** Cdr SSG, rounded off affairs nicely by giving a hearty vote of thanks to all who were involved.

Already SHAPE is winding up for Ex *Able Archer 83*, and much activity is in store for **WO1 (YofS) Glenn Bartliff** in the Group Control Centre, as well as our two Foremen of Signals, **WO2s John McKay** and **John Barrowman.** In the midst of all the activity, **Sgt 'Ginger' Walker** took time out from the crypto cell to get married, and we welcome him and **Denise** into the SSG family. For the rest of us, as if this wasn't enough, the Group is busily occupied with a Manpower Survey, preparations for a move into new accommodation and planning for a new generation of communications equipment in the near future. A busy place, SSG!

**WELCOMES**

New arrivals in SSG: **Sgt Phil Wilkinson, Cpls David Hampton, David Little, Michael Bradshaw** and **LCpl Steve Edmonds,** all of whom are sampling their first taste of life at SHAPE. Welcome aboard!

**SHAPESPEAK**

Following on our earlier series, and in answer to many requests, we have culled a few more fragments of fearless SHAPE phraseology:

| Shapespeak | Ordinary English |
|---|---|
| I'm afraid your statement is not altogether correct. | Your statement is complete nonsense. |
| I'm not an expert on this particular subject. | I'm not an expert on ANY subject. |
| Thank you for your interesting and provocative statement. | What the hell did you mean? |
| Last but by no means least, I am pleased to welcome 'Dr Barnacle', the world authority on the cleaning of ship hulls. | 'Dr Barnacle' could just as well have stayed at home. |
| There is no need to introduce the presenter, whose notable work is familiar to all of us. | I wish I could remember his name. |
| I wish to acknowledge the sound advice given to me by 'Dr Interferos' in the preparation of this paper. | I wish 'Dr Interferos' would mind his own business. |
| This is indeed a timely decision. | This decision should have been made 10 years ago. |
| Thank you very much for your informative and illuminating presentation. | I read a much more detailed account six months ago in the International Defence Review. |
| Your paper contains a lot of new and interesting things. | Unfortunately what is interesting is not new and vice versa. |

'Is it real?' WO2 Bob Baggaley receives his Warrant from Lt Col Peter Robinson, RA Commanding Officer of the United Kingdom Support Unit

'Good here, isn't it?' WO2 (FofS) John McKay and Sgt Bob Skene ostentatiously give their SSG glasses a non-alcoholic christening

**CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?**

**HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?**





# Junior Regiment Royal Signals
# Ouston

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

The periods since our last contribution have been exciting ones at Ouston. The Annual Report on a Unit inspection by Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** put the Regiment through its paces on 28 October. **Lieutenant-General Huxtable** visited the Regiment on 11 November in the new post of Director of Training Establishments (Army). Since the size and shape of junior training will be directly influenced by the General we were keen to show him something of the 'Ouston Magic'. The period has also been marked by the arrival of the first troop of volunteers under the Army Youth Training Scheme now known as Ulster Troop. They have already become TV stars in reports on both BBC and Tyne Tees and are impressing everyone with their enthusiasm.

**VISIT OF DIRECTOR TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS ARMY**

After some hours of doubt as to the possibility, the RAF HS 125 carrying **Lt Gen Huxtable,** actually landed in the thick fog at Newcastle Airport. The General took the opportunity to see all aspects of the training which the junior signalmen undergo and to speak to a great many of the young men and members of the Cadre. By the time he left for Catterick we all felt he had given our case a fair hearing.

Lt Gen Huxtable discusses the JAEC with Junior Sig Shaw in the Military Studies Wing. Tp Comd Lt Graham McNeill, the Adjutant and SEO Maj Duncan Bell look on apprehensively

Renewing an old acquaintance. Last time the General met the Paymaster it was as Capt and WO1 respectively with 1DWR

Sgt Mann discusses the attraction to archery, a particularly well supported hobby

RSM Tony Cartwright meets the General against a background of the troop pennants, which represent the traditions the Regiment tries to represent

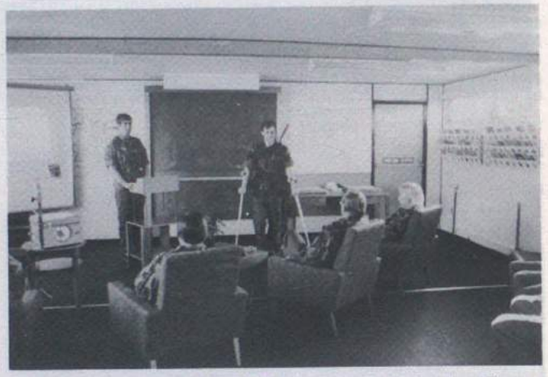
**ARU INSPECTION**

As always there was considerable tension and anticipation as the Regiment prepared for the arrival of The Commander, **Brig Sprackling** to carry out the ARU inspection on Friday 18 October. The morning programme went smoothly but tension mounted as mobilisation, the main event of the afternoon, approached. Terrorists, tanks, the rumours had been rife and intelligence negligible. Then it started and after two hours of hectic activity, terrorist bombs, the assassination of the senior officer present, and the arrival of the armoured thrust, all sides could be fairly judged to have won. The exercise successes perhaps rested with the aggressors, but the lessons learned should certainly pay dividends for the Regiment in any real situation in the future. The photographs tell the story of the day.

The Commander arrives for the ARU inspection. Capt John Steed, the Adjutant, opens the door

Cpls Geordie Petty, Tony Tranter, and Duncan Hall ensure fair play in the weapon handling relay race

The Commander inspects the Guard under the command of Sgt Taff Tudgay. Jnr Cpl McIntosh and Jnr LCpl Buckley set the standard



Lt Steven May briefing the Commander on the Combat Fitness Test (CFT) which the Troop Commanders were invited to demonstrate. Lt David Vardy models the dress (crutches are not mandatory!)

The first troop approaches the shooting phase of the March and Shoot

A picture shortly after the start whilst the subalterns are still at their peak

Lunch over, the Commander arrives to inspect the CGR Coy and is met by Capt George Whyman

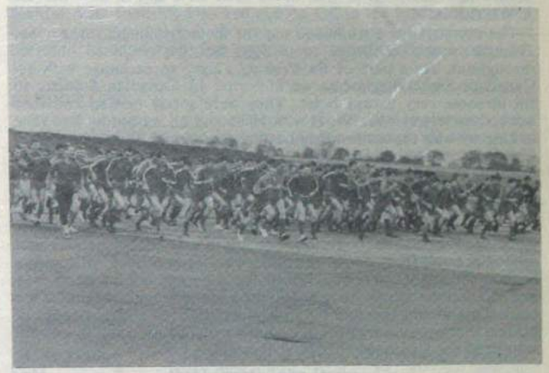
Lt Neil Yeoell reporting his platoon

Sgt 'Mitch' Mitchell asserts his authority over a captured terrorist

**REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY**

All the juniors in the Regiment took part in the Cross Country Competition on 26 October. The day was perfect and performances most encouraging. Whitespear Troop came out as overall winners and in the Champion Troop Competition for the September intake, Triangle Troop took the honours.

By the time our next notes are written Christmas and all its associated parties will be over and the stamina of the Cadre tested in the unofficial second BFT (Boozing Fitness Test).



A mere flick of the CO's wrist and 300 'enthusiastic' young men set off for a few miles tour of the countryside

SSM 2 Sqn Andy Starling encouraging his companions

The triumph—Jnr Sig Woolston displays the fruits of victory for Triangle Troop

# 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 32

## 1 SQN

### A WHILE AGO

The exercise was a while ago but the memories linger on. *Eternal Triangle* was a challenge to 1 Sqn, but we remained cheerful throughout. As a part of Ex *Crossed Flags*, an exchange with 1st Canadian Signal Regiment, we imported 12 Canadian Soldiers to fill in some very vacant holes. They were sorely needed and they worked extremely well. What with visits and all we hardly had time to keep up with the battles. **Brig Last** paid a farewell visit to Commcen Charles (commonly referred to as Chuck) while the SOinC graced the top table at Commcen Delta (not commonly referred to). As for hi-jinks, Delta was attacked by two troops of tanks from supposedly enemy (exercise) Regiments, neither of whom knew we were there. Led by that intrepid fearless soldier, **Sgt Ireland,** the counter attack force drew casualties (exercise) from both sets of belligerents and apologies (real) from one of the tanks who threw a track. Meanwhile back at Charles we were attacked by the Adjutant and his merry men and our counter attack force nearly drew blood from him (almost for real). Lots of fun was had by all who experienced river crossings in bridges that were the figment of a sapper's imagination and those who wandered the streets of Hoxter at the oddest hours.

### THE DEAD END

Yes, it was a lovely war. Did you hear the one about the ride along the track that rose two thousand feet up the side of a mountain only to come to a dead end and no place to turn around? Well that's another story for another time and can rightly only be authored by our SSM.

### PRESENTATIONS

Soon thereafter we all bid farewell to the GOC but not before **Capt Gravel** and **WO2 (SSM) Crabtree** were presented with their nations respective LS&GC medals (Canadian Decoration to you Canadian readers). **Cpl Pledger** also received a commendation from the GOC, British Forces Falkland Islands for the exemplary contributions during his recent tour there. Then we went into a short but furious period of out and out grafting in preparation for the Commanding Officers Pre Annual Review of a Unit Inspection (quite a mouthful eh?). When he came, it went surprisingly well. **Sgt Lee** is still looking for a hand crank and **Cpl Hughes** is still trying to put his maps away. But the fun part, the real joy was the trip over the obstacle course, behind/beside/under/in a three quarter trailer, depending on the size.

Can he come home now?—Outgoing GOC, Maggen Kenny speaks with Mrs Gravel as Capt Gravel, sporting his new CD looks on

Wavell Troop and their certificate presented by Brig Last—For what? Why, having worked over a weekend, what else?!

The Brigade Commander and WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden joke about undetected crime during the presentation of the LS&GC.

### NEW

As for 'new' news—well there are preparations now going on to prepare for some new equipment next year. Wait for the next issue when all will come clear.

## 2 SQN

### EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*

The Exercise we had all been waiting for got under way to a calm start. However, after the initial deployment, plans were changed. This was due to one of our so-called Allies who had been exercising in the area before us, and both COMHEAD locations were switched. It then became a constant battle for **Lt (now Capt) Gus Boag,** the Div Recce Officer, to convince the OC, **Maj Jack Wraith,** that he really did favour 2 Sqn and not 3 Sqn.

Although it was a long Exercise the Squadron managed to stay one step ahead of the battle, until the last day, when the enemy attacked COMHEAD PAPA no less than three times in two hours. The climax of these attacks was the sight of two enemy Scimitars entangled with each other, surrounded by **WO2 SSM Pete Sutherland** and his merry men. Who says blank ammo is not effective?

'I'm sure that's the Brigadier coming?' LCpl Anderson in defensive position on Exercise E.T.

'Yes, I really can speak French'. Pte Brouillard (CDN) and Brig Last on Exercise E.T.

### PRE ARU INSPECTION

After ET, that exercise on which the **SSM Pete Sutherland** was shot by **Sig** (I thought he was the enemy) **Archibald,** the Sqn began working hard for the CO's pre ARU which was due on 22 November. Just as we thought we were on top, the Corps Commander ordered Ex *Winter Trade*, a Corps rapid deployment exercise. This left only the weekend in which to get ready for the CO. Rumours on what form the inspection would take were rife. Would he really send the whole squadron out on a marathon? Surely you can't push start a 432? As it turned out the inspection went smoothly—well reasonably so—and culminated in a Log Race over the assault course, and the carrying back of a 'Casualty' to barracks. Overall a good pre ARU—The CO's very words.

'Everybody has a stick, where's mine?' Lt Col Fisher conducting his Pre ARU inspection

### THE PAGE TROPHY

Anyone who has served in 2 Sqn will know that the Page Trophy is awarded annually to the winner of the Squadron Conker Competition. They will also know how seriously the competition is taken by all concerned. After a lot of pre-championship betting, the competition was officially started by **Brig C. Last OBE,** who was paying his farewell visit to the Squadron. As the finals were to be held later in the day, the Brigadier kindly conceded defeat to **Sig Paul Clayton** who in fine style went on to play in the final. **Cpl Trevor Jenkins,** who foolishly knocked out the OC in the preliminary round (and is now posted) was the other finalist, and after a marathon (there's that word agin) final, went on to win the Page Trophy for 1983.

### FAREWELLS

As well as being a very busy period this period has also seen quite a few of the 'old hands' departing, and in between all other other activities, we have managed to say farewell in the traditional 2 Sqn fashion to: **Cpls Trev Jenkins** and **Bob Maskell**—both on promotion to **Sgt, Cpl 'Robbo' Robinson, LCpls Nobby Neville, Willma Harris, Big 'Mal' Crawford, 'Raj' Emmerson,** and **Sig 'Pops' Eardly** and **'Para' Revera.** We wish them all well in their new postings.

### 3 SQN

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj David Elson** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Colin Lawrence** |
| **OC N Troop** | **Lt Suzy Reed** |
| **OC L Troop** | **2Lt Scott Workman** |
| **OC O Troop** | **Lt David Sullivan (now SSgt Geordie Dobson)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) John Drake** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) O'Shaughnessy** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Atkinson** |
| **FofS** | **Well, we're still waiting!** |

### VERDEN MARATHON 8 OCTOBER

3 Sqn was well represented in the Verden Garrison Marathon. In fact the Squadron Yeoman **SSgt Steve Atkinson** was the eventual winner. Other competitors from the Squadron included, **Sgt Frank Walker, SSgt Jim O'Shaughnessy, Sig Geordie Blench** and two of the three troop officers. **Lt David Sullivan** and **2Lt Scott Workman** both put up a good show but the thought of 26½ miles caused **Lt Suzy Reed** to pale visibly. She elected to ride her horse at the BAOR One Day Event—well, why run when you can ride? (Next year's Marathon will be held on 1 September—details in next issue).

### EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*

The Divisions FTX was the main source of amusement for the month of October and many linies were heard to mutter first out and last in as usual.

The new Squadron OC arrived just one day before the exercise. The Squadron extends their welcome to **Maj David Elson,** his wife **Jo** and daughter **Holly**—welcome aboard. Also welcome to **SSgt Geordie Dobson** and his family. We will not dwell on the exercise, merely say it occurred!—for three weeks!

### ANGLO GERMAN TEAM CHASE 12 NOVEMBER

While the rest of the Regiment was stood down, 3 Squadron were involved in their favourite task—building horse jumps on the German Racecourse—again!

The SSM—**WO2 John Drake** was heard muttering vollibly about Pferder Fricadellas, we hear he is asking to be transferred as WO IC Stables!

The day was much enjoyed by all who participated, but we won't ask **Lt Suzy Reed** about Fence No 11, the Water Jump, where Bridget (OC N Troop's Horse) decided that her owner needed a good wash!

**LCpl Keith Graham** and **LCpl David King** (now **Cpl**), and their repair gangs, enjoyed their job of fence repair and both are now experts with chain saws; we hope they haven't seen the film!

### FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

The officers and seniors of the Squadron had a bowling night at the Hexenkuche to say goodbye to **Lt David Sullivan** who joins 207 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Mark Reynolds, RCT SSgt Jim O'Shaughnessy** and the fast running Yeoman who is off to Oman, **SSgt Steve Atkinson.**

**PRE ARU INSPECTION**

Two weeks of hard work in the Squadron culminated on 29 November, when the CO and his team inspected the Squadron. **Maj David Elson** was called to assist **2Lt Scott Workman** starting a Land Rover without the starter motor!—**Scott** was heard to announce that his arms weren't long enough—what more remedial PT required! **Cpl Dusty Miller** also had a hard time explaining to the CO why he had a mattress in his troop stores!—Well we don't need to answer, except that his troop OC is female!

Perhaps the CO's room inspection was the most entertaining. Troop OC's were closely questioned on their soldiers' hometowns, they all stated they came from towns which they had never been near. Does Gloucester have a cathedral? **Sig Tony Day** came to the aide of his OC on that one. We must teach **Sgt Frank Walker** the name of this troops budgerigars, there was some improvisation—Pinky and Perky for heavens sake!

**201 (22 ARMD BDE) SIGNAL SQUADRON REPORT**

Overall this has been a quiet period in the Squadron with only 24 days exercise, two parades in No 2 dress, one inspection, a two day Regimental Shooting Competition and a 432 driving course to interrupt the peace.

**REGIMENTAL SKILL AT ARMS COMPETITION**

It is fitting that the Squadron which organised and ran the Regimental Skill at Arms came out the clear winners for the third year running. The noteworthy individual results were **LCpl Clive Adams** who won the SLR with **LCpl John Levins** as runner up, **Sig Gaz Cowie** taking best SMG 'B' shot, **Cpl Mick Wray** and **LCpl Jock Lambe** winning the LMG team prize, **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Whelan** and **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden** winning joint first in the Pistol (albeit coming second after a shoot-off with 1 Squadron). Not only are the 'winners' to be congratulated but our strength in depth guaranteed the return of the trophy to Hohne again this year.

Back Row: Cfn Benine, Cpl Foster, SSgt Buck, Cpl Thornton, WO2 Whelan, Cpl Reynolds, LCpl Levins, Pte Avaient, Sgt Matthews
Front Row: Sgt Russellwhite, Cpl Berriman, Cpl Wray, LCpl Lambe, Sig Lane, LCpl Adams, Sig Cowie, Sig Cork

**SQUADRON PARADE**

On 12 October the Squadron held a parade for **Brig D. M. Naylor MBE,** our Brigade Commander. During the course of the parade he presented the RFC Section with their new berets and awarded the LS&GC to **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden.** The citation prepared for the Yeoman was severely abbreviated in order that people could get home, but the stories of his career with the Royal Navy, Oman and other stations East were of interest at the wetting ceremony in the Sergeants' Mess later!

Brig Naylor talks to Cpl Chivers with Cpl Dukes (REME), Cfn Barcroft (REME), Sig Paul Render, LCpl Murray and Cpl Ian Rushmer in line. OC (Maj Amberton) and SSM in support (WO2 Whelan)

**EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE***

Conducting field trials on the 'new' voice procedure provided our main challenge during 'ET' (as it quickly became known) over and above the normal problems that beset Brigade Signal Squadrons on an FTX. For those who may not be aware, the trials were extremely successful and, with some minor modifications, gained full support from all users. In addition to the two separate FTX's that made up ET, we were also involved in an 'incursion' exercise—both as controllers and participants. The control aspect was a headache, primarily as everyone seemed to think we were the Admin Area for the entire Brigade! **Cpl Alan Mott's** frequent trips to replenish our POD from the actual BAA location five hours away seems to bear this out.

Participating on the Exercise (Ex *Canny Stag*) **Lt Jonathan Perks, Sgt George Mussell-White** (RPC) and eight other members of the Squadron marched tactically, some 45km plus, and ended with an assault boat crossing of the River Weser—all this carrying full kit and weapons, moving only at night and avoiding villages! We were sorry to tell them that, by report, nearly all other participants either hitched lifts, hijacked trucks or carried no equipment to reduce their own fatigue. Our section completed the course successfully but, possibly due to using outdated water purification tablets, lost five men after the Ex (ie during the FTX) thereby keeping first the RAMC then the reinforcement systems occupied!

All should heed our experience just before ENDEX, incidentially, when the umpires assured us that the 'enemy' South of a certain road were declared out of action. No-one appears to have told the company of Infantry that hijacked our recce (that had been through the same position the previous night without arrest!) and step up group—never trust an umpire!

**RUNNING SPORTS**

Our Squadron Cross Country and Orienteering teams have had a particularly busy and successful time so far: eight members of the Squadron in the Berlin Marathon (**Sig Steve Towers** completing it in 3hrs 32mins at his first attempt) and three members competed in the Verden Marathon (**Lt Jonathan Perks** completing it in 2hrs 56mins). Plans are afoot (!) to compete in Paris next year. Maybe some more of our 39 entrants in the 'Hohne 10' will go on to greater things also.



The Cross Country team have already won the Divisional Minor Units Championship in addition to beating many Major Units in the Brigade league. **Sig Pete Swailes** deserves special mention for his consistently good results and **SSgt Mick O'Hare** (SQMS) for his improvement during the season.

The 'cunning running' fraternity have also won fame by coming runners-up in the BAOR Relay and winning the Royal Signals Minor Units Orienteering Championships (incidentally coming third overall against Major Units). **Lt Justin Johnson, Sgt Dave Vince** and **Sig Pete Holmes** join some members of the Cross Country team for this sport.

**OTHER SPORTS**

We cannot claim any major successes in Rugby, Soccer or Hockey, albeit training is going on as the season gets under way. Our rugby team under the auspices of **Cpl Dave Foster REME** deserves special mention as, despite losing nearly every game by double figures, continue to win the 'third half' and are always smiling in spite of losses. Any minor unit wishing a friendly game are invited to ring him on Hohne 314—bring your own flashcards!

**207 (7 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

From 'Move em Out' on Sunday 16 October to being first in the queue for the washing machine on Thursday 3 November Ex *Eternal Triangle* proved to be a fast and furious culmination of training within its four distinct phases.

However who wants to know too much of such details, it's far better to snigger at the Cookhouse wagon getting stuck in the mire—again, or **SSgt 'Compo' McKnight** impaling the Recce Rover on a tree stump. One of the better giggles was the SSM **WO2 Ivor Noble** and his scenic route cards dished out to the cry of 'Oh God I hate maps' or 'where do I stick this one?! On the latter remark there were several suggestions. All in all we completed 25 moves, the majority of which were at night, thanks of course, to the superb recce team of **Capt Nick,** (a mention at last) **Thompson, SSgt 'Compo' McKnight** and **Sig** (here's hoping) **Andy** NLS **Cummings.**

Further tales include the SSM and **SSgt Gary Middleton** being 'captured' in a barn for six hours; the SQMS **SSgt** (Oberleutnant) (I'm definitely at this grid) **Feasey** being lost again, but only once, and last but not least **Sig** (I'm cool) **Andy Cummings** getting a speeding ticket wind up which lasted at least two weeks.

Finally on ET who could fail to mention **Sgt Geordie Millsip RPC** being caught shaving—only once—between trading posts—and then we were attacked and had to move, wait for it—again.

**EVERYTHING ELSE**

Life within the Squadron began to carry on as normal, with the conclusion of Ex *Eternal Triangle* and then came the build up to the RCDS one week Tea Party,—OOps!—Display. All this has been pretty hectic to say the least—**Malcolm.** In recent months the Squadron has said farewell to **Sgt John Camplin, Cpl Ray Sellers RPC, LCpl Jill Wilson WRAC, LCpl Bob Patterson, Sig Mac McCarney, Geordie** (Why Me!) **Hooper** (who is staying within 1 Armd Div, 40 kms up the road—!).

Also **Lt Jim Clark** who leaves Al Troop to go to a cushy (Horsey type unit) we couldn't spell 'Cavalry'. To replace him we have **Lt David Sullivan** who found the escape tunnel from Verden!!

Due to leave shortly **LCpl Dusty Millar** and **Dvr Mark Ellison** (I'm a civvy in uniform) and also **SSgt Gary Middleton** who leaves on discharge. He will be taking up the post of Chief Inspector of Cider pumping equipment and associated products.

**212 (12 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

The Autumn exercise season has been and gone and we have survived many weeks of frantic activity since the summer.

**EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE***

The major FTX passed off at a fairly hectic pace, interspersed with periods of furious activity. A big change for the Squadron before ET was the fact that the OC, **Maj Richard Skaife,** injured his back and was unable to take part. Six weeks in plaster can't be fun, although he took it well, referring to himself as the hardened/reduced OC.

In his place for the Exercise we had **Maj Hugh Elford** from 14 Sig Regt whose approach helped to calm many heated situations. He didn't seem to find us too strange. We are grateful for him for his assistance and good humour.

The build up to the main FTX was our own Brigade warm-up during which the Commander put us through our paces in a very testing exercise. All went well and the Squadron coped with all the surprises, including being attacked by 21 PZ Grenadier Brigade of the Bundeswehr.

This was also true of ET itself which saw some extraordinary sights. The intrepid men of the Brigade, having survived, in many cases, an escape and evasion phase of more than 50 miles, set to the task with spirit. It was a fast moving Exercise in which again we were hard-pressed in providing Comms over large areas and under considerable pressure. It was an Exercise to remember, not least for the sight of the Commander taking part of his HQ forward dismounted for the final heliborne assault. Accompanied by **Cpl Gilchrist RM, Brig Davies** set off leading an intrepid HQ element including the OC **Maj Hugh Elford** and **WO2 (YofS) Williamson.** Elements of the SU HQ including **Sig Charlie Challinor** and **'Fang' Hutchings** were heard muttering about what they would do to the Orange Forces, prior to loading the helicopters.

Hard-pressed though we were, some still found time to rest. The 'Golden Blanket' was hotly contended with a couple of late runners coming in towards the end. Special mention should be made of **Cpl Ogburn** who surfaced periodically and **Cpl 'Tinker' Bell** who put in a determined effort, as did **Cpl Ken Turley**—who said Techs are over worked? **2IC Capt Bob Weston** found that although Recce was not the 'Swan' he expected, he could still simulate rigormortis adequately when he managed to find time. He claims it was recovery from acting OC for two months.

Having returned from ET we set to repair and cleaning with a vengeance. Preparations were made for our Pre and Pre-ARU with the Squadron working long, late and hard. Still, all was well in both inspections. Our vehicles and equipment are all spotless and in good condition, thanks to the huge efforts of all members of the Squadron. We can now begin to relax a bit and play some sport.

**TAC HQ**

Commander 12 Armoured Brigade with his Tactical Headquarters crew from 212 Signal Squadron with left to right: Sig Webb (Landrover driver/operator), Cpl Gilchrist RM (Bodyguard), Cpl Johnston (Hard Tac Commander), Sig Wilkes (Hard Tac 432 Driver/Operator), Pte Gaylor RPC (Caravan Driver)

**VISIT**

On 22 November we were visited by Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild.** It was a brief visit, but useful points were exchanged—notably from **Cpl Eric Young** whose comments produced a rapid response from Comms Branch, much to his surprise! Even generals have communications difficulties though as this exchange between the General and our resident 'mid-accented' Scot (**Sig Govan**):

CSO: 'Where do you come from **Govan**?'
**Sig Govan:** (In broad accent) 'Scotland Surrr!'
CSO: 'Yes I know that, but whereabouts do you live?'
**Sig Govan:** 'Block 9 room 12 Surrr!'

**BORDER PATROL**

A party from the Squadron recently mounted a two day Border Patrol, led by **Lt Dave Crawford** with **WO2 (FofS) Alf Davie** as official coffee drinker/photographer. **Sig Carl 'Dagger' Innes,** got the glimpse of our Eastern neighbours he had been hoping for. Patrol members including the OC and **Cpl Andy Arbuckle** surprised many with their identification skills. All in all, it was a successful patrol which brought home to the younger men the realities of it all, despite the first cold weather and snow of the winter. Well done to the drivers; **LCpl Kev Meadows, Dvr Carl Prescott** and **Sig Warren.** We are now looking forward to the next one.

Border Patrol—East German Border Guards

**DEPARTURES**

Needless to say, we see old faces leaving us. **LCpl Dave Wilson** moves to the UK after a short stay with us. **LCpl Glen Howie** goes to the hectic life of Radio EX Tp, School of Signals, leaving behind a phrase for the dictionary—to 'have a Howie on'—which is similar to having a monastic gentlement on board. The inimitable **Sig 'Ike' Barlow** goes off to terrorise 7 Sig Regt. **Cpl 'Mac' McGregor** heads off to the rushed existence of 28 (BR) Sig Regt. To all of them and their families we wish every good fortune for the future.

**ARRIVALS**

To fill some of the places, we welcome **Cpl Rigden** to the LAD, **Sig Blanchard, Bushby** and **Hopkins** to Alpha Troop and **Sig Sheldrick** to Bravo Troop. Hope you enjoy your stay.

**PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations to the following on their recent deserved promotions: **Cpl Ralston, LCpls Hughes** and **Ballett.**



## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

**VISITS**

The new Corps Comd, **Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale,** honoured the Regiment with an hour's walkabout on the morning of Tuesday 11 October, while he visited the Division in North Yorkshire. The visit was of special interest to him as he had said goodbye to us all as Divisional Commander in the gym at Birdwood Barracks, Bunde less than 10 months ago. During the walk around he had the opportunity to meet old faces and see our new surroundings. In addition an example of a TA Infantry Brigade Headquarters Complex was demonstrated by **Lt Chris Richards** and the Signal Troop.

Corps Comd, GOC, SSgt Bob McClafferty, CO, WO1 (ASM) Les Soper in the new LAD workshop

GOC, Corps Comd, Capt Den Ashworth (OC HQ Sqn), WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings smiling, and SSgt Cowley outside the MT Troop servicing bay

On the 29 November **Brig J. Burrows,** Commander 12 Signal Brigade (V), made a lengthy visit during which time he managed to call upon all the departments of the Regiment. Before lunching in the mess with all the officers, he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Cpl Kenneth Richards** and **Cpl Bob McClurg.** Although we have no Corporals Club at present the NAAFI provided a suitable area to celebrate the awards and all the Squadron Commanders accepted the lack of JNCOs for the afternoon's work.



**BATTLE CAMP**

Ever since the arrival of the Regiment in the UK from BAOR life has been conducted at a mad gallop with little time devoted to the more military aspects of soldiering. With the conclusion of the autumn FTX (in support of 24 Inf Bde) we eased into a leisurely trot and in view of this the CO, **Lt Col Mike Taylor** announced (to the accompaniment of thunderous applause and howls of rapturous appreciation from all ranks) that the Regiment should take the opportunity during the lull to launch into that quaint and curiously athletic activity known as 'Battle Camp'.

**WO1 (YofS) Ron Chisholm** returned from a period of intense reconnaissance and declared he had discovered just the venue. This was a picturesque patch of the Yorkshire Moors, where every direction was up and every hollow a puddle, and where the elements travelled from left to right with distressing monotony and velocity. From that moment the pressure was on to ensure no one escaped and **SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe** turned his sadistic tendencies towards contriving a week of fruitful military activity designed to reduce men to mice by means of a programme of physical devastation.

Despite concentrated efforts from the Regiment's small but hardcore professional malingerers and yarn spinners (it must be stated that some useful material was spun) the Regiment deployed at full strength, determined to survive and even overcome the heinous tasks 'dreamed up' from the training organisations fanciful but retarded imagination. At the appointed hour we were transported by luxury coaches (no smoking, no spitting and no NAAFI pies) to Wathgill Camp via a scenic route, to what was obviously the bus company's dispersal point somewhere near Richmond, here the drivers paused to collect their thoughts and fearful of each other's sense of direction proceeded in three separate routes (it's true).

Having installed ourselves in the spartan but adequate confines of the camp everyone concentrated their attentions to the more important aspects of a soldier's life—the toilet, bed and somewhere to hide. Alas the training organisation had other ideas and from the onset every soldier was subjected to intense physical activities and a relentless barrage of the then unfamiliar military activities, which were obviously designed to develop a limp, to distend one eyeball and eat NAAFI pies in a chemical and biological environment.

**LASHED BY RAIN**

At 0600 on day one everyone was dragged from his fitful slumber to race around the North of England's answer to Siberia in the scantiest of clothing while lashed by Catterick rain. After a hastily consumed breakfast the Regiment set forth to convert thousands of rounds of perfectly good ammunition to a heap of brass. Regrettably, due to the ferocity of the weather, that is precisely what happened. It was after some twenty details on four separate ranges that targets were found to be completely devastated due solely to storm damage rather than good marksmanship.

The next day however heralded a new era in the form of crisp clear weather which thankfully continued for the remainder of the battle camp period and enabled some realistic shooting to be completed. Indeed by the end of the camp period some 90% of the Regiment passed their weapons tests and in addition completed their mandatory individual tests for the year, all this, of course, was not achieved without one or two notable events:

**THE NIGHT PATROL**

This was conducted within the usual scenario of goodies going about their lawful business—upholding the law and butchering anyone suspected of being on the other side. Meanwhile the baddies under command of **Lt Adam Hearn,** went on foot on a devious mission to achieve an objective dead in the middle of goodieland. The fact that no one quite understood why did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of both sides.

During the preparatory phase, both sides blackened up, secured equipment and laid solemn plans to be carried out in the event of success and in the event of catastrophies of various magnitude. At the appointed hour both sides went their separate ways. It was in the ensuing mayhem of the goodies ambush that **SSgt Jim Ryan** lavished megatons of CS gas in the general area of the baddies but had regrettably forgotton to fit his respirator canister, needless to say a verdict of justifiable suicide was passed by high command.

**THE MARCH AND SHOOT**

This competition was carried out in the time honoured fashion with teams competing over a five and a half mile course in full equipment and points/penalties awarded for turnout, speed over the course and marksmanship in an NBC environment. It must be stated that surprisingly good results were achieved despite the lack of previous training or team selection. As the day wore on, the fierce competitive and team spirit inched results towards unbelievable standards. It was generally agreed that the most critical factor to separate the best from the not so best was the final section of the march/run, where exhausted teams were confronted by a half mile uphill dash to the finish line. This was a vicious stretch which included uphill gradients of one in three and many a stout heart broke in sight of the finish. But team effort was the secret of success and it was warming to witness young soldiers dashing over the line with two, and in the case of **Sig Veall** carrying three sets of webbing while a rear guard carried the unfortunate and totally exhausted owners.

One particular young soldier **(LCpl Neil Blake)** however chose this moment to succumb to a pressing problem he had successfully ignored for the previous five miles and side-stepped at the double into the smallest room in Wathgill. This was much to the distress of his infuriated and totally unsympathetic team members who stood on the finish line and howled abuse as he sat there in splendid isolation (and full webbing). Meanwhile the clock ticked on. Some say it was due to the Master Chef's enthusiasm for mixing herbs in the cereals, others say it was the sight of the hill. But **LCpl Blake** has not expressed an opinion as he hasn't been seen since.

**EXERCISE *GRYPHONS GOLD***

November proved to be a busy month for the Regiment, and it all started with Ex *Gryphons Gold*, a 24 Bde FTX held on Stanford Training Area. Most of the Regiment were involved—as players, as umpires or in providing Higher Control communications and administrative support. The distinction between the three types of participant is as follows: if you had to dig in you were a player, if you had to wear your NBC kit now and again you were an umpire, and if you worked normal shifts, slept in a bed in a hut with heating and got thoroughly bored you were in the latter category. (If you just slept in a bed and got thoroughly bored, you are probably **SSgt Les Gregory**, HQ Squadron's SQMS).

At the sharp end, the boys of 210 Sig Sqn were the players, although it probably seemed more like hard work to them, whilst the umpire detachments came from 2 Squadron where Radio Troop numbers were swelled by operators from 15 and 49 Bde Signal Troops. The premature departure from the exercise of 1 R Anglian who had to go to Greenham Common left a bit of a hole as they were providing both enemy and umpires. However, despite most of B Tp being volunteered to act as enemy the exercise continued, albeit at a slower pace. The pace never flagged for the administrative staff, however, **WO2 (SQMS) Dave Ashburner ACC**, our Specialist Catering Warrant Officer, was never sure when the next lorry-load of bread was going to appear, as the whole bread allocation for the exercise was delivered to him every day. Mind you since he appeared to be feeding 5,000 a day, he only needed the two fishes as well to solve his catering problems. After what seemed like a month, we finally packed up and went home, (by a scenic route), but there are still a couple of unanswered questions from the exercise. Firstly, why did it take **Sig Danny O'Neill** six hours longer than anybody else to complete the daily courier run from York to Stanford! (Clue: his passenger was **Pte Jane Matthews WRAC**). And, secondly, where did **LCpl Wif Brogan** manage to hide every time the Chief of Staff was looking for him?

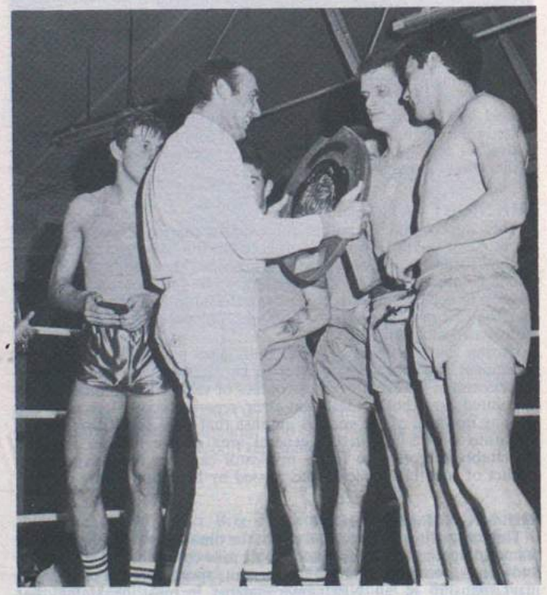
**INTER SQUADRON BOXING**

The Inter Squadron Boxing Finals took place in the Gymnasium, Imphal Barracks on Wednesday 26 October 1983, and what a final it turned out to be. It is many a year since York Station saw any Regimental boxing so the requests from outside units to come and spectate was overwhelming but we did however do our best to accommodate as many as possible.

It is difficult to single out a bout for special mention but if I must, then my praise must go to **Sig Mick Hart** of 210 Sig Sqn who, despite having blows reigned upon him by **Sig Brummie Wilson,** 1 Sqn, kept going into the attack and displaying amazing guts having been hopelessly outclassed. For his sheer guts and determination he was awarded the best runner up of the night. The overall competition was a draw between 1 Sqn and 210 Sig Sqn with 1 Sqn winning the Shield by the result of the heavyweight contest.

The evening's entertainment was well organised by **WO2 Bill Draper APTC** with the Boxing Officer **WO1 RSM Bernie Neillings** following close behind. The evening finished in the traditional manner with the Officers at the Regiment being hosted by the RSM and his mess to drinks and supper.

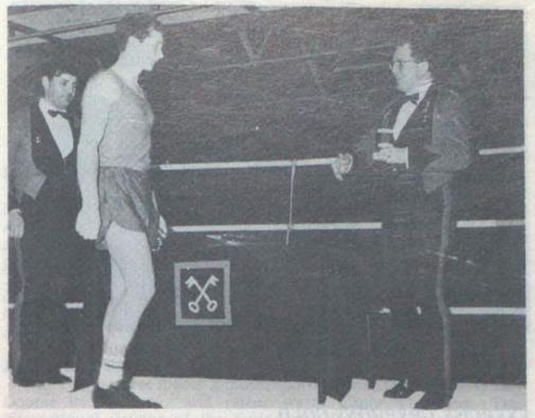
The camera never lies! LCpl 'Para' Williams looks as if he has decided to take on the Referee Sgt 'Chip' Stanley as well as LCpl Jock Campbell



SSgt 'Taff' Taylor with his winning Squadron team congratulating his heavyweight Sig 'Jonah' Jones, who looks as if he wins a heavyweight bout every week







The CO Col Mike Taylor about to present Sig Jock Tierney with his best boxer trophy whilst the RSM recovers after MC duties

**RUGBY**

The Regiment's Rugby team started the season off by taking part in the NE/NW/Scottish District sevens tournament. Having lost to an annoying single penalty in the first round, the inexperienced but determined team progressed to the semi-final of the plate where we were defeated by AAC Harrogate. Our problem was an inability to ground the ball once it was over the try-line but **LCpl Taff Williams** and **Sig Dick Pollard** came close.

We then started the Army Cup competition against 38 Engineer Regiment, a team who now boast several Army trialists but were then slightly weakened. Our 21—4 win was a good start to the competition with trys from **Cpl Jump, SSgt Dave Appleyard** and **Cpl Ron Pocock, Cpl Mick Hellewell** kicked his usual quota. In the second round the team pulled together much better and the 9—6 victory over the Queen's Own Hussars did not reflect our superior play.

We then looked forward with anticipation to the third round and the chance to meet high quality opposition and get ourselves on the Army Rugby map. This opposition was provided by 8 Sig Regt who in a demonstration of inspired and well drilled play brought us down to earth and out of the competition.

We now look forward to the NE District Championship starting soon which might provide another crack at 8 Sig Regt.

## 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
## Catterick

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Ashley Truluck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Nick Blampied** |
| **OC Sp** | **Capt Henry Jennings** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **2Lt James Bertram** |
| **OC Papa Tp** | **SSgt Tony Pollard** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Hedge** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Trevor Taylor** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Chris Wilkie** |

**FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS**

The Squadron has seen a few changes of personalities now that it is well and truly settled in Catterick. We have said goodbye to **Capt Jo Fletcher** and his wife **Jenni** who have gone to HQ QG Signals in sunny Hong Kong, and in return **Capt Nick Blampied** has arrived hot foot from Trials Squadron in Blandford. He is often heard to say 'Is it always like this in 210 Squadron?!'

We have also lost **SSgt Mick Ward RAPC** who has left the service. In replacement we have **Sgt Mick Leather** and his wife **Debra. Mick** was a Cpl Lineman/Tele Mech and, on transferring into the RAPC was promised that he would never have a posting with Royal Signals!

**SSgt Pete Reeson ACC** and his wife **Donna** have left us for the School of Mil Survey, and in his place we have **Sgt John Wykes.** We also welcome **Cpl Mal Lewis ACC** who did one Bde FTX and promptly disappeared on an upgrading course!

We welcome back **Sig 'Shorty' Green** after a long period of illness away from the Squadron, and wish him the best of luck. We have also seen **LCpl George Laverick** on his way to 633 Sig Tp with our best wishes.

**VISIT OF COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP**

**Col Marples** Comd 1 Sig Gp visited us on 6 October 1983 and had to chase over the Dales to find the Squadron preparing for Ex *Eagles Escape*, getting used to the equipment and brushing up map reading and hill walking skills. He found us at Tan Hill—well, there is a pub there (the Lunch RV).

Back to Catterick to see Support Troop, where **Capt Henry Jennings** proudly showed his troop at work.

The OC **Maj Ashley Truluck** and his wife hosted tea for the Comd and the new **SSM George Hedge** and **Susanne, YofS Trevor Taylor** and **Jill** and nearly new **FofS Chris Wilkie** and **Anne.**

The male element politely excused themselves to proceed to the JRC where the remainder of the Squadron were formed up. **Col Marples** presented **Cpl Billy McCue** with his richly deserved LS and GS medal. This was followed by a Happy Hour (again!). Hope the Commander did not get the wrong impression of the Squadron.

**Maj Truluck** hosted a dinner in the evening with the CO **Lt Col Taylor** joining the Squadron Officers.

**EXERCISE *EAGLES ESCAPE***
**Report by WO2 (SSM) George Hedge**

In early October **Capt Jo Fletcher** planned an arduous adventure training exercise in the Lake District as a welcome change to the seemingly endless CPX and FTX. While military exercises went well for the 2IC, adventure training always seemed a fraught time with the elements or other outside factors determined to foil the usual efficiency; *Eagles Escape* was not spared.

Having established a base camp, prepared routes and checked equipment for the following day the bulk of the Squadron went hill walking leaving **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller** and his guard to look after base. The first sign that things were not all well was the guard tent taking off in the rising wind, followed by storm lashings on other tents straining vainly to hold down our temporary homes. The guard had a hectic time saving the camp.

The following morning the patrols set off on preplanned routes with the rain soon soaking through or into the 'wetproofs'. As the patrols climbed out of the valley so the cloud base lowered, the winds strengthened and the rains increased. Most planned routes now became impossible and patrols had to change plans to leave the hills

*Left to Right:* Cpl Ian Thomson (RCT), Sig 'Mac' McNeilly, 'Hoppy' Hopkins, Sgt Micky Rees, Cpl Kev Harrod, Sig 'Tich' Udall, Cpl Pete Lee, Sig 'Stench' Turner. Entrepid Mountaineers — Everest next stop! 'Escaped Eagles'

for safety. Swift action by DS **Sgts Alf Ramsey** and **Giles Whiteford** saved the day as survival became top priority. The fact that the worst storms experienced in that area at that time of year coincided with the Squadron's visit was fate (or **Fletcher's** Luck). The fact that the wet weary wanderers were greeted at base camp with the sight of a lake instead of green grass gave no comfort. **SSgt 'Bomber' Brown,** our SQMS, and his Admin Staff had fought to save the entire camp being washed away in a flash flood. Our cooks **Cpl Mal Lewis** and **Pte Kev Crowe** managed to produce a hot meal under extremely trying conditions to fortify the inner man but with no dry refuge or clothing available we packed up and left for the calm of Catterick. All was not lost though and some rapid replanning and sorting out of tangled equipment allowed most of the Squadron to revisit the Lake District using the Services Ambleside Hut. **2Lt James Bertram** and **LCpl 'Dicko' Dickinson** led the canoeing which included fast flowing rivers and novice white water. **Lt Simon** (on loan from 21 Ord Coy) and **Sgt Micky Rees** found some rocks to climb and some breathtaking drops to abseil. The confidence gained was obvious to the onlooker. **Cpl Meggett** was released by the Regiment at short notice when **Mr Simon** had to return at mid week. Many thanks to the Regiment and **Cpl Meggett.**

Maybe **Capt Jo Fletcher** can not yet control the elements but he does win through in the end. He will be missed by all here (hope he takes the weather with him to Hong Kong.

**SQUADRON BOXING**
**Report by Sgt Giles Whiteford**

The CCX Boxing Squad left the Eyrie (the Eagles nest for the uninitiated) and landed at Imphal Barracks on 24 October in preparation for the Inter Squadron Boxing held on 25/26.

After a day of taking in the sights of the old, (and not so old) city of York, the squad keenly led by **Sgt Geoff Williams** reported for the early morning weigh-in and medicals.

Having satisfied the doctor we were all fit, we were not so successful at the weigh-in as our heavy weight **LCpl 'Bonzo' Bonner** proved just a little too heavy and the magic words 'super heavy' were introduced, (a note to the person that introduced super heavy into Army Boxing, 'Bonzo' would like to meet you), undeterred we introduced our second string heavy, **LCpl John Douglas.** The draw made and we found that **Sig Mick Hart** (feather) and **LCpl John Douglas** (heavy) has drawn byes to the final.

Our first bout in the prelims saw **Sig 'Iron Brau'** 'I'm just off for a run' **Tierney** win a hard fought fight with **Sig Brown** of 1 Squadron.

**Sig Steve Ellis,** although a winner in the prelims at Light Welter, was unable to Box in the finals due to an injury.

Our next two boxers proved to be successful in their bouts, **LCpl 'Spike' Forbes** (welter) and **LCpl Mick Nicol** (LAD, Eagle Fitter).

**Sig Andy Slack** (middle) and **Sig 'Bill' Bailey** were narrowly defeated in good, hard fought contests.

The night of the final found the squad keyed up and ready to take on anybody, mainly due to the work done in the dressing room by **Sgt 'Bad Lad' Whiteford.**

The final result was not decided until the last bout of the evening, and the atmosphere was electric as **LCpl John Douglas** entered the ring against **Sig Jones** of 1 Squadron, the two corner men, **Sgt Geoff Williams** and **Sgt Ray Walker** had done their bit and it was left to the boxers to get a result, the heavy weight of 1 Squadron proved to be just too strong for our gallant second string heavy with the result finally going to 1 Squadron.

**Sig Mick Hart** (feather) was awarded the Best Loser trophy with **Sig 'Iron Brau' Tierney** being awarded the Best Boxer.

To the boxers of 1 Squadron we say 'Well done', to the trainer of 1 Squadron we say 'Are you absolutely certain that you know where the Boxing Shield is every minute of the day?'.

Sgt 'Keep it light' Williams instructing Sig 'Iron Brau' Tierney on how to hold a towel

**EXERCISE *GRYPHONS GOLD***

The Squadron has recently taken part in 24 Inf Bde's first FTX back in UK. We found a big difference between Thetford Training Area and BAOR. At the OC's briefing everyone was told that our stay en route at Proteus Camp represented crossing the Channel, although we found it difficult to buy any Duty Frees there!!

The exercise went very smoothly, although the 2IC reckons it was an extremely unfair way of 'breaking him in' after the School of Signals. One of the more memorable moments was when we ran out of 'enemy', who were suddenly committed to Greenham Common. The Squadron was invited to sent a fighting patrol to nearby 15 Fd Wksps. The patrol was highly successful but it left behind **Cpl Ram Kumar Rai** who was one of four Gurkha soldiers on loan to us from 8 Sig Regt whilst on a course. He fought a one man action for several hours popping-up every time the Wksps stood-down! Reports came back to Bde HQ that they were under attack from a force of 30-40 men!

**EXERCISE *DEVILS LEAP***

A week after the FTX the Squadron was committed to assisting Bde HQ run the NE District Patrol Competition. Apart from control comms one of its tasks was to run a night-shoot for all teams over the three days. Teams included both Regular and TA, male WRAC and QARANC personnel. At times this was considered to be nothing more than an efficient method of converting live rounds into empty cases. We had terrible trouble prising **2Lt James Bertram** out of the heated console, and we had equal trouble stopping **SSgt Tony Pollard** asking every female team 'Give me a cuddle dear!'.

Our own Squadron team under the command of **Cpl 'Suggie' Cowan** did exceptionally well to finish third overall in the competition. As first team 'through the mill' they set a very high standard.

**ARU**

The year finished with our ARU done by HQ 24 Inf Bde. After much preparation and issuing of chits in lieu ('It wasn't like this in BAOR') on the day the Squadron JNCO's and soldiers were set a long distance comms race with only 2 Tp **Sgt Alf Ramsey** and **Sgt Ray Walker** allowed to help them. The harder task was to keep the Officers and SNCOs away from them. The competition was declared an honourable draw for Oscar and Papa Troops by the Commander, which saved a lot of blood letting at the happy hour afterwards.

**FUTURE PLANS**

We look forward to a busy 1984 with three trips to BAOR and an exercise in Cyprus. Currently **2Lt James Bertram** is telling everyone that he is doing the recce for Cyprus—what wishful thinking!



## 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
## BFPO 106

**EXERCISE *IRON EAGLE* — VOGELSANG 1983**

The three week period covering October's end to the middle of November saw the Regiment in 'Waugh-like' posture at Vogelsang. All who attended were exposed to the delights of a week of physical activity, a variety of range work and low level exercises designed to practise and develop skills appropriate to the role of the Regiment. The excellent facilities of Vogelsang and some superb weather combined to produce a very good training environment — and made it not only instructive, but also enjoyable for all. During the period a cadre was run for JNCOs.

**JNCOs CADRE**

'More Sweat Less Blood' a motto appropriate to the JNCOs' Cadre Course in a sunny, and rather warm Camp Vogelsang. The international flavour of the setting was further enhanced by the presence in our midst of two American students from 2nd (US) Armoured Division (Hell on Wheels). **Sgts James** and **Jones** had a keen sense of humour and an apparently endless supply of marching songs, which did much to keep afloat the morale of the rest of the course through some of the more difficult times. The course proved to be rewarding for students and instructors alike. Only one person failed to complete the course — and he was the Chief Instructor, **CSgt Bob Livingstone R. Anglian,** who broke his ankle on the final exercise. You can imagine the amount of sympathy he received from his former victims! He is now known as **'Limp-along Livingstone'.** Drill at 0615 hrs and a stretcher race dressed for NBC State 'High' were but two of the activities to stimulate the brain into life. The course was run for LCpls and selected Signalmen and lasted two weeks, the first was taken up mainly with instructional periods and range work, while the second contained a series of short exercises and physical tests, finishing with a two-day exercise. This started with infiltration into the area and movement to a platoon base and continued with ambushes and recce patrols. Then came the dawn advance-to-contact on the village of Wollsiefen on the Vogelsang Training Area, which was stoutly defended by an enemy found from 1 Squadron. All-in-all the course proved to be physically and mentally taxing, but also very rewarding.

LCpl 'Woody' Woodhouse keeps a wary eye on the 'enemy' in the shape of LCpl Dhanrahadur Gurung, attached to 2 Squadron for a few weeks before returning to his Regiment

Sig 'Titus' Reene of 206 (6 Airmob Bde) Signal Sqn leads the way over the assault course

CSgt Bob Livingstone clambers aboard (prior to his adoption of the title 'Limp-along Livingstone')

The JNCO's Cadre

**VISITS BY COMMANDERS COMMUNICATIONS**

The Regiment has had two visits recently by Commander Communications 1 (BR) Corps. On 1 November **Brig C. N. Last OBE** paid a visit as part of his farewell tour. During his walk through the Prison annex **Brig Last** met **LCpl 'Baino' Baines**, who was rash enough to admit to being 'fit', 'Right' said the CO, 'let's see 10 press-ups then!' The required 10 press-ups having been duly produced, the CO and **Brig Last** were honour-bound to prove that they too were 'fit' and so duly dropped to the floor and raced to see who could be the first to 10. Sadly the photographer had, by this time, moved on ahead and so we have no record to offer to posterity. 2 Squadron provided the 'display of the day'. They showed **Brig Last** round some of the staff vehicles and gave a demonstration of track-pad changing on the AFV432. On the vehicle park **Brig Last** met the SNCOs of 2 Squadron and was told that **Sgt Dave Quinton** was soon to attend a leadership course. Quickly he grabbed the COs SD hat and tossed it to **Sgt Quinton** 'to try on for size', in preparation for greater things to come.

On 9 December the incoming Comd Comms, **Brig R. F. L. Cook** came to Soest on his initial tour. This time 3 Squadron were on display duty, proving how fair the system is, after all. Despite a steady downpour throughout the morning **Brig Cook** appeared to enjoy himself. Hopefully next time we will be able to arrange some better weather for him.

Cpl George Greig gives the floor a final polish before Comd Comms arrives. Cpl Dave Ruane and Sig Steve Lloyd take it all in their stride. 'Just like being on exercise'

Track-pad changing. Maj Christopher Donaghy with Brig Last trying to remember what comes next. Sig Martin Hoyt, 'D-P' Davidson-Page and Paul Kirk know, but they are not going to tell

The SNCOs of 2 Squadron. SSgt Norrie Clanachan, SSgt (SQMS) Bill Allen, SSgt 'Stu' Bromidge, SSgt (YofS) 'Mick' Horan, Sgt 'Dave' Quinton (and the CO's hat)

Brig Cook braves the weather to meet Cpl Roy Shackleton, Sgt Dave Howe and SSgt Andy Hunt

Cpl Kev Newbon proudly shows off his detachment to Comd Comms, Maj Stephen Paul looks on with confidence

On exercise (wearing his face veil). The CO, Lt Col Tim Waugh, adjusts his dress. 'NBC Itch' is the curse of the modern soldier

**BOXING**

The Regimental Boxing Team continues to do well. In Round One of the Divisional Norvices Boxing Championship, they were at home to 16 Air Defence Regiment. It was a close contest in which the final bout decided the result. For many of the team it was their first contest at this level and they all deserved congratulations for the good show they put up. Particular mention must to to **Cpl 'Chris' Christou, LCpl Mick Shirley** and **Sig 'Jock' Donnelly** and **'Stevie' Granger** who all won their bouts.

Round Two was an 'away' match and on 7 December the team and their loyal supporters travelled to Buller Barracks, Munster to meet 1 LI. **LCpl Mick Shirley** again won his bout, as did **Sig 'Stevie' Granger. Pte 'Webbie' Webster** and **Sig 'Paddy' Feeney** won their bouts too, which left the whole contest to be decided in the final bout. **Pte 'Twinkle-Toes' Gannon** rose to the occasion and beat his man in the second round . . . And so the victorious team returned to further training for the next round in January and SSMs returned to rewrite their duties forecasts yet again.

**206 (6 AIRMOBILE BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

It is not often nowadays that a new unit or formation is born, but on the 1 November 1983 206 Signal Squadron changed its title to 206 (6 Airmobile Brigade) Signal Squadron. Most people in BAOR have probably heard of the Airmobility trial that is now taking place. Its commencement was marked by a formation weekend held at Sennelager Training Centre on 26 and 27 November. With the new role in mind all units of the Brigade took part in a fitness competition, which included working with Puma helicopters. The Squadron came a creditable fourteenth out of 38 teams, the major opposition coming from the two Infantry Battalions in the Brigade. On the Sunday, a formal formation parade took place, the inspecting Officer being the Corps Commander. There is no truth in the rumour that the Rhino is to sprout wings, on the contrary and in the words of the CinC BAOR, the Rhino stands for mental robustness and woe betide any enemy that gets the Rhino landing on top of it!

**RIGHT DRESS?**

No, this is not an advertisement for an insurance policy! With the arrival of our smart, new R Signals shoulder titles, the subject of dress regulations has crept to the fore again. We were told that, in future, Barrack Dress would include shoulder titles, but then someone started the rumour that 'Barrack Dress' was now deemed, within the scope of this instruction, to include Trousers Mans Lightweight, when worn in barracks. ON went the shoulder titles. 'Wrong!' came the cry from above. OFF came the shoulder titles. Then the vexed topic of face veils was raised. Should face veils be worn as cravats with Winter Combat Dress, or not? 'Face veils will no longer be worn with Winter Combat Dress,' came the edict . . . 'except on exercise or operations.' 'Insert: 'and guard duty', said Amendment 1. 'Delete: 'and guard duty', said Amendment 2. Soldiers have been seen to report for guard duty with their entire issue of clothing in a kit bag, just in case the rules change again! Then came the day of the Regimental Photograph, Winter Combat Dress was ordered. This hardly presented a challenge and not a single face veil was to be seen. However, there then appeared another vexing problem, should the SSMs carry a pace stick when in Winter Combat Dress (but not on exercise or operations or guard duty)?

Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale inspecting 206 Sig Sqn

Lt Richard Quinton leading his platoon during the Brigade fitness competition. SSgt Pete Bradbury is in the centre encouraging(!) the men

# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

## INTRODUCTION

One of the duties of the Deputy Assistant Adjutant (Designate) other than making tea for the Commanding Officer and RHQ is to compile the bi monthly Wire Notes. However trying to get material to compile the notes in the first place is usually the Major(!) problem; and I do mean Major. OC 1, **Maj John Hayes,** is still recovering from the Garrison Art Show held in his Squadron lines. OC2 **Maj Derek Howshall** is still writing his 2 Sqn Denmark Saga and hopefully it will make this issue's deadline! (You've got two hours **Derek**). OC 3, **Maj Duncan Jones** told me he left yesterday for Ex *Snow Queen* and OC HQ Sqdn **Maj Terry Morton** telephoned to say he had had a better offer for his article from Sixth Sense. Despite this I have managed to cobble together some interesting snippets of life (?) from the 4th Regiment.

## FAREWELL TO CO

The wet autumn morning of Friday 25 November 1983 will be remembered as the day we said farewell to **Lt Col Alan Eastburn.** The parade was excellent, despite a certain dampness in the air, a fitting end after so many practices and rehearsals (including one in a snow shower).

The spectators were treated to an impressive drill demonstration from each of the four Herford based Squadrons. One Squadron led off with a fine display of continuation drill. Two and HQ Squadrons, commanded by **Cpl Nigel Sloane** and **Cpl Kenneth Sanders** respectively gave creditable performances. Three Squadron, under **Cpl Grant Pocock,** stole the show however and shocked the audience when, as a finale to their domino drill display, they fired a salvo of blanks into the air!

After the Regiment marched off, the drive past commenced in great form; 432s, landrovers, wreckers and a Sultan CVRT commanded by **2Lt Nick Metcalfe** (how fast did you say you drove it down from Paderborn?). Suddenly the AMTO on a Canam motorcycle broke ranks and halted by the dais and presented his compliments and helmet to the Colonel and informed him that this was his transport from the Regiment.

RSM 'He'll never make it to the gate'. OC 1 Sqn (far right). Maj John Hayes 'It's got nothing to do with me Colonel!'

The look of horror soon passed from the Colonel's face and was replaced by a glint in his eye rather reminiscent of Evel Knievel (or however you spell his name!). After a quick burn up round the parade square, chased by the Adjutant similarly mounted astride a motorcycle, **Col Eastburn** started his ride out of the camp. **Lt 'Chuck' Miller** added his own personal touch by producing a 'cuppa' for the Colonel as he got into his car (pity it was empty though Charlie!). **Col Eastburn** leaves us to take up his new appointment in the Ministry of Defence.

## NEW WORKSHOP FACILITY HAMMERSMITH BARRACKS HERFORD

For many years, the repair of the large quantity of equipment belonging to 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment has been confined to the bottom corner of Hammersmith Barracks. Past and present REME members of the LAD have worked wonders in the cramped, hopelessly outdated and decrepit building at the 'Tennis Club End' of Camp. Now, after many years of planning and eventual building, the Regiment is the proud possessor of a smart new up-to-date LAD building fitted with all the latest available equipment.

After waiting so long and patiently for the 'Red Letter Day' when the new OC LAD would take possession, conversations between the outgoing CO of the Regiment, **Lt Col A. F. Eastburn** and the proud OC LAD, **Capt R. J. Washington** BEM REME, naturally revolved around a ritual opening of the new addition to the Camp. Only a VIP would suffice if the RSM was to be pacified for stealing half of his regimental square to put a building on. He has not been the same since the first brick was laid!

The golden opportunity arose when it was announced that the Director General of REME, **Maj Gen T. B. Palmer,** would be visiting REME in 1(BR) Corps during September. Urgent planning and suitable begging 'phone calls' to Commander Maint 4th Armoured Division, resulted in a commemorative plaque being unveiled on 28 September followed by a half hour walk round when **Gen Palmer** talked at length to members of the LAD including our long serving German employees. Hectic arrangements and hard work removing the odd little oil spots sacriligeously spilt on the new white floor, resulted in a very satisfying visit and a unique opportunity for young soldiers to meet their new Director General personally.

Maj Gen T. B. Palmer reveals the final resting place of the Holy Grail.



## LOOKING BACK

HRT and Defence Budget cuts take their toll Sir!

The Regiment is trying to find out the history behind the above model of this three ton TK box body communications vehicle. We are led to believe that it was made in 1953/54 by someone (possibly a national serviceman?) who worked in the LAD when the Regiment was designated 11 Armd Div Sig Regt or 4 Inf Div Sig Regt. If anyone has any clues or information regarding the model please contact **Lt C. W. S. Miller** 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt BFPO 15: Tel Herford Mil 2349.

Harvest Festival: RSM 'Maj Morton Sir, should our auctioneers (Lt 'Country Bumkin' Sharp and Staff 'Yokel' Davis) be drinking that harvest festival home brew?!'

## INTER UNIT BOXING

The preliminary round of the BAOR Inter Unit Novices boxing brought the Regiment face to face with that well known boxing Regiment, 10 Regiment RCT.

Exercise commitments curtailed training but hard work by **Cpl Paul Davies** ensured that a superbly prepared team represented us on the night. A packed gymnasium witnessed fine bouts and the courage of all our boys was admired. Everyone gave his all and 10 Regiment were visibly shocked by our standard. The final result of 10 Regiment RCT six, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt three, does not do justice to our performance.

It goes without saying we were disappointed not to have progressed further in the competition but feel that once again 10 Regiment RCT will gain the coveted trophy of BAOR Inter Unit winners. Good luck to them. The team was: **WO2 (QMSI) Smith APTC, Cpl Paul Davies (Trainer), Sig Schwalm, LCpl Campbell, Sgt Dunne, LCpl Young, Cfn Bartolini, Sig Gabriel, Sgt Bennett, Sig Quinn and O'Hare.**

## BADMINTON

The Sixth Annual Royal Signals (BAOR) Badminton tournament was held in Herford on 22/23 November and regimental players figured prominently in all the finals.

The Men's Singles and the Men's Singles Plate was dominated by the Regiment with **Sig Max Boyce** winning the main competition from that old stager **Capt Stan Hargreaves** and **Sig Steve Whitehead** beating **WO1 (YofS) David Gilchrist** in the Plate. In the Open Doubles **Boyce** partnered with **Cpl Patterson** of 22 Sig Regt came runners up and **Boyce** once again popped up in the Unit Doubles, this time with **LCpl George Dudley,** but unfortunately could only manage second place!

The Veteran's Doubles saw three members of the Regiment leaping about like gazelles and in the best game of the finals **Capt Stan Hargreaves** and **WO1 Bryan Selkirk** beat **Capt Peter McLoughlin** of 22 Sig Regt and **WO1 (YofS) David Gilchrist.** All in all an excellent competition for this unit with 11 of the 16 prizes staying here in Herford.

## ACC MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

A competition of military skills for ACC soldiers for the 4th Division areas was held at Hobart Barracks Detmold on Thursday 1 December in the presence of **Brig R. K. Hudson** Director Army Catering Corps.

The competition started with a BFT, followed by various tests of team skills including TOETS, NBC, First Aid, Obstacle Course, BFG Matrix and efficient use of field cookery equipment.

A total of 11 teams from Major Field Force units entered the competition, and the teams from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt comprising of **SSgt Chamberlain, Cpl Burbanks, LCpl Taylor** and **LCpl Hepworth** successfully achieved second place in a very competitive and keenly contested competition. Prizes were awarded by the Director Army Catering Corps.

## WIVES DRIVING SCHOOL SUCCESS

It is just over a year since the Wives' Club, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt purchased a new Mini and set up their very own Driving School. During the year the school flourished and a second Mini was bought in April. With the first anniversary due it was decided to go 'up market' and trade in the Minis for two new Ford Fiestas. The school is staffed by three qualified lady instructors and secretary, the cars are on the road from 0900hrs-2100hrs Monday to Friday; 46 pupils are learning to drive with a grand total of 57 already through their tests. The school is open to all soldiers, wives and dependants over 18 and pupils come from all over Herford Garrison.

On Friday 21 October the Wives' Club President, Treasurer, Secretary and Instructors proudly collected the new Fiestas. These cars have been totally financed by the Wives' Club who run three shops in the Bradley Centre, a Hairdressers, Coffee Shop and Craft Shop that employ nine wives—it is due to their effort and the competant Driving instruction that the wives in Herford are now 'taking to the road'.

The wives of the Regiment believe that they are the first to run a Driving School staffed by wives and have found there is such a great demand for lessons that they would be happy to pass on their experience in setting up a school. The contact is **Sue Ledwards** on Herford 2316.

## NEWS FROM THE BRIGADES

### 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn

**EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE***

'We must keep our fingers on the pulse', sayeth the OC. So we did, and deployed two days early which came as quite a shock to **Sig 'Jabber' Jones** who claimed he could not find his. **Cpl Paul Skinner** thought a little stimulation was necessary and the story will go untold except to say that elephants are scared of mice and can find their pulses when needed.

On the second day the Headquarters was set up in record time and the OC said we could all go home for the weekend. However, the Foreman, **SSgt 'Bob Factor 30' Mayson,** decided otherwise and started installing the new staff intercomm. Such was the excitement generated by this piece of technology in action that we all went home anyway. Sunday night soon arrived and Echo 2 Troop deployed first.
'You can't lead a 20 vehicle packet out Sir!' exclaimed SSM **'Noddy' Rylance.**
'I can; watch this' came the confident reply from **Lt Kevin Fisher,** who did.
'But you just can't!!' screamed the SSM
'Who says' replied **Cpl 'Handbag' Jackson,** now solidly behind his Troop OC.

The saga ended, twenty vehicles roared out of camp, and extra duties are now in abundance. By the sound of things, the exercise went well. At least, all the lads seemed to be making combat appreciations with the whole squadron answering every question with 'so what?'

The exercise was extremely successful with the Brigade obliterating 7 Brigade in the first week. Much credit goes to **LCpl Peter Ffitch** and **Sig 'Dickie' May** who operated the Tac HQ over most of Germany for two weeks. Ably commanded by **WO2 (YofS) Steve** 'Get the coffees on' **Watson, Brig P. E. Brooking** MBE was able to speak to all his Battle Groups most of the time. **Cpl Bob Pemberton** did a good job convincing the Brigadier that chicken in brown sauce six days on the trot is good for you.

'Why don't you eat it then?' asked the Brigadier

'It's not good for *me* Sir!' replied **Cpl Pemberton.**

**A SMATTERING**

With so much to happen in three weeks, the following are but a smattering of funnies and the photographs can only support what was a successful communications exercise for the Squadron.

In Echo 1 Troop **SSgt John Wooders** and **2Lt Nick Metcalfe** coped admirably as a new team, though to be honest, they only held Main HQ for five hours in three weeks. However, in that time **SSgt Wooders** learnt that it does not do to sunbathe on a drum of 10-pr cable outside Comms Ops when the Brigadier is walking past!

Three days into the exercise the new RR Op, one **Sig Steve Goodwin** arrived in the field. **LCpl Andy Terry** was told to break him in gently. Within two hours, **Sig Goodwin** had dug his first trench in BAOR and asked for a dummy load, and a tyre pressure gauge for the centre road wheel. After all of this he flatly refused to pump up his tracks!!—To add salt to his wounds, he answered the engineering link with Radio Relay, **'Sig Goodwin Sir!'**—good start.

Meanwhile **Sig Edgar Egan** was busy 'connecting' the coax from his mast to his vehicle—that is, he tied his coax to the 2m whip. The sad thing about it is that it worked!

Meanwhile, on top of a lone hill, the RRB crew **Cpls 'Corlions' Barrington (Barrymore?), Brian Smith** and **Sig Mick Hughes,** were frantically sticking white crosses to their vehicle upon realising that they were surrounded by enemy. Another successful exercise for this crew who managed to leave the Germans alone for a whole three weeks.

Back in HQ, **Sgt Dave Kerr** and **Sig 'Bugs Lugs' Hindly** were busy lancing each others bed sores. It's also true to say that **Sig Stan Tivey** had a mattress surgically removed on the tenth day.

Back in the HQ complex **Sig Peter Dimmack,** overhearing his detachment commander reminiscing about old TV programmes, asked **SSgt Gus Graham** if he knew anything about a secret weapon called a 'Johnny 7', **Sig Dimmack** spent the next half hour in the horizontal position before picking himself up off the ground.

Final accolade goes to **Sig 'Jabber' Jones,** who was found on a hillock, chewing one of the Squadron Commander's cigars firing his LMG and muttering 'eat lead suckers'.

LCpl 'Brummy' Winkles asking the Commcen to 'beam him up'

LCpl 'Doris' Day checks an important message from his girlfriend

**SOCCER**

The season has started very well for the Squadron with four games won and one narrow defeat in the league. **LCpl 'Doris' Day** has not yet failed to score in a match. Such an outstanding achievement has only been matched by **Pte Dave Olive,** our goalkeeper who never fails to put his head on the opposition striker's boot. A close match in the first round of the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup led to our knockout but we seem hot favourites for the 4th Division Challenge Cup. More news and results in the next edition.

**FAREWELLS**

We bade farewell and wish good luck to **LCpl Stuart Edwards** and his wife **Eileen,** who head for the sunnier climes of 30 Sig Regt. **LCpl Edwards** has provided the backbone to the line section and his services will be sorely missed.

The marathon and soccer team will miss the services of **Sig Stan Tivey** who is off to Berlin, but we welcome **Cpl Brian Smith** from the Regiment who has already made a solid contribution to the soccer team.

**LATE NEWS**

A suspect parcel outside the main gate of Hammersmith Barracks invoked swift retaliatory action by the ATO. Moral: Don't leave your parcels lying around otherwise the Wheelbarrow will get them!! Or could it be that our SCO, **Capt Iain Elrick ACC** (far right) is asking **WO2 (SSM) Jordan** (fingers in mouth) if that was his wife's NAAFI shopping?





**EXERCISE *WINKEL QUADRANT***

**Report by Maj David Stubbs**

Mid August saw a gleeful party of divers from 7 Sig Regt flying crab air from RAF Wildenrath to RAF Decimomannu in the sunny island of Sardinia.

Led by **Capt Peter Smith,** as positively his last effort before exile to the Falklands the divers spent three weeks camped by the sea, judiciously tanning themselves and exploring the undersea world in the area of Villasimius. The diving was excellent, particularly off the volcanic islands off the coast. They found a wealth of fish and few octopi and moray eels, squid and even some amphora sharks. The supervisors, **Maj David Stubbs, SSgt (FofS) Allan Halfpenny** and **Cpl Allan Owen** all led minor projects such as night diving, the inspection of a sunken yacht and how to land an inflatable through heavy breakers, with aplomb! The cook, **Cpl George Meredith,** did an excellent job providing spaghetti to go with the local wine and the time passed very quickly. **Sig Jimmy Walker** was irrepressibly energetic and **2Lt Kevin Thornber** and **2Lt David Somerville** struggled gamely to keep up with him; our Irishman was sadly handicapped by seasickness and he sat for many hours in wallowing inflatables under a hot sun bravely helping but obviously yearning for green, steady fields. The novice divers, **LCpl Chris Lane** and **Sig 'Scouse' McCartney** logged a good number of dives towards further qualification, as did the guest diver **LCpl Taff Jobes,** who joined the expedition from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. As usual the divers sought to record their activities for posterity with an underwater camera. One calm day they turned their backs on the topless bathers on the beach and assembled under a submarine beach umbrella but unfortunately the contrast proved too much for the camera.

Diving in Sardinia is thoroughly recommended to other dive clubs. The RAF were most helpful and ASADA cylinders ABLJs and a compressor are available there for issue to expeditions. The Regimental diving club will return to Sardinia in May 84 and will dive Belize in February 85, so don't delay, come and join the fun!

**FINAL VISIT OF COMMANDER COMMS**

9 November saw the last official visit to the regiment by **Brig C. N. Last OBE.** As always the Brigadier had a very tight programme but he tried to speak to as many soldiers as possible and this he achieved in fine style. During the afternoon he went to the Sgts' Mess to present LS and GC medals.

The Brigadier giving some extra coaching to Sig Pat Lambie (left) and Spr Taff Farr

The Brigadier discussing market trends with the local Coca Cola rep WO1 (ASM) Bill Logue

LS&GC presentation *L-R* Cpl Taff and Susan Crosby, Sgt Derek and Susan Hopper with their sons Richard and Trevor, Cpl John Donachie, Brig Last seated, Sgt George and Josephine Greaves and SSgt Derek and Ursual Brown. The RSM is keeping a watchful eye in the rear

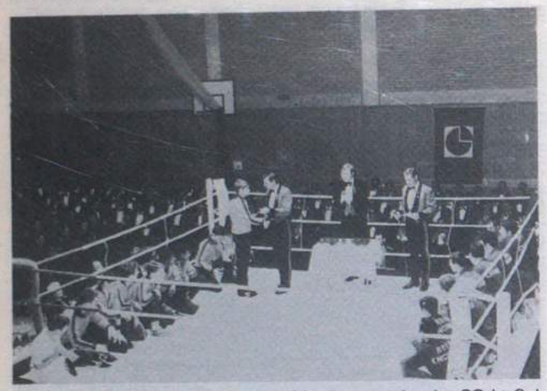
**BOXING**

**INTER SQUADRON**

The Inter Squadron Novice boxing competition was held over three days with preliminary bouts being held on 5th, semi finals on 6th and the finals on 7 October. The participation this year was a great improvement on recent years and the finals produced 10 bouts and an excellent night's entertainment. 6 Sqn won once again making it three victories in a row but this year's competition was very much closer and 3 Sqn ran them a close second. Special mention must be made of **Sig Jonathan Hart** of 3 Sqn who was awarded the prize for the best loser after a very brave and hard fight against **Sig Johno Henry** of 5 Sqn.

## 4 DIV INTER UNIT BOXING

The regimental team was picked from the results of the inter squadron competition and had to put in some hard training for their first match in the 4 Armd Div Inter Unit Novice Championships against 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment. On the evening of 29 November the Gym in Maresfield Barracks was packed with Corps and Sapper supporters. The enthusiasm of supporters combined with the entertaining and very hard fought bouts produced an excellent nights boxing with the engineers the victors by seven bouts to two. To round off the evening the Officers and SNCOs retired to their respective messes and entertained their guests in traditional style.



Medals were awarded to boxers of both teams by the CO Lt Col Nigel Wood

## BISMARK RELAY

On Saturday 19 November 1983 the eighth annual Bismark Relay race was held at Herford. The event was sponsored and very well organised by the Regiment and was extremely well supported with a total of 31 teams from BAOR and RAFG taking part. The course is a very fast 5km loop around the Bismark Turm in the woods to the East of Herford. Each team consists of six men and each runner completes one circuit of the course. This year's race was run in cold, damp, misty weather but the quality of the field was such that a new individual record of 14 mins 53 secs was set by **LCpl Lasseter** of 3 PC Regt and a new team record of 95 mins was set by 4 Armd Wksp A team.

**Brig C. N. Last OBE** Commander Comms 1 BR Corps presented some excellent team prizes to first, 4 Armd Wksp (A), runners up 1 PWO(A) and third 3 PC Regt. Individual prizes were awarded to the overall winner **LCpl Lasseter** 3 PC Regt, first Junior **Gnr Arneut** 7 RHA and first Veteran **WO1 Donovan** 3 PC Regt. The Regimental A team came seventh overall.

WO2 (QSMI) Colin Campbell of 7 Sig Regt A team hands over to Sig Hazell OConnor

## CROSS COUNTRY

It was decided that this year as many members of the regiment as possible would take part in the inter squadron cross country and that everyone's position would count. The regiment was scoured for every able bodied man and a total of 540 runners started the race which was run over a very fair course of 6.5km. Some time later, after a lot of quick mathematics, the results were announced. The team event was won by 4 Sqn with 2 Sqn second and 6 Sqn third. Individual medals were awarded to the first 10 runners who were as follows:

**1st LCpl Steve Lawrence**
**2nd LCpl Paul Sexby**
**3rd Sig Gary Wilsea (1st Junior)**
**4th Cfn Ritchie Stubbs**
**5th Capt John Kirkman (1st Veteran)**
**6th Sig John Tristram**
**7th Sgt Alan Hope**
**8th Sig Gary Bailey**
**9th LCpl Andy Moore**
**10th Sig Hazell OConnor**

The CO's wife, **Mrs Wendy Wood,** presented the prizes.

Mrs Wendy Wood asking Capt John Kirkman 'Are you really a vet?'

LCpl Steve Lawrence striding in comfortably to win in a time of 22 mins 27 secs



## LADIES AEROBICS

With the arrival of **WO2 (QMSI) Colin Campbell** the gym has become one of the most used buildings on camp. Every Thursday evening it echoes to the sounds of disco music and the high pitched squeals and gasps of the ladies aerobics class. This has proved a very popular evening and attracts between 40 and 60 ladies each week. The group photograph shows **WO2 Colin Campbell** centre and his assistant instructors **Sig Hutch Hutchinson** left and **LCpl Sugar Cain** right, with their lovely pupils. Action shots were taken but the over excitement of the photographer spoilt the pictures.

## RUGBY TEAM KAPE TOUR

**Report by Lt David Jones**

After rigorous vetting a party of 23 was selected to take part in a Kape tour to South Wales this summer. Remarkably the majority of the touring party turned out to be Rugby players and so **Capt Geordie** 'I'm good to you boys' **Gainford** managed to add Rugby to the agenda.

With some players already in Britain only 17 endured the trip out which started with a fond farewell from **WO1 RSM Bill Olive** at the gates of Maresfield Barracks on Friday 2 September. After an eight hour delay on Zeebruge docks, due to bad weather in the channel we boarded and the sailors of the tour were immediately noticeable. **Sig 'Salty' Fife** found the harbour area too much for him and **LCpl Phil 'Tuckshop' Price** who, not for the last time, ate more than the normal, also found the trip a little uncomfortable. Meanwhile **SSgt 'Goofy' Hickling** was holding classes in his cards school.

We reached Cardiff at 0830hrs on the Sunday morning and we all managed to get a little sleep, all that is except for **Cpl Stud Williams,** who arranged a homecoming for himself in Swansea, in his own words it was 'No problem'.

Monday morning was the first engagement and **SSgt Hickling** led his band of eager forwards along with two Triffids and two one tonne PRC 353 Rebros to King's Square, Barry. The main incident was when **Cpl 'Spot' Kessell** (Cbt Dvr) unsuspectingly tried to explain the Triffid installation to a member of the public. Unfortunately the visitor was a technician from a BBC Outside Broadcast Unit! Bad luck on **Cpl Kessell** but Tom Jones is still his cousin though. For Monday evenings entertainment **'Goofy' Hickling** organised a light training session to shake out the journey and to prepare for the next evening's match.

Unfortunately the first match did not bring victory and Bridgend Athletic won by 18—0. The home club looked after us very well after the match and this hospitality was matched by all our opponents.

On Wednesday 7th the backs went to Barry Boy's School, on an interesting but strenuous day. For all our Royal Signals equipment the most common questions were 'Mister, how fast do these lorries go?' and 'Mister can I have a drive?'.

Wednesday night was again training night, this time in preparation for Thursdays match against Welsh Civil Servants at Bridgend's ground. This match resulted in the Regiment's first victory in Wales, **Sig Allan Poulson** was the main scorer with two tries and the margin was 13—0. The hospitality was excellent and in one case too good, as one particular team captain volunteered us to Bridgend as a training aid at their next session. It was at this session that **Cpl Willie Henderson** managed to badly damage one of the Bridgened stars' shoulders. Before this however, there was still a weekend of KAPE.

On Friday the forwards took the show to John Frost Square, Newport where they met the Lady Mayor, **Mrs Betty Clifford.** Unfortunately one of the Rebros broke down reducing the tour to obe. On Friday evening the backs collected the vehicles and drove North to Kington in Hereford and Worcs, where they set up in preparation for Saturday's Stock show. It was a wet and windy day but two lessons were learnt, one that a champion Hereford Bull eats more than **LCpl Tuckshop Price,** and two that **Sig Allan Poulson** proved you can communicate with only one FFR and from the luggage compartment at that.

Sunday 11th was a day off but it soon passed and on Monday 12th **SSgt Allan James** accompanied forwards to his old school at Newbridge. **LCpl Dean Richardson** doesn't believe schools were around in those days. It was an exciting day for the forwards and **Sig 'Salty' Fife** was a clear favourite with the young girls.

The third match was on the 13th against **SSgt James'** home team Crumlin, unfortunately the Regiment lost 11—10. **Sig Allan Poulson** again scored two tries and **LCpl Dean Richardson** converted one. **Poulson** was fast becoming the player of the tour whilst **LCpl Richardson** was working hard both on and off the field.

On the 14th the backs had an enjoyable day at Cowbridge School, the highlight of the day was probably the Sixth Form games afternoon.

Our final match was on the 15th against a Llanelli team Folinfel and resulted in a victory by 32—7. The third half was excellent although a number of our side needed the comedians jokes interpreted as they couldn't understand Swansea English.

The final weekend was spent hard at work; the forwards visited Swansea and Newport whilst the backs spent Saturday on Caerphilly Car Park.

The return journey was not without difficulties; the Belgian Civil Service were on strike and we were not allowed to travel through Holland. Eventually we did arrive home on the Tuesday evening after an enjoyable two weeks of work and play.

Other characters from the tour were **Cpl Vinney Fallon** who has now left the Regiment and **Cpl** 'look at these photographs' **Collins.**

SSgt Andy Hickling, LCpl 'Tuckshop' Price and Sig 'Murf' Murphy teach Mrs Betty Clifford, the Mayor of Newport, some voice procedure. By kind permission of South Wales Argus

# 8 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**FAREWELL TO COL MOSS**

On 4 November 83 the Regiment paraded to say farewell to the CO, **Col Noel Moss.** It was a very tight squeeze but somehow all the soldiers managed to line the route continuously from the TTS entrance to the entrance of Druggon House. The CO drove through the assembled throng on a line vehicle from Schemes Troop.

Of course this was the final farewell and in the weeks leading up to the finale the CO spent an exhausting time visiting the various messes.

Each mess had its own way of saying goodbye and the first was in the Officers Mess. The CO and his wife were dragged away in a cart of vegetables after a ladies guest night. The Sgts Mess used a seasonal theme and the CO left the mess disguised as Guy Fawkes. It is reliably reported that the Cpls Mess was given a superb rendering of the 'Hokey Cokey' by the VIP guests.

The CO, Col Noel Moss, leaves the Regiment at the end of his tour

As well as all the farewells the CO was kept very busy during the days as well. Before his departure he was summoned to the cookhouse to assist the catering officer, **Capt Joe Oytaben ACC,** to prepare the Christmas pudding. With due ceremony the CO created quite a stir whilst the catering officer poured ample festive spirit into the mix.

Capt Oytaben and the CO get together to 'stir the pud'

Having completed the 'domestic science' the CO then had to make sure the gardening was done before handover. In front of many witnesses including the head gardener **Col Moss** planted two fir trees near to the squash courts.

Steve the head gardener ensures the CO leaves the garden tidy before leaving the Regiment. Col Moss had presented the trees to the Officers Mess and had requested they were planted between the mess and the squash courts

**PRESENTATION**

During the informal visit of the Comd Trg Gp, **Brig Sprackling,** two SNCOs of the Regiment were presented with medals. The first was **Sgt Toleman** who has been awarded his LS and GC and the second was **Sgt Simms** who was awarded a MID.

Sgt Toleman receives his LS & GC from the Comd Trg Gp

Brig Sprackling congratulates Sgt Simms on receiving his MID



**TARGET RIFLE SHOOTING**

Strensal ranges, near York, are set in flat rural countryside with only two major features—high winds and heavy rain! On a cold, wet and windy Saturday morning in October, six shivering members of 8 Sig Regt surveyed the scene and wondered at the strange force which drove men like themselves to spend their free weekends laying on damp ground, in foul conditions, projecting lumps of lead and brass towards black and white sheets of paper several hundred yards away.

**THE GRAPEVINE**

**WO2 (SSM) John Carter** had heard, through the official NEDIST grapevine, that the District HQ was organising weekend training session in Target Rifle shooting, culminating in the NEDIST Championship and the Yorkshire Clubs Matches on the 8/9 October.

The Army were to enter a team for the Yorkshire Clubs 8 and 16 (the Bingham Shield) Championsahip, selecting the teams from the Regular Army, TA and UOTC's based in the North East. Being a recently confirmed sufferer of 'Shooting Pox' **WO2 Carter** roped in fellow sufferers—**WO2 Jim Hindle** and **Sgt Allan Shrive** and proceeded to spread the infection amongst any basic trainee who so much as hinted that he might be vulnerable.

Thus it was that three who should have known better, and three who wished that they had known better—**Sig Goodliff, Tough** and **Crook**—found themselves staring across that dismal vista when by rights they should still have been snug and warm in bed.

**WELL TURNED OUT**

The car park swiftly filled with professionally dressed competitors from all over the North East. Our depressed spirits dropped still further as leather shooting jackets, custom built rifles, ARA sweatshirts and wide brimmed hats (with badges—the sign of life long dedication) emerged with owners sporting numerous medals and colours for team and county. These guys looked the part so they must be good.

Resigned to our fate we collected our battered and borrowed rifles and, wrapped in waterproofs (**Sig Crook** excepted, he just got wet) we joined the meandering throng and wound our way up the path to the firing point.

Laying in puddles on the firing point in the pouring rain we realised that the wide brimmed hats (preferably with gutter attached) were not worn merely for their aesthetic value. The little shooting boxes with their plastic wind shields to protect rounds and score cards were obviously better than our soggy folders and grubby beach rags. A compass to indicate where the target might lie would have been an advantage at the longer ranges as eyes strained to see through mist and rain.

**VERY CREDITABLE**

BUT! Didn't we do well!? In fact for our equipment and experience we did very well. In the NEDIST Individual Championship we gained the following results:

| | |
|---|---|
| **WO2 Carter** | **7th** |
| **Sig Crook** | **11th** |
| **WO2 Hindle** | **13th** |
| **Sgt Shrive** | **14th** |
| **Sig Goodliff** | **17th** |
| **Sig Tough** | **19th** |

Thus it was that the following day four members of 8th Signal Regiment got soaking wet again as they represented NEDIST in the Yorkshire Clubs Championship. The District came a creditable third in both the Eight and the Bingham Shield Matches.

**BOXING-FIGHTING COCKS TROPHY**

Trying to form three boxing teams for an Inter Squadron Boxing competition in any unit is not an easy task these days. It is even more difficult in this unit. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly there is a constantly changing population(some courses only last nine days) and secondly all boxing training has to take place outside normal working hours. Consequently it is difficult to drum up any enthusiasm in potential boxers.

However, having said that, the support from within the Regiment for the competition this year was tremendous. Some squadrons were even able to field 'second string' boxers at certain weights. It was even necessary to hold preliminary bouts prior to the finals.

The night of the finals was a tremendous success with some plucky, skillful and hard fought contests taking place. The evening opened with an excellent bout between **Sig Allan** and **Sig Cooney**. Young **Cooney** not only won the bout but walked away with the prize for 'Best Boxer'. One or two others worth a mention are **Sig Ormerod,** who after winning his bout was rushed to hospital with a dislocated thumb and consequently missed the Prize giving. **Sig Buckingham** who knocked out **Sig Moon** quite convincingly in the preliminaries went on to beat **Sig Mottram** on points in the Final. **Sig Strickland** was awarded the 'Best Loser' prize after being narrowly defeated by **Sig Nuttall.** Everyone felt sorry for **Sig Nelson** when he entered the ring with 'Man Mountain' **LCpl Wilson.** However, after a bout where both boxers gave their all, **Nelson** came out winner.

The competition was won quite convincingly by 3 Squadron. The Commanding Officer **Lt Col Dick Smith** presented the Fighting Cocks Trophy to **Cpl Cooper** the Team trainer. In his speech the CO thanked **WO2 (YofS) Mel Watson** for organising the event and **WO2 (QMSI) Chris Brown** and his staff for setting out the Gymnasium in such a professional manner. Finally he congratulated all the lads who had the courage and determination to take part in the training and climb into the ring—Well done all of them.

'Wait for it'

**REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION**

The Regimental Cross-Country Competition was held on the afternoon of the 18 October 1983 as a climax to the Regimental ARU. Nearly 800 members of the regiment took part, being sent off in a mass start by **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE.**

The course of six punishing miles over the nearby Gandale training area provided a stiff challenge to personal fitness and determination. The male individual winner was **WO2 (SSM) 'Gav' Escott** of 2 Squadron closely pursued by **SSgt (FofS) Stocks** of the TTS. Female individual winner was **Cpl Von Weilligh** of HQ Squadron. The winner of the veterans prize, a shepherd's crook, was none other than the CO, **Col N. Moss,** a well run race. After spending an hour locked in a smoke filled room the Stats Judges worked out that the winning squadron was again 2 Squadron who seem to be setting a regimental tradition.

**MIL TRG GP**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Training Major** | **Maj Patrick (I haven't the time) Dickinson** |
| **Training Warrant Officer (Two)** | **WO2 Gary (Listen you lot) Coude** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Ian (When we can find him) McCrindle Bem** |
| **Instructors** | **Sgt Mick (Apprentice) Kelly** |
| | **Sgt 'Dodger' (Duty Gizzit Getter) Green** |
| | **Sgt Barry (What was it like in the war Sarge?) Howe** |
| | **Sgt Eddie (Duty Gardener) Winterburn** |
| | **Sgt Joan (Mind your language) Gaskell** |
| | **Cpl Les (Hunkie) Bostock** |
| **Drivers** | **Lcpl Brian (Lightning) Whitworth** |
| | **Sig Billy (Go for) Chalmers** |
| **Clerical Officer** | **Mrs Sue Shields** |

The group is run by **Sgts Green, Howe** and **Kelly,** with periodic interference by **WO2 'Listen You Lot' Coude.**

The group runs a five day trained soldier week course for both the Cadre and Trainees. We also run Pre RSSSC and Pre RSDCC for personnel needing that extra bit of training before they travel over the road to 11 Sig Regt. At the moment it is busy helping to train the Regimental Teams to take part in the Annual Military Skills Competition run by NEDIST. We also help to train a WRAC team for their Annual Military Skills Competition 'Maiden Scurry', under the leadership of **2Lt Jane Boxell** and **Sgt Liz MacLean,** who in a recent Regimental Military Skills Competition beat the men hands down.

The group would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to **SSgt Ian McCrindle** and **Sgt Eddie Winterburn** after 22 years service, and to **LCpl Brian Whitworth** after 12 years. Also to recently married **Sig Billy Chalmers** who is posted to 22 Sig Regt. We wish them and their families all the best for the future.

**2 SQUADRON ARRIVALS**

The Squadron welcome **Cpl 'Tous' Cameron** from Harrogate who will be part of A Troop Cadre.

**DEPARTURES**

**Cpl 'Viv' Lee** leaves us after 14 months of part-time service with B Troop, the rest of her time taken up with playing hockey for the WRAC Corps team and recovering from injuries received in the 'Battles' of the hockey pitch.

**SPORT**

Regimental Devils Leap warm up. The WRAC team did exceptionally well coming first, 10 points ahead of their nearest rivals. The male team led by **LCpl 'Ginge' Holt** had a spot of bad luck. They were ambushed by an RAF detachment who thought they were part of a RAF exercise. Some confusion followed but at least they knew they looked the part.

**CROSS-COUNTRY AND ORIENTEERING**

In the Regimental Cross-Country race the Squadron was placed first despite strong competition from the rest of the regiment. **SSM 'Gav' Escott** led the field home, just as he did in the Regimental Orienteering Competition, which 2 Squadron also won. Just to prove that this was no fluke, **SSM Escott** then went on to win the NEDIST Orienteering Competition with maximum points.

**BOXING**

Though not a repeat of last year's result, the Squadron did well by winning three of their five bouts, so well done to **Sig 'Dougie' Douglas, Sig 'Scouse' Cooney** and **Sig 'Omy' Omerod. Sig Cooney** had the honour of winning the best boxer of the night prize. Commiserations to **Sig 'Slogger' Mottram** and **Sig 'Ski' Maciejewski** who as last minute replacements put up a good showing.

**3 SQUADRON**

After the last issue of The Wire, 3 Squadron were expected to win one of the many inter troop sports competitions. For too long the Squadron finished second but now it has all changed. In mid November the Squadron welcomed home the inter Squadron Boxing trophy—'The Fighting Cocks'. All the boxers fought magnificently and the dedication to training paid off in the end. **Sgt Chas Ward** gets a special mention for his effort in firing up the sauna at 0445 hours on the day of the competition to ensure the fighters made the weight! A 'well done' to all those that trained and took part.

On more military matters the Squadron formed part of the Freedom of Richmond parade. 90 Officers and men from the Squadron were on the parade commanded by the OC **Maj Etheridge.** Under the critical eye of **Valerie,** our typist, the Squadron performed well. The Squadron also assisted the Richmond Town Council when the 'Beating of the Bounds' took place. This event takes place every seven years and the Mayor leads the townfolk around the historical boundaries exercising rights granted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The Deltroids all completed the 15 mile hike assisting any young lady who needed it.

The Squadron has recently been turned upside down and the time has come for **Frances Pickard** our Chief Clerk to move over to TTS. **Frances** has been with the Squadron for many years and even remembers upgrading students when they were basics!! **Frances** leaves us to sort out TTS and all the Squadron wish her well. **Mrs Jo Cuisick** is presently working overtime to fill the gap before **Frances** leaves!!

**Cpl Dave George** of D Troop is congratulated on leading his 'Devils Leap' team to fifth position in the NEDIST march and shoot competition; a fine effort. A full report will appear in the next issue.

**Stop Press:** Congratulations to **Cpl J. S. Donachie** of HQ Squadron who has been awarded the **BEM** in the New Year Honours List

3 Sqn Boxing Team 1983
'The fighting cocks come home'
**Back Row:** LCpl Spruce (First Aid), Cpl Cooper (Coach), Sgt Ward (Manager), Cpl Booth (Trainer)
**Middle Row:** Sig Strickland, Anderson, Moon, Muir and Allen
**Front Row:** LCpl Wilson, Sig Bauress, Wood, LCpl Holt, Sig Middleton



# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

**60th ANNIVERSARY**

On 18 October this year 9 Signal Regiment celebrated its 60th anniversary. Our history stretches back to 1923 when No 2 Wireless Company was formed from the amalgamation of No 2 Wireless (Press) Section at Baghdad and No 3 Wireless Section at Constantinople. The Company was located at Sarafand in Palestine with a section remaining in Baghdad.

From 1923 until 1930 No 2 Wireless Coy R Signals remained in Palestine with a section in Baghdad but on 30 March 1930 the Baghdad section closed down due to the expiration of the British mandate in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Some of this section's personnel were transferred to Palestine but most returned to UK where they formed No 4 Wireless Company at Aldershot.

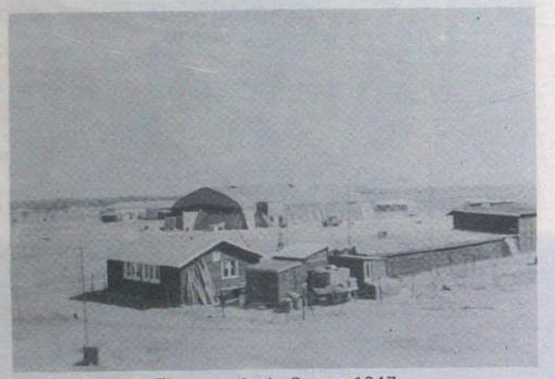
In 1945 No 2 Wireless Company was amalgamated with No 2 Special Wireless Group. This Group had been formed in 1940 and spent the war in Egypt. Thus we became No 2 Special Wireless Group and remained in Palestine. In 1946 our name was changed to No 2 Special Wireless Regiment.

In 1947 the British gave up their mandate in Palestine prior to the formation of Israel. The Regiment was moved to Famagusta in Cyprus and given the name No 2 Wireless Regiment. In 1959 we were renamed 9 Signal Regiment (Radio) and have remained in Cyprus, with that title for the past 24 years.

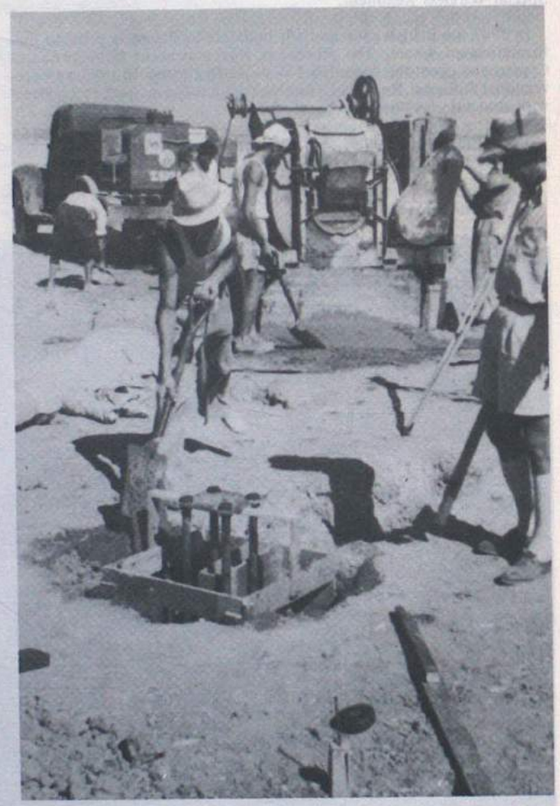
The photographs show the Regiment as it is today and some memories of the past.

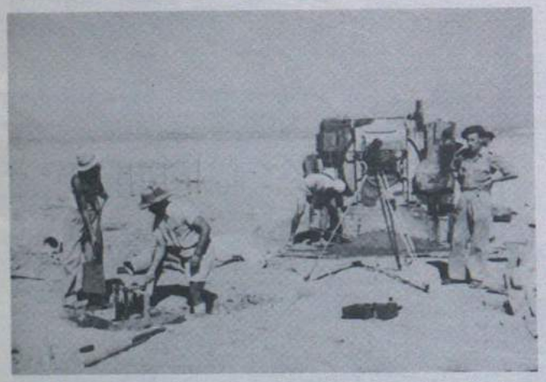
The Regiment as it is today

Palestine 1923-1947



The new site in Cyprus 1947





Construction work in Cyprus 1949



# 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
## Wilton

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF's COMMENDATION**

On Wednesday 9 November 1983 **Mrs Jones (Ex Pte Jones,** 1 Sqn) who has been awarded the Commander-in-Chief's commendation, attended a presentation ceremony in HQ UKLF. The Commander-in-Chief **General Sir Frank Kitson** presented **Mrs Jones** with her award and congratulated her on her excellent work during the Falkland Islands emergency.

Following the presentation **Mrs Jones** and her husband **LCpl Jones** (3 Para), along with her mother and in-laws, were invited for coffee and sherry with the Commanding Officer 10th Sig Regt (HQ UKLF), **Lt Col P. B. Webster,** and members of the Regiment.

The Citation reads as follows:

**'Private Eirlys Jones** is only 21 years old, but she has already succeeded in setting an outstanding example to those many years her senior. A Data Telegraphist serving with 10 Sig Regt and based at the Army Communication Centre at Wilton, she is frequently called upon at short notice to undertake periods of detached duty; these periods may last for several weeks and involve considerable travel. Although married for less than three years, her response on such occasions is cheerful, enthusiastic and totally unselfish.

During Operation CORPORATE she volunteered for detatched duty at the Communication Centre, South Cerney; her husband, serving with the Parachute Regiment, had embarked on active service for the Falkland Islands the previous week. Signal message traffic to and from the Army Mounting Centre was then extremely heavy; as the only operator on duty for much of the time and in the absence of an NCO, **Private Jones** selflessly carried the burden of responsibility. Working alone, locked in a tiny secure area with little contact with the outside world apart from the telephone, she was frequently called upon to remain at her post for periods of up to 24 hours. She worked an 84-hour week for several weeks cheerfully and without any hint of complaint, displaying exceptional zeal and patience despite her natural worry about her husband's safety.

The outstanding resilience and devotion to duty displayed by **Private Jones** at that time impressed all who came into contact with her, and exemplify a consistently excellent performance and a willing acceptance of responsibility belying her youth and rank. As one who devotes herself to work behind the scenes in support of those performing more glamorous duties, she is a fine example to her colleagues'.

The Commander in Chief, Gen Sir Frank Kitson presents Mrs Jones with her Commendation. Looking on are Lt Col P. B. Webster, CO 10 Sig Regt, LCpl Jones (3 PARA), and Mum!

**29 YEARS—IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL**

There is a small, noisy room behind the Headquarters of the Army Air Corps Centre where **Mrs Doris Skeates** has worked as a telephonist on the manual exchange since 1967. But putting up with the clacking of the connections is not her only feat of endurance because on Tuesday 6 December she was presented with the Imperial Service Medal for 29 years with the Civil Service. **Doris** was born in London Road, Stockbridge and started her Civil Service career there in the telephone exchange. When it became automatic she worked briefly in the Andover exchange before coming to Middle Wallop. **Doris** doesn't mind admitting that she is 60 now but she wants to carry on doing the job she knows so well. She does not see many faces on the station but she recognises everyones' voices!

A widow now, **Doris** lives in South Street, Andover. She has a married son and two grandsons who also live in Andover.

Mrs Doris Skeates from Middle Wallop Exchange with the Commandant AAC Centre Col Mallan and OC 1 Sqn Maj Jeffery

**1 SQUADRON**
**ARU SPORTS COMPETITION—THE CHAMPIONS' VIEWPOINT**

The inter squadron sports competition proved a great success especially as we (1 Sqn) won the cup!

Our weak points were definitely volleyball and netball but our basketball players won handsomely. The football team would have repeated this success but for a dubious penalty decision by the referee, who shall be nameless. (However, 1 Sqn is still not talking to the Adjutant).

The hour of glory arrived when we came first in the Chain of Command Race and the scores were totalled to find that (as we expected) 1 Sqn had won!

**CANOEING**

This space should have been filled with a report of the Army Water Canoeing Championships. There would have been a glowing account of a victorious team triumphing in difficult conditions and photographs of individuals collecting their many trophies. Unfortunately the major ingredient needed for a canoeing championships—water—was missing and the competition was postponed! We apologise therefore to our fans and promise to bring you a report when the championships are held next year. In the meantime **SSgt Day** is learning a rain dance.

## 2 SQUADRON

### RADIO TROOP

The Radio Troop calendar has been rather full of late. In addition to the normal exercise and contingency commitments around London District, the members of the troop have also been involved in various Public Duties. These have included the unveiling of the statue to the late **Lord Louis Mountbatten,** a Diplomatic Reception at Buckingham Palace and security duties at the Royal Commonwealth Society throughout the Royal Signals Institution Lecture. The last occasion has had unfortunate repercussions for the staff in SHQ. Since having the honour to be presented to **HRH The Princess Anne, WO2 (SSM) Mick Davis** has become virtually unapproachable!

### SWS TROOP

SWS Troop were also heavily involved in the ceremony of the unveiling of the statue of **Lord Mountbatten.** Their task was expanded on this occasion in that they not only provided the PA for the ceremony which was used by **HM The Queen, The Prime Minister, Countess Mountbatten** and the **Bishop of London,** but also provided the sound service which was used by BBC radio and ITV for their coverage of the event. Unfortunately, BBC TV outside broadcast, who were due to cover the event live in its entirety, were still in the throes of industrial action and did not attend; who knows to what horizons SWS Troop originated sound might have been broadcast had not the activities of the BBC been curtailed?

### OSCAR TROOP

At whatever time you read this some of the unsung heroes of Oscar Troop will be slaving away in Commcens and Exchanges around London District.

For the last few months they have been ably assisted (a word chosen with care) by **Sgt Dave Lovell, Royal Australian Signals.** For him we 'swopped' **Sgt Graham Cross** who is soon to return complete with hat and corks and a few tales! Watch out for the next issue of *The Wire.*

**Sgt Lovell** appears to have enjoyed his sojourn with 2 Sqn, although recently the cold weather has caused him to mutter. His visits have taken him all around London and the South of England, and he even managed to spend a few days in BAOR. Our only worry occurred when we lost him for three days in September—apparently the 'Aussies' pulled one over on the Americans—something to do with a Boat Race?

We have all thoroughly enjoyed his company and will remember him long after he has migrated back to the warmth—particularly when we look at the Kangaroo transfers that have miraculously appeared on doors.

### SUMMER CAMP

Although Summer camp was briefly covered in the last issue there were no photographs available. Those shown are considered to be worthy of a belated mention, if only to remind us of the lazy, hazy summer days on Dartmoor! The following comments were also submitted, anonymously, but unfortunately missed the deadline for the PXR:

| | |
|---|---|
| DAY ONE | |
| Early Morning PT | Not too bad |
| Pony Trekking | Great, until it started to rain |
| Map Reading | Still raining, visibility approx 2m, we should have listened to the lecture on compass bearing! |
| DAY TWO | |
| Early Morning PT | Not as good as yesterday |
| Canoeing | Warmer in the water than out, but did have 'The World Champion' to instruct us. |
| Abseiling | Almost everyone had a go. Unfortunately one unnamed officer bearing a close resemblance to 2IC 1 Sqn was hit on the back of the head by a falling rock, resulting in 14 stitches. We regret to announce that the rock was dead on arrival at hospital. |
| DAY THREE | |
| BFT Run | No comment |
| NBC | The written test caused the most problems and produced a number of original contributions which are not for print! |
| DAY THREE/FOUR/FIVE | |
| The Escape Exercise | This was such a closely guarded secret that even the DS didn't know what was happening until half an hour after it had taken place. Dartmoor proved the most testing phase, especially for Section 4 who were last spotted heading for Plymouth. We think they made it safely. To provide some excitement at the conclusion of the exercise, the RAF supplied a Puma to ferry everyone back to Fremington. They even arrived on schedule (much to everyone's amazement). |
| THE DISCO | Excellent. Somehow the blisters and sore feet didn't hurt anyone. |
| GENERAL COMMENT | Have we really got to do it all again next year? |

'This is a fun activity?' (Pte Lynne Richards — 2 Sqn)

'No Ma'am, not even you could slip through the middle'
(Cpl Karen Taylor-2 Sqn, Capt Peter White-1 Sqn, Lt Fiona Leach-3 Sqn, Sgt Bob Taylor-3 Sqn)



## 11 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

### FAREWELL TO THE RSM

**WO1 (RSM) Tom Friend** left the Regiment at the end of his tour on 25 November 1983. We thank him for all he did for the Regiment and wish him and his wife **Liz** a successful tour at the NATO EW School in Latina. Bon voyage.

WO1 (RSM) Tom Friend leaving the Sgts' Mess

RSM Friend being presented with a gold watch from Sig Nipper on behalf of all the recruits in the Regiment

Mrs Liz Friend receives a bouquet from Sig Smith

### RECRUIT TRAINING

The upsurge in Adult Recruiting into the Corps has filled our Recruit Training to the extend that we have had to form an extra Troop, 4 Troop, whose notes appear below.

### 4 TROOP PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Troop Commander** | **— WO1 G. J. Philbrook** |
| **Troop Sgt** | **— Sgt Foster** |
| **Troop Cpls** | **— Cpl Storey** |
| | **— Cpl Clair** |
| | **— Cpl Dudley** |

There are now seven troops in training in 1 Squadron much to the delight of the Squadron Commander **Maj Boyle**. But 4 Troop is writing these notes so no-one else gets a mention.

Between 8 and 22 October TA Recruit Course 134 were in training, which is two very tiring weeks for them. Morale was always sky high, most claiming that they enjoyed every minute of it, in retrospect anyway.

For the two day exercise it poured with rain continuously. During the night frequent attacks were put in on their defensive position. Two by the Cadre, the rest by sheep looking for somewhere to dry off. In the early morning they "crashed out" to a new location and still they

were smiling, mouthing obscenities like 'Good morning Sir' and 'Did you sleep well Sir'.

On the last day of the course **Col A. H., Hawksworth**, Deputy Commander, 2 Signal Brigade took the salute at the Pass Off Parade and watched the Inter Section Competition. Afterwards he presented awards to the best overall recruit who was **Sig Knight** from 35 Sig Regt (V) and the best shot who was **Sig Brown** from 71 Sig Regt (V). He also presented trophies to the winners of the Inter Section Competition.

After one whole week's rest on the holiday isle of Helles Barracks we were back in the business of regular recruits. Forty five potential RSM's Foremen and Yeoman wishing their lives away until they can be posted to Hong Kong, Cyprus or Tidworth. They are now in their third week of training, slimmer, fitter and bursting with new knowledge. During a lesson on camouflage and concealment one was heard to ask their instructor, **Cpl Clair**, if he could use a vehicle cam net on his helmet. It's things like that keep us smiling.

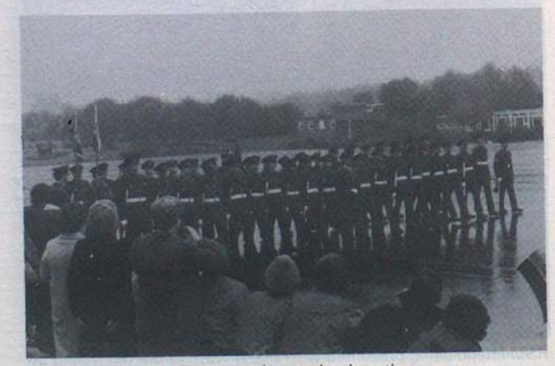
**5 TROOP**

Based on the premise that a picture represents many words, 5 Troop's notes take the form of photographs taken at their Pass Off Parade on 4 November 1983. **Brigadier A. W. MacL. McKinnon OBE ADC**, Commander Comms UKLF, was the reviewing officer.

Reviewing Officer and CO mount the saluting base with Cpl Fitzpatrick in attendance

The Brigadier speaks to Sig Hodgson

Sig Watson meets the Reviewing Officer



5 Troop march past in slow time

Cpl Carter receives trophy for Best Section

Marksman awards go to Sig McCabe and Robinson

Sig Nipper, a potential bandsman, receives his prize as Best Recruit

Best Shot, Sig Smith, is congratulated

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**IMPORTANT CHANGE**

Our most important change in personalities in the last two months has been of RSMs. **WO1 (RSM) S. P. Glover** has handed over to **WO1 (RSM) R. Jeffery** whose last posting was with 244 Sig Sqn (AS) at RAF Brize Norton. **WO1 (RSM) Glover** has served in the Regiment since June 1981. As well as his RSM duties he was Captain of the Birgelen Golf Club, representing the Regiment on many occasions, the highlights being the team's achievement in the BAOR Inter-Unit Golf Championship when the Regiment came third two years in succession.

WO1 (RSM) Paul Glover (right) hands over to WO1 (RSM) Ray Jeffery

**THE CROOK SHIELD COMPETITION**

The Crook Shield was presented by **Brig Peter Crook CBE DSO MA** in 1970 for the best aggregate performance by a Rhine Area Major Unit in all sports. The first winner of this coveted trophy was 40 Army Support Regiment (RE), now a minor unit but since then it has been won by 21 Sig Regt five times and 16 Sig Regt three times with 1971-72 between them.

The 1982-83 competition proved to be a very close competition but 13 Sig Regt came out on top with 96½ points to 28 (BR) Sig Regt's 85½ points. The competition itself covered 21 different sports in 31 league and knock-out events. The Regiment entered a team in all but five of these events and won Rhine Area Major Unit titles in Cricket (two titles) and seven-a-side Rugby.

We were, however, placed second in 14 other events. It was indeed a proud moment for us all when during a visit to Ex *Full Shift* the Commander Rhine Area, **Brig C. D. J. R. Russell CBE,** presented the Regiment with the Crook Shield for the first time.

**SWOP OF AUSSIES!**

The beginning of December saw the change-over of our attached Royal Australian Signals Officer. 1 Sqn held a pub lunch to say farewell to **Capt Norman Cunningham** and his wife **Cathy.** We wish them a safe journey home.

OC 1 Sqn, Maj Tim Smith presents Capt Norman Cunningham with a Regimental Plaque to hang upside down back home

**BOXING**

The semi-final of the Rhine Area Major Units Novice Team Championships was held at Mercury Barracks on 28 November 1983 against 28 (BR) Signal Regiment.

The overall winners were 28 (BR) Sig Regt by six bouts to three. This result belies the closeness of the bouts, results of which are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Bantam** | **—Pte Yates-Bradley** | **Lost points to Sig Watkins** |
| **Feather** | **—Sig Fanning** | **won points Cpl Dillon** |
| **Lightweight** | **—Sig Kavanagh** | **Lost RSB Sig Lowe** |
| **Lightwelter** | **—Pte Haines** | **won points Sig Mustoe** |
| **Light Middle** | **—Pte McSorley** | **Lost RSB LCpl Bennett** |
| **Middle** | **—Cpl Hough** | **Lost points LCpl O'Hara** |
| **L Heavy** | **—Cpl Mitchell** | **Lost RSB Sig Joyce** |
| **Heavy** | **—Cpl Gilbert** | **won KO LCpl Walls** |
| **Welter** | **—Pte Fotheringham** | **Lost RSB LCpl Morgan** |

Cpl Mel Hough wishes LCpl O'Hara no good!



# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**
**(Scheuen & Wesendorf)**

Changes have certainly been widespread in the Regiment during the past few months and we take this opportunity to say farewell and bon voyage to **Capt Rick Barfoot, Capt Bob Turnbull, Capt Denise Ashton, WO1 Tony Baker, WO1 Bob Duncan** and **WO2 Byrne.** We also wish 'Goodaye Blue' to **Lt Geoff Schaller RAS** who returns to Australia from Ex *Long Look* to Christmas on the beach. We welcome to the Regiment in their place **Capt Allan Duncan, Capt Malcolm Robinson, Capt Bill Mawer, Capt Bob Williamson, Lt John Davis, Lt Anne Phillips WRAC, WO1 Dave Luckett, WO2 Mac Mackender, WO2 Steve Hunter, WO2 Geoff Cromack, WO2 Mick Ford, WO2 Brian Pyle APTC, WO2 Chris Stone** and **WO2 Bob Winstanley.** A special 'Hi Y' All' goes to **Capt Frost Haenchen US Army** with us for the next two years.

The photograph shows the CO, Lt Col W. Roper, presenting Frau Marge Mleczck with a certificate marking her 25 years service at Scheuen as an employee at Ironside Barracks

**VISITORS**

The Regiment has had its fair share of visitors over the past few months and of particular note have been those visits from **Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB** Comd 1 (BR) Corps, **Maj Gen A. K. F. Walker** GOC 3 Armd Div, **Mr John Stanley MP,** Minister of State (Armed Forces), **Brig C. N. Last OBE** and **Brig P. R. Davis,** Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps and Comd 12 Armd Bde. **R Adm D. C. Jenkin CB** Comdt JSDC and most recently **Brig R. F. L. Cook** on the assumption of his appointment of Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps.

Mr John Stanley Minister of State for the Armed Forces, arriving at 1 Sqn Langeleben accompanied by his wife, and Private Secretary Mr Day, being introduced to Maj Hugh Elford by the CO Lt Col Bill Roper

A day for the wives as well!
*From left to right:* Mrs Margaret Roper, Col F. Sugdon, Mrs Stanley, Mr John Stanley, Mrs Irene Elford, WO2 Whaley, Lt Col Bill Roper, Mr Day and Maj Hugh Elford enter the gates of 1 Sqn

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We were delighted when **Brig C. N. Last** agreed to present several members of the Regiment, with their well earned awards, during his farewell visit. We congratulate **Capt M. S. 'Frost' Haenchen** US Army on his Meritorious Service Medal, **SSgt Martin McDermott** on his LS&GC, **LCpl Michael O'Brien** for his NI Commendation and **Cpl Kevin Bowker** and **LCpl Andrew McAuley** both of whom received South Atlantic Medals with Rosettes.

**LAC WANDERPOKAL 1983**

Congratulations to the 14 Sig Regt 'Nomads' **Maj Peter Todd, Sgt Harry Kirkham, Cpl Geoff Robinson, Cpl Jim Dunn** RAF and **SSgt Alan Brooks** who recently won the Anglo German Fishing Competition held on the River Aller at Steddon. The event, organised by 94 Locating Regiment RA, has for the first time in its five years been won by a British Unit who beat stiff competition from 13 other teams.

**WIVES CLUB**

**Mrs Joan Fogg,** wife of **WO1 (RSM) Fogg** presented to the Maternity Ward of BMH Handover a hot plate, coffee percolator and toasted sandwich maker on behalf of the Wives' Club of 14 Sig Regt (EW). These presents were bought from the proceeds of a sponsored swimming gala, and are for the use of husbands on the midnight shift with their wives in confinement.

From left to right Capt E. Frank, Midwife, Mrs Fogg, Capt P. Hoard and Maj M. Hudson, deputy Matron of the Hospital

**NEWS FROM 'ABROAD' (LANGELEBEN)**
**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

Like the rest of the Regiment 1 Sqn has also undergone considerable changes in the recent months. An update of the Squadron Management follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **—Maj R. H. G. Elford MBE** |
| **2IC** | **—Capt W. Nelson** |
| **OC W** | **—Capt J. P. McD Coulthard** |
| **OC X** | **—Capt N. R. Swain** |
| **OC SP** | **—Capt A. Cooper** |
| **SSM** | **—WO2(SSM) N. Whaley** |
| **OPs WO** | **—WO1 C. F. May** |
| **FofS** | **—SSgt (FofS) P. Wood** |
| **YofS** | **—SSgt (YofS) S. J. Whytock** |
| **SQMS** | **—SSgt P. Bradley** |

We say goodbye and wish the best of luck to **Maj Laurie Storie** departed our shores for Cyprus welcoming **Capt Alf Cooper** in his place. We also welcome to the Squadron **Capt Bob Swain, SSgts Dave Savage,** and **Bob Simpson, Sgt 'Dutch' Van Spall, Cpl Ken Orme, LCpls Taff Yorke, Nick Turner, Jake Lowe, Scouse Jones, Geordie Cook** and **Sig Dave Clifford, Rich Cressey** and **Steve Lawton**. To those below we say farewell, the best of luck and thank you for your efforts during your tour: **WO2 Ken Wilford, LCpls Scouse Anderson, Andy Butler** and **Bob Haynes. Sig Freddie-Boy Churchward** and **John Holt.**

**From: Lt G. Schaller RAS**

Dear Sir,

I have just completed four of the most exciting months of my career as an Ex *Long Look* participant. Although I spent most of my time with 14 Sig Regt (EW), I have been able to visit and exercise with many units of most Corps. I return to Australia impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the British Soldier and hope that my career brings me back in the future. In particular, I would like to thank the Commanding Officer of 14 Sig Regt (EW), and all members of the Regiment for creating the opportunities for me to get to know the British Army. All the best to those at '14' and I hope to see some of you in Australia on future *Long Looks*.

Yours faithfully,
**Lt G. Shaller RAS**
**14 Signal Regiment (EW)**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## 16 Sig Regt
## BFPO 35

**BUSY DAYS**

A hectic couple of months since the last issue of *The Wire* with battle camps for both WRAC and soldiers, a full round of sporting and social events, VIP visits, RSIT inspection and of course the normal round of communication exercises.

**WARRY EMPHASIS**

Late on a Friday evening in the summer **Maj Colin Rayner** and **Capt Kate Collinson** decided that previous WRAC military training courses had been rather tame and not sufficiently 'warry'. Ideally they felt all WRAC should spend at least a week living in the field under canvas.

Two months later Ex *Mercury Lion* began on a chilly day in October on a desolate site at the edge of the dustbowl on Stapel Tank Training Area near Sennelager. Three courses were run, each of one week's duration and consisted of basic tactics and fieldcraft (how the girls loved smearing their faces in mud and crawling through the undergrowth!), NBC, map reading and of course weapon firing. Everyone carried a weapon for the whole period and the weapon training culminated in a range day when most of the girls shot their APWT or alternative weapon test. A plea from the heart—When will MOD agree to arm WRAC?!

The final two days of the exercise were spent in a round robin type exercise where all aspects of training were tested. A great highlight for the girls was a drive in APCs kindly by 200 Sig Sqn—many thanks. During the night exercise the girls discovered, to their cost, the problems of staying awake as a sentry at night.

Cpl Dave Mulroy on *Mercury Lion*—giving the tactical setting

Charge!





**PRESENTATION**

Money raised from Bradbury Fayre and the Leicester—Krefeld Marathon has been presented to both British and German charities. It was decided that the German proportion should be passed to a charity of the choice of the Oberbürgermeister of Krefeld, **Herr Dieter Pützhofen.** He chose a recreation centre for underprivileged children in Krefeld. So a group of soldiers and WRAC who had been actively involved in the fund raising projects went to the Centre where the CO **Lt Col I. E. Kerr**, presented a cheque from DM3000 to **Pastor Peter Bruggermann,** the Chairman of the association that runs the Centre.

The CO, Lt Col I. E. Kerr, presents a cheque to Pastor Brüggermann. Lt Debbie Smith and LCpl Cath Truby look on

**COMD COMMS BAOR PARTNERSHIP DINNER**

This particular function is being covered by Comms Branch HQ BAOR, but merits a mention in these columns as the dinner was held in our Officer's Mess. We were invaded that evening by a host of top brass from most NATO countries and the RAF, for a very grand occasion which 'affectionately' became known as The Night of the Generals or NOG for short.

**INTER SQUADRON BOXING**

In order to find hidden talent for the Novice boxing team which would represent the Regiment in the BAOR Championship, an inter squadron match was arranged. It provided a thrilling and exciting afternoon and evening's sport with HQ Sqn emerging as narrow victors. Individual winners were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bantam** | **Sig Andy Kevins** |
| **Feather** | **Sig Paul Gunn** |
| **Lightweight** | **Sig Mick Every** |
| **Light Welter** | **Sig Tuff Davies** |
| **Light Middle** | **Sig Jock Munro** |
| **Middle** | **Sig Mac McCulloch** |
| **Light Heavy** | **LCpl Pete Hudson** |
| **Heavy** | **Cpl Pete Griffiths** |
| **Welter** | **Sig Piggy Latimer** |
| **Most stylish boxer** | **Sig Paul Gunn** |
| **Best loser** | **Sig Kev Waite** |

Cpl Phil Grimes (3) and Cpl Pete Griffiths (2) slogging it out in the preliminary round of the Heavyweight Championship. Cpl Pete Griffiths won this bout and went on to win the final

We look forward to meeting 21 Sig Regt in the semi final of the Rhine Area Championship.

**RHINE AREA FIRST AID COMPETITION**

Our team consisting of **SSgt (FofS) John Ratcliffe, Sgt Terry Crowley, Sgt Tim Broomfield** and **LCpl Steve Woolridge** came a very creditable third in the competition staged at 3 Base Ammunition Depot Bracht. They were confronted with a whole range of realistic casualties in a variety of settings from gory road accidents to severed hands.

**THE ARCHIBALD TROPHY**

During the Summer our soccer team took part in and won an international military football competition in Heidelberg against teams from the US, German and French armies. The competition was organised and sponsored by **Brig Gen Archibald,** Commander 5th US Signal Command, who attended the Night of the Generals. He spied and recognised **LCpl Colin Ward,** one of the successful team, who happened to be waiting-on at the dinner. In no uncertain terms, **LCpl Colin Ward** reminded the General that the trophy still had not be presented. An embarrassed General promised to rectify this state of affairs and in his own words 'kick some arses'. He was as good as his word and two days later, his Chief of Staff **Col Cordonnier** flew into RAF Bruggen together with the Archibald trophy and a couple of cases of champagne. We hesitated to ask if his bottom was sore!

Col Cordonnier US Signal Corps hands over the Archibald Trophy to the eager hands of Sgt Billy Watts. Member of the team look on with satisfaction.

**VOGELSANG BATTLE CAMP**

It was now the turn of the soldiers to undergo their battle camp. Held at Vogelsang in early November and despite warnings from the Belgian Camp Adjutant that the first snows normally fall in the first week in November, we enjoyed most glorious warm sunshine for almost the whole fortnight. Extra commitments on Ex *Able Archer* depleted the total number who were able to attend but those who did 'enjoyed' a gruelling week's training in all aspects of their military skills.

Each week culminated in a 24 hour recce exercise against a very active enemy provided by the DS. Each course was divided into sections and was competitive throughout. The first week winners were led by **Cpl Kevin Belton** and the second week by **Cpl Taff Dallimore.**

**ARMY CUP RUGBY**

In the first round of the Army Cup we drew I LI away and the match had to be played on 9 November which entailed dragging people back from Vogelsang and Ex *Able Archer*; not the most promising way to start a cup campaign. However, it was first class entertainment, end to end staff, and nail biting for the spectators with the score see-sawing. With 10 minutes to go the score was 22—21 to us, but we then ran in three tries each of which was converted to give us a famous victory 40—21. In the second round we drew 19 Fd Regt RA, once again away. This time we were up against a very strong, experienced and well drilled team containing three ex-Army players. In a hard game we were well beaten but not disgraced 46—3.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE**

It is traditional that the units of Krefeld Station (16 and 28 Sig Regts together with 40 Army Engineer Support Gp) mark Remembrance Day with a service in Rheinberg Military Cemetery which is about 20 miles north of us. It was an intensely moving experience standing amongst the beautifully maintained gravestones of hundreds of British and Commonwealth servicemen who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

**FAREWELL VISIT BY MAJ GEN W. R. TAYLOR CB—CHIEF OF STAFF HQ BAOR**

In late November the Regiment bade a fond farewell to **Maj Gen Taylor** the outgoing Chief of Staff of HQ BAOR. In a busy morning he visited many parts of the Regiment including elements of 2 and 3 Sqn on a internal communications exercise, the Trg Wing where he saw morse, printer and WRAC weapon training in progress, followed by presentations of LS&GC medals to **WO2 (YofS) Percy Beynon, SSgt Mick McDermott, Sgt Lee Johnson** and **Sgt Pete Cavill.** This was followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess attended by officers from all the units within Bradbury Barracks. We wish **Gen Taylor** a happy and long retirement.

Chief of Staff HQ BAOR presents the LS&GC to Sgt Lee Johnson, SSgt Mick McDermott and WO2 (YofS) Percy Beynon (partially hidden) have just received theirs, Sgt Pete Cavill out of picture awaits. Sgt John Berry attends Gen Taylor

Gen Taylor and Lt Col I. E. Kerr talk shop with Sgt Tim Broomfield. Cpl Mick Scott, Pte Tracey Williams and Pte Elly Garland look steely eyed to the front

Maj C. Hicks, Para, MA to Chief of Staff HQ BAOR, examines the spade belonging to the new webbing which we are trialling. The CO, Lt Col I. E. Kerr, the Adjt, Capt Richard Hoole, RSM John Bonnett and Cpl 'Speedy' Brannigan look on. Caption contest—what is the CO saying? how about 'B . . . . . man has broken it'

**3 SQUADRON SAY FAREWELL TO SSM COFFILL**

'The Troop Staffies have got something going on, but I don't know what it is' said **WO2 (SSM) Roy Coffill.** It must have been the first time! He thought that he and the OC, **Maj Tony Gibb,** were off to inspect the accommodation when they found the Squadron formed up on the Square under **Capt Iain Brownlee's** command. There was no getting out of it, on to the dais he went before being invited to inspect Foxtrot and Juliet Troops.

The whole Squadron had crawled out of the woodwork determined to see the SSM off properly. After the inspection it was back to the dais for a march past to music kindly provided by the Corps Band (by courtesy of a plastic platter). Then the two youngest **Signalmen John Skevington** and **Richard Clarke** stepped forward bearing gifts from the Troops—a board of plastic fatigue men from Foxtrot and a smashed torch (it had a white glass) from Juliet Troop.

WO2 (SSM) Roy Coffill has the 'last word' with LCpl Cath Truby during his farewell parade

SSgt Pete Dunnings hands over J Troop's presentation to SSM Coffill, an amused SSgt Ted Theis waits his turn. Maj Tony Gibb spectates

The main farewell was, however, to be at the Squadron Christmas Party when everyone gathered to say goodbye to the SSM and his wife **Rita** before they left for Middlesborough where he is now the RSM of 34 Sig Regt. He warned the Squadron that he would be back in 1984. We thank them both for all the support they have given 3 Squadron during the last three years and wish them good luck in the frozen North.

**EXERCISE *KRAB KILL 83***

Ex *Krab Kill* was 2 Sqn's participation in RAF Bruggen's lead up exercise to TACEVAL. The exercise opened with a dawn helicopter assault, by two aerobatically inclined Pumas, led by **SSgt Gordon Shelly. Sgt Tim Broomfield's** team wrought havoc against unprepared defenders at one Squadron site, whilst at another **Sgt Bruce Cooksey REME** and his team was engaged in a firefight with better prepared airmen and police. Once these tasks were completed the Pumas lifted the teams back to Krefeld and coffee leaving the main intruder party, led by **Lt David Burden,** to start work. During the next 24 hrs over 20 different attacks were made against various installations on the airfield. **Cpl David Mulroy** and **LCpl Paul Wild** started the trend by hijacking a maintenance vehicle to gain access to one site. **Cpl Rab Horne** and **LCpl 'Baggy' Bagshaw** followed suit and hijacked a police rover impersonated the crew and got themselves plus two 'prisoners', **Sgt Steve Rose** and **Sig Harry Freeman,** into the ammunition dump. All did not go our way though as one team found out when caught and locked up in the dog kennels. **Cpl Mulroy** had another chance to practise his Russian; he'd previously made an impassioned speech on a captured police radio, while **Cpl Mick Scott** chatted up the neighbours. Nobody was safe from the intruders, as the Station Commander discovered, he arrived at a checkpoint that had just been taken by **Sgt Ron Woodger's** team. **Cpl Pete Griffiths** had him 'assume the position' and only let him go once he had produced his DS pass. The 24 hr exercise was enjoyable and gave a good chance for all to practise their ingenuity, stealth and cunning. Our thanks to the RAF for providing such a gullible opposition and we promise that the RAF police can have their rovers back some time!

## 21 Sig Regt
## BFPO 42

**NUMEROUS AND VARIED**

The Regiment has had its usual hectic time since the compilation of the last *Wire* notes with visits, numerous and various, and the orchestrated bedlam that is attached to any ARU. However with the ARU now past and the report eagerly awaited the Regiment looks forward to the Christmas festivities and of course 1984.

The Regiment has enjoyed an action-packed 1983 with visits from our Colonel-in-Chief, the Prime Minister to name just two. What is new for 1984 we ask? According to George Orwell next year could be a big year for us all.

**NEWS FROM THE REGIMENT**

The Regiment played host to Commander Comms (BAOR) Study Period in November and at the end of it to the Commander Comms (BAOR) Dinner Dance.

A visit to 2 Sqn by Commander Comms (BAOR) **Maj Gen H. Hild** on 21 November followed by a visit from COS HQ BAOR **Maj Gen Taylor** on 22 November, to say farewell to the Regiment, made the 'run-up' to the ARU on 24 November very interesting.

2 Sqn are now firmly entrenched in RAF Osnabruck with their move from RAF Wildenrath complete and majority of the move in problems overcome.

**VOLLEY BALL**

The Regiment wish to congratulate **Cpl Dave Boyle** on the award of his BAOR Volleyball colours. **Dave Boyle** has been one of the mainstays of the Regimental Volleyball Team who are current Army, BAOR and Rhine Area Champions. Well Done! **Dave.**

**ONE SQUADRON AUTUMN NEWS**

No sooner back on base from Exercise *Plain Sailing*, the Squadron began its planned but hectic preparations for Battlecamp 83.

**MISSION**

To complete all mandatory military training in as realistic and demanding environment as possible.

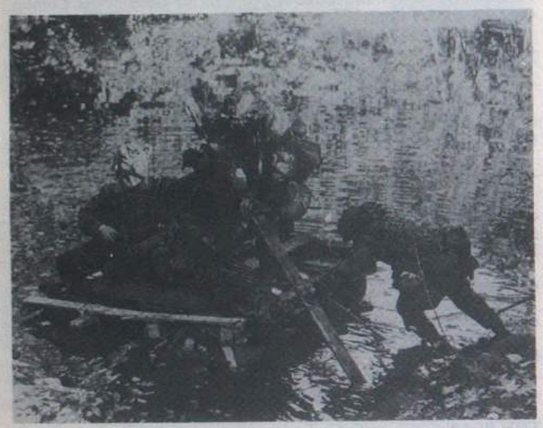
**THE PLAN**

As usual, all plans to use alternative training areas drew a blank as did most of the bids for pyrotechnics. So it was with 'bags' of enthusiasm and maps of Grobbendonk that the Squadron arrived in Belgium on one of the windiest days I can remember. 'Right you lot get your kit and follow me' (sounded promising). The Squadron personnel fell into two categories, 'them and us'. Bashas built, the training programme went into full swing with early morning PT, BFT tests and the usual First Aid, NBC, and Wpn Instruction coming thick and fast. 'You better remember this' the Sgt said. Oh how true his words were.

The platoons were thoroughly practised and then tested on all aspects of military training. Then the 'funnies' started appearing. 'Report for a briefing!' 'Take down these details'. 'Be back here in ten minutes'. Night patrols, recce patrols establishing firm RV's routes in, routes out. 'Give me C/S 31 on the Roetgen Ridge anytime'. 'What cross the water (if you could call it that) on that raft? All eight of us? You've got to be joking'. They weren't! We did!! The physical exertion of living rough, sleeping rough and the well co-ordinated programme of building us up culminated in a tough 48 hours involving Night Patrols, a military skills programme, a night escape and evasion exercise and the OC Squadrons final walkabout.

Quite exhausted and tired, the Squadron packed its belongings and headed back to RAF Wildenrath for a well earned rest (Sunday). Work as usual Monday, Sergeant Major?

Cpl Bob Tock 'getting it' in the ear from one of his Section and SSgt Fred Barden APTC



Sig Steve Hall, Dennis Philpott and Paul Scott get their watermanship colours at Grobbendonk. Cpl Neil Gabb and LCpl Mike Nash think that Townsend Thorensen might be easier.

## NEWS FROM 2 SQUADRON

### VISIT BY COMMANDER 4 SIGNAL GROUP TO RAF DET OSNABRUCK

The Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col M. Hales** paid a brief visit to RAF Det Osnabruck accompanied by **Mrs Hales.** They were met by the CO, **Lt Col M. Ayrton** and the Squadron Commander **Maj David Richardson. Mrs Hales** was whisked away by **Mrs Ingrid Richardson** to meet the Squadron wives over coffee whilst the Commander received a brief on the traumas of life in Osnabruck from **Maj Richardson.**

The Commander then took time off from his whistle-stop tour to present Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Sgt Toby Slater** and **Cpl Roy Walledge.** For the ceremony the recipients were joined by their respective troops and the Squadron's wives. Following the presentation **Sgt Martin Smith** was on hand with suitable refreshments to ensure the appropriate formaiities were observed.

*L-R* Cpl Roy Walledge, Mrs Chris Walledge, Col Hales, Mrs Hales and Sgt Toby Slater

**Col Hales** later found a few minutes to gain, first hand, the impressions of the minority element of the detachment in the form of RAF **Sgt Mel Ramskill** and **SAC Mark Priestly** and **SAC 'Schutz' Mills.**

*L-R* SAC Mark Priestley, SAC 'Schutz' Mills, Col Hales and Sgt Mel Ramskill

Following a guided tour of the barracks more renowned for its likeness to a fortress prison than a military establishment **Col Hales** visited the Telephone Exchange leaving **Sgt Slater** and **Cpl Walledge** to christen their gongs in earnest.

The CO, **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** made certain a celebratory evening by promoting **Cpl Bennett** to **Sgt** immediately after lunch, thereby ensuring a pleasant and relatively cheap evening in the respective messes.

During Ex *Hazel Flute* (A Harrier Deployment Exercise) E Troop, 2 Sqn were fortunate enough to be allowed two places on a flight in a Harrier Trainer (T Bird).

There was no shortage of volunteers and the places eventually went to **Sig 'Bruce' Bragg** because of his immediate involvement in providing the Tele Brief for the Pilots, and **Sig 'Jack' Corner,** now referred to as 'Sqn Ldr', because this was to be his last Harrier Exercise.

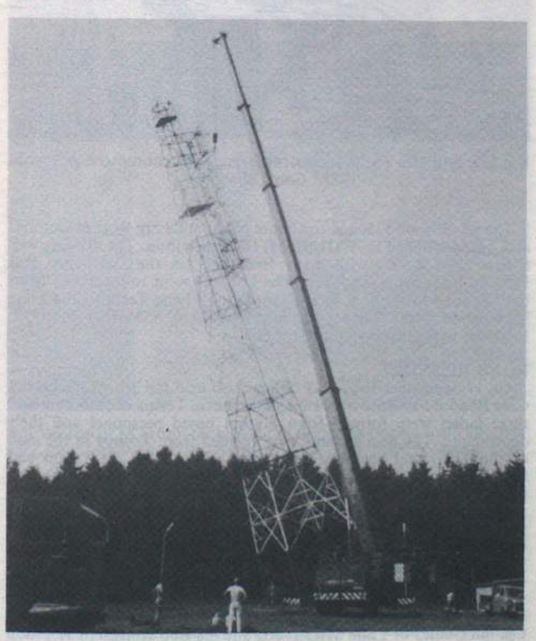
Both were suited up, briefed and allowed to actually take the controls and fly the aircraft.



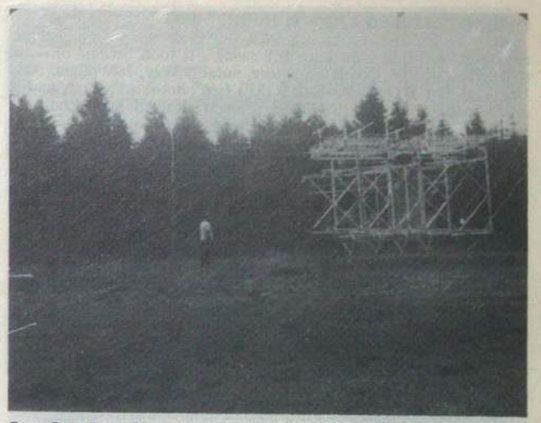
## 3 SQUADRON NOTES—AN EIFEL VIEW OF LIFE

### ROETGEN DETACHMENT 3 SQN

Situated approximately 85km South of Wildenrath and in the picturesque North Eifel is the Alpha Troop Detachment of Roetgen. At a height of over 2000ft above sea level the location provides an ideal site for the United Kingdom/BAOR Starrnet interface. The total strength of the detachment is twenty five, but only nine of these are Royal Signals. The remainder being RAF Police, Dog Handlers and two ACC Cooks.



Going! Going! Gone!!



Capt Don Freeston admiring the fallen BFBS radio tower thinking of the current price of scrap

Supervised by **Capt (TOT) Don Freeston** from Wildenrath the day to day running of the detachment is performed by **SSgt (FofS) Phil Martin** ably assisted by **Sgts Paul Budden** and **Joe Maggs RAFP.** The technical maintenance and 365 day a year cover is provided by **Sgts Dave Bavington, John Blackman, Nick Cannings** and **Graeme Hossell.** The nature of the equipment held requires that the majority of training takes place immediately on arrival, and by the time a technician leaves, the experience obtained will often result in a posting into the NATO 'Ace High' system. Best regards to **Sgt Chris Smithson** in the Shetlands!!

### THE LINK

The Geographical location of the detachment means an 170km round trip for our two drivers **LCpl Jimmy Nield** and **Sig George Monie** at least three times a week. This journey provides our lifeline to RAF Wildenrath with commodities such as rations, mail, technical spars, bar stock, accn stores, all being typical cargoes. In addition to this they provide 24 hrs emergency cover for the detachment personnel and their dependants. It is in fact suspected that the detachment landrovers 'with or without a snow plough blade' clock up more miles per year than any other vehicle in the RCZ!! **Sig Dave Mair** is the detachment barman and is the final member of the Royal Signals Team, a team that could not function effectively without the culinary delights prepared and presented by our two cooks. **LCpl Colin Smith ACC** and **Pte Dave Brench ACC.**

It must not be forgotten that the detachment is still known by many as RAF Roetgen and although all technical work is handled by 21 Sig Regt the security of the station is maintained by the RAF Police and their dog handlers. Under the supervision of **Sgt Joe Maggs RAFP** they ensure that all detachment personnel can sleep safely in their beds and provide 24 hr security throughout the year.

The detachment boasts a full and active social calendar. With the majority of seniors and many of the RAF Police Corporals married and in hirings in the local villages, these events focus around the detachments own mess 'The Eifel Hideaway'. Summer and Christmas Balls, Halloween, Valentines and Bonfire Night Dances are just some of the many events organised by our entertainments committees, combined with weekly film, whist and bingo nights, we have a social calendar many larger messes would be proud of.

For many of the above functions we invite guests from our parent station RAF Wildenrath. Attendance is inevitably followed by a request to attend the next function. This almost certainly can be attributed to the warm atmosphere that the mess and the detachment in general generates. Perhaps produced partly by the unusual and isolated nature of the detachment it however serves as an excellent example of Royal Signals, RAF Police and Army Catering Corps personnel working side by side in a friendly and professional manner.

## H TROOP CONKER CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983

At 1600 hrs on 21 October 1983 the first heat in a knockout conker competition went into 'full swing'. It soon became obvious that certain people had played before, notably **Wg Cdr Williams** (OC Eng Wg) and **WO Richardson** (GRF) (see photo) who both had a professional approach (they had to be restrained from shouting 'Stamps' and jumping on the oppositions conker).

No written rules for conkers could be found, so **Sgt Whateley** devised some with **Sgt Long** presiding over the heats to ensure they were enforced. Heat being the correct word at one point when **LCpl Milnes** tried to use a conker that was still warm after an illegal baking!

Eventually, after beers and sandwiches, the evening ended with the final between **Sgts Riach** and **O'Callagham** (both of H Tp projects dept). **Sgt Riach** is now the proud owner (until next year) of the conker champion's trophy.

LCpl Milnes taking it easy under heavy pressure from Sig Dilling

You moved—Wg Cdr Williams trying to smash Sqn Ldr Berry's (OCEES) conker (unsuccessfully)

## NEWS FROM THE SGTS' MESS

Another Dinner with our wives saw us saying farewell to **SSgt Paddy Garrehy** and **Sgt Eric Williams** and their wives at the end of their 22 years service. **Paddy** leaves us to spend his last 'six' in Blandford while **Eric** moves to 34 Sig Regt for his last 'six'. We wish both familites all the very best in civilian life.

SSgt Paddy Garrehy presenting WO1 (RSM) Geoff Northey with a figure of Mercury for the Sgts' Mess 21 Sig Regt

Sgt Eric and Mrs Pat Williams receiving their retirement gift from RSM Geoff Northey

The SNCOs were invited to Games Night at 28 Sig Regt in October and were welcomed by **WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton.** The evening was a first class success with many fine skills on the Dartboard and Domino table being displayed. The honours went to the home team but honour was restored by the Formation Flying Team of the Mess led by **RSM Geoff Northey** and his 'Wing Man' **SSM Trev Johnson.** It has its perks serving with the RAF.

## ROAD RUNNING

On 17 September 1983 RAF Wildenrath held the 3rd Annual Coca Cola Road Relay Race over a 2.1 mile course. Teams of four men and three ladies were formed from Station based personnel and their dependants. The men's teams were formed from Troops in the case of the Army and Sections in the case of the RAF. M Troop had something to prove this year as they had won the event on the two previous occasions it had been run. With the loss of three of its runners from last year's winning team, they had been seen over the previous weeks running time trials around the course, blatantly ignoring the fact that it is not British to practise.

In front of a large crowd the first leg runners of some 78 teams set off in a mass start around the station roads. After 10 minutes 58 seconds it was **LCpl Hughie Latta** who arrived first at the finishing line to give F Troop a narrow lead over several other runners including **Cpl Ian Godley** of 1 Sqn SHQ Troop and **Sig Bob Holden** of H Troop both of whom have very fast legs. **LCpl Alan Hinton** of M Troop was

The start of the 1983 Coca Cola Road Relay Race

sixth, 68 seconds behind the leader. At the end of the second lap some strong RAF opposition had narrowly gained the lead by five seconds with **Cpl George Dalton** of SHQ 2nd, a mere one second in front of **Sig 'Sleepy' Williamson** of H Troop. **Cpl Phil Welham** of M Troop was fourth having reduced the deficit to 53 seconds. With tension and excitement rising, **LCpl Arthur Nicol** of H Troop had established a big lead after another fine leg for H Troop at the end of the third lap, as did **Cpl Neil Allamby** of M Troop in second place now only 47 seconds behind the leaders, with the remaining teams trailing.

Despite a gallant last leg by **LCpl Kev Stevens** of H Troop, **Sgt Gaz Wilson** of M Troop made his last minute arrival from a parachute course halfway across Germany worthwhile, by running a brilliant last leg bringing M Troop home clear winners from H Troop in second place. The 1 Sqn SHQ team finished in a creditable sixth place.

The Regiment's Veteran Team of **Capt Geoff Powell, WO2 Jim McGovern, WO2 Steve Tucker** and **SSgt Mal Forster** were second in the veterans competition as were the Regiment's ladies **Mrs Carol Tucker, Mrs Liz Coker** and **Mrs Jackie Forster** in their competition.

The individual winner was the RAF's International marathon runner **Cpl Mick Hurd** in a time of 9 mins 58 secs, **Sgt Gaz Wilson** was second in 10 mins 32 secs and **LCpl Hughie Latta** fourth. **Mrs Carol Tucker** was third lady and **Mrs Jackie Forster** was fourth.

Sgt Wilson of M Troop receiving the winner's trophy from sponsor Mr Joe Jennings. Cpl Welham and LCpl Hinton await their trophies

## MARATHON RUNNING

If ever anyone are gluttons for punishment, **WO2 (SSM) Steve Tucker** and **Cpl Neil Allamby** surely are. After completing the Berlin Marathon on 5 September 1983 less than two weeks later they ran the Royal Signals Marathon at Verden.

After many hours of lonely training during dinner hours and weekends, four members of the Regiment travelled to Berlin to partake in the Berlin Marathon.

21 Sig Regt (AS) ladies Mrs Liz Coker, Mrs Carol Tucker and Mrs Jackie Forster receiving a liquid prize for second ladies team

For **WO2 (SSM) Steve Tucker** this was his third marathon, **Cpl Neil Allamby's** second and **Sgt Gaz Wilson** and **LCpl Chris Rose** were attempting the 26 miles 368 yards for the first time.

The morning of the marathon luckily was a warm and overcast day, in fact ideal for long distance running as the following results show: **WO2 (SSM) Steve Tucker** 2 hrs 58 mins, **LCpl Chris Rose REME** 3 hrs 04 mins, **Sgt Gaz Wilson** 3 hrs 06 mins and **Cpl Neil Allamby** 3 hrs 16 mins. All four runners achieved personal best times.

Thirteen days later **Steve Tucker** and **Neil Allamby** were joined by **SSgt Wynne 'Taff' Gordon** and some 600 other runners at Verden. In blustery weather over a less than perfect course **Wynne Gordon** was aiming to beat **Steve Tucker's** Berlin time. In fact he equalled it leaving both of them to fight for supremacy on a future occasion. Both **Wynne** and **Neil** ran personal best times. The Verden results were as follows: **SSgt (SQMS) Wynne Gordon** 2 hrs 58 mins, **WO2 (SSM) Steve Tucker** 3 hrs 0 mins and **Cpl Neil Allamby** 3 hrs 11 mins.

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**R SIGNALS BAOR ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983**

Despite the best (or worst?) efforts of the 'stats' team, we were the clear winners of the Corps BAOR Orienteering—held this year at the Harburger Berge near Hamburg.

The team of: **Maj Peter Williams, Capt Nick Corbin, Lt Nigel Gill, WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft, Sgts Jim Collins** and **Ray Haydock** were delighted to win—and we wish to advise the Chairman of Orienteering that the trophy is now safely in our hands.

Regimental Orienteering
Sgt Paul Eyre 2 Sqn shows disbelief as Cpl Ivor Bailey 4 Sqn powers past in the opposite direction

**SUB AQUA EXPEDITION TO ELBA**

As promised in our last notes, we include this time a couple of photographs to warm you in mid-Winter. Our 1983 Sub Aqua expedition to Elba was a great success. The unit club is very much alive and planning is well in hand for 1984.

SSgt (FofS) Graham Chaplin

**THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM OF LIPPSTADT**

The Tenth Anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Lippstadt was celebrated jointly by Fernmeldebataillon 7 and 22nd Sig Regt on 27 October 1983. Both Lippstadt based units formed a partnership when the freedom was first granted 10 years ago and the Anniversary of this unique occasion was marked by an impressive torchlight parade outside the Rathaus where troops representing both regiments were represented.

The parade was inspected by the Burgermeister, **Frau Dr Christ** accompanied by the respective Commanding Officers', **Oberstleutnant Walter Ulrich** and **Lt Col Peter Chaddock.** Following speeches by the Burgermeister, both Commanding Officers' and **Herr Raulf** on behalf of the Landrat, the Freedom Scroll was ceremonially marched around the square and the Germain Colours paraded prior to a symbolic swearing-in ceremony by Budneswehr recruits.

22 Sig Regt contingent, led by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, then exercised its Freedom right by marching through the streets of Lippstadt with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and band playing, followed closely by the German contingent and the Heeresmusick Korps 13.

Senior British guests included **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** (Comd Comms BAOR), **Brig C. N. Last OBE** (Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps), **Brig A. Yeoman** (ACOS G1/4/5 1 (BR) Corps) and former Commanding Officers, **Col T. H. Wheawell** and **Lt Col J. H. Almonds.**

Freedom Parade. The Corps band enters the Tower Square in the Torchlight ceremony

Freedom Parade. The Regimental contingent marches on to parade behind the Freedom Scroll

Freedom Parade. The Scroll Party—Lt Peter Gillespie bears the Freedom Scroll. Members of the guard are, *Left to Right:* SSgt Russ Thompson, Sgt Gordon Marchant, SSgt Gerry Hegarty

Torchlight Freedom Parade in Town Square

**LIPPSTADT TRI-PARTITE SHOOTING COMPETITION**

The annual Tripartite shoot between 22 Sig Regt, Fernmeldebataillon 7 and the Lippstadt Police, was held on 2 December at the Lippstadt Police indoor range. The competition was divided into two major events, the pistol match and the machine pistol match. Both competitions were fired under police rules and regulations.

The pistol match was the first event under way and after the first phase 7 Fernmelderbataillon had gone into a narrow lead, but the experienced 22 Sig Regt were not to be thwarted. Relying on strength in depth, the team led by **Lt Col Chaddock** pulled back to within three points of the Fernmeldbataillon with the police in third place.

The machine pistol match was the most straightforward of the competition and provided the most excitement with the teams changing position on the scoreboard after each firer. The Adjutant **Capt Nick Corbin** then showed us all how to shoot by scoring a highest possible score of one hundred to sew up the competition, with the Police and 7 Fernmeldebataillon.

The prize giving was held in the Officers Mess at Fernmeldebataillon 7 in Lipperlruch. The final results were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pistol Match Winners** | **7 Fernmeldebataillon** |
| **Individual Winner** | **Lt Col Ulrich CO Fmbte 7** |
| **Machine Pistol Match Winners** | **22 Sig Regt** |
| **Individual Winner** | **Capt Nick Corbin** |

The team members were: **Lt Col Chaddock, Maj Treeby, Maj Williams, Maj Simpson, Capt Corbin, Lt Coupar** and **Capt (TOT) Scriven** our Anglo/German Officer.

**PAGE TROPHY ORIENTEERING COMPETITION 1983**

This year's event was held on the Barenburg feature just outside Bielefeld. The course was planned by **WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft,** who provided both an A and B course, it is also thought he provided the weather, heavy fog and freezing rain. Teams had to supply 10 runners, five for the A and five for the B course, the first four runners on each course counting towards the team time. The course proved demanding but all seemed to enjoy the event. The first three places on the A course were taken by **WO2 (SSM) Bill White, Sgt Jim Collins,** and **Sig Steve Parkinson,** whilst the first two places on the B course was taken by **Cpl Mac McKay** and **LCpl Rick Greenland.** This just left **LCpl Dave Bradford, Cpl Ivor Bailey** and **Cpl Tom Benson,** to finish for a convincing win for 4 Squadron.

Orienteering Champions 4 Sqn
*Left to right, Back row:* LCpl Duggie Shields, Sgt Jim Collins, Cpl Ivor Bailey, LCpl Dave Bradford, SSM Bill White. *Front row:* Cpl Colin McKay, Sig Parky Parkinson, Cpl Taff Smith, Sig Rick Greenland, Cpl Tom Benson

**BADMINTON**
**ACHIEVEMENTS**

The newly formed Regimental Badminton Club has a membership of about 20, and includes several ladies amongst its members.

In the 4th Division league, to date we have played five matches and are still unbeaten. One of our best results was against 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt whom we beat six rubbers to five. 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt had not lost a match for the past three years.

Team members include: **Capt P. J. McLoughlin, Lt G. Taylor, Lt A. Humphries WRAC, SSgt (YofS) Rodgers, Sgt Potts, Cpl Fowler, LCpls Patterson, Yates, Sigs Collin, Green, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Lockwood** and **Mrs Davies.**

**CORPS UK CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Unit team entered the UK Royal Signals Championships, and was very successful:

Team members: **Capt P. J. McLoughlin, Sgt Potts, LCpl Patterson, Sig Collin.**

**Capt McLoughlin** won the veterans doubles with **SSgt O. M. Chhetri** (NI) beating **Sgt Ellis** and **Maj Knox** (both School of Signals) in two straight sets.

**LCpl Paterson** was beaten in a thrilling final of the Mens' Singles Plate. He lost to the present Junior Army Singles Champion **Sig Peerson** from Harrogate, 18-17 in the third set. **Capt McLoughlin** and **Sgt Potts** were beaten in the Unit Doubles semi final by the eventual winners. The pair from this Regiment won the first set 15—12, and were leading in the second set when **Sgt Potts** had to retire injured. **Capt McLoughlin** played with **SSgt Chhetri** was beaten in the final of the Open Doubles.

**BAOR CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In the BAOR Royal Signals championships our team was: **Capt P. J. McLoughlin, LCpls Paterson, Yates, Sigs Collin** and **Green.**

**Capt McLoughlin** and **LCpl Paterson** won the Unit Doubles getting revenge over 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt (for the semi final defeat in UK). **Capt McLoughlin** playing with **LCpl Moore** 21 Sig Regt won the Open Doubles beating **LCpl Paterson** and **Sig Boyce** 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt in two straight sets. **LCpl Paterson** has been selected as a member of the Army BAOR squad and also for the BAOR Royal Signals Corps team.

## 2 SQUADRON REPORT

First, a few changes of personalities. We lost **Lt Marian Evans** who was dined out in the field in typical Sierra fashion (say no more!). Well, in a tent actually—an experience she is not likely to forget. We also lost **'Q' Cottam.** (But found he'd been signed out on a 1033 to the OTC at London University). Not only had he put the Squadron stores in immaculate order and then terrified troop OCs with troop accounting, but he had also been the SSgt of Echo Troop at the beginning of his tour. All these jobs he did excellently and he will be sadly missed.

On the plus side we gained **Lt Ann Humphreys.** We'd heard about defence cuts but when she strode through the door, all 4ft nothing of her we thought this was going too far! Still we're very glad to see her and she's settling in well showing up some of the men on the Squadron runs. The slower members of the Squadron are thinking about some form of handicap to prevent further embarrassment.

## EXERCISE *ZODIAC MUSTER*

**Lt Vyv Thatcher**
**Sgt Phil** 'Pain is a sensation—' **Whittaker**
21 men, strong and true

'22 Sig Regt will provide one officer and 20 men to act as enemy to 12 Amd Bde on Ex *Eternal Triangle*.' Well we know 22 Sig Regt and especially 2 Sqn, were good but 20 men against Brigade?! As the word got round that OC F was recruiting, people began to go sick, on leave, courses, funerals etc. Squadron strength appeared to be about 10.

Still, we finally scraped the men together, (to be honest about half the Squadron volunteered for this exercise but that makes it sound so easy!) nine, yes nine, LMGs were drawn out, and then there was the question of ammo. The RQMS Tech, **Dave Pimm** produce Pyro and blank as if by magic. Also thanks go to the MTO **Capt Sandy Reid** and **SSgt Gordon Townsley** for providing us with vehicles,—sorry we bent them!

Setting off at the crack of dawn on Sunday was not a popular move but we arrived in good order at about midday. We spent the afternoon recceing ambush locations for the Monday. Having been assured the enemy recce elements would pass through, schermulys, thunderflashes, smoke and personal weapons went of as per plan. We radioed through and were told 'Funny I wonder who that was', recce hasn't left yet!'

An hour later the real enemy recce arrived, we repeated the performance and sure enough they disappeared. 10 minutes later we heard what sounded to be regiments worth of APC's approaching. Eventually the dismounted infantry appeared, straight into our main ambush position! 2 Squadron 1:12 Armoured Brigade 0. The next two days were spent in a similar fashion culminating on a route with 12 ambushes supplied by our three section leapfrogging after springing each ambush. It was going exceptionally well when a message came for us 'Please ease off on my men or they'll never secure their start line'. As he was a General and he asked so nicely—we let him through.

The last two days (and nights) we operated behind enemy lines attacking positions in the rear echelons, and then acting as 'stay behind' patrols. Having wiped out a regiment LAD, on night attacks. We took up our patrol positions—or tried to, the enemy had moved forward early. We mixed in with them and then started attacking. One section was captured, but Corporal **Ron 'Gung Ho' Pike's** section spent the entire day causing chaos. A broken down Ferret fell victim as did a few other dets, and an infantry company was attacked from the rear, much to their surprise. On one attack the section was asked 'What unit are you'. 22, they replied, gasps of shock 'No wonder you're so good'. They didn't know whether to tell them they meant 22 Sig Regt not 22 SAS; in the end they decided not to bother!

We then returned home, the verdict; the best exercise we'd ever been on.

## 3 SQUADRON FOCUS

The arrival of autumn brings with it the new exercise season and the bi annual sojurn of 3 Sqn to that most famous of all spot heights to support the first exercise of the Winter season.

The seven week period the Squadron is on the hill is always utilized to the full with an extensive military and physical training programme, running concurrently with technical inspections of the Commcen vehicles by **FofS Law**—which keeps everybody on their toes.

The second week of the exercise was considerably quieter than the first, this allowed sixteen members of the Squadron to travel down the hill to the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe, to attend a one jump parachute course.

The potential 'Skygods' **Sgt Bob Nicholson, Cpls Tony Taylor, Kevin Lewis, LCpls Bob Breheney, David Marchant, Graham Moore, Sig Karl Caswell, Chris Morton, Craig Adamson** and **Andrew Powell,** arrived at the centre at 0900 hrs on the 22 September to begin the mandatory ground training prior to the jump. Once the straight jackets were removed the sixteen were led away kicking and screaming to the centre hangar where they learned the intricacies of jumping out of aircraft. The rest of the day went very well with the participants of the course making a successful descent from 2000ft. After much drinking of beer and telling of tales at the centre club house the group set off back to the hill to continue with the exercise.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron has just bade a fond farewell to **SSgt Atkinson** who has moved to 3 Div on promotion, and to **SSgt Gadson** who, on return from the Falklands, was posted to Cyprus! Last, but not least, is OC H Troop, **Lt Mike Wise** who is now well into a six month tour in Belize and due for a posting on his return.

The Squadron extends a warm welcome to the new Squadron 2IC **Capt David Wise** who has recently arrived with his wife **June** from the School of Signals, we wish **Capt Kevin Taylor** and his wife **Margaret** a successful tour in Blandford.

## BONFIRE NIGHT

As most of the regiment noticed, very enjoyable, thanks largely to the efforts of **Sgt Eyre** and a team of 2 Sqn 'volunteers', who were eventually persuaded that squadron seniors could not be used as guys due to the difficulty of obtaining replacements.

## RUNNING

We have put in teams for the Hohne 10, Verden Marathon, and the Rheindahlen 25. With **Sgt Eyre** and **SSgt Mitchell** organising these events, and then coming first in our Squadron teams, they are obviously leading from the front.

## CO's DAY

All the Squadrons experienced this event, what made 2 Squadron's CO's day different was the fact that we were called out halfway through. 'Active Edge', was the call, two minutes later 2 Squadron's reply 'Ready', this must be a record! What happened after is history, naturally Sierra's comms were in and waiting first, but why change the habits of a lifetime?

## REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING

'A team or B team'? 'What's the difference?' None really, one goes one way round the course, the other goes round in the opposite direction'. 'Oh, put me down for the A team then.' When the sheets were handed out this proved to be untrue, **YofS Glover,** our team leader was not to be found, just as well really. Our B team came 2nd and our A team still disagree with the position of checkpoint No 6. Still as none of us was brave, or foolish enough to argue with the RSM we let it stand, and basked in feelings of sportsmanship and self righteousness, combined with nagging doubts about our map reading!

## FAREWELL TO COMMANDER

Farewell Visit, Brig C. N. Last, Commander Communications meets the 'Q' element of his special tasks Commcen Echo—who keep their distance as he demonstrates a karate chop.
*Left to right:* LCpls Steve Howard, Carl Digby LAD, Cpl Jock Irvine, Craftsman Keith Woodhouse LAD, Sig Paddy Cromie, Cpl John Hall ACC, Pte Jai Berkeley, Capt Alan Kite, SSgt Mick Lloyd-Williams



# 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
# BFPO 35

## BUSY PERIOD

The end of the year proved an unusually busy period the for the Regiment, including a major Northag Command Post exercise Able Archer 83 and our Annual Review of a unit. A rush of visitors was noted many concerned with the ARU but also some from UK. Ensuring a re-stock of 'duty free' before the Christmas festivities perhaps? (AG 11 please note that this is a joke!).

## WIVES' FASHION SHOW

The wives' club was not to be outdone and staged a remarkably successful fashion show in October in Francisca Barracks. The models (see photograph) were all members of the Regimental wives' club and they modelled a wide range of clothing from Wendy Wools and the Pohl Boutique of St Tönis. Some 200 ladies came to the show which was opened by **Mrs Anne Belton** the Commander's wife. A further attraction was exotic dancing by **Mrs Grace Bell** one of our wives who was also one of the models. Behind the scenes **Mrs Sue McGinnis** and **Mrs June Hamilton** put together an exciting and professional show.

*Back row:* Carol McAneny, Jenny Brown, Ruth Grimmitt, Edna Clark, Lynn Rimmer and Sue Jepson. *Front row:* Judy Webb, Grace Bell and Monika Smith

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On a cold but dry and crisp 13 November the Regiment participated in a station parade of remembrance at Rheinberg Military Cemetary. The parade party included 50 Soldiers and NCOs from the Regiment alongside contingents from 16 Sig Regt and 40 Army Engineer Support Group. The spirit of reconciliation was highlighted by the presence of members of the German Ex Servicemen's associations who also laid a wreath.

Lt Col Brian Belton at Rheinberg Military Cemetery

## ARU TEST WITH A TWIST

28th (British) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) is a NATO Regiment under command of the Northern Army Group Signal Support Group. However when it comes to the Annual Report on a Unit (ARU) the Regiment is tested on British Lines.

The 1983 ARU was scheduled for 22 November and the Assistant Chief of Staff G3 HQ NORTHAG, **Brig R. W. Ward MBE,** the inspecting officer, gave the Regiment his orders for the day on 17 November. The CO and key appointment holders were to hand over command to the 'Junior Command Group' consisting of subalterns and corporals. At a regimental parade **Lt Steve Johns** took immediate command of the Regiment and together with his **RSM, Cpl Pete Cornes,** gave initial orders. Formal handovers took place and the 'Junior Command Group' got on with planning their tasks, firstly to deploy the Reigment to the field and administer it, and secondly to plan a full day's military skills test for the Regiment (by sections) to be conducted at ARSBECK ranges which **Brig Ward** would visit for his inspection. The Junior Command Group planned and organised an excellent and testing day (including some crisp November weather). The Regiment was put through its paces with a March and Shoot, NBC, Weapon training and first aid tests. A mixed cap badge team from Support Squadron were the eventual winners. They received their prizes from **Brig Ward** who congratulated the Junior Command Group on a fine effort. CO for the day **Lt Steve Johns** then fell the Regiment out for a meal prior to handing it back to the CO **Lt Col Brian Belton.**

Angels with dirty faces—LCpl Rob O'Hara (centre) and Sig Ken Royal minister to Sig Jeff Capes, in borrowed combat jacket

**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.**

Brig R. W. Ward presents a trophy to LCpl 'Crofty' Croft. LCpl Tony Walls RPC also from the winning Support Squadron team waits his turn

The sting in the tail, came an hour later. **Lt Col Belton** was so impressed with the Junior Command Group's performance that he ordered them to retain command for a further 48 hrs of a testing Regimental movement, deployment and defence exercise.

WO1 RSM Dick Hamilton hands over his office (and Manual of Military Law) to Cpl Pete Cornes of 1 Sqn

CO for a day Lt Steve Johns reports to Brig Ward at the start of the ARU

## FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON

**SQUADRON MANAGEMENT:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **— Maj J. D. Heck** |
| **2IC** | **— Capt (Tfc) J. M. Ross** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **— Lt P. Hodgkiss** |
| **OC Papa Tp** | **— Lt S. Rostron WRAC** |
| **OC Victor Tp** | **— Capt C. Stuart WRAC** |
| **Comms Chief** | **— Capt (Tfc) F. C. McLoughlin** |
| **SSM** | **—WO2 J. J. Stanley** |
| **YofS** | **—WO2 B. J. Alway** |
| **SQMS** | **— SSgt B. Johnson** |

The Squadron consists of three troops, two Comms troops (Oscar and Papa) which provide the Mobile War HQ (called Mobile and Monitor) for the Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) General Staff; the third troop (Victor) mans and maintains the Static Commcen and telephone switchboard for the NORTHAG Staff in their peace location.

Since our Battle Camp in the summer (enjoyed by all) the Squadron has been through its quiet leave period. Then began the preparations for the Regiment's last major Staff exercise of the year Ex *Able Archer*. Oscar troop duly deployed into the field, where few men had gone before, explored the unexplored and attempted the impossible. Despite having a live enemy the exercise was a 'glowing' success; emphasised by self igniting vehicles and the 2IC's pipe. The smooth running of our admin complex was only occassionally upset with **Sig Freddy O'Flynn** and his human torch impersonations or by false alarms from **Sgt Steve Owens** self igniting trip flares. We should also mention the serious logistical problem (continually overcome by **SSgt Brian Johnson**) in keeping the OC supplied with his evening cheese snacks. Now over to the troops for some more detailed information.

### OSCAR TP
**2IC WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt**
**Tp Sgt Sgt Mick Palmer**

The morale of the troops is, as usual high. Considerig the shortage of Staff exercises which provide our ideal on the job training, we manage to produce a good all round efficient team of operators, technicians, linemean, combat powermen and combat drivers, which all result ultimately in good communications. Don't only take our word for it, ask COMNORTHAG himself who told us so on Ex *Able Archer*. In addition to being good at comms, the troop is fairing well on the sports field. At the time of writing we are holding first place in the much coverted 'Inter Troop Competition Shield' for 1983. Admittedly Bravo Troop of 1 Sqn are only one point behind and with only two events to go (badminton and .22 shooting) it will be a close run competition. However, as we seem to be the only troop who have ever cleaned the Shield it seems fitting that we should retain it; we will anyway. Among the individual trophies won in the competition so far, we have the football, volleyball and cross country. Whilst not wishing to boast we also won the Webb March and Shoot competition; which consisted of a gruelling nine mile march, 100 metre carry, short obstacle course and 10 rounds each on the 30 metre range with the SLR. Agreed, we only won by one point ahead of Bravo troop 1 Sqn (again) who, we hope, will keep trying.

Over the last few months there has been a fair amount of change of personnel within the troop. We have said our fond farewells to **LCpl Paul Biss** who is off to the great unknown 'civvy street', **LCpl Vic Bannister** off to Cyprus and sunnier climes, **Sgt Taff Taylor** to 22 Sig Regt (not so sunny) and **Cpl Taff Carr (on promotion to Sgt)** to Hong Kong. To them all and their wives we wish them all the best for the future.

### PAPA TP
**2IC (FofS) Gorse**
**Tp Sgt Sgt J. S. Baker**

The troop strength fluctuates somewhere between 58 and 70 made up of various trades, but all likeable lads. Terminal communications is our game, and some say terminal could describe certain items of our current equipment. We are, as you know, a NATO regiment and to keep reminding us we meet all our Signals Allies each exercise; the German Army provide our radio relay and multiplexing equipment, the Dutch Army lay our long lines and the Belgian Army provide our HF radio communications. As you can imagine there are the odd moments of frustration and language difficulties, however, we do all get on well and the system does work.

When we are not communicating, setting up for demonstrations, or keeping the many facets of the troop in tip top condition, we manage to venture on to the sports field. As it happens we seem to be very good at running, jumping, throwing kicking or batting things and



although not as high as Oscar troop in the Inter Troop competition we should still gain a good final position.

Over the past few months we have had to say farewell to some members of the troop **Cpls Stretch Garside, Ken Mitchell, Dave Black** to Hong Kong, Belize and Oslo (they must all have connections in M&RO) and **Sig Jimmy Young** off to 30 Sig Regt, so he could meet them all again soon. To replace the gaps in the nominal roll we say hello to **LCpls Gerald Shield** and **Nigel Coomber** and **Sig Bob Hewitt.** We hope they and their families enjoy their time in Krefeld.

A few congratulations are also in order; **Cpls Steve Gallimore** and **Chris Meehan,** and **LCpls Paddy Potter, Dick Rutherford** and **Andy Jenner** on their promotions; **Cpl Andy** and **Sonia Foster** and **Sig Steve** and **Kathy Allister** on the birth of their daughters. Finally to **Cpl Graham Wilson, Cpl Tom Howard** and **Sig Kieth Sefton** and the brave ladies who have agreed to be their wives—all the very best.

### VICTOR TP
**2IC WO1 E. Willacy WRAC**
**Tp Sgt Sgt B. Foster WRAC**

Deep in the cellars beneath the NORTHAG/2 ATAF HQ lies the NORTHAG/2 ATAF Joint Commcen, which is manned by personnel of Victor Troop. As with most Commcens the pace of life varies from 'quiet', through 'busy' to the ridiculous stage and with the added intricacies of the NORTHAG message handling systems to master, the operators find it a challenging task.

That they cope well can best be illustrated by the way that a veteran of two or three weeks handles five page flash messages without so much as a tremor.

The Switchboard operators too have their problems. Apart from serving a large HQ Staff with a somewhat outdated manual switchboard they have the added problem that the Staff are Multi-National and that many of the calls handled are to various National HQs. At most times of the day one can hear the operator struggling in a variety of languages to route calls.

The troop, which is some 60 strong, comprises of one quarter Royal Signals personnel and three quarters WRAC with its headquarters in Rheindahlen where the OC **Capt Carolyn Suart** and her small team of assistants, led by **Sgt Brenda Foster** administer the troop.

The Joint Commcen is under the supervision of **Capt (Tfc) Colin McLoughlin** with **WO1 Elaine Willacy** acting as his right hand (wo)man. **Sgts Larry O'Kane** and **Bob Knaggs** head the NORTHAG systems and equipment cell. The girls in the troop are fully integrated into Regimental life and join in with the males of the Regiment in activities such as Battle Camps, Inter Troop sports etc. They also prove their worth by joining the Regiment in the field for some of the larger Staff exercises, where their Commcen and Switchboard skills are put to good use at the NORTHAG Switches.

To conclude the Squadron has just returned from the Regimental exercise which just happened to include our ARU. We had a full day demonstrating our military skills to the Inspecting Officer. The Brigadier seemed quite happy with our efforts, but the Commanding Officer will, we dare say, not be satisfied until he sees it all in the final report.

We then went on to let the JNCOs take command and take the Squadron to war and proceeded through a movement cycle which would have made 1 (BR) Corps dizzy. **Cpls Matt Smyth, 'H' Winstanley, Allan MacKenzie, Keith Stewart, Dinger Bell, Al Howard, Graham Wilson, Tom Thomas** and **Keith Boxall** all appeared to enjoy their new found power.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to **Capt (Tfc) Jim Ross, Sgts Bob Taylor** and **Jack Dempsey** and their families who have all arrived recently.

**OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN**

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

## 30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

**VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF**

On Monday 28 November 1983 the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen Benbow,** visited 30 Sig Regt. On arrival he inspected the Barrack Guard and the remainder of his morning was taken up with watching Regimental activities, which included a BFT, training for a CFT and an assault course.

During his visit the SOinC presented various awards in the Sgts' Mess and later in the Cpls' Club. In the Sgts' Mess he presented the **BEM** to **SSgt (FofS) Colin Mitchell** and **Sgt Larry Tulett.** He also presented the CinC Fleet Commendation to **SSgt Glenn Harwood** and five LS&GC medals to **WO2 (AQMS) Tony Moogan REME, SSgt (YofS) Graham Easton, SSgt (FofS) Pete White, Sgt Alan Cook** and **Sgt Glenn Pennington.** These presentations were followed by a buffet lunch in the Sgts' Mess.

After an equipment display in the afternoon, the SOinC presented two further awards in the Cpls' Club: the GOC NI Commendation to **Cpl Paul Barnett** and the LS&GC to **Cpl Michael O'Crowley.**

The SOinC reviews the Barrack Guard: Sgt Lilley with the SOinC, then *L to R:* Sig Craig Jones, LCpl David Jagger, Sig Neil Beament, and LCpl Simon Taylor

The SOinC with the recipients of the awards: *L to R:* SSgt (FofS) Colin Mitchell, SSgt Glenn Harwood, WO2 Tony Moogan REME SOinC, SSgt (YofS) Graham Easton, Sgt Larry Tulett, Sgt Alan Cook, Sgt Drika, Sgt Glen Pennington, SSgt (FofS) Peter White

The SOinC was then presented with a print of the Falklands painting by **Cpl Frank Roberts.** The painting was commissioned by the Regiment from **Mr Peter Archer** to commemorate the role of men from 30 Sig Regt in the Falklands Campaign.

Cpl Frank Roberts presented the Falkland Islands print to the SOinC

## DETACHMENT WITH THE BRITISH FORCE LEBANON

The British Force Lebanon (BRITFORLEB) has found the past weeks hectic but exhilarating. The month of August was one of gradual build up of tension with occasional, if sometimes heavy, exchanges between militias and some night firing at the Israeli base across the road. This build up was reflected by a commensurate increase in signal traffic. The Signals Detachment, commanded by **Lt Nick Borrill,** consisting of **Sgt Sammy McElreavy, Cpls Dave Ashley, John Johnson, LCpl Andy Craig, Sig Keiran Butler, Ray Orange, Simon Perks, David Smith** and **Richard Strowger** found themselves facing heavy workload.

The Force's attention at the time was focussed largely upon the Israelis, in the building opposite, waiting for signs of the long expected withdrawal. Their tension was graphically illustrated in mid August when an Israeli sentry vehicle opened fire and rounds hit the British base, passing through the Detachment's workshop area and COMMCEN. The incident was due to a misunderstanding in Israeli patrol orders. Liaison over our earlier established link diffused a potentially awkward moment.

The Signals Detachment has been spread across the city from the Base, in Hadath to the SE of Beirut in support of patrols of 'A' Squadron 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and has an important responsibility for communications to the British Embassy on the northern waterfront of the city. This latter task requires a group of signallers to be based at the Embassy, and these posts are rotated amongst members of the Detachment. Those based in Hadath mount regular patrols between the base and the Embassy, which takes routes through various parts of the city. It was whilst on such a patrol that members of the Detachment were caught in cross-fire between opposing militias in East Beirut. The patrol withdrew to Hadath. It was the first time that the British had been so directly involved in the fighting, and heralded the start of a barrage of fighting which was to keep **LCpl Andy Craig, Sig David Smith** and **Ray Orange** at the Embassy for far longer than intended before a patrol could relieve them.

The trouble of 28 August halted the Israelis, who appeared to have begun their pullout a day or two earlier. The 'Amal' (the militia of Shi'ite Moslems) had erected a poster hoarding in Burj-al-Barajinalis about a mile or so west of the British base. Its nature offended certain factions, and triggered off a violent struggle requiring the deployment of two Lebanese Army Brigades as it spread north. For the Lebanese Army, this was their first real test, and following it they embarked on a two day operation to clear opposition from Wadi Beirut westwards to the coast. The ability and speed of the Lebanese Army (newly formed a year previously) was a clear indication that they possessed more cohesion than many Western observers had predicted.

## SATELLITE DETACHMENT

As the intensity and the extent of the fighting grew, the need for direct communications to UK became apparent, and accordingly the SPEARHEAD Satellite Communications Detachment, from Light Radio Troop, 1 Squadron was crashed out on 31 Aug. That afternoon, the seven man detachment of **Capt Philip Pratley, Cpls Graham Robson, Neil Telford, LCpl Adrian Beale** and **Sig Will Graham, David White** and **Steve Wiltshire** were loading their equipment aboard a Hercules at RAF Lyneham. After a 36 hour stop-over in Cyprus, courtesy of 259 Sig Sq, whilst transport was arranged, the Detachment left Akrotiri early on 3 September. Because of the situation, no aircraft or helicopters were able to fly into Beirut, and so the RCT Launch MV *Michael Murphy VC* took the detachment across. The sea was calm, and after watching Cyprus recede into the distance, thankful heads settled down to bask in the sun and catch up on lost sleep.

After a rapid voyage, the Detachment and its precious freight crossloaded, about one mile out from the coast, on to an American LCU from the USS *El Paso.* The surrounding vessels, especially the USS *Eisenhower* and the ubiquitous Soviet 'Trawlers' dominated the horizon as the LCU landed at the prosaically named 'Green beach Alpha Two'. For the entertainment of watching Americans the Detachment beach landed their equipment regaled by tales of the beach being hit a week before. The containers were dragged across the beach by the detachment assisted by incredulous reception party headed by **Maj Stuart Bennett** RAOC and **SSgt Standale** QDG. Escorted by 2 Tp A Sqn, the convoy wound its way across southern Beirut, being 'buzzed' for most of its journey by Israeli 'press' crews displaying an array of exotic equipment. Hardly a building in sight had escaped the recent hostility unscathed, and some areas remained in the state of desolate destruction caused by the civil war of 1975/76.

On arival at the base (a disused block of flats adjacent to a tobacco factory) it became evident that the SATCOM equipment had to be dismantled and spread between the dish on the roof and the COMMCEN on the ground floor. Houdini-like contortions on the stairs enabled the equipment to get to the appointed positions and a satellite path to UK was established within 45 minutes of the convoy rolling through the front gate. Generally, the equipment had travelled well, but inevitably problems were caused by the unorthodox transport.

## A TIGHTROPE

That night the Israelis pulled out. Shelling was exchanged sporadically between the factions. A stray mortar round landed in our vehicle park, showering the COMMCEN walls and window with shrapnel. The Isaraeli withdrawal had been conducted neatly and efficiently, but it left chaos in its wake. It seemed likely that the Multinational Force (MNF) was to tread a tightrope to avoid being drawn into a maelstrom in which Lebanon's perennially warring factions battled openly for political power. The French and the Americans suffered casualties during the following week.

Fighting flared up in the Chouf mountains, a few miles south west of the BRITFORLEB Base, and Syrian-backed Druze forces began a concerted advance westwards along the ridge overlooking Beirut, through Bhamdoum and Allayh. Despite the optimism of our Lebanese Liaison Officers, it was impossible to know whether the fledgling Lebanese Army would be capable of holding the advance after we had seen Christian militia (Israeli trained and equipped) fail so quickly. There was always a possibility that the Army would not hold together but split along confessional lines as it had done in 1975.

As the fighting grew in intensity, the opposing sides met at Suq-al-Gharb where they bore out the accuracy of the diplomat who told **Capt Pratley** that 'unfortunately although neither side is strong enough to win, they are just strong enough to keep up a fight which could tear the country apart'. We were the nearest MNF base to Suq-al-Gharb, and attracted an American OP and hoards of the world's media to our roof, as well as a variety of influential visitors including **Mr Richard Luce, Mr John Stanley, Gen Sir George Cooper** and **Lt Gen Sir Frank Kitson.** The press were a particularly entertaining breed when operating as a collective bunch but individually were very pleasant and friendly. We provided press remotes enabling 'live reporting' for a variety of TV and radio programmes, lighting for TV news and documentary film and fridges for the newscrews' refreshment crates in exchange for a percentage of the contents. We also sent back copy in time for evening deadlines, marvelling at the ability of certain tabloid journalists to mis-represent events. **Sig Simon Perks** spotted one of their sentences without a grammatical error and offered to correct this obvious oversight, although his thoughtfulness was not appreciated by the hack concerned.



## THE FIRST RUN

In mid September, **Cpl Ed Newton, LCpl Rick Extance** and, later, **Cpl Fritz Arunasalan,** from HQ 5 Bde, appeared in our midst to provide FAC communications. The good gentry of the RAF joined in one Sunday morning. Their first run, at 9 o'clock, conducted at roof-top height, galvanised the massed ranks of the international press corps on their semi-permanent home, our roof. Our cameras clicked away with the rest of them, but to minimal effect with only a couple of specks on the horizon of our prints to represent the RAF at war. They repeated the trick two and a half hours later, and had a few rounds of small arms fire loosed off at them, much to the media's amusement.

During September, the Force's work was largely limited to guarding our own base. However the signal traffic levels continued to rise, and the Detachment soon learnt that one flash begets others in true Biblical fashion. Apart from one sniping incident, the base was not 'targetted', although a few stray shots hit the building. The ceasefire agreement reached at the end of September was heralded a new task—mounting a daily guard of the Ceasefire Commission. We were joined by **Cpl Chris Pugh** from 262 Sig Sq, for two weeks, whilst we re-started R and R in Cyprus. Local activity was confined to a few relatively minor incidents until the tragic bombings of the American and French bases. The Detachment had made many friends amongst the American contingent, who provide a Company to guard the combined British/American Embassy building, and received the news of the deaths with enormous regret. Members of the Force were made available to assist the American survivors.

## CO VISITS

In early November, the detachment was pleased to host a visit from the Regiment's Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bill Backhouse.** The focus of attention had shifted to Tripoli, but in late November Beirut's troubles flared up again. The Detachment was responsible for establishing communications with ships of the Royal Navy sent to the area, including HMS *Fearless,* thus renewing an operational partnership from the Falklands. In early December, the British base suffered its most serious damage until that time when heavy machine gun and RPG 7 rounds struck the base, burning out a radio vehicle park, and badly damaging the SATCOM dish on the roof. The communications aspect of the Force's work was acknowledged at this time in the House of Commons when a government minister under questioning said that it was 'the military communications network' which had first carried news of an impending American air action.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Bill Backhouse with Lt Nick Borrill, at Beirut Airport towards the end of October

LCpl Andy Craig, Cpl Graham Robson, a Lebanese Liaison Officer, Cpl Chris Pugh and Capt Philip Pratley on the roof of the BRITFORLEB base

Cpl Graham Robson repointing the SATCOM Dish

The back (eastern side) of the BRITFORLEB base. The Commcen extension is on the right. The SATCOM dish is out of sight behind the sangar on the roof

**EXERCISE *GRAND PRIX***
**OCT-NOV 1983 (KENYA)**

The aim of the exercise was to provide a rear link from Kenya for the 2 Battalion Light Infantry using a 320 manpack. The advance party consisting of **SSgt Mick Healey, Cpl Stevenson** and **Sig Ford.** On arrival in Kenya we deployed direct to Kahawa to the British base there known as BATLASK. We stopped overnight and the next day drove in convoy for five hours to Nanyuki—the base camp for the exercise. We were then deployed to Mpala Farm, some 30 miles into the bush. By this time, satisfied that everything was OK, **Sgt Mick Healey** flew home.

In true infantry style **Cpl Stevie Stevenson** and **Sig 'FJ' Ford** were deployed with their kit to a deserted farmhouse full of creepy crawlies and with a troop of baboons living only 200yds away on some rocks! An eerie situation when armed only with a machete. Normal routine was quickly established with the putting up of mosquito nets and cooking of the evening meal.

The following morning we were awakened by a strange noise, which, after a careful examination, turned out to be a crow. It was one 'crow scare' that was not appreciated. After several days the rest of the Detachment arrived. This consisted of **Cpl Mike Leonard** (Duty tech—UV King), **Sig 'Buck' Buckmaster** and **Sig 'Tony' Rathmell.** With the det now complete we worked towards our deadline for establishing comms on 20 October. Once comms had been established the infantry arrived. The communications went with over 780 'morse' messages sent and received via 12 SU in Cyprus.

During the exercise there were a number of incidents. The first kill went to **Cpl Stevie Stevenson** when he ran over a five-foot puff adder which he took triumphantly back to the farm. Halfway through the exercise a baboon ripped our antennas apart. A pride of lions killed cattle and livestock in our area, the nearest killing was only 200yds from our camp! We had heard the noises the night before but did not investigate until the morning!

When Endex arrived, we easily took down the masts but had to spend six hours digging out the stakes, which apparently wanted to stay in Kenya. We moved back to Nanyuki and on to Kahawa before returning home. **Cpl Mike Leonard** and **Sig 'Buck' Buckmaster** had the rough job of waiting to hand over the equipment to the next detachment coming from the Regiment.

**NEWS FROM CHARLIE TROOP**

Since the Troop last featured in *The Wire*, we have continued to be extremely busy. We are presently going through a transitional period involving a high turnover of manpower and receipt of new equipment. Despite this we are continuing to fulfill our exercise commitments.

A couple of exercises stand out from the very many, namely *Winged Victory* and *Eternal Triangle*. *Winged Victory* saw the troop travelling north to the wilds and bracing air of Galloway in Scotland under our new OC **Capt John Gareze.** We spent some ten days holding onto the side of a Scottish hill with the wind attempting to prise us off. Fortunately the only casualties were a 12 metre mast and a Blandford dipole. **SSgt Al Franklin** also saw fit to attempt to turn a land rover into a ditch digger; unsuccessfully. He was finally extricated minutes before the axles disappeared totally in a Scottish bog.

No sooner were we finished in lovely Caledonia than we were making tracks for BAOR on *Eternal Triangle*. After an overnight stop at Emblem Camp, Belgium,the troop left minus its four tonner (suffering from sick bearings) to spend a week in the Scharfolderdorf area. This proved to be a very successful exercise for the troop.

The New Year brings commitments in Norway, BAOR, and hopefully Hong Kong, as well as a host of commitments in the UK.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Lastly a few congratulations are in order. To **Sgt Mick Armstrong** and wife **Maria,** and **Sig Neil Stewart** and wife **Trudi** on their impending new arrivals. Finally congratulations to **Cpl Roy Dangerfield** on his recent promotion.

**CHARITY MARATHON FOR BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED**

A charity Marathon for the British Association for the Disabled was held on 2 Oct 1983 at RAF Locking. **RSM Brian Smith, SSM Mick Nevill** and **Sgt 'Taff' Witchell** between them raced the 26 miles with **Mr Mike Cooper** from Cheltenham and took three hours and 45 minutes. The money raised for the fund was £116.00.

Mr Mike Cooper with *L to R:* SSM Mick Nevill, RSM Brian Smith and Sgt 'Taff' Witchell

**WELL DONE**

Congratulations go to **ALCpl Gary Hearn** and **Cpl Bob Dobson** for passing the Regular Commissions Board—contrary to popular belief their Christian names are not Rupert and Rodney!

**ALCpl Gary Hearn** starts the Standard Military Course at Sandhurst in January and **Cpl Dobson** goes in May. The Regiment wishes them the very best of luck and good fortune.

**SQUASH ACHIEVEMENT**

**Cpl Thomas Pollard** has excelled in squash over the last year. He was the Army Under 25 winner in Jan 1983 and followed this up by coming runner up in the Combined Services Under 25s. **Cpl Thomas Pollard** is also involved in the Cumberland Cup which is played in London every Tuesday and is doing well in that.



# 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) Hammersmith

**47 SQUADRON**

Your correspondent pens the final report of 1983 amid a welter of criticism concerning style. Kinder comments (that is to say those printable) have referred to it as being 'Bung-ho'. Never mind, them's as pass comment may soon get the opportunity to demonstrate their prowess.

The Squadron looks forward to 1984 with a 'full house' at the top. Squadron personalities include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **— Maj Bill Morris** |
| **2IC** | **— Capt Susan Fenney WRAC** |
| **F Troop (Switch) OC** | **— Capt Mike Lucas** |
| **F Troop (Switch) 2IC** | **— Officer Cadet Tony Rose** |
| **G Troop (Radio Relay) OC** | **— Lt Margaret Pickles WRAC** |
| **2IC Officer** | **— Cadet Mike Watts** |
| **L Troop (Line) OC** | **— 2Lt Prakash Mehta** |
| **L Troop (Line) 2IC** | **— Officer Cadet Nick Leigh-Smith** |
| **P Troop (Commcen) OC** | **— 2Lt Stephen Potter** |
| **SSM** | **— WO2 Brian Callaghan** |
| **SQMS** | **— SSgt Martin Jones** |
| **YofS** | **— WO2 Dennis Rose** |
| **FofS** | **— SSgt George Johnston** |

Now we've got the management structure right perhaps we can do the job.

16 October saw the Squadron taking part in our annual Lafone Day parade in the City of London. This commemorates the posthumous award of the VC to **Maj A. M. Lafone** OC B Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry in Palestine in 1917. The service was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Regimental Memorial in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

Despite the badges of rank LCpls Steve Cooke and Steve Prance flanking WO2 (YofS) Dennis Rose as they lead 47 Squadron on parade

'Mind the Step!' climbing to the entrance of St. Paul's

The Brigade Exercise for 1983 came and went and a fun time was held by all. Sadly (?) the OC and FofS were otherwise detained in Switzerland during this social event (the gnomes of Harrow?).

Participation in the Harrow United Act of Remembrance was followed by a Drill Night visit by the GOC London District **Maj Gen J. A. C. G. Eyre CVO CBE.** Regrettably the Regimental photographer only arrived in time to witness the final goodbyes! However the General was treated to a guided tour of a Radio Relay truck and had the mysteries of a teleprinter explained by the technicians. **SSgt Jim Morton** will wear the correct stripes next time!

The final event prior to press was the Squadron Annual Dinner and Dance. Congratulations to 2IC **Capt Susan Fenney** on a well organised evening—amazing how long the top table waited for coffee though! This time photographs are available but not fit for publication (Applications for stills to the OC, please!)

The Post Office have now taken over the Drill Hall so 47 Sqn will be resurrected on 4 January 1984.

**83 SQUADRON**

**THE NOBLE ORDER OF FLYING PIGS**

Following the suggestion of one of their number, the more foolhardy members of B Troop (plus several others from the Regiment), decided to have a weekend of risk and adventure with the Red Devils Freefall Parachute Team in Aldershot.

Saturday was spent exercising—both the muscles and the vocal chords, being taught first how to do PLFs (Parachute Landing Falls to the uninitiated) and then the correct way to jump out of the aircraft.

This involved jumping out of mock-up aircraft, arms and legs spread out and head back, shouting: 'Thousand and one—thousand and two—thousand and three—thousand and CHECK' (to see that the parachute really had opened!)

Sunday came round too fast and, aching all over from Saturday's exertions and more than a little nervous, we were divided into sticks of six with the OC **Capt Roger Knowles** being volunteered as first to jump. Despite the worried faces before take-off all those who jumped landed safely; all, that is, except the 2IC **2Lt Vicki Hutchinson** who misjudged the speed of her landing and broke her ankle.

No-one actually landed on the drop zone, and some landed nowhere near it! **Pte Jackie Masset** drifted over trees and a main road and finally dropped in on a Rugby match close by and **LCpl Dave Lawrence** just missed some nearby trees. However, after this the wind became too strong so, unfortunately, seven members of the group will now have to jump at a later date.

Once the initiation ceremony—the jump—was over we all became Honorary Piglets of the Noble Order of Flying Pigs with a certificate and t-shirt to mark the event, and now everyone wants to jump again although the 2IC is not so sure!

During a pause in Ex *Vernal Maiden* Pte June Russell, SSgt (SQMS) Peter Lovett (now the SSM), Sig John Hendon and Nigel Ellis (PR Officer for the TA for the London Borough of Croydon—41 Squadron's 'War Correspondent') enjoy the October sunshine

# 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**EXERCISE *ABLE ARCHER 83***

This year the Regiment sent a detachment of 2×C70 Terminals, two Relays and two DF Dets to provide speech circuits for CENTAG in the Heidelberg area interfacing with NATO Systems. This was achieved by mounting 1 + 4s in the terminals and 'Knitting' on the various patch panels. A task that kept **Sgts Brian Appleyard, Steve Hall** and **Mike Power** busy not least of all understanding/translating German and American NATO technical terminology!

Our link utilised the relay continuously, so we provided a four man crew of **Cpl Gerry Roscoe, LCpl Lenny Young, Sig Dave Tallon** and **Chris Till** co-located in two vehicles. They did well to keep our aging onans functioning and proved that cooking in the field does not necessarily mean starvation.

On Friday 4 Nov the Training Major, **Maj George Carmichael** and **SSgt (YofS) John Stirling** left the Radio Relay chain at Heidelberg for AFCENT to meet the rest of the Regimental detachment due to arrive by road on 5 Nov or by air on 6 Nov.

Col Rudiger Tessmer GA Commanding CSSG CENTAG presenting CENTAG Badges to members of the Regimental Detachment on their arrival at Heidelberg *L to R:* Sig John Salmon (42) LCpl Lenny Young (59) Cpl John Watson (80) Sgt Mike Power (42) and partially hidden Sgts Brian Appleyard, Steve Hall and SSgt (YofS) John Stirling. Capt Pohl US Army is checking that he has enough badges in the envelope!

By 7 Nov everyone had been deployed and the CO, **Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt** with his driver **LCpl Jim McIntosh** had to travel from SHAPE via Birkenfeld and Erwin to Heildelberg to visit all members of the Regiment now on the Exercise.

On returning to Heildelberg the Training Major and YofS discovered the RR Dets had been moved and a new link established, however, they were soon to return to their original locations as that link had proved of such value. After this second move had been completed and circuits handed to users in three and a half hours, the Regiment's standing rose remarkably!

It was at this stage that **WO2 Frank Harris REME (V)** showed his real worth as our vehicles were beginning to show their age! However, by begging, borrowing or sheer browbeating he managed to get them all back on the road in time to return to AFCENT en route for UK.

**LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION**

The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside **Wing Commander K. M. Stoddard AE** presented Certificates to **WO2 (SSM) Ronald Jones** (HQ), **WO2 (RQMS) David Downey** (HQ) and **Sgt Susan O'Rourke WRAC** (59) at Liverpool Town Hall on 16 November.

The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Wing Commander K. M. Stoddard AE presenting his Certificate to WO2 (SSM) Ronald Jones (HQ). (By courtesy of P1O North West District)

WO2 (RQMS) Dave Downey (HQ) receiving his Certificate from the Lord Lieutenant. (By courtesy of P1O North West District)



**EXERCISE *ROADMASTER* 26/27 NOVEMBER 1983**

The Army Driving Championship of 1983 was held on Salisbury Plain during the weekend of 26/27 November, when some 120 crews took part from Units stationed in UK and BAOR.

Training for the event started in August and after a series of Weekend 'Point to Point' Exercises which included driving and map reading tests, three crews were selected from 80 Sig Sqn (V) to form a team, under the leadership of **SSgt (SQMS) Taffy Callear,** to represent the Regiment.

The team left Chester on Friday 25 November and thanks to 249 Sig Bde were accommodated overnight on the doorstep of the start at Bulford.

After a thorough inspection of vehicles and crew and a scrutiny of the CES, crews were despatched from the start point at Carter Barracks, Bulford from 1800hrs on the Saturday.

**Sgt Alan Kirk** and **Cpl Geoff Smethurst** were the last crew of the Regimental team to start at place No 104. Proceeding them were **LCpl Angela Cherry WRAC** with **Pte Gillian Crabbe WRAC** and **LCpl George Carmen** with **LCpl Susan Evans WRAC.**

Although **LCpl Cherry** and **Pte Crabbe** found initial navigation over the numerous rough tracks on Salisbury Plain confusing, the other two crews got away to a good start and found their training over the greasy muddy roads of Cheshire gave them an advantage over some of the other competitors.

At the first compulsory stop **Sgt Kirk** and **Cpl Smethurst,** and **LCpls Carmen** and **Evans** were well up with the leaders and challenging for an award.

At arrival at the second compulsory stop and refuelling point **LCpls Carmen** and **Evans** were faced with a unique problem when they found the POL point was 'Right out of Gas', due no doubt to the refuelling of some 70 thirsty vehicles that preceeded them and the subsequent resupply problem! After a two hour wait for fuel to arrive they were reluctantly forced to retire—if somewhat hurt!

**Sgt Kirk** and **Cpl Smethurst** however were ahead at this stage and went on to complete the 250 mile course with great hopes of being among the prize winners. Twenty five metres after crossing the finishing line they too ran out of petrol! There must be a moral in this somewhere!!

After a nerve racking four hours wait while the results were processed they were surprised but delighted to learn they had been placed first in four awards:

Best TA Crew — 'The BL Cup'
Best Royal Signals Crew — 'The Royal Signals Cup' (2 Awards)
Best Beginner Crew
Best Third Class Crew — (2 Awards)

Well done 80 Sig Sqn (V) who owe a lot to the hard work and training given by their regular SQMS **SSgt Taffy Callear. Sgt Kirk** and **Cpl Smethurst** are looking forward to defending their titles when the Army Driving Championships are held in Germany next year.

The Regimental Team display their trophies outside 80 Sig Sqn (V) TA Centre at Abbots Park, Chester on return from The Army Driving Championships

# 34 Sig Regt (V)
## Middlesbrough

**FAMILIAR TERRITORY**

Scarborough STC, well known to most Royal Signals TA units, was the venue for the Regiment's Annual Camp in September 1983. Whilst the Regiment rarely attends Camp at this Yorkshire Spa, we frequently organise weekend training there, and so it was no new experience to be heading for Burniston Barracks.

**THE THEMES**

For the first week of Camp the CO, **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker,** decided to let the Squadron Commanders 'do their own thing' and, perhaps understandably, they had similar ideas on suitable training. **Maj John Ruff** deployed his Leeds and Hull based warriors to various nearby locations to carry out cross-country driving tasks. This was followed by a day at the ranges at Strensall followed by a couple of days marching across the North Yorkshire Moors carrying out command tasks as they went. **Maj Charles Bland** kept his Squadron (the Darlington and Gateshead based 50 Squadron) back in Barracks for the first 24 hours of their Camp to be taught how to survive in the wild. They were then invited to put what they had learnt into practice on the appropriately named Ex *Scarborough Diamond.* Well done to **Cpl George Frazer** and his valiant team **LCpl Paul Smethurst, Pte Dawn Widdrington, Sig Anthony Waring** and **Pete Alison Hall)** for battling through to win the Squadron survival competition. **Maj Peter Arkless** took the hard work out of instructing by booking his Squadron on to an Orienteering course in Dalby Forest. 90 Squadron had 24 hours to acquaint themselves with the delights of the woods before moving on the more exposed surrounding areas. By Thursday morning all the Squadrons came together to complete in a Regimental Shooting Competition. 90 Squadron from Middlesbrough were victorious under their team captain **SSgt Geoff Davison.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

The following day the Regiment returned to Burniston Barracks to parade for our Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Stewart, OBE, TD, DL,** who presented medals during the parade to **Maj John Ruff, Capt Peter Forster, WO2 Dick Richardson, SSgt Jimmy McDonald, Sgt**



Maj John Ruff receives his Territorial Decoration from Col Mike Stewart.

**Arthur Billing. Sgt John Braven, Sgt Ray Titler, Sgt Phyllis Padley and Cpl Steve Firth.** He also presented PT Leaders Certificates to **Cpl Ruth Devlin** and **LCpl Paul Dobinson.** Finally, **Col Stewart** presented WO1 badges of rank to **WO2 Tony Gallagher** who was appointed Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer during the parade.

Sgt Arthur Billing receives a Clasp to his Efficiency Medal from our Honorary Colonel

**DEPLOYMENT IN WEEK TWO**

During the second week of Camp, the Regiment deployed on Ex *September Song*. In doing so they experienced the delights of Lincolnshire, the Yorkshire Wolds, the Vale of Pickering and the North Yorkshire Moors. Although spread over large areas, **Cpls Peter Nesbitt** and **Bill Forrest** managed to find all locations with their Unit Bulk Refuelling Equipment and their timely arrival was more than welcome.

Meanwhile **Sgt George Smith ACC,** attached from CVHQ, was providing paper-thin crustless cucumber sandwiches for **Brig John Burrows,** our Brigade Commander, who visited during the exercise; we also had welcome visits from **Brig David Hodge,** the Secretary of the North of England TAVRA and **Lt Col Gaile Ramsey,** the Commander WRAC from York. The Regiment returned to Barracks on Thursday afternoon and the CO took pity on us awarding a day off on the Friday (He took off to play golf with a select few so that is maybe why we had a day off?). On Saturday all Squadrons returned to their respective TA Centres—Camp, for another year, was over.

**FREEDOM OF MIDDLESBROUGH PARADE**

On the middle Saturday of Annual Camp, the Regiment exercised its right of Freedom of Entry into Middlesbrough. This involved moving over 300 men and women back to Middlesbrough from Scarborough in the very early hours of Saturday morning. By 1000 hours all was ready and the Regiment moved from Brambles Farm into the Centre of the Town. The parade arrived at the Town Hall on the stroke of 11 o'clock and was duly accompanied by the Mayor of Middlesbrough, Councillor Chris Atkin. He was accompanied by the **Master of Signals, Maj Gen John Badcock.** We were also pleased to welcome the GOC NE Distrct, **Maj Gen Patrick Palmer Brig Ian Sprackling** and **Brig John Burrows** amongst many distinguished guests. The Regiment followed the parade outside the Town Hall by marching through the streets of Middlesbrough led by the Regimental Band under the baton of their Bandmaster **WO1 Derek Farrington.** The only thing which marred an otherwise perfect parade was the unpredictable North East weather which close this particular day to shed most of the September quote of rainfall. That apart, or perhaps because of it, it proved to be a day to remember. When the parade was over the Town Council invited many members of the Regiment and their guests to lunch at the Dragonara Hotel, a gesture greatly appreciated by all concerned. Congratulations to everyone and especially to **Officer Cadet Ian Hall** who was appointed ADC to the Master of Signals for the day.

The Master of Signals, Gen John Badcock, inspects the Regiment during the Freedom Ceremony in Middlesbrough. He is accompanied by the CO

A very wet day could not spoil a memorable Freedom Parade in Middlesbrough. The Regiment on Parade prior to the March Past



**A SIGNAL SUCCESS**

We are delighted to report that on 19/20 November 1983, 34 Signal Regiment were the winning team in the North East District March and Shoot Ex *Devils Leap.* This gruelling excercise took place over the Moors of Bellerby for some 48 hours and this is the first year ever that the TA Trophy has not been won by an Infantry Team. Sincere congratulations for their victory in this prestigeous competition go to **Messrs Hall, Smethurst, Robson, Beaumont, Cameron, Redden, Hemmings, Morgan, Williams** and **Tinkler.**

Col Mike Stewart congratulates Maj Peter Arkless upon his Squadron's success in the Regimental Shooting Competition. Capt Peter Forster peers out from under his big hat (he is Regimental Shooting Officer) and LCpl Silk holds the booty

**MRS IRENE PARKIN**

In January 1984 we said au revoir to **Mrs Irene Parkin** our much loved Clerical Officer with 90 Signal Squadron at Brambles Farm in Middlesborough. **Mrs Parkin** has been employed as a civil servant at Brambles farm since the Barracks were opened in 1956—indeed she has fond memories of selling souvenir programmes for the opening of the TA Centre on 6 May that year. We wish her and her husband, **Ron,** much happiness in their retirement and say an immense thank you for all that **'Mrs P'** did to help and assist us during her service. A final thank you to **Irene** must come from the many generations of children who have attended Regimental Christmas Parties at Brambles Farm organised with skill and affection by **Mrs Parkin.** On this subject she has promised like the good fairy to return for many Christmas parties to come. Thank you **'Mrs P'.**

**A FEW TAIL PIECES**

Congratulations to **Maj Charles Bland** upon his recent promotion. We are delighted to report that we have eventually managed to dine out our ex-Training Major, **Maj Peter Todd,** and as the accompanying photograph shows he had an enjoyable evening

Maj Peter Todd receives a silver salver from the CO at his Dining Out. Our intrepid Mess Sergeant, John Braven, checks to see it is done correctly

with us in Scarborough. **WO2 Yvonne Swinney** and **Sgt Jane Riley** were lucky enough to be invited to tea by **Brigadier Helen Meechie,** the Director WRAC and 'as our photograph shows) they had an enjoyable afternoon at York. By the time these notes are read we will have said farewell to our Adjutant for the last three years, **Capt Tom McMahon,** and said hello and welcome to his successor **Capt Stan**

WO2 Yvonne Swinney and Sgt Jane Riley enjoy tea with the Director WRAC

**Long.** Whilst wishing **Capt Long** and his wife **Rosemary** a pleasant stay with the Regiment, we thank **Tom** and **Liz** for their enormous contribution to our lives here in the North East. These notes, so often penned by **Tom,** will be the poorer.

Sadly, we also say farewell to our Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 Peter Skinner** and his wife **Wendy** who are leaving after three years. **RSM Skinner** is retiring from the Regular Army but happily is not lost to the Corps since he is to take up duties as a civilian instructor at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate in the New Year. We would wish to thank **Peter** and **Wendy Skinner** for all they have done for the Regiment since they joined us in 1981 and we wish them success and happiness in the future. Also, we extend a warm welcome to our new RSM, **WO1 Roy Coffill** and his wife **Rita.**

We offer our congratulations to **Maj Graham Mitchell** on being selected to command this Regiment in November 1984. Our final farewells must be extended to **Sig Graham Wohler** and his wife **Hazel** and **Sig John Phoenix** and his wife **Lynne** who are leaving us after a short tour with the Regiment. Whilst it is unusual for Signalmen to be posted to TA units they have both been quite invaluable and we wonder how we are going to manage without them. We must also offer our congratulations to them both for managing to produce daughters in the 12 months they were with us—it must be the coastal air!

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## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

**THE GAP**

The short gap between the end of Annual Camp in October and the Christmas break has been filled with Regimental Recruit training, Squadron training weekends and an officer's training weekend—enough to keep us all busy when one bears in mind that Regimental and Squadron dinners and the WO's and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw had to be fitted in too. Congratulations to our **WO2 (YofS) Tony Lomax,** who nobly took on the task of producing the Horfield Christmas Revue which was such an outstanding success before Christmas, of which more in the next issue.

Just in time to enjoy or miss the Christmas festivities on change of appointment were **Lt Anne Baird** to command Receiver Troop, **2Lt John Crackett** to Brigade Signal Troop, **Lt Gill Jones** becomes Assistant Adjutant and **Lt Paul Welsh-Harding** now commands 869 Signal Troop.

**A NOTABLE PRESENTATION**

On Tuesday 22 November, the CO handed cheques totalling some £5100 to the Chairman of the Bristol Branch of the Army Benevolent Fund, **Col David Williams.** This donation was the result of a year's intensive effort by the Regiment to support the fund.

Before handing over to 53 Sig Sqn's scribe, congratulations to **Sig Malcolm Keating** on being selected as 'Best Recruit' on his Catterick Recruits Course.

**53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

**BUSY TIME**

**Report by Lt Gill Jones**

The past few months have been a hectic time for the Squadron, so much so, that to some volunteers, the TA seems to have become a full time occupation! Apart from the usual training and Exercises we have had numerous inspections, visits and in addition provided comms for: The Welsh Castles Race, Bristol Marathon, Welsh Open Golf Championship and Cambrian Marches. We also supplied all the comms for the control and check points for *Mountain Express*—and ended up by virtually taking complete control of the whole Exercise.

**THE DADDY**

However, the 'daddy of them all' was the Cardiff Tattoo. This bi-annual Tattoo has easily become one of the most popular 'military' events. The Squadron provided all internal telephone and security communications throughout the period. This meant that **Capt (Tfc) Matt Lott** and his team (several of them British Telecom engineers) moved into the Castle ten days before the main body to lay lines and install the automatic telephone exchange and make extensions ready for the Directors and Staff. Fortunately this gave the added advantage of knowing where everybody and everything should be, including the Directors and VIPs bars and the beer tents! The communications had to be tested each day and duty personnel were on call during every performance. In addition a large group, under command of **Capt Ian Thomson,** took part in the 75th Anniversary Display and the Battle Scene in the Arena each evening. We were the only unit with WRAC participating—much to the chagrin of the Infantry, who failed to attract as much publicity in the local press as we did. My duty was to 'persuade' some volunteers to take part in the 'Historical Tableau' (depicting the last 75 years of the TA). This proved difficult because of the fit of the 1920 and World War Two uniforms—they obviously were not as well fed then as our lads are now! However the ATS uniform with the 'genuine lisle' stockings proved popular—especially when the wearer had to be hoisted to the top of the display stand at the beginning of each performance! I am grateful to **Capt John Terrington** of the White Helmets for supplying us with a despatch rider and bike.

Outside the Castle were the recruiting and display stands of all arms and services. The Squadron Team lead by **2Lt Jackie Dimond** manned our Display Tent from 1000-1900 hours during the two week period. This proved to be a haven for the fit, young, healthy lads from 21 (SAS) Regt and the not so fit, older, wiser gents of the British Legion whose tents were adjoining ours. We were the only ones with a generator, electric kettle and the necessary ingredients for providing refreshments.

The Battling Beauties are *L to R:* Cpl Karen Fisher, LCpl Bridget O'Donovan, Lt Jane Buckles, LCpls Marion Isaac and Sue Smith

**ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND**

To help boost our contributions to the Army Benevolent Fund we organised two Midnight Discos during the Tattoo which became so popular and well attended by the soldiers taking part in the Tattoo that I had to have the outside gates locked by 0030hrs each night—there was just no more room inside. Because of these successes we hurriedly organised a third disco and the results of these helped us to raise over £1,000 for the fund.

**OFFICERS SHINDIG**

Finally, on 6 August, the Officers' Mess took advantage of the atmosphere of the Tattoo to hold a cocktail party at the Castle prior to the evening performance and then a formal supper party at the Park Street Mess at midnight. It proved to be so popular that most of the VIPs from the official reception held in the rooms above us—made their way downstairs to join our party.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Sig John Duggan** and **Brian Price** from our CMHQ Tp at Brecon for obtaining such good results and recommendations on their recruits course at Catterick and to **Sig Mark Roberts** who was awarded the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Medal at Buckingham Palace in July. Congrats to **LCpl Marian Little** who married **LCpl Paul Issac** of the REME at our Bristol HQ (now I know why he kept turning up as our REME cover on Exercises!), to **LCpl Linda Fletcher** who married **Sgt Alan Melvin** of 104 Lt AD Regt (V) and to **LCpl Bridget Matt** and **Sig Danny O'Donnovan** both of this Squadron. Finally congrats to **Sgt Dave** and **Mrs Dorrance** and **Sig Colin** and **Mrs Butcher** and ex-**LCpl Carol Arthurs,** all new parents to bouncing boys.

**ANNUAL CAMP**

We joined the Regiment at Penhale Camp, Newquay from 24 September—8 October. As it was a training camp all our people disappeared on various Regimental Courses—Det Comds, Data Tg, Radio Op, HGV, Mil Circuit, Young Officers Courses, etc etc. It took our PSAO, **Capt Brian Carney,** several hours on both pay days to find everybody. It proved to be a hazardous camp—health wise—everybody going seemed to go down with 'flu, heavy colds, throat infections and from the rather hectic Det Comds course bad sprains and bruises. No wonder **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Fenton** was to be seen, millboard in hand, looking for any available fit people when it was our Squadron's turn for the Guard. Even the hardworking cooks and mess staff were roped in for the duty. All troubles were forgotten however at the Squadron Social when we were led by **Maj Andy Flint** into the Riviera Hotel in Newquay. It was an absolutely superb evening and voted by all the best one ever.

**GOODBYES AND HELLOS**

Hello to **Lt Paul Welsh-Harding** on joining us from the Royal Regiment of Wales and **2Lt Jackie Dimond** on successfully passing the commissioning course. It's a sad goodbye to **Sgt Dai Bussell** leaving us, after 33 years service. **Dai** joined the old 53 Regiment as a very young Technician when he completed his national service. Our very best wishes for him for the future. Goodbye also to **Sgts Kenny Blake, Isobel Lloyd** and **Sue Hinton** and finally **LCpl Peter Newbury** who, because of promotion in his civilian job, moved to the Midlands; hopefully he will be joining our sister Squadron at Stratford. Our loss will be their gain!

We end this report by repeating part of the Squadron Commader's speech at our Dinner at Penhale. The past year has been the most heavily committed ever and we could only fulfill our role with the help of our permanent staff who are always at the TAC as our back up team, they are—**Capt Brian Carney** (PSAO) **SSgt John Buckler** (PSI) **Cpl Peter Maslen** (PSI) **Jock Piper** (Civ Stores) **Mrs Quinian** (Clerk) and **Dennis Lewis** (Driver).



## 38 Sig Regt (V)
## Sheffield

**CALM**

Sometimes the return from Annual Camp marks a period of comparative calm in the TA calendar—not in 1983. Trade training, military training and sport have all helped to avoid boredom setting in.

**SPORT**

A regimental team, led by **Maj Terry Lea,** crossed the Channel to take part in the Verden Marathon again this year. The financing of the team was a full regimental effort—each squadron making a contribution to the cost of paying for travel and other expenses. The Corps Orienteering Championship at Leek on 16/17 October was administered by the Regiment—another TA 'first' we think. **Capts Eric Webster** and **Bill Evans** led the QM's department to ensure all competitors and staff were fed and watered. In the sporting field, our WRAC competitors did particularly well—winning the WRAC trophy and collecting some enormous individual medals.

*L to R:* Sgt Janet Orton, Pte Kay Farrand, Sgt Marion Poulter

RSM Ken Fowler receives thanks for the organisation from Lt Col Andrew Martin

**WARCOP TROPHY**

For the LAD the Warcop Trophy is an annual test of their skills—crowned with victory in 1983! Led by **WO2 (AQMS) Brian Lacey,** the team was TA winner and third overall. Well done competitors and supporters!

AQMS Brian Lacey and his winning LAD team

**RECRUIT SELECTION WEEKENDS**

Since April of this year, RSWs have become a firm feature of training. The idea is to test the fitness, aptitude and determination of potential recruits—it says here! Those who want to join the Regiment are put through two strenuous days of physical exercise, tests, briefing and interviews in order to help them to decide if it's really what they want—and that they are right for the TA. There is no doubt that they are giving a flying start to service in the TA. **Maj Toby Seymour's** team includes representatives of all squadrons but with a permanent spice added to drill and military matters by **WO2 Carl Bellamy** (87 Sqn) and PT experiences co-ordinated by **LCpl Mark Gardner** (64 Sqn).

Recruit Lee Brownhill listens carefully to Maj Toby Seymour . . . .

. . . but fails to stop his team from pushing the trailer in the wrong direction

Perhaps the handbrake is still on?

**HAIL AND FAREWELL**

November saw the departure of **Maj Roger Merryweather,** OC of 87 Sqn since 1978 and a founder member of the Regiment. We wish **Roger** and his wife, **Angela,** every happiness and hope he will enjoy his appointment as Deputy County Commandment for Nottinghamshire ACF. Our thanks for long and successful service also go to **Capt David Cree** who leaves the Regiment at the same time. He too is a founder member and has served continuously with 87 Sqn in Nottinghamshire. The new Squadron Commander is **Maj Ron Toft,** no newcomer to the Squadron.

We also welcome some new officers to the Regiment. **Capt Ian Rothwell** joins us from 2 Yorkshire Volunteers but was previously RSM with 71 Sig Regt (V). Recent commissioning course successes are **2Lt Simon Blagden** (46 Sqn) and **2Lt Chris Jenkins WRAC** (87 Sqn). Welcome aboard.



## 39 Sig Regt (V)
## City of London

**1983 LORD MAYOR'S SHOW**
**Focus on HQ Sqn**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OC** | — | **Maj Gwen Murgatroyd** |
| **PSO** | — | **Maj Harry Warde** |
| **SSM** | — | **WO2 Dave Williams** |
| **SQMS** | — | **Sgt Derrick Ellen** |
| **FOS** | — | **SSgt Bob Hunt** |
| **OC M Tp** | — | **Lt Jane Emery** |
| **OC M Tp** | — | **Lt Nigel Keleher** |

Every year, 39 Sig Regt is privileged to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show. Our 1983 contribution was a particularly important one, since this year is the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Territorial Army, and in celebration of this, the TA put on a really spectacular display. Surrounded by 400 pennant bearing marchers, the TA floats were varied and exciting. 39 Sig Regt, HQ Sqn was responsible for the float representing all four Signal Regiments in London. We displayed three vehicles:

A camouflaged Land Rover, showing a Syncal Radio station, with men and women from our Regiment;

A Land Rover provided by the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, bearing a uniformed soldier and a bewigged barrister, representing aspects of both their military and civilian roles;

A four ton truck carrying a satellite station, supported by 39 Sig Regt personnel.

The Regiment also provided a number of marchers to take part in the cordon around the TA floats.

The parade was well supported by thousands of waving and cheering onlookers, whose enthusiasm for the occasion made up for the lack of TV coverage by the striking BBC. The event was much enjoyed by all those who took part.

The Regiment also has the honour of hosting the Lord Mayor, **Lady Donaldson,** at a dinner to be held in February 1984.

Lt Col M. V. Upson CO 39 (City of London) Sig Regt (V) congratulating Capt Isobel Gordon on her appointment as OC 2 Sqn (Dundee)



**AT SCARBOROUGH**

Well satisfied, if not somewhat exhausted, the Regiment finally arrived back in Ulster from its Annual Camp in Scarborough. So now amid much quaffing of beer accompanied by rib aching laughter, stories will be told and re-told on the exploits of various personalities during the fortnight's experience. Doubtless a few red faces will be in evidence as the result of harmless bantering, but it's all in good clean fun.

What did the then OC HQ Sqn really do on Camp? So rather than knit together a detailed blow by blow account the author has decided to offer a montage with captions illustrating a number of highlights of the fortnight. Really!—what did the then OC HQ Sqn do at camp?

Over 40 BFT participants listen with mixed feelings to the 'muscle mechanic' who made much reference to misspent youth, Black Bush and new boots. We thank the local hospital for the kind loan of their iron lung . . . . ?

It wasn't all beer and skittles. WO2 (SSM) Billy Woodrow (seated and not sweating) assisted by Sgt Jim McMillen (standing and also not sweating) books in Cfn Hanvey (bent over and most certainly sweating) who was a member of the LAD look-a-like Falklands Yomping Team

## 40 Sig Regt (V)
## Belfast

Commander WRAC NI—Maj Harvey, explained during her visit, to Ptes Maggie Boyd and Janet Coates that if you are careful when putting on webbing your fingernails need not necessarily break. Maj Robyn Wymbs OC WRAC is obviously in agreement

Pte (now LCpl) Christine Winter, WRAC receives a well earned 'most improved member of the WRAC' shield

Women's Lib gone crazy! Cpl Carol Boyd nimbly demonstrates the use of LMG to an astonished LCpl Manna and Cfn Youll. Rumour has it that she can also cook!

Lt Robert (want any insurance?) Kelly, 66 Sqn receives the winner's plaque for the inter squadron initiative test competion

Sig Reynolds and Brannagh receive a joint most improved troop winner's award on behalf of D & E troops of 85 Sqn

Champion Squadron, 66 led by the OC, Maj Ian Henderson take pride and place at the head on the final parade

**MAJOR EDWARD ROBINSON LAVERY**

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to honour our Padre who was commissioned in October 1970. He has continued to serve regularly in the trenches with the 40th, administering our souls, watering the whisky and generally creating mayhem throughout the Regiment with his 'poteen' and 'meths'.

Earlier this year he was installed as Rector of Ballymoney—if his parishioners only knew what they have inherited—during which certain members of this Regiment had the pleasure in watching him 'blush'—okay then sweat—as his fellow clergy gave forth to all his virtues.

At this point I feel I should deliver a warning to the younger members of the Officers' Mess who have survived this camp. Subalterns of a decade past have lost fingers as they dared to cut into the Stilton before its official blessing from the connoisseur of the cheeseboard. Step forth those who dared and bare thy wounds!

**Maj Lavery** has earned his award of the Territorial Decoration by deeds too numerous to mention on this occasion but let it be said 'there are more clasps to be earmarked for our reverend Padre by him who knows'. AMEN.

The Padre receives his territorial decoration similar to a LS&GC from an amused CO and WO1 (RSM) David Smith

**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 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 thoughout 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 package and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

Mr P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT



# News from Squadrons

## Northag Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

**FAREWELL**

We say goodbye to **WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford** and his wife **Ann** who leave us for 37 Sig Regt (V) where he will spend his last six months with the colours. He joined the Corps as a Junior Leader (1959-62) when the Regiment was based at Denbury, Devon. We wish both **Harry** and **Ann** all the very best in their new posting. During his farewell party the OC **Maj Michael Anderson** presented **Harry** with a signed copy of the Corps picture 'Go to it'.

**VISIT OF THE SOinC**

We were delighted to have the SOinC visit us on 17 November. Despite the poor weather he managed to see and talk to all the members of the Squadron who were on exercise at the time. The visit ended in the club where our OC **Maj Michael Anderson** presented the SOinC with a Squadron memento.

SOinC inspects the Guard of Honour. *L to R:* WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue, Cpl Graham Scott, Sig Paddy Doran and OG Ralph Emenet

**VISIT TO BAF BIERSET**

On 25 November the Squadron were invited by the Belgian Airforce to visit one of its operational flying bases—Bierset. Not only were we made most welcome by the base Commander but were shown aspects of operations of the base. It must be stated that we provide various links to the bases and this visit was the first to any airfield since the Squadron was formed in 1967. Our thanks must go to both **Sqn Ldr Mick Penton-Vale RAF** and **Maj Martin Graindor** (BE GLO) for having organised such an excellent day.

**VISIT TO THE JESUIT CAVES**

On 30 November the OC organised a visit to the Jesuit caves which date back to Roman times. These caves, which are filled with paintings, carvings and chapels, can be found besides the Joint Operations Centre and are only opened on a few occasions each year. Around 30 were shown around the caves by the local Jesuit Secretary after a central heating fill of Gluwein. All have since stated that the visit was well worth while and negotiations are in progress for a further visit in the New Year.

**MARRIAGE**

We end 1983 wishing **Sgt Yogi Bahr (NL Army)** and his new bride **Sylvia** all the very best and thank you for such a good party.

'Quite a line up'—Can any other unit match this? Our oldest vehicle was made in the early 1950s

**SPORT**

The Squadron is now well into the 1983/84 season in both local and Rhine Area/RAFG leagues. In the latter we are at present in second place, behind the current Army champions—3 PCCU Regt. Most notable results have been:

**International Marathon ENSCHIEDE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **No 244 WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** | — | **2hrs 57min** |
| **No 388 Cpl Graham Scott** | — | **3hrs 12mins (total of 2000 runners took part)** |

**Joint Operations Centre Cross Country race**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1st Senior** | — | **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** |
| **3rd Senior** | — | **WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford** |
| **2nd Junior** | — | **Cpl Graham Scott** |

**Liege 16Km Road Race (200 starters)**

**5th WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue**
**17th Cpl Graham Scott**

**Rhine Area Championships (250 starters)**

**16th WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue**
**19th Cpl Graham Scott**

Our team finished sixth out of 10—which is pretty good for a unit with only 18 UK soldiers of all ranks.

The Squadron came second in the Joint Operations Centre Sports Cup which consists of the following sports: (placings in brackets):

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cross Country | (2) | Tennis | (5) |
| Swimming | (1) | Football | (4) |
| Basketball | (3) | Volleyball | (4) |
| Badminton | (2) | Table Tennis | (1) |

Virtually all members of the Squadron took part in one or more of the events. Our thanks go to **Sgt Jock Gibson** who acted as our sports coordinator throughout the competition.

**WINNERS OF THE NORTHAG CROSS COUNTRY SHIELD**

On 29 November we fielded a team of eight runners with six to count in a 10Km HQ NORTHAG Championship race. Our team headed by **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** consisted of **WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford** (he now has a good BUPA policy), **SSgt Dave Barton, SSgt Paul Smith, Cpl Graham Scott, SLD Frank Visser (NL Army), Cpl Gus Webster** and **Sig Paddy Doran.** The race was excellently organised and we are justly proud to have won this cup for the very first time.

Commodore Baay (RNLAF) Commander of JOC presents WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford with his trophy in the JOC X Country Championships. We don't know what story Harry was telling the Commander, but he certainly seems to be sympathetic

Winners of the Northag Shield. *L to R, Back row:* Maj Michael Anderson, SLD Frankie Visser, SSgt Dave Barton, SSgt Paul Smith, Cpl Gus Webster. *Front row:* Cpl Graham Scott, WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue, WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford, Sig Paddy Doran

**JOINT OPERATIONS CENTRE BADMINTON**

On the same day that we won the NORTHAG Shield we also won the JOC individual Badminton trophy. **SLD Latuheru (NL Army)** not only won this competition in fine style but he has now reached the dizzy heights of being ranked number four in Holland. Both he and **Sgt Jock Gibson** after a closely fought final came second in the doubles.

**EXERCISE *ABLE ARCHER 83***

**Report from our Field Correspondent**

The Squadron took to the field reinforced by the TA from both 35 Sig Regt (V) and CVHQ Aldershot. The exercise was deemed to be a great success and all our circuits were fully utilised. The weather was superb for November and that combined with good solid communications to the Corps resulted in much being accomplished. Of note to our many readers is the fact that we were struck by the Liege earthquake which threw the SQMS **HFw Rick van Ess** out of bed (he swears he will not touch Cristal Alken again!), it also severely rocked all our four ton vehicles. **Cpl Gus Webster** DSO in the CP was seen looking for the ghost that dared to interefere with his vehicle. The OC and SSM were the only ones who felt nothing, they claimed that they were too busy to notice, but they both appeared to have had a good night's sleep!

**Cpl Mac McCutcheon** and **Sgt Dougie Scott** (lent to us by 7 Sig Regt) sweated along with the crews to keep our D11s in and working. **Sig Paddy Doran** and **Geordie Whincup** were seen swinging around the roof of the vehicle carrying out the swiftest of antenna changes. **LCpl Chris Murray** and **Sig Tass Taylor** believed that their shift was second to none. In any event the detachment worked the best link that we have had for many years. Here it must be added that **Sgt** 'I've got no tools' **Sobers** from 35 Sig Regt (V) was a tremendous asset. He even got to enjoy the food that **Cpl Ken Philips** swore came from an International Restaurant (I ask you!, next we will be looking for a place in the *Michelin Guidebook*!)



# 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

**FAREWELL TO 216 AND THE LANYARD**

On 16 December 1983 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216) relinquished the tradition of wearing the Airborne Lanyard and changed its number from 216 to 215.

To mark the occasion the Squadron paraded under **WO1 (RSM) Andy Evans. Maj Chris Shuker** then took command of the parade in readiness for the arrival of the reviewing officer **Col M. Marples OBE,** Comd 1 Signal Group.

**Cap Johnie Rollins**, the Squadron 2IC, then made a short statement on the history of 216 Signal Squadron:

'The decision to form the first Parachute Brigade was taken in July 1941. In the same year it was decided to create an Airborne Headquarters to coordinate the development and training of airborne forces, both parachute and glider. The small staff of this Headquarters included a **Major Smallman-Tew** Royal Signals. From these beginnings in 1941 Airborne Signals came into existence as Airborne Brigade Signals Sections within two Airborne Divisional Signals units.

Some weeks after the D Day landings in 1944 **Lt Col Smallman-Tew,** then commanding 6th Airborne Divisional Signals, was killed by a German mortar shell. The airborne lanyard which he had encouraged each man to plait for himself from parachute rigging lines has been worn since then by the antecedents of 216 Signal Squadron in his memory.

After the war the distinction of wearing this lanyard was granted to all Regular and Territorial Airborne Signal units. 216 Signal Squadron was not created until 1946 when 6 Airborne Division was reduced to a single brigade. In 1977 the Squadron dropped its parachute role and became a "Blue Beret" integrated Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in the UKMF role. In 1981 the Squadron, then in Aldershot, exchanged barracks with 205 Signal Squadron, then in Tidworth, when the responsibility for Royal Signals parachuting passed from the 6th to the 8th Field Force.'

**Col Mike Marples** then addressed the parade as follows:

'A proposal by the OC of 216 Signal Squadron at the time of the move from Aldershot to swap numbers with 205 Signal Squadron and to hand over its historical airborne relics was not accepted by the Ministry of Defence. During the two years since then it has become increasingly apparent to your Officer Commanding and to me that the proposal for a swap of unit numbers and relics was a far-sighted one which would have avoided the anachronism of airborne associations and, in particular, of your Squadron's airborne lanyard.

It is now inappropriate to swap unit numbers with 205 Signal Squadron which last year saw active service in the Falklands under the '205' banner. It has however been agreed that all other aspects of the proposal be effected.

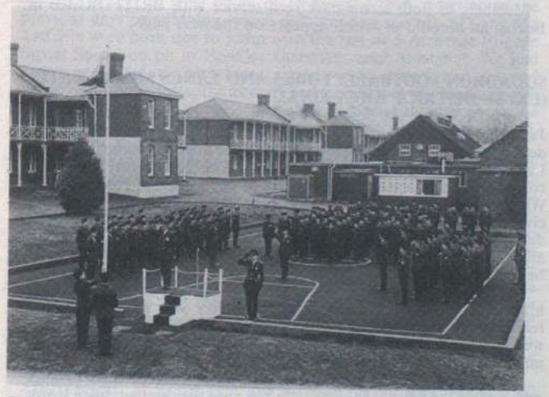
Today the title '216' is being placed in suspended animation and retained until such a time as it is required for the formation of a Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. 205 Signal Squadron, as 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, become appropriate custodians of 216 Signal Squadron's parachuting and airborne association, relics and of the lanyard. Indeed I will be attending a similar parade to this one with 205 Signal Squadron within the hour.

Today you become 215 Signal Squadron. This title was previously used in 1959 when it was formed from 51 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron in the Middle East. After a life of only one year 215 Signal Squadron was amalgamated with 201 Signal Squadron, now 22 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, and dropped its number. You therefore have a unique opportunity to establish your own reputation and traditions as 215 Signal Squadron.

I am happy to note that, as 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, you proved to be worthy custodians of 216 Signal Squadron's heritage and have, at the same time, established a fine reputation in the Brigade, 1 Signal Group and indeed the Corps. I look forward to watching you perform in the future under the banner of 215.

I will now ask your OC to come forward to receive the traditional R Signals lanyard whilst your new Squadron pennant is raised.'

OC Sqn Maj Chris Shuker receives the traditional blue Lanyard from Col Mike Marples, Comd 1 Sig Gp



Col Mike Marples and members of the new 215 Sig Sqn salute the raising of the new pennant

**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **—Maj Chris Shuker** |
| **2IC** | **—Capt Johnnie Rollins** |
| **Adjt** | **—Maj Bill Lloyd A and SH** |
| **QM** | **—Capt Ron Brodie** |
| **Tfc Officer** | **—Capt John Meehan** |
| **OC Alpha** | **—Capt Simon Lunn** |
| **OC Bravo** | **—Lt Duncan McAllister** |
| **OC Charlie** | **—Capt Tim Inshaw** |
| **2IC** | **—2 Lt John Luckins** |
| **OC MT/LAD** | **—Capt Martin Ward RCT** |
| **RSM** | **—WO1 Andy Evans (Mick Bailes from Jan 84)** |
| **FofS** | **—WO2 Mick Johnston** |
| **YofS** | **—WO2 Dave Turner** |
| **ORSQMS** | **—SSgt Chalky White (Graham Manning from Feb 84)** |

**EXERCISES**

Ex *Ample Express* was the Squadron's major CPX of the year. We crossed the North Sea for two weeks on the farms and forests of Denmark. Our new CLANSMAN radios served us very well and clearly enjoyed the overseas exercise as much as we did. A delayed endex somewhat spoilt our night out in Copenhagen, but we did our best for the local economy. Only three days after returning from Denmark the Squadron supplied the Umpire / Control communications for 5 Infantry Brigade FTX WINGED VICTORY. So it was a quick turn-around in camp, then up to Scotland. This exercise can be summed up by one sentence. It rained and it rained and it . . . . The Squadron perched on top of a hill seemed to sink lower and lower into the brown abyss. The rainstorms were so bad that the OC had a 9′ × 9′ up inside a 12′ × 12′ to keep the rain out. Both tents were blown from over his head on the last night of the exercise.

**LANYARD TROPHY**

174 people gathered in Tidworth on 27 October to participate in the annual 40 mile slog across Salisbury Plain. Only 66 completed the course. Participants included teams from 30 Signal Regiment, 5 Brigade, 19 Brigade, 215, 244 and 249 Signal Squadrons.

For many the challenge was not to win but merely to complete the course in under 24 hours, the test being predominantly one of will power and determination. A rifle and 30lb of military equipment was carried by all. The winners of both the team and individual events were 249 Signal Squadron, but congratulations are also due to all who completed the course.

Team and individual results are given below:

**Individual**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1st** | **Cpl Frazer** | **249 Sig Sqn** | **10 hrs 8 mins** |
| **2nd** | **Sig Wellard** | **5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn** | **10 hrs 22 mins** |
| **3rd** | **Sgt Whittick** | **5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn** | **10 hrs 39 mins** |

**Team**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st** | **249 Sig Sqn** |
| **2nd** | **5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn** |
| **3rd** | **1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216)** |
| **4th** | **30 Sig Regt** |
| **5th** | **244 Sig Sqn** |

**SPORTS**

Although the season is not yet halfway through, it promises to be a reasonably successful one for the Squadron football team. So far we have a 100% record in the Salisbury Plain Services League and two good cup runs in the Yorks and Lancs Cup and Major Units Challenge Cup in which we reached the third round.

This looks good for our next cup match in the Minor Units Challenge Cup which starts soon. Our thanks to **LCpl Dave Beggs** who is due to leave soon on posting to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. May he score more goals there.

Our Cross Country team has made a promising start to the season. Eight out of the eleven South West District Leagues races have been run to date. Ourselves and the Ordnance Squadron of the Commando Logistic Regiment are battling for the first two positions in the Minor Units Competition. So far the team has won five of the races.

With the District and Army Cross Country Championships still to take place in the New Year we have had good runs in the other two competitions entered. In the Tidworth Garrison Hexathlon our team of twelve runners won the Cross Country section of the competition very convincingly. Despite our best runner being unfit to run we did very well in the Army Cross Country Relay Championships on Saturday 10 December 1983 at Deepcut. Our team of four came third behind 3 Postal and Courier Squadron RE and Army Apprentices' College Harrogate (Permanent Staff).

# 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**CHANGE OF TITLE**

Since the last issue of *The Wire* the Brigade has had a change of title to 5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE. The announcement was made by the Secretary of State for Defence, the **Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP,** when he paid a flying visit to the Brigade at Aldershot on the 14 November. At the same time he announced enhancements to equipment, weapon systems and units to equip the Brigade for its 'Out of Area' role.

**EXERCISE *WINGED VICTORY***

*Winged Victory* was a Brigade FTX to practise the Brigade in its 'out of area' role. The exercise took place during the first two weeks of OCT, in the Stranraer area. The object of the exercise was to rescue and evacuate British oil engineers from an oilfield which was under threat from various terrorists and rebels from the local armed forces.

The exercise started when 3 Para the LPBG (leading parachute Battalion group) jumped on to West Freugh airfield, with the Para-Tac HQ of the Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn. After securing the airfield as the Brigade airhead, the Para-tac called forward the rest of the Brigade, which was airlanded over the next 24 hours.

The opposition was provided by units of 1 Infantry Brigade whilst 1 Para and 1 R Hamps stood in for our normal units, 2 Para and 1OGR who were doing a handover/takeover in Belize. The exercise went more or less to plan and the Brigade Commander **Brig Jeapes** declared himself 'very pleased' with the results.

From a Signals point of view many points were learnt about communicating in very difficult terrain and atrocious weather conditions, where numerous rebro's, both vehicle and manpack, had to be used, most having to be slung under helicopters to reach their locations.

Many of the 'Vets' said the conditions reminded them of the 1st 'FTX' that 5 Brigade was involved in during May-July 1982.

**PORTON BATTLE RUN**

The Squadron took part in a 36 hr NBC exercise on the Porton Battle Area. The aim of the exercise was to practise the unit in living and fighting in a NBC environment. This was particularly useful as not many of the Squadron have served in BAOR, and have not experienced the delights of the dreaded Noddy and Gasperator for more than a few minutes. (Wait until Lionheart lads!)

**NEWS FROM THE TROOPS**

**ALPHA TROOP**

OC 'A' Troop **Lt 'OBI Wan' Knobel** has managed to pass 'P' Coy and is now undergoing parachute training at RAF Brize Norton.

The troop would like to welcome the following new members—**LCpl Hawkins, Sig Evans, Rosser, Delaney, Reveria,** welcome back **'Chesh' Cheshire** and **Brian Wellard.**

**BRAVO TROOP**

Since the last issue of the 'Wire' the troop has had a change of OC's with **Lt Trevor Bradley** departing, on promotion, to the land of his birth, and the arrival from Belize of **Lt Des Maloney,** who was promptly sent to Depot Para for 'P' Coy and on to Brize Norton for Jump training.

During October **LCpl Allen** and **Sig Elliott** returned from detachment to Belize, and **Sig Parr** returned from his holiday with 266 Sig Sqn, just in time for Ex *Winged Victory* and all that lovely weather.

**ARRIVALS**

**LCpl Mick North** from 3 ADSR.

**DEPARTURES**

**Cpl Mick Speck** to 266 Sig Sqn
**LCpl Eddy Stokes** to Belize
**Cpl Brian Hayward** to 8 Inf Bde on promotion to Sgt

**TM TROOP**

After a successful week adventure training in the Scottish Highlands, the troop managed to prize themselves away from RAG, TAG and BOBTAIL, to return to Aldershot to complete the installation of CSSH prior to deployment on *Winged Victory*.

A few members of the troop actually flew to Scotland in real aircraft, but the rest either drove up in landrovers or 'flew' in Hercules with NOTIONAL painted on the sides, and a wheel at each corner.

Upon arrival the weather was so bad that the techs 'locked' their 12x12 and hibernated until they were called upon to assist the operators to man a radio detachment. This they did with their usual good humour, adaptability, devotion to duty, team spirit etc.

At the end of the exercise we all got on to the aircraft (yes, the ones with a wheel at each corner) and 'flew' back to Aldershot, except for the Foreman who left by train the day before, to attend a 'very important' meeting.

**ARRIVALS**

**Cpl Dave Cumming** from School of Signals via 266 Sig Sqn

**DEPARTURES**

**Sgt Ray Dudding** to the TA
**Cpl Nigel Parry** to Catterick on his TI

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **LCpl Kierney** on passing 'P' Coy and going on to Jump Training. Oh yes—I nearly forgot, **SSgt 'Tod' O'Brian** was awarded his Corps Colours for Rugby, he played in both the spring and autumn tours of the Corps team.

**565/566 RLD**

565 RLD have returned from Belize and have been gainfully employed along with 566 RLD supporting their respective Battalions at Greenham Common looking after all these 'lovely' women?

**613/614 TACP (FAC)**

Members of both teams have seen service with BRITFORLEB in Beirut, an account of which appears on the next page.

**SQUADRON FOOTBALL: YORKS AND LANCS MINOR UNITS (UK) SE DISTRICT AREA FINAL**

On 7 December the Squadron soccer team played against the Inf Junior Leaders Bn permanent staff Shorncliffe in the Area final to decide who would represent the district in the quarter finals Yorks and Lancs Minor Unit (UK) Competition. The Squadron team was considerably weakened by the absence of our Capt **Cpl Howson, Cfn Ware** and our star strikers **LCpl O'Toole** and **LCpl Dunn** (now in the civilian jungle). Although the task of finding replacements looked daunting we are lucky to have some who think they can kick a ball and are willing to help out. So the final team was selected on the Tuesday before the game.

The team arrived at the Daly Ground Bordon on a very chilly afternoon to find the actual playing surface was still frozen and realised that conditions would dictate the tactics for both teams. Here we had a big advantage because once our team goes on the pitch pre-match tactics are thrown out of the window.

For the first 10 mins both teams were trying to keep their balance and control the ball at the same time but once they settled down it was evident that Shorncliffe had played together and worked at their own game before taking us on.

Generally the first half was rather scrappy with both midfields trying to establish their pattern on the game and so to the normal spectator it was a bit like table tennis at times. **Sgt Smith** sometimes wondered whose side some of his players were on because as soon as they had the ball it was passed to the opposition. Thanks to some sterling work from **LCpl 'Gordon Banks' Wood** and central defenders the score at half time was 0—0. However the second half was a completely different game for both teams. The Squadron full backs closed down the threat from the wings and central defender **Sig John Pole** declared 'a no go area' around him for a radius of three feet (including his own side). The midfield of **Cpl Roger Taylor, Ft Lt Colin Simpson** and 'Capt for the day' **Cpl Scouse Murray**, began to do their own thing. Up front **LCpl Malcolm** was running everywhere and confusing everyone (the team manager would like to know what he drank at half time) and after 20 minutes, the 'Purple Patch' we wanted, arrived. From a right corner the ball came into the six yard area and **Cpl Roger Taylor** hammered the ball into the roof of the net. Within a minute we went two goals up when **LCpl 'Banjo' Malcolm** collected the ball near the half way line and carried the ball forward to unleash one of his specials from 30 yards.

With five minutes to go the pressure Shorncliffe was exerting was beginning to tell and they scored a goal which really picked up their morale. The last five minutes really crawled along but the Squadron team kept their heads and weathered the storm. With the final score at 2—1 the Squadron is now into the last eight of the army UK Yorks and Lancs Cup! Next year for the finals!

PS: The Squadron team are also in the semi final of the SE Dist Cup Minor Units.

**AIRBORNE SIGNALS IN BEIRUT .... A CORPORALS' VIEW**
**Report by Cpl E. J. Newton**

The phone rang, it was my OC **Flt Lt Barrett,** I'm sorry **Cpl Newton',** he said, 'but can you get up here straight away, we are leaving immediately'. So much for the 24 hours notice to move. Within the hour **Flt Lt Barrett, LCpl Extance** and I were all set for the journey to Lyneham, where, we were told, a Hercules was waiting to lift us, our ¾ ton landrover, and ½ ton GS trailer, loaded to the gunnals with all manner of equipment, to Cyprus. 613 TACP(FAC) were off once again, and arrived at Lyneham on the stroke of midnight where we were quite disappointed not to find a C130 revving up at the end of the runway. Hurry up and wait is the name of the game, our flight would not leave until 0600 hours, we were told, so it was out with the sleeping bags and get some sleep.

0600 hours found us boarding the Hercules, 'Haven't been on one of these in, oh, it must be all of 18 hours' I said, referring to the previous days parachuting, which didn't quite come off. 613 and 614 TACP's were both due to jump with the rest of 5 Airborne Brigade Signal Squadron on to Hankley Common, near Aldershot. We had drawn and fitted our parachutes, rigged our containers, and strapped ourselves into the seats, the aircraft had taxied from our loading point to the peri track and stopped. The air load master shouted above the noise, 'Will 613 and 614 TACP put up their hands', we duly obliged, 'Right your getting off now,' he said

Once back at Aldershot, we were put on 24 hours notice to move by our ALO **Sqn Ldr Hulyer.**

Anyway, our Hercules finally took off around 0700 hours, and promptly landed one hour later at RAF Lossiemouth, where it was pouring with rain. At Lossiemouth we met the Buccaneer Pilots who would be flying to Cyprus in their own time. The Hercules took on more stores and RAF ground crew, and once again took off, this time for the long haul to Cyprus, where on loading we once again saw the Buccaneer Pilots—last seen in Lossiemouth, yes, they'd beaten us to it! That night we enjoyed a few KEO's in the Pen Club at RAF Akrotiri, the following day was spent loading the Rover into a Chinook, and checking that we had everything necessary for the coming tour in Beirut.

0600 hours, 11 September, and we were on our way. About 0700 hours the Chinook made a quick refuel stop on the USS Iwo Jima, which was within sight of Beirut and then the last airborne part of our journey began.

An escort of the Queens Dragoon Guards met us on arrival at Beirut International Airport, which is approximately five kilometres from BRITFORLEB, but the ground in between was a 'No Go' area known to the Brits as 'Hooterville'. Our detour took us north into South Beirut, east, and then south, towards Hadath, where BRITFORLEB is situated.

Cpl 'Fritz' Arunasalon watching the return of Flt Lt Barret outside BRITFORLEB HQ

The drive through Beirut proved to be an eye-opener, the buildings, or remains of them, like the sports Stadium, which had been a PLO stronghold, looked reminiscent of World War Two photographs of Berlin. 'What were we getting into?' I thought. Later trips to the City would prove that not all of it was in ruins, and that life still went on as normal as most people could make it, apart from infrequent electricity, a 2000hrs curfew, and traffic jams where the police seemed to make matters worse.

613 TACP (FAC) were here to do a job, and so we got on with it. We established our own communications on HF and VHF with Cyprus, and made ready the UHF Comms for ground to Air, and soon the building was vibrating with the roar of jet engines as the Bucanneers did their highly publicised low level pass over Southern Beirut. Twice that day the aircraft flew low over the city, and once again on the following Tuesday. After that it was decided that all the different fractions knew that BRITFORLEB had Air Support to call on and all future exercises were kept 15 miles off the Lebanese Coast.

The FAC's primary job is to bring the aircraft in on a target, in the event of BRITFORLEB being attacked, but we also provided communications for the Helicopter on Hercules resupply runs and recce'd Helicopter landing sites. **LCpl Rick Extance** returned to UK for a course prior to his posting to 16 Sig Regt, he was replaced by **Cpl Fritz Arunasalon,** a member of 614 TACP, who managed to spend five days waiting in Akrotiri for the next aircraft to Beirut.

Loud explosions are commonplace in Beirut, so we did not think much of the explosion around 0620 hours on Sunday 23 October; we found out the explosion was down at Beirut International Airport, and had in fact destroyed the Battalion Landing Team Building, of the United States Marine Corps. The building which had housed about 300 marines at the time, was completely demolished, and many of the marines lost their lives. The American Commander accepted the British Commander's offer of help, and over 30 of us, **Flt Lt Barrett** and I included, went down to help dig through the rubble, to look for survivors, few as there were.

The French contingent, who had also suffered a lorry bomb attack, declined an offer of help.

British help was given to the Americans the following day, although the entire digging out operation took nearly a week.

**General Sir Frank Kitson** visited BRITFORLEB shortly after the attacks on the American and French contingents, and as we left Beirut on the 9 November, Royal Engineers from Cyprus were engaged in adding a further pocket screen, building blast walls and diverting the road that runs directly past the BRITFORLEB Headquarters to take the main road traffic further away.

Our journey back to the UK also had its moments. Two Chinooks were due 9 November, and we were due to go out on the second, but it was decided there was enough room for our Rover on the first. So, sooner than expected, we were on our way to Cyprus. The following day the Rover was deposited at the Air Cargo Hangar, and we flew back to RAF Lyneham. Yes—you guessed it—our transport was waiting for us at Brize Norton!

# 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

**SHQ ADVENTURE TRAINING**

The OC decreed that the period 26 to 30 September would be adventure training organised at troop level. The Chief Clerk, **SSgt Graham Fuller,** decided that a party from SHQ would tackle part of the Cornwall Coastal Path. Starting at Marsland Mouth, North of Bude they planned to finish at Lamorna, near Penzance, a total of 142 miles. Everyone was keen to take part, but as the party was being kept to eight there were a few disappointed faces. These faces soon turned into big smiles when it was realised that the adventure training did not consist of driving the route but of walking it. This it was considered would be quite a 'feet'!

The party consisted of a mixture of trades, in the main not known for physical exertion, and even a Staff Clerk from Bde HQ, as shown below:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chief Clerk** | **—SSgt Graham Fuller** |
| **R Tg** | **—SSgt Brian Mountain** |
| **R R Tech (Admin Sgt)** | **—Sgt Tony Clifton** |
| **R Tg** | **—Cpl Ken Gollings** |
| **Cbt Sig** | **—LCpl Eddie Lanigan** |
| **Clerk** | **—LCpl Pete Street** |
| **Tech Stmn** | **—Sig Ian Bridge** |
| **Staff Clerk** | **—Pte Ian Green** |

The party moved to Cornwall in two stages the advance party by road at 0600hrs on Friday 23 September and the main body leaving Colchester Station at 1300hrs on the 23 September. The rail party was met at Barnstaple Station by **Sgt Tony Clifton** who poured them into the rover after a rather 'refreshing' journey. The overnight stop at Marshland Mouth, on the border of Devon and Cornwall was in tents erected by the road party. The highlights of the evening were **Cpl Ken Golling's** chicken curry, which lingered all night and most of the next day, and the following conversation after lights out:

| | |
|---|---|
| **SSgt Fuller** | 'Where is my torch? I know I've got one.' |
| **Cpl Gollings** | (Duly woken up switches on his torch) 'It's 3am!' |
| **SSgt Fuller** | 'It's all right, I only wanted to know the time.' |

The first stage from Marshland Mouth to Boscastle (24 miles) was a killer and took pace in high temperatures. It soon became obvious after Bude that the party would split into the hares and the tortoises. The hares being led by **SSgt Brian 'The Lion' Mountain,** with a name like that he should be able to scale any heights, and the tortoises by the Chief. The hares leaped away and soon left the tortoises miles behind. Imagine their amazement when after 20 miles they arrived in the village of Crackington Haven to find the tortoises already there sitting outside the pub . . . the tortoises were downing their first pint, having waited 20min for the pub to open. It turned out that by a slightly underhand move the tortoises had veered from the hills on to a main road and made excellent time.

As each day went by limbs became easier but feet sorer, and skin less. It became a feat each day getting the feet working, but the party plodded on. The characters developed as the going became harder and no more so than **LCpl Eddie Lanigan** who surprised everyone with his determination to finish the distance, after looking dead on the first day. One of his more memorable retorts was in reply to a statement that the mist was getting thicker the higher we climbed. 'Mist—I'm sure I've just stepped through a cloud!' Well done **Eddie.**

The final day came and the seven members of the team set out in rain and heavy mist to complete the last 22 miles to Lamorna. This was the hardest day as all the team were suffering physically from the past six days. The stop for a cup of tea took place at Lands End where the only thing worth looking at were the tourists. All members completed the section and held a celebration party in a local pub which went on into the early hours. If you know our Chief Clerk, **SSgt Graham Fuller,** ask him how it is possible to get a broken nose while watching a game of pool, but don't be surprised at the answer.

The team covered 120 miles in seven days which was excellent going over that type of terrain: well done. Next year, the Dorset Coastal Path, so watch out if you are posted into SHQ before Oct 84.

Rugged coastline. Several prominent features negotiated during the week

The Wild Bunch. *L to R:* LCpl Eddie Lanigan, Pte Ian Green, SSgt Graham Fuller, Sig Ian Bridge, SSgt Brian Mountain, LCpl Pete Street

**MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

In October we said goodbye to **SSgt Henry Banks** posted, on a well deserved promotion, to 30 Sig Regt Blandford.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We congratulate **LCpl Graham Shedd** on his recent marriage to **Miss Lorraine Balls.**



# 244 Sig Sqn (AS) RAF, Brize Norton

**WORTHY OF NOTE**

This issue's notes on the Squadron are mainly in collage form, but it may be interesting to note that we are perhaps the only independent Squadron with three Yeomen on the books. They are:-

**WO2 Andy Stokoe** (War gaming in Falklands)
**WO2 Dave Gruncell** (Educating Arabs)
**SSgt John Chilcott** (Temporary Tourist)

We have also had our fair share of attached officers, **2Lt Ray Trevisan Royal Australian Signals** leaving us for two months in Europe before returning 'down under' and **Lt Stanislas de Cherge** whose two week detachment from his unit in Orleans, France were mainly spent in the freezing cold of N. Germany.

We also bid farewell to the RQMS, **Ray Jeffery,** who is posted, on promotion to RSM, to 13 Sig Regt.

Happy family snaps. Or at this point they were!

Sgt John Paine calling for volunteers

The happy band are off again

The SSM (WO2 Tom Muir) applies his daily beauty treatment

Who says that CC doesn't stand for Combat Clerk? SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes after a long haul up the range

Let's all go and build a sandcastle!

But sir, I'm a non swimmer

LCpl Tim Nicholas getting to grips with a multi pair joint. Is that a sun shade or an Ascension Island tactical screen?

The unit organised (who says we are not air formation? 21 please note) line team at work trench digging on Ascension



## 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
## Bulford Camp

### NATO CHALLENGE CUP—DENMARK

A full account of the Squadron's performance was reflected in November's issue of *The Wire*, we are now able to publish our group photograph.

The winning team shown with Maj Gen A. G. Christie CD Commander Allied Mobile Force (Land)

### REPORTS FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

Following the success in the NATO Challenge Cup, the physically arduous competitions since September have come thick and fast (not qualities required to compete in such events!) and below are the reports and photographs from correspondents who competed.

### ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS—LEEK (14-16 OCTOBER)

A very much scratch team was entered for the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships held at Leek. The gladiators were **Lt Graham Norris, LCpl 'Dixie' Dean** and **Sig Steve Hartshorne.** The Friday was spent teaching the newcomers to the sport the orienteering map as opposed to the Ordnance Survey type! Saturday 15 was the race itself, weather conditions were anything but ideal with rain and low temperatures. **Lt Norris** came individual third with the other two finishing the course—not bad having been thrown in at the deep end.

Lt Graham Norris receiving third individual prize

### THE LANYARD TROPHY 27-28 OCTOBER 83

**Report by Cpl 'Taff' Griffiths and Sig J. J. 'Scouse' Johnston**

It was a brisk Autumn morning when well over 200 men (loyal and true) from 30 Sig Regt, 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, 5 Airborne Bde Sig Sqn, 244 Sig Sqn (AS) and 249 Sig Sqn (AMF (L)) arrived at the start of the 1983 Lanyard Trophy Competition.

The origin of the competition dates from the time when 1 Inf Bde were the old 216 (Para) Sig Sqn in Aldershot and devised a 40 mile 'undulating' route over the South Downs with a pack/bergen in excess of 30 lbs and carrying an SLR. Since the move to Tidworth the event has taken place on SPTA.

This year the '249' team were spearheaded by **2LT 'Doc' Holliday** and **Sgt George Cook.** We arrived with the intention of retaining the cup which we won last year, but aware that in particular 5 Airborne Bde Sig Sqn may have information on our tactics from **WO1 (RSM) Ian Campbell** who was SSM of the Squadron last year.

The outstanding performer from this year's team was **LCpl Tom Fraser** who was the overall winner in a time of 10 hours 9 minutes. He was followed in by **Cpl Smudge Smith** and **Sig 'Mad Eddie' Okelly** who were joint fourth; **LCpl Dixie Dean** and **Sig Dougie Eaglesham** finished in joint fifth and completing the team and finishing in sixth place **LCpl 'Shags' O'Shaughnessy. Sig Dougie Eaglesham** was the first soldier under 20 years of age to finish the course. There were many other creditable performances in the team: too numerous to mention here but it was generally agreed that the build-up of carbohydrate level the night before does the trick!

Finally, we would like to thank **Sgt Barney Barnard** and his team of eight men who provided us with much needed moral support, first aid cover and liquid sustenance.

The winning team complete with trophies (and sore feet)

### COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP CHALLENGE CUP—23 NOVEMBER 83

**Report by Sgt Les Hoehne**

The seven teams from the units in 1 Signal Group paraded on the cold morning of 23 November ready to do battle and compete for the prestigious Commander's Cup. The competition was based on six events with the team with the highest overall score being the winner.

In the swimming event our 'mermaids', **Cpls Ray Pritchard** and **Paul West, LCpls Dixie Dean** and **Tom Fraser** with **Sig 'Mad Eddie' Okelly** gave cause for concern by completing the majority of the course underwater (maybe they breathe through their ears?). Although finishing equal first on points the 'decider' saw us placed second.

The second event was line laying over an assault course. The less said the better suffice to say we finished seventh. ('Honest the ACL was that shape when we started!). Undeterred we next tackled the MT event. One task was to change a wheel on a one and three quarter ton trailer without using a jack. Having never seen the trailer before the first problem was to find the spare wheel and brace. By application of a little brain but mostly a lot of trailer leg we achieved the fastest time for the task and second place in the event.

The swimming had taken its toll of certain members of the team, but despite constant cries of 'hold on a minute' by myself we finished third in the six mile speed march in a time of 1 hr 10 min!

In the shooting **Capt 'JR' Ewing** got the team off to a good start with a score of 18 out of 19 in the pistol, no doubt encouraged by the prospects of 'beers all round' if he didn't. Our riflemen **LCpls Steve Barker** and **Dixie Dean** with **Sig Geordie Brown** and **J. J. 'Scouse' Johnston** retrieved the event with a tremendous score after our disastrous SMG shoot. Questions remain to be answered on who has taken the teams SMGs to Norway?! Overall result in the shooting was equal second.

The final event—a written paper on military knowledge, NBC, first aid and general knowledge. In this event we hit our true form at last and won.

As the final results from the other teams were entered on the board we were pleased to find that for the third consecutive year we had retained the cup in a very close run competition.

**VISITS**

**MAJ GEN A. D. CHRISTIE CD-COMMANDER (AMF (L))**

As part of his tour of UK (AMF (L)) units, **Maj Gen Christie** visited the Squadron on Wednesday 9 November 1983. Met outside SHQ (where the brick work had taken on a brand new hue—thanks to **Sig 'Brickie' Williams**) by the OC and SSM he inspected the quarterguard resplendent in Arctic Warfare Order and commanded by **Cpl Dougie Dorian.**

Maj Gen Christie inspects the quarter guard commanded by Cpl Dougie Dorian under the watchful eyes of the OC and SSM. The smiles are caused by an oblique reference to polar bear jokes

After a brief discussion with the OC and Commander 1 Signal Group, **Col Marples**, there followed a tour of the Squadron compound where the General met various personalities of the Squadron. Preparation for the PRE was evident and all departments were in pristine condition; not to mention the Squadron vehicle fleet.

**Sgt Pete McLune** REME and **Sgt Geordie Patterson** (MT Sgt) deserve mention here for gaining such remarks as 'excellent' on the subsequent PRE report. The technician 'fleet' were equally hard at work on the radio fits driven ever onwards by **WO2 (FofS) Chris Fielding.** Lights burning in the technical workshops caused a few security scares for sure (especially at nearly midnight).

**ARU INSPECTION**

The ARU was carried out this year by **Brig A. W. McKinnon OBE ADC,** Commander Communications UKLF. After inspecting the quarter guard commanded by **Sgt George Cook** the Brigadier was given the, by now, 'famous' presentation on the role of the Squadron by the 2IC **Capt 'JR' Scott Ewing,** which was followed by coffee in the Squadron club.

During the visit the Squadron was carrying out its pre-dryshod training and the Brigadier visited various groups erecting tent sheets and bashas of varied design under the watchful eye of **Sgt Barney Barnard.**

The visit was concluded with the Squadron forming in box formation for the presentation of the 'James Barry Memorial Trophy'. The trophy, presented by **Lt Col Barry** in memory of his son **Lt Jim Barry** who as a former officer of the Squadron was killed in action during the Falklands War is awarded for 'all round military excellence' during the preceding 12 months. It was, fittingly, won by **LCpl Tom Fraser.** Well done **Tom.**

LCpl Tom Fraser after the presentation of the Barry Trophy

**COURT AND SOCIAL**

Main Troop organised their 'yearly thrash' in the Flying Coachman on Wednesday 16 November 1983. In true tradition of providing something different the party took the form of a 'Tarts and Vicars' night. The evening was a huge success with the respective winners of prizes being **Sig Phil** 'what a hair do' **Sowman** as the best dressed tart and the best vicar to the 'not so reverend' wife of **WO2 (YofS) Mick Altham,** who has written these notes—so he knows!

Support Troop is holding their annual thrash in the High Post Hotel soon where the wives of the Squadron held their Xmas Dinner, not forgetting of course the Squadron Xmas party this week.

**DRYSHOD 1983**

For the uninitiated Dryshod is an annual event devised by evil minds belonging to the OC, 2IC and SSM. It is always arranged 'away' from Bulford, either Dartmoor or the Brecons to give the lads a 'break', and is the warm-up phase for Ex *Hardfall* in Norway. A warm invite is always extended to, and accepted by A Troop 244 Sig Sqn! The word Dryshod should be struck from the records and Wetshod inserted. Last year we were rained and blown out of the Brecons, this year Dartmoor afforded exactly the same weather conditions.

With the Q Advance party consisting of SSM, SQMS, MT reps and attached Galluping Gourmet **Sgt Martin Richardson** ACC departing Bulford on Friday 19 November to set up the accommodation and grub in Okehampton Camp, the main party left Bulford on Sunday 21 November in 'luxury' coaches. Sunday was the Squadron settling in and attending briefings on what was to befall them the following week.

Monday began crisply with a run in 'frosty' conditions to familiarise the troops with the layout of the camp and surrounding areas, followed by a morning of instruction on such subjects as compass work, country code, navigation, hypothermia and other such Maplin Holiday Camp activities. **Lt Norris** had devised a night navigation exercise for the Monday night and although the clear moonlit conditions made for reasonable night vision, all patrols were keen to be back before midnight.

With DS checkpoints scattered on such features as Yes Tor the gallant patrols flew round the course with good speed and all were gratefully back in warm accommodation by midnight.

As we fell into a deep sleep on Monday night fond memories of the afternoon assault course came to mind when the DS, ie officers, WOs and SNCOs tackled the assault course prior to the 12 patrols competition.



One obstacle—the monkey bar swing over five foot of cold green water was looked at with trepidation and all were for 'going round' the obstacle until the QM, **Captain Nick Nicoll** demonstrated his ex PTI agility by flying across the bars with the greatest of ease. The challenge down, all 'had a go' and were impressed to see **SSgt Max Williams** approach the obstacle—memories of 216 Para Sig Sqn no doubt going through his mind. All was well until the third from last rung when **Max** delighted the ones who had completed the obstacle and caused mild heart failure for those who hadn't by doing a three point landing in the green murky water! It must be said—in true tradition of 216 he returned in dry clothing and demonstrated how to master the obstacle without falling in!

The DS round the monkey bars with SSgt Max Williams rear right starting his second attempt

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the assault course competition and most completed it without mishap. **Cpl Harry Gowan** must be nominated as the high diving representative as he completely disappeared in the water when he fell off the monkey bar swing.

Tuesday was spent in much the same fashion as Monday, minus the assault course (phew) and in the afternoon patrols drew rations and equipment in readiness for the three day 'yomp' over the moor starting Wednesday.

The cold dry spell as 'per the programme' finished on Wednesday morning as the patrols assembled to leave the relative comforts of Okehampton and head for them thayre Tors. The OC and SSM got off to an early start and by 1100 hours all patrols had booked out and were heading on one of two routes around the northern half of Dartmoor finishing up for a night under bashas at Dinger Tor.

Dark clouds loomed on Wednesday night and the wind picked up speed to moderate force, testing the design and durability of the bashas. The QM **Capt Nick Nicoll** had built a basha that any well known house builder might be interested in, and was seen as darkness fell, hammering out his 24 hr ration pack in a mess tin on top of the hexi blocks telling all within earshot that it was 21 years since he had sampled such conditions and culinary delights.

Thursday morning on Dinger Tor saw bodies leaning to the now very strong winds as the smell of bacon burgers and beans rent the air, then as an extra delight the heavens opened and visibility that was not good became decidedly worse.

The SSM briefs patrol leaders from the comfort of his basha on Dinger Tor

A hurried conference between the OC and SSM decided that due to the drastic change in weather conditions and the fact that **Cpl Pete Vowden's** patrol had not made Dinger Tor but bashad down on the moor for the night, that on the second day the patrols would cover one route instead of two. DS patrols left for the various checkpoints and the three safety vehicles provided comms for both DS and patrols departed to pre-arranged sites on the perimter of the moor. Thursday started and finished foul with all patrols battling around the moor in vile weather conditions. With the DS party at White Tor by Thursday afternoon outwardly concerned faces watched for patrols to start appearing through the driving rain and mist. Good news of **Cpl Vowden's** patrol who had been spotted in Peter Tavy and subsequently found their way to White Tor. By 1900 hours all were safely bashad at the foot of White Tor except **Cpl Harry Gowan's** patrol who had decided to go to ground some 2½kms from the final objective.

**Capt Scott Ewing** had arrived on the scene flush from the Commanders Cup success and all squelched into bashas to change clothing and try to sleep. **LCpl 'Shags' O' Shaughnessy** complained to the met man in the sky that the weather was 'boring' and in doing so incurred the wrath of the rain and wind gods even more. The night was spent by most hanging on to bashas from the inside and hoping to no avail that the wind would politely 'go away'.

Ferocious Friday arrived and the weather was still hell bent on removing all from the moor by force of rain and wind. Again it was decided to select a single route for all patrols and good fortune favoured **Cpl Gowan's** patrol who literally bumped into the 2IC's party.

The final nights Rv was a ford some 8km south east of Okehampton camp and genuine concern was felt for the patrols well-being as the weather had literally soaked everyone and their equipment, with mild exposure cases beginning to occur. The last night at the ford was put into moth balls and the patrols were instructed to make for one of 3 RVs where 4 tonners waited to lift the soaked but still cheerful patrols back to the warmth of Okehampton Camp.

By 1800 hrs all less Patrol 7 were on the way to camp. Patrol 7 led by **LCpl O'Shaughnessy** were battling over the moor when the patrol leader and **LCpl Dave Gosney** decided to take an unplanned dip in an overfull stream. With a safety vehicle and four tonner at each of the RV tors the gallant No 7 trudged into sight through driving rain and winds pleased to be 'home'.

Saturday was spent making use of the excellent drying room facilities followed by a few jugs in the NAAFI that Saturday night. All were in 'good spirits' by the 1300 hour close and it was a cheerful if quiet Squadron that was driven back to Bulford on the Sunday morning, having completed an arduous week on inhospitable Dartmoor.

**FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES**

To close our account of this very busy period and before we go off for a much looked forward to Christmas leave (then Norway for three months) we say farewell and good luck to the following who have been posted:

**LCpl 'Mac' MacFarlane** and family posted to 229 Sig Sqn
**Sig 'Spider' Webb** and family posted to 22 Sig Regt
**Cpl 'Charlie' Charles** and family posted to 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
**Sig Terry Alderson** and family posted to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
**LCpl Phil Harris** and family posted to 604 Signal Troop
**Sig 'Wally' Walton** and **Chris Kidd** posted to NI

and welcome to: **LCpl Tim Abbott, Cpl Nutt and family, LCpls Osbourne** and **Drew.** Hope you enjoy your stay.

*Keep your unit notes*
**SHORT!**

**BATTLE CAMP**

September saw another Squadron Battle Camp at sunny Akamas come and go without any casualties to the troop, no thanks to the snakes, scorpions and the DS. Akamas isn't a bad place but it will be better when they finish it.

**Sgt 'Roly' Thompson's** Epi Titans continued their assault on the Hodgson Shield by coming a very creditable second in the tug-o-war, the points from which moved us into a strong fifth position (out of five) overall. It is easy to see from the league table who does the work and who plays the games.

**THE TOMB**

**SSgt Chris Biddlecombe** and **Sgt Steve Moore** achieved fame in the local paper by finding a stone-age burial tomb whilst surveying a cable trench. A large number of decorated pottery vessels were unearthed and are being restored by a local museum. Rumour has it that **Staff Biddlecombe** had prior knowledge of the tomb as he was at the funeral.

**FAREWELL**

Finally we say goodbye to **LCpl Bob Hindle** (congratulations on your wedding) and **Joe McCalman** both to 21 Sig Regt and welcome **Cpl Steve Gerrish, LCpl Vince Cunningham, Sig Alan Minton, Eddie Postlethwaite** and **John Brennan** to the troop. Have a good tour.

**MILSKILLS '83**

The Squadron holds annually its own Military Skills competition prior to the All Island event. This year's competition was held on Friday 28 October at Episkopi.

Five teams entered the competition (one from each troop) which was most appreciEIGHTed! by the 21C.

Episkopi Troop kicked off the competition ably led by **Sgt Steve Moore,** who at some ridiculous hour of the morning marched his not so merry men off to be inspected by the 21C **Capt Tim Gigg** and **WO2 (SSM) Ian McSherry.** A high standard of turnout was achieved by all, though HQ Troop looked like a different army with all that new kit previously hidden away in the depths of the QM stores.

Live firing and weapon tests conducted by the three missing **SSgts** (see November 1983 Wire) **Davis, Dullaghan,** and **Neil** followed. They even managed to produce Falklands type weather for the occasion and all competitors were well and truly soaked (the Staffs had waterproofs). Despite the weather the majority of personnel remained cheerful and 'passed off' (did I spell it right'). The next stand consisted of a VCP directed by **Sgt 'Roly' Thompson.** This stand provided some real drama when an alert lady reported a suspicious car with one occupant to the Royal Military Police. We don't know who was most embarrassed, **LCpl 'Hannibal' Heyes** our shifty A/T (acting terrorist) or the Police who surrounded him. Still it's nice to see they're alert.

The NBC and Map Reading stands run by **Lt Allex Jenkinson WRAC** and **Sgt George Pickersgill** respectively were the next obstacles, no real problems here though it was rumoured that **Sgt Pickersgill** had to be inserted the night before as he was not always capable of finding the correct location.

## 259 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 53

At this stage of the competition the teams were fairly close with Tech Troop led by **Sgt Pete Ormond** slightly ahead of Airfield Troop led by **Sgt Keith Thompson** and HQ Troop chased by **SSgt Frank McAleer.**

The positions were finally sorted out over the last three events which were, a four mile run in forty minutes or less (needless to say the sun was now out) a First Aid stand which left a few dead patients but used plenty of bandages and lots of reassurance and the final event a 'Command Task'. This 'Task' set by the 21C consisted of four oil drums in a marked off area which had to be crossed using the two ladders and two pieces of rope provided. Tension Mounts!

There is an old saying that goes 'If you put five Israelis in a room to argue you'll emerge with six different opinions'. Well! have you ever tried Ten Techs! **Sgt 'Minnie' Minton** did have the correct solution but only he thought so, which was unfortunate for his team.

The final table showed that the competition had been a close run thing with HQ Troop emerging as the winners. 'Well done **Frank** all that Pokey drill must have achieved something'. The Prizes were presented in the Jimmy Club by **Lt Col Chris Blessington** on his farewell visit to the Squadron and we hope the new Commander Comms **Lt Col Payne** got a good insight into the spirit of the Squadron.

**Heard During and After**

Unnamed Clerk Tech during stripping and assembling drills
'Oh no! these serial numbers don't match staff'
'Those are the part numbers **Cpl Potter**'

**During First Aid**

'What's the treatment for Heat Stroke then?'
**Sig 'Gilly' McHale**—Keep the patient warm Sir'

**Afterwards**

Unknown voice to QM
'Just as well there's 16 bottles in a crate of Carlsberg Sir'
QM—'Why?'
Voice—'Means you can get two each Sir'

**Another Voice to QM**

'Is it true you counted your team members on **Sig Wood's** fingers Sir'
(him of nine)
**Cpl Byrne**—'Why has he lost another one?'

**CONGRATULATIONS**

On Saturday 22 October **Sgt 'Russ' Moren** married **Miss Teresa Thompson** at St Barnabas Church Episkopi and again at Ayia Triada Church Limassol. Both weddings were well supported by the Squadron and **Russ** looked very pretty with a ribbon in his hair at the Limassol wedding!

The reception was held in the Garrison Sgts Mess Episkopi, this also was well supported although not many people can remember anything after the first hour or so! The Squadron wish **Russ** and **Teresa** all the best for the future, and hope all their troubles are 'little' ones.

## 262 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 58

**CYPRUS WALKABOUT 1983**

This year's Walkabout took place over 6/7 October, but the Squadron's work up to it started two months prior to it. Their initial briefing was on 27 July, where the would-be 'walkabouters' were forewarned of the build-up period, ie training programme, explanations of the many rules and regulations and kit lists.

The initial training took place in Dhekelia utilising the few hills we have and using the hottest part of the day to give the teams an insight into Walkabout conditions. Correct kit was carried and the necessity to drink plenty of water was rammed home to everyone. They then moved to the mountains and managed three good recce sessions, one up (Episkopi to Troodos) and two down (Troodos to Episkopi), covering as much ground as possible in an effort to map out the 'likely' routes. Knowledge of the terrain and ground, which was gained during these sessions, proved invaluable on the day. It was during the build-up and training stage that two of the members decided Tug-of-War was more their scene and defected, however, to good effect. They were now down to just six men and decided to form a 1st team of 'Racing Snakes' leaving the 2nd to 'choose' their own speed.

The first team **Sgt Allan Geddes, LCpl Spike Hughes** and led by **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** decided to run most of the way covering the near 70 mile course in the very creditable time of 13 hrs 1 min, giving them 12th place from 80 starting teams and top Royal Signals team. The second team **SSgt (YofS) Merv Finch, Sgt George Mayne** led by the OC **Maj Malcolm Emslie** opted for a more cautious pace, but completed it never the less inside the cut-off time. (Despite rumours to the contrary it was not dark when team two reached EPI).

Without doubt both Squadron teams were rewarded with the satisfaction and sense of achievement gained by completing this arduous and testing event over some of the most beautiful scenery in Cyprus. Next year should allow some of the younger and junior members of the Squadron to show their mettle.

'The last mile of the Squadron sponsored run'. *From L to R:* Lt Nicky Thomas, WO2 (FofS) J. G. Turvey, Sgt Pete Warhurst, Pte Lizzy Duff, Sgt Steve Anderson, Cpl Stan Stanton (in skirt!) Cpl Kev Maher and the OC complete with baton, Maj Malcolm Emslie

**SPONSORED RUN IN AID OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY**

One way in which 262 Signal Squadron celebrated its 21st birthday in September was by completing a sponsored run in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society UK (MSS). In all, 90 members of the Squadon ran a relay to cover the distance in miles of its Squadron number—262. The non-stop relay took a total of 38 hours to complete and raised £1050.90 for a very worthwhile cause. A certain **Lt Calvin Owen's** social calendar was so tight that he had to leave the Officers' Mess Summer Ball as dawn broke, in order to run Dracula like in his dinner jacket round the course.

**THE WRAC OF 262 SIG SQN**

**SUMMER CAMP**

The WRAC of Dhekelia Commcen have had a busy summer starting off with summer camp. This year 262 Sig Sqn WRAC were invited to join 9 Sig Regt camp ably run in the Troodos mountains by **Capt Bob Mills** and **Capt Trish Watkins.** The first party set off with some trepidation as to what week of delights were in store for them. Besides hill walking and a night exercise there was a lot of fun to be had down at Happy Valley Beach, attempting water ski-ing and boardsailing. **Pte Soo Dyer,** through no fault of her own had no control over her legs—they insisted on going in different directions! **LCpl Val Hudson** discovered that it's impossible to water ski on one's nose. Thankfully they did do better at abesiling, in fact there were no casualties even though it was **Capt Bob Mills'** first attempt at instructing. The next two courses were taught even more, as he progressed through reading the instructors handbook! Over the following two courses the rest of the commcen girls enjoyed the cool mountain air. Namely **LCpl Babs 'Grandma' Statham, Heather Geddes, Ptes Sally Harbour, Liz 'Dizzy' Duff, Jan Voak** and **Dee Hughes.**

**Cpl Pam Fielding** caused a few manning problems in the commcen during this period by being dramatically air-lifted to Akrotiri hospital with appendicitis—some people will do anything for a free helicopter ride.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

The Commcen now has a new boss namely **Capt (Tfc) Phil Daniels** who has recently arrived from 1 Signal Group. We welcome him, and trust that he will have a happy tour.

**NOTES ON PATROL CAMP**

The Squadron's annual camp for 1983 took the form of a Patrol Camp held on the WSBA training area and was the culmination of the military training year. The aim of the camp was to practise members of the Squadron (excluding WRAC personnel who had already attended a military training period run by 9 Sig Regt) in the conduct of minor infantry operations by day and night, and within this overall aim, to test personal fitness, individual fieldcraft and IS drills. It also gave the Squadron a chance to live in the field for a week which makes a change from the static communications role the Squadron has in the ESBA.

The military training programme started early in the year and covered all aspects of Basic Infantry Skills. Some members of the Squadron now appreciate the difference between walking back to their lines in the dark from the BITSA club, and getting from A to B without a full moon on PYIA ranges.

After a 24 hr rehearsal exercise for each half of the Squadron, everyone was ready for the real thing Ex *First Foot*! (perhaps *Hot Foot* or *Sore Feet* would have been more appropriate on reflection).

On Friday 28 October, half the Squadron deployed to the training area in four tonners for the first week, operating as two independent control groups for the first four days and then combining for the last two. On being dropped off by four tonner, each patrol commander was given a grid square where to set up a patrol base. Everyone had been issued weapons, ammo, extra water bottles, three days rations and bergans to carry it all in.

Once the patrol bases had been established, the task of clearing the area of terrorist activity began. This involved sending out OP's, recce patrols, ambushes, fighting patrols and replen patrols.

When the patrol base was compromised and/or intelligence received that the 'terrorists' had moved, the patrol had to move at night by a previously recce'd route and establish a new patrol base. (Cyprus hasn't quite got the best terrain for tabbing over at night with about 60 lbs on your back!).

The 'live' terrorist enemy force, (in black boiler suits no less) led by **WO2 (SSM) John Farrell** included such reprobates as **SSgt (YofS) Merv** (smoke grenade) **Finch, Sgt Rab** (look at my muscles) **Gentles, Sgt Hadge** (the tent maker) **Watkins, WO2 (FofS) John** (I'll need to get back to The Cape) **Turvey, WO2 (FosS)** (Para) **Dave Jackson, SSgt Charlie** (road run) **Peach,** and two RMPs per week loaned from 227 Provost Coy RMP.

There were two DS with each patrol over both weeks and consisted of **SSgt** (2 weeks) **Jones, Capt Craig** (who threw that smoke grenade?) **McColville, SSgt Steve** (look at the wind) **Bailes** and **Sgt Graham** (marquee) **Reith.**

The other half of the Squadron deployed on 4 November after signing over weapons, water bottles and bergans from the first week. Week two was the same as week one with a few changes to the 'pink', the main one being no rain on the first two days!

**Sgt George Mayne** no longer needs to wonder what he'll do if he wakes up face to face with a snake while securely imobilised in his 'green maggot', he just screamed, shouted, writhed about in panic, destroying his basha and prompting a 'stand to' being called in the process.

Both weeks ended in a beach Bar-B-Q with free beer compliments of PRI. The Patrol camp, although arduous was successful, being well worthwhile in training value and quite enjoyable at the same time.

'Some of the night mountaineering section arriving at the civilisation of Evdhimou beach after several days in the field'. *L to R:* Sig Pete (Bournville) Rendell, Cpl Chris Bean, Sgt Mick (Screaming) Scull, Sig Dave Gillespie, Pte Kev (I'm happy) Lees, LCpl Bob (Mountain Goat) Kirby, Sig Mick (Pepe) O'Toole

**CYPRUS MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION 1983**

Cyprus Mil Skills Competition is an annual event competed for by the major non-infantry units on the Island. It consists of a speed march and a shoot, with a number of various stands to assess the general standard of basic military training within the team.

The 10 teams consisted of one officer and a 2IC with eight other members selected by HQ LFC. This year because the Squadron had opted to go on the Patrol Camp Exercise later in the year, Mil Skills occured one week after the Squadron's return from the field.

The 262 team for 1983 consisted of:

**Maj Emslie, Sgts Scull, Mayne, Darlow, Anderson, Cpls Bean, Playford, LCpl Morgan, Sig Rushworth,** and **Cutts.**

On the day of the competition—Friday 18 November, the team was drawn as first away and set the pace by producing the fastest Speed march. The inspection, weapon training, and I S stands all went very well, with only the average results of the shoot pulling the team down into third place behind 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE, and HQ Episkopi Garrison. A very creditable performance by the Squadron done without any special effort or training, and showing the value of the years' progressive fitness and military training programme. Particular credit must go to **Cpl Playford** who, when faced with the formidable figure of the RSM of 1 A and SH sniffing his mess tins deeply and snarling 'Ya did'nae by any chance use Brasso on these tins Laddie?!' croaked, 'No Sir, Brillo!'

'The victorious Squadron Tug of War squad' *Back row from L to R:* SSgt Trev Jones, Cpls Kev Maher, Tony Playford, Taff Cummings, Bill Hunter, Sgts Steve Anderson, Graham Tilley, Sig Jim Burgess and Cpl Phil Bryant. *Front row from L to R:* Sig Billy McKeegan, Cpls Pete Upton, Kev Lees, Sgt Mick Scull, Cpl Alfie Garnett, Sig Wurz Corner, Bill Murray and Cpl Gaz Stratton



# A FORTNIGHT IN BEIRUT

**Report by Cpl Chris Pugh**

My detachment in Beirut started on 13 September and was due to last two weeks. I left Larnaca Airport at 1025 am on board a USMC Sea Stallion helicopter destined for the USS 1WO JIMA, which was patrolling along the coast of the Lebanon. We landed on the carrier at about 1115 am. As there was a delay for flights going to Beirut because of heavy shelling (state 1) it gave me the ideal opportunity to explore the ship and get some lunch.

Even though the 'Iwo Jima' class carriers are assault class and therefore not as big as some, to me it was immense. With helicopters coming and going all the time and troops filtering in and out of the assembly area, the load masters were a little like headless chickens. The pace in the galley was more sedate and the lunch was quite good.

Eventually I was loaded onto another Sea Stallion, this time an armour plated and well armed version. I shared the helicopter with a platoon of American marines, some stores and the laundry for a whole battalion!

My first impressions of Beirut were landing over a smoking shell hole, left by the earlier bombardment (I have never seen a helicopter empty so fast). I was met by some members of the British Forces Lebanon with a flak jacket and ammunition, and immediately sped off in a mine plated, open topped, Union Jack bedecked landrover. We travelled through the city to avoid a no-go area and then on to the HQ. Going through the city, it was obvious that at one time Beirut had been a very impressive place, but what was more striking now was the extent of the war damage.

On arrival at the HQ it was no great surprise to find a well organised and well screened British Military Unit, which had made itself as comfortable as possible in the circumstances prevailing.

I was met by **Lt Borrill** (OC 30 Sig Regt Det) and **Sgt McElreavy** who between them run the comms and the admin for the 13 man Signals Detachment. The lads in the commcen were just finishing the extension they had built to house the late arrival of Satcom, this was completed in a record time of some 48 hours. The commcen was a hive of activity and was run by **Sgt 'Sam' McElreavy** with two men on shift. This, at times, was not easy due to the amount of different circuits they were handling. My job was, for the most part, to relieve **Sgt McElreavy** for his R & R.

After having spent two years in NI, that first day it took all my resolve to resist the temptation to cower under a table every time there was a shell burst close by, but seeing the residents of the unit casually ignoring it, it gave me some confidence.

The following morning saw me once again travelling through the city, this time to visit the three man detachment housed in the British Embassy at the other end of town. This time I got somewhat of a guided tour and my first impressions were endorsed 'It must once have been a beautiful city', but the destruction was all around.

The next couple of days were spent getting to know the job. However, at every opportunity I got I visited the OPs on the roof, armed with my camera, to observe the war.

The Chouf Mountains at this time were under heavy bombardment, especially the area in and around Souk-Al-Gharb. The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) were taking heavy casualties along the mountain ridges where most of the fighting was taking place. Directly behind the HQ was a LAF mortar position which was shelling the mountains, this obviously was a target for the opposing forces. Sometimes it was difficult to differentiate between 'incoming' and 'outgoing'.

After four or five days of manning the radio nets a new callsign came up on the HF co-ord net. This was the net we used to work to the RAF in Akrotiri. The new callsign was immediately recognisable to me as they were the voices of my own troop of 262 Sig Squadron. (Needless to say comms improved dramatically!).

The resident battalion at that time was A Squadron, Queens Dragoon Guards and the Force was commanded by **Lt Col Ferguson.** One thing that struck me early on was the high morale of the Force. I shared a room with eight or nine QDG troopers and even though all concerned were hard worked, doing the job for real brought the best out of everyone.

In true 'Squaddie' fashion every Saturday night there was a barbecue on the patio at the rear of the building. The Det ED **Sig 'Chip' Strowiger** provided coloured party lights and secluded garden lights on the grass bank (A real home from home)! The patio was also the venue for the nightly film. It seemed strange, to say the least, watching a film or eating a burger where there were shells passing over head from the mortars and the sound of automatic weapons comming directly from our front. One evening the film was so enthralling that not even the shrapnel that was clearing the tobacco factory to our rear and hitting the building could entice the men away. Not until the Commander sent out a young subaltern to inform the troops of his would be displeasure if one of them were to be hit.

Dialogue—

'Who knows how to switch this off?' silence

'Who knows how to switch this off?' silence

Boom (more shrapnel)—

'I will tell the Commander of you!'

Moan, moan, shuffle, shuffle as the men trooped off inside, leaving the young subaltern to switch off himself.

I was lucky enough during my tour to get out and about quite a lot. One such trip we visited Matyre Square, which for the unaware was the area the Israelis used to lay down a show of strength/fire power by shell and heavy automatic fire. The area is now completely decimated and deserted. We drove into the Square and stopped. The silence was disturbing, the place was completely devoid of any kind of habitation. Remarkably though the statue still stands.

The day before I was due to leave (26 September) a ceasefire was called early in the morning, I had become so used to the noise that that night was the most sleepless.

*From L to R:* Sgt Sam McElreavy, Sig Chip Strowiger, Cpl Chris Pugh and Lt Borrill

After a busy fortnight it was time to return home to Cyprus. I had been greatly impressed by the Det, given the situation the commcen provided a good service in all departments. It was an invaluable experience for me and one which I would gladly repeat.

So on the morning of the 27 September I was taken to landing pad Condor where I flew out on the RAF Chinock that brought **Sgt 'Sam' McElreavy** back from R & R. We firstly flew to the IWO JIMA to refuel and my last look at Beirut was as we lifted off from the deck of the 'IWO'. All in all quite an experience.

If asked to explain fully the intricate political and religious situation in Beirut I would have to graciously decline. The best I can do is quote from 'Private Eye' thus:-

'The Druze, an ancient people who have been driven from their homeland by the Jews, an ancient people who have been driven from their homeland, are at loggerheads with the Christian Marianites, an ancient people who have been driven from their homeland by the Palestinians, an ancient people who have been driven from their homeland by the Jews...' (see above).

# — News from Troops —

## 642 Sig Tp
## BFPO 52

**THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR**
**Report by Sgt S. Hilton**
**THE TROOP**

After searching through back issues of *The Wire*I could not find any mention of the Troop. On my arrival I was given the job of Maintenance Sgt which also covers for that of Admin Sgt so I decided to put this matter right and I hope we can now present a regular report.

The Troop consists of a mixture of military and civilian personnel. The 60 plus civilians hold numerous equivalent ranks and trades that you would find in any Signals Unit. These range from Moroccan Labourers to the EO. The military staff at present consist of:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OC** | — | **Maj (TOT) Iain Morris** |
| **FofS** | — | **WO2 (FofS) Alan Coates** |
| **Maintenance Admin Sgt** | — | **Sgt Stephen Hilton** |
| **Projects Sgt** | — | **Sgt Nick Phillips** |
| **TE Techs** | — | **Sgt Andy Fullwood** |
| | — | **Sgt Alan Muir** |
| | — | **Sgt Steve Winn** |
| **Tele Mechs** | — | **Cpl Tony Dawson** |
| | — | **Cpl Dino Farrell** |
| | — | **Cpl Stan Holden** |
| | — | **Cpl Scottie McLay** |

**THE JOB**

We actually do work here, being responsible for all the military line communications used by the three Services on the 'Rock'. This includes all telephone, telex and private wire circuits. We also provide alarm and other special circuits. The Troop has a PA System for use around the 'Rock'.

**NEW COMPUTERISED EXCHANGE**

We have recently gone through a major communications change. We used to have three Strowger exchanges, basically one for each of the Services. We have now centralised the system and use one new exchange which was installed by CPA. Thank you **FofS Woffenden** and his team.

The exchange is a GEC SL1 SPC (Stored Programme Controlled) 1800 line system which is controlled by a computer. This type of exchange is very modern and not only is it the first to be used by the Army but the largest of its type (GEC) anywhere.

The use of a computer enables the subscriber to have lots of new facilities.

These can be obtained by dialling or pressing the buttons on your phone. The facilities range from Alarm Calls—you enter a '24 hour clock' time and the phone will ring you at the selected time. Ring back when free—after dialling someone and you find they are engaged, you enter the relevant code and when the called party has finished his call you are both called. Follow Me and Call Forward—enable you to have calls which are meant for your number transferred to either a location you are at or going to. These facilities and many more are provided on this new system which was installed here first but is a forerunner to other exchanges which are already planned to be installed in other places, Cyprus being the next. We are able to use both the old 700 series phones and the new push button (MF4) tone phones.

The first of our peripheral computers was also installed. This sytem, Tel-Tag, logs all calls made on the system and costs them. It produces so much information that our clerks have now to do twice the amount of work (Progress?) We have just received our second computer, Director, which is used for the directory, line records and some line tests.

**SPORT**

The Troop have just started the annual Mini-Minor Units Competition which is held over a period of four months and encompasses eight sports. The contest held between all the Army Minor Units started off with Squash, our first opponents being 1 STRE. Our team managed to pull off an excellent result, not even letting the Sappers win one game. Individuals have represented the Headquarters team at Football, Hockey and Squash.

**OTHER COMPETITORS**

The Troop also compete in the local BFBS radio phone-ins with an amazing success rate. The lists of prizes are too long to enumerate here, perhaps we know something they don't! Our two latest arrivals got straight into the swing of it, and featured (were entered) in the Wally of the Week Competition. **Sgt Nick Phillips** managed to reshape both the PSA garage doors and the Landrover (if only slightly) while sitting in his office. **Cpl Tony Dawson** (007) gave out the wrong number for this phone to all his friends, then reported his extension faulty because no one could call him. Both were runners-up—better luck next time. Perhaps you could tell us about your 'Wallies'.

**FAREWELLS**

We have had to say goodbye to many recently. So to **Cpl Derek** and **Sue Carman, SSgt (to be) Butch** and **Anita Maycock, Sgt Terry** (leave at last) and **Diana Hague, Cpl Alan** and **Jean Smith,** thank you all, good luck and happiness in your next tours. To **WO2** (a MR at last) and **Anna Coates** we wish you happiness and success in civvy street.

## Queen's University OTC BFPO 801

**ROYAL SIGNALS TROOP**

**A SECRET**

With the RSO, Troop Commander and even the Cadets having prepared and executed Troop exercises, it was perhaps inevitable that our PSI **WO2 Tony Thomas**, would be shamed into having one of these 'exercise things'. The autumn weekend was to be a notorious date.

Our arrival at the base location in Stranraer prompted pleasant murmurs of surprise. It appeared that **WO2 Thomas** had either been busy helping Silverman's through the current financial crisis, or had entirely plundered 40 Ulster (V) Sig Regt's G1098 stores. The surprises were to continue, not least of all at the exercise briefing. Up till now the actual format of the exercise had remained something of a state secret. However, judging by the expressions on some of the detachment Commanders' faces, it continued to have the same status, even after the briefing! This was achieved by the cunning use of grid reference encoding procedure, with decoding made difficult due to a 'mix-up' in the required decoding sheets. Clues were issued in order to identify specific locations, made all the more cryptic by **'Sergeant-Major Thomas's** poetic contribution to English Literature.

**UNDERWAY**

Soon the exercise was well underway and in the early hours of the morning the DS found time to indulge in frivilous conversation. A PSI, well pleased with himself, was heard to boast of his stamina, which apparently allowed him to survive long periods without food or sleep. Although it had long been suspected that PSI's were related to camels, some astute detective work was also prompted. It was noted that **WO2 Thomas** was the only person on exercise equipped with blankets, a camp bed, an electric kettle and a hand-warmer, which he constantly referred to as 'Tina'. Further investigations also uncovered a hidden supply of tinned food, which it was claimed, was 'for the dog.'

**A SUCCESS**

With the tight security restrictions at home any exercise which involved chasing around the countryside was guaranteed to be a success. However, 'Comms' and navigation requirements were also punctuated with a variety of other military tasks. A very realistic First Aid Stand was ably run by Medical Student, **JUO Mark Farrar.** Here detachments were introduced to the chaos of a road accident. This display was made all the more realistic with the liberal use of raw meat, bones, dyes and lashings of regurgitated rice pudding!

**THE WATER**

Time flew in this frenzy of activity and on Saturday afternoon the entire troop found themselves at the 'Final RV'. The exercise culminated in a 'Command Task', involving carrying an injured party across a narrow stretch of water. Here again the old maxim seems to have been proved—that general intelligence is inversely proportional to the application of commonsense. However, after a proliferation of splashes, giggles, screams, shouts and groans the Troop Commander, **2Lt P. Bogan WRAC (V),** was enthusiastically man-handled across the gap, under the experienced eye of the RSO, **Capt H. Tittmar (RE)V.**

**THE DEBRIEF**

The enthusiasm discovered here continued that evening, when the cadets 'de-briefed' each other—in the lounge of a local hotel. We are due to return there in the near future. Already it is rumoured **Capt Tittmar** has a knot in his hankerchief—something to do with remembering the Alka Seltzer?

'One JUO Thomas, consults his exercise instructions for the next phase of the exercise'

# Association News

## Former Pensioners

We report with regret, the recent death of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

2315822 **LCpl W. J. Bugdale.**
21005696 **Sgt C. Jones**

## West London Branch

**Report by Mr E. W. Vigurs**

West London Branch is still going strong and also enrolling new members, but we have a sad tale to relate. At our last monthly meeting the shock news was announced that our very good members, **Ralph** and **Beryl Scott** were leaving the area for pastures new. **Scottie** and **Beryl** have been doing a tremendous amount of work for the Branch and will be sorely missed. Enjoy your country idyll, you both deserve it, and there will always be a welcome for you both if you pay us a visit.

Our Second Annual Dinner on 30 September was a huge success. The Mayor, **Councillor B. P. Miles,** was the principal guest and seemed delighted to be with us. We look forward to seeing him again at our Band Concert on 5 November. Honoured Guests at the Dinner included **Lt Col D. Strong,** CO 31st (GL) Sig Regt and **Mrs Strong, Chief Yeoman Warder Nobby Russel, Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake** and their wives from HM Tower of London, and welcome guests from Aldershot, Brighton and Reading Branches. Speeches were to the point and a very friendly atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening.

Prior to the dinner we paid a second visit to The Royal Hospital Chelsea to parade with the In Pensioners for Church Parade. Alas, all our spit and polish was in vain because bad weather caused the parade to be cancelled. However, we did enjoy the Church Service, following which, we were invited to the In Pensioners Club for the usual refreshment. It was there that **Capt Charles Goodsir's** son, **Kevin,** an officer in the Merchant Navy and recently returned to the UK from Singapore, presented the RSM of the Royal Hospital with a plaque from the cable ship *Mercury* for display in the In Pensioners Club.

A sad note: It is with regret that since these notes were written, we have to announce that our Reporter, **Ernie Vigurs** died suddenly, following a heart attack. **Ernie** will be remembered by all our members and many friends in the Corps for his most pleasant and cheerful manner. He always put other people first and had the interests of the Corps and the Association very much at heart. He will be greatly missed and our condolences are extended to his widow, **Winnie**, and his two sons.

## Aldershot Branch

The Annual Dinner of the Aldershot Branch will be held at The Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants on Saturday 5 May 1984. Assembly 1915 hrs for Dinner at 2000 hrs. Applications should be sent to **Mr A. V. Ient MSM,** 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2SQ or phone Aldershot 23658.

**From: A. V. Ient Esq**

Dear Sir
Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

This Branch is split throughout the United Kingdom and have very little chance of meetings, as with other Branches, and I report with regret deaths of the members. All served in the Hong Kong operations: **A. Binningley** of Dorchester, **A. Brackenbury** of Richmond, Yorks, **Maj D. C. Dickens** of Bridgewater, **J. L. Eden** of Redditch, **E. Hutchison** of Gateshead, **F. C. Watkins** of Poole, **J. Whitehead** of Washington, Durham.

Yours faithfully
**A. V. Ient**
President Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

# GOLF

**NEWSLETTER NO 6**
**THE ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING 1983**

The above meeting was held at Queen's Park Golf Course in Bournemouth on 15 and 16 September 1983. Queen's Park is a public golf course of championship standard with many challenging holes. During the meeting only a handful of competitors managed to break 'net par' although this must also be attributed to the strong wind conditions that prevailed for both days. The meeting was, well subscribed with 43 entrants and despite the difficult conditions competitors had an enjoyable two days golf with the rain, apart from a few showers, holding off.

On the evening of the first day, the Annual General Meeting of the RSGS was held in Blandford Camp. One of the issues discussed was the changing of the dates for the North/South meetings with the result that next year the Corps Spring Meeting will be held in the South at High Post Golf Club near Salisbury, and the Autumn Meeting in Catterick, Yorkshire. The dates for the Spring Meeting are 26 and 27 April.

After the second day's play **Brig Westlake** kindly presented the prizes. The results of the competition were as follows:

**Royal Signals Individual Handicap Challenge Cup**
**Winner: Lt Col D. Hall**
**Individual Challenge Bowl (Stableford)**
**Winner: Lt Col D. Hall**
**Royal Signals Championship (Scratch) (36 holes)**
**Winner: Maj Gen A. J. Jackson**
**Foursome Challenge Cup (18 holes)**
**Winners: Maj Gen A. J. Jackson, Maj D. Burt**
**Inter Unit Challenge Trophy**
**Winners: MOD Signals**
**Team: Brid J. Westlake**
**Maj D. F. Reed**
**WO2 G. Coles**
**SSgt P. Wilson**
**Royal Veterans Trophy**
**Winner: Lt Col D. Hall**
**Royal Signals Regular Officers Challenge Cup**
**Winner: Maj R. L. Windmill**

**INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Committee is pleased to report that three members of the Corps were selected to represent the Army in the Inter Services Championship held at Woodall Spa between the 13-15 September 83, **SSgt Carveth, Maj Meekings** and newcomer to the Army team **Capt Yates.**

**Yates** in particular had an outstanding game in the RAF match beating his opponent by four and three and at that time being two under par. The Army won the RAF match by seven and five and the Navy match by nine and three so regaining the trophy which was lost last year to the RAF. This victory was especially pleasing to **Carveth** as the Captain of the Army Team.

**THE ARMY INTER UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 1983**

The finals for the above championship were held at Aldershot Golf Club on the 29 and 30 September 1983. Representing the Corps was a team from the School of Signals who had qualified for the finals earlier in the year.

On the first day of the finals the School were drawn against the eventual winners, the UDR, who won a closely fought match by eight holes. This meant that the School then reverted to the plate competition, the India Cup. In the first round of this competition the School played against a team from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate. Thanks to a fine round by **Cpl Ian Thomson** who won by eight holes, the School qualified for the finals where they met 42 Regt RA. Despite a fine win by **SSgt Bob Davies** (six up) the School came out as runners-up, losing the match by two holes.

School of Signals Team:
**Lt Andy Johnston**
**SSgt Bob Bradford**
**SSgt Bob Davies**
**Cpl Ian Thomson**

**END OF SEASON REPORT**

The Corps has had the most successful year of golf since our records began. In the Army Championship we had four qualifiers in the last sixteen with **Capt Yates** going through to the semi final where he was beaten by the eventual winners.

The General's Cup was won, by **Maj Gen A. J. Jackson** for the sixth year running.

The Corps had a very strong squad of players for the Ordnance (for Corps first teams) and Egypt (for Corps second and third teams) Cups. Three teams were entered, two in the Egypt Cup, and after some steady golf both the Cups were won by the Corps, the first time we have achieved this feat.

In the Inter Corps games played throughout the year, two games were cancelled by our opponents and of the remainder we:-

**Played—11**
**Won—8**
**Draw—1**
**Lost—2**

At Army representative level Corps players were selected in all the Army fixtures for 1983.

The main events were:-

The International (against the French and Belgian Armies) won by the Army (Players were **Maj Meekings** and **SSgt Carveth)**

Inter-Services (against RAF and RN) won by the Army. Players were **Meekings, Carveth** and **Capt Yates.**

In conclusion my last Newsletter as Secretary must be to thank the Area Secretaries for the help and assistance they have given and all golf players in raising the standard of golf throughout the Corps.

Your new Secretary will be **Maj Eric Gill.** I, therefore, leave you in very good hands for the future.

# HOCKEY

**1983 INTER CORPS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**
**Report by Capt D. G. Proctor**

The Corps has always had a good reputation for producing excellent hockey teams and players. Already this season **Lt Gordon James** from 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn has represented the Army and last season **Lt Nevil Thompson** captained the Under 21 team to success in the Inter Services outdoor tournament. Unfortunately this reputation has not, in recent years, been supported in the results at the Inter Corps Festival. One has to go back quite some years to when we last won either the outdoor or indoor tournaments. For this reason it was decided to get together a nucleus of good players in good time to prepare for the Inter Corps tournament at Aldershot.

The preparation pushed back with three games over the weekend 15-16 October. To ease the travel problems 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn had kindly arranged accommodation for the team at Montgomery Barracks. It was a pity they could not have improved the weather. The Saturday morning game played against the Royal Marines at the Aldershot Officers Club pitches started in torrential rain and finished in even more torrential rain. Even so, the conditions did not detract from an excellent game, hard fought, skilful and, although determination was shown on both sides, so was a great deal of sportsmanship. With the score still at nil all, well into the second half, a well organised move by **SSgt Peter Havlin** and **Sgt Steve Farrar** enabled **Sgt Graham Lathbury** to put one under the Marines goalkeeper. Much to everyone's surprise the whistle was not to signify a goal but to indicate a free hit just outside the circle, but in favour of the Corps. And that was how the game ended.

After pie and chips in the Parachute Regiment's cookhouse the Royal Marines departed to play the RMAS at Sandhurst while we went across to Buller Barracks to meet the RCT. At least for the afternoon game the buildings of the barracks provided a minimal wind break to the still constant downpour. The morning's game had enabled the Corps team to settle and the players had found one anothers strengths and weaknesses. Although the RCT were not in the same league as the RM, we were only 1—0 up at half time from a goal by **Lt Gordon James.** Considering that the RCT goal mouth was subjected to a constant deluge of shots only to score one goal was a little disappointing. Another goal after a follow up to a missed penalty put **James'** name on score card again and a well taken goal by **SSgt Nick Hammett** made the final score a respectable 3—0.

Super Sub **Cpl Andy Marston-Weston** had replaced **Sgt Geordie Burton** in the first match. In the second he replaced **Lt Nevil Thompson** (who had an uncomfortable stomach bug) at right half and proved that the term utility player is not sacrosanct to the English football team. In addition **Cpl Ken Jones** proved that he could easily make the change of pace from centre forward for the 1982 season to right full back for the 1983 season.

Sunday's game necessitated a pleasant drive to Worthy Down via a festive little pub that does excellent lunches under the crossroads of the A303 and A34. This provided a very adequate lounge for a team talk before taking the pitch against the RAPC. To quote one of the more elderly statesmen of the team, **Peter Havlin,** 'There are no points for training games'. But the 2—1 win was a major psychological win, not just for the coming tournament but also after many previous dismal encounters. At half time the score was 0—0, but early in the second half **Frank Rodgers** of the RAPC managed to barge, nudge and kick the ball, with a little help from the stick, into our net. The umpire, without changing his expression, pointed to the centre of the field. Following the new code of player-umpire relationships, not one comment was made. Fortunately for the umpire, **Capt David Proctor, Sgt Geordie Burton** and **Sgt Graham Lathbury** scored two excellent goals to give the game the result it deserved. Once again **Cpl Andy Marston-Weston** came on, this time for **Lt Steve Wallis** whose leg (spelt age) was playing up.

Monday and Tuesday the 17-18 October were well used indoor training at the Maida Gym. The outdoor tournament started on Wednesday 19th at the Officers Club pitches, Aldershot. We were drawn in the same league as the RE, last year's winners, Infantry, REME and RCT. The first game against the RE in beautiful sunshine was a disastrous 3—0 defeat. It was not as if the Corps were far worse than the RE but a well converted shot came and a penalty put the game out of reach. The afternoon's game against the RCT should technically have been an easy win but it took a single goal midway through the second half to gain two points from the first day.

Thursday started with a 0930 hours push back against the Infantry. They had been the previous season's unlucky runners up and were full of considerable talent. The game turned out to be exceedingly boisterous and required tight control by both umpires. Both sides came very close to scoring and there was considerable pressure on our goal. Through a series of short corners, however, **Lt Steve Wallis** ran out No 1 brilliantly. **Sgt Steve Farrar** was unlucky not to score after an excellent move down the left of the field had rocketed the ball across the goal nicking his stick as he flung himself forward. The final result was a 0—0 draw and we needed two points from the REME game to give ourselves a very outside chance. Unfortunately, even with the build up, someone had decreed that this was not to be our tournament and although the REME goalmouth was under constant pressure they ran out 1—0 winners after being awarded a very dubious penalty. Both the RE and Infantry qualified for the semi-finals and again met in what must be the best final in years. Our consolation must be that the Infantry were, deservedly so, the eventual winners.

Not wishing to sound like the weather forecast, Saturday dawned with a scorching October sun. We, unfortunately, were destined to spend the whole weekend in the Maida Gym. The early weeks practice showed immediately in the first game against the Royal Engineers. The previous season's winners and firm favourites could not shake off the failure of the outdoor tournament. But that would be slightly unfair on the Corps side who from the whistle played good, fast and accurate hockey. Good discipline from the bench meant well timed substitutions with fresh players who picked up their markers immediately. The individual skills of **Sgt Steve Farrar** and **Lt Gordon James** linked well with the combination of front runners provided by **John** and **Graham Lathbury** and **Andy Marston-Weston.** The difference in ability, however, was not demonstrated in the league scores and we only won 4—2 against the RE, 5—3 against the RCT and on the Sunday 5—0 against the RAEC.

In the semi-finals a young REME team almost had the legs 'off' us but energetic goalkeeping by **Cpl Phil Skene** kept them at bay. We failed to convert the many chances that came from driving down the right hand boards but finished 5—4 winners. In the final the Sappers had their revenge. It was a good, hard and skilful game but a succession of well taken penalty corners put the score out of range and although we scored three very good goals towards the end they won 7—3. However, as a result of finishing in the top three the Corps qualified for the Combined Services Indoor Tournament at RAF Newton.

The following represented the Corps at Aldershot:

**Capt David Proctor, Lt Nevil Thompson, SSgt Nick Hammett** (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt), **Lt Steve Wallis, Sgt Geordie Burton, Sgt Steve Farrar** (Army Apprentices' College), **Sgt Graham Lathbury, Cpl John Lathbury** (16 Sig Regt), **Cpl Phil Skene** (Int and Sy Group BAOR), **SSgt Peter Havlin** (22 Sig Regt), **Cpl Ken Jones** (School of Signals), **Cpl Andy Marston-Weston** (30 Sig Regt), **Lt Gordon James** (8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), **WO1 Keith Purkiss** (36 Sig Regt).

The team in their natty new tracksuits. Only Cpl Ken Jones is missing

# BRANCHES OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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# 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 | 36.00 | 41.00 |
| Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. 9 carat gold with spring safety stud. | 39.70 | 45.15 |
| Sterling silver with spring safety stud. Complete in presentation case. | 6.50 | 7.50 |
| Corps table mats (set of six) | 23.10 | 26.30 |
| Corps cocktail mats (set of six) | 6.50 | 7.40 |
| Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank) | 8.90 | 9.50 |
| Corps cuff links (revised pattern) | 4.10 | 4.50 |
| Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" × 4½" | 1.65 | 1.80 |
| 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" | 2.30 | 2.60 |
| Car badge—square, acrylic | 3.40 | 3.75 |
| Key ring with Corps badge tag | 0.70 | 0.75 |
| Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold | 3.20 | 3.60 |
| Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½") | 0.85 | 0.90 |
| medium (7½" × 5½") | 0.80 | 0.85 |
| small (3" × 2⅜") | 0.75 | 0.80 |
| Identity card holder | 0.25 | 0.30 |
| Blazer buttons—large | 0.60 | 0.65 |
| small | 0.55 | 0.60 |
| Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only) | 0.40 | 0.45 |
| Vinyl "coasters" with Corps Crest (set of six) | 1.45 | 1.55 |
| Playing cards embossed with the Corps Badge. (Red or Blue) | 1.60 | 1.80 |

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE THREE

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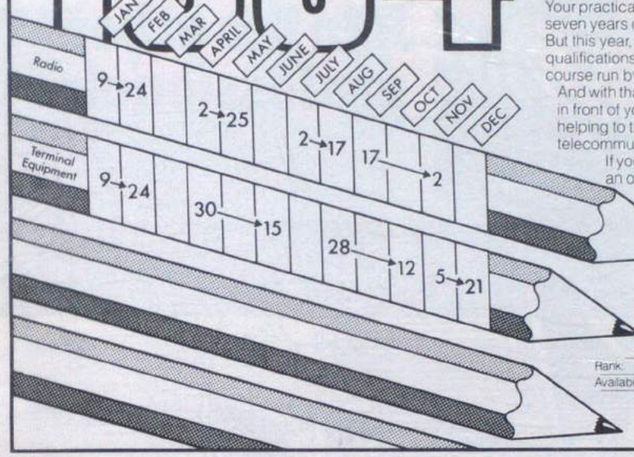


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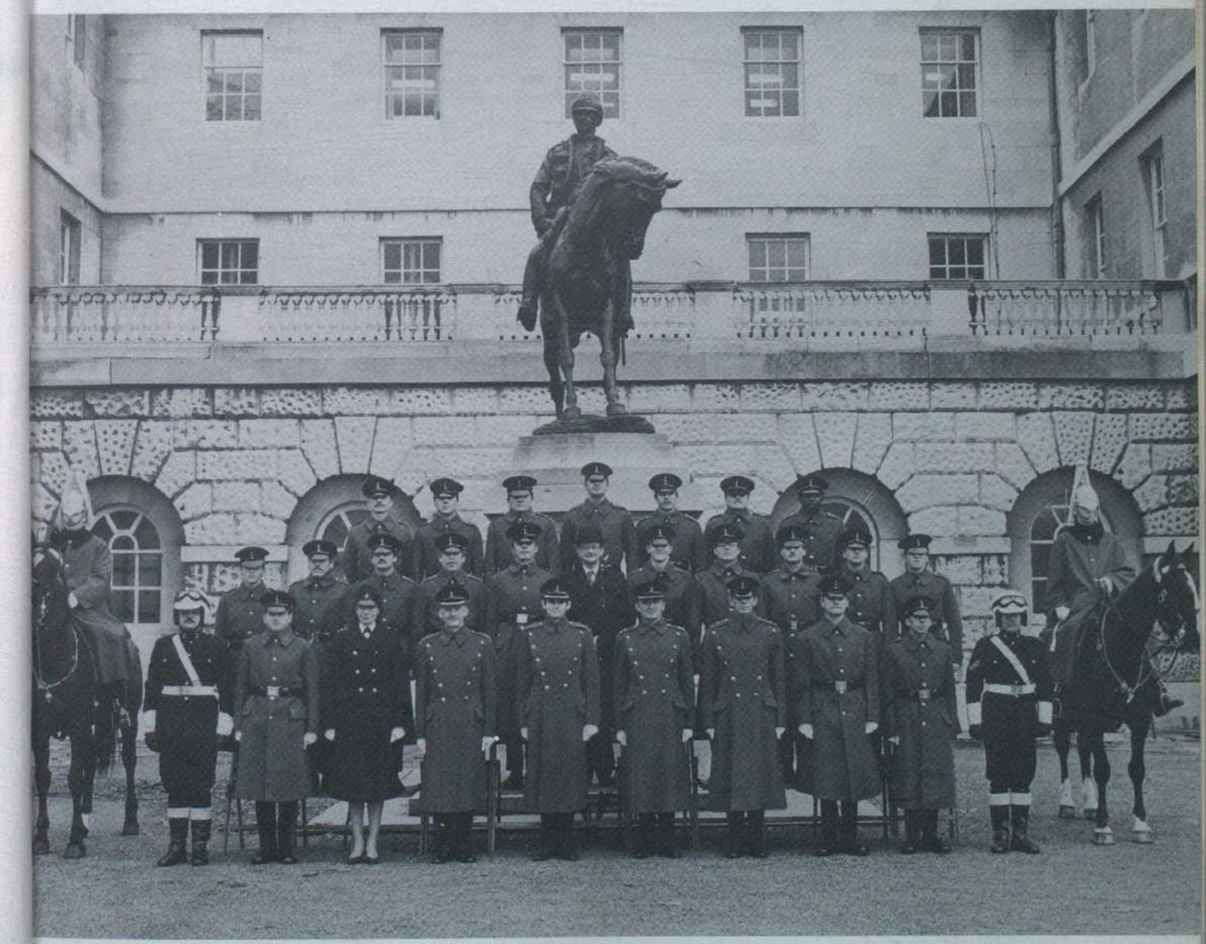
March 1984


# THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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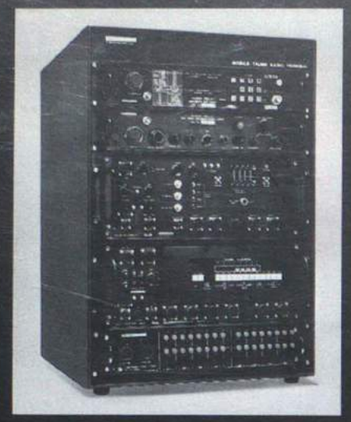

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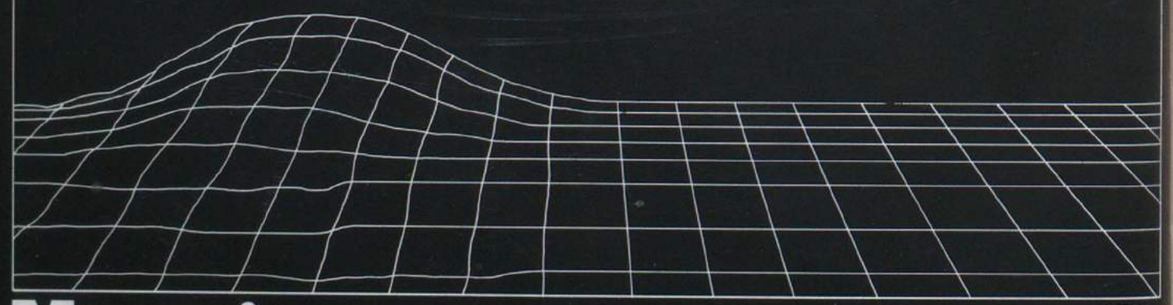

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# THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
**March 1984 (New Series) Vol. 38 No: 2**
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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## EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

**CEREMONIAL DUTIES**

Comd Comms HQ London District and OC 2 Sqn 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) together with the officers, SSM, NCOs and soldiers who are involved in all State and Ceremonial occasions in London. This unique Corps photograph was taken at Horse Guards.

*From L to R—Back Row*: Sig Thomas, Sig Bishop, Sig Burek, Sgt Jackson, Cpl Dixon, Sig Cunningham, Sig Callender. *Centre Row*: LCpl Wicking, LCpl Nadin, Sig Leach, Cpl Poulsen, Sig Hicks, Maj (Retd) L. C. P. Jaggard, LCpl Smith, Cpl Potter, Cpl Carey, Cpl Broadbank, Sig Scott. *Front Row*: Tpr Howatson-Jones, on 'Zuoave', Sig Rowson, WO2 (SSM) Davis, Capt C. D. Wilding, Maj R. Lund, Maj D. C. Podevin, Lt Col C. A. Brown, Capt N. T. Moore, Sgt Dillon-White, LCpl Williams, Tpr McGoldrick, on 'Fancy'

## YOUR ASSOCIATION

The main income to your Association comes from the 'One Days Pay Scheme'—and this has been so for the past twenty years, when the Army Board introduced the Scheme to support Benevolence throughout the Army. It is difficult to thank adequately All Ranks of the Serving Corps for this magnificant support which, in 1983, provided some **£163,000** to the Association. Without this generosity, little of what follows would have been possible.

Some **£75,000** was committed in making nearly 900 grants to individuals whose circumstances merited financial assistance. Included in this total were some 28 grants to serving soldiers or their dependants, involving some **£6,700**. Additionally, grants to units of the Corps totalled some **£3,000**.

Subscription rates for *The Wire* have been maintained at their present level since 1978. The subsidy to achieve this in 1983 was some **£24,000**.

A grant of **£10,000** to Corps Funds met part of the expenditure of the Corps Games Club and Yacht Club during the past year.

Our new Memorial Chapel in the Memorial Church, Catterick Garrison was dedicated on 26 June 1983. Some **£5,500** was spent in establishing the Chapel and its furnishings.

To fulfil the Association's functions, it has been necessary during the past 35 years for us to employ staff, additional to those established as civil servants. April 1983 saw the retirement of our Senior Welfare Officer, **Miss Margaret Cook** who gave 30 years outstanding service. Many thousands derived new hope and encouragement from her efforts. The provision of appropriate retirement benefits for Miss Cook, coupled with staff salaries and pensions to other former employees involved the expenditure of some **£36,000**.

In November each year, the Association's Central Committee determines the sum donated to the Army's central charity. The Army Benevolent Fund received last year some **£400,000** from Corps and Regimental Associations, including **£36,000** from our Association. On the other hand, our thanks are due to the Army Benevolent Fund for:-

Co-operating with the Association in some 54 instances during the year. On account of these, we received some **£23,000** to supplement grants from our Benevolent Fund.

Making 61 interest free loans totalling some **£75,000** to soldiers nearing discharge for the purchase of furniture. The details of this Scheme are held by all units.

Making grants, on behalf of all Corps and Regiments, to national charities providing for the specific needs of the soldier, the ex-soldier and his family. These totalled some **£950,000** in the past year.

Acting on behalf of the Trustees of the South Atlantic Fund, the Association has now made payments totalling some **£281,700** to the next of kin of those killed in the South Atlantic and the wounded.


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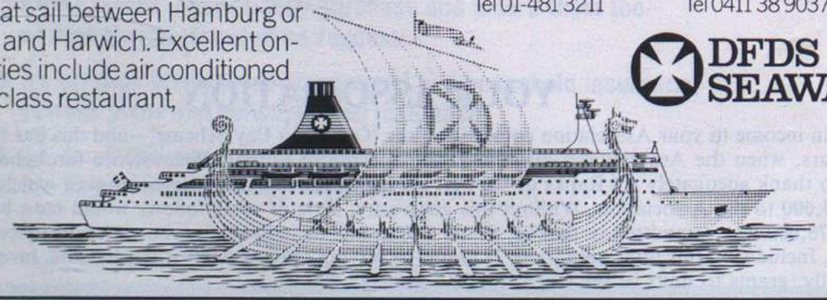

DFDS SEAWAYS




## – From our "In" Tray –

### A MUSTER OF DCM HOLDERS

This year the Distinguished Conduct Medal League is celebrating the 130th anniversary of the medal's institution with a muster for all DCM holders.

The DCM was instituted by Queen Victoria on 4 December 1854 and since the Crimea War has been awarded to over 30,000 soldiers for distinguished conduct in the field. 3,530 were awarded during the years before 1914, 25,100 in World War I, 46 in the years between the World Wars and 1,904 in World War 2. Far fewer were won in World War 2 because the Military Medal, instituted in 1917, was awarded as well as the DCM. Since 1975, the DCM has also been given posthumously; in the recent Falkland War eight were awarded, three of which were posthumous.

**Maj J. C. Cowley**, President of the DCM League is planning to hold the muster on a weekend in early autumn 1984 at a suitable location either in London or in the Windsor area, depending on the response he gets. It is hoped to make this occasion a royal ceremony of remembrance and rededication. Although **Maj Cowley** has a list of all the names of DCM holders from World War 2, he has not been able to contact them because holders must volunteer their own addresses. It is hoped to have a full turn out for this unique occasion.

Anyone who is entitled and interested in attending should forward their names to the Deputy Director, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH who is producing a consolidated list of Corps members for the League. Wives and close relatives will be welcome at the muster.

The information required is Name, Rank, Service dates, address (including telephone number), and the date of award of the DCM.

### ASSOCIATION REUNIONS 1984

The traditional Association Reunions are to be staged at Blandford and Catterick on the following dates:-

BLANDFORD—20 May
CATTERICK—30 June/1 July

The Association's Annual General Meeting will take place in the North Hall at mid-day on Sunday 1 July. Administrative instructions covering these superb events have been issued to branches of the Association and are available to individuals on application to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

It is worthy of note that both the White Helmets and our excellent Corps Band will be at Blandford this year—incidentally the date is close to the 40th Anniversary of D-Day. May we respectfully suggest that all you Normandy veterans mark this by joining us either at Blandford or Catterick?

### ATTENTION D-DAY VETERANS

Portsmouth is to be the focal point in this country for commemorating the 40th Anniversary of D-Day and on Wednesday 6 June there is to be a March Past and Parade in Guildhall Square at 1230hrs.

The Ministry of Defence has given their support to this event which will comprise 500 Servicemen and Women from the Combined Services and up to 500 Ex-Servicemen and in this group are to be representatives of all the British Units which sailed from Portsmouth on D-Day.

The Ex-Servicemen will join the main march about 300 yards from the Guildhall Square and after marching past the saluting base, will take up a static position while the other contingents march through. The Salute will be taken by **Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi GCB ADC**, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command.

At this stage, both D-Day Veterans and other Ex-Servicemen are eligible to parade. If numbers prove to be too large, it may be necessary to limit the representatives from each Association and to offer tickets to a proportion for reserved places on the Guildhall steps to view the event.

If you would like to participate in this significant parade, please contact the Association representative—details below—who is to co-ordinate all arrangements.

**E. P. Wilds Esq**
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Dorset SP7 1BN Tel: Shaftesbury (0740) 3094

### EX CORPS MEMBER HONOURED

Recently retired from the Corps after 33 years service, **WO2 Brian Cumming** has been awarded the rare distinction of a Bar to his LS&GC together with the Meritorious Service Medal. The presentation took place at Plymouth Station Headquarters and was made by **Maj Gen B. M. Lane**, GOC South West District.

As a Radio Technician, **Mr Cumming** served with the Army Wireless Chain (later to become COMCAN) in Egypt, Jordan, Cyprus, Brunei and Singapore where he was Senior System Controller.

In 1974 he took up a Long Service List appointment of Estate Warden in Minden, BAOR. He remained there until September 1983 before leaving the Corps to join the Families Housing & Welfare Service as a civilian Estate Warden.

**Mr Cumming** and his wife **Patricia** have their home in Plymouth. Their daughter, **Tracy**, is an undergraduate at Swansea University.

### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL—REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

**Report by Lt Col G. S. Massey, Army Football Association PRO**

**LCpl A. (Sandy) Brown**, 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, played for the British Armed Forces (Combined Services) in the side which beat the French Armed Forces, (1—0), in the Kentish Cup, at Aldershot Military Stadium on Wednesday 25 January.

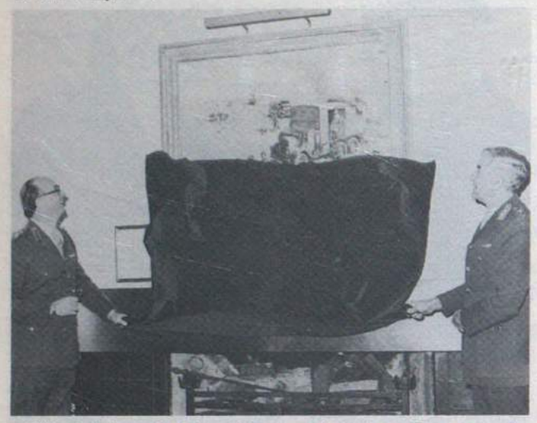
**LCpl Brown** was awarded the Carerras Rothman's British Armed Forces 'Player of the Match' Trophy having been judged the player who contributed most to the British Armed Forces win.

### 3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION AND DINNER CLUB

The 32nd AGM and Annual dinner will take place at the Victory (Services) Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 31 March 1984. As this will be a special occasion marking the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landings and also the 175th year of the formation of the Division, ladies will be present. Details of the reunion may be obtained from the Chairman, **Maj Ken Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU. Past members of the Division attending for the first time would be welcomed.

## WORLD WAR 2 'Y' SERVICE—PAINTING BY TERENCE CUNEO

In 1982, **Brig B. A. H. Parritt CBE ADC**, conceived the idea of commissioning the artist **Terence Cuneo** to paint a picture commemorating the Intelligence Corps' involvement in the 'Y' Service during World War 2. After some research it was determined that the activities of 101 Special Wireless Section in the Western Desert would be a suitable subject and that the painting should depict specifically **Maj John Makower** and **Sgt Bill Swain**, both Intelligence Corps, who were awarded the Military Cross and Military Medal respectively on the same day.



With the help and advice of the two principals work began on the painting in July 1983 and was completed towards the end of the year. It was unveiled at a Champagne reception at the Headquarters Officers Mess at Ashford on 20 January 1984 by the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Director Intelligence Corps, this joint operation being symbolic of the close cooperation of the Royal Signals and the Intelligence Corps throughout the history of the 'Y' service to the present day.

## LOOKING BACK

**From: D. C. Harriott, Esq**

Dear Sir,

This photograph was taken at Dibgate Camp, Shorncliffe June 1939. It shows our then Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal**, inspecting the 44th Div Signals, being escorted by the Colonel, Adjutant, and RSM. I am standing fourth from the left in the front rank!

Yours faithfully,
**D. Harriott**

34 Eaton Place
Brighton
Sussex BN2 1EG

## CROSSING THE WESER. WERE YOU THERE?

**From: J. S. Lucas Esq**

Dear Sir

May I, through your correspondence column, make this appeal to former comrades of your Corps. Towards the end of the Second World War in Europe, the 11th Armoured and the 6th Airborne Divisions, carried out a successful crossing of the river Weser, at or near Minden.

In the Summer of 1984, a group of RCT officers, will be undertaking a battlefield tour covering particularly, but not exclusively, the advance of 11th Armoured Division to the river; the assault across it and the exploitation beyond the Weser.

Your Corps played a magnificent part in that river crossing and I should like to appeal to any of your ex-Comrades who fought in that battle, to send me a short account of the part they played, with a view to incorporating their personal recollections in a battle brief.

Yours faithfully
**James S. Lucas**

Deputy Keeper of the Department of Photographs
Imperial War Museum
Lambeth Road
London SE1 6HZ

## MRS PAT SPICER

**From: Capt V. T. Zimmer**

Dear Sir,

May I through the medium of your columns inform all of ex 216 Para Sig Sqn members, either serving or now retired, that **Mrs Pat Spicer**, the squadron typist since 1960, is retiring on the 31 March 1984 through ill health.

As an 'old boy' from '216' days, I remember well **Pat**'s devotion to duty and helpfulness to one and all. Her happy, outgoing ways will be well remembered by everyone who knew her.

It would be fitting to present **Pat** with a suitable gift to remind her of some 24 years with the Royal Signals and in particular with 216. So could I please ask, all ex '216' members to donate a small sum for a suitable farewell gift? Cheques should be made payable to PRI 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.

Yours faithfully,
**V. T. Zimmer**

5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters & Signal Squadron
Arnhem Barracks
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 2AU

## OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER 19 MAY 1984

The OWA President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck on Saturday 19 May 1984. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: **Capt G. S. Lane** Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN. Tel: Worksop (0909) 476326 ext 30, (0909) 723291 evenings, by 10 May 1984.

Dress will be Mess Kit for Serving Officers. The cost will be £9 per head. Limited accommodation is available on request.

## OLD WELBEXIAN SPORTS WEEKEND 23/24 JUNE 1984

The Old Welbexian Association is organising a Sports Weekend at Welbeck on 23/34 June 1984. The following sports will be played against College teams:

Squash )
Sailing ) Saturday 23 June
Tennis )
Cricket Sunday 24 June

Limited accommodation is available in the College and camping is permitted by the Lake. Wives and children are most welcome for the weekend.

Please contact **Capt G. S. Lane RE** Worksop (0909) 476326 ext 30, by 20 May 1983.



## MEMORIES

**From: Maj H. McD. Chapman**

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a photograph of the Royal Corps of Signals rugby XV for 1946, which you may find suitable for publication. It may bring back memories to older members of the corps—no doubt retired now—but still taking a copy of *The Wire* .

Yours faithfully,
**H. Chapman**

Brielen House
1 Brielen Road
Radcliffe-on-Trent
Nottingham NG12 2GN

## AN OLD SWEAT—'39-'61

## PART 5—GREYHOUNDS OF NORWAY—CONTINUED

**Report by Ex WO2 Bert Howell**

As related in Part 4 our advance party of four signallers accompanying the General Staff was eventually disembarked on the quayside in Harstad, and installed in a small hut at the end of the main coaling pier, to set up initial shore to ship lamp signalling communications with the cruiser *Southampton*. The naval operators were quite frustrated by our constant IMI's and flashing '*Southampton*', and I am afraid we must have broken all rules of procedure and secrecy. Naval procedure was a new animal! Nobody had given us any instructions, and fresh from army basic training, it was a case of there was a job to be done and to get on and do it. This we did come 24hr daylight and violent snowstorms—with a few bombs thrown in! (Remind me not to swing 'the lampshade' when in the presence of our lads fresh from the Falklands).

It was all a bit chaotic as landings go. We did not have the benefit of any orders or really any idea who we were working for. We had been stuck out there on a limb and told to establish contact. Later, two of us ventured forth into the town and were immediately welcomed into a Norwegian home for a meal, which was very much sought after since we had no rations. (This was something which happened to most soldiers and was treated with wry humour rather than grousing, being short on grub for a few days!).

Just as I was remarking how quaint it was to put jam on potatoes which they had served, the air raid sirens went. Immediately, our hosts, quite unceremoniously, ushered us out with instructions to go and shoot down the German planes. It was totally incongruous. They really did think that all we had to do was to go outside with our rifles and do just that. We were just as naive, immediately taking refuge under a local bank arcade. Bombs did fall around but they did not register with me. Reality was still to come.

My first experience of this came next day. I was off duty and during one raid, I sheltered behind the dividing wall of the coal pier. When the German bombers passed overhead, I calculated the best place would be to run around to the other side. As I turned the corner of the dividing wall a cluster of bombs went off in the quay area. I was lifted up gently and buried in coal up to my neck. I emerged totally unscathed with my white seaman's roll-necked pullover and face covered in coal dust. I looked like a black minstrel. Regrettably there was a destroyer tied up beside the pier disembarking MPs and nurses. They suffered our first casualties. Such is war, I never did find out who they were despite intensive searching at the Public Records Office in Kew many years later. I noticed the inlet was swarming with stunned and dead fish. Strange how one remembers the small things, yet names of so many comrades are completely wiped out of my memory.

Returning to our lamp station at the end of the pier and near the blasts I found an old Norwegian fisherman just sitting there, quite unperturbed playing his concertina. I was only 20 years of age, but he put me to shame.

We were then moved in to the topmost corner room of the Grand Hotel which was to be the HQ for the Force. My job was to sit out on a protruding ledge, with a lamp focused on the *Southampton*, whilst a navy operator assigned to us, operated the lamp key and read the signals, which other members of our signals group wrote down. (Obviously the Navy had opted for the easy way). During the evening another air raid sounded and we all beat it down the stairs to shelter. When the all clear came we returned to find an old sea dog, a very much gold braided type, sitting there. Very quietly he reprimanded us all for leaving our posts but pointed out we were not alone in this. He asked us not to ever leave our posts again no matter how bad the raids got. Then he said something which reading through many historical records I have found that same voice of sanity in a world of insanity 'I want you to remember that in war you will be killed, sooner or later; you should thank God for every day you are alive'. Many, many years later I came across an account of 'D' Day when one very courageous American officer called to his men who were on the beaches, 'the only men who are going to remain on this beach are those dead, or those about to be killed, so let's get to hell out of here'. Similar sense and words stood me in good stead ever afterwards. The principle applied throughout the war and in civilian life, send not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee! Do not wish it upon yourself! Well, I must end now, and report in the next episode my experience of the abortive first attempt to land and retake Narvick from 5,000 Germans after a naval bombardment on 25 April, the anniversary of Gallipoli.

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*For further information contact:*

**Barton Miniatures Ltd., Unit 6A, Vinces Road Industrial Estate, Diss, Norfolk (0379 51907)**

**or Susan O'Neil Roe, Beacon Cottage, Compton Dundon, Somerton, Somerset (0458 42415)**

# — Movements —

## Officers

FEBRUARY 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Maj J. N. Allan | 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Maj J. R. S. Amberton | 1 Sig Gp |
| Maj (TOT) R. C. Boulter | DSS (AD) |
| Capt M. R. Complin | QG Signals |
| Capt M. Cost | 16 Sig Regt |
| Maj A. H. G. Elford | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt R. J. J. Ellis | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj G. R. Farrell | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj A. R. Gale | 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) |
| Capt K. K. W. Goodfellow | School of Signals |
| Capt M. N. Grieves | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj D. K. Hadden | 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Maj P. A. Hallett | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj H. H. Ham | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt S. Hargreaves | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Maj J. P. Hayes | HS HQ Berlin (British Sector) |
| Capt R. R. Holmes | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj A. J. R. Jackman | SHAPE RAE |
| Capt A. H. Johnstone | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| Lt Col B. F. Kavanagh | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt (QM) F. Laverick BEM | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj W. G. Lidster BEM | SO2 Comms |
| Lt S. J. Long | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| Capt R. H. Mardo | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Capt S. B. Marriott | School of Signals |
| Capt J. P. McMahon | att AAColl Harrogate |
| Maj I. W. Morris | Jnr Regt R. Signals |
| Capt (Tfc Offr) M. Paddison | 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF Sp) |
| Lt Col F. H. Pedley | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt A. J. Poppleton | HS RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj (QM) J. V. Press | 22 Sig Regt |
| AMaj I. O. Robertson | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj B. Robinson | HQ SEDIST |
| Maj (QM) J. A. Rose | School of Signals |
| Maj H. Smith | RARDE |
| Capt (TOT) G. J. Sullivan | 29 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col A. E. Truluck | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt (Tfc Offr) D. J. Tunmore QGM | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt A. J. Wilson | AA Coll Harrogate |

MARCH 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| 2Lt G. D. Anderson | 16 Sig Regt |
| Maj (for Lt Col 84) M. J. Bowen | NICSMA |
| 2Lt I. J. Bradshaw | 7 Sig Regt |
| Lt A. G. Brand | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj T. Bushell | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt L. K. Byrne | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Maj B. Chubb | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| 2Lt J. W. Cooper | 7 Sig Regt |
| Maj N. J. Cory | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj M. J. Crane | FHQ Gibraltar |
| Maj C. P. Donaghy | MOD ADRB |
| Capt D. S. Ewing | School of Signals |
| Maj T. T. Halchurch | HQ BFFI |
| Capt (TOT) J. M. Hammonds | 642 Sig Tp (Gib) |
| Capt D. R. Heyes | SO3 CDA |
| Maj B. C. P. Higson | HQ NOR IRELAND |
| Capt (QM) B. M. Hudson | Northumbrian UOTC |
| Capt A. M. Jenkinson WRAC | 602 Signal Tp |
| 2Lt SK MacRostie | 7 Sig Regt |
| Lt J. Marman | 21 Sig Regt |
| Maj N. J. Mayne | HS School of Signals |
| Maj G. Meakin | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj P. C. Pearson | BDS Washington |
| Lt J. G. Peck | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt A. J. Rock | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| 2Lt R. C. P. Salvoni | 30 Sig Regt |
| Lt G. M. Smith | HS QG Signals |
| Lt Col M. R. Stephenson | HQ NI |
| Lt P. Stephenson | 30 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt C. J. Thackray | 22 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt S. J. Vickery | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Lt Col MP Walker | HS School of Signals |
| Maj R. A. Wannell | 3 Armd Div Sig Regt |
| Maj P. Williams | 31 Sig Regt (V) |

## WOs and Senior NCOs

FEBRUARY 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (FofS) S. D. Farrow | School of Signals |
| WO1 T. J. Friend | HQ AFSOUTH |
| WO2 (YofS) A. Edwards | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) D. A. Gruncell | Sultan of Oman's Land Forces |
| SSgt (FofS) J. I. Ratcliffe | 262 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (EW Op) P. B. Mitchell | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (Supvr R) M. Scott | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt J. E. P. Telford | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| SSgt G. L. Morgan | School of Signals |
| SSgt M. D. Turvey | 262 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt G. Harwood | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. A. Cormack | 7 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. P. J. Dark | HQ NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp |
| SSgt J. I. Davis | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt N. W. Terry | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. A. Monahan | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. Howie | 266 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt J. M. Nicholson | School of Signals |
| ASSgt D. A. Rodgers | School of Signals |
| ASSgt G. F. Manning | 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt R. G. Cossou | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt A. Wise | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASSgt P. J. Scales | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt N. P. Martin-Law | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. K. C. Easterbrook | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt P. McLaughlan | School of Signals |
| Sgt B. W. Milford | School of Signals |
| Sgt M. Pickersgill | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. C. Angus | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt J. R. Roberts | 642 Sig Tp |
| Sgt C. D. Bond | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. A. Gemmell | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. Benson | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. G. P. Bohanan | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt F. W. Dawson | 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. W. Smith | HQ NORTHAG |
| Sgt A. J. Barber | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt N. C. Duncan | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt D. Payne | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt O. W. Henvey | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. A. Craig | Comms & Sy Gp |
| Sgt G. T. Dewar | Comms & Sy Gp |
| Sgt A. C. Giles | 244 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt C. D. Joanes | HQ NI |
| Sgt D. T. H. Wilson | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. Bird | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt D. Beattie | HQ 20 Maritime Regt RCT |
| Sgt W. Heelan | HQ 20 Maritime Regt RCT |
| Sgt P. A. M. Gladwin | 538 Rear Link Dept |
| Sgt R. W. Smith | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. J. Talbot | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. M. Kirkpatrick | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. S. Baker | School of Signals |
| Sgt T. K. Loughton | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. F. Hamilton | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. A. Franklin | RSDT |
| Sgt G. Ledger | School of Signals |
| Sgt R. Woodger | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. Thompson | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. M. Tomms | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASgt R. W. Short | 549 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt P. J. Duddell | 542 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt D. Smy | 535 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt J. C. B. Duncan | 596 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt S. M. Parry | 540 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt S. J. Dale | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASgt P. J. Cornes | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. Taylor | 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |

MARCH 1984

| *Rank and Name* | 1984*Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (YofS) R. W. Badger | AA Coll Harrogate |
| WO2 M. A. W. Besant | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 M. Davis | 30 Sig Regt |
| WO2 M. T. Nevill | 8 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 A. D. Sykes | 29 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) M. C. Stocks | HQ NI |
| SSgt T. R. Bean | 633 Sig Tp |
| SSgt J. Neil | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt B. J. Parkill | 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |
| SSgt W. D. Collinson | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. J. Underhill | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. W. White | School of Signals |
| ASSgt K. M. Nicholls | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. G. Paterson | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt B. Cullen | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. E. Sherry | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int) |
| Sgt P. G. Smith | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. A. Kingswell | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Wilson | School of Signals |
| Sgt J. Hunt | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. J. H. Boxall | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int) |
| Sgt R. F. Pearman | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. K. Barden | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Wilson | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. R. Guy | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. D. Mackie | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. Kassim | FSS Mossy Hill |
| Sgt G. Lathbury | FSS Mossy Hill |
| Sgt R. D. O'Keefe | FSS Mossy Hill |
| Sgt M. G. Cooper | School of Signals |
| Sgt I. Hugill | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. P. Marchant | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. P. Roberts | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. Simpson | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. Charlton | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. G. Punter | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. Middleton | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt P. A. Forryan | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. Douglas | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Bolton | 577 Rear Link Det |
| Sgt R. S. Galpin | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt C. J. Whitehead | School of Signals |
| Sgt G. R. Greaves | 576 Rear Link Det |
| Sgt I. L. Parry | School of Signals |
| Sgt C. Savage | ACIO Reading |
| Sgt R. P. Dean | School of Signals |
| Sgt A. A. Muir | School of Signals |
| Sgt T. Butters | HQ AFNORTH (BAE) |
| Sgt I. H. N. Waugh | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. A. Huntington | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Burnett | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt L. Wilman | 244 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. V. Rose | 227 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. R. Denny | HQ NI |
| Sgt R. C. Thomas | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt P. Daly | ACIO Stoke-on-Trent |
| ASgt N. M. Sloane | 11 Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. A. Pattison | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASgt H. J. Ripley | 2 Inf Div HQ Fwd Element |
| ASgt R. R. Torrance | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt M. J. Pound | 522 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt W. J. Thompson | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. J. Hanrahan | HQ 30 Engr Bde & Sig Tp |



# Welfare

**From: Welfare**

**DECEMBER 1983**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially: | 35 |
| Amount spent: | £5,411.08 |
| Christmas grants | 326 |
| Amount spent: | £3,085.00 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 16 |

**JANUARY 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 48 |
| Amount spent: | £9,426.64 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 20 |

**SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES**

Widow of an ex Cpl who served during the War and who was a Prisoner of War in the Far East. She is now in poor health after nursing her husband for many years. A grant was made to provide winter clothing and bedding.

Ex-Signalman served six years now disabled due to a heart attack a year ago, has three children still at school, a grant was made to help the family with their heating bills.

In co-operation with the Army Benevolent Fund a grant was made to the widow of a serving soldier to help her to furnish her new home.

During December/January clothing has been received from the following: **Lt Col Dagg, Lt Col T. B. Woods, Lt Col (Retd) Bayfield, Officers' Mess, 16 Sig Regt, Mrs J. Crowder.**

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1984:

| | |
|---|---|
| Officers Club, 42 Sig Regt | £125.00 |
| N. H. Chadwick Esq | £ 50.00 |
| Brighton Branch RSA | £ 30.00 |
| Salisbury Branch RSA | £ 25.00 |
| J. D. Simon Esq | £ 25.00 |
| J. E. Neale Esq | £ 20.00 |
| H. R. W. Marsh Esq | £ 20.00 |
| Capt A. D. Eraut | £ 15.00 |
| A. R. Carter Esq | £ 10.00 |
| L. C. Hall Esq | £ 10.00 |
| Mrs F. W. P. Bradford | £ 10.00 |
| Lt Col R. N. Houston | £ 10.00 |
| Maj J. A. G. Stokoe | £ 9.70 |
| R. T. Harris Esq | £ 8.00 |
| Maj W. C. Savage | £ 7.90 |
| Lt Col D. W. Gent R Signals | £ 3.10 |
| Maj J. Wilderspin BEM | £ 3.00 |
| Maj M. Gordon Wilson | £ 3.00 |
| G. E. Grimshaw Esq | £ 2.90 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 21.16 |
| | £408.76 |

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1984:

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Maj E. R. C. Wall | £100.00 |
| In memory of Brig P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen | £ 75.50 |
| In memory of Norman Gelling | £ 45.00 |
| J. B. McKissock Esq | £ 25.00 |
| P. M. Spalding Esq | £ 13.00 |
| Col J. F. Worth | £ 10.00 |
| 30 Signal Regiment | £ 10.00 |
| Maj C. A. Smith | £ 8.00 |
| Mrs I. Harvey | £ 7.90 |
| Maj A. M. Lynch | £ 5.90 |
| P. B. Cairns Esq | £ 5.00 |
| O. R. Withers Esq | £ 5.00 |
| B. Howell Esq | £ 5.00 |
| In memory of Tony Cottee | £ 3.00 |
| Maj B. W. Beale | £ 2.10 |
| Maj The Earl of Kitchener | £ 2.00 |
| R. W. Hale Esq | £ 2.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 2.90 |
| | £327.30 |

# Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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

**Gelling**—Ex SSgt (YofS) **J. N. Gelling**, known as **Norman** to his friends, passed away after a short illness on 5 February 1984, aged 43. Born in Douglas, Isle of Man, he enlisted as a Boy entrant in August 1955 at AA Coll Harrogate. Serving in Units in BAOR, UK, Trucial Oman Scouts, Carribean and active service with HQ 99 (Gurkha) Inf Bde (FARELF) in Borneo 1962-1965. He was awarded the LS&GC and GSM with Clasp for Brunei, Borneo and the Malay Peninsula. He concluded his career in August 1982 serving with 39 Sig Regt (V).

**Lloyd**—**Col William Henry Lloyd CBE MC TD,** was born at Battersea on 5 August 1896. He enlisted into the 10th Bn. The Middlesex Regt on 31 August 1914 and was commissioned in that Battalion on 19 August 1918. He attended the School of Signalling for officers in 1918 and was appointed OC Telegraph School at Poona in December 1918. In March 1919 he moved to 6th (Poona) Indian Div and was later made OIC Street Patrols in Bombay. He then moved to the 45th Indian Bde and saw active service in Afghanistan. In the following year he served as an OC Cable Section in Palestine. He returned to India during May 1920 and served with the 3 Indian Divisional Signal Company at Lahore until he returned to the UK in September 1921 when he retired. from the service.

**Bill Lloyd** soon returned to military service and on 3 October 1925 was granted a TA commission as a Lt in the 2nd London Divisional Signal Company. He remained with that unit and was embodied on 25 August 1939. In July 1940 he moved to 6 Corps Signals to take up the appointment of CO and remained with the unit, (which became 3 Corps Signals in 1941), until May 1943. He then became a Staff officer at HQ Cyrenaica District and was appointed CSO 3 Corps in December 1943, a post he held until his retirement from active service in December 1945.

**Bill Lloyd** died suddenly after a short illness at his home in Harrow on 18 November 1983.

**Pitman**—We record with regret the death of **ex-Sgt J. D. Pitman** who served with the Corps from 1928 until 1945.

**Pollard**—**Brigadier George Leslie Grove Pollard, CBE,** was born at Midsomer Norton, Somerset on 1 September 1891. He was educated at Marlborough College and at Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Unattached List Indian Army as a 2Lt on 18 January 1911. He joined the 106th Hazara Pioneers at Quetta in January 1912 and served with that unit until March 1916. He was then seconded to the Indian Signal Service and joined Jullunder Brigade Signals in Mesopotamia. After a brief period as 2IC of 32 (Lahore) Div Sig Coy, Sappers and Miners, and as OC 8 Indian Inf Bde Sig Sec he was appointed, in July 1918, Commandant of the Central Signal School in Palestine. **George Pollard** served with various Signals units, during the years 1919 to 1921, in the Middle East area. In August 1921 he returned to India and became OC 'B' Div Signals at Jubbulpore and in the following year he became DCSO, Waziristan Force, for a period of two years. He continued to serve in India, first as Comdt 'B' Div Signals at Quetta and then as CSO Western Comd at Quetta. After a brief return of five months to the Hazara Pioneers he then transferred to Royal Signals in October 1926. In 1927 he moved to Rawalpindi and became OC No 1 Line Coy until February 1928 when he was appointed Commandant, Army Signal School at Poona, a post he held until February 1932. In November 1932 he became OIC of the Signal Trg Bn Jubbulpore and was responsible for the development of the Indian Signal Corps Boys Company during which time he was able to exert his influence on the methods which were to prove so valuable to the production of good signallers for the service.

**George** next moved back to Rawalpindi and became Commandant of 1st Indian Div Signals, a post he held for a year, after which he returned to Jubbulpore and was appointed Commandant of the Sig Trg Centre. He left Jubbulpore in 1939 on leave prior to retirement and was given a tremendous send off by all who had served with him.

His retirement was, of course, delayed by the outbreak of war and on 5 November 1939 he was appointed Comdt of No 3 STC at Prestatyn in the rank of Colonel. The STC moved to Whitby and **CFK** writes of **George Pollard** ' . . . He struck me as kindness itself to those of who came out of civilian life—not that we felt that he expected anything but the best from us. I was very sorry when he was moved to 1 STC . . .'. The move to 1 STC was in April 1942 but with it came promotion to Brigadier. He finally retired on 15 March 1945 and took up farming in a small way in Somerset building up a small but very good herd of Jersey cattle. He became involved in local affairs and devoted much of his time to work on the RDU, as Deputy Chairman, and serving on the Education Executive.

**George Pollard** died at his home on 18 December aged 92 years. The Corps extends sympathy to his widow, **Pat.**

## PERSONAL

**Mrs Barbara Drake** would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Corps who have sent messages of condolence on the death of her late husband **Pat—Paddy** as he was so affectionately known. **Barbara** wishes to keep in touch and welcomes letters from friends.

**Ascot House**
**43 Parkhurst Road**
**Newport**
**Isle of Wight**

## WANTED

**SUPPORT YOUR CORPS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM**

The White Helmets are always in need of No 1 Dress uniform. If any past or present serving Officer, SNCO or soldier has a suit available for donation to the team it would be gratefully received.

Contact OC White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
Tel: Richmond 83 2521 Ext: 2556

## FOR SALE

Oscar Troop, 13th Signal Regiment now have their own Troop Plaque and are willing to accept orders from ex Troop members at the following prices (including P&P):

BAOR DM36
UK £9

Crossed cheques only made payable to Central Bank, 13th Signal Regiment. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.



## SITUATIONS VACANT

**VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) CPL WITH HQ 12 SIGNAL BRIGADE (V)**

A vacancy will arise at HQ 12 Signal Brigade (V), Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4SF in August 1984.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TAVR Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit for the post is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Cpl (TA) with a commencing salary of £6803.00 per annum, London Weighting is additional.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army preferably with Royal Signals and have had some experience of military administration.

Applications, including details of experience and service, together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be forwarded to:

Chief Clerk
HQ 12 Signal Brigade (V)
Duke of York's HQ
King's Road
Chelsea
London SW3 4SF

**VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TA**

A vacancy will arise on 31 August 1984 for a PSAO in 31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V) to serve with HQ and 41 Squadrons based in Hammersmith, London. This appointment requires weekly travel on various occasions to one of our TACs based in Coulsdon.

The appointment is in the rank of Major. Terms and conditions are outlined in Regulations for the TA 1978 Chapter 6 paragraph 3.

Applicants should be an ex regular Army Officer, under 57 years of age and have a good working knowledge of administrative duties and service fund accounting. Normal retiring age for such appointments is 60 years.

Personnel wishing to apply for this appointment should write in the first instance giving details of date of birth and the names of two referees to:

The Adjutant
31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V)
190 Hammersmith Road
London W6 7DL
Closing date for applications is: 1 May 1984.

**VACANCIES FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SSGT SQMS IN 32 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

Vacancies for 4 NRPS SQMS will arise within 32 (Sc) Signal Regiment (V). The Regiment has squadrons in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Londonderry. The posts will be filled wef 1 July 1984.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chap 6 Pt 4. The upper age limit is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of SSgt (TA) at a daily rate of pay of £22.80 on appointment.

Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of military stores accounting systems and ideally should have served in the Armed Services in a similar capacity.

Applications, including the names of two referees, and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded by 31 March 1984 to:

The Adjutant
32 (Sc) Signal Regiment (V)
21 Jardine Street
Glasgow G20 6JU

**VACANCIES FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF OFFICERS—BRIDGWATER AND BRISTOL**

Non Regular Permanent Staff Officers are sought for 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) for appointment to 43rd (Wessex) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) in Bridgwater and 57th (City and County of Bristol) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) in Bristol. The appointments are to commence in August 1984.

Applicants should have served as officers in the Regular Army and must have a sound knowledge of administration, stores and financial accounting.

The upper age limit on appointment is 56 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post currently carries the annual salary of £9380.50 rising by six annual increments to £10898.90.

Applications enclosing CV and two references should be sent to:

The Adjutant
37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
TA Centre
Horfield Common
Bristol BS7 0XL

The closing date for applications is 30 April, 1984.

**NOTE: This notice supersedes the advertisement on page 10 January *Wire*.**

**70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) are part of 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (V) and have TA Centres in Chelmsford, Harlow and Southend. We would welcome any SNCO, who is approaching the end of his service, and who wishes to spend his last six months at any of these TA Centres. We are particularly seeking someone to help on a temporary basis with communications management (for example the writing of CEIs and exercise planning).

**INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—ANNUAL BUFFET LUNCH—SATURDAY 30 JUNE 1984**

Due to certain disappointments last year, the venue has been changed, and this function will take place this year in The Town Hall Hotel, in Richmond Market Place, where we have been given a well appointed room, with established bar situated on the ground floor. Mine Host is **Doug Smith**, an ex long serving, member of the Corps, who caters on a regular basis for parties from the Garrison. We can, I am sure, look forward this year, to an excellent party.

Tickets are obtainable, at a cost per head of £3.00, from:

**Lt Col E. Thompson**
**11 Woodvale Road,**
**Darlington, Co Durham DL3 8HA**
**(Tel: 0325 463835)**

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

**8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
**BFPO 807**

**OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

The expected lull in terrorist activity occurred during the Christmas and New Year period. However PIRA activity took place prior to, and after, the Yuletide respite.

Early December saw the successful clearance of a 500lb landmine near Claudy, but a car bomb parked in the centre of Omagh exploded after the area had been cleared by the SF, causing extensive damage. In Maghera on 17 December a part-time member of 5 UDR was shot and killed as he left his place of work. It was a particularly horrific murder as it occurred in front of the soldier's 10 year old son. On 19 December, following a house takeover and armed robbery in Londonderry, three notorious gunmen were apprehended after a chase and gun battle with a RUC patrol. Unfortunately, one gunman escaped but the stolen money and four weapons were recovered. Another part-time member of the UDR had a lucky escape when his car exploded just after he had parked it outside his house after returning from work on 22 December, nobody was injured but the vehicle was extensively damaged. A part-time member of 6 UDR was ambushed and killed as he left his home in Castlederg on 2 January. Two RUC officers were injured in a bomb attack on a foot patrol in the Diamond area of Londonderry on 9 January, both were only slightly injured. The weather, wind, snow and rain caused havoc throughout the Province. Gales between 12-14 January meant our riggers and linemen were hard-worked and spent many hours replacing antennae and lines. On 11 January a RUC vehicle patrol suffered a landmine attack north of Omagh. The car was badly damaged but the officers escaped with only minor cuts and bruises.

Another change to the Brigade took place on 20 January to take in North Co. Antrim. This meant extending the Brigade and Bn Nets to give further coverage and deploying extra linked Talkthroughs on Hill Top Sites in both NI and Scotland. All took a great deal of effort to complete because of the atrocious weather conditions which even prevented helicopters from flying.

The clansmanisation of the Bde Secure Comd Net was finally effected on 21 January after having been postponed from the previous week due to the non-arrival of all the required equipment. We now look forward to a reduction in the number of faults previously encountered with the C42 Larkspur equipment.

**COMMS TROOP**

Since the last issue of *The Wire* many things have changed, by far the biggest being the change from Larkspur C42 to the Clansman VRC 353 on the Bde Secure Comd Net. Our colleagues in the UDR had to be prepared for the introduction to the new kit. This was achieved by sending a presentation team consisting of **Capt ('Clansman') Bradley, Sgt Bruce** (where is the tea) **Payne, Sig Garry Thompson** and **Chas Fox** on a whistle stop teach-in-tour of all the units in the Brigade.

'C' Day, as it was known, happened in mid January and thanks to a lot of hard work by all concerned in Comms Troop the change over to Clansman went without a hitch. (Well almost!)

**Cpl Graham Hughes** our radio troop storeman now has a vast quantity of old C42 Larkspur equipment (any offers?) ready for back loading. This we are told has caused him some headaches, but mostly backaches!

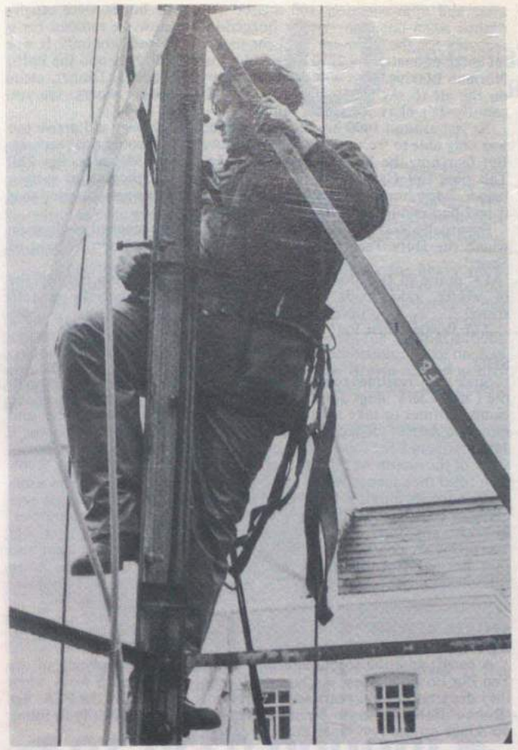
The Riggers under the leadership of **Cpl Mick Roe** have again been working hard. By far the biggest restriction to their work has been the arctic weather conditions experienced at hill top sites. Regardless of this **LCpl Tank Sherman** and **Sig Chris Sindall** have battled through snow and ice to erect Clansman antennae and de-rig Larkspur.

The annual PRE which is almost upon us increased our work load and we again asked the lads to give more than blood, sweat and tears. Under the cries of 'Thank God there's more than 24 hours in one day' **Cpls Dave Clark** and **Mac McLaughlin** have been urging the lads along. Keep smiling!

Cpl Graham Hughes checking the C42 Larkspur into the stores

Cpl Mick Roe installing the new Clansman 353 into the Bde Radio Room at Londonderry





LCpl 'Tank' Sherman on his way down after rigging the new Clansman Antennae

**REPRESENTATIVE HONOUR**

The sporting achievements of the troop are something of which to be proud. **LCpl Sandy Brown** whilst representing the Combined Services against the French Army in the Kentish Cup soccer competition (1—0 to us), was awarded British man of the match. As well as the troops operational commitment we still manage to release a large number of personnel to represent the Squadron, Corps or Army in a variety of sports **Lt Gordon** (where is he now?) **James** will testify to this.

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME**

We have said farewell to the following people and thank them for their contribution towards the smooth running of the troop; we wish them well in their next posting. **Cpls Dave Harrshorne 7 Sig Regt, Frank Vaughan 31 Sig Regt (V), LCpls Scouse Hatton HQ AFCENT Sp Gp, Charlie Chalcraft 5(AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Sig Rich Bonser 229 Sig Sqn (Berlin), and Fossie Foster Civvy Street.**

In the same breath we would like to welcome the following: **Cpls John Hunt, Jock Sinclair, LCpls Nobby Neville, Fozzie Foster, Murph Murphy, Funky Gibbons, Sig Des Carter** and **Danny Hart.**

**'M' TROOP REPORT**

The Line/Tele Mechs are as busy as ever but work is more evenly divided now as the new arrivals, **Sig Steve Griffiths, 'Jacko' Jackson, Steve Bickers** and **Adrian Pierce** have boosted the strength of the section. **Cpls Ron Stephenson** and **Steve Bullimore** can now 'beast' the young newcomers while **LCpl Steve Brown** can concentrate on more courses and the bosses. **Sgts Butch Cassidy** and **Dick Taylor** do more liaising with the 2IC, YofS and British Telecom.

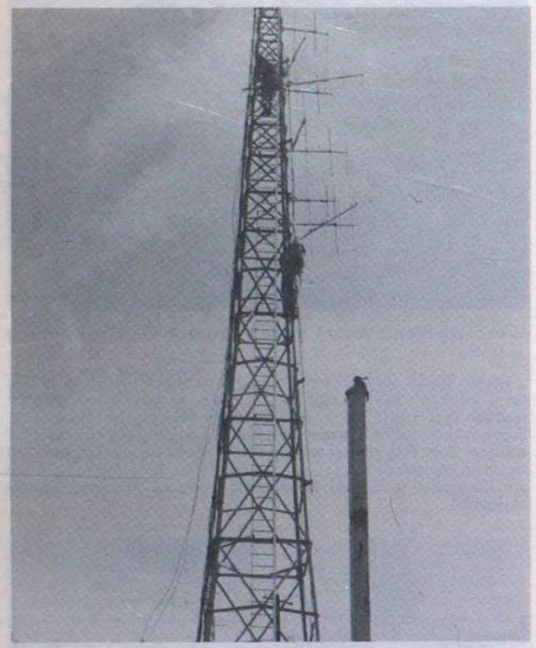
The TE/Secure 'wallahs' have a new workshop to play in and one is quite unable to prise the stalwarts within, namely **Sgts John Feilding, John Ferris** (watch out 28 Sig Regt!), **Steve** (I've been shot at!) **Nickless Steve Sherry, Phil Tait** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Jones,** out of that place.

LCpl Steve Brown at work on an intercom in the Line Workshop

On the Radio Sect side two more sites were acquired from 39 Bde (as if we didn't have enough on our plates already) but despite the sleepless nights suffered by **FofS Norman Blavins,** the take-over of Slieve Annora (affectionately christened Anorak), and the 'Mull of Kintyre' went very smoothly!! **Sgt Neil Duncan** successfully installed the main equipment but follow up episodes on this bleak hill-top site are illustrated in **Sgt Al Hindmarsh's** version, elsewhere in this magazine!

Sgt 'Robbo' Robinson posing with a W15 in the Radio Workshop

The 'Mull of Kintyre'—oh, that was a different story! Everyone—but everyone, from the OC Squadron to the desk-bound YofS wanted to Inspect—Recce the site! 'I volunteer, I'll go, gimmee, gimmee the job' was all one could hear for a while! Still the lucky ones turned out to be **Sgt Robbo Robinson** and **LCpl Bob King**. Everything went to plan after a RAF Wessex Chopper flight (reminiscent of a fairground roller-coaster) ie the equipment was installed and the various re-crystalling completed—nothing happened! Profane 'Geordie' vocabulary was soothed by hot cups of tea (plus a wee dram) at the local lighthouse keeper's lodgings! Happy to say that everything is in and working now and the list for volunteers to do future Routine Maintenance is a mile long!



Cpl Mick Roe and Sig Chris Sindall rigging at the Mull

**Sgt Taff Jones** and **Cpl Gary Hill** are resident in Hill-top sites/Ops Room Maintenance and **Sgt Mick Tucker** and **LCpl Andy** ('Wing Cdr') **Reason** are the 'professionals' in Covert Car fits.

Life in M Troop, 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn is a busy, demanding and a colourful one and certainly different from other units. Volunteers anyone?

**THE JOYS OF BEING SNOWBOUND (OR AN ODE TO ANORAK!!)**
**Report by Sgt Al Hindmarsh**

'Your mission, **'Tosh'**, like it or not, is to visit Mountain Anorak (names changed to protect the guilty) by driving up as far as you can go and by walking the rest!—Super!

'Gee thanks, FofS', said I, and on Friday morning at approximately 1000 hrs, armed with country tryes, snow chains, flasks of coffee etc, young **LCpl Andy Reason** and I set off on what eventually turned out to be a 27 hr nightmarish 'adventure' in the hidden wastes of unchartered Ireland! (In retrospect, the 1771 claim was well worth it!—Tp SSgt!).

Two hours later, stuck in a snowdrift we were 'battling against the elements'—approximately 500m from our 'task location'. Yes, as per the 'joking instructions', we had to 'hoof' the rest of the way. Now children, five hundred metres *does not* seem a long way off, *but* in an arctic-type blizzard, loaded with a 'Slummie' and other test equipment, that distance took us well over an hour.

By 1600 hrs we had completed the task and were back at our vehicle and then the 'fun?' began. Bde HQ promised that the 'Bleep Rescue Veh' (ie Duty recovery) was on its way and so we made ourselves comfortable by turning on the heater full blast and drinking the rest of the coffee. Mind you, the snow was falling heavily and the fuel gauge getting lower, but who cared? Help was on its way, Bde said so!

Around 1900 hrs the 'recovery' arrived. Hooray! Some ten minutes after and approximately 100 metres away our hopes were cruelly dashed when our recovery got bogged-in. So now we radioed for a recovery for the 'recovery' and for us too! It's gud 'ere init? It was no laughing matter by 2230 hrs when we were still there and the **FofS, Norman Blavins**, who was dragged away from a Mess Dinner, came on the air to say 'Help is on its way, chaps, don't worry, see you soon!'—It's okay for some, init?

At last around 1400 hrs (next day) another recovery did arrive but was only able to 'recover' the other 'recovery' and could not reach us. But fear not, the FofS, together with **Lt Adrian Metcalfe, Sgt Phil Tait** plus **Cpl Gary Hill** arrived a bit later and digging in earnest began. Early hopes were soon dashed as the vehicle now decided that it had had enough and lay down on its side.

Eventually (this story's dragging on) we finally reached civilisation where the Duty Tech was enjoying Saturday afternoon 'World of Sport'.

**'Al's'** moral of this story is that, when one goes up to a hill top site in winter, take loads of coffee, petrol and especially a G10 shovel . . . . You never know what might crop up!

Auf Wiedersehen Pet!

**SHQ**

Since the Christmas recess SHQ has slowly got back to full strength, the Chief Clerk, **SSgt John Symes**, finally braved the exterior of the camp confines to take a late leave and spend time in his garden and mow the Admin Officer's lawn. **Sig Andy Williams** arrived on the 6 January from 8 Sig Regt full of pride for Queen and Country. The big story of the month was the arrival of the new typist **Miss Ginny Webb** who filled the vacancy which had been temporarily filled by **Mrs Anne Reason** for six months. **Cpl Neil March** the ORC wonders if he is ever going to be posted, while **LCpl Martin Rowley** is saying his goodbyes, he leaves for Catterick on 10 February. The Training Sergeant, **Sgt Terry Davies**, continues his BFT's through ice and snow, wind and rain and we all wait for the rare appearance of **WO2 (YofS) Allan Bodimeade**.

**SPORTS REPORT**
**BOWLING**

A recent addition to our sporting facilities was the opening of the Ten Pin Bowling Alley at Clooney. It was left by the US Navy when they departed several years ago and recently restored by the PSA. **Sgt 'Robbo' Robinson** is our Squadron rep and has no difficulty in filling bookings on the two lanes every Wednesday night.

**SQUASH**

The small nucleus of squash players in the squadron have made a successful start to the season. **SSgt Om Chhetri, Sqn Ldr Roger Clements RAF, Capt (QM) Jimmy Akehurst, Lt Gordon James** and **Sgt Neil Duncan** (recently departed for 14 Sig Regt) had a 5—0 win over 23 Sqn RCT in the 1st Round of the NI Minor Units Competition. We next meet 33 Indep Sqn RE in the semi-finals.

**VOLLEYBALL**

Previously an unknown sport in the unit but rapidly gaining in popularity. Tuesday and Thursday evening training sessions have produced a squad of 12 enthusiasts of whom most have mastered the basic skills.

As newcomers to the NI Volleyball scene no one expected us to get far in the competition but we managed to shock a few teams and reached the semi-finals where we lost to a very experienced side, the Combined Sappers Team from Antrim. With more training and match experience this Summer we look forward to the next championships where we hope to do even better and reach the finals.

**FOOTBALL**

Since our last report the team has gone from strength to strength, except for a minor hiccup. Readers who follow this column avidly will recall in the last issue we were to contest the final of the York & Lancs Cup against 176 Provost Company, and there is the hiccup, we were beaten 4—2. The Squadron showed great character to come back from 4—0 down to 4—2 goals from **LCpl (Sandy) Brown** and **Sgt Mick Tucker.**

In the month of January with weather more suited to arctic conditions, we managed to play two league matches. The first against 12 Int & Sy Coy at Lisburn. Goals from **WO1 (RSM)** (definitely my last season) **Nelson, WOII** (I'm hanging my boots up) **Welsh,** and **Pte** (Psycho) **Hoy** two goals enabled us to defeat the home team 4—1.

The second match saw us journeying yet again, this time to Belfast to play E Coy 10 UDR; after a hard fought physical match we emerged victors by three goals to one. The first was an own goal, with **Pte** (Physco) **Hoy** scoring one and **LCpl Sandy Brown** with a penalty. Our next game is scheduled for 8 February against 26 Sqn RCT in the Second Round of the Northern Ireland Challenge Cup.



## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## BFPO 801

**OPERATIONS**

In West Belfast, 1 RRW are now in the final days of their tour and in their place 3 QUEENS are starting to arrive. 1 GREN GDS are shortly due to handover to 1 STAFFORDS in South Armagh. The Squadron is busy preparing for the arrival of the new roulement units checking radio equipment and preparing briefings for the new signals platoons.

Our operations have been hampered recently by the heavy snow conditions and very high winds. Much damage has been done to our antennae at hilltop sites and power failures at our talkthroughs has meant temporary loss of comms to some areas. (The standby generators do not always work!) Heavy snow on the approach roads to some sites has made some talkthroughs inaccessible. None the less with TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** and **Cpl Geordie Brown** on call airlifts of fuel to certain key talkthroughs have maintained comms until main power was eventually restored.

Nothing to do or where do I start!? YofS Pete Tapsell in the Squadron Ops Room

The Hennessy Report has now been published on the Maze escape last September. Various key personalities at the Maze have resigned and the increased security procedures recommended in the report are being put into effect. 19 of the escapees are still at large.

**ARU**

On Monday 31 January, the Brigade Commander, **Brig H. M. Rose OBE QGM** inspected the Squadron for its ARU. This took the form of an inter troop military skills competition and the deployment of a mobile Brigade Headquarters to the top of Slieve Croob.

Alpha troop team struggle in. LCpl 'Scouse' Bradley crosses the line closely followed by Lt Ernie Hocking and LCpl Chris Hull

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## MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

Led by none other than **WO1 (RSM) Dave Osborne** the military skills competition was a highly successful ('organised?') event.

The events were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Patrol Race** | Won for the second year in succession by SHQ/QM Troop, which proves that the clerks and storemen can move when they get off their 'shiny bums'. |
| **First Aid** | Bravo Troop were the winners, which is fortuitious as their OC is accident prone. |
| **Pistol Shooting** | Shooting at cleverly designed terrorist/hostage targets the techs proved top shots on the day. |
| **MT Skills** | Changing wheels on a trailer and answering questions on the Highway Code. MT Troop would have been in for some 'stick' if they hadn't won this event. |
| **Map Reading** | The fact that **SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood** of Bravo Troop supervised this event had no bearing on Bravo Troop winning the map reading tests. |

Led by **Sgt Phil Crowther**, Bravo Troop, in a very close finish, came out as overall winners. The other members of the team were: **Cpl Mick Evans, LCpl Graeme Bryson, Sig Ron Powell, Dave Old.**

Close on their heels were TM Troop and Bde HQ who shared second place. Next came Alpha Troop, followed by SHQ/QM and last was MT Troop.

After lunch an inter troop volleyball competition was held. After all the usual rules had been thrown out the window and all teams getting stuck into a fiercely fought competition, TM Troop ran out winners beating Alpha Troop in the final.

## SQUADRON DEPLOYMENT

As is now customary whenever VIPs visit the Squadron Alpha Troop was once again called upon to provide a mobile headquarters and demonstrate the Squadron in a good light. The location Slieve Croob (one of the coldest and windswept hilltop sites in Northern Ireland) was chosen by Squadron OC **Maj Martin Wilkinson.** Rumour has it that he did not want to be out done by **Maj Gareth Mann,** the previous OC who had a similar liking for the tops of Irish Hills!

None the less in snow and ice conditions, with the help of snow chains, all vehicles but one made it to the summit. The luckless **Cpl Stan Sudron** broke his gear lever and had to descend the mountain backwards using brakes only. Well done **Stan**! Sadly **Stan**'s vehicle had not finished its term of bad luck and just as **Brigadier Rose** arrived it started to travel down hill towards the Commander's back-up car. **Cpl Alan Gay** and **Driver Mark Hollis** watched helplessly as it stove in the car door and was deflected off the mountain track to end up in a ditch on the moor.

The inspection went very well and was followed by a hot all in stew on the mountain top provided by Quartermaster **Capt Mike Jennings, Sig 'Motor Mouth' Ingram** has now been dubbed an expert on 353Z communications and **Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley** has finally proved that Heli-Tele can indeed go anywhere.

## ALPHA TROOP

With a fairly quiet Christmas and New Year period behind us, the troop is now firmly stuck into its programme for 1984. One of our biggest headaches is 353Z. Led by **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley** the troop has learned that a new radio from the QM is not necessarily a working radio. We can however reasonably reliably tell our readers that about 50% of the new Clansman Radio equipments work first time—the remainder require a little technical attention first!

Recent operations in the province have required us to provide our 353Z Bde contingency net and **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sig Shaun Ingram, Dick Hickling, 'Taff' Mallaney** and **Ian Constable** have spent a lot of time in South Armagh running our 353Z nets.

With work starting on a new ops room at HMP Maze, **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell**, and **Sig 'Scouse' Bradley** should be kept busy for the next few weeks. Just to keep **Cpl Harry Fellows** and his gang on their toes they are now spending one week a month in Armagh providing an instant repair service for the South Armagh Battalion.

**Cpl Brian Mackey**, a key member of the troop for so long has now left us for Germany. We wish him every success in his new job. We also say farewell to **LCpl Tony Attwater** and to **Cpl Steve Mathews.**

## BRAVO TROOP

### NEW COMMCEN

The plush new surroundings in the renovated COMMCEN makes it more efficient, compact and easier for traffic handling, although in the end it is the standard of operating that counts. Operating standards are maintained by rugby playing, six foot six, **YofS Jason Wood**, who claims that a swift kick up the backside works better than a pep talk.

### FOCUS ON THE RADIO ROOM

Key personalities in the radio room are **Cpl 'Scouse'** (What's a NIRTT Course?) **Davis, LCpl Snapper Snape, Sig Dave** (Where's me tape?) **Old** and **Sig Deidre** (This is my Radio Room) **Darlington.** Not a lot is seen of these four and it is generally assumed they are nocturnal animals whose sole vocabulary consists of 'You can't expect me to do that, it's my day off'. When they do work, however, they provide a useful service in running (ruining) the comms for the Bde area. To assist in this mammoth task the radio room has finally disposed of its much beloved steam radio (C42) and installed VRC 353Z. This has provided us with a few teething problems which we have managed to iron out without too much trouble, even if the weather has been intent on blowing down our antennae.

A quiet period in the Bde Radio Room. Sig Chris Old takes a break

## SPORT

### DARTS

Bravo Troop proved their prowess at darts by providing two teams for the Squadron darts championships, both of which made it to the final after a marathon tournament lasting nine hours. It was a nail biting final, the crypto ops team led by **LCpl Arfa Poole**, beat the bleary eyed COMMCEN Ops team which proved they had stamina if nothing else. The underdogged COMMCEN ops side claimed it was the previous night shift that affected their performance.

### RUGBY

Although Bravo Troop are often busy, shifts were rearranged in order that key rugby players were available for the Squadron rugby team. The efforts of **LCpls Nick Hawley** and **Dave Richards** both of whom played out of position, were noticed in the game of the season against our arch rivals, 233 Sig Sqn. Without their involvement and that of the Captain, **YofS Wood**, the Squadron might not have won so easily.

### SQUASH

Since his arrival into the unit **Sgt Phil Crowther** has secretly trained members of the Troop into becoming top class squash players. The troop are now open to offers from any troop or department within the Brigade who thinks they may have a team capable of taking on Bravo Super Troopers.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewell and goodluck to **Cpl 'Tich' (Runt) Howitson, LCpl Graeme Bryson, Sig Lez Marsden, Roy Cowan** and **Willie Bell** all of whom will be missed for their devotion to work and GSM's fatigues! The Troop welcomes **Cpl John Hynes, LCpl Taff Davis-Williams** and straight from the factory, 'Signalboys' **Pete Goodliff** and **Baz Hardman**. Bravo Troop have also reclaimed **Cpl Steve Matthews** from Alpha (Action Man) Troop. It was claimed that Alpha could not keep him when it was found his knuckles would not scrape along the ground. Finally the Troop offers their congratulations to **Cpl Sharkey Smith** on his marriage to **Debbie**, and to **LCpl Dave (The Clutch) Richards** and **Cpl (Slick) Mick Evans** on their promotions.



## MT TROOP

A warm welcome is extended to new arrivals **Sig Tommy Burns, Drivers John Russell** and **Tony Semple.** Farewell to **Cpl Monty Monteith** and **Driver Dougs McDonald** on their way to Cyprus and Germany respectively.

A quiet period at the moment within MT Troop after all the hard work during the festive season. We look forward to moving into brand new office accommodation in the very near future.

## QM DEPT

Congratulations to **Sgt Des (POT Para) Faherty** and **Dawn** on the birth of a new baby para. Well done to both of you. All the Department are back now after the well deserved Christmas and New Year break, in which we all over fed and drank as much as we could. We are now back to the old grindstone.

The Squadron had the annual darts match on 17 January and as a Department we entered a team, our leader was **WO2 (RQMS) Steve 'Sign here' Jones, Cpl 'Monty' Moore, Sig Paul 'Eric Bristow' Conlon**: as little as possible is to be said about that, apart from the QM who said a lot!

Sig Chris Alger and Dave Harris evacuate the store during the great flood

## BASKETBALL

The Squadron team won the Northern Ireland Autumn League in a very close game against 1 Cheshire Regiment. Although the Squadron team pulled ahead in the first half a change of tactics by the Cheshires in the second half brought the game to an exciting finish with the final score 40—36 in the Squadron's favour.

The team is now looking forward to the NI Minor Units competition and if successful the Army Finals to be held at Aldershot in late March.

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*Front Row L to R:* WO2 (RQMS) Steve 'Sign here' Jones, SSgt Dave 'Pigpen' Hogben, Sig Ron Powell, LCpl Nick 'Concorde' Hawley

## FOOT NOTE

The following note was received from **WO2 G. Cairns** who works for the Armagh Admin Unit as RQMS.

In September 1981 it was decided to cut down the number of Brigades in Ulster from three to two; to this end 3 Bde at Portadown was disbanded and the unit incorporated and split between 8 and 39 Bde. As the majority of 8 Bde units were operating in the South of the Province and therefore a long way from Londonderry, it was decided that an Admin set-up was required in the South of the Province in order to administer 8 Bde units operating in the Armagh area. On the 7 September 1981, the Armagh Admin Unit was formed. We remained under 8 Bde until 24 March 1983 when they decided to revise the Brigade Boundaries. As a result of this 39 Bde took over the Armagh TAOR, thereby making us part of 39 Bde.

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## 233 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 801

**COMMCEN TROOP**

Traffic Officer—'Yeoman, who can put together the next *Wire* notes for the troop?' **YofS (WO1 Mick Thornton)**—'It's all right sir, leave it with me'. (Exit Traffic Officer stage left carrying golf bag) 'Staff, who can we get to write the next *Wire* contribution for the troop?'

Staff (**SSgt Pete Weedon**)—'It's all right Yeoman, leave it with me'. (Exit YofS stage left carrying basketball gear. Enter one lemon shaped DSO, who wishes to remain anonymous).

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Much congratulation took place in the troop this month. To **LCpl Dyer** and wife **Audrey**, on the birth of son **Liam**, and to **LCpl Tony Axten** and wife **Maggie** on the birth of daughter **Keira**. **LCpl Kate Williams** was promoted to **Cpl**, and **Pte Dawn Collins** to **LCpl**. Most momentous was the elevation of **Tfc Offr Capt Terry Lightfoot** to **Maj** and the troop decided to lay on something unexpected for him. Having checked that he would be arriving at work at the normal time and in uniform on the day, a quarter guard was formed from members of the troop. All were volunteers, under the command of **Sgt Ian Knight**, and the outside assistance of bugler **Sgt B. J. Johnson** (Tech Tp) was arranged. The guard was assembled inside the Squadron entrance, and when **Maj Lightfoot** was seen approaching from the Officers Mess they 'stood-to'. From the look on **Maj Lightfoot**'s face it was totally unexpected. Having inspected the guard he was met by Squadron OC, **Maj Pat Kington** and others bearing large quantities of champagne for a celebratory drink.

The troop have also been congratulating themselves on their victory in the Pickersgill Shield. This is the inter troop darts championship, and the team was led by **Sgt Brad Bradley**. Even the highest score prize went to a troop member, **Sgt Ian Knight**.

**WELL WORTH IT**

Finally, an account of her experiences on an equestrian course by **LCpl Mary Grigg**:-

On 3 January I found myself in London with the King's Troop RHA. I was there for ten days to learn how to ride a horse.

The days were long, we started at 0600 hrs in the morning mucking out the stables, and that was even before breakfast! Actually, there was a lot more to it than I first realised, because we were taught all aspects of stable management as well as riding.

The first ride of the day was at 0800 hrs. During that hour, four out of eight of us landed in a heap on the floor. So it was a case of pick yourself up and get back on your horse, if you could catch it!

At 1100 hrs it was time to groom your horse. If you've never washed a horse before, it's quite an experience (one not to be missed!)

The highlight of the course was on the last day when we went sightseeing around London on horseback. It was a little unnerving being amongst all the London traffic, but you soon became used to it.

All in all it was a great ten days and well worth all the aches, pains and bruises.

**COMMS TROOP**

It is at this time of the year that the members of Comms Troop really pine for a posting to Cyprus (or anywhere hot come to that). The heavy snow and driving winds of the Irish winter can cause a real headache, and life has certainly been busy recently. Apart from testing the new alarm bleeper around West Belfast (not our usual patch) under the command of **Cpl John Phipps**, much time has been spent snow clearing on Divis Mountain. Led by **2Lt Mark Alexander** (when icy rivers kept him from canoeing) and **Sgt Kev Bonnington-Lodge**, the party's first task was to dig out some Queen's Own Highlanders who had tried the ascent in a two wheel drive Bedford.

The troop would like to wish **LCpl Martin Whitesmith** and family, **Sig Stu Elliott** and his wife, and **Sig Ted Palmer** all the best for the future as they are leaving the Army. Finally, congratulations to **Sig Nick Barker** on his marriage to **Lorraine Reid**.

**HOCKEY**

The Squadron hockey team scored a resounding 11—0 victory over Ord Depot Kinnegar in the final of the NI Minor Units Hockey Championship. That was in early January, and by the time this reaches print we will know the result of their UK Championship match against the holders, Kneller Hall.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Another successful sport in the Squadron and victories in both NI League and the NI Championship, held recently at Ballykinler mean that the team travels to England for the next round of the UK Championships at Tweseldown. It should perhaps, be put on the record that not only did they beat all the minor units at Ballykinler, but all the major units as well. Neither were the girls left out, as they won the NI WRAC Championships. A fine all round effort. Teams: **Capt (TOT) Matt Campbell, SSgts Graham Campbell, Trev Mortlock, Sgts Dave Cresswell, Steve Wardle, LCpls Hughie Latta, Gary Roche, Sig 'H' Horsely-Wright.** Girls: **Cpl Kate Williams, LCpl Carol Stevens, Ptes Lynne Lawson, Kerry O'Rourke, Debbie Neal, Jane Carson, Sue Lisle, Debbie Bunting and Lola Rogers.**

**TUG OF WAR**

The Squadron has competed in the NI Security Forces Tug of War League throughout 1983, led by **Sgt Bob Smith** (now in Italy) and **SSgt Pete Weedon**. Teams are fielded by the Army, RAF, UDR and pulls take place in five different weights. Our team pulled in only four of these weights, achieving third place in 560Kg and fourth in 640, 660 and 680Kg, thus ending up as the highest placed Army side.

Trophies were presented at the League Annual Dinner Dance in Armagh by the Chief Constable of the RUC, **Sir Jack Herman**.

SSgt Pete Weedon receiving the Tug of War Trophy from the Chief Constable RUC


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## — News from Headquarters —

### Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**INTRODUCTION**

Since out last report we have experienced hurricane force gales, monsoon weather and Arctic conditions. Despite these conditions we managed to get Intake 83C through their recruit training and pass off parade on Saturday 10 December. We also got the Senior Term through Graduation.

**GRADUATION**

The Graduation last term was held on Wednesday 21 December. The Reviewing Officer was the Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen R. Benbow**. He presented Medals and prizes to Apprentices, Permanent Staff and a civilian instructor.

**Master of Signals Award**—For the best all round apprentice of the Senior Term—won by **AT RSM A. K. Phillips**.

**Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award**—For the best all round Tradesman of the Senior Term—won by **AT BSM M. J. Tomkins**.

**Director General of Army Training Award**—For the Best Individual Military Performance of the Senior Term—won by **AT L. A. Bazzard**.

**Commandant's Prize**—For Conduct, Discipline and Example—won by **AT SSM D. Briers**.

**Director of Army Education Prize**—for Outstanding Academic Progress whilst at the College—won by **ST Sgt M. A. Rogers**.

**Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee**—To the best apprentice of the Senior Term.

**Technicians**

| | |
|---|---|
| Terminal Equipment | won by **AT LCpl M. A. Carroll** |
| Radio Relay | won by **AT RSM A. K. Phillips** |
| Radio | won by **AT BSM M. J. Tomkins** |
| Telecommunications Mechanic | won by **AT M. B. Brett** |

**Telegraphist**

| | |
|---|---|
| Radio | won by **AT LCpl A. P. Doran** |
| Special | won by **AT Cpl N. B. Evans** |
| Data | won by **AT S. R. Holdcroft** |

**Education Prizes**—For the Best Academic Achievement during their time at the College.

| | |
|---|---|
| Technician | won by **AT K. Roberts** |
| Telecommunications Mechanic | won by **AT LCpl S. Hodgson** |
| Radio Telegraphist | won by **AT R. P. Atkinson** |
| Data Telegraphist | won by **AT M. J. Cave** |

**Racal Prize**—Best Technician Advanced Technology—won by **AT RSM A. K. Phillips**

**Borough of Harrogate Prize**—For Service to the Community, was presented by the Mayor of Harrogate—won by **AT Cpl R. H. Batley** and **AT Cpl A. Crabtree**. In addition the Signal Officer-in-Chief presented the following Medals:
**Long Service and Good Conduct (Military)**
**Sgt A. Wise**
**Sgt P. S. Camm Army Catering Corps**

**IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL**

**Mr Eric Rowland Hill** Electronics Wing Instructor, receives our warmest congratulations on his award.

**VISIT**

The Comd Trg Gp **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** made his farewell visit to the College on 13 December. He lunched in the WOs and Sgts Mess, and in the afternoon visited all departments and addressed the apprentices on the main square at the end of his visit. He returned later in the evening to attend the Senior Term Buffet, which was hosted by the Commandant and the **AT RSM A. K. Phillips**. **Brig Sprackling** was towed from the function by a team of apprentices.

On Friday 13 January the Comd Trg Gp **Brig F. R. Maynard** visited the College. He met a number of the Permanent Staff both military and civilian during his tour of the College.

**FAREWELLS**

The College has recently said farewell to OC Rawson Squadron, **Maj Dick Hoyle** who has departed for 633 Sig Troop Belize; **Capt Wally Lockwood** to 266 Sig Sqn Falklands.

**WELCOMES**

**Maj John Cornforth** from JSMTC Scotland who succeeds **Maj Dick Hoyle** and **Capt Max Springer** from 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt.

**SPORT**

**Report by Capt Paul Robertshaw**

**COLLEGE CANOE CLUB**

Since our last report the College Canoe Club has continued to thrive in all disciplines. Four members of the Permanent Staff and one apprentice represented the Army in the Inter-Services competitions, **LCpl Andy Easton, Cpl Ian Dobson** and **AT Sgt 'Taff' Reed** at Slalom, **LCpl Kenny Primrose** at Marathon and **Capt Paul Robertshaw** at Sprint and Marathon. **AT Sgt Reed's** selection for the Army Senior Team event was a noteable achievement.

The College Club were disappointed in the cancellation of the Army White Water Championships, as both Permanent Staff and Apprentice Teams were hoping to do well. The College was also well represented at the 'Fosters' International Canoe Race when members of the Team represented the Combined Services Slalom Team. **LCpl Andy Easton** and **Cpl Ian Dobson** raced in the C2 Class. **At Sgt 'Taff' Reed, AT LCpl 'Dobo' Dobson** and **AT 'Jock' Russell** were selected for the Combined Services three man Youth Team.


**LOOKING FOR NEW HORIZONS?**

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The College Team is currently pursuing success on the Civilian White Water Racing circuit. Up to date the Team have had some fine results and notable success in various races.

The Team is continuing to train hard with the main emphasis on the Inter-Services White Water Championships in March, the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race at Easter, and the Army Slalom Championships in May.

### ARMY RELAY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 10 December, the College Cross Country Team left Harrogate for the sunnier climate of Aldershot to take part in the Army Relay Championships. Team spirit was very high and everybody had hopes of bringing back a medal. After a particularly relaxing journey by courtesy of British Rail, the team arrived in ample time to prepare for the event.

The Teams of the Apprentices and the Permanent Staff arrived at Tweseldown Race course in plenty of time for the Marshal's briefing. All team members were duly reminded of their task and were finally put through their warm-up session under the watchful eye of **Sgt Bill Cain** (who has sadly departed from the College) and were all ready and eager to run.

**AT Marlow** ran the first leg of a four man team, three mile relay, for the Apprentice team back to the change over in first place. **AT LCpl Hollyoak** took on the next leg and although he maintained the pace, sadly lost his place to a stronger runner. He handed over to **AT Cpl Williams**, by now the two leading teams were well ahead of the rest of the field. **AT SSM Morton** ran a steady last leg and maintained our position to bring the team second place.

As expected the team returned to Harrogate clutching their medals for second place. The Permanent Staff were very successful in their competition by gaining second place as well. It was a particularly successful weekend for both teams.

Congratulations to **AT SSM Moston** and **AT Marlow** on their selection to run for the Army against Wales.

### EXERCISE *COLD COMFORT*

Exercise *Cold Comfort* is an External Leadership Course run by Permanent Staff of the College for the apprentices. On Thursday 12 January, OC External Leadership Studies **Maj Peter Bowles** set out from the College with his stores, permanent staff instructors and advance party for the Austrian Ski School at Carrbridge in Scotland.

On Saturday 15 January our first apprentices from the Second Term set out on their first External Leadership adventure.

**Report by AT Ian Noble and AT Stefan (Mac) McClellan**

Our party boarded the luxury coaches at the Boiler House Car Park at 0900 hours on Sunday 15 January for Exercise *Cold Comfort* which was being conducted in Scotland. The Exercise lasted for a week and during the period each day was very enjoyable with many interesting activities.

We were taught the basic skills of snow ploughing and the turns. By day two everyone was very expert at doing Snowplough and Snowplough turns. We were shown the basic skills in snow navigation by **Lt 'Livingstone' Windsor Brown. AT Michael Mike Jarvis** was given the task of Patrol Leader on one of the check points. He took us over every snow drift he could find and we all thought that he was lost! but he finally got us to the check point.

Wednesdays activity was Langlauf Skiing which turned out to be great fun. The entire section enjoyed this activity.

Thursday was mountain walking which entailed a climb to the top of the Cairngorms and down again. Everyone took their turn in leading the section. We almost missed the summit when we were being led by **AT Brian 'Hodge' Hodgkinson** because of poor visibility. On the way down we constructed survival snow shelters and broke into our death packs (packed lunches). Friday being the last day of our Exercise Activity—Orienteering turned out to be a flop because of weather conditions in the area. On the Saturday morning we left the Austrian Ski School for Harrogate to discover that most of the roads were blocked by snow drifts. We had to be diverted via Aberdeen. We arrived back at the College at 0400 hours Sunday 23 January to find ourselves surrounded by more snow. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

### ANNUAL REPORT ON THE UNIT (ARU)

**Report by AT Mark Cooper**

One Thursday afternoon in November everything came to a stop for **Brig Sprackling's** annual report on the College. Exercises stopped and trade training was cancelled. Everybody in the College was busy on tasks designed by their heads of department to show the full operational running of the College. The squadrons designed a task in which each nominated teams to partake in every event. The tasks consisted of a run, a minor assault course race, potted sports and military tasks.

### MILITARY TASKS

This event was organised by the permanent staff of Penney Squadron and held in the indoor arena. Tasks included stripping and assembling an SLR, loading a magazine within a certain time, first aid stand, knot tying, military admin and badges of rank and finally a lifting and carrying exercise with a stretcher. Each team spent five minutes on each stand and were marked accordingly to their achievements and a total was made for each Squadron.

### SPORTS

The competitors were put through a quite gruelling tactical event. They were taken into the gym and put through physical exercises such as press-ups, heaves, sprinting and balancing. This was closely followed by some coordination exercises which included cricket, bowling, basketball, shooting and football. From this they were led to the skilled event which was hockey dribbling and shooting. The last event was the most difficult of all—the 800 metre track run. This was well organised by the permanent staff of Rawson Squadron.

### RUN

This event was organised by the permanent staff of Scott Squadron. Dress was combat trousers, PT vests and boots, wearing full webbing and pack containing a breeze block and carrying a weapon. The event was designed to see how much ground one could cover in 90 minutes. The course was out of camp on a six mile round trip and upon returning to College you had to keep running around the perimeter if you had time left. The penalty was that if any member of the team dropped out your team had quarter of a mile knocked off the distance covered.

### ASSAULT COURSE RACE

This was arranged by Bradley Squadron and was based on the inter-squadron assault race. It started with an inspection. The first half of the course was completed then a run around the camp periodically stopping to do certain tasks. There was a patrol section and we had to erect a tent. This was followed by the second half of the assault course and the SLR shooting.

The winning squadron for each event won a shield. Scott Squadron won the Assault Race and the six mile run, Rawson Squadron won the Sports and Penney Squadron won the Military tasks. The day was a success and the Brigadier was very pleased with the College.

### COMMANDANT'S FOREWARD

The last two years have seen a number of quite dramatic changes in the role and organisation of the College and the development of individual apprenticeships. These are now complete and a summary of the various changes are given below which should be of interest to everyone in the Corps.

In these days of ever-increasing economies the College can only survive if it is seen to be cost effective and is fully meeting the requirements of the Corps. In view of this, the role of the College has been re-defined as:

> 'To give apprentice tradesmen a broad function of military education, trade and leadership training so that they have a better than average chance of achieving selection for Foreman and Yeoman of Signals training at an early stage in their careers'.

In line with the changing role of the College a comprehensive review of training and the individual apprenticeships has been carried out over the past two years. The recommendations of the Review Study Team have now been agreed and are in the process of implementation. The Data Telegraphist apprenticeship has been dropped and plans are being made to introduce full Special Telegraphist and Electronic Warfare apprenticeships in September 1984 and September 1985 respectively. Technician apprentices will undergo common training for two years at the College and will only specialise into one of the three technician trades when they move to 8 Signal Regiment for their equipment training module. All apprenticeships with the exception of the Telecommunications Mechanic Apprenticeship, which is still under review, have been standardised on two years, though the College has been given the authority to slow stream apprentices of low ability at the end of the foundation term. A summary of the new apprenticeship training pattern is given in Fig 1. Details of individual apprenticeships and career patterns will be included in future articles.

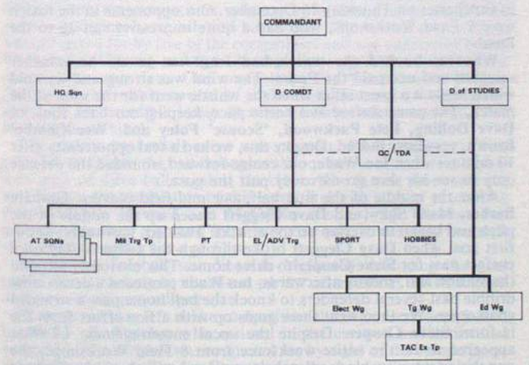
The organisation of the College has also been changed to cope with an overall 25% reduction in staff caused by an MOD (IE(A)) inspection in January 1981 and subsequent reductions in civil service manpower, and to enable it to operate on a more functional basis.

Fig 2. The main changes brought about by the re-organisation are that the Deputy Commandant assumes command of the apprentice squadrons and responsibility for all outdoor training and the Senior Education Officer, retitled the Director of Studies, with a Royal Signals second-in-command, assumes responsibility for all trade training, trade related education and general education. It is hoped, too, that 1984 will at last see the introduction of a Computer Aided Management system which, linked to the recently installed MONARCH digital exchange, will greatly simplify the management of instruction and enable us to identify apprentice weaknesses much more quickly than hitherto. It will also help to create the necessary headroom among the instructional staff to enable us to concentrate on introducing Computer Aided Learning techniques into many areas of instruction.

The College is now well equipped to face the future and meet the Corps' every changing needs. Our thanks are due to the staff, particularly the civilian staff, for their forbearance in accepting the many changes and their dedication and interest in ensuring their swift implementation so that the apprentices' needs are fully met.

### APPRENTICESHIPS FOR THE FUTURE

| **Technician Group** | *Civilian Qualifications* | *Entry Standard* | *Subjects* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Radio Technician | BTEC | 3 'O' Levels | |
| Terminal Equipment Technician | BTEC | or | Maths Physics English |
| Radio Relay Technician | BTEC | 3 CSE 1s | |
| **Craft Group** | | | |
| Radio Telegraphist | C&G 777 | 'O' Level (D-E Grade) CSE 1 | Maths, English |
| Special Telegraphist | C&G 777 | 2 'O' Levels | English, Maths |
| Electronic Warfare Operator | C&G 777 | 2 'O' Levels | English, Modern Language |
| Telecommunications Mechanic | C&G 534 | CSE 2 | |





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| EDUCATION EXPENSES | —for present or future children |
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| TRANSFER OF ASSETS | —to the next generation |

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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 35 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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## CHANGE OF COMMAND

Since our last contribution to *The Wire*, a great deal of water has flowed under many local bridges, including a change of 'Scribe' and a change of Commanding Officer, not to mention the departure of several other notables.

Our previous Commanding Officer, **Lt Col John Dobson** has departed for pastures green in the Ministry of Defence. Whilst we hasten to do so, there is no great need for us to bid him, or **Hazel**, any sad farewells, as they will happily be regular visitors in the future, in keeping with his new appointment as 'Our Man at the Ministry'.

We must, however, bid a warm welcome to his successor, **Lt Col Tony Ridger**, and his wife, **Karin**. Apart from one or two noticeable changes since his arrival, the transition appears to have been quite smooth. These changes include the sudden zest and enthusiasm of an un-named, but large, 3 Company SSgt for wielding a shovel in steaming conditions—no doubt, in the interests of fitness training—and, for some reason, the changing of the nickname of the Officers Mess to 'The Nags Head'. There has also been a local shortage of hay and a surplus of garden fertiliser.

Other notable departures were our Quartermaster, **Maj Steve Bloom**—to his successor, **Maj John Griffiths**, and his wife **Linda**, we bid another hearty welcome; and also our OC HQ Troop, **Capt John Markham**, on his retirement. Although it apparently happened prior to this scribe's arrival, it is understood that **John** had his post cut by a visiting I of E team (nasty!). As **John** has retired locally, he continues to be a member of the Mess, despite having become honorary.

## NOTABLE FIRSTS

We have enjoyed some notable Sports successes. Our four intepid (no, not intrepid) golfers carried off most of the prizes at the Eastern District Autumn Meeting and our Hockey and Soccer teams have both won the Minor Units Knockout Competitions. Our Rugby team, led by that 'Welsh Wizard of Loughborough SPA', **Maj Clive Arthur**, had a short but impressive run in the Army Cup, before being beaten, somewhat expectedly, by the Depot of the Prince of Wales Division at Crickhowell. This article includes reports from our Hockey, Orienteering and Expeditionary Force representatives.

## FAREWELL TO LT COL JOHN DOBSON

Our photograph shows the Officers and other ranks of Communications and Security Group (UK) lining the route from the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess to the Main Gate in farewell to **Lt Col John Dobson**. Although he was preceded briefly as Commanding Officer by **Lt Col Mike Greaves**, **Lt Col Dobson** will be remembered for his influence on the unit during its first three formative years. To him, to **Hazel**, and their sons **Jeremy, Timothy, Jonathan** and **Nicholas** we wish all happiness and success in the future and thank them for their exceptional contributions towards the welfare of Group members and their families during a difficult period. Regrettably, the originator of the cocktail 'High Port' can no longer remember what he put in it.

'One for the Road'. Lt Col John Dobson shown at the 'High Port' with (L to R) WO1 (RSM) House, Capt Bill Clark (Adjt) and Cpl Cooper (with tray)

## EXPEDITION

Readers of last September's issue of *The Wire* may remember the report submitted by our resident Mountaineer, **Cpl Stan Mullery**. Following a short period of study, devoted to a publication entitled, 'Larn Yerself Strine', he was back in Nepal again in 1983. This time he joined an Australian Army climbing expedition. The following report is briefer and less formal than the last:

## BACK IN NEPAL

**Report by Cpl Stan Mullery**

'Would you like to represent the British Army on the Australian Army Expedition *Nepal 83*?'

'Certainly' said I. Subsequently, in September 1983, I found myself in Khatmandu trying to larn 'Aussie', throw boomerangs, chase 'Sheilas' and crack open tubes of 'Fosters'. Ten days after our arrival, we found ourselves at Kyangjin, a settlement at the head of the Langtang Valley, complete with rations, equipment and two cases of rum:

'Have a drink Sport?'

'Thanks—what's the name of this mountain again?'

'Ganjala Chuli Sport—Nineteen thousand feet of pure snow and ice—a real beaut of a hill to climb'

'Cheers—but where is it exactly?'

'Good on yer—dunno Sport—can't see a thing in this bloody Monsoon'

'What will we do now?'

'Dunno Sport—but pass another bottle of that rum'

. . . and so, prevented from climbing by the impossible weather hurled at us by the monsoon, we retreated back to Khatmandu. Co-incidentally, the rum had just run out!

## ORIENTEERING

Due to the absence, on Cyprus Walkabout, of two of its most stalwart campaigners—**SSgt Alan Hale** and **SSgt Brian Lawrence**—Orienteering got off to a slow start this season. We have entered the Eastern District League and this is now well under way. So far the Group's team has won all of the events which it has attended. Unfortunately, we are due to lose two of our better Orienteerers in the near future, **Capt Martin Hagger**, on a short detachment, and **SSgt Brian Lawrence** on posting to Belgium. The team has, however, received some new blood this season in the form(s) of **SSgt Steve Turnock** and **Sig Jez Bailey** from Harrogate. Provided that we can field our strongest team for the remaining few events, we should be able to capture the League trophy to set off the District Championship Cup which is currently held by the Group.

## HOCKEY

Having won the Army Minor Units Cup last year, as well as winning the West Midlands Services Hockey League 2nd Division title at our first attempt, the task of bettering ourselves this season has been daunting if not impossible. With the added fact that this season's team includes only three players from last year's squad, the prospect looked rather bleak.

In the Eastern District Knockout Cup, which is a preliminary competition to the Army Cup, we were given a bye by our first opponents, P and EE. This meant that we were up against the Depot, Queens Division, Bassingbourn. The match was a real thriller and was won by the Group by 4 goals to 2, despite having to come from behind twice in the last 10 minutes. We went on from this to the District Final in Colchester on Thursday 16 December. Our opponents in the match were 8 Field Workshops, who had a quite impressive run-up to the Final.

Whoever booked the match had forgotten to do his weather research and not paid the Padre. The wind was strong and icy cold which made it a great relief when the whistle went for the start of the match. The game started at a hectic pace, keeping our back four, of **Dave Dolling, Pete Packwood, 'Scouse' Foley** and **'Wee Charlie' Brown**, very busy indeed. Despite this, we had a real opportunity after 10 minutes when **Ian Wade**, our centre-forward, rounded the defence only to see his shot go narrowly past the post.

After the middle of the first half, our mid-field players, **Graham Barber, Mark Shaw** and **Dave Cleggett** closed up the middle of the pitch and began to overlap on the attacks. This led, inevitably, to our first goal when **Dave Cleggett** broke through the centre to lay on a perfect pass for **Steve Cooper** to drive home. This obviously released the tension and, shortly afterwards, **Ian Wade** produced a devastating dribble past several defenders to knock the ball home past a stranded goalkeeper. We then went three goals up with a fine effort from the in-form **Steve Cooper**. Despite the vocal encouragement of what appeared to be the entire workforce from 8 Field Workshops, the opposition were unable to raise their game and a final goal by **Graham Barber** left us winners by four clear goals. We now go into the Quarter-finals of the Army Cup with great confidence and some gratitude to **WO1 Bob Wade** for turning up to support us in the final. We trust his son's performance did not disappoint him.



# HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
# BFPO 1

## SIGNIFICANT APPOINTMENTS

Since our last notes the intervening period has seen RHQ very busy in all aspects of military life. There has been a slight change in the hierarchy and we welcome **Capt Jo Fletcher** back into the Regiment, on his second tour with Queen's Gurkha Signals, this time as adjutant. The Training/Operations cell has been fully employed in both sporting and military events, reports on which appear below.

The Sek Kong based members of the WO's and Sgts Mess dined out **WO1 (GSM) Mick Hannagan** from the Mess on the 28 December 1983 in great style. Unfortunately we are not permitted to publish any of the photographs which were taken of him with his charming Phillipino hostess for the evening (The Obscene Publications Act may have something to do with it). In his place we welcome **WO1 (GSM) Bob Yeomans.**

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The turnover in British ranks since out last contribution has been hectic. We would like to welcome recent arrivals into the regiment and wish them a happy and enjoyable tour in Hong Kong. **Maj Richardson QM (T), Maj Simpson QM, Capt Fletcher Adjt, Lt Riley, 2Lt Hudson, WO1 Yeomans GSM, WO1 (YofS) Gilchrist, SSgt Farley, SSgt Leggate, Sgt Carr, Cpl Young, Cpl Garside** and **Cpl Quantick**.

Sadly our farewells must go the following members of the regiment, and our thanks for all they have done for the regiment go with them: **Capt Brian Bunker GTR, Capt Stephen Leach, Capt Roger Batho, WO1 (YofS) Ritchie, WO2 (YofS) Edwards, SSgt Telford, Sgt Monk, Sgt Duncan, Sgt Lowe, Sgt Guy, Sgt Smith, Cpl Davison** and **Cpl Griffiths**, and finally to **WO1 (GSM) Hannagan** who gave outstanding service to QG Signals and all minor units in the Garrison as GSM. He leaves us, on commissioning, for 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

## HQ SQUADRON SUPERSTARS

The first Superstars competition took place on 7 December. Eleven members of the Squadron took part in the competition which proved to be hard but very enjoyable. A total of 10 events were on the timetable for the day. Two of the events, the BFT and .22 shooting were compulsory, leaving eight events from which the competitors were to choose a further six to compete in. These events consisted of gymnasium tests, assault course, slalom football and basketball, volleyball, badminton, squash and finally a car pull.

The competition started with the BFT, for which some very fast times were recorded, the eventual winner coming in at 8 mins 50 secs. The competitors were awarded points on a sliding scale from 11—1 and this scoring system was adopted throughout the competition. The BFT was followed by the .22 shooting and gymnasium tests. The gymnasium tests were conducted by **WO2 (YofS) Howard** and **SSgt (YofS) McCarthy**, the tests consisted of a 100 metre sprint, sit ups, press ups, heaves and squat thrusts. This part of the competition was demanding but proved the high state of fitness of our soldiers.

On completion of the gymnasium tests the competitors broke for lunch and a well earned rest. The competition got under way again at 1400hrs with the competitors splitting up to take part in the assault course, badminton, squash and basketball. The assault course event was competed for by five of the competitors and was conducted by **Sgt Topbahadur Gurung** and **Sgt Glossop**. Once again the times for the course were very fast. One competitor, **Sig Yambahadur Gurung** completed the whole course of eight obstacles and two 50 metre sprints in an incredible 1 min 48 secs, wearing skeleton webbing and carrying a car tyre!

The slalom basketball event was popular. Each competitor was required to dribble the ball through a slalom course and score a basket with each of three balls against the clock. The fastest time recorded was 32 secs. On completion of this event, and with a lot of prompting from **Yeomen Howard** and **McCarthy** (bullies) **Sgt Glossop** was persuaded to have a go and show everyone how it was done; enough said, he managed a time of 57 secs.

The slalom football saw **Yeoman McCarthy** defending the goal rather than attacking it, it was run on the same lines as the basketball and once again proved popular.

With two events left in the competition the organisers were joined by **Maj F. R. Fletcher** who assisted in the car pull and individual volleyball. The car pull was competed for by eight of the competitors, the ideas was to pull a car 50 metres in the fastest time, though an unusual event to Gurkha soldiers they competed enthusiastically and once again proved their strength and fitness, the event was won by **Capt B. J. Bunker**. After the volleyball, which consisted of one man teams, playing to normal volleyball rules, the final scores were added up and are shown below. The prizes were awarded by **Maj F. R. Fletcher** at the Himali Club, followed by Tipan Tapan and a well earned beer.

**Competition Winner and Runners Up**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1st** | **Sig Yambahadur Gurung** | **70 points** |
| **2nd** | **Cpl Kumar Thapa** | **65 points** |
| **3rd** | **Sig Yamprakash Gurung** | **59 points** |

## SUMMER CAMP NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

For those not familiar with 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn let me make an introduction. We have been described as the only Tri-national Bisexual squadron in the British Army, with a mixture of Gurkha, Chinese, British and WRAC personnel. Since most of the Squadron work a shift routine, it was decided early in the year to get as many as possible into the open air and away from the Urban areas of Hong Kong, to provide all with a complete change of environment. It was also decided to introduce many of the water based leisure activities available in Hong Kong in an enjoyable and yet challenging way. **WO1 (YofS) 'Bill' Ritchie** started planning early, and it was to this superb organisation that the exercise was the success we all enjoyed.

## TWO PHASES

The exercise was divided into two phases with **SSgt Bernie Medway**, our local sailing coach, organising the watermanship phase, **WO1 Bill Ritchie** organised phase two which involved walking sections of the 'Maclehose Trail' completed both phases of the exercise over the three week period.

Preparations for the exercise began in August. It was discovered that not enough instructors were available to carry out pursuits of canoeing and sailboarding, so it was decided to send members of the Squadron on a military assault boat handlers course at Gordon Hard Boat Club. Our intrepid volunteers under **Sgt 'Pete' Smith** set off to attend a most enjoyable and well run course under the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. **Sgt Pete Smith**'s 'gang' included **Sgts Patrick hg, Mani Prosad Pun, Phil Plant** and **Cpl Mansing Gurung**; all are now qualified assault boat handless.

The remainder of the first group found themselves at Stanley Services Boat Club, The Club Bosun **Sgt 'Willie' Witton** (1 Scots Guards) had kindly offered safety cover using experienced, trained crews. This was an ideal opportunity to undertake an intensive crash course in sailing 'laser' dinghies instructed by **SSgt Bernie Medway** and sailboarding instructed by **Sgt 'Skphen' Leung**. Canoeing also proved to be very popular under Instructors **SSgt (SSI) Jerry Broomfield APTC** and **WO2 GSMI Peter Bassett**.

Following a briefing on safety checks and demonstrations the group found themselves imitating the antics of their instructor at capsizing and 'tacking' (turning round to the uninitiated!). The skills were quickly mastered in the warm climate of Hong Kong with students sailing their own dinghies within an hour. Many of our natural sportsmen adapted easily to sailing, notably **Sgt Phil Cooper** and **LCpl Hitman Gurung. WO1 Bill Ritchie** couldn't be kept out of a boat and **Capt Nick Harries** now holds the record for spectacular displays of hooking mooring buoys out of the water on the top of his mast!

After an enjoyable three day training session, skills were put to use by a pleasant sail over open seas to the Island of 'Po Tei', to savour local Chinese sea food washed down by the local brew—San Miguel. Back to base, and after a debrief, the first group could now look forward to a good night's sleep in preparation for Phase 2 the following day.

## PHASE 2

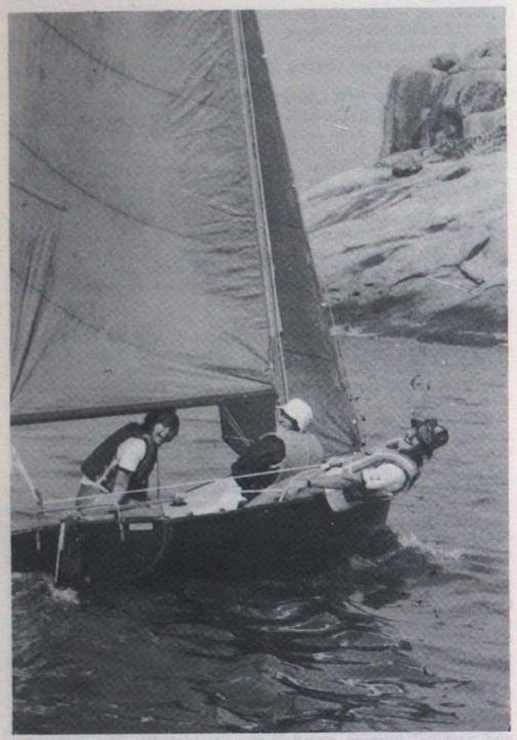
Friday saw the group attired in walking kit and carrying rucksacks. We were transported to the 'New Territories' to begin our walk along the 'Maclehose Trail'.

The weather was warm ('hot' to those used to air conditioning) with light breezes and we were soon panting over the first of many hills to our overnight base camp. It was well worth the walk to find on arrival an excellent BBQ prepared by the Squadron's **Sgt Jaikumar Rai** awaiting us, which we washed down with local brew. Gurkha drums provided the entertainment and after a few popular rugby songs we gratefully sank into our sleeping bags.

Morning dawned, and after breakfast we were raring to go. High spirits carried us through ahead of time, which enabled us to accept an invitation from **Cpl Au Leung Che** to drink Chinese tea at his friend's house en route. The walk along the 'Maclehose Trail' proved most enjoyable with spectacular, unforgettable views of the open mountainous South China Coast.

**TALL TALES**

Group one returned to camp with horrific tales of high seas and adventure which were related to Groups two and three in the hope that someone would 'drop out' and they could go again in two weeks time. Ex *Tapa Drishga*, as well as giving most Squadron personnel a break from work, gave everyone the opportunity to get to know each other under a testing physical environment. We all enjoyed it, and the squadron gained a new found group identity, away from the shift work of HMS *Tamar*.



'Watch out there's a Rock About'
Sgt Phil Cooper enjoying the sail with Pte Cathy Brydm-Smith and Cpl Mary-Anne Ferguson

ENDEX! all pose for a final snap before returning to barracks in HMS *Tamar!*

**EXERCISE *SWORD EDGE*—9-13 JANUARY**

Ex *Sword Edge* saw the deployment of the operations officer **Maj Mike Cartwright** and **SSgt (YofS) Mick McCarthy** to the Colony Polmil in Hong Kong assisting our Commander **Lt Col M. J. Lance** in directing the exercise. **Sgt Barry Glossop**, the training Sgt was left behind to enjoy (or so he thought) a week of peace and tranquility. The call came at approximately 0500hrs three days into the exercise, to report to the Sek Kong Commcen with full kit. **Sgts Taff Carr, Bernie Fawcett, Keith Turner Howe, Cpls John Cook, Vic Braint, Clive Doughty, Pete Garside** and **Smudge Smith** were there to greet him with tales of marching up mountains carrying approximately 180lbs worth of kit and equipment to establish a Rebro station, when amidst cries of 'I'm a clerk' and 'I'm a D Tg', entered our erstwhile leader. **2Lt Campbell-Black**. The full complement were then briefed on their task for the next 36 hours or so, by a smiling **SSgt Mick McCarthy**. The build up to our deployment consisted of three days training polishing up our basic Signalling Skills and instruction on the operation of the UK VRC 353 and PRC 352. During our training the Comd visited the group but gave no explanation as to why we had all been dragged from our normal places of work; the words 'all will become clear later' stayed with us for the rest of the week. We deployed to Lantau Island, courtesy of 28 Sqn RAF (Wessex). Lantau is a very hilly and burnt out paradise located next to Hong Kong Island itself. The Rebro and a terminal station were established on the Island, working to Tai Mo Shan. On completion of our task (no hill walking this time) we recovered back to Sek Kong satisfied with a job well done. In the meantime, a certain Yeoman of Signals had arranged a bit of extra training in the form of a pre para training course followed by a P Coy type course; medicals were arranged and a date set for training to commence. All the nominated Data Telegraphists and clerks from all the Squadrons in the Regiment were getting 'Psyched' up and wondering what it was all about when a quiet word from **Maj Mike Cartwright** (Ops Officer) revealed the hoax, a few days later!

Those of us who were taken in by **SSgt Mick McCarthy** would like to warn the Corps of his pranks for future reference.

**THE STING**

Do Colonels really 'carry on' while their wives are away? This one does. Not bad either. But surely it's not the done thing? He is the Colonel QG Signals.

I suppose he must be, powerfully built, distinguished moustache; a definite air of authority. The Adjutant's a bit much though. 'We don't wear white ties in the Brigade'. It isn't white, just fluorescent yellow with blue polka dots.

Sir, I've been off the plane just three hours. The 16 hour flight was . . . tiring.

The officers of the Regiment were saying goodbye to **Mervyn Lee** (ex OC 246 Gurkha Fd Force Sqn) in the departure lounge; so I've met them all now. The Colonel, his mistress (fish net stockings) and the Adjutant (who hates subalterns), is carved from Granite and coated in Tungsten.

OC WRAC, **Jean**, looks a honey. Ooops. The Colonel's wife is flying back tonight! Oh dear. Fish net looks upset.

Into town for a meal. A curry. It is notable for the barbed comments passing between the Adjutant and Fish net and my introduction to 'a real friend': San Miguel beer. I'm more than slightly inebriated. **Adrian (CB-Saheb) Campbell-Black** takes me back to the mess in Sek Kong and shows me the photographs of his girlfriend. Where's my kit?

The Gurkha driver probably took it to the wrong mess. Sort it out in the morning. I slept well.

The Colonel's interview at 0800 hrs was informative. 'Eat lots of bhat with the boys, play lots of sport with the boys, learn the boys' language and don't get married till you're 25'. Pop! The champagne was opened.

The Adjutant was really the MTO, **Capt Brian Bunker** (GTR), fish net his wife!! The Colonel was in truth **Maj Ron Fletcher**; OC WRAC his wife. I wondered why the Queen's Gurkha Officers were whispering to each other last night. I should have suspected something was afoot. Welcome to Queen's Gurkha Signals!



**A SPECIAL OCCASION—BLANDFORD GARRISON SERGEANTS MESS**

'Old Soldiers Never Die', or so they say, so the Blandford Garrison Sergeants' Mess decided to do something about this and on 'Friday the 13th' January invited **Lt Col (QM) Ernie Webb** to be Dined Out of the Sergeants Mess after completion of 39 years service with our Corps.

The evening was conducted by the Mess President, **WO1 (RSM) Keith Russell** and **WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons** (PMC) not forgetting our overworked Mess Manageress, **Mrs Rhona Rodriquez**. During the course of the evening, music was played excellently, as usual, by our own Corps Band conducted by **WO2 Ian Green**.

I am sure there are numerous members of the Corps who have met and remember **Col Ernie** and would have been overjoyed to see the excellent turnout, both from 30 Signal Regiment as well as the School, at his Dinner.

During the speeches, as the RSM ran through the Quartermaster's career, starting in 1945 in India with boy's service and continuing as a soldier, SNCO, RSM and Officer (commissioned 1969) to the present date, a few gasps of amazement were heard from the bottom ends of the tables (makes your LS&GC look a bit ordinary doesn't it?). In **Col Webb**'s reply we shared the emotion he must have been feeling and although it was brief, his reply obviously came from the heart, and he sat down to a standing ovation and a rendition of 'The Quartermaster's Store', sang by the whole Mess.

RSM Keith Russell presents Lt Col (QM) Ernie Webb with his farewell gift whilst WO1 (BSM) Geoff Grover just wakes up in time

**YEOMAN WARDERS MAKE PRESENTATION**

To add to this special occasion we were also honoured with the presence of two Yeoman Warders from the Tower of London, **Yeoman Warders Alan Copestake** and **Mick Thurgood**, both ex-Royal Signals. They were representing The Order of The Yeoman Warders who presented to the Sergeants' Mess a painting of **Chief Yeoman Warder Alan Griffin**, who left the Corps in 1945 and served as Chief Yeoman Warder at the Tower from 1954 until his retirement in 1963. Unfortunately he died in 1969.

We do know that *The Wire* is widely read in the Tower (Editor—Not to a captive audience either!), so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Order of The Yeoman Warders to HM Tower of London (full title) for their generosity. Special mention must be made of **Alan Copestake** who not only renovated the painting but whose brainchild this was.



**School of Signals**
**Blandford Camp**
**Dorset**

The RSM with Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake and Yeoman Warder Mick Thurgood after the presentation of the painting

**LOGICAL PROGRESSION**

With the presence of these two illustrious gentlemen, an opportunity could not be missed, so the theme for the evening was decided and as can be seen by the photographs, at the end of the evening, two of our Mess members dressed up, played the part, and arrested the Quartermaster, escorted him to the stocks and on to the Tower.

Lt Col (QM) Ernie Webb is locked away ready for his trip to the Tower. Looking on, two of the QM's department, WO1 (RQMS) Tom Taylor and SSgt 'Stan' Stanley

# SHAPE
# BFPO 26

## ROYAL SIGNALS PROVIDE SHAPE BOWLING TEAM

On the weekend of 2-4 December 1983 the 8th BAOR Tenpin Bowling Championships were held at the Elite Bowling Centrum Bielefeld. The UK Support Unit, SHAPE, was represented by an all Royal Signals team consisting of: **SSgt Mick Dixon, Sgts Mick Jenkins, Mick Langley, Roger Payne, Del Tungate, Cpl Dave Upton.**

The first event was the Singles which **Sgt Del Tungate** won, thus becoming the BAOR Singles Champion for 1983. The Doubles followed two hours later and spurred on by success we hoped for great things, unfortunately this was not to be. As the team event was for five men only, the low man on total pinfall after the first two events would have to bowl with a team from JHQ who were a man short. **Sgt Mick Jenkins** was the low man and had to bowl again that night.

On Sunday the team event was bowled and the SHAPE team were the Runners-Up in the Major Units division.

The final event was the Masters; this consists of the top 24 bowlers after the three events bowling against each other for a place in the last six and a chance to become Masters Champion 1983.

**SSgt Mick Dixon** and **Sgt Mick Langley** qualified for the top 24 and after a further six games both qualified for the last six. After bowling a further five games **Sgt Langley** was Masters Runner-Up and **SSgt Dixon** was fifth. **Sgt Langley** also won two further trophies for Individual High Series and 2nd Individual High Game.

All in all the SHAPE team were well pleased with their performances and are now looking forward to the Army Championships in the UK in March 1984.

Lt Col (QM) Ernie Webb conducts The Corps Band playing The Corps March

The end of a memorable evening. In the photograph *L to R:* SSgt 'Butch' Maycock, SSgt 'Stan' Stanley. The Quartermaster, The RSM, WO2 (RQMS) Tom Taylor, Sgt John Bathe

Note must be made of our official guests present that evening, accompanying the Quartermaster were **Capt (QM) Ken Stewart** and **Capt Steve Bresloff MSM**, who very soon got into the swing of things and stayed to the early hours. **Capt Ken Stewart** could be heard bemoaning the fact that he shouldn't really stay as he had a plane to catch to Florida next morning (he should be so unlucky), but after his fourth the trip faded from his mind.

Thanks to **Capt Steve Bresloff** a certain SSgt who thought he could stand toe to toe and drink him under the table was sent home unconscious in a staff car, returned by his wife five minutes later (still unconscious) and eventually was spotted wandering down Black Lane at 0800 hrs the next morning. Nice one **Mick**!

A good night was had by all, but the main reason we were there has not been forgotten, **Col Ernie**, good luck in the Oman, we shall all miss you.

A Clean Sweep! The United Kingdom Support Unit Bowling Team with the BAOR Runners Up and other trophies. Back Row (L to R) Sgt Mick Langley, Cpl Dave Upton, Sgt Roger Payne. Front Row (L to R) Sgt Mick Jenkins, Sgt Del Tungate, SSgt Mick Dixon

Clean Bowled! Sgt Del Tungate proudly carries off his Singles Trophies



## CONGRATULATIONS

**WO1 (RSM) Mick Radford** learned of his selection for a Commission on the perfect day—that of the Officers and SNCO's Christmas drinks! Needless to say, the event was well and truly marked, and our sincere congratulations go to **Mick**. But of course, work goes on as usual at the United Kingdom Support Unit—it has to, for the unit is even now preparing for the Queen's Birthday celebrations, and the mainstay of the grass roots organisation is none other than **WO1 Radford!**

## SHAPE SIGNAL GROUP

The festive season at SHAPE is somewhat prolonged, and SHAPE Signal Group were much involved in supporting many of the activities sponsored by the SHAPE Community. This ranged from PA and audiovisual support for parties, dances, speeches, banquets and sports features (provided courtesy of **Maj Lothar Petrak** and the Maintenance and Supply Squadron) to acting as Santa Claus at Children's parties, and fixing an illuminated star to the SSG Radio tower. **SSgt Vic Hoyle** kept his feet on the ground however, and the wheels of HQ SSG running, while **Cpl Mick McGrath** was handing over his post as Group Security NCO to **Cpl Ian Barnes**, freshly arrived from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Our best wishes to **Kath** and **Mick** on their posting to UK. There is no truth in the rumour that after five years in NW Europe, **Mick** had to have a course on left-hand driving—this was the prerogative of **LCpl Steve Edmonds**, who passed his military driving course (with confidence—he had ordered his first car for collection the day the course ended) and is now putting his skills to work driving the official vehicle to collect the mail consignments.

Congratulations here too, are in order; our Secretary, **Miss Wendy Bell**, became engaged at Christmas to **Capt Ray Wilburn**, US Army Signal Corps, and to them go our best wishes for the future. After visiting **Wendy's** home town of Richmond, North Yorks, **Ray** is now reportedly rather attached to the place, and to a certain peculiar brand of English Ale!

## SHAPESPEAK

The efforts made to ensure communications between the 16 Nations are prodigious, and it is small wonder that the written word often does not convey the full meaning that the speaker intended. Below are a few examples:

| Shapespeak | Meaning |
|---|---|
| The table with the numerical data is of course classified NATO SECRET. | The same figures were leaked out in *Aviation Week* three weeks ago. |
| The tests carried out by the manufacturer show great promise. | It is doubtful that the system will work at all under real battlefield conditions. |
| This has been a very successful Symposium. | Have you ever heard of a Seminar or Symposium that was said to have been unsuccessful? |
| The legal restrictions to multi-national co-operation will be removed. | The legal restrictions will be replaced by parliamentary and industrial pressures. |
| We shall implement the guidelines to the best of our ability. | We shall do our best to circumvent the guidelines and get away with it. |
| The two documents are fully compatible. | The two documents are so different that they cannot possibly be reconciled. |
| The work programmes of these two groups are complementary. | The work programmes of these two groups are almost identical. |
| We shall endeavour to promote co-operation on this important topic. | We shall continue to adhere to our time-honoured practice of doing what we damn well please. |
| We shall do our utmost to provide the group with all the data required for the commonly agreed work. | We'll do our best to release as little information as possible without running the risk of being kicked out. |
| We fully concur with the decision made. | We couldn't care less. |
| Your point is well taken. | You should have listened to what I said. |

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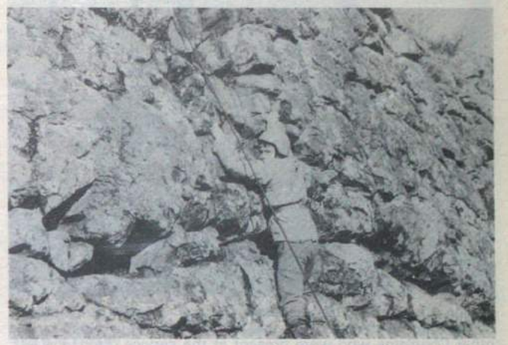
## Junior Regiment Royal Signals
## Ouston

**A SCARCITY**

The term after Christmas is notable in the Ouston Calendar because of scarcity of Juniors to be found in the camp. Every troop takes the chance offered by Adventure Training and CO's exercises to get away to the mountains and the ski slopes of Scotland. Featured in this month's notes are Battleaxe Troop who experienced the joys of Cultybraggen Camp.

JSig Ian Giles, JLCpl Richard O'Brien and JSig Stephen Ferry adopt the nonchalant approach as Quasimodo gets some practice in

JSig Michael Fullerton in the middle of his Al Johnson impersonation



JLCpl James Simpson pretending to look really worried

A team taking part in the night navigation exercise (during the day) or alternatively rehearsing for the Black and White Minstrel Show

**THE WILL**

The Dedication of the Regimental Church by The Chaplain General was the culmination of many months of work and hard bargaining. From a situation of no church and no money when the old building, erected for the Polish pilots in World War 2, was condemned as unsafe, to the official dedication of the new church above, RHQ has proved that where the will is strong enough anything can be achieved.

During the service the Chaplain General unveiled a plaque to commemorate the event. In this photograph, he is joined by the other Chaplains who were present at the service. From the left: The Reverend Father Phil Carroll (Roman Catholic Officiating Chaplain at Ouston). The Reverend Gordon Watts (Senior Chaplain, Training Group, Royal Signals). The Reverend Peter Mosley (resident Chaplain at Ouston). The Chaplain General. The Reverend Malcolm Adams (Methodist officiating Chaplain at Ouston)

'Cripes, this clear colourless fluid is somewhat chilling on the tootsies!' (or something to that effect!)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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust




# 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 32

**1 SQN—WITH A BANG**

November's activities started off with Bonfire Night on the fifth (we thought it might be a change to have it on that date!). It was superbly organised by Delta Troop, with **SSgt Don Sutherland** taking charge of the gluehwein stall. **Cpl Lenny Binns** had the bar going at maximum effort to rake in a 'few' more DM's profit (as Ferrari sports are quite expensive to keep on the road).

**FAREWELLS**

9 November saw the farewell of **Gen Kenny** after a two year tour as Commander 1st Armd Div. On his last parade with the regiment he presented the Canadian Forces Decoration to Canadian exchange officer **Capt Ned Gravel** and the LS&GC medal to **WO2 (SSM) Arthur Crabtree.**

We also said goodbye to **Brig Last**, Commander Communications 1st (BR) Corps. To mark his final visit here it was decided to hold a squadron trailer race. **SSgt Bob Wyse** handed over a thunderflash to the Brigadier to start the race but, unfortunately, it was a dud and **Brig Last** had to resort to more primitive means to get the race going. The SHQ Troop team led by **SSgt (YofS) Mick Boxall** achieved a resounding victory and were well pleased with their Winners' Cup.

**NEW COMMANDER VISITS**

Commcen Charlie (or Charles as they prefer to be called) was visited by the new Divisional Commander, **Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE.** He was shown the intricacies of Commcen working by the troop OC **Capt Jim McGrath** and the General was impressed with what he saw.

**CHRISTMAS**

The Squadron Christmas Party was held in the Corporals' Mess on 21 December 1983. With a good attendance, the function was a success from the very start, with a disco and a raffle adding to the enjoyment. A few members of the squadron appeared to be a little under the weather the following day, but troop OC's were assured that this had nothing to do with the previous night (honest).

**—AND BREAK**

We broke up for the Christmas/New Year grant on 22 December concluding the day with a 'Fun Run' and a few drinks in the Squadron Bar afterwards. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed and **LCpl Tim Comyns** won the Best Dressed Male with an Emu costume. Best Dressed Female, much to the applaud of the participants, was won by **Cpl Gaz Hughes** with his Boy George outfit. The Prizes were presented by **Mrs Sue Spencer**, the Squadron Commander's wife.

**2 SQN TO HERFORD**

Following Ex *Eternal* (it was!) *Triangle* the 'big one' for 1983, many members of the squadron probably thought life would be a little less hectic for a while. They really should have known better! We hardly seemed to be back before we were off again. This bonus took us completely by surprise, and to Maresfield Barracks, Herford, a highly recommended exercise location, when 7 Sig Regt are out! Seriously, the assistance and cooperation were excellent and much appreciated. Exercises are partly so that we may learn from our mistakes and apparently even Yeomen make those (who said that?) Ours spent about two hours in Herford looking for Maresfield Barracks—don't worry YofS' we won't tell tales! The Herford trip was almost immediately followed by the Commanding Officer's inspection, the final part of this being a team log race, won by **Lt Roddy Nicholson**'s team.

**THE CONKER CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983**

This annual event started some years ago and is now called the Shaw Trophy in memory of **Sig Taff Shaw** who was sadly killed in 1982 following a traffic accident. The great day in this thrilling competition arrived and even Brigadiers were travelling from far and wide to compete! **Brig C. N. Last OBE** Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps on a farewell visit to the regiment had not done quite enough training for, despite a brave effort, he just failed to qualify. In a close run final **Sig Keith Clayton** narrowly beat **Cpl Trev Jenkins** to win this coveted award.

**CHRISTMAS 1983**

Both Papa and Rover Troops had excellent parties in December in local hostelries (aren't the licensing hours grand in Germany?) and both nights were a great success. The Squadron Party held in the Gymnasium was another good night and went off very well. This seems an appropriate time to thank all those who worked so hard at making those parties the successes they undoubtedly were. We really can't leave the festive season without mentioning **Cpl Terry Mounts** prize in the Cpls Mess Draw where he won a car! As he'd not long before bought a new car and, being given the option of cash instead, he understandably took that. Merry Christmas!

**FAREWELLS**

Finally, we have recently had to say goodbye to some of the most experienced members of the squadron whose loss is someone else's gain. Many were characters and will not be easy to follow. Three of those departed or about to depart are **Cpls Trev Jenkins, Bob Maskell** and **Dave Smy** to whom we offer congratulations on their well deserved promotions to **Sergeant**. To all those who have recently left 2 Sqn we say thank you for your effort and best wishes to you and yours for the future.

**3 SQUADRON**

3 Squadron passed a Festive December. High points were Ex *Pear Tree* and its Squadron party on the 15th, a good was had by all. This fun evening of playing party games was won by five officers and SNCO's from 3 Squadron and five like-minded contemporaries from the local Bundeswehr. Another such group took second place. It was a good end to a busy and successful year for the Squadron. Leave at Christmas was well deserved and appreciated.

January was a quiet month for the Squadron, giving us time to prepare for the new Exercise cycle about to start. Much of the Squadron was away acting as a rioting civpop for Op Banner. They seemed to fit into the rôle very easily.

Just in time, the weather turned cold and snowy for Ex *Iced Fisher*. This Regimental Exercise has 3 Sqn acting as enemy, attaching 1 Sqn's CHARLIE COMCEN and 2 Sqn's COMHEAD PAPA. The exercise takes us into February.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

These must go to **Lt Suzy Reed** on her engagement to **Capt Alastair Campbell** and to **Sgt Sean Wilson** on his recent promotion to that rank.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

December and January were busy months for the Squadron in terms of people moving through it.

The Squadron says 'Goodbye' to **Lt David Sullivan, SSgt (YofS) Steve Atkinson, SSgt (SQMS) Jim O'Shaughnessy, Cpl Bob Kaiser,** and **LCpl Kevin Graham.**

New arrivals in that period were **2Lt Adrian Broad, WO2 (FofS) Chris Van Parys,** (yes we have actually got one now), **SSgt Ben Britton** and **Steve Bailes.** The Squadron welcomes them aboard.

The CO hands over a cheque for DM1500 to Herr Conrad of the local sports group for handicapped people. The money was the profit from the Anglo/German weekend

## 210 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn

**ALL CHANGE**

Shortly after Christmas **Brig Murray Naylor** handed over command of 22 Armoured Brigade to **Brig Mike Wilkes**. Some 10 days later the Squadron changed hands and **Maj Jack Amberton** handed over command to **Maj Bob Anstey**. **Maj Amberton** leaves the Squadron on posting to HQ 1 Signal Group in Tidworth and he and his wife **Val** will be sadly missed. He did leave the **SSM WO2 Gerry Whelan** a small present, however, and he'd like to know of anyone who wants to buy a 1976 Austin Allegro! **Maj Hussey** joins us direct from two years on the Ptarmigan desk in MOD ACGS(OR) and we all wish him and his wife **Louise** a happy tour.

**CHRISTMAS BALL**

The Squadron held its annual Christmas Ball on 16 December in 'The Round House' in Hohne Station. The dance band of the 9/12th Lancers provided the music and in the intervals an excellent disco speeded up the pace. **Brig Murray Naylor** was our guest of honour and in all over 200 people attended what was a most enjoyable evening. The grateful thanks of the Squadron go to **Sgt Ian Matthews** and his team of organisers, and particularly to **LCpl Jimmy Joyce** who performed amazing feats putting up the decorations.

**SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS**

201 Sig Sqn is just the place for any ambitious sportsman to be posted as the following litany of successes shows:

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Having already won the Divisional Championships the SORE (Society of Running Enthusiasts) FOOT CLUB of 201 Sig Sqn stormed in to third place in the BAOR finals just behind 3 PCU and 65 Corps Support Squadron (RE). Top individual runners from the Squadron were **Sig Pete Swailes, Lt Johnathan Perks** and **Sig Steve Towers**.

**BADMINTON**

The Squadron offers its heartiest congratulations to **Sgt George Frith RAPC**, who was runner up in the BAOR individual championships and to both him and his partner in the doubles, **Dvr Steve Modest RCT**, for their splendid achievements. This doubles partnership promises much further success. **Sgt Frith** has now gone on to be selected to represent BAOR against RAF(G), UCLF and the Army against the Navy and Air Force.

**RUGBY**

Under the admirable leadership of **Sgt Mick Nailor** and **Cpl Dave Foster**, the 'Hohne Stags' have gone from strength to strength. It was with a certain amount of pride that the Squadron beat 14 Sig Regt, a major unit! **Sgt Steve Hutchins** will be remembered for some excellent place kicking this season, and the club wishes to apologise most sincerely to **LCpl Romain** for abandoning him on the autobahn!

**FOOTBALL**

**Sgt Peter Farrington** manages the soccer team this season having taken over from **Sgt (SQMS) Mick O'Hare**, an ex-Army player. The team is going from strength to strength and often provides spectators with some excellent displays of football magic. **Cpl Alan Mott's** performances are worthy of a special mention.

**HOCKEY**

**WO2 (SSM) Gerry Whelan** manages the Squadron Hockey Team which has made its way to the 1 Armd Div semi-finals.

**SKIING**

**Lt Justin Johnson** and **LCpl Kev Jones** have been buried in Southern Germany for some weeks now and phoned the OC the other day to inform him that the Squadron had achieved the position in the Divisional Skiing Championships and was thus qualified to enter the Army Championships. We wish them all the very best of luck.

**BASKETBALL**

Under the leadership of the **SSM WO2 Gerry Whelan** the Basketball team has recently retained its present role in the Division Minor units Final, becoming outright winner for the third year in succession. In addition the team regularly wins all games it plays, beating major units left, right and centre.

**FAREWELLS**

Finally in addition to **Maj Amberton** we say our farewells to **Sgt Steve Hutchins** the Squadron Chief Clerk who has been recalled to sort out the Regimental Orderly Room. Both **Steve** and his wife **Marilyn** have contributed greatly to Squadron life at work and play and they will be sadly missed by all their many friends in Hohne. We also say goodbye to **Sgt Ian Matthews** on his FofS course, **Sgt John Nicholson**, going on promotion, **Cpls Geordie Hume, Steve Reynolds** and **Sig Pete Holmes**. We wish them all good luck and happy memories of Hohne.

## 207 SIG SQN

**Report by an anonymous Troop Commander**

The Squadron started the month with a warning, from the OC, that January would be a busy month. We were to be worked hard in preparation for the arrival of the new OC in early February. Both the Troops completed their site guard commitments early in the month. The Squadron's favourite cook, the Black Adder **(Pte Barker)**, put in a marathon effort by doing two consecutive weeks on site guard.

The Squadron had a stock-taking board with the assistance of 201 Sig Sqn. There were not too many skeletons discovered in the cupboards and generally the SQMSs had the skeletons on their G1098 ledgers somewhere!

The Squadron has had three concentrated training days this month in preparation for the Brigade Commander's annual visit on 3 February. These days consisted of a tour of six stands: first aid, NBC, Recognition, AFV 432 servicing, radio harness fault finding and generator maintenance.

From 25-27 January the Squadron were deployed to assist the Free West Lüneburg government who were threatened by terrorists from Soltaria. This was the Squadron Commander's last exercise and was hard work. We covered ambushing, patrolling and much marching. There were few injuries, a couple of nasty rashes due to laddered tights and sore feet were the worst!

The Squadron also sent our first skiers off to Ex *Snow Queen*; our next instalment of *Wire* notes will contain some anecdotes from Bavaria.

## 212 (12 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

It makes a pleasant change to report on a period in which the Squadron has not been as frantically busy as normal. The Christmas period in Osnabruck provided us with a welcome opportunity to recover from the arduous year we have had. After the delights of the Autumn season, followed by a host of minor activities we managed to find time for social events.

**HUGE SUCCESS**

The Squadron draw was a huge success, due to the efforts of the Squadron Club Committee, headed by **Cpl Clive Artus**. As compère for the night we had **Richard Nankeville** of BFBS Radio. He proved capable of giving as good as he got and silenced several of the Squadron wisemen. However, it is rumoured that he was capably managed by the Squadron, till the early hours.

We also had several smaller events. Troop parties were in vogue with both Alpha and Bravo Troops having lengthy enjoyable sessions. From such occasions came new comedians, including OC **Maj Richard Skaife** whose 'Policeman' joke stretched us all!

**REMARKABLY EVEN**

Christmas came and many departed for leave. A quiet time was had (to some degree) by the remainder. The changeover period saw the soccer match between the officers/SNCOs and 'the rest'. 'The rest' turned out to be the majority of the Squadron football team. However, the match seemed remarkably even and it is alleged that referee **Sgt Alan Welch** found the final score to be 4—4!—which was less than the total of those sent off. The better players avoided the tacklers well. **2IC Capt Bob Weston** didn't quite avoid **Cpl Eric Young** who left him a mark to remember—just because Man Utd have had a bad time!

**FAREWELLS**

As usual we have our small list of departures. Unfortunately we have had to say farewell to **Maj Richard Skaife** earlier than planned because of his medical problem. We are sorry to see him go and wish **Richard, Brenda** and family, including the new arrival, the very best of luck in their new posting.



**WO2 (FofS) Alf Davie** left us for a brief stay at the School of Signals. Best wishes to **Alf** and family in their life with the little Game-Bird. **Cpl Steve Cooper** has gone to the, perhaps, even more hectic life of 30 Sig Regt—what will we do for Panzer Maint? **Cpl 'Mac' McGregor** goes to the more relaxed atmosphere of 28 (BR) Sig Regt NORTHAG. Still within 'Orange Handbag' range though. **LCpl 'Shaggy' Stevens** has left after a long stay. His sense of humour and spirit will be missed. We have finally 'got rid of' **Sig Mark Mayled**, initially on a course, then to his RLD, after much reorganising. **Sig 'Brummy' Flavell** has gone to the rest cure of the Regiment.

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome the new OC, **Maj Adrian Schuler** and his wife **Caroline**—we hope they have a good tour with the Squadron.

Welcome also to, **SSgt (FofS) Pete Grist, Cpl Neil Turnbull, Sig Hopkins** and **Blyth**. Yet more ready for an introduction to the hectic life.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

And finally, congratulations on several different activities.

Congratulations to **Maj Richard Skaife** and **Brenda** on the birth of their daughter **Katherine Emily**. Congratulations too for **Cpl Glenn Ralston** and **LCpl Chris Hughes** on their recent promotions.

**STOP PRESS**

Congratulations to the Squadron Hockey team on reaching the final of the Div Hockey competition.

**THE PRICE TROPHY**

The Price trophy is a squadron competition run annually in memory of Stan Price, one of the squadron corporals who was tragically killed on exercise in 1981. It is awarded to the JNCO who has put in the best effort and has been seen to be most worthy. Congratulations to **Cpl Andy Arbuckle** on being awarded the trophy this year.


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## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
## York

**DEPARTURE OF MAJ GEN C. P. R. PALMER CBE**

The GOC North East District and Command 2 Infantry Division, **Maj Gen Patrick Palmer**, had only been with us since early 1983 when he handed over to **Maj Gen P. A. Inge** on Wednesday 11 January. His next appointment will be as Commandant of the Staff College at Camberley. To honour the occasion the General, after drinks with his staff, was towed to the main gate by officers of both headquarters while the soldiers of the Regiment lined the route. Although it was raining for part of the pull Yorkshire Television managed to show a few seconds coverage of the occasion on the area news of BBC's 'Sixty Minutes'. Fortunately, they had not used the original sound track as all that could be seen leaping from frame to frame was the athletic figure of **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** as he barked orders and waved his pace stick at the escorting pipers, 50 staff and Regimental officers and **Sgt Moss Wright** at the landrover steering wheel.

WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings presents the GOC with the 2 Inf Div Pennant

*R to L:* WO2 (FofS) Frank Running, SSgt Andy Wilson and SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe lending voice to the three cheers

2 Sqn march past the CRA led by Maj Ruairidh Rutherford. Capt Bob Brannigan, Richard Davis and Dick Good present a smart front

This is not an indication of the present workload on the LAD but, as some have suggested, the useful employment of officers and staff!

**INITIAL VISIT OF THE COMD 2 INF DIV**

Having said goodbye to **Maj Gen Palmer**, it was soon time to welcome the new Commander 2 Inf Div, **Maj Gen P. A. Inge**, during his initial visit to the Regiment. Accompanied by his ADC **Capt Simon Longworth Green Howards**, the General arrived on a cold and windy day in January and was given a conducted tour of the Regiment, a demonstration of the Divisional Headquarters complex in the field, and the 15 Bde HQ similarly deployed. It was at this point that the incisive quality of the new Commander's mind was revealed with the comment: 'I suppose the 15 Bde Sig Tp works much harder than the other one'. This apart, we can be sure that there are interesting times ahead for the Regiment under our new Commander!

**REGIMENTAL ARU**

Having successfully completed the year's required inspections and reports, the final seal on the ARU was the visit on Thursday 19 January of the Inspecting Officer, **Brig P. R. F. Bonnet MBE**, CRA and Garrison Commander.

Although a certain amount of wheeling and dealing had guaranteed the flavour of the day would be administrative, 0800 hrs found the respective Squadron Commanders waiting in RHQ for the extra little tasks that had been conjured up over and above the planned walkabout by the Commander.



As two new arrivals documents were lifted from RHQ filing cabinets, to test the troop commanders note books, the majority of the Regiment, under command of the JNCOs, were taking a series of tests. These included NBC, first aid, BFT, indoor assault course and aircraft and vehicle recognition. Meanwhile the Young Officers, Captains and below, were making their way into the MT park to search out the suspected faults on an assortment of landrovers and four tonners.

To round the day off the Regiment marched past the CRA, CO and RSM, under the command of the 2IC, **Maj George Finney**. One nice consequence of the day was that **Capt Colin Whittaker** has proved himself a demon recognition expert and will be conducting all future training periods.

Maj George Finney, the 2IC, commanding the ARU march past. In his footsteps are OC HQ Sqn, Maj Andy Ramsay, Adjutant, Capt David Proctor, and the multitudes of HQ Sqn

**WOs & SGTs MESS NOTES**

**Report by SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe**

On Friday 16 December, the Mess held its first Christmas Draw in the United Kingdom. To describe the layout and facilities provided would require a vocabulary comparable to that of a Music Hall compère in that the setting was a Splendiferous Synchopation of Superb Service, Sounds and Smiles.

The whole committee deserve unstinted praise for their efforts which not only turned a typical UK Military Gymnasium into a cosy fairyland of mirth, catered for at least seventy guests in addition to the several hundred anticipated, but also created such an atmosphere of wellbeing that no-one seemed to want to go home, so much so that 250 Mess Members and their guests sat down to a champagne breakfast in the Mess at 0500 hrs on Saturday morning.

Those old hands who anticipated that no function in England could possibly compare with the splendid occasions only too common overseas were pleasantly surprised. Perhaps the fact that each Member had been buying tickets since the Regiment landed at Hull helped but it was **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Dring** who put it together and came up with a magnificent result. Forthcoming Mess bills may, however, modify this statement somewhat.

The Mess was as happy as any other department of the Regiment to be able to go on a well earned Christmas Grant, secure in the knowledge that our aims for 1983 had been achieved.

On Thursday 8 December 1984 the traditional Sergeants Mess 'living in' dinner took place with over 40 members at table. The WRAC Seniors led by **WO2 Pat Rosewell APTC** took the laid down dress of collar and tie literally and forgot about everthing else. The entertainment during the dinner was laid on by the girls but unfortunately the censor got out his pen and all we can say is that we look foward eagerly to next year's dinner.

1984 started with us bidding farewell to our erstwhile Divisional Commander **Maj Gen C. P. R. Palmer CBE** upon his departure to the Staff College. The **RSM, WO1 Bernie Neillings**, knew that the General's programme was very tight, and that with Christmas only recently over a formal Mess Dinner was out of the question, a fact which will haunt him for years to come, his love of glister and glamour being well known. Not to be beaten, the RSM organised a working lunch, to say farewell properly on Tuesday 10 January 1984. Let it be on record that having entertained our General to a truly splendid meal, the only item missing being the Mess Dress, and having exchanged presentations and speeches, the members of this Mess were at their place of duty only slightly later than usual. The General was delighted to receive from us two crystal goblets, a silver bound decanter and salver and in turn gave the Mess a very nice picture of the 'Thin Red Line', he being late Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Wednesday 11 January saw the General well on his way to the main gates in a sixty Rodney powered landrover. **WO1 (ASM) Les Soper** must have been keeping that particular vehicle 'on the road' especially for that occasion, but credit must go to **SSgt Andy Wilson** and **Sgt Moss Wright** for producing an immaculate landrover.

WO1 Harry Scott (King's Own Border) gives SSgt Glin Cardy a leg up whilst WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings can't believe what's happening

**REGIMENTAL BOXING MATCH VERSUS 1 KING'S OWN BORDER**

On the evening of Thursday 2 February over two hundred of the Regiment congregated at the Somme Barracks, Catterick, gymasium to watch our boxers fight the 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. Although it was our first competition it was also the North East District Championships.

For some weeks intensive training had been carried out under the watchful eyes of **SSgt (YofS) Dave Appleyard**, and **SSgt Colin Taylor**. On the night they were assisted at the ringside by **Sgt Fred Waters**. Although the barracks could win awards for being one of the windiest places in Yorkshire it also boasts an excellent gym. It was in this building, with the band of the King's Own Border Regiment playing, officers, warrant officers and SNCOs dressed in Mess kit, and over 600 shouting soldiers, that bantamweight **Sig Hugh Little** climbed into the ring for the first fight of the evening. Much to his credit he fought an excellent fight and took a unanimous decision. This was followed by another good win by **Sig Neil Wilson** against **Pte Wilson** at Featherweight. Unfortunately, Lightweight **Sig Kevin Tierney** was not passed fit by the early morning Medical Officer's inspection which meant that it was up to **Sig 'ET' Maddocks** to give us a three to one lead. This he did with an excellent display of boxing skills but, like his opponent, finished the third round with blood sprayed across nose and shoulders.

It was at this stage that the opposing coach realised the depth in skill of the regimental team and obviously changed his boxers' tactics. **LCpl Nick Nicoll, Sig Tony Bowan** and **LCpl Jig Brogan** all lost in their first rounds to the 'windmill' approach. **LCpl Steve Sunmer**, at Middleweight, also lost on the decision, but that was after weathering the storm of the first round and putting in a performance that left both fighters shattered at the end of the bout. So that was it, five to three down, and out, and only the Welterweight to seek revenge. **Sig Martin Sloan**, without much regard for the final result, thumped his opponent quite convincingly around the ring to win by a majority decision.

At the end of the evening **Brig Jones**, Deputy Commander NE District and 2 Inf Div presented the prizes to the boxers after which the King's Own Border Regiment tossed with 1 Cheshire, who are at present in NI, for the venue of the next round. Maybe we will get that trip there next year!

## 656 SIGNAL TROOP—LUBBECKE

Without any warning, on the morning of 6 January the members of 656 Signal Troop were galvanised into action with a 0600 hr Active Edge style awakening—it was ARU day. Ready for anything that could be thrown at them, this early start proved no problem. Those that had time to snatch a quick breakfast, did so, while the management received their instructions. The commander, Forward Headquarters 2 Infantry Divison, **Col D. L. Lewis** and two of his staff then inspected the weapons and personal kit of the troop. Satisfied with the results, they then briefed the troop on what was in store: they were to deploy to a location South of Minden to rescue a component vital to the preparation of the local beverage, notionally in the hands of some belligerent locals.

Comms were required from Forward HQ in Lubbecke to the Minden location, and due to the terrain this meant the use of a rebro to guarantee VHF working, and this job was entrusted to **Cpl Sandy MacDonald**. Needless to say comms went well, but this was only part of the task.

The tactical approach adopted to the target area meant that the DS casualty, **LCpl Dave Ball** was lying in his ditch for longer than expected and had to be continually topped up with 'blood', whilst keeping a look out for rabid foxes.

Three sections acting as reserve, covering force and snatch squad played their role and the 'vital part' which had been guarded by a bewigged Cbt Engineer with various explosive devices, and a hostile force of Staff Clerks, was recovered with minimal force of arms. The Troop withdrew to regroup approximately 16Kms from Lubbecke where they met up with the Tunis Bks and relay dets and proceeded to hand their vehicles over to drivers from 54 Sqn RCT. 'The Ridge' then shook to the tramp of booted feet as with a swing of the arms they set off; All bar one. **YofS Keith Allen** had to take the secure equipment back to Lubbecke.'

Not to be done out of a stroll through the woods, the YofS returned to the Troop in the region of the Top Secret Club. **Sgt Geordie Short** who appears to exist on a diet of *Winds of War* and *Reilly Ace of Spies*, proceeded to hold the YofS at 'gun point', prostrate him, and strip him of his weapons. Once released, the YofS was heard to say he could have shot him first but had expected to be greeted as a friend and not an enemy. The day finished very agreeably with everyone returning to Lubbecke within a prescribed time limit, to a most welcome lunch in the OR's dining room, which **Sgt Dusty Miller** almost missed as he had gone back over his tracks looking for the slightly slower few, only to discover that they had found a route of their own to finish.

At the debrief, congratulations were received from the Comd Fwd HQ who expressed his pleasure (and surprise) at the spirit in which the day had been started, continued and finally brought to a close. The following must be mentioned in this despatch; **LCpl Peter Beck** and **Cpl Butch Burchnall**, for their final assault on the enemy position. **Cpl Max Juka** who mislaid the ignition key to the four ton GS, (but then he is RCT—so used the bent wire trick), and to Comd Fwd HQ who arranged for the ARU to be held on a dry day.

**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.**

## 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

### PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Ashley Truluck** |
| **OC designate** | **Maj Tony Elford** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Nick Blampied** |
| **OC HQ Tp** | **Capt Henry Jennings** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **2Lt James Bertram** |
| **OC Papa Tp** | **SSgt Tony Pollard** |
| **Sqn Offr** | **2Lt Mark Finneran** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Hedge** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Trevor Taylor** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Chris Wilkie** |

### CHANGE OF SQUADRON COMMANDER

As this is written the Squadron is about to change OC's. **Maj Ashley Truluck** is handing over to **Maj Tony Elford** who has arrived hot foot from HQ 1 (BR) Corps. We would like to thank **Maj Truluck** and **Jenni** for all the hard work they have done bringing the Squadron over from Osnabruck, and wish them good luck in their new job at RMCS Shrivenham (or is it BFFI this week?!). We welcome **Maj Elford** and **Judith** to the Squadron and wish them the best of luck in Catterick, BAOR and wherever else we may go!

### FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

The Squadron has just finished a 'posting freeze' so there have been a lot of postings in and out. We would like to say goodbye to **Sgt Tom McLaughlan** and **Margret** on posting to the School of Signals. **Sgt Andy Coward** and **Rita** on leaving the Army for sunnier climes. **Cpl Phil Rosslee** and **Lynne** on posting to SANGCOM ('of course we're not jealous!'). **Cpl Tom Williams ACC** and **Shelley** on posting to the AAC Centre. **Cpl Mick Lee REME** who, after several years with the 2 Armd and Inf Div, goes to Canterbury. **Cpl Pete (Aspro) Lee** who has gone down the road to his T1 course at 8 Sig Regt and lastly, **LCpl Alf Bettaney** and **Heather** who have gone to the 3 R Anglian RLD at Minden. Thank you all for your help in setting up the Squadron in Catterick. May your next tour be a warmer one!

At the same time we welcome:

**2Lt Mark** (what shall I wear today?) **Finneran** on attachment. **Sgt Pete Goddard REME** and **Ruth** from 13 Sig Regt ('who said you could escape from R Signals?'). **Cpl Rab Rennie** on transfer from 1 A and SH. **Cpl Colin Warnes** and **Angie** from 30 Sig Regt. **Cpl Pete** (start of MSG Function) **Szczesak** and **Sig Paul Hilton, Mac MacGillivray, Steve Walker, Ginge Butler, Taff Davies, 'Trot' Trotman** and **Jock Terris**.

### CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate **Sig Gregg Loton** on his marriage to **Karen**, and **Sgt Mick Leather RAPC** and **Debra** on the birth of their second baby **Emma Jane** who weighed in at £8 (or was it 8lb?).

**LCpl Bob Gellan** and **Sig 'Mac' McNeilly** deserve a special mention for forcing MT **Sgt Mick Rees** to learn how to use the new FMT 3—but did he need quite so much practice!?

### WINTER CONDITIONS

The notorious Catterick winter weather has struck already this year. The Squadron took full advantage of these conditions to have sports afternoons on the slopes of Catterick!

Sig Bob Pye quite at home revelling in the snow

### SQUADRON CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Squadron Christmas Draw was held in the luxurious surroundings of the Gaza Barracks 'Ritz', known more commonly as the NAAFI! The turnout for the occasion was so good that an impromtu version of 'Musical Chairs' started with attempts to cram two or three people on to one chair! The event was also memorable with our 2IC, OC Oscar Tp and, temporarily attached, OC Trg Wing all bringing girlfriends, (they normally wouldn't dare!). The cookhouse generously supplied an extensive buffet, and a local Disco was hired to provide the music.

For the first time, the prize draw was run by computer. Although all of the Squadron had tickets in the draw, the machine had a soft spot for **Capt** 'I'm going on the Cyprus Recce' **Jennings**. **Cpl 'Shuggie' Cowan**, our resident comedian, entertained us all evening, dancing to any music with a pint of beer balanced on his head. A brave few tried to copy the idea, but none succeeded.

### WIVES' CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Squadron Wives' Club had their Christmas party in the OR's dining room, where volunteers from the SNCO's provided the waiter service.

The entertainment was provided by **Sgt Stuart Rickard** and **SSgt Taff Bean** who was borrowed from 8 Sig Regt. **Taff**'s plate juggling act was a smash and **Stuart** sang songs and told rude jokes (they must have been rude because no one understood them!).

**Sgt 'Santa Claus' Rickard** then went round distributing presents and asking what the ladies would like for Christmas (the answers are being put into book form and sold to a popular Sunday Newspaper). The evening was a great success and a credit to the organisers.

### SUPER TROOP

**Report by WO2 (SSM) George Hedge**

The Turnbull Trophy is a series of competitions between our three Troops, with military and sporting themes. The trophy was presented to the Squadron by **Capt Bob Turnbull** in 1982.

The military section also decided the Pot Shot trophy.

The trail started before the unit moved from Germany when **WO2 (FofS) Larry Proctor** (now with 8 Sig Regt) set a cross country course to test even the fittest. Oscar Group started in determined manner and won this from Papa Group with Support Tp close behind.

**Sgt Alf Ramsey** organised the Swimming Competition in Catterick and lead Oscar to another win.

**WO2 (YofS) Trevor Taylor** was called in to organise a Military Training Exercise, with a competitive format, to test various skills and leadership. Papa grabbed the glory on this one.

The SSM, **George Hedge** was instructed to find the Squadron's team for the NE District Patrol Competition, Ex *Devils Leap*. His answer was to set a test of navigation and basic battle skills. Oscar again showed their prowess with a convincing win.

The sporting elements returned with **Sgt Ray Walker** organising the five-a-side soccer, HQ (nee Support) Troop taking the honours, Volleyball followed and again HQ came out on top. Basketball, the province of **Capt Henry Jennings** (OC HQ Troop) was again won by HQ Troop (they were in for a hard time if they had not!).

**Sgt Micky Rees** and **Cpl Ian Thomson RCT** put their heads together and came up with a Driving Competition that combined convoy drives, manoeuvring skills and rally work. Oscar Troop (nee Group) proving to be good at this as well.

**2Lt Mark Finneran** and **Sgt Jeff Williams** had to do some replanning when the North Yorkshire weather refused to allow a full bore shooting competition to be held as originally planned by **SSgt Tony Pollard**. The sub calibre indoor alternative was won by Papa Troop.

The final competition was again given to **'Clever Trevor'** our Yeoman. The final result of 'Supertroop' (to be decided between HQ and Oscar) and 'Pot Shot' (in which all 3 Troops could still win) depended on this one. He came up with a command task course around the Garrison area using (very) cryptic clues that not only guided the teams from stand to stand but also hinted at what to expect when they got there. A quick inquiring mind was useful not only for the tasks set but also for the route. HQ Troop gained a narrow win over Oscar followed by Papa, thereby winning not only the Turnbull Supertroop Cup but also the Pot Shot as well.

**Final Scores:**

| **Turnball Cup** | | **Pot Shot Cup** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **HQ Tp** | **23** | **HQ Tp** | **9** |
| **O Tp** | **20** | **P Tp** | **8** |
| **P Tp** | **17** | **O Tp** | **7** |

### COMMAND TASK COMPETITION

**Report by WO2 (YofS) Taylor**

It was a windy, rainy day on 3 February which greeted the JNCO's for the final part of the Super Troop Competition:- the Command tasks. Each troop entered four, three men teams, who had to cover a four mile course with command task stands dispersed throughout the course. The course and tasks were of similar design to the TV programme 'Now get out of that', the cryptic clues and command tasks being devised by **YofS Trevor** (I've a devious mind) **Taylor**. On one stage **LCpl Jim Henderson** was crawling along a rope spanning a stream when **Cpl Paul Milner** holding one end of the rope decided to let go.

Not to be outdone an independent team of **2Lt Mick Finneran, 2Lt James Bertram** and **Sig** (I'm no volunteer) **Wake**, were sent around the course to show how it's done. We won't say where they came as it could be an embarrassment to them! To get as many teams around the course in the time allowed, two separate routes were devised, therefore the winning teams on each route were **Cpls Ian Thomson, Dusty Miller** and **LCpl Jenkinson** and **Cpl Phil** (I'm off to the sun) **Rosslee, Cpl Mal Lewis ACC** and **Cpl Pete Szczesak**. The overall winners were HQ Troop (surprise, surprise).

SSM George Hedge teaching Maj Ashley Truluck how to crawl!

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# 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 106

**1 SQN REPORT**

After a gap of several months it is perhaps the right moment to put pen to paper to show ex members of number 1 Squadron that we are still alive and kicking, if not hyperactive.

So before launching into these notes I feel a short list of who's who may be of interest.

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj David Bannister** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Keith Childs** |
| **OC X Tp** | **Capt Keith Pritchard** |
| **OC Y Tp** | **Capt Gordon Trevis (on det in the Falklands)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Dave Lumb** |
| **Tp SSgt X Tp** | **SSgt Duggie Duggan** |
| **Tp SSgt Y Tp** | **SSgt Tony Watson** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Jim Sykes** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Steve Swinfield** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Marcus Sulivan** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Phil Robertson** |

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Old hands will notice that **Maj Ian Morris** no longer appears on the top of the pile. On the 2 February he managed to persuade **Maj David Bannister** to sign a handover/takeover certificate, climbed into this car and departed for the benign climate of Ouston. The Squadron will miss his benevolent organisation, and **SSM Dave Lumb** will, hopefully, no longer waste his breath on exhorting his Sqn Commander to visit the barber! The Squadron said farewell to the OC in the Woodstock Club where a beautifully framed picture of Soest was given to him after the SSM turned the tables and read a specially prepared Confidential Report to the assembled multitude. The Officers and Seniors dined **Maj Morris** out at a local hostelry with due care and attention. **Yeoman Jim Sykes** was in charge of the financial aspects of the evening. The bill for the beer consumed during the evening was, to say the least, astronomical, causing near apoplexy to the good Yeoman. A good evening was had by all. We welcome **Maj Bannister** and his wife **Jenny** to the Squadron. Please enjoy your tour with us.

**DISTANT PARTS**

**Capt Gordon Trevis** is holidaying in the South Altantic at the moment, along with several other members of the Squadron. Please hurry back as it means the 2IC having to learn the cries for Commcen Command and go on exercise.

Ex *Frozen Member* has reared its ugly head again and the squadron, besides having the faster section managed to have all its sections in the first 15. Well done to all concerned. It proves that hard training pays dividends. *Snow Queen* is with us again, and **LCpl Harry McGurk** and **Sig 'Dobbo' Dobson** have again managed to get themselves down to Bavaria as instructors. There must be something in it as they both want to go again at the end of their spell of duty. Is it only the delights of being on the ski slopes all day or is there something else?

Ex *Frozen Members*. A section from 1 Sqn prepare to carry their notional casualty, Cpl Dennis Raquet, up the hill. Sgt Pete Garratt seems quite happy at the prospect, Cpl Duggie MacDonald tries to organise things, while the SQMS SSgt Steve Swinfield ignores him, as do Sig Paddy Feeney and Steve Cottee

SSgt Tony Watson adjusts his make-up before setting off. Sgt 'Mel' Priest waits his turn with the lipstick—Did he learn that pose on his recent trip to Italy?

**REGIMENTAL ARDUOUS TRAINING**

With the advent of winter, the Regiment turned its attention to 'Arduous training'. The **RSM, WO1 Steve Marshall**, kindly arranged for five, seven and ten mile practice marches to take place starting from camp. Time limits were set which ensured that at least part of the distance had to be covered 'at the double'. Then came the exercise itself which took the form of a competition. The sections were lifted into the nearby hills by four tonner—perhaps not as exciting as a helicopter, but then we were excited enough anyway at the prospect of the 12 mile march to the bivouac site. There was no time limit set for this phase, which was just as well too. The snow, packed down under the tramp of many feet, became a skating surface and the later sections had great difficulty staying on their feet as they climbed the hill to the final checkpoint. 'Bashers' were built, compo was consumed and small fires flickered as the wood around the control tent turned into a regimental admin area. Patrols were despatched to gather information from which the return route could be identified. Soon sections started out for home, this time against the clock. The competition, based on the time for this march and on map reading tasks set during both outward and return legs was won quite decisively by 1 Sqn.

**MORE ARDUOUS TRAINING—A REPORT FROM 3 SQN**

As well as participating in the regimental arduous training exercises, the squadrons were 'encouraged' to organise their own winter training. **Lt 'Nick' Davies** set the scene with the Blue Force being given the task of infiltrating Orangeland, locating the enemy HQ and freeing their GOC who was being interrogated there, before the Orange Force, led by **2Lt 'Kit' Lewis**, disposed of him. The weather was far from kind and a number of casualties had to be evacuated. Luckily none of them proved to be serious and several even recovered in time to be recruited by the Orange Force. On the morning of the third day came the climax. The General was being held in Schloss Adolfsburg and the attack was to be put in at 0730 hrs. Suddenly it all started, with flares casting an orange glow over the Schloss. The attack went in and the General was freed with only minutes to spare. Off went the Blue Force, reunited with their leader, to RV with the helicopters. All in all a truly arduous exercise, which went very well, and which tested a number of people's ability to survive and fight in the cold.

'Take us home, James', Members of 3 Sqn being lifted out at the end of their arduous training

**INTER-SQUADRON SPORTS COMPETITION**

The turn of the year saw the end of another six month period of the Inter-Squadron competition. During that period the participants competed at Dinghy Sailing, Hockey, Rugby, Boxing, Football and Basketball. HQ Squadron emerged victorious and disdainfully ignored suggestions that this was connected with the fact that members of HQ Sqn organised the Dinghy Sailing, Hockey and Boxing.

Congratulations to HQ Sqn, and let us hope that the others will now set about defeating them in the next six months of the competition.

**ORIENTEERING**

The Regimental Orienteering Competition for 1984 was held on Monday 23 January in extremely cold weather conditions in the snow covered Arsnbergerwald, south of the Mohnesee. This year the event took the form of a massed start relay with teams of three runners competing. A total of 28 teams took part including four guest teams from units participating in the 3 Armd Div Orienteering League. Three courses were planned by the TOT, **Capt Gerry Sullivan** and runners were issued with a map pack which showed the particular controls they were required to visit and the order in which this was to be done. The numerous permutations of order in which sections could be run meant that each team ran the same total distance but in a different combination so that following was minimised.

When **Sgt John Arkley** finished the first leg close up to the leading guests it was clear that HQ Sqn would be prominent in the results table. The Inter Squadron Trophy was indeed won by HQ Sqn whose four teams returned a very creditable total time of 22 hrs 23 mins with notable performances by the Regimental 2IC, **Maj David Gardiner**, the SSM, **WO2 Ken Griffiths RRF** and **Sgt Bob Francis** of the Families Office. The fastest individual leg was run by **WO2 John Horwood REME** who led the HQ 6 (Airmob) Bde Team to victory in the team competition.

It was to the credit of all competitors that the spirit of the event was fully entered into and despite the very difficult weather conditions an enjoyable morning of adventure running was experienced.

**CO's RUN**

Why is it that the 'Quarterly' CO's Cross Country Run seems to get a mention in every issue of *The Wire*? Somehow 'Quarterly' seems to come round more and more frequently these days. The latest external extravaganza of exertion took place on 16 December and once again the individual winner was **LCpl 'Ned' Kelly** of 2 Sqn. Two years ago, when presenting the Cross country trophy to **LCpl Kelly**, the CO, **Lt Col Tim Waugh**, had rashly said 'If you can win this trophy three times in a row, I'll let you keep it'. 'No chance of that', he thought, but he was proved wrong! The Regiment were now without a Cross Country trophy but, never one to admit defeat, **Lt Col Waugh** presented the Regiment with a new trophy on his final parade.

LCpl Ned Kelly receives his trophy—this time it is his to keep

**BOXING**

Turning from sport within the Regiment to external competitions, we come to Boxing. The Regiment's earlier victories earned them a place in the semi-final of the Divisional Novice Competition, where the opponents were 50 Missile Regt RA, the current Army Novices Boxing Championships. Sadly, the match saw the end of our run of success and 50 Missile won by eight bouts to one. This result does not reflect the fact that several bouts were decided by only one or two points or give any indication of the good performances put in by several of the team. Particular mention must go to **Sig 'Donno' Donnelly** who won the Heavyweight bout and to **Sig 'Webbie' Webster** who lost by only one point.

Sig 'Donne' Donnelly—winner of the Heavyweight belt

**SKIING**

In late November members of the Regimental Nordic team reluctantly dragged themselves away from work and headed for Norway on Ex *Viking Loipe* to be instructed in the art of race technique. As **LCpl Andy Bain** was the only surviving member of last year's team this was an essential course and their race technique was soon almost as good as their chatting up and beer sampling techniques. Rumour has it that the team leader, **Lt Neil Gibson** is now running package tours to Norway. He seems to spend more time there than in the Regiment! Book now to avoid disappointment.

From Norway they went jet setting to the slopes of Bavaria then on to Austria for the Divisional meet. The stubaital valley was beautiful, but lacking in the main ingredient, 'snow'. Consequently, the competition took place on top of a 2,000 meter high mountain which meant an early start to get to the slopes and gave the additional problem of altitude. The courses were harder than usual and at that altitude quite exhausting but our gallant team battled on and unexpectedly qualified for the Army meet in Zwiesel.

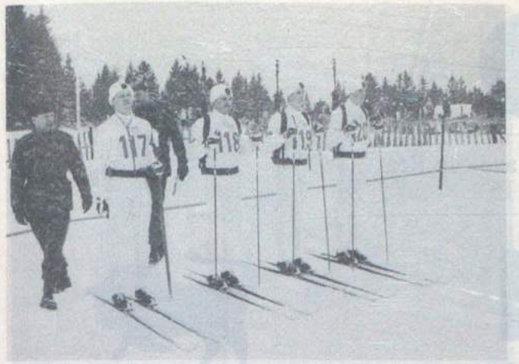
The team arrived at the Army meet very much the outsiders to be greeted with witty comments like 'didn't expect to see you here' and others not so flattering and printable. This just added fuel to the fire and, determined to do their best, then acquitted themselves honourably.

The most demanding race was the military patrol race, 23.5Km over the roughest country the course setters could find. Streams, fallen trees, near vertical climbs up icy banks, fast downhill and lots of uphill stretches.

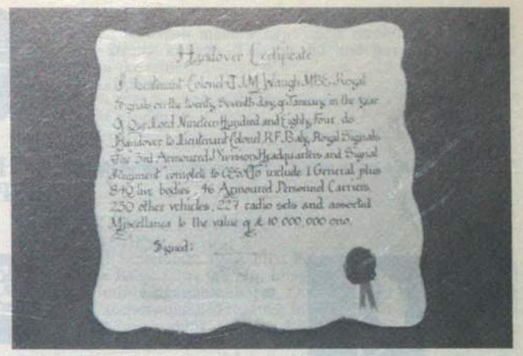
Conditions changed dramatically halfway through the race but still the intrepid heros pushed on through blinding snow, their skis growing heavier with every step. Then, after 20Km came the range presenting problems all of its own. In the military combination we came a respectable ninteenth out of 28 teams.

Despite the hard training and competitions **LCpl Steve James** hadn't had enough exercise and as well as clocking up the miles before breakfast he also entered a local 50Km race just for fun. He is now safely locked away back in the RHQ orderly room. An enjoyable time was had by all and the team are grateful to **Lt Col Waugh** and the Regiment for their support. Look out 22 Sig Regt, we will see you again next year!





Maj Gen J. H. Hild inspecting the Regimental Ski Team at the Army Nordic Meeting. *From L to R:* Lt Neil Gibson, Cpl Lorne Maryon REME, LCpl Andy Bain and Sig Nick Clay



The Handover Certificate—in lieu of AF G1033?

**THE CO IS GONE—LONG LIVE THE CO!**

We are all mortal—even CO's—and thus **Lt Col Tim Waugh** departed at the end of his tour in command of the Regiment. After inspecting the Regiment, **Lt Col Waugh** presented the new Cross Country Trophy, in the form of a truncheon which had been presented to his grandfather when he won the mile race at Cambridge University in 1894. In return, the 2IC, **Maj David Gardiner**, presented the CO with two framed pictures of Soest, which we all hope will find a prominent place in his home to remind him of his time here. A staunch anti-equestrian, **Lt Col Waugh** had fought long and hard to resist the encroachments upon 'his' barracks by members of the Corps of Royal Military Police and their mounts. Eventually he relented and an area was fenced off. 'This is just the thin edge of the wedge, sir', warned the **RSM WO1 Steve Marshall**. 'The next thing you'll know, they'll have you riding out of the gates on a horse'. 'Never!' vowed the CO. As can be seen the RSM was proved right—and the Adjutant, **Capt Andy Forster**, got the blame! (and what else are adjutants for, anyway?) The members of the Regiment wish **Lt Col** and **Mrs Waugh** all the best and we extended a warm, if wary, welcome to the new CO, **Lt Col Dick Baly** and his wife, **Elly**. We have yet to discover what delights await us 'under new management'.

The moment of handover. Lt Col Waugh waits apprehensively to make sure that the new CO, Lt Col Baly really does sign for the Regiment

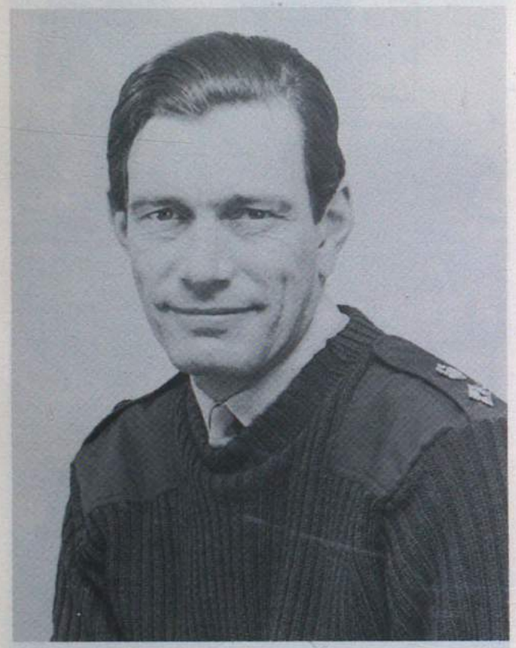
'On your horse, sir'—Lt Col Waugh takes his revenge on his adjutant, Capt Andy Forster

Next year the Grand National! The officers of the Regiment prepare to pull

# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

With 1983 behind us the Regiment has started 1984 with a new slate, packed events calendar and a new Commanding Officer. **Lt Col Bob Wright** took over at the end of last year and we would like to wish him and his wife **Tricia** a happy and successful tour with the Regiment.



From the First Aid Stand
'Has Matron seen these boils?'

The March and Run
'According to Sir (who's been to RMCS Shrivenham) it's only 5.7332 miles give or take a bit!'

**THE ARU**

The last month of 1983 was a very busy period for the Regiment. There seemed to be an exercise on virtually every night, namely the 'right arm' kind. It was just as everyone was winding up to the Christmas festivities and the accompanying hangovers that someone in the Headquarters remembered that we hadn't been ARU'd!

The Regiment was duly warned off by rumour control and about 70 per cent of us suffered from celebratory withdrawal symptons. The ARU took place on the 5 December in the form of an Inter Squadron competition. The tests included a March and Run, Weapon handling, NBC, First Aid, MT (Safe Driving) and LAD trade skills. Below are some of the highlights of that infamous day:

Weapon Handling Stand
'Reference bushy topped photograph to your front. 5 Rounds . . .!'

Not the MT Safe Driving Stand! (First aid Stand)
'Why don't they teach parking in the Bradley Centre Driving School?'

The Deployment phase of the ARU
'Brian . . . Sir wants it moved over by the daisies!'

**THE DENMARK SAGA**

**Maj Derek Howshall** made a new year's resolution to finish 2 Squadron's Denmark Saga. This he did and has received much acclaim from the critics:

The Daily Telephone:
'A real John Wayne epic . . . captivating.'

The St Ives Chronic:
'Another Winner—well done.'

The Glob:
'**Maj Howshall** definitely has a future as an historical author.'

**EXERCISE *AMPLE EXPRESS 83***
**BEACH LANDING**

0400hrs 21 September, 1983: First light dawned, damp and cold. Through the Baltic mists the grey images of the Task Force formed around us into recognisable shapes. Our flotilla of German landing craft lay at anchor, huddled together in quartets while further out to sea two RFA supply ships stood by. Between ourselves and the shore lay HMS *Fearless*, already a hive of activity as helicopters buzzed to and fro, their navigation lights flashing in the gloom, lifting the Marines of 45 Commando ashore.

We prepared for action, weapons were cleaned and oiled (again), kit was adjusted and faces were cammed. The sky lightened and the mists cleared to reveal the coastline of Denmark. By now we could faintly see the landing beaches as the first landing craft edged inshore to disgorge their Danish APCs into the surf. In a flurry of spray and plumes of exhaust smoke, the M113s raced ashore and moved inland to meet up with the Marines who were already holding the area around the beach.

Then came disappointment. Instead of our expected early landing on the beach, difficulties were being experienced with marrying the landing craft to the mexe float pontoon due to strong currents and we found ourselves waiting and waiting with the sun now bright and the day clear.

Our composure weakened and our desire to leave the 'floating mess tins' increased markedly as the first hostile jets of the Blue Force screamed over our heads making mock attacks on HMS *Fearless* and the RFAs. The crews of our LCUs leapt to action stations manning the two Oerlikon cannon but we all felt at a distinct disadvantage as the F5s and ALFA jets swept in at low level. For about two hours we were witness to exciting flying displays by the Blue Force pilots. Our Falklands veterans **SSgt Galbraith** and **Cpl Waite** tried to remain nonchalant but the memories of San Carlos water were evident in their faces.

It was with great relief that we watched the crew lift the anchor and our two craft, the *Plötze* and the *Flunder*, moved inshore past HMS *Fearless* to join the queue for unloading on to the powered mexe float.

At this point, fully expecting a wet landing we were told by the beach party that we could either walk ashore, drive in our vehicles or hitch a ride on one of the mammoth beach tractors which came to meet us. Not being stupid and with unknown operations ahead of us, the gallant 4th Division opted for dry feet and rode ashore. Further disappointment came as we hit the beach—not only had the VIPs, Danish TV and the Press left but also our own PR party had tired of waiting and gone off in search of another story.

However we were greeted by one red-tabbed Royal Marine senior officer who recognised us and wished us well. Thus encouraged we moved inland to take up the left flank of the Regimental Group. So, nearly eight hours after the Marines landed by helicopter and rigid raider, we joined the Orange Force breakout from the bridgehead against the defenders of Seeland.

**BACKGROUND**

What were we, members of 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment doing exposed to the rigours of life as infantrymen in a massive Allied Mobile Force exercise involving 18,000 ground troops? Well, we can only thank the previous OC, **Maj Mike Thorne**, that well known Danophile, for volunteering 2 Squadron to fill a vacancy as an infantry company in the orbat of the 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment for Ex *Ample Express 83*. In 1982 the Squadron had completed a training attachment to the 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment and based on that happy experience we were delighted to be hosted by the Regiment in Slagelse and to take part in combined training with them prior to the start of the exercise.

Our move to Denmark went smoothly after much hard work by our Admin Officers **WO1 Bryan Selkirk BEM**, and **Sgt Jock Letford**. With great relief we arrived at our destination after a 10 hour drive, the platoons having been packed into four tonners since the early morning start from Herford. However all fatigue was forgotten as we settled into the excellent accommodation and were tempted by the bright lights of Slagelse.

**TRAINING PERIOD**

Attached to us and under command was a troop of 6 CVR(T) Scimitars of C Squadron 13/18 Hussars, our neighbouring regiment in Herford. Under the leadership of **SSgt John Moore** they joined in all the sports and activities, winning the Assault Course Competition and coming runners-up in the Inter-Platoon football. A period of CVR(T) familiarisation let the signallers see for themselves the complex fighting machine and helped to integrate the troop fully into our contingent.

The next few days concentrated on getting the sections and platoons working together. Basic infantry tactics, field drills, live firing and infantry/tank co-operation were high on the agenda. All this activity was not without cost as **Sig Geordie Wilson** and **Pte Wilmott** managed to injure themselves, the former gashed his leg badly during the close co-operation with Centurion tanks while the latter landed badly when leaping off a tank (detanking?). The local hospital saw even more customers after an inter-platoon football competition played in heavy rain. Fortunately we still had enough players in one piece to defeat 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment the next night 2—0. This went some way to saving our pride when England went 1—0 down to Denmark the following week.

During the week we were visited by our CO **Lt Col Alan Eastburn**, Adjt **Capt John Ewbank** and the **RSM WO1 Mick Ledwards**. In company with an officer from 13/18 Hussars they flew to Denmark by Lynx helicopter (a seven hour trip with more time spent refuelling on the ground than in the air!) The next day the party were able to observe a very interesting exercise which the 1st Tank Squadron organised and despite being deafened by simulated tank fire they had a superb view of the Scimitars and armour at work. The infantry company, under command of **Capt Adrian Ridley-Jones** for the day, conducted clearing operations in the wooded areas and supported the tanks onto the objectives.

The Commanding Officer's party then left for Copenhagen and while the CO paid a courtesy call on the Military Attaché the rest of the party paid a courtesy call on the Carlsberg brewery! A veil is drawn over the rest of the visit in order not to incriminate those involved.

**ORBAT**

Orange Force comprised the 45 Royal Marine Commando Group and the 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment Group. Our interest lay in the latter whose unusual orbat bears further explanation. The CO 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment deployed with his Regimental Headquarters supported by his 1st Tank Squadron who are normally equipped with Centurion tanks. However, for the purpose of the exercise and in order to avoid excessive damage to the Danish roads and countryside the Squadron was equipped with M113 APCs modified by the addition of a large metal pipe to simulate the silhouette of a tank. The 2nd Squadron deployed with their unmodified APCs with XRAY Company of 45 Commando acting as mechanised infantry. The troop of six CVR(T) Scimitars acted as recce element for the group (in addition to the Danish scout jeeps) and when necessary in close support of our company.

We brought up the rear as a motorised infantry company, Squadron Headquarters being in landrovers with each rifle platoon self contained in its own four ton truck. Our organisation was loosely based on that of an infantry company but owing to constraints of manpower, radios and weapons were neither as large nor as well equipped as we would have liked.

Owing to the numbers of men required being beyond 2 Squadron resources an additional platoon was formed by each of 1 and 3 Squadron. The key personnel were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Derek Howshall** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mick Kerr** |
| **OC 1 Platoon** | **Lt Colin Burtenshaw** |
| **Platoon Sgt** | **SSgt Rab Galbraith** |
| **OC 2 Platoon** | **2Lt Nick Metcalfe** |
| **Platoon Sgt** | **SSgt John Mullender** |
| **OC 3 Platoon** | **Lt Bob Sharp** |
| **Platoon Sgt** | **Cpl Kelly** |
| **OC 4 Platoon** | **Lt Mark Perry** |
| **Platoon Sgt** | **Sgt Jock Baron** |
| **DS** | **Capt Adrian Ridley-Jones** |
| **DS Minor** | **SSgt (YofS) Ken Graham** |

**ALL AT SEA**

The 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment Group embarked on to German landing craft on the 17 September at a beach near Kalundborg. In spite of the enthusiastic attempts of the beach masters to pack us all on to one LCU we resisted valiantly and eventually our transport and men were divided into two. This left just over 40 of us on each LCU to share a small galley and a single head with the crew of six.

In bright sunshine we reversed off the beach and then moved into the bay while the rest of the group embarked. At this point we all played 'hunt the lifebelt' and **Sig Drummond** won hands down by grabbing three and refusing to let go. Unfortunately our vivid briefings about the 'floating mess tins' had already heightened his apprehension and the reality of being afloat was almost too much for him!

Originally the plan had been that we would all take part in rehearsal landings at dawn on the 18 September, however, this was revised and only a token force was required. Nevertheless most of us resolved to be awake to see the event. During the night the waves increased in size and those souls bivouacking on the deck learned their lesson the hard way and had to retire below decks to dry out. The next morning an undefined number of bodies climbed from the trucks and the question of who slept in which sleeping bag was best left unasked!

The rehearsal landings were barely visible from our LCUs but went well and we all then steamed south to a harbour at Korsor where the APCs re-embarked. Here was a short respite where solid land was a welcome relief from the permanently moving deck.

**SOUTH TO GERMANY**

We then sailed south towards Grossenbrode in Germany. It was planned to arrive by midnight on the 18th, occupy a tented camp and give us a rest until midday on the 20th. Here the weather took over, the wind got up and the waves grew until at 2000hrs we were forced to anchor in the lea of the island of Langeland. Despite the gallant efforts of **Cpl Ray Patrickson** and **Sig (now LCpl) Steve Harris** in the galley of the *Plötze*, food became a less desireable commodity as we all crawled into our sleeping bags and tried to wedge ourselves into positions which would reduce the pounding of the Force eight gale! That night is best forgotten. **Lt Bob Sharp** learned how really sympathetic soldiers can be to their officers when they are unwell. Never had anyone been offered a more greasy breakfast than the next morning!

The storm abated and our flotilla landed in Grossenbrode at the German naval station after nearly 48 hours at sea. The good news was that we were met by **SSgt (SQMS) Norman Cawthra** and his admin party who had organised the cookhouse, bar and videos for our delectation. The bad news came next day when we re-embarked on the LCUs and set sail on a course into the Baltic to rendezvous with the 45 Commando Group headed by HMS *Fearless*.

This day, 20 September, was memorable for the large number of big ships in the area, more haute cuisine from the galley (à la 24 hour rations) and the close attentions of the East German navy. The task force was shadowed by a patrol boat complete with high powered binos and telescopic lens cameras. We were subjected to very close scrutiny as it passed within 50 metres and the boys performed an impromptu song and dance for the benefit of the observers. We think that we managed to confuse them! During darkness the patrol boat returned and swept our decks with a powerful searchlight. It had almost nil effect, the majority of us were fast asleep preparing for the dawn landing to come.

**THE LAND BATTLE ACCORDING TO THE FOURTH**

Our tale has carried full circle to the point at which we thankfully returned to our more natural element.

The 4th Armoured Division Amphibious Motorised Infantry Company entered the fray on the left flank of the 2nd Sjaellandske Livregiment breakout from the beaches. Immediately the fog of war descended and confusion reigned as we were told in quick succession to: occupy a position, dig in, retire, mount up, and advance by road.

In an equally short time we drove across a blown bridge (not seen), lost 1 Platoon against an overwhelmingly strong enemy position, withdrew, lost the OC to umpire action and within two hours had returned to our initial position near the beach. During this hectic time Blue Force A10s whined overhead looking for us! It was then that the reincarnated OC 1 Platoon stepped into the breach, took command of the company and led a successful clearing operation some 2000 metres inland until told to hold a key road junction and hamlet. The platoons deployed around the area and company Headquarters moved into the grounds of a home for delinquent children.

The night was wet and miserable. On two occasions we sent patrols forward but they met a hostile response from enemy 1000 metres to our front. Enemy recce jeeps quietly drove through our junction but roared away when challenged by the gallant 2 Platoon. Our Position was blown and at dawn the order came to advance with all haste. Then the umpires arrived to warn of the enemy strength to our front and the minefields to our left and right. This caused the OC to call for extensive fire support from our attached Danish FOO and to request armoured support for our advance.



Several minutes later the Scimitars arrived, morale soared and we set off down a tree lined road straight towards the enemy. To our great surprise they withdrew before the weight of our suicidal assault and we were urged by the CO to press on at all speed to secure the next village. The speedy action by the Scimitars and 4 Platoon surprised the enemy and we claimed our first success—two APCs captured.

With the smell of success in our nostrils we pressed on in a forced march with the Scimitars in close support and about five kilometres later were told to secure and hold a further village. This was to provide a secure route for our Group's armoured elements who were tasked to take a large feature to our front. Once again we set up our defensive cordon and waited until well into the afternoon when the armoured advance finally swept diagonally across our front to seize the objective. During this time aircraft chased each other around the skies overhead and ensured that there was no peace for us below. On the right flank 1 Platoon got itchy feet and decided to take on two enemy Scorpions. With the aid of our friends from 13/18th Hussars they claimed a kill.

As evening drew close, in the absence of further orders, the OC moved the platoons closer into the village and set up road blocks on all approach roads. The local populace were overwhelming with their hospitality and provided warm barns and cellars and were just preparing stew and coffee for the boys when the order to move was received. Widespread mutiny was only just averted but morale hit an all-time low at this point.

**AN ABOMINABLE NIGHT**

Reluctantly we mounted the trucks and began what can only be described (politely) as an abominable night. During the hours of darkness the recce elements were tasked to clear 30 kilometres inland in order to catch up with the Ex *Pink* for the next day. Between 2000 and 0400hrs we moved in five to 10 kilometre hops halting for anything between half- and two hours each time. Temperatures dropped to near freezing and everyone was uncomfortable.

It was a relief at dawn to be ordered to advance on foot with all speed to clear eight kilometres of country road to our next objective—another village. Once again FGA swept overhead causing us to disperse into the ditches and in due course we came under attack from a flank by two Home Guard enemy. 3 Platoon were despatched to deal with them and after firstly attacking the wrong house, caused them to retreat in haste.

On gaining the village we attempted to cordon the vast area. Almost immediately 2 Platoon at point came under fire and went to ground. 3 Platoon in the rear, holding a road junction were umpired out by enemy artillery and a 1 Platoon fighting patrol was decimated, again by umpire direct artillery fire.

**A PICKLE**

Now we were in a pickle! Fortunately our call for armoured support was answered by the arrival of some of the Scimitars who immediately took up positions behind 2 Platoon and in the edge of the woodline across our front. During the next few hours FGA continued to scream overhead but we thwarted an attempted landing by three enemy helicopters—almost shooting them down for real with Schmully and pistol flares. 2 Platoon's suspicions became aroused about a local farmer using CB radio from his tractor (a common ploy by the Home Guard) and objected strongly to the amount of umpire generated artillery falling on them. C/S 22 was heard to report 'Reference suspect blue tractor—Wasted! Out'.

As evening approached 3 and 4 Platoons consolidated their positions in the woods around the village and prepared for probing patrols. Danish armoured TOW missile detachments recced fire positions in amongst the platoons and it became apparent that we were faced by a large enemy force.

Daylight dawned on 24 September and a large amount of armoured movement could be heard to our front in the cool, still air. The umpires arrived and liberally began to spread their smoke and thunderflashes around our positions. Helicopter activity increased across the front and **Cpl Nigel Sloane's** point section devised all manner of tank busting schemes as we braced ourselves for the armoured thrust which was now imminent.

Suddenly three enemy APCs came racing down the road towards us but ran into heavy fire from 2 Platoon and its accompanying Scimitars. Despite driving through our positions they were umpired out on the grounds that they had overtaken their own rolling barrage! By now the command net was humming with orders, questions, fire missions and requests for help as the enemy pressed forward across the whole front. Our position was becoming increasingly threatened and although we had still seen very few real enemy vehicles our tanks arrived on the position to meet the thrust. Under increasing enemy bombardment we were given the order to withdraw. Naturally the boys were reluctant to leave their immaculately dug trenches and move back to the transport until the OC yelled 'You've got 30 seconds to get out of this village!'

Suddenly the message struck home—bodies and kit hurtled on to the trucks, engines raced and we careered out of the village in the nick of time. Once the drivers had slowed to more or less the legal speed we could see that our withdrawal route lay through other prepared positions and reserved demolitions.

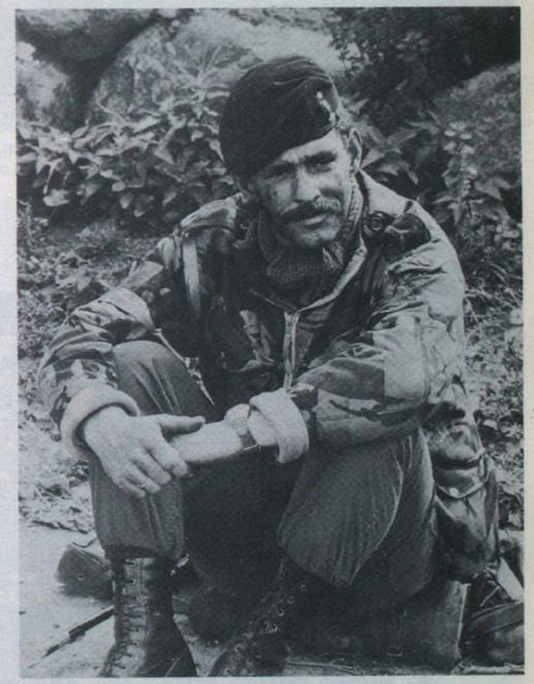
We drove back to the village that we had marched from 24 hours earlier, ringed it as best we could and were quickly faced by the continuing armoured thrust which was gaining momentum. The platoons fired at everything that came in sight, aircraft filled the sky and once again our armour came forward to meet the thrust and allow us to break clear. Again we roared out of the village at the last possible minute and then followed the withdrawal route through the countryside to the recovery point.

And there it all ended. We harboured in a country lane, brewed up, ate the rest of our rations and waited for ENDEX.

**CONCLUSIONS**

It was with a certain amount of relief that we returned to Slagelse and subsequently to Herford. Our involvement in Ex *Ample Express 83* had given us a close insight into the lot of the infantryman in a large scale conflict. The confusion, the long periods of inactivity and boredom interspersed with bursts of frantic activity left us all wondering whether it was really worthwhile. There were individual and collective highlights as well as strong disappointments that we had not seen more action and had not come to closer grips with the enemy. However, one has to be aware of the larger picture and the small part that we played in it.

On reflection we will remember *Denmark 83* as worthwhile, interesting and different. It certainly made most of us appreciate that we are in Royal Signals and not the 'poor bloody infantry'.



SSgt Rab Galbraith in reflective mood somewhere in Denmark

Half of the contingent from 4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt prior to embarkation on a German landing craft

The other half of the contingent with smiling German crew members—we found out later what they were smiling about

The motorised infantry prefer to keep their feet dry on landing from the mexe float

Sig Gerry Greeves 'yomping' through the Danish countryside

SSgt Rab Galbraith leads his platoon from landing craft to mexe float

**SUCCESS IN THE 1983 DIVISIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 10/11 NOVEMBER**

The 4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team comprising **Maj Mike Wright** (45 AEC) **Sgt Rod Stewart** (14 PC Squadron RE) **LCpl Chris Calder** (HQ SQ MT) and **Sig 'Geordie' Gray** (QM Tech) enjoyed considerable success in the 1983 Divisional Table Tennis Championships held in the Life Guards gymnasium, Detmold. The Championships attracted nearly 60 individual entrants and 13 unit entries.

Thursday 10 November saw **Maj Wright** and **LCpl Calder** win the Divisional doubles title beating **Cpl Bahado** and **Sig Henry** (7 Sig Regt) in the final. **Maj Wright** and **LCpl Calder** then went on to contest the Divisional singles final with **LCpl Calder** retaining his title despite an early scare when he found himself trailing by four points in the first game before winning 21—19, 21—14. **Sgt Stewart** reached the semi finals before being knocked out by **LCpl Calder.**

The following day **Maj Wright, Sgt Stewart** and **LCpl Calder** represented the Regiment in the Divisional Unit Championships. The toughest match came in the semi final where once again 7 Sig Regt provided the main opposition. 7 Sig Regt were represented by **Sgt Scott, Cpl Bahado, Sig Henry** and **Sig Ryan.** All players fought hard in a close tie, and a major upset looked on the cards when **Sgt Scott** was leading **Maj Wright** by one game and held a four point lead in the second; he was unable to maintain the pressue and **Maj Wright** scraped through in three games.

The final was played between 4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and the Life Guards in front of **Lt Col T. J. Earl**, CO of the Life Guards. He was undoubtedly disappointed to see his team lose in straight sets in the final, but with **LCpl Calder** and **Maj Wright** remaining unbeaten in the tournament and **Sgt Steward** providing a very strong No 3, the result was never in doubt.

Congratulations go to our team for sweeping the board, and 7 Sig Regt who also performed creditably and were rewarded with runners up and place trophies.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**PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS**

The Garrison Commander **Brig R.S. Mountford OBE** kindly consented to visit the Sergeants' Mess on Monday 19 December 1983 and present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to the following: **WO2 (SSM) M. A. Kerr, WO2 (SSM) R. A. Licence, WO2 (SQMS) M. T. Hewitt, SSgt J. Kerr**. The wives of the recipients were able to attend the presentation and joined their husbands and the Brigadier in a small buffet and drinks. Obviously a proud occasion for all four. The Mess Members took great delight in accepting their very kind offer of a drink (or two).

*Standing L to R*: WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence, SSgt J. M. Kerr, Lt Col R. A. Wright, WO2 (SQMS) Terry Hewitt, WO2 (SSM) Mick Kerr
*Seated L to R*: Mrs Jean Licence, Mrs Jackie Kerr, Brig R. S. Mountford OBE, Mrs Christine Hewitt, Mrs Helga Kerr

**BASKETBALL**

At long last the Regimental Basketball team have got themselves on the move again. After losing a number of their stalwarts due to postings, and a some key players serving in the Falklands, the reconstructed team eventually played their first game on 12 January. The game was against 22 Sig Regt in the first round of the 4th Armd Div Championships and resulted in a 67—30 win for the Regiment with **Sig Jimmy Peat** scoring 22 of the points. This was followed by a 78—20 victory against 7 Sig Regt in the league, once again **Sgt Peat** was the top scorer with 32 points.

Thursday 19 January saw the Regiment facing the current BAOR Champions, 25 Fd Regt RA, in the second round of the Divisional Championships. This produced a classic match with a packed gymnasium adding to tension. The first half was an end-to-end affair with the Regiment holding a narrow 42—38 lead at the bell. However, in the second half the Reigment increased the pressure and gradually opened up a lead and ran-out 92—77 winners. This was very much a superb team performance although the wife of the old man of the team, **WO1 (SC) Dave Hornsby**, was seen to be looking through her husband's insurance policies as he gradually disappeared in a pool of sweat. **LCpl A. J. Matless** finished as top scorer with 34 points. On 25 January the Regiment faced 35 Engr Regt RE in the Divisional Finals—this was very much a case of 'after the Lord Mayor's show' as they lost 68—58 with **Sig Peat** once again top scorer with 23 points.

As the Divisional Runners-up the Regiment still qualified to play in the BAOR quarter-final Pool Elimination which was held at 7 Sig Regt on 1/2 February. On the first day the Regiment proved to be too strong for the opposition and defeated Rheindahlen Garrison 89—31, and 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 98—40. These games did however bring about a return to shooting form of **Sgt Les Bennett** and **Cpl Rab Mulholland**. The following morning the opposition was the Irish Guards who played a very fast game and knocked our team out of their normal game. At half time the Irish Guards held a 30—25 lead and things looked bleak when with four minutes to go the Regiment trailed 53—45. At the end of normal time the score stood at 57—57, the teams then played an extra five minutes and the scores were still equal 61—61. In the second period of extra time the Regiment drew away to win 69—63 after a very hard game. They now progress to the BAOR Semi Finals to be played at Osnabruck on 2 March 1984.

Special mention must be made of **Maj Alan Soulsby RPC** who travels from Minden twice a week to coach the team and in such a short time has produced a team capable of holding their own with most Regimental teams.



**NORDIC SKIING 83**

The Regimental Nordic Skiing Team, reformed this year are searching for honours. Despite failing to qualify as a team at the 1983 4 Armd Div Ski Championships held on the spectacular slopes of the Austrian Alps, the Regimental team achieved their best ever recorded result and succeeded in sending **Sig Martyn Smith** to the Army Championships as an individual competitor.

Preparation of the ski team started in late November 1983, when two of the ski team, **Sig Martyn Smith** and **Andy Lidstone**, attended Ex *Viking Loap* in Norway with members of 200 Sig Sqn. Then the whole team, the two Norway veterans, **LCpl Kerry Gill, Sig Ray Till** and the team Captain **Lt Bob Sharp**, moved down to Bavaria for a month of hard training.

On arrival in Austria the team were confident of at least putting up a decent showing. This they did. Each member of the team consistently improved his timings in each race. In the final race of the meeting, the dreaded Patrol Race, the Regimental Team came eighth. This result was particularly encouraging considering previous years performances.

Eight teams from 4 Armd Div Championships qualified for the Army Championships at Zweisel. The total number of teams that qualified for the Army Championships was 14 from all three Divisions, along with our individual 'warrior' **Sig Smith**.

Although success was not directly achieved, the Regimental Team has certainly laid firm foundations for next year, and will definitely travel to Austria in 1984 with a vengeance to put 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on the map.

**FAREWELLS/WELCOMES**

If August was the month of the Subaltern change over then January was the month of the Major turn over. This January we said farewell to four of the 'Old Timers' **Maj John Hayes**, OC 1 Sqn, and his wife **Marylyn** who leave us for the enviable urban retreat of Berlin. **Maj Chris Nind** and his wife **Jane** leave 202 Sig Sqn at Paderborn for Headquarters NORTHAG. **Capt David Poole** (who lays claim, to have been the longest serving officer in the Regiment) and his wife **Ann** leave for sunny Cyprus (for the fourth time!). Lastly, but not least, we say farewell to **Stan** and **Mavis Hargreaves**. **Stanley** will be visiting his namesake in the Falklands during his six month tour as QM of 266 Sig Sqn. (The Adjutant has just discovered he owns a phone and the Assistant Adjutant can't believe he now has a desk to sit at instead of a millboard). The Regiment wish them all the best for the future and hope that they will keep in touch.

The new 'Old boys' we welcome to the Regiment are **Maj Graham Elliot** and his wife **Fifi**, and **Maj Richard Skaife** and **Brenda**. **Graham** takes over as OC 202 Sig Sqn while **Richard** prepares to do battle with the staff in the Div HQ as SO2 Comms.

**NEWS OF THE MODEL THREE TON BEDFORD**

Since the request for information about the brass model of a three ton Bedford Radio Vehicle we have had many replies. We have finally traced the builder and hopefully the next issue of *The Wire* will reveal the complete history of the model and its maker.

**NEWS FROM THE BRIGADES**

**EXERCISE *LONG LOOK 83***

**Report by SSgt John Hall, 200 (20 Armoured Brigade) Signal Squadron**

Ex *Long Look*, for me, started in the early months of 1983 with a phone call from the Squadron Commander asking me if I would like to go to Australia. Having said 'yes' I heard no more on the subject for several months until the admin instructions and reporting details started arriving. Target date for departure and Exercise start was 8 August.

Early on the morning of 8 August I arrived at RAF Gutersloh and joined the other one hundred and twenty people going on *Long Look*. Duly processed we all boarded the VC10 for the long flight to Singapore via Bahrain and Madras. Singapore was to be a two night stop over, with a barbecue arranged, so we could meet our exchange counterparts. I managed to meet up with **WO2 Penrose**, destined for my own Squadron, and we swopped a few details of our relevant units and then went sight seeing around Singapore.

Early on 11 August we departed Singapore in an Australian Airforce Boeing 707 for RAAF Richmond Australia. Landing in the evening, I was quite surprised at how cold the weather was, having expected a nice warm climate. We spent the night at Richmond; the next day saw everyone disperse to the host units throughout Australia. I was destined for 104 Sig Sqn at Holsworthy on the outer fringes of Sydney.

104 Sig Sqn is the 1st Bde Sig Sqn and is mechanised, using American M577 command post vehicles, a version of the M113 carrier. My first week in the Squadron was spent looking around and trying to identify the types of radio equipment in use, the only one I was familiar with was the PRC 47. It soon became apparent that due to the vast distances to be covered the Squadron relied on HF a great deal. This certainly was different from the relatively short range VHF employed in BAOR. With 104 Sig Sqn being armoured and very loosely established on the lines of a British Squadron, I was soon able to settle in. During the second week I managed to get a place in a road move to Brisbane. This was a good chance to see some of the Australian countryside and cross over into another state, Queensland. For my stay in Brisbane I was attached to 1 Sig Regt who are the Divisional Regiment. During my stay I was able to fit in a lot of sight seeing, and trips to the Sunshine coast and Gold coast were a must. All too quickly the attachment was over and it was time to fly back to Sydney.

During September and October the unit had a busy exercise period in which I was duly involved. One major exercise was Ex *Silver City*, a 2 Cavalry Regiment deployment to Broken Hill in 'outback' New South Wales. 2 Cavalry are a recce unit and were practising advance to contact procedures out into the semi desert and desert areas that surround Broken Hill. Communications were 'easy' all we had to do

was control a Regiment. We used an HF command net as some call signs were up to two hundred kilometres out. One minor problem was that the Regimental operators were not taught morse code. All problems sorted, I managed to get a crew place on a recce vehicle and go out and see some of the country. Ex *Silver City* ended on 15 October and we all recovered back to Holsworthy on a long overnight train journey. Saturday 22 October saw the Squadron deploy to Puckapunyal ranges, an area on the NSW—Victoria border. This exercise was a more conventional Brigade CPX. During one briefing the BM told all present that the Brigade would be deploying for an exercise in Hawaii, America and all present would be selected to go. With this good news everybody put a little extra into the work and the exercise ran well.

On completion of the CPX, the Squadron decided I could 'get around a bit'. I started by going to Melbourne, where I met up with **WO2 (FofS) Ian Donald**, who is on a two year exchange with 2 Sig Regt. After a 10 day stay with 2 Sig Regt it was time to move on, this time to Canberra, hosted by 135 Sig Sqn in Russel Offices. This step proved to be the best week of my stay, the hospitality shown by everyone in the Squadron was second to none. Next a flight to Townsville in North Queensland and a chance to get a sun tan. 103 Sig Sqn were my host Squadron here and they saw to it that I had a good stay. Plenty of time to go sight seeing with a fishing trip out to the Great Barrier Reef at the weekend made this a memorable stop. It was now getting into the last week of November and I still had a trip to Darwin in the Northern Territories to fit in.

All too quickly the exercise was drawing to a close, it was time to return to Sydney for the start of the long, long journey home. Ex *Long Look* had been anything but all work, I had met a great many Australians socially, and their hospitality was wonderful. It also gave me an opportunity to look up relatives in Australia and see how people go about life in this vast country.

We landed at Gutersloh on the 13 December, the doors opened, the freezing wind blew in and we were back to reality.

**202 (33 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

**SQUADRON GRAND CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On 2 December, the squadron together with all the wives descended on the local Schutzenhalle and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Ably organised by **Cpl Paul Cox** and **LCpl Winkles**, compèred by **Sig Stan Tivey** and given a final professional touch by **Sgt John Mackay**, the dinner dance come Christmas draw was a huge success. The pictures tell the story, but to be fair, everyone who attended had a hand in making the evening so successful, from the volunteer drivers and barmen to the very pretty and persistent ladies who sold/haggled with the raffle tickets, and **Sgt John Mackay.**

The Three Ugly Sisters
Sig Stan Tivey, LCpl Shaun Day and LCpl Ogilvy Edminson—Cinderella was eaten for the first course

Cpl McDermott wins a ladies wrist watch

And if the man with his arm around Sgt Paul Duffy would send £5 to Lt Fisher, he won't mention him to the vetting people. Cpl Green contents himself playing billiards

**INTER-TROOP MARCHING**

On 28 November, two fifteen-man groups set forth from Paderborn to show the Regiment what it was made of. Echo 1 Troop finished the combat fitness test—style march in a very credible time but were pipped by Echo 2 Troop. With only two teams still remaining to finish, the squadron was in front with a time of just over two hours but was beaten into third place by Line Troop and HQ Sqn. A very credible performance by the squadron which had little time to prepare itself properly owing to a mass of other commitments. Special mention goes to **Cpl Brown** (now 1 Sqn) for his determination and example in continuing with a badly sprained wrist occurred at the four mile point.

**ORIENTEERING**

On 21 December, the squadron beat a retreat from the barracks to allow the resident Hussar Regiment to celebrate their one battle—honour. Carefully organised by **WO2 (SSM) Bob Rylance**, the squadron arrived on the driver training area to compete against each other in the orienteering. Congratulations go to **Sig Ian Scroggs** on a fine fast win. Conditions were bad but not an excuse for this conversation overheard close by a small copse:

**Cpl Barrington** : Where's checkpoint 4?
**Cpl Brown** : 300m that way.
**Cpl Barrington** : Cheers, checkpoint 5 is 100m that way.
**Cpl Brown** : How come I clipped it on my card 5k that way then?

To avoid confusion, **Cpl Brown** is good at map-reading!

**FAREWELL/WELCOME**

The time has come for **Maj Chris Nind** to move on to pastures new and we wish him and his wife **Jane** and family the very best of luck in their new posting. We also say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Bob Rylance** and his wife **Linda** and hope Regimental life won't be too boring after the fast-life at Brigade. With two important and popular characters leaving the squadron, we are fortunate to welcome two more in the shape of **Maj Graham Elliot** and **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence**. Our next bulletin should be interesting if not different!



## 7 Sig Regt
## BFPO 15

**OFFICIAL VISIT OF COMMANDER COMMS**

On the 14 December, **Brig R. F. L. Cook** made his first official visit to the regiment. It started with an inspection of the Regimental Quarter Guard, which was commanded by **Sgt Tommo Tomlinson**. The Brigadier then visited the Squadrons and departments of the regiment, speaking to as many people as possible. We now know why the Brigadier likes to wear a waist belt over his combat jacket.

The Brigadier inspects the Quarter Guard. The CO Lt Col Nigel Wood is keeping a watchful eye

The MTO Capt Geordie Gainford speechless for once

Master Chef WO2 Pete Carter (nearest the Brigadier) explaining the details of stuffing a turkey whilst Sgt Alex Wood gives a practical demonstration

Sig Paul Berry explaining the procedure for the receipt of stores from Ord. Maj (QM) Colin Stevens keeping a beady eye

**CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

**WIVES' CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER**

This year the RSM **WO1 Bill Olive** very kindly allowed the wives to hold their Christmas dinner in the Sergeants Mess which added great style to the occasion. A delicious meal was expertly served by co-opted Officers and SNCOs and included a visit from Father Christmas. After dinner the ladies sat back and relaxed to listen to Norman Castle and Leslie who provided great entertainment and helped the night to finish on a high note. All agreed that it was a very successful evening.

7 Sig Regt's version of dumb waiters. *L to R:* John Nichols, WO1 (RSM) Bill Olive, the CO Lt Col Nigel Wood, WO1 (YofS) Bob Badger

SSgt Andy Hickling serving Mrs Brenda Gainford with coffee whilst Father Christmas does his thing in the background

**LIVING IN CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

300 living in junior ranks enjoyed a Christmas lunch with a bit of a difference this year. An excellent meal was provided by the cooks and served by the Officers and SNCOs. The PRI staff made rather slow work of supplying the beer but redeemed themselves later when the PRI Officer **Capt John Kirkman** surprised everyone by producing Sphinx, an all-girl group. The girls were eyecatching to say the least and went down so well with the lads that the PRI has booked them again in the summer for the Spearhead Club.

The girls are there somewhere

**SPEARHEAD CLUB**

The NAAFI Club has a cabaret once a month and December was no exception. The Christmas show this year starred the Swinging Blue Jeans who had everyone rocking to the sounds of the 60s. On New Year's Eve the club held a disco party. Lots of party hats, streamers and noise making gadgets were on hand to help everyone get in the mood. The New Year was seen in twice, once at BFG time and then again at UK time, finishing off a good night.

**VOLLEYBALL**

The regimental Volleyball team have been very successful so far this season and have just won the 4 Armd Div Championships. A lot of hard work and training has been put into making the team a success and we wish them the best of luck as they go forward to the BAOR Championships.

The Volleyball team. *Standing L to R:* Cpl Ray Spencer, Sgt Brian Sutherland, Cpl Dean Ward. *Kneeling L to R:* Cpl Paul Collins, LCpl Kev Jarvis (Team Captain), Cpl Andy Andrews, Cpl Chuck McQue


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# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**THE FREEZE**

As these notes are compiled, the Regiment is stuck in the 'Great Freeze'. With a three foot covering of snow even **WO2 (SSM) Escott** could not keep his X Country course open, despite insisting that the Regiment stamps it down daily!

**LOOKING BACK**

The Christmas period is always a quiet time—except, of course, for the festivities which abound at this time of the year. Inter-troop sports were replaced by Squadron parties and so there is little to report on the sporting front. However in December during **Brig Sprackling**'s farewell tour of the Regiment, he presented prizes for the Nedist march and shoot competition.

**EXERCISE *DEVILS LEAP***

This competition took place over two days and is aimed at testing sections of 10 men in military skills. Fitness plays an important role and long marches and testing stretcher races ensured the teams finished very tired. With trade training taking priority, training the teams proved a difficult task. However, last year's excellent results were maintained and the four teams finished in second, fifth, seventh and ninth positions. The team from 1 Sqn might have done better if the stretcher with three full jerry cans had not fallen apart. In the girls competition, Ex *Maidens Scurry*, the Regiment completed the double, winning the regular competition for the second year running.

**EXERCISE MAIDENS SCURRY**

The first frosts of winter arrived in Catterick at the same time as the details for Ex *Maidens Scurry*—or so it seemed!

For the next few weeks training began in earnest the biggest problem being the webbing. 1983 was the first year the girls had to wear it and due to the shape of the female anatomy did one opt for the 'cross your heart' method or the other choice—arriving 10 minutes before the rest of the body? All the problems were solved by the big day and the team was primed and ready to go. The competition started at Wathgill with the briefing before being transported to Leyburn for a three mile run, the first three-quarters being uphill. At the end, it was the Night Shoot when we only managed three hits out of 100 rounds.

Weary and depressed we headed for the bivouac site with the thought of having to put up our tents. Morale soared on arrival when we discovered that **Cpl Duncan** our trusty driver had not only put them up for us but also had the water boiling! Everybody slept well despite **Pte 'D'** snoring.

We were up bright and early in the morning ready for the day ahead. Approximately 14Kms later during which we encountered a first aid and NBC stand and three Frenchmen without their onions we arrived at the final phase—the Command Task. Everything was left to the 2IC as the team leader managed to blow herself up going through the first window!

The time and effort involved showed as we retained the Regular winners title for the second year running.

Back Row: Ptes Alannah Stewart, Mandy Hewitt, 'George' Witherstone, Ceri Williams, Lulu Wheatley, 'Shel' Shelmerdine, 'Spence' Spencer

Front Row: Ptes Pauline Batty, Karen Dargie, 2Lt Jane Boxell (team leader), Sgt Liz McLean (team 2IC), Ptes 'Kibs' Kibble, 'Andy' Smith

**1 SQN**

The battle for the Fighting Cocks Trophy took place in Baghdad Gym on 10 November, 1 Sqn trained by **Sig Appleby** and **LCpl Sherrard** presented a good team for this extravaganza in the noble art of pugilism. On the night the team gave some spirited displays thereby contributing to some highly entertaining and hard fought bouts. But alas, bravery is sometimes not enough at this novice standard and the Squadron finished joint second. Our congratulations to 3 Sqn on winning the trophy.

A quick word on the MC for the evening, **WO1 John Wallace**, who did such a professional job that Dale Martin promotions have offered him a contract—sequin coat and all!

Back Row: (L to R) Sig Harris, Sig Buckingham, Sig Bates, Sig Simons, Sgt Smith (Manager)
Centre Row: (L to R) Sig Appleby (Trainer), Sig Tough, Sig Hamilton, Sig Chapman, Cpl Farrant, LCpl Sherrard (Trainer)
Front Row: (L to R) Sig Nelson, Sig Eyre, Sig Thompson-Hughes, Sig Pitchforth, Sig Nuttall, Sig Miller

**MILITARY SKILLS**

The Military side of life reared its head in the guise of *Devils Leap*. This is an overnight exercise under arduous conditions consisting of various stands and utilization of military skills. The team, well led by **Cpl Gigg**, put in a very good effort and finished a creditable seventh. If only the stretcher had held together a little longer the tale might have been different. Only 75 points separated the first seven places showing that even during trade training a good standard of military skills are maintained.

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME**

After countless going away parties the Squadron finally bade farewell to **WO2 Barry Williams** and his wife **Sheila**. **Barry** leaves us for the hustle and bustle of 31 Sig Regt (V), our best wishes are extended to them. We welcome in his place **WO2 Dave Jones** and his wife **Gloria** who joined us from Harrogate just in time for the festive season.

**2 SQN**

In January we said 'Goodbye' to the 2IC 2 Sqn, **Capt Paul Stock** and **2Lt Jane Boxall**, OC B Tp. We wish them the best of luck in their new appointments, **Capt Stock** has moved to the Training Development Group within this Regiment and **2Lt Boxall** has gone a little further afield to the WRAC Depot at Guildford. We welcome their successors, **Capt Tom Guest** from 16 Sig Regt and **Lt Carol O'Nians** from the Ministry of Defence.

The sporting scene has been quiet over the Christmas period. In the Inter-Troop Volleyball competition A Troop did very well to reach the semi-finals.

2 Sqn's Christmas party was a great success, thanks mainly to the hard work and good organising ability of **SSgt Ken Counsell** and his committee. Everybody enjoyed themselves especially OC A Tp and OC B Tp who both won prizes in the draw, this was greeted with howls of delight and derision, depending on which troop the soldier was in.



**WELL DONE**

The Squadron offers congratulations to **Sig Newton** on attaining an 'A' grading on his basic technicians course.

Sig Newton receives his certificate from Lt Col Smith, OC TTS

**3 SQN**

After the Christmas and New Year break, the Squadron is building back up to normal strength of 200 plus, with one addition to the Cadre, that of **Cpl Steve Lee** who arrived from 22 Sig Regt in early January.

Congratulations are due for two members. First to **Capt R. J. Courtney MBE** who received his promotion in the New Year (by the way, we are still waiting for the customary drinks) and secondly to **Sgt John Bell** and his wife **Yvonne** who are now proud parents of twin daughters, **Karen** and **Joanne**.

The trainees of 3 Sqn have been busy with snow clearing, especially D Tp who have been acting as Regimental Snow ploughs due to the absence of the Regimental Snow Plough vehicle which broke down after the first night's fall. While on the subject of snow clearance, **SSM Escott** of 2 Sqn's green machine, decided to take all upgraders around the cross-country course on a Wednesday sports afternoon.

The sun shone, the sky was blue and the Cbt Linemen chuntered. Alas on the Thursday another foot of snow fell and the SSM is now on the Linemen's hit list.

OC TTS, Lt Col Smith presents Corps Colours to Sgt Smellie for his efforts on the athletics track

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# 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
## Wilton

### 1 SQUADRON
### CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **Mr Phillip Solman** of SWS Troop Bulford on being awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for Meritorious Service. We hope that it will be presented to him by the Master of Signals shortly and will have a full report then. Congratulations also to Bulford and Middle Wallop Commcens on being awarded Bronze Comstars.

### QUARTERGUARD—JANUARY 1984

As usual 1 Squadron provided the majority of the WRAC Quarterguard for HQ UKLF. After days of hard training the girls paraded on a wet and windy day for **Gen Stanier**.

Gen Stanier speaking to Cpl Jane Hilton. Pte Clare Mutter in the background

### UNIFORM TROOP
### PTE HALLS—A SATISFIED SOLDIER

Why is it that most of my troop suddenly becomes such satisfied soldiers when they realize it will give them a week away from work? **Pte Halls** (who claims to be *the most* satisfied soldier) has been on one of the schemes. She spent a week at Birmingham ACIO attempting to recruit 'Brummies' into the WRAC. She seems to have had a very busy week and spoke to over a hundred potential servicewomen. **Pte Hall**, who is occasionally a Data Telegraphist in the Wilton Commcen, thoroughly enjoyed her week. She even spoke to six year old Brownies—I had no idea they were recruiting so young!

(Note: It's nice to see the depth of satisfaction within Uniform Tp; there must be 'stiff' competition for such places!)

### SPORT

The West Area Ladies Cross Country Championship was held on 1 February at Blandford. The regiment entered the following team and achieved Runners Up. **Cpl Wilson, LCpl Frampton. Pte Mallice, Mason, Skimming. Cpl Wilson, LCpl Frampton** and **Pte Mallice** have been entered in the Army Ladies X Country Championships.

### 2 SQUADRON
### SHQ NEWS

In December the Squadron bade farewell to **Maj Dave Podevin** and his wife **Lorna** who left us for HQ 1 Sig Gp at RAF Upavon. We wish them both the very best of luck in their new posting and hope that they are not missing the Heathrow aircraft too much! **Maj John Stuart** has stepped into the vacant office under the flight path and we all hope that both he and his wife **Val** enjoy their time with 2 Squadron.

Somewhere someone has perpetuated the wicked rumour that certain members of the Squadron are not as fit as they might be. Consequently one of the first actions of the new OC 2 Sqn has been to instigate weekly PT. This has shattered the sedate life of SHQ, particularly that of **Sgt Jeff Batt**, who finds timing other people doing their BFT quite exhausting.

### RADIO TP

Radio Tp would like to welcome **Capt Nigel Moore**, the new Troop Commander, who arrived in December fresh from a tour with HQ BFFI in the South Atlantic.

The first commitment for the 'under new management' Radio Tp was Exercise *Cold Comfort*, and FTX for all home defence units within London District. The troop acted as operators for the directing staff and advisors to the participating infantry units.

### JUSTICE

Christmas passed in the usual round of festive revelry and **Cpl Pete Poulsen**, the organiser of the Christmas Raffle must be congratulated on winning his own 'Booby' prize! Flushed with their 'success' **Cpl Poulsen** and his wife **Janet** immediately left for 20 Maritime Regt RCT.

### AGAIN

The troop has once again won the Bruno Inter Troop Sports competition and so will yet again be open to challenges from the other troops.

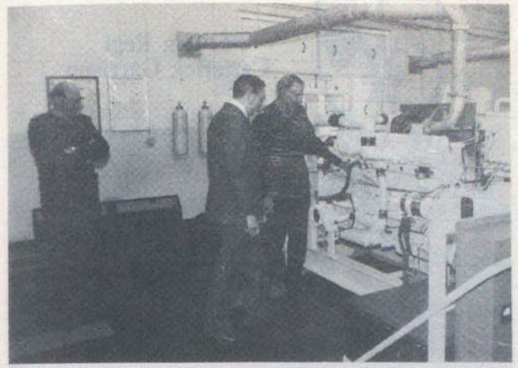
### INSTRUCTORS TO THE FORE

The LCpls and Signalmen of the troop have just completed a three day Cadre course, which included drill, map reading, weapon handling and basic battle skills. **Cpl Bob Carey**, the map reading instructor, finished off his lesson with an orienteering competition. All course members and instructors took part, the first three places going to the instructors. Congratulations to **Capt Nigel Moore, WO2 (SSM) Mick Davis** and **Cpl Steve Dixon**. First in for the course members was **Sig Chris Brown**, who still doesn't believe it.

### VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS TO THE ACE HIGH FORWARD SCATTER STATION MAIDSTONE

The occupants of the Forward Scatter Station are frequently heard to complain that their location on the outskirts of Maidstone is one of the forgotten outposts of the 10th Signal Regiment (HQ UKLF) Empire. However, this view was proved wrong by the visit of the **Master of Signals, Gen Badcock**, in November. The visit comprised a tour of the station accompanied by various dignitaries and was followed by a families lunch in the Social Club. Prior to the lunch **Sgt Jim Curran** was presented with the LS&GC medal.





Lt Col Webster, Col Francis and the Master of Signals; 'Where does the pilot sit?'

The Master of Signals before his assembled congregation; 'I wonder who's paying for this round?'

Cpl Ian (Lighthouse keeper) England with the Master of Signals: 'I aven't a clue Sir!'

Sgt Jim Curran being presented with his LS&GC

### FAREWELL TO CAPT DON CARR

**Capt Don Carr**, the Admin Officer of 2 Sqn retired from the Army in February. He is leaving for America to embark upon a new venture in the 'fast food' business and we all wish him and his wife, **Jill**, the very best of luck.

Capt Don Carr being presented with his farewell present from the Junior ranks by Cpl 'Tank' Fairbairn. Radio troop look on

### AN ODE FROM 2 SQN POET LAUREATE

Our Squadron's on a turnround
A new OC is in
He's not as tall as our old one
In fact he's FIT and thin

The saying that a new broom sweeps
To say the least is right
He's got us all out running
It gave us quite a fright

With Friday morning conflabs
and Tuesdays is PT
and every Wednesday afternoon
It's down to Gym—with glee

The man proclaims his prowess
To write a line or two
So boss this is a challenge
And don't write nuffin blue

To put the matter right though
We welcome you to us
And hope your tour in this camp
Will be one without fuss

Anon

**3 SQN**

No sooner had we experienced the 'awe-inspiring ARU' at the end of November than 3 Sqn entered into the Christmas spirit with a vengeance! Having launched the Christmas activities by holding our own successful Squadron Party on 8 December 1983, 3 Sqn personnel enjoyed a seemingly endless round of both office and mess functions of which the renowned Exchange Christmas Party was last but certainly not least.

However a somewhat more serious/sober atmosphere prevailed among members of the Squadron's Clinch Cup Shooting Team who despite festive distractions continued to shoot throughout the 'silly season'. The competition shoots were completed in the last week of December and the results despatched to HQ 2 Sig Bde for judging. Here's wishing our devoted shots much success.

**A SPIRITED TEAM**

It being the season of goodwill to all men, 3 Sqn was keen to enter a spirited team for the Frensham Ponds Fun Run 1983, a sponsored job in aid of a hospice for the sick and dying. Competing against teams as bizarre as the 'Trotting Tortoises', 'Green Park Goddesses' and 'Hampshire Hares' was not quite as daunting a prospect as it first seemed and at the end of an enjoyable, if rather chilly, Saturday we finished sixth in the HM Adult Forces category, having raised £122.

**THE SECOND SEED**

The Christmas grant behind her, **Pte Briody**'s Judo was back in full swing. Having successfully completed a gruelling Judo Skills Course at Bulford with the Combined Services Squad, she took part in the British Judo Trials at Crystal Palace finishing as the No 2 woman seed in the British team. Now as she prepares for her forthcoming competitions in Europe, we wish her every success.,

**FAREWELL**

Towards the end of January, 3 Sqn staged a Squadron Happy Hour to say goodbye to **Cpl Witts** and **Cpl Thomas WRAC** who leave on posting for HQ 2 Sig Bde and Chatham respectively. **Cpl Thomas** will be remembered particularly for her endurance as our WRAC PTI which was so clearly reflected in our sports success during her tour in Aldershot.

**REPORT FROM PTE BRIODY**

My first encounter with the Army Judo Association took place when I was given a Judo Course from 16-20 January at Bulford Camp.

Having had previous experience in Judo, I was given time to do fitness training while they did basic skills. The training was as hard as you wanted it to be and with the British trials coming at the end of the month time was precious. The training paid off and I was asked to stay another week to train with the men's combined services team. This was a great help to me just prior to the British Trials at Crystal Palace.

The men's team was quite strong and the training was excellent. I did everything they did in training and was treated the same as the guys. We did a lot of fitness training as well as Judo and the only thing I disliked was running with sandbags but I was determined to keep up with the guys and not give in. We also did a lot of technique training and by the end of the week I was feeling good and ready for the British Trials.

The Trials were on Saturday 28 January and we weighed in on Friday night. By Saturday morning the apprehension was building up but I still felt confident and the rest of the team were in good spirits. There didn't seem to be any seeding of players and **Karen Briggs**, World Champion and Britain's No 1, was in my pool so I just had to take each fight as it came. **Karen** was my second fight and it was really close—the fight went to a decision which went in her favour. I had five other fights, winning all of them and at the end of the day I was No 2 in the British team and so was automatically selected for the German Open on the 11 February.

It was a good day but I knew my training programme would start again on Monday morning in preparation for the German Open.

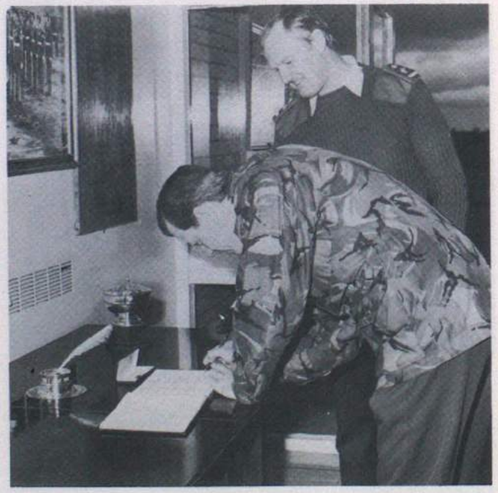


## 11 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**VISIT BY NEW COMMANDER TRAINING GROUP**

Our new Commander, **Brig F. R. Maynard** made his first visit to the Regiment on 10 January. He visited the Recruit Troops under training, the Leadership Course, and made social visits to both Sergeants and Officers Messes. A pictorial record of his visit is outlined below:

The Brigadier is met by the CO and RSM



The Brigadier signs the visitors' book

WO1 John Newman meets the Comd

The Brigadier meets a shy Sig Devonish

The Comd meets Capt Ian Foxley and SSgt Tony Salter in Scotton Hall the home of Leadership Troop

**PASS OFF PARADE—27 JANUARY**

**Brig Maynard** made his second visit to the Regiment on 27 January when he was Reviewing Officer for the Pass Off Parade of 4 Troop. It is an interesting coincidence that many years ago when **Brig Maynard** was a subaltern in 11 Sig Regt he commanded 4 Troop. Sadly there was so much snow that the parade was held indoors, in the Gymnasium; our first indoor parade for many years.

**2 TROOP PERSONALITIES**

**Lt J. Dryburgh**
**Sgt B. Lauder**
**Cpl J. MacLean**
**Cpl A. Craig**
**Cpl C. Harris**

2 Troop: 13 October 1983 - 16 December 1984

Cartoon reproduced by kind permission of Blandford Press from their publication *Over the Top* by Carr, Huddart and Webb.

**COMMUNITY PROJECT BY 2 TROOP**

During the third week of training, 2 Troop were involved in a community project at the local authority Childrens' Home in Richmond. The tasks carried out included paper hanging and painting a number of rooms in the house, whilst outside the garden was given a general facelift. The children who live in the home were most helpful and managed to paint most things whether they were in need of paint or not!

The children were treated at the end of the project to a barbecue, cooked by **Cpl Jim MacLean** and **Cpl Stumpy Craig**. The barbecue was paid for by the recruits. The photograph shows the hypnotic effect spotted wallpaper has on both the recruits and staff—it could be a useful aid in any interrogation room!

2 Troop Passed Off on 16 December 1983. The best Recruit was **Sig Jeffries** and the Best Shot was **Sig Lockeridge**. The Regiment wishes all of 2 Troop the best of luck in their future careers in the Army.

Maj Jack Boyle and Mrs Diane Hamill look at the decorating efforts of 2 Troop

**'YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW'?**
**Report by Sig Jeffries**

'Helles Barracks pal'. 'Yes thanks a lot mate'. The number 27 from Darlington to Catterick Garrison pulled away. So there I was, standing in front of the main gate. I remember, it was a sunny day which I was to find out is a rare occurrence. I'm sure you all remember, the difference between winter and summer in Catterick is; in summer the rain is warmer'.

The first week; a settling-in week, meeting new people, encountering strange new dialects (actually the whole troop are now quite proficient in Cockney, Geordie and Scottish—an achievement in itself). I must not forget to mention the most important band of people, the Troop Cadre. In the case of 2 Troop they are an entirely Scottish outfit who seem to have steel hawsers for vocal cords!

Then it began, the PT, the drill, the weapons training, oh yes and everybody's favourite' the 'bulling', Oops, I mean the 'highly polishing'. Yes, floors, windows, brass and boots. Inspections morning and night. Friends of mine already in the Corps tell me they look back with fond memories of basic. When next I see them, I know the address of a good Psychiatrist.

Although the bulling is everybody's pet hate, it does inspire discipline and team-work, which basically are two of the most important aspects of being a modern-day soldier. One of the most enjoyable episodes during my time at 11 Sig Regt was our first 'TAB'. We tabbed back home from the ranges, through mud and filth—this was the first time we had felt anything like squaddies. This enjoyable episode was short lived because as we arrived in barracks we had to clean all our kit!

After three weeks, the saluting test passed, cap badges presented and at last freedom to leave the confines of 11 Sig Regt. We now receive the occasional weekend off, welcome breaks I can assure you. The fifth week exercise began, trench digging, basha erecting, you tend to learn fast with a Caledonian Cpl bellowing at you! During the sixth week, we were introduced to the new Troop Sgt, an Englishman! Sanity rules . . .

Looking at all of the aspects of the training in the last 10 weeks I have enjoyed weapon training the most. Although I can't exactly be classed as a Marksman, I would certainly scare the wits out of any enemy.

By the eighth week, the emphasis turns to ceremony, with a back up Pass Off Parade. A good feeling to get on the square all in service dress.

Just before the ninth week exercise, we had a chance to practise our map reading skills in the wilds of Otterburn, Northumbria. It was very enjoyable and very interesting; really beautiful scenery if you were not too tired to look at it. We marched over 17 miles of it!

Here I am on the 10th week of training and very much looking forward to Passing Off the square in two days time. I look back with mixed emotions on the course, most of my memories I am glad to say are good! . . . where's the address of that Psychiatrist?

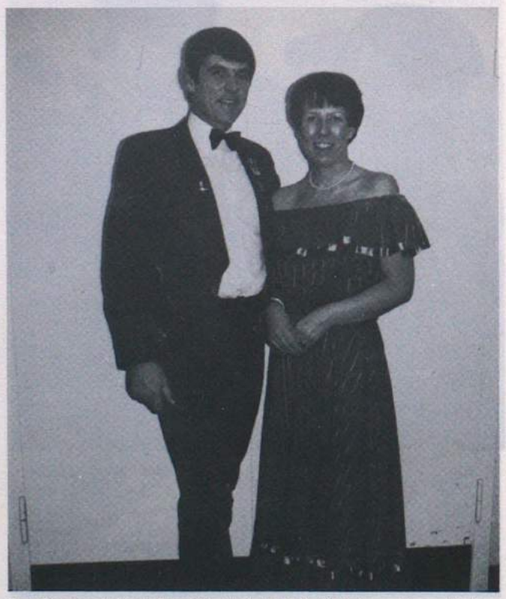




**SERGEANTS MESS DRAW**

The Christmas Draw was held on 9 December and it proved to be an outstanding success. It was certainly a lucky night for **Sgt 'Taff' Madden** who won, among other prizes, the Star Prize of DM4000 worth of furniture—just the ticket as **Taff** leaves the Army in a few weeks time. Thanks to the Senior Service in the guise of **CPO Nobby Clarke** and his committee for all their efforts.

*L to R:* Mrs Gudrun Sherwood, SSgt John Sherwood, Mrs Bobby Smith, Maj Tim 'A Team' Smith (OC 1 Sqn) WO2 (SSM) Geordie Hennrie, Mrs Elspeth Chudleigh, WO2 John 'Don Quichotte' Chudleigh, Mrs Daphne Wills, Capt Dave Wills, Mrs Sue Clifton, Sgt Al Clifton REME



Sgt Ray and Avril Randall at their last Christmas Draw before civvy street



**CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

Since May last year the Regiment has built and developed a Clay Pigeon Shooting ground. The leading builders and diggers have been **Maj Tim Smith, Maj Richard Randell** and **WO2 (RQMS) 'Spud' Budden**. Coaching sessions and team matches have been held. In November the Officers Mess team held off a strong challenge from the JRC with the Sergeants Mess bringing up the rear.

JRC Team: LCpls Steve Fradley, 'Bav' Bavin, Cpl Pete Ridlington, Capt Graham Barker (on loan), Sig Colin Roberts, LCpl Mick Davies

Officers' Mess Team: Lt Martin Hopkins, Maj Tim Smith, Capt Graham Barker, Maj Jack Fiskel (visitors Maj Richard Randell, Capt Julian Lander)

Sergeants' Mess Team: Sgt Paul Kyte, WO2 Geordie Hennrie, Sgt Steve Hughes, WO2 'Spud' Budden, SSgt Pete Cooper

Our Christmas Shoot brought out the skills of D Troop. They produced a winning team and **LCpl Mark Reid** proved he has a true eye by having the highest score of the day.

**ALPHA AND CHARLIE TROOPS CHRISTMAS BALL 1983**

This year's joint Christmas Ball was held at OTTO's in Effeld. The evening began quietly with everyone enjoying a fine traditional Christmas dinner. Following the meal and the raffle, the 'Alan Barlow' disco came to life with our new 'Uptown Girl', **Cpl Jim Saville** providing some very good entertainment. The evening was a great succes thanks to both committees. Alpha Troop team was led by **Sgt Dave Smy** with **Cpl 'Neb' Young, LCpls Red Gould, Steve Davis** and **Chris Hobbs.** Our thanks to **Sig Gaz Payne** for the decorations.

**ALPHA TROOP FAREWELLS**
**SSgt Keith Smith and family**
**Sig Barry Lawrence**

**ALPHA TROOP ARRIVALS**
**SSgt Paul Jarrold**
**LCpl Tommo Thomson and family**
**Sig Charlie Brown**

**BRAVO TROOP**

December saw Bravo Troop taking part in, and winning, both the Inter-Troop/Dept Football and Tug of War competitions. The football team captained by **Sig Reg Varney** played several hard games, notably an 8—7 win against Oscar Troop, to reach the final against a strong 2 Squadron team. After a tough match in icy conditions, a 3—1 win secured the championship for the second year running. Farewell and thanks to **WO1 Terry 'Cruncher' Rush** who leaves the unit this year. His defensive tackling will be missed by the team next season.

With equal success the Troop Tug of War team, **SSgt Jim Leivers, SSgt Pete Cooper, Sgt Brian Thomson, Cpls Frank Lindsay, Chris Proctor, LCpl Nige Watton, Sig Nige Crowther (Captain), Sig Reg Varney** and **Paul Dunn** took part in a competition organised by **WO2 (SSM) Geordie Hennrie**. At the end of the day we were the only team unbeaten despite the efforts of strong teams from TM Troop, Oscar Troop and 2 Sqn. A mention must go to Delta Troop who turned out in WRAC uniform gaining the useful advantage of high heels.

**OSCAR TROOP**

A productive season! Out of the 19 wives in the Troop, nine have already just produced or are about to produce babies. The wives' rumour control suggest that the Commcen is to be renamed the 'Warren'. The Christmas party was held on 14 December and an excellent time was had by all.

**HOCKEY**

The first half of the season has been one of mixed fortunes for the Regimental 'A' team. One or two new arrivals, notably **Sig Gary Payne** and **Andy Williams**, coupled with the wise (who said old?) heads of **WO1 Terry Rush** and **WO2 Brian Inglis** ensured that the Regiment had a resonably good start to the season. Currently third in the Rhine Area League our greatest disappointment came in the Rhine Area Knockout Cup where a very strong Rheindahlen Garrison team just managed to hold our 3—2 in the semi-final. **Sig Paddy Williams** and **Gary Payne** are now members of both the BAOR and Corps squads where they will gain very valuable experience, and though we lose a very staunch player and organiser in **WO1 Terry Rush** (off to taste the delights of civilian life) the old guard is still well represented by the return of **WO1 Bob White** from the Falklands. Shift work and roulement tours will take their toll, but it is with quiet confidence that we look forward towards the second part of the season.

**HOCKEY—B TEAM**

The Regimental Hockey B Team under the management of **SSgt Jim Leivers**, has improved this season to a standard where we actually win some of our games. The statement—'if you can spell 'hockey' you will get a place in the team' is a thing of the past. We say farewell to two stalwarts of the team, **Cpls Keith Breen** and **Andy Ashwell**, and welcome **SSgts George Furber** and **Paul Jarrold** who both sailed through the spelling test to win their places in the team.

**SQUASH**

This season has seen a much needed injection of new faces in our Regimental squad with the arrival of **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Raybould, WO2 (Supvr R) Brian Inglis** and our newly arrived Australian Liaison Officer **Capt Craig Dowling**. The effect has been quite dramatic in that we have remained unbeaten in the League having played more than half our games. We meet Rheindahlen in the Rhine Area semi-finals of the Major Units Challenge Cup and are hoping for success. Unfortunately we lose two of our squad on posting quite soon, **Maj Mick Conway** and **Sgt Graham Manning**. We all wish them well in their new posts.

WO2 Mick Raybould, WO1 Nick Naylor, Mr Martin Oakey, Sgt Graham Manning, Capt Craig Dowling AUSTLO, WO2 Brian Inglis, Lt Col Mike Walker, Maj Mick Conway, WO2 Tony Halliwell

**PANTOMIME NOTES**

The Phoenix Players entertained us with their production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (or is it Dwarves?). Special mention has to be made of the Fairy—disguised as **WO2 Simon Williams** who was 'cast' at the last moment. He gave an excellent performance and stole a march on the regular Phoenix Players,—not bad for a first time appearance on the stage—and in drag. Postings once again have taken their toll and we say goodbye to the following—**WO2 Mick** (I'm not really a clown) **Besant** and his wife **Jenny, Sgt Steve Buck** who played the Prince, **SSgt Bob Hodges** who doubled as sound effects and a Dwarf, and finally to **WO2 Mal Cohen**, our Front of House and Jack of all trades.

WO2 Simon 'Fairy' Williams tries to help Snow White (Karen Thompson) while Dame Dumpling (WO1 Pete Derrick) looks on—unimpressed

WO2 Mick Besant chats up Cpl Di Williams—but only as part of the plot

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# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (EW) AT HOME**

With yet another spate of visits to the Regiment the title seems entirely appropriate to this section of our report.

Since the last issue we have had visits from The DDMO, **Brig C. A. Ramsay OBE, Lt Col Lowe** and **Lt Col Dewar**, Comd 22 Armd Bde **Brig M. J. Wilkes OBE, Dr Brian Turner, Lt Col Storr, Mr Keith Northcott** and The Staff Quartermaster Comms Branch HQ BAOR **Lt Col Wilson**. The picture shows **Brig C. A. Ramsay** chatting to **WO1 Derek Hume** during the afternoon demonstrations. On Wednesday 25 January **Brig M. J. Wilkes OBE** paid his initial visit to the Regiment. It included a tour of barracks and an opportunity to meet most of the Regimental Personalities. During the visit **Brig Wilkes** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **SSgt (Supvr R) Andy Weaver** and **SSgt (Supvr R) Bob Simpson**. It concluded with a buffet lunch held in the WOs and Sgts Mess attended by all officers and SNCOs.

**MAJ (QM) BRIAN TURNER**

On a very sad note the Regiment would like to offer its condolences to the family of **Maj (QM) Brian Turner** who died recently.

**BRAVO TROOP**
**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **SSgt Pete (I don't walk, I march) Haywood** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt 'Paddington' Catterall** |
| **Tp Cpl** | **Cpl Paddy (Handlebars) Hoy** |
| **Tp Storeman** | **Cpl Steve (Just to keep you in the picture) Hughes** |
| **Sig 'Bish' Bishop** | **(Insisted on being mentioned)** |

Gypsey (don't blink or we'll have moved again) Troop is alive and well and living somewhere in Scheuen. After a series of unfortunate accidents—honestly, sir, the door was in a stupid place—we were moved in with Oscar. More news once we've settled in.

**PAPA TROOP**

Over the last few months Papa Troop, has seen a number of new faces arrive, and old faces leave. We would like to say farewell to newly promoted **Sgt (I've hooked a big one this time), Geoff Robinson**, and give him our best wishes in his new posting, with his family.

We would also like to welcome **Cpl 'Gran' Yeomans** from 249 Sig Sqn, and **Cpl 'Bud' Abbott** from 21 Sig Regt, and wish them every success with us over the next three years.

There are 28 in the Troop and like everywhere else we have our characters. The Troop is headed by **Capt (I'm always on a course) Stephen Andrews**, who is kept under the watchful eye of **SSgt ('Hats and Books') Sandy McLean**. Getting down to the meat of the Troop you have **Cpl ('where's your Blue books') Ken Shaw**, and **Sig Jezz ('Franz Klanmer') Hornsby**, and many more but I'm afraid I don't have the space to include everybody, but with another full year's commitments to fulfil, it will take these characters to see us through to next Christmas.

**STOP PRESS** — The rumour going round that you can actually contact the Troop on the military exchange outside marriage proposals, is completely false.

**OSCAR TROOP**

Oscar Troop changes personalities so fast it is a full time occupation trying to keep the boards up to date. So without drawing breath a short summary of those whom we have said goodbye to: **SSgt (of course it's a reef knot) Corky Cormack, Sgt Bob Taylor, Cpls Roy Grimsley, Alan Patterson, LCpls Frank Massingham 'Tich' Stuart** and **Sig Rich Avery, Glen Belfit** and **'Jenks' Jenkins**.

The most recent change in the Troop has been the exit left of the line section to SHQ (funny the phones haven't worked so well since:) and the arrival of Bravo (mind the wall) Troop in their place.

We end on a note of encouragement to our present OC (they don't last long) **Capt Bob Williamson**, who can be seen late at night working on new and fantastic ways of keeping the commhead warm on exercise. His hessian screens were a flash of genius, if only as a directional finder for commhead people at night.

**EX *SNOW QUEEN 1984* AS ENJOYED BY A MEMBER OF 1 SQUADRON**
**Report by Sgt Hogan**

Ex *Snow Queen* is the name given to the service sponsored winter training in Germnay. In some units both soldiers' and families' courses are run and my wife and I were fortunate enough to take part in one of the two families' courses provided by 14 Sig Regt. It lasted for one week and ran from 27 December to 3 January. 14 Sig Regt and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt shared a ski hut situated in the village of Wald, in the Allgau approximately 15Kms from Nesselwang. I must admit that I was a little apprehensive as to accommodation but was pleasantly surprised to find that the hut was actually a hotel owned by a jovial German couple.

The hotel was closed to the public for approximately three months beginning from 1 December, 1983 when the Admin Staff from 4 Div took on the daily running of the hut. Both the Admin Staff and the Instructors made us very welcome and did their utmost to make our stay enjoyable. The food was very good with the menus compiled from both fresh and compo rations, and on New Year's Eve, for an additional fee of DM5, a wholesome feast was provided as part of the New Year's celebrations.

Unfortunately (I think my wife would state otherwise since she spent most of her time hurtling down the pistes on her back!), there was not much snow over the Christmas/New Year period but if we wished we could travel down the Austrian Tirol to sample some of the slopes there. Despite the four hour journey there and back it was a worthwhile venture—the scenery was breathtaking.

If one did not want to travel or was not able to, due to the lack of passport, there was plenty to do in the immediate area; for instance the towns of Garmisch and Oberammergau were only one hour's drive away. For the adventurous, there was ice skating in Fuessen just down the road. Some of us actually managed to see an Ice Hockey International featuring youth teams—it was hard to be bored.

**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 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 package and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

**Mr P. E. A. Hall**
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT

During the evenings one could visit the local pubs or the 'Treff' Disco, or just spend a quiet evening playing cards in the hut. A video/TV was available but was mainly used to provide the younger children with entertainment in the form of cartoon films.

In short, the exercise gave my wife and myself an excellent opportunity to try skiing in superb surroundings at a very reasonable price. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff down in Wald in Ski Hut 38 for a thoroughly enjoyable holiday and hopefully we'll see you again next year.

**1 SQUADRON**

After yet another hectic exercise season in the latter half of 1983 the New Year heralded great changes here at the last bastion of the thin red line. The formation of Y Troop on 4 January under the command of **Lt Andy Goff** (fresh from his advanced 'Foster' Course in Australia) is yet another milestone in the Regiment's History. Although the Troop consists only of an OC and 'Messrs' **SSgt Pete (if it's not nailed down it's mine) Manger** and **SSgt Bob (Mr Fixit) Brown**—watch this space!

**LETTER FROM 'THE DORF'**

N Troop 2 Sqn for those of you not completely 'au fait' with the current organisation of 14 Sig Regt (EW), is a detached troop occupying one corner of a large barracks in the village of Wesendorf. A trip along 25 miles of winding roads and uneven cobblestones to reach the mainbody of the 'Regiment!'

The last few months have been busy ones for the troop with a steady run of exercises punctuated by a good round of Christmas festivities.

In January, the troop made a block booking for places on Ex *Snow Queen*. Despite having less than ideal snow conditions (what snow?) the trip was a great success, with many of the novice skiers actually seen to be standing up for ten seconds, or more, by the end of the two weeks. Notable among those were **Sgt Keith Baker** and **Jock Campbell** (before he injured himself!). Old timers such as **Sgt Dave Thompson** and **LCpl Andy Turner** were able to brush up on their parallels. Needless to say the 'après ski' was not forgotten.

The N Troop close formation snow plough dancing team in action

At the end of January, it was N Tp's chance to open its doors, when we held a Study Day. All officers, and a few extra personnel were given survival packs and maps and told to find Wesendorf by 0900hrs on 27 January 1984. The Study Day went very well with a few briefs from such notables as the OC, **Capt Bill Mawer** and **WO1 Derek Hume**, being squeezed in between the frequent tea and coffee breaks (with fruit cake), arranged by **WO2 Tony Bird** and **SSgt Paddy Payne**. The afternoon session was taken up with a series of equipment stands manned by **Sgts Harry Kirkham, Chris Williams, Keith Mooney** and **Cpl Stitch Woollard**.

# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

**WE HAD OUR SHARE**

By the time you read these lines, memories of Christmas, Christmas parties, turkey and mince pies will be well forgotten, with the exception of those stubborn inches around the waist which refuse to budge. I will not bore the readers with sagas of Christmas parties—suffice to say we had our share.

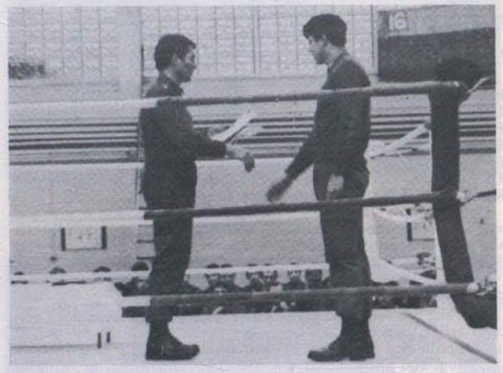
**THE REALITY**

It's now back to reality, cold, grey January with the only prospect, a month long inspection by the Inspectorate of Establishments (Army)!

Throw off this gloom—think positive! One of the joys of Army life is its variety, there is always something happening which will bring a smile to one's face. During this period there have been many. Notably 'The Bone of Contention' rugby match (see below) and the Regimental Review (also see below).

**ARMY COLOURS**

Four members of the Regiment have recently been awarded Army colours. They are, for canoeing **Sgt Kev Truby, Cpl Mick Scott** and **Sig Kev Potter**, now with 29 Signal Regiment) and for swimming **Cpl Peter Taylor**. I am sure that all members of the Corps join us in congratulating them.



No, not a scene from one of our boxing matches! The CO, Lt Col I. E. Kerr presents Army Swimming Colours to Cpl Peter Taylor

**CINC VISITS 1 SQN**

Just before Christmas the JHQ telephone exchange was visited by the CinC BAOR, **Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall KCB CVO MC** as part of his tour of 1 Sqn. After a tour of the switchboard where he met many of our operators, he presented the Operator of the Quarter award to **Mrs Eileen Ashworth** who has worked in the Exchange for six years and now runs the Directory Enquiries Section.

Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall, Maj Gen J. H. Hild, Col M. J. Hales and members of staff 'toast' Mrs Eileen Ashworth



**THE NORTON CHALLENGE CUP**

When **Mrs Sylvia Norton**, the Squadron Clerk left to join her husband in Benbecula she presented 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt with a Trophy to be competed for annually in an Inter-Troop Potted Sports competition. On a rather wet Saturday afternoon in November nine teams lined up to tackle the nine obstacles cleverly devised by **Cpl 'Taff' Smith PTI**. After a hilarious and exciting couple of hours the final relay race decided the winners: Commcen B team of **LCpl Lisa Barker, Pte Anne Lindsay, Sig Mick Todd** and **Pte Jane Chinery**.

1 Sqn pose at the end of the Norton Trophy

**BONE OF CONTENTION ANNUAL RUGBY FIXTURE**

First of all the statistics:

| | Officers/Senior NCOs | Junior Ranks |
|---|---|---|
| **Score** | 9 | 0 |
| **Average Age** | 34 | 22.8 |
| **Injuries** | 2 | 2 |

The annual Bone of Contention Rugby Match took place on Tuesday 20 December 1983, with the Junior Ranks team looking favourites to retain the trophy.

The officers and seniors team lacking youth had to rely on experience, with **Lt Col Kerr** bringing his boots out of retirement, **Maj (Noel) Slater RAEC** whose experience helped enormously, **Sgt** (I am now officially a veteran) **Moore RAOC, Sgt Harry Anacoura** and his 1920 shorts and **Capt (Padre) Colin Gibbs**, had a very good game and on occasions must have enlisted the help of his boss!

The Juniors notable players were **Cpls Carl Rimmer, Paul Wild, Tony Pomeroy** and their two old men **Cpl John McMillan** and skipper **Cpl Geordie Smeaton**.

Both sides created good scoring chances, with the juniors team crossing the try line on three occasions but failed to get the ball down. The tackling was good from both sides. **Sgt Billy Watts** opened the scoring with a penalty early in the first half and there the score stayed until five minutes from time when **SSgt Bob Marshall** at last passed the ball and **Billy Watts** made a great solo run of about 40m to put the ball under the posts and then converted it.

Special mention has to be made to our Chief Clerk, **WO2 Ray Duffy**, who had a whole changing room to sit in, but managed to sit on the Trophy and break it!

Unfortunately, the Officers and Seniors (who at this stage would pass as geriatrics) had to yield the third half to the Juniors, and were all put back into their mothballs until next year.

The 'old men' get the ball away

'The Bone of Contention'

**FOOTBALL**

Having made a good start to the 83/84 season our league performance has continued in the same vein. At the turn of the year we stand at the top of the NRISFL Div 2 by five clear points.

| P | W | D | L | F | A | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 17 | 15 |

Outstanding play from **Sig AL Higgins** (13 goals) in mid-field and support from **Sgt Chris Barlow** (nine goals) has found the opposition floundering, thanks to strong second half play. The fitness of the team can be attributed to individuals effort and the guiding hand of **SSgt Pete Doherty** who cracks the whip at training.

Our thanks go to **SSgt 'Skid' Rowe RAPC**, who leaves us in a few weeks, so dedicated a 'sponge man' will be hard to replace.

The bad weather has now closed in on us but thankfully we managed to fit in two games against RAF Rheindahlen and 28 Signal Regiment 2nd XI winning both games 5—1 and 4—1 thanks to goals from **Sig AL Higgins, Sgt Chris Barlow, LCpl Maggot Lindsay** and Sgt 'A star is born' **Prior**.

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT FOOTBALL SQUAD 1983-84
Back Row: Sgt Dave Alvey, SSgt 'Skid' Rowe, Sig Taff Davies, LCpl Colin Ward, Cpl 'Stan' Matthews, Sig Kev Reynoldson, Sgt Chris Barlow, Cpl Biz Wilson, LCpl Roger Toye, SSgt Pete Doherty, WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon
Front Row: Sig Paul Gunn, Sig Al Higgins, LCpl Piggy Latimer (Now 4 ADSR), Sgt Billy Watts, LCpl Maggot Lindsay, LCpl 'Precious' Wiltshire, LCpl Gaz Valentine, Sig Frank Brennan, LCpl Tony Purslow
(Missing Cpl Joe Elliott, SSgt Ken Smith, Sgt Shaun Prior, Cpl Al Toner)

**TEN PIN BOWLING**

Now for one of the minority sports where we have a small band of dedicated bowlers who spend much of their free time and money pounding the boards of Krefeld Bowling Centre. Their main interest in the NATO League which is held here in Krefeld against teams from Belgium, Germany and Holland. Our team which is doing particularly well at the moment is the 16 Sig Regt Bluebirds (with some assistance from 28 Sig Regt). Team members are **SSgt Bill Martin** together with his wife, **Cpl Mick Harrison, Cpl Keith Hales, Sgt Larry O'Kane, LCpl Dave Clarke** and **Cpl Mandy Hepplestone WRAC**, the latter three from 28 Sig Regt. Last season was particularly successful for the Bluebirds when they finished second in the NATO league. The regiment also entered a team in the BAOR Bowling Championships and although unsuccessful enjoyed a very well organised competition at the Elite Bowl Bielefeld.

**REGIMENTAL REVIEW**

The Regimental Review was held in the Gymnasium at Krefeld on Friday 27 January in front of a packed audience who eagerly awaited the rise of the curtain. Each troop or department was invited to put on an act. The acts were then gently censored by **Capt Ron Collins** and **Maj Noel Slater RAEC**, prior to the show.

The afternoon started with Romeo Troop 2 Sqn with an updated 16 Sig Regt version of Crackerjack featuring Petra the dog belonging to **SSM WO2 Rowland-Jones**.

Other highlights of the afternoon were 'Randy Pandy' by F Troop 3 Squadron, Loopy Loo, played by **Pte Alice Downie**, was discovered in Randy Pandy's box played by **Cpl Clive Sear**; she looked very fetching in her suspenders and striped stockings. **Sgt Ian Walker** of Alpha Troop, 2 Sqn was a natural as a tramp in their sketch 'very interesting'.

RHQ did a CO/RSM Walkabout. The Commanding Officer was portrayed by **SSgt 'Skid' Rowe RAPC** (now posted), he was dressed correctly right down to the Marathon Shorts. M Troop did a superb miming act to music in which the talented **LCpl Matt Matthews** played a down trodden wife and **LCpl John Smith** a henpecked unfaithful husband.

One of the most colourful acts was the Can-Can performed by the Bluebell girls from RHQ under the direction of **Pte Mary Rutter**.

The Bradbury Bluebells

The MC for the afternoon was **SSgt Goldie Peters**, who in between acts, entertained us with his musical talents. He was accompanied on the guitar by **FofS Steve Bibby** and then on the penny whistle by **Cpl Dave McMillan**. Other musical acts were provided by **Sgt Sue Griffin** of 1 Sqn and **SSM Rowland-Jones** and **LCpl Roger Toye**. The man of the match award goes to **Capt Ron Collins** who gave up much of his time getting the show on the road. All in all a most enjoyable afternoon.



The finale was an attempt by the Regiment to gain an entry in the *Guinness Book of Records* for the fastest smashing of a piano—it fell off the stage at the very end of the show.

Randy Pandy emerges from a night of debauchery

**RHINE AREA NOVICES BOXING SEMI-FINALS V 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT**

The evening started with a couple of warm up bouts to build up the atmosphere. The main competition started with **Sig Andy Kevins** boxing at Bantam weight against **Sig Fryer** from 21 Sig Regt. The Referee stopped the Bout in the first round in favour of **Andy Kevins**. The second bout was altogether a different story as **LCpl Bascombe** of 21 Sig Regt proved too strong for **LCpl Purslow** and again the bout was stopped in the first round. The atmosphere was really good by the time **Sig Horace Mills** walked into the Ring to meet **Sig Niles** of 21 Sig Regt but unfortunately that round lasted only a few seconds in favour of **Horace**.

The lightwelter weight bout was the most exciting bout of the evening and the only one that went the Distance with **Cpl Dale** and **Sig Bennett**. It was a hard fought three rounds with **Dale** winning on points.

From the lightmiddle weight onwards all the bouts went one way. **LCpl Tommo Thompson** L/middle ended his bout in the second round. The referee stopped the middleweight bout in the third round in favour of **Sig McCulloch** and in the light heavyweight bout **Sig Robinson** of 21 Sig Regt lasted only a few seconds in favour of **Horace**.

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The Heavy weight bout was fought between **LCpl 'Chalky' Meek** and **Sig Russell**. The referee stopped the bout in the first round in favour of **'Chalky'**.

By then the competition had been won but **Cfn 'Ted' Burrows** our welterweight, pressured **Cpl Potts** all through the first round. Unfortunately **Cpl Potts** was injured and failed to come out for the second. It was an enjoyable evening and a good win of eight bouts to one for the Regiment.

**THE FINAL V 28 (BR) SIG REGT (NORTHAG)**

This was an entirely different story from the semi-final and I will leave the telling to our opponents who beat us 7—2. Our two winners were **Sig 'Jock' Gunn** and **LCpl 'Chalky' Meek**. But the remainder of the team were not disgraced; they put up a determined, gutsy performance. All there is left to say is 'Good Luck '28' in the BAOR quarter finals against 3RRF.

The Regimental Boxing Team with the CO after losing the Rhine Area Final. Beaten but not disgraced

**HANDLEBAR MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

Another minority sport with a hard core of dedicated enthusiasts is the Handlebar Motorcycle Club. Most weekends they can be seen and heard racing their bikes over the Egelsberg Training Area. They entered two teams each consisting of three riders in the recent Army Motorcycling Championships held on the Achmer Training Area near Osnabruck. The teams, both men and bikes, had been well prepared by **Sgt Denis Tope** but it was not to be their weekend. By the end of day one, both teams had to withdraw. Team A had lost **LCpl 'Barny' Barnes** with a broken wrist, and in Team B, the bikes of **Sig 'Tree' Milsom** and **Sig 'Never There' McDonald** were damaged and could not be repaired on time. Never mind lads—there's always next year!

The Handlebar Motorcycle Club—men and machines

# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**ON TO 1984**

Well, the Regiment survived Christmas 1983 and is now well into 1984. The CO, **Lt Col Mike Ayrton**, was kept busy going around all our locations, serving Christmas lunches.

January found everybody getting fit for various activities especially RHQ Tp who are going langlaufing in Bavaria under the not so gentle guidance of the Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) Mick Kennedy**. More of their news in the next issue.

The CO trying to keep his thumb out of the Soup

**1 SQUADRON**
**A WINTERS TALE**

The winter's snow is fast melting and remnants of Christmas cakes are being offered up for the new exercise season. It is with fond reflection that we can look back on the last four months as a most successful and happy time with the squadron.

Most people managed to battle their way through the Christmas festivities without mishap and the Squadron burst into 1984 with rapid but planned preparations for its annual patrol exercise, Ex *Frosty Comfort*! The memories of last year's near arctic conditions prompted everyone to pay particular attention to survival kits and equipment serviceability. The new Combat High Boot (CHB), although partially worn-in before Christmas, was to be fully tested before long.

Emphasis, this year, was placed on maximum participation, with as many as possible on the ground. The exercise took place at the end of January, with the Squadron deploying, in two sizeable Patrol Groups, to the Western end of the Huertgen Forest in the Northern Eifel, south of Aachen. The weather turned out to be much milder than expected and it was with relief that the small support group, administering to the squadron and providing the safety back up, was only required to attend to routine calls for assistance.

To create a modicum of realism, a live enemy was deployed, under command of OC Mil Trg Wing, **Lt 'Gordon' Haughie**. The enemy had varying degrees of success but in general they had great difficulty in locating or capturing any patrols; which must pay tribute to the prior planning and section training that took place during the January build-up.

Apart from a few worrying moments at the river crossing, with a few non-swimmers and kit flotation problems everybody including the CO, **Lt Col Mike Ayrton**, got across safely and made it to the border.

**2 SQUADRON**
**ARU AT SCARBOROUGH BARRACKS**

The ARU for 21 Sig Regt (AS) was held at Scarborough Barracks on a cold but fine day. The inspecting officer, **Brig Dixon**, Commander Rhine Area and his team were met at the entrance to 2 Sqn by the CO **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** the Squadron Commander, **Maj David Richardson** the RSM **WO1 Geoff Northey** and the SSM, **WO2 Rod Gladwin**. During the morning the inspecting team split into two,

Brig A. K. Dixon sharing a joke with WO1 (RSM) Geoff Northey and WO2 (SSM) Rod Gladwin on arrival at Scarborough Barracks

Colditz escape committee 'Now tell me again about this tunnel from the attic'

Cpl Dennis Pudsey explains the leave system. The CO looks sceptical

The 'enemy'

one half remained in barracks to adjudicate a military skills competition consisting of 10 stands with teams of 5 moving between them. The other half deployed with the 2IC **Maj Leslie Steane** and **Lt Gordon Haughie** to Achmer and Vorden Training areas where a further ten teams of eight were participating in a patrol competition.

1 Sqn after the Cordon and Search

At lunch in the WOs and Sgts Mess the Brigadier presented **WO2 (YofS) Don Wilson** with his Long Service and Good Conduct medal watched by his wife, **Jean** and children.

WO2 (YofS) Don Wilson receives his LS&GC medal from Brig Dixon

The CO made a presentation on behalf of the Regimental Officers to **Capt Jim Harris** who leaves us shortly on posting to 11 Sig Regt.

Immediately after lunch, the Brigadier deployed to see the patrol competition at Achmer, before moving on to the stands at Vorden where the finale of the days activities would take place. All the competition results were added together to give an aggregate winner which proved to be I Troop. **Brig Dixon** then presented the winning teams with two crates of beer and departed for Dusseldorf by helicopter with the cheers of 2 Sqn ringing in his ears.

LCpl Robbo Robertson of I Tp receiving his share of the prize

The CO then made himself very popular by awarding 2 Sqn a long weekend. **Lt Haughie** almost forfeited his by insisting on the definition of the length of a long weekend.

**VISIT BY COMMANDER COMMS**

**Maj Gen J. H. Hild** paid his first visit to Scarborough Barracks on 21 November 1983. The visit gave **Gen Hild,** who was instrumental in planning the 2 Sqn move from Wildenrath, an opportunity to see at first hand how the squadron has settled in. Following a brief by OC, **Maj David Richardson**, on the problems encountered, **Gen Hild** had an opportunity to see the barracks more renowned for the filming of escapes, than deployment of signallers.

**E TROOP**

For E Tp, 1983 came to an end on a high note. The last exercise of the year gave the opportunity for a member of the Troop to fly in a Harrier trainer, known as a 'T Bird'. The lucky winner of the draw was **Sig 'Jack' Corner**. He was given a fairly comprehensive insight into what a Harrier could do inflight. **SSgt Colin Ager** looked on in disbelief, insisting that he was going to keep his feet firmly on the ground. The lads had the last laugh of the year on 23 December when the Troop was inspected by a bogus Brigadier, who accused their Troop **SSgt Colin Ager** of being drunk, and placed him under Mess arrest!

Sig Jack Corner prior to departure

**3 SQN**

**VISIT TO FABRIQUE NATIONALE HERSTAL**

On the 16 January, 23 Officers and SNCOs of 21 Sig Regt (AS) departed on an extra mural visit to the weapons factory Fabrique National at Herstal in Belgium. The visit proved highly interesting to all present. Indeed it was discovered that FN have expanded their business to include manufacture of high quality sports and leisure equipment from golf clubs to surf boards, with several plants throughout the world.

Our visit saw the production of the new range of assault weapons such as the Mini-Me (Support Light Machine Gun) weighing just 6Kgs and the FN-C assault rifle, both firing the NATO round of 5.56mm with interchangeable magazines. The Mini-Me can also take belt fed ammunition.

The most interesting part of the visit was to the engraving shop where a variety of 12 calibre shotguns are engraved, all done by hand with incredible skill. a finished gun can take up to 40 man hours. All in all it was an excellent day out and the FN public relations staff were extremely helpful. A visit well recommended to any unit.

**AIRFIELD TROOP'S NEW TOY**

The Squadron's new 'Tonka Toy' got its first real test digging a six hundred meter trench on the ranges at RAF Bruggen. The Vemeer trencher digs at a rate of 50ft per minute and saved, in one afternoon, over DM12,000 that would normally be paid to contractors. All 3 Sqn's drivers have now been trained on the machine under the guidance of **Sgt Graham Johnson**.

However, note the modification to the dozer blade, carried out quite simply by **Sig Dave Hope** with the help of a Bedford MK.

Sgt Graham Johnson digging his escape route off RAF Bruggen



**CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS**

The Rhine Area Cross County Championships were held at Bracht on 23 November 1983. During the twelve months since the Regiment had narrowly defeated 13 Sig Regt to win the previous Championship, the Regiment, already widely dispersed, had become even more so when 2 Sqn moved from Wildenrath to Osnabruck on 1 September

Despite the difficulties involved in bringing together regularly members of the Regiment from different parts of Germany, the unit's runners had pulled together sufficiently during the first half of this season's league programme, for them to be pre-race favourites.

Two teams of 10 were selected to represent the Regiment and whilst the 'B' team were never in contention for honours, they were good enough to beat two other teams including a neighbouring Regiment's 1st Team.

For the 'A' team, **LCpl Hughie Latta** justified his briefly delayed departure to 233 Sig Sqn on posting, by finishing in second place in the Major Units Competition. The remaining team members finished in hot pursuit as follows, **Sgt Gaz Wilson 4th, Cpl Neil Allamby 9th, LCpl Graham Pardew 10th, WO2 Steve Tucker 13th, Ian Godley 14th, LCpl Bob Holden 15th** and **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick 22nd. Cpl Ritchie Conway** of the 'B' team, confounded team selection by finishing **16th**. 69 ran. The 'A' team had won the competition by a clear margin scoring 89 points to HQ BAORs 137 and 13 Sig Regt's 192.

The unluckiest runner, **Sig Ian Johnstone** having narrowly missed selection for the 'B' team, ran as an individual and finished well enough to have gained selection for every other major unit's 1st team.

WO1 (FofS) Dick Offord with the winners team trophy introducing Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick to Brig A. K. Dixon, Comd Rhine Area at the Rhine Area Cross Country medal presentation

Team Photograph: The Rhine Area Cross Country Champions 1983—21 Signal Regiment (AS)
*Left to Right—Back Row*: WO2 Steve Tucker, SSgt Taff Gordon, LCpl Duncan Forbes ACC, Sgt Phil Welham, Sig Pete Gruncell, Cpl Ian Godley, Sig Ian Byrne, Capt (TOT) Bryan Gallagher, Cpls Ritchie Conway, Pete Tasker, LCpl Hughie Latta, Cpl Arthur Nicols, Sgt Gaz Wilson, LCpls Bob Holden, Alan Hinton
*Front Row*: Sig Ian Johnstone, Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick, LCpl Graham Pardew, Sig Kevin Butler, Cpl Neil Allamby, LCpl Duncan Forbes, ACC, Sig Steve Purnell

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## 22 Sig Regt
## BFPO 107

**WITH A VENGEANCE**

With Christmas festivities at an end the Regiment has launched into the New Year with a vengeance. The year has started with RSIT which is to be followed by a busy exercise schedule.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

The Regiment has said its farewells to a number of officers recently. **Capt Bob Scriven** has gone to the Falkland Islands before a desk in Rheindahlen beckons, **Capt Fred Laverick** has been summoned to Blandford as has **Capt Kevin Taylor, Capt David McDowall** has taken over as Adjutant of 28 Signal Regiment and **Capt Sandy Reid** leaves the Army for the chilly climate of civilian life.

The Regiment also welcomes a number of new Officers to its ranks; **Capt Norman Patton** takes over as OC M Tp, **Capt Jeremy Ellis** moves in as 2IC 2 Sqn and **Capt Alex Jenkinson** comes to the Regiment for a short attachment. She will be aiding **WO2 John Haycock** on the Lippstadt Marches planning team. We also welcome back to the Regiment after an absence of many moons, **Maj Vic Prees** who has been detached to the Zimbabwe Army.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We extend our congratulations to **Capt Taff Evans** on his recent promotion. He now takes over as MTO for the Regiment.

**ARU**

On 7 December 2983 the ARU Team from Comms Branch 1 (BR) Corps descended upon the Regiment from on high. The outloading exercise, complete with many chits in lieu was a success thanks to the old adage 'Train hard, Fight easy'. During the day all Squadrons were involved in a number of other tests: running, marching, assault coursing, bandaging and doing jigsaw puzzles with weapons.

A thoroughly exhausting day all in all.

... And I thought I had a safe desk job. WO2 'Q' Ossie Orlowski RAPC

A view of a well known personality WO2 (SSM) Charlie Manning

HQ Sqn on the assault course—Sgt Alan Kilminster finds it easier to fly

Brig Cook Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps gets a 'sneak preview' of the Regiment

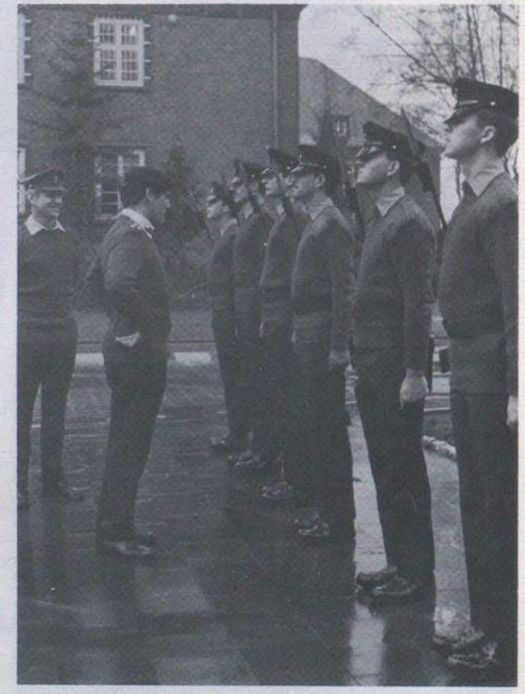
LCpl Bruce Robertson receives his last rites

3 Sqn enjoying a quick battle run

Guess where this bit goes? WO2 (SSM) Charlie Manning, SSgt Gerry Hegarty and Capt Nick Corbin

**VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS**

On 9 December 1984, after his preview of the Regiment on ARU, **Brig Cook** 'officially' visited us.



Brig Cook inspects the quarter guard with the CO



**THE BLUE PETER WEATHERBEATER APPEAL BRING AND BUY SALE—3 SQN**

On 22 December, 3 Sqn held a Bring and Buy Sale in the Station Gymnasium. It was organised by **SSgt (YofS) Charlie Rogers** and **Cpl Phil Alford** to raise money for the Blue Peter Weatherbeater Appeal. Both of these personalities are avid viewers of the children's programme in question!

A total of £514.99 was raised and **Cpl Paul Flintham** was chosen to present the cheque to the Blue Peter Team. It was hoped that the presentation would be televised but unfortunately this was not possible.

**Cpl Flintham** was not amused as he had a hazardous journey to UK in order to make the presentation. His ferry was stranded in the English Channel for eight hours in terrific storms before it could dock. Still, meeting **Janet Ellis** was some compensation.

Cpl Paul Flintham presents the cheque to Janet Ellis, Peter Duncan and Simon Groom

**REGIMENTAL SKIING**
**4 DIV CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 4 Div Ski Meeting finished on 18 January. It was won by the Regiment and we were presented with the '1st Royal Norfolk Cup'.

The team results were as followed:

| Event | Position | Team | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ALPINE** | | | |
| **Giant Slalom** | **1st** | **LCpl Andy Brown** | **4 Sqn** |
| | | **Cpl Philemon** | **4 Sqn** |
| | | **Sig Babs Henshaw** | **1 Sqn** |
| | | **Sgt Stevie Major** | **2 Sqn** |
| **Slalom** | **4th** | **LCpl Brown** | |
| | | **Cpl Philemon** | |
| | | **Sig Henshaw** | |
| | | **Sgt Major** | |
| **Downhill** | **2nd** | **LCpl Brown** | |
| | | **Cpl Philemon** | |
| | | **Sig Henshaw** | |
| **NORDIC** | | | |
| **4 x 10Km relay** | **2nd** | **Cpl Ken Sykes** | **3 Sqn** |
| | | **LCpl Danny Kowalczuk** | **4 Sqn** |
| | | **LCpl Scottie Scott** | **4 Sqn** |
| | | **Sig Carl Davies** | **3 Sqn** |
| **15Km Team** | **2nd** | **Cpl Sykes** | |
| | | **LCpl Kowalczuk** | |
| | | **LCpl Scott** | |
| | | **Sig Davies** | |
| **Patrol Races** | **2nd** | **Lt Peter Gillespie** | **4 Sqn** |
| | | **Cpl Sykes** | **3 Sqn** |
| | | **Sig Davies** | **3 Sqn** |
| | | **LCpl Scott** | **4 Sqn** |

**Military Combination 2nd.**

**The following individual prizes were presented:**

**ALPINE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Alpine Combination** | **Runner Up** | **LCpl Brown** |
| **Giant Slalom** | **Runner Up** | **LCpl Brown** |

**NORDIC**

| | |
|---|---|
| **15Km** | **LCpl Scott** |
| **15Km Best Jnr** | **Sig Davies** |
| **10Km Jnr** | **Sig Davies** |
| **Best Junior** | **Sig Davies** |

22 Sig Regt Alpine Ski Team. *L to R:* CO, Sgt (3 stripes) Stevie Major, Cpl 'Bimble' Brian, LCpl 'Motor' Brown, Sig 'Babs' Henshaw, Cpl 'Phil' Philemon, Sgt Gordon Townsley (Team Manager)

22 Sig Regt Nordic Team

*Back Row—L to R:* Lt Peter Gillespie, Sig Geordie Martin, LCpl Scotty Scott, LCpl Danny Kowalczuk, Cpl Kenny Sykes, Sig Carl Davies.

*Front Row—L to R:* Lt Nigel Gill (Anne to his friends), Sig Stevie Burke, LCpl Ian Goodson, Sig Col Burnett, LCpl Mal Eatwell (Glasshead)

**BRITISH NATIONAL, ARMY AND BAOR NORDIC AND ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The above championships have recently been held in Austria and Southern Germany. The Regiment entered teams in both disciplines and narrowly missed winning the elusive Princess Marine Cup for the best Army Ski Team. The final results were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st 94 Loc Regt** | **16 pts** |
| **2nd 39 Hy Regt** | **17 pts** |
| **3rd 22 Sig Regt** | **19 pts** |

The Regiment were also third in the Canadian Land Forces Cup for BAOR teams. The team results were as follows:

| Event | Position | Team |
|---|---|---|
| **NORDIC** | | |
| **4 x 10Km Relay** | **4th** | **LCpl Danny Kowalczuk**<br>**Cpl Ken Sykes**<br>**Sig Carl Davies**<br>**LCpl Adrian Scott** |
| **15Km Team** | **3rd** | **Lt Peter Gillespie**<br>**LCpl Scott**<br>**LCpl Kowalczuk**<br>**Sig Davies** |
| **Military Patrol Race** | **3rd** | **Lt Gillespie**<br>**Cpl Sykes**<br>**LCpl Scott**<br>**Sig Davies** |
| **ALPINE** | | |
| **Downhill** | **1st** | **Cpl Phil Philemon**<br>**Sig Babs Henshaw**<br>**LCpl Andy Brown**<br>**Sgt Stevie Major** |
| **Giant Slalom** | **1st** | **LCpl Brown**<br>**Cpl Philemon**<br>**Sig Henshaw**<br>**Cpl Steve Brian** |
| **Slalom** | **8th** | **LCpl Brown**<br>**Sig Henshaw**<br>**Cpl Philemon**<br>**Sgt Major** |

On the Nordic side particular mention should be given to **LCpl Adrian Scott** of 4 Sqn who came ninth in the 15Km race out of 204 runners and **Sig Carl Davies** of 3 Sqn who came fifth overall in the same race, and was the first junior. **Sig Davies** has been provisionally selected to join the British National Biathlon Team.

The Alpine Team produced two Army skiers; **LCpl Andy Brown** and **Cpl Phil Philemon** who are representing the Army in the Inter-Service Championships. **Sig Henshaw** just missed selection but could be picked up next year unless he becomes a civilian!

Notable individual results are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Downhill** | |
| **Cpl Philemon** | **4th** |
| **Sig Henshaw** | **7th** |
| **LCpl Brown** | **9th** |
| **Giant Slalom** | |
| **LCpl Brown** | **4th** |
| **Cpl Philemon** | **5th** |
| **Slalom** | |
| **LCpl Brown** | **5th** |
| **Sig Henshaw** | **8th** |

LCpl 'Motor' Brown at high speed in the army individual Slalom. His excellent all round form gained him a place in the Army Alpine Team

Decisions—Decisions! LCpl 'Scotty' Scott and Sig Carl Davies discuss waxes at the Army Nordic Ski meeting. Sig Davies has been selected to train with the National Biathlon Squad

Cpl Phil Philemon airborne in the army downhill race at Ischgl. Selected again for the Army Alpine Team



**EXERCISE *SNOW QUEEN***

Various personnel from the Regiment have been disappearing for two weeks at a time to learn or to progress in the art of skiing.

At present **Lt Ann Humphreys** is running our *Snow Queen* 'Hut' and is also managing to fit in some time on skis. She found time to enter, and win, the WRAC Intermediate Competition which is an annual event for all units in Bavaria on *Snow Queen*.

**FOOTBALL**

On 4 February the Regimental Team played 47 Fd Regt RA in the Quarter Final of the Army Cup (BAOR) at Lippstadt. After a match of thrills and spills the two teams had scored a goal apiece and the game looked set to go into extra time. Our goal was scored by **Sig Jonah Jones**. However two quick goals in the last five minutes of the game by 47 FD put paid to our hopes of winning the Cup.

**REGIMENTAL GOLF TEAM**

The Regimental Golf Team reached the Semi-finals of the Paderborn Garrison Knock Out Competition. They were knocked out at this stage by the favourites, 39 Hy Regt RA, who have the No 1 and 2 BAOR players in their team.

In the Paderborn Garrison League the Regiment stands halfway up the table.

The Golf Team consists of: **Maj Ian Noble, Lt Ann Humphreys** (the current Ladies Sennelager Autumn Champion), **WO2 Paddy Dickinson, WO2 Bob Waller, SSgt Charlie Rogers, Sgt Stevie Major** (when he isn't skiing), and **LCpl Steve Carson ACC.**

The team would also like to mention a stalwart member for the past three years, **WO2 Stu Meadows RAPC**. **WO2 Meadows** has recently been posted from the Regiment and will be sorely missed by the team.

**INTER SQN BOXING**

The Inter Squadron Boxing Competition was won in style by Commcen Echo. They were only able to enter six men compared to nine from the other Squadrons but won the competition at five of the nine weights and therefore wiped the board. We understand that the loading list for Commcen Echo in the field includes the heavy punchbag but they draw the line at skipping ropes.

I prefer doing quadrathons—Cpl Roy Smith ducks a blow by Sig 'Goober' Weavers

Winners of the Inter Sqn Boxing Commcen Echo
*Back Row—L to R:* Sig Paddy Cromie (Sponge Boy), Cpl Peter Szeremeta (Heavy Weight Winner), LCpl 'Scouse' O'Gorman (Lt Welter Weight Winner), Cpl Fred Topp (Medium Weight Winner), LCpl Jock Black (Trainer)
*Front Row—L to R:* Sig 'HB' Higginbottom (Bantam Weight Winner), Sig 'Faz' Farrer (Feather Weight Winner), Sig 'Robbo' Robson (Light Weight Runner Up)

**BADMINTON**

The Regimental Team are congratulated on taking second place in the 4 Div Inter Unit Badminton Competition.

Congratulations are also extended to **Capt Peter McLoughlin** and **LCpl John Paterson** on being selected for the Royal Signals BAOR Badminton Team and on reaching the BAOR Inter Unit Doubles Final losing 17—15, 15—12 to a pair from 32 Engr Regt.

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 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
# BFPO 35

**FAREWELLS**

The year began with the departure to Bielefeld of the Adjutant, **Capt Paul Gorford**, who is to do penance with the Gunners. The best wishes of the Regiment go to **Paul** and **Shona** for their new tour. The Adjutant's hot seat has been taken by **Capt David McDowall** who with his wife **Valerie** joins us from Lippstadt. Farewell also to **Capt Keith Goodfellow**, off to spread the gospel at Blandford, and to **Maj Brian Robinson** who moves to Aldershot with his wife **Mary** to put some of his experience as Training Major to good effect by planning for any contingency.

**PRESENTATIONS**

During his initial visit to the Regiment on 28 November 1983, Commander Rhine Area, **Brig A. K. Dixon** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Sgt Phil Scott**, **Cpl Alan Howard**, **Cpl Steve Swann**, and **LCpl Dave Clark.**

Presentation of LS&GC to Sgt Phil Scott by Comd Rhine Area Brig A. K. Dixon

Presentation of LS&GC to Cpl Alan Howard by Comd Rhine Area Brig A. K. Dixon

Presentation of LS&GC to Cpl Steve Swann by Comd Rhine Area Brig A. K. Dixon

Presentation of LS&GC to LCpl Dave Clark by Comd Rhine Area Brig A. K. Dixon

**SPORT**

**RHINE AREA BOXING FINAL**

On 31 January the Regiment hosted this contest when once more **Brigadier Dixon** was present. The contest lived up to expectations, it was a local Derby against 16 Sig Regt and spectators were treated to an evening of novice boxing at its best. Both teams showed great fitness, enthusiasm and more than a little courage. Most of the bouts lasted the distance and the majority had the audience congratulating both boxers on a well fought contest. At seven bouts to two the Regiment emerged victorious as Rhine Area Novice Boxing Champions and are now in full training for the BAOR Quarter Finals against 3 RRF from Berlin.

28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) Boxing Team Rhine Area Novice Boxing Champions
*Back Row:* LCpl 'Rob' O'Hara, Sig 'Micky' Joyce, LCpls 'Knocker' Bennett, Tony Walls, Lloyd Lambert, Sig 'Scouse' Maloney
*Front Row:* Sig Davy Watkins, Cpl 'Dill' Dillon, Sig Mick Lowe, SSgt John McGonigle APTC (Coach), Sig Gary Mustoe, Justin Launchbury, Cpl 'H' Hemingway

**BASKETBALL**

At the end of January the Regimental Basketball team participated in the finals of the Rhine Area Basketball Competition. Rivalry was intense, producing hard fought contests in each game. The Regiment narrowly beat 21 Sig Regt and HQ Rhine Area, but were then toppled by 16 Sig Regt. This situation, with only four teams entered for the competition, resulted in a play off between the Regiment and HQ Rhine Area for first and second place. HQ Rhine Area produced some very accurate shooting and the Regiment were pipped at the post into second place. We now go forward to Verden, for the preliminary rounds of the BAOR Basketball competition as Runners Up in the Rhine Area Championship.

**HOCKEY**

The Regiment has reached the final of the Rhine Area Major Unit Hockey competition which will be against a very experienced team in Rheindahlen Garrison, current leaders of the Rhine Area First Division. The Regiment plays in the Second Division and to reach this stage they have beaten 16 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt, both 1st Division teams. The team are having a most successful season under the direction of **WO1 (FofS) Dick Howes, SSgt (FofS) Dave Gorse** and the prolific goal scoring of **Sgt Terry Inman.**

**SOCCER—ARMY CUP (BAOR SECTION)**

The Regimental football team spent November and January preparing for the quarter final match in the Army Cup against the Gordons. The weather was not good during the period but manager **Capt Colin McLoughlin** and coach **RQMS (Tech) Terry Marsh** worked hard at preparing the team for the big match.

The match was played on a neutral ground at Dülmen and both teams were well supported by their units.

The first half was a very close fought contest with both teams struggling to find fluency in their game. On the stroke of half time the Gordons went ahead with a well taken goal which gave them confidence at the re-start.

The second half was barely under way when the Regiment went further behind, and at one stage were 3—0 down. Although **LCpl Andy Edwards** pulled back one goal, the Gordons scored a further goal late in the match to secure victory. The team played well below its potential and is now determined to soothe its hurt pride by retaining the League Championship and the Rhine Area Cup.

## ANGLING

The Regimental Angling Club in 1983 had a very successful season. Although only a small club we took part in all the Rhine Area Competitions, where we came a creditable 'First' in the Running Water event, third in the Still Water and third in the Rhine Area League itself. All events are competed by a 'five man team', the selections are taken from the following Club members, **Capt Eddie Kellett, WO2 Derek Brown, SSgt Brian Johnson, Sgts Terry Frankel** and **Geordie Dale, Cpls Stan Harvey** and **Jim St John** and **LCpl Bernie Burnell**.

## TRAINING WING

The start of 1984 has brought a great many changes to the Training Wing. The most notable must be the departure of **Maj Brian Robinson** who has moved on to Aldershot where he hopes to play plenty of Cricket.

The Training Major's post has been taken over by **Capt Dennis Rimmer RPC** who hopes to use his years of experience to good advantage on the Royal Signals soldiers who will pass through the Wing this year. If he has his way he will have all the Training Staff in Brown Berets including **Mrs Mary McGinn**, the Wing's civilian clerk, and **Mrs Julie Shield** our tame Yoppy. The bulk of the Training staff's time is taken up with the 18 General Military Training Cadre Courses that are programmed this year.

The first two courses have proved very successful and are a very good build up for JNCOs warned for their Detachment Commanders Course. Running these courses is a full time business but the Wing still has to find time to control the preparation for and attendance on External courses, for co-ordination of Trade Training and for Resettlement.

July will see the Regiment fully involved in Battle Camp which this year takes place at Vogelsang. The training will be based on Squadron strength groups. These groups will be broken down into Troop and Section level parties and it is hoped to make full use of the extensive training facilities offered by Vogelsang to enable Senior and Junior NCOs to practise their skills and the remainder to learn or expand on a few.

For the first time in many cases we hope to give all those attending a chance to throw live grenades, fire the 66mm LAW and take part in live firing and movement exercises. The evenings will be spent taking full advantage of the many adventurous activities that Vogelsang can offer.

Apart from the Training Major, **WO2 (SSM) Keith Johnson** and **Sgt John Swaine**, the Wing relies upon the co-operation of the Squadrons to supply course trained instructors. The main stalwarts in this are **Sgt Mav Merrick, Cpl Lee Mander** and **Cpl Ian Collier**, but we must not forget to mention those who beaver away behind the scenes, **LCpl Les Cullen** our draughtsman and **Sig Tony Murphy** the Wing printer. Overall it looks like being a very busy and fruitful year for Training Wing and we hope to report on the Battle Camp later in the Year.

## ONE SQUADRON

With the Christmas festivities over, 1984 started with a shock for those who were still carrying their Christmas Dinners around their midriffs! The Squadron found itself on Exercise *Fran Freeze*, an exercise designed to improve the Squadron's ability at Internal Security operations, both urban and rural. Not only were these abilities improved upon but also new methods devised on how to make a 'basher' more like a 'dry dock'. It rained and rained and rained. It was a good introduction to the 'Man's life in the Army' for **LCpls Ken Roberts** and **Colin Larrad** and **Sig Lee Allan-Burns** who arrived on Day 1 of the exercise from training, as it was for **LCpl Dawn Reddington WRAC** who had arrived three weeks earlier. Farewells sadly go to **Lt Steve Johns** OC Bravo Troop, **Sgt Dave 'kissballer' Taylor** who is wished the best of luck on his Foreman's Course, **Cpl 'BJ' Fenton** and to **Cpl Pete Cornes** who is congratulated on his promotion to **Sgt**. **Sig Steve Archer, Kev Wade** and **'Lil' Grierson** have also gone on to pastures new. Congratulations are also in order for **Cpl Pauline Root WRAC** who did much for improving inter-squadron relations by marrying **Cpl Jock Wilson**, from 2 Sqn.

## TWO SQUADRON

December saw all the normal festivities and certainly tested the staying power of the majority, but early January brought us down to earth (literally) when the Squadron deployed for a military training week in the Haltern Training area.

Each troop was given a location, some 5 kilometers apart, and they had a limited time in daylight to find the enemy location (the other troop).

They then had a night march before putting in the night attack. Although the weather was wet and somewhat cold, morale remained high. For some time afterwards the war stories as well as the funnier stories were being related. Regretfully, two of our Warrant Officers had to fit in some 'leave' so missed the fun!

Papa Troop claim that after a week of living in a trench their troop Commander **Lt Sue Rostron WRAC** took on the look of a sandhill. Oscar Troop gave **Cpl** 'where is my tripod' **Dinger Bell** his own Oscar for his sterling personal efforts to provide them with entertainment in the field. The Troop ended the year on a high note by retaining the Inter Troop Challenge Shield.

The Squadron have had a number of movements in and out, Papa Troop have lost **Cpl 'Matty' Smyth** to Edinburgh, **Cpls 'Al' Jones** and **'H' Winstanley** to become 'Gast Arbeiters' in the local area and **Sig Jacko Jackson** to Civvy Street. We welcome **Cpl Ian Curtis** and **Sig Dave Cox** and **Michael Kitson** (the last two being factory fresh).

Oscar Troop have lost **Cpl Tich Barnard** off to sunny Belize and **Cpl Stumpy Duncan** who is paying another visit to NI. Sometime over the New Year festivities **Cpls Jock Wilson, Tom Howard** and **Sig 'Sef' Sefton**, managed to fit in a wedding and we wish them and their ladies all the best. Congratulations are also due to **Cpl Neil Cole, LCpls Jim Russell, Carl Smales** and **Sig Geordie Davies** (and of course their lovely ladies) on the arrivals of their new borns (was *Wintex* really that long?).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# 29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
# BFPO 45

## AN ALLIED CARVE UP

Royal Signals in Berlin are in the plesant position of serving alongside equivalent French and American forces. Co-operation is interesting with certainly one language being a barrier. Of course it does not stop us exploiting the French wine! A regular feature for the hierarchy is a monthly Allied Signal Officers meeting at which communications are discussed with fervour. One of the more pleasant aspects of the conference is the lunch laid on by each nation in turn. Because of the UK Thanksgiving celebrations in November, they like to host the November meeting, and on this occasion invited the Commander Communications of the British Sector, **Lt Col James Budd**, and of the French Sector, **Lt Col Roger Auffret** to give thanks for the excellent meal and share out the Turkey. Some joker pinched the carving knives just before the ceremony, and while robust military policeman searched everyone, small knives and forks were used.

## BAND OVER THE WALL

At the end of 1983, we were lucky to receive a visit form the Corps Band. The occasion was used to celebrate the inauguration of the Regiment, and the band spent five days on many functions which included a Playing of Retreat, two dinner nights, an open air band concert in the town, and one for families in the Olympic Stadium area. Apart from a slight hiccup when the Soviets would not allow part of the band through Helmstedt, the visit went without a hitch. The photograph was taken in front of the Brandenburg Gate by the Soviet War memorial, shortly before they scrambled over the wall for a look around the Soviet Sector. To make sure that they were allowed out we flew them back to UK!

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Over the past few months a number of changes have taken place within the Corps' newest Regiment. The most significant has been the change of personalities. The OCs of both Headquarter Squadron and 229 (Berlin Inf Bde) Sig Sqn have changed over recently. Early November saw the departure of **Maj Jim Storr**, OC 229 Sig Sqn, much to his delight, as he was promoted to **Lt Col**. In his own way he left a special memory for his Squadron by staging an Inter Troop Cross Country run, and spent his last day in the Squadron as he had many others, in sports kit!

The weather was fair and bright for the run with the whole Squadron setting off at varying paces, the first few places being keenly contested. **LCpl Alan Chalmers** took first place with **Cpl Phil Duddell** runner up, both of Radio Troop, who took the team trophy. OC Radio is planning to enlarge his office to accommodate the numerous

The start of the Cross Country Run. *Left to Right:* LCpl Merrill, Sig Harris, Cpl Hunt and Yeoman Cowan

trophies both old and new. After the race the prize giving was held in the Squadron bar, with prizes presented by **Maj Storr**. Despite his parting gift to the Squadron, **Maj Storr** also received a farewell present from all ranks, as shown in the photograph, although he appears to have other things on his mind. During the gap from

Maj Storr about to 'paso doble' with his beer, whilst Capt Spoors is left wondering what to do

November to the New Year **Capt Mike Spoors** assumed the position of OC. One of his Christmas wishes came true when the new OC arrived to take the chair. **Maj Sandy Lovatt**, having spent one week familarising himself with Berlin back in November, arrived over the Christmas break and quickly got into the swing of it by planning the training schedule for the year.

At the beginning of February the Regiment said farewell once more, this time to OC HQ Sqn **Maj Mac McLean Staffords**. During his four years in Berlin he acquired the title of 'Mr Fixit', due to his ability to sort out most of Berlin's problems. Consequently he spent most of his last month in Berlin being dined, lunched and 'drunk out' by the various organisations he had helped. We welcome his successor, **Maj David Thompson RRF**, who starts out with a long list of useful names and contact numbers handed over to him by **Maj McLean**.

**VISITS**

As usual Berlin has seen a number of important visitors, most of whom take at least a short tour around the Regiment. The Minister of the Armed Forces, **Mr Stanley**, paid us a visit on his tour of units in Berlin and met members of the Regiment on his walkabout. After having been shown some of our unique tasks in the Brigade such as the PA Bus, he then went on to a set-up of the Brigade HQ Command Post. He saw the differing types of equipment used both old and new, and also the two types of camouflage, rural and urban. Two Land Rovers were converted into a pile of 'rubbish' behind the garages much to the consternation of the SSM. The camouflage passed the test as one passing wife was heard to say, 'What's that pile of rubbish doing there?!

The following week the GOC **Maj Gen Gordon Lennox** paid his initial visit to the Regiment. He toured not only all the Regiment's departments, but also various departments of the Berlin Tels Office.

**CHRISTMAS**

Just before Christmas there was the usual line up of parties and social functions. 229 Sig Sqn were able to hold their party in the Squadron Club which, thanks to the QM **Maj Tony Downes**, had its brand new bar in situ. The Junior Ranks Christmas dinner was held in the 'Regimental Restaurant' for all units in the Olympic Stadium barracks. The GOC and the Bde Comd, **Brig Makepeace-Warne**, along with a team of officers and SNCOs carried out the traditional role of serving dinner to the juniors.

LCpl Marshall deep in conversation with the new GOC Maj Gen Gordon Lennox

Cpl Duddell (now Sgt) with LCpl Neaves and Cpl Yarwood (right). The wine waiter is Lt Green

COS Col Hordern discussing LOA with Cpl Laerick and Sig Whitehead

**229 (BERLIN INFANTRY BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

Within the Regiment, 229 continue to fulfil their role as the Brigade Signal Squadron. Christmas Day morning proved interesting with the officers (yes, the Squadron actually had two!) and senior ranks taking 'gunfire' round the accommodation. Many of those who were here last year and wish to the virtues of 'gunfire', locked their doors. Despite this, no prisoners were taken and everyone caught by the gunfire team had double rations (ugh!) and a lollypop, courtesy of PRI Sweets Member **Capt Mike Spoors**.

After the break, the Squadron was straight back to work on Ex *Cold Draught*, an interesting exercise for the Squadron as many new locations and Command Post set-ups were used. *Cold Draught* proved a success for the Squadron with communications being reliable and equipment faults on some aging kits kept to a minimum.

This year will see the Squadron, and more especially, Radio Troop exercising the many tasks and role in and around the City. Training has already started for the Inter-Platoon Competition and planning for Ex *Rondo* in March. Also planned for later in the year are NCO Cadre weeks and communications trials.



## 30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

**EXERCISE *ROADMASTER 83***

Ex *Roadmaster* was held on and around Salisbury Plain on 26 November and was well attended with units coming from as far afield as BAOR and Northern Ireland. The classification was split into three groups: experts, novices and beginners, and we entered the beginners class. Having had our Land Rover (affectionately known as the Frog) checked over by the REME at Bulford Camp and a thorough briefing by **WO2 Langley** about the Dos and Don'ts, (with more emphasis on the Don'ts) of the exercise, we then had a couple of hours to wait until we were given our road books, which were deciphered by our navigator **LCpl Hickman**, the only known person who can map read across the desert with a piece of sandpaper, therefore a very handy person to have around.

We started the exercise at 2114 hrs and drove through the night and, more to the point, through a sea of mud! until 0607 hrs. There were three planned stops on route for refreshments. We only stopped at two of them along the route and didn't get that much refreshed. We did not really get lost, just slightly misplaced, especially on Sidbury Hill, a place well known for tracks leading nowhere. The driver, **LCpl Ian Donald** (that's what he said he was!), managed the long arduous night, despite it being only his second rally. He drove over the course with confidence despite the fact that at times we were going down tracks sideways and even backwards. The end of the event left us both shattered and satisified with our efforts.

When the results were announced, we found out that we had come 21st overall, out of the 120 starters, and third in our class, but the biggest surprise was that we had won the Royal Signals Cup.

*L to R:* LCpl Ian Donald and LCpl Steven Hickman with the Landrover 'Frog' and the R Signals Cup

**EXERCISE *MOPAN RAMPART 8***

Ex *Mopan Rampart* is a biannual British Forces Belize FTX which involves reinforcements deploying from UK to support those 'hard pressed' troops already stationed in the former colony. For this particular *Mopan Rampart* the reinforcements deployed were B Coy 1 DERR and three VRC 353 detachments from 30 Sig Regt. Regimental detachments normally deploy on the exercise as players, either providing VRC 353 or VRC 321 communications. However, previous *Mopan Ramparts* have been plagued with umpire control problems, so on this occasion the Regiment provided the control station, an RRB and the Chief Enemy Umpire detachment on the Umpire Command Net.

**THE TEAM**

The 30 Sig Regt team deployed were: **Lt Mark Campbell, WO2 (SSM) Henry Banks, Sgt Sammy McElreavey, Cpls Pat Gibney, Kiwi Marshall, Mac McLean, Mac McKinnon, Graham Wilson, LCpls Scott Kirkley, Phil Philpott, Sig Buck Buckmaster, Billy Butler.**

**CONTRAST**

After three days of preparation in Blandford the detachments flew from RAF Lyneham, using two Hercules transports, on 10 January. That night was spent in Gander, Newfoundland where everyone was accommodated in the Hotel Gander; all food and accommodation charges were paid for by the RAF, although beer was £2.10 a pint! The following day saw the onward flight to Belize via USAAF base Pope and the arrival at Belize International on the warm balmy evening of 11 January. From −11°C in Gander to +25°C in Belize in 12 hrs was quite a shock to everyone's system.

The detachments were met on the pan by the FSO, **Maj Bob Wannell**, and OC 633 Sig Tp, **Lt Charles Turner**, and following a briefing on what/what not to do/see/touch/eat/drink in Belize everyone, jet lagged to a man, crashed out.

The following four days were spent checking equipment and various communications tests were carried out. **Lt Campbell** and **Cpl McKinnon** managed a quick 'Heli-recce' of the RRB site, and a 'fun packed' day was spent on familiarisation of Belizian roads/drivers.

One free day was made available prior to the start of the exercise and this was used to visit St George's Cay, an island five miles off Belize City. The day was spent swimming, windsurfing, sailing and playing volleyball—seemed like a good way to prepare for the exercise!

On 17 January **Cpl McKinnon** with his crew of **Cpl Marshall** and **Sig Buckmaster** deployed to the RRB site (a four hour journey) and established communications back to the control station manned by **Cpls McLean, Wilson** and **Sig Butler**. A period of engineering followed and, satisfied that all was well, the crews awaited Startex.

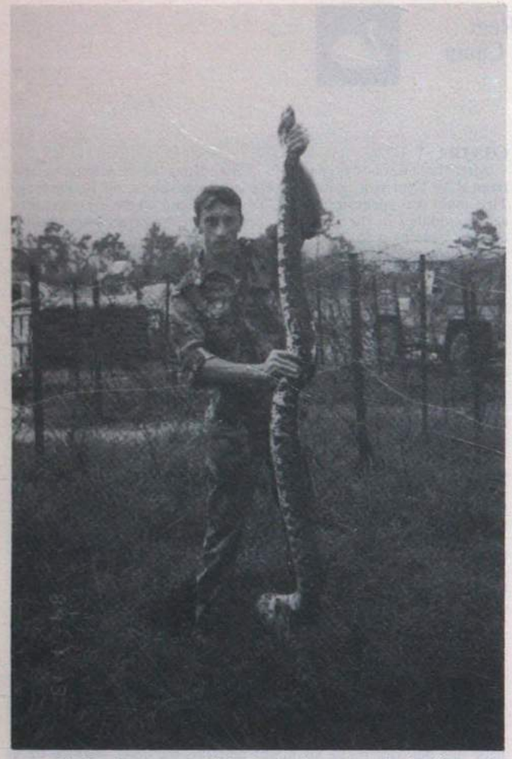
**IN TWO PHASES**

On 18 January the Chief Enemy Umpire deployed with **Cpl Gibney** and **LCpl Philpott**, followed by the Chief Friendly Forces Umpire and the Chief Belize Defence Force (BDF) Umpire. This was the first ever British/BDF combined exercise and the BDF were to gain invaluable experience during the following week. Each Chief Umpire was on two nets, one net controlling his junior umpires, the other working back to the control station via the RRB. The exercise lasted one week and was divided into two phrases.

**DEPLOYMENT**

Phase One involved the deployment of Friendly Forces along the western highway towards Guatemala, although the main 'play' was attempted enemy infiltration of Airport Camp (APC). The main targets for enemy infiltrators were the four Harriers and the vulnerable permanent installations in APC including the COMMCEN. During this phase extra road blocks and patrols were deployed, all perimeter defences were manned and all personnel were armed. This phase lasted three days.

'Exercise, what exercise'? Volleyball at St George's Cay, the Army adventure training centre



Sig Buckmaster and friend—don't worry it isn't alive

**SET PIECE**

Phase Two involved set piece battles with platoon, company and battalion attacks along the western highway close to the Guatemalan border. 10th (PMO) Gurkha Rifles, the resident battalion, provided both enemy and friendly forces and worked closely with 1 DERR and the BDF.

During Phase Two the Umpire Control Station moved forward with Comd BF Belize Tac HQ to provide better control of the battle. This involved **Cpl McLean**'s detachment moving close to the jungle, a move which failed to please with stories of snakes and spiders and the confirmed capture of an 8'4" Boa Constrictor at the RRB site. However all went well and despite several moves and tropical downpours, good communications were maintained throughout.

During the exericse **Cpl Gibney** and **LCpl Philpott** remained at the 'sharp end' with the Chief Enemy Umpire while **Sgt Sammy McElreavey** moved to the RRB. **WO2 (SSM) Henry Banks** and **LCpl Scott Kirkley** became the troubleshooters visiting each umpire with advice and resupply as required. During one of these resupply runs **LCpl Scott Kirkley** almost became a noduf casevac when offering local kids some compo sweets—he got badly bruised in the rush! **Lt Campbell** remained with the control station, although somehow got employed as a Tac HQ watchkeeper (as an umpire?)

**TO MEXICO**

Following Endex a few days were available for R and R. One of these was used for a detachment trip to Chatemal in Mexico. This was considered a worthwhile trip with hammocks and onyx chess sets the most popular buys, and everyone now has an additional four stamps on their passport!

After a final party thrown by 633 Sig Tp all equipment was loaded on the Hercules transports and the detachments flew from Belize International on the 29 January.

Following a 35 hour stop in Gander the detachment arrived back in Lyneham, complete with suntan, to remarks of 'What's all this snow doing here?', 'Why do I feel cold?'. Ah well, roll on Ex *Mopan Rampart 9*!

**EXERCISE *CROSSED FLAGS***

On Friday 13 January (not a good travelling day) **Lt Nick Borrill** and a party of seven left Blandford to attend a winter warfare course in Canada. The RAF flew us to Washington DC, via Gander for refuelling, and then unfortunately a further 12 hours aboard a mini-bus from 1 Canadian Signal Regiment. We eventually arrived in Kingston, Canada at 0800 hrs on Saturday 14—suitably shattered and impressed, with the temperature (−20°C on arrival).

**A LANGUAGE PROBLEM**

Everybody in the party was allocated a host to look after them generally throughout the exercise. You would think that being in Canada there would not be a language problem but when **'Sig 'Jonah' Jones** (Geordie lad) met **Sig 'Denny' Provost** (French Canadian) it was like listening to a conversation in Swahili.

**THE COLD**

The first week was spent drawing up kit and being taught how to survive in the cold as the average temperature was −22°C. The weekend was free so we all decided to go downhill skiing at Calabogie Peaks. The stars of the day were **WO2 (YofS) Derek McClelland** (Bambi on Planks) and **Sig Kev Fowler** (first time ever on skis). The second week required us to put into practice what had been taught during that first week, and on the Monday we deployed to Fort Drum, New York, USA where they had a bit more snow. Fortunately that journey only took one and a half hours. For the remainder of the week we lived in five and ten men tent groups and it was spent moving everywhere on snow shoes, pulling a toboggan. All the lads were split up so that there was only one 'Brit' per tent, enabling us to see the procedures and techniques used by the Canadians. This phase of the exercise finished on Thursday night when we all walked back to barracks at Fort Drum, had a few beers and went to bed. Friday morning we caught transport back to Kingston, turned in all our equipment and at 1500 hrs dressed back into 'Brit Kit'! The CO, **Lt Col Tapping**, presented a certificate to all 30 Sig Regt personnel. The presentation went quite well until **Cpl 'Barnie' Barnett** did his impression of a Drill Sgt and nearly put a hole in the floor with a halt that even the RSM would have been proud of!

**ENJOYABLE AND WORTHWHILE**

Finally the last week was spent in Toronto visiting a Staff College Exercise and seeing the sights at Niagara Falls, the CN Tower, and all the other tourist hot spots. Then came the journey home which went quite smoothly apart from a three hour delay in Washington.

It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile exercise working with 1 Canadian Signal Regiment who proved to be a professional and extremely friendly Regiment. The whole team hope that some day they will be able to return the hospitality and friendship shown by everyone we met.

**ARMY COMMCEN BEIRUT**
**UP, UP AND AWAY, DOWN DOWN AND A BANG!**

Christmas in Beirut was going to be quiet until the Chargé d' Affaires at the Embassy decided that he needed comms for his Christmas skiing trip to Farayya (40 miles NE of Beirut/6600ft). Of the numerous volunteers **LCpl Adie Beale, Sig Sid Perks** and **Willie Graham** were chosen for the four day trip. A good time was had by all especially finding out just how friendly the locals were. **LCpl Bob Luckhurst** our resident ED also wanted to be in on the act and made several maintenance trips to fix generators that were not even there.

On the return journey there seemed to be something missing and so **Sid** and **Sgt Colin Whawell** decided to fill a gap with a ¼ ton FFR hard top Land Rover. They knew that traffic accidents increased over the Christmas period, so in order not to let the statistics down they scored nine out of ten for a half twisting double turning full pike roll when a Lebanese driver pulled out in front of them as they came down a narrow mountain road.

**A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!**

The SATCOM has behaved well during its tour of duty and has been recommended for the Purple Heart for being wounded in action. Early one morning the dish was hit by three stray rounds. This coupled with a bullet into the TV a few days later, was just too much. Things would not have been so bad if **Cpl Fritz Arunasalon** (attached to 614 TACP) had not been watching the video of the Benny Hill Show at the time!

**REBUILD JOB**

Fortunately our leaders have kept the det actively employed by moving the COMMCEN into various arrangements, until finally deciding that the first one was the best. We were not content with this and immediately set to building shelves, painting them, repainting them and painting them again. This has continued until the COMMCEN looks like a Persil advert. It certainly dazzles all the visitors who have recently included the **Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP** and **Field Marshal Edwin Bramall**.

**UNDERGROUND**

As a further aid to relieve boredom (as if we were) our new Infantry CO also introduced a trench digging competition. All members of the det quickly learnt how to use a pick and shovel. Under the close architectural supervision of **Lt Nigel Harrison** , we joyfully set about sandbagging, digging and building our trench. Morale was lifted when the Colonel announced that he was well satisfied with the dets efforts. Weren't we all!

**WE CAN FIX ANYTHING**

The Tech Workshop has now turned into a CCTV, Intercom, PA, Video, Personal Stereo and Camera repair shop. It is rumoured that **Cpl Paddy Telford** and his able new assistant **LCpl Dave Jagger** have been seen repairing some Army radios, but nobody has seen proof. **Paddy**'s legendary prowess with a soldering iron, screwdriver and tin of Evo-Stik did however take a dive when he tried to clean the COMMCEN coffee percolator with a pint of vinegar. It left a strange taste in the mouth for weeks.

**ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND PROMOTIONS**

As with every good *Wire* note here are the arrivals and departures. We say goodbye to **Sig Ray Zanussi Orange, LCpl Mick Rash** (on loan from 259 Sig Sqn), **LCpl Dave Thomas** (on loan from 262 Sig Sqn), **Cpl Pop Robson** who will be missed by someone, and finally **Sig Alfie White.**

The arrivals on the other hand are even more of a mixed bag. **LCpls Dave Titheridge, Neil Coatsworth, John Watkinson** followed by **Sig Schemes Beament** and **Joe Flood**.

Finally congratulations go to **Mick Winning** and **F. J. Ford** on their promotions to **LCpl**.

**POSTSCRIPT**

On the morning of 8 February the Regiment received the news that the BRITFORLEB including 30 Sig Regt Detachment, had been redeployed from Beirut to the RFA *Reliant* lying off the Lebanese coast. Later in the day the remaining three members of the Detachment in Beirut who had been working at the British Embassy were redeployed with some of the Embassy staff to the USS *Guam*.

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30 Signal Regiment detachment commanded by Lt Dennis Mills prior to their deploying on Ex *Teamwork 84/Avalanche Express* with 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines in Norway. The detachment is expected to stay out there until the beginning of April

# 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
## Hammersmith

**A HEALTHY MIX**

For HQ Sqn the momentum of the action-packed Autumn months has been maintained during the normally quieter months of December and January, achieving a healthy mix of both operational and social activities.

In early December **Sgt Dave Oliver** ably assisted by **SSgt Derek Gale** organised Ex *Snowcap* to practise fieldcraft, map reading and other non-signalling skills. Elements of 47 Sqn also took part in the exercise and, according to the impartial view of **Sgt Oliver**, HQ Sqn won!

The Squadron Party at Hammersmith was, as usual, well attended and the success of the evening was the direct result of the efficient planning and preparation by **SSM Steve Bland** and the members of Admin Tp.

For two days in January we based ourselves at Crowborough Camp to perform, on a competitive basis, a series of 'command tasks' dreamed up by our PSI **Sgt George Davies**. The teams were faced with such problems as moving an egg from one side of a gulley to the other without touching the egg. Ropes, pulleys and poles were all used and Heath Robinson would have been envious of some of the solutions. Other tasks related to driving/navigational skills, signalling and NBC expertise and vehicle recovery tactics. (Will someone please explain to **Pte Sue Bundy** that she should not stand directly behind the rear wheel of a Land-Rover which is up to its axles in mud!).

Promotions—Congratulations on their recent elevations to **Cpl Pete Farmer, LCpl Joe Wegener** and **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson** of Admin Tp, to **LCpl Dave Walker** of the Pay Team, **LCpl Janet Wilson-Brown ACC** and **LCpl Kevin Taylor** of the LAD. The Officers Mess has also celebrated the promotion of **Maj Chris Mote**, our Ops Officer and **Lt Tom Muir**, our Paymaster.

**41 SQUADRON**

Away to sunny Napier Barracks at Folkestone for the January Squadron Commanders week-end. On Saturday following an EOD demonstration by the EOD Detachment from Ashford we moved to the training areas to practise anti-ambush drills. The enemy, ably played by **Sgt Jan Billin** and **Sgt John Hickey**, lay in wait as **LCpl Roxanne Norris** took the WRAC party through. She decided the enemy wasn't serious and drove straight through ignoring them (DS Note). The second party responded with gusto. After the quick attacks, **Sig Nick Tuck** leapt on to **Sgt Jan Billin** from about 8ft above, prior to 'searching' her. He assures us that he had a comfortable landing.

The high spot of the weekend was the social that night with the disco provided by **Sig Dean 'Sunglasses' Jeeves** and catering by the WRAC of N Troop.

On Sunday morning the 2IC **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieneicki** was awakened by a loud banging on the adjacent boiler room door. He found the guard **Sig Mark Hornibrook** trying to wake up the 'occupant'! Words were exchanged and the 2IC (typically?) returned to his 'pit'.

During the Vehicle Checkpoint phase **Cpl Dave 'Action Man' Hall**'s section managed to stop the local policeman who, being found friendly and in good humour, was allowed to proceed. Meanwhile a suspicious mini-bus approached, driven by **Cpl Pete Traynor** with two cadets as passengers. After a thorough search interspersed with much laughter they were allowed to proceed. As always we were fed in the manner to which we are rapidly becoming accustomed by **LCpl Janet Wilson-Brown** and **Pte Ian Jeeves**. The return journey provided **Cpl Pete Traynor** with his second Land-Rover fire in two exercises—he is now known as Fireball.

LCpl Roxanne Norris (top left) and her team of WRAC warriors who have no trouble with ambushes

**83 SQN**

The traditional first event of the New Year has always been the Squadron Training week-end, a rare opportunity in a crowded Regimental calendar for us to escape from the rest of the Regiment and 'do our own thing'.

OC **Maj Paul Whittle** decided that we should head for Salisbury Plain and booked us into Knook Camp. On the Saturday you could have been forgiven for thinking we were in the Arctic as we practised deployment drills in preparation for our NW Europe Camp in June. E Tp led by the female Che Guevara **Lt Diane Lilley** and her dubious confederate **Sgt 'Micky' Marks** provided the enemy. They were not as successful as they might have hoped, not having bargained for the vigilance of the two friendly forces led respectively by **2Lt Penny Radway** and **Lt Ian Webber**. One particular enemy attack masterminded(?) by **Sgt 'Rudy' Rayner** took so long in the execution that the target force had left for lunch before the attackers arrived. In another memorable moment Commcen (sorry, Minor Access Node) Alfa 'crashed out' with such enthusiasm that **LCpl Beverley Holley** abandoned such non-essentials as her co-driver and Troop Commander **2Lt Penny Radway**.

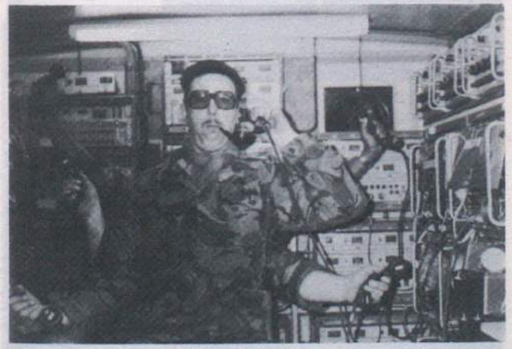
Capt Keith Bruce-Smith, 2IC 83 Squadron demonstrates the latest piece of comms equipment—but where is the cleft stick?

2Lt Vicki Hutchinson, 2IC B Troop, tries to convince SSgt Graham Brain that the marker was in the wrong place

The second part of the weekend was an orienteering exercise organised by **SSgt Graham Brain** and **LCpl Gary Baker**. Overnight snow made for a scenic background and not a few navigation problems. The winners were an E Tp team—**Lt Diane Lilley, Sgt 'Micky' Marks, Sigs Steve Feast, Lawrence Goddard, David Brown** and **Ernie Faik**. An A Tp team led by **Cpl Graham Drew** came a close second and the B Tp team led by **Cpl Pete Marr** and **LCpl Andy Raynsford** which finished an hour later insisted that they had been round the course twice!

Isolation from RHQ was not total. One of the local residents alias the Regimental 2IC **Maj Colin Stenning**, who now lives in Figheldean paid a visit as did the **RSM WO1 Cas Francis** who arrived too late for breakfast on the Sunday. It was just as well because breakfast was somewhat unsociable after the excesses of the previous evening's entertainment laid on by **Sgt Derek Cattrall** and **Cpl Pete Trewin**.

83 Squadron's SSM WO2 Chris Mahony doesn't look too fit—and this was before the orienteering



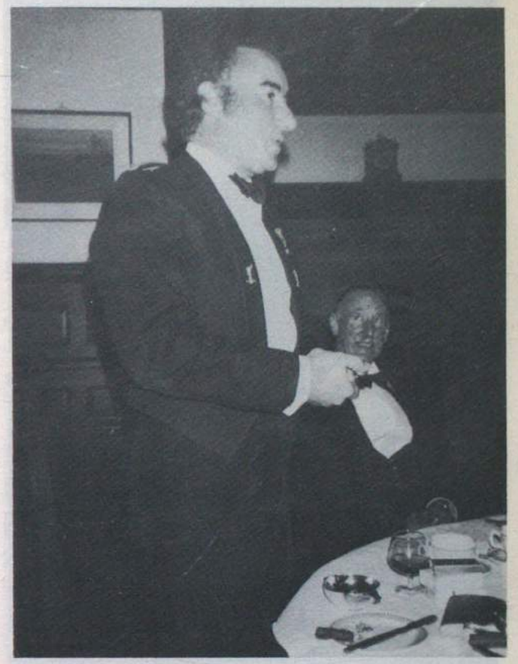
Trunk Node India's answer to the technician shortage. Is Sig Dave Burke practising the Indian Tech trick?

# 32 Sig Regt (V)
## Glasgow

**DINING OUT**

'Double the Guard' the CO muttered to the RSM as he toured the Mess prior to the Dinner Night. 'Frisk them for concealed weapons' were his instructions to the Adjt. 'Remove all climbing aids' was the priority of the PMC. You may well ask what event was taking place but to those in the Corps who know **Capt Findlay Fountain**, by name or reputation, then the precautions would appear to have been wise.

The Dining Out of our Honorary Colonel, **Col Ken Lloyd**, our **2IC Maj Alec Ramsay** and the 'Guru of the Gateway', **Capt Findlay Fountain** proved to be a nostalgic affair. Between them **Alec** and **Findlay** have given more years service to the Regiment than either cares to remember. They will both be sadly missed. Our photographs show



**Findlay** in reflective mood musing over his misspent youth with the

Regiment, and **Alec Ramsay** pleading for the return of his Glengarry which was removed from the Ante Room in 1973!

**RMO 2**

**Maj Brian Williams RAMC** was also dined out on the same night. **Brian** devoted five years to the Regiment and regrettably has had to retire due to medical pressures. He assured us that he hoped the operation to remove this pressure would be painless and he might return again as Director Medical Services in the not too distant future! The 'Chic Murray' of the Glasgow Mess will also be sadly missed.

**61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

The Edinburgh Squadron contribution to *The Wire* arrived on my desk today. Their contributor **Capt 'Foxy' Hall**, whose SD leaves much to be desired, had written reams of flowing prose and I beg his indulgence in picking out the main points of interest. **Cpl Jock Meldrum ACC** has retired from the Squadron at last. Had he continued he was in danger of drawing both TA pay and his Old Age Pension simultaneously! **Jock** has given almost 36 years of service to the Squadron and is believed to have done the breakfasts at Rorke's Drift! The Squadron will miss his expertise with a fish slice and **'Foxy' Hall** bemoans the loss of the fairy cakes from the Officers Mess afternoon tea.

The photographic contribution shows **LCpl Doreen Chapman** with the newest 'subalterns' in the Regiment. From left to right: **'2Lt Brian Gilfeather', LCpl Chapman, '2Lt Willie Barron'.** The QM has promised to provide them with uniform before the summer! The Squadron also welcomes **Capt James McKee** into the fold. As an ex Regular from 3 Div he is still being treated with suspicion, but this should wear off after the first 20 years.

**REGULAR SPOT**

To the dismay of some TA officers I must briefly mention the departure of some of the Regular Staff.

**Sgt Trev Loughton** on posting to 1 Div leaves a void in the hearts of all the civilian staff of RHQ. Our typist, **Mrs Betty Warren**, will have to search elsewhere for her daily update on all matters Regimental.

**Sig Peter Bland** has been spirited away to 1 Inf Bde in Tidworth. Originally the advance party of a cohort of signalmen he found himself marooned as the only Regular signalman in the Regiment. Despised by the RSM, rejected by the Adjt, young **Bland** leaves, none the worse, for his tour and in years ahead will reflect upon it as a valuable experience.

The CO, **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen**, and his Adjt, **Capt Brian Jackson**, currently devote their time to organising MFO details and ordering duty free cars. There is even a strong rumour that they are posted simultaneously. More in the next issue.

Finale — **Capt Colin Markie** is now a **Major**. As a combat quartermaster he feels this promotion was long overdue!

## 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**THE FESTIVE SEASON**

We had a very busy and lively Festive Season—with the Officers Ball, Sergeants Mess Christmas Draw, Squadron Parties, and the annual visit of St Nicholas to the children at each Squadron TA Centre. A lot of hard work in the preparation and planning by the few, compensated perhaps by the enjoyment and delight of the many!

The Messing Officer, Maj Derek Beckett and his Regimental Cooks present a magnificant buffet during the Festive season. *L to R:* Maj Derek Beckett, Sgt Bob Jones, Cpl Alan Johnson, Pte Paul Cook, Pte Bob Clark, Pte Harry Foster, Mr Frank Thompson, Pte Tommy Currie, Cpl Jeffrey Duffy

'Three Little Girls are We'—Lt Susan Mullineux and two charming guests arrive at the Reception for the Officers' Ball

Sgt and Mrs Steve Hall enjoying themselves at the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw



**EXERCISE *COLD BED***

By way of a change from our normal winter exercise haunts, and as a parting gesture to our **Training Maj George Carmichael**, we decided to travel to the West Midlands area for a full scale comms exercise including a Saturday evening move during the weekend 20/22 January. For those who sampled a bed on Friday night it was 'Cold Bed' indeed with temperatures dipping well below zero, and by morning 80 Squadron Comcen on the Wrekin were able to look down and wonder how they managed to negotiate the precipitous track the night before. However, after a bit of sorting out in places comms were established more or less to schedule, and after a modicum of traffic had been passed, the close down was given and the movement orders issued. What was intended as a twilight move became a night move for most formations and the names of recce officers were being heard associated with that of the Almighty! Also using language was **WO2 Les Goble**, whose attempts to refuel from UBREs frozen solid failed miserably and did little to inspire confidence in their first time use under such conditions.

The CO, Lt Col Tony de V Hunt being briefed by the Tech Adjt Maj Gordon Harrison during Ex *Cold Bed*.

*(By kind permission of PIO North West District)*

We've located the fault! Sig Fraser Smith and Sig Simon Woods recently recruited by 42 Sig Sqn (V) on their first Field Ex turning a Radio Relay station at Switch 'X' during Ex *Cold Bed*.

*(By kind permission of PIO North West District)*

After midnight with comms re-established people started to appear in CPs with white berets and shoulder straps and we realised that it was snowing. By first light camouflage was much improved by the addition of a thick white blanket of snow and we began to appreciate the problems of soldiering in winter!

Mid morning, however, saw us retreating to the comparative safety of the M6 motorway looking forward to the prospect of hot compo in the comfort of our drill halls.

'Just relax—All will be well'. The RMO Maj Colin Ford RAMC and Sgt Ken Almond RAMC attending Pte Lynn Allen, a 'Patient' with 'suspect spinal injury' during training of medical assistants in first aid treatment and transport of casualties during Ex *Cold Bed*.

*(By kind permission of PIO North West District)*

'Keep trying', 'They are frozen solid Sir!' *L to R:* OC HQ Sqn (V) Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones, Sig Ian Haynes, WO2 (RMTO) Les Goble, Maj (QM) Derek Beckett at Echelon POL point during Ex *Cold Bed*

**VISIT OF COMMANDER UK FIELD ARMY**

We were delighted to receive a visit from **Lt Gen Sir Edward Burgess KCB, OBE**, accompanied by the GOC North West District **Maj Gen P. M. Davies** and the Commander 11 Signal Brigade, **Brig I. R. D. Shapter** on Wednesday 1 February, when the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Tony de V Hunt** briefed him on The Role of The Regiment and its present Staff Manning situation. After an informal lunch with members of the permanent staff in the Sergeants Mess, a tour of Regimental Headquarters, and inspection of a COMMCEN deployed outside adjacent to the TA Centre he departed, suitably impressed, and we now understand much pleased with his visit.

# 34 Sig Regt (V)
# Middlesbrough

The Comd UK Field Army arrives at RHQ Huyton. *L to R:* The CO Lt Col Tony de V Hunt, Lt Gen Sir Edward Burgess KCB, OBE, WO1 (RSM) Bob Lockwood

*(By kind permission of Knowsley Reporter)*

**FAREWELL TO MAJ CHARLES METCALFE**

20 February was a significant date in the Regimental Calendar as it heralded the retirement, after 27 years service in the Army, of **Maj Charles Metcalfe**, Non Regular Permanent Staff Officer of 42 and 80 Sig Sqns (V).

His notable service career started on 16 April 1942, when he enlisted into the RAC at the tender age of 22. In 1942 he was commissioned into the Household Cavalry and on completion of his course at Sandhurst joined the RHG (Blues and Royals). Having served in NW Europe during World War 2, he was released from service in June 1947.

In June 1952 he re-engaged as a TA Officer with HQ 62 (LofC) Signal Regiment (TA) until being posted to 23 (Indep) Armd Bde Sig Sqn (TA) in 1952 on appointment as a Non Regular Permanent Staff Officer. In 1961 he joined 42 (L) Sig Regt (TA) until reorganisation of the Reserve Army in 1967 when he was transferred to 33 Sig Regt (V), on its information.

During his service with the Regiment he has carried out the duties of Adjutant and NRPSO to two independently located Squadrons, 42 Sig Sqn (V) based at Manchester and 80 Sig Sqn (V) based at Chester.

It is with regret and fond memories that we say farewell to **Charles Metcalfe** and thank him for all his endeavour and assistance over the years. We wish him and his charming wife **Margaret** the very best of health and fortune during their well earned retirement.

Dining out of Maj Charles Metcalfe and Maj George Carmichael on 4 February. *L to R:* Mrs June Leech, Maj George Carmichael, Mrs Irene Carmichael, Lt Col Tony de V Hunt, Mrs Margaret Metcalfe, Maj Charles Metcalfe, Maj Adrian Leech

**WELCOME**

We start our 1984 *Wire* Notes by welcoming three new officers into the Regiment. **2Lts Ian Hall, John Lambton** and **Jonathan Tomlinson**. All three successfully attended the Sandhurst TA Commissioning Course in January. Their first thoughts after the course were that it was hard work but enjoyable, the pre-course training was worthwhile and relevant (surprised expression from the training staff), and where on earth can I get some pips for tonight? Well done **Ian, John** and **Jonathan**, we wish you continued success in the TA.

The art of writing *Wire* Notes is not, as everyone knows, merely in the writing of the notes but to a large extent in delegating the responsibility! Had **YofS Roger Secker** not been in the Phillipines (Yes the Phillipines) he would have been the best qualified '*Wire*-Note-writer' in the Training Office. He must have known it was about to happen when he planned his leave in exotic climes. As he is not available, someone else, with hitherto unknown journalistic abilities, had to be found. (Enter uptight: Training Major).

**FOCUS ON THE TRAINING OFFICE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Training Major** | **Maj Sid Falla** |
| **Yeoman of Signals** | **SSgt (YofS) Roger Secker** |
| **Training Office PSI** | **Sgt Jane Riley WRAC** |

The regular permanent staff in the Training Office co-ordinate all Regimental and Squadron training. Every course attended by anyone in the Regiment is arranged and administered through the Office. Control of man training days (MTDs) and statistics, all come through the Training Office. (Please Colonel can we have a Micro Computer!?)

**Sgt Jane Riley** (she is the other good looking one in the office), who joined the team in July last year, is on first name terms with the important people, particularly those who allocate vacancies, at nearly every training establishment and school. Her success record is impressive. **SSgt (YofS) Secker** is still in the Phillipines on holiday.

Ex *Devils Leap 83*

*L to R:* Sig Tinkler, OCdt Hall, LCpls Robson, Beaumont, Smethurst, Cameron, Sig Williams

Maj Sid Falla and Sgt Jane Riley with the final version of the Training Programme



The Training Major has done the 15th rewrite of the 84/85 training programme and awaits the next change. He is attending evening classes to learn about computers so that eventually he can get the Regiment's vital statistics on to tape. Modern high technology starts in the Training Office; do we hear a sigh of relief from the PSIs?

The trade training weekends held at the Trade Training School, 8 Sig Regt, continue as before throughout the year. They are excellent value and we are most grateful to 8 Sig Regt for allowing us to use the TTS facilities. A word of thanks must also go to HQ Training Group Royal Signals for their splendid efforts in finding accommodation for us.

There is no doubt that these weekends are successful; we have the results to prove it.

The art of delegation is not completely dead, we thought it would be useful to highlight the day to day life of a PSI. By coincidence **SSgt Dave Dalton** was complaining that he had not seen his name in *The Wire* for some time.

**NEWS FROM THE OUTSTATION**
**by PSI SSgt Dave Dalton and Staff**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **PSI** | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |
| **Recruiting SNCO** | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |
| **MT SNCO** | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |
| **Training SNCO** | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |

AS PSI Gateshead **SSgt Dave Dalton** has a most unusual job and although he has only a very small detachment of (permanent) staff he maintains high standards; he has an excellent working relationship with the rest of his staff.

After two and a half years at Gateshead (without any mention in *The Wire*) he hopes that Royal Signals Manning and Record Office have not forgotten him, and in anticipation he has already bought his new flip-flops, a gallon of sun tan oil, and a new sun hat.

With just over six months to go before his posting, he looks back to the day he was told he was posted to Gateshead as a PSI and remembers asking around to find out what a PSI's job entailed. People just smiled and said 'it's hard to explain', (understatement).

Before finishing, **SSgt Dave Dalton** would like to thank the people in the background, without whose help it would not have been possible to keep standards so high, the driver **SSgt Dave Dalton**, the teaboy **SSgt Dave Dalton**, the cleaner **SSgt Dave Dalton**, and last but not least the odd job man, **SSgt Dave Dalton**.

**PS**. If the replacement PSI just happens to be reading this it helps to have a sense of humour.

**TRAINING MAJOR'S NOTE**

This is the Gateshead Duty PSI Roster February-March 1984:

**DUTY PSI FORECAST GATESHEAD TA CENTRE**

The Gateshead TAC Duty PSI forecast is shown below.

The ongoing/offgoing Duty PSI are to report to the PSI on the commencement and end of their duty. Orders and instructions for the duty are contained in the duty PSI file:

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 February-22 February | **SSgt Dalton** |
| 22 February-29 February | **SSgt Dalton** |
| 29 February- 7 March | **SSgt Dalton** |
| 7 March -14 March | **SSgt Dalton** |
| 14 March -21 March | **SSgt Dalton** |
| 21 March -28 March | **SSgt Dalton** |

**FAREWELL DINNER FOR 'MRS P'**

On 14 January the Officers and Senior NCOs of 90 (North Riding) Sig Sqn held a dinner in honour of their long-serving Clerical Officer, **Mrs Irene Parkin** (known affectionately to all simply as **'Mrs P'**). Some 55 guests were present including the CO, **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker**, and many former Officers and Senior NCOs of the Squadron. In fact, the guest list reads like the 34 Sig Regt 'Who's who' since there were two former COs—**Col Mike Stewart** (now Honorary Colonel) and **Col Bill Illingworth** (now Deputy Commander 12 Sig Bde (V)) as well as four former Squadron Commanders and four former SSMs. A number of ex-members of the Squadron who could not attend had sent messages for **Mrs P**, including former PSI **Mick Fogg**, now **RSM** with 14 Sig Regt.

Co-ordination of the arrangements was largely undertaken by Squadron **2IC Capt David Kerr** with a great deal of help by PSAO, **Maj John Lemon**, PSI **SSgt Eddie Pridmore** and other members of the Regiment—such is the special regard in which **Mrs P** is held. The Regimental Band, conducted by **SSgt Scarlett**, added that extra touch to make the evening a memorable one.

Mrs Parkin with our Honorary Colonel, Col Mick Stewart

Maj Peter Arkless, Lt Gillian Cable and Mrs Parkin pose for the final photograph

The presentation of the gift to **Mrs Parkin** was preceded by a commendably short speech by OC **Maj Peter Arkless**. The gift itself was a silver salver, magnificently engraved by the Honorary Regimental Engraver—Training Major **Sid Falla**.

After dinner there was a photocall session by Squadron Photographer **LCpl Janet Barlow** so that **Mrs Parkin** now has further contributions to her already bulging Army photograph and press cutting album.

All in all a memorable evening, not only for the guest of honour but for the 'old and bold' who were able to renew acquaintances and relive past campaigns.

**EXERCISE *NORTHERN COMFORT II***
**Report by SSgt (FofS) R. Kirkwood**

Regimental Motto: 34 do it in the snow!

This was the second year that 34 had ventured north, into the frozen wastes of the Cairngorms, to take part in a skiing and survived training exercise. As before we were accommodated in the Union Jack Lodge at Rothiemurchus.

Those personnel taking part in the exercise were as follows: **Lt Col H. M. A. Bonaker, the CO, WO1 (RSM) Roy Coffill, WO2 (SSM) Yvonne Swinney, SSgts (FofS) Ron Kirkwood, Pat Quinn, Eddie Pridmore, Tommy (I'm NRPS) Williamson, Sgts Tony Hindle, Steve Wilks, Geoff Evans RE, Chris Turner WRAC ACIO, Cpl Ian Plater, LCpls Wendy Smith WRAC, Jackie Cook WRAC**, and **Sig Paul 'Jiffy' Lemon**.

Last year we were worried about the lack of snow, this year we worried about too much of the stuff.

The advance party, consisting of **Tony Hindle** and myself, left early to go to the RAOC depot at Stirling to pick up the ski kit. Tony was suffering from a bad bout of 'Middlesbrough Tummy', consequently, there was not a public loo between Middlesbrough and Stirling which we did not visit. As an emergency precaution, and as part of our survival kit, we even took along a 'Porta Potty'.

Our intention of getting to the Lodge before the main party went awry, for just north of Blair Atholl the main road was blocked due to drifting snow, and the police were stopping all traffic. The two hour wait was not that unpleasant as the bar in the hotel was open—as was

the toilet! We eventually arrived in Aviemore within 10 minutes of the main party.

On Monday and Tuesday the snow was still falling with gale force winds causing snow drifts which blocked the only road up to the ski slopes. Our time was not wasted, however, as we managed to put in some practice on a small hill in front of the Lodge and a lot of snow clearing on the track up to the Lodge. Tony was still utilising the latrine facilities while absorbing all the quips about ski runs, trotting around the slopes etc. Thanks to four-wheel drive and snow chains we finally made it to the slopes on Wednesday and the CO, our ski instructor, began his instruction.

Thursday was another good skiing day with only one casualty; I broke a ski on the final 'Banzai' run of the day—it just seemed to melt at the speed I was travelling.

Even after a heavy thaw on the Thursday night there was still plenty of snow left for Friday to be another good day, especially for the races and the après skiing, both of which the whole team entered into with great enthusiasm.

After all our prayers the roads were still clear enough for everyone to head home on the Saturday. I was told later that some of the team were praying for more snow so that we could stay on in Scotland albeit trapped in the Lodge—what a way to go! This report would not be complete without mentioning our head chef, **LCpl Wendy Smith**, who looked after us magnificently.

Well, only 360 days left before Ex *Northern Comfort III*.

*Standing L to R:* Sgt Hindle, SSgt Quinn, Lt Col Bonaker, WO2 (SSM) Swinney, WO1 (RSM) Coffill, WLCpl Smith, SSgt Williamson, SSgt Pridmore, SSgt (FofS) Kirkwood, Cpl Plater, Sig Lemon. *Kneeling L to R:* WLCpl Cook, Sgt Turner, Sgt Wilks

Pte Widdrington overall TA WRAC Winner NE District Cross Country Championships January 1984



## 36 Sig Regt (V)
## Wanstead

**MAJ PAT RUSTON, MBE, WRAC**

**Maj Pat Ruston** retired from the WRAC (and Royal Signals) after more than 40 years service in November last. In her honour a Dinner was held in the Hall of Selwyn College, Cambridge on 17 September 1983. It was a memorable occasion for, unknown to **'Auntie Pat'** (as she is affectionately known by many in 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) and others for whom she has worked untiringly since she was posted there in 1961), many with whom she had worked throughout her service had been invited to be present—friends who she has not seen for years were there to greet her—and the committee managed to keep it a secret so that she had a lot of lovely surprises when she arrived. Also unknown to her, a presentation fund had been set up and she was given a Music Centre to give her pleasure in her leisurely retirement hours. To the great delight of the Committee, **Brig Anne Field** kindly agreed to come and take the Chair at the Dinner and to make the presentation, and the WRAC was represented also by **Col Nan Robertson**. It was a truly happy evening, mellow surroundings, good food and wine, and in the company of friends—what more can one ask to herald a long and happy retirement for one who has done so much for so many.

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## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

**SEASONAL ACTIVITIES**

Although seasonal activities have included a Horfield Revue, WOs and Sergeants Mess Draw and other social functions in the various Messes and Jimmy Clubs, most of the squadrons have managed to fit in both a military training and a trade training weekend, while the officers have been preparing for promotion exams and doing their usual 'young officer' things.

We congratulate **Pte Susan Godwin** of 43 Sqn on gaining a proficiency certificate on her recruits' course in November 1983 and **Pte Karen Gill** of 67 Sqn on her recruits' course in January.

Congratulations to **Sig David Millett** for being selected as Best Recruit and **Sig Simon Craggs** Best Shot on their Recruits' Courses. Both are in 43 Sig Sqn (V).

**FOCUS ON 67 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**STRATFORD-ON-AVON AND STOURBRIDGE**

Exercise *Polar Bear*, 67 Sqn's annual winter weekend of intensive military training concentrated this year on the 66mm LAW and 84mm MAW platoon anti-tank weapons. Syndicates also fired the 2in mortar and renewed their acquaintance with the GPMG before tackling the annual BFT where to date the squadron has recorded a 99% pass rate.

A 2 Mercian instructor coaches LCpl Ian Cruikshank and Sig Barry Weaver on the 84mm MAW on Ex *Polar Bear*

**Maj Stamford Cartwright** continues in command and the Officers Mess remains as previously reported. **Lt Gill Stuart**, however, leaves soon to start a family.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

It has been a time for awards. **SSgt Dick Hall** has received a commendation certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire and a clasp to the TEM. **SSgt John Mayfield** too, received a clasp, but the outstanding recent achievement was the New Year **BEM** awarded to our former PSI, **SSgt Max Williams**, a fitting reward to a popular, dedicated and hardworking member of the team. **Max** left us in June and was welcomed back warmly in January, for an informal drink.

**BEST WISHES**

Another PSI making a return visit to the squadron is **SSgt E. H. 'Spud' Murphy**, now fully recovered from a serious road accident during annual camp in September. He is soon to leave the Army and we wish him well.

**FUND RAISING SUCCESS**

We were delighted to receive a formal acknowledgement from the **Marquess of Hertford**, patron of the local Action Unlimited charity, to mark the squadron's achievement in raising £1,062 for the fund in last year's sponsored 60 mile Ridgeway Yomp. This takes the total raised by the squadron for charity over the past two years to well over £2,000.

## 38 Sig Regt (V)
## Sheffield

**A WATERSHED**

Christmas is a watershed in the TA year. The last months of the year are all 'after camp'. January brings new interest and enthusiasm for the year ahead. This year it also brought a new Training Major, **Richard Harrison**. We hope he will be very happy with the Regiment—feverish activity is guaranteed.

Squadrons have been concentrating on basic communications and military skills for the 'TARA's Trophy'. Everyone (yes, even squadron commanders!) have been struggling to get individual Tickle Test passes and there have been massed assaults on rifle ranges, gas chambers and first aid facilities.

**WITH ALACRITY**

With a busy year of communications exercises ahead, we began the exercise season in the middle of January. 'Bit early for comms, but the weather should be OK'. Reports from a frozen Blackburn Squadron the previous Tuesday were ignored. By the weekend it was threatening blizzards and gales—so we went with alacrity.

Overnight the exercise was covered in deep snow—'where did we put the ten pair?' Our VIP visitor, **Maj Gen J. R. A. MacMillan CBE**, GOC Eastern District, arrived by road instead of helicopter and was not able to travel beyond 87 and HQ Squadrons at Grantham.

Viewing the tundra. *L to R:* Lt Col Vann, Maj Gen MacMillan, WO1 Fowler, Capt Aldridge

87 Squadron found digging out an interesting experience. Elsewhere roads were blocked and **LCpl Marcus Cosgrove** from 93 Squadron found himself frozen and marooned but still manning his relay on Winter Hill at 'Ice Station 93'.

Quite easy really

*L to R:* Pte Julie Chadbourne and Pte Alex Jacouska

**THEY ALSO SERVE**

We continue to welcome recruits to the Regiment through our Selection Weekends sieve. Our February weekend shows that the organising team has been watching 'it ain't 'alf hot'.

HQ Sqn stalwarts *L to R:* Sig Tony Hindmarsh, Arnie Mee, Mark Shepherd and Graham Blythe

WO2 Peter Bacon, WO2 Jack Naylor, Cpl Mark 'Remember my name' Gardiner

## 39 Sig Regt (V)
## City of London

**39 (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)**
**5 (QOOH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) BANBURY**

| Personalities | |
|---|---|
| **Officer Commanding** | **Maj C. J. Laurence TD** |
| **2IC** | **Capt M. Edwards WRAC** |
| **PSO** | **Capt A. Burns** |
| **Troop Commander** | **2Lt M. Francis WRAC** |
| **Troop Commander** | **WO2 K. Wheatley** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt M. Luxford** |
| **PSI Ops** | **Sgt D. Paget WRAC** |
| **PSI Tech** | **Sgt R. Dudding** |

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

The Squadron has, as part of its designation, the old unit title of 'Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars'; this allows the county name to be carried on. The previous 'holders' were a Royal Artillery battery who had adopted the title from the original Hussars.

The present Squadron was raised on 3 February 1971 from a detached Troop of 1 Squadron which was based on Poundon. In common with all other volunteer units the Squadron enjoys excellent relationships with many local individuals and groups.

**EXERCISES**

The Regiment recently mounted Exercise *Runnel Stone* which consisted of ground and paratroop personnel deploying to Denmark and communicating back to UK from hides. Part of the exercise took the form of 'escape and evasion' and involved some Danish Home Defence personnel. The Regiment has retained a role for some parachute trained volunteers so there is a mix of tradesmen and Officers who wear their wings with all the pride naturally associated with that coveted shoulder flash.

Regimental Ops Officer Maj Ian Fisher in the Rx Vehicle with Cpl George Alexander from 5 Squadron and Pte Julie Roylance from 1 Squadron

*By kind permission of Banbury Guardian*





**VISITS**

**Mr Tony Baldry MP** recently visited 5 Squadron and showed a lively interest in all training activities. As a volunteer officer himself **Mr Baldry** naturally asked some very pertinent questions but by the same token he is aware of the problems. The Chairman Designate of Eastern Wessex TAVRA, **Col T. May** and the Deputy Secretary, **Col V. Wallace** accompanied **Mr Baldry** on his visit.

**RECENT ARRIVALS**

Welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Tim Crooks** and to **SSgt (FofS) Kevin Stock** in their new appointments; we hope their tour will be a happy one—it will most certainly be a busy one!

**SOCIAL**

The PSO from 3 Squadron, **John Garrett**, is currently sunning himself in Saudi Arabia where he and **Jane** have gone to attend the wedding of their daughter—the joys of parenthood!

Mr Tony Baldry MP showing how it should be done

*By kind permission of Banbury Guardian*

## 40 Sig Regt (V)
## Belfast

**REMEMBRANCE PARADE**

Under command of **Lt Col A. P. deBretton Gordon**, 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) marched from the TA Centre Clonaver Park to their Parish Church, St Mark's, Holywood Road, Belfast on Sunday 13 November for the annual Service of Remembrance. The regimental flute band led the parade of volunteers and members of the Royal Signals Association NI Branch and the Old Comrades the Parachute Regiment, NI Branch.

The service was conducted by the rector, **the Rev J. E. Moore**, and the lesson was read by **Maj Adrian Scott**, 2IC the Regiment. During the service there was a wreath-laying ceremony. After the service, the Regiment 'Marched Past', taking the salute **Col J. E. Wilson**, Hon Col of the Regiment.

Afterwards, friends and relatives of members of the Regiment and members of the old comrades associations were entertained to lunch.

Remembrance Day Parade
Regimental March Past; taking the salute, Col J. E. Wilson, Hon Col of the Regiment

All Ranks Christmas Dinner
The Christmas Dinner helped on its way with a little light music—on the flute, SSM Harry Lee, side drum, SSgt Davie Clarke

Could it be advice to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col A. P. deBretton Gordon on what to do with his Christmas pudding?

# 71 Sig Regt (V)
## Bromley

**68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**IN PRINT AGAIN**

Despite an absence of some months from these pages, 71 (Y) Sig Regt is alive and well and prospering in its 11 TA Centres around London and the South-East. 1984 has well and truly arrived and is already presenting us with new challenges. Before finally saying farewell to 1983 and filing it under 'gone away', here is an opportunity to recall some of the highlights of the year.

**VISIT OF MAJ GEN W. R. BERKMAN CHIEF OF THE US ARMY RESERVE**

The 75th Anniversary of the Territorial Army coincided with the same event for the US Army Reserve and to commemorate this dual celebration, **Maj Gen Berkman** visited **Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright,** Director Territorial Army and Cadets. This Regiment was privileged to be asked to host an evening for them at one of our TA Centres.

On a balmy August evening they visited 265 Sig Sqn at their drill hall in Bexleyheath, Kent. After an initial briefing by the Regiment's CO, **Lt Col David Casstles TD**, they were shown the various elements of the Squadron preparing for Annual Camp in September and carrying out trade training. Having met and talked with members of the Squadron, **Maj Gen Berkman** presented the Efficiency Medal to

Maj Gen Berkman (second left) and Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright are greeted at Bexleyheath TAC by Lt Col David Casstles, CO 71 (Y) Sig Regt (V), and WO2 (SSM)Tony Allibone of 265 Sig Sqn

SSgt Neil Edwards of TM Troop is showing Maj Gen Berkman another piece of equipment that may or may not be 'soldier proof'



**Cpl Amanda Burch**. The evening concluded with a buffet supper, after which **Maj Gen Berkman** presented 265 Sig Sqn with a large banner commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the US Army Reserve. The Squadron is now looking for a flag pole tall enough and strong enough to fly it from!

**ANNUAL CAMP, SEPTEMBER 1983**

The high spot of any year for the TA soldier should be Annual Camp—two weeks away in remote and exotic places, and this year proved to be no exception. It was also a poignant moment, for it represented the final moments at the helm of the Regiment of **Lt Col David Casstles**, who after 26 years service in the TA, incorporating time as OC of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn and nearly three years as CO of 71 (Y) Sig Regt, was moving on to take over as Colonel TA Eastern District. The venue was the location of his first TA Camp—Redesdale Camp, Otterburn, in the wind-swept, rolling hills of Northumbria, 40 miles north of Newcastle.

The Regiment arrived intact after the long drive, (albeit keeping **Capt Peter Scott** and his LAD team well employed), to a traditional northern greeting—torrential rain! It was, however, according to **WO1 (MTO) John Hornby**, the best weather since the Advance Party arrived in the previous week. The sun of course always shines on the righteous and we were reassured by **Sgt Peter Walker** of 68 Sig Sqn, a native Geordie, who promised that it would improve over the two weeks—to probably light drizzle!

**READY, STEADY, GO!**

Settling in lasted about five minutes as **WO1 (RSM) Lavery** and his team of PSIs were intent on seeing what the Regiment was made of. A 'gentle' start on the Sunday found us on the grenade range. This was followed by blood grouping—the two events were happily not connected, and shortly after this the Squadrons escaped the RSM's control and dispersed to various activities for the Monday and Tuesday. 265 Sqn got as far as Edinburgh—thanks from them to **Capt Alasdair Hall** of 32 Sig Regt for arranging the location, and the others trained in the Otterburn area.

Reunited on Tuesday afternoon, rifles were zeroed, for on Wednesday the RSM was in charge again on the various ranges which make up a large part of the excellent training ground. A truly hectic schedule had been devised—divided into squads of about 10, the Regiment leapt, crawled, ran and fired on 'Heelydod'—Battle Shooting range, 'Longtae'—CQBR, 'Davyshiel'—Individual Battle Shooting range and others, always under the watchful eye of the experienced instructors. In those moments when you felt you could crawl no more, 'Bounty' qualifying tests had been arranged for first aid and NBC. The latter under the ever smiling **SSgt 'Paddy' Goslyn** who was always a source of 'encouragement'!

Thursday was again under Squadron disposal. For 265 Sig Sqn this meant Ex *Border Patrol* in them there hills, where, judging by the amount of blank and pyrotechnics that could be heard being expended, they had a good war! Who won? Friday dawned to the prospect of exploring the rich pastures of the countryside as every TA soldier partook of the three mile 'Tickle' Fitness Test (two miles for the WRAC). No one escaped the PTIs and the red faces and aching muscles provided much merriment for the PSIs who, as we rounded the final bend, could be observed enjoying a garden party with sun shades up (or were they umbrellas?) and 'Liquid' refreshment flowing!

On Saturday the RSM relented and the Regiment dispersed to enjoy the 'pleasures' offered by Edinburgh and Whitley Bay. Any hangovers (shome mistak, surely?) cannot have helped, for Sunday Church Parade was followed by the Drill Competition. The day 'finished' with the Regiment deploying on Ex *Sandylay Sprint* (named after the CO's home in Essex).

**THE LAST DANCE**

The CO's parting 'gift' to us was a fast flowing tactical, communicating, deployment and movement exercise in the Otterburn and Catterick training areas—70 miles apart. (Tiring just saying that!) Split into two opposing forces: 68/265 V 70/94, the aim was to observe and report enemy locations and movements and report back to respective HQs. The exercise was controlled by roving DS who took extreme pleasure in ordering crash moves in the early hours (very politely though), 'capturing' and 'killing' essential personnel and advising you that you were moving to Catterick from Otterburn and then back again. Not so bad, but with gale force winds and torrential downpours, bonus points were awarded for those who suggested hang-gliding to Catterick as the Cam-net disappeared into the back of beyond for the Nth time.

However, the Regiment survived and even had a smile on its face as it arrived back in time for Visitors Day! A 12Km Patrol Race and a Detachment Drills Competition ensued, followed by the serious business of the Regimental Disco on Thursday night.

**FAREWELL**

The Regiment's last act before departing for the South was to line the route out of Camp as the CO took his final bow astride a chair lashed 'Securely' to the front of the LAD's Scammel recovery truck. We wish him well in his new duties.

Deploying back to the TACs on the Friday, Annual Camp concluded. However as a final thought, the RSM is believed to have plenty of ideas left—for Camp 1984!

Lt David Hewer receiving a print of 'Go To It' from the departing OC, Maj Ian Cobbold, on behalf of the Squadron

**WELCOME**

**Lt Col David Casstles** handed over Command of the Regiment after Annual Camp to **Lt Col Mike Yolland** from the MOD, and a warm welcome is extended to him and his family.

**FOOTBALL**

In December the new CO witnessed a first, as two of the Regiment's Squadrons, 68 Sig Sqn and 265 Sig Sqn, contested the final of the London District TA Football Competition at Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea. Both teams are to be congratulated on an exciting match and although 265 Sig Sqn won 5-0, the scoreline does not do justice to 68 Sig Sqn who provided excellent opposition.

The trophy was presented by **Col P.E. Williams TD ADC** (TA Colonel South), to 265 Sig Sqn, winners for the fourth consecutive year. Good luck to 265 in the National Competition!

London District TA Football Competition Final 1983. 265 Sig Sqn (on left) V 68 Sig Sqn. (The infiltrator on the top left from 68 Sig Sqn is WO2 (SSM) Alan Tuckfield)

## 265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The summer months of 1983 seem a long way off, but memories of **Maj Gen Berkman's** visit are still strong, but foremost in mind is the departure in July of our OC, **Maj Ian Cobbold** who handed over Command of the Squadron to become Regimental Operations Officer. He was a tremendous influence on the Squadron with his tireless work, his patient endeavour and his extensive knowledge of the 'art of communicating'. Under his command the Squadron prospered and we thank him and look forward to working with him in his new capacity.

We welcome as the incoming OC, **Maj Paul Acda**, previously Squadron 2IC and wish him and **Capt Graham Payne**, new 2IC and **Capt John Barber**, now OC 884 Sig Tp, well in their new positions.

As well as partaking of a number of exercises with an emphasis on Military Skills and Communicating, members of the Squadron have been actively involved in other related pursuits. **SSgt Steve Peasey** led 21 squadron members in the RMP Chichester March and all completed the 40 kilometre route. Meanwhile up in the air, **LCpl Dave Whitehouse** decided that parachuting might help stretch him and enable him to gain some extra inches in height. He was mistaken in this, but persuaded other Squadron personnel to go with him and have a 'long' weekend at Netheravon.

SSgt Steve Peasey and his Chichester March Team relax and do what comes naturally

The first ever WRAC Royal Signals Staff Sergeant Course was held at Catterick, **Sgts Joyce Peasey, Cath Tickner, Sue Holmes** and **Janice Powell** represented the Squadron and creditably passed out in three of the first four places.

In October, several members of the Squadron, including WRAC for the first time, attended the Kent Yeomanry Old Comrades Association dinner at Folkstone. **Cpl (now Sgt) Mark Penny** was awarded the Lucy Trophy, presented annually for best all round performance by a serving soldier in the Squadron and **Pte Kathy Maeers** the Moore Trophy, the WRAC equivalent, presented for the first time at this dinner.

In November the Squadron was well represented at two events. Firstly at the Lord Mayor's Show where we provided part of the flanking escort to the parade and secondly at Remembrance Day Parades in Bromley and Brighton.

## LAD AT NIJMEGEN

On Saturday 12 July, 13 stout hearted members of the Regiment set off to Holland to compete in the famous Nijmegen Marches. Ahead of them was four days of marching 25 miles a day with at least 22lbs on their backs. The complete programme was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sat 12 | Travel to Nijmegen |
| Sun 13 | Briefing on Marches |
| Mon 14 | Site seeing and preparation |
| Tue, Wed and Thu | March |
| Fri 18 | March and Final Parade |
| Sat 19 | Return to UK |

The team consisted of **Sgt Ecclestone** (Bicycle man and Team Leader), **Cpl Rodgers** (Tent and Feet Orderly), **LCpl Knight** (Organiser Extraordinaire), **LCpl Pye, LCpl Andrews, LCpl Norman, LCpl Kemp, Cfn Carpenter, Cfn Booth, Cfn Jarvis, Cfn Morley, Cfn Shilling** and **Cfn Wells**. Certain members of the team had competed in 1979 and knew what to expect, the others soon found out the hard way.

Breakfast at 0330 hrs and start marching at about 0430-0500 hrs. The march had to be completed by 1700 hrs but you tried to get back before the day became too hot. As usual blisters were the biggest problem, and by the end of the fourth day, all the team members knew which medics to call on for the least painful treatment.

The team did very well despite the heat and blisters and won a medal for completing the whole four days as a team.

Prior to the march, the team organised sponsorship for the 'Guide Dogs for the Blind', and on Remembrance Sunday presented a cheque to the value of £542 to the local representative here in Bromley, who in turn presented a photograph of a guide dog puppy to the team organiser.

The team medal now holds pride of place in the RHQ/LAD and they are hoping to add to it, having applied to take part again in 1984.

Members of the Nijmegen March Team posing with a representative of the Guide Dogs for the Blind during the cheque presentation

## POSTSCRIPT ,

1984 looks like being our busiest year and you can be sure you will hear about it regularly in these pages.





CCV

## 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

### AIRBORNE LANYARD PRESENTED TO SQUADRON

On Friday 16 December, at midday, Commander 1 Signal Group, **Col Mike Marples**, visited the squadron to present the airborne lanyard as a unit dress embellishment. Earlier the same day **Col Marples** had reviewed an identical parade at 1 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in Tidworth to mark the retitling of that Squadron from 216 to 215 Signal Squadron. During that parade the OC, **Maj Chris Shuker**, had presented his personal airborne signals lanyard to **Col Marples** and requested that he present it to 205 Airborne Signal Squadron to keep the tradition alive. Thus, one hour later, in Aldershot, the birthplace of Airborne Signals, **Col Marples** presented the lanyard to the acting OC, **Capt Peter Day** in a short ceremony so that henceforth the lanyard will be unique, once again, to Airborne Signals in Aldershot.

Capt Peter Day being presented the Airborne Lanyard, as a dress embellishment for all members of the squadron, by Col Mike Marples

### A REQUEST

Concurrently with receiving the Airborne Lanyard the Squadron agreed to caretake the airborne museum and chatels of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron and these have moved from Tidworth and have been established as a museum in Aldershot. It is now intended to refurbish and enlarge the museum to cover the history of Airborne Signals from its birth to the current day. If any readers have any memorabilia they would like to donate, they will be gratefully received. Hand in hand with the presentation of the lanyard and the move of the Airborne Museum goes all the responsibilities of airborne signals matters. This year for the first time since 1981 the Lanyard Day will be run in Aldershot on Airborne Forces day (7 July) and later in the year the squadron will take to the hills to compete for the Lanyard Trophy. How the pendulum swings!

### PRESENTATION OF LS&GC MEDALS

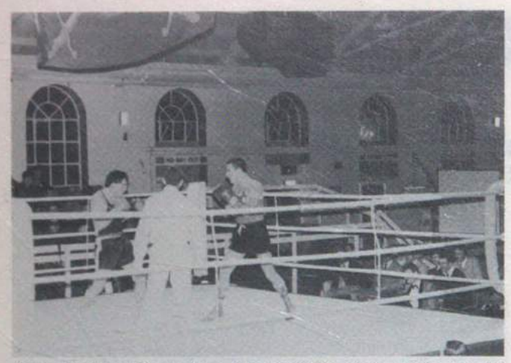
After **Col Marples** had presented the Airborne Lanyard, the Officers and Senior NCOs retired to view the new Airborne Signals museum. He also took this opportunity to present Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO2 Walley**, on a short attachment to the QMs empire 'twixt postings, and to **Cpl McKeown** our long serving cypher 'King'. Both presentations being made as a reward for many years loyal service and undetected crime!

Col Marples presents LS&GCs to Cpl McKeown and WO2 Walley. (Note how early we start work!)

### BOXING

This year, for the first time, the Squadron entered the UKLF Minor units Novice Boxing Championships. After beating all comers in the South East District Championships our gallant boxers found themselves hosting 19 Field Ambulance in the UKLF Semi Finals. **Sgt 'Ben' Rodgers**, the coach and team manager, was thrown in at the deep end trying to fight his way through all the protocol and red tape. All's well that ends well and the night arrived with everyone being at the right place on time with teams, weighed, documented, checked and rechecked. The RSM also had to become an instant MC and learn the intricacies of Boxing protocol. The preparation complete, it was now up to our team to do their stuff. The team, consisting of **Pte Johnstone, LCpls Malcolm, Haynes** and **Swan** (the last two promoted the day after the bout; who says boxing isn't good for you?), **LCpl Williams, Pte Goacher** and **Sig Fearn**, were unleashed upon the unsuspecting opposition.

Presentation of District Boxing Trophies to the Boxing Team. *L to R:* Pte Johnstone, LCpls Malcolm, Haynes, Swan, Col Marples, LCpl Williams (hidden), Capt Day, Pte Goacher (hidden), Sig Fearn, Sgt Rodgers (Coach)



Army Boxing Finals. Sig 'Legionnaire' Hope sizes up the opposition LCpl Secombe from 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE

It was a hard fought match and all fighters produced a good evening's 'entertainment'. The squadron team beat 19 Field Ambulance by four bouts to three.

Of course winning only compounded **Sgt Rodgers** problems as he now had to organise it all over again for the Army finals—but it's much easier the second time round. Spurred on by their previous success the boxing squad undertook training at a ferocious pace. Christmas leave and Ex *Jungle Dog* immediately on return took their toll and all too soon 12 January arrived. In the final we were to meet 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE, the title holders for the last eight years. Our team now consisted of **Pte Johnstone, LCpls Malcolm, Roberts, Swan, Williams, Sig Hope** and **Fearn**. Between them they produced an excellent performance, particularly **LCpl Roberts** who received enormous support from the squadron and a five minute standing ovation after his bout which won the prize for the best fought match. All our team fought well but were unfortunately outclassed by a professional team. Though we lost seven bouts to nil, several were close results and next year . . . !

**NEW TROOP IS FORMED**

Because A Troop was getting larger and larger as the squadron's new role shaped up it was decided to form a new Troop, Charlie Troop. So, at the end of January, C Troop formed up under its first OC, **Lt Des Moloney**, to go straight out on exercise. C Troop provides the Para HQ and Alternate HQ for the Brigade and all members of the Troop are parachute trained. Their first exercise, *Red Peregrine I*, entailed Para HQ doing a night drop on to Salisbury Plain, followed fifteen minutes later by the two landrovers on Medium Stressed Platforms (MSPs). The weather was perfect but unfortunately as soon as the HQ was firm, down came the rain.

By the time the rest of the Squadron had deployed the place was a quagmire which appears to be the recce officers favourite spot! If the birth of C Troop is anything to go by it is in for a busy life indeed. Shortly after returning from *Red Peregrine I*, most of the Troop disappeared to the continent on a ski exercise *Winter Warrior*, with their troop OC. **Cpl George**, fresh from his jungle warfare course in Brunei, and **LCpl Banner** had to stay behind to sort out the stores and perform other mundane but vital tasks. The rest of the troop? Yes, you've guessed it, they disappeared on a para-ski exercise with the German Army—whatever next!?

**FAREWELL TO OC**

On 25 November, the OC **Maj John Stuart** was ambushed as he walked down the SHQ steps for the last time, bundled on to a stretcher and carried across Montgomery lines in double time to the squadron club where the squadron was waiting to drink him out in style. After a short speech he was presented with a statue of an Airborne Soldier. He is off to 10 Sig Regt and we all wish him well in his new appointment.

**AND WELCOME**

Though most of the squadron is away skiing in Germany, and Bavaria, 'fighting' in Lebanon, treking in Belize, parachuting in USA, sailing the North Sea in the warship HMS *Gurkha*, and doing whatever one does in the Falklands, those of us that remained in Aldershot were pleased to record the arrival of **Maj John Allan** the new OC, hot foot from the Ministry on 9 February. We welcome him on behalf of all our straying brethren and wish him a long and happy stay with us—whatever happens it will be different and busy! That much is guaranteed.

**COMPETITIONS GALORE**

Christmas is always busy but in 5 Airborne Brigade we always do things to extremes. This year we were so busy we were forced to curtail even the Christmas festivities. Not content with Lanyard parades, forming new troops and so on, we had to indulge in a mammoth Brigade Sports Competition. The squadron did well, coming second in most activities. Particular mention must made of the Brigade Stretcher bearer competition in which the squadron team came second by the narrowest of margins (less than a yard!) to 36 Engineer Regiment.

For the first time since 1977 the Brigade ran a Parachute Rigging Competition. The competition entailed unit teams rigging vehicles for dropping by parachute. They were tested on speed, accuracy and safety amongst other aspects.

Our team, led by **Cpl Webb** from 566 RLD, did an outstanding job and came first beating the parachute battalions at their own game. Now we have the trophy in the squadron, it is here to stay!

**ALPHA TROOP**

Alpha Troop is now looking vastly smaller having split in two, forming the new Charlie Troop, hence now having only 11 vehicle detachments and 26 men instead of 17 detachments and 42 men.

In the process unfortunately we had to lose some of our old timers and most of our 'Paras'. We say cheers to **Cpls George, Leyman, Barnett, LCpls Banner, Hawkins, Philbrick, Mooney, Sig Clavey, Wellard, Delaney** and **Reveria** who form C Tp. We also lose **LCpls Burrows, Myers** and **Sig Chidley** and **Hope** to B Tp who are only now appreciating how good A Tp is!

The Troop would like to say farewell to our Squadron real old timer and soldier's friend, **Sgt Smith**, who is off to show 7 Sig Regt what it's all about . . . again. **Cpl Daughtrey**, the Troop Cpl leaves us for 1 Div hoping to carry on skiing; we wish him luck.

Congratulations to **'Sgt' Stringer** on his promotion and posting to 566 RLD after passing P Coy and his para course in November/December 1983. Likewise congratulations to **'Cpl' Barnett** with his very effective wife and **LCpl Charman** on his substantive.

Into the troop comes **LCpl Ffitch** and **Sig Butterworth** rejoins us from the Falklands. **Cpl Bentley** is now in the Falklands with **LCpl Walker** in Belize.

**Sig Santos** is trying to learn to lead in CT Troop in Catterick on his leadership course, **LCpl Burrows** is now a Dad, **Cpl Naylor** and **Sig Moody** are now 'pads' with **LCpl Walker** soon to be one. **Cpl Naylor** is also soon to be a Dad . . . well done ol' timer.

Congrats to our sapper **LCpl Pollock** on passing his HGV.

**BRAVO TROOP**

Besides the normal Christmas revelling it has been a relatively quiet period for the Troop, missing much of the hubbub of the rest of the squadron. The OC, **Lt Des Moloney, LCpl Newman** and **Sig Horan**, all returned successful from their 'P Company' and courses and were posted into the new troop Charlie 'Charles' Troop.

**2Lt Derek Wood** arrived from Sandhurst (via Heathrow 'Nick' and almost via the Lebannon) to take over as Troop OC.

We have had quite a few detachments with **Cpls Biglin** and **Speck** going to the Falklands and **LCpls Stokes** and **Mason** to Belize. **LCpl Derek Alderman** has recently got married, though finding a free weekend during our commitments was difficult. Best wishes to him and his wife for the future.

We continue to find volunteers from within for P Company. The latest 'victim' being **Sig Morris**, who having successfully completed P Company is now on his jump course at Brize Norton. **Sig Elliot** is soon to follow his footsteps.

The troop is now beginning to weld together again ready for a hectic, though no doubt enjoyable, year and we look forward to another varied season with the Airborne Brigade. However, our immediate attention is drawn to Ex *Winter Warrior*, a two week snow and winter experience exercise in Bavaria. After that; well that's for the next issue.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

In addition to the above promotions, we must congratulate **SSgts Fowler, Jeanette** and **O'Brien** on being selected for promotion to **WO2**. Well earned after a few years with this Brigade!

Congratulations are also due to **Sig Jones** and **Rowlands** for their promotion to **LCpl** and to **LCpl Davison** from promotion to **Cpl**. Who says promotion in an independent Squadron is slow?!



# 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
# RAF, Brize Norton

**PERSONALITIES**

The last few months have seen a lot of changes within the Squadron including the departure of our guest from down under. We wish **2Lt Ray Trevisan** all the best in his new post in 130 Sig Sqn and hope that his experiences with UK Air Support Comms will have been helpful.

Remaining personalities in the Squadron are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj A. T. B. Kimber** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. W. Blum** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Muir** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Tope** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Stokoe** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt Morgan** |
| **OC A** | **2Lt D. G. Halstead** |
| **OC B** | **Capt J. E. Hall** |
| **OC C** | **2Lt A. H. Mullan** |

We wish **Lt Neil Couch** all the best in his posting to the frozen wastes of Ouston and hope that his experiences in Winter Warfare training in Norway will help him overcome the shock to his system.

**VISITS**

The period, despite the Christmas break seems to have been full of visits, with an ARU staff inspection, a display for **Air Vice-Marshal D. Parry Evans CBE** (AOC 1 Gp RAF, not to be mistaken with 1 Sig Gp), a walk around the rabbit warren, otherwise known as SHQ, by the Station Commander who promised increased space. Perhaps the climax was the ARU carried out by **Maj Gen J. J. Stibbon OBE**, Commandant of Royal Military College Shrivenham. He asked to see a detachment competition which went off without a hitch and was won by the combined SHQ/D Tp team of **Sgt Oliver, Cpl Martin, LCpls Haswell, Kew** and **Sig Downing** and **Haresign**. He ordered that there would be a 'surprise' at 1600 hrs. Everyone was dreading 'yet another' BFT or something similar. The relief to the teams when told the task barely matched the panic of the nominated organisers. All non participants, ie OC, SSM, LAD Sgt, ORSQMS etc had to write and sing a song. Our ORSQMS **SSgt Morgan** came up trumps with the songs and the Squadron had an entertaining finish to a hard day's work.

The SSM, WO2 Muir, in fine voice, leads a team of non-participating rowdies in one of the choral renderings

A team at the NBC stand being watched by Col Cave, the OC and Cpl (I'm not playing) Marsh

Maj Gen Stibbon inspecting the Quarter Guard under the supervision of WO2 (RQMS) Tope

Members of MT and the LAD being presented to the inspecting officer

*From L to R:* Cpl Semple, Cpl Weatherall REME and Cpl Deering

# 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 567

The trophy being presented to Sig Downing at the end of the day

Sgt Brian Duffield with an owlish look to demonstrate the truth in the rumour that the RQMS dept is always kept in the dark

**EXERCISES**

Just in case people felt that no real work was being done it should be mentioned that the Squadron completed a fortnight's exercise in BAOR and we are all most grateful to **Maj S. M. Siddall** and the members of 20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn for being such excellent hosts.

A Tp (AMF(L)) also set out with 249 Sig Sqn for Norway and Ex *Hardfall*. It was with some surprise that we greeted **SSgt 'Chippy' Chambers** back after only two weeks. He really must be more careful and not go around breaking bones.

Finally, anyone who has worked with the RAF will know the time ahead that is facing us if I say that we have once more entered the Minival/Maxival/Taceval season with a vengeance. (One of each since Christmas).

Apologies must go to ORSQMS **SSgt John Symes** for the misrepresentation in the last issue of *The Wire*. The picture was really of **Sgt 'Dingbat' Reynolds**, but that shouldn't stop readers knowing that **SSgt Symes** really was once a combat chief clerk.

Sig Williams apprehensively receiving his UN Medal from the Chief of Staff, Brig Gen C. W. Hewson, during a recent Squadron Medal Parade

LCpl Jacobs eyeing Cpl Brooks suspiciously as he attempts to explain the workings of SYSCON to the Chief of Staff during his recent visit

The OC Maj Les Smith pictured with the staff and children of a Turkish Cypriot Orphanage after he had presented them with the old Mercury Club Hi-Fi



**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

Further to our jottings in the September *Wire* there has been little change to the Squadron's British continuity personnel. However, we have recently bade a fond farewell to our Comms Officer **Lt Claude Bergeron** who has left us to return to the snowy wastes of Canada and we welcome is his place **Lt Jose Gendron**. Still with the international flavour, we have also seen the departure of our SO Comms (Tels) **Capt Raimo Hamalainen** to the snowy wastes of Finland and we extend a warm welcome to his replacement, **Capt Erkki Pekonen**.

**THE CYPRUS WALKABOUT COMPETITION**

The Cyprus Walkabout Competition this year took place on the 6 and 7 October with over 80 team entries. The course is a minimum of sixty miles and must be completed within 12 hours each day. The first day the teams (consisting of three runners) start from Episkopi Elevation 550ft and make their way to Troodos Elevation 5,700ft visiting five checkpoints en route. The terrain covered is very hilly and rugged and after completing the first day teams check in and spend the night at Troodos. The following morning the course is reversed and teams return to Episkopi via five different checkpoints.

Although the UNFICYP Support Regiment is only allocated five teams, the Squadron was fortunate enough to enter two complete Royal Signals teams. Both teams finished the course but a special mention must be made to the B team consisting of **Maj Leslie Smith, SSgt Pete Aitken** and **Sig Dave Girling** who finished a creditable 23rd place in a time of 14hrs 46mins. Our second team unfortunately sustained an injury when **Sig Neil Roome** twisted his ankle, but although in a great deal of pain soldiered on and finished the course, determined not to let team mates **Cpls Gary Brookes** and **Mick Brummell** down.

**EXERCISE *APHRODITES AMBLE***

Twice yearly the Squadron deploys on Ex *Aphrodites Amble*, half of the Squadron deploying on each of two consecutive phases. The exercise is designed to practise personnel in route planning, map reading, low level evasion techniques, endurance, fieldcraft, first aid, voice procedure and leadership at JNCO level. Although this list sounds impressive, the exercise is also intended to be enjoyed, as it takes place in the picturesque areas of Cyprus, not normally encountered by the tourists.

The necessity to hold the exercise every six months is due to the unique nature of the Squadron, where all junior ranks are attached from 30 Sig Regt on six month roulement. Consequently, everyone will experience the delight of *Aphrodites* during their tour.

For those who are fortunate enough to be familiar with Cyprus, the exercise takes place to the area north-west of Episkopi, along a corridor approximately eight miles wide by 20 miles long. This extends from the foothills of Troodos to the coast.

Each of the two phases of the exercise lasts two and a half days, during which time the participants are likely to march 50 to 60 miles, dependant on the ability (or inability) of the patrol leader and his map reading. Full webbing is worn and individuals carry a share of rations and safety equipment, which results in at least 60lb of equipment per person. Due to the sensitive nature of the UN role, weapons are not carried.

Participants are split into four patrols under the leadership of a JNCO and on each of the two complete days, tasked with visiting a number of checkpoints to obtain 'intelligence information'. In addition there are a number of night RVs to recce and/or perform a pre set task. The exercise closes on the third day between 0800-1200hrs, again dependant on patrol ability, at the village of Kouklia on the South Coast, west of Episkopi.

To encourage the patrols to march over the real countryside (and hills), taste the grape fresh from the vine and the orange from the tree, the roads of the exercise area are out of bounds, and consequently patrolled by a highly mobile DS staff. These having previously participated in the march themselves are very familiar with the exercise area—and the short cuts. Generally sighting of patrols are frequent, though normally in a 'legal' situation, (and often up a hill!) The penalty to be caught on a road is a 5Km trip in the DS/LR—in the wrong direction.

The exercise is undoubtedly hard, the weather can be atrocious, the distances are long, the ground rough and the terrain often frightening. However, what soon becomes evident is the good humour and camaraderie that is rarely achieved in the normal working environment.

# 262 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 58

**HEADQUARTERS TROOP**

**Report by: Cpl Donnie Brough**

It is my task to introduce this small, but hardworking troop to the Corps.

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Malcolm Emslie** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Paul Wilkin** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John Farrell** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 Mick Turvey** |
| | **Sgt Archie Arnold** |
| | **Cpl Bill Hunter** |
| | **Cpl Graham Grey** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Merv Finch** |
| **CC** | **Sgt John Nicol** |
| **ORC** | **Cpl Donnie Brough** |

Since the last report from the Squadron, there have been three major changes in the SHQ. The first of these changes involves the Squadron 2IC. **Capt Paul Wilkin** arrived here fresh from the South Atlantic, after completing a tour as RSO with the Kings Own Borderers. The walls of the SHQ are still ringing with the stories of 'Modern Trench Warfare', 'Survival Techniques', 'Communicating under Stress', 'Money Savers in the Mercury Super Shop'. But nevertheless, a big welcome **Capt** and **Mrs Wilkin** to the Squadron and we hope you have an enjoyable tour.

Sadly we said goodbye to **Capt Craig McColville** who along with his good wife departed these shores for an extended tour at the Royal Military College of Science. Since this departure, telephone calls from the Theatre Club regarding 'the next production' and an unnamed Swiss Bank enquiring 'when withdrawals are going to be made' have ceased totally. Bon voyage and good luck with the course.

The next arrival came in the form of **WO2 Mick Turvey**, who joined us from the School of Signals to take up the unenviable appointment of RQMS. This post was previously filled by **WO2 Geoff Marshall** who left us on well earned promotion to take up the post of RSM at 35 Sig Regt(V). Will Birmingham ever be the same?! Lastly welcome to **Sig Archie Arnold** who came to us via the South Atlantic from 227 Sig Sqn; he replaced **Sgt Sanderson** who left the Squadron on promotion for a further tour on the Island with 259 Sig Sqn.

The myth of a SHQ being all work, work and no play is about to be quashed forever. The troop gets heavily involved in the once weekly military training, the twice weekly fitness training, battle camps, escape and evasion exercises, and helicopter training drills. This is not designed to put off individuals who have got a posting here, but to underline the point that normal work and training can run side by side to form a full but enjoyable life.

**MT SECTION**

In MT section we welcome **Sig Paul Bridon** who arrived two days before Christmas. **Sig Bridon** takes over from **Sig Dave Gillespie** who has left us for 21 Sig Regt. Congratulations go to **Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader** for passing his B1 Upgrading course (we've asked for confirmation!) The PRE inspection went well last month with a very high standard of presentation of all the vehicles. Well done to all the lads of Field Troop.

At the beginning of January, **LCpl Dan Joyce** and **Cpl Pete Latham** had a day's excursion on board HMS *Fearless*. Both were given an extensive tour of the ship and were impressed with the live firing demonstration that took place. At the end of the day they were glad to be back on firm ground, and thank all those on board *Fearless* for their visit.

**RADIO SECTION**

In Radio Section we have finally been issued with our Clansman radio equipment, and at the moment we are busy refitting all the vehicles and preparing the Larkspur equipment for backloading. On the exercise front, the troop continue to provide a rebro detachment for the resident Infantry Battalion (currently the 2nd Bn the Royal Anglians), and **LCpl Taff Twohigg** and **Sig 'Specky' Eccles** have recently been on exercise with 264 Sig Sqn who were training out here in December.

**Sig 'Chappers'** Chapman has recently tried his hand at parachuting, completing an eight jump course, and **Cpl Chris Bean** is currently attempting(!) to do the same.

**MAINT TP**

This month's report comes from Line Section. The following Tele Mechs have left us for much colder climes, **LCpl Wagner** (newly promoted) went to 266 Sqn quickly followed by a very disgruntled **LCpl**, (now **Cpl**), **Matt Helm**. **Sig Jim Burgess** rejoined his wife and baby daughter in UK before flying out to Germany.

We welcome **LCpl Neil Inman**, his wife **Karen**, and **Sig Dave Jenkins** and **Ian Watson**. One or two of the older hands deserve a mention now. **Sig Billy McKeegan** and **Mick O'Toole** for keeping the Squadron football team together. Despite having only been here a few months, they are fast becoming senior tele mechs as more and more of our number get posted. **Sig Tomo Thomas** who has had a long standing urge to become a fireman, has now decided to get married instead. 'Out of the frying pan into the fire' one might say!

Christmas came and went in its own inimitable style, starting in early December and finishing about the second week in January. We are all hard at work now preparing for our very first Line Communications Annual Inspection. More of this in our next issue.

**CAPE GRECO**

**Report by WO2 (FofS) John Turvey**

Just a few words from our lonely outpost. We may be remote, but we still continue to involve ourselves in most of the Squadron sporting activities. **Sgt Hadge Watkins** popped over to the UK in November for the Squash Championships held in Blandford, and reached the semi-finals of the Plate competition.

**Sgt Steve Anderson** organises the Squadron Rugby team and plays at both Squadron and Garrison level. (He is also trying very hard at football and basketball). **LCpl Kev Lees RPC**, along with Cape newcomer **Cpl Stew Barclay** also add their weight to the rugby scene. **Sgt Alan Geddes** is trying his hand at footbal, basketball and squash, as well as joining me running around the bondu every week. Two other members of the squash team are **Sgt Rab Gentles** and a Cape wife, **Jeanette Watkins**. Another newcomer, **Sgt Morgan Davis**, is coaching the Squadron's new Basketball team.

We are now preparing ourselves for our annual Station Inspection. In our efforts to reach last year's grading, we will no doubt all end up proficient house cleaners, and first class landscape gardeners!

**X-COUNTRY**

The Squadron team has had another successful season, we again came 4th overall in the Minor Units League, having been 3rd until the 8th and final race. The Squadron runners formed half of the Dhekelia Garrison side, coming 4th in the Major Unit Championship.

**WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** was this year's League Champion, and once again All Island Champion; he also captained the Army (Cyprus) team, which convincingly beat the RAF. **Sgt Alan Geddes** narrowly missed selection for the Army squad after a very good season, always finishing in the top 20 on the island.

**LCpl Steve Hughes**, and **Sig Mitch Mitchell** also ran well all season, with highest positions of 20th and 21st respectively. The squadron invariably managed to field two teams, with some fine running from: **SSgt Trev Jones, Sgts Steve Anderson, Martin Leighfield, George Mayne, Cpl Gaz Stratton, LCpl Fred Steel**, and **Sig Dave Jenkins**.

All Squadron runners are now preparing for the annual road races, the 8, 10, 15 milers, a new 25Km race, and finally the marathon on 18 March.

LT Col Malcolm Bryant RAOC, Chairman of Cyprus X Country presenting the individual league champion's trophy to WO2 (FofS) John Turvey

**NEWS FROM THE COMMCEN**

In an attempt to enter into the festive spirit of Christmas, the girls in the Commcen decided to do a spot of carol singing in aid of an appeal being run by the Woman's Own magazine for a new bone marrow unit at the Westminster Children's hospital. A recruiting campaign began and gluwein was administered to all—purely for medicinal purposes (ie oiling the vocal cords!) About 15 of us eventually departed including **Lt Gibson**, Squadron wives, misfits from other units and our musically minded Traffic Officer, **Capt Daniel**. After 'warming up' around some of the quarters, we descended upon the Sergeants Mess, and arrived (by intention) just before the dispersal of a mess meeting. We were extremely well received by everyone in attendance and a good time was had by all. The grand sum of £220.12 has since been forwarded to the magazine, and our thanks must go to **Pte Soo Dyer** for organising the venture.

**THE MASSACRE OF THE NOT-SO-INNOCENTS**

The peace and tranquility of the traditional Sunday morning was shattered quite untraditionally on 18 December, when the WRAC versus the Squadron football match, took place. The girls team comprised: **LCpl Babs Statham (Captain), Cpl Lyn James, Cpl Wendy Hunter, LCpl Dee Hughes, Ptes Lizzie Duff, Sally Harbour** and several Squadron wives—who looked much better in the Squadron sports strip than their husbands. The men(?) paraded on to the pitch in their best Sunday frocks and DMS boots. The outcome, inevitably, was victory to the girls—the real ones—in the form of a 2-1 win. The goals were scored by **Cpl Lyn James**, and **LCpl Dee Hughes**. Well done the girls on a well earned victory—despite the fact that the men were only allowed to walk throughout the entire game!

**THE END OF AN ERA**

If four months amount to an era, then we've definately seen the end of one. I refer to the return of all the WRAC to their original dwelling place, which has been undergoing restoration and redecoration over the past fews months. Our temporary block—'The St George home for Regimental Dragons' is now no more. It was a tearful departure, especially for the RQMS when he saw the excess furniture that had been left in the open and ravaged by the notorious November Tornado.

Finally, some Hellos and Goodbyes.

Hi to **LCpl Taff Martin**, a previous veteran of the island. Hellos also go to **LCpl Tansey Millsop** and **Pte Flo Mitchell** from Aldershot and Wilton respectively. Farewells must go to **LCpl Babs Statham** and **Julie Jones** who have both returned to the UK. **Cpl Caroline Brannagan** has also returned to civvy street after her short stay here. Our best wishes go to you all.

**FIELD TROOP**

Many changes have taken place in Field Troop since the last issue. We welcome **Lt Fiona Gibson** who has arrived from Blandford to take over as OC, and bid farewell to **Lt Nicky Thomas** who returns to UK. We also welcome **SSgt John Gadsdon** and his wife **Colleen** who arrived from 22 Sig Regt and hope that **SSgt Steve Bailes** and his family enjoy their tour at 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Cpl Chris Pugh** has also departed; he has gone to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to further his training as a potential YofS.



**ARMY COMMCEN BEIRUT**

In early December **LCpl Dave Thomas** from Field Tp was sent over to Beirut to join members of 30 Sig Regt as a replacement RTG. Here is a brief account of his attachment.

'After being on standby to move to Beirut for several days, on Monday 5 December I was called forward to RAF Akrotiri to fly to Beirut as a replacement operator. Having enjoyed my low level Chinook flight, I was met and taken to Britforleb where I was introduced to my new place of work, the Army Commcen Beirut, and I met up with old friends from 30 Sig Regt (who thought they'd seen the last of me). I was given a hurried explanation of the set up including a Satcom brief by **Sgt Colin Whawell** and then it was straight on shift. The conditions in the Commcen are not ideal, but you soon get used to working around the daily chaos and the ever changing shift roster. With us also having the job of helping out with guards, the true meaning of being flexible was felt by all!

The work was both hard and rewarding, but always varied, and after a hectic two weeks it was time for me to return to Dhekelia in time for Christmas. Many thanks must go to the rest of the hard working detachment for making me very welcome during my short stay.'

**TORNADO HITS DHEKELIA GARRISON**

After several warning reports on the radio that a tornado might hit Episkopi, the inhabitants of Dhekelia were caught somewhat unawares when this end of the island was hit instead. During late November the Garrison was hit by the tornado which swept along the water front, its path clearly defined by a ramshackled display of torn down trees, telegraph poles, demolished walls, fences and damaged buildings. The waterspout finally blew itself out to sea leaving the Garrison minus a few amenities including the Squadron Bitsa Bar, the Swimming Pool, Youth Club and Toddler group club, to name but a few. Our very own **FofS Dave Jackson** was none too pleased to discover that the Yacht Club was now an open air Yacht Club and that several boats had been deposited several miles away on dry land. Needless to say the restoration work took many long hours.

This photograph gives a clear indication of some of the devastation caused by the mini tornado that hit Dhekelia in November 1983



# 266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic)

**A LITTLE WARMTH**

As all of you at home are gripped by the icy fingers of Winter, as you shiver in sub-zero temperatures, struggle home through slush filled roads, dig your way out of snow piled gardens, have your Christmas shopping spoilt by ill mannered shop assistants and bumping crowds, kick and swear at your overheated cars, we here in the Falklands bask serenely in 70° of Christmas Day Sunshine, cooled by little South Atlantic Zephyrs and **wish we could be with you!** As miracles rarely occur every four months, we soldier on hoping by the following stories to bring a little warmth into your frosty lives. In truth we shall feel a little nearer to you. On with the tale.

**THE MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Geri Maddren** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Lance Byrne** |
| **Admin Offr** | **Capt Wally Lockwood** |
| **TOT Projects** | **Capt Brian Pettifer** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Tom Witherington** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Brian Greenwood** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Gerry Bannister** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt Dave Flynn** |
| **QM** | **Capt Bob Pearce** |
| **OC Radio** | **SSgt Tony Davies** |
| **OC RR Tp** | **Lt Keith Whitehead** |
| **OC Line Tp** | **Capt Reg Heath** |
| **OC Commcen Tp** | **SSgt Stew Baxter** |
| **OC JSSU** | **Capt David Smith** |

**and a cast of thousands.**

**AROUND THE HEADQUARTERS**

Normalisation is the cry of the day. Our predecessors will no doubt be wearing 'told you so' smirks, envisaging big hats, No 2 Dress and Sam Brownes. Well don't forget it's Summer here and everybody who knows will point out that if ever that order of dress is to be worn it will need to be waterproof.

Our little steps towards normality have taken the form of 'doing up' the place and creating a bigger image within the area. The doing up bit involves our plans to refurbish the Squadron Headquarters and change its 'air raid shelter' appearance. Equally we are casting our attentions to the outside of the BFFI HQ. The outside area of BFFI could easily be mistaken by a new comer for a building site. This operation, now underway, is called Project Beautiful BFFI.

With regard to image building, our *Mercury Echo*, the new Squadron newsletter, goes from strength to strength, whilst the Mercury Super Shop is now attracting charabanc trips from all over the Islands, well Joint Force Signal Staff anyway!

All in all, we are on the up and up and if not loved, we can hardly be ignored.

**HELLES BARRACKS ON THE MOVE**

With an eye still on normalisation the arrival of two of 11

Sgts Hoensch and Brewer surrounded by (L to R) LCpl Pendrich, LCpl Savage, Sig Spavins, Berry, Thomas, Crawford and Burton

Regiment's Stalwart Drill Instructors, **Sgts Alan Hoensch** and **Gerry Brewer** gave credence to the rumour that a Square was being built near the new Airport. Not quite true, but possible, one day. The Sgts, two, soon found that by chance! **(Maj Jack Boyle** 11 Regiment please note) half of their ex-recruits have come with them. How happy they must have been to meet their ex drill instructors again, especially after all the nice things they shouted as their 'Mums and Dads' led them away from, Messrs **Hoensch** and **Brewer**! Our photograph shows their happiness and the two sergeants seem even more than pleased! Remember the phrases 'every dog has its day' and 'elephants never forget' etc.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE SUN**

The Squadron Christmas, femaleless, Party took place on 22 December in Stanley Town Hall. The organisers under choreographer **Capt Wally Lockwood** were **SSgt Stew Baxter** and **SSgt (FofS) Clive Cooper**. The event was designed to follow as closely as possible a traditional Christmas Draw and Dance! Some dissent was shown by Line Troop who were, together with Commcen Troop (who didn't object very much), chosen as the females. It was finally resolved that the event should be stag or nearly stag. The 'nearly' bit was due to part of the entertainment, a Beauty Contest, 'Miss Stanley 1983'. Entrants ranged from 'Miss Lookout', **Cpl Steve Ferguson**, 6ft 4in and built like a zip, 'Miss Safe Esperia', **LCpl Nigel Mohamet**, a large Radio Relay person and 'Miss Philomel Street', **Cpl Simon Norris** dressed as a Hunchback. That particular event organised by **Cpl Paul Hamer** and **Cpl John Barran** proved very successful and a few long standing relationships have endured! From Sword Swallowers to Accordionists the evening progressed.

Where **SSgt Stew Baxter** got his other entertainment from only **Capt Wally Lockwood** knows and he is only paying for them, not saying. The two high spots of the evening were an excellent buffet and a Grand Christmas Draw. The OC won a booby prize, everyone agreed he had already won a lemon being here, so it turned out to be an inflatable banana—at least that is what the label said. Christmas day dawned to find **Maj Geri Maddren** and **SSM Tom Witherington** trying to pierce the heavy ground mist and bring Christmas spirit to all those of the 'Mountain Folk'. Needless to say they were in a helicopter clutching the Christmas Spirit and wishing they were somewhere else. They were unable to land anywhere because of the weather and somewhat relieved, came home. It's quite a Christmas Day when one gets up at 0330 hrs flies around until 0700 hrs and gets back in time to serve gunfire followed by acting like a demented waiter at three lunches and never getting a look in one's own stocking!

Lunch was held in three different locations—our proud boast is that we have soldiers in every accommodation location on the Islands. With 20 minutes between each location, the Officers, WOs and SNCOs suffered digestive trouble, loss of bearings and for a few, hangovers, between each meal. At the Lookout Camp lunch we were joined by **Lt Col Johnny Fielding** Comd Joint Forces Signal Staff and his aide (?) **Maj Malcolm Sinton**. The lunch was a splendid affair with **Cpl Tom Williams** organising everyone who wanted to be organised. For many it was back to work after lunch, showing the hard fact of life here, but this did little to dampen the very high spirits.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

To have your 21st Birthday is a special occasion. To have it here is something to be remembered. Certainly it's an event that **Sig Paul Chitty** won't forget. Apart from the usual run of the mill arrest by the RMPs, an appearance in front of the OC, being hustled into taking part in a identification parade. **Sig Chitty** was suddenly the subject of a Tactical Birthday Presentation. As our photograph shows he looks more relieved than happy as he receives his operational Birthday Cake from the OC.

Sig Chitty receives his Tactical Birthday Cake from the OC

**VISIT OF THE CSE SHOW—OUR SPONSORSHIP**

The Christmas CSE Show went as planned and we stole a little bit of their publicity. We now have an attractive Squadron designed sweatshirt (ex members send in your orders with a cheque for £5.50 and we will post them to you!). The technicians to the fore, as usual, 'stole' one young lady and before they were made to give her back our newly formed publicity committee struck. The result as can be seen by the photograph is **Miss Suzy ?** (It's only a new PR Section and they forgot to ask her surname!) posing wearing one of our sweatshirts. As pointed out to the Admin Officer who accounts for these things, by **Capt (TOT) Brian Pettifer** who knows about these things, there was not much point in having the sweatshirt back, as it was too stretched now. The AO reluctantly wrote it off.

Our pictures show **Suzy** meeting the Squadron and some! It should be noted that **Capt Wally Lockwood** insisted that the cost of the sweatshirt be the publicity of the Mercury Super Shop, unnoticed by **Cpl Dave Paterson**.

Suzy escapes with a Squadron Sweatshirt

TM Troop 'capture' a lady. In the picture Cpls Jim Deane, Paul Hamer, John Baran, LCpls Tony Hoare, Tony Quinn, Mark Phelps and Suzy

**STANLEY HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONS**

The Squadron won the team prize in the Stanley Half Marathon, which was an excellent achievement against some strong opposition. The course was not what one expects on a normal marathon, being mostly over gravel roads and up through the town of Stanley. Individual positions were: **2nd LCpl 'Titch' Little; 3rd Sgt Paul MacNaughton; 8th Capt Brian Pettifer.**

**Capt Brian Pettifer** narrowly beat the General by a place and took the veteran's prize with the General as runner up. **Capt Pettifer** is now taking lessons in tact.



**THE OUT DETS**

As you sit roasting your toes over bubbling radiators and feeling sorry for us here—(hope you are) spare a thought for those of our Squadron we call the 'Mountain Folk'. High in the sky, living in desolate rocky wastes, these hill people become a breed apart. They liken themselves to the Afghan Warriors and in many ways, appearance included, there are similarities! There are too many to name individually, and there is no truth in the rumour that the OC has forgotten their names, so a quick tour of their desolate outposts will help to identify a few of them.

First there is **Cpl Steve Carmichael** who with his merry band lives in a sheep pen—unused, the sheep found it too difficult to reach—Visit him and his people will pull at your clothing and ask you questions about home. Then there is **Cpl Ray Young** who when visited recently asked us who had won the Cup Final, 1982!

Then there is **Cpl Taff Hunter** who lives amongst the penguins. He hops towards your helicopter and tells you excitedly about the boat he is building!, for escape maybe?

Off into the clouds again to meet **Cpl Charlie Cowell** whose home in the sky is constantly buffeted by a gale. You adopt a 70° lean to counter the prevailing wind. When he comes back to reality he's going to need rehabilitation to walk properly. Yet remote as it is, his gang live in comparative luxury. A tribute to the ingenuity of the Corps. Finally, although we have missed many who waved and set beacon fires alight as we flew over them, is **Cpl Bob Griffiths** high, high in the sky looking down on Stanley. Three hours walk from the helipad and you come to his little spot. He tells us proudly that his mountain is full of people and not one to be seen. A spot of reassurance, shake of the hand and head and you run back to the security of the helicopter and return to civilisation, well HQ BFFI anyway. Nobody ever complains too loudly about life in Stanley after a visit to our mountain men!

The photograph shows some of the mountain folk personnel adding little touches of Christmas. We held a Mountain Folk Christmas Decoration Contest which was won by **Cpl Charlie Cowell's** det of **Sig Nobby Hall, LCpl Carl Crofts, LCpl Mark Anderson** and friends.

Cpl Bailey getting ready for Christmas with help from the Air Corps. Sig Carthew, LCpls Cox and Cook look on

Looking for the Mail Run — Cpl McCann and LCpl Kielty search in vain

A lonely little tree — LCpl Hill in festive mood

**FINALLY A LOOK FORWARD**

New Year looms, 'days to do' charts grow shorter and life continues. In the next two months we look forward to the Island Raft Race, Line Troop are hot favourites with TM Troop led by **Cpl Paul Hamer** close behind.

**New Year's Day**—we are having a whole day off! It's a Knock Out and Barbecue in the afternoon. **Sgt John Vilday** is our **'Eddie Waring'.**

**St Valentine's Day**—that should be different. All of our parent units have been contacted by the Admin Officer through his *Mercury Echo* and asked to get the Wives/Girlfriends to send a little Valentines Message, nameless, to their loved ones. Should be interesting.

**The Stanley Moustache Competition**—We propose to hold a Squadron moustache growing competition which we are informed by reliable administrative sources will be similar to Crufts.

**Superstars of Stanley**—In early March we plan to hold a Squadron Superstars Competition. All are training in earnest, with a view to emulating their TV counterparts. Add to this our 14 hour day with little time off and we have a busy but enjoyable future. Happy New Year.

## 641 Sig Tp
## BFPO 18

**WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?**

641 Signal Troop! Who are they? Where are they? Well, we are a small band of warriors who work in one of the largest Circuit Control Agencies (CCA) in the Central Region and we provide a service to the Second Allied Tactical Air Force (2ATAF), NORTHAG and other formations within NATO. We are based in the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) here in Maastricht, Holland.

The Royal Signals element of the troop consists of a Major (TOT) Troop Commander, one SSgt (FofS), five Terminal Equipment technicians and two Telemech Corporals.

CCA is responsible for engineering telegraph, telephone and data circuits. We have started to move into new technology in that most circuits will soon be computer assisted. The Integrated Voice Switched Network (IVSN) is now in use and the Computer Assisted Message Processing System (CAMPS) will soon be with us, as will the new TARE. Several other computer systems are due to be operational over the next year and therefore 641 Signal Troop plays a vital role in data communications today.

**TROOP PERSONALITIES**

The time has come to say farewell to **Maj (TOT) Bill Graham** after some five years as Troop OC. He is posted to bonnie Scotland to look after the new Satellite Ground Terminal. Goodness knows where his boat will be moored!

In his place we welcome **Maj (TOT) Bill Cochrane** and his wife **Betty** and congratulate him on his recent promotion. His golfing abilities will no doubt be an asset to a thriving JOC Golf Society. We wish both of them a pleasant and enjoyable tour with the troop.

Another goodbye is to **Sgt Mick Crabtree** who is so tired of getting his haircut that he has taken the plunge into civilian life. We are sure that JOC will miss his golfing talent and 227 Sig Sqn will miss his orienteering efforts just as he managed to miss checkpoints. We welcome his replacement **Sgt John Graves** and his wife **Jo**.

Back Row (L to R) Cpl Gillings, Sgts Gipson, Abrons, Graves, Cpl Pett. Front Row (L to R) Sgt Crabtree, SSgt (FofS) Wilson, Maj (TOT) Cochrane, Sgts Hartley, Driver

During the crossing one member of the party suffered from altitude sickness and had to return to the previous camp with half of the team. Once he recovered they rejoined the main element and continued to cross the pass.

Once over the pass, the team were to travel down the deepest valley in the world, the Mustang Valley, where the climate reverted to a tropical one. All members arrived in Pokhara safely, glad that the walking was over, realising that the expedition was an unforgettable adventure. Two days of sightseeing in Katmandu were enjoyed prior to our return to Amsterdam and civilisation. The expedition is held annually by HQ Rhine Area.

**THE BEST**

**Sgt Robin Gipson** is congratulated on his outstanding cricket achievements playing for AFCENT. He managed to pick up the Best Batsman, Best Bowler and Best All-rounder awards for last season. Other members are **SSgt (FofS) Paul Wilson,** not to be confused with **SSgt (FofS) Roy Wilson** of 227 Sig Sqn, or was it **SSgt (FofS) Pete Wilson** of 9 Sig Regt? We assure you that there are no more brothers lurking around the world. **Sgt Cliff Abrons** occupies himself orienteering and playing rugby for AFCENT Knights. **Cpl Garry Gillings** plays basketball for the Corps, **Sgt Steve Driver** is busy studying for his FofS entrance exam and **Sgt Paul Hartley** is still settling into his new flat.

The only other remaining member of the troop to be mentioned is **Cpl Phil Pett** who has recently returned from an expedition in the Himalayas, and his report now follows.

**EXPEDITION *HIMALAYAN BACKSTOP 1983***

The aim of the expedition was to cover some three hundred miles in a part of the world which was totally different from our own. The climate varied from tropical heat to freezing mountain conditions at an altitude of 18,000ft.

The date of departure was the 8 October from Amsterdam airport. The party was briefed the day before at Dusseldorf by the leader **Lt Col John Wilson RAPC**. At the airport we had plenty of time to get to know each other since our flight was delayed for 24 hours.

Once airborne everything went according to plan, the first night being spent in Katmandu, followed by a harrowing six hour bus journey to Dumre. Transport from then on would be by 'Shanks' pony' for 21 days with our eventual destination being Pokhara, by way of two mountain ranges, the Lamjung and the Annapurna Himal.

For the first few days we walked through numerous paddy fields and waded through various streams and rivers. May I add that it rained non-stop during this stage!

Gradually, as we gained altitude, the scenery changed to that of an alpine type climate. The hardest stage of the expedition was to cross the 'Thorng' Pass at a height of 18,000ft. It had taken eleven days to reach this pass and we had to break camp at 0330 hrs so that the pass could be crossed in one day! The temperature was about minus twenty degrees centigrade and it took 10 hours to cross to the other side.

The Thorng Pass (L to R) Cpl Phil Pett, Sherpa, WO2 Brian Ward (13 Sig Regt)



## Queen's University OTC BFPO 801

**JIMMY MALONE: A BRIEF HISTORY**

*Jimmy* joined quite some time ago. In fact it was in 1884 when he was first conceived and adopted under the guardianship of **Maj C. F. C. Beresford RE**, as a crest for the Telegraph Battalion, RE.

However, despite everyone at Queen's OTC knowing about *Jimmy's* existence, it was not until 1982 that he was fathered in this unit by that veteran of the seas, **WO2 Ron Smith. Ron**, having introduced the OTC Signal Troop to 'Naval' communications by providing a safety net for the 1981 UK Squib Championships, always felt that the troop seemed to be short of a certain element of culture, tradition and heritage.

**Lt Col George Baird TD, R. Irish**, had noticed this too, and as CO of Queen's University OTC recommended action to be adopted. **Ron Smith**, of course, took this 'adoption' business seriously and was immediately on the look-out for a mascot. Despite several of his sea voyages, no lonesome penguin could be found—apparently they had followed our previous PSI **Mat McBierney**. However, on one of his many mercurial voyages, while looking up at a yellow flag flying from his mast, he queried feverishly: How would *Jimmy* look up yonder? And when his feet touched Land Ho—lo and behold, before the day was out, a pennant in full Signals colours, bearing *Jimmy* and the Unit's name was purloined. Since that day it is hoisted every Corps week-end behind the OTC's flag. *Jimmy* was installed! Thereafter, like a true mascot, *Jimmy* follows the troop everywhere.

With *Jimmy's* birth to the Queen's OTC, there naturally could have been no more timely visit than that of his 'Godmother'.

First Parade: Jimmy being unveiled

**A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION**

Members of the Queen's OTC Royal Signals Troop had been prepared for a 30 minute exercise in which they starred for five minutes. Yet for all concerned, it seemed like a life time, when they were introduced to their **Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne.**

HRH being introduced to the Troop Commander by the RSO

For months the Signals PSI **Ron Smith** had been making arrangements for the forthcoming visit, playing his cards so close to his chest, that not even the TM or the CO knew what it was all about. A scenario was worked out, depicting the role of the OTC, and the function of the troop within this role, and all the 'actors' were rehearsed for their parts.

It was most interesting to hear the excuses people had made to employers, mothers, lovers, etc to get the afternoon off for the visit. The same people bombarded us with questions after the event.

We hear from **JUO Kinney**, that their Troop OC was found after the parade, dazedly staring at his right hand. For all concerned, the moment of a life time had passed, and we went home in the knowledge that it had been a good day.

Since this memorable day, *Jimmy* has overlooked a number of memorable events, many of which were supported by his guardian, the 40 (U) Sig Regt (V) (the Troop's sponsor unit). Several of these were events sponsored by ORLO, while others were home made productions. Not satisfied with the normal training activities, our PSI (if you can't go to sea, find a lake) **Ron Smith** volunteered all and sundry for Lakeland 1982. This celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Scouting movement took *Jimmy's* Troop to the Logh Navar Forest of Fermanagh, providing safety nets for the Scouts' hikes and islands survival tasks.

Thus, while under *Jimmy's* watchful eye the Troop's experience grew from strength to strength, so too, were **Ron's** days numbered. There comes a time in every *Jimmy's* life when he must let his adopted parent leave and let him drift on the ether.

*Jimmy*, being now two years of age, though, has acquired a new surrogate in the guise of **WO2 Tony Thomas**, who has tended to *Jimmy* and his needs with equal diligence and fervour. Already a veteran of three Scottish crusades, his work as *Jimmy's* mentor currently is to provide for stout Lionhearts. Meanwhile a hint of anticipation lingers in the Troop. Despite *Jimmy's* tender two years since his official adoption by the Unit's Troop, the Troop itself is more mature and will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 1986.

## Association News

# Former Pensioners

We report with regret, the recent death of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2871614 | **Sig J. Webster** |
| 2311357 | **Cpl K. O. Walters** |
| 2316668 | **SSgt H. L. Tovell** |
| 2316061 | **LCpl E. S. Harley** |
| 22212329 | **LCpl G. M. Gamble** |
| 6922279 | **SSgt E. J. Garner** |
| 2318391 | **Sgt W. E. Garton** |
| 2308375 | **Cpl T. J. Somers** |

# Scarborough Branch

**Report by W. L. Grandsome Esq, Hon Secretary**

The Branch meeting on Saturday 7 January was a special occasion in the 38-year history of the Scarborough Branch with the official opening of the Branch's first permanent headquarters in premises at Burniston Barracks. At the opening ceremony ex RSM **Mr Jack Hargreaves**, a senior veteran of the Branch, cut the ribbon, and declared the HQ well and truly open. An added bonus for the 34 members attending was a glass of wine to celebrate the occasion. In welcoming the members to the Branch HQ **Lt Col (QM) Brian Cleaver**, Officer Commanding, Signals Training Centre, Burniston Barracks, said he was pleased to make available this facility for future meetings, and the fact that it would provide a permanent home for the Branch Standard and archives. **Lt Col Cleaver** then, on behalf of himself and the permanent staff at the Barracks, presented the Branch with the picture 'Go To It', Chairman, **Mr Harry Harper**, receiving the picture on behalf of the Branch, thanked Col Cleaver and assured him it would always have pride of place in the Branch HQ.

Lt Col Brian Cleaver presenting 'Go to it' to Branch Chairman Mr Harry Harper.
*(By kind permission of Scarborough and District Newspapers Ltd)*

Our members acknowledge this latest event as the culmination of the Branch's long association with Burniston Barracks which began some 20 years ago, when, **Maj Freddie Lunn**, Officer Commanding at that time, invited the Branch 'to come home'. Since then, through to the present time, every succeeding Officer Commanding at Burniston Barracks has contributed in many ways to the welfare of this Branch.

There is also a pleasant surprise for future visiting units to the Barracks when they see the refurbished 'Jimmy' club, it has been transformed beyond belief, with 'Wine cooler', 'Cider', and temperature controlled beers. We launch the new club at the next Branch meeting. I wonder how many will be converted to 'Scrumpy' and for how long?; diminishes chances for 'double top' as well, I believe.

I was touched, but not surprised when two members of our Branch, **Mr and Mrs Sam Dool**, who are noted for their generosity, informed me that following 'The Royal Signals Memorial Chapel Catterick Chair Appeal' they wished to donate a chair. I have undertaken to make the necessary arrangements for its installation.



## – Sport –

# BASKETBALL

**UK TOUR 18-27 NOVEMBER 1983**

**Report by Maj (TOT) T. J. Everett**

**The 1983 Corps Basketball Squad**

*Standing left to right*: Cpl Knocker Hardy 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, LCpl Blue Lloyd School of Signals, Sgt Dave Smith School of Signals, WO2 Geoff Back 55 Signal Squadron (V), WO2 Steve May Leeds University OTC, WO2 Pete Sutherland 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

*Sitting left to right*: Cpl Dave Toombes 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Sig Cliff Smith 241 Signal Squadron, Sig Andy Brown Comms & Sy Gp (UK), Cpl Nev Smakle School of Signals, Cpl John Dallison School of Signals (Posted to 3 Div since the tour)

*Not in photograph*: Sgt Micky Bohanan AA Coll Harrogate (RTU injured), Maj Terry Everett, taking the picture

The assembly and training phase of the Annual Tour was, as usual, at Blandford. Considerable difficulty was experienced this year in getting together players, coaches and officials to represent the Corps. On the first Saturday at 0900 hrs sharp when training normally gets underway with varying degrees of zeal and energy demonstrated by a full squad of 12-15, only six had arrived. By the afternoon things had improved a little and with some help from 'guests' there were enough people around to get down to some team training. With a triangular competition on the Sunday not a moment too soon.

Sunday and the triangular competition involving the Corps Side, Blandford Garrison and Weymouth Cats Whiskers. As previously mentioned the Corps were very short this year and four of the players were from the Blandford Garrison Side so a certain sharing of players had to take place leaving both Corps and Garrison without a full side which favoured the Cats. This had not been a problem in the past as there have been enough players in the Corps squad to play a competitive side in the Garrison match without Garrison players. Officials for the triangular were **SSgt (YofS) Dinger Bell** and surprise, surprise **WO2 (RQMS) Doug Poultney** popped out of the woodwork again.

In the first game between the Corps and the Garrison, the Garrison got off to an early lead 10—5 with baskets from **Sgts Dave Smith** and **Martin Collins** then a swing to the Corps with at 10—17 a burst from **WO2 Geoff Back** and **Sig Andy Brown**, then another burst from the Garrison with **Sgt Dave Smith** and **Mr Peter Everett** featuring, by the ten minute point drawn at 21 points each both sides playing well. The Corps then took command of the first half and with good team work and very little missed by **WO2s Peter Sutherland** and **Steve May** the Corps taking the first half by 55 points to 29. The Second half was well matched and evenly contested with all the players getting court time. Final score Corps 87 **(Brown 34, Sutherland 18)** Garrison 52 **(Everett 19, Smith 18)**.

The second match versus the Cats Whiskers who, having had a good close match with the Garrison side and managing to win, were tails up raring to go against the Corps. A very evenly matched first half saw the Corps in front by 32 points to 28. In the Second half still very even for the first seven minutes but then the Weymouth pivot, **Rob Mason**, had a very good patch and the Corps defence was having difficulty stopping this tall player's shots from inside the zone and with a very accurate period the Weymouth Cats caught up and overtook to go 59 to 52 up at the 14 minute point. With so much attention now being paid to **Mason**, to try and stop the rot, other Cats players, now not quite so closely marked, were able to capitalise and they continued to play well, frustrating the Corps efforts to stop them scoring to run out winners with 75 **(Mason 34)** to the Corps 61 **(Brown 28, Sutherland 26)**. The Cats winning the triangular with two wins.

No match on Monday, a time to sort out the wrinkles spotted on Sunday triangular and generally improve the tactics and cohesion of the Squad.

The third match on Tuesday evening was our annual tussle with the Royal Navy, to be played at HMS *Collingwood* this year. The Corps got off to a very good quick start going 26—6 up against what turned out to be a relatively weak Navy side compared with previous years, **Brown** featuring prominently at this stage with 16 of these first 26 points. The coach, **WO2 Sutherland**, realising the situation proceeded to play the whole of the Signals squad to give them all match practice and they managed to maintain the margin established in the early phase of play with a score line of 41—18 at the half and 72—43 at full time in favour of the Corps.

Wednesday and the journey to Aldershot to compete in the H Samuel Inter Corps Basketball Tournament. This tournament has evolved from the annual R Signals/REME needle match and has now grown to include R Signals, REME, APTC, ACC, RCT, RA, RE and RAC with the prospect of an RAMC/RADC squad joining in in 1984.

So there were seven games to play and our first was to be versus the RAC, one of this year's newcomers, on Wednesday evening at 1830 hrs. Signals got off to a good start going into a 21—10 lead by half way through the first half largely due to big event nerves on the part of the RAC who had a predominantly young but, as proved to be the case, competent side. The RAC eventually settled and got into the game and by the half were scoring evenly with Signals to go in 10 points behind at Signals 40 RAC 30. The second half was very similar to the first with the RAC slow to start and Signals extending their lead to 58—36 and by the 15th minute 70—54. Knowing that, barring accidents of a major nature, Signals had won the match **Coach Sutherland** practised the Squad at playing possession ball, their efforts proved wanting and the RAC closed the gap, but were in no danger of catching up. Final result Signals 76 **(Brown 22, Sutherland 16** and names like **Dallison, Smikle, Toombes** and **Lloyd** featuring on the score sheet) the RAC 67.

Thursday 1230 hrs and the opponents are the RCT. Signals scored first but this did not stop the RCT going into an early lead at 12—4. By half way through the first half the Signals had fought back to a score of 20—20 but a slight relaxation of concentration allowed the RCT to match the Signals play and go in at half time with a one point lead at 37—36. After the break the teams continued very evenly until deep into the second half when RCT had a good spell and pulled into the lead, Signals rallied but in spite of scoring three times in the last minute were unable to catch the RCT who ran out winners at 70—64 **(Brown 18, Sutherland 16, May 8)**. A good game that could have gone either way.

It's now 1830 hrs and the RA. An excellent match with both teams playing very well. A match which enthralled the crowd with its fast and furious end to end play, both teams taking advantage of the slightest defensive error. The experience of **WO2s Pete Sutherland, Geoff Back** and **Steve May** mixed with the agility of **Sig Andy Brown, LCpl Blue Lloyd, Cpls Nev Smikle** and **Knocker Hardy** and **Sgt Dave Smith** combined to give the RA some problems. Half time saw a score of 33—34 in favour of the RA. The second half followed very much on the same lines as the first this time with a one point advantage to Signals bringing a scoreline of 64—64. Extra time saw no change but the odd point went in favour of the RA who ran out winners at 72 to R Signals 71. An exciting match, giving the crowd some fine entertainment. Unfortunately losing **WO2 Geoff Back** with a bad ankle injury so now to the bench for the rest of the tournament.

Friday, a very busy day, three matches, two opposing last years winners and runners up, APTC and REME, but first the RE. Signals set off at a furious pace scoring freely on the fast break. Very good outlet passing by the defence giving **Sig Andy Brown** a chance to take on the floundering Sappers defence, at the 10 minute stage the Corps had established a good lead of 24—10. The Engineers tightened up and in some good attacking play brought the deficit back to 39—30 at half time, 24 of these to **Brown**. In the second half the RE side came out determined to recoup but the Corps defence held firm with WO2s **Pete Sutherland** and **Steve May** of the old firm maintaining an experienced grip, **Cpl Nev Smikle** dominating the backboards and some good breaks by **Cpl Dave Toombes** ensuring continued pressure on the RE defence. The final score Signals 65—RE 61.

Early afternoon and our opponents are the APTC, favourites to win the Tournament. After a good start to the 10 minute point of the first half the Corps found itself at 16—16. Time out and a good grilling of the APTC side by their coach **Capt Terry Goulding**, he is also the Army coach. This led to a spell of play by the APTC that the Corps could do nothing to abate and at half time the APTC had a commanding lead at 52—24. A much more even second half but the comfortable margin that APTC built up in the first half was not likely to be recovered. Notable performances from the Corps team in the Second half were the attacking play and shooting accuracy of **WO2 Steve May** and **Cpl Dave Toombes**, with **Sig Cliff Smith** in the heart of the defence denying the over six foot offence of the APTC. The whole Squad being given the chance to prove themselves. Final score Signals 65—APTC 97.

Game nine, Friday evening, REME. The old and respected opponents always the main match of the tour as far as both REME and R Signals are concerned. The match was played in a very friendly but competitive spirit. Halfway through the first half the Corps had a five point lead, the Corps managing to break down the REME man to man defence. A change of tactics stabilised the REME defence and at half time the score was 37—37. The Second half was evenly matched with the Corps managing to edge into a five point lead with only three minutes left to play. Unfortunately, it was at this time that **WO2 Pete Sutherland**, who was controlling and stabilising the Signals play, was carried off following a collision. REME then applied the pressure on the less experienced players who were forced into one mistake too many and the REME managed to steal it at Signals 75—REME 77. A choker for the Signals squad who have been trying to beat the REME for some years now and had looked like doing it this year until **Pete Sutherland**'s unfortunate departure.

Now into the last day and the last match versus the ACC. The Signals side down to nine men with the two most experienced players **WO2s Sutherland** and **Back** both on the bench with injury. The Signals went into an early lead 12—6 up at the six minute point but as the ACC settled to the task their greater experience began to tell and the Signals side without their experienced players tending to try and hurry the offence so not penetrating the competent ACC defence effectively. From the 15th minute to the half time the ACC extended their lead from 20—22 to 55-24 with numerous turn overs catching Signals going forward and unable to get back in time to effectively stop the ACC break. The Second half was much more evenly matched but the Signals never looked like getting back the deficit of the last five minutes of the first half. Final score Signals 77, ACC 105.

The Tour was reorganised this year to enable the Squad to arrive at the Inter Corps Tournament with a reasonable amount of energy left, so only three matches were played prior to the move to Aldershot. The growth in the interest and popularity of Basketball generally has led to an increase in interest and entries to the Inter Corps Tournament so in the end the Squad played the same number of games as last year but everyone else had to play more.

Having had a very frustrating time trying to put together any sort of Squad at all the team was short on experience, short on height and short on numbers. This left us thinking at the beginning of the Tour that we would probably be well beaten by all of our opponents.

In the event it was a very pleasing and satisfying tour, played 10, won four, lost six but of these six, three by the smallest margins. The team spirit and sportsmanship was excellent. Every member of the Squad did much to enhance the good name of the Corps and was a credit to himself. Everyone worked hard, learned a little and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The success of the Squad was without doubt very much due to the quiet, competent and experienced leadership of **WO2 Pete Sutherland**. He had agreed, at short notice, to take on the coaching of the team when it became apparent that the regular coach could not make it. He was ably assisted in this task by **WO2 Geoff Back** and this combination of KOS worked very well to bring out the best from the Squad.

Summary of Results:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Blandford Garrison** | **Won** | **87—52** |
| **Weymouth Cats Whiskers** | **Lost** | **61—75** |
| **Royal Navy** | **Won** | **72—43** |
| **RAC** | **Won** | **76—67** |
| **RCT** | **Lost** | **64—70** |
| **RA** | **Lost** | **71—72** |
| **RE** | **Won** | **65—61** |
| **APTC** | **Lost** | **65—97** |
| **REME** | **Lost** | **75—77** |
| **ACC** | **Lost** | **77—105** |

# MOTORCYCLING

**Report by 8 Sig Regt**

**'THE' TEAM**

'Team Royal Signals' was formed late 1982 and completed its first full season in November 1983. It started as a result of **Capt Gordon Park** wishing to put Royal Signals back where they used to be in Motorcycle sport (at the front). He used to be a 'Despatch Rider' by trade and has represented many units in the Corps in Motorcycle events. He has been the Army Motorcycle Team Manager since 1979, and has taken teams to Sweden (three times), Island of Elba, Italy, France, Czechslovakia, Scotland, Wales, Holland and all over England and Germany.

The team consists of **Cpl Keith Randle, Cpl Clive Thorsby, LCpl Mike Duke** and reserve rider **Cpl Phil Ingram**, all now of 8 Sig Regt. They ride Swedish Husqvarna machines which were purchased by the Royal Signals Games Club. The machines are maintained and repaired by the riders and support crew.

TEAM ROYAL SIGNALS HAVING JUST BEEN PRESENTED WITH CORPS COLOURS FOR MOTORCYCLING

(L to R) LCpl (Now Mr) Dave Scollick (Mechanic), LCpl Mike Duke (Rider), Lt Col Dick Smith (CO), Cpl Clive Thorsby (Rider), Cpl Keith Randle (Rider), Capt Gordon Park (Manager)

**THE RECORD**

Results for their first season were good consisting of, Best Service Team 10 times, Best Trade Team twice, three Premier Awards and a total of 15 gold, 12 silver and 24 bronze medals. **Cpl Clive Thorsby** also won the Clubman Class and 250cc class in the British Championships, the other team riders finished well up the field in their respective classes.

**Cpl Randle** also represented the Army in the Internation Six Days Enduro and the Welsh International Two Day Enduro both held in Wales. He was also in the team which went to Sweden to ride against the Swedish Army in their 1983 Army Championships held in BAOR for the first time in November 1983. He was placed sixth.

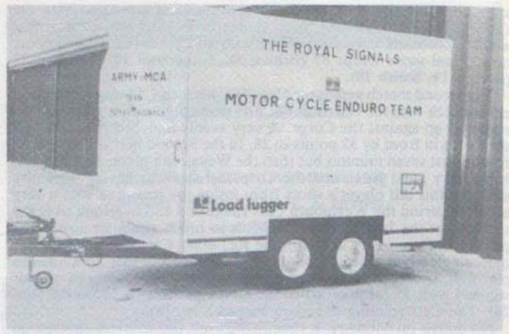
**Cpl Clive Thorsby** represented the Army in the International Six Days Trial held in Scotland and the International Six Days Enduro in Wales.

**LCpl Mike Duke** was the first reserve for the Army Team in 1983.

The team were awarded their Corps Colours in December 1983 for motorcycling, **Cpl Keith Randle** was also awarded his Army colours in October 1983.

**TRAINING HARD**

The team are now training hard and preparing for the 1984 season which starts in March and are hoping to continue with their current success. This will involve a lot of travelling and at least 22 weekends away participating in events, and all are hoping to gain selection for representative Army teams in International Events during 1984.




The team's transporter carries three bikes, tools, spares, etc (Sponsored by Durham Trailers of Durham)

# RUGBY

**CORPS RUGBY—1983 AUTUMN TOUR**

**Report by Maj W. K. Butler**

The 1983 Autumn Rugby Tour was the worst on record for the past eight years. The results were:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| RMCS | at Shrivenham | Lost | 41—0 |
| RAOC | at Blandford | Lost | 18—0 |
| RCT | at Blandford | Lost | 20—6 |

The main reason for our poor record was the total lack of support from our two main rugby playing regiments. In addition representation from BAOR was abysmal; we understand that the six representatives from Germany are still map reading their way back to the UK! The only exception to this was **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Johnson** from 21 Signal Regiment who, true and loyal as ever, travelled across after an eleventh hour telephone call arriving just in time to play in the first match.

The team that was fielded on this tour was based on the Blandford Garrison side; they provided 13 out of a total of 19 players that turned up for the tour. The sad fact was that by doing so we denuded the Garrison team to such an extent that they had to cancel three games—not the best of PR towards the local sides that they play.

An additional problem was that five of the team were on career courses at the School of Signals. **Sgts Wally Bacon, Harry Elkan, Mick Poland, Kev Stock** and **Marty Webb** could only be released for matches; their training had to be done after normal working hours which was invariably well after last light. Will Corps funds stand us some floodlights?

However, despite the difficulties the team built up an excellent team spirit ably led by the new Corps captain, **Capt Ian Foxley** with the out-going captain **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Johnson** well in support.

The game against RMCS Shrivenham saw us well beaten on a bright, sunny day which favoured Shrivenham's speed, fitness and teamwork. As this was the first time that all 15 members of the Corps team had been on the pitch together we did well to hold the score down to 23—0 by half-time. In the second half we started to jell as a team and held the score to 23—0; but with 10 minutes to go RMCS scored three converted tries. During this match **Lt John Murley** playing at flanker was injured, he was replaced by **Sgt Marty Webb** who turned in a superb performance. The nearest we came to scoring was from a penalty kick taken by **Sgt Eric Clark** who just failed to convert and in doing so injured his leg; he was replaced by **LCpl 'Woody' Power**. The after match festivities were lacking in food but not in beer. Our new skipper however, let himself down when he shed responsibility of representing the team in downing a pint—this was left to the Secretary to do (somewhat of a 'bubble job') which he could well have done without. Downing a pint in five seconds is not the best of ideas at his tender age. Perhaps the President was better placed to undertake this task—but he had already beaten a tactical withdrawal seconds earlier!



The RAOC game saw a very good performance by the whole team and the scoreline belies the closeness of the game. Again the weather provided ideal playing conditions. The first half was very even with the Corps winning most of the ball especially through **Sgt Harry Elkan** hooking well in the set scrums. The score remained at 0—0 until just before half time when the RAOC scored a converted try. The second half was much the same as the first with the Corps dominating most of the play against an RAOC side that fielded five Army standard players. Good slick passing in our backs from **SSgt Todd O'Brien** at scrum half, to **Sgt Wally Bacon** at fly half, to **Cpl Ricky Dent** in the centre saw **SSgt Glenn Harwood** make a superb break (even at his age!) to put **Sig J. J. Jones** away in the corner. However, the referee adjudged the final pass to be forward and an excellent move came to nought. Had that score stood then the rest of the game would have taken on a different complexion. Once again as at Shrivenham in the last 10 minutes the Corps side lacked concentration and gave away two easy tries making the result an unfair reflection on what was a very close run game.

The match against the RCT saw a complete change in the weather to a cold, wet day. Injuries meant that we had to make two changes for this match.

**Lt John Murley** returning from his injury against Shrivenham replaced **Sgt Steve Green** at No 8 who had turned in two good games but injured his back in the final minutes of the match against RAOC, and **Sig Paul Davies** replaced **Sig 'JJ' Jones** on the wing. In the first half the Corps gave away two penalties both of which were converted and just before half time, the RCT scored a converted try, a result of a penalty kick which rebounded off the posts. The second half saw neither side dominating and with many mistakes being made in the very slippery conditions. Our front row of **Sgts Kev Stock** and **Harry Elkan** and **WO2 Trevor Johnson** produced the goods at the set scrums and at the line-outs both **Sgt Mick Poland** and **Cpl 'Tiny' Powell** won us good possession. **Capt Ian Foxley** gave another first class performance and was unfortunate not to score after a strong penetrating run which saw him brought down inches short of the line. Soon after this the Corps was awarded a penalty 25 metres from the RCT line, after good interpassing between the forwards **Sig 'Oscar' Clutterbuck** came in from the full back position to collect the final pass and score in the corner. The conversion kick was put over by **Sig Paul Davies**, an excellent attempt from the side-line in very difficult conditions. This made the score 12—6; but yet again in the last 10 minutes our concentration waned and we allowed the RCT in for two easy tries, leaving the final score 20—6.

Although this was by our normal standards a disappointing tour the Secretary would like to thank all those who spared the time to participate and all of whom gave their all. This includes those not already mentioned above; **SSgt 'Is' Linton, Cpl 'Paddy' Hurley** (our ever faithful bag-man and team medic), **LCpl 'Blue' Lloyd** and **Sig 'Gaz' Fiveash**. All played a part in generating a good team spirit and helping out in training and with the more mundane administrative matters.

The secretary would also like to extend his thanks to those Commanding Officers who made the effort to support the Corps Rugby team by sending their players. It is to be hoped that the disappointing results of this tour may stimulate others, especially those who have more than their fair share of players, to lend their support in future. We live in hopes (or is it cloud seven!?)


**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

## BOARDING EDUCATION

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*Head Teacher:* Dr J M Frost B.A., Hull Road, York YO1 5HA.

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*Head Teacher:* Mr J D Dutton, M.A., J.P. Darlington Road, Richmond DL10 7BQ.

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*Head Teacher:* Mr D B Stanley, B.Sc., Clotherholme Road, Ripon HG4 2DG.

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MAY 1984


# THE wire


THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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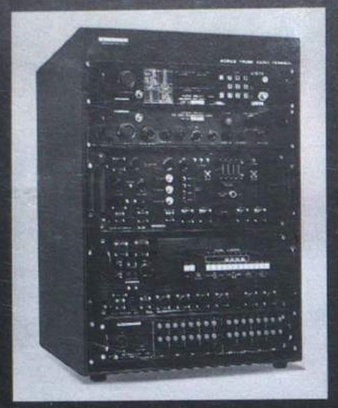

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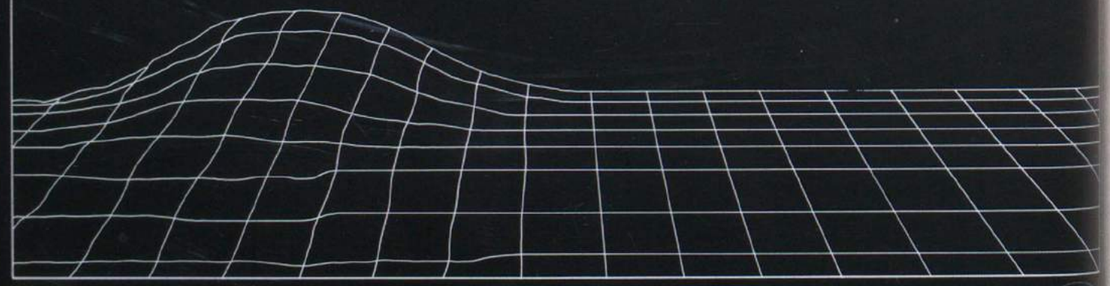

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WHAT HAS THE OLD MAN TO SAY TODAY

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'THANKS YOU BRITISH SOLDIERS — IT'S PEACE WITH YOU'

School Duo's dance to top

There was song, dance, comedy, impressions and other funny goings on when Naafi Ntertainment held its big talent contest final at Rheindahlen.

Left the first prize winners were Dean Coomer and Nicolas Maison from Prince Rupert's School delighted ev... their ro... They ... the...

EXERCISE "Eternal Triangle" brought many touches o... as well as confirming the British Serviceman's pro... but one small incident stands out more than ... drive home the message of why the B... Germany.

This letter was attached to a British Army Land-Rover in the training area of Exercise "Eternal Triangle" in Lower Saxony, West Germany.

"Dear British soldier,

"We thank you for being h... knowing that you'd prefer ... in Brighton, Eng... anywhere in Eng... pub drinking ...

"There ... be ...

while their tanks ... moved south ... of 1st A... suppo... Br...

● Leading his team from 12 Armoured Workshop on the trailer race during Exercise "Log Pot" is Corporal Dave Lawrence (second from right).

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THE WIRE

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**May 1984 (New Series) Vol. 38 No: 3**
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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# EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

**BAOR CHALLENGE CUP CHAMPIONS AND ARMY CHALLENGE CUP CHAMPIONS 1983/84**
**7th SIGNAL REGIMENT RUGBY TEAM'**

*Standing from left to right:* Lt Mark Beardsell, Sig Andy Fife, Cpl Taff Kessell, Cpl 'H' Glean, Sig Alan Poulson, 2Lt John McDonnell, Cpl Stud Williams, Sig Alan Murphy, Cpl Robin Hood, Lt David Jones.

*Seated from left to right:* LCpl Dave Wood, Cpl Chalky Atkins, Cpl Dean Richardson, Capt Geordie Gainford (Team Manager/Rugby Officer), SSgt Andy Hickling, (Team Captain), Lt Col N. Wood, WO1 (RSM) W. Olive, Cpl Paul Collins, SSgt Alan James. Absent on duty: Sgt Dave Showell, LCpl Phil Price, Cpl Dave Amos.

*Trophies from left to right:* Courage Army 7's Shield, runners up, Save and Prosper Inter Corps Winners, BAOR 7's Winners, Army Challenge Cup, International 7's (Denmark) Winners, BAOR Challenge Cup. 4 Div runners up Shield (see pages 231 and 278 for reports).

## NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during April, for service in Northern Ireland between May and September 1983.

*QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL*

**Sgt W. Miller**

*MENTION IN DESPATCHES*

**Maj L. A. Jeffery**
**Maj J. A. Wraith MBE**

## A REVIEW BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

*When the Branch Representatives of the Association met at Hammersmith on 14 April, the Signal Officer-in-Chief addressed the meeting. A summary of* **General Benbow***'s statement is published below with the knowledge that it will be of great interest.*

- **In recent weeks the peace keeping force in the Lebanon has been withdrawn. What did not receive wide publicity was that the Corps component—1 officer and 14 soldiers—made a vital contribution in meeting the demanding and changing task. The value of SATCOM was a major lesson.**
- **The Falklands commitment is being consolidated and rationalised. During the coming year, we will see a reduction in the manpower deployed there. The roulement system is now well established, based on a five month tour which includes nigh on a month's travelling time.**
- **Northern Ireland continues to create all the problems with which you are so familiar from the media. The total Corps involvement and commitment is not well publicised, for good reasons.**
- **In the Sinai, we have the smallest RLD, with a soldier providing a link to Cyprus and doubling as the Commander's driver.**
- **The Corps manning situation is reflected in an actual of 1,164 officers and 11,180 soldiers against a requirement of 1,207 officers and 11,029 soldiers. All former members of the Corps can help greatly by guiding young men of high calibre towards the Corps. We need them.**
- **29th Signal Regiment is now established in Berlin. 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron requires more para trained soldiers (The full circle!). A new Troop (640 Signal Troop) is to be formed. Its role is EW Support for out of area operations!**
- **The immediate future is an exciting one with Ptarmigan and Wavell just round the corner. A great challenge and a mighty stride forwards, involving expenditure of some £1.1 bn. SATCOM has and is demonstrating its worth. Static systems are being modernised and our EW capability enhanced.**
- **It is difficult to express adequately an appreciation of the enormous interest and enthusiasm of our Colonel-in-Chief. The commitments of Her Royal Highness in 1983 included a visit to Hong Kong, a 'briefing visit' to the School of Signals and attendance at the Association's Catterick Reunion.**
- **In beating the Welsh Guards 9—3 in the Army Final, 7th Signal Regiment deserve great credit. The Corps continues to acquit itself well in all fields of sport—and motor cycling, horse riding come to the fore.**
- **The Corps is in very good order and its Signal Officer-in-Chief impressed and gratified by the motivation and professionalism of its officers and soldiers, both regular and volunteer.**

**— From our "In" Tray —**

## MANY CONGRATULATIONS

During March the Defence Secretary introduced the three officers, one each from the Navy, Army and RAF, and a civilian from whom will be selected the first two British astronauts. One will fly with our Skynet 4 satellite when it is launched by the American Space Shuttle at the end of 1985. A second will go with the second Skynet 4 mission in 1986.

All present and past members of the Corps offer their sincere congratulations to **Lieutenant Colonel Tony Boyle** on his selection as the Army nominee for astronaut training. His wide experience of military communications and communications engineering clearly contributed to his selection for the demanding tasks which lie ahead.

Yet another notable First for the Corps.

## HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne** will attend **HM The Queen's** Garden Party on Tuesday 17 July.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend *on this date*, are asked to notify **Colonel Francis** at RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH, in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party, and presented to **The Princess Anne**.

## THE MASTER OF SIGNALS DINNER

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** will hold a special guest night at the Headquarters Officers' Mess, Blandford Camp on 22 November.

Commanders, and Officers Commanding units are asked to send details of any potential Corps guests of particular importance to their commands. These will generally be senior civilians or retired military. Details to the Regimental Secretary, soonest please.

## TA SUBSCRIPTIONS TO CORPS FUNDS

For three years TA officers have been making a pro-rata subscription to Corps Funds, and more recently TA warrant officers and senior NCOs have also made contributions. The Royal Signals Corps Committee are grateful for these most helpful subscriptions, which in 1983 amounted to £2,257.

During 1983, the Corps Committee authorised TA grants for the following:

—Entertainment of all ranks of 35th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on the occasion of the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief,
—Contribution towards the purchase of uniforms for the band of 34th Signal Regiment (Volunteers),
—Grants to officers' messes for Corps entertainment,
—Prizes for TA officers,

These grants totalled more than £11,000.

It is hoped that these figures will help by informing TA officers and senior NCOs of the value of their contributions.



## A DISCRIMINATING SUMMARY ON A HARD BATTLE

**From: Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE**

Dear Sir,

I hope that the success of 7th Signal Regiment in winning the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup by defeating 1st Battalion Welsh Guards at the Sennelager Stadium in BAOR on 28 March will be prominently reported elsewhere; but should it not be, all those who have struggled so valiantly to regain the trophy for Royal Signals throughout the last quarter of a century would wish to know this good news. I was privileged to be present representing the SOinC in a group of visiting officials from the Army Rugby Union in the UK.

It was not a spectacular victory but a composed and determined team performance and there could be no arguments from Welsh Guard supporters that the score of 9 pts to 3 pts (two dropped goals and one penalty to one penalty) was an unfair reflection of the play. Cup games are at best nervous affairs, unless a particular team has the confidence of proven success in the running game, which neither side had. Followers of the modern game will not be surprised to learn that there were the usual plethora of free kicks from infringements at line-out and loose ruck, either off-side or over the top and; inevitably, a host of up and unders, but my abiding memory of the day is of the maturity of the play in a young side, magnificently led by **SSgt Hickling**.

The forward battle was as hard as one has come to expect from the Welsh Guards and there were frequent pauses for the magic sponge or to ensure that another brave forward had not actually been crushed to death. The backs all tackled magnificently (as, I was told, they had done in earlier rounds) and those required to, kicked well both tactically and from free kicks. Teamwork, positional sense, and cover of one another was particularly good and in the second half there were glimpses of attacking flair which I am sure can be developed now that the bogey of actually winning the cup is laid. In the end there were no substitutes; no-one would have wanted to be the first to go. The game had been hard, fair, well refereed and mutual respect between all players was obvious.

In a team performance it is wrong to single out individuals so I will not mention who kicked the penalty or who dropped the two goals except to say that both were beautifully executed. 7th Signal Regiment were always in front after their early penalty goal but it was a long 80 minutes and in the 79th minute when it was obvious what the result would be, I felt as emotional as the team captain and coach obviously felt once it was over.

But then, of course, I am biased.

Yours sincerely,
**Archie Birtwistle**

Northallerton

## ONE OF THE FIRST

**From: Capt J. W. Prees (Retd)**

Dear Sir,

On reading the 9 Sig Regt notes in the January *Wire*, I realised that I must have been one of the first members of the above Regt. I was posted to Constantinople from 4 Div Sig Co Colchester on 27 September 1922 and arrived there on 10 October 1922. After a spell at a civilian Wireless Station taken over from the Turks called Okmeidan, I did more time at Base HQ Tophane until eventually a treaty was signed with the Turks headed by Kemal Pasha and British Troops were evacuated. I was posted to Baghdad via Alexamdria and Cairo. The advance party for Palestine left Cairo on 12 October 1923. The remainder left Port Suez on 27 November 1923 via Bombay on SS *Marglen* and on to Basra via Karachi and so to Baghdad by rail, after three years, there on to Sarafand in the reverse direction. I was in Baghdad during the war but there was no trace of the original Wireless Station. The CO incidentally was **Capt W. Scott.**

Yours faithfully
**J. W. Prees**

83 Manor Road,
N. Lancing
West Sussex BN15 OHG

## CORPS REPRESENTATION AT COMBINED SERVICE LEVEL

**Report by Lt Col G. S. Massey, Army Football Association PRO**

**LCpl A. Sandy Brown** (8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron) and **Sig M. Mickey Halligan** (30 Signal Regiment) were in the Combined Services Party which travelled to Belgium to play in the Kentish Cup on 8 February, 1984. **LCpl Brown** was in the side which beat the Belgian Armed Forces, by 2 goals to 1, to win the Kentish Cup for the United Kingdom for the first time in 14 years.

The Corps Representation with the successful Combined Services XI in Belgium, 8 February 1984
Left to Right: Sig M. Mickey Halligan (30 Sig Regt), Lt Col Pat Massey (Army FA PRO) OR22c MOD(AD)) and LCpl A. Sandy Brown, (8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn)
*Photograph: 'Soldier' Magazine*

## 'ALLIED COMMUNICATORS' LINK UP

An historic meeting was held at Rheindahlen recently between Commander of the US Defence Communications Systems (Europe) and Commander 4 Signal Group (for British Forces Germany) to sign an agreement on the methods of connecting their telephone systems. The photograph shows **Col Karl Price** (US Air Force) and **Col Mike Hales** at the official signing ceremony.

Back Row (left to right): Mr Derek Hencher, Mr Fred Gutierrez, Mr Jesse Edmonds. Seated: Col Mike Hales, Col Karl Price

# HARROGATE REUNION FOR INTAKE 61C

**Report by 8 Signal Regiment**

On 16/17 February 1984 a reunion was held at Catterick for intake 61C of the Army Apprentices School, as it was then named. Nineteen members, from a total of 31 still serving, made the pilgrimage north, and were joined by **'Gats' Gatenby**, who is now a civilian working for British Telecom.

The evening of 16 February was a 'get to know you again time', held in the bar of the Sergeants' Mess 8 Signal Regiment. The main change physically, was a lack of hair, though the sight of **WO2 Syd Walley** did wonders for the rest of us.

**20 YEARS ON**

On 17 February we travelled to the Army Apprentices college. For some it was the first sight of Uniacke Barracks for 20 years. Our welcome this time was a lot friendlier than 23 years ago, nobody shouted at us and we were actually made welcome. The Deputy Comdt **Lt Col Pickup** and the Director of Studies gave us an introduction to the College, though this was interrupted for an interview with Yorkshire TV. We then had a guided tour of the college, which has changed considerably since we were boys. One building which had not changed was the Cookhouse/Restaurant and it was there we were entertained to lunch by some of the AT NCO's. The most notable absence in their lines being Blanco, Brasso and Zebo! We ended a most enjoyable visit with a tasting session of the local brew in the Sergeants' Mess.

The night we again met in the Sergeants' Mess 8 Signal Regiment for a reunion dinner. This was a most memorable occasion with many stories and memories being recounted.

That night we again met in the Sergeants' Mess 8 Signal Regiment would like to thank **WO1 (RSM) Mike Stevenson** for his hard work in organising the event. We wish him well on his commissioning, and also congratulate **WO2 (SSM) Mick Nevill** who takes over from **Mike** as RSM 8 Signal Regiment. We have, as a term, decided that **Mick**'s first task when he assumes his appointment will be to organise the 1985 reunion of 61C!

Front Row: WO2 S. Walley, WO1 (YofS) L. Rix, SSgt J. Kendle, Mr G. Gatenby, SSgt R. Griffiths, SSgt D. Day
Centre Row: WO1 (RSM) M. Stevenson, Sgt J. Butler, SSgt S. Holmes, WO1 (YofS) M. Thornton, WO1 (RSM) C. Miller, Sgt R. Sutherland, WO1 (RSM) K. Purkiss, WO2 (RQMS) Krikorian
Back Row: SSgt J. Coultish, SSgt K. Stanton, Capt R. Courtney, WO2 (SSM) M. Nevill, SSgt (YofS) L. Stevens

# AN OLD SWEAT—'39 - '61 PART SIX—NARVICK 1940

**Report by ex WO2 Bert Howell**

After a few days at our lamp signalling station at the end of the coaling pier and at NWEF HQ in the Harstad Grand Hotel, the four of us were instructed to embark with our WS No. 11 set station on the cruiser *Effingham*, which was to support a landing to recapture Narvick, occupied by 5000 Germans.

We joined up with the task force which included the *Warspite*, cruisers, destroyers and an aircraft carrier. A violent snow storm screened our passage through the fjords from searching German bombers. We were located in the cruiser's torpedo flats with the comforting words 'that was the safest place to be'. I was far from comforted when a torpedoman jokingly proclaimed, 'if anything hits us here, mate, you won't know anything about it.'

As we steamed towards Narvick I saw HMS *Hardy*, cut in half, and laying aground—the obvious victim of earlier attacks!

Even then it all seemed like a great adventure, with no real thought of danger, and our landing would be all over in no time. How naive we young soldiers were—realisation was to come later! When I saw our lads being cheered away to sail off to the Falklands I could not help feeling they must have set off with the same innocent feeling that it was an exciting adventure, and sadly, how realisation would soon come to them it was a deadly business, killing and being killed. Instructions appeared on the noticeboards, 'every man must ensure he wears a clean vest and pants. Reveille at 0300 hrs 24 April. Initial bombardment will commence at 0600 hrs—Good Luck'.

There I was, sitting on a torpedo, helpless, hemmed in and petrified with the vibrations and thunder of guns overhead, not helped by the fact that only the pale emergency lights were on. I was scared as I had never been scared before. Anyone who has been in action knows the feeling—and none more than those penned below decks. I just had to get out on deck despite orders to stay put. In the few minutes I was on deck I saw an amazing scene. A line of destroyers were circling us and firing point blank into the shore line, whilst our cruiser was firing over them, and behind us the *Warspite* firing over us all.

It really did seem so cheeky-like a game of 'ring of roses'.

Unfortunately, my few forbidden moments came to an abrupt end when I heard a 'ting a ling', which precedes guns firing, and a violent blast struck my ears. I was completely stunned. The cruiser must have swung round and the guns fired across my position. I remained below decks, quite deaf, until we arrived back in Harstad. Later I found out that I had sustained a perforated eardrum. So much for disobeying orders! The landing was abandoned as the Germans failed to come out, or were too well covered by the deep snow concealing their defence points. Full marks to the Commander—I wasn't a bit disappointed about returning to base safely!

We returned to our base at Trondenes, a suburb of Harstad, which boasts a very famous church founded about 800 AD. At that time, in April '40 it was almost buried in snow and I did not want anything except some sleep. As there was no room in the inn, so to speak, I had to sleep in my sleeping bag out in the snow. I was rudely awakened by a Sgt who demanded to know why I wasn't on duty. The language I used would be quite inappropriate for this column. He departed, however, leaving a 'returned hero' muttering inside his sleeping bag. Well! It was obligatory to follow only the tracks cut out in the deep snow by our Norwegian advisers. I very soon found out why! I was stupid enough to try taking a short cut and had not moved off the beaten track very far when suddenly I fell up to my waist in ice cold running water. Luckily I managed to extricate myself. It appears that during April and May the snow underneath begins to thaw and can turn into raging undertows on the mountain sides. Also the snow forms so hard on top that if one leg goes through the crust, the forward motion of the body can easily break a leg. It is nice to know our troops nowadays do much of their winter training in Norway—I wished we had had the same training!

Once again we four were detailed to take our WS No. 11 set station and embark on a fishing boat (commonly known as 'puffers') to sail for Sjovegan a small fishing village further north. Arriving there we were billeted in a dentist's house built half way up a mountain side.

Norwegian houses, especially those well within the Arctic circle are almost all wooden, mounted on very substantial rock foundations. From the mountain side one could walk in, along a passage, down through a trapdoor and into the cellar and walk out on the downside slope. The dentist's house had a first floor with four rooms, two on either side of a landing from the stairs. We set up our station on the landing. With a very long extension lead to our headphones we could walk into each room and check through the windows if any German aircraft were around. Our mast aerial was mounted on the roof and we were painfully aware that it stuck out like a sore thumb and was an inviting target for our German 'friends'.

Naturally we asked our liaison officer, a **Capt Samms** (ex-Marconi) if we could move elsewhere. He was quite adamant that we would stay where we were.

Your's not to reason why, but stay put and die—it should have been obvious then that we were a special group being manipulated here there and everywhere for the sole purpose of being a decoy station—we had to be seen to create what the higher ups were planning—deception!

It was not until the day we left Norway on 8 June that we were let into the secret by throwing all signal procedure safeguards out of the window and playing games with the German intercept stations, or local spies.



# THE FLAG IS LOWERED AT BEIRUT

**Report by Lt Nigel Harrison**

**ONE YEAR TO THE DAY**

At 1013 hrs on the morning of Wednesday 8 February 1984 the Union Flag was lowered for the last time from the roof of a converted four storey block of flats in the Beirut suburb of Hadath. It brought to an end the occupation of the building by BRITFOR LEBANON exactly one year to the day after the arrival of the force as a contingent of the Multinational Force (MNF). It was a year in which over 300 members of the MNF were killed and many more wounded in bombing, shellings and shootings. The British contingent however escaped with a few minor injuries, due in no small part to prudent precautions and luck! Even in early February, when the security situation took a sharp turn for the worse, the potentially vulnerable redeployment of the force to RFA *Reliant* and then to Cyprus was carried out without major incident.

As in any operation, Op Hyperion involved a substantial number of communicators. Upon disbandment of the force a quick inspection of Part 2 Orders revealed that 61 out of the 350 who had served with the force were members of the Corps. The majority (48) came from 30th Signal Regiment, the remainder from 1 Brigade, 5 Brigade, 259 Signal Squadron, 262 Signal Squadron, Headquarters 4 Armoured Division and CPA. Many more worked in Cyprus and UK to provide stores and the 'other end' of communications links. To all those who worked to help 30th Signal Regiment complete the task successfully, a big 'thank you'.

**A LOOK BACK**

Below is a composite diary, from a Beirut viewpoint, of the events during the weeks prior to and including the successful evacuation on 8 February.

**LIMITED DAMAGE**

January had started as a wet but quiet month. The rain always helped to minimise the fighting. As the weather improved so too alas did the level of fighting. During one particularly heavy exchange between the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the AMAL militia on 14 January, no fewer than twenty .5" explosive tip rounds hit the COMMCEN wall just below the window. Manning in the COMMCEN was immediately minimised! **Sgt Colin Whawell** and **LCpl Jeremy Ford** drew the short straws to carry on working—it's just a little difficult at the punch up printer in a flak jacket and steel helmet. We later found out that the firefight, of which we had suffered the after effects, was over 1½ miles away. The same firefight with the same effect on the COMMCEN wall took place three more times over the next few days, luckily the only damage caused was to a cassette player in the next door room and a TV in a room above, both hit by bullets!

LCpl Jeremy Ford (Left) and Sgt Colin Whawell man the COMMCEN under fire on 14 January

**A QUIET SPELL**

As things quietened down for a few days so the number of visitors increased again. On 24 January **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall GCB OBE MC** visited for a day; during the course of his visit he inspected the COMMCEN and met most of the members of the Detachment. Soldier magazine paid a three day visit, so too did a recce party from the Life Guards who were due to take over from the 16/5 Lancers in April! However perhaps the most appreciated visit was a CSE show with comedian Jim Davidson as the main star. His three day visit helped to keep morale high.

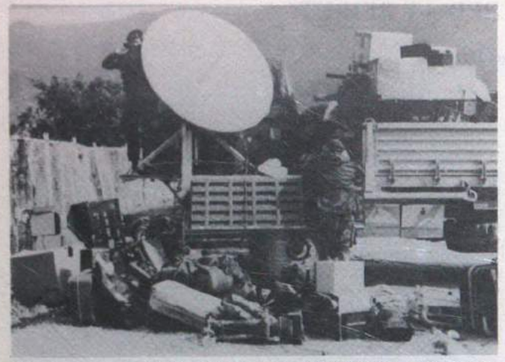
Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall meets the MNF commanders and the British Ambassador during his visit. *Left to Right:* Gen Angioni (Italy), Lt Col Peter Woolley (UK), Gen Caen (France), Field Marshal Bramall, Brig Gen Joy (USA), Gen Tannous (Lebanon), Mr David Myers (Ambassador)

**THE HOT UP**

By the end of January however things were getting a little 'hot', the ceasefire committee had not met for two weeks and a very fierce and bitter battle was building up around a prominent church about 1½ miles north of our position. This fighting brought about a very heavy build up on both sides in our area. 1 and 2 February saw an escalation in the inevitable exchanges of fire in the local area. Small arms gave way to mortars, rockets and artillery.

During the night of 2 February the adjacent tobacco factory took many hits from rockets. The nearest was 100m away. After one particularly close explosion **LCpl Mick Winning** and **Sig Neil Beament** found themselves without HF comms to Cyprus. A very quick inspection outside showed that all appeared to be still OK. Only as dawn came a few hours later could we see that the anchor points on the factory wall for our dipoles no longer existed, having taken direct hits! A lull in the fighting gave **Lt Nigel Harrison** and **Sig Joe Flood** a chance to make a dash to the factory and make some repairs—we had not however bargained on the fighting starting up again so soon. The factory roof proved to be a decidedly unhealthy place so makeshift repairs were made in double quick time. The fighting that night had also taken its toll on CCTV cameras, telephone cables and power cables in and around the base. It gave **Cpl Dave Jagger** (Radio and CCTV Tech), **Cpl Paddy Telford** (TE Tech) and **LCpl Rob Luckhurst** (Cbt Pmn) some more work to do.

The next few days saw several more very near misses including one 122mm rocket landing only 50m from the Commcen at the base of the VHF antennae. Needless to say, when not on shift or in the basement shelters, members of the Detachment spent much of their time manning damage control parties repairing masts, lamps, power cables, antennae and phone cables. **LCpl Adrian Beale** and **Sig Kevin Piper** (only arrived in Beirut on 3 February) always appeared to be in the thick of things when it came to repairs.



Cpl Dave Jagger (*Left*) trying to get Lt Col Wolley a phone call to Whitehall from Jounie, Lebanon. Note all the equipment loaded on and unloaded from the 4 tonner!

**REDEPLOYMENT DECISION**

By the night of 6 February it had become clear that the Base could not be occupied much longer without serious risk of loss of life. After many signals and phone calls to Whitehall during 7 February, it was decided to redeploy the force to a safer location. The original timeframe was 'a matter of days', very soon this dropped to 'six hours'!

Communications of course had to remain open until the last possible moment. A few hours of frantic packing and 'tidying up' followed. Most noticeable in the band were **LCpl Dave Titheridge** on the shredder and **Cpl Dave Jagger** on the wire snips. **Sgt Colin Whawell** and **LCpl Mick Winning** went ahead on the advance party and established comms from the 'Beach' at Jounie, 20 miles north of Beirut. **Cpl Fritz Arunasaløn** and **LCpl Bernie Bernstein** from 614 TACP (5 Bde) also went to open comms to the helicopters.

**TO JOUNIE**

With the move under way comms to London were closed, typically the last signal received on the circuit was from the Assistant Adjutant asking about *Wire* notes! We now had 90 minutes to fill a 4 tonner, Land Rover and trailer with as much equipment as we could fit in, on or strap to the sides. (A good game for 10 or more players). Very overladen we set off in a packet to Jounie, leaving behind a mass of cut cables, masts, set trays etc which we did not have time to pack. On arrival the SATCOM had to be re-established so as to give Whitehall a direct progress report on the redeployment. **Cpl Paddy Telford** took charge of this task and had comms to UK in a little over 30 minutes.

**EVACUATION**

During these last few days there had been a three man signals detachment (**LCpl Neil Coatsworth, LCpl John Watkinson,** and **Sig Neil Beament**) trapped in the British Embassy in West Beirut. The military attaché at the Embassy negotiated with the opposing factions to call a short ceasefire in order to let the detachment cross the Green Line dividing the Moslem and Christian halves of the city. **Lt Nigel Harrison** returned to the city with **LCpl Adrian Beale** in an effort to meet them at an RV and bring them back to the relative safety of Jounie. Alas as both parties approached within a few hundred metres of the Green Line the fighting started again and the Embassy team had to return to safety. Later the same day they were evacuated by a USMC helicopter.

Back in Jounie the redeployment was well in progress. As dusk fell the last of the vehicles and men were lifted to safety from Lebanese soil by the Chinooks and Sea Kings which had supported us so well. Nearly 60 sorties were flown that day.

The end had come less than 24 hours after the warning order had been given. BRITFOR LEBANON had successfully redeployed from its base in South Beirut to the RFA *Reliant*, with no injuries and minimal loss of equipment and stores. To all those who helped on that momentous day again a big 'thank you'.

Cpl Graham Robson mending one of the many CCTV cameras around the base

Lt Nigel Harrison engineers the SATCOM circuit during the evacuation

LCpl Rob Luckhurst switching on one of the bases four 16/24 KVA generators

Sig Neil Beament (Centre) and Cpl Dave Jagger (Front) improve the trenches around the base, helped by members of A Sqn 16/5 L

**HER MAJESTY INSPECTS**

Seven weeks later a final disbandment parade for the force was held in front of **HM The Queen** at RAF Akrotiri before she departed on her historic visit to Jordan. Like everything connected with BRITFOR LEBANON there was virtually no notice given (1800hrs the evening before the Parade!).

HM The Queen inspects the Force at RAF Akrotiri, Sig Kevin Piper (nearest camera)

**STOP PRESS**

It has just been announced that a Lebanon clasp is to be issued to the 1962 GSM for all those who served with the force.

## INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BUFFET LUNCH SATURDAY 30 JUNE 1984

Due to certain disappointments last year, the venue has been changed, and this function will take place this year in The Town Hall, in Richmond Market Place, where we have been given a well appointed room, with established bar situated on the ground floor. Mine Host is **Doug Smith**, an ex long serving member of the Corps, who caters on a regular basis for parties from the Garrison.

We can, I am sure, look forward this year, to an excellent party. Tickets are obtainable, at a cost per head of £3.00, from:

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**Darlington**
**Co Durham DL3 8HA**
**(Tel: 0325 463835)**


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# — Movements —

## Officers

APRIL 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Capt S. I. Andrews | HS School of Signals |
| Maj R. F. Axton | School of Signals |
| Maj B. J. Barton-Ancliffe | HQNI |
| Maj W. E. Brewin | 16 Sig Regt |
| Capt P. J. Costello | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| Lt Col H. A. Culley | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj G. N. Donaldson | HQ Trg Gp R. Signals & Catterick Gar |
| Maj J. S. M. Doody | School of Signals |
| Maj N. C. Fairley | HQ BF Cyprus |
| Maj A. H. Gibb | School of Signals |
| Capt T. J. Gigg | HS School of Signals |
| Capt R. J. Good | HS School of Signals |
| Maj R. P. Gravestock | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt A. J. H. Harrison | HS School of Signals |
| Maj R. G. L. Hill | 30 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt N. Hogarth | HS School of Signals |
| Capt (Tfc Offr) J. Isherwood | 30 Sig Regt |
| Capt B. M. M. Jackson | HQ 6 Armd Bde |
| Capt G. R. Leach | School of Signals |
| Lt C. L. Lee | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Capt (Tfc Offr) W. A. Locke | 8 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col B. F. Kavanagh | JFHQ BFFI (AE) |
| Capt S. B. Marriott | School of Signals |
| Maj J. H. May | ACGS(OR) |
| 2Lt S. M. Meikle | HS 262 Sig Sqn |
| Maj T. F. Moncur | RARDE |
| Maj (TOT) J. Morris | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Lt R. J. Murley | 7 Sig Regt |
| Maj M. D. Patterson | Jnr Regt R. Signals |
| Capt R. C. Pearce | 16 Sig Regt |
| Maj R. Pickard | HQ 11 Sig Bde (V) |
| Lt Col P. J. Pritchard | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt A. W. Russ | HS School of Signals |
| Maj M. J. Sinton | 22 Sig Regt |
| Lt M. A. Stevenson | 22 Sig Regt |
| Capt (QM) K. C. A. Stewart | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Maj P. A. Treseder | School of Signals |
| Capt A. J. Ward | HS School of Signals |
| Lt Col (Tfc Offr) W. Weir | HQ UKLF |
| Lt K. Whitehead | HS 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Maj P. Whitemore | HQ BAOR |
| Capt K. G. Wilson | HS School of Signals |

May 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Capt M. Anderson | HS AAC Centre |
| Capt A. D. Beach | 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |
| Lt Col P. E. A. Chaddock | HQ BAOR |
| Capt R. C. W. Chisholm | School of Signals |
| Lt Col J. J. Cullen | NORTHAG (BAE) |
| Brig P. A. Dally | SHAPE |
| Capt (TOT) P. H. Davis | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Lt Col (TOT) P. Devanney | SHAPE |
| Maj H. J. P. Exon | PIU and SST |
| Lt Col J. V. Fielding | DGGWL |
| Capt R. J. Good | School of Signals |
| Lt M. D. J. Hancock | AA College Harrogate |
| Lt M. C. Hoskins | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt C. W. Lockwood | 7 Sig Regt |
| Maj G. P. Maddren | School of Signals |
| Lt S. G. Marshall | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt D. McConnell | School of Signals |
| Capt J. P. McMahon | 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj (Lt Col '84) J. P. Munnery | HQ SHAPE (BAE) |
| Lt B. P. Neillings | AAC Harrogate |
| Capt K. Pritchard | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. H. Roberts | HQ Trg Gp R. Signals & Catt Garrison |
| Maj R. F. Rutherford | DSS (AD) |
| Maj (Lt Col '84) R. P. Shiner | School of Signals |
| Capt (Tfc Offr) I. Sleightholm | 7 Sig Regt |
| Capt (TOT) G. S. Spearpoint | 8 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. D. Stokoe | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj J. D. Tydeman | 10 Sig Regt |
| Col G. C. Verdon | British Appts USA |
| Capt R. J. Williamson | 30 Sig Regt |
| Lt M. P. Wise | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Maj C. L. G. Wright | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |

## WOs and Senior NCOs

APRIL 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 G. Scott | 11 Sig Regt |
| WO1 (YofS) L. Rix | HQ 1 Sig Gp |
| WO2 (YofS) T. J. McLoughlin | 30 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) D. L. Edwards | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) J. G. Turvey | 242 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 (Supvr R) P. R. Forster | 13 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (EW Op) A. A. Mitchell | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| WO2 S. Gray-Cowan | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 M. L. Jolliff | Cambridge UOTC |
| WO2 G. A. E. Marshall | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 W. N. White | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 B. T. Wood | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) M. J. Taylor | 633 Sig Tp |
| SSgt (EW Op) J. F. W. Sinden | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt K. M. Durrant | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt J. Fuller | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt T. M. Ponton | Liverpool UOTC |
| SSgt A. K. Whillock | Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC |
| SSgt P. Honey | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. G. Scullion | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. L. Griffiths | 22 SAS Regt |
| ASSgt R. M. Smith | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt B. Cullen | 9 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. Knight | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. J. A. Hindmarsh | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. J. Hawey | JATE |
| Sgt A. J. Knight | Int & Sy Gp NI |
| Sgt I. S. Horton | 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. MacTaggart | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. Hales | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. B. Jackson | 227 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. Meredith | HQ AFCENT |
| Sgt P. Whitfield | HQ 20 Maritime Regt |
| Sgt G. R. Greaves | 576 Rear Link Det |
| Sgt (EW Op) J. R. W. Webster | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt G. M. Nuttall | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt N. Chatterton | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt K. Enefer | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt A. P. Fullwood | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. G. Lond | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. F. Hughes | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt E. G. Tunks | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. M. Smith | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. Moses | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. J. Flanagan | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. Turner | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. J. Clarke | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. A. Ara | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASgt J. Petty | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt B. White | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt E. N. Nielsen | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. McDonald | 633 Sig Tp |
| ASgt A. McIver | 16 Sig Regt |

MAY 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (Supvr R) J. W. Thomasson | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| WO2 G. S. Davies | 22 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) A. P. Lomax | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) D. J. Keig | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 (YofS) B. Dulston | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt (YofS) S. J. Atkinson | Sultan's Armed Forces Oman |
| SSgt (EW Op) T. M. Lorrigan | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt C. S. Carveth | HQ LF Cyprus |
| SSgt M. J. Price | 28 Sig Regt |
| SSgt W. J. Henning | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt C. G. Parsonage | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. Willoughby | HQ AFNORTH |
| SSgt C. R. Ager | 7 Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. E. Swaine | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt J. F. Smart | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. R. Parry | 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt A. R. Pollard | 241 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt V. E. Skinner | AA Coll Harrogate |
| SSgt D. Moore | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. A. Granitza | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. W. Fisher | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| ASSgt D. S. Jevons | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt H. S. Baxter | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| ASSgt A. G. Davies | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt J. McAveety | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt W. J. Kelly | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt T. D. Walker | School of Signals |
| Sgt D. L. Randall | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. R. Lang | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. J. Armstrong | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. R. Bell | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. H. Robinson | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. T. Selkirk | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. L. Saveall | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. H. Wales | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. Matthews | 602 Sig Tp |
| Sgt J. D. Richardson | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. G. Carnegie | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. A. MacPherson | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt N. E. Barlow | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt T. J. Payne | Int Centre Ashford |
| Sgt S. J. Gillham | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt E. Sharp | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Ormond | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. McAuliffe | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. R. Coleman | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. J. Newsome | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. Farquhar | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt A. E. Kinchington | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt I. D. Rees | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. A. Orange | 573 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt J. Dunne | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt C. H. Hunter | 582 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt J. Jenkins | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt A. Donaldson | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. Quick | 233 Sig Sqn |



# Welfare

**February 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 59 |
| Amount spent | £6,324.60 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent | 4 |

**March 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 67 |
| Amount spent | £8,810.42 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent | 37 |

**SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES**

Ex-Signalman served '36 - '45 recently suffered a severe stroke. A grant was made to meet fees pending his return home as adaptation had to be made to his bedroom.

The widow of an ex-Corporal who served '36 - '45 had managed on a low income for many years. She was having difficult in meeting the expenses of her three teenage children all still at school. A grant was made to clear her outstanding bills and arrangements made for the family to have a free holiday through the Army Benevolent Fund Scheme.

Ex-Sergeant was blinded as a result of a road accident at the age of 37. He was living in very poor conditions and unable to get out. Arrangements were made for him to be rehoused in sheltered accommodation and his flat to be adquately furnished. He has now been taught to cook and run his flat by the training officer for the blind, does basket work at the local disablement centre and is able to enjoy a full life.

During February/March clothing was received from the following: **Mrs J. Pitman, Mr and Mrs Ient, Mr and Mrs R. Miller, Mr D. Green, the Budden family, Capt B. T. Lord, Brig P. R. Davies, Maj and Mrs Maxted, Cpl and Mrs Fraser, Col and Mrs I. G. Swan.**

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1984:

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of A. Cottee Esq | £125.00 |
| AAC Joint Churches | £100.00 |
| Cotswold Branch RSA | £ 50.00 |
| In memory of Brig P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen | £ 35.00 |
| Middlesex Yeomanry | £ 33.00 |
| Anon | £ 20.00 |
| Lincoln Branch RSA | £ 10.00 |
| Maj F. Hill | £ 10.00 |
| Torbay Branch RSA | £ 5.00 |
| Col H. Llewelyn-Daniel TD DL | £ 5.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 16.91 |
| | £409.91 |

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1984:

| | |
|---|---|
| Duchess of Kent Barracks | £100.00 |
| In memory of A. Cottee Esq | £ 67.00 |
| Certia Cito Lodge | £ 50.00 |
| Brighton Branch RSA | £ 50.00 |
| Sgt M. Marks | £ 50.00 |
| Reading Branch RSA | £ 25.00 |
| Mrs F. Stanley | £ 25.00 |
| In memory of Maj M. Allan | £ 15.00 |
| Bedford Branch RSA | £ 10.00 |
| G. W. Cook Esq | £ 8.42 |
| F. Veness Esq MBE | £ 5.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 11.05 |
| | £416.47 |


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# Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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.

**DEATH**

**Alexander—Ex Sgt Patrick Arthur Alexander,** known to all as **'Alex'** was born in 1909. He enlisted into the Corps in November, 1929 at Winchester. Drafted to India in January, 1929 he served on the North West Frontier, being awarded the Indian GSM 'Mohmand 1933'.

Discharged to AER in 1935 he rejoined the Regular Army in April, 1939 and served in France with the BEF. From 1942 he served with the 14th Army in Burma. Service at home from April, 1945 to November, 1951 was followed by duty with British Troops Austria and BAOR, where he reached the rank of Sergeant. Until his final discharge in April, 1960 his service was at home and with BAOR.

**Alex** and family settled in York where he was employed by Rowntree Mackintosh until his final retirement in 1978. During these latter years he was a constant and enthusiastic member of the York Branch from which he is greatly missed.

Sadly his last two years of life were marred by a debilitating illness from which he died on 15 December, 1983. Married in 1935 he is survived by his wife **Beatrice** and family.

**Cant—Maj (QM) Robert Ogilvie Cant** was born at Tayport, Fifeshire on 25 October, 1909. He enlisted into the Corps on 13 March, 1928 and on completion of his training was posted to Rhine Signal Coy where he remained until he was posted to India in 1930. He served with 'B' Corps Signals until 1935 when he returned to the UK and joined 2 Divisional Signals. He then moved to the Middle East in 1937 and served with Palestine Force Signals. During the years 1940 to 1944 he served with 13th, 26th and 10 Corps Signals in Libya, Greece, Syria and Iraq. He was commissioned on 5 February, 1946 and joined 30 Corps Signals in BAOR. In the following year he returned to the UK and served in the Training Brigade at Catterick. He moved to Singapore in August 1948 and served for three years with GHQ Signal Regiment. On his return to the UK he joined 12 AA (M) Signal Regiment TA until July, 1956. He returned to FARELF in November, 1956 and served with 17th Gurkha Division Signal Regiment for three years. On return to the UK in October, 1959 he first served with 224 Signal Squadron and then with 231 Signal Squadron. **Maj Cant** retired on 8 November, 1961 and died on 1 November, 1983.

**Carr—Maj (QM) Harold Carr** was born at Doxley, Stafford on 31 March, 1910 and joined the Corps on 13 April, 1928 and after initial training was posted to 3 Divisional Signals. In December, 1930 he was posted to Gibraltar where he remained for over six years. On return to the UK in April, 1937 he was posted to A Corps Signals. On the outbreak of war he joined 1st Depot Battalion and remained on the cadre for 18 months before joining 59 Divisional Signals in February, 1941. **'Jack'** remained with that unit and then took part in the D-Day airborne landings during which time he received injuries on landing. He was returned to the UK as a casualty but returned to the NW Europe operations on 7 August, 1944 and served there until 19 September, 1945. In February, 1947 he was posted to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment TA in the UK. A year later he moved to the training organisation and served in 5, 1 and 7 Training Regiments in turn. He was Commissioned as a Lieutenant (QM) on 28 November, 1952 and joined 5 Signal Equipment Troop in the Middle East for a short period and then moved to 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. In March, 1956 he joined the cadre of 63 Command (M) Signal Regiment (TA) at Salisbury and retired from that unit on 31 March, 1963. **'Jack'** was soon back with the Corps as shortly after his retirement he joined 243 Signal Squadron (Southern Command) as the Admin Officer as an RO3, a job he performed with his usual enthusiasm and became the main-stay of the Squadron. He later served briefly at Blandford Camp when the unit moved from Bulford but when the Squadron was disbanded he moved to Devizes and served as Families Officer. **'Jack'** died on 9 September, 1983.

**Challen—Capt William Challen** was born at Portsmouth on 17 April, 1903 and joined the Corps on 7 November, 1921. He served in 'F' and 'E' Companies and then moved to India in February, 1927. He remained in India from February, 1927 until September, 1940 when he was commissioned into the Corps as a Second Lieutenant. He then served with 8 Indian Divisional Signals at Peshawar and moved with the Division when it was posted to the Middle East serving in Iraq, North Africa and Italy. He returned to the UK, on posting, for the first time in 17 years when he joined 4 Trades Training Battalion in February, 1944. His final posting with the Corps was from July, 1944 to August, 1945 when he joined 2 Corps Signals in North West Europe. **Capt Challen** retired on 4 December, 1945 and died on 29 August, 1983.

**Champion—Maj William John Champion** was born on 5 August, 1904 and served in the Corps from July, 1923 until April, 1942 when he was commissioned in India. He continued to serve with the Indian Signals until November, 1946 when he returned to the UK and in January, 1947 served for two years in the Middle East, during which time he was employed in the Records Branch GHQ MELF. In March, 1951 he moved to HQ BAOR and served in the Field Records Office until October, 1954. In December, 1954 he was posted to the Record Office of West Africa Command where he remained until December, 1956. **Maj Champion** retired from active service on 28 November, 1957 and died on 8 January, 1984.

**Cole—Maj (Tfc Offr) William Cole** was born at Marylebone, London on 29 December, 1902 and enlisted into the Sappers on 15 April, 1920. He transferred to R Signals on 14 October, 1920. He served in Iraq from March, 1926 to January, 1930 and in Palestine from January, 1938 until November, 1940. He was commissioned on 24 November, 1940 and was appointed SO R Signals to CSO HQ BTE. He served in that post for over three years and then moved to GHQ Middle East in the post of DADOS. **Bill** was Mentioned in Despatches for his distinguished service in the Middle East. On his return to the UK he joined 3 Intelligence School and became a cipher officer. He then moved to FARELF and joined GHQ Signal Regiment at Singapore and was, after a few months, sent on detached duty with Ceylon Signal Squandron. He returned to the UK in October, 1948 and served for three years with Tactics Group RS Wing at School of Signals. His final appointment was as OC Cipher Egypt Troop a post he held for five and a half years. **Maj Cole** retired on 28 April, 1957 and died on 14 September, 1983.

**Fill—Capt William Ernest Fill** was born at Woolwich on 7 January, 1913 and joined the Corps as a Boy entrant on 31 August, 1927. On entering man's service he joined 3 Divisional Signals and in May, 1933 moved to the Far East to join N China Signals Section in Peking. He remained there for three years and after leave in the UK joined 'A' Corps Signals in Palestine on 14 September, 1936. In December, 1937 he returned to the UK and served with 5 Divisional Signals until he was commissioned on 26 February, 1941. He then served on the staff of 152 OCTU until the end of the war, when he retired. He rejoined the Corps on 22 October, 1951 and served for three and a half years at the OT Wing School of Signals. He then moved to the Middle East for a short tour and on return to the UK served for over three years with 2 Training Regiment at Catterick. His final post was as OC 231 Signal Squadron (Park) where he served from 26 April, 1961 until his retirement on 15 August, 1964. **Capt Fill** died on 26 October, 1983.

**France—Capt John Bertram France** was born at Stanwix, Carlisle on 11 March, 1913. He enlisted into the Corps on 1 October, 1932 and served in India from December, 1934 until February, 1940. During this time he served on active service on the North West Frontier and was awarded the Indian General Service Medal with the clasps 'NW Frontier 1936-37' and 'NW Frontier 1937-39'. He served in the North West Europe campaign from 3 August, 1944 and was commissioned on 2 July, 1951. He served with 4 AA (M) Signal Regiment for two years and then moved to BAOR where he served until his retirement on 3 July, 1954. He then joined the TA as a PSO and served from 26 October, 1954 until his final retirement on 30 June, 1973. **Capt France** died on 12 August, 1983.



**Gray—Brig Frederick Peter Lawrence Gray DSO OBE** was born in India at Ahmednaggar. **Peter**, as he was known to all his contemporaries, was educated at Wellington College and commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in August 1918. He served in France before November 1918, earning the British War and Victory Medals. During his service at the Front he saw action with his battalion during which some seventy-five percent were either killed or wounded. It was an experience that was to influence his future life. A year later he accompanied his Battalion to India, where he was to spend nearly twenty years.

He was seconded to the Indian Second Corps (F Divisional Signals) in 1923 and after successfully completing his 'Q' Course at Maresfield, transferred to Royal Signals in 1925.

Jubbulpore, Kohat, Waziristan, Rawalpindi, Risalpur, Sialkot, Meerut. In all those years there were few of the Corps who did not know and admire him. The highlights were undoubtedly his Equitation Course and his service in the Cavalry Troop at Meerut, and the Mounted Wing, Catterick Camp. Service in India was interrupted by five years at home. Mounted wing first, and for three years he was frequently with the R. Signals Display Team at the various Agricultrual shows and often at the Royal Tournament. He rode good horses and bad horses with equal skill and not infrequently his success on one of the latter, unexpected by the local 'know alls', brought in the price of a good dinner to his friends. Two years with the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot, and in 1939 he was back in Meerut with 3 Indian Divisional Signals.

**Maj Gray** went early to War as 2IC 4th 'Eagle' Indian Divisional Signals which was to be a stepping stone for him.

**Peter** spent a year away as DCSO Soudan and in 7 Armd Divisional Signals before returning to command 4th Indian Divisional Signals from March 1941 to November 1943. He had a two months 'break' acting as CSO 30 Corps. Home in November 1943, as CSO 2 Tactical Air Force, he was in Egypt once again in June 1944, as CSO Alexandria, and it was here that he met **Pamela Brenda**, daughter of **Brig Gen E. N. Tandy CMG DSO**, who was serving there in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. They were married on 28 April 1945. In 1946 as **Brig** he and **Mrs Gray** went to AA Command at home and 1948 took them to Singapore, (CSO FARELF). He was responsible for enhancing the Communication Systems for the campaign against the terrorists. In 1951, with their son aged 4, they came home to Northern Command at York where, most tragically, **Mrs Gray** died. He retired in March 1954.

Essentially a first class soldier, though he often attempted to disguise the face, he enjoyed field sports above all else. A first class horseman and horse master, he spent nearly 20 years with horse and horsemen. For the rest, a gun and a dog and good friends provided most of his needs. Few have been more popular, few deserved popularity more. **Peter** to his friends and, behind his back, to his British soldiers; he was 'Fplgray' Sahib to the very many of India and Pakistan who treasure a memory of a good officer.

The quality of his leadership of 4th Indian Divisional Signals brought him a Mention in Despatches in 1941, appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1942, and to be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in 1943. A second Mention in Despatches proved his worth as Chief Signal Officer in FARELF in 1950.

His final appointment in the Corps was as CSO, HQ Northern Command a post he held until his retirement. After retiring he held an RO appointment from 1955 until 1963. During retirement he continued to be interested in local equestrian events and held a number of 'honorary' appointments within his local community. He died on 15 December 1983.

**Green**—We record with regret the death on 16 April 1984 of ex**Sgt Richard A. Green** who served with the Corps from 1964 until 1978.

**Halbert—WO2 Sidney Walter Halbert** served in the Regular Army for 22 years first serving with the Welsh Regiment and then transferring into Royal Signals in January 1950. During his service he served in the Middle East, with 3 L of C Sig Regt and did four tours of duty in Europe. After serving for nearly three years with 227 Sig Sqn in France he then joined 30 Sig Regt for his last two years of service. He retired on 13 February 1969. He died at his home in Wimborne on 4 February 1984 and the funeral service was held at the Bournemouth Crematorium on 15 February.

**Hill—Maj Henry Thomas Hill** was born at Marylebone on 29 June, 1904. He enlisted into the Corps on 27 July, 1922 and served in India from February, 1928 until 21 December, 1932. He returned to India in February, 1937 and was commissioned there on 9 July, 1940. He continued to serve in India until he was posted to Ceylon on 1 January, 1942. He returned to India on 6 June, 1943 and served with 36 Indian Divisional Signals until September when he moved to 14 Indian Divisional Signals. He returned to the UK in July, 1944 and went to Orkney and Shetland Signals until February, 1945. In April, 1945 he moved to BAOR and was appointed Town Major. This appointment was followed by further staff jobs dealing with the civil administration. His last post was as SO2 (Assistant Controller) in the North Rhine Region and he then became Control Officer of the HQ Military Government of the Aachen area. **Maj Hill** retired from active service on 13 July, 1947 and died on 10 October, 1983.

**Knight—Maj (QM) Alec Hamilton Knight** was born at Croydon on 5 April, 1913 and enlisted into R Signals on 7 April, 1931. He first served with 4 Divisional Signals and in April, 1934 joined Egypt Command Signals where he remained until April, 1939. On return to the UK he joined 1 Divisional Signals and served in the BEF. In December, 1941 he was posted to Malaya to join 48 Light AA Signal Section but on the fall of Malaya became a POW. After his release from captivity in 1945 he served in the UK with a number of units including WO Signal Regiment and 3 Training Regiment until 30 July, 1954. On commissioning he returned to WO Signal Regiment for a year and then joined 44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment TA where he remained until March, 1959. He then returned to the Far East for three years, this time stationed at Singapore. His final tour of duty was with 8 Signal Regiment where he remained until his retirement on 29 July, 1966. **Maj Knight** died on 7 October, 1983.

**McKillop—Lt Thomas Alexander McKillop** was born at Omagh on 5 May, 1915. He joined the Corps as a Boy on 2 September, 1929 and moved to man's service on 2 September, 1931. He served in India for three years from 1936 until August, 1939. He joined 3 Divisional Signals in France in September, 1939 and after the evacuation of Dunkirk moved to the Middle East where he joined 8 Armd Div Signals and 10 Corps Signals. In January, 1944 he moved to 1 Armd Div Signals and served in Italy. In 1945 he went to 2 Armd Div Signals and in September of that year was commissioned as a Lieutenant (TMO). He continued to serve in the Middle East until May, 1946 when he returned to the UK and joined 1 Trade Training Regiment. He moved to 6 Training Regiment for a short tour and completed his active service back in the Middle East with 1 Egypt Command Signal Regiment. **Lt McKillop** retired on 30 September, 1948, and died on 15 November, 1983.

**Page—Capt Walter William Page DCM** was born at Bromley on 23 September, 1901 and served briefly in the Royal Engineers from January, 1920 and transferred to the Corps in November of that year. In March, 1921 he moved to India where he remained until February, 1939. He then returned to the UK and joined 2 Divisional Signals and moved with them to France. It was during his service in France that he was awarded the DCM which was published in the London Gazette of 11 July of that year. In November, 1940 he was commissioned and served with 2 Signal Park at Donnington. From June, 1941 to July, 1943 he was with 52 Signal Park and then returned to COD Donnington until his retirement on 15 December, 1944. **Capt Page** died on 17 August, 1983.

**Roake—Capt Charles Alfred Roake** was born at Cawford on 25 April, 1915 and joined the Corps as a Boy on 30 April, 1929. He joined man's service and in March, 1936 was posted to India where he served until he was commissioned as a Lieutenant (TMO) on 18 March, 1943. He then joined 36th (Indian) Divisional Signals in SEAC in June, 1944 and then returned to the UK at the end of that year. He joined the Training organisation in February, 1945 and served in 3 Trade Training Battalion, 4 Training Battalion and 2 Training Battalion consecutively. He moved to Austria in January, 1948 and retired from active service in November, 1948. He rejoined the Corps in October, 1951 and then served first with 7 Med Wireless Troop in FARELF, then with Singapore Dist Sig Regt and finally back in UK with the OT Wing of the School of Signals. **Capt Roake** retired on 1 October, 1956 and died on 8 July, 1983.

**Sorfleet—Capt (QM) Hamilton Sorfleet** was born on 14 November, 1913 and enlisted into the Corps on 31 May, 1932. He served with 'D' Company for three years and moved to India in February, 1936. He served in India until May, 1944 when he returned to the

UK and then served with the AA Signal Training School and then with OCTU. In May, 1947 he joined the School of Signals and in March, 1949 he moved to Malaya. On his return after three years in the Far East he joined No 1 Special Communications Regiment TA. He was commissioned on 5 April, 1954 and moved to BAOR where he served for four years with 11 Air Fmn Sig Regt. His last serving appointment was with the School of Signals. **Capt Sorfleet** retired on 5 April, 1959, and died on 7 September, 1983.

**Vaigncourt-Strallen—Brig Peter Desmond Vaigncourt-Strallen** was born at Winter Gunner on 18 July, 1920. He was commissioned into the Corps on 28 May, 1940 and for the next nine months served with 9 Corps Signals. In May, 1941 he moved to the Middle East and joined 4th Indian Divisional Signals, remaining with that unit throughout the Middle East campaign. He was mentioned in Despatches on 6 April, 1944. He returned to the UK and attended Staff College from August to December, 1944. He then moved to the European theatre of operations and in January, 1945 was again Mentioned in Despatches. In March, 1945 **Peter** was appointed SO R Signals at HQ 21 Army Group and in July, 1945 returned to the UK to take over the post of DAAG AG11 War Office. After a year in that post he moved to Signals 5 where he remained as a GSO2 until January 1948.

**Peter** then moved overseas once again and held the post of SO2 R Signals in East Africa for two years, which was followed by a short tour as OC East African Command Signal Squadron. He returned home in August 1951 and in October moved to BAOR to 7 Armd Div Sig Regt where he remained for two years.

His next three appointments were all on the staff being GSO2 (Int) in HQ Northern Command; GSO2 (Int) HQ Berlin for two years and then a further two year tour as GSO2 at the School of Signals.

In August 1958 Peter returned to East Africa and served in two non-Corps appointments, first serving with the 5th Bn King's African Rifles and then with the Kenya Regt Trg Centre during which time he showed his ability as an organiser.

He returned to the UK in January 1960 and took over command of 12 Sig Regt and in June 1961 when the training organisation was reformed he became CO of 24 Sig Regt. In January 1963 he moved overseas again this time as GSO1 (Int) at GHQ FARELF in Singapore.

**Peter** returned to the School of Signals as Chief Instructor (Engineering) in July 1964 and then moved to the appointment of Colonel (GS) ASD DSS in September 1965.

His last appointment was as Commander 12 Signal Group (Volunteers) at the Duke of Yorks' HQ in London where he had the task of commanding three active TAVR Signal Regiments. He retired on 16 December 1968 and in April 1974 was appointed Honorary Colonel of 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V). On retirement he went into the City, a change of environment which **Peter** took in his stride. He was always good company and had a marvellous sense of humour. One senior officer of the Corps comments that **Peter** made the Corps a much better place in which to serve by his example of enjoying life. He had great ability and charm and a ready wit and was able to make friends easily. He will, also, long be remembered for his work, both as an actor and producer, in the field of amateur dramatics. He died suddenly at his home in Somerset on 4 February 1984.

**Willis—Maj Edward Sidney Willis MBE** was born in Ireland on 18 February, 1900. He originally enlisted into the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1918 and in December, 1919 transferred into the Sappers. In the following year, on 6 November, he transferred again into the Corps. In September, 1922 he moved to India where he served on the North West Frontier being awarded the India General Service Medal 1908-35 and the clasp 'Waziristan 1925'. He returned to the UK in December, 1928 and in 1934 returned overseas to serve with the Corps in Shanghai and Hong Kong. He returned home in November, 1937 and on outbreak of war joined the BEF. He was commissioned on 12 December, 1939 and after the fall of France joined 54 Divisional Signals. In October, 1941 he was posted to 1 Command Signals and in December, 1942 briefly served with 6 Command Signals before joining 10 Air Fmn Signals on 10 April, 1943. He moved to North Africa and served with 10 Air Fmn Signals and then 6 Air Fmn Signals. His award of the MBE was published in September, 1945. He was commissioned on 10 July, 1946. After commissioning **Ted Willis** held a number of ERE posts in Eastern and Southern Command and finally retired on 10 July, 1953. He died on 11 August, 1983.

Wright—Ex WO2 Rex Dennis Wright known as **'Knocker'** to his friends enlisted in 1940 and transferred to the Corps in 1942. During his 22 years in the Army he served in Egypt, Italy, Germany and Singapore. **Mr Wright** is survived by his wife **Margaret**, daughter **Ann** and son **Danny**.


# King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

SISTER AGNES'S

Beaumont House,
Beaumont Street, London W.1.

*Patron: Her Majesty the Queen*

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, affectionately known as Sister Agnes's, provides the best medical and surgical facilities at the lowest possible cost to officers of all three services (including women officers) serving or retired, who have held a permanent or temporary commission in the Armed Forces. This facility also extends to officers' wives, widows and dependent children of not less than 4 years of age.

The hospital has both private rooms and small wards, and well-equipped X-Ray and Physiotherapy Departments. Medical check-ups can be arranged at a moderate price.

**Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the shared rooms. Former officers and their dependants are charged £315 per week for a private room.** The charge for other patients is £715. If, however, a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his/her maintenance (now over £720 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.

**Subject to age BUPA gives friends of the Hospital a 15% reduction on their BUPACARE subscriptions, and PPP and Western Provident a 25% reduction on their Family Masterplan and Supercover policies respectively, if payment is made by direct debit.**

The hospital is currently handling over 2200 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 demand for beds increases.

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.




## WANTED

**SUPPORT YOUR CORPS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM**

The White Helmets are always in need of No 1 Dress Uniform. If any past or present serving Officer, SNCO or soldier has a suit available for donation to the team it would be gratefully received.

Contact OC White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
Tel: Richmond 83 2521 Ext: 2556

Royal Corps of Signals shoulder flashes, 51st (HD) flashes, Cap Badge, Battle Dress, Despatch rider goggles, and any other World War 2 military equipment. In addition, photographs and negatives of motor cycles, despatch rider with his motor cycle taken during World War 2 would be welcome. These items are requested in connection with a project depicting the history of Royal Signals and the motor cycle.

Contact **Mr Paul Kerr**, 9 Kemp Street, Aberdeen AB2 1XS.

## FOR SALE

Copies are available of the Corps 50th Anniversary statues of the old and young signalmen, the full sized versions of which stand in the lines of 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick.

The artist **Faith Winter** can produce miniatures approximately nine inches high as presentation items for messes, in silver or bronze. Cost and other details are available from the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace Chelsea, London, SW3 4RH. Tel: (01) 930-4466 ask operator or Chelsea 393.

**SALE OF CORPS TABLEWARE**

HQ Mess R Signals, Blandford is selling off some sets of silver plated tableware. Limited numbers of sets in three patterns at £8 per set are available. A set consists of Spoons—soup, table and dessert, Knives—table and cheese, Forks—table and dessert. Pairs of fish knives and forks, fruit knife and fork are available at £3 per pair. Sets of six tea and coffee spoons at £3.50 a set. All items have the Corps crest. Further particulars are available from SO3 G1/G4 HQ School of Signals (Blandford Mil 217).

Officers full length great coat. Height 6'2", Chest 42". Good condition. Offers to **Col P. S. Davis** Tel (01) 434.7319 (working hours).

## PERSONAL

**From: J. W. Neve Esq**

Dear Sir,

I am trying to contact one or two of my old friends who were serving on 2 Corps CSO staff in 1940. Their names are **Sgt W. A. Ryan** and **Cpl Hewson**.

I will be grateful if they could please be asked to contact me at my address, details below. It would be so good to be in touch with them again after all these years.

Yours faithfully
**J. W. Neve**

4 Hurst Croft
Warwicks Bench Road
Guildford
Surrey GU1 3TJ

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TA 31 (GL) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)**

The vacancy which will arise on 31 August for a PSOA in 31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V) to serve with HQ and 41 Squadrons based in Hammersmith, is in the rank of **Captain** and not Major, as advertised on page 125, March *Wire*.

**VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PSAO) TA**

A vacancy will arise in November 1984 for a PSAO in the rank of Captain, for employment with 45 Signal Squadron (V) located at Colchester Essex.

Terms for service are contained in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part III. The retirement age is 60 and applicants should be under 57 years of age.

The appointment carries consolidated rates of pay; starting salary is £8,617 per year arising to £10,015 after six years.

Further details concerning the appointment may be obtained from Adjutant 36 Signal Regiment (V)—telephone 01-989-5131.

Applications, including curriculum vitae (one side of foolscap paper only) together with the names and addresses of two referees are to be sent to:

Commanding Officer
36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Signals House
Selsdon Road
Wanstead
London E11 2QF

by 1 August 1984.

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF OFFICER—STRATFORD UPON AVON**

A Non Regular Permanent Staff Officer is sought for 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) for appointment to 67th (Queens Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) in Stratford Upon Avon in February 1985.

Applicants should have served as officers in the Regular Army and must have a thorough knowledge of administration, stores and financial accounting. A communications background would be advantageous.

The post currently carries the annual salary of £9380.50 rising by six annual increments to £10,898.90.

Applications enclosing CV and the names of two referees should be sent to:

The Adjutant
37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
TA Centre
Horfield Common
Bristol BS7 OXL

The closing date for applications is 30 September 1984.

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF OFFICER IN 71ST (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

A vacancy for a Permanent Staff Officer appointment, with 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) based at Windsor, will be available from October 1984.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3.

Applicants must have served in the Regular Army as an Officer or Warrant Officer Class I. A sound knowledge of administration, stores and financial accounting is essential and a communications background would be advantageous.

The present starting salary is £9,380 rising, by six annual increments, to £10,898.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be forwarded by 30 June 1984 to:

The Adjutant
71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Hill House
Beckenham Lane
Bromley
Kent
BR2 0DA
(Tel No: 01-460-6571/7832)

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## BFPO 807

**OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

The past two months started quietly but terrorist activity increased with several bomb attacks against both commercial premises and SF Targets. Fortunately, there were lucky escapes by a UDR soldier from a terrorist ambush during which his car was struck by 12 bullets and a booby trap which fell off the car of a RUC Inspector. In February, at Dunloy two armed terrorists were shot dead and sadly one member of the SF died. Later, a civilian out walking his dog surprised a man hiding in a hedge near Cookstown, subsequent investigation revealed a landmine containing 250 lbs of HME in a nearby culvert with a command wire. Terrorists had several NDs with bombs prematurely detonating on a road near Rosslea and at a quarry near Ballygawley. In addition on 28 February an explosion occurred in the boot of a car which had been previously hijacked, and two people were seen being helped away, one believed to have been seriously injured.

A booby trap car bomb killed a soldier of 6 UDR as he drove away from his home on 2 March a week later a CWIED attack was mounted on a 2 QUEENS mobile patrol East of the Foyle. The attack followed a number of marches by both Loyalist and Republican groups, Heli-Tele was deployed. Several finds of weapons, explosives and a Claymore type mine were made in and around Londonderry. On 13 March an ex part-time member of the UDR was shot and killed as he worked on a farm. Tragedy struck even closer to home when **Sgt David Ross** of SIB RMP Det was killed when the van he was driving was blown up close to Ebrington Bks as it passed a parked vehicle. A large bomb had been placed in the parked van and was detonated by CW.

**FAREWELL VISIT OF COMD COMMS NI**

The Comd Comms NI, **Lt Col A. R. Martin**, paid his farewell visit to the Squadron on 27 March accompanied by the Comd Comms designate, **Lt Col M. R. Stephenson**. Following a briefing given by the OC, **Maj Richard Farrimond**, a tour of the Squadron and lunch with all ranks in the 'Waterside Inn' **Col Andrew** was presented with a pair of prints depicting the sights of Londonderry in earlier and more peaceful times. Both visitors then went on to see our men 'up the hill' at Gortin before departing for Lisburn. To **Col Andrew** we say goodbye and thank you for two very happy and successful years and good luck for the future. To our new Comd Comms, **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**, we extend a warm welcome.

Sgt Brian Donegan briefs Comd Comms Designate on the Radio Store. Left to Right: Capt (QM) Jimmy Akehurst (hand), Lt Col Rex Stephenson, OC Maj Richard Farrimond, Comd Comms NI, Lt Col Andrew Martin
Quote: 'As you can see it's better than the other Squadrons!'

Comd Comms discusses the 'finer points' with Comms Tp. *Left to Right:* LCpl Shep Sheppard, Sig 'Foxy' Fox, Capt Trevor Bradley (back view), SSgt Pete 'Daddy' Ryan, Lt Gordon James, Lt Col Andrew Martin, LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill

**VISITORS**

Recent visitors to the Squadron have included **Col Noel Moss** from MOD OR22 and **Col Peter Rowlands** from Sigs 36, who came to see and hear about the problems being encountered with the presently available commercial radio. After a full Ops brief they toured the Squadron departing after lunching with the Dep Comd 8 Inf Bde, **Col M. R. Tarver OBE**, and officers of the Squadron.

On 29 March the Comd Land Forces NI, **Maj Gen J. D. G. Pank**, visited the Squadron, he was met by the OC, **Maj Richard Farrimond**, and RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson**, before being briefed on the role and organisation of the Squadron. He then moved swiftly to the 'Foyle View Club' where he had drinks with the WOs and SNCOs before lunching in the Officers' Mess.

**NEW LONDONDERRY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE**

British Telecom have been busy installing new cabling throughout Bde HQ and the remainder of Ebrington Bks prior to the installation of the new MERLIN DX computerised PABX. BT technicians worked extremely hard to meet the deadline (Merlin Hr) which had been set for 31 March despite their efforts 'M' Hr was not met, not due to BT but regrettably to Plessey not being able to provide the System Software on the date promised. We now look forward to the early completion of the project thus allowing the Ops YofS, **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade** and 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, some time to continue with Basketball and swimming respectively.

**COMMS TROOP**

In this operational area there are very few happy events to talk about. However heartwarming congratulations are in order from everyone in Comms Troop to **SSgt Pete Ryan**. He has just become the proud father of a baby boy. Well done **Pete** and **Sue**. (This will add to your sleepless nights).

It has been a busy period for all members of the troop, be it on Rover Group across in the city of Londonderry, on duty in the Bde Radio Room, travelling to the Bn Ops Rooms to correct faults or rigging all types of antennae around the TAOR.

**Cpl Dave Parry** and other members of the troop gave the new Comd Comms an impressive tour of vehicles and equipment that are used in the troop during his initial visit. **LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill** was on hand to explain the intricacies of the Incident Vehicle, **Cpl Garry Ashley** (it's channel 1) and **Sig 'Chas' Fox** (it's channel 2) crewed the Special Tasks Vehicle, (actually it was channel 6!) **LCpl 'Shep' Sheppard**, as always gave a polished presentation on the 'Heli Tele Vehicle', whilst **Cpl Mick Roe** and **LCpl Paul Harding** (what another presentation) explained the problems of rigging. Suitably impressed the Comd Comms then moved on to the Bde Comcen where **LCpl 'Taff' Saies** waited with bated breath to give his presentation, alas, he did not get the chance. **LCpl 'Scouse' Brisk** (who better?) rounded the visit off by an in depth brief of the Brigade Radio Room.

Since the changeover to the VRC 353 on the Bde Comd Net the standby team has had a relatively quiet time. However when things go wrong it always seems to be in the early hours of the morning, much to the delight of **LCpl 'Smurf' Murphy** who has proved that where there is smoke there is fire, a reference to his vehicle catching fire one morning last week. **Cpl Dave Clark** and **Sig Des Carter** the Powermen of the troop have been kept on their toes by various people requesting the installation of standby power—all in a day's work they say!

The Bde Radio Room, under the watchful eye of **LCpl 'Scouse' Brisk**, continues to tick over like a well oiled machine. At times a great deal of tact and firmness is required especially when dealing with the UDR Greenfinches who don't answer CC calls.

Welcome to the following new arrivals: **Lt Gordon James** (oops sorry, he's been away skiing or was it hockey?). **Cpl 'Thommo' Thompson**, and **Sig 'Scouse' Johnson**.

Sad farewells to the following: **Sig Ben** and **Deidre Cooley** to 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Taff'** and **Sue Adams** to 14 Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Mac' McLaughlin** to 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, and **Sig Edgar Broughton** to Civvy street.

**M TROOP**

After a flurry of activity at the start of the year, life has once again settled down to as near normal as it will ever be in M Troop. The gremlins are as busy as ever in the various radio systems, ensuring that the Radio techs spend nearly as much time on hilltops as Chris Bonnington. **Sgt Ben Mee** our resident Mould expert has been particularly busy, and is now firmly convinced that selcall is not a system which automatically reports faults, and enables interrogation of hilltop sites, it is really a data link which enables Mould equipments to exchange interesting fault symptoms, and to keep track of the current location of the techs.

Extracts from the log:

A certain UDR soldier complained that every time he transmitted on his set, he cut off the transmissions of other users on the same net.

Conversation between comcen and REME tech.

Commcen: can you help us mate we've got a knackered PONI?

REME Tech: Sir, this is a tech workshops, I think you need a Vet.

A UDR CSgt complained of mushy speech on his BN Net. **Sgt Robbo Robinson** deployed and spec tested all the equipment but the CSgt still complained—solution cotton buds. **Robbo** now gets tasked as Bde photographer.

**Sgt Steve Nickless** whilst on duty tech received a frantic telephone call from the 2IC **Capt Dent**, the Officers' Mess ice making machine was u/s. **Steve** knowing that senior officers were visiting that day and careers could be at stake (particularly his own) deployed immediately and quickly repaired the fault (he actually kicked the contraption!)

**TROOP ADVERTS**
**WANTED**

Good reliable driver who can guarantee not to have any accidents for at least the next 18 months. Must be prepared to cherish the fitted radio equipment and to ensure that at all times it remains clean and serviceable. Apply for interview to FofS for employment as OC's driver. PS must be able to 'tune in' to Radio 4 and appreciate it too!

A 'Wander' stento for the use of the Tp SSgt so that the OC Sqn can get hold of him at all times.

**EXPANSION**

**Sgts Butch Cassidy** and **Dick Taylor** having succeeded in their wheeling and dealing to obtain more work space for their much expanded line section, immediately installed that most essential piece of line equipment—Yes! the dartboard!

**POPULAR EVENT**

Finally we said goodbye this month to one of the M Troop personalities **Sgt 'Tosh' Hindmarsh** (of Slieve Annora Fame) **Tosh**, as a swan song, organised the M Troop recce of Bushmills Distillery which took place on the day of his promotion to SSgt. (That's what I call organisation!) True to form we arrived 30 mins early (good soldiers) and had to seek refuge in the local hostelry. After a most interesting and brief explanation of the process, during which the troop 'home brew' addicts took notes, we then proceeded to sample the product, but despite great debate and much sampling, no-one could decide whether Bushmills is best hot or cold, and so we reserved the right to return at some future date to resolve the issue.

**EXERCISE** *PINE MARTEN 1984*

A total of 84 men from the Squadron enjoyed the après-ski in Aviemore over a five week period in February and March. Before the après, however, came the skiing itself! Many hadn't skied before or had conveniently forgotten just how long ago that last Ex *Snow Queen* was. This caused a few headaches for the instructors, **SSgt (YofS) 'Babyface' Crilly** and **LCpl Nobby Nevill**, ably assisted by **Capt Jimmy Akehurst**. (Most of the headaches came from catching that well known Scottish bird—the Grouse).

Work hard, play hard, was certainly the game plan for each group, as they arrived cramped and sweaty after the five hour trip from Stranraer (make that seven hours when under command of 'Capt Clansman') to be fed and kitted out in double-time, photos taken and dragged to the local bar to do their very first skiing exercises. Whilst the weather was not always kind, very few days skiing were lost, though the odd blizzard did make things very uncomfortable during the first few weeks. **Capt Trevor Bradley** managed a very good inpersonation of 'Capt Oates' leaving to die in the storm (Oh look, Yeoman, I've found my glove after all—wasn't I fortunate?). However everyone was keen to get on the slopes and the weather had to be very bad for any day's programme to be cancelled.

By the third or fourth day each week, the lads had got the hang of it—into the Sheiling Restaurant as early as possible and talk a good ski to the waitresses and wide-eyed schoolgirls who wondered that so many Winter Olympic hopefuls had injuries which were keeping them out of the British Squad and in Scotland! **Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt** was probably the finest ski instructor in Aviemore this Spring, on this count.

Small fines for falls (5p each for beginners, 10p for intermediates and 50p for DS) soon built up a kitty (£70 in the last week) for the weekly prizegiving. Some obviously paid out more than others—thankyou to **LCpl 'Scouse' Murphy** and **Sgt Bruce Payne** for their generosity! Prizes were awarded for the best skier in a slalom race at the end of each week—popular winners included **LCpl 'Mac' McCormick**, **Pte Ian Morgan** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Hughes** (JPLST Capt—see below).

Despite some amazing blowouts—**Cfn Tim Eyley** provided one spectacular explosion of skis, poles, arms and legs that should have at least broken his neck, and **LCpl 'Stallone' Macbeth** was always good for at least one crunching fall a day, given that he was usually travelling at Mach 2.

Congratulations to everyone who managed to survive the knocks on the slope and the interesting little pieces of night life that tried (?) to lead them astray. Congratulations also to the QM. One group that did obviously enjoy every minute of the Exercise were the self-styled 'Jean-Pierre Loony Ski-Team' complete with their own race piste, jumps and team hats. In attempting to impress the OIC Exercise they nearly BLR'd themselves in one short session of ski jumping. Follow that Konrad!

*Left to Right:* Capt Jimmy Akehurst, Cpls Dave Clark, G. Ashley, SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly, 2Lt Adrian Metcalfe, LCpl Nobby Nevill, Lt Gordon James (plus photographer LCpl Alex Macbeth)

As part of the Exercise, the Squadron team for the UKLF Ski Championships endured strenuous training under the eagle (bloodshot!) eyes of **Capt Jimmy Akehurst**—veteran of the slopes and Grouse-beater extraordinaire. With **LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill** as our star skier, the teams performed magnificently. Out of 48 teams, the Squadron were overall nineth and were top Minor Unit (No Trophy) and also R Signals team champions. (Unfortunately we are probably

the only Arm or Corps not to have presented a Team Trophy). **LCpl Nevill** raced superbly to pip the favourite by 9/100th of a second for the R Signals Individual Trophy, and was placed 6th out of over 200 competitors overall. **LCpl Macbeth** racing as a Novice also picked up a well deserved prize for second place in the Novice event—after only seven days skiing! The team result was only made possible by fine performances by **SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly** and **Cpl Gary Ashley** who turned in their best times when it counted most. Commiserations to **Lt Gordon James** who was 0.4 sec too fast to win a Magnum of Champagne for the slowest racer overall, and to the other squad members—**2Lt Adrian** 'Blue-eyed-boy' **Metcalfe, Cpl Dave**—I slipped honest!—**Clark** and **Capt Jimmy Akehurst** who all delighted the crowd with their unrehearsed free style ski ballet during the Giant Slaloms.

LCpl Nobby Nevill in action during the Slalom

Overall, a fine Exercise with everyone working hard and enjoying themselves. Many skied for the first time and have caught the skiing 'bug'—Ex *Pine Marten* shows that you don't have to be in Germany to be given the opportunity to ski.

**FOOTBALL**
**Report by Coach Ryan**

Is there life in Londonderry? On the football front the answer is a resounding yes. Regular readers will recall we were due to play 26 Sqn RCT in the Northern Ireland Challenge Cup, we did and we won 7—2, goals from **LCpl 'Sandy' Brown** (3), **LCpl 'Fozzy' Foster** (2), **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** (he is still playing) and **Pte 'Physco' Hoy**. The Quarter Finals saw us drawn against the Queen's Own Highlanders who are a major unit team, the game was evenly contested and after extra time the score was 2—2, **LCpl 'Sandy' Brown** and **RSM Nelson** having scored for us. The dreaded penalty shoot out loomed, we scored, they scored, the RSM missed, they missed, we scored and then **LCpl Steve Chinn** saved the last spot kick to send us into the semi-final. There we played yet another Major Unit side, this time 3 UDR, at full time the score was 2—2, goals from **LCpl 'Sandy' Brown** and **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** put us into extra time. A superb tactical decision to use substitute **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** by coach **Ryan** saw him score the winner to send us through to the final.

In between times we still managed to fit in the league programme, highlights so far are our outstanding wins against 233 Sig Sqn and 33 Ind Fd Sqn RE. Against our arch rivals 233 we played some delightful football and in a close fought contest, we managed to sneak home by nine goals to nil, scorers on the day were **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** (5), **LCpl Mark Brunning** (2), **Sig Andy Cameron** and that man again **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson**. Against the Sappers we did not fare as well only managing to put eight passed a very dispirited and demoralised team. Scorers on the day were **Pte 'Physco' Hoy** (5), **LCpl David Nelson** (2) and—you've guessed it—**WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson**. With two games left to play we top the league, on goal average, ahead of 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. The cup final date is yet to be finalised so all in all the next week or so will be interesting.

**HOCKEY**

Since our last report we have been putting together some fine results in the NI Major Units League. At the time of writing we are sitting firmly on top of the league with our main rivals, 1 D&D, two points behind. At the beginning of April we look forward to entertaining them in Londonderry in what should be an interesting and hard fought game. Amongst our recent results against Major Unit teams, two stand out. Against both 3 UDR and Lisburn Garrison we ran out 6—0 victors, **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** remembering the former with fond memories of his first hat-trick in hockey.

We are also competing in the NI Minor Units League where we are one of the teams chasing hard on the heels of a fine 233 Sig Sqn team. On 22 March we travelled to Lisburn to play them and try to avenge an embarrassing defeat earlier in the season. This was a daunting task as they had remained undefeated all season. Suffice to say that at the end of a marvellous match with both sides playing confidently and exhibiting some fine hockey skills, we ended their unbeaten run with a satisfying 2—1 victory. Scoring for us were our new player **Capt Nick Cooke ACC** and 'old-stager' **Cpl Graham Hughes** with a well struck short corner. This is a well rehearsed routine between **Cpl Hughes** and **Lt Gordon James**. This victory now puts us two points behind our old rivals, so it was an extremely important win.

Our team has mainly consisted recently of **Maj Alistair Cumming, Lt Gordon James, WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson, Sgts Kev Thorpe, 'Chic' Williamson, Ken Black, Cpls Neil March, Graham Hughes, Mick Roe, LCpls 'Scouse' Nelson, Paul Harding, Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt, Paul Baker, Tom Naylor, Ian Tolley** and **Joe Devitt**. These and other players who play when commitments allow, form a useful squad from which to choose.

**RUGBY**

At the beginning of the season postings/deployments crippled the team severely. In fact it was so heavily depleted that the OC's opening question on arrival interviews changed to:-

Are you a rugby player?'

Fortunately (well done M and RO) most were and so since Christmas we have been able to boast 15 rugby players. Having 15 rugby players, the next task was to get all 15 on the same rugby pitch at the same time. Well we're managing to do that as well, now the problem is to get opposition. Hopefully BAOR will provide this as a tour is planned at the end of the season.

Anyhow, a few members of the team who must be mentioned are, 'Just gimme the ball and I'll run at em', **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman**. The tactic always worked, (no wonder if you know the size of him) and with good support, the ball was dished out to the backs by **Sig 'Tommo' Thompson**, from there along the line until 'dropper' **LCpl Martin Casey** and no further. But seriously now, I think **LCpl Lennie Rubie** (wing) had the ball passed to him once or twice, but none of the team can be certain.

Our mid-season signing included **LCpl Bob King** and **Sig Dick 'Andy' Tredwell**, who slotted into the backs very nicely, we still kept **Martin** though.

Up and coming players who should be singled out are:- **LCpl 'Mac' McCormick, Dvr Tony Hagan** and **Sig Terry Alderson**.

This will be my last season playing with 8 Bde and I wish the team all the success in forthcoming fixtures.

The Squad: **Maj Jim Snape, Lt Gordon James, Sgt Robbo Robinson, Cpls Tony Mackey, Ash Ashley, LCpls Lennie Rubie, Martin Casey, Bob King, Tank Sherman, Andy Reason, Mac McCormick, Sig Dick Tredwell, Dvr Tony Hagan, Sig Joe Devitt, Terry Alderson, Tommo Thompson** and **Sig Geordie Gray**.

**TEN PIN BOWLING**

Although slow to start and after many teething problems the two lane bowling alley is now fully working. Unfortunately the alley is 'dry' but the UDR bar (next door) do a good line in 'take-away' cold drinks, keeping up the tradition of 'where there's a bowling alley there's beer'. At the moment we are a small band of 'no right thumbnail' ball throwers, but if anyone happens to pass through 8 Bde for a couple of years, come and join us, everyone is very welcome. After all not every Brigade can boast the use of a bowling alley.


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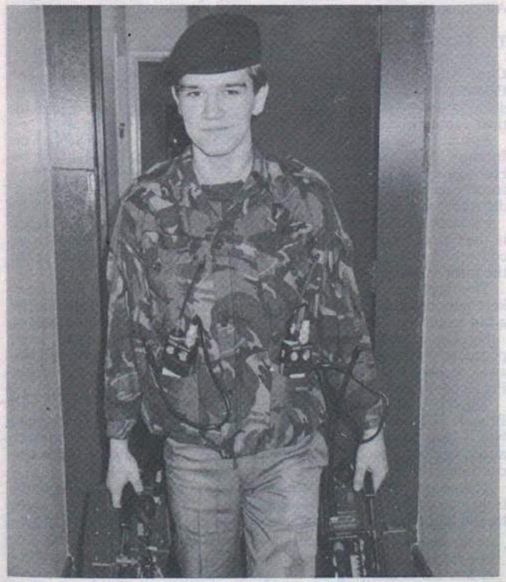
# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**OPERATIONS**

An increased level of terrorist activity recently has kept the Province in the Public Eye. The shooting of the assistant Governor at the Maze, **Mr McConnel**, outside his East Belfast home brings home the point that there are no 'safe' areas in the Province. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast was shot and wounded in Central Belfast by loyalist gunmen. In Eire, INLA leader and mass murderer Dominic McGlinchy was caught. He has been handed over to the RUC and is now awaiting trial.

In 39 Bde both 1 RRW and 1 Bn Grenadier Guards have departed and 3 Queens and 1 Staffords are now well established on their roulement tours.

Sig Hardman at work in the Bde COMMCEN



Sig Ingram from A Tp returns B Tp's Radios

Cpl Matthews reads one of Brigades more amusing signals

Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley shows his Heli Tele mobile to the new Brigade Major, Maj Ken Peacock

**RPG 7 ATTACK**

Just to prove to readers that Northern Ireland is not all tame and uneventful read on! On a routine Ops Room check and maintenance day in West Belfast, Alpha Troop's West Belfast crew were travelling along Springfield Road on their way to a base to repair a fault. The rear Piglet of the pair was fired at by a Russian made RPG 7 Rocket and 9 low velocity rounds. Fortunately the rocket missed its target and struck a passing coal lorry (the driver was uninjured but had to be taken to hospital to be treated for shock). A near miss for Piglet escorts **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **LCpl Tony Semple** but congratulations to **Sig Ian Constable,** the Piglet driver, for speeding; we reckon that's what saved us!

**EXERCISE *WHITE POWDER***

Every year the Squadron runs a skiing exercise at Aviemore, Scotland. This year we lived in an Army hut, Norwegian Lodge, just two miles from the slopes and concentrated on downhill skiing. The exercise was run over two weeks, different groups of soldiers attending each week. Below is an account of the high points of the exercise.

**Report by Sig 'Ransom Note' Epps**

WEEK ONE The journey to Aviemore was fairly uneventful. Much beer was consumed on the way and an anonymous member of TM Troop propositioned the air hostess! When we arrived at the Lodge and had found a bed, we then had to move because of a minor error. There followed a briefing by **Capt 'Driftwood' Durward, Lt 'Humper' Hudson** and **Capt 'TSB' Lawson**.

FIRST DAY After half a day's attempted skiing and endless hours spent in queues, we noticed a red stretcher sledge being pulled off the slopes. We though that some poor person had been wiped out by one of the many soldiers skiing that day. To our surprise who should we see but **Cpl 'Yosser' Brown** smiling and waving with a good arm and a dislocated shoulder. On further questioning we found that he had played the hero and instead of knocking a woman down, he had 'wiped himself out'.

Special honours must go the **Hayter** brothers, **Tim** and **Martin**, and to **Sgt Robbie** (with the chat up lines) **Hall** for being blown out most often by the women of Aviemore. Generally a good time was had by all.

**Report by Cpl Cliff Knighton**

WEEK TWO Should have started with all of us arriving on Friday. However, due to bad weather conditions, the Larne to Stranraer ferry was delayed and we arrived a day late at Aviemore.

Having found spaces (some of which got very little use) it was time to explore the night delights of Aviemore. Being pretty tired out most of us got back go the Lodge by about 0100 hrs. **Sig Smudge** I'm a sailor) **Smith** failed to get into his top bunk but did make it to the floor. Sunday was spent on the ski slopes (more on the slopes than the skis). We had a good first day and most of us declined to go to Aviemore that evening (day after night before effects having taken their toll). **Smudge Smith** again failed in getting into bed and slept for 14 hours the wrong way around. The rest of the week was spent on the slopes. On Wednesday night most of us went to see a film on how skiing should be done. The next day, Thursday, was the last day in the snow. Everyone tried to copy the stunts seen on the film the night before; no one succeeded!

Having cleaned up the Lodge on the Thursday evening everybody spent the last night out in Aviemore. Even as the 0050 hrs train pulled into the station two of our party were still having refreshments; so in a mad rush **LCpl Buggsy Bauress** went to find them (**Sig Dick Hickling** and **Sig Smudge Smith**, yet again). Fortunately the train was held up for 10 minutes so they managed to make it back. So it was back to Lisburn again having had a good week's skiing which everybody enjoyed.

The gang on the slopes. Cpl Tolton and WO2 (YofS) Pete Tapsell discuss one of the finer points of skiing

**ALPHA TROOP**

A busy period indeed for Alpha Troop **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Sig (now LCpl) 'Scouse' Bradley** spent two weeks building a new Ops Room at HMP Maze; then moved on to spend a week building a new Ops console for 175 Pro Coy RMP. Meanwhile, **LCpl Taff Boucher** and **Sig Cass Graham** were living in West Belfast's Whiterock base, recabling their intercom systems. As soon as they finished Whiterock, on they went to McCrory Park to do the same again. While most of the troop were skiing in Scotland a few stalwarts were left behind to do the work. **Cpl Paul Jennings** took on the extra responsibilities of South Armagh section as well as Maze Prison and Telemech section. He is now asking for overtime pay!

Congratulations to **LCpls Scouse Bradley, Andy Holloway** and **Pete Bauress** on their promotions. We welcome new arrivals **LCpl Digger Bell** and **Cpl** (can I have a day off?) **Pickering** and say farewell to **Pte Tich Turley** and wish him well in Cyprus. Congratulations also to **LCpl Arty Artingstall** on his marriage to **Lyn**.

**SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS**

Congratulations to **SSgt Dave Hogben** on being selected for promotion. As he is posted to 266 Sig Sqn in September he is now bearing the brunt of all the 'penquin' jokes flying around. By the time these notes go to print, **Sig 'Chewie' Gumm** will have left and should be in 21 Sig Regt. Now that he's gone the RSM and the QM will have to find another source of cigarettes! Besides working (occasionally) as Ops, Registry and Movement clerk, **Chewie** has been one of the main contributors to the Squadron Club bar takings and also anchor man on PT runs. We wish him well and trust he is not becoming a 'brattie fattie'.

**Cpl 'JD' Duckworth**, our tame Data Tg, on loan from handbag troop amazes us with his huge appetite. His lunch box is the size of 'Dusty Bin', yet he remains pencil slim.

Now that he has negotiated his own posting, **Capt Terry Canham**, our 2IC, is looking forward to three years R and R in BAOR. **WO2 (YofS) Pete Tapsell** bangs on Chief's door each day shouting, 'Where's my posting?' Anybody would think he wants to leave the place! Satisfaction: If you want job satisfaction (any trade) this is the place for you. Get your orderly room to put your name down as a volunteer for Northern Ireland.

**QM DEPT**

A period of comings and goings for the department sees the departure of **Sgt Des Faherty** on promotion to the Falklands and then on to Cyprus. **Cpl Bob Barbour RPC** is finally leaving us on posting to HQ Lisburn Garrison. Congratulations and best wishes to **Des** and **Dawn**, we are sure you will enjoy your sojourn in the sun. Our very best wishes also go with **Bob** and **Ruth**. Thanks for everything you've done for the Troop and the Squadron. We welcome **Sgt Ron Torrance** and his wife to the troop. **Ron**, the hot seat is now all yours!

**MT TROOP**

The major event recently has been the rebuilding of our troop offices. In the meantime we are working out of a small room entered via the 3′ × 3′ fire escape. hence our nickname 'The Hole in the Wall Gang'.

Our main problem now is our shortage of vehicles. We have had to struggle to meet our heavy commitments and this has meant more hard work for everyone recently.

Undoubtedly the event of the month is the marriage of **LCpl Mac McBride** to the unknown voice on the telephone. Best wishes from us all for the future **Mac**.

We also look forward to the arrival of our two new WRAC girls. All the single lads are now fighting to do day duties!

**TM TROOP**

Farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Paul Cross**, posted to Gibraltar, **LCpl Chris Alger** and **Dave Blight** both posted to Cyprus and **Sgt Derek Pocock** posted to AFCENT. Thanks to them for all their efforts during their stay here, and our very good wishes go with them and their families for the future.

Posted in we have **WO2 (FofS) Jim Hanifin** from the School of Infantry Warminster **LCpl Kev (SSM) Simmons** straight from Harrogate, and our latest new arrival **Sig Jacko Jackson** all the way from Cyprus. All are now settled and finding Northern Ireland different, to say the least.

February saw most of the troop away at some time or other skiing in the Cairngorms at Aviemore. All came back in one piece and from conversations in the Horseshoe Club certainly enjoyed themselves (in the pubs at least).

The riggers under the watchful eye of **Cpl Ned Horton** have been kept busy derigging Antenna Masts of unused coaxes and antennae in a bid to tidy up the numerous SF bases throughout the Province.

**Sig Tim Hayter** is our only 'working' Telemech at present, kept permanently busy on repair of radio ancillaries, with **Sig Andy Brown** away on his B1 at Catterick and **Sig Jacko Jackson** already out of the Province on a riggers course.

The TE Techs have been moved out of their hiding place in the Brigade HQ building and now reside next to the Radio Workshop. Not a very popular move as the TE Mechs cannot shut themselves away anymore, and the Radio Techs are kept awake with the continuous chuntering of the Siemens Teleprinters.

The only troop sporting achievements so far this year is our darts team who appear to be doing quite well in the Inter Troop darts league, although they still have not managed to win the beer leg yet.



## 233 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 801

**EXERCISE *SPRING SLIDE 84***

This year's Squadron skiing exercise took place in Bavaria, West Germany in January and February. Two courses of 12 skiers travelled over by RAF flight and mini-bus, each spending two weeks away. For the first course skiing conditions were excellent, although it's a shame we couldn't say the same for the PRI mini-bus! Our instructor, **Cpl 'Chippy' Carpenter** showed just how much patience he really did have and the class was able to respond with as much determination and enthusiasm. **Pte Gill Reynolds** managed to wipe out the class at least twice, and **LCpl 'Devs' Devereaux** proved that you don't necessarily have to be able to turn or stop to 'banzai' down a slope. The races took place on the final day and took the form of a downhill and a slalom. The downhill was won by **Sgt Dave Chalmers** and **Pte Lola Rogers** was placed first in the slalom.

The second course were greeted by rain, rain and then snow. Lots of it! In fact it snowed for four days and nights which left excellent powder conditions for the advanced class who, earlier in the week had had to face white outs and blizzard conditions. The beginners were taught by **Cpl Dave Fowler** who soon had them 'snow ploughing' their way down with great style. The advanced class took lessons from a local ski school and found out the delights(?) of deep powder skiing. **Sig Dave Woosey** soon learnt a lesson when he spent rather a long time searching for one ski under four feet of snow! Again the final races were downhill and a slalom, being won by **Sgt 'Scouse' Walmsley** and **Sig Dave Woosey** respectively.

The mini-bus behaved perfectly well on the return journey until, on reaching Krefeld, the exhaust fell off!

*Left to Right:* LCpl Andy Dowdle, Cpl Dave Fowler, Pte Lisa Clayton, Pte Sandy Buckle, Sig Frosty Frost, Pte Maggie Boycott

**MERCURY CUP**

The final stages of the inter Signal Squadron competition proved to be extremely close. With three events remaining, we had to win them all and also force 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn into last place in one of them if we were to win the overall competition. The first challenge was the orienteering, traditionally a strong sport in the unit. The team, led by **WO2 Brian Libby**, beat the other two Squadrons quite comfortably to win the competition. **WO2 Libby** was the second individual home and **Cpl Carol Underhill** was second in the Ladies event. 8 Bde were second overall.

On an unusually pleasant day at Magilligan ranges the battle was fought for the Mercury Cup shooting trophy. This was especially important as the winners of this SLR competition would decide any tie in the overall competition. 8 Bde started well and worked up an impressive lead by the end of the first stage. Little by little this was whittled away by our team, led by **Sgt Ian Knight**, and at the end of the day we had eased a few points into the lead.

Cpl Carol Underhill being congratulated by Lt Col Andrew Martin (Comd Comms) on coming 2nd in the NI Royal Signals orienteering. Cpl Gillard (Comms Branch Clerk) looking like 'Compo' in the background

So the stage was set for an exciting final event: the sports competition, comprising squash, six a side soccer, six a side hockey, and seven a side rugby. Having won the rugby, come second in squash and third in soccer, the result depended upon the final hockey match against 8 Bde. If we lost, we would have a three way tie in the sports competition and lose the Mercury Cup. If we won we would retain the Mercury Cup and win the sports competition for the first time ever. Fortunately the hockey team won 2—1, a close result to round off a close competition.

**RUNNING EVENTS**

After the warm up event in the NI Royal Signals orienteering competition, the team went on to take the NI minor units competition as well. A good effort from the team of **WO2 Brian Libby, Capt Matt Campbell, Sgt Dave Cresswell, Sgt Alex Armstrong, Cpl Jock Dengate** and **LCpl Dino Briers**. Shortly afterwards in a rather different event the Squadron cross country team came third in the NI half marathon at Aldergrove. After numerous circuits of the airfield **LCpl Hughie Latta** came in second with the rest of the team not far behind.

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MEL

'By the time we got in it was dark'. NI half marathon runners: LCpl Kev Roche, Sgt Steve Wardle, LCpl Hughie Latta, Pte Kerry O'Rourke, Capt Matt Campbell, Pte Lynne Lawson

**HOCKEY**

Since winning the NI minor units knockout cup the team has gone from strength to strength, losing only two matches all season, one of those being to last year's Army champions. As the season draws to a close the team has finished as minor unit league champions, providing yet another trophy for our crowded cabinet.

The hockey team in action. Cpl Gary Lowes directing operations with Sgt Dave Chalmers, Rodin's hockey player, Sgts Paul Stevenson and Paul Massey (head hidden) in support

**RUGBY**

Not to be outdone by the hockey team, the rugby players have made their mark on seven a side rugby in the Province. The first competition of the season was at RAF Bishopscourt where some impressive scores in the early rounds led to the final against the resident rugby battalion, 1 D and D. The infantry side won 22—0 but Bass, the sponsors, provided some nice pewter tankards for the runners-up. The next Wednesday saw the team at the RHF sevens where they were once again on the opposite side of the draw to 1 D and D. Suprisingly 1 D and D 'B' side beat their 'A' side which had been weakened since the weekend so we found ourselves in the final with a better chance than expected. After a close first half the team's fitness told and we emerged victors by some 10 points. The next stop is the NI seven a side championship on 18 April at Ballykinler.

**COMMCEN TROOP**

**EXERCISE *SPRINGSLIDE* 2/84 3-18 FEBRUARY 84**

**LCpl Belam, Sig Hicks** and **Pte Harden** were amongst the Squadron skiers taking a two week holiday, at the small Ski Resort of Ofterschwang in Bavaria. Main reports were that the local ale and food, (in that order) were of a high standard.

On the actual skiing, there were two groups, beginners and intermediates. The intermediate group was being instructed by a rather 'gifted' girl from the local Ski School. More concentration was needed from the male members of the group in what they were supposed to be doing, not what they were seeing.

A new battle cry was heard over the slopes, 'Albatross' instead of the normal 'Banzai'. When asked why 'Albatross', the reply was 'Albatross can't ski either'.

A good time was had by all and they even improved their skiing.

**RUGBY—McKELVIE TROPHY**

The Troop surprised all in the nine a side Rugby Tournament. They came a close second to COMMS Troop, who with a try and conversion stole the Final in the last seconds of the game, to make the score 10—6. (Lucky people).

On the hard road to the final, the Troop overcame the fancied Techs and a less fancy Victor Troop. All this was done with only the casualty. **Cpl Ted Warburton** gained a broken collar bone after a brave tackle. The team was well Captained by **Cpl George Strachan** and with a couple of old Codgers, **SSgts' Pete Weedon** and **Dave Aldous**, plus **Sgt Ian Knight, Cpls Colin Luckham, Dave Toulson, 'Mack' McFeely, Sig 'Rodge' Roger, 'Tin-Tin' Phillips** and **Kev Wade**. All did very well.

**1984 FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES (SO FAR)**

Cheerio and good luck to the following in their new posts. **SSgt Pete Weedon** and wife **Jan**, spending their last six months at 30 Sig Regt. **Sgt Terry Butters** and wife **Tina**, going to AFNORTH. **WCpl Chris Edwards, Pte Maggie Davis** both all the way to Hong Kong. **WCpl Gillie Wardle** née **Walker** enticed away from the Army by **Sgt Wardle** of another Troop. **Pte Lynn Lawson** who has decided to be a PTI. **LCpl Andy Damen** to 3 Div. **Pte 'One Only' Oenone Evans** to 16 Sig Regt. **WLCpl Blod Davies** and **LCpl Steve Horne**, both to Civvy Street.

Hello and welcome to **Sgt Ian Waugh, Cpl Di Flake, LCpl Carol Stevens, LCpl Mark Hamlet, Ginge Burrell, WLCpl Claire Gibbs, Sig Kev Wade, Chris Smart, Ptes Dawn Duncan, Angie Gray, Debra Neal, Julie Woodward**. Hope you all have a good tour.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations from all in the Troop on their recent promotions. **Cpl Connie Dabbs** and **LCpl P. J. Smith**.

**VICTOR TROOP**

The comings and goings in Victor Troop over the past few months have been too numerous to list them all, although a special mention must be given for **YofS 'Hinney' Atkinson** on eventually getting his posting to sunny 34 Sig Regt (V). Congratulations are in order to OC Troop **Capt Palmer** on her recent marriage. We must also congratulate **Cpls Craig Jones, Mark Cregan** and **Sig Tony Frost** on their recent engagements. Welcome back to **SSgt Stu Baxter** from those Paradise Islands in the South Atlantic (sun tan and all).

Finally a special well done to our Tech's who have managed to go a whole month without damaging a Troop vehicle; keep it up fella's, safe driving certificates will soon be on their way.

## — News from Headquarters —

# Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

### AT A PACE

Since our last contribution, life in the College has been continuing at its normal fast pace. There is however an air of anticipation, increasing at the same pace as Spring (slowly), with the change of Commandant looming ever closer on the horizon; more about that in our next contribution. There has been activity on many sporting fronts, of which Squash, Cross Country, Basketball, Hockey and Skiing are reported on below.

### FAREWELLS

The College has recently said farewell to: **Capt Tony Perkin** and **Lt Steve Wallis,** both to the Falkland Islands; **WO2 (CSM) 'Rab' Richie Scots Guards** to the Guards Depot; **WO2 (CSM) Ray Young Grenadier Guards** to the 2nd Bn in Chelsea Barracks; **WO2 (RQMS) Tug Wilson** to Civvi Street (in Malta!).

### WELCOMES

The College welcome to its ranks: **Capt Tom McMahon** from 34 Sig Regt (V); **Lt Alex Wilson** from 7 Sig Regt; **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Taylor** from 30 Sig Regt; **WO1 (YofS) Bob Badger** from 7 Sig Regt; **WO2 (CSM) Dennis Bowes Scots Guards** from the 1st Bn in Hong Kong; **WO2 (CSM) John Marshall Grenadier Guards** from the 2nd Bn in Chelsea Barracks.

### ELECTRONICS WING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OC** | — | **Maj (TOT) Dickey Dyer MBE** |
| **2IC** | — | **WO1 (FofS) Gavin Spearpoint** |
| **2IC** | — | **WO1 (FofS) Dave Hirst** |
| **Eng Gp Supvr** | — | **WO2 (FofS) Phil Leach** |
| **Tech Gp Supvr** | — | **S1O1 Mr Eric Hill** |
| **Trg Coord** | — | **S1O1 Mr Harry Clough** |

Now fast approaching the end of the Spring Term it is quite apparent that all the instructional staff are ready for a well earned break. It has been a trying term mainly due to the overlap of new and old style apprenticeships requiring more than the usual training time. The OC is busy trying to procure a Robotic Arm which he says is for computer training but we all reckon it's to hold his third hat now that the Rugby and Athletics seasons are overlapping. Soon to leave us are: **WO1 (FofS) Gavin Spearpoint** to take up his commission in Radio Group 8 Sig Regt, no doubt he will be a thorn in our sides when he settles in; **SSgt Bruce 'Baldy 2' Douglas** is taking over at Sandes Home Catterick to build a battle simulator, but in truth we reckon he will be changing the beds; **Sgt Dave Tennick** to be promoted to **Mr** and thinking of going to Oman to instruct the local military populous; finally and not least **SSgt (FofS) Mac 'The Teeth' McDonald** who is promoted and taking over Maintenance Workshops. One personality who retired at Christmas, but still has a hand in running the College cinema, is **Mr Jack Cowen,** who is well known by the ex Harrogate part of the Corps and who we wish a very happy retirement.

Congratulations to **Cpl Jim Jenkins** on his promotion and posting to 8 Sig Regt to instruct Tele Mechs and **Sgt Ian** The Canoe **Dobson** on his recent promotion. The Wing offers a warm welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Pete 'Control point' Martin, Cpl Mick Chant** and soon to arrive, **SSgt Vince Skinner, Cpls Armstrong** and **Kirkham.**

### CROSS COUNTRY

Since Christmas the Cross County team and permanent staff have qualified for and taken part in the Army Cross Country Championships at Tweseldown Race Course.

Our Junior Major Unit team and reserves included **AT Cpl Ian 'Wills' William, AT Cpl 'Black Jack' Hawkins, AT Cpl 'Pugsy' Oliver, AT LCpl Al Holyoak, AT 'Tex' Dallas, AT 'Morms' Moreman, AT 'Grandmaster Kel' Kelman, AT Nicholas 'Woody' Wood, AT LCpl Andy 'Shep' Sheppard** and **AT 'Top Off' Toplass.** Over a fast four mile cross country course the team qualified for the Army Championships by finishing second to Chepstow Army Apprentices College at the Zone Inter-Unit Championships in January.

**LCpls Nick Plowman** and **Pete Freeman,** who came third overall in the Northern Area Cross County Championships, both secured a place in the Senior Army Cross County Championship race.

As **AT SSM 'Chunks' Morton** and **AT John Marlow** ran for the Junior Army team against Wales in January they automatically qualified for the Army Championships.

On the day of the Army Championships everybody ran well but unfortunately no team trophies were brought home, as the team came fourth overall. However **AT Cpl Ian Williams** was second losing to his rival from the Army Apprentices College Chepstow. In the six mile Senior and Junior Championships later that afternoon **LCpl Pete Freeman** came 54th with a time of 33.14, **LCpl Nick Plowman** came 130th time 35.45 and **AT SSM Chunks Morton** was 72nd time 33.42.

Recently **Cpl Dave Carr** has run for the Army against the TA and over a hard six mile cross county course came fifth.

Within the District League, the College having lost **Maj Keith Arnold** and in particular **Sgt 'Billy' Cain,** didn't manage to retain first place. However with varied results throughout the season came third overall, congratulations to all competitors.

### BASKETBALL

The 1983/84 season held mixed fortunes for the Mercury Sides. Having been placed 'runners up' for the past two years in the Army Minor Unit finals, the PS side were disappointed to be KO'd in the preliminary rounds by York Station. However, we had lost the valuable services of two of our Corps players, **Sgt Mick Bohanan** and **Sgt Les Robinson**. The former on promotion to sunny Cyprus and the latter to Kolsas, Norway. (Play Basketball at Harrogate and M & RO guarantee a good posting for you). We wish them and their families all the best and thank them for helping the apprentices improve their skills.

The Apprentices side have had a good season under the expert coaching of **WO2 (SSM) Matty Matthews** of Corps fame. They have gained promotion in the Harrogate and District League by being clear winners of the second division.

In the Army Junior final the Apprentices were unlucky to lose by one point in the dying seconds of the game to the JLR from Shorncliffe. This had to be one of the most exciting games ever seen at Harrogate. The gym has never had so many spectators on the edge of their seats for a long time. The standard of play from these players, who incidentally are all under 17½, was extremely high. This can only be a good sign for the future of basketball in the Corps, It is always difficult to have to choose a most outstanding player in a team game such as Basketball, but a special mention must go to **AT LCpl Willy Williams** who in two matches scored a total of 54 points.



The College is proud to boast that three apprentices who have graduated in the last twelve months are in the Army U-21 squad. Namely **LCpl Mick Mullholland, LCpl Bagsie Bain** and **LCpl Andrew Matless.** We are also pleased to report that the younger **Matless** twin (by two minutes) **AT Cpl Richard** is also in the Army U-21 squad. The College takes this opportunity to wish these promising young Basketball players all the best in their future playing this game.

### HOCKEY—ARMY CUP SEMI-FINAL PLAYED IN CHEPSTOW

**Report by AT Cpl Smudge Smith**

Tuesday 6 March, myself, **AT LCpl 'Hips' Hallet, AT 'JT' Frost** and **AT 'Nigger' Tyrell** arrived back in camp from Ex *Warrior 4*. We immediately got into our civvies and met up with the remainder of the team, who were waiting for us in the car park.

We arrived in Harrogate in plenty of time for the train, as we all disappeared in different directions to fetch the necessary goods for the journey—the main thing being money! The journey there turned out to be quite uneventful—that didn't stop **PS Sgts Dave Randall** and **Steve Farrar** keeping their eagle eye on us just in case! But by the time we arrived in Chepstow 'Village' station no-one could keep an eagle eye on anybody as we'd all decided to get the essential pre match 'Zeds'. It was about 2330 when we were all awoken and told to get out. We were met by the Royal Engineers host, who drove us to the camp about three miles away. We slept the night in 1 Sqn's accommodation.

The big day arrived, to our horror at 0625 hrs—with a reveille by the duty AT NCO in the squadron. We then fumbled our way to the cookhouse and had breakfast. After breakfast the team returned to the rooms and changed ready for a practice session. The task ahead was to try and beat the Sappers in order to get though to the finals—as the training session was taken very seriously by all team members. We concentrated on set pieces and penalty flicks. It was during this training that **AT Tyrell** unfortunately was injured. **Sgt Dave Randall** was giving him some practice in goals, when a mis-struck ball connected with his foot and he 'whimpered' for a few minutes. He was obviously hurt, but in the true apprentices' spirit, decided to 'soldier' on and play the match.

The match was pushed back by the Sappers and Harrogate soon got into the swing of things. The game at first seemed quite evenly matched, but as the game progressed the Engineers had the edge on us. They managed to score four goals in the first half, but this did not dishearten us too much and we battled on. The second half was definately our best half, with **AT 'Aidy' Maul** making several good drives up the centre of the park supported by **LCpl 'Oli' Campbell**. The second half went very quickly and seemed to be a very close fought half, the Sappers scored again near the close of play and thought they'd capped it, but Harrogate still managed to keep its head up and battled right until the end. The final score was 5—0 to the Sappers, but I think that I can speak for the whole team and say that it was an enjoyable game, which has given us more incentive to beat them next season.

### HOCKEY SPRING TERM 84

A poor term by College standards, with very few games played in the first half due to the inclement weather. The lack of match practice showed when the Junior Army Cup commenced but eventually the College managed to scrape into the semi-finals (a full report of which is given by **AT Cpl Smith**).

A well done must be accorded to Bradley Squadron for producing all but two of the College side, and special mention made of **ATs Andy Baughan** (Bradley) who represented the full Corps side on several occasions as goalkeeper, and **AT Sgt Steve Swain** (Bradley) who managed an Army Junior trial and played for the Army U-21 before injuring his back which put him out for the remainder of the season.

As can be read in **AT Cpl Smith**'s report the lads are all out to do well next season, and with that determination combined with sufficient matches and plenty of practice there is no reason to believe that the Junior Army Cup will not return to the College next season.

### EXERCISE *SNOWSCAPE 9*

Once again, over the Spring Half Term, a happy band of pilgrims assembled and, courtesy of 'Armitage Package Tours Ltd', headed southwards towards a week of 'Triple S' (Sun, Snow and Skiing) at Tignes/Val D'Isere in France. With luxury coaches, soothing music, videos, coffee on tap and College packed lunches, the journey south was attempted. Despite sabotage attempts by the French lorry drivers and **AT 'Whiskey' Stuart Bowskill,** we arrived three hours early.

After an evening of fitting equipment and wine tasting, the next morning started with a quick ability test on the local slope. Time spent on the Dry Slope in Harrogate was put to full use, and everybody managed to ski the course set. After the groups had been chosen, the instructors started on what seemed to be the impossible task of teaching us to ski properly.

The 'Hot Shots' ably led by **Lt 'I've bent my ski' John Armitage** and **Maj 'Look at the view' Peter Bowles,** set off for pastures steep, difficult and new. With fresh snow falls during the week, powder skiing was experienced by many for the first time. The highlights of the week included: The Malborough Ski Presentation team, race training for the College team, the party of convent school girls, meetings in the Burger Bar, **AT Phil Green** losing skis in deep powder and **Lt 'Och Aye' Elspeth Mollison** skiing a mogul field.

The week passed all too quickly and Saturday afternoon saw 45 suntanned/sunburnt, bankrupt but now expert skiers sadly sitting on the coach with many memories and bruises watching yet another video, heading back towards Harrogate, refreshed and eagerly awaiting another exciting instalment at the College.

### FORGE HOBBIES CENTRE

On Saturday, 4 March a plaque was unveiled in St Alban's College Chapel in memory of former members of the College who died in the Falklands Campaign. The Commandant, **Col G. C. Verdon OBE** invited **Mr E. Forge** to unveil the plaque on behalf of the families of those who died in that Campaign. The six named on the plaque were: **Maj M. Forge, SSgt J. Baker, Cpl D. McCormack, Cpl R. Burns, Cpl S. Sykes** and **LCpl P. Lightfoot**. As he unveiled the plaque **Mr Forge** said 'I unveil this plaque in proud and glorious memory of those who laid down their lives in the service of their country and the Royal Corps of Signals'. This simple yet very moving ceremony took place in the context of the Annual Service of the Leeds and District branch of the Royal Signals Association. All members of the College attended this Service and the congregation numbered around 800. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by an apprentice and an apprentice also played the Lament 'Tumbledown' on the Bagpipes.

The plaque was made in the College Technical Workshops under the direction of the Technical Quartermaster **Maj R. Knight MBE**. The oak mount was made by the College Quartermaster, **Maj Timson BEM**. The same day, **Mr Forge** opened the Forge Hobbies Centre, our new activities and hobbies building, recently transformed from the old Army Youth Selection Centre.

### THE NEW COLLEGE RSM

The start of the Spring Term 1984 brought to the Army Apprentices' College a new Regimental Sergeant Major, in the substantial person of **RSM Eddie Lyne, Coldstream Guards**. Born in Preston in 1943, **RSM Lyne** enlisted at Pirbright in March 1963; on completion of his training, and shortly after marrying his wife, **Veronica**, in 1964, he was posted for a year to Aden. Since then he has served in Munster, Cyprus, Kenya and Northern Ireland; he also had a tour of duty in Canada, during which he witnessed the famous Calgary Stampede. Between whiles, like every other good Guardsman, he has carried out his fair share of Public Duties. Before coming to the College, he was with the First Battalion of his Regiment, presently at Caterham but due for service in the Falkland Islands this summer.

**RSM Lyne** is no stranger to young soldiers, having spent two years with the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Artillery. Of his present appointment he says 'I don't think it's only because I am a Lancastrian that I have never served in Yorkshire, now that I have the

chance, I am looking forward to it enormously.' Certainly serving at the College should give him the opportunity to indulge in his favourite pursuit of sailing, of which he describes himself as 'a fanatic'. **RSM** and **Mrs Lyne** have two children, **Michelle** 16 and **Dorian** 12.

**RECRUIT TROOP**
**by Recruit Darren Smith**

I arrived at Harrogate without a clue,
Twenty NCOs shouted at me 'Hey You,
Put your luggage on the bus and get in the queue'

We got to the Squadron and up to our room,
'That's your bumper and that's your broom'
All through the night you'd hear the sound of
people shouting and running around

'One, two, three, four—bump, bump, bumper the floor
Five, six, seven, eight—better be quick or I'll be late'
Amongst the muffled sounds some lads cry and some weep
Someone runs past your room—bleep, bleep, I'm a jeep

Showers, lights out, and between the sheets,
Barracks rooms and smelly feet.
A noise in the morning the alarm clock rings,
Another day, I wonder what it brings.
It brings Mil Training and few other things.
We go on Fledgling, we learn how to fight
We set up a basher and get wet in the night
We eat compo food and drink from a cup
We run round in webbing till the compo comes up.

Four weeks done and we get a cap badge
Look at me 'I'm Jack the Lad'
The following day—A Squadron Weekend
Assault Course, building bridges—it would drive you round the bend
We sweat blood—we run and we run,
A distant voice shouts 'Shut up, you're having fun'
It's a good laugh as you land on your head
While messing around and getting tipped from your bed
Back to the College but soon we're off home
When we come back some lads start to moan,
A few more leave and we're nearly on our own

We've been here now for a quarter of a year,
We go to a 'Christmas Party'—laugh and drink beer
From the first week we've come a long way.

We've had a hard time, but we've got lots of pay.
Lance Jacks and Full Screws we call them by their name
And now we are all starting to feel the same
This College it doesn't seem too bad,
But still we all look forward to Grad.

**ROYAL SIGNALS JUNIOR SQUASH CAMPIONSHIP 1984**

Unfortunately there were only 12 competitors in the Corps Junior Championships held at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate on 11 February. The disappointment of this low entry was compensated for by the keen, enthusiastic approach of the twelve.

In the plate final **AT SSM Ian Budd** of Penney Squadron beat **AT Ian Shrubb** Bradley Squadron in a close five set match.

In the open competition the seedings went true to form and **AT Sgt Mike Nuttley** Rawson Squadron played **AT Cpl Stephen Basson** Penney Squadron in the final. **Cpl Basson** won the first two games with relative ease, as **Sgt Nuttley** was forced into making too many errors. The third and fourth games were a total reversal with **Sgt Nuttley** commanding most of the play. The fifth and final game was a tense competitive affair with **Cpl Basson** coming out the deserved winner.

The open final was the best standard of squash seen in this competition for a long time.

*Left to Right* AT Sgt Nuttley (Runner Up); AT Cpl Basson (Winner); AT SSM Budd (Plate Winner)


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## British Army Staff Washington BFPO 2

# THE CORPS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Report by Col K. Kirkby, British Liaison Officer Communications**

The Corps is represented in the United States by a small but select group including one Colonel, four Majors and two Warrant Officers. With the exception of the 'in loco parentis' Colonel who is a Liaison Officer, and a Major on the British Army Staff in Washington, the others fill exchange appointments in US Army Units.

The position of the Exchange Officer is interesting in that he works for and answers to his US host unit. For most practical purposes he becomes a US serviceman. While his hosts expect to gain from his expertise, he will return home all the richer for his experience of life in another army. Given the right job, life can be challenging and satisfying, but to a large extent the Exchange Officer has to carve his own niche and self-starting is an essential ingredient of his make-up.

As long as he and his family are good mixers, there are many activities open to them on and around post and family life can be equally enjoyable. However a tour in the United States means the opportunity to see something of this great country, with so many changes in climate, terrain, people and way of life as you travel north to south or east to west. Although travel used to be easier before Local Overseas allowance was cut, providing you budget carefully, it is still possible to satisfy your wander lust, and you will run out of time long before you exhaust places to visit.

To avoid embarrassing any one individual, this is perhaps a suitable point to say that, without exception, our Exchange Officers and Warrant Officers earn the highest praise and respect of US senior officers for their professional competence, ability to get things done and general contribution to the military community. They and their families are British Ambassadors in every sense of the word.

Sometimes the thought is expressed that being 'out in the sticks' is a disadvantage when it comes to the promotion stakes. Not so! **WO2 (YofS) Evans** and **WO2 (FofS) Canning** have just celebrated their selection for promotion in the January 1984 stakes.

Now for something about the posts and incumbents who make up the rogues gallery.

WO2 (YofS) Trevor Evans, Maj Mike Patterson, Col Kevin Kirkby, Maj Jim Evans, WO2 (FofS) Chip Canning. Absent: Maj Mike Miller. Not then arrived: Maj Bob Stark

| | |
|---|---|
| British Liaison Officer,<br>Communications<br>Washington DC | **Col Kevin Kirkby**<br>**(Col Paddy Verdon** wef<br>June 84) |
| SO2(W) British Army Staff<br>Washington DC | **Maj Jim Evans** |
| Assistant Project Manager<br>for Operational Tactical Data Systems<br>Communications-Electronics Command<br>Fort Monmouth, New Jersey | **Maj Mike Miller**<br>**(Maj J. W. Lyde RHF)**<br>wef June 84) |
| S2/S3 9th (US) Signal Battalion<br>9th Infantry Division<br>Fort Lewis, Washington State | **Maj Mike Patterson**<br>**(Maj Peter Pearson**<br>wef April 84) |
| Concepts and Studies Division<br>US Army Signal Center<br>Fort Gordon, Georgia | **Maj Bob Stark** |
| Also at Fort Gordon as Training<br>Specialists in Communications-<br>Electronics Leadership Division | **WO2 (FofS) Chip**<br>**Canning** and<br>**WO2 (YofS) Trevor Evans**<br>**(WO2 (YofS) B. Green-**<br>**wood** wef July 84) |

**HIGH RISE**

**Col Kevin Kirkby** and **Lorna** live in a high-rise condominium in McLean, Virginia, about half way between the Embassy and Dulles Airport. As Liaison Officer for Communications (but also Command Control and EW), although Washington DC is an obvious base, his military interests extend far beyond that city. These are exciting times for the US Army with many changes being planned or implemented, which makes it a fascinating scene to observe. Travel is usually arranged as a combination of business and pleasure, or put more simply, military travel funds and personal bank account. Highlights have included whale watching off the New England coast, The Grand Canyon in Arizona, Florida Everglades, giant redwoods in California and more recently the Caribbean island of Vieques, still remarkably unspoilt and ideal for a 'get away from it all' holiday in the depths of a Washington winter. In their spare time in Washington, the **Kirkbys** have taken to the tennis court, wielding outside racquets with enthusiasm and ever increasing skill. They return home in June and to retirement. Their only regrets will be the places they did not manage to see.

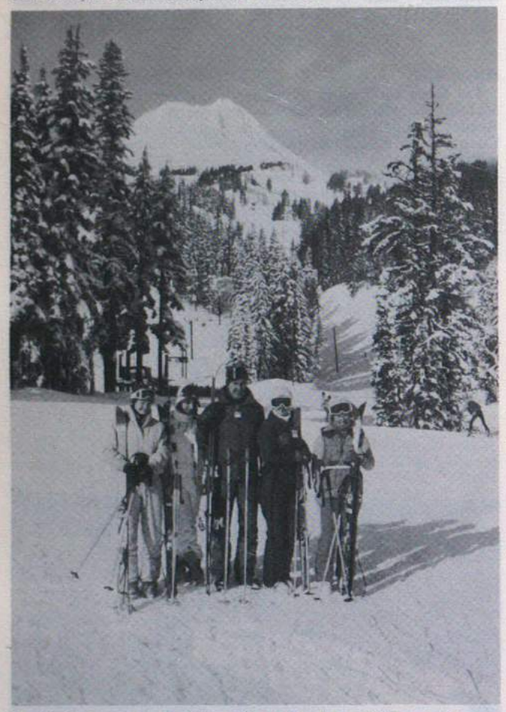
Lorna Kirkby enjoying 82°F in a Vieques winter

**FORT MONMOUTH**

**Maj Mike Miller** and **Lesley** have been our representatives at Fort Monmouth since June 1981 where he has come very near to making himself indispensable as the Assistant Project Manager responsible for the testing of the US Army's Maneuver Control tactical ADP system (our WAVELL). **Mike**'s job gives him an opportunity to travel both within the United States and in Europe and it is rumoured that he holds the record for temporary duty trips. Unfortunately all this has seriously interfered with his love of sailing. **Mike**'s time here is also coming to an end and he returns home in June this year to retire. Perhaps sadly from a Corps point of view, the long succession of Royal Signals Officers in his appointment is being broken.

**THE FAR WEST**

**Maj Mike Patterson** and **Di** went as far west as you can go to the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington State. After a year on the Divisional staff as G3 Training which he successfully turned into a travelling assignment, he became the S2/S3 of the 9th (US) Signal Battalion. **Mike** describes this appointment as an amalgam of Second-in-Command, Operations Officer and Training Major. In addition to its conventional role in support of the 9th Infantry Division, the Signal Battalion shares the Division's role as a test bed for a new Light Assault Division. The past year has been a particularly busy one for **Mike** and he has probably spent more time out on exercise than he has in his home. During their two years in Fort Lewis, **Mike** and **Di** have been involved in many activities including soccer coaching **(Mike)** and dancing lessons **(Di)**. Their time is now at an end and **Mike** leaves in April to take up his next appointment as OC Signals Wing RMA Sandhurst, after a brief sojourn at Ouston.



Family Patterson at the Mount Hood Meadows ski resort, Oregon

**FORT GORDON**

**Maj Bob Stark** and **Sue** are very recent arrivals to re-establish the exchange post at Fort Gordon and they are now settling down to a southern life-style. **Bob** works in Combat Development and is in the process of carving his own niche. The **Starks** have brought their own delightful ice-breaker in the form of **Master David Stark**, aged one year.

**WO2 (YofS) Trevor Evans** and **Ann** are well into their second year at Fort Gordon and head for pastures new at the end of June. He is one of two Warrant Officer exchange appointments arranged to help the US Army develop the supervisory appointments of Yeoman and Foreman of Signals which are so essential to our own military well being and admired by the US Army Signal Corps. He seems to change jobs at fairly regular intervals, normally at his own initiative, but is currently involved with the NCO Advanced Course. He is regarded as an expert on all British Army matters, including subjects such as retirement pensions, combat kit and DMS boots, all of which of course are second nature to a Yeoman of Signals. In common with **WO2 (FofS) Canning**, he leads a number of lives as a member of the Officers Club (US Army Warrant Officers are commissioned), the Warrant Officers Association and the Sergeant Majors Association. The only problem that this creates is the need to pay subscriptions to three clubs. His son **Warren** has shown promise on the American football field and is also much in demand for his ability to score goals on the soccer pitch.

**WO2 (FofS) Chip Canning** and **June** are partners in crime to the **Evans** and like them, have a pleasant quarter on post. **WO2 (YofS) Canning** does for technician training what **WO2 (YofS) Evans** does for the operators. Until recently he was a team chief responsible for developing lesson plans and training material for a new trade for the repair of electronic switches similar to those in PTARMIGAN, but under a recent reorganisation is now concerned with Warrant Officer courses. So far, their holiday travels have included Cape Canaveral, New Orleans, the Alamo, Dallas Texas, Washington DC and New York City (the Big Apple). Not bad going, but the **Cannings** still have six months to the end of their tour, so expect that list to grow.

**Maj Jim Evans** and **Frances** are based in Washington DC where **Jim** is SO2(W) on the British Army Staff, responsible for co-ordinating the reporting of British Liaison Officers scattered throughout the States, monitoring the US Defence Budget and acting as the desk officer for NBC and training. Wearing his budget hat he often attends Congressional Committee hearings and has become our political expert. 'Any one for tennis?' echoes down the corridors of the 6th floor of the Embassy as **Jim** looks for partners and/or opponents to help him while away the lunch hour on the Ambassador's tennis court. With no children and limited resources, **Jim** and **Frances** decided that if they were going to see the States they would have to keep things simple. Accordingly, they rented a modest two bedroom apartment (albeit with swimming pool and tennis courts in the grounds) and bought a VW Camper bus to travel the country.

In their first year they clocked around 24,000 miles and have seen a lot of the east coast from Quebec and Niagara Falls in the north to Disney World, Florida and New Orleans in the south. 1984 is their year for the big push west as they will be leaving in March 1985.

We hope this article will interest readers of *The Wire* as an account of one of the Corps' commitments about which little is normally written, but which can be rewarding from a professional point of view as well as providing an unparalleled opportunity to see something of this great country. It pays to get your name down early if you want to share the good fortune of those selected for a tour with our American cousins.


**LOOKING FOR NEW HORIZONS?**

When you have completed your service with the forces, your experience and qualifications could take you to the Sultanate of Oman in the Middle East where vacancies currently exist for:-

**Fully trained ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS**

With a minimum of five years experience in servicing, maintenance and repair, including defect diagnosis, of various types of military ground based electronic equipment. These unaccompanied posts include free accommodation, medical care and free air travel to the UK for frequent leave periods.

Attractive salary with bonus and allowances normally free of UK Tax. For further information write to:- **Company Personnel Manager, Airwork Limited, Bournemouth - Hurn Airport, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6EB.**

Airwork Limited

1979 1983






**TO THE BRIM**

Our Barracks are full! Squadron/Company commanders have been heavily involved in the ancient study of the fitting of quarts into pint pots. We hasten to add that this is not entirely due to an upsurge in recruitment of trainees, but also to the 'residential' services we have provided for the (large) boys from the Met and other police forces in between their trips to the Midland collieries. Only a copper could require transport to carry him to his pit!

To cater for the increase in trainees, Portakabins are in process of erection on the square. This incidence is the first in recent years and his increased manpower had obviously made OC3 very happy for, as soon as he saw the concrete blocks on which the cabins are to stand, he started singing absent-mindedly, 'Some day my Plinths will come'.

**SEVERAL SUCCESSES**

The Winter sporting seasons are all but completed and this year has had several successes, both from the team's point of view and those of individuals. **Sig Brown** has represented the Army at Basketball, **Sig Netherton** at Soccer (Oxford United's loss is the Army's gain). In this he follows in the footsteps of **Cpl Freear**, who has now departed for sunny Catterick on his upgrading course. Team records are given below

The CO's horses are in fine fettle, the gardens are looking healthier and in general terms, the unit is going from strength to strength.

**2 SQUADRON**

Our photograph shows a day in the life of **Sig Simon Gibbs** which will take him a long time to forget. **Simon** left Horley Comprehensive School in July 1983 and joined Royal Signals one week later. Selected for training as a Special Telegraphist, he is currently half-way through his course at Comms and Sy Gp.

In November, the OC, **Maj Brice**, received a letter from the Headmaster of Horley School, **Mr R. Edwards BSc ARC SC JP** requesting that **Simon** be released for the School annual prize-giving ceremony. **Simon** duly attended, smartly turned out in his uniform, and, in addition to receiving certificates for 'A' levels in English Literature and History, was gratified to find that he had also been chosen as the School's Athletics and Sports personality of the year. He had represented the School at Rugby, Cricket, Football, Basketball and Athletics.

In the photograph, **Simon** can be seen receiving his award from the guest speaker of the evening **Maj W. D. Edmonds MBE**, of the Royal Engineers. **Sig Gibbs** is obviously not only a credit to his unit, but also to the Corps. Well done **Simon** and well done the recruiters!

And now for our commercials ...

**DID YOU EVER SERVE WITH 224 SIGNAL SQUADRON?**

If your answer to the above question is in the affirmative, you may be interested in acquiring one of the slowly dwindling number of 224 Sig Sqn Unit Ties. PRI Comms and Sy Gp (UK) has a small number still in stock. The ties are in dark blue, of good quality polyester and are good value at the going price of £1.00 each. Any postal applications should be accompanied by a cheque made payable to Central Bank, Comms and Sy Gp (UK) and addressed to: Garats Hay Barracks, Old Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leics LE12 8UB.

**RUGBY BULLETIN**

Following our previous bulletin, in which we quoted our abrupt halt in the Army Cup run, we can now report limited success in the Eastern District Competition. In the final, however, we were defeated by 10 points to nil, in a hard-fought game, by the Depot, Queen's Division. We attribute the defeat to the fact that our pack was heavily outweighed by the opposition and, provided that we can overcome the heavy resistance being put up by the Unit Fitness Officer, **Maj John Fender**, we intend to embark on a programme of six months starch-enriched diet and concentrated indolence for next year's squad! This year's disappointments reflect a complete failure of the team's 'drinking committee' during the summer months, despite their utmost efforts towards putting on weight.

**ORIENTEERING**

In spite of having missed the first League event of the season, the unit team did well to win the Eastern District League. **SSgt Alan Hale** outshone all the other 'Cunning Runners' to lift the individual prize.

The Eastern District Championships were slightly different, with the unit team having to settle for the runners-up place. **Alan Hale** this time settled for second place on the 'A' Course and **Sig Jez Bailey** won the 'B' Course event. It was left to the Ladies' team to carry back a customary trophy from the Championships. Sadly, this was the last appearance for two of our most experienced female runners, **Sgt Myra Moran** and **WO2 Jo Bolland**, but the team has received some new blood in the form of **Pte Armitage**, who was our best runner in second place. Next season could be a different story after the impending departure of **Alan Hale** and **Jez Bailey** for foreign climes.

**HOCKEY**

Our last Hockey bulletin quoted our team as going into the quarter-finals of the Army Cup with some confidence. Obviously it was misplaced. The OIC Hockey has not submitted any notes but the Editor is aware of the fact that his team were beaten by the School of Infantry by two goals to nil. This fact was gleaned from his sulky mutterings to the effect that, 'if they didn't have a strong visiting detachment from the Indian Army, they must have all been to Torquay for their holidays!

On Sunday, 25 March, the Group had the pleasure of organising, in conjunction with the Hockey Association, Part 2 of the Senior Umpire Coach Award Scheme Examination. The day was arranged by **SSgt Smart**, with numerous umpires from the Midlands in attendance, as an audience.

The two candidates being tested in the examination were **Lt Cdr W. A. Goodchild RN**, and **WO1 F. A. Stokes RAPC**. They gave individual lectures on their interpretations of the Hockey Rules, which were judged and marked by four senior Hockey Association Umpires.

**SOCCER**

The unit Football team have had a good season, winning the Eastern District Minor Units Final against 8 Fd Wksps REME, by four goals to three, in an exciting match. The Group started the game on the defensive and, after 25 minutes of defending, found themselves 3—0 in the lead. This contradictory situation was achieved by some very fast counter-attacking bursts. They then began to play some relaxed football but, with only 10 minutes to go before half-time **SSgt Dave McNulty** was adjudged to have handled the ball. The resultant penalty made it 3—1 and, following a collision in which the goalkeeper, **LCpl Steve Snowden** was injured, 8 Fd Wksps scored another goal to leave the half-time score 3—2.

In the second half, with the goalkeeper injured, the unit team played a defensive game to protect him. This proved to be very effective. The Group went further into the lead when **Cpl Billy Freear** scored.

8 Fd Wksps scored their third goal with 10 minutes of play remaining, but there never seemed to be any doubt of the eventual outcome. A special mention must be made of our two central defenders, **LCpl Ash Hornsby** and **Cpl Pete Pearson**, and of **Cpl Billy Freear**, who had the necessary skill to keep possession whenever the rest of the team needed a breather. Other scorers were **Sig Bos Burrows, Cpl Nick Ranier** and **LCpl Ash Hornsby**. Results leading to the final were:

Comms and Sy Group—14 v 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 0
Comms and Sy Group— 5 v MCTC 0

# School of Signals
# Blandford Camp
# Dorset

**WRAC ROSE BOWL PRESENTATION 1983**

A Corps Dinner Night was held at Blandford on 12 October 1983 and was attended by the SOinC **Maj Gen R. Benbow**. The occasion was a dining out of some senior members of the Corps who were leaving to take their skills and experience to the world of industry. The evening coincided with the recent nomination of **Capt Elaine Jackson WRAC/R Signals** for the award of the WRAC Rose Bowl for 1983.

The Rose Bowl was originally presented to the Royal Signals by the WRAC and is intended for presentation to the most outstanding Royal Signals female officer or WRAC officer attached to a Royal Signals unit.

**Capt Jackson** was awarded the 1983 prize for her performance as a Troop Commander in 22 Sig Regt, where she commanded Corps Rear COMMCEN and COMMHD Troops.

The photograph shows the SOinC presenting the Rose Bowl in the Corps Room, in the presence of the (ex) CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** and the (ex) Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig C. N. Last OBE**. They are surrounded by members of 25A CQ Course who were dined into the Corps on the same evening and who entertained the General later, with their inimitable version of the old (and unrecognisable!) classic 'Chattanoogo Choo-Choo'.

**CORPS BAND FOCUS**

The Corps Band completed their military training in February which included pistol and SMG shooting, the assault course, operating the Switchboard 40/160 and finally, as the photograph shows, their BFT. They said that they regretted that the time had passed so quickly!

Pistol Shooting
Left to Right: Cpl Phil Myers, SSgt Colin Harriman, LCpls Graham Jeffries and Tim Stankus

Switchboard 40/160 Training
Left to Right: LCpl Les Ramsey (Fixing a game of golf), LCpls Steve Watson and Paul Clarke

The Corps Band at the start of their BFT

**CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING**

The 1983/84 season produced unprecedented success for School of Signals runners, culminating in their appearance in the Army Cross-Country Championships at Tweseldown in February. Success at this gruelling sport, however, comes only with regular and prolonged training; and the recent trophy-gathering spree was the result of just such dedication through the cold, wet, and windy Blandford winter.

Pressure of work—courses, trials, etc—meant that we were not always able to field the strongest possible team at every league race; however our depth of talent allowed us to be well represented at most races. Consequently it was with great disappointment that we failed to take the SW District Major Units league title by the narrow margin of only 2 points.

**WEST AREA CHAMPIONS**

The West Area Championships at Blandford on 1 February was a different matter, and with almost our full team turning out we easily turned the tables on our great rivals RAC Centre from Bovington.



**THE ARMY CHALLENGE**

Our victory in the West Area Championships qualified us to run in the 'Army's'—a race which is run over the testing Point-to-Point racecourse near Aldershot, and which has been the downfall of many an over-confident runner in the past. Once again though the School runners rose to the occasion, and some gutsy running coupled with more than a little bit of good-natured rivalry amongst the team saw the School of Signals finish in an excellent 4th position in the Major Units Championship. With no Royal Signals unit managing to get the better of us on the day this was a very satisfying performance.

**THE STALWARTS**

The stalwarts of the School team throughout the season were:

**LCpl Andy Lincoln** who has finally quit the football field in favour of running, and who went from strength to strength as the season progressed.

**SSgt Les Wood.** A leading Signals athlete for many years who is currently showing good form and looking forward to the track season.

**SSgt Alec Campbell REME**—Team Captain. A 'late developer', he has had by far his most successful winter season and his current form indicates fresh heights of achievement to come in the forthcoming road and track season.

**Cpl Paul Horton.** A most reliable team member and a dedicated lone trainer.

**SSgt Ian Sergeant.** Another well motivated and dedicated runner who possibly clocks his best times on training runs!

**Sgt Nigel Johnson.** Gaining in strength and confidence will hopefully take his forthcoming Foreman's Course in his stride while continuing to train and race in what little time remains!

Many others represented the School whenever possible, amongst them **Sgts 'Scouse' Evans, 'Bev' Beverley** and **Ted Cartwright, Cpls Paddy Keeffe, Gaz Waters** and **Chris Wilkinson** and **Capt Shutt RM**. Mention must also be made of **Sgt Pete Halstead** who showed good early season form but whose services we were soon to be deprived of when he left for Rhine Area and 16 Sig Regt. We wish all the very best both to **Sgt Halstead** and to **LCpl Andy Lincoln** now with 22 Sig Regt in Lippstadt.

**SW DISTRICT HALF MARATHON**

A strong School of Signals contingent turned out for this championship event held at Larkhill on 14 March. The team event was a three man affair, but with **LCpl Andy Lincoln** reporting for duty in Germany while the race was on, our chances of taking the trophy were by no means certain. Our main rivals, RAC Centre from Bovington, had their three strongest runners competing over this undulating 13 mile course, and over the first two miles both teams' runners figured prominently among the leading athletes. As the race progressed however **SSgt Alex Campbell REME** moved steadily into third position with **SSgt Les Wood** in hot pursuit in sixth place. With both these runners ahead of RAC Centre's three 'big boys', the questions then were who would be third place man for the School, and would the aggregate scores be in our favour or our rivals. In the end the balance was tipped in our favour thanks to an outstanding performance by **WO1 (FofS) Jan Jasiok**. Using this race as a pointer to his pre-London Marathon fitness, **Jan** came home in a creditable twelth place overall to put the Major Units trophy safely in the Blandford cabinet for the next year. In the ladies event the School's sole representative was **Capt Elaine Jackson**. Over the tough undulating course, and with the wind against us for the last five miles, **Capt Jackson** ran a very well-judged race to come away with the trophy for second lady home (1st Army female). We hope she will be joining us again at future events.

Participants in the SW District Half-marathon
Left to Right: WO1(FofS) Jan Jasiok, Capt Elaine Jackson, SSgt Les Wood and SSgt Alex Campbell REME

**TREE PLANTING**

The Blandford Garrison, self-help, tree planting is continuing with some 1,770 trees planted during the last two seasons.

The SOinC, Maj Gen R. Benbow, lends a hand by planting the 1000th tree, a Copper Beech. Looking on is the Project Officer, Maj Ben Bolt

**FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Phil Whitemore Designate: Maj John Doody** |
| **Tech Adjt** | **Capt (TOT) Bob McKay MBE** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harking** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Barry Gibbons** |
| **OC PIU** | **Capt Miles Stockdale** |
| **OC PTT** | **Capt (TOT) Peter Davis** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Capt Mike Gilyeat** |
| **OC S Tp** | **Capt Kevin Taylor** |
| **OC D Tp** | **Capt Ned Gravel Canadian Forces** |

**REORGANISATION**

In January the Squadron reformed in preparation for the final trials of PTARMIGAN. Gone are Radio Relay and Systems Troop and in their place is PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit (PIU) and PTARMIGAN Trials Team (PTT) who will remain in Blandford after PTARMIGAN moves to BAOR. The final stage of the reorganisation was the reinforcement of the Squadron on 29 February with the arrival of Commcen Delta and individuals from most Signal Regiments.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON A UNIT**

On 13 February **Brig A. M. Willcox** inspected the Regiment. The day took the form of an Inter-Squadron Military Skills competition. The stands included:-

A patrol race including carrying a stretcher over 150m and a 400m sprint in full NBC equipment: A communications race using Tg and CW links: A driving competition; and The assault course.

The Squadron gave a good performance narrowly losing to 1 Sqn by one point.

Patrol Race
From Left to Right:
Sig Rueben Cureton, SSgt Linton (face hidden), Sig 'Yorkie' Whatley, 'Geordie' Marshall, Sgt Scotty Handibode, WO2 (FofS) Davie (just visible), Sig Taff John

Assault Course
Top Left to Right: Sig John Pheonix, Sig 'Ros' Rosney (with the tyre), Cpl 'Chippy' Wood
Centre: Cpl Andy Snaith
Bottom: LCpl Bruce Pearce

Drill Team
Left hand rank, front to rear:
LCpl Andy Newton, Cpl Colin Hoyle, LCpl 'Mouse' Housley, Cpl Gaz Lee, Sig 'Jonah' Jones
Centre rank, front to rear:
Cpls Ray Counley, Andy Anderson, 'JJ' Smith, Pete Howarth, LCpl John Allen
Right hand rank, front to rear:
LCpls 'Blue' Lloyd, Steve Dickson, Cpls Bob Drysedale, Tony Howard, Pete Isles

Prize Giving—The Garrison Commander's Cup
A proud Sig Scouse Taylor receiving the cup from Brig A. M. Willcox at the end of the ARU competition. WO1 (RSM) Keith Russell watching

**PROMOTIONS**

The WO2/WO1 promotion board was particularly good news for the Squadron. **WO2 (FofS) Drew Robertson, WO2 (YofS) Rod Wood** and **WO2 (YofS) Mick Freedman** were all selected for WO1 and **SSgt (FofS) John Oates** was selected for WO2. Congratulations to all of them.

**NEWS FROM RADIO TROOP**

The troop has been keeping itself busy on a number of tasks including assessing modifications to PRC 320 antennae and an Interface unit for the VRC 353. Although unchanged in strength the troop has had a number of personality changes. **Sig 'Giz' Pook** took the plunge into domestic life and if reports are correct has even taken to pressing his apron. **Sig.** now **LCpl Ken Stirling** was promoted and **Cpl Chippy Wood** passed his Yeomans selection. After a holiday at Leconsfield **Sig George Best** even passed his driving test.



Sadly we bid farewell to a number of the troop. **Sig Graham Cardall** and **Taff Hetherington** moved on to S Troop and **LCpl Ben Davenport** moved over to 1 Sqn. **Cpl,** now **Sgt Trev Gower** went off on his SSgts course prior to his Yeomans course and **Sig 'Harry' Harrison** has transferred to the RAMC.

We welcome back **Sig Dave Kenyon** from the Falklands, just in time to join the rest of the troop on PTARMIGAN Trials.

Finally we welcome **LCpl Chippy Wood, MkII Sig 'Spike' Dyke, Sig Kev Martin, 'Pinky' Phoenix, 'Hobbitt' Swan** and **'Robo' Robertson** to the troop and hope they have an enjoyable tour.

**FAREWELL**

At last **Capt Adrian Pearce** was let in on the secret of where he was to move to. On 17 February he left the Squadron, only to remain in the School attending his Captains course, prior to JCSC, after which he will be joining the penguins and 266 Sig Sqn. We wish him well.

**PRESENTATION**

Presentation of LS&GC
SSgt and Mrs P. D. Penfold after the presentation with Brig A. M. Willcox, WO1 (RSM) Keith Russell and SSgt Penfold's parents

## ARTILLERY DAY 1984

**SATURDAY 14 JULY, 1984**
Larkhill, Near Amesbury, Wiltshire
1030 to 1800 hrs

Live Firing Demonstration with 60 Guns—
Military Bands—RA Motor Cycle Display Team—
PT Display—Parachuting Display—Equipment Display Stands

Admission Free—Refreshments
Parking: Cars £4 Buses £20

**OFFICER RECRUITING AND LIAISON ORGANISATION, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS**
**A PHILOSOPHY**

President Nixon had a philosophy that if you grabbed a man by his balls, his 'heart and mind' would soon follow! We do not want to jump out from the paper and do this—we would lose our vetting! Instead, we thought it appropriate to relate our achievements in a typical year, including some of the more interesting moments on our Gulliver's Travels.

**FOCUS ON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SO1 (Recruiting)** | **Lt Col Norman Muir** |
| **ORLO** | **Maj Geoff Strivens** |
| **A/ORLO** | **Capt Kevin Barrett** |
| **A/ORLO** | **Capt Elaine Jackson** |
| **Signal Training Assistance Team** | **WO2 (SSM) Barry Brown**<br>**Sgt Chris Othen**<br>**LCpl Alan Daniell** |
| **RO3** | **Lt Col (Retd) John Ellis** |
| **CO** | **Mrs Marjorie Pratt** |

**SCHOOL'S PRESENTATION TEAM**

This includes **Capt Kevin Barratt** and the Signals Training Assistance Team (STAT). Normally the team turn up at a school CCF and give a presentation on 'The Role of Royal Signals', performed by **Capt Kevin Barrett** and **WO2 (SSM) Barry Brown.** Meanwhile, **Sgt Chris Othen** and **LCpl Alan Daniel** try to do another 'botch-job' on one of the three antiquated landrovers in which they attempt to drive around, before hurtling back to the auditorium at the end of the presentation, to give their practical demonstration on CLANSMAN! (Beware Team! The Museum Curator has a space designated for displays of 'early' landrovers and is preparing his final bid!).

The Schools Presentation Team—WO2 Brown, Capt Barrett and Sgt Othen

A typical audience

The presentations are well received. Some 220 of the CCFs will soon be issued with six PRC 349s and one PRC 320 each. They await their arrival with suppressed excitement, the delight of the entertainment to come, along with all the help that the affiliated Royal Signals Units continually promise and some give!

Congratulations go to **SSM Brown** whose halting dulcet tones have a 'chastening' effect on many youngsters who would 'borrow' our equipment, when we are not looking! At one CCF in London, 'eagle-eye' **SSM Brown** *unintentionally* noticed a piece of paper on the CCF Contingent Commander's desk which read—'A music serenade for an awful lot of wind and percussion'. This was no reflection on the content of our presentation.

**COVERING THE GROUND**

We did manage to cover some 22,000 miles from September to March and visit 57 CCFs, and naturally, we love the Paymaster dearly!

The team persuaded 102 school boys to visit Blandford on one of the weekly Potential Officer's Familiarisation Visits. Unfortunately, we need some 800 contacts a year to reach our requirement of 50 officers commissioned out of Sandhurst annually. Thus, we are still dependent on all of the School and University Liaison Officers, in each of the District HQs of the UK. Needless to say, these gentlemen are all retired Colonels and Brigadiers. Would that there were more retired Corps members among them.

NB—We have now developed our own method of 'smooth-talking' the said gentlemen.

**UOTC PRESENTATION TEAM**

Under the auspices of **Maj Geoff Strivens**, and one of his assistant ORLOs, this team has visited 17 of the 19 Officer Training Corps, which cater for the 43 Universities. The team greatly depends on the help provided for the R. Signals PSIs (the Corps 'unsung heroes') at all of these OTCs and 'The Role of Royal Signals', but in fact achieves the majority of its recruiting in the bar afterwards. The day of the 'Queen's Shilling' has now been replaced by 'two pints of lager and a packet of crisps, please!'. We are still, however, looking for ways to insinuate ourselves into the engineering faculties at the Polytechnics and Universities!

**POTENTIAL OFFICERS' FAMILIARISATION VISIT**

These are held every Monday and Tuesday at the School of Signals. We can accommodate up to 12 potential officers per week. The bulk of the work behind the scenes is done by **Lt Col John Ellis** and his Clerical Officer, **Marjorie**. The POs arrive at the School by Monday tea time and after dinner with the ORLO staff, they are subjected to an introductory lecture in the evening before getting down to the serious stuff of talking to the 'YOs' in the bar!

Tuesday morning is spent touring the School of Signals receiving lectures from the Museum Curator, **Capt Elaine Jackson**, and an instructor from both Radio and System's Group to whom we are deeply indebted for all their hard work and patience. The afternoon is spent in interview with a member of the ORLO staff, after which we all get together and decide whether to offer sponsorship and invite the candidate for a pre RCB briefing at either Blandford or Catterick.

The Interviewers

Maj Geoff Strivens

Capt Elaine Jackson

Don't call us, we will call you

**PRE RCB BRIEFINGS**

Twenty of these are held each year; ten at Blandford and ten at Catterick. A total of 16 candidates per briefing can be catered for at Blandford and another eight per briefing at Catterick.

The pre RCB has two aims, to brief candidates on the RCB and to continue Royal Signals sponsorship for suitable candidates.

These briefings last two and a half days. Each group of eight has a group leader from the ORLO staff, plus a Deputy President (normally at Lt Col) found from within the Corps. The president is **Lt Col Normal Muir**. During this period, the candidates are under considerable stress in numerous tasks to which they are subjected. These include group discussions, leaderless practical tasks, command tasks, a project, an individual obstacle course and a 'lecturette'. In addition they are interviewed by Deputy Presidents prior to the written tests. These are invigilated by **WO2 (SSM) Barry Brown** who is often to be found rolling around the floor after reading some of the answers to the Current Affairs tests. He has produced some of the more interesting extracts.

| QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|
| Why have Bruce Kent and Jean Raddock achieved national promincence? | European Ice Skating Champions (Beware Torvill and Dean) |
| From where do Belize fear invasion? | Cyprus |
| What does SHAPE stand for? | Severely Handicapped Armoured Piercing Explosive |
| Where does Cardinal Clemp hold office? | Tower of London |
| Who is Secretary of State for USA | Lawrence Eagle Sorger |
| Name five Warsaw Pact Countries | UK, USA, French, Italy and Poland? |

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Capt Elaine Jackson** produces recruiting literature for the Corps. Also a film is in the pipeline.

The STAT helps out on CCF Central Summer Camps and weekend exercises for both UOTCs and CCFs, including organising a National UOTC HF exercise, which this year was won by Sheffield UOTC.

If you know someone who wants further information on officers' careers, do drop us a line. There have, as yet, not been any entries to the ORLO photographic competition—the closing date is 30 June.


# TRAINEE RADIO OFFICERS

**First-class, secure career opportunities when you have completed your service with H.M. Forces.**

A number of vacancies will be available in 1984 for suitably qualified candidates to be appointed as Trainee Radio Officers.

If your trade or training involves Radio Operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post.

Candidates must have had at least 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

On successful completion of 35 weeks' specialist training, promotion will occur to the Radio Officer grade. Registered disabled people may be considered.

**SALARY AND PROSPECTS:**
Trainee Radio Officer: £4,579 at 19 to £5,481 at 25 and over. On promotion to Radio Officer: £6,270 at 19 to £8,182 at 25 and over. Then by 4 annual increments to £11,182 inclusive of shift working and Saturday and Sunday elements.

*For full details please contact our Recuritment Office on Cheltenham (0242) 32912/3 or write to:*

GCHQ

Recruitment Office, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 5AJ.

# Leaving a major force? Align yourself with another

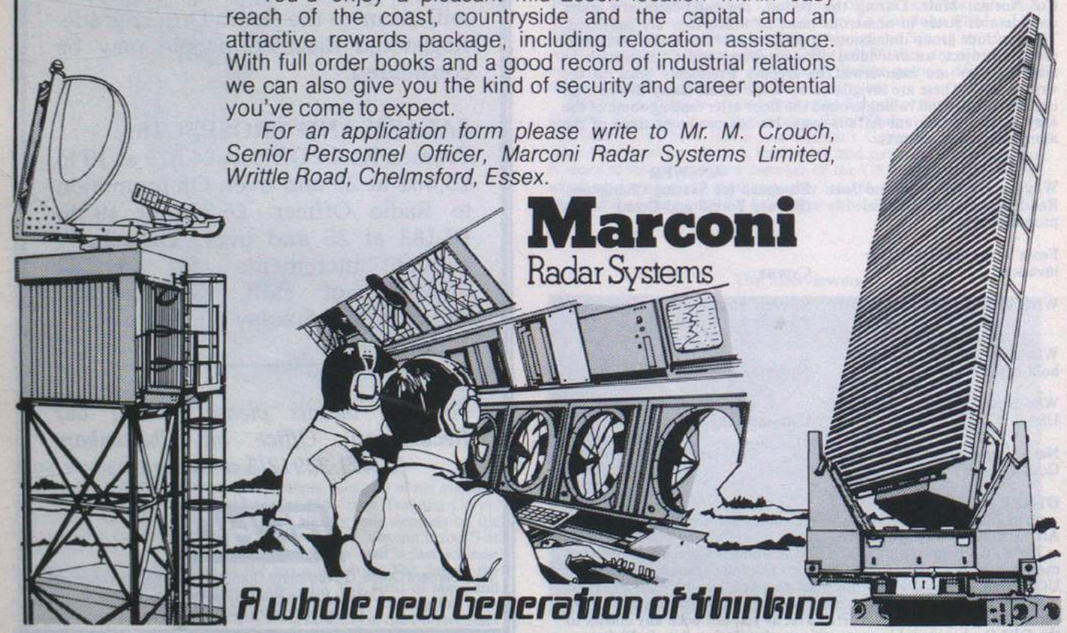
Make it Marconi Radar, a major international force in the defence electronics business and an excellent career option for ex-servicemen with experience of electronic systems.

Your experience in the service makes a firm foundation on which to continue your career, as a Systems Engineer or Technician with Marconi Radar. You would join a number of your contemporaries at our Chelmsford headquarters, where professional, multi-disciplinary teams design and develop state-of-the-art systems for use in the international defence market.

You'd enjoy a pleasant Mid-Essex location within easy reach of the coast, countryside and the capital and an attractive rewards package, including relocation assistance. With full order books and a good record of industrial relations we can also give you the kind of security and career potential you've come to expect.

*For an application form please write to Mr. M. Crouch, Senior Personnel Officer, Marconi Radar Systems Limited, Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex.*

**Marconi**
Radar Systems



A whole new Generation of thinking






## Junior Regiment Royal Signals
## Ouston

**CLOSE TO THE CHEST**

The Regiment has become blasé about the presence of TV cameras in the barracks, with no fewer than three recent programmes featuring its activities. It was therefore possible to stage a practical joke that was one of the most closely guarded secrets of all time to help celebrate the birthday of the RSM **WO1 Tony Cartwright**. The RSM known widely for his wit and love of 'high profile' was to be given a taste of his own medicine, before as large an audience as possible. The result will have been seen by many on 'News at Ten'. As the RSM properly 'wound up' during his drill parade he was reduced to blushes by the Kissogram Girl, as our Cartoon reminds.

**OVER THE ROOF**

There have been other moments of note too. Not least the removal of **Maj Mike Crane**'s six ton yacht, *Song of Freedom*, from his back garden ready for his departure to Gibraltar. The exciting part was that it had to come out over the roof of his quarter. The Quartermaster **Maj Phil Noble** looked on without a blink.

*Song of Freedom* begins her journey to the sea after two years work by Maj Mike Crane

**WEATHER CAUSES EVICTION**

As mentioned in our last notes, many of the troops have enjoyed the opportunity for adventure training during the winter. It therefore seems appropriate to feature our professionals of External Leadership Troop this month.

The External Leadership Training team of the Regiment have had an eventful and extremely active couple of months adventure training in Scotland and the Lake District. The year started in Cultybraggen with a handover of OCs, from **Capt Mike 'Eagle' Complin** to **Lt David 'I get extra money for this' Meyer**. The handover was supervised by the team's Receipts and Issues Executive Director, **Cpl Phil** 'Protect the Unborn Child' **Atkinson** and was immediately followed by the worst weather in living memory all over Scotland. As if this was not omen enough, the team were then evicted from Cultybraggen Training Camp because of the extreme conditions, to the chagrin of the single members who then had to pay full food and accommodation charges again. In the period up to our move from Scotland, training for the juniors was severely limited, and a planned 48 hour expedition was replaced with snow holing in near arctic conditions 10ft outside the lads accommodation.

. . . 'make my day' . . . JSig Brodie of Kohima Troop an enemy fig 12 on Battle Camp at Otterburn

JCpl Poole advances on the CQBR as Sgt Dave Taylor, safely follows on

. . . 'so much for camouflage' . . . or 'cam-up' he said . . . JSig McMullan, Jubb Ridgway and Rothera of Kohima Tp play hide and seek

**WE RETURN**

Two weeks later conditions moderated and we succeeded in returning to Scotland, switching to Stirling Training Camp as our base. We then managed to get two good weeks training, first with Lightning, and later with Triangle Troop. The accompanying photos show a range of the activities covered during this period. One of the most popular, at least among those who have finished it, is the night line, a test of confidence in following a rope over a 400 metre course while blindfolded. The course is made fairly challenging by the close proximity of a couple of waterfalls and a 50 metre tunnel, and invariably provides a degree of amusement for spectators.

'I can walk on water too!' JSig Read of Iron Troop in action on the Assault Course . . .

. . . members of Lightning Troop tackle the twelve foot wall

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

Apart from **Capt Mike Complin**'s departure for Hong Kong, the team is also losing its APTC instructor, **WO2 (QMSI) Alf Hilton** to civilian life shortly. He goes with our best wishes for the future, and is replaced by **Sgt Andy 'lets discuss it' Smith APTC** who has recently arrived from 3 PARA.' We also welcome **Sgt Andy 'Yo-Yo' Trivett**, who will have been posted back out of the team into 2 Sqn as a Tp Sgt by the time these notes appear. The remainder of the team are looking forward to a fairly quiet summer with a few weeks in the Lake District, a number of courses to get in and a couple of weeks team training before starting the silly season again in October.



**PASS OFF**

Finally, Kohima Troop passed off to Adult service on 22 February. A few photographic memories of their last days complete the notes for a very full period.

Kohima Troop on their big day

Brig Maynard in conversation with JSgt McIntosh of Kohima Troop

The Inspecting Officer chats with JSig Buckley as the CO Lt Col Keith Turner and OC Troop Lt Vardy look on

Brig Maynard inspecting the Corps band

Brig Maynard talks to the parents of JSig McNee after the prize giving

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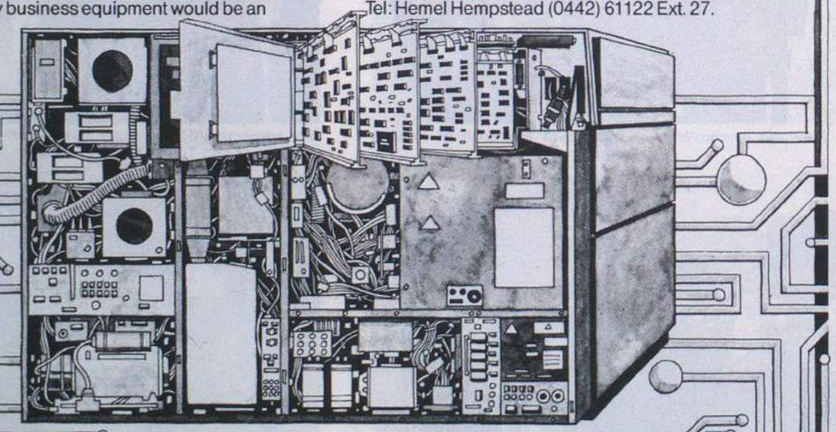

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**HARDENING AND REDUCING**

This month's contribution from the Regiment seem to have undergone Hardening and Reducing! Squadrons assure me (your surrogate editor) that they have been so busy that they haven't had time to write! But three out of the seven Squadrons have produced notes so a focus on 2 Sqn, 3 Sqn and 212 Sig Sqn follows below, these must be the least busy Squadrons if their literary talent is anything to go by! (Or most efficient). Meanwhile back at the 'Ranch' RHQ has been doing its usual support job for the Regiment, with Hell on Paper, perhaps it's something to do with **Jeremy Clemes**, the Youth Opportunities Clerk, who leaves at the end of the month. Is this an end to the paper crisis? Seriously though many thanks for a job well done.

Training Wing is very definitely 'empire building' and will shortly be moving from RHQ to the old clothing store building, where lecture rooms and CCTV will be installed, sorry, no showing of blue movies lads!

The Verden Garrison Saddle Club has also been busy and have acquired another addition to the stables. **'Douglas'**, who is owned by The Corps and sponsored by Plessey. The horse is very popular and stands a mere 18 hands high. It is hoped he will compete successfully in competitions this year.

Douglas, Lt Suzy Reed and Bridget

**2 SQN**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OIC** | **Maj J. Wraith MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt G. Boag** |
| **OC P** | **Lt R. Nicholson** |
| **OC R** | **Lt P. Smith** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 P. Sutherland** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt A. Gibbons** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 A. Hooley** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt M. Hawley** |

The main event in January was Ex *Iced Fisher*. This is the CO's annual Infantry type exercise. 2 Sqn provided both a Divisional Commhead and a Platoon of Infantry. Rumour control was rife and, as usual, remarkably way off the mark! The exercise provided lessons in 'Basha building and collapsing', 'cordon and search' operations, 'Defence of a Reserved Demolition', and various types of patrols.

**Sig Stenhouse** (The Younger) soon mastered the art of Basha Building but then forgot where he'd built it! Great Camouflage!

**Cpl Case** took the CO and RSM out on patrol but somehow lost them on the way back! Careless.

Exercise *Iced Fisher*—Cpl Brash IC the Escape Committee

Cpl Jennings, the new Royal Signals Guerrilla?

February came and with it the usual snow and freezing conditions. Looming up on the not too distant horizon was the Regiment's ARU. Once again, rumour control swung into action, and once again, it was wrong! (I don't think anyone really believed we were going to Beirut!)

Finally, we were tested on our Defence of a Commhead. During the early hours of the 23rd, Commhead Papa moved, (by a scenic route) to Soltau training area where, after clearing the area, the Commhead was set up with all round defence. Sections dug in (and were of course moved) and settled down into the now familiar routine of Defence. **Sgt 'Rock' Rumsey** of Easy Company, then decided he'd waited long enough and if the enemy wouldn't come to him, he'd go to them! So, with **Maj Gen Sir David Thorne** watching the action, off went **Phil** with his band of steely-eyed killers. Much to the surprise of everyone concerned, back came **Phil (Sgt Rock)** with the enemy in tow!

This clearly was not the umpire's plan, so the enemy had to be released to allow the final attack to take place. Well, the good guys won and a memorable if cold day came to an end.

Suffice it to say that the Ides of March were very much in evidence during Ex *Spring Canter* in that:-

Papa held Main whilst parked near a Pub!

Someone at Records said **Sgt Rocky Rumsey** could be promoted to **SSgt**.

Someone at 1 ADSR actually did promote him.

SSM Crabtree and SSgt Wyse running a command post on the Exercise

**PERSONALITIES—3 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Elson** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Lawrence** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Drake** |
| **OC Oscar** | **Lt Peck** |
| **OC Line** | **2Lt Broad** |
| **OC November** | **SSgt Bailes** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Taylor** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Van Parys** |

**EXERCISE *SECOND RHINO***

This was the Squadron's shake out and down exercise after the Christmas break. It was very valuable, because there had been a number of new additions to the Squadron who had not exercised with us before.

Basic signalling skills were practised by all, ie R Ops became Linemen and vice versa. It's not very often that a lineman is seen crewing and commanding Panzers. **Sig 'Rommel' Mullane** has not been the same lineman since. This has set everyone up for the coming exercise season, which is as full as ever.

**PAGE TROPHY (WINTER)**

This is an inter-Squadron sports day involving all the Signal Squadrons within 1st Armd Div. The day is spent taking part in six events:- Volleyball, Hockey, Rugby, Soccer, Tug-o-War and an Equestrian event. The Squadron performed well and won the winter trophy. The results were as follows:-

Volleyball — 1st
Rugby — 1st
Tug-o-War — 1st
Soccer — 2nd
Equestrian — 2nd
Hockey — 5th

Let's hope we can perform as well in the Summer competition and retain the Trophy. The Equestrian team was a new idea, and although the event was won by HQ Sqn, 3 Sqn put up a creditable effort. **2Lt Adrian Broad** firmly believes that **'Jake'**, owned by the Garrison Saddle Club, has a penchant for his posterior!

**EXERCISE *SPRING CANTER***

This was the first CPX of the Season. In fact, it should be renamed Ex *Flu Canter*. The first to go was the SQMS, **SSgt Taylor**, quickly followed by others. The staff in the complex had to get used to piles of paper hankies and the guys drinking lemsips. OC Oscar was seen in RADCON with a year's supply of hankies trying to stem the flow from his nose. Special mention must go to **Sig Garraty** for his vintage lemsip brews.

The actual exercise went well, with Oscar crash moving in 28 minutes. Is this a record? Papa, try and beat that.

For once we were able to drive the panzers to and from the exercise area. This proved useful in training the drivers in Oscar Troop on the refined art of Panzer driving.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

**Lt Peck, LCpl Beswick, Sig Ward** and **family, Cpl Davison** and **family**; welcome to 3 Sqn, and we hope you enjoy your tours.

Goodbyes to: **Lt Suzie Reed** and **2Lt Workman** who go to RHQ and 207 Sig Sqn respectively.

Congratulations go to:

**Sig Davidson** who ran for the Army Juniors;

**Sig Catlin** and **LCpl Robertson** who both tied the knot of marriage;

**SSgt Dobson** on his substantive promotion.

The Squadron is looking forward to Ex *Flying Falcon*; await the next exciting instalment.

**212 (12 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

It has been the usual hectic period for the Squadron. The Exercise season has started early and already we have three under the belt. The near future is also well padded out with Exercises, with little time for additional activity. Having said that, we have had a fair outing in a variety of sports. The Rugby Team had a couple of good games, the best being against 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt which produced a satisfying (at least for us) result. It saw stalwart performances from some strange quarters. **Sig Carl 'Dagger' Innes** performed well in his first outing on the Rugby Field. **WO2 (AQMS) Steve Bray** found an additional role as referee. **Cpl Wilf Pickering** played his usual heavy role.

The Hockey Team has had moderate success. They reached the BAOR quarter finals and were runners-up in the 1 Armd Div Competition. A heavyweight touring party is now embarking on a tour of the more interesting parts of Berlin. The intrepid team, led by **Lt Steve Hunt** and **Cpl Tony Brine** will undoubtedly succeed in their aims—whatever they may be! A report will follow.

The Soccer Team has been playing its usual strong game. Under the inspiration of **Sgt Alan Welch** the team is currently top of the Garrison League; and plays the Garrison Cup Final at the end of the month and has reached the BAOR quarter finals.

On the general sporting side, the winter Regimental Page Trophy Competition in Verden on 1 March was a success. In five sports: Soccer, Rugby Sevens, Volleyball, Tug-of-War, and Equestrian, the Squadron performed well and finished third overall. A particularly strong effort came from the Tug-of-War Team and we had an exciting final in the Volleyball Competition, narrowly losing to 3 Sqn. Our Equestrian team took the competition in a good light-hearted mood and finished third behind the professional elements. A good effort through, led by **Cpl Clive Artus** and **Cpl Dave Slater** supported by **Sig Mark Floyd** and **Sig 'ET' Hutchinson**. Well done to the team, in showing the Verden Squadrons good competition.

As usual, the trickle of postings.

**DEPARTURES**

**Sgt Taff Jones** to the more static life of HQ SEDIST: **Sgt Roy Smith** has left for 204 Sig Sqn. **Sgt Ken Schofield** returns to the RPC world prior to 'Civvy Street'. **Cpl Wilf Pickering** has gone back to the peace and quiet of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. **Pte Sally Cooper** has gone to the busy metropolis of Soltau. We wish them all the best of luck in their new postings.

**ARRIVALS**

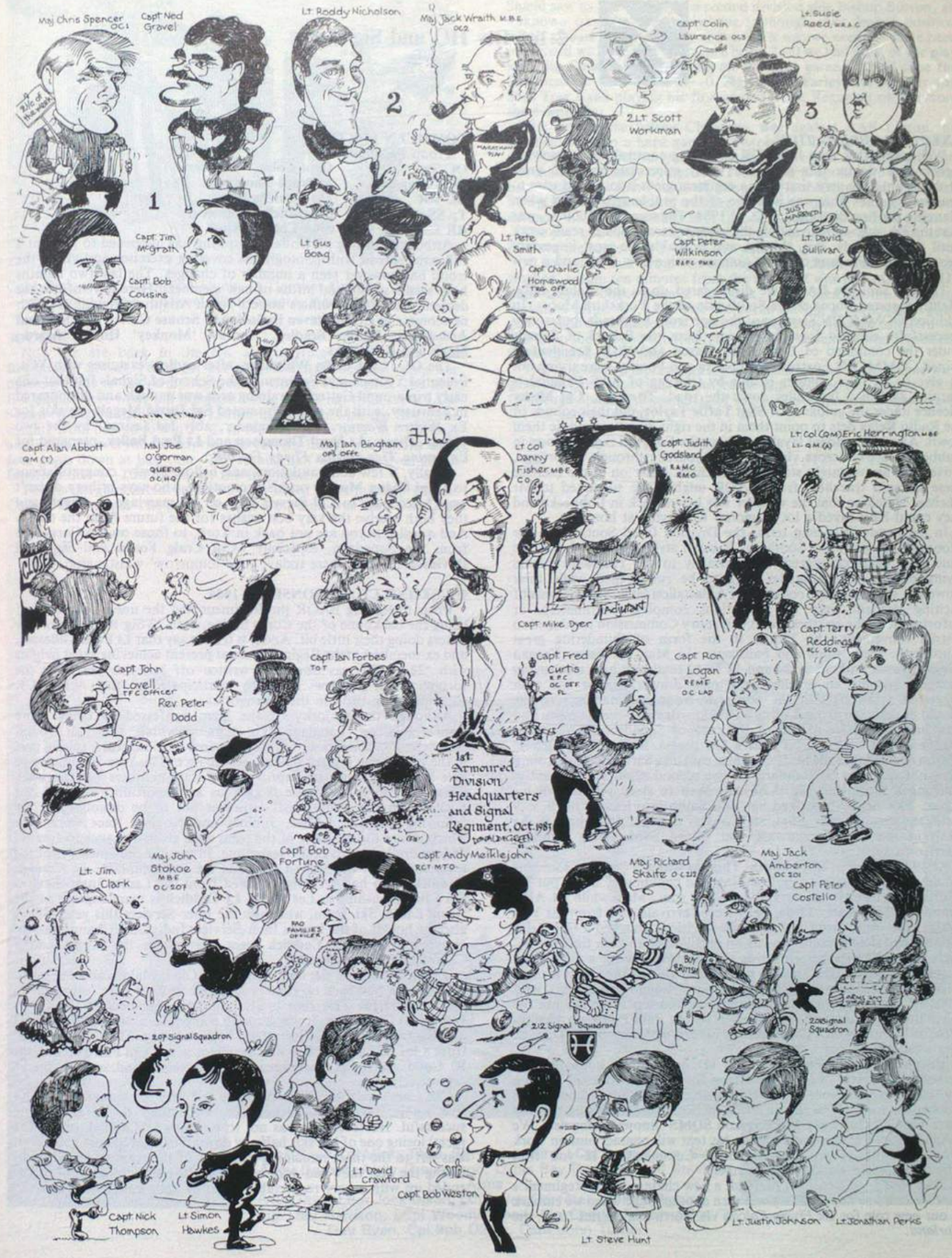
Welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Glen Harwood, Sgt Roger Eddy RAPC, Sgt Trevor Loughton, Sig Ex Tech Joyce, Sig Hignett** and **CFN Luggar REME**. Hope your stay here is enjoyable.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Go to **WO2 (YofS) Jim Williamson** and **Sgt George 'No Spares' Watson** on their recent award of the LS and GC medal.



**EXCELLENCE**

The Regimental Officers posed in October, and although many of the personalities have now departed, **Donald Green** has done an excellent job on some of his caricatures.

# 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
# York

**EXERCISE *SPRING TIDE***

Well aware that even in BAOR exercising constraints are growing tighter and tighter one does not really appreciate the UK units problem until the very first time a regiment girds it loins and tries to practise its role. This was just one of the problems we faced when planning the first divisional CPX of 1984. The second, of course, was that the TA, who were to supply the lower controls, do not really work until the weekends. But, thirdly, and probably the most important fact, was that this was our first exercise with a new GOC and a new COS.

To help simulate BAOR we disappeared up to the slightly hilly, slightly forested slopes of the South side of the Yorkshire Moors. In addition COMMCEN Sierra, not the one from Lippstadt, but a very successfully cobbled together version from the School of Signals under the command of **Capt Andy Tuson** and **WO2 Freudenfeld** joined COMMCEN Foxtrot. Both Sierra and Foxtrot were trying not to give us all four minutes to live by tripping of RAF Fylindale's warning system a few miles down the road. To assist, **Cpl Micky Licence** under the guidance of **SSgt Taffie Taylor**, did their rounds of the Radio Relay dets to point them in the right direction and tie them down. Also our resident layabouts from the Forward Signal Troop in Lubbecke, drove across via a 25 hour journey through Zeebrugge, Dover and an overnight stop at Shorncliffe. Later on in the exercise these intrepid travellers from BAOR might have suggested to Mr Michael Heseltine that the weather was better back in Lubbecke and they could have saved a lot of money by staying at home.

In big hands little map terms the Division faced South from the Moors fighting off the Southern, Russian style, hoards who at the time were being compared, appropriately to the Yorkshire miners flying pickets. The Brigades were to be run ragged while their Lowcons, their Brigades respective TA Battalion HQs, sent streams of exciting incidents into the operations complex. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the weather and the Forestry Commission combined to restrict movement, the former in the form of thundering great rainstorms, high winds and hailstones. In Main **Lt Barry Keegan** played jigsaws with 18 × 24 and 12 × 12 tents and has, after many changes, become an excellent site plan drawer. (Some wit even suggested a few days of the new style troop commander's course should be designed around siting a location, drawing the diagram, and then have a suitable officer of the rank of Squadron Commander change it, not once, but at least a few times). **SSgt (FofS) 'Driver' Wilson** decided that the Staff Complex cam and barbed wire surround were not quite up to standard on the second night so he 'gently' rearranged them with **Sig 'I haven't been to sleep yet' Brown** his driver. This nearly provoked **Sgt Bob Smith** into leaving his 9 × 9 inside the wire complex. **SSgt 'Sig' Grayley** nearly slipped through the mesh in the complex catwalk and ruined **SSM Stevie 'Muddy' Harrison**'s evening.

At 49 Bde Sig Tp, **LCpl Martin Thomas** was worried that someone would fall in the six feet hole outside the cookhouse, so he put his Bedford in instead, to mark the danger spot. Meanwhile **Lt Alfie Brand** and **SSgt Larry Little**, both recent arrivals, one from his YOs course, the other from 3 Armoured Division, watched **LCpl Keith Demoulpied** float gracefully away on his Lilo. At another time the OC **Capt Richard Davis**, remembering the requirements for a good story in the old 'Eggyburger Times', successfully turned the troop around on a single track only to watch **LCpl 'Lopey' Longworth** in the Triffid have the road give way under the vehicle and block the exit. In the other Brigade Troop, 15, the stand-in OC **Lt Paul Pople** searched in vain for his mug which invariably lay hidden under his beret. Does he ever wear it?, his hat I mean, silly!

Meanwhile all of Papa Complex sat in the Cookhouse eagerly awaiting the arrival of **Lt Adam Hearn** for his much awaited briefing (at last we might find out what is going on). When Whoosh, the Cookhouse took off in the direction of Scarborough chased by **SSgt Dave Cloake, Cpl Tony Fielding** and **SQMS 'Snowy' Snowden**. We would be grateful if anyone finding his tent will contact him on York Mil 2249. (Ed. From his Squadron Commander, If you find 'anything' please contact that number).

Thus ended, on Rufforth Airfield, a new chapter in the Regiment's history. In a few days time we will turn another page when we embark in our new role for Ex *Flying Falcon* via North Sea Ferries ferry, the *Norland*.

**COMMCEN FOXTROT**

Troop Personalities:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Tp** | **Capt Colin Whittaker** |
| **OC Complex** | **Lt Nevil Thompson** |
| **OC RR** | **2Lt Paul Bailey** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Mick Schnable** |
| **RR SSgt** | **SSgt Colin Taylor** |

Although nothing particularly inspiring has happened to warrant a full page spread with photographs covering exercises and visits, the troop has however seen a number of changes. The last two months have seen a substantial influx of new members. Here to reinforce the depleted ranks while others inspect South Atlantic penguins are such newcomers as **LCpls Steven Bullock** and **Scouse Curlett** and **Sig Paul Armstrong, Phillip Bradley, Andrew 'Monkey' Hobbs, Martin Sloan** and **Ken Perks**.

The OC, **Capt Colin Whittaker**, after endless exercises with YOs, Potential Yeomen and Foremen at the School of Signals felt that one early trip around Catterick training area was enough and disappeared in February, with the newly promoted **Sgt David Meggit**, on skis for Ex *Winter Warrior*. The remainder, ably led (astray) by the two young officers, **Lt Nevil Thompson** and **Lt Paul Bailey**, prepared for Ex *Spring Tide* and Ex *Flying Falcon*.

Finally, a few congratulations and hellos. Firstly, congratulations to **LCpl Shaun Murray** on his promotion; who says bribery doesn't work? Secondly to **Cpl Steven Row** on his marriage to **Angela** and they both receive the very best wishes for the future from the troop. And a hello, if you are not back in York, to those on Op Corporate from the Squadron, especially **LCpl Craig Foran** and **Sig Paul Davidson** on their 'here today, gone tomorrow' whistle stop tour.

**UK SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984**

Prior to leaving BAOR the Regiment had the unenviable task of being the backbone of the Corps Skiing, with 22 Sig Regt, and a few others doing their little bit. And it is true to say that **Lt Peter Gillespie**, and ex-members of the Regiment, are at present achieving great heights with '22.' 1983 was obviously written off but this year saw the formation of a new team to participate in the Army UK Championships held in the Cairngorms.

Although the majority of the team confessed to being more comfortable on Langlauf skis than downhill they all found themselves, in some cases for the first time in some years, taking part in the first event; a giant slalom seeding race. This race is designed to give skiers a chance to improve their start numbers for the week ahead, but in 2 Div's case it gave us an opportunity to drop our positions in the seeding list! However not to be discouraged, the following day the Ladies, Juniors and Novices Race were held which meant the majority of the team were given a chance to free ski and generally improve their technique. In fact the only member of the team racing on the second day was the team captain, **Lt Carolyn Caddick**, who had recently returned from the Ladies Inter-Services Ski Championships in Les Arc's. **Lt Caddick** is team captain of the Army Ladies Ski Team, who won the Inter-Services this year. She is also the holder of the Ladies Inter-Services Individual Championship. Needless to say **Lt Caddick** went on to win the Army Ladies Championship convincingly.

The next day was the open individual Giant Slalom and the team, who by now had been on skis for three whole days were feeling much more confident. This race is also the race that decides the Corps Individual Champion. It was a tough competition with 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and AAC Harrogate, both entering skiers. **LCpl Nevill** from 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn was the victor with **LCpl Phil Fluck, Capt R. Good** and **LCpl Shakespeare** in fifth, sixth and seventh places respectively.

The team race took place on Friday and with our team selected and five whole days skiing behind us, we hoped to be reasonably successful. However this was not to be, with **Lt Caddick** (our No 1 racer) losing one of her skis halfway down the Giant Slalom course—it was left to the three remaining members of the team to get a result. Skiing the best they had done all week, the team did admirably and ended up with a very respectable result of 26th out of 48 teams.

Capt Dick Good, LCpl Phil Fluck, Lt Carolyn Caddick, Cpl Jock Irving LCpls 'Shakes' Shakespeare, Harry Lambert

**SOCCER**

Now we are back in the UK and starting from scratch, the Regimental Soccer Team got off to a fine start despite losing our opening game to the Army Apprentice College Harrogate. The next five games were won, the highlight being a fine hat-trick from **LCpl Scouse Wharton** against RAF Linton in October with the Regiment coming from behind to win 3—2. In November we took on 8 Sig Regt and much to everyone's surprise the current league champions were four goals down at half time. The second half was more even and it finally ended 4—2 in favour of the Regiment.

For our last game in November we entertained the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate. The game, though a bit dull, was hard and **LCpl Scouse Wharton**'s three excellent chances to score were not to be and the game ended in a goaless draw. Into December, the Challenge Shield saw us drawn against a second division side Bishop Burton, an unknown quantity, being civilians, although their league position didn't give us much to worry about. As it was we need not have been concerned with the half time score being 2—0 we had most of the play with **Sig Charlie Farley** having an excellent game. At full time the Regiment ran out winners 9—0. **Sig Charlie Farley** scoring four and **SSgt Trev Ryan** playing his first game for the Regiment on the score sheet with two.

The final game before Christmas was against RAF Linton, an excellent side, so a hard game was expected. The opposition started well getting a goal early in the game, but credit to the Regiment, marshalled brillantly by **Sgt Roy Pickersgill** (Captain) we pulled one back within the first couple of minutes of conceding one. The goal, by **Sgt Dickey Bird** makes training all worthwhile, breaking out from defence, he hit a low hard shot through a crowded penalty area.

The joy was short-lived, Linton scored just before half time, at 45 minutes the score was 2—1 to the visitors.

A half time talk from the manager **Capt John Turner** certainly worked, within ten minutes from the restart it was two each **Cpl Gaz Meir** scoring direct from a free kick. From then on the Regiment defended brilliantly **LCpl Joe Corcoran** having a particularly good game. With ten minutes left, substitute **Sig Andy Donald** collected the ball from the left and squared it to **LCpl Ray Donavan** who scored the winning goal, with ease.

This mid-season report puts the Regiment second in the league with games in hand, last eight in the league cup and the 3rd Round of the Challenge Shield. All members of the Soccer Squad must take credit for the success so far.

| P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 10 | 11 |

*Back Row:* Cpl Micky Ross, Sgt Dickey Bird, LCpl Dean Poole, Sig Andy Donald, Andy Greenwood, LCpls Ray Donovan and Steve Arms

*Front Row:* LBdr Jock Dixon, LCpls Joe Corcoran, Ronnie Biggins, Sig Trev Harrison, LCpl Woody Wood, Sig Charlie Farley, SSgt Trev Ryan, Cpl Bob Oliver, Capt John Turner

# 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
## Catterick

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tony Elford** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Nick Blampied** |
| **OC HQ Tp** | **Capt Henry Jennings** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **2Lt James Bertram** |
| **OC Papa Tp** | **SSgt Tony Pollard** |
| **Sqn Offr** | **2Lt Mark Finneran** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Hedge** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Trevor Taylor** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Chris Wilkie** |

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

On February 10 the Squadron assembled in the NAAFI for **Maj Ashley Truluck's** last official function as Squadron Commander. The military and sporting trophies competed for in the past year were to be presented by the OC. Papa Tp, under the guidance of **Sgt Ray Walker**, took the Shooting and Military Training Exercise prizes while **Sgt Alf Ramsey's** boys in Oscar Tp laid claim to the Swimming, Cross Country, Patrol, and Driving competitions. HQ Tp showed their ability in handling fast balls by taking the Volleyball, Basketball, and Football trophies plus the Pot Shot trophy and the coveted Turnball Trophy.

**Cpl Shuggie Cowan** was nominated to receive the Astrid Trophy this year. This is a cup which is awarded each year to the best all round soldier in the Squadron, however, some of the places **Shuggie Cowan** is reputed to have been round are best left out of this magazine.

Having awarded the trophies **Maj Truluck** related the history of the Squadron mascot. This is a lance that was used in the Crimea and is believed to have been carried at Balaclava during that famous charge. As the symbol of authority, **Maj Truluck** presented the lance to **Maj Elford**, and with the lance went command of the Squadron.

Maj Ashley Truluck hands over the Squadron to Maj Tony Elford. SSM George Hedge looks on

**PROMOTION DRINKS AND FAREWELLS**

It was now **Maj Truluck's** turn to be on the receiving side. **Maj Elford**, assisted by **Capt Henry Jennings**, informed **Maj Truluck** that he was improperly dressed and relieved him of his badges of rank, these were then replaced by new Lieutenant Colonel badges so as to make him one of the few men to enter the NAAFI as a Major and leave as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Maj Tony Elford and Capt Henry Jennings promote Ashley Truluck to Lt Col

**Sig Hart** presented **Lt Col Truluck** with a fine crystal decanter and silver tray as a memento from all the junior ranks in the Squadron. As a final gesture of thanks for all the good times past, and the not so good, **Lt Col Truluck** offered to buy the drinks—an offer that was gratefully accepted by all of the Squadron.

When the bar finally shut **Lt Col Truluck** was escorted to his transport, a magnificent mobile thunderbox constructed by **Sgt Pete Goddard** and his LAD gang. **Sig Jock Adams** unleashed his bagpipes and piped the chariot and its passenger, towed by members of the Squadron, to the gates of Gaza Barracks. There we bid a farewell to the old Boss, we wish him and his wife **Jenny** all the best for the future and hope that life in Shrivenham is not too quiet after a Brigade Signal Squadron.

The SNCOs take the downhill stretch



**WELCOME AND FAREWELL**

There have been many new faces in the Squadron over the past few months, apart from the new OC **Maj Tony Elford** and his wife **Judith**. **Sgt John Wykes ACC** has come to sustain us in body and the junior ranks have been swelled by **Cpl Alan Chapman, Cpl Pete Garman, Cpl Nick Nicol, LCpl Mick Jenkinson, LCpl Ron Young REME, Sig Taff Davies, Mick Terris**, and **Trotman**.

We say goodbye to **LCpl Dicko Dickenson** who goes to 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Jo Marsh** is off to 1 Armd Div, **Cpl Dusty Millar** and **Sig Greg Loton** are going to 4 Armd Div, **Cpl John Douglas** is off to 244 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Kev Salisbury** is going to 249 Sig Sqn and **LCpl Dean Shardlow** is away to 21 Sig Regt—good luck to you all in your new postings.

**EXERCISES**

The middle of February was really Ice Station Catterick when we went off to do *Key Chain 2*. This was a gentle introduction into life in the field with a Brigade Signal Squadron for those who were new to such things. Apart from teaching the tricks of the trade to the new boys it served to knock the rust off the hold hands after the festivities of Christmas and New Year. It also proved to be an interesting exercise in Survival in Cold Climates.

By Gryphons Goblet at the beginning of March the new boys had become old hands and knew every Catterick exercise location like a second home. The high spot of this exercise was when **Sgt Gi Whiteford** attempted to find the critical angle of his ERV before it rolled. A combination of road subsidence and ice put him in a ditch with a 45 degree list to port and cost a 10 pack of beer to the REME to lift the wagon out. Keep trying **Gi**, you may yet loop the loop.

**FOOTBALL**

**Report by Sgt Ray Walker**

On our arrival in UK from BAOR we were to be instated in the Yorkshire Services Football League (YSFL) Div 2. As a minor unit we achieved a fair success, but alas, due to our Exercise commitments we were unable to fulfill our fixture arrangements and after heated discussion with the league Chairman we withdrew from the league.

The two Cup competitions which we were entered for brought better rewards. In the Challenge Shield we were successful against Askham Bryan by three goals to two in the first round. The Squadron were then drawn against the King's Division Depot team and won by four goals to two (a very fine team performance). This put us into the Quarter Finals, which was unique for a minor unit team. Unfortunately, after a very hard fought game, we lost to the Police Training Centre by six goals to two after extra time.

In the Division 2 Cup we quickly dispensed with HMS *Forest Moor* 4—2 and Askham Bryan 4—2 which put us into the final.

The final was played at the Central Ground at Catterick against our arch rivals the King's Division Depot. The match was played at a very fast pace with both teams creating openings, but thanks to some good work in goal by **Cpl Jo Marsh** we kept the 'King's' out. Mid-way through the first half, after good mid-field play by **Sgt Alf Ramsey** and **LCpl John Douglas**, the ball was played into the 'King's' penalty area where it was headed on by **LCpl Ron Young REME** for our newcomer **Pte Charlie Herbert** to head home.

The score remained 1—0 to the Squadron until three minutes from time when the 'King's' scored the equaliser from a neat header. So into extra time. Again the action went from end to end, but neither side could break through. Alas it came to penalties and with three misses out of five the Squadron had to settle for runners up. I am sorry to have to say goodbye to **Cpl Joe Marsh, LCpl Spike Forbes, Cpl Dusty Miller, Sgt Alf Ramsey, LCpls John Douglas, Nick Nicol,** and **Sig Steve Ellis** and wish them all the best for the future. Here's hoping the Division will post in some replacement football players.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# 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 106

**READY FOR THE RIGOURS**

The Spring season is upon us again and, with major exercises already planned until the Autumn, life is very busy. We have had four major exercises so far this year, and as we go to press we are preparing for Ex *Flying Falcon*. We have several new members in the RHQ team; apart from the CO **Lt Col Dick Baly** we have a new TOT **Capt Nick Lynn**, a new Traffic Officer **Capt David Tunmore** and a relatively new, well—only slightly used—Ops Officer **Maj Dick Sanders**. This cupboard full of new brooms has done a lot of sweeping and the Regiment is now ready for the rigours of the remainder of the year. After all the preparation Ex *Spearpoint* should seem like a holiday!

The GOC's HQ is also under new management, **Sgt 'Mick' Kindness** having left us for 206 Sig Sqn. With our new intake of young officers, we have been able to spare **2Lt 'Kit' Lewis** to lead them. The GOC has yet to come and put them to the test, but already they have been brushing up their football skills—unfortunately, not at the right time! 'Oh well, we wanted a few quick moves during the exercise, anyway!'

Ex *Pipe Opener*. The CO with two of the 'enemy': I must tell OC HQ Sqn to get the pioneers to wash more often, LCpl 'JR' Reardon and Pte 'Papa Smurf' Moss don't notice anything unusual

**SKILL AT ARMS**

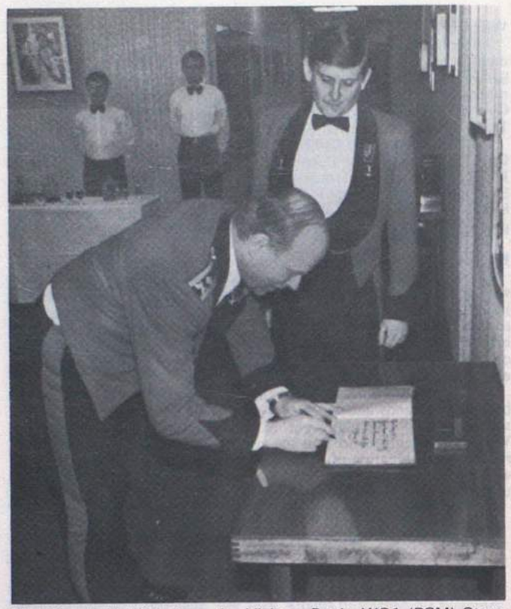
The Regimental Skill-at-Arms meeting took place on 21/22 March and produced some good scores. The overall competitiion was won by 206 Sig Sqn, with 3 Sqn two points behind. Space does not allow us to give all the results, but worthy of mention are the following.

| | |
|---|---|
| The Inter Section Rifle Match | 206 Sig Sqn |
| The MOASCAR Challenge Bowl (best overall team) | 206 Sig Sqn |
| The Falling Plate Trophy | 206 Sig Sqn |
| The Legge Trophy (best rifle shot) | **Cpl Skelland**—3 Sqn |

The SMG match produced a very close result, with **SSgt Phil Atherton** of 3 Sqn just beating **Cpl Wood** of 206 Sig Sqn, and in the Pistol Match, **Maj Stephen Paul** of 3 Sqn managing to beat **Maj Richard Coleman** 2GR in a shoot off.

**WO1's DINE OUT COMD COMMS**

On 16 March WO1's and representatives of WO2's serving in BAOR gathered together to dine out **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** Comd Comms in the Sergeants' Mess. It was a splendid night with many old friendships renewed and of course one or two did make breakfast the following morning!



Maj Gen J. H. Hild signs the Visitors Book. WO1 (RSM) Steve Marshall in attendance

**RSM's HANDOVER**

Just as we are going to press, we say farewell to our old (well he's older than I am) RSM, **WO1 Steve Marshall**, who leaves us on commissioning. We hope that all he has learned while he has been with us will stand him in good stead in the Officers' Mess. He should by now know which knife to use to eat his peas, how to pronounce O-F-F ('Orf, of course) and many other useful little skills! We wish him and his wife, **Myrtle**, all the best in Hohne. The photograph shows the RSM cutting the cake presented by 'P' Commhead in the field on Ex *Hawkes Stoop*. The 'Stadt bin' was presented too, as the Commhead decided to 'bin this RSM and get a new one'. There followed a short, but moving ceremony in which 'The Shuttle Sandwich' was handed over as the final symbol of power changing hands.

The RSM cuts his cake

*Left to Right:* SSgt Phil Atherton, WO1 (RSM) Steve Marshall, Maj Stephen Paul, SSgt (YofS) Pete Tharme, Sgt Roy Nicholls ACC, WO2 (FofS) Phil Vince, Sgt 'Mac' McLaughlin, WO2 (SSM) Bob Atkinson, SSgt (SQMS) Bill Hutton, WO1 (RSM) Stu Gray-Cowan

In place of **Lt Marshall** we welcome **WO1 (RSM) 'Stu' Gray-Cowan**, who comes to us from 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. We feel sure that he will enjoy himself and hope that he will let us do so too—at least some of the time.

Handing over the 'Shuttle Sandwich'

**SKIING**

The Regimental Ski Meeting took place on 24 February at Bruchhausen in the Sauerland. A large number of competitors entered and some of the results were very close indeed. Best individual Langlauf went to **LCpl 'Andy' Bain** of 2 Sqn with **Sig 'Nick' Clay** of 3 Sqn second. The individual Downhill was dominated by HQ Sqn with **Maj David Gardiner** in second place only 0.19 seconds behind **Dvr Moran RCT**. **Maj Gardiner** took the Individual Combined Championship and the Individual Combined Novice Champion was **LCpl Derek Kirkup** of 3 Sqn.

'Where's that Adjutant of mine going, now?' The CO, Lt Col R. F. Baly in hot pursuit

The Adjt, Capt Andy Forster, on the downhill run. He finished fourth only one and a half seconds behind the winner

LCpl Andy Bain coming home in fine style

**VOLLEYBALL**

The gymnasium at BMH Iserlohn saw the Finals of the 3 Armd Div Volleyball Championship between BMH Iserlohn, 50 Missle Regt and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The initial stage of the competition was run on a league basis with the top teams playing again in the Final.

The Regimental Team won both their matches and finished top of the league. They then met runners-up BMH Iserlohn again in the Final.

BMH won the first game 15 points to 13, but after a stirring team talk, our team came back, fighting. Some good serving by **Sgt Mick Kindness** and sterling net play by **SSgt Lee Hodds** helped the team go on to win the match, and the Championship, by two games to one.

The team then went forward to the BAOR Championships at Hohne, where they unfortunately did not do quite so well. However, the experience gained in their first season of competition has proved to be invaluable.

The Regimental Volleyball Team—Back Row: SSgt Lee Hodds, the CO, Cpl Andy Waterson; Front Row: Capt 'Mick' Davies RCT, Cpl Paul Blackhurst RAOC, WO2 (RQMS) 'Dicky' Davis, Cpl Jeff Smyth, Sgt Mick Kindness

## 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 17

**BFPO 17**
**Report from Sgt Ron Wilbraham:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj John Griffin** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Don Steele** |
| **OC Comms** | **Lt Neil Gibson** |
| **OC Sp** | **2Lt Calum Clark** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John O'Rourke** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Len Harvey** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Tony Brend** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Colin Wing** |
| **Radio SSgt** | **SSgt Roger Fairfield** |

**MANY CHANGES**

Since our last contribution to *The Wire* we have seen far too many changes of personnel to list them all in this article. Despite the turbulence, everyone seems to have settled into our somewhat hectic Squadron Routine, with the minium of fuss. The 'hectic' part of our life style will all be revealed as you read on . . .

**PATROL COMPETITION 1983**

This was three-phase competition master-minded by the OC. It was designed to add a competitive spirit to the rigours of annual military training and it succeeded in bringing out the best in both individual and team skills. Everyone rose to the challenge admirably, or could it have been the ten-packs at the end which spurred them on? Phase One, 'Detachment skills', was reported on in an earlier edition of *The Wire*. Phase Two was meant to conclude the competition during a week at Vogelsang, but this was not to be. We had progressed nicely until mid-week, when something unexpected cropped up which resulted in us packing up 'post haste' and returning to Munster for further deployment. Although this upset the continuity of the competition, it help to illustrate just how resilient and adaptable we can be, and also proved just how quickly we can muster when we have to. Prior to this surpise move we had spent the first day on the ranges firing personal weapons. This in itself was arduous as the sections were down firing in sub-zero temperatures, trying to make every round count. Day Two saw us throwing grenades along with interesting background activities. On day Three we had the sections going around eight individual skill stands which included Recognition, First Aid, NBC, Observation, T's OET and a unique Initiative stand. The last stand produced some interesting and even comical solutions to the problem of bridging a gap between the rear of two four tonners with ladders, ropes and several other useful props. Once they had discovered a way to form a bridge, the sections had to transfer the spare wheel of one four tonner to the other. By this time the lead had changed hands several times and one or two dark horses had emerged. **Cpl 'Aggy' Clarke** was totally convinced that he would win the competition even though there was still some way to go. Phase Three was created to complete the Patrol Cup and took place on a local training area in Munster.

Patrol skills and a March-and-Shoot made it a three horse race and the competition was nicley balanced for the final 'The Assault Course'. All sections were in battle order when they took to the obstacles, so it was naturally very tough going. The nine foot wall proved to be the downfall of two of the sections and clinched victory for Section 1, led by **Cpl 'Aggy' Clarke**.

The Patrol Cup Winners with the OC and SSM—Back Row: OC, Maj John Griffin, LCpl Bill Nicholson, Cpl Aggy Clark, SSM, WO2 Mick O'Rourke
Front Row: Sig 'JJ' Jennings, Sig 'Rosy' Rose, Sig 'Mick' Wheater; Not Shown: Sig Jock 'Evil Knievel' Roberts and Sig 'Half Track' Gale.

Each team member was presented with a personal mug and the team retain the Patrol Cup for one year. There was also a prize for the best individual who was **Cpl 'Shrub' Bushby**.

Patrol Cup Competition best individual: Cpl 'Shrub' Bushby



**BOXING**

After our success in the 3 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt inter-squadron novices boxing tournament, we went on to meet 68 Sqn RCT in the first round of the Minor Units. It was a night of disappointment as we left the venue without winning a bout. It has to be said, however, that it was not for lack of trying, and in our opinion at least two of our boxers deserved to win. **Sig Andy Thomas** and **Jock Morton** were both gutsy and very convincing, but both lost by the narrowest of margins. We all hope that next year that they will swallow their pride and try again.

**EXERCISE *HARD RAT I***

Ex *Hard Rat* took place in January on the Haltern Training area and was to be our chance to practise HQ tactics in a winter environment. The main criterion was that the training should take place in seasonal weather conditions. At the prospect of roughing it in freezing temperatures we all began praying for milder conditions to prevail. (The OC was hoping for the opposite!) It must have been sheer weight of numbers which brought the weather down in favour of the troops. One or two nights were quite cold, though not insufferable, and two nights saw quite heavy rainfalls. The Squadron were split into 'Enemy' and 'Friendly' forces, the enemy being ably led by **Sgt Stan 'Standards' Wise** and the friendly forces by **2Lt Calum Clark** assisted by his notorious henchmen **SSgt Roger 'Biggles' Fairfield** and **Sgt Ken 'Philosan' Robson**.

The enemy had to locate the friendly forces complex and then try to infiltrate their position. Several attacks of this nature took place during the week, each time the task becoming more difficult as the complex perfected their night discipline. Their expertise was such that a company of the Royal Anglican Regiment could not put in a planned pre-dawn attack as the complex went unnoticed, despite the obvious handicap of generator noise. Convoy drills were practised, with the friendly forces in their APCs coming under attack from the 'enemy'. The US Airforce provided us with an air attack and although quite short-lived it did highlight the necessity to move by night, as during the day we resembled the proverbial 'sitting duck'. A rolling re-plen was practised using a POD Vehicle in a tactical environment. On the final day circumstances beyond our control caused us some considerable delay in starting our live firing from a HQ defensive location sited at the end of a field firing range. By the time we got started the troops were all well and truly soaked by the non-stop downpour. Nevertheless all sections did have a taste of firing live under particularly aduous and difficult conditions. The exercise was a great success and was beneficial to everyone who took part.

Ex *Hard Rat*. The 'enemy', led by SSgt Stan Wise, at the end of Day 4

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Sgt Ken Robson** on his recent 40th birthday. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that, because he now has 14 minutes in which to do his BFT, for the first time in his life he can pass the test with 10 seconds to spare; in fact he can pass it with 20 seconds to spare! Coffee break now consists of a cup of tea and a stiff dose of Philosan and as a special 'perk' his wife lets him go fishing on Saturdays.

**SNOW QUEEN**

The Squadron took over a complete course at the Regimental Snow Queen Hut in Bavaria. The weather was perfect with excellent snow and lots of sunshine. The result was a load of brown, smiling faces returning to Munster with tales of daring exploits and a new Squadron vocabulary of egging, dobs and making snowballs. The Langlauf produced some stars with **Sig 'Rolf' Harris** spending most of his time 'taking out' other unfortunates. The Slalom race set by the 2IC proved to be fun and a challenge to those new to the sport. The results were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Winner Intermediate Race; | **LCpl Ricky Ware** |
| Winner Novices Race: | **Cpl Geordie Ramshaw** (att from Rear Link 1 IG) |

Many new converts were made and the Squadron is already planning next year's course.

**BASKETBALL**

The Squadron team won the Divisional Minor Units Knock-Out Trophy after beating 6 Armd Wksp 'B' Team in the semi-finals and their 'A' Team in the finals. This was a hard-fought but sporting game against the competition favourites. Our success in this competition put us through to the BAOR Championships and we overcame the first hurdle by winning our elimination pool. The team now goes on to the semi-finals and finals in Osnabruck. Best of luck lads!

The 204 Sig Sqn Basketball Team—Back Row: Sig Stan Staniford, Cpl 'Sandy' Dos Martyres (Capt), Cpl John Garner; Front Row: Sig Jim Davidson, WO2 (SSM) Mick O'Rourke, the OC, Cpl John Dallison, Sgt Charlie Abbott

# 7 Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

## AN OUTSTANDING RUGBY SEASON
**Report by Capt Geordie Gainford**

Our most successful rugby season for many a year, commenced last September with the Regimental Kape Tour to Wales and culminated with us winning the Army Cup. During the season we have played 28 games winning all but 4 which were against top class Welsh opposition, Bridgend, Crumlin, Maestig and Groseinon. We have been fortunate to have a good all round team this season, strong in both the forwards and the backs. We have lacked a good centre for a couple of seasons but this year we were fortunate to have **Sgt Dave Showell** posted in forming a good partnership with **LCpl Dave Wood** (both drop goal experts). We also have some good young players who have been competing with the established players for their places. The side has been well skippered and disciplined by **SSgt Andy Hickling** whose experience has been invaluable.

### THE DIFFICULT ROAD

Our road to the Army Cup Final could not have been more difficult with a quarter final match against the Army Champions of 1983, 21 Eng Regt, which we won 10—6. This was a magnificent performance by the Regiment, each player displaying tremendous courage defending their line for some 70 minutes of the game. A try was scored by **Cpl Paul Collins** as a result of a charged down kick, and two penalities were kicked by **Sig Andy Fife**. This is a game the players will savour for a long time to come.

In comparison, our semi final against 3 RTR was relatively easy with us winning 34—4. Scorers were, Tries, **SSgt Andy Hickling, Sig Alan Poulson** (2), **LCpl Dean Richardson, Sig Andy Fife** (1 try, 2 penalities, 4 conversions).

### BAOR AND ARMY CHAMPIONS

Our BAOR final opponents were 7 RHA who have proved a stumbling block in the past few seasons. However, this was to be our day, despite us not playing to our true potential. The final score was 9—7, our points all coming from the boot of **Sig Andy Fife**. For the first time in 10 years, 7 Sig Regt are the BAOR Champions. And so to the 'big one', which many of us have waited 25 years for. Among our guests were **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle** and **Lt Col B. O. Haw** who were in the last Corps team to win the Army Cup. This game against 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was to be our finest. We outplayed them in every department. **Sig Andy Fife** kicked a penalty in the first few minutes and from that moment we never looked life losing. The final score of 9—3 flattered the Welsh Guards. It was an exciting game with our forwards dominating every phase of play. **Cpl Stud Williams** was in fine form as hooker and **Cpl Taff Kessell** played magnificently at prop. Some of the younger players really came of age notably **LCpl Dean Richardson, Sig Alan Poulson** and **Cpl Dave Amos** turning in mature performances. Once again the team was skippered well by **SSgt Andy Hickling.** It was nice to see **LCpl Dave Wood, LCpl Phil Price** and **Cpl Chalky Atkins**, who have all played in numerous Army Cup matches, playing so well and finishing on the winning side, after so many disappointments. Our other scorers were **LCpl Dave Wood** and **Sgt Dave Showell** with a drop goal each. It would be unfair not to mention **Lt David Jones, Lt Mark Beardsell, Cpl Paul Collins** and **Cpl H. Glean** who all played their part in this magnificent win.

All the rugby team would like to thank their wives and all the Regiment for their wonderful support throughout the season. **ARMY CHAMPIONS 1984—WHAT A FEELING!!!**

**Army Cup Final**
A kick ahead and chase for the line by Sig Alan Poulson with Sgt Dave Showell (hidden) Cpl Chalky Atkins and Cpl H. Glean in pursuit

## 1 SQUADRON

**Report by Lt Tony Holland**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. C. Chambers** |
| **2IC** | **Capt P. Kearns** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) D. Fox** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt (FofS) C. Cooper** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) M. A. Chapman** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt A. James** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt D. Gilbert** |

With the notional mist and smoke of the annual staff set-too clearing behind them, the hierarchy of the Squadron now find themselves free to ponder the void that lies between *Winter Sales* and *Flying Falcon*. Continuity has been good in recent months at this exalted level, with losses mercifully few. We even say 'welcome back' to **SSgt (FofS) Clive Cooper** after a few months down under. That isn't the sunburnt country of course, the other place where men are men and penguins are various.

The New Year was ushered in with a smattering of all sorts of disciplines. A Regimental communications exercise got everybody back in the habit of signalling again after the holiday season. This was followed a week later by the CO's SAI (Squadron Administrative Inspection). This involves the Commanding Officer taking a whirlwind tour through the Squadron taking a look at all that comes into the category of A Matters. For us, the day started with an SOP combat kit parade. Afterwards the CO walked through the accommodation blocks, the Squadron bar and the Squadron offices. Meanwhile the rest of the Squadron put on their NBC kit and marched off by sections to the Ranges. Although the march was preceded by a map reading problem, one or two section leaders found another one of their own on the way to the Ranges. Never mind. The scenic route up on the Bismark is quite delightful in the crisp winter air.

Once at the Ranges there were two tasks to complete. The first was a first aid problem set by **Cpl Dave Grant**; bags of blood, destruction, screams of agony, that sort of thing. This was followed by a simple pistol shoot. A little 'Bodie and Doyle' stuff always keeps the interest level up.



The final leg was a march back to camp, stand-down and showers. The former included all the DS and range staff who were collared by the OC. It wouldn't do to have someone missing out. The only exception here was **Lt Tony Holland** who signed for the ammunition and was allowed to clear the range and drive back.

CO escorted by Maj John Chambers (left) and Lt Tony Holland, checking Cpl Ron Brent

Cpl Chris Lewis (kneeling) preparing to splint a leg. LCpl Kev Yates looks on intently

The patient Sig Andy Reid showing great interest as Sig Jimmy Walker asks Cpl Dave Grant 'Can I put him out of his misery?'

### ECHO TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt A. C. Holland** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt J. Waugh** |
| **Tech Seniors** | **Sgt O. Scott** |
| | **Sgt J. R. Acklaw** |

Pesonalities continue to change at an amazing rate. In the space of a month we lost three technician Corporals to TI courses at Catterick. They were **Cpls Bob Boxall, Reg Catton** and **John Gaskell**. In return only **LCpl Nobby Hall** has arrived since Christmas. However he seems to be settling in. We hope the boxing gloves fit! **LCpl Steve 'Jacko' Jackson** is off to 249 Sig Sqn, skiing and sunning it for a couple of years and we wish him all the best.

### SIERRA TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt J. Cooper** |
| | **vice 2Lt J. A. McDonnel (Op Corporate)** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt A. T. Kidd** |
| **Tp Seniors** | **Sgt M. J. Bull** |
| | **Sgt I. F. Bannigan** |

Sierra Troop have also had their share of changes for the New Year. We inherited the Radio Relay detachments from 4 Sqn along with their crews so welcome to 1 Sqn for **Cpl Lawrence, LCpls Sanders, Best, Sig Allen, Jones** and **Robertson**. New from training are **Sig Wilson** and **Peters** and just to balance the youth versus experience equation a little better, we welcome **Cpl Guy** from 1 Div.

We say goodbye to **Cpl Nobby Hall** and **Sig Dave Balfour** who recently went to 30 Sig Regt. Also to **Sig 'Waggy' Wagstaffe** who is away to the still waters of 16 Sig Regt. **Sig Walker** who joins the Airborne Brigade shortly and to **Sig 'Tris' Tristram** who is off to do a spot of rambling in Brecon. We wish these three characters every success in their future employment. Last but not least we welcome **2Lt Joe Cooper** fresh from his Q course and hope that we see more of him than we did of old **2Lt 'Sumo' McDonnell**. You don't play Rugby do you?

## REGIMENTAL SMOKER
**Report by SSgt Andy Hickling**

2 Squadron was tasked with converting the gymnasium at Maresfield Barracks into a mini London Palladium. This was to allow the varied Squadrons and Departments to display their Thespian talents at the Regimental Smoker. The construction continued until the last minute, but much to the relief of the stage manager, all was completed in time.

The evening began with a bang (quite literally) as the rugby team carried out a daring (?) SAS raid on the front row, and captured the CO, **Lt Col Nigel Wood**, and the RSM **WO1 Bill Olive**. They were only released after the CO had agreed to provide the rugby team with a club house.

The Squadrons began their turns, and first was **Sig Knowles**. His calling of the school register at the beginning of a new term was very well received, even if it did make the CO's ears burn.

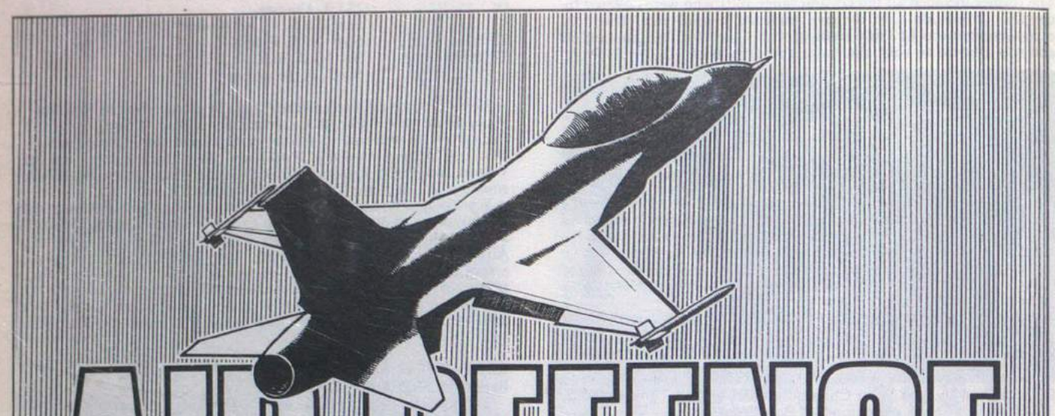
3 Squadron found two brand new 2Lts who were Game For A Laugh, although if tomato ketchup was their favourite relish, I'm sure it isn't anymore.

HQ Squadron appeared to have some sort of vendetta against their OC's dog, and in various sketches stuffed imitations were kicked high and low.

The Regimental rugby team came in for several snide comments, perhaps because they work so hard (this article is written by the Captain of the Rugby Team).

Unfortunately there were no prizes for the best performance, although if there had been, the bar would have been the winner hands down. All the performers tried their best, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Sig Nick Hawkins (left) and Sig Cair of 2 Squadron in the Deely Bobbers ballet



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WWA

Lt Davy Jones (left) borrowed his Squadron Commander's spare uniform for the Officers' Mess fashion show sketch, compèred by Lt Peter Grogan

**BFG TEN PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONS 1984**

**Cpl Ward, Sgt Lewis, Cpls Fairclough** and **Speed** of the Regiment combined with **Sgt Jim Kerr** of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to produce a Royal Signals team to enter the BFG Bowling Championships. They managed to break RAF Germany's hold on the competition by being the first Army team since 1979 to win it. They beat their nearest rivals RAF Gutersloh by 3086 pins to 3025 in the five man team handicap and came runners up to Gutersloh 2 team in the scratch competition. The highest game of the series was achieved by **Sgt Jim Kerr** with an impressive 225 pins out of a maximum of 300. Unfortunately he was on exercise when the team photograph was taken.

Standing Left to Right: Cpl Ward, Sgt Lewis
Kneeling Left to Right: Cpls Fairclough and Speed

**ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS**

I March, St David's Day, was celebrated in fine style by the Regiment. It may seem very unusual that a non Welsh unit should celebrate the Saint's day but ties with Wales started two years ago when the Regiment was 'given' Wales as its recruiting area. Since then we have worked very hard through Kape and rugby team tours to establish firm and excellent relationships, especially in the south around Cardiff. The CO **Lt Col Nigel Wood** decided to mark the occasion by having a Regimental Day starting with a formal parade in the morning, continuing with inter Squadron sports during the remainder of the day. In the evening the Warrant Officers were invited to dinner in the Officers' Mess, which turned out to be an excellent evening.

The CO and Maj Hugh Goodwin having a serious moment with the RSM during dinner. The night wasn't all serious though

450 Officers and soldiers were on parade which was given a Welsh flavour by the band of the Royal Anglian Regiment playing a selection of well known Welsh tunes during the inspection. The Padre, **Stuart Brace**, a real Welshman, read the Royal Signals Collect in Welsh and the CO wished the Regiment a good day, in his version of the language. During the parade, Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented to **Sgt Donald Bruce, Cpl Steven Schofield**, and **Cpl Vincent Johnston RE**. The day was a huge success and it is hoped to be repeated next year.

LS&GC recipients in the CO's office after the parade. Standing left to right: Cpl Vincent Johnston RE, Cpl Steven Schofield, Sgt Donald Bruce. Seated left to right: Mrs Joan Johnston (Mother) Mrs Lillian Johnston and son Neil, CO, Lt Col Nigel Wood and Mrs Dorothy Bruce

# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE . . .**

. . . they are just promoted! A new RSM always has a difficult job on arriving in a new unit so having one's old Troop OC around can be a help. Welcome to **WO1 (RSM) M. Nevill** and congratulations to the outgoing RSM, **WO1 Stevenson**, who leaves the Regiment on commissioning.

Cpl M. Nevill (now RSM) and Capt R. C. Etheridge (now Maj, OC 3 Sqn) looking to the future. The picture was taken in Hiedelberg 17 years ago

**NE DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY**

The NW/NE District Cross Country Championships were held on 4 February 1984 and hosted by 8 Sig Regt on the Gandale Training Area. 8 Sig Regt were well represented.

The men's team came second in the Major Units with creditable results from **WO2 (SSM) Escott** and **SSGT (FofS) Stocks**. The WRAC team won the women's event. Both teams qualified for the Army Championships at Tweseldown—Aldershot.

Left to Right. Back Row: Pte Shelmerdine, Pte Cowley, Pte Allen. Centre Row: Pte Thorne, Pte Rowe. Front Row: Pte Pugh, Pte Coutts

**NE DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1984**

The NE District elimination stage of the Army Volleyball Championships took place at Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe on Tuesday 21 February.

The Regiment, who have won the competition for the last three years, started very slowly and cautiously and paid the price of losing the first game to 38 Eng Regt. However, after a bit of verbal encouragement/abuse from the bench, the team produced two good results thus winning their league and qualified for the semi-finals.

The first semi-final was between QOH and 12 AD Regt RA. The second was an all Royal Signals affair with the Regiment drawn to play AAC Harrogate. Both semi-finals produced possibly the best volleyball of the day with the Regiment and 12 Regt RA winning through to the final. Having already played and beaten the opposition, the team were in a confident and bouyant mood and this was reflected in a rather one sided game with the team running out well deserved winners, thus retaining the trophy. The team now look forward to the Army Finals in Aldershot.

**WRAC SPORTS**

**HOCKEY**

Zone E Women's Inter-Unit Hockey Tournament was held in Catterick on 13 February; 8 Sig Regt team came second, only beaten on 'goals for' average.

**BADMINTON**

Zone E Women's Badminton Championship played at Alanbrooke Barracks Topcliffe on 2 February. 8 Sig Regt excelled taking all titles.

| | |
|---|---|
| Singles Winner | **Pte Dyer** |
| Doubles Winner | **Pte Dyer** |
| | **Sgt McLean** |
| Singles Plate Winner | **Sgt Gaskell** |
| Singles Plate Runner Up | **Sgt Warnes** |


# ECHOES FROM ARNHEM

## Lewis Golden OBE

*Foreword by*

*General Sir John Hackett*

*GCB CBE DSO MC*

In his foreword General Sir John Hackett writes:

'Even forty years after the event books continue to be written about Market Garden, the operation which many hoped would bring a speedy end to the second world war and one which has held public interest ever since almost as firmly as the Gallipoli campaign in the first. This is a book that has long been lacking. It has at last been written and by a hand, moreover, uniquely qualified to write it.'

The author, who was the adjutant of 1st Airborne Divisional Signals, in his reasoned and authoritative book examines the airborne signals' experiences since they were formed in 1942, discussing their achievements in North Africa, Sicily and Italy as a prelude to an evaluation of their vital role at Arnhem. Inevitably he is drawn to assess the broader issues which led to success and failure in Market Garden.

*198pp + 32pp halftones; £10.50 net; June Publication*

**WILLIAM KIMBER**




**1 SQN**

The Squadron bids farewell to **Cpl Gordon Nicholls** who leaves us for far distant shores—2 Div HQ and Sig Regt and we welcome **Cpl Bob Dunne** into T Troop. We hope he will enjoy his stay.

The only sporting contest of note during January was the Inter Squadron Volleyball. After disposing of the other Squadron teams, the final was contested between our T Troop Gurkha contingent and a combined T/P Troop team. An entertaining match ensued with the Gurkha team emerging victorious. All of which left **Maj Willie Robotham** wondering how 'five foot nuthin' Gurkhas can play Volleyball so well. The new CO, **Col Austin**, presented the trophies to the winning team.

The second military skills course took place during the month of January. Two basic technician courses, under the watchful eyes of **Lt Wayne Coupland, Sgt Chip Stanley** and **Cpl Bill McConnell** were given a two week refresher course in the art of soldiering. All 'trainees' gave a good account of themselves and emerged a fortnight later 'born again leaders', which goes to prove that Potential Techs are soldiers.

The Squadron congratulates **Sig Worley** and **Sig Daniels** on achieving A Gradings on their basic Technician Course. Not to be outdone, T Troop, the Upgraders also supplied an A Grade in the guise of **Cpl Hatfield**. Well done to all.

Sig Worley receiving his certificate from Lt Col Smith OC TTS

Sig Daniels receiving his certificate

**3 SQN**

Due to a regimental re-shuffle the 3 Sqn Cadre has again taken on a new look. **SSgt Hugh Dillon** has moved to 1 Sqn and **Sgt John Bell** has left to instruct Fieldcraft with Mil Trg Gp. SSgts and above could find themselves 'camming up' on trained soldier week!

Postings have arrived in large numbers so vacancies will exist in 3 Sqn shortly—to ensure your position put 3 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt at the bottom of your preference posting list (Hairy Linemen will be given preference). Techs and DTgs need not apply.

Farewell shortly to **SSgt Phil Lee** and **Pat** on promotion and **Sgt Chas Ward** and **Charlotte**. Both remember the old days and will be glad of the rest in BAOR. We wish all those leaving well in their new positions.

Special mention to **Cpl Jim Hillan** who co-ordinated these notes—join 3 Sqn and learn to write!

**EXERCISE *WHITEOUT 84***

The annual Regimental Skiing Exercise again took place in the heart of the Scottish Highlands during March. Based at the Spey Valley Hotel, Grantown on Spey, 28 soldiers from the Regiment pitted their nerves against steep snowy inclines and 'slalomed' around boulders and heather.

The first week's training was the adventure element of the potential technicians course. All were apprehensive at the start, but when they realised a Major and a Captain were in their group, fears of a difficult time melted away. By the end of the week the cadre had taught them how to ski, (fast but under control), and in return the course made sure that **Sgt Bruce Casburn** and **SSgt Bill Dewhurst ACC**, the Cadre SNCOs, slept well after the inevitable party. It was a good job that the course did not really feel like breakfast the next day!

The second course was a complete contrast. There were only two novices and one complete beginner. **Sig Martin Isherwood** amazed everyone by putting his skis on and after 10 minutes re-writing the M of I course for ski instruction. His own inimitable style resembled at first a windmill, then progressed to imitating a helicopter and finally compromised between the two. After many displays of aerobatic hotdogging he left to attend a wedding—it gave the rest of the course chance to stop laughing. The end of the course party went well with **Sig Terry Brice** giving a fine rendering of everything, with his borrowed guitar, well into the night.

Thanks for a lot of hard work must go to **Sgt Bruce Casburn** (Admin) and **SSgt Bill Dewhurst ACC**, for such amazing meals. Also a word for **Maureen** and **Douglas Gray** who kept the bar well stocked throughout—a fine achievement. Last but not least—well done **Peter Wheeler** (our friendly Jock instructor). He did not fall down?

**RIDING HIGH**

It is a pleasure to report that the equestrian origins of the Royal Corps of Signals have not been entirely lost to the smelly, noisy and nowhere near so friendly internal combustion engine. Nearly perhaps, but not quite—because in the recent Bedale Hunt Race the 'Service man or wife' class was won by **Mrs Pat Deverill**—wife of the Second-in-Command.

The Bedale is one of the Country's premiere hunts and the race attracted 50 competitors from far and wide. The two mile race was run over natural fences with perfect 'going'.

One up for the Regiment—or should it be the wives club? and a bottle of champagne for **Pat Deverill**.

Mrs Pat Deverill in a celebrating mood after winning the Bedale Serviceman's Race


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# ROYAL SIGNALS WHITE HELMETS SELECTION COURSE— NOVEMBER 1983 'NEVER VOLUNTEER FOR EVERYTHING'

**Report by Cpl 'Gaz' Crouch**

**WEEK 1**

Sunday 6 November brought 23 budding bikers from all walks of Corps life together for quote, 'two weeks of hard graft and lots of bruises'. Well, plenty of us got the bruises, amongst other things, as souvenirs.

For the next 12 days we were to suffer various activities under the watchful eyes of our two main tormentors. **Cpls 'Budgie' Burgess** (Team Cpl) and **D. J. Marooth**. The first week was mainly spent getting to know those loveable B40's Army Motorcycles and gaining confidence by riding around the moors (usually through plenty of mud) and trying our hand at various scramble type courses. **Sig 'Mini' Mynett** showed us all a very new trick called 'knocking yourself out by crashing into trees' and not to be outdone **Sig 'Blue' Beattie** had to follow it up with his masterpiece 'trying to break your legs by riding into trenches in top gear'. I'm pleased to say no serious harm was done and both riders are now with the team.

Most days when the light started fading we would all come back to camp (either riding or pushing dead bikes) spending the next couple of hours preparing the bikes for the next day's riding. Although on one occasion 'DJ' decided to lose all those attempting to follow him by riding off into the mist.

'The day the RSM came to visit'
WO1 (RSM) Miller of 11 Sig Regt has a go at the White Helmets comedy routine—Better luck next time Colin!

**WEEK TWO**

Week two was yet more spills and thrills but this time we all went off to RAF Catterick Airfield for show training in the hope that by Thursday we'd be good enough for the OC to watch. This time though, as well as using B40's we were lucky enough to use the teams bikes the Triumph Tiger 750cc. Well, Thursday morning finally arrived and everyone was anxiously waiting for the OC to arrive so that we could show him 'our effort'. The show itself went quite smoothly until the very last act when the Three Bike Fan decided to collapse, (13 men, 3 motorcycles and lots of pain), just as it was passing the OC. Anyway to the relief of **Sgt George Franklin** the Team Sergeant and the rest of us, the OC congratulated us on a good attempt and wished us all luck at whatever would be forthcoming. Funnily enough, Thursday night was the course social evening where all students and team members got together for a good session.

Back to earth with a crash next morning (we were spared PT) and the big day when **Capt Terrington**, the Team OC would individually give us the good or bad news on how we were to spend the next three years. Well, of the twenty three of us that started fifteen were selected for further training so now the real work begins.

Overall I think all of us on the course enjoyed ourselves and very few sense of humour failures occurred. I think most of us can say that the two weeks spent in Catterick were well worth it.

**WHY NOT?**

Why not have a go yourself? Interested in riding with the Team? Ask for an interview with your OC Squadron and volunteer now for selection 1984!

**LOOKING BACK AT THE 1983 SEASON**
**Report by Sig Andy Whitmore**

Following many months of hard training our first show was at RAF Marham on 9 April 1983. Unfortunately everything seemed to go wrong, due mainly to the new members of the team having show nerves. Soon after came the Opening Show at Helles Barracks and thankfully everything suddenly came together, all show nerves were overcome and everyone got on with the job in hand, producing a very enjoyable show for a number of school children from the local schools and more importantly for **Brig Sprackling**, the Garrison Commander, who went on to present the newcomers with their White Helmets.

From the end of April life was very hectic and we never stopped, the tour covered most of the counties in England with the team producing the goods for tens of thousands of people. We actually returned to Catterick to do a show for the RAF, our way of saying thank you to the 'boys in blue' for allowing us to train at the RAF Regiment Depot. The team arrived around noon, unpacked the kit and set up the arena. Everybody was dressed in Blues and ready to go, all we had to do was wait for the crowd, and wait we did because very few people turned up. The Station was hard at work while the Station Commander and a few other Officers watched yet another first class display by the Team.

A quick trip to Wales preceded the famous Burslem Festival, where the Opening Ride became the Opening Slide, with **LCpl Joey Little**, **Sig Jim Smith** and other riders and bikes dropping like flies, due to heavy overnight rain and a very boggy arena. The riders were re-called and the show started again at a slightly slower and more cautious pace. Second time round everything went smoothly, thank goodness, although we were well and truly covered in mud.

Sometime later we found ourselves at the Preston Services Tattoo. We were there for a couple of days and all shows went well. The night life in Preston was very impressive with the local talent outnumbering the men by about four to one. **Sig Jim Smith** asked a certain young lady for a dance, she refused and a totally dejected **Jim** returned to his seat falling over her handbag on the way, thus creating a new team dance 'The Handbag Stomp'.

Up and down the country again finishing in Middlesex where the OC, **Capt John Terrington** was the local boy and following tradition he was volunteered for the Fire Jump. So with the fire blazing he set off for the ramp, too slow, too late through the fire and in a heap on the other side with very nicely singed eyebrows and moustache. Never mind, better luck next time Sir! At the same performance **Sig John Tarbox** (Maggot) jumped the car, good jump, good landing, but he was heading for the crowd. 'Abort', and he did bending an inch thick cast iron stake with his knee. He now limps quite well; we all said it would have hurt less if it had been his head. After a rapid move north we arrived in Catterick for another brief visit for the Royal Signals Reunion and a very hectic weekend—rehearsals and a local show in Richmond left us very little time indeed. On the day all went well and the OC was invited to meet our **Colonel-in-Chief**.

After a few days break we set off once again this time for the Grenadier Guards Open Day, Pirbright. This must have been the hottest show we did all season with the sun baking the ground and no wind at all. I think everyone lost a couple of pounds that day, not least one of our larger members, **Sig Selwyn Froggatt**, but he soon put the calories back at lunch.

From Pirbright a short trip to London for the Wandsworth Weekend and more hot weather, at least we had an open air pool to cool off in and at no charge to team members, we were all quite happy. **Sig John Tarbox** was on hand again, this time he fell off the

CCM after a fairly spectacular car jumping, cutting his chin and had to go off to hospital for a couple of stitches. Happily he was OK, but not for want of trying, he's a glutton for punishment and in true White Helmets tradition he was riding again the following day.

August saw us at the Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo. This was a very enjoyable show to take part in and I think all the lads enjoyed it, two weeks in the same place made a very pleasant change too. **Cpl Terry Foster** decided to do his James Bond act after jumping the car he got off his bike and produced a box of Milk Tray chocolates for the Saluting Officer's wife. (Nice one **Terry**, but did you have to squash the box?). As in all large displays, the last night saw lots of extra unscripted acts and not to be outdone, the team rode in backwards, luckily we just avoided the moat, the crowd certainly appreciated it anyway.

After Wales we were all looking forward to the highlight of the season and our trip to the Channel Islands for the Royal Jersey Agricultural Show. We sailed from Portsmouth at 2230 hrs, the bar was open from 2300 hrs for the drinkers in the team and we arrived in Jersey at 0900 hrs, after a very pleasant calm crossing.

A quick unloading by the dockside and then a convoy ride across to the other side of the Island, we were bussed back to the accommodation to find nothing but a bare gymnasium with airbeds and sleeping bags lined up around the side—sense of humour failure. We had a good look around the place and through a door on one side of the gym discovered a fantastic indoor swimming pool with boards and all the mod cons, things started to look up, perhaps the boss hadn't got it all wrong again after all. A moment of doubt when we were dragged off down a hill for about 200 yards to eat, what next? The meals were out of this world, not surprising for a 4 Star Hotel, we were also allowed to use the bars and entertainment rooms in the hotel. Unfortunately the Team **Cpl 'Budgie' Burgess** was eating hospital food because he had developed an infected muscle (or so he said), never mind **'Budgie'**, we did two excellent shows a day for two days and then returned to the UK, leaving **'Budgie'** behind. Next time we go back, how about a couple of days off?

Out of August and into September at the Telford Super Saturday and Team Sergeant **George Franklin** assessed the situation and decided the show would go on despite pouring rain and boggy conditions. After a few slides we changed to a no ride show doing only balancing acts and completed it with everyone in one piece. We were glad that some of the audience watched the display, at least they were sheltering from the rain.

And so to the final show of 1983, the Six Day Enduro Opening Ceremony at Builth Wells, our most critical audience of the year and things went smoothly right up to the Closing Ride when **LCpl Bryan Monkman** and **Cpl Terry Foster** collided. Fortunately nobody was hurt and the show finished with a standing ovation. The racing teams convinced that the whole thing had been staged—well that's show business!

The 1984 season is only weeks away now and I only hope that it's going to be as exciting as last year, with three weeks in London for the Royal Tournament, I'm sure it will be.

'Oh what a lovely course'
The instructors break for lunch
Top table Sgt Fred Alexander (visiting)
Capt John Terrington
Sgt George Franklin and David Kettlewell our team mechanic

**OLD AND NEW**

Life is not all work and we do manage to enjoy ourselves despite our hectic routine. Last year we ended with our famous Christmas party a chance not only to welcome all the newcomers to the team but sadly a time also to say goodbye to some old friends. None more famous than **Sgt Fred Alexander BEM** after no less than eight years with us—this must be a record **Fred**! We all wish **Fred** and **Doreen** every happiness in their new business. Farewell also to **Sgt George Franklin**, he has now moved across to take over one of our RIT teams after a year with us—there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that he found our Triumph 750's too big although he is a lot happier on the electric motorbikes. We thought that 15 new Team members this year was enough, but some of the old hands have had other ideas. Again we welcome some even newer arrivals, a second baby to **Sig Sam Yasities** and his wife **Julie** and a baby boy for **Sig Ned Kelly** and **Anne**, congratulations to you all. Both have been registered as potential volunteers.

Sgt Fred Alexander and his wife Doreen—the first of the presentations. WO2(TSM) 'Ollie' Walton looks on, thinking perhaps about the day he leaves!



## 9 Sig Regt
## BFPO 58

**GOING STRAIGHT**

The Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms Meeting held on 15 February was won by 2 Sqn. The Squadron won The Roupell Cup, The Whittaker Trophy and Overall Best Team. **Sgt Cooney** won the SMG individual prize and was also the best overall shot.

The team;
Back Row: Cpl Brian Barker, Sig Eddie Fisher, LCpl Phil Bowker, Sig Dave Cameron, LCpl Tich Lee, Sig Phil Willett
Front Row: WO2 Ray Armstrong (Capt), Sig 'Charlie' Drake, Sgt Terry Cooney and Sig Steve Wilkinson

**BED RACE**

The saying 'Oh, my aching back' took on a new meaning for 60 of us. It all started in late December when the Commanding Officer **'Col Mike'** was bedded down in MRS Dhekelia with a back problem. Not being one to lay about, he deduced that a TV and Video system would make a stay more tolerable. Thus the idea of a race with teams from each of the three squadrons pushing slightly modified, souped-up standard NATO beds the 15 miles between Mercury Barracks and the main NAAFI shop in Dhekelia was formed.

The 4 March was chosen for the event, the day dawning cool and cloudy—ideal conditions for the activity. Three teams of 20 men, resplendent in special T-shirts, lined up with their machines (each machine sporting a suitably clad female) at the start. The RSM's wife started the competitors at 10 minute intervals, the sequence being 1, 2 and 3 Sqns respectively.

The pattern for the race was soon set, as by three miles both 1 and 3 Sqns discovered that the beds were not made for Cyprus roads and that military training did not cover bed-carrying. Both Squadrons lost valuable time as running repairs were made by the mobile LAD Workshop. 2 Sqn pushed on relentlessly and soon overtook 1 Sqn. From then on, there was no stopping 2 Sqn and the bed, which appeared to observers to be 'singing', opened up a lead of three miles at the five mile checkpoint, and had increased this to five miles by the finish.

A raptuous welcome was given by nurses and a crowd of shoppers as the triumphant 2 Sqn team finished in a time of 1 hour 45 minutes 57 seconds. The victorious 2 Sqn team then serenaded both 3 and and 1 Sqn teams to a rendition of 'Three Wheels on my Wagon' as they finished in times of 2 hours 19 minutes 7 seconds and 2 hours 53 minutes 47 seconds respectively.

The race raised over £700, enough to purchase three televisions. It has been suggested that this becomes an annual charity event; so, 1 and 3 Sqns, the challenge is there!

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# 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
## Wilton

**VISIT OF MAJ GEN J. M. W. BADCOCK CB MBE DL**

It was approx 1030 hrs on 16 March and the morning had been progressing according to plan. The CO **Lt Col Peter Webster** had left the working area to meet the Master in the Officers' Mess and introduce him to some of the Officers over coffee. As RHQ staff prepared for the next stage of the visit programme a Major General appeared, closely followed by **Inspector Bowyer** of the MDP saying 'You cannot park your car there, you're on double yellow lines'.

It took the Orderly Room **Sergeant Allison Pengelly** by surprise but as usual she showed her normal cool and explained that a slight error had obviously been made in the reception details. The remainder of the day ran like clockwork. The Master arrived at Caen Block and was ushered to our BRUNO where the CO, Adjt and RSM joined him for a photograph.

The Regimental Brief was presented in our new briefing room (which by pure coincidence had been completed only that morning!) and there were smiles all round when Adjutant **Capt Ian Griffiths** appeared one hour later. It certainly enhances a brief when the room is full of Corps history!

At lunchtime the Master moved on to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where he presented the Imperial Service to **Mr George Alec King** who had completed 35 years loyal and devoted service as a Government Telephonist.

This was followed by 'rogues return' when LS&GC medals were presented to **WO1(YofS) Bob McLaren, WO1(YofS) Taffy Dunbar** and **WO2 Paul Webster** for their exemplary service!?

We call upon all the mess members to remain silent and not to comment on any remarks made by the Master about undetected crime. The brewery, recipients and **RSM Fred Winton** kept the drinks flowing for the larger part of the afternoon whilst the Master, CO and OC 1 Sqn **Maj Len Jeffery** visited some of the out-stations.

The Master of Signals visits 10 Sig Regt and is pictured here with the CO, Adjt, RSM and Bruno. In the background Pte Williams R Anglian trying to pretend he isn't there!

The Master of Signals presents the LS&GC to WO1 (YofS) R. W. McLaren, WO1 (YofS) Dunbar and WO2 Webster

Mr George King receives his Imperial Service Medal from the Master of Signals

**MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION VISIT WILTON**

On Wednesday 15 February the RSM **WO1 Fred Winton** and members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess invited the Royal Signals Association, Salisbury Branch, for a social evening. The evening commenced with a glass of punch or real ale with compo biscuits and cheese.

It does one good to hear the old soldiers talking about Palestine and World War 1 and 2. (We have since changed the lighting system within the Mess). However as you can see from the photographs the boys enjoyed telling the CO exactly how it's all done.

Our 2IC, **Maj Ray Windmill** could not resist showing the new 10th Signal Regiment's tie off. The RSM, **WO1 (YofS) Bob McLaren** (shortly to be **Lt (Tfc) Bob McLaren**) and other R Signals members seem to have missed the photos, however it should be noted that they all wore Corps or Regimental ties!

Scenes from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess with members of the Salisbury Branch of the Royal Signals' Association

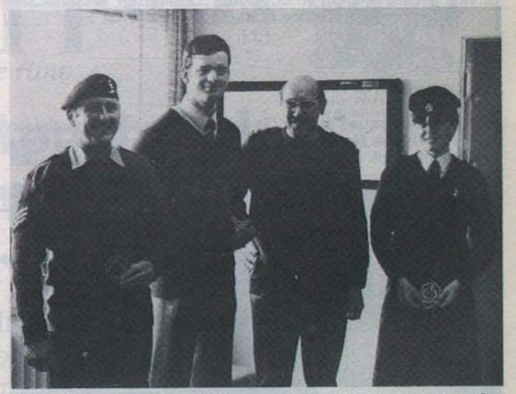
**ARMY COLOURS—CANOEING**

The CO presented Army Colours to three members of the Regiment for the following achievements:

**Sgt Jackson** is the World Champion K2 10,000m, GB Champion K1 500m and is a member of this year's Olympic Team.

**SSgt Day**—for representing the Army in the White Water Race.

**Cpl Maycock** also took part in the White Water Race and is the current Ladies Slalom Champion.



The CO presents Corps Colours to *Left to Right:* SSgt Day, Sgt Jackson and Cpl Maycock

**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM 1 SQUADRON**

Yet more Certificates' of Service have been presented to members of the Squadron, as can be seen from the following photographs.

The CO and OC 1 Sqn say farewell to Mr John Gwinnett who left the Regiment on 12 March after 28 years loyal service at Bovington Exchange

Mrs Joyce Saunders who left the Regiment after 24 years loyal service on 10 March at Bovington COMMCEN receives her Certificate of Service from the CO and OC 1 Sqn

**2 SQUADRON**

**SHQ**

16 March was a sad day for the Squadron as it waved goodbye to **WO2 (SSM) Mick Davis**. Before a farewell lunch in the Bruno Club, as the photograph shows, the SSM was presented with a cartoon of the Regiment's favourite bear and a pace stick to be brought into use the moment he receives 'the summons'. Needless to say his exit from the squadron was accomplished with all his characteristic grace and style. We all wish both the SSM and his wife, **Irene**, the very best of luck and good fortune at Blandford.

WO2 (SSM) Mick Davis complete with a 'laid-back' Bruno and pace-stick

2 Squadron say farewell to their SSM

**OSCAR TROOP**

Obviously **LCpl Di Craig**, the recently arrived Sqn PTI, is making her presence felt. The following letter was received by the OC Squadron:

**COMPLAINT AMOUNTING TO A WINGE**

I, 24018310 **Sgt Murkin**, having just completed a period of PT, feel most strongly that the new PTI should be posted.

The balance of my shift, locations below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **LCpl Radar Noott** | : | Halfway across the square (dying) |
| **LCpl Karina Elbourn** | : | Lying outside the Gym (dead) |
| **Sgt Brian Murkin** | : | Sitting on the Squadron Office floor (half dead) |

are in full agreement with me.

Please warn her off—!

Fortunately some of the squadron appear to be benefitting from all this extra PT. At the end of March seven members of O Tp and a lone representative from each of SWS Tp and Sp Tp completed a three day 85 mile sponsored walk from RHQ at Wilton to SHQ at Hounslow.

**Cpl Danny Vardon** takes up the story!

'Sponsored Walk? Yeah we'll do it, no problem it's easy!' So off we went.

Day one was from Wilton to Sutton Scotney. It shouldn't be too far really, just follow the A30. We started out at 0530 hrs, full of the joys of Spring, at a good pace, although it was still too slow for the super fit, namely **Sig Dave Giles** and **Sig Neil Martindale** who ran off way in front. 'There are not many hills' said **Cpl Danny Vardon** after the third hill. After the twelth we arrived at the Coach and Horses pub in Sutton Scotney, with **Pte Jackie Hassell** and **Sgt Claire Smith** first to the bar!!

Although the pub didn't stay open all afternoon the owner let us camp for the rest of the day and night in a room, so at 2100 hours all walkers were tucked up snugly in their sleeping bags looking forward to the second day's walk.

Day two started with a super breakfast especially cooked by a cook from 1 GREN GDS and then began the long trek to Camberley. After walking up the first hill legs loosened up and with the odd song from **LCpl Radar Noott** and **Sig Steve Gilbert** morale was pretty high. As we entered Hartney Witney the OC, **Maj John Stuart**, pulled up in a vehicle, leapt out and proceeded to walk along with us. The last eight miles were terrible—the road was so long. 'Does it ever end?' asked **Cpl Dean Marshall**. But it finally did, right at the gates of RMA Sandhurst. What a welcome sight! After a night sleeping on the floor of the Gym all were ready for another early start. This day was the easiest and our goal was Beavers Lane Camp.

As we arrived near Heathrow Airport our motor cycle escort arrived. With only three miles to go it seemed unbelievable that we'd walked all that way. Just a little more effort and we'd be home and dry. At 1345 we arrived through the gates of the camp amidst the cheers from members of the squadron and the clicking of cameras. There was a pint of lovely lager waiting for each of us and boy, did that go down well. We would like to thank all members of the Regiment who sponsored us. The money is destined for Guide Dogs for the Blind and hopefully there will be sufficient to enable a dog to be named after the Regiment.

'The end of the road'
Back Row *Left to Right:* Cpls Dean Marshall, Danny Varden, Sig Neil Martindale, Dave Giles and Steve Jones
Front Row *Left to Right:* LCpl Radar Noott, Sgt Claire Smith, Pte Jackie Hassell, Sig Steve Gilbert

**RADIO TROOP**

The troop competitive spirit has been maintained throughout the last month by an Orienteering Competition, a Driving Skills Competition and a Shooting Competition. The stars of the latter two competitions were **LCpl 'Gino' Fragola** in the driving and **Cpl Keith Dunk** in the shooting.

The last major event for the troop was a military training week at Warren Camp, Crowborough. The troop were involved both as participants and administrators and members of O Tp and Sp Tp also benefitted from the training. One of the O Tp sections was composed entirely of the 'fairer sex' and despite reservations on the part of OC R Tp, **Capt Nigel Moore**, they completed all the training in a most creditable manner, including the final forced march and assault course race!

Recently the troop has just completed a week's industrious preparation for PRE and are now experts at all types of de-rusting and re-spraying. They must now de-rust and re-spray their best kit and prepare themselves for yet another hectic summer ceremonial season, commencing with the State Visit of the Amir of Bahrain.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# 11 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**VISIT OF PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES**

**Lord Trefgarne,** PUS(AF) made a flying visit to the Regiment on 23 March 1984 and took the Pass Off Parade of No 2 Troop commanded by **Lt James Dryburgh**.

Lord Trefgarne takes the General Salute accompanied by Brig Maynard

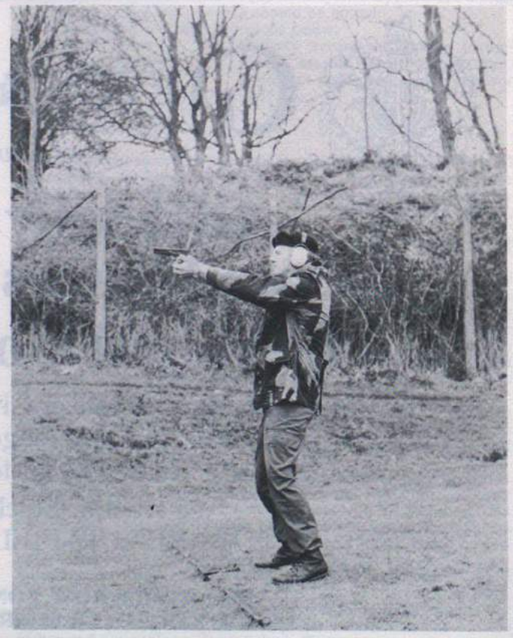
The Minister inspects the front rank

Sig Shelley meets Lord Trefgarne

The Minister meets Sig Maidment

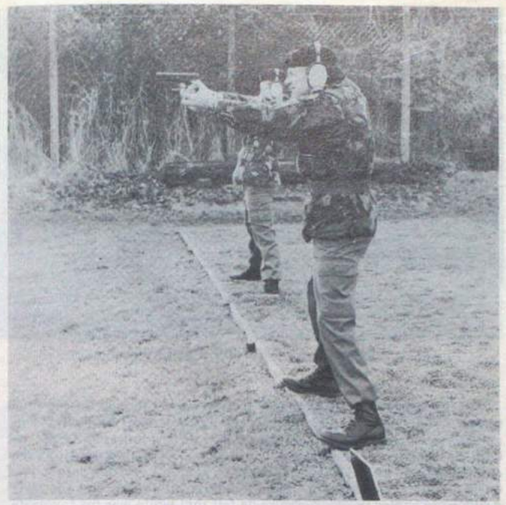
**11 SIGNAL REGIMENT TRIATHLON**

This event was held on 29 February, and for the 40 officers and men who took part it was only wishful thinking that this competition would only be held every leap year instead of annually! The day started with shooting on the 30m range, 9mm pistol; and when the final results were collated **Lt Col Brown** our Commanding Officer was in the lead. (There is no truth in the rumour that the competition will be renamed the Colonels Cup)! Although the competitors were in four man teams there were individual placings for each of the events.



The Winning Stance—Lt Col Brown in action





Capt Harris and Cpl Davidson concentrating on hitting the target

At 1130 hrs the regiment congregated at the Garrison Swimming Pool for the second event, three lengths of the pool (approximately 100 metres) freestyle in a team relay. When the last competitor had dragged himself from the water the results had already been computed and entered on the master board by **SSgt Chalky Williams APTC** who organised the whole show in a most efficient and enjoyable manner, ably assisted by **Cpls Hami Hamilton** and **Mo Lyons** our AIs.

The individual winner of the swimming was **Sig Batchelor** of 4 Troop.

Sig Batchelor receiving his medal for the first prize in the swimming

Finally the cross-country run. A gruelling course had been set and after a mass start by **Mrs Maynard**, the wife of **Brig F. R. Maynard** Comd Trg Gp. R. Signals and Catterick Garrison the runners were funnelled into almost single file uphill and down dale, through mud and rivers, finally finishing at the Gymnasium (where else?).

The winner of the cross country was **SSgt Graham 'Legs' Crossland** representing the Sgts' Mess team closely followed by **WO1 (SSM) Minty** of 1 Squadron.

SSgt Crossland receiving his prize for winning the cross-country

However after totting up all the team positions the winning team was 4 Troop commanded by **WO1 Philbrook** and the overall individual winner was **Sgt Young** of 2 Sqn, representing the Sgts' Mess team. A fine effort was put in by all competitors and after **Mrs Maynard** had kindly presented the prizes everyone who took part started training for next year; with the cadre determined not to let the recruits beat them again!

Sgt Young being presented with his trophy as the overall individual winner of the Triathlon by Mrs Maynard

Mrs Maynard talking to the recruits after the arduous cross-country run. Looking on is Maj Jack Boyle

**OF FOOT**

The 11th of Foot (so called because we have no vehicles of our own and also because of the CO's runs) has been extremely active in the sporting mode over the last few months.

**REGIMENTAL RUN**

The Regiment formed up on the main square at 1000 hrs on Thursday 1 March, for the five mile run, complete with pennants flying. The lean, mean (some leaner and meaner than others) recruits snarling and fidgeting like greyhounds awaiting the start of this now popular 0.187 of a Marathon. The order was given by **RSM Miller**, 'The Regiment will advance at the double (well ish!) the Commanding Officer leading', and off the Regiment went. **Brig Maynard** was serenaded by each troop in turn as they passed Training Brigade Headquarters, and the local population was left in no doubt that 11 Signal Regiment is alive and well and serving in Catterick. The next run is in May which we look forward to, as for the natives of Catterick—well, we'll see!

**INTER TROOP HOCKEY**

The old adage of 'what they lack in skill, they make up for in enthusiasm' most certainly applied to this event. Each troop put in a team as did the various messes and Squadron Headquarters. The eventual winners were 2 Troop who defeated the much fancied Sgts' Mess team.

**6 TROOP**

The troop formed back in November 1983 and passed off in February 1984. A severely depleted troop faced an arduous exercise in their ninth week of training thanks to the appalling weather conditions which had only a week previously caused 4 Troop to hold an indoor Pass Off Parade. As the pictures show, the recruits got on with the task well, and those who survived until the end (all 14 of them) showed great determination and endurance.

The OC doing a body search, looking for a terrorist called Trench Foot (famous socialist)

Not the warmest gun position

**Cpl 'Kero heater' Davidson** was seen to leave the back of the four tonner a few times (mainly to answer nature's call) and always to applause from the recruits. **Cpl 'Lichfield Livelies' Spiers** and **Cpl 'Air Gun Battleshot' Holmes** thrived (well that's what they said) on the cold conditions and all three did much to keep the recruits going. The OC **Lt Tony Jackson** did a good modelling job, trying out the 1942 Army issue winter smock, because he felt that white was his favourite colour, (London fashions don't lend themselves to exercises but then when did a Subby ever listen?) Unfortunately **Sgt 'Wobbly' Wight**, that renowned cockleshell hero, was demonstrating how to imitate a Guardsman (Royal Signals style) at the sacred Headquarters of Army Drill, Pirbright and so missed all the wintry goings on.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Exercise lovely Miss Tracy Thompson, Miss 6 Troop

Best Recruit Sig Barber receives his prize

Miss 6 Troop at close quarters

Col Verden talks to Sig Fernandes, the Best Shot

Cpl B. J. Spiers (and body guard) receiving the Best Section Award

As the pictures show, there was one bright part to the exercise in the gorgeous form of Miss 6 Troop, **Tracy Thompson**. **Tracy** appeared for a short time on the exercise to have these photos taken alongside an incredulous group of recruits that had, hitherto, refused to believe the cadre could work miracles. The Best Recruit was **Sig Barber** and **Sig Fernandes** won the Best Shot. A TA Detachment Commanders Course came and went and a mention should be given to the Best Student, **Cpl Jackson** from 31 Sig Regt.

**TUG OF WAR**

The inter-troop tug of war was held on 19/20 March 84 in the Regimental Gymnasium. There had obviously been some expert coaching from within the troops, especially **Cpls Spiers** and **Shingler**. After much exhausting pulling the eventual winners were 4 Troop in the 540 Kilo class and 6 Troop in the 640 Kilo class. It was a well run event thanks to **WO1 Harris.**

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

The major event of the last two months in our Regimental life has been the handover of Commanding Officers from **Lt Col M. P. Walker** to **Lt Col G. W. Howard**. We wish **Lt Col Mike** and his wife **Pauline** every best wish for their new posting and welcome **Lt Col Gordon** and **Elizabeth** into the Regiment.

Handover of Commanding Officers. Lt Col M. P. Walker (left) hands over the Regiment to Lt Col G. W. Howard

**VISIT OF MAJ GEN M. S. GRAY OBE**

On the 15 February we were honoured by a visit from the Chief of Staff HQ BAOR, **Maj Gen M. S. Gray OBE**. He toured the Regiment and presented LS&GC medals to: **WO1 Kathleen Boocock, WO2 (FofS) Brian Gardner** and **Sgt 'Tich' McKeating**.

Maj Gen M. S. Gray after presenting LS&GC medals to Sgt McKeating, WO1 Boocock and WO2 (FofS) Gardner

**3 SQN**

Since our last issue the following changes have occurred in the Squadron—Departures **Sgt** (now **SSgt**) **John Webster, LCpls Phil Ashworth, Phil Bracey** and **Phil Stringfellow, Cpl Dave Smith, WO2 (now WO1) Brian Ward** and finally **WSgt Wendy Coulling** to 'Civvy Street' and motherhood. Farewell! Arrivals **WSgt Jan Sykes, Sgt Steve Hughes, Cpls John Pugh, Andy Ashwell** and **Bob Ravenscroft, LCpl Mark Littlewood** and **WO1 Dennis Weir**. Welcome! Congratulations **WO1 Dave Hankins** and **WO2 Robbie Seaword** on promotion; **WLCpl Jackie Wood** on her marriage. On the birth of their babies, the following—**LCpl** and **Mrs Dave Walton RPC, Sgt** and **Mrs Paul Woodword** and **LCpl** and **Mrs Kev Mason**. A further increase in Squadron numbers is soon expected.

On the social scene the Squadron has held many functions. During December two Christmas functions were organised by **SSgt Dave Green** and his committee. The first was for the children and included a magician and also the arrival of 'Santa' **(Cpl Taff Jones)**, by helicopter. At the end of December the parents enjoyed a successful Christmas function which included a superb buffet and over twenty prizes in a draw. It was obviously a well run draw as the OC **Maj Alan Griffiths** was a lucky prize winner.

Two more recent functions were a dining-out for the previous CO **Lt Col Mike Walker** then a Squadron disco party to welcome the new CO **Lt Col G. W. Howard**. This party was organised by **SSgt Bob Crockart** and his committee.

On the sporting scene the Squadron has had mixed fortunes. **SSgt John Sands** has seen the demise of his football squad but **SSgt Paul Williams** is looking very pleased with the success of the Basketball team, the Squadron becoming Berlin Minor Unit Champions. Regular team members were—**WO2 (SSM) Bill Metcalfe, SSgt Dave Green, SSgt Paul Williams, SSgt Bob Crockart, Cpls Nick McCreedy, Tony Patchett, LCpl Nigel Vagg** and **Mr Bob Coupling**.

Badminton is still a notable success for some members of the unit. In the recent individual championships of BZ, organised by **SSgt Dave Green** as Badminton Secretary (Berlin), **Mr Bob Coulling** won the Men's Singles Competition. In the mixed doubles **Mr Coulling** and **WLCpl Hazel Budden** were runners-up. **WLCpl Budden** has managed other sporting successes, notably in WRAC netball where she has represented Berlin and has been selected as a BAOR squad member.

**H TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Andy Field** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Bill Hogg** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Bob Bowman BEM** |
| **OPWO** | **WO1 Pete Westwell** |
| **AOPWO** | **WO2 Mick Green** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Brian Gardner** |

H Troop life has continued apace since our last foray into the *Wire* on the occasion of the Wilkinson Sword Presentation.'

November brought Ex *November Knockabout* with shift workers and day workers alike pounding across the countryside and around the local Bundeswehr training area. The Exercise produced its usual share of war stories such as the intrepid LCpl who, when under attack at dawn, rallied his men with a superbly phrased question 'Shall we attack them'? For this he received the troop prize for inspired leadership under pressure. Troop initiative was put to another stern test when a dyke had to be crossed without the aid of a bridge. A certain Cpl found that floating debris does not constitute a stepping stone and another plunged straight across tactically camouflaged in his blue dustbin liners. Despite the stories the Exercise proved to be interesting and varied and both DS and students benefitted from it.

The Christmas celebrations culminated in an Anglo-German Christmas party in the Bundeswehr barracks at Neu Tramm. It says something for the standard of Anglo-German relations when our German friends outnumbered the troop by over two to one.

January saw intense military training in preparations for the annual visit by Comd 7 Armd Bde on 2 February. The day started with a call out and a period of in barracks training and a march. The troop was split into sections and the whole day was spent in NBC kit and carrying large packs. Along a march route were NBC and First Aid Stands. Each section was then made a carry to casualty (the section commander) for the last kilometer.



The end of the march turned out to be the local range and the final test was a competition shoot in respirators. The day went well and the troop were congratulated on their efforts by **Brig Swinburn**.

**Sgt Allen**'s section ran out winners but everbody had put in a great effort and were justly awarded by having the next day's PT period cancelled!

The end of February marked another milestone in H Troop history. A changeover of Sergeant Majors. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Hooks** had been at H Troop for nearly four years and was a local institution. We wish him well in his new career in Dubai and welcome his successor **WO2 (SSM) Bob Bowman** to the hot seat.

**THE POWER**

Late February also saw a highly successful wives' day out on the local training area. On a cold Saturday morning the H Troop wives were taught map reading and first aid. **SSgt Tom Lorrigan** was the brains behind the day and deserves a special mention. The wives' pressure group has dictated that the H Troop photos should reflect the power behind the throne so the photos supplied show the wives in all their glory!

H Troop is now gearing itself for its next event which is the presentation of the Freedom of Dannenberg on 29 May. The new Sergeant-Major is looking forward to it and the OC has more grey hairs because he remembers the Wilkinson Sword parade.



H Troop wives adopting mixed dress for their days exercise

CO 13 Sig Regt Lt Col Mike Walker opening the new technical accommodation at H Troop

**EXERCISE *LONG BACKSTOP***

Although the Regiment does not pride itself as a potential entrant for the Princess Marina Cup—it decided this winter to do something in addition to slipping a few members away on the Rhine Area Snow Queen.

Seven of the Regiment including the 2IC **Maj John Hincks** went to Obermmergau where in six days he taught them to langlauf; or in two hours according to rumour and the six days were spent over 160 kms improving style. As a finale all entered, plus 1,000 others, the King Ludwig 30 kms race. Performances in this 'ad hoc' Regimental 30 kms langlauf race varied from the 2IC having to rewax four times, to **'Herr Pommes Frite' Tomlinson** getting waylaid at the first drinks stop. However, all finished the course and considering it was only their seventh time on skis: the following are to be congratulated for their timings:

| | |
|---|---|
| **WLCpl Susy Evans** | **2.56 hrs** |
| **Cpl Dave Williams** | **3.03 hrs** |
| **Cpl Frank Lindsay** | **3.10 hrs** |

**WLCpl Rose Piper** was heard to mutter at the end of the race 'give me the Nijmegan Marches any time' whilst our Estate Warden **WO1 John O'Kell** was singing 'Once in a Lifetime' but he felt that it could be a leisure sport for the over 50s provided the 2IC wasn't around.

Just to prove that even the 2IC gets tired, cultural visits were made one day to Schloss Linderhof, Hohen Schwangau, Neuschwanstein, Weiss Kirche and the MacDonalds at Garmisch Partenkirchen. Evening entertainment was usually two hours relaxing in the heated outside pool between rolls in the snow, followed by good Bavarian cooking.

On the last day we all watched the 65 kms race at the 42 kms and 64 kms point. The 42 kms point was at the top of about 1½ kms uphill drag. Observing that the first two competitors—a Norwegian and a Finn—neither was breathing hard, never mind not having raised a sweat, **Cpl Frank Lindsay** was despatched immediately to BOBC Norway to find out the secret of the Scandinavian success.

The Magnificent Seven Strikes Again
*Left to Right:* Cpl F. Lindsay, WO1 J. O'Kell, WLCpl R. Piper, Maj J. Hincks, WLCpl S. Evans, Cpl D. Williams, Sig C. Tomlinson

**JUDO**

13 Signal Regiment are the BAOR Major Units Judo Champions. The team of five entered the championships held at Sennelager on 2 March and fought their way through to the final where they beat the 2nd Bn Royal Green Jackets by three bouts to two. This is the first time a Signals unit has won the trophy.

The team consisted of: **WO2 (QMSI) George 'Warlord' Bryson, SSgt Jim Leivers, Cpl Ian Vernon, LCpl 'Cav' Kavanagh, Sig 'Gaz' Payne.**

Congratulations to **Cpl Ian Vernon** on the award of his Combined Services Colours.

Regt Judo team, *left to right:* Cpl Ian Vernon, LCpl Cav Kavanagh, Lt Col M. P. Walker, WO2 (QMSI) George Bryson, Sig Gaz Payne, SSgt Jim Leivers

There is a story doing the Judo circles that **QMSI George Bryson** has been taken out of mothballs, for there were certainly a few surprised faces at Sennelager when he was asked to referee and he retorted 'I've come here to fight'. **QMSI Bryson** has now been a member of the winning team seven times, six with 40 Field Regt RA (1974 to 1979) not to mention a hat trick of Army Championships (1977-1979). The Regiment will be hosting the Army Championship in May 1984 when the team meets the UK finalists.

**FOOTBALL**
**INTER TROOP KNOCKOUT CUP**

At the start of this competition HQ Sqn 'A' and 2 Sqn were the joint favourites. However, B Troop were to prove the regimental pundits wrong in this case. The B Troop team, captained by **LCpl Reg Varney**, deservedly won their semi final match against HQ Sqn 'A' by three goals to two. The final, between B Troop and 2 Sqn, ended with a convincing win for B Troop by three goals to one. This match was played in difficult conditions and B Troop's victory was the result of a fine display of teamwork.

Bravo Troop Football Team
Back Row: SSgt Pete Cooper, Cpl Bryan Barnes, LCpls Nigel Crowther, Andy Chapman, Sig Steve Bradley, WO1 Terry Rush, LCpl Willy McNaughton
Front Row: Sgt Brian Thomson, LCpl Nigel Watton, LCpls Tim Varney, Richie Maddock, Sig Paul Dunn
(Missing from photo SSgt Jim Leivers who was in UK for the final)

**VISIT OF COMD COMMS TO DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE**

On 7 March 1984 Commander Communications BAOR **Maj Gen Hild MBE** visited the Training Wing and Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course 2/84. He was shown various aspects of the training after inspecting the course on parade. The highlight of the visit was the presentation of a plaque to **LCpl Ian Flooks** of 21 Signal Regiment who had obtained Top Student on the course with an A grading which was the first to be awarded since 1980.

The Training Wing staff are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Gordon Blood** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) John Aspinall** |
| **QMSI** | **WO2 (QMSI) George Bryson** |
| **Staff Instructors** | **Sgt Mick Campbell, Sgt 'Ginge' Cox, Sgt Paul Donovan** |
| **WRAC PTI** | **WSgt June Molloy** |
| **Wing Clerk** | **Sig Tony Stephens** |

Maj Gen Hild inspecting the parade and talking to LCpl Keith Dobson

LCpl Ian Flooks receiving the plaque for 'Top Student' from Maj Gen Hild. *Left to Right:* Lt Col Walker, Maj Gen Hild, Capt Blood, LCpl Flooks and Lt Col Howard

An informal chat with LCpl Callum Miller after the inspection



# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**VARIETY . . .**

The last few months in 14 Sig Regt (EW) have been notable for their variety of activities, everything from hosting a visit by the War Graves Commission to a 'trip to Norway'.

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

As usual however, we begin our contribution with the farewell's and hello's. We say goodbye and thank you to one of 14's longest serving members of the Regiment, **Mr Scott Harvey** (hope the Tupperware sales go well!) to OC's 2 and 3 Sqns **Majs Robin Hill** and **Dick Gardner**, OC Oscar Tp **Capt Steve Andrews**, to SSM 2 Sqn **WO2 Harry Maddison**, to **SSgts Gordon Air, Dave Cormack** and **Jim Black**, to **Sgts Mike Hanrahan, Taff Thomas, Keith Parker, Dave Duncan, Ken Shaw, Colin Marsden**, to **LCpls Ian Roberts, 'Geordie' Stobbs, Wally West**, and **Sig Dave Brabrook, Steve Lamont** and **Gary Fraiers**. We wish them and their families all the best.

On the Hello side we welcome to the Regiment **Graham Keith, Majs John Burnage** and **Richard Hewitt, Lt Ian Cameron-Mowat, SSgt Modley** and **Cpl Graham Shedd**.

**OUR BINNER HAS FINALLY BEEN BINNED**

The photograph shows the CO of 14 Sig Regt **Lt Col Bill Roper**, the TOT **Capt Bob Wherry, WO1 (RSM) Mick Fogg** and members of TOT's staff bidding farewell recently, to what surely must be, one of the oldest vehicles in BAOR. 'The Beast' as it was affectionally known to the TOT's staff has been in continuous service with the Army since 1952 and with the Regiment since its formation in Celle six years ago.

This Ford Thames vintage vehicle is not doomed for the scrap heap however, in her camouflaged livery and sporting the Regimental Crest it is being driven by **LCpl Preston** and **Sig Naylor** to the Corps Museum in Blandford Camp Dorset to find a nostalgic place in the history of the Royal Signals.

**FAREWELL TO WO2 (SSM) HARRY MADDISON**

On 17 April, the Sergeants' Mess said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Maddison**, on completion of 22 years service. During his tour with the Regiment **WO2 Maddison** had spent so much of his time dressed in track suit and woolly hat, that the Sergeants' Mess decided to turn the tables on him. Unknown to him all mess members arrived at the mess dressed in track suits and woolly hats, as ordered by the **RSM WO1 (RSM) Mick Fogg. WO2 Maddison** turned up at the Sergeants' Mess in suit and tie, and for the first time ever he was the only one not in track suit! We wish **Harry** and **Di** all the best in civvy street.

WO1 (RSM) Mick Fogg presents a leaving gift to a surprised WO2(SSM) Harry Maddison

**EXERCISE *AVALANCHE EXPRESS 84***

During the month of March, the Regiment wished a 'warm' farewell to **Capt Bob Williamson** and **Lt John Davis** as they set off for the chillier environment of Norway to act as part of a multi national EW umpire team on Ex *Avalanche Express 84*.

The short notice to go meant a rather rushed trip to Hannover to catch the plane for Oslo. Unfortunately there was not a connection to their base at Bardufoss, Northern Norway and 'alas' they had to mark time with an overnight stay in Oslo. Our intrepid 'duo' arrived in Bardufoss kitted out in the latest Arctic equipment deciding to show the rest of the umpires how we do it in '14' sleeping in a wooden hut rather than the plush Norwegian Hotel (who said anything about no NRSA). While the pair agreed the equipment kept them warm **John** wasn't too amused the night **Bob** decided to sleep outside to test the sleeping bag. For while **Bob** spent a restful night, **John** nearly froze to death, **Bob** having left the hut door open! After this it was just as well that the two were split up.

**Bob** spent his week monitoring the Americans at work, gaining a useful insight into their methods of operation and different equipment used. While he thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with the 'Yanks' and was extremely well hosted by **Capt 'Big Daddy' Barnes**, after he severely dented his nose in his 6th Jeep accident, he wasn't too polite about American Drivers!

**Lt John Davis**, meanwhile was being looked after by the Norwegians, hosted by **Lt Stein Brauten**, he was delighted to see similar equipment and felt quite at home with his umpire duties. The week was definitely declared a success by our two travellers with a unique opportunity being given to see how the other side lives and operates. It was hoped to show some stunning photographs to emphasise their trip but unfortunately 'Norgin the Norse' ran off with the film.

**VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH AND GERMAN WAR GRAVES COMMISSION TO CELLE**

With the Station Commander of Celle away during the end of March it fell to **Lt Col Bill Roper** as acting Station Commander to host a visit by representatives from both the British and German War Graves Commission on the 27 and 28 of March to Celle.

The party consisted of **Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough RAF Retd**, Vice Chairman of The War Graves Commission, **Brig T. D. G. Quayle** Defence and Military Attache Bonn, and **Lt Col Bill Roper** as representatives of the British side with the German side being represented by **Gem Niemark** (Retd), from the War Graves Commission and **Oberst's Scharkovske** and **Jansen**, respectively Commander and Deputy Commander of 33 Panzer Bde.

The visitors, who had dined in the Officers' Mess the night before, were collected outside their Hotel at 0850 hrs on a cold but thankfully dry day. The aim being to 'fit in' as many cemeteries as they could before lunch. In all the party visited four Cemeteries in the local area; The British Cemeteries at Becklinger and Celle and the two main German Cemeteries in Celle, the Waldfriedhof and the Stadtfriedhof.

At each cemetery the two senior representatives, **Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough** and **Gen Niemak**, paid their respects following the laying of two wreaths by a British and a German soldier at the various memorials to the war dead.

In all the visit was very successful and the representatives from the commission got an opportunity to speak to both British and German representatives at the respective cemeteries. The morning was happily concluded over an excellent lunch hosted by 33 Panzer Bde.

NB The Assistant Adjutant was heard to breathe a large sigh of relief on conclusion of the visit having spent most of the previous week trying to find the various cemeteries in Celle.

Brig Quayle having discussions with Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough (Retd) and General Niemak (Retd)

Cpl Hughes pays his respects as his German Counterpart lays his wreath


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**THE SQUEEZE**

This has been a busy couple of months which was dominated by an Inspection of Establishment Team who put the whole Regiment through a fearful four week's inquisition. What an ordeal! It was made even worse by the simultaneous visit of the Ex *Lean Look* Team. Impeccable timing! Does this mean there's a squeeze? Lets look at the lighter side of life and what could be lighter than Karneval in Germany.

**KARNEVAL**

One of the perks of being stationed in Krefeld within the Rhine Land is that Karneval is celebrated to the limits of physical and mental endurance during the week before Lent. The Regiment played its part to the full under the leadership of **Lt Sandy Gallie** and **Lt Debbie Smith WRAC**. They had been mobilised into action with the edict, 'The Commanding Officer desireth a float to appear in the Rosenmontag parade'. Just one week later, the organising team had transformed a 4 tonner into Nottingham Castle and produced the period costumes for a Robin Hood tableau. The result, which also doubles as a new urban camouflage for a 4 tonner, is shown in the photograph. Many members of the Regiment worked hard and long to ensure that the venture was a complete success. Particular mention must go to **Ptes Beverley Daubney** and **Eunice Bolder** who slaved over sewing machines in order to produce the costumes. Our photograph shows that they did receive some masculine assistance! The float appeared in two processions; a Children's Karneval at Stahldorf (a suburb of Krefeld) and the main Rosenmontag Parade through the streets of Krefeld which lasted for over three hours. The Party after the Rosenmontag procession must have been exceptional not one of the participants can remember enough to give the author of this article any notes!

The Anglo-Germany Society run by the Regiment with our friends from Krefeld is a thriving concern with over 400 German members. A natural choice for the February meeting was Fancy Dress Karneval Party. A riotous evening was held in the Village Hall attended by a good mixture of Germans and by members of the Regiment. Everyone (almost) turned up in fancy dress but a particular mention must go to our MT Troop who turned up in force in marvellous costumes. **LCpl 'Scouse' Lamb** as **Mrs Mopp** won the best dressed ladies prize, which to his disgust turned out to be a lady's powder compact. Also worthy of mention were our two girls from St Trinians, **Cpl Andrea Mills** and **Pte Lorraine Watson**, the schoolboy complete with short trousers and cap—**Cpl 'Speedy' Brannigan** and finally not forgetting **Maj Ian Grant** dressed in a superb clown outfit. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of the Krefeld Karneval Prince and Princess together with their large brightly uniformed entourage—a Cabinet, a Cavalry Guard and their Foot Guards (who do all the drinking and fighting for them). The Karneval Prince's planned 10 minutes quick visit lasted over an hour! An unforgettable evening particularly for **Maj Ian Grant** who had the unenviable task of clearing the bar at the end of the evening.

LCpl George Vance and Sig Kevin Yates making 'cute' paper flowers to decorate the Karneval float

As can be seen by Pte Beverly Daubney's (Maid Marion) expression everyone enjoyed themselves and is eager to volunteer for 1985!

*Left to Right:* Cpl Noree Swainson, Lt Sandy Gallie, LCpls George Vance, David Done, Ptes Beverly Daubney, Mary Rutter, Cpl Collin Dale, Sig Lar Taylor, Pte Eunice Bolder, LCpl Adrian Cheeseman, Sig Kevin Yates and LCpl Anthony Kitcatt

**LIPPSTADT MARCHES '84**

The onset of Spring brings on the Volkslaufen and Volksmarching activities throughout Germany. **Capt Jim Allen** whipped together a Regimental team consisting of 14 Royal Signals soldiers, nine WRAC members, five RAF attachments and one civilian 'house-husband'. He even persuaded the CO's wife **Mrs Pip Kerr** to attempt the march. What looked like being a very cold and wet March day turned out to be a pleasant sunny stroll in the Lippstadt countryside for the 31 strong team. All team members completed the 20 kilometre walk and some found not only that their feet became hot and red but that their faces were tanned by the bright sunshine and sharp breeze or was it that the refreshment mints were too hot! The march was followed by an Officers' Mess Karneval Party and there is no truth in the rumour that some walkers attended the evening function dressed as 'tender foots'.

We would like to thank 22 Sig Regt for organising such an enjoyable and well administered event. We were greatly impressed by the large numbers of Germans and British military taking part.

**WHERE THERE'S SMOKE—**

Casual visitors to Bradbury Barracks on Saturday 10 March could have been forgiven for believing that the Sergeants' Mess had caught fire! However, they would have been wrong in calling out the fire picquet, for the bellowing smoke had been caused by certain stalwart mess members participating in the first, and by now infamous 16 Signal Regiment Sergeants' Mess Pipe Smoking Championship. Although a couple of individuals blew hot and cold, competition was hot. Through the kind assistance of some tobacco suppliers who cannot be mentioned in these pages, the Mess was well supplied with smoking material. Each competitor brought his own pipe and having been issued with tobacco and just one match for the 'firing the instrument' the game was ready. The Mess Caterer **Sgt Charles O'Neill** (known to all as 'Lawrence of Liverpool') gave the memorable order 'Fire your Instruments' and the battle of the giants began to the background theme of 'Chariots of Fire'. It was a fair and well fought contest although one competitor (who should be called 'Lop-sided Ron' to maintain his anonymity) was observed trying to slip a matchstick into the mouthpiece of another competitor's Smoking instrument. Special mention must be made of one of the more recent converts to the 'briar', namely **WO2 Gary Mason**, who despite continuous complaint throughout the competition of feeling sick, managed a very creditable performance of 54 minutes. At the end of the day the champion of champions emerged triumphantly, still puffing merrily away after one hour, 10 minutes and 32 seconds, in the shape of **Mr Ronald Thurgood**. At the close of the competition before receiving his trophy, **Ron** was overheard asking someone for a cigarette! When interviewed by the author **Mr Thurgood** produced his winning pipe and demonstrated the concealed compartments; used today for the storage of approximately 2 ozs of tobacco. He explained that he had originally found the instrument on some forgotten battlefield on the Somme but he believed that it has been first designed as primitive counter surveillance device. It is hoped to have challenge competitions in the near future involving other Messes in the Regiment.

To warn potential Competitors their final results were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | **Mr Ronald Thurgood** | 1 hour, 10 mins, 32 secs |
| 2nd | **WO2 Gary Mason** | 54 mins |
| 3rd | **WO2 (ORQMS) Ray Duffy** | 35 mins (It was his idea) |

**OVERHEAD ON EXERCISE *FAST BUCK***

One of the continuing delights in serving in a mixed Regiment is the double blunder or plain gaffe which arise when traditional terminology is used in mixed company. While we keep our domestic 'lines' for private consumption those involving outsiders are always worth mentioning. A WRAC mainstream officer in Hilo Control when using a BRUIN telephone for the first time was heard to say:-'

'SSgt, I have got one way speech on my telephone, can you help please?'

The Intrepid Foreman of 3 Sqn **SSgt (FofS) Ken Smith** replied:-

'Certainly ma-am, have you pressed your tit!'.

**ARMY 10 PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP**

Our much travelled band of 10 Pin Bowlers were fortunate enough to be invited to the Army Championships held at the Charrington Bowl, in Tolworth during early March. They produced very creditable performances. In the singles, among a total of 257 entrants **Cpl Mick Harrison** came 43rd, **SSgt Bill Martin** came 128th and **Sgt Bruce Cooksey REME** was 194th.

**FAREWELL TO COMD COMMS BAOR**

On the evening of 15 March Royal Signals officers serving West of the Rhine and from Berlin assembled in the Officers' Mess to bid formal farewell to **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE**. Officers from HQ BAOR, (less Comms Branch who had their own separate farewell) HQ 4 Sig Gp, HQ NORTHAG and from 13, 16, 21, 28 and 29 Signal Regiment acted as hosts in what proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening. **Gen Henry** left not only with a presentation of a pre World War 2 Field Telephone to add to his collection of historical instruments but also with a previously undiscovered talent for Kegling, developed in a demanding contest held in the Cellar Kegle Barn. The evening continued very late as it was an unusual opportunity for the officers of the 4 Signal Regiments in Rhine Area to get together.

Comd 4 Sig Gp Col M. Hales presents Comd Comms BAOR with a German World War 2 Magneto field telephone. Lt Col I. E. Kerr looks on. Cpl Andrew O'Shea, Officers' Mess Steward is standing in the background having proved that the telephone worked

**KREFELD RODBENDERS ANGLING CLUB**

The Krefeld Fishing Team, found mainly from 16 Sig Regt, have had a successful 1983 season culminating in winning the BAOR championships. The team consisted of **SSgt Alfie Hall, Mr Glen Nixon, Cpl Dave Henry, Mr George Letting,** and **Nick Lewis**. They have won a total of over 60 cups as either team or individual trophies. Their results have also included a first in the Rhine Area Still Water; the third in the Rhine Area Running Water and second in the Rhine Area Open Championships. The clubs Endeavour trophy, awarded to the person who has contributed most to the Rodbenders Club over the past year was won by **Mr George Barclay** the club's Match Captain. The Rodbenders Club is undergoing some turbulence in its otherwise still waters! Over the past few months we have said farewell to the following members: **WO1 Roy Coffill, Cpls Spiro Agnew, Collin Greaves** and **Dave Brown**. Shortly we will also be saying farewell to one of our top anglers, **SSgt Alfie Hall**. But most particularly we will be saying a final farewell to the Club's President, **Maj Ron Finister** who has always supported the Club during his long stay in Krefeld. So if there are any 'hatching' fishing officers out there in the Corps, 16 Sig Regt is the place to be. The fishing is not quite as it was portrayed in 'Auf Weidersehen Pet'.

**WOMEN'S SERVICES BAOR ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Despite the involvement of most of the Regiment on Ex *Flying Falcon* a female Orienteering Team gathered on a cold rainy morning in early April. Having journeyed from Krefeld to Menden the weather at least became drier. The team consisted of **Capt Emma Ford, WRAC/RAEC** from Krefeld's Education Centre, **Capt Gill Gibson, WRAC/REME** OC LAD, **Sgt Millie Jeffrey** from 28 Signal Regiment and **Cpl Fred Sleighthorne** from 1 Sqn. Having rendezvoud at the start and hoping that they would not have much difficulty fitting the map to the ground, the team discovered that Menden includes woods and hills, features not found in the Krefeld Area. However the team set off enthusiastically and did produce some very good personal times. The result was that the three best times were sufficient to beat our closest Women's Services rivals 29 Company WRAC, and so 16/28 Signal Regiments were left to collect the prizes! **Capt Emma Ford** was the outright winner of the competition.

**16 SIGNAL REGIMENT—RHINE AREA ARMY SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY CHAMPIONS**

They'd had it tough! The war had taken its toll! Reinforcements were still 30 kms away; the replen trucks had been shelled and the ammo was running short. Many casualties were still fighting on despite the blood pouring from their wounds. The enemy artillery barrage had kept them pinned down while the infantry advanced rapidly but still the men of 16 Sig Regt managed to claw their way back from Ex *Flying Falcon* to play in the Rhine Area Army six-a-side hockey championships.



The tournament started on a League basis when the first match saw the shell shocked and battle weary team go down 2—0 to Rheindahlen Garrison. After a sharp talking to from the Skipper **Maj 'Willy' Brewin** the team came out revitalised. A fine run down the left by **Cpl Andy 'Snake' Chalmers** who crossed the ball for **SSgt Bill Martin** to slot home, which made the score 1—0, which was enough to see the team go through to the quarter finals. Here the team met their old rivals 28 Sig Regt but this time came out as victors, after a fine individual goal from **SSgt Ron Lewis (RAPC)**. In the semi finals the time was extended by 10 mins each way and play was end to end but again the team came out on top. After a fierce drive across the 'D' by **SSgt Steve Bibby, Cpl Andy Chalmers** glanced the ball past the keeper which saw '16' go through to meet '13' in an all Signals final.

The pace of the game was really fast and chances were created at both ends but '13' were the first to convert, taking an early lead. '16' soon equalised but both teams failed to capitalize on some fine opportunities. With the score 1—1 extra-time was played, with fatigue setting in to all players, but the final outcome remained at a 1—1 draw.

Penalty flicks then became the deciding factor with each team taking three. When the '16' Keeper **Cpl Dave Young** scored the 1st '13' penalty this became the open door and 16 had clinched it winning 3—2 with successful flicks from **Maj Willy Brewin, SSgt Ron Lewis** and **Cpl Steve Swithenbank** (his first goal for the club).

The team now go through to the BAOR six-a-side competition.

**WOMEN'S SERVICES NETBALL 4 SQN/BIELEFELD GARRISON**

The end of March marked the culmination of the Netball season with the Army Inter-District Championships in Aldershot. Having won the BAOR Inter-Unit Competition in Rheindahlen against some strong opposition, earlier in the season, the 4 Sqn/Bielefeld Garrison team went on to represent BAOR in Aldershot and won. For the most part the matches were fast and furious and in particular, the games against York Garrison and COD Bicester were very competitive.

The team have trained hard throughout the season and have remained unbeaten in all Inter-unit, league and friendly matches. Our successes have been largely due to the enthusiasm and coaching skills of **Sgt Pat Darby** but credit should go to all members of the squad who have given so much of their time over the winter months: **Lt Jenny Chambers, Sgts Pat Darby, Bernie McNamara, Cpls Jan Bird, Kim Ward, Tela Aga, Fiona Will, LCpls Leona Evans, Alison Hickman, Jay Mullin** and **Pte Helen McElhinney**.

**Sgt Pat Darby, Cpls Jan Bird** and **Kim Ward** were subsequently selected to represent BAOR Women's Services against RAF Germany Women in April.

The Trophy presentation after winning the BAOR Inter-Unit Competition. *Left to Right* (Back Row): Pte Helen McElhinney, LCpls Jay Mullin, Alison Hickmann, Lt Jenny Chambers, Cpls Kim Ward, Jan Bird; (Front Row): Cpl Fiona Will, Sgts Bernie McNamara, Pat Darby, LCpl Leona Evans

# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**PREPARATIONS**

We open this chapter of our contribution as preparations are being made for a sojourn into the field. Many of the RHQ staff have been 'blowing' the Christmas dust of the SOP kit ready to depart on Exercise or on Battle Camp (Haughie's Hell Hole).

**FAREWELLS**

On the Social side RHQ ventured off to a local hostelry to wine, dine and say farewell to **Sgt Dave** and **Pat Walker** and our Posty, **Cpl 'Caesar' Bowen**. Both **Dave** and **Caesar** will be missed around the corridors of power and echoing the words of Troop OC, **Capt Duncan Palmer** our financial wizard, **Dave** and **Caesar** will be sorely missed. We wish them both all good fortune at the School of Signals and civilian street, in the future. The whole evening was a great success and well organised by 'Radar' Mahoney who unfortunately was not with us due to Battle Camp.

**REGIMENTAL COLOURS**

The Regimental Colours Committee sat in great deliberation to select the 'lucky few' who had been nominated by their respective OIC sports to be presented with Regimental Colours. The committee deliberated long and hard and after many cups of tea came to an agreement as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Capt Scriven (REME)**<br>**SSgt Hobley**<br>**Cpl Ackerman (RAPC)**<br>**Cpl Loudon (REME)** | Shooting |
| **SSgt Sweeting**<br>**Cpl Boyle**<br>**Cpl Playford**<br>**Sgt Chetri** | Volleyball |
| **WO2 Barden**<br>**Sig John**<br>**Sgt Wilson** | Athletics |
| **Sgt Simpson**<br>**LCpl Bascombe**<br>**Cpl Osbourne**<br>**Cpl Gabb** | Cricket |

To all winners many congratulations, to those gladiators who didn't make it keep trying, your efforts on behalf of the Regiment are well appreciated.

Back Row left to right: Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson, SSgts John Hobley, Wayne Sweeting, Sig Eddie John
Front Row left to right: Cpls 'Edd' Cabb, 'Ossy' Osbourne, Lt Col Mike Ayrton, Cpl 'Donne' Loudon and WO2 Fred Barden after receiving their Regimental colours

Capt Andy Scriven, Lt Col Mike Ayrton, Sgt Jim Simpson and LCpl 'Baz' Bascombe after receiving their Regimental Colours

**VOLLEYBALL**

The volleyball season is with us again. Despite having won the BAOR championships already for the year, the Regimental team were required to replay the BAOR championships because of a change in the rules.

Action packed shot from the final of the BAOR Volleyball Championships: No. 2 SSgt Wayne Sweeting, No 5 Cpl MacKenzie, No 7 Sig Scott



So as Rhine Area winners SSgt **Wayne Sweeting** and his merry gang set off once more to play for the championship again.

With one or two key players missing our gladiators fought hard and well, but alas, at the final hurdle were beaten into the Runners-up slot. However, their efforts were sufficient to get them to the Army Finals and enable them to defend the championship they so ably won last year. News of that in the next issue.

**NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS**

**2 SQN**

**ECHO TROOP**

This month has seen a few changes in the Troop. With the departure of **Sgt 'Chappy' Tunks** we have lost a long serving and an outstanding member of the Troop. We would like to thank him for all his help during the time he was with us and wish him all the best in his new unit 31 (V) Sig Regt. Other farewells for **Cpl 'Wally' Walladge, Sig 'Jack' Corner** and **Sig 'Elvis' Fullard** to Civie Street. We also said farewell to **LCpl Barry Favager** who has gone up the corridor to F Troop.

We would like to welcome back **LCpl Carlos Sinclair** and **Cpl 'Chis' Chiswell** from their detachments in the Falklands. Also, to **Sgt Alex Hamilton** who has come to us from Harrogate and **Sgt Pete Barron** from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. We also have a new tech, **LCpl Lew Lewendon.**

**THIS MONTH'S CLASSIC**

This month saw us out on one of our Harrier Support Exercises. Everything started off quite well on the Monday morning. The move into location was fine, we all thought the weather for the time of year was pretty good, but obviously the Harrier pilots had different ideas. They didn't come out until Wednesday lunchtime, and the exercise finished on the Friday morning. **LCpl 'Lew' Lewendon** was on form all the way through his first Harrier exercise. He was led to believe that we had Hercules aircraft out on exercise with us. After a couple of discreet phone calls to the RAF by **SSgt Colin Ager**, he was told to phone the RAF and get his name down for a flight if he wanted one. **Lew** then phoned the Camp Commandant who said he would put his name down on the list. That's when the fun began, everyone was in on the leg pull. Briefings from the Camp Commandant and the Int Cell, fittings for a flying suit, the works, followed in quick succession. He was then told he would be called forward for his flight, and he waited all week in anticipation, but still didn't twig on. Oh well, you always get one, but why is it always a tech?

All the way through the Exercise we had one noisy shot, it was workable but never the less quite noisy. When the time came to pack up and we were digging up our cables we noticed that someone had buried the power cable in with the quads. When we asked who had buried the cables we noticed the proud smiling face of **LCpl Lewendon** who said he had made the fine job of burying it. The conversation that followed is quite unprintable. On the return to Scarborough Barracks Mrs Lewendon's lad was at it again. The painting of the exhaust to remove rust must count as 'gloss-over' of the month.

**I TROOP**

At the end of January 'India' Tp embarked on Ex *Frozen Horse* to the Arctic wastes of Alpe Gut just south of Gutersloh.

Everything was going according to plan until two days into the exercise when our (colourful) Tech **Sgt Lenny D'Rozario** and OC Tp **Capt Tim Peacocke** decided that they would try and imitate the 'Dukes of Hazard' by trying to unsuccessfully leap a five foot wide raging stream. **Sgt D'Rozario** was overhead to mutter the following, 'Hey Sir, what if I put the wagon into four wheel drive?' (of course we all know that it helps if all four wheels are on the ground at the same time for four wheel drive to be effective). Apart from that minor scratch (pardon the pun) everything went well.

**SPORT**

Our deepest sympathy goes to **LCpl Jim** 'I don't want to buy a Tp sweatshirt' **Moore,** who having travelled all the way to Rheindahlen for the BAOR Badminton Championships unfortunately damaged a muscle in his back and had to retire (better luck next time).

We would like to congratulate **Cpl 'Benny' Bywater** on having been chosen to represent the Corps Hockey team in BAOR.

**DEPARTURES/DETACHMENTS**

At the end of March we will be saying a final 'au revoir' to **Cpl 'Derek' Owen** on completion of 22 years service, **Cpl Owen** has decided to settle just outside Herford and work for a well known local brewery (can't be bad). We also say goodbye to **LCpl 'Steve' Hunt** and **Sig 'Dave' Cryer** on their detachment to 266 Sig Sqn for a five month tour of the FI and to **Sig 'Mark' Whiting** who having passed his 'Lilliput Course' is now off to NI for six months. We wish them all a safe and speedy return.

**BIRTHS**

The Toop would like to congratulate **SSgt 'Bill' Henderson** and his wife **Lesley** on the birth of their daughter **Clare Louise** born at BMH Munster on 8 February.

**J TROOP**

It has been a quiet time since last writing, with Christmas and New Year coming and going in a vague haze, and the first exercise passing quickly.

For the last week the emphasis has been on pre-preparation, and the techs, despite being enticed underneath a truck, still managed to stay clean, although this is denied by **Cpl Andy 'ET' Hurley.**

The Troop fancy dress debacle went well, although suspicions about **SSgt Mick Grimshaw** were confirmed when he arrived dressed as Boy George. Upon reflection, many people were in drag, so it must be the job, I think.

There has been a few comings and goings recently, we must say goodbye to **Cpl Roy Boulton** and wife **Marianne** who are en-route to Blackpool, of all places. Also **Sig Eugene 'Baldie' Gallagher, Graham 'Wendy' Hinman, Robbo Robertson** and **Cpl Chris 'Magnum' Nutt.** And hello to **LCpl Ian Flooks** and **Tena, Cpl Chris Hobday** and **Lin, Cpl Neil Portlock** and **Dee, Sig Shuggie Little, Sig Dave Forsyth** and **Barbara, LCpl Dusty Miller, Cpl Keith Belcher.** To those who have left, farewell and good luck and to those who join us welcome to 'Puma Radio' and 21 Signal Regiment (AS).

**3 SQN**

**TO BTLO—MANY THANKS FROM 21 SIG REGT (AS)**

**Mr Ian White** joined Communication Projects Agency, now Projects Division School of Signals from Post Office Telcomms, now British Telecom, in late October 1979. This appointment was most suitable as **Mr White** had previous experience with the Army, in particular with 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) associated with the installation of Post Office equipment for RAFG Airfields. During the last four and a half years **Mr White** has been responsible as the Post Office Liaison Officer (POLO) and subsequently as the BTLO, for liaison between Royal Signals units worldwide and British Telecom.

Left to Right: Maj Cliff Webb, Ian White, Lt Col Mike Ayrton and Maj Jack Fiskel at the recent presentation to mark Ian White's departure from CPA to British Telecoms

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) wish to take this opportunity to thank **Mr White** for his constructive resourceful approach to problems, no request for assistance was ever too difficult. His initiative and drive was an important factor in the introduction into service of numerous items of Test Equipment and cable associated techniques, 'the bread and butter' of the Regiment's Telemechs! We congratulate **Mr White** on his promotion upon his return to BT in April 1984. We believe that **Mr White's** particular expertise as the BTLO will be sadly missed by the Corps. The photograph shows **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** (CO) presenting **Ian White** with a Regimental Plaque.

## L TROOP

It has been work, work and more work during recent months in preparation for the 3 Tornado squadrons. Both Tele Mechs and Techs have had plenty to keep them busy; the situation is not likely to change in the forseeable future. Our Tp Clerk, **Frau Busse** 'deserted' for four months and left her onerous duties to **SSgt Mick Turner** (as if he didn't have enough to do!) You can imagine the sighs of relief on her return—Welcome Home **'Fran'**. Our Tp SSgt is now tearing his hair out—what hair?—trying to organise military training around the project work, station exercises and the weather. Best of luck Staff!

We have been joined by **Sgt Chris Gardner, LCpl Vincent Castro, Sig 'Gaff' Gaffney** and **Kevin Guest** with their families and our lone new **Sig 'Length' Howe**. Best wishes for a happy and rewarding tour. **LCpl Ian Thorne** has left us for the warmer climate of Cyprus.

L Troop Soccer Team
Back Row left to right: Sig 'Gripper' Lazenby, Sgt Chris Gardner, Sig Dave Whitehead, Cpl Eddie Pluskota, Sigs Taff Jones, 'Binza' Southwell, 'Jai' Johnston
Front Row left to right: Cpl Taff Pirso, Sgt Jim Simpson, LCpl Paul Carter, Sig 'May' Bloyce, 'Kipper' Hett

The Troop continues to play a full part in station life. **Cpl Tam Tulloch** plays for the station at Soccer; **Sig 'Taff' Treeby** at Rugger; **LCpl 'DC' Declancy, Sig 'Ada' Luckman** are in the Hockey XI and **Sig 'Darren' Folkes** is in the Basketball squad. The OC is OIC Golf and **SSgt Mick Turner** is the vice captain. The Darts team led by **Sig Bob 'Ton' Tunnard** are holding their own in the station darts league whereas the soccer team are having a struggle in the first division of the station league which is not surprising, as we are by far the smallest unit in the competition. Nevertheless, **Cpl 'Taff' Pirso**'s motley crew are never disgraced. On the soccer front it was decided that the lads needed a fillip so **LCpl Paul Carter** decided to challenge the BFBS All Stars—**Nankers, Mike 'Marathon' Allen** and all. The station lent video equipment free, operated by **Sgt Nigel Cullen** the lads were all set to appear on 'Match of the Day'. The All Stars were met by **SSgt Turner, LCpl Carter** and **Sig 'Taff' Jones** and escorted to the changing rooms that were shared with a bunch of rugger players (who turned out to be from 16 Sig Regt), this had all the makings of interesting video. The game was watched by a large crowd who saw an interesting game with the troop running out winners by eight goals to one. Scorers were: **Dave Whitehead** two — **'Kipper' Hett** three, **'Jai' Johnson** one, **'Binsa' Southwell** one and **'Gripper' Lazenby** one. After showering and changing in record time, both teams and a goodly number of spectators returned to the troop for much needed sustenance. The arguments then started in earnest as the instant replay was shown to those who hadn't had enough by now, (it's amazing how many people are gluttons for punishment).

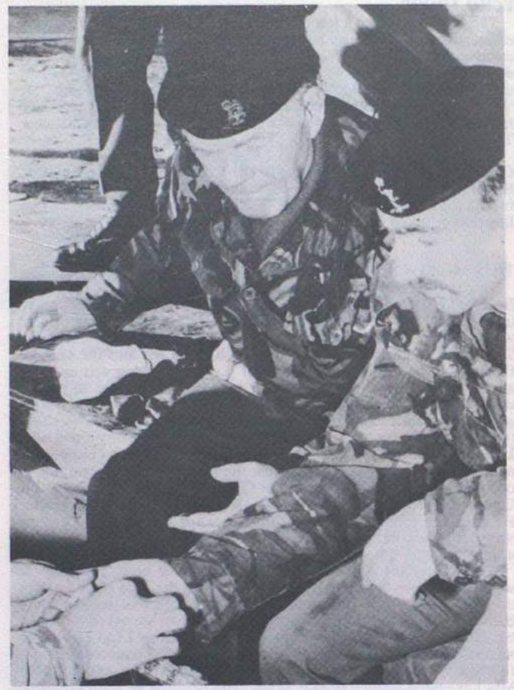
**Maggie Simpson**, wife of **Sgt Jim** breathed a sigh of relief as she had been led to believe that her cutting remarks about the old man had been recorded. Fortunately for her they hadn't been taped for posterity. A convivial evening was had by all and our guests left Laarbruch laden with radio requests and in a much happier frame of mind than after the game. Maybe the All Stars will challenge us to a re-match, perhaps Tiddlywinks or maybe a Boat-Race, who knows . . . ?

## H TROOP—BRUGGEN

On Monday 13 February, **Brig A. K. Dixon**, Commander Rhine Area, visited H Troop, 21 Sig Regt (AS) at RAF Bruggen. H Troop are responsible for the provision and maintenance of all ground communications on the Airfield.

At present the Troop are involved in a massive works programme to prepare the Station for the arrival of the Tornado Aircraft.

In the picture, **Brig Dixon** can be seen 'doing his bit for Tornado' as he assists **Cpl Stevens** and **Sig Kerr** to complete phase one of the works service.



Brig A. K. Dixon Comd Rhine Area being shown the new cabling for Tornado by Cpl Stevens

Comd Rhine Area 'doing his bit' under the watchful eye of Sig Kerr

We wish **Capt Bob Bates** a safe and speedy return from the FI. The Troop welcome **Lt Billy Miles** and hope that his stay in 'H' is a happy one.





## LAUNCHED

The Regiment launched into the new year with a vengeance and now finds itself well into 1984 with five major exercises behind it and plenty more to come.

## VALETE

In the last few months the Regiment has said farewell to a number leaving us. These include **Capt Fred Laverick** who takes up a new appointment as QM(T) at 30 Sig Regt, **Capt Alisdair Harrison** who is also off to Blandford for a TEM course, **Maj Nigel Cory** and **Maj Peter Williams** who are off to London to TA Regiments, and **Lt Mike Wise** who is off to 249 Sig Sqn after playing watchkeeper in Belize for six months.

## SALVETE

We welcome into the Regiment **Maj Guy Meakin** as OC 1 Squadron, **Lt Jake Thackray** who has also gone to 1 Sqn to take over the Line Troop. He has already made his mark in the Regiment by causing 2 Sqn to be stood to as he was missing presumed lost!

## CONGRATULATIONS

We extend hearty congratulations to those within the Regiment who have been selected for promotion to Warrant Rank. We also congratulate those who have been selected on the more recent SSgts promotions board.

## LIPPSTADT MARCHES

The British Lippstadt Ramblers 6th International Wanderung was held on the 3 and 4 March and despite fears for the weather (snow), 2700 walkers attended the event from all parts of Europe making the weekend a huge success. The event was organised as a German Civilian style walking weekend under the guidance of the DVV and IVV. The walking weekend was for people from all walks of life to enable individuals and families to get out in the fresh air and take part in a little relaxing exercise. The weekend also provided the chance to meet people of other nationalities and make friends, as well as seeing and enjoying the German countryside.

The start and finish point this year was new as were the two signed walking routes of 12Km and 20Km. After completion of the walk, individuals were presented with either a Bronze or Silver medal respectively. Prizes were also awarded to all groups of over 15 walkers who had prebooked for the event and this year a record number of teams (58) received team prizes, free of charge, to remind them of the weekend. The largest team this year was a local civilian club the Lippstadt Wanderverein who entered a team of 72. The oldest walker was an 82 year old lady who thoroughly enjoyed her day and was presented with a prize by which to remember it.

28 Signal Regiment marchers on the trail

Enough of this year's event, and on to next year's. Work has already started on the 7th International Volkswanderung to be held in 1985 for which details will be published as early as possible and we look forward to seeing you all next year, Happy Rambling.

## TOT AND FOS CONVENTION

The TOT and FOS convention was held at Lippstadt on 27/28 February. All the TOTs and Foremen from BAOR attended along with the TACT team. The team gave a very interesting lecture on Ptarmigan training with the help of their computers. The convention was opened by **Brig R. F. L. Cook** on his first convention and closed by **Maj J. H. Hild** who was attending his last.

It was a useful conference and of particular note was the superb dinner for which the cooks deserve a pat on the back. All the technical hierachy are now on diets as a result.

## INITIAL AWARD OF THE BIRTWISTLE PENNANT FOR RECRUITING

**Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle**, on relinquishing his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief, instituted a Recruiting Pennant to be awarded annually to the Regular Royal Signals Unit or Independent Sub Unit making the most significant contribution towards the Corps' soldier and officer recruiting effort.

We were delighted to be awarded the Birtwistle Recruiting Pennant for 1982/83. The presentation was made by Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** during his farewell visit to the Regiment on 28 February.

Maj Gen J. H. Hild presents Sgt Fred Muir with 'The Birtwistle Pennant'

## FAREWELL TO MAJ GEN HILD

After the closing address at the TOT and FOS convention and the presentation of the Birtwistle Recruiting Pennant **Maj Gen Hild** bade the Regiment 'farewell'. He drove slowly through the camp where the roads were lined with cheering soldiers, out of the gates and back to Rheindahlen.

## FAREWELL TO MRS ANN LOCKWOOD

The Regiment has recently said farewell to **WO2 (AQMS)** and **Mrs Lockwood. Mrs Ann Lockwood** started the Crafts section of our PRI shop and due to her hard work turned it into a thriving business venture. The CO's wife, **Mrs Shirley Chaddock** presented **Ann** with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her efforts.

**WIVES CLUB QUIZ NIGHTS**

Earlier in the year an Inter Squadron Wives Club Quiz Night was held. HQ Squadron were 'tops' with their general knowledge.

The Regimental Wives Club then took part in the Lippstadt Station Wives' Clubs Quiz which was held on the 13 February. This competition between our own wives' club and that of 27 Fd Regt RA has been an annual event now for three years.

For the third year running our wives were victorious (does this mean that we are allowed to keep the trophy?).

The team members were: **Jane Simpson** (Captain), **Karen Charles, Maureen Miller, Ann Tankard, Sue Thatcher.**

Winners of the Lippstadt Station wives quiz with their trophy

**OPENING OF THE 1 SQN BAR**

The new 1 Sqn Bar was recently opened after refurbishment. The Commanding Officer was presented with a mammoth pair of scissors with which to hack his way through the ribbon. Special thanks go to **WO2 (SSM) Ian Borland** and C Tp for their efforts.

The Squadron have just said farewell to **Maj Nigel Cory** and his wife, **Liliane**, but welcome **Maj Guy Meakin** and his wife, **Liz**, in their place.

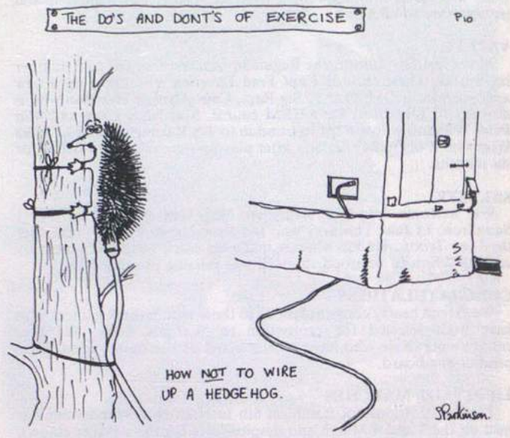
Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Ian Borland** on his forthcoming promotion.

Smiles, Smiles, Smiles—We're nearly there lads. The CO opens the bar

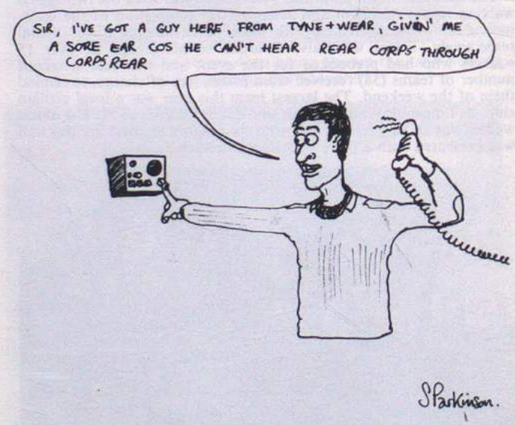
**3 SQN**

The first week of March saw Commcen Uniform deploying for the start of the Spring exercises. The cobwebs were soon shaken out and the Commcen began to run like a finely tuned engine. It was only after the first week that we found that all was not well and that orders had been misconstrued. This resulted in the production of a pamphlet, 'The Do's and Don'ts of Exercises and the Interpretation of Verbal Orders'. This publication listed in a simple form, easy to follow format, the orders likely to be issued on exercise.

EXAMPLE; 'Put a hedgehog on that tree and run a ten pair cable to it'. Turn to page ten and study diagram!




The introduction of new answering procedures on the Rear Corps manual exchanges soon caused one or two minor problems as our switchboard ops; **Cpl Flintham, LCpls Botterill, Finch, Sig Davies** and **Lowe** will bear witness. Not to mention an infuriated **Cpl Brown** when he received a misdirected call in the Patch vehicle.




All credit for the cartoons is attributed to our resident comedian and artist, **Sig 'Parky' Parkinson** (if only he would spend more time actually working!).



**4 SQN**

**THE DIARY OF A PLASTIC FOREMAN**

**Report by SSgt Mick Tankard**

CP4 on Ex *Sweet Martini* through the eyes of the newest recruit to the fighting fourth, the Acting FOS (take note 1 Sqn).

DAY ONE 0715 hrs. Paraded with 4 Sqn (it seemed like a good idea at the time) 0800 hrs. Officially posted to 4 Sqn.

We moved out on time and got into loc first time (well done **Lt Marian Evans WRAC**, map reader extraordinaire and **SSgt Geordie Armstrong** who was driving even more extraordinaire!) CP4 was left at the bottom of the hill whilst the rover went ahead (onward or upward) to find a suitable site (flat and dry) for the main vehicle. It was found and the rover dropped us all off whilst it went back to fetch the CP. As **SSgt Armstrong** disappeared down the hill his last words were 'won't be long'. Well we waited and waited and lo and behold CP arrived 1½ hours later. They said that they had taken a different route but . . . ? CP4 was set up in record time and comms established all except a certain piece of kit which is to be replaced by a Space Invaders machined on the next Exercise. You get more sense out of them anyway.

DAY TWO Moved and again got into loc first time, I think that they are going for a record. One or two problems about siting but we got there in the end. We had to move a guy rope off a RR vehicle as they told us that it made the shot drop out (that's a new one).

DAY THREE It snowed today and the temperature dropped rapidly. So the NBC cell (being good lads) arranged strike No. 014 which put us into nice warm 'Noddy Suits'. Thanks lads!

1100 hrs and all quiet on the Western Front except that the promotions board results have come out (looks like another year of hard work for me).

1500 hrs and I have now learned to talk with my ears and listen with my mouth. It seems that the word telephone has taken on a new meaning. For some reason the mouthpieces weren't working and we had to shout down the earpiece!

1600 and time to sleep.

1800 and back on shift (It's a hard life).

DAY FOUR Time to move again at 0700. We didn't make it first time so there are no records broken. Then back on shift (maybe I should go for the record at this).

2359 hrs (midnight really). Hurray, off shift and the ambient temperature taken inside the green maggot was $-5°C$ whilst the temperature outside was $-3°C$.

There is something wrong somewhere! but I still managed to sleep like a log, albeit a frozen one.

DAY FIVE 0600 hrs and early to rise but for a very good reason. 'Close down and move back' was the phrase being bandied about by jubilant people. Hallelujah! I wonder what the ambient temperature will be in my pit tonight, as long as it is above freezing I can hack it!

Well, I will sign off now and look forward (?) to the next exercise.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The Squadron would like to extend congratulations to **Sgt Andy Dipple** and **Sgt 'Yorkie' Pete Reynolds** on their selection for promotion to **SSgt** and **Sgt Steve Pearce** on his recent promotion.

**THE PAGE TROPHY**

The Page Trophy Sports Competition has been played throughout the Winter Months culminating with the finals on 27 March. The eventual results were as follows:

| **Winners** | |
|---|---|
| Cross Country | 4 Sqn |
| Orienteering | 4 Sqn |
| Rugby | HQ (B) |
| Football | 3 Sqn |
| Squash | 4 Sqn |
| Basketball | 2 Sqn |
| Tug-o-War | 4 Sqn |
| Hockey | 3 Sqn |
| Volleyball | 1 Sqn |
| Badminton | HQ (A) |

Overall results: 1st —4 Sqn
2nd—3 Sqn
3rd —HQ (A)

The Victorious Winner of the Page Trophy—4 Sqn

**REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**

The Regimental Cross Country Team are congratulated on coming third in the 4 Div Cross Country League out of 20 Major Teams.

**INDUSTRY MEETS THE CUSTOMER**
**OR**
**PTARMIGAN PTUTORIAL PTIME**

Ex *Flying Falcon* gave senior military and civilian visitors from the UK an excellent opportunity to be brought up-to-date on present and future communications equipments and operating methods.

One of several stands for the weekend visitors was provided by our Commcen Echo. Echo's new method of operation is similar in some respects to the deployment of a Trunk Node within the Ptarmigan system.

**Capt Alan Kite**, the Commcen Commander is seen briefing a group of representatives from MOD, MOD(PE) and electronics firms involved in the production and fielding of Ptarmigan.

Without exception the visitors declared the weekend a great success. They spoke highly of the professional and enthusiastic attitude of all the communicators that they met and we, for our part, answered that we were all looking forward to receiving the Ptarmigan system.

Capt Alan Kite briefs an enthralled audience

# 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
# BFPO 35

## ONE SQUADRON

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj S. J. B. Webb WRAC** |
| **2IC** | **Capt L. J. Plumb** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) K. Clark** |
| **OC Alpha** | **2Lt M. P. Llewellyn** |
| **OC Bravo** | **Capt S. C. Johns** |
| **Sqn FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) P. Waring** |
| **SQMS** | **Sgt K. Eynon** |

Since our last contribution to *The Wire*, One Squadron has been kept busy with several exercises, the largest of which was Ex *Crested Eagle* which took place in mid March. The exercise had its usual share of frustrations and laughs but after our customary hectic start we, with the help of our NATO colleagues, provided excellent communications throughout the exercise.

Many members of the squadron have been involved in Ex *Franski* in Bavaria, under the control of **Sgt Mick Alcock**. The weather has been good and a large number of soldiers have gained valuable skiing experience. Troop life has continued as normally as possible, OC Alpha, **2Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** has actually been sighted in barracks recently, although this was unconfirmed! He has undoubtedly become the most qualified officer in the Regiment with the many courses which he has attended! Morale in Bravo Troop took a turn for the worse when it was discovered that their OC was returning to the Regiment for another year, his authority enhanced by another pip. Fortunately they did not have enough time to develop beer bellies so returning to full fitness should not be too traumatic—welcome back **Capt Steve Johns**.

In SHQ Troop, **Sgt 'Taff' Eynon** has taken over temporarily as SQMS, which has aged him some ten years! Along with his assistant **Cpl Nick Layton**, he can be found somewhere amongst the 'tentage and G10' trying to sort out the books!

We say a sad farewell to **SSgt Tom McGinnis** and his wife **Sue** who have been posted recently; however, many congratulations on the forthcoming promotion. In the weeks ahead the squadron will be heavily involved in Ex *Flying Falcon* when the Regiment will provide an enemy force, and also preparing for the Regimental Fête and Freedom Parade in May.

## FOCUS ON TWO SQUADRON

| THE SQUADRON HIERARCHY | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Jim Heck** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Jim Ross** |
| **OC O Tp** | **Lt Paul Hodgkiss** |
| **OC P Tp** | **Lt Sue Rostron** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John Stanley** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Brian Johnson** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Brian Alway** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Ben Gilhooly** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Stan Grimmitt** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt David Gorse** |

Readers will not be surprised to hear that 2 Squadron has also taken part in Ex *Crested Eagle*. It was a busy time, more for one troop than the other but it makes a change to see Papa Troop earning their pay. We had our usual problems but on the whole the NATO Staff were given extremely good comms, and were happy with them. The staff seem at long last to appreciate some of the problems we face and some of the miracles we perform, with our antiquated equipment, on their behalf.

No doubt in the near future many Signal Regiments in BAOR will be seeing members of the Squadron as we perform part of our annual role as enemy for Ex *Flying Falcon*, however more of that in the next issue. Now over to the troops.

### OSCAR TROOP

Since *Fran Freeze* we have seen ourselves through a couple of small exercises in preparation for Ex *Crested Eagle*. As usual we found ourselves coming up against many challenges (we do not have problems) and it is enough to say well done to everyone in the troop for giving their best and helping to prove the exercise a good success.

Before ending this subject we give our congratulations to **Sig 'Scouse' Dunleavy** on winning the Golden Blanket award which he won so overwhelmingly by a majority vote. There is no truth in the rumour that Oscar Troop was still hibernating for much of the exercise. On the sporting side the troop has made a good start to the Inter Troop Competitions by winning the Basketball competition and coming third in the .22 which, we are sure we could have won if all our regular team was present. Well done to all who represented the troop in both competitions. The troop was particularly proud of its representatives in the Regimental Boxing team which has had such a successful season. Our gladiators, who gave us such entertainment—at often considerable discomfort were **LCpl 'Rab' O'Hara, Sig 'Taff' Mustoe, 'Scouse' Maloney, 'Launch' Launchbury, 'Mick' Lowe** and **'Geordie' Davies**.

As always we have had arrivals and departures and first we would like to welcome **Sig Gary Radcliffe** and **Ben Cooley** along with their families and wish them a good tour. Our farewells go to **Cpls 'Top' Bottomley** and **Pete Carter** who are both off to civvy street. We wish you and your families every success in the future. **Sig Hamish Campbell** is off to the School of Signals and we can honestly say they are getting a good bargain. The last of our farewells go to **Sig** (why me?) **Church** and hope he has a good tour in 16 Sig Regt. To finish with our double congratulations go to **LCpl Ian Laws** and his wife **Sylvia** on their newly born and to **LCpl Laws** on his promotion.

### PAPA TROOP

Enough has been said of Ex *Crested Eagle* but we should say we did not begrudge Oscar Troop their nice long rest and were pleased to be asked to uphold the honour of the Regiment for so much of the exercise. It is just a pity that they suffered so much from bed sores. It proved an interesting exercise the highlight of which for the seniors was when **Sgt Keith Mathers** laughed at one of **FofS Dave Gorse**'s jokes (a rare occurence) and broke his chair—which all goes to prove how many Mars Bars he demolished during the exercise.

Hello to our new arrivals, **Sgt 'Knocker' Bennett** from 22 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Daz' Jones** from Berlin, we hope they enjoy their time in Krefeld.

Good luck and farewell to **Cpl Chris Meehan, LCpl 'Lew' Lewis, Sig Danny Fagan** and **'Sleepy' Smith**, who have escaped from here to various parts of the world, some warmer than others—enjoy yourselves.

### FRANCISCA BARRACKS 'INVADED'

**Report by WO2 (SSM) Harry Robinson**

As is traditional at this time of year the new Carnival Prince and Princess of St Tonis, **Prinze Willie** and **Princess Minnie**, both ably supported by their colourful guards, held aloft their staff of office and demanded entry to the barracks. Their lighthearted demands were, of course, denied and so they commenced their attack backed up by a cannon. A heated battle ensued and the invaders were held off for some time by our suitably attired barrack guard led by **Sgt Dave Price**. Their overwhelmingly firepower, confetti style pyrotechnics, won the day and Francisca Barracks fell. The Commander **Lt Col Brian Belton**

Prinze Willie and his personal guard begin their assault on the Barracks. Note the Artillery Support





having been sorely wounded by a cannon load of confetti in the lower midriff area was obliged to hand over the ceremonial key thereby allowing official access to the barracks. The revellers, escorted by some two hundred soldiers were then taken on tour of all the messes where refreshments (including liquids) were awaiting their victorious arrival. Each mess was entertained with lively displays of carnival dancing by the girls of St Tonis, which was thoroughly appreciated by all. The Victors eventually departed leaving, once again, fond memories of their visit and having cemented some more Anglo-German relationships.

The Regimental Guard led by the Regimental Orderly Officer WO2 (FofS) Leon Brown (in uniform) pose for pre battle photographs, *Left to Right:* Sgts Ben Nelson, Mick Hamilton, Dave Price, Mal Hyndman, Chalkie White, Dave Thompson

Defeat—The CO hands over the key to the barracks to Prinze Willie and Princess Minnie

Celebration—Members of the Personal Guard to Prinze Willie celebrate victory in the Cpls' Mess. *From Left to Right:* Cpl Chris Meehan, LCpls Tom Hainey, Dick Rutherford, Cpl Keith Stewart, LCpl Andy Hill, Cpls 'Top' Bottomley and Geordie Hugill reluctantly entertain the victors

### HOCKEY

**Report by Capt (Tfc) Rod Mansfield**

The Regimental Hockey team has continued to do well this season under the leadership of **WO1 (FofS) Dick Howes**. For the first time in 18 years we have won the Rhine Area Major Units Championship after a very hard match against Rheindahlen Garrison 'A' team. The final result was a 2—1 victory to the Regiment, goals scored by **Sgt Terry Inman** and **Cpl Graham Wilson**. Our present position in the league is second with a hope of gaining promotion at the end of the season.

Unfortunately we have lost two of our key players recently **Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **Pete Cornes** and **LCpl Paul Wickham** on posting, which leaves a large gap in our team, so if you are an aspiring hockey player, apply for a posting to 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG). By winning Rhine Area the Regiment qualified for the Quarter Finals of the BAOR competition, alas, we drew the holders of the BAOR Cup 2 Fd Regt RA who proceeded to give the Regiment a lesson in hockey skills.

### BOXING

**Report by SSgt (SSI) John McGonigle**

As a result of winning the Rhine Area Novice Title against 16 Sig Regt, the Regiment was drawn against 3 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Quarter Finals of the BAOR Novice Championships and the advantage of a home venue at Francisca Barracks. With the Regiment being the underdogs, the first half of the evening went very well with **Cpl 'Knocker' Bennett** (a true professional Tech), **Sig 'Taff' Mustoe** and **Sig 'Davy' Watkins** winning their bouts; whilst **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon** and **Sig Mick Lowe** both lost on points. Thus at the half way stage the score was 3—2 in the Regiment's favour. It is believed that panic had set-in in the RRF dressing room; unfortunately their fears were short lived. Bout six was the turning point, **LCpl 'Rab' O'Hara** who boxed the first round as though the decision would be a formality, came out for the second round to be caught with a well timed right hand punch from **Fus McDowell** that dropped him out for the count. This was followed by **Sig 'Micky' Joyce** whose opponent was too strong, and by **LCpl 'Mac' McDermott**, who boxing for the first time in competition, faced an opponent who was built like a Pocket Battleship. Finally **Sig 'Launch' Launchbury**, a last minute replacement (the original Welter having failed the medical) boxed **Fus Blore**. Midway through the second round, both boxers received a cut eye after a clash of heads and the bout was stopped. The Fusiliers had won, but not without a great deal of effort and determination shown by the Regimental team.

### REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

Still smarting from their defeat in the Quarter Finals of the Army Cup, the Regimental team under the leadership of **Capt Colin McLoughlin** and **WO2 (RQMS) 'Boggy' Marsh** was in determined mood to retain the Rhine Area Major Units Knockout Cup when they met Rheindahlen Garrison in the final, held at Rheindahlen on Wednesday 21 March. From the kick off it was obvious that Rheindahlen were relying heavily on the off-side trap, a dangerous practice at any time, and after six minutes **Cpl Andy Edwards** took the initiative with a powerful run and scored a well taken goal. That goal signalled the start of a real 'purple patch' and the spectators were treated to some of the best football played by the Regiment this season, which brought a further five goals in 10 minutes. Following outstanding performances from **Cpl Andy Edwards, Sig 'Yorky' Richards, 'Scouse' Dunleavy** and **Gary Maloney**, the Regiment went off at half time with a 7—0 lead. Early in the second half **Cpl Andy Edwards** was carried off with an ankle injury and was replaced by **Sig Davy Watkins** (making his last appearance for the Regiment before his posting). The highlight of the second half was a brilliantly taken goal by **Sig Gary Maloney**, and the Regiment ran out winners by 10 goals to Nil to retain this fine trophy for the fifteenth consecutive year—an outstanding record. The Regiment have also won the North Rhine Inter Service League First Division title for the second year in succession, having dropped only two points all season—a magnificent achievement when one considers the strength of some of the major RAF Stations in the league.

# 29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
# BFPO 45

## INTER PLATOON COMPETITION

As the month of March rapidly approached, training for the annual Berlin Inf Bde Inter Platoon Competition became more arduous and thorough. A total of 30 teams took part, nine platoons from each of the three Infantry Battalions and one troop from three of the minor units, ourselves being one of them. Each team, was tested over a period of 14 hours on the skills needed to fight in a city environment.

Unfortunately, during the final days of preparation catastrophe struck in the form of chicken pox! **SSgt 'Starch' Young** had to withdraw a couple of days before, whereas **Lt Simon Green** chose the same morning of the competition to be struck down by it. Fortunately, 'willing volunteers' were found in the form of **Sgt Ned Kelly** and **WO2 (SSM) 'Blackboard' Thomas.**

The competition commenced with an inspection in CEMO. The team passed with flying colours and were in fact one of only three teams to attain full points for that phase. With morale high the troop set off on the night navigation phase. This involved a march over 20 Kms through various checkpoints, the last 2 Kms being a stretcher carry ending up in the Brigade HQ. Yet again the highest possible score had been achieved for the second phase putting us well up with the leaders. The situation continued to look good after taking second place in the night phase, the static tests. This consisted of written tests in first aid, NBC, Soviet recognition and signals. The next, and most important phase was the four hour rest in tents round the back of the HQ. Inside the tent the odour from weary feet was overpowering. Needless to say everyone was asleep within minutes. This proved to be short lived, when at about 0430 hrs everyone was woken up by cries of 'help, help' from the corner of the tent. It turned out to be **Sig Mick Whitehead** who was probably having nightmares about the forced march and assault course which was to follow in just three hours time.

The Troop poses for a photo before the forced march down to Ruhleben fighting city; Front Row (*Left to Right*): LCpl 'SAS' Gray, Sgt Ned Kelly (Tp Sgt), LCpls Alan '6 Foot' Chalmers, 'Tiny' Latham, Sig Dave Bartlett; 2nd Row: Sig Stan Tivey, Cpl Dave Whittaker, Sig Mick Whitehead, Charlie Wright, LCpl Wally Pollitt, Sig Dave Phillips, Andy Ham; 3rd Row: LCpls Jim Neaves, 'Pud' Marshall, Nobby Clark; Back Row: LCpl Mac McMillan, Sig Paul Beattie, WO2 (SSM) Bernie Thomas (Tp OC), Cpl 'Scouse' Yarwood, Sig Jeff Love

After posing for a few photos the troop set off in CEFO to Ruhleben Fighting City. As we neared the finish of the forced march, well within the time limit, the cheers and shouts of encouragement could be heard from members of the Regiment who had come along to support us.

This year the assault course was through houses, railway crossings and tunnels in the fighting city. Many lessons were learned on the technique of squeezing through small gaps with webbing on and unfortunately a few time penalty points were incurred.

Still going strong as they near the finish of the forced march

Cpl 'Scouse' Yarwood gets encouragement from Sgt Ned Kelly to leap over the railings. Sig Charlie Wright and Andy Ham look on

Nevertheless, we were still in with a good chance with just the last phase on the ranges to go. The shooting phase was on SLR, LMG and 84mm MAW for which yet again a good result was achieved. Then followed a period of waiting for the final results, during which many finger nails rapidly disappeared! At last the results were announced and we had come second, behind our long standing rivals 38 Fd Sqn RE. We had however not only come second in the minor units, but runners up in the whole competition, beating 27 Platoons of Infanteers. This was quite a remarkable achievement, as last year we had ended up near the bottom of the scoreboard, but it was well deserved, a point emphasised by the Brigade Commander as he gave out the prizes at a ceremony later that day. The only thing the infanteers could fault us on was the standard of drill. Perhaps next year we'll pass our saluting test, also!



## VISIT OF SOINC

At the end of March the Regiment welcomed **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Benbow** on their initial visit to Berlin. A very full programme included all comms elements of the whole of West Berlin. The General and his wife were met at Tegel airport by the CO, **Lt Col James Budd** and the Adjt **Lt Therese Crook** and whisked off to the Berlin Air Safety Centre (BASC) in the GOC's Daimler. At BASC, the only place where the Soviet flag flies in West Berlin, alongside its three 'allies', they discovered that their flight from England had not been guaranteed safe access through East Germany! This is in keeping with the quadrapartite agreement which states that only flights from West Germany for resupply purposes are guaranteed safe access. Afterwards, on to Villa Lemm (the GOC's residence) for tea and a short rest before the next event.

A quick photo call for Maj Gen Benbow with Maj Gen B. C. Gordon Lennox (GOC Berlin British Sector) and the CO Lt Col Budd

The following two days included not only a tour of the Regiment, but visits to the French and American sectors, 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt and the Berlin Tels office, also. The visit was timed to fit in with Ex *Rondo* 26. The General, after having a quick look at the final phases of the exercise, kindly presented the prizes to the winning teams. During the prizegiving the opportunity was taken to present **Sig Kev Potter** with his Army Canoeing Colours which he had earned before his arrival in Berlin.

Sig Kev Potter receives his canoeing colours from the SOinC

Besides the hectic daytime programme the evenings were put to good use, also. The General spent one evening at the Regimental Dinner Night in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and the other at an Allied Signal Officers Supper Dance in the HQ Officers' Mess. It must have been an exhausted SOinC who left Berlin the following day.

## EXERCISE *RONDO 26*

At the end of March it was the British Sectors turn to host Ex *Rondo*. This is a biennial exercise involving teams of three, one from each sector. The theme for Ex *Rondo 26* devised by **Capt Mike Spoors**, whilst retaining an element of competitiveness introduced a new theme of training using the Jaguar Vinson radio equipment, common to all three sectors but unique to Berlin.

The programme was carefully planned out to ensure the maximum amount of concurrent activity took place over its three day duration. The exercise started off with training in Jaguar Vinson, including the use of masts, antenna and remotes for this equipment. The second phase was training on allied weapons. The competitive phase included subjects learned during the training phases, orienteering, a SAWES fieldcraft exercise, shooting, a forced march, an assault course through Ruhleben fighting city and a comms test.

The exercise ran very smoothly (apart from losing a few Frenchmen on the orienteering) and appeared to be enjoyed by all participants. The winning teams (Brit element only) were:

1st: **LCpl Shaun McFarlane**
2nd: **Sig Geoff Love**
3rd: **Sig Kev Potter**

After **Maj Gen Benbow** had presented the prizes and congratulated the winning teams a lunch was held in the regimental restaurant, followed (no doubt) by a 'few' beers with new found American and French friends.

Maj Gen Benbow presents the prizes to the winning team: *Left to Right:* SP4 Grimes (American Forces), Sgt Bender (French Forces), and LCpl Shaun McFarlane, Capt Mike Spoors (Right) hands over the Trophies

Pte Hedouin (French Forces) tries to get through on the Jaguar Vinson Equipment to complete the Comms test. LCpl 'Pud' Marshall (Left) and Sgt Sapinski (American Forces) look on

**THE REGIMENT'S FIRST SPORTS TROPHY**

At 0530 hrs on 29 February a team of enthusiastic hockey players left Berlin for the seven hour trip to York Barracks, Munster. A short while after arriving the semi final of the 3 Armd Div minor units hockey competition against 204 Sig Sqn began. It was a well fought game with the Regiment winning by three goals to nil. The goals were scored by **LCpl Carroll, WO1 Nixon** and **Sig Tivey**.

The following day the finals, against BMH Iserlohn took place at Napier Barracks Dortmund. Although the team had some trouble with sore backs and stiff legs from the previous day's play, the enthusiasm from the team was encouraging and everyone was looking forward to the game ahead.

The game started off with 29 Sig Regt applying the pressure. However some very good play from the medics left the half time score in their favour by two goals to nil. At the half time period a quiet talk by 29's captain assured the team that only a little more effort was needed to beat them.

With renewed enthusiasm the team went out and proceeded to show the opposition a very high standard of hockey. **LCpl Carroll** scored the first goal for the Regiment followed shortly afterwards by the equalizer from **WO1 Larke**. The Regiment went ahead for the first time with a well worked goal from **Sig Tivey**. The medics were not yet finished and five minutes later equalized.

With very little time left there was frenzied action from both sides. Good play from **Cpl Yarwood** and **Sig Tivey** ended up with a superb cross where once again **WO1 Larke** was there to score with only 30 seconds of the match left to play. The final score was 29 Sig Regt 4 BMH Iserlohn 3. Congratulations to both teams for an excellent final. 29 Sig Regt team: **WO1 Larke, WO1 Nixon, Mr Powell, SSgt McKechnie, Sgts Beresford, Freeman, Cpls Yarwood, Dodds, Draper, LCpls Schollick, Carroll** and **Sig Tivey**.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

As usual Berlin has seen many old faces leave and new one arrive. Farewell to **Lt Simon Green** who left (shortly after recovering from chicken pox) for 28 Sig Regt and the Chief Clerk **WO2 'Taff' Galvin PARA**. Other members of the Regiment recently departed are; **SSgt Norton RAPC, Cpls Duddell** (on promotion), **Jarwood, Gopsill, Thorpe** and **Little, LCpls Lazenby Williamson** and **Ball, Sig Newton, Jones** and **Butler**. In their places we welcome **2LT 'Pied Piper' Favager** (fresh from his CQ course at Blandford) **WO2 Alastair Sykes** (also from the School Regiment), **Capt Gerry Sullivan** (our new TOT), **WO2 Williamson ACC, SSgt Lees RAPC, WSgt Davie, WCpl Bancroft, Cpl Sant, WLCpls Longhurst** and **Gosnell, Sig Ham, Beattie, Hanlon** and **WPte Allison**.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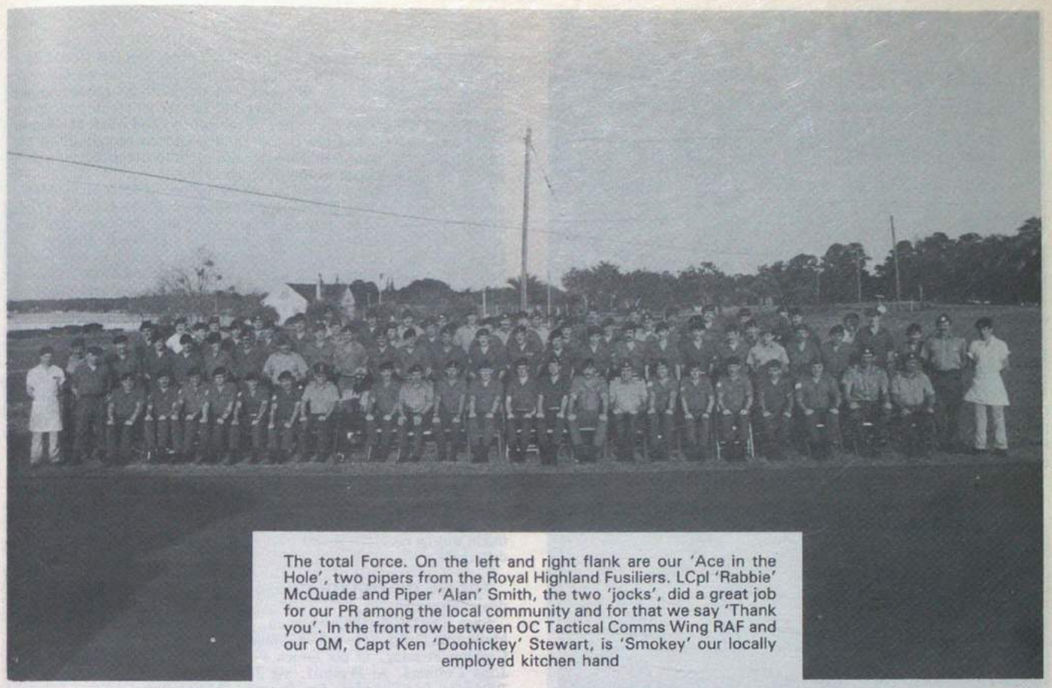
## 30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

**EXERCISE *GLASS MERCURY 1984***

**Maj Peter Hryhoruk**, OC 1 Sqn left UK for Florida, USA to recce Ex *Glass Mercury* in September 1983. Not a bad start to his first overseas exercise since taking over command of his Squadron! The advance party left Blandford on Thursday 12 January for AMC South Cerney, stayed overnight there and left Lyneham by Hercules for Florida, flying via Iceland and Gander, Canada. The main party left Brize Norton on a VC10 on Saturday 14 January. They also flew to Gander, but paid a short visit to Washington DC, for refuelling. The 'Force' consisted of 1 Sqn, elements of HQ Sqn and members of the RAF Tactical Comms Wing. Accommodation and administrative back up were to be provided by our American allies, but due to the American Football Final (The Super Bowl), our communicating colleagues in Tampa, Florida were unable to accommodate us. We were housed and communicated from the home of the Florida National Guard at Camp Blanding in Bradford County. This camp is situated some 150 miles from Tampa and about 25 miles from Jacksonville. To provide admin back up from Tampa would have caused immediate problems so we were turned over to the Admin Staff at Camp Blanding. To say their support was superb would not do it justice. Communications were set up on and near the camp airfield. This in itself caused a few problems because the Officers and SNCOs accommodation was two miles away and the Admin/ Squadron Office and Cookhouse were one mile away. 'No problem' said the National Guard, 'we will provide transport'. A 6½ ton, a carryall, a staff car, a 56 seater and a 25 seater arrived for us.

Outside the Admin Office with our well travelled exercise sign. Cpl (now Sgt) Oates, Cpl O'Connell and AT 'Ossie' Osman from AAC Harrogate





The total Force. On the left and right flank are our 'Ace in the Hole', two pipers from the Royal Highland Fusiliers. LCpl 'Rabbie' McQuade and Piper 'Alan' Smith, the two 'jocks', did a great job for our PR among the local community and for that we say 'Thank you'. In the front row between OC Tactical Comms Wing RAF and our QM, Capt Ken 'Doohickey' Stewart, is 'Smokey' our locally employed kitchen hand

**R AND R TOO**

After arrival on Sunday 15 January, we were briefed by the OC and SSM and shown our accommodation. Monday morning saw the setting up at the Comms site, establishment of a general routine, and shift working. This lasted for two days and then the exercise swung into full shift working. R & R was organised on the basis of a two day visit to Disneyworld, a one day visit to the National Space Agency, an Alligator Farm and Daytona Beach. Sleep days and days off were utilised for these and congratulations at this time must be extended to **Sgt Dougie Nadin** and **LCpl Taff Royal** for the long hours spent driving to and from Disneyworld and NASA.

*Left to Right:* Sgt 'Taff' Witchell MT Sgt, WO2 (AQMS) Taff 'Redneck' Moogan and LCpl 'The Bus' Taff Royall. Note the weather, fog and puddles. Not the normal Florida weather one has come to read and hear about. The Cypress tree adorned with Spanish moss is typical of Florida

One of the highlights of our stay in Florida was an invitation by Command **SM Bob Crosby** to **SSM Mick Nevill** (now RSM 8 Sig Regt) to lecture to the National Guard SNCO's Academy at their graduation ceremony.

CSM Mickey T. Nevill lecturing to the assembled company. Seated fourth from the left is Brig Gen Lawson, the Assistant Adjutant General, Florida National Guard

**SPORT**

It would not be proper to visit a foreign country without playing soccer. **SSgt Arthur** (the Pay Bloke) **Smith RAPC** liaised with the University of Jacksonville and a match was arranged. Although we had a makeshift team it would be unfair not to mention the score. We lost 2—1, World Cup soccer watch out!

On the right The University Captain and friend holding a Royal Signals stable belt with Corps badges fixed to it of all those Regiments and Corps that serve with us. This was presented by, on the left, nearest the camera and moving, SSgt Smith and the tall one behind him is Sig 'Scouse' Halligan

All good things must come to an end and after this brief, but we hope interesting story, the picture shows a soldiers farewell to Florida. A Royal Air Force VC10 which kindly flew down to taxi us all back to the UK. Again note the weather, cold and misty. The sun came out the next day exclusive to the rear party only

This story could not close without a very big 'Thank you' to the following people:

Readiness Command, Signal Corps, Tampa, Florida.
**Lt Col John Swindall**, Executive Officer, Camp Blanding
**Mrs Judy Swindall**, for her help and hospitality
**Capt John Moores**, Logistics Officer, Camp Blanding
The ladies in post HQ Camp Blanding for all their patience and admin assistance
**Leading Chief Petty Officer John Dills** at Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

Without their goodwill and assistance life could have become very difficult. To them all we say 'If you ever come to England, come and visit us please and we will attempt to return the friendliness and hospitality'.

**EXERCISE *PENDULUM SOUTH***

'There are two exercises coming up in January men, one in Florida and one in Norway. All those who volunteer for Norway take one step forward'. The silence was absolute. It was not the best of starts but eventually the twenty 'volunteers' came forward. These trusty men under the command of **Lt Dennis Mills**, deployed to Norway for three months, from early January to late March providing HF Rear Links Comms for 3 Cdo Bde RM. This period included a three week Arctic Warfare Course, the aim of which was to teach the soldier to ski carrying a 50lb Bergen and a rifle and to survive all conditions down to −30°C. When told the object of the course, **Cpl Mick Mallinson** said 'No problem', **Cpl Les Donno** fainted and the remainder of the troop led by **Sig 'Skid Pan' Silvester** ran off into the distance, which served as an ideal start to the fitness training.

The sail from Plymouth to Oslo on the luxurious RFA *Sir Bedevere* allowed plenty of time for more PT and extreme sea-sickness. Once ashore 'Marine Speak' had to be mastered and the rigours of the Arctic Warfare course faced and overcome. **Cpl 'Yetti' Brown** and **LCpl 'Tree Stop' Evans** soon displayed skiing techniques never seen before by the Marines, while **SSgt (YofS) Graham Easton** took the laid back approach and skied on his back! During the next phase of the course we experienced some Marine humour—a night without tents or access to our Bergens. Food however was provided, albeit in the form of reindeer; despite this it was rumoured that during the early hours of the morning when the temperature dropped to −20°C, **Cpl Graham Fleming** considered having a sense of humour failure as he watched his fire die out.

After a successful comms exercise we had an opportunity to give all the drivers skid control training on a circuit cut out of a frozen lake. The layout was obviously not to **Sig 'Out of Control' Wiltshire's** taste as he tended to cut new tracks on the bends!

The final phase consisted of a week at sea, or as in **LCpl 'Sailor' Powell's** case, in bed, followed by an FTX 250 miles into the Arctic Circle. We had a difficult task trying to convince **Sig 'Bright Eyes' Turner** that he was unlikely to see the Northern Lights at lunch. This might not be everyone's idea of a winter holiday but it certainly was different!

**'MILLS' COMMANDOS'**—and volunteers for next year's deployment are:

**SSgt (YofS) Graham Easton, Sgt Dave Keenan, Cpls Mick Mallinson, Gregg Brown, Les Donno, Jim Knighton, Keith Anderson, Graham Fleming, LCpls Enoch Powell, Jim Hanlon, Dave Evans, John Coltman, Al Westoff, Sig John Evans, Andy Turner, Steve Wiltshire, Lee Silvester, Jim Parsons, Doc Halliday.**

**TREGANTLE BATTLE CAMP**

Already tired from an exhausting weeks communicating on Ex *Brocks Payne* and an even more exhausting weekend R and R in Newquay, 3 Sqn were joined by HQ, 1 and 2 Sqns on Sunday afternoon for the beginning of the Regimental Battle Camp. After a leisurely Sunday afternoon jaunt across the Cornish countryside, we prepared ourselves for the events of the forthcoming week.

To increase the competitive aspect, the Regiment was split into teams of ten, and team 13, with **2Lt Rob Salvoni** and **Sgt John Gibson** at the helm, were determined to make an impact with some good shooting and reasonably skilful mapreading on day one. The events of Tuesday morning took place in an old abandoned sea fort, and consisted of several climbs and abseils from the ramparts and into the moat. This was very well organised by the PTIs and everyone seemed to enjoy it. In the afternoon, we remained in the fort to do some original and invigorating bayonet practice. This was new to most of us, but by the end hardly any encouragement was needed to show our natural aggression.

It did not escape notice that the march and shoot competition, in many ways the highlight of Battle Camp, was carefully programmed for the morning after the night patrol and shoot. Despite the late night, punctuated with bangs and flashes, team 13 bravely pushed themselves along the six mile march and shoot course, with **LCpl Dave Clarke**, fit from his training for pre-para' pacesetting. A respectable time and good shooting (notably from **Sig Nige Waters**) produced a decent overall result.

The afternoon was spent messing about in boats at HMS *Raleigh* or, more specifically, sailing, rowing and a power boat trip around the harbour. The boat trip and the sailing were gentle enough, but the rowing came as a bit of a shock to the system; it involved eight-man teams racing each other in whalers around Plymouth harbour.

The Battle Camp ended with a 24 hour defence exercise designed to demonstrate to the men a company defensive position. After a heavy days digging, we prepared ourselves for the inevitable attack and a long, cold night in the trenches. Endex came as a great relief to us all, and all that was left was to fill in trenches and pack to go home. Overall, the exercise achieved its aim, to practise signalmen in their basic military skills, and was at the same time an enjoyable and interesting week.

Who said anything about women and children first?—Members of 2 Sqn preparing for a row

The 2 Sqn team consisting of Lt Nick Borrill, SSgt Bob Hooper, Cpls Paul Marshall, John Barnett, Barney Patel, David Evans and Mike Sheehan preparing to move the 'injured man' down the quarry watched by a host of DS

Sgt 'Taff' Witchell wondering what Maj Roland Ebdon and Capt Phil Pratley knew that he didn't before the start of the Orienteering competition

'Where's he gone?'—Members of an HQ Sqn team looking anxiously down the quarry. Front Row *Left to Right:* Lt Andy Johnson ACC, Sig Joseph McGinness, LCpls 'Willy' Williams and Ian Power; Back Row *Left to Right:* LCpl 'Robby' Reid and Sig 'Hank' Hankinson

**THE DYER'S CUP—A 2 SQUADRON VIEW**

The first phase of the Dyer's Cup patrol competition was held in February, and designed to familiarise and test the 10 man patrols from the Regiment, in moving across country in full marching order.

Preparation for the two Squadron teams began in earnest with a number of organised marches, varying in range, depending on how the route was interpreted for that particular day. Four teams from the squadron began the initial training, but as the distances and hence foot injuries increased, the number of participants diminished reducing the squadron commitment to three teams. The training marches proved to be valuable, providing an opportunity to break in both new and 'old' boots, and practise basic map reading skills, although **LCpl Robert Messruther** and his team still maintain the latter part of the training wasn't necessary!

The competition consisted of an 18 mile march interspersed with two command tasks and ending with a night patrol based in Blandford Camp. The setting for the first problem given by the Regimental gym staff was the 'Alpine Rescue', and 2 Sqn's 'A' team, as it was so aptly named, launched into action without delay. The aim of this stand was to move the injured climber from the inevitable 'mountain ledge' to safer ground, administering the necessary first aid treatment throughout. **Cpl Paul Marshall's** abseil with the patient went smoothly and despite a minor scrape between the patient and the 'cliff' wall, the overall marks for speed and safety were high.

The second stand, and a welcome urn of tea, came after a further eight miles of marching. **Cpl 'Barney' Barnett** was nominated IC for this task and duly disappeared for his brief by the training wing staff. Minutes later the team was hailed across to a parked land rover and the situation quickly explained. The problem, as guessed was to change the wheel without any vehicle tools, and after a lot of complex ideas, it was suggested we try lifting the rover—the solution! Needless to say **Cpl Patrick Gibney** and his MT section obtained a high score.

The final stage of phase 1 was the return to Blandford Camp and the establishment of a patrol base at Pond Bottom. The night phase passed without further incident and, despite the extreme cold, everyone awoke in good heart, with the prospect of a hot shower and phase 2 of the competition.

The concluding phase was held during the Regimental battle camp at Fort Tregantle and consisted of a march and shoot competition, designed to test all competitors through a six mile forced march and falling plate shoot. A total of 16 teams participated, each member carrying webbing ballasted to 25 lbs and an SLR. The course chosen was, naturally all uphill, running along the coastline, and from the startline the 90 mins which lay ahead was not particularly inviting. Despite the saddening thought of running the course each team drove hard with 2 Squadron's 'A' team, now consisting of **Lt Nick Borrill, Cpls Kiwi Marshall, Mick Sheehan, Barney Patel, LCpl Sid Perks, Sig George Rahman, Jonah Jones, Geordie Raine** and last minute entry **Sig Dave Holt**, achieving the fastest time with 66 mins The

teams finally finished with the shoot under the auspices of the RSM and his range staff.

The time allocated was 90 secs in which 18 targets had to fall using minimum rounds and with excellent shooting from **Cpl Marshall** and **Sig Raine** and **Jones**. Team A topped the scores for the second phase With 1 Squadron's first place in phase 1 back in February, OC1 and OC2 Sqn now calmly await the overall result.

**BLANDFORD GARRISON SERGEANTS MESS**

On Friday 2 March the Garrison Sergeants' Mess said goodbye to two of its stalwarts. **WO1 (FofS) Mick Scott BEM** after 22 years with the Corps and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Nevill** after a successful tour with 30 Sig Regt. We wish them luck in their new venture. **Mick Scott** as a civilian (Australia bound) and **Mick Nevill** in his new post as RSM of 8 Sig Regt.

RSM presenting WO1 (FofS) Mick Scott with his farewell gift from the Garrison Mess. The Mess Manageress Mrs Rhona Diaz Rodrigues looks on

*(Photographs by Geoff Parselle, School of Signals)*

**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 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 reached 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 package and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

**Mr P. E. A. Hall**
'Kohima' 1030 Harrow Road Wembley Middlesex HQ0 2QT

WO1 (RSM) Brian Smith saying goodbye to WO2 (SSM) Mick Nevill

**THE WHISTLER TROPHY**

**Lt Mark Campbell** being represented with the Whistler Trophy by **Maj Gen (Retd) A. M. W. Whistler CB CBE** at a Regimental Dinner night held in the Headquarters Mess on 17 February 1984.

## 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
## Hammersmith

**THE 'EAGLE' RETURNS**

If you can picture the scene of the snow powdered peaks of the Ardennes, the roaring log fires and the comfort of the duty free, you can well imagine the warm feeling of contentment. The recce had gone very much to plan and the information gained would surely enhance the success of the forthcoming exercise. Then it happened, we attempted to return to the UK. **RSM WO1 'Cas' Francis** quite innocently passed the remark to the CO **Lt Col David Strong** that it was going to be a very good day. We rendezvoused at Shape HQ, loaded our chariots with the spoils of NAAFI and set off for the coast.

Half way there and soaring like an eagle along Belgium's route 71 to Zeebrugge, our hearts stopped and our mouths dropped as the engine cut and the revs disappeared. 'We have the technology to fix it' said one, 'If I can't fix I bet I can lift it' said another. In a matter of seconds the carburettor was stripped and laid along the road side. Pity really because that wasn't the problem. Time for an 'O' group. The CO confirmed we were in the proverbial.

Just then like a knight in shining armour, the 2IC **(Maj Colin Stenning)** appeared, pulled up his sturdy mount alongside our nag. 'Have no fear I have the brain to resolve it' he said, and off he charged over the horizon. Some many minutes later he reappeared with a tow chain, left the chain with us and decided to go it alone to the port in case he missed the boat. It was a nice tow chain and we agreed it would look nice hooked up to something. Not to despair, help is on its way from good old UKSU Shape. After some many minutes or hours or days the VM joined the campers. After several beefy blows with the hammer, it was decided that we did not have the technology at all.

Back to Shape on a fixed tow, it was very reassuring until the landrover started to take off in the slip stream of the VM (BMW) 4 tonner. The RSM definitely went pale. Arrival at SHAPE meant all the usual phone calls, promises of the earth, future re-unions, authorities, and most important, another Rover.

Too easy now, fill in the 25 forms, re-type the border passes, issue POL transfer the kit. Yes, we were on the road again. Plain sailing, empty roads, clear sky, no chance. The freak snow storm was settling quite thick so we slowed down a little but braved onward.

Arriving at Ostend (forget previous indications of Zeebrugge, too involved), at approx 0245 hrs (big hand on nine, little hand on frozen) only to wait one hour for our boat. At 1035 hrs we boarded!

Now time for a shave, shampoo, hearty breakfast and clock up the Z's. 31 Sig Regt all clean and sparkling now but the other 350 passengers have no hot water. The gents resembled a military gay club, bodies beautiful.

The restaurant wafted odours of crispy bacon and egg so four portions were eagerly ordered. As the delights were served, the sea became very rough, the wave more frequent and bigger by the second. One breakfast left the table at about 60 mph and so too one of the diners. The next wave took the coffee pot and cups. The third took a second breakfast and deposited orange juice into the remaining two bacon and eggs.

It's time for another CO's 'O' group. 'Forget it, pay up, it's getting dangerous in here with all this flying glass, let's get some sleep.' It was impossible to sleep as the waves wouldn't allow you to stay in the seat long enough to close a lid. By now the corridors and rest areas looked like Dunkirk. Everyone of them clutching a duty free brown bag.

To top it all we were last off the boat but the customs took pity on our bedraggled appearance, sagging eyelids and gritting teeth. We are sure the exercise for real will go with a bang. This can be seen on video entitled 'The Longest Day'.

Our 'Recruiters'—the RRTT. Front Row: SSgts Geoff Voller, Jack Mileham, Maj Ron Miller, SSgt Frank Smith and Sgt John Crook have about 149 years of service between them

Recruit Selection—as 'naughty' recruits inspect the concrete for imperfections!

**41 SQUADRON**

Early February saw 1984's first field exercise and K Troop hidden in the woods near Tweseldown enjoying the repeated attacks of the enemy (who looked remarkably like the Adjutant **Capt Ian Ryder** and **WO2 Henry Holman**). Rumour has it that they only came back the second time to be able to cadge some petrol so that they could get away and attack someone else!

We await with interest the explanation from the Troop 2IC **Lt Karin Doull** and **Sgt David James** of how it was they came to be overtaken by cyclists on the return to TACs; it's never normally that slow.

The last minute Bounty hunters had the ARU on 28/29 March as their chance to scrape in for £400. N Troop, led by **Lt Linda Webber**, had the privilege (?) of starting the inspection by the Brigade Commander, **Brig Ian Shapter**, with a full 'we're ready to go to war' parade at Coulsdon before rolling out to join the exercise.

For K Troop starting the weekend presented a different challenge. The collapse of the garage floor at Hammersmith (we're back to 1979 again!) had resulted in the dispersal of their vehicles all round the Regiment. Thanks to the 'sheepdog' efforts of **Sgt John Hickey, LCpls Ted Ramaya** and **John Hendon** and **Sig Rob Stanton** they were all gathered for a dawn move on the Saturday. It was only when the troop moved again that the OC **Lt John Ruske** thought he had mechanical homing pigeons on his ledger—he was in his new site but without troops. Never mind TEWTs are good practice for Promotion exams! And then the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** arrived with an HF detachment, and so at least they could keep each other company in the wrong place. All was well in the end; just a different access to the site: But, Sir, we always come in this way.

**47 SQUADRON**

Spring may come slowly in Harrow but not for our SQMS **SSgt Martin Jones** who has a new item on his ledger, to wit a wife **Frances**. Has he told you what a good cook he is?

Congratulations too to **Sgt Clive Brown** on his Efficiency Medal, and to our new SSM **WO2 Barry Skingle** on the bar to his. (Note for citation readers: Try saying Skingle Royal Signals three times quickly!)

A busy Autumn led us to believe that the Spring exercises would be different. But they're not; it's still cold and damp, the OC **Maj Bill Morris** is still tempted to pull his hair out (we're told the 3,000 ft stance always ensures he is looked up to!), and the hours remains definitely 'unsocial'. And then along comes **OCdt Tony Rose** to add that certain couth—Chocolate mousse at 0400 hrs, and grapefruit sections on Sunday morning. He hasn't yet learned to warm the papers for the OC.

**Capt Susan Fenney** also has our congratulations for being the leading lady in the London District Orienteering Championship. Her prize for running so successfully a taxing course in the area of Rushmoor at Aldershot made more demanding by wet sandy tracks was a beautifully framed print of the course. No excuse now for bad map recces when, as ever, Murphy's Law dictates that the one Training Area map required for exercises is the one out of stock (or 'borrowed'!)

The Squadron team of **Capt Fenney, Lt Maggy Pickles** and **Pte Betsy Kolsky** were narrowly beaten into second place, while **2Lt Steve Potter, OCdt Tony Rose** and **LCpl Loxley Trype** ran well as the men's team. Where was **LCpl Trype** when we took the photographs? Still out running in the gathering mist, we are told.

Pte Betsy Kolsky, Capt Susan Fenney and Lt Maggy Pickles looking remarkably fit after their Orienteering success

Yorkie Bars (HGV 3 licences) have now been awarded to **Cpl Rudy Harding, LCpls Andy Hutchins, 'Animal' Holland** and **Sig 'Gunner' Metcalfe** and **Andy Price. Sig Garry Cheshire** also passed his driving test, but says the driving school's Metro is definitely smoother than a Land Rover. So the Squadron may yet 'traverser la Manche' in June with a full complement of drivers.

**83 SQUADRON**

The run-up to Ex *Calm Fence* is well and truly under way, and we began with the first Regimental exercise of the year in our favourite spot—Hungry Hill! Our relatively new Minor Access Node (sorry, now called a Secondary Access Node) A Troop were just down the road, or so they told us. **Sgt Derek Cattrall** and the LAD Forward Repair Team do not agree. Their OC **Lt 'Another New Pip' Penny Radway** assures it was the excellence of their camouflage and not the lack of TAC signs that made them hard to find.

Trunk Node India sailed through the exercise with ease (it says here), even finding time to offer a bed for the night to a stray from the RCT. The SSM **WO2 Chris Mahony** would make a wonderful mother!

The most recent exercise concentrated on movement but not for Trunk Node India around whom the Regiment spent the weekend in almost constant movement. Just as well, really, for we couldn't get out of the mud. Our newly appointed NRPS SQMS **SSgt Roy Smith** was quickly popular as the indents for flippers and snorkels flooded in, and **LCpl Gary Baker** is unable to recover all the spades, shovels and picks that went out. He's got nothing left with which to dig them out of the mud.

**HQ SQUADRON**

Distinction and mixed fortunes met our team in the Londist TA Cup Football competition which we entered for the first time in three years. A goaless first half against G Coy London Scottish was followed after shrewd managerial tactics which brought Team Manager **Capt (QM) John Robson** in to goal, while **Sig 'Dinger' Bell** became centre half, by four rapid goals (to us).

Our second round tie was again at home with 289 Cdo Battery RA (V).

Our delight at an early 1—0 lead was broken by the injury jinx as the MTWO **WO1 Harry Lund** snapped his Achilles tendon and was out for the rest of the competition. Two quick goals from our opponents brought sustained pressure and three fine goals, the last a penalty in the 89th minute.

The morning after the Sergeants' Mess Draw is not the best time to meet the holders 265 Sig Sqn (V) in the Semi Final—and even less so if you are one man short. 265 showed why they have held the trophy for so long with some fine football, but the final score of 7—0 to them hardly reflects the gallant efforts of a team that showed much humour and good sportsmanship.

We welcome on attachment **2Lt Joanne Sturgess** on a six month visit from Manchester UOTC while studying in Reading. Her early achievement, in the Courage Trophy, is reported below.

**THE COURAGE TROPHY**

This year saw us with three teams in the competition. **Lt Diane Lilley** led 83 Sqn's WRAC team, and reports that a 'good time was had by all, particularly **Pte Jackie Masset** who missed her landing on the 'Queen Mary' and spent most of the competition soaking wet'.

83 Sqn's male team, sorry Gentlemen's team, was led by **Lt Ian Webber** (Egg Banjo to his friends) and **Sgt Glyn 'Old Man' Jones**. They enjoyed it so much that they have, to a man, volunteered for next year's competition, in the knowledge that the rules will only allow three of them to take part! Their participation was marked by some amazing culinary achievement with a couple of trout and a final place of nineth overall.

The accolade goes to the Heinz (from a variety of Squadrons point of view) team led by **2Lt Joanne Sturgess**. With **Cpl Roxanne Norris, LCpls Margaret Kirby, Pat Lawrence, Victoria Everitt** and **Ptes June Russell, Betsy Kolsky** and **Carmella Chapman** as the team, they won the WRAC competition, well done—and they were still smiling before they knew the result.

Still smiling after the Courage Trophy are Sir Harry Secombe, LCpl Andy Raynsford, Pte Beverley Holley and Cpl Graham Drew with Lt Ian Webber in the background

2Lt Joanne Sturgess receives her Team Prize from Sir Harry Secombe. Maj Graham Somerville is mistaken if he thinks he'll get the beer!



## 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE**

A Regimental Detachment Commander's Course is being held over the period of one weekend in March, April and May. The 19 students attending were met at Chester on Friday 23 March by members of the Directing Staff and Course Instructors who will be their mentors for the duration of the course. After the opening address by the Course Officer **WO1 (RSM) Bob Lockwood**, the students completed a testing BFT and intake T'sOET.

During a very busy weekend students were either under instruction in the classroom, on the drill square; or in the area of Saighton Camp practising Section Attacks, Internal Security Drills and Fieldcraft. All Instructors were of the opinion that the standard of the course was high and that all students were enthusiastically motivated to improve their ability to be efficient and effective junior leaders of the Volunteer Soldier.

**PRESENTATION OF LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE**

**WO2 (RQMS) George Tinker** until recently SSM of 80 Sig Sqn (V) was awarded a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for his devotion to duty and contribution to the high military standards of the Regiment by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, **Col The Rt Hon The Viscount Leverhulme TD** at Chester on Sunday 19 February.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Col The Rt Hon The Viscount Leverhulme, presenting WO2 (SSM) G. E. Tinker with the award of a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
The Secretary North West of England and IOM, Brig D. L. Ormerod in attendance


**BBC**

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**For the BBC's Monitoring Service at Caversham, near Reading, Berkshire**

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# 35 Sig Regt (V)
# Birmingham

**TRAINING**

Following a successful trade training annual camp at Scarborough in 1983 the CO, **Lt Col Mike Louden** decided to follow this up with a series of centralised trade training weekends over the winter months called Ex *Maple Leaf I, II* and *III*. These proved very valuable and at the trade tests at the end of February, some 29 personnel had acquired a trade. By June, with further hands on training, a few more will qualify. The photographs show some aspects of this training.

During the past training year, some 210 personnel attended courses, attachments and special weekend training sessions thus making it a very busy year. One of the busiest people has been **Sgt Jim McCormick** the Regimental Training NCO, who applies for all the trade and recruit courses.

Final revision for radio relay hands on trade test. LCpl Mill, Sig Back, Carwardine and Dixon

Linework should be fun! — Sgt Richards 48 Sqn gives critique to potential linemen

'Just hang on to the line Sir, I will be on to it straight away' — WO1 (RSM) Gordon Scott

'Would you care to say a few words about the exercise?'' Cpls Sidwell and Bagley clowning during *Maple Leaf III*

Capt John James in discussion with TOT, Maj John Wall and PSI, SSgt Sam Bondin during Ex *Maple Leaf III*



**RECRUITING**

Following the move of RHQ and HQ Sqn to its new TAC Centre at Sutton Coldfield last July, a great deal of emphasis has been put on recruiting. A single advert in a local newspaper brought 45 inquiries, of which about a third have since been recruited. The out Squadrons have had similar success following newspaper advertisements which all goes to prove that it pays to advertise.

10 and 11 March sees the first of a series of pre-enlistment selection and recruit training weekends. Some 114 personnel are earmarked to attend making it a daunting task for the RRTT personnel, who will show the potential recruits the basics of TA life and weed out those who are unsuitable and those who do not wish to proceed further. Hopefully, the new procedure will reduce wastage rates amongst new recruits.

**EXERCISE *MIDLANDS EXPRESS***

Another project of the CO was to connect all the TA Centres with RHQ using radio relay on a drill night. It was decided that the ideal opportunity to demonstrate this would be 6 March, which was to be the ARU Inspection. For several weeks before this date, various Squadrons tested out some of the links and argued the toss over direct and relayed shots. **Capt Robert Scott** in 48 Sqn firmly believed that a direct shot was possible from his location in South Birmingham to RHQ at Sutton Coldfield despite the high rise blocks that populate the city centre. By carefully setting up 40ft masts on top of the TA Centre, the link was proved. A direct shot from Birmingham to Rugby proved more tenuous and **Capt Paul Stafford** in 89 Sqn swore that his PPA proved the shot would not work. 48 Sqn were less convinced but a compromise was reached and a relay was located on top of the Lickey Hills.

The link to 95 Sqn at Shrewsbury 60 Kms away to the west was not a problem as a relay was situated on top of the Wrekin which is 400 metres high. Another relay on the Wrekin, provided a direct link into 58 Sqn at Newcastle 50 Kms to the North.

The 6 March came and the ARU was postponed. However, the exercise went ahead and by 2115 hrs the CO had spoken to all out Squadrons. The 125 Km link to 58 Sqn went over a total of six 1+4 No 3 multiplexers and three relays and the circuit quality was excellent.

**ANNUAL CAMP**

Annual Camp in June 1984 will be in BAOR and everyone is looking forward to it. The 'novelty' of Germany never seems to wear off and there is much enthusiasm for this biennial event. During March, a party of 22 will recce some 60 possible sites spread over a very large area. The PPA skills of the Radio Relay Troop Commanders will be tested to the extremes.

**REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING COMPETITION**

Sunday 4 March was the day earmarked for the Regimental inter-Squadron orienteering competition. After a lovely Saturday, almost 'Spring' like day, Sunday was wet and misty and the numbers who turned out were lower than expected. Some 23 runners, seven of whom were WRAC set out on the courses laid out by **Lt Jean Payne WRAC** in the middle of the Sutton Park. **Sgt Tony Whalley** and **Cpl Kevin Robinson,** both of 58 Sqn produced the fastest times for the 6.2 Km course and **Pte Jayne Heaselgrave** and **Pte Kim Bennett** of HQ Sqn produced the best times for the shorter 3.4 Km course. The Livingstone Trophy was presented to the most promising novice **Pte Heaselgrave** who at the time of writing is still a recruit. Two unmentionables managed to get lost within the Park which, for the benefit of those who do not know it, is completely enclosed and is the largest city park in Europe. The prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer's wife **Mrs Mary Louden.**

The next orienteering event is at the end of March when units in Western District compete for the District Trophy. Hopefully this year the competition will not be up the side of the Wrekin—our local mountain.

**58 SQN (V) EXERCISE *TRY ALL* 14-15 JANUARY**

It was 58 Sig Sqn's first exercise after the Christmas break. *Try All* was the name; and in fact, the title fitted the weekend exactly! Ten competing teams were to spend 24 hours in the field at Swynnerton training area. Entirely self contained, they were to be marked on 15 different tasks that were incorporated into an imaginative scenario.

224 Field Ambulance provided the competition DS and **Maj Sayers** kindly brought along representatives from the Western District Training Team.

Among the teams competing was one from the Newcastle ATC led by Cadet **WO Grult** and an ACF team led by **LCpl Mark Jackson.** Both teams had joined in the preparatory lectures given at the Newcastle TAC during the preceding weeks.

On her first exercise after being commissioned, **2Lt Jeanette Bell** controlled the Initiative stand. The first team had to get an ammunition box over a river, using their initiative and a length of Don 10. The second team led by **LCpl Gary Scott** had a slightly different task, that of getting an ammunition box out of the river, using two shorter lengths of Don 10.

**2Lt Jane Hubbard,** in charge of the first aid stand arranged that each team found themselves arriving on the scene of a simulated traffic accident. They had to deal quickly with the first priorities of first aid. The casualties were *very* realistic, and the teams gained experience in coping with shock, nausea and fainting . . . as well as the casualties' problems.

The scenario put the location of the action in mountainous country with freezing temperatures. And this proved to be uncannily prophetic! The temperature dropped, throughout the day. Some of the water flasks even began to freeze. Some didn't. **Sgt Brian Simms** could only suggest that it was an old soldier's trick of the trade, when asked why the contents of his flask seemed immune from the elements.

Everyone expected that the WRAC contingent would have difficulty in keeping up with the rigorous programme. But, other than a couple of exceptions, they all stuck the course out to the bitter end. **Pte Karen Bowers,** said it beat Jane Fonda's workout sessions any day!

**Sgt Colin Bermingham,** in charge of the assault course bravely showed **LCpl Patrick Knowles** and his team how to tackle the course at full speed. Fortunately he was up and about again before it was time to DS a night patrol.

Rising before dawn and poking noses out of bashers, revealed the sight of fresh snow; **Sig John Johnson** declared that this merely made making breakfast easier to see but not everyone agreed!

At the end of Sunday, to an expectant, exhausted, but happy Squadron, **Maj Bob Haysom** finally announced that **LCpl Nigel Hewit's** team had achieved the most marks. When accepting his team's prize, his parting comment was, 'It was a hell of a way to work off that extra helping of Christmas pud!'

**HAIL AND FAREWELLS**

A number of the permanent staff depart shortly for pastures new. **Sgt Jimmy Kingswell,** 'Mr Fix it', **WO1 (RSM) Gordon Scott** and **Capt Barbara Gratton** our only WRAC PSO who is retiring after 40 years service, 18 of which have been with the Regiment. We wish them every success and happiness for the future.

We welcome **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Marshall** and **Sgt Bert Angus** and wish them an enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

**48 SIG SQN (V) BIRMINGHAM**

**TO INTRODUCE OUR SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Brian Foxon TD and Principal Lecturer** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Malcolm Luing and Social Worker** |
| **PSO** | **Capt Stephen Bloom Ex Major Royal Signals** |
| **SSM WO2** | **Billy Clarke and HGV Driver** |
| **OC V Tp** | **Capt Robert Scott and Assistant District Manager** |
| **OC W Tp** | **Capt Derek McConnell and Teacher** |
| **PSI SSgt** | **Bob Sharp and Can't wait! Years to do** |
| **NRPS** | **SSgt Bob Heaselgrave Ex SSM TA HQ Sqn** |

**LOOKING BACK**

48 (South Midland) Sig Sqn (V) was formed on 1 April 1967 as part of 35 Sig Regt (V). We were formerly known as 48 Sig Regt which was a direct descendant from the Southern Command Signal Companies and the South Midland Telegraph Company. 48 Sig Regt was formed in 1959 with history going back to 1920.

The barracks were built in 1938 and were formerly the Royal Warwicks Barracks. Recently we have obtained pictures of many previous CO's of 48 Sig Regt which are now proudly displayed on the entrance hall walls. One picture takes pride of place. It is the one on display in the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of King George V and bears his signature.

**CURRENT EVENTS**

The Squadron completed a Sponsored Parachute Jump on 7 April 1984 at Netheravon after two days training and a week long delay for the right jumping conditions. The twenty members of the Squadron who participated were led by **Capt Robert Scott** and **Capt Derek McConnell** and all have risked life and limb in aid of Charity. The jump was for many, their first one and the sponsorship was to raise at least £1,000 for the Leukaemia Research Fund, at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. A dance was held on 14 April, when the CO **Lt Col Mike Louden,** presented a cheque to the Children's Hospital. We are pleased to say that no one has broken any legs etc.

**ANNUAL CAMP**

The Squadron is looking forward to Annual Camp in BAOR (lies) in June when together with our sister Regiments, 31 and 33 we deploy as part of 11 Signal Brigade. We are busy making various preparations for our two weeks abroad and we hope it will not rain this time (we can always hope!).

**EXERCISE *MAPLE LEAF 3***

After our winter hibernation, Victor Troop Radio Relay came out of hiding for a weekend Comms Ex to shake off the cobwebs and to complete a series of Regimental trade training weekends.

The exercise took place at Lichfield Ranges some 200 metres from the CO's Quarter and after a lot of grunts and groans (not only from the equipment) everything started to fall into place (not literally). During the weekend practical trade tests were conducted with a high pass rate. Overall some 70% of the Squadron now have a trade and this is a tremendous improvement on the 44% in March 1983. This is the result mainly of an increased emphasis on trade training and not on personnel staying longer in the unit. We are now waiting for a new influx of recruits to start the trade training again. The photographs show the Squadron at work or play during this weekend Exercise.

Capt Derek McConnell and SSgt Alan Evans sharing a joke!

Sgt John Richards, explaining the rudiments of line laying to an out Squadron

This was great Exercise *No Cam*

**RECENT FAREWELLS**

**Cpl Pete Allcock** and **LCpl Angie Allcock**

**Cpl Pete Allock** left the Squadron after eight years service, for medical reasons. Unfortunately for us, he married **Angie** on 7 December and we will be losing her as well (we don't think that he trusts the lads). The Squadron presented them both with a dome clock and wished them the best for the future.

A big farewell went to **Capt Barbara Gratton WRAC** who retired on 31 March 1984 after 41 years Regular and TA service. **Capt Gratton** joined the Regular Army in 1943 and completed 22 years Regular service. She joined 48 Sig Regt in 1965 and was commissioned as a Captain to become PSO WRAC of 48 Sig Sqn (V) on 1 April 1967. To date **Capt Gratton** has completed 19 years service with the Regiment and will be sadly missed by us all.

Yet another farewell goes to **Sgt Ricky Richards** the Regimental Combat Lineman PSI, who leaves us after two years on posting to 28 Sig Regt. **Ricky** worked both in his trade and as MT Sgt with the Squadron. After enduring two years with the Squadron, he decided to return to the real army for R and R; best wishes to **Ricky, Marie** and family.

Welcome to **Capt Stephen Bloom** who joined us in April 1984 as our new PSO. He will be kept busy following **Capt Gratton's** footsteps as Regimental Account Holder. We wish him and his family a successful and happy tour with the Regiment.

**REGIMENTAL RECCE**

Recently **SSgt Bob Sharp** PSI travelled to BAOR on a pre Annual Camp Recce with teams from RHQ and the other Squadrons. He discovered that the CO and Trg Maj were the only Recce Team to endure the perils of an overnight bivvi stop. The majority of teams enjoyed sleeping at Soest!

**FOOTNOTE**

Congratulations to **Cpl Dave** (large frame) **Bentley** having recently slimmed from 16 stone down to 14 stone—at least he's got rid of his beer weight—and hopefully will pass the BFT!



# 36 Sig Regt (V)
# Wanstead

**REGIMENTAL TRAINING CELL—'EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION'**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trg Maj** | **Maj Tim Mountford** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) George McAvoy** |
| **Co-Ord** | **SSgt Kris Barrett WRAC** |
| **Wpn Trg Instr** | **WO2 Dave Cater** |
| **PSIs:** | |
| **Wanstead** | **Sgt Derek Hannan** |
| **Newbury Park** | **SSgt Ron Bell REME** |
| **Gillingham** | **Sgt Spike Mulligan** |
| **Ilford** | **Sgt Elly Symonds WRAC** |
| **Brentwood** | **Sgt Dave Cherry** |
| **Colchester** | **SSgt Bert Connon** |
| **Cambridge** | **Sgt Wendy Cracknell WRAC** |
| **Bedford** | **Sgt Pete Rogers** |
| **Norwich** | **Sgt Monty Monton** |
| **Eastbourne** | **SSgt Pete Mills** |
| **Sandgate** | **Sgt Brian Wilkinson ('Button')** |

**A LOOK BACK**

With April being the start of the new training year it is time to reflect on the last 12 months. The year started well with everyone feeling well satisfied with their performance in BAOR from the previous year. The euphoria, however, soon disappeared when we realised that a great deal of training had to be programmed and run if we were to successfully take part in Ex *Lionheart* in 1984. Just to make life interesting 'the powers that be' decided to introduce tests in military skills, which had to be passed, for the volunteer to be awarded his or her bounty. This meant that in addition to a full programme of trade and career courses time had to be set aside for the bounty test training. It was decided to include these at annual camp at Scarborough.

Camp at Scarborough was very successful although at times it could have been described as a 'magical mystery tour'. You will notice that we don't refer to it as a 'Summer' camp any longer as this would have meant extending that season to the beginning of November. Rumour Control has it that in 1985 camp is to be held in July so maybe the term Summer Camp will be re-introduced. One advantage of having a late camp is that Christmas preparations can commence within a couple of months of the celebrations. For those members of the regiment who thought that certain members of the permanent staff didn't go to camp, it has been reported that both the Yeoman and Training Major were sighted leaving camp on the day off!

After the New Year celebrations had finally died down life returned to normal in the Regiment and preparations began in earnest for the new training year. This gave the training organisation yet another attempt to try out some new ideas and hopefully get it right this time. Our primary aim over the next few months is to fine tune the training so that members of the Regiment can take their place alongside their regular counterparts on Ex *Lionheart*.

Lt William Brown and Sig Stuart Gebbie prepare the cooking intensils

Pte Di Brown and LCpl Brad Chick discussing circuit problems during a recent Regimental Exercise

**44 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

On 10/11 March the Squadron entered a team in the London District Courage Trophy Competition. Although they only came 15th overall, they did manage to come second in the catering part of the competition.

Courage Trophy Team

*Left to Right:* Sig (now OCdt) Martin Woodham, Stuart Gebbie, Colin Burling, Lt William Brown, LCpl Graham Martin, Sig David Kingstone, Dave Baldock and LCpl Brad Chick

WO2 (SSM) Eddie Baldwin being presented with his cane by OC 44 Sqn Maj Ian Chrystie, which he had misplaced. Rumour has it that certain WRAC Subalterns in the Squadron are keeping their heads down

**54 (E) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) COURAGE TROPHY**

A team from the Squadron took part in the competition. It was regrettable that a stronger team was not available due to illness but for those who represented the unit a great effort was put in. Although we were not among the winners the experience gained was tremendous and we are looking forward to next years event when with a WRAC team entered as well, rivalry should be intense.

**COOKERY COMPETITION**

In appalling weather conditions our intrepid trio of cooks, **Sgt Stocks, Cpl Francis** and **Sig O'Dwyer** set sail for Aldershot to participate in the London District Competition.

Congratulations are in order as we came a creditable fourth. It was a good practice run, as the team proceed to Thetford shortly to defend the title they won last year. It is hoped that on home ground they will 'bakewell'.

Irrespective of any competitions we are always superbly looked after.

**EXERCISES**

Ex *Lionheart* is gradually getting under way with an Advance Party having gone to BAOR on Ex *Fast Buck*. There are bound to be stories told of how hard they had to work and no spare time, but they are to be taken with a 'pinch of snuff', or should it be a 'glass of Nersteiner'?

Everyone is indeed looking forward to Annual Camp with enthusiasm and realising that this exercise will not be a holiday, they are eagerly awaiting the challenge.

**VEHICLE MODIFICATION**

**SSgt Graham Chapman** from Bedford is £40 better off, thanks to a vehicle modification that he suggested being accepted by the MOD awards committee.

The photograph shows **SSgt Graham Chapman** being presented with his cheque by the CO, **Lt Col David Walden** at Colchester during a recent Regimental Exercise. The audience were so impressed they are now all feverishly redesigning all our equipments.

Finally now that he has come out from behind the files we would like to welcome our new Admin Offr **Capt Danny Kaye** to Cambridge and the Squadron.



54 Sqn's New AO Capt Danny Kaye settling in at Cambridge

SSgt Graham Chapman receiving his award from the CO



# 38 Sig Regt (V)
## Sheffield

**NOTABLE FUNCTION MARKS CHANGE IN COMMAND**

A Regimental Officers' Dinner and Ball, **Maj Toby Seymour** presiding, was held at the splendid Cutlers Hall, Sheffield on 31 March to bid farewell to the CO, **Lt Col Mike Vann** and to welcome **Lt Col Nick Henwood** as the new CO. **Lt Col Roger Merryweather**, lately OC 87 (Nottingham) Signal Squadron (V), was also dined out.

Back Row *Left to Right:* Lt Col Mike Vann, Lt Col Roger Merryweather, Maj Toby Seymour, Col John Francis and Lt Col Nick Henwood; Front Row *Left to Right*: Mrs Liz Henwood, Mrs Angela Merryweather, Mrs Jean Francis, Mrs Margaret Seymour and Mrs Jan Vann at the Regimental Dinner and Ball at the Cutlers Hall

**Col John Francis**, our Honorary Colonel, spoke for all of us in paying warm tribute to the splendid achievements and endeavours of **Col Mike** during his period of office and to wish him and **Jan**, his wife, all good fortunes in their new ventures in civilian life. The Honorary Colonel also gave a resumé of **Roger Merryweather's** military career spanning service in Christmas Island as a young NS subaltern through twenty plus years as a TA stalwart in the Regiment and its predecessor units (for most of his contemporaries present **Roger** has appeared to have retained that fresh-faced subaltern look and approach—he looks so smooth and shiningly young that we are convinced there is a Dorian Grey portrait at home—dissipated, aging and incredibly ugly!).

New CO, Lt Col Nick Henwood, accepting the brief

We were very happy to see so many familiar faces of our honorary and distinguished former members of the Mess at the function—particularly **Col Alan** and **Barbara Hawksworth, Col Richard** and **Anne Grimwood-Taylor** and **Col Alan** and **Bridget Ripley**.

Earlier in March the Mess, this time without our wives and husbands, dined out **Capt Wilf Childs** and **Lt Penny Wakefield** at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough.

**REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS**

The Annual Skill-at-Arms Meeting was recently held at Strensall where HQ Sqn distinguished itself by winning 13 of the 19 events of the Competition including the Regimental Inter-Squadron Cup. Congratulations were also earned by the individual event winners; **Lt Helen Roy, Pte Sherry Kershaw** (2 events), **Cfn Mike Wills, Sgt Jeff Acaster, Sig Neil Wilkinson** and **Cpl Rod Bulmer** (2 events). Special mention must be made of **WO2 Derek Wilkinson**, our Weapon Training WO, whose planning, logistic arrangements and general organisation of the meeting made it an outstanding success.

Lt Col Nick Henwood presenting the Regimental WRAC Trophy to the victorious HQ Sqn team

The CO presenting, after a check on authenticity, the Regimental Inter-Squadron Trophy to the triumphant HQ Sqn team

**46 (DERBYSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

March has proved very important for a number of members of the Squadron. Congratulations are due to **Sgts Gary Roberts, Judy Knifton, Jim** and **Angela Batchelor** (the last two named being our husband and wife squadron recruiting team)—**Cpls Linda Parr, Bob Ward, Jane Atherley, Jill Simpson, Ken Gilbank** and **Dave Smith**—**LCpls Bob Lye, Lynn Shelton, Sharron Mitchell, Enid Higson, Lorraine Churchill, Dave Tooke, John Allen, Crow Washington** and **Rick Dilkes**.

Sitting in the middle of the Derbyshire Coalfield we are playing host to the police, over 100 of whom moved into the TA Centre in the middle of March—we now know how it must have looked during the war. Whilst it has meant a reshuffle in training rooms no serious problems have been encountered.

We were able, on the day before the police moved in, to stage one

of the best attended Association Dinners for a number of years. **Ex WO2 Dot Williamson** arranged a wonderful evening enjoyed by old and young members alike. An excellent meal and one of **Lt Col Mike Vann's** usual stirring speeches was followed by a Disco where the Veleta, Boy George, the Black Bottom and Status Quo went down a treat.

Inspector Hannaford, Derbyshire Constabulary, presenting the Police Detachment Shield to Capt Cliff Webb, Admin Officer 46 Sqn, in grateful thanks for hospitality

**64 (SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

Promotions were also the March theme for some 64 Squadron members. Congratulations to **SSgts Frank Delez, Roy Szulakowski** and **Derek Marsden—Sgts Mick Gooding, Dave Pepper** and **Sam Abdulhusein.**

Members of the Sheffield Officers' Mess, presided over by **Maj Stuart Cottage**, gave a farewell families lunch to **Lt Col Mike** and **Jan Vann** and their two boys **Roddy** and **Harry.** It was a very warm and relaxed occasion and hugely enjoyed by everyone.

**RECRUIT SELECTION**

Mention must be made of the new and very successful recruit selection and induction procedures which have now been running for a full year. Selection for entry into the regiment now takes place at special weekends throughout the year at local training camps. This gives an opportunity for a detailed look at each potential recruit and also for him/her to take a look back at us to assess what we have to offer. The selection process bears favourable comparison with that obtaining for the Regular Army at Sutton Coldfield—indeed the physical side is more strenuous and the drill, lecturettes and group task work has no counterpart in the regular entry process. The explanation, of course, is that our selection is not followed by a long recruit course and detailed induction, as in the regular Corps. As a result, the successful candidates are certainly more committed and, we hope, our wastage rate will reduce accordingly.

Shrove Tuesday coincided with Drill Night and the CO tries his hand at tossing pancakes anxiously watched by 2Lt Simon Blagden and Capt Bill Evans



## 39 Sig Regt (V) City of London

**1 Squadron (London)**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj G. V. Dunn TD** |
| **2IC** | **Capt M. E. Shannon WRAC** |
| **OCA** | **2Lt G. M. Bryan** |
| **OCB** | **2Lt P. W. Moore** |
| **OCC** | **Lt B. D. Excell WRAC** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 A. Bristow** |
| **PSI** | **Sgt J. Kendle** |

**ACTIVITIES SINCE CAMP**

The post-Camp period was, as always, an active one for the Squadron, both militarily and socially. Our FFR was marked by the coldest October weekend for many years, but undeterred we donned long-johns and liners and deployed to the various locations. In spite of the local gliding club trying to demolish our masts we managed reasonable communications.

The weekend of the Lord Mayor's procession and Remembrance Sunday saw us in a ceremonial role. On Saturday riding around the City on floats in honour of the new Lord Mayor and on Sunday marching to the various churches with which we have links. Meanwhile, some were not so lucky—spending the time dragging telegraph poles through two feet of mud—but that's another story.

**EXERCISES**

Ex *Runnel Stone*, the annual Regimental communications plus escape and evasion exercise in Denmark had us up to our knees in mud, yet again, but we all enjoyed a very pleasant social evening with the Danish Home Guards afterwards, as compensation. Our Christmas exercise included command Tasks, shooting and, of course, a party. It was a weekend that **LCpl Kim Brown** will not forget in a hurry. She got stuck straddling an ice-cold steel bar trying to manoeuvre a plant over the statutory minefield. She was later to comment that it was not only Heineken that had far reaching powers.

For the party we joined HQ Squadron and needless to say a good time was had by all.

The OC even let us off PT the next morning.

Ex *Farne Deep* in March had the Squadron providing detachments in BAOR, Cyprus and UK. With the OC going to Germany and the 2IC and PSI getting a tan in Cyprus, Communications just had to be perfect!

**SPORT**

The London District cross country running event took place at Pirbright on 31 January. The day dawned bright and cold—a vast improvement however on last year's snow storms. The regiment was represented by two WRAC teams and came away with 1st and 2nd prizes in the individual WRAC event won by **Pte Beazley** and **Lt Exell**. They and the remainder of 1 Squadron Team, **Lt Moores** (HQ) **LCpl Mercer** and **Pte Ainsworth** also won the team event and have represented London District at the UKLF finals at Catterick in March.

**VISITS**

The Regiment was extremely honoured to welcome the **Rt Hon Dame Mary Donaldson GBE** on the occasion of the annual visit to the Regiment by the Lord Mayor of London.

In 1983, for the first time ever, a Lady was elected to the office of Lord Mayor of London. To mark this event the traditional Guard of Honour for the visit was provided by the WRAC members of the Regiment.

The Lord Mayor inspected the Guard of Honour which was made up by WRAC from all five Squadrons of the Regiment.

Following the formal reception by the Commanding Officer **Lt Col M. V. Upson**, the Lord Mayor was welcomed to the Sergeants' Mess by the PMC, **WO2 Ellis.**

Her last port of call before dining with the Officers was the Lynx Club. The Lord Mayor talked informally to the Junior Ranks. She was interested to hear of the scope of their activities in the Regiment and whether they lived or worked in the City. Many, of course, do and this serves to strengthen our links with the City of London.

There is no doubt that everyone regarded the visit as an extremely prestigious and enjoyable event.

The Lord Mayor talks to Pte McCann

The Lord Mayor makes a point to WO2 Roy Ellis and Sgt Brian Challis—or is it the Sherry?

All together now . . . one . . . two . . . three

**CEREMONIAL**

On Thursday 2 February, **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall GCB OBE MC** Chief of the Defence Staff was admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Skinners Company.

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) were greatly honoured to provide the Honour Guard for this occasion. We lined up in the small open courtyard praying that the promised downpour would hold off for another 15 minutes until our part in the ceremony was over. Exactly on time the 'arrival signal' was given and all worries about the weather were forgotten.

The General Salute was sounded by a Corps Bugler, and, having taken the salute the CDS inspected the Guard. He spoke briefly to each man, inquiring about length of service and Trade, remembering **Cpl Tony Wells** as the RP from his last visit to the Regiment.

Having reached the end of the line, the Field Marshal was kind enough to compliment the SNCO, **Sgt (now SSgt) Dave Wheeler** about the work he had obviously put into preparing the guard. We were then dismissed, and, having locked our rifles safely away, filed into the main hall to watch the rest of the ceremony and enjoy the ensuing festivities.

The Field Marshal talks to Cpl Tony Wells. Sig Nick Smith and Davis Davis also in the photograph

The CDS signs the Scroll—the Master of the Skinners looks on

**FAREWELL**

1 Squadron's last weekend finished with a party to say farewell to **SSgt (SQMS) George Angel BEM**. Universally loved throughout the Regiment **George** will be greatly missed by us all. We wish him all the best for the future.

# 71 Sig Regt (V)
# Bromley

**68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)**

**REGIMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The first three months of 1984 have seen the Regiment covering all aspects of the volunteer lifestyle. The winter trade training has been complemented by a variety of exercises designed to test us in our operational capacity, sport to keep us fit, recruit selection and induction to build for the future and social events to allow us to relax and reminisce.

**FAREWELL**

It has also been a time when we have been saying adieu to several of the Regiment's well known personalities. First in line was **Maj Gen J. M. Sawyer, CB, MBE** who after many years as Honorary Colonel was leaving us to enjoy more leisurely pursuits aboard his yacht. We wish him well and thank him for the time and support that he has given us.

In February our Adjutant **Capt Jeremy Ellis** departed for 22 Sig Regt after two years with us. He will be remembered not only for his sterling work but for his tremendous fitness and enthusiasm. He still holds the record time for RHQ's daily five-mile run and we hope that he enjoys his new posting and that he can find someone to keep up with him.

The third departure was of **Maj Alan Browne** who after three years as Training Major was off to his 'reward' in the sunny climes of Cyprus. His contribution to the Regiment will be long remembered by those who had the pleasure of serving with him and his willingness to assist on all occasions, coupled with his sound advice, will be missed.

**WELCOME**

On the plus side we can bid a warm welcome to **Col Peter Orchard** our new Honorary Colonel, to **Maj Nigel Cory** from 22 Sig Regt as Training Major and to **Capt Andrew Johnstone** from the School of Signals as Adjutant. We wish them and their families a happy and rewarding association with the 'Yeomanry'.

**THE YEAR BEGINS**

January saw the Regiment placing an emphasis on trade training under the watchful eye of **YofS Dave Bartlett** in preparation for the months ahead. 265 Sqn started the ball rolling with Ex *Broken Link*, which happily proved how quickly such links can be established. It continued with RHQ's video presentation at the LONDIST training convention held at the Duke of York's HQ in Chelsea. The theme of the evening was 'Realistic Drill Night Training' and our team was led by **Capt Edward Keith** in showing the use made by the Regiment of video for training purposes and for linking our 11 TACs for briefing purposes. The end of the month saw the Regiment gathering at Longmoor training camp for the second trade training weekend of our winter season where we built on our drill night training in our various skills, aiming for trade qualifications in April. This was followed by the Officers entertaining Squadron and Regimental guests at a cocktail party at Lincoln's Inn.

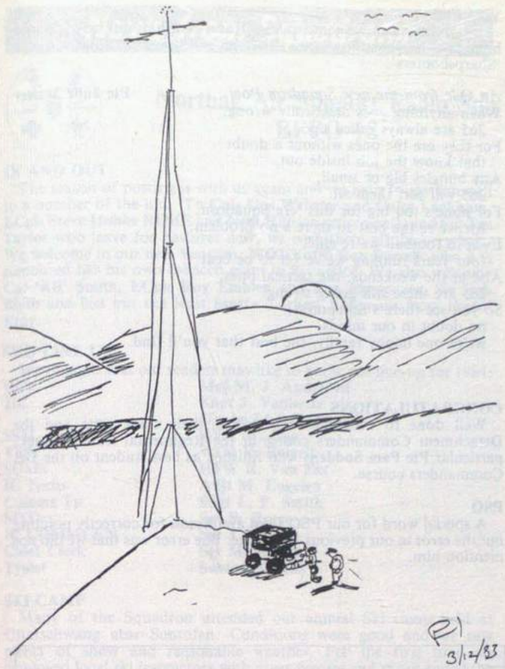
**'FEBRUARIN' TO GO**

February provided the Regiment with its biggest challenge since our formation as a Royal Signals unit in 1969. The occasion was the major UKLF exercise—Exercise *Stage-Coach*. It was a test of the Regiment's ability to adapt to a new and revised role handed down to us by our Brigade HQ. Deploying to various locations each of the Squadrons had to use all their initiative and resourcefulness to fulfil the task. The resulting highly satisfactory level of communications achieved was a credit to the hard work put in by everyone and the enthusiasm shown has set us up for what promises to be a very good year. February finished with Officers dining our **Maj Gen Sawyer** at Lincoln's Inn.

**'MARCHing' ALONG**

With the end of the training year in sight all the Squadrons were out and about ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to complete their 'Bounty' qualifications. On a Regimental level a Training Week was held at Crowborough camp in Sussex. All trades were catered for as well as a Detachment Commanders course for the JNCOs. This highly concentrated form of training proved very beneficial with some very good results being returned. The final weekend of the week also saw a Recruit selection weekend when 70 hopeful, prospective volunteer soldiers turned up to be put through their paces on a variety of tests and command tasks. At the end of the weekend 60 were advised that they had reached our standard and we look forward to welcoming them into the Regiment in due course.





'Well done Sig Harrington; now CAM IT'—a scene from Ex *Stage Coach*

**15th ANNIVERSARY**

The third winter trade training weekend held in March saw us transferring our attention from Longmoor to Crowborough and it coincided with two 'happy' events. The first was the Annual Review of the Unit (ARU) by the Brigade Commander **Brig Keith Olds** and the second was the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Regiment's formation as a Signals unit in 1969. The official date was 1 April, but this did not deter anyone and as the training got underway on the Saturday, **Brig Olds** was met at the gates of the camp by a Lance Picket consisting of members from each of the Squadrons led by **Cpl Andy French**. Having inspected the Picket, **Brig Olds** was escorted by them to the training office where he was briefed by the CO **Lt Col Mike Yolland**. He spent the rest of the day visiting the Regiment at its various activities. In the evening along with the new Honorary Colonel **Col Peter Orchard**, he was entertained in the Officers' mess. Later in the evening the Officers moved on to the Regimental disco which was in full swing and on the stroke of midnight, the Brigadier was asked to cut the birthday cake. This turned out to be on wheels and made of papier mache and as the Brigadier began to cut the cake with the saw provided, **Pte Liz Mann** emerged from inside dressed in nothing much more than a very charming smile.

After the excitement of Saturday night, Sunday dawned to a traditional April fools day joke—a snow blizzard. The Officers programme stated that at 0630 activities would include bike drill and sword drill. Both events took place in the true tradition of the Regiment, although the bike drill came to a soggy end when the participants were ambushed by the RSM and his SNCOs with a hose, purporting to be holding an impromptu fire drill.

Brig Olds showing the way ahead. Capt John Dohoo gets the point

SSgt Danny Farmer explaining to the Brigadier how he came to misplace the rest of the soldier to their front

Brig Keith Olds inspecting the Lance Picket at Crowborough camp

**FOOTBALL**

Following their success in the LONDIST 11 a side competition, 265 Squadron moved into the National knockout competition. They received a bye into the quarter-finals, where on home territory at Woolwich Garrison they played host to 232 Sqn RCT. With their loyal band of supporters led by **Maj Alan Browne** we felt sure that this year the team was going to progress all the way. However in a close encounter, which even after extra time was tied at 1—1, the penalty shoot-out proved to be the team's undoing and so ended their participation for another year. Despite their evident disappointment they proved good hosts to 232 back at Bexleyheath and the evening ended with happier thoughts of a return trip to Germany at the end of May following the success of the short tour undertaken there last year.

**265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

Ex *Broken Link* got us off to a good start to the year with 890 and 884 troops successfully communicating despite a language problem. This was caused by Sqn 2IC **Capt Graham Payne** having written the CEI whilst on an extended business trip to San Francisco and substituting compo for McDonald's burgers and fries and other 'traditional' West Coast phrases. Recovering from this SHQ troop under **Sgt Babs Gallafant** decided to celebrate Christmas again and thoroughly enjoyed themselves at a 'medieval' dinner and ale drinking establishment.

February saw us out and about on Ex *Stage Coach* which proved to be hard work but very worthwhile and enjoyable. **Cpl Mick Mustoe** in his enthusiasm to get back on the air following a frequency change was bemused by the fact that the set would not tune up until he realised that it would help if he dialled up the frequency on the transmitter and not the length of his aerial. **LCpl Kathy Maeers** had a close encounter when in her attempts to pass a message over the telephone mis-dailled and got through to the local Garrison Commander's residence where the urgency in her voice was enough to persuade the Commander's daughter to get him out of the bath, where he was soaking, prior to his dining out after 30 years in the Army. He was very 'amused'. In March we were pleased to welcome to Bexleyheath **Brig Peter Tower**, Chief of Staff London District, who after touring the TAC, presented **Sgt Cath Tickner** with her TEM and **Cpl Alex Read** with her PTI certificate. He then re-opened the Officers' and SNCOs mess following its refurbishment at the hands of **Sgt John Pain**.

**FAREWELL**

We have our own farewell to make and it is to our PSI, **SSgt Eddie Marsh** who is leaving us for 7 Sig Regt on a well deserved promotion to WO2. The 'One Army' concept has never been more evident than in the time **Eddie Marsh** was with the Squadron. He gave unstintingly of his time and energy and his enthusiasm and good nature were always around to give us a lift. He gained the friendship and respect of everyone in the Squadron and there will always be a welcome for him and his family in Brighton and Bexleyheath. We wish them all the very best in the future and the football team are looking forward to visiting 7 Sig Regt at the end of May to give **Eddie** the chance to buy them yet another drink.

**WELCOME**

We give a warm welcome to **SSgt Roger Smith** as our new PSI and hope that he is settling in and that he will enjoy his time with the 'Sharpshooters'.

*An Ode from the new Squadron Poet.* **Pte Julie Walter**

When anything goes drastically wrong,
265 are always called upon.
For they are the ones without a doubt
that know the job inside out.
Any bungles big or small,
265 will sort them all.
For none's too big for this 'ere Squadron,
for we're the best so there's no problem.
Even in football we're elite,
four years running we've yet to be beat.
And at the weekends, the tactical ones,
265 are there still going strong.
So you see there's no contest,
no doubt in our minds,
we're one happy family, the best that you'll find.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Well done to everyone who passed their trade tests and the Detachment Commanders course at the Regimental training week, particular **Pte Pam Suddens** who finished as best student on the Det Commanders course.

**PSO**

A special word for our PSO **Capt Jim Esson** for correctly pointing out the error in our previous *Wire* note. The error was that we did not mention him.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# News from Squadrons

## Northag Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

**IN AND OUT**

The season of posting is with us again and we have to say farewell to a number of the unit. To **Cpls Gus Webster** and **Colin Luckham**, **LCpls Steve Hobbs REME** and **Neal Hill** (on retirement), and **Sig Tas Taylor** who leave for pastures new, we wish them all the very best. We welcome in our new Yeoman, **WO2(YofS) Ron Burrell**, who it is rumoured has his own tobacco plant in his office. We also welcome **Cpl 'KB' Smith, LCpls Roy Emblen** and **Roy Messenger, Sig Bob Blyth** and last but not least **Stuffz Norbert Kullmann** from Essen-Kray.

**SHQ LINE UP**

We thought that our readers may like to know our line-up for 1984:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj M. J. Anderson** |
| **2IC** | **Kapt J. Vanherle (To be Lt Palme-July)** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 M. Gue** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 R. Burrell** |
| **SQMS** | **HFW R. Van Ess** |
| **IC Techs** | **Adjt M. Engelen** |
| **Comms Tp** | **SSgt L. P. Smith** |
| **MTO** | **Sgt R. Bruce** |
| **IC COMMCEN** | **Sgt J. Gibson** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Sgt M. Hague** |
| **Typist** | **Sabine Bijnens** |

**SKI CAMP**

Many of the Squadron attended our annual Ski camp held at Ofterschwang near Sontofen. Conditions were good and we saw plenty of snow and reasonable weather. For the first time we employed local ski instructors with great success and many ended the course proficient on ski's. **OG Ralph Emenet** found that his sports car wheels had the same problem as his ski's, both went wherever they wanted. The sad difference being that his car cost him DM2,000 to repair. All stayed in a romantic looking pension nicknamed Fawlty Towers. This was mainly due to the fact that the knobs kept falling off doors, articles of furniture moved of their own accord and the showers in the bathrooms gave each occupant the indisputable effect of knowing he was having a turkish bath—free of charge! However all who attended enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to returning to the slopes in 1985, but to a different pension.

**TRAINING**

We have had our usual list of winter exercises including *Crested Eagle* and *Old Warrior*. These coupled with a full training programme have kept the squadron pretty busy. **Sgt John Gibson** has been busy with first Aid lectures and testing and as can be seen from the picture he had a small problem with a certain extra that came along to one of the classes. **1Sgt Ronny Coosemans** has been busy in the classroom with NBC testing and **SSgt Paul Smith** and **Stuffz Gerhard Kaduk** have been bending all our ears with their new 3,000 slide recognition pack. In all the programme has been very full and we are well up to scratch for 1984.

'John! Explain this one to Joy'!

## 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**SQN HQ**

As usual, the new OC **Maj John Allan** and the 2IC **Capt Peter Day** have all the fun in SHQ, going on visits (recce) to Germany and now Hong Kong. The OC proved to be the more experienced international importer with the 2IC coming a close second, nearly being nicked!

The OC's policy of 'hit them hard, if they're guilty' together with 'exercise, exercise, exercise' has come as a tornado disguised as a fresh wind, much to the pleasure of SHQ who now see little of the troops. Chief Clerk **SSgt Jim Fowler** is training hard and starting rumours about doing P Coy. We all think it's because he's had a look at our tubby AO **Capt Vic Zimmer** and decided if 'he can do it then anyone can'.

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME**

The Squadron said a sad farewell to **Capt Graham Leach** and also his wife **Fiona** who is now 'vacationing' prior to taking over 'Radio Division' at Blandford. He has warned us that the Corps is in for a surprise! His replacement we can't even welcome yet as he is loafing in Brize Norton doing his BPC after passing P Coy. Well done **Capt John Whitby**, the best to **Graham** and **Fiona** in Blandford.

Another new arrival is **Sgt Mitch Pegg RAPC** who hovers over his safe less enthusiastically than his predecessor. Welcome **Mitch.**

**ALPHA TROOP**

Alpha Troop has now settled into its new shoes but has once again been forced into a trot, verging on a sprint, when it was doing a fast hobble! However, as usual, we'll cope.

With an exercise a week interspersed with Tels and PRE it is difficult to isolate any particular incidents as exceptional so we won't. However, as usual we have our sad farewells and hello's. **Cpl Davison**, newly promoted prior to posting has left us together with **Cpl Daughtrey** to join 1 Div. Best of luck in BAOR. **Sig Clark** has joined 566 RLD having swopped with **Sig 'Ash' McManus** who is due to PVR soon. Welcome, **'Ash'** but sorry to hear you're going. **Cpl 'Tubby' Williams** joins us as a P Coy volunteer, so far made famous for his 'Timber' impressions. **Sig Hughes**, fresh from 565 RLD, and '2 Para Butlins' joins us closely followed by **Sig 'Mowgli' Mogre** who is desperate to do his BPC.

We still have three members of the troop on roulement with **Sig Butterworth** back since breaking his back after the Falklands and having to get married in a cast. (One way to stay rigid.)

**Cpl Paine** and **LCpl Charman** are still struggling along in the Tp Store with **LCpl Lucas** and **Sig Moody** in the MT Store. **Cpl Miller** is now troop Corporal, suffering under the strain from **Lt Knobel** and **SSgt De La Haye**, must be hell!

**BRAVO TROOP**

In February we said welcome to our new Troop Staffy **SSgt 'SS' Toms** and goodbye to **SSgt 'Al' Jeannette** who has gone into the training wing, prior to posting. Congratulations on coming up on the promotions board, and good luck. Goodbye to **Cpls Newman** and **Robinson** and **LCpls Kirkup** and **Alderman**. From Alpha Troop came **Sig Chidley** and **LCpl Burrows** who unfortunately was posted to Tidworth in March. **LCpls Stokes** and **Myers** return to the troop from Belize and **Sig Morris** returns from Brize complete with Red Beret and Wings. Well done **Morris**!

As well as reorganising the personnel in the troop we are also reorganising our deployment procedures both in the field and in barracks. This coupled with three changes of office has made the new Tp OC even more dizzy—if that is possible!

Now we have the new troop set up and all the vehicles through PRE we prepare for and look forward to some good exercises culminating in Ex *Lion Heart*—watch out BAOR.

**CHARLIE TROOP**

Charlie Troop definitely got underway somewhere about the beginning of February. Most of us then disappeared on Ex *Winter Warrior* or *Blue Streak*. Both were arduous training exercises held in Bavaria which involved downhill and langlauf skiing. Only **LCpl Banner** and **Cpl George** remained behind to sort out the new troop stores and offices. Shortly after our return we said welcome to our new troop Sergeant, **Sgt 'Trooper' Wilson** whom we hope will have an enjoyable stay.

Good luck to **LCpl Banner** on his det comds and if **LCpl Newman** reads this article whilst on his crypto course the answer is yes! (Something to do with hang gliding in Spain).

**565 RLD**

**Sgt Pickwick** and his gang (plus **LCpl 'Jack' Hawkins** from C Tp) have just returned hot foot from the good old US of A with 2 Para. Sounds like a good life was had by all. Full report to follow.

**566 RLD**

Congratulations to **Sgt** and **Mrs Stringer** on the birth of a little boy. 566 are just about to depart to Belize with 3 Para on a six month tour. Good luck to them and **Sig Horan** from C Tp who is helping them out.

**FOOTBALL**

**SOUTH EAST DISTRICT MINOR UNITS CUP FINAL**

After making the route to the cup final look easy, the Squadron football team were to come up against a somewhat stronger opposition in the final. The opposition were Depot REME from Arborfield.

The first 15 minutes saw Depot REME putting constant pressure on the Squadron, resulting in a well taken goal in the 17th minute. The Squadron team decided it was time to play football and the flow of play turned in our favour. In the 25th minute **LCpl 'Banjo' Malcolm** struck an unstoppable 25 yard shot to equal the score. Two minutes later **'Banjo'** struck again, this time from just inside the goal area giving us a 2—1 lead at the interval.

Contented with our lead Depot REME were allowed to play some good football leading to the equaliser in the 70th minute. Both teams were now tiring and simple chances were missed at both ends. **Cpl 'Steve' Howson** broke through 10 minutes from time but put the ball just past the post. Excellent goal-keeping by **LCpl 'Woody' Wood** kept Depot REME at bay—and the game was forced into extra time. Due to bad light it was decided to play only 10 minutes each way.

Depot put the pressure on from the start and after 5 minutes scored an excellent headed goal. Two minutes later Depot broke through on the right wing and scored again. The teams turned around after 10 minutes but it wasn't all over yet. Two minutes later **Sig John Pole** hammered home the 3rd for the Squadron. The ball was in Depot's half for the last eight minutes but it just wouldn't go in!

Final Score: 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 3 Depot REME 4

**TEAM**

**LCpl Wood, Cpl Archer, Sig Pole, Cfn Ware, Sgt Pocknel, Cpls Murray, Howson (Captain), Flt Lt Simpson, Sig O'Gara, Robson, LCpl Malcolm.** Subs: **LCpl Swan, Sig Jobes.**

**RED PEREGRINE III**

The latest in the series of CPX's in the SPE role saw the Squadron deploy to Salisbury Plain.

Alpha and Bravo Troop were processed through the AMC at South Cerney, to simulate an air land phase, while Charlie Troop deployed to RAF Lyneham to prepare for an air insertion that evening.

2230 P Hour arrived on time, the hercules ran in some 1000ft above fox covert, disgorging Charlie Troop and the Bde Staff into the unwelcoming ebony-black moonless night.

Prior to emplaning the chalk had been addressed by the Bde Comd who had highlighted a few of the finer points of parachuting, concluding with a statement, in regard to landings! 'Stay tight and take what comes'. We did and unfortunately some amongst us had to. The chalk suffered 10% casualties, mainly Bde Staff and included the Bde Comd. The only injury within the Squadron—well, declared injury anyway—was to **Cpl 'Nidge' Barnett**, who on making his 13th decent, was dispatched 13 stbd. I am told if it had been Friday the 13th he might well have refused to jump.

The remaining 90%, on clearing the RV, set about their designated taskings. **LCpl 'Boa' Banner** and **Sig Bri Wellard** swiftly establishing paratac and by providing manpac comms for the Bde Staff. Simultaneously two rigging teams departed from the RV to locate and derig the MSP's. This proved to be a more difficult task than had been anticipated as they had been delivered some 2 Km adrift of the Juilet. However the two teams proved equal to the task and set to work.

**Cpl**—Master Navigator—I can see the tail lights—**Leyman, LCpl 'Ralph' Williams, Sig Scouse Delaney** and **'Steve' Navesey**, quickly derigging and returning, albeit by a devious route, to the RV.

OC Charlie who by now had the new loc for the complex had set out across the DZ to intercept the vehicles but as luck has it missed the one vehicle. So proceeded to the second team who ably led by **Sgt**—'that landing didn't hurt—**Taylor** derigged the vehicle.

So the Second vehicle departed for the RV with OC Charlie Troop **Lt**—'I can see a tree line let's head for that' **Moloney**, navigating. Niki Lauda disguised as **Sig Steve Hinton**, at the wheel practising his wall of death routine and ensuring that **LCpls Jack Hawkins, 'Spike' Haynes** and **Sig 'Rev' Revera** really were airborne, well amost, for a second time that night.

Eventually the second rig located the now dark RV to move to the new loc where the complex was rapidly assembled, with a little verbal prompting from OC and 2IC Squadron. Oh, I mustn't forget the valued assistance afforded by the Bde Staff, who on arriving and having shown their impatience rapidly located and quickly devoured the container meal, which for some strange reason had found its way on to Para 1.

The 'boys' awaiting emplaning prior to a Squadron training jump

SSgt A. L. Jeannette leads the Starboard Stick on a Squadron jump

**LEAKING TAP**

On it flows, on down the drain
to where? who knows? maybe to Spain.

One Gallon in 90 seconds
enough to flood the ..... Brecons.

960 galls a day,
if it gets to the fields we'll have no hay.

28,800 galls a month
if it carries on we'll all needs Punts.

259,200 galls we've lost
Could PSA justify the cost?



## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

**EXERCISE *HARDFALL/AVALANCHE EXPRESS***

After a hectic start to April the Squadron is settling down to a more normal pace of life. It all started with the return from Norway of Alfa Troop on completion of their annual winter holiday in the snow.

The troop departed to Norway in mid January all, or rather most, having completed basic training in Wales. **Sgt Terry German, Cpl Dave Oughtred** and **Sig Andy Fearn** being the exceptions, having only joined the troop a few days before departure.

As usual, accommodation for *Hardfall* was shared with 249 Sig Sqn, who kept a watchful eye on events, in the Stahlheim Hotel and basic training started.

Although most completed the full two weeks, a few stepped, or rather fell forward for early release and much to the rest of the Squadron's amusement **SSgt Chippy Chambers, LCpl Pete Hayes** and **LCpl Dixie Dean** had an early flight back escorted by the Wroughton Medivac beauties. We are pleased to announce that their various injuries are now well on the way to being mended.

The rest of *Hardfall* was spent converting those remaining into fully trained Arctic warriors, with just a little time taken out to win the 249 Sig Sqn team and individual winter biathlon, **2Lt David Halstead** being the overall winner.

During the R & R some of the troop managed to go downhill skiing which fortunately did not result in injury. Having seen **Sig Dave 'I headbutt trees' Gray** and **LCpl Cliff Franz Barker** hurtling down the Hangar this was more by luck than judgement.

At the beginning of March the troop deployed North to the Bardufoss area of Norway to provide the AMF(L) with their air support communications on Ex *Avalanche Express*.

Throughout the exercise **2Lt David Halstead** and **Sgt Terry German** were operated on a number of times to remove their sleeping bags from their backs.

It would be fair to say that both the exercises went well and as one young signalman was heard to say 'There was no comms problem even though we were working to foreigners'.

A few other minor amusing incidents that spring to mind are **Cpl Duncan Ware** passing comment on some hapless young driver who had hit a tree as he happily sailed into a ditch and the 'accidental borrowing' of **Maj Gen A. G. Christie**'s (Comd AMF(L)) chocolate cake that raised the odd comment or two.

Despite Alfa Troop's belief that the rest of the world rotates around them, RAF Brize Norton have got other ideas and the first week in April was spent being Tacevalled. A harrowing experience for even the most placid of people and an event that sorely strained inter Service relations.

28 March saw **Cpl Dave Almond** being presented with a GOC's commendation by **Lt Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett** in Headquarters South East District. **Cpl Almond** earned the commendation whilst on Ex *Gryphons Gold* in November 1983. He was flagged down by a lorry driver who had found a man having a heart attack in a parked car. The lorry driver was unsure what to do so **Cpl Almond** took control of the situation taking the man to the nearest hospital in his car. This prompt action undoubtedly saved the man's life.

Sgt Terry 'where is my trophy?!' German coming home in fine style at the end of the biathlon

Cpl Duncan 'who says I'm a poser' Ware showing off a neat line in Arctic Camouflage to the Italians

BARTON
MINIATURES LTD

*These antique finish Pewter Miniatures showing accurate details of dress, Corps badge and weaponry are available from Unit Pri shops*

Size 90 mm on black satin lacquer mahogany finish base

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**Barton Miniatures Ltd., Unit 6A, Vinces Road Industrial Estate, Diss, Norfolk (0379 51907)**

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## 259 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 53

**259 ADTU**

The Squadron has a very close working relationship with 3 ADTU (probably due to the fact that the OC has two dogs) with the result that we now have a selection of qualified dog handlers (not the OC).

Three of our handlers **LCpl Revill, Sig Queen** and **Rodgers** entered the recent 'All Island dog show' (with their dogs of course) held at Happy Valley. Results were varied; **LCpl Revill** finished a well deserved 10th whereas **Sig Queen** finished up in the tea tent chasing his dog. He was heard later to comment that the animal was thirsty and thought it was the beer tent (like Handler, like dog). There are now rumours circulating within the Squadron that the dogs are being trained to detect line faults, or is it that telemechs are being trained to obey commands?

*From Left to Right:* Sig Queen, LCpl Revill, Sig Rodgers

**SHOOTING**

This year the Squadron organised the RSSAM held at Akrotiri ETR on 15 February. Royal Signals teams from all over the island took part, with 2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt taking most of the honours. The Squadron 'A' Team finished second in all the competition shoots for an overall second place, that with a bit of luck and more consistency from some of our more experienced shots could have been a first place. We did, however, manage to win the 'Milskills Shoot' trophy and overall the team, captained by **Sgt Bob Knights** fired well. We now look forward to a successful NESAM and hopefully, qualification for Bisley.

**SPORT**

On the sporting front our teams have been performing well but alas without the success of last season, though with a couple of competitions still to be completed that picture could change.

The football team has failed to reach the high standards of last season. A disasterous first half of the season saw them struggle to avoid relegation to Div 2 but a couple of new and timely arrivals saw them finish the second half of the season unbeaten and they are at present in the semi-finals of the Minor Units Cup. Our congratulations to **LCpl 'Willie' Young** and **Sig 'Ginge' Willimont** on their selection for the Army (Cyprus) squad to play the RAF.

The Hockey team have played well all season with **Sig Russ Hemingbrough** and **'Bod' Bodley** outstanding in most games.

They are lying second in the WSBA league having only lost twice, both times narrowly to RAF Akrotiri who managed to field 9 RAF players. The Rugby Team have lost their first minor units game in two years, mind you it's only their second game in that time. 'Hold it boys, I'm only joking'. Still Rugby has been dropped from the Hodgson Shield and been replaced by 'It's a Knock-out'. Is there a difference?

For those ex-members who are interested, the current Hodgson Shield positions are as follows; Mountain Troop leading followed closely by Airfield, SHQ (not a misprint) Tech (Glory days are gone) and last and least Episkopi Troop. The competition still manages to cause its fair share of arguments. What with outside units suddenly becoming attached to Mountain Troop and civvies playing for SHQ, there's even a rumour that Airfield Troop will declare UDI if they don't win this year.

SSgt Eugene Dullaghan resting between shoots

Sgt Bob Knights receiving the 'Milskills Cup' from Brig Westlake

**WORK**

'He's flipped his lid'. 'No it's heatstroke'. 'It could be a stunt for "Game for a laugh".' Just a few of the comments expressed by the stunned multitude when they learnt that the OC was serious about his threat to inspect the Squadron from top to bottom (Mountain to Airfield).

No 2 Dress, what's that? 'Army PT kit, never got issued'. This all led to deep searching of kit bags and MFO boxes and the removal of numerous mothballs. The office workers fared no better. All docs to be up to date, (itself an achievement) half eaten rolls removed from desk drawers, Girlie mags replaced by past issues of *The Wire* and *Farming Life*. The Chief Clerk was heard to mutter things like 'This is too much like work, doesn't he realise that this is Cyprus' or 'Who's going to clean his office'? Anyway it all seemed to go well on that day, though the OC was seen on a few occasions to walk away scratching his head and heard muttering remarks to himself like 'why so many black batteries and no equipments for them'? or 'I can't see where I'm going; I've had the wool pulled over my eyes'. Good try Sir!

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Sgt Pete Ormond** managed to get off the island at long last (only just). TOT (aged 47) managed to beat foreman co-ord (aged 35) at a BFT.

**Lt Harwell** managed to get 20 men on a weekend exercise. SSM managed to get a stand-in the same size as himself, so that his office still looks empty.

**Lt Harwell** managed to lose 20 men on a weekend exercise.

**Lt Harwell** has given up weekend exercises. He didn't catch any men, just a cold.

**SSgt Roy Habergham** managed to find his RR Controller awake.

**Sgt Bob Cutler** managed to turn up at a PT session, albeit in uniform.

**Sgt Minton** has managed to get over the loss of **Sgt Russ Moren**.

**SSgt John Crook** (Chief Clerk) has managed to get himself promoted; something to do with cleaning the OC's office.

**LCpl 'John Boy' Walton** managed to get to work on time (once).

**Capt Tim Gigg** has managed to get himself replaced by a Hockey player (next Hodgson Shield event).



## 262 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 58

**FIELD TROOP PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Fiona (off on another course) Gibson** |
| **Tp** | **SSgt John (visits) Gadsdon** |
| **MT** | **Sgt Brian (Polevault) Turner** |
| **RTg** | **Cpl Chris (Freefall) Bean** |
| **MT** | **Cpl Pete (Wargames) Latham** |

**LCpl Dave (The eye) Thomas**
**LCpl Taff (Ten Bellies) Twohigg**
**LCpl Fred (Duty Civvie) Steel**
**LCpl Danny (Yootha) Joyce**
**Sig Dave (Boris) Cadwallader**
**Sig Paul (Bikey) Bridon**
**Sig Ian (Mercenary) Richardson**
**Sig John (Specky) Eccles**
**Sig Dave (Rash) Chapman**

Since our last contribution, the Troop has been extremely busy on several exercises. These include: *Golden Victory, Bugle Call, Global Swan*, where due to the lack of RTg's, Cbt Dvrs have been made honorary RTG's (without pay!). The night before one of these **Sig 'Specky' Eccles** had been celebrating with his brother who was here on a visit. The following morning, all the way to the exercise location, he was feeling decidedly ill. Finally on arrival he dashed out of the landrover and into the bushes where strange noises could be heard. On staggering back to the vehicle **Lt Gibson**, full of sympathy asked 'Do you often get car sick?' There's no answer to that.

On the sporting scene, **Sig Paul Bridon** was recently selected for the Army (Cyprus) Football squad. Congratulations **Paul** even if you didn't play.

Congratulations also to **LCpl 'Phred' Steel**, who finished 30th in the Cyrpus Services Marathon with the very creditable time of 3 hrs 28 mins.

The Troop also took part in the Squadron Orienteering competition, the team of **Cpls Latham, Barclay (Cape Greco), Sig Bridon** came fifth out of 14.

NESAM '84 is upon us soon and **Cpls Bean** and **Latham** will be competing with other members of the Squadron; more news next time.

A 'Tickle Shoot' was fired not so long ago and Field Troop was heavily involved in it. It gave some of the Squadron Shooting Team some sorely needed practice.

**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

Welcome to **Sig Paul Bridon** from 240 Sig Sqn. Enjoy your stay with us.

We say a sad farewell to the following people: **LCpl Phred Steel** and **Sue** who leave us for Civvy Street, also **Sig 'Wurz' Corner** who left us for School of Signals, Good Luck. **Sig Simon Peters** and **Anne** who left us for 21 Sig Regt, we wish you all the luck in the future.

Finally we have been joined by **Lt Meikle** who has come to spend five months with us. Within a week he has stolen our best mode of transport, namely the MT bike and can now be seen doing 'wheelies' around the Garrison complete with crash helmet and black leathers!

**MAINTENANCE TROOP**
**Report by WO2 (FofS) Dave Jackson**

It has been some time since we last put pen to paper as a Troop so it would be a good idea to introduce our hard working team.

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Maintenance Tp** | **Maj Dave Potter** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Dave Jackson** |
| **IC TE Workshops** | **SSgt Bill Hitchens** |
| **IC Radio Relay Workshops** | **SSgt Trev Jones** |
| **IC Telemechs/Tp Staff Sgt** | **SSgt Charlie Peach** |
| **IC Radio Workshops** | **Sgt Roy Isbell** |

We have had two promotions recently—**Sgt** (I've spent my NSRA) **Neil Holcombe** and **Sgt** (I'll get the beers in) **Gaz Stratton**, both from Radio Relay. Congratulations to them and welcome to the Sgts' Mess. Congratulations also to **Sgt Graham Tilley** on being awarded the **BEM**. Well done **Graham**.

The 5 March saw the first (we think) TOT/FOS Mini Convention held in Cyrpus. This was arranged by **WO1 (FofS) Alec Taylor** (9 Sig Regt) and our own **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey**. The day began with a visit to the local Power Station, ably guided by **Mr Andrew Burgess** the station's senior civil engineer. One point **Andrew** made was that the high chimney stacks were designed to withstand earthquakes. We did not see the relevance of this until last week when Cyprus was hit by an earth tremor that almost shook the buildings down. The evening ended with a superb meal at a local restaurant and then we all retired back to the Sgts' Mess for a quiet(!) night. Everyone agreed that it was such a success that it should be done again soon and **WO1 (FofS) Mick Banks**, suitably lemoned by **WO1 Alex Taylor**, agreed to organise the next one.

In June the troop has chartered the *Brigand of Changi* for two weeks to enjoy some of the excellent sailing facilities offered here in Cyprus. **Maj (QM) Eric Lequesne** has kindly offered to skipper the yacht for us so everyone is looking forward to a most interesting time.

**Maj Dave Potter** has been very busy lately. Not only is he OC of the troop but he is also looking after the Officers' Club, and is competition secretary of the Golf Club—he was selected to play for the Army.

As for myself, I am kept busy as Rear Commodore of the Sailing Club and Secretary of Crusaders Gliding Club. It would be fair to say that, in my spare time I am either all at sea or flying around at 2000 ft (if the thermals are good).

**RR SECTION FOCUS**

Just a few mentions for some of the RR Section personalities. **Sgt Fred Darlow** is to be congratulated on getting to the semi-finals of the ESBA Squash Championships.

Also **Sgt George Mayne**—our resident orienteering expert has been making a name for himself in the running scene again. He captained the victorious Squadron Orienteering team who recently won the ESBA Orienteering championship, and came second in the individual championships. His wife **Pam** was last seen making a new wall unit for all his trophies!

Present stalwarts of Radio Workshops—**Cpl 'Stevie' Jordan** and **Sgt Terry Hayes** are coping well considering the absence of **Sgt Roy Isbell** who for once is truly at 2000 ft on a parachuting course, at the Adventure training centre in Pergamos. Congratulations **Roy** on your posting—your leaving will leave a large space in the Workshops. A quick mention for **Sgts Leighfield** and **Warhurst** who have both recently sat their Foreman's Entrance—all members of the TE Workshops hope they are successful.

**LINE SECTION**

First mention should go to **Sig Thomas** who has just gone to the Falklands. Congratulations **'Tommo'** on your promotion to **LCpl**. Farewell also to **LCpl Taff Morgan** who was posted to 21 Regt.

Sport is very important in our section, and a very high standard is usually achieved. Recently Tele Mechs **LCpl Spike Hughes** and **Sig 'Hoots' Mitchell** did very well in the Cyprus Marathon, especially **Spike** whose time of under three hours earned him a very respectable tenth position. In a joint sporting event four members of the section did very well. They contributed to the Tug-of-War team's success in becoming the ESBA district champions, and the Rugby team were narrowly beaten in the All-Island Semi Finals. They are **Signalmen 'Lips' Rendell, 'Slim' O'Toole, 'MacBoggy' McKeegan**, and **'Under the thumb' Murray**. Finally congratulations must go to **Sig Colin O'Brien** who has been a regular goal-keeper for the Army Hockey Team all season.

**NEFSKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This year's Near East Forces Ski-ing Championships were held on the slopes of Troodos on 16, 17, 18 February. After a couple of days of pre-championship trials, the Squadron's ski-ing team was finally selected. The team comprised **Maj David Potter, Lt Fiona Gibson, SSgt John Gadsdon, Sgt Rab Gentles** and **Sig 'Borris' Cadwallader. Maj Dave Potter**, a veteran of the ski slopes and an experienced downhill racer carefully explained the tactics involved in tackling the two courses—the Giant Slalom race, held on the first day of the competition, and the much faster Slalom race held on the second day. He also had the unenviable task of being No. 1 down the course after the Army and RAF skiers had finished racing for the Interservice trophy.

The day of the competition dawned bright and sunny—the snow was excellent, and the competitors nervous and determined.

**Maj Potter** completed an excellent race setting a fast pace for others to follow, passing through the finishing gates in 1 min 10 seconds. **Lt Fiona Gibson**, who had never raced before and was extremely nervous at the start, claimed she had to be pushed through the starting gate—but also finished the course in an extremely creditable time of 1 minute 36 seconds. **Sgt Rab Gentles** was less fortunate, and failed to complete the course in the time allocated due to his inability to keep in an upright position for most of the race. Never mind **Rab**, keep off the Gluweine next time!

**Sig Borris Cadwallader** ('I'll banzai down anything—except the slalom!') started the race in superb style—passing through the first few gates in very fast time—but after a series of spectacular wipeouts amongst the trees, finally emerged through the finishing gates in a time of 1 minute 55 seconds.

And so, after an exciting day's racing the results after the first day left the Squadron in 16th place—an extremely creditable position considering the strength of the competition. Many other units had already been disqualified as several of the newcomers to the slopes of the North face had found the course too demanding.

The slalom race took place the next day, and a very difficult, fast course comprising of 53 gates was laid by the two Austrian instructors. Unfortunately this course proved too challenging for the majority of the remaining teams left in the event, including our own Squadron team. But they all returned to work the next day with a marvellous suntan (from the neck upwards) after a thoroughly enjoyable two days competition.

Lt Fiona Gibson limbering up before the start of the NEFSKI Championships

**VISIT OF DSO in C(A)**

On 14 February the Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) **Brig J. Westlake** visited the Squadron. He was accompanied throughout his visit by **Col M. A. Payne** (Commander Comms—Cyprus). After visiting Capt Greco, the Brigadier started a walkabout tour of the rest of the Squadron, which culminated at the WO's and Sgts' Mess where he presented LS&GC medals to **Sgt John Nicol** and **Sgt Martin Lemarsh**. The Brigadier then met the families of the two recipients and the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of the Squadron.

*From Left to Right:* Sgt Graham Tilley, Brig J. Westlake, Maj Malcolm Emslie, SSgt Charlie Peach, Lt Col M. A. Payne, Maj David Potter, Sig Colin O'Brien, Billy McKeegan, Dave Jenkins

The DSOinC with recipients and families
*Left to Right:* Mrs Sue Lamarsh, Sgt Martin Lamarsh and children Pamela and Mark, Brig Westlake, Sgt John Nicol, Mrs Sandra Nicol and son David

Brig J. Westlake presents the LS&GC medal to Sgt Martin Lamarsh

Brig J. Westlake presents the LS&GC medal to Sgt John Nicol



# – News from Troops –

## 608 Sig Tp
## BFPO 40

**ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM**

**WE STILL EXIST**

It may be two and a half years since our last contribution but we're still going strong as I'm sure many of you out there, our customers, know to your eternal joy and pleasure. We did intend to submit a photo and in fact once upon a time managed to achieve the impossible and actually get all RSIT together at the same moment for a historic picture. Dutifully therefore we all said 'Schwarzwald Kirschtorte' (Well, none of us likes cheese) but by the time the prints came through it really was historic, most of the personnel had changed! (Read on).

**HI'S and BYE'S**

In the last year or so we've had more arrivals and departures than Britt Eckland's had boyfriends, BFG has had LOA cuts, or NAAFI has had price changes (well almost).

First of all, the farewells:

**Maj (ToT) Frank (Hello boy-o) Smith** Now firmly established in NI training the locals in Max Boyce jokes and selling unused 'Wales for the Grand Slam' stickers.

**WO2 (Now WO1) George (How much car tax!?) Clark** Busy in Blandford at the School still trying to work out how to spell TRIFFID.

**Sgt Mick (Who needs dream sheets anyway?) Kidd** Left us so long ago for his FofS course that it's nearly finished and he's due back in BAOR soon; eagerly awaiting his first visit from RSIT.

**Sgt Brian (No I'm not a tree, Bruno) Neil** At present in Harrogate playing Rugby with the apprentices.

**Sgt Derek (Will I get as good a posting as Mick Kidd?) Whyle** Also on FofS course but only just started. The eternal optimist where Herford is concerned.

**LCpl Vince (Aston who?) Walsh** Gone to 35 (V) Regt for last six months. Good luck in Civvy Street.

**Sgt John (Find me a C50 mast to launch) Blythe** Although not now with RSIT, still a part of 608 Troop at the detachment in ODA Antwerp.

**Sgt Dave (I'll never go to the Falklands) Smith** A real member of 608 who used to be co-located with us at our base in Fwd Ord Depot, Dulmen. On nodding terms with the penguins yet, **Dave**?

To all the above we say thank you for your efforts and good humour whilst you were with us and we offer best wishes to you and your families in the future.

Welcomes are extended to the following who have joined us in recent times:

**Capt (TOT) Bill Kent** Via Herford, NI, Sudan, Singapore, Air Support and others. In between drinking chocolate, smoking Silk Cut and telling anecdotes has trained a spider with a broken leg to sign his letters for him.

**WO2 (FofS) Pete Coleman** Via Loughborough, Soest, Verden, Malta. Loves RSIT so much he leaves in September after 10 months! Congratulations on being selected for WO1 and just happening to crack a posting to the land of Kokkinelli.

**Sgt Dave Ross** TE Tech Via Lippstadt, Hebrides, Verden. Fluent in languages, speaking macramé and a rare Gaelic dialect. Draughtsman and engraver extraordinary.

**Sgt Wyn Harris** RR Tech Via Verden and Lippstadt and now thinks Dulmen is great (Surprise Surprise!) Wears clogs, eats Edam, likes windmills.

**Sgt Alec Clark** RR Tech Formerly at 608 dets in Antwerp and Viersen but now works for a living. Presently practising Pizza eating in anticipation of an ACE High course.

**LCpl Iain Clarke** Team Clerk Just arrived from 656 Troop and biting at the bit to start pounding the autobahns and typewriter.

**RSADPT**

We now have under our wing the Royal Signals ADP Team who came to us lock, stock, ERV, gene, two Opel Kadetts and barrel from 22 Regiment, they are:

**Sgt Ian Stewart** TE Tech Widely acknowledged as the Corps (BAOR) expert on TARIF, BMIS, bits, bytes, RAMs and ROM's. Therefore, we've appointed him MT rep.

**Sgt Joe Easterbrook** TE Tech Impressed our local lightly tanned RSM (RAOC) with his hairstyle. Manages to hold his beer with amazing irregularity.

**NOT FORGETTING**

To get everybody's name in print we shall shortly be saying farewell to:

**Sgt Dave (Days to Do) Palmer** Going to Hounslow for his last six months and then retiring after '22' to Camberley 'ghosting' *Wire* notes and running a consultancy on the complexes of MFO boxes.

**Sgt Stu (Hail me a rickshaw) Gane** Due to leave in the Autumn and although he does not yet know his posting is convinced he'll have to learn Cantonese and be weaned off Herfy.

**END OF STORY**

Literally—the author just dashed off muttering something about having to spend his gratuity getting his brain re-implanted after three years with RSIT!

However one thing is for certain, although we travel a lot of miles (Soltau/Catterick/Antwerp for instance) we have a lot of laughs, so keep smiling folks, we'll be visiting you soon!

**REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in 40 Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Ressettlement Officers; Corps, Regimental and Service Associations; Post Offices; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1983 - 31 March 1984 the Association assisted 9,685 men and women with their resettlement and placed 3,849 in employment. Of those placed, 1,868 were men and women from the Army and 46 were from your Corps.

# 633 Sig Tp
# BFPO 12

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt Charles Turner** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Roger Gibson** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Brian Dulston** |
| **Admin SSgt** | **SSgt Taff Bean** |
| **Commcen Sgt** | **Sgt Mick Boyle** |
| **Sys Con Sgt** | **Sgt Roy Jarvis** |
| **Tx Site Sgt** | **Sgt Paul Clark** |
| **Radio Sgt** | **Sgt Ken McCartney** |
| **Tech Store** | **Sgt Bill McIntyre** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Cpl Michael O'Crowley (alias OC Rowley)** |

**CARIBBEAN COMMUNICATORS**

The Troop still maintains its high grade service to the Force, reflecting the hard work of 'the boys on the shop floor'. The Troop had a busy spell during January with several local exercises. These included the defence exercise *Mopan Rampart VIII*. The Troop became not only communicators but jungle veterans too.

Three new members of the management team joined the Troop during this period. They came through unscathed, just! Which devious mind in the Corps thought of putting these three together in Belize? **Lt Turner**, quickly dubbed 'Sexy chicken' by Ebony, **Staff Taff Bean** who brings his own brand of Welsh madness and **Cpl 'OC Rowley'** make up the trio. There are going to be big changes around here. Welcome to the Six Hundred and Thirty Third.

We have said goodbye to **Lt (now Capt) John Whitby, Sgt Dave Beattie** and many of the roulement lads too.

**TROOP ROUND UP**

'I am sailing' has a fuller meaning for **Sig Dave Eastman** and **Sig Gaz Shirley**. HMS *Ambuscade* visited our shores and 'press ganged' the two operators to America and the Bahamas. They have never been the same since. HMS *Birmingham* dropped anchor in January and two matelots stayed with the Troop for a few days.

**Sgt Mick Boyle** captained the Troop team in the British Forces Belize 10 mile road race. The team came ninth out of 24 entrants.

The football team under **Cpl Taff Preston** is making excellent progress in the league. Their most recent victim was 51 Fd Sqn RE who they beat 3—1.

**FofS Roger Gibson** and the **Taff Bean** organised a trip out to English Caye. The sun was hot, the sea was clear, the palm trees gently rustled and the beer was cold. A perfect day. On the return trip **Cpl 'OC Rowley'** attempted his favourite miracle, walking on water, and left the boat. However, it being Saturday and even clerks get time off, he didn't quite make it. Instead he took the more conventional boat trip home.

The Troop power boat *F-Nick 1* is on the water again due to the hard work put in by **LCpl Chalky White.**

Cheers! from the Caribbean
*Left to Right:* Sig Bryan Leyshon, LCpl J. C. Craven, Sig Sean Courtney, Cpls Taff Watts, Taff Preston, LCpl Brian Chinn and Cpl Phil Walsh

**SUN SPOT CLUB**

In December 1983 the Troop opened its own club the *Sunspot*. A small watering hole for tired shift workers and jungle soldiers. **YofS Brian Dulston** was the driving force behind the idea and set up a first rate club. Although the club is housed in one half of a nissen hut it is well supported. The Troop is trying to improve its facilities. So far we have managed to obtain some framed photographs of Page 3 girls. These photographs are the focus of attention of many weary customers. One day we hope to get the real things.

We have already had some excellent nights in the club. **Staff Taff Bean**'s voice can often be heard soaring above the general hubbub.

**EXERCISE *FLYING TOUCAN I***

At about this time of year in BAOR the mighty Falcon takes to the air, well that's where the comparison ends. Our own *Flying Toucan I* was a three day jungle survival course run by some friends from Hereford. The YofS was the exercise organiser and did most of that in the bar of the Sgts' Mess.

Twelve members of the Troop were flown into a LZ somewhere in the jungle. They were instructed in basha building, trapping, demolitions, jungle foods and fired an assortment of weapons.

**Sig Paddy McCandless** found a tarantula in his hammock and started a mass de-bug in the camp. **Cpl Warlord Rogers** could not be kept from pulling the heads off chickens.

A good time was had by all, mainly due to the expertise of our instructors. 264 Sig Sqn watch out. Where will the Toucan fly to next?

'Locals' at the *Sunspot*
*Left to Right:* LCpls Chalky White, 'JC' Craven, Sig Steve Hardman, LCpls 'Beautiful' Rigby, Mort Mortimer, Sgt Paddy McIntyre and 'The Boss'



## ACIO Lincoln

**VALE—MAJ (Retd) F. V. B. PHILP**

**From: Lt Col (Retd) P. McNaughton OBE**

**Frank Philp** volunteered for service in May 1942 and was trained as an Operator Wireless and Line in Catterick. He joined the 8th Army on the invasion of Sicily in 1943 and in November that year was selected for Officer Training. He completed his officer training with 130 course at 150 OCTU in Catterick, being commissioned in December 1944. He was then posted to India to join 23rd Infantry Division as OC 28 Mountain Regiment RIA Signal Section. In 1946 he was posted to the NWFP as OC Frontier Brigade Signal Section KOHAT, when he was promoted to Captain.

In 1947 he was posted to the Nigeria Signal Squadron and subsequently served in the Gold Coast Signal Squadron. He returned to the UK in 1948 and after four years service in Training Brigade Royal Signals he was posted to Singapore, serving with 19th Signal Regiment. He returned to UK in 1956 and served in 2 Training Regiment. He was subsequently selected for a three year secondment with the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces where he saw service in the Congo. After further service in BAOR and later as a PSO in Catterick he was again posted to Singapore as OC 2 Squadron 19th Signal Regiment. He returned to BAOR in 1970 for service with 28th Signal Regiment and in 1972 was appointed 2IC of The Army Youth Selection Centre at Harrogate. He retired from the Army in December 1974 and was employed as a RO2 at the Army Careers Office in Lincoln. He handed over his last command to **Lt Col B. A. Allum RA** in January this year.

**Maj Frank Philp** has now been appointed Regional Secretary for the British Field Sports Society (East Midlands) and he looks forward to meeting old friends when he attends various shows in the Region.

Last day in uniform after 41 years in Royal Signals! Maj Frank Philp handing over to his successor Lt Col B. A. Allum RA as Army Careers Officer Lincolnshire
*By kind permission Lincolnshire Echo*



# Association News

## FORMER PENSIONERS

We report with regret, the recent death of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

| | |
|---|---|
| 21005714 | **WO2 A. C. Young** |
| 05380556 | **SSgt L. Joseph** |
| 06907952 | **Sgt W. Cheesman** |
| 22523172 | **SSgt L. H. Harvey** |
| 02311109 | **SSgt F. Kempsell** |
| 22515330 | **WO2 W. C. Yates** |
| 03386248 | **SSgt E. G. Todd** |
| 02323039 | **SSgt D. G. T. Beardmore** |
| 24265924 | **Cpl T. J. McLeod** |
| 2327563 | **Sig E. Pickard** |
| 22839467 | **Sgt H. R. Ward** |
| 3384895 | **Cpl L. Kilcoyne** |
| 6191232 | **Sig J. H. Prime** |
| 2317307 | **Sgt G. C. Welchman** |

## 1st AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL REUNION**

For almost 40 years members of the 1st Airborne Divisional Signals have gathered together in Caythorpe, (on the Grantham-Lincoln road), for their annual Reunion.

This year's event will take place on Saturday 1 September and Sunday 2 September, assembling at the 'Eight Bells' at around 1800 hrs with Dinner in the Village Hall at 1930. Accommodation will be arranged at Caythorpe Court, now an Agricultural College—the students being 'on leave' allows the OCA to 'take over' once again their war-time 'Billet'—where 'Bed and Breakfast' is provided. A Church Parade is arranged to assemble at 1000 hrs on Sunday morning at which the Bishop of Grantham will take the Service, and **Maj Gen A. J. Deane-Drummond CB DSO MC**, will take the Salute at the March Past. Lunch will later be provided at the Village Hall.

Full details can be obtained from **H. J. Firkins Esq.**, 185 Wheeler's Lane, King's Heath, Birmingham, B13 OSU.

**APPEAL**

Dear Fellow Mercurian

This appeal is directed primarily to members of the OCA who find themselves in far away countries, unable to attend the Caythorpe Reunions, and also to Organisations and Individuals in this Country, who feel that they would like to 'do something' to commemorate the connection which 1st Airborne Divisional Signals OCA has had with the village of Caythorpe over the last 40 years.

We are hoping to raise enough money to provide an 'Airborne' carpet for the Northern Aisle (named the 'Arnhem Aisle' by the Bishop of Grantham 10 years ago) in Caythorpe Parish Church of St Vincent. The carpet will be specially designed and portray the 'Pegasus', 'Mercury', and 'Wings' insignia. The cost will be in the region of £250.

Present Rates of Exchange are very favourable for 'incoming' currency and it is hoped that our Overseas friends will contribute very generously to the 'Appeal'. Your Dollars, Krugerrands, Guilders or whatever, will be welcomed and receipts will be sent for all monies received. **Bill Sheffield** has offered to act as Treasurer for the fund and all details will be forwarded to **Johnny Firkins**.

A list of Subscribers (not the amounts) will be kept in the Church to be a permanent reminder in the years to come.

Will you please give this project your sympathetic attention, sending your gifts to the address below before 6 June ('D' Day) 1984.

'Please'
Yours faithfully
**H. Spivey**
**'Hocker' Spivey**
Carpet Appeal Organiser

1st Airborne Divisional Signals OCA
2 Greenside
Moor End Lane
Dewsbury
West Yorkshire
WF13 4QG

## 3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION AND DINNER CLUB

**Report by E. E. Bayley, Honorary Secretary**

The 32nd Annual Reunion and AGM of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club was held at the Victory (Services) Club, London W2 with a record attendance of 69 members and guests. Many of those present had also been with us on that historic day in June, 1944. Every year the fraternity of those who took part on D-Day gets smaller. Time and age cannot erase their memories or write off the debt which democracy owes to every man of this reunion club who set sail across the English channel. 'We will remember them'.

The President of the club **Brig C. G. Moore** welcomed the Adjutant **Capt Andy Forster** and Squadron Commander **Maj I. M. G. Strong** from the Regiment. Our Guest of Honour on this occasion was **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB MBE accompanied by his wife Grace. Lt Col Dick Baly** who had recently taken over command from **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh** was committed on Ex *Flying Falcon* in Germany and could not attend. However he extended an invitation to the members of the Reunion Club, to join the Regiment in Soest for the Regimental weekend on 14/15 July, 1984. This invitation was warmly and gratefully received and we look forward to it.

Before speaking on behalf of the Regiment, **Maj I. M. G. Strong** presented the President of the Club with a Divisional Plaque. He then went on to give us all a brief history of the changes taking place within the Regiment, the Bruin system which has been going strong since 1968 being replaced with a more secure, digital, battlefield trunk communications system—'Ptarmigan'. The Regiment have won many honours on the sports field coming top in several.

**Maj Gen Sawers** gave a brief and interesting statement on the state of the Corps. Although he had never had the honour of being a member of the Regiment he had watched, with keen interest, the progress of the Division during his period as Signal Officer-in-Chief. He wished the club success and thanked the Committee for having invited him to attend this special occasion.

The Secretary **Mr Ernest Bayley**, stated that the President of the Free French Association of Great Britain had extended an invitation to those members of the Reunion Club who landed in Normandy on D-Day to join their Association on a pilgrimage to be organised between the 6 and 12 June. Only those who landed on D-Day would be eligible for free transport and accommodation; others to contribute 70 F. Francs per day. Numbers are limited. A list of those who attended as 'first footers' were **Lt Col Tim Waugh**, as a club member, **Capt Ron Wilford, George Wilson, A. F. C. Wheeler, Brian Corlett, Fred Drake** and **Chales Boldero**. We welcome 'first footers' from former members of the Divisional Signals and eagerly look forward to embracing you into our fraternity. The club is not restricted to war time members only, and whether Infantry or Armoured, you are still 3 Div, so do come along!

**GUEST OF HONOUR**
**Maj Gen and Mrs J. M. Sawers**

**3 ARMD DIV SIG REGT**
**Maj I. M. G. Strong, Sqn Comd**
**Capt Andy Forster, Adjt**

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS**
**Mr W. D. Antill**
**Mr N. Auton**
**Col and Mrs T. W. Brenda Baynes**
**Mr E. E. Bayley**
**Mr and Mrs C. F. Boldero**
**Mr J. Brady**
**Brig and Mrs J. D. T. Brett**
**Mr and Mrs J. Browning**
**Mr and Mrs B. Corlett**
**Mr W. M. Cotterell**
**Mr and Mrs R. Curry**
**Mr F. Drake**
**Mr F. G. Dukes**
**Mr and Mrs A. Elwick**
**Mr S. G. Hounsell**
**Mr I. C. Hounsell**
**Mr and Mrs W. H. Holden**
**Mr and Mrs R. Hobbs**
**Mrs Dorothy Kontzle**
**Mr and Mrs E. Leat**
**Mr and Mrs L. F. Martin**
**Brig and Mrs C. G. Moore**
**Mr P. Munchin**
**Lt Col H. Napper**
**Mr and Mrs J. Nelson**
**Mr H. W. Palmer**
**Mr P. W. Pannett**
**Lt Col M. A. Philp**
**Col A. F. Pownall**
**Maj and Mrs D. J. Roberts**
**Brig The Rev W. B. Rowett**
**Maj and Mrs K. N. Smartt**
**Mr W. Spittall**
**Mr A. W. Spratley**
**Mr G. J. Sweeney**
**Mr J. Y. Templeton**
**Mr R. W. Thompson**
**Mr and Mrs H. F. Timms**
**Lt Col Tim Waugh**
**Maj and Mrs A. D. Wheeler**
**Mr and Mrs A. F. C. Wheeler**
**Capt R. F. Wilford**
**Capt and Mrs T. E. Williams**
**Mr and Mrs G. F. Wilson**

## DERBY BRANCH

**Report by Dorothy Williamson, Chairman/Entertainment Secretary**

A happy reunion of old and new friends was held on 17 March at the Kingsway TA Centre. Compliments to the Chefs for the delicious meal served by the Kingsway Det Cadets and 38th Signal Regt (V).

It was with pleasure we entertained **Lt Col M. J. P. Vann MBE**, OC 38th Signal Regiment (V) and his charming wife **Janet**; he was pleased to see the cadets helping in our effort. The interest and witicism of his after dinner speech followed by the humour of **Col J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor TD DL**, who related the occasion of a fish in which they were both involved, made an interesting conclusion to the meal, followed by a dance in which young and old joined in.

The support and aid given by the permanent staff to the committee was tremendous and grateful thanks are due to them for creating an amicable and jovial occasion. The numerous compliments received proved the event a great success.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The committee was re-elected unchanged on 21 March, with the addition of **Sig Keighley**. Our life members are increasing. We regret to say several of our senior members are ill, we do wish them a speedy recovery. Our monthly meetings are held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to whom we extend thanks for this privilege, for it keeps the Association members in contact with the serving member. We will be pleased to hear from any ex Corps personnel living in the Derbyshire area who may wish to join and support our Branch; they may contact our Hon Sec/Treasurer **Capt P. Veitch** of 5 Swayfield Close, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5RN.



## LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

**Report by Maj R. O. Edwards**

A belated thank you to **Maj Gen** and **Mrs J. M. W. Badcock** who made the long journey from Kent to attend our 48th annual dinner in the Autumn. To have the Head of the family and his lady to dine with us was a privilege. The Master's response to the Guest toast, proposed by the Chairman, was a masterpiece, and was the hit of the evening. Other guests included **Col** and **Mrs Paddy Verdon** from the Army Apprentices' College (we are sorry it was their last for a while).

The AGM was held in January at the TA Centre of 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V). A good attendance re-elected the outgoing committee, with the exception of Vice chairman. **Mr 'Mac' McGee**, after many years of loyal service to the branch, stood down. Thank you 'Mac' for all you have done—we welcome **Maj Jim Malcolm TD** as the new vice chairman.

At the invitation of the Commandant, **Col G. C. Verdon OBE**, members made the journey to Harrogate from Leeds, Sheffield and York to take part in a service with College members of the Permanent staff and Apprentices, in the Garrison Church of St Alban. The church was packed to overflowing—a most welcome sight. In the congregation were a'so families of past members of the staff and former Apprentices who lost their lives in the Falklands conflict.

The lesson was read by the President, **Col N. R. Bigland TD**. Following an inspiring address from the Padre, the **Revd John Blackburn**, he led the Commandant, **Mr Forge** (father of the late **Maj Michael Forge**) and the branch chairman, escorted by two Apprentices to the Chapel. **Mr Forge** unveiled a plaque to the memory of ex College members lost in the Falklands after which the branch copy of the Roll of Honour of Corps members lost in World War 2 was carried by the Chairman with AT escort, to the Altar. A page of the book was turned, and the Act of Remembrance recited, and the Last Post, Lament, and Reveille played.

After the service, branch members, supported by the standard, and members of the Harrogate branch, paraded for a March Past, led by the College band. The salute was taken by the Commandant, following which members and their ladies retired to Messes for refreshment and lunch.

During the refreshment interlude in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, **Mr Les Wilder**, our branch treasurer, was presented with his Honour Member badge by **Col Verdon**. **Mr Wilder** has given many years of service to the Association and the award by the Central Committee was well merited.

The branch is yet again indebted to the Commandant and his staff for the excellent arrangements which made for a memorable day. We will miss you and your lady, Colonel, but hope you will both enjoy your new appointment in Washington.

## SHREWSBURY BRANCH

The results of the Branch Grand National Draw 1984 were as follows:
**1st** Ticket No. **2663** Horse **Hello Dandy—WO2 Borland,** (22 Sig Regt), **£150**.
**2nd** Ticket No. **1698** Horse **Grease Paint—5 Troop, 11 Sig Regt £75**.
**3rd** Ticket No. **912** Horse **Corbiere—Lt Grogan**, (7 Sig Regt), **£25**.
**4th** Ticket No. **11347** Horse **Lucky Vane—J. E. Houldsworth Esq.**, Bradford **£10**.

## WINCHESTER BRANCH

**FORMED IN OCTOBER 1983**

Chairman: **Lt Col T. A. Howard (Retd)** late RE Signals. Transferred R Signals 1921. Served in India 1921-1946. Commanded Southern India Army Signals and Madras Signals until 1946. Retired 1947. Deputy Commandant ACF Hants & Devon until 1966.

Our Treasurer **Capt H. R. Steele** has had a long and varied career also. **Harry** served from 1924 to 1948. As you can guess we have a wealth of experience here at Winchester and plenty to talk about on Branch nights. Our current membership is 34 and we are still open to all ex Corps personnel in the Winchester area. Please drop a line to **T. J. Smyth** Secretary, at Winchester Branch, you will be sure of a reply.

# — Sport —

## FOOTBALL

**CORPS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL REPORT**
**Report by Maj (QM) R. A. Peake BEM—Hon Secretary**

The 1983-84 season consisted of six fixtures. Although response for top players from BAOR was not encouraging, 13 Sig Regt excepted, UK units were particularly helpful and it was a pleasant change to have a full side assembled the day before each game. Due to accommodation difficulties in Catterick and Blandford all Corps matches were played away from home.

Many UK based Corps footballers were not available for some of the games due to career courses, exercises etc and this resulted in 26 players covering the six games. In some ways this was a blessing, for several good new players emerged.

**Sig Lance Netherton** (a young goalkeeper released by Oxford United) is a standard above normal regimental players. As soon as he completed recruit training he was selected for the full Army Team.

Five players have played for the Army during the season. **LCpl Sandy Brown, Cpl Billy Freear, LCpl Jimmy Hayes, Sig Mick Halligan** and **Lance Netherton**. **Sandy Brown** was named Army Player of the year and it was a truly well deserved award. Stationed in Londonderry and on shift work he was subjected to continual travelling in order to play Corps, Army and Combined Services football. His unit 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn were most helpful in releasing him, a fact noted and appreciated by all concerned with Service football. In addition to **Sandy Brown, Mick Halligan** was also in the Combined Services Squad and they won the Kentish Cup, the first British win for 13 years.

The Corps season started with a 0—0 draw against RAPC at Worthy Down. Despite being well on top, especially in the first half, the finishing was poor and we only came close to scoring twice.

**THE QUADRANGULAR**

In the Quadrangular Competition, hosted by the Sappers, we won our first two games. **Sgt Alex Hamilton**, skipper for the season and **Billy Freear** scored our goals in the 2—1 win over the RE. Against the RA we played superb football and the 2—1 victory, goals by **Alex Hamilton** and **Sandy Brown** did not reflect, to the full, our superiority. It left us needing just a draw against the REME to win the tournament but we played below standard and lost a poor game 1—0. In the end we were runners up to the RE on goal difference, they scored one more goal than us! **Sig Tony Redman** was our top player overall.

Against the RCT in Aldershot, we played well but the wind spoilt the game. A well struck shot by **Capt Ian Griffiths** proved to be the winner.

The final match at the end of March brought us to Kineton to play the RAOC. Once again poor finishing let us down in a game we dominated and we finished as we started the season 0—0.

With the present blend of experience and new blood emerging, it is hoped for a good season ahead. The lack of a good striker is our main drawback although **Sig Tony Edwards**, a newcomer, may yet fill the gap.

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

| Played | Won | Drew | Lost | Goals For | Goals Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| V RAPC | Drew | 0—0 |
| V RE | Won | 2—1 |
| V RA | Won | 2—1 |
| V REME | Lost | 0—1 |
| V RCT | Won | 1—0 |
| V RAOC | Drew | 0—0 |

**PLAYERS USED**
**Sgt Alex Hamilton, LCpl Tony Mee**—Army Apprentices College
**Sgt Brian Colvin, LCpl John Sweeney, Sig Tony Edwards**—8 Sig Regt
**Cpl Bob Hamilton, Sig Lance Netherton**—11 Sig Regt
**Cpl John Dyer, Sig Mick Halligan**—30 Sig Regt
**Capt Ian Griffiths, LCpl Mark Shergold**—10 Sig Regt

**Lt Tony Rock, Cpl Ray Vincent, LCpl Ian Holmes**—School of Signals
**Sig Tony Redman, Sig Trib Slaney**—249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
**LCpl Billy Grierson, Sig Scouse Dunleavey, Sig Gary Maloney**—28 Sig Regt
**Sig Paul Lemon**—34 Sig Regt (V)
**Sig 'Franny' Francis**—RMAS
**Cpl Charlie Holsgrove**—13 Sig Regt
**LCpl Sandy Brown**—8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
**Cpl Billy Freear**—Comms & Sy Gp UK
**Sgt Dicky Bird**—2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
**Cpl John Phipps**—233 Sig Sqn

**TEAM ASSISTANT**
**SSgt 'Butch' Maycock**—School of Signals

**TEAM MANAGER**
**Maj (QM) Bob Peake**—School of Signals

# GOLF

**Report by Maj (Retd) J. E. Gill**

The first fixture of the golfing season was against The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Wednesday 28 March at The Army Golf Course Aldershot. It is probably true to say that the new management of Corps Golf didn't do very well at all. The new Secretary had failed to ensure good weather; in fact it was so horribly wet that not even the bravest and hardiest managed to play a full 18 holes. And to make matters worse, the new Captain had failed to ensure a winning team by his selections, although he did win his own match, and with the biggest margin of the day! RMAS won by 4 matches to 3, with one being halved, as follows:

**Maj Harry Meekings** won 1 up against **2Lt P. A. Jenkinson**
**Maj Gen Jimmy Jackson** halved with **2Lt P. J. Lambert**
**Lt Col Bill Kennedy** won 6 up against **2Lt D. R. Craig**
**Brig Tony Willcox** lost 4 down against **WO1 C. H. Birchall** (a little ironic this—**Charles Birchall** is the Royal Signals Yeoman at Sandhurst!)
**Brig Alan Atkinson** lost 1 down to **Mr R. C. Edwards**
**Col Don Fairman** won 2 up against **2Lt T. M. Tilbrook**
**Lt Col Gavin Mackay** lost 4 down to **Mr J. Marsden**
**Maj Eric Gill** lost 1 down to **2Lt J. Rowland.**

Perhaps we shall all play better with the sun on our backs!

The annual match against The Staff College was played on Monday 16 April on the West Course of The Wentworth Club—the 'Burma Road', venue for the World Match-Play Championships.

Unfortunately there were not many world-class performances from the Corps side who suffered defeat at the hands of a fairly international Staff College team, who enjoy having Wentworth as their home course—lucky lot!

Perhaps the most rueful comment was from **Maj Harry Meekings** 'I birdied three holes and only managed to get a wein out of one of them!' Staff College won the match by two matches to one, with one being halved in a four ball, better-ball contest. Results were:
**Maj Harry Meekings** and **Maj Eric Gill** lost to **Lt Col John Williams, PARA** and **Capt Tej Bakshi, Indian Army.**
**Col Stan Gordon** and **Maj John Elliott** lost to **Maj John Jones, US Army** and **Capt Peter Snow, RAOC.**
**Lt Col Hugh Bonaker** and **Brig Alan Atkinson** halved with **Capt Godfrey McFall, PARA** and **Capt Steve Lewis, RE.**
**Maj Doug Burt** and **Lt Col Donald Pounds** won against **Maj Charles Vane Percy, RTR** and **Capt Stephen Flanagan, KOB.**

Nonetheless, a very enjoyable afternoon on one of the world's top courses and, apart from a couple of showers, in good weather.

# SQUASH

**1983/84 SEASON**
**Report by Capt Ken Stewart—Secretary**

The Corps Squash Team has enjoyed a very successful season. However **Capt Neil Stewart** is to retire from the Service by the end of the year and he will be a sad loss to both the Army and Corps Squash.

**COMPETITIONS**
**ROYAL SIGNALS INDIVIDUAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Corps Squash Championships for 1983 were held at Blandford with the Inter-Corps following immediately after at the Waverley Squash Club, Farnham. This enabled the selectors to choose the best team and at the same time get some pre-match training and sort out the order of play. This aim was achieved when we were able to train as a Corps Team for two days on the Waverley Courts prior to the Inter-Corps Championships. There were 35 entries in the Corps Open and five in the Veterans. A number of potential Corps players were spotted, one in particular, **Cpl Roberts** of Junior Leaders Regiment, Ouston.

**RESULTS OPEN FINAL**

In general the standard throughout the competition was of a very high order. All games were played in excellent spirit with much determination shown by all players. The standard of fitness ensured many long rallies and play went on until 2030 hrs on the first day Monday 21 November. All the seeded players progressed as anticipated with the No 1 and 2 seeds winning comfortably in their respective semi-finals. The finalists as expected were **Capt Neil Stewart** and **Cpl Tom Pollard**. Their match proved to be an epic battle of fitness and long rallies. **Neil** ran out the eventual winner 3—0, the scores being 9—0, 9—3, 9—0. The scores do not reflect a true picture, as **Tom Pollard** often stretched **Neil** who was forced to bring out his very best shots to defeat the up and coming future champion. The spectators gallery was packed and the atmosphere charged with excitement.

Brig Willcox presents Capt N. H. Stewart with Winners Cup R. Signals Open Championship 1983

**PLATE FINAL**

This competition is for first round loosers. The final was played between **LCpl Alan Hamilton** of 8 Sig Regt and **WO1 (YofS) Les Rix** of JSJET. **LCpl Hamilton** was the winner. The match was played to the full 5 sets the score being 5—9, 10—8, 10—8, 9—10, 10—9 to **Alan Hamilton**. The match showed endurance and fitness, neither would bow to the others determination to win. True grit hardly describes this match but the eventual winner was the younger man. Both players received a standing ovation from spectators for their efforts.

**VETERANS**

The Veterans Final was nonetheless a battle of skill and fitness. **Tony Marley** eventually rested the title from **Ernie Webb** who was making his last appearance (as a serving member) in these Championships. **Ernie** has been the Veterans Champion for the past four seasons and was not giving up the title without a fight. The younger player won the day by 3 games to 1, Winning 6—9, 9—5, 9—7, 10—8.

Brig Willcox presents Lt Col E. Webb, Runner Up Veterans 1983, with trophy

**ASRA INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983/84**

This competition took place at the Waverley Squash Club, Farnham 25-27 November, 1983. The Corps Team was the strongest side available and improved upon last season's result by coming runners up to the RAOC. It was a particular well run and enjoyable competition. Those players representing the Corps in the 20 games played are listed below together with the teams comprising Division 1 of the League.

**Capt N. H. Stewart** — **8 Sig Regt**
**Cpl T. Pollard** — **30 Sig Regt**
**SSgt D. Higginson** — **264 (SAS) Sig Sqn**
**Cpl N. Ranier** — **14 Sig Regt**
**Capt P. Robertshaw** — **AAC Harrogate**
**Cpl S. Roberts** — **Junior Leaders Regt Ouston**
**SSgt W. Hutton** — **3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt**

**DIV 1**

**APTC**
**RAOC**
**R Signals**
**RA**
**RCT**
**REME**

Our first match v REME was played on Friday evening 25 November, 1983. This was an easy win for the Corps by 5—0. The only player who was stretched was **SSgt Higginson** who played as the anchor of No 3 throughout the whole of the competition.

**RCT v R SIGNALS**

This was a well balanced match. We eventually won 3—2 after some tough games that flowed back and forth. **Cpl Ranier** was struggling to find form at this stage but **Cpl Pollard** was growing in confidence with every game.

**R SIGNALS v RA**

Saturday afternoon 26 November, 1983 we fought another close battle with the Gunners and again came out the winners at 3—2. **Neil Stewart** was disappointingly beaten 3—0 by **Chris Wilson**, but **Cpl Ranier** had a fine win against a more experienced player.

**R SIGNALS v RAOC**

RAOC were the in-form team, very strong in depth and proved to be the eventual competition winners. **Cpl Tom Pollard** had a magnificent win against his opponent **Cpl Adam** winning 3—2. **Cpl Adam** was seeded No 6 in the Army, and went 2 games up and 8—4 in the 3rd game serving for game and match. At this point **Tom Pollard** showed his real potential skill, determination and fitness. He literally came back from a certain defeat to win 3—2. A first class game to watch. Both players displayed wonderful sportsmanship. The final score was a convincing win for the RAOC 4—1.

**R SIGNALS v APTC**

This was played in the afternoon Sunday 27 November. We had a tough match in the morning v RAOC and did not relish playing APTC so soon after our previous game. However, our preparation prior to the competition was to show dividends during this match. **Cpl Nick Ranier** was the star of this confrontation winning 3—2 after being 2 games down in the 3rd game. This was almost an exact replay of **Tom Pollard**'s performance earlier in the day.

This was a very fine effort from all players which resulted in an improvement upon last year's performance. **Cpl Pollard** was the star of the week by not losing any of his matches. His maturity on court was an example to players from all teams. It was indeed a pleasure to act as non-player team organiser. The team in general was complimented from several sources for its team spirit, turnout and organisation which brought much credit to the Corps.

New blood is required especially with the impending departure of **Capt Stewart.**

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

| Played | Won | Lost |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 1 |

**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Capt Neil Stewart, Lt Bruce Knobel, Cpl Tom Pollard** and **Cpl Nick Ranier** entered for these championships. **Neil Stewart** was beaten in the Semi-finals **Tom Pollard** concentrated on winning the under 25's for the second year in succession and was successful.

**ARMY REPRESENTATIVES**

The following players were selected for Army Matches and other competitions during 1983/84:

**Capt Neil Stewart**—Captain of Army Team
Inter-Services
County Matches
League Matches

**Cpl Tom Pollard**—Army 'A' Team
Cumbrian Cup
League Matches
Inter-Service Under 25's

**Cpl Nick Ranier**—Army 'A' Team
Inter-Services Under 25's
League Matches

**Lt Bruce Knobel**
Inter-Services Under 25's
League Matches

**JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Unfortunately there were only 12 competitors in the Corps Junior Championships held at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate on 11 February 1984. The disappointment of this low entry was compensated for by the keen enthusiastic approach of the 12. In the Plate Final **AT SSM Ian Budd** of Penney Squadron beat **AT Ian Shrubb** Bradley Squadron in a close 5 set match. In the Open Competition the seedings went true to form and **AT Sgt Mick Nuttly** Rawson Squadron played **AT Cpl Stephen Basson** Penney Squadron in the final. **Cpl Basson** won the first two games with relative ease, as **Sgt Nuttly** was forced into making too many errors. The third and fourth games were a total reversal with **Sgt Nuttly** commanding most of the play. The fifth and final game was a tense competitive affair with **Cpl Basson** coming out the deserved winner. The Open Final was the best standard of squash seen in this competition for a long time.

**SUMMARY**

The season has been a good one. We are sadly losing **Neil Stewart** after many years of loyal dedication to Corps and National Squash. He is irreplaceable and will be greatly missed as both a friend and player. **Cpl Pollard** has had a wonderful season and has gone from strength to strength. He now looks forward to next season and the hope of a higher seeding in order of merit. The Corps Team will need to re-build and look to the future for better things. We have, I believe, in **Lt Bruce Knobel** just the sort of young officer needed on which to build a new team.

Left to Right: Capt N. H. Stewart, Brig A. M. Willcox, Cpl Pollard, Capt K. Stewart (Sec SRC), Lt Col E. Webb, Maj A. Marley, WO1 (YofS) Rix, LCpl Hamilton, Lt Col C. A. Brown (Pres SRC)

# THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

When the Royal Hospital at Chelsea was founded by King Charles II in 1682 it answered a crying need. Many men who had been wounded in battle or were forced after long service to retire through old age were no longer capable of looking after themselves. A place at the Hospital was not just a reward for a man who had given the best years of his life to serving his country; in some cases it was an absolute necessity for survival.

In the first instance, most of the money needed to build and maintain the Royal Hospital was provided from Army Funds through a fixed rate of deduction from pay and pensions, a system which continued until 1847. Since then the Hospital has been maintained from Parliamentary Votes, supplemented by a relatively small income derived from a Prize and Legacy Fund.

Today, of course, the situation of old soldiers is very much better. Old people are catered for in many ways which were quite unknown even 50 years ago. Hospitals, nursing homes, old people's homes, all give care and attention to the aged and disabled.

At first sight, it might seem that there is no longer any need for the Royal Hospital; in fact this is very far from being true. The Hospital offers to old soldiers much that other organisations and institutions, however efficient and well endowed, can never hope to offer. A successful community requires that its members should have much in common, and this is precisely what the conditions of admission to the Hospital ensure. Its own military tradition forms a natural setting to men who have spent a great part of their lives in the Army, so that old soldiers who enter it immediately find themselves in an atmosphere they recognise and understand. Moreover, they are all more or less contemporaries and similar in their outlook and interests.

Here are old campaigners, men whose fighting days are over for good. To such men the Royal Hospital offers a happy, leisurely existence in which they may forget the anxieties and responsibilities of the outside world. Here they can spend their latter years in well earned security.

## LIFE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

The Hospital is conducted on military lines but without the rigours of military discipline. Pensioners are required to wear uniform in the Royal Hospital, but on furlough may wear civilian clothes if they wish. Meal-times are set, but fairly flexible. In-Pensioners may take their breakfast at any time between 0730 and 0830 hrs, dinner between 1230 and 1330 hrs, high tea between 1700 and 1800 hrs.

The Hospital kitchens have been completely modernised. By means of a connecting lift, food is brought from the kitchens to the Great Hall in hot food conveyors. It is then served at the tables by female staff. This system ensures that every man can get a really hot meal, whether he comes in at the beginning or the end of the meal period. The traditional practice of messing in the Great Hall has been revived after a lapse of 150 years, but those In-Pensioners who are too infirm to make the journey to the Great Hall have their meals brought to their berths in the Long Wards.

Each of these Long Wards, as they are called, contains two rows of 22 'berths' or small rooms, back to back, flanked by wide corridors. Each Ward nowadays is centrally heated and has its own washrooms with constant running hot water. Electric water heaters have also been installed, so that an In-Pensioner can make himself a hot drink at any time during the day or night.

The Hospital has seen many other modern improvements, notably the enlargement of the In-Pensioners' berths. As designed by Wren, they were only 6ft square. This meant that a man had scarcely room to dress or undress inside his berth, and that some of his clothes and other possessions had to be kept in a chest outside. The berths have been enlarged to 6ft by 9ft, making room for a wardrobe and chest of drawers, in addition to a table and chair. This extra privacy and comfort has meant a great deal to the men. By allowing them to set out their personal belongings as they please, it has given them a real sense of being at home. Each berth is also equipped with wireless headphones and has its own reading lamp. In-Pensioners may use their own portable television sets in their berths.

A new addition is that each of the Long Wards on the upper floors of the two residential wings has study rooms for the use of the In-Pensioners.

Only such discipline is demanded as is necessary for the maintenance of mutual respect between the men and the staff and the smooth administration of the Hospital. Virtually no restraint is placed on the activities of the In-Pensioners, who can spend as much time as they please outside the Hospital as long as they are in by midnight. There is a general rule that In-Pensioners should not be away from the Hospital for more than 42 days in any year. On furlough each In-Pensioner receives a ration allowance. A summer holiday at the seaside may be arranged. In addition, In-Pensioners are frequently invited to attend regimental reunions and other social and sporting events.

Relatives and friends may visit In-Pensioners at any time.

There is a barber's shop and a steam clothes-press, in both of which the service is free.

There is also a small shop on the premises in which In-Pensioners may purchase stationery, tobacco, confectionery and many other small items without having to leave the Hospital. It is open every day, except Sunday, from 0900 to 1200 hrs. The Royal Hospital has its own sub Post Office on the premises where In-Pensioners can draw their National Insurance Retirement Pensions and transact a wide variety of postal business.

## THE RECREATIONAL SIDE

Much has been done in recent years to make the In-Pensioner's life a fuller and more congenial one. One notable innovation is the Club, containing three comfortable lounges with two bars, in one of which a wide range of newspapers and magazines are always available. Entertainments take place in the Club once a week. Adjoining the Club are a billiards room with two full-sized tables and a television room, where films are also shown.

There is also a handicrafts centre, where ladies of the Chelsea Division, British Red Cross, give instruction and assistance to In-Pensioners in various activities. The products of the handicraft centre are sold, and in this way In-Pensioners are able to earn a little extra pocket money.

There is a well stocked Library, which includes many books in large print for those with defective sight. Its affiliation to the Army Central Library makes any book in that Library, or in the National Central Library, available on request. A Royal Hospital Museum has also been established in the Secretary's Office block. In it can be seen many items of interest connected with the long history of the Royal Hospital, not in the least of these being a fine collection of medals of past In-Pensioners.

The Hospital has extensive grounds, with first-class bowling and putting greens and garden allotments for those who wish to have them. Many of the In-Pensioners are bowls enthusiasts, and frequent matches are arranged with outside teams during the season.

## MEDICAL CARE

In-Pensioners have the benefit of the personal medical attention of three resident doctors, and the Infirmary is one of the most modern of its kind. It has six wards and 12 private rooms, a total of 120 beds in all, an X-ray department and a very well equipped physiotherapy department.

## A QUICK LOOK ROUND THE HOSPITAL

The exceptionally fine architecture of the Royal Hospital calls for special mention both in its own right and on account of the part it plays in creating the essential atmosphere of the place, which is in refreshing contrast to the hurry and bustle of the nearby London streets.





The original buildings remain substantially as Sir Christopher Wren designed them, though additions and alterations were made by Robert Adam in the eighteenth century and later, more extensively, by Sir John Soane.

The heart of the Wren building is Figure Court, so called on account of the statue of Charles II by Grinling Gibbons in its centre—which is enclosed by buildings on its northern, eastern and western sides but lies open to the grounds on the south side. The northern range of buildings contains the Chapel and the Great Hall, with an octagonal vestibule, between them and a colonnade along the side facing the Court. The eastern and western ranges contain the Long Wards and, at their southern ends, the residences of the Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor. From both ends wings extend eastwards and westwards forming subsidiary courts, which contain administrative offices, the In-Pensioners' Club and Officers' private apartments.

The South Grounds, where the famous Chelsea Flower Show is held every May, run down to the Thames Embankment. At their western end lies the Orangery, dating from the early eighteenth century and attributed to Sir John Vanbrugh, which has been converted to a Roman Catholic Chapel and a library for the In-Pensioners. On the east they are flanked by Ranelagh Gardens, which are also the property of the Hospital.

## THE HOSPITAL AS A COMMUNITY

The Hospital was built to house 500 men, but even in those days it could not accommodate all who wished for admission. So, in order to compensate the unlucky ones, a system of pensions was introduced. This was the origin of Army Pensioners, and the system of In-Pensioners and Out-Pensioners has continued fundamentally unchanged to the present day—though the preponderance of Out-Pensioners over In-Pensioners has, of course, increased enormously, till today the number of Out-Pensioners is over 50,000. They are administered by the Army Pensions Office created in 1955 to take over the responsibility for pensions from the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital.

In-Pensioners, on the other hand, are directly under the senior staff of the Hospital—the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor and Secretary (a retired Major-General) the Assistant Secretary, and the Adjutant (a retired officer who is the Commanding Officer of the Pensioners). The other officers include three medical officers, the Chaplain and the Quartermaster and six officers known as Captains of Invalids, who are in charge of the six companies in which the In-Pensioners are organised. Each Company has a Company Sergeant Major, a Colour Sergeant, three Sergeants and three Corporals, all of whom are recruited from the In-Pensioners themselves and through whom discipline is maintained and detailed administration carried out.

One of the most attractive features of any community life is the opportunity it offers for the sharing of duties. At the Royal Hospital heavy duties for the In-Pensioners are obviously out of the question, but there are still many light tasks which they are capable of doing, if they wish to. These carry with them a small remuneration and include the positions of Librarian, Usher of the Great Hall, Chapel Clerk, Museum Attendant, etc, and all the Hospital NCOs.

Such delegation of duty serves a triple purpose. It is a practical and economical way of running the Hospital efficiently; it reduces the need for civilian staff; and most important of all, it gives the In-Pensioners concerned a sense of purpose and responsibility. It is this, coupled with the modicum of discipline enforced at the Hospital, which is principally responsible for maintaining such a high standard of morale and contentment among the men.

## BECOMING AN IN-PENSIONER

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be:-

in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, or of the Victoria Cross or George Cross Annuity awarded in respect of bravery while serving in the British Army;

of good character;

normally at least 65 years of age: exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability;

able to look after himself—that is, to wash, shave and dress himself, attend for meals in the Great Hall and walk around without assistance;

free from the obligation to support a wife or children;

passed medically fit for admission.

In addition, a man of good character drawing Service Retired Pay who had at least 12 years' full time service in the ranks of the British Army over the age of 18 may be eligible for admission after attaining the age of 65.

In-Pensioners are not allowed to marry, though they may leave the Royal Hospital in order to do so.

When the admission of a Pensioner is approved by the Commissioners he is given a free railway warrant for the journey to London. On admission, he surrenders his service or disability pension in return for free board, lodging, clothing and medical attention. Contributory retirement pensions are retained by the In-Pensioners as well as any other civil pensions or any private means they may have.

In-Pensioners are required to wear the medals to which they are entitled. If on admission an In-Pensioner has lost or no longer has in his possession the medals to which he is entitled, replacements will be obtained for him from the Army Medal Office, and he will be required to pay half the cost of these replacement medals.

In-Pensioners are not permitted to keep or drive a car within the precincts of the Royal Hospital. In-Pensioners are also not permitted to drive a car when in Royal Hospital Uniform or to drive a car with In-Pensioners in Uniform as passengers.

An In-Pensioner may be allowed to leave the Hospital and return to ordinary civilian life and resume the Out-Pension which he ceased to draw when he was admitted; if he leaves within six months of admission, he is liable to be charged for part cost of his uniform. Any man may be discharged by order of the Board for misconduct, when his Out-Pension may, or may not, be restored, either at the former or at some lower rate. Once a pensioner reverts to Out-Pension whether voluntarily or otherwise, he cannot be guaranteed re-admission as an In-Pensioner.

A form of application for admission to In-Pension may be obtained from The Secretary, Room 6, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL.

The Staff Band of the Royal Corps of Signals will be appearing at the STAG Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, on 13 June. The Band will be giving one performance in the evening at 8.00pm, tickets £2.00.

All past and present members of the corps are very welcome, the theatre has a large bar and excellent parking facilities. Further details and advance booking from the Manager (R. A. L. Nipper), STAG Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2QA. Box Office 1000 till 1600, Monday to Saturday Tel (0732) 450175.

# 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 | 36.00 | 41.00 |
| Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. 9 carat gold with spring safety stud. | 39.70 | 45.15 |
| Sterling silver with spring safety stud. Complete in presentation case. | 6.50 | 7.50 |
| Corps table mats (set of six) | 23.10 | 26.30 |
| Corps cocktail mats (set of six) | 6.50 | 7.40 |
| Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank) | 8.90 | 9.50 |
| Corps cuff links (revised pattern) | 4.10 | 4.50 |
| Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" × 4½" | 1.65 | 1.80 |
| 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" | 2.30 | 2.60 |
| Car badge—square, acrylic | 3.40 | 3.75 |
| Key ring with Corps badge tag | 0.70 | 0.75 |
| Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold | 3.20 | 3.60 |
| Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½") | 0.85 | 0.90 |
| medium (7½" × 5½") | 0.80 | 0.85 |
| small (3" × 2⅜") | 0.75 | 0.80 |
| Identity card holder | 0.25 | 0.30 |
| Blazer buttons—large | 0.60 | 0.65 |
| small | 0.85 | 0.95 |
| Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only) | 0.40 | 0.45 |
| Vinyl "coasters" with Corps Crest (set of six) | 1.45 | 1.55 |
| Playing cards embossed with the Corps Badge. (Red or Blue) | 1.60 | 1.80 |

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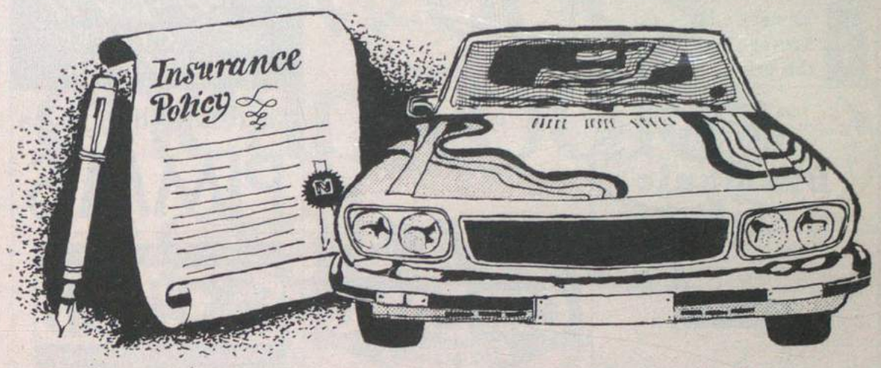


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# THE Wire

July 1984

ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS

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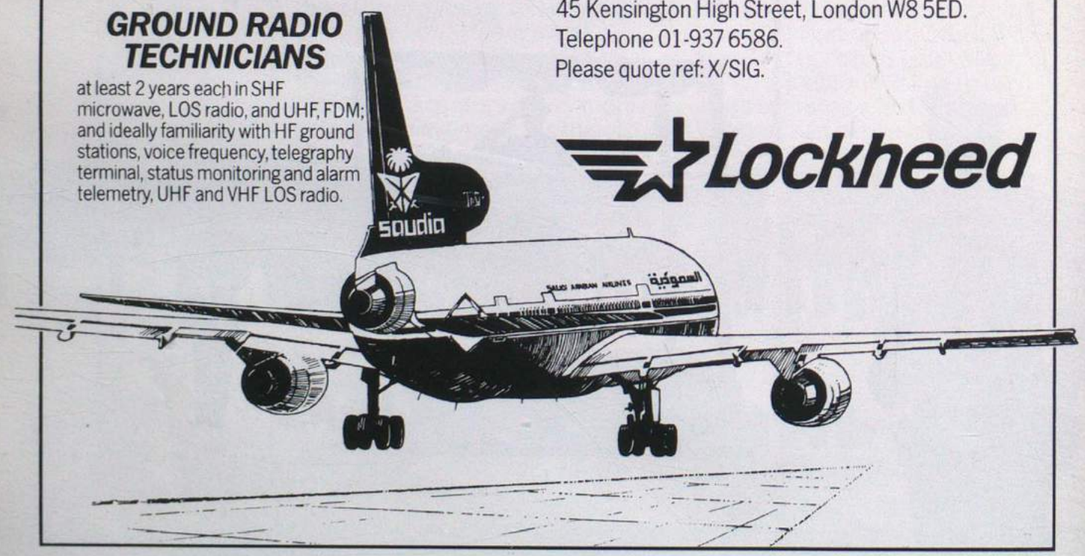




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# THE WIRE

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## EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine taking the salute at 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) anniversary parade when the new Regimental Flag was unfurled. Four Phantoms of No 92 (East India) Squadron RAF, fly past. See Page 411 for full report (photo by Cpl Derek Booth).

## BIRTHDAY HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List:

**OBE**

**Lt Col J. C. Blackwood TD WRAC (V)**
**Lt Col W. J. P. Robins**

**MBE**

**Maj M. S. Davies**
**Maj A. W. Merrick**
**Capt W. J. Clark**
**Capt D. G. Wood**
**WO1 W. A. G. Coombes TA**
**WO1 M. J. Radford**
**WO1 D. Weir**
**WO2 M. H. Beresford**

**BEM**

**SSgt E. H. Tai**
**Sgt A. Mottram**
**Cpl (A Sgt) S. A. McElreavey**
**Cpl N. N. Medford**

## – From our "In" Tray –

### PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, 28TH JUNE

The Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** sent the following message to our Colonel-in-Chief.

*'The Master of Signals and all ranks of your Corps send you their warmest best wishes on Princess Royal Day, and look back in particular at this time, with pride upon the part played by the Corps in Operation Overlord 40 years ago. We look forward with pleasure to your further visit to your Corps in Germany in July'.*

**HRH The Princess Anne** sent the following reply:

*'I was so pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, particularly on this the 40th Anniversary of Operation Overlord. I would be grateful if you could convey my best wishes to all Members of my Corps wherever they are serving.*

*I am looking forward to my visit to Germany in July'.*

### CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate **Major Richard Farrimond** who is to replace **Lieutenant Colonel Tony Boyle** as the Army nominee for astronaut training.

### PRESENTATION TO GENERAL HILD

**Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE**, Comd Comms BAOR left Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen on 11 April on retirement, after 35 years service. Our picture shows **Pte Paula McNeil**, a member of his Branch staff, presenting him with the plate which had been displayed on his staff car when he took up his appointment, and which had been used by successive Chief Signal Officers until the title was changed. The plate had been suitably mounted as a farewell gift from his Branch Staff.

**NEW CORPS HISTORY**
**WERE YOU THERE? HAVE YOU A STORY TO TELL?**
**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

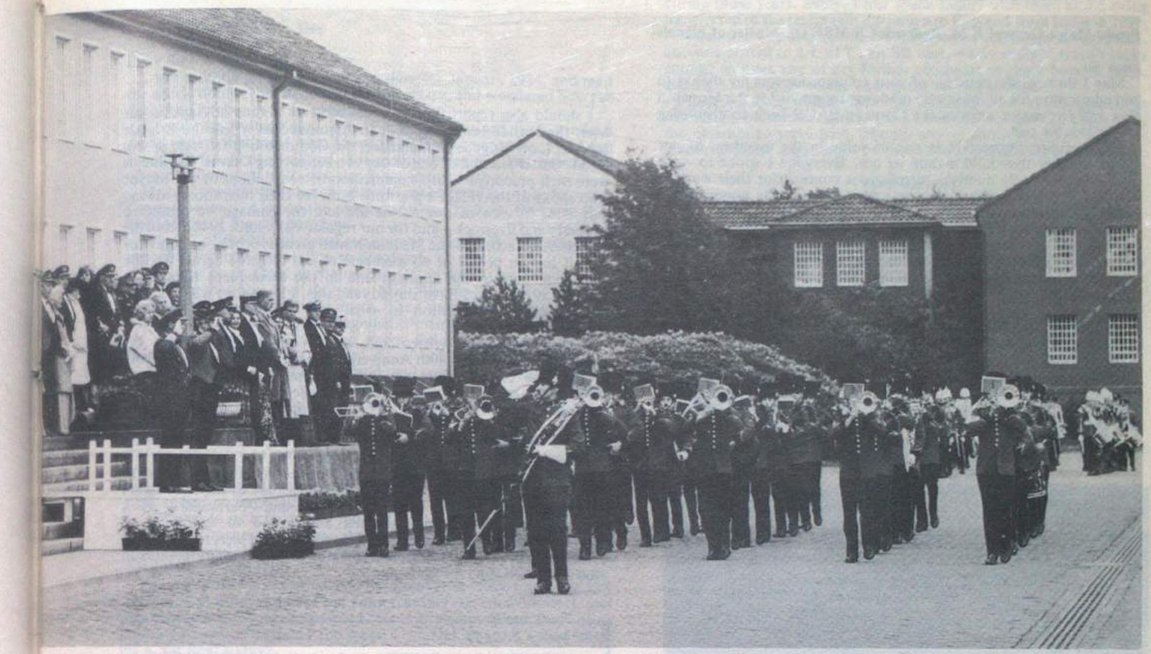
The Corps Committee has agreed plans for a new history of the Corps. Philip Warner, a professional author who has produced several books with wide appeal, has agreed to write the History and the Corps Committee has appointed **Lt Col Robin Painter** as research manager for this project. It is intended that the story should be primarily about people and should paint a picture of the work done by the Corps in peace and war, the way members of the Corps live through events, and the people (of **all** ranks) who took part in them.

If you have a story to tell, or contemporary reports or other relics whether concerning the Corps on operations or peacetime activities, developments (technical or otherwise) or any other facet of life in the Corps, please write to, or contact by telephone:-

**Lt Col R. P. D. F. Painter,**
c/o Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford,
Dorset. DT11 8RH
(Telephone No: 0258 52581 Ext 267)



### PRESTIGIOUS RETREAT CEREMONY LED BY OUR CORPS BAND



The picture shows the Royal Signals Band, led by Sgt C. Harrison leading the bands off parade at the conclusion of the Retreat Ceremony at Joint Headquarters Rheindalen, to mark the occasion of the Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. Taking the salute are Commanders-in-Chief, Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall KCB CVO MC and Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine KCB. This was the first occasion that a major army staff band had taken part in this prestigious annual event

### COMMANDER INAUGURATES THE FALKLAND ISLAND TRUNK SYSTEM

Commander, British Forces Falkland Islands, **Maj Gen K. Spacie OBE** making the first telephone call over 266 Sig Sqn's new Falkland Island Trunk Wideband Communications System (FITS) on 14 May. The System is an unmanned radio relay system covering the whole of the Falkland Islands and was produced by Marconi Communications Systems Limited (MCSL) the prime contractors. Where possible, commercially available communications equipment was procured. These came from several manufacturers chiefly: Plessey Radio, Marconi, STC, Chloride Batteries, Francis and Lewis and Andrews Antennas.

The system is designed for installation in 20 foot ISO containers as shown and where suitable mains supply is not available a second container is provided to house the twin generators.

The System is currently being deployed by a team under the command of **WO2 Ian Cowie REME** from Projects Division, School of Signals, supplemented by four members of the MCSL led by **Mr John Nicholl**. The sites were prepared over the preceding six months by members of 73 Field Squadron Royal Engineers under command of **Capt Phil Kershaw-Naylor RE**. The system is due completion in December 1984.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

**From: Major General J. M. Badcock CB MBE DL Master of Signals**

Dear Sir,

May I through the courtesy of your columns express my thanks to and admiration for all those who made my recent visit to the Morrison Cup and five major units of the Corps in BAOR such an absorbing and enjoyable one.

My overiding impression is one of pride in the members of our Corps whether they hold a rank or not. Everyone I spoke to—and there were a goodly number—displayed a concern for their work, a wish to do it better and at the same time to enjoy the opportunities for sport, adventure and fun.

Endeavour was personified at the Morrison Cup, the largest athletic event in BAOR, where not one competitor that I saw gave up. There too was the family occasion in the meeting of old friends amongst the spectators from all over BAOR and the Band to swing it all along. Our congratulations to the winners but also to all those who took part or organised it.

My thanks too to all those who put on demonstrations of their work or entertained my wife and myself when the life of BAOR has so many other priorities.

Of one thing I am sure, communications and the men who provide them are recognised by our own and other Armies as being amongst the best. As we enter the next generation of equipment, I am confident that the standards will be no less than they are today.

Yours sincerely,
**John Badcock**

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals,
Cheltenham Terrace,
London. SW3 4RH

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

**Brig T. I. G. Gray (Retd)** writes:

'As Brigade Signal Officer of 231 (Malta) Infantry Brigade, one of the two assault brigades of 50th (Northumberian) Division. I accompanied the Brigade Commander, **Brig Sir Alexander Stanier Bart, DSO MC**, late Welsh Guards, to Normandy for the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of D-Day. While there "I laid a wreath" on behalf of the Corps on the monument in the principal British cemetery at Bayeux.

The card attached to the wreath read:

"We will remember them. The Master and All Ranks Royal Signals present and past".

I should also report that at a luncheon on 5 June at Asnelles-sur Mer, the seaside resort adjacent to Arromanches where the Brigade landed, I, my Brigade Commander, the Commanding Officers of two of our Battalions and of one of our two supporting Gunner Regiments were each presented with a commemorative Medallion by the Mayor who spoke of the village's gratitude both for their liberation—always surprising in view of the loss of life and the damage we caused to property and livestock—and for our regular visits since 1944. I told the Mayor that I accepted the Medallion with great pleasure, not only for myself but on behalf of all members of 231 Brigade Signal Section who took part in the landings and in the subsequent fighting in Normandy. If any of them should read this, I hope they will feel with me pride and satisfaction in what was achieved that day and thereafter.

Enough has been written and shown on television about the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary to need no enlargement from me. For all of us "Veterans" it was a marvellously moving and memorable experience, not least because of the extraordinary continuing warmth of the welcome of the inhabitants, a large number of whom were not even born in 1944. I saw and spoke to several Corps veterans who were there as members of various parties and they were all enjoying their visit as much as I was.

Finally, I was very gratified to find in the Airborne Museum at Pegasus a comprehensive and well laid out display of the field signal equipment used by the Airborne Forces and—particularly as a onetime CSO at Wilton—delighted and proud to encounter at Ranville on 4 June an extremely well turned out and alert radio vehicle detachment of 30 Signal Regiment carrying out a less exciting, but still vital job, than ours 40 years ago'.

**ECHOES FROM ARNHEM, by Lewis Golden OBE.** Published by William Kimber & Co., 197 pages, price £10.50 (ISBN 07183-0521-3).

**Lewis Golden** was posted to Airborne Signals shortly after commissioning in March 1942. He remained in Airborne for rather more than four years until the end of his war service. He is therefore able to write his story of developments in airborne warfare and particularly its Signals element from inside knowledge with a wide variety of operational experience to bring excitement to his tale.

His main purpose, however, is the more serious one of showing step by step developments in establishing the role of airborne forces and the techniques of deployment and communications for achieving success in battle. In this he demonstrates exceptional talent for clear headed analysis and presentation. He poses many fundamental questions and then, through careful research provides material for answers; answers which vary in a number of important instances from accepted 'facts' which have been passed on unchecked from one Arnhem book to another.

From a poor start over equipment in 1939 this was a do-it-yourself war particularly in new venture areas such as Airborne. Too often all that could be achieved was to make the best use possible of weapons and equipment with known inadequacies. Tasks could be set within bounds which would offset these shortcomings. By mid 1944 commanders had enough experience of the airborne arm to set up operations in this high risk area with a good chance of success. **Lewis Golden** brings out well the particular pressures and other factors which led to final judgements in favour of launching the Arnhem operation even though a number of the hard earnt rules for success had to be ignored.

In spite of attrition by non arrival of aircraft and gliders and by dispersion often far from planned landing zones, the airborne forces by their zest, improvisation and sheer gallantry fulfilled the tasks they were set in the various operations described. It was their misfortune at Arnhem that the land forces involved were unable to reach the heroically held bridge in the time span allotted with the result that four men in every five became listed as killed, missing or prisoner.

This is an excellent book which rapidly engages the readers and keeps him thinking long after he has put it down.



## LOOKING BACK

**From: R. P. L. Smith, Esq**

Dear Sir

I was recently given a copy of the *Wire* for January 1984, and read the article about 9 Sig Regt's 60th anniversary, and wondered how the date, 18 October, was so precise.

I've always thought that 2 W/T Coy was formed from a mixed signal section that came from Mosul in 1922 or thereabouts. Years ago I was given a photograph of that section by **ex-Sgt Ted Newmarch** whom I knew very well, but alas is no longer with us.

He told me that the photograph was taken in 1921, when he was a Lance Corporal. Also on the photograph was **Lt J. B. Hickman RA**, later Major R Signals Sarafand.

The OC of the Mosul signal section was **Capt F. W. Nicholls**, who probably brought the section to Sarafand.

He came back again as Major and OC in 1936.

I think that the first OC was **Maj Worsley**, followed by **Maj Elsdale**, who closed Baghdad down. The Company had two sections, No 1 in Sarafand and No 2 in Baghdad. Postings between sections was by Nairns Overland Transport from Beirut—Rutbah, Rutbah—Beirut, with a stop at Damascus.

A tour was three years in Sarafand, and two in Baghdad, reduced to four years in Sarafand, when Baghdad closed.

**Maj Elsdale,** prior to closure, went to Baghdad several times, overland in his Austin. I believe he got stuck in Turkey once!

We were under the impression that Baghdad was closed because it was so expensive to run. For long periods in the summer very little work was done because of excessive atmospherics caused by electrical and sand storms. We had similar trouble in Sarafand, but nowhere near as bad as Baghdad.

S/W was in its infancy and most of the tasks were on M and L/W and QRN Crashes can be ear shattering on these frequencies.

It was found that the Baghdad tasks could be done just as well, if not better, at Sarafand.

Among those who came back to Sarafand after closure were **Sig Erb Harvey, Cpl Bill Chesters, Capt John Gardner** (set room officer), and **Mr Daneelion** (phonetic spelling). He was always **'Capt Dan'** to us and he'd been in Baghdad for years. I wonder what he would think of a Sig Regt today?

The last OC of 2 Section was **Capt Courtney-Thompson** who had been a Corps middle distance runner.

4 W/T Company had no CSM and two **Sgts**, (Both from Baghdad) **Shiner Wright** and **Bremner**, ran the company. **Sgt Wright** was i/c the Technical side, **Bremner** admin and discipline. The OC was **Capt F. W. Nicholls** (again!), but he was never seen because he was ADC to the CSO, do CSO's have ADC's?

A young Second Lieutenant from 2 Coy 'A' Corps Signals, signed any documents requiring an officer's signature.

The first visible OC was **Maj Cameron-Webb**, who took over after he came back from India.

By the way, the last time I saw **Sgt Bremner** was in 1949 when he was Captain and Adjutant of 2 Wireless Regt.

The past is brought back because today I read the obituary of **Mrs Elspeth Elsdale**, widow of **Brigadier Robinson Elsdale**, who died suddenly at her home in Gloucestershire.

Yours faithfully
**R. P. L. Smith**

6 Hilton Close
Parkstone
Poole
Dorset

## WERE YOU THERE?

**From: J. Anderson, Esq**

Dear Sir

I should be grateful for the opportunity through the courtesy of your magazine to ascertain, if, and how many members of No 25 Squad, Catterick Camp 1931, 'E' Company (same year), 'A' Corps, Aldershot 1934, and 1st Div Rawalpindi 1934/8, are still around.

I have happy memories of the many friends I had in those units during those years. Sadly, I lost touch finally with them all on being transferred to the reserve on my return to England from India in 1938.

When war was declared in 1939, I rejoined the Corps in Aldershot, and was posted to 1 L of C, an SR unit, where sadly, I wasn't lucky enough to meet any of my former comrades of those bygone years, and so it was to be to the end of my service in 1945.

Although many decades have passed since those far off days, I can still vividly remember names, and picture faces of most of those I had the pleasure to serve with. Should any of them who may read this letter remember me I should be more than pleased to hear from them.

Yours faithfully
**J. Anderson**

47 Vine Close
Ramsgate
Kent CT11 7BJ

## THE BEST

**From: Mr R. Vesty**

Dear Sir

This photograph was taken when I was a recruit (20 years old) stationed in the Depot at Catterick during 1937.

I have frequently wondered about the whereabouts of the members of our recruit squad, 77 Squad. Corps veterans of the 'Thirties' need no reminding, I am sure, of their startling and somewhat devestating introduction into the subtle art of soldiering! Suffice is it to record that at the end of all the trials and tribulations, there emerged through the white heat of recruit order and discipline, trained soldiers, who had forged strong bonds of fellowship. Only the best were good enough to be included in the ranks of the Corps.

Yours faithfully

**R. Vesty**

47 Oval Road
East Croydon

## LEEDS UNIVERSITY OTC 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the Officers Training Corps it is intended to hold a Dinner at Leeds University for all members past and present on Thursday 8 November 1984. Those interested are invited to contact the CO, Leeds University OTC, Carlton Barracks, Carlton Gate, Leeds or telephone (0532) 453560 or 454608 by 17 September 1984.

## ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB DINNER

The yacht club dinner this year is being held at the Crown Hotel Blandford on Friday 19 October. All Corps Sailors serving and retired with their wives and guests are very welcome to attend. The cost will be approx £8 per head. Accommodation can be made available at the School of Signals. Details are available from **Lt Col J. A. Montague MBE** at the School of Signals.

## OLD WELBEXIAN DINNER

The Old Welbexian Association Annual Reunion Dinner 1984 will be held in the RAOC HQ Officers Mess, Blackdown, Nr Camberley, Surrey on Friday 19 October 1984 at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Dress: Black tie. Cost £10 approx payable on the night, plus a small charge for those requiring accommodation. Tables by Entry can be arranged.

Apply to:
The Adjutant
Welbeck College
Worksop, Notts

## 120 TELE OP SECTION REUNION

120 Tele Op Section, a unit of 14th Army Signals in Burma 1944/45, is holding its first ever reunion at York in October. 16 ex members have been traced and will be attending, together with their wives. Former members wishing to attend should contact: **Mr Colin Wright, 7 Clovelly Drive, Newburgh, Wigan WN8 7LY. Tel: 025 76 2276.**

## THE BLANDFORD REUNION

**From: L. S. Palmer, Esq**

Dear Sir

I attended my first reunion yesterday at Blandford Camp, and was extremely impressed by the efficient organisation of both the host personnel and the hard-working officials of the Branches. Thank you one and all.

My only regret was that I did not meet any of my old friends, and I found myself rather hopefully staring at some of the Members during the day, whom I thought I recognised, only to find non-recognition in return. To them I apologise. Sadly, the faces now rather faded within my memory of A Corps/1st Corps Signals personnel with whom I served as a lineman from 1938 to 1943 must remain just a memory. Through the Dunkirk Veterans' Association I have met one former member of 1 Corps (**Bernie Macdonald** of 1 Line Section), and I cannot believe that the others left do not want to know us.

May I respectfully suggest that it would help towards identification if 'shoulder flashes' of Units were made available at a small charge, (similar to the paper identification tags issued yesterday on arrival).

Finally, I feel rather ashamed of myself for not making the effort to attend reunions in previous years, and I hope I can be forgiven for this. If I am able to, I hope to attend future events.

Yours faithfully
**Len 'Pedler' Palmer**

London SW20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| HOUSE PURCHASE | —immediately or in the future |
| EDUCATION EXPENSES | —for present or future children |
| COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT | —based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve |
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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.

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# — Movements —

## Officers

JUNE 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Maj M. J. Alden | Jnr Regt R Signals |
| Maj (Tfc Offr) A. W. Cudlip | 16 Sig Regt |
| Capt M. J. M Dyer | School of Signals |
| Capt T. R. Gainford | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI) |
| Lt G. G. Haughie | 8 Sig Regt |
| Maj A. J. Hutt | 22 Sig Regt |
| Capt J. M. Kirkman | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI) |
| Maj S. Law MBE | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt I. W. MacKenzie | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| 2Lt J. A. McDonnell | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Capt (Tfc Offr) J. T. Nichols | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Lt Col D. G. McH. Overton | ACGS(OR) |
| Lt Col E. W. Penny | HQ SOLF |
| Lt Col C. K. Powell | School of Signals |
| Capt J. M. Stockdale | PIU & SST (Fwd) |
| Lt Col C. E. R. Story | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj V. G. Strivens | HQ 1(BR) Corps |
| Maj (QM) D. G. Thomas | HS 31 Sig Regt |
| Maj L. R. J. Tilson | HS 31 Sig Regt (V) |
| Capt R. G. Vale | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj H. H. Van Praag | HQ BFFI |
| Capt J. W. Wedgbury | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt J. M. Willis | HQ 12 Armd Bde |

JULY 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Capt M. Anderson | 4 Regt AAC |
| Maj (Tfc) J. P. Beasley | LIVE OAK |
| Capt I. R. C. Brown | 8 Sig Regt |
| Maj W. K. Butler | RMA Sandhurst |
| Capt (TOT) M. G. H. Campbell | 2Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Capt (Tfc) R. C. W. Chisholm | JFHQ BFFI (AE) |
| Lt Col W. R. Clare | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj (Tfc) J. N. Clark | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Capt I. A. J. Condie | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI) |
| Capt (TOT) H. E. Connor | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Capt C. M. Cox | School of Signals |
| Capt D. A. Crawford | AAC Harrogate |
| Maj R. C. T. Cuthbert | HQ DAAC |
| Lt J. W. Dakin | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj C. M. Eastland | SANGCOM |
| Capt R. P. Etherton | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI Force) |
| Capt I. R. Fielder | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Maj R. N. B. Freeman | 28 Sig Regt |
| Lt F. N. Grant | 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) |
| Lt S. A. Herniman | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Maj J. M. Hincks | 28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |
| Lt S. E. Holt WRAC | School of Signals |
| Maj A. J. Hutt | 266 Sig Sqn BFFI |
| Capt (QM) M. Jennings | 259 Sig Sqn |
| A/Maj P. S. Jones | SHAPE (BAE) |
| Capt P. Kearns | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI Force) |
| Maj (Tfc) P. B. R. Kent | HQ NORTHAG (BAE) |
| Capt P. King | 30 Sig Regt |
| Maj S. Law | HQ BFFI |
| Lt S. A. Leigh | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj (QM) E. H. Le Quesne | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj C. N. Lightfoot | 16 Sig Regt |
| Maj D. Lycett-Gregson | Misc Appts (Home) |
| A/Maj T. R. Manders | SHAPE (BAE) |
| Capt J. P. McIntyre | School of Signals |
| Maj D. J. McLean | 244 Sig Sqn |
| Capt R. G. Mills | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| Lt J. McD. Newman | AAC Harrogate |
| Maj M. D. Patterson | RMA Sandhurst |
| Capt A. L. Pearce | HQ BFFI |
| Lt D. W. Powell | 633 Sig Tp |
| Capt G. J. T. Rafferty | School of Signals |
| Capt D. J. Robertson | Project Wavell Mil Team |
| Col W. J. P. Robins | DSS |
| Capt M. A. Rough | 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Lt R. J. Sheldon | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt R. F. Strawbridge | 7 Sig Regt |
| Maj G. J. Thomas | AAC Harrogate |
| Lt P. R. Towers | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt M. F. Tucker | 21 Sig Regt (Air Sp) |
| Capt D. J. Vardy | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Lt T. C. Wadey | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Lt I. D. Westerman | 16 Sig Regt |
| Brig T. H. Wheawell | HQ 12 Sig Bde (V) |

## WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 (FofS) A. C. Mockford | School of Signals |
| WO1 T. B. Dodson | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 (YofS) B. Greenwood | BDS Washington |
| WO2 (YofS) S. J. Howard | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| WO2 (EW Op) M. W. Green | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| WO2 S. Walley | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 P. J. Welch | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt (FofS) P. D. McGinn | 242 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (FofS) D. Wild | Belize Defence Force |
| SSgt (Supvr R) A. R. Hale | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (EW Op) J. M. Sands | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt D. J. Higginson | Exeter UOTC |
| SSgt S. R. Kent | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. A. H. Melville | School of Signals |
| SSgt T. N. O'Brien | 10 Sig Regt |
| SSgt J. G. Scullion | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. Mustard | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt K. Rankin | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. F. Havlin | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt F. Gibbons | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt I. MacKenzie | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt R. Stewart | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| SSgt N. A. J. Worth | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. T. Kidd | 4 Sig Gp |
| SSgt M. C. Dixon | RSA Larkhill |
| SSgt T. A. Mortlock | HQ BAOR |
| ASSgt C. Greig | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASSgt B. Grossmith | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt J. R. Bathe | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. J. Campbell | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. W. Bone | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASSgt A. L. Blood | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt A. S. Houghton | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| ASSgt J. J. Smith | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASSgt E. D. Jones | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. W. Prior | FSS Mossy Hill |
| Sgt C. B. Naylor | Int & Sy Gp (NI) |
| Sgt P. Peet | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. E. G. Thomas | Ptarmigan Intro Unit |
| Sgt R. F. Drysdale | Ptarmigan Intro Unit |
| Sgt G. G. A. Reith | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. Haydock | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. E. Piddock | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. W. Ellis | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt N. Barnard | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. Slater | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. E. Cook | 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. Barker | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt R. Bruce | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. F. Harden | 55 Sig Sqn (V) |
| Sgt A. C. Reynolds | School of Signals |
| Sgt C. Rogan | 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt L. Okane | Battle Gp TAC Trainer UK |
| Sgt H. G. Squires | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. S. Kent | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt P. Martin | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. J. Young | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int) |
| Sgt K. Mathers | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. C. Ferris | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. V. Baker | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt E. Doughty | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt M. G. A. Langley | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. Bradley | UK Support Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt S. Casey | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt J. A. Chapman | Int & Sy Gp (NI) |
| Sgt W. Gray | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. K. Letts | Int & Sy Gp (NI) |
| Sgt I. S. Richardson | 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. A. Shaw | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. G. T. Simister | 249 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt C. Calow | 533 RLD |
| Sgt A. J. Childs | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt I. Leitch | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. M. Nuttall | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. J. Cox | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. M. Evans | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. A. Prince | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt A. R. Reynolds | RAC Centre |
| ASgt L. G. Brown | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. W. Blythe | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. Backhouse | School of Infantry |
| ASgt M. W. Quennell | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. Holden | School of Signals |
| ASgt H. Swift | HQ UKLF |
| ASgt K. C. Hughes | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. Pudsey | 29 Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. P. Lambird | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. R. Howat | 20 Maritime Regt RCT |
| ASgt D. W. Smy | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |

JULY 1984

| | |
|---|---|
| WO2 (Supvr R) D. M. Cook | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (Supvr R) D. Fowler | 13 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. Biggs | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 I. Borland | 36 CTT |
| WO2 D. J. Brown | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 P. J. Daisey | 22 Sig Regt |
| WO2 J. W. Drake | School of Signals |
| WO2 M. J. Barstow | HQ 12 Sig Bde |
| AWO2 (Supvr R) D. B. Hooper | School of Signals |
| AWO2 D. C. Marsden | 29 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 E. C. Callaghan | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) M. R. Bell | 262 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (YofS) A. F. Crilly | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) K. J. Graham | Project Bates Mil Team |
| SSgt M. Heaney | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. Hickling | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt W. A. Hutton | 22 Sig Regt |
| SSgt K. Sainty | School of Infantry |
| SSgt R. N. L. Wade | 71 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt R. Smith | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt N. H. Hastie | HQ UKLF |

| | |
|---|---|
| SSgt D. J. Tennick | HQ Northern Ireland |
| SSgt B. McSherry | 633 Sig Tp |
| ASSgt J. T. Boyd | 233 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt W. P. Craig | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASSgt D. Rutter | 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt M. Howie | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASSgt P. Whitehouse | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt C. J. Lowe | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| ASSgt R. Marnoch | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. W. Taylor | 16 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt J. W. MacKay | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. I. S. Hope | HQ 29 Eng Bde |
| ASSgt P. L. Alves | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. R. Silva | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Drummond | School of Signals |
| Sgt B. W. Cowling | 39 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. D. Goode | 547 RLD |
| Sgt J. C. Spicer | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt B. J. Stevenson | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Yeoman | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt R. Murgatroyd | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt G. Rose | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. B. Thomson | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| Sgt P. W. J. Staymings | Scarborough SIG Trg Centre |
| Sgt I. M. Stewart | School of Signals |
| Sgt P. Hirst | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Malcolm | 642 Sig Tp |
| Sgt W. J. Hunt | 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) |
| Sgt W. J. Ironside | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt I. Hair | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int) |
| Sgt P. Martin | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. B. Francis | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. H. Fielding | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. McCartney | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt W. R. Stadius | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. G. Allan | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Brady | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Bridger | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. G. Hagan | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop) |
| Sgt M. Whitley | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop) |
| Sgt P. Mason | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. S. Jarvis | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. R. Casburn | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. McHale-Smith | 608 Sig Tp |
| Sgt A. Stratton | HQ AFSOUTH |
| Sgt T. A. Howell | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt P. J. M. Jarvis | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. P. Langford | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. E. Mallinson | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. Newby | UK Support Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt D. A. Beresford | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. Hillhouse | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt K. Mercer | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Ramsay | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt T. J. Carberry | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. E. Ward | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. C. Hughes | 29 Sig Regt |
| ASgt K. Fudge | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. Nicholson | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASgt W. R. J. Bacon | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASgt H. Elkan | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASgt S. J. Taylor | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. Masson | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt N. Turnbull | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt M. Hoy | 559 RLD |
| ASgt J. G. Johnson | 633 Sig Tp |
| ASgt P. J. Callary | HQ BAOR |


**ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS**

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

*Made up as required*

**EXPORT ..... each £3.65**
**U.K. inc. VAT ..... each £4.20**
**(Postage Extra)**

**T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY**
**Nr. DONCASTER**


# Welfare

**APRIL 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially: | 52 |
| Amount spent: | £7,797.54 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 7 |

**MAY 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially: | 92 |
| Amount spent: | £12,844.74 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 10 |

**SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES**

The widow of an ex Corporal who served nine years suffers from asthma and agrophobia received a grant for clothing and help towards her fuel bills. In addition an application was made to the Army Benevolent Fund on her behalf and a weekly allowance of £4 was made by them.

Ex Signalman served during the war has severe arthritis and his wife has cataracts affecting both eyes. They have lived on a low income for many years and were unable to replace their gas cooker which was in a dangerous state. A grant was made to enable them to buy a new one.

Ex CQMS now confined to a wheelchair and totally disabled due to Multiple Sclerosis, was in urgent need of a hydraulic bath hoist. Social Services were unable to provide one, therefore, a grant to meet the full cost was made.

During April/May clothing has been received from the following:- RSA Blandford, **Mr J. H. A. Potter, Lt Col J. M. N. Lyons, Maj Meekings**, and **Lt Col S. J. Dagg**.

## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1984.

| | |
|---|---|
| Shrewsbury Branch RSA | £250.00 |
| Maj J. H. Thom | £ 20.00 |
| Gillespie | £ 10.00 |
| R. J. Pegg Esq | £ 10.00 |
| QM (A) Dept, 7 Sig Regt | £ 5.00 |
| E. Whiffen Esq | £ 2.90 |
| Miscellaneous | £ .75 |
| | £298.65 |

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1984.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sig T. J. Goodman (13 Sig Regt) | £121.35 |
| E. E. Bayley Esq | £ 50.00 |
| Maj F. C. Forbes | £ 7.00 |
| G. M. Lewis Esq | £ 5.00 |
| | £183.35 |


**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.




# Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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**

**Brown—SSgt John Millar Brown** died on 2 June whilst undergoing training with 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V). **John** joined the Corps as a volunteer in August 1962 and served exclusively in Edinburgh; firstly with 61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and subsequently with the Squadron that succeeded it. He was awarded the TEM in 1978. He devoted all his spare time to the Regiment and was an extremely popular character. **John** will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.

**Bennett—Maj E. H. Bennett** enlisted into the Corps in July 1928 and trained as an Operator Signals. Upon completion of his training he joined 3 Divisional Signals for two years prior to going to India. He joined 4 Indian Divisional Signals at Trimulgherry and whilst with that unit won the Central India best trained Troop horse competition.

In 1936 he returned to the UK and joined E Troop at Tidworth which was then part of the 1st Mobile Division. In 1938 he was posted to Palestine and returned to the UK in 1939 on a month's leave but with the outbreak of War that was reduced to four days and he returned to his unit in Palestine. He moved to Cairo and joined 3GHQ and in 1941 he was promoted to WO1 (RSM) of 4 LofC Signals in Syria and in 1944 became RSM of Eastern Command Sig Regt in the UK. This was followed by three other RSM appointments, at the Royal Signals OCTU, 51 (Highland) Div Signal Regiment and with Scottish Command Signal Regiment. After commissioning he attended the first Traffic Officer's course at School of Signals in 1951. After a short tour as a Training Officer at 4 Signal Regiment he moved to the Middle East where he served in the Canal Zone and then with Rear HQ Middle East.

In 1957 he returned to the UK and after serving for three years at HQ Scottish Command he took up his final appointment as the CDSO at the War Office Signal Centre, a post he held until his retirement in 1963. He continued to serve in the Ministry of Defence, with the Signals Directorate, as an RO3, until his retirement in 1975. **Maj Bennett** died on 20 March.

**Nettleship—Brig the Rev Charles Nettleship, OBE TD DL**, started his military career in the Honourable Artillery Company TA in January 1927. In May 1930 he was commissioned into the Royal Signals TA and joined 54th (EA) Divisional Signals (TA).

At the outbreak of war he was promoted to Captain and joined 4 Divisional Signals and almost immediately embarked to join the BEF. He returned to the UK in June 1940 and joined 5 Corps Signals. He then moved to 2 Divisional Signals as a Major and went with the unit to India. He succeeded to the command of the regiment in August 1943. In March 1944 the regiment was stationed in the Poona area when the Japenese launched their offence against the 14th Army intending to drive the army from the Imphal plain. The 2nd Division moved from Poona to Dinapur and then succeeded in reaching the Kohima position where the Signal Regiment was able to supply communications despite the difficult terrain during that phase of the operations, a task that placed **Charles Nettleship** constantly under enemy fire. It was his leadership and example that gained the unit its high reputation for efficiency, no matter what the odds.

In December 1945 the regiment moved to Malaya and in 1946 Charles returned to the UK and after serving eighteen months with HQ South East District he moved to the War Office as a GSO 2 in Signals 7 where he remained for three years.

During November 1951 he went first to Egypt, to join Egypt Command Sig Regt, and then to BAOR where he commanded 7 Armd Div Sig Regt for three years. Upon return to the UK, he was promoted to Colonel and appointed OIC Royal Signals Records.

Following two years at Reading he was promoted to Brigadier on his appointment as CSO 1 (BR) Corps in BAOR where he remained until October 1958. He returned to the UK and was given his last active service appointment as CSO Western Command.

He was appointed OBE in November 1945. In 1972 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and held that post for two and a half years.

Those who had the good fortune to serve with **Charles Nettleship** will have been impressed by his strong sense of purpose and his friendship. He had a great sense of humour and was completely dedicated to whatever task he had in hand.

After his retirement he was ordained into the Church of England and spent the next 22 years of his life as a Christian Priest, and became known, affectionately as the 'Brigadier Vicar'. He died on 23 March.

**Turner—Maj Brian Turner** was born at St Denys, Southampton on 24 January 1934 and enlisted into the Corps as a boy soldier on 7 February 1949.

He joined man's service in July 1951 and continued his training with 3 Training Regiment. He joined his first unit in BAOR in May 1952, and remained with 1 Corps Signal Regiment until May 1954. He was posted to Korea in September of that year and served with 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment until January 1955 when he was posted to the Middle East and joined 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. In November 1957 he returned to the UK and spent the next three years on the cadre of the Junior Leaders Regiment. This was followed by a further period of service in the Middle East and Aden during which time he served with a number of independant Signal Squadrons and finally joined the Federal Army Signal Squadron for 18 months returning to the UK in October 1963. **Brian** joined 13 Signal Regiment in BAOR two months later where he remained until August 1966. Then followed a two year tour with 11 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, a short six months with 3 Division and finally, immediately prior to his commissioning, he served for two years with 28 (BR) Signal Regiment as the RSM.

**Brian** was commissioned on 17 May 1971 and posted to Cyprus where he served with 261 Signal Squadron (Air Support). He left Cyprus to join 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and was almost immediately sent back to Cyprus with that unit when it became operationally involved in the problems relating to the Makarios coup and the partitioning of the island.

In October 1977 he was again posted to Cyprus to join 259 Signal Squadron (West) stationed at Episkopi. **Brian** returned to BAOR in June 1981 and joined 14 Signal Regiment. He was unfortunately taken ill in 1983 and returned to England where he died on 17 December 1983.

**From: SSgt B. C. Howe**

Dear Sir,

I would be very grateful if you could publish this letter and the enclosed photograph of the 639 Signal Troop plaque. Readers may or may not be aware of the fact that in October of this year 639 Signal Troop will disband after being in existence for some 25 years, supporting 94 Locating Regimental Royal Artillery in Celle.

The regiment itself is also re-organising and the Locating Batteries depicted on the shield will no longer be formed as one regiment.

A limited number of plaques are still available and former members of the troop or collectors are invited to purchase this larger size hand-painted plaque at a cost of £12.00 including postage & package.

Details from **SSgt B. C. Howe**, 639 Signal Troop, BFPO 23.

Yours sincerely,
**B. C. Howe**

94th Locating Regiment Royal Artillery
British Forces Post Office 23

**WANTED**

**SUPPORT YOUR CORPS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM**

The White Helmets are always in need of No 1 Dress Uniform. If any past or present serving Officer, SNCO or soldier has a suit available for donation to the team it would be gratefully received.

Contact: OC White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
Tel: Richmond 83 2521 Ext: 2556

**FOR SALE**

**Royal Worcester Tableware**

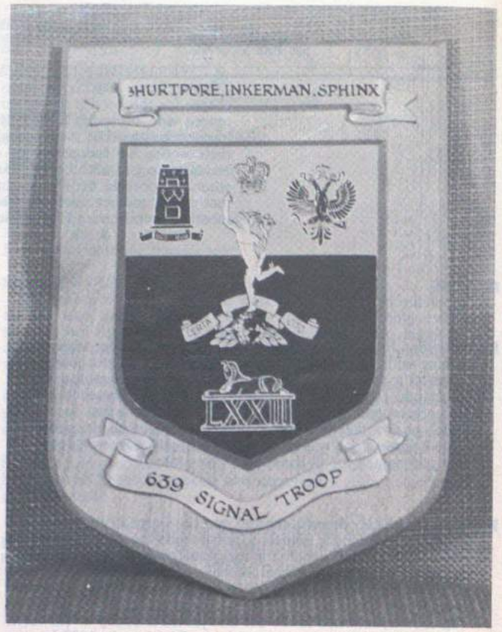
The Headquarters Officers Mess, Blandford uses Royal Worcester tableware which is white with dark blue band and includes the Royal Signals badge.

In case any Officers or Sergeants' Messes may be interested to purchase this tableware, the details are as follows:

Company: The Worcester Royal Porcelain Company
Severn Street
Worcester
WR1 2NE
England

| | |
|---|---|
| Plate 10″ (10.6 inches) | £8.44 each |
| Plate 7″ (7.9 inches) | £6.51 each |
| Plate 5″ (6.1 inches) | £5.22 each |
| Soup Plate 7″ (7.9 inches) | £6.96 each |
| Coffee cup and saucer | £10.43 each |

All the above prices are subject to VAT and would remain firm for any orders placed by the end of September 1984.



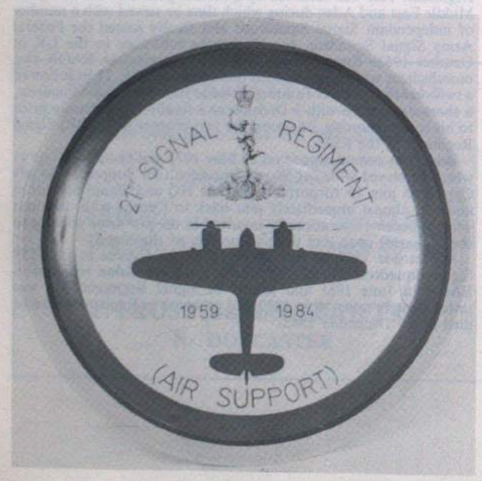

**ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITERS TIE**

Available now the approved Signals Recruiters Tie. At the bargain price of £3.50! Orders to:

SO2 Recruiting
Helles Barracks
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
DL9 4HH

cheques made payable to: **R. M. Clarke.**

Available to both past and present recruiters.




## 25th ANNIVERSARY
## 21st SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)

To mark the 25th Anniversary of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) a limited edition of 250 plates as illustrated have been produced by the well known china firm KAISER Porcelain. The surrounding bands are in the Corps colours with the Beaufighter, (the Air Support emblem), depicted in red.

Plates are now available from:
PRI
21 Signal Regt (AS)
RAF Wildenrath
BFPO 42

The cost of the plate, this includes a stand, postage and packaging, is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| To UK and BFPOs outside Europe | £7.50 (DM 26.25) |
| To BFPOs inside Europe and German Civilian | £6.57 (DM 23.00) |
| Other addresses | £6.50 (DM 22.50) postage rate |

Orders are to be accompanied by cheques which should be made payable to Central Bank 21 Sig Regt (AS).





**FOR SALE**

Mess Dress. Sgt. Waist 38″, Chest 40″, including White Jacket. £60. Contact **Sgt Sewell**, Projects Division School of Signals, Blandford , Dorset DT11 8RH or Telephone (0747) 2132

Jacket size 40″, trousers waist 38″ inside leg 29″, waistcoat, bow tie, WO2 badges of rank. First offer of £65 secures and includes post and package. Apply to **Paul Leniston**, 17 St Andrews Road, Warminster, Wiltshire.

**PERSONAL**

**Maj J. P. B. Condon MBE, R. Irish** would like anyone who may remember **Lt Col Harold Vaugham Von Suchim Thorne OBE** to get in touch with him, at the address below. **Lt Col Thorne** was born in 1894 and served in the R. Innis Fus before joining the Corps in April 1921. Material and photographs would be appreciated, and returned.
**Maj J. P. B. Condon MBE, R. Irish**
G3 (O and D), HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.

**Maj Keith Rothwell** would like his friends (but not his creditors nor the Inland Revenue!) to know that from 1 July his address will be:-
Am Deich 16, Barsselermoor, D-2914 Barssel, Federal Republic of Germany.

**Mrs Wendy Stevenson** would like anyone who was at Dunkirk with her father, **William Thomas Reeves** to contact her at the address, or by telephone, given below.

**William Thomas Reeves** was serving with the Corps (13 Brigade, 15 Division) attached to the Black Watch and Seaforth Highlanders and later 1 PARA Signals as a wireless operator and was taken off the beach on the last day of evacuation.
190 High Street
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
Tel: (0923) 773443

Found in Katherine House (Female accommodation) after the Reunion Week-end (Sat/Sun 30 June/1 July) the following:-
1 Ladies Timex wristwatch: 1 Ladies short mac (light colour)
Enquiries to: **Maj R. C. Etheridge**, 8th Signal Regiment, Messines Lines, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS or by telephone on STD 074-883 2521 Ext 2575

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

**RO3 VACANCY AT ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE, CAVERSHAM**

In the September 1983 issue of *The Wire* R Signals MRO advertised two Retired Officer Grade 3 posts which were due to become vacant towards the end of 1983. One post has been successfully filled; the other still awaits a suitable candidate.

R Signals MRO is due to move Glasgow in 1986 and because of the staffing problems the move will generate, MOD have indicated that although they will welcome applications from those who meet the normal age qualifications for employment as Retired Officers and who would be prepared to move with the office to Glasgow, they would consider also applicants who are over the normal upper age limit (58 years). For applicants in the latter category the duration of employment would be until R Signals MRO moves to Glasgow, the target date for which is currently June 1986 but could well be later.

The salary scale for a RO3 is £6,819 rising in two increments to £8,078 but new scales effective from 1 April 1984 are being negotiated. Applications or requests for further information should be addressed to: Ministry of Defence (CM(S)4f), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SQUADRON QUARTERMASTER STAFF SERGEANT IN 33RD SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

A vacancy exists for a NRPS SQMS in 33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) based at Huyton Liverpool.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4.

The present salary is £8322 (Gross) per annum.

Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army as a WO/SNCO and have a thorough knowledge of military stores accounting systems.

Applications including 2 referees and a Curriculum Vitae should be forwarded by 1 October 1984 to:
The Adjustant
33rd Signal Regiment (V)
Alamein TA Centre
Liverpool Road
Huyton
Liverpool L36 3RW

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (CHIEF CLERK) IN 33RD SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

A vacancy will exist on 1 March 1985 for a SSGT (NRPS) Chief Clerk in 33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Based at Huyton, Liverpool.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4.

The present salary is £8311 (Gross) per annum.

Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army as a WO/SNCO and have a thorough knowledge of clerical and administration duties. Additionally experience of working with civilian clerical staff is essential.

Applications including two referees and a Curriculum Vitae should be forwarded by 1 January 1985 to:
The Adjutant
33rd Signal Regiment (V)
Alamein TA Centre
Liverpool Road
Huyton
Liverpool L36 3RW

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) MECHANICAL TRANSPORT WARRANT OFFICER IN 34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

A vacancy will occur on 1 April 1985 for a NRPS MTWO in 34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) based at Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4.

The salary with effect from 1 November 1985 will be £11815 (Gross) per year, rising to £11924 after nine years in the rank.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as a WO/SNCO and have a thorough knowledge of military transport operating, administration and accounting procedures.

Applications, including two references and a 'curriculum vitae' should be forwarded to:
The Adjutant
34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
TA Centre
Brambles Farm
Middlesbrough
Cleveland
Closing date for applications is 1 October 1984.

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) RADIO TELEGRAPHIST SERGEANT IN 71ST (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

A vacancy exists for a NRPS Radio Telegraphist Sergeant at RHQ, 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), based at Bromley, Kent.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 4.

Applicants should have a sound background in both military and trade training and will be responsible for producing and managing training packages. Applicants will also assume some responsibility for a large Video Studio and the production of training films.

The present salary is £7,880.

Applications, including a CV and the names of two referees, should be forwarded by 31 August 1984 to:
The Adjutant
71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Hill House
Beckenham Lane
Bromley
Kent BR2 ODA

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

**8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
**BFPO 807**

*L to R:* Comd 8 Inf Bde, Brig C. G. Mattingley accompanied by the OC Maj Richard Farrimond. Behind WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson with the COS Maj Robin Brims LI

Brig Mattingley with WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade in the Squadron Ops Room

**OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

A very busy period for all units in the Brigade with extra troops being deployed in support of both Regular and UDR Bns.

Sadly casualties have been high with a soldier from 2 QUEENS being killed and two others seriously injured in a petrol bomb and shooting attack on a mobile patrol in Londonderry and two members of the UDR murdered in separate incidents. A bomb attack at Enniskillen left two members of a RRF fishing party dead and two very seriously injured thus bringing home to people the importance of personal security.

Notable successes by the Security Forces have included the arrest and charging of 14 terrorists for a number of offences including murder. The find of over two tons of explosives, associated bomb making equipment, and ammunition near Carrickmore and the capture of a PIRA ASU with weapons after a house takeover in the Shantallow area of Londonderry.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Our Rigging Teams, Technicians and Linemen continue to be called upon at all times of the day and night to 'produce the goods'. Rover Group, Heli-Tele and the Incident Vehicle have been deployed on numerous occasions during the past two months in support of Regular, UDR and RUC operations. In addition the reconfiguration of Bde and Bn nets has ensured that the FofS, **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins** and the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent** have been kept busy.

**ARU**

The Staff Inspection took place on 5 April, all departments were visited by a team led by the COS, **Maj Robin Brims LI**, and DCOS, **Maj Jim Snape RE**, a very successful day, the only point of note came from the Superintending Clerk, **WO2 (SQMS) 'Smudge' Smith**, who found that our Chief Clerk's spare copy of the MML had not got the amendments inserted, this caused great hilarity amongst the clerks but left the 'Chiefie' speechless!

The Commander, **Brig C. G. Mattingley** OBE, made his ARU visit to the Squadron on 19 April. Following a briefing given by the OC, **Maj Richard Farrimond**, and 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, he visited all departments talking to every soldier.

**Brig Mattingley** accompanied by the COS and OC then flew to our 'house on the hill' (Gortin) for lunch and afterwards to Magilligan Ranges to see a display of Comms Tp vehicles and to see military training taking place under the direction of **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson**.

A most successful day was crowned by an excellent evening when the Officers, Warrant Officers, Senior NCOs and their wives entertained **Brig** and **Mrs Mattingley** and the Chief of Staff to Dinner.

The 2IC, Capt Mike Dent, briefs the Commander on Brigade comms and on the requirement for a Works Service in the Squadron Ops Room

The Comd talks to the Movements Clerk, LCpl Paul Baker, during his ARU Inspection about the difficulties of trying to organise movements for Sig Andy Williams

**VISIT OF THE SOinC**

The SOinC, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**, accompanied by the Comd Comms NI, **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**, visited the squadron on 30 April. After being met by the OC and acting RSM, **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Sharpe**, he met all officers for coffee and then toured every department to see and talk to the soldiers at work.

Following the tour he visited the 'Waterside Inn' for drinks with the Junior Ranks before moving on to the 'Foyle View Club' for lunch with the Officers and SNCOs before being whisked away under escort towards Aldergrove and the mainland.

**SHQ**

**Report by SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes**

Now that the ARU Inspections are over we can get back to a level of normality approaching that of chaos!

Our Orderly Room Corporal, **Cpl Neil March**, took the plunge and married his long term girlfriend, **Dawn**, in Wrexham on 14 April; we wish them every happiness for the future and hope they enjoy their six month extension here in Londonderry!

The Admin Officer **Capt Trevor Lindsay REME** and family have just departed for sunny Germany, via courses in England. We wish them every success and thank them for all their efforts during the past 2½ years, **Capt Richard Walkin RA** joins us as Admin Officer to become the first Gunner in the Headquarters—'UBIQUE'!

**Sig Andy Williams** our 'baby' clerk seems to have developed an affliction—leave, he doesn't like to fly and dislikes boats, **LCpl Paul Baker** our movements clerk is now hard at work developing a new means of transportation!

**WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade** recently put the finishing touches to the new MERLIN DX Telephone Exchange, redeployed many hundreds of British Telecom Engineers, Supervisors, Lecture Teams, Technicians and assorted persons to further afield and now is off to a well deserved RR leave (two months does seem rather a long time though!).

Our 2IC **Capt Mike Dent** has been seen disappearing complete in running kit for long periods, we think he is in training for a marathon or something of that ilk.

**COMMS TROOP**

Ring—Ring—Ring
Tp SSgt—'Comms Troop Sir'
2IC—'Wire Notes Staff'
Tp SSgt—'Yes' (Pause—Thinks) 'The OC Troop is dealing with those Sir'
2IC—'He is on leave in France'
Tp SSgt—'Happen he will post them to you Sir'
2IC—'Tomorrow Staff' (End of conversation).

Operationally it has been a quiet period for the Troop, however our Heli-Tele and Incident Vehicles were deployed to Carrickmore to cover the anniversary of the death of Francis Hughes, crewing the vehicles were **Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson, LCpls 'Fossie' Foster** and **Scouse Tolton** and **Sig Andy Cameron**.

Sig Andy Cameron, LCpl Chas Tolton, Sgt Mick Tucker, LCpl 'Fossie' Foster, Sgt Bruce Payne, Capt Trevor 'Mannering' Bradley

**Sig Bruce Payne** fresh from his triumphs of teaching the UDR all about Clansman has now launched himself into explaining the intricacies of the Revised Voice Procedure. Those two old sweats, **Cpls Graham Hughes** and **Bob Wainwright** were overheard telling the younger members of the troop that they had seen it all before, after all this was the fourth procedure change in their time. Were they really around when Heliograph was in use?

A new phrase has crept into the troop vocabulary, it's whispered in dark corners, it's muttered in sleep—yes CFT. With the Combat Fitness Test now upon us, **Lt Gordon James** and **Sgt Bruce Payne** took it upon themselves to take the troop for a gentle stroll, 'Just to get the men fit Staff'. This form of torture took place around the camp circuit in the requisite webbing, weighted with 25 lbs of sand in small bags—what else. Staff Officers paled at the sight of these superbly fit soldiers 'Tabbing' around the camp, singing and laughing or was it moaning and groaning?

**NEW ARRIVALS**

Congratulations to **Sig 'Tommo' Thompson** and his wife **Kay** on becoming proud parents of a baby girl, where will that Stork strike next? We would also like to welcome:-

**Cpl 'Rab'** and **Georgina Burns** (My garden's not dug Staff), **Sig 'Corky' Corcoran** (My mum knows I'm here), **Sig 'Alice' Slack** (Not me again), **Sig Bob Howlett** (I'm really keen) and finally on the arrival front the troop's bastion of male chauvinism has been breached with the posting in of two WRAC DTG's:- **WLCpl 'Roof' Walker** and **WPte 'Sly' Alcock**.

As with arrivals there is always at least one farewell. We say farewell and good luck in your posting to **Cpl Pete** and **Carmell Wilkinson** to 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt.

**QM's DEPARTMENT**

**Report by Sgt Brian Donegan**

The task of compiling this contribution seems to have been passed down through the usual chain of command and stopped at my desk. It has been quite some time since this department has actually written anything for *The Wire* although we have had the odd mention now and again. I will start the introduction by listing our senior members:

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| BRAUNSCHWEIG | DOVER | HILDESHEIM | LÜBBECKE | NORTHAMPTON | SOEST |
| BRISTOL | DÜSSELDORF | HOHNE | MANCHESTER | NOTTINGHAM | SOLTAU |
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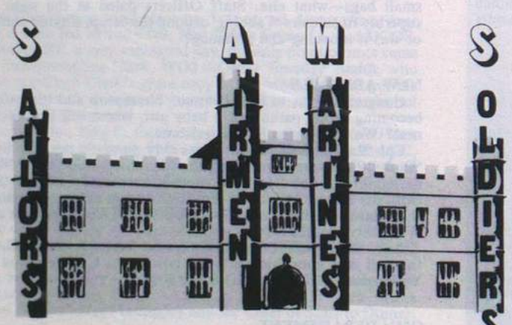
| BÜNDE | EDINBURGH | KINGS CROSS | MIDDLESBROUGH | PETERBOROUGH | SWINDON |
| CAMBRIDGE | FALLINGBOSTEL | KREFELD | MINDEN | PRESTON | VERDEN |
| CARDIFF | GLASGOW | LAARBRUCH | MÜNSTER | READING | WERL |
| CARLISLE | GRANTHAM | LEEDS | MUNSTERLAGER | RHEINDAHLEN | WILDENRATH |
| CELLE | GÜTERSLOH | LEICESTER | NEWARK on TRENT | RINTELN | WOLFENBÜTTEL |

## TRAVEL WITH SAM'S

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| | |
|---|---|
| QM | **Capt Jimmy (no relation to the General) Akehurst** |
| RQMS | **WO2 Tom (Blandford here I come again) Sharpe** |
| Tech Sgt | **Sgt Brian (Wait till my b...'s better) Donegan** |
| FATSO | **Sgt Joe (My b...'s worse) Burton RAOC** |
| SQMS | **SSgt Bill (LSL) Nimmons RCT** |

Though small in number we manage to participate in most of the Squadron activities. **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood** is our Athletics/Orienteering rep, **LCpl Mac McCormic** represents the department at Rugby and is also known to volunteer for the odd border patrol in bandit country.

**Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt** has represented both Sqn and Corps on the Hockey field, and at the present moment is looking for a second hand pram because he can't afford a car. **Cpl Alex (Grumpy) Crawford** is our football rep—and a very successful one too!

The stalwarts of the department **Cpls Dave (I'm going to Cyprus) Thorpe** and **Cpl Don (Fisherman) Briant** do more than their share on the social scene.

In general, we are very busy workwise but still manage the odd golf afternoon thanks to our leader **Capt (QM) Jimmy Akehurst**, he has managed to teach the RQMS, **WO2 Tom Sharpe** and **Sgt Brian Donegan** to play the game with a certain amount of competence (only a certain amount).

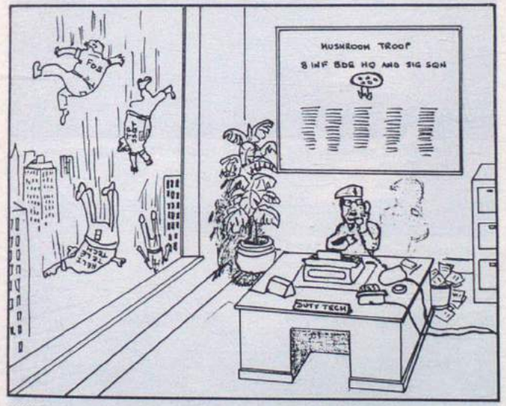
We have, over the last few months, been through PRE, ARU, Bde Golf meeting, NISAM and are now preparing for the OC's handover. We are well supported by all the other departments within the Squadron and now reckon some of them are even capable of managing without our assistance. We look forward to the flak this article might cause, and hope it justifies the passing of many memos.

### M TROOP

**Report from WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins**

Having survived the rigours of our ARU and EST(A) inspections the troop is now preparing for the six monthly spec testing of all equipments at Hilltop sites and the implementing of a standard crystal fit in all VHF radios. This programme in itself will entail the removal, replacement and re-alignment of 1400 crystal oscillators.

In addition to the 'normal' deployments, faults on the operational systems ensure there is no shortage of work for the radio techs. The OC's active interest in Heli-Tele has spurred on **Sgt Mick Tucker** and **LCpl Andy Reason**, to completely refurbish the system, and now, thanks to the generous donation, (didn't you know we are going to keep it?) a new Long Range Ground Station heli-tele is now fully operational and available for bookings.




'Mike Troop, LCpl Flatbattery speaking'. 'Sorry Sir! There's absolutely no one here at the moment to speak about Heli-Tele'

The M Troop line section have been busy (as ever) this month picking up the pieces of the empire, in addition they and TE section are busy with the re-organisation and re-wiring of the Brigade HQ Stento intercom system, and planning the, (dare I say it) imminent re-wire of the Brigade Commcen.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Newly recruited to our busy little team of professionals are:

**Sgt Ian Richardson** on R & R from 9 Sig Regt, **LCpl Ian 'Babyface' Toft** fresh from Harrogate and raring to go (on leave again!) and **LCpl 'Geordie' Flanighan** who has confused us all by having Welsh grandparents and a leave address written in Gaelic.

Sadly we also have to say farewell to some of our stalwarts, **Sgt Roger Robinson** and his wife **Jenny** who have both made an exceptional contribution to life within the Squadron and now depart for 9 Sig Regt (an exchange posting)? **Sgt John Fielding** and **Sandra** who have also contributed a great deal and still found time to increase their family during their tour **John** is off to 16 Sig Regt. **Sgt John Ferris** and **Diana; John** is off to wrestle with the new Northag TARE's, having been fully briefed on the old ones, by the FofS. Finally, we must say goodbye to **Sgt Jim Black** our 'REME attached' who during his time with the NIEW det Londonderry has become fully integrated into the Troop and will be sadly missed as he leaves now for Hong Kong.

### FOOTBALL

**Report by SSgt Pete Ryan**

Tasks: Team Manager
Kit Manager
Catering Manager
Changing Room Cleaner

The Northern Ireland Football Season has now ended, the results show an excellent performance from the team. Our legion of loyal fans dispersed hither and thither throughout the Corps Empire have, I'm sure, been waiting with baited breath for this post season soccer report.

Competitions entered and results were:-

| | |
|---|---|
| NI Minor Units League | Champions |
| NI Challenge Cup | Finalists (Lost 2—1) |
| NI Yorks and Lancs Cup | Finalists (Lost 4—2) |
| NI Spring Sixes | Finalists |
| NI Autumn Sixes | Finalists |

The results were excellent, dare I say, a tribute to good coaching and organisation, but obviously mainly due to the skills, character, determination and all round team performances by the soccer squad members.

In the league and the two major cup competitions the team scored 83 goals and conceded 30 goals. Leading scorers for the season were:- **LCpl Sandy Brown** 14, **Pte 'Physco' Hoy** 14, **LCpl 'Scouse' Nelson** 9 and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** 9. It may be of interest to those who think the 'sharp end' is a finely honed pencil, but the results achieved were gained without fielding the same side in consecutive matches, due to operational committments.

Sadly (do I really mean that!) I will not be here next season to manage the teams emergence to greater glories, however, the new management team of **Capt (QM) Jimmy Akehurst** and **Sgt 'Butch' Cassidy** will, I'm sure, continue to cajole and inspire the team to new heights.

### STOP PRESS

It is rumoured that the new management team will only select players who can play golf and install telephones.

### ARMY FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

As reported in the last issue, **LCpl Sandy Brown** was voted Army Footballer of the year; all members of the Squadron offer their warmest congratulations.

LCpl Sandy Brown with his Army Footballer of the Year Trophy

# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**FAREWELL AND WELCOME TO COMD COMMS**

Comd Comms, Lt Col Andrew Martin poses for our photographer in the Horseshoe Club during farewell drinks with the Squadron

Sig (almost LCpl) Ingram tells Comd Comms what life in Ireland is really like!

LCpl Andy Hilton briefs the new Comd Comms, Lt Col Rex Stephenson. Squadron OC Maj Martin Wilkinson looks on

**OPERATIONS**

The beginning of the summer season has again brought marches and crowds out in strength. During the Easter weekend **Capt Ben Lawson** and his heli-tele crew were kept busy monitoring marches and demonstrations in Andersontown, Lurgan and Toomebridge. 3 QUEENS have now almost completed their Belfast tour and look forward to handing over to 1 KINGS. In South Armagh we are looking forward to 42 Commando Royal Marines who will be taking over from 1 STAFFORDS. The level of terrorist activity continues unabated with a recent spate of petrol bombings in Belfast and South Armagh. 1 STAFFORDS have just suffered a casualty in a recent landmine explosion.

**SOinC VISIT**

**Maj Gen Benbow** visited the Squadron on 29 April. He met the officers and SNCOs at lunch and went on a Squadron walkabout in the afternoon. Rover Group put on an excellent anti ambush display to demonstrate their recently updated drills to counter contact situations in Belfast. The SOinC visited all departments in the Squadron and finished his walkabout with a chat to all ranks over a brew in the training room. A highly successful visit.

The SOinC talks to Sgt Dave Rutter in TM Workshops

Rover Group show how it should be done. Bags of smoke and shooting from the hip!

The SOinC talks to Pte Pauline Graham one of our new MT Troop recruits.

Bde Draughtswoman LCpl Stephanie Atwell gracefully runs to the finish line to complete the 1500m

A friendly word. SOinC chats to RSM WO1 Dave Osborne

The MT troop team gets stuck in during the tug of war. *Right to Left:* LCpls Tony Semple, Cockey Wyatt, Bas McDonald, Stu Swan, Dvr Mark Hoyland, LCpls Pete Flanagan, Mark Calcott and Sig Tommy Burns take the strain as LCpl Jock Russell eggs them on

**ATHLETICS MEETING**

This year the Squadron's annual athletics meeting was held on 3 May. Unlike last year when it poured with rain — it was a bright and sunny day with ideal conditions for both track and field events.

Each troop entered a team but there was never really any doubt about the outcome. Alpha Troop started with a strong lead which they held throughout and were the eventual winners with TM Troop held back into second place. In spite of strong performances from **Lt Paul Hudson** in the track events and his deputy **YofS Jason Wood** in the Discus and Shot, Handbag Troop only just made third place. The real highlight of the afternoon was the tug of war, organised? by **Cpl Yosa Brown**. A hard fought final between A Tp and TM Tp ended when TM Tp won the third pull. Our best wishes go with our athletics team in the Northern Ireland Athletics Championships next month.

**EXERCISE *SPRING SAIL***

One of our new adventure training activities is sailing. Our sailing officer **Capt Keith Durward** had planned a rigorous sail from Portsmouth to France and back via the Channel Islands, but sadly for him due to operational commitments he was unable to go. Nevertheless our intrepid crew led by **Cpl 'Scouse' Wikely** and bilge rats **LCpl Taff 'Malibou' Boucher, Dvr Martin Terry, LCpls Pete Bauress, 'Johna' Jones, 'Cockey' Wyatt** and **Sig George Farra** sailed Royal Signal's yacht *Quicksilver* along the South Coast of England, managing to moor each night alongside some convenient harbour Pub. Some sail training must have been done, however, since **LCpl 'Johna' Jones** is now sailing in the Services' Offshore Regatta at Gosport, having (we hope) grasped the basics during *Spring Sail*.

## EXERCISE *WEBBED FOOT*

*Webbed Foot* was the name given to a 11 mile hill walking exercise carried out by the Squadron in the Mourne Mountain Range. About 80 walkers gathered for an early breakfast in the Garrison cookhouse, before departing South, in coaches, for the harbour area. At this location nine groups were formed, each one headed by an officer or warrant officer. Five of these groups were to walk a route East to West whilst the remaining groups, the same route, West to East.

One by one, these groups were ferried from the harbour area to their respective start points, from where they commenced walking. By 1000 hrs all groups had set off. Most of the route followed the Mourne Mountain Wall, which links all the highest peaks in the area. A climb of 4,000 ft was involved to complete the 11 miles. The weather during the day was, to say the least, changeable, brilliant sunshine most of the time, but there were sudden bursts of blinding hail. Total 'white out' resulted, which lasted for a few minutes before the sunshine returned again.

Lunch was provided for all walkers at Hares Gap, a ravine, at the bottom of which was the QM's solitary tent. The food, consisting of hot soup, tea and cake, was quickly devoured by some very hungry soldiers. After lunch, the groups carried on walking along the route, following the wall for a further three to four hours, up and down very steep, sometimes nearly sheer slopes, towards the finish. Slieve Donard was the last big climb (2,800 ft) for those walking West to East, which was made difficult with sudden bursts of hailstones but this was followed by a pleasant three mile walk to the sea and to the road on which was parked the transport home.

Cpls Alan Gay, 'Vinny' Vincent, Sig Caz Graham, SSgt Pete Cuckow, Sig Taff Mallaney, Jack Turner and Dvr Mark Hollis line up before the Mourne Mountain Walk

A fatigued RSM manages to muster a smile for our cameraman with LCpl Cockey Wyatt during the Mourne Walk

The six hours walking and the 4,000 ft climbed had taken their toll — almost everyone fell asleep during the return journey to Lisburn. They were, however, suitably revived by a jar or two of ale in the Squadron Club. Although the walk had proved quite physically demanding, everyone involved agreed that it had been well worth while; not least in providing a welcome break from normal Squadron life in Lisburn.

## ALPHA TROOP

A very active period for the troop has been mixed with several key personalities leaving. We have recently installed a 353Z net in S. Armagh and are still busy with our operation 'Clean Up'. Over the past few years many different agencies have laid cable in Army bases much of which is now no longer used. Our mammoth task is to sort out the good from the bad and relay new cable where necessary. Our recabling team led by **LCpl Taff 'Malibou' Boucher** have finished some of the Belfast bases and are now heading South to Crossmaglen and Forkhill to continue work there.

**Sgt Tony Moses** our Tp Sgt has just left us for 4 Div Sig Regt. We wish him well in his next job. **Cpl Stan Sudron** has gone to the School of Signals at Blandford. We welcome our new arrivals — **Sig Geordie Morrison** and **Pte Mick Varndell**. Our commiserations go to **Cpl 'Yosa' Brown** who now only has to stretch or yawn to dislocate his shoulder! We hope his forthcoming operation will make him fit and strong (again?). Congratulations to **Sig Jack Turner** soon to leave us on promotion.

## MT TROOP

After three months waiting the troop finally moved into new office accommodation and hopefully will be able to provide the Squadron with a much improved service now that vehicles, offices and manpower are situated together.

**Cpls Stu Swan** and **John Hynes** from Bravo Troop took part in the recent North East District BAMA Rally Ex *Wheelsafe*. They finished 12th overall and fifth in their class which was very creditable considering this was **Cpl Hynes** first rally.

Our best wishes to our recent departures, **Dvr Gary Hedger** off to civvy street, **Dvr 'Chopper' Harris** and **LCpl Chris Parslow** to Berlin and **Cpl Bill Logan** to Gosport. We now have two young WRAC privates in the troop, **Pauline Graham** and **Allison Green**. They are both settling in well and are busy learning the tasks here.

The troop are working hard but managing to maintain their sense of humour whilst getting the job done. The MTWO **WO2 Paul Walsh** leaves at the beginning of June to go on a Master Driver's course and is then posted to 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT (Berlin). His place will be taken by **WO2 Fred Osmond** who should have a nice tan having just come from Belize. We wish them both good luck in their new appointments.

## BRAVO TROOP

### CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

Bravo Troop showed that they had some refinement by organising a cheese and wine party for members of the troop, held in the Keller Bar at the Sharock Club. A good time was had by all, but some of the troop say they have been put off cheese for life. This is possibly because of the quantity consumed which was 'washed down' with bottles of luke warm Chateau de Gastro. The disco was run by **Sig 'Deirdre' Darlington**, compère for the night was **SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood**, who did a good job despite some heckling from the back by **LCpl 'Snapper' Snape**. Rumour that 'Snapper' will be on RP staff when he returns from detachment at Ladas Drive COMMCEN are completely unfounded. The function was also a farewell to **Sig Dave Old**, who is posted to 604 Sig Troop as a Lance Corporal. His expertise, experience and tactfulness with the Brigade Watchkeepers will be missed by the Radio Room.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following departures have or are about to take place. **Sig Dave Old** to 604 Sig Troop, **Sig 'Dinger' Bell** to 28 Sig Regt, **Sig Kev Newman** to 22 Sig Regt and **Sig Ray Martin**, now civvy attached. The troop wishes them all the best in their future postings.

Welcome to the troop to **LCpl Angus Palmer** from 7 Sig Regt, **Sig Luigi Dedman** and **Sig 'Paddy' McCandless** from 633 Sig Troop, and **Sig Neil Stewart** from 30 Sig Regt. **Neil** is first operator to complete a NIRTT course and WARCOP training without seeing the COMMCEN.

### COMMSTARS

Due to the rapid turnover of operators during the last eight months, plus numerous duties and fatigues, the possibility of winning a commstar has been remote. However, the latest Commstar report was the best that 39 Bde COMMCEN received for many months and provided that operators maintain this high standard of message handling, the chances of being awarded this prestigious award is more likely. **YofS Jason Wood**, who takes great pride in his operator's abilities, has promised to buy the COMMCEN a crate of beer if they receive a commstar before he is posted.



## FOCUS ON THE CRYPTO OFFICE

The Crypto office team consists of **Cpl Steve 'Sharky' Smith, LCpl Nick 'Hood' Hawley** and **Arfa 'Civvies' Poole**. Their main role is the monthly task of supplying units within the Brigade TAOR with crypto documents and equipment.

**SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood** is overall coordinator, and the system runs like a well oiled machine!

Working in the cypher office does, at times, have its perks. Although the crypto ops are generally busy throughout the day, at least the nights are free. There is also ample opportunity to travel around the province when on crypto resupply and meet the various units. There are even occasional quiet spells when there is no work and during these times a round of golf or a cricket match does not go amiss, which helps to break up the monotony of normal daily working. All in all life in the Crypto Office is a happy one!

## WIVES' CLUB CHARITY FASHION SHOW

A Fashion Show was held in April at Thiepval Barracks Lisburn in aid of the Save the Children Fund. **C&A Belfast** very kindly lent men's and women's Spring and Summer clothes, a window dresser, and dresses. The Squadron, and friends, provided the models and organisers:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Commentator** | **Maj Tom Corcoran** |
| **Music** | **SSgt Dave Hogben** |
| **Choreographer** | **Marion Hogben** |
| **Co-ordinators** | **RSM Osborne** |
| | **Pat Osborne** |
| **Ticket Co-ordinator** | **Sam Jones** |
| **Stage Manager** | **June Jennings** |
| **Lighting** | **WO2 (FofS) Jim Hanifin** |
| **Projectionist** | **Cpl Bob Barbour RPC** |
| **Posters** | **Linda Matthews** |
| | **Pauline Corcoran** |
| **Refreshments** | **Ulla Whitty** |
| | **Lindsay Dennison** |
| | **Doreen Jones** |
| | **June Napper** |
| | **Pauline Wikeley** |

**COMMITTEE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pat Osborne** | **June Jennings** |
| **Janet Walsh** | **Pam Lawson** |
| **Robina Hanifin** | **Sue Taylor** |
| **Gail McLeish** | **Angela Wilkinson** |
| **Sam Jones** | **Marion Hogben** |
| **Dee Partridge** | **Doreen Jones** |
| | **Pauline Wikeley** |

**MODELS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Lyn Tapsell** | **Vivian Clark** | **Dvr Martin Terry RCT** |
| **Janet Walsh** | **Rebecca Hunt** | **Cpl Paul Moore** |
| **Dee Partridge** | **Helen Owen** | **Cpl Dave Cain RAOC** |
| **Marion Hogben** | **Maggie Woolie** | |
| **Caroline Hall** | **Lyn Dean** | |
| **Wendy Knighton** | **Lynda Spencer** | |
| **Emma Jones** | **Birgit Stephenson** | |

On the night, after several last minute panics, the event was a raving success and **£700** was sent to our **Colonel-in-Chief**, in her capacity of President of Save the Children Fund.

Cpl Paul Moore, Dvr Martin Terry and Cpl Dave Cain

Caroline Hall with Lyn Tapsell behind

The Director General of the Fund replied as follows:

Dear **Mrs Wilkinson**

Your Colonel-in-Chief's Private Secretary has sent me the cheque for £700.03 which, on behalf of the Squadron Wives' Club, you sent to **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** in her capacity as President of the Save the Children Fund, on 1 May.

This is an immensely generous donation to our work among children in need, and on behalf of all of us in this Headquarters, I am writing to add our own very warm thanks to those already expressed to you by **Princess Anne**. The means of which you and your Club members raised this very large sum has filled our Special Events staff with admiration and they have asked me to offer you their congratulations on what was obviously such a successful Fashion Show. Indeed, they may well take a leaf out of your book and, in anticipation of this, the male members of our staff are already seeking hiding places like pre-hibernating grisly bears. Some of them are ex-servicemen but none are former Signallers, which may account for their collective reluctance.

Your contribution will make a great difference to the lives of many sick and hungry children, and I shall be grateful if you will kindly convey our thanks and appreciation to all who generously contributed, in various ways, to your fund-raising Fashion Show and, thereby, to your generous gift to this Fund.

Our official receipt No. 19316 for £700.03 is attached hereto.

With thanks and best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

**J. A. Cumber**

Director General

# Regulation issue

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**REPORT BY OUR CORRESPONDENT IN SCOTLAND**

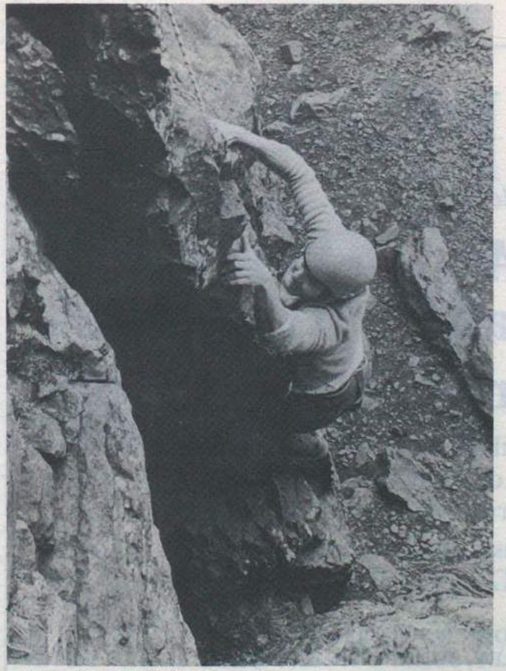
The advance party for the Squadron Summer Camp, Ex *Red Herring 3*, left the Province on 23 May. Two days later they were fully settled in at Garelochhead Training Camp, awaiting the first group of volunteers. Blessed with almost continuous sunshine, the adventurous training activities were enjoyed by most of the group and the distillery visit appeared to be successful for everyone! The second group have just arrived, as I write on 5 June, and hopefully, they will have as good a time as their predecessors.

A few words about each activity. **Sgt Kev Lodge** instructs wind surfing, or as he calls it 'the underwater survey team' on Loch Lomond or Gareloch, depending on the wind. Preliminary training, designed to reduce the number of duckings, is carried out on the patent Lodge windsurf trainer constructed from parts of an Army issue swivel chair. I hope the RQMS doesn't read this!

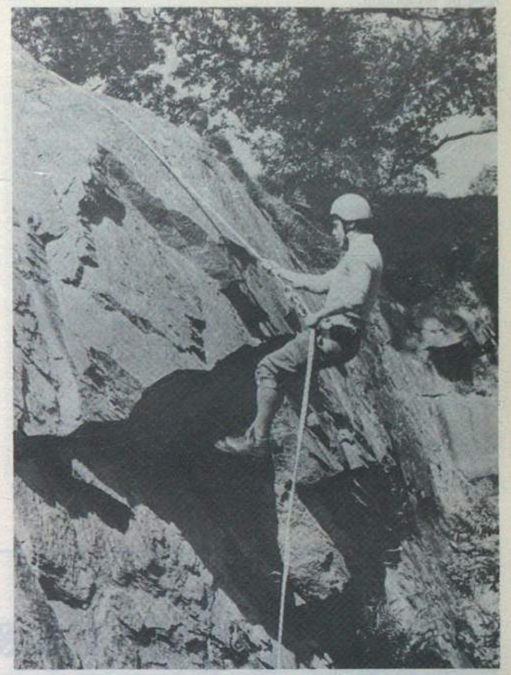
Canoeing has been under the supervision of **Lt Mark Alexander** (locally known as Skid Solo, which anyone who has been driven by him will understand). Despite his derisive attitude to anything less than Grade 5 white water, the groups have enjoyed learning to paddle around Loch Lomond, taking in games of tag and canoe football en route. **Mark** has now left for some 'real water' on a course at BOBC Norway and his instructional duties have been taken over by **WO2 (SSM) Benny Bingham**.

Walking on Ben Arthur (or the Cobbler) and climbing at The Whangie have been led by **Capt Tony Roberts** and **Lt Val Grimmett**. Thus many have scaled undreamt of heights, or in some cases been pulled up!

On several occasions our budding Bonningtons have been amazed to see other experienced (civilian) climbers coming down routes they have just experienced difficulty in going up!



LCpl Kev Roache going up . . .



and LCpl Taff Donovan going down on summer camp

**CRICKET**

Unexpectedly, the cricket team, who are not one of our 'recognised' strong sporting sides, have played themselves into the final of the NI Minor Units Knockout Competition. The first match was played against 655 Sqn AAC at Ballykelly, under the leadership of Yorkshireman **SSgt Dave Aldous**. Some tight bowling from **Sgt Ian Knight** (whose last five overs gave away only one run!) left us a target of 94. Most of these were knocked up by **Sgt Trev Alderton** (41) with others contributing enough for a comfortable victory. Special mention must be made of **LCpl Steve Robinson**'s brilliant covers catch which dismissed 655's most useful looking batsman.

The semi-final was played against our old rivals 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn who had already beaten us in the League. With our full side out, however, we considered that we might have a few surprises for them. Once again the bowling was tight, especially from **WO2 Ian Thorburn** and **SSgt Dave Aldous**, and this combined with safe fielding saw 39 Bde all out for 105. The match was still far from over though, and at 11 for 2 the situation was hardly satisfactory. Fortunately, scores of 20 odd from **Cpl Steve Young** and **WO2 Ian Thorburn** and 36 not out from **Capt Tony Roberts** (brought back from Summer Camp for the occasion) helped to raise the necessary score with a couple of wickets to spare.

As usual against 39 Bde it had been a close match and therefore a good warm up for the Final.

**ADMIN TROOP**

The McKelvie (Inter Troop) Athletics competition saw Admin, combined with Echo Troop, narrowly miss first place. Points were level at the end of the competition but Tech Troop took it by virtue of winning the relay. Congratulations to **LCpl Steve Robinson** on a personal best and Squadron record in the high jump with a clearance of 1.90m. No doubt 21 Sig Regt will be delighted to see that he is posted to them in the near future. Two other troop personalities will be missed from the Orderly Room soon. Chief Clerk **SSgt Ray Smith** goes to 21 Sig Regt and **Pte Sally Leatherby** is destined for 13 Sig Regt, both on promotion.

**TECH TROOP**

The first PONI Trophy Competition was held at Tardree Forest in County Antrim. This Trophy was donated by **SSgt Vince McGarry BEM** to Tech Troop with the emphasis on outdoor pursuits!

It was originally to be presented to the fastest section to complete the Mourne Wall Walk (a jaunt that was near and dear to **Vince**). However at the time of Section's planning the Mournes were placed OOB (much to the Rigging Sections relief) so a substitute site and event was planned. 'Tardree Forest and Orienteering' said the TOT. 'Right' said everyone else (the FofS and Troop SSgt).

Five teams competed, and overall a high standard of orienteering was achieved. First home was **Cpl 'Edge' Sharpe** from Radio Relay Section who completed the five mile, sixteen check point course in 58 mins 23 secs. Second was **Sgt Henry Hunt** of TE Section in 1 hr 11 mins 05 secs. The overall winner of this First Competition was Radio Relay Section.

The PONI Trophy was presented to Radio Relay Section by **Capt (TOT) M. G. H. Campbell** in the Plastic Pub and a good night was had by all. So congratulations to Radio Relay and a special thanks to **Vince McGarry** for his kind thoughts and consideration for the Troop. Don't worry **Vince**, next year the Mournes!

**COMMCEN TROOP**
**TROOP DETACHMENTS**

Apart from working in the busiest manual COMMCEN on the DCN Network the troop has a commitment to provide operators for various rough areas of the province. We man (or in exceptional circumstances woman) a trib COMMCEN in East Belfast (sounds better than Army COMMCEN Palace Bks) and we also send a few of our brave volunteers to places which a few of the corps Ulster veterans will recognise as XMG and FKL.

Once again the underdogs were pitched into battle against the much more fancied teams in the McKelvie Trophy Hockey and Athletics. In the hockey we beat Comms Troop 1—0 and drew 0—0 with Tech Troop in the group games. We were then drawn against the much fancied W Tp in the semi-final and due to a good all round performance triumphed 1—0. In the final, which went into extra time and then penalty flicks we were narrowly beaten by Tech Troop 2—1. A mention must be made of the terrific goalkeeping and leadership shown by **Cpl George Strachan** who was likened to an earth remover in making a number of saves.

**COMMS TROOP**

This seems to be the time of year that half the Troop are on courses, ranging from driving to diving. The other half are still sweeping the garages!

On the sports front the Troop has surprised a few people in the Squadron, notable results have been—Rugby 1st, Swimming 2nd, Athletics 3rd.

The Troop would like to congratulate **Cpl Mitchell** and **Jill** and **Sig Doherty** and **Kim** on their recent marriages.

We would also like to welcome **LCpl Burford, Sig Hayes** and **Matthews** to the Troop and say a sad farewell to **Cpl Loveridge** and family.

**WHISKEY TROOP**

Whiskey Troop is taking on a new look. OC **Capt David Beach** and Troop **SSgt Trev Mortlock** have both departed for BAOR where we wish them the best of luck. The arrival of their replacements (**Capt Ian Fielder** and **SSgt Taff Jones**) is eagerly awaited, especially by **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Gibson** who is running the Troop at the moment.

The lull in McKelvie Trophy gave the opportunity for rethinking our strategy. But defeat in our banker event, hockey followed by defeats in rugby, athletics, and swimming means that once again we'll probably have to apply for re-election. On 7 May the Belfast Marathon took place. Congratulations to **SSgt Trev Mortlock** who completed the course in 3 hrs 3 mins, **Capt David Beach** who completed in a time of 3 hrs 44 mins and **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Gibson** who after a quick run down the Falls, completed the course in 3 hrs 59 mins.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## — News from Headquarters —

### Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**GRADUATION**

The visit of **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall** to the Army Apprentices' College on Saturday 14 April to review the Graduation Parade marked the end of a busy Spring term in the College. A term which has seen the College Orienteering team win through to the Junior Army Championships, a team of cyclists complete a gruelling 1800 mile sponsored relay race and the departure from the College of the 'Terrible Twins' **Lt John Murley** and **Lt Steve Wallis**.

**VISIT BY FIELD MARSHAL SIR EDWIN BRAMALL**

Saturday 14 April proved to be a most notable day for the Army Apprentices' College when **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall** opened the new College entrance watched by the Mayor of Harrogate, **Councillor Sam Cryer**. The chief of the Defence Staff then went on to review the Graduation Parade which was a memorable occasion as it marked the departure from the College, not only of those apprentices who had graduated, but it was also the Commandant, **Col Paddy Verdon's** last Graduation Parade. ADC to the Chief of the Defence Staff for the occasion was **Maj Frank Murphy RGJ** who has now retired from the Army and will be missed in the College especially by Mil Trg Wing.

Following the Graduation Parade **Field Marshal Bramall** went on to present prizes to the Spring Term prize winners watched by the parents of those apprentice tradesmen who had graduated. After lunch in the Officers' Mess, **Field Marshal Bramall** departed, but not before he had found time to see members of the College cycling team pass through the new entrance on their return from a sponsored 1800 mile relay ride around Britain.

The Chief of the Defence Staff talks to Mr Eric Hill having presented him with the Imperial Service Medal

Chief of the Defence Staff reviewing men of Bradley Sqn flanked by the Commandant, Col Verdon and AT RSM Rook

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall opening the new College entrance watched by the Mayor of Harrogate

**TRAINING BRIGADE ATHLETICS**

On Wednesday 16 May the Army Apprentices' College hosted the Training Brigade Athletics for the third year running. The meeting was superbly organised by **Maj Dicky Dyer** and **SMI Chalky White** and, for once, the notorious Harrogate winds abated to give a fine day.

Last year's winners of the event, namely the Army Apprentices' College PS team had to be content, this year, with second place, first place going to 2 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt. The loss of **Sgt Mick Orange** recently posted to Northern Ireland was keenly felt by the PS team. The highlight of the day was again the Tug of War. The eventual winners of this event were Penney Sqn trained by **Cpl Andy Bellew**.

The Penney Squadron Tug of War Team
*Back row L to R:* AT Cpl Mark Holley, AT Steve Kent, Cpl Andy Bellew, AT Cpl Mark Hudson, AT Andy Allison
*Front row L to R:* AT Neil Duncan, AT 'Stu' Ball, AT SSM Ian Budd, AT Paul Hornsby

**ORIENTEERING**

The College orienteerers have recently been boosted by the arrival of **SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin** and **Sgt Jim Pattison**, last year 7th in the Army and the NEDIST champion respectively. Their expertise has helped OIC Orienteering considerably and the sport continues to thrive at the College. At the time of writing, the College team is due to compete in the Junior Army Championships. The team will be: **AT Cpl David Blyth** (Capt), **AT Cpl Ian Williams, AT Cpl 'Shep' Shephard, AT LCpl David Middleton, AT Alan Bannister** and **AT Martin Warne**.

Too old to run for the College in the Junior Team Championships and therefore running in the Army Junior Champion category will be **AT Cpl Alan Holyoak** and **AT Cpl Mark Hudson**. It had been hoped to enter a Permanent Staff team too but **Pete Martin** gave the last control at the NEDIST Championships a cold shoulder, and therefore the PS team have since concentrated on the ATs. (Will **Mark Hudson** ever stop complaining about his feet, his back, the weather . . . ?)

As the College is the breeding ground for orienteering in the Corps (fifth in the Army last year and second in the Junior Championships—beaten only by the Gunners), the team have great expectations for this year and if they don't do well, **Lt Windsor Brown** will eat his Silva Compass (but don't tell the Sports Storeman!)

**THE JOHN PAGE TROPHY**

Named after a member of Penney Squadron who was tragically killed in a motorcycling accident some years ago, the John Page Trophy is awarded each term to the motorcyclist who attains the highest marks in such aspects as bike handling, maintenance, equipment and the Highway Code. The winner of the Trophy for the Summer Term was **AT David Caseley** of Scott Squadron who attained a score of 97% on the competition, a commendable mark and an obvious indication of roadworthiness. The winning Squadron team was Penney Squadron, **ATs John Park, Richard Cave** and **Stuart Bull**, who attained an average score of 79%.

AT David Caseley being presented with the John Page Trophy by the Commandant, Lt Col Pickup

**EXERCISE *LONG HAUL***

A team of cyclists from the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate recently undertook an 1800 mile relay ride from their unit to Land's End, thence to John O'Groats and back to College. Three charitable organisations—Yorkshire Cancer Research, Harrogate PHAB and British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association—will benefit from the sponsorship received as a result of the successful 'outing'.

After months of preparation, we boarded our Land Rovers—CB 'handles', 'Long Haul One' and 'Long Haul Two'—and **AT Sgt Alan 'Funky' McGibbon** mounted his bike to ride out of the College gates at 1000 hours on Sunday 8 April. **Alan Green**, OIC Cycling, set off with his party to JLRRA Bramcote, while **Munro Grant**'s vehicle trundled southwards at a steady 15 to 20 miles per hour, a short distance ahead of each rider. A dry day, with little wind helped team morale, and in alternate stints, **Iain Green, 'Jim' Hamill, Ian Robinson** and **Nick Platt-Higgins** (henceforth known as **'PH'**) ate up the miles to arrive at the handover point—Stretton under Fosse—well ahead of schedule.

The second squad—**ATs Cpls Neil Cooper, Tony Bennett, ATs 'Tom' Baker, Andy Sole** and **Paul Lewis** set off in good style, all of them determined to do as well as, or improve upon the first squad's time. Although they had a cool, rainy start, this did not deter them, and the Cotswolds were attacked with vigour. The weather improved, and the run through Gloucestershire into Somerset was quick and forceful—so forceful, in fact, that they arrived well ahead of schedule at the change over. **Andy Sole** showed good form on this leg. This, of course, meant that the other squad, resting at 9 ORD, Corsham had had little sleep, and the combination of weary driver and dozing navigator made them a little late at the RV.

**'PH'** set off, handing over to **'Funky' McGibbon** near the Devon border, leaving him with an unfriendly hilly section to contend with. Every 15 miles the lads changed over, and the infamous Bodmin Moor claimed the attention of both **'PH'** and **'Funky'. Iain Green** and **'Jim' Hamill** then had the easy task of completing the run into Blackwater—arriving with 45 minutes to spare . . . at 1215 hrs Monday 9 April.

Squad 1 loaded up and proceeded to their accommodation at the 29 Commando Royal Artillery Barracks, Plymouth, while Squad 2 were, 90 minutes later at Land's End! They were warmly greeted by the hotel manager and presented with a certificate to prove their achievement. After a brief souvenir buying session, it was back to the grind, and the hardest part of the exercise. After a fairly stiff ride, the changeover at Chudleigh Knighton, near Exeter was made on time. Their accommodation at CVD Ashchurch was especially welcome that night!

'One' started off a little later than planned, and in a short time, took a wrong turn which involved poor **Ian Robinson** having to get out of his saddle to tackle some pretty stiff inclines. He was blessing **Mr Grant**! The little detour cost them time, and more was lost in the maze of roads around Bristol. **'PH'** managed to get ahead of the vehicle at one point and shot off up the ramp leading on to the M5. Some pungent points were made by the 2IC, and **'PH'** proceeded, his feelings hurt. The rest of the 'leg' went quite smoothly, but the minor delays resulted in Squad 1 arriving an hour late at Naunton for the changeover. A straight drive to HQ NW District at Preston then took them to their accommodation.

'Two' got off to a good clear start, with dry, bright weather, but within the space of two hours, the lads were coping with the misery of intermittent rain. This continued right up to the changeover time at Chorley, where Squad 1 were all set to go.

Up to press, the teams had been free from the bugbear of mechanical breakdowns, save for one puncture in the dark satanic backstreets of Warrington, where No 2 Squad wandered off course.

Squad 1 now had the uneviable task of grinding up the A6 through Lancashire and Cumbria, which involved climbing SHAP—a name now branded on **'PH**'s forehead—for it was he who strayed, (again!). He set off from Kendal, heading for SHAP while two of the riders were 'communing with nature'! He should have been overtaken by the vehicle within five minutes, but he was never seen again! Eventually, a pathetic figure rang the Penrith Police:

'Have you had a lost cyclist reported?' (This, in pure 'Scouse')
'Why?'
'I'm him!'



**Mr Grant**, in the Police Station at that time, breathed a great sigh of relief. 'Only a Scouse could follow a sheep track', he thought.

That over, the team proceeded, young **Green** taking the section through 'romantic' Gretna on a rather wet and windy night, **'Jim' Hamill** and **Ian Robinson** completing the leg into Beattock.

After a comfortable stay at CAD Longtown, 'Two' passed 'One' on the A74 northbound and were ready and waiting to go as **Robinson** swept into the village.

The Cycling Team
*L to R:* Sig Rutter, Capt (Retd) Green, AT Sgt McGibbon, AT Baker, AT Hamill, AT Cpl Cooper, AT Lewis, AT Green, AT Sole, AT Robinson, AT Platt Higgins, Mr M. N. Grant, AT Cpl Bennett, LCpl Hayes

'One' then headed for the Clyde Submarine Base at Faslane, whilst 'Two' set off on the long climb up Beattock Bank—achieved in 50 minutes—then over the Erskine Bridge across the Clyde towards Loch Lomond. Dawn was breaking on the snow covered hills as the team rode along the lochside. Rain soon obscured the view, and the hard grind up the Black Mount lay ahead—with some unforeseen mechanical problems. The changing of a stripped gear block was watched intently by an engine driver near Tyndrum, and once the repair had been accomplished, a blast from the Diesel's horn and a cheery wave from the driver signalled 'Well done, and good luck'! Snow fell, but by the time the changeover point was reached at Beinn A'Chrulaiste, Glencoe was bathed in brilliant sunshine.

No 1 Squad had been held up by traffic, but once started they got down to the task of coping with some extraordinary conditions. **'PH'** was struggling to ride downhill in the teeth of a blizzard, and handed over to **'Funky'** after 10 miles. The weather moderated and he made good progress until near Fort William blinding squalls of snow, hail and sleet struck him. **Iain Green** took the section into the town where they had a welcome break for a meal. From then on, it was fairly easy going up the Great Glen. It became so hot at one point that the riders were experiencing some discomfort. Once at Inverness, the crossing of the Kessock Bridge and the subsequent long, hard climb placed great demands on **'Funky' McGibbon's** small, wiry frame, as a gale was raging down the Beauly Firth. Ten miles short of Spinningdale, the changeover point, **'Jim' Hamill** endured the same kind of Arctic conditions experienced by his comrades.

No 2 Squad set off on time for John O'Groats whilst 'One' went off to rest at RAF Alness. Conditions were not good; rain turned to snow as **Baker** rode into Helmsdale and **Bennett** completed the section into Wick. John O'Groats at midnight is not an inspiring place—dark and dreadfully silent. The Hotel owner, rather dubious of the characters before him, did, however, provide the team with a letter of certification. It was all very Draculesque—the missive was penned by the light of a torch as only emergency lighting was available! Southwards then, they sped, on the coldest night of the journey. Another puncture but worse was to come. At about 0300 hrs on Thursday morning, it became necessary to break the ice from the gears to keep them working! Short, sharp sections became the order of the day, and 201 miles were covered in the 12 hour shift.

'One' took over at Alness whilst 'Two' headed for the comforts of HQ Scotland. A long climb from sea level to Slochd Summit (1,333ft) then a brief respite before another climb up the Pass of Drumochter (1,500ft). This was done in short, sharp sections too, and the ultimate reward was exhiliarating! Coming down off the top and heading for Perth, the riders were churning out a steady 30mph on the flat and 40mph on the down grades. **'Funky' McGibbon** and **Ian Robinson** both held 50mph over quite a distance. This put the team away ahead of schedule, so plans were altered. Perth was left behind, as was Kinross. Vicious winds were whipping up the Forth that day, and **Mr Grant** busily engaged on a 30 mile section and not wishing to be blown into the firth, dismounted and walked across the highest point of the bridge roadway! Edinburgh was traversed and the team proceeded for another 15 miles where the changeover was made.

Squad 2 had decided to ride the whole leg from that point over the Cheviot Hills, down into Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire. Some excellent times were achieved—100 miles in five hours. **Neil Cooper** averaged 35mph over 10 miles on the ultra-fast A1 south of Scotch Corner, with **Tony Bennett** almost equalling his performance. Final RV was in Ripley Village—about three miles from College.

'One' came down from Ouston where they had rested overnight, and at 0900 hrs on Friday 13 April, the team rode through the College gates—having covered 1800 miles in 119 hours. The College turned out in force to greet the team, with a piper to play a musical accolade.

We are beholden to many people for making this exercise not only possible, but successful. A full list would be too lengthy to record, but may we just say to everyone who gave their time, effort, ideas and general support—Thank you!


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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

## School of Signals
## Blandford Camp
## Dorset

**PRESENTATION TO CORPS MUSEUM—MANPACK SATCOM**

During a short break in the School of Signals and RSRE Liaison Meeting held at Blandford on Friday 4 May **Mr Brian Atkinson**, Head of CC3 Division, Communications and Computing Group, RSRE presented an early prototype model of the Manpack SATCOM terminal to the School of Signals. The Commander, **Brig Tony Willcox** accepted the donation on behalf of the Corps which will be displayed in the Corps Museum at Blandford.

It was this type of communications equipment that proved vital during the Falklands Campaign. The SOinCs Directorate, with assistance from the School of Signals, is currently investigating the possible future roles and requirements for this exciting piece of equipment to meet our communications requirements world wide, especially in a tactical environment. Current models of the Manpack SATCOM can provide either one secure duplex speech or one secure telegraph circuit.

Mr Brian Atkinson presents Brig Tony Willcox, Commander, School of Signals with an early prototype of the Manpack SATCOM terminal

Brig Tony Willcox finds out just how manpackable it really is! Mr Brian Atkinson and Lt Col Barry Burke (currently at RSRE) believe that more hands make light work

They do—but with battle order webbing and a bergen the smile might disappear (as will the helping hand)





**ARMY-PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On the weekend of the 9, 10 and 11 March the Army Ten-Pin Bowling Championships were held at The Charrington Bowl, Tolworth, Kingston-Upon-Thames. The Championships were attended by a party of 7 Royal Signals bowlers representing the United Kingdom Support Unit SHAPE.

The party consisted of:- **SSgt Mick Dixon, Sgt Mick Langley, Sgt Mick Jenkins, Sgt Roger Payne, Sgt Del Tungate, Cpl Dave Upton, Cpl Al Warburton.**

The winning team with a REME Team at the rear. *Front Row:* Sgt Payne, SSgt Dixon, Sgt Langley, Cpl Upton, Cpl Warburton. *Back Row:* Cpl Pilling REME, Cpl Murray RCT, LCpl Stewart REME, Sgt Bernard RAOC

**THREE EVENTS**

The Championships consisted of three events, namely Team Doubles and Singles with the Top 24 bowlers, after all events, qualifying for the Masters Event. Eventually the top six bowlers competing for the title of Masters Winner.

The first event was the Singles which consisted of bowling five games, with the bowler with the highest pin-fall being the Singles Champion. None of the SHAPE bowlers managed to place themselves amongst the top five but the doubles were to come and it was generally assumed that **SSgt Mick Dixon** and **Sgt Mick Langley** were in with a good change of winning this event. Assumptions sometimes turn out correct and after the event the said two emerged as Army Doubles Championships for 1984.

**TEAM CHAMPIONS**

The Team event was the final event and as it was only a five man team the five highest bowlers after the first two events were chosen for the Team line-up, these were:- **SSgt Mick Dixon, Sgt Mick Langley, Sgt Mick Jenkins, Sgt Del Tungate, Cpl Dave Upton.**

Once again a general consensus of opinion agreed that the SHAPE team stood a good chance of winning this event which in fact they did thus becoming Army Major Units Team Champions for 1984.

**THE MASTERS EVENT**

**SSgt Mick Dixon, Sgt Mick Langley** and **Cpl Dave Upton** were successful in reaching the last 12 bowlers with **Sgt Langley** and **Cpl Upton** coming second and fourth respectively in the Masters Event.

In addition to the above **Sgt Langley** also received trophies for the following:- Second All Events, Second Individual High Series.

The whole team agreed that it had been a very enjoyable and rewarding weekend and were now looking forward to the International Mens Tournament to be held at SHAPE in April.

**THE HIGHEST**

Since that event **Sgt Mick Langley** has managed to achieve one of the highest scores at SHAPE and even more important Europe by scoring an 835 series:

1 256, 2 290, 3 289

**SHAPE HOCKEY**

The SHAPE Ladies Hockey team under the guidance of **Jackie Pilling, (YofS Lee Pilling's** wife) has had two resounding successes beating AFCENT Ladies Hockey 7—0 and 5—0. Well done Ladies!

**FAREWELLS**

This month we say farewell to **Maj Tom Moncur** and his wife **Cathy**. We thank them for their hard work and dedication at SHAPE and we wish them the very best in their new tour.

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1983

# News from Regiments

## Junior Regiment Royal Signals
## Ouston

**PARADE WITH FORCE EIGHT**

13 April marked the end of basic military training for the juniors of Whitespear, Battleaxe and Kukri Troops and apart from the usual 'Force eight' wind from the West, the ominous date did nothing to mar the successful parade. The Regiment was privileged to welcome the Reviewing Officer, **Brig N. A. Butler CBE**. It was something of a special day for him; his 55th birthday and his last day in the Army after some 37 years distinguished service. We hope it was a memorable one for him and we wish him a happy retirement.

Brig Butler talking to JSgt McConnell of Kukri Troop (also Maj Ian Morris, Lt David Meyer (ADC), Lt Graham McNeill OC Kukri, WO2 (SSM) Matt McBirney)

Brig Butler inspecting Battleaxe Troop

**THE MASTER**

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Badcock** spent a few hours at Ouston during his visit to the Training Group at the end of March. His time with us was in part taken up in preparation for the visit to Ouston of **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Anne**. At the time of writing preparations for the big day are at full 'thrust' and while a lot of the business is still on paper—the real 'packs on/packs off stuff' is yet to come. The event covers all day; with the arrival of the Colonel-in-Chief by air at Ouston in an Andover of the Queen's Flight, a four Troops Pass Off Parade, followed by receptions and displays and culminating in a Ladies Dinner Night in the Officers' Mess.

Obviously a good story from JSgt Williamson has the Master amused

**DISPLAY TEAM**

The Junior Regiment Royal Signals Arena Display Team is not a new innovation as many readers will know, and after a break following the 1983 season, the Team is back in business this year with a full programme. Our traditional sources of manpower for the Team were the trained soldiers from the Spring Pass Off who, for reasons of age or dates to trade training, remained at Ouston. This year, because the number of trained soldiers in June (our busiest month for displays) fell below those required for the team (40), the job of Display Team has gone to the lads of Ulster Troop. This in itself is special, because Ulster Troop are our first batch of Armed Services Youth Training Scheme (ASYTS) lads who arrived at Ouston in mid

November last year. Training for the display started in early April and it needed to be very physical, because the action takes the form of recovering a casualty over some pretty tough obstacles, of which the fire gate is the most impressive. Two teams, red and blue, participate against each other under simulated battle conditions, brought to effect with pyrotechnics, blank ammunition smoke and fire, after the scene has been set by the Display Team Commander. The audience is encouraged to lend its support to the teams and cheer them on.

A success? Yes! This season the team will have performed some 50 displays at 18 different venues which include KAPE events, military sponsored tattoos and exhibitions, civilian carnivals and shows, from Blandford in the South, Scotland in the North, Norfolk in the East and St Helens in the West. We believe this will be especially good PR not only for recruiting for the Corps and the Regiment, but also for the ASYT Scheme, which some people felt would be a non starter. In the event, the lads of Ulster Troop, having had their PSO's interview for trade allocation, only require the final decision before they Pass Off on 9 August, hopefully direct into adult service and trade training.

Suitable captions for this scene may be sent to the UPO JRRS (26th) for the next *Wire* publication

**OUR ROVING CAMERA**

'When I was you age young man, my crossbow was always in good order'. Maj Mike Allen inspecting during March and Shoot Competition

OC Iron Troop, Lt Stewart Hodges—wondering if Junior will make the pre-natal clinic in time!

Juniors of Beaufighter Troop preparing the Battle Camp Transport, there being no trucks at TMP Catterick again!

David Wingate — Easy win! Pancake day races around the patch

# 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 32

## HQ SQUADRON
### NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINE SQUADRON

We start our round up of news from this hive of activity by saying welcome to: **Capt MacKenzie—Adjt, WO2 Balderstone ACC, Cpl MacDiarmid RE, LCpl Brooks, LCpl Exton and Sig Lanfear (Ex Factory), LCpl Forbes ACC, Cfn McCracken REME, Cfn Penman REME.**

We wish them and their families an enjoyable and prosperous stay in Verden. Unfortunately all new arrivals mean departures and it is with much regret we say farewell to the following: **Maj John Stokoe—to RN College at Woolwich, Sgt Dave Roderick—'Civvy Strasse' in Germany, Sgt Graham Garratt—Civvy Street in UK, Cpl Steve Caldwell—to 5 Armd Wksps, LCpl Ian Morrison—to 14 Sig Regt, Cpl John Kear—to 522 Coy RPC, LCpl Pat Clinton—to 22 Sig Regt,** and last but not least **Capt Mike Dyer—to School of Signals.**

### SPORT

The Squadron continues to shine on the sporting scene. The Squadron retained the Page Trophy with a record of 99 points and the football team reached the final of the General's Cup. The cricket team is still going strong in the General's Cup, and are strongly fancied to do well.

The 'Spear throwers' of the Squadron, (Darts players to the uninitiated) recently took on the might of the Sgts' Mess. The Squadron led by **Sig Del Delnevo** were soundly beaten by the Mess team led by SSM HQ Sqn **WO2 (SSM) George** (I knew we would win) **Bardsley BEM.**

Those men with iron legs **WO2 (QMSI) Duncan** and **Cpl Nobby Clark** competed in the London Marathon (you must have seen then on TV) and the Squadron congratulates them on their fine achievements. Our interest in Marathon running does not stop there as the Squadron entered a team in the Bremen Marathon, those taking part were: **Capt (TOT) Ian Forbes, Capt Bob Fortune BEM, Capt Charlie Homewood, WO1 Pete Cain** and **WO2 Mel Warren.**

**WO1 Cain** also set a new personal record of 2hrs 53 min 55 secs; again the Squadron salutes their gallant efforts and hopes the blisters have gone.

Our QM (Tech) Dept led by **Capt (QM) Alan Abbott** and **RQMS Robby Harris** are now preparing for a new challenge 'PTARMIGAN'. Having defeated 'CSSH' and gained a good draw with 'CLANSMAN' they are now highly confident of tackling this new phenomena in their stride.

Two members of TM Troop namely **Sgt Dil Roberts** and **Cpl Pete Richardson** recently volunteered to accompany the 1st German Signal Battalion stationed in Hannover on their Adventure training week. It would appear that as it consisted of lots of shooting and a 35Km march to finish off with, our allies have a different meaning for adventure training. (I'm told that **Sgt Roberts** and **Cpl Richardson** didn't really want to go canoeing anyway).

Maj Wraith OC 2 Sqn diplomatically letting the CO Lt Col Fisher finish ahead in the chain of command race

## 1 SQUADRON

1 May found the Squadron resting while the Squadron Commander and his SSM visited Delta Troop currently on PTARMIGAN Trials in Blandford, only to be awoken on the 4th with their return to sunny Verden, just in time for the inter Squadron athletics, where the Squadron came a creditable fourth. Special mention must be made of **SSgt Harry Worth** who won, without too much opposition, the Javelin. That evening the Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron dined out **Maj** and **Mrs Spencer** (Squadron Commander) who is posted to the RCZ (Rear Combat Zone); we wish them well. An enjoyable night was had by all, that is by all who could remember.

Guns cocked, sights set, barrels blazing, the 1st Sqn deployed on Ex *Hurst Park* on the morning of the 12th with, in support, compliments of 21 RE Regt, **LCpl Woody Woodhouse** and his Automatic Trench Digger which sent sighs of relief through the whole Squadron, in particular, **Cpl 'I'm a Tech' Hughes** only to be saddened minutes after arriving in location, to discover the trench digger was bogged in and there it stayed and stayed and stayed. Picks and shovels out, manual digging commenced and in no time the defences within and around the Commcen Charlie were secure. Even the Foreman **SSgt 'I've got to get some sleep' Stevenson**, winner of the 1982 and 1983 Golden Blanket Award with honours, dug in. It was an amazing sight.

Communications in and holding, defences secure, the soldiers with little time to get bored, not what the 1st ever do, set about tackling the SSM CQBR with **Sig 'Killer' Aves** coming out a clear winner. Special praise must be given to the RSM, **WO1 J. R. Illingworth** who, after a little persuasion from the CO, **Lt Col Fisher**, gave a remarkable performance, that is on the CQBR, even though he did not have his respirator on.

It was at that point that Command of the Squadron was handed to **Maj C. L. G. Wright** who joins the 1st from NI. We hope he and his wife **Judy** and family enjoy life with us. As **Maj Spencer** left, nominations were being taken for president of the escape committee. Endex called we headed wearily back to Verden after a tiresome but enjoyable exercise.

Wednesday afternoon, 23 May, found all troops with the Squadron, including the Wives' Club, competing for the annual .22mm and Falling Plate Competition and after a close fought contest the results were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Best Female | **Pte Sharon Robertson, WRAC** |
| Best Male | **Sgt John Smith** |
| Best .22 mm Team | Wavell Troop |
| Best Falling Plate Team | Wavell Troop |

Watch out Bisley make way for the First.

Before I conclude let me, on behalf of the Squadron Commander and all ranks, say a big thank you to **Mrs Sue Spencer** and the wives of the Squadron who after a 10 mile charity walk raised DM 4156 for BMH Hannover Maternity Ward. Well Done!

*L to R:* Mrs Irene Jackson, Mrs Sue Spencer, Mrs Sue Crabtree, Mrs Jem Ireland



## 2 SQUADRON

Friday 4 May was the day chosen for this year's annual Inter Squadron Athletics. The weather was a bit bleak but this did not dampen the morale of the Squadron, spectators or competitors.

The day's events started with the 5000m where we had **Cpl Shaun Wratten** producing a wonderful eighth position. His excuse for not winning: 'I did not want to run too fast because it would ruin my hair style'.

In the 200m we had a respectable placing, considering his age, from **LCpl Brockett**, the Squadron also had the talents of **Sig 'Cas' Castro**, who led all the way during his 200m race until he decided to stop and wave at his 'fans'; this cost him the winner's place. He had to make do with runner-up. Shortly after we had 110m hurdles where **LCpl 'Scouse' Barker** did well to come in third out of the three competitors. The biggest surprise of the day came from **LCpl Eric Farmer** who, after being told the winner collects a mirror, went in to streak round the track and win the 400m hurdles. After taking a short break for lunch, the day's events continued with the 300m, where we had a good performance from another newcomer to the Squadron, **Sig 'Spick' Martinez**, who came in second. When it came to the Old Soldier's race there was a large number of nominations within the Squadron but only **Maj Wraith** and **Capt Boag** managed to make it to the track where they came third and fourth respectively.

Then we came to the Ladies Race where **Mrs Allison** 'I would have done better if I had had a pint' **Vogel**, and **Mrs Roberta 'Sqn Clk' King** came in second and fourth respectively. The final event on the track was the Chain of Command where the Squadron finished third. After the presentations, the Squadron managed to turn out a large number of competitors for the 'Happy Hour' where our tug-o-war team conned **SSM Peter Sutherland** into buying the beer for coming a fine second place in the tug-o-war competition.

2 Sqn Tug-O-War team achieving second place

### EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON 84*

The new voice procedures introduced days before the Exercise helped to keep the troop busy. The Exercise ran smoothly into the weekend which found us at Sennelger Training Centre, harboured up and effecting any repairs needed. During the weekend the Squadron were tasked to demonstrate the PTARMIGAN concept of the Comhead. This was done on one of the range areas with all sorts of VIP Guest/Visitors turning up to have a look. It was while they were pouring their cups of tea that the first thunderflash went off, signalling the start of the enemy attack. The attack saw the Squadron hold the enemy, and at a given signal the whole of the Comheads 13 AFV 432s just battened down and disappeared, proving to the stunned spectators how effective the armoured HQ would be.

The remainder of the week saw the Exercise run its course and on the two occasions that the live enemy attacked the Comhead, it was the cookhouse/admin areas that were set about, with the Comhead itself untouched. **Sgt Smith ACC** is beginning to wonder if we tipped them off about his cooking!

Repair work Ex *Flying Fox*. Cpl (Its my coffee) Rutland explaining to SSgt (It's my cup) Haynes that Mr Mel Lockie (Trg Gp) teaches voice procedure not AFV maintenance

The CO briefs 'Interested Parties' on Ex *Flying Falcon*

Ex *Flying Falcon* casualties

**INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING**

This year with even less time to train than last year the inter-squadron gala got under way. Having lost by a single point last year to 207 Sig Sqn the team was eager to reverse the situation. The first race: The 50m freestyle was won by **LCpl Pete Farmer** and this set the standard, encouraging wins in the 100m Backstroke, 50m Fly, 100m Freestyle, by **Sig Richie Blackmore, Danny Thornton, Any 'Sniff I'm a Boxer' Prutton,** respectively. Creditable positions were achieved in all the other individual races. The relay races to come, 207 Sig Sqn were just one point ahead, but some inspired swimming saw the Squadron eat up water and ensure coach **SSgt Tim Haynes** a superb victory, even though it meant an early shower, fully clothed. The trophy now sports pride of place in the Squadron Club.

**2 SQN CADRE**

Monday 16 April saw 12 apprehensive young members of the Squadron facing day one of the first 2 Sqn Cadre course. This is a one week's course for newly promoted JNCOs and potential NCOs in military training, but unfortunately, had to be reduced to three and a half days. This of course meant working late to cram in subjects such as Drill, M of I, Weapon Training, Military Law, Map Reading, etc. The last 24 hours of the course were in the field, incorporating 'tabbing' (all night) being ambushed, first aid, and ending up in sections doing live TOET on the range. It was a cold and tired 12 men who handed in their weapons on Friday afternoon, but now it was over could look back and say—'I've done it'.

**EXERCISE *HURST PARK 84***

Deployment on to the Exercise went very well apart from the Squadron's SQMS being caught under his vehicle only 100m from camp. Shouts of encouragement and advice were all met with rude replies and a toothless grin.

This was the first of several mechanical breakdowns that happened during the exercise. One of the most spectacular was when the Arty Int 432 lost steering to one of its tracks and careered off the road into the ditch. Fortunately the crew were more shaken than hurt. Thanks should go to the REME Det who had it back on the road in the minimum amount of time.

**WO2 (FOS) Al Hooley** was again seen flying between Comhds, usually taking the BMIS with him. The somewhat pagan rather than technical skills which he displayed when repairing this piece of equipment were amazing.

**Cpl 'Jock' Strapp** (NCO IC RADCON coffee swindle) made a huge blunder, when, in his wisdom, decided that a change from the traditional custard cream biscuits was required. Shouts of horror filled the Comhd when Pineapple, Grapefruit, Blackcurrant and Banana Creams were discovered. Requests for coffee dropped drastically when (in order to get rid of them) a compulsory biscuit accompanied each cup.

The final night saw the Squadron move into its last location just in time for its move back. After the final vehicle was squared off in its three ranks **SSM Pete Sutherland** was just about to retire to bed, when, from out of the shadows **Capt (TOT) Forbes** emerged to inform him that the Squadron would take command in about 20 minutes. The following half hour was a bubble of activity (Whacky Races) and when the dust settled the Squadron was set and ready. It was good to see that we could cope with any nasty tricks the staff could throw at us. Nice one to miss OC, Sir!

**3 SQUADRON**

The Squadron would like to welcome the following new members. **Cpl Steve (I have had my hair cut) Davison** and family. **LCpl Bes Beswick** and family, **Cpl Joe Marsh** and family, **Sig Simon Dobbins, Sig 'Willi' Williams,** not forgetting **Mrs Berry,** recently married to **Sig Gregg Berry.**

And good luck to **Sig Billy Atwell** and **'Jock' Fulton** in their new postings. **Sig 'Cas' Castro** on his transfer to 2 Sqn, 5 (Airborne) Bde and Sig Sqn also deserves best wishes as **Sig (the ski) Smith** is on his way to P Coy there.

As ever life in the Squadron is quite hectic, not only for the men but for their wives too. A 17 strong group of the girls bade farewell to their husbands to go on a long weekend in Berlin. The trip was organised by our SSM, **WO2 John Drake** and 'supervised' by **Mrs Jo Elson.** All had a smashing visit, not to mention a sore head or two, and showed their thanks to the SSM by way of a present—Just what was it **John?**

*Flying Falcon '84* is now part of history; for us however, it was far from being an ordinary signals exercise. The Regiment gave a demonstration which included 3 Sqn members being turned into casualties by the 'Cassi man' himself, **Sgt Pete Harris. Pete** and the lads put on a first class (if a shade gory) show.

During F/F we also had the pleasure of having two 'civvies' with us, **Graham Peters** and **Claud Woodward** who are part of the Ptarmigan manufacturing team. Their visit was very beneficial to both them and us—and we all felt contact at user level proved to be vital!

We did well in the recent Division Sports Day, by gaining a fantastic first in the Tug-of-War, having beaten all comers, two pulls to nil. Well done, **Sgt Clive Blackburn, Cpls Dave King, Ron Wilkinson, Jeff 'Porkins' Hawkins, Jo Marsh, Dave Cook, LCpl John Farnell, Sig Laurie Atkins** and **'Idi' Henderson.**

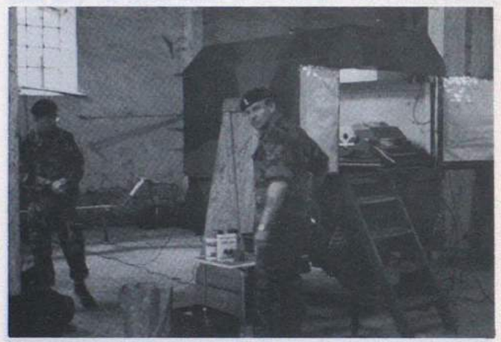
The Squadron swimmers too have done us proud with an overall third place and special mention goes to **Sig Jock Tulleth, Sam Slade, 'Nellie' Ellery** and **LCpl Steve Gooding.**

HMS *Appollo* visited Bremen recently and the Regiment had the pleasure of challenging the ships company to a series of sports—certain never to be forgotten was the Rugby match (which *Appollo* won). Much of the amusement was caused because **WO1 YofS 'Butterfingers' Rattray** would insist on dropping the ball once over their try line—tut tut YofS!

Team *Appollo* also generated a spate of right and/or left hand drinking which caused **Maj David Elson** and **SSgt Geordie Dobson** some problems—but an issue of straw from the donkey club has helped them both to get it right.

Moving somewhat farther afield to Sardinia, we wish the 7 Sig Regt Diving Expedition and our own **LCpl Taff Jones** best of luck.

Ex *Hurst Park* was for 1 Armd Div Rear quite entertaining what with a virtually non stop Fishing Competition going on between **Sgt Dave McCann RCT** (3 Sqn) against the might of HQ Sqn and a moat swimming competition; it really made one breathless, none more than the two swimmers, newly promoted, **LCpl Neil Perham** and, **Sig Eddie Edwards,** who were persuaded to swim in the Moat of the Stadt Gut Von Benningsen.



Capt Colin Lawrence and Sgt Clive Blackburn making yet more coffee

Sgt Clive Blackburn steam cleaning LCpl Neil Perham who had been 'swimming' in the moat

Sig Edwards gets the treatment too

Who's posing with what? Sig Jock Tulleth, LCpl Neil Perham

**207 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

**EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON***

This reporting period got underway with the perennial all signals exercise *Flying Falcon*. To continue tradition from earlier exercises *Percy* the POD got bogged in again; we spoke to a Commcen after they mistook us for 12 Bde (but were glad to say they soon remedied the fault). Finally the Brigadiers Hard Tac became known as LaybyLil and finally caught up with us in the last location, after having a near refit. Well done Doc.

**ATHLETICS**

With the Easter Grant happily under our belt on 26 April the Squadron joined with 11 Ordnance Company, who share the same barracks, to hold their respective unit trials in a combined Athletics Day. Thanks must go to our resident linguist **Cpl Jim Woolley** who enabled us to use the local German Athletics Ground.

The whole day was organised by **Sgt Paul Gill** (11 Ord Coy) whilst for the less sporting, the cooks, led by **SSgt 'Chief Chef' Sparks, Sgt Tom O'Rourke** and featuring the **Pte 'Black Adder' Barker,** laid on Brati and Beer Stalls.

The day was a success as several of the Squadron displayed previously unknown talents namely, **LCpl 'Mad Jock' Primrose** and **Cpl 'Rubber' Plant** at the 500m, **Sig Eddy Gajny** at 3000m steeplechase, to mention just a few.

After the athletics had finished **Mrs Val Ham,** wife of the OC (who is also Soltau Station Commander), presented prizes to the winning troop—SHQ, with runners up A1 Tp and third, Admin P1 (11 Ord Coy).

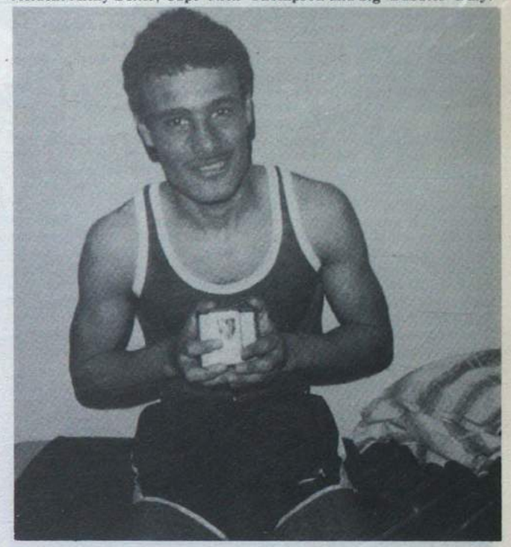
**REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS**

At 0730 hrs 4 May depleted 207 Sig Sqn was paraded in athletics kit. With the help of **SSM Ivor Noble, Lt David Sullivan** 'volunteered' soldiers for the events. Fortunately the day proved to be very successful as the Squadron was second out of seven Squadrons for the second year running.

Notable competitors were **Cpl 'Rubber' Plant** in the 4 x 400m and **SSgt (FofS) 'Brummy' Brisco** at the 800m and 1500m.

**BOXING**

This year for the first time we launched into Boxing under the keen, guiding hand of **LCpl Colin Dear.** With much keen support the first competition was the BAOR Individual Championships held in Berlin (shame). To the very great credit of all concerned, who put in weeks of training beforehand, the lads all achieved creditable results. Our proudest moment was when **Sig 'EJ' Johnson** reached the Featherweight final and fought very well. In addition **Sig 'Jock' O'Neil** reached the semi-final in the same class. The other team members included **Dvr '30 Watt' McMahon, Sig 'Clank' Oliver, Pte 'Hammy' Hamilton.** Supporting the lads were **Sig Eddy Gajny** our resident Army Boxer, **Capt 'Nick' Thompson** and **Sig 'Bubbles' Daly.**



**HURST PARK**

Despite having spent some time preparing for this major annual exercise we all found this a hectic hardworking week. The end result however proved us yet again to be the hardest, meanest, most warlike Signal Squadron in the Division. Of the lighter events, our SSM, **WO2 Ivor Noble,** now admits to hating helicopters. The Comms crew **Sig 'Erp' Wyatt** and **'Lamb Chop' Mutton** are now called 'Chip and Dale' for squabbling and arguing over everything and anything. Finally the Message Centre and **LCpl 'Gunge' Purves** need some lessons in town planning having innocently rearranged the street plans of at least one German village.

**EXERCISE *WET RAT I***

Ex *Wet Rat* was a Squadron Dinghy Sailing course held at the British Weser Yacht Club (BWYC) from 21-25 May. The aims of the course were for beginners to obtain the RYA Elementary certificate and for more experienced hands to work toward higher qualifications.

The course consisted of **Lt David Sullivan** OIC sailing, **Cpl 'Dougie' Hassell** (Chief Instructor), **LCpl 'Digger' Avey-Hebditch** (Assistant Chief Instructor), **Pt 'Black Adder' Barker** plus the three students **Cpl Bob Dillett, LCpl Colin Dear** and **LCpl 'Mad Jock' Primrose!**

The course was a success as all three students passed with flying colours and also managed to donate a good deal to the BWYC bar profits. On the Friday of the course **Cpl 'Dougie' Hassell** was joined by **Sig 'Arfur' Daly** and competed in the BAOR and RAF Germany Sailing Championships of the Mohnesee where they came 13th out of 21 teams—Well done!

**ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES**

As always we must bid farewell to various members of the Squadron notably the hard working 2IC **Capt 'Nick'** (OIC everything) **Thompson** soon on his way to York, **SSgt 'Oberleutnant' (SQMS) Feasey** posted on promotion to Tidworth, **Sgt Charlie Hunter** now with 3RGJ and **LCpl Paul Rushen** to Northern Ireland.

We welcome **LCpl Amos** from 1 Inf Bde to the SQMS Dept and **Sig Cary Moore, 'Scouse' Jennings** and **Rob Findlay** who recently arrived from Catterick.

## 212 (12 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

As usual, the exercise period has been busy for us. We have now, with great relief, seen the back of Ex *Flying Falcon* for another year. The exercise went well, despite the major changes we went through in VP. Our brushes with the enemy forces, in the guise of 28 (BR) Sig Regt went well. In fact, they were eliminated several times; by the gallant lads of Papa Group, the Recce Party and convincingly by the fatal combination of Echelon and Oscar Group. So *Falcon* ended with relief all round.

We then faced Ex *Hurst Park*. Before the exercise began we had the task of producing the new Royal Signals Officer Recruiting Film. That was an interesting week, probably enough said there. Watch the faces in the background though. The Recce Officer is an actor, we hasten to add, but his driver, **Sig Andy Shaw**, will not now carry out any task without consulting Equity. *Hurst Park* was a most successful exercise for all concerned. It also produced light relief, despite being reasonably fast-moving and tiring.

Other recent events have been varied and successful. In the 1 Armd Div SAAM, our shooting team fired well and having finished they qualified for RASAM at Bisley. Congratulations to **Lt Dave Crawford, Cpls John Freegard, John Roose, LCpl Pete Collins** and **Sig Gus Hart**. We wish this team every success at Bisley.

About the same time, we accepted the extended hand of Anglo-German friendship and took part in the Luftwaffe Support Group (North) Military Patrol Competition as guests of 11 Fermelde Battalion. It was spread over three days and tested us in many aspects of military skills—such as skill-at-arms, map reading, NBC, First Aid and obstacle course. Ten teams participated including one British and one Dutch. As guests, we could not compete for the trophy, but if our marks could have been counted, we would have finished second. The team of **Lt Dave Crawford, SSgt Mick Boyle, Cpl Tony Brine, LCpls Phil King, Steve Johnson** and **Sig 'Dinger' Bell** thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the socialising afterwards was superb. We were looked after very well by our German hosts. We look forward to events of this nature in the future.

The Squadron Patrol competition team at the finish

On the sporting side, congratulations to the Squadron Football Team on winning the Osnabruck Garrison Minor Unit League. Congratulations also to the Squadron Athletic Team on finishing third in the Garrison competition.

The Squadron team receives its medals from Comd 12 Army Bde Brig P. R. Davies



## SO, TO FAREWELLS

Best wishes to **LCpl Phil King, Ptes Marsden, Greenwood** and **Docherty** on their return to 'Cube' world. **Sig 'Charlie' Challinor** goes to the life of a Rear Link in Tidworth, **Sig Lance Yeomans** to globe trotting 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn, **Sig 'Wingnut' Sheldrick** to Civvy Street.

## ARRIVALS

New faces have appeared also, namely **Sgt Martin, Cpls Daughtrey, Hodgkiss, LCpl Clark, Sig Martin, Raine, Whittaker** and **Ptes Wilton** and **Woosey**. Welcome to Osnabruck and every good wish for your tour here.

# 201 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 30

The pace of life in 22nd Armoured Brigade continues to be hectic with very little respite between exercises and sporting events.

## EXERCISES

Since last appearing in these columns the Squadron has been involved in a number of exercises, noteably *Stags Head*, the Brigade CPX, and *Spring Canter* and *Hurst Park*, the Divisional CPXs. The former took us to the windswept North around Hamburg where every road seemed to be marked with a three ton bridge weight limit! Thanks to the expertise of **SSgt John Topping** and **Sig Mal Burman** in the Recce team all was well however, and the Squadron managed to brave the marshland ... and the cold! Early in March the Squadron had to split itself three ways to participate in Ex *Flying Falcon, Yellow Prairie* and *Highland Games*. Ex *Highland Games* was a Battlegroup demonstration for the Secretary of State for Defence of the UK and the Federal Republic. The Squadron was heavily involved behind the scenes, with the notorious PA systems, and finally provided some live enemy Russians! Many in BAOR will have seen the photograph of **Mr Heseltine** and **Dr Worner** addressing the Welsh Guards Battlegroup on the front page of *Sixth Sense*. A close up of that photograph shows how 201 Sig Sqn managed to keep the Corps in the public eye ... much to the irritation of the Welsh Guards! Thanks to **Cpl Len Twells** ... the chap in the background and keeper of the box!

Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Mr Michael Heseltine MP and the Federal Republic's Defence Minister Dr Manfred Worner with *Jimmy*. Cpl Len Twells in the background between Mr Heseltine and the Corps Commander

## SPORT

### SKILL-AT-ARMS

The Squadron competed well in the 1 Armd Div Skill-at-Arms competition held at Sennelager in March. In the end we were pipped at the post by 1 Ord Bn, but came second in the minor units competition by one bullet! You can't win them all! Congratulations to the team and all the very best of luck when they go on to Bisley later this year.



### BASKETBALL

The Squadron Basketball team has had an excellent year proving itself to be almost unbeatable. The photograph shows the OC, **Maj Bob Hussey**, flanked by the team which was both 1 Div Minor Units Champions, and 22 Armd Bde league winners, gaining more points than Major and Minor units alike.

*Rear Row:* Sgt Townsley, Sgt Coulson, Sgt Clayton, Dvr Modest.
*Front Row:* SSgt Addy, Sgt Gillespie, Sqn OC, Cpl Smith, WO2 (SSM) Whelan

## FOOTBALL

As we go to press the Task Force Cup is in full swing and 201 Sig Sqn has just convincingly beaten 206 Sig Sqn, our rivals in the finals last year.

## VISITS

On 22 May, Commander Communications 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook** payed his inaugural visit to 201 Sig Sqn. After inspecting the Squadron Barrack Guard commanded by **Sgt George Musselwhite RPC** he went on to receive a short briefing on the Squadron's role and history followed by a detailed tour of the Squadron during which he met nearly every member. Before he left the Brigadier was presented with a Squadron Plaque for Comms Branch by **Sig Tommy Murray**, and left after giving the Squadron due warning of the perils of PTARMIGAN/WAVELL 2 conversion later on this year.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Many movements have occurred recently, amongst which we said goodbye to **Capt Peter Costello** and **Sharon** who left us for the grey climes of Glasgow, **Lt Jonathan Perks** who departed for the very blue climes of Cyprus on attachment to the Scots Guards and **Sgt Kev Townsend** and **Sandra** who have moved on to Blandford where **Kev** is learning to become a Yeoman of Signals. In turn we welcome **Capt Steve Marshall** from the 3rd Division, **Lt Scott Workman** from 1 Div Sig Regt and **Sgt John Dunne** from 14 Sig Regt. We wish them all a very happy tour with us.

# 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
# York

**KOHIMA 84**

Each year the staff and the Signal Regiment celebrate the victory won at the Battle of Kohima and honour those killed in the battle. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the battle and was also the first time that the celebrations were held in the United Kingdom.

**THE BATTLE**

Early in 1944, the Japanese pushed across the Chindwin River and threatened the Great Assam base of Dimapur. This, the Japanese claimed was the start of their march on Delhi. At this Stage, Second Division was over 2,000 miles away and, to meet the emergency, the Division was rushed across India by road, rail and air. The need for speed was vital because the Japanese soon cut the road between Dimapur and Kohima and, in Kohima itself a tiny British and Indian Garrison was under siege and at the limit of its endurance.

As units of the Division arrived, they were launched directly into action. On 12 April 1944, the Japanese road block was destroyed. But the Japanese now held most of Kohima and their positions, dug deep into the commanding hillsides, were very strong indeed. They could not be taken by direct assault and so, with an attack in a generally southerly direction, 4th Infantry Brigade went to the west and 5th Infantry Brigade to the east, while 6th Infantry Brigade, in the centre, kept up continual pressure on the enemy's main positions.

In the Monsoon rain, the Brigades on the flanks had to work their way along narrow muddy paths, often up slopes as steep as 1 in 1½, through country covered by thick jungle and broken into chasms with sides too steep to climb.

After a great deal of hard fighting, by perseverance and with invaluable help from the local Naga Tribesmen, who acted as porters and stretcher-bearers, the two Brigades eventually achieved their objectives on the flanks of Kohima.

Meanwhile, from 4 May onwards, in the centre of Kohima the strongest of the Japanese defences were being destroyed one by one. For days, in appalling Monsoon weather conditions, men of the Division fought continuously within a few yards of the Japanese. No quarter was given by either side. Attack was succeeded by counter-attack and the fighting was intense and critical. British endurance, however, triumphed and by the night of 16 May the Battle for Kohima was won.

**THE KOHIMA CELEBRATIONS**

The celebrations took place over the weekend 11-13 May. The main events being the Kohima Ball, the Open Day and the Memorial Service in York Minster, the weekend was rounded off by an 'all ranks' curry lunch after the Service.

**THE PREPARATIONS**

As we all know major events do not just happen and a great deal of work and planning was carried out months before the event, as anyone who has seen the several volumes of Kohima files in RHQ will testify!

Overall co-ordination of the operation was vested in the CRA, **Brig Peter Bonnet**, and Liaison from the Signal Regiment and overall organisation of the whole event was the task of OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Iain Robertson**, who looked a little harrassed three weeks before the event and became more so as the fateful day approached; at such times he was heard to mutter that he was going to have a very long drink when it was all over!

Anyone who has served in this Regiment will know that we have a tent for everything and everything has its tent. For Kohima the QM (Gen) **Maj Maurice Neville**, STAFFORDS excelled himself and gathered stands, tables, chairs and tents from the four corners of the Realm and deposited them at Imphal Barracks. This caused **SSgts Andy Wilson** and **Dave Cloake** (stands) and **SSgt Taff Taylor** and **Sgt Fred Waters** (tents) more than a few problems. Although **SSgt Wilson** and **Sgt Waters** had both 'done the course and read the book' as a result of HM The Queen's visit last year, they were the only two people in the Regiment who knew anything about stands and tents!

But after the initial horror at the size of the equipment mountain things swiftly settled down into a steady routine. On the Wednesday morning tents and stands went up, on Wednesday afternoon the work carried on, and on and on, everything beaten up by Thursday night. By this stage Imphal Barracks resembled a cross between Olympia arena and a tented refugee camp. Then **SSgt Jim Graley** came along with his not so merry men and put crowd control fencing around everything, which rendered half the barracks completely inaccessable!

Meanwhile stronger smells and more pungent curses than normal were issuing forth from the cookhouse. **Capt Vince Pearson ACC** and **WO2 (SQMS) Dave Ashburner** both working like galley slaves to produce a Sunday 'all ranks' curry lunch for 800! To achieve this they did nothing else for a week beforehand but line (new!) dustbins with plastic bags and fill them with prawn, beef, chicken and lamb curry. After much ritualistic stirring the bags were put into the freezer until required.

The last major hurdle was the not so static displays. These consisted of truck loads of peculiar looking equipment which always managed to be in the right place at the wrong time. For days after their arrival goggle-eyed Signallers could be seen wondering around the barracks asking where all the tractors, ambulances, Rapiers, Saxons and Chieftain had come from and did the RSM know they were all parked on his square!

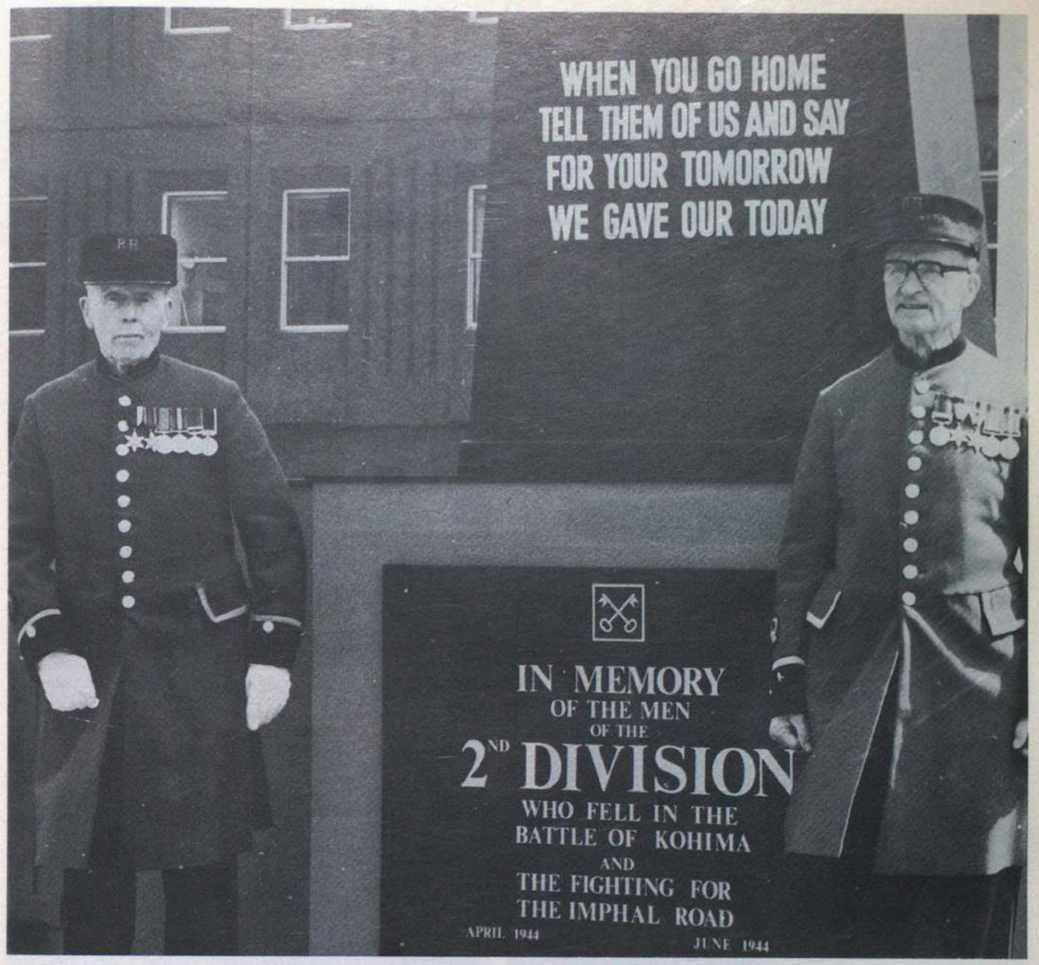
By Friday evening everything was in position and ready, and even the Sappers had finally finished washing their tractors down with the Regimental fire hoses. On Friday afternoon the first of the guests started to arrive. They were many and varied and included the Corps Commander and previous GOC 2nd Division.

**Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB**, as well as eight former CO's of the Signal Regiment and large numbers of veterans of the Kohima Battle. Some were accommodated in the Officers' Mess and others hosted by various officers of the Regiment. Two particularly welcome guests were **In-Pensioners Harry Hulme** and **Tommy Nash** who travelled up from Chelsea and stayed in the Sgts' Mess. **Harry** actually served with the Regiment in the Battle of Kohima.

Yet another tent goes up in front of the Sgts' Mess

SSgts Andy Wilson and Dave Cloakes view of stand erection






In-pensioners Harry Hulme and Tommy Nash in front of the Kohima Memorial

**THE KOHIMA BALL**

The first major event of the weekend was the Kohima Ball, held in the Sgts' Mess for all the officers and Senior NCOs of the Regiment. The Ball filled the Sgts' Mess to overflowing. After an excellent Supper everyone stayed to enjoy the delights of the *One Night Stand* dance band. A super evening thanks to the **RSM WO1 Bill White** and especially to **WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett** for much hard work.

**THE OPEN DAY**

Fortunately for the many late night and early morning revellers from the Sgts' Mess nothing much happened until after 10 o'clock on Saturday morning. The Kohima Open Day was the major event of the weekend and consisted of a series of Static displays presided over by **Capt Colin Whittaker** and a programme of arena displays in the afternoon co-ordinated by **Capt John Turner**.

The static display included a Chieftain tank, Milan, tracked Rapier, Saxon, TRC 471, a rebro and various infantry support weapons and artillery together both with displays by the RAMC and the Sappers.

The arena displays included the bands of the Royal Corps Signals, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Junior Band of the King's Depot, Strensall. There was also the White Helmets Display Team commanded by **Capt John Terrington**, the RAOC Cannonballs Free Fall Parachute Display Team commanded by **WO1 Bill Rule** from the Headquarters and the display team of the Junior Regiment Royal Signals Commanded by **Lt Nick Bateson**.

Throughout the afternoon the Salutes from the various display teams were taken by former Commanding Officers and veterans. During the whole of Saturday the miniature range was open for a .22 shooting competition organised by **Capt Richard Davis**. The Divisional Staff Team beat the Signal Regiment by one point, but both were then beaten by a team formed of Kohima veterans! This was a most welcome, if somewhat unexpected, result and was a fine conclusion to a most successful day.

Saturday evening held no official engagements for the Regiment, however all the veterans were hosted to a dinner by the Second Division Dinner Club in the Headquarters Officers' Mess presided over by **Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB**.

The White Helmets showing their versatility

WO1 Bill Rule of the RAOC Cannonball Parachute display team

Just one of the tumbles of the Jnr Regt Display Team

Capt Colin Whittaker, normally OC Commcen Foxtrot, admiring the intracacies of a Rebro. Part of the Signals Stand

The Massed Bands

**THE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The Service was held jn York Minster and attended by members of the Staff and the Regiment and veterans all accompanied by their families. At the start of the service the Union Flag and the Divisional Colours were carried forward and laid on the altar by **Lt Chris Richards** and **Lt Barry Keegan**. The service lasted just over an hour with the address being given by the **Reverend L. E. M. Claxton MC** who was chaplain to 2nd Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment at Kohima. The Service was followed by a march past of the Signal Regiment and the veterans with the General Officer Commanding, **Maj Gen Peter Inge**, taking the salute. After the march past everyone returned to barracks and the last event of the weekend, the all ranks curry lunch.

Maj Iain Robertson leads 1 Sqn past the GOC outside York Minster

Lts Chris Richards and Barry Keegan during the Memorial Service in the Minster

**THE CURRY LUNCH**

An excellent curry lunch was a most pleasant and fitting way to conclude the wind down and relax after the pressures of the weekend and we were delighted to earn the warm congratulations of the GOC. As is always the case it takes a lot less time to take things apart than it does to put them together. All the tents, stands and displays were dismantled and dispatched by Tuesday afternoon just in time for a Regimental Exercise *Gold Key*! And now the planning begins for Kohima 1985 . . .

**VISIT OF ALLEYN'S SCHOOL CCF**

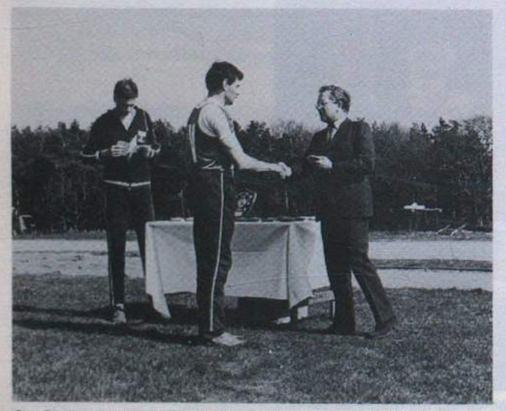
Although the Regiment is affiliated to some local ACF and CCF contingents in Yorkshire, we expanded our links with the Cadet organisation on 25 May when we were visited by a group of 12 members of the Alleyn's School CCF signal section. Alleyn's School, situated in South London, has produced, over the years, many officers in the Services, and as the school is now co-educational will no doubt produce WRAC officers in the future. The party which visited us was made up of five girls and seven boys whose obvious interest in signals was evident from the fact that they travelled up to York from London to see us. The party were accompanied by **Maj Gus Vigurs** of the SOinC's Recruiting Liaison Staff.

There's quite a difference between an A41 or C13 and the PRC 355Z or TRC 471 but after some suitable instruction the cadets soon got to grips with the intricasies of today's equipment during a short communications exercise run by Radio Troop. This included a good soaking as the weather worsened, but spirits were not dampened. Also on the programme was a tour of the Regiment to get the feel of life in barracks. This included a visit to the tech workshops where **WO1 (FofS) John White** demonstrated BMIS, and functions of the Regiment's ERVs. The day was rounded off by a tour of the city of York, and then back home in time for half term.

**INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS COMPETITION**

The Regimental Athletics' Competition took place on 26 April. The competition was being revived after a gap of two years and with a lot of pride at stake was keenly contested. The competition included specialist events such as pole vault and triple jump. **LCpl 'Scouse' Wharton** and **Cpl Pocock** providing some inexpert and spectacular techniques. The day was dominated by three athletes, **Sgt Bird** of 1 Sqn who won the 100, 200, Triple jump and Long jump; **Sgt Meggit** of HQ Sqn who won the Javelin and pole vault and **Cpl East** of HQ Sqn who won the 110 hurdles and the high jump.

The team competition was extremely close but as the day progressed 2 Sqn managed to establish a small lead. By the relays 2 Sqn needed to beat 1 Sqn in one relay and not come last in the other to win the competition. The event was decided in an incredibly exciting 4 x 400m won by 2 Sqn in which **Sig Little**, normally a distance runner ran a brilliant last leg to win after starting 40m down, giving 2 Sqn the required points.



Sgt Bird receiving one of his four prizes from the CO Lt Col Taylor

Cpl Helliwell giving a dubious LCpl Wharton tips on pole vault

**REGIMENTAL SWIMMING**
**Report by SSgt Andy Wilson**

About November last year it was decided to formulate a NW/NW District swimming and water polo league, and invite all major and minor units within the areas to participate. Eventually the whole thing got off the ground and the first swimming match was organised for 31 January 1984.

The Regimental Swimming Officer is **Lt Carolyn Caddick WRAC**, who just happens to be Army ladies ski champion (see May issue), so January was a very inconvenient time for her to start organising a Regimental swimming team . . . someone else was needed!

Conversation overheard between said Army Skier and above named Staff Sergeant . . .

'Good morning Ma'am I see on Orders that you're looking for swimmers, have you got any yet?'

'Funny you should ask Staff, not a lot (now the hook and line), why, are you interested?'

'Well I used to do a bit, so I just wondered, but if you are desperate I'll give it a try'. (Wrong answer).

'Well I'm off to Switzerland next Monday, perhaps you could get a few names, etc.'

To cut a long story short, the Regimental swimming, sort of got under way.

As previously mentioned the response to the appeal on orders for swimmers was almost a blank, but towards the end of January with the help of **LCpl Ian Howie** of 1 Sqn and **Cpl Allan Patterson** (our resident porpoise) of 2 Sqn, we got about 20 hopefuls. Two days before the first league match we managed to get them into the water and were able to pick a scratch team. This was to become the backbone of the future Regimental team.

After the first meeting the team was lying fourth in the League with notable performances from **Cpl Allan Patterson** (first in Individual Medley) and the Medley Relay Team: **Sig 'Sy' Wright, Marty Hyett, 'Babbling' Brook** and **Cpl Allan Patterson**, which came third. The remainder of the team cannot go without mention because all gave 100% plus, and are as follows: **Sig Tom Boylan, Rab Risk, Alan Priestley, LCpls 'Willy' Williams, Phil Colclough** and **Cpl 'BJ' Finister**. As the league progressed there were various additions and subtractions. We lost **Sigs Tom Boylan** and **Marty Hyett** through posting, but gained **Cpls Geordie Hambling** and **Sid Holderness**, both in the RE Taciprint Det, and also (then **Lt** now **Capt) Vince Pearson(ACC)** and **2Lt Mark Davis**, all of whom are valuable additions.



Our best position in the league was joint third but due to Regimental commitments we had to miss one meeting and field a much understrength team in another; we ended up fourth overall.

While all this was going on we were trying hard to get together a Water Polo Team, which had been entered in the concurrent water polo league. This proved to be more difficult, but we managed to play one game against 1 KOB who soundly beat us 16—1. We finished bottom of that league, but gained valuable experience and yet some more recruits in the form of the Adjutant, **Capt David Proctor, Cpl Chez Stewart REME** and **Sig 'BJ' Hartney**.

The next events on the calendar were the Northern Area Water Polo and Swimming Championships on the 29 and 30 May. In the Water Polo we got a bye in the first round and were drawn against 38 Engr Regt in the semi finals. We beat them 9—5 and lo and behold were up against 1 KOB in the final. I do not know what it was like to watch, but it was certainly an exciting match to swim in. Going into the final quarter we were winning 7—4 and scored again! Unhatched chickens were being given names! Then disaster struck, the KOB hit us with three quick goals and we began to flag. By now their full time training was beginning to pay off. Three more quick goals and the eggs were all smashed. The final result being 11—8 in favour of 1 KOB, but it was a spirited performance by all concerned. The team qualify for the Zone finals by virtue of being runners up in the Area. The Regimental Water Polo Team was: **Capt Vince Pearson(ACC), Capt David Proctor, SSgt Andy Wilson, Cpls Chez Stewart REME, Sid Holderness(RE), Cpl Allan Patterson, LCpl 'Willy' Williams, Sig 'Sy' Wright, 'BJ' Hartney** and **Alan Priestley**.

We were not so fortunate in the swimming the following day. We came fourth missing by just one point to qualify for the Zone finals, but again it was a very good effort by all and in addition to all of those named previously the following completed the swimming team: **Lt Barry Keegan** and **Cpl Jock Williams**.

**49 INF BDE SIG TP**
**VISITORS' WEEKEND**

49 Inf Bde Sig Tp was detailed to provide the Regiment's stand for the Ex *Flying Falcon* Visitors' weekend at Sennelager on 7-8 April, the general idea being to show off that curious beast—a TA Infantry Brigade HQ—and to thereby dispel some of the mystery surrounding it. The degree of that mystery was revealed when, whilst setting up the display, OC 206 Sig Sqn arrived to discover us occupying the spot he had recce-ed for himself thinking that we were just 'two men and a dog!'. However the next laugh was on us when, on unloading our Complex 4 tonner, we discovered that the main HQ tent, a 24 × 18, had been left behind in UK. The situation was saved by 3 Armd Div Fd Amb RAMC, who kindly lent us one of there's. All was sorted out by the time the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild**, arrived on Friday 6. The SOinC **Maj Gen R. Benbow**, and **Gen Hild** also visited the next afternoon. Many officers, senior and junior, visited us on Saturday and Sunday, as well as civilians from research establishments, communications firms and the Ministry. We hit the road again for the 'surprise week' of Ex *Flying Falcon* on the Sunday evening.

Lts Chris Richards and Alfie Brand meeting the CSO and CO, with SSgt Larry Little bringing up the rear

**656 (AIRBORNE) SIGNAL TROOP**

On 1 March, 656 Signal Troop celebrated its first anniversary in 'flying' style. The boys descended on Bad Lippspringe, literally, completing their first ever parachute jump. **Cpl Kevin Burchnall** decided to keep his feet firmly on the ground, as video cameraman, but his wife **Gunda** bravely took the plunge along with **Pte Tina Dunk** of BFBS fame. **Sgt Chris Christian** raised the most money, DM 750, boosting the total charity donation to over DM 5000. Madness was the order of the day with **Cpl Max Juka** leading the one eyed contingent.

Turning to other energetic pastimes; **Capt Paul Ellis** has taken up Rally Driving. In the company of a young officer from the transport Squadron in Tunis Barracks driving a Mazda 929 he map read them to the novice prize in the May Day's Rally at Sennelager on Saturday 26 May. This is good news for the Headquarters as OC 656 Sig Tp is also the Recce Officer. He says they would have done far better, probably by 20 minutes, except for the delay in towing out **Capt Adrian Ridley-Jones** from a local ditch. It is, however, well known on the rally circuit that **R-J** prefers ditches and hedges to the open road!

The bird men were: *Back Row left to right:* Sig Phee, Sgt Christian, Pte Cooper, Sig Cook, Everett
*Middle Row:* Sig Fell, Sig Netherwood, LCpl Campbell, Sig Clarkson, Cpl Juka, Sig Flaherty, Lackey, Simpson
*Front Row:* Cpl Hood, Cpl MacDonald, Sig Cummings, Pte Dunk, Mrs Burchnall, LCpl Jenkins, Capt Ellis

An apprehensive Sgt Christian

## LAS PALMAS—BERMUDA

**Report by LCpl Simon Windus**

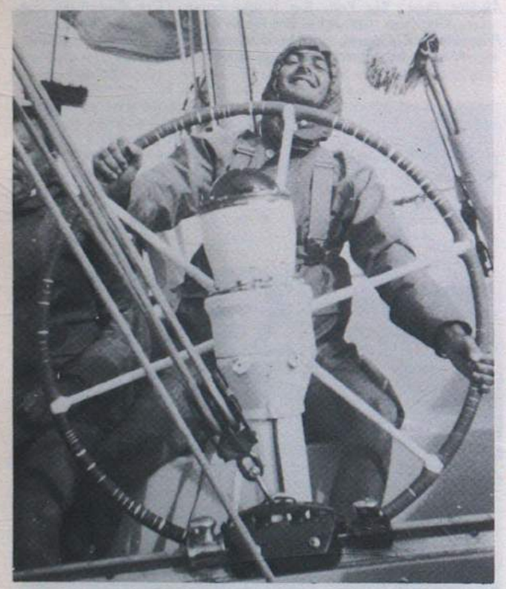
Ex *Mighty Maple* is the Army name for the part we took in the Sail Training Association Tall Ships race, which this year was run from St Malo in France to Las Palmas and on to Bermuda after a 72 hour stopover. Then from Bermuda to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then Halifax to Quebec up the St Lawrence Canal, then to Sydney, Nova Scotia for the final leg to Liverpool for the finish on the 1-4 August. There were also two other races being run from Puerto Rico to Bermuda and Portsmouth NH to Halifax. The crew for Leg Two being: **Lt Col J. J. Towler REME, Maj M. Stanbridge RE, Lt J. Calascoinge RA, Sgt J. E. Hayter RAPC, SSgt S. McCarthy REME, Cpl S. Mumford RE, LCpl D. Green RCT, LCpl S. Beumont RA, LCpl S. Windus, CFN J. McTaggart REME, Sgt B. Daly RAMC.**

We arrived at Las Palmas Gran Canaria on the 23 April 1984 and travelled from the Airport to self-catering apartments, in the town of Las Palmas near the British Embassy. At the apartments our first priority was to get supplies (ie beer and wine) and settle down and wait.

HMSTY *Sabre* arrived on the 28 April and we embarked the following day. It was then our work began. We had to totally haul out all lockers, check contents, check sails, ensure that everything worked and then put it back. We also had to stow some 40 compo boxes, and our beer and wine, which on a 55ft yacht is quite a task.

We finally left Las Palmas and crossed the start line at 1759 hrs on the 2 May. Our transatlantic crossing had started. During the first two days seasickness was rife among four of the crew, and most of the others, myself included, were suffering from the effects of Polish Vodka (Rocket fuel) after our send off on board the 'Wojewoda Ponorski' (First man in Poland)!!

We had several visitors during the trip in the form of sparrows, who died on board and were buried at sea. Also kamikazee flying fish, who threw themselves on the deck, and were also buried at sea. Weatherwise the first nine days were calm and uneventful apart from one blown spinnaker. We were averaging 170 miles per day. Mid-atlantic we were becalmed so we all went swimming, keeping an eye open for sharks. Having crossed the halfway line the weather got worse, and oilskins became the dress as we constantly had water over the bows; previously we had worn only shorts. Morale on board was kept up by 'The Sabre Sun' which was a crew written newspaper in which nothing was sacred!



LCpl Simon Windus 'steering' with Maj Mike Stanbridge, half head only, the Watchleader

Bermuda light was spotted from the full distance of 20 miles and we were glad to see that we hadn't missed it! Arriving in St George's Harbour at 0300 hrs, we moored up and had a celebratory drink. Our Transatlantic crossing had taken exactly 19½ days. Then we had to clean up the boat, do repairs and get it ready for handover. There were also a lot of 'Aprés-Sail' parties to attend and sightseeing to do, courtesy of HMS *Malibar*'s minibus.

We flew back to a cold England on 29 May after a very enjoyable and satisfying sail. It is amazing what you can do by reading DCI's! The trip has been marred since our return by the sinking of the British Ship *Marques* off Bermuda; it is hoped that this will not dissuade anyone from trying ocean sailing . . . it's fun, and if, as I did, you make a lot of friends, all the better. Go on give it a try . . . !

## NEWS FROM WOs' AND SGTs' MESS

**Report by SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe**

One could tell from the moment that he took over from the then RSM, now **Capt, Vic Zimmer**, that **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** was destined for higher things. In any event, **RSM Neillings** was the right man for the job, proving to be both RSM and a friend to all who have shared his Mess, and displaying a fine blend of discipline, approachability and amiability to the Regiment as a whole throughout his tour, which has seen the Regiment harden, reduce, reform and move lock stock and barrel across Europe. The Commission for which he was selected in 1982 has materialised, and resulted recently in his departure to the sunnier (and more youthful) climate of Harrogate, where he will be able to relive his days of glory as an AT.

As a result of the Regiment's move to York the Regimental and Garrison Sergeants' Messes were amalgamated to form a single entity of which the RSM was the president. This in itself created problems for the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of the Regiment, who wanted to say farewell privately, in the knowledge that the other half of the Mess also wanted to take their part in farewell proceedings.

Ex *Flying Falcon* provided the solution in so much as this happy band of warriors again packed its bags, and traversed the Continent en route to its old stamping grounds. By having a private function whilst abroad we could say our own farewell without departing from the main event yet to come in York.

Thanks mainly to the efforts of our Super-Fozz **WO1 (FofS) John White** a farewell dinner was held on Saturday 7 April at a very well appointed Restaurant near Lippstadt. For a few hours the exercise ceased to exist, as Mess Members resplendent in trousers, lightweight, pullover order, and freshly scrubbed faces, launched themselves into heaps of schnitzel and chips and lakes of beer (followed in the case of **Sgt Paul Brabbins** by an enormous banana sundae, which he was still feverishly consuming as the speeches commenced). At this, our own private farewell, the RSM was presented with a canteen of silver cutlery bought by levy amongst *his* seniors. For once in his life **Mr Neillings** was lost for words, so we all retired to the bar, to await transport to our respective hilltops, woods and barns. It must be mentioned that having sampled the comforts of almost every landrover, and having set off in diverse directions **Sgt Jock Rice** did in fact eventually arrive at the correct location, albeit minus his stomach lining and beret.

On 18 April, having returned from Germany, we all gathered again, this time attired rather more formally, and in the presence of our fellow Mess Members from North East District and the various departments which make up York Garrison dined the RSM out in traditional style.

Dinner was followed by several 'acts', each played out by members of the respective squadrons, each of which involved **Bernie**, much to the detriment of his Mess Kit. Eventually shaking himself loose from a shell of shaving foam, custard pies and other accumulated rubbish **Bernie** presented his contribution towards the evening's entertainment in the rather portly shape of a comedian paid for by the **Neilling**'s family fortune (there was nearly as much enthusiasm for this as there had been for **WO2 Pat Rosewell**'s revealing acrobatic contribution).

At the stroke of twelve, a much tidied up RSM, now resplendent in Officers' Mess Kit was hurled out of a ground floor window to make his way towards the Officers' Mess. There he was greeted by the Adjt, **Capt David Proctor** and Traffic Officer, **Capt Stan Vannan** and, unhappily, had his brand new Mess Kit christened by a brace of subalterns who apparently knew nothing of the penetrating power contained in a fire extinguisher. One hopes that the 'new officer' of only a few minutes, who was forever extolling the virtues of a certain Kit Insurance, had taken his own advice!

On the following morning **RSM Neillings** held his last Regimental Drill parade, the rumour that most of the Regiment turned up out of idle curiosity was proved incorrect by the high standard of turnout which the boys produced for him. Upon saying farewell to the Regiment the RSM handed over to **WO1 (RSM) Bill White** who has joined us from 4 Squadron, 22 Sig Regt, and was much in evidence, during Ex *Flying Falcon* and subsequently as the RSM said, an ex-operator was handing over to an ex-technician. (General laughter). The final act was played at lunchtime when the Regiment lined the short, but important route between our Mess and that of the Officers, to say farewell to the outgoing RSM who wended his way towards a farewell lunch in that abode, before departure.

At the same farewell lunch was **WO1 (FofS), now Capt, Ron Chisholm**, our phrenetic training Warrant Officer, who whilst leaving for the same reasons as **Mr Neillings** did so with a little more sobriety. **Ron** impressed all during his tour with his zeal and caring attitude towards problems of training, resettlement and career planning for the Regiment as a whole. The lamp burning late into the night in RHQ was usually his, and had he not left at the same time as the RSM he would have merited a page of his own in this edition. We wish both, and their families the very best of future happiness in their future careers.

The last Regimental Drill Parade had WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings handing over formally to WO1 (RSM) Bill White

WO2 Dave Ashburner ACC, WO2 (SSM) Dave Skinner heaving the outgoing RSM through the Sgts' Mess window into the waiting arms of 2Lt Paul Pople, WO1 (FofS) John White (Safety man in case of accidents), Tfc Offr and Adjt

## 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tony Elford** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Nick Blampied** |
| **OC HQ Tp** | **Capt Henry Jennings** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **2Lt James Bertram** |
| **OC Papa Tp** | **SSgt Gerry Knight** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Hedge** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Trevor Taylor** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Chris Wilkie** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Mick Campbell** |

## EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

The Squadron was excused Ex *Flying Falcon* in 1983 because of its inpending move to UK. Consequently we looked forward with relish to the 1984 exercise, where the biggest problem for a UK unit appeared to be the move to and from BAOR! **MT Sgt Mick Rees** took complete control of the situation and organised the chaos superbly! We are currently looking for a RCT Mov Controllers red armband for him so that he can have complete authority! Meanwhile the 2IC **Capt Nick Blampied** feigned ignorance of the rules and regulations and allowed everything to happen around him.

On arrival in Germany we stayed with our friends and allies 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in Detmold for the ever-so-short period before deploying into the field. It was long enough however for young **Sig 'Taff' Jones** to appreciate German shops, for whenever the Squadron subsequently stopped near a town **'Taff'** was heard to ask **Sgt Ray Walker** if someone else could do his stag so that he could 'go shopping boyo'.

As most of us know, we deployed in the snow and had a couple of fairly miserable days to start off the exercise. We were kept very busy throughout being moved under command of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Divisions, as well as 1 (BR) Corps. No one knows how 1 Armd Div managed to fend us off! We can report with sure knowledge that the introduction of the revised VP was treated differently by all four formation HQ's!

The remainder of the exercise was uneventful although the 2IC is believed to 'have learnt a lot about recce' during the exercise. Things reached a low point on the middle weekend when Papa Troop had to feed him some of their 'Anti monk juice' to cheer him up!

Sgt Alf Ramsey instructing his protégé LCpl 'Ivor the Engine' Weaver on the finer points of how to do a sentry duty on exercise

Members of the Squadron waiting to go on exercise: Cpls Colin Warnes, Sandy Rennie, Sig Andy Gaskill, Sgt Ray Walker, LCpl Spike Forbes (hiding) and Cpl Shuggie Cowan

'Could this be 2 PARA landing?!' The Squadron disembarks from MV *Norland* at Europort before the long drive to Detmold

**EXERCISE *ESCAPING EAGLE***

The Squadron has just completed a two week exercise which consisted of one week adventure training in the Lake District, and a week of military training skills at Gandale Camp in Catterick Garrison.

The military training element was run and, I mean run, by **Yeoman Trevor Taylor** and **Sgt Geoff Williams**. No one was exempt the mandatory tests at the end of the week, although the 2IC is proud to announce he is currently the only qualified member of **Yeoman Taylor's** commandos!

The Squadron completed its first CFT during this week. **Sgt Geoff Williams** and **LCpl Jock Tierney** organised the course, completing it in the first week. By some small 'error of judgement' it appeared to be some one mile too long, so it was rapidly reorganised for the second week. Unfortunately **Sgt Geoff Williams** was away when this was discovered as both the OC and YofS had completed it in week one and were out to do some blood letting!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

There are a number of congratulations within the Squadron.

Firstly to **Sgt Alf Ramsey** for his promotion and posting to 21 Sig Regt. Secondly to **Cpl Marty Hoy** for his impending promotion and posting to 559 RLD with 2 R Irish at Dover. Beware, we will keep tabs on you on Ex *Lionheart*. Thirdly to **Sig 'Jock' Adams** who is now a Lance Corporal—will this stop him playing the bagpipes? Fourthly to **Sig 'Tich' Udall** who has gone to 212 Sig Sqn on promotion to Lance Corporal.

We must congratulate **Yeoman Taylor** on news of his posting to 10 Sig Regt later on this year. We hope 1 Sqn military training skills are up to speed!

**WELCOME AND FAREWELLS**

First the goodbye's. We would like to wish the following the best of luck in their next tours. **Sgt Alf Ramsey, SSgt Tony Pollard, Cpls Billy McCue, Marty Hoy, LCpls Bob Geelan, 'Spike' Forbes, Andy Slack, 'Tich' Udall** and **Sig Tony Slack.** We also wish **SSgt Norman Brown, Sig Stevie Ellis** and **Stuart Haigh** the best of luck in civvy street.

We would also like to welcome the following to the fold, and hope that along with their families they enjoy their tour with us: **SSgts Gerry Knight, Mick Campbell, Sgt Dave Edgecombe, Cpls Frank Jolley, Phil Grimes, LCpls Lennie Parker, Willie Young, Fred Kirkpatrick, Jock Bennie, Kev Wosika** and **Bob Duff**, and **Sig Jim Cameron, 'Paddy' Doidge** and **'Chalky' White**. Who says we aren't a busy Squadron?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# 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

**A LOOK BACK**

Life in the Regiment has been so hectic over the last few months that we are compiling a new definition for the word 'busy' for the Oxford dictionary.

We have just finished the first quarter of 1984 with Ex *Flying Falcon*. This was preceded by various Regimental and Staff Exercises namely Ex *Viking Axe* and Ex *Keel Haul*. They all seemed to have a common theme to them—Snow!

Below are some of those moments that a few wish had never been recorded on film.

WO2 (SSM) Bob Ryland and Sgt Mick Lumgair—for what we're about to receive . . .

The CO looking sceptical about Maj Duncan Jones idea of fitting skis to the 432s

Cpl Berman awaiting 'Thawing out' after being recovered from the comd hatch by the wrecker

WO1 Brian Selkirk demonstrating the new snow camouflaged briefcase

**ARMY CHESS KING TAKES JOINT BFG TITLE**

The Army's king of competitive chess **Cpl Lawrence Jenkinson**, whose skill at pawning Queens, Knights and Bishops has been good enough to beat England's best, has scored another esteemed honour in the game by battling his way through to become joint BFG champion at Rheindahlen recently. After a nail biting six game match that concluded the three day tournament, the Army's chess champion who works as HQ Sqn's Clerk in the Regiment shared top spot with REME's high class player **LCpl Shawn Butler** of Detmold. The final result was a cliffhanger that ended in stalemate—five and a half points each.

Despite some well planned intricate moves such as his baffling 'French Defence' as well as the more orthodox but equally effective 'Pawn to Queen Bishops Four', **Cpl Jenkinson** just failed to unfasten his opponent's solid defences. Nonetheless he views it positively, not only as a proud achievement but a big confidence booster, just in time for the lengthy preparation to defend his Army title that he has tenaciously held for the last two years.

'To go to Arborfield at Easter not just as the Army's number one but also joint BFG champ should give me a major psycological advantage over my nearest rivals. That and a little luck could help me hold the title for the near future.'

In the past fortune and aptitude have not failed him either for at the ripe 'old' age of 13 years in his hometown, Huddersfield, he beat Yorkshire's and England's popular chess man **Paul Bielby** so convincingly that the national player eagerly rewarded him with sixpence for the exhibition. It was a generous gesture that was to prove unerringly prophetic for the young **Lawrence Jenkinson** was soon to make unbeatable appearances for Huddersfield's first and second teams as well as Yorkshire's seconds before snatching the Huddersfield Under 16 Championship at 14 years of age.

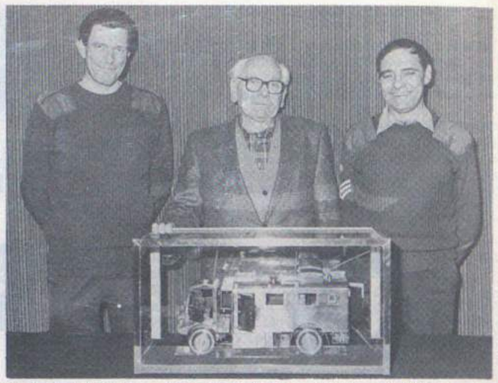
However, on joining the Army in 1970 aged 16½ he stopped playing serious boardgames for eight years and only rekindled his interest again in 1978. Since then by building on a keen knowledge that surprisingly did not deteriorate after the lay off he has not only qualified to compete in the Army's premier competition three times and the BFG Competition twice but also managed to secure a draw against Great Britain's No 1 **Tony Miles** in 1981 at Camberley Chess Club.

'It sounds terrific not getting thrashed by one of the greats of all time,' said **Cpl Jenkinson**, 'but actually it occured during a session of simultaneous matches when **Tony** played 69 other chaps at the same time. That was a fun game and decidedly different from what I can expect at Arborfield when I hope to make it three in a row.

**FINALLY PIECED TOGETHER**

Through exhaustive sleuthing, some would say slothing by **Lt Charlie Miller** and aided by very helpful information from ex members of the Regiment we have finally pieced together the history behind the beautiful brass model in the photo.

It was made in 1951-53 by TM Troop of 11 Armoured Division Signal Regiment here in Hammersmith Barracks at the instigation of the TOT **Capt Rogers**. Most of the work was done by German technicians working in TM Troop. **Herr Rudi Peters** was one of four that worked for several years mainly in their spare time to finish the model. They modelled it on one of 'Able' troops (NB—pre-current phonetic alphabet) 3 Ton Bedford CV's.



Lt Col Bob Wright and SSgt Bob Collins with Herr Rudi Peters one of the craftsmen who helped build the model over 20 years ago

The original complete with six foot GS table

**Maj Freddie Oakes** an ex member of 11 Armd Div Sig Regt remembers the model and even the registration of the original vehicle from which they took the measurements, 11 YX 07. **Maj Oakes** also kindly sent a picture of the original model (complete with what is instantly recognisable as a model of an army 6ft GS Table).

The model was almost thrown out and lost as it was in such poor condition, however it was rescued and re stored by **SSgt Bob Collins REME** who works in the Regiments' LAD. He spent hundreds of hours dismantling, polishing and finally reassembling it in its present immaculate condition. The model now resides in the CO's office in the glass cabinet also constructed by **SSgt Collins**.

The Regiment wished to congratulate **Herr Peters** and the other German technicians who built the model, and **SSgt Collins** for restoring it so beautifully. We would also like to thank all those who have helped in tracing the history of this fascinating model.

**INTER UNIT .22 FINAL**

Barker Barracks Paderborn was the venue for the finals of the 4 Armd Div .22 shooting championships. The individual competition was held on 27 February and the team final on 28 February. The competition had begun with the preliminary rounds being fired in October of last year with many individuals competing and 16 unit teams.

The individual championship shot shoulder to shoulder, saw a tightly fought battle with each contestant firing four cards for a total highest possible score of 400. The outcome was in the balance until the last of the shots were fired. The final result, **Bdr O'Docherty** (25 Fd Regt RA) won by one point from **Pte Baggot RAPC** and **Bdr Melville** (27 Fd Regt RA) was in third place.



The second day saw the unit team championships being shot between 27 Fd Regt RA, 25 Fd Regt RA, 28 Amph Engr Regt, 7 Sig Regt, and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. These five teams had also shot in preliminary rounds to reach the finals. Towards the half way stage of the competition a pattern developed and the contest was now becoming a three horse race between 25 Fd Regt RA, 27 Fd Regt RA and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The end result after six hours non stop shooting saw 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt beating 25 Fd Regt RA into second place with 27 Fd Regt RA in third place. The overall results were:

| | | HPS | SCORE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt | 3000 | 2850 |
| 2nd | 25 Fd Regt RA | 3000 | 2802 |
| 3rd | 27 Fd Regt RA | 3000 | 2795 |
| 4th | 28 Amph Engr Regt | 3000 | 2778 |
| 5th | 7 Sig Regt | 3000 | 2567 |

The 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team had young WRAC **Pte Butler** in their team and her performance shows potential for WRAC Champion next year.

The photograph shows the 4 Div Champions.

*Front Row L-R:* Cpl Brown, Capt Humphreys, Mr Ken Fisher (Team Coach), Pte Butler, LCpl Taylor
*Back Row L-R:* LCpl Kidd, WO1 (YoS) Corcoran, Sgt Griffiths

**202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

**EXERCISE *SHAKE OUT***

On 26 January, the Squadron deployed on its own exercise prior to *Shake Out*, under quite appalling snow conditions.

**LCpl Pete Frazer** managed to write off two civilian vehicles with but a slight dent to his own landrover bumper—such were the snow conditions. All went well, however, and we came in for the weekend ready to deploy for the exercise proper.

There were many new personalities, including **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence** and **Sig Fred Walker** the new combat lineman. We're not sure what they teach in training these days but on being told to check the radio relay quad, **Sig Walker**, instead of using the path to the cliff top where the relay vehicle was sited, decided to scale the rock face 'Bonnington-style'.

With a new Brigadier, the Squadron is developing its required 'Action Man' role, and certain people are getting jumpy on call outs. On an ORT recently for two neighbouring units, **Cpl Paul Skinner** on one day and **SSgt John Wooders** on another, decided to jump into webbing and combat kit and wondered why the rest of the Squadron weren't playing. **SSgt Bill Magee** from the LAD has also been found guilty of this nervous disposition.

Echo 2 Troop with its new complex commander **Cpl Steve Barrington** spent the whole of one night moving back and forth between two locations, being told to move one minute and then not to move the next.

The recce officer **Capt Ted Banham**, finally caught up with the troop on top of a spot height when they had decided to 'stop for grub'. Grub consisted of a huge stew in one pot for 12 men, eaten with a wooden spoon and passed around. **Capt Banham** couldn't eat it fast enough.

Bad luck befell E1 Troop, and **LCpl Mick Parrish** found himself in the limelight as complex commander, with **Sgt Dave Kerr** standing in as acting Troop Sgt and we mean acting!

**EXERCISE *KEEL HAUL* 20-24 FEBRUARY**

Ex *Keel Haul*, saw the Squadron on new 'ground'—stories of sunken tanks in marshes surrounding the area seemed to sharpen everyman's map reading. Still, **Sig Dave Hindley** said he didn't need a map and would use his ears for ground surveillance radar.

Star of the exercise was **Sig Edgar Egan** who, on a slight prompt from his troop commander, erected a mast through a barn roof. The roof had no holes in it, the tiles being quite solid. All vehicles were under cover. However, **Egan's** loyalty was of the highest order and he proceeded to knock a few tiles from the roof, in order to conceal the mast completely. Unfortunately, the tiles landed at the feet of the farmer who owned the barn, nearly severing his right ear.

**SPORT**

The Squadron soccer team has had a quiet period recently, with only a few games played. However, resounding victories against 4 Armd Fd Amb, 4/7 DG and 3 Tank Transporter Regiment meant the virtual assurance of runners up in our league. The team was beaten quite convincingly by 65 Corps Sp Sqn RE who went on to win the leaque. The next issue should have some interesting information regarding our inevitable win in the Task Force Cup.

**'ON GOING' SITUATIONS**

During February, the Squadron visited a demonstration of NBC casualty handling, courtesy of 3 Armd Fd Amb. This proved to be a most rewarding and interesting display except for the complaints from **Sgt Paul Duffy** who kept mumbling about not being able to sit down as he normally does all day.

This was followed by a quick jaunt to Bielefeld for a display of Soviet equipment. Everyone found the NAAFI view very interesting. **Sig Taff Daniel** expressed a desire to join the Russian Army because his feet could touch the pedals of an Army vehicle for the first time.

Finally with the CIAT Retrofit going on, the Squadron prepared for its new role by doing sub aquatic PT. The Unit has now been redesignated 202 (Underwater Mess Tin, mobile repair) Unit. It doesn't really bother E2 Troop—they walk on water!

**FAREWELLS**

We finally said farewell to **Sgt Bill Marsden RAOC** and his wife **Giesla** in March. **Sgt Marsden** has been a stalwart supporter of the Squadron and now leaves the Colours after 22 years distinguished service. Other 'escapees' are: **Cfn Kevin Bluff, Sig Algernon Craig, LCpl Bobby Moore, Cpls Robert Kerr, George Young** and **Paul Critcher**. **Sig Willie McColl** has been trying his best but has failed each time.

**STOP PRESS**

Hot off the developing chemical, this photograph of the previous Sqn Comd **Maj Chris Nind** and his wife **Jane**, being presented with a brick by **SQMS Colin Lawrence** on the occasion of their farewell dinner. A lot of offers for a caption have been received but the author thought it best, in the interest of his career not to publish any of them. Cheers sir, you were a brick!

# 7 Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

**CHALLENGE**

April and May have been busy months for the Regiment. The first half of April was spent on Ex *Flying Falcon* which lived up to its reputation for providing a challenge. A lot of hard work was put into the exercise and many good lessons were learned.

**ATHLETICS**

Immediately after Easter the Inter Squadron Athletics Championships took place. This was won by 6 Sqn who retained the title they won last year. They also won the tug of war championship. This made them very keen to retain the Inter Squadron Swimming Championships which took place on 30 May. The weather was not kind and the event took place very early on a cold, bleak morning in an open air pool. It was a very hard fought contest between 5, 6 and HQ Sqn and the result was in doubt until the last race. HQ Sqn won the Championships by 6 points from 5 Sqn and 6 Sqn had to be content with third place. On the previous day the Regiment hosted an international cross country race for the Charlier Trophy. This annual event takes place between Corps Signal Regiments of the Belgian, French, West German and British Armies. Each Regiment takes it in turn to stage the event. 7 Sig Regt have not lost this race since the last time it was staged in Herford which was in 1980. This year they fielded their strongest ever side and won by a wide margin. **Cpl Paul Sexby** won the race with **Cpl Stephen Lawrence** second and **QMSI Colin Campbell (ex LCpl R Signals)** in third place. The Regiment took 7 of the first 10 places. CO, **Lt Col Nigel Wood** ran in the 7km race as did **Lt Col Xuereb CO** of the French Corps Signal Regt and **Lt Col Eichler** CO of the West German Corps Signal Regiment.

The start of the Charlier Trophy Cross Country race shows the main body of the Belgian Team with elements of the British and West German Teams. The West German Commanding Officer Lt Col Eichler is sixth from the right in the dark vest

The Commanding Officer Lt Col Nigel Wood presents Cpl Steve Lawrence with his prizes on coming second in the Charlier Trophy race. Looking on are two *(L to R)* West German Soldiers, the 2IC of the West German Corps Signal Regiment Maj Gersdorff and the CO of the French Regiment Lt Col Xuereb

LCpl Dusty Miller winning the 110 metres hurdles at the Inter Squadron Athletic Championships for 6 Sqn

**VOLLEYBALL**

1984 was the year when the Regimental volleyball team finally got together with no 'absentees' through postings, detachments, skiing and the like, and started the season well by winning the 4th Armoured Division knockout competition and thus qualifying for the BAOR competition. Here, the favourites were 13 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt and 9/12 Lancers but from day one the Regiment proved to be a force to contend with by beating 21 Sig Regt in the prelims. They lost to 9/12L in the semi-finals but beat 13 Sig Regt to come third in the competition. Thus the Regiment qualified for the Army Finals in Aldershot. Before going to Aldershot we did the double in 4 Division by winning the League Championship. In the Army Final at Aldershot the Regiment reached the semi-final but again lost to old rivals, 9/12L, who went on to win the title. Congratulations to all team members for a successful season. The team only lost three games all season. The following were the team members: **SSgt 'Chris' Bond, Cpls 'Andy' Andrews, 'Chic' McCue, 'Ray' Spencer, 'Al' Jarwood, 'Purn' Purnell, 'Keith' Fisher, LCpl 'Kev' Jarvis**. Congratulations also to **Sgt 'Brian' Sutherland** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Murphy** who played in the early part of the season. Good luck for 1985. Finally further congratulations to two members of the team, **Cpl 'Andy' Andrews** and **LCpl 'Kev' Jarvis** for being picked to play for BAOR this season.

The Regimental Volleyball Team *L to R (Top):* Cpls 'Andy' Andrews, Al Jarwood, SSgt Chris Bond, Cpl 'Chic' McCue. *L to R (Bottom):* Cpl Keith Fisher, LCpl Kev Jarvis, Sgt Ray Spencer, Cpl 'Purn' Purnell. They are pictured after winning the Divisional Championships



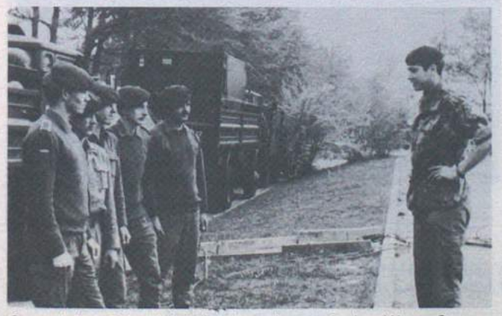
**VISITS**

During the second week in May the Regiment hosted members of the Danish, French and West German Forces. The contingent from the First Danish Signal Battalion were taking part in Ex *Odin Connection* with contingents from 1 Sqn and 6 Sqn who had trained in Denmark some weeks before. The detachment from 840 Fernmelde Batallion from Essen were practicing their communications to NORTHAG while **Capt Jean Luc Lachcux** from 51 Regiment De Transmission of the French Army trained with 5 and 6 Sqns.

On 25 May the Corps Commander **Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB** visited the Regiment. After seeing the Regiment at work he visited the Sergeants' Mess and lunched with the Officers.

The Corps Commander talking to *(L to R)* Cpl Keith Graham, Cpl Tom Davis, Sig 'Ernie' Wise and LCpl 'Vince' Vincent after the 2 Sqn Assault Course Competition. Lt 'Burt' Lancaster listens in

Lt Tony Holland explains the intricacies of a radio relay antenna to members of the Danish Contingent and 1 Sqn 7 Sig Regt. The French Officer Capt Jean Luc Lachoux is second from the right



Capt John Gale debriefing members of the West German detachment on completion of Exercise *Canary Caper*

**FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON**

**Report by WO2(YofS) Dave Watson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SHQ** | |
| **OC** | **Maj Jim (come climb with me) Stabler** |
| **2IC** | **Capt John (at work 10 days a year) Hogan** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Dave (Secret Message) Simpson** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Steve (write me a program) Churchman** |
| **YofS (Des)** | **WO2 Dave Keig** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Mac (I can play squash) McAllister** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Pat (leave my bikes alone) Thornton** |

Once again SHQ has seen many new faces **WO2 (SSM) Joe Lovell** being posted as SSM HQ Sqn. **WO2 (FofS) John Gerrard** being posted to 5 Sqn, **Sgt Fred Green** in the sun, having been posted to Cyprus, just to name a few.

**Maj Jim Stabler** has been doing us all proud firstly with a ladies Abseilling/Rock Climbing day, where Squadron wives threw themselves over high cliffs, trusting **Maj 'Jim'** and his ropes. Mind you, they were so tired after the long trek to the top that they would have done anything he said, so the barbecue at the end of the day was well received.

Dawn Plumb wife of Sgt Gig Plumb seen here braving the famous Abseil

Then **Maj Jim Stabler** organised a night navigation exercise for the Squadron in which 14 vehicles took part, 13 Landrovers (borrowed) from far and wide) and one Ford Escort (the YofS always did like his comfort). The course was over 140 miles of road and track and ended up with **WO2 Dave Wright** and **Sgt Vince Wilby** winning by only four points. Stories have been told of **Sig Mick North** and **LCpl Collin Jones** finding new cities, like **Minden**, when navigating from the Herford Map!

**SPORTS**

Once again this year has seen the squadron actively participating in many Inter Squadron sports with varying degrees of success.

The Herford Septathlon saw the Rugby Seven led by **Sgt Gig 'Hands' Plumb**, and without their star player **SSgt Andy 'Stick' Hickling**, finish fourth after a very close and exciting Semi-Final against HQ Sqn, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

**Sgt Bob 'Fish' Stonier**, although trying to enter every sport, has failed to shine at any. **SSgt Andy Hickling** represented BAOR at Rugby led the Regimental Side to win the elusive Army Cup. **LCpl Kev 'Where are you?' Jarvis** has done very well representing BAOR at both Volleyball and Basketball. Our cross country runners **Cpl Matchstick Bandey, LCpl Phil Cooper** and **Sig Ernie Wise** have all performed well for the regiment.

A rather unprofitable year for the trophies but the enthusiasm of the younger squadron members shows that in the future we will still be there (somewhere).

**HOTEL TROOP**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Lt Bert Lancaster** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt Geoff 'Black Adder' Baldry** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt Gig Plumb** |
| **DTG Sgt** | **Sgt 'Tommo' Tomlinson** |
| **MT Sgt** | **Sgt Pat 'what no porridge?' Thornton** |

The complete troop of Commcen Bravo has enjoyed a period of major change, **Sgt Pat Thornton** escaping from the clutches of the RSM and RP Staff to take over the Squadron MT from **Sgt Fred**

**Green**, who is now sunning himself in Cyprus. **SSgt Dave Courtenay** has relinquished his post and moved on to bigger things with M Tp, giving him more time to organise Regimental Hockey. His position has subsequently been filled by **Sgt Geoff 'Black Adder' Baldry.**

We have also seen many new arrivals from training, **LCpls Phil Cooper, Bob Smith, Sig Don Carr** and **Gavin Collins.** Meanwhile **LCpl Ged Major** has moved into the Squadron Office from sleeping Commcen Zulu. We hope they will all enjoy our many 'Camping' trips into the hills of Northern Germany.

**WEEKENDS AWAY**

As Summer lazily arrives troop weekends have begun once again. Hotel troops first excursion took us up to Copenhagen. A four o'clock (in the morning) start found **Lt Bert Lancaster** camped behind the rear wheels of the mini-bus. The motley crew assembled, beer stashed, we departed under the guidance of **Sgt Geoff 'Black Adder' Baldry**. Ten hours, four crates and numerous pee stops later we arrived in Copenhagen. **Cpl John 'Taxi' Ackerley** was seen on countless occasions riding around the city in search of the Soldier's home. **LCpl Keith Graham** never missed a 'McDonalds', he will travel half way across Europe for a quarter pounder. Meanwhile **Sig 'Ernie' Wise** spent the weekend developing Anglo-Danish relations. A day in the Tivoli Gardens and a quick trip to the Carlsberg Breweries completed the weekend.

**TANGO TROOP PERSONALITIES**

**Lt 'You will enjoy yourself' Macrostie**
**Tp SSgt Andy 'Macho' Hickling**
**Tp Sgt Vince 'Hang myself' Wilby**
**Tp Tech Sgt Bob 'Can I have a course?' Stonier**

In true military style, Tango troop have shown yet again their team spirit approach to work, rest and play.

During *Flying Falcon* the abilities of the Radio Relay operators, like **Cpl Tim 'Concorde' Cowan** earned justified admiration from other Comcens within the Regiment. The Line or Gorilla detachment led by **Cpl 'I can play football' Duffy** appeared humorous as they worked in difficult conditions. Even **Sig 'Punch bag' Bailey** smiled—sometimes.

Budding stage stars were born at the Regimental Smoker with **Sig Tim 'Wierdo' Knowles** earning rapturous applause and a commendation from the CO for his original act.

The squadron bar, scene of many a social function, caters well for the explosive Tango troop 'do's', always led from the front by the troop seniors. Our thanks to **Cpl Duffy** for his efficient organising.

The enthusiasm for sport shown by all members of the troop has assisted the squadron at sporting events. We are not always successful but at least we try.

Sadly we say 'bon voyage' to part of our team **SSgt Andy Hickling, Cpl Trev Smith** and **Cpl Steve Carmichael**, all of whom gained promotion on posting. We wish you all the best of luck for the future.

**MILITARY TRAINING WEEK**

The majority of the Squadron personnel participated in this week of fun, including such delights as camping out under the stars, cruising the lakes on a luxury yacht, to name but a few events. The lads started off by marching to the base camp about 20kms away, like lambs to the slaughter. The initial three days being a fully tactical exercise under the watchful eyes of **Sgt 'Gig' Plumb** and **Sgt Tommo Tomlinson**, included trapping, survival and many other infantry skills.

The next five days were taken up with more enjoyable pursuits, Ranges, Motor cycle riding **Cpl Duncan 'White Helmet' Feakes** and **Sgt Pat 'It's my forte' Thornton** enjoying this part most, Power Assault boats, run by **Sgt 'Blue Beard' Plumb** and **Cpl 'Long John' Duffy** and Orienteering, just to mention a few.

The highlight of the week was the swimming test prior to the Watermanship training. It was cold, wet and many a manhood was not seen.

A most enjoyable week, where the lads worked hard learning many new skills; roll on the Patrol Competition.

DS on Ex *Hazardas Trail* enjoying the motor bikes. Cpl Tim Cowan trying to ride, Cpl Pete Duffy crying with laughter

Sig Clive Mullings looking the wrong way. LCpl Colin Jones trying to get into a second life jacket

2 Sqn after completing the swimming test

**STOP PRESS—MORRISON CUP**

The Regiment won the Morrison Cup held at Herford on 31 May and 1 June. Congratulations to **Capt John Kirkman** and his team for some impressive performances.



# 8 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**VOLLEYBALL**

The Army Volleyball Finals took place in St Omer Barracks Aldershot over a three day period in March. The programme began with the Elimination Competition of the UK Area, the Preliminary Rounds of two pools of four teams playing off with the two top teams advancing to the Finals. The Regiment went Trophy hunting in no uncertain manner by coasting all three games without dropping a set. The serving of **LCpl 'Chad' Chandraparsad Mangmu**, the spiking of **Cpl 'Gaz' Crouch** and **Sgt Chris Andrews** were instrumental in achieving our comfortable victories.

The Finals got under way the following day and the Regiment once again produced some good play and convincingly beat the Queens Own Hussars thereby earning a place in the UK Final. Our opponents were the RAPC from Worthy Down who also won their group with little trouble. The Final promised to be a good game and it lived up to expectations with some good 'spiking' from both teams. The Regiment finally ran out winners 3—1, largely due to some good blocking from **Cpl 'Gaz' Crouch** and **Cpl 'Hitch' Hitchins** with little **LCpl Mani Raj Pun** 'setting' the ball for **Lt Seraph** to spike home.

That night, one of the local pubs was the venue for the team talk on the tactics that were to be employed the following day, during the Army Finals.

Friday dawned and found three Signal Regiments and one Cavalry Regiment set to battle for the Wilkinson Trophy. 8 Sig Regt played against 21 Sig Regt and amid partisan shouts of 'come on the Signals' produced a good entertaining game. The Regiment once again won through. 7 Sig Regt were unlucky against a very good 9/12 Lancers side. The Final was contested between 8 Sig Regt and 9/12 Lancers and this time the team failed to reproduce the form which had carried them through and after taking the first set comfortably, lost the next three. Congratulations to 9/12 Lancers on a fine win, however, we hope to be there next year to take the Trophy from them.

Team Members who also deserve a mention: **LCpl Neil Penniston, Sig Johno Johnson** and the Team Coach **Sgt Dave Bradshaw**.

**BASKETBALL 1983/84 SEASON**

The Regimental Team had a successful season winning the Northern Zone Army Cup, the Garrison League and the Garrison League Cup competitions. Our performance at the Army finals was much improved from previous years and in particular our games against the Army Catering College and the School of Signals displayed our revived enthusiasm. Regimental Colours were awarded to seven players by the CO after an exciting game against the AAC Harrogate in the Garrison Final and although we lose our long suffering Army Player **SI Chris Andrews** we look forward to next season with confidence.

Nedist and Catterick Garrison Winners
*Back Row L to R:* Cpl Clace, Sig Matthews, Sgt Chivers, Cpls Crouch, Wilkerson, LCpl Penniston
*Front Row L to R:* Sgt Dooley, Lt Seraph, Col Austin (CO), Sgt (SI) Andrews, Cpl Williams
*Not in photograph:* SSgts Lewis, Knight, Cpl Wallace

**MOTORCYCLING**

The Season is now well and truly started with the Corps/Unit Teams doing extremely well in motorcycle sport both in military and civilian events. Results to date are as shown below:

**Military Events**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb 84 Ex *Red Tape*—Aldershot | **Cpl Keith Randle** | 5th Overall |
| | **Cpl Phil Ingram** | 9th Overall |
| | **Sig Roddy Llewellyn** | 11th Overall |
| May 84 Ex *Timberline Enduro* —Bordon | **Cpl Clive Thorsby** | 1st |
| | **Cpl Phil Ingram** | Best Novice |
| The Team was placed 'Best Team Overall' | | |
| May 84 Ex *Split Link Novice Trial*—Leconfield | | |

Our second team consisting of **Cpls Sammy Cook, Phil Ingram, Sig Llewellyn** won the Best Regular Army Team Award and the Overall Best Team Award. **LCpl Boomer Smith** won the Best Beginner Award. The First Team did support for this event and enjoyed spectating for a change.

**Civilian Events**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar 84 Melville Enduro—Scotland | **Cpl Randle** | 8th |
| Mar 84 Yorks Two Day National Enduro—Scarborough | 2nd Service Team | |
| | **Cpl Thorsby** | Gold Medal 6th Expert |
| | **Cpl Ingram** | Bronze Medal 5th Clubman |
| Apr 84 White Horse Enduro—Thirsk | Best Team Overall | |
| | **Cpl Thorsby** | Gold Medal 2nd Expert |
| | **Cpl Randle** | Gold Medal 7th Expert |
| | **LCpl Duke** | Silver Medal 10th Expert |
| | **Cpl Ingram** | Silver Medal 7th Clubman |

The Teams are now preparing for the Summer Season where **Capt Gordon Park** will take them to 8 military events and 11 civilian events where Team Royal Signals are now being recognised as a force to be reckoned with.

Four of the riders, **Cpls Keith Randle, Clive Thorsby, Phil Ingram** and **LCpl Mike Duke** have been selected to ride for the Army in the Welsh Two Day International Enduro in June. **Capt Gordon Park** will again be Army Team Manager with **LCpl Gary Benton** and **Sig Roddy Llewellyn** going on Army Support. This Enduro is one of the Selection Events to select the Army Team for the Six Days International Enduro to be held during October in Holland. All our riders will be doing their best to be selected for the Army Team.

**Capt Gordon Park** together with **LCpl Gary Benton** and **Sig Roddy Llewellyn** have just come back from the Scottish Six Days International Trial held at Fort William where they were involved with the Army Trials Team as Manager and Support Crew.

**READY FOR ANYTHING**

This story is a small part of a short course. It is basically an initiative test over a period of approximately 2½ days. The aim is to complete as many of the given tasks (all drawn from a list at random) in the time given. The tasks were an eye-opener in themselves, as the individuals found out as they drew them.

Here are a few examples: Steer a moving ship
Interview a stripper
Work with pigs!

I might add, the tasks were to be completed in the best possible style.

It was **Lt Edwards** who gave us the all important briefing that Thursday lunch time in Scotton Hall. After teaming up, we were away and headed South on the A1, minimum baggage in hand. Four lifts later, about 1800 hrs, we decided that accommodation was our main priority, so we descended upon some friends in West London from where we produced our plan of action for the next day.

With a long day ahead of us we were up and away by 0630 hrs. Our 'lifts' dropped us outside a building site and although not on our list, we decided to ask if we could work for an hour, which we did and, surprisingly, were rewarded with £5 each! With Holloway prison 400m down the road, we 'dropped in' and although they couldn't oblige by locking us up for 15 mins or so we did get through the gates.

By sheer chance we learnt that the TV AM studios were also 'en-route', and so decided to see what would become of a friendly visit to their front door. The receptionist and security guards were so taken aback by what we were trying to achieve, that we earned ourselves a chance to explain the situation to somebody 'who was somebody', a **Mrs Clare Richards**. She too was taken in and although by the time we left we had no promises of an appearance on National TV with **Mary** and **Michael Parkinson**, the incentive was certainly there to produce a few spectacular stunts!

Regents Park Zoo was our next stop; the aim to scrub down an elephant! This was **Cpl Terry Burbridge**'s task and he did it with a great deal of respect for the six foot, four year old, elephant who only seemed interested in what he had in his pockets.

The centre of London was getting nearer and specific tasks began to dominate our thoughts. As we walked into Oxford Circus we spotted our first hotel—the St. Georges (4 star), With nothing to lose, in we went and to our surprise, within five minutes of chatting up the manageress, we had managed to secure ourselves two nights bed/breakfast at what would have cost £84 a night.

After giving **Clare Richards** a quick SITREP on the telephone she decided to put a Daily Mirror photographer on our tail to get some proof. At this stage we received the good news that we had secured ourselves a five minute spot on TV AM the following morning.

Teaming up with **Charley Ley**, our photographer, we thought we'd have lunch in the Café Royal. The Deputy Manager, **Mr Bently-White** seemed quite amused by the whole idea and promptly led us into the bar for a few drinks and a bar meal amid **Charley** and his clicking camera. Over in the corner sat four elderly gentlemen who seemed quite mystified by the 5 star treatment—they thought we were pop stars or something! All four of them were Saville Row Tailors, and it was through them that we met **Mr Ward**, the General Manager of No 1 Saville Row—Gieves and Hawkes. He agreed to loan us a couple of superb suits for the duration.

Being all dressed up and no where to go we decided to try Langams, the biggest and most famous restaurant in London. It is jointly owned by the Irish eccentric millionaire **Peter Langam** and actor **Michael Caine**. This particular awesome task of getting a meal for two in a city restaurant fell into the hands of **Cpl Terry Crosby**, which after initial disappointment turned up trumps.

We arrived at about 1930 to a bottle of champagne and a four-course meal—we had actually taken someone's table. Even when we left **Peter Langam** was still not convinced we were not a couple of con-men! Having wined and dined us he then proceeded to get us into the biggest disco in the World—Liecester Square's Hippodrome and as if that wasn't enough he even paid our taxi fares!

At 0700 hrs Saturday morning, a mini-cab was waiting for us outside the hotel to whisk us to the TV AM studios. It was there we joined the rest of the programme's guests which included **Billy Graham** (the evangelist), **Paul Gambacini** and **Barry Cryer**, for a 'pre-breakfast' breakfast.

One by one we filed into the make-up room where we had the necessary done, and at about 0750 we appeared live on National TV AM with **Mary** and **Michael Parkinson**, we managed to squeeze in just under five minutes of a superb experience. We were invited to stay for the big breakfast after the programme and had the unique chance of talking to the 'real stars' at length.

Everything after that was a bit of an anti-climax, especially leaving the high life in order to head back to a very snowy Catterick. However, we thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the test and had the delight of actually coming out of it having made money!

### DARTS MARATHON

On Friday 4 May, Driver Power Group, 8 Sig Regt, took part in a 24 Hour Sponsored National Darts Marathon Competition, in aid of the Les Evans Holiday Fund, for sick and Handicapped Children.

The evening started at 1800 hrs with the Supervising Officer, **Mr Alan Pinkney**, Managing Director, Leeds Permanent Building Society, throwing the first darts.

**Cpl Syd Rawson, LCpl John Ellis** and **Cpl Geordie Brown** played the first three hours. Within the first hour and a half **'Deadeyes' Cpl Syd Rawson** and **LCpl John Ellis** hit the 180 maximums. This did not continue, however, as the play became normal with throws of 3 and 26 being hit quite often. Several pints and three hours later it was time for them to step down.

**Sgt Paddy Bartlett, LCpls Jim Newark** and **Leigh Singer** took over. Instead of darts these three practised for their BFT's running from the throwing point to the board. When it was the end of their three hours they had not only passed their BFT's but somehow managed to add some 87,484 points to the score sheet.

The time now was midnight and the cowboys joined in, **Cpl Sammy Cook, SSgt Benny McSherry** and **LCpl Dave Romans** commenced play. It was not long before **LCpl Romans** decided it was time to play and not drink, with this in mind he scored the magical 180. At 0300 hrs Saturday 5 May the midnight cowboys notched up the score by 77,589.

It then came the time for **LCpls Geordie Dyble, Dave Neave** and **SSgt John Scullion** to take over. Now with the size of this team, the speed did not last for long, but the score went up and up as much as the beer went down and down.

At the end of 24 hours. Driver Power Group scored 729,828 points in 41,652 darts taking the Yorkshire County Cup from the Telephone Engineers of RAF Catterick.

A big thank you from Driver Power Group, goes to all the sponsors. A cheque for around £500 will be passed to charity.

### 1 SQN

The last couple of months have been quite busy for the squadron's gladiators. The seven-a-side Rugby, five-a-side Football, Swimming and Athletics have all been keenly contested.

### SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY

The squadron fielded teams from 'P' Troop and 'T' Troop. 'P' Troop, managed by **SSgt Hugh Dillon**, lost their opening game to a very strong HQ Sqn team. Although disappointed they could still contest the plate competition. **LCpls Stallard, Prince, Sig Buckingham** and **Garner** all rate a mention as the 'P' Troop Team encountered little opposition and ran out worthy winners of the plate competition. 'T' Troop, coached by **Cpl Colin Wilkinson** had an easy ride through to the final of the main competition. The opposition was the HQ Sqn team who had previously beaten 'P' Troop. A good game ensued and although **Cpl Kev Dale** tried to rally his side the team found that there was no substitute for experience and lost.

### FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

The five-a-side competition was a double elimination contest and the squadron fielded three very good teams. All three teams fought through to the latter stages and the Ghurka team were very unlucky to go out in the semi finals on penalties. 'T' Troop, coached by **Cpl Mick Honeyman** and mis-managed by **Cpl Bob Ingham**, just failed to make the final due to an uncharacteristic and unfortunate error by **Cpl Andy Marston-Weston**. Although they had most of the play they were beaten by the odd goal in three. 'P' Troop, guided, by the SSM **Dave Jones** reached the final and took the field against the HQ Sqn team who had just beaten 'T' Troop. 'T' Troop obviously did the 'P' Troop team a favour in the previous game by giving the HQ Sqn team such a hard game because 'P' Troop ran out winners three goals to one. Some good football played by **Sig Billy Chambers** and **Bob Holmes** helped the team lift the trophy.

### WATER POLO

The Squadron were undefeated in the inter squadron league but in the final play-off were faced with a much strengthened headquarter team who proved a little too strong on this occasion.

### SWIMMING

The Squadron had, this year, a very strong team for the Swimming Gala. Some good performances, notably by **Sig Bradley**, in the individual medley helped the squadron romp home to lift yet another piece of silver for the trophy cabinet. **Maj Willie Robotham** was visibly pleased at winning the cup but noted we could have had another for the chain of command race but for a slip during the passing of the brick between the SSM **Dave Jones** and OC 'P' Troop **WO1 John Wallace BEM**. The comment was quoted, 'if it was buck there would have been no problem,' unquote.

### ATHLETICS

The squadron after winning the athletics for so many years, finally had to give up the athletics cup to 2 Sqn. **Maj Willie Robotham**, the Regimental Athletics Officer, was seen to brush a tear away as he handed over the cup for presentation. Although we lost the lads turned in some good performances—**Cpl Chris Laycock** in the 5000m, **Cpl Wally Wallace** in the shot, **Cpl Ian Stringer** long jump, **Cpl Ian Maughan** in the discuss, **Sig Garner, Henderson** and **Buckingham** all ran well.

### 2 SQN

Since the last issue of *The Wire* 2 Sqn have had successes on the athletics tracks and the orienteering courses.

On 4 May 2 Sqn won the regimental inter-squadron athletics competition and the tug-of-war competition. These achievements boosted our confidence to tackle the Training Group Royal Signals Athletics Meeting held at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate on 16 May where there was competition from the other squadrons in 8 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt, Jnr Signal Regiment and the Army Apprentices' College. At the end of the day 2 Sqn were victorious and **Sig Alistair Ross**, our youngest athlete, accepted the cup, which was suitably adorned with green ribbons, our squadron colour, from **Brig F. R. Maynard. Cpl Tous Cameron** (Javelin), **Sig Richard Buxton** (800m), **Sig Leslie Crawford** (400m), **Sig George Ferrell** (200m) and **Sig Alistair Ross** (long jump) all won their events. The tug-of-war team was not so successful but did well in a competition where the standards were very high.

It was especially pleasing to win this athletics competition as **WO2 (SSM) Gavin Escott**, who has done so much for athletics and orienteering in 2 Squadron and throughout the Corps, is very soon to leave the Army at the end of his service and this win was a well deserved 'farewell gift' for him.

Not to be outdone by the men our WRAC orienteers won the UKLF Orienteering Competition with **Lt Carol O'Nians, Sgt Angie Warnes** and **Pte Monica Rowe** being the victorious team.

**Sig Neil Krarup** was awarded an 'A' Grade on his basic Data Telegraphist course. He is the first person to be awarded an 'A' grade as a D Tg trained on the FMVT system. We wish him well at 22 Sig Regt.

**Cpl Steve Osman**, A Tp Corporal, has left us for a tour on the Falkland Islands. We will miss his contribution to the squadron football and orienteering teams and look forward to his return at the end of the year. **Cpl Pete Smith** has joined us from 21 Sig Regt, we welcome him and hope he enjoys his tour in Catterick.

Another champion in 2 Squadron! **LCpl Brian Burkill** recently became the Hoola-Hoop Champion of Darlington. 14 Sig Regt believe he is with us to study for his R Tg Upgrading Course.

Winners of the UKLF Orienteering Competition
Pte Monica Rowe, Lt Carol O'Nians, Sgt Angie Warnes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# 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
## Wilton

**1 SQUADRON**
**U TROOP**
**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

The past few months have seen the departure of several troop members. We wish them (and their new units) good luck. **Ptes Debbie Alcock** and **Kerrie Hughes** to Northern Ireland, **Ptes Tracey Harry** and **Chris King** to Cyprus, **Ptes Lisa Gras** and **Donna Cresswell** to Hong Kong, **Pte Sue Cobbold** to RAF Wyton, **LCpl Liz Rogan** to civilian life, **LCpl Angie Hilborn** to Bielefeld and **LCpl (now Cpl) Sarah Allerton** to Blandford.

**BOURNEMOUTH HALF MARATHON**

A strong contingent from 1 Sqn set out early on Sunday 29 April for Bournemouth. After a week of glorious sunshine, the day looked promising, so the brave spectators appeared in their shorts, sandals and t-shirts. We had not, however, bargained for the strong sea breeze, and almost froze to death watching the hot and sweaty runners complete the distance. **Cpl Mark Shergold** and **Sgt Dave Milner** were first home in 1 hr 24 mins, followed by **Cpl 'Skim' Skimming** in 1 hr 30 mins. **LCpl Dave Lee** completed his first (and maybe his last) half marathon and **Pte 'Kibs' Kibble** was the best of our ladies with a time of 1 hr 54 mins. **Sgt Dave Milner** went on to complete the London Marathon in a very respectable time of 3 hrs 19 mins.

**THE INTER SHIFT COMPETITION**

The 'Magnificent' Bruno Trophy was contested for on 18 April in the NAAFI. A team of four represented each shift in our version of University Challenge. **YofS Tony Cerqua** and **Lt Annabel Stiff** were the question masters, although even they seemed unsure of some of the answers. The Geography round proved the most demanding, but contestants were not afraid to guess and somtimes they were right!

The eventual winners were C Shift. The victorious team: **Sgt Val Hart, Cpl Sam McCafferty, Ptes Jackie Hoe** and **Ellen Thomson,** collected the trophy plus an Easter Egg each! Mastermind here we come!

**EX *WET PADDLE***

We joined Ex *Wet Paddle* at Leachdale
Pete Day, Shel, Kibble and me
We were too late to help with the admin
But just in time for tea

The first night was spent socialising
In a pub down the road from the camp
That night we wished we'd used camp beds
As the grass was terribly damp

We were wakened the next morning at seven
And crawled from our bags like the dead
Shel was on Admin that morning
We wished she were elsewhere instead

It was our first day out on the water
It was wet, and exciting and fun
Russ (LCpl Oldfield) was the first to capsize
But we missed it, so he did a rerun

We paddled on down the river
And were attacked by swans and ducks
Pete Day fended them off with his paddle
What a hero he was, and what luck

The next day we moved to a campsite
At Oxford (well almost, quite near)
We three went out for dinner
The rest went out for beer

Another day spent on the water
We were improving a little each day
Although not getting much faster
At least we went the right way

To help Pete Day with his training
(He's in the Army Championships you see)
We made him work awfully hard
By towing Shel, Kibble and me

Our last port of call was at Windsor
At which point panic set in
As someone had the idea
To see if we could all swim

Lennie was the first one over
Closely followed Titanic Joe
Bob Carey landed safely (with the girls)
Poor Terry was next to go

Ned was the fourth to go under
Which left us with one—Pete Day
Try as he might, he couldn't stay up
He went down with his boat all the way!

Congratulations are in order for the Supervisors and operators of the Army COMMCEN at Larkhill which was awarded a Silver Comstar on 17 May. The presentation of the award by **Brig J. B. Bettridge CBE,** the Commandant Royal School of Artillery Larkhill to **Mrs Jean Fraser** may be seen below with **Maj Len Jeffery** and **Mr Tom Coghlan** looking on.

Presentation of Silver Comstar—Larkhill Garrison

**ANYONE FOR TENNIS—In CANADA?**
**Report by Cpl Karen Topley**

**Pte Heather McNair** and I were two of the priviliged team of eight 'hand picked' from the Womens Army Lawn Tennis Association 'Hit List' to sample the tennis skills of the Canadian Recreation Clubs in and around the West coast of Canada. Setting off on a bright and sunny day, we arrived some eight hours later in a wet and dull Calgary. From there we travelled throught the Rockies on a 21 hour train journey before arriving at our first destination. This was just the beginning of many hours of travel to come! Fortunately this minor drawback was compensated by the wonderful scenery and the superb Canadian hospitality!

And the tennis? I think the clubs had been expecting on onslaught of budding 'Navratilovas'! Instead, the situation was quite the reverse, and having realised their mistake, the club invited two 'veteran ladies' to compete in their line-up on the second day.

All in all a most enjoyable and certainly worthwhile trip. The team arrived back in England none the worse for wear—unless you care to count a few lobster-like bodies and on my part—a Canadian sized cold!



**2 SQUADRON**
**LETTER FROM LONDON**

Since our last report much has happened in the Capital. At that time Radio and Operating Troop were heavily into combat kit, printers and D11s. Well the first signs of Spring marked the beginning of the 'Silly Season', that is, the start of the 1984 Ceremonials which are now in full swing.

You will no doubt recall the rather splendid cover photograph in the March issue, well the greatcoats came off at Easter and we cast our eyes towards Windsor where for the first time in 10 years **The Queen** had decided to host a State Visit. Now you are probably wondering what this entailed for us and I thought I would give you just a short account to give you the flavour of a ceremonial comms task.

It all started sometime in March with a recce of the route and ground by all the key persons involved. There they were, walking through the streets of Windsor, a great crocodile of officers in natty suits, under the watchful eye of the Garrison 'Step this way gentlemen' Sergeant Major. Following the recce we suffered the rehearsals, not ordinary rehearsals, but 0400 hrs rehearsals. In this connection I can definitely report that the 2IC does not suffer from insomnia. Why 0400 hrs you may well ask? I can only report the official reason that this was to avoid disruption to the townsfolk of Windsor although **Sig Biggles Hicks** had other ideas which are unprintable.

The Squadron was tasked with providing comms from Heathrow to Windsor where **The Queen** was to receive **HRH The Amir of Bahrein** and from Windsor to London where the HAC was to fire a royal salute. The distances and terrain necessitated three separate nets all manned by operators (and powermen) from Radio Troop and technicians from SWS Troop. Some of the locations provided good vantage points as you can see from the photograph which shows **Capt Nigel Moore** and **Sig Kev Cunningham** atop the Round Tower of Windsor Castle where our friends from 71 Sig Regt (V) had installed a special Talk Through for the day. Note the Royal Pavillion in the background.

The rehearsals and associated comms test completed successfully, the big day itself (10 April) went something like this:

0730 OC's Inspection Hounslow. Whose crossbelt was on the wrong side?
0800 Depart camp bound for Windsor under motorcycle escort from absent friends from MT Troop.
0930 Radio operators report to street lining contingents and **WO2 (YofS) Bird** establishes comms in the Ops Room Windsor Police Station.
1000 **WO2 (SSM) Davies** with SSM designate moves to HM Tower of London to carry out handover/takeover. **Maj (TOT) Roy Lund** and **Sgt Jackson** from SWS Troop fit parade commander and Household Cavalry officers with Equine radios. (Have you not seen an FFR horse before?).
1045 **2IC Capt Carolyn Wilding** and **LCpl Oldfield** report King's Troop RHA who, less horses, are preparing a gun salute—however bumps into walking corgis in Windsor Home Park!
1110 **Cpl Carey** reports from Heathrow Control Tower that **The Amir**'s aeroplane is on time and tracks progress with air traffic control. R Signals operators in blues step out smartly beside Grenadiers and Coldstreams decked out in a rather bright shade of crimson.

'Round Tower Comms' Capt Nigel Moore and Sig Kev Cunningham at Windsor Castle

1150 **HM The Queen** moves to the reception point and her progress is reported by operators deployed along the whole route.
1200 **The Amir** arrives and **LCpl Wicking** with Comd Comms passes fire orders for King's Troop Salute. The procession through Windsor begins.
1230 The procession reaches Windsor Castle and OC Radio Troop passes orders to fire the guns at HM Tower of London where the Sergeant Major is televised yet again (for Blue Peter!).
1245 Home James and don't spare the horses!

I can tell you that the Windsor State Visit was only the first of the season and by the time you read this we will have been involved in Trooping the Colour, Beating Retreat, D Day Celebrations and the World Economic Summit.

**EXERCISES AND THE LIKE**

Just in case you were beginning to think it was all glamour there has been some serious trench digging in Crowborough over the past few months. Someone who shall be nameless but is short on inches, grey haired and runs the show 'suggested' we should all endure a week long squadron military training camp—you know the idea, get away from Hounslow, fresh air, keep up the basic skills, etc, etc. Well, **Capt Nigel Moore** (yes that's the second mention in this issue—one more and it's a fine!) organised the torture in two sessions, the first in March and the second in May. There we all were, section in defence, march and shoot, night navigation (anyone seen the OC?) NBC and the dreaded CFT. I don't know about mixed saunas but mixed trenches we had and the eight mile bash (which turned out to be eight and a half miles thanks to **Cpl Carey**'s measuring ability) was successfully completed by WRAC and R Signals alike.

A party of canoeists from all three squadrons took part in 2 Sqn's Exercise *Wet Paddle*, an adventure which took us down the Thames from Lechlade to Henley. The training was organised by **Capt Nigel Moore** (that's it, three times, the fine will be announced) and saw a bunch of novices honed to a razor sharp team of slalom paddlers by **SSgt Day** and **Cpl Witts** who escorted us up the creek.

**PERSONALITIES**

Congratulations to **LCpls Roger Bradley** and **Pte Naomi Horsfall** who are now **LCpls, Mr and Mrs Bradley** and to **Cpl Tank Fairbairn** and **Pte Tina Wyatt** who were married in June.

Finally in this Olympic year I thought you should know that **Sig 'Cally' Callender** (Army 100m sprint record holder) succeeded in qualifying for the British Olympic trials during the AAA UK meeting at Cwmbran (mind you he did have a quick trip to Lanzarote in France with the UK squad) and came seventh in the field of 14 at the Trials at Crystal Palace on 6 June. Although this may not qualify him for a place in the British team at Los Angeles this year, without a doubt, it's a case of watch this space for next year's Commonwealth Games.

**3 SQUADRON**

Recently there have been a number of hellos and goodbyes in the squadron. Firstly, **2Lt Wendy Bobbitt** has relinquished her post as OC B Troop and has been replaced by **2Lt Amanda Cooper.** Then we said goodbye to **Cpl Kim Robertson** who has gone to 16 Sig Regt. **Cpl Kim Neale** is also leaving to take up an instructional post in Catterick. The Squadron said farewell to **LCpl Sharon Whewell** and **Pte Dawn Griffiths** who not only leave the Squadron but also the Army. Next month **Cpl Linda Williamson** goes to Rheindahlen after her second tour with 10 Sig Regt.

A warm welcome to **Cpls Joyce Samuel** and **Amanda Chapman** who will fill the vacant posts. Welcome also to **Capt Sarah Rawlings** who has arrived from Chester to take over from **Capt Jane Pointet** as the Squadron's 2IC.

We seem to have had our share of courses just recently. **LCpl Kelly Walker** participated in Exercise *Wet Paddle*. **Pte Heather McNair** has just returned from Canada where she spent two weeks with the Army Womens' Lawn Tennis Team. The team unfortunately didn't win any competitions but a trip from Calgary through the Rockies to Vancouver was adequate compensation. **Pte Anne-Marie Briody** our Judo Champion, continues to do well and has just returned from the Scottish Team Championships with a bronze medal.

**Pte Ruth Taylor** took her life in her hands when she attended the Free Fall Parachuting Course at Netheravon in April. She managed 12 Static Live jumps and three Free Fall jumps in all—a very good result for a beginner.

Congratulations are in order for **LCpl Jayne Hayhurst** who finished her Methods of Instruction Course top of the class. Well done!

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**FREEDOM OF DANNENBERG PARADE**

On Tuesday 29 May H Troop was presented with the Freedom of the Town of Dannenberg. This honour is a follow up to the presentation of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace last year and is indicative of the continuing excellent state of Anglo German relations. The award is the culmination of ten years of hard work, all troop members past and present deserve a share of the glory.

It was decided to hold a parade in the market square in Dannenberg. The Corps band fitted the parade into their German schedule and were welcome visitors to the town. **Burgemeister Eschrich** presented the freedom scroll to the Troop Commander **Capt Andy Field**. The Scroll was then carried off by the **2IC Capt Bill Hogg**. flanked by an honour guard consisting of **WO2(FofS) Brian Gardner** and **WO2 Mick Green**. The Salute was taken by Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**.

Capt Andrew Field, OC H Troop, receives the Freedom Scroll from the Dannenberg Bürgermeister

Unfortunately the weather did not rise to the occasion and the parade was conducted in heavy rain. Despite this the drill movements remained sharp and smart, a reflection of the hard work put in by the Sergeant Major, **WO2 Bob Bowman**. The weather meant the cancellation of the Retreat Ceremony but the Corps band left with a firm promise to come back next year.

H Troop marches past the Rathaus, bearing the Freedom Scroll and the Wilkinson Sword

After the parade there was a reception for VIPs, followed by an all ranks party, in the Hotel Zur Post. During this the troop were ceremonially presented with a Dannenberg town flag, thus giving all troop members the Status of town burghers. CO, **Lt Col G. W. Howard** then presented **Burgermeister Eschrich** with a bronze '*Jimmy*', suitably mounted on a wooden plinth, with an inscribed brass plate. Despite the atrocious weather the day was a great success and the Freedom Scroll and town flag will be displayed in the troop club alongside the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Finally, a special thank you to all those who supported H Troop for the parade, especially the hit squad of the Adjt and RSM and **WO1 Dennis Weir** for his superb interpreting. Thanks also to 1 Sqn, 14 Sig Regt for helping out with the shift work.

**SMALL BORE**

The Regimental Small Bore Shooting team competed in the Rhine Army Small Bore Competition. The team came, appropriately enough, thirteenth, but just failed to reach the final at Sennelager. In this competition the Regimental team was upstaged by 3 Sqn who came third in the Minor Unit competition.

The following represented the Regiment in the competition: **Capt Walker, Capt Lander, WO2 Hennrie, SSgt Sherwood, Sgts Hurdley, Coghlin, Cpls Glasgow, Potter, LCpl Sullivan**.

The 3 Squadron team consisted of: **WO1 Hankins, WO2 Metcalfe, Sgts Bailey, Lancaster, Cpls Hodgson, Gill**.

A Regimental competition was run at the beginning of the year. Twenty two teams competed including five ladies teams of WRAC and wives. The scores revealed a number of promising shots hidden in the Regiment and the Regimental team should stand a good chance in the next season. The winning team was 2 Sqn 'A' whilst the Troubleshooters 'A' won the Ladies' competition, several of the wives outshooting their husbands!

| 2 Sqn 'A' | Troubleshooters 'A' |
|---|---|
| Capt Lander | Mrs Henderson |
| SSgt Sherwood | Mrs Hardingham |
| Sgt Hurdley | Mrs Kirk |
| Cpl Glasgow | Mrs Griffiths-Williams |

The best individual shots were **Cpl Glasgow (121), WO2 Dunbar (116)** and **Maj Smith (115)**; the best ladies were **Mrs Henderson (111), WLCpl Devenport (104)** and **Mrs Griffiths-Williams (100).**

**SPONSORED SLIM**

The weighing machine and a quick glance in the mirror convinced **Sig 'Tell' Goodman** that it was time for some drastic measures. The dreaded word 'Diet' raised its ugly head—the only solution, but how to stick to it without cheating? The answer was a sponsored slim.

Encouraged by his Troop Commander, **WO2 (Supvr R) Brian Inglis**, and the rest of Delta Troop sponsor forms were distributed amongst members of 1 and 2 Sqn. Nobody believed that **'Tell'** would find the necessary staying power to complete his diet, otherwise they might not have been so generous in their sponsorship.

Our intrepid slimmer confounded everyone (including himself) by losing two stone in two months. Maybe the clause on the sponsorship form about the slimmer having to pay double the amount sponsored if he gained weight had some effect!

The grand total of £242.70p was finally collected and distributed evenly between the Royal Signals and Intelligence Corps Benevolent Funds. Congratulations to **Sig 'Tell' Goodman** and all those who sponsored him.

Maj Tim Smith hands over the new diet sheet to Sig 'Tell' Goodman in the form of a cheque

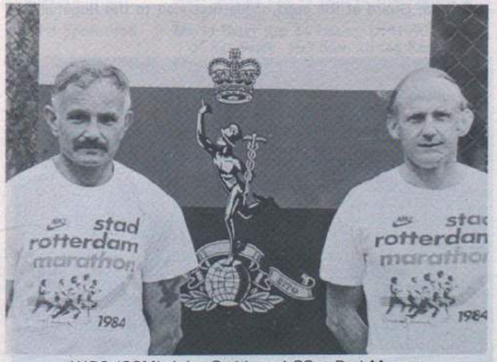
**REGIMENTAL HOCKEY**

A fairly successful season for both the Regimental 'A' and 'B' teams. The **'A'** team finished third in the Rhine Area League Division 1, were runners-up in both the Widenrath and Rhine Area six-a-sides, and came back with the Plate trophy from the BAOR six-a-sides. The organisation led by **WO1 Bob White** and **WO2 Brian Inglis**, coped well with the many problems regarding availability and team selection. **Sig Gary Payne** and **Paddy Williams** both gained representative honours for the BAOR squad, whilst **Cpl 'Foz' Foster** continues to represent Rhine Area.

The 'B' team finished in a creditable midway position in the Rhine Area League Division 2. This team provides the opportunity for the less skilful hockey players to get a game, and **SSgt Jim Leivers** has worked hard in producing a team of reasonable standard. The forthcoming season will see both teams depleted by postings and detachments, but as always the Regiment is hopeful of yet another good season.

**ROTTERDAM MARATHON**

On Saturday 14 April, two soldiers from the Regiment, **WO2 (SSM) John Smith** and **SSgt Rod Meyers** ran in the Rotterdam Marathon. Both completed the course in reasonable times, considering the weather, which was hot, and their ages; they're both veterans. **SSgt Meyers** time was 3 hrs 8 mins and **WO2 Smith**'s time 3 hrs 21 mins.




WO2 (SSM) John Smith and SSgt Rod Meyers

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**NE'ER CAST A CLOUT!**

The ancient British proscription on dispensing with undervests in May is matched by the German legend of the Eisheiligen who hurl icy rain upon those who presume summer's early arrival. 1984's Easter sunshine gave way all too soon to the wettest May on record. But the work of the 'ice saints' has not kept us from a schedule busy enough to justify shirt sleeve order in the rain. Besides not one but two visits by the Commander Communications, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, this time has been marked with sporting successes and novelties, our annual fête and events connected with our affiliation to the 43 (US) Signal Battalion and ties to 5th Signal Command.

**RING OUT THE OLD—LAST PORT OF CALL**

True to his course until the end **Maj Gen Henry Hild** performed his last official duty as Commander Communications HQ BAOR by visiting the port radio detachment of A Troop on exercise at Vlissingen, Netherlands. **Gen Hild** managed a last technical inspection of the D11 and adversely commented on the fitted coffee filter system; perhaps not being offered a cup had something to do with it. After the inspection, he originated a farewell message, confirming his handover to **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, and despatched it to all Royal Signals HQs and Units in BAOR.

**Gen Hild** then returned to his car and joined the queue of passengers for the ferry. Unbeknown to him A Troop had prepared a final soldier's farewell of their own. As he reached the Olau Lines terminal itself he found a guard of honour complete with lances. He spoke to **Capt Mike Cost, Sgt Ian Walker** and the Troop. As a final present A Troop presented **Gen Hild** with the 16 Sig Regt plaque which he had been seeking for over two years. The General then gave permission for the A Troop guard to march off, and took the salute before boarding the ferry. It was a send off to remember, not just for **Gen** and **Mrs Hild** and A Troop but for all the passengers and staff at a crowded ferry terminal.

Maj Gen A. Yeoman accompanied by Lt Col I. E. Kerr inspect the Quarter Guard at the start of his first visit to the Regiment

Maj Gen Hild inspects the guard of honour at Vlissingen Docks

**RING IN THE NEW**

On 2 May the Regiment played host to the new Comd Comms HQ **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, on his introductory visit to the Regiment. His first port of call was 1 Sqn based at Rheindahlen where he visited both the BAOR Commcen and Telephone House. Then on to Krefeld where he was greeted by a Quarter Guard under command of **Sgt Billy Watts** fresh from the Guard's Drill Course. The short visit was aimed primarily at the operational role of the Regiment and to show the General that Bradbury Barracks was more than a cricket pitch and heli pad, which was all he remembers from his only previous visit. Time was found to present **WO2 (SSM) Lenny Rowland-Jones** with his LS & GC Medal. Our Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Ray Duffy** felt that he should have received it for writing such a good plea in mitigation and is now looking for a good ghost writer for his own!

**Gen Yeoman** left promising to return for the ARU which would be educational and fun—but which for whom?!

WO2 (SSM) Lenny Rowland-Jones received the LS&GC from Maj Gen A. Yeoman. Sgt 'Big John' Berry looks on



**CYCLING PROFICIENCY COURSE**

This year the Easter school holidays fell during Ex *Flying Falcon* and the holiday activities were detailed to the Rear Party. Under the watchful eye of the Regimental Training Wing a cycling proficiency course was held for the 8-13 year old British children from the Krefeld area. Ten children completed the course under the capable instruction of **WO2 Bateman** (Rhine Area Master Driver), **SSgt Bill Martin**, (AMTO) and **Cpl Brown RMP**. The certificates and National Cycling Proficiency badges were presented to the children at the end of their three day course by **Mrs Pip Kerr**, the wife of the Commanding Officer.

The successful students on the Cycling Proficiency Course posing with their instructors and Mrs Pip Kerr

**SPONSORED CHARITY BFT MARATHON—RAISE A PENNY FOR THE 'LOO'**

On Thursday 19 April a sponsored BFT Marathon took place within Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld to help raise money to have toilet facilities installed within the buildings used by the Krefeld Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs, as the Army and the DOE (PSA) are unable to fund.

The event was a great success and through the efforts of the runners and their sponsors a total of DM4063 was raised. Coupled with donations already received, a total sum of DM7000.00 is now available which will completely pay for the installation of the facilities for our young people.

The prizes were kindly donated by Hammer & Co, BMW of Moenchengladbach and they were presented by their Area Sales Manager, **Mr Bernard Walsh**.

The prize winners were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Youngest Entrant | **Ross Mather** age 11 (son of **Cpl Mather** 2 Sqn 16 Sig Regt) |
| Highest Sponsored | **David Berry** age 14 raising DM1090.14 (son of **Sgt Berry**, HQ Sqn, 16 Sig Regt) |
| Guest Female Winner | **Capt Emma Ford** WRAC/RAEC 43 AEC Krefeld |
| Guest Male Winner | **Cpl Jack** Gordon Highlanders |
| Overall Winner Male | **Sgt Tim Broomfield** 2 Sqn 16 Sig Regt |
| Overall Winner Female | **WLCpl Dawn Webster** 2 Sqn 16 Sig Regt |
| Over 40 Winner | **Capt (TOT) Bryan Gallagher** 21 Sig Regt |
| 35 - 39 Winners | **WO2 (AQMS) Ginge Brooks** HQ Sqn 16 Sig Regt |
| 30 - 34 | **SSgt Ian Kirkpatrick** HQ Sqn 16 Sig Regt |
| Under 29 Winners | **Sgt Karl Taylor** 3 Sqn 16 Sig Regt |

A special mention must be made of **Maj (QM Tech) Tom Cran** who at the youngish age of 50? raised nearly DM200.00. Credit goes to **WO2 (SSM) Lenny Rowland-Jones** who at the last moment stood in for the main organiser **Capt Jim Allen**, who, unfortunately, was in hospital with a slipped disc. Well done **SSM 'R-J'** you did a good job at such short notice.

The 8th and final BFT of the Marathon gets underway

**16th SIGNAL REGIMENT DO IT UP HILLS!**

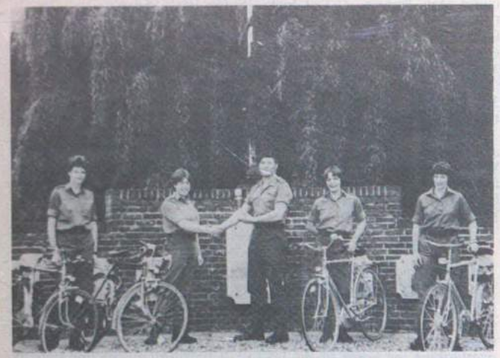
For the fifth year in succession a team from 16 Sig Regt joined their sister battalion, the 43rd (US) Signal Battalion from Heidelberg in their annual Koenigstuhl Run. The Koenigstuhl is a mountain overlooking the home of the USAEUR barracks on the outskirts of Heidelberg. The run is a gruelling 5½ miles up to their microwave station alongside the 'Kings Seat' on the top. The race originated as a challenge between officers and soldiers but it is now open to other individuals and units to take part. We were well looked after by our hosts in Heidelberg and soon became accustomed to American breakfasts, brunches and breakdancing! Perhaps a régime designed to sap the will of the visitors, walking the course the day before the run, as inhabitants of the Rhineland plain either prepared us for the race or confirmed our worst fears! The day dawned bright and sunny—a warm race ahead. After an hectic start across their Campbell Barracks parade square, avoiding traffic barriers and NATO flagpoles, the race began in earnest. The first part is always the worst, so they say, a steep switchback 600m long! The course then eases off and the runners begin to spread out over the long haul, none of it down hill!

Eleven runners from the Regiment took part led by the CO, **Lt Col Iain Kerr**. We won the team race with our first five runners placed:

| | |
|---|---|
| Fourth | **LCpl Nick Withers** |
| Fifth | **Sgt Tim Broomfield** |
| Sixth | **SSgt Pete Halstead** (first over 30 years old) |
| 24th | **Sgt Steve Rose** |
| 27th | **Sgt Shawn Prior** |

Honourable mentions must go to our honorary regimental officer **Maj Noel Slater RAEC** who showed the CO a clean pair of heels, to **Capt Gill Gibson REME WRAC** who bullied the team into such good form and to **Cpl Helen Bond WRAC** whose first long run this was!

The summit of the Koenigstuhl—Lt Col S. Harman, CO 43 (US) Signal Battalion congratulates Lt Col I. E. Kerr on our victory in the team event



Our successful women's triathlon team, 2Lt 'Dee' Allen, Capt Gill Gibson, 2Lt Pauline Lucas and Cpl Helen Sleighthorne being presented with their trophy by the CO

**BRADBURY FAIR 1984**

Bradbury Fair is this unit's annual 'Tag der offenen Tür' when we invite our many German friends to join us in a typical English Fête. At least the weather was typically English, overcast, cold, NE wind with a few spots of rain. In spite of this a large crowd turned up for what turned out to be a most enjoyable afternoon. There was a good variety of entertainment in the arena including the Band of 1 KINGS, a marvellous display of vintage motorcycles, the St Petrus Band and Majorettes from Venrai in Holland and a team of Morris Dancers from Rheindahlen. The sideshows and stalls also did very well. Worthy of particular note is the Ducking Stool and the stalwarts who braved the bitter cold by constant ducking in the icy water—**Capt Gill Gibson REME WRAC, WO1 (RSM) John Bonnett** and **Mr Peter Bentley**, Headmaster of Krefeld First School. (How his pupils queued up to give him a soaking). Of course there were many more victims too numerous to mention. A final word of praise for the unknown German gentleman who spent the whole afternoon in the Irish Coffee tent and to the certain knowledge of our head barman **Maj Ron Finister** consumed 17, probably more, and left on his own feet!

**RHINE AREA SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 1984**

The final Rhine Area Skill at Arms meeting was held from 13-18 May at Kohima Range, Haltern, (next year it will be RCZ SAM!) Regrettably we were without our No. 1 shot **Capt Richard Hoole** on compassionate leave, but team spirits were high and we were confident of a good week's shooting.

Monday dawned warm and sunny and the serious business of the Roupell, SMG and Pistol Matches began. By the end of the day we had recorded three scores of 200 plus in the SMG match.

The WRAC teams from 1, 4 and the Krefeld based Squadrons commenced their challenge on the Tuesday, despite the dismisal weather set out with determination. Scores came in slowly throughout the day and the male team built up a commanding lead in the SMG and SLR matches. The WRAC competition was much closer with all three of our teams in contention with 28 (BR) Sig Regt and 29 Coy WRAC.

Wednesday arrived with another change in the weather and consequently in the scores. Thought now turned from would we win to how many of our team would reach Stage 11 in the SLR, SMG and Pistol matches. The WRAC team from 4 Sqn clinched the SMG match from 29 Coy WRAC with the teams from HQ and 1 Sqn close behind.

Thursday's persistent heavy rain did not dampen our resolve as we had eight in the Roberts Cup, six in the SMG and four in the Pistol stage 11's. It was going to be a busy day but after 11 years of trying, it was going to be our year again. By the end of the day we had won the Major Unit Championship, the SLR Cup, the SMG Cup and the Pistol Rose Bowl with only the LMG Cup left for the last day.

In fact we had to let 28 (BR) Sig Regt win this but gained three points by coming second to give us 37 out of a maximum of 40 points in the championship. Again the WRAC from 4 Sqn won the WRAC pistol championship with our other teams pushing 29 Coy into last place.

At the prize giving **Brig Tony Dixon**, who had taken a close personal interest in the meeting, congratulated us on our shooting skills and (as usual) our working PA system. The serviceman and women of 16 Sig Regt made a clean sweep of all the prizes except the LMG Cup. **LCpl 'Taff' Alden** was runner up Champion-at-Arms and best SRL shot while **LCpl 'Matt' Matthews** took the best B class Champion-at-Arms and SMG shot. **Lt Jenny Chambers WRAC** was runner-up WRAC Champion-at-Arms. The next step is Bisley where we hope at least to retain the Army Pistol Tiles Cup.

Comd Rhine Area, Brig A. K. Dixon presents the Rhine Area Skill-at-Arms trophy to Capt Iain Brown, the team captain

Comd Rhine Area, Brig A. K. Dixon presents the Rhine Area WRAC Championship to our team from 4 Sqn

Our successful shooters pose with their trophies



**ARU—A NICE QUIET DAY!**

May 24 was the scheduled date for the Regiment's ARU.

'A nice quiet meet and greet type of visit' were the instructions given to the author at the end of Comms Branch HQ BAOR's staff visit. 'Prepare a programme to allow the General to meet as many members of the Regiment as possible.' I produced my programme:

'I don't believe it' fumed the RSM

'Far too cushy' sneered the Adjutant

'Be prepared—for the unexpected' muttered the CO.

They were right—I was wrong. At 0400 hrs the Orderly Officers were awoken to **Lt Col Paul Webb**'s request for a 'Regimental Active Edge'. Thus began our 'meet and greet' ARU. **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** joined the fun at 0700 hrs, ably guided by **Maj David Case** but sadly regretting the low cloud denying him the helicopter tour he planned as a rest for the CO. It makes a nice start to the day being up when others are asleep—the girls in 1 Sqn certainly enjoyed it, but **WO2 (SSM) Maureen Carmichael** still thought it was the CO's idea of a joke when the General walked in. Commcen's Juliet and Kilo enjoyed a quick quiet deployment and all were able to answer the General's searching questions. A Troop thought they were immune on a DCN 0038 exercise but were rudely disturbed from dreams of a tea time visit by the Commanders demand for an egg banjo breakfast.

By 1230 hrs the General had explored most of the nooks and crannies of 1 Sqn and of the Krefeld Squadrons and pronounced himself well satisfied with the inspection and left us to finish our lunch. An early, busy, but most enjoyable ARU.

PS:- Comms Branch are to be congratulated on their security. The 2IC fished but obviously used the wrong bait. Perhaps he should become a Rodbender.

**KREFELD RODBENDERS**

On Sunday 27 May the Rhine Area fishing championships match took place on the yacht harbour at Wesel. The rain came down for five hours or more but the fish didn't seem to mind, most anglers taking good catches. Krefeld Rodbenders, the current BAOR fishing champions prepared to 'strike' again. They did extremely well, the 'A' team under **SSgt Alf Hall** winning the match overall with one section first and three section seconds with a total weight of 39 Kilo 700 grm. The 'B' team led by **LCpl Jon Pryke** narrowly missed coming second but taking third place overall with three section thirds with a total weight of 29 Kilo 500 grm. Both teams qualifying for the BAOR Championships at Minden in October which gives them a better than average chance of retaining the title. **Mr George Lettin** also took third individual place with **SSgt Alf Hall** taking fifth.

**RHINE AREA INTER UNIT ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP**

This Championship was held in Rheindahlen on 25 May. The Regimental team with little opportunity for serious preparation displayed a superb performance to emerge as narrow victors over 13 Sig Regt by 108 pts to 90. In such a superb team performance it would be wrong to single out individuals. However, the following performances are worthy of mention:

| | |
|---|---|
| **100m** | **Sgt Dave Pope** |
| **100m** | **LCpl Jim Strickland** |
| **200m** | **Sgt Dave Pope** |
| **200m** | **Sig Lloyd Brown** |
| **400m** | **Sig Dave Brudenall** |
| **800m** | **Sig Taff Evans** |
| **400m Hurdle** | **Cpl Pete Griffiths** |
| **4 × 100m Relay** | **LCpl Phil Greene** |
| | **Sgt Dave Pope** |
| | **Sgt Andy Hyde** |
| | **Sig Lloyd Brown** |
| **4 × 400m Relay** | **Lt Paul Glibbery** |
| | **Sig Dave Brudenall** |
| | **Sig Taff Evans** |
| | **LCpl Jim Strickland** |
| **Pole Vault** | **Sgt Andy Chalmers** |
| **Shot Putt** | **Sig Lloyd Brown** |
| **Long Jump** | **LCpl Phil Greene** |
| **Triple Jump** | **LCpl Phil Greene** |
| **3000m Steeple Chase** | **Cpl George Crozier** |
| | **Sgt Tim Broomfield** |

**MORRISON CUP ATHLETICS**

Fresh from that Rhine Area success the athletics team met stronger opposition from the 'big battalions' at Herford on 31 May and 1 June. However, despite a hamstring injury to a key sprinter, **Sig Brown** and other last minute substitution we managed an honourable fifth place in the major units competition.

**ARCHIBALD SOCCER CUP—1984**

The Archibald Cup is an International Partnership Soccer Tournament originated in 1983 by **Brig Gen Norman E. Archibald US Army**, Commanding General 5th Signal Command (equating to Comd Comms USAEUR) as a symbol of Signals Units communicating through sport.

The competition took place at Worms during the weekend 26-27 May with five invited teams representing their nations.

The teams were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 42e Regiment de Transmission | — France |
| 740th Fernmelde Kompanie | — W. Germany |
| 5th Signal Command | — USA |
| 16th Signal Regiment | — BAOR |
| 4th HQ & Signal Squadron | — Canada |

Before the start of play on Saturday 26 the teams and officials were presented to **Gen Archibald** after the playing of all five national anthems. The tournament's first game was 16 Sig Regt versus 42e Regt de Transmission representing the French Communicators. With lively enthusiasm the Krefeld side went 3—0 up with two goals from **Sig Al Higgins** and one from **LCpl Colin Ward**. Resting on a 3—0 lead the 16 Sig Regt side allowed the French to pull two goals back, running out winners 3—2 in a hard fought game.

The German 740th Fernmelde Kompanie then took on the Canadians, winning easily 5—0.

5th Signal Command USA then took the field against 16 Sig Regt who unwisely were expecting only to be there to make the numbers up. After 10 minutes **Cpl Steve Cotter** opened the scoring for 16 Sig Regt, but no more goals came before half-time. The eleven man defence of the Americans was holding out. A torrential down pour at half-time caused play to be held up for 45 minutes. On resumption of the game the Americans pulled something out of the blue by equalising. Moments later they were head over heels when they scored again to take the lead. All out attack by the 16 Signals side produced nothing until **SSgt Pete Doherty** headed home with only enough time to re-start the game. A real face saver!

The French side then saw the Canadians off 5—0, follwed by the Germans beating the Americans 3—0. Day two of the tournament saw an easier start for the Krefeld side against the Canadians, a 4—0 win with **Sig Taff Davies** scoring a hat trick and a goal from **LCpl 'Maggot' Lindsay**.

The French Signals side then showed 16 Sig Regt how to play football against the American side beating them 6—0. 740 Fernmelde Kompanie, with an aggregate of 8—0 against the Canadians and the Americans, took on the 16 Sig Regt side in a fiercely fought contest. Victory for either side would ensure winning the Archibald Cup. After eight minutes **Sig Al Higgins** struck the ball from outside the penalty area, the German goalkeeper who had not conceded a goal could only watch it fly into the net.

All out running by the 16 Sig Regt side kept the Germans out with **SSgt Ken Smith** and **Sgt Billy Watts** dominating in the air and on the ground. Halfway through the second half **Cpl Steve Cotter** put **Sgt Chris Barlow** through to score the second in a 2—0 win. 16 Sig Regt had retained the cup they first won in 1983—they could return to Krefeld in safety.

All spectators and players were then to witness the Americans and Canadians playing for the North American Trophy, no holds were barred as the Canadians finished 2—1 winners. The final game of the tournament was an easy victory by four goals to one for the French against the Germans who had run themselves out against 16 Sig Regt.

The hospitality shown by the Americans and the friendships established between all the teams throughout the weekend achieved the aims set by **Brig Gen Archibald**. A special thank you must be made to **Lt Col Merrill** of 5th Signal Command (USA) who organised, played, and did everything possible to make it a memorable weekend.

**WHAT A BUSY TIME**

This sporting performance capped a most successful week for the Regiment; winning the Rhine Area Skill-at-Arms, Rhine Area Athletics Championship, the Archibald Cup together with a most satisfactory ARU.

**FAR AWAY PLACES**

**SUB AQUA DIVING EXPEDITION TO THE SEYCHELLES**

**WE MADE IT**

The aircraft rolled down the runway in the first light of dawn. The spectacle was magical. The fatigue of the trip from BAOR to UK connecting with the 12 hour flight to the Seychelles was shaken off. The lush beauty of the islands and the incredible colours of the sea made their impression. The noise of the aircraft died and we stepped into the enveloping tropical warmth. After nearly a year of planning we had arrived.

**PLANNING**

The idea to visit the Seychelles germinated on Ex *Summer Sales* in 1983 when **WO2 (YofS) Allen Hawkins**, the Diving Officer of 16 Sig Regt's Diving Club and **Capt Roger Braybrook** of the Royal Engineers met by chance. They are old diving friends from service with the Gurkha's in Hong Kong. They decided to celebrate the re-union by planning a 'Swansong'. The objectives were as follows:- The location had to be far from Germany. Outrageous enough to appeal to the Staff Officer releasing adventure training funds. Be original, ie, somewhere where no military sport diving expedition had been before.

16 Sig Regt was in an ideal position to help gear up such an expedition with Seychellois expertise in the form of **SSgt Fred Payet** and **Sgt Harry Anacoura**. Through **Fred**'s family connections a splendid chalet was procured at a modest cost and the diving arranged through his friend **Mechel Gardette. Mechel** proved expert and gave good value, he was also 2IC of the local Brewery! **Harry** was a mine of information on local food and he prepared many exotic dishes. He also procured cheap transport without which we could not have administered ourselves. Between **Fred** and **Harry** they knew someone of some influence in all aspects of the island community.

**Roger** 'graciously' undertook the paperwork and did a thorough job of winkling out funds but even so participants had to meet costs in excess of £400.

**THE SEYCHELLES**

The Seychelles lie 400 miles off the cost of Africa. The Republic consists of islands spreading from Aldabra, to Mahe. Our chalet had a superb view of Silhouette Island and we watched the sun set behind it on many an evening after a hard day's diving in the sun.

The islands are volcanic and provide spectacular rock formations to dive on. Because of the intensive sunlight and bath-like water temperature, the shallows of Mahe are one large coral garden.

Fish life in the sea abounds. We dived with Shark, Giant Rays, Groupers and a multitude of highly coloured reef fishes. We had octopus and lobsters for dinner on more than one occasion. The islands are very dispersed and the marine domain covers an area nearly the size of France.

The climate is such that it is unnecessary to wear many clothes; as some lady visitors to the islands seemed keen to take advantage of. The rainfall is heavy and this explains the lush vegetation. The Coco-de-Mere is an oddity in the form of a double coconut which takes the form of a woman's pelvis. It is rare and commands a high price. **Sgt Harry Anacoura** procured two and intends to mount one (for presentation to the Sgts' Mess). We received much help from the local Seychellios Community and from the expatriates. The Assistant High Commissioner **Mr Michael Edwards** entertained our party to Cocktails at his private residence. It was a splendid evening and many useful contacts were made. It was very kind of **Mike** to welcome us at the airport and provide such useful local knowledge and contacts.

**SSgt Pete Dunnings** made himself popular by amassing an amazing collection of coral and very smelly shells. They are now humming quietly in his back garden. **LCpl Dave 'Poser' Bagshaw** managed to get in most, if not all, of the photographs which were taken above and below water. It came as no surprise when **WO2 Allen Hawkins** who took the underwater photographs, found himself a permanent dive partner in **Dave**. **Dave** was also known as 'dustbin' for he managed to finish off enormous amounts of food much to **SSgt Peter Dunning**'s disgust who was managing the expedition cilor account.

We enjoyed diving with our new found Sapper friends. After an initial period of adjustment when they stopped groping for the welding machines and air lifts prior to each dive, they seemed to enjoy sport diving. The **Wilson** brothers proved to be men about town and **Sgt Ray Hillard** (Dad) kept muttering his intentions of putting them on permanent tea boy duties on return to BAOR.

We managed to do some sightseeing and visited Praslin Island, very tropical with beautiful silver sand beaches. We also chartered a small sail boat to the island of La Gigue which is Praslin 20 years ago. It is served by an ox cart which carries freight and the only means of personal transport is hired bicycles.

Due to political considerations we had been briefed not to take any military identity and adopt the role of diver on holiday; none had much problem in complying with these instructions!

In all, the expedition met the aims set and we enjoyed a truly adventurous expedition and as one senior Corps officer was heard to remark: 'Whatever you do, do it with style'.

WO2 (YofS) Allen Hawkins and SSgt Pete Dunnings relax prior to setting our for Praslin

**KREFELD TRIATHLON 3 JUNE**

As part of the French week celebrations organised by Stadt Krefeld was the staging of a Triathlon. We decided to add a touch of the Anglo to this German/French week and to participate.

Despite months of prior notice the day of the Triathlon came upon the team suddenly! There was hardly a chance to recce the routes even. However, perhaps the advertising brochure did not fill one with enthusiasm to do a recce describing in detail the horrors in store! A 500m swim in an enormous local lake, a 50 km cycle ride around all the hills in Krefeld (and Krefeld is supposedly flat!) and a 10 km run through the outskirts ending on the local horse racing track. The Regiment entered three teams and three individuals. The daring team was as follows: **Capt Gill Gibson REME WRAC, 2Lt Diane Allen, 2Lt Pauline Lucas** (placed second), **Cpl Sleightholme, SSgt Halstead, Sgt Mulhearn, LCpl Culyer, Sig Higgins, Cpls Cotter, Kuzera, Valentine, LCpl Mayes, Sgt Guthrine, LCpl North** and **Bates**.

It took until the day before the race to find enough bicycles for everyone, but that did not deter the determined competitors. We even asked the local newspaper for bikes!

It was an early start that Sunday morning as the Colonel saw us off from camp. We arrived at the start keen but apprehensive. We prepared ourselves for the race and carefully positioned our dry clothes to minimise changing times. We began with a smile as 250 different shapes and sizes, all wearing little white swimming caps, rushed down a grassy bank into the water! The cycle ride was the hardest part and a selection of aches and pains were thoroughly discussed later!' The run took its toll on aching knees and the team rested together afterwards. Our times varied from 2½ hours to four hours but we all achieved something and we were thrilled to learn later that our women's team came second and had won a cup. It was worth it after all and the list of future Triathlons may well not go straight in the bin!





**25 YEARS ON**

Life in '21' has never been dull. This month we feature our Jubilee Parade to celebrate our 25 years as 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) and 25 years service to RAF (G).

**JUBILEE PARADE**

CO (September 1983) 'RSM do you realise that next year the Regiment celebrates its 25th Anniversary, not only as 21 Signal Regiment, but also in support of the RAF?' RSM 'No Sir, but we are having a parade aren't we?' CO 'Correct'.

With that the wheels of supply, administration and organisation started to turn. It was noticeable that as the parade date drew nearer, the 2IC—**Maj Leslie Steane**, the QM, **Maj John Cowe**, and the Adjt, **Capt Paul Oldfield**, started to show concern as the weather grew worse. However the RAF were pulling out all the stops for us and very kindly turned the Airfield over to the Regiment for the day. The CinC RAF (G) **Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine** agreed to take the salute at the parade. A fly past of four Phantom aircraft of 92 (East India) Squadron RAF was organised and our soldiers were recalled from the many distant outposts.

Most importantly the RAF granted the Regiment the unique honour and privilege of displaying the RAF Germany badge on the Regimental flag and insignia. The old flag was lowered for the last time at 2121 hours on 21 May by **Cpls John Vernon** and **'Ossy' Osbourne** and the new flag was broken on parade on the 22 May by **Sig Keenan** of 2 Sqn.

Just in case there is anyone who is not familiar with the history of the Regiment here is a brief outline. The Regiment, which is the only Royal Signals unit under the operational command of the CinC RAF Germany, is responsible for providing signals support for the RAF in Germany. The Regiment's history traces back to during the 1914-18 war, when ground communications for the Royal Flying Corps overseas had to be provided by parent Army formations. The War Office thus accepted full responsibility for the provision of line and despatch riders for the Air Forces in overseas theatres. This same responsibility remains today. During the period between the wars, it became clear that the communications needs of the new and expanding RAF were likely to be considerable. It also became clear that Army Signal Units tasked with providing these communications would require a degree of specialised training. The establishment of special Royal Signals units capable of meeting the land-line and despatch rider commitments of an overseas RAF expeditionary force gradually evolved.

In 1938 an agreement was reached between the War Office and Air Ministry on the division of responsibility for the provision of all RAF ground communications in an overseas theatre, other than wireless. The first two Royal Signals units dedicated to the direct support of the RAF deployed overseas in 1939 with the British Expeditionary Force. Early wartime experience in the Middle East and India resulted in 1943 in a joint War Office and Air Ministry Signals Committee agreeing the 'Air Formation Signals Charter'. It was this Charter which formed the basis for subsequent Army Signals support of the RAF in operations in North West Europe. The vast expansion of the RAF during the 1939-45 war led to a corresponding increase of Army signallers. By the end of the war there were 18 British and seven Indian Air Formation Signal Regiments in support of the RAF world wide. This represented 21,000 all ranks. 21st Signal Regiment traces its origins to the raising of 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment on 5 March 1943. Throughout 1943, 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment trained and exercised and in February 1944 it assumed its operational role of providing ground communications for 2 Tactical Air Force Main and Rear. The main body of the Regiment landed in Normandy in July 1944 to prepare for the arrival of two TAF (Main). By June 1945 the Regiment was providing communications for 2 TAF (Main) at Bad Eilsen and 2 TAF (Rear) at Bueckeburg. On 15 July 1945, 2 TAF became known as the British Air Force of Occupation. 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment gradually reduced in size as commitments became less and in 1947 the remaining elements of the Regiment were absorbed into 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. In September 1951 the British Air Force of Occupation was again retitled 2 TAF. Various post-war changes resulted in the formation in 1952 of 83 Group RAF in the Rhineland. To provide communications support, a squadron of 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment was detached to Wahn and retitled 83 Group Air Formation Signal Squadron. This new Squadron rapidly expanded and in 1954 became 83 Group (12) Air Formation Signal Regiment. There were many changes throughout the 1950s. In 1954, Headquarters 2 TAF moved to Rheindahlen. In 1958, 83 Group was disbanded and its Signal Regiment had to be found a new home at RAF Laarbruch. On 1 January 1959 the command was renamed Royal Air Force Germany and that same year 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment was retitled 21st Signal Regiment (Air Formation). In 1970, the Regiment moved its home from RAF Laarbruch to RAF Wildenrath. The Regiment also dropped the 'Air Formation' designation and replaced it by 'Air Support' to embrace its additional role of providing certain Harrier Force communications. 1971 saw the demise of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment in the Far East and 21 Signal Regiment thus became the sole surviving Royal Signals Regiment in direct support of the RAF. Provision of communications for the Support Helicopter Force in 1972 again reinforced the 'Air Support' title and resulted in further Regimental changes.

On the morning of the parade the rain was pouring down and the band of the Royal Air Force Germany were slightly taken aback when they saw the Regiment march on (in shirt sleeve order) at 0645 hours for a final practice. However luck was with us, the weather cleared up, the aircraft made two fly past salutes with split second precision and the parade accepted the plaudits of the spectators for an extremely fine demonstration of drill. The Regiment was honoured to have **Maj Gen A. Yeoman,** Commander Communications BAOR, present at the parade and hope that this is the first of many visits to us. We were also pleased to have the Commanding Officer of the Regiment in 1959 **(Lt Col Hulme)** staying with us.

The parade over, the Regiment took up its celebrations with vigour, culminating with many 'Knees Up' on the Friday when the Corps Band played an excellent Retreat ceremony before the dancing commenced at the various locations.

The big question in the Regiment is 'How are we going to better that?'

The Commanding Officer, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support), Lt Col M. Mcl Ayrton, receiving the framed scroll from Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, at the anniversary parade on 22 May. SSgt Tommy Perkins and SSgt Bill Henderson act as stick orderlies
*Photo by Cpl Derek Booth*

The new flag of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) with the badge of the Royal Air Force Germany

The CinC takes the salutes of HQ Sqn

The CinC discussing generator problems with LCpl James Rock of 1 Sqn. Sgt Davey Dodds and Cpl Steve Wade listen in

**LS & GC PRESENTATION**

The Jubilee parade dress rehearsal saw the presentation of the LS & GC medal to three SNCOs of the Regiment.

The CO **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** presented the medals in front of the Regiment. The recipients were **SSgt (FofS) Terry Jack** from 1 Sqn, **Sgt Ian Barnes** from K Troop RAF Wildenrath, and **Sgt Jim Simpson** from L Troop RAF Laarbruch.

After the parade the medals were duly 'Wet' in the traditional manner. Our congratulations go to all three SNCO's.

*L to R:* CO, SSgt Tommy Perkins, SSgt (FofS) Terry Jack, Sgts Ian Barnes and Jim Simpson


# MORRISON'S ACADEMY

As the school prepares to celebrate its 125th birthday it continues to provide education for boys and girls from Primary 1 - Secondary 6. Of its 850 pupils 200 are in the Primary and 300 are Boarders (from Primary 4).

The school prepares secondary pupils primarily for the Scottish Higher Grade examination though the post-higher work includes CSYS, A level, Associated Board work in Music, Portfolio preparation in Art while RSA examinations in typing are taken at different stages. Results in all external examinations have been highly commendable.

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**FAREWELLS**

The Regiment has recently said farewell to a number of notable personalities: **OC Lt Col Peter Chaddock, RSM WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft, WO1 (SC) 'Slim' Cheetham, WO2 (AQMS) Terry Lockwood REME, WO2 (SSM) Ian Borland, WO2 Harry Service, WO2 (SQMS) Jim Graham ACC, WO2 (RQMS) Ben Bentley.**

Anxious to leave the Regiment but the RSM has super glue on his hands


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**NEW ARRIVALS**

We welcome to the Regiment a number of personalities to take up new appointments: **OC—Lt Col Peter Pritchard, OC 3 Sqn—Maj Malcolm Sinton, Lt Mike Stevenson, RSM—WO1 (RSM) Phil Daisey, WO1 (SC) Roger Iredale, WO2 (AQMS) John Hutcheon REME, WO2 (SQMS) Barry Jones ACC, WO2 (RQMS) Tom Wood, WO2 (SSM) Steve Kent.**

**FAREWELL TO LT COL PETER CHADDOCK**

The CO, **Lt Col Peter Chaddock**, was piped out of the Regiment on a fork lift truck on 11 May. He moves to Comms Branch HQ BAOR where he is to be 'chained' to a desk. **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** has been posted from Cyprus to become our new CO.

The CO is hoisted out of the Regiment

**EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON***

After weeks of glorious sunshine the weather was due to change for Ex *Flying Falcon*. We were expecting a little rain but were not prepared for the snow which greeted us as we deployed. Blizzards in April? . . . well they said that anything could happen. For a week we lived like Eskimos in up to 5ft of snow until the big thaw started. As the snow melted our wagons sank into the mud and we all prayed for a drop in temperature again. Needless to say we all eventually got back to camp and the sun blazed away. OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Guy Meakin** would like to give a quick MIW (Mention in Wire) to **Lt Mike Stevenson. Mike** as the new Rear Corps Recce Offr excelled himself when siting the Comd Comms Breakfast but rumour has it that Commhead November couldn't actually communicate. When questioned **Lt Stevenson** replied 'Bring back Steam Radio!'

**PARADE WITH FERNMELDE BATAILLON 7**

On Saturday 5 May **Capt Jeremy Ellis** and **Sgt Phil Whittaker** from 2 Sqn took 26 men to the Lipperland Kaserne for a parade. This was to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Partnership between our Regiment and Fernmelde Bataillon 7, the Lippstadt based German

Signals Battalion. At the same time the recruit company from 7 Fm Bn took their oath at the end of their training. **LCpl Mark Bristow** celebrated the occasion by performing the 'Guards' version of 'fall out' and fell forward on to his nose, a remarkable, if painful, feat!

**7 FM BN MILITARY BAND CONCERT**

On 3 May a number of personnel from the Regiment attended a Band Concert by 7 Fm Bn in the Lippstädter Theater. The audience listened to a variety of music ranging from Mozart to Glen Miller and, were particularly impressed by an athletic xylophone player, who raised the roof. We were worried for his safety at one point when he grew so red in the face that cardiac arrest seemed imminent.

**CEREMONY OF PLAYING RETREAT**

On Thursday 30 May the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals performed The Retreat Ceremony on the Regimental Square. A number of German military and civil dignatories were present as well as **Brig R. F. L. Cook** and other British Signals Officers. The Salute was taken by **Frau Dr Christ**, the Burgermeister of Lippstadt.

The Corps Band sprout Triffid masts

The Playing of Retreat

**SPORTS**

**BAOR SGT MESS 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL**

On 27 May the BAOR Sgts Mess 7-a-side Football competition was held at Lippstadt. It was organised by **WO2 (QMSI) Chris Christophers**. The Regiment was knocked out in the earlier stages of the competition as were the BFBS All Stars team.

However, honour was upheld and both the cup and plate competition were won by Signals teams. 7 Sig Regt beat 94 Loc Regt RA to win the Cup and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt beat 6 Armd Wksp to win the Plate.

**REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS MEETING**

As a run up to the Morrison Cup and as part of our Page Trophy Summer Sports Competition an Athletics meeting was held on 18 April. The event was held at a local school which offers superb athletics facilities.

Various track and field events took place culminating in a 'fun' chain of command race.

The final team results were:

1st Commcen Echo
2nd HQ Sqn
3rd 4 'We were robbed' Sqn

The Regimental team went on to come 7th in the Morrison Cup, our best position ever in this competition!

The 200m sprint

Whoops—Yoga in mid-air by LCpl Boardman

An Australian Marsupial minus pouch but Cpl Joe Cool Perrott is unimpressed!

Cpl 'Strong Man' Woolley attempts the '*Jimmy*' pose!

**REGIMENTAL GOLF MEETING**

The Regimental Golf Greensome competition was held at Sennelager on 8 May. Photographer **Sig Derryck Wilson** turned up to take photographs on the green and suddenly found out that he was in fact playing! The competition was won by **WO2 (SSM) Paddy Dickinson** and **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones**. The competition was sponsored by **Mr Bob Byrne** from Audi Berg Schneider.

**WO2 Dickinson** was on form this season as he, with **SSgt (YofS) Charlie Rodgers**, won the 4 Div meeting as well.

The winners of the Regimental Golf Greensome competition with Mr Bob Byrne

**THE HARZ MOUNTAIN MARATHON**

The Harz Mountain Marathon, held on 29 and 30 May, proved to be a gruelling test of stamina. The event was split into two parts; the first was a team run over 65km and on the second day an individual run of 35km.

The Regiment entered three teams in the event, one veteran team: **WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft, WO1 Eric Rose, Sgt Chippy Wood** and two open teams, the 'A' team: **Capt Jeremy Ellis, Sgt Phil Whittaker, Cpl Roy Smith**, the 'B' team: **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Wood, Sgt Jim Collins, Cpl Kevin Lewis**.

The teams were very successful with the veterans' team finishing in 4th position and the 'A' team in fifth position out of a total of 51 teams. The RSM and **Sgt Wood** showed the youngsters what veterans are made of in the individual competition by finishing seventh and eighth respectively out of a total of 98 competitors.

**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 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 reached 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 package and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

**Mr P. E. A. Hall**
'Kohima' 1030 Harrow Road Wembley Middlesex HQ0 2QT

# 29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
# BFPO 45

**VARIETY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN**

During the weekend 11-14 May, **Henry Cooper, Alfred Marks, Joan Savage, Frank Carson, Henry Kelly** and other Variety Club of Great Britain Celebrities came to Berlin, under the sponsorship of the Army Benevolent Fund, to play some golf and raise money for Service and Local Charities. The visitors presented a variety show, 'The Comedians', a play 'Dear Celia' in the Station Theatre Gatow and a fund raising cabaret dinner held in the Bristol Hotel Kempinski.

The Regiment took a leading part in the organisation of the visit, in particular in setting up the Kuppelsaal for a Gala Variety Concert on the Saturday evening. It was a superb show with a little of everything for all tastes including the shapely **Patti, Sue, Lulu, Patricia** and **Tanya**, from the dance team 'SMAX', whose dancing was much appreciated by the soldiers! The members of the cast were royally entertained by **WO1 (RSM) Johnnie Walker** and the members of the Sergeants' Mess afterwards and there were a few jaded players on the US Golf Course next morning! On the Friday **Gen Sir John Mogg** and members of the Army Benevolent Fund hosted a reception at Edinburgh House Hotel for those who were mainly responsible for setting up the whole weekend. The 'workers' were thus able to mingle freely with the celebrities and a good evening was had by all as can be seen by the photographs.

After a hectic weekend **Maj Eric Carrel** bid a fond farewell to the last plane load of celebrities and must have breathed a sigh of relief. **Maj Carrel** was responsible for the organisation and coordination of the whole weekend. Our thanks go to him and all the others involved in making it a most enjoyable weekend.

Frank Carson (who managed to appear in most of the photos of that evening) with Lt Therese Crook

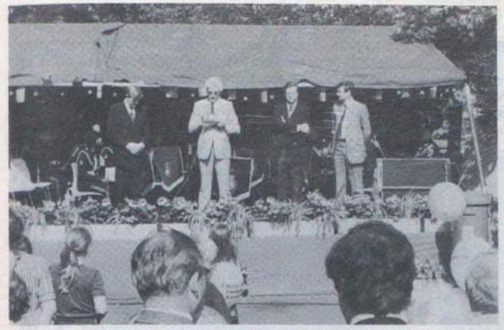
Henry Cooper announces the winner of the grand draw, during the Variety Show, assisted by OC HQ Sqn Maj David Thompson RRF

The RSM WO1 John Walker enjoying a few moments with some of the dancing girls from SMAX



**WILMERSDORF FRIENDSHIP DAY**

The advent of warm weather (though there hasn't been much of that in Berlin yet!) brings with it the Anglo/German 'Friendship' days. On Saturday 19 May the Regiment assisted 3RRF in the running of their Friendship day which was held in the Berlin borough of Wilmersdorf.



The Wilmersdorf opening ceremony, left to right: Brig Makepeace-Warne, Herr Dohm, Lt Col Aldous (CO 3 RRF) and Lt Col Budd. Under canvas, the Duke of Kent's Band

The day started off with the opening ceremony, conducted by **Brig Makepeace-Warne MBE** (Comd Berlin Inf Bde) and **Herr Dohm** the Mayor of Wilmersdorf. A great variety of stalls were set up ranging from Fish & Chips, cream teas, German fare and cakes to handicrafts, a Royal Signals stand and The George and Dragon pub. Various activities ran throughout the day. The Duke of Kent's Band the the Fusiliers Corps of Drums performed alongside Wilmersdorf schools, folk dancers and gymnasts. There were even things for the kids to do including a carousel or a trip on the 'Noddy' train run by members of the Regiment.

Two rather large kids, Cpl Chris Cousins and LCpl Graham Smith, along with some smaller ones take a trip on the 'Noddy' train.

The daytime events were concluded with Beating Retreat at 1800 hours, but the festivities continued with music and dancing well into the twilight hours.

**HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE**

After weeks of rehearsals and preparations amidst stormy weather, the sun finally broke through on Friday 1 June for the celebrations of The Queen's official birthday.

The annual parade, involving troops and vehicles from all Berlin units was held on the Maifeld in the presence of Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, **Sir Jock Taylor KCMG**. The parade went extremely well and included a march past, drive past, 21 gun salute and firing of the Feu de Joie, and a fly past. Although the Regiment had only two vehicles participating in the parade a great deal of work behind the scenes, or in the background was carried out by: **WO1 (RSM) John Walker** as the parade RSM, **SSgt (FofS) Dave Bayley** and his team of technicians who set up and manned the PA system, and the many involved as ushers, programme handlers and 'spare hands'

The parade was followed by a reception on the JahnPlatz traditionally organised by Comd Comms **Lt Col James Budd** (also CO of the Regiment) and the Comms Branch team of **Maj John Hayes** and **Capt TOT Jerry Sullivan**. Again much work was done behind the scenes and thanks go to the QM **Maj Tony Downes** R Anglian (and virtually all his department!) for helping to provide yet another successful event in Berlin.

Two Royal Signals vehicles lead the drive past. 2nd from left, Sgt Brian Rogers with crew; Sig Mick Whitehead, LCpl 'Tiny' Latham and Sig Neil Woodhall (driver). Right, Sgt Dave Beresford with crew; Sig Ken Jones, LCpl Jim Neaves and Sig Neil Evemy (driver)

The 21 gun salute and 'Feu de Joie'. In the background the Olympic Stadium

Sir Jock Taylor toasts The Queen. With him are Lt Col Budd (left), Maj Gen Gordon Lennox (GOC Berlin British Sector) and Mr David Wyatt MP

# 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
## Hammersmith

**VISITS**

On 21 March we were visited by our Deputy Brigade Commander, **Col Peter Thompson, OBE, TD**, who, after supper in the Mess, looked around RHQ and HQ Squadron at Hammersmith, accompanied by the **2IC Maj Colin Stenning** and the **RSM WO1 Cas Francis**. Then it was down to Coulsdon to see 41 Sqn where he was met by the OC **Maj Jim Mill** and the SSM **WO2 Peter Lovett**. Not surprisingly the Colonel spent much of the evening talking to soldiers, some of whom had served with him as their Squadon Commander and almost all of whom had been commanded by him until June 1983.

A week later we were pleased to receivé, on a formal visit, **Brig Peter Tower**, Chief of Staff London District, accompanied by **Lt Col Colin Brown**, Comd Comms London District. They began their visit at 83 Sqn at Southfields where they were met by the CO, **Lt Col David Strong**, the RSM (again—so no name this time!) the OC, **Maj Paul Whittle** and the SSM **WO2 Chris Mahony**. After visits to several departments the Brigadier then presented medals and clasps to: **SSgt Dave Tarrant—LS & GC, Sgts Les Lobjoit** and **Clive Brown—TA Efficiency Medals, WO2 (SSM) Barry Skingle, SSgt Tom McCarthy** and **Mr (ex SSgt) Andy Bridges—First Clasps to Efficiency Medals.**

Total service amounting to 93 years—well done lads. Of course on retiring to the Sergeants' Mess a good deal of 'Medal Dunking' was the order of the evening.

Our TA RQMS WO2 Alan Lafferty explains to the Chief of Staff, London District, Brig Peter Tower, what it is that he is short of!

**A TIME FOR CHANGE**

We said goodbye to five of our young regular soldiers just after Christmas, all of whom had been with us for a valuable and hardworking year, having been posted back from BAOR. **LCpl Ray Hitchin** to AFCENT, **Sig 'Orv' Graham** to 8 Brigade, **Sig (now LCpl) Jimmy Rock** to 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Dave Holt** and **Steve Bickers**. We hope the experience will be an asset to them in future years and thank them for their hard work and unfailing senses of humour.

**WO2 (RQMS) Dave Simpson** changed his RQMS crest for an SSM's Crown and went off to 20 Armd Bde. We've since heard that he has been selected for WO1—well done and well deserved.

We've also said goodbye to **Sig Dave Davidson-Page** and his family to sunny Blandford and 30 Sig Regt—but only as a stopping off point before moving on to the Falklands. **Sgt Malcolm Ball**, having computerised the Training Team, has left us for Catterick and his SSgts Course, shortly to be followed by his YofS Course.

**Maj Peter Treseder**, our Training Major, has moved on after 3½ years to the School of Signals—again! Life will undoubtedly not 'bee' the same without him.

We welcome our new RQMS **WO2 Barry Williams**, already selected for **WO1, SSgt Roy Smith** a new NRPS SQMS and **Sgt Frank Vaughan** to the Training Team. Their new leader is the young (so he tells us!) new Training Major, **Maj Peter Williams**. A happy tour to you and your families.

**HONOURS**

Particular congratulations are due to **SSgt Frank Spiers**, of our Pay team, who has been awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service and received this from the Lord Lieutenant **Baroness Phillips** at a ceremony at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea.

SSgt Frank Spiers receives his Certificate of Meritorious Service from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London, Baroness Phillips

**REUNION DINNER**

On 17 March, 18 of those who had served together in 1968-70 in 11 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (as it then was) in Minden, met for a Reunion Dinner at RHQ at Hammersmith, by kind permission of the CO. The get-together organised by **WO1 (RSM) Cas Francis** (yes, him again) brought people together from far and wide to meet friends they'd not seen in 14 to 16 years. Nearly half of the 18 are now civilians and, after a superb dinner produced by **Cpl Ali Matabdin** and served by stewardesses from the Regiment, many a story was told (and maybe even retold). We are assured by those present that 'they drank a few for you' for those ex-members who for various reasons couldn't make it.

Those present were: **Brig Jack Westlake**, the Deputy SOinC, **Lt Col Colin Brown**, Comd Comms Londist, **Lt Col (Retd) Gerry Corden, Mr Steve Doyle, Mr Paul Barlow** from Jersey, **Cpl Toby Garnett, WO2 Gary Coude, Sgts Barry Young** and **Fred Alexander**, all from Catterick, **WO2 Scouse Chapman** from the Junior Leader Regiment, **WO1 Davey McGurk** from 34 Sig Regt, **Mr Alan Manson, Mr George Ridley** and **Mr Joe Park**, all from Newcastle and **SSgt Sammy Stephenson** and **Mr Jim Young** from BAOR.

**83 SQUADRON**

Congratulations to **Lt Diane Lilley** OC E Troop on passing her Lieutenant to Captain promotion exam so splendidly—top WRAC officer and third overall, (and incidentally to **Lt John Ruske** of 41 Sqn who also passed).

We have said farewell to our PSI at Cobham **Sgt John Woodruff** who is now sampling civvy street, and we welcome his successor **Sgt 'Chappie' Tunks**.

The Brigade Ex *Vernal Maiden* brought Trunk Node India a surprise visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**, accompanied by our Brigade Commander **Brig Ian Shapter**. At the end of the exercise we hear that OC B Troop **Capt Roger Knowles** was much impressed by the efforts of **Cpl Dave Hermels** of C Troop who rescued his 2IC **Lt Vicki Hutchinson** from a 'fate worse than death' by pulling her out of a decidedly smelly bog. Other members of B Troop who had to spend three hours in her close company on the journey back to Cobham were, however, reported to be not at all impressed by the consequences!



**REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM**

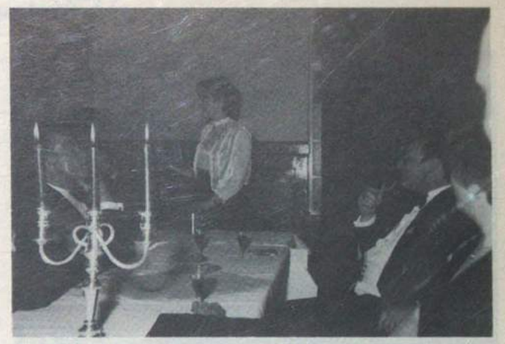
After many years absence from competition shooting, the 31 Sig Regt Shooting Team underwent its 'Baptism of Fire' at this year's London District Rifle Association Meeting.

Due to work commitments **Lt Ian Webber** and **Cpl Graham Drew** were unable to shoot, thus depriving the team of their skills in the SLR and LMG. The shooting numbers were made up by using the non-shooting Team Captain and the Team 'GOFFA', who none the less managed not to come last in any event. The team who fired consisted of: **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** SLR, **Sgts Tom McCarthy** SMG, **Glyn Jones** SLR, **Cpls Mick Traynor** SLR, SMG, **Simon Fernley-Jones** SLR, LMG 'B', **Sig Nick Tuck** SLR, LMG 'B', **Geofrey Parker** SLR, **Jez Richardson** SLR, SMG, LMG 'A', **Ian Taylor** SLR, SMG, LMG 'A'

The results obtained were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cpl Mick Traynor** | 4th Individual Rifle Match |
| Section Team | 4th Section Match |

As a result of the above and, the combined efforts of the remainder, the team finished in eighth position and qualified for TASAM 84.



At the Sergeants' Mess Dinner Night SSgt Kate Killick (oops—Makinson) says thank you for her gift on leaving us while her husband SSgt Jim Makinson puffs contentedly on his pipe. Is Capt John Robson smoking a candle or a cigar?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## 32 Sig Regt (V)
## Glasgow

**HI S AND BYE S**

Since our last little foray into print the Regiment has undergone a few changes in its management team. **Lt Col Cullen** is succeeded as CO by **Lt Col Culley**, and **Capt Brian Jackson** has been succeeded by **Capt Peter Costello** in the Adjutant's post, we wish them both and their families good luck in the land of plenty. Other goings are **SSgt Tom Noonan**, to civilian life, **SSgt Davey Moore**, to the glass mountain and **Sgt Stuart Hawey** to JATE RAF Brize Norton on promotion. To be welcomed are **SSgts Tony Davies** and **John McAveety** and **Sgt Alan Kitchington**, welcome one and all and to those recently departed—thanks for all your hard work. We would also like to wish **Maj Jimmy Jamieson** all the best in civvy street having recently retired after many years (and many ranks) in the Corps, as a volunteer.

'One Royal Signals TA Regiment as per inventory—Sign here please' Lt Col Culley takes over command of the Regiment from Lt Col Cullen

**SCARBOROUGH MAY 84**

Sounds like a battle honour and I'm sure **Maj Pat MacCulloch** and **WO2 (YofS) John MacKenzie** both feel that way having organised another excellent trade training excursion to that beautiful part of the countryside. Best male tradesman was **Sig Keith Laidlaw** with **Pte Yvonne Callaghan** being the best female. The best commcen prize was won by Scottish Central Commcen manned (for want of a better expression) by **LCpl Frances Thomas** (61 Sqn) **Pte Margaret Douglas** (61 Sqn) **Pte Jill Fouracre** (61 Sqn) **Sig Allan Miller** (52 Sqn) **Cpl Gordon Griffiths** (52 Sqn) **LCpl Andy Wilson** (51 Sqn).

**HITLER LINE PARADE**

69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn had the honour of trooping the Guidon to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the famous assault on the Adolf Hitler line in May 1944 near Monte Casino. Many experiences were recounted by old comrades to present members of the Squadron at the evening festivities.

**VIP VISIT**

GOC Scotland, **Lt Gen Sir A. Boswell KCB CBE** visited 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V) on 3 May. During his evening at the TA Centre he visited lectures and other normal evening activities. He had the opportunity of speaking to all members of the Squadron, some of whom are featured in the photographs.

**EXTRA MURAL**

Life in the Regiment is not all movement and work. The MT under guidance of **WO1 Vic Shillingford** were just pipped at the post in the final of the Army (Scotland) Road Safety quiz. The team was headed by **Cpl John Taylor** and consisted of **LCpls Doug McRitchie, Billy Urquhart** and **Sig Craig Smith**. Having recently driven with members of the MT, had the competition been a rally, the author is certain it would have been a more close run event.

Marathons (the event not the chocolate bar) have really caught on in the Regiment and the PSI's are to be congratulated on a very creditable 53rd place in the 1984 Astral half marathon. Special

GOC Scotland being introduced to WO2 (SSM) Brian Murray with the CO and the RSM, WO1 Brian Peel supervising

GOC Scotland talking to SSgt Pete Wilson with Maj Ron McNaught looking on

GOC Scotland sharing a weapon training lesson with Ptes Gillian Chalmers and Lorraine McIntyre, new recruits to the Squadron

mention for the team of **WO1 Vic Shillingford, WO2 Gary Sharp** (between resettlement courses) **SSgt Roy Saxby** and **Cpl Nigel Harwood** who took part—keep the insurance policies well dusted!

OC LAD **Lt Phil Stuart** ably assisted by all ranks of the LAD have taken up a new sport—ploughing. This sport can be entered by individuals or teams and consists of ploughing, in as untidy manner as possible, perfectly grassed farmers fields, with MK's and winch wagons—well done the boys, I'm sure your talent will be recognised one day.



## 33 Sig Regt (V)
## Liverpool

**EXERCISE *VERNAL MAIDEN***

I am assured that the rumours of our having squatters rights to Cannock Chase are without foundation, but our frequent visits do ease the problems of setting up at night—whatever our new Training Major, **Peter Hallett** may think. We are of course well used to working in the dark, especially on Brigade FTXs!

The turnout was surprisingly good for a Friday evening start, despite counter attractions, like the FA Cup Final. Had Everton been playing Liverpool—as seemed a distinct possibility in the planning phases—it might have been a different story. It also meant that things were working smoothly in time for a welcome visit from the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. Benbow** whose presence added that Annual Camp flavour in reminding us of the need to entertain visitors.

Comms too went well, apart from the shots to our non existent relay, sited on a very existent coalmine, which caused severe sense of humour failure at Brigade HQ, to say nothing of Police HQ and the NCB. With the accent very much on night movements, the late close down on Sunday enabled several elements of the Regiment to practise getting back to drill halls in the dark—most of them, fortunately, before closing time!

The CO, Lt Col Tony de V Hunt and WO1 (RSM) Bob Lockwood with members of the Regimental Detachment Course held at Gilwern TA Centre, Chester, during the months of March, April, May

The Regimental Detachment Commanders Courst Instructors. *L to R:* WO1 Tommy Watkinson, Sgt Ken Almond, SSgt John Slamon, Cpl Derek Sullivan, SSgt Bill McAlister

Potential Recruits attending the Regimental Recruits Selection Course at Saighton Camp during the weekend 6/8 April 1984

The 2IC Maj Adrian Leech briefing the SOinC in the RCP during 11 Sig Bde (V) Ex *Vernal Maiden* on Saturday 19 May. The Regimental Ops Officer Maj Gordon Harrison in support

The SOinC meets OC 42 Sig Sqn (V), Maj Chris Clark at TN 'X' during Ex *Vernal Maiden*. The CO keeps a watching brief

Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), Brig Ian Shapter talking to WO1 (RSM) Bob Lockwood and WO2 (SSM) Burt Styles of 42 Sig Sqn (V) at TN 'X' on 11 Sig Bde (V) Ex *Vernal Maiden* during weekend 18-20 May

# 34 Sig Regt (V)
# Middlesbrough

## NEWS FROM 49 SQUADRON

— where? In case anyone at RHQ has forgotten, we're the 'southerners' from Leeds and Hull and most of the old timers remain steadfastly at their posts.

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj John Ruff TD** |
| **Admin Officer** | **Capt Fred Dolby MBE MM** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Graham Jennings** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Pat Quinn (Leeds)** |
| **PSI** | **WO2 Yvonne Swinney WRAC (Hull)** |

and we welcome **SSgt Gordon Hardaker** as our PSI (NRPS).

**Lt Allan Grindrod** has recently taken over command of the thriving Alpha Troop detachment at Hull, from the newly promoted **Capt Stuart Jack**. Very best wishes go to **Pte Kim Crawford** from Hull, on her marriage on 10 March to **David Crawford**, who is, regrettably, a member of another Corps.

Congratulations to **Pte Angela Cunningham** who was awarded a Proficiency Certificate on her Recruit Course at Guildford. **Sgt Barry Holroyd** managed (somehow) to complete his UBRE course despite having both arms in slings, and to consume the qualifying quantity of beer, despite the handicap. **Cpl Sue Hollins, LCpls Karen Gordon** and **Angela Dougal** have all recently been promoted as has **LCpl Janet Clarkson**, obviously benefitting from her engagement to **LCpl Martin Hardy**, also of 49 Sqn. **2Lt's Johnathan Tomlinson** and **Janet McClean** have been granted commissions.

## WRAC CROSS COUNTRY

In the UKLF WRAC Cross Country Championships on 31 March, the Regimental Team of six including **Cpl Ruth Devlin, Ptes Angela Cunningham** and **Carol Plumb** all of 49 Sqn, were placed third overall and first in NEDIST.

## NIJMEGEN SELECTION

The Regiment, having advanced in the running from 4th reserve team in the UK to a place in this year's Nijmegen Marches, arranged its main selection weekend for 19 and 20 May. 20 of the Regiment's more hardy souls, gathered from every Squadron, set out on the first day for a 25 mile road march under the watchful eye of **Maj Benny Newell**, IC team selection. The route from Darlington took several loops around North Yorkshire and in consequence the marchers saw one road junction no less than four times over the weekend.

After several hours the miles began to tell, with a sunny sky and sore feet having their effect and, a stop at the nearest hostelry was called for. Unfortunately, standing up again proved the difficult part and we had our first dropouts. One long drag home and we were in for the Cup Final. The second day was dull, which dampened the spirits but we kept our cool. All but one of the day's starters crossed the finish line with particular credit going to our two girls, **Sgt Maggie Bottom** and **Pte Catherine Munroe** who both completed the course.

## EXERCISE *TENDERFOOT*

On the same weekend and despite several other commitments, 49 Sqn held a successful map reading and adventure training exercise in a remote part of the Yorkshire Dales. Sore feet were acquired by all, leading to a request from **Sgt Gaynor Vance** that the words 'hill' and 'up' should no longer be used in the squadron in view of their painful memories, **2Lt Penny Wood**, who has recently joined us from Leeds UOTC was fortunately located on the side of Pen-y-Ghent but only by following an extraordinary trail of applecores.

The Squadron Commander announces that **Sgt George 'Tannoy' Berry** is appointed official lightning conductor.

Sgt Maggie Bottom leads off a remarkably fresh looking team

The marchers return, Cpl Gordon Walker still smiling—just!

And finally, a sad farewell. We are soon to say goodbye to our long serving Admin Officer, **Capt Fred Dolby MBE MM. Capt 'Fred'** joined the TA in 1939—the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry ... and frequently has been heard to lament the fact that he did two camps with the TA, the first of 14 days, the second of six years!

After service at Anzio, in the 8th Army, and subsequently in seemingly every station of the globe with his 'own' King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, he finally joined us as our Admin Officer in 1969. His bark has echoed around Harewood Barracks since then, using his immense experience of the army, and of life, to train many private soldiers and Squadron Commanders alike. His will be a hard act to follow.

## VERY SPECIAL

Well, as our title implies, we belong not only to 34(N) Signal Regiment (V) but also the volunteer Corps. Of course we very rarely use our full title accept on certain official programmes and on our LP cover. Yes, we produced an LP in 1982 and a few copies are still available for sale at £2 each. (Orders please to the Band President 34(N) Signal Regiment (V)). We hope to make another one next year.

1984 has proved an eventful year, so far, for the Band. The decision made in 1983 by the Corps Committee to provide funds to dress the band in the same manner as the Corps Regular Band has allowed us to appear at a recent engagement in scarlet tunics—we are almost there! By the end of July you will not be able to tell us apart.

The Band continues to play a full programme of engagements, mainly in North East District, but occasionally we do go further as you will see from our Alderney report below. We recently played at the James Heriot Dalesman Run held in Swaledale where one of our fans found time to talk to the Bandmaster, and was heard to say something along the lines of 'how nice to hear my Band again'. We thought this was a lovely comment, so we promptly presented him with a copy of our LP. We hope, **Mr Home Secretary**, that you and your colleagues in Whitehall enjoy listening to our music!

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP comes over to talk to the Bandmaster, WO1 Derek Farrington, whilst playing at the James Heriot Dalesman Run



## THE ALDERNEY TRIP

Late last year the CO was asked for permission for the Band to accompany 30 Sig Regt at their Alderney celebrations, an engagement normally carried out by the Corps Band. The engagement was accepted and we looked forward to the end of May when the trip would be made.

The Band left Middlesbrough for Portsmouth at 0030 hrs on 18 May, arriving at HMS *Vernon* (Gun Wharf) around breakfast time. We loaded ourselves and equipment onto the 20 Maritime Regiment RCT vessel *Yarnmouth Navigator* and set sail for the Channel Islands. Now, just to dispel any rumours that the British do not build good ships, you should try this one. 41 years old, around 250 tons, average speed nine knots, built entirely of wood (metal fittings and bridge), she would bring tears to an old trawlerman's eyes. The Channel was unusually calm (thank the Lord!) and our 10 hour crossing was uneventful.

We arrived at the Port of St Anne's at approximately 1830 hrs that day and tied up alongside one of HM's Minesweepers (she towered over us). The Band who were now practiced at the art of loading a ship, quickly formed a chain from our vessel, over the minesweeper and on to the quayside. Bus loaded, we departed to our hotel — the local primary school, smashing it was too! Complete with hamsters, gerbils and tropical fish. Showers and toilets were a bit Lilliputian but the band soon adapted to bending the knee. The next two days saw us playing for the islanders right across the age span. Our first concert was for the schoolchildren at our 'hotel', then later we played for patients in the local hospital and finally that evening we gave a concert in the 'States Hall'. On Sunday we played at the States President's Church Service followed by a performance at his luncheon party. The final performance was in the open air at the Island Old Peoples Home which attracted, not only the residents, but most of the islanders, as well. Our 'Roadie' (Band President) judged the success of the performance by the number of LPs he sold. That's one senior citizens' home that can boast one LP per resident!

This was a trip to remember. The islanders were magnificent, they loved, not only our music, but our presence also. They looked after us well and made us welcome everywhere we went. Our military hosts, 30 Sig Regt fed us well and looked after our needs during our visit, and for this we would like to say a special thank you to **SSgt (SQMS) Knight** and his men for all they did for us. Guess what?—we went back to Portsmouth on the *Yarnmouth Navigator*. The crossing was slow but sure and, thankfully, smooth.

The Band assembled outside the Church in St Anne's prior to the States President's Service on Sunday 20 May 1984. (The jackets are scarlet)!

## SCARBOROUGH TRAINING CAMP 17/18 MARCH

On 17/18 March the Regiment held its annual winter training weekend at Scarborough. It was rather hectic as the Regiment covered more subjects than usual, ie NEDSAM training at Whitburn, Officer training, Recruit training and also a condensed NBC course for officers and SNCOs instructed by the NEDIST Training Team. The remainder of the Regiment carried our military and trade training programmes. Although unusually busy all instructors did extremely well and and the weekend was very successful.

## VISIT OF COMMANDER TRAINING GROUP AND CATTERICK GARRISON

During the weekend 17/18 March the Regiment was visited by the Commander Training Group and Catterick Garrison **Brig F. R. Maynard**. The Brigadier arrived on Sunday 18 March and was met by the CO. **Lt Col H. M. A. Bonaker**. He was shown around the STC Scarborough and met various members of the Regiment undergoing training, which included Recruit Selection and NBC training. The Regiment then paraded and **Brig Maynard** presented the *Devil's Leap* and *Maidens Scurry* trophies to members of the Regiment. The male soldiers who won the *Devil's Leap* trophy encountered fierce opposition from many units, including infantry. The awards for *Maidens Scurry* were Regimental awards for teamwork and effort. Afterwards the Brigadier visited the WO's and Sgt's Mess for drinks and then lunched with the officers in their Mess, bringing to an end a successful visit. We hope that the Brigadier will visit us again in the near future.

*L to R:* Lt Ian Hall, LCpl Dave Robson, The Brigadier presents the winner's trophy *Devil's Leap* to Lt Ian Hall

Brig Maynard presents a *Devil's Leap* Trophy to Sig Glen Hemmings. Capt Stan Long in attendance.

Brig Maynard talks to Pte Michelle Hall

# 35 Sig Regt (V)
# Sutton Coldfield

**EXERCISE *VERNAL MAIDEN***

After several days of concern that this 11 Signal Brigade exercise would be cancelled due to lack of rain, the weather changed and bone dry communications sites reverted to the standard damp ground we are used to. The exercise combined the assets of all three Regiments in the Brigade over a widespread area of the West Midlands, stretching from Leek in the north to Edge Hill in the south, the Wrekin in the west to Bardon Hill in the east. An early start and good turnout made this a successful exercise with, for the first time, no major frequency problems much to the delight of the Brigade SO1 **Lt Col Bob Titterington** and the various Regimental Ops officers.

In our RCP, the CO **Lt Col Mike Louden** was pleased to see his pet project the Regimental Teleprinter Conference net prove its operational effectiveness. The conference units were designed by **WO2 (FofS) Ivan Thomas** and built in the unit workshops by **Sgt Reg Whitehead**. The circuit diagram is available to any who want it—no Patent has been taken out!

Sig Andrew Birch and Ian Diamond rewinding D10

Sgt Brendan Kidney—spinning another yarn

**BEST ALL ROUND JUNIOR OFFICER**

The retiring Deputy Commander 11 Signal Brigade **Col Jim Greenhill** presented a magnificent trophy to the Brigade, to be awarded to the best all round junior officer. For the year 1983/84 this was awarded to **2Lt Helen James** of 95 Signal Squadron.

Col Greenhill, 2Lt Helen James and the CO after the presentation

**FAREWELL**

We said a sad farewell recently to several Regimental stalwarts **Capt Sandy Livingstone** who presented a beautiful rose bowl to the unit and **Capt Barbara Gratton WRAC** the WRAC PSO who retired after 43 years military service. We wish them every success in the future.

The CO Lt Col Mike Louden, Capt Sandy Livingstone and Maj Richard Showell exchanging gifts



**FOCUS ON 58 SIG SQN (V)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Bob Haysom** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Richard Harris** |
| **PSAO** | **Maj Peter Tidey** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Bill Eccleston** |
| **OC S Tp** | **2Lt Jane Hubbard WRAC** |
| **2IC S Tp** | **2Lt Mike Atkinson** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **Sgt Skip Whalley** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Lt Richard Kingston** |
| **2IC R Tp** | **2Lt Jeanette Bell WRAC** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Bill Lambert** |
| **Sqn PSI** | **SSgt John Hyde** |

The Squadron is based at Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire and provides Access Nodes and Pick Up Points for the Regimental area communications system. The re-organisation over the past year has seen many changes of personnel and, to a lesser extent, equipment. With a heavy emphasis on training, the Squadron is now in fine state for our forthcoming camp in Germany in June. The recent May Brigade exercise was an outstanding success for the Squadron with Major Access Node, Minor Access Node and two PUPs being fielded. Our newly refurbished message centre vehicle, a Commer of ancient vintage, was proudly shown off to all visitors—we hope it will remain roadworthy!

Our congratulations go to **Annette Holland** and **Steve Mills** who have both been accepted as Officer Cadets. In due course we hope to see them both come back as 2Lts.

A successful new adventure was held in April. An American Night with hillybilly disco, barn dance, Californian Cocktail, hamburgers and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Success was due to the efforts of **Cpl Karen Ingle, Ptes Lorraine** and **Stephanie Booth** and **Mrs Chris Barrington-Clark**. It was new in that a local firm, who employ some of our personnel, was invited to share the evening. They gladly accepted and ninety of their employees attended. They thoroughly enjoyed the event and we trust that good local relations have taken one step forward.

To fill in their spare time, as if they have any, 15 members of the Squadron have formed a mountain walking and climbing club. Their activities so far have included a 40 mile race in the Brecon Beacons carrying 40lb around the course in 24 hours. The conditions and the 'moon' grass took their toll on a few but after a 'Bucks Fizz' breakfast all managed to stagger to the bus.

Sadly we have said goodbye to a few stalwarts. **Lt M. E. Hunter-Choat, OCDT Mike Dix, Cpl Nigel Adey** and **Pte Vivian Birchall**. Good luck, we are sorry to see you go.

**FOCUS ON 89 (WARWICKSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Paul Stafford TD** |
| **PSAO** | **Maj Roy Smithard** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Ian MacKenzie** |
| **OC 'B' Tp** | **Lt Pat Bannigan** |
| **2IC 'B' Tp** | **2Lt Petra Roberts WRAC** |
| **OC 'U' Tp** | **2Lt Glen Morrison** |
| **Officer Cadets** | **Phil Hassell** and **Colin Meikle**. Congratulations on passing the District Selection Boards and good luck at Sandhurst. |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Bob Horne** |

**HISTORY**

The Squadron, based at Edward Street, Rugby, is the successor unit of an RA battery and an Independent Signal Squadron RA.

**EXERCISE *CRESTED EAGLE* 10-18 MARCH**

**Maj Stafford, SSM Horne, SSgt Richard Cox** and **Sgt Derek Sharman** joined other Regimental teams for a whistle-stop tour of Belgium, Holland and central Germany, receeing site for Ex *Calm Fence*. Meanwhile back at . .

**RUGBY**

**SSgt Phil Pearson** and his stalwarts on the Social Committee organised a fancy dress St Valentine's Dance which truly 'swung': the costumes were imaginative and varied and our temporary portakabin accommodation at Edward Street shuddered with the dancing.

Where the 'old' TA Centre stood now resembles a World War I landscape after the effects of a creeping barrage. The flattened site awaits the commencement of rebuilding sadly postponed to September 1984.

**TRAINING**

During the latter part of the 1983/84 training year the emphasis in training was shifted from military to specialist trade training. Having saturated the Squadron with NBC, First Aid, BFT and Weapon Training the approach of the Brigade Ex *Calm Fence* in Germany made the development of skills a priority.

Ex *Double Nugget* in March was the first exercise in the work-up programme for annual camp. Comms came in slowly but surely, and valuable lessons were learned. The undoubted star of the exercise was **Sgt Charlie Walker** who demonstrated remarkable skill and initiative when, in order to achieve comms, he had to dismount his C70 and operate from a tent: that'll teach him to get bogged down at an angle of 60 degrees!

*Vernal Maiden*, the Brigade FTX, at the end of May, saw the lessons of *Double Nugget* being put into practice. Comms came in 'swift and sure'. This time **LCpl Sandy Ross WRAC** decided to give REME some practice by unintentionally parking the Commer TRV resting sideways at an angle of 30 degrees over the edge of a forest track: when will the Forestry Commission lay down cats' eyes to assist night moves into location?

**GOODBYE AND HELLO**

At the beginning of April, business commitments unfortunately compelled **Maj David Hardy TD**, to stand down prematurely as OC. His ebullient, 'cavalier' approach to the work and play of the Squadron will be missed.

In June our temporary PSI, **Sgt John Jarwood**, was posted to HQ Sqn but we welcome **SSgt Ian MacKenzie** to the Squadron and hope his sojourn with us is enjoyable.

**THE FUTURE**

Over the past two or three years the Squadron has had to respond to some unusual challenges, over and above the normal problems which afflict the TA. The situation has now stabilised and, with a steady stream of recruits, 89 looks forward to a period of considerable expansion fuelled by its existing high morale and pride in its communicating skills.

# 36 Sig Regt (V)
# Wanstead

**AT STANFORD**

The Regiment held a Military Skills weekend at Stanford PTA on 2/3 June. Approx 250 members of the Regiment were tested in NBC, First Aid, BFT and fired their personal weapon, and thereby qualified early in the year for part of the bounty requirements. Built into the weekend was a competition to find out the Regimental Champion Troop. The trophy for the competition was presented by our Trg Maj, **Maj Tim Mountford** and **SSgt (YofS) George McAvoy**, and named the Mountvoy Trophy. The champion troop at the end of the weekend was 707 Troop from Norwich, who finished well ahead of the rest of the field.

The Trg Maj, Maj Tim Mountford presenting WO2 (RQMS) 'Buffalo Soldier' Drakes with the award for the most misdirected rounds of the shooting competition. Sgt 'Spike' Mulligan PSI 44 Sig Sqn looks on in disbelief

Maj Tim Mountford and SSgt (YofS) George McAvoy with the Mountvoy Trophy prior to the presentation to the winning troop

The Winning Troop 707 Troop from Norwich: *Standing Left to Right:* Maj Tim Mountford (again), Sig John Tuttle, LCpl Pete Basted, Lt Col David Walden, Sgt Barry James, SSgt George McAvoy. *Kneeling Left to Right:* Cpl Gerry Circuit, LCpl 'Pinky' Pink, Cpl Kev Barward and Sig Richard Hall

Brig John Burrows in conversation with Capt Malcolm Touchin and 2Lt Julia Black

Pte Tina Hack after the medical students had finished with her

Lt Col David Walden, CO 36 Sig Regt (V) congratulating LCpl Vic Lambourn of HQ Sqn on the award of his Long Service Medal

**54 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

The final chapter in 54 Sqn's farewells to **Maj Pat Ruston MBE** was read at Cambridge recently when dozens of ex members of the Squadron (and 54 Regt) gathered to renew old acquaintances. Members like **Sgt Graham Ruck** now serving with the RMP at Brixton, **Sgt Roy Warne** now a **WO2** with the cadet force, **LCpl 'Woody' Fox** a retired signaller and many others stretching back over more than 15 years. The event was organised by a committee of old and new members who spent some months contacting old friends, searching out changed addresses and generally passing the word.

**Maj Ruston** was pleased to see so many old (!) faces and gained yet another presentation. (She'll need a warehouse to store them in). A few pints were sunk, a few old stories exchanged and **Maj Ruston** finally retired from 54 Sig Sqn (V). She has promised to keep in touch.

**NORMANDY**

36 members of 54 Sqn recently spent an interesting weekend in Normandy touring the battlefields, beaches and cemeteries. A few of the lads took their fathers and others in the party who had been that way before. For them the memories were still clear and their stories were listened to with great interest. The tour operator had also come ashore on D Day and so was able to fill in the gaps. The beaches are quite different now but standing overlooking the cliffs and in the well kept graveyards, it's very difficult not to 'feel' something.

We spent Saturday night in Rouen and awoke on Sunday morning to the church bells and falling snow. Because the French seamen were blockading Dieppe, we had to motor up to Boulogne which was a bit of a drag, but when we sailed out of the harbour into a fairly rough sea, I think most of us were glad that the sea crossing was only going to take 75 minutes. This was our third battlefield tour and next year we will probably go back to the Somme.

Members of 54 Sqn and friends in Normandy

**45 (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Douglas McLay** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Roger Buston** |
| **OPS/Trg** | **Capt Ron Wilkinson** |
| **AO** | **Capt Arthur Beeton** |
| **Sqn Sub** | **Lt Colin Dyball** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Pete Minshall** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Davie Dunn** |
| **OC 750 Tp** | **Capt Jackie Allan WRAC** |
| **OC 751 Tp** | **Lt Val Jepson WRAC** |
| **OC 752 Tp** | **2Lt Paul Hill** |
| **OC 817 Tp** | **Lt Phil (Dangermouse) Penfold** |
| **OC 819 Tp** | **Lt Chris Whitworth** |

It is not every day one gets a 'royal' command from RHQ suffixed 'or else', but the Adjt **Capt Andy Russell** is so impressed by the high standard of journalism in the Squadron Newspaper the *McLay Star* that he demanded *Wire* notes by return. Of course this hack cannot match the style of **Pte Debbie York** and her team who produce the *Star* monthly.

***LIONHEART* PREPARATIONS**

By now *Wire* readers will no doubt be sick of *Lionheart* but like all BAOR units 45 Sqn is building up to the big event. The countdown to *Lionheart* started in January with a Squadron exercise. As the first job was to get the loading lists updated most SNCOs in the Squadron curse **Capt Roger Buston**, the 2IC, under their breath as they shuffle sheaves of coloured paper making out their lists. The 2ICs biggest fan is **Sgt Phil Hunt** who has not had so much fun in years making out 819 Tp lists.

As an essential preparation for *Lionheart* fitness training is held in each TAC on a Tuesday evening, our alternative drill night. **LCpl John Nichols** at Ilford **Cpl Dave Rush** and **Sig Mick Thompson** at Brentwood and **Cpl Maggie Binks WRAC** at Colchester are the leading sadists.

**CHAMPION TROOP**

For the second time in three years one of 45 Sqn Tps has won the award as the Regiment's Champion Troop. This year it was won by the usually unsung heroes of SHQ Tp. Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Pete Minshall** and his team especially **Cpl Ray Symonds, LCpls Pete 'Rent a crease' Stockwell, 'Killer' Bradford** and **Sig Mick Thomson**, not forgetting our two stand-in-clerks, **Ptes Kim Fayers** and **Debbie York**.

**SQUADRON CONTINGENT WEEKEND**

Commitments to Regimental training made the Squadron training weekend at Shoeburyness a select affair. However, a pairs competition was held, testing many military skills. The winning pair were **Cpl Smudge Smith** and **Pte Lisa MacMillan** who proceeded to drink the winnings before they could read the labels. Highlight of the weekend though was the presentation of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates to **Cpl Jim Leffley** and **LCpl Dave Walsh** for their outstanding service to the TA. Also the SQMS **SSgt Davie Dunn** received a bar to his efficiency medal. The presentation ceremony was preceeded by two extremely smart quarter guards provided by the Squadron. These were commanded by **SSgt Mick O'Brien** and **Sgt Edna Sisseam WRAC** under the direction of **Lt Phil Penfold**.

**COMBAT WEEKEND**

Those demons at RHQ decided we must take to our feet on the Stanford PTA to combine with elements of 44 Sqn to provide an Inf Coy for the infamous advance to contact. All were exhausted by the event but there was at least one smile left at the end. During the exercise **2Lt Nigel Thomson** demonstrated a new type of suicidal platoon tactic. It's amazing what they teach at Sandhurst these days. **Capt Ron Wilkinson** is still looking for his bridge whilst the sight of **Cpl Mary Evans** chasing and cajoling men twice her size to keep up with her was a joy to behold. However the OCs Driver, **LCpl Pete Stockwell** found carrying a radio a different kettle of fish from chauffering the OC in a landrover. However he remained cheerful and found the energy to press his NBC suit in the night defensive position. Finally though the golden 'Bollo' award goes to our very own Trg Major, **Maj Tim Mountford**. Well, it is not every Trg Major who gasses the GOC EDIST daughter!

**CONCLUSION**

Well it really is 'eyes down' for *Lionheart* now. 45 Sqn will be in all its old haunts in BAOR, as usual. If any readers should be in the RCZ during *Lionheart* do drop in on Comcen INDIA, you will be sure of a warm welcome—especially if you bring some fresh bread.

# 37 Sig Regt (V)
# Bristol

### 53 (WELSH) SIG SQN

**GOODBYES AND WELCOME**

We are sorry to say goodbye to **Capt Ian Thomson** (now **Major**) who left us to take command of 43 Sig Sqn (V) in Bridgwater.

Another sad loss to the Squadron is the posting of **Lt Gill Jones (now Capt)** to RHQ in Bristol as Assistant Adjutant. **Gill**'s amazing organisational ability has resulted in many superb Mess functions and many popular and well attended Squadron activities which have in the past enabled us to raise a great deal of money for charity. We all congratulate **Gill** on her promotion and deep down will always think of her as part of 53.

We are also sorry to lose **Sgt Roger Dawes** who has left us after 18 years service with the Squadron. Although I am sure **Roger** will miss us he can retire happy with the knowledge that we have promoted three others to Sgt—we won't tell him that they are not all replacing him.

Welcome to **2Lt Tim Bardell-Cox** who has recently joined us from Cardiff OTC. Apparently **Tim** considered carefully every TA unit in Wales and had no second thoughts in choosing 53 Sig Sqn (V).

**PROMOTIONS**

**Lt John Buckels** of our CMHQ Troop, Brecon, has been promoted to **Capt** and has filled the gap left by **Ian Thomson** by taking over the command of 900 Tp in Cardiff. Congratulations to **Cpls Dave Williams, Karen Fisher** and **Kathy Rose** on their promotion to **Sgt**.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Capt Jane Buckels** who recently attended a range management course at Aldershot. Not only was **Capt Buckels** the first WRAC to do this course but she also attained first place.

Well done to **Cpl Sue Smith** on passing her B1 cooks and to **Ptes Yvonne Lodwick** and **Shirley Parker** on being selected as best recruit on their recent Recruits course at Guildford. Very best wishes to **Cpl Nicky Bolton** on her marriage to **Andrew Neill** and congratulations to **LCpl Linda Melvin** who is soon to become a mum.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

The highlight of the year for **Cpl Linda Hardiman** and **LCpl Bonnie Gibson** was a six week detachment in Norway to 29 Commando Regiment RA. The girls, along with two WRAC soldiers from 57 Sig Sqn (V), were the only females amongst 400 men—needless to say they had a wonderful time.

Sgt Karen Fisher—'Did you want me? Oh sorry, I didn't realise you were talking about the Colonel when you said where is the first lady this weekend'

**SHOOTING TEAM**

Well done to the lads of the shooting team. Their endless hours of practicing certainly paid off when, led by Team Captain **Lt Paul Welsh-Harding**, they swept the board at the annual Regimental SAAM and won the championship cup. Special awards were presented to **LCpl Brian Simmons** (champion SMG shot) and **Sig Robert Pearce** (champion SLR shot). The following weekend at the South West District SAAM the team gave the Regiment a placing in the competition for the first time by becoming runners up overall TA SMG. Individual prizes were won by **Sgt Dave Dorrance, LCpls Fred Newton** and **Mark Roberts**. **Lt Welsh-Harding, Sgt Dorrance, LCpl Newton** and **Sig Pearce** have now been selected to go to Bisley.

Infected by the lads enthusiasm the WRAC are now practising hard to establish their own team. They are determined to attain the same high standards as the men—look out next year.

The shooting team proudly showing off their trophies (and yes, they are champagne bottles) at the Regimental SAAM
*Top Row:* LCpl Brian Simmons, Sig Robert Pearce, Sgt Dave Dorrance. Sig Glen Thomas and Phil Wynne
*Bottom Row:* Cpl Billy Waghorn, Sig Ray Worthington, Lt Paul Welsh-Harding and LCpl Fred Newton

**Don't be disappointed!**

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# 38 Sig Regt (V)
# Sheffield

### HEADQUARTER'S SQUADRON

**Maj Frank Kirkam** has handed over command of the squadron to **Maj Stuart Cottage MBE TD** who, incidentally, is the longest serving member of the Regiment.

Special congratulations are due again to **Sgt Marion Poulter** who, at the recent North East District Skill-at-Arms Meeting, led the winning WRAC team (with **Pte Sherri Kershaw**) and was the individual WRAC pistol champion. The Squadron emphasised its prowess in winning 13 of the 19 events of the Regimental Skill-at-Arms meeting by its success in winning the Clinch Cup for small-bore shooting. The Cup was presented to the winning team by **Brig Keith Olds**, Comd 2 Sig Bde, on 15 May.

Maj Gen P. A. Inge, GOC NE District, presenting the NE District WRAC Pistol Team Trophy, a team member goblet and the goblet for the WRAC Individual Pistol Winner to Sgt Marion Poulter of HQ Sqn (Marion now makes a habit of receiving armsful of trophies from very tall Generals. We are going to make a portable olympic style dais-plinth for future occasions)

Brig Keith Olds, about to make the presentation of the Clinch Cup to the winning HQ team WO2 Derek Wilkinson, Cpl Rod Bulmer, Pte Sherri Kershaw. Sgt Marion Poulter is hidden behind the very tall presenting officer—where's the dais?

### 46 (DERBYSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

At last we have our training centre to ourselves again! Although the police were very pleasant guests and many very useful liaisons were struck, their recent departure, after 11 weeks lodging in our drill hall, our Sgts' and Officers' messes and even in our miniature range, has meant that we can now resume our normal training patterns after a long period of 'ad hoc' arrangements in the garages and other less salubrious accommodation.

**Capt Dewi Treharne** (once a regular FofS) has become 2IC in succession to **Capt Mark Skipper TD** who has departed to 87 Sqn and thereafter to East Midlands UOTC.

### 64 (SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON

**Maj Frank Kirkham**, formerly OC HQ Sqn, has taken over the OC's portfolio from **Maj David Wing TD** who is to be a RCP watchkeeper. Recent promotions included the elevation of **Sgt Mark 'Bleep' Gardner** our ex-regular lineman and PTI and, now, the leader of our high profile regimental team, responsible for monitoring our unit BFT, Tickle Tests and the physical torments associated with our recruit selection and induction.

### 87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Tuesday 15 May saw the visit of **Brig Olds**, Comd 2 Sig Bde, to the Squadron. The OC, **Maj Ron Toft TD**, accompanied him on a tour of our training activities and he was able to meet very nearly all of our personnel. The evening was rounded off by visits to all three messes, terminating in an excellent supper in the Officers' Mess.

The Officers of the Squadron, together with those of our co-located unit, D Coy 1 Mercian, were hosts at the Station Officers' Mess Cocktail Party on 18 May. Principal guests were **Brig James Howard** Comd 49 Inf Bde, **Col Alan Hawksworth TD**, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Lt Col Nick Henwood TD**, our CO, and **Lt Col Ridgeway**, Comd CVHQ RCT, Grantham.

A party of 24 members of the Squadron spent a very enjoyable but exhausting weekend at Torver in the Lake District on 19/20 May. The activities included rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and fell walking, amidst the splendid scenery of the area. The reportedly most memorable event was the mixed bathing under the waterfall, which was almost mandatory, as it was a case of 'no bath—no pub!' Application has been made for the 'Tee Hee' mugs for the rendering of the Mike Reed radio jingle whilst abseiling. Our thanks are due to 11 Sig Regt Adventure Training Team for the organisation of the weekend which was deemed by all to be quite tremendous.

Congratulations to **Capt (TOT) Ian McGowan** and **Capt (Tfc) John Turner** on their recent commissioning and to **Lt Mike Read, WO2 (SSM) Brian Moore, SSgts Mick Piechota, Fred Waldram, Sgts Bev Swift** and **Kevin Gater** on their recent promotions.

The Comd 2 Signal Bde talking to Maj (TOT) Ron Toft, OC 87 Sqn, and the newly commissioned Capt John Turner

**93 (EAST LANCS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

Congratulations are due to our ex-naval officer **Lt Roger Davenport** who, at the recent Corps officer promotion examinations at Scarborough, won the prize for topping all the candidates and also winning the 2 Sig Bde Eaton Trophy. We are very glad we piped him aboard!

The Squadron was very pleased to welcome the 2 Sig Bde Comd, **Brig Olds**, to its drill evening on 5 June.

**STOP PRESS**

Congratulations to **Sig Eric McDonald**, 46 Squadron, on becoming Best Shot and Best Recruit on Course No 141 at Catterick.

Welcome and congratulations on their commissioning to **Capt (Tfc) David Rigley** (ex-regular WO1 Radio Supervisor) and **Lt Mark Cummins**.

87 Squadron's new NRPS SQMS, SSgt John Wade, appears to keep the Bde Comd at bay across the issues counter of the 'Q' stores!

A reflective moment in the meeting of the Brigadier with the stalwarts of the Recruit Tp, WO2 Peter Bacon and Sgt Bev Swift


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## 39 Sig Regt (V) City of London

**2 SQN**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj I. M. Gordon WRAC** |
| **2IC** | **Capt S. A. Monks WRAC** |
| **PSO** | **Capt W. Naismith** |
| **SSM WO2** | **R. Fell** |
| **PSI** | **Sgt J. Bird** |
| **Tech** | **Sgt I. Lumsden-Gordon** |

**EXERCISE *SHORT HOP***

The Squadron deployed using three separate locations for *Short Hop* during the last month. **Sgt John Bird** the PSI conceived the exercise; the motivation to produce good results was evident in the turnout of the complete Squadron, less five, who were required by their civilian masters. Just for the record, whenever we are visited by officers from RHQ the weather is inevitably inclement; we are happy to say that the weather during *Short Hop* was brilliant sunshine over the two days, and if any visitors had turned up they would have gone home with a tan.

The OC and PSO covered a good many miles during the exercise visiting all detachments. A word of praise for the excellent breakfast provided at Barry Buddon, the 'elevenses' at Dundee and main meal at Edinburgh. Well done the admin staff.

**WELCOME**

We would like to extend a welcome to the Squadron to **SSgt (Ex WO2 RQMS) Bert Wright** and his wife **Rita**, also to **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon** who joins us as NRPS Tech Sgt.

**SGTS' MESS ACTIVITIES**

The **SSM, Ray Fell** organised a cheese and wine night for the SNCOs and kindly invited the Officers to attend. The decoration of the Mess for the occasion was due to the efforts of **Bert Wright, Davie Black, Ian Lumsden-Gordon**, and of course **John Bird**. The evening was a success and the wives had a good sample of cheeses which was selected by **Mrs Sadie Fell**.

**PREPARATION FOR CAMP**

Camp is just about to become a reality and all ranks are looking forward to it. A major part of the preparation for Camp takes place next weekend which culminates in a Squadron Pre Camp Dance.

**RECRUIT SELECTION**

A recruit selection weekend was held early in May and proved successful by gaining the Squadron 10 recruits. Much credit for the running of the weekend must go to **Maj Roger Hedgecoe** and his recruiting team and a thanks to **Maj Mervin Sharp** for his contribution. The admin back up was provided by **SSgt Bert Wright** assisted by **LCpl Julie McMillan** (Cook?).

**SQUADRON NEWSLETTER GETS OFF THE GROUND**

A big pat on the back for **Cpl Linda McCann** for producing a monthly Newsletter within the Squadron; we are nearing our fourth issue.

**COURSES**

Well done **Cpl Dot McAllister** on her high marks achieved during her Catering and Management course.

**SPORT**

The Corps' Golf Spring Meeting was held at High Post Golf Course, nr Salisbury on 26-27 April, with the Regiment being represented by our only two golfers, **Maj Robbie Burns** and **Maj Harry Meekings**. On the first day the Stableford competition was won by a very good score of 36 points by **Maj Meekings** which meant a gross score of 74.

On the second day the main competition was the Corps Championship for Scratch and handicap over 36 holes. Some good scores were returned. **Maj Burns** was well to the front in the morning round with a nett 70 with **Maj Meekings** a few strokes ahead on 67.

Due to the very hot conditions over the two days all the afternoon scores were higher than the morning rounds, but **Maj Meekings** and **Maj Burns** played some steady golf to come first and second in the handicap competition.

**Maj Meekings** also won the Scratch competition and the Regular Officers' Cup giving him a clean sweep of all the individual trophies.


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# 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**ALL GO**

The Squadron has been very busy of late endeavouring to prepare for the Brigade Concentration, quickly followed by Ex *Javelin* and later in the year, Ex *Lionheart*. Besides this, with the help of the School, we are attempting to produce a Promotional/Recruiting Film (which at the moment appears like 'The Longest Day'), make sure you get to see it.

**ALPHA TROOP**

Having just completed a number of exercises including TA assistance and of course the Brigade Concentration, we have returned for a 10 day in unit sort out, prior to deploying on Ex *Javelin*. We are plagued by rumours of a possible long weekend, but don't panic, we are not holding our breath in anticipation.

During the Brigade Concentration the majority of our vehicles were underslung from a Chinook for a slightly different type of Airborne deployment, with the destination being Sennybridge Training Area. It's at times like this that you realise how much time and energy you save by letting the Air Force do the driving. However, this was to be a different type of exercise. Due to the scenario, there were no moves. Three cheers for small foreign countries! As usual we are now owed a fortune by the Comms Offr, YofS, FofS and various seniors toward our det brew fund, no doubt never to be recovered.

The first lift for Bde HQ and Sig Sqn into Ex *Eagle Talon*

Down drop for the Leading Parachute Battalion Group plus supporting arms—including most of C Tp. This was the start of Ex *Falcon Strike*

We say welcome to a new reprobate **LCpl 'Chalky' Lang** complete with 'Burt' and LMG. **Sig Ferguson** has just left us, **Sig Moody** and **LCpl Walker** are just about to do so. Good luck in your new units and many thanks for all your help. **Sig Evans** is now in the Falklands having promised to study for possible RTG retrade and EPC ... keep studying. **LCpl 'Tess' Walhey** is now happily married. **Cpl 'Ross' Miller** is expecting his second child, well his wife is. Last but not least, congratulations to **LCpl 'Los' Cefai** on his promotion. See, nagging does work. Being the 2IC's driver also helps.

Accommodation at the temporary Forward Mounting Base, Crickhowell

**BRAVO TROOP**

With the usual manpower problems we are pleased to welcome **Cpl John Cakebread** into the troop. Hopefully settling into a fixed mode of operation the troop was fully tested on the Bde Log Exercise in April, where a previous Sqn HF exercise proved its full worth.

Yet another OC passes through the Troop as we say farewell to **2Lt Derek Wood**, and welcome another part-timer **Lt Keith Whitehead**, who disappeared almost instantly to do his Pre Para Selection Course.

**Sig Payne** and **Elliott** are on driving courses, leaving **SSgt Toms** to solve the problems of crewing.

**CHARLIE TROOP**

The troop has had quite a hectic spell either side of a well deserved Easter Leave. The Bde CPXs, Sqn HF Exs, and OCs Test Ex have just culminated in the Bde Concentration. Here the troop joined with 2 PARA and supporting units to drop on to Imber DZ and into Ex *Falcon Strike*. About 700 men plus heavy equipment were dropped in five mins in the first of this kind of jump, since 1976.

Besides working hard many of the troop have been away on courses etc. The Tp OC **Lt Des Moloney** leading the way, as usual, with a Freefall course at JSPC Netheravon **Sgt Wilson** and **Cpl Cripps** have just attended their Para Refresher Course. **Sig Hinton** is on his B1. **LCpl Newman** was supposed to attend RSDCC, however, he broke his arm in a Hang Gliding accident, you would think these blokes would have had enough of flying through the air. **Sig 'Rev' Revera** is on a lifelong course, he has just got married.

At the moment, **Cpls Leyman, Burnett, LCpl Philbrick** and **Sig Wellard** with **Cpl Cakebread** from B Tp and Sig Santos from A Tp are providing comms for PRO CONSUL the D Day Celebrations. We hope all those 'Frenchies' have locked up their daughters! Looking ahead we are now preparing for Germany and Ex *Javelin*, plus of course all that duty free.



**SHQ TROOP**

For the majority of May SHQ actually deployed into the field, although generally work carried on virtually the same as in camp. **Sgt 'Mitch' Pegg** slept for two weeks solid only waking up to censor that night's video for the lads. The Squadron Clerk **LCpl 'Ginge' Corbett** has now been classed as fully combatent after digging and sitting in a trench, plus being a member of the QRF, when he wasn't in his 'scratcher'.

The RSM **WO1 Ian Campbell** seemed to have a never ending supply of Cam-Cream and took great delight in pouncing on anyone with a shining clean face.

**Cpl 'Scouse' Openshaw** fully deserved the golden blanket award that he received. **Sgt 'Benny' Rodgers** spent his time sneaking around trying to catch the lads asleep on stag, or using up the year's supply of pyro so his gun teams could get a clear view of the enemy, plus the 2IC trying to out flank them. That's about it from the spearhead of SHQ. The rest of the Tp haven't got much to add as they spent their time 'Remfing' it back in the 'Shot', and from reliable reports had a happy hour every afternoon.

**EXERCISE *TRUMPET DANCE USA***

On 4 February this year 565 RLD flew off to the good old USA, accompanied by 600 men of 2 PARA, flying, first class in the RAF's newly acquired Tristars. Landing at Seattle International Airport we had a short journey to Fort Lewis where there are ranges, training facilities and wide open spaces, enough to facilitate a fully divisional FTX. Although 2 PARA did not quite need all these facilities, we were able to do a lot of training that would have been nigh impossible in the UK. Of particular interest to all involved was the 'Tyre House', a house combat set up consisting of millions of disused tyres built into a small town which allowed the soldiers to do some very realistic training in Urban Warfare. The lads soon learned to keep their heads down when throwing grenades through doors and windows, after two separate incidents of lack of concentration resulted in slight fragmentation wounds. After two weeks at Fort Lewis we moved to Yakima live firing area. Having been told by the Yanks that it was a desert area we were rather amused to find it covered in snow. Here 2 PARA practised live Coy and Bn attacks. After an intensive week it was back to Fort Lewis for a few days well earned R & R ... Magic!

**565 and 566 RLD**

565 RLD took part in Ex *Falcon Strike* with 2 Para on Imber DZ. They are now preparing themselves for the Army Show at Rushmoor Arena. 566 are still soldiering on in Belize with 3 PARA, though their intrepid leader **Sgt Stringer**, is at present residing in Cambridge Military Hospital with a broken foot.

**TM TROOP**

We have just arrived back after the Bde Concentration in which the troop really enjoyed themselves.

Congratulations to **Cpl Fleming** on passing his para course. We have recently said a sad farewell to **SSgt 'Blitz' O'Brien** and we wish him all the best as a Sergeant Major.

Soon we will be doing the same to **Sgt 'Russ' Malcolm** who leaves for Gibraltar and we wish him all the best in his future career, jammy so and so. We have pleasure in announcing the arrival of **Cpl 'Charlie' Farrant** who replaces **Sgt Malcolm** as the 'Boss' of TE Workshops.

**C/CLKs/AO's MOAN OR LAMENT**
**Report by a fed up REMF (OIC Rear Party)**

So all you 'hairies' think it is rough being out in the 'cuds'. Well, let me and the Chief Clerk tell you, it ain't!

Phonecalls about this and about that. Phone calls following information from those going on exercise, who knew full well that we would not be able to contact those who were on exercise anyway.

Mail, oh yes, this is even better. Remember when you are going away, tell who ever phones you to write a letter. That's even better, because, once the rear party has received a letter, that's it, they cannot deny anything then, gotcha!

Transport is a good one too! Tell all and sundry that during the exercise period, while everyone is away, transport is no problem. That helps the Remf party no end, to ease its problems.

But best and by far the cleverest is duties, both Unit and Garrison. Before you go on exercise, ensure that you tell everybody that manpower will be no problem over that period. Just contact the AO or the Chief Clerk. And if you can add duties at a Court Martial or conference as well, then do so, 'cos that really brightens the day. Finally don't forget if you have discipline problems with anyone whilst you are away, send them back to the home base, we love to see them. They are all we need to brighten our unworried, easy going day to day, no weekend working, knock off at four o'clock, existence.

# 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) BFPO 18

**THE MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj A. R. Gale MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt E. Butterworth** |
| **TOT's** | **Maj M. Langford** |
| | **Capt T. Kay** |
| | **Capt G. Yule BEM** |
| **OC B. Tp** | **Capt P. S. Holden** |
| **RSM** | **WO1 J. A. Woolley** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 A. J. Hall MBE** |
| | **SSgt R. Wilson** |
| | **SSgt J. P. Scully** |
| **YofS** | **WO1 C. G. Stubbings** |
| | **SSgt W. Fulton** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 N. G. Brown** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt M. K. W. Richards** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Sgt A. B. Jackson** |

**THINGS ARE DIFFERENT AT AFCENT**

'Too many Chiefs and not enough Indians' is a cry that can be levelled at 'The Management' structure of 227 Sig Sqn. But it must be accepted that things are very 'different' at AFCENT! Why is that? you may well ask. Well for a start 227 Sig Sqn actually only consists of one Officer and 11 Soldiers, and fulfils an administrative national support role to the 130 officer and soldiers of the corps employed within HQ AFCENT. All other cap badged personnel are posted to HQ AFCENT Support Group for employment directly or indirectly in support of HQ AFCENT, with the lion's share working for Central Region Signal Group (CRSG), whose area of responsibility stretches from the Shetlands to Benelux France through to Southern Germany.

The Geographical fragmentation of the Squadron is almost as bewildering as the phraseology used to describe its fractions. SHQ is located in the beautiful old city of Maastricht which is almost the southernmost outpost of the Netherlands, but is sufficiently far removed from HQ AFCENT at Brunssum. Those less fortunate members of the Squadron are employed in one of the two coal mining buildings at the HQ in Brunssum or CRSG at Hoensbroek. In addition **FofS J. P. Scully** and a detachment of 13 work in Birkenfeld which is South of Trier in Germany, and not forgetting **Sgt G. Y. Nicoll** who is the sole representative of the Squadron in Munster Germany. As well as looking after our own, the National Troop also provides administrative backup and support for 641 Signal Troop and other elements working at JOC Maastricht, whose cap badges include RA, RE, AAC, RAOC, RAPC.

**MCS—MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**

MCS—Mobile Communications Squadron can more appropriately be called mixed contingents signallers as we are a truly international breed.

Currently, apart from the British Nationals Serving with MCS, there are elements from Dutch, German, American and Canadian National Units and on exercise we are joined by the 'Boys in Blue' and the Dutch PTT to provide a unique 'Mixed Bag!'. Normally, in an international environment, the Dutch would perhaps be in one Troop to carry out a specific task, the Germans in another etc. However, here in MCS, we are fully integrated, right down to section level. This makes life extremely interesting as can be imagined—quite apart from the language problems (usually resolved by using sign language!). The administrative problems are five times as great because of the different national units involved.

The equipment side is interesting too—apart from Daf and Mercedes trucks, we use Italian Radio Relay equipment (wiring à la Spaghetti!). Scottish waveguide, Dutch connectors, French quad couplers, Swiss patch panels, just to name a few. Technically this can be quite a nightmare for the technicians serving in MCS. To maintain such an assortment of equipment requires an efficient spares back up system, but as the NATO budget operates on a yearly basis, spares have to be forecast at least two years in advance, a formidable task when you consider that some of the equipment is 'elderly'.

Despite the difficulties, the MCS technicians comprising 13 British, four German, one Dutch and 3 American, manage to keep the squadron communicating. The last 14 months have seen a tremendous change in the communication ability of the squadron from an exercise where nil communication was achieved to an exercise where a main and a step-up were achieved. This has been no mean achievement considering the difficulties involved.

Much more work is planned for the next six months to improve our standards even further, certainly the technicians will have the chance to work on non-standard equipment.

Quite apart from the normal work side of life, there are plenty of social activities to keep people occupied. Most nationalities organise something, whether it be the German Octoberfest, Dutch Carnival week, US 4 July, Canadian ... (the Canadians will celebrate anything!).

For those who wish to serve somewhere different, then consider AFCENT, even despite the difficulties, frustrations and abnormal routine. It can be a very rewarding posting and very interesting to work in an international environment.

**VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND**

The Corps Band paid a visit to Maastricht on 24 May. Their marching display on the Vrijthof thrilled both the local residents and tourists alike. After their performance, the members of the band were invited for drinks with the Deputy Major, **Mrs A. Lazar**.

The Corps Band leaves the City Hall Maastricht for the Vrijthof

**SPORTS REPORT**

**ANNUAL UK V GERMANY MINI WORLD CUP**

On Wednesday 21 March, the annual Football match between the British and German elements of MCS took place on Tapijn sports field. We were defending the cup, and we took to the field confident that the cup would remain in the showcase in **WO2 (SSM) Neil Brown**'s office for a further year. Alas this was not to be. The match was contested fiercely and the German element won 2—1. The teams having showered and stowed their kit away until next year, held a successful post mortem in the German NCOs' Bar.

**ROTTERDAM MARATHON**

The following members of the Squadron took part in the Rotterdam Marathon on Saturday 14 April, the results were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cpl Paul Edwards** | 3 Hours 11 Minutes |
| **Cpl Geoff Biss** | 3 Hours 14 Minutes |
| **Sgt Jim Copland** | 3 Hours 19 Minutes |
| **Cpl John Aldridge** | 3 Hours 29 Minutes |

There were 2,000 runners competing in this event and all the world's top marathon runners were present; it was also probably, the hottest day of the year, so far. Hopes are that the next marathon will result in a few sub three hour timings.

**ATHLETICS**

The Squadron athletics team led by **WO1 George Stubbings**, has had a very hectic two weeks. On 25 May they came joint second with 67 points in the Rhine Area athletics, but were placed overall third on number of first places gained during the competition. A week later they again came third in the Morrison Cup. This is the last season for **WO1 Stubbings** and he has led the team to winners and runners up in the Morrison Cup, and winners Rhine area minor units during his tour in Maastricht. He has also captained the Basketball team which won the Rhine area championships and were BAOR Minor Units champions in 1982 and 1983.

**FAREWELL**

**Maj Peter Bonser** departed Maastricht on the 27 February, on retirement. He was last seen heading towards the channel ports in his Saab car towing a trailer with a 24 foot Hunter Class yacht behind him. He has cast off the British uniform, to join the Royal New Zealand Signal Corps, as a Squadron Commander in April 84. The Administrative package that he received from the Royal New Zealand Signal Corps contained their white list. It is a handy document which you fold in two and place in your wallet behind your ID card. We wish all the very best to **Stephanie** and **Peter** in their new home.

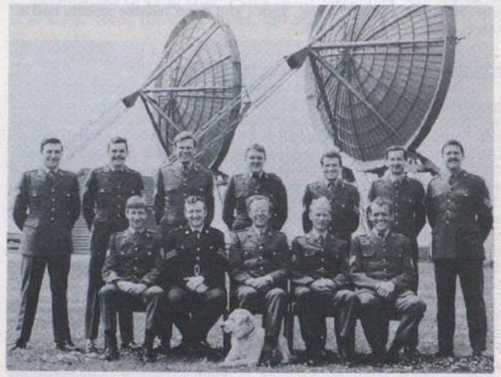


## 240 Sig Sqn
## York

**ACE HIGH STATION STENIGOT**

**Report by SSgt Bob Scott**

Those of you who have ventured into the wilder regions of the Lincolnshire Wolds will have seen our antenna dishes and buildings standing up on the skyline. This provided the setting for the small parade held at Stenigot to enable the Commander 2 Signal Brigade, **Brig K. H. Olds** to present Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Sgts Dave Martin** and **Alec Shaw** from the station and **Sgt Ken Rushton** from HQ North East District. The Brigadier was entertained in the bar afterwards with a glass of homebrew before being chauffered away to Wilton.



NATO FSS Stenigot—May 1984

*Standing L to R:* Cpls Beck, Bracken, Sgt Thorpe, Sig Travis, Sgts Liddle, Wray, Pollington. *Sitting L to R:* Sgts Shaw, Murdoch Maj Grice, SSgt Scott and Sgt Martin (MOD Police). *Laying:* Magnus

1984 saw a good turnout to start the running season at the local Louth Half-Marathon. The seven members that took part were **SSgt 'Catch me if you can' Scott, Sgt 'I've done a marathon' Wray, Sgt 'Where's the St John's Ambulance' Thorpe, Cpl 'Where's my Mars Bar' Evans, Sgt 'Why am I here' Martin, Sgt 'I'm going to be SSgt' Shaw,** and **Sgt 'Don't trip over my hair' Liddle.**

We are now coming up to our fourth race at Boston. In between these races various members are dashing up to Newcastle for the Great North Run and to Manchester for other Charity Events.

Serving members who have survived Stenigot will be pleased to know we still have plenty of livestock with chickens, geese, guinea fowl and rabbits. **Sig 'Tubby' Travis** does all the work on the chickens while his business manager, **Cpl Evans** collects the cash for the eggs and oven readys. Rabbits are plentiful this year and easily caught and there is no shortage of pheasants. The station acquitted itself very well as beaters for the local Squire. He was heard to comment that the 'Army Chaps' kept going much better than the rest. After several shoots under the sharp eye of the estate gamekeepers we all finished the season with freezers full of cheap pheasants.

The Lincolnshire air (or is it the homebrew) has certainly brought welcome additions to the families of **Sgt** and **Mrs Dave Martin** and **Sig** and **Mrs Paul Travis**, a baby girl for each. Also **Sgt** and **Mrs Pollington** are shortly expecting their second child. **Cpl Ray Beck** led the Geordie contingent from RAF Binbrook to see Kevin Keegan's memorial match at Newcastle. This required several shift changes, a dash up to Newcastle in the afternoon and straight back to be on parade for the Brigadier the following morning. All agreed it was well worth the effort.

The station duty cripple by chance or design is also the sports organiser, **Cpl Tony Bracken** spent some time with his ankle in plaster but was still able to do his organising without participating. With the plaster off he approached the forthcoming BFT with total confidence and was most surprised when he failed, but then all corporals are. He was despatched to the MO who ordered him to keep taking the pills (or was it Pils!). A week later he passed. Finally a welcome to our new member **Sgt Jim Carnegie** who has come to join us after a tour at Catterick.



## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

*BATTLE CAMP 84*

*Battle Camp* time is relished by the organiser **WO2 Tom Muir** and his hand picked team of fellow masochists! Rough terrain, usually poor weather and extreme fatigue all combine to make a most enjoyable period ... for the range staff!

*Battle Camp* this year is in three phases with two weeks 29 April-3 May and 7-11 May, leaving the last week for 21-27 October. Whilst the May phases were warm and dry, there should be plenty of water in October! Camp Staff consisted of: **WO2 (RQMS) John (I've got a new motor) Tope, Sgt Brian Duffield, LCpl Tim Nicholas.**

Catering under the expert eye of **Cpl Phil Moses** from the RAF Mobile Catering Support Unit only let us down once when the food ran out on the ranges and **Sgts Tony Giles** and **'Mac' McFarlane** were left without. I must point out though that there was a total of 48 on the range and food for 72 was sent down. The SSM's range staff consisted of: **SSgt (ORSQMS) John** (I can't walk on water but I'm combat trained) **Morgan, SSgt 'Chippy'** (I'm tired co's I've had a long day and I can't afford a round) **Chambers, Sgt Terry 'Gandhi'** (I don't like bread, I'm not airborne and anyway I've got a sore ankle) **Whitehill, Sgt Tony** (Gie's a loaf of bread cos I'm airborne) **Giles, Sgt 'Mac'** (I don't like cam cream but the SSM does, so I'll wear it and gie's a loaf of bread cos I'm airborne as well) **McFarlane.**

A best section contest was run for each week and **Cpl Graham Birks** won for week one and **Cpl Steve Adams** won it for week two, much to the annoyance of our tame 'spec Op' **Cpl Gavin Muir** who ended up doing Section Commander for two weeks.

DS were also backed up with guest appearances of **Capt John Hall** and **2Lt David** (This is great , but I've got to get back for the Happy Hour in the Officers' Mess on Friday) **Halstead.** At the end of week one all the staff had chapped lips except 'action man' Chiefy **SSgt John Morgan** who put it down to the fact that he was drinking 'Heineken' and it was getting to the parts that other beers can't reach.

We were delighted to have an RAF guest on week two in the form off **Flt Lt Craig Goodwin** who is a Wessex Helicopter Pilot doing a ground tour as a MAOT at RAF Upavon. He did very well and in fact was in the best section for week two under **Cpl Steve Adams.**

Quips of the week.

SSM 'Section leaders do a head count and make sure all your section is accounted for'.

Reply—(from somewhere in the darkness) 'It's all right sir, we've only got one each'.

It is untrue that **LCpl 'Bowser' Bousfield's** section lost points when he wanted to play his 'joker' on the SLR/SMG CQB Range.

**Sig Willy Wilson** also lost points on the Section Attack for splitting his trousers and not camouflaging the bare necessities.

On the 'Walk Through' of the section attack range by the range staff and section commanders/2IC's the SSM pointed out the 'bog' and proceeded to walk carefree right over the top of it. 'Action Man' in the SSM's footsteps was not so lucky and went in to his waist. When eventually free he said 'It is true! I believe it now. The SSM can walk on water.

*L to R:* Flt Lt Craig Goodwin, Cpl Steve Adams, Sig Robert 'Robin' Hood and Christopher 'Roland Rat' Harrison awaiting and discussing the start of the IBSR

Sig 'Robin' Hood 'caught short' but taking his rifle with him (Bags of aggression for a locked door)

Sgt 'Mac' McFarlane debriefs LCpl Keith 'Long One' Langton on one of the phases of the IBSR

More than a passing interest being shown on the arrival of lunch

LCpl 'Orky' Shearer produces the larger variety of 'Racing Spoon' and shows how the REME deal with the problem

Sig Andy Baird on the Defence Phase of the IBSR

**DELTA TROOP (MAOTS) NOTES**

Delta Troop (the intrepid MAOTs) removed from the main part of the Squadron, now residing in outer Wiltshire, can do just about anything and go anywhere, particularly if it means a suntan.

**CYPRUS—BEIRUT OPERATION**

**Cpl Lee Martin** and **Sig Tony Downing** decided that they had had enough of the usual wet English weather and thought Cyprus was just the thing to remove the rheumatics from old bones, so off they went. Not wanting to be robbed of a good holiday in the sun **Cpl Steve Goodyear** and **Sig Willy 'Thug' Wilson** took over after four weeks. They all returned with good suntans; competent at snorkeling, board sailing and water skiing. Unfortunately there's not much scope for Ouzo or Brandy Sour tasters in UK.

**NORWAY: AMF(L) ARCTIC TRAINING**

Norway got off to a bumpy start, as two Snow Cats from the troop were being driven to the Docks by **LCpl Ritchie Worlock** and **Andy Ross, Sig Willy 'Thug' Wilson** and **'Mojo' McMahon. Sig Willy Wilson** tried to find out how supple a Snow Cat can be, after a few wheelies and triple summersault it landed upside down. Living up to his usual standard. **LCpl Andy Ross** finding out how cold it was in that part of the world broke his nose so he could return to his beloved, and let **LCpl Charlie Goodman** have a taste of the AMF.

**SPORT**

**LCpl Charlie Goodman**, whilst biding his time waiting for a posting and news of a new baby to come through, won both Darts and Snooker knockout competitions, not happy with these he then went on to win the pool trophy in the 'Avon Club' for the second year running.

**Cpl Steve Goodyear** successfully completed the Cambrian expedition, gaining a trophy not to mention very sore feet.

**Cpl Dave 'Snatch' Denning** spends a lot of his time fishing for the RAF. He must do well as he is looking for another freezer in which to store his catch.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Cpl Lee Martin** and **Bev**, and **Cpl Geordie Shave** and **Sally** on their recent marriages. Also to **LCpl Charlie Goodman** and **Debbie** on the imminent arrival and not forgetting, last but not least, **LCpl Ross** and **Jan**'s new baby boy.



## 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
## Bulford Camp

**A LOOK BACK**

1984 got off to a brisk start with the Squadron preparing for yet another Ex *Hardfall South* in Norway. Even during this period of frenzied activity we took time off to visit the Tidworth Oval to watch the Squadron team win the Yorks and Lancs Minor units Football Cup beating the holders 3—1 in a keenly contested match.

*HARDFALL 84*

January 10 saw the OC Squadron depart for Norway with his team of instructors to prepare for the Squadron's Arctic Warfare Course. With the instructors, admin staff and vehicles all dispatched it was then the turn of the Squadrons WO's to lead the main parties out to Norway. The only problem being the ill-fated 'Chalk 21' commanded by the SSM, who had to sample the fine sleeping facilities on hand in RAF Lynham's waiting room. After some 19 hours travelling the weary band of trainee arctic warriors reached their destination, the Stalheim Hotel (No Joke).

The following morning training started with the fitting of the dreaded Norge plank, which tends to have a Jekyll and Hyde effect on the wearer. The next few days were taken up with basic ski training, with very few injuries, thanks to the banning of the dreaded 'Banzai'. Sunday not being a day of rest we saw the Squadron happy on the slopes while the OC and his AWI's led a small group to dig demonstration snowholes. The highlight of the day being **Lt 'Doc' Holliday** giving the OC and SSM a 'Demo' on his new Peak stove, with encouragement from the onlookers and a lot of assistance from his fellow AWI's he finally managed a cup-a-soup some two hours later.

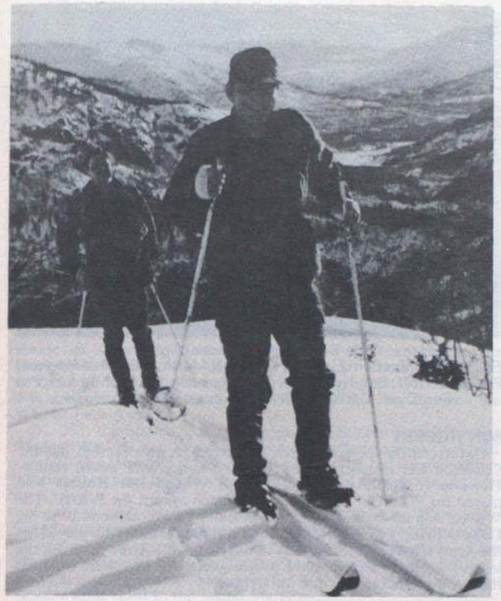
Since the Falklands War, we have all come to know the meaning of the terms 'Tabbing' and 'Yomping', we would now like to add a new method of travelling across country to the list, and this we call 'Bimbling'. All you require to practise this new mode of travel is 150 men on skis, wearing bergens and a few thousand square miles of snow.

Morning of Snow Holes, Stalheim Valley

*(Photo by Sig Hartshorne)*



Some members of the Squadron found they could pursue other tasks while 'Bimbling' as a means of breaking the boring swish of skis. One such person was the QM, **Capt Nick Nicoll** who decided to start a write-off programme, unfortunately most of the equipment he was trying to write-off was being worn by the **SQMS Terry 'Just Married' Hughes**.



**THE ARCTIC WARFARE COURSE**

It was Saturday when the Squadron together with A troop 244 Signal Squadron set off in search of their Arctic Warfare Qualification. We left the warmth of the Hotel and moved up the Brekkedalen for our first night in the snow, this was spent in five men tents; luxury! Night two we moved into tent sheets, next morning we pulled poles and moved back to the hotel much to the disgust of the old hands and the smokers.

The next couple of days were taken up with basic arctic warfare skills, then came the major event on the winter sporting calendar (second only to the Olympics) the 10km ski race. This gave our class skiers their chance to show us their skills, the race was won by **Lt Graham Norris** with a time of around 32 mins.

The next day was a real blot on the social calendar as we were introduced to the pulk, which I can only describe as a man trap. After a first class demonstration by the instructors we students were lashed to the evil contraptions and were made to pull them up hill and down dale, for the morning.

Saturday and a well earned R&R day except for the QM and his band of Arctic Survival students who, under the watchful eyes of the OC and SSM, with just a 24 hour pack between four men and their sleeping bags (we must be getting soft) spent a night out. On Sunday it was the AWC who had the chance to build their shelters and managed to clear a couple of acres of woodland in the process.

Next day we were off again, as a company we ski-jorred up the valley to our COY RV. The PL's were quickly located and settled into digging a coy defence location, in a near (in fact very near) blizzard. Next morning the coy bugged out and withdrew to our next location and quickly started to dig-in. Position dug, we then started patrolling.

Day three, once again we bugged out and withdrew. At the Coy RV the OC was waiting to inform **LCpl Brian Mills** that while he had been snug in his trench his wife had presented him with a fine baby boy. Good news received, we all started a two hour climb to our Snow holes. By six o'clock the mountain side looked like a giant rabbit warren. A good night's sleep was had by all, it was then time for a pleasant 10km ski down to the Hotel, with some people spending more time in the snow than on it.

After a couple of days clean up and R&R it was time for the Biathlon, the race was won by **2Lt David Halstead** of A troop 244 Sig Sqn, with the SSM a close second and also picking up the Richmond Trophy for the old timers. With most of the stars of the previous race spending a lot of their time going around in circles asking each other the way. All that was left for the students to complete was the final exercise to test our new found skills.

**PRONTO SKIRMISH**

The Squadron warm up exercise returned to the Brandset Valley, with the Squadron split into two forces pitted against each other. Both forces kept their tactical plans very close to the chest and spent as much time trying to out-wit the umpires as they did each other. Orange forces tactic seemed to be to keep Blue forces awake for as long as possible. This task being given to the long range patrol group of **LCpls Jim Stubley, Tony Redman, Cpl Steve McNally, Sig Chris Loughlin** who not only can ski well but are also bullet proof. The exercise ended with an early morning attack by Blue on Oranges base location, with the umpires awarding a draw. So it's same time, same place, next year and we will try again.

*EAGLES REVENGE*

The last major event of our Hardfall programme before we prepared to go north was exercise *Eagles Revenge* when 249 Signal Squadron and LOG SP BN took on 1 Para, which was our chance to test our arctic and infantry skills.

We as a Squadron were tasked with providing the communications for both sides and the umpires and this involved two thirds of the squadron.

The other third of the squadron was renamed D Coy of the Orange Force with the nickname of Leaches Lepers! As their gallant Coy Commander was **Capt Steven Leach** better known as **'Dez'**. D Coy moved from the Stalheim to a tented camp at Bomeon where we were given our ration of suicide missions. One such mission was to be Hele lifted in the early hours of the morning onto a frozen lake in the mountains. Then four hours to a Coy RV on skis and then finally an assault on a 1 Para location wearing snow shoes. The assault taking the enemy by complete surprise, was ruled a victory for us much to the 1 Para PL Commander's disgust.

# 262 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 58

**DHEKELIA GARRISON FETE 1984**

The Garrison held a Fête on 12 May—the bulk of the profits going to local and British charities. The task of organising and running the whole show fell to 262 Signal Sqn, with **Maj Malcolm Emslie** and **Capt Paul Wilkin** co-bearing the brunt of the tasks.

Letters to local firms were sent out and all units were tasked to provide a stall. One of the biggest jobs for the Squadron was dealing with the supply of tentage, chairs, tables etc and it took a Crusader trailer and two 4 ton vehicles fully loaded to move all the equipment required. The old Vehicle Supply Depot was cleared and prepared as the site, due to its size and hard standing. The weeks prior to the Fête saw a fatigue party assembled to start marking out the area, erecting tents, assembling spectator stands—the list seemed endless! By Friday everything was ready and all that was required was for the stall holders to start arriving early on Saturday morning.

The day dawned, and the Garrison experienced what was possibly the hottest weather of the year, so far. The stall holders started to turn up and everything began to take shape. At 1100 hrs the Fête opened, and the day progressed very smoothly with no major administrative hiccups. After a very long hot day, it ended with the grand raffle, the first prize of a Metro going to the lucky winner. All in all it went extremely well, with around £2,000 being raised for charity. The 262 Wives' Club sold more of their 'Wives' Club T shirts than the official Fête 'T' shirt, which must mean something.

**Mr Meikle** spent all day trying to kill off the younger element of the Garrison with his aptly named 'Death-Slide'. He was probably trying to get his own back for being left suspended for half an hour on the previous day whilst testing the safety harness, while Field Troop went for a coffee break.

**DEATH SLIDE**

**Report by 2Lt Meikle**

Saturday 12 May dawned bright and clear at the VSD Dhekelia; clear until bodies started hurtling across the sky at nigh uncontrollable speeds. For this was the result of 262 Signal Squadron being tasked to build a 'Death Slide', (officially known as an 'Aerial Ropeway', but then we were not official), for the Garrison Fete. It was not a new parachuting exercise, although one member proved that the parachuting harnesses used were effective. Little did the unsuspecting victims know of the somewhat unorthodox building methods used, or that the engineers were not in fact 'Engineers'. Nonetheless the day went smoothly with many satisfied customers, a tribute to the engineering skills of **SSgt Hitchens, Sgt Isbell** and everyone else who helped.

**BRIG NOLAN'S VISIT**

On Tuesday 17 April, during her visit to Cyprus, **Brig Nolan** was entertained by the WRAC at Dhekelia. The entertainment took the form of a one act play, a comedy cum horror, aptly named 'Who Dares Might'. The play was written and directed by **Pte 'Soo' Dyer.**

The cast (predominantly Signals personnel employed in the Communications Centre) are shown below:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cpl Pam Fielding** | **The Ghost** |
| **LCpl Taff Martin** | **LCpl Jill Simmons** |
| **LCpl Dee Hughes** | **Sandy** |
| **Pte Liz Duff** | **Cpl 'Goody' Twoshoes** |
| **Brig Nolan** | |
| **Pte Sally Harbour** | **Maj Jasper Smarty** |
| **Pte Flo Mitchell** | **Lt Ophelia Timmis-Willis** |
| **Pte Soo Dyer** | **The Producer** |
| **Cpl Karen Richardson** | **Millie** |
| **Pte Jan Voak** | **Anne** |

The theme of the play was about a party of ATS based in a hotel in Southern France during World War 2. The play was a great success due to the originality of the story and the acting talents of the budding thespians. Sound effects were provided by BFBS Dhekelia and the props were loaned by various departments in the Garrison. (The YofS still doubts whether his radio will ever be the same again).

**Brig Nolan** thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, staying on afterwards for tea and cakes, provided by **Pte Jan Voak**, and an informal chat during which all WRAC were brought up to date on WRAC matters, by the Brigadier.

The Cast of Who Dares Might
*From L to R:* Cpl Pam Fielding, LCpl Taff Martin, LCpl Dee Hughes, Pte Lizzie Duff, Brig Nolan, Pte Sally Harbour, Pte Flo Mitchell, Pte Soo Dyer, Cpl Karen Richardson and Pte Jan Voak

**SQN HOCKEY**

Unfortunately there has been no league for this season, but the Squadron has managed a few friendly games with mixed results. However, congratulations must go to **WLCpl Dee Hughes** who played for WRAC in the interservice match against the WRAF. The WRAC won an exciting match 4—2. Also, congratulations go to **Sig Colin O'Brien, Cpl Keith Roach** and **Capt Paul Wilkin** who played for the Army v RAF. Unfortunately in this match the Army came out the losers 0—1 after a close, hard fought game. All four were awarded their Army Hockey Colours for Cyprus.

**SGT TILLEY—BEM**

On Wednesday 18 April, **Sgt Graham Tilley** was presented with the British Empire Medal at an Investiture held in Akrotiri. The

Sgt Graham Tilley receiving his BEM from Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley





presentation was made by **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley KCVO, MBE**, the Administrator of the Sovereign Base Area. After the recipients had received their medals, the Band of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment played a varied programme of music during the reception, when everyone present joined **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley** and his wife for refreshments.

**Sgt Tilley** was awarded the BEM for Services to the Community on the Island of St Helena in the South Atlantic. During his tour with CPA at the School of Signals, he and one other, were despatched to St Helena to oversee the installation of all the line plant for the new automatic exchange on the Island, with a crew of six technicians assisting them for six months.

After a memorable day for **Sgt Tilley**, his family and friends marked the occasion with a celebratory dinner.

**FSS CAPE GRECO**

Since our last contribution to *The Wire* we have said farewell to the boss, **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey, Sgt Graham Reith** and **LCpl Kev Lees**. We welcomed **WO2 (FofS) John Ratcliffe, Sgt Duncan Macpherson, Cpl Andy St Clair** and **LCpl 'Scouse' North**. Though remote, we have a steady stream of visitors. Just recently we had the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence led by **Sir Humphrey Aitkins**, followed by the ACC, **Air Commodore R. J. Offord AFC** plus many lesser mortals including several Officer Cadets who are useful for dog baiting. **Mr Meikle** of 262 Sig Sqn won the Whitest Face Award.

OC 262, the Station Commander and the Station Supervisor **Sgt 'Hadge' Watkins** had to make their annual pilgrimage to the Local Control Organisation (LCO). They said it was very informative, whether they were talking about NICS or belly dancers couldn't be determined.

On the sporting side we continue to be well to the fore. We won the Squadron Orienteering competition and all the Badminton trophies. Of our many sportsmen, particular mention should be made of **Sgt Morgan Davies** who had a good season in the Army Basketball Squad, and likewise **Sgt Steve Anderson** for Garrison Rugby. **Sgt Alan Geddes** came third in the Island Marathon.

The Air Officer Commanding Air HQ Cyprus, Air Commodore R. J. Offord leaves FSS Cape Greco following his visit, and thanks FofS Ratcliffe

**FIELD TROOP (RADIO/MT)**

May has been a busy month for the Troop with PRE for the vehicles and radio equipment, the NESAM shooting competition, the Garrison Fête and various sporting activities.

All troop members worked extremely hard preparing and presenting the vehicles for the PRE inspection. At the same time all of the Clansman radio holdings for the Squadron were inspected. The effort was well rewarded with very good results. Six members of the Troop took part in the NESAM competition. Well done to all those involved, in particular **Cpl Chris Bean** for coming second on the MMTR. Immediately after the PRE/NESAM events we had the Dhekelia Garrison Fête. The troop provided manpower and vehicles to set up the Fête and also two FFR Clansman static displays. Again, well done to all involved.

On the sporting scene, the troop OC, **Lt Fiona Gibson** gets the first mention as she was a member of the victorious Ladies Army Badminton team who won this year's Interservice Badminton Championships held at Akrotiri. Next, Athletics. Our aging Pole vault champion **Sgt Brian Turner** has just broken the existing island record for the Pole vault—congratulations to him. Other participants in the Athletics were: **Sig Paul Bridon** (400m Hurdles), **Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader** (110m Hurdles), **Sig 'Yodha' Booth** (Hammer) and **Sig Iain Richardson** (Javelin) who all compete in the Garrison athletics team on a regular basis.

Congratulations to **Sig Paul Bridon, Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader, Sig Iain Richardson, Sig 'Yodha' Booth** and **Sig 'Specky' Eccles** who were all selected for the Garrison Swimming Team earlier this month.

**PARACHUTING**

The Troop has always been heavily into Adventure Training and the most recent form of masochism to hit the Troop is Freefall Parachuting.

**Cpl Chris Bean** and **Sig Dave Chapman** have both been jumping for about four to five months and are now on the 15-20 sec delay stage. **Sig 'Specky' Eccles** will (by the time you read this) have finished the course, and hopefully, be a regular jumper.

The Troop is full of talk about 'Blue Helmets' and 'Boogies' so we're changing our name to 'Airborne Troop'. We recommend everyone has a go at least once.

**NESAM 84**

NESAM 84 took place at Akrotiri and Dhekelia Ranges over the period 3-10 May. Due to Squadron commitments finding a team was difficult and after some last minute changes, the team selected were: **SSgt Trev Jones** (Team Capt), **Cpls Chris Bean** and **Pete Latham**. **LCpls Taff Cummings** and **Mac McCarthy (Mac** having just arrived off the plane from UK and looking very pale).

The team got off to a very good start on the ETR/MMTR at Akrotiri and were lying joint first Minor Unit before the competition moved up to Dhekelia. SMG scores this year were lower than last year but **SSgt Jones** managed to make second stage with a creditable 193.

During the SMG Match at Akrotiri we were surprised to see another two teams from the Squadron enter. The B team ably led by **Lt Fiona Gibson** consisted of **WCpls Wendy Hunter, Pam Fielding** and **Val Murrey**, (née **Hudson**). The C Team comprised of **Cpls Tony Playford** and **Keith Thurston, LCpl Spike Hughes** and **Sig Paul Bridon**. It was noticeable here that the WRAC put in some better scores than the men. Well done girls.

After this good start to NESAM on the Lazy Range, we started on the 'hard work' Gallery Ranges. Now on home ground we felt that we would maintain our good position and qualify for Bisley. Unfortunately it was not to be.

The first match in Dhekelia was the Section Match which got off to an excellent start with all the targets being cleared in the minimum amount of rounds. Then what can only be described as a Gremlin got into the LMG with the result that the team handed back 47 rounds.

This shoot lost us all chance of qualifying for Bisley, but we managed to remain in the top three for the final placings, and unlike last year the only silver won was by **Cpl Chris Bean** for coming second on the MMTR.

As always NESAM finished on a high note with the Falling Plate and Pistol Tiles. Another two teams from the Squadron produced for the Tiles, the 'A' Team consisting of the OC, **Maj Emslie**, the RQMS **WO2 Mick Turvey** and the SSM **WO2 John Farrell**, and the 'B' Team: **SSgt's John Gadsdon** and **Trev Jones** with **Sgt Roy 'John Wayne' Isbell** bringing up the rear. The very junior 'C' Team of **Cpls Pete Latham** and **Chris Bean** with **LCpl Taff Cummings**, hadn't touched a pistol for four years but had a go anyway. All three teams were knocked out in the quarter finals, as was the Falling Plate Team, bringing NESAM 84 to a very pleasant end. The only problem now being all the weapon cleaning.

# 266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic)

**THE INNER CABINET**

Since our last submission in this august publication there has been a radical change of personnel in all departments. This has resulted in an influx of devastatingly efficient personalities who have totally revitalised the organisation. The following are now the current inner cabinet:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Bill Lidster** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Gordon Trevis** |
| **AO** | **Capt Tony Perkin** |
| **TOT** | **Capt Bob Scriven** |
| **QM** | **Capt Stan Hargreaves** |
| **OC R TP** | **Lt Jon Marman** |
| **OC RR TP** | **Lt Jon Dakin** |
| **OC Line TP** | **Capt Bob Bates** |
| **OC JSSU** | **Capt Vernon Merrick** |
| **OC COMMCEN** | **SSgt Martin Smith** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Dave Marsden** |
| **FofS** | **WO1 Steve Farrow** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Brian Lawrence** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt Willie Craig** |

When I was approached recently by Super Ed of the Mercury Echo/Managing Director of Mercury Super Stores Inc (SA) **(Capt Tony Perkin)** to pen a contribution to *The Wire* I was both humbled and elated. My humility stems from the knowledge that so many Corps members will read my words back home in UK and BAOR and my elation because by the time it's published I will be there with them! Some of those back home will already have met certain repatriated individuals who display somewhat eccentric behaviour patterns and recount obviously exagerated tales. Let me put the record straight now. **Capt Wally Lockwood** was already like that when he first arrived! Since his departure both the Mercury Echo and the Mercury Super Shop have dramatically changed. The former has been elevated from the gutter press to a rather up market version of the Times! A change of managing director of the Super Store has worked wonders; the choice of Pot Noodles has improved and the visiting Chaplain General (No Less!) was presented with a cream egg just before Easter. Rumour has it that this act resulted in Easter Monday being declared a public holiday for the AO. Not so for the rest of us, although Line Troop did put on clean socks and were taken for an organised walk around the local area. **Capt Bob Bates** dutifully counted them out and thankfully counted them back in again. Former members of the Squadron might be interested to learn of recent movements of various departments. Even as I write, **Sgt Gareth Jones** the Truck is leading his men to the promised land of Lookout Camp where the MT will be housed in a Real building. After only two years the Pig Sty and 12 × 12 will no longer echo to the screams of drivers who, whilst working underneath their vehicles, have been squashed through lack of adequate hard standing. There are even washing and toilet facilities in their new location although it is doubtful whether the older hands will remember what these are for. On a sadder note the Officers have finally been evicted from Dolphin Cottage despite a desperate rearguard action. No longer will those hallowed portals ring to the hearty laughter of jovial company. Gone are those halycon days of leaking ceilings, horizontal curtains and ice in the wash basin. Instead, the officers are to live on a Coastel with hot water, central heating, dining room, showers and other such modern gimmicks. It will be interesting to monitor whether these luxuriously lavish amenities have an adverse effect upon the calibre of the Squadron hierarchy which was previously toned to razor sharpness by their spartan living conditions. Sed fugi interea, fugit inreparabile tempus. And now back to my trench.

**THE MOUNTAIN MEN**

Radio Relay Troop are still alive and kicking, and yet again under new management, **Lt Jon Dakin** and **SSgt Tony Spray** who will both have been replaced by the time this goes to press, who are eagerly awaiting the installation of FITS. The harsh conditions of the out stations have warranted even more luxury items to be sent out to them, fridges this time would you believe. The dets are now something to be lived in and completely self contained, videos, electric cookers, TV Games, hot water on tap and the best of food that the island can muster. One Det Housing **Cpl Mick Johnson, LCpl Nic Bell, Sig Thomo Thompson, Phil Phillpot** and **LCpl Stuart Mathewson** are preparing for some high rise living. They are moving to Mount Alice, 1184m above sea level where they will spend the majority of their time in mist and be battered by high winds, they will never again suffer the delights of the 'CARA CARA' Club, even so they are looking forward to moving into brand new accommodation.

**STOP PRESS**

**LCpl J. R. Harris** our Squadron clerk has just gone on R & R to Pebble Island and tasked with collecting the rations picked up the box next to his, we hope the boys enjoyed their 60 pounds of bacon!

**RADIO TROOP**

The end of March saw a complete change in the Hierarchy of the Troop, **SSgt Tony Davies** was replaced by **SSgt Tony Talbot**, two sportsmen of mention the first for his contribution to Hockey and the latter as a football player of renown. No sooner had **SSgt Talbot** got himself established when the New Troop Commander **Lt Jon Marman** arrived. He was met by **Capt Tony Perkin** our Administrative Officer who gave him an introduction to the Falklands never yet equalled and never to be surpassed, photographs of his accommodation have been condemned.

We bid a fond farewell to **LCpl Taff Walters, Sig Graham Whitehead, Jobber Moody, Mutton Oxley, 'Going Home' Mack, Taff Greenway** and **Wayne Hayes**. All on a Northbound 'Gozome' ship or bird (Plane)—all go with our best wishes.

The Radio Room must have one of the fittest men in the Squadron in one **LCpl Nobby Clarke** who can be seen training for his 'Olympic' Kit Humping Trial with practice runs between Lookout Camp and Headquarters BFFI he has become so fit, that he does not need any transport but we will when he goes.

Our Rebros which are scattered all over the islands are lucky enough to get a visit from the Troop Commander and Troop Staff Sergeant when the weather permits. On one of the Dets recently our higher echelons were treated to one of the delicacies of the Falklands, 'Chips' and there were complaints about them, probably because they did not go down too well with custard. One of the Dets is so far up in the clouds that it is difficult at times for the resupply helicopter to get into them, but nevertheless **LCpl Alec Meston** and **Sig Taff Greenway** have now become used to eating moss and drinking the condensation on the rocks.

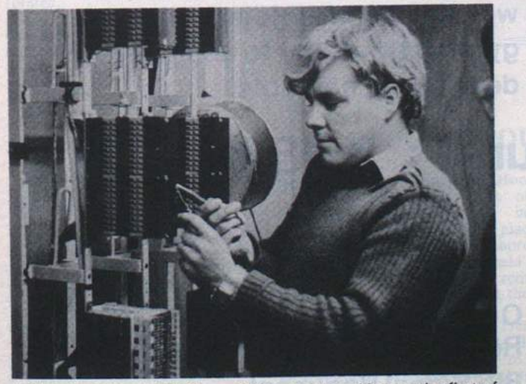
Our southern most detachment on South Georgia houses **Cpl Graham Heal, LCpl Austin Hall** and **Sig 'Bear' Convery**, don't get too down hearted we will have the English/Penguinees dictionary and phrase book down to you soon. In conclusion **Lt Marman** will try and get to see you all before he goes.

**SPORT**

Although there is plenty of work to do the Squadron still finds time to participate in all forms of sports. We have met with a great deal of success, in Rugby we are the current Champions beating all the Major Units in the Falkland Island Knock-out Cup. The Soccer team unfortunately were knocked out of their Cup by 37 Engineer Regiment who went on to win the Cup. We went down by 4 goals to 1, the score should have been 4—2 but unfortunately **Sgt Mark Smithurst** our resident penalty taker ballooned the ball over the Bar and over Mount Kent and thanks to **Capt Tony Perkin** he has written it off. The final game of the season was again Stanley Football Club and unfortunately we lost this 3—2 in a very exciting game, in fact we were under Orders from the Manager, **Capt Perkin** to take a dive; I think he had a bet on the match. Cross Country and Orienteering have also been well represented by Squadron Personnel, **WO2 Yeoman Brian Lawrence, Sgt Alan Piper, Cpl Charlie Foster,** and **Sgt Mart Altham** can be seen on most Sundays running round hill and dale collecting medals and other prizes for their efforts, it can make you sweat sometimes just watching them get warmed up.

266 Signal Squadron Team which played Stanley FC
*L to R Back Row:* Sgt 'Scotty' McDougall, Cpl Vince Connolly, SAC 'Franky' Lane RAF, SAC 'Yorkie' Bryan RAF, SAC 'Polly' Pollmear RAF, Cpl Jimmy Coyle
*Front Row:* Sgt Trev Keats, Sgt Mark Smithurst, Sgt Martin Stachini, Sgt Phil Welham, SSgt Tony Talbot

*Left to Right:* Sig Danny Boland, Cpl 'Brummy' Henry and Sig John Brookfield with the use of a highjacked Snowcat, laid 500 metres of 100 pair cable in 7½ minutes 'Our Claim to Fame'



LCpl John Telford of K Troop 21 Sig Regt working on the first of the 'Monarch' Exchanges to be installed on the Falkland Islands

**A MESSAGE FROM THE SQUADRON COMMANDER**

In the month of April the Squadron strength reached its peak, passing the three hundred mark. One is constantly aware that everyone of those three hundred 'souls' who arrive on the distant shores of the Falkland Islands belongs to one of HM Ships, an RAF Station or one of our own units. It is at the expense of these units that all the valuable work is carried out in an extremely efficient manner.

I would like to express my gratitude, as Squadron Commander, to all those Commanding Officers and Unit Commanders who willingly continue to produce the expertise and manpower they can ill afford, ensuring that we can meet this difficult commitment with the appropriate mark of professionalism.

The Officers & Senior NCOs of 266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic) just prior to the departure of Maj Gerry Maddren the Squadron Commander. You will note cap badges from all three services and a very rocky landscape

Sig 'Taff' Skinner a Tele Mech of 7 Sig Regt jointing the first of the new 100 pair trunks

'All Hands to the Cable'. Linemen and Tele Mechs unite to lay the first drum of the new trunk routes the hard way. Because the terrain tends to disagree with vehicles the cable had to be hand pulled a mere distance of 1500 metres

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**Royal Signals Demonstration Team**
**8th Signal Regiment**
**Catterick Camp**
**North Yorkshire.**






## FORMER PENSIONERS

We report with regret, the recent death of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

| | |
|---|---|
| 22232097 | LCpl C. Hayes |
| 22561065 | Sgt G. Pressagh |
| 22791171 | Cpl G. H. H. Orgill |
| 2317820 | SSgt H. G. Marsh |
| 3524959 | WO2 J. McDonaugh |
| 2575357 | SSgt A. Simpson |
| 2924989 | Sig J. Barton |
| 22515764 | Sgt D. Severn |
| 23514830 | Sgt J. E. Evans |
| 22212894 | WO2 J. J. Green |
| 2548681 | Cpl L. Earley |
| 5835752 | WO2 R. D. Wright |
| 2306713 | WO2 C. F. R. Walker |
| 21042547 | WO2 P. Jackson |
| 2316577 | Sgt F. G. Edmunds |
| 2321512 | Cpl E. Sellers |

## GUERNSEY BRANCH

**Report by Capt J. B. Rudkin, Chairman**

The Branch has been saddened by the death of two members in recent weeks, **George Rylatt** and **Ted Rowe**. Our sympathy is with the widows and families they have left behind.

This year more activities are planned than previously and we are moving towards a regular evening when members can 'drop in' at Guernsey North Royal British Legion Club in the expectation of finding other members there. We held a successful dinner in May while an evening bus tour, followed by supper at Pleinmont, will take place on 18 July.

On 30 May, **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother** visited Guernsey. Our Standard was paraded with those of other Associations at the approach to Beau Sejour Leisure Centre where **Her Majesty** was received by the Bailiff of Guernsey, **Sir Charles Frossard**, who is a very active worker for ex-service organisations in his private life. **Her Majesty** made an unscheduled inspection of the Parade and spoke to our Standard Bearer, **Jim Remfrey**, asking him when the Branch was formed.

Any member or former member of the Corps who may visit Guernsey is invited to contact the Branch—a telephone number appears in the Guernsey Director under 'Royal Signals Association'.

The Standard of the Guernsey Branch of the Association on parade for the visit to Guernsey of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother on 30 May 1984. The Standard Bearer is Jim Remfrey, escorted by Bill Bougourd and John Rudkin

*(Photo: Guernsey Evening Press)*

## LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

**Report by M. A. White, Esq, Hon Sec**

After a number of years of existing in name only, the Loughborough Branch has been reformed. Following an advertisement in the local press placed by **Roy Acton**, the landlord of the Greyhound Hotel in Loughborough and a retired member of the Corps, the first meeting was held in the Greyhound on Tuesday 8 May. It was attended by 18 retired members. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that the branch should be based on the Greyhound.

The Chairman is **Roy Acton**, Treasurer **Ben Banyard**, and Secretary **Mike White** of 7, Newton Close, Loughborough.

If any ex members of the Corps are in the area they will be made very welcome. We have now got splendid facilities and meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Serving or retired, make a note of the Greyhound. We would like to see you.

## MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

Members meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, London SW7 and the Hon Secretary would be pleased to hear from old friends who served with the 1st and 2nd Line Regiments during the Second World War, or with the Middlesex Yeomanry units during the post war period.

The annual dinner is to be held on Friday 16 November 1984 at The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. Write to:- Hon Secretary, Mr E. T. Hawkins, 27 Grosvenor Gardens, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5BE. Tel: 01 546 5552.

## 3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION AND DINNER CLUB

**VISIT TO NORMANDY 9-11 JUNE 1984**

**Report by E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary**

Unsuccessful in our application to join the Ministry of Defence sponsored visit to Normandy on 6 June, **Mr Bill Spittall, Col Michael Philps** and I joined the trip arranged by the Association des Francais Libres Section de Grande Bretagne, at an all in cost of £75, for four persons. Due to a strike at Newhaven, the party sailed from Portsmouth to Cherbourg. I was delighted about this, as I have not seen Cherbourg since I landed there with the BEF. The party were guests of the community of Molay-Littry, in Calvados, and accommodation had been arranged at private homes, in order that we could visit the beaches where the D-Day landings took place, and honour our dead. Molay Littry is situated 14 kilometres from Bayeaux and twinned with the Devon Village of Bovey Tracey.

Upon our arrival we were warmly greeted by everyone and by the town band. Banners were unfurled and the Ceremony of Remembrance took place at the Village Memorial where wreaths were laid. Then to the Town Hall for the Vin d'Honneur. This over we were then taken over by our hosts, and proceeded the Salle des Fêtes with the villagers for the grand dinner followed by dancing to the music of the great orchestra of the Brazza until the small hours of the morning.

Next morning we assembled at 0800 hrs outside the town hall to begin our programme. First stop Bayeux to see the famous tapestry. I had looked forward to a stop at Luc-sur-Mer where we had a 3rd Div Club, but due to lack of time we headed straight for the Sword Sector, and a stop at Hermanville for a short ceremony at the monument which was erected in 1964 to honour the 8th Brigade who breached the West Wall in June 1944. Down the Avenue de la 3rd Division-d'Infanterie Brittanique inauguarated on 6 June 1964 and to the British Cemetery where many of the 4th Free French Commandos are also buried. We laid a wreath in memory of all who had made the supreme sacrifice there. After lunch we visited Pegasus Bridge and stopped at a friend of Mr Charles Guillois' (our magnificent guide) house where we had champagne on the lawn and then back to the village, where our hosts awaited us. Dinner and the evening were spent with them and presented the opportunity to exchange addresses and gifts. I think everyone received a bottle of home made Calvados and we in turn presented Scottish Fire-Water, known to you as Whiskey.

0815 hrs, Monday 11 June saw us boarding our coach and saying farewell to our hosts and villagers. We headed straight for the Gold Beach and the Arromanches Museum, Courselles and saw where **Churchill** landed 12 June, **De Gaulle** 14 June and **King George VI** 16 June, the Canadian Sector Juno and the monument at Berniers, the Colleville-sur-Mer to see the impressive US military cemetery and Omaha Beach. Lunch at the Hotel du Commerce Isigny-sur-Mer, which was a super one. Brief stop at Sainte Mere L'Eglise where the 82nd US Airborne landed and through Carentan where we were able to take photographs at Pointe du Hoc. And so to Cherbourg and home. We are grateful to Michelin for providing us all with a Tourist Guide of Normandy and a souvenir map all free of charge. I was honoured when a badge 'France Libre' was pinned on my blazer.

I should like to arrange a similar visit next year. Meanwhile, a movie film of this trip will be shown in London in November and anyone interested in seeing it should get in touch with me.

## WEST LONDON BRANCH

**Report by Capt Jane Knight**

If for some the winter months spell the Doldrums of inactivity, not so the West London Branch who have maintained an excellent record of attendance at our monthly meetings. No small thanks go to **Maj J. Daw, BEM** and **Margaret**, to whom we owe the facilities offered us by the British Legion in Ashford.

If, however, we have been at all somnambulent, the Branch came alive to Summer with a very good representation at the Blandford Reunion, most of us travelling by organised coach. The day was most successful. The rain held off, the luncheon was excellent, for which our compliments and thanks go to our host Regiment. Our standard was paraded, the Corps Band was superb, as always, and to comment on the performance of the intrepid White Helmets would be presumptious.

At the beginning of June a theatre party visited the London Palladium and saw a most polished performance of 'Singing in the Rain' with a cast headed by the talented and evergreen Tommy Steele. A very good night out, to be recommended. Again, we travelled by coach, a great boon, especially as it was at the end of a working day for many of us, and we extend our thanks to our organisers of this relaxing form of travel on these two enjoyable occasions. We hope that there will be many more.

# — Sport —

## GOLF

**AGA INTER CORPS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Report by Col M. J. Hales**

The 1984 Competition for the Royal Irish Rangers Bowl was played at Tidworth on 31 May and 1 June. The course was, in the main, playing well but the greens were showing the ill-effects of the prolonged drought in Southern England.

The Corps had the distinction of fielding the only all-Officer Team: **Col Mike Hales, Maj Willy Brewin** and **Harry Meekings** and **Capt Len Yates**. Three of them came over from BAOR for the event.

Our first round opponents were the Ulster Defence Regiment 'A' Team—an unknown quantity as the players were unfamiliar to us. After nine holes the match was finely balanced but the Corps proved to be the stronger finishers and we won by 13 holes to three. Best performances were by **Len Yates** and **Mike Hales**.

In the second round we came up against the favourites, REME 'A'. With the current Army Champion and a past Champion they were formidably strong and overwhelmed us by 16 holes to four. Best Corps performance in this match was by **Harry Meekings**. Although highly fancied, REME eventually lost a very hard fought final to the RAPC by a narrow margin.

Having been knocked out, the Corps Team played in the subsidiary Scratch Stableford Competition for the REME Shield. In a field of 12 teams, the Corps were successful with an overall score of 105 points. The decision went to a count-back of the last nine holes. While not the highest scorer, credit must go to **Willy Brewin** who, playing as last man, sank the vital putt on the last green.

This is a most enjoyable Competition. The format ensures that all teams play three rounds in the two days; most play four. The organisation this year was excellent and that brings great credit to the Corps as the present Officers of the Army Golf Association are: **Maj Harry Meekings** (Captain), **Maj** (Retired) **Donner Reed** (Secretary) and **Maj** (Retired) **Roy Smithard** (Treasurer). Well done Gentlemen! You do us proud.



## HOCKEY

**CORPS HOCKEY REPORT 1983/84 SEASON**

**Report by Capt D. G. Proctor, Secretary**

In the last episode of the hockey report, the team had just finished the Inter Corps Festival and qualified for the Inter Services Indoor Tournament at RAF Newton. This report, however, will cover the rest of the season and hopefully, with its photograph, take up more space than the golf newsletters.

The Inter Services Indoor Festival is played to find three teams to go forward to the National Finals at Crystal Palace. As runners up in the Corps festival we went to the competition with the RE and REME. Unfortunately **SSgt Peter Havlin** and **Cpl Phil Skene** had returned to BAOR and a slightly weaker side travelled to RAF Newton, Nottinghamshire. In the first game against Portsmouth Comd (RN) we started very cold and showed we were not mentally prepared. This was a great pity as we only lost 4—3. The second against Scotland Comd (RN) was won 7—2 but in the third against STC (RAF) we were given a 12—2 drumming by what is basically the backbone of the RAF side. This left us in the 'also-rans' and made everyone realise the real disappointment of the first lost match. In the play offs we beat the REME 5—3, this included a goal by our stand-in keeper, **Capt David Proctor**, following through on a pass he had made out of his own circle. 'Standing-in' was purely as a result of **Lt Steve Wallis** getting his timings wrong from Harrogate and not arriving with **AT Andy Baughan**, who I believe is now serving in BAOR. Up till then **Andy** had proved to be dynamite in goal using his undoubted talent of lying down to take the ball of the approaching striker.

The Corps play RMAS and the Staff College each year in Camberley. To ease the problem of player availability and reduce transport costs etc it was decided to turn the trip to Surrey into a minitour. From the 29 February through to the 4 March the Corps played RMAS, RAOC, REME, Infantry and the Staff College. Although the team sheet was sent out on the 16th by the time the 29th arrived injuries and pressure of work had taken their toll. Fortunately Blandford heard of our plight and in stepped **SSgt Paddy Goslyn** and **Sgt Gerry Lillee** from 30 Sig Regt and **Cpl John Wilson** from the School of Signals.

The first game against Sandhurst was played on a well prepared surface in the first sunny weather of the new year. At one stage we would have started with only 10 men but fortunately **Capt Roger Batho**, a resident instructor of Victory College, managed to rope in **Maj Robin Whittington Royal Scots** who proved to be a very solid full back. The Academy had considerable difficulty in penetrating the full back combination of **Maj Whittington** and **Lt Col Stephen Carr-Smith**. By half-time the Corps were 2—0 ahead from a well taken individual goal by **Sgt Gerry Lillee** and a short corner from **Capt David Proctor**. This was after the insides, **SSgt Nick Hammett** and **Sgt John Lathbury**, had been allowed to romp into the opposition's circle but the forwards had been unable to add that final touch. In the second half our defence was split by a tremendous run down the right wing and the cross was well converted past the keeper. Fortunately another goal from a short corner by **Proctor**, making it 3—1 to the Corps, gave us the breathing space in the last 10 minutes as the obvious strains of age, desk jobs and the athleticism of the RMAS began to show.

SSgt (YofS) Nick Hammett at the RMAS about to bribe the Secretary for a game

Thursday 1 March found the team at Blackdown going down 4—1 in an atrocious game of hockey where not only did the umpires prove that there should be an age limit, like the football association league, but also that if you want to pull on a Corps shirt you should be able to play a reasonable standard of hockey. Everything that could go wrong in a season decided to do so on this day. I suppose players are entitled to one bad day. Anyway, less slanging and more constructive criticism might have calmed a few players. However, a well done to **Sgt Sean Sutton** who bravely played three quarters of the match in goal and kept out some shots that on a normal day would have been match winners. At only 2—1 down at half time the game finished with two breakaway goals by the RAOC skipper towards the end of the second half.

It was with this dismal defeat behind us that we approached Friday's game with the REME knowing that they had beaten the RAOC 3—2 on the previous Wednesday and they had already beaten us 1—0 in the Inter Corps Festival. However, by building our attacks slowly from the back with short sharp passes, the REME goal was under constant pressure throughout the whole game. Our goal came from a first half penalty by **Sgt Steve Farrar** and a second half shot by **Sgt John Lathbury**.

The Saturday game against the Infantry was played in the superb surroundings of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Having enjoyed a morning on the top of a London double-decker bus, tea and sticky buns on the Kings Road, the team were feeling particularly enthusiastic as they took the field. Unfortunately, the keeper, **AT Andy Baughan** was still making his way from the railway station so **David Proctor** started the game kicking the ball instead of using his stick. The Corps played some of its best hockey I have seen in a number of years and much of this can be attributed to **Lt Gordon James**. Although everyone deserved a mention, including the two excellent umpires, **Sgt Ken Jones** at fullback deserves special mention for his new lease of life. Even though a prolific goal scorer when playing up front he used this knowledge to quell the Infantry front runners who include a couple of notable Army players. Losing 2—1 one might have felt a little bit robbed as we had spent a large part of the game in their half but had been kept out by some very good goalkeeping. The final game of the tour was a 2—1 win over the Staff College. After the exhilaration of Saturday it was difficult to get out of second gear. The result was a little generous to the College as goal after goal evaded us. The goal against came as a result of a lone, quite literally, cavalry charge.

Besides basing the team in the North the other innovation of the 1983/84 season has been the introduction of games against Leeds, Durham and York Universities. With their own heavy league and cup fixtures, these games have come as light relief for the universities and also as an opportunity for the Corps to enjoy good opposition and at the same time ring the changes by trying new players from Catterick, Harrogate and York.

The results were not exactly shining. Against Leeds we lost 1—3 twice; the first game at Harrogate being abandoned due to the mist. This shortening of the game enabled both teams to enjoy a very long and pleasant beer and curry in the Jimmy Club. The second game at Leeds will be remembered for the energy of **Sgt Geordie Burton** and **Cpl Mark Holden** who, in a forward line short of a player, fought tooth and nail. York only played their second team, the 3—0 win away being a good lighthearted match while the 4—3 home win, which should have been a walkaway, became a ding dong battle with a number of very near misses. Unfortunately we only managed one game against Durham, the first was cancelled as a result of their very good cup run (UK University finalists losing by six goals to

Loughborough). The final result was a 2—0 defeat but by a very good side. However, it did make a change for the Catterick Stadium to ring to the sounds of a Corps Hockey Match for the first time in a few seasons. Hopefully this can be repeated in 1984/85.

Rather like the minitour of early March the Easter Festival at Bournemouth brought numerous telephone calls changing the team list. Of the 13 original names five were unavailable due mainly to injuries. Although a further three were found in **Farrar, Wilson** and **Sutton**, we were generously helped on a number of occasions over the weekend by Bournemouth Hockey Club in the form of **Jeremy** and **Charles Norris, Steve, Simon** and **Chris**. To help matters the weather was absolutely excellent, and with the festival including rugby and womens hockey and the recently extended bar, each day was spent in a perfect haze of warmth and alcohol.

Bournemouth Festival (Poole HC pitch). *Back Row:* Charles Norris, Lt Gordon James, Simon, Sgt Ken Jones, Capt David Proctor. *Front Row:* Lt Nevil Thompson, SSgt Fraser Kerr, SSgt Paddy Bovaniser, SSgt Gerry Lillee, Farrar. Missing for this match are Maj Paddy Crowley, Cpl John Wilson, Sgt Sean Sutton

In general the results were excellent. **SSgt Fraser Kerr** scored the two winners to beat the Old Tauntonians and Swans, the former an excellent first time shot, and one for the draw against the RAMS. **Sgt Steve Farrar** scored the only goal against the Wayfarers and **Sgt Ken Jones** the own goal for the 1—0 defeat by Poole. The 5—0 drumming of the Old Halesonians, although a good game, was entirely due to the brilliant finish of the borrowed **Jeremy Norris** who was vacationing from Oxford University. On the final afternoon Bournemouth turned on the pressure while the Corps team, without the same resources of players, slipped to a 4—0 defeat. In all some very good hockey was played on Bournemouth's hard baked pitches and socially one, or two players scored as well. On the final day **Sgt Steve Farrar** and **Lt Nevil Thompson** set off at 0500 hrs for Dover to join the Army team travelling to BAOR for the Inter Services Rheindahlen Festival.

The Secretary unfortunately could not take part in the Annual Harrogate Crawfurd-Porter Tournament due to the Kohima festivities of the 2nd Division. **Lt Gordon James** therefore took on the responsibilities of the team and the next few paragraphs.

The most welcome compliment received during the Tournament was expressed by several opposing team captains who found the Corps XI '... very sporting and a pleasure to play against'. That spirit has taken several seasons to develop, but with a nucleus of good players consistently available, R Corps hockey can only continue to improve.

Playing a 1—3—3—3 formation, we welcomed **Col Paddy Verdon** for the Saturday fixture against Maidenhead. This was to have been his swan-song as outgoing Chairman of R Signals HC, and the team were delighted to be able to present him with an engraved tankard as a momento to thank him for his hard work over many seasons and to wish him well for the future. After a magnificent performance as left defender he was to be asked to turn out for a further three fixtures on the Sunday. This fittingly culminated in probably his best match of the weekend, against Bowden. (Following this fourth 'last game' in two days, **Col Verdon** broke his stick over his knee!)

The Tournament proper on the Sunday was preceded by the match against Maidenhead. This provided a very spirited and fast warm-up on the all-weather pitch at AAC Harrogate. The opposition counted themselves fortunate to earn a draw with two sharply taken goals to counter continuous Corps pressure which produced goals for **SSgt Nick Hammett** and **Cpl Mark Holden**. **Sgt Steve Farrar** had two clear chances at short corners but put the first over the cross-bar and miss-hit the second.

Col Paddy Verdon receiving his 'last game' tankard from Lt Gordon James, Sgt Steve Farrar, Sig Jon-Jon Mackrodt, SSgt Nick Hammett, Cpl Mark Holden and Sgt Ken Jones applaud

'Officers' versus Wellbeck College: *Back Row:* Lt Tony Johnson, Lt Chris Richards, Capt David Proctor, Maj Pat Dickinson, Capt Neil Steward. *Sitting:* Sgt Dave Randall, Captain John MacDonald, Sgt Steve Farrar, Lt Barry Keegan. *Bottom Row:* Lt Nevil Thompson and SSgt (YofS) Nick Hammett

Sunday opened with a hard match against a very skilful Wakefield side. Once the midfield trio of **James, Farrar** and **Thompson** began to play with the drive shown against Maidenhead, and with **Sgt John Lathbury** supporting from centre back, the pressure kept the opposition pinned in defence. A hesitant debut by **Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt** in goal gave our own defence some anxious moments, but the result was settled by a fast break on the left by **Sgt 'Geordie' Burton** who scored with a superb reverse stick shot for the only goal of the match. (Ed. Most of the season he is blown by the umpires for this very dubious shot!).

The second fixture against Furness was lost through a combination of early complacency and a poor pitch that certainly prevented our more skilful players from asserting themselves. With more to do in goal, **Mackrodt** produced some fine saves (including a penalty) and was more relaxed and confident. Again this match was decided by a single goal late in the first half.

We required to win the final 'pool' fixture against a strong Bowden XI, to qualify for the semi-finals. A fast first half hung in the balance until the last. An overhead flick from **Farrar** was collected by **James** on the edge of the 'D' and **Hammett** followed up to score with a fierce drive, only for the goal to be disallowed. A few minutes later and on the first half whistle, Bowden scored a decisive goal. This reversal of fortune proved the key to the match and the superior skills of the Bowden team saw them to a 3—0 victory with two late goals. Although **Lt Col Stephen Carr-Smith** had two hard shots narrowly miss goal from our two second half short corners. The Colonel's return to the Corps side was as sweeper and his experience combined with his heavy strike of the ball was very welcome. Whilst missing a couple of our stronger players, the team effort was excellent and proved a fitting end to the 83/84 season.

The quote in the first paragraph of this report was capped by another from the Bowden skipper: 'We were very surprised to find such an ugly looking side playing so attractively'. Beat that **Neville**!



**FINAL NOTE**

The Secretary's final plea is that although I am aware of the majority of Corps standard players in the UK, people do get posted. I therefore implore players of all ranks to contact me if they are coming to the UK, or leaving, on York Military 2248.

Secondly, if you are medically unable to continue, or too old, then try turning your hand to umpiring. Units and the Army are desperately short. You have all enjoyed a good hockey career why not take it upon yourselves to put something back.

**FINAL RESULTS FOR THE 1983/84 SEASON**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Indoor Inter Corps Tournament:** | | | |
| **League** | v RE | Won | 4—2 |
| | v REME | Won | 6—5 |
| | v RAEC | Won | |
| **Semi-Final** | v RAOC | Won | 6—5 |
| **Final** | v RE | Lost | 7—3 |
| **Outdoor Inter Corps Tournament:** | | | |
| **League** | v Portsmouth Comd (RN) | Lost | 4—3 |
| | v Scotland Comd (RN) | Won | 7—2 |
| | v STC (RAF) | Lost | 12—2 |
| | | (Competition Winners) | |
| **Play off** | v REME | Won | 5—3 |
| **Outdoor Inter Corps Tournament:** | | | |
| League | v RE | Lost | 3—0 |
| | v RCT | Won | 1—0 |
| | v Inf | Draw | 0—0 |
| | | (Competition Winners) | |
| | v REME | Lost | 0—1 |
| **Bournemouth Easter Festival:** | | | |
| | v Nailers (Belper) | Draw | 0—0 |
| | v Old Tauntonians | Won | 1—0 |
| | v Poole HC | Lost | 0—1 |
| | v Wayfarers | Won | 1—0 |
| | v RCMS | Draw | 1—1 |
| | v Old Halesonians | Won | 5—0 |
| | v Swans (Walton) | Won | 1—0 |
| | v Bournemouth HC | Lost | 0—4 |
| **Harrogate Crawfurd-Porter Tournament:** | | | |
| | v Wakefield HC | Won | 1—0 |
| | v Furness | Lost | 0—1 |
| | v Bowden | Lost | 0—3 |
| | | (Tournament Winners) | |
| **Friendlies:** | | | |
| | v RM | Draw | 0—0 |
| | v RCT | Won | 3—0 |
| | v RAPC | Won | 2—0 |
| | v Leeds University H | Lost | 1—3 |
| | | (match abandoned due to mist) | |
| | v Leeds University A | Lost | 1—3 |
| | v York University A | Won | 3—0 |
| | v York University H | Won | 4—3 |
| | v Durham University | Lost | 0—2 |
| | | (UK University Finalists) | |
| | v RMAS | Won | 3—1 |
| | v RAOC | Lost | 1—4 |
| | v REME | Won | 2—0 |
| | v Infantry | Lost | 1—2 |
| | v Staff College | Won | 2—1 |
| | v Nordics | Draw | 1—1 |
| | v Welbeck | Won | 4—2 |
| | v Maidenhead HC | Draw | 2—2 |

Also played this season but are not in any photographs:
**Lt S. Wallis, ATs Baughan** and **Crabtree, Cpl Dawson, WO2 (SSM) Hunter, Sgt Geordie Burton,** (Army Apprentices College Harrogate), **WO2s Whitbread** and **Collins, Cpl Keshersing Rai, Sig Jenner** (8 Sig Regt), **Sgt G. Lathbury** (Shetland Islands!) **SSgt Goslyn** (30 Sig Regt), **Capt Barrett** (School of Signals), **Sig Malone** and **Newman** (11 Sig Regt), **WO1 (RSM) Purkiss** (36 Sig Regt (V)), **SSgt Havlin** (22 Sig Regt), **Cpl Skene** (Int and Sy Gp BAOR), **Maj Crane** (Jnr Regt), **Capt Batho** (RMAS), **Lt Col Carr-Smith** (Army Staff College).

# RUGBY

**CORPS RUGBY—1984 SPRING TOUR**
**Report by Maj W. K. Butler, Secretary**

The 1984 Spring Rugby Tour was not so much a tour, but rather a couple of games played at the end of a lean season. The reason for this was that as other Corps sides will now only play on Wednesday afternoons then it is only possible to accommodate two such games during a 10 day tour. In future it looks as though our policy will have to change to fall in line with the other Corps.

Nevertheless, despite only playing two matches team spirit was high and both games were exceptionally entertaining and exciting to watch. The results were: RAPC at Worthy Down, won 11—6. REME at Aborfield, Lost 6—16.

The Corps team relied very much on the 'old guard' as a nucleus on which to build the team—the stalwarts being **WO2 Trevor Johnson** at prop, **SSgt Todd O'Brien** at scrum half, **SSgt Kev Stock** at prop, **Cpl 'Taff' George** at wing-forward, **Cpl Pete Lytollis** at centre and **Cpl Bill McConnell** at hooker.

The game against the RAPC was a well won match on a dull but dry day which afforded ideal playing conditions. The pack although lacking height and weight made up for these disadvantages by their speed and good ball handling and won good possession especially at loose rucks and mauls. The backs played well together but did tend to drop the final try scoring pass on a couple of occasions. The RAPC opened the scoring in both halves with converted penalties. Scorers for the Corps were **Sgt Wally Bacon** with a converted penalty, a try by **Cpl Pete Lytollis** after a brilliant 40 metre run when he ran through most of the RAPC pack and back division and a try by **Cpl Jamie Alleyne** which he squeezed in, in the left hand corner. This last try was the culmination of good forward play by **WO2 Trevor Johnson, SSgt Kev Stock** and **Cpl Bill McConnell** and the sheer determination and agression of **Cpl 'Taff' George** and **Cpl Rod Pocock** in the back row who handled the ball swiftly and safely to set up the try.

The REME were yet again our bogey team and although the margin of 10 points in their favour appears fairly comfortable the game in fact was a hard, close contest which was superbly entertaining to watch. Both teams put on a first class performance on a day which was ideal for playing except in the last few minutes when the rain began to fall. Our light pack suffered at the set scrums despite **Cpl Bill McConnell**'s faster striking power over the opposition hooker when we were pushed off the ball on many occasions. The backs played a sound and well co-ordinated game both in attack and defence. As it was to be his final match for the Corps before leaving the Army the captaincy for this match was given to **Cpl Pete Lytollis** wearing his accustomed No. 13 shirt (**'Pedro'** where is the No. 13 shirt? It's missing as are Nos. 2, 3, 6, 8 and 12—the 'old lags' strike again; one would have thought that **Bill** had enough No. 2 shirts by now!) The REME scored one converted try, a try and two penalties. Scorers for the Corps were **Cpl Taff George** with a superb try after a set piece move at a short line-out when he ran to the tail of the line, to collect the throw-in from **Cpl Bill McConnell**, and then drove hard for the try line to score; this try was converted by **Sgt Wally Bacon**.

SSgt Todd O'Brien collects the ball from the scrum in the game against the REME. Cpl Bob Snow looks surprised at winning the ball

Concentration or is it desperation at a line-out against REME. From front to rear WO2 Trevor Johnson, Lt Roddy Nicholson, SSgt Kev Stock, LCpl Steve Smoothy, Cpl Rod Pocock and LCpl Archie Fulton

SSgt Todd O'Brien gets the ball away from a line-out in the REME game. Visible forwards are WO2 Trevor Johnson and Cpl Bill McConnell with Cpl 'Taff' George running to support the backs (12) Sgt Eric Clark, (13) Cpl Pete Lytollis, (10) Sgt Wally Bacon and just in picture Sgt Stevie Stevenson

The two centres Sgt Eric Clark and Cpl Pete Lytollis wait for the ball with fly-half Sgt Wally Bacon in the match against the REME

Cpl 'Taff' George makes one of his many presenting breaks; in support are Cpls Bill McConnell, Rod Pocock, Sgt Wally Bacon and SSgt Todd O'Brien

SSgt Todd O'Brien making a break on the blind side; giving cover is LCpl Steve Smoothy

In general a satisfactory end to a lean season and the Secretary extends his thanks to all those who gave their support especially those players on whom he has had to place so much reliance in order to field a team and provide the necessary coaching and training experience—many thanks for all your help.

For services both on and off the field of play the following were awarded/re-awarded Corps Rugby colours for the 1983/84 season: **Lt Roddy Nicholson, WO2 Trevor Johnson, SSgts Todd O'Brien, Kev Stock, Sgts Wally Bacon, Eric Clark, Harry Elkan, Stevie Stevenson, Martin Webb, Cpls Jamie Alleyne, Ricky Dent, Martin George, Pete Lytollis, Bill McConnell, Rod Pocock** and **LCpl Steve Smoothy**.



# HERE AND THERE

## 29 Sig Regt

Alfred Marks performs a song about the 'Flea'

## 34 Sig Regt (V)

Sgt Des Dixon and Pte Donella Beck sharing a joke with Brig Maynard 'CO's glasses' looking on

## 36 Sig Regt (V)

So this is a wood! Capt Roy Gransbury 2IC HQ Sqn discussing the phenomenon with Maj (Tfc) Phil Blackburn and Capt (TOT) Paul Burton during Ex *Slow Walk*

## 240 Sig Sqn

LS&GC Presentation FSS Stenigot 16 May 1984
*Standing L to R:* Sgts Martin, Shaw, Rushton. *Sitting L to R:* Maj Grice OC 240 Sig Sqn, Brig K. H. Olds Comd 2 Sig Bde and Mrs Rushton

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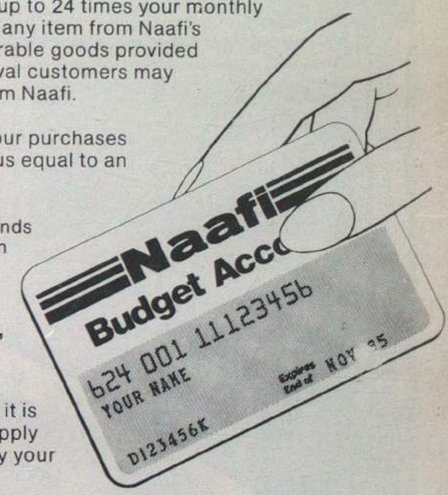


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This letter was attached to a British Army Land-Rover in the training area of Exercise "Eternal Triangle" in Lower Saxony, West Germany.

"Dear British soldier,

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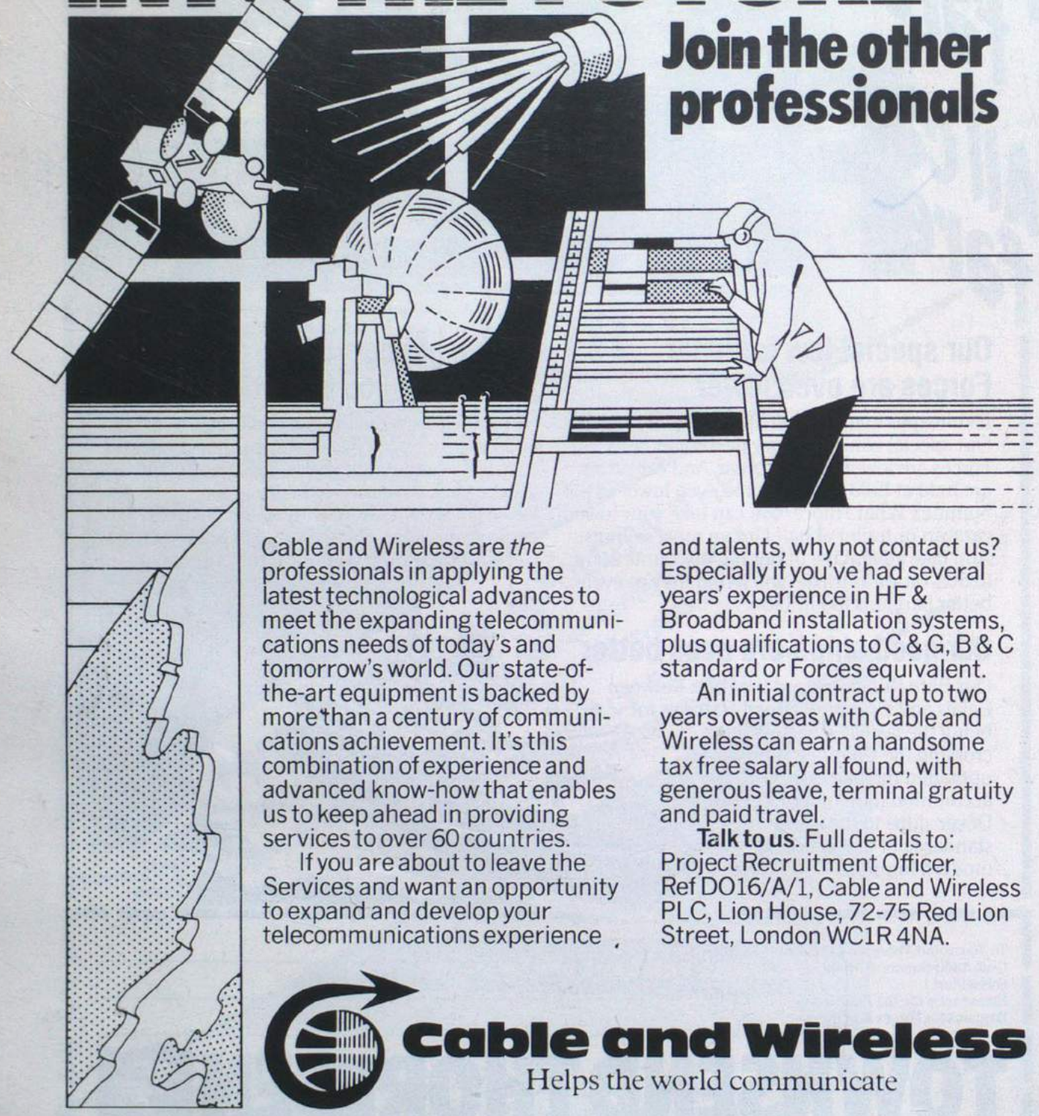

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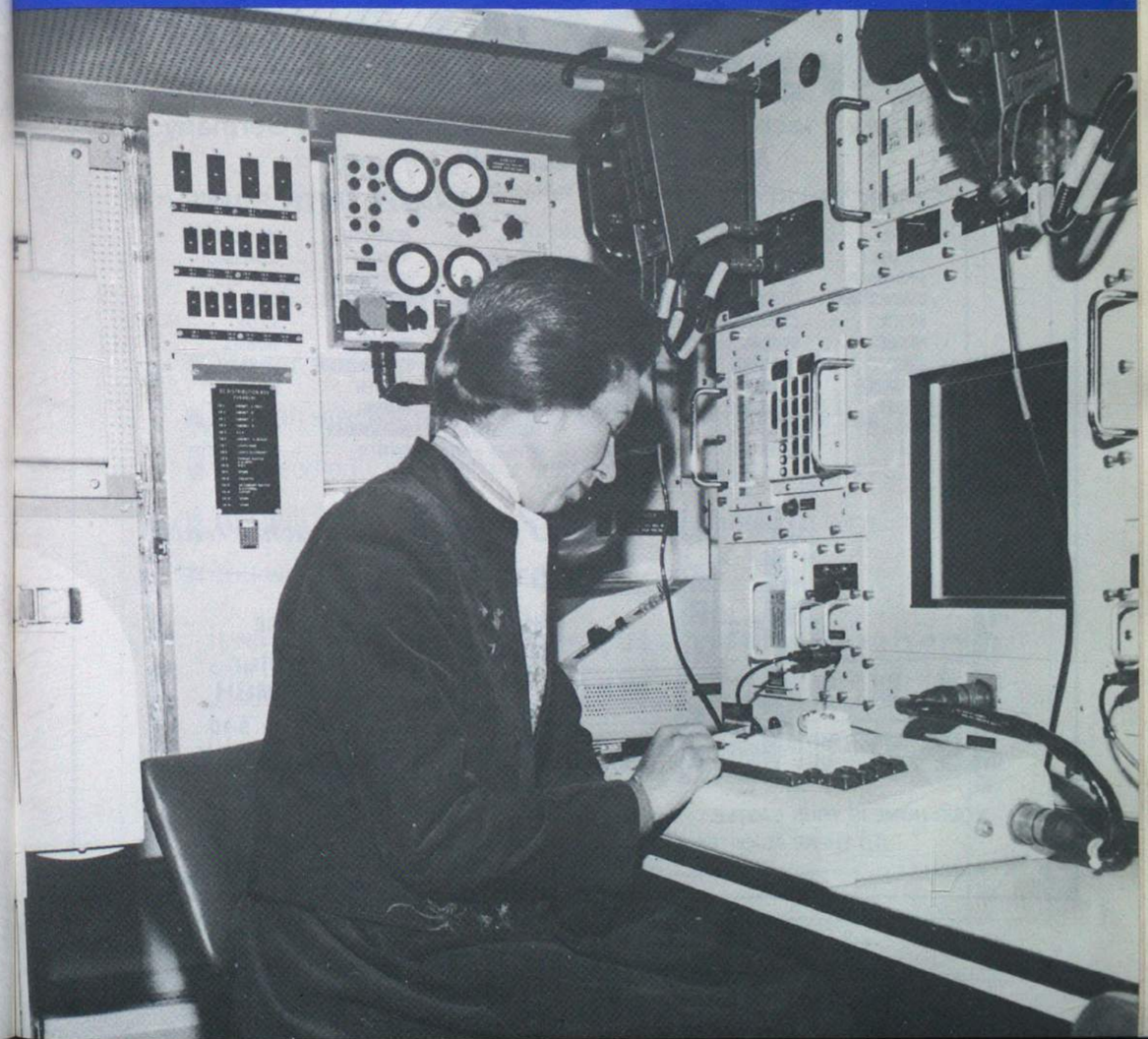
September 1984


# THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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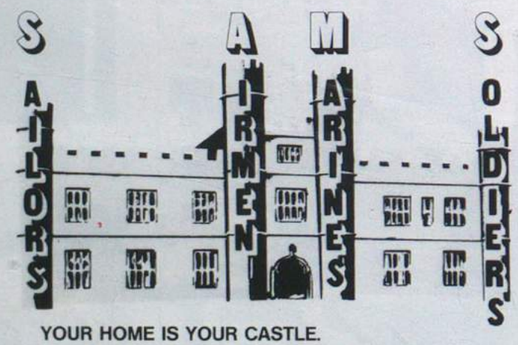


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'THANKS YOU BRITISH SOLDIERS — IT'S PEACE WITH YOU'

School Duo's dance to top

There was song, dance, comedy, impressions and other funny goings on when Naafi Ntertainment held its big talent contest final at Rheindahlen.

Left the first prize winners were Dean Coomer and Nicolas Maison from Prin... Rupert's Schoo... delighted eva... their rou... They ... th...

EXERCISE "Eternal Triangle" brought many touches of ... as well as confirming the British Serviceman's pro... but one small incident stands out more than ... drive home the message of why the B... Germany.

This letter was attached to a British Army Land-Rover in the training area of Exercise "Eternal Triangle" in Lower Saxony, West Germany.

"Dear British soldier,

"We thank you for being here knowing that you'd prefer ... in Brighton, Edin... anywhere in Engl... pub drinking ... Thank ... be ...

while their tanks ... moved south, ... of 1st Arm... support ... Bri...

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● Leading his team from 12 Armoured Workshop on the trailer race during Exercise "Log Pot" is Corporal Dave Lawrence (second from right).

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# THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
**September 1984 (New Series) vol. 38 No: 5**
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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## EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

When the Colonel-in-Chief saw PTARMIGAN on Salisbury Plain on 22 June one of the many new installations which were demonstrated to HRH was the PTARMIGAN Switch. Our cover picture shows Princess Anne occupying the Facilities Controller's position, preparing to enter a Command into the Switch software system.

## YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The subscription rates for *'The Wire'*—shown above—have been in force since 1978. The content has increased steadily over the past six years—1983 was up some 54% on 1978. During the same period printing costs have gone up by some 46% per page. It will not have escaped the notice of our individual subscribers that the cost of posting *'The Wire'* to them is around 33p—15p in 1978.

All these factors were considered by the Association's Central Committee earlier this year when the financial status of *'The Wire'* was reviewed. The subsidy to our Corps magazine was some £24,000 in 1983 as against £4,200 in 1978.

The new subscription rate for individual subscribers from January 1985 is to be £4.20. The 'bulk' (five or more copies) subscription will be £3.60.

We hope this brief statement will give all our subscribers an understanding of the basic economic factors bearing on our Corps magazine. As in 1977, when the last change in subscription rates was announced, it is hoped that the new rates will apply for several years.

If you pay by Bankers Order, you will be receiving a request from the Regimental Secretary and Corps Treasurer to execute another 'Bankers Order' to reflect the new annual subscription.

Many of you renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are in this category, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment, by 31 December 1984? We require to define our printing commitment for the January issue by this date and your co-operation in meeting this request will be most helpful. **Cheques/Postal Orders to be payable to 'Royal Signals Corps Fund', please.**

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# HRH TAKES PASS OFF PARADE AT OUSTON

**PREPARATION**

Planning and preparation started months ago, when the Regiment was informed that **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** would take the salute at 20 June Pass Off Parade.

The preparation was extensive, and encompassed all departments.

The Quartermaster's Department 'procured' spectator stands for 1300 people, and **SSgt Sid Vivian** and his team worked long hours to construct this 'mammoth meccano set'.

In the Pay Office, **Maj Ken Hathaway RAPC** worked his 'green' fingers to the bone and produced 500 plants and shrubs to brighten the Barracks.

And so the 'spit and polish parade' got underway. Teams were tasked to re-paint the runway markings, a long and laborious task. Despite this, the humour of the painting crews shone through.

By the time of the second planning conference, one or two problems began to rear their heads. (Just how do you ensure that 1300 spectators are all seated before the Princess arrives?) An atmosphere of friendly if at times 'spirited' helpfulness ensured that, by 20 June, all was in readiness.

**THE DAY**

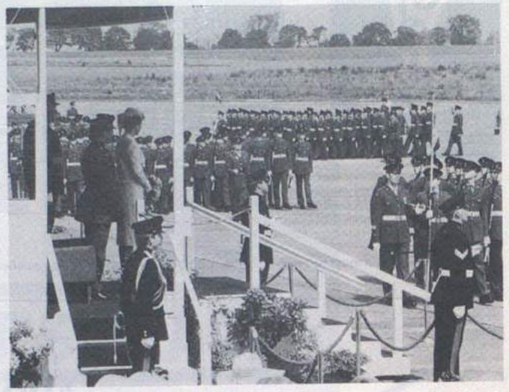
The 20th dawned, despite all speculation to the contrary, as a bright and warm day. The Junior Signalmen of Beaufighter, Triangle, Iron and Lightning Troops were finishing their polishing and pressing as other teams were equally busy at their assigned tasks. While **Capt Dave Vardy**'s security team erected barriers and unfamiliar 'tac' signs like 'Press Room' and 'TV camera crews', **Capt Bob Etherton** and his PR team briefed the press from local TV and Newspapers.

The 'nerve centre' for all of this furious activity centred upon the control point, stationed in the Air Traffic Control Tower. **Lt Graham McNeill** certainly had his work cut out for him that day.

As Parade time approached, the Regiment's guests began to arrive, passing through the extremely thorough security screen. The efficiency borne of weeks of meticulous planning began to shine through.

Guests of the Regiment included The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, **Col The Viscount Ridley TD**; The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**; The Signals Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**; The Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig F. R. Maynard**; The Regimental Secretary, **Col J. A. D. Francis**.

The visit of **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** proved to be most memorable and successful.

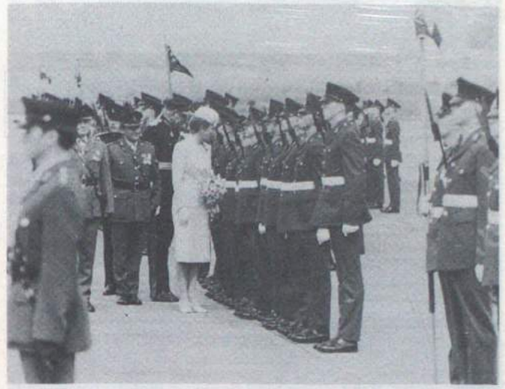


Her Royal Highness watches the march past of Battleaxe, Triangle, Lightning and Iron Troops

Her Royal Highness inspects the Pass Off Troops, and here speaks to JSig Sherlock

Her Royal Highness walks to the parade ground escorted by the CO Lt Col Turner



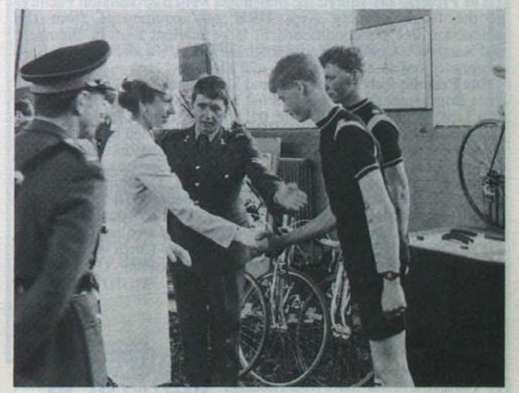


Her Royal Highness inspects Lightning Troop

Mrs Jill Steed looks on as Sonja Tanner, age 4, presents a bouquet to the Princess outside the Community Centre

The Junior Regiment Royal Signals (26th) Arena Display Team in action

After the display, Her Royal Highness speaks to members of the Arena Display Team

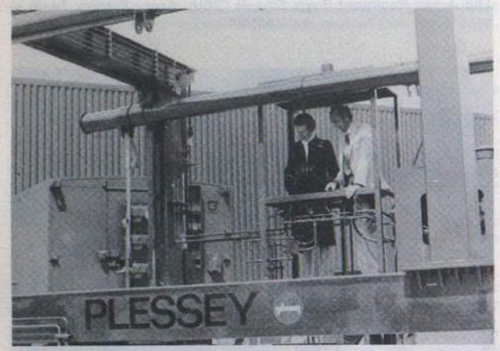


Cpl Lynch introduces JSig Hunt and Fielding at the cycling hobby stand

## HRH VISITS PLESSEY DEFENCE SYSTEMS AT CHRISTCHURCH

**Report from Plessey**

**The Princess Anne**, during a visit to Plessey Defence Systems Limited at Christchurch went 'ride about' when **HRH** manoeuvred a £33,000 nine ton straddle hoist which had been purpose built for the rapid handling of Ptarmigan installations. With the assistance of **Mr Mike Coppen**, the Reference Centre Logistics Controller, **HRH** spent some five minutes driving the 14 foot high hoist in the contractor trials compound area. **Mr Coppen** said: '**The Princess** handled the hoist very well. I handed over completely.'




**The Princess** spent two hours at the Plessey Defence Systems establishment which she visited in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals. **HRH** saw production of the Ptarmigan tactical area communications system for the Army and officially opened the Ptarmigan Reference Centre Building. The Reference Centre contains the 4,000 item types of equipment which constitute the Ptarmigan System. Before the items are delivered to the Army in the field they are tested in the centre for network compatibility to ensure that they can confidently be introduced into the integrated system.

**The Princess** also toured the Ptarmigan Switch Production Facility. In the Commissioning Area **HRH** saw equipments from the production line pre-conditioned in large thermal burn-in chambers and watched a Commissioning Engineer prepare a switch for a final acceptance test in a chamber at −20°C.

**The Princess** arrived in a Westland helicopter of the Queen's Flight from Bournemouth and was greeted by The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**. On arrival, **HRH** was welcomed by **Mr Michael Clark**, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Plessey Company and Chairman of Plessey Electronic Systems Limited. **Mr Clark** was accompanied by **Mr Kenneth Bacon**, Divisional Managing Director of the Plessey Communications Systems (C3I) Division, **Mr Cyril Teed**, Managing Director of Plessey Defence Systems, and **Mr Peter Venton**, Director and General Manager of Project Ptarmigan.

**The Princess** left for Salisbury Plain where the Corps is completing extensive operational trials of the Ptarmigan System.

## PTARMIGAN'S DEBUT

These photographs from the School of Signals cover the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief to Salisbury Plain on 22 June when PTARMIGAN was on display.

The Colonel-in-Chief sees PTARMIGAN's Debut
The Colonel-in-Chief meets Capt Ned Gravel (Canadian Armed Forces) with Maj John Doody OC No 1 (Trials) Squadron and Brig A. M. Willcox Commander School of Signals

Sgt Thomas and Cpl Anderson very much 'at the ready' as the Colonel-in-Chief arrives for her tour of the SCRA cluster

The Colonel-in-Chief receives a briefing using an SCRA mobile

HRH shares a joke with Cpl Hill. SSgt Hill (partly hidden but with ears open) will ''ave 'im later'. Maj Doody and Capt Gravel like the joke which will probably save Cpl Hill

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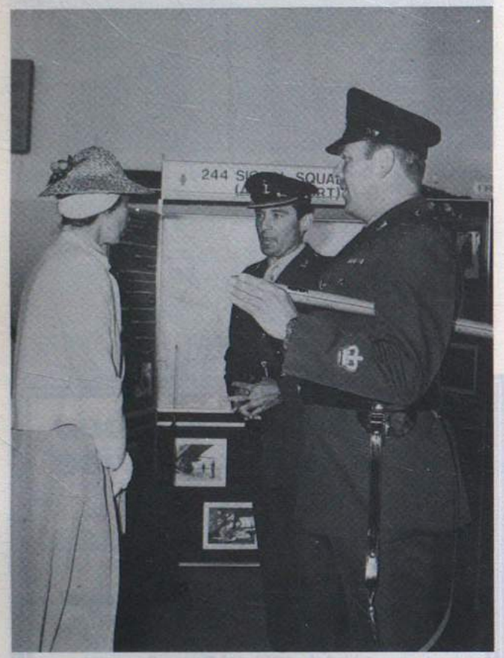
# THE PRINCESS ANNE VISITS RAF BRIZE NORTON

On 29 June, **The Princess Anne** paid a visit to RAF Brize Norton. As part of the programme 244 Sig Sqn (AS) together with other operational units on the Station, produced a static display which **Her Royal Highness** saw. The OC, **Maj Tony Kimber** greeted the Colonel-in-Chief (on the day after Princess Royal Day) and presented **WO2 (SSM) Tom Muir.** After explaining the rôle and organisation of the Squadron, the OC went on to present **Cpl 'Stu' Couszins, Cpl Mark Schofield, Sig Paul Humphries** and **Paul Nicholson. HRH** inspected **Cpl Couszins'** Clansman Radio Detachment, and also met **Cpl Mark Schofield** who, with his personal arctic equipment, was representing the ACE Mobile Force Air Support Troop. Later **Princess Anne** visited other units.

Afterwards **WO2 (FofS) John Jones** and his wife **Kay** were presented to **HRH** at the Sergeants' Mess reception. **Capt Richard Blum** and **2Lt David Halstead** attended the official Officers' Mess reception.



The OC, Maj Tony Kimber presents WO2 Tom Muir to the Colonel-in-Chief on her arrival at the Squadron display

The OC briefs HRH on the Squadron's role

The OC presents Cpl 'Stu' Couszins, Sig Paul Nicholson and Paul Humphries

Cpl Mark Schofield discusses the finer points of Arctic Warfare with HRH



# THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF WITH 22ND SIGNAL REGIMENT

**GREETING BY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne,** visited 22nd Signal Regiment on the 18 July. The Regiment vacated its barracks in the pouring rain and moved to Sennestadt ranges for their Regimental Military Skills competition. **Her Royal Highness** was greeted on her arrival with cheers from soldiers, families and children from Lippstadt Primary School. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Peter Pritchard,** presented the 3 Sqn team which was about to start a 10 mile march and shoot.

**ELECTRICALLY DETONATED CHARGES**

**The Princess** set off the electrically detonated charges to start the Battle Run in which COMMCEN Echo and 4 Sqn teams competed. Both teams tackled the assault course, death slide and live firing with great enthusiasm and skill, but unfortunately **Cpl Steve Brian** of COMMCEN Echo tried to take a short cut through the wall and was rushed away by the First Aid team.

**TEAMS PRESENTED**

The Basic Signalling Skills event started with a bump for some as the intrepid abseilers of 1 Sqn and COMMCEN Echo hit the deck and sped down the range laying line over various obstacles. After the event the teams were presented to **Her Royal Highness.**

HRH meets members of 3 Sqn March and Shoot team

**THE AFTERNOON**

After lunch with the Junior Ranks of the Regiment the **Princess** watched the March and Shoot team, led by **Lt Nigel Gill,** as they doubled in from marching phase to shoot on the 300m range.

A surprise attack on **Lt Vyv Thatcher**'s section then started 2 Sqn's First Aid Stand. The section withdrew under fire leaving three casualties in a wrecked Landrover. After assaulting and clearing the enemy position the section performed First Aid on the three bloody and screaming casualties; **LCpl Russ Batley, Sig 'Spider' Webb** and **Sig Carrol** who miraculously recovered sufficiently to be presented to **Her Royal Highness.**

Princess Anne watches as the casualties are patched up by 2 Sqn's team

The Princess meets both the fit and wounded of 2 Sqn

After viewing communications vehicles from the Regiment, **Her Royal Highness** watched the horses and met members of the German National Three Day Event Team who train at Sennestadt. The **Princess** then took tea with the Senior Ranks and sporting personalities of the Regiment.

**TROPHY PRESENTED**

**Her Royal Highness** was invited to present the 'Commanding Officer's Trophy' to the best overall team in the Military Skills competition. **Maj Guy Meakin** accepted the Rose Bowl on behalf of 1 Sqn.

Three year old **Kerri Hegarty,** daughter of **SSgt Gerry Hegarty** then came forward to present **The Princess** with a posy of flowers. At the end of the day the weather chose the best moment to improve as **The Princess,** watched by many soldiers walked towards the Royal car.

The winning 1 Sqn team

**A PROUD AND SUCCESSFUL OCCASION**

That evening **Her Royal Highness** travelled to Lippstadt for a civic reception in the Ratshaus and signed the Stadt 'Golden Book'. Later **The Princess** was the guest of honour at the 22nd Signal Regiment Officers' Mess Summer Ball.

In spite of the torrential rain, which lasted all day, **Princess Anne**'s visit was a proud and successful occasion for 22nd Signal Regiment, and will long be remembered.

# . . . AND SENNELAGER WITH 3 ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

**A DAY TO REMEMBER**

Thursday 19 July dawned cloudy over Sennelager Ranges where elements of 3 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, 204 and 206 Signal Squadrons awaited the arrival of **The Princess Anne**. The expected rain held off, and **Her Royal Highness**, attended by her lady in waiting, **Mrs Celia Innes** with The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, and the Regimental Corps Secretary, **Col J. A. D. Francis**, arrived to spend several hours with us.

**Princess Anne**, dressed in a striped navy blue outfit, was welcomed by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Dick Baly**, who then presented the Second-in-Command, **Maj David Gardiner**, and the RSM **WO1 Stuart Gray-Cowan**.

HRH talks to the CO as the visit begins

These formalities over, The **Princess** was presented to **Maj Bob Wannell** who conducted her around the Main HQ Complex where **HRH** showed great interest in the layout of the vehicles and spoke to all the soldiers. Leaving the complex, the Colonel-in-Chief was met by **Maj Dick Sanders** and **WO1 (YofS) Pete Baron** who explained the intricacies of that 'Holy of Holies', the Regimental Command Post. **SSgt Stuart Bromidge** then met The **Princess**, for a tour of the Commhead presenting the soldiers as they moved along under the camouflage netting. The LAD was the last element of Main HQ and here **Her Royal Highness** met **Cpl Duncan Hedges** and **LCpl Andy Perry** who explained just how easily and quickly they could complete a pack change on an AFV 432.

Maj Bob Wannell follows HRH accompanied by SSgt Stu Bromidge. LCpl Jimmy Dean and Sig 'Taff' Crocker and Graham Whitehead in foreground

**WITH 206 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

The next detachment to be visited was the MAOT commanded by **WO Brian Mills** of the Royal Air Force. This small detachment was controlling the helicopters that were to be used in the demonstration by 206 Signal Squadron.

Moving from the wooded area where the Headquarters was hidden into the open area of the range, **Princess Anne** was introduced to **Maj Ian Strong** and **WO2 (SSM) Paddy Gass**, of 206 Signal Squadron. As **Maj Strong** finished his briefing on his Squadron's role, a Lynx helicopter, bearing **Lt Mark Pincott** and his section flew in to secure the ground immediately in front of the Royal Party. This was followed by a display of Pumas and Chinooks of the RAF who carried into the arena underslung loads of landrovers, trailers and Radio Relay vehicles. Much to everyone's relief all the vehicles started and were driven off.

**. . . AND 204 SIGNAL SQUADRON**

**Princess Anne** then moved on to visit 204 Signal Squadron commanded by **Maj John Griffin**, who explained the role of his Squadron. As he spoke, the 432s of HQ 4 Armoured Brigade, camouflaged with undergrowth and netting roared our of their hide and set up as an Armoured Headquarters. After setting up, the Headquarters was 'attacked' and with great speed packed up and crashed out of its location. On completion of the demonstration, the 432s formed into line abreast and performed an advance in review order, stopping in front of **Princess Anne**; the crews disembarked and were presented to **Her Royal Highness** by **SSgt Roger Fairfield** who commanded the display.

Princess Anne meets members of 204 Sig Sqn. *L to R:* Cpl Sandy Dos Martyres and Sig Mick Wheater and Graham Moody. Maj John Griffin looks on

**A HIDDEN VOICE**

**The Princess** then moved on to the rebro site commanded by **Lt Andy Hicks**. At the entrance to the site was a well camouflaged slit trench manned by **LCpl Derek Donnelly**. When it became obvious that **Princess Anne** was not going to notice his position **LCpl Donnelly** called out 'Good Morning Your Royal Highness'. The **Colonel-in-Chief**, still not quite certain which bush had spoken to her, replied to the challenge with a cheerful 'Good morning' and entered the location.

LCpl Derek Donnelly showing his face

After a quick tour of the Rebro site **Col Baly** escorted The **Princess** to see the Airmobile Brigade Headquarters of 206 Signal Squadron set up and camouflaged under the trees. Here, was a welcome cup of coffee and a chance to have a short break. After coffee the **Princess** toured the Headquarters, taking a great interest in the landrover borne elements of the Brigade.

Lt Mark Pincott escorts HRH past Maj Ian Strong and Sgt Paul Ratcliffe

**COMMCEN XRAY**

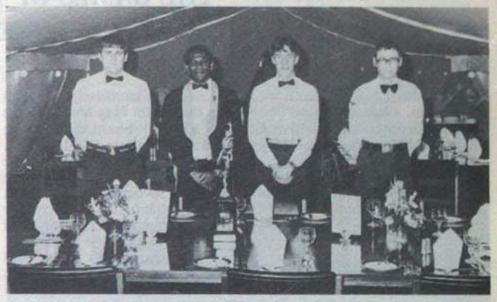
**Her Royal Highness** and entourage then climbed into Safari landrovers for a short journey to visit Commcen Xray. The CO elected to drive The **Princess** and, much to his relief, completed the journey without mishap.

On arrival at the Commcen, **HRH** was met by **Maj David Bannister** and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Lumb**. **Lt Tony Rock** was then presented and guided The **Princess** around the Commcen; again **HRH** spoke to everyone, and showed much interest in all tasks.

Princess Anne meets Maj David Bannister and WO2 Dave Lumb. The CO looks on

**LUNCH IN TENTED AREA**

The **Princess** finally moved on to the Admin Area where lunch was to be taken. **Maj Ken Solly, WO2 (RQM) Willy Erskine** and their staff had built a magnificent tented area containing dining room and reception area. After meeting a cross-section of all ranks of the Regiment, The **Princess** joined us for what was judged an excellent lunch. Once concluded, **Capt John Ratcliffe** with some of the Mess staff and cooks were introduced to **Her Royal Highness**.



A typical exercise lunch! Cpl Mick Churchfield, WO2 Mel Sumersall, LCpl Andy Knight and Cpl Lou Rising in the Mess prior to the Royal Luncheon

Sig 'Dobbo' Dobson, LCpl Ritchie Coleman and Sig Steve Cottee and Andy McCulloch being introduced to HRH by Lt Tony Rock

**A PRESENTATION—AND FAREWELL**

After signing the visitors book the Commanding Officer presented **Princess Anne** with a cheque for DM 2,800 for the *Save the Children Fund*, of which she is Patron. The money had been raised at the Möhnefest the previous weekend.

The CO presents HRH with a cheque for the Save The Children Fund

**Princess Anne** then, with a smile and a wave, drove off to Gutersloh to fly back to England. The **Princess** so obviously enjoyed the day with the Regiment. The Regiment was greatly honoured and deeply appreciative of the time our **Colonel-in-Chief** devoted to us.

## — From our "In" Tray —

# THE GAMES OF THE XXIII OLYMPIAD
# IMPRESSIONS OF LOS ANGELES BY SGT S. N. JACKSON BEM

On 26 July, together with a handful of other canoeists, and Miss Zola Budd, all dressed in tunics bearing the Union Flag and Olympic emblem denoting the British Olympic Team I boarded a British Airways 747 bound for Los Angeles. It was an almost unreal moment of anticipation; the climax of 12 years preparatory training; the fulfilment of a personal dream to represent my country at the Olympics and perhaps bring home a medal. Seventeen hours later I arrived at the Watersports Olympic village (actually a University campus in Santa Barbara with disposable messing by MacDonalds and rooms directly above the disco!).

Since my event, the K1000 metres canoe race, was to be held towards the closing stages of the Games I had little opportunity to sample the LA razzamataz. Indeed those who burned the midnight oil staying up to see the Hollywood/Liberace style opening ceremony, probably saw much more than the jet lagged competitors—we were all herded into the boxing stadium, in order of march awaiting the call!

The canoeing and other water sport events were held at Lake Casitas some 130 miles North of LA where the mid morning breeze dictated an early start, so my Olympic daily routine was therefore a rather punishing one:

0430 Stagger out of bed and grab a burger breakfast.
0545 Depart for Casitas by motorcycle escort and coach driven along winding roads for 1¼ hours.
0700 Races begin.
1100 Return to the Olympic Village (another 1¼ hour drive) and watch events on TV as we were still 100 miles away from the Coliseum
2000 Early to bed (complete with our ear defenders to muffle the disco which played on until 2300 every night).

There were 22 competitors in my event and on 7 August I qualified for the semi finals coming second in my heat and I must admit that at that stage I held high hopes of repeating last year's success at the World Championships and felt a medal was within my grasp. Sadly this was not to be as I finished eighth in the final. I cannot help feeling a deep sense of disappointment having reached the final, but am still proud to have made it that far and grateful for the opportunity of being there at the XXIII Olympiad.

## BIRTHDAY HONOUR

We warmly congratulate **Maj (Retd) C. F. Bushell** who was appointed OBE in the 1984 Birthday Honours List. **Maj Bushell** serves as the Head of the Defence Communications Centre, Ministry of Defence.

## THE MORRISON CUP

**From: Maj Gen A. E. Morrison CB OBE**

Dear Sir,

I read The Master's letter in the July issue of *The Wire* with great interest and satisfaction. As it is many years since the Morrison Cup first started and many who take part in it now were not born at that time, a few words on its background and origin may be of interest.

I assumed the appointment as CSO, BAOR, in 1947. Our units had not fully settled down following the war and life in Germany left much to be desired. There were few organised games at formation and theatre level and one of my staff suggested that the Corps should make good this deficiency. All games and sport were considered from football to swimming, sailing and golf. We allotted these to different units to act as hosts. The larger units got two or three.

This proved to be a good concept, as it brought together, not only all ranks but the families as well. It had another advantage, as units had served in different theatres during the war. For instance, 2 Div in FARELF, 7 Armd in the Desert and HQ BAOR in Europe; the morale of Signal units rose considerably. The scheme worked so well that at my farewell dinner in 1951, I presented the Cup. However, after about five or six years, Army and Formations started their own competitions and units found it hard to compete with them all. So, it was decided to have The Morrison Cup for athletics only and units would take it in turn to be hosts. As it is now.

I would like to conclude by thanking The Master for his kind remarks about the Cup in the July *Wire* and again my old staff for the hard work they put in to make it all such a success.

Yours sincerely,
**A. E. Morrison**

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals
Cheltenham Terrace
London SW3 4RH

## A TIMELY REMINDER

**From: Mr George Sweeney**

Dear Sir

As an old Signalman I thought I would remind you that this year is the 60th Anniversary of the great sporting achievements of the Training Battalion, R Signals in 1924.

We,—I write we because I was a member of the victorious boxing team,—won the Army Athletics Championships, The Army Cross Country Championship, The Army Team Boxing Championship, The Sussex Senior Football Cup, and were Third in the London to Brighton Relay against the top British Clubs.

Of course, **Joe Cotterell** was our star. That year he won the Army three miles, AAA four miles, Southern Counties four miles, Sussex three miles, International Cross Country, National Cross Country, Southern Champion, South of Thames, Army, Eastern Command, and numerous other titles. In addition he represented England at the Olympic Games in Paris.

He represented the Army in athletics from 1921 to 1933, a wonderful achievement. Joe is an old friend of mine and he is still going strong at 82 years of age.

I am 79 and look back with pride to those wonderful days at Maresfield Park.

Yours sincerely
**George Sweeney**

115 Brampton Road
Cambridge

## ORLO PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS

The results of the recent ORLO Photographic Competition are as follows:

1st Prize (£60) **Lt N. P. Harrison** (30 Sig Regt)
2nd Prize (£40) **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE** (School of Signals)
3rd Prize (£20) **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE**

The winning entry appears above. Yet again the entries for this competition were disappointing and in the hope of stimulating more interest, a second competition is to be run this year. The prizes will be different, but well worth having, and remember that good photographs can help our officer recruiting effort enormously.

## THE ORLO 'AUTUMN 84' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**BACKGROUND**

The ORLO team from the School of Signals tours University OTCs and School CCFs each year giving presentations on the Royal Signals which emphasise the responsibilities and variety in the life of a young officer. Much of the presentation content hinges on a sequence of up to date colour slides illustrating life as a Royal Signals subaltern. The aim of this competition is to help keep the ORLO slide pack bang up to date.

**ENTRIES**

Slides submitted for this competition must show a young Royal Signals officer as the primary subject. He must be engaged in a communications task or military activity with a complementary background.

Slides submitted may be used for recruiting purposes so cap badges and badges of rank should be obvious.

**RULES**

The competition is open to all serving and retired members of the Corps and their families.

Entries may consist of up to a total of six 35mm colour slides per entrant. Only one slide per entrant however will be eligible for a prize.

Slides are to have been taken during 1984.

A stamped self addressed package must be included if the entries are to be returned.

ORLO reserve the right to use any entry free of charge for recruiting purposes.

Whilst every care will be taken of entries, the organisers will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Entries will be judged by a panel of officers under the Chairmanship of the Commander School of Signals.

The judges decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

The closing date for this competition is 31 January 1985. Entries must be sent to: ORLO, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH and marked 'Photographic Competition'.

All individual slides should be marked for identification.

**PRIZES**

1st Prize: SLR 35mm Camera
2nd Prize: Electronic Flash Gun
3rd Prize: Basic Creative Filter Kit

# Product Support in the 80's

**If you are completing your service shortly - look at these opportunities with MEL.**

At MEL we believe the excellence of our product quality and of our Product Support services have had equal importance in recently winning us a number of major new contracts for our advanced eletronic warfare and communications systems.

These newly-created appointments (a direct result of expansion) therefore represent a rare opportunity to come into a Product Support Engineering team which has already established an international reputation - and is now aiming for even more significant levels of achievement, working at technology's leading edge.

## SENIOR DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERS

To take on the challenge of product trouble-shooting and systems up-date, involving a demanding technical overview of complete systems. Qualifications: HNC/HND/degree, hardware or software experience in digital, analogue or microwave systems, gained in product development or support in the defence industry and/or in the Forces.

## CUSTOMER TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

To introduce customer personnel to a broad range of high-tech systems both at the MEL Training School in Crawley and on site throughout the UK and the world. Qualifications: HNC Electronic/Electrical Engineering, sound practical experience in high-tech industry or Forces plus the ability to teach.

## TECHNICAL EDITOR

To edit the scheduled output of a team of Technical Authors: currently 5, due to double in size in the near future. Qualifications: technical background in the defence industry or Forces, evident flair for the written word (experience possibly as technical journalist), familiarity with MOD standards, age 30 +

## SENIOR TECHNICAL AUTHORS

To work in close liaison with our Engineers in producing all support literature for EW avionics and communications systems. Qualifications: background in electronics, technical authorship experience, gained either in the defence industry or Forces.

## BASE ENGINEER

To join the team responsible at our West Sussex base for fault finding and repair of a broad range of systems; airborne radar, ground communications, microprocessor message processing and EW, among them. Qualifications: C&G/ ONC/equivalent plus 3-4 years' highly practical experience in the electronics industry or as a Maintainer in the Forces.

In return, MEL offer a highly attractive salary and benefits package, including what must be the best relocation deal in our industry for your move to delightful West Sussex and the opportunity for further growth within the company.

Telephone or write for an application form, to Mrs. Eve Lyndon, Personnel Officer, MEL, Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex. Tel: Crawley (0293) 28787.

MEL




# – Movements –

AUGUST 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt Col B. W. P. Adams | School of Signals |
| Lt B. P. Avison | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Lt P. A. Brown | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Lt W. M. Campbell | Depot Para and AB Forces |
| Lt M. A. Castle-Smith | 633 Sig Tp |
| Lt F. J. Connor | Queens Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Capt D. W. M. Conran | HS HQ NORIRELAND |
| Lt Col J. D. Cox | RSRE Malvern |
| Maj (Tfc) R. Finister | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj R. D. M. Graham | RSRE (PE) (AE) |
| Capt (QM) S. Hargreaves | 21 Sig Regt |
| Capt(QM) G. W. E. Hope | 608 Sig Tp (Eqpt) |
| Maj A. T. B. Kimber | DM(A) AG11 |
| Maj J. E. F. Kirby | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| 2Lt N. A. W. Pope | RMAS (SGC 6) |
| Capt P. Robertshaw | HS AA College Harrogate for Belize detachment |
| Maj J. T. Smith | Defence ADP Training Centre |
| Lt Col C. E. R. Story | SHAPE(BAE) Washington 501 Comms UKCICC |
| 2Lt R. L. Trevor | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Capt C. H. Turner | Trg Dep Bde of Gurkhas |
| Lt Col M. P. Walker | JFHQ BFFI(AE) |
| Maj A. J. Welch | 2 Sig Bde |
| Capt G. J. Whyman | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Maj A. B. Wood | RSRE (PE) (AE) |

SEPTEMBER

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Maj R. F. Binham | RSRE (PE) (AE) |
| Lt Col C. A. Brown | MOD DSS (CS) |
| Brig J. R. Burrows | HQ UKLF |
| Maj C. W. Collier | DSS(A) |
| Col S. R. Carr-Smith | AAC Harrogate |
| Maj (TOT) A. J. Cook | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Lt Col A. P. de Bretton Gordon | HQ AFNORTH |
| Capt (TOT) D. J. Finighan | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt P. R. Ford | HS RMA Sandhurst (RCC 35) |
| Capt (QM) C. K. R. French | 241 Sig Sqn |
| Lt M. S. Holman | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Lt A. P. Hudson | Jnr Regt R Signals |
| Maj R. H. Hoyle | HQ 15 Inf Bde |
| Maj R. C. Hood | School of Signals |
| Lt Col B. F. Kavanagh | RSA Larkhill |
| Capt S. O. Lunn | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj W. G. Lidster | 30 Sig Regt |
| 2Lt S. M. Meikle | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col W. J. M. Michie | 12 Sig Bde (V) |
| Lt R. G. Nicholson | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt (TOT) R. C. Offord | 266 Sig Sqn (BFFI Force) |
| Lt C. W. Payne | School of Signals |
| Capt T. J. Peacocke | 632 Sig Tp (Hebrides) |
| Maj S. S. Paul | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Lt Col E. M. Powell | Jnr Regt R Signals |
| Capt T. A. Perkin | 22 Sig Regt |
| Lt S. Rostron | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col K. Ryding | HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garr |
| Capt M. R. G. Stockdale | PIU and SST |
| Lt Col M. C. Spence | HQ Londist |
| Lt P. A. M. Smith | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt S. P. Wallis | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |

## OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER

The OWA President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck on Saturday 17 November, 1984. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: **Capt G. S. Lane**, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN. Telephone: Worksop (0909) 476326 X30, 723291 (evenings) by 8 November 1984.

Dress will be Mess Kit for Serving Officers, DJ for retired officers.

The cost will be £9 per head and there will be a cash bar.

Limited accommodation is available on request.

## WOs and SNCOs

AUGUST 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 F. A. Bancroft | 11 Sig Regt |
| WO1 P. J. E. Hilton | R Signals Manning and Record Office |
| AWO1 D. G. Harrod | HQ Trg Gp |
| WO2 (FofS) L. F. Brown | FSS Mossy Hill |
| WO2 (FofS) F. J. Rumble | 8 Sig Regt (Cadre) |
| WO2 (FofS) F. A. Williams | 4 Sig Gp |
| WO2 (FofS) S. Gremmitt | 13 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) B. K. Billsberry | 21 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) D. Coleman | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 J. R. Baggaley | 28 Sig Regt |
| WO2 W. G. Metcalfe | 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| WO2 M. Kennedy | 7 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 J. T. Crooks | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) M. Finch | Honourable Artillery Company |
| SSgt (Supvr R) T. Hardingham | Comms & Sy Gp UK |
| SSgt (Supvr R) R. H. Smith | AA Coll |
| SSgt (FofS) P. Wilson | 28 (BR) Sig Regt Northag |
| SSgt (FofS) A. J. Brend | 29 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) C. M. Mitchell | LSP Saudi Arabia |
| SSgt J. Gilmour | HQ AFNORTH |
| SSgt T. McGinnis | 242 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt M. Birney | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt G. A. Budd | Scarborough STC |
| SSgt A. S. Brooks | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt J. G. Campbell | UK Support Unit SHAPE |
| SSgt A. N. Fleck | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. I. Grant | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt B. Johnson | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. O'Hare | 11 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. P. McLean | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt I. D. F. Haldane | 233 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt D. F. L. Cox | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt N. Grant | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASSgt P. Watson | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt G. L. Jackson | 22 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt T. P. Patterson | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt T. Beeley | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt R. S. Shaw | 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt M. Wilton | 16 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. R. Herbison | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASSgt M. J. Hendley | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt A. S. Round | 259 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt R. C. Young | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt D. Mann | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASSgt D. J. Aldous | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt P. J. McKenzie | 233 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt M. Smith | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. M. Stockdale | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. Taylor | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Livermore | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. T. Kennedy | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Sgt H. Ridley | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. C. Sargison | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. E. Murray | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Kidd | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. P. Cadywould | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp |
| Sgt W. P. Stockdale | Int & Sy Gp Germany |
| Sgt M. J. Flaherty | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. T. Manders | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. I. Smith | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sgt R. Gentles | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt C. McIntosh | AA Coll Harrogate |
| Sgt G. Hassell | FSS Mossy Hill |
| Sgt A. M. Whiting | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| Sgt M. J. Bavington | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt E. W. Prince | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. A. Ray | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. D. Smart | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt D. A. Bavington | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. E. Ible | School of Signals |
| Sgt J. E. Neighbour | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. Brabbins | 241 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt T. Alderton | 641 Sig Tp |
| Sgt A. J. Byrne | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. D. Hunter | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. D. Weatherilt | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Sgt W. J. Gillan | 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt G. W. Jones | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. H. Matthews | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. W. Collins | Int & Sy Gp NI |
| Sgt R. Robinson | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. A. Isbell | School of Sigs |
| Sgt P. G. Clark | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt J. E. Swaine | 227 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. A. Simpson | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. A. Flanagan | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt J. Sharkey | 264(SAS) Sig Sqn |
| ASgt K. Singh | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt N. Riach | 254 Sig Sqn |
| ASgt J. A. Burgess | 29 Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. Campbell | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. H. Lawrence | 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt I. Shiels | 249 Sig Sqn |

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| ASgt M. J. Smallman | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt K. J. Lewis | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. A. Monk | 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASgt D. A. Norman | 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| ASgt P. Skinner | Int & Sy Gp NI |
| ASgt R. M. Wilson | Int & Sy Gp NI |
| ASgt T. H. Boddison | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASgt J. T. Barnett | 7 Sig Regt |
| SEPTEMBER 1984 | |
| WO1 (EW Op) C. F. May | 640 Sig Tp |
| WO1 M. L. Ledwards | Manchester UOTC |
| WO1 (YofS) M. A. Thornton | HQ Trg Gp R Signals & Catterick Garrison |
| WO2 (YofS) W. S. Balding | RMA Sandhurst |
| WO2 (YofS) N. J. I. Cox | 233 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 (YofS) G. N. Downey | 241 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 (YofS) T. J. Evans | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) R. A. R. Graham | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) B. E. Lawrence | HQ AFCENT Sup Gp |
| WO2 (YofS) D. G. Wright | 233 Sig Sqn |
| WO2 K. Hudson | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 J. J. Stanley | 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| WO2 S. G. Tucker | London UOTC |
| WO2 (FofS) T. C. Spicer | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |
| WO2 (FofS) J. F. Shepherd | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO2 (FofS) V. Thomas | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| WO2 (FofS) R. Morley | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) D. S. S. Andrews | BDS Washington |
| AWO2 B. Cottam | Sheffield UOTC |
| SSgt A. Spray | School of Signals |
| SSgt A. C. Talbott | 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) S. J. Baldwin | 233 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (YofS) G. C. McAvoy | 633 Sig Tp |
| SSgt (YofS) S. J. MacDonald | HQ DCN |
| SSgt (YofS) D. Rogers | 249 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt F. R. Hayden | 264(SAS) Sig Sqn |
| SSgt P. H. Lee | 28 Sig Regt |
| SSgt P. A. Ryan | Southampton UOTC |
| SSgt (FofS) D. G. Bayley | Int & Sy Gp (NI) |
| SSgt (FofS) K. Thompson | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| SSgt (FofS) T. J. Sharp | 608 Sig Tp |
| SSgt (FofS) R. Wilson | 259 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt J. E. Setchfield | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| ASSgt D. Z. Fadzilah Bin | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt W. R. Sweeting | 13 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. E. Smith | Comms & Sy Gp UK |
| ASSgt T. A. Dean | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt J. D. Wakefield | School of Signals |
| Sgt J. R. Nation | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. James | 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt C. W. Abrons | School of Signals |
| Sgt R. A. Foote | School of Signals |
| Sgt S. Winn | School of Signals |
| Sgt K. A. East | 28 (BR) Sig Regt Northag |
| Sgt R. S. Lewis | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. F. Simpson | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. W. Wells | 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn |
| Sgt L. Mills | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt Johnson | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. Downie | 9 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. R. Cooke | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| Sgt A. K. Welch | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. M. Minton | AA Coll |
| Sgt K. Thomson | School of Signals |
| Sgt K. J. Dunn | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt T. J. Wallis | AA Coll |
| Sgt J. J. H. Kane | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. K. Eynon | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. L. Smellie | 55 Sig Sqn (V) |
| Sgt J. Bond | Comms & Sy Gp (UK) |

## ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Royal Signals glider and hang glider pilots, qualified or under training, should forward their individual claims for grants from the Corps Games Fund for the period December 1983 to November 1984 not later than 1 November 1984 to: **Maj R. W. Stark, Royal Signals, c/o BDSW BFPO 2.**

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 1984 and total launches.
- Cross-country kms flown in 1984.
- Results of competitions 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.



## Welfare

**JUNE 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 61 |
| Amount spent: | £7269.65 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 18 |

**JULY 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially | 49 |
| Amount spent: | £7886.08 |
| Number of parcels sent: | 13 |

**SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES**

Ex Cpl served during the War now aged 60. He has Multiple Sclerosis and is confined to a wheelchair, his wife suffers from Diabetes. Due to their poor health they were recently rehoused and were in need of help for the purchase of carpets and curtains.

The elderly widow of an ex Sgt lives alone and is severely handicapped due to a leg amputation. She received a grant to go on holiday with a group of the physically handicapped.

The widow of a Signalman who died suddenly of a heart attack leaving three young children was finding difficulty in meeting the cost of the children's school uniform. A grant was made to meet this expense and we were also able to offer the family a holiday through the Army Benevolent Fund.

This year, thanks to the generosity of the Army Benevolent Fund and Leisure Holidays Ltd, we have been able to send 45 needy families on holiday. The ABF have paid for the holidays and the Association have paid their fares. We have received many letters of thanks and it has enabled many families to have their first holiday for several years.

During June/July clothing has been received from the following:- **Mrs J. Crowder, Maj and Mrs H. A. C. Meekings, Maj and Mrs M. K. Carson, Thrift Shop, Birgelen.**

## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1984:

| | |
|---|---|
| Catterick Garrison Church Fund | £183.00 |
| 233 Sig Sqn | £150.00 |
| In memory of Col D. A. Polley OBE | £100.00 |
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# Classified Section

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**DEATHS**

**Cross—Maj Clifford Claude Cross MBE** was born at Braintree, Essex on 5 July 1914 and enlisted into the Corps on 10 January 1933. On completion of his training he joined 5 Divisional Signals.

In April he was posted to Egypt and was still serving there at the outbreak of War in 1939. He then joined 7 Armd Div Signals and served with that unit during the desert campaign until his return to the UK in June 1943. He then joined the Guards Armd Div Signals at Catterick and served with them through the campaign in North West Europe. He was mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette of 13 January 1944.

He returned to the Middle East in 1947 and served with 4 Air Formation Sig Regt but on promotion was returned to the UK to serve with 5 Trg Regt. In January 1953 he joined 56 Armd Div Sig Regt where he remained until his commissioning on 15 March 1954, when he joined 2 L of C Signal Regiment in BAOR. After five years there and a brief return to UK he was posted to 27 Sig Regt in Hong Kong. He was appointed MBE in June 1957. In November 1962 he returned to the UK and in February of the following year joined 61 Sig Regt TA where he served for 2½ years.

In September 1965 he was posted to HQ COMCAN (later HQ DCN Army Element) as SO2 Signals and remained in that post until his retirement in July 1969. **Maj Cross** died on 2 January 1984.

**Fisk—Maj Arthur William Fisk** enlisted into Royal Signals in February 1933 and after serving in the UK for 2½ years was posted to Malta and remained there until August 1936. On return to UK, he was sent to 1 AA Group Signals and was with AA Signal units in the BEF and in Egypt. He was commissioned on 12 July 1942 and then served with Air Formation Signal Units in the Middle East and Italy. In August 1945 he moved to BAOR and joined 1 Corps Signals remaining there until he was posted to the Far East in August 1947. He then joined 19 Air Formation Signals in Singapore as Adjutant for three years. He returned to Europe in January 1951 and became a Staff Captain in HQ Austria. This was followed by a tour of duty with Klagenfurt Signal Troop. He then returned to the UK and served for three years with the AER Depot. In May 1956 he returned to Singapore and spent a further three years with his former regiment, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. In 1959 he joined 65 Signal Regiment TA, and remained with them until his retirement on 1 January 1965. In 1975 **Arthur Fisk** retired to live in Cyprus, living at Larnaca, where he died in 1984 at the age of seventy-two.

**Maultzsch—Brig H. Maultzsch.** The death has been notified of the late **Brig Herbert Maultzsch**. He was held in great esteem and affection by those members of the Corps who served in Northern Army Group during the late 1950's and early 1960's. He was the first German CSO of Northern Army Group and at the time of his appointment was the only non-British 'Head of Arm'. His manner and dedication made him a popular figure with all who had contact with him. He died on 12 February 1984 only four weeks short of his 79th birthday.

**McDuffie—Maj Iain Victor McDuffie** was born on the Isle of Islay on 31 December 1918. He enlisted into the Highland Light Infantry in January 1940. In September of that year he joined No 3 Intelligence School and on completion of training was attached to HQ Eastern Command. In December 1941 he was posted to K Force and served firstly with HQ South Pacific Command and then with HQ Ceylon Army Command. He was commissioned into the Corps on 12 May 1942 and continued to serve at HQ Ceylon Command. He served initially as a Cipher Officer and later as GSO3(I). In January 1944 he was appointed IO at HQ 14 Army where he remained during the Burma Campaign, leaving in June 1945. His final year of active service was with HQ 12th Army and he was released from active service due to disability on 23 February 1948. **Maj McDuffie** died on 8 March 1984.

**Polley—Col David Arthur Polley OBE** was born at Hove, Sussex on 1 April 1923 and joined the Corps in August 1941. **David** was commissioned on 1 November 1942. He then joined 12 Corps Signals which was attached to the 56th Battalion, US Army. He then served with 1st Airborne Div Signals in North Africa, Holland including Arnhem and Norway. In June 1945 he moved to 6th Airborne Divisional Signals and served with that unit in the Middle East. He became a Staff Officer at HQ MELF in December 1946 and remained in that appointment until July 1948. In February 1951 he joined the UK Service Liaison Staff in Australia where he spent the next two years.

On return to the UK, **David** joined the staff of HQ Northern Command and after a further two years moved to 3 Inf Div Sig Regt where he served until June 1958 when he joined 1st Guards Brigade Signal Squadron which later became 201 Signal Squadron. August 1962 saw him moving overseas again, on joining the British Liaison Staff at the Canadian Army Headquarters at Ottawa.

His next appointment with the Corps was in November 1963 when he became CO of 15 Signal Regiment (Middle East). This post was followed by an 18 months posting to the Signals School, RAC Centre as the Chief Instructor. He was appointed OBE in the New Year Honours List of 1968. He then moved to the Far East where he served as Commander 5 Signal Group at Singapore returning to the UK in October 1971 to take up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence. **Col Polley**'s final post was as Military Attaché in Pretoria, South Africa, a posting he held until his retirement in June 1978. **David Polley** died on 2 May 1984.

**Taylor—Douglas Willett Taylor** served from 1939-46 as a private in the RASC. Three years after demobilisation he rejoined the Army and served with Royal Signals from 1949-60, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant Lineman. **Dougie** joined 240 Signal Squadron's Signal Works Service Troop in Catterick in 1969 as a Maintenance Electrician (Telephones). In 1974 a minor foot injury led to him being assigned to the Trade Training School, 8 Signal Regiment as 'Resident Wireman' and during the last ten years his friendly, cheerful manner and helpful attitude made him a very popular figure in the school. He died on 27 June 1984.

**Wills—Maj Osborne Somers Daley Wills** was born on 19 April 1892. He was first commissioned into the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1912. He served in Northern Ireland during 1912 and 1914. He went to France with the British Expeditionary Force and took part in the retreat from Mons and the battle of Le Cateau. He served as a Brigade Signal Officer with the 5 Army in 1917 and was captured in 1918 but released after 8 months as a POW and returned to the UK. He transferred to Royal Signals in 1920 and was then posted to Malta as the first Signal Officer on the island where he remained until 1926. He retired in 1929 but was recalled for service in 1939 and was then transferred to the Pioneer Corps. He served as Camp Commandant of an Italian POW Camp in West Africa.

He was a competent water colour artist and an acknowledged expert model builder specialising in naval and old sailing ships. **Maj Wills** died peacefully at his home at Farnham on 20 July 1984.

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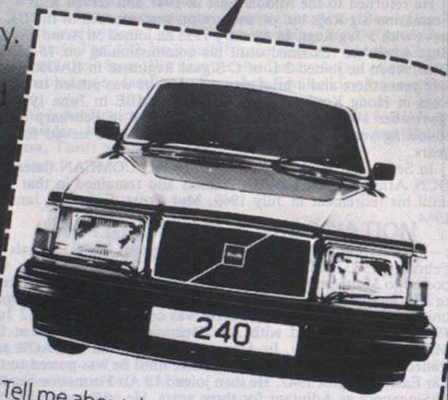


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## SITUATIONS VACANT

**VACANCY FOR A NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SERGEANT CHIEF CLERK 36TH (EASTERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

A vacancy will arise in February 1985 for a NRPS Chief Clerk in the rank of Staff Sergeant, for employment with 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) located at Wanstead East London.'

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6 Part 4. The upper age limit for applications is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Staff Sergeant (TA) at £23.55 per day.

The successful applicant will have served in the Regular Army as a Chief Clerk and will have a sound knowledge of Orderly Room procedures. Previous service with a TA Regiment although not essential, will be an advantage.

Applications, including details of experience and service, plus the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:
Adjutant,
36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V),
Signals House,
Selsdon Road,
Wanstead,
London E11 2QF
01-989-5131
Closing date for applications is 1 November 1984.

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF RADIO TECHNICIAN—38th SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) SHEFFIELD**

A vacancy exists for a Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) Radio Technician at 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) based either at Derby or Nottingham with frequent and regular travel to Grantham.

The Terms and Conditions of Service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit for applicants is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Sergeant (TA) at a Salary of £8,139.50 on appointment rising to £8,249 in three increments.

Applicants should have served as Technicians in the Regular Army, preferably with Royal Signals. They should have been employed at a minimum of Class One level in a Radio based trade. Experience with commercial equipment will be an advantage.

The appointment will call for a high degree of flexibility and independence of action; applicants must be able to manage as well as maintain radio systems. In addition considerable travel is involved and therefore applicants must possess a current UK driving licence.

Applications including the names of two referees and a Curriculum Vitae should be forwarded by 31 October 1984 to:
Adjutant
38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Manor Training Centre
Hurlfield Road
Sheffield S12 2AN

**VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF MT WARRANT OFFICER**

A Non Regular Permanent Staff NRPS MTWO is sought for service with 38 Signal Regiment (V) in Sheffield. The appointment commences November 1984.

The Terms and Conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6 part 4. The upper age limit for applicants is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (TA) at a daily rate of pay of £31.13 on appointment rising by three increments to £31.43 after nine years in the post.

The appointment calls for:

a. A sound knowledge of MT procedures, including POL issues, Stores accounting and vehicle servicing.

b. The ability to coordinate driver training and driving instruction.

c. The ability to assist in such other unit training as may be necessary.

Applications including two references and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded by 15 October 1984 to:
Adjutant
38 Signal Regiment (V)
Manor Training Centre
Mansfield Road
Sheffield S12 2AN

**VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TA**

There will be a vacancy for the post of Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) with 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) in Belfast on 1 April 1985.

The appointment is in the rank of Major with a starting salary of £12,260. The retiring age is 60 and applicants should be under 57 years of age with a good working knowledge of RHQ Administrative G1 duties including service fund accounting.

Terms of service are contained in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3. It should be noted that, in special cases with Ministry of Defence approval, candidates may be accepted who have served as Warrant Officers in the Regular or Territorial Army.

Personnel wishing to apply for this appointment should submit their curriculum vitae together with names of two referees to:
The Commanding Officer
40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
BFPO 806.
Closing date for applications is 15 October 1984.

## WANTED

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The White Helmets are always in need of No 1 Dress Uniform. If any past or present serving Officer, SNCO or soldier has a suit available for donation to the team it would be gratefully received.

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Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
Tel: Richmond 83 2521 Ext: 2556


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# REPORT FROM ULSTER

**8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
**BFPO 807**

**OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

Though not a very busy period by Province standards terrorists have continued to attempt attacks against the SF. The UDR and RUC have borne the brunt with two members of 6 UDR being killed and one injured in a CWIED attack on foot patrol on the border near Castlederg and a member of 4 UDR slightly injured in a booby trap attack on his car near Enniskillen. In another landmine attack on a RUC mobile patrol near Belleek in Co Fermanagh the car was destroyed but, thanks to armour plating, its crew were uninjured. On 25 June the RPG7 emerged again and was used against an RUC Hotspur in Ballygawley, luckily it missed its target and nobody was hurt.

In Londonderry rioting and petrol bombing have become an everyday occurrence reaching a peak just after the EEC Elections on the evening of 14 June. However, the SF have had some successes with several arrests being made, also 2 CWIEDS were located and successfully defeated by ATO.

Blast incendiary attacks have increased throughout the TAOR, though the recent success in Ardboe where one terrorist was killed and two captured during an attempted attack on commercial premises, has succeeded in taking the initiative away from the terrorist and tipping the scales in favour of the SF.

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

As reported widely in the press and on television our Sqn Comd, **Maj Richard Farrimond**, was selected to takeover as the army representative on the 'Skynet' space project and commenced astronaut training on 23 July.

Unfortunately farewells and audit boards had to be hastily arranged but nevertheless were 'fluid' enough to make up for any lack of content.

WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson presents the OC with a farewell gift at his Dining-out, WO1 Roger Williams ACC looks on

The Officers of the Signal Squadron dined **Richard** and **Annette** out on the evening of 19 June the night before **Annette's** departure for England. The Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs continued the movement on 13 July, then SHQ said farewell on 16 July and the remainder of the Squadron on 17 July; finally the Officers of Brigade HQ lunched him out on 18 July. In between all these social events he had been trying to improve his already high standard of fitness by running and exercising every day.

**Maj Farrimond** finally left Londonderry on Thursday 19 July in our version of the 'Space Shuttle' which was complete with unworkable radio and broken telephone. The magnificent machine had been built by our LAD team, **Sgt Al Dunn, Cpl John Bennett** and **Cfn Tim Eyley** with assistance from M Tp.

Maj Richard Farrimond leaves Ebrington Barracks, in his 'Spaceship', for the last time (note broken phone and car radio)

**Richard** and **Annette** leave after nearly two and a half years with the Squadron during which time their unfaltering efforts have ensured that our standards, not only at work but socially, have improved considerably and despite his aversion to car radios and telephones, has seen the expansion and improvement of communications throughout the whole of the Brigade TAOR. To them both we say thank you and best wishes for the future.

Farewell photograph with members of 8 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn WOs' & SNCOs' Mess



As an interim measure the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent** took over command until the new Squadron Commander, **Maj John Kirby**, arrived on 6 August. **Maj Kirby** accompanied by his wife **Kim** joins the Squadron fresh from a tour as a Company Commander at the RMA Sandhurst. To them both we extend a very warm welcome and know from experience gleaned during their brief recce, how easily they will fit into this small, yet busy, team.

**BARRAGE FROM SHQ**
**Report by Capt Richard Walkin RA**

Your may guess from the title that SHQ now has a Gunner in situ. The new Admin Officer, has introduced a new look stable belt into the Squadron but despite this, SHQ still continues to operate. Chiefy, **SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes**, is his usual cool self and is looking after **Sig Andy Williams** who is still hoping that the stairs will be replaced by an escalator although his coffee 'trips' have decreased since **Maj Farrimond** departed. **Cpl Neil March** is thinking of leaving us shortly, no doubt his mind was finally made up by his selection for promotion to Sgt and a posting order to Cyprus—nice one **Neil. LCpl Paul Baker** is still toiling away at the Movements desk, however he has assured the Admin Officer that he almost knows what he is doing now. Our Pay Staff, **Sgt Kev Thorpe** and **Mrs Anne Reason** are still searching for new ways to do us out of our just rewards and **Miss Ginny Webb**, our typist, has just completed a typing course and didn't she do well?

**SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan** has recently joined us from No 36 Yeomans Course replacing **SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly** who has left us for 4 Div after having an operation to remove his jeans. **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade** continues to operate when he's here under the eagle eye of the **2IC Capt Mike Dent**, (oops sorry) acting OC.

**WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** is on R & R back in the old country again and **Sgt Bill Simpson** has just returned from the great Pay Office in the sky (Worthy Down), he now knows all about accounts—look out 'Foyle View'. Yes, SHQ is in good heart and looks set to survive at least until the next issue.

**COMMS TROOP**
**Report by SSgt Pete Ryan**

Since our last report the Troop has been kept busy both operationally and socially.

The Heli-Tele vehicle has been deployed on numerous occasions, notably for the 12 July Parade in Londonderry and for the PIRA funeral in Ardboe. Crewing the Heli-Tele and escort vehicles for the funeral were **Lt Gordon** (I lead from the front) **James, LCpls 'Scouse' Brisk, 'Shep' Sheppard, 'Taff' (DTG Action Man) Saies** and **Sig 'Chaz' Fox, Andy Cameron, 'Corky' Corcoran**, and completing the line up hot foot from their NIRTT courses were **Sig 'Snide' Schneider** and **'Paddy' Brown**.

**ROVER GROUP**

Rent-a-cab has been quite busy, as usual, 'ferrying' people across the water to the City. **LCpl 'Scouse' Brisk** with the Brigade Commander, **Brig C. G. Mattingley OBE**, aboard was determined to show him the Shantallow as opposed to visiting Victor Three. The Brigadier, *obviously* pushed for time, intimated 'today is not the day to visit Shantallowians'. So discretion being the better part of valour a smart three point turn was executed.

**RADIO ROOM**

The Radio Room runs as smoothly as ever thanks to **Sig 'Chaz' Fox** who continues to brief the Radio Room NCO/IC's and anyone else who cares to listen. He is ably assisted by his other two partners in crime (co-shift workers) **Sig 'Corky' Corcoran** and **Bob (where's my quarter?) Howlett**. A new Long Range Ground Station has been installed which is a vast improvement on the old set up—however we are not too sure how Squaddie Proof it is. Our thanks go to **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins** for his swift intervention with super glue etc.

**RIGGING SECTION**

The Rigging Section ably commanded as always by **Cpl (where's my coffee?) Mick Roe** have been particularly busy with mast maintenance within the TAOR, and the temporary move of the Brigade Radio Room. **LCpl (finally got a haircut) Sherman** has been heard to say, on learning that the powers to be estimate the temporary move is for six weeks only, that there is as much chance of that happening as there is of him doing a 10 minute BFT.

**SUMMER BALL**

This year's Summer Ball was organised, yet again, by Comms Troop. The theme was centred around butterflies, caterpillars, spiders and tailors dummies. An intelligent explanation for all this would take far too long, suffice to say it was all **Lt Gordon (don't call me Jimmy) James** idea and artistically put together by **Cpl Graham (thank goodness my posting's been changed) Hughes** and **LCpl Steve Chinn**. The night was an unqualified success, even the AO **Capt Richard Walkin RA ('Ubique'** to his friends) was seen to smile. No doubt he won't be smiling on receipt of the bills for the function. Finally and really probably firstly should go a vote of thanks to all Troop members for the hard work they put into this extravaganza,—even if tempers did get a little frayed at times. To **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Sharp**—sorry about the 53 glasses and short fall of knives and forks.

**ARRIVALS**

Welcome to the following new troop members (belated as it may be for some): **Cpl Paul Stammers, Sig 'Paddy' Brown, 'Snide' Schneider** and **'Kookie' Byrne**. May your tour be a good one.

**FAREWELLS**

By the time these notes have been censored, cut, or put into file 13 we will have said farewell to quite a few old sweats of the troop. So adieu and good luck in your new postings.

**SSgt Pete** and **Sue Ryan, Southampton UOTC, Cpl Mick** and **Carol Roe, 244 Sig Sqn, Cpl Dave** and **Margaret James, AFNorth, Cpl Dave Clark, SHAPE, LCpl 'Shep' Sheppard, 3 Div HQ & Sig Regt, Sig Tommy Handley, 21 Sig Regt, Sig 'Tommo'** and **Kay Thompson, 559 RLD**.

**MIKE TROOP**
**Report by SSgt Chhetri**

Very few changes have taken place since our last contribution and life in M Troop continues at its usual fast pace. Recently we bade a sad farewell to **Cpl Gary Hill** who is posted to the School of Signals. **Gary's** expertise and his enthusiasm for staying out all night at hill-top sites will be greatly missed by the troop although his wife, **Gill**, will be happy to have his company more often. We wish them both all the very best in the future. On the new arrivals scene we welcome **Cpl 'Tiny' Carter, Cpl Rich Carey** and his wife **Vicky** and children and hope their tour here will be an enriching and happy one.

The 'Sons of the Earth' (old Gurkha saying)—the Radio Techs, are as busy as ever and at the time of writing, are up to their necks with the re-crystalling of all the Brigades VHF sets to a standard fit as well as maintaining the Comms at the usual peak standard, not to mention the 'n' amount of 'sneaky' car-fits.

On the TE side of the house we have noted that **Sgt Steve Nickless** (resident expert on leave matters) has actually managed to serve 30 consecutive days in the province once during his two year tour. **LCpl 'Babyface' Toft** is trying to emulate the same feat but the Troop Staff Sergeant is keeping an eye on him. The rest of the gang includes **Sgt Phil Tait** who travels all the way to Auchnacloy for a Cheeseburger, **Cpl 'Scouse' Jones** who has at last 'gone green' (worn combats) on a TE fault and **Cpl 'Tiny' Carter** who is shortly to return from whence he came ie, Catterick!

The Line/Telemech Sections strive to keep busy by doing periodic inspections on the Inter-comm system throughout 8 Bde and by helping BT with the telephone faults. In between times leave passes are applied for as if they were going out of fashion. **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** no longer puts 'Leicester General Hospital, Flat 4, ask for Liz' as his leave address since he received a 'Dear Jacko' letter. **Sig Steve Bickers** has managed to get out of the dreaded car-fits at last and now ventures out into the unknown.

To conclude, it's not true that the FofS, **WO2 Norman Blavins** and the Troop Staffy, **SSgt Om Chhetri** are going around singing 'Happy days are here again' just 'cos it's summertime.

**EXERCISE *MARRAKESH EXPRESS '84***
**Report by Lt Gordon James**

The Exercise promised a great deal of hard work for two weeks in the Mull of Kintyre. It was also to be exhausting socially given the generous licensing hours in Scotland and the very generous nature of the local girls.

A total of 25 men crossed the water to Campbeltown and all returned safely home, having experienced military training, with a difference. The programme was hectic and contained everything from a death-defying leap off a dam wall to butchering lambs for much needed food. The exercise contained a mini-Ex a long range fighting patrol over three days, 50 km and some very rough terrain. The irrepressible **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** cajoled his section through their most difficult moments and even managed to keep **Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt** moving—just! 'You ****ing wimp' was heard screaming across the forests and glens every day. The terrain, combined with forced marches to put in night and day attacks proved too much for some: **Cpl 'Andy' Reason** ended up on crutches, though he was still able to dance the night away in the discos at the end of the week (with a little help from his friends).

Raft builders extraordinaire *L-R:* LCpl Dave Spurling, Cpl Andy Reason, Pte 'Geordie' Mutton RPC and Pte 'Tommy' Cooper RAOC

Among the more amusing moments was the sight of **LCpl Dave Spurling** trying to conquer his fear of heights **(Lt Gordon James** still has the bruise marks from tiny clutching hands) and **Dvr Tony Hagan**'s chalk-white face when, having been thrown off the edge of the dam on a deathslide, he was told that someone had unclipped his safety harness. Other highlights were the race down a storm-flooded tunnel through the hills (an amazing 6½ km underground) and also the trip in a 45 knot assault craft, courtesy of the US Navy Special Forces. With two twin-turbo engines producing over 2,000 HP and with a heavy sea running, the crossing from Stranrear to Campbeltown was an exhilirating if very wet experience.

During the patrol exercise a memorable barbeque was enjoyed by all (well some anyway) when the chops, steaks and spare ribs were generously provided by the DS (not literally, though it probably would have delighted some). The problem was that the meat was still in its woolly coat and on the hoof. **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** and **Shaun Hendly** drew the short straws and delivered the coup de grace much to the distress of **Pte 'Geordie' Mutton. Cpls Mick Dawson** and **'Scouse' Murphy** both managed to chicken out when faced with killing that deadly species, the farmyard hen—armed only with their bare hands and an 18″ machete. However once the animals had been skilfully butchered and the meat cooked over an open fire, everyone gorged themselves—less two who suddenly turned vegetarian.

We were pleased to welcome **Col M. R. Tarver OBE** the Deputy Commander 8 Infantry Brigade and **Maj Richard Farrimond** who flew in on a short visit and enjoyed some brilliant sunshine. There were some anxious moments when the OC crashed to earth whilst trying one of the aerial rope crossings, and **LCpl Alex MacBeth** managed to ensure that the OC landed on his head rather than the more conventional and less painful, feet first landing!

**Sig 'Scouse' Hale,** on parole from the QO Hldrs RLD kept everyone amused with some very original lines throughout, though even he was beginning to find he had exhausted his reserves, by the end of the week. The hard men were also pushed to their limit with even **Sig 'Des' Carter** nearly admitting defeat, though **Pte 'Para' Kirkwood** just pretended the whole Exercise was a hard version of P Coy. He enjoyed every minute of the fieldwork and when everyone else went out for a beer or ten, put in a few extra hill runs for good measure. Once the work was done there was plenty of time to enjoy the clubs in Campbeltown. Even **Sig 'Corky' Corcoran** was seen drinking, dancing and talking to strange women!

At Endex the DS reported how impressed they were with the cheerful, smiling faces, the enthusiasm and stamina shown by all,—if you believe that, you'll believe anything.

**SQUADRON BARBECUE**
**Report from MT Troop**

Friday 6 July started well, those of the Squadron who had been stood down for the day headed towards Magilligan Point for the annual Squadron Barbecue. Unfortunately as the morning wore on the weather worsened and the sun disappeared behind the all too familiar Londonderry clouds. Nevertheless a well stocked bar run by **Cpl Bob Wainwright** and an excellent meal cooked by **Sgt Les Beale ACC** made up for the lack of sunshine. Who forgot the knives and forks then?

Plenty of organised activities were provided, **Sgt Al Dunn** and **Cfn Tim Eyley** introduced several people to the art of water-skiing, **Sig Ian Tolley** supervised the canoeing, **Sig Andy Brown** attempted to sail and **Sig Geoff Hackett** looked after the horses which came from the Ballykelly stables and were obviously house trained.

Just as the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent,** arrived the heavens opened and the party finished. Overall a very successful day, a lot of hard work having been put in by **WO2 Pete Yates. Sgt Dennis Downie** and all the other members of MT Troop ensured that everyone enjoyed themselves, despite the wind and rain.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

The Troop say a fond farewell to their illustrious Tp Sgt **Dennis Downie**, who has managed to wangle a two year sunshine holiday in Cyprus. We welcome **Dvr Steve McCully** complete with suntan, from Belize and **Sgt Bill Gillan** and family from 3 Armd Div.

**SWIMMING**
**Report by Capt Mike Dent**

The Swimming team have completed another successful season gaining second place in the NI Team Championships finishing with the same points as the winners, our arch rivals, 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. However, because 39 Bde finished ahead of us in the Medley Relay, they were declared overall winners.

Both teams went forward to the Zone B finals at Catterick on 10 July where six units competed to gain a place in the Army championships. Final positions again hinged on the last event, the Medley Relay, and despite an excellent effort by the team we finished the competition again behind 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, the winners, on the same points as COD Donnington. However due to Donnington finishing ahead of us in the Medley Relay we were placed third overall in the competition. Nevertheless the team comprising **Maj Jim Snape RE, Sgt Bruce Payne, Cpl Paul Noble, LCpls 'Tank' Sherman, Dave Nelson** and **Paul Baker, Sig Ian Tolley, Chris Aspinall, 'Geordie' Gray** and **Tony Slack** produced excellent results, especially considering the lack of training facilities, a 30 mile round trip to the pool, and the difficulty in finding time to train in between operations.

**SHOOTING**
**Report by WO2 (RQMS) Tom Sharp**

The team got off to an excellent start in March by coming a close second to our old rivals, 233 Signal Squadron (or is it Regt?), in the Royal Signals Northern Ireland Competition.

This was a prelude to the NISAM where the team comprising: **WO2 (RQMS) Tom (I'm the Captain) Sharp; Capt Trevor (Do it my way) Bradley; Sgt Pete (I'm a Pot YofS) Hayward; LCpl Nobby (I'm the only one left) Nevill**; surprised everyone, except ourselves, by closely following the UDR Trg Bn, winners for the last eight years, to finish second in the Minor Units Competition. Our display in the Section Match, a score which even the Gurkha would have been proud of, won the competition and our prize now proudly adorns the Squadron Trophy Cabinet.

The army meeting at Bisley in July was a different matter, unfortunately we lost **LCpl Nevill** off on operational duties, who was replaced by **Pte Wayne Smales** from the Pioneer Platoon. The team were in the top ten right up to the last day when a bad shoot dropped them to 11th place overall in the Minor Units Competition. Nevertheless a very creditable performance from a team which has very little opportunity to practise—watch out next year 233.


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# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**OPERATIONS**

The main highlight recently has been the colourful 12 July Orange Lodge parades. Throughout Ulster, Orangemen march on preplanned routes to celebrate the victory of the Battle of The Boyne, where the Protestant forces under William of Orange decisively defeated the Catholic forces under James II, thus marking the end of Catholic supremacy in Ireland. The very delicate situation that exists in Ulster today can be traced back to this most famous battle. The 12 of July is a public holiday in Ulster but because of the high risk of sectarian violence when Orange parades march past Catholic areas it is also a day when the Security Forces are out on the streets in great strength. Fortunately for us the whole parade passed off reasonably peacefully with no major incidents. The Squadron Heli-Tele mobile was deployed along with our contingency communications packs.

In South Armagh 42 Commando are now firmly in control and our soldiers are still adjusting to being told to go to the 'galley' for lunch, to the 'heads' for a leak or to play 'deck hockey' on the heli pad.

Squadron 2IC **Capt Terry Canham** and TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** are now busily starting to plan the replacement range of radios which supercede the commercial radio we have in the Province. We look forward to its introduction but sadly most of us will have left the Province before they go into service.

**EXERCISE *IRON SHOE***

Ex *Iron Shoe* is a military training camp exercise based at Warcop in Cumbria. Over a period of three weeks our Squadron sent about 90 men to brush up on their military skills and take a well deserved 'break?' from the pressures of life in Northern Ireland.

As well as some military skills training, day one of the week's battle camp started with a brisk walk over the Pennine Way, with a break at the highest pub in England, for lunch. This provided a very welcome respite in the middle of an energetic day's hike across the moors.

The next three days were spent on the Warcop Ranges. All types of soliders' fieldcraft were tested, both individual on CQBR and IBSR Ranges, and as a team on the Section in Defence Range. The highlight of the week was, as usual, the grenade range. Many of us had not thrown grenades before and this was very evident from the large number of nervous jokes just before throwing started. To finish off a very worthwhile live firing period on our last range day we practised live section attacks: an exhausting but enjoyable experience.

To round off the week our last activity was the new Army Fitness Test: the dreaded CFT. This was not the most popular way to spend the morning but, apart from a few blisters and stiff legs, most of the Squadron managed to complete the course in the time allowed.

**TM TROOP**

**SPRING HOLS**

The troop goes from strength to strength with the new FofS—**WO2 Jim Hanifin** firmly in the chair. Having got the FofS settled in, the TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** departed for Norway for his late winter holiday and, spent three weeks cross country (mountain) skiing on an expedition organised by the British Outward Bound Centre.

**Cpl Graham Tolton** joined the Isle of Man Special Constabularly so that he could become a marshal at the TT Races in June. Shortly afterwards, he returned from leave sporting an arm in a sling, after a fall off his motor bike.

On the operational side, we continue to work at full speed. Fortunately the change over of Armagh Roulement Battalion in February returned us to normality and, has eased the workload on **Sgt 'Shuggy' Allison** and his team of radio techs, responsible for that patch.

**HELI-TELE**

Now under the management of **Sgt Dave Rutter**, it continues to keep us busy at weekends and holidays. Easter weekend, as well as being the start of the marching season, also sees the Heli-Tele at its busiest and Easter Monday saw **Sgt Rutter** with all three balls in the air!

**DEPARTURES**

Many of the old and bold members of the troop have left recently. From the Riggers **Cpl 'Ned' Horton** has taken his first step towards civvy street and left for 11 Sig Regt. **Sig 'Spud' Taylor** and **Sue** have left, at last, for Berlin. **Cpl Dave Murray** to join the Int Corps. In his farewell speech **Dave** explained how the troop worked on the back up system, and went on to explain how he had managed to get the TOT's back up regularly!

**LISBURN GARRISON MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION**

This annual competition held in June this year, is always keenly contested within the Garrison. The Squadron fielded four teams again this year and TM Troop come out on top.

The team, trained and led by the FofS were clear winners, a good dozen points ahead of their greatest rivals—Beano Troop. (OC's A and B Troops please note—side bets have yet to be paid).

The Winning Garrison Military Skills Team
*Back Row L-R:* LCpl Kevin Cotton, Sgt Dave Rutter, LCpl Kev Simmons, Cpl Monty Webb
*Front Row L-R:* Cpls Phil Cox, Scotty Stevens, FofS Jim Hanifin

Finally **Sgt 'Shuggy' Allison** has handed in his long hair chit and headed for Catterick and his Staff Sergeants Course. Hope the instructors have a sense of humour, **'Shuggy'** and, please return the 2IC's slide pack.

PS: **Sig Les Lloyd** (Rigger Extraordinaire) has a new girl friend, but is keeping her under wraps for the time being (perhaps until Halloween?).

## ALFA TROOP

The approach of the summer months have seen many coming and going in Alfa Troop. Our new troop SNCO **SSgt Shaw** has just arrived and has brought his family of four with him. We all wish him every success in his new job. The troop has finally said farewell to **Sig Shaun Ingram** posted on promotion after just getting married to a local girl. It is now much quieter and West Belfast are celebrating the departure of one of their most dangerous drivers!

Rewiring of bases has still been high on our list of priorities and Telemech section led by **Cpl Paul Jennings** and **LCpl Taff Boucher** have been kept busy at Girdwood and Bessbrook relaying cable and removing 10 years worth of accumulated D10 Knitting. Also on the operations front **Cpl Harry Fellows** and **Sig 'Taff' Mallaney** have built a new ops room for 2 UDR—a vast improvement on their old 'cubby hole' in the Armagh RUC station. With luck we should have successfully rebuilt the Crossmaglen Ops Room by the time this issue goes to print—a large feather in OC Alfa Troop's cap!

Congratulations to **Cpls Alan Gay** and **Ray Pickering** on their selection for promotion next year. **Cpl 'Yosa' Brown** is still in hospital with his injured shoulder and we all wish him a very speedy recovery back to full health and strength, especially since he has just got married!

## QM DEPT

The Quartermasters of our Squadron seem to have a monopoly on postings to Cyprus. We say farewell to **Capt Mike Jennings** who takes over as the QM of 259 Sig Sqn and welcome **Capt Bob Vale** who joins the department from 9 Sig Regt. It is hoped that the rest of the department can make similar arrangements with fellow storemen in Cyprus. The only real thing to change is the sporting emphasis which has changed from Basketball to Golf. The terms of golf have confused some of our soldiers; **Sig Paul Conlon** has twice issued a Nine Iron instead of a Soldering Iron and the **RQMS Steve Jones** queried **LCpl Andy Hilton** about the G1098; **Andy** thought the RQMS was talking about his last golf score.

The Old and the New? QM's Department lines up for a farewell photograph for Capt Mike Jennings
*Back Row L-R:* LCpl Andy Hilton, Sig Paul Conlon, Sgt Ron Torrance
*Front Row L-R:* Capt (QM) Bob Vale, Capt (QM) Mike Jennings, WO2 (RQMS) Steve Jones

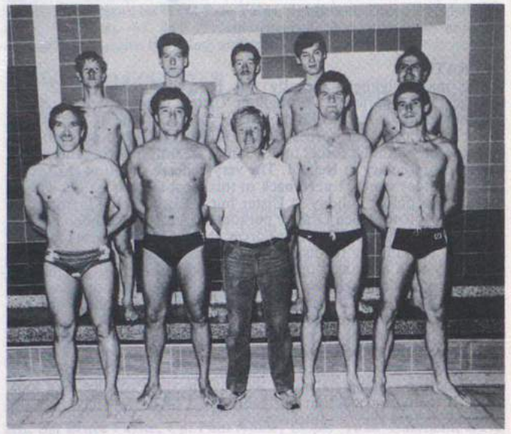
Plans are well in hand for the Northern Ireland Quartermasters Open which everyone is looking forward to because over the last few months both 8 and 39 Bde Quartermasters department have been firmly closed so they can play golf; seeing them open will make a welcome change.

Stop Press: Playing golf with the QM certainly pays dividends. After only two games **Sig Paul Conlon** has now reached the dizzy heights of Lance Corporal,—Congratulations.

## SWIMMING

Once again the Squadron has managed to put together a successful swimming team. They narrowly won the Northern Ireland team Championships and went to Catterick and easily won the Zone 'B' finals, thus qualifying for the Army Championships in Sandhurst at the end of July.

We have just heard that our swimming team came fourth overall in the Army Minor Units Championships. Congratulations to all the team for a splendid effort.



The Squadron Swimming Team
*Back Row L-R:* LCpls Nick Hawley, Dinger Bell, Sig Doug Easby, Cpls Phil Cox, Steve Matthews
*Front Row L-R:* SSgt Dave Hogben, Sgt Dave Rutter, WO2 (RQMS) Steve Jones, LCpl Kev Cotton, Sig Tommy Burns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# 233 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY

On 1 September 1959, 233 Signal Squadron (NI) was formed from the Northern Ireland District Signals. Their role was to provide a message centre and switchboard for HQNI and a landline link to the mainland. The OC of the time, **Maj R. O. Edwards** commanded two other officers, 16 Royal Signals soldiers and 19 WRAC. If he could only see it now!

Not surprisingly, the expansion of the Squadron began with the troubles in 1969. A radio site (in Nissen huts) was established on Divis Mountain overlooking Belfast. The site still exists although the accommodation is rather more luxurious. In 1970 the COMMCEN was expanded to include the tape relay centre which we are still using nearly a quarter of a century on! At the same time an HF circuit to the mainland was instituted. The next eight years saw the formation of two new troops, Victor and Whiskey, and the administrative responsibility for Echo troop was also passed to the Squadron. By now the unit strength was around the 250 mark, with roulement personnel on top of that.

At the turn of the decade the Northern Shot microwave link had been established and Racal HF sets had replaced the old D11s. Romeo troop was formed in 1982 to complete the unit as it is today. A more varied Squadron would be difficult to imagine; eight troops all with completely different roles, and all essential to the campaign.

To mark the occasion of the Squadron's 25th Anniversary an All Ranks Dance was organised by **Cpl Phil Billingham**. The attractions were the Martini Band, The Traffic Light Disco and The Juke Box Disco, and comedian **John Trotter**. Rarely have the boys had such an excuse for a good time, and they certainly made the most of it. Many thanks to the organisers, your hard work paid off on the night.

## FOCUS ON COMMS TROOP

At the time of OC's handover it seems appropriate to expose Comms Troop to the public eye. Apart from looking after the 80 odd C50s in the Erastos (Bruin at the halt) system, manning the commercial radio admin net control and HF receivers and transmitters, Comms Troop is responsible for deploying contingency trunk communications. This is practised weekly in different locations around the Province. Sometimes all goes smoothly, on other occasions there are slight difficulties. On one recent deployment to Londonderry one of the terminal vehicles decided to shed its gearbox. Fortunately the troop had a straight bar for self recovery—unfortunately it was on a relay vehicle six miles up the road!

Comms Troop on a good day (16 out of 36)
*L-R:* Cpl Brian Smallman, John Phipps, Sig 'Purple' Hayes, Cpl 'Chippy' Carpenter, Sig Steve Bunce, 'Frank' Spencer, Nick Barker, SSgt Pete Root (Tp SSgt), Lt Mark Alexander (OC Tp), Sgt Steve Stevenson (RR Sgt). Sig 'Robo' Robson, Kenny Anderson, LCpls George Farrar, 'Geordie' Smith, 'Clive' Estridge, Ken Roche

The troop would like to congratulate **Sig 'Bee-bop' Lee** on his recent marriage to **Andrea**, and **SSgt Pete Root** on his victory in the Toyota Invitation Golf Tournament. Farewell to **Cpl Brian Smallman, Sig Nick Barker** and **Steve Bunce**, and **Lt Mark Alexander** who is paddling his tupperware bucket (canoe) in the direction of Shrivenham.

## SUMMER FETE

The weather on 16 June was perfect for the Squadron Fete. Not enough rain to stop people coming, but enough to force them to take cover in the stands from time to time. Once again the Ducking Stool proved to be popular especially when **Lt Val Grimmett** took her turn. There were some photographs around but they seem to have mysteriously disappeared. In the arena the RPC Dog Section, under the command of **WO2 Searchfield** gave a demonstration of obedience and intruder drills. **WO1 Jarvis** and the Band of the Queens Own Highlanders followed on, kilts billowing in the wind, with a marching display. Later on they gave a short concert by the beer tent. Fortunately the clouds cleared just enough to allow the Northern Ireland Services Freefall Display Team to jump from 7,000ft. Led by **Maj Dick Trigger PARA** all five members of the team landed inside the arena amidst billowing smoke from their canisters and rapturous applause from the crowd. Among the other attractions were the Irish coffee stand (complete with leprechauns), the bratwurst stand run by Victory Troop and the pony rides, ringmaster **WO2 John Skipper**. At the end of the day £1,016 had been raised and this was donated to five charities.

## VISITS

The beginning of August brought two important visitors to the Squadron. On 2 August **Brig Chris Last**, ex CR Signals NI, spent the latter part of the afternoon with us. He was shown some of our equipment, unchanged since his days here, and Victor and Whiskey troops which were at the planning stage during his tour.

On 9 August **Lt Gen Sir Richard Vincent**, the Master General of the Ordnance looked at much the same kit as **Brig Last** had a week before. He then got on with the serious business of meeting the soldiers over curry at the Peake Inn. What he didn't know was that the re-laying of the carpet had only been completed half an hour beforehand. A close run thing!

## ATHLETICS

Having won the NI Minor units athletics without too much trouble the team went back to the mainland for the Zone B stage. Here they came second to 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, thus qualifying for the Army Finals. Here they finished sixth, a fine effort by all concerned. Especial thanks should perhaps go to **Capt Matt Campbell** who brought the team on, found new talent and was instrumental in their many successes. We wish him all the best in 2 Div.

## COMMCEN TROOP

**Report by Sgt Ian (Citrus Fruit) Knight**

Well things have really been happening around here lately, for instance: **Pte Lynne Goodall** has recently completed a free-fall parachute course and is now fully qualified to throw herself off the tape rack when things get too much for her in the TRC.

On the athletic scene two of our finest athletes (well to be honest our only two) were selected to run for Army Northern Ireland against the RAF & RUC. Both athletes did extremely well with **LCpl Hughie Latta** winning the 5,000 metres in fine style and **Sgt Gus Hales** helping to win the 4 × 100 relay (not bad for an old 'un). If they both keep this up they'll be given British citizenship.

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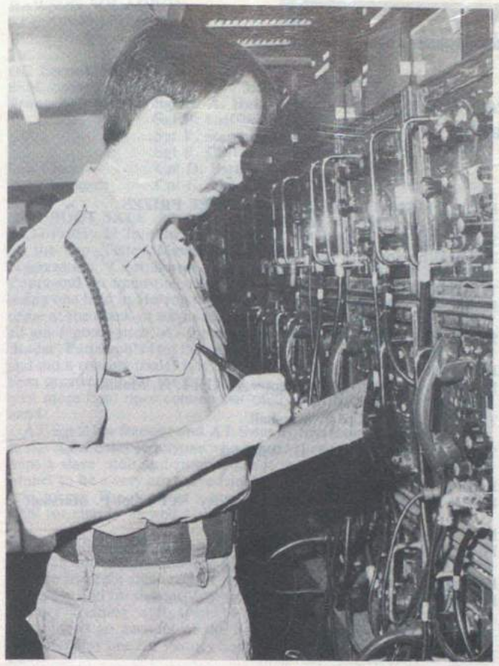

Cpl Wilson filling in RF readings in the Radcen. Yes, they are C50s!

In the back of one of the refitted terminal vehicles (note the CST 1+4s), Sig Nick Barker and Cpl John Phipps

A number of our young ladies have been in the news lately by changing their names.

Our Congratulations go to **Cpl Di** (I thought you booked the organist) **Lawton née Flake**, who due to an administrative error had to whistle the Wedding March.

To **Pte Sally** (but I thought rings only came in one size) **Fawcett née Harbour**, whose wedding went without a hitch, except that the ring she bought for her hubby didn't fit.

And finally our congratulations to **Pte Angie Lovell née Gray** who obviously knows how to get things right.

I also have pleasure in announcing that COMMCEN Troop once again won the coveted Pickersgill Trophy for Darts, all opposition was totally demolished, the nearest team being eight points behind us. The skipper **Sgt Ian Knight** also won the singles Trophy. On being asked by a roving reporter if this was a sign of mis-spent youth the Captain was heard to reply 'If it was mis-spent we wouldn't have won!'

Another event recently is the change of OC's, we must say a sad farewell to **Maj Terry Lightfoot** who wends his way to BAOR, we wish him the best of luck and hope he finds another golf course over there.

A warm welcome goes to our new boss **Capt John Nichols QGM**, and his wife **Jan** who we hope will be very happy over here (let's face it we're in trouble if they're not).

**WRAC SPORTS TROPHY**

We never thought we'd see the day when the girls in the Telephone Exchange would ever win a 'Sports Event'; well we've shocked you all, because that's just what we have done. With the help of **LCpl Mary Grigg**—Front Crawl, **LCpl Chris Thomas**—Breast Stroke, **Pte Jill Bullock**—Butterfly, **Pte Fiona Thomis**—Back stroke and **LCpl Joy Wood, Ptes Ann Suttill, Jane Carson** and **Kerry O'Rourke** all Free Style, we could not go wrong and swam home to a great finish. Not forgetting of course **LCpl Jo Carter** who was our officiater.

Through the season various sports are played. There are three teams, comprising 'Exchange', COMMCEN and the 'All Stars' Team, which is a mixture of Techs, Clks etc. We must say a big thank you to all the WRAC who have taken part in the last year, and many congratulations to the 'All Stars' Team, who won the overall Trophy and for putting up such good competition. Well Done to you all.


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## — News from Headquarters —

# Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**WHAT'S NEW?**

With the change of Commandant to **Lt Col Eddie Pickup**, for a term, life at the College has not apparently slowed during the past two months. Rumour control has moved into overdrive, with possible suggestions of the new Junior Leaders' Squadron joining the College next year. Recently the College sports teams have been very active throughout the country with excellent results, a few of which are reported below.

**FAREWELLS**

The College has recently said farewell to **Maj Peter Bowles** who has left for the delights of MOD, **Capt Max Springer** to Barbados, **SSgt Roy Martin RAMC** to Musgrave Park Hospital, **Sgt Dave Tennick** to HQ NI, **Sgt Paul Camm ACC** to Ashchurch and **Cpl Dave Carr** to 7 Sig Regt. Best wishes to them all.

**WELCOMES**

We would all like to welcome to our ranks: **Lt Dave (I'm just married) Crawford** from 1 Armd Div Sig Regt, **Lt John Newman** from School of Signals, **SSgt Howie** from 244 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Gerrey** from 1 BR Corps and **ACpl Clarke** from 4 ADSR.

**SPECIAL**

A special hello/goodbye to **Maj Graham Thomas** who having arrived from Blandford was allowed 24 hours in the chair of OC Scott Sqn before learning of a four month Falkland Tour.

**MR M. WILSON, INSTRUCTIONAL OFFICER**

**Mr Wilson** was awarded £75 on 12 July by the Local Awards Committee for his technical suggestion entitled 'CAL on Series Resonance'. Completely in his own time **Mr Wilson** devised and compiled a CAL programme for the BBC microcomputer. This programme allows students to input a variety of data into the general equation for series resonance and view the construction of the resultant in graph form. Up to six or more graphs may be superimposed allowing the student a much better understanding of the concept which in the past has proved to be a problem. Some time is saved, comprehension is greatly enhanced leading to a much increased level of efficiency in this part of the student's training.

**MR R. BEMROSE, CRAFTSMAN**

**Mr R. Bemrose** was awarded £140 by the Local Awards Committee on 25 July for his technical suggestion entitled 'Quick Repair to Pressel on Cable Assembly'.

**Mr Bemrose** is employed in the Technical Workshops and these cable assemblies are passed to his Section when defective. The pressel, being made of plastic, wears where the stud which operated the internal microswitch presses, this causes an indentation on the plastic pressel which results in the microswitch not contacting and giving an intermittant fault. **Mr Bemrose** resolved this problem by affixing a 2BA washer over the indentation. A very simple solution, but one which dramatically improved the reliability of very essential and expensive radios, vital in the operational field where unreliability is costly.

**SENIOR TERM PRIZE WINNERS**

**Master of Signals Award**
For the Best All Round Apprentice **AT RSM M. A. C. Reed**

**Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award**
For Best All Round Tradesman **AT LCpl T. T. Osman**

**Director General of Army Training Award**
For Best Individual Military Performance **AT J. Foulger**

**Commandant's Prize**
For Conduct, Discipline and Example **AT RSM M. A. C. Reed**

**Director of Army Education Prize**
For Outstanding Academic Progress **AT LCpl M. J. Holley**

**ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE PRIZES**
**To Best Apprentice in Each Trade:**
**Technicians**
Terminal Equipment **AT K. B. Green**

**Telegraphists**
Radio **AT LCpl T. T. Osman**

Special **AT LCpl R. D. Williams**

**Education Prize**
For Best Academic Achievement **AT Cpl I. A. Makin**

Technician **AT LCpl P. Marshall**

Telegraphist **AT LCpl I. D. Williams**

**Racal Prize**
For Best Technical Advanced Technology **AT LCpl P. Marshall**

**BTEC Prize**
For Most Progress in BTEC Studies **AT K. B. Green**

**Borough of Harrogate Prize**
For Service to Community **AT P. A. Carpenter**

**SCOTT SQUADRON—FOCUS**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Graham (I'm not going to the Falklands) Thomas** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Ian (Bulkey) Buckley** |
| **3IC** | **Lt Mike (I'll do OC Sqn) Hancock** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Ray (Don't panic) Hunter BEM** |
| **1 Troop** | **Sgt Brian (My golf's really coming on) Black** |
| **2 Troop** | **Sgt Brian (No—No more Recruits) Caffrey** |
| **3 Troop** | **Cpl SQMS Sean (Get out—It's my Store) Magee** |
| **RCT Troop** | **Sgt Pete (Tarmac Technician) Lawlor** |
| **Clerk** | **Cpl Roy (I'll be a Signaller) Clarke LI** |

**HELLO AND FAREWELL**

In the past few weeks we have said goodbye to the OC, **Maj Peter Bowles** and **Dee** who have gone off to entertain at MOD and **Sgt Fred Knox** who has moved within the College to allow **Cpl Roy Clarke** to fulfil his aspirations and become a fully fledged Signaller. The Squadron has seen many changes in the past two months with the OC's handing over, the 2IC away on his QM's course and no Squadron Clerk until very recently. A minor form of chaos has reigned with **AT SSM Paddy Ireland** and his stalwart crew of AT Sgt's taking much of the flak from above. The Squadron seems to be holding together extremely well. Throughout the summer season we have seen many impressive displays of sporting progress, the inter Squadron athletics proved an historical day as both the Squadron Junior and Senior teams won their matches. The swimming team was narrowly beaten in the inter squadron Gala by Bradley Squadron who left it until the final relay to show their supremacy. It should be admitted it was short lived as the Squadron water polo team beat Bradley Squadron 6—2 in the final. The orienteering team not to be outdone managed to map their way to a resounding 725 point lead in the competition held at Timbleings Wood. Thanks go to all the Senior Term who are leaving shortly. Good luck and all the best in the future.

**AT Angove** to 7 Sig Regt, **AT Carpenter** to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, **AT Goddard** to 30 Sig Regt, **AT Cpl Johnson** to 14 Sig Regt, **AT Lewis** to 30 Sig Regt, **AT Richardson** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **AT Summers** to 30 Sig Regt, **AT Tonks** to 20 Maritime Regt RCT, **ATs Adams, Corbey, Jones** and **Williams** to Comms and Sy Gp UK.



**RAWSON SQUADRON**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj J. W. Cornforth** |
| **2IC** | **Capt B. P. Neillings** |
| **OC Recruit Troop** | **Lt J. P. Armitage** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 B. P. Mathews** |
| **Troop Sergeants** | **Sgt D. A. Hollis** |
| | **Sgt P. Griffin** |
| | **Sgt P. Stemmer** |
| | **Sgt P. Clifford** |
| **Sqn Clerk** | **Cpl D. Patterson** |
| **Sqn Storeman** | **Cpl G. Henderson** |

**CAR BOOT SALE**

On Friday 22 July the Squadron held its first Car Boot Sale in aid of the Ian Tetley Memorial School run by the Dr Barnado's organisation. **Capt Bernie Neillings** the new Squadron Second in Command hit upon the novel idea of raising funds for charity after seeing one held in Harrogate. **WO2 (SSM) Matt Mathews** was on the scene at the crack of dawn ensuring that the eventual 80 stall holders all got a good pitch. As the crowds of punters started to arrive **Cpl 'Radar' Patterson's** Hot Dog and Drinks Emporium came into its own and did a roaring trade. It is now known that the takings would have been greater but for the fact that the Squadron Sergeant Major was seen more than once coming out of the kitchen with a Hot Dog in hand.

**AT Sgt Alan Barnett** and **AT Swanny Swanson** volunteered to act as slaves for a day to anyone who bought the winning ticket from their 'rent a slave' stall and rumour has it that they tried to engineer the winner to be a very attractive (single) stall holder who bought quite a few tickets. The day was a great success with the Squadron raising £300 for charity as well as having a very enjoyable day out.

**PENNEY SQUADRON**

On 26 June approximately 100 budding young men arrived at the College to begin their recruit troop training. Of these 35 joined the Squadron and for the next five weeks they were to undergo their initial military training and spend a week adventurous training. The following is an account of the first few weeks as seen by **Rct Alan Ironside:** Day one for Penney Squadron recruit troop 84B was a mass of confusion. Having not yet recovered from the shock of losing their beautiful hairstyles (**Rct Mark Reeves** in particular, minus a curly perm) we had a sackful of ill-fitting army kit flung into our arms before being led, like lost sheep, to our new 'homes'.

Once there we had our first encounter with our surrogate parent and troop sergeant, **Sgt Thomas**. He explained, in Welsh undertones, that the next few weeks would be difficult for us but nobody at that particular time fully understood or believed what he told us. Then came the bull nights, hours of sweating over highly polished floors chanting 'One, two, three, four, bumper, bumper, bumper the floor'. At the end of the bull nights came the inevitable room inspections and we all agreed that **AT Sgt 'Solly' Solomons** was a heartless individual.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

However, the time soon arrived for Ex *First Fling*, based at Halton Barracks in Lancashire. On the first day of the exercise we embarked on a hike to climb a 2,500ft hill near Ingleborough. Everyone managed the climb although **Rct 'Taffy' Thomas** was distracted by the sheep (because of his Welsh origins) and only kept going, by being urged on by us less extreme nationalities. The hike rounded off with a few victory photographs at the top of the hill. For **Rct Dave Sanders** in particular the height must have appeared greater than it actually was because immediately on eating his packed lunch he contracted 'altitude sickness' and proceeded to bring it back up, to roars of approval from the remainder of the troop.

The next day consisted of abseiling from a small rock face as an introduction; **Rcts Bob Armstrong** and **Brian Millarvie**, both apprehensive, managed the abseiling (**Bob** after two refusals and time faults). Then came the real fun. Abseiling from an aquaduct into an assault craft bobbing gently in the river below. **Rct Guy** 'the stunt man' **Farmer** had major problems but the thought of the crazy maniac **Rct Rickey Gorman** snarling around was enough to quickly chase **Guy** down the rope and into the assault craft. On the Thursday, Penney recruits were involved in watermanship—raft building, sailing and dinghy work. **Sgt 'Tarzan' Thomas** revealed his manly chest but refused to reduce himself to a loin cloth, arguing that he would have to pay a fortune for the leather to cover himself! **Lt Windsor Brown** raced around in an assault craft doing his utmost to stir up enough wash to capsize the dinghies and scuttle their passengers. It has to be said that he was quite successful in his task. On the final day, Friday,

Penney Squadron Recruit Troop at the top of Ingleborough Hill

came the Badging Parade, we rehearsed until we considered it was as good as it would ever be, but **Sgt Thomas** seemed unconvinced and consulted his forage cap repeatedly for inspiration. However, all but two passed, although we are sure that some fairy godmothers were present at that particular ceremony.

### AND HOME

The exercise over, we packed and prepared to leave for Harrogate, happy with the thought of walking out on Saturday afternoon and everyone agreed the exercise was a complete success and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all. We would like to thank all PS for making the week so enjoyable.

## SPORTS NOTE

### TRIANGULAR GAMES

This season's Triangular Games held between Princess Marina College Arborfield, Army Apprentices' College Chepstow and ourselves was held in blazing sunshine and mild galeforce winds on 13/14 July. During their trip to the College the Arborfield team managed to write off their coach, valued at a mere £50,000, when their driver had an argument with a local bridge! With the visitors settled into the College accommodation with relative safety, we all looked forward to two days of varied sporting activities ranging from Tennis to Tug of War. The College sportsmen played exceptionally well and through their fine efforts managed seven first places, one first equal in the Tennis, which was decided in the last match of the day between Harrogate Seed 1 Doubles, **AT Cpl Hill** and **AT Pearson**, who beat Chepstow's Seed 1 Doubles (6—4) (6—2). The College teams also were second in three events. Final results gave Harrogate as the winners, fairly comfortably.

### SUMMARY OF FINAL PLACES

| EVENT | ARBORFIELD | CHEPSTOW | HARROGATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Athletics** | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| **Badminton** | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| **Basketball** | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Cricket** | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Fencing** | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| **Judo** | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| **Squash** | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Swimming** | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| **Tennis** | 3 | 1= | 1= |
| **Tug of War** | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| **Volleyball** | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Waterpolo** | 3 | 2 | 1 |

### CRICKET

The season has been like the proverbial curate's egg—good in parts. The PS XI playing in the Harrogate Evening League has had a very successful season to date, winning seven and losing two matches. The team has been ably skippered by **WO2 Dave Taylor**. He has regularly bamboozled opposition batsmen with his bowling and has occasionally struck the ball considerable distances—sometimes in the direction intended.

**Maj Bill Price** has done his Alan Knott/senior pro act as usual, scoring useful runs and making a lot of returns look better than they actually were. At one time **Capt Ian Buckley** was leading in a new competition for the award to the player who takes more catches than he scores runs. Then he ruined his chances by getting a four off the edge!

The star of the season has without doubt been **Cpl Mick Dawson** who has been a consistently heavy scorer with the bat and a more than useful bowler. He has several fifties to his credit and also scored a memorable 124 not out in 18 overs against a local side who thought that World War 3 had begun. Other stalwarts have included **WO2 John Knell, Sgts John Burgess, Taff Thomas, Steve Dale** and **Cpl Alan Balderstone** who made several useful contributions with bat and ball. During the season we lost on detachment to the F1, the services of **SSgt John Chapman**, a real lover of the game and an enthusiast who will be missed.

Junior cricket has been quite successful with the team holding their own in the Harrogate Junior League (they've been told never to bat without wearing a box!) Arborfield and Chepstow were well beaten in the Triangular Games competition, where some excellent fielding and catching was evident. Among the players **AT Sgt Alan Barnett** and **AT Richard Brudenell** made useful contributions and have the potential to develop into good cricketers. Above all the cricket has been enjoyable for the players and, in the end, that is what is important.

### ORIENTEERING

The College Squad has had a busy season. The College Orienteers have competed in a Colour Coded, Badge or League event on almost every Sunday since Christmas, and have competed in an Airienteers Training Event every Wednesday evening since March. All this activity and training culminated in the Army Championships at Epping Forest, over the weekend 9-10 June. For the first time in a few years, the College entered an all apprentice team in the Junior Army category, rather than enter a PS/AT mixed team as a Major Unit. The College also entered a PS Minor Unit team, which, unlike the apprentices, had to qualify through NEDIST and UKLF Championships to secure a place in the Army event.

The PS team, consisting of **Lt Alex Wilson, SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin** and **Sgt Jim Pattison**—(dubbed 'The Leaping Frog' by Mil Training Wing; I'm not sure why!) ran in the NEDIST Championships at Hamsterley Forest on 7 April, only to be disqualified due to a slight altercation on the part of the Foz . . . enough said. Missing from the team was **Lt Patrick Windsor Brown**, who had had the misfortune, a week earlier, to impale himself on a spike whilst competing in a local event. (The next person to laugh will do 20 press-ups).

The PS team being out of the running, all efforts were concentrated on the apprentices. Due to an age limit, **AT Cpls Mark Hudson** and **Alan Holyoak** had to run as Army Junior Individuals, and were ineligible for the team. After a period of intense training, courtesy **Lt Windsor Brown**, the FofS and Sgt P, the team set out for Epping. The following (predictably flippant) account, is by the team captain, **AT Cpl Jock Blyth**, who had trouble with some of the big words and therefore needed the assistance of **AT Cpl Ian Williams.**

### EXERCISE *RUNNING DEER*: THE ARMY ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Friday 8 June, a merry band of apprentices, consisting of **AT Cpl** ('where'd the pubs go') **Blyth, AT Cpl 'Flash' Williams, AT Cpl** (Missing Link) **Holyoak, AT Cpl** ('what a cokpass') **Shepherd, AT Cpl 'Slim' Hudson, AT LCpl 'Ratty' Middleton, AT 'Ghandi' Bannister, AT 'Clues' Warne** and accompanied by our trainer, **SSgt (FofS)** (Take it easy) **Martin**, left Harrogate, crammed into a Land Rover, which was hair-raisingly driven by **Sig** ('When's your test'?) **Webb.** Thanks to such hard work and pen-pushing behind the scenes by **Lt 'Chunks' Windsor Brown**, we arrived at our accommodation, Cavalry Barracks, Colchester, eager to explore the town (which we did . . . ).

After a light breakfast of cereal and cold coffee we set out. Many wrong turnings later (courtesy the FofS) we reached our venue for the day, Epping Forest. A good day's orienteering was to follow, and the College achieved respectable times all round, with the result that overnight we lay third behind the Gunners and the Royal Armoured Corps respectively. Unfortunately, the FofS, who was running as an Individual—was unable to achieve the performance he is capable of and had a less rewarding day—all three hours of it! After the first day, the team was standing in a challenging position for Sunday's Relay Event.

Soon the Relays were upon us, and, after the first two legs, we had a 15 minute lead over our nearest rivals, the Royal Artillery. However, their professional coaching methods paid off, and we were pipped at the post for the Relay title. The overall championship was lifted by the Gunners, and we lost no pride in claiming third position in the Junior Army category; a satisfactory ending to a worthwhile weekend's orienteering.

The Minutes/position was as follows:

| Day One | Day Two | Final Positions |
|---|---|---|
| 1. JLR RA 412 mins | 1. JLR RA 301 mins | 1. JLR RA 715 mins |
| 2. JLR RAC 502 mins | 2. AAC 336 mins | 2. JLR RAC 842 mins |
| 3. AAC 519 mins | 3. JLR RA 340 mins | 3. AAC 856 mins |

Although most members of the team are due to graduate from the College before next season, a firm base has now been established from which to build future teams: Watch out for us in 1985!

### THE HARVESTER TROPHY

A fortnight after the Army Championships, the team competed—as the Royal Signals Colts Team—in the Harvester Trophy competition, at Ash Vale, Aldershot. This event is strictly for Orienteering addicts. The first man of each seven man team starts at 11pm, and he and the other six have to complete a course varying in length from five to 12 kilometres, the first three or four men running in the dark. The seventh and final man finishes around breakfast time incapable of anything except mumbling something to the effect that he'll never do another Harvester . . .



### WORTHY

Perhaps worthy of mention is the fact that **Lt Windsor Brown** ran in the Corps Team; although his time wasn't a prizewinner, running at the crack of dawn having spent the previous day driving seven apprentices the length of the country was a feat in itself. The following (censored) account of the event is by **AT Cpl Dave Middleton**:

After several hours travelling in the back of the ever-popular, comfortable Land Rover, and a guided tour around the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, courtesy of **Lt 'I bought my driving Licence at Woolies' Windsor Brown**, our team of seven arrived at Rushmoor Arena to see the Aldershot Army Display. After looking around the display we were driven to the event location at Mytchett and Windmill Hill, near Aldershot. There we registered our team, consisting of **AT Cpl 'Rock' Hudson, AT Cpl Al Holyoak, AT LCpl Dave Middleton, AT Roger Bannister, AT Martin Warne, AT Cpl 'Shep' Shepherd** and **AT Cpl Jock 'I'm such a clued-up team captain' Blyth.**

Our first leg runner prepared for the mass start at 11 pm. It was raining so we knew the terrain would be difficult to run on. The start was on time with about 120 people running off into the night, aided only by a map, compass and, a small headlamp. The course proved to be very difficult and our first few runners took longer than expected and so our last three runners, along with those in other teams, took part in a mini mass start. We were disqualified, along with several other teams, due to our second leg runner (the team captain!) losing his control card and our last leg runner not being able to complete the course before it closed. Even so, everybody must be congratulated for the effort they put in and we all gained valuable experience on night orienteering.

All we can say to the other teams is: Watch out!—The AAC will be back next year—to win!

### SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO

It has been an extremely successful season for the College team. After having to virtually rebuild the team due to members leaving the College a good balanced team has been produced with a few excellent individuals. The Waterpolo team under the guidance of **Sgt Lawlor** and just three old boys from last season's team has also been rebuilt to produce some fine results.

The first feather in our cap was to provide the majority of the Corps Swimming Team in the annual fixture against the RAF Signal Support Squadron at RAF Hendon with myself, **AT LCpl Williams** and **AT Bath** being called forward for the Corps Waterpolo team of the same fixture.

Our next giant step to success was at the Army Junior Swimming and Waterpolo Championships held at Bovington where we were not really expecting any outstanding results. To our surprise we won the swimming with some really excellent personal performances by **ATs Eldridge** and **Banting** in the 100 metres Breaststroke and Butterfly respectively. In the Waterpolo, again there were surprises in store for us. With our team coach **Sgt Lawlor** being absent, (Square bashing at Pirbright), the problems and headaches were left in the capable hands of the team captain, myself. Our first game was against the Apprentices' College Arborfield with a 5—3 win in our favour. In the semi final we beat the RAOC Apprentices' College 10—0, this left the Junior Leaders Regt RAC between ourselves and the winners medals. In a gruelling final enjoyed by everybody the College came out on top with two goals in the last minute of the game to win by 5—4.

Our next competition was the Triangular Games against the Apprentices Colleges of Arborfield and Chepstow. The swimming was a runaway victory with Harrogate winning all the races except the Breaststroke individual and the 4 × 100 metre medley relay. Overall it was an excellent team performance. The waterpolo was slightly different in that we had to fight every inch of the way. Our first game was against Arborfield where our water fitness produced the end result of 8—4. This left our old rivals Chepstow who, as in the past, were our strongest opposition at Junior level. The game was a tit for tat battle from start to finish where one team would score and the other equalise, at the final whistle and the score at 4—4, two extra quarters of three minutes were played. And again our water fitness came into its own plus some excellent moves which brought five goals in those six minutes from **AT LCpls Crinnion** and **Middleton** (two each) and one from **AT Eldridge**.

There is just one final comment to make. The team would like to thank **Mr Williams** for his excellent swimming coaching and **Sgt Lawlor** for his enthusiastic waterpolo training. But where were they when the trophies wanted cleaning!

*Back Row:* Sgt P. J. Lawlor, AT LCpl Bray, AT Banting, AT Sgt Jenkins, AT LCpl Crinnion, AT Eldridge, Cpl Hardstaff
*Middle Row:* AT Freeman, AT Sgt Oliver, Mr J. Williams, AT LCpls Williams, Pryke
*Front Row:* ATs Howarth, Bath, AT LCpls Middleton and Souter
*Winners:* 1. Junior Triangular Swimming Championships, 2. Royal Signals Training Brigade Swimming Championships, 3. Army Junior Swimming Championships, 4. Army Junior Waterpolo Championships, 5. Rotaract Club of Knaresborough

### CANOEING

The College Canoe Club has had an excellent season under the guidance of **Capt Paul Robertshaw**. After many rewarding competitions and six days of intensive training the College Squad consisting of two instructors **Capt Paul Robertshaw** and **Sgt Speck** and nine ATs travelled to the river Wye in Monmouth for the Army Sprint and Marathon Canoe Championships. After six hours of travel the squad went straight into the water to view the river conditions for the forthcoming events, determined to regain the Army Crown which had been lost during the previous season. The training programme devised by **Cpl Primrose** began at 0645 hrs with a quick three mile run, followed by marathon and internal training in the canoes. There were periods of lightheartedness as **AT 'Rat' Harboard** recounted his being caught in a bubble bath by one of the opposition, **AT 'Zippy' Sharp** trying to impress the local Welsh inhabitants with his dynamic Fred Astaire act (including silk shirt and bow tie). He was quickly disowned. After a very hard week, **Cpl Primrose's** training appeared to be paying off. The College had soundly won the Army Cup with excellent results as follows:

#### SPRINT JUNIOR

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **K1** | **500m** | **1st** | **AT Collins** | |
| | | **2nd** | **AT Cpl Dobson** | |
| | | **3rd** | **AT Sharp** | |
| **K1** | **1000m** | **1st** | **AT Collins** | |
| | | **2nd** | **AT Sharp** | |
| | | **3rd** | **AT RSM Reed** | |
| **K11** | **500m** | **2nd** | **AT RSM Reed** | **AT Cpl Dobson** |
| **K11** | **1000m** | **2nd** | **AT Collins** | **AT Sharp** |
| | | **3rd** | **AT Cpl Dobson** | **AT RSM Reed** |
| **Slalom** | **250m** | **1st** | **AT Maloney** | |
| **Slalom** | **500m** | **4th** | **AT Harboard** | |
| | | **5th** | **AT Maloney** | |
| **WWR** | **500m** | **1st** | **AT Harboard** | |
| | | **4th** | **AT Maloney** | |

#### SPRINT SENIOR

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Senior A K11** | **1000m** | **1st** | **Capt Robertshaw** | **Sgt Speck** |
| **Senior A K11** | **500m** | **1st** | **Capt Robertshaw** | **Sgt Speck** |
| **Marathon Junior** | | | | |
| **K11** | | **1st** | **AT Cpl Dobson** | **AT RSM Reed** |
| | | **3rd** | **AT McInnes** | **AT LCpl Arnott** |
| **K1** | | **1st** | **AT Sharp** | |
| | | **2nd** | **AT Collins** | |
| | | **3rd** | **AT Russell** | |
| **WWR** | | **2nd** | **AT Maloney** | |
| | | **3rd** | **AT Harboard** | |

#### MARATHON SENIOR

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Senior A K11** | **1st** | **Capt Robertshaw** | **Sgt Speck** |
| **Senior A/B K1** | **3rd** | **LCpl Primrose** | |

# Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

**MILITARY TRAINING WEEKEND!**

RSM ... 'Yeoman! Prepare a night exercise for the forthcoming training weekend'.

YofS 'What do I call it?'

RSM ... 'Mayfly—they only survive for 24 hours'

Early on the morning of 12 May, members of the Group permanent staff arrived at Beckingham Ranges. After a briefing by **WO1 (RSM) Bill House** on the delights in store for them, they dispersed by sections and training began. Set up around the range area were the stands through which each section had to progress. From tactics to GPMG to 84 and 66mm they battled through the sun and wind, re-kindling memories of Basic Training. A break for lunch and out came the 24 hour packs. **Sgt Barry North** had shown some how to produce a gastronomic delight combining Mess tins, Hexi Burner and 'Compo'. For those who had yet to progress to the cooking stand it was pot luck and tuition to follow.

Throughout the day the RSM accompanied the CO visiting the sections and giving much encouragement, such as 'it would be more fun if it was raining'. **SSgt Bob Turner** and **SSgt Dave Poole** explained that the Para Illum was supposed to go upwards, not horizontally, while **Sgt Dave Pugh** and **Sgt Barry North** demonstrated the ancient art of basha building. Map Reading and Voice Procedure completed the instructional phase and Ex *Mayfly* was about to begin.

**THE SETTING**

**SSgt (YofS) Harry Brant** gave an Orders Group to section commanders, explaining the concept of the exercise. Each section was to find seven checkpoints on the training area and fight through any enemy contacts. While the sections completed the Battle Prep, the DS under the guidance of **WO2 (Supvr R) Bob Carty** and **WO2 (CSM) Tony Orrell**, left to set up the enemy ambushes. Now the diary ...

**THE TASK**

2130 hrs—Our sections of battle-hardened veterans advanced into the training area, each following a separate route to the checkpoints. Throughout the night, they yomped from point to point, radioing back Contact reports, when ambushed by the enemy, (and sometimes when their own paths crossed). Everyone had at least one river crossing, made easy by the use of a large bridge, but more difficult by **Sgt Mick (Pyro-Maniac) Wainwright** and all his CS Port fires.

0330 hrs—Most sections had found all the checkpoints including the one tactically positioned by **WO2 Bob Carty** on top of a farmer's dung heap. Basha areas were set up as sections in defence, but more closely resembling sections in 'de sleeping bags'.

0630 hrs—The patrols returned to the fold and, after a wash and breakfast (or whatever remained of their ration packs), awaited the final phase of the weekend.

0900 hrs—First section down the range for the falling-plate competition. A prize of a gallon of 'John Smiths Bitter' may have given added incentive to the firers as some high scores were obtained. **W/SSgt Livesley** and **W/LCpl Sue (why do I have to carry the shovel?) Ashley**, did well to record hits for their section. Unfortunately they were not in the winning one, which shot a creditable 20 plates in 53 seconds, led by **WO1 John Sharrock**. The day ended with transport back to camp and the RSM promising we can do it again in October. Perhaps he will get his rain for the next one.

**SERGEANTS' MESS HIGHLIGHTS**

In January, the year commenced with the Mess officially welcoming our new Commanding Officer. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, **Lt Col A. F. Ridger** and **Col R. A. St G. Martin OBE JP**, were also guests at the dining-in.

Our photo, entitled 'the one that came out' shows the **RSM WO1 Bill House** making his welcoming speech.

From a mixed Mess of some 90 members, we have dined out the following members on completion of 22 years of service, **WO1 (Supvr R) Al Newman, WO1 Barry Anderson, WO2 (Supvr R) Bob Watson, WO2 Brian Grayson, Sgt Charlie Ferguson** and **Sgt Derek Isles**. May we again wish them luck for the future.

This week's Mess photograph may soon be on sale from the Mess Manager or **SSgt (Supvr R) Sam Smith. SSgt Smith** wishes to take this opportunity to point out that his photograph could have turned out, if he had been able to borrow some better equipment!

**Sgts Jim Cruickshank** and **Al Lindsay** wish to thank the RSM for attending most of their happy hours and would be glad to pop in to discuss their military careers if **SSgt Dave Bicker** leaves the RSM's office free.

**A SAD NOTE**

On a sadder note, it is with great regret that we announce the death of **Mr S. Goddard, late Royal Signals**. An ex-Sergeant of the Corps, **Sid** will be remembered by many as a keen Hockey player. He continued his close association with the Corps as an Honorary Member of the Sergeants' Mess, where he played regularly in the Darts team. Our deepest sympathies go to his widow, **Maureen**.

**2 SQUADRON (RADIO)**

Among the many 2 Sqn courses and activities during the period from February to June, the most significant was Supervisor Radio Course Number 15. The course is an exacting one and, along with much detailed classroom instruction, it involves visits to a number of UK agencies and a three weeks field attachment to units in BAOR.

All nine students on this very competitive course were successful, the top two eventually being separated by one half percent in their

overall results. The course culminated in a top-table lunch in the Sergeants' Mess at which **Col M. J. Pickard**, was the guest of honour. Other guests included **Mr Noel Green** and **Mr Don Meetans**. Our photograph shows the 'top of the top-table', with left to right, **WO1 (Supvr R) Nex** (Senior Military Instructor 2 Sqn), **Col M. J. Pickard, WO1 (RSM) House, Maj S. A. Brice** (OC 2 Sqn) and **WO2 (FofS) Millar** (PMC).

The photograph shows **Sgt**, now **SSgt (Supvr R) J. J. Smith**, the top student, trying to justify his nomination for the award. The cigar is by kind courtesy of Headquarters, Royal Signals!



# HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
# BFPO 1

**WHERE WAS MAY?**

Since our March notes the Regiment has been very busy. We have been involved in a number of exercises, charitable events and inspections, some of which are recounted below.

**ROAMIN YEOMEN**

**Report by WO2 (YofS) M. S. Foster**

It all started as a joke in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess at Sek Kong when all members of the Regiment (normally located in different camps around the Territory) had one of their 'get togethers', this time to meet **Col M. F. H. Colman**, the OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records Office.

In one corner the Foremen were to be found talking over a problem they had with the PA system, or some other world shattering issue, the RQMSs were trying to be friendly with everyone in order to get free drinks, and the Yeomen were contemplating the new voice procedure and saying 'I thought the Gurkha Battalions were already using it!', when it was suggested (still trying to remember by whom) that it would be a good idea if the Yeomen challenged the Foremen by entering teams for the annual 100kms Walk over a route called 'The Maclehose Trail' in aid of charity. So the seed was sown and, as mountains are made out of molehills, the Maclehose Trail Walk, Ex *Trail Walker 3*, was conceived and the team of four walkers decided upon.

Our team consisted of **WO2 Stan Howard, WO2 Merv Foster, SSgt Ron Coburn** and **SSgt Mick McCarthy**. The Team was duly entered with **WO1 Dave Gilchrist** nominated as Controller/Manager (non-walking), having only recently arrived in Hong Kong and not yet fully acclimatised. The possibility of an original team member having to drop out at short notice prompted **Dave Gilchrist** to change his role to a more active walking one! In the event, no one had to retire and having got used to the idea it seemed only right to turn out a team of five 'Roamin' Yeomen'. The team motto which seemed to be repeated the tougher the exercise became was soon to be heard uphill and down dale; 'we started together, so we'll finish together'.

The Foremen's Team never left the workshop, but a special mention must be given to **WO2 (FofS) Ken Perry** who battled to the end despite the abuse and insults hurled at him by the Roamin Yeomen.

The Walk itself was 100kms over some of the hilliest terrain of Hong Kong's New Territories (and it has plenty), the aim of which was to complete it in under 48 hours and raise money for Gurkha and Chinese charities. As the Yeomen in Hong Kong are spread all over the Territory, we all made our own separate ways to the starting point at Sai Kung Country Park and it was only then that the actual distance began to register!

The walk commenced at 1600 hrs on 10 February with teams from units all over Hong Kong, including three other teams from our own Regiment, participating: a team from 246 (Gurkha Field Force) Sig Sqn led by **Capt(TOT) Tony McMullen**, a team from 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn led by **2Lt David Hudson** and a WRAC team made up from the Joint Commcen (247 Gurkha Sig Sqn).

Just after 1600 hrs, the Comd QG Signals, **Lt Col M. J. Lance**, started all the walkers on their merry way.

The first 10-12kms found everyone in very good spirits, laughing and joking, with **Ron Coburn** providing the music and his Sony Walkman vibrating the air with Irish (dare I say) Limericks.

We met the 246 (Gurkha Field Force) Sig Sqn admin party at Checkpoint Three, where, even before we had stopped walking, a cup of tea and a corned beef sandwich were thrust into our hands. We were ushered into a heated 12 × 12, whereupon we gratefully collapsed into chairs. It was then about 1930 hrs.

After a stop of about thirty minutes, we continued on to the night stop which was still 3½ hours away. With the hilly terrain that was being covered, all that could be seen for miles in front and behind, was the flickering of torches along the route. At the night stop, a meal and a welcome six hours sleep in a heated tent were waiting. A hearty breakfast saw us on the way to Day Two's walking.

Day Two was to go very well with only minor problems: sore feet, the admin vehicle being at the wrong reservoir for the midday snack and very steep hills which required hands and knees to climb up. The largest hurdle of the whole walk had to be defeated today—the highest feature in Hong Kong, Tai Mo Shan (957m). This was reached by evening and as the mist and darkness set in the only incentive to keep going was the knowledge that the admin party were on the other side in a hut with a BBQ prepared and all the comforts of home (well almost). It was about 2200 hrs when we stumbled into the night rest area after conquering Tai Mo Shan. After eating a superb meal and tending very sore feet we hit the sack. The night was noisy, to say the least, with other teams continuously passing through, to either battle on to the end or to find their own admin party.

We set off for the final onslaught slightly later than we had planned, but as this was the final stage with only 26kms to go, we felt we had ample time to complete it. This section, although mostly downhill, was to prove the hardest, as our feet were now very sore and old sports injuries to knees and legs were beginning to take their toll.

Yeomen: Foster, Gilchrist, Coburn, Howard and McCarthy

Despite all these tribulations, our motto stood and at 1305 hrs on Sunday 12 February, all five weary Yeoman and **FofS Ken Perry** finished the walk together. Before returning to our various nooks around the Territory, we all made a common vow—to form an admin party for the Foremen next year! Perhaps, after all, the FofS did have the last laugh.

Before closing a special vote of thanks must go to the 246 (Gurkha Field Force) Sig Sqn admin party headed by **Sgts Fred Smith** and **Keith Parsons**—without them we would never have made it.

**EXERCISE *SWORD EDGE 3***

The Exercise was to be a Regimental Commex, which involved a number of phases each one running into the other. This meant that little or no sleep was had and many miles covered (mostly on foot) within the four days.

The exercise tested the Regiment's communicating skills, stamina and, ability to react to the unexpected. It culminated in a 24 hour move by hastily prepared Troops across mountainous terrain, controlled by a Regimental Tac HQ. The highlight of this phase was when **Lt Gary Smith** led his Troop onto the Wessex, and twiddled his thumbs for the outward journey. Little did he know that **Lt Col Martin Lance** had instructed the pilot to ignore any briefing given by the stick commander and to put the section down on an island off the North East Coast of Sai Kung, some five kms from his destination on the mainland.

Much embarrassed, full of apologies and disbelief that any one could do this to him on his first exercise, he is now never seen without a map in hand, even when walking to the mess.

Lt Gary Smith loads on the Sections bit before his intrepid journey to the unknown island

**VISIT OF COMMANDER GURKHA FIELD FORCE**

Commander Gurkha Field Force, **Brig P. R. Duffell OBE MC** visited the Regiment at Sek Kong (home of RHQ, HQ Squadron and 246 (Gurkha Field Force) Sig Sqn) on Tuesday 15 May. It was a hot sticky day (is there any other type in Hong Kong?), and the visit got off to a very good start with a well-executed parade by 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn under the Command of their Squadron Commander, **Maj Rick Brown**.

After the parade the Brigadier was immediately whisked away to see numerous stands depicting the large range of equipment used by the Regiment in completing its numerous operational tasks. Then he was invited to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and to the Officers' Mess, for a Curry Lunch.

WO2 (FofS) Ken Perry shakes hands with Brig Duffell, whilst SSgt John Dent and Sgt Lau Ping Wah watch to see how it is done

**UBR DAY—VISIT OF DEPUTY COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG**

Countdown began at D day minus a large number. The UBR day was the object of much fraught discussion, frenzied argument and a daily changing programme with a seemingly never ending stream of parade practices and rehearsals.

**Brig A. B. Crowfoot CBE**, Deputy Commander British Forces visited The Queen's Gurkha Signals on Thursday 17 May.

Rain! The Bahun's prayers didn't seem to have worked: **Maj Brown**'s parade party were horrified after all their practising, that **Maj Merrick**'s static display wallahs scampered indoors to shouts of 'but it won't fit through the door!'

However, the Brigadier arrived and lo! the sun shone. LSGC's were presented to those whose crimes had gone undetected, in glorious sunshine; the sweat seeping through the No 6 Dresses, the Gurkhas immaculate throughout.

*L-R:* Lts (QGO)s Dinakar Mall, Chandrakumar Shakya, Dilkaji Gurung and Khimpratap Mall on their Commissioning Parade at the start of UBR day

SSgt (FofS) Bob Mahoney briefs Brig Crowfoot, whilst Sgt Bob Wright looks on

Ex *Gemini Junior* was put into motion with a comprehensive surprise briefing by the Operations Officer **Maj Mike Cartwright**. The exercise was designed to test both the Regiment's capabilities to deploy its various communications systems rapidly and to test its four newest subalterns, **Lts Tony Crane, Gary Smith, Elton** (yes, that really is my name) **Davis** and **2Lt David Hudson**. Whilst subalterns ran amok as if demented, trying to coordinate for a communications plan which they had never trained for, the Brigadier strolled into the No 1 Cricket Pavillion to view the static displays which highlighted almost every aspect of the Regiment's communicating tasks. The Brigadier took a keen interest in all the soldiers he met and in all that he was shown; from a cable gang's oxyacetylene torch to a microwave dish.

Meanwhile Ex *Gemini Junior* gained pace, the commanders of the two teams gripped the situation, aided by their erstwhile NCOs. Vehicles with trailers fully laden, crashed out of camp to exercise location and improvisation was the name of the game. A Scout arrived at the exercise location, the Brigadier stepped out; 'Tell me, what has gone right this morning?' A few seconds later the recovery was complete and our ever resourceful team leaders managed to convince him that, in fact, quite a lot had gone right. The teams went some way to proving this by allowing the Brigadier to ask his wife what was for dinner by means of field telephone. After a congenial field bhat (courtesy of the GQM), the Brigadier flew back to start the afternoon's Test Exercise. The subalterns were not going to miss out on the 'fun' so bounced back in a landrover at breakneck speed.

The afternoon surprise was a mass CFT Competition on a section basis followed by the requirement to establish an HF voice link with PRC320 to a control station in Brunei 1000 miles away. In a temperature of 30°C and 95% humidity a fun time was had by all. But where were the girls from 247?

The Brigadier spoke to Brunei on the link established by the winning team. After a short end of day debrief by the Brigadier and a rousing chorus of 'Hip Hips' led by the RSM, our guest left. The Colonel, 2IC and Adjutant smiled and the Regiment retired to the Subas Bar to reconstitute the fluid level.



## School of Signals
## Blandford Camp
## Dorset

**PTARMIGAN**

During the week 25-29 June, PTARMIGAN was on display on Salisbury Plain. The visit of our Colonel-in-Chief is covered elsewhere in this issue and the following photographs reflect other visitors—and a departure—during the week.

Members of Trunk Node 011 prepare to despatch their Trunk Node commander—Capt Ned Gravel—back to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt

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Yes Minister, it will beat the Russians! Mr Geoffrey Pattie Minister of State for Defence Procurement invades the limited space of the switch vehicle

Maj Gen Thorne, GOC 1 Armd Div, proves to himself that PTARMIGAN works

## 2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)

**MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj John Doody** |
| **Tech Adjt** | **Capt (TOT) Bob McKay** |
| **Tfc Adjt** | **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins** |
| **OC Radio Tp** | **Capt Mike Gilyeat** |
| **OC PIU** | **Capt Miles Stockdale** |
| **OC PTT** | **WO1 (YofS) Maurice Campbell** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock** |
| **MT SNCO** | **SSgt Dave Knell** |

### INTRODUCTION

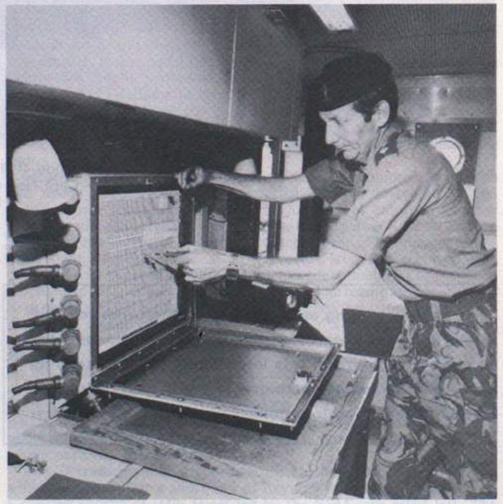
Since the last issue, the squadron strength has risen to 220 in order to carry out the major PTARMIGAN Phase 2D User Trial on Salisbury Plain. This increase in strength has been mainly achieved by the attachment of a large number of officers and soldiers from 1 (BR) Corps and in particular **Capt Ned Gravel** and members of COMCEN DELTA from 1 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

### PTARMIGAN PHASE 2D USER TRIAL

The squadron and attached regular and TA soldiers deployed on Salisbury Plain on 30 April for a six week User Trial during which time every aspect of the PTARMIGAN System was trialed. The main control HQ was located at New Zealand Farm Camp whilst Trunk Nodes, Access Nodes and Single Channel Radio Access elements deployed in woods around the Plain. This was an exciting six weeks and the many soldiers involved achieved high standards of technical and operating standards. Supporting the Squadron were engineers from Plessey who worked alongside the military team. After six weeks of round the clock working our civilian friends had become integral members of the team providing expert advice and engineering support.

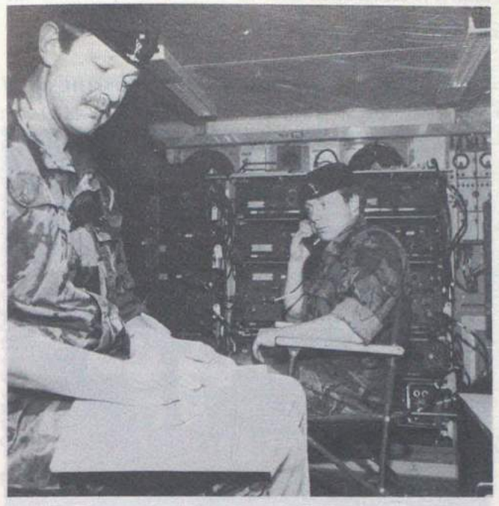
The Squadron returned from Salisbury Plain on 8 June for a well earned week's leave only to return to the Plain for a two week demonstration period. During this period the squadron was visited by our **Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** (see separate report) members of the Ministry of Defence, Arms School, Press, Plessey, Americans and on the final day, the Corps Commander and representatives from many 1 (BR) Corps units who are due to field PTARMIGAN during the next two years.

The visit/demonstration period was a resounding success and there is much confidence in the PTARMIGAN System since its final major trial.



Capt Andy Harkins doing some patching in OSC. (Or is it a charity punch board?)





Cpl Weston and Sig Howe at work in a busy Ptarmigan Radio Relay detachment at Trunk Node 011

LCpl Beverley having put his 10p into the Ptarmigan Switch waiting for the munchmen to appear

The dreaded OSC, LCpl Marsden, Capt Ron Chisholm and Capt Andy Harkins plan the next move

This is your CO. Lt Col Danny Fisher surprises some of his operators during his visit to the trial. Sig Howe watches

## FAREWELL

On 16 April **Maj Phil Whitemore** officially handed over the squadron to **Maj John Doody**. After numerous farewell occasions, including dining out by the officers and seniors in the Sergeants' Mess and then by the Junior Ranks at a farewell disco, **Phil** and **Jenny** departed for the busy life in Rheindahlen where he will continue to support the deployment of PTARMIGAN. With them go the wishes and thanks from all the squadron members and their families.

## WELCOME

The squadron welcomes back as Squadron Commander, **Maj John Doody** who served as Trials Troop Commander in the Squadron some years ago. We wish him and his wife, **Jan**, a happy tour in Blandford. Also joining the squadron is **SSgt (SQMS) 'Butch' Maycock** who has the unenviable task of accounting for the large number of vehicles and stores associated with the PTARMIGAN Trials. When informed that he was to account for over 150 PTARMIGAN installations passing backwards and forwards between Plessey and Blandford he was heard to comment 'Do I have a staff of 20 to help'. Life in the SQMS' department is certainly busy and we welcome his expertise nd drive. Following in **SSgt (SQMS) Maycock's** wake came **SSgt Dave Knell** to take over the vacant post of Squadron MT SNCO. **SSgt Knell** is still counting vehicles, keys and documents and assures us that all is well. Someone forgot to tell him PRE was due in the middle of a major demonstration this year, however, he managed to maintain his sense of humour. We wish both **SSgt Maycock** and **SSgt Knell** a happy, hard working tour, with the Squadron.

## NEWS FROM RADIO TROOP

Since our last report there have been a number of changes within the troop.

We have said our farewells, both permanent and temporary to quite a few and they are: **Sgt Trev Gower** who is now well into the rigours of his Yeomans course and **Cpl Denny Allen** who has left us for the leisure of Lippstadt. Goodbyes are also in order for **SSgt (YofS) 'Dinger' Bell** who eventually found his way out of Blandford to 262 Sig Sqn in Cyprus. Nobody is really envious. Also we must say farewell to **Sgt 'Molly' Collins** who has left us for NI. We wish them all every success.

We temporarily say farewell to **Sig George Best** who has gone to replace **Sig Ros Rosney** with 266 Sig Sqn in the Falkland Islands and also to **Cpl Andy Winter** who having finished his Crypto course is on his way to New Zealand on Ex *Long Look*. Who says you don't get travel with the School of Signals?

Out with the old in with the new; we must also include our welcomes. They are extended to **Sig Hamish Campbell** and **Cpl Stan Sudron** who we hope will enjoy their tour with the troop.

## CONGRATULATIONS

With our other welcome we must also say congratulations. That is to **Sig Sam McLeod** and his wife **Dawn** on the birth of their daughter **Rachel**.

Our final congratulations go to **ASgt 'Chippy' Wood** who has successfully completed his Yeomans selection and also been selected for promotion. Well done.

## ATHLETICS

On Wednesday 1 August the squadron Athletics and Tug of War teams, fresh from Salisbury Plain and a hectic trials period, took part in the Regimental Athletics Competition. The competition, efficiently organised by **Capt Bob McKay** has always been a key event for the squadron and this year was no exception. **SSgt Wood** and **Cpl Wilkinson** chose a first class team and they readily disposed of all competition and with 45 points easily won the Athletics Trophy. The Tug of War team under the guidance of **Sgt Walker** beat Instructional Wing in two straight pulls to retain the Tug of War Trophy.

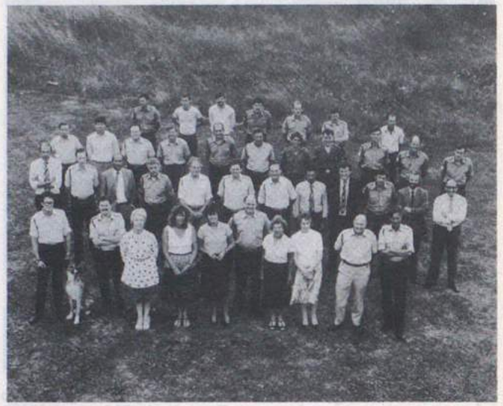
As a prelude to the Athletics' competition, every member of the squadron participated in the Standards competition and it was no surprise when once again we won. Well done all the participants for a splendid effort.

## SOCIAL

On Friday 20 July with some assistance from a well known firm the squadron held a PTARMIGAN Barbeque in the Jubilee Hall. Principal guests were **Mr Peter Venton** from Plessey, **Col** and **Mrs Micky Topple** and **Lt Col** and **Mrs Roy Shiner** (New Trials Director). Over 250 members of the squadron attended, together with our engineer friends from Plessey, and rumour has it that the success of the evening was measured by the time **WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons** managed to lock up the Jubilee Hall and say farewell to the last person at 0200 hrs, or was it 0300 hrs?

During the evening **Maj John Doody** presented an inscribed plaque and picture to **Capt Ned Gravel** and the members of COMCEN DELTA to commemorate their attachment to the squadron for the PTARMIGAN Trials. We wish all the BAOR soldiers a happy journey home and look forward to seeing them again later this year.

## PD (PROJECTS DIVISION) THE FIRST STOP ON THE ROAD TO STATIC COMMUNICATIONS



First who or what is PD? **The who**—a representative example can be seen on our picture, including the SO1, **Lt Col Neil Walter**, the good looking one in the middle. **The what**—the Division is the Army Department's Technical Authority on all aspects of Fixed Service Communications and is responsible for the planning, implementation and in-service management support of static communication systems installed in support of defence requirements world-wide. The Division is part of Engineering wing in the School.

## CONSULTANCIES

The Division is organised into Consultancies (CPs), each consultancy having a particular area of concern. These may be summarised as follows:

CP1 Single channel commercial radio. At present closely involved in the replacement programme for commercial radio.

CP2 Terminal equipment, and our lead in the data communications.

CP3 Multi channel RR, satellite and tropo bearers, looking forward to digitisation, and back from the Falklands.

CP4 Auto and Installation teams, our 'front line' consultancy, ably led by **Lt Col Pat Soward** (TOT), with teams working world-wide on the most up to date systems, and the subject of this month's spotlight, which follows.

## SPOTLIGHT ON 4

CP4 is responsible for planning all major SWS telephone exchange installations for the UK Forces outside NW Europe, and for allocating personnel to install all types of equipment procured for SWS installations planned by Projects Division. The work of planning installations designed to modernise the military telephone exchange networks in Cyprus and Hong Kong has been badly disrupted by events in the South Atlantic where a network of nine CDSSI exchanges was planned and installed on the Falkland Islands, and a further two exchanges installed on Ascension Island. **SSgt (FofS) Dave Woffenden** and his Auto Installation Team of **Sgts Dawson, Graham** and **(now SSgt) Eaton** carried out the initial (interim) installations and will have to return to both locations to enhance the systems as improved software and permanent exchange accommodation becomes available.

The team has also travelled to Gibraltar, Belize, St Helena, Catterick and Harrogate to install new exchange equipment or to enhance existing systems. The next major task is expected to be the installation of four new exchanges in Cyprus as phase 1 of that modernisation project.



## WEST COUNTRY MARATHON

The West Country Marathon is held annually at Gillingham in Dorset. This year it took place on 3 June and the responsibility for the Communications fell to Radio Exercise Troop. As this involved about half of the troop, the OC, **SSgt Bob Keen** decided that the rest might like to volunteer to take part in the Marathon proper! After weeks of training(?) the entrants formed up for the start as a troop and actually managed to stay together for the first half of the race, thereafter it became a personal challenge/ordeal. Although this was their first marathon all participating members achieved respectable times despite gusting winds and hilly course. **LCpls Brian Marshall** and **Ian Hayes** were first in (3 hrs 27 mins) showing no respect for rank by beating the Boss by six minutes. The remainder which included **Sgt Ken Jones, Cpl Ian Henshall, LCpls John Conner, Gary Rawlinson** and **Shaun Cox** showed more respect by closely following their leader in. The Communications team, under **Sgt George Ralph** provided both mobile Communications for the race as well as the Public Address for the spectators. A difficult task especially when performed with an eye on the runners and the other on the beer tent! The organisers, though, were well pleased so well done to **LCpls 'Taff' Walters, Glen Howie, Kieran McMahon** and **Sig Jim O'Reilly** and **'Chippy' Wood**. The following day the troop made their weary way to Summer Camp in Cornwall.

## REGIMENTAL SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY COMPETITION

On Wednesday 18 July the Regiment held its six-a-side hockey competition. Teams were initially arranged in four leagues with two teams from each qualifying for the quarter finals. With a surprisingly high standard most league positions were decided on goal difference with the exception of 1 Sqn's team led by **Sgt Ken Jones** who in two games won two, scoring eight, and having no goals against.

This standard continued through the knockout competition. In one half of the draw **Cpl Mick Applegarth** controlled the PTT team from all over the pitch, against close rivals PIU, ably led by **LCpl 'Mouse' Housley**. Both teams however sustained injuries with **Cpl 'Cas' Cassidy** being taken to hospital with a cut eye and **Cpl 'Bunny' Hill** taking a knock on the head. We are pleased to report that both recovered swiftly with no serious repercussions.

1 Sqn continued to motor on with good team work from **SSgt Frazer Kerr** and **WO2 Dave Hooper. SSgt Marty Roberts** was even seen into a sweat. In the semi-final however 1 Sqn were brought to an abrupt halt when PTT, with the help of **Cpl Gary Waters** in goal, held them to a draw on penalties with 1 Sqn eventual winners. The other half of the draw also produced a nail biting finish between 50 FofS Course and 51 FofS Course, which was decided on penalties. **Sgt Graham Wood's** team, being unable to convert a goal, gave way to **Sgt 'Si' Fawthrop's** team who went on to meet Radio Trials Troop in the semi-finals.

After a quick goal against them, Radio Trials Troop massed great pressure with **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood** and **Cpl Stan Sudron** clearing up at the back. All the running and short corners seemed to have paid off as **Sig Kev Martin** scored but the goal was disallowed. More pressure from **Cpl Denny Allen** and **Sig 'Giz' Pook** was to no avail with 51 FofS Course going through to the final against 1 Sqn. The author's apologies go to **LCpl Ian Watson** who had played well in reaching the semi-final, somebody needed to rest and you did look so tired. The day's toil and experience showed with scoring the first goal for 1 Sqn after only 20 seconds. A second from **SSgt Marty Roberts** seemed to seal the result but, not yet down, the Foreman's Course came back causing some work for **SSgt Bob Keen** and the goal keeper **Cpl Brian Marshall**. The final whistle went with no further score and 1 Sqn had won the competition.

A thank you must go to those behind the scenes, particularly to **Sgt Mick Winchester** and **Sig 'Robbo' Robertson** for their running around and work at the control desk.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The marriage of **Capt Paul King** (30 Sig Regt), only son of **Mr and Mrs King** of South Shields, and **Karen Bresloff**, only daughter of **Capt and Mrs Steve Bresloff**, School of Signals, took place at All Saints Church, Langton Long, Blandford, on 7 July 1984, followed by a reception held in the HQ Mess Royal Signals.

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## 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
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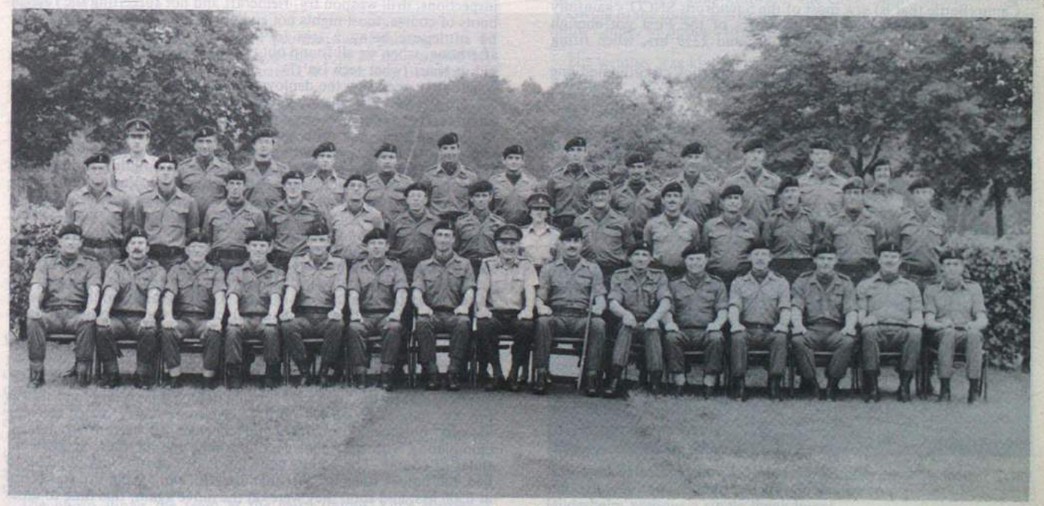
**THE MASTER**

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, visited the Regiment in June. He was met by a quarter guard from 2 Sqn, which was mounted by **Sgt Gratton**.

Cpl Wratten with Lt Col Danny Fisher and Capt Ian Mackenzie in the background

After lunch the Master visited the Stables to see the Corps Horse Plessey Douglas. The master was impressed with the size of the horse and as can be seen from the photograph he barely came up to the horse's shoulder.

*L-R:* Lt Col J. H. Fisher, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, Plessey Douglas with Sig Voros in the saddle and Lt Suzy Reed the Stables Officer



The Regimental Officers on the Master of Signals Visit in June

*L-R Back Row:* Lt Madsen, Lt Cheesman ACC, Lt Sullivan, Lt Smith, Capt Thompson, Capt Weston, Capt Marshall, Capt Eaton, 2Lt Wareham, Lt Workman, Lt Nicholson, Lt Johnson and Lt Reed WRAC

*Centre Row:* Capt Homewood, Capt Mackenzie, Capt Boag, Capt Wilkinson RAPC, Capt Abbott, Capt McCavitt REME, Capt (TOT) Forbes, Capt Moore RAMC, Capt Meiklejohn RCT, Capt Lawrence, Capt (Tfc Offr) Lovell, Capt Logan REME, Capt Graham RPC and Capt Fortune

*Front Row:* Maj Hamm, Maj Elson, Maj O'Gorman Queens, Maj Bingham, Capt Dyer, Maj Saunders, Lt Col Fisher, Maj Gen Badcock, RSM (WO1) Illingworth, Lt Col Herrington LI, Lt Col (Rev) Dodd, Maj Wright, Maj Wraith, Maj Hussey and Maj Schuler

A Swarm of Signal Squadron Sergeant Majors
*Back Row L-R:* WO2 George Bardsley, WO2 Ivor Noble, WO2 Glen Harwood, and WO2 John Drake
*Front Row L-R:* WO2 Ben Britton, WO2 Arthur Crabtree, WO1 (RSM) John Illingworth, WO2 Pete Sutherland and WO2 Jerry Whelan

## 1 SQUADRON REPORT

The month of July saw **Maj C. L. G. Wright** firmly in the First Squadron's Hot Seat, well now and again. Absence was due to numerous trips to UK visiting the rest of his Squadron, Delta Troop, employed with Ptarmigan.

It was off to war again and we deployed on Ex *Javelin*, less the infamous Delta Troop. (COMMCEN DELTA). Our mission was to supply comms for the Control HQ as a run up for Ex *Lionheart*, to be known as the Bigean later this year.

Detachments from the Squadron found themselves moving frequently.

Battle Camp arrived for a week this year from 13 July to 21 July, this saw the Squadron deploying, with, the rest of the warries from the Regiment, to Sennelager Training Area for a week's real training.

Camp (Battle that is) saw most of the Squadrons SNCO's gainfully employed as DS Staff ensuring members of the First got enough training between the hours of 0800 hrs and 2359 hrs, when firing ceased.

**WO2 (SSM) A. Crabtree** complete with big stick co-ordinated one of the four Regimental Range Teams.

WO2 (SSM) A. Crabtree. SSgt Happy 'Vince' McGarry captured on film during one of the nice days

Friday 21 July and the Squadron were up early (very early) it was Walkies! CFT with the Regiment en masse.

It must be said that this was the only day it didn't rain during the week. The Regiment and Squadron, completing the CFT in good time, ended up with a Sing Along in the last half mile of the eight mile course.

Activities on the Camp included climbing but out of a 'small' 12 foot hole on 'M' Assault Course Range; this was one of many obstacles over the 700 metre sandy course.

Considering the Regiment deployed for Camp on 13 July (Friday the 13) during that week there was only one major casualty from the Squadron; this was a case of severe yawning by **Sig 'Jaws' Avery** who received a dislocated jaw!

Meanwhile back at camp, that is Caithness Barracks, members of the Squadron were busy renovating the First Inn, thanks to a loan from the CO/PRI, and help from **Cpls Ludlum, Parkinson, Sgts Ireland**, and many others.

## WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Welcome to the Squadron to **Sig Stephens, LCpl Hughes, SSgt 'Syd' Hayward, Sig Plackett.**

Farewell and very best wishes to **LCpl 'Jock' Campbell, SSgts 'Les' Jackson, (FofS) Stevenson, Sgt 'Dennis' Morgan, Cpl 'Ricky' Connaughton** and many congratulations also to **SSgt (FofS) Stevenson** on his promotion to WO2; well done.

## 2 SQUADRON

### CCF VISIT HAVERSHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL 17-24 JUNE

**Instructors:** **SSgt Phil Rumsey**
**Sgt Pete Richardson**
**Cpl Keith Dobson**
**Cpl Jerry McGoff**
**Sig Adrian Binns**
**Sig Graham Torrible**

No battle camp for me this year, Sir, thought **SSgt Phil Rumsey** but then he was informed of the impending visit of a combined cadet force; all 28 of them.

They arrived on the 17th at Bremen Station and were met by OC 2 Sqn **Maj J. A. Wraith MBE** and **Sgt Rumsey**. With the basic admin details of bedding etc out of the way they were given a welcome and a short briefing on the do's and don'ts and what to expect over the next week; at this stage **Cpl Keith Dobson** and **Cpl Jerry McGoff** had to stand by the door to stop them all leaving! They were then given a brief introduction by OC 2 Sqn on the role of the Regiment and 2 Sqn in BAOR.

Wednesday to Friday went well with the cadets enjoying a varied timetable of activities ranging from battle PT at 0615 hrs to room inspections, drill weapon trg, fieldcraft and not forgetting the runs in boots of course, most nights not ending until after 2000 hrs. The only bit of leisure being a trip to the Heide Park on the Thursday afternoon, when we all found out that **Sgt Pete Richardson** is really a kid at heart (what tech isn't?).

The first week saw the deployment of all the cadets on Ex *Tough Nut* on the Saturday morning at 0700 hrs, Ex *Tough Nut* was to be an infantry type exercise on the Kohlberg training area. The first part of the day went well with the cadets split into two patrols of 14 men/women in each and both occupying a patrol base camp with all the normal routines of guards, patrols, basha building and the ever present 24 hr ration pack which had to be cooked. Various tasks were undertaken during the day such as recce patrols, patrol movement by day and night and learning the proper way to carry out a section attack.

At 2030 hrs the Cadets and Staff set out to a recceed area where the cadets were shown how to set up a vehicle ambush, and then left there.

2245 hrs arrived and amazingly enough along came a landrover full of terrorists (or was it cadet officers?) singing and shouting in what they thought was a free area. Suddenly the sky was lit up by trip flares and thunder flashes, (blanks) and with 28 cadets all shouting at once, the ambush was sprung. The only injury suffered was by **SSgt Rumsey** who was hit in the eye by one of his own patrol (we have all promised to keep her name secret).

The cadets by this time were starting to look a bit weary but this was not the end. They set off on a 4Km cross country patrol crossing various obstacles, ranging from a river to electrified fences, culminating with both patrols ambushing one another, at different times of course. The night's activities ended at 0245 hrs. And so to bed, but not for long, because that dreadful word 'Standto' was heard at 0500 hrs, and soon they were on the move again, this time to cross a bridge; but because there was no bridge they had to make their own.

The final episode of the exercise required each patrol to do a section attack on a defended location. Both sections attacked in correct infantry style (frontal of course) across 150 metres of sand, through smoke and flares, to assault the defenders at the top of a hill. Not to make it too easy for them there was a 2ft puddle to be negotiated and those who did not wade through it had to march through it at the end.



### ENTHUSIASM AND SKILL

The enthusiasm and not a little skill shown throughout the 36 hours were a credit to the cadets exercise and to their school. The girls competed on equal terms with the boys.

The exercise ended with a short march in full kit and packs to the coach.

### ENTERTAINMENT TOO

The cadets entertained us with some amusing sketches of the week's events and **Cpl 'Poet Laureate' Dobson** gave a recital. We were delighted to have the cadets and hope they enjoyed their time with us and found it all very worthwhile.

### 2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC 2 Sqn** | **Maj J. A. Wraith MBE** |
| **2IC** | **Capt G. Boag** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Sutherland** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Gibbons** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Hooley** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt (YofS) Hawley** |
| **OC P Tp** | **Lt Herniman** |
| **OC R Tp** | **SSgt Rumsey** |

There have been quite a few comings and goings in the Squadron over the past month or so; too many to mention by name so we bid fond farewell to all who have left and a welcome to the newcomers. We hope that you will enjoy life with the 2 Squadron.

### SUMMER ADVENTURE TRAINING
### PAPA TP

The origins of Papa Troop's OK expedition can be loosely traced to a Squadron Dinner night in the Sgts' Mess. It was decided that we should definitely organise an exercise during the Squadron Summer Camp period.

The final decision was that we should go to UK and climb the three highest peaks: Ben Nevis, Scafell Pikes and Snowden and form the exercise around that. The lucky team members were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lt Roddy Nicholson** | **(Leader, driver and butt of Irish jokes)** |
| **SSgt (YofS) Mick Hawley** | **(2IC, driver and loser of kit)** |
| **LCpl Al Marlow** | |
| **Sig 'Jimmy' Burns** | **(Interpreter, cobbler, morale)** |
| **'Stiff' Corpse** | **(honorary jock)** |
| **'Archie' Gemmel** | **(translations for interpreter)** |
| **'Aussie' Plant** | |
| **'Bobbie' Moore** | |
| **'Garf' Garfoot Dixon** | |

We set off on 21 May after minor problems with packing 10 × 10 man ration packs into the minibus together with all the personal kit. The journey to Zeebrugge was uneventful, if rather wet, (we think the bus must have been leaking).

Arriving at Pen-y-Pass the following evening, we were keen to see our campsite. Anyone who knows the area and the Miners Track from the Youth Hostel will be familiar with a rocky spur on the left some 300m from the Car Park . . . that was it. There was a strong wind blowing and after an uncomfortable night we made an early start and reached the wind swept summit by 0830 hrs much to the surprise of the maintenance engineer, on the summit cafe.

From here we rejoined the minibus and headed towards the lakes. The weather improved steadily on the journey and the evening climb of Scafell Pikes was graced with glorious sunshine. We had thought that at least some of the descent might have to be done in darkness but we were safely back in the minibus by dusk and headed off for Scotland.

### WE MOVE NORTH

An unscheduled halt was necessary some 40 miles from Fortwilliam due to driver fatigue, not to mention the ever increasing incidents of cramp, in the back of the bus. At 1000 hrs we continued our journey and were at the foot of Ben Nevis shortly before 1300 (having stopped off in Fortwilliam for a McTavishe's Scottish Breakfast).

The route used on the Ben was the tourist track which zigzags its way to the summit in seemingly endless fashion. We reached the summit at 1605 and were rewarded with clear skies and sunshine—a rare event on Ben Nevis.

The photo shows the team at the cairn (minus **YofS Hawley**—photographer and **Sig Garfoot** who was ill).

We spent 30 minutes on the summit and then descended quickly. The three peaks had been completed in just under 36 hours.

We had arranged accommodation with the local TA unit (2/51 Highland Volunteer) and as it was a drill night on our first evening there, we were able to see them at work and of course have a few quiet drinks with them. The following day was a welcome rest day.

*Standing L-R:* Sig Moore, Burns, LCpl Marlow, Sig Dixon, Lt Nicholson
*Sitting L-R:* Sig Plant, Corpse, Gemmell

Saturday and Sunday were spent in Glen Coe on low level navigation training and it was to here that we returned on Monday for the traverse of the Aonach Eagoch Ridge. There are several spectacular pinnacles to be negotiated on the traverse and the three most exciting (aptly named the Crazy pinnacles) are small but very exposed and lie on the narrowest part of the ridge.

The first part of the ridge is known locally as Ptarmigan ridge and although we were not lucky enough to see any of the birds the name is an interesting coincidence in view of the Regiment's future re-equipping.

We set off on Tuesday for the Isle of Skye and stayed at a well run, but rather busy campsite at Glebrittle. Wednesday was wet and foggy but we did attempt a climb. The rock is magnetic, rendering the compass useless. Overnight rain had turned tiny water courses into fully fledged streams and an error in navigation caused us to make a three hour detour. In retracing our steps we lost a lot of height but finally got back onto the correct course. The last 1500ft of the climb is up a steep narrow gully known as the Great Stone Chute.

Owing to the time, the weather and the anticipated conditions in the Stone Chute, we decided to return to camp and try again the following day.

The weather was kind to us on the last day and a successful ascent was made. Many found this last climb the most satisfying. The summit is tiny and we could only actually stand on it three at a time. The views were magnificent: Rhum and Eigg could be seen to the south whilst the entire Black Cu Ridge was visible to the north. What had taken us over an hour to ascend, took us some 15 minutes only to come down.

The team were pleasantly surprised at the enjoyment to be had from hillwalking and hope that they may carry on with the sport. Everyone did extremely well and it was unfortunate that **Sig Garfoot** missed Ben Nevis through illness. Still, **YofS Hawley** will be organising something for next year.

## 3 SQUADRON

**Report by 2Lt A. D. R. Broad**

June's activities were dominated to a great extent by the big run-up Exercise to *Lionheart*, Ex *Javelin*. It was designed to iron out any problems which might seriously upset *Lionheart*, and achieved its object.

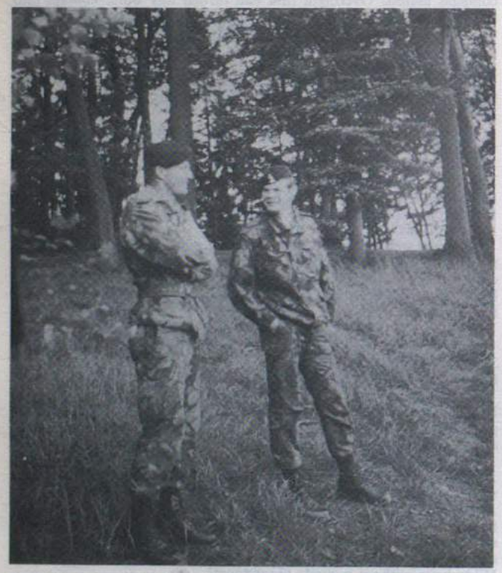
So from our point of view, the Exercise went very well. Because the 1st Armoured Division was given the task of umpiring the exercise, we were split up into penny packets providing Comms for the various Area Co-ordination Centres throughout the Corps Area. All the ACC host units were most accommodating and very easy to work with, making the exercise very enjoyable. Even better was that Oscar Troop can proudly boast that all its Panzers drove from Verden to Hildesheim without a single breakdown!

Coming back in from *Javelin* gave us two weeks to wash up, repair our faults, think out problems ready for *Lionheart* and then we were into July's big event, Regimental Training Camp. 'Sunny' Sennelager was the venue. True to form it rained on us every day, bar the final one; allowing us to get hot doing our CFT. The Training Camp was over a week; 3 Squadron provided 4 Section who enthusiastically tackled all that came their way. 3 Section, made up entirely of

'Linies', and ably commanded by harassed RTG **Cpl Denis Topley**, annoyed everyone by singing and whistling his way through the most atrocious weather and splashing into every puddle in sight. **Sgt 'Tankie' Sherman** discovered it was inadvisable to laugh at their being soaked when he found himself rolled in a six inch deep puddle. Despite the weather, everybody enjoyed the break from routine and gained a great deal from the exercise and the various activities performed.

We finish by saying that the Squadron was sad at the departure of **WO2 (SSM) John Drake** and his family, who have gone to the School of Signals. We thank you both for all you have done and wish you the very best for the future. At the same time we welcome **WO2 (SSM) Ben Britton** and **Beryl**. Congratulations on your promotion and good fortune on your posting into 3 Squadron.

Ex *Javelin*—The Intrepid Panzer-men of Oscar Troop prepare to depart



Spot the poser! Cpl Dave Cook pretends to be a General. LCpl John Farnel looks on impressed

# 201 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
# BFPO 30

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj R. M. J. Hussey** |
| **2IC** | **Capt S. G. Marshall** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 G. M. Whelan** |
| **YOS** | **WO2 D. Bowden** |
| **OC Alpha Troop** | **Lt J. S. H. Johnson** |
| **OC Bravo Troop** | **Lt S. Workman** |
| **FOS** | **SSgt T. McMahon** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt R. Cook** |

**COMMANDER VISITS**

A highlight was the visit of Commander 1 Div, **Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE** on 5 June. It was his first look at the Squadron and he was able to meet and view us as we took part in a busy NBC training day on Hohne Ranges. The day was designed to teach NBC drills and the application of practical skills in an NBC environment. Under the keen gaze of the General, sections visited various stands, the most interesting being a command task stand. The General watched as a

Gen Thorne asks Lt Justin Johnson 'A Poser'. The Section, Sig Beaker Nield, Paddy Murray, Scouse Watkinson, Alf Kirkham, Cpl Kev Baxter, Sig Caine Gunter, look with apprehensive expressions, but Justin did know the answer!

section led by **Sgt John Dunne** negotiated a course which included an arduous minefield crossing by means of a rope walkway, changing a landrover tyre without the use of a jack, and assembling weapons from a box of assorted parts. All this while dressed in full NBC kit, under attack and with the added burden of an imposed casualty, **Sig Ian** (5 foot tall and 'I've been short listed as a dog handler') **Doherty** who probably had the worst of it.

Over a welcome cup of tea **Gen Thorne** was able to chat to all the squadron before presenting us with the trophy as Divisional Minor Unit Recognition Champions. He also presented **Sgt George Frith RAPC** with his Army Badminton colours. Finally **Sig 'Paddy' Murray** presented the GOC with a 201 Signal Squadron Plaque which he seemed very pleased to accept on behalf of HQ 1 Armoured Division.

**EXERCISE *JAVELIN 1984***

Life is seldom quiet in a Brigade Signal Squadron, exercises playing a large part in our lives. *Javelin 84* was an unusual exercise for the Squadron as we were umpires, completely non tactical and, feeling strangely naked without our webbing. We were also split, the Bruin element under **Capt Steve Marshall** being deployed with 5 Airborne Brigade while the remainder formed our normal Brigade HQ loosely blistered on to 3 Div HQ. As 3 Div were fully tactical we were about as welcome as a bus full of lepers but, as our main concern was



keeping our white arm bands clean, we didn't get too upset. The OC and SSM had a marvellous time, while acting as umpires they were able to take out a number of key 3 Div rebros causing general chaos and making one 3 Div Sqn Commander tear his hair out with rage and frustration. They were henceforth known as the 'hit squad' and couldn't get a coffee anywhere. *Javelin* was a Corps CPX designed to test Umpire Comms for *Lionheart* later in the year and as such proved a useful and successful exercise for the Squadron.

**BISLEY 84**

Despite exercise commitments the Squadron was able to send a team to Bisley this year by dint of coming runners up in the Divisional Minor Units Skill at Arms Meeting. The team under team captain **Sgt George Musselwhite RPC** acquitted themselves reasonably well, considering it was their first Bisley appearance and, came 23rd out of 38 teams.

Good individual performances came from **Sgt George Musselwhite RPC**, 15th out of 525 in the pistol. Also **Cpl Dave Foster** just missing the Army hundred in the rifle by coming 120th. The rest of the team were **Cpls 'Ginge' Battle, John Levins, LCpls Clive Adams, Dave Proudlove** and **Sig 'Taff' Cork**.

**LANGSMANHOFF MARCH**

For those lucky enough not to have heard of this annual Hohne Roadrun/March, mention must be made of this gruelling event. Organised by the resident Dutch Tank Battalion, the march is open to all British, Dutch and German Units and is keenly contested each year. By adroit juggling of crews, the Squadron was able to send a 12 man team, led by **Lt Scott Workman** back from Ex *Javelin* to compete.

The team of **Cpl 'Gaz' Grove, LCpls 'Jimmy' Joyce, 'Muz' Murry, Phil Moffatt, 'Mal' Burman, Sig Phil Render, Phil Bridge, Ads Jaques, Mick Poyning** and **Steve Towers** ran all opposition literally into the ground to record the fastest time of 7 hrs 59 mins. This was a tremendous effort and consolidates the Squadron's fine record in this event. Over the last five years the Squadron team has finished first and worn out a lot of boots.

**TWO PHASE SUMMER CAMP**

*Lemon Diamond* was the Squadron's Summer Camp held over a fortnight and split into two phases. Phase one was organised into separate projects, led by JNCOs and covering a wide variety of activities.

**Cpls 'Tich' Wray** and **Don Boscoe** took 15 men adventure training in the Harz Mountains. **LCpl 'Jock' Lambe** led an intrepid team on a cycling tour of Lower Saxony. **Sgt John Bennett** kept the SNCOs out of harms way dinghy sailing at the Weser Yacht Club. **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden** led an offshore sailing expedition around Denmark (separate report). **LCpl Thistlewhite** took a team on a sponsored Marathon run to raise money for Cancer Research. **LCpl 'Muz' Murry** led a group of canoeists. **Cpl 'BJ' Fenton** organised a team in a community project, building a playground for one of the local schools.

All the Squadron were engaged in something and a good time was had by all, invaluable experience being gained by JNCOs in leading and organising their own projects.

The Squadron met up at Schleswig Holstein in North Germany for the second phase. The camp near Schleswig was organised by **Lt Scott Workman**, selected for his good looks and lack of suitable excuses. Each day started with a spine bracing seven miler before breakfast and orienteering, sailing, First Aid instruction, recognition training, wind surfing, canoeing and bridge building were the subjects covered during the week. The latter subject was run by our host unit 620 Pioneer Battalion of the German Army based in the town of Schleswig. A good relationship was built up with the Germans and also with a local American 'sneaky beaky' unit who showed unstinted generosity towards us.

The week ended with a Tri Nation sports day in which **Sgt Pete Farrington**'s football team trounced the Germans 7—0 while **Lt Justin Johnson**'s softball team were a little less successful against the Americans. One of the Americans was heard to say about **Sig Mick Poyning** 'Your guy on first base is cool, he's real cool'. The SSM who was having a frustrating time as pitcher was heard to refer to **Sig Poyning** in an unkinder vein seeming to think his name was Hunt.

The day was rounded off by a superb barbecue complete with whole lambs spit roasted by our cooks **Cpl 'Mac' McDonald** and **Pte John Homer**, finishing cementing British, German and American friendship in that area.

**SAILING**

**Report by WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden**

We left Hohne early on the morning of 6 July after much planning and preparation bound for the British Kiel Yacht Club. The crew consisted of **WO2 (YOS) Dave Bowden—Skipper, Sig 'Bamber' Gascoyne—Mate?, Sig 'Stu' McConnell, Sig Adam Jaques, Mr Colin Storey (a Potential Officer)**.

A five berth Sabre 27 had been chartered for the period with the intention of introducing members of the Squadron to Offshore sailing. This soon proved to be more than the case.

After taking over the boat and stowing gear we did some dry training in harbour and then set sail for **Sonderborg** in Denmark, this was to be an 'in at the deep end' (if that is the right phrase) longish night sail, as darkness fell and the sea rose so did a few stomachs—and we soon had a queue at the Leeward rail of green faced men looking for a bloke called Hughie.

After some discussion just before dawn between the Mate and a member of the crew as to whether or not they had to wait until a lighthouse sector changed from Green to Purple with yellow spots before they tacked, we found ourselves on the approaches to Sonderborg harbour. We were soon alongside and in bed. To our surprise we found we had arrived on the opening day of the local festival and a good time was had by all.

Slipping harbour at a reasonable time the next morning we did a steady day's sail to the beautiful village of Aeroskobing on the Danish island of Aero, arriving at about 2130 hrs. The following day we departed for Faborg doing some sail training on the way and getting a good berth in harbour just before the arrival of the 1 Armd Div Regatta. The Skipper was soon coerced into going aboard the boats of acquaintances to accept free gin and tonics, purely to be sociable, of course.

Sqn Offshore Sailing Team WO2 (YofS) Bowden—Skipper, Sig Bamber Gascoyne—Mate?, Stu McConnell, Adam Jaques, Mr Colin Storey—Pot Officer

Following the early departure of the fleet the next morning we sailed for Marstal—the hard way—(not that there is a particularly easy one) down every narrow channel (preferably into wind) that the Skipper could find with everyone commenting about how you could 'see the bottom over there'. Eventually we were alongside in harbour, being taken in with the Mate at the helm, (I'm sure the lifejackets weren't really necessary). We arrived to find that, yes, it was the local festival that night. The Skipper swears the choice of harbours was pure coincidence. A conversation with a German ex U Boat sailor proved extremely enlightening about his visits to Denmark in 1940. The Mate took us to sea next day bound for Dampt 2000 in Germany which was to be our last port of call before returning to Kiel. The only excitement occurred just before the wind died completely when the watch on deck thought they saw a capsized sailing dinghy, on investigation it proved to be a tree trunk; better safe than sorry.

The navigation proved to be spot on again (no it is not luck), this time done by **'Stu'** and the oil platforms off Dampt appeared out of the haze. A good entry into a very crowded marina was made by our superb skipper (I wonder who wrote this?). A final good run ashore was had by all.

A later start followed the next morning on our passage back to Kiel which proved to be quite an exhilerating sail, with one or two worried looks, as the sea took us under the quarter. Finally we were alongside in BKYC after a very enjoyable and worthwhile weeks sailing.

As a postcript. If the person who refused to take our line whilst we were coming alongside BKYC is reading these notes I would just like to say thank you and I hope I can return the favour one day!

**BASKETBALL**

Mention must be made of our Squadron Basketball Team who have enjoyed their most outstanding season yet. The team under the 'dynamic' leadership of **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Whelan** have for the last three years won the 1st Armd Div Minor Unit League, qualifying them for the BAOR Championships which they narrowly missed winning in 1982. This year they excelled themselves by not only winning the Div Competition but finishing top of the 22 Armd Bde Major Unit League, beating all the big boys on the way. We are hoping to continue this trend in 1984 and look forward to the start of the new season.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Finally we would like to say a sad farewell to the following: **SSgt Mick O'Hare** and his wife **Marion** on promotion and posting to Training Wing 11 Sig Regt. **Sig Mick Naylor RAOC** and **Maureen** posted to 12 Amd Regt RA, **Sgt Paul Martin** and **Helga** on posting to 22 Sig Regt and **LCpl Jim Joyce** and **Isabell** on posting to 30 Sig Regt.

We would like to welcome: **SSgt Bob Cook** and his wife **Margaret** from just up the road at 207 Sig Sqn, our new SQMS, **Sgt Norman Parsons** and **Gloria, Cpl Gary Grove** and **Nichola, Cpl Kev Baxter** and **Annette, LCpl Dave Corkett**.

We wish them all an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

**207 (7 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Howard Ham** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Paul Eaton** |
| **OC A1 Tp** | **Lt David Sullivan** |
| **OC A2 Tp** | **2Lt Hugh Wareham** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Ivor Noble** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 John Floyd** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Dougie Brisco** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Jim Neil** |

**MANY CHANGES**

Since out last contribution to *The Wire* we have seen far too many changes of personnel to list them all in this article. Suffice to say to those who have left us, a fond farewell and, to those who have arrived, a warm welcome. Despite the turbulence, everyone seems to have settled into our somewhat hectic Squadron routine, with the minimum of fuss. Despite the long list of exercises, inspections, site guards etc that the Squadron performs we still manage to enjoy ourselves which the report from Ex *Mountain Diamond* (Summer Camp) reveals as you read on ...

**BAD TOLZ RAFT RACE**
**EXERCISE *MOUNTAIN DIAMOND***

Otherwise known as Summer Camp, took place this year in Bad Tolz, a Bavarian spa nestling in the foothills of the Alps. The Squadron was hosted by the staff of the American 7th Army NCO Academy whose assistance during the exercise was invaluable. The camp gave everyone a rare chance to learn a whole range of adventurous training activities, but the high point was undoubtedly the Isar River Raft Race. The Squadron was let loose on 10 flimsy rubber boats which 'put to sea' at a lonely spot high in the mountains above Bad Tolz. Ashen-faced locals covered their eyes as the rafts careered through rapids and demonstrated new weir-crossing techniques accompanied by shouts of 'Go for it!' Some crews approached the race rather more casually than others and **Sgt 'Dingsa' Bell** even found time for a quick dip en route. The Black Adder (**Pte Barker ACC**) also claimed to be the first man to shoot the Isar Rapids with the aid of crutches (as paddles?). Finally, five hours later, the boats bounced off the piers of the bridge in Bad Tolz and exhausted crews spilled onto the shore. Another race is planned for next year ... you have been warned!

Another unforgettable event, for different reasons, was **Sgt Fred Cottingtons'** orienteering course (it is believed that a team of mountain goats attempted the course but gave up after checkpoint two). After completing it inside six hours in the pouring rain, a bedraggled OC and equally unimpressed SSM were overhead plotting **Sgt Cottingtons** posting to Tibet. No account of summer camp would be complete without mentioning the feats of **Sig Eddie Gajny** who finished both the orienteering course (with **Pte Steve Wilkins RPC**) and the highest Bergwanderung in Germany in record times.

**WATERS SPORTS**

The water sports consisted of sailing, canoeing and windsurfing. The base for the activities was a German Army Diving School harbour on the Stourberg Sea in Bavaria. The Recce team had done well, they had found all in one place, a safe overnight harbour for equipment, a pub and a beach for topless bathers. Unfortunately the all important wind was often lacking. Most of the stories and photographs failed to pass the beady eye of the censor. Needless to say the water sports did not lack supervision from officers, SNCOs and anyone else who could get away with it. This beach caused quite a problem for instructors, trying to retain pupils attention (by day two the instructors were used to it (them)) also for the medic trying to treat eye strain and pulled necks. Overall the water sports seemed to be a popular, relaxing and informative part of the Squadron's summer camp.

**BAOR ATHLETICS**

The BAOR athletics were held this season at the Sennelager Athletics ground on Saturday 30 June. The Squadron had been able to secure a place at this meeting by being the 7 Armd Bde Minor Unit Champions and runners up in the 1st Armd Div meeting. Due to Exercise commitments our performance was spirited but not sufficient to earn a good placing, seventh. Particular mention must be made of **Sig Steve Marshall** who came second in the shot, **Sig 'Chip' Mutton** second in the Javelin, also to **Sgt 'Lester' Piggott** and **Sig 'Ninja' Scott** who stood in for absent athletes at the triple and high jumps.

| **Team** | |
|---|---|
| **100m** | **Cpl Smith REME** |
| **200m** | **Cpl Smith REME** |
| **400m** | **Cpl Plant** |
| **800m** | **SSgt (FofS) Brisco** |
| **1500m** | **Sig Gajny** |
| **5000m** | **Cpl Preston** |
| **400m Hurdles** | **Pte Hamilton RPC** |
| **4 × 400m** | **SSgt Brisco** |
| | **Cpl Preston** |
| | **Cpl Plant** |
| | **Pte Hamilton** |
| **Javelin** | **Sig Mutton** |
| **Shot** | **Sig Marshall** |
| **Discus** | **Sgt Piggott** |
| **T/Jump** | **Sgt Piggott** |
| **H/Jump** | **Sig Scott** |
| **L/Jump** | **Sig Scott** |

**SWIMMING**

Well worthy of mention is the achievement of the Squadron swimming team who ran out winners in a close competition to become 7 Armd Bde Minor Unit Champions.

**NEW CORPS HISTORY**
**WERE YOU THERE? HAVE YOU A STORY TO TELL?**
**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Corps Committee has agreed plans for a new history of the Corps. Philip Warner, a professional author who has produced several books with wide appeal, has agreed to write the History and the Corps Committee has appointed **Lt Col Robin Painter** as research manager for this project. It is intended that the story should be primarily about people and should paint a picture of the work done by the Corps in peace and war, the way members of the Corps live through events, and the people (of **all** ranks) who took part in them.

If you have a story to tell, or contemporary reports or other relics whether concerning the Corps on operations or peacetime activities, developments (technical or otherwise) or any other facet of life in the Corps, please write to, or contact by telephone:-

**Lt Col R. P. D. F. Painter,**
c/o Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford,
Dorset. DT11 8RH
(Telephone No: 0258 52581 Ext 267)



## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
## York

**EX *JAVELIN 1984***

Ex *Javelin* warranted another trip to BAOR via Hull-Europort. A major exercise firstly on our own and then with the Staff. This all culminated with the return trip via Holland and a short sea crossing. To many that could be the memory of some of the rather forgettable exercises we seem to do 50% of each and every year. However, there were some priceless daily incidents, in fact too many to mention here, but one or two individuals ended up with egg on their faces or found themselves at work not normally listed on their job description. description.

**Lt Alfie Brand** leading his own packet learnt how awkward Route E3 can be in the area of Oberhausen when he missed the turning east for Hamm. This was an acceptable excuse as he has not yet served in BAOR and he wanted to see more of the German countryside. At one of the first locations, the village of Ehrsen near Herford, a barn offered ideal cover for the box body complex. Firstly part of the contents of the barn had to be moved and this meant **WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison** rolling, with the help of a few others, some 200 (we believe he was exaggerating) large barrels of animal fat. These of course had to be moved back when we moved out.

It was while in this location that **Sig 'Junior' Cole**, who has taken on the responsibility of driving the CRE, **Lt Col Chris Jones**, thought that he had the prime sleeping location in the 9' × 9' tent. When, during the night, the rain thundered off the overhanging roof the CRE contemplated changing sides. His thoughts were cut short when the water, which had congregated on Junior's side cascaded through the slightly open window flap, soaking Junior completely. We understand the CRE rolled over and slept soundly. On leaving the location the step down vehicles were ordered not to set up in another location in the RCZ but move into the 4 Division. In their normal prepared manner the line section of **Sgt 'Dickie' Bird** and **Sig David Dale** had laid the now unwanted step up site. It did not amuse **Cpl Terry Pocock** and **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor** to go and clear this unwanted wire. No doubt the odd 'orange handbag' exchanged hands.

Elsewhere, after a piece of convoy misrouting by **Lt Adam Hearn, Sgt Chris Christian** managed to bounce a 16/24 from the back of his vehicle end over end down the slope. When it finally arrived at echelon only the odd dent showed it had been in an accident. The stony silence on trying to start it showed the degree of bounce. But probably the most memorable event will be at the final location in the grounds of a rather marvellous Gut. Here, as depicted in the cartoon, the Recce Officer **Capt Paul Ellis** managed to get the signals containers inside the courtyard only to forget that the Staff box bodies were higher. An offhand solution was immediately suggested that we let the tyres down; and we did! But it was a very pretty cobbled courtyard.

Just to test the speed of the allied press and information centre at Hildesheim the Divisional Press Officer, **Maj Mike Lindsay-Stewart BW** tasked the UPO, **Capt David Proctor**, for a few stories and pictures. Using the talents of the Ops Officer, **Capt Andy Johnstone**, and his camera a number of posed shots were taken for the Yorkshire Press. At the time a rather innocent picture of **LCpl Steve Sunman** and **Sig Craig Stammers** was more poignant later as **Sunman**, while at the Squadron party in York a few days later, ended up with a broken ankle after **Stammers** drove over him in his car.

Every trip, besides conveying the wanted publicity through the right channels, the regiment has managed to hit the headlines in some way or other. This time we created a major splash when in mid channel on the return from Europort on the North Sea Ferries *Norland*, **Dvr Ziajka**, on loan from 60 Sqn RCT in Catterick, while promenading on the top deck went over the side. **Cpl 'Jock' Williams** and **Dvr Lee Tingle** made desperate efforts to save him without luck. After a tumble of a good 60ft **Ziajka** surfaced to see the tail lights of the ship. Three lifebelts went overboard, the ship stopped and turned, and within a total time of 23 minutes he was back on board in a slightly shocked state. **Maj Richard Gravestock** OC troops made a ship to shore call to try and pre-empt the publicity that could await our arrival. Meanwhile our Olympic diver and swimmer was greeted with a bill for lifebelts, a 2nd Mate's uniform, paint off the side of the boat and fuel!

Ready for anything. WO1 (RSM) Bill White and WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison

SSgt (YofS) Nick Hammett on a box, Sgt Mick Blyth, SSgt (FofS) Pete Wilson and LCpl Mike Reed

**VISIT OF SO IN C**

On Wednesday 4 July the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen Benbow**, visited the Regiment at York for the first time. After being met at Headquarters by the CO, **Lt Col Mike Taylor**, the SOinC called on the CRA, **Brig Peter Bonnet.** From there he met the personalities of RHQ over tea which kept **Sig Peter Howley** busy.

The day had been planned to include every aspect in the Regiment and the General soon found himself visiting the Squadron Offices and the excellent soldier's accommodation. A walk over the Davies Bridge where he met **WO1 (ASM) Les Soper REME** in his workshop which would be the envy of any major Japanese firm looking for a new car plant in the UK. **Capt John Turner** had once again laid out the Commhds in the MT Area. A suitable location and squadron for some light hearted banter. This was followed by a demonstration from 15 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Troop on a large grass area to the rear of the gymnasium. OC Troop, **Capt Bob Brannigan**, and his 2IC, **2Lt Mark Davis**, had the opportunity to show the SOinC their Brigade HQ tented complex and a chance to say a few words to all the members of the troop, including Troop Sgt, **SSgt Andy Wilson**. After pre-lunch drinks in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, lunch with the officers and seeing a few more offices and stores, the SOinC departed in the late afternoon.

Capt Bob Brannigan describing his troop to the SOinC. Always smiling 2Lt Mark Davis and Sgt Moss Wright and Sig Geordie Reid look on

Capt Nick Thompson as stand in OC 2 Sqn adjusts his hair while the SOinC meets from *Right to Left:* LCpl Charlie Roost, Sig Clev Murray, 'Rab' Risk, John Hartney, LCpl Neil Hayden, Sig Elvis Donnelly, Simon Wright, LCpl Tony Dodd

*Left to Right:* SSgt Trev Ryan, Sig Andy Howerd, Deaville, 'Paddy' Hineson, LCpl John Hyde and with his best side to the camera Capt John Turner

**THE GOC XI V THE CO'S XI**

Last year the gin and tonic brigade of the Divisional Staff started what will hopefully become a traditional annual cricket match. This year it was decided to step it up from the COS's XI to the GOC's XI. At the same time the Signallers were trying for a second victory. It was obvious that there was a great deal of talent available to the Staff including **Maj John Moss RE**, a regular Corps player. On our side, a combination of **Lt Alfie Brand** and **Lt Chris Richards**, both of 2 Sqn, selected a team. Like last year the spirit was willing but the talent was short. However we might have been accused of playing a Ringer in **Capt Vince Pearson**, an Army Catering Corps bowler and batsman who was in his last week in the Army, had he not, in his capacity as head chef, already done so much for everyone over the last year what with mess functions, exercises, Kohima etc.

On the day the following played for the CO's XI:

**Lt Col Mike Taylor, Maj George Finney** and **Iain Robertson, Capt David Proctor, John Turner, Vince Pearson ACC, Richard Davis, Lt Nevil Thompson, Chris Richards** and **Barry Keegan**. And finally **WO1 (RSM) Bill White** whose inclusion, besides the likely athleticism in the field and undoubted aggression (being a Yorkshireman) with the bat, was an absolute necessity. In a moment of crisis the voice of sanity would be required and the RSM was the obvious man for the job when you consider the rest of the field were officers.

The rules were fairly simple; everyone bowled, including the wicketkeeper, but this time being out for a duck was acceptable. **Maj Adrian Orr RA**, Captain of the GOC's XI, and **Maj George Finney** the 2IC and Captain of the CO's XI, after placing the collapsable stumps on the wicket (a product of BAOR) tossed up. The decision, due to our weak team, had already been forced upon us to field so that the Staff could have a game. Feeling a bit like the English v West Indies and looking rather splendid in our whites, (many thanks to **Cpl 'Doc' Ash RAMC** in the Medical Centre for the provision of so many orderlies white trousers) we bowled the first ball at approximately 1430 hrs.

Virtually everyone took a wicket except for **Maj Iain Robertson** who, using a grenade throwing technique, took two including that of **Maj John Moss RE** who at number ten had already hit a hefty 26 and looked good for a few more before he was taken out by an excellent full toss. The GOC, **Maj Gen Peter Inge**, looked more than capable of putting the ball over the boundary and did so immediately on reaching the crease. However, seeking a second such boundary, he lifted the ball only to have it plucked from the sky by **Capt John Turner**. No one heard the GOC's comment to **John** at teatime. A little worried that they had amassed a score of 57 for one after only a few overs the wickets tumbled and they were all out for 159 off 28 overs, **Lt Nevil Thompson** taking the last wicket of **Maj Orr.**

Tea was a splendid affair, water cress and salmon sandwiches, and numerous cream cakes. **Cpl Sue Langston, LCpl Chris Meaden** and **Pte Garry Williams** had done an excellent job. In addition **Sig Peter Howley** from the Officers Mess, provided more than adequate teatime refreshments at the bar. He did, however, under-estimate considering the high temperature of the day, the quantity of beer, lager and shandy that was required at the end of the match.



Like last time our innings started badly. We were one for one in the first over after **Capt Richard Davis** better known for his shooting skills, had been bowled. To be fair, we were up against a number of good bowlers. The GOC, CRA, **Maj Moss** and **Flt Lt Lee Gothard** RAF could all turn a good arm. But by picking their odd loose ball and also waiting for the weaker bowler we progressed to 138 for one before **Capt Vince Pearson** was LBW, a little tiredly, for 30. A few minutes later **Capt David Proctor** retired after scoring 103 including a six that had parted the batsmen in mid conversation as they sat in the tented pavilion.

**Maj George Finney**, who included a six which was carried over the boundary before he was out LBW, and **Lt Nevil Thompson** provided the final touches for us to finish the innings 158 for three. **Capt John Turner** did not to his dismay, although he had to replace his pads and go to the crease, receive a ball. The evening was rounded off with a marvellous Bar-B-Q. No one who attended deserves a mention except for **LCpl Colin Stamp** and **LCpl Phil Harding** who worked over the hot ash to produce numerous steaks, sausages and chicken pieces.

**REGIMENTAL WATER POLO**

Although the swimming team had not qualified at the Northern Area Finals the Water Polo Squad, much to their and everyone's surprise, had beaten 38 Engr Regt from Ripon 9—7 and lost 11—8 to the Kings Own Royal Border Regt from Catterick. As runners up we therefore qualified for the Zone Finals.

Those took place at Catterick Swimming Pool on Monday 9 July. This unfortunately was a few days into the block leave period, however, the majority of players came from the TA Brigade Signal Troops, who were still at work. The Swimming Officer, **Lt Carolyn Caddick**, sat pensively at one side wondering whether we would need the administrative arrangements for the next round of the Competition, the UKLF Finals at Cove. These were to take place the following week, Monday 16 July, and would have further disrupted leave. This problem did not have any affect on the team and under the leadership of **Capt Vince Pearson ACC** and **Cpl Alan Patterson** we stormed through to win 11—10 against 8 Sig Regt, who were a last minute replacement. It cannot be left unsaid that a great deal of time was spent by those two individuals sitting behind the goal.

We therefore qualified automatically as Zone Finalists for Cove but our only intention at this stage was to seek revenge on the KOB. After four quarters the score was 6—6. **Cpl Sid Holderness RE** and **Sig Simon Wright**, who had both played up front, were looking a little tired. At the back **Cpl 'Chas' Stewart REME** and **LCpl 'Willy' Williams** had both played exceptionally well, keeping some very aggressive KOB attackers at bay. While in the first quarter after a long period of no score **SSgt Colin Taylor** suffered the unfortunate indignity of putting the ball in the back of his own net when trying to throw it forward. He might well have got away with it had his hand not got caught in the net.

No polo match ends in a draw so two further periods of three minutes were played which finished 8—8. In the final nerve racking three minutes we could only manage one goal against the opposition's two. Final result was therefore a very respectable 10—9, and once again we were runners up.

For the trip to Cove on the 16th we were without the talents of **Cpl Alan Patterson** who had arranged to get married on Saturday 14 July and was on his honeymoon. His skills were badly missed and we hope that next year his social arrangements will be slightly better arranged. Cove's hospitality provided by 1 and 3 Training Regiment RE was excellent and offered the sauna-like environment of the pool balcony for the first game and then the slaughter area of the pool itself as we went down, literally, 19—1 to the Army champions 36 Engr Regt, **Sig Simon Wright** being our only goal scorer. At this stage we stopped for lunch which gave us a chance to sample some particularly stodgy packed meals. **Capt Vince Pearson**, our own SCO, was very relieved to hear they did not come from his own cookhouse, where he always includes such delicacies as yoghurt, soft drinks and fruit. We did no better against the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, losing this time 10—0. In the deciding game of the pool 36 Sappers proved once again they were too strong and beat the Gren Gds 8—2 although at the end of the first quarter it was 2—0 to the Guards. In our final game we again lost to the KOB; the third consecutive time this season. Even though this in result's terms was a disastrous UKLF Finals for us, it was also a surprise to be finalists. However, the majority have now been bitten by the bug so we hope to make it next year.

The following played: **Capts David Proctor, Vince Pearson ACC, SSgts Andy Wilson, Colin Taylor, Cpl Sid Holderness RE, Cpl 'Chas' Stewart REME, Cpls Alan Patterson, 'Willy' Williams, Sig 'Frizz' Priestley, Brad Hartney, Simon Wright, 'Rab' Risk.**

STOP PRESS: We warmly congratulate **Cpl Malcolm Crawford** whose award of a CBF commendation was announced on 1 September.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# 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 106

**VOGELSANG '84**

The period 23 July to 3 August saw the Regiment in Warlike Posture—carrying out military training at Vogelsang. This was an ideal opportunity to practise low level tactics and to improve individual battle skills. An All Arms JNCOs' cadre was run which included three members from 45 Fd Sp Sqn RE and a visiting 'Specialist' from the local US base at Bueke.

CSgt Bob Livingstone with instructors and JNCOs cadre

The Defence Platoon indulged in a fortnight's training and improved their skills considerably.

Perhaps the most diverting range used was the Tank Close Combat and Molotov Cocktail Range. When confronted with the prospects of being driven over/dragged by a tank our instructors were met with looks of considerable apprehension verbal 'bottle' rapidly dwindled from litre to millilitre size. However, after a little 'winding' up everyone was well and truly trundled over, delighted to have done it and still be alive.

All in all a very worthwhile training period which will no doubt produce many a tale of 'derring-do'.

**VISIT OF CGS**

On 17 April the CGS, **Gen Sir John Stanier KCB, MBE, ADC (Gen)** visited Headquarters 3rd Armoured Division. On arrival he was met by the Regimental Quarter Guard. Later in the day he visited the Regiment where he saw a display of communications equipment.

CGS, Gen Sir John Stanier inspecting the Regimental Quarter Guard. Maj David Gardiner and SSgt John Hatch look on confidently

**VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS**

We were most pleased to welcome **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** on Wednesday 6 June. After being greeted by the Quarter Guard, the Master visited the squadrons on training and in the field. He concluded his visit with lunch in the Sergeants' Mess and a LS&GC medal presentation.

The Master of Signals with LS and GC medal recipients. *L to R:* CO, Sgt and Mrs Forsyth, SSgt and Mrs Hodds, Sgt and Mrs Caird, (REME) and the Master

**KAPE TOUR**

This year the Regiment was selected to undertake a KAPE Tour to UK. Within minutes of the team departing from camp the first vehicle broke down! With great initiative, **Sig Sammy Johnstone** arranged to get the vehicle repaired and then met up with the remainder of the team at Zeebrugge, much to the amazement of **Sgt 'Boom' Moore**. Fortunately this was the only mishap the team encountered. Led by **Capt Richard Evans**, they completed a successful tour of schools and shows in the south of England. They were pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest shown by the female side of the population and frequently had to bravely fight off the crowds.

Sig 'Boy' Plumpton surrounded by female admirers



**THE GREAT SALAMANCA BED RACE**

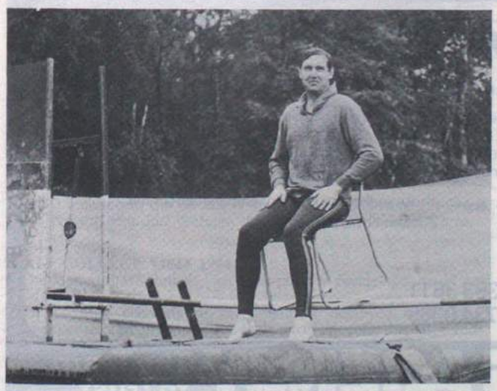
On 16 June members of the Sergeants' Mess entered a team in the local bed race held in Salamanca Barracks where assorted elements of the Regiment are based. A good crowd turned out to watch and there was no shortage of volunteers to man the fire hoses which were provided in lieu of a water jump. Our gallant team battled bravely to come third out of 17 finishers and worked up a suitable thirst for the refreshment phase which followed.

Sergeants' Mess team. *L to R:* Sgt Dave Quinton, WO2 Andy Hickling, Mrs Sylvia Stewart, Sgt Dave Stewart and Sgt (Dangerous) Derek Payne

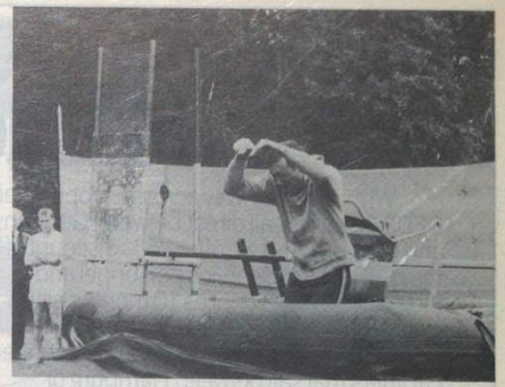
**THE MÖHNEFEST**

The annual Regimental fête, the Möhnefest, took place on Saturday 14 July. A great deal of hard work had gone into the preparations, but we were sadly let down by the weather, which was wet and cold. However, quite a few people braved the elements and turned out to support the function.

The Wives' Club tea tent did a roaring trade, it was one of the few dry places around! At the end of the day a small profit was made, and the CO was able to present **HRH, The Princess Anne** with a cheque for DM 2,800 when she visited us the following week.



The CO, Lt Col Dick Baly, taking his turn on the ducking stool



The CO a few minutes later looking not quite so happy!

**ATHLETICS**

The athletics season seems to have come and gone with amazing speed this year. We started with a 'Standards' meeting to try to identify talent in the Regiment and went on to the Inter-Squadron competition, which was held in the Jahn Stadium in Soest. Here 204 Sig Sqn gained a comfortable victory beating 1 Sqn into second place. In the Morrison Cup the Regiment were pleased to come second to the semi professional 7 Sig Regt and at the Div Meeting on 6 June we were equally pleased to come third to the truly professional 50 Missile Regt RA and 1 Irish Guards. That all this was achieved, despite the heavy commitments this year, is due to the personal efforts of all those concerned. They are too many to mention here, but we thank them all for their hard work.

The 'Old and Bold' race. The CO puts on a spurt as WO2 Dave Lumb of 1 Sqn looks to his right and waits for him to pass. The more experienced competitors had already positioned themselves at a respectful distance behind

**HOCKEY**

The Regimental Hockey Team, led by **WO1 (FofS) Alan Eames**, recovered from a slightly disappointing performance in the Div League to come second in the Div 6-a-side competition and gain a place in the BAOR competition, where they were unlucky to lose on penalties to 35 Engr Regt, in the semi-final. During the season **FofS Eames, SSgt 'Stu' Bromidge, LCpl Kev Massey** and **Joe Marsden** all represented the Corps. Now we look forward to next season with determination to do even better.

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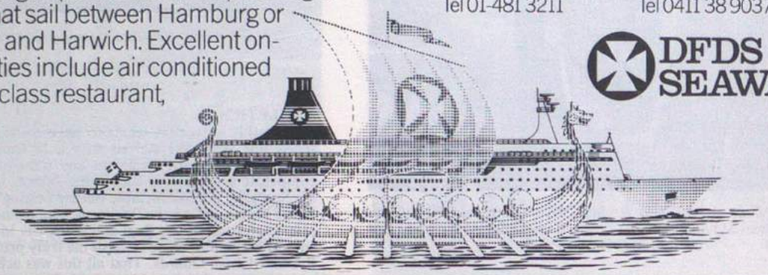

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## 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

**R SIGNALS, REME, RPC**

What a combination! How do they ever get it together? Well it appears that they do. The recent Junior NCO's cadre run by the Training Wing of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt testified to this when the brain child of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col R. A. Wright,** finally bore fruit, resulting in 22 young acting JNCO's and soldiers of various corps' completing two weeks of varied training.

The course was designed to assess recently promoted acting Lance Corporals, young outstanding Signalmen and Privates of the Regiment on their leadership potential. The training ranged from Drill and Duties, NBC and Weapon Training to Target Recce, Target Attack and Combat Survival. The culminating point of the course was the passing off parade, under the beady eye of the course Drill Instructor, **SSgt Derek Boyd.** The parade commander was **2Lt John Charnock** and the salute was taken by the Commanding Officer.



The CO inspecting the parade. *L-R:* 2Lt John Charnock, Lt Col R. A. Wright, Pte Joe 'Scouse' Murtagh, Royal Pioneer Corps

**STAFF COLLEGE VISIT 1984**

The annual Staff College visit took place at Sennelager on 17 and 18 May 1984.

On 11 May elements of the Regiment deployed by road to Sennelager to start preparing for their parts on static display stands.

**TAC STAND 3**

Showed a Brigade Headquarters provided by 211 Sig Sqn under the command of **Maj Brian Chubb.** The admin support for this was provided by **SSgt Mick Dunn** and his helpers.

**TAC STAND 5**

Displayed the 'hardened and reduced' Div Main Headquarters and was found from 3 Sqn commanded by **Maj Duncan Jones.** Co-located was Commcen Golf from 1 Sqn commanded by **Maj Steve Galpin** and the GOC Hard Rover Group or Div TAC commanded by **WO1 B. Selkirk BEM** and his men from 2 Sqn.

**LOG STAND**

The remainder of 3 Sqn, commanded by **Lt Charles King** were employed here showing the workings of Div Rear HQ.

The very large admin bill for this task was met by **Maj Terry Morton** and his men from HQ Squadron. This entailed a lot of work in the erection and dismantling of a large tented site and producing the usual home comforts. The weekend 12/13 May was spent setting up the respective stands in slow time but to absolute perfection. Late on Sunday 13 May the CO **Lt Col Bob Wright** inspected everything and to everyone's relief declared himself well satisfied. During the three days prior to the actual visit the stands were visited and inspected by various increasingly higher ranking officers and simulated students which enabled timings and presentations to be 'fine tuned'.

The two days of the actual visit went extremely well and many favourable comments were passed which certainly made the effort expended worthwhile. Apart from the setting up weekend, the remainder of the week was spent in NBC kit and as a result, a lot of people lost weight. The proof of the adrenalin the word 'Endex' can produce came late on the afternoon of Friday 18 May. What had taken two days to erect was dismantled and loaded on in a mere four hours and all elements of the Regiment were safely back in barracks by 2200 hrs.

**AUTHORS NOTE**

Despite strong rumours to the contrary the whole exercise was *not* devised purely so that **Messrs Galpin, Morton, Jones, Fraser** and **Selkirk** could reduce their golf handicaps on the closely located golf course!

Going—Sig Alan Smith, Going—Sig Tim Dodd, Going—Cpl Duncan Gray, Gone—WO1 Brian Selkirk

## MASTER OF SIGNALS VISITS OLD COMMAND

The Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, accompanied by **Mrs Badcock** visited 4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt while on his recent tour of Royal Signals units in BAOR, which gave him the opportunity to meet new faces and renew old acquaintances. The Master commanded 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt from 1964-1966 and obviously took great interest in the changes that had occurred during the past 20 years.

His programme commenced by being met by the CO **Lt Col R. A. Wright** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. V. Ledwards**. After a superb lunch in the Officers' Mess attended by all Regimental Officers, the Master had a conducted tour of the camp, culminating in a tree planting ceremony at the newly named 'Badcock's Coppice'.

SSgt Kevin Church gives some tips on tree planting

The Master meets the Stadt authorities. (Note OC 2 Sqn Maj Derek Howshall and OC LAD Capt Bob Washington drinking officially on duty!)

## BRADLEY CENTRE DRIVING SCHOOL

It was a proud moment for the Wives' Club of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt when **Mrs Jayne Wright** became the 100th person to pass a test with the Bradley Centre Driving School. The Driving School which is entirely financed and staffed by the Wives' Club was opened in October 1982. From tentative beginnings with one Mini, the School now runs two Ford Fiestas purchased from the local garage of Niebaum and Hamacher and provides a much needed service for dependants and soldiers in Herford.

To mark the occasion **Jayne** was presented with a small gift by the CO's wife **Mrs Tricia Wright**, accompanied by the Driving Instructor **Mrs Beverley Smith** and the Driving School Secretary **Mrs Sue Ledwards**.

Photograph shows *L-R:* Mrs Beverley Smith, Mrs Tricia Wright, Mrs Jayne Wright and Mrs Sue Ledwards

## 1 SQUADRON FOCUS

Since 1 Squadron last featured in *The Wire* there have been several changes in the Squadron Personalities. The current list is as follows (standby for amendment two!)

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Stephen Galpin** |
| **OC Golf Tp** | **Capt Colin Burtenshaw** |
| **2IC Golf Tp** | **Lt Alan Madsen** |
| **OC Hotel Tp** | **Lt Paul Taylor** |
| **2IC Hotel Tp** | **2Lt John Charnock** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John Wooders** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt George Crabb** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt John Chapman** |

**CHANGES AT THE TOP**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Maj Stephen Galpin** and his wife **Joanna** to the Squadron and wish them both all the best whilst with us. We must say farewell and congratulations to **WO2 Phil Welch** on his posting as MTWO to 40 Sig Regt (V). We would also like to extend a warm welcome to **WO2 John Wooders** on his posting into the Squadron as SSM.

**EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON***

Exercise *Flying Falcon* started with Commcens Golf and Hotel deploying to unfamiliar countryside to the West of Osnabruck. (Who says 67m isn't a high spot?) The Exercise got underway with Commcen Hotel making several moves in quick succession while everyone seemed to forget about Commcen Golf. In the meantime the enemy discovered that they were not going to get it all their own way as far as the Commcens were concerned when an enemy patrol was 'bounced' by a clearance patrol from Commcen Golf admirably led by **Lt Alan Madsen** and **SSgt 'P. J.' Probin**. It will be some while before Golf Tp forget the sight of **LCpl Al Wiggins** bringing in a very unhappy bunch of prisoners. We would just like to pass on a message to **Sig Laverie** of 28 Sig Regt, 'don't worry we've not told your Dad, yet!'

It was at this point in the exercise when **Sig Kev Redstone** re-joined Golf Tp after what must have been the shortest posting on record. Sorry about the posting **'Reders'**, but have you seen your latest posting order in the Squadron Office?

During the middle weekend Commcen Hotel was host to a Regimental TEWT entitled 'Defence of a Commcen'. All Regimental Officers and SNCOs took part and as usual there was total disagreement within the syndicates on all questions!

No article on *Flying Falcon* would be complete without mention of the antics of **Sig 'Ketts' Kettley**. It would appear that, unbeknown to anyone, **Sig Kettley** has been studying for his Private Pilot's Licence. Unfortunately due to a lapse of memory he believed that his half ton rover was capable of low level flight at high speed and solo aerobatics. Anyway his problem has now been solved as the rover is in LAD having new 'wings' (sorry about that one) fitted. We can only hope they remember the ejector seat for the OC this time!

**SPORT**

Congratulations to **SSgt 'P. J.' Probin** and **Cpl Bob Anderson** on their results in the Divisional Orienteering Championships. Why is it that the competitions always seem to take place whilst the rest of the troop is on exercise? and is it true that **LCpl 'Snowy' Snowdon** is giving odds of 100 to 1 against **Cpl Anderson** finally coming home ahead of **SSgt Probin**? Well done both on your selection to the Corps team.

## 2 SQUADRON FOCUS

**THE MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Derek Howshall** |
| **AO** | **WO1 B. Selkirk BEM** |
| **OC A1 Tp** | **Capt Ray Hyams** |
| **OC A3 Tp** | **2Lt Lyndon Campbell-Black** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Fitzgerald** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Mable** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Mick Brady** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Norman Cawthra** |

**CHANGE OF SSM**

On Friday 20 April **WO2 Mick Kerr** handed over his duties as SSM to **WO2 George Fitzgerald** who joined us from RMAS. **Mick Kerr** left us to eventually enjoy the sunny climate of Cyprus where he will join 259 Sig Sqn. However Manning and Records Office had to have their little joke and he has to serve a four month tour in the Falklands first! Our thanks for all their hard work go with **Mick** and his wife **Helga** and we wish them every success for the future.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The stork has been working overtime recently and congratulations go to the following proud parents and their new offspring:

**Maj** and **Mrs Howshall** and daughter **Laura; Capt** and **Mrs Hyams** and son **Matthew; WO2** and **Mrs Mable** and daughter **Faye; LCpl** and **Mrs Wood** and son **Mark; LCpl** and **Mrs Waldron** and son **Greg; Sig** and **Mrs Royston** and son **Andrew**.

Congratulations also go to **Cpl Ray Patrickson** on being selected for promotion to Sergeant.

**EXERCISE *NORDEN HIKE* 26 May-1 June**

Following the Commanding Officers directive that each troop in the Regiment was to undertake a week's adventure training, A1 troop under **Capt Ray Hyams** decided to hold theirs on the coast of North Germany in the area of Ostfriessland during the last week of May.

The troop was divided up into two groups. The first group consisted of four sections of five men; the second group formed the DS reinforced by members of A3 troop who manned the exercise control and safety radio net—a vital task as the exercise was spread out over 100 kilometres. The objectives of the sections were to navigate their way from one RV to another where they then set up camp for the night. During each leg sections had to negotiate one or two command tasks which tested their ingenuity, nerve and fitness. In order to maintain interest each member of the sections were nominated as section leaders for a day—a daunting responsibility as a wrong decision meant hiking more kilometres than was necessary.

Deployment to the area was by road. Whilst the sections were being dropped off at their initial RVs, **SSgt John Mullender**, the assistant exercise controller, and **Cpl Dave Griffiths**, the exercise SQMS, set up control HQ at Schillig, 20Kms north of Wilhelmshaven. The location of the HQ was on the local council's camp site but provided free of charge by the Kur Direktor, **Herr Thomsson**. Needless to say this generous offer was acknowledged by a gift of a Regimental picture.

The daily routine of the exercise was quickly set up with the DS moving out at 0700 hrs to planned checkpoints in order to marry up with the sections and put them through the command tasks. Command tasks in such a nautical area had a watery theme—sections had been briefed to take with them a pair of swimming trunks. Nearly everyone got a ducking, accidentally instigated or otherwise!

At the end of the fourth day, by which time each section had completed around 100Kms and six command tasks, the sections were brought into control HQ for fresh food and a days R and R. Most spent the day sunbathing and resting their tired limbs before sampling the delights of Wilhelmshaven in the evening.

The general feeling of the troop was that the exercise had been a worthwhile challenge, especially the command tasks and, they look forward to returning to the area next year. **Sig Dougie Craig** (now A3 troop) found his 'Tammy' before returning to barracks, and **Sig Les Dawson** is still getting love letters from the young girls he met in the area—present estimates are that he has 15 admirers writing to him!

Section 2 led by LCpl Cook and consisting of Sig Jarvis, Drew, Guild, Marvel and Lawrence completing their speed march

## NEWS FROM THE BRIGADES

### 202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

**BORDER PATROL**

From 26-28 March the Squadron fulfiled its annual Border Patrol task of the IGB. At the last minute **Sgt Paul Duffy**, our Chief Clerk, volunteered to act (and we mean act) as the Patrol 2IC.

'I need to give the seat of my trousers a rest, Sir, they're shining so much that young Drysdale has to wear sunglasses in the office, and besides, my sores are giving me trouble and a chance to stand on my feet for half an hour in the fresh air will do me good.'

The epilogue to this tale of woe is that **Sig Ian Drysdale** has stopped squinting from the glare of **Sgt Duffy's** trousers and **Sgt Duffy** can now sit down in comfort!

**EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON***

What can one say about the most exacting and exciting of exercises ever to be undergone in BAOR? The men, everyone of them, said that they were underwhelmed. However, a bomb scare, fire and forest demolition did add some spice. The photographs tell most of the story of excitement, occasional boredom and skulldudgery that occurred. But first, the spice.

On day two, **Cpl Steve Barrington** reported a fault. The wonderous Foreman **SSgt John Mayson** (the Mummy) arrived immediately. Whilst checking the fault the Foreman plus all of the crew heard the HF tuning pips.

'Funny, we're on radio silence' commented **SSgt 'Gus' Graham**, whereupon **Cpl Steve Barrington** pulled up his holdall with the said noise emanating from the bottom. Everyone denied ownership. 'Might be a bomb,' drawled **Sig Peter Dimmack**. The Foreman left faster than immediately and was still seen shaking violently in brilliant sunshine at Endex. 'It's my bag really,' said **Cpl Barrington**, who proceeded to extract his alarm clock.

A little fire occurred in the exchange two days later. Men rushed gallantly around doing headless chicken impressions until **Sgt Paul Bishop**, our RMA and *The Wire* notes photographer, took command of the situation. He told **LCpl Keith Geddes**, entangled in his cam net at the time, to jump into the flames so as to create a glowing action-packed impression on the photograph he was about to take! 'Don't worry about the burns—I'll treat you afterwards, once I've got the shot.' In the height of the drama, the SSM, **WO2 Rick Licence** gave **LCpl Keith Geddes** five extras for decamming before last light and another five for creating white light.

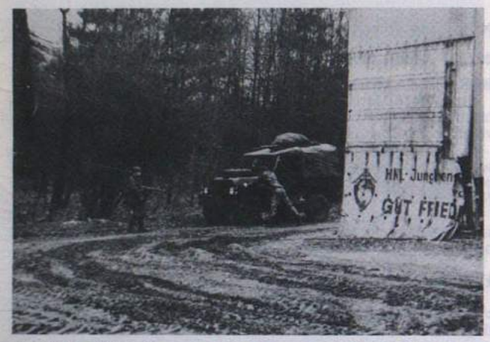
**Cpl Bob Pemberton** then 'phoned the exchange to ask why he'd lost tones to the Commcen, and if they weren't back in two minutes he'd call out the 202 Sig Sqn Free-fall Parachute Team. The madness got most mad. After expending three extinguishers on the last dying,

adamant ember in the centre of the smoky haze, **WO2 (YOS) Steve Watson** decided to go in and stamp out the offending glow, which turned out to be a red light bulb. The Yeoman then got on bended knees and pleaded with **Lt Kevin Fisher** not to mention the episode in *The Wire*, so it's in!

The forest demolition team of **Sig Peter Dowdell** and **David Harrer** did a fine job one night in creating a firebreak a day later and were each given two extras by the SSM for slow reaction to fire prevention/fighting.

Towards Endex, 28 Sig Regt 'tried it on' with this elite squadron of ours and didn't bargain for what they got!

Sgt Terry Filer and Pte Dave Olive pause for thought after the attack and capture of the enemy



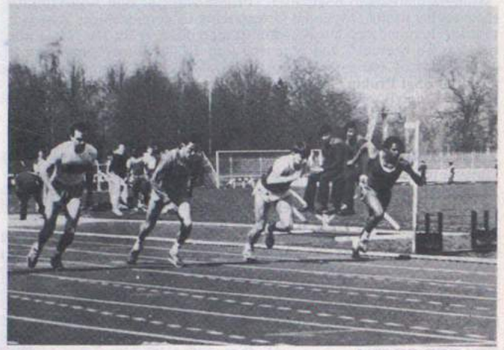

Pte William Willmott, our secret weapon, guarding the first enemy caught. He stopped the enemy landrover by butting the radiator, whilst standing to attention!

Sgt Harry Green, our excellent Cook Sergeant, trying to hide the eggs from the BOWO

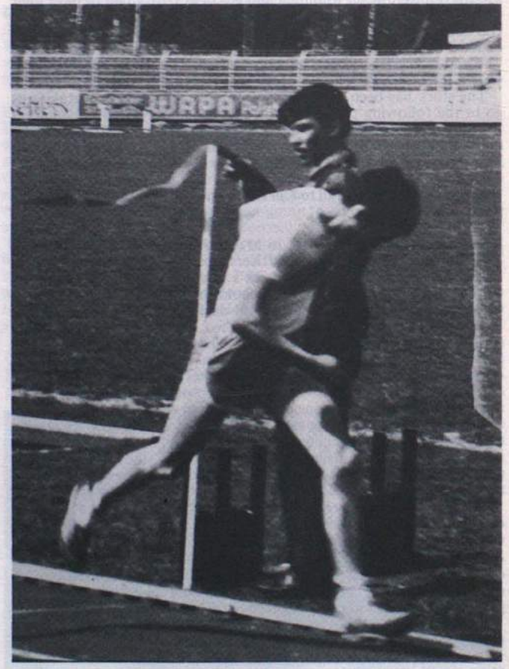
**SPORT**

The Unit, on arrival back from Ex *Flying Falcon*, were thrust straight into a game of football against the touring Dartmouth Naval College side. After a gallant fight, we went down 3—1 with **Sig Dave Hindley** scoring the goal for the Squadron. On 9 May, the soccer team beat 211 Sig Sqn 2—0 to take the runners-up position in the league, goals from **Lt Kevin Fisher** and again **Sig Dave Hindley** assuring promotion for the side (and **Hindley**) for next season.

The athletics went off with a bang this year. The Squadron, under the excellent guidance of **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence**, came second in the Regimental athletics. A lot of medals were won that day with fine performances from **SSgt Dave Gaffney, Sig Christopher Warren, Mick Hughes, Cpl Clark** and **LCpls Pat Coleman** and **Schaun Day**.



Sig Mick Hughes (far left) at the start of the 400m . . .



. . . and at the finish, winning in fine style

LCpl Coleman on the final 100m of the 5000 metres, storming into the lead . . .

LCpl Schaun Day, Cpl Steve Clark and SSgt Dave Gaffney receive their medals for their part in the winning of the 4 × 100m relay

**EXERCISE *MAIN BRACE***

The Squadron deployed on 26 April and spent most of their time flitting from sugar factory to sugar factory, the ground later being described as 'sticky-under-foot'. Not a great deal worthy of mention happened on this exercise, but here is a smattering of funnies.

**Sig Christopher Monaghan** and **Darren Frederick Walker**, later described as 'The Two Moonies' used their own inimitable brand of humour in placing rats in each other's sleeping bags. In fact, **Sig Walker** had a cracking exercise. First he woke up the OC and told him to get on stag duty, and then, on confronting a Staff Officer who enquired 'Bruin?', **Walker** said 'Please, mine's two sugars!'

The free-fall team were again in evidence, ably led this exercise by **Sgt Dave Kerr**. Major demolition prize for this exercise goes to **Capt Ted Banham**, our illustrious 2IC, who guided **Cpl Paul Skinner** out of a factory 'Blaster Bates' style. **LCpl Alan Edminson** won the Dracula Award for working the most unsociable hours and **Sig Steve Goodwin** was the first to be described by one officer as 'looking like Zilon from the planet Thwarg' at reveille one morning.

**FAREWELLS**

Once again the Squadron bade farewell to far too many popular characters. **Sgt John Mackay** and wife **Roswitha** leave us for 22 Sig Regt, **Sgt Mackay** shortly climbing another rung on the promotion ladder. **Cpl Paul Cox** and his wife **Pam** leave us for the barrack square of 11 Sig Regt and **SSgt John Wooders** leaves us on promotion to 1 Sqn as SSM. His wife **Liz** will be much missed by the Wives' Club after doing such a smashing job during their 10 months stay. For the single lads, **LCpl Jeremy Clive Nash** goes to 30 Sig Regt, the lads of Echo 2 Troop already missing a lively and popular character. From Echo 1 Troop, **Sig Christopher Warren** departed for the delights of Blackpool where his footballing qualities were soon much in evidence.

**THE RHINE ARMY SUMMER SHOW**

This annual event is a heavy commitment for the Squadron and this year our participation in ticket and programme selling was much needed. Over the three day period 9-11 June, no less than 180,000 German civilians and BFG personnel passed through our gates with a quite phenomenal amount of money being taken. There is no truth in the rumour that E2 Troop's adventure training this year takes place in Barbados.

**EXERCISE *JAVELIN***

For the Brigade Headquarters, this exercise appeared to be a re-run of Ex *Main Brace* and was just as exciting. When E1 Troop finally decided to hand over command to E2 Troop we were half way through the exercise. E1 Troop again took Main Headquarters and E2 Troop were told to 'stay where you are, just in case, you never know, there might be, . . . it may definitely happen'. Well, it did, and a few hours later and still no movement, we took Main HQ again. The lineman are worthy of mention here. **Sig Dave Hindley**, working for E1 (TSB) Troop on this exercise did magnificent work and was kept busy for the whole exercise. In the latter stages of which, events became fast and furious.

After three days continual movement, E2 Troop finally went to ground and, whilst waiting for the staff to arrive, **Lt Kevin Fisher** sat down by a tree. Two hours later he was still there and our hard working Line Commander **Cpl Steve Clark** had crawled over and sneakily placed a red and green light on his Troop OC's head. 'I didn't want you to get run over', said **Cpl Clark** the next morning, after **Lt Fisher** had been trying to explain to the Brigadier all night why he was doing Belisha Beacon impressions at three in the morning.

**SQN BARBECUE**

After quite a busy period during June it was felt that a little relief would be welcome. On Saturday 7 July, **Sgt Harry Green** and **Capt Ted 'Egon' Banham** slaved over red hot coals to produce an excellent barbecue. E1 Troop led astray by **LCpl Alan Edminson** (another lineman!) paraded in Hawaii shirts and shorts. A lot of form was shown by all, especially **Sgt Paul Duffy** who, since he was still 'around' at 0800 hrs on Sunday, volunteered to clean up.

**SQN CADRE COURSE 12-24 MARCH**

A somewhat belated entry for this issue is entirely due to **Sgt Paul Bishop** our resident **David Bailey**, who has just found the photographs. He's just been nicknamed **Toby** because, when it comes to topical issues, he always remembers after the event.

However on 12 March, No 3 Cadre course assembled on the Alanbrooke Barracks square, to begin an intensive two week programme of military training. Indoctrination commenced with the customary 'Best Kit' inspection. 'Where did you get that No 2 Dress from **Bird**?' enquired **WO2 (SSM) Licence**. **Sig Vernon Wayne Bird**, who was now suspended off the ground by a pace stick said that he had borrowed it from **Jones**. The Sergeant Major then said something about there being a 'product' at the end of his pace stick and it wasn't at his end. On day 2, **Sig Bird** fitted his No 2 dress (and not vice versa). After a few burst blood vessels the inspection terminated with lots of 'products' heading towards the Guardroom and the SSM along with **Sgt Filer** proceeded to take the remainder a few stages further in their drill.

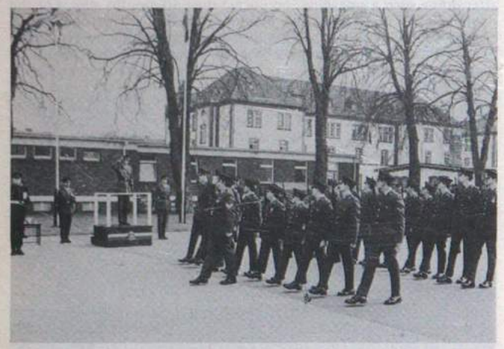
The students gradually settled down under the guidance and instruction of the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wpns** | **Sgt Dave Kerr and Cpl Paul Skinner** |
| **First Aid** | **Sgt Paul Bishop** |
| **NBC** | **Cpl Colin Joseph** |
| **Mil Law** | **Sgt Paul Duffy** |
| **Map Reading** | **Lt Nick 'Where?' Metcalfe** |
| **Survival** | **Sgt John Reid** |

Students and instructors learnt many valuable lessons over the two weeks period which culminated in the CO **Lt Col R. A. Wright** reviewing the pass off parade.

The top student award was won convincingly by **Sig Dick May (now LCpl)** with a 'B' grade.

The photos tell the rest of the story.



The march past in slow time. Sgt Terry Flier waves at the CO to let him know that he's at the front

The presentation of The Bull by the CO, to Sig Dick May, top student. The SSM mentions to Sgt John Reid RPC, that he's forgotten the Blue Peter badge and Crackerjack pencils

The shooting team
*Top row:* LCpl Dick May, Neil Street, Sig Mick Hughes, LCpl Alan Edminson
*Front row:* Sgt John Reid, Maj Graham Elliott, Lt Col R. A. Wright, SSgt Gus Graham and Cpl Colin Joseph

**INTER TROOP ATHLETICS**

On 4 July confusion abounded. The competition was well organised, it was just that some people, namely the whole of E1 Troop were deadly serious about winning. SHQ Troop had a bet of two crates that they wouldn't be beaten by E1 Troop. Meanwhile E2 Troop entered into the day in the spirit in which it was originally intended and came an admirable last, with a lot of its top athletes on leave.

However the win was justified for E1 Troop with **2Lt Nick Metcalfe, Cpl Bob Pemberton** and **LCpl Pat Coleman** to mention a few, having fine wins. The notable athletes for SHQ were of course the SSM and for E2 Troop, **Sig Mick Hughes**. A very strange 'over 35's race took place. Basically it was a 90m steeplechase with additional obstacles of a Bratwurst and Beer stand at the half-way point.

**FAREWELL**

The Squadron bade farewell to many people once more. **Cpl (now Sgt) Skinner** departs from E2 Troop after doing a magnificent job on the Brigadier's Hard Tac 432. **Cpl (now Sgt) Bob Pemberton** leaves for Blandford on his Yeoman of Signals course, his Troop now being allowed to settle down to a period of seriousness after three years of mirth. From SHQ **LCpl Ian 'Lefty' Wright** departs for 2 Div and **Sgt Terry Filer** departs on UK gardening leave, prior to his departure, after 22 years undetected crime.

**MORRISON CUP 1984**

Determination, team spirit, and excellent support paved the way for an outstanding result in this year's competition.

Training prior to the event consisted of one day at the Inselbad stadium in Paderborn to determine potential athletes and to confirm to the Sergeant Major that the team would be a force to be reckoned with. It wasn't long before the fancied teams realised that 202 were a real threat by landing two seconds and a third and a fourth place on day one, which placed us overall second behind 204, with 227 close behind.

Day two saw our team in competitive mood and found our supporters club in excellent voice, if prizes had been awarded for encouragement, we would have had no equal. Throughout the day the scores were neck and neck 204, 202 and 227 pulling away from the rest of the field.

**THE STING**

Prior to the final event it was realised that the coveted prize rested on the result of the 4 x 400m relay; we were confident of second place and would do it. Then it happened, every team managers nightmare, the baton was knocked out of **Sig Nigel Wilson**'s hand, after holding second place we were now fourth, a quick calculation determined we had scraped into second place overall. Then the announcement which stunned the 202 team and supporters—we had been disqualified. Never one to accept any referee's decision easily, the team Captain **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence** 'enquired' the reason and won the appeal to reinstate the team into fourth place which gave us the Runners up shield four points behind 204.

Be warned 204 next year we'll take you.

**GREAT TEAM EFFORT**

All in all it was a combined team effort, however worthy praise must be given to the following individuals:

| | |
|---|---|
| **LCpl Shaun Day** | **1st 200 mtrs 2nd Shot Putt** |
| **Cpl Bob Pemberton** | **2nd 400 mtrs** |
| **LCpl Pat Coleman** | **2nd 1500 mtrs** |
| **SSgt Mick Jones** | **2nd Discus** |
| **Sig Dave Hindley** | **3rd Javelin** |

**CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?**

**HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?**

202 (33 Armd Bde) Athletics team
*Rear:* LCpl Pat Coleman, Sig Mick Hughes, Cpl Bob Pemberton, Maj Graham Elliott, LCpl Shaun Day, Sig Dave Hindley
*Front:* Cpl Stevie Clark, WO2 SSM Rick Licence, Sig Nigel Wilson absent SSgt Mick Jones

LCpl Shaun Day receiving his Runners up medal for the Shot Putt from the Master of Signals

WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence team captain receives the Runners up shield from the Master

**200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

*MINI MASH*

In May, the Squadron found itself involved with Ex *Mini Mash*, the TA RAMC exercise held in Olen Camp, Belgium. 15 members of the Squadron played simulated casualties with injuries ranging from gunshot and shrapnel wounds to psychiatric cases (not much simulation needed for those).

Having just recovered from a 'real' fractured patella, **Sig Eddie Wright**'s first simulated was another one (same leg as well). **Sig 'Gave' McMahon** caused a stir in the Cas Sim Tent when he hobbled in with his right leg in plaster to have a simulated injury of 'Broken left leg'.

In all Ex *Mini Mash* was enjoyable and informative for the casualties. It gave a good insight into the evacuation system at hospitals.

**211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN**

**SPORT REPORT**

**SOCCER**

18 June saw the culmination of an extended winter sports season when the Sqn played 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in the final of the Comd Comms BAOR Task Force Cup Competition at Little Wembley, Detmold.

Long, greasy grass initially made control and passing difficult and 212 were the first to settle putting pressure on the 211 defence. In the fourth minute a slip by **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller** on the edge of the penalty area let in a 212 forward who hit a hard, rising shot which our keeper **WO2 (SSM) Jim Coffey** (still going strong) saved, amazingly heading the ball away from danger. Soon afterwards 212 opened the scoring with a penalty sweetly struck into the angle of crossbar and post. This spurred the 211 team to greater efforts and from a corner **LCpl Brian Taylor** headed the equaliser.

With both teams now settled play flowed from end to end and both keepers were kept busy. 211 broke the deadlock, again with a header from a corner by **Sig Nick Kimber**. Then just before half time 211 went further ahead when **LCpl Brian Taylor** scored again to make it 3—1.

The second half produced no more goals but was a tense nail biting contest with 212 attacking strongly and 211, who were defending stoutly, relying on quick breaks to relieve the pressure. At the final whistle 211 ran out winners 3—1 after a game which had been hard, exciting and skilful.

Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook**, presented the trophies and complimented both sides on the quality of their play. In addition **Brig Cook** decreed that the competition was to be retitled 'The Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps Inter Brigade Signal Squadron Cup'. We look forward to organising and defending next year's competition.

**SQUASH**

The Squadron and Bde HQ team have excelled this year winning the Divisional and BAOR Minor Unit Championships. In the Army final played in UK we finished Runners Up to an extremely strong team from the Staff College. Special mention should be made of **Capt Brian 'Buttons' Young** who still plays a strong game and **LCpl Jock Allan** who joined the side direct from exercise and played extremely well in the Army Final.

**BOXING**

The highlight of the winter season for the Squadron came on 16 March when we fought 3 PC Regt RE in the final of the BAOR Minor Units Boxing Championships at Clifton Barracks Minden.

Having beaten 68 Sqn RCT in the Semi Final, (one of the fancied teams) our boxers, although confident and hard trained, were aware that they were the underdogs, according to many of the BAOR sports reports.

On the night, with the gymnasium immaculately laid out, full of spectators and the 2 RGJ band, the atmosphere was electric. 211 lost the first fight when **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood** failed to beat the count after being knocked down and striking his head very hard on the apron of the ring. The score was levelled when the Sappers lightweight failed to enter the ring due to a mystery injury incurred after the weigh in. This resulted in a walk over victory for **Sig Leroy Menzies** whose disappointment and surprise at not having to fight was obvious from the bemused expression on his face. The Squadron went 2—1 up when **Sig 'Scouse' Turner** at light welter knocked his opponent out in the first round with a beautiful short right hook. Next into the ring was **Sig Chris Severs** at light middle. This was an extremely tough fight with

both boxers hitting hard, accurately and often. However after three gruelling rounds the cleaner, crisper punching and gutsy determination of our boxer won him a unanimous victory. So the interval arrived with the Squadron leading three bouts to one, needing only one more win to become BAOR champions.

The first fight after the interval saw **Cfn Pete Fish** at light middle against a strong and determined boxer. This fight also went the distance with both boxers finishing extremely tired and bloodied having given their all for three bruising rounds. The Sapper boxer gained a majority decision making the score 3—2.

The heavyweight was the next bout and **Sig 'Jock' McGlashan** representing the Squadron started off well and the first round ended with neither boxer having any real advantage. The 2nd round saw both boxers trying to dominate until, inexplicably, after a innocuous looking knock down **Jock** was adjudged by the referee to be unfit to continue and the score was level at 3—3 with only one bout left.

Tension mounted as the two welter weights approached the ring. It was obvious from the noise greeting them that the respective sets of supporters believed their boxer was going to triumph. **Sig Dave Stewart** started well content to dominate the centre of the ring and pick his man off with straight lefts. He appeared to be leading at the end of the first round. The second round started with the Sapper Boxer trying to force the pace but leaving himself open to counters from our boxer. About midway through the round **Dave Stewart** unleashed a right hook catching the Sapper on the jaw and sending him reeling round the ring before collapsing to the floor. Pandemonium reigned: team members and spectactors which included all the officers of HQ 11 Armd Bde went wild with delight.

The Squadron team had won the BAOR Minor Units Novice Boxing Championships at the first attempt. The performance of the team, fitness, skill, aggression was a credit to the Squadron and the Corps. The look of pride on the face of **WO2 (SSM) Jim Coffey**, who had coached, coaxed, cajoled, cared for and occasionally even blasted a little throughout their arduous training, as he was presented with the winners shield by **Brig A. S. J. Blacker** Comd 11 Armd Bde spoke for every member of the team and the Squadron.

Mention must also be made of the other members of the Squad who provided depth during the earlier rounds **LCpl Brummy Willis** (assistant trainer) **LCpls 'Stretch' Wilson, Simon Kay, Sig 'Taff' Hughes** and **'Taff' Skey.**

**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 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 reached 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 package and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

**Mr P. E. A. Hall**
'Kohima' 1030 Harrow Road Wembley Middlesex HQ0 2QT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## 7 Sig Regt
## BFPO 15

**VISITS**

On 4 June the Burgermeister of Herford **Herr Doctor Heverman** visited the Regiment to plant an oak tree. The Regiment has embarked on a programme of tree and shrub planting to improve the area of Maresfield Barracks.

The Mayor of Herford wields the shovel, the Head Gardener holds the tree and the Garrison Commander baptises it. The Commanding Officer is an interested spectator

**FOOTBALL**
**Report by WO1 Jimmy Campbell**
**Manager of Sergeants' Mess Football Team**

83/84 has proved to be a highly successful season with the mess team winning three competitions (we only entered three).

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the Lippstadt 7-a-side cup in which we beat 94 Loc Regt RA 1—0 in the final. A tremendous effort by our representative nine players backed up by our ever faithful supporters. The team also won the Bielefeld Area Sergeants' Mess League and the 11-a-side Leggett cup.

Special mention must be made of a couple of players who depart shortly. **SSgt Mick 'Nijinsky' Braddon** and **SSgt Terry Kidd** who are off to NI and RCZ respectively, may we thank them for the tremendous support and wish them and their families good luck for the future.

The photograph shows most of the 83/84 squad with a selection of 'Pots' won during the season.

The all conquering Sergeants' Mess Football Team. *L to R (Top):* WO1 Jimmy Campbell, Sgt Brian Sutherland, WO2 Dave Fox, SSgts Terry Kidd, Mick Braddon and WO1 (RSM) Bill Olive. *L to R (Bottom):* Sgt Robbie Morrison, SSgt Bob O'Hara, Sgt Ralph Smith, SSgt Terry Moorhead, Sgts George Davidson, Dave Gilbert, Dave Leyland, Andy Hockley

**ATHLETICS**

The season got off to a great start with our convincing victory in the Morrison Cup.

4/5 June saw a strong Regimental team contesting the 4 Armd Div Inter Unit Championship 1984. With 13 major units entered it was never going to be easy. At the end of day one we had secured a place in all finals and held a slight lead ahead of the very strong 1 WFR, the 1984 Div champions.

On a dull cold day two the meeting developed into a neck and neck struggle with 1 WFR, both teams finishing first and second in the majority of events. By midway through the afternoon it became apparent that the Regiment would qualify for the BAOR finals by finishing in the top two. However it was felt that to finish second would give a phsycological advantage to 1 WFR at the BAOR meeting. The sights were duly set and the team pulled out the stops to gain a comfortable victory in the end.

Two team members merit a special mention at this stage, **Capt John Kirkman** who managed the team until his departure to the Falklands and **Cpl Eric Atkins** who has been a stalwart in our sprint team. May we wish **Eric** and his family all the best in Ashford—**Thank you for your 100% contribution.**

We went into the BAOR Championships at Sennelager knowing that we had to finish in the top three teams to qualify for a place in the Army Finals in Portsmouth. By the end of the first day it was clear that our lack of depth would prevent us from challenging 50 Regt RA and 1 IG for the championship. While they fought it out with the Gunners just beating the Micks we had an easier time pushing 1WFR into fourth place.

In the Army Championships the team performed well and stayed with the leaders for the whole of the first day. Again lack of depth told with team members having to compete in more than one event. At the end of the second day our relay teams performed splendidly and we finished a very respectable fourth. Altogether a very good season for the team who trained hard and showed tremendous enthusiasm. Notable achievements were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sgt Neil Killen** | **1st Army Decathlon** |
| | **1st BAOR Decathlon** |
| | **1st 400m Hurdles Army Championships** |
| | **1st 110m Hurdles Army Championships** |
| | **Captain BAOR Decathlon Team Champions** |
| **LCpl Alan Poulson** | **Member BAOR Decathlon Team Champions** |
| | **2nd 400m Hurdles Army Championships** |

**LCpl Kev Jarvis 2nd High Jump Army Championships**

Special mention must be made of **WO1 Jimmy Campbell** and **WO2 (QMSI) Colin Campbell** (no relation) who led and trained the team.

4th Division Athletics Champions
*L to R (Top):* Cpls Chris Van der Kerkhoff, Martin Pottage, Andy Andrews, LCpl Simon Boyd, Cpl Ray Neal, LCpl Chris Mark, Cpl Karl Britton, Lt Col Nigel Wood, LCpl Dick Munson, Sgt Neil Killen LCpl 'Dusty' Miller, Cpls Paul Sexby, 'H' Glean, WO1 (RSM) Bill Olive, Cpl Paul Collins. *L to R (Bottom):* WO2 (QMSI) Colin Campbell, Cpl 'Len' Fairclough, Cfn 'Smudge' Smith, Cpl Tom Pickup, LCpl Alan Poulson, Cpl Eric Atkins, LCpls Kev Jarvis, Ian Hutchinson, Cpls Dave Hukin, Dave Amos, LCpl Phil Cooper, Sig Stephen Day, WO1 Jimmy Campbell, WO2 Chas Dowie

Cpl 'H' Glean winning the 4 × 100m relay at the 4 Div Championships at Sennelager

Cpl Eric Atkins proudly displays his winners medal and the 4 Div Trophy

**SUB-AQUA—EXERCISE *SARDINE QUADRANT***

The Regiment's divers have once again crept away on a 21 day expedition to Sardinia. **Maj David Stubbs** led the party, **Cpl Allan** (the Nose) **Owen** was the Diving Officer, **Lt Richard Wilson** swopped his snorkel for a demand valve, **LCpl Andy Strudwick** looked after the equipment and **LCpl Chris Lane** was in charge of sunbathing. **Pte Eddie Cochrane** did the cooking, **Cpl Tony Broadhead REME** tended the Land Rover, compressors and outboard motors and **Sig Sid Knight** successfully operated a PRC 320 daily, the 1,000 miles back to Herford. Guest divers were **Capt Peter Smith** from 11 Sig Regt, **JT Steve Hubbard RAF** from Gutersloh, **LCpl 'Taff' Jones** from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sig Jimmy Walker**, the Para. Dives included a wreck which offered up a port hole, a submarine statue of the Madonna and a 40 metre deep dive. The wealth of marine life included octopus, stone fish and moray eels.

The most exciting moment was the second time one of the inflatables was capsized trying to beach in high seas. Divers were thrown in all directions and it was fortunate that no-one was struck by the boat. Not every dive expedition can dive its own wrecks!

**3 SQUADRON**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Peter Richards** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Gareth Smith** |
| **OC G Tp** | **Lt John Murley** |
| **OC K Tp** | **SSgt Paul Smyth** |
| **OC U Tp** | **2Lt David Somerville** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Mick Goatley** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Chas Dowie** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Dave Cormack** |
| **AY of S** | **SSgt Derek Brown** |
| **MT SSgt** | **SSgt Bob O'Hara** |



**EXERCISE *ZULU ZENITH***

After the strenuous activities of Ex *Javelin*, the Squadron immediately launched itself onto its Battle Camp, Ex *Zulu Zenith*.

**PHASE ONE**

During the period 2-5 July, in barracks training of a less than normal nature took place. This included **Sig 'Paddy' Hellier** hanging upside down on a ridge near Rinteln; he tells us that he was supposed to be abseiling. Rumour control was over-worked attempting to assess what was to happen on Phase Two. Thanks must go to **Sgt Billy Haslam** for assisting in fuelling rumours after his combat survival lesson.

**PHASE TWO**

Phase Two started early on Friday 6 July with 12 four-man patrols moving by vehicle to an RV for the beginning of a five day infiltration exercise. **LCpl Yarborough** is complimented on actually getting on board the Puma. Friday night saw all patrols take part in a river crossing, followed on Saturday night by a night abseil. Only three individuals declined the invitation to leap off the edge into darkness, although they were unaware at that point that their rations were at the bottom. Sunday night was the night for the enemy act, led by **2Lt David Somerville** and **SSgt Paul Smyth**. **Lt John Murley** would have assisted, had he been there, but is thought to be undergoing a strenuous exercise somewhere in Canada. Monday and Tuesday comprised the escape period. **SSgt Bob** (Foreman of Mechanical Transport) **O'Hara** led the ground hunter force and **Capt Gareth Smith** led the heliborne search team. **FofS Chas** (I don't need a paper bag) **Dowie** assisted with muffled sound effects. Phase Two ended with a notional chinook (four wheels, green) move to Elsenborn Camp in Belgium for Phase Three.

**PHASE THREE**

Phase Three was an intensive field firing exercise held on the range areas of Elsenborn Camp. For two days, after a hearty continental breakfast, the patrol groups took part in CQBR, anti-tank, section attacks and assault course IBSR. Congratulations are due to **Maj Peter Richards** and **LCpl 'Sugar' Cain** for leading the winning teams in the IBSR competition.

The Squadron is very grateful to **SSgt John** (the Janitor) **Hodges** from Training Wing and **SSgt Ian Douglas** of Corps Lighting Troop for the invaluable assistance in the running of the ranges.

SQMS Dave Cormack drawing Maj Peter Richards' attention to the fact that the enemy appear to have infiltrated his position

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# 8 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**REUNION VISIT OF 79 ARMD DIV**

On 25 May, the Regiment was honoured to host the Reunion of 79 Armd Div, who fought in Europe from D Day 1944 to VE Day 1945.

Our visitors, who included The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Badcock,** were given a briefing and tour of the Trade Training School, to update them on current training methods and equipment. This was followed by a demonstration of vehicle recovery and motorcycles on the Whinny Hill Training Area. The morning over the visitors retired

The Master talks to members of the Motorcycle Team

to their tent on the Training Area for lunch where the Mess Silver, 13 Aladdin paraffin Heaters and Sherry helped everyone warm to the idea of a compo meal. The cooks, under the direction of the SCO **Capt Joe Oytaben** managed to present 'corned dog' and 'cheese possessed' in a most unusual and appetizing manner.

After a successful lunch the visitors were entertained by our 2IC **Lt Col Mike Deverill.** To start, a film show which included an excerpt depicting **HRH The Princess Royal** presenting a statue of Mercury, to the US Army Signal Corps. This showed Catterick 1945 with soldiers in Battledress, Boots and Gaiters and gave the base line from which to go out and look at all that was new in the Garrison. The aim of the afternoon was to show that if it wasn't like this in the 'olden days', then it's no bad thing.

All aspects of the visit went smoothly and the visitors were particularly interested in the advance in training methods, unanimous in their praise of improvements in the Garrison and, somewhat surprised at how beautiful a Garrison town can look.

**TYNE TEES TELEVISION FUN RUN**

On 20 May the Regiment was invaded by some 3,500 runners plus their friends and families to take part in, or witness, the Tyne Tees Television Fun Run.

The Fun Run consisted of a seven and a half mile run over the Catterick Moors followed by crossing 17 obstacles of the Regimental Assault Course. It was not a competitive race but the runners all had a strong sense of achievement when they completed the demanding run, however the looks on their faces soon changed when they saw the assault course they had to tackle in their tired condition. Each obstacle was supervised by members of the Regiment and the competitors managed to climb, crawl, run, jump, fall and swing over the course to the finish line mostly soaked to the skin by the water obstacles. The competitors were from all age groups over 18 years and all the civilians were pleased with the novelty of going over an army assault course. The event was shown on Tyne Tees Television and it was reported that in excess of £14,000.00 had been raised for charity, by sponsorship.

The organisation of the administration and service support was master minded by OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Joan Roulstone WRAC** with assistance from among many others, including **Capt Steve Crane, Capt Joe Oytaben and WO2 (SSM) Gavin Escott.**

**REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM**

The Regimental Shooting Team qualified for RASAM 84 at the NEDIST SAM on the weekend 19/20 May. The individual honours went to **Maj Patrick Dickinson** who made the Dist Pistol XX and **WO2 (YofS) Jim Hindle** who came individual first in the MT Match. With little extra training the team competed at Bisley where **Cpl Scot Sherrard** achieved a pool bull on the 200m Deliberate SLR. We look forward to competing again next year.

**MOTORCYCLING**

The Regimental Motorcycle Team and 'Team Royal Signals' are continuing with their successes this season. During June and July the following results were gained:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Powys One Day National Enduro** | **Best Service Team** |
| **Ex Martlett 3 Stage Army Trial** | **Best Novice Rider** |
| **Welsh International 2 Day Trial** | **Best Service Team** |
| **Ex Plainsaddle 3 Stage Army Trial** | **Best Competition Team** |
| **Ex White Horse 3 Stage Army Trial** | **Best Competition Team** |
| | **Cpl Clive Thorsby Winner** |
| | **LCpl Roddy Llewellyn Best Novice** |
| **Melville 2 Day British Championships** | **Cpl Clive Thorsby 4th overall** |
| **Round Scotland** | **Cpl Mike Duke 12th overall** |
| **ISCA 2 Day British Championships Round Wales** | **Cpl Clive Thorsby 4th overall** |

The following have been selected to represent the Army in the World Championships Six Day Enduro to be held at Assen, Holland in October:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Capt Gordon Park** | **Army Team Manager** |
| **Cpl Clive Thorsby** | **Rider** |
| **LCpl Roddy Llewellyn** | **Support Team** |
| **LCpl Stephen Crawford** | **Support Team** |
| **LCpl Mike Duke** | **Support Team** |

**CANOEING**

In May we entered two teams in the Army Canoe Union UK Slalom Championships at Llandysol, Wales. We had little success in the individual events but did gain valuable experience in preparation for the coming team event. Our Regt A Team put up a good performance on the first run (which was not repeated on the second run) and immediately went into the lead. The B Team did as well as expected, without capsizing and came a creditable 17th overall. The A Team won the UK Team competition and qualified to go forward to the Army Championships at Bala, Wales.

Two weeks later, after a hasty repair programme to get the canoes floating again, our A Team embarked on an unexpectd holiday to Bala for the Army Championships. The course was considerably more challenging and our team, and the now fragile canoes, were paddling to their limits. The first team run was a disaster with **Cpl Kim Hartridge** capsizing near the end of the course closely followed by **Lt Wayne Coupland. Cpl Tony Woolaston** paddled on behind the swimmers declaring it was 'terribly bad form to capsize in a competition'. The final team run was much better and good enough to put the Team in second place overall.

Cpl Tony Woolaston attacks a duck while Cpl Kim Hartridge adopts the laid back approach to training at Llandysol



Training and selection for a Sprint and Long-distance Canoe Team began in June, only six weeks before the Army Championships at Monmouth, Wales. Surprisingly the response was overwhelming with nearly 40 trainees coming forward for selection. This was due largely to the recruiting methods of **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood**. Most had not canoed before but were willing to get wet and have a go.

**Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** taught the basic strokes in the swimming pool; **Lt Wayne Coupland** took advantage of the fact that different trades have different sports afternoons and managed to go canoeing three afternoons a week to teach basic river work; while **Sgt 'Chaz' Cook** patiently waited in the background for competent canoeists to emerge and be coached in the advanced techniques of racing.

Three weeks before the Championships the team of 12 men and four women were named and training went into overdrive—every evening until 2100 hrs. Training progressed well and it was soon time to travel to Monmouth to set up camp and get used to the course before the Championships.

The sprint Championships took place on Saturday 21 July. Most of the team were entered in three heats each, where it was hoped they would qualify to the finals and score team points as well as compete for the individual cups and trophies.

**Cpl Tony** (I never swim in a competition) **Woolaston** was forced to capsize by the wash of a speeding duck on the start line of his first race, much to the disgust of his partner **Cpl Kim Hartridge**. They emptied their canoe and later recovered sufficiently to each come fourth in two finals. Everyone in the team worked hard and managed to get in at least one final. At the end of the day the team points were added and 8 Sig Regt were declared the Mens' 1984 Sprint Champions.

The girls team put up a good fight against the other WRAC teams. The particular efforts of **Ptes Wendy James** and **Alison Gaunt** brought the team up to third place.

The Long-distance Championships took place the next day and consisted of races over 12, 9½ and 5 miles depending on class of paddler and type of canoe. We tried to cover the spectrum by entering at least one person in each event. The men all finished their race in the top three and there was no doubt that 8 Sig Regt were also the Mens 1984 Long-distance Champions.

The girls' team put up a good fight against the other WRAC teams. very creditable third in the Ladies Slalom class.

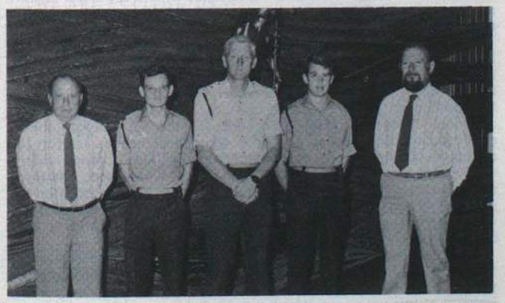
The Mens' Sprint and Long-distance Team Trophies have been won by Corps units since 1976. We are pleased to continue the tradition for another year.

**SOFTBALL**

The Regimental Softball season filled the month of July with agony and ecstacy for the 12 competing teams. League play began on 2 July and when the dust settled, four league winners advanced to the championship tournament. For the second year running the final round featured teams from 1 Sqn and 3 Sqn, and, for the second consecutive year, 1 Sqn won the last battle to be declared the winners of the trophy. Although officially softball is a 'non contact' sport, the number of bruises, taped fingers and limping competitors attests to the ferocity with which the game is played at Catterick. In the preliminary bout prior to the tournament final, the Sergeants' Mess narrowly defeated the Officers' Mess by 40 to 19 to retain the Adolphus Greeley Plaque for the next calendar year.

**1 SQUADRON**

The Radio side of RR/RA280 have set a new record in the annals of the Squadron's history books—two A gradings on one course. **Cpl Mike Dighton** and **Mike Holden** are to be congratulated on this fine academic achievement. The photo shows the two recipients together with the OC TTS, **Lt Col Smith**, the course tutors **Mr Harry Cheek** and **Mr Mike Bennett**. Well done to both—we only hope that the courses still undergoing 'treatment' can emulate this performance.



*L-R:* Mr Harry Cheek, Cpl Mike Dighton, Lt Col Smith OC TTS, Cpl Mark Holden and Mr Mick Bennett

**ONE JUMP PARACHUTE COURSE**

**Report by Cpl Neil Mabbott**

When **Cpl Mick Honeyman** challenged TE/RA300 to a 'Jump Course' the reply was 'Easy—No Problem'. When he told us that he had organised one at Sunderland Airport all the excuses started to come out including various allergies, tropical diseases and bad backs. Twenty-five stout-hearted volunteers decided to 'Give it a go'.

The course commenced in the TTS cinema with a talk from **Mr Trev Dobson**—our civilian instructor. **Cpls Russ Dodd** and **Billy Freear** had already jumped and were only too pleased to impart their experience to two of our Signalmen, **Dave Buckingham** and **Pete Harris**, who had not even flown before. **Cpl Kev Maguire** kept mumbling something like 'Are you sure it will open?' throughout the opening lecture. The lecture was very interesting and contained canopy drills, orientation and canopy controls plus very sound advice on not drinking the night before a jump. Instruction finished and **Mick Honeyman** took the instructor down to the Cpls' Mess only to find most of the course hiding in the corner—pint pots in hand.

The big day was soon upon us and we spent most of the morning practising landings, exists and emergency drills. **Cpl Martin Brooks ('Brookthy'** to his mates) did not like the landing drills as he had to comb his hair after each para roll. Dinner time was spent in an advanced state of apprehension with nerves being staved off by various types of food—although some took **'Dutch courage'** at a nearby local inn.

The grouping for the jumps was five at a time and the first group included **Cpls Neil Mabbott** and **Steve Smith** who bravely joined three civvies as the first to venture into the air. There was a strange feeling among the onlookers that a 'Crazy Exits' competition was in progress due to the wonderful array of 'Aerobic patterns' that were performed on emerging from the aircraft. Marksmanship principles were not observed either because some of the jumpers preferred to land on the concrete runway instead of the nice soft green stuff—special mention to **Cpl Dave Milne** who produced the best bounce of the day. **LCpl Max Matthews** toured the drop zone when his 'chute reinflated and dragged him off into the distance—typically trying to get more for his money.

Once everybody had completed their jumps and the bravado returned the stories came out—poor **Mick Honeyman** listening to 22 different descent tales. A good day was had by all. Special mentions to **Russ Dodd** whose jump was good enough for clearance for free fall and to **Billy Freear** who had an excellent descent. **Miss Jan Emery** collected £40.00 for the Richmond Orphanage. All participants deserve a pat on the back for doing so well—most are now planning their next jump (veterans already). Many thanks to **Mick Honeyman** for his excellent organisation—he was rewarded with a free jump—instructors **Jim Barnes, Keith Bland** and, not forgetting, good old **Trev Dobson.**

*L-R:* Cpls Neil Mabbott, Roger Crossley, Max Matthews, Steve Smith, Andy Skerritt

**2 SQUADRON**

2 Squadron are responsible for the administration of RTg, DTg and WRAC Swbd Op students on basic and upgrading courses. We have more than 300 students at a time so the cadre are kept busy dealing with the constant turnover.

We are sad to report that our SM **Gavin Escott** is about to leave us and also the Corps at the end of his service. Our new Sergeant Major **WO2 (SSM) Sid Walley**, has arrived from 5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. We wish him well during his tour. We also welcome **Sgt Terry Speight**, now A Tp Sgt, who made the short journey from the Trade Training School to join us.

Our congratulations go to the OC A Tp, **Capt Ian Seraph** on his recent promotion. He celebrated his good news by going to Belize for a months' exercise.

In the inter-troop sports competitions, all our competitors have performed well but we haven't actually won any of the trophies. In these competitions we rely our our upgrading students to guide the basic students and we are truly grateful to the upgraders who devote their time and energy to sport.

1 Bn The Gordon Highlanders, in 1979, did an emergency tour in Northern Ireland. 8 Sig Regt provided work with the battalion. As a mark of their appreciation the Gordon Highlanders presented them with 'The Gordon's Cup'. The trophy is competed for annually, by troop teams, in a physically demanding competition, which consists of a run, the assault course, the obstacle course and a log race. In this year's competition 2 Sqn did very well finishing in first and fourth positions. The winning team won in the very fast time of 13 mins 52 seconds.

**WRAC SPORT**

The WRAC members of the Squadron and the cadre have been very busy gaining success on various sports fields.

**ORIENTEERING**

Our WRAC orienteering team won both the North East District and the UKLF orienteering Championships. However in the Army (Women's Services) Championships the team was unfortunate to be disqualified, on a technical rule, after running the course 45 minutes faster than the second fastest team. The individual places in the Army (WS) Championships, indicate that our girls should represent the Army (WS) team in the Inter-Services (WS) competitions next season, **Lt Carol O'Nians** was first, **Sgt Angie Warnes** was third and **Cpl Val Hutton** was sixth.

**ATHLETICS**

After winning the North East District (WS) Athletics Championships, our girls went to Portsmouth to compete in the Army (WS) Inter-Unit Athletics Championships where they finished in, a very creditable, third place.

**Sgt Joan Gaskell** won both the 200m and the long jump and **Sgt Angie Warnes** won the javelin event.

**TENNIS**

**Cpl Joy Von Weilligh** represented the Army (WS) at tennis, prior to leaving the service, to start her career in civilian life.

**SYSTEMS SECTION**

We believe it is about time that Systems Section of the TTS went public and let you all know a little about us before the Ptarmigan beast gobbles us up, as it does with classrooms and instructors. (Nothing personal Ptarmigan Wing, but we liked Room 52).

The section formed about a year ago with the combining of RR and TE sections. In the past year we have seen many changes and the term 'Obsolete Section' is fading, thank goodness. With the Monarch Exchange and the Falklands Island Equipments training established we are now quite modern. T1 and basic courses of all trades can look forward to modern technology tempered with the old faithfulls like the TTVF 4/12 CST 1+4 and T100R.

**FAREWELLS**

During our first year we have said farewell to several of our founder members, the majority of whom are now civilians. Regrettably in August we said goodbye to **Sgt Maj Bob Sapp US Army**, who was our Section Supervisor, we all wish **Bob**, his wife **PA** and two daughters the very best back in Fort Gordan, Georgia (for those who don't know, that is Dukes of Hazzard country).

**LOGIC**

**Bob** introduced the Section to logic problems, which caught on very quickly at the expense of many pencils and erasers (rubbers to us Brits). So that the rest of the Corps can try it, we have produced an easy starter. From the clues given, you can work out who is who, in the section photograph.

Any problems? the answer can be obtained by writing to **SSgt Bob White** System Section Supv TTS.

Guess Who?

1. **Bob Sapp** is not British
2. The longest serving member is directly in front of *'Jimmy'*
3. **Sgt 'Badger' Paulley** who has since retired to Saudi Arabia is in front of the man who wears an orange crash helmet
4. The man next to the golfer, who is behind the TA FofS is **Sgt Charlie Cook**
5. **Mr 'Ming' Baker** who instructs 40/160 has a moustache
6. **Mr Carl Butler** who rides a motorcycle and wears a blue helmet is on the end, diagonally opposite the man who wears the orange helmet
7. **Mr Pat Forbes** and **Mr John Latham** taught Bruin for many years, but **Mr Bill Johnson** was teaching RR long before they or any other instructors arrived
8. **Sgt Arthur Lythaby** due to retire next year, is between the longest serving and, latest to arrive, instructors
9. Still awaiting his posting to Hong Kong is our resident golfer **Sgt Ivor Williams**
10. **Mr Cliff Turner** rides a motorcycle but does not have a blue helmet. **Cliff** is further from **Charlie** than he is from the golfer
11. **Pat Forbes** who is not a TA FofS but taught Bruin with the man who is standing fourth from Arthur's right
12. **Sgt Gil Jordan** the latest to arrive is behind the 40/160 instructor and the man who has gone to the Middle East
13. **SSgt Bob White** is the only member of the front row still serving in the British regular forces.

**WHITE HELMETS OPENING SHOW**

**Report by Sig Steven Morley**

Friday 4 May started very early for us all and despite four months of hard training there were still lots of last minute things to do. The many hours of cleaning, painting and 'bulling' certainly showed as the bikes were lined up ready for the show, gleaming in the Catterick sunshine—a novelty in itself as the team rain cloud was nowhere in sight.

There were 13 of us, all very noticeable in our blue helmets, as we lined up for the final inspection each of us very smart in our new No 1 Dress, but what with the sun and our nerves we were all hotting up. At long last the time came to march on to the dreaded Helles parade square and it quickly became obvious that there were a lot more people watching than any of us expected.

All in position and the VIPs seated, the OC started the commentary and the bikes started up with a roar that filled the barracks, with a wave of his arm, **Sgt 'Budgie' Burgess** called us into the arena to start the show. The Opening Ride was led by **Cpl 'DJ' Marooth** and myself; the minute we started my nerves disappeared.

The show flashed by and before long we were all formed up on the Three Bike Fan and going forwards towards the saluting dais ready for the presentation of White Helmets. A quick stop and we all formed up in front of the Commander Catterick Garrison, **Brig R. Maynard**, who came forward to make the long awaited presentation of helmets. Within minutes there were thirteen very happy blokes, each of us wearing a brand new shiny white crash helmet. No rest for us though, a quick word of command from **Cpl 'Gaz' Crouch** and we were doubling away to the pits to join the rest of the team. The show was soon over and from what the Commander said to us after the salute, it passed the test and gained his seal of approval. **Brig Maynard** was invited to look over the static displays and we dashed away to load and prepare for the following day's move to London.

Like all important occasions in life, a celebration was essential, so we popped into the Naafi and were much surprised to have another presentation. **Sig 'Dinger' Bell** had not been on the Opening Show because of injury was presented with his helmet, and I got the Lucas Trophy.




# FINANCIAL PLANNING

**ITS PURPOSE** is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

| | |
|---|---|
| FINANCIAL PROTECTION | —against the effects of possessions lost or damaged |
| FINANCIAL SECURITY | —for present or future dependants |
| HOUSE PURCHASE | —immediately or in the future |
| EDUCATION EXPENSES | —for present or future children |
| COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT | —based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve |
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Proudly wearing their new White Helmets the 12 newcomers to the team prepare to join their colleagues for the remainder of the display

Congratulations to all those joining the team this year: **Cpl Crouch, Sig Baker, Beattie, Bell, Bilton and Brend, LCpl Christie, Sig Morley,** awarded the Lucas Trophy as most promising newcomer to the team, **Sig Morton, Mynett, Adrian Smith, Chris Smith and Richardson.**

**ROYAL SIGNALS WHITE HELMETS RECORD DISTANCE JUMP**

Monday 11 June found us in Scotland for a week of hectic touring (thanks for the overnight journey north Sir!) Needless to say the old hand was full of war stories concerning his previous trips north of the border, well—as Team Sergeant you do tend to get everyone's complete attention. On Wednesday we were going to be in Hawick and if we were going to do it, it would have to be there, mutiny, murder or worse—what was being planned?

In 1976 the team established a distance jump of 2 x cars and 12 x motorcycles—where?, at Hawick of course, and **Sgt 'Budgie' Burgess** reckoned we could quite easily beat that distance. Volunteers duly came forward, six in all, but as we've only got two jump bikes this caused a slight problem which the OC quickly resolved by using the latest random selection generator—a flat cap and six names on pieces of paper.

**Sig 'Shuggy' Mynett** and **'Maggot' Tarbox** were highly delighted that their names had been drawn out of the hat and immediately set off to buy lots of film so that the occasion could be preserved for all time. We duly appeared at Hawick and put on a first class performance, minus car jump. Having previously cleared the programme of events with the ACO **Maj Gordon** we then borrowed his car; well it seemed like a good idea at the time. For the benefit of the crowd we let the two car jumpers battle it out between themselves—who would bottle out first? one car, six bikes, two cars, six bikes—neck and neck all the way through! Finally all 14 motorcycles had been lined up and the two cars were in position, both riders came forward to look at the impressive distance and there was just a slight moment of hesitation before they rode back to prepare for the final attempt.

The audience were totally silent for the final attempts, wondering if the riders would actually get over in one piece. Cameras were stood by everywhere, as the two lads said a final prayer along with the team OC (hoping the new team car would come out of it safely) and **LCpl Chris Payne** the man on the 14th motorbike. A loud cheer, as **Sig Tarbox** complete with CCM 250 landed, the initial look of concentration (fear) rapidly breaking into a broad grin. Seconds later **Sig Mynett** much to the relief of everyone also covered the 85 foot obstacle safely. A new record and on 13 June as well, there is scope for a little further distance but as yet we will not say quite how much!

White Helmets distance jump—a record. Hawick June 1984. 2 x cars, 14 motorcycles and a very proud Sig 'Maggot' Tarbox

# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

**ARMY (CYPRUS) ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

After spending the night at the TRODOS Leave Centre 3 Sqn's A and B teams arrived at the start fresh and raring to go. The runners were started off at 2 min intervals between 1030 and 1300 hrs. Among the starters were 10 qualifying teams from both the ESBA and WSBA. There were also guest teams and individuals and one WRAC team from 9 Sig Regt. The course was over 8Kms (as the crow flies) with an approx climb of 1300ft and although there was a bit of track to follow, it was definitely a map reader's course as opposed to a runner's course. The map-reading itself was not too difficult but, if a mistake was made, relocation was time consuming. Out on the course the height (6000ft) and the temperature (70+) began to tell. Luckily there were abundant streams to drink from but there were still many runners suffering from dehydration. At checkpoint five there was the second Master Map which gave the six remaining checkpoints. It must be said that the second half was physically less demanding, or it was possible that by this time we just didn't care! At the end of the day the statistics were of 60 starters, 28 finished of which six were from 3 Sqn's A and B teams. The rest of the results were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Guest team** | **Auscon (UN Austrian Contingent)** |
| **Guest Winner** | **WO1 Pilchler (Auscon)** |
| **Ladies Winner** | **Capt Davies WRAC** |
| **Army (Cyprus) Team Champions** | **3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt A Team** |
| **Army (Cyprus) Champion** | **WO2 Hall 9 Sig Regt** |
| **Runner-Up** | **WO2 Conroy 9 Sig Regt** |

The full teams were as follows:
**A Team: WO2 Keith Hall, WO2 Chris Conroy, Sgt Mitch Lock, Cpl Dave Carvell. B Team: WO2 Chris Elliott, SSgt Al Hind, SSgt Mick Patchitt, Sgt Chris Bailey.**

*Front Row L-R:* WO2 Chris Conroy, Sgt Mitch Lock, Cpl Dave Carvell, WO2 Keith Hall
*Back Row L-R:* SSgt Al Hind, Sgt Chris Bailey, SSgt Mick Patchitt

**From: 9 Sig Regt**

**FOCUS ON TM TROOP 1 SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt (TOT) Field** |
| **2IC** | **WO1 (FofS) Taylor** |
| **Foreman Projects** | **WO2 (FofS) Everett** |
| **Foreman Maintenance** | **Sgt Smith—Acting Unpaid** |
| **SWS Workshop IC** | **SSgt Thorneycroft** |
| **Radio Workshop IC** | **SSgt Rankin** |
| **TG Workshop IC** | **SSgt Havlin** |
| **Troopy** | **Sgt Abernethy—Late of Radio Workshop** |

**THE WORKERS**

They consist of approximately 17 Sergeant Technicians; a few junior rank technicians (certainly not enough to share around); a gaggle of telemechs and finally a local civilian 'gang' of aerial riggers. All in all this must be one of the most upside down pyramids in the Corps.

Life in Cyprus consists of very early morning work followed by afternoons of sport and 'extra mural activities'. The troop can boast a very large selection of Regimental sportsmen, covering most activities. We even manage to fit in an inter Workshop sports session once a month, which combines throughout the year to form a much sought after prize 'The DEMI Trophy'. Last year it was convincingly won by TG workshops but, after a few postings out and a few strategically organised courses in UK, this year Radio Workshops have taken a clean sweep, after the first four events. Continuing on the sports scene some mention of people who represented Army (Cyprus) teams. At Rugby we had **Sgt Jim 'Butterfingers' Abernethy, Sgt 'Gaz' (Chopper Pilot desig) Ritchie** and **Cpl Mark 'Brutus' Neighbour**. Following on with the sport with the funny shaped ball (soccer) **Sgt 'Mac' McMillan** and **LCpl Mick Rogers** astounded the Army selectors with their skills (well that's what they told us). Another magnificent achievement was **Sgt Paul Thomas-Peter**'s selection for the Army Angling side and, not forgetting, **SSgt Ian Thorneycroft** at Basketball.

**ADOPTED CHARITY**

The troop has an adopted charity, the Thalassaemia Society for which C£300 was collected by a sponsored relay run from Ay Nik to Dhekelia. The troop did the run in fancy dress assisted by **Sgt Geoff Borden** on his bike supplying liquid refreshment along the route. The troop is now preparing for a new fund raising event which will no doubt be reported on at a later date. Some of the troop also give more than just their money for the Thalassaemia Society. Once a month they give blood for use by the daughter of our Cypriot Carpenter Demi. He in return sponsored our inter workshop sports last year, providing food after the events.

**VIDEO CABLE TV**

The troop is also involved in local community work by maintaining and updating the video cable TV systems in the quarters areas of Ay Nik and Pergamos. The Ay Nik system is looked after by **Sgt John Andrews** and **Sig 'Billy' Smart**; the Pergamos one by **FofS 'video king' Mick Everett** and ably assisted by **Sgt 'Taff' Cassells**. The quarters area systems show 'up to date' BFBS Germany programmes. That is they started up to date, but by the time they arrive by 'Pigeon Post', they are a few weeks old. Still, it's better than some people who don't have the facility at all.

**Sgt Billy Smith** and **LCpl George Houghton** (a member of the Telemech Gaggle) have just finished installing a third system for the patients of the MRS in Dhekelia. The money for this enterprise was raised by the Regiment in an inter squadron Bed-push between Ay Nik and Dhekelia.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are in order for **Sgt John** and **Sarah Middleton** on the birth of their son **Benjamin** followed closely by the birth of a daughter, **Rebecca**, to **Sgt and Carol Heaton**.

We also have to say goodbye to: **SSgt Iain Haldane, Sgts Jim Hunter, Ray Francis, John Hughes, Jim Abernethy, 'Gaz' Ritchie, Cpl Steve Nicol, Sig 'Billy' Smart** and **Mark Taylor** and a very hearty welcome to: **SSgts Ken Rankin, Pete Havlin, Sgt Steve Gillham** and **Cpl Pete Reynolds**. Oh and by the way, we have a very shapely WRAC TE Technician **Cpl Jan Neal** who has added yet another dimension to the already diverse structure of the Troop.



# 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
# Wilton

**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT WINTER LEAGUE**

10 Sig Regt entered into the league and stole the show. **Mr Tom Coghlan,** Supervisor A, 1 Sqn led the team to victory with splendid results. 10 shots, 10 wins and an overall Gun score of 7477 giving us 20 points. Our nearest rival in Division Two was RSA B Team with a score of 7284. It looks like Division one next year!!

Presentation of winners Shields. Members of the winning rifle team in Division Two of South West District Winter Rifle League after presentation of Gilt Shields by Lt Col P. B. Webster. *L-R:* Mr T. A. Coghlan, Lt Col P. B. Webster, Sgt C. Yates and Capt Muat. Sgt C. Yates is the Secretary of South West District Army Target Rifle Association and Mr Coghlan is a Civil Servant working with the Regiment

**MIDDLE WALLOP AIR SHOW 2-9 JULY 1984**
**Report by 2Lt W. L. Bobbitt WRAC**

I was delighted to be asked to attend the International Air Show at Middle Wallop as one of some 12 WRAC officers to act as a linguist. It was during the three day Heli-Meet Competition prior to the Air Show itself that we found ourselves most busy dealing with foreign helicopter crews who had flown from such countries as Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Canada and France and last, but not least, Australia. Rather than having to struggle with my inadequate French and German, I was pleased to be invited to join the Heli-Meet Control Team in briefing and monitoring the progress of foreign crews during a really challenging helicopter competition.

After the competition and at the end of what had already proved an interesting week, I was honoured to be presented to **HRH The Prince Michael of Kent** when he visited the Army Air Corps Centre on 7 July 1984 to open the Corps Museum. It is estimated that some 50,000 keen spectators visited Middle Wallop during the two day show which goes to prove what an absorbing and successful display it was.

**NOTES FROM THE TECHS**

The Wilton based element of South West District SWS Troop consists of a Foreman of Signals and five TE Technicians. We have a secure workshop in Wilton and are responsible for maintenance and repair of all crypto equipment in the 1 Sqn area.

The year began feverishly as the installation of the new Warminster COMMCEN progressed. Since its opening in early March, life has returned to 'normal'. June saw the Foreman, **SSgt Colin Turner** and one of the techs spend a busy week at the Aldershot Army Display. The T100 was never designed to be pounded by thousands of children's fingers but survived very well.

Congratulations must go to **Cpl Kev Smith** on two accounts. Firstly on his recent promotion and secondly for coming top of his ADSSS Course—one in the eye for the RAF! The coming months will see a period of considerable change in the workshops. **Cpl Mark Shergold** is off to Australia on Ex *Long Look* for four months. We hope he enjoys himself, benefitting from his trip down under. We welcome **Sgt Cox** from the Royal Australian Signals and hope he enjoys our hospitality over the next four months. Soon we say goodbye to both **Sgt Mick Richards** and **Sgt Geoff Roberts** and their respective families who head for other things, after 22 years' service. We wish them all the best for the future.

**1 SQUADRON TO THE HIGHLANDS**

1 Squadron took to the Highlands of Scotland for their adventure training activity 1984. 40 members of the Regiment walked and/or canoed from Inverness to Fort William over the two weeks duration of the exercise. The weather for week one was 'Variable' (wet). The canoeing on Loch Ness proved a test for most, especially with the wind blowing the wrong way!

'Where are we now?' *From L-R:* Pte Ellen, Thompson, Sally Thorne, Mandy Richardson, Lt Annabel Stiff (with map), Pte Juliette Green, Pte 'Kibs' Kibble
(Photo Pte Carol Halls)

**VARIABLE**

Our campsites were like the weather—variable! The most remarkable was in a farmer's (pig) field near Foyers on the banks of Loch Ness. Unfortunately the farmer had not moved the (enormous) sows from the field as promised, so we were plagued by the animals, for hours. Not only were they trying to eat our tents but they seemed intent on dislodging them completely from the field. The pigs succeeded in loosening most of our guy ropes and pulling out several pegs. They also had a small snack of apples in one tent, unzipping the door to get in!

**SSgt Pete Day** and **Sgt Jim Lander** provided the expertise and admin back up for the exercise. **SSgt Day** adapted well to his title—SMUT (Senior Male Under Tentage but **Lt Annabel Stiff** decided against being Senior Lady Under Tentage!).

The second week's weather improved and everyone returned (to the annoyance of the first week's participants) with suntans. Both weeks ended with successful barbecues in spite of the gnats and mosquitoes which decided to join us on both occasions. Everyone returned safely to Wilton and to the COMMCEN and Telephone Exchange of HQ UKLF feeling better for the break.

**FAREWELLS**

Several of U Troop have recently departed for civilian life. **SSgt Pete Day** and **Sgt Dave 'Marathon' Milner** both retired on 4 August and are already discovering things weren't so bad in the Army after all. **LCpl Jayne Whiteley** and **LCpl Ruth Reece** both left at the end of the July and we wish them well in their new careers.

**Pte Karen Humphrey** (wife of **Cpl Alan Humphrey**) left to start a family as did **LCpl Liz Rogan**. We hope to see the new arrivals soon.

**2 SQUADRON—LETTER FROM LONDON**

I have to tell you that the sun soaked peace and tranquility of Beavers Lane has been shattered. Not by Concorde taking off on runway three, but by **SSM Tod O'Brien** who at long last has arrived and taken over the office (vacant since March) which overlooks the square. I can report that our one and only RP, **LCpl Mark Gibson**, has never been so busy; WRAC drill has never been so smart and our neighbours in 419 Tp RCT now tremble as they 'cut about' in pairs to and from their garages. We do indeed welcome the Sergeant Major and his wife **Terri** and wish them success and happiness whilst serving with 2 Sqn. We also welcome a new OC O Tp, **Capt Phil Castle**, who persists in doing 10 mile runs, along the M4. (So that's what a 'shift system' means).

**CEREMONIALS AND THE LIKE**

It has again been a busy summer, with all the regular ceremonial engagements of The Queen's Birthday Parade, Beating Retreat and the Opening of the Royal Tournament. Perhaps the most demanding event of the 'season' was the World Economic Summit held at Lancaster House in June. The Squadron provided the communications controlling the formal welcoming of the Heads of State. This process began at Gatwick and ended at Kensington Palace where the Prime Minister (kept up to pace by **Cpl Ron Potter**) and the GOC presented the guard of honour. **Sig Scott** had a little problem with the Japanese delegation as the appointment title was unpronounceable and **Sig** (now) **LCpl Leach** of 2 ADSR had to give the Presidential car close scrutiny to satisfy himself that it was **Mr Reagan** behind the darkened windows. Whilst all this was going on **Sig Dave Rowson** was employed as Queen's Orderly delivering dispatches from Buckingham Palace and posing for photographs outside the Palace gates. Further afield, SWS Troop have been all over the place providing PA from Normandy to the International Air Display at Middle Wallop where **Sgt Sid Thompson** and his willing gang of technicians and honorary linemen knocked up a 1000 metre crowd line of elevated speakers (to drown out the sound of all the aircraft, of course). SWS Troop were also heavily committed with the Royal Tournament at Earls Court together with our switchboard operator friends from Oscar Troop—**Cpl Danny Vardon** and **LCpl 'Lofty' Short**. However the glittering prizes go to **Cpl Glyn Brayley** who again acted as Assistant Producer to **Maj Michael Parker** and **Cpl Terry Hickey** who ran the sound effects.

**OUR MAN AT THE OLYMPICS**

**Sgt Steven Jackson** departed for Los Angeles on 28 July to represent the 'regiment' (and a few others) in the Olympic K1000 canoe competition.

**Sig 'Cally' Callendar** ran for England in the recent Under 23s athletics meeting at Brussels. 2 Sqn were the undoubted Victors of the Bruno Cup Sports Day organised and brilliantly run by 3 Sqn at Aldershot. Our prowess at Ring-the-Stick, Volleyball, Football and the like was unmatched and actually moved **Sgt Jeff 'MaGonical' Batt** to poetry, which has unfortunately been censored by the editor. Finally the Squadron Bruno Club Summer Ball was a splendid affair, with excellent music, plentiful refreshments and superb company. Who won the 'last to leave' competition?, and was the 2IC truly wafted away by the TOT?

**BRUNO CUP—SUMMER 84**

Twas in the year of '84
In mid July we came
To visit sunny Aldershot
To play at various games

A lot of practice had been done
The best were to take part
To win the Trophy was the aim
The Squadron full of heart

At six o'clock a bell did ring
By eight it was all over
The Squadron best had one their best
And all were swathed in clover

With hockey, football, ring a stick
And volleyball as well
The teams did play their hearts out
It wasn't hard to tell

Two Shields—a cup—have come to rest
a year they are to stay
In sunny Hounslów's trophy case
We'll give them back one day

With 13 studs in both his boots
Our OC R did stand
Hoping for selection
He stood with boots in hand

To no avail, he waits and waits
The team has been selected
The best are seen to play the game
It really is expected

It must be said the poor OC
Was seen to wander round
Asking Captains for a game
And kicking at the ground

But his time came—the last event
The Squadron came in second
No more will Captains turn him down
His force it must be reckoned

So HQ, 1 and 3 Squadron
The warning is now out
Three shields, a cup is next year's aim
Of this there is no doubt

2 Sqn—Victors of Bruno Cup

**3 SQUADRON**
**Report by LCpl Mickleburgh, WRAC**

**D-DAY CELEBRATIONS IN PORTSMOUTH**

On 6 June a WRAC Platoon left Aldershot for Portsmouth. The platoon consisted of members from 10 Sig Regt and 10 Coy WRAC. The occasion was the D-Day Commemoration. Although most of the ceremonies were centred on the beaches of Normandy, some took place in Portsmouth.

With starched shirts, 'bulled' shoes and Number Twos in hand we boarded our coach in Aldershot. Once we arrived in Portsmouth we were taken to HMS *Nelson* from where the parade would begin.

The time came at last to dress and take our place on the parade square amongst the Navy, Royal Marines, Air Force and American and French Forces. The parade began at 1200 hrs and the practice parades under **SSM Page** now gave way to the real thing. Once out of HMS *Nelson*, we marched along the streets of Portsmouth which were lined with crowds of people. We received a tremendous welcome. When the parade was over we had the remainder of the afternoon free which we spent with the men from HMAV *St George*. They took excellent care of us and a super time was had by all.



**EXERCISE *DRAGON TRAIL***
**Report by Lt J. A. Cooper WRAC**

Ex *Dragon Trail* was a walking exercise which took place from 25 June to 8 July along Offa's Dyke, starting at Prestatyn in North Wales and finishing at Chepstow in the south. The exercise was split into two parts. The first part involved 12 servicewomen from HQ UKLF Tp and 22 Sqn RCT in Wilton and 3 Sqn in Aldershot. The first group walked from Prestatyn to Knighton, Powys. The second week involved servicewomen from 3 Sqn and 2 Sqn in Hounslow. They walked from Knighton to Chepstow, following the trail of the Offa's Dyke footpath.

Our daily routine was generally the same. Reveille was at 0700 hours. We then had breakfast and struck camp. Myself and **LCpl Harry** from 22 Sqn RCT (our long suffering driver) then collaborated over pick-up points, timings and campsites. While we walked he and a co-driver prepared our next campsite. By 0900 hours we were ready to leave. Our day's walking averaged about 10 miles. This allowed for hills, sore feet and the heat! The weather was absolutely wonderful, particularly in the second week.

At the end of a hot day's walking, the next campsite was a very welcome sight. We had an hour or so to cool the feet down before the cooks for the evening collected their compo tins and set to with the tin opener. After our evening meal we made a point of visiting the nearest hostelry for some culture and civilisation! I think it would be true to say that we all enjoyed ourselves and would have stayed longer—if only to improve the suntan!

**SWITCHBOARD OPERATORS PLIGHT**
**By W/LCpl Hayhurst**

'Number please'. I ask them nice,
'Private or Official?'
I sometimes ask them twice
Because they do not listen.

'Would you not dial in my ear!
Can I help you please?'
'No I'm sorry no reply,
They've probably gone to tea'.

'Why is there no reply—
He said to ring at ten'.
'Perhaps he's left the building'.
'Oh! Take a message then'.

'Please replace your receiver,
I have a call for you'.
'Oh! It's my teabreak—
I think I'll have a brew'.

'That number is a spare line,
You say its on a letter.
Would you like enquiries?
They would know much better'.

'I wonder if you can help me?'
Here we go again.
'My son has joined the Army
And I haven't heard from him'.

'Could I speak to John please,
I met him out last night.
I don't know where he works
And I wondered if you might'.

'When you hear "Aldershot Military",
Spare a thought for us girls.
Sitting at the switchboard—
We're not doing knits and purls!'

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## 11 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison

**FOCUS ON 3 TROOP**

**Troop Commander:** **WO1 Peter Clarke**
**Tp Sgt:** **Sgt Alan Hoensch**
**Tp Cpls:** **Jim Scott**
**Terry Gigg**
**Mick McGinn**

**FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Sgt Alun Parry** on his promotion and posting to 31 Sig Regt (V). To **Cpl 'Rivet' Justice** on promotion and posting to Harrogate with his wife **Lynne. Cpl 'Geordie' Tough** on posting to 7 Sig Regt and a much sought after break in the Falklands. **Cpl Wood** retires to Durham Jail, as a warder, we wish him and his wife **Lynne** all the very best for the future. In return after countless hours of juggling the 'three' master boards in SHQ **Maj Jack Boyle** (he's the Squadron Commander) came up with the following: Tp Sgt: (just back from the Falklands) **Sgt Alan Hoensch** who joins us with his wife **Pam**. Tp Cpls: **Cpl Terry Gigg**, recently married to **Lynne, Cpl Mick McGinn** and his wife **Lynn** and still outstaying the rest, **Cpl Scott** with his wife (and you would be wrong) it's **Sue**.

**THE SERIOUS ASPECT OF TRAINING—VISITS AND PARADES**

**VISITS**

During the 10 weeks basic training the regiment does have an avalanche of visitors and every two weeks there is a Pass Off Parade. Our visitors during this course have been the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock**, the outgoing Brigade Commander, **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling** and the incoming **Brig F. R. Maynard**. The Inspecting Officer on our eight week 'back up' parade was the PUS for Defence, **Lord Trefgarne** and our actual pass off Inspecting Officer was **Brig Norman Butler**.

The Master visited the Troop at the end of their gruelling ninth week exercise and said he was extremely impressed with the high standard of physical fitness and morale, after a forced march with full equipment over 10 miles, in 1 hour and 40 minutes.

The importance of parades cannot be over emphasised; they are the culmination of hours of hard work, discipline and patience. All the Cadre display a sense of humour and patience beyond comprehension. At last it is our day.

The Master discussing tactics with Sig 'Prof' Green

The Master passing on his congratulations to the young men embarking on their career in the Corps

**ANOTHER REGIMENTAL FUN RUN**

Also during this course there was a fun run which is five miles of running and singing around the Garrison with a guidon race at the end. This is always 'fixed' by the CO **Lt Col Brown** so that HQ Sqn win, the other troops then have to participate in producing 10 good 'press ups'. We are working on a way to beat his system.

**HOLIDAY WEEKENDS ARE FOR WALKING**

The troop were selected to reprsent the Regiment in a 48 hour fun walk over the North Yorkshire Moors, a total distance of only 46 miles. The weather was unkind but spirits never flagged. It was a charity walk, to aid the restoration of Fountains Abbey. The troop are pictured at the start. Good stamina training; watch out Nijmegen and the Lippstadt Marches!

**EXERCISE *LAKES TRAIN*—TORVER**

The new troop formed to find that there was a few days 'spare' prior to actual commencement of training and with the best wishes of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col P. J. R. Brown** they embarked on military transport for a two and a half hour drive to Torver in the Lake District with the Troop Commander **WO1 Peter Clarke**. They had a varied and exciting programme co-ordinated by **SSgt Graham Crossland**, and his team of **Sgt Chris Wooff** and **Cpl Paul Wordsworth**.

Rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking and canoeing were the highlights, though they were all wishing that they had been hijacked by the Commanding Officer, as was their Troop Commander. They had almost completed a 48 hour expedition when, rounding an outcrop there emerged suddenly the CO **Lt Col Brown, Capt Ian Foxley** and **SSgt Tony Salter** who whisked **WO1 Peter Clarke** away If only they had known that he was served light refreshments and treated to a splendid pub lunch; what heavenly days. All too soon it was back to reality.




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Three troop canoeists on Lake Coniston, an introduction to the real Army. *L-R:* Sig Aspray, Johnson, Reynolds, 'JR' Ewing, McConnon, Wellfare and Long

**POSTSCRIPT—HUMOUR IS NOT DEFUNCT**

Letter received by Tp Sgt, **Sgt Hoensch**, from Room 153 Normandy; Third week of training.

Dear Sgt Hoensch,

As it is stated in QRs that no pets are allowed to be kept by recruits in the accommodation, we are a bit worried about a certain wasp that has taken up residence in our room. Although quite a friendly creature no-one has yet had the courage to ask it to leave—so would it be at all possible for us to keep him as a pet?

We promise to keep him (we've already checked his sex) very clean and quiet and out of the compo rations, as he's the only one around who likes the baconburgers. As an added bonus he can be used as an extra guard when the rest of us are knackered after exercises.

Yours faithfully,
The Lads in Normandy

PS: We've already taught him to fly in step and there is always a nice crease down his wings.

**STOP PRESS**

More changes have evolved since the start of this article. **Sgt Alan Hoensch** is posted to 21 Sig Regt via the RSSSC. We wish him and his wife **Pam**, all the very best and we welcome from within the Regiment 'Jack of all Trades', **Sgt Joe Pearson** and his wife **Susan**. A happy tour in the troop to you both. **Maj Jack Boyle** has had a minor health setback, we wish him a speedy recovery; it's far too quiet in the corridor of power.

**Capt Rosemary Archer**, Specialist Catering Officer and **2Lt Jill Turner** have just returned from a month's sojourn in the USA; we are still waiting for giant burgers in the dining room.

On the sporting scene, the troop have been well represented in the regimental cricket team, which can boast the best supported team in the regiment. It must be the standard of the buffet which is excellently produced by the catering staff; the team now bring their own flasks and sandwiches to supplement the tea meal.

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

## VISIT OF MASTER OF SIGNALS

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, paid his first visit on 20 July. The aim was to enable him to meet as many of the Regiment as possible. Having spent the morning touring the working areas of the Regiment, the programme brought him to the Sergeants' Mess for drinks prior to a buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess.

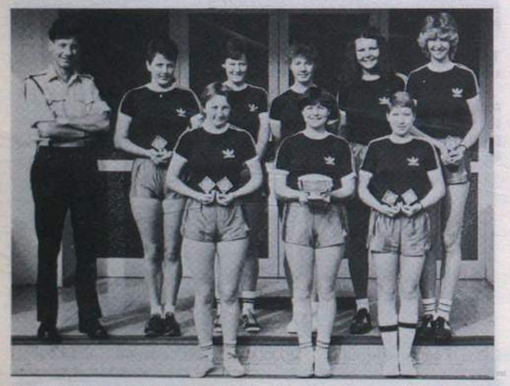
The photograph shows the Master being met at RHQ by the CO, Lt Col Gordon Howard and WO1 (RSM) Ray Jeffery

## BAOR (WS) VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984

The BAOR (WS) Volleyball Championships took place in Rheindahlen on Monday 23 July. Six teams took part and played on both indoor and outdoor courts.

The standard of play started and remained high throughout the day leaving 29 Company WRAC Runners Up and 13 Sig Regt, captained by **W/Sgt June Molloy**, as the BAOR Champions.

1984 is a most important year for WRAC volleyball as, for the first time, it has become a recognised sport. 13 Sig Regt will now represent BAOR against the UK WRAC champions in England later this year.



Lt Col Gordon Howard, LCpl Helen Gordon, Cpl Sandra Cullingworth, LCpl Susy Evans, Sgt Carol Exley, Cpl Lauren Lilley, Cpl Georgette Reid, Sgt June Molley, Cpl Michelle Sutherland

## VISIT OF COMMANDER COMMS TO GROBBENDONK

### EXERCISE *SPRING AWAY*

The 1 Sqn Summer Camp was held at Grobbendonk in Belgium from 26 May to 9 June, to consolidate all the training carried out last year. As usual elements of HQ and 2 Sqn joined us to make up the numbers and to give WRAC an opportunity to taste the rough life. The comprehensive programme of events included a night exercise, leadership tasks, orienteering, gymnastic tests, section attacks and all this on a 24 hr pack.

Comd Comms talks to one of the sections on completion of the assault course

On the final day Commander Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, visited the camp. He was met by the CO **Lt Col Gordon Howard** and OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Tim Smith**. The Commander then visited all the stands.

## ARMY JUDO FINALS 1983/84

The Regiment as BAOR Judo Champions fought against The Depot Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces on 14 June in Birgelen, for the Army Championships. The contest proved too much for us and we lost 3—1. Our thanks go to The Depot for proving that even in the Army Final sportsmanship prevailed and both teams forged new friendships during the celebrations which followed.

We were most grateful to the Secretary of BAOR Judo for providing the Officials—**SSgt (SSI) Malcolm Williams, Sgt (SI) Andy Hyde** of 16 Sig Regt and **LCpl Ian Joy RE**.

Our team was, from right to left **Cpl Ian Vernon, WO2 (QMSI) George 'Warlord' Bryson, SSgt Jim Leivers, LCpl 'Cav' Kavanagh,** and **Sig Gaz Payne** who was unfortunately absent on duty, when this photograph was taken.



## SWIMMING

The Regimental Swimming Competition was held on 22 May. In recent years HQ Sqn has had a stranglehold on the meeting, however this year it was the turn of 1 Sqn, following secret practice sessions, to dominate the events. Whether it was the fact that **WO2 Terry 'Spud' Budden** was the HQ Sqn Team Manager or that it was his last meeting before posting, he nevertheless ended up in the pool, despite pleas of 'I can't even swim' and 'but I'm wearing a brand new shirt'. Poignantly **WO2 Terry Budden** was awarded his Regimental Swimming Colours for his outstanding efforts in running the Regimental Swimming Team during his last full tour in the Army, and what's more he really can't swim a stroke!

The Rear Combat Zone Swimming Championships were held at Rheindahlen on 15 June. With a black stormy sky and a biting wind the competitors were all very eager to get into the water and some good times were returned, especially by **LCpl 'Robbo' Roberts**. The Major Units Competition consisted of Royal Signals units and up to the last event we were level with 16 Sig Regt, however, they were too strong for us and we finished runners up in the competition.

### EXERCISE *LONGDROP 84*

In April 14 members of the Regiment undertook a parachute jump for Charity, and for 11 of the team it was a first time experience. There were only two mishaps—neither of which proved fatal—**LCpl Brian Coxford** breaking his ankle and **LCpl Sandra Cullingworth** ending 20 feet up a tree in a headfirst pose, scoring a maximum for artistic

interpretation and nothing for technical merit. The chain of command team was:

**WO1 (YofS) Nick Naylor, WO2 Colin Gibson, SSgt (YofS) Dave Bowman, Sgt 'Vinny' Hunter, Cpl Phil Raven, LCpl Brian Coxford, Sig 'Bod' Adams.**

The ladies team was:

**W/LCpl Sandra 'Toggle' Cullingworth, W/Cpl Sandra McCarthy, W/LCpl Carol Cawley** and the rest of the team were **Cpl Tam Malley, SSgt Chris Thain, LCpl Harry Butland** and **Cpl Jim Mitchell**.

The Charity sponsored was the St Oswald's Hospice for the terminally ill in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. It was given superb coverage in the Tyne and Wear area by local radio, TV and the press. A total sum of £1,140 was collected, and a cheque is on its way for presentation to the Charity.

## ORIENTEERING

The individual achievement of last season must go to **W/Sgt Ann Young** who was runner-up in the Womens BAOR Championships. Unfortunately **W/Sgt Young** is posted from us before we commence the new season, but we now have a good 'flock' of ladies including **W/Sgt Dee Lidstone, W/Cpl Liz Thomson, W/LCpls Julie Cross** and **Mandy Armitage** under the experienced wing of **WO2 Jo Bolland** and are hoping for great things in the coming season.

Our male team has also been reinforced in the later months by **SSgt Steve Lidstone** (the other half) and **Sig Jez Bailey** (M19 winner in EDIST). These together with old faithfuls **WO2 Ian Haig, Sgt Brian Sly, Sgt Al Hurdley, Sgt Roger Cooke, Cpl Dave Forbes, Cpl Steve Phelps** and **LCpls Harry Butland** and **Ian Knights** serve to strengthen the nucleus of the Regiment's orienteers in the coming season. Some of the bolder (and older) of us participated in the Eifel International three day event. For those who attended and lived to tell the tale of near Alpine climbs and Sahara like sun it was a great experience, not only in course layout, but also statts at their best.

The very full calendar of Rhine Area League events plus any 3 Div or civilian events within our reach will certainly give us the mileage and markers we need to work on our technique and to gather experience ready for next year's championships—watch this space!

## PHOENIX PLAYERS

Our latest production 'Pools Paradise' by Philip King was given its public airing in mid June. The attendances for the first two nights were lower than usual but the last two nights were completely sold out.

It was an ambitious venture as the set required was very complicated. The Producer, **SSgt Paul Connors** and **SSgt Dougie Allen** his Stage Manager, worked wonders to convert the Quicksilver Bar outer-room into a Vicarage sitting room—complete with oak beams and bookshelves. If we may be allowed to quote a letter received by a member of the cast from a visitor to this unit it highlights the amount of effort put into this particular production by all concerned.

'I felt I must write to you to thank you and all the cast for such a wonderfully produced and acted show.

It was only when I went to a local drama show that I fully understood how difficult and well acted your performances were. The things I noticed that you had taken the trouble to make sure were in order, that they didn't were amazing. I am not saying the local show was not good, in fact quite the contrary, but by comparison your show was fantastic and once again I must thank you for a well done job. Yours

**Sgt Kevin James APTC'**

The cast in order of appearances were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Penelope Toop** | **Miss Barbara Hopper** |
| **Ida** | **W/Cpl Sarah Glover** |
| **Lionel Toop** | **WO1 Nick Naylor** |
| **Willie** | **WO1 Peter Derrick** |
| **Miss Skillon** | **Mrs Joy White** |
| **Humphrey** | **WO2 John Anning** |
| **Bishop of Lax** | **Capt Tony Manders** |
| **Produced By** | **SSgt Paul Connors** |
| **Stage Manager** | **SSgt Doug Allen** |
| **Lights** | **LCpl 'Scottie' Scott** |
| **Prompt** | **WO2 Jo Bolland** |

The cast of 'Pools Paradise' at the final curtain

## 3 SQUADRON

3 Sqn would like to welcome the following members to Berlin—**WO1 John Clark, WO2 (SSM) Mal Heaney, WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt, SSgt Barry Parsons, Sgts Widdicombe, Steve Hughes, Cpls Bob Ravenscroft, John Pugh, Andy Ashwell, Chris Patrick, Col Horner, Jock Honeyman, David Hughes, Clare, LCpls Mark Hicks,** and **LCpl Mark Littlewood**. We would also like to welcome back **Sgt John Cairns** on return from detachment. **W/Sgt Jan Sykes, W/Cpl Lesley Holroyd** and **W/LCpl Carol Young** have arrived to swell the ranks of our WRAC.

Congratulations are extended to **Mr and Mrs Bob Coulling, Cpl and Mrs Mark Leigh** and **LCpl and Mrs Harry Binns** on the birth of their children.

The Squadron would also like to congratulate **WO1 Dennis Weir** on his **MBE** awarded in the Birthday Honours List, and **Sgt Nick McCreedy** on his promotion.

The Squadron has been very active on the sporting scene. **Sgt Nick McCreedy** earned his Berlin Combined Services Rugby Colours and has recently been selected to play Corps rugby. **Nick** also manages our joint 3 Sqn/BRIXMIS Cricket Team, which has yet to be beaten.

Not the least of our most recent achievements was the 25Km 'de Berlin', in which 11 male and three female members of the Squadron took part. Special credit goes to **Sgt Phil Gordon**, who finished in 1 hour 40 minutes. Training is now underway for the Berlin Marathon in September, in which nine Squadron members plan to take part.

3 Sqn also won the Berlin Minor Units Basketball League under the inspiring captaincy of **SSgt Paul Williams**, who has been known to play, when not suffering from orienteering injuries. Due to a wrongly-stamped card we were unfortunately disqualified from the Minor Units Orienteering Championships, which we were in a good position to win.

Finally, our farewells go to **WO2 (SSM) Bill Metcalfe, WO2 (FofS) Terry Spicer, SSgts Paul Williams, John Sands, Dave Green** and **W/Lcpl Jackie Wharton**. We wish them all the best in their future postings.

**ANGLO-US-GERMAN SHOOTING COMPETITION**

At the invitation of the Reservistenarbeits-Gemeinschaft Der Bundeswehr Reservisten Kameradschaft Verein e.V. (RAG.d.BRK.e.V.). The Regiment sent two × four man teams to attend the Augsburg Military Weapons Shoot at the Schwabstadl Ranges in Bavaria on the 16 June. 21 Teams participated, 5 US Army, 2 British, 1 Austrian TA, 1 Swchwabisch Alps TA German and 12 RAG.d.BRK.e.V.

The contest centred on using the K98 German WW2 general issue rifle (some of which have been lovingly restored) and 9mm or .45 Pistols. Targets for rifle were falling plate at 300 metres and this definitely ensured spectator participation! Counting out on the biggest Bullseye Pistol target!—meant that scores could be levelled, if one had a bad 300m shoot.

Final results were First Place: (RAG.d.BRK.e.V.) Augsburg 241 points; Second Place: A composite US Army team from Augsburg; and in Third Place: the 13 Signal Regt 'A' team.

Both teams with participation certificates and the third place silver trophy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# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**VISIT BY THE MASTER**

One of the highlights was a visit by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock** on 4 June.

The Master arrived at 0930 hrs at Scheuen on a crisp morning and commenced his visit with an inspection of the Quarter Guard. Not content, however, with a few words he spoke to each of the Guard, he nimbly doubled back into the Guardroom and chatted to them informally.

Having been extricated from the Guardroom, the Master was then given a short tour of camp which enabled him to meet the Regiment's personnel. Hardly drawing breath the Master flew from Scheuen to Wesendorf to Langeleben to see all aspects of the Regiment, departing for Verden, after lunch with the officers.'

The Master of Signals inspects the Guard of Honour accompanied by the CO

WO1 Peter Bawden introduces the MT Troop to the Master of Signals

**Mrs Badcock**, who accompanied her husband to Celle, was able to visit the 'Pearl of Northern Germany'—the medieval town of Cells—where she and a party of wives visited the Schloss, Museum and Theatre before lunching with members of the wives' club.

**1984 LONDON MARATHON—CANCER APPEAL**

In complete contrast to the preparations going on for the Master's visit in June were the preparations that had been ongoing since Christmas for five members of the Regiment to run and compete in the 1984 London Marathon. In December 1983, after an anxious wait the team, comprising **SSgt Art Weaver, WO2 Brian Pyle, Mrs Karen Pyle, Sgt Al Hayes** and **WO2 Mack Mackender**, were told that their application to run the London Marathon had been accepted. Celebrating the news only briefly the team soon got down to some hard training. For the next five months the Regiment followed the team's progress and in spite of several worrying injuries common to the high mileage training, were delighted to wish the team bon voyage on 10 May.

Sunday 13 May, after an early breakfast, saw the team making their way to their respective starts. Twenty six miles three hundred and eighty five yards (and endless Mars bars later) the extremely tired team crossed the line in the excellent time of three hours thirty eight minutes. Clutching their well earned medals they were heard to cry in unison 'never again'. (Rumour has it all are applying for next year's!)

The team, well supported with aid from within the Regiment and with sponsorship from **Townsend Thoresen,** raised the sum of **£1,000** from sponsorship, all of which will be donated to Imperial Cancer Research in memory of the sadly missed **Maj Brian Turner**.

*Left to Right:* SSgt Art Weaver, WO2 Brian Pyle, Mrs Karen Pyle, Sgt Al Hayes, WO2 Mack Mackender

**SAA (BISLEY OR BUST)**

The Regimental SAA Meeting turned out to be a closely fought battle with 2 Sqn narrowly winning overall, on the last event. The 2 Sqn team, comprising **Capt David Wilson, WO2 (SSM) Peter Haywood, WO1 Brian Ward, SSgt Keith Poole, Sgt Terry Palmer, LCpls Peter Thomas, Trevor Broome, Keith Emmerson, Andy Young, Peter Wade** and **Sig Steven Foley** who also picked up the prize for the best pistol shot. 3 Sqn were creditable runners up collecting the Brittanic Cup and the prize for best SLR shot, after a fine performance from **Sig Young.**

With the Regiment's shooting abilities being highlighted at the SAA Meeting a Regimental team was selected (comprising mainly of 2 Sqn) to compete at the 1 Armd Div SAA Meeting.

Congratulations go to the team who put on an excellent performance and were placed 8th out of 20, qualifying for this year's Bisley.

**THE COLONEL'S CUP**

This year's Colonel's Cup was split into two phases and held during the period 3 to 4 May. 3 May saw the 12 teams lined up at 0730 hrs to be dispatched to the first of their eight tasks. It turned out to be an arduous day with everything from mental (the Geneva Convention) to physical (the log race) and in between (NBC) tasks thrown in. All credit going to 1 Sqn SHQ who led the field at this stage with Ohms and Amps hot on their heels. (Special mention should go to P Tp who were first home in the log race).

The second phase of the contest was held at 1 Sqn on the 4th and consisted of a 10 mile best effort run in CEFO. All teams completed the run with D Tp producing a stalwart effort to emerge as victors of this phase.

1 Sqn SHQ however, despite being pushed all the way by Jammer Troop, kept their lead and emerged as the overall winners at the end of the day (not bad for the old bunch). May has also been a good month for Adventure training with HQ and 3 Sqns heavily involved with the outdoors.

Regimental Athletics
Lt Col Bill Roper congratulates Sgt Eddie London, winner of the Long Jump competition. After an extremely exciting competition 3 Sqn emerged as the eventual winner

Regimental Hockey
After a tough battle 2 Sqn narrowly defeated RHQ in the Regimental Hockey Final. Mug shots of the winning (in shirts) and losing sides

Regimental Golf
WO1 (YofS) Bill Donnelly congratulates Capt Frost Haenchen on his 'driving' performance. NB who said anything about it being a set up? WO1 (YofS) Bill Donnelly walking off with the main prize!

**HQ SQN ADVENTURE TRAINING**

HQ Sqn are, this year, running a series of Adventure Camps based at the ski-hut Torfhaus in the Harz Mountains. The first camp was held during the week 22-25 May and included in its programme rock-climbing, canoeing and orienteering with, due to the weather conditions, mud wrestling and swimming up rock faces thrown in for free.

The canoeing side was ably led by **LCpl Bob McGhee** on the Okerstaussee allowing members of the Squadron to learn the basic skills. The rock-climbing side being led by **LCpl Phil Parker** who, despite the rain, still managed to throw the students down the rock faces on bits of rope.

**WO2 Bob Winstanley** showed his mean streak in planning and organising the 25Km orienteering event. The only saving grace being the 10 km stop in the car park of a handy hostelry! Alas the weather interfered, yet again, the last 5Kms being completed in thick mist.

Mention must be made of the base camp where **Cpl George Crichton** organised the 'soft drinks and sweetie bar' and **Cpl Eddie Watson** catered for the needs of the inner man. Despite the weather it was voted a great success by those participating.

**3 SQN ADVENTURE TRAINING**

Oscar Troop decided to venture further afield than HQ Sqn and spent the 19-25 May basking in the 'Baltic' for their adventure training. A run down of their week as seen by an 'anonymous' participant follows:

'Saturday 19 May was a hot sunny day and spirits were high as we set out for a week's camp at Kiel training centre. Suntan oil was liberally splashed all over, as we spent the afternoon busily putting the sailboards together under the watchful eyes of **LCpl Vick Hayes** and **LCpl 'Scouse' McAuley**.

Sunday was devoted to water activities. **Sgt Grogan** spent most of the morning demonstrating capsize drills alongside **LCpl Brian 'I'll stand on this windsurfer if it kills me' Campbell** as he showed everyone how to do it.

Monday morning was spent visiting the U-Boat Museum and U-Boat at Laboe with the afternoon devoted to canoe-surfing and dodging the windsurfers who shipped past us at breakneck speeds.

Tuesday saw a 'visitation' from the Sqn OC and SSM. The OC with no thought for his own life immediately joined some of us canoeing while the SSM looked on in amusement at the lack of finesse with the sail-boards! The afternoon's activity was a map reading exercise organised by **Cpl Keith Roach** (who was later blamed for the torrential rain!).

Thursday brought the best weather of the week. **SSgt Tony Wise** even rolled his trousers to his knees, but was thankfully stopped from putting a handkerchief on his head and paddling. **LCpl Chris Mann** put on so much coconut oil, he was declared an oil slick. The afternoon was spent on potted sports, which included dodging the German Guard dogs, to retrieve the volleyball. Friday saw us packing up and returning to Camp after a most enjoyable and interesting week.



**EXERCISE *SWEATY PALM***

For the last time, Scharfoldendorf Camp, in the hilly country south of Hameln, was made available by the German authorities as the control headquarters for the exercise. **Maj John Burnage**, OC 2 Sqn, was the exercise director and the hunter force was ably led by **Maj Richard Hewitt**, OC 3 Sqn. Assistance from JSIW Ashford was provided by a team led by **Maj John Healey**, guards were provided by our local artillery regiment, 94 Locating Regiment RA and two splendid war dogs from 1 ADTU added to the exercise's realism.

Subjects studied included the Geneva Convention, Map Reading and Combat Survival with a heavy accent on the practical side. Few who trudged the countryside in their laceless boots or trainers and their sweat-stained battledress will forget this fortnight.

A week's theoretical study in a POW camp environment was followed by a week's running, after a mock breakout from camp, followed by a river crossing. Patrols then RVd with a friendly agent to collect rations—chicken 'on the hoof' and a handful of potatoes! All the runners were eventually caught and underwent the interrogation phase—without doubt this was the hardest and most satisfying aspect of the exercise and, all runners testified to the competence and professionalism of the interrogators.

Our thanks are due to **Capt 'Nic' Nicol** and **WO1 Dave Luckett** who did much of the legwork for this excellent training exercise and we look forward to a repeat performance next year.

Following the Falklands Campaign the Regiment has now been 're-equipped'
Sgt John Richardson LCpl Shaun Thickett Cpl Andrew McDougall

**1 SQN PROJECT**

One of the more eagerly awaited exercises in the Squadron's calendar is the yearly two-week Community Relations Project. Since 1981, two groups of some 10-15 men have spent a week each in the German seaside resort of Cuxhaven, carrying out various environmental clean-up and repair tasks, as guests of the Cuxhaven Spa Authorities. This year the main task consisted of the shoring-up of a lake shore which had been badly eroded by thousands of pairs of feet over the years. This took some five days in all to complete. Among other tasks were the repair of a kiddie's playground and repairs to much-used tracks through the wood.

The idea is to get soldiers out and about away from the barrack location for some hard physical work and recreation. Although hampered by some inclement weather, both groups managed a 10Km hike across the mud flats to Neuwerk Island, where **LCpl Joe Young ACC** celebrated his 21st birthday in style. (The return journey was somewhat less strenuous—by ferry).

During the week the 'workers' were visited by the Regt 2IC, **Maj Christopher Urquhart**, and the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Bill Nelson**. Together with the SNCO IC Ex *Beachcomber*, **Sgt John Richardson**, they paid a visit to the Oberstadtdirektor, **Herr Dr Eilers**, who expressed his satisfaction with the work done and his hopes to see us again in 1985.

A farewell barbecue was given as a thank you by the Spa Authorities at which friendships were made and, in some cases, renewed. Thorough enjoyment was expressed by all attending over the two weeks.

**ADVENTURE TRAINING**

Our adventure training efforts this year have ranged from Bavaria to the Harz, with two expeditions to Canada and the Swiss Alps yet to take place.

**BRAVO TROOP—SUMMER CAMP? OR HANK'S RETREAT FROM DODENAU**

**SSgt 'Hank' Marven** took the Troop on our Summer Camp to the Costa Del Dodenau. It consisted of that famous Army competition 'who can hang by their parts on a bit of string', or abseiling to those who enjoy the sport. The instructor **LCpl Phil Parker** was amazed at the positions **Cpls 'Scouse' Tiernan** and **Bob (I'm so handsome) Sloan** could get their bodies in just going up to the top of the small abseil. Let it be known that **Cpl Paul Pheonix** did do the large drop and only had to change his shreddies once on the way down.

The second sadist we took with us was **LCpl Bob McGhee**. He taught us the delights of canoe polo, where there are less rules than Murder Ball and one more rule than in the Roman Arena. It's not a game for the faint hearted and if **Mark Spitz** had seen **LCpl Col Skuse** swim when he went over he would have given him all his medals. **LCpls Bob McGhee, Iain Pettigrew** and **Sig 'Shakie' Wilton** entertained us all and a few local 'Erics' by canoe jousting. When they had finished we noticed that they had three adams apples.

The third and final instructor was **SSgt John Cullen** who took us all for a jolly on the hills—I mean trekking. He also arranged a football match against the local side TUS Dodenau who are just as good as any fourth division side, but they caught us on a bad day. They declared at 13—3, but we evened the score in the pub later on.

**ADVENTURE TRAINING—2 SQN**

In need of a rest after Ex *Sweaty Palm*, J Troop and D Troop took to the bracing waters of the Harz mountains in Ex *Floating Bear*. Whilst half of them learned to canoe under the guidance of **Cpl Bob McGhee**,the remainder attempted board sailing with **Cpl Mick Early REME**. A rivalry quickly built up between the 'paddlers' and the 'surfers', it being noted that the wimps on the windsurfers wore wet suits whilst the paddlers didn't, and that **LCpl Steve Storey** and his canoe were sent to rescue **Sig Ian Mackay**, who had not quite mastered the art of tacking into the wind. The surfers knew however that they spent far more time on (and in) the water and could thrash the paddlers at darts before everyone retired early to bed, at best weatherbeaten, by the day's exertions.

The surfers started the week quietly on a pond and, using the simulator, thought it was all so easy until they moved to the large lake nearby which provided a more formidable challenge and many spent most of the time hauling their sail back out of the water. **SSgt 'Art' Weaver** and **Cpl Dave Willis** quickly grasped the technique and, the rest spurred on by their success, soon improved. By the end of the week seven of the eight, including the great white whale **Cpl 'Scouse' Robinson**, were able to pass the RYA Basic Course and feel qualified to 'pose' next time they go on leave to the coast.

The paddlers also thoroughly enjoyed themselves, many pressing on with the opportunity to get on some white water now they have returned home, thus completing their ACU Basic Course.

# 16 Sig Regt
# BFPO 35

## FAREWELL TO ARMS

On 30 July **Maj Ron Finister** climbed into an aircraft at RAF Wildenrath at the end of a long and distinguished career in the Corps. For the last four years he has served with the Regiment as OC the BAOR Cryptographic Distribution Agency. His career commenced in January 1947 and carried him to the four corners of the globe. All members of the Regiment and, I feel sure, all past and present members of the Corps join me in wishing you and **Evelyn** a long and happy retirement. Thank you **Ron**.

A farewell presentation to Maj Ron Finister by Lt Col I. E. Kerr made at a Dinner Night in the Officers' Mess. Maj Tom Cran looks on

## PARTICIPATION IN D DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| D Day 1984 minus 21 hours: | **Cpl Helen Bond** to **WO2 (SSM) Tony Hand** 'Sir any chance of getting Transport to see the celebrations?' |
| D Day minus 10 hours: | **WO2 (SSM) Tony Hand**—Driver, Organiser and Financial Adviser asks 'All got Passports?' |
| D Day minus 9 hours: | **Cpl Guy Whitelaw** 'My wife has my passport'<br>SSM 'Get under the seat'. |
| D Day minus 4 hours: | Lost on the outskirts of Paris.<br>**Cpl 'Norri' Swainson** 'Let's do Paris instead'<br>**Pte Mary Rutter** Snores on.<br>**Mr Ron Thurgood** (Veteran) 'To the Beaches'. |
| D Day minus 30 mins: | All arrived at Bayeaux safely to be met by Road Block of Gendarmes.<br>No further they say!<br>10 mins later—two miles inside road block. |
| D Day minus 15 mins: | **Sgt Mick Mulhearn** to British RMP: 'Where's the action then?'<br>RMP 'Allomarch, but impossible to reach, roads all blocked.' |
| D Day plus 10 mins: | All arrive Allomarch to witness the scores of vehicles on the Beaches. **Dame Vera Lynn**, Actors **Richard Todd**, **Cardew Robinson** and many others there. |
| D Day plus 7 hours: | Arrived back in Bayeaux at the British Commonwealth War Cemetery where we obtained front seats to witness the very moving Service in the immaculately kept cemetery. Afterwards we were all honoured when **HRH The Prince Philip** stopped to talk to us. The girls were momentarily struck dumb but soon found their voices again and talked about it all the way home! |
| D Day plus 22 hours: | We arrived safely in Krefeld—very tired but glad we had all been there. |

## FROM FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND

### EXERCISE *BIEL-VENU* (OR MARATHON RUNNERS EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT)

When **Lt (now Capt) 'Sandy' Gallie** asks for Volunteers to go to Biel in Switzerland for a short exercise he found more than a few willing recruits. However, when pressed for more information he did mention that the exercise entailed running 100Km in a single 24 hour time span and, lo and behold, he no longer had a multitude of Apostles, merely a hard core of ten certified nutters (at least that's what everyone else called them!)

The initial problem was one of training. Just how do you train to run 2½ Marathons consecutively? Under the watchful eye of **SSgt Ian Kirkpatrick**, a training schedule was implemented, although it must be said, it in no way prepared us for the terrain we were to confront. Those of you familiar with Krefeld are no doubt aware it has more similarities with Holland than Switzerland.

On the Wednesday we travelled to Biel-Bienne with **Lt Paul Glibbery**, picking up a SF 80 Speeding Fine only two minutes over the border—such wonderful policemen. We arrived two days before the Run, primarily to get acclimatised to the local scenery (not the beach with the topless bathers I hasten to add) and found ourselves accommodated in an underground Civil Defence shelter, with 36 to a room.

In our own room there were no less than six nationalities in a truly International Event, with competitors from 23 different countries taking part. We discovered at this point there were some 6,000 runners and that the record time for the 100km Course was 6 hours 58 minutes. And so to the 'Off', under the glare of Television lights and a multitude of flashbulbs. We had paired ourselves off and had entered the military section of the race. The dress was optional and, not wanting to be encumbered with heavy boots, we elected to wear running shoes and the Regimental Athletic Strip. This proved to be an initial error on our part, as although daytime temperatures had been in the region of 30°C, by midnight, the race starting at 2200 hrs, and at some considerable height, the temperature had dropped to 6°C with quite a strong cross wind. This meant using a large quantity of liniment at each of the early staging points trying to warm up numb arms and legs.

The first injury occurred at only 17Kms with **Lt 'Sandy' Gallie** twisting his knee, causing him to limp in the final 83Kms. His partner **SSgt (FofS) Ken Smith** stayed with him until daylight and then opted to try and Run In, only to suffer knee trouble himself at 85Kms and he too finished limping.

One truly remarkable point was reached at the 50Km Rest/Drink tent. We saw, on arriving, a bulletin that had been produced proclaiming a new record time for the winner of 6 hrs 42 mins. It seemed quite remarkable to us because it meant that he had just run 62 consecutive 6½ minute miles over an undulating terrain, often on very narrow tracks and in near total darkness.

**Sig Lar Taylor** whilst running well placed with his partner **LCpl Mick Gillespie ACC** twisted his ankle at the 75Km point but, despite considerable swelling, managed to complete the course. And so to the end. All team members completed the course, with **SSgt Ian Kirkpatrick** and **Sig 'Hodge' Hodgson** completing it in 10 hrs 41 mins and were our first home; of the 6,000 starters, 900 dropped out at various stages and, tragically two people died.

Last in was **Lt 'Sandy' Gallie**, limping well but unfortunately for him there were no sympathetic overtures (we didn't forget whose idea it was in the first place!) as all the other team members had drifted off to the land of nod, where legs, arms, feet etc no longer felt as though they were made of lead.

Having recovered slightly by the next day, the team; **Lts 'Sandy' Gallie, Paul Glibbery, Alister Ross, SSgts Ken Smith, Ian Kirkpatrick, LCpls Vic Bates, Les North, Mick Gillespie ACC** and **Sig Lar Taylor** and **'Hodge' Hodgson** made their way back to Krefeld clutching Medals and Certificates.

When asked if we wanted to try again next year our immediate thoughts were of feet and injuries—but then again there's always that topless beach!



## REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

The 1983-84 season came to an end, the goal posts are down and pitch markings fading fast (RQMS **Greg Robertson** insisted!). **Sgt 'Billy' Watts** and **Cpl Stan Matthews** are in their cricket whites. What promised to be a successful season faded into a good one. Unlike many managers of the football league the management team of **WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon** and **SSgt Pete Doherty** have been retained for the 1984-85 campaign.

The level of success was always there or thereabout:

| | |
|---|---|
| **R Signals BAOR 7-a-side** | **Runners Up** |
| **Rhine Area Div 2** | **Runners Up** |
| **Archibald Cup** | **Winners** |

Throughout the season a total of 24 players have represented the Regiment, with three ever presents in the form of **Sgt Chris** (12 Goals) **Barlow, Sig Al Higgins** and **Kev Seefar Reynoldson.**

During the season adjustments had to be made as players were posted, **LCpl 'Piggy' Latimer (4 Div), Cpl 'Taff' Preston (633 Sig Tp), Sgt Shaun Prior** (somewhere in the Shetlands!), **Cpl Phil Grimes (AAC Harrogate)** and **LCpl 'Precious' Wiltshire (civvy street). LCpl 'Maggot' Lindsay** at least got his timing right and waited until the end of the season before departing for 20 Armd Bde.

The REME LAD have been well represented by **Cpls 'Gax' Valentine, 'Smoking' Joe Elliott** and **Steve** (Don't call me Ginge) **Cotter**, perhaps **Capt Gibson** has been mending lorries while they've been playing.

A special mention must be made about **Sig Al Higgins** who has scored goals on no fewer than 20 occasions in league and cup games. **(Capt Ridley-Jones**, newly appointed Corps Football Officer BAOR, please take note).

Finally a big thank you to all the players, wives and supporters who turned up week after week in all weathers to make the whole season worthwhile.

Archibald Cup Winners 1984

*Back Row:* LCpl Toye, Sig Davies, Cpls Wilson, Cotter, SSgt (FofS) Smith, LCpl Ward, Sig Reynoldson, Sgt Barlow, Cpl Matthews
*Front Row:* Sig Higgins, LCpl Purslow, Cpl McIntosh, WO2 (SSM) Nixon, Lt Col I. E. Kerr, SSgt Doherty, Sig Brennan, Cpl Valentine, LCpl Lindsay, (Absent Sgt Watts—Team Captain)

## IT'S A KNOCKOUT 1984

Responding to a kind invitation from our neighbours, 28 (BR) Sig Regt NORTHAG the Regiment sent a team to the NORTHAG Signal Support Group 'It's a Knockout' competition, held at Francisca Bks. It was a day to remember for many reasons. **Sig Ian Church's** infatuation with Land Rover tyres, for a start, **Cpl Tony Hoare's** dash back to Bradbury Barracks for the joker, and **Pte Alice Downie's** initiation of Jaques Cousteau will be remembered for a long time. The team came a creditable fourth. We would like to thank 28 (BR) Sig Regt, especially 2 Sqn, for inviting us to attend. The team consisted of: **Cpls Dave Young, Jimmy McIntosh, Tony Hoare, 'Chic' Callaghan, 'Jock' Lamont, LCpl Tony Purslow, Sig 'Tel' Arnold, Ian Church, Ptes Julia Stuart** and **Alice Downie**.

## ARMY SPRINT & LD CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984

This year saw a real change at Monmouth. Instead of the usual vast number of competitors, there were a mere six! We didn't even enter a men's team. Two, however, flew the flag; **Sig John Harris** who had been in the Regiment only two weeks and **Sig Glen Martin** who is the sole survivor of the champion team we sported over the last two years.

The Ladies team consisted of **LCpl Caroline Calder, Cpl 'Cath' Truby, 2Lt Diane Allen** and **Capt Gill Gibson REME. 2Lt Diane Allen** was the newcomer to the team—the others having completed last year were now the 'experienced' paddlers!

We travelled by landrover with trailer and minibus, and they proved their worth and gave us a more comfortable ride than last year. We arrived in Vauxhall Camp Monmouth and found the field which was home for the week. We chose our spot, well out of the way, we thought. However, a couple of days later we had been joined by close neighbours whose generator kept us awake at night and their burners woke us up in the morning!

We trained hard during the week prior to the competition—much self discipline needed but always with the thought that it would pay off in the end. Each bend, tree and marker in the river became exceedingly familiar as the week went by.

Timings became critical towards the end of the week and there were rumours that the more times we canoed to the Island the nearer it became! Good psychology!

The weather improved steadily throughout the week and so it was a beautiful day for the actual competition. It was a busy day with a tight schedule. We had a good start with **Capt Gibson** winning the Ladies WWR and **Cpl Truby** third. Happily the winning trend continued throughout the day. The girls who entered slalom races had to work extra hard because there were heats to get through before the finals. **LCpl Calder** finished with a 1st (ladies K2) and two thirds and **Cpl Truby** a second (250m slalom) and two thirds. **2Lt Allen** was the 500m slalom sprint. **Sig Harris** did well and came fourth in the 500m Slalom. **Sig Martin** excelled himself and won all his K2 events and came second in all his K1 events. This excellent performance earned him a place in the Army Squad.

The long distance races the next morning were entered into with gusto, after an invigorating visit down town, the night before. This is really when training pays off **Sig Martin** won, **Sig Harris** came second, **LCpl Calder** and **2Lt Allen** won, **Capt Gibson** came second, **Cpl Truby** third. We were delighted with the results and the Ladies team are once again Army Champions!

Triumphant Canoeists
*Standing:* Cpl Cath Truby, Sig Glen Martin, 2Lt Diane Allen and Capt Gill Gibson
*Kneeling:* LCpl Caroline Calder and Sgt John Harris

### THE STRETCHER RACE

This specialised form of arduous torture, courtesy of **Capt Jim Allen**, is now an annual event in the inter troop competition, The Leicester Trophy. It consists of a 3½ mile run carrying a stretcher complete with casualty. However, throughout the course, teams are presented with a variety of tasks and tests which further test their military skills and physical reserves. A 50m swim to collect first aid kit which must be returned dry. The correct treatment of the casualty is carefully judged. Then on with the race, now very sodden, to the NBC phase, followed by a visit to the 25m range. An exhausting, very keenly fought competition which resulted in a victory for K Tp.

The Stretcher Race—Romeo Tp have pain on their faces
*Back Row:* LCpl Mel Dawkins, Sig 'Seefar' Reynoldson, 'Nankers' Harling, LCpl 'Skinny' Quinn, Sig 'Spike' Higgins
*Front Row:* Sig 'Taff' Evans, 2 Lt Alaister Ross
*On Stretcher:* LCpl Dawn Webster

### A FIRST

For the first time in 20 years the WRAC Regimental Swimming team won the BAOR Inter Unit Swimming Championships. After weeks of hectic early morning training sessions under the watchful eye of **SSgt Pete Dunnings**, our coach and mentor, the team were now ready to depart for sunny UK and the Army Championships. The competition, as was to be expected, was much tougher than in BAOR. All the way through the competition we were virtually neck and neck with 3 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt. At the start of the final race, the 50m Breaststroke relay, both teams were level. The weeks of training obviously paid off for not only did **Cpls Wendy Wharton, Fred Sleightholme, Pte Tony Parker** and **2Lt Pauline Lucas** win but also set a new record in the process. The same thing happened in the 50m Freestyle relay where this time **Cpl Fred Sleightholme, LCpl Tracey Maloney, Ptes Gill Crofts** and **Jane Bell** also set a new record. And so for the first time ever the girls from 16 Sig Regt were Army Champions.

Our successful swimming and water polo teams. Winners Rhine Area Swimming and Water Polo Champions. Third BAOR Water Polo and seventh BAOR Swimming Championships



# 21 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

### DUST SETTLED

The Jubilee parade has passed and the dust settled on the square. The history book bulges with press cuttings, photographs and mementoes of the occasion, and life returns to a certain level of normality, and **RSM Geoff Northey** has replaced pacestick and Drill Manual with pen and paper.

### VISIT BY COMMANDER

During the month of June, Commander 4 Signal Group visited in turn each of the Airfield Troops at RAF Gutersloh, Bruggen, Wildenrath and Laarbruch. The visits were informative and gave the Commander the opportunity of seeing at first-hand the Telemechs of the Regiment at work, the projects on hand and how the large amount of work of the Airfields is being coped with.

### BEST SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AND BEST SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

This year for the first time saw the award of Best Soldier of the Year. The committee, chaired by the CO and consisting of the 2IC, Adjt, RSM and OC Military Training Wing sat for many hours in deliberation to vet the candidates nominated by each of the Squadrons. To arrive at a decision was not easy as the competition was extremely fierce and of high quality. However, after much discussion the Committee awarded it to **LCpl 'Nick' Parkyn** of 1 Squadron. The photograph shows the CO, **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** presenting him with the Bugle.

LCpl Nick Parkyn receives 'The Best Soldier of the Year' award from CO, Lt Col Mike Ayrton

Cpl Calvin Lambert receives 'The Sportsman of the Year' award from CO, Lt Col Mike Ayrton

As in the case of the Best Soldier, the Best Sportsman Award provided headaches when making the decision. There were many candidates which made life extremely difficult for the Committee consisting of the CO, **Lt Col Mike Ayrton,** 2IC **Maj Leslie Steane** and RSM **WO1 Geoff Northey**. After much deliberation the award finally went to **Cpl Calvin Lambert** of 1 Sqn and the photograph shows the CO, presenting the trophy to him.

Congratulations to both JNCOs from the Regiment. The stage is now set for an even tougher decision time next year.

### NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

### HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

#### RHQ—GO SKIING

Working on the premise of better late than never, a report by **Cpl John Richards** of the Clerks Winter Soirée. Readers of the March issue will recall that RHQ were planning to go Langlauf skiing.

Following many months of planning and waiting we set off on the foggy night of 16 February for a 750Km drive to Rottach-Egern in Upper Bavaria. Led by the Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Mick Kennedy**, the party consisted of **Sgt Adrian Flanagan, Cpl (now Sgt) Ken Hughes, LCpl (now Cpl) 'Scouse' Mahoney, Pte (now LCpl) John Berry RAPC**, myself and chief cook and bottle washer, **Cpl 'Caesar' Bowen**. **Sgt Tom Dean** and **Sig Mark Wadham** were left behind in RHQ to man the fort. Tired but exuberant we arrived in Rottach-Egern at 0800 hrs to be greeted by brilliant sunshine, crisp fresh snow and a temperature below –10°C. This was to be the pattern of the weather for the duration of our stay. With a Langlauf ski course due to start at 1000 hrs at the local Langlauf Ski School, a hustle and bustle ensued to settle into the accommodation (a privately arranged spacious appartment in traditional Bavarian décor), freshen up, have breakfast and head for the loipe. All fatigue forgotten we paraded promptly at the Ski School to meet our Instructor, **Herr Sepp Gloggner. Sepp** who skied for the Bundeswehr for some eight years, is more used to instructing groups of civilians of all ages to a very basic standard. There was a gleam in his eye as he relished the idea of once again having a group of soldiers under his control. If we thought we would get the same treatment as the civilians we couldn't have been more wrong. **Sepp** with obvious memories of his time in the German Army was to 'beast' us for the next five days. Meanwhile back in the accommodation our 'Hausfrau' **Cpl 'Caesar' Bowen** was preparing our meals. Initially the food was delicious but it gradually deteriorated until on the penultimate day, **'Caesar'** produced an all in stew of his own recipe. This sparked off a revolt, led by the Chief Clerk, when he found a pilchard, a pear and a cherry in his plate of stew! Meals after this were taken in a local hostelry. (We forgive you **'Caesar'**). Nevertheless we had a marvellous time. There were many incidents worthy of note: **'Scouse' Mahoney**'s knack of knocking down experienced German Skiers; his very popular rendition in the local pub of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' (adorned with Liverpool hat and scarf); **Adrian Flanagan**'s ability to ski on his backside; **Ken Hughes** setting a record for knocking down the whole course in one movement and, of course, the end of course race. This was a 5Km run over undulating terrain. I won't reveal the placings but the race was won by **Pte John Berry** and the 'old fella' (The Chief Clerk) didn't come last.

Sadly all good things come to an end and we returned to Wildenrath on the 23 February. However back in the monotony and routine of the orderly room we have our fond memories of Bavaria (and the beer—almost forgot that!).

## EXERCISE *VEGA BACKSTOP* (OR HOW JOE PETERS BECAME A SAILOR)

Ex *Vega Backstop* was an Adventure training exercise designed to give participants experience in Coastal Sailing, or so we were told!

Originally designed as a strictly 4 Signal Group venture, places were eventually offered to members of nearby Signal Regiments. So it was on Thursday 24 May **Sgt Mike Duffin, Sgt Joe Peters** and **Sig Neil Johnstone**, accompanied by **Yeoman Bob Marshall** and **Sig Paul Rodgers** of 16 Sig Regt and **Cpl Dave Mason** of 4 Signal Group set forth on the journey North to Kiel. After an overnight stop in Verden (many thanks to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for their hospitality) we arrived at our home port. There we met the other members of the expedition, **Foreman Alan Mockford, Mr John Gilmore, Mr Pete Van Pragg, Mr Basil ('Baz') Hyams** and our British Keil Yacht Club Skipper, **Cpl Theo Caderious-Van-Veen** on attachment from 14 Sig Regt.

After allocating everyone to their respective crews we set about provisioning the two yachts we had chartered. These were the *Petasus*, a 32 foot Contessa and the *Rasmus* a 45 foot Bermuda ketch. The 21 Sig Regt contingent were all aboard the latter, so it is the voyage of the *Rasmus* described here.

We set off from Kiel Harbour at 1230 hrs the following day and set course North for Faborg, a port on the Danish Island of Fyn. After a rather choppy journey up the Baltic, and negotiating the Marstal channel (where **Sgt Peters** displayed some nifty steering tricks) we arrived off Fyn. Faborg, according to the ship's radio was crowded so we headed for Svenborg, just along the coast.

We were scheduled for an early start the following morning, but

*L-R:* Sgts Mike Duffin, Joe Peters (Land ho! I hope), Sig Neil Johnston, Cpl Theo Caderious-van-veen (14 Sig Regt), Mr 'Baz' Hyams (4 Sig Gp)

after our first night ashore the best we could muster was 1030 hrs. This was a longer journey, to Ballern on the island of Samso, and took us till 0530 hrs the following morning. We stayed in port till 1630 hrs then set off up the coast of Samso to Langore arriving at about 2030 hrs. We intended to explore some of the small uninhabited islands off the Island's coast, but upon arrival discovered the whole area was a nature reserve, out of bounds to cruising vessels.

Deciding to stop at Langore overnight, we left at noon the next day bound for Faborg, another long haul which took us till 2200 hrs the following night, including four hours adrift for fishing purposes and two hours anchored off the small island of Faenokalv, which we explored. (I think that was the adventure training part). Upon arrival at Faborg we had another look at Danish shorelife, and liked what we saw (again).

After a short journey to Feroskobing, and another night ashore, we set off back for Kiel at 1100 hrs, six days after we had first left. We arrived about half an hour before closing time, and were re-united in the bar with the crew of the *Petasus*, who we had not seen all week, but who seemed to have enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

The following morning was spent cleaning up the boats till it was time for us to leave Kiel behind and return to Wildenrath and firm ground. All in all Ex *Vega Backstop* proved a satisfying experience for all involved, all of whom would go back to sea like a shot if asked. Maybe next year.

## EXERCISE *WETBACKSTOP II*

Exercise *Wetbackstop* is an Adventurous Training Canoe Exercise starting in the still clear lakes of the Eifel Mountains where basic skills are learned, followed by White-Water experience on the river Erft, at the point where it meets the Rhine near Dusseldorf.

Following the success of Ex *Wetbackstop I* in 1983, M Tp en masse decided to risk the perils of Ex *Wetbackstop II*. Only one of the would-be canoeists, **Cpl Alan Hinton**, had had any previous canoe experience and it showed in both his ability and our lack of it.

Despite the calendar indicating mid-summer, the week started in abysmally wet and cold weather. Trepidation was quickly followed by desperation, not to mention hypothermia as our Instructor, one-time BAOR White-Water Canoe Champion, **SSgt Derek Coker**, sadistically conducted what he insisted were the mandatory swimming tests and capsize drills. **Capt (TOT) Brian Gallagher** particularly seemed to enjoy the icy mountain water judging by the frequency of his swimming exploits. After two days we were assessed as being nearly competent on still-water and so having packed up camp we moved to a 'picturesque' camp site on the edge of the Rhine. It was quickly christened 'Stalag 7' for its spartan facilities.

On arrival we were met by **WO1 (FofS) Dick Offord** who failed to appreciate the rigours of high altitude canoeing, when he unkindly attributed our tired appearance to too much beer and not enough sleep. The following morning a 'sober' **Sgt John Hawkins RAOC** woke everyone up at dawn with a cup of tea. Whilst the thought was there, had he been sharing everyone else's headache, he might have realised that his timing was somewhat premature. That day saw a tremendous change in the weather when it became hot and sunny. Apart from much 'whingeing' at breakfast by **SSgt Derek Coker** at the absence of beans from the menu, spirits were high. The White-Water of the Erft, warmed by an up-stream Power Station, presented an enjoyable if awesome challenge.

Vain attempts at crossing the river rapids were to be the order of the day, with only **Cpl Alan Hinton** and **Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson** being successful. **Sig 'Geordie' Fairbairn**, ironically a non-swimmer, became a competent if somewhat daring Life-guard as he helped to retrieve many an ejected canoeist. **Cpl Pete Anwyll** apart from canoeing, as ever, had been keeping everyone amused with his 'Scouse' humour and continued his jottings for the Diary, whilst **WO1 (FOS) Dick Offord** laboured furiously over a 'hot' camera. That evening photographer turned Chef and all enjoyed a splendid Barbecue on the banks of the Rhine.

The next day prior to allowing us down the river, our kindly instructor required us to attempt to cross what seemed like Niagara. In his 'Go-faster, self-levelling, don't-I-look-good, spectator pleasing' canoe he made it look impossibly easy. For the rest of us, it was just impossible! Of necessity, rescue techniques improved rapidly to the point where after re-surfacing anywhere up to 15 metres from where he had been sucked down by the water, the average victim's attitude improved during the day from one of blind panic to one of resigned concern.

With confidence growing, over the next two days besides several eventful river trips down to the Rhine, other non-programmed events started to take place. In a moment of youthful light-headedness, **Sgt Mike Duffin** deliberately launched himself mid-stream over the falls, having left his canoe on the riverbank, protected by nothing more substantial than flotation-jacket and crash helmet. Within minutes several of the remainder of the party including **LCpl Kev Wilkinson** who had claimed that he didn't like the water, followed like 'Lemmings'.

On another occasion after a gallant rescue of someone else's lost inflatable boat, firstly **LCpl Phil Weaver** and **Cpl Pete Hilton** managed to cross where they had failed in their canoes, then six maniacs were last seen whooping over the Falls in their newly acquired craft. There were some sobering moments. One was when **LCpl 'Slim' Hughes** parted company with both canoe and paddle. Despite good buoyancy, the paddle remained invisibly pinned to the river-bed by a remorseless downward surge of water, where it stayed until some half-hour later when **Capt (TOT) Brian Gallagher** having capsized, managed to get sucked into the same spot on his downward passage to the river bottom, and dislodged the paddle, quite by accident. Fortunately both TOT and paddle then re-surfaced.

All agreed that the Exercise had been a resounding success and anyone who had seen the grim determination on the face of **LCpl 'Billy' Reilly**, as he fought to retain the supremacy over a 'mere river', would have agreed that it was not only enjoyable but good Adventurous Training.



## 2 SQUADRON

## NEWS FROM THE HARRIER SCRIBES

### E TROOP

The past couple of months have been fairly quiet for the troop, although we have managed to fit in yet another Harrier exercise, which was executed with our usual flair and professionalism. Nothing unusual happened apart from **LCpl 'Carlos' Sinclair** insisting that he worked the first three days on his own (to which we eventually relented and let him have his way), and 2 Squadron managed to hold another of its now famous Harrier dinners, where an unspecified number of Officers and SNCOs demanded ultra fresh trout, and were despatched into the adjoining lake to fetch them.

The Troop OC **Lt Mark Baines**, took a couple of weeks (and about 20 men) off to the Liverpool/Manchester area on a KAPE Tour, he came back exhausted and vowed never to try recruiting at a convent school again, (although he never fully explained the look of satisfaction on his face).

Some members of the troop joined forces with the notorious 'F' Troop and sallied forth to do battle on a summer camp at Silberhutte in the Harz mountains, suffice to say they came back looking fitter, more tanned and slightly the better for wear than when they left.

Hellos and goodbyes are numerous; we'd like to say goodbye and good luck to:

**Sgt Pete Barron** (School of Signals), **LCpl Steve Coulson** (on promotion to Cpl) and hello and welcome to E Troop to: **Sgt John Bowers, Cpls John Hogg, 'Shuggy' Cowan, Mick Greaves, LCpls 'Buck' Buchanan, 'Dedeye' Dedman, Dave Sanders, Pete Longworth, Sig 'Barney' Barnes, Malcolm Knight, 'Robo' Sullivan.**

### G TROOP

During the last few months G Troop, 2 Sqn, have been exceedingly busy with Battle Camp on Soltau training area and the Regiment's Jubilee parade at RAF Wildenrath closely followed by Ex *Hill Foil*.

Battle Camp started one warm sunny Thursday in April, when 2 Sqn accompanied by I and J Troops left Osnabruck to have a glorious two weeks holiday at Rheinesalen camp on the beautiful Luneburger Heath.

However, things changed rapidly between Osnabruck and Rheinsalen camp. The temperature seemed to drop some 15 degrees, the grey storm clouds appeared and the wind started up. Each day the friendly training wing staff awoke us to PT (only to warm us up after a night of hore frost). Meals turned out to be a thing not to be missed as there was little enough of them. Breakfast, the highlight of the day, was standard English (albeit kiddies portions). Lunch was something we all came to dread, compo Oxtail soup with beans and dinner of Oxtail soup stew. The 2IC **Capt** (we can do it) **Stanners** told us all 'it's all you need'; what we think he meant to say was 'it's all yer gettin'.

However, as the troop were finishing work for the day at about 2100 hrs a strange aroma filled the tented camp site, it was our daily life saver 'Wolfgang's Chippy'.

A host of exciting activities had been arranged for our stay by **Lt Haughie, SSgt Coker** and their merry sadists. Battlefield survival brought out the men from the faint hearted, with **Cpl 'Richie' Conway** almost passing out at the sight of a chicken with almost no feathers on. He would have had a go at plucking it had he not had an urgent call of nature to attend to.

The one sunny day that did occur was the day of the CFT and the section attacks. The CFTs all went well until **WO2 'Muscles' Barden** had us all in a line doing press ups to his count of 1 pause 2. **LCpl Terry (the slug) Greig** was and probably still is convinced that **WO2 QSMI Barden** kept losing count of how many press ups we had completed. The Section attack all went extremely well for **Cpl 'Tommy' Steele**'s section until it was time to pick up the casualty who weighed some 18 stone! Whilst the casualty was being evacuated, the section was gassed, everyone did masking drills except the casualty who had in his respirator case one x tin plate. Well, one 18 stone corpse was ditched there and then!

As **Cpl 'Tommy' Steele**'s section were resting a strange bunch of men led by **Cpl (follow me) Whitehurst** were just finishing their section attack in full noddy kit!

Battle camp ended with a four day escape and evasion exercise with Cpls and below running and Sgts and above chasing. Each group being thoroughly searched for by the mean men of the training wing, and allowed a 24 hour ration pack between four. More food at checkpoints said the DS. They were right as well; live chickens. 'That's **Cpl Conway** on a forced diet' **Sig 'Frankie' Howard** was heard to say before he ate his share of the rations thinking that they were his NAAFI break. When the Troop left Soltau training area the sun broke out, the wind and rain stopped and everyone was looking forward to two dress inspections back at Osnabruck.

### HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We would like to say farewell and good luck to **SSgt Gary Beattie, Cpl Miller** and **LCpl Terry, and SSgt Martin Smith** and family.

It's hello and welcome to G Troop to **SSgt 'Harry' Worth, Sgts Barnard, Carmichael, LCpls Lewis, Mahomet, Sig Keenan** and **Pilgrim**. Just returned from the Falklands are **SSgt Smith, Cpl Salmon** and **Sig Almonds**, though **SSgt Smith** and **Sig Almonds** are off again to pastures new.

### F, I AND J TROOPS

The Scribes from these troops are away on Summer Camps, in the Harz Mountains and Bavaria.

### 3 SQUADRON

These notes consist of a report on the first Roetgen Detachment RAF(P) dog trials held in the glorious surroundings of the Eifel and in the shadow of the Tropo Scatter Dishes of the Site.

### A FIRST FOR ROETGEN

By kind permission of the OC Royal Air Force Wildenrath, **Gp Capt J. S. Allison MBE RAF**, the RAF Police Dog Working Trials, Roetgen, took place on Saturday 7 July. It was the first time that this event had been held at RAF Roetgen and it proved to be a great success. Roetgen is situated in the North Eifel, and is home to Alpha Troop, 3 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt (AS) and the RAF Police detachment who look after the security of the site.

The trials followed the usual format. The handlers and their dogs competing in four exercises; obedience, obstacles, criminal attack and long stay. Competitors and dogs fought a hard battle in blazing sunshine and the judges had the unenviable task of choosing a winner from six very competent displays. At last a decision was reached and the results were as follows:

1. **Cpl I. Jones RAFP** and **Air Dog Oscar**—Champion dog Team Trophy.
2. **Cpl W. Wray RAFP** and **Air Dog Rex**—(This team were also awarded the Most Improved Team 83/84 Trophy).
3. **Cpl M. Williams RAFP** and **Air Dog Balu**.

The prizes were presented by the CO 21 Sig Regt, **Lt Col M. McI Ayrton**. The Champion Dog Trophy was kindly donated by members of 21 Sig Regt (AS) and will be competed for annually by the Roetgen Police Dogs and handlers.

The afternoon continued with a barbecue, and disco, which rounded off a very successful afternoon, made even more enjoyable by the beautiful weather and the glorious picturesque setting of the Eifel.

Our thanks to all Detachment personnel for their enthusiasm and hard work in the weeks leading up to the event. Also our grateful thanks to **Muhren & Hoven, Konigsbacher, Andrew Peat, Ford Kuhn** and **Toyota Military Sales**, who very kindly donated trophies and raffle prizes, the proceeds of which went to Royal Air Force Wildenrath's Station Charities which this year have adopted the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Cpl Ivor Jones RAFP and Air Dog Oscar receive the Champion Dog Team Trophy from the Commanding Officer Lt Col Mike Ayrton

## NIJMEGEN 84

This year 2 Sqn provided the team to represent the Regiment at Nijmegen. There was a wet start with a re-run of the flood on the day before the marching began. Nevertheless the team's spirit was not dampened and the four days of marching continued with the weather brightening as the kilometres rolled by. Several of the team had the usual problems with blisters on their feet, and sore legs. By the end of the week some found difficulty standing while the bicycle orderly could not sit down.

At the end of the road (160Kms later) nine of the team received their awards, two for the second time. Congratulations to all concerned.

The team *L-R:* Cpl Youd (Cycle Orderly), Sig 'Geordie' Saunders, 'Arfer' Dodd, Sgt Steve Thomson, Capt Paul Nicholson-Taylor (Team leader) SSgt Danny Nolan REME, Cpls 'Hutch' Hutchinson, 'Shuggy' Cowan, Sig 'Lofty' Giddings, Cfn Paddy Young REME, Sig 'Plounder' Anderson and 'Gaz' Lovell

## ROAD RACING

### BERLIN 25 KILOMETRE ROAD RACE

The Regiment entered 11 of its best distance runners in this year's Berlin 25 held on 29 April. When it came to travel however, only six were left after many weeks of hard distance training, the remainder falling by the wayside. Unlike some other units who seemed to be there only for the beer, team manager **WO1 (FOS) Dick Offord** had ensured that only fit and fully trained runners made the trip.

After recent early season sunny weather, it was with some amazement not to mention dismay, that we were greeted in Berlin by a miniature blizzard, the day before the race. 24 hours later however, despite Met Office pessimism, the weather had improved dramatically and was ideal for distance running, warm and sunny but not too hot.

Over 7,500 runners massed in front of the Olympic Stadium and with the sound of a loud explosion, signalling the start, ringing in everyone's ears, a sea of runners set off on their 15½ mile race. Less than 75 minutes later a Frenchman was first to enter the Stadium and start his final lap, clear winner by over a minute, in a new course record. 10 minutes later the first British Army runner arrived and after a further 10 minutes, the first of the Regiment's runners and, against all the odds, **LCpl Duncan Forbes ACC** finished approximately 267th in an excellent 1 hour 35 minutes. A few seconds later **Cpl Neil Allamby** sprinted hard enough to edge our **SSgt 'Taff' Gordon**. A hundred yards behind **WO2 Steve Tucker** led in **Sig Kevin Butler**, all five runners finishing within one minute of each other. A few minutes later the Regiment's top veteran **Capt (TOT) Brian Gallagher** finished in 1 hour 43 minutes.

All six runners had run personal best times and agreed that the experience of finishing a race in front of a huge and appreciative audience in the magnificent Olympic Stadium had made it a truly memorable and worthwhile event.

*L-R:* Cpl Neil Allamby, Capt Brian Gallagher, SSgt Wynn Gordon, Sig 'Maggot' Butler, WO2 Steve Tucker, and LCpl Duncan Forbes ACC with their medals for completing the race

## FALKLAND ISLANDS DETACHMENT

Although the Regiment has been quite busy over the past few months, what with the Anniversary parade, preparations for *Lionheart* and the Airfields hard at it getting the Stations' communications readied for Tornado, it would have escaped few people's notice that the Regiment has a considerable commitment supplying men for attachment to 266 Sig Sqn (SA).

Over the past two years the Regiment has had to supply the bulk of manpower for the Airfield Troop at RAF Stanley as well as men for the special project teams. The Line Officer has also been supplied from one of the Airfield Troops—a Regimental commitment. In addition there have been many other posts, of all trades, to fill including clerks, drivers, operators, technicians and more.

**Capt Bob Bates** has recently arrived back from being OC of the line troop, looking a little piqued, at what he describes as four months in a penal colony (we know he really enjoyed it). He managed to get on to the escape committee of 37 Sqn RAF Regt and smuggled his way back to Bruggen on their airbridge. He took over from **Capt** (now **Maj) Reg Heath**, who must rank as a Falkland Islands veteran in more ways than one. He was involved in site planning of some of the projects, including installation of Monarch exchanges in the Stanley area.

**Sgt Jeff Shipton** was NCO IC of the airfield project, which consisted of laying some 11 Kilometres of underground cable and its installation. His team consisted of **Cpls 'Biffo' Swailes, Colin Keil, LCpl John Phillips, Sig 'Corker' Falmer, 'Mac' McEwan, 'Chod' Steel, 'Skinny' Wilson, Dave Green** and **LCpl Dave Rickard**. They managed to complete the project inside the four months and after a crate of beer and a few airbridges they are now back in the bosom of the Regiment.

The Airfield Troop was in the meantime keeping the comms of RAF Stanley ticking over under the watchful eye of **Sgt 'Pip' Piper** of 8 Sig Regt. **Cpl Neil Buckingham** was the expert on mail states (when he wasn't fishing) and the rest of the troop busily engaged on real work were **Cpl Craig Wrath, Sig 'Stew' Lindo, Sig 'Taff' Duncan, Cpl Mick Brown, Sig Paul Kington, Cpl 'Herby' Subryan** and **Sig Tony Gill**.

In the meantime the movement of military units from the Port Stanley area was well under way and the remainder of line troops were busily putting in the comms for the Canache development project which was to house these units. There were no Telemechs available to assist in this huge task and a trawl of the airfield resulted in **LCpl 'Gunner' Telford** having his flexibility tested. The final straw came when the £24 million Flexiport arrived and the on board exchange was found to be incompatible with Monarch. It took two weeks work, ably undertaken by **Cpl Craig Wrath** and **LCpl Telford**, to get everything sorted and ship shape.

There were many other people involved in other projects too numerous to mention here. However, they included the new trunk cable, Falkland Islands trunk system, hard wiring of all military camps and installations as well as many other taskings around the Islands. Mention must be made of the Linemen who have, and are still, performing Herculean tasks to keep the communications functioning, especially **Sgt Rod Morton** of 7 Sig Regt, The Troop Sgt, who kept Linemen and Telemechs working so harmoniously together.

The writer of this article wishes to remain anonymous but encourages all members of the Corps, of all ranks, to have a go at a satisfying tour with 266 Sig Sqn (SA). 21 Sig Regt will love you.

LCpl Telford flanked by Sig McCallum and Brook, helping to lay 100prs of copper

Sig Taff Duncan pulling cable in Phantom Det RAF Stanley

Sig Dave Palmer and LCpl John Phillips point out a technical matter on the MDF

Waiting for an Airbridge? Cpls Swailes, Keil, LCpl Phillips, Sig Palmer, McEwan, Steel, Wilson, Green

OC Line taking up the strain, Capt Bob Bates joins in the fun

Hand digging became a normal everyday event. LCpl Scoop Miller, Sig Brookfield and Kempton are carefully watched by Capt Bob Bates

The loan of a Snowcat made things easier. Cpl Brummie Henry, Sig Boland and Kempton

# 22 Sig Regt
# BFPO 107

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Not content with just a new CO, the regiment has now said goodbye to the RSM, **WO1 Fred Bancroft**, and his wife **Ann**. We wish them well in the future, and welcome **WO1 (RSM) Phil Daisey** to the chair.

HQ Squadron's management has been left to the MTO, as **Maj John Radford** has left for civvy street—well 37 Sig Regt (TA) to be precise. The Paymaster, **Capt David Lane** has also moved on and we welcome **Maj Robin McGimpsey** in his place. **WO2 (SSM) Charlie Manning** completes the list of deserters from HQ Squadron when he leaves us to become RSM of 39 Brigade, very shortly.

The Squadrons, too, have lost some of the characters of the past two years, as **WO2 (FOS) Dave Andrews, SSgt Brian Slavin** and **SSgt (YofS) Charlie Rodgers** move on. We wish them all well in their next postings and welcome **SSgt (YofS) 'Wally' Bacon** and **WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton** to fill the gaps.

**LS AND GC PRESENTATIONS**

Congratulations to **WO2 (YofS) Bob Waller** and **Sgt Don Shaw** who were presented their LS and GC medals by the Master of Signals, during his visit to the Regiment on 6 June. Commcen Echo Seniors are still trying to catch **Sgt Shaw** for his round—they were all away on Summer Camp at the time!

**2 SQUADRON**

**Report by Cpl 'Pig Pen' O'Riordan**

In spite of the new CO's widely publicised three main priorities, (Communicâtions, Communications, Communications), the last few months have seen 2 Sqn showing its military skills on every possible occasion. The squadron formed two teams of highly trained, well motivated fighting men for the Master of Signals visit on 6 June. Many hours were spent in arduous combat training on the assault course, ranges and pounding the roads around Lippstadt. The Master arrived to see F troops section attack the assault course and E troops Sharp-shooters on the ranges. At the end of the afternoon the Master of Signals managed to prize a kitty out of the Squadron Seniors for a few refreshments later on.

Later in the month the Squadron deployed on Ex *Javelin*, not surprisingly a day earlier than the rest of the Regiment. Contrary to popular opinion the main occupation on *Javelin* was a potted sports afternoon in which four teams competed to winch a landrover up the side of a hill, strip and assemble an LMG, saw through a large log and light an HPP lamp. Each event was followed by a can of 'sprite' (drunk upside down) and the obligatory 'firebreaker' run. The line/power det team came out overall winners with fine individual performance from **LCpl 'Bris' Bristow, Harry 'Polo' Rodie, 'Stew' Fell** and **Sig 'Taff' Lavery**.

A nailbiting finish to the potted sports. Sig 'Old Man' Rivers finishes the 'firebreaker' run

Shortly after *Javelin* we saw the Squadron sailing team become overnight winners of the Regimental Regatta. The team consisted of **Mr 'T', Cpls A. J. Wells, Kerpal Singh. LCpl Wells** also won 3rd individual boat.

Yet another first was scored when **Mr T** and his CFT came first in the Regimental CFT competition. The Squadron score was narrowly beaten by Commcen Echo for the overall trophy. An unfortunate end to a very successful few months for the Squadron.

**4 DIV SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On 13 and 14 June, the Regimental Swimming and Water Polo Team travelled to Hameln to take part in the 4 Div Swimming and Water Polo Championships.

The two days proved to be thoroughly exhausting for them. Due to the size of the team most members had to compete in three heats and three finals each.

Luck was not on our side as **LCpl Mal Eatwell** in the Individual Medley and **Cpl Pete Fowler** in the Medley Relay were disqualified for taking too many strokes underwater in the Breast Stroke.

Eventually the team was placed 6th out of the 12 teams and was just knocked out in the preliminaries of the Water Polo. A special mention must be made of **Sig Charlie Brown** who could barely swim when the training started in January. He competed in the 4 × 50m Freestyle Relay and put in a very good performance.

**ANGLING**

| | |
|---|---|
| Date | Sunday 5 August 1984 |
| Venue | River Aller, Verden |
| Event | Royal Signals BAOR Angling Championships |

After a wet early call at 0430 hrs, kindly provided by **SSM Charlie Manning**, 10 rather damp members of Catch 22, the Regiment's Angling Club, proceeded to the Gym of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for the draw, only to find themselves an hour early.

Eventually the draw took place with the A team of **SSM Charlie Manning, SSgts (YofS) Bill Tosh, Phil Brag ACC, Tony Lunney** and **Cpl Ian Jackson** drawing peg 11 whilst the B team of **Sgt Steve Mayne, Cpls John Bridgewater, 'Tommo' Thompson REME, LCpl Mal Fell** and **Sig Mick Durwood** drew peg 22.

With omens like that what could go wrong? Both teams set off to their respective sections for five hours hard fishing. Many smiling faces were seen as the teams gathered at the Gym after the match. When the results were announced the smiles were justly rewarded with the B team coming first overall with three third places and two fourth places. The A team came eighth out of 23 teams. **Cpl 'Tomo' Thompson** came a creditable third Section and fifth overall.

**REGIMENTAL CFT COMPETITION**

All Squadrons produced two eight man teams for the Regimental CFT Competition on 6 July. Each team was timed over the battle march and assault course; scores on the 30m range were totalled and penalties awarded for breaches of the rules or safety errors.

Afer a very close finish, due partly to the QMSI's incomprehensible scoring system, prizes were awarded to Commcen Echo—Best Squadron, and 2 Squadron A team—Best Team. The competition was hotly contested, producing impressive performances from all the teams, and has now become an annual fixture.

**THE HOHNE HALF-MARATHON**

The Regimental team competed very successfully in this event coming second overall, and taking five of the first 16 places. Individual prizes were also won by:

| | |
|---|---|
| **SSgt (Fofs) Bonner Law** | **First Veteran** |
| **Richard Wood** | **First Junior** |
| **Mrs Ann Bancroft** | **First Lady** |



# 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
# BFPO 35

**VISIT OF COMD COMMS BAOR—MAJ GEN A. YEOMAN**

The Regiment were privileged to receive an initial visit from **Maj Gen Yeoman** on 30 April. This was his first visit to a Royal Signals Regiment since assuming the appointment of Commander Communications, HQ BAOR.

The General was met by a quarter guard commanded by **SSgt Graham Twisse**, before being given a briefing on the Regiment by the Deputy Commander, **Maj Johnathan Cox**. During the course of the visit, **Gen Yeoman** met **Sgt 'Taff' Eynon** who had been his driver some years before. Later, **Gen Yeoman** presented LS&GC medals to three members of the Regiment—**WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt, Sgt 'Rubin' Lynch RPC** and **Sgt Tony Tanton ACC**.

Comd Comms BAOR, Maj Gen A. Yeoman inspects the quarter guard commanded by SSgt Graham Twisse

Gen Yeoman congratulating the three members of the Regiment on earning the LS and GC medal. *L-R:* WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt, Sgt 'Rubin' Lynch RPC, Sgt Tony Tanton ACC

**ONE SQUADRON**

During the month of April the Squadron was gripped by one major task after another. First it was the annual German Ministry of Transport TUV Testing of all our NATO vehicles. This is similar to a PRE in a British Unit, except that without the vital stickers on the number plate, we are not allowed to move our vehicles out of Barracks. Nevertheless with the Squadron MT, under the management of **Sgt 'Taff' Eynon** again, giving the necessary guidance to the Troops, this was completed with an even higher overall standard than last year. When you consider that many of the vehicles are far from new that is quite a feat.

Finally we must record a few of the Squadron's movements. We welcome **SSgt 'Mick' Knight** to the complexities of being a NATO SQMS, **Sgt 'Rick' Richards** as new Alpha Tp Sgt (you will get to meet your Troop Commander sometime honestly), **LCpl 'Franny' Francis** and **Sig 'Simm' Elliott** and **Bob McTague**.

In the meantime we have said farewell to **Cpl Billy Jones**, who is returning to the marines after a lengthy break, **LCpl Bobby Pinner** who is going as a 'mind your fingers' Prison Warden in Civvy Street, **LCpl Ron Wohler** and **Sig Dave Watkins** who have both broken out of the RCZ triangle and finally **Sig Dennis Brooks** and **'Spillage' Spiller** who have decided that the grass is greener out of uniform.

**TWO SQUADRON**

We have recently returned from one of our NORTHAG Signal Support Group exercises where we were trying out some new concepts. The OC, **Maj Jim Heck, SSgt (FofS) Dave Gorse, Sgt Andy Hill** (watched by a number of open mouthed admirers) trialled and discussed the finer points of two computer systems which we will probably be asked to absorb into our communications system.

On return to Barracks it was, for much of the Squadron, 'man the guns'. The NORTHAG SAAM and Rhine Area SAAM required some of our better shots to appear. Whilst not running off with all the prizes our boys did the Regiment proud so **Lt Paul Hodgkiss, Sgt Dave Taylor, Cpl Stewart Lawson, Cpl Wilf Greener** and **Cpl Steve Wall** can still hold their heads high. Congratulations must also go to our girls and, in particular, to **W/LCpl Jenny Ingleton** from Victor Troop who won the individual WRAC champion SMG/Pistol Trophy at the Rhine Area competition.

The Squadron has seen a few new faces arrive over the past month and we welcome **Cpl** and **W/Cpl (Dai** and **Kate) Williams, LCpl** and **W/LCpl (Drew** and **Dawn) Collins, Sig Kev McGann** and **Alan Dewhurst**. We say goodbye and good luck to **Cpls Steve Gillespie, Trev Davies** and **'Rusty' Bullock; Sig Pete Wilson, Hamish Campbell** and **'Hoppy' Hopkins** on their postings or, in some cases, their lives in Civvy Street.

**REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL**

**REGIMENTAL FIRST TEAM**

As the 1983-84 season closes, the Regimental Football Team, under the management of **Capt Colin McLoughlin** and **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Marsh**, can look back on a highly successful season.

The first success of the season was the winning of the Royal Signals (BAOR) Football Cup in which **LCpl Billy Grierson** was also awarded the trophy as 'Outstanding Player of the Competition'.

The victorious 28 Sig Regt team after the BAOR FA Six a Side Competition

*Standing:* Martin Peters, Dave MacKay, WO2 Terry Marsh, Sgt Ally McKenzie, LCpl Brian Wilkins, Cpl 'Dinger' Bell ACC, LCpl Terry Smith, Capt Colin McLoughlin, Gordon Banks, Jack Charlton
*Kneeling:* Sig 'Scouse' Dunleavy, Sig 'Yorkie' Richards, Cpl Andy Edwards, Sig Gary Maloney and LCpl Andy Hill

An uncharacteristically poor display on a frozen pitch in January saw the Regiment go out of the Army Cup, at the Quarter-final stage, to 1 GORDONS, but since that defeat the team hasn't looked back and has won the Rhine Area Units Knockout Cup, the Rhine Area Six-a-Side Competition, the BAOR FA (Rothmans) Six-a-Side Trophy and the North Rhine Inter-Service Football League First Division Championship. The team's performance in winning the NRISFL title is worthy of mention, having played 16 matches, won 15 and lost only one, in what is probably the highest standard service league in operation at this time. The Regiment also finished as runners-up to RAF Rheindahlen in the NRISFL Knockout Cup Final.

**REGIMENTAL SECOND TEAM**

Mention should also be made of the Regimental Second Team, which, under the direction of **Sgt Steve Owen**, has had a good season in the North Rhine Inter Service League Second Division and almost caused the upset of the season by battling through to the quarter-finals of the League Cup, only to lose a very thrilling match 8—6 (after extra time) to RAF Wildenrath, one of the 'big guns' of the first division. Indeed, only a penalty, awarded against the Regiment in the last minute of normal time kept the RAF side in the game. With such team spirit and depth of talent the signs look good for the next season.

**BAOR REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES**

The following members of the Regiment have been selected to represent BAOR during this season: **Sgt 'Ally' Mackenzie, Cpl Andy Edwards, Sig 'Scouse' Dunleavy, 'Yorkie' Richards, Gary Maloney, LCpls Andy Hill, Terry Smith, Dave Tuck, Brian Wilkins,** and **Sig 'Geordie' McHale.**

**FAREWELLS**

**Cpl Andy Edwards**, our longest serving player, is leaving the Unit shortly on posting to 10 Sig Regt and it was appropriate that such a player, who has represented BAOR with distinction for a number of seasons, was elected captain of the BAOR side which beat RAF(G) in the annual Inter-Service match. We thank him for all that he has done for Regimental Football and wish both him and his wife **Julie** good luck in the future.

We would also like to say thank you and good luck to our ex team captain, **Sgt Dave Taylor** and his family who left us in February for the rigours of the Foreman of Signals course at Blandford.

**FOOTNOTE**

**Mr (Ex WO2) 'Ricky' Garrod**, who trained the Regimental side with such enthusiasm for three seasons before leaving the service last year, has recently become 'Mine Host' at the Portland Hotel in Creswell (near Worksop). All the members of the football squad and his many friends in the Regiment wish him and his wife **Kate** every success in their new venture (and hope that this plug will entitle them to a free pint!).

**REGIMENTAL SHOOTING**

With some obvious tactical planning by the NORTHAG Staff, this year found the Regiment participating in the NORTHAG Skill-at-Arms and the Rhine Area Skill-at-Arms Meetings in the same week. The only problem was that the former was located at Arsbeck and the latter, three hours drive away at Haltern. Not to be deterred the Regimental Team was dispatched, under the captaincy of **WO2 (RQMS) Derek Brown**, to the Rhine Area SAAM and the OIC Regimental Shooting, **Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** was left to find a suitable team for the NORTHAG SAAM.

The results proved to be more than acceptable. The Regimental Team gained a place at Bisley; won the LMG Match; **Cpls Willie Jones** and **Steve Rogan** came B Class runners up on the same weapon and **W/LCpl Jenny Ingleton** was Champion WRAC shot. Meanwhile at the NORTHAG SAAM, the team walked off with most of the prizes, by coming out winners of the Inter Unit Team and Invitation Team Matches. With the need to provide two teams, the Commander, **Lt Col Brian Belton**, was prevailed upon to come out of retirement, to scotch rumours that he might be getting too old, and to repeat some of his past achievements. He over did this by winning the Williams Challenge Plate, to become the Champion Shot of the Competition, the Rifle Champion and runner up in the Senior SMG Competition.

**Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** did his career no good at all by beating the Commander, to become the SMG Senior Champion. **LCpl Bob Shotton** was third in the Open Individual Pistol (proving that it is always the Corporals who manage to master the 9mm Browning Pistol).

The successful Regimental Shooting Team from NORTHAG SAAM, *Back Row L-R:* Sig Mick Kitson, Cpl Dave Hunt, LCpl Bob Shotton. *Front Row L-R:* Cpl Steve Wall, Lt Col Brian Belton, Lt Malcolm Llewellyn

**REGIMENTAL GOLF**

The Golf Team really came to the fore, when all the current players were posted into the Regiment over a period of four to five months last year, and entered the Rhine Area Summer League. They finished this first season as runners up to the Rheindahlen Garrison 'A' team by the small margin of one point, with a very large 'holes up' total of ninety five. In the Rhine Area Winter League, the team achieved equal third place. **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Marsh, Sgt Mick Kilvington, Sgt Dave Price,** have represented the Corps (BAOR) during the season 1983-84. As a footnote we would like to ask MRO to note posting dates, and the requirement for future replacement of golfers.

The successful Regimental Golf Team. *L-R:* Maj Frank Rogers, Sgt Mick Kilvington, SSgt John McGonigle, Sgt Dave Price

**ORIENTAL COOKING DISPLAY BY SUPPORT SQUADRON WIVES**

At their May meeting, the Regimental Wives Club were treated to a lip smacking display of fine Oriental culinary expertise. **Mrs Grace Bell**, originally from Manila in the Phillipines, and wife of **Cpl 'Dinger' Bell ACC**, explained the intricacies of the Wok, and the cooking of Spare Ribs and ADOBO (Pork Stir Fry). **Mrs Irene Johnson**, from Sabah, Malaysia, wife of **WO2 (SSM) Keith Johnson**, then demonstrated her speciality, Rice with Port and a Fried Noodles dish.

**Cpl 'Dinger' Bell ACC**, then proceeded to produce the demonstrated menu in bulk, and all 70 wives attending the function were able to sit down to supper together.



**TUG-OF-WAR**

The Regimental Team achieved success at this year's Morrison Cup. Until that date, second place seemed to be our level because that was our final placing in the following events: The Rhine Area Catchweight League, The Rhine Area 640 KG Championships and The Rhine Area 560 KG Championships.

This position at both weights in Rhine Area allowed us to go forward to the BAOR Finals. Against formidable opposition we came away having gained equal ninth position at each weight and a considerable amount of hard earned experience. To end the season we entered the NORTHAG Athletics Catchweight Championships and were well pleased to take the Gold. Next season we are to enter a Dutch League, to add to our knowledge of the sport and, are looking forward to a good year.

Tug of War
The Regimental Tug of War team at the Morrison Cup show good spirit after their success
*Back Row:* Cpl 'Dill' Dillon, Sgt Mick Palmer, Cpl Bill Thomas, WO2 (SSM) Harry Robinson (Coach), Ptes 'Mos' Mostert, George Babbs, Sgt Derek Styles, LCpl Bob Gudgeon
*Front Row:* LCpl 'Spike' Forbes, 'Cocky' Cooke, WO2 (AQMS) Ken Stone, LCpls 'JR' Richmond, Dick Rutherford, Cpl 'Tojo' Philpot, plus miniature 'Stone' Mascot

**SUMMER REVUE 84**

Summer Revue time sees Support Squadron putting on its theatrical hat once again and delving into the mysteries of the Bard. The mission is to build a stage, complete with lighting, sound and all facilities, coach, coax and coerce all the troops to put on a sketch which forms part of the Inter-Troop competition. Follow this by producing an all ranks dance with disco, live group and a superb buffet for 300 guests. To echos of 'It'll be all right on the night' the supporters went into action, and at the close of play the verdict was 'a tremendous evening's entertainment'.

All the performers produced the goods on the night, but a special mention must go to:

**Cpl Ian Collier** for an inspired monologue, **Sig Les Wodcke** ad-libber extraordinaire and, **Cpl 'Stumpy' Rowlands**, a master of disguise.

Third place went to Mike Troop with their ideas on 'Cpls Mess Bar—Western Style'. Cpl Cuddles McQuade, Cpl 'Stumpy' Rowlands and LCpl 'Mitch' Barr

The runners up in the review 'Excerpt from Grease' by Alfa Troop. *L-R:* 'Ears' Prouse, LCpl Bob Shotton, Cpl 'Fast Eddy' O'Connell, Sig 'Den' Brooks, 'Johno' Johnson, Pte Sue Richards, Sig Jim Davidson

Summer Review
The winning entry 'Life at Switch Bravo' showing Sig Sefton and Capt Steve Johns

### NSSG IT'S A KNOCKOUT

2 Squadron have the dubious honour of organising the NSSG *It's a Knockout*. The SQMS, **SSgt Brian Johnson**, who had been the main organiser in years gone by, decided that he had to break in a new man. **Sgt Steve Bennett** was volunteered and he and his team got down to work, and some ingenious games they came up with too. Just like the real thing we had an international entry; three teams from 840 (GE) Fermelde Battalion, three teams from the Regiment, one team from the (NL) Signal Squadron and three guest teams (two from the local town St Tönis and one from 16 Sig Regt).

Fun was the order of the afternoon and the order was obeyed. Jokers were proudly displayed, when necessary, and one even ended in the water tank later in the day. The prize for the best joker went to our Support Sqn, (our tame REME AQMS **WO2 Fred Stone**).

The scoring was even until some way into the afternoon when it became apparent that 1 Sqn, and Team 'C' from 840 (GE) Fermelde Battalion were jockeying for the cup, medals and beer. In the end 1 Sqn were the victors by only three points.

**Sgt Steve Bennett** is to be congratulated along with his team who worked so hard to make the day so successful. The workers were: **Cpls 'Dinger' Bell, Stee Gallimore** and **Graham Wilson, Sig Dave Crashley, 'Mac' McKinnon, 'Taff' Mustoe, Les Wodcke** and **Mick Lowe,** and our duty German speaker **Sig Shane Parry**.

### FRANCISCAN FÊTE

'Early one Morning', as the well known song would have us believe, the 'maidenly' voice of **WO2 (SSM) Ken Clark** could be heard bellowing across the Regimental Square. Saturday 26 May was a very special day. The normal Saturday rituals of 'Andrews' and light breakfast were replaced by hard graft on the part of 1 Sqn, in preparation for the annual Regimental Fête. A horde of helpers with a generous sprinkling of organisers put the finishing touches to the numerous stalls, sideshows and attractions which would raise money for charity. Three months earlier in February, under the motherly eye of the OC, **Maj Judy Webb WRAC**, the planning committee, co-ordinated by **Capt Les 'gis a course' Plumb** , set to work. **WO2 (SSM) Ken Clark** dealt magnificently with the admin and organisation. The Grand Draw was organised, and much of the footwork for sponsors carried out, by the team of **WO2 (FofS) Pete Waring, Sgt Nigel 'Smiffy' Deoweneley** and **Sgt 'Gentle' Ben Nelson**.

**Guy Francis**, that well known TV presenter on BFBS, opened the Fête. Part of the opening ceremony involved **'Lt Col Belton and his Flying Pickets'** entertaining local German dignitories with ... you guessed 'Early one Morning'.

Maj Judy Webb with Guy Francis of BFBS open the 1984 Franciscan Fete

An enjoyable afternoon escalated to become a very successful afternoon which revealed over DM 12,000 raised for charity. The Grand Draw raised nearly half of this. Congratulations to **WO2 (ORQMS) Bob Davies** for winning the star prize of a Honda Moped. Commiserations to the CO for not winning a prize.

Charities which benefited from the proceeds were: Multiple Sclerosis Society, Jubilee Sailing Trust, SSAFA, BLESMA, Corps Benevolent Fund, Antonivsheim St Tönis (local charity) and other Corps Benevolent Funds.

Thanks to all the members of 1 Sqn, too numerous to mention, who put much effort into the overall organisation of the Fête and to all the other members of the Regiment who provided such good stalls to raise so much money. A special thank you to all those who came and supported this event and who helped raise such a large sum for the benefit of charity.

The many attractions suited all tastes and every department ran one or more stalls. The three Squadron Wives' Clubs ran handicrafts, cakes and tin stalls and between them raised over 1500 DM, and the QMs Department alone raised 1600 DM.

Earlier that day the Corps Band had played in St Tönis and Vorst entertaining the local population. They then put on a splendid performance on the Regimental Square for all those who turned out for the Fête.

Another attraction was an excellent Police Dog Display by courtesy of the RAF Police Dog Detachment from Wildenrath. The crowds were very impressed by the high standard of obedience and training of these dogs.

WO1 Elaine Willacy Victor Troop hangs on as Cpl John Arkless helps another youngster to feed Miss Piggy on the ducking stool

## ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1985

Stocks of the 1985 Corps diary are now available for sale. The diary is of a similar pattern to previous years. It is based on the modern slim-fold planner style. On opening, the day of the week runs across 2 pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance. The outer cover (6" × 3½") is in flexible blue vinyl embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. There are also separate pages giving calendars for 1984, 1985 and 1986; listing of European holidays 1985; an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is £1.25 for orders within the United Kingdom, and £1.15 for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

To:

The General Secretary
(Diary Order)
Royal Signals Association
RHQ Royal Signals
Cheltenham Terrace
Chelsea LONDON SW3 4RH

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NOTE: *Delete as appropriate.



## 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) BFPO 45

### ALLIED FORCES DAY PARADE

After a successful Queen's Birthday Parade on 1 June there was little time in which to complete preparations and rehearsals for the Allied Forces Day Parade on 16 June. The four vehicles and 12 men were provided by 229 Sig Sqn for this task. Radio Tp in particular were given the job of preparing the four landrovers to showroom standard, with **Cpls Roy Sant** and **Alex Sampson** 'cracking the whips' in the garages whilst **LCpl Jim Neaves** suffocated in silence in the spray bay. Things were starting to take shape, except for the weather which persisted with heavy rain, particularly on the final dress rehearsal. During the last few days of preparations the final touches were made whilst 'burning the midnight oil' (and disposing of a few cans of Heineken). Finally on the morning of Saturday 16 June 'the wagons' were wheeled out into the sunshine ready for the parade. The parade commenced with a drive past of the British, French and American National Flags, followed by the Allied march and drive past with participating elements from all units stationed in West Berlin. Our unit contribution formed part of the British minor unit drive past and was led by **Cpls 'Scouse' Yarwood** and **Jeff Watts** with **Sig Ken Jones** and **Ralph Crombie** as drivers, followed by the two open top landrovers with **SSgt Clive Young** and **Sgt Tony Freeman** taking the salute.

The parade was a great success with an estimated 80,000 people lining the route, confirmation of the good relationship that exists between the Allied Forces and the West Berliners.

SSgt Young and Sgt Freeman drive past. Vehicle crews, *left:* Sig Andy Ham, LCpl 'Tiny' Latham, Sig Tony Stevens (driver), *right:* Sig Nigel Harris, LCpl Jim Neaves, Sig (now LCpl) Dave Bartlett (driver)

Photo by Sgt Ken Myerscough

### SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

As soon as the parade season was over it was time to get down to some serious swimming. During the run up to the Brigade Championships the team carried out arduous training in the newly completed pool on the Jahnplatz. They were greatly assisted during this time by the Brigade Commander, who, on spotting them sunbathing, reminded them they were supposed to be training and made them get back into the water.

The training paid off on 3 July when we won the Brigade Minor Units Championships. Congratulations to all the team, particularly **Sig Paul Beattie** who set a new Brigade record in the 50m breaststroke. Winning the Brigade Championships meant that the team were automatically through to the BAOR Championships the following week. Three of the team entered for the BAOR Individual Championships. **Sig Paul Beattie** (our resident fish) won the Individual Medley while **2Lt Ian Favager** and **Sgt 'Suntan' Roberts** did well to come third and fourth in the 800m freestyle.

The swimming team pose for a photo with the Squadron OC and SSM. *Back Row (L to R):* LCpl 'Rocky' Mountain, Sig Paul Beattie, Sgt Ken Myerscough, LCpl 'H' Newton, Cpl 'Scouse' Yarwood. *Front Row (L to R):* Sgt Tony Freeman, Maj Sandy Lovatt, Sgt 'Suntan' Roberts, WO2 (SSM) Bernie Thomas, 2Lt Ian Favager

Photo by Cpl Colin Ibberson

Sig Beattie shares a joke with Brig Thompson (Chairman, BAOR Swimming) as he receives his trophy after the BAOR Championships

Photo by Cpl Colin Ibberson

The following day, 10 July, the BAOR Championships took place in the heat of the early afternoon sun. Seven teams took part in the minor units including our rivals from last year, 65 Corps Sp Sqn. Throughout the competition we were neck and neck with both teams taking first or second place in each event. After winning the Medley Relay we were two points ahead of 65 Corps Sp Sqn with one race to go in which we needed to come one place behind 65 to win the Championships. Unfortunately we were beaten into third place in this event leaving us runners up in the Championships. Well done to 65 Corps Sp Sqn but congratulations again to our team who managed to break a couple of BAOR records; **Sig Beattie** in the 100m freestyle and the 4 × 50m Medley Relay team, **Sgt Roberts, 2Lt Favager, Sig Beattie** and **LCpl 'H' Newton.**

The winners and runners up of the BAOR Championships automatically proceeded to the Army finals held two weeks later.

The team made the long trek by road and sea for the finals and another opportunity to settle the scores with 65 Corps Sp Sqn. Unfortunately they were beaten into second place yet again by the Sappers but returned to Berlin with their well earned runners up trophies.

## TAUNTON SCHOOL CCF VISIT

Between the dates of 12 and 20 July the Regiment hosted a party of 24 male and female cadets and four cadet officers from the Taunton School CCF. An interesting programme was compiled for them including a variety of military training, from watermanship (by 38 Berlin Fd Sqn RE) and Field Craft/SAWES (by 1 R Hamps) to ranges, assault courses and a 24 hour field exercise in the Grunewald. The cadets started the exercise with great enthusiasm and the patient efforts of **LCpl 'Skull' Pollitt** and **2Lt 'Where's the Panzer?' Favager** in playing enemy and trying (?) to control the exercise. One cadet took the exercise a little too seriously and after being captured by the enemy 'escaped' into the night (and the pouring rain) wearing only a shirt and lightweights. Unfortunately he did not know that 'Endex' had just been called! He was eventually found, soaked, but reasonably cheerful. The rest of the programme was filled with a tour of East and West Berlin, a visit to the Berlin Air Safety Centre (BASC) and other civil and military places of interest, assisting with a school Fete, sport and training activities.

The Three Degrees? Two cadets have a go on the PA System at the Charlottenburg School Fête, watched by one of their leaders, Capt David Miller

Photo by Cpl Colin Ibberson

Sig Andy Ham instructs a youngster in the use of a radio set at the School Fête

Photo by Cpl Colin Ibberson

The cadets left Berlin on the Military train, exhausted but apparently feeling that they had had an interesting stay in Berlin. Well done to all who helped coordinate the visit and look after the cadets, in particular: **Majs Eric Carrel** and **Sandy Lovatt, 2Lts Ian Favager** and **Howard Flint, SSgt Steve McKechnie, LCpl Walter Pollitt, Sig Andy Ham** and **Paul Beattie.**

## 229 (BERLIN INF BDE) SIG SQN SPORTS AFTERNOON

Amidst the uncharacteristically appalling 'summer' weather in Berlin the sun decided to shine for the Squadron Inter Tp athletics competition. As the competition between the three troops proceeded there was found to be a surprising amount of talent amongst the relative newcomers. **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** (TM Tp) easily won the 1500m and the 5000m and was so fast that he lapped all the competitors in the latter. **LCpl 'Ginge' Baxter** (Radio Tp) won the 100m and 200m sprints and managed to come second in the long jump. **Sig Paul Hanlon** (Radio Tp) won the 400m in a fast time of 53 seconds and the long jump with 18ft 10in. Other winners were: **LCpl Andy Slack** (Radio Tp) in the high jump, **LCpl Steve Nickerson** (TM Tp) in the discus (82ft) and **Cpl Clive Hunter** (TM Tp) in the shot putt. The final event, 4 × 100m relay and the whole competition was won by Radio Tp in fine style.

The kids had a wonderful afternoon too and enthusiastically participated in the egg and spoon and three legged races, providing a bit of light relief for the rest of the squadron. At the end of the afternoon the OC's wife, **Mrs Monica Lovatt** presented the awards to the winning athletes. She was herself presented with a bouquet as a sign of appreciation from members of the squadron. (There is, of course, no truth in the rumour that certain people knew she suffered from hay fever!).

Well done to all the competitors and to **Cpls 'Jock' Clark, 'Geordie' Laverick** and **LCpl Alan Chalmers** for organising a most enjoyable afternoon.

LCpl 'Ginge' Baxter takes the tape well ahead of the others

Photo by Cpl Colin Ibberson

Sig 'Smudge' Smith receives his trophy from Mrs Monica Lovatt, watched by Maj Sandy Lovatt

Photo by Cpl Colin Ibberson



# 30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

## THE THREE PEAKS YACHT RACE

Communications for this year's 3 Peaks Yacht Race were supplied as usual by members of 2 Squadron. The race involves competitors sailing around part of the coast of Britain, running up Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis en route. The race starts in Barmouth, mid Wales where the first det was set up commanded by **Capt Keith Pritchard** (2IC of the Sqn and now Hon Member of the Barmouth Yacht Club). Other members of the det were **Cpl Neil Coatsworth** and his motley crew—**Sig Dave Hebden, Jock Barrie** and **'Doc' Halliday.** They stayed at Barmouth for the duration of the race, feeding the results of each stage to the Press from 'Davey Jones Locker' on the harbour front. The team was joined by **Lt Wendy Morrison** (Asst Adjt) who had driven to Wales, complete with L plates, under the instruction of **Sig 'Cider' Derrick**.

The next det on the trail was at Caernarvon commanded by **Lt Nick Borrill** with **Sgt 'Bamber' Gascoigne, Cpl 'Hodge' Hodgkinson** and **Sig Jock Torrie**. The back up team left **Sig 'Mo' McAllister** there, a new member of the Squadron who arrived 12 hours before the back up team left Blandford. (Watch out new arrivals!) Leaving **Lt Borrill** and his men, the team set off, all except **'Cider'** who was left minding the vehicles, up Snowdon . . . yes, we took the Asst Adjt. There they met up with **Cpl 'Taff' Braid** and **LCpl Andy Craig** who were still wincing after paying £2.60 for their coffees. As the back up crew departed from the top, the cloud, with its rain, followed them down. The yachts sailed from Caernarvon on to Ravenglass, which was the next stop for the back up crew. At Ravenglass the det consisted of **SSgt Bob Hooper, LCpl Sid Holderness, Sig Kev Fowler** and new guy, **Nick**

'I may be para but I ain't that stoopid'. SSgt Bob Hooper at 0200 hrs on the beach at Ravenglass looks on as the teams are inspected before climbing Scafell Pike

**Basford**. From here the runners climbed Scafell Pike and were greeted at the top by **Cpl Barney Patel** and **Sig Tony Rathmell**. Just before the ascent they were checked in at Wasdale by **LCpl Jock Ford** then, after clearing Scafell, went back to the yachts again.

It was at this stage that the back up crew began to feel as if they had been tasked with an expedition on their own because, this crew led by **Maj Roland Ebdon** and manned by **WO2 (SSM) Henry Banks, Cpl 'Chip' Wood** and **Sig Jonah Jones**, had already seen the start position, the top of Snowdon and the lovely view from Scafell Pike.

The next stop for the back up team was Ben Nevis. They set up camp at Corpach which was the finish and waited 18 hours for **Lt Nick Borrill** to leapfrog up to join them. When the crew with **Lt Borrill** arrived, the team were away with each man carrying an essential item of equipment, ie, tent, radio, five gallons of water, batteries, etc to conquer Ben Nevis. The hardest, longest and coldest climb; it took a total of three and a half hours.

The back up team reached the top at approx 1930 hrs and waited for **Maj Roland Ebdon** to recce a suitable site (there was only one, the difficulty was finding it). A tent was erected and the det set up to operate for the next four days and nights. It was at this stage that the back up crew set off (ensuring comms were OK first) to see the first yachts arrive at Corpach.

Our intrepid heroes brave the elements on Ben Nevis. *L-R:* Maj Roland Ebdon, Cpl 'Chip' Wood, Sig Jonah Jones

## EXERCISE *HALOGEN MERCURY*

Ex *Halogen Mercury* was a 30 Sig Regt exercise held in Kenya. A joint force of some 134 Army and RAF flew to Africa between 30 May and 5 June. The exercise locations were on the coast in Mombassa and for the rough and tough element under canvas at Nanyuki showground. The Joint Force Commander, **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** was ably assisted by the Comms Officer, **Capt Dennis 'Noisy' Mills** and the Admin Officer, **Capt Andy** (I'll run the R and R, PRI, PR and anything else you can think of) **Keenan**. 'In their "free time" they will do military and adventure training and if they have any more "spare time" they can go on Safari' said the Force Commander. A comprehensive training programme was drawn up prior to the commencement of the exercise and the following personnel were 'invited' to Kenya to run various activities as listed below:

**WO1 (RSM) Brian (I'm going native) Smith )**
**SSgt Dave 'Jambo' Pinder ) Ranges**
**2Lt Phil (I need more map reading practice) Davies—Adventure Training**

The exercise began in earnest after the advance party arrived in Nairobi proceeding direct to The British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya. We drew up our vehicles, Camp Stores and 'NAAFI Stock'. It would at this point be remiss not to mention the fact that when the Mombassa Det departed Nairobi for a 12 hour road journey to their exercise location the 'NAAFI Stock' was nearly twice as big as their kit and equipment. **WO1 (YofS) George (I'm down at the beach if anybody wants me) Devine** was the senior Corps Representative at Mombassa. He was 'assisting' the RAF. The other half of the exercise duly arrived in Nanyuki at the Agricultural showground. **Sgt 'Taff' (The Beetroot) Witchell** our infamous MT Sgt took about nine hours to travel 130Km with the lame excuse that the brakes on the 27½ KVA would not work. Some story, but what the OC wanted to know is how do you go 'sight' seeing at night? The Advance Party's move over, our next tasks were three phase. Set up a base and Comms site, recce the extramural activities, locations and prepare for the arrival of the Main Party. Problem one arose very quickly and we were informed that our Comms sites chosen by the Force Commander were out of bounds. This of course was cause for great concern. After much 'toing' and 'froing' **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** with **WO1 Terry McLoughlin** found an ex patriot's farm and obtained permission to 'camp' in his paddock. We must at this point acknowledge our grateful thanks to **Maj** and **Mrs Holmes** (ex Para Regt) for their understanding and hospitality. Wednesday 6 June duly arrived and Exercise *Halogen Mercury* swung into full operation with one shift up country to the RSM's range, one shift Adventure Training up Mount Kenya and the remaining two shifts looking after the Comms.

The SSM, WO2 Mick Davies briefing the shift prior to departure up country. Those being briefed are *L-R:* LCpl 'Smudge' Williams, 1 Sqn Clerk, Sig 'Smudge' Smith, HQ Sqn (MT), Sig Dave Kevins, LCpl Dick Malt and Cpl John O'Connell, all 1 Sqn

'If a picture tells a thousand words', what can one say. **Sgt Graham** (I don't half work hard when I'm not sun bathing) **Butler** is shown here in the Squadron Office occupying a vacant chair, using the radio, and with a vacant look asking for 'overtime'.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that when a Unit visits Kenya for training purposes that an allowance is made for employment of local personnel. A short but very poignant story is that of our LEP foreman **Jackson Mwega**. **Jackson** is a married man with three children, he owns a two acre plot of land and his shamba (house) is situated on this land. The shamba is built of wood and corrugated metal sheets. The windows have no glass, the floor is mud and there is no running water. **Jackson** works about nine months a year for the Army and his wife tends the farm, as it is euphemistically called. **Jackson**'s family were on the point of starving because the crop had failed, due to the drought. He still managed to go about his duties in a cheerful determined enthusiastic manner. His assistance to this Unit was invaluable. Perhaps when we think that the world is pressing on our shoulders, we should all remember people like **Jackson Mwega**.

All exercises come to an end and to relate everything that we saw and did would fill a book. Points worth mentioning are the Safaris, the heat, the magnificent flowers, the cattle dying through lack of water and the struggles of a nation striving for a decent standard of living.

In summary a good Comms exercise, good Range practices on the edge of a desert, good adventure training on Mount Kenya. The R and R was appreciated and most personnel saw lots of wild animals. Most memories will perhaps reflect on the plight of a nation that relies on good rainy seasons for its crop to ensure future growth. The very sad fact is the rains have not arrived.

**OP PROCONSUL**

Whilst attending a routine JFHQ exercise planning meeting at HQ SEDIST in early April, OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Roland Ebdon**, was called to another office and informed that he had been chosen as the Op PROCONSUL Comms Coord Officer. 'Thank You Sir—What's that?'—'The 40th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy in the presence of **Her Majesty The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** and **HRH The Prince of Wales**'—'But that's in only five weeks!'—'Ten out of ten for military history—now here's what we want—a VHF command and control net to cover eight events in two days over the whole area (50 miles by 20 miles), eight outstations, seven mobiles, comms for command of helicopters, the RAF Memorial Flight's two fly-pasts, a para drop, HMS *Fife*'s nine gun salute and some PA—what do you need?' Thus began six weeks of intensive activity imposed upon exercises already planned.

**EARLY THOUGHTS**

Four facts were immediately evident. Firstly—cancel **WO2 (YofS) Derek McClelland's** trip to the USA (He'd been twice already in the last six months). Secondly—bid for extra kit, HQ UKLF and 2 Sig Bde agreed to allow us to retain the 'extras' we had acquired for Ten Tors. Thirdly—spread the load, 2 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt, would be able to do most of the work but not all. Dets from 205 Sig Sqn were invited as it was felt red berets would be well received at Ranville, Merville Battery and Pegasus Bridge. As HQ 3 Armd Div were co-ordinating three of the events, dets from the Signal Regiment were requested to come direct from BAOR. Three Flt AAC agreed to provide the Caen/Carpiquet airfield ground station and as it was a royal occasion, 10 Sig Regt were asked to provide the PA. Finally, as no time would be available after our arrival in France, a recce had to be undertaken as soon as possible.

The recce, commanded by **Lt Nigel Harrison**, was quickly organised. Some frequencies were made available by the French authorities, travel was by civil ferry, uniform was not worn and NRSA was paid for hotel accommodation—it was a very successful trip all round. Even language training was tested but Franglais abounded—viz **LCpl Sid Perks** 'Un café au lait et twenty B&H please love'. Comms sites were chosen, plenty of slides and video film taken for briefing use and some contacts established with other groups on recce. After this the Signal Instruction was completed and forwarded to London for approval—it included one much appreciated paragraph: 'the net, which is a mixture of Navy, Army and RAF personnel all coming from different units, is to use voice procedure which is simple, concise, plain language and gets the message through—it is unclas'. Appointment titles, such as Kermit for the French LO, were strictly avoided!

**TO CAEN**

Our move to France was to be on the RFA *Sir Bedivere*. The admin details and movement instructions were received by telephone and confirmed on board. Final blocks of frequencies had been received and on Saturday 1 June we set sail from Marchwood. A flurry of lifeboat drills and muster parades followed after which **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Healy** entered the fray at a duties conference. He won concessions for us immediately and continued to do so throughout the week. During the voyage and control offices, portacabins on the foredeck, were powered up by **LCpl Andy Townsend**. 2 FFRs were lashed down and antennae erected on the deck. An earth was provided by dangling 50 ft of braid in the sea. As we sailed down the Solent **Sgt 'Bamber' Gascoigne** was busily snapping the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* with a camera only slightly smaller than himself. By dawn on 2 June we were in the Basin de Callix in Caen.

**REHEARSALS**

Sunday's tasks were the deployment of the rebros and familiarisation with routes to, and locations of, the different events. **LCpl 'Tommy' Trudgill** undertook rebro resupply in our liveried minibus and also battlefield tours for those off duty. **Cpl Chris Aslett** and his crew soon established relations with the French farmer on whose land they were operating and **Sig Kevin McHugh** became the translater—regular deliveries of bread, milk and Calvados were soon arranged. **Cpl Neil Coatsworth** and his crew learned to live with the bull in their location. At locations such as Bayeux Cemetery, tents were being erected at speed but when a US Huey landed near them and flattened several, the crew got a rude reply when asking for directions from **LCpl Sid Holderness**.

Monday saw slow walkthroughs of the ceremonies and the radio net proved its worth as questions and answers flew about. There were flypast rehearsals at both Utah Beach and Arromanches, which led to some revisions in procedures and the creation of a last stop-gap method of calling the aircraft in—**SSgt Jim Watson** at the holding point with a flare pistol!

The liveried Regimental minibus crosses the historic Pegasus Bridge

Sig Hebden during rehearsals at Arromanches

Tuesday was the final full scale rehearsal day and everyone was off the boat by 0500 hrs. As so many troops were doing several jobs in different locations their movement was important and had to be monitored closely. Thus the timings of these rehearsals were critical. Also as the staff users were often away from their vehicles, either pocketphones were used to relay messages or the operators picked up their cleft sticks and set off searching, sometimes going up to a quarter of a mile. Where possible local PRC 351 nets were patched through twin 353 dets to achieve even greater coverage. At Arromanches **LCpl Stephen Pashley** became very adept at patching the OC 'through to the ship'.

Wednesday saw further rehearsals in the morning and then the first live events in the afternoon. **The Prince of Wales** watched a successful para drop at Ranville and then moved to the village for the ceremonies.

**BRIGHT AND CLEAR**

Thursday 6 June dawned bright and clear. The RY *Britannia* berthed in Caen at 0700 hrs and her guard ship, HMS *Torquay*, tied up alongside the LSL. All troops deployed early and contact was established with HMS *Fife* offshore, thus the net was finally complete. The OC departed to Bayeux where the COS's radio operator **LCpl Kev Bolam** was proving his flying ability as he stuck close to his boss. Conditions here were extraordinary with many non-accredited, and hence unwelcome, Press people trying to gain entry to a private ceremony and others also trying to gatecrash. **LCpl Sid Holderness** was taking major decisions himself 'H1 this is 97 (RMP LO with Gendarmes). We have that company of CRS (riot police) you requested—do you still want them?'—'I wait I will get my user'—'97 No, I need to know now'—**Sid** pops his head out, assesses the situation—'I—Yes send them in, out'—he got it right as well, they were needed. Meanwhile **Maj Roy Lund** was putting the finishing touches to his PA system, including feeding the BBC's outside broadcast detachment. The overall feeling as the veterans gathered was one of intense anticipation and excitement, tinged with reverence, for the location was the beautifully maintained cemetery, some 10,000 graves. As reported on television and in the national press there was an almost eerie silence between the sounding of the Last Post and the Reveille. Then it was farewell to **President Mitterand** and a Royal walkabout. As this was going on, the OC went with the RM band to Arromanches, for the next ceremony. Strict movement control had been imposed by the French and only bona fide vehicles could use the cleared routes.

**TRULY MEMORABLE**

At Arromanches **Sig David Hebden** set up beside the museum with his remotes on the roof. By early evening the Royal Party was 30 minutes behind schedule but the crowds carried on singing with the RM band whilst waiting. The Royal helicopter eventually landed as HMS *Fife* arrived off shore, having steamed from Utah Beach, to join HMS *Torquay* and the Royal Yacht, outside the Mulberry harbour. The Memorial Flight was in its holding position circling five miles up the coast and in contact—all was now ready. The veterans march past was truly memorable and snaps of veteran signallers were taken when possible. **The Queen** entered the museum and this was the timing signal for the flypast and nine gun salute to occur, 15 minutes later. Then, totally unexpectedly, the Royal Party left the museum early and it looked as if the speeches were about to start early and would be interrupted as the aircraft were inbound but at that time, still out of sight and earshot. As the Mayor of Arromanches reached for the microphone a quick transmission to HMS *Fife* was made 'H G7 this is G3—**The Queen** has left museum early—fire now—out'. The boom of the first gun attracted everyone's attention and 30 seconds later the aircraft roared overhead to an enormous cheer. The ceremonies continued and eventually all mobiles were back aboard by 0200 hrs.

The rebros and PA equipment were recovered on 7 June and we sailed for England in the afternoon. A truly memorable two days had been enjoyed by the veterans and we were pleased to have been able to play a part. We now look forward to the 50th Anniversary.

**BRITFORLEB COMMEMORATIVE DINNER**

A dinner was held to celebrate the safe return from the Lebanon of the Regiment's contingent of the Multi National Force. While the meal in itself was not unusual, the venue most certainly was. As a result of the Regiment's ties with the Swanage Steam Railway currently under restoration to its former grandeur, the CO, **Lt Col Bill Backhouse**, decided to hold the dinner in the Pullman car, owned by the Railway.

The whole event provided a few headaches for the organiser, **WO2 (RQMS) Jeff Shergold**. However, on the evening everything went smoothly, the dinner being preceded by drinks, served whilst travelling along the line. On the train's return to Swanage a banquet of a barbecue, prepared by the Master Chef **WO2 John Le Maitre ACC** and **Cpl Paul Fee ACC** was served.

The merry band of waiters, all in full Mess kit, led by **RQMS Shergold**, included **WO2 (SSM) Andy (I'm not asleep) McBain, SSgts Nick Knight, Graham Easton, Arthur Smith RAPC, Sgts John Gibson** and **Ian Vine**, with a guest appearance by **SSgt John McGuiness**. The cunning guile and combined experience of the waiters was well demonstrated when they attempted to auction off the remnants of the meal to the local pensioners, whilst the Yeovil Town Band played, for the diners.

**NOTABLE AWARD**

The highlight of the evening was the announcement by the CO that **Sgt Sammy McElreavey** had been awarded the BEM for service in the Lebanon.

The Beirut veterans, suitably wined and dined, then departed for Blandford. **Cpl Chris Aslett**, not slow to enjoy himself, managed to find his friend 'huey' on the coach on the way back (much to his wife's annoyance!)

The evening was a great success, but would not have been possible without the assistance and co-operation of the Swanage Steam Railway Co, the Swanage Town Council and **Cpl Frank Roberts**, our contact with the Railway.

Lt Col Bill Backhouse (right) congratulates Sgt Sammy McElreavey on the award of his BEM for service in the Lebanon

# 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
# Hammersmith

**41 SQUADRON**

After the usual three line whip went out, the Squadron fielded 68 all ranks for Ex *Calm Fence 84*, this included 3 RCT and 1 CVHQ ACC attached.

Following the Regimental move to the continent the Squadron concentrated at Grobbendonk. At first parade on the Sunday the OC, **Maj Jim Mill** and the **SSM Peter Lovett** were able to address the whole Squadron on one of the few occasions in the training year that this is possible. We then went through the usual stores issues and briefings, prior to moving into the field.

K Troop commanded by **Lt John Ruske** and assisted by **Lt Karen Doull** were to remain at Grobbendonk to support the RCP (and feed the local mosquito population). N Troop commanded by **Lt Linda Webber WRAC** and assisted by **2Lt Kendal Withers** on attachment from ULOTC, was deployed to the odd surrounding E1st Zang which turned out to have such luxuries as showers and porcelain and where **LCpl Chris Hunt** succumbed to the 'Grobbendonk mosquito' ailment which was to afflict many others before the end of the exercise. J Troop commanded by **SSgt Maurice** 'I haven't been in The Wire for ten years' **Byrne** and assisted by **Sgt Keith Byatt** were split into their detachments and deployed with the various Access Nodes of the Regiment. SHQ remained at Grobbendonk which enabled our **NRPS SSgt John Mackins** and his assistant **Sig Dean Jeeves** to deploy their newly designed 'SHQ tent city'. N Troop quickly moved west and ended up at a disused airfield in support of 11 Bde.

At this point the TOT, **Maj Jim Fowler** and the FofS, **SSgt Lew Lawton** arrived to interface our circuits into the SHAPE mobile SATCOM or, as it became known, the 'Vertically Polarised Work'. Meanwhile **Sgt Jan Billin** was establishing a working relationship with the AFCENT MPs, which led to the presentation of a Cherry Pie to **Lt Linda Webber** on the Troops' departure to pastures new.

K Troop, moved to SHAPE where **LCpl Sonya Baker** had to be admitted to hospital suffering from the effects of 'Grobbendonk mosquito'. From her private suite overlooking the complex she was able to watch the progress of **LCpl Roxanne Norris** and **LCpl Ted Ramaya** trying to link into the Regiment, while at the same time trying to avoid the Belgian Police who were concerned with such matters as permission for use of the site. Meanwhile **Sgt John Hickey** was planning to use her private shower as the Troop Shower facility.

After a few fruitless days, K Troop moved to Zutendaal to take over the Brigade comms task and monopolize the supply of Mars Bars to the Brigade CP. N Troop first moved back to Battice for a second look at that site before going on to our old Base Camp at Chievres airbase. There it remained until Endex.

SHQ personnel meanwhile spent its time travelling between the RCP and the two Troops in the field. As a result the OC **Maj Jim Mill** and the 2IC **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** managed to travel in the region of 1500 miles in ten days, all in Belgium. The 2IC's driver **Pte Anne Atkinson** will shortly produce a guide to all the Frite stands on the Mons—Liege—Antwerp motorways.

During the middle weekend, SHQ held a Cheese and Orange Juice lunch to celebrate the end of the first half. Alas, the PSI **Sgt Roy Sutherland** was visiting H2 and, by the time he arrived, so had the Brie.

On return to Olen the Squadron gathered for the traditional Endex celebration at the Friterie Bij Wanne, where much beer, chips and steak were consumed and our RCT attached members provided a most revealing floor show.

**47 SQUADRON**

June saw the Regiment's Bi-annual visit to NW Europe for a lengthy field Exercise to test all that we've learnt over the last two years.

The Squadron fought its way across the channel with usual gusto and arrived amid convoys stretching many miles inland, all ready to do battle.

The Exercise went mainly according to plan although Switch Command had its lonely moments. Squadron OC **Maj Bill Morris** managed to catch a heavy cold, which he achieved in mid-summer whilst in full combats, to add to his troubles.

All successfully achieved their quota of sleepless nights and Switch Command simulated Piccadilly Circus, with a steady stream of visitors. One of the last guests to attend was the Commander

Communications BAOR. He is seen here in the multiplex vehicle avoiding local cold germs with L to R **Sig Mark Gilfrin, Cpls Chris Hurst** and **Tim Bunker.**

Many new techniques were tried and tested and unexpected methods arose from adversity. Line poles were found to come in very useful in extending 40ft masts allied with suitable granny knots.

The line up is as follows: *Front (L to R):* 2Lt Steve Potter (Troop OC), Sig Steve Lynch, Pte Carmella Chapman, Sig 'Gunner' Metcalfe, Sig Phil Cull. *Rear (L to R):* Sgt Terry Palmer, Pte Evans, Cpl Ray Peters, SSgt Jim Moreton, LCpl Lysight.

Hotel Two (Minor Access Node) was meanwhile enjoying an independent, if somewhat lonely time, in far away places. However, as the team photograph shows, all had an enjoyable time.

Hotel Two enjoyed a variety of sites but were disgusted to find that their final location was without permanent showers or toilet facilities, needless to say, they made the best of it! One of Hotel two's sites tested the effectiveness of cam nets to the full.

Requests for white netting fitted with tennis balls have been sent—you never know!

The Squadron returned to the UK safely and complete, to a hearty breakfast and an early release to baths and beds.

In July the Regiment staged its first Skill at Arms Weekend of the 'Bounty' Season which incorporated an in-house Shooting Competition. 47 Sqn rose to the occasion and walked away with all the major prizes. The Squadron won the SMG Match and the LMG Match. **Sig Mark Gilfrin** won the Young Soldier SMG Shoot and the Squadron Team won the Inter-Troop Match proving that it's not only communication that comes naturally at Harrow!



**83 SQUADRON**

Summer Camp in Belgium was enjoyed by all (well, perhaps it was some of the time). It certainly had its lighter moments. Some of the entertainment was provided by the showers that were rigged up in the field (very expertly by **SSgt (SQMS) Bill Hatton** and **Sgt Rudy Raynor**). First bit of amusement was provided by courtesy of OC HQ Squadron. **Maj James Allan** whose early morning stand to in an adjacent location precipitated an alert at India just when OC **Maj Paul Whittle** was in the middle of his early morning shower.

**WO2 (SSM) Chris Mahony**, despite encouragement from certain WRAC, did not push his luck and insist that the OC took up his defence position immediately. **Cpl Vivian Drew WRAC** was not so lucky with her modesty, as her OC. **LCpl John Ingham**, desperate to have his first shower in the field, stumbled (accidentally) into the shower tent where **Cpl Drew** was having her well-earned shower. He withdrew rather hurriedly in some emotional and physical disarray to the applause (and envy) of the rest of the Squadron.

Lastly, on the subject of hygiene in the field, it is rumoured that **Sig Pete Wooldridge** has been experimenting with all sorts of exotic deodorants. He can think of no explanation other than some ghastly body odour for his being quarantined with 47 Sqn for most of the exercise.

The heroine of the hour on Camp was **Pte Sara Evans WRAC.** At a critical phase of the exercise a Belgian landowner threatened to evict **Cpl Mick Sheldon** and **Cpl 'F-J' Fernley-Jones** and their RR dets because they were allegedly spoiling his game shoot. Into the midst of this fracas stepped **Pte Evans**, with her impeccable (finishing School) French, to pacify the landowner. Sceptics however, remained unconcerned that **Pte Evans'** French played much part in her winning over the landowner! A final postcript on linguistic skills—ask **Lt Vicki Hutchinson** or **Sgt 'Supertech' Vriens** to give you a free demonstration of a simulated helicopter landing, as mimed to a Flemish farmer. It is some spectacle.

Away from Camp and back in Barracks the renovation and rebuilding of the Squadron Drill Hall at Southfields is proceeding at great pace. The old 1939 building is being virtually gutted and transformed into a modern showpiece Drill Hall. It is the crazy period at the moment and the permanent inhabitants **SSgt (PSI) 'Taff' Flaherty** and **SSgt (NRPS) 'Nirps' Smith** are just about keeping their sanity while floors, walls and the roof are demolished about their ears. Watch this space for further bulletins!

We are very grateful to **Sig Chris Topley** for 'A Tale of a Signalman's First Belgium Camp'. Space does not allow us to print it all but some extracts are given below:

As the advance party set off for Dover on that sunny June morning, my thoughts returned to last year's homeward journey from Scarborough when I was advised 'If you enjoyed this Camp (my first), just wait until next year's trip to Belgium'. So it was with eager anticipation that I boarded our four tonner at Southfields at the start of Ex *Calm Fence.*

I knew that we were to be in the field for over a week, and that it was to be a dry exercise. I was apprehensive about how I would cope with the former and the prospect of no alcohol for eight days didn't excite me either. However, both situations were met and proved to be no problem. In fact the period without the demon drink probably improved my health no end.

Having taken a wrong turn in our Land Rovers, we pulled up alongside the Albert Canal, seeking directions, when along came a bicycle riding gentleman, advising us what we could do with the British Army and extolling the virtues of somebody called Hitler. Furthermore, he claimed that one of our WRAC colleagues was a 'good strong boy' and should be working down the mines. However, with a bit of gentle persuasion he managed to put us on the right track.

Having spent a couple of days at Grobbendonk I moved to A Echelon in the Ardennes. My only previous experience of this region was on the shelf of my local supermarket, in a jar marked 'Paté', so my visit enabled me to put the face to the name, as it were.

Morale in the Ardennes was very high and I would like to take the acclaim for that by mentioning the hundreds of superb cups of coffee I made. I would like to take the acclaim, but in reality the plaudits for our high morale go to my colleagues, **Capt John Robson, RQMS Barry Williams** (Thank you RQ for teaching me to play Sergeant Major and Hunt the .....). **SSgts Parry, Roy Smith** and **Sgt Terry Bray** who I would like to thank for their humour and good nature which certainly kept me going.

Amongst personal highlights for me were meeting the Gurkhas who I thought were very polite and probably the most well mannered people I have come across, and how I enjoyed the meal they cooked for us.

Visiting SHAPE for the first time, was I really in Belgium or California?

For the last two year's one of our Officers, **Capt Mike Cullen**, has been in Hong Kong and, missing his TA, secured an attachment to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, 'The Volunteers'. He has written to tell us his news:

**AN ATTACHMENT TO THE 'ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT' (THE VOLUNTEERS)**

I remember a 31 (GL) Sig Regt cocktail party in early 1982. At that function **Anita** and I had a conversation with **Capt Mike O'Connor** (the MO) and his wife. The subject believe it or not, was Hong Kong. **Mike** said 'Why don't you try for a job/posting to HK, and while you're there, take up an attachment, it's a great experience'. Well, who would have guessed that just six months later, that conversation would begin to take form as if it were a blue print.

I had light heartedly applied for a job advertised in the 'Gazette', and after an amazing interview at the Hong Kong Telephone Company's London Office, found I had been selected.

Well, to cut a long story short, I'll skip the domestic stuff and the cultural shock of arriving and learning to live in Hong Kong. Suffice it to say HK was all we had been led to believe it would be and more. We arrived in September 1982 and by November I had decided we were settled enough to make contact with the 'Volunteers' and see about a commitment. In typical HK style, I was very quickly put in touch with the right people. A CO's interview arranged (The CO then was **Lt Col Michael Barneby**), and a commitment agreed. Next, I needed kit. This will test their efficiency I thought. You know, 'Stores is for counting' and all that, but I was wrong. The very next day I received a phone call in my office. It was the QM, **Mike**, 'if you can make it over to our stores in Happy Valley some time today, we'll kit you out'. I said I'd try and make it by 1730 hrs. As things turned out I didn't manage to make the stores until 1900 hrs. Would you believe it? They normally close shop at 1700 hrs but, they had stayed open waiting for me. 'We were going to give you another 10 mins sir', was my greeting. 20 mins later I was fully kitted out. As I left the stores and looked around the barracks and square, I felt at home immediately. It was typical British Army. Quite a refreshing feeling after nearly four months in Hong Kong.

That same weekend I was to meet C Sqn and take part in my first exercise with them. **Maj Peter Rull** was OC C Sqn then and at my request he gave me a Troop rather than an SHQ post. For nearly a year, right up to and including October 83's border camp, I enjoyed what has to be one of the best jobs an officer can have.

As Troop Leader of 2 Troop I trained for and carried out Internal Security (IS) tasks, exercised our infantry skills and practised light reconnaissance (which is the principal role of the Regiment) in a unique environment. Apart from the limited warfare exercises, most of what we did was real or had a very real application, at short notice. It's quite an experience to put training into practice. ie

Setting up actual deliberate road blocks and snaps VCPs on Public Roads.

Putting in cordons or performing search missions on real property. (A high rise housing block, village, etc).

Patrolling the border. Capturing illegal immigrants (IIs) and handing them over to the Police after questioning.

Practising crowd control at 'key points' (KPs) equipped with CS, Baton rounds, shot guns etc and using box formations.

Helicopter deployments of OPs and helicopter recce.

Using one's signalling skills for real on all these applications and more. The radio equipment is excellent, VRC 350s, 352s and 353s.

The Regiment is made up mostly of 'locals', so Cantonese is their natural tongue. However, they all have to be able to speak English and for the most part, do so very well. Mind you, it helps to know a little Cantonese yourself. As you can imagine, because of its wide ranging role, the Regiment has an amazing array of weapons and kit. It is also very mobile, using mainly Land Rovers. The number of nationalities represented among the expatriate officers and men is quite something too.

I've enjoyed working with and learning from volunteers and ex regulars from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and Portugal. This has led to many long term friendships with great memories.

Since October 1983 the CO has changed and so has my OC and my job. The CO is now **Lt Col Villiers**; My OC C Sqn is now **Maj Stewart Hall** and my job is now 2nd Captain. (Which is basically Squadron 2IC, only the load is effectively split between two Captains, hence the title).

I am gradually putting together a photo album of the life with the 'Volunteers' here, and hope to make it available soon.

# 32 Sig Regt (V)
# Glasgow

**EXERCISE *CRESTED LARK***

The Regiment deployed into woods (for a change!) for a 2 Signal Brigade Communications Exercise. British Telecom did us proud by laying a mile and a half of armoured cable for the TASS and telephone circuits at Barry Buddon, but it did take a line det of eight men. The Regiment was scattered over a wide area from 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn at Magilligan Ranges (Northern Ireland), 51 (H) Sig Sqn at Fort George, 61 (CofE) Sig Sqn at Cambusbarron with HQ Sqn and 52 (L) Sig Sqn at Barry Buddon. Off duty personnel at Barry Buddon were entertained by members of the SAS (V) baling themselves out of perfectly serviceable aircraft and dropping in only yards from our location. Communications went well and our many new recruits acquitted themselves most creditably.

'I always thought MOULD was a fungus until I discovered 32 Regt'. Sgt Jim Hutchinson and SSgt Paul Salloway attempting to get 'through' on MOULD

**SSGT JOHN BROWN**

It was with deep sadness that the Regiment arranged the funeral of **SSgt John Brown** who died on 2 June and whose obituary appeared in the last issue. He was buried with full military honours at the Comlybank Cemetery in Edinburgh with members of 61 (CofE) Sig Sqn providing the pall bearers and firing party. The church service and funeral were attended by Comd 2 Sig Bde **Brig Keith Olds, Col Coltart** who represented Comd 52 Bde and **Maj Gryce** who represented GOC Scotland.

**OTHER NEWS**

Regimentally, July has been quiet due to the Edinburgh and Aberdeen Trades Fair and the Glasgow Fair (these are not winds but annual city holidays) and the traditional TA Summer Siesta.

We do, however, welcome the four new NRPS SQMS and wish **SSgts George Fraser, Tom Padden, Frank Patterson** and **Malcolm Baillie** a happy second career with the Regiment.

**FOCUS ON 51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Ken Sutherland** |
| **2IC** | **Maj Dougie Bartlett** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Bob Esson** |
| **OC N Tp** | **Capt Sadiq Ahmed** |
| **OC J Tp** | **Capt Joyce Rhind** |
| **Trg Offr** | **Lt John Geddes** |
| **OC Y Tp** | **2Lt Fenella Cruickshank** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Findlay** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Tony Davies** |

**ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION**

A team of girls from the Squadron (featured in photograph) took part in an assault course competition at the Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don. After much heaving, groaning and shouts of, 'I can't do that,' the team put up an extremely creditable performance and won the prize for the fastest women's team. None were more surprised than themselves and celebrations were held forthwith.

There were many sore feet exhausted limbs in the Squadron after the JNCO training weekend held on the Ardgoil peninsula when helicopter rides, section attacks and forced marches were the order of the day. The WRAC JNCOs can vouch for the fact that their webbing was not designed to be worn for long distance marches, but is large enough to carry essential combat equipment, ie make-up, shampoo, nighties, etc.

**HIGHLAND FIELD SPORTS FAIR**

A small, select team from the Squadron set out from Aberdeen for the wilds of Invernessshire and the Highland Field Sports Fair held on 3/4 August. Complete with tactical caravan for use by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Ken Sutherland**, for entertaining, the detachment set up camp as near as possible to the Committee Tent and the free whiskey. Whilst at MOY providing MACC in the shape of lighting, power, etc we were visited by Commander 2 Signal Brigade, **Brig Keith Olds**, and the CO, **Lt Col Howard Culley**. **Brig Olds** kindly agreed to present the 51 (Highland) Signal Squadron Trophy for the Gun Dog Scurry.

Winners of Ladies Team Prize
*L-R:* Pte Lynn Duncan, Cpl Heather Ingram, Ptes Karen Nicoll and Susan Davidson

**Don't be disappointed!**

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



# 33 Sig Regt (V)
# Liverpool

**IN SUPPORT OF HQ AFCENT**

Sponsored by the Ministry of Defence, *Chester Evening Leader* reporter **Nick Garbutt** and photographer **George Green** were able to visit 33 Sig Regt (V), deployed in its operational role on a major mobile communications exercise in South Germany. As will be noted from the report that follows they found that soldiering in the Territorial Army was very different from what they had imagined. Here is their story in words and pictures.

**EXERCISE *CALM FENCE '84***
**Report by Nick Garbutt**
**Pictures by George Green**

'We imagined that it would be a bit like Butlins in uniform, with birds and booze on tap. A sort of holiday camp with the occasional stroll through the woods to check out the field telephones. We were in for a bit of a shock, we found that 33 Signal Regiment (V) plays a vital role in the defence of Europe.

If war ever broke out, Army Commanders would rely on their ability to keep messages flowing during the conflict. The Regiment provides a back-up service that would be called into play if the Russians knocked out NATOs first lines of communication. As soon as they went into action they would become high on the enemy's hit list. Attacks could come from the air and from crack commando units on the ground.

Exercise *Calm Fence* was designed to test the skill and endurance of the three TA Regiments of 11 Signal Brigade (V), to the limit.

There was no slouching, very little booze and no time to lounge around in the sun. There were plenty of women around—but they were working just as hard as the men. There's no prejudice against them and no special favours. They've got a job to do and they do it well.

Moving almost entirely at night they have to establish their positions in complete darkness. Any lights would give away their position to the enemy. Orders to move are given without warning and members have to snatch a couple of hours sleep whenever they can.

**Maj Chris Byron**, whom we found commanding one of the Communication sites said: 'The men come here to work, eat and sleep. We moved in last night and there's a village 800 yards away but they don't even know it's there.'

'The only relaxation they will be allowed in the next couple of days is to visit an American base for a shower.' Whilst we were visiting positions we were under strict instructions to refer to our own sleeping quarters as 'The Stables'. We spent quite a lot of the time moaning to the lads about the quality of the straw and the animals that kept us awake. Now that we're safely home again we can reveal that 'The Stables' was a small pleasant bistro on the banks of the River Mosel!

At every location we visited we were impressed by the enthusiasm of these Volunteer Soldiers and thankful for the warm welcome we always received.

However if you are ever fortunate enough to be invited for a meal with the lads of the 33rd you'd be wise to make sure **Sgt Peter Gallagher** isn't in the Mess. **'Soapy'** as he is known to his mates made culinary history when he fried eggs in washing up liquid by mistake. 'I couldn't understand why they all ran away clutching their throats' he said.

There were no complaints though from any member of the Regiment during Ex *Calm Fence '84*, when the food, thanks to the skill of the Regimental Cooks, was of a very high standard.

It seemed to drive home the remark that Quartermaster **Maj Derek Beckett** was making when he said: 'What we are doing is for real. If anything goes wrong, vehicles will stop and people will go hungry.'

For obvious reasons all the communications posts were hidden in dense forest. The only way you can find them is to get as close as possible with the map and then follow the tac signs to their actual location.

We found the locals new hobby . . . collecting tac signs very frustrating, and as a result our visits to some sites were delayed whilst we searched the area scanning the high ground for antennae!

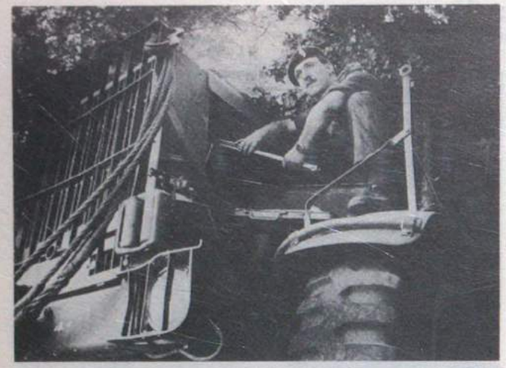
It certainly emphasised the task facing a potential enemy when Camouflage is good, especially if there aren't any antennae visible! It also illustrated the great skill of these dedicated Territorial Soldiers. No, this was no free holiday. The lads deserve all the pay they get even if they found precious little time to spend it. They were doing difficult and sometimes very unpleasant work with little time off and next to no sleep.

Sig Tommy McPartland and Cpl Tony Robinson of 59 Sig Sqn (V), erecting a radio relay mast

(By courtesy Evening Leader (Chester))

Cpl Michael Flynn and his brother Sig David Flynn of 80 Sig Sqn (V), testing cable for continuity. They reckoned to have laid over 11 miles of cable at just one location

(By courtesy of Evening Leader (Chester))



LCpl Keith Tennant REME (V), working on the Regimental LAD's Scammell—First issued in Tripoli in 1951!

(By courtesy Evening Leader (Chester))

Maj Chris Clark OC 42 Sig Sqn (V), planning the route for the next move with Sgt Alan Slater during Ex *Calm Fence* in Germany

(By courtesy Evening Leader (Chester))

It was a tough gruelling couple of weeks and the Regiment certainly proved their ability to carry out their operational task by their impressive performance on this exercise. Many thanks 33rd Sig Regt for showing us the true value of The Volunteer Soldier and The Territorial Army.'



# 34 Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

**FOCUS ON 50 SQUADRON**

Continuing our current theme of reports from our outposts, we present a focus on 50 Squadron based in Darlington and Gateshead.

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Charles Bland** |
| **Admin Officer** | **Capt Andy Bell** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mick Johnson** |
| **PSIs** | **SSgt Ray Back** |
| | **SSgt Dave Dalton** |
| **PSI (NRPS)** | **SSgt Tommy Williamson** |

SHQ now has a real job to do in the field and Ex *Full House* in early June was the first opportunity to try out our new role. Our communications into the system were provided by the E Troop LMC commanded by **Lt Gill Cable**. We certainly proved that we could handle our new responsibilities through thick and thin, or rather wet and dry, for the drought became a deluge on the Sunday morning. We were co-located with the regimental echelon and our LAD which gave us an opportunity to join in some recovery tasks. Not every PSI can turn over a Ferret which had no engine!

'!??-*' Signals drivers!' But, back in the quiet of 'peace-loc', we can relax after another job well done

**STRAIGHT SHOOTING**

At the end of June the Squadron spent two days on the ranges run by our SSM **WO2 Mick Johnson**. **SQMS SSgt John Brooklyn** was the best male pistol shot of the weekend with **Pt Julie Harland** being the best WRAC pistol shot. **Sig Andrew Wolstenholme** came away as the best rifle shot, closely followed by **LCpl John Richardson** whose twin brother **Sig Tim Richardson** recently joined us (OC's note—I promoted him LCpl so that I could tell them apart).

**Sig Dave Hemblade** was the best male shot on the SMG, and **Pte Janet Rice** the best female shot, although she only beat **Pte Lynn Sewer**, who had not fired a range course before, by one point.

**THE 1984 NIJMEGEN MARCHES**
**Report by Pte Louise Howcroft (50 Squadron)**

**THE PLAYERS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Capt Stuart Jack** | **(49)** |
| **Sgt Ian Plater** | **(50)** |
| **LCpl Dave Carsley** | **(90)** |
| **LCpl Paul Redden** | **(50)** |
| **LCpl Ken Robson** | **(50)** |
| **LCpl Paul Smethurst** | **(50)** |
| **Sig Shaun Harrison** | **(49)** |
| **Sig Glenn Hemmings** | **(50)** |
| **Sig Steve Tinkler** | **(50)** |
| **Pte Louise Howcroft** | **(50)** |
| **Sig Martyn Radzimierski** | **(90)** |
| **Sig Neil Williams** | **(HQ)** |
| **Pte Jacqui Murkin** | **(HQ)** |
| **Cfn Gary Miller** | **(LAD)** |



**DAY 1—SATURDAY**

The boat journey got the week off to a good start. After finding our seats, we got showered and went for tea. A lovely meal, but boring after the third time round. We then made for the bar and disco, where time passed.

**DAY 2—SUNDAY**

After docking in Europort, we got a bus to Rotterdam and a train to Nijmegen. Transport was waiting to take us to our camps. **Jacqui Murkin** and I were abandoned at our 'camp' a sports hall and, without so much as a by your leave, the bus left taking the rest of our team with it. We were given top bunks access to which later in the week became increasingly difficult! Then it was off to find the men (not just any men that is). That night was spent introducing ourselves to the Dutch beer.

**DAY 3—MONDAY**

A day off before the 'work' began which was spent in Nijmegen. The whole town was alive. The atmosphere was electric and everywhere we went there was music and singing. There were even groups playing in the market square. We got an early night as we had an early start next day.

**DAY 4—TUESDAY**

Whoever invented 0230 hrs is no friend of ours. I mean, who gets up at that time? It was still dark! Breakfast was at 0300 hrs. So, after padding our feet, we went to see what was to tickle our tastebuds. They didn't laugh much, if at all. Bread, cheese, chocolate spread and meat cut so thin it was transparent (and it was not any better at lunch time, probably because we got exactly the same). We got the bus to the main camp where we met the men and then we were off. It was a cracking pace, being the first day, but you didn't really notice it, as you were busy taking everything in. The atmosphere could only be described as fantastic.

Some of the Team—In Full 'Flight'

**DAY 5—WEDNESDAY**

Again we were up very early. We had a similar breakfast and then left to meet the men for a 0430 hrs start. We had only 12 hours to complete the march, so rests were few and far between. We wondered whether a five minute rest after two hours of marching was really worth stopping for. No sooner had we taken our webbing off and sat down, than **Capt Stuart Jack** would say 'Right, three minutes to go—start getting ready to move'. You could hear the thuds as everyone's heart dropped to their boots. But we got round with relatively few problems. You couldn't help but laugh at some of the sights hobbling around the camp. The girls seemed to be better off than the men, probably because the majority were marching in trainers and weren't wearing webbing, unlike Jacqui and I. (We wore our boots and carried well loaded webbing!).

**DAY 6—THURSDAY**

It was decided by the team that we would have a change today and go for a walk. Not far mind. Only about 25 miles. Day 3 of the march was renowned for its hills. Don't let anyone tell you Holland is flat. Sutton bank wouldn't get a look in. We marched a lot of the way with a Dutch team. Their song leader, **Eric**, was great; we joined in with them, even when they sang in Dutch, to get our minds off aching feet. Rests again weren't in abundant supply but we did get half an hour for lunch. We all sat waiting for that dreaded phrase 'Three minutes to go'; we weren't disappointed.

The Team—Nearly there
*L-R:* Sgt Plater (partially hidden), Pte Howcroft, LCpl Redden, Sig Harrison, Cfn Miller, LCpl Carsley (just his head), LCpls Smethurst, Robson, Pte Murkin, Capt Jack

**DAY 7—FRIDAY**

We had made it. I know we hadn't even started the walk but there was no doubt in anyone's mind that the whole team was going to get round. We started walking at 0330 hrs (we had been up since 0130 hrs).

As expected, even at such an unearthly hour, there were people on the roadside. Old and young alike, clapping, cheering and joining in the songs. To our amazement our five minutes rest came every hour—we still got the usual three minute warning though. I think the whole team could quite happily have throttled **Capt Jack**. After each rest we set off like a load of robots with stiff, mechanical movements. Our feet felt twice their normal size, but we just kept a picture of the final check point in mind, and kept going. We had a half hour rest for dinner. 'Three minutes to go' then we were off on our final stage. One more stop and we were at the final check point. After an hour's wait, the British contingent was formed up for the big march past. Six abreast we marched the last three miles into the town of Nijmegen. Crowds of people lined the route, cheering and throwing flowers. We really had made it!

The busses were waiting for us when we arrived at the finish to take us back to camp. We left our kit at the lads tent and went to join the celebrations. The entertainment was good.

We were getting the five o'clock bus back to our camp. I looked at my watch—three minutes to go! We got back, changed and met again in the town and joined in the festivities, as best we could.

**AND SO HOME**

The return boat journey was equally as lively, though the boogying less lively. We said our goodbyes at Hull and went our separate ways.

I can honestly say, it was the hardest, most enjoyable experience I have had. I'm sure everyone else in the team thought so as well.

**FAREWELL VISIT OF OUR COMMANDER**

During a crowded farewell programme to the Regiment, **Brig John Burrows** met many of our soldiers, and visited most areas. The following photographs depict a few highlights of this visit.

RSM 'I've seen it all before', CO, Comd, Sgt Ellis and RSM

ASM 'I turned it over avoiding you Brigadier'

Sgt Derick Thurley receives his LS and GC from Brig J. R. Burrows

**COMMANDER VISITS**

During July, the Regiment held its last exercise before the big 'push' (*Lionheart*). We were honoured by a visit from **Maj Gen Peter Inge**, the GOC North East District and 2 Infantry Division. He visited G Troop's LMC, commanded by **Capt Peter Woodhead** and **LCpl Ken Robson**'s Liaison Detachment, where he also met **Sig Melvin Moss**.

# 35 Sig Regt (V)
# Sutton Coldfield

**EXERCISE *CALM FENCE 84***

Our biennial exercise in Europe with our sister Regiments 31 and 33 took place during the last two weeks in June. This year, the Regiments all staged through Emblem/Grobbendonk before proceeding to exercise locations spread between Munster in the north to Ramstein in the south as well as deep into Belgium. The journey to the continent was once again a major headache with two of the Regiments travelling on the same ferry from Hull to Europort. Sorting out vehicles and trailers between Regiments, Squadrons and Troops in the end turned out to be a time consuming but relatively easy operation.

The simple move from Emblem to Germany via the Venlo crossing on the first night of the exercise was not without its problems. Our Belgian military motor cycle escort took the wrong road and had to turn the complete convoy around in a small town. This was obviously a source of amusement to the townspeople, some of whom had turned out to watch us pass by, only to see us retrace our steps five minutes later!

The exercise progressed well and gradually expanded until the Regiment was spread over 250Kms. Radio Relay shots in excess of 60Kms were common and 95 Sig Sqn's Trunk Node held eight links for the first time since its formation a year ago, when it became the hub of the Brigade communications network. Whilst in this key position, the voice of **Pte Lorraine Evans** a switchboard operator at Trunk Node D, became known. The calm reassuring and helpful voice that answered was a pleasure to hear and some people (no names will be mentioned) rang just to hear the 'voice'. Working over such long distances produced headaches for our new MTWO **WO1 Terry Dodson**, but with the able assistance of the two TTFs from 9 Sqn RCT our POL, resupply ran smoothly.

The fine weather for most of the two weeks made it a very pleasant exercise but even the sunshine produced its problems. Mosquitoes decided that we were all fair game and quite a few people developed large swellings as a result. Even the odd tick found temporary homes as OC HQ Sqn **Maj Paul Renecle** and the Training Major, **Maj 'Rollo' Rumford** found to their cost.

The newly reformed HF Troop was fully stretched during camp and achieved great success. The enthusiasm of its very junior inexperienced members with the aid of a few SNCOs was a pleasure to see and their success reflects the work put in by them all prior to the exercise. The Troop Commander **2Lt Chris Fidler** and Troop PSI **Sgt Brian Roxburgh** have achieved a lot in a few months.

**48 SIG SQN NOTES**

Camp '84, as we called the exercise, was a great success with everyone keeping cheerful and happy throughout despite the giant mosquitoes and, on two days, the rain! Our most noticeable achievement was the successful re-deployment and training of our WRAC into various Royal Signals trades. **Cpl Sharon Bresland, Pte Gill Simpson** and **Pte Eileen Monaghan** have all turned into excellent and enthusiastic telemechs operating the key complex vehicles without supervision. It is rumoured that they bite and are very competent at cutting bootlaces—for further information ask the Adjt **Capt George Clark**. The due credit to the standards the girls have achieved must go to our hardworking **SSgt, (FofS) Stan Gamble**.

The 'White Swan' award for the camp has been presented to the Squadron Recce Officer **Capt Derek McConnell** who managed to smell out more 'bratti' stands than he did locations. He tells us the pomme frites are as good as they were two years ago.

SSgt (FofS) Stan Gamble looking serious as another problem arises



V Troop had their Radio Relay heavily tasked and **SSgt** (the bus) **Evans** and **Sgt Howard Sterry** coped very well with all the various tasks thrown at them. Despite long hours and lack of sleep, **Cpl Colin Tunnicliff** worked wonders with difficult shots and still kept as cheerful as ever. The power det now boasts a WRAC combat powerman (woman?) **Pte Pat Dobbs** who fits in well with the small but able team.

**58 SIG SQN**

50% of S Troop were at their first BAOR camp, some only days after their Recruit's course. **Pte Lesley Mifflin** went to Germany after only four and a half months TA Service and now only requires to improve her typing skills before she gets her Class 3 Data Telegraphist rating.

**Sig Phillip Meridith** has been commissioned to produce a display of the cartoons presently acting as wallpaper (civilian job—graffitti expert!).

Congratulations go to **Cpl Karen Ingle, Pte Karen Bowers, Angela Morris** and **Lesley Mifflin** for punching up just less than 500 real play messages and putting them into the system—we are not sure yet where they all went to!

**2Lt Jane Hubbard** has at last learnt the wheelbarrow cable laying technique—next time the users might even get a cable. Our thanks go to **LCpl Amer Dhalai ACC** and **Pte Andrew Moore ACC** who kept the team at Access Node C1 fed so well. And 'Yes Training Major, Sir, Snoopy is alive and well, and still lives safely in our Commer'.

Whilst S Troop kept together, R Tp were split between three locations. PUP 52 spent much of its time at static communications sites resolving interface problems which included talking via satellite to 'Hank' a ground station technician in Norway. The compensation of being at non tactical locations was the washing and showering facilities to say nothing of the sauna that was offered at one location. Access Node C2 ate very well is perhaps an understatement—was it really venison and who had a fondue? The Squadron Commander, of course, missed it all—he was working.

The Padre, **Rev Max Lucas** and the new Medical Officer **Capt Ian Morgan** were frequent and welcome visitors at all sites. So much so that at **OCdt Annette Holland**'s going away lunch at PUP 51 (she left the exercise early) a slap up meal with wine was provided for them, showing great style.

A final note should be made concerning **SSgt Bill Lambert** who made his own way out to BAOR. He rang MOD and demanded to join his Squadron in the field. They obliged and he arrived—a pleasant surprise to us all.

**89 SIG SQN NOTES**

Despite manpower problems we provided a Relay to 48 Sqn and this was dispatched during the exercise to a site near to Viersen to work on the critical link from a Regimental area near Wuppertal all the way to the Ardennes. **Sig Gary Mills** took pride in showing his vital relay off to the Brigade Commander and all who cared to visit him. V Troop's Access Node D2 completed seven moves in 10 days which must be a camp record. Under the command of **OCdt Phil Hassell**, they had more than their fair share of vehicle problems and use of the 'Shire Horse' message format invoked cracks such as 'does V Tp have more Shire Horses than the whole of Suffolk!'

For the second time in two months, **Sgt Charlie Walker** demonstrated how to set up a dismounted C70 station when his vehicle bogged down, yards from the vital high ground. The key word is 'Through' and that is what he achieved!

B Troop Access Node D1 had an enjoyable exercise helped by excellent communications sites. They were well led by **2Lt Petra Roberts WRAC**. At one CIP 67 site they visited, they found time to play a football match against the staff, the score was England 3—German 3—an excellent NATO result.

The troop found time also to give a lunch party for the GOC Western District, **Maj Gen McGuinness** who was conducting the unit ARU, and a birthday party for the cook **LCpl Lyn Yewbury**. (Age not disclosed).

**95 SIG SQN**

The Squadron is synonymous with Trunk Node Delta and was deployed in this role for the first time in BAOR. Last minute additions of equipment raised our capability to hold eight radio relay shots which kept the Multiplex and ACC vehicles very busy. Our new Trunk Node CP was manned by a variety of personnel including **OCdt Pepe D'Anna** who was awarded the Squadron Golden Pillow award against some strong competition from **Sgt Arty Bright, Ptes Andy Wall** and **Jill Rencher**.

**LCpl Haig** developed two remarkable talents. The first being to sleep almost anywhere (without the aid of ear defenders) and second an uncanny touch with the C70 being able to quickly identify and repair faults.

Maj John Wall and WO2 (FofS) Ivan Thomas resting after their successful interface work with a Satellite Ground Terminal

The 'Happy Shift' at work in the TRC. Cpl Joyce Lunt, Pte Beverley Balnaves, Pte Stella Howes and Sgt Lynn Howat

LCpl Eileen Monaghan completing another successful patch

**LCpl Nigel Alderson** continues to amaze the Squadron with the amount of food he eats. To find him consuming a large tin of cold mushy peas followed by cold rice pudding at mid-night was greeted with 'just a snack—sir!'

Finally a further mention of **Pte Lorraine Evans** (the voice) whose long and dedicated hours on the switchboard ensured user tolerance, if not satisfaction, to be told the circuit was out. For readers from other units in the Brigade, a photograph of the smile behind the voice is available on request!

**CANNING TROPHY**

The award for FY 83/84 was made to 89 Sig Sqn for having a greater percentage of fully trained personnel than the other Squadrons. It was however, a very close run competition with 58 Sig Sqn and 95 Sig Sqn only a few points behind. Next year—who knows?

RCP clerical support—Ptes Joyce Greenhalgh and Debbie Plant

**THE SCOT TROPHY**

The previous RSM **WO1 Gordon Scott** presented a magnificent cup to be awarded annually to the most promising young soldier, male or female, in the Regiment. This in fact was a difficult choice to make as there are many excellent young soldiers in the Regiment. The RSM **WO1 Geoff Marshall** with the aid of the Squadron PSIs eventually chose **Pte Linda Bent** of A Troop whose dedication and enthusiasm at the ECH HF detachment was highly commended.

Pte Linda Bent WRAC holding the Scott Trophy flanked by the CO Lt Col Mike Louden and OC HQ Sqn Maj Paul Renecle

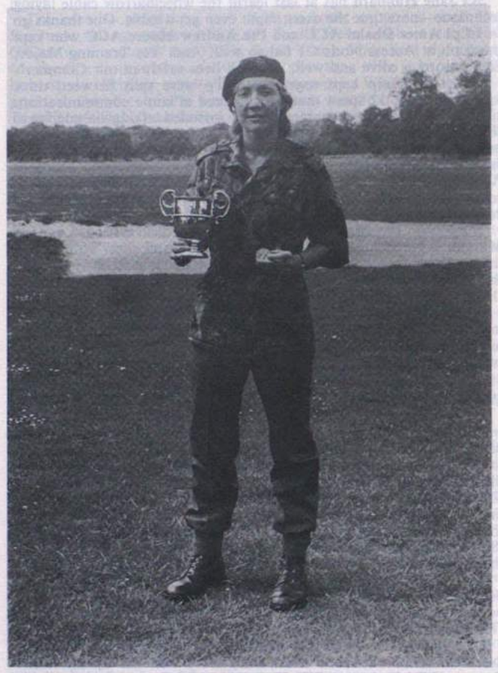
## 36 Sig Regt (V)
## Wanstead

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **SSgt (YofS) George McAvoy** on receiving his prize for attaining 'Best Student' on 34 YofS Course which ended in June 1982! He might never have received his prize but for a fortuitous meeting with Maj J. Barnett MBE, when the Yeoman happened to be in Blandford, finalising details for his imminent posting to 633 Sig Tp.

**BISLEY '84**

The Regiment entered a team for Bisley '84 and, although it did not manage to win a trophy, our WRAC sharp-shooter **Lt Sharon Barkley** won the WRAC SMG Championship. Congratulations and Well done!



Lt Sharon Barkley proudly holds the cup and gold medal

**44 SIG SQN (V)**

Despite a busy training programme 44 Sig Sqn recruiting team has been showing the flag and an LMC to the public at the Kent County Show, the Dartford Show and the Chatham Vintage Military Vehicle Rally. The team commanded by **Lt Liz Payne** gained much publicity and, believe it or not, some recruits. There is no truth in the rumour that the 3 Div Sig Regt KAPE team requested 44 Sig Sqn Recruiting Team to be seconded to them. In addition to the various recruiting shows the Squadron managed to spend a weekend in 'Sunny Eastbourne', courtesy of 56 Sig Sqn.

Pte Marge Goddon showing the public how it's done at the Kent County Show

**RAFT RACE**

816 Tp participated in a charity raft race on the Medway during July 1984.

816 Tp prepare the 'waterpump' designed or re-designed to act as a Water Cannon, to repel boarders. *L to R:* Cpl George Hall, LCpls Vic Haywood, Russell Jeffrey, Sig Dave Kingston, Sgt Barry Barnett and Sig Dave Baldock

816 proceeds!

## 37 Sig Regt (V)
## Bristol

**ALL CHANGE**

1984 is a year for 'all change', PSAO **Maj Ron Oakley** has left 43 Squadron after eight years and has been replaced by **Capt Norman Salmon**. We wish them both a successful future. **Capt Jean Chiswell MBE WRAC** left on 23 August after long and valued service with us. I will leave 57 Squadron to report on that momentous event. Her replacement is **Capt John Radford**. Our best wishes to them both. Our Adjutant **Ken Hadfield** left us in July for Staff College (via a short spell at HQ 2 Signal Brigade) and we have welcomed **Capt Bob Mills** as his successor. The cat was put among the pigeons when **Maj Gary Grant**, the 2IC, announced just before camp that he couldn't make it as he was off to a permanent post in Malawi.

The CO leaves us immediately after camp and the Training Major fuels rumours about his next posting to some exotic spot—he's due to leave us shortly as is our 'I've lost half a stone Sir' Chief Clerk **SSgt John Richardson**.

**A QUICK LOOK**

A quick look at Regimental Part I Orders to see what else has happened tells me that **Capt Edward Widgery** has passed the Tickle Test, at Stratford-Upon-Avon! accompanied by **Capt Ron Hartill**, now CVHQ RA. Congratulations to 53 Sqn for winning the Regimental SAM at Bulford in May and to 67 Sqn, the runners up, an event which was a prelude to the Regimental Shooting Team's success at Bisley where they won the Mercury Cup at the TA SAM in July. Well done chaps. Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) John Peacock** for taking advantage of the fear he usually instills and getting many of us to 'Sponsor your friendly RSM' which produced £175 in the 'Run for Britain' Fun Run Appeal. 'Yes, yes, of course I'll sponsor you next year Sir'. Members of 67 (QOWWY) Squadron raised £100 by successfully completing the 7½ mile Raft Race course in 4½ hours in the Wellesbourne Lions 1984 Raft Race. Congratulations to them too, and also to the following successes: **Pte Debbie Collins** LAD and **Pte Rachel Wainwright** of RHQ, 'A' grading on their Clerks course; **Pte Karen Gill**, 67 Sqn, **Yvonne Lodwick** and **Shirley Parker** at 53 Sqn for being awarded proficiency certificates on their recruits courses at Guildford; **Pte Rose Brooks** of 57 Sqn for coming second on her Det Comds Course and to **Cfn Andy Chamberlain** for coming top on his Driver B3 course. No wonder that we are the best TA Regiment in 2 Sig Bde. 'What else?' Earlier in the year **Cpl Linda Hardiman** and **LCpl Bonnie Gibson** of 53 Sqn and **Cpl Jenny Brown** and **LCpl Nicky Pack** of 57 Sqn spent 12 weeks in Norway with 29 Commando Regt RA and **LCpl Kim 'Sticky' Baker** says that she thoroughly enjoyed her Annual Camp with 35 Sig Regt(V) in BAOR. I hope we can say the same thing after ours on Dartmoor, or wherever, in September.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Leaving the best news until last, our CO, **Lt Col Jean Blackwood**, was appointed OBE in the Birthday Honours. We were all both proud and delighted and when the news was received the Adjutant gave the permanent staff the afternoon off to celebrate. And it may not surprise you to learn that this is the last time I shall be writing 'Wire' notes!

**57 SIG SQN (V)**

It is some time since the Squadron last appeared in print and a list of personalities would not seem amiss.

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Sqn** | **Maj Norman Harvey TD** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Chris Eskell TD** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Jean Chiswell MBE WRAC** |
| **OC Receiver Troop** | **Lt Ann Baird WRAC** |
| **OC Transmitter Troop** | **Capt David McKeown** |
| **OC Commcen Troop** | **Lt Mary Rogers WRAC** |
| **OC Line Troop** | **2Lt Graeme Wreford-Brown** |
| **OC Bde HQ Troop** | **Lt John Crackett** |
| **Tfc Offr** | **Maj Robin Purkis** |
| **TOT** | **Capt Keith Knowles** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 'Nobby' Clarke** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Tony Bowen** |
| **PSI** | **Sgt Val Shaw** |
| **PSI (NRPS)** | **WO2 'Goff' Silcox** |
| **SQM (NRPS)** | **SSgt John Rodgers** |

The Squadron's training has been divided into two main periods this year. Until March we had a series of concentrated trade training

weekends at our two locations, Bristol and Cheltenham. The aim was to improve the qualifications of personnel and the results achieved showed the success of this system. In all 17 passes were obtained at B3 and four at B2 level. In addition four personnel obtained their HGV 3 Driving Licences. We also included a successful M of I weekend for Officers and SNCOs with instruction being given by the South West District Specialist Training Team.

Since March, emphasis has changed to military training, both at individual and section level. This proved to be a welcome change and included the opportunity of some Troop Training weekends. The Bristol Tps, Receiver, Commcen and Line, have been to Woodbury Common, nr Exeter, whilst the Cheltenham Tps went to the Forest of Dean on a survival weekend. This all culminated in a Training Weekend for the whole Squadron on SPTA during which the previous training was put into practice. This may seem a standard event but throughout any year it does prove difficult to get everyone together on the same weekend.

Between training we have had the usual Inspections, Brigade Exercises and Regimental activities. The latest Brigade Communications Exercise was held at the end of June and produced a very creditable performance. We did not however do so well in the Regimental SAM, but **LCpl Lloyd Thomas** and **Sig Lewis Davis** did win the LMG Pairs competition. Also **LCpl L. Thomas** was in the Regimental team which won the Mercury Cup at the TA SAM at Bisley. We also entered a team in the South West District Section Competition and were placed tenth in the overall positions. This was a very good result as the majority of teams in the competition were from Infantry units.

We started with a list of personalities, but changes are imminent. Sadly, we say farewell to our PSAO **Capt Jean Chiswell** during August. **Jean**, or **Capt 'C'** as she is affectionately known enlisted into the TA on 29 May 1948. She has served continuously since then and has been

Maj Norman Harvey (OC 57 Sqn) presenting Capt Jean Chiswell (PSAO 57 Sqn) with a gift at her farewell function

with the Squadron since its formation in April 1967. She was appointed MBE in 1982. During her long period of service she has dedicated herself to the TA, and to the Squadron in particular. Her help, assistance, and advice has always been of considerable value to all ranks and her ever cheerful personality will be missed. Her appointment will be taken over by **Capt John Radford** to whom we extend a warm welcome. We also say farewell to **SSgt Tony Bowen**, our PSI at Bristol for the last 3½ years who leaves the Army in October after 22 years of service. We wish him and his wife **Jutta** every success in the future. In turn we welcome **SSgt 'Rab' Young** who is joining us from 11 Sig Regt. Another move will also take place in November when **Sgt Val Shaw** is posted to Northern Ireland after three years as our PSI at Cheltenham. We also wish him and his wife **Freda** every good wish for the future and welcome **Sgt Bill Redstone** who will take over from him.

**SPECIAL MENTION**
**53 (WELSH) SIG SQN (V)**

Special congratulations to **Sgt Karen Fisher** who recently became the first volunteer in 37 Sig Regt (V) to attain the trade of RTg. **Karen** who has been with 53 Sqn since March 1976 has shown much dedication as a volunteer and her longstanding efforts have been justly rewarded by this worthy achievement. Well done **Karen**—you are a credit to the Squadron.



## 38 Sig Regt (V)
## Sheffield

**THE CUSTOM**

It has been regimental practice for many years to provide, on at least one occasion each year, for the WRAC element to practise, on their own, military skills including leadership, fieldcraft, range shooting, bivouacing, field cookery, patrolling skills, command tasks, night navigation, pyrotechnics demonstrations, first aid and NBC. A very intensive programme of these activities was arranged recently in the Strensall Training area by **Capt Ruth Lea** and **WO2 Gwen Stabler**, aided and abetted by a team of 'other gender' instructors. 58 girls gasped in astonishment at the initial briefing and tasking, toiled hard, gasped again in astonishment at finding their second, third and fourth winds after apparent exhaustion, toiled again and, finally, were very satisfied with the 'ten foot tall' feeling each and everyone achieved at the end. **Cpl Gail Knights**, of 64 Squadron, was particularly surprised to find herself leading a winning team of **LCpl Sharron Mitchell** (46 Squadron), **Pte Chris Travis** (64 Squadron) and **Pte Helen Hornbuckle** (87 Squadron) three times up and down the range in the falling plates competition.

It was a measure of the intense tasking when hefty **WO2 Jack Naylor** was the stretcher casualty for the many 'carriers' in the 1st Aid section of the programme.

A deeply contemplative pause for Lt Cathy Holland as she considers the next set of chores

**64 (SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

One of the most satisfying public relations missions we have ever been asked to undertake was the recent joining with some local Brownies to commemorate their 70th Anniversary—following so soon after our own 75th Anniversary the 'joint service' occasion appeared to be most appropriate. We were asked to join them in their mammoth tea making ceremony by providing 70 tea drinkers to mark their birthday. In return **Capt Rick Ludlow** and **WO2 (SSM) Moss Elliott** invited the Brownies to join the squadron parade. (Some of our people were a little non-plussed by one of the SSM's orders 'Dib-two-three-dib two-three-dab'). We were very impressed by the little girls and we feel that this was reciprocated—there cannot be many TA squadrons with a waiting list of 30 WRAC entries for 12 years time.

Our 'joint' tea party

Capt Rick Ludlow commending a young would-be WRAC on her turnout

**93 (EAST LANCS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**

We recently held a most enjoyable and successful outdoor pursuits weekend at Torver, nr Coniston by courtesy of **Maj Norman Ladds**, OC 2 Sqn, 11 Sig Regt and his adventure training team. The weather was absolutely superb and that, matched by the matchless countryside, provided the ideal setting for an intensive programme of abseiling, climbing, canoeing and fell walking, not forgetting the, now obligatory, early morning run. Our particular thanks are due to **Sgt Chris Wooff** and his instructors for their expertise and unfailing patience.

A pause for briefing during a fell walking session by some of 93 Sqn's personnel. *L-R:* Pte Julie Ottiwell, OCdt Sue Ridler, the base instructor, Pte Guy Nutall and LCpl Heather Hayes



## 39 Sig Regt (V)
## City of London

**FOCUS ON 3 SQUADRON**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Martin Vinson** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Andrew Adams** |
| **PSO** | **Capt John Garratt** |
| **OC WRAC** | **Lt Alison Lusted** |
| **OC Line Tp/Recruit Tp** | **2Lt Huw Jones** |
| **Tp Offr** | **2Lt Jeremy Appleyard** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Brian 'Tich' Reynolds** |
| **SQMS** | **Sgt Dave Bugden** |
| **PSI Tech** | **Sgt Mick Gaylard** |

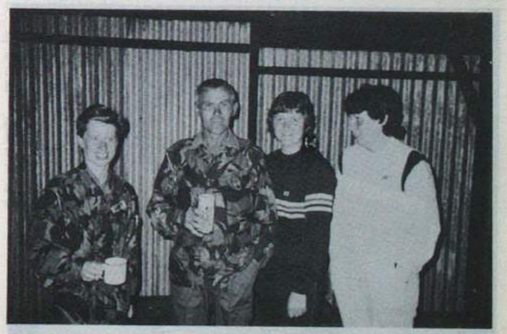
**ANNUAL CAMP 84**

Camp 84 was spent in Scarborough STC from 16-30 June and the Squadron arrived in good heart after the long journey from Tunbridge Wells. The Squadron had assembled early on the morning of 16 June and moved out under the watchful eyes of **SSM 'Tich' Reynolds** and SSgt 'Brock' Barnes and finally arrived at Scarborough some hours later, there to meet up with the rest of the Regiment and renew old acquaintances from Banbury, Dundee and London. The usual reception committee was waiting and few escaped the dreaded jab and inevitable form filling that just had to be done. The cries of 'where are my mob docs' could be heard back in Tunbridge Wells.

However, not everyone travelled to Camp by road; **Lt Andy Adams, Sgt Bill Read, Cpl Eric Deanes** and **Sig Tony Marten** and **Chris Pettet** joined the Regimental parachutists for a successful descent on the Yorkshire Moors 20 miles to the West of Scarborough. Annual Camp had begun!

Camp itself was devoted to Trade Training and the improvement of basic skills and the Squadron very soon got into the swing of Army life with noses very much to the grindstone, especially in the typing room which came to be frequented by many people more often than the NAAFI.

A very successful Det Commanders' Course was run by **SSM 'Tich' Reynolds. Cpls Fiona Cochrane, Carol Loosley** and **Sue 'Spallum' Westbrook** all did very well on the Course. They found the work hard but enjoyable—or so they said!



*L-R:* Cpl Carol Loosley, SSM 'Tich' Reynolds, Cpls Sue 'Spallum' Westbrook, Fiona Cochrane enjoying the rigours of the Det Commander's Course

*L-R:* SSgt Brock Barnes, Sig Gordon Shields, Glen Wiles, LCpl Bob Reeves inspecting the new Squadron line laying vehicle

*L-R:* Sgt Bob Hibbet, Cpl Russ Donkin, SSM 'Tich' Reynolds, Lt Andy Adams with Sig Brian Ticehurst in background, in fancy dress

LCpl Stan Potten feeding the Squadron

The OC **Maj Martin Vinson** was seen hobbling around Camp with his stick—the result of an accident playing squash a few weeks earlier.

*L-R:* OC Maj Martin Vinson and PSO Capt John Garratt. 'Look, no walking stick'

**TRAINING AWARDS**

**Pte Lynn Chambers** is to be congratulated on having been awarded the Regimental Trade Training Award for the Best Student. A credit to the Squadron.

**SKINNERS AWARD**

A hearty congratulations is also due to **Sig Chris Pettet** who was awarded the Skinners Award for the most improved and deserving soldier in the Regiment. **Chris** is a member of the line troop and is keenly involved in parachuting. He is also the Squadron barman so is an invaluable person to have around.

**PROMOTIONS**

A welcome to **2Lt Huw Jones** who joined us on commissioning from Northumbrian OTC and congratulations to **2Lt Jeremy Appleyard** who recently passed out from Sandhurst and is well known to us.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Sig Andy Mercer** and **Pte Juliet Kiefer** on their wedding in July. Best wishes to **Sgt 'Sandy' Hardy** who recently married **Campbell 'Eddie' Whitrow**, an ex-member of 3 Sqn; and to **Lt Alison Lusted** on her engagement to **Stephen Morton**.

**SAILING**

The Squadron Dinghy Sailing Club continues to flourish and a most enjoyable morning was spent at Bewl Bridge Reservoir on Saturday 4 August when we had four Wayfarer Dinghies and four Toppers on the water. **Sgt Sara McLean** was introduced to Board Sailing and battled bravely with choppy water in a Force 4 gusting 5. Our offshore group are looking forward to a cruise in Skyware during the first two weeks of September.



# News from Squadrons

## Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
## BFPO 18

**THRIVING**

You could be forgiven for thinking that we had been disbanded! You would of course be very wrong, not only are we alive and well, but thriving. Our apologies to our avid readers for our lack of notes over the last two issues, but I hope these extended notes will appease you.

**VISIT BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (OPS) NORTHAG**

On Tuesday 10 April **Maj Gen A. C. de Jong (NL Army)** visited the Squadron for the first time. He was welcomed by our OC **Maj Mike Anderson** and a Guard of Honour commanded by **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue**. After a briefing in the OC's office and a most comprehensive programme involving all our inflights, the General was invited to dine in the International Restaurant where he was presented with a Squadron plaque as a memento of his visit.

**VISIT BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (SUPPORT) NORTHAG**

23 May saw the Squadron visited by **Maj Gen J. L. E. Noel (BE Army)**, Northag Deputy Chief of Staff (Support). This was the General's first visit to the Squadron and our static location and he also was met by the OC, and a Guard of Honour. After a briefing and coffee in the OC's office the General was shown around the Squadron vehicles which had been 'cammed up' on the square, as for exercises. The General was able to meet and talk to every member of the Squadron, and after a lunch in the International Restaurant was also presented with a Squadron plaque as a momento of this visit.

**NORTHAG SKILL AT ARMS MEETING**

The 15, 16 and 17 May saw the Squadron attending the NORTHAG Skill at Arms Meeting. The team consisted of **Kapt Jan Vanherle, Sgts Ray Bruce, John Gibson** and **Sig Bob Blythe** and was led by the OC, **Maj Mike Anderson**. The team fired both the rifle and SMG, and the top 30 individuals on each weapon over the first two days went forward on the final day for the Best Shot competition. The end of the second day saw the following going forward:

| Rifle | SMG |
|---|---|
| Maj Anderson | Maj Anderson |
| Kapt Vanherle | Sgt Bruce |
| Sgt Gibson | Sig Blythe |

Taking a place alongside the main event was the pistol competition for individuals. Representing the Squadron were **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** and **Sgt Ray Bruce**. Again the top 20 went into the final day's competition, both our entrants qualified. Although we had no team or individual success to note, we still gave a most creditable performance.

**FAREWELL DINNER NIGHT**

We were most fortunate to be able to book the appearance of our Corps Band during their recent tour of BAOR, for a dinner night on 24 May. This gave us an ideal opportunity not only to dine out our 2IC **Kapt Jan Vanherle RNLA** and his wife **Greta**, but also to show our other nationals within the Squadron how the British Army conducts a formal dinner night. A lot of our comrades were a bit dubious about it all and a lot of doubts were voiced. To list all the comments and praise for the style of the dinner and the superb performance of the Corps Band during that evening would require a lot more space than is available. The evening was crowned with the farewell speeches and the exchange of gifts for and by the **Vanherle**'s. I am sure that neither of them will ever forget that evening.

**WALKING CLUB**

Every Saturday and Sunday sees the Club members and their families traipsing over the beautiful country side of Ardennes. The Club was started by **SSgt Paul Smith** and his wife **Jennifer**. The Club goes from strength to strength, each week seeing new members joining. We are now fully affiliated to the Belgian National Walking Association and call ourselves 'NATO Feetwarmers'. The miles are clocking up and (with the log books come the badges), so our tracksuits are not looking so bare. We are even winning trophies! Our President **Flt Lt Angus McPhee RAF** is having a display cabinet made to hold the trophies and it will be situated in the International Support Unit. Summer eventually arrived here in Belgium late in July—and to celebrate the Club held a Barbecue at Esneux in the Ardennes. The day was a resounding success, and a lot of our wives now know why they do the cooking at home. Smiles were raised on the following day at work when our OC informed us that summer had not arrived in Holland where he lives—it poured down all day! A good excuse, I think, to hold another Barbecue when it does.

**JOC JOGGING CLUB**

We now have a thriving membership, and are able to enter 19 members for the Berlin Marathon. Every lunchtime sees the youngsters (35 and below) mixing with the veterans, jostling for position as we race over the local countryside. Our *very* young members (24 and under) laughed at first to see us oldies hobbling down the road. But that soon changed when the BFT timings came in. Pride told in the end and, not to be beaten, they now join us. Our **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** conned us all into entering the Visé half marathon—telling us all that it was just a fun run—that is, if you can run fast! It was a full blooded race with entrants from all corners of the globe—even York—many of them full international runners. It was most pleasing to see all our entrants finish—and not only finish, produce good times. The verdict on the venture—never again! **Maj Mike Anderson** did a foolish thing—he entered the Bastogne 100Km run/walk—for the unconverted, that is 62½ miles. We all knew what would hapen—wrong! Despite rain, hills, tired legs he not only finished the race, he came 5th out of 300 entrants with a superb time of 10 hrs 15 minutes—he is now going to join the élite distance runner's club—the *Centenarians*. It must be pointed out that he was beaten into 5th place by a 62 year old—but not next time, says he—next time!

**SUMMER CAMP**

Once again the Squadron set forth for Harderwijk in Holland for our annual summer camp. The advance party set off on Saturday 23 June and the main party the next day. One of our Dutch members having spent the Saturday working like a beaver was seen to retire into his tent at the end of the day—only to re-emerge dressed in his finest. 'Where's the party?' says he. 'What party?' was the reply. The 'Advance Party'—a very disappointed Dutchman retired to bed. This set the scene for probably our best summer camp yet. A mixture of work and play and mixed like a five star hotel cocktail. Just the right amount of each ingredient, laughter and determination being the order of the day.

The final day saw **Brig R. W. Ward MBE** G3 ACOS HQ NORTHAG visiting us at Harderwijk, he was able to talk to every member of the Squadron and see the competing teams race the Assault course and compete in the 5-a-side soccer. We feel sure he was impressed by the determination shown.

The last evening was dedicated to our annual Barbecue superbly produced by **H. F. W. Rick van Ess(GE)** and **'Screwdriver' Phillips**—The trophy everyone was competing for was presented to **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** and his team of **1Sgt Yogi Bahr, 1Kpl Arno Verbruggen, Cpl Trev Hansen, LCpl Chris Murray, Sld Eric Lamers** and **Gefr Marcos Stuttgen**, by the OC; there were not too many cries of 'fix'!

The winning team displaying their trophy—looked on, wistfully, by one of last year's winners HG Jurgen Lang—memories?

LCpl Chris Murray and Brig Ward—Well!

No, not an emergency, just Cpl 'Screwdriver' Phillips hitching a ride during the stretcher race, ably provided by Sgt Mick Hague, Cpl Harold Van Buggenum, Cpl Ian McCutcheon and OG Michael Jacobite

**INS AND OUTS**

No, not cricket, sadly a farewell to **Sgt Ray Bruce** and his wife **Marje**—off they go to jolly old Herford (7 Sig Regt). **Ray** on promotion and **Marje** smiling because she has her daughter back from boarding school. Farewell **Ray** and **Marje** we will miss you—Kunta Kintai sends his regards.

Welcome to **Sgt Dick Clegg** from 22 Sig Regt, who is to be our new MT Sgt. **Dick** joins the ranks of the unaccompanied living in the hotel in Kanne village. Sorry **Dick** but the Sergent Major is living there too.



# 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

**THE YEAR SO FAR**

Not only did the Squadron begin the year with a new number in its title but also within a fortnight the new RSM had arrived. After a three day handover/takeover we said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Andy Evans** which left **WO1 (RSM) Mick Bailes** facing the coming months of exercise preparation and training. Exercises *Black Swan I* and *II* took place on 24 to 26 January and 6 to 8 February respectively and were individual troop exercise culminating each time with a full Squadron link up on Salisbury Plain.

**WHITE PLATE**

So as not to allow undeserved relaxation between these Exercises a competition was held for the White Plate, donated by and named after **Maj Paul White**, the former OC Squadron. Individual competitors covered an eight mile cross country course, navigating themselves and carrying 30lbs of military kit plus a rifle. Following this were NBC, Signal skills, weapon handling and Trip flare tests followed by an LMG shoot on the range. It was run on CFT lines as a single race from beginning to end and safety errors resulted in instant disqualification. The winner was the 2IC, **Capt Johnnie Rollins**, who had the distinct advantage over **Cpl Keith Balsdon** of still being able to see out of his respirator when he came to the final LMG shoot.

On 27 January a Radio Relay and line det went to UOTC Bristol to demonstrate their equipment. Monkton Coombe School Bath—CFF members were given guided tours of the Headquarters locations during Ex *Black Swan II*.

**BRIGADE LINE COMPETITION**

The Line Section of C Troop spent from 9 to 19 February building the Brigade Line competition which ran from 16 to 18 February for all Brigade units. Clearly the linemen's skills have rubbed off on other members of the Troop because three non-line-men of the same Troop picked up the minor units trophy after a fiercely fought battle. That makes it two years running for **LCpl Tam Bennie** and the C Troop Team.

Two days later came the last domestic exercise before deploying on this year's Brigade exercises. This was Exercise *First Move*, on which we deployed and tested our new Step Up Headquarter.

On 1 March a party of 15 led by **Capt Johnnie Rollins** left for Jordan for a 'suicidal' trek across 120Km Syrian Desert, following the route taken by Lawrence of Arabia but, without the camels!

Exercise *Clean Sweep*, 18 to 23 March, on Standford Training Area was the first time the Squadron has deployed a SU Headquarters in the field on a CPX. The exercise was used to help familiarize the Brigade staff with the facilities both admin and signals, which the Squadron provides and, also the new change of command procedures. Once again the Squadron provided all communications and much of the administration and tentage for the Tidworth Army Horse Trials. Fortunately, one or two of the linemen remembered which part of the rugby pitch they buried the cable under, last year.

After block leave in April the Squadron's commitments were two-fold. One half carried out 12 days security duties at Greenham Common Air Base while the other half prepared for our PRE (vehicles).

After a two week stretch on the wire, enjoying some of the year's hottest weather, the Greenham boys returned with a clean sheet, having let no-one enter through their sector. **Lt Duncan McAllister** and **LCpl Tony Barker** shared their detective skills by locating the sewer through which some women had entered the base. Dirty work!

**SPORT**

During the winter and spring seasons the Squadron has produced not only the expected crop of strong sports teams but has also widened its horizons in Army competitions. Once again the Cross Country team was the SWDIST Army Minor units league championships, and also SWDIST Area Championships and SWDIST Half Marathon. Regular team members included:

**WO1 (RSM) Bailes, Cpl Bailey, LCpls Wigglesworth, Roberts** (Corps colours awarded), **Brebner, Barker and Gill.** One wonders how long they can keep this up.

**FOOTBALL**

Due much to enthusiasm of **FofS Bruce Wyllie** as team member and coach and a regular and dedicated squad our soccer team had its most successful season ever. The final team records were as follows:

Played 12 Won 11 Drew 1 Goals 39 Goals Against 5

Much of the credit for the goal difference must go the keeper, **Cpl Dave Toombes** who kept a clean sheet in seven of the games and to the three highest goal scorers **Cpls Marty Davies, Chris Young** and **LCpl Geordie Anderson**. Mention must also be made of the steady confidence and skill of team captain **Sgt Chris Heeles**, and the blistering 25 yd special by **Pte Paul McMahon** which helped us to a 3—1 victory in the SWDIST Cup final.

Gaining promotion into a higher league which contains mostly Major Units will make next season harder but hopefully as successful a season as this year's.

**BASKETBALL**

The basketball team had its most successful season ever winning the SWDIST Minor Unit league gaining thereby a place in the Army Finals at Aldershot 30, 31 March. The squad of seven players was too small unfortunately both in numbers and height during the finals against teams with 10 or more replacements sitting on the bench. Nevertheless the twice weekly training matches against 4 RTR and the help of **SI Colin Henderson** 4 RTR as trainer gave the team an easy victory in the first match. Were the team to have a larger squad to choose from, the potential shown this year could well be improved upon, next.

The Squad: **Cpl Dave Toombes**—Team Captain, **Cpls 'Knocker' Hardy, 'Apple Corn' Fitzehorswell, Geoff 'Twinkle Toes' Morris, LCpls 'Jonah' Jones, Pete 'Bud Bud' Yassin and Vince Kevins.**

*Back Row from L-R:* LCpl Kevins, Cpls Toombes, Morris, Fitzehorswell
*Front Row from L-R:* Cpl Hardy and LCpl Jones

**WITH THE TA**

From 27 February to 3 March Bravo Troop gave assistance to the Territorial Potential Officers' Assessment course held on Salisbury Plain. The normal working week was spent with the soldiers practising their partisan accents and pareparing and rehearsing the command task procedures and timings out on the Plain.

The Potential Officers were split into teams of four and five for the command tasks on the Saturday, with only one team managing to blow itself up, in a Soviet Minefield. Members of Bravo Troop gave the instructions to the teams in broken Russian and, then looked on, as the Students did the entertaining.'

In the next phrase students had to infiltrate enemy (Bravo Troop) territory and contact partisans also (Bravo Troop) under cover of darkness. The enemy sections were told to patrol around the river and bridges, making as much noise as is tactically possible, so as to create problems for the students. A number of the partisans simulated casualties to create more problems for the students and the success of the course depended upon how well the Troop acted out its parts.

**LS&GC**

On Thursday 15 December the Garrison Church Service took place, following a parade of the Squadron. During the parade **Brig Rouse** presented LS and GC medals to **Cpl McKenzie** and **Cpl Sands**. After the service, the Brigadier met their wives and families, over coffee.

Cpl McKenzie is congratulated on his award by Brig Rouse

Cpl Sands receives his LS&GC from Brig Rouse

# 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

**FOR THE RECORD**

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn thank **Maj C. J. Burton** for pointing out the following errors made on page 213 of the March issue of *The Wire*.

'The first AB Signal Unit was 1st Parachute Brigade Signal Section (J) raised in Bulford in late 1941. This was followed by 2 Parachute Brigade Signal Section (K) formed at 'Five Winds' Camp, Bulford in October 1942. It is from 2 Parachute Brigade Sig Sqn that 216 Sig Sqn, now titled 215 Sig Sqn is descended. Secondly, the museum transferred from Tidworth to Aldershot. The museum was established in 1980 by **Maj (now Lt Col) M. Mc I. Ayrton** as a museum of both the antecedent units of what was then 6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn (now 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) and of contemporary activities. The museum included items from World War 2 and successive campaigns as well as those presented by members of the unit deployed with such organisation as the Cease Fire Monitoring Force in Zimbabwe and the Operations Drake Team.

Thirdly, as far as the responsibility for airborne signals matters goes, this passed to 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on 1 January 1982. The first 'Lanyard Day' was held in 1982 in Tidworth. It was attended by 30-40 'Old Comrades' and their wives including six past Squadron Commanders.

With regard to the Lanyard Trophy, the Trophy was instituted in 6 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn in 1979 as an inter-troop competition with participation by invitation from outside units.

Those in the Corps who would concern themselves with this particular piece of Corps history should read the book '6th Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron—An Account of its Antecedents and Formation 1941-1979' by **Maj (Lt Col) M. Mc I. Ayrton R Signals.** Copies are now available from the Corps Museum.

**WE HAVE COPED**

The turmoil of changing establishments and lack of manpower have caused the usual headaches for the Squadron but somehow we have managed to cope with our tasks leaving little time in camp.

Ex *Javelin*, the warm-up to Ex *Lionheart*, proved less of a commitment than at first anticipated and **WO2 (YofS) 'Sergeant Major' Thomas** was able to have his way with trade training for the majority of the Squadron who were left behind. Those who did go abroad found a much easier time 'burning it' on the battlefield (by the pool).

**ALPHA TROOP**

We say farewell and good luck to seven members of the troop, namely **Cpls 'Happy-hat' Jim Paine, Tony Bentley, LCpl 'Tosh' Walker, Sig 'Geordie' Moody, 'Chesh' Cheshire, 'Geordie' Ferguson and 'Dave' Hughes. Sig Hughes** moves on to Civvy Street and **Sig Cheshire** just moves downstairs to 565 RLD. **LCpl 'Herman' Ffitch** is still swallowing sea sick pills on SS *Uganda* and **Sig 'Spike' Evans** is chasing penguins in the Falklands.

Besides the Brigade concentration we have also had to cope with the RAF on the OSEX on Dartmoor. **Lt Bruce Knobel** and YofS not only drowned each other's sorrows but also found the beauties of Okehampton irresistable—**Lt Knobel's** natural charm!

**BRAVO TROOP**

Supporting the other troops in the Squadron has left Bravo troop low on manpower although still capable of fulfilling its own tasks.

Working with the Navy has become second nature to the troop with five or six JOCOMEX'S in July alone. We are now arranging visits to the relevant ships and next we will be changing uniforms.

The YofS course at Blandford is another group that need a hand and **LCpl 'Andy' Allan, 'Gunner' Myers, 'Roland Rat' Swan** and **Sig 'Mick' Elliott** are finding out how to/not to do it.

New arrivals include **Cpl John Cakebread** and **LCpl 'Ray' Taylor**. Due to a parachuting accident we, unfortunately, lost **Cpl Archer** for five weeks but he's now limped back into our midst.

**CHARLIE TROOP**

Bde Concentration proved fun with Charlie troop joining in the biggest drop since 1976—an impressive sight. **Sgt Wilson** and his team set up Bde HQ while **Lt Moloney's** group tabbed it with the Brigadier to meet with B Coy 2 Bn Para—each was equally surprised to see the other.

**Cpls Barnett, Leyman, Cakebread, LCpl Philbrick, Sig Wellard** and **Santos** were soon off again to do their part in France for the D Day celebrations. They enjoyed their time listening to the old-timers.

It was on Ex *Vite Chute* that we managed to loose one of our 'para' prepared vehicles as it hit the ground with a thud—LAD are still moaning.

The Royal Tournament was our next conquest. Although the work was hard the rewards were worth it, as **Sig Walker's** marks prove.

**THE BLUE HELMETS**

Since the Blue Helmets last appeared in *The Wire* the team has gone from strength to strength. In April it took delivery of five brand new sets of parachute equipment. All the equipment is in Corps colours and the team can now put on a six man parachute display with everyone decked out in team kit.

June/July were busy months with displays carried out at venues ranging from Castle Douglas in Scotland down through the country to the Garrison open day at Blandford. The majority of these have

been four or five man shows with the exception of Blandford where a seven man display was put on. After the display the President of the Corps freefall team **Brig A. M. Willcox** was presented with a Baton which was passed in freefall. The majority of the displays have gone according to plan, except for Catterick, where **Cpl Mick Honeyman** managed to hang his parachute over the WRAC flag pole on the edge of the arena. Fortunately no one was hurt and **Cpl Honeyman** survived the taunts of his fellow team members.

**MANY COMPETITIONS**

As the parachuting season has progressed team members have been participating in and training for various competitions. **W/Pte Chris Clements** won a bronze medal in the women's style event at the National Parachute Championships. **Chris** was also highly placed in the accuracy event of the same competition. **Sgt Mick Thurman** has been selected for the Army Canopy Relative Work Squad and is busy training for the National Championships. He had also been showing the military parachutists within 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn what a real canopy entanglement looks like, using a video recording of a canopy relative work jump that went wrong.

As these notes are being written members of the team are preparing to travel over to the Rhine Army Parachute Championships which are being held at Bad Lippspringe in Germany. After the competition the team will stay in Germany for two weeks training prior to the Army Parachute championships which are to be held at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon.

**HOW ABOUT IT?**

During the last few months many people within the Corps have been introduced to the sport either through their own efforts or by doing courses at one of the Joint Service Parachute Centres. As usual the team is on the lookout for new blood so anyone who is interested in the sport or who is keen to learn is asked to contact **Sgt Mick Thurman** at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Aldershot.



# 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Bulford Camp

**PRESENTATION OF BEM**

On 1 June **Maj Gen B. Lane CB OBE,** GOC SW District, visited the Squadron to present the British Empire Medal to **SSgt Max Williams** and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **SSgt (YofS) Pete Wykes** and **Cpl Les Storey**. The presentation took place in Main Troop garages, due to inclement weather, and afterwards the GOC visited the various Troops and Departments, talking to the majority of the soldiers in the Squadron. He later joined the Officers and Senior ranks in the 'wetting ceremony'.

SSgt Williams receiving the Queen's message from Maj Gen B. Lane

**EXERCISES**

The main exercise over this period was Ex *Ardent Ground* where detachments from the Squadron deployed to York and Otterburn to provide communications for the AMF (L) Force Artillery during live firing. We also participated in Ex *Gannett Anticipation*, Ex *Bass Rock* and assisted the AMF (L) Log Sp Bn at Greenham Common.

**ADVENTURE TRAINING**

This year's main Adventure Training Exercise was Ex *Alpine Pass* led by **Lt Doc Holliday**, ably assisted by **Lt Graham Norris**. A complete report by **LCpl Mark Ridley** is the subject of a separate article.

**SKILL AT ARMS MEETING**

After a short period of training the Squadron shooting team captained by **Sgt George Cook** and consisting of **Cpls Leather, Lynch** and **Simcox, LCpls Barker, Russell** and **O'Shaughnessy** took part in the SW District SAAM on 18-20 May 1984 at Bulford Ranges. They put up a very fine performance to become SW District Minor Unit Runners-up with the following results:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Team Snap** | **1st** |
| **LMG Pairs** | **1st** |
| **Section Match** | **2nd** |
| **Para Cup SMG** | **2nd** |
| **Team SLR** | **3rd** |
| **Team SMG** | **3rd** |

**Sgt George Cook** deserves special mention for becoming SW District individual SMG Champion. The results from the SW District SAAM qualified the Squadron team for RA SAAM which took place at Bisley between the 2 and 13 July. The team, this time, was led by **Sgt Toby Slater**, a newcomer to the Squadron as **Sgt George Cook** has been posted to sunny NI. The team improved on last year's performance achieving 12th place minor unit. **Cpl Simcox** deserves special mention for gaining a bronze medal in the moving target competition.

**SPORTING ACTIVITIES**

It is not all work in the Squadron, contrary to popular belief, we do get time for a little sport now and then; usually between 0700 hrs and 0800 hrs when the OC and SSM take the Squadron out for a gentle jog to visit that lonely flightless bird, the 'Kiwi'. Past and present members of the Squadron will understand the sarcasm and any member of the Corps who enjoys running up and down big hills/mountains, just put in a 'dream sheet' volunteering for 249 and you too can visit the Kiwi, Norway, Denmark, Turkey, Greece, Italy and latest on our itinerary Switzerland.

With a big emphasis on running and skiing within the Squadron, swimming has been very much a neglected sport for some time, so it was with some trepidation that I volunteered my services to the QM; **Capt Nicoll**; OIC swimming, to raise and train a team for the SW District minor units team swimming championships, not realising that I would end up racing myself!

Team training usually took place between 0700 and 0800 hrs or at lunch time when we had to compete with the public for space in the pool. Team selection changed daily as individuals came and went to the Falkland Islands, Switzerland and Otterburn. Three of the team members tested their fitness in the SW District Individual Championships with the following results:

| | |
|---|---|
| 100 yards Breast Stroke | **Cpl Nutt** 1st |
| 100 yards Free Style | **WO2 (FofS) Fielding** 5th |
| 66⅔ yds Butterfly | **Sig Twigg** 4th |

We lost **Sig Twigg** to the Falkland Islands before the Team Championships and although I protested that swimming against young lads only half my age was putting an undue strain on my pacemaker batteries the Squadron competed in the SW District Team Swimming Championships at Bulford Garrison swimming pool.

We were runners up to COD Donnington, which qualified us for the zone B Eliminating Round of the Army Inter Unit Team Championships to be held at Catterick. We lost **Cpl Ray Pritchard** on various demonstrations and **Sig 'Siddy' Baxter** on posting but gained **LCpl Gregory, Sig Eddie O'Kelly** and **LCpl Harris,** on returning from their holiday in Switzerland. After a week's concentrated training we travelled to Catterick just as the rest of the Squadron were being called out for Ex *Trial Run*; a Squadron airportability exercise.

The zone B Eliminating Round was almost a complete Royal Signals Minor Units Championship. Competition was close right up to the last two events; the medley and free style relays. The final result placed the Squadron in sixth place.

Next year I am going to stand at the side of the pool and coach!

**RUNNING**

The Squadron has always had a reputation for producing reasonable athletes but because of commitments has never really featured in any District Cross Country League or Athletics Competition. To provide an outlet for a little excess energy the more insane members of the Squadron have taken to running half marathons. The first of these being the Old Basing Half Marathon.

After some excellent pre-race training the night before, the Squadron team of 'hand-picked' marathon runners started out bright and early on the last Sunday of April. Lead by **Lt Doc Holliday** and **SSgt Max Williams**, and carrying cuddly toy mascot *Ian Johnston*, the mood was optimistic, until confronted by a team of mean looking Gurkhas. The run itself started out in the usual way, confused and unco-ordinated, and ended up with some very creditable performances, notably those of **Sig Chris 'Swede' Jones** and the 'Old Guard' of **Cpl Steve 'Chrome Dome' Martin, Max Williams** and **Pete Vowden**. All in all, a good time was had by all, and we hope to repeat our success next year.

Our next outing was in the N London race where even the OC Squadron competed. With over 5,000 runners all the Squadron representatives were in under two hours with a fine run by **Cpl Taff Griffiths** in 188th position in 1 hour 18 minutes. Our third outing was the Tidworth Marathon and Fun Run when the Squadron entered a five man × five mile road relay and approx 15 members of the Squadron entered the half marathon, including the OC, SSM QM and Chief Clerk. (All survived).

*Standing L-R:* Sig Eaglesham, Jones, Bartliff, LCpl Stevens, Lt Holliday, LCpl Falls
*Kneeling L-R:* Sig Johnston, Marshall, Cpls Martin, Vowden, SSgt Williams

**EX *ALPINE PASS***
**Report by LCpl Mark Ridley**

Ex *Alpine Pass* was an adventure training exercise proposed by the OC 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L) and led by troop commander **Lt 'Doc' Holliday**, it was to comprise two groups from 249 Sqn AMF(L) walking the Alpine Pass route (APR) in Switzerland. For our reference we used a book called the Alpine Pass Route by **John Hurdle** which lays down the 15 day walk which starts in Sargans and, 206 miles later, finishes in Montreux, crossing 14 passes of an average height of 2,400m, in the Berne Oberland region of Switzerland.

The two groups led by their respective officers **Lt Holliday** and **Lt Norris** left for Switzerland on the 9 June, group one going from Sargans to Montreux, whilst group two walked in the opposite direction. We (group one) arrived in Basle early the next morning, passed through the happy smiling (!) passport control and took the early train to Sargans. Whilst on the train **Sig 'Geordie' Hogg** made the first of two carefully thought out statements; 'It looks like the Lake District!', which wouldn't have been too bad if he had been there.

Our first day's walk began as soon as we got off the train, a quick group photo taken by **LCpl Keith 'Helium Sack' Goddard,** and then on to the 10 mile walk which put us on to the pass route. The four hours climb was certainly enough, and when we set up camp for the night it felt none too early. **Sig Doug Purce** gave an excellent demo of starting a fire by rubbing two Signalmen together. During the next two days we climbed two passes; The Foopass and Richetli Pass. Due to the late spring many of the higher passes were still snow covered which made the ascents very hard, slow, and exhausting. At one point on the Richetli Pass we had to climb a spine of rock to avoid a possible avalanche slope, **Sig Doug Purce** was in his element sitting on a rock shelf saying 'Brilliant, brilliant', whilst **Sig Steve Artingstall** and **LCpl John Osbourne** thought differently. From the top the view was spectacular, the valleys and mountains just unfolded around us.

Once we had all regrouped and the heart beat was near normal, we set off down, with **Sig Guy Ashton, Geordie Brown, Paul Bartliff** and **Geordie Hogg**, tearing away leaving **Cpl Tom Dooley** and **LCpl Paddy Baker** still enjoying the view. The fourth day was a real test of endurance with a 47km walk to Altdorf, the weather was very hot and took its toll, so we called a break at Untersachen and decided on our first day's rest. The night was spent in a restaurant sampling the finer things of Swiss life.

We then moved on to Altdorf and decided to stay at an official campsite, the group tactfully setting its tents around two tents belonging to four New Zealand girls (Note 1 for Junior Officers: Do not hold a briefing on the geography of Switzerland when well developed NZ girls are close by, especially if **LCpl Mark Ridley, John Osbourne** and **Sig Doug Purce** are around).

At this stage the weather changed for the worse and we had to bypass the Surrenen pass and go on to Engelberg, where **Sgts Martin Pinkney** and **Andy Thompson** and **Sig Ian Johnston** joined us. Their initiation to the APR was none too gentle with the party climbing the Jochpass. This follows a cable car route, and certain members would have preferred to take it. We did not arrive at Reuti until 2000 hrs, having done more than 20 miles at a height of 2,209m. **Sgt Andy Thompson** could only say, 'It wasn't as hard as this in the Marines'.

The next stop was Grindelwald via The Gross Scheidegg at 2,000m, **Lt 'Doc' Holliday** leading the usual 'Beep Beep' group. **LCpls Mark Ridley, Paddy Baker, Keith Goddard** and **Sig Ian Johnston** and **Geordie Brown** taking it easier, whilst the older members of the group, **Sgts Pinkney** and **Thompson** and **Cpl Dooley** beasted it along at the back. At Grindelwald we came across the usual Swiss hospitality, and were invited to stay on a farm near the edge of town and right in the shroud of the Eiger. This prompted **Sig 'Geordie' Hogg** while facing the north wall to state, 'I can't see what's so difficult about it'. Thank you **Chris Bonnington**. We met the second group here and after exchanging stories of climbing the Richetlipass backwards with our eyes shut, no hands and without a safety net etc, the boys got down to the serious job of living it up. We all needed the well earned rest, for although we were really enjoying the experience it was harder than expected and our bodies needed the break. The next day, feeling fit again we left Grindelwald for the Klein Scheidegg which, as is usual for foreigners, is higher than Gross Scheidegg!? It was an excellent day's walk, and we were all still captivated by the Eiger and Jungfrau range.

Time was now moving rapidly on, and we experienced some dreadful weather on the Sefinenfurke Pass, which is the highest point on the APR and on this particular day we had to do the final ascent, because there was no route down from our first approach route. The next day we did our last remote pass at Banderschrindt, this proved another hard climb for us because of the snow, and our lead man **Sig 'Geordie' Hogg** helped us all by cutting the odd step with his ice axe. On arrival at the top it was a quick group photo, then on into Adelboden.

The route to Gstaad, didn't prove to be difficult, just a lot of road walking, then a long downhill stretch. By this time the weather had picked up again and it was hot enough for us to wash in the river which cost **Cpl Tom Dooley** two bars of soap, **Sig Ian Johnston** some pride when he was washed down stream in a soap dish, and the rest of us a stitch from laughing.

We were now nearing the end of the route, and from Gstaad we went to La Lecherette which marks the boundary from German speaking to French speaking Switzerland. Come the final day's walk we were all ready for the long 20 mile day, but this passed surprisingly quickly. Having put the Col De Jaman behind us we could see the metropolis of Montreux, our final goal, and by 1530 hrs we were in the town and by 1600 hrs, the official end to the route, a jump in Lake Geneva (recommended to be done without Bergans on). The losses and gains ran to:

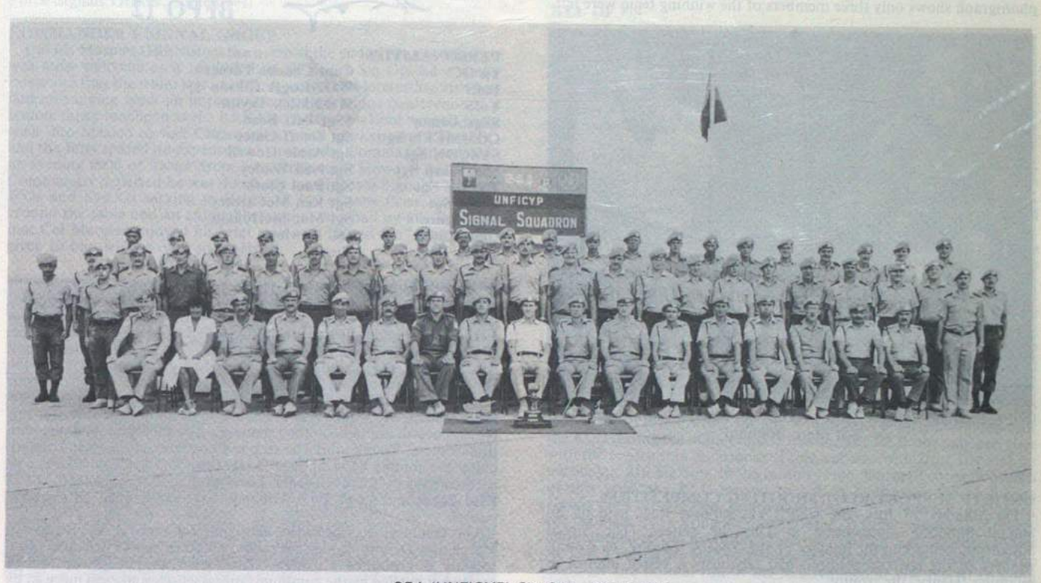
Losses: 1 × Calculator, 1 × Personal Hi-Fi, 1 × Survival Knife, 1 × Frisbee (belonging to **Lt Holliday** which we hope to go back to look for).

Gains: Blisters, suntans, some of the most spectacular views, an excellent experience of high altitude walking, snow and ice work, and best of all, a great sense of achievement when standing beside Lake Geneva and knowing it was all over!

*L-R:* Paddy Baker, Steve Artingstall, Doug Purce, Geordie Brown, Ian Johnston, Andy Thompson, Paul Bartliff, Keith Goddard, Lt 'Doc' Holliday, Mark Ridley, Guy Ashton, Geordie Hogg, John Osbourn, Martin Pinkney, Tom Dooley



## 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 567




254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn—On Parade

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj (London Commuter) L. R. Smith** |
| **2IC** | **Capt A. J. Bowering** |
| **SO COMMS (Tels)** | **Capt H. Lyytinen, Finnish Signals** |
| **Comms Offr** | **Capt K. W. Johnson, Canadian Signals** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 B. A. Robjohn** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (Off to Shape) C. Ramsay** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 (Lisbon or Lisburn) J. Haldane** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (7 Sig Regt sounds nice) J. Mountcastle** |
| **Radio SSgt** | **SSgt (Costa del Colchester) P. Aitken** |
| **Line Sgt** | **Sgt (Bruggen here I Come) R. Hicks** |
| **Tech Sgt** | **Sgt C. I. Harris** |
| **COMMCEN Sgt** | **Sgt R. Harrison** |
| **Radio Sgt** | **Sgt A. J. Constantineau, Canadian Signals** |
| **'A' Shift** | **Sgt (Remember me!) I. F. Wilmot** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **Sgt M. Bonham** |

**RECENT HAPPENINGS**

Since our previous notes much water has flowed under the bridge and as can be seen from the above, people are getting ready to move.

Congratulation to **Cpl 'Flash'** and **Brigit Ruddiman** on the birth of their daughter **Susan Kathrin.**

Congratulations to **Sgt Mark** and **Babs Bonham** on the birth of their daughter **Victoria.**

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Twinkle-Toes' Kelly** on coming second in the 'All Island Disco Dancing Championship'.

Meanwhile, after four and a half years, **Sgt Chuck Wright** has been taken off the COMMCEN Inventory and allowed to leave for civvy street. All members of the Squadron wish him well in the future.

Presentation of UN Medal. LCpl Brown enjoying having his hand squeezed after being presented with his UN Medal by the Comd BRITCON/COS HQ UNFICYP Brig P. R. Duchesne OBE (late RA). LCpl Paterson is able to share the joke whilst carrying the medals

**LIVEWIRES BOWLING TEAM**

The Squadron entered a team '*The Livewires*' in the UNPA Bowling League. The league is spread over 20 weeks with the team consisting of six men. Due to the quick change-over of personnel the team members were **Sgt Dougie Clarke** (Canadian), **Sig Nig Allen** (British), **Sgt Chuck Wright** (British), **Cpl Stu Young** (British), **Cpl Zane Sanford** (Canadian), **MCpl Pip Gagne** (Canadian) and **Sgt Mark Bonham** (British). The team finished overall third but as the photograph shows only three members of the winning team were left.

UNPA Bowling League—3rd overall. Sig Dougie Clark, Nig Allen, Sgt Mark Bonham

**UNFICYP SUPPORT REGT SHOOTING COMPETITION**

On Monday 16 July, the UNFICYP Support Regt held its bi-annual Shooting competition at Dhekelia ranges. The Signal Squadron, being current holders of the YMCA Trophy, as overall winners of the last competition, had obviously a vested interest in retaining 'Henry' the trophy.

Suffering from the complete turnover of roulemont personnel since the last competition, it was necessary to identify and train 'possibles' in the short period of time available to us. This was successfully done and at the end of the day we achieved our objective; 'Henry' is again resident in the office of the Squadron Commander.

Runners up in the competition were UNFICYP Tpt Sqn RCT with UNFICYP Wksps REME in third place.

A notable achievement of the day was **LCpl Bob Patterson** winning the shield for best SLR shot. Well done!

The Shooting Team—with 'Henry'
*Rear Row L-R:* Sig Steve Hirst, LCpl 'Tommo' Tomkins, WO2 (SSM) Brian Robjohn, LCpl Bob Paterson, SSgt (SQMS) John Mountcastle
*Front Row L-R:* Sig Paul Woods, Cpl Roy Dangerfield, Sgt Ian Wilmot, Sig John Moore



## — News from Troops —

### 633 Sig Tp
### BFPO 12

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp OC** | **Capt Charles Turner** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 Roger Gibson** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Mick Taylor** |
| **SSgt Admin** | **SSgt Taff Bean** |
| **COMMCEN Sgt** | **Sgt Geoff Oates** |
| **SYSCON Sgt** | **Sgt Arnie Howell** |
| **SES Wksp Sgt** | **Sgt Neil Wadey** |
| **TX Site Sgt** | **Sgt Paul Clark** |
| **Radio Sgt** | **Sgt Ken McCartney** |
| **Tech Store** | **Sgt Mac McDonald** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **OC Rowley** |
| **Troop Dog** | **Pronto** |

**TROOP ROUND UP**

For the last few months the troop has been heavily into 'do-it-yourself', mainly because nobody else will. **LCpl John Bland** is a qualified cement leveller and **LCpl Geordie Laverick** is now a B3 tiler. We have spruced up the commcen and even managed to stop it leaking. However the bulk of our handywork has been centred on the Sunspot club. An atap has been built with a little help from our friends in 51 Fd Sqn RE. The club is also the proud owner of a new Hi-Fi system. We would very much like to thank the providers of this Hi-Fi, but will not publish their names in case they get inundated with similar pleas. Thank you. The club is going from strength to strength under the guiding hand of **SSgt 'Taff' Bean** and **Sgt Paul Clark**. The barmen namely, **LCpl 'Geordie' Laverick** (The Boonsville Kid), **LCpl Paul Lewis** and **LCpl Taff Williams**, have maintained an excellent service.

The commcen has been the high spot for many VIP visitors. In March the Deputy Under Secretary of State visited us, and more recently a group of six MPs. They were all impressed, though somewhat baffled by the communications set-up, and even more so by **SSgt 'Taff' Bean**. At least the Boss knows his way around now!

**CARIBBEAN COMMUNICATIONS**

The troop has been going through a rather testing time these past few months. **FofS Roger Gibson, Sgt Neil Wadey** and their team of techs have been trying to add some old Larkspur equipments to our modern Clansman radios. This is not as easy as it sounds.

**YofS Mick Taylor** and **Sgt Ken McCartney** have been using their old skills on the equipment, but it's still not quite right. However we are not beaten yet.

We have also received the software for our Monarch electronic exchange to take it up to 250 lines. **Cpl 'Taff' Watts** and his line crew have been kept busy installing new extensions around Airport Camp. In addition we have been replacing old dial 'phones with new push-button 'phones. We have found that the simplest way to keep the Staff happy, the RAF quiet and the PARA's dumbfounded, is to give them a push button 'phone!

**Sgt 'Paddy' McIntyre** has despatched a fully working 4 × 18 line exchange, commonly known as a 'Dolls Eye' exchange, back to the Corps Museum in Blandford. The exchange was made in the early 1950s and was in service in Belize up to 1983. If the museum wants any more fully serviceable museum pieces we have a wide selection of equipments.

A team of antenna riggers led by **ACpl Coburn** came out to Belize in April to inspect the troops 150ft and 80ft masts. The team came from units in BAOR and we hope they enjoyed their short stay.

**Lt Pete Stephenson** and **Cpl Pete Storey** arrived on 'exercise' from 30 Sig Regt. Yes another glorious Global 'Swan' was in full flight. They stayed for two weeks and visited Mexico, dived the coral reefs, flew to San Pedro caye, sunbathed by the pool, played tennis in the sun, and we think they slipped into the commcen a couple of times, but we're not too sure.

**FSO**

**Maj Dick Hoyle** took over as FSO from **Maj Bob Wannell** in January. However we are still trying to puzzle what FSO stands for. Here are some suggestions.

FSO—Force Swimming Officer. No he is not APC's very own **Len Fairclough**.



FSO—Force Sailor's Officer. Well he did spend a week on board HMS *Ariadne*.

FOS—Force Sightseeing Officer. He did go into the jungle with the Brigadier looking for lost ancient ruins. (But **Cpl O. C. Rowley** was still back in APC).

FSO—Force Scouting Officer. There is no truth in this rumour.

FSO—Force Smoothie Officer. No comment.

After much deliberation we had to decide that he was indeed the Force Signals Officer, sometimes.

**COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP**

**Col M. Marples OBE** visited the troop at the end of March. His visit was most welcome as it reminded us all that 1 Sig Gp did actually exists and that the troop is part of it. A varied and interesting visit was laid on ranging from an important communications conference to a remote dusty luncheon at the RRB site. At the weekend a small party went into Mexico to visit Chetumal, a small market town. The FSO and the Boss spared no expense and treated the Commander to a slap up evening meal of 'tacos' from a roadside stall. However before the Commander departed he was dined out by all Royal Signals Officers, WOs and SNCOs serving in Belize. A lot of new faces were seen around the table and an enjoyable evening was had by all. We hope that **Col Marples** enjoyed his brief stay with us and the 'energy pills' given to him will be used sparingly.

Col Mike Marples and the lads in the Sunspot Club

**SPORT**

The troop continues to field a number of teams in a variety of sports. The rugby seven captained by **Cpl 'Taff' Preston**, won the Airport Camp sevens. **Sgt Neil Wadey** skippered the cricket XI against 3 PARA. We were narrowly beaten by five runs. However **Sig 'Cass' Casswell** batted well and **Cpl 'Titch'** 'here comes a pair of pads walking by themselves' **Barnard** bowled accurately. **Cpl John Dyer** led a five man relay team in the camp Road Relay Race. We were the first Force Troops team home, though 3 PARA rather dominated the higher positions. **Sig 'Hazel' O'Connor** was our fastest man and came in 16 out of 109 runners.

**Sig 'Riggers' Rigby** and others have entered the equestrian world. They are still having a little trouble with the terminology. 'My feet can't touch the pedals' is wrong, but 'we'll head 'em off at the pass boy' is definitely right. A few aquatic members of the troop have also tried water skiing on the Belize river. They were at the mercy of the boat driver, the 'Boss'.

All skiers, except one tech, got up and nobody believed that **Sgt Geoff Oates** had 'only done it once before'. They didn't know water could go up so many places at once.

**SALVETE AND VALETE**

(The Boss says that's Officer talk for Hello and Goodbye). In the past three months the troop has had 30 new members posted in, and not surprisingly had 30 posted out. Unfortunately we cannot mention everyone here but we would like to wish good luck to all those people fortunate enough to serve with the troop. However we do say a special cheerio to **WO2 (YofS) Dulston** and thank him for all his hard work in Belize. At least the squash courts are free now he's gone.

**ETHNIC SIGHTING OF THE MONTH**

An old lady outside her MFO box home using barbed wire as a clothes line, quote, 'it saves on de pegs maan', unquote.



### 549 RLD
### BFPO 20

**ALL OF US**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sgt Chris Heyward** | **RTg** | |
| **Cpl Ken Colbeck** | **ROp** | Posted to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt Oct 84 |
| **LCpl Chris Allnatt** | **RTg** | Posted to 7 Sig Regt Oct 84 |
| **Sig Phil Carter** | **ROp** | |
| **Sig Pat Kenny** | **ROp** | |
| **Gnr Dave Brazier RA** | **SigI** | (On loan!) |

**THE FORM**

Never having seen notes from a RLD in *The Wire* before, we decided that something should be done about it.

For the un-initiated, RLD stands for Rear Link Detachment and comes in various shapes, sizes, equipments and supporting roles. Corps policy is to have a minimum of class two tradesmen with a RLD, which means that the signalmen have previously completed a three year tour.

This RLD works in direct support of 26 Fd Regt RA and supplies the CO's Tactical Headquarters in a step-up role. The regiment has recently re-roled to a medium gun, the 155 mm FH70, having previously used the M109, 155mm self propelled gun. This also brought about an equipment change for the RLD from AFV 432, to FV 105 Sultan.

The regiment fulfils a peculiar role, in that the guns are initially deployed in support of 1 Armd Div whilst the CO's TAC and OP parties are in support of 2 Inf Div. This means a fairly hectic time for the RLD during the main exercise season. The RLD not only exercises with the regiment in an armoured role but also with 2 Inf Div and, in particular, 210 Sig Sqn, in the infantry role. During February/March of this year, the RLD moved to UK in landrovers for *Gryphons Goblet* with 210 Sig Sqn, returned to BAOR and reverted to 432s for the regiment's live firing at Munsterlager. We then rekitted the rovers and returned to UK for *Spring Tide* with 210 Sig Sqn. Needless to say we lead a varied life where exercises are concerned. In addition to the exercises and normal run of the mill regimental life, the RLD along with the regiment as part of their re-roling, are moving to Thorney Island later on this year.

**VARIETY**

The regimental side of life sees the RLD fully integrated within the signal troop of Headquarters Battery and so we get our fair share of fatigues and guards of course, wearing '*Jimmy*' involves us in all matters electrical; phones, wiring, lights, PA and any other problem that comes along.

Despite all that, we still find time for courses and sport. **Sig Carter** returned from his BI, **Sig Kenny** left for his BI in August. **LCpl Allnatt** is the RLD's resident fisherman, leading the regiment at most matches (7 Sig Regt take note!). **Sgt Heyward** has recently attended a basketball officials' course and **Sig Kenny** has done an EVA officials course, both having played at Battery or Regimental level. **Cpl Colbeck**, whilst not your average Daley Thompson, has been involved as treasurer of the JNCOs' Mess and is heavily committed to the local Buffs lodge.

**COME AND JOIN US**

So, just a short insight to a RLD where life can be very similar to a normal Corps unit. If you want to see how the other half live and learn a new language (Gunner!), with the possibility of detachments to such exotic places as Belize, Canada, NI and FI, then choose this RLD as your next preference posting!

## THE 1984 REUNIONS

**The Blandford and Catterick Reunions are the most significant events in the Association's annual calendar. In publishing photographs taken at these wonderfully staged events, we wish to thank most sincerely The Commander, School of Signals and The Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison and the many components of the Corps involved—our superb Corps Band, White Helmets, Blue Helmets and many more who did so much to make these significant occasions so memorable.**

## BLANDFORD

Brig A. M. Willcox pictured talking to three representatives from the Royal Hospital. *Left to Right:* Ex Sgt S. W. Millen; Ex RQMS S. E. Gordon and Ex Sig A. R. Knox. Mr Knox enjoying a well earned glass of ale and can even do it with his eyes shut!

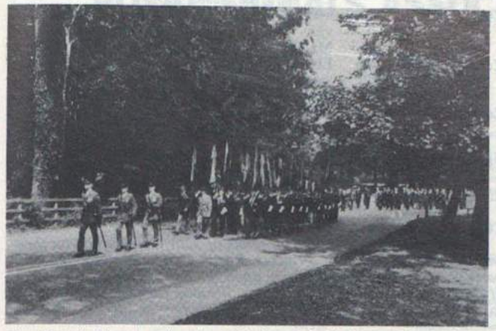
'A record turnout this year, RSM. Quite a commitment on a Sunday'. 'No problem' was the RSM's reply. Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield talking to WO1 (RSM) K. E. Russell (left) and Brig C. H. Stoneley (right)

Lt Col G. R. (Nat) Gould with Mrs Gould having travelled to Blandford from York. Sorry to see you in a wheelchair Nat, and let's hope it will not be long before you can get rid of it and those two sticks. Ex boys of the 1942-46 intakes may recognise Mr J. H. A. (Boots) Potter sitting in the background looking quite young. What's the secret Boots?

Three ladies enjoying a quiet respite in a corner of the Garrison Sergeants' Mess



## CATTERICK



The March Past nearing the Saluting Dais being led by Lt Col P. J. R. Brown (Parade Commander); Capt H. J. Bardell (Adjt); and WO1 (RSM) C. C. Miller followed by 33 Standards of the Association Branches. The Standard Marshal was, again, Mr Ted Moore (Catterick Branch). Following the Standard Party is the Old Comrades Squadron commanded by Maj Bob Edwards (Leeds Branch). Who says the 'Sun never shines in Catterick?'

The Standard Party, having just Marched Past, are led by the Birmingham Branch standard which had been dedicated during the Church Service. There were 33 Branch Standards on this year's parade.

WO1 (RSM) Mike Nevill; Mr (Ex Sgt) Tim Squire and WO2 (RQMS) Dave Taylor (AAC Harrogate) seen at the bar (the right place to be) of the Sergeants' Mess 8 Sig Regt. They had previously been together at both Blandford Camp and in 6 Brigade at Barnard Castle. Those were the days!

Four likely lads from Liverpool (no not the 'Beatles') seen together in the Sergeants' Mess, 8 Sig Regt. Hope you left enough pennies to get the next round in and not fed to the fruit machine?

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
## MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON SUNDAY 1 JULY 1984

**PRESENT**

**Maj-Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, Chairman; **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE**, President Indian Signals Association; **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE, Colonel Commandant**; **Col L. W. Wright TD DL**, Vice-Chairman; **Brig P. J. Evans CBE**, Vice-Chairman; **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE**, General Secretary and some 125 Members of the Association.

In thanking Members for attending the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman specially welcomed **Gen Birtwistle** who retired as Signal Officer-in-Chief a year ago; **Gen Horsfield**, President Indian Signals Association and **Brig Hobson**, a former Commander Training Brigade and immediate past General Secretary of the Association.

**Gen Anderson** congratulated Standard Bearers and Members on an excellent parade and march past and paid tribute to the Corps Band. He reminded Members of the immense trouble taken by the Training Group in staging the Reunion and thanked **Brig Maynard** and the many components of the Training Group and Catterick Garrison for the detailed arrangements which made the Reunion so memorable.

**MINUTES OF 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

These were approved unanimously by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**RETIREMENTS**

Our senior Vice-Chairman, **Col L. W. Wright TD DL** retires today. **Leslie Wright** is well known to many of you and I thank him most sincerely for his devoted and valuable service in this office over the past 12 years—and in particular his wise counsels in our Central Committee. Also retiring—not with us today—is **Col W. J. C. Foster TD** who has served as the TA Representative on the Central Committee for the past six years. I record my formal thanks to him and am glad that he will continue to serve as a Director of our Trustee Company.

May I say how delighted I am that the Signal Officer-in-Chief has suggested that Commander Training Group, **Brig Maynard** should succeed **Col Wright** as one of our Vice-Chairmen. Commander Training Group possibly sees more of the Association than any other senior serving officer of the Corps and it does seem very fitting that he should serve as our Vice-Chairman to be followed by his successor two years hence.

I also wish to thank formally the retiring members of our Central Committee representing Zones B, C & D, namely **Mr Frank Elwood** (Sheffield Branch); **Mr Jimmy Wilds** (Dorset Branch) and **SSgt Gordon Pickard** (Aldershot Branch). They have all contributed greatly to the deliberations of our Central Committee.

**A LOOK BACK AT 1983**

It is always possible at this time to look back objectively at the past year. The audit of our Benevolent Fund was concluded in March and the following facts will be of interest to you:

Our main income—as in the past 20 years—comes from the One Days Pay Scheme. It is difficult to thank adequately ALL RANKS of the serving Corps for this magnificent support which in 1983 provided about £163,000 to the Association.

We committed some £75,000 in making nearly 900 grants to individuals whose circumstances merited financial assistance. Additionally, grants to units of the Corps totalled some £3,000.

In November each year, the Association's Central Committee determines the sum donated to the Army's central charity. The Army Benevolent Fund received last year some £400,000 from Corps and Regimental Associations, including £36,000 from our Association. On the other hand, our thanks are due to the Army Benevolent Fund for:

Co-operating with the Association in some 54 instances during the year. On account of these, we received some £23,000 to supplement grants from our own Benevolent Fund.

Interest free loans totalling some £75,000 were made to 61 soldiers nearing discharge for the purchase of furniture.

The Army Benevolent Fund, also, made grants on behalf of all Corps and Regiments, to national charities providing for the specific needs of the soldier, the ex-soldier and his family. These totalled some £950,000 in the past year.

Acting on behalf of the Trustees of the South Atlantic Fund the Association has now made payments totalling some £281,700 to the wounded and next of kin of those killed in the South Atlantic.

***THE WIRE***

Subscription rates for *The Wire* have been maintained at their present level since 1978. The subsidy to achieve this in 1983 was some £24,000.

**THE POSITION**

At 31 December 1983, the accumulated funds of your Benevolent Fund amounted to some £503,000. The Association's investments had a cost value of some £456,000 with a market value of about £906,000. Exceptional items in 1983, such as those bearing on **Miss Cook**'s retirement, led to an excess of expenditure over income of some £10,000. As your Chairman and Treasurer, I can assure you that our financial position is excellent.

**BRANCHES**

We continue to be based on 62 Branches. You will be interested to know that **Lt Col Charles Weech**, who is with us this week-end, is hopeful that a Branch can be formed in Spain!

**CLOTHING**

**Very many of you will know of the excellent work which the Welfare Section has conducted for many years in despatching clothing parcels to families and individuals in real need. I reported to your Central Committee, in May, that the stage had been reached to review this commitment. Both because of the high cost of postage and a drop in both the quantity and quality of clothing received, the Committee concluded that a modest grant would enable families to purchase clothing in Thrift and local shops in their localities to meet their exact needs, and I believe it will be more acceptable to families concerned to buy for themselves. It is therefore with much regret that I have to say that the Association's Welfare Section will no longer accept clothing for redistribution to those in need.**

**ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND**

Following a summary of the funds by the General Secretary, **Maj Gen Horsfield** proposed that the audited accounts of the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 1983 be approved. (Included on pages 573 and 574). The proposal was seconded by **Brig Evans** 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 by a show of hands:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman & Treasurer | **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB** (Re-election) |
| Vice-Chairman | **Brig P. J. Evans CBE** (Re-election) |
| | **Brig F. R. Maynard** (Election) vice |
| | **Col L. W. Wright TD DL** |
| TA Representative | **Col J. C. Eversfield ERD TD** vice |
| | **Col W. J. C. Foster TD** |
| Zone 'B' Rep | **Maj M. A. W. Rose TD** (Derby Branch) vice |
| | **Mr F. Elwood** (Sheffield Branch) |
| Zone 'C' Rep | **Lt Col J. A. Waite** (Cotswolds Branch) vice |
| | **Mr J. Wilds** (Dorset Branch) |
| Zone 'D' Rep | **Mr A. E. Foot** (Reading Branch) vice |
| | **SSgt G. Pickard MSM** (Aldershot Branch) |

**PRINCESS ROYAL DAY**

The Chairman read the following texts of telegrams exchanged with the Colonel-in-Chief.

**TO THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF**

*'The Master of Signals and all ranks of your Corps send you their warmest best wishes on Princess Royal Day, and look back in particular at this time, with pride upon the part played by the Corps in Operational Overlord 40 years ago. We look forward with pleasure to your further visit to your Corps in Germany in July'.*

**FROM HRH THE PRINCESS ANNE**

*'I was so pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, particularly on this the 40th Anniversary of Operation Overlord. I would be grateful if you could convey my best wishes to all Members of my Corps wherever they are serving. I am looking forward to my visit to Germany in July'.*

**HONOUR MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairman reminded Members that the award of Honour Membership was reserved to ordinary Members who render outstanding service to the Association which merits special recognition. **Gen Anderson** informed the meeting that the award to **Mr David Greenbrook** recognised some 16 years devoted service at Association HQ. The award was approved by the Association's Central Committee following recommendations from Branches.

Mr David Greenbrook (Association HQ) receives the award of Honour Membership from the Chairman of the Association, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson, during the Annual General Meeting

**Mr Greenbrook** responded by emphasising the great privilege he felt in serving the Association and his deep appreciation of the award of Honour Membership.

**THE REUNION SERVICE**

Members commented on the limited seating in the Garrison Memorial Church, the fact that a number of seats were not filled and the dignity of the overflow Service in the Gymnasium. It was, also, suggested that the 'offering' should be conveyed to the main Altar to coincide with the collections made in the Church itself.

The Chairman thanked members for their constructive comments.

**BLANDFORD**

A suggestion that Standard Bearers should have a more prominent role nearer spectators at the Blandford Reunion was noted, for reference to the Central Committee.

**CLOSURE**

In announcing the closure of the Association's 39th Annual General Meeting, **General Anderson** informed Members that 1985 Reunions are planned as follows:

Blandford—Sunday 5 May

Catterick —Saturday/Sunday 29/30 June



# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

## Balance Sheet — 31 December 1983

| 1982 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | INVESTMENTS AT COST | | |
| | Listed (market value £905,694 1982 - £788,780) | | 456,364 |
| 438,970 | Unlisted - Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited | | 5 |
| 5 | | | 456,369 |
| 438,975 | | | |
| 6,010 | LOANS | | 7,830 |
| | CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| | Stock at lower of cost or net realisable amount | 8,567 | |
| 5,794 | Sundry debtors and prepayments | 6,725 | |
| 9,486 | Income tax recoverable | 8,413 | |
| 8,160 | Deposit accounts at bank | 37,645 | |
| 55,596 | Current account at bank | - | |
| 11,079 | Cash | 22 | |
| 21 | | 61,352 | |
| 90,136 | | | |
| | LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| | Sundry creditors and accrued charges | 14,831 | |
| 22,125 | Current account at bank | 7,773 | |
| - | | | |
| 68,011 | NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 38,748 |
| £512,996 | | | £502,947 |
| | Represented by: | | |
| 512,996 | ACCUMULATED FUND | | 502,947 |

CHAIRMAN
AAG Anderson

SECRETARY
RL Murray

9 May 1984

| | |
|---|---|
| £512,996 | £502,947 |

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION 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 affairs of the Fund at 31 December 1983 and of its excess of expenditure over income for the year then ended.

PRICE WATERHOUSE
Chartered Accountants

9 May 1984

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1983

| 1982 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | INCOME | | |
| | Receipts from Corps Fund: | | |
| 26,452 | Officers | | 28,214 |
| 124,613 | Other ranks | | 134,725 |
| 151,065 | | | 162,939 |
| | Donations: | | |
| 2,883 | Individuals and local branches | 2,995 | |
| 4,242 | Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals | 1,273 | |
| 7,125 | | | 4,268 |
| 1,105 | Benevolent grants refunded | | 1,500 |
| 43,514 | Investment income (gross) | | 42,639 |
| | Bank deposit interest received | 2,591 | |
| 3,591 | Subscriptions | 250 | |
| 232 | Receipts from branches | 54 | |
| 57 | Sundry other income | 888 | |
| 269 | | | |
| 4,149 | | | 3,783 |
| 206,958 | TOTAL INCOME | | 215,129 |

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1983

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | EXPENDITURE | | |
| | (66,126) | Benevolent grants and convalescent holidays | | (77,948) |
| | (17,246) | Royal Signals Games Club grant | | (10,000) |
| | (7,632) | Royal Signals Yacht Club grant | | - |
| | (11,540) | Memorial Chapel and Porch | | (5,706) |
| | | Donations: | | |
| (35,000) | | Army Benevolent Fund | (36,000) | |
| (4,345) | | Other | (3,825) | |
| | (39,345) | | | (39,825) |
| | (19,995) | Contribution to costs of publications | | (24,173) |
| | (22,667) | Administration Expenses | | (13,780) |
| | (15,098) | Salary costs | | (16,400) |
| | (2,241) | Pension and gratuity for former employees | | (19,479) |
| | (2,150) | Audit fee | | (2,220) |
| | (6,839) | Association reunions | | (13,452) |
| | (3,514) | Falklands reception | | - |
| | (2,435) | | | (7,854) |
| | 57,889 | (Loss)/profit on sale of investments | | (2,195) |
| | 55,454 | (DEFICIT)/EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | | (10,049) |
| | | ACCUMULATED FUND | | |
| | | Brought forward at 1 January: | | |
| 408,294 | | Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund | | |
| 41,124 | | Royal Signals Officers Benevolent Fund | | |
| 8,124 | | Royal Signals War Memorial Fund | | |
| | 457,542 | | | 512,996 |
| | £512,996 | Carried forward at 31 December | | £502,947 |

## Notes to the Accounts — 31 December 1983

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Prior year comparative amounts

On 1 January 1983 the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund and the Royal Signals Officers' Benevolent Fund were merged to form the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund. From this date the Fund also took over the commitments previously undertaken by The War Memorial Fund which closed on 31 December 1982. These accounts include the combined results of the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund, The Officers Benevolent Fund, and the War Memorial Fund for the year ended 31 December 1982.

(b) Income from investments

Dividend and other investment income is included only to the extent to which it has actually been received and no income other than interest on deposits is accrued. Franked investment income includes imputed tax credits.

(c) Investments

Investments are carried at cost and no provision for any shortfall between market value and cost is made unless there has been a permanent impairment of value.

The market value of investments is based on the middle market value prevailing on the balance sheet date. The market value of investments listed overseas is translated at rates of exchange at the balance sheet date.

(d) Pensions

The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund provides pensions for certain of its employees and former employees. The pensions are provided by premium payments to a Life Assurance Society to purchase annuities for the pensioners and by supplementary payments from the Fund. These premiums and supplementary payments are charged against income in the year in which the payments are made.



## FORMER PENSIONERS

We report with regret, the recent death of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

| | |
|---|---|
| **14320263** | **SSgt A. Warner** |
| **2310800** | **Sig J. J. Ashley** |
| **2317725** | **Sgt H. Clements** |
| **2317070** | **WO2 H. L. Coles** |
| **5511875** | **WO2 J. W. Cross** |
| **2308431** | **SSgt R. R. Evelyn** |

## IN SAUDI ARABIA

**From Mr. Barry Edwards**

Dear Sir,

How often on a quiet night in the Mess have you said 'I wonder what happened to so-and-so?', or 'I wonder how so-and-so is getting on?' Well, for those of you who were with 22nd Signal Regiment between 1976 and 1980, we can put your minds at rest regarding five

of them. We work in the Communications Department of Saudi Arabian Airlines, and live with our families in Jeddah. Pictured from left to right are **ex Sergeants Tony Paines** (1 Sqn), **Graham Watson** (3 Sqn and Mike Troop), myself (Mike Troop), **Vic Smith** (Mike Troop) and **Jim Hazzard** (3 Sqn).

I am still playing Squash and have taken up running with the Hash House Harriers and Jeddah Road Runners and completed the Red Sea 10 miler this year. I have persuaded **Jim Hazzard** to take up running and he also plays Bowls with the Jeddah Ten Pin Bowling League. **Tony Paines, Graham Watson** and **Vic Smith** are also members of a Ten Pin Bowling Team and **Vic** is into Tennis. He managed to carry off a trophy in his first season.

We all send our regards to ex colleagues and should anyone wish to get in touch, we can all be contacted at the address below.

Yours faithfully,
**B. Edwards**

Comms Maint Sec CC 999
Saudi Arabian Airlines
PO Box 167
Jeddah
Saudi Arabia

## CHESTERFIELD BRANCH

**PETER SHERWOOD**

The death occurred in Chesterfield on 22 August, of **Peter Sherwood** aged 68 years, Honorary Secretary of the Chesterfield Branch and one of the early Honour Members of our Association.

**Peter**, a member of North Midland Corps Signals TA went with the British Expeditionary Force (236 Artillery Signal Section) to France in 1940.

In Lille he met a beautiful French girl, **Francoise**. After fighting gallantly at Dunkirk and in subsequent campaigns of the war, he renewed contact with **Francoise** and they were married in Chesterfield.

The strong representation of the Association, the Dunkirk Veterans Association, the Regimental Associations, and especially his old comrades of 236 Signal Section, at his funeral bore witness to the esteem in which he was held.

To **Francoise**, their daughters **Christine** and **Paulette**, and their son **Nigel** we extend our deepest sympathy.

## EAST LONDON BRANCH

**Report by R. Bilby, Esq—Hon Secretary**

It has been a very active time during the last three months at the East London Branch. Due to other commitments our Secretary **Ken Kirby** had to resign. Thank you **Ken** for all your efforts. He is replaced by **Roy Bilby**, who will have the aid of **Stan Tearse**. Besides 34 members attending and enjoying the Blandford Reunion, a further 14 attended the Catterick Annual Reunion. We have also been very busy at home. Once again our Annual Dinner and Dance was a great success, being attended by 74 members. Guest of Honour was **Lt Col David Walden**, CO of 36 Sig Regt(V) who was accompanied by **Mrs Walden**. Our new secretary displayed his culinary skills by cooking the dinner, ably assisted by his wife. Everyone agreed that a good time was had by all.

On 27 July 30 members were superbly entertained at the In Pensioners Club at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. It was an enjoyable evening, with entertainment that allowed us to have a good old sing song. Many new friends were made and old friendships revived. We now look forward to a visit to our Branch by some of the In Pensioners, in the coming months.

## 3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

**VISIT TO SOEST FOR REGIMENTAL WEEKEND 14/14 JULY**
**Report by E. E. Bayley Esq, Hon Sec**

We wish, through the courtesy of *The Wire*, to express our thanks and admiration to all those members of the 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for the arrangements made and the warm hospitality extended to members of the Reunion Club who have served the Iron Division in war and peace. On 12 July at 1930 hrs a luxurious

'Club Cantabrica' coach was boarded at Victoria Airways Terminal by 28 club members who included three former Commanding Officers, **Col G. D. T. Harris** 1944/45, **Brig C. G. Moore** 1946/50, **Brig G. D. T. Brett** 1959/61. First timers were **Mr John Roy** from McLean Virginia USA accompanied by his wife **Marion**, contact having been established with the Reunion Club via the Royal Signals Association, three ex despatch riders **Mr Fred Drake, Mr Tony Spratley** and **Mr 'Nobby' Hounsell**. Regretfully our Chairman, **Maj Ken Smartt**, had to cancel due to the sudden illness of **Mrs Smartt**, as did **Mr 'Pedlar' Palmer**. The famous **Joe Cotterell** could not make it this time due to a bad knee and **'Porky' Edwards** was away in Canada. **John Roy** despite being out of contact with his buddies since 1941 was pleased to recognise **'Sparky' Blackford** and **Alex Mills. Mr Alan Foot.** Secretary Reading Branch was invited on this trip to enable him to meet the Regiment, since that Branch has a link in the recruiting field.

We sailed just before midnight on Sealink *Hengis* for Ostend on a very calm sea, disembarked at 0500 hrs and stopped at a restaurant at Sevenum for breakfast. Col Harris reminded me that it was near this place that we were bogged down in 1945 when we moved to Roeslaar (Belgium) from Voolen (Heide) Holland. We arrived at the town of Soest at 1230 hrs but as we were not due at St Sebastian Barracks until 1430 hrs were able to have a look around this very interesting town where half timbered houses dating from the Middle Ages have been lovingly restored and modern buildings skilfully integrated. This was greatly appreciated, especially by **Mr and Mrs Roy** from USA, who were visiting Germany for the first time.

With **Maj Derek Roberts** in the pilot's chair we embarked and headed for our destination, but having taken a wrong road, had a preview of the Mohnessee and the famous dam, before arriving at St Sebastian Barracks. The Reception Committee led by **Capt R. H. French** and **RQMS Davis** met us at the Sgts' Mess, and introduced us to our hosts. Later the officers attended a Regimental dinner whilst we had a wonderful evening in the Sgts' mess being entertained by a comedienne and a games competition. The trophy is being duly inscribed and will be posted to the club, in due course.

Saturday dawned a very wet day, but this did not stop the shopping expedition to the NAAFI in Soest. After lunch it was the Mohnefest opened by **Mrs 'Elli' Baly,** the wife of the Commanding Officer. This year the main charity supported was 'Save the Children'. The weather was dreadful and the freefall by the Cannonballs parachuting team was cancelled and Helicopter Flights at 20 DMs per head arranged instead. We presented a cheque to swell the funds. The Disco and Cabaret staged in the Sgts' Mess and attended by all ranks was a great success, especially the knife throwing with **Maj Roberts** volunteering to risk himself while they hung him upsidedown with legs outstretched and threw the knives between them. The act with the pythons had the ladies wriggling, and overcoming their fear, actually handle them.

Sunday brought another very wet outlook; nevertheless the Old Comrades went to Church at Salamanca Barracks. **The Rev Jim Cross** preached the sermon. A final Barbecue in the Sgts' mess, with all ranks and families, and we sadly took our leave of the Regiment at 1600 hours and thanked **Lt Col R. F. Baly, Maj D. G. W. Gardiner** and **WO1 (RSM) Stuart Gray-Cowan** and everyone present for a very happy and enjoyable weekend, in spite of the weather. We left early so as to have a closer look at the Mohne Dam and take some photographs, but the rain persisted and compelled us to go on our way to Ostend. We were hoping to make the midnight Ferry but alas found they could not accommodate us so had to walk around on a stuffy night until the early hours when we boarded the *Reine Astrid*. On arrival at Dover we encountered the dock strikers and because we were not allowed into port the Captain threatened to return to Ostend. After an hour and a half of going around in circles outside Dover harbour we berthed and headed for London, where a very tired party dispersed.

The following members attended: **Brig C. G. Moore, President, Maj D. J. Roberts, Treasurer, Mr E. E. Bayley, Secretary, Mr E. Leat, Committee, Mr H. B. Blackford and Mr H. Goldney, Mr J. Brady, Brig J. D. T. Brett, Capt K. Bunston, Mr F. Drake and Mr J. Hughes, Mr F. F. Dukes, Mr A. Elwick, Mr A. R. Mills, Mr A. Foot, Reading Branch, Col G. D. T. Harris, Mr S. G. Hounsell and Mr Ian Hounsell (Son), Capt A. Hughes, Maj T. Kelly, Malta Branch, Mr P. H. C. Munchin, Mr S. G. H. O'Dell, Mr A. W. Spratley, Mr G. J. Sweeney, Mr R. W. Thompson, Mr H. F. Timms, Maj A. B. Wheeler, Mr and Mrs J. Roy, USA.**



# BASKETBALL

**BAOR INTER CORPS BASKETBALL**
**Report by WO1 (SC) Dave Hornsby—Secretary**

The 3rd BAOR Inter-Corps Basketball Tournament was held at Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck over the period 23-25 May. The five major basketball playing Corps all took part in the tournament with the R Signals emerging as the winners with a very impressive 100% record.

**Final Table**

| | Played | Won | Lost | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R Signals | 4 | 4 | 0 | 281 | 212 | 8 |
| REME | 4 | 3 | 1 | 243 | 233 | 6 |
| RA | 4 | 2 | 2 | 261 | 235 | 4 |
| RE | 4 | 1 | 3 | 188 | 244 | 2 |
| RCT | 4 | 1 | 4 | 254 | 303 | 0 |

**RA V R SIGNALS**

As usual the RA fielded a very strong experienced team. The first half was an end-to-end affair with the Corps just holding the upper hand with a 41—36 lead. Eventually the power play of **Cpl 'Rab' Mulholland** (30 points) coupled with the fast breaking of **LCpl A. J. Matless** (23 points) took its toll. The Corps winning 74—66.

**R SIGNALS V RE**

This was played only three hours after the hard game against RA. However with good all round team work, every member of the squad played, the Corps ran out 66—36 winners.

**RCT V R SIGNALS**

On day two of the tournament the opposition, RCT, were looking very confident having held the favourites REME to a close tight game. before eventually going down 75—71 in the second period of extra time. As expected the first half was extremely close with neither side giving an inch, the Corps held a one basket 32—30 lead at half time. In the second half the superior fitness of the Corps began to tell on the opposition with our continuous fast breaking eventually cracking the RCT defence and the good final result of 83—61. **Sig Jim Peat** had an excellent game scoring 30 points.

**R SIGNALS V REME**

And so to the final day of the tournament and the organisers must be complimented on some good crystal ball gazing by producing a final game between the two, so far, unbeaten teams. The first half was a very tight tactical battle with REME snatching a half time lead 27—25. **Capt Paul Roach**, a Combined Services player, was proving to be a thorn in our side. However by a good change of tactics in the second half he found our double-teaming too much and we eventually took control of the game to win 58—49 and so stopping the REME from taking the cup for the third year in succession.

**PLAYERS USED**

| | |
|---|---|
| **WO1 Dave Hornsby** | ) |
| **Cpl 'Rab' Mulholland** | ) |
| **LCpl 'Taff' Chiplin** | ) **All 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Ret** |
| **LCpl Richard Matless** | ) |
| **Sig Jim Peat** | ) |
| **WO2 Pete Sutherland** | **—1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt** |
| **Sgt Colin Elstob** | ) |
| **LCpl 'Stu' Fell** | ) **22 Sig Regt** |
| **LCpl 'Bagsy' Bain** | **—3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt** |

**SUMMARY**

An excellent tournament with some high quality basketball being played. Individually **Cpl 'Rab' Mulholland** and **Sig 'Stu' Fell** represented the Army and BAOR, **Sig Jim Peat** played for BAOR and the **Matless twins** and **LCpl 'Bagsy' Bain** represented the Army under 21s with **LCpl A. J. Matless** also playing for BAOR. With that sort of pedigree, and six of the team being under 23, the future of R Signals Corps Basketball looks in safe hands. A special word of thanks to **Maj Alan Soulsby RPC** who volunteered his services as coach and produced a well disciplined and very fit side.



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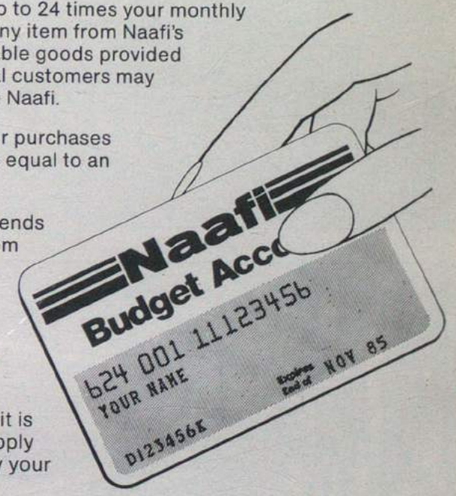


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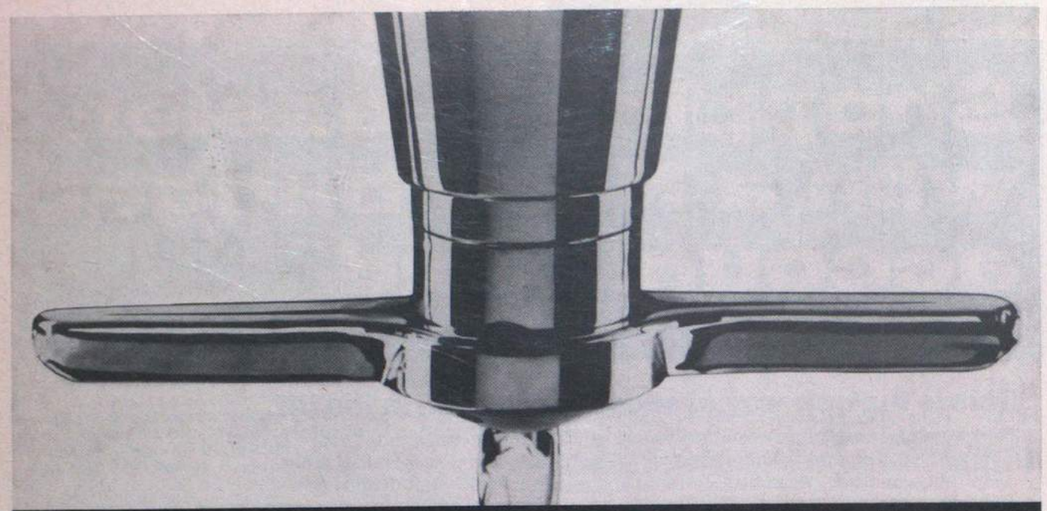

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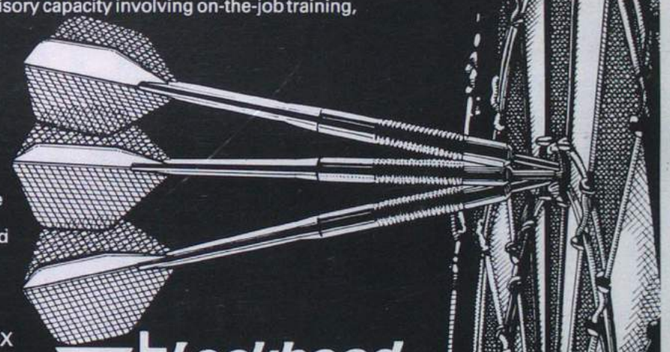

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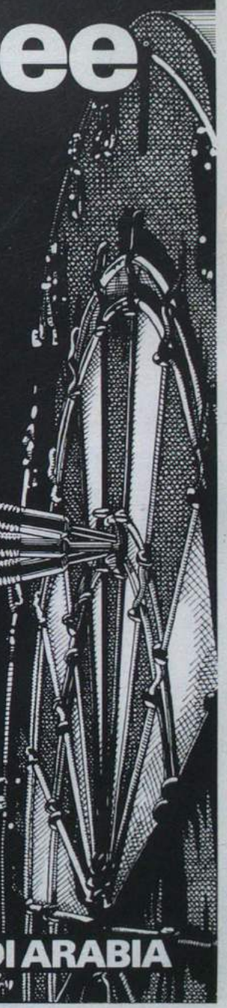

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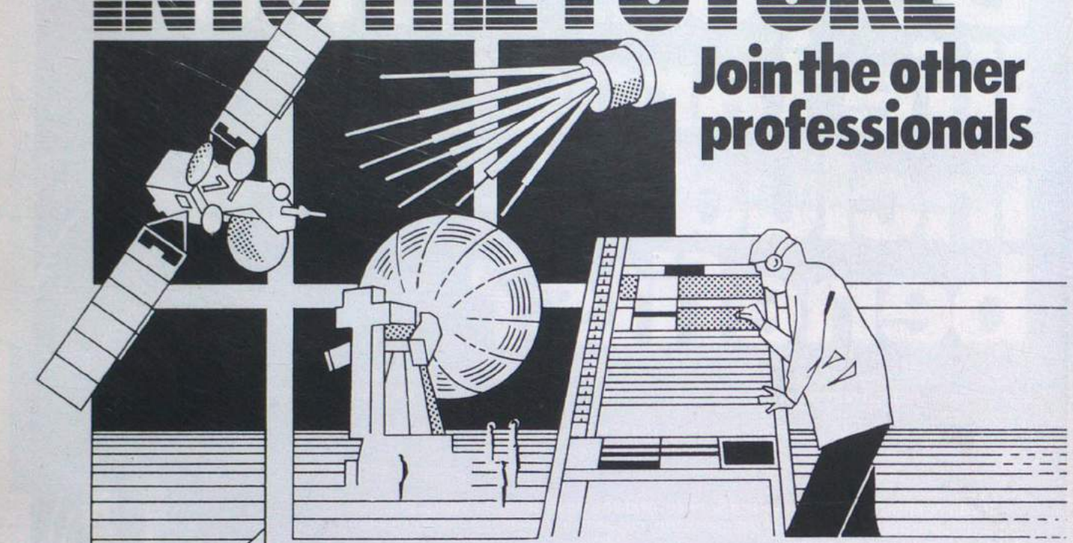

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November 1984


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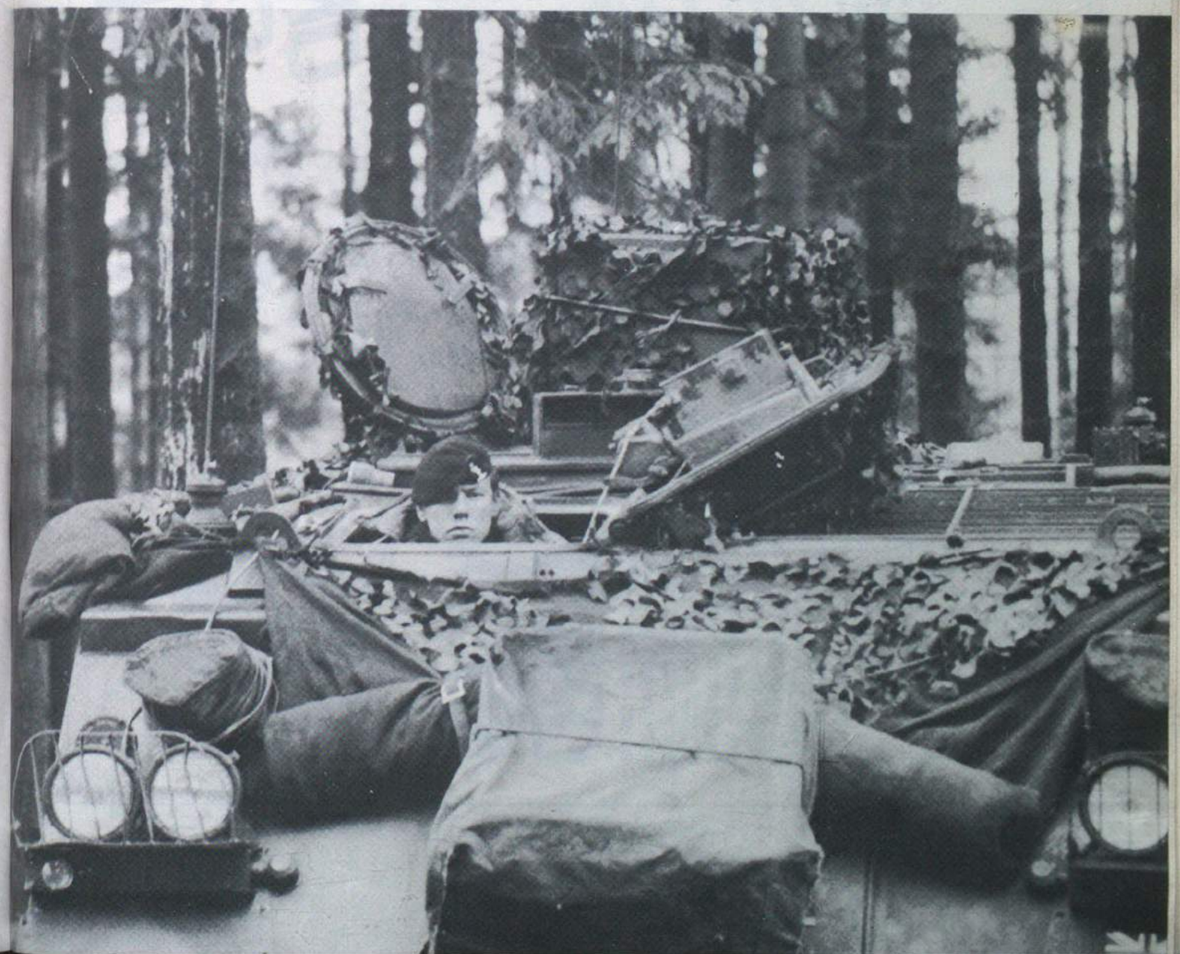

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THE Government believes in the... equipped defence forces... against aggression, said... State for Defence, Mr... he opened the... Exhibition in...

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...coupon from ...n Vernons Pools.

Naafi man honoured

THE managing director of the Naafi, Mr Brian Whitaker, has been appointed a CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours List.

IF you were at the show you must have seen the Echo Bug — now we want you to name it. The Echo will present a bicycle to the person who sends in the most humorous or most inventive name. The competition is open to all readers on the continent of Europe aged 16 or below.

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The closing date for entries is July 9th.

Mail-a-Bug!

IF you were at the Rhine Army Summer Show then you will know how popular the Echo Bug man was giving out all the coloured Echo Bugs. If you were unlucky then don't despair. We have ordered a new batch and they should be with us soon. Look out for next week's Mail-a-Bug coupon and we will send you one free!

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# THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
**November 1984 (New Series) vol. 38 No: 6**
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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## EDITORIAL

### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

On reflection 1984 will have been seen to be a year of some apprehension, considerable achievement and has certainly provided plenty of opportunity for nostalgia. 40 years ago, the Corps was larger than ever before or has been since. It played a vital part in the War in Europe and, lest we forget, in the Far East too. Many of those who served then are our most active Association members today. Changes in the MOD hierarchy threatened to change our way of Regimental life but wiser counsel prevails. And achievements can be readily discerned with the introduction of Ptarmigan and the dedicated support of our TA units in Ex *Lionheart*.

Christmas is a time for family festivity. All those who serve now or previously in the family of our Corps can enjoy their Christmas in the knowledge that their efforts could not have been better. My wife and I were so privileged and grateful to share some of it with you and we wish all serving and past members of the Corps and their families, every happiness for Christmas and the Year ahead.

### . . . AND THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

I welcome this opportunity to send you and your families sincere Christmas greetings from my wife and myself. I have now visited most of the Corps, both Regular and Territorial Army, and am impressed, as always, by the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication shown by all ranks. I am also, as I said in my first Christmas message, heartened by the strong family spirit we have in our large Corps. We live in exciting times for our responsibilities make us part of the extraordinary telecommunications development which is sweeping our country and the world. Nonetheless it is important that we properly balance the demands of our job with enjoyment of life and the responsibilities we all have to our families and friends. There is no better time than Christmas to do this when traditionally families have come together to celebrate the Festive Season; and whilst enjoying ourselves we should not forget those members of our Corps who, like many others in previous years, are separated from their families and friends this Christmas. My best wishes to you all for 1985.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Exercise *Spearpoint/Lionheart* features prominently in this issue and the scale of these autumn exercises has received the widest publicity. Our cover picture was taken in the setting known so well by the Corps present and past in Germany and covers 7 Brigade Tac in the field.

# THE PRINCE PHILIP APPEAL FOR COMMONWEALTH VETERANS

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*Director:*
Brigadier R C MIDDLETON, OBE

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48 PALL MALL
LONDON, SW1Y 5JG

NOTICE

May I please draw your attention to The Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, a once-off campaign due to be launched publicly early in 1985?

The Appeal is being sponsored by The British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, which, since its formation in 1921 by Field Marshal The Earl Haig with nine member organisations, has maintained its aim of ensuring that "no ex-serviceman of the Crown, ex-servicewoman, widow or dependant would ever be without help if in need".

The League's membership has now increased to fifty-three, spread throughout the countries of the Commonwealth and old Empire. It has given aid both to ex-service organisations and to individuals in need from the millions of servicemen from Commonwealth countries who joined with Great Britain and fought beside her in Europe, Africa, and the Middle and Far East.

Whilst the League still has many veterans from the First World War in its care, the number of Commonwealth ex-servicemen from the Second World War, widows and dependants now reaching their sixties, seventies and eighties and no longer able to fend for themselves is increasing dramatically. Many countries of the Commonwealth to-day have insufficient resources to provide for the needs of these Veterans and must rely exclusively on the support stemming from the League's Headquarters.

The League is no longer able to meet this support from within its own resources which have provided the money for both administration and benevolence. For the first time in its history, the League is compelled to seek outside financial support in order to honour its commitments.

At this stage only assistance in gaining publicity for the Appeal and offers of personal help are sought and would be greatly appreciated. If any further information about the Appeal is required, please do not hesitate to contact the Appeal Director.

R. C. Middleton

Brigadier R. C. Middleton
APPEAL DIRECTOR

7 August, 1984

Sponsored by The British Commonwealth Ex-Services League. UK Charities Registration No. 231322



## – From our "In" Tray –

### NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during October, for service in Northern Ireland.

**Bar to Queen's Gallantry Medal**
**Sgt S. A. Clarke QGM**

**Mention in Despatches**
**WO1 G. T. Nelson**
**Cpl (ASgt) A. A. Gay**

### ROYAL SIGNALS ADVANCED MOTORISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

**From: SSgt D. W. Sparkes**

Dear Sir,

The following extract is taken from the BBC Television series 'Man Alive', 'The Biggest Epidemic Of Our Times'. **'Even in Northern Ireland where twice as many people have died in traffic accidents as in the troubles, who do you know who's scared of going there in case they are in a road crash?!'**

Bearing in mind this fact 233 Signal Squadron started their own IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) training scheme during November 1982. Since this date 28 members and ex-members of the unit have passed the Advanced Driving Test and become members of the IAM each having had a maximum of 10 hours 'on road' training from the MT SSgt.

For the Security forces, driving in NI means additional pressures, therefore it is only sensible that we should encourage our members to be 'better than average' to deal with various situations. Normally, everybody thinks of themselves as 'Good, Safe, Drivers'.

Yours faithfully,
**SSgt D. W. Sparkes (MT)**
233 Signal Squadron (NI)
British Forces Post Office 801

*L-R:* Sig Perry Hoskins, Cpl Bob Quinn, Sig Dave Lyon, SSgts Dave Sparkes, John Setchfield, Lt Val Grimmett, LCpl Dave Harkness, Cpls Andy Norris and Andy Sangster

### YEOMAN WARDERS IN THE TOWER

*L-R:* Chief Warder W. Russell, Yeoman Gaoler A. Copestake

The offices of Chief Yeoman Warder and Yeoman Gaoler of Her Majesty's Tower of London are currently held by ex Corps warrant officers. **Alan Copestake** (ex WO2 (SSM), 1946-1968) was appointed Yeoman Gaoler in August.

### 7th ARMOURED DIVISION OFFICERS' CLUB

The President, **Maj Gen G. P. B. Roberts**, has chosen Wednesday, 5 December, for this year's Annual Dinner at the Naval & Military Club, Piccadilly.

We now muster 220 members. Any officers who have served in the Division, whether during or after World War 2, are both eligible and welcome to join.

Arrangements are co-ordinated by a Steering Committee consisting of the President, **Maj Gen John Cowley** (RAPC) (Hon Treasurer), **Maj Gen Geoffrey Armitage** (RHA/Royals), **Maj Gen Roy Dixon** (RTR), **Brig Eric Darlow** (RASC) and **Maj Christopher Milner** (RB) (Hon Sec), to whom enquires may be addressed at:

3 Mill Lane,
Radford,
Inkberrow,
Worcester WR7 4LP
Tel: (0386) 792262

## WERE YOU THERE?

**From: K. P. Lloyd Esq**

Dear Sir,

I wonder if we can enlist your help? For the last year or so we have been trying to trace ex-members of 'J' Section, 61st Divisional Signals who served in that section between 1939 and 1944. We have had considerable success in that we have found 38 of the original 50-55 and have held two very successful re-unions of these members. However, we feel that, as this was a Midland TA unit, there could well be some others still living in the area.

If you could bring this letter to the attention of any of your members whom you think may be interested we should be most grateful and they can get in touch with me either at the address below or at either of the telephone numbers below. We should also be interested in hearing from members of other sections of the 61st Divisional Signals.

Yours faithfully,
**K. P. Lloyd (ex-Corporal)**

133 Yoxall Road,
Shirley,
Solihull B90 3RW
Tel: 021 744 4035 (home)
Tel: 021 745 8122 (business)

## ZACCONI THEATRE — CATTOLICA

**From: Harry Foster Esq**

Dear Sir,

At the close of the Italian Campaign, 2AGRA Headquarters was stationed at Cattolica (Forli) with the constituent Regiments at various places round about. Thousands of troops had to be entertained while their fate was decided; Regiments were broken up and personnel transferred elsewhere.

The centre of entertainment, at this time, was the Zacconi Theatre in Cattolica of which I was House Manager (also of two cinemas in the town) and which presented, among many other forms of entertainment, the unforgettable (to those fortunate enough to see it) 2AGRA (Ali Baba) Show. I am preparing an article of reminiscences of this Theatre for possible publication and for the Library and Archive of Cattolica who are intensely interested in the story of the stay of 2AGRA and associated units in the town.

I should be glad of any pictures taken during that time in and around Cattolica, with captions please, and, if possible, factual information from those who know them (I don't) as to the disposition of the various Units at that time of 'suspended animation'. Pictures will be copied and returned to their owners if so requested.

I am hoping to involve the Royal British Legion in this international gesture of goodwill.

I'd be particularly interested to hear from any of my old pals of 2AGRA HQ Royal Signals Detachment, later 13th Infantry Brigade, Land Forces, Greece.

Yours faithfully,
**Harry Foster**

38 Greenfield Road,
Little Sutton,
South Wirral L66 1QR
Tel: 051-339 2023

## A RETIRED OFFICER APPOINTMENT AT RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS

There will be a vacancy for a Retired Officer at RHQ Royal Signals in Central London in June/July 1985. It will be a new post, taking over some of the present duties of the General Secretary Association and the Secretary Institution.

Candidates should be Royal Signals Officers, serving or recently retired of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel or above.

Enquiries to **Colonel J. A. D. Francis**, Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

## JULIET TROOP, 22 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Juliet Troop, 4 Squadron, 22 Signal Regiment reunion will be held in the Aldershot area sometime in March 1985. Anyone who served with 4 Squadron during the years 1976-1983 is invited to attend. 27 ex members have applied, so far. If you would like to be present please contact: **Lt P. J. D. Moloney**, 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Montgomery Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire.

## PARTY FUNSHORE

**From: Miss B. E. J. Spiers**

Dear Sir,

We are trying to research the history of 'Party Funshore' at the moment, and finding the records of this organisation sadly lacking. We wonder, therefore, whether any of your readers could help us.

'Party Funshore' was formed while Operation Overlord was being planned, to handle communications during the Normandy Campaign and the subsequent operations in North-West Europe. It consisted of approximately 1,800 RN and 800 RM personnel, under the command of **Maj P. F. Knight RM.**

We would be most grateful if any of your readers could provide us with the names of the various units of which 'Party Funshore' was composed, and their itineraries; for it appears that they were highly mobile and played a most important role in the campaign in North-West Europe of 1944-45.

Yours faithfully,
**Miss B. E. J. Spiers**
**for Director**

Royal Marines Museum,
Royal Marines Eastney,
Southsea,
Hants PO4 9PX

## TITLE REGAINED AND REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

8th Signal Regiment regained the Army Six-a-Side football title they last held two years ago when they beat the reigning champions, Training Regiments Royal Engineers, in the final tie at Aldershot on 17 October 1984. **Cpl W. 'Billy' Freear,**, their Army 'utility' player, scored a fine hat-trick in their 3—2 win over the defending Sappers.

**Cpl A. 'Sandy' Brown**, 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, who is currently the Army Captain, played in all three of the Combined Services matches during their early October tour of West Berlin. The Combined Services drew with the West Berlin Police (1—1) before beating Combined Services Berlin (2—0) and Hertha BSC Amateur XI (4—0).

There were four members of the Corps in the Army XI which played the Metropolitan Police, at Imber Court, on 22 October. **Cpl R. 'Bob' Hamilton** played in goal, **Cpl A. 'Sandy' Brown** (8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) Captained the side. **Cpl A. 'Andy' Edwards** (10 Sig Regt) played in mid-field with **Cpl W. E. 'Billy' Freear** (8 Sig Regt) in the attack.

The Army beat the Metropolitan Police by three goals to one. **Cpl Freear** scored twice (once in each half).



# THE ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

### Report by 8th Signal Regiment

**LESS WELL KNOWN**

Among the perhaps less well known off-duty Corps activities is the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. Since its formation it has attracted nearly 2,100 members many of whom are still active, and holds a high place in the larger groups supporting the hobby of Amateur Radio. These include organisations in RN and RAF and most are affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain, which is the national body looking after the interests of radio amateurs and maintains essential links with the licensing authority and world-wide communication conferences. It is hoped that this article will tell you something about ourselves and will attract further interest—in particular from serving members of the Corps.

**HISTORY**

In 1952 the writer, **Maj Dennis Haylock** (G3ADZ)—now long since retired, was appointed OC of the Army Wireless Reserve Squadron (SR) with a mandate to recruit personnel mainly from radio amateurs. In 1954 the first proposal was made to form an Army Amateur Radio Society having both amateur status and, as with the United States Military Affiliate Radio System, official recognition as an emergency military network. Thanks largely to the help of our Vice-President, **Maj Gen E. S. Cole**, himself a radio amateur (G2EC), and at that time CSO Southern Command, the proposal was very favourably received. Unfortunately, due to his posting overseas, these plans did not gain final official approval.

Nothing daunted, a purely amateur society was formed in 1954—the Army Wireless Reserve Amateur Radio Society, extending membership to a number of Army Personnel who were not members of the Squadron. By that time the Post Office had issued the Society with a special callsign, GB3AWR which was used for various events, and when the Squadron went to Suez in 1965 to provide Press Communications, our FofS, **John Houghton** 'found' enough bits to build a transmitter for the amateur bands, and we were able to come on the air from that part of the world. (Note for our older readers—it is simply not true that we used a spare SWB8 on 14 MHz, although we do admit to the restoration of long defunct keying circuits to back up a somewhat erratic radio teletype system!).

A general view of the HQ station located in the NW corner of Vimy Barracks. The main rotatable aerials are to the right and allow worldwide operation

The Headquarters station HF operating position with Sgt Paul Walker at the controls. SSB, CW and RTTY is available using the call signs G4RS and G3CIO

By 1959 the Squadron had been renamed 404 Signal Squadron AER, and the following year, because of growing interest within Regular, TA and AER Units, many of whom had their own amateur radio clubs, **Gen Cole**, then Director of Telecommunications, arranged for a survey within the Corps, the result of which indicated sufficient support for the formation of a Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. Our present Society came into being on 23 June, 1961 whilst 404 Squadron was at camp at Blandford; the decision being taken at a meeting attended by War Office, Command and Unit representatives. The first edition of our magazine, 'Mercury' was published in August 1961, and copies, together with the Rules, were sent to all Army Command HQ and Royal Signals Units world-wide.

HQ RSARS was established at Catterick Camp and the Catterick Club which had been in existence since 1947 provided the HQ station operating under the club callsign G3CIO. At the 1966 AGM, when Royal Signals membership had reached nearly 400, it was decided to introduce an Associate Membership Class and to extend membership to all serving and retired personnel of the Active and Reserve Army.

8th Signal Regiment have always been generous in making available accommodation and providing other help, and with initial valuable assistance from certain radio manufacturers, the present HQ station, G4RS, was built to give amateur radio service on HF and VHF. By 1974 the 1,000th membership number had been issued, and in the years to date the Society has been involved in provision of communications for many overseas expeditions, and in publicity for recruiting and display teams and other social events and exhibitions.

**THE PRESENT**

The obvious question is what we are now doing in 1984 and beyond. The main objective of the Society is to promote and foster all aspects of Amateur Radio within the Corps and amongst Society members in order to encourage recruiting of radio trades to the Regular and Reserve Army, to assist and advise on the formation and running of Unit Amateur Radio Clubs, and to give all possible assistance towards passing the necessary examinations to qualify for the Amateur Radio Transmitting Licence. A training module on 'Electronics as a Hobby' exists at 8th Signal Regiment, and information and advice is readily available upon request. We have several affiliated clubs in UK, Germany and elsewhere. Regular nets are maintained on the amateur bands, in course of which we are able to keep in constant touch with members both at home and overseas, exchange news and information, provide individual help when needed and to practise the art of good and efficient radio communication in all the available modes, including SSB, CW, RTTY and the current trend towards computer assisted methods of transmission and reception. Morse practice transmissions are radiated by G4RS each Tuesday and Thursday evenings for those interested.

Any hobby needs a spirit of competition to keep it live, and to this end 'on the air' contests are held, with various awards and certificates issued to those who qualify through their own personal endeavours. Many individual members also belong to another national organisation 'RAYNET' which provides emergency communications in times of need, to assist the Police, Red Cross and other Civil Authorities.

We have a large and active membership in Australia and currently other active member stations in parts of Europe, in Canada, USA, New Zealand, Cyprus and the Far East. We are waiting for some lucky serving amateur to be posted to the Falklands to enable us to take on the challenge of keeping good communications direct with UK, under what some people will appreciate are poor conditions on the HF amateur bands during the next few years. Members have recently assisted with a number of Special Event Stations, including the 'D Day' anniversary station GB4DD in course of which messages were exchanged with HM the Queen, and GB0GMT commemorating the establishment of Greenwich Mean Time. Last year, one of our members made a duty visit to Ascension Island and activated an amateur station ZD8RS, giving others the chance of working a rare location.

The Society is mainly run through an elected Council on an entirely voluntary basis, with officers appointed to various jobs—Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Station Manager, Contests and Awards Manager, and the Editor of our magazine 'Mercury'.

We hold an AGM at Catterick in June, and this very well attended and popular event is timed to coincide with the Corps Reunion Weekend. It is possible that some future AGMs may be at School of Signals, Blandford, the home of our present General Secretary.

**THE FUTURE**

Our top priority is to recruit many more serving young people (Old Sweats and those retired from the Corps still being very welcome), so why not write without delay to our Membership Secretary, **Mr Tony Tabberer**, G3WRY, 86 Kilby Road, Fleckney, Leicester, LE8 0BN. If you hold an amateur licence, call into the SSB net on 3720 KHz on Tuesday evenings, or the CW net on Wednesday evenings on 3565 KHz. We are in a computer age, and some of you may not realise that a broad-based hobby such as amateur radio covers not only operating and construction, but is well into the fields of computer and computer controlled radio equipment, satellite tracking operations and amateur television. During the next few years our HQ station will continue to re-equip to cope with these new aspects and there is already considerable authorised expenditure towards updating our technical facilities.

Perhaps a final few words to explode a myth. UK now have Citizen Band Radio. Whilst this has a place in modern society it has nothing whatsoever to do with amateur radio—not that most radio amateurs are opposed to its proper and legal use. It should be understood that Amateur Radio, in content, available range of interest and reward for effort goes far beyond anything that CB can offer, although the latter is providing a recruiting ground to some extent for those who wish to qualify by examination for an amateur licence. Nevertheless you do not immediatly have to take a transmitting licence to become an active members of RSARS. Many are content, at least for a number of years, to become serious 'Short Wave Listeners' on the amateur bands, and in that way to both learn and enjoy. Such members can still interest themselves in technical and practical aspects of the hobby, and make many new friends.

Royal Signals exists to communicate so you are invited to share your skills and knowledge through our Society and to accept the help that we can offer to newcomers.

**FOOTNOTE**

Did you know?

1. It is possible to establish two-way amateur TV signals between UK and Australia?
2. Amateur equipment need not be expensive. Many maintain good communication on CW throughout Europe and sometimes further afield with a transmitter power of a few hundred milliwatts.
3. Amateur Radio communication was kept going with the UK throughout the Falkland Islands campaign.
4. Radio Amateurs have designed, built, and maintain with the help of our National Society, a chain of VHF and UHF repeater stations making mobile to mobile contacts well beyond normal ground wave range. (CB will give you five miles from your car or home—amateur radio will give you 15 to 20 or 100 miles plus through one of these repeater stations).
5. Amateur Radio beacons in many parts of the world give a simple and instant indication of radio propagation conditions on HF.


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# EXERCISE *SNOW TIGER*

**Report by Lt E. M. Flint**

**THE HIMALAYAS**

Ex *Snow Tiger* was an adventurous training expedition to the Nepalese Himalayas which took place between 20 April and 25 May. Ten men took part, drawn from 244 Sig Sqn and 3rd Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The name *Snow Tiger* was chosen as it is the nickname used by early climbers to describe their hardy mountain porters.

The aims of the expedition were:

- To visit the memorial plaque at Nuptse Base Camp (17,060ft).
- To climb Kala Pattar (18,720ft).
- To trek to Mount Everest Base Camp (17,800ft).
- To return safely to the United Kingdom!

The team members were, **Lt Ted Flint, Cpl 'Hermann' Dodds, LCpl 'Taff' Connor, Sig 'Paddy' Ward**, and **'Widdy' Widdicombe** from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and **Lt Hugh Mullan, Cpls Jed Crowley, Dave Almond, LCpl Mick Fowler**, and **Sig Tom Boyd** from 244 Sig Sqn.

We set out for Kathmandu on 20 April, slightly bleary eyed after celebrating our last night in England. The Bangladesh Biman Airlines flight took us to Dakhar in Bangladesh, via Amsterdam, Athens and Bombay, and then on to Kathmandu.

**THE STING**

**Cpl 'Hermann' Dodds** spent the trip emptying miniature bottles of spirits, rinsing them and filling them with air, as souvenirs. **Sig Tom Boyd**, having been briefed on the importance of haggling when in Asia, bought several postcards for at least £1 each! However **Lt Ted Flint** fared no better; after delivering the brief about haggling, he demonstrated his skill at Kathmandu Airport by securing the services of a taxi for 40 Rupees. It was then pointed out to him that everybody else was being offered taxis for half that price. So much for haggling! The expensive taxis took the team to our base in Kathmandu, the Kathmandu Guest House. This was a pleasant hotel with clean double rooms, a restaurant and a garden.

**FINAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The next two days were spent in making final local arrangements, engaging porters, and booking transport. Members of the team who were not involved in this spent their time shopping and exploring the narrow, crowded streets of Kathmandu. The city is a fascinating place, packed with temples, wooden houses with layers of balconies, markets and shops. Here you can buy anything from an incense stick to a carpet. At night it was like something out of the Arabian Nights.

Finally, on the morning of 22 April, we set out in a rickety bus with our porters, rations and equipment, on the road heading east. The drive took us out of the fertile Kathmandu valley into the foothills of the high Himalayas. Rounding a corner or cresting a rise would give us views of immense narrow sided valleys, acres of terraced cultivation clinging to steep slopes, and glimpses of distant snow-covered peaks. After a long, hot, and uncomfortable drive we arrived at the end of our road: Namdo; a tiny village where we camped in the local schoolyard and ate the first of many compo meals.

**THE TREK**

| | |
|---|---|
| Day 1 | Namdo (5,500ft) |
| Day 2 | Namdo to Yarsi (6,800ft) |
| Day 3 | Yarsi to Jiri (7,700ft) |
| Day 4 | Rest day at Jiri |
| Day 5 | Jiri to Bhandar (7,200ft) |
| Day 6 | Bhandar to Sete (8,450ft) |
| Day 7 | Sete to Junbesi (8,800ft) via Lamjura Pass (11,800ft) |
| Day 8 | Rest day at Junbesi |
| Day 9 | Junbesi to Nuntale (7,600ft) via Takshindo Pass (9,800ft) |
| Day 10 | Nuntale to Khari Khola (6,800ft) |
| Day 11 | Khari Khola to Surkye (7,700ft) |
| Day 12 | Surkye to Phakdingma (8,520ft) |
| Day 13 | Phakdingma to Namche Bazar (11,300ft) |
| Day 14 | Acclimatisation Day |
| Day 15 | Namche Bazar to Thyangboche (12,400ft) |
| Day 16 | Thyangboche to Pheriche (13,600ft) |
| Day 17 | Pheriche to Nuptse Base Camp (17,600ft) and back |
| Day 18 | Pheriche to Lobuche (15,400ft) |
| Day 19 | Lobuche to Gorak Shep (16,500ft) and up Kala Pattar (18,720ft) |
| Day 20 | Gorak Shep to Everest Base Camp (17,800ft) to Pheriche |
| Day 21 | Pheriche to Thyangboche |
| Day 22 | Thyangboche to Namche Bazar |
| Day 23 | Namche Bazar to Phakdingma |
| Day 24 | Phakdingma to Lukla Airstrip (9,100ft) |
| Day 25 | Lukla Airstrip to Kathmandu by light plane. |

**DAILY ROUTINE**

Every morning, shortly after dawn, **Lt Hugh Mullan** would wake up and go to work on the task of awakening the rest of the team. **Lt Ted Flint** and **Sig 'Widdy' Widdicombe** were usually the last to leave the comfort of their sleeping bags. **Palden Chosang of Khumde**, our Sherpa, would then appear to help us light our two kerosene stoves and the duty cooks prepared a light breakfast of tea or coffee and sweets or oatmeal blocks. Shortly afterwards our porters would shoulder their huge loads, we would pick up our packs and set off down the trail.

After several hours of walking came one of the highlights of the day: the breakfast stop. **Palden** would chose a nice spot to stop, by a river or a tea house, and here we would stay for about two hours. The cooks usually prepared sausages, beans, luncheon meat and a pudding as well as gallons of hot brew. The rest of the team spent their time eating, resting, writing letters or repairing their feet.

The afternoon's march was of similar distance and time to the morning's march. The team walked in pairs or small groups, each at its own pace. Some preferred to blaze the trail at high speed, **LCpl Mick Fowler** and **Sig 'Paddy' Ward** almost running in their eagerness to cover the ground. Others took it slower and stopped frequently to enjoy the fantastic scenery or the hot sunshine. Prominent at the back were the 'four Jacks': **Cpl Crowley, Cpl Dodds, Sig Boyd** and **Widdicombe**. The occasional tea houses on the route were sure to be filled with *Snow Tigers* drinking milk or lemon tea and eating biscuits.

At any time between 1400 hrs and 1800 hrs we would reach the day's objective; this was usually a tea house or perhaps a local school. Here, for a ridiculously low price, we would stay the night.

Evening meals were goulash or stewed steak, unless we were using one of the four Arctic ration packs, in which case we would feast on stewed mutton. The meals were often spiced up with curry powder or served with cooked rice or noodles, provided by our hosts.

After dinner there remained little to do except go to bed with a book and a candle. Our sleep was often disturbed by barking dogs, crying children, or snoring hens (ask **Lt Hugh Mullan**—he is convinced that hens snore!)

Sherpa and porters loading the Yaks at Thyangboche monastery.

**NUPTSE BASE CAMP**

Our first aim was to visit the memorial plaque at Nuptse Base Camp. This commemorates the deaths of four soldiers who fell from Nuptse while training for the 1976 Everest Expedition. Our trip to Nuptse also allowed the team to acclimatise before pushing on to Everest Base Camp.

We awoke in Pheriche after a cold night with sporadic snowfalls outside, after a ramshackle yak dung stove had struggled to keep us warm inside the hut. Allowing the slowest walkers to set the pace, we set off up the valley of the Imja Khola, branching north east of our route to Everest. After climbing a steep ridge and then passing the summer yak pastures of Dingboche we found ourselves in a bleak, wide valley, surrounded on all sides by mountains exceeding 20,000ft. The last sign of human occupation was a walled enclosure at Bibre (15,000ft). Here we stopped to eat our chicken paste and AB biscuits before climbing up the north side of the valley.

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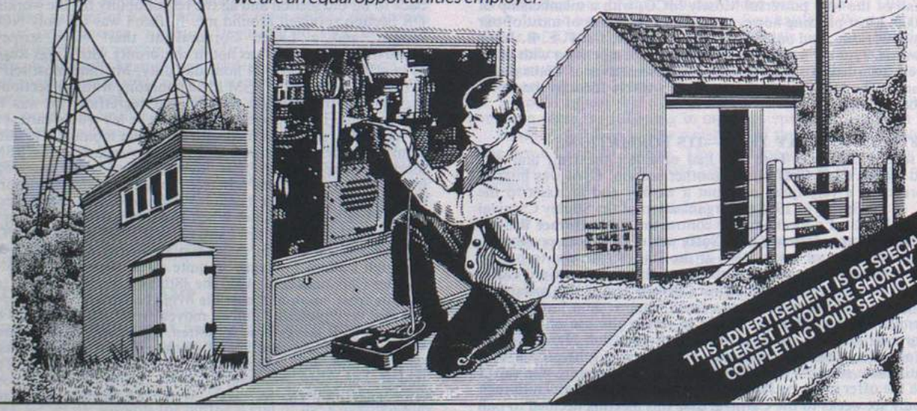

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IF YOU ARE SHORTLY COMPLETING YOUR SERVICE.






**RAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On 16 July **Sgts Mick Thurman, Steve Whittick** and **Cpl Nick Norwood** boarded an LSL from Marchwood Port en-route for the Rhine Army Parachute Championships at Bad Lippspringe. On arrival (two days later!) they met up with the rest of the team, **WPte Chris Clements** (our tame TA Instructor) and **Cpl Phil Raven** (from 13 Sig Regt). After the briefest of training sessions the team launched into the RAPA Championships ready to take on all-comers. The weather was not as good as UK and so the parachuting programme had to be interrupted with long periods of 'pilsner familiarisation', a free-faller's back up activity. Despite this, it competed in the team accuracy and four way sequential relative work events with **WPte Clements** entering the Style, and **Cpl Raven** the individual intermediate accuracy. After a gruelling and close fought competition the team won the 'Daily Telegraph Cup' for the best overall visiting Services Team, our first Trophy for many a year. **Cpl Norwood** was awarded the Silver Medal for the visiting Services accuracy with **Sgt Thurman** close on his heels with the Bronze Medal. Up-and-coming in the BAOR intermediate accuracy **Cpl Raven** was placed fifth. **WPte Clements** maintained her normal high standards, coming third in The Women's Style event. It was the first time for several years that the Blue Helmets have been represented in the RAPA Competition and we intend building on our success next year!

**EXERCISE *BLUE STREAK***

Immediately after the RAPA Championships **Sgt Thurman** had to return to the UK for the weekend to jump into his sister's wedding. The display went well but his visit was short lived as he had to meet up with **Capt Peter Day** and return to Bad Lippspringe for Ex *Blue Streak*, the team's annual training camp. Unfortunately **Cpl Raven** had to return to 13 Sig Regt, **Cpl Norwood** back to JSPC Netheravon, and **WPte Clements** went off to UK to train for the forthcoming National Championships. However **Cpl Shirley Woodard** (71 (V) Sig Regt) came out to make up the foursome and **Lts Malcolm Coupar** (22 Sig Regt) and **Richard Quinlan** (6 AM Bde) also joined us on the course. Again we were plagued by bad weather but nonetheless progression was rapid. The team completed 153 descents during the two weeks 'camp' with **Cpl Woodard** gaining her BPA Category 9 and **Capt Day** his Category 10.

**Lts Coupar** and **Quinlan** also managed to gain their 'Cat 10's', thus forming a good nucleus for next year's BAOR team. **Capt Day** completed his 200th jump on the Camp, marked by forming a nine-man formation over Lippspringe with **Sgts Thurman** and **Whittick**, assisted by six members of the Red Devils. The entire episode was video recorded by **Kevin McIllwe**—including being thrown into the Duck Pond afterwards! The training camp was a great success and enjoyed by all, though it was a pity that the competition team was not able to form up for the Camp. However it was good to see so many Corps personnel on the course.

**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Keeping up the pressure on the team during the Summer months, the Army Championships started a few days after the end of Ex *Blue Streak*. At the last moment **WO1 (YofS) George Devine** was unable to attend the Championships, so **Capt Day** stepped in, wishing he had done more jumps at Lippspringe. The Corps team for the Army Championships therefore consisted of **Sgt Thurman** (Captain), **Capt Day, Sgt Whittick** and **Cpl Norwood** and formed up at Netheravon for a day's training, prior to the Championships, which started on 21 August. Due to the lack of training together (and lack of experience on **Capt Day**'s part!) the team did not fare too well in the Relative Work event, coming 12th out of 17 teams. However a high standard was maintained in the team and individual accuracy with **Capt Day** coming 8th and **Cpl Woodward** 9th in the intermediate accuracy. By the end of the Relative Work event the team was certainly working together even to the extent of **Capt Day** and **Sgt Thurman** pulling their reserves on the same jump and disappearing off the DZ together because of the high winds! While all this was going on **WPte Chris Clements** was competing in the British National Championships. After a very credible performance she was selected to represent GB in France at The Parachuting World Cup.

**THE SEASON CLOSES . . .**

On completion of the Army Championships, the Blue Helmets made their last public appearance of the year at Weymouth, in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign. Being **Capt Day**'s home town the papers made a big thing out of it and the event attracted record crowds. It was a marvellous afternoon and at the end the team was presented with T-Shirts by a local garage and a bottle of vintage beer from the local brewery. The ground crew, led by **Sgt Key** our jovial commentator, with **LCpl Williams** and **Cpl Pasley** (our tame Aussie on Ex *Long Look*) also managed to pull the birds and graciously accept the free beer!

One of the new corps parachutes (safely attached to Sgt Steve Whittick)

Capt Peter Day joins Sgt Mick Thurman and Cpl Nick Norwood on the Cross at the Weymouth Display

The last display was due to have been in Portsmouth on the 22 September but this was cancelled due to high winds—our only cancellation of the year. The most recent event has been **Sgt Mick Thurman**'s participation in the National Canopy Relative Work (CRW) Championships as a member of the army team. CRW is the most dangerous and most spectacular aspect of Sport Parachuting and is a great crowd-puller as a consequence. The Army team came second to the Royal Marines and have since gone on to represent the British Army in the World CRW Championships in Australia during October.

In all a busy summer season and although activities have now slowed there is still plenty to keep us busy.

# — Movements —

## Officers

OCTOBER 1984

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| Lt M. D. W. Alexander | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Maj (TOT) C. N. Armitage | HQ 2 ATAF |
| Lt J. C. R. Bertram | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Lt Col J. G. Billingham | HQ AFNORTH (BAE) |
| Lt N. J. Borrill | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Capt R. I. Buckley | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| 2Lt A. H. Campbell Black | RMCS Shrivenham |
| 2Lt L. B. Campbell Black | Oxford University OTC |
| Lt Col M. K. Carson | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| 2Lt R. N. Cary | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| 2Lt J. S. Charnock | HS School of Signals |
| Capt R. A. Clague | 30 Sig Regt |
| Capt H. N. S. Colborn | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Maj S. A. Coltman | D Mov (A) |
| Maj (QM) T. E. B. Cran | HQ BAOR |
| Capt J. M. Creevy | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt S. Croft | HS School of Signals |
| Lt J. W. Dakin | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Lt E. A. Davis | HS School of Signals |
| Capt J. Doherty | AA College Harrogate |
| Capt (Tfc) J. Doherty | 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) |
| Maj A. Duncan | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Maj R. H. G. Elford | School of Signals (then AAC Centre) |
| Maj (Tfc) J. M. Ferguson | 8 Sig Regt |
| Capt K. P. Fisher | 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) |
| A/Capt A. D. Gallie | 16 Sig Regt (Sqn Offr) |
| Lt N. D. Gibson | 11 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col I. J. Hamilton | SHAPE Sp (International) BAE) |
| Capt (Tfc) A. O. Harkins | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| 2Lt G. Hearn | HS School of Signals |
| Lt Col A. J. Hill | SHAPE |
| Lt P. J. Holliday | AAC Harrogate |
| 2Lt D. B. Hudson | Cambridge University OTC |
| Maj M. N. Johnston | Jnr Regt R Signals |
| Capt A. J. Johnstone | HQ 24 Inf Bde |
| Lt N. D. Kennedy | School of Signals |
| Capt D. W. Larkam | 16 Sig Regt |
| Lt Col S. M. A. Lee | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj (QM) E. H. Le Quesne | 266 Sig Sqn (SA) |
| Capt (Tfc) G. A. Letori | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt (Tfc) J. E. Lovell | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Lt J. P. A. Luckins | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Lt J. S. Lugg | HS School of Signals |
| Capt (Tfc) R. W. Mansfield | SANGOM |
| 2Lt G. R. Mason | HS School of Signals |
| Lt D. E. A. McAllister | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| 2Lt L. D. McCourt | HS School of Signals |
| Lt A. H. Mullan | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Lt G. H. A. Odling | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Maj K. K. W. Parsons | School of Signals |
| 2Lt P. D. Peel | HS School of Signals |
| Lt M. E. Pincott | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Maj D. Pitkin | 2 Sig Bde |
| 2Lt P. V. Pople | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Capt (TOT) A. J. Porritt | D of SUP Computer SVCS) |
| Lt C. C. Richards | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Col W. J. P. Robins | ACGS(OR) |
| Capt H. A. Ross | HQ BRIGNEPAL |
| Lt N. F. Thompson | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Lt Col M. A. Thorne | 10 Sig Regt |
| Maj C. R. Treeby | BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt) |
| 2Lt D. B. Warne | HS School of Signals |
| Maj R. T. Westerman | DSS(AD) |
| Lt K. Whitehead | RMCS Shrivenham (39 Degree Course) |
| Lt S. P. Windsor Brown | 30 Sig Regt |
| A/Capt N. R. N. Wood | 266 Sig Sqn |

NOVEMBER 1984

| | |
|---|---|
| Lt Col B. L. Belton | HQ 1(BR) Corps |
| Capt R. W. Blum | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Capt T. W. Canham | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Capt G. Clark | 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) |
| Capt R. B. Davis | School of Infantry (after det to CBF Belize) |
| Maj C. J. Durham | School of Signals |
| Lt Col J. J. Elliott | DSS(AD) |
| Capt (QM) C. K. R. French | 241 Sig Sqn |
| Capt (QM) T. R. Gainford | 22 Sig Regt |
| Maj I. R. Grant | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Capt N. P. Harrison | 244 Sig Sqn (AS) |
| Capt J. E. Hogan | 266 Sig Sqn |
| Capt (Tfc) E. C. Jones | JFHQ BFFI |
| Capt S. Lockie | 10 Sig Regt |
| Capt (TOT) R. A. McKay | Telecoms & Radar Branch REME |
| Lt Col G. C. Mitchell | 34(N) Sig Regt (V) |
| Maj V. J. Reed | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj P. A. R. Rouse | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Lt M. L. Spoors | HS Trg Bn & Depot AAC |
| Lt Col A. L. W. G. Steane | HS 11 Sig Regt |
| Maj D. W. Stubbs | 241 Sig Sqn |
| Lt Col C. J. Walters | 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |
| Capt A. P. R. White | DNBC Centre |
| Lt Col (QM) M. E. Wilson | 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF SP) |

## WOs and SNCOs

OCTOBER

| *Rank and Name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| WO1 P. C. Bawden | 28 Sig Regt |
| WO1 G. T. Nelson | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| WO2 T. R. Craven | 16 Sig Regt |
| WO2 D. S. Pimm | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| WO2 J. Sharp | 30 Sig Regt |
| WO2 P. W. J. Whitehead | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) P. B. Vince | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| WO2 (FofS) D. C. A. Ellis | 3 Armd Div Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) P. H. Coleman | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (Supvr R) W. J. Dodds | 9 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 M. C. Braddon | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt C. Redman | 30 Sig Regt |
| SSgt G. Hackett | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt B. E. L. Medway | 8 Sig Regt |
| SSgt A. E. Tomlinson | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt F. L. P. Kerr | HQ AFNORTH |
| SSgt K. J. Harris | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| SSgt (SupvrR) M. J. Payne | 13 Sig Regt |
| SSgt M. P. Grimshaw | 9 Sig Regt |
| SSgt (YofS) R. W. Marshall | 39 Sig Regt |
| SSgt R. A. Rack | 21 Sig Regt |
| SSgt V. A. Hoyle | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt M. H. Yates | 233 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (FofS) E. A. Harper | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| SSgt (FofS) R. Stevenson | 8 Sig Regt (Cadre) |
| SSgt (FofS) M. C. Stocks | 8 Sig Regt (Cadre) |
| SSgt (FofS) S. L. Randle | 32 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt (FofS) D. K. Rackman | 233 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt (FofS) A. Roberts | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASSgt D. T. Arundel | HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int) |
| ASSgt D. A. Rudd | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASSgt R. Hancock | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt J. W. Letford | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. R. Denny | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. H. Hicks | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. Ellis | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt B. W. Thorp | 30 Sig (610 Sig Tp) |
| Sgt D. Arnot | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. Hanlon | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt R. Gilby | 2 Inf Div (Fwd Elt) |
| Sgt T. Wandless | 40 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt T. Singleton | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. R. Dawson | 22 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. A. Graham | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. J. Leighfield | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. L. Northcott | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. L. Lewis | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt I. R. Ingham | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. R. Bell | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Parsons | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. Wainwright | HQ NEDIST R&L Staff |
| Sgt T. N. Haddock | 37 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt G. C. Ritchie | AAC Centre |
| Sgt M. Altham | HQ AFCENT |
| Sgt J. N. Hughes | 13 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. O. Morley | 259 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt T. R. Lund | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt A. J. Shaw | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt G. Clifford | 21 Sig Regt (AS) |
| Sgt B. D. Boomer | 262 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt P. Dixon | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. L. Mellish | 11 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. Brown | ACIO Newcastle |
| Sgt G. M. Horan | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt J. F. Gibson | 35 Sig Regt (V) |
| Sgt R. Walker | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt P. M. Curley | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. S. Quinton | 592 Rear Link Det |
| Sgt R. C. Galbraith | 562 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt A. A. Gay | 5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt P. Clarkson | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt N. Yarwood | 8 Sig Regt |
| ASgt W. Barnett | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASgt A. J. Piper | 33 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASgt C. F. Swailes | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt T. H. Boddison | 30 Sig Regt |
| ASgt B. Berrie | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| ASgt R. Patrickson | 590 Rear Link Det |
| ASgt R. K. Moore | AA Coll Harrogate |
| ASgt C. Geelan | 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) |

NOVEMBER 1984

| | |
|---|---|
| WO1 M. D. Fogg | 7 Sig Regt |
| WO1 G. Francis | 11 Sig Regt |
| WO1 R. A. Hamilton | Forward Scatter Station Mossy Hill |
| WO1 J. Preston | 36 Sig Regt (V) |
| WO1 K. W. G. Purkiss | Joint Services Job Evaluation Team |
| WO2 C. J. Manning | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| WO2 J. E. Phillips | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 J. P. Shergold | 31 Sig Ret (V) |
| WO2 (FofS) M. A. Provart | HQ DCN |
| WO2 (FofS) G. W. Canning | Int & Sy Gp (NI) |
| WO2 (FofS) A. S. Reah | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 (FofS) J. A. Watson | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| WO2 (FofS) J. R. Smith | 9 Sig Regt |
| WO2 R. J. Duffy | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) A. J. Cerqua | AA Coll Harrogate |
| WO2 (YofS) A. Knott | 8 Sig Regt |
| WO2 (YofS) T. J. Taylor | 10 Sig Regt |
| AWO2 M. J. Taylor | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt D. J. Faherty | 259 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt W. L. Gordon | Comms & Sy Gp UK |
| SSgt M. Williams | Cardiff UOTC |
| SSgt (FofS) J. Mugford | 262 Sig Sqn |
| SSgt T. R. Watson | 38 Sig Regt (V) |
| SSgt J. B. Watson | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| SSgt B. F. Tuffin | 11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) |
| SSgt (YofS) M. J. Hawley | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt P. L. Deam | 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| SSgt J. Doak | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| SSgt B. C. Howe | 254 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt G. Burton | 34 Sig Regt (V) |
| ASSgt K. V. P. Sandy | 4 Sig Gp |
| ASSgt D. Beattie | 249 Sig Sqn |
| ASSgt J. W. Graham | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt J. A. Tatman | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt R. W. Skene | 16 Sig Regt |
| Sgt N. M. Wadey | 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. J. M. Muir | 7 Sig Regt |
| Sgt S. J. Nickless | 8 Sig Regt (Cadre) |
| Sgt P. H. Newman | Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. E. Cherry | 30 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. J. Brockman | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt S. R. Hayward | 640 Sig Tp |
| Sgt D. E. Long | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt I. Atherton | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt D. J. Boxall | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt J. P. Dempsey | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt R. Hamilton | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt T. Inman | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt B. J. Nelson | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt C. A. Plumb | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt T. J. Prince | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt C. Sheppard | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt J. Thomson | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt T. P. Waites | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt F. S. Roberts | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt R. Hailstones | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt T. J. McEwan | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt G. J. Hartin | Int Centre |
| Sgt S. Gane | Int & Sy Gp (NI) |
| Sgt P. L. Hair | Scarborough Sig Training Centre |
| Sgt J. Abernethy | 8 Sig Regt |
| Sgt D. Wood | 28 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. A. Cummings | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| Sgt J. E. Miller | UK Sp Unit SHAPE |
| Sgt J. Rodgers | 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt B. Carlin | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| Sgt R. Churm | Forward Scatter Station Mossy Hill |
| Sgt B. White | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt C. B. Peck | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt J. Meggitt | School of Signals Courses |
| Sgt A. Mann | 10 Sig Regt |
| Sgt K. Barnes | 240 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. J. Bruinsma | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. F. Priest | 242 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt M. A. Rickwood | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt M. R. Gillard | 21 Sig Regt |
| Sgt A. R. Dixon | 633 Sig Tp |
| Sgt V. O. Shaw | 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn |
| Sgt J. D. Taylor | 594 Rear Link Det |
| Sgt P. J. Dooher | 244 Sig Sqn |
| Sgt R. Taylor | 642 Sig Tp |
| ASgt W. Drain | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. Parry | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASgt D. G. Ikin | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASgt S. Cleary | 21 Sig Regt |
| ASgt G. H. Young | 2 Inf Div (Fwd Elt) |
| ASgt S. T. Clements | 7 Sig Regt |
| ASgt T. Foster | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASgt P. D. Gilbert | 14 Sig Regt (EW) |
| ASgt R. E. Potter | 572 Rear Link Det |

# Welfare

**AUGUST 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially: | 55 |
| Amount spent: | £8,866.54 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 11 |

**SEPTEMBER 1984**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially: | 60 |
| Amount spent: | £12,398.03 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent: | 15 |

**CLOTHING**

We wish to thank all units and individuals who over the years have despatched and delivered clothing to Association Headquarters for families in need. May we respectfully draw your attention to the statement by the Chairman of the Association contained on page 572 of the September issue of *The Wire*. Clothing is no longer accepted by Association Headquarters.

**SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES**

Ex Warrant Officer now has severe Parkinson's disease. He is housebound and lives in an upstairs flat. To enable him to get into the garden he needed a stairlift. Thanks to the generous co-operation of several other Charities we were able to make a combined grant to cover the full cost of installation.

An ex Signalman who served through the War is now in poor health and urgently needed a fridge to keep his medicines in. A grant was made to meet this cost plus the installation of a telephone.

When a Corporal was recently discharged on medical grounds he urgently required furniture for his council house. A grant was made in co-operation with the Army Benevolent Fund.

An 82 year old widow of a Signalman living alone, was recently burgled; fortunately nothing of value was stolen but it made her very nervous. A grant was made to have security locks fitted to the house.

**DO YOU KNOW? . . .**

* As a serving soldier are you aware of the Ministry of Defence Assisted House Purchase Scheme? The detail is contained in DCI(Gen) 582 of 1975.

* Do you know of the Army Benevolent Fund Scheme which could provide an interest free loan as you come to the end of your service with the Corps and the Army? The terms of this scheme are contained in a statement by the Army Benevolent Fund which was passed to all units of the Corps under Royal Signals Association letter reference SA/A/56 dated 9 November, 1983.

Both the DCI and this letter are held by your Orderly Room.

## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1984.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Sqn, 28 Sig Regt | £265.25 |
| S. W. Millen Esq | £ 50.00 |
| 30 Sig Regt | £ 35.00 |
| Maj D. S. A. Hutley GM | £ 5.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 3.50 |
| | £358.75 |

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1985

| | |
|---|---|
| In memory of Brig E. V. McCormack CBE | £228.00 |
| In memory of Sgt M. Newman | £215.00 |
| Maj J. Gatehouse | £ 20.00 |
| F. E. Foulds Esq | £ 15.00 |
| J. L. Hazzard Esq | £ 5.80 |
| Maj W. C. Savage | £ 5.80 |
| Maj E. C. Barker | £ 5.80 |
| D. R. Handley | £ 5.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ 2.00 |
| | £502.40 |

# Classified Section

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**MARRIAGE**

**Goodeve-Docker—Hardie.** At Bantry, County Cork, Republic of Ireland, quietly on 1 August 1984, **Lt Col P. G. Goodeve-Docker** to **Mrs J. H. R. Hardie** (née **Barber**) widow of **Lt Col I. G. G. S. Hardie DSO** (late RA).

**DEATHS**

**Allan—Maj Michael Allan** was born in London on 29 November, 1936 and died on 8 March, 1984. **Brig N. A. Butler CBE** writes: 'He achieved his childhood ambition by being accepted for the initial intake at Welbeck and his housemaster remembers him clearly as the first boy that he saw arrive at the newly established College in September 1953. From Welbeck, he went on to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Corps when he passed out on 2 August, 1957.

After completing the 12 month Q course at the School of Signals, he was posted to 7 Signal Regiment where he remained until June 1961. Following 18 months with units in UK, he moved in December 1962 to the Caribbean for a two year tour as OC 633 Signal Troop. From 1965-68, he served in BAOR with 4 Divisional Signal Regiment and 11 Infantry Brigade Group before returning to UK in November 1968 to join the Junior Leaders Training Regiment at Troon.

In his youth, **Mike** was a formidable boxer winning a BAOR Heavyweight championship and briefly representing the Army. He played energetic rugby at regimental level and as a YO appeared on occasions for the Corps. Throughout his career, he kept himself extremely fit and he was still able to outrun most of those 20 years his junior when he sadly met his death.

Seconded to the Trucial Oman Scouts, in December 1969, he learned Arabic and formed a deep respect for the area and its people. He was posted to the staff of HQ Northern Ireland in December 1971 and it was here that he met his future wife, **Jane**.

He went overseas again in September 1974 on appointment as OC 262 Signal Squadron in Cyprus. In 1976, he was posted to 22 Signal Regiment serving there as Operations Officer before returning to Catterick in October 1979 to be 2IC and Chief Instructor 11 Signal Regiment.

In July 1982, **Mike** was delighted to be posted back to Arabia for a tour as SO2(Coord) with the Sangcom team in Riyadh. He was very happy and particularly popular with the Saudis who are generally slow to accept foreigners. It came as a great shock to everyone when he was tragically killed in a car accident on 8 March, 1984.

**Maj Michael Allan** was the epitome of a regular officer. He was never particularly ambitious; his prime concern was always for his troops and his duties. He was much respected by all who knew him for his integrity, loyalty and determination. He was a fine example to his three young sons and indeed to anyone aspiring to be an officer in the services.'

**Brett—Maj Harold George Brett MBE. Dickie Brett** died suddenly in New Zealand on 2 July, 1983. His many friends, and particularly those who may have lost touch with him after he left this country, will remember him as a very good companion.

He enlisted as a Boy into the Corps in 1926 at the age of 14. At the age of 18 he was posted to 4 Divisional Signals. He went to India at the end of 1931, joining 3 Divisional Signals there in 1932 and returning to the UK on posting to 2 Divisional Signals in 1938. He served in the BEF from September 1939 and came home via Dunkirk in a fishing boat. In 1941 he was commissioned and posted to Orkney and Shetlands Signals Company until 1943. After going into Europe with 13 L of C Signals in 1944, he returned to the UK at the end of 1946. He then moved to the Middle East to join 4 Air Formation Sig Regt in Egypt for a short while and was then posted to 7 (ME) L of C Signal Squadron in East Africa until the middle of 1948. After returning to UK for a few months he returned to East Africa to serve with East Africa Command Signal Squadron. On return to the UK he served with Northern Command and Southern Command Signal Regiments (the latter TA) between 1953 and 1959. From 1959 until 1963 he was with 57 (M) Signal Regiment TA in Bristol. He then moved to Cyprus in 1963 to serve with the Chief Air Formation Signal Office NEAF until April 1966. He retired from the Army in 1966, and then served as an RO with HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong until 1972, when he settled in New Zealand. He was awarded the MBE in January 1946.

**Farlow—Maj Reginald Henry Farlow MBE** was born at Plymouth on 12 June 1904 and enlisted into the Signal Section of the Royal Engineers on 20 February, 1920. He transferred to Royal Signals on 27 November, 1920 and then served for two years with 6 Divisional Signals. In February 1922 he moved to India and remained there until March 1930 during which time he served in L Company. He returned to that unit again in January 1936 to serve another five and a half years. He was commissioned on 1 September, 1941 and joined 1 Indian Construction Section in the Middle East. He moved to 'U' L of C Signals in the Middle East in February 1943 and remained with the L of C unit until his return to India in July 1946. At the end of that year he joined 4 AA(M) Signal Regiment in UK. His final posting was in May 1955 when he moved to Singapore to take up a post of GS02(Sigs) at HQ Singapore Base District, a job he held for three years, before retiring. **Maj Farlow** died on 11 March, 1984.

**Hassett**—We record with regret the death on 28 June of **ex WO2 (SSM) Thomas Henry Hassett** who served with the Corps from 1951 until 1974. **Maj G. H. Cowsill (Retd)** writes 'Friends of **WO2 Hassett** will be sorry to learn that he died suddenly after a lengthy and serious heart complaint. Although very ill he was able to get about and remained cheerful until the end. A life member of the Association, **Tom** served in Japan, Korea, MELF and BAOR. He leaves his wife **Betty**, daughter **Alison** and a young grandson. Anyone wishing to contact **Betty** can do so at 24 Queen's Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

**McCormack—Brigadier Edward Victor (Ted) McCormack CBE** died following a major operation in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich aged 82 just four months after his wife died. He came from the long serving Gunner family of McCormacks of Armagh. However, in 1919 he enlisted in the Royal Engineers at Chatham to eventually become a Sapper Sergeant. He went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Corps in 1924. One of his early appointments was as Signal Officer to 19th Field Regiment RA, where later his brother, Bertie, was to serve as RSM.

Most of his service was in India. **Ted** was commended for his rescue work during the great earthquake in Quetta. During the Second World War he became CSO of 14th Indian Divisional Signals in the Arakan, then CSO 4 Corps in Burma and was appointed CBE. He returned to the UK at the end of the war and then followed appointments as CSO to 13 Corps in Italy, CSO British Troops Austria, CSO GHQ Far East, DD Signals to the Air Ministry and finally CSO Western Command at Chester. He retired in 1953 and was immediately appointed Senior Officer of a Tri Service Team, as a Retired officer, working for the MOD with the Ministry of Labour in London to assist redundant and retiring officers to find new careers in civil life. He was always a smart dapper officer with a pleasant and cheerful disposition, a great collector of pictures, antiques and militaria.



**Paddison—Capt Maurice Paddison** was born at Leicester on 29 March, 1940 and joined the Royal Signals on 25 August, 1958. On completion of his training at Catterick Camp he served first with 230 Signal Squadron in Singapore and then with 621 Signal Troop (FARELF) returning to the UK in May 1962. He then served in BAOR with 22 Signal Regiment for three years before joining 205 Signal Squadron (later to become 5 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and then 5 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron). In December 1971 he joined 8 Signal Regiment for four and a half years. He then moved to BAOR serving first with 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and then with 3 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment returning to the UK in December 1978 to take up a post in the RMAS.

He was commissioned into the Corps on 12 January, 1981 and served first with 16 Signal Regiment and then with 3 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment until he returned to the UK and 10 Signal Regiment in March 1984. **Capt Paddison** died on 18 March.

**Payne—Ex WO2 (RQMS) Lendon Fitz Payne** was born in Beverly on 29 November, 1895. He joined the TA in April 1913 into the RAMC, where his father was serving as RSM. He sailed for France on 1 April 1915, and transferred to RE Signals a year later, as a Telegraph Operator. He survived the war, serving almost all of his time in the trenches and, taking part in the Battle of the Somme. He served in Russia and ran the wireless station at Sebastopol. He was later stationed at Constantinople until the end of 1923 when he returned to UK and took over the Royal Signals gymnasium at Growborough in 1924 with the rank of Sergeant. Subsequently he was posted to the Boys Company, Royal Signals in Catterick Camp. He was a first class athlete all his life, and was renowned for his sporting prowess, especially as a boxer. He was a keen member of the famous 'Dots and Dashes' STC Variety Party — where he performed as a singer and tap dancer! He left the army on the termination of his engagement in April 1937 and subsequently served as a PT Instructor in the Prison Service.

Throughout his life he was an enthusiastic supporter of our Corps, taking an active interest in the Royal Signals Association, being a member of the Leeds and later the Lincoln Branch. He attended the Royal Signals reunion again this year, (despite the fact that he was not feeling himself) where he was pleased to meet Chelsea Pensioners he had taught in the 30's! He died of a heart attack in the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston on Sunday 22 July, 1984, and his Funeral Service took place on 24 July, some eight members of the Lincoln Branch, together with their standard, were present. His wife, **Alice**, pre-deceased him by some three months. In his wallet he always carried a small silk Union Flag that his mother gave him prior to going to France in 1915, together with a copy of 'A Soldiers Prayer' issued to him by the Chaplain General in 1914.

**VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) RADIO TELEGRAPHIST SERGEANT IN 71ST (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)**

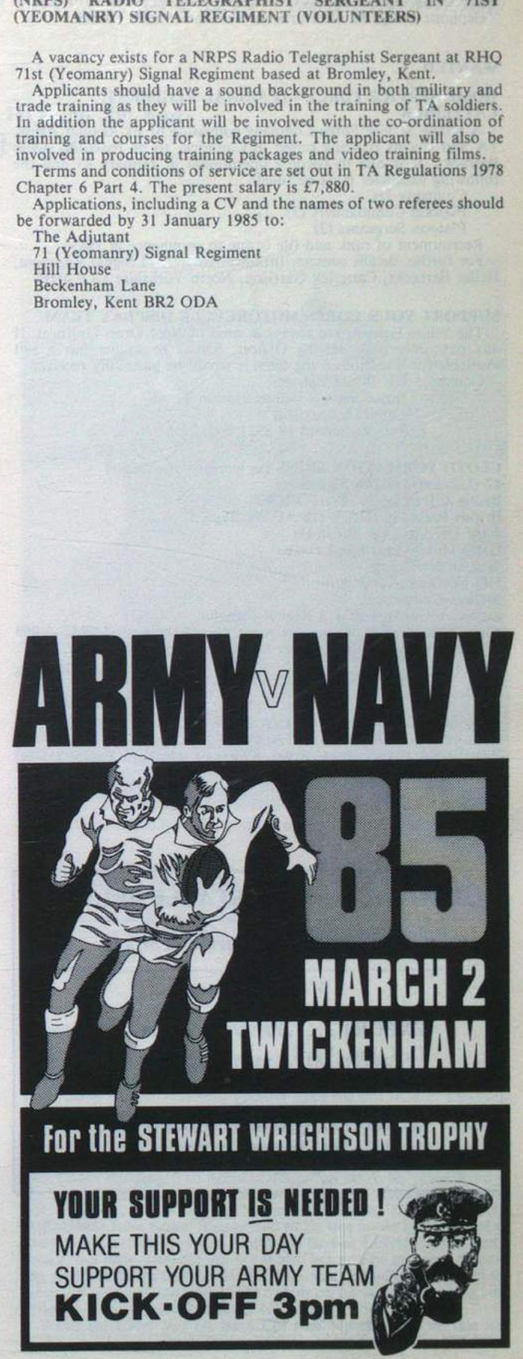
A vacancy exists for a NRPS Radio Telegraphist Sergeant at RHQ 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment based at Bromley, Kent.

Applicants should have a sound background in both military and trade training as they will be involved in the training of TA soldiers. In addition the applicant will be involved with the co-ordination of training and courses for the Regiment. The applicant will also be involved in producing training packages and video training films.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 4. The present salary is £7,880.

Applications, including a CV and the names of two referees should be forwarded by 31 January 1985 to:

The Adjutant
71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment
Hill House
Beckenham Lane
Bromley, Kent BR2 ODA



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**WANTED**

**HOME SERVICE FORCE—11 SIGNAL REGIMENT, CATTERICK**

A Home Service Force Company consisting of Ex-Regular Army, TA and Cadets is being raised in Catterick, to be based at Helles Barracks. It is due to become operational in January 85 and the following vacancies must be filled:

Company 2IC
Platoon Commanders (3)
Platoon Sergeants (3)

Recruitment of rank and file is due to commence in 1985.

For further details contact: Infantry Adviser, 11 Signal Regiment, Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 4HH

**SUPPORT YOUR CORPS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM**

The White Helmets are always in need of No 1 Dress Uniform. If any past or present serving Officer, SNCO or soldier has a suit available for donation to the team it would be gratefully received.

Contact: OC White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
Tel: Richmond 83 2521 Ext: 2556

**CLOTH FORMATION SIGNS** (as worn on the sleeve)
47 (London) Inf Div Signals
Persia & Iraq Force (PAIFORCE)
British Forces in Greece (18 AF Sig Regt)
4 Inf Div Sig Regt (BF in G)
GHQ Middle East Land Forces
War Office Troops
HQ Northern Command
Malaya Command
Catterick Garrison (2 Trg Regt R Signals)
Any single or pair of signs as worn during the period 1942—1959 would be gratefully received by **Capt E. B. Priestley-Cooper.**

4 Nightingale Gardens,
Hook,
Hants RG27 9DS

R Signals Mess Jacket. SSgt. Waist 38", Chest 44", Height 6′ 3". Contact **SSgt J. Hawdon** (V)TA, CMHQ Troop, 43 Sig Sqn, 37 Sig Regt(V) TA Centre, Butts Road, Exeter or telephone Exeter 215030 (Home).


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| EDUCATION EXPENSES | —for present or future children |
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# REPORT FROM ULSTER

**8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
**BFPO 807**

**OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

During the past weeks there has been an upsurge in terrorist activity throughout the Brigade area. Attacks against the SF in and around Londonderry have increased with Blast bombs, CWIEDs and shootings, leaving one soldier, three policemen and two civilians injured. Attacks against commercial property have also been made but on the whole have been unsuccessful. One notable success was a large find of weapons and ammunition in the Shantallow area of Londonderry on 21 September by a 2 Queens search team.

In the rural areas the RUC and UDR have continued to suffer casualties with a policeman killed and one seriously injured in a landmine attack near Greencastle. A UDR soldier was very seriously injured when he was ambushed by terrorists whilst driving with his wife and baby and in another ambush in Dungannon a UDR soldier and civilian were murdered as they arrived for work.

A CWIED attack near Belleek was thwarted by an Army patrol but after an exchange of fire the terrorists escaped across the border into the Republic.

Police and soldiers had a lucky escape on 20 September when the RUC Station at Kinawley was mortared and on 1 October a five man RUC patrol escaped injury when a CWIED in a van parked near Ballymagorry was detonated as they approached it.

A spate of car bomb hoaxes in Londonderry kept ATO busy after the massive find of arms and ammunition on a fishing boat off the coast of the Republic. Civil disorder reached a high point during the visit of NORAID representatives but petrol bombing and stoning attacks on the SF still remain everyday occurrences.

**COMMS**

Both Comms Troop and TM Troop have been kept very busy, in addition to normal maintenance and repairs a new Brigade VRC 353 Int/COP Tasking Net has been installed and the 5 UDR Bn command net reconfigured.

The UHF nets in Londonderry have also been improved and upgraded and a VHF scheme interfaced onto it to give coverage of the rural areas of the recently extended Ebrington Bn TAOR.

The recrystalling of all the Brigade's VHF radios has now been completed and the major task at the moment being the rebuild of the Brigade Ops and Radio Rooms, both the Foreman, **WO2 Norman Blavins** and the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, can be seen going grey by the day as they try to tie all the loose ends together.

The surveys and returns for the new commercial radio replacement (Project 3787) have meant late nights for some members of the Squadron.

**ANOTHER NOTABLE FIRST!**

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn must claim a new record, not only is the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, older than the OC, **Maj John Kirby**, but 2IC Comms Troop, **Lt Gordon James**, is older than the OC Comms Troop, **Capt Trevor Bradley**. All we need now is a RQMS who is older than the QM and a Chief Clerk who is older than the Admin Officer! The latter could prove very difficult!

**FAREWELL TO WO1 (RSM) GEOFF NELSON**

The Squadron bade farewell to the RSM, **WO1 Geoff Nelson**, on Friday 21 September. **Geoff Nelson** has been a tower of strength during his two years with the Squadron, in addition to his regimental duties he has been an outstanding sportsman representing the unit at football, cricket, hockey, tennis and any other sport you can think of. After a round of farewells, including dining out from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and Foyle View Club, plus drinks with the Squadron and SHQ, **WO1 Nelson** left with many presents, hopefully with fond memories, and many long standing friendships.

**Mr Nelson** moves on to be MTO of 14 (EW) Sig Regt. To **Geoff** and **Annette** we send our very best wishes and thanks for all they have done for the Squadron and hope they enjoy their next tour as much as this—we'll miss you both.

WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson hands over to WO1 (RSM) John Stanley

**WELCOME TO WO1 (RSM) JOHN STANLEY**

The Squadron welcomes the new RSM, **WO1 John Stanley**, who joins us from 28 Sig Regt and hope he, his wife **Kathleen** and family have a happy and successful tour here in Londonderry.

**SHQ**

**Report by Capt Richard Walkin RA**

**'HELLO ALL STATIONS, THIS IS SHQ OVER'.**

As forecast in the last issue of *The Wire*, SHQ have survived the intervening weeks. Survived, because since the last time of reporting we have completely re-located all SHQ offices. This move had to be done mid-week due to availability of British Telecom and whilst still carrying out the full Orderly Room functions. Well done Chief and Staff. SHQ are now grouped together in a large portacabin outside the Ops Room building. The Admin Officer has taken his place down in the hub of activity. Is this so he can direct or be directed? Time will tell. Anyway, after all the hustle and bustle, the Chief, **SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes** then retired to his tree house in the Forest of Dean for a well earned rest. We think he was feeling slightly battle weary, not only from the move but also because he managed to coax **Sig Andy Williams** through his B2. Yes, young **Andy** has cracked the B2 and is now walking round with a smile on his face and looking very efficient. Word is, he is looking for an apprentice to train.

While the Chief was on leave **Cpl Neil March** stood in, this was **Neil's** swan song as he is about to leave, as reported in the last *Wire*,

for the sunnier climes of the Med. All our best wishes go with him and his wife **Dawn**. **LCpl Paul Baker** is still plodding on in the Movements cell. It was a great shock to the Admin Officer when he found out that **Paul** was actually deducting his long weekends from his leave card. Is nothing sacred? **Sgt Kev 'The Pay' Thorpe** has now left us for Aberdeen having passed command (or is it the buck) of the pay office to his successor **Sgt Mick Leather** who joined us from 210 Sig Sqn in Catterick. We wish **Kev** and his wife **Kim** all the best and welcome **Sgt Mick Leather** to the rigours of life in Londonderry. No doubt he will soon settle down and start producing great things.

**Ann Reason** hit us all with the good news that there is a junior pay clerk on the way and our congratulations go to her and her husband, **Cpl Andy Reason**. The 2IC **Capt Mike Dent** is still 2IC ing in between leave, courses, briefings and other trips, sorry **Mike**. The AO found out why **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade** is known as 'Body Swerve' having played golf with him, however, everyone else says it's because he's always avoiding work. **SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan** has settled in and he and his wife **Liz** are looking forward to a happy event. (Is it a Royal Signals recruiting drive?)

**STOP PRESS**

Our congratulations go to Chiefy, **SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes**, on his selection for promotion to WO2 and his impending posting to 11 Sig Regt, after only 12 months here in Londonderry we shall miss his dour wit but more importantly his efficiency and dedication.

**EXERCISE *NORWEGIAN SEA***

**Report by Cpl Rich Carey**

To a white water enthusiast the prospect of a fortnight's paddle down the coast of Norway as an instructor to five 'L' Plate Canoeists seemed rather tame. The first day dispelled that idea!

Heading out to sea on day one things looked rough as the breeze whipped the sea into frenzied six inch waves. With the whole of the Baltic at his disposal **Sig Shaun Hendley** managed to ram **Cpl 'Fossie' Foster** who immediately ejected. However all was not lost as this provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate rescue procedures and techniques.

SBS (Special Boat Signallers) concealed in reeds on a Norwegian fjord. *L-R:* Cpl 'Fossie' Foster, Sig Shaun Hendley, 'Griff' Griffiths, LCpl 'Tank' Sherman, Cpl Rich Carey, Pte Shaun Fieldhouse

The next few hours saw several more such 'ideal opportunities' with **Pte Shaun Fieldhouse** attempting to gain his Sub Aqua Proficiency Certificate with no less than eight dives. **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** (IC double canoe) managed to escape a ducking but suffered terrible bouts of hysterical laughter while **Sig 'Griff' Griffiths** only swam once but had a close shave every six strokes.

The vast distance of this epic voyage necessitated very early starts, normally at the crack of 1100 hrs, but naturally this was close to lunch so early afternoon usually saw the SBS (Special Boat Signallers) back on the waves.

Map reading in a picture postcard area of endless islands and fjords was a formidable task from a vantage point three feet above sea level. Matters were not made any easier by **Sig 'Griff' Griffiths** who was

Five well laden kayaks basking in the sun while their crews lay exhausted out of sight

Norwegian hospitality was excellent and finding places to camp was never a problem

often convinced that we should be going the other way and **Cpl 'Fossie' Foster** who didn't know where he was but often led!

Despite the exhorbitant price of Nordic Ale a few members of the expedition were nonetheless observed to be decidedly unsteady from time to time although they put this down to 'old sea-dogs sea-legs' on land!

The entertainment award went to **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** who during the day was almost a passenger in the back of the 'double' with a paddle in one hand and a fishing line in the other. At night his 'round the fire' jokes and 'tales' kept tired canoeists up well into the 'small' hours.

The friendliness of the Norwegian people was noted many times, not least of which was the occasion where, after gaining permission to use a small piece of land outside a large glass factory, the owner later appeared and handed over the keys to the entire place for the weekend so that the six grubby canoeists could use the facilities within.

**LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** in typical form attempted to educate many of the 'locals' en route with traditional army songs, especially his own favourite 'Wild Rover' which may be a hit somewhere in Europe.

Five days and 60Kms down the coast **Sig Shaun Hendley**'s boat was finally going in a straight line. Earlier attempts to convince him that his problem was 'operator error' and not equipment failure had fallen on deaf ears. **Pte Shaun Fieldhouse**, now on station in the front of the double, had a mild flu, a ricked neck and tino synovitis (canoeists wrist), this gave **'Tank' Sherman** in the back an additional role as ambulance driver.

Several more days of splendid touring were marred only by a brief 'tent flooding' thunderstorm. **Cpl 'Fossie' Foster** awoke thinking he was in his canoe but quickly realised this sleeping bag was soaking wet and all but afloat! All too soon we found ourselves back at Isjafaer, the Joint Services BOBC. On the notice board 'No Bids' was repeatedly written against course availability dates. Not so for us, our bid is already in for next year, this is one 'course' which is definitely not to be missed.



**QM's DEPARTMENT**

**Report by WO2 (RQMS) Tom Sharp**

The past few months have seen virtually a complete changeover in personnel within the department.

*L-R Back Row:* Mr Hepburn, LCpl Keith Bradley, Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt, Gary Hackett, LCpls 'Chippy' Wood, Alex MacBeth
*Front Row:* Cpl Dave Thorpe, Sgt Joe Burton, SSgt John Brocklebank, Capt Jimmy Akehurst, WO2 Tom Sharp, SSgt Bill Nimmons, Sgt Brian Donegan, Cpl Mick Bourne

Since the above photograph was taken the following have either gone or are just about to go: **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Sharp** to 30 Sig Regt as RQMS (Gen), **SSgt John Brocklebank** to Gren Guards as WO2 (SQMS), **Cpl Dave Thorpe** to 259 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Don Briant** to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood** to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, **LCpl Alex MacBeth** to 10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT, **LCpl Keith Bradley** to COD Donnington.

We bid them all a fond farewell and welcome their replacements: **WO2 (RQMS) Mike Braddon** from 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Les Beale** from 47 Fd Regt RA, **Cpl Tony Bowen** from 632 Sig Troop, **LCpl John Anglesea** from 5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, **Pte Ian Brown** from QO Hldrs, **LCpl Mick Ashton** from Donnington and hope that their tours will be pleasant, satisfying and successful.

**EXERCISE *SOUTHERN CROSS***

**Report by LCpl 'Mac' McCormick**

A telephone conversation 3 August 1984.

Maj HQNI: Hello **LCpl McCormick**, this is **Maj Trigger**,
LCpl 8 Bde: Good morning sir, what can I do for you?
Maj HQNI: Would you like to go parachuting in the USA for three weeks?
LCpl 8 Bde: Well I wouldn't mind sir,
Maj HQNI: Good we're going in a couple of weeks, see me before then,
LCpl 8 Bde: Oh . . . all right then sir,

**18 AUGUST 1984**

We arrived at Baltimore airport on a very hot afternoon, hired a minibus and set off on an eight hour journey to Raeford near Fort Bragg, Carolina. The eight of us who were on the trip were mainly from units in NI apart from **Cpl Dave Wilkinson** who came from SEME at Bordon. Three of us had some parachuting experience but would have to start on a static line or 'dope rope' as some would say, the other five were experienced skydivers with a few jumps under their reserves. At Raeford we were met by the DZ owner, **Gene Paul Thacker** an ex Green Beret and veteran of Korea and Vietnam, also one time leader of the US Army parachute display team, and currently chairman of the US Parachute Association.

The first week was mainly devoted to getting students underway, trying to cope with temperatures in the 90's, 30% humidity and of course the odd recce of some local nightspots! By the second week we had settled in and were getting into some serious skydiving, on average about four or five jumps a day. To a British skydiver who has to cope with British weather 30 jumps a week is like having all your birthdays at once. Also during the second week we had the first of several malfunctions, **Dvr 'Ribs' Ribbons** of 26 Sqn RCT had a total malfunction on deployment of his main canopy but being an experienced parachutist he went through all the drills and landed safely with only his nerves damaged. He was also later to be the recipient of a further two malfunctions but each time landed safely using his reserve.

During the third week we were lucky enough to be invited to jump from a helicopter at the Green Beret para club, Fort Bragg; this was a first for some of us and the crates of Budweiser were duly purchased. We were also lucky enough to do a night jump (another first, another crate) which was out of this world. By the end of the third week we had made numerous jumps and many friends. We had made 8 way and 10 way formations (basically lots of people holding hands in the air) fun jumps, night jumps, chopper jumps and on a couple of occasions tree jumps. We had been to barbecues, parties, nightclubs and bars and had the pleasure of meeting some of the friendliest people you can imagine. My thanks to all the lads on the trip but especially to **Maj Dick Trigger** for organising the whole thing and a special thanks to **WO2 Mick Berry,** for without his expert instruction and encouragement I would not now be enjoying a sport which is undeniably the best thing you'll ever do with your trousers on.

**COMMS TROOP**

**CECIL B DE MILLE COMES TO LONDONDERRY**

**Report by Lt Gordon James**

That occasion in every Officer's career had arrived — Beating Retreat: 15 September 84 — and with it the outside chance of an early MBE for the OIC Lighting. To be bigger, brighter, better, with an open budget limited only by the collective imagination of 2 Officers, 4 SNCOs and 58 men: An epic production was devised.

**LCpl Paul Stammers** was sent to visit his family in Edinburgh and to smuggle out as much of the Tattoo's lighting kit as he could lay his hands on.

**Capt Trevor Bradley** received a crash course in lighting techniques ('Just turn on this switch here, Sir!') and trained up 16 lighting crewmen to the highest Rank standard.

The nights preceding the event were spent in cramped rooms at the top of the buildings lining the square, patiently rehearsing never-to-be used sequences. LEWDs (Lighting Exercise Without Darkness) were practised daily as the Massed Bands went through their own rehearsals. When night fell (and with it the rain), the Bandsmens' places were taken by the Comms Tp Massed Bands — 15 men marching, wheeling, and countermarching as if 150 strong (**'Tredwell** — get over there and try and look like 20 Jocks!)'. **Sgt Bruce Payne** was made an honorary Drum Major and long hours were spent experimenting with the balance of spot lights and flood lights, with **Cpl Bob Wainwright** trying desperately to stay awake on the roof of 8 Bde HQ ('It's way past my bedtime Staff!'), and **LCpl 'Scouse' Brisk** trying to blind the car drivers across the river—('Just practising in case there's a sniper Sarge!').

The great day arrived and 'Stand-to!' was ordered. As the dusk deepened into night, silhouetting the Square against the glorious backdrops of the lights of Londonderry City and the River Foyle, the soldiers and families of the Garrison and the VIP Guests were seated. A fanfare rang out.

'Cue: — Lights: — Action!'

Beating Retreat began: From the first trumpet note of the fanfare 'Ebrington' to the last crashing chords of the 'Black Bear' as the Massed Bands marched off in salute to the Commander Land Forces **Maj Gen Pank** and the Commander 8 Brigade, **Brig C. Mattingley OBE**, the spotlights and floodlights flashed on and off with well-drilled precision. The hard work put in by the whole Squadron over

8 Brigade Massed Bands Display—Grand Finale

the preceding weeks climaxed in a dazzling display by the Brigade Massed Bands, whose splended uniforms and stirring marches and solos provided an entertaining and moving ceremony, before a very appreciative audience.

The men of Comms Tp had undertaken an unusual task and achieved it through the combination of effort and ingenuity that they apply to all their work.

Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in their success.

**PRODUCTION: 'THE BEATING OF THE MEAT 1984'**

| Credits | |
|---|---|
| Director | Capt H. T. de Bradley 'Mille' |
| Sound | Massed Bands of 8 Infantry Brigade |
| Lighting | Communications Troop and Edinburgh Castle |
| Special Effects | SSgt Denise Rutter |
| Seating | Cpl Jim Hacking, RPC<br>LCpl 'Every available man'—Guest appearances courtesy of WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson |
| Make Up | Cpl Gary Ashley |
| Stuntmen | LCpl Rich Tredwell: Q O Hldrs<br>Sig Frank Faith: 1 RRF<br>Sig Chris Aspinall: QUEENS<br>Ptes Mutton, Morgan and Owen RPC: 4, 5, 6 & 8 UDR |
| Principal Boy | Capt Mike Dent |
| Fight Sequences | Capt Trevor Bradley and Lt Gordon James |

**MIKE TROOP**

**Report by Sgt 'Butch' Cassidy**

At the moment the Troop is going through a busy period. With the rebuild of the Brigade Operations and Radio Rooms almost completed the task of installing all the radios and associated equipment has fallen to TM Troop to complete. In addition the rewire of the intercom system is well underway with **Sgt Phil Tait** ensuring no hiccups occur.

The Line Section have had increased involvement with British Telecom due to the reluctance of some of their engineers to venture into the more 'picturesque' areas of Londonderry such as the Platoon bases at Rosemount and Masonic.

**Cpl Steve Bullimore** and **Sig Steve Bickers** deployed to Rosemount to repair a fault in a telephone and due to the high risk threat had to 'hoof' it with a 2 QUEENS foot patrol. As they approached the RUC station an old lady who was out walking was seen to bless herself and then hide behind a nearby wall. Needless to say this did a lot for our intrepid Lineman's confidence, last seen they were entering Rosemount at great speed muttering something like '**** this for a game of soldiers'.

On the sporting side of life three of the Troop represented the Brigade in the Verden Marathon, **SSgt Om Chhetri** organised the admin whilst **LCpl Bob King** and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** ran.

**Cpl Rich Carey** has recently returned from leading a canoeing expedition in Norway together with **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** and **Sig Steve Griffiths**.

Recent arrivals include the whole of the Rigging Section which has moved across from Comms Troop under **Cpl 'Mac' McKittrick.**

On the farewells side we sadly say goodbye to **Sgt Dick Taylor** and **Eileen** who are off to sunny 642 Sig Tp (Gibraltar), **Sgt Steve Nickless** who leaves us for 8 Sig Regt where he joins his family again and **Cpl Colin Jones** and **Karen** off to Catterick for his T1.


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# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**OPERATIONS**

Overall the summer season has passed fairly quietly but there have been a number of major isolated incidents. In Belfast the visit of NORAID (American Supporters of Sinn Fien) received wide publicity. In South Armagh a major bomb explosion in Newry caused a number of injuries, but no fatalities: a near miss for a patrol from 42 Commando RM. In Belfast the new roulement Bn 3 RGJ have just taken over from 1 Kings. We wish them a successful tour.

**SQUADRON OPEN DAY**

This year's Squadron Open Day was a great success. It started with a Squadron photograph (unlike last year it didn't rain!) and the wives and families came in to meet their husbands. During the morning all the visitors and relatives looked around the Squadron to see what we really do!

The highlight of the morning was the Rover Group Anti-Ambush display. This one particular drill was based on a mock RPG-7 attack. A group of hardened terrorists led by **Cpl (?) 'Shug' 'Rocket Man' Hughes** attacked our gallant crew with a rocket launcher and an LMG. The lead rover was 'hit' and **LCpl Keith 'No hand-brake' Weaver** fell out, injured: but because the rover stopped he didn't apply the hand-brake, so it kept rolling! The rear escorts **Ptes Mick Varndell** and **Adie 'Jack-le-Feet' Palmer** silenced the RPG-7 with concentrated rifle fire.

The back-up rover skidded to a halt and led by **Cpl 'Steve Spielburg' Roberts**, mopped up the remaining terrorists. Naturally the little show was produced, with special effects, by **Cpl 'Steve Spielburg' Roberts** and it went down very well with the onlooking children.

Over back in the Horshoe Club Bravo Troop put on a Knurdling Competition. Knurdling (for the uninformed) is the art of negotiating an obstacle course whilst dressed in fancy costume at the greatest rate of knots possible.

The whole event was ably organised by **2Lt Adrian Metcalfe**, OC B Tp. Each Troop entered teams. Each team of four, roped together, had to scramble over, under, and through obstacles such as a cam net (with respirators on), drink a pint, respirators off, thankfully) and the dreaded monkey bars with water bucket. The Fancy Dress Competition was won by B Tp, (dressed as girls as usual), much to the annoyance of the mad technicolour jocks, (QM's Dept). The knurdling contest was won by TM Troop, with a gallant run. A special mention for the ladies prize winners, who were **Elain Norman, Debbie Smith, Wendy Knighton** and **Natalie Partridge**.

Cpl Ray Pickering, SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood, Sig Ian Constable, Shaun Ingram (now RLD 1 STAFFS) and 'Stig of the Dump' Richards are here prepared for action (well the Yeoman is anyway!) in West Belfast

Rover Group in Action—Here seen defeating the terrorist on the Squadron Open Day

Spot the war-torn veteran—Lt Paul Hudson (now 11 Sig Regt), SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood and Capt Terry Canham (now HQ 4 Armd Div) just happened to be there for the camera

The 'Jocks' line up under comd of WO2 (RQMS) Steve Jones. *L-R:* WO2 (RQMS) Steve Jones, Sgt Ron Torrance, LCpls Monty Moore and Simon Sloman

The Alpha Troop Knurdling team line up. *L—R:* LCpl 'Scouse' Bradley, Sig 'Caz' Graham, Andy Cook and Cpl Paul Jennings

The winning fancy dress team. Cpl 'Scouse' Davis, Sig Pete Goodliff, Sgt Dave Norman, Cpl 'Sharkey' Smith

**ALPHA TROOP**

Alpha Troop is now well ahead in its Ops Room repair and rebuild programme. In Belfast we have just finished building a new ops room at Whiterock. **Cpl Ray Pickering** and his gang of **LCpl Pete Bauress**, and **Sig Rick Birch** have done a very good job indeed.

In South Armagh we have just started to knock down the old ops room at Crossmaglen. **Cpl Harry Fellows, LCpl 'Dinger' Bell** and **Sig 'Taff' Mallaney** have been kept busy working with the Bootnecks knocking down walls, drilling holes and ripping out old radio sets and remote cables.

**Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley** has been hard pressed during this summer's marching season. His Heli-Tele mobile has been heavily used and he has certainly dispelled the rumour that he didn't have a combat jacket or combat trousers. Meanwhile **Cpl 'Geordie Yosa' Brown** and **LCpl 'Johna' Jones** have been seen keeping their generators in trim for this winters expected power cuts! Lastly a mention for the OC **Capt Keith Durward** and his 2IC **2Lt Neil Stevens. SSgt Roy Shaw** was reported to have seen them working recently and not organising sailing, waterskiing or deciding who to take out to dinner tonight!

We say farewell to **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** off (at last) to 568 RLD 1 Bn KOB. **Cpl Alan Gay** has now left us after three years hard work on promotion to Sergeant. We wish him well and welcome **Cpl 'Shug' Hughes** in his place as the new Rover Group Commander.

We also welcome **Sig Mat Dyson** and **Clive Hallett** to the troop and hope they have a successful tour but commiserate with **Sig Ian Constable**, who having taken the plunge and married an Irish lassie has had his posting to Germany delayed by Manning and Records. Hard luck Ian!

**BRAVO TROOP**

The sporting event of the summer was the six-a-side inter-squadron cricket which was organised by the 'impartial?' **SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood**, Captain of the Bravo Troop Team. It was a close run competition with B Troop just pipping SHQ/QM Troop in the final. All competitors commented on the fairness of the rules, and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to show off hidden talents; especially **Sgt George Cook** who almost won every game for SHQ/QM Troop single handed. However congratulations to B Troop in notching up yet another easy victory against oncomers within the Squadron and in particular to **SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood, Cpl 'Sharky' Smith, LCpls Nick Hawley, Dave Richards, 'Snapper' Snape, 'Arfur' Poole** and **Sig Peter 'Perfect' Goodliff**, the winning team.

**SHQ VIEW**

We welcome **Capt George Whyman** into SHQ from Ouston. He has taken over as 2IC/Ops Offr from **Capt Terry Canham**. We all wish **Capts (Terry and Frances) Canham** all the very best in their respective posts in HQ 4 Armd Div. He says he is now looking forward to a reunion with a certain flat nosed (ex Alfa Troop) WO2 SSM in Herford.

Another new arrival, **Sig Dick Peacock**, has already found himself acting as one of the unit photographers. Perhaps he should put a full size photo of himself in the registry clerk's chair when he is away. The RSM says he wouldn't notice the difference.

The RSM, **WO1 Dave Osborne** is now counting the days until his handover to **WO1 Charlie Manning. Mr Osbourne** used a boot to threaten snails on PT—we wonder why **Mr Manning** is bringing two shotguns with him? We shall all miss **WO1 Osborne** for such frequent quotes as: 'Give us a fag', I'm just going to Rover Group for me dinner' and, most frequent, 'Make us a cup of tea our kid'. (For the week of handover/takeover of RSMs we shall have a **Chas** and **Dave**—are we in for an entertaining week?).

**Sgt George Cook** has now settled into the post of training SNCO and is now looking for joining instructions for golf lessons.

The OC, **Maj Martin Wilkinson**, finally got the Chief Clerk away from his desk when he recently took him as bag carrier on a helicopter flight to a hilltop site. Chief says he draws the line at West Belfast, that's why he's still got all of his hair.

A note for all future postings in to this unit. It has been noticed that the following requirements are necessary: For SHQ—must be able to play cards; for Bravo Tp—must play golf; for MT—must know the difference between VHS and Betamax videos; for TM Tp—must have lost your uniform and for Alfa Troop—must be used to short working days and numerous happy hours.

**TM TROOP**

As usual we are going through a very active period, does it ever let up? one might say. Under the watchful eye of our TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** and our FofS **WO2 Jim Hanifin**, the work is completed without any mishaps. These past few months have shown a large turnover in troop personnel; **Cpl 'Ned' Horton** and **LCpl 'Mo' Mohide** who are both leaving the army, **Sig 'Spud' Taylor** on posting to Berlin and **Sig Tim Hayter** who is to retrain as a Radio Tech. We wish them all good luck in their future postings and careers.

To replenish our decreasing manpower we welcome **Sgt Ian Horton, Cpl Kev Smith** and his family and **Sig Gaz Rushworth** who has recently taken the plunge into married life. Three other members of the troop who have also joined the marriage stakes: **Cpls Clive Wragg, Scott Steven** and **Phil Cox**, and the best of British to them.

Even with all the hard work the troop is putting in, most of us manage to represent the Squadron at some sport or other. In the recent military skills competition held by Lisburn Garrison TM Troop represented by **WO2 (FofS) Jim Hanifin, Sgt Dave Rutter** (of Heli-Tele fame), **Cpl 'Marty' Webb** and **LCpl Kev Simmons** managed to obtain first position against fierce opposition from the rest of the Garrison.

September saw us preparing for the Squadron Open Day, when the Squadron wives find out exactly what happens in the Troop. Needless to say after much coffee and biscuits, meant for the wives, we put over a good hardworking show. We also won the knurdling competition with **Cpl 'Marty' Webb, Sig 'Jacko' Jackson, LCpl Kev Simmons** and **Sig Gaz Rushworth** all putting on a fine display of guzzling beer.

Finally a welcome back to **Sgt** 'I've had three hair cuts' **'Shuggs' Allison** who has recently returned from his Staff Sergeants Course and a bon voyage to **Sgt Dave Rutter**, soon to join the ranks of the hairless.

**MT TROOP**

The troop has recently moved into new premises, making life a lot easier for us all. Although daily details have continued to come in thick and fast we have managed to squeeze in a motor cycle course, run by **Dvr 'Paddy' Moreton**, our intrepid motor cyclist. He has so far achieved a remarkable 13 out of 13 passes.

On the sporting scene the troop were narrowly defeated by the SHQ/QM and B Troop teams in the inter-troop cricket competition. It is not for me to say that anybody cheated but I am still not convinced that 2 + 2 = 15!

Finally a mention for our only Corps driver, **Sig Steve Eastick**. Consider yourself mentioned!



# 233 Sig Sqn
# BFPO 801

**FOCUS ON ADMIN TROOP**

A strange thing happened in SHQ last week. Without being asked for, a contribution towards our *Wire* notes was received! Obviously the Chief Clerk, who wrote it, was feeling left out of things. This unprecendented event led to the thought that perhaps it was time the whole of Admin Troop got a bit of the limelight. After all, if they are happy, maybe movement orders will appear more quickly, stores might turn overnight into issues, and transport could possibly appear when and where . . . So this is who they are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Admin Tp Comd** | **Capt Ray Briant** |
| **Asst Admin Offr** | **Lt Margaret Wilton** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 'Bounce' Spring** |
| **Admin/MT SSgt** | **SSgt Dave Sparkes** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt John Boyd** |
| **NCO IC Trg Wg** | **Sgt Kev Lodge** |

And this is what they do:

Admin Troop

*L—R and Back to Front:* Sig Parry, Scott, Wainwright, McDonald, Cpl Skee, LCpl Harkness, Cpls Norris, Quinn, Sgts Mullen, Lodge, Cpl Shiels, LCpl Wayman, Sig Hoskins, SSgts Boyd, Sparks, Capt Briant, Lt Wilton, SSgt Rack, Pte Brown, Sig Bowman

**ORDERLY ROOM**

During the last few months, the backbone of the Squadron, namely the Orderly Room, has undergone a complete change. The Chief Clerk, ORC and WORP (Woman Orderly Room Private) have all arrived since May with little or no handover time. As usual the clerical element has adapted to a difficult situation, and all have settled in to the task of administering the largest independent Squadron in the Corps. **Cpl Dave Stokes** who recently arrived from 14 Sig Regt (EW) has adapted well to the change and is finding life hectic but interesting. **Pte Cath Brown** ('Not the Tower again, Chief') is producing excellent work on the movements desk. The Chief Clerk is still trying to play football, but calls of 'Dobbin', or 'Carthorse' from the touchline are slowly getting through to him. The civilian element continue to give us valuable support with **Mrs Margaret Harvey** beavering away over the files, and the two typists **Mrs Margaret Hooper** and **Miss Rosemary Mairs** are regarded as the most accurate in the Garrison.

So the new team have settled in and are working hard to provide a good service for all. Maybe someday, someone somewhere will appreciate the work done by the clerical element of their unit, and refrain from saying 'He's only a clerk'.

**TRAINING WING**

The fact that 70% of the squadron work shifts does not, of course, exclude them from military training. The majority of the instruction falls to our two man training wing: **Sgt Kev Lodge** and **Cpl 'Dino' Dean**. Both have been rescued from the clutches of Comms Troop and have divided their time between attending courses, shooting at Bisley, windsurfing in Scotland and competing in first aid competitions. In between times they manage to run military training weeks and prepare NCOs for Det Comd and Staff Sergeant courses. **Cpl Dean** is posted shortly to the Junior Regiment who will, I hope, be grateful to us for all the qualifications he has already. **Sgt Lodge** has extended his tour here, mainly so that he can go on Summer Camp again next year, but also (I suspect) because he fancies himself as a Franco Zefferrelli with the Squadron CCTV.

Sig Bowman on his way to 100% on stand 1 of the NI First Aid Competition

ROSPA awards. Various tradesmen from various troops. Why haven't the front three got their's with them?

**RQMS DEPT**

When asked whether anything unusual had happened in the RQMS Dept recently, the reply from **Sgt 'Stu' Mullen** was 'Nothing you could really write about'. Say no more. However, the *Wire* notes mole did find out that, although the RQMS has grown out of dinky toys, he has been having great fun recently driving his new fork lift truck. We expect that he'll tire of it eventually and **Sig 'Mac' Mcdonald** will be able to have a go!

**MT SECTION**

Although our boys from Hazzard County will tell you how over-worked and underpaid they are, they still manage to find plenty of time to comb their hair and have their photographs taken. They probably deserve a break though, now and then, when you consider the number of (almost) accident free miles they clock up. Most of the section have won ROSPA awards for safe driving and, thanks mainly to **SSgt Dave Sparkes**, the majority are now Advanced Motorists.

**CHANGEOVER IN THE COMMCEN**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt (Tfc) John Nichols QGM** |
| **YofS** | **WO1 (YofS) Dave Wright** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Joe McKenzie** |
| **DSO A Shift** | **Sgt Ian Knight** |
| **DSO B Shift** | **Sgt Alec Bisset** |
| **DSO C Shift** | **Sgt Gary Quick** |
| **IC Crypto** | **Sgt Gus Hales** |
| **IC Exchange** | **Sgt Jan Pepperrell** |

The last few weeks has seen COMMCEN Troop completing its new look in its hierarchy. **WO1 (Y of S) Dave Wright** from 7 Sig Regt has taken over the running of the COMMCEN (when he isn't sorting out ORT telephones). **SSgt Joe McKenzie** has joined the troop from 8 Sig Regt to take over as Troop Staff Sergeant. He is still recovering from finding out that he has a total troop strength of some 88 personnel, some spread out in detachments Provincewide, and some within the various departments of the troop in Lisburn. After two months he still hasn't found them all! Welcome also to **Cpl 'Tich' Barnard** from 30 Sig Regt via Belize, and to **Pte Renee Wells** from 10 Sig Regt.

Farewell to **WO1 (YofS) Mick Thornton** who joins TACT in Catterick. He should arrive just in time to read all the letters he sent there while he was still in NI! Also goodbye to **SSgt Dave Aldous** (34 Sig Regt), **Pte Kerry O'Rourke** (RMP Trg Centre), **Cpl Carol Stevens** (Cyprus), **Cpl Mary Grigg** (BAOR), and **Pte Anne Jarvis** (Civvy Street). Best of luck to all of you in the future.

Congratulations to **Cpl** and **Elizabeth Rutter** on their baby girl, and to **LCpl Day** on his second stripe. Finally, well done to the Troop .22 shooting team who recently won the inter troop small bore competition. Much of the credit must go to **Sgt Ian Knight** for his hard work in coaching the team.

**BIRTWISTLE PENNANT FOR SPORT**

Of course it came as no great surprise that 7 Sig Regt had won it. What with the Army Rugby Cup and **Sgt 'Paddy' Killen** there isn't really much competition for them. However, we came second! Not bad for a minor unit so many thanks to all members of last year's squadron teams, and individuals, wherever you may be now. Your efforts did not go unnoticed.

**McKELVIE TROPHY—THE FINAL STAGES 1983-84**

By the time of the final two sports competitions, the field had split into two. While the front runners, Tech and Admin/Echo, vied for the overall trophy, a healthy scrap had developed amongst the remainder for third place. Volleyball, the penultimate event, was won by Tech Troop (who had been practising) with Admin/Echo last. This brought them level in the overall competition so it all rested on the Football competition. To the relief of Admin/Echo, it did not prove to be a close finish and they won both the Football and the McKelvie Trophy. Final positions were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Admin/Echo | 1st |
| Tech | 2nd |
| Comms | 3rd |
| Whiskey | 4th |
| Victor | 5th |
| Commcen | 6th |

It has been decided in future to split the McKelvie into two competitions, one in Winter and one in Summer. Hopefully this should keep the momentum going, and not allow anyone to get so far ahead that they cannot be caught.


## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

# BOARDING EDUCATION

North Yorkshire Local Education Authority maintains four secondary schools with boarding provision. Places are available for boys and girls for September 1985. Further particulars of the schools and application procedures may be obtained either by writing to the Head of the school or direct to the County Education Officer, County Hall, Room 143(SB) Northallerton DL7 8AE.

Admission to the two grammar schools is subject to the pupil's suitability for grammar school education. No charge is made to parents in respect of tuition.

### ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SCHOOL

Following the implementation of comprehensive education in the City of York in September 1985. Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School will be a Voluntary Controlled Comprehensive School for some 750 boys and girls situated on the eastern outskirts of the City of York having accommodation for about 45 boarders in a modern purpose-built Boarding House on an attractive site within easy reach of the City. The School founded in 1546, is now accommodated in modern premises and provides a wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses. Boarding facilities will continue at Archbishop Holgate's for boys 11-18 including some boarding provision for pupils attending the York Sixth Form College.
*Head Teacher:* Mr A. Walker, Hull Road, York YO1 5HA.

### ERMYSTEAD'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Voluntary Aided Grammar School for some 500 boys situated in the market town of Skipton on the edge of the Dales National Park, having accommodation for about 50 boarders. The school is of ancient foundation and the Boarding House is integral to the school's historic premises. A wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils proceed to courses of higher and further education.
*Head Teacher:* Mr D. M. Buckroyd, M.A., Gargrave Road, Skipton BD23 1PL.

### RICHMOND SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Comprehensive School for some 1,500 pupils (with a sixth form of about 230 pupils) having two well appointed Boarding Houses set in their own attractive grounds, with accommodation for about 35 boys and 12 girls. There is a wide range of courses based on strong academic traditions, for pupils of all abilities leading to CSE, CEE, GCE 'O' and 'A' level examinations.
*Head Teacher:* Mr J. D. Dutton, M.A., J.P., Darlington Road, Richmond DL10 7BQ.

### RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Grammar School for some 660 pupils having two attractive boarding Houses with accommodation for about 55 boys and 45 girls. A wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils go on to courses of higher and further education.
*Head Teacher:* Mr D. B. Stanley, B.Sc., Clotherholme Road, Ripon HG4 2DG.






## Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

**IMPORTANT CHANGE**

The most important change in the last two months has been that **Lt Col Eddie Pickup** has handed over as Commandant to **Col Stephen Carr-Smith** and becomes Deputy Commandant again. We welcome **Col Stephen**, his wife **Nicky** and family to the College.

**THE JOHN PAGE MOTORCYCLE COMPETITION**

On the first Saturday of each term the roar of motorcycle engines can be heard and strangely clad and helmeted figures appear from all directions. The **John Page** Trophy, named after a member of Penney Sqn who was tragically killed in a motorcycling accident some years ago, is awarded each term to the motorcyclist who attains the highest marks in such aspects as handling, maintenance, equipment and Highway Code. The reason for this competition is to check and test the safety and competence of all riders and the serviceability of motorcycles in the College once a term. The competition is compulsory for all apprentices owning a motorcycle and they may have their machine impounded and their permission to ride removed if certain tests are not passed successfully. Once again the standard was very high; the overall winner of the Trophy for the Winter Term was **AT Sgt Garrett** with a score of 98%. The winning Squadron team was Scott Sqn with an overall team average of 93.5%.

**ORIENTEERING**

The Inter Squadron orienteering competition took place at Esholt Woods on 29 September. The format this term slightly changed in that three courses were set out in the same wood. Each squadron had to field 75 runners, individuals had to complete one of the three courses, each course had 15 checkpoints worth 10 points each and the time allowed was 45 minutes. In terms of individual standard and team performance the results achieved indicated that the general standard of orienteering within the College is high. The individual winner was **AT Sgt Holyoak** with a maximum score of 150 points in 42 minutes. The overall team winners were Bradley Sqn (a bribe that worked).

**GOLF**

Congratulations to **Maj 'Bandit' Bill Price** on winning this year's Corps Individual Handicap Championship.

**ATHLETICS**

Our congratulations go to the following for their fine effort in the Army Junior Individual Championships and being selected for the Combined Services team versus the Welsh National team:

**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**AT Cpl Williams**: 1st 1,500m, 1st Pole Vault; **AT Sgt Solomons**: 1st 110m Hurdles, 1st High Jump; **AT Cpl Langdale**: 3rd 200m; **AT Cpl Sturman**: 2nd 400m Hurdles: **AT Cpl Tinsley**: 2nd Triple Jump; **AT Cpl Forbes**: 2nd Pole Vault; **AT Jankins**: 2nd Discus.

In the Combined Services versus the Welsh National Team **AT Sgt Solomons** set a personal best in winning the 110m Hurdles in a time of 15.5 secs; well done **'Solly'**, perhaps a vest next season.


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## THE 1984 RUTLAND WALK

**Report by A. T. Garratt**

The Rawson Squadron Rutland Walk Team

The Rutland Walk took place on Sunday 23 September at RAF North Luffenham in Leicestershire. Participating in the walk was the whole of Rawson Sqn's 84B intake plus two volunteers from Penney Sqn.

The aim of the walk was to raise money for the Ian Tetley Memorial Fund. The course was 18 miles long (29Km) but for the more energetic people there was a 42Km course. We set off from the College at 0500 hrs. The journey by coach took approximately three and a half hours during which we caught up on much needed sleep after the Squadron trip to Blackpool the previous evening. Accompanying us on the walk was **WO2 (SSM) 'Matt' Matthews, Sgts Pete Griffin, Fred Tedby** and **AT Pipe Maj Jock McKay**. For the first mile of the walk we were led by **AT Pipe Maj McKay** who played the bagpipes while we marched, making us the centre of attention for all the spectators. The course followed the outline of Rutland Lake near RAF Luffenham.

The SSM set a fast pace and most of us had trouble keeping up with him. Everyone was tired near the end of the walk but were brought back to life again when **AT Pipe Maj McKay** rejoined us over the final mile. At the final checkpoint we were greeted by a round of applause from the spectators some of whom were visiting from Canada, USA, and the Continent.

Each member of the team was presented with a gold medal for completing the course, which took three hours forty minutes, including a lunch break. A total of £647.60 was collected and will be presented to Ian Tetley Memorial Home by **AT Walton** who raised over £60.00

### RAWSON SQN BLACKPOOL TRIP

On Saturday 22 September over a hundred apprentice tradesmen from Rawson Sqn set off to invade Blackpool with the Squadron Second in Command **Capt Bernie Neillings** leading the assault. We arrived around lunchtime and decided to consume our 'Death Packs' (Cookhouse packed lunch) before setting off to enjoy the pleasures of Blackpool. Some decided to test out their stomachs on the assorted rides whilst others, namely the Squadron Permanent Staff, headed for sustenance to build up enough resistance to be able to cope with the upside-down swishing and crashing of the various amusements. The weather was reasonably kind to us with only a couple of showers during the day and saving the thunder storms for the evening. We all met back at the coach around tea time where, as well as a second round of Death Packs, the Second in Command and **Sgt Pete Griffin** had arranged for two containers of chips from the Pleasure Beach works canteen. Having spent our last few pounds on the Pleasure Beach we departed at 2000 hrs and drove through the illuminations. On the way back we stopped for refreshment whereupon **AT Paul Marsland** decided to wander off at departure time, resulting in him spending the night with some friendly villagers and being picked up the next day. What **Capt Bernie Neillings** said to him when he got back will, I'm afraid, have to be left to the imagination . . . aye, it were a grand day out!

### BRADLEY SQN—PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Patrick** (it hasn't changed) **Garway-Templeman** |
| **2IC** | **Capt David** (I'll do some work soon) **Crawford** |
| **CSM (WO2)** | **Dennis 'Fishy' Bowes** Scots Guards |
| **OC Rct Tp** | **Lt Alex** (Go for it (which one?)) **Wilson** |
| **Rct Tp Sgt** | **Paul 'Medallion Man' Hickinbottom** |
| **B Tp Sgt** | **John 'Siggy' Salter** |
| **C Tp Sgt** | **Pete 'Fitzpiggy' Fitzmaurice** |
| **SQMS Sgt** | **Joe 'Paddington' Malloy** |
| **Sqn Clerk** | **Cpl Kev 'Tracksuit' Jones** |

The Winter term started in good form with the Squadron producing a fine victory in the Champion Squadron Orienteering Competition. **AT Sgt 'Pathfinder' Holyoak** was the star of the competition, finishing with maximum points on the 'A' course. Congratulations also to **AT Moore** on winning the 'C' course individual.

Sadly, this term we say farewell to two erstwhile members of the Squadron PS. **Lt Elspeth Mollison WRAC** (affiliated PS) who has contributed greatly to the morale, well-being and External Leadership training standards of the Squadron. Also **Cpl Kev Jones** the Squadron Clerk, who, rumour has it, is going to be replaced by a part-time civilian clerk. Who asked if we will notice the change and what will be the dress? We thank them both for their enthusiastic efforts and give them our best wishes for their new postings, **Lt Mollison** to the Munster Education Centre and **Cpl Jones** to the active life of 1 ADSR. Now the Squadron looks forward to a successful term and to victory in the Champion Squadron competition.


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## THREE PEAKS WALK

**Report by AT LCpl Robinson**

Leaving camp at 1700 hrs on Friday 4 May, we set off on what promised to be an arduous exercise, with lots of hilarity and lots of sun. Camp was based at Cragghill Farm about one kilometre from Horton in Ribblesdale. After the tents were pitched and our delicious 'compo' teas had been cooked, tested and tasted, each section had a map check and then had time to get organised for the next day.

**Andy 'Dino' Dean** took a premature birthday bath in the River Ribble, much to the amusement of all the apprentices and the Permanent Staff, though fortunately for him, he didn't get his clothes wet! After an early night, everyone woke up at 0530 hrs Saturday morning bright-eyed and ready to roll.

At 0630 hrs, **Capt Johnson** arrived, along with his faithful dog Rufus and by 0700 hrs we were setting off on our way along 26 miles of extremely arduous walking. Our first climb was Ingleborough, 723m of a long, slow haul up to the top. Descending from Ingleborough, led by **'Paddy' Patterson**, we were twice close to peril, with **'Paddy's'** expert map reading, nearly taking us off the edge and then finally sliding down the hillside on boulders and scree.

After a rather easy walk along flat land to Whernside and stopping at the Inn for a water refill at Chapel-le-Dale, we began the steep, tiring climb up 736m of dusty scree-covered hillside, which was not helped by the heat of the sun, and blisters which encroached on the feet of members of the section. Finally reaching the summit, we stopped for a hearty 'compo' lunch, which was well overdue by that time. High spirits were maintained all day through the heat of the sun and the swelling and soreness of the blisters.

On the way to Pen-y-Ghent was where we had the most problems; walking along a stretch of the 'Pennine Way', **'Tucker's'** blisters burst, resulting in a lengthy rest period, whilst his feet were patched up and repaired with the help of 'moleskin plasters'. Even with the magic of the plasters, **'Tucker'** was unable to keep up with the pace, so inevitably **Capt Johnson** remained with him, whilst the rest of the section headed off to conquer Pen-y-Ghent. By this time we were already behind schedule for a 12 hour finish, so setting off on a cracking pace we headed towards our final obstacle of the day, 700m to go!

As the section approached the base of Pen-y-Ghent **Maj Garway Templeman**'s section was spotted near the top and due to the high spirited singing and determination of the section, we scaled Pen-y-Ghent with relative ease, forgetting the weight of our legs and the blisters; we descended the other side of the hill passing **Maj Garway-Templeman**'s section on the way. Special thanks to **Col Etherington** and **Tucker** who made the final climb with bleeding feet! Once on the road to Horton-in-Ribblesdale, we doubled off to the café whistling as we went, to check in, completing the walk in 11 hrs 25 mins. Well done to everyone!

Reveille Sunday morning was 0630 hrs and after having our breakfast and packing up we were on our way by 0800 hrs, totally refreshed after a good night's sleep. The walk ahead was easy, though quite long, setting off with a full section, blisters bandaged and made as comfortable as possible. Navigation and route planning was done en-route since the route was all along well defined tracks and footpaths.

The first incident of the day came whilst walking through a field of cattle. **Capt Johnson** led the way through with Rufus, but the cows were calving and became aggressive attacking **Capt Johnson's** dog, and then without hesitation the whole herd seemed to turn on **Capt Johnson**. One of the cows butted him in the stomach sending him keeling over on his back whilst two more began pawing him and butting him. The cries for help sent the whole section rushing to his aid physically pushing the cows off and scaring them away! Excitement in its entirety . . .

Slightly shaken and ruffled, we continued on our way to our destination without further incident, taking home with us some very new and memorable experiences. The exercise was enjoyed by most with good weather and lots of determination, the results of a very well organised and arduous exercise, bringing out the best in every man with regard to teamwork, fitness and durability.

## KNARESBOROUGH BED RACE

**Report by AT LCpl Robinson**

Preparation for the race began weeks before, with daily training by the team, **Sgts Lund, Williams, Oliver, Cpl O'Rourke, AT Bruce** and **AT Newton**. Mastering the art of steering the 'bed' was the most difficult to perfect, but presented no great difficulty and was soon well under control. The management, **Sgt Hickinbottom** and **Lt Wilson**, took great pains to ensure everything was correctly organised including the decoration of 'Battle Axe 2'.

**Lt Mollison** (the passenger) endeavoured to stay clear of the team until the night before when she took her first ride on the 'bed'; though slightly apprehensive, was more confident after a trial run around camp.

Arriving in Knaresborough on 9 June, the team had nothing to do except wait for the procession at 1330 hrs, so they soaked up the sun. Meanwhile, other members of the Squadron were busy maintaining order on an assault course for the thousands of children who were spectating. A radio network was in operation all day, maintaining communications over the whole course, in case of accidents before or during the race.

The procession led the team down to the start, by the river; on arrival, the 'bed' was stripped and prepared for the race. Even when stripped, the 'bed' was still heavy, and the team was beginning to wonder whether the bed would cross the river, nine feet deep in the middle. Last minute attempts were made to try and make the bed lighter; worse still, one of the inner tubes had burst during the procession.

At 1500 hrs the race began, the teams setting off at approximately 30 second intervals, 'Battle Axe 2' was number 25. Each set off without incident, except one team of Morris Dancers, whose 'bed', decorated with a May Pole, nearly brought down the whole starting point by hitting the start sign and breaking the pole.

First into the river crossing was a German team, who in fact broke the course record by a minute. Five minutes behind was the old 'Battle Axe' which hit the water at high speed. First impressions were that it was sinking, the first 'bed' to sink, but it began to rise as it moved through the water. The swimming ability of the team was an advantage as they overtook some other competitors, finally finishing the race in 18 minutes. A creditable finish for a first time attempt.

## WESTMINSTER CHARITY RUN

Two members of Intake 84A (Bradley Sqn), **AT Ivemey** and **AT Eldridge** took part in the Westminster Charity Run, a relay event from John O'Groats to Lands End from 26 May to 4 June. The event is organised to raise money for several charities and has as its Patron **His Grace The Duke of Westminster**. The event is broken down into 10 legs run over 10 days and raised £20,000. **AT Ivemey** and **AT Eldridge** report having been a little foot sore and tired at the end, notwithstanding, it was a remarkable achievement. Well done.

## SCOTT SQUADRON

The new Officer Commanding, **Maj Graham Thomas** took over the Squadron from **Maj Peter Bowles** and then met **Sgt 'Paddy' Black**. What **Sgt Black** said to him he will not confess, but the result was dramatic. Within the week, the OC had emigrated to the South Atlantic! **Capt Ian** (I'm playing Squash) **Buckley** assumed command of the Squadron until the end of September, when he left for 4 Armd Div Sig Regt as QM Tech. We wish him and his wife **Julie** all the best for the future. **Capt John** (it's only local) **Armitage** has been 'stolen' from Rawson Sqn to be our OC and 2IC until the New Year.

Before leaving, **Capt Buckley** presented the Buckley Trophy to the Squadron for the best recruit of an intake and also a smart new cane for the AT SSM.

*Keep your unit notes*
**SHORT!**

Capt Buckley presents his own trophy to the best recruit of intake 83C, AT LCpl Peter 'Scotty' Scott

Capt Buckley presents the new Cane to AT SSM 'Paddy' Ireland

## CRICKET

The College Junior XI once again took part in the Harrogate Evening Junior League which this season consisted of seven teams. We eventually finished the season in fourth position having won six and lost six of our games.

We developed the unfortunate habit of establishing winning positions but failing to achieve the desired result. In the first game of the season at Killinghall we reached 105 for 6 after good knocks from **Pickersgill** (R), **Brudenell** (B), who captained the team, **Swanston** (R), **Sheppard** (B) and **Lowe** (P). Such a total ought to ensure a win in an 18 over's match, with the opposition batting second, in poor light. However our bowling lacked control, catches were dropped, fielding was slack and we lost. It was a similar story at Bilton (lost by four runs) and in particular in the Barrett Cup simi-final where, having held the strong Harrogate team to 72 for 7 (**Phillips** (B) 3 for 25, **McWilliam** (P) 3 for 13) in their 22 overs our batsmen were over-confident and contrived a defeat.

A number of performances in the League are worthy of mention. **Bishop** (B), **Pickersgill, McWilliam** and **Eyton** (R) always set a fine example in the field, took many good catches and threw in hard and flat to the wicket keeper, **Lane** (B), who worked effectively in all his games. **Brudenell** (35 at Knaresborough), **Phillips** (20 no against Beckwithshaw), **Bishop** (35 no against Killinghall), **Lane** (30 no at Harrogate) and **Lowe** (21 no against Bilton) showed that we had the ability to score attractive runs well down the order. **McWilliam, Burdenell, Bishop, Phillips** and **Swanston** each contributed good spells with the ball, **McWilliams'** 6 for 12 off 8 overs against **Bilton** ranking as the best performance.

Our defeat in the semi-final of the Army Junior Cup at Bovington was a big disappointment. We had hoped to repeat our success of 1983 when we were Army champions. We were unable to establish any large partnership despite steady knocks from **Phillips, Lowe, Swanston** and **Lane** and could only reach a total of 73. A couple of unfortunate umpiring decisions early in the Armoured Corps innings did not help our cause and we went down by 8 wickets.

The highlights of the season were, without doubt, our comprehensive wins against Chepstow and Arborfield in the Triangular Games held this year at Harrogate. Our first game was against Chepstow who had already beaten Arborfield the previous weekend. Batting first we made 125 in 33 of our permitted 35 overs. **Sgt Barnett** (R), Captain of the College XI, made 46 and **Pickersgill**, who faced 7 balls, despatched 5 of them for boundaries in great style. Our bowling was hostile and accurate when Chepstow batted. They managed to survive for 31 overs but could total only 68 (**McWilliam** 4 for 18, **Swanston** 3 for 12, **Brudenell** 2 for 15).

Arborfield could do no better against us the following day. Batting first again we made 137 (**Barnett** 69, **Cpl Sturley** 24) and dismissed the opposition for 61 in 24 overs (**Barnett** 6 for 33, **Brudenell** 4 for 9). A feature of both games was our aggressive fielding and safe catching. Six catches were taken against Chepstow and a further six, together with a stumping, against Arborfield.

Full colours were awarded to **Sgt Barnett** (R), **Swanston** (R), **Pickersgill** (R), **Burdenell** (B), **Phillips** (B), **Lane** (B) and **McWilliam** (P). Half colours were awarded to **Eyton** (R), **Challiner** (R), **Cpl Sturley** (B), **Bishop** (B), **Howlett** (B), **Cpl Sheppard** (B), **Cpl Allan** (P), **Lowe** (P) and **McTavish** (P).

Our thanks as usual to the catering and transport staff, sports storeman and groundsmen for all their efforts on our behalf.

*Back Row:* Maj Horne (OIC), Cpl Allan; Swanston, Eyton, McTavish, Lane, Robinson (Umpire)
*Middle Row:* McWilliam, Lowe, Sgts Barnett, Bishop, Brudenell
*Front Row:* Cpl Sheppard, Cpl Sturley; Challiner, Pickersgill, Phillips

## RUGBY

After the disappointments of last season when the College finished as Cup Runners-Up at both Youth and Junior Army levels, we are determined this year to improve matters. **AT Sgt Andy Williams** again leads the side and **AT Cpl Andy O'Rourke** will lead the pack which includes many of last season's Junior side.

At Fly Half **AT Cpl 'Taff' Jolly** is attempting to uphold the Welsh tradition in the face of some stiff opposition from Recruit **Sebastian Tombs** (last season's England Schools Out Half).

The Principality is also represented by Recruits **Convery** and **Trehearne**, whilst not to be outdone Recruits **Rogers, Jacques, Poulton, Dougan, Gomery, Swan** and **Matthewson** have all shown considerable promise which has managed to make the Team Coach, **Sgt Mick Uttley**, smile again.

Our first trip of the season saw us perform extremely well in the Scunthorpe 7-a-Side Competition when we beat Morley, Scunthorpe, York and Kelveston before going out to a 'sudden death' try in the Semi Final to the eventual winners.

As we go to press, we learn that our opponents in the Junior Cup Semi Final are to be Army Apprentices College Chepstow here at Harrogate. This is a repeat of last year's Cup Final and we are looking to avenge our defeat.

## EXERCISE *LIONHEART*

Five civilian and five military instructors from Telegraphist Wing recently proved that their knowledge and expertise is not confined to the classroom and textbook, by taking an active part in Ex *Lionheart*. **Benny Newell** (Major Traffic Officer), **Peter Skinner** (Troop Commander) and **Bruce Graham** (YofS) all members of 34 Sig Regt (V), substituted their civilian clothes for NBC Kit and accompanied their Regiment to BAOR. **Clive Howells** played his part with his Regiment whilst **Terry Bass** who is a YofS with 55 Sig Sqn (V) spent his time in a defensive EW capacity. Not to be outdone, **Sgts Weightman, Saville, Sipson, Cpl Bellew** and **Sig Rogers**, all military instructors in the Wing, formed the nucleus of a monitoring team basing themselves initially at Krefeld and for the second part of the exercise, in the Corps area. They were joined by 45 ex apprentices who had graduated from the College in August, and arrived independently from their leave addresses. They all got to the right place and on time and apparently acquitted themselves with much credit.

*L to R:* Mr Newell, Mr Buss, Mr Skinner, Sgt Savill, Sgt Weightman, Mr Howells, Mr Graham, Sig Rogers, Cpl Bellew, Sgt Sipson

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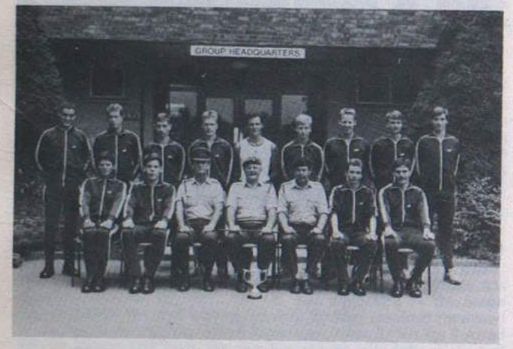
**SCRIBE'S NOTES**

This contribution serves to emphasise the popularity of sport among our trainees. Not only does it provide the opportunity to unwind after long hours spent in the classroom; it also enables the gifted players to get away from training altogether, for a time! There are additional side benefits, like avoiding the possibility of being 'pinched' by the SMI on his favourite charge under Section 69 of, 'Idling whilst undergoing training of a technical nature'. During the summer months, many of the trainees have foregone the pleasure of kicking the black dog, which lurks menacingly within the 2 Sqn compound, to support the unit at Colchester and other such exotic places . . .

**ATHLETICS**

The Unit Athletics team has had a successful season on the track. The in-unit meeting held in May indicated that we had proviously unsuspected talent in several events. Our Army Basketball star, **Sig Andrew Brown**, decided at a late stage to enter the High Jump. He learned the technique of 'flopping' during the morning and promptly cleared 1.85 metres the same afternoon. **Sig Maurice Sudell** showed promise in the 400 metres Hurdles and **LCpl Andrew Ross** did well in the Triple Jump and Long Jump.

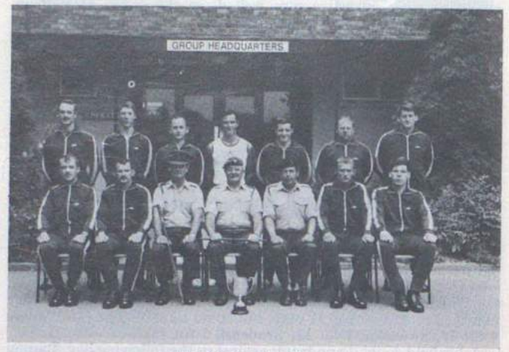
In the Eastern District meeting we were runners up to the Depot Queens Division. Regular training, and newcomers posted into the Group, strengthened our squad so that, at the Zone 1 (UK) semi-finals, we won the Eastern Area Challenge Cup between Eastern District and London District. As a result of this meeting we also qualified for the Army Championship Finals for the first time ever. Unfortunately, by the time that event took place, the squad had been depleted by the departure of newly qualified tradesmen and the standard of competition was too high for the team to make any impact, although several of its members produced personal best performances. One cannot ask for more.




The Athletics Team
*L-R Back Row:* Sig Brown, LCpl Hall, Sig Sudell, LCpl Tickner, SI King, Sig Roberts, LCpl Olohan, Sig Lovering and Coxen
*Front Row:* Sig Wood, Foody, WO1 (RSM) House, Lt Col A. F. Ridger, Maj J. Fender, LCpls Jensen and Ross

**TRAINING PAYS OFF**

The Unit Swimming Team was given the opportunity to train with the Loughborough Swimming Club for about one month under the direction of **SI Chris King**, prior to the Eastern District Minor Units Championships. Without this training it is unlikely that the team would have achieved anything like the success they did. At the Eastern District meeting, held on 16 June, the team won very comfortably. In fact, with one event still to be held, the team was already in a position where it could not be beaten other than by disqualification. This success put us through to the Zone A Championships in Aldershot's Sandhurst Pool on 4 July.




The Swimming Team
*L-R Back Row:* LCpls Sean Naylor, Mick Lang, Sgt Dick Pickup, SI Chris King, Cpl Steve Carr, Sig Miles Wakefield and Adrian Storey
*Front Row:* Pte Barry Fewster, Sig Rich Angove, WO1 (RSM) House, Lt Col A. F. Ridger, Maj J. Fender, LCpl Dave Henley, Sig Paul Foody
Not in photograph LCpl Steve Bailey and Sig Stu Budd

In spite of the date, the absence of some of our best swimmers from the team did not lead us to expect too many fireworks. We duly finished runners-up to Depot Queens Division, whom we had beaten in the Eastern District meeting. As two teams went through to the Army Finals, we did qualify.

The Army Championships were again held at the Sandhurst Pool on 25 July. In the morning the team entered the single event relays with the following successes:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 × 33 yds Freestyle | 1st | **LCpl Bailey, Sig Angove, Wakefield** and **Storey** |
| 4 × 33 yds Medley | 1st | **LCpl Naylor, Sgt Pickup, SI King, LCpl Bailey** |
| 4 × 33 yds Breast | 2nd | **Sgt Pickup, Cpl Carr, LCpl Naylor, Sig Wakefield** |

These successes put us in a confident mood for the afternoon Minor Units Team Championships and, even after being disqualified in the Breast-stroke, we managed to come in third team place overall. This, in effect, made us the UK champions as the two teams who beat us, 65 Sqn RE and 29 Sig Regt, were both from BAOR.

**ROAD RUNNING CLUB**

The Road Running Club, started at Garats Hay in 1983 by **WO1 (FofS) John Mellors**, is now run by **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Dorans**. Lately the club has been going from strength to strength. With **John Mellors** nursing the 10 runners through their first half-marathon, we now have more than 30 runners. On 8 April we entered a team for the

Army Half-marathon Championships at Aldershot. All the team achieved very good results with **Cpl Dave McGaughey** beating the RQMS, **Pete Dorans**, on the line in a time of 1 hour 23 minutes to be our first team member home. Our own 'Fun Run', the annual seven mile Road Race, was extended by a quarter of a mile this year, so that all the volunteers could get a good position at the start. There were 120 entrants on the start line. First home was **LCpl 'Kid' Jensen**,, followed closely by **Sig 'Woody' Wood** and **Sgt Mick McGrath**. Fourth home was **Pete Dorans**, collecting the Veterans trophy for his effort. As arranged previously, the team event was won by HQ Troop, the RQ deciding (shortly after the finish) that the first three of each team were to qualify provided that the sum total of the points they had gained was equal to twice the square root of a number to be drawn out of the hat at the next Tramps Ball held on Christmas day in the Officers Mess (At least that is roughly how he described the rules).

So far this season we have run in no less than five half-marathons with another three to go before the end of the season. Our best-attended event was the Loughborough Half-marathon, with 36 individuals entered in a field of 2,400. Three of our runners, **Sgt Mick McGrath, LCpl 'Kid' Jensen** and **WO2 Bob Carty**, achieved a Gold Medal, for being under 1 hour 25 minutes, and **RQMS Pete Dorans** only failed to qualify for Gold by 40 seconds. The most encouraging aspect of this year's racing has been the numbers of younger individuals taking up the sport.

(Scribes comment—Road Runners 30 Coyotes Nil)

**GOLF**

The Communications and Security Group Annual Meeting was held this year at the Lakeside Country Club near Stone in Staffordshire. The day was a fantastic success from many points of view. Training still managed to continue despite the absence of many indispensable specialist instructors; the Orderly Room came to a sudden halt (but rumour has it that its many regular passengers did not notice the jolt), and there was a prize for nearly everyone who did not play Golf with enough merit or regularity to have a proven handicap of less than about 26, even the odd Golfer (yes—from 3 Coy) managed to win something, but only by getting the most 'birdies', or rather the only 'birdie'.

A thoroughly enjoyable day, organised magnificently by **Capt Chris Carr**, was crowned by a well-lubricated finale in the prize-giving to the following 'stars':

| | |
|---|---|
| First 18 holes | CO, **Lt Col A. F. Ridger** |
| Second 18 holes | **Sig Shaw** |
| Best aggregate (36 holes) | **WO2 (ORQMS) Beston** |

Next year it is intended to impose some sort of limit to at least a maximum of one stroke per hole and it goes without saying that anyone who has a coronary during the competition will be disqualified for having an extra 'stroke', without the permission of the Committee.

**APOLOGY**

We apologise for the error on page 482 September issue immediately under 'SERGEANTS' MESS HIGHLIGHTS'. The statement should have read 'In January, the year was opened by the Mess officially welcoming the (then) new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col A. F. Ridger**. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, **Col R. A. St G. Martin OBE JP** was also a guest at the dining-in'.

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# HQ 12 Sig Bde(V)

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Commander** | **Brig T. H. Wheawell** |
| **Deputy Commander** | **Col A. W. Illingworth** |
| **SO2 (Ops/O&D)** | **Lt Col W. J. M. Michie** |
| **Staff Asst** | **WO1 (SC) M. J. Barstow** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **WO2 (ORQMS) I. E. Murray** |
| **Cpl Clerk** | **Cpl J. S. Corbett** |
| **Comd's Dvr** | **LCpl C. J. Green** |
| **PA/Typist** | **Mrs J. Collinswood** |

Although we can firmly claim to being the nearest Royal Signals establishment to the RHQ at Cheltenham Terrace (1,020 yds in fact), regular readers of *The Wire* will have to go back a few issues to see when someone actually walked those yards to deliver our last contribution. It was in fact two and a half years ago. Our cause for reminding the Editor therefore that we exist may closely stem from a hectic 60% changeover of personalities during a two week period in July/August 1984.

**FAREWELLS**

We bade farewell to the Commander, **Brig J. R. Burrows**, who left us to take up the reins of Comd Comms UKLF in September; to the SO2, **Maj Lycett-Gregson**, who has found an office in some unknown military area of MOD (A) at the Home Office and finally **WO1 (SC) Pete Hilton**, our regular commuter and star tennis player, who has decided to go on the Records Office Documentation Team trail, as part of his Corps farewell tour. We wish them well in their new appointments and hope they have left us with a better understanding of what the Volunteers are really all about.

**ARRIVALS**

In turn we extend a warm welcome to the new faces within the HQ. From the corridors of power at MOD (A) the new Commander, **Brig T. H. Wheawell**, and thank him for bringing, as President of Corps Soccer, an additional subject to add to the file list, which is already on Volume 2. To **Lt Col W. J. M. Michie**, who having previously been CO of one of the Regiments within the Brigade, has returned as SO2 (Ops) and immediately displayed his enormous enthusiasm by volunteering to go to BAOR on Exercise *Lionheart* the day he was taken on strength, and last but not least, the new Staff Asst **WO1 (SC) M. J. Barstow**, who hearing of his promotion managed the journey from 30 Sig Regt in Blandford, with no difficulty. We wish them a happy stay with us in their new TA environment.

August was also a special occasion for our resident shorthand writer, and lady of all trades, **Mrs Jenny Collinswood**, who despite much barracking from the HQ staff, decided to marry on 18 August. We wish her every happiness in her new married life.

The continuity within the Brigade HQ however has been ably established by our Deputy Commander, **Col A. W. Illingworth** and his numerous TA Watchkeepers.

**AN INVITATION**

Finally if anyone would like to pay us a courtesy call, whilst in the capital, and possibly visiting the RHQ Royal Signals or shopping in the King's Road area, please do, we can even assist with free parking and the odd refreshment!

**BOOK REVIEW**

**HRH THE PRINCESS ANNE**, A Biography by **Brian Hoey**. Published by Country Life Books August 1984. 208 pages, £8.95, (ISBN 600 357155)

A new biography of our Colonel-in-Chief is of immediate interest to members of her Corps. An inadequate volume would be quickly condemned, but have no fear, Brian Hoey serves us well. He brings to his task experience as a writer and broadcaster of many years standing, whose reporting has brought him into close association with royal occasions and personages. He sets out to inform a broad span of intelligent readers without at any time being intrusive. He presents a good factual record, with clear and interesting descriptions of the procedures, machinery and protocols set-up to manage royal events and information. He is fair, honest and intelligent in the assessments he makes and divides the material well into subjects worthy of concentrated attention.

The fly leaf of the book tells us this:- **'Princess Anne** has said of herself: "I never was a fairytale princess and I never will be." But to countless people, this Royal Princess, the only daughter of the Queen, sixth in line of succession to the Throne, who married a handsome officer amidst the pomp and pageantry of Westminster Abbey, who is an expert horsewoman and the mother of two lovely children, is just that. And to see the Princess, bejewelled and gowned, attend a State occasion or an evening function is to see the 'stunningly beautiful' princess of fairytales emerge. But, as she herself admits, there is much more to her life'.

The magic of royalty is well preserved but in no way conceals the very real person behind the panoply of state. For me the quality and qualities come out most strongly in the story of the astonishing series of equestrian successes and in relation to the Save the Children Fund. There is still room in a very full book for mention of the Corps and other Service connections though it is a pity from our point of view that the many excellent photographs do not include one of a Royal Signals occasion. As compensation a fascinating chapter is included on the subject of 'The Princess Royal'. This sets out a story I have not seen told elsewhere and of course includes information about **Princess Mary**, our first Colonel-in-Chief.

Like many books reviewed in these columns, this is one well worth reading. Unlike most others it has the merit that it will be well received by all members of the family.

D.R.H.

**REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in 40 Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Corps, Regimental and Service Associations; Post Offices; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.



# RMCS Shrivenham

**WELL REPRESENTED**

Although we do not hit the pages of *The Wire* very often, the Corps continues to be well represented at RMCS. There are currently five officers on the staff—**Col Sam Cowan** (MDS), **Lt Cols Ashley Truluck** (DS Comms 1/R Signals Rep), **Mike Shaw** (DS Comms 2 —relieved by **Peter Webster** Oct 84), **Noel Harrison** (DS Surv 2 —relieved by **Andrew Martin** early 85) and **Hugh Rogers** (SO1 Admin). Seven R Signals officers are currently attending the Army Staff Course (ASC) and some 35 subalterns are reading for degrees in Electrical Engineering or Applied Science. Last, but by no means least, there is **SSgt Bob Porter** R Tech who as the proverbial technical 'Jack of all Trades' keeps the whole place ticking over.

**ARMY STAFF COURSE VISIT 1(BR) CORPS SIGNAL UNITS**

At the time of writing the Army Staff Course is drawing to a close and College staff are bracing themselves for the traditional end of course Revue. Highlights of the ASC year included the visit to 1(BR) Corps signal units by all 100 ASC students representing most capbadges of the British Army, not to mention those of Australia, Canada and many commonwealth countries. The course flew to BAOR on an aircraft of the Queen's Flight and 7 Sig Regt looked after us in equally royal style. Whether students understood all the technology involved is debatable but they all returned home profoundly impressed by the professionalism and hospitality of the R Signals units and soldiers involved in the various demonstrations. Our thanks go to 1(BR) Corps Comms Branch, 7 Sig Regt, 14 Sig Regt and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for their time and effort.

**36 DEGREE COURSE GRADUATES**

All R Signals students on 36 Degree Course successfully graduated at the end of their three year course despite the ominous date of their Graduation Day — Friday 13 July. **Brig A. W. McL McKinnon OBE, ADC** Comd Comms UKLF was the R Signals Representative for the day and was hosted to lunch with the staff, attended the graduation ceremony and finally took tea with graduating students and their wives on the lawns in front of Beckett House—the ancestral home of the Barrington family and now the College Library. As far as prizes were concerned, **Lt David Tiffin** swept the board by taking the R Signals Corps Prize, the Academic Prize and the Institute of Electrical Engineers Prize while **Lt Gordon Rafferty** won the Liberal Studies Prize — we wish them and all other students of 36 Degree Course the best of luck in their postings as troop commanders.

Graduation Day—R Signals staff and graduating students. *Standing L-R:* Col Cowan, Brig McKinnon, Lt Col Shaw, Capt Rough, Lt Westerman, Lt Col Harrison (partly hidden), Lt Leigh, Lt Tiffin, Lt Col Truluck, Lt Strawbridge. *Sitting:* Lt Tucker, Capt King, Lt Condie, Lt Rafferty

### 37 AND 38 DEGREE COURSES TRAVEL THE WORLD

While 36-Degree Course dispersed on posting, students of 37 and 38 Degree Courses prepared to leave UK on various unit attachments and adventure training expeditions. This summer RMCS R Signals students managed to travel to Africa, Hong Kong, South America and the United States, not to mention most European countries and even to Aldershot — to successfully complete 'P' Company selection. Highlights from some of these globe trotting activities are recorded below.

### EXERCISE *HATARI TRAIL*

Ex *Hatari Trail* was the major RMCS expedition this year and involved 6 Corps subalterns travelling to Tanzania to climb Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet). The team, led by **Lt Steve Callaghan** and consisting of **Lts Mark Perry, Sean Dexter, Simon Renfrey, Mark Eaton** and **Tim Watts** left UK on 6 August and spent several weeks trekking to the mountain. On the way they came to realise the true meaning of 'adventure training'—erratic transportation, little or no food or cooking fuel in shops, thieves, muggers, to name but a few.

Ex *Hatari Trail*—R Signals Team reaches the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro 19,340ft at 0600 hrs 6 August 1984. Pictured *L-R:* Lts Perry, Dexter, Renfrey, Eaton (Guide), Callaghan (expedition leader)

The team finally gained the summit after a long final climb carried out between midnight and 0600 hours to avoid the daytime sun. On return to base camp team members found that they had all lost at least a stone in weight during the trek. After the climb the team spent some time in Zanzibar where they were almost marooned; however that's another story, the details of which will be reported in full in the Royal Signals Institution Journal in due course.

### OTHER EXPEDITIONS

**Lt Steve Herstell** helped lead an equally successful expedition, this time by sea. **Steve** skippered the JSSC 27′ yacht 'Attacker' from the Firth of Clyde down the west coast of Scotland and England and back to its home port at Portsmouth. His crew of five included **John Rowley**, another R Signals student. Aided along the way by whales, dolphins and even offshore gunnery range launches, the crew made good progress via the Isles of Man, Anglesey, Lundy and Scilly, despite having to row themselves into anchorages on more than one occasion, due to a faulty engine. The final leg along the south coast saw some exhiliarating sailing on the back of a Force 9 gale thereby ensuring that the trip ended with a bang—though not literally!

**Lt Robin Clapp** took a rather more leisurely, though no less enjoyable, trip to the USA where he worked his summer vacation on a ranch in Colorado. 'Work' varied from washing dishes to painting fences, mending roofs, exercising horses and repairing tracks. In between times he explored the Rockies and reached 12,500 feet on Boreos Mountain on the Continental divide.

**Lts Doug Macaulay** and **Ian Bucklow** also went (separately) to USA and spent an enjoyable month or two climbing in the Rockies and Sierra Nevada.

**Dick Sparshatt** on the other hand spent his summer in Hong Kong with Queen's Gurkha Signals where he divided his time between 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn in the New Territories, internal security exercises, counter illegal immigration operations with a Gurkha rifle battalion and a sea patrol with the Royal Navy. **Mark Castle-Smith** also headed for the sun, he went to Belize as the guest of 633 Sig Tp where he became involved with jungle exercises and offshore diving. Many other summer activities could be quoted but they all serve to illustrate that, contrary to popular belief, our subalterns don't entirely sink into an academic haze while at RMCS.

### STOP PRESS!

We are delighted to hear that **Lt Jon Dakin**, who has just joined us with 39 Degree Course, has been awarded the Whistler Trophy as the 'best R Signals subaltern' of his year.


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## School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

### A FAREWELL TO YEOMAN OF SIGNALS COURSE NO 36

A sigh of relief reverberated around Blandford Garrison when, on 15 June, the Garrison Sergeants' Mess dined out YofS Course No 36 on completion of their stay with us. The evening was a great success, how could it fail? With the music supplied by our own Corps Band, all the new Yeomen accompanied by their wives, some of whom had travelled all day to be there. The whole evening smoothly run by the PMC, **WO2 (SSM) Henry Banks** and the Mess Manageress, **Mrs Rhona Diaz Rodriguez**, under the watchful eye of the School of Signals RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Keith Russell**.

During the speeches the RSM presented the traditional top student tankard to **SSgt (YofS) Ronnie Allan**, who, eventually after a lengthy speech, presented on behalf of the Course, a framed print of 'The Landings at San Carlos Waters' to the Mess.

Our official guests were, **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE**, the Senior Instructor, **Maj** and **Mrs D. K. Wallis**, OC Traffic Group and **Capt E. Shutt RM**, all of whom were constantly reminded during the evening that it was their responsibility for releasing this lot onto the Corps. Seriously gentlemen, good luck in your new appointments.

Yeoman of Signals Course No 36 with their wives. What a lovely group!

**PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS**

On Tuesday 7 August the Garrison Commander, **Brig A. M. Willcox**, visited the Sergeants' Mess and presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Sgt Ken John** and **Sgt Mick Cumiskey**.

The wives of the recipients joined their husbands and the Brigadier in a buffet and drink after the presentations.

*Standing L-R:* Sgt Ken John, WO1 (RSM) Keith Russell, Sgt Mike Cumiskey
*Seated L-R:* Mrs Marion John with Karl and Marc, Brig A. M. Willcox, Mrs Gail Cumiskey with James

The traditional dunking ceremony. An unfair contest! Lineman on the left versus Technician on the right

**2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)**

**SQUADRON MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj John Doody** |
| **2IC** | **Capt John McIntyre** |
| **Tech Adjt** | **Capt (TOT) Chris Payne** |
| **Tfc Adjt** | **Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm** |
| **OC R Tp** | **Capt Mike Gilyeat** |
| **OC Dev Tp** | **WO1 (FofS) Mike Woodhouse** |
| **OC PTARMIGAN Trials Tp** | **WO1 (YofS) Maurice Campbell** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt (SQMS) 'Butch' Maycock** |
| **MT SNCO** | **SSgt Dave Knell** |

**THE BUSY LIFE**

Since our last report life in the Squadron has been as active as ever. PTARMIGAN trials have continued and the PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit (PIU) led by **Capt Miles Stockdale** are departing to the sharp end with 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to prepare for the fielding of the PTARMIGAN System and training of Corps personnel. The main activity has been providing support to the Plessey Company carrying out PTARMIGAN/WAVELL interoperability trials during the months of August and September. Trials of Store and Forward/TARIF interoperability and System Control Computer Management have occupied much of the time of PIU and PTARMIGAN Trials Troop (PTT) and all are eagerly waiting to see the fruition of their hard work when PTARMIGAN deploys to 1 British Corps at Christmas.

**ATTACHED PERSONNEL**

Since the beginning of March, **Capt Bob Cousins** from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has been attached to the Squadron and has provided valuable support to our trials activity. We wish **Bob** all the best on his return to Germany and look forward to seeing him again with members of COMCEN DELTA when they return for more trials in November.

**DETACHED PERSONNEL**

Like most units we have a number of personnel detached to the southern climate of the Falkland Islands. **Capt Peter Davis** and **Capt Ron Chisholm** together with **Cpl Tony Howard, Sig Fred Ponting** and **Martin Best** are all making a major contribution to the Islands defence. **Sgt Rod Fox** is busily preparing to join them and can be seen gathering his correspondence course in business studies together to occupy his spare time!

**FAREWELLS**

Our farewells in recent weeks have included **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins** who has departed for 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. His wealth of PTARMIGAN knowledge will be a great asset to the Regiment and we wish him and his wife **June** a happy tour.

**Rosie Howley** our clerk has departed from the Squadron on promotion to Clerical Officer, now resides in the School Headquarters. The Squadron presented **Rosie** with a set of cut glass bowls and a bouquet of flowers as a token of everyone's appreciation for her cheerful and hard working tour in the Squadron. Who will do the typing now and process all the 1771s?

Bye Bye Rosie, off you go to puzzle palace, we'll miss you!

Trials Squadron's victorious Athletics Team

Trials Squadron Tug-of-War Team on the way to victory

SSgt Les Wood receiving his trophy from Brig A. M. Willcox

## GLOBE TROTTERS

Who says Trials Squadron only operate in the Blandford area? **Capt Miles Stockdale, WO2 (FofS) Drew Robertson** and **WO2 (YofS) Rod Wood** are shortly to sample the high life of Washington USA, all in support of PTARMIGAN. Anyone wanting an exciting life should apply now for a posting to Trials Squadron.

## DEVELOPMENT TROOP

Development Troop is a small technician based organisation whose charter is to provide solutions to a whole host of technical problems which are referred to us by Trials Division.

Our solution may be in the form of advice alone or may involve the design and subsequent manufacture of prototype equipments. The troop has the capacity to build small numbers (up to five) of equipments while larger quantities go to competitive tender and are manufactured by industry. The Troop has a comprehensive up to date technical library and as a matter of policy uses 'Today's technology today' rather than 'Yesterday's technology today . . . or perhaps tomorrow' as is often the case in industry.

**WO1 (FofS) Mike Woodhouse** holds the reins and cracks the whip, ably assisted by **SSgt Ian Higgerson** who, when not organising Regimental Rugby, is Troop Staff Sergeant and Laboratory Manager.

The workers, or so they would have us believe, are a motley crew and are as follows: **Sgt Terry Toye**, ever resident electronics/computer freak who is currently designing a micro-processor controlled PTARMIGAN Tone Generator. This is a hand held training aid which, at the push of a button, will reproduce any one of the full range of PTARMIGAN Supervisory Tones for all to hear.

**Sgt Brian Issac** is a Welshman (poor thing) and has just completed the design and manufacture of a power supply unit for the Redifon Radio. This is intended for use with the TAVR.

**Cpl Dave Galloway** is beavering away designing an interface unit which will allow a commercial radio set to be used in association with a CLANSMAN vehicle harness. **Cpl Mick Tomison** (has a horse and will travel—manure available on request) is rehashing the rehash of the Space Trap for the T100R Teleprinter. At the moment it radiates more than his own personality but he's working hard and is determined to win in the end.

Each equipment the troop designs is supported by a technical folder which contains all the information necessary for its maintenance, operation, repair and manufacture. Two people are very important in ensuring the high standard of our Tech folders, namely: Our civilian draughtsman **Geoff Drummond** who has been with the troop since Pontious was a Pilot and produces engineering drawings to a very high standard indeed; it's a pity that his skill at tea making has not reached the same dizzy heights! Our resident scribe, ie Technical Author, is currently **Sgt Rod** (Resettlement Calls) **Fox** whose task is to describe how the things work and how to maintain them. It's a fact that 'easy reading' is 'hard writing' and needs his considerable diligence and application to achieve the good results.

We are always in need of suitably qualified technicians to join us; so if you are creative and electronics is your thing, put Dev Troop on your dream sheet, you never know Records may be able to put a round peg into a round hole.

Development Troop—Trials Squadron
Sgts Rod Fox, Terry Toye, Brian Isaac, Cpls Dave Galloway, Mick Tomison, SSgt Ian Higgerson, Capt (TOT) Chris Payne, WO1 (FofS) Mike Woodhouse, Capt (TOT) Bob McKay and Mr Geoff Drummond

The FofS . . . posing as usual!

Cpl Mick Tomison untouched by human hand making a printed circuit board!

## PIU TROOP

The departure of PIU to Germany will be a sad loss to the Squadron. They have provided the mainstay in many sporting successes and have made a significant contribution to the trialling of the PTARMIGAN system. Air trooping, car ferries and roads will soon be witnessing their move to Verden with their families. After settling their families into quarters they are due to return to Trials Squadron during October, November and December to participate in more trials and also for their farewell party. Our thanks go to the troop and their wives for their support to all Squadron activities and we wish them well in Germany.



## NEWS FROM RADIO TROOP

On Monday 6 August all members of Radio Troop deployed on what they thought was to play enemy on somebody else's exercise. After refresher training in patrolling, anti ambush, ambush and section attack drills, the main party left Camp, just after last light, to join the main party on Bovington training areas.

No sooner on the area, the vehicle driver, **Sig 'Piggy' Phoenix** spotted a thunder flash thrown in front of the vehicle. After some rapid indecision and a little guidance from the OC he stopped the vehicle. The remainder of the troop, still not realising what was happening, were telling the intruders to 'go away', we weren't on their exercise.

With a little persuasion the troop dismounted, were stripped of weapons, webbing and personal effects then blindfolded and bundled back into the vehicle. Just to keep the peace **Sig Aden Deryk** and his Alsatian also got onto the four tonner.

The intruders, led by **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood**, had done well. The Troop were still not aware that they had been captured by the advance party. As a final effect, the OC was blindfolded and thrown on top of the rest of the Troop (Thanks for the soft landing **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood**).

During the journey to our POW Camp a number of the Troop managed to free their hands and waited for the right moment. On arrival at the final destination they saw their chance and jumped the guards, particularly **WO2 (FofS) Mick Flanagan** who was seen trying to cope with six escapees. Unfortunately in the interest of safety the escape was stopped by the DS.

The prisoners now a little dejected were escorted to their cage. **Cpl Stan Sudron** and **Sig Ian McLeod** still hungered for freedom and managed to slip away into the darkness. (More of their efforts later).

With the remainder of the troop under guard the wardens set themselves up for a long night. One prisoner at a time was extracted for a little light interrogation. During this period **Sig Pook** proved good entertainment giving a dramatic impersonation of a headless chicken and that a fistful of hay can be a deadly weapon (talk about clutching at straws).

After a number of hours discussing the progress of **Cpl Stan Sudron** and **Sig Ian McLeod** all the prisoners quietened and attempted to get some sleep. (All except **Sig 'Robbo' Robertson**, he fell asleep as soon as he entered the cage). Whilst all was quiet **Sig Ian McLeod** reappeared and was captured.

At 0400 hrs while the guards were asleep the prisoners were persuaded to wake, **LCpl Ian Watson** needing a little more persuasion than most. They were all informed of their escape route and began their weary march to a final RV. Some such as **Sig Dave Kenyon, Ken Martin** and **Ian McLeod** took the soft options whilst **Sig Paul Davis** and **'Robbo' Robertson** ignoring all assistance from the OC decided to take the scenic route. Eventually everybody reached the final RV only to be confronted by a rope bridge crossing over the River Stour.

It was here they all met **Cpl Stan Sudron** who had made his way back to Camp only to be brought back out and first over the crossing.

With all sections safely across the river, some a little cooler than others, the OC realised there was no escape. Knowing he would not be allowed to complete the crossing without getting damp he climbed onto the ropes. As he emerged from the river, smiling, it didn't take **Sgt Mick Winchester** long to realise why everybody was looking at him. He was quickly followed by **WO2 (FofS) Mick Flanagan, Cpl Fred Harrison, Cpl Pete Mason** and **Sig Sam McLeod**, all members of the DS.

With the fun and games over it was back to Camp to clean up prior to a slap up meal. Cookhouse food just never looked so good!

As well as enjoying some military training the troop has continued its trials work, the most noticeable task being HF receivers. There have also been a few other smaller tasks along with planning our next major trial, Commercial Radio.

Along with the tasks, the faces have also been changing. Farewells have been said to **LCpl Ian Watson** and his wife **Mandy** who have gone to 19 Bde, also to **Sig 'Robbo' Robertson** to civilian life and **Cpl Fred Harrison** on detachment to the TA. Our final farewell goes to **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** who having completed his Staff Sergeants Course now goes on to his Yeomans Course. We wish them all and their families good luck for the future.

In their place we welcome **Sgt Davy Milne** and congratulate him on his promotion. We also welcome **Sig Des O'Connor** and **'Paddy' Hunter** and hope you will enjoy your tour with the Troop. Finally we welcome back **Sig 'Spike' Dyke** from his sick leave and also **Sig 'Ros' Rosney** from his holiday in the South Atlantic. Just in time for a little work.


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## 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
## BFPO 32

### 2 SQN

**THE ECHELONS OF POWER**
**Maj J. Wraith MBE**
**Capt A. Boag**
**WO2 SSM P. Sutherland**
**WO2 FofS A. Hooley**
**Lt S. Herniman**
**2Lt A. Broad**
**YofS M. Hawley**

**THE SQUADRON 'MAFIA'**
**SSgt T. Haynes BEM**
**SSgt P. Rumsey**
**SSgt (SQMS) A. Gibbons**

This period starts with Ex *Javelin* which was the run up to Ex *Lionheart*. The Squadron was divided from its normal role into some seven different roles which varied from a mini-Commhead at the Umpire Control Centre to Armoured LO with US, Dutch and German Boes. **LCpl Mick Brown** is now a converted German compo nosher and **Cpl Simon (Jock) Strapp** is after the QM's job. We're not sure which, QM, Brit or US. The exercise went very well until Endex when **Cpl John Rutland** and **LCpl 'Willie' Williams** decided to join the submarine pack using there 432s as subs. REME was not amused.

Following *Javelin* came the slack period and leave but even so we still managed activities, like Battle Camp at sunny Sennelager. Two weeks of fun, guns and fitness with many humorous anecdotes, too many to mention except that it culminated in a CFT. When the PT staff, in the shape of **QMSI Bob Duncan APTC**, demonstrated the press up, sit up, and carry, there were some humorous but unprintable comments from fellow Mess Members.

There was the immortal Page Trophy (inter Squadron sports) in which we didn't do too badly, considering our SSM **WO2 Pete Sutherland** plays all six to Regimental standard but was only allowed to play in one. He did use it as a warm up for the Divisional tennis in which he and the other minions of the team produced an excellent performance.

An overheard conversation, at the commencement of *Lionheart*.

22 SAS (Officer) to **WO2 FofS Hooley**
22 Excuse me Foreman but one of our tents has been 'knicked' and it had A3 on the side just like that one there (pointing to Line/Tech Control 12 × 12)
FofS 'How many men have you got sir?'
22 Looking puzzled 'A company, why?'
FofS Well Sir, we've had that tent for years and besides that it's where four of 1 Divs Linies keep there beer . . .
22 Departs post haste.

SSgt Tim Haynes and LCpl Dave King controlling the 15 Rebros used on Ex *Lionheart*

Cpl Taff Watts, WO2 (FofS) Al Hooley, Cpl Dave King and Sig D. I. Evans decide the next phase of the battle

**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 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 reached 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 package and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

**Mr P. E. A. Hall**
**'Kohima' 1030 Harrow Road Wembley Middlesex HQ0 2QT**



### 3 SQN

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj David Elson** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Colin Lawrence** |
| **OC Oscar Tp** | **Lt Jerry Peck** |
| **OC November Tp** | **2Lt John Williams** |
| **OC Line Tp** | **Lt Mike Griffiths** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Ben Britton** |
| **YofS** | **SSgt Ron Allan** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Ken Thompson** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Stan Taylor** |

A reminder of Battle Camp 84.

The 'A' Team
Sig Crawford, Martin, LCpl Allen, Cpl 'Porky' Hawkins, Sig 'Machinegun' Johnson

**EXERCISE *ALPINE DIAMOND***

This was the Squadron's annual adventure training exercise, held in Bavaria at Berchtesgaden. We were accommodated in Strub Kaserne which is part of the American Forces Training Centre, and took part in hill walking, rock climbing, wind surfing and also visited places of historical interest.

The most popular visit was to the salt mines of Berchtesgaden. This entailed taking an open aired trolley into the old mine works, which have been converted into a museum. The picture shows the clothes you wear for the visit. They were not auditioning for a part in Fiddler on the Roof!

Fiddler on the Roof?
*L to R:* SSM Britton, Sig Johnston, Cpl Stanford, LCpl Lee, OC Maj Elson, LCpl Blakie, Sig Flavel, Broughton, Wilson

The Jager Battalion provided two rock climbing instructors for the exercise. They caused many a heart to miss a beat when taking a section through its paces. A football match was played against the Battalion, resulting in a win for them; 4—2.

The Team
*Back Row:* Cpl Hawkins, Sig Gracie, OC Maj Elson, Sgt Johnson, Sig Cooper, Froggat, Smith, LCpl Graham
*Front Row:* Sig Flavel, Crawford, Gracie, Downey, Broughton, SQMS SSgt Taylor

**WELCOME**

Welcome to the Squadron to the two new troop commanders; **2Lt Williams** and **Lt Griffiths**. Both were mysteriously detained by the American Military Police for a 'traffic violation'. After being body searched across the bonnet of **Lt Mike Griffiths** car, they were handcuffed and placed in the local gaol. This error was sorted out quickly and the two 'offenders' were released. Welcome to the Squadron!

The SSM releases the 'offenders'—Lt Griffiths leads the way

**EXERCISE *LIONHEART***

For this exercise we were scattered to the four winds to provide; ACC, UCC Rear and the German 1st Panzer Division Comms. The vehicles that joined the German Panzer Division had to do five track bashes in the first day. **LCpl 'Panzer' Potts** is now the Squadron expert on 432 track changing.

At ACC Delta **Sgt Blackburn** had a shock. In fact a number of shocks after trying to fix the penthouse lights. He is now known as **'Sparky'**. We now look forward to the introduction of PTARMIGAN.

## 201 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
## BFPO 30

**DOWN A GEAR**

August made a change from the Squadron's normally busy life. We slipped down a gear and looked forward to what should be a busy future, whilst trying to ensure that everyone got as much leave as possible.

**EXERCISE *SPEARPOINT 84***

Yes, we were there! I tried when thinking about what to write to come up with something different, as no doubt everyone will be filling *The Wire* with tales from *Lionheart*, however, if after dissecting the events of the last couple of months other units are like us, they will not be left with a great deal of choice, but here are a few highlights.

**INITIAL DEPLOYMENT**

The Squadron, together with the remainder of 1 Div provided Umpires, Umpire communications and admin support for the exercise. Squadron personnel were deployed to various organisations, APIC's, and various other unique *Lionheart* organisations. We had previously practised in part on Ex *Javelin* what we thought we were going to do. The Squadrons' first location was the same as that for *Javelin*. So with great style and panache two of our 432's, commanded by **Cpl Lenny Twells** and **Cpl Tom McCartney** looking as if they knew what they were doing swung into location and began to position themselves under the farmer's open sided barn, as they did on *Javelin*. Obviously the amount of barn money paid to the farmer must have been excessive as during July and August he had built a new roof on the barn, some six inches lower than the previous one and two inches lower than our 432's! The best laid plans of mice, men and recce officers!

The pace of the exercise was fairly slow from our point of view, with no major dramas; it was unfortunate that more of us did not manage to get and watch the battles.

We did have one piece of excitement when the Yeoman's bed in his Landrover attacked him and almost knocked him out, after which the Yeoman **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden** and Foreman **SSgt (FofS) Tony McMahon** were forced to take it in turn guarding the offending piece of equipment even to the extent where the Landrover was seen whizzing down the road, the Foreman at the wheel, Yeoman in bed.

The resupply demands from one of our rebros crewed by **Cpl Mick Wray, LCpl 'Jock' Lambe** and **Sig Tommy Murray** were so unusual that speculation still remains as to what they were actually going to make. Whatever it was we shall never know but we are certain that it was being sold to an unsuspecting co-located Commcen!

**BACK AT THE RANCH**

Whilst the Squadron were away enjoying themselves the Wives' Club decided they would do their bit and organise a Families' Day during one of the weekends. This proved to be a great success with the videos, a disco for the children and lunch. Special thanks must be extended to all the Wives' Club Committee members for their magnificent efforts and to **Sgts Dave Vince** and **Roger Smith** for their invaluable help.

**STATIC COMMCEN**

Because of the power drain imposed by the exercise the Commcen situation within the Division had to be drastically altered. This resulted in Commcen Hohne which is manned by the Squadron with invaluable assistance from 4 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt, and **LCpl Marie Grant, Ptes Linda Pawson** and **Terry Mears**, taking on the task of clearing traffic from Hildeshiem, Soltau and Verden, assisted by the girls from Soltau and **Cpl Crossthwaithe** from Hildeshiem. **Sgt Dave Vince** who led this team claims that they were the only busy people on the exercise!

**SPORT**

The sporting scene has been very sparse with only two events of note.

**BERLIN MARATHON**

Our congratulations go to **SSgt Rick Levett, SSgt Bob Cook** and **Sgt Roger Smith** on completing the Berlin Marathon. Rumour has it they were half way round before the previous evening's entertainment had worn off. **SSgt Rick Levett** claims that for most of the way round he was entranced by the view but eventually she pulled ahead of him.

**SAILING**

The Squadron's latest venture into the sporting scene is Dinghy sailing, our embryonic team consisting of **Lt Scott Workman, WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden, SSgt (FofS) McMahon,** (the helms), **Sig Adam Jaques, Sig Stu McConnell** and **'Bamber' Gascoyne** (the crews). Our first attempt at competitive sailing was the 1 Armd Div team championships held at the British Weser Club on an extremely windy day at the beginning of September. We turned up expecting to take part in the Minor Units competition only to find that because of the number of entries we were all to battle it out together. Unfortunately, in the opening round we drew the strongest Major Unit team to compete against—and what a competition! In the last of a series of races every boat but one (not one of ours) capsized (at least once). The Foreman who trusts his crew **Sig Bamber Gascoyne** so much, actually got out of the boat twice during one windward leg, shouting 'Man Overboard' as he did a backwards somersault into the river. This was followed by an impression of Mark Spitz as he tried to catch his boat, which some unkind person claimed was sailing just as well without him! Meanwhile not far away and only about 50 yards from the finishing line the Yeoman and his crew **Sig Stu McConnell** were playing at U Boats, as their boats sank bow first at a good speed below the waves with our intrepid mariners standing in the stern. The scene at the end of the race would compare well with Trafalgar. Unfortunately exercise commitments prevent us from putting on similar entertainment at the Corps dinghy regatta in October.

**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS**

At the time of writing, the Squadron is looking forward, (they say) if that is the right expression, to Exercise *Lonely Moose*, the Squadron Commander's Escape and Evasion exercise which the 2IC tells us may take place somewhere in North West Europe—more than that he is not saying! Yes it's one of those!

**HELLO AND GOODBYE**

The lull during August seems to have led to everyone moving on and in saying goodbye it may be easier to reproduce the nominal roll. We wish a fond farewell to **Sgt Pete Chapman REME** and his family, **SSgt Ted Buck REME, LCpls Harry Thistlewhite, Jimmy Joyce** and his family, **LCpl Dilys Newell WRAC** and **Pte Terry Mears** who is leaving us on discharge. Best wishes to **Pte Sally Cooper** who is leaving us on marriage.

To fill our depleted ranks we welcome **SSgt Woodhead REME** and his family, **Cpl Henly** and his family, **LCpls Anthony, Burns, Sig Cotterell, LCpls Matthews, Buckingham, Sig Parr, LCpl Andriola** and **LCpl Ellis ACC** and last but not least **LCpl Grant** and **Pte Powell WRAC**. May your stay in Hohne and with 201 Sig Sqn be a happy one.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To further swell the Squadron ranks we congratulate **Lt Justin Johnson** and his wife **Janet** on the birth of their son **Simon** and **Cpl George Berriman** and his wife **Heather** on the birth of their son **Glen**.

**Don't be disappointed!**

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



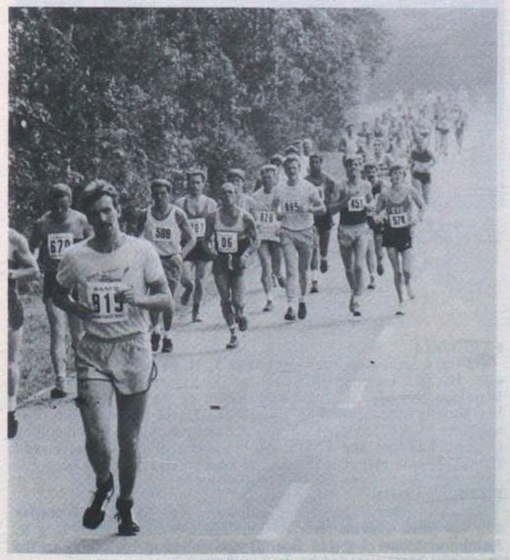
## THE 3RD ROYAL SIGNALS AND VERDEN GARRISON MARATHON

The 3rd R Signals and Verden Garrison Marathon was held in Verden on Saturday 1 September. The event attracted 730 competitors which was the largest entry yet for this event. This was due in no small way to the excellent sponsorship given for the second year running by **Sams Luxury Coaches**. No sooner were the 730 competitors clear of the stadium when 32 brave ladies lined up for the start of a Ladies Half Marathon. Both events were run in a mixture of weather, with a torrential downpour soaking everyone. This did not stop **WO2 J. K. McIllmurray**, of 4 Armd Div Workshops REME, finishing in a record time for the course of 2 hours 30 minutes 45 seconds. The first Corps competitor home was **Cpl I. A. Cowan** of 21 Sig Regt in a time of 2 hours 43 minutes 45 seconds. The first Royal Signals Major Unit prize went to the 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and the first Minor Unit prize went to 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

1985 is the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Verden and it is hoped that the 4 R Signals and Verden Garrison Marathon, which is being held on Saturday 8 September 1985, will attract at least 1000 runners to commemorate this historical event. Further details can be obtained from The Organiser, Marathon 85, BFPO 32.

730 Competitors prepare for the 'Off'

Start of the Ladies Half Marathon



WO1 S. C. Pengelly HQ 1(BR) Corps out on the road

Majs Sam Saunders and David Elson running their first marathon

GOC Lt Gen Sir David Thorne, KCB, talking to the first three ladies to finish in the ladies half marathon

CRA Brig B. T. Pennicott presenting Capt R. Hunter with his prize. He finished fourth

Mr A. E. Samuell presents the SAMS Trophy to SSgt Adams

**FOCUS ON 207 SQN**

Now that we have our photographs of our Summer Camp at Bad Tölz in July we are able to show them here below.

All enjoyed the Rugby Tournament between 207 Sig Sqn, Bad Tölz camp, a RN team and a Munich Rugby Club. Nobody is really sure who won (ie we didn't) but everyone enjoyed it. Also featured is the Raft Race, a highly recommended 20Km paddle down the River. The OC believes his boat won easily but **LCpl 'Jock' Primrose**'s was certainly the wettest.

207 Rugby Team

*Back Row L to R:* Sig Englishby, Bayneham, Marshall, LCpl Dear, Sig Grimes, Sgt Wheatley, Sig Webster, Cpl Appleby

*Front Row L to R:* Sgts Shufflebottom, Bell, Cpl Hassel, LCpl OKeefe, Cpl Purvis, Sig Tindall, Cpl Munro, LCpl Amos, Cpl Owen with Ball, Sig McNaught

Post Raft Race Re ORG

20Km down river, very wet and very, very tired. Next year's Race will be an upstream one!

**FAREWELL**

On the 4 September the CO, **Lt Col J. H. Fisher**, paid a farewell visit. His tour included attending an EW lecture given by **2Lt Hew Wareham**. He also saw a demonstration of SAWES (Small Arms Weapons Effects Simulator) given by **Lt David Sullivan** and other weapons of A1 Troop. After the demonstration the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and RSM took the places of the defenders and found out how easy it is to win and how much fun it can be.

**PRESENTATIONS**

On 7 September **SSgts Fred Kirk** and **Jim Neil, Sgt Brian Wheatley** and **Cpl Mick Tharme** received their LS&GC medals from **Brig R. Swinburn**, Comd 7 Armd Bde. It was followed by drinks in the Sergeants' Mess attended by the recipients wives.



## 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

**VISITORS**

August and September were busy months for the Regiment with visits from senior officers, prior to Ex *Lionheart*. Our first was **Col Mike Marples**, Comd 1 Signal Group. He was able to see the many changes which have taken place since he was here last, shortly after our arrival. During the day he presented LS and GCs to five recipients.

**Cpl Steve Saunders RCT** of MT Troop received his in the Corporals' Mess and this was followed by the customary 'wetting' of the medal. Presentations to **SSgt Andrew Wilson, Sgts Maurice Wright, Geoff Waters** and **Tim Kelly RAOC** were made in the Sergeants' Mess, with their families present. The PMC, **WO1 (ASM) Les Soper REME**, arranged for bouquets to be presented by the Commander to the recipients' wives.

*L-R:* Sgts Maurice Wright, Tim Kelly RAOC and Geoff Waters, SSgt Andy Wilson, Col M. Marples and families

**Brig John Greenway** arrived the following day. As new Commander 49 Infantry Brigade, he inspected his Signal Troop, escorted by the Troop Commander, **Capt Richard Davis**. **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, Comd Comms BAOR came the following Monday. He carried out a full inspection of the Regiment commencing at Headquarters, which covered visits to squadron offices, accommodation, working areas and culminated with the General visiting the Sergeants' Mess for lunch.

Lt Paul Towers, Sgt Norman Cavanagh, Maj Gen Yeoman outside a 2 Sqn Radcon

Capt John Turner, Lt Barry Keegan, WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett and WO1 (RSM) Bill White discussing a non technical point with Maj Gen Yeoman. SSgt Fred Peebles 'just' looks on

At the end of that week **Col D. Whitehead** and **Maj Ron Knight** from MOD (AG11) addressed the officers regarding the present and future corps officer situation.

**ECHOES FROM ARNHEM, by Lewis Golden OBE.** Published by William Kimber & Co., 197 pages, price £10.50 (ISBN 07183-0521-3).

**Lewis Golden** was posted to Airborne Signals shortly after commissioning in March 1942. He remained in Airborne for rather more than four years until the end of his war service. He is therefore able to write his story of developments in airborne warfare and particularly its Signals element from inside knowledge with a wide variety of operational experience to bring excitement to his tale.

His main purpose, however, is the more serious one of showing step by step developments in establishing the role of airborne forces and the techniques of deployment and communications for achieving success in battle. In this he demonstrates exceptional talent for clear headed analysis and presentation. He poses many fundamental questions and then, through careful research provides material for answers; answers which vary in a number of important instances from accepted 'facts' which have been passed on unchecked from one Arnhem book to another.

From a poor start over equipment in 1939 this was a do-it-yourself war particularly in new venture areas such as Airborne. Too often all that could be achieved was to make the best use possible of weapons and equipment with known inadequacies. Tasks could be set within bounds which would offset these shortcomings. By mid 1944 commanders had enough experience of the airborne arm to set up operations in this high risk area with a good chance of success. **Lewis Golden** brings out well the particular pressures and other factors which led to final judgements in favour of launching the Arnhem operation even though a number of the hard earnt rules for success had to be ignored.

In spite of attrition by non arrival of aircraft and gliders and by dispersion often far from planned landing zones, the airborne forces by their zest, improvisation and sheer gallantry fulfilled the tasks they were set in the various operations described. It was their misfortune at Arnhem that the land forces involved were unable to reach the heroically held bridge in the time span allotted with the result that four men in every five became listed as killed, missing or prisoner.

This is an excellent book which rapidly engages the readers and keeps him thinking long after he has put it down.

**EXERCISE *LIONHEART***

Once again, as he did after Ex *Crusader* four years ago, our resident humourist and cartoonist **SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe** has produced an excellent pictorial history of the Regiment's *Lionheart*. As many words would be required to describe this marathon of road travel, visitors and disasters it has been left to a few photographs to paint some of the picture.

Lineys looking respectable. Cpl Andy Laidlaw, LCpl Andy Andrews and Cpl Rod Pocock

The Rebro crews in the wide awake mode. Sig 'Husky' Huskison, Cpl Taff Roderick, Sig Tom Barrie, Sig Trev Trivett, Cpl Paddy Whelan, Cpl Ken Shaw and crouching Cpl Gil Reid

WO2 (YofS) Stan Howard and Cpl Chris Sugden

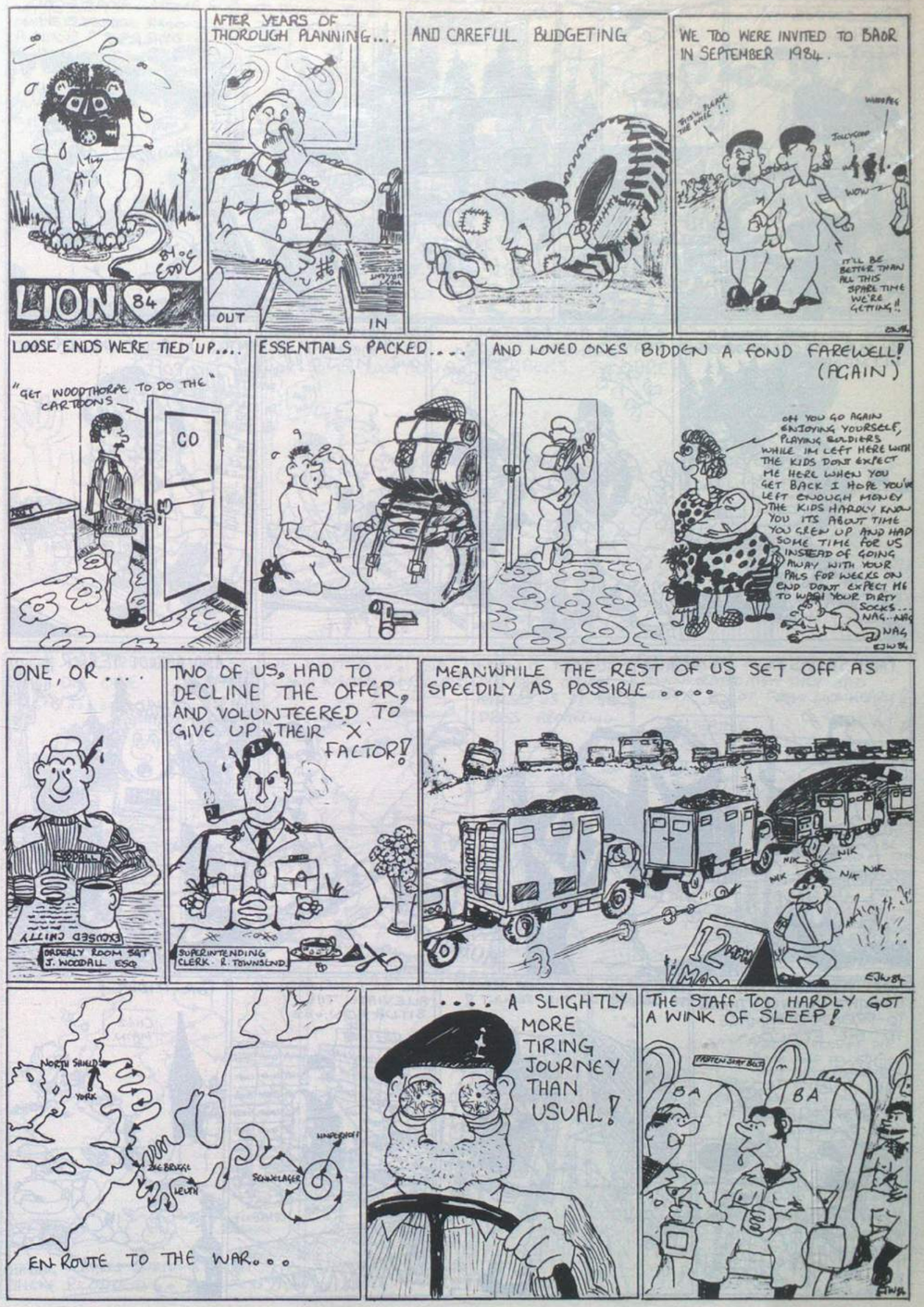
Sgt Jock Rice with a very mixed bag from 2 Sqn

LCpl Hoppy Hopkins and Sig Tony Walker making a pleasant sandwich of Sandra Barwick, Daily Mail 'correspondent'

(Photo by courtesy of the Daily Mail)

'Almost Home' the Radio Relay crew—LCpl Doughie Piper and Sig Brum Perks—waiting to clear customs at Harwich





FOLLOWING A LITTLE REST... ZZZZ

FOOD (HONEST!)

AND FUEL....

WE MOVED TO OUR INITIAL LOCATIONS AND DUG IN ..... SOME DEEPER THAN OTHERS!!

SOON WE WERE JOINED BY OUR T.A. REINFORCEMENT ELEMENT...

A MERCIAN DEFENCE PLATOON....

AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL..... OUR MOJO!!!

LIFE THEN SETTLED DOWN INTO A ROUTINE OF...

EL-RIPOFF'S

DUE TO RESTRICTION OF DAYLIGHT HOURS TODAYS PRICES ARE...

NOTE HOWLER RUNS ARE OFF! GUARDS

PAPER SUITS....

VEILED SPEECH....

AND ABJECT TERROR!!

SMELL

MONOTONY

COMPO CARDS.

CORPS PLANNING HAD THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE ECOLOGY...

WRC BURY NO WASTE

HOWEVER NO-ONE EVER ARRIVED TO DISPOSE OF THE RESULT!!

BURY NO WASTE

THE DIET HELPED TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION...

CHEZ FOXHOLE

COMPO

FOR MOST!

CHEZ MAIN

BURP!



HAVING BEEN ATTACKED BY OUR ERSTWHILE DEFENCE PLATOON & THE SAS....

BOOM PAM PAM PAM RAT-TAT-TAT RAT-TAT-TAT WHOOPEE!! CRACK

F21

BOMB

AND DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THE MUD,

SPLOOOSH

WELLY WAY

OUR REPRIEVE CAME IN THE SHAPE OF....

ENDEX

CLUNK

WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER DAY OR SO IN LOCATION...

ONOTONY

...TWO DAYS R&R ON CHURCHILL BARRACKS SQUARE!!

...AND A TWENTY HOUR JOURNEY TO CUXHAVEN!!

WHERE OUR TRUCKS LEFT ON ONE FERRY.....

IN TANDEM

WHILST WE WAITED... AND WAITED... AND WAITED, FOR OURS!

WHEN IT ARRIVED, THE SHIPS OFFICER APPRISED US OF THE DRESS ABOARD...

RM

LOW HEAR THIS.

WHILST THE SHIP'S CREW DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY HAD LEARNT A LOT FROM LIONHEART!

CATERING

OR's

OFFICERS

PERDE BURGERS

YOUR 3 COURSE MEAL WILL BE SERVED AT THE CHAMPAGNE

POH

HELP YOURS

AFTER A NIGHT AT SEA...

CUXHAVEN

WREXHAM

CHURCHILL BARRACKS

HAVING CLEARED CUSTOMS WE THEN PLODDED.....

OUR WEARY WAY...

HOME!

BACK ALREADY???? I JUST DONT KNOW WHERE YOU GET ALL THE SPARE TIME. DONT MAKE A MESS OF THE BATH AND YOU CAN GET THAT LOOK OUT OF YOUR EYE, IM TOO BUSY! IF YOUVE BOUGHT YOUR WASHING HOME YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF. ITS ALRIGHT FOR YOU SWANNING OFF ON A HOLIDAY WHENEVER YOU FELL LIKE IT NAG NAG NAG NAG NAG

**SUMMER CAMP**

This year's camp was organised by **Capt Colin Whittaker** and took place in the last two weeks of August using Chickerell Camp, the RE bridging camp, at Weymouth. After the delights of the frozen North Sea last year the tail end of the Gulf Stream that gently laps the south coast was a welcome substitute. **Capt Whittaker**'s previous experience at Blandford was thus suitably used. 1 Squadron and half of HQ Squadron attended the first week, followed by 2 Squadron and half of HQ Squadron on week 2.

In support of their OC were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Camp Administration** | **SSgt Colin Taylor** |
| **Admin Sgt** | **Sgt 'Dickie' Bird** |
| **Board Sailing** | **WO1 (RSM) Bill White** |
| **Watermanship** | **Cpl Merrick RE** |
| **Climbing** | **Lt Adam Hearn, Sgt Meggitt and Cpl 'Doc' Ash** |
| **'The Walk'** | **Lt Nevil Thompson** |

The dirty postcard brigade sandwiched between WO2 (SSM) 'Robbie' Burnett and WO2 (YofS) Stan Howard

**49 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP REPORT**

The last three months have been busy ones for the troop. We returned early from Ex *Javelin* in order to help shore up the defences of Chilwell Station, our Brigade Headquarters' peacetime location, against a CND 'Mass Trespass'. This rather unlikely deployment for the Brigade HQ found us all in situations not normally encountered on BAOR exercises. 'Head Liney' **Cpl Ian Munro** found himself liaising closely with BT instead of the DBP over the provision of numerous extra telephones, whilst **Cpl 'Wilbur' Wilbraham** kept track of the helicopters over one of the specially formed nets; the TEV crew under **Cpl Bill Isles** were turned into stretcher bearers for the day and a large section under **Lt Alfie Brand** provided local security for the HQ. All in all the operation was successful despite many good-natured but determined efforts by the demonstrators.

**NEW COMMANDER**

At the end of July the Brigade bade farewell to **Brig Howard** and welcomed **Brig John Greenway** (late DWR). After a weekend Brigade FTX at Stanford and some leave, the new Commander visited the Regiment at York on 31 August to see where the Troop lives and works. **Cpl 'Mac' MacIntyre** showed him the first class accommodation provided for the living-in soldiers whilst **Sgt John Taylor** showed him the not-so-first-class garage and stores facilities.

**UPON US**

Finally Ex *Lionheart* was upon us—the culmination of all the efforts of the 18 months since the Troop was formed in UK. Our deployment was extended by 24 hours due, amongst other things, to technical problems disembarking the vehicles at Zeebrugge. However everyone took it very calmly and did the obvious thing—hence the strange sight of three neat ranks of horizontal 'green maggots' on the quay. Once in the field we received a rude awakening when the HQ was taken out by Orange Special Forces before the exercise had even properly started. In the second week a fast moving battle developed as the Brigade crossed the River Leine and advanced into enemy territory. **LCpl 'Jock' Tait** was well forward with the Commander in his FFR whilst a small Forward HQ followed at a respectful distance under the OC. This group featured **Cpl Mick Hellewell** providing the administrative support and **Sig 'Cup-Cakes' Lawrence** providing constant entertainment. The Troop returned to UK via Cuxhaven and Harwich on the 1/2 October.

**KAPE TOUR**

In celebration of our first full year on the ground and by way of re-introducing ourselves to the area, the Regiment fielded KAPE tour throughout NE District during July.

Planning for 'Le Grand Procession' commenced early in December 1983 when the Personnel Rostering and Tasking Programme or 'PRAT' was activated in RHQ and the name of the then newly arrived **Lt Barry Keegan** was 'thrown up' as 'titular' head of the team.

Heady with the autonomy bestowed upon him, he then began to lemon (oops! sorry . . .) select key personnel for the team. Using such criteria as keeness, intelligence, ability to articulate, general knowledge, gullability etc, the team eventually materialised into the following shape:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Team** | **Lt Barry Keegan** |
| **OC RRIT** | **SSgt Fred 'You Tube!' Peebles** |
| **2IC Team** | **SSgt Jim 'Sig' Graley** (Of 'Spring Tide' Fame). **Cpls Bob Hugill** (Local Radio Star), **'Mac' McDonald, 'Del' East, LCpl 'Pops' Hope, LCpls 'Scouse' Wharton, Gary Shakespeare, Stephen Mairs, Sig 'Chink' Sloan, 'Brum' Perks, 'ET' Maddocks, 'Chippy' Wood, Brian Hogan, Ian Stewart, Jeff Barker, Andy Greenwood and Mic Every.** |

*Back Row L-R:* SSgt Peebles, Sig Barker, Greenwood, Perks, Sloan, LCpls Hope, Mairs, Sig Maddocks, Wood, SSgt Graley
*Front Row L-R:* LCpl Wharton, Sig Every, Cpl East, Lt Keegan, Sig Stewart, LCpl Shakespeare, Sig Hogan

Over the ensuing months, in between exercises, 1 Rebro, 2 Radio Relays, 1 Message Centre, 1 FFR, 1 × 4 ton GS and 2 × ¾ ton GS were 'purloined' after extensive leg-work by the Staff Sergeants who also organised much of the display material, utilising bribes/threats where appropriate! OC Team concerned himself with more mundane matters such as finance, places to sleep and . . . tour dates!

The number of agencies involved was quite daunting at first; but the administrative arrangements slowly fell into place in between OC team falling into despair.

The team was 'blooded' on 9-12 July at the Great Yorkshire Shows in Harrogate where we provided a Regimental Recruiting and Information Team (RRIT). This enabled us to get first hand large scale PR experience before embarking on the KAPE tour proper.

It was at this time that the team suffered its second casualty (**LCpl Steve Sunman** had already broken his ankle) when **Sig 'The Plaster' Stewart** broke his arm whilst doing Franz Krammer impressions on the dry ski slope at the show!

Durham County Show and Bradford Grammar School open day, both on 14 July, gave us a further 'warm-up' opportunity impressing Bradford and Middlesborough Army Careers Officers with our flashy 'two venues in one day' deployment capability (as our American cousins would say).



The KAPE tour itself, kicked off on the 16 July with a frontal assault on Chester-le-Street. In an effort to solicit even more interest from the public it was decided by **Lt Keegan** to organise PA of some kind ie his stereo music centre and **SSgt Graley** was despatched with funds to purchase suitable broadcast material. To the joy of **Lt Keegan** and **SSgt Peebles** and the chagrin of the rest of the team he returned with some Scottish Pipe Music. This however served only to mildly confuse rather than feverishly grip the populace of Chester-le-Street and the idea was relegated to internal consumption only!

The 19 July saw us go left flanking down towards Albert Park in Middlesborough—stopping over for the Holidays at Home Exhibition on 22 July.

After two days stand-down, (we were all feeling a bit jaded by this time!) the spiritually replenished team 'deployed' to Ilkley ('bar 't 'at) and enjoyed a really successful two days which culminated in a 'football' match against the local youth club—'goalposts' supplied by the Lineys.

The last few days of the tour saw us playing to a busy crowd at Lightwater Valley—where **Cpl McDonald**'s 'lie detector' (10 line mag + BPO 250) gave us stalwart service and **LCpl Hope**'s customised jewellery (bangles made out of D10 and crimps) went down well with the ladies.

The curtain rose upon the last act in our 'Globetrotting' extravaganza in Stewarts Park Middlesborough for the Cleveland County Show by which time the team had amassed a considerably dedicated entourage of 'Groupies'—**LCpls Shakespeare** and **Mairs** and **Sig Sloan** and **Perks** being amongst the more 'popular' members of the team!

## 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

**THE MANAGEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Tony Elford** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Nick Blampied** |
| **AO/OC HQ TP** | **Capt Henry Jennings** |
| **OC Oscar TP** | **Lt James Bertram** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 George Hedge** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 Trevor Taylor** |
| **FofS** | **SSgt Chris Wilkie** |
| **SQMS** | **SSgt Mick Campbell** |

**SWIMMING SUCCESSES**

The swimming season is now over and the Squadron has had two successes. We started well by winning the 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt Inter Squadron Competition and followed up with winning the minor unit NE Dist Cup. Our thanks must go to **Sgt** (now **SSgt**) **Alf Ramsey** on his hard work.

**SHOOTING—BISLEY**

We were aware we had a good shot in the Squadron, but when **Capt** (Nick Pierre Davey Crockett) **Blampied** finished 2nd in the Queen's prize the Squadron was delighted. **Capt Nick Blampied** celebrated his good result by marrying **Sarah**—on Saturday 25 August. Welcome to the Squadron **Sarah**.

**LS AND GC PRESENTATION**

The Squadron saw the presentation of the LS and GC medal to two members of the unit.

The GOC NE Dist **Maj Gen P. A. Inge** presented the medals in front of the Squadron. The recipients were **Sgt Pete Goddard REME** and LAD stalwart and **Cpl Mick Johnson**, O Tp (now 22 Sig Regt). Needless to say the medals were duly wetted in the traditional manner. Our congratulations to them both.

**WELCOME AND FAREWELL**

To the 'New Uns' and the 'Old Uns'.

**WELCOME**

To **SSgt Gerry and Dawn Knight, SSgt (SQMS) Mick** and **Kath Campbell, Sgt Dave** and **Linda Edgecombe, Cpls Bolton, Brown, LCpls Bennie, Wright, Cpls Lebillion, Davies, Wood, Turner, Sgt Gardiner, Pte Conway, Cpl Dennis.**

**FAREWELL TO**

**Lt James Bertram** (congratulations on promotion), **SSgt Alf Ramsey** (congratulations on promotion), **Sgt Hoy** (congratulations on promotion), **Cpls McCue, Cowan, Hunter, Johnson, Milner, Sig Roberts, Kendall, LCpl McMeekin ACC**. One cannot finish our farewells without saying a special goodbye to **WO2 (YOS) Trev Taylor** and **Sgt Steve Jessamine**—Thank you one and all and good luck for the future from all at 210.

The GOC 2 Inf Div presents the LS&GC Medal to Sgt Pete Goddard REME
*L–R:* WO2 (SSM) Hedge GOC NE Dist, Sgt Goddard, Sig Butler (Sqn Pennant), Sig McGillivary (with pipes)

GOC 2 Inf Div presents the LS&GC Medal to Cpl Mick Johnson with WO2 (SSM) George Hedge on parade

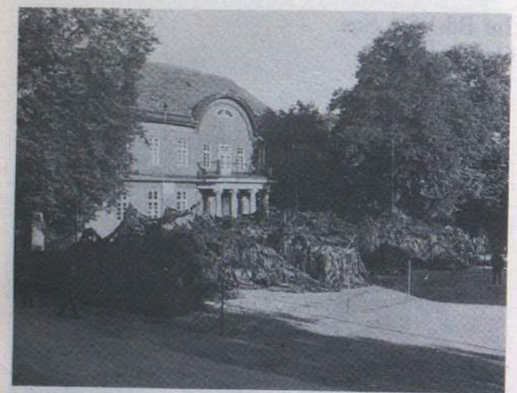
# 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
# BFPO 106

**EXERCISE *SPEARPOINT 84***

As with many other units, much of our time during the past two months has been taken up with planning, preparing and, eventually taking part in Ex *Spearpoint*. The exercise was a great success, in fact it seemed that the most difficult part was preparing for it.

Much 'friendly' rivalry was generated between 2 and 3 Sqns, as 2 Sqn held command for more days than 3 Sqn, whilst 3 Sqn moved more often than 2 Sqn. Telephone conversations between Main and Step Up were characterised by cries of 'Step Up Squadron' and 'Static Squadron'. Happily, the squadrons were kept well apart and all battles were fought verbally.

The two recce officers, **Capts Peter Neale** and **Steven Heath**, did a sterling job. Despite the lack of real estate they did their utmost to provide the staff with every comfort.



Main Div HQ complex on Ex *Lionheart* with the Officers' Mess 'barn' in the background

Commercial chemical conveniences solved the emotive subject of toilets however what does one do with them when faced with a move. In the end the DEL telephone was put to good use with daily LOCSTATS being passed to the contractor. We did however experience some difficulty getting him to use BATCO!

Lt Nick Davis finds the BRUIN diagram very confusing. SSgt (YofS) Tim Langford pretends not to notice whilst Cpl Dai Jones talks into the intercom ('the talking wall')

**1 SQUADRON GOES TO WAR**

The beginning of September saw 1 Sqn deploying on Ex *Spearpoint* (along with one or two other units). Having been thoroughly instructed in the fine art of air recognition and armed with their 'Bad Guys Guide', members of the Squadron were keen to spot the aircraft of both Blue and Orange forces. Unfortunately the only aircraft seen were the already familiar Lynx, Chinook and Gazelle helicopters. There was one unconfirmed report though from **Sig Stan** (The Man) **Haynes**, that a bird with retractable wings and a bright yellow beak had been seen within the vicinity. However no one felt any pangs of fear, secure in the knowledge that **SSgt (SQMS) Steve** (Defender of the faint hearted) **Swinfield** was there, ready to deter any would be aggressor, armed to the teeth with trip flares, thunderflashes and a pronounced nervous twitch.

**UNPLANNED**

A few unplanned casualties did occur at both X-Ray and Yankee. **LCpl Nutley** of X-Ray Troop contracted a very bad case of foot and mouth disease ... he opened one and put the other in it. The epidemic quickly spread to **Sig 'Vinny' Vincent** whose claim to fame was that he was the first 40/160 operator of the exercise who personally upset GOC 3 Div ... Well if you will ask Sir for the routing! Other casualties included **Cpl** (use your head) **Ball**, who came off second best in an argument with a 16/24 KVA. **Cpl Ball** can now be seen playing the title role in R. L. Stevenson's Treasure Island, as Long John Silver, complete with eyepatch. **Sgt Keith Robinson** came a close second for this leading role after a minor mishap with his ERV. He also ended up with a crutch and eye patch as well.

Yankee didn't escape unscathed either. After a few days of fending for themselves, a loyal band of Mercians arrived to guard them. One trusty Mercian caught a highly contagious disease which resulted in him being put into isolation by his comrades. The Mercian in question contracted this ailment whilst giving a rare display of courage and devotion to duty. Being a highly trained and observant infantry man, he noticed a lone well dug trench set apart from the rest, which was visited by all and sundry at various times throughout the day, especially after meal times. Once there they would observe a strange ritual involving much wailing, the singing of strange incantations and many cries of anguish. This sequence of events would finish with the symbolic gesture of throwing what appeared to be pink paper flowers into the sacred trench. Naturally this trusty hero felt himself drawn towards this hallowed place. In fact so much so that one night when coming under attack he decided to make it his defensive position. With utter abandon he threw his body into his chosen sanctuary and as the smell of battle filled his nostrils he failed to notice the pungent 'mud' oozing around his knees. The small of this 'mud' soon filled everybody else's nostrils however, thus resulting in his enforced quarantine. Never fear O Fearless Warrior, as somebody said, 'We will remember him!'.

**VERDEN MARATHON**

The Regiment was well represented by some 38 competitors at the Verden Marathon, **LCpl 'Ned' Kelly** was our first runner home, coming ninth overall, followed closely by **Sig Nick Clay** coming 16th and **SSgt (YofS) Mick Horan**, 32nd. The team and supporters rode to Verden in great comfort and style, courtesy of Sam's Coaches, who kindly provided the bus free of charge. The Catering Officer, **Capt John Ratcliffe**, was in the team and it may be that his presence had some effect upon the quality of the packed lunches supplied—certainly we have never had caviar sandwiches before! Whilst we did not win any major awards, our congratulations go to all our runners who took part. They all completed the course and some even managed to finish with a smile.

**HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON BARBECUE**

Back in the Summer (do you still remember the Summer?) HQ Sqn held its Barbecue at the Mohnesee Sailing Club. Bratties and beer were provided in abundance and there was a disco, too. Using the facilities of the Sailing Club, we felt obliged to partake of some nautical activity. This took the form of an Inter-Troop Raft Race, which was won by MT Troop who paddled home well ahead of the rest of the field. The weather behaved itself for a change and a good time was had by all, even after the disco had been turned down to half volume at the firm but polite request of the local police.

MT Troops winning crew. *L—R Front:* Cpls Kev Watson, John Marr. *Back:* LCpl Andrew Peat and Cpl Mick Tyndall

**CRICKET 1984**

For the Regiment, 1984 was the most successful cricketing season for many years. After two 50s from our opening bat, **Capt** 'just a single' **Voice**, and sound all round performances, we progressed to the 3 Divisional final. This proved to be the highlight of our season, with spectators and players alike being treated to a feast of runs from **Capt**, now **Major**, 'Big Six' **Duthoit**. 217 for five proved far beyond the reach of 3 Regt AAC, who finally succumbed at 147 all out. Then disaster; we fell at the next hurdle, the BAOR-semi final, but in fairness the opposition fielded a better side on the day.

With cricketers posted in by the 'dozen', a new pavilion, new scoreboard and cricket cradle, how can we fail in 85? Alas, the problem! We are losing **WO2 'Q' 'Boycott' McCance**. Thanks for your time and effort **Geoffrey**!

**3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB**

Unfortunately our notes on the 3 Div Sig Reunion Club visit to the Regiment in July was not included in the September *Wire* due to lack of space. We would, however, like to thank them for their generous donation of £40 which together with our own contribution was presented to **Princess Anne** for the Save the Children Fund. In addition, we would also like to thank **Mr 'Flash' Dukes** for his gift of a map of Paris and a cigarette case which he found on D Day at Hermanville. These gifts are now displayed in our small Regimental museum.

3rd Divisional Reunion Club with Mr 'Flash' Dukes and Brig Cuthbert Moore in the centre

**GROUND ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - ENGINEERS/TECHNICIANS -**

**Earnings over 2 years not less than £23,500 (tax-free) PLUS free accommodation and meals, expert medical care, personal accident insurance PLUS 21 days' UK leave at 17 week intervals with free air travel to and from Heathrow.**

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Ideally, applicants should have a thorough knowledge of techniques and have been employed for a minimum of 5 years' within the field of one or more of the following: mobile and static military radio systems, associated antennae and ancillary equipment; cryptographic and telegraphy equipment: weapons fire control systems and navigation aids used in air traffic control.

If you feel you are suitably qualified and interested in joining our Company, please write giving a brief summary of your qualifications and experience to: **The Company Personnel Manager, Airwork Limited, Bournemouth-Hurn Airport, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6EB.**

Airwork Limited

1983

## 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
## BFPO 15

### SHOOTING AT BISLEY

The Regiment competed in The Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Bisley again this year and did much better. After obtaining a reasonable position in the Major Unit championship last year the aim was to train for two weeks prior to the Corps SAM to gain competition experience and then go to Bisley.

With the Corps SAM being cancelled the team spent three weeks training at the Guards Depot Pirbright, using the same Range facilities as the subsequent Bisley Competition. This training proved to be invaluable and the aim of obtaining a better result than last year was achieved. We were the best placed Corps Regiment at the Meeting. The reward too, of being placed higher than some Infantry Regiments made the hard work during the training period all worthwhile. The younger members of the team gained a lot of experience from competing at this high level. **Cpl Stephen Evans** was placed 37th in the Roupell (SRC Match) out of 700 competitors and was awarded a medal. He is also to be congratulated on being placed 28th in the Individual Pistol match, and again was awarded a medal.

The team consisted of: **SSgt Alan Hibberd, Cpl Stephen Evans, LCpls Donald Bowen, Mark Egan, Taff Fisher, Mark Taylor, Sig John Quinn** and **Steve Whithead.**

### ANGLO/GERMAN LIAISON—GERMAN ARMY 'POKAL' SHOOT

On 8 September, a team from Alfa Troop of 3 Sqn travelled to Cammer Range at Minden to participate in a German Pokal Shoot. The stiff competition on the shoot comprised a police team, a couple of shooting club teams and a reservists team. The weapon used was the German 7.62mm G3 rifle. Two practices were shot with the weapon from 100 and 200m. The German teams being familiar with the weapon, managed to beat us convincingly but the competition was very much enjoyed by the men who took part.

The Alfa Troop team consisted of **Lt Bob Sharp** (3rd right), **LCpl Keith Loughlin** (4th right), **Sig Brian Harding** (3rd left), **LCpl Cal Hewitt** (4th left) and **SSgt Mick Eady** (5th left).

The prizes were presented by **Kreis Direkter Lerche** (State Director—civilian clothes) and **Verteidigungskreiskommandeur Oberstleutant Thies** (CO of the reservists—5th right).

### VISIT OF CHIEF SCIENTIST (ARMY)

As part of **Mr Len Gray's** visit to 1 British Corps on the 16/17 July, the Regiment provided as part of a larger demonstration, a Divisional Main Headquarters 432 Complex. **Mr Len Gray** was briefed on the Headquarters by **Maj Dereck Howshall** OC 2 Sqn before he then entered the complex to investigate the working conditions of the headquarters.

Maj D. P. Howshall (left) briefs Mr Len Gray (centre) on the role and organisation of a Divisional Commhd

It had taken a full two days of preparation and painting to ensure the AFV 432s would be up to the required standard for the visit. **Mr Gray** spoke to each operator in turn and spent a total of half an hour in the Divisional Headquarters.

### EXERCISE *VENTURE QUADRANT*

Having been 'volunteered' for an Adventurous Training weekend, the single soldiers of TM Troop set off early one Friday morning, due South, to a tranquil little area known as the 'Diemelsee', to try their luck climbing and canoeing. This was the brain child of the TOT, **Capt Joe Smith**, who was unable to take part himself.

When the party reached their destination, a quick recce decided that only those with previous experience should attempt the climb the following day, with the remainder going canoeing. On the Saturday the team of climbers set off to climb the 'rocks' at Bruch-Hauser Steine. This small team managed to keep the local inhabitants amused for most of the day with some amazing feats of rock climbing and abseiling.

An abseiling **LCpl Mark Egan** came within an inch or so of a sex change. This stunt amused the locals so much that he received a standing ovation.

Meanwhile back at the canoeing **Cpl Alan Moodie** spent so much time in the water that he was nicknamed the 'Man from Atlantis'. **Cpl George Pendrick**'s canoeing style, caused much amusement.

At the end of the day a barbecue 'A la Herforde' was prepared by **Sig Paul Reynolds** which proved very interesting indeed. The weekend came to an end too quickly and everyone would have liked to have stayed for a week or so; still a good time was had by all.



### BAOR MAJOR UNITS CRICKET FINAL

The Regiment played and beat 45 Fd Regt in the BAOR Cricket Final at Rheindahlen on Saturday 1 September. 45 Fd Regt won the toss and invited us to bat first.

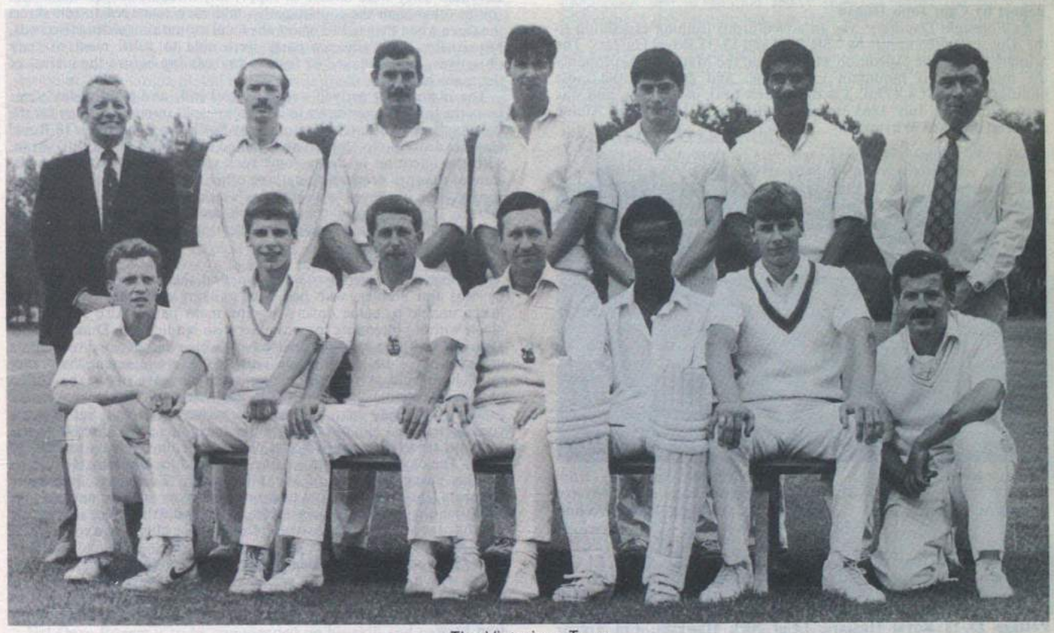
The Regiment made a sound start through their opening pair of **LCpl Andrew Matless** and **2Lt Stephen Vickery**, who put on 41 runs in 10 overs, before **Vickery** was caught and bowled. **LCpl Matless** however continued to punish anything short of a length before being out for 43. This brought together **Maj Kerry McLean** and **Sig Glen Bailey**. The latter batsman ripped the opposition apart by hitting two large sixes and eight fours in his score of 60; this was achieved in a mere 64 minutes, before he was brilliantly caught on the boundary.

With the score now 162 for three with six and a half overs left the remaining batsman threw the bat finally achieving a healthy score of 203 for five wickets off the 40 overs. **Maj Kerry McLean** remained undefeated on 55 not out.

45 Fd Regt got off to a slow start mainly due to some enthusiastic fielding and accurate bowling by **Sig Andy Lidstone** and **LCpl Richard Matless** who conceded 17 and 13 runs respectively off their alloted eight overs. This put considerable pressure on the ensuing batsmen who were forced into taking risks which resulted in two run outs. 45 Fd Regt even tried using some of the 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regts bats but to no avail and the crunch came when three wickets fell in one over from **Sgt Nigel Scott**. With the score now 86 for six off 28 overs the later batsmen played their own natural game to keep the spectators entranced to the bitter end.

The last wicket finally fell with the score on 135. **Cpl Roger Thompson** returned good figures of four wickets for 25 runs. The Regiment won by 68 runs.

The prizes were presented by **Brig I. A. Christie CBE MC** who congratulated both sides on the high standard of the cricket and the spirit in which it was played. He awarded the Man of the Match award to **Sig Glen Bailey** for his excellent and thrilling innings, plus two catches behind the stumps.



The Victorious Team

*Back Row:* Lt M. Hannagan, Capt K. P. Barrett, Cpl C. Calder, Sig A. Lidstone, Cpl C. Saunders, Cpl R. Thompson, SSgt M. Davis.
*Front Row:* 2Lt S. Vickery, LCpl A. J. Matless, Sgt N. Scott, Maj R. W. D. McLean (Capt), Sig G. Bailey, LCpl R. C. Matless, Cpl D. Griffiths

Calypso Cricket
Man of the Match, Sig Glenn Bailey, looking well satisfied with himself having just scored 60 out of a partnership of 105 in an hour

Spot the Difference—LCpls A. J. and R. C. Matless

# 7 Sig Regt
# BFPO 15

## OUT AND ABOUT

In July and August most of the Regiment were out of barracks on expeditions and adventure training. The following describe a Mountaineering expedition, a Squadron Summer Camp and the experience of our Marching team.

## EXERCISE *FORESIGHT QUADRANT*

**Report by Capt John Hogan**

Ex *Foresight Quadrant* was an adventurous training expedition to the Alps, mounted jointly by 7 Sig Regt and 13/18 Royal Hussars. The primary aim of the expedition was to climb the Matterhorn, probably the most famous mountain in Europe, and certainly the most photographed. At 4,477m, it is the highest peak in the area, and was first climbed in July 1865 by an English party led by the Alpine explorer, **Edward Whymper.**

Some of the expedition members prior to departing from Herford. *L-R:* Maj Jim Stabler, Sgt Dave Rogers, Cpl Harry Schofield, Trooper Carl Bodemeiad, LCpls Nick Hawkins and Michael Tester

The following took part: **Maj Jim Stabler OIC Expedition, Lt Cdr Bob Bottomley RN, Capt John Hogan Expedition Admin Offr, Lt James Prince-Smith 13/18 Royal Hussars, Sgt Dave Rogers 13/18 Royal Hussars 2IC Expedition, Cpl Harry Schofield, Cpl John Pottage 13/18 Royal Hussars, LCpl Nick Hawkins, Cpl Trevor Bandey, LCpl Michael Tester LAD, LCpl Paul Cummings LAD 13/18 Royal Hussars, Trooper Carl Bodemead 13/18 Royal Hussars.**

The expedition was conceived and organised by **Maj Jim Stabler**, and initial planning began last summer. In September 1983, a reconnaissance party consisting of **Maj Jim Stabler, Capt Dennis Hayden RNZ Signals** (over on Ex *Long Look*), **Sgt Dave Tomlinson, Cpl Trevor Bandey** and **Sig** (now **LCpl**) **Nick Hawkins** drove down to Italy. They found a very good campsite just outside the village of Buisson in the Valtournenche valley. 'Villaggio Turistico' is well sited for adventure training in this part of the Alps, and has its own ablutions, bar and supermarket on the site. The owner **Koky**, speaks very good English and was most helpful. The bar saw plenty of custom, and **Renzo** and **Mimi** (the barman and his wife) looked after the recce party very well. It was in this establishment that acquaintance was first made with the evil local distillate known as 'grappa'. Several were to regret meeting this tipple, both on the recce and on the expedition. Other aspects of the recce were more successful, and on their return detailed planning was carried out and the AFF'A's submitted. Authority for the expedition was received in due course, along with the promise of money!

## THE ADVANCE PARTY

After the inevitable last minute hiccups, the advance party consisting of **Capt John Hogan, Cpl Trevor Banday** and **LCpl Nick Hawkins** set off from Herford on Wednesday 25 July, driving down through Switzerland to Italy. An overnight stop was made in Switzerland, where the three decided to sleep under the stars, since the weather was so mild. A thunderstorm in the early hours of the morning forced them to seek shelter in the van. As dawn broke, a weary bedraggled trio continued their journey, crossing into Italy via the Grand Saint Bernard Pass.

Once based in the Villaggio Turistico, they began to make preparations for the arrival of the main party. Their efforts were hindered rather than helped by the local tourist information office in Cervinia. They were unable to supply any information on walks and routes other than the tourist paths, and even managed to mis-direct the three when they asked where the local mountain guides office was. Nevertheless, the advance party were able to fulfil most of their objectives, and managed to fit in a day's skiing before the arrival of the main party.

The main party arrived over the weekend, and after a day's rest from the long journey down in landrovers split into two groups for the first day's activities. One group led by **Sgt Dave Rogers**, 13/18 Royal Hussars drove up to Chencil and walked to the base of Becca D'Aran, with the intention of doing some rock climbing. Unfortunately, the state of the rock precluded anything other than single pitches and top-roping, but it proved a useful day's acclimatisation at over 2,500 metres. The other group took the cable car from Cervinia to Plateaux Rosa, and carried out their acclimatisation on skis.

## GENTLE PERSUASION

The expedition members were joined at the campsite that evening by **Maj Jim Stabler**, who had been rallying over the weekend and hence unable to come down with the main party. Also joining us, albeit without intending to, was a Scottish laddie from Dumfrieshire. **George Clark** was touring Europe on his bike and decided to spend a quiet couple of days at Villaggio Turistico before returning via France to his homeland. A relaxed evening in the bar gave rise to the notion of **George** joining us on our next day's activity. When woken for breakfast at 0630 hrs, he was less enthusiastic, but **Sgt Rogers'** cooking tempted him out of his maggot. He was soon kitted out, and joined the party on the 0830 hrs cable car from Cervinia to Plateau Rosa. The day was spent practising snow and ice climbing techniques on the Furggrat Ridge of the Matterhorn. For many expedition members, this was their first time on steep snow and ice, and also the first time they had been over 3,000 metres with their feet still on the ground. Ice axe braking, use of crampons, ice climbing and belaying were all practised. It was a most enjoyable day's training, and gave everybody confidence in themselves and their equipment. The day ended with a walk down to Cervinia, and an evening in the company of Renzo and Mimi, where those thus far fortunate enough not to have encountered grappa had their digestive system assaulted by the foul brew.

## TWO GROUPS AND AN ACCIDENT

The following day, Wednesday, the expedition split into two groups. **Maj Jim Stabler** and **Cpl Trevor Bandey**, and **Lt James Prince-Smith** and **Sgt Dave Rogers** of 13/18 Royal Hussars set off for the L'Orionde hut, intending to traverse around to the Hornli hut on the Thursday and climb the Matterhorn on the Friday. The second group under **Capt John Hogan**, again accompanied by **George**, went to a rock face in the valley to practise rock climbing and rope techniques. The day's good weather broke at lunchtime when a thunderstorm made climbing impossible. Even when the rain had cleared, the rock face was covered in mud washed down from the cliffs above. The second group returned to Villaggio Turistico, and bade farewell to our Scottish companion, with promises on both sides to keep in touch. The evening meal was interrupted by the bad news that **Jamie Prince-Smith** had broken his arm in a rock-fall. All of the group were collected from Cervinia and brought back to the campsite. **Jamie** was taken on to the hospital in Aosta, where he spent the next two weeks.

The accident brought home to everybody the considerable objective dangers when climbing in the Alps.

## MORE EXPERIENCE

On the Thursday, the whole group returned to the rock face to continue rock climbing training. The weather was good all day and everybody completed several climbs, as well as practising various belay techniques. The rock face is one of the few areas in the valley where it is safe to climb, since the rock is both very loose and dirty.



The rock had been fitted with expansion bolts and belay rings to prevent damage to the rock from pitons and chocks. There are about six routes, varying in length from 40 feet to 80 feet, and up to about VDiff standard.

On Friday, the expedition split into two groups, half returning to the Furggrate Ridge to recce a route across the glacier to the Hornli hut, whilst the other half under **Sgt Dave Rogers** set off up Monte Roisetta, 3,334 metres.

The weekend 4/5 August was largely spent on administration, although some of the hardier climbers tried some new routes on the local cliffs, and found out why nobody had bothered to climb them before! **LCpl Paul Cummings** (LAD 13/18 Royal Hussars) and **LCpl Nick Hawkins** led a very dirty and hard, severe route, which they were very happy to bail off half way up. On the Sunday, **Sgt Dave Rogers** and **Cpl Trevor Bandey** caught the cable car from Cervinia to Plateau Rosa and trekked across the glacier into Switzerland to the Hornli hut.

## SUPERB WEATHER

On Monday 6 August all of the remaining expeditioners except **Cpl Harry Schofield** left early for Cervinia and Plateau Rosa to walk up the Breithorn. At 4,160 metres, the Breithorn is a huge snow covered mound easily approachable from the South. From the cable car station at Testa Grigia (3,480 metres), it is about three hours walking to the summit. The weather was superb, with clear blue skies, offering excellent views of the surrounding mountains. The party had lunch on the top, although some people had little appetite, feeling the effects of the altitude. The party practised crevasse rescues on the way down (intentionally), and returned to the cable car in near whiteout conditions as the weather deteriorated rapidly in the afternoon.

The weather cleared again on the Tuesday, and **Capt John Hogan** took a small group up Monte Pencherot (2,614m) The path was well marked all of the way and **LCpl Michael Tester** (LAD) found his boogie box enabled him to plod out the miles with ease. There was a good view of the Matterhorn from the summit, and the clouds could be seen building up around the peak, until within about 40 minutes, the Matterhorn was completely obscured.

## SUCCESS

The party returned to the campsite to find that **Sgt Dave Rogers** and **Cpl Trevor Bandey** had been successful in their attempt on the Matterhorn. They had left the Hornli hut at 0400 hrs, along with 53 other groups. The overcrowding and deteriorating weather conditions made for a long hard climb, with much waiting around for groups ahead to climb up, or alternatively when they had to retreat. They had an additional delay of 1½ hours when **Sgt Rogers** had to give first aid to an injured climber from a party ahead of them, and wait until a rescue helicopter could lift him off the mountain side. They eventually reached the summit in the early afternoon, after a frightening climb up the last ice field. The ice was wet, and too thin to accept ice-screws and had to be covered without any protection. The descent was made in steadily worsening weather conditions and was completed by torchlight. **Sgt Rogers** and **Cpl Bandey** finally returned to the hut at 0130 hrs—a total of 21½ hours on the mountain. They were one of only four groups to reach the summit out of 54 groups who set off that morning.

**Sgt Dave Rogers** is to be commended on his skill and perseverence in leading the climb in far from ideal conditions.

The final scramble up to the summit of Cime Bianca, with Maj Jim Stabler and Lt Cdr Bob Bottomley leading, whilst Trooper Carl Bodemeiad poses

## MORE PEAKS

Over the next few days there was heavy snowfall on the Matterhorn which made it too dangerous to climb, and thus prevented any further attempts by the expedition. Not surprisingly, the disappointment over this was felt by everybody, but there was some consolation in that one member from each Regiment had reached the summit and justified the expense.

The remainder of the time in Italy was spent walking and scrambling up the lesser peaks in the valley, which were free from snow. Working in groups of between four and six, members of the expedition bagged the following peaks: Cime Bianca (3,009m), Dome de Tzan (3,311m) and Punta Tzan (3,220m) and the Grand Tournalin (3,379m).

## AVALANCHES

One attempt was made to complete part of the Furggrat Ridge from the Teodulo hut at Testa Crigia to the Furgg Jochem, but had to be abandoned due to another heavy snowfall whilst the party slept overnight in the Teodulo hut. On their way down the mountain, they were treated to some spectacular views of avalanches on the face of the Matterhorn. The noise of hundreds of tons of snow falling several thousand feet is quite disconcerting, even at a distance of over a mile. Needless to say they were grateful not to be anywhere near the paths of the avalanches.

## VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

The expedition came to an end on Friday 17 August, when half of the members departed for Herford, in private cars. The remainder packed up on the Saturday morning and said their farewells to **Koky, Renzo** and **Mimi**. Everybody was given a bright yellow 'Villaggio Turistico' T-Shirt by **Koky**, as a momento of our stay. It was a long drive back to Herford, crossing into Switzerland via the Grand Saint Bernard tunnel and then into Germany at Basel.

A photograph of the Matterhorn taken by Capt John Hogan

The expedition was successful, in that two members reached the summit of the Matterhorn. Unfavourable weather conditions prevented any further attempts. All those who participated gained valuable experience in both Alpine climbing and the organisation of an expedition. Many new friends were made, both among the locals and also the tourists. Lack of space prevents a graphic description of the nocturnal activities of **LCpls Nick Hawkins, Michael Tester** and **Paul Cummings**. Suffice to say that **Nick** taught the Italians break dancing (and was not heard to say 'not tonight Josephine'), **Michael** came third in the spaghetti eating contest, whilst **Paul** broke all of the young girl's hearts, and all three were normally the last to leave the bar. **Cpl Harry Schofield** made the acquaintance of a charming young WRAC driver, and doesn't wish any more to be said. All of the expedition members would like to thank everybody who helped with the preparation and organisation of the expedition, in particular the PRIs of both Regiments, who contributed generously, LAD 7 Signal Regiment for their assistance in preparing the landrovers and the pay and catering staff for their help with money and CILOR.

**EXERCISE *DRAKE QUADRANT***
**Report by Sgt Geoff Baldry**

From 30 July to 8 August, 55 members of 2 Sqn, and attached personnel, paid a social visit to Zell on the Mösel, for 10 day's arduous training.

First of all, a vote of thanks to **WO2 Tony Turner R Anglians**, who ably instructed the canoeing; surely the only instructor to use squad numbers and ... 'I left you in this position ...', when teaching capsize drills! **Sig Gig Plumb** admirably put up with having to pilot the inflatable speed boat up and down the river all day long, obtaining a suntan and being forced to enjoy himself.

The Adjutant, **Capt Steve Turpin**, was signed up for the first five days to be our Windsurfing instructor. He was heard to be negotiating a second five day period, unable to face his 'In' tray on his return. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** caused several anxious moments when seen on a sailboard, blissfully ignorant of the 1,000 ton barge bearing down on him. More water antics were provided by **LCpl 'Shag' Sharrock** water skiing upside down, with his legs and skis out of the water. It's thought that doing 'P' Company has seriously affected **LCpl Sharrock**.

**2Lt Stuart Macrostie** turned out to be a bit of a 'Cowboy' on Summer Camp; perhaps the OC Squadron's influence. He skied fully dressed including tie and hat; abseiled off a footbridge on to a passing motor boat; but had the wind taken out of his sails when he broke the Adjutant's sailboard on one of his jaunts.

The SSM, **WO2 Dave Simpson**, spent most of the camp regretting the Squadron's quickly forged links with the local Police force. Meanwhile **LCpl 'Johno' Henry** tried to chat up every young lady within 30 miles of the camp. **Lt 'Burt' Lancaster** found himself unable to compete with **LCpl Henry**, so he confined himself to taking sections abseiling, despite hangovers that would have killed lesser mortals.

At the end of the camp **SSgt Steve 'Medallion Man' Dunlin** was presented with a special award, for proving himself incapable of controlling his shirt buttons and his 32" chest.

There was time to relax at 2 Sqn's Summer Camp. *L-R:* Sig Gavin Collins, Sgts Gig Plumb, Geoff Baldry, SSgts Steve Dunlin, Steve Churchman

The canoeing course are having a sing song conducted by the instructor WO2 Tony Turner. *L-R Standing:* LCpls Henry, Lewis, Sig Blair, Miss Underhill, LCpl Lane. *Sitting:* Masters Underhill, Simpson, LCpl Jones and Cfn Bromhead

The Squadron said goodbye to two of its members, **Cpl 'Ginge' Longley** on commissioning, and **Sig Stu Gordon** to civilian life. We will miss them both, well the bar profit will!

One last note, during most evenings the rain came down in torrents. Most mornings, the Squadron had to rescue some of its members from floating away down the Mösel. Several complained they were turning into frogs. Perhaps the SQMS could refrain from issuing sieves as tents. After a last night at the camp bar, the Squadron returned 'home', to a more soldierly existence. Roll on next Summer Camp.

The Squadron Football team before playing a 1—1 draw with the local team. *L-R:* Dvr Carr, Tony Taylor, Taff Lewis, Tom Davies, Willie Scots, Phil Cooper, Keith Graham, Jim Cowan, Steve Brownley, Chunks King, Pabs Crone

**NIJMEGEN MARCHES**
**Report by SSgt Arthur Williams**

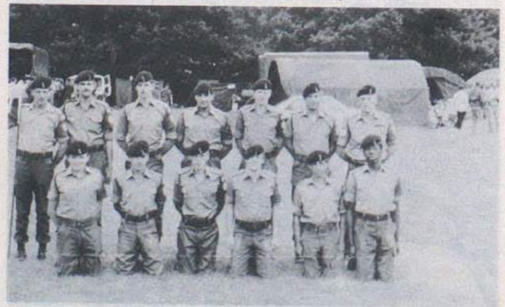
After a few week's training we set off to the 68th Nijmegen four day Marches with a team of 14 men. We arrived in the tented camp South of Nijmegen joining some 6,500 sailors, soldiers and airmen from all over the world.

The first day started at 0400 hrs with the civilian entries of about 18,000, joining the military route at about the 10Km point. The local population, mainly in their night dress encouraging us on, we finished at midday.

The second day started at 0330 hrs with a long queue of soldiers at the start point with having one thing in common—they were all suffering from blisters.

Day three started even earlier at 0300 hrs with less people at the start, due to everbody queing up for breakfast of tea, bread and jam. Our feet were a little more sore but the day was more enjoyable due to the fact that each village were holding a carnival type reception as we went through.

The fourth day started well with **Cpl Mal Colston** the grandad of the team trailing behind from the start. Our young here **Sig** (I can't hack it) **Toon** who had arrived from UK two days prior to the event with no training found it hard to forget about his blistering feet. The team reached the march past assembly area by 1300 hrs. Unfortunately **Cpl Colston** who was two hours behind was unable to partake in the 5Km march past through Nijmegen. With thousands of people lining the route offering flowers mainly to our colonial team member **Sig 'Big Plumber' Chas Charlton**, the pain of blisters were forgotten. A good event enjoyed by all, looking forward to 1985, see you there, all you other Ramblers of the Corps.



The team that took part in the Nijmegen Marches. *L-R Top:* Cpls Fisher, Weeks, Sig Black, Lewis, North, McNeill, SSgt Williams. *Bottom:* Sig Reid, Jackson, Walker, Toon, Frankland, Charlton



# 8 Sig Regt
# Catterick Garrison

**THE TOPS**

We have surely had one of the longest recorded summers in Catterick this year which alas is now over. The fine weather did encourage our CO, **Col Bev Austin**, to turn his hand to gardening at Druggon House. Early in the year he made an appreciation and decided that leeks and onions were too difficult but cabbages were fair game for a bit of competition. After months of experimenting he produced not one but two worthy cabbages in time for the August Reeth Flower and Vegetable Show.

A lot of soul searching went into the decision of which cabbage to show. This obviously paid off as he walked away with the 'Best Open Cabbage'. Congratulations Colonel! The Catering Officer thanks you for boosting his messing fund by donating the other cabbage to the Cookhouse.

**CROSS COUNTRY RUN**

On 2 October, some 700 members of the Regiment lined up on Vimy A Sportsfield for the Annual Cross Country Run. The CO acted as the official starter and then dropped his flag to join in the race, over 5½ miles of the worst hills and puddles on the Whinny Hill Training Area. Congratulations to **Cpl Chris Laycock** (1 Sqn) who convincingly won the race and to 1 Sqn who were overall winners.

**INTER-SQUADRON 6-A-SIDE HOCKEY**

The competition was played in an extremely competitive spirit though the fun side was always apparent. The large number of teams involved and the tight time schedule made it obvious from the start that it would be a survival of the fittest who would complete the knockout stage.

1 Sqn being the current holders of the Trophy were obviously keen to defend their prize and fielded two very talented sides, who, having fought their way through the 'Round Robin Stages' confronted each other in the final of the Knockout Stage.

As one of the teams was completely made up of Queen's Gurkha Signals, who rather fortunately were attached for two weeks prior to going on Ex *Lionheart*, it seemed that they were favourites to lift the trophy. Throughout the preliminaries the Gurkhas enthralled spectators with their deft individual skill, at times making even the most accomplished player seem a little foolish, when swinging at mid-air.

However, one set of players not overawed were the 1 Sqn 2nd team. In the final they soaked up the initial pressure, but rather than stand and admire the undoubted skill of the Gurkhas, eventually hassled and niggled at their opponents, until they broke through to score an extremely well taken goal.

This goal seemed to turn the game and the last five minutes proved to be most exciting with the Gurkhas trying to recover. The whole tournament was a fine example of skill and competitive spirit displayed by all the players, not to forget the fitness aspect. Congratulations once again to 1 Sqn who deservedly retained the trophy.

**TARGET SHOOTING**

In this sport of mental concentration in the face of bodily discomfort we have had a remarkable good season. Earlier this year our Small Bore Teams achieved third and eighth places in the North East District Championships and **WO2 John Carter** came from behind to take third place (and a silver egg cup) in the District Individual Championships.

**WO2 Carter** then discovered what competition pressure was all about when, owing to his presence being required at Bisley on the same day as the UK final of the Inter-District Match at Borden, he was required to fire his District Card, alone, under the sole scrutiny of the judges in the brilliantly lit range at Borden the night before the match proper. Involuntary tension produced a disastrous first card but he managed to pull back to 12th highest score with the remainder.

On the civilian small bore circuit our best result this year was in the Ely Championships when **WO2 Jim Hindle** qualified for the final stage at Bisley.

On the full bore circuit our training and coaching programme has produced some very good results. In June **WO2 Hindle** and **WO2 Carter** fired as members of the Corps Team of four in the Inter-Corps Target Rifle Match with **Sgt Alan Shrive** as reserve. The Corps were lying in the lead after the first three practices when, a shifty wind at 1,000 yards dropped us out of first place by a margin of only 14 points.

**The Tate Cup**
WO2 John Carter, WO2 Jim Hindle, Sgt Alan Shrive

At RASAM, following a disastrous long range match, the Regiment's Target Rifle Team won the Tate Cup, the award presented to the leading Corps Team. **WO2 Carter** went on to represent the Corps in the National Service Rifle Meeting and then **WO2 Carter, WO2 Hindle** and **Sgt Shrive** represented the Corps in the National Target Rifle Meeting. **WO2 Carter** was selected as reserve for the Army Long Range Team having eventually gained a couple of medals after being twice published as 'Next Best Score' on prize lists.

Our Full Bore firers are now preparing for the North East District and Yorkshire Matches.

**1 SQUADRON**

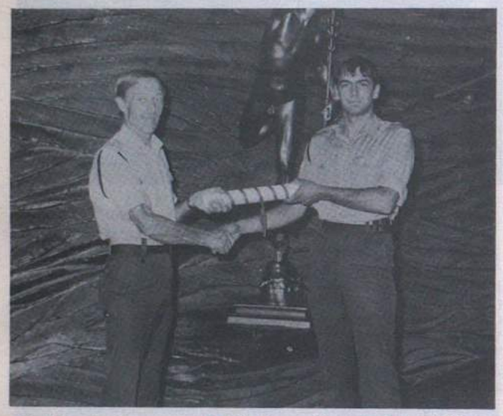
**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

The Squadron bids farewell to **Mrs Lesley Filmer**, our Chief Clerk, and welcomes **Mrs Pat Poulter** hoping she will enjoy her stay with the Squadron. We also bid farewell to **Cpl Bob Dunne** who leaves us for the MT Section of the Regiment.

**A GRADINGS**

Once again it is pleasing to report that two up and coming technicians have attained an 'A' grade on their upgrading course. **Cpls Jed Keegan** and **Clive Thorsby** or TE/RR290 are shown here collecting their certificates from **Lt Col Elliott**. **Cpl Keegan** in fact, produced the highest mark ever recorded on a TI upgrading course. Well done to both. Not to be outdone our Gurkha contingent also produced an 'A' Grade.

Cpl Keegan is presented with his certificate by Lt Col Elliott



Cpl Thorsby is presented with his certificate by Lt Col Elliott

LCpl Indrapasard Limbu is presented with his certificate by Lt Col Elliott

**SPORTING CHRONICLES**

The Squadron during the summer has swapped some of its silver around the Regiment—here is a brief resumé.

**SOFTBALL**

This imported American sport raised a few eyebrows among the diehards but under the expert guidance of **Sgt Dave Cox** and '149' **Sgt John Smith** produced a well drilled team who encountered little resistance on their way to picking up the trophy.

**HOCKEY**

Not to be outdone the Hockey team, captained by **Cpl Andy Marston-Weston** also produced some sparkling form and ran out winners of the 6-a-side tournament.

**GORDONS CUP**

This gruelling event is competed for annually and is a test of stamina and determination. The Squadron entered four teams in the hope of arresting the cup from 2 Sqn. Our 'A' team was led and trained by **Cpl Chris Laycock**. Although the team worked hard and displayed much enthusiasm it was not sufficient to overcome the expertise displayed by the eventual winners of the competition. An excellent effort by all our teams who were placed second, third, fifth and seventh. Well done to all competitors.

**FOOTBALL**

The football trophy was virtually a permanent display piece in our silver cabinet so we approached the football 11-a-side with a certain confidence. But due to injuries and postings our squad was sadly depleted and we fell at the semi final stage. The OC, **Maj Willie Robotham**, was visibly shaken at losing a cup he considered as his own but was soon seen to perk up when **SSgt Hugh Dillon** waltzed in with the tennis trophy tucked neatly under his arm.

**TENNIS**

This event was rather new on the calendar and after scouring the troops for talent **SSgt Hugh Dillon** moulded together a formidable group of tennis players. On the day they produced the goods and beat the favourites HQ Squadron comfortably.

**SQUASH**

Another racquet game and there was no lack of people wishing to play. **Cpl Niel Mabbott** had a tough job picking his teams, but eventually produced three good well balanced teams. It was a shame that we could not live up to expectations and produce an all 1 Sqn final but we were content to end up with the trophy and the plate.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Some 750 people started the annual cross country 200 of which were 1 Sqn. Fired by **Maj Willie Robotham**'s shout of 'Follow me I'm right behind you' we raced away to partake of the scenic delight of Gandale. **Cpl Chris Laycock** finished first in just under 29 minutes for the five and a half mile course. The OC finished in 725 place taking slightly longer than **Cpl Laycock**. Well done to all who ran.

**2 SQUADRON**

2 Sqn's notes concentrate on a wide variety of sporting achievements.

**Sir Eugene Elgenia** competed in London's first Triathlon Event. On a hot August day he swam one mile, cycled for 34 miles and then ran eight miles, each following immediately after the previous one. For a 19 year old he did extremely well finishing in 192 position out of a field of more than 500 competitors.

On to a less strenuous sport, **Sig 'Geordie' Glendinning** won the Regimental Dart competition held in the Vimy Social Club. The trophy, presented by local brewer John Smith, was almost three feet high. In the Inter-Troop Squash Competition A Troop came a creditable third being beaten by the experience of the old and bold in HQ Squadron and the TTS.

2 Squadron tasted success in the Inter-Squadron football competition beating HQ Squadron 4—0 in the final to win the Bell Trophy. **Sgt Terry Speight** and **Cpl Steve Osman** (now 3 Sqn) were the tactical organisers behind this victory with **Cpl Pete Smith** ensuring the team turned out in clean sports kit.



**WRAC SPORTS**

The WRAC Cadre serving with the Regiment only number about 20, but amongst this minority we always seem to have a success in sporting activities. During August we had an away weekend in Edinburgh, taking part in the District Rounders Tournament. We were not the outright winners but qualified to represent the District at the Army Finals in Aldershot. **Pte Nimmo** has since been posted to 16 Sig Regt but during the tour with us represented the Regiment in the Inter-Service Swimming at the RMAS.

The Regimental 6-a-side Hockey tournament was entered with much enthusiasm. The WRAC team managed a place in the quarter finals—on reflection they considered it to be a rough, tough contest against the men.

**3 SQUADRON**

**PERSONALITIES**

We, together with 1 and 2 Sqn, must be fairly unique in that we can list all the permanent members of the Squadron in just two inches of column space. They are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj R. C. Etheridge** |
| **2IC** | **Capt R. J. Courtney MBE** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 J. Carter** |
| **CO** | **Carole Thompson** |
| **CA** | **Peter Coe** |
| **Typist** | **Val Kay** |
| **OC 'C' Tp** | **Capt S. Mohan WRAC** |
| **OC 'D' Tp** | **Lt G. G. Haughie** |
| **SSgt 'C' Tp** | **SSgt B. Johnson** |
| **SSgt 'D' Tp** | **SSgt A. Blood** |
| **C Tp** | **Cpl S. Lee** |
| | **Cpl S. R. Osman** |
| **D. Tp** | **Sgt V. Chivers** |
| | **Cpl D. George** |
| | **Cpl K. Storey** |
| | **Cpl J. Hillan** |
| **'Beds'** | **Cpl D. V. Jones** |

So there you are! No more complaints about 'not a mention'. Fond farewells to **Pat** and **Phil Lee** as **Phil** takes up his appointment as SSM in 28 Sig Regt and to **Jo Cusick** who joins the Mandarins of the TTS on her promotion to CO.

**SPORT**

After a long season of 'second best' we were convinced that, at last, some silver would grace our bare looking display cabinet as **Sgt Vic Chivers** used his skill and charm to guide the Deltroids basketball team to win the Inter-Troop Championship. But alas—no cup! There was one, of that we are sure. But no, not even a 'chit in lieu'. So, we are still fighting to fill that space. We had high hopes in the hockey championship, but not enough of us survived uninjured through the first round and then with our all star orienteering team we were set to take the trophy when, after weeks of training under the guidance of **Dave George**, the Mandarins stepped in and refused to allow our team out of trade training to compete. All our hopes are now mustered behind **Cpl 'Gorilla' Lee** and his boxing team. A smile from **Steve Lee** could be classed as intimidation. He is currently running a training programme that would turn Goldfish into Piranha!

The Deltroids, so named for their sloping shoulders and inability to sit down, have recently been on the increase and, as a result, we have been able to diversify their activities within Catterick and recently, through 3 Sqn tours (NW Europe and Med) Ltd, give a few of the lucky ones a wider experience of the benefits of Army life by filling vacancies in field units' military and adventure training exercises.

Finally, in our last article, **Cpl Jim Hillan** suggested that, to get the posting you want, enter your first choice last in your dream sheet. The SSM, being a fairly intelligent guy (for an OR) tried it. It works! In December he and his wife, **Barb**, are off to sunny Cyprus, look out 262!

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

## TRAFFIC GROUP

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome **SGM 'Chip' Schwartz** of the US Army, he takes over the job of **SGM Bob Lingle** who returned to the States and civilian life. As soon as we find out what **Bob** did we will know what job to give **'Chip'**. Other recent arrivals are **Sgts Ron Walker, Mick Blythe, Cpl Tony Bains** and **Cpl Trish Bruce WRAC. Cpl Pauline Neave**, née **Ayre** (recently married) and **Cpl John Cairns** leaves us for civilian life, **Cpl Steve Wayman** is transferred to Radio Group (congratulations on the birth of daughter **Jennifer**) and **Sgt Tom Hall** is off on his YofS course (congratulations on the birth of son).

We welcome all our new arrivals and hope they have a happy tour with us. To those who have left we wish success and happiness. **Cpl Mick McCue** is wondering if his posting will ever come through.

### ELIZABETHAN NIGHT

A great time was had at Lumley Castle at a recent Elizabethan Banquet, the highlight of the evening came when **SSgt Wendy Barton** and **Mrs Sandra Churchward** gave an impromptu dance on the table.

### LOST FOR TIME

Another recent outing took members of the group to the Tuxedo Princess (night club on a ship) at Newcastle. **Cpl Steve Wayman** managed to scoff two meals whilst **Cpl Rick Sloggett** lost all track of time by dropping his watch over the side of the ship. **Rick** is now looking for a new watch which will allow him to do a half marathon in less than six hours.

Traffic Group

*Back Row:* Sgt Ron Walker, Cpls Ken Mace, Mick McCue, Sgt Angie Warnes, Cpls Alf Smith, Bob Hope, Tony Baines

*Centre Row:* Cpls Steve Wayman, Pauline Neave, Sgt Gerry Horan, Cpl Trish Bruce, Mr Dave Evans, Cpl Jayne Garrick, Sgt Bill Coltman, Sig Prince Coltman

*Front Row:* Sgts Babs Johnson, Tony Churchward, SGM 'Chip' Schwartz, Mr Ken Coates (The Boss), SSgt Wendy Barton, Sgts Ray Joughin, Lix MacLean

Absent on leave, courses etc: Mr Alan Tibbet, Mr Harry O'Mahoney, Mr Dennis Smith, Sgts Mick Blythe, Ron Walker, Cpls Rick Sloggett, Alex Clark



# 9 Sig Regt
# BFPO 58

### NEWS FROM 2 SQN

In an environment such as the one we enjoy, it is inevitable that a great deal of leisure time is spent participating in a wide range of sporting events. The advent of October sees the end of the traditional summer games and the start of a new season for rugby, soccer, hockey, basketball, orienteering and cross country. Needless to say, 2 Sqn possesses a wealth of talent in all these activities and indeed our trophy cabinet is overladen with evidence of last year's gladiatoral prowess. In addition the onset of the new military training year has seen an upsurge in voluntary, and involuntary, enthusiasm in both BFT and CFT training. In anticipation of the forthcoming shooting and military skills competitions **WO2 Armstrong** has all but moved his office to the firing points at Dhekelia Ranges.

### CRICKET

A fine cricket season has drawn to a close with 2 Sqn remaining undefeated as league champions. Ably led by skipper **SSgt 'Stew' Parrish**, who had a good season with the bat, there were notable performances from **SSgts 'Mo' Emmott, Bob Hales, WO2 John Hudson, Sgt Paul Welsh, Cpl Chris Moye** and our 'civvi' guest **Mr Steve Marshall**. The only set back to an otherwise highly successful season (both on and off the field) was the two run defeat at the hands of 2 Royal Anglians in the Knockout Cup.

Our congratulations also go to **SSgts 'Stew' Parrish, 'Mo' Emmott** and **Cpl Moye** who represented the Army in their 17 run victory over the RAF in the annual Inter Service match. Unfortunately some of this year's stars depart before next season, but as befits good 2 Sqn tradition others will replace them and 2 Sqn will still be a force to be reckoned with next year.

### CROSS COUNTRY

Although the Cross Country season has only just begun, 2 Sqn has already achieved good results in the opening two races.

The first of these was the '12 SU Relay' held in Happy Valley, Episkopi, which consisted of four runners per team, each completing two miles over road and track. The 'A' team was placed 3rd and the 'B' team 29th out of a total of 40 teams. The second race was the Episkopi five mile road race around the roads and hills of Episkopi Garrison. When the race started at 1530 hrs the temperature was up in the high 80's and a few competitors were beginning to wonder whether they had bitten off more than they could chew. Nevertheless, everybody put in very creditable performances and gained high finishing positions. The Squadron 'A' team was again placed 3rd overall behind two extremely fit teams from 40 Cdo RM. We are now looking forward to the start of the Cyprus Services Cross Country League, and to improving on our 3rd position in the league of last season.

### REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY RACE

On Friday 28 September, over 300 runners of all ages and sex defied the hot weather and dusty, undulating four and a half mile course (two and a half miles for the ladies and juniors), to compete in the Regiment's annual cross country championships. At 1555 hrs precisely, the ladies and lads were sent on their way, closely followed by the start of the senior event. Almost immediately three runners, **SAC Martin Charles** of 33 SU, **Cpl John Fee** from 23 PC Sqn RE, both guest runners and **LCpl Dave Parvin** from 2 Sqn opened up a slight lead; the pack following, being led by **Cpl Nick Vezey** (2 Sqn). At this stage, the race favourite, **WO2 Mick Moffat** (1 Sqn) was biding his time back in 60th position. At the mile point, the runners faced the first hill and here **Moffat**'s experience began to tell as he overtook runner after runner from this point on. At the halfway stage, the leaders were **Vezey, Parvin, Moffat, Charles** and **Heyes** (1 Sqn). This order was maintained until about a mile from the finish when **Moffat** pulled clear to win in the excellent time of 27 mins 38 secs. A very good effort considering that the winner had only been on the Island for just over a fortnight.

Whilst the seniors were enjoying their run, on the short course, the ladies race favourite, **Mrs Havlin** was having her own way and finished well clear of the field in a time of 24 mins 26 secs. The second lady home was **Mrs McKeating** with third place going to **Mrs Barker**. In the absence of their best runner **Capt Watkins**, the WRAC runners had to be content with their first runner home in 8th place **(Cpl Oliver)**, closely followed by **SSgt McDougall** (11th), **LCpl Bradshaw** (12th), **Cpl Talbot** (13th) and **Lt Winchester** (14th), being the pick of the bunch.

In the juniors race, a bad mistake by a marker marred the event when the leader at the one mile point, **Mark Turner** was misdirected onto the Senior course.

**Mark Turner** retraced his steps but failed to catch the leaders before the finish. Because of his huge lead before being misdirected, **Mark** was awarded first place, with **Stephen Dodds**, who finished second overall, receiving a special trophy for his sportsmanship.

The Veteran's Cup went to **Mr Omand** from Civilian Wing and **Maj Storey** of 1 Sqn took the Super Vets.

The Squadron championship was won by 1 Sqn, while TM Troop took the troop prize by just two points from L Branch.

Pride of place for the championships must go to nine year old **Vicky Buckley**, who won the junior girls' cup in a very good time of 39 mins 19 secs while finishing 29th overall in the ladies/juniors race.

**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.**

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# 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
# Wilton

**THE CO WITH THE BEAR**

The day Tuesday 25 September, the occasion, dining out of the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Peter Webster**, by members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The day for most of us was busy and taxing but the end of the tunnel was the dinner and a few ales and a chance to keep up the Sergeants' Mess tradition of saying goodbye to the CO.

As you will see from the photograph not all went as planned. After the dinner two huge great bears carried the CO to the bar, and persuaded him to buy drinks all round only to discover that the thirsty bears, when watered, instigated the big pull. The CO was most surprised when he was pulled up hill and not down.

The CO held down whilst Maj Len Jeffery the mess supervising officer observes a memorable occasion

**VALE—MAJ F. SLOAN MBE**

**Maj Frank Sloan** who retired in June this year served with Royal Signals Manning & Records as an officer for 15 years and then as RO3 for 11 years. This must surely constitute a record?

It is good to relate that **Frank** remains exceptionally fit, playing squash regularly and now turning his attention to golf.

All best wishes for the future.

Majs Henry Scott and Frank Sloan with Lt Col Peter Webster
Majs Scott and Sloan can together count 84 years service to the Corps either as serving or retired officers. They achieved a joint total of 36 years service at MRO Reading

**THE CHICHESTER MARCH 1984**

The following members of 1 Sqn took part in the Chichester March on 12 August: **Ptes Alison Godwin, Carol Halls, 'Kibs' Kibble, Kay Gibson, 'Shel' Shelmerdine, Taffy Robbins, LCpls Mel Geraghty** and **Laura Skimming** and **Lt Annabel Stiff**. We are still convinced that it was more than 40Kms!

**1 SQN BARBECUE**

What a beautiful summer we had, hardly a drop of rain here in the South West of England, except, of course, when we decide to hold a barbecue. Luckily we had made arrangements to eat inside anyway, so the proceedings were not a complete 'wash out'. As usual everyone made the most of the evening, which proved to be a marvellous success—especially when the RSM agreed to extend the bar hours and our DJ agreed to play on until ... I forget what time.

**FILM STARS IN THE MAKING**
**Report by LCpl Laura Skimming and Pte Carol Halls**

On location at Winterbourne Gunner we took our first faltering steps to stardom. Having unpacked our hairspray and lipstick we were told to put on our costumes; trousers and a blouson jacket in carbon lined khaki material, rubber gloves and strappy rubber boots. (We thought at this point we were starring in a Sci-Fi movie).

We were ready to start shooting (film star jargon). A last glance in the mirror, quick touch of lipstick. It was all wasted when they gave us respirators.

First scene. Decontamination. Face powder was issued, which we daintily patted on our noses while the director screamed 'Blot, bang, rub and don't forget your hair'. There we stood in the middle of a field, in the middle of nowhere immersed in a white cloud, realising they had lied to us.

From then on things could only get better. They didn't. The unconcious casualty really was. One look at the needle and who needs nerve agent?

**Lt 'Nightingale' Stiff**, who was always on hand with various pills and potions, saved our leading man on numerous occasions with her quick and speedy action, but finally put paid to his good looks when her helmet fell off and hit him on the nose. He recovered in time to stand in for Task 17 (Read your Survive To Fight) as they didn't pay us enough for so much exposure.

The film of the book is on general release in November until which time we can at least pretend we are on a par with such names as Richard Gere and Joan Collins (who lent us her make-up artist for the week). After that we shall deny we ever did it.

**EXERCISE *NORTHERN LIGHT***
**Report by Pte 'Kibs' Kibble**

The crew for the final leg of the three week exercise—*Northern Light*—gathered in little groups on the dockside and looked down in utter dismay at the yacht HMSTY *British Soldier*. Cries of 'Where's the ship?', 'Is that it?' and 'We can't possibly get to Norway in that!' could be heard. After establishing first names, we set about the near impossible task of fitting too large kit-bags into too small bunks. It was a case of fitting circles into squares! One person who shall remain anonymous but answers to the name of **Hugh**, brought a bag which near enough forced the boat another couple of inches into the water! When the last bag had been safely stowed away it was time for the crew to get fitted out with oilies—here began the age old problem of fitting small lassies into large oilies. (Large being the smallest size).

The next day after being woken up with a cup of tea from the skipper, at the crack of dawn, which we soon found was to be the normal routine, we set sail for Norway. Dosed up with tablets I still managed to feel ill as soon as we left harbour, and was soon joined by the rest of the crew. The journey over was very rough and there was a constant 'lean to' over the side. The competition resulting with a tie-breaker between **Jill** the nurse and **Frank**, who was duty cook. Finally land came into sight and beautiful sunshine greeted us as we sailed into Kopervik.

We all took great delight in the simple pleasures of being on dry land again, recovering our stomachs and being able to shower.

The next few days were spent sailing up to the top of the fjord and we were fortunate in having beautiful weather. Quickly we learnt to call the ropes by their proper names instead of their colours. As the days progressed the crew became more and more proficient.



All too soon it was time to head sails towards home, but due to strong winds and forecasts of storms raging, we played safe and returned to the comparitive safety of Kopervik harbour. The next day we made an early start for the long journey back. By now most of us had found our sea legs, but poor **Jill** stayed hidden in her bunk. It wasn't until land was in sight that the deathly pale figure of the boat's nurse emerged.

Arriving at Peterhead we made an excellent docking without a single word of command needing to be yelled. What could possibly go wrong after that? We all missed the train home!

**2 SQN—LETTER FROM LONDON**

After a hectic summer ceremonial season the Squadron was looking forward to a short period of rest and recuperation before being pitched into the bustle of a State Visit, the State Opening of Parliament and Remembrance Day. Unfortunately this was not to be. The ARU had been scheduled for October and August and September passed in a haze of 'pre-inspections', culminating in the Staff Inspection.

Nominal rolls were checked and rechecked, training returns were analysed, education states were revised ... the Orderly Room staff were all but suicidal or should that be homicidal? Neither the OC nor the 2IC dared venture past the Orderly Room door, but instead threw work on to the Chief Clerk's desk and ran!

**GUIDE DOG FOR THE BLIND PRESENTATION**

Earlier in the year several members of the Squadron, led by **Cpl 'Danny' Vardon**, undertook a sponsored walk from Wilton to Hounslow. In August **Mrs Sheila Webb** and her own Guide Dog, Gale, joined the Squadron for a drink in the Bruno Club and presented a photograph of the newly trained Guide Dog that Squadron funds had helped to buy.

Cpl 'Danny' Vardon, Mrs Sheila Webb and Gale after the presentation

**EXERCISE *RED SHOES***

While BAOR and many units from UK participated in Ex *Lionheart*, Radio Troop flung themselves into Ex *Red Shoes* with great vigour. Exercise play was provided by OC Radio Troop, **'General' Nigel Moore**—we knew he was keen but surely this leap in promotion is just a little too excessive—and **'Brigadier' Potter (Cpl 'Rocket' Ron** to his many friends).

A third character from Radio Troop considerably enhanced his reputation whilst part of the D11 Radio det at Aldershot. Unfortunately it would appear that the old adage 'Lucky in love, unlucky with D11s' holds true. Will **Sig Terry Handsley** ever get to grips with them?

A member of SWS troop also impressed the ladies of Aldershot. **Cpl Bob Carey**'s Commandos staged a daring raid on Malta Barracks and succeeded in assassinating Comd Comms—Your Oscar and a new bottle of tomato sauce are in the post, Sir.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

In addition to all the other excitement Radio Troop has echoed to the patter of tiny feet. Congratulations to **Sig Dick Burek** and **Ann** on the birth of their son and to **Sig Chris Brown** and **Sue** and their daughter. What an excuse for a party!

**3 SQN**

Since our last report we have gone through a relatively quiet period due, to a certain extent, to many of the units in our area going on block leave. Most of us took advantage of this fact to get in some of our own leave prior to the 'onslaught'. During the reporting period we were delighted when **WO1 Jill Trainor** shelved her plans for retirement and decided to stay with us for another year.

**SPORT**

Throughout the summer the Squadron has been involved in various sporting activities against units within South East District. We battled our way through the Volleyball League, emerging victorious. We were not so lucky in Rounders. We met 10 Coy WRAC in the finals and were beaten (fairly convincingly) into second place. A big thank you and well done to all our dedicated teams.

**'ITS A KNOCKOUT'**

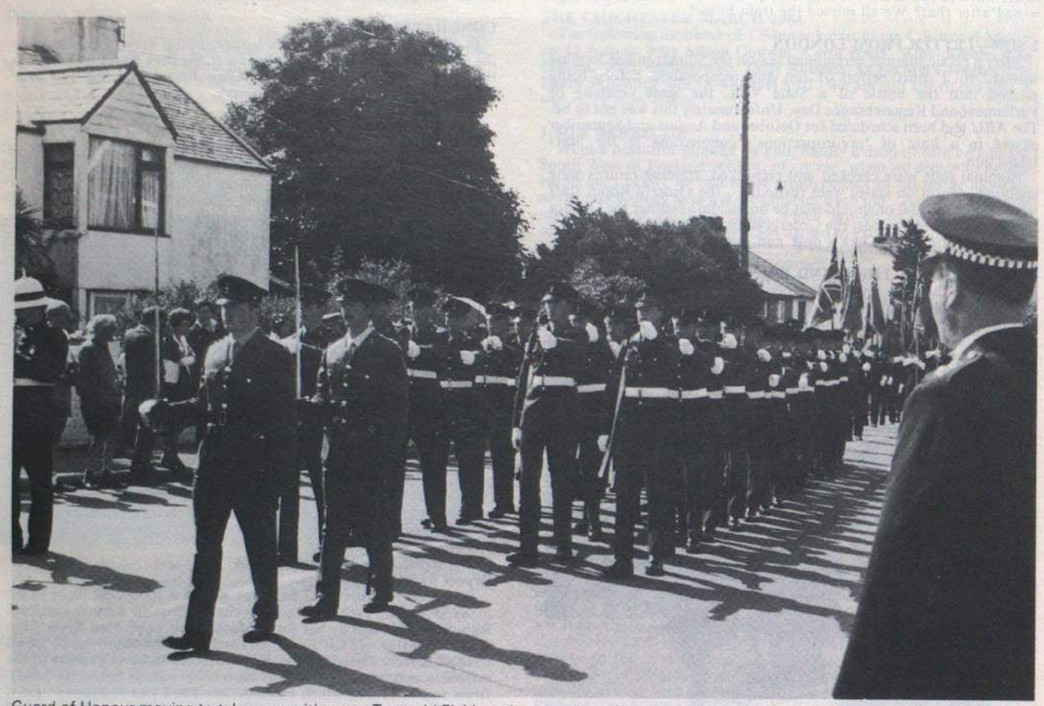
In July we again joined 10 Coy WRAC in a friendly 'It's a Knockout' Competition. There were about 12 teams in all and the competition was done in fancy dress. There were some pretty amazing sights! The competition was great fun and the 3 Sqn team took first prize for the Best Dressed Team (despite the fact that they were dressed as tramps). There was an all ranks Barbecue afterwards in which **LCpl Shirley Stant** and **Pte Lynn Matthews** excelled themselves entertaining us with some very interesting dance routines.

**SPONSORED DISCO FOR SSAFA**
**Report by LCpl G. Leftley**

In August members of 3 Sqn took part in a sponsored disco in aid of SSAFA. The event was held in the Duchess of Kent gymnasium with disco provided by **Sgt Brian Murkin** and **LCpl Alan Keers** from 2 Sqn Hounslow. 22 Girls took part and the dance floor was occupied constantly from 0800-2000 hrs. Because of the vigourous nature of the event it was organised on a shift basis. (Old signals habits die hard). Dress was informal, which explains why **Pte Lynn Matthews** turned up for her stint in her pyjamas. The sum of £197 was finally raised and presented to the very worthwhile charity.

Pte Lynn Matthews

## 11 Sig Regt
## Catterick Garrison



Guard of Honour moving to take up positions on Tynwald Field on the occasion of the opening of the Manx Parliament. Capt J. Dryburgh, Lt A. M. Johnson, WO2 (SSM) R. K. Minty and soldiers from CT Troop

**TYNWALD DAY — ISLE OF MAN**
**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Commanding Officer** | **Lt Col P. J. R. Brown** |
| **Guard Commander** | **Capt J. Dryburgh** |
| **Second in Command Guard** | **Lt A. M. Johnson** |
| **Conducting Warrant Officer** | **WO1 (RSM) C. C. Miller** |
| **Right Guide** | **WO2 (SSM) R. K. Minty** |
| **Left Guide** | **SSgt I. F. MacKinnon** |
| **The Guard** | **Continuation Training Troop** |

**THE MANX PARLIAMENT**

Each year on the morning of 5 July (Old Midsummer Day) the crowds gather round Tynwald Hill for the opening of the new session of the Manx Parliament. This year 11 Signal Regiment were privileged to be asked to form the Military Guard of Honour for this ceremony. It was a first for the Corps as well as for 11 Sig Regt as this is the first time that the Corps has performed public duties on the Island.

The Manx Parliament is the oldest standing legislative body in the world having completed an unbroken term of one thousand years in 1979. Without this ceremony there is no law on the Island, and so there has not been a cancellation due to weather in living memory.

**THE GUARD OF HONOUR**

The troops chosen from the Regiment were 2 and 7 Troops who by the time of the ceremony would have passed off and joined Continuation Training Troop, to await trade training. This meant that these two troops were heavily involved in ceremonial drill for the last weeks of their course and were often to be seen pounding the square long after normal working hours.

The Guard consisted of 48 rank and file along with two officers and the Conducting Warrant Officer. We were accommodated in Jurby Training Camp in the North of the Island. As well as the characters in the Guard there was a small admin party who worked very hard and whose support was invaluable. This party was headed by **Sgt Spiers** and he was ably assisted by **Sgt Thwaites ACC** and **Cpl Monk**.

**TO THEIR CREDIT**

The day of the ceremony was beautiful and the highest temperatures of the year were recorded in the Island. It was incidently the warmest place in the UK as well. It is to their credit, that the Guard were able to stand in temperatures of up to 85 degrees, in full Number Two Dress, for three hours.

The Guard marched on to Tynwald field at 1035 hrs and took their positions, at 1040 hrs, the Governor mounted the Dais and took a Royal Salute. He then came forward and inspected the Guard. After the Inspection the Governor moved off to the robing room and the Guard moved into route lining position. During the next hour the various members of parliament and office bearers moved down the rush strewn path, between St John's Church and Tynwald Hill, while the Guard stood firm.

**MANY HOSPITALITY**

After the legislative process was complete the Guard once again formed up and presented a Royal Salute to the Governor as he left. The Guard was then dismissed and treated to Manx hospitality which was nothing if not generous. This was a unique opportunity for the soldiers of 11 Signal Regiment and an experience which will be remembered for some time to come.

Guard of Honour being inspected by Lord Cecil, Lt Governor, Isle of Man. *L-R:* Lt Col P. J. R. Brown, Capt J. Dryburgh and Lt A. M. Johnson

**1 SQUADRON**
**5 TROOP**

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tp Comd** | **Lt G. R. Leyland** |
| **Tp Sgt** | **Sgt J. MacLean** |
| **Tp Cpls** | **Cpl A. Carter** |
| | **Cpl G. Best** |
| | **Cpl E. Strefford** |

On the 28 May, 1984 we received our latest batch of 'Regular Recruits'. They were soon to be seen moving around the regiment in a very vague three ranks and the Troop Instructors, whose eyes always seem to be turned skywards with despair, started the long, hard job of creating the backbone of the 'Royal Corps'.

**HALF WAY**

As usual time seemed to fly past and the course was at its half-way point. The recruits were now ready to move out into the training area for the first time and start learning the 'art' of living in the field. The exercise took the form of a series of outdoor lessons in fieldcraft, first aid and map reading with the recruits acting as very willing demonstrators. **Sig Calcott** will always be remembered for his gallant, but unsuccessful, attempts to cross a small wire fence. The sight of our hero even raised a smile on the face of **Sgt MacLean**.

**BETTER THAN NEW**

After the exercise the troop were tasked with the redecoration of the old Corporals' Mess which has now become the regimental amenities centre. So armed with paint brushes and paint, the recruits of No 5 (Artists) Troop descended upon the building and soon had it looking better than new after only three days. As a result of their hard work, and the fact that the training programme allowed it, the troop were given a long weekend at home while the instructors went home to rest tired eyes and minds.

**THE LAST THIRD**

The recruits returned, without any money!, in good spirits as they were now entering the last third of the course. Once again the instructors managed to keep their excitement at bay as the end came into sight, but before the recruits could pass out they had to overcome a few problems. The first of these, being a two day map reading exercise based upon the Otterburn Training area. As usual the weather was perfect and a good time was had by all.

**THE DAY**

The second problem was the final exercise which came at the end of nine weeks of basic training. This exercise tests the recruits' knowledge of all the subjects, less drill, that they have been taught. The weather this time was not quite so kind to us and on the final day of the exercise we woke up to find that the clear blue skies had been replaced by thick fog and rain! However the fog did manage to clear enough for the 'men' to fire on the Feldom section in defence range although the rain insisted on falling for 90% of the time. So at the end of the week a tired and wet 5 troop returned to camp to prepare for their end of course party, and a Church parade the morning after. And so it came to pass that on the 10th day of August the troop passed out from 11 Sig Regt and into a world of 'trade training' and leave.

**FAREWELLS**

During the past few months there have been many changes within 5 troop and now is the time to say 'goodbye' to: **Sgt Pearson** who now teaches the 'old and bold' with 2 Sqn, **Cpl Greaves** who has left us to work with 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl Fitzpatrick** who is now giving 2 troop the benefit of his expertise and last, but not least, **Cpl Shirley** who was with us for only a very short time before he had to help 7 troop cadre out.

# 13 Sig Regt
# BFPO 42

**REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION**

The Regimental Cross Country Competition took place on Friday 7 September in atrocious, if not typical, weather conditions. All members 'not on essential duty' took to the start line; 183 runners for the men's race and 30 in the ladies' event. One or two runners deviated from the normal attire and at least one runner sported a Sony Walkman. Fortunately, he didn't short circuit in the rain! The photo shows the winners of the various events and it is now obvious that the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Gordon Howard**, intends leading from the front, showing the rest of the Regiment's 'old and bold' a clean set of heels and the way home.

*Left to Right:* SSgt Rod Meyers—3rd Ind, Cpl 'Taff' James—1st Ind, Cpl Billy McCreath—2nd Ind, Lt Col Howard—1st Vet, WO2 John Smith—2nd Vet, Sgt Brian Sly—In Foreground—3rd Vet, LCpl Julie Cross—3rd Lady, Cpl Terry Laing—2nd Lady, Sgt June Molloy—1st Lady

**REGIMENTAL CRICKET**

The Regiment has had a successful season winning the RCZ Final and reaching the BAOR Inter-Unit Semi Finals. In the RCZ Final the Regiment bowled 28 Sig Regt out for 70 runs with **LCpl Martin Allwork** taking four wickets. **LCpl Nigel Watton** scored 36 not out and was our Man of the Match.

RCZ Inter-Unit Knock-Out Winners
*Back Row L—R:* Capt Rimmer (Umpire), Mrs Joy White (Scorer), WO2 Mick Raybould, Sig Joe Jorden, LCpl Nigel Watton, SSgt Dave Bowman, LCpls Paul Davey, Steve Peters, WO2 John Kirk, WO1 Bob White (Umpire)
*Front Row L—R:* Cpl Nick Williams, Sgt Dougie Endean, LCpl Martin Allwork (Captain), Sig 'Elvis' Costello, LCpl Phil Stringfellow, WO2 Brian Inglis, Miss Silvia Endean (Scorer)

The team then went on to play 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the BAOR Inter-Unit Semi Final and narrowly lost an exciting game with over 300 runs being scored. **LCpl Paul Gardener** scored 61 runs, who must surely be a contender for future BAOR honours. Altogether a very satisfactory season.

**H TROOP NOTES**

Since our last contribution the usual Postings in and out have occurred including one interesting change of Operations Warrant Officer between the **Green** brothers. **Dave Green** arrived from Berlin to replace **Mick Green** who is now stationed in Celle with 14 Sig Regt (EW). The name on the office door required no change although the different personalities have already been detected.

Other departures include **Sgt** (now **SSgt**) **'Taff' Cox** to Verden, **Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **Steve Foster** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Sharp**, both to UK. Arrivals include **Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **Tony Wall** and **LCpl Brian Davidson**. Congratulations to all those promoted including **Mick Green** to **WO1** and **Dave Green** to **WO2**.

Although the Troop has not been taking part in as many parades, the Anglo-German relationships remain at a high level. We continue to be invited to locally-organised Fishing, Swimming, Shooting and Sporting events as well as the usual crop of Schuetzenfests. The Troop always gives a good account of itself, although it is often difficult to detect Troop members at the end of the day, due to the preponderance of Schuetzenverein hats.

**EXERCISE *JULY JAUNT***

During July the Troop held an escape and evasion exercise in the Goehrde, a beautiful wooded area West of Dannenberg. After a period of disorientation members of the Troop were dropped off in threes at preselected points wearing only cover-alls and boots, and given a map reference for their next RV point. There followed two days of being passed along an imaginary escape chain and avoiding recapture by the DS. On the final day soldiers were given an area in which to go to ground before the DS arrived to conduct the search.

The exercise, which was held in two parts, was marked as a competition with points awarded for such things as RV procedures, avoiding capture, and successful completion of the course. The first phase was won by the section comprising **Cpl Tony Kelly, LCpls Steve Davis** and **Dougie McMillan**, while the second phase was won by **Cpl Alan Brownsell**'s section with **Cpl Kev Sargent, LCpls Brian Davidson** and **Andy Stewart**.

**OPEN DAY**

The annual Troop Open Day took place this year on 28 July and consisted of the usual Football Tournament, in which the Troop came third, and various stalls and sideshows, including a shooting gallery and a ducking stool. The latter proved a great attraction for our German guests who were especially entertained by the large queue of soldiers that quickly formed to pay their money when the OC, **Capt Andy Field**, took his seat over the water. Later in the day we were treated to a display of marching and music provided by the band of 2 RTR. The whole day proved a resounding success thanks mainly to the hard work put in by the Troop members and their wives.

**SWIMMING COMPETITION**

At the end of June the Troop sent a team of swimmers to take part in a local event against many German teams. The events consisted mainly of obstacle relay-races of varying degrees and included a Fancy Dress competition. The team gained first place in the whole event and was ably led by **WO2(SSM) Bob Bowman** and included **Sgt Rog Low, Cpls Mick Heenan, Steve Foster, LCpls Dave Roberts** and **Phil Rankin**. As well as receiving a diploma, the team made many new friends.

The Team Display Their Diplomas
*L—R:* WO2(SSM) Bowman, LCpl Roberts, Cpls Heenan, Foster, LCpl Rankin, Sgt Low

**BASKETBALL**

The Troop held its first Basketball tournament on 5 August. It was well organised by **Sgt Tony Wall** and **Cpl Steve Foster** who, together with **WO2 Dave Green**, acted as officials. Seven teams took part playing for a Trophy which will now be contested for every year. This year's winners were a team called 'A Shift Aromatic Armpits' ably led by **Cpl Tony Kelly**, who beat a team from the MT called the 'Truckers'. The incredible shooting expertise of **LCpl Steve** (Poser) **Davis** helped the Armpits win the match and he won the Trophy as best male player, the equivalent ladies Trophy being presented to **Mrs Chris Bowman**.

The year's Tennis Tournament was something of a personal triumph for the OC, **Capt Andy Field**. In a repeat of last year's singles final he defeated **Cpl Kev Sargent** (the tournament organiser) in straight sets 7—7, 6—4. In the doubles final the OC was joined by **Cpl Mick Heenan** and they defeated **Cpl Kev Sargent** and **LCpl P. I. J. Lovelock** 6—3, 6—3. The weather remained fine and there was an excellent barbecue arranged by **Cpl Charlie Swarbrick** and **LCpl Andy Stewart**.

**ORIENTEERING**

At the end of August an Orienteering competition with a difference was organised by **SSgt Steve Jarvis** and **LCpl Dougie McMillan**. It took place in the local woods around Hermes Camp and was designed to test physical stamina, map-reading, first aid, Soviet equipment recognition and some general knowledge by means of a short test at each checkpoint. As a final event each pair of competitors fired an air-rifle on a 10m range. While the participants collapsed the scores were calculated and, amid shouts of 'fix' and 2048's, the winning pair of the OC **Capt Andy Field** and the 2IC, **Capt Bill Hogg**, the oldest man in the field, were presented with their winners' medals.

Orienteering Competition Gets Under Way
*L—R:* LCpls Roberts, Webster, Capts Hogg, Field, Sgt Wall, Cpls Brownlee, Rofe, Pte Farey, LCpl Rankin, Cpls Randle, Stapleton, LCpl Davidson, SSgt Jarvis (back view)

On 1 September the Troop entered a team of runners in the Verden Marathon—the first time that we have entered a team in such an event. Our runners did extremely well being placed second in the Royal Signals Minor Units Section. First Troop runner home was **Sgt Tony Wall** in a time of 3 hrs 16 mins followed closely by **LCpl Steve Davis**. The other two team members were **Cpl Shaun Wilde** and **LCpl Dougie McMillan**.

Social events continue to play a large part in the life of this isolated unit and **Sgt Tom Robinson** and **Cpl Dave Randle** have organised many and varied functions held in the Club Am Turm. Recent functions have included two Dinner Nights at which our guests were members of the local Bundeswehr unit at Neu Tramm. The first dinner was for the junior ranks, and the second for the officers and senior ranks. The chief pleasure at the first function, expressed by our guests, was the sight of the officers and SNCO's performing the duties of waiting-on. Needless to say both dinners were highly successful.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Dave Randle** and his wife **Ellie** on the birth of their daughter recently, and also to **LCpl Colin Gibson** and his wife **Michelle** on the birth of their son.

The Troop is now busy preparing for a Military Training Exercise to be held towards the end of September..

**THE SOCIAL CIRCLE DIARY**

The Social Circle took over the local BFES school on Wednesday, 12 September to sponsor a Fashion Show. **Lüdke**, a local fashion house, provided the models and the entertainment. The response was terrific and 116 wives and WRAC attended. **Lüdke** also provided 35 garments for raffle prizes and treated us with a 'snappy' exhibition of break dancing.

Special thanks go to **Mrs Edith Rowntree** for getting the show off the ground and providing the commentary and to the Commanding Officer's wife, **Mrs Elizabeth Howard** and her committee for helping with the organisation.

On 10 October The Social Circle held a 'poultry affair' in the Mercury Restaurant. **Sgt John Hill ACC** was invited to display his culinary skill by showing how to bone a chicken in preparation for cooking. **Sgt Hill** started by showing three completed dishes; two Chicken Gallontines and a Chicken Ballontine. He then commenced boning a chicken. The ladies were then called upon to draw lots to see who would bone the remaining chickens. The 'winners' whether by fair means or 'fowl', were the CO's wife, **Mrs Elizabeth Howard**, OC HQ Sqn's wife, **Mrs Marianne Heath**, and the RSM's wife, **Mrs Lucy Jefferies**. Our thanks to **Sgt John Hill** for providing us with an insight into spare part surgery!

The Social Circle show their appreciation at the end of the Fashion Show

# 14 Sig Regt (EW)
# BFPO 23

**A NUMBER OF CHANGES**

The Regiment has been extremely busy recently with exercises and a number of changes, both in RHQ and in the Squadrons. We said goodbye to the Adjutant, **Capt Alan Duncan**, and the new Adjutant **Capt John Coulthard** took over, having moved up from 1 Sqn. The Assistant Adjutant has also changed—at a week's notice! **Lt Anne Phillips** went back to UK to her new job as Adjutant and **2Lt Vicky Wood** took over. **SSgt W. Craig** replaced **Sgt D. Flynn** who has been posted to 1 Sqn.

**1 SQUADRON**
**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

The past couple of months in the Squadron have heralded many changes here at Langeleben with a number of key appointments changing amidst the summer's frenzied activity of leave and adventure training.

We welcome **Maj Alan McVittie** who took over from **Maj Hugh Elford** after Ex *Lionheart* and hope he and his wife **Yvonne** have an enjoyable tour with the Squadron. Two other new arrivals are **Lt Ian Cameron-Mowat** who is on parole from Papa Troop at Scheuen and **Lt David Tiffin** and his wife **Fiona** from the RMCS Shrivenham. It is amazing how these people manage to arrive just in time to go to Canada doing such dubious tasks as admin etc. You wouldn't catch **SSM Whaley** deserting his post for such things! Congratulations also go to **SSgt Bernie McCormick** on his marriage to **Karen**.

**FAREWELLS**

The Squadron has said goodbye to **Capt John Coulthard** who is now Regimental Adjutant. Also gone are **WO2 Tony Buttery** and his wife **Sigi**, who will be sadly missed. We wish them the best of luck back in England.

**YANKEE TROOP**
**EXERCISE *G*F* DIAMOND***

This exercise was the Troop's adventurous training exercise for the year and involved a week's canoeing down the Mosel River from Trier to Cochem, a total distance in excess of 120Kms.

Our intrepid explorers set out from Langeleben for the epic journey to the area in our specially adapted green and black convertibles amidst cries of 'Indiana Jones—eat your heart out'!

Our first location was just outside Trier where we annexed the campsite and made it look like something out of 'F Troop', much to the interest of the locals. After a memorable introduction to the underwater life of the Mosel practising 'T' rescues the Troop retired to the stockage and the barbecue. The latter took some two hours to light, courtesy of our resident pyromaniacs, **LCpl Bruno McDougall** and **Cpl 'David Bailey' Ralphs** (who took some amazing photos of the trip—though none of them featured a canoe).

The 'B' Team taking a rest in a lock *From L—R:* SSgts Bob Brown, Steve Dorman, Mick England and Cpl Lance Marshall

The next four days followed an alternating pattern with one group acting as base party and moving on to the next campsite where **LCpl Don Walker** would try to find the most expensive 10 man pack possible, while the other group canoed on and battled with the wake, caused by the passing barges.

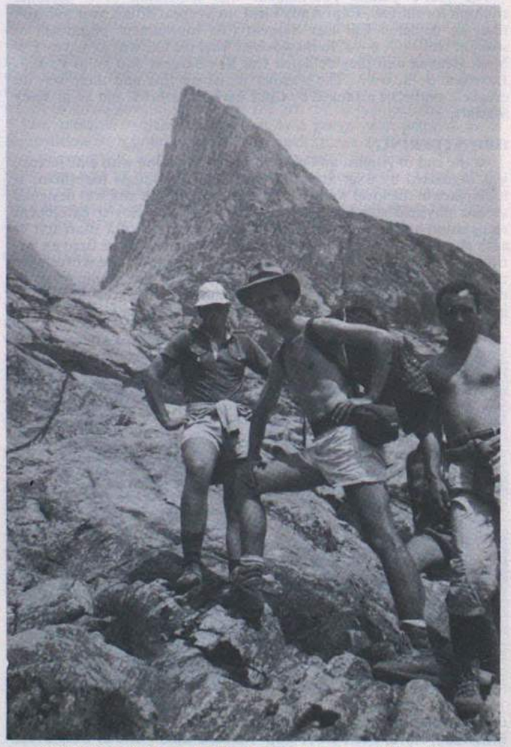
The 'B' team under **SSgt Roy Davis** undoubtedly covered the greater distance during their stints in the hope of getting away from **Sgt Mick** 'Where are the discos, I'm fed up with the vineyards. I'd rather be down the bays' **England**.

The 'A' team on the other hand under the 'Boss' and **SSgt Bob** 'I refuse to sleep under another motorway bridge' **Brown** made a sterling effort despite being slowed down by **Cpl 'Chalky' White** who kept practising capsize drills and **LCpl Nick Armer** who insisted on rafting up every time a barge or a duck came past.

However, despite the dubious weather both groups found the canoeing a challenging experience due to the distance, interjected with the excitement of the canoe runs. The other members who deserve a mention are **Sgt Steve Dorman** (who patented the canoe ejector seat!), **Cpl Kev Rhodes** (and his amazing luminous socks), **LCpl** (he's wearing Harmony hairspray) **Marshall, Bill** 'The Fag' **Furey** and **Chris Mooney**.

**EXERCISE *HARD DIAMOND***

Ex *Hard Diamond* took place in the second fortnight of August. Its aims were twofold. Firstly, to complete the tour du Mont Blanc, 200 kilometres of high mountain walking, and secondly, to get out passports stamped as often as possible!



Cpl 'Indiana' Jones looking adventurous on Mont Blanc



The tour took us round Mont Blanc through France, Italy and Switzerland. We got up to a height of over 3,000 metres, where the snow was still festooned with 'rich ski people' with snowsuits and cocktails. The mountain tops were covered with the usual sprinkling of grannies, babies and sprinters, but we were snug in the knowledge that at least if we fell 3,000 metres down a chasm we'd be able to pitch a tent, blow a whistle and eat our kendal-mint-cake while we worked out a back bearing!

**Q Savage** from X-ray Troop was our mountain expert, while **Q Mapp** kept us supplied with mushrooms, snakes and berries. **LCpl 'Indiana' Jones** found that hanging out of a white minibus and shouting 'Ciao mezzo forte' didn't really get him very far with the Italian girls. **Cpl Hall** tried to make out that his perm and dye were natural. **Sgt Bellion** discovered a rather dubious liking for getting trout. Thanks are due to many people, including the previous OC Whiskey—**Capt John Coulthard** for organising the trip, and **Col Losho** of the Turin Alpine Brigade whose men showed us the delights of alcoholic Valdostana coffee.

**2 SQUADRON**

With the passing of a very damp summer and valiant attempts at Wind Surfing, Canoeing and Sailing by members of the Squadron, it was once again shoulder to the wheel and push hard towards Ex *Spearpoint 84*. For the Squadron this exercise was viewed as the culmination of a re-equipping programme, seemingly endless training courses and with at last a chance to do the 'real thing'! However, with Orange Blues Whites and Green's abounding, it seemed in the planning stages of the exercise, that the Red Hordes were going to escape unscathed.

Despite forebodings about damp hills, damage and Peace movements, the Squadron complete with its integral US Support in the form of Charlie Company 165 MI Bn took to the hills. Despite slight differences in philosophy, tactics, soldiering and life in general our experience with Charlie Company was both beneficial, enjoyable and, in most cases, highly rewarding. The bonds forged by being entrenched on our hill, with paddy fields as tracks and Fagan's way to guide us to work, have ensured a closer working relationship and an incentive at all levels to renew acquaintances; even if it's to reunite swopped equipment with its rightful owners.

Though before our foray onto *Spearpoint*, life at Troop level remained both demanding and interesting. For N Troop, our Elint experts, their determination to convince all and sundry 'dense environment training' is directly related to close proximity to sandy beaches, good pubs and miles from Scheuen, continued to be their main priority. So despite the intuition of the OC and the whole of the Regimental Ops Bureau, N Troop disappeared off up North, and their report follows.

**FOCUS ON N TROOP**

This has been a busy period for N Troop (when isn't it?) with exercises, demonstrations, adventure training and more exercises. Perhaps most memorable among the exercises, if not entirely for the right reasons, was Ex *Northern Scan 2*. For two weeks in July N Troop did a vanishing trick, deserting their base at Wesendorf and heading North for a two week's training exercise on the coast North of Lubeck. The Troop was working under such extreme pressure during the first week that at the weekend a coach was dispatched, to bring up wives and girlfriends, to mop fevered brows! Despite such pressure several members of the troop tried their hands at canoeing and wind surfing. **Cpls Andy Turner** and **'Tiger' Howarth** and **LCpl 'Chaff' Finch** all making considerable progress. **Sgt Alex Middleton** also managed to fit in some climbing, albeit in a rather unorthodox location.

Meanwhile back from the war, D Troop highly successful in their endeavours have reluctantly, submitted this true account of their views of Ex *Spearpoint*.

**PERIOD OF TELEVISION**

The early phases of the Exercise were dull and monotonous except for **Cpl Gosney** and the crew of DF 2 whose antenna made a starring appearance on ITN's 'News at Ten'. Some dets managed to pass their time with 'interest exchange' with their co-located German or American counter-parts.

**THE WAR**

Once the battle got going the tasking rate increased immensely. It was becoming impossible to get your hands out of the sleeping bag in time. The battle was being lost and won, but all we saw of it was a luminous green line on our scope. On the other hand 'Q' **Dicky Henderson** saw far more of the Blue Forces than perhaps he had hoped to when he stumbled into a few blue infantry battalions that the glorious orange forces had forgotten about. It's a tough life on DF Recce—War is Hell!

**TRIBUTES**

Finally our thanks to the Americans and Dutch, fellow fighters for orange, who were obviously not aware whose side D Troop was on.

**3 SQUADRON—MARATHON**

1 September saw the culmination of much training and effort for several members of the Regiment. Since as early as June, 3 Sqn runners had been seen in the woods and roads around Scheuen. Nothing the matter with that you might think, except that they weren't returning for upwards of one or two hours. No, it wasn't bad map reading but marathon training for the Verden Garrison Royal Signals Marathon. Quite apart from the disbelieving sideways glances and vague mutterings from other members of the Regiment, a small team had decided to undertake this gruelling event.

The 3 Sqn team consisted of **SSM Chris Stone, SSgt 'Chick' Cushnie, Cpls Ian Davies, Gran Yeomans, Tally Talbot, Bud Abbott, Al Martin, Chris Brown, LCpls Ralph Campbell, Taff Owen** and **Sig 'Apple' Trask**. Amongst the many hundreds who took part in the marathon we can say that all of the Regimental team successfully completed the race.

Some of them have recently been seen posting applications for the London Marathon—who knows!

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## COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS BAOR

26 July saw the first visit by **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**, as Comd Comms BAOR to us. He was met by the CO, **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** and **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Northey** and then inspected the Ceremonial Barrack Guard commanded by **Sgt Billy Allen** of K Tp.

The General was given a brief on the role of the Regiment by **Maj Geoff Powell** (Ops Offr) and the Squadron Commanders, **Majs Tim Bushell** (BR RCZ), **David Richardson** (Harrier/SH Forces) and **Jack Fiskel** (Airfields), and after that he went on a whistle-stop tour around Wildenrath, visiting the Regiment's 'Real Estate'.

Sgt Billy Allen, Lt Col Mike Ayrton, and RSM Geoff Northey (hidden) await the reply to the General's question from Sig Neil Johnson. Sig 'Chalky' Lyons (left) and LCpl Steve Backhouse (right) also listen in

Maj Gen Alan Yeoman drives the K Tp 'Tonka Toy' ably assisted by Sig 'Taff' Roberts

The visit culminated with a Buffet Lunch in the Sergeants' Mess, where the General was able to converse with a gathering of the Regiment's Officers, WOs, and SNCOs, and meet the Mess Manager, **WO John Bateson RAF**, again, (he had met him in Episkopi—RSM eat your heart out) and the CMC, **WO Keith Bewes RAF**.

## NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

### 1 SQUADRON—SHQ TP

The East/West border guard was doubled! Yes, once again it was time for 1 Sqn Summer Camp. Ex *Warm Comfort* was located at Camp Site Delta in the Harz Mountains. The first of the pioneers to go on the camp were SHQ Tp, led by **WO2 (YofS) 'Gus' Hartley**.

Disaster struck the first day, it rained. But the spirit of SHQ Troop held firm, triumphing in outdoor pursuits, such as Treking with **WO2 (SSM) Johnson**. This activity took all day—most of it going up hill stopping for lunch at the peak, before desending. Most forgot about the strain simply by taking in the breathtaking view.

**Cpl 'Nasa' Benson** took the troop through the basics of Abseiling and Rock Climbing, for many it was the first time they had been asked to 'trust me and jump'. But it was worth the climb back up for another go. Canoeing was led by **Cpl 'Automan' Ian Godley**—nobody drowned and most got the canoe to go where they wasted it to.

The week was rounded off with an orienteering competition, won by the OC Squadron's team. Following this the Troop went sightseeing and held the traditional barbecue. The experiences of the week's adventure training will give all who went some tales to talk over on the long nights of Ex *Lionheart*.

### BRAVO TP

**Report by Lt Wood**

As so often happens the Squadron timing differed from B Tp, so we departed to Rheindahlen an hour late. Once there we crammed 9 WRAC and their luggage into the coach and set off for the Harz Mountains. When we arrived the weather was lovely, the lake warm and the mosquito's absent. The night wore on in 'Ben's Place' the refreshment tent set up at the site. The beer was good, the seating 'rough' and the disco dance floor somewhat difficult to negotiate its uneveness due to protruding tree roots). Unfortunately on Monday rain and clouds arrived and it stayed wet and dull until Saturday, when the sunshine returned.

#### CANOEING

Instructor here was **Cpl Ian** (Indiana) **Godley** who showed his prowess on the water. Unfortunately none of it rubbed off on the rest of us; going in circles seemed to be our limit.

#### ORIENTEERING/BARBECUE

The less said about this event the better, as the results are very controversial, no doubt due to the rumours that the girls were using their earrings to punch cards.

The afternoon was taken up with a brief visit to the fair in Goslar and then back to camp for the social event of the week. Everybody chipped in to help. From the boys a very good punch (of doubtful parentage), from the girls, (under the guidance of **Lt Wood** and **Sgt Griffin**), the food. The evening passed in usual style and was much enjoyed by all.

#### WALKING

Scenic tours (when below the cloud base) were provided by **SSM Trevor Johnson**. The walks were of the 'up hill, down dale' type. Approx 20Km long with a nice lunch at a lovely hilltop restaurant (unfortunately in the cloud). **Lt Nigel Wood** took a fancy to the pea soup and sausage and returned a second time because 'I need the exercise'. We believe you Sir.

#### CLIMBING

**Cpl 'Nasa' Benson** provided this activity before leaving the Troop to join the Military Training Wing. As a budding member of that organisation he felt it only fair to go easy on those poor mortals who (for some reason) failed to walk up walls. The choicest comments came from the Ladies who decided that their jeans were a bit too tight.

2Lt Dianne Allen WRAC (16 Sig Regt), LCpl Mick Nash, Pte Lorna Kay (16 Sig Regt), Cpl 'Sheikh Nasa' Benson, Pte 'Be prepared' Julie McCallan (16 Sig Regt), Pte 'Toni' Oldham (Rear of) (16 Sig Regt) and Sig 'Geordie' Dunn

LCpl Shirley Leitch and Pte Ruth Driver (16 Sig Regt) 'spud bashing' ably supervised by Cpl 'Paddy' Bredin

#### SATURDAY

This was a rest day but the sun shone so canoeing was quite popular, but many decided to go to a local swimming pool for a dip and then onto the dry bobsleigh run for some thrills and spills. Thankfully no one spilled but the thrills duly came.

The keen fishermen (avoiding the local bailiff) did their best to get some of the very large pike they had told us about, but failed. **Dave** (Jack Hargreaves) **Hughes**, for all his efforts, only managed a tiddler.

#### SUNDAY

Pack up, clear up and home. This was done in lovely sunshine and under attack from increasing numbers of mosquitos (the wooden twin engined type we thought). The journey home was nothing like so long as the outward one, and we slept most of the time.

#### THE ROLL

**GROUP 1**
**Cpl Bob Snow**
**Sig Brummy** (MOD) **Freeman**
**Sig Nobby** (I know it all) **Hall**
**Pte Jane** (Pac Man) **Bell WRAC**
**Pte Jo Borland WRAC**

**GROUP 2**
**LCpl Jimmy** (Box eater) **Rock**
**Sig Dave Coleman**
**Sig Graham 'Leo' Sayer**
**Pte Tracey Mathews WRAC**
**Pte Sharon Millward WRAC**

**GROUP 3**
**Sig Gary** (Ginnar) **Davies**
**Sig Dave** (The Cardboard Box) **Hughes**
**Pte Ross Kidd WRAC**
**Pte Sharron 'Denis' Gibbs WRAC**
**Pte Alison Lea WRAC**

### FOCUS ON DELTA TROOP

**Report by Cpl Bragg**

Sunday 8 July saw Delta Tp embark on the annual Squadron Summer Camp.

The day began at 0530 hrs before most of our feathered friends (the local 'blue jobs') had batted an eyelid. We had to meet at Hangar 7 and await the arrival of the transport which was en-route from Rheindahlen, with eight WRAC from 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt, who were to accompany us to Camp. The journey to the Harz Mountains was long and uneventful. We finally arrived at the site which was next to a very picturesque lake, bathed in sunshine (and swarms of 'mozzies').

Monday saw the start of the adventure training which included a 20Km 'march' with **SSM 'Trev' Johnson**, canoeing with **Cpl 'Indian' Godley** and rock-climbing with **Cpl 'Nasa' Benson**. The groups spent three days rotating between these activities, whilst managing to fit in some (well quite a bit actually) sunbathing. The weather which had been awful for the two previous weeks had improved dramatically and it looked as though summer was at last here. It was the week **'RSM' Geoff Northey** visited and throughout our stay many a peaceful evening was spent sitting by the lake, and also in the local town of Osterode.

After three days adventurous training and the news that the camp had to be cut short and we were to leave on Friday, the Troop spent Thursday 'sightseeing'. A visit to a nearby wave pool went down extremely well. Goslar, which is possibly the most picturesque town in Germany was the next port of call. The evening saw the celebration of **Sig Steve Fielding**'s 25th birthday. A barbecue was arranged and when everyone had eaten their fill we invaded Osterode for the last time. As you can imagine the celebrations continued well into the morning.

Friday, our last day of summer camp, was taken up with packing up the site and returning to Wildenrath. The coach on the way back looked like a hearse, as everyone caught up on lost sleep. So Summer Camp was over for another year. Everybody has fond memories of the Summer Camp but are glad it only happens once a year.

It was all in a day's work for members of the fighting 21st—1 Sqn 21 Sig Regt (Air Support). After consultation with **SSgt 'Hannibal' Pounder** our intrepid SSM, **Trev Johnson**, decided that the lads of 1 Sqn were getting to blasé about **WO2 (YofS) 'Horrible' Hartley**'s infamous river crossings and bearing in mind the lack of ammunition on a previous occasion, decided to hone our fighting edge as well as the Regimental supply of bayonets.

With this in mind members of Shiny One deployed to Arsbeck, using the Squadron Transport, their feet. They were greeted by the 2IC, **Capt Stuart Lockie**, who proceeded to give them a complete demonstration of the actions he would carry out if the SSM didn't stop telling him to get his hair cut. Needless to say he eventually got it cut!

While this was all taking place the OC, **Maj Timothy 'Biker' Bushell** was secretly filming the day's activities, the finished product ending up as the nastiest video nasty of them all. Copies available c/o PRI! All in all another fighting day by 1 Sqn. No doubt we'll be able to see off the RSIT team with alacrity when they try to convince us that we're communicators.

### 2 SQUADRON
### KAPE TOUR JULY

With a little help from our friends from 244 Sig Sqn in the forms of **Sgt Terry German, Sig Humphries, Stacey** and **Baird** the Regimental KAPE team arrived in NW District. Despite rumours of a good holiday, our aim was to spread the gospel to schools, in Manchester and Liverpool.

One of our first forays into the great unknown was to **LCpl Jim Moore's** old school, Plant Hill (or was it Plant Life?). During this visit every member of the team aged at least 10 years as the vehicles were stoned on the way in! **Sig 'Spike' Kelly** was mugged for a large bag of Compo sweets he was carrying and one kid was so short he had to climb on a wall to kick **Cpl Barry Favager** in head—luckily this attempt at GBH was foiled. During lunch we set an armed guard over the vehicles and hid in a private dining room!

The afternoon proved every bit as bad. **Sig Andy Keay** was called upon to give an explanation of the Army rank structure only to be given the ultimate accolade 'so you're the pits'. During that afternoon half the display decided to go walk-about and **Cpl Bill Clark** was hard pressed to keep his two tonner intact with all the wheels. During the next few days we were to learn the exact definition of an 'attractive item' as we intercepted clansman batteries, machetes and, above all, berets being carried off from the display.

So on to Altringham and Wigan were **Lt 'Jack' Barnes, Sig Andy Keay** and **Maj** (Public Relations) **Morris** became media superstars by appearing in the *Wigan* and *Altringham Guardian*. Although **Lt Marc Barnes** was flapping slightly with £1,700 of NRSA in his possession, it was unfair of the school kid to ask if he was the Army's astronaut.

After a week in Manchester the team moved to Liverpool, staying with 33 Sig Regt (V) and we started with Schools in Southport and finally Bootle. During our stay at Liverpool **LCpl Niel James** learnt to speak scouse, finding out that three words—comehend, gohead, Ace,—can be used to order anything from fish and chips to pints of bitter. It was during our stay that the sense of humour failure of the tour occurred, when **LCpl Jim Moore** found that someone had used his cassette player as an ashtray.

Finally in Bootle **Sgt Terry German, Cpl Barry Farrager, LCpl 'Scouse' Williams** and **Sig 'Scouse' Baird** were also to become public figures after an in-depth interview by the *Bootle Echo*. **Sgt German** and **Cpl Farrager** also made their video debuts on that day. **Sig Andy Deay** was attacked by the school 'Gripper'.

Despite the strain the tour managed some revenge on the school children. One young lad was given a presel switch and told that it was the latest SAS radio—he couldn't understand why all the team were taking snapshots. **Sig 'Scouse' Baird** hid in the front of a Rover to impersonate a jet pilot which caused great, great, excitement amongst the punters. All in all it was a very enjoyable tour but we were glad to get back to work for a rest!

**QUOTES OF THE TOUR**

To **Sgt Terry German**, looking at an HF Dipole 'can I play on your death slide?'.

To **Sig 'Mig' Morris** 'You're short enough to butt'.

To **LCpl Jim Moore** 'You think you're hard 'cos you're in Combats—let's go outside'.

**OSNABRUCK GARRISON MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION**

2 Sqn provided a team to compete against the 23 other teams involved from all the units in the Garrison. Our merry band led by **Lt Mark Baines** and **Sgt Carmicheal** shed several stone training regularly in the heatwave.

Each team had 14 men, 7 SLR and 7 SMG shots. The event, held at Vorden ranges, included a kit inspection, assault course, 3½ mile run/sprint and a demanding shoot. The day was designed to be fun as well. Several fun stands were organised including raft building, a treasure hunt, air rifle competition, recognition competition and clay pigeon shooting.

Lt Mark Baines (Top Centre) and the March and Shoot Squad from 2 Sqn

LCpl 'Killer' Fleming

**NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS**

**GARRISON SERGEANTS' MESSES GOLF COMPETITION**

Under the organisation of **WO1 (GSM) Davy Duffus** QOH, the Garrison Sergeants' Mess Golf Competition was held on 3 September.

The Sergeants' Mess, Scarborough Barracks, (home of 2 Sqn) duly entered the competition. The team of gladiators namely, **'RSM' Geoff Northey, 'SSM' Tommy Witherington, SSgts Danny Harewood** and **Alex Hamilton** set off for Sennelager Golf Course.

By lunch time it was realised that the "fearsome' group were not along for the ride. The competition in the form of a Stableford was proving to be 'right up the alley', of the team. **'RSM' Geoff Northey** came in with 39 points, **Alex Hamilton** 36 points, **Danny Harewood** 32 points and, **Tommy Witherington** with 26 points, gave the team from Scarborough 133 points, at the half way stage.

Despite losing four shots and three shots respectively for the afternoon '18' **'RSM' Geoff Northey** and **SSgt Alex Hamilton** set off in determined fashion. After their rounds of 38 points and 34 points respectively **Geoff Northey** and **Alex Hamilton** had put the team well on the way to victory. **Tommy Witherington** came in with 24 points leaving **Danny Harewood** requiring 13 points only to clinch the Shield. **Danny** duly returned 25 points to put the issue beyond doubt.

The final presentation saw the team collect the following prizes:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Duffus Trophy Team Prize | 1st | |
| Overall 36 Hole Stableford | 1st | **RSM Geoff Northey** |
| Morning 18 Hole Stableford | 1st | **SSgt Alex Hamilton** |

Well done!



**3 SQUADRON**

This month we spotlight 'N' Troop, RAF Gütersloh.

This merry bunch of Telemechs ably led by **Capt Dave** (Sailor) **Longhurst** assisted by **SSgt 'Tom' Ginty** are situated at RAF Gütersloh, on one of the smallest and busiest of all RAF(G) Airfields.

N Troop—21 Sig Regt (Air Support)—RAF Gutersloh

A recent visit to the Troop saw Commander 4 Sig Gp, **Col Mike Hales**, see the work and facilities carried out and covered by the Troop. After a brief by OC **Capt Dave Longhurst** (that's a mention twice), the Commander then visited the 'Real Estate' belonging to the Troop. A trip out to the airfield saw the Telemechs hard at work 'pulling cable' as part of the current work programme. The visit ended with the return to the Troop 'Tea' Bar where the Troop had gathered to see the Commander present **Sgt Mike Taylor** with his LS&GC medal prior to **Mick**'s posting and promotion to 4 Div Sig Regt.

Sgt Mick Taylor receives congratulations from Commander 4 Signal Group

To those of the Troop (since departed) who purloined the RSM's sign from RHQ:

- We still have it.
- The Troop have produced a 'new' one.
- The RSM will haunt you forevermore.
- The OC has recovered from the cardiac arrest he suffered on seeing the sign in the Tea Bar.

**I WAS A *LIONHEART* CASUALTY**

**Report by Sgt Gaz Wilson**

I think it all started when I threw the umpire against the ERV to ascertain his identity, 'not knowing he was a Colonel'. After adjusting his posture he asked me to escort him to the CP where he pronounced myself, **Lt Woods** and **Sgt Ben Hunter** as casualties. We were quickly patched up by **Sgt Phil Welham**, who as we all know, knew that the tib and fib are parts of the leg and not arm!

The hardest part was to follow, trying to convince the OC that we could be spared after hearing from the umpires that we could be supping Newcastle Brown in a couple of days. **Mr Woods** had no problem, the OC seemed to want to get rid of him. I had to put up a case and came up trumps, but poor **Ben** was weeping when the OC decided he was too vital to let him go, although he's the only person in the Comcen to go back to camp every night. So here was the start of our tour. We left Quebec on the floorboards of a four tonner heading to Wegburg.

When we arrived the commotion started as we were pushed from one ward to another, nobody seeming to know what was happening, Pre Op/Op/Post Op everyone telling us what they were doing to us although no-one did!

After the two to three hour drive and two hours movement around Wegburg I was finally taken to a ward at 0430 hrs. I was exhausted and just dozing off when I was awoken to eat breakfast an hour later. At around 0700 hrs I was checked again and moved to the evacuation corridor. I say corridor because we were literally placed lengthways down the corridor on stretchers, around 40-50 of us. It doesn't sound too bad, but have you tried lying on a stretcher with all your SOP kit in a corridor?, it's not very comfortable.

By 0300 hrs the following morning we were all pretty bored. **Mr Wood** had left with about 10 others mid afternoon, but we were still there. I was lucky, some poor guys had been there for three days! Then we heard that we would by leaving shortly for Arsbeck and then our units. Everyone was 'chuffed'. We were deposited onto the buses, as the medics had problems with the stretchers. The buses started moving and we were all in high spirits until the driver turned the wrong way and when asked if he knew the route to Arsbeck, he told us he knew a better one to Iserlohn.

After the river crossing and a few more hours driving we arrived at Iserlohn 0700 hrs and were taken for a check up and, they then decided they would put us all in plaster, to make it look real. Some poor blokes had two legs and an arm in plaster and I pity the guy with blast wounds between his legs, but I managed to talk this pretty young doctor (female) into not putting one on me, and was sent for evacuation to Brize Norton. Once again we were moved by bus, after half a day's wait, to Greven where we visited the MASH field hospital. Here regular checks were administered and we received our first meal since we left Wegburg, the day before. The cameras were in action and eventually we boarded the Hercules and were told our destination had been changed to Wildenrath. Brize Norton would be the next morning; I had dipped. It took quite a time to load us all in, if you had seen COMA you'll know what I mean. Finally they managed it and with the last checks we were ready to go.

The last leg, for me, as it turned out. I had had enough and once we had landed at Wildenrath and reached the passenger lounge, I talked my way out, telling them that this was my parent unit, and they had to release me to reality. I was told we would be taken to Wegburg and released there. It was now 1900 hrs and I just hoped the driver knew his way this time. I was tired of being a cripple!

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**VERDEN MARATHON**

On 1 September 10 members of the Regiment entered the Verden Marathon. In finishing order, they were: **Cpl Alan Hallgate, Sgt Paul Eyre, Cpl Paul Bawor, Sig Steve Gibson, LCpl Chris Hymas, Sgt Don Shaw, Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke, LCpl Gordon Rodie, Sig Paul Wicks** and **Cpl Dave Gay**. Well done—a healthy start to the exercise, for some. Congratulations, too, to **Mrs Chris Rogers** (wife of **Cpl 'Buck' Rogers** of HQ MT) who finished fifth in the Ladies Half Marathon event.

**HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

Amongst the new arrivals in the Regiment recently are: **Maj Roy Adamson** (OC HQ Sqn), **Maj Tony Rose** (Padre), **Capt Tony Perkin** (OC 4 Sqn), **Lt Julia Hands** (OC E Tp) and **WO2 (SSM) Lenny Carr**. Unfortunately the CO has spotted the female take over bid (we now have three)—**Lt Hands** will be leaving the Regiment in March for the Troop Commanders Course at Blandford—better luck next time. **Capt Hans Buhler**, from the Swiss Army visited during Ex *Lionheart* and seemed suitably impressed with all he saw. He noted the lack of pen knives, and has promised a special consignment of Swiss Army issue, to rectify the situation.

Recent departures are **Maj 'Mac' McGilvray**, our QM(A) who has taken up a post with our supporting TA Regiment, 2 Mercian, on retirement. **Maj Craig Treeby** has gone too, to a warmer winter in Cyprus. We wish them both well in their next appointments.

**LS&GC MEDAL PRESENTATIONS**

We extend our congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton, WO2** (Master Chef) **Barry Jones** and **SSgt 'Mitch' Mitchell** who were presented with their LS&GC Medals during Ex *Lionheart*. The medals were presented by **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, in the BJ Club at Commhead November. It was an especially proud moment for **SSgt 'Mitch' Mitchell** who had particularly requested that his medal was presented by **Gen Yeoman**, his first Commanding Officer.

LS&GC Medal Presentations
SSgt Mitchell is presented with his LS&GC Medal by Maj Gen A. Yeoman. In the background, already wearing their's are WO2 Jones and WO2 Hutton

**SHOOTING TEAM REPORT—4 DIV SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING**

The rantings and ravings of **Lt Malcolm Coupar, WO2 Charlie Manning**, and **SSgt Mick Lloyd-Williams** have paid off once more for the Regimental Shooting Team. The event began well with **LCpl Mark Leigh** getting off to a good start in the Roupell Cup, putting the pressure on the rest of the team to do well. **Cpl Eric Calvert, Lt 'Paratrooper' Coupar** and **WO2 Charlie Manning** then further improved the team's average, securing a very respectable fourth place in the overall rifle competition. The SMG shoot started with well below average scores overall. After all the tantrums, arm waving, tears, shouting and arguments were finished, we were placed fifth, a much better position than we at first thought possible. In the final event, the pistol match, we expected our pistol team to take all the prizes—and that's exactly what they did.

**Lt Col Peter Chaddock, Lt Malcolm Coupar** and **WO2 Charlie Manning** took first place in the competition with **WO2 Manning** winning the individual pistol competition. The final result of two day's excellent shooting was sixth place, out of 22 teams—a result which sent some of our infantry counterparts back to their holes in the ground, dragging their 'ironware' behind them.

The good, the bad and the ugly—WO2 (SSM) Charlie Manning, Lt Malcolm Coupar and Lt Col Peter Chaddock

**EXERCISE *NOCTURN QUADRANT***

Meanwhile, back in Gotham City . . .

1 Sqn, after much thought, decided to impress the inhabitants of the Harz Mountains with their canoeing, climbing and windsurfing skills and went to Osterode AH for Summer Camp. An enjoyable two weeks was had by all—the most welcome visitor being the sun, which, obviously ashamed of its non-appearance on the Colonel-in-Chief's visit, shone down every single day—well almost. The training consisted of three days windsurfing, canoeing and climbing, each section spending a day on each activity.

Each week a barbecue was held, and a day was spent sightseeing, ice skating and tabogganing. This last event was extremely popular, and proved that British Soldiers can wreck toboggans just as easily as they wreck Military Vehicles.

The Staff at AMTC Silberhütter were very helpful in suggesting sites for activities and interesting places to visit, and 1 Sqn returned refreshed ready for the rigours of Ex *Lionheart*.

Thanks go out to the people who made the camp work: **WO2 (SSM) Steve Kent** and **Sgts Dave Till** and **Jim Hogan** who managed somehow to control the Admin and still find time to laze away the afternoons at the swimming pool; the RSM and QMSI for their expert advice on how to fall off windsurfers; **Sgt Pat Dooher** for keeping everyone entertained with the guitar, **Sig 'Tommo' Thomas** who showed with his cooking that whatever the ACC can do, the Royal Signals can do much, much worse, and last but not least, the Camp OC, **2Lt Jake Thackray**, without whose help all this would still have been possible.

Even 'Geordie' Martin can't jump four in a row

'Geordie' claims another kill—Aidy Garner gets wet while Andy Dixon just worries a lot

After two weeks practice Brad Hogg is ready to try it with a canoe

**7 FERNMELDE BATAILLON EXERCISE**

On 18 September a small group of 'rogues and mercenaries', left the barracks to act as enemy for 7 Fm Bn (the Bundeswehr Sig Regt with whom we have a 'Patenschaft'). The party made up of fitters, clerks, storemen and pay clerks was: **Cpls David McMillan, Dave Durbak, Bruce Taylor, Sig 'Lol' Melon, Pte 'Matt' Cox, Sig Paul Wicks, Anthony Power, Peter Stidwell, Steve Lewis**; and was dubiously led by **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Wood** and **Sgt 'Dibble' Dipple**. On arrival at Lippeland Kaserne, the scenario was set by **Hauptman Arnold** (7 Fm Bn) and basically required us to test the reaction of the Bataillon (located in a small village) to an attack by a small group armed with light weapons.

The first attempt to recce the village was met with an ambush by 7 Fm Bn, and so with our force severely depleted we withdrew to think again! Eventually, we managed to bribe (hijack) a civilian ford transit, with driver, to take us into the centre of the village. Some 10 minutes afterwards, we caused panic in the Bundeswehr's ranks with the aid of several thunderflashes, flares, and blanks. Having retired to our secure area, we decided that honour had been saved, for the present!

The last attempt to infiltrate the village, which by this time was on permanent stand-to, was under cover of complete darkness. With our force split into two we managed to completely confuse the enemy, and awarded both sides heavy casualties. Overall, the exercise proved to be an enjoyable way of furthering Anglo-German relations, our thanks to **Hauptman Arnold** for organising it.

**EXERCISE *EARLY QUADRANT***

Early on the morning of 14 July a small group of 'Royal Visit Renegades' crept out of camp for 4 Sqn's summer camp at Heimbach in the Eiffel Mountains. Despite managing to leave most of the tent poles behind things got off to a roaring start—if a little wet.

Undeterred by the weather, and **'Lomie's'** cooking the canoeists, orienteers and climbers continued their efforts, often unsuccessfully.

Then the weather changed and the second party even managed to get themselves a suntan. After the first few day's practice the standard of cooking had improved to the point where the lads were actually eating the food and not selling it to the locals. With the improved weather renewed effort went into the activities—it's easier somehow when you're not wet through.

For the third group the weather reverted to its old form, it persisted it down! The final few days were enlivened by the arrival of a Welsh Youth Club from Swansea. A number of 'multi-racial' events were held including recitals of Dylan Thomas and an alcoholic treasure hunt. With tears and a lot of noise the fortnight ended and the 'A' Team drove home to pick up the pieces.

**SPORTS DAY vs 7 FERNMELDE BATAILLON**

On 6 September some members of 4 Sqn stopped their exercise preparation and took part in a fun sports day against our German allies. The first event was an 800kg Tug-of-War, where against a much heavier team, we managed to catch hold of the rope and nothing else!

On the athletics track we fared much better, winning the 4 × 100m relay with **Cpls 'Doc' Hyde, Steve Marshall, Sgt Trev Keates** and **Sig 'Sooty' Taylor**. That was followed by third place in the 4 × 400m.

In the 10 × 200m race, not a common event, we came second with some good performances by **LCpl 'Scotty' Scott** and **Cpl Dave Marshall**.

The afternoon came to an end with a 10 × 200m chain of command relay race, which saw **Cpl Steve Marshall** running with a bottle between his legs (not a pretty sight), **LCpl Alex Regan** and **Sig 'Sooty' Taylor** on a chariot, and **Cpl 'JJ' Johnson** pushing a cable drum around the track. We rolled into second place. A fun day and we look forward to next year when we might take a Tug-of-War Team as well!

LCpl Alex Regan and Sig 'Sooty' Taylor with the chariot—'Everyone should have one'

**INTER-SQUADRON SWIMMING COMPETITION**

On Wednesday 29 August the Regiment took a break from *Lionheart* preparations in order to take part in an Inter-Squadron Swimming Competition. The teams took part in various events (and showed a variety of skills in the water!). Contrary to local rumours it has been officially proved that 3 Sqn did eventually reach double figures (Just!).

The Swimming Statuette was presented to 2 Sqn at the end of the morning after a close run competition with the other Squadrons (except 3 Sqn!).

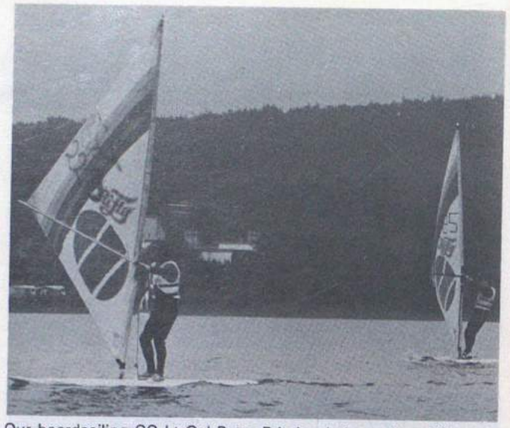
The climax of the competition was the 'Waitress Race', which was not part of the main competition. Six hairy-legged 'waitresses' flaunted themselves up and down the pool as the 'three little girls from school' (the WRAC contingent) blushed appropriately! The race was won by 4 Sqn and the CO voted **Sig 'Moz' Fisher** the best dressed waitress and with the best pair of legs!

**22 (BOARDSAILING AND SAILING) SIGNAL REGIMENT**

Boardsailing fever took the Regiment by storm at the beginning of October. Less than a week after we had been officially appointed leading Regiment for Boardsailing, the team sailed to victory in the Corps BAOR Inter-Unit Boardsailing Championships. **Capt Alan Kite** and **Lt Graham Taylor** put up impressive performances in the individual championships, too, both getting second prizes. Next year the Regiment hopes to field a strong team in all the BAOR Boardsailing events.

Earlier in the same week the Dinghy Sailing team won the Corps Dinghy Sailing Championships, after some nail-biting races. The prize was a magnificent 19th Century German cannon, used in both land and sea battles, which has already made 27 Field Regiment (RA), who share our barracks, green with envy!

The winning 22nd Signal Regiment Dinghy Sailing team: Cpl Paul Ratcliffe, Lt Vyv Thatcher, Lt Col Peter Pritchard, Lt Graham Taylor, LCpls Rick Greenland and Mark Bristow



Our boardsailing CO Lt Col Peter Pritchard shows his skills on a windsurfer with Cpl Gary Jones following closely behind

## ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1985

Stocks of the 1985 Corps diary are now available for sale. The diary is of a similar pattern to previous years. It is based on the modern slim-fold planner style. On opening, the day of the week runs across 2 pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance. The outer cover (6″ × 3½″) is in flexible blue vinyl embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. There are also separate pages giving calendars for 1984, 1985 and 1986; listing of European holidays 1985; an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is £1.25 for orders within the United Kingdom, and £1.15 for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

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## 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

**PACKED**

'One Swallow does not a summer make', and I for one can say 'Aye' to that. I've seen two Swallows and as yet no summer. However, in spite of this the Regimental diary has been packed with feats of endurance, sporting achievements worthy of high acclaim, and of course the battle-camp. The press-desk will now try and capture the prevailing spirit of our readers.

**BATTLE CAMP VOGELSANG**

The Regiment undertook its annual Battlecamp at Vogelsang from the 8-27 July. The task of organising this year's camp was given to **Capt Denis Rimmer** RPC, the acting Training Major, and **SSM Keith Johnson**. Although the weather was a little unkind we made full use of the many splendid facilities Vogelsang has to offer.

**MAP READING**

A great deal of emphasis was put on this very important subject. We took everyone back to basics and covered grid references, orientation, bearings etc. The training was carried out by **Sgt Andy Hill** and **Cpl 'Lee' Major**, and culminated with a five hour 25Km map reading exercise.

**FIRST AID**

**Cpl Ian Collier** gave everyone two hours of excellent training. His aim was to give as much practical hands on training as possible. He covered such subjects as breaks, bleeding, burns, heat problems and an ingenious period on utilisation of personal equipment in an emergency.

**NBC**

Training took the form of practical personal decontamination and tests. Instruction was also given on vehicle and equipment decontamination.

**RANGES**

The Regiment was allocated enough ranges to complete an interesting and varied range programme.

Priority was given to the LMG and those ranges that are not normally available in the Rear Combat Zone. **WO2 Derek Brown** assisted by **Capt Eddie Kellett, Sgts Mav Merrick, Dave Taylor** and **Rick Richards** ensured everyone fired on the LMG, Platoon Defence, assault and pistol ranges.

Owing to a shortage of ammunition only 30 grenades were thrown and of those one blind was experienced.

The highlight of each week was the Battle Inoculation range. This simulates a platoon advancing to an objective at the crawl during which they came under fire from small arms and mortars. It was so enjoyable and exciting first time through that not one soldier volunteered to go through again!

No, not the Argies, Capt Steve Johns and his platoon awaiting the Battle Innoculation Range

**PHYSCIAL TRAINING**

It has been said that all PTI's have a sadistic streak. Our **SSgt McGonigle** and his AIPT's are no exception. They made full use of the Trim Dick and assault courses and turned them into first class competition activities. This ensured that everyone, including the less able members, gave their best.

Each day started with a conventional 15-20 minute warming up PT period. We were amazed how many soldiers have relatives called 'Hughee'.

A full sports competition was run throughout the training period. This resulted in some very closely contested games of Soccer, Volley Ball, Basketball, Soft ball and Tug-of-War. There is no doubt that as a result we all left Battle Camp fitter than we arrived.

Timing and coordination are paramount on this obstacle

**WATERMANSHIP TRAINING**

Three assault boats were taken to Vogelsang. After being instructed on the safety aspects, the teams raced across the lake in their boats as part of the overall competition.

This was a great chance to let off steam and made a nice change from the more formal training.

**ADMIN AND SUPPORT**

No camp can function properly without its supporting cast. A large vote of thanks go to **Sgts Terry Frankel, Sam Coster, Cpl Vince Vincent**, the Cooks, Drivers and fatigue men who all did a splendid job behind the scenes.

In conclusion this year's camp proved to be very successful. Most of the soldiers fired on ranges that they had never used before. This can only add to experience and interest in shooting.

Although the training was often strenuous everyone found it interesting and enjoyable. The experience gained by the DS and Admin Staff can only help to make next year's camp more successful.

**FEATS OF ENDURANCE**

The Regiment has become addicted to feats of endurance in one guise or another. The Regiment was represented on the Nijmegen Marches 1984 by a team of 12 ardent marchers, (six of whom have competed before!). On arrival at Heumensoord Camp the team warmed up with a brisk 5Km walk to the local pub, thank you **John 'Wayne' Owen**. The team would like it to be noted that they made a good impression at the pub in the best traditions of those who don't know when they'll be able to enjoy 12 pints again.

All too soon 0300 hours Monday arrived and the first 40Km march. Day one produced the pattern for the remaining three days. The last 10Km were, reading between the lines of their report, hell, but the final 5Km were covered in double time aided by prospects of cold beers supplied by **'Dusty' Miller**.

Our team started and finished as a team and had the highest of spirits throughout. The last 5Km, through Nijmegen with roads lined by thousands of spectators provided an electric atmosphere for the penultimate act of this event. What was the ultimate act? The Blister-Ball where once again our team covered themselves with honour and agreed to return next year.

Sig 'Spud' Murphy—The Flower Man

No mistaking the Brits!

**FURTHER BLISTERING FEATS OF ENDURANCE**

The following report was received from our Ex *River Backstop 84* team: On Saturday 30 June 1984, 10 novice canoeists and 19 support crew from 1 Sqn, 28 Sig Regt (Northag) set out from Francisca Barracks on the long journey to Basel on the Swiss-German Border. This was to be the start point of Ex *River Backstop 84*, to canoe non stop from Basel to Rotterdam.

Sunday was spent erecting the first base camp at Greffern, testing equipment, and awaiting the arrival of **SSgt Dixie Dean** and two radio detachments from 656 Signal Troop, 2 Division (forward), who were to provide the communications en route.

At 0637 hours on Monday 2 July in atrocious conditions, **Cpl Chris Joll** and **LCpl 'Geordie' Hugill** set off from Km Point 170. This first 50Km leg was on the shallow and rapidous old Rhine, strewn with many rocky portages. Six hours later they pulled into their change over point at Oberimsingen weary but elated. The next crew, **Cpl 'Dil' Dillon** and **LCpl Duncan Meachin** set off on their 50Km leg. This was to be spent criss-crossing from river to canal, and with it the first encounter with the huge barges that traffic the Rhine. With no sign of the storm abating, they pulled into their change over point to hand over to **Sig Tony May** and **Lee Cooke**. With the light fading fast they set off into the gloom of an intensifying storm. This proved to be the hardest leg of the journey, with the constant battle against the elements and some very long, difficult portages. So it was with great relief they handed over to **Sig Jim Clancy** and **Stuart Hamilton** at the end of their 50Km leg.

The storm was abating, and this pair were soon making up for lost time with the strong Rhine current now in evidence. Still looking fresh, and with 30 mins deficit cut back they handed over to **Cpl Dave Tuck** and **Sig 'Johnah' Jones**. These two paced themselves well and pulled into their change over point at Luwigshafen after cutting back another 30 mins deficit.

From this point the cycle started again, with pair one taking to the water again. Time became little to the canoeists and support crews, as the hours spent travelling, canoeing and sleeping overlapped. We were now down to the last 50Km. This was split up between our three reserve canoeists, **Cpl 'Gaz' Burton, Sig 'Mac' McTague** and **'Geoff' Capes**, paired off with three of the others, they paddled 20Km each, and so it was at 0829 hours on Thursday 6 July, the last pair pulled in at KM point 989, just short of the main shipping lanes of Rotterdam.

We had completed the 819Km journey in a remarkable time of four days, one hour and 52 minutes. It wouldn't be fair to close without a special mention to those members of the Squadron, the LAD, and the two Cooks, who performed the tedious and seemingly thankless task of support and base camp personnel. Without them this worthwhile venture would not have been the success it was.

The pain—Cpl Chris Joll and Cpl 'Geordie' Hugill

The Merry Men

**EXERCISE *DUTCH CAMP 84***

The Regimental Battle Camp was all too much for 22 members of Papa Troop, so they set off on a 'Wind-down' exercise consisting of watermanship in the most relaxed of manners.

They chose Tilburg in Holland as the venue for advanced training in the skills of sailboarding and water skiing.

Of note—**Sgt Steve Bennett** would like to thank the motor-boat crew who came to his rescue when he found himself marooned on a sailboard in the middle of the lake. He would have been even more grateful if they had rescued him instead of just his sail—mind you, lending him a paddle to speed his return to shore was a kind gesture.

**Cpl Graeme Wilson** proved to be something of a water-skiing expert by completing the water-skiing course. However, **Cpl Nick Fordom** and **LCpl 'Bill' Kidd** will long be remembered for their entertainment value. Finally thank you to **Cpl McGregor** for keeping the party fed if not dry.

**REGIMENTAL CRICKET SEASON 1984**

This year's season started off very well and we looked set to take both the Rhine Area Major Units Cup and the league title.

In the semi-final of the cup we beat 16 Sig Regt in a close fought contest.

The final was played at Bracht against 13 Sig Regt who easily overtook the score of 76 we set them with the loss of only four wickets. '13' thoroughly deserved their win.

We have had some notable performances from **LCpl Andy Hill** who has scored one knock of 85 runs and three half centuries this season as well as several good bowling performances, his best being eight overs, five maidens one for six. **Sgt Mick Kilvington** remains a good all-round cricketer with success both with bat and ball, and who along with **LCpl Andy Hill**, commands a regular Corps place.

Cricket—1st XI
Runners up Rhine Area Major Units Knockout Cup
*Back Row L-R:* Capt D. Rimmer RPC Umpire, Cpl Reid Scorer, WO2 Grimmitt, Cpl Edwards, Cpl Hurst RAPC, Capt Death RAPC, Sig Wodke, WO1 White Umpire
*Front Row L-R:* Cpl Lawson, Sgt Richards, LCpl Hill RAPC, the late Sgt Swaine Captain, Sgt Kilvington, Sig Dunleavy

## NORTHAG ATHLETICS MEETING 1984

This summer (it was on a Wednesday) the Regiment selected 2 Sqn to represent it at the NORTHAG meet held on 20 and 21 June in Rheindahlen. A full team was organised to perform in this international event including British, Belgians, Dutch and German opposition. The event started with only a few hiccups what?, where?, what time?, where am I? who am I? Nevertheless a very good start was made in the field events, **Cpl Andy Foster, Sig Mark Surmey, Cpls 'Knocker' Bennett, Dave Phillpott** and **Sgt Mick Palmer** all putting in good results. By the time the field events were over we were well ahead. Then came the track events, and soon the enormous lead which we had built up was whittled away, however, **LCpl Paul Roberts, Sig Mick Lowe, Cpl Andy Foster, Sig Tony Tillyer, Mick Kitson, 'Geordie' Davies** and **'Psycho' Launchbury** all put in good efforts. The event in the end was decided on the last race, the 4 × 400m, where our team romped home, making us the NORTHAG champions. Another success was also recorded that day when the tug-o-war team of **Sgts Mick Palmer, Derek Styles, 'Willie' Williams, LCpls 'Mac' McDermott, Dick Rutherford, Cpls 'Jock' McQuade, 'Taff Thomas** and manager **SSM Harry Robinson** won in great style against the RCT to lift the NORTHAG title.

Lt Paul Hodgkiss receiving the NORTHAG Athletics Trophy

Sig Mark Sturmey receiving the Victor Ludorum (age group two)

Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall presenting the 4 × 400m trophy *L-R:* Sig Mark Sturmey, Lt Paul Hodgkiss, Cpl Andy Foster, LCpl Paul Roberts



# 29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
# BFPO 45

## ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

The recent Brigade Athletics Competition gave us the chance to show some form. The team that entered were very mindful of their narrow defeat last year and intent on revenge. Their ambitions were fully achieved. At the end of the day the Regiment had won the Minor Units Trophy by over 20 points and had notched up a few new records into the deal. Before the competition, **WO2 (SSM) Bernie Thomas** put the team through a hard training programme which clearly helped in producing the following winners: **LCpl 'Biddy' Baxter** in the 100m and 200m, **Sig 'Speedy' Hanlon** in the 400m, **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** in the 5,000m (new record) and **Sig Stan Tivey** and **'Speedy' Hanlon** in the 4 x 400m relay (new record).

## ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Winter Bowling League also produced success for the Squadron. **LCpl George Baxter** (Yes, it's **Biddy**'s brother) and **Sig 'Ginge' Hunt** teamed up with the CO's clerk **Cpl Des Wheatley** on 'The Bears'. They ran away with the league title, the runners up being a newly formed team called 'The Barbarians'. Members included **Cpl Bob Dodds** (team captain), **Yeoman Jack Owen, Sgt Brian Rogers, LCpls Pete Jowitt, Bob Carroll, Chris Mountain** and **Sig Martin King.** The 'Dolly Mixtures', the winning ladies team, also had a few of the Squadron's associates in it: **LCpl Carol Rockliffe, Mrs Diane Dodds** and **Mrs Claire Carroll.**

## TOUGH OPPOSITION

Sadly, we haven't had the same success to date with basketball. Mind you, it's not surprising considering the opposition. Radio Troop decided to take on some of their American counterparts in a friendly match. They got a bit of a shock when the Americans displayed some of their very obvious natural talent. In the first half the US established a cool 44—26 lead after a fine display of ball handling. The second half went much the same way with a final score to the US of 86—44. Radio Tp had lost despite **Sgt Steve 'The Hook' Roberts** performance which contributed to the main part of our score. Could the problem have been our pint sized defence in the shape of **Cpl 'Geordie' Laverick, LCpl 'Pud' Marshall** and **Sig Tony Stevens**?

## FUN

The Brigade Raft Race provided an excellent chance for the Squadron to 'let its hair down' and for the Berliners to see that it really is 'only mad dogs and Brits' who do stupid things on the Havel waters. Radio troop provided the assault boat team and TM Troop built the raft for the raft race. As far as being an example of a well designed precision piece of engineering was concerned, (you know the sort of thing you'd expect from technicians), it was more like a third prize in a Titanic look alike competition. **2Lt Favager** and the 'Poseidon Protegees' splashed their way to a superb non victory catching crabs, bedsteads and anything else that got in the way in the process.

A still from Lt Ian Favager's latest movie 'Jason and the far-go-noughts'



## WORK

Well yes, I'm afraid there's been some of that going on too. It was the American Sector's turn to host Ex *Rondo* in September. All the usual fun of the fair was there, with each nation using other national's equipment and learning their training methods and procedures. 12 three man tripartite teams negotiated their way around a series of stands designed to test basic military skills, communication skills and fitness. **Sig 'Toffee' Phillips'** team of **SP4 Grimes** and **Tr Droit** were the eventual winners and the team which included **Cpl 'Wings' Chapman** (of Allied Staff Berlin fame) took second place. The fostering of Allied Co-operation is encouraged through play as well as work on the exercise. The evening social saw a series of sketches performed by each Sector. The theme of each sketch usually involved a few swift leg pulls at someone else's national characteristics but it was all in good fun. The exercise ended with the traditional assault course and post-exercise luncheon.

The chaps even managed to con the young officers into having a go and in fact they produced the fastest team time around the course.

Pte Penny Lansbury getting a close shave from Sig 'Woody' Allen

## CPX

Our other main event of late was the Brigade CPX. Golden Blankets go to **LCpl 'Pud' Marshall** and **Lt Ian** 'Doesn't he look sweet when he's asleep?' **Favager** (a quote from one of our ladies). The exercise took place in Ruhleben Fighting City and once again we were duty sandbag Squadron. Perhaps the finale to the exercise was the best part. As it was the Brigadier's 'last one' he bought 'the boys' a beer which was well appreciated by all.

WPte Lyn Fawcett communicating in a built-up area

## YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The subscription rates for *'The Wire'*—shown above—have been in force since 1978. The content has increased steadily over the past six years—1983 was up some 54% on 1978. During the same period printing costs have gone up by some 46% per page. It will not have escaped the notice of our individual subscribers that the cost of posting *'The Wire'* to them is around 33p—15p in 1978.

All these factors were considered by the Association's Central Committee earlier this year when the financial status of *'The Wire'* was reviewed. The subsidy to our Corps magazine was some £24,000 in 1983 as against £4,200 in 1978.

The new subscription rate for individual subscribers from January 1985 is to be £4.20. The 'bulk' (five or more copies) subscription will be £3.60.

We hope this brief statement will give all our subscribers an understanding of the basic economic factors bearing on our Corps magazine. As in 1977, when the last change in subscription rates was announced, it is hoped that the new rates will apply for several years.

If you pay by Bankers Order, you will be receiving a request from the Regimental Secretary and Corps Treasurer to execute another 'Bankers Order' to reflect the new annual subscription.

Many of you renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are in this category, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment, by 31 December 1984? We require to define our printing commitment for the January issue by this date and your co-operation in meeting this request will be most helpful. **Cheques/Postal Orders to be payable to 'Royal Signals Corps Fund', please.**

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# 30 Sig Regt
# Blandford Camp

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The Regiment wishes to congratulate **Sgt Sammy McElreavey** on his well earned BEM for service in Beirut while serving with 30 Sig Regt and wish him and his wife **Diane** all the very best for the future.

**OFFICERS V SENIORS CRICKET MATCH**
**THE UMPIRE'S LAMENT'**
**Report by Arthur Beevor, Unit Quartering Officer**

I hadn't wanted to umpire the Officers v Seniors Cricket Match this year. The only bright memory from last year was of **Capt Denise Dunn**'s gear and she was only Reserve this time. All else in the '83 match had left me nothing but sadness and regret. I'd lost what few friends I had and for the wrong reasons. I try to give just decisions when appeals are made at the wicket, but I have concluded that the last thing required of me is the dispensing of justice.

The CO opened the hostilities, doing a Pearl Harbour on the Seniors, by choosing a date for the match when their best players were away playing for the Corps on Friday 13. Additionally he asked his 2IC to produce a dummy Order which ensured the presence of their second best players on some fictitious Board, miles from the action. I did point out to 2IC that this was the falsification of an official document but he did it nevertheless. Both sides turned up with the exception of **Lt Pete Stephenson** who doubted the impartiality of one of the umpires. Nobody bothered me with the toss and I don't know who won it but the Officers batted first.

**SSgt Arthur Smith** opened the bowling and had **Lt Nick Borrill** promptly caught for a duck. **Arthur** is as tight with his bowling as he is with his money and ended his four overs with two for one run. He thought this to be over-generous but his side was delighted that his second wicket was that of the CO who had elected to use the edge of his bat in preference to the middle. **Arthur,** a member of the Pay Corps, was judged to have a bit more asbestos around him when acting as hitman on the CO and the Seniors had included him in the side for that sole purpose.

**WO2 (FofS) Jim Kelly** had disposed of **2Lt Phil Davies** by bowling him; **Capt Fred Laverick** joined **Capt Keith Pritchard** in the middle and had scored five quick runs when we had one of those 'Yes, No, Come on, Go back' frolics with both batsmen somewhere in the middle of the pitch and, the wicket broken at the bowler's end, where I was standing.

During these adventures, **Maj Robin Hill** had come and gone for seven and the Adjutant, **Capt John Thomas**, had arrived. The Adjutant favours the bludgeon rather than the rapier and laid about him with a will and little skill. But it worked—few were prepared to catch out the Adjutant, much less bowl him, but there's always one somewhere and **SSgt Jim Keeping** caught the gallant Captain and off his own bowling too!

The Adjutant departed, in came a Second Lieutenant called **Salvoni. Salvoni**! Playing cricket? And the Umpire a Yorkshireman!

**Jim Keeping**, God bless him, did me a favour and bowled **Rob Salvoni**, thereby relieving me of the necessity to give him 'Out' LBW at the first opportunity, which I had fully resolved to do.

The departure of **Rob Salvoni** left us with the last two batsmen at the wicket **Majs Peter McGann** and **John Bridgeman**. All that white hair! All that great age! These two nice old gentlemen standing amid the muscular brutal-looking Seniors aroused my deep concern and when **Jim Keeping** hit 2IC's pads with the first ball, I appealed myself and gave him 'Out' for pity's sake.

Result: Seniors won by five wickets.

**EXERCISE *CYGNET RING 84***

'Chargin Charlie Company', 35 (US) Sig Bde, were this year's hosts for Ex *Cygnet Ring*, to a 15 man detachment from 2 Sqn. The setting was Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and after a rather tortuous journey, including a nightstop in Gander, the four radio detachments unloaded into the melting heat at Pope Airforce Base. The exercise Commander, **Lt Nick Borrill**, was eventually met by his US counterpart and shortly afterwards the four drivers, **Cpls Mike Sheehan, Mac McLean** and **LCpls Paul McLellan** and **Steve Philpott**, made their way with Land Rover and trailer to the designated motor pool.

One of the most impressive facts about the base was its size, it housed some 44,000 troops, and not surprisingly, finding the way around the base proved no easy task. The first few days were spent settling into rather luxurious accommodation, with the first military training consisting of a 'hands on' radio exercise in which the operators exchanged information on all equipments. Despite the limitations of the exercise, compatibility tests proved successful—albeit as a result of much running around by the Squadron resident technician **WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin**.

The detachment was taken on a run at 0530 hrs the following morning when it was 'invited' to join the host company on their morning PT. After much screaming and shouting the company eventually began the physical to a chorus of 'Airborne Ranger'—ably assisted by **LCpl Graham Gee, Sig 'Scouse' Wohler, Alan Buckmaster** and **'Chippy' Lang**. Although not too demanding the period proved to be very entertaining.

The range day was programmed to allow each unit to demonstrate their particular weapons, and after the mandatory safety briefings, **Cpl David Evans** and **Cfn Chris Jones** went forward to fire the XM203 Grenade Launcher. Everyone managed to fire five rounds onto the open range with surprising accuracy. During the day the detachment also fired the M16 and the M60 machine gun, and in return 'Chargin Charlie' fired the SLR, SMG, LMG and Pistol under the auspices of **SSgt Bob Hooper**.

The following four days were spent deployed on Ex *Myrtle Beach*, and after a two and a half hour drive to the coast, the detachment debussed onto the sand and temperatures in the 90s—a good time was had by all.

However, Monday morning began at 0530 hrs again with the musical PT, the British now familiar with all verses. This was later followed by military training involving NBC and the gas chambers. Needless to say the det completed the test twice, demonstrating the effectiveness of our mask, and then returning behooded with the US equivalent, courageously led by **Sig 'Doc' Halliday** and **LCpl Ray Orange**. The final stage of the exercise was spent with a challenge to our hosts for a game of soft ball and preparing the vehicles and equipment for the inevitable return journey.

A farewell 'formation' officially ended Ex *Cygnet Ring 84* and after a typical 'Chargin Charlie' presentation we left for Pope heavily laden with Regimental plaques of all shapes and sizes.

**TEN TORS 1984**

The Ten Tors expedition on Dartmoor celebrated its 25th anniversary and was marked by a special message from its patron—**HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. 2 Sqn, provided the command and safety comms for the event which as ever was heavily over subscribed. Since **Lt Col Gregory** first started the expedition from Denbury in 1960 it has gone from strength to strength. This year some 2,500 youngsters set off over a Moor which was unusually dry and barren. Also 100 handicapped or disabled people undertook a special event on Saturday. Squadron personnel who had previously earned medals at the event were the OC, **Maj Roland Ebdon, SSgt (SQMS) Mick Healy** and **Sig Tony Rathmell** (three times!).

The Squadron deployed onto the Moor by helicopter, vehicle and foot and soon set up. Control was ably run by **SSgt Bob Hooper** and **Sgt 'Dougie' Douglas** with technical expertise provided by **WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin**. OC South Moor **Lt Nick Borrill** and OC North Moor **WO2 (YofS) Derrick McClelland** soon started a round of driving and marching to overcome initial problems and to resupply. OC Squadron and **Cpl Pat Gibney** backpacked around all 18 manned Tors and the rebro, covering over 50 miles. Their best sequence was soup on Lynch Tor, dinner on Cot Mis Tor and a trip to the pub with the Tor party from Sittaford Tor!

Because of the unusually dry weather many more youngsters than normal successfully completed the expedition—but some casualties did occur and were swiftly treated and evacuated. The two radio nets handled the 5,000 messages generated over the two days without any delays and passed the inevitable casualty reports. A windswept and bronzed Squadron returned to Blandford.



**EXERCISE *NORMAN QUEST*—ALDERNEY**

A somewhat arduous eight hour trip by landing craft brought members of the unit to the shores of Alderney in the Channel Isles (never let it be said that members of 3 Sqn never visit sunnier overseas climes). In this case it was Ex *Norman Quest*, a two week public relations venture to Alderney, the northern-most Channel Island which has adopted the Regiment.

After settling into camp **RQMS Barry Watson** held an initial briefing on the projects to be undertaken as part of the exercise. Over a period of two weeks the team renovated a 30m .22 rifle range situated underground in one of the Island's many forts, moved a 30ft slide to make it safer for the local kids to use, and painted two playgrounds.

A 'sensible' work routine was soon established. Jobs on the range and playground finished at lunchtime and, with the exception of the Cambrian March team—there in its entirety—the afternoons were free for sightseeing. **Sgt Russ Marnoch** led a party which, rods tucked under their arms and flies in their hats, would disappear around lunchtime to reappear at teatime, with stories of the fish that got away and, little else.

Meanwhile the Cambrian March team were being beasted around the hills of Alderney by their PTI **Sig 'JJ' Jones**, now posted to Belize. This fine body of men led by **2Lt Rob Salvoni** started each day at 0630 hrs with an enthusiastic constitutional run.

As per Regimental tradition, officers from RHQ flew over for the last weekend to be entertained as a gesture of thanks for the work of the unit by the President of Alderney, **Mr Jon Kay-Mouat**, and other States members. As the Corps Band was not available, the party was accompanied by the 34 Sig Regt (Volunteers) Band from Middlesbrough. Highlight of this visit was the church service followed by the presentation of a bench by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bill Backhouse**, on behalf of the Regiment, to be placed in the church grounds.

**EXERCISE *DIG OUT***

The project was to give 'Jimmy' a facelift. The particular 'Jimmy' in question was one of the Fovant Badges, a collection of military and civilian badges carved out of chalk on a hillside behind the village of Fovant in Wiltshire.

The first Fovant Badges date back to the First World War during which a large military camp was set up in the area housing both British and Australian Regiments. Soldiers of these units began working on these badges to which the 'Jimmy' was later added to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Corps.

Using picks, shovels, and sandbags as containers, the 12 man team led by **SSgt Bob Hooper** toiled up and down the steep slopes for seven days before the task was completed. Each night the local pub opened its doors to our dry, weary soldiers and would not let them depart until their throats were awash with lager!

**EXERCISE *BOLD GANNET***

We left for Denmark at the beginning of September in high spirits. After a long drive and ferry crossing the 2 Sqn element arrived at Skive Barracks in Jutland. Here began the in-country training phase which culminated in a 48 hr exercise before the FTX. During this phase **Sig Steve 'Fitipaldi' Davies** proved that Rovers were not indestructable. **Sig Steve Rood** discovered that biscuits taste better during a gas attack and that **YofS Derek McClelland** is always there when you don't want him. That was the night **Sig David Torrie** did a user trial on a Danish road map. When we eventually found him the following morning he had conclusive proof that they didn't work! Before we left Jutland we went 'fully tac' then embarked on the Great Belt Crossing with dire warnings of special forces still ringing in our ears.

Our deployment to Zeeland saw a spectacular sunrise over the sea—a good omen? Scenery however was soon forgotten when we arrived in location as, under **SSgt Bob Hooper's** 'gentle guidance', the cumbersome Radcon complex was swiftly erected and radio village became operational.

Next came the fun part—the FTX. During this various phenomena were observed. Firstly **Sgt Sean Sutton** developed beetle phobia due to large quantities of these insects co-located with the cookhouse. **Cpl Martin** was reported to have been digging for roots to maintain his meagre 15 stone. **LCpl Ray Orange** developed an insatiable craving for coffee (could this be an early sign of pregnancy?). Shortly after the beginning of the FTX the OC, **Capt John Thomas**, defected to the Orange forces, reportedly taking our CEIs with him. The strain of the exercise became apparent when **FofS Pat Baldwin** was seen running around the location with a 'pineapple', still connected to the radio and antenna! Despite these minor setbacks the Squadron retained its integrity and was no doubt instrumental in bringing about the crushing defeat inflicted on the Orange forces.

Regimental Sports Day
A somewhat motley crew took part in the Chain of Command race. The CO, Lt Col Bill Backhouse set the sartorial tone by appearing as Andy Pandy. HQ Sqn went for the classical look complete with togas and laurel leaves. Other less discerning members of the Regiment raced in drag, as monsters, cavemen, waiters or, in one case, as a donkey

Winners of the Tug-Of-War: A 1 Squadron Team
*L—R Back:* Cpl Jim Knighton, Sig 'Jock' Keith, LCpls 'Chalky' White, 'Scouse' Johnson, Sig 'Mac' MacDonald
*Front:* SSgt 'Paddy' Goslyn, Cpl 'Gaz' Dootson, Sgt Graham Butler, Cpl Steve Smoothy

SSM Henry Banks attempted to disguise himself as a schoolgirl for the Chain of Command race

# 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
## Hammersmith

**RHQ**

After the long hours spent manning the Regimental Command Post during Annual Camp, RHQ took full advantage of the post-camp leave period. This year, instead of the usual 'block leave' with everyone away at the same time, a staggered system was tried. The system worked quite well but the Traffic Officer, **Maj Roy Hughes**, swears he hasn't seen the RSM, **WO1 'Cas' Francis** for two months!

The CO **Lt Col David Strong** decided to see if he should have joined the Navy. He hired a boat, and together with his wife **Maureen**, their two sons **Mike** and **Simon** and daughter **Joanna**, explored the upper reaches of the River Thames. It is understood that the symbol PH on the Ordnance Survey Map determined the length of daily travel and a good time was had by all.

Our 2IC **Maj Colin Stenning** decided he didn't want to live on his own any more and got married on 11 August at Salisbury. He wife, **Alex**, is a Canadian girl and we wish them both happiness and good luck for the future.

The Adjutant, **Capt Ian Ryder**, resigned from the Regular Army and has taken up the post of Admin Officer of HQ Squadron. He has also bought a new house and he is keeping rather busy either painting it, acting as temporary Adjutant, or trying to assimilate his Admin Officer duties.

Training Major, **Peter Williams'** wife **Diane** presented him with a second son, **Emlyn**. We send them our warmest congratulations.

The Chief Clerk, **SSgt Dave Tarrant** has been posted to the Falklands. We wish him well down amongst the penguins and welcome his replacement in, (what has now become) a NRPS post, **WO2 Dave Stuart**, who has just finished his time in the Army and joins us from AG-11.

**DOWN TO IT**

After the Summer lull we got down to the serious business of Skill-at-Arms Training, preparation for PRE, training for BFTs and with NATO instructions over from SHAPE instructing on Procedure for Ex *Able Archer* and a very full Regimental calendar. RHQ are looking forward to an interesting and exciting run-up to next year's Annual Camp.

Our CO, **Lt Col David Strong**, who has done much to encourage sporting activities since taking command did, however, have the pleasure recently of being interrupted during 11 Sig Bde Dinner at the Corps Mess, Blandford to be given the 'stop press' news that four members of the Regiment had successfully completed the Verden Marathon in Germany. The four to be congratulated are, **SSgt (FofS) Lou Lawton, Sgt Steve Brennan, Pte Karen Amey** and **Sig Chris Topley**.

**VALE—MAJ TOM KNIGHT**

October sees the retirement of **Maj T. E. Knight MBE** after 43 years service to the Corps. He enlisted at Catterick in 1941 and spent much of his war service in West Africa receiving the GOCs' Certificate of Meritorious service in 1945. Promoted to WOI (RSM) of 64 Sig Regt, Sheffield in 1964, **Maj Knight** was commissioned two years later. In 1970 he returned from 18 Sig Regt, Singapore on his posting to this Regiment as Adjutant. **Maj Knight** retired from Regular Service in 1973 but has continued to give sterling service since that time as a PSAO. We all wish **Tom** and his wife **Clair** a long and happy retirement at their home in Hastings.

**83 SQUADRON**

**TROOP COMMANDERS' WEEKEND—A AND B TROOPS**

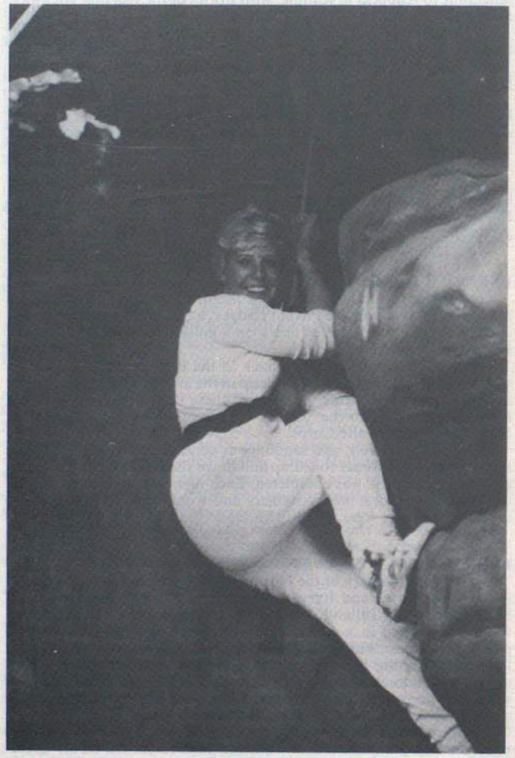
This year A and B Troops combined forces and went down to Salisbury Plain for a relaxing weekend horse riding and clay pigeon shooting. However, within one hour of arrival **Pte Jackie Masset** was rushed to hospital with suspected appendicitis which fortunately turned out to be a false alarm.

Not everyone had been on a horse before and some ended up more off than on. **Sig Andy Probets** had a purple forehead after attempting to run away on his horse and both **Sgt Glyn Jones** and **Capt Roger Knowles** enjoyed a quick dip in the river, courtesy of their respective mounts!

**C TROOP**

Troop OC **Lt Ian Webber** led his troop up dizzy heights with a day's rock climbing in Kent followed by a Sunday morning spent canoeing (or, rather, capsizing) which ensured that everyone got soaked through, a now traditional ending to a C Troop weekend.

Budding DJs were disappointed to discover that the real reason for Radio One's visit was not talent spotting but the collection of material for a 20 minute feature on the TA which was broadcast early in September and featured many Troop Members' voices.



Pte 'Caz' Jones in a chimney on the C Troop Rock Climbing weekend

**E TROOP**

Early August saw E Troop embarking on Ex *Water Rat II* on which they practised such skills as canoeing and improvised rafting under the watchful eye of **SSgt 'Taff' Flaherty**. After an excellent troop dinner, prepared by **Sig Derek Fairs**, the Sunday was spent looking around HMS *Victory* and HMS *Alliance*. Happily Troop OC, **Lt Diane Lilley** reported no defectors to the Royal Navy, on return.

LCpl Dean Clare, Pte Jane Maslin and LCpl Dave Wates a bit tied up on the N Troop Weekend

**COBHAM CUP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION 1984**

**Capt Roger Knowles** and the rest of B troop once again put a lot of time and effort into organising this competition, and to their credit everything went smoothly until B Troops' accident-prone **Pte Sue Hawkins** fell off a rope swing during the initiative test and broke her ankle. (A popular pastime for the WRAC members of the Troop!)

Congratulations go to B Troop's team, led by **Cpl Mick Sheldon** who won the competition with A Troop's team, led by **Cpl Graham Drew**, a close second. And mention must be made of the A Troop WRAC team under the command of **LCpl Beverley Holley** who were top WRAC team and came third overall.

**SQUADRON SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Squadron Social Activities still abound, in particular a memorable party. Hawaiian style organised most efficiently by **Cpl Pete Marr** with the help of his wife **Olive** who, as usual, prepared a delicious buffet supper. With all the shorts and grass skirts around it was decided to hold a knobbly knees contest and there were no problems in choosing **Cpl Pete Marr** as the winner!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations go to **Lt Penny Radway** who found a spare weekend in which to get married to **OCdt Tony Rose** from 47 Squadron. Congratulations also go to the following on their promotion to Lance Corporal, **Sig Jerry Whitmarsh, Geoff Parker, Mark Blackford** and **Paul Atkinson**.

**'A BOMBSITE LIKE SOUTHFIELDS'**

In its 45 year existence, 83 Squadrons' TA Centre in the South-East approaches to Wimbledon, has been known by many names—Southfields, Merton Road, 'The Fort' to name but a few—but in this time the building itself has altered little. Now however, and thanks to the good offices of London TAVRA the TAC is being thoroughly updated under a £1m scheme which will give greatly improved training facilities, new garages and POL point and even a Squash Court to keep the Squadron fighting fit. Later phases of the same project will include a new LAD workshop and a rebuild of the present QM and M Tp accommodation. In the meanwhile, with the builders fully in command, with holes in walls substituting for doors, the heating off (to be joined by the roof any day now) 83 Sqn's Permanent Staff are bearing the strain with traditional 'flexible response'. In the office, **Capt Tony Daly** says it's business as usual but wistfully looks forward to his coming retirement to the Lake District. Civilian Clerk, **Mrs Sally Bentley** grabbed her files and decamped to RHQ and PSI **SSgt 'Taff' Flaherty** promptly nominated himself for leave/*Lionheart*/Education Courses/Regimental Cadre (in fact anything going short of the Falklands OC HQ). Steadfastly still grinning and bearing it is the new Squadron Stores (formerly the .22 Range) NRPS **SSgt Roy Smith** who is grateful for the running water laid on but wonders if it could perhaps come out of a tap rather than out of the ceiling. Will the roof really come off? Has the present building really got no foundations? Will Sqn OC **Maj Paul Whittle** go mad or keep his sense of humour 'til completion next year? All will be revealed in our next report from 'A Bomb-site like Southfields'.

**EXERCISE *CELTIC CHALLENGE***

From our 'Highland Correspondent' **Lt Ian Webber**

The last week of August saw 20 soldiers make their way to the foothills of the Cairngorms for six days adventure training. A few of the party had been to the Guards House at Folda before but to the majority it was a new and exciting experience. **WO2 George Collins** and **Cpl Billy Young** led a small recce party down to the local (four miles away) hotel where old acquaintances were renewed and the pattern for almost every subsequent free evening was set.

The training started with everyone 'sitting' a Swimming Test in a rather cool local loch and then being taught the various capsize and rescue drills. **Sgt Derek Cattrall** was heard to say how easy it all was, a good thing, as he was the only person to capsize for real on a subsequent day's river trip. After a vigorous rub down to restore circulation to chilly limbs (thanks be to the buddy-buddy system and mixed Regiments!) the day progressed with a 'tale' over Mount Blair, just to get people into the swing of a strenuous activity—which continued at the ceilidh hut in the hotel, conveniently at the end of the walk.

Somehow the permutations worked and during the next five days everyone cycled, canoed, abseiled, windsurfed, grass ski'd, walked, pony treked and sailed. The Training Majors' directive that everyone should be tired out at the end of the day was certainly obeyed.

The cooking rota worked well and an interesting selection of dishes were created (and more to the point, consumed) under the expert guidance of **Pte Ian Jeeves**.

The group celebrated the last night with Scottish fare, haggis, venison, neeps and tatties. Instructors and locals drifted into the party (they had obviously heard about the free bar) and as whisky flowed, the past week's experiences were relived—**Pte Diane Evans** giving Hassish (a pony, not a local shepherd) such a run for his money, **Sig Dean Jeeves'** range of hats and demonic grass skiing, **Pte 'Gaz' Jones'** amazing wardrobe and of course **Cpl Jo Heathcote** 'going for it' all over the place, whatever 'it' is or was.

The week ended as enthusiastically as it had begun with 20 people attempting an eightsome reel. Roll on Ex *Celtic Challenge II* next year!

Pte Ian Jeeves learns the rudiments of windsurfing on Ex *Celtic Challenge*

## 32 Sig Regt (V)
## Glasgow

**EXERCISE *MAD HATTER***

The Regiment assembled at Cultybraggan Camp over the weekend of 26/27 August in order to practise and test all stages of establishing, maintaining communications, and passing a certain amount of traffic (The author is assured that this is a rare feat on a D11 exercise over a weekend). There was however one slight hitch, it was approaching the end of the long dry spell and the 'water table' in the camp was lower than the length of the earth spikes, hence a major earthing problem. Never fear, the technicians (in white shining armour) led by TOT **Capt Dave Watt** rescued the situation, with typical technical panache and saved the day.

Another major event over the weekend was the presentation of the Territorial Efficiency medal to **Sgt Joyce Logan** and the presentation of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate to **Sgt Colin Lloyd** and **Cpl Alan Smythe**. These were presented by the Honorary Colonel **Lt Col D. J. MacIntyre** who was visiting the Regiment.

The Trg Maj, Maj Pat MacCulloch points the finger at the Hon Col Lt Col Duncan MacIntyre with the CO, Lt Col Howard Culley acting as umpire

Lucky recipients are *L-R:* Sgt Colin Lloyd (Lord Lieutenant's Cert), Sgt Joyce Logan (TEM), Cpl Alan Smythe (Lord Lieutenant's Cert)

**ANNUAL CAMP**

The major feature in September's diary was that of annual camp. This was split into a week's communications exercise (Ex *Shoes IX*) followed by a military training weekend at Altcar. Ex *Red Shoes IX* was a Commander 2 Signal Brigade Exercise and the Regiment deployed from their peace time locations around the North of England but essentially 61 Sqn in Whitburn (Nr Sunderland), 51 Sqn at Halton Camp (Nr Lancaster) with 52 Sqn at RAF Woodvale and HQ Sqn at Altcar. The 'infamous' 69 Sqn were used as enemy against the whole Brigade and had what has been described as 'an interesting time'.

The highlight of the first week was the visit of the SOinC , when Allah smiled on us and, all our circuits dropped in miraculously, when he arrived. We thought all our sweat, blood and tears were to be finally rewarded but coincidentally they 'fell out' again, just after his departure. The SOinC visited Gateway 3 (52 Sqn) and Scottish Central troop.

**THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL**

During the annual Edinburgh Festival the ancient Pagan right of a procession can be seen. Following tradition 61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron entered a float (for want of a better word).

61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn float during the Edinburgh Festival procession. Those facing the camera are *L-R:* Pte Pat Mutch, Sig Keith Marshall, Ptes Lorraine McIntyre, Leslie Kimber, Sig Kevin Brown

**FOCUS ON 52 (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj (Wef 1 Oct) Alan Lapsley** |
| **PSAO** | **Capt Nich Nicholson** |
| **Ops/Trg Offr** | **Capt Alasdair MacGillivray** |
| **OC Rx Tp** | **Lt Denise Pickles** |
| **2IC** | **Lt Fiona Farquharson** |
| **OC Mould Tp** | **Lt David Harvey** |
| **OC Power/Line Tp** | **Lt Anne Sweeney** |
| **OC Tx Tp** | **2Lt Cameron Donald** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 John McCall** |
| **PSI** | **SSgt Paul Salloway** |

Congratulations to the OC **Maj Alan Lapsley**, not only on his majority but also on becoming a father for the first time.

The first field training weekend under the new training officer, **Capt Alasdair MacGillivray** was held near Stranraer and was run along the lines of an initiative and survival weekend. Notable amongst the training was **Sgt Fiona Smith** and her team who were awarded 'Cordon bleu' for the cooking of a rabbit. Fun was also to be had in the rafting competition which showed various techniques taken from the Book 'Course Sailing'.

Photographs showing the SOinC's visit to 52 Sqn (Gateway 3) on Ex *Red Shoes IX* are hot off the press and can be seen below:

The SOinC listens intently to Sgt Keith Anderson

The SOinC shares a joke with Capt Liz Campbell (second from right), 2Lt Fiona Farquharson and the CO

Inside the Gateway the SOinC admires the skill of LCpl Bill McIntyre whilst the CO and Maj Jimmy Rhynas look on

The Squadron worked very hard over the whole fortnight of annual camp and were rewarded by being voted the best Squadron at camp. This was despite the fact that the regular Squadron Commander, **Maj Alan Lapsley** was absent, awaiting the birth of his son.

## 34 Sig Regt (V)
## Middlesbrough

**FOCUS ON TM (ODD JOB) TROOP**

Readers will have noted our theme in the last few issues of featuring reports from our Squadrons. Well not a Squadron this time but a Troop. So this month we feature TM Troop and here they are:

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC Troop** | **Capt (TOT) Ron Williams** |
| | **SSgt (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** |
| **TE Tech** | **Sgt Steve Wilks** |
| **TE Tech** | **Sgt Tony Hindle** |
| **RR Tech** | **Sgt Derick Thurley** |
| **RR Tech** | **Cpl 'Mac' McConaghy** |
| **Tele Mech** | **Sig 'Jiffy' Lemon** |
| **Civilian Technician** | **Mr Brian Mein** |

*L—R:* Sgt Steve Wilks, FofS Ron Kirkwood, Sgt Derick Thurley, Sig 'Jiffy' Lemon, Cpl 'Mac' McConaghy, Sgt Tony Hindle

Although the Regiment has Squadrons and Troops liberally scattered throughout the North East, TM Troop is based in Middlesbrough. As a result of this dispersal the CO has christened us his 'Red Adair' team. We are not sure why we have been christened the 'Red Adair' team, whether it is because we get no sleep on exercise due to the fact that we fill in for the shortage of TA techs or during normal working hours we are always swanning (working) at the outstations!

As well as our normal tech duties we are also called upon for Public Relations exercises which include setting up public address systems for the many and increasing amount of 'fun runs' and for Recruiting purposes. **Steve Wilks** being the troop gladiator enters for most of the fun runs in this area. **Tony Hindle** on one particular recruiting event was looking forward to meeting the well known **David Bellamy** only to find on the day that **Mr Bellamy** was in China, however **Mrs Bellamy** was there and **Tony** nearly got her autograph!

As the troop accounts for almost 50% of the regulars in Middlesbrough the RSM makes frequent (becoming more frequent) calls upon our manpower resources for various non-military tasks from gardening to decorating but the troop, led by our intrepid regular leader, **SSgt (FofS) Ron Kirkwood**, manages to survive. One of these non-military tasks involved decorating a local farmer's barn for a charity ball on behalf of the RSPCC. The RSM and the FofS set off on a recce and on enquiring what facilities were available for our lunch break (hoping for an offer of lunch) our host replied that there were lots of lovely walks in the area! They went to the pub! In the end we were well rewarded for our efforts, as our hostess gave us the free run of her strawberry field.

**Sig 'Jiffy' Lemon**, the Troop's football star, has regularly played this season for the Corps and 8 Sig Regt and last month received the Regimental Colours of 8 Sig Regt.

## SWIFTLY DEPLOYED

This month we feature our annual camp, which covers our deployment to BAOR to take part in Ex *Lionheart/Full Flow*. We left our five TA centres on 15/16 September to start the long journey down the LofC to our destinations in the RCZ. The lucky 165 who swiftly deployed by air from Manchester IA to RAF Wildenrath only had the tedium of waiting for their colleagues on the road/sea party to join with them. The road/sea party were not so lucky, shunted here and shunted there—would this be the real thing? Who said the theme should have been 'Hurry up and wait?'. We all eventually connected, got into our locations and communications were soon established and we were in the thick of Ex *Full Flow*. During this period, we were visited by the Commander Communications BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, our own Brigade Commander, **Brig T. H. Wheawell** and the Commander 4 Sig Gp, **Col M. J. Hales**.

As usual the end came too soon and we started our recovery phase back to the UK. The road party formed up on Egelsberg Heath just outside Krefeld. A truly spectacular sight because the Regiment, with all its equipment and vehicles, were formed up in one area ready to crack the first 180 miles of the return journey to the North East. This gave the CO a rare chance to see his Regiment, Squadron by Squadron in one place and at one time. Yes, a rare sight indeed, considering that the peace time spread of our unit is from Humberside to Tyneside. Who said 'that blasted Heath?'.

Visit of Comd Comms BAOR
Maj Gen Yeoman discusses a point with LCpl Neil Goodman and Sig Ian Godward whilst visiting Commcen Oscar

Well we thought the best way of writing our report featuring Ex *Lionheart* was for the Squadrons to say it for themselves, so here goes:

HQ Sqn
Yes, we were on Ex *Lionheart*! The OC, Maj David Kerr holding one of his ad hoc 'O' Groups. WO2 Ron Fairhurst (Regular RQMS), WO2 Colin Dadson (TA RQMS) and WO2 Dave Sparks (TA MTWO) in attendance

### 49 SQUADRON

Commcen **Mike** finally moved into location on Monday morning and comms were quickly established. All responded well despite suffering exhaustion from the long road and sea journey. Defensive positions were sited and manned by shift personnel under the leadership of **SSgt Alan 'Knick Knack' Vance**. Whilst the site was never visited by the 'enemy without', the 'enemy within', led by **Lt Jonathan 'Trip Flare' Tomlinson** quickly had the 'stand to' system fully tested. If **SSgt Vance** is to be believed, the site suffered from a plague of rabbits deliberately seeking out every trip wire laid.

A recent addition to the Squadron, **OCdt Reg 'Woopert' Cordingley** was completely on edge throughout the exercise having previously been told of the existence of Orange Forces.

In compiling this contribution your correspondent from Leeds interviewed many members of the Squadron and has selected the following two amusing little stories about some of the incidents on Ex *Lionheart*.

A servicewoman, **Pte Jane Marshall**, very tired and wandering around the woods in desperation as she tried to find her accommodation in the pitch dark, found herself, after three hours, at a RR det. 'Don't let go of me, take me back', she cried. 'Go forth and reproduce'—or words to that effect replied an equally tired and overworked **Cpl Tommy Simpson**.

Our **'Woopert'** was lost in the woods during the hours of darkness. Wandering around he came across a tent, 'this must be mine' says he, 'I'll get my head down now'. 'Get out of my tent **Cordingley**' shouted a voice in the gloom. 'Oh sorry Sir, I didn't realise it was your tent' muttered **'Woopert'** as he left the OC's tent to find his own. A short time later our hero found himself another tent (he thought) 'This must be mine' says he 'Now for a good kip, where's my sleeping bag?' **'Cordingley'** said the voice from the darkness 'I have told you before this is not your tent now go away' (the language was actually stronger). 'Oh sorry Sir' said **'Woopert'**, 'I am going straight away'—rustle, rustle CRUNCH!—silence. 'Oh sorry Sir, I think I have just stepped on your spectacles'. **'Cordingley**, you, you *@!! and don't come back!'

### 50 SQUADRON

The Darlington based 50 Sqn deployed over a large area in the RCZ ranging from Iserlohn (just behind the Corps rear boundary) to the border land in the Aachen area. **LCpls Ken Robson** and **Paul Smethurst** are the commanders of these far flung elements of the Squadron. Our main concentration though on Ex *Lionheart* was, as ever, in the general area of the Neiderhein. Well we say above that we deploy to a large area and it is tempting to relate how many and where but we must respect security here.

Of course, we have many an amusing tale to relate and one that springs to mind is the day the OC, **Maj Charles Bland** got himself trapped in a barracks in Dusseldorf just as the occupants were crashing out. Where should the OC's driver park his LR? Yes, right next to an exercise bomb. That little exercise kept the OC firmly grounded and the much mobile Sunray 50 was conspicuous by his absence for several hours. This gave **Capt Ted Ault**, 2IC 50 Sqn his chance of glory. What a wheeze, he thought, I'll start a rumour that the OC has been umpired out of the exercise, then I will take command. Rumour duly started, sit back and wait. Yes, it happened! the CO passed command to **Capt Ault**. Guess what?, the OC did not go visiting much more during that particular phase of our exercise.

To the outside we must have appeared a peculiar signals sub unit with some of our members wearing a rarely seen cap badge in the RCZ. Just before we deployed we found ourselves short of drivers and

'Is it the Orange Forces Sir?' 'No, not this time son, there's a little blue Volkswagen on the edge of that wood over there'. 'Oh yes, I can see Sir, what energetic people these Germans are!'





put the word around for volunteers. After a short time we found ourselves with six troopers from The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, so our thanks to the following: **LCpls Billy Cocker, Andrew Rowlands, Tprs Terry Warburton, Paul Lane, Paul Mia** and **Gerry Pike**; we hope you enjoyed your stay with the Squadron.

### 90 SQUADRON

90 Sqn's task in BAOR is to provide Commcen Oscar and one LMC, in this respect *Lionheart* presented nothing new and an air of confidence accompanied the preparations for Annual Camp. No one expected an easy time but at least the job was familiar and locations already well known. We had reckoned, of course, without the incumberance of thousands of other soldiers in Germany at the same time. Therefore the smooth arrival of previous years was not to be. Someone notionally blew the Rhine bridges, as a result, the road party became trapped in Leuth, leaving the air element stranded in locations feeling alone, unwanted and somewhat cut-off from the outside world, for one and a half days. During this time their expertise in patrolling was sharpened under the guidance of our resident warlike types, **2Lt John Lambton** and **OCdt Dave Robson** (Liverpool UOTC).

In the meantime the frustrations at Leuth did little to improve the mood of the road party, and during the course of the night the Squadron OC found his name had changed from **Maj Peter Arkless** to 'OK Pal, move'. For the remainder of camp a simple bang on his landrover door accompanied by those few words would produce a mountain of expletives, not usually associated with his rank.

Road and Air Parties were at last united on Monday morning, and the job of communicating with the added complications of defence, NBC and patrolling began in earnest. When all seemed to be going well disaster struck, *Edward Nichols*, a life-long teddy bear friend of our NRPS **SQMS SSgt Ray Georgeson (WO2 Georgeson** a recently retired regular from 2 Div) disappeared without trace. No one could escape his rage and all were under suspicion, reward notices were quickly posted but failed to draw information. Reports of a snatch squad of Action Men seen struggling with a furry animal were dismissed as a hoax, and the mystery deepened when a postcard written in *Edward*'s paw arrived from Bonn. **SSgt Georgeson** remained inconsolable until, after eight days, *Edward Nichols* reappeared complete with red beret and wings, he had been on a para course and simply forgot to tell his dad.

**LCpl Wendy Smith** is unlikely to forget the arrival of umpires at Oscar. The detonation of a thunderflash signalled the declaration of a casualty and she was spirited away via the Regiment's MRS in Krefeld. She reappeared four days later having seen nine hospitals, experienced flight in a Hercules and narrowly escaped complete evacuation to UK. Her absence deprived the Squadron of her culinary delights for which the umpires have much to answer—next time please take the SSM!

As Commcen Oscar headed the record in standing to for trip flares triggered by ghosts, Juliet Troop, based at Viersen, was finding life not too comfortable. Tasked with manning the static commcen during silent hours as well as their own mobile message centre, rest was at a premium and disturbed by sustained periods of NBC Black. Traffic in the regular Commcen increased by a phenominal 1,500% and five DTGs under the command of **LCpl Hughie Mulligan** remained behind to maintain the flow when the Troop moved into the field. Some light relief was provided by **SSgt Louis 'Smudge' Smith** when a practical joke misfired, he succeeded in having a whole shift out on a bath run from Oscar thrown into the Guard Room by the defending force at Viersen and, adding insult to injury, found himself under arrest as well. It took some fast talking from the Troop OC, **2Lt Ian Hall**, to obtain their release. For their pains, Juliet Troop were presented with an engraving of old Viersen by their hosts.

The LAD
Egelsberg Heath 1984
OK 34 Regt, get your convoy back to the UK. We'll be right behind you!



## 36 Sig Regt (V)
## Wanstead

### THE RUN UP

Ex *Blue Smoke* was the Squadron's final exercise before Ex *Lionheart*. This piece of frolic and fun was devised by our Squadron Commander, **Maj Douglas McLay**, and took place on Stanford PTA. The exercise started with the Squadron being marshalled into location by **Lt Colin Dyball** at Zeebrugge, before **Capt Roger Buston** temporarily took command of the Squadron—led the convoy up the M25 MSR to Venlo. Here PSI, **Sgt Ellie Symonds WRAC**, sent them on the way to Leuth where an anxious SSM, **WO2 Pete Minshall**, awaited assembly. After a welcome meal, courtesy of the RAF, it was off to battle. **Cpl Cyril Clark**, could hardly believe his luck; a meal without having to peel spuds, and our own cooks. **Cpl John Maloney** and **LCpl Peter Ellison**, pronounced the meal well up to standard and all the better for not having had to cook it themselves!

Once on the training area the fun really started. Everyone was gassed, bounced, moved during the 24 hours. **Sgt Ken Blackman** and **LCpl John Hoffman** 'bagged' a fine band of RAF Cranwell cadets, who had tried to tangle with Commcen India. However, London District Specialist Training Team enemy led by **Capt Dave Burton**, were more than equal to us. The hot weather made 'noddy' suits all the more comfortable, whilst **Lt Val Jepson** and 751 Troop were delighted to wear their facial saunas in the afternoon sun. **Sgt Ross Bannister** laid on some special defences with the help of 'Soviet SAS'. Unfortunately, the enemy arrived too late to fall foul of the fighting 751 Troop, who had already moved out.

By the early hours of Sunday morning all circuits were in green, despite the ravages of chemical and terrorist attacks, **SSgt Mick O'Brien**'s 752 Troop managing despite their own techs absence. **Cpls Kevin Groves, Brenda Squires** and **Pte 'Doughnut' Imrie**, stood in until **LCpl Trevor Saint** arrived from India, to solve the remaining problems.

As the exercise came to a close the DS led by former Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Willie Allan**, ably assisted by **2Lt Dave Goldsmith** from 54 Squadron (V), began ticking off the serials. Both LMC Troops and the terminal manned by **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** and **LCpl Bob Smith**, were positioned to view a nuclear attack. Unfortunately the SSM had a very sophisticated '£5' banger which turned out to be of a damp squid. **WO2 Pete Minshall** swears he let it off, but for a nuclear bomb it was mighty quiet.

After this, it was back to TA Centres after a debrief. There were, of course, lots of unanswered questions. Did **Pte Debbie Yorke** ever find her kettle? Did **Pte Kim Fayers** ever stop eating? and could her father, **SSgt (YoS) John Fayers** recover in time for Camp? Finally, does **LCpl Pete Stockwell** answer to 'Rover' as well as come when he is whistled?

Lt Col Willie Allan at the helm

LCpl Peter Stockwell takes a break at Ex HQ whilst 2Lt David Gouldsmith makes him a 'cuppa'

Pte Helen Sparkes blinks through the early morning light as she sorts out the cam for Commcen India

**TROOP TRAINING WEEKEND**

A rare opportunity was given for Troop Commanders to do their own thing in July. 751 Troop had one of their infamous rallies which was run by last year's winners. **LCpl Martin Jones** and **Sig Harry Dodds**. And despite the temptations to avoid nepotism, it was won by **Sig John Dodds, LCpl Davie Walsh** and **Sig Steve Lazell**. The event was a huge success despite **Lt Val Jepson**'s fears about the rations and **Sgt Ross Bannister** being unable to remember any tunes for the pop quiz.

The Ilford Troops combined to have a map reading day in Merrworth woods. **2Lt Paul Hill** did not lose any of his soldiers, thanks to good instruction by **Sgt Mick O'Brien**. This was the second trip in as many weeks to Merrworth wood for **Pte Julie Bullimore** who is joining us from 38 Sig Regt in Nottingham.

Meantime 819 Troop were getting out near Lowestoft. This was an ambitious exercise run by **Sgt Phil Hunt** which proved a great success. After the marching, Batco, death slides and other activities, the 'Black Adders' assembled on the beach to be joined by their Troop Commander, **Lt Chris Whitworth**, who arrived in time to eye up the girls on the beach. Whilst all this was going on, **Sig Michael Hampton, David Platten** and **Tim McEwan**, sunned themselves under the guidance of **Cpl Geoff Inns.**

Whilst some members of the Squadron enjoyed themselves with their Troops, 750 Troop were providing the backbone of the Regimental trade training system at Ilford. The troop provided commcen India, which was wired up during the week by PSI, **Sgt Dave Cherry**, with some help on his day off from **SSgt George Green**. During the weekend itself, **SSgt (YoS) John Fayers** ran a very good Data Training exercise, helped by **Sgt Elaine Thomson** and **Cpls Mary Evans** and **Linda May**, all from 750 Troop. Students from the Squadron included, **Pte Lisa McMillan, Sig Lee Palmer, Sig Andrew Guest** and **Pte Sally Neaser.**

**COLCHESTER TATTOO**

As usual the Squadron provided TA representatives for the Colchester Tattoo's side shows. However, this year we were the only Corps representatives too. The stand was masterminded by **WO1 Larry Gray** from RHQ, who got the act together. During the week's display, many members of the Squadron took time off work or paraded in the evenings to man the stand. Among those now fed up with the strains of 'One of Us' are **Sgt Mary Evans, Cpl John Maloney, LCpl Pete Stockwell, LCpl Marcia Wong, Sig Neil Read, Dave Green,** and **Pete Peter Sharp.** Also, in between balloon rides, **Ptes Rosie Head, Lisa McMillan, Susan Bean, Liz Bartley** and **Helen Sparkes**.

**ABOUT SQUADRON PERSONALITIES**

Firstly, we welcome to the Squadron our new NRPS SQMS, **Ron Russell,** who has just joined us from 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn. Don't despair yet **Ron**, the first 10 years are the worst!

Congratulations are in order for **Pte Peter Sharp ACC**, for being best recruit on his recruits course at 11 Sig Regt and to **Sgt Mary Evans** on her promotion.

Finally, we are happy to report that the last bastion of male chauvenism at Commcen India has fallen. **Pte Sherralyn Beton** has joined the technical crew as a TE Technician. The VF8 will never be the same again said **SSgt George Green.**

**54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)**
**EXERCISE *ALMOST RALEIGH* 21/22 JULY 1984**

This exercise was designed to test those members of the Squadron not involved in Regimental Trade and Military Training in a number of military skills. As the name suggests (possibly) the exercise had to do with driving and aquatic skills in addition to more conventional aspects of training.

Chief Architect of the exercise was the aptly named **Cpl Dave** ('I'm just about to put my hat on, Sergeant Major') **Berry REME**, attached to the Squadron from the Regimental LAD. Five teams competed, each team comprising four members—at least, they did when they left Cambridge. 707/755 Tp team, commanded by **Sig Richard Hall**, decided early that his team was too large and, imaginatively, sent his back-up vehicle to a Grid Reference on a map not in the possession of the vehicle crew. The adventures of the back-up vehicle (shortly to be a major motion picture) were too many to itemise. Suffice it to say that intrepid duo **Sig Adrian King** and **Pte Sara Lucking** finally returned to the fold towards the end of the exercise. Anyone wishing to know which UK based Infantry Division forces its prisoners to drive FOX armoured vehicles should apply to Norwich TAC.

The exercise started with the removal (or not) of booby traps from a vehicle conveniently found by 39 Eng Regt RE at Waterbeach. 706 Tp Team managed to 'explode' both the team leader, **OCdt David Fearon** and the Troop OC, **2Lt Julia Black**, before completion of the event and then went on to win the competition, whilst rest of the Squadron were left pondering the moral of this.

Most teams reached the second objective, a place suitable for section type attacks, where they were promptly fired on by an enemy sniper. Despite heavy loss, the sniper AKA **Pte Anne Stag** was successfully neutralised by four of the competing teams.

Thence to the vehicle assault course where efforts were made to destroy both life and landrover under the watchful eye of **Sgt Barry James**. The team provided by the Regimental LAD. **Cfn Mick Ellis** and **Mark Gibson** confused the DS by arriving at the wrong end of the course and effectively completing the course on their way to the start position.

Pausing only for a fiendish first aid test involving elaborately made up victims and starring **Cpl Bob** ('What's up Doc') **Leach RAMC**, competitors hastened to a gourmet meal-for-one event in which **SSgt Tony Hindle**'s tast-buds were suitably titillated. Meanwhile back-up teams competed in a hunt-the-jerry-can competition (**2Lt Wesley Blewitt** and **SSgt Malcolm Freeman**, proprietors); whilst **Sig John Hawkins** took the opportunity to demonstrate the correct method of dealing with forty amorous cows. Teams then met to refuel before proceeding to a bivouac erection competition, a buffet dinner and bed.

The next morning began with the Squadron's own version of water polo, a sort of aquatic murder ball, which **WO2 (SSM) Dave Watson** introduced after a short period of drill, in which—you guessed it—the Squadron was properly 'fell-in'.

The final event was an inter-squadron football competition. Whilst it is not known precisely who won, it is now common knowledge that the loser was the referee **LCpl Paul Taylor** whose accurate reffing (?) and scrupulous fairness was basely rewarded by the removal of certain articles of clothing, later recovered from the top of a passing rugger post.

The Squadron safely returned to its three TA Centres without any injury to person or property—in the circumstances perhaps the most wonderous event of all.





**LYKE WAKE WALK 1984**

For seven years the Regimental Lyke Wake Walk Competition for the Pedley Trophy has been a very important event in our regimental calendar. Squadrons compete for the prize for the fastest team over this arduous 43 mile slog over the North Yorkshire hills. **Officer Cadet Mark Conlen** narrates the following account:

Once again the more energetic members of the Regiment, joined as usual by our civilian friends in British Steel and other areas, set off on the Lyke Wake Walk in the early hours of a dark damp Saturday morning. The sight of a multitude of bobbing torches across the North Yorkshire moors provided a sharp and surrealist contrast to the bright lights of Middlesborough in the far distance. At the breakfast stop our team of medics provided as much relief as the hot food and, after the statutory ½ hours rest, the teams 'bounded' on.

Competition between the squadrons to win the Pedley Trophy was extremely fierce from the start. 46 Sqn's 'A' team had vowed to stop 64 Sqn from winning the trophy for the fifth year running After a good start the 'B' team of 64 Squadron decided that the original walk wasn't long enough for them and they opted for a 'pretty route' 10 mile detour. This left the flag firmly in the hands of 64 Sqn's 'A' team to contest the challenge from 46 and the other squadrons. Again the Sheffield 'steelhearts' rose to the occasion, winning the inter-squadron competition with a very creditable walking time of 10 hours 22 minutes. The trophy hardly needed to move from its position on 64 Sqn's mantelpiece.

Congratulations to all those who finished and thanks to the administration party, particularly **WO1 Dave Warburton** and, our old comrade now with Royal Signals ACF, **Lt Derick Sivell.** The crowning anaesthetic for all the competitors was absolutely marvellous, thanks to 'John Smiths'.

The CO, Lt Col Nick Henwood, holds the British Steel Trophy, presented by our friends, at the Lyke Wake Walk presentations

87 Squadron's Lyke Wake Walk team at the mid-walk point 1000 hrs Saturday 25 July

64 Squadron's C team ready to go at 0145 hrs on Saturday 25 July in the Pedley Lyke Wake Walk Competition (led by Lt Cathy Holland)

**ANNUAL CAMP FIRST REPORT FROM 64 (SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

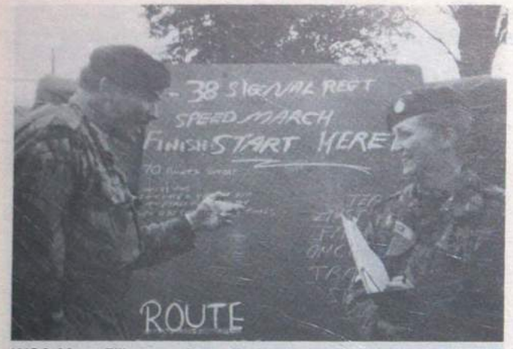
Annual Camp, 1984 for 64 (Sheffield) Sig Sqn was nothing if not eventful. Such incidents as a very sick and lame K9, a troop commander who was chased, rescued, then finally kidnapped, an imaginary whistle-stop tour of NATO, impenetratable defences, good communications and finally winning the Hawksworth Tickle Test Trophy all spring to mind.

The move out of barracks saw all squadron elements, save for Delta Troop, following the same route with the LAD bringing up the rear. 10 minutes later Delta Troop reported the breakdown of their ancient K9 D11 vehicle in the middle of Sheffield's Broomhill area—who was it who said Sheffield was anti-military?—the natives of the capital of the 'People's Republic' came out to the stranded troops with tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits, soup, and other items of 'snap'. Det Commander **Sgt Mickey Rooney** was somewhat red faced when the LAD finally towed the clutch-less but so important communications vehicle to its exercise location.

Since the Squadron was not invited to participate in Ex *Lionheart*, because of our essential home duties, our intrepid NRPS SQMS **SSgt Dave Burton** gave us a taste of continental life by providing Italian, French and German cuisine days. He got mixed reactions to such breakfast delights as croissants or cold meats and cheese, but certainly those at the main squadron location had no cause to complain that the food was boring! Speaking of food, mention must be made of our newest officer, **2Lt Ann Deakin**, who was given the 'Kipling Award' for the provision of exceedingly good cakes!

With a 'live' enemy likely to strike at any moment Defence loomed very large in our priorities. The tale has been told and embellished many times of **Lt Cathy Holland**'s contretemps with the enemy forces.

The CO, Lt Col Nick Henwood, also tests the abseiling and Lt Cathy Holland!




WO2 Moss Elliott emphatically briefs Cpl Sue Bullock at the Ex *Team Mate* control point for the speed march

Cpl Chris Bull (who later won the best WRAC award in the military Ex *Team Mate* competition) and WO2 Jessie Provan exercise their communication skills in 87 Squadron's comms-complex

Lt Cathy Holland (again!) and her team from 64 Squadron during the Ex *Team Mate* competition

The start of the WRAC Tickle Test, observed keenly by Capt David Shakespeare, AO 87 Sqn. Sgt Bev Swift, Cpl Dawn Booth and LCpl 'Woody' Woods, of 87 Sqn, are in the forefront

Out on an 'off duty' run in preparation for the Tickle Test (of which more anon) she was seen, chased and caught by the enemy. A gallant local resident, a retired colonel no less, came to the rescue of this slight tracksuited young girl in the hands of some oddly clad military persons—**Cathy**, seeing a potential chance of escape, did not hasten to disillusion her rescuer. Sadly the enemy liaison officer, our own **WO1 Dave Warburton**, came to the aid of the, now frightened and apprehensive, enemy by blowing her cover. The surprised retired Colonel took it in good humour, although he muttered something about lady soldiers!

**2Lt Paul Wenlock**'s troop managed to capture all the infiltrating enemy at their location and were very thorough in their search procedures (perhaps, though, if they had searched one of the enemy's wallet a little more thoroughly in the first place, they wouldn't have felt obliged to strip him to the limits of decency before he confessed!)

The enemy never did find **Capt Rick Ludlow**'s troop and SHQ after the first night. Sorry 53 Sqn, but you were just too near the accommodation area so they always got you first. (However 53 Sqn unconsciously got their own back when the 2IC, **Lt Col Toby Seymour**, visited us. He got through their lines coming in, but on the way out in the dark he was challenged with 37 Sig Regt's password—which, of course, he was not party to—and a small band of fierce and very determined 53 Sqn WRAC refused to believe his protestations of innocence and 'allyship' and restrained him, hands on head, for 30 minutes or so until we vouched for his identity!).

Our friendly lower controls, in the guise of our old comrade **Lt Col Roger Merryweather, Capt Alex Jenkinson** from 8 Sig Regt and **Maj John Grover** from the Yeomanry, inserted lots of incidents into the exercise to keep us on our toes.

And with all the goings on, what of communications? We are proud to report an overall squadron percentage of circuit availability of 70%. We were also very pleased that several members of the squadron completed sections of their trade tests.

2Lt Helen Roy, 2IC Transmitter Troop, calmly contemplates the next episode in the frantic order of events during Ex *Red Shoes*



The highlight of the second week of camp for 64 Sqn was winning the Hawksworth Tickle Test Trophy for having the highest percentage of those at Annual Camp passing the Tickle Test three mile (two for WRAC) run (88%). Our efforts at Ex *Team Mate* were creditable but did not win us any prizes. Dare we quote **LCpl Geoff Cheney**'s remark to the effect that if we can't fight at least we can run!

**NAUTICAL REPORT FROM 87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON**

The weekend of 10/11 August saw members of Receive Troop travelling to the Rother Valley Country Park near Sheffield for a weekend on water—sailing GP14 dinghies. Led by **Capt Colin Slaughter** (now OC HQ Sqn) the party arrived on the Saturday morning to find very little wind on the lake and glorious, glorious sunshine—of which the swimsuit clad girls were quick to take advantage.

Sailing instruction was provided by three members of the South Yorkshire Police and **SSgt Harry Lomas** of 64 Sqn.

Sunday dawned clear and another hot day was in store. Wind conditions improved and the sailing became all the more interesting. **2Lt Chris Jenkins** WRAC tried a quick strip in a Topper dinghy and declared it definitely was not for her—a view expressed in no mean terms.

**LCpl Terry (TC) Jno-Baptiste** was baptised by being tipped into the lake—incidently the only member of the party to get wet. (The girls later said this was to cool her off (from what?). **Pte Danuta Kobierzycka** has decided she wants to become a policewoman, after some smooth talking by the SYP.

The weekend was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks go to **Chief Inspector Andy Young, Detective Constables Ken Childs** and **Keith Stone**, of South Yorkshire Police for their expert tuition.

The sailing members of Receive Troop, 87 Squadron, at Rother Valley
*Back Row L-R:* Capt Colin Slaughter, 2Lt Chris Jenkins, LCpls Alex Jackowska, TeeCee Jno-Baptiste, Sgts Bev Swift, Liz Cubitt
*Front Row L-R:* Ptes Danuta Kobierzycka, Vicky Walker, Julie Walker, Emma Crogan and Tina Wardle

**REGIMENTAL POSTSCRIPT**

So many interesting and challenging things were inserted into our regimental programme for Annual Camp and we ask our readers to bear with further instalments at our next report (we promise not to mention **Lt Cathy Holland** in that account!).

**King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers**

SISTER AGNES'S

Beaumont House,
Beaumont Street, London W.1.

*Patron: Her Majesty the Queen*

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, affectionately known as Sister Agnes's, provides the best medical and surgical facilities at the lowest possible cost to officers of all three services (including women officers) serving or retired, who have held a permanent or temporary commission in the Armed Forces. This facility also extends to officers' wives, widows and dependent children of not less than 4 years of age.

The hospital has both private rooms and small wards, and well-equipped X-Ray and Physiotherapy Departments. Medical check-ups can be arranged at a moderate price.

**Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the shared rooms. Former officers and their dependants are charged £315 per week for a private room.** The charge for other patients is £715. If, however, a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his/her maintenance (now over £720 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.

**Subject to age BUPA gives friends of the Hospital a 15% reduction on their BUPACARE subscriptions, and PPP and Western Provident a 25% reduction on their Family Masterplan and Supercover policies respectively, if payment is made by direct debit.**

The hospital is currently handling over 2200 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 demand for beds increases.

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.

# 71 Sig Regt (V)
## Bromley

**68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry)**
**Sig Sqn (V)**

**94 (Berkshire Yeomanry)**
**Sig Sqn (V)**

**70 (Essex Yeomanry)**
**Sig Sqn (V)**

**265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry)**
**Sig Sqn (V)**

**SUMMER UPDATE**

'Distance makes the heart grow fonder' is a phrase well used in TA circles and leads us into a quick review of Regimental events of the last few months. April saw the Inns of Court and Sharpshooter Squadrons parading their footballing talents in the London District six-a-side at Woolwich and the shooting team holding their annual dinner. The culmination of the month was the final 'winter' training weekend held at Crowborough Camp, Sussex, where the Regimental trade boards resulted in some very good results which are a tribute to the hard work of the students and the instructors throughout the preceding months.

May arrived with a Regimental communications exercise—Ex *Fourth Phoenix*, run in conjunction with SE District's Ex *Sea Spray*. It gave us the opportunity to put into practice our new found skills and the high standards achieved put us in good spirit for the 2 Sig Bde exercise in June—Ex *Crested Lark*. The soldiers once again put in a great deal of hard work and reaped the rewards with a level of communications which no one could remember ever seeing before, with some circuits being in traffic for nearly 100% of the exercise.

In June the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a successful summer ball in Brighton and in July a further recruit selection weekend was held and potential volunteers showed plenty of effort and enthusiasm. We will be welcoming the majority of those who attended to the Regiment, in due course.

**ANNUAL CAMP 1984**

Rumours emanating from RHQ in the build up to camp led us to believe that we were in for an 'entertaining but hard' two weeks. The first week was to be our involvement in the Home Defence exercise *Red Shoes IX*—practising mobilisation procedures followed by six days of communications from diverse locations around Southern and Eastern England and Wales. The second week—Regional training in the Stanford training area with the emphasis on military skills and testing command and control. We were not disappointed. Mobilising early on Saturday, we deployed on Saturday afternoon to our locations. Order of the day was pack-a-mac and this was excellent advice. The weather lived up to the RSM's hopes and rained continuously for the duration of the first week, although RCP was advised on several occasions of UFO sitings in the sky—a dull, round orange object not unlike the sun. These sitings were not made public at the time in case they threw us into a panic search for combat shorts and t-shirts which everyone had left behind.

Life was made somewhat entertaining by the 'dramatic' performances of our 'live' enemy whose brief was infiltration of the sites either as military or civilian personnel. On a vote afterwards the civilian activities were the best with marks being awarded for appearance—usually very scruffy having crawled through several miles of wood to find us (hope they get given a better grid reference next time)—followed up with the most outrageous claims about why they were in our locations miles from civilisation. The end result was a cup of something warm and attempts to find out when they were going to hit us again.

On the business end of *Red Shoes* the Regiment again had some very satisfactory results and at the end of the exercise we were rather hoping the order would be given to continue for the second week. But it never came and so we packed up and dropping most of our communicating vehicles off at TACs converged on Bodney camp near Thetford for a week of who knew what.

Saturday started well as the Regiment moved out to exercise in Gt Yarmouth and Norwich for a well earned day off. However, early Sunday soon shook off any un-military thoughts as we launched into the training programme. Divided up into sections we travelled all over the Stanford training area making use of the ranges, assault course, confidence area, NBC facilities and the extremely wet river where the LAD had great fun watching us build rafts from oil drums which sometimes floated, ropes which had a habit of coming undone, and generally looking to join the Submarine Corp. Compensation was had in the form of the assault craft used for safety vessels and in which we were treated to high speed trips up and down the river after we had served our apprenticeship—falling in the water.

Other activities were first aid, grenade throwing at the hands of the Royal Anglians who, made it all very simple and straight forward especially with their down to earth instructions. Each Squadron also took part in company size manoeuvres including a full scale assault on a position held by some desperate men—the Squadron PSOs. We won despite their protestations to the contrary. The week concluded with a 12Km patrol race round the area, assault course race and the 'Tickle Test' three mile run. Congratulations to the teams that finished first in the competitions, but the spirit of 'never say die' exhibited by the whole Regiment over the duration of camp in everything we attempted augurs well for the future.



**265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SHARPSHOOTERS)**

Operating out of our TACs in Bexleyheath and Brighton, the Squadron is well recruited and has had a very successful summer in training and social activities. New showers at Bexleyheath has led to an outbreak of fitness and sporting pursuits on a Thursday night and bar sales now revolve around orange juice and lemonade.

**TO GERMANY**

To counter the theory that we are now a non alcohol drinking unit, the football team, after another successful winter season, embarked for a long bank holiday weekend in Germany playing football against 3 Sqn, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 6 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt, both in Herford.

Arriving at Dover to catch the 0400 hrs ferry to Calais an impromptu kick about took place on the dock side. Entering the ferry in our four cars we discovered that **Sig Tim Clayton** was no longer with us. He arrived shortly before sailing having given the customs one of his soon to be infamous long stories and to get rid of him they let him through. **Sgt Gary Robinson** and **2Lt Dave Hannam** left the card school to get on with it and went in search of means to survive the crossing intact. They discovered that plenty of fresh air and 'something' warming is the answer and we were on our way.

After a long and fast drive we arrived after lunch in Herford and were met by **SSgt Mick** (give us a speech) **O'Brien,** son-in-law to our PSO **Capt Jim Esson** who had travelled with us and who claimed to be 'in charge'. Settling in we found that we were billetted with the garrison RMPs—a daunting prospect but with our TSI **WO2 Brian Eason** to buffer any trouble we rested easy. Friday night we entertained our hosts to a meal and it was a welcome reunion with our ex-PSI **SSgt Eddie Marsh**. The evening went well with a song (or two) led by **Cpl Brian Colyer** our master of ceremonies. Presentations were made to all our guests and **2Lt Dave Hannam** found out the reason for his presence on the trip—he was to make all the speeches—as his football 'ability' is always a source of constant amazement to us.

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather all pitches were unfit for play, but after a morning shopping, 4 Div sorted out an all weather six-a-side pitch and we played as four teams in a league with the honours even at the end of a very hard but fair day's play. The evening continued at the Sundern clubhouse and was a great success with singing duty alternating between us and the local members of the club. The evening ended with an enormous meal in town and a visit to a disco.

Sunday saw us off to 7 Sig Regt where **Eddie Marsh** had laid on playing facilities in their gym. Again a very enjoyable series of matches where fitness was at a premium as the matches went on. Honours were even here as well, although **Sig Mick Esson** did have a chance for glory when in the dying seconds of the last game he saved a certain goal, then as the cheers echoed around the hall turned and calmly finished the move by scoring a lovely own goal to tie the series.

A splendid lunch in 6 Sqn's bar with their families followed and they presented us with a painting of the town to commemorate our visit. So enjoyable was it that we were only too delighted to take up their offer of returning that evening to continue the proceedings.

Travelling home on the Monday in appalling weather we just made the ferry back to Dover. A highly successful trip which is still being talked about. Many thanks again to our hosts for making it all possible. Special awards were made back home for the most stylish players on the trip. **LCpl Derek Wigglesworth** received the award for best heading and **Sgt Terry Mundy** won the award for the best follow through in the tackle.

**SHARPSHOOTING**

June saw the Squadron on the ranges where the APWTs were fired with good effect and Longmoor resounded to the deadly accurate fire of the Sharpshooters in full cry. In the evening a disco and barbecue was organised with the officers proving that cooking for 100 people over charcoal fires is quite easy when you know how.

Sharpshooters in Full Cry

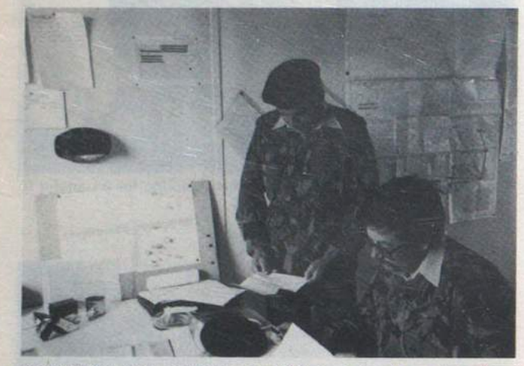
Capt John Barber and 2Lt Richard Allen working for a transfer to the ACC

SSgts Danny Farmer and Terry Bodman eating the OC's lunch

Cpl Cruickshank MK spotting

**NEAR FOLKESTONE**

Ex *Crested Lark* had us deployed near Folkestone. The weather was kind to us and inspired **SSgts Terry Bodman** and **Danny Farmer** to set up their version of field cooking with white table cloth and candelabra plus chilled white wine. The arrival of a Regular Infantry Brigade staff by helicopter was followed by their borrowing PSO **Capt Jim Esson's** chevette as their transport had not arrived. They reciprocated by providing helicopter rides for the whole Squadron around the site. Communications were good and thanks are due to the stay behind party who worked very hard during the week under **WO2 Brian Eason** and **SSgt Roger Smith**, although it is rumoured that they were spotted trying to wind surf on the beach at one point. Try the water next time.



OC Maj Paul Acda explaining to PSO Capt Jim Esson (standing) the secret of our success on Ex *Crested Lark*

SSgt Gordon Holloway in Radcon phoning the BBC to find out the time of the next Wimbledon transmission

**PREPARATION**

Ex *Dry Run* held in Mereworth woods in July was good preparation for the first week of annual camp and again the weather was good—laid on especially by our PSI. What happened to the camp indent for weather?

**THE LAKE DISTRICT**

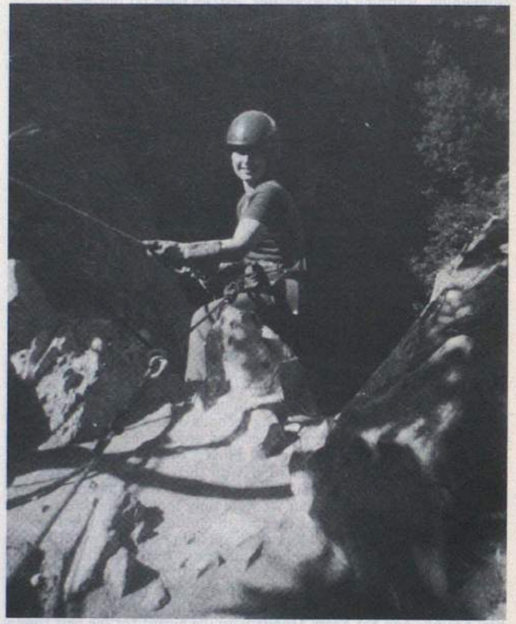
Adventure training is another activity which we have been involved in and two eye witness accounts follow:

**Report by Pte Alison Miller, WRAC**

On Friday 13 July, **Ptes Carrie Levett, Alison Miller, Tina Picken** and **Sue Priddle** from 884 troop set out for Lake Coniston in the Lake District. We arrived in the area at 2230 hrs, but didn't actually find the site until midnight. This was because our only directions were 'You go into Coniston round a sharp bend to the left, over a humpbacked bridge and then look for a dirt track'. Well it was Friday 13.

After a brisk two mile run in the rain at 0630 hrs on Saturday to Coniston Water followed by an obligatory 'dip' (it was quite warm) and a leisurely breakfast (a rarity in the Army), the day began. We were split into four different groups and had the opportunity to do abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing and walking. The abseiling down 130ft, the last 50ft of which dropped into a cave was terrifying.

On the Sunday it was a 'free for all' and three of us went canoeing—dubbed 'canoodling'—whilst the fourth went abseiling. The weather improved and we were sorry to leave.



LCpl 'Sniff' Bedwell abseiling

**ON THE MOVE**

**Report by LCpl 'Sniff' Bedwell WRAC**

265 have been on the move again, this time to the Lake District for two weekends with the Royal Signals Adventure Training Team. After the Saturday swim our group went walking up Harrison's Stickle via Stickle Tarn. **LCpls Debbie Castle** and **Cathy Headington** began to think that **Paul**, our leader, was out to kill us when he made us traverse 'Easy Gully'. Everyone made it to the top.



Whilst we walked **Sig Chris Hilless** was trying to find a new way out of a capsized canoe, head first through the bottom. The people who went abseiling found that walking off a cliff backwards was more fun than walking on the flat. After dinner we retired to a local pub as the weather was wet. On Sunday we all changed round and we went abseiling. On the second weekend a rock fall made this activity even better. We departed with sad goodbyes and say many thanks to the team—**Chris Wooff, Chris 'Busby' Stark, Paul Wordsworth, Graham Staffie** and **Dave Wilks** the cook.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Well done to our recruits who scooped all the prizes on their Catterick course with **Sig Keith Penny**—Best Recruit, **Sig Keith Wrate**—Best Shot and the team Orienteering prize went to **Sig Gibbs-Murray, Orpwood, Penny** and **Wrate**.

Long distance walking is a speciality of 884 troop at Brighton. **LCpl Maria Ferrari** and **Cpl Tina Coppen** took part in the Nijmegen march and at the same time raised £375 for a heart monitor for the Royal Alexandria Hospital for sick children which has been received with grateful thanks, and in the local Rottindean Windmill walk the troop received an award for being the largest and most successful military group.

Brig Keith Olds admiring 884 Troop's Rottingdean Walk Awards with Sig Craighill and SSgt Gordon Holloway

Didn't we do well?—Catterick success for Sig Penny, Gibbs-Murray, Orpwood and Wrate

## THE ORLO 'AUTUMN 84' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**BACKGROUND**

The ORLO team from the School of Signals tours University OTCs and School CCFs each year giving presentations on the Royal Signals which emphasise the responsibilities and variety in the life of a young officer. Much of the presentation content hinges on a sequence of up to date colour slides illustrating life as a Royal Signals subaltern. The aim of this competition is to help keep the ORLO slide pack bang up to date.

**ENTRIES**

Slides submitted for this competition must show a young Royal Signals officer as the primary subject. He must be engaged in a communications task or military activity with a complementary background.

Slides submitted may be used for recruiting purposes so cap badges and badges of rank should be obvious.

**RULES**

The competition is open to all serving and retired members of the Corps and their families.

Entries may consist of up to a total of six 35mm colour slides per entrant. Only one slide per entrant however will be eligible for a prize.

Slides are to have been taken during 1984.

A stamped self addressed package must be included if the entries are to be returned.

ORLO reserve the right to use any entry free of charge for recruiting purposes.

Whilst every care will be taken of entries, the organisers will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Entries will be judged by a panel of officers under the Chairmanship of the Commander School of Signals.

The judges decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

The closing date for this competition is 31 January 1985.

Entries must be sent to: ORLO, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH and marked 'Photographic Competition'.

All individual slides should be marked for identification.

**PRIZES**

1st Prize: SLR 35mm Camera
2nd Prize: Electronic Flash Gun
3rd Prize: Basic Creative Filter Kit

# News from Squadrons

## Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
## BFPO 18

**EXERCISE *COLD FIRE***

The first week of September saw the Squadron busily preparing for our phase of Ex *Lionheart* — Ex *Cold Fire*. Vehicles were checked and equipment overhauled, everything being finely tuned for the start day.

The enthusiasm of the personnel of the Squadron during the exercise ensured that all went smoothly. We had a number of important visitors including **Group Captain Walpole RAF**, Chief Offensive Ops 2ATAF and **Lt Col Pickup** Chief G3 Air Northag, who were we think suitably impressed. One of our other visitors, a Belgian Colonel was heard to comment that he thought he had come to see a radio Squadron, not a radio museum! But even he was impressed with our ability to handle it.

**VISIT TO THE BELGIAN FN FACTORY (BROWNING)**

Adjutant **Maurice Engelen** our senior technician very kindly arranged for 26 members of the Squadron to visit Browning the makers of the Belgian FN SLR. This took place on 11 September and the big talking point was the new 5.5mm rifle which is to replace (?) the SLR. After a demonstration of its fire power, the comments on its ability were many and varied, but one simple one sums them all up — WOW! Many thanks **Maurice**, you can put my name down for the next visit.

**JOC CUP**

Since out last contribution we have had two more events in the JOC Commanders Cup: **Badminton**.

'Can you play tennis?' 'Yes', 'Good, you're in the Badminton team!'. What a surprise we got, our 'pressed volunteers' astounded us all — we finished second! Even **Cpl 'Scewdriver' Phillips** who we thought wouldn't be able to reach the underside of the net without a pair of stilts, let us all down — He Won. The team must be congratulated, they really were superb.

**TABLE TENNIS**

'Can you play Badminton? No! Good, you should be able to play table tennis then!' Once again our merry volunteers stepped forward and wiped the floor with the opposition. Well, not quite, but we did come second. It all revolved round the final doubles game with **OG Ralph Emenet (GE)** and his partner **SLD 'Peter' Haex (NL)** having to play the RAF NSU pair for the decider as to who would finish second and third. The roar from our spectators at the winning shot from **Ralph** left in no doubt that we had finished second.

After both these events we are now only a few points behind the CRC Glons and we have three more events yet to play. Watch this space in the next issue.

**THE BERLIN MARATHON**

The training sessions, worries going back for some months came to a close on Friday 28 September when our party of 17 different Nationals under our OC travelled from Liege to Berlin by train. Saturday saw us rising at 0600 hrs to travel across Berlin to take part in a Breakfast Fun Run from the Hotel Intercontinental and ending some 6Kms later in the Olympic Stadium. The day was fine and all boded well for a good race day on Sunday. 0800 hrs saw us in front of the Reichstag along with 8831 competitors from 49 different nations awaiting the start. Our training in the Ardennes came into its own when the rain started to pour down. To our surprise out came dustbin liners and other cheap waterproof equipment. 0900 hrs the flag dropped, a gun sounded and all attempted to surge forward over a mound of plastic bags. We were off and on our way. **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue**—he was running for a sponsored fund raising for the Cubs and Brownies in Liege—came to the 21Kms point. He was running at a speed that would have left Salizar behind him, but eventually tired legs and a missed step 7Kms from home left him sadly jogging in. He still managed 2 hrs 57 mins. **Maj Mike Anderson** came in, looking as if it had been a training run for his next 100Kms race, in 3 hrs 15 mins.

*From L—R:* OC Maj Mike Anderson, Sgt Mick Hague, WO2 (YofS) Ron Burrell, Sig Dave Whincup, LCpl Roy Emblen, SSgt Paul Smith, WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue

Our Yeoman, **Ron Burrell** who we thought should have started with the other wheelchair competitors surprised all by coming in at the 3 hrs 38 mins next. **Sgt Mick Hague** who had been our most dogged trainer having trimmed down to a shadow of his former self came in comfortably at 3 hrs 42 mins — hotly followed by **SSgt Paul Smith** at 3 hrs 53 mins. Mind you we thought he was mad to race having recently injured his leg. Proud finishers were both **LCpl Roy Emblen** and **Sig Dave Whincup** who both sustained injuries but finished to win their medals. Only one of us did not complete the Course. **SLD Evo Janssen** who twisted a knee at the 25Km point and had to retire—but 'Next Year' says he—and we know he will. Well done the runners: Bremen, Vienna or London next?

**Don't be disappointed!**

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



## 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## (215 Sig Sqn)
## Tidworth

**EXERCISE *EIGHTH PILLAR*—1 INF BDE HQ AND SIG SQN EXPEDITION TO JORDAN**
**Report by Capt J. W. Rollins**

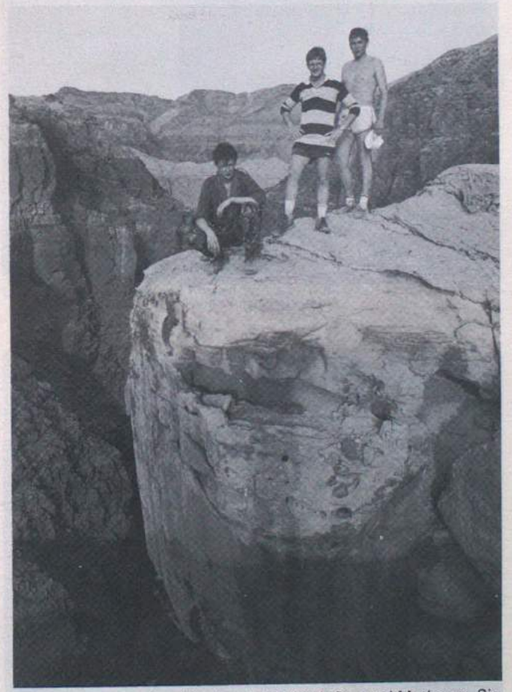
**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LAWRENCE**

In March of this year a party of 15 from 1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, left Tidworth for a two week expedition to Jordan. The primary aim was to follow, on foot T. E. Lawrence's route across 150 kilometres of desert to Aquaba, the Jordanian port at the top of the Red Sea. The trip was divided into three phases. After two days acclimatisation in and around the desert forts north of Amman we moved to the cliffs overlooking the Dead Sea for two days climbing. From there we made our way south to prepare for the five day desert crossing.

**EARLY DAYS**

The party was met at Amman airport by the Defence Attache, **Col T. W. Hackworth**, late R Signals, through whom the expedition had been organised. He was accompanied by several guides from the Jordanian Special Forces. Our first hours set the scene for the coming two weeks—plenty of local colour and a strange way of life. Our hotel bedrooms faced one of the city's largest mosques. These broadcast prayers around the city over giant speakers five times each day. The most active time is 0430 hrs. The ability of everyone to sleep through it was to be a feature of the next two weeks!

The first stop in the acclimatisation programme was the old Roman city of Jerash with its magnificent amphitheatres and columns. On arrival our Jordanian hosts headed indoors for lunch while we insisted on relishing the midday sun. Mad dogs and Englishmen, the odd Scot, a Welshman and led by an Irishman. Al-Legg, alias **Sig Trev Legg**, donned his first piece of arab gear in what began a gradual process of naturalisation towards the state of the pure Bedouin.



'Who hasn't got a head for heights?' LCpl 'Scouse' Mathews, Sig 'Taff' Owens, Pte 'Woody' Wood

The next day gave us our first real feel of the desert when we visited a series of remarkable desert forts dating from pre-Crusader days. A strong wind made the journey in the back of a landrover and military truck, our means of transport for the coming two weeks, dusty. However, the dryness of the air was the most distinctive feature. It was clear that acclimatisation after a British winter was essential. Lunch, our first taste of a full arab meal, was taken by the oasis close to the fort at Qasr Azraq where Lawrence based his HQ in the latter part of his campaign. However, the highlight of the day for most of the party was being served tea by the Bedouin 'curators' of one of the forts in their tents. It was shortly after this that the fashion set by Al-Legg began to catch on. The final visit of the day was to the imposing fort at Qasr Kharaneh—reminiscent of something from Beau Geste. The leader of our guides, **Lt Mohammad**, obviously thought so too as he leapt out of dark corners to imitate throttling some of the party. From the occasional rapid change in complexion it seemed that a few were unable to differentiate between Arab humour and violent intent.

**THE DEAD SEA**

It was shortly after this that the expedition proper began with a spectacular 4,000 feet descent to the Dead Sea. This brought us to a camp site by the sea set against a backdrop of plunging gullies and sheer cliff faces. The whole faced the Israeli-held West Bank on the far side of the sea. The atmosphere was enhanced by the fact that we were in a military training area closed to the public and therefore undisturbed.

Much to the frustration of **LCpl Tony Gannon** and **Sig 'Taff' Owens** climbing aspirations were to some extent thwarted when what appeared to be promising routes proved impossible to climb free as the rock turned out to be soft sandstone. Although we adopted Jordanian fixed-rope techniques, the flow of adrenalin was ensured by spectaculer 400 feet abseils on rather frayed hemp rope. A jog up a 2,000 foot mountain gave us a magnificent view over the distant Holy Land, enhanced later that night by the light of Israeli flares, as they conducted their continuous manoeuvres.

Each day began and finished with a bath in the Dead Sea—or, rather, a lie down—and a rinse in the natural jacuzzi of the hot springs. This made getting up a pleasure—which was just as well as our first late rise at 0700 hrs did not impress our hosts. Days also began and were regularly interrupted by ladels of hot tea, which was at first a little sweet for our taste, but which most of us became used to. **Cpl 'Hoppy' Hopkinson** conducted an ongoing and losing battle to have tea without the compulsory ½lb of sugar—even when he supplied his own teabags.

The Treasury at Petra

## ICE-COLD IN AQUABA

The next phase in the expedition began with a long journey by truck down the Desert highway, staging at the ancient mountain city of Petra. The first stop was by a roadside refreshment stand or, to be more accurate, a boy and a barrel in the desert. Here we stocked up on yoghurt and tried an extremely salty goat's cheese. To judge from **Cpl Pete Martin**'s response and his references to the utility of goldfish appendages, he did not find it particularly palatable, though the rest of us enjoyed the experience.

Petra is an ancient city, set in the middle of towering mountains, in the centre of Jordan. Because it is only accessible along a kilometre long, 12' wide and 150' deep gorge it has only relatively recently been discovered. It is one of the most stunning sights any one of us has ever seen—reminiscent of a Cecil B de Mille set brought to life. It was therefore no surprise to learn that it was from here that the Nabataeans controlled the trade routes of the Middle East in the first millennium BC. All buildings, some with pillared facades hundreds of feet high, are built into a network of lock faces extending over several square kilometres.

The drive across the desert gave us a sight of the arid and rocky terrain which we would cross on foot over the following five days. However, the party was to take a day's rest at the Desert Police Post on the Saudi Border at Al-mudawara while **Capt Rollins** and **Maj David Marks RAOC** from the Brigade Headquarters recced the initial stages of the desert crossing. The yet hotter temperatures made this a welcome break.

The value of precise compass work and, in particular, of resection was quickly apparent. However, as the rocky terrain gave way to flat tracts of sand, even navigating by compass became difficult. Bearings were followed for many hours and it was only by aiming off to hit the few desert tracks that a regular rendevous with the vehicles could be made. It was for these reasons that 40 kilometres was walked, by default, on the first day. However, despite a few minor injuries, spirits remained high. They were helped by the odd gallon of water and our Jordanian driver's smiling face as he offered tea at every evening's stop. By this stage '**Hoppy**' had stopped noticing the sugar.

If any place can be more difficult to navigate across than a desert it is a fogbound desert. The whole of the next day saw a carpet of fog across our route which completely threw our guides. At one point they became yet more disturbed when we crossed a particular set of new tracks, causing them to cock their weapons and deploy to the flanks. We never did discover what the fuss was all about—some say it was **Pte 'Woody' Wood**'s runaway socks.

Having camped in fog the night before we awoke to the breathtaking view of the Wadi Rum, reputed to be one of the most beautiful sections of desert in the world. This is certainly credible as red columns of rock of the most unnatural shapes rise out of golden sands to tower above the navigable routes.

Having squashed a scorpion in the middle of the night which he had found between his sleeping bag and that of **Capt Rollins, Maj Marks** had the courtesy not to tell anyone about it before morning, except, of course, **Cpl Geoff Morris** who, sceptical as ever, refused to believe him.

It was at the end of this day that, forgetting he was in his native Glasgow, and the extent of his thirst and low level of his water-bottle, unnoticed by anyone else, **Cpl 'Tam' Bennie** quenched his thirst on half of our only bottle of whiskey. His uncharacteristic inclination towards Jordanian food gave the game away.

The final section of the walk was made easy by the prospect of ice-cold beers in the Red Sea resort of Aquaba. This lies at the point where the Egyptian, Saudi, Jordanian and Israeli frontiers meet. We were given a tumultous welcome by the Jordanian Coastguard (alias Navy) who accommodated us while we recovered over the next 36 hours. However, feet were not painful enough to prevent a spectacular sub-aqua trip and some attempts at water-skiing.

## HOMEWARD BOUND

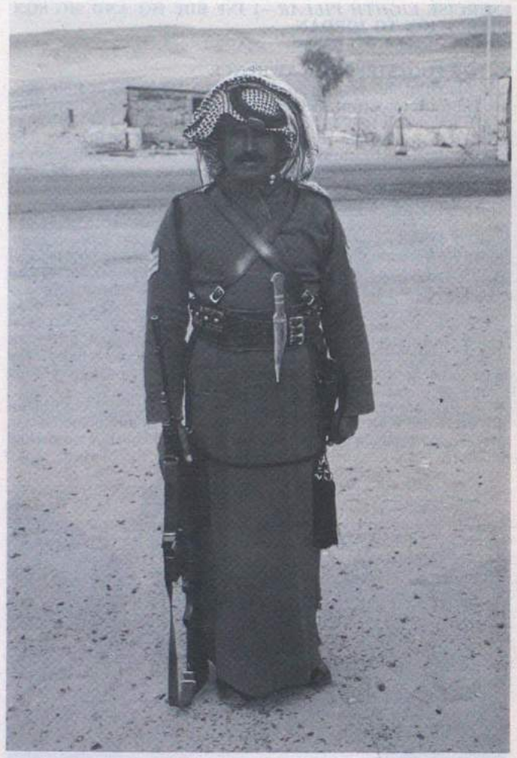
The road journey back to Amman was an uncanny experience for as we crossed over the Western mountain range to see the Crusader castle of Kerak we went through a snow storm. This was in stark contrast to temperatures of well over 100 degrees experienced 48 hours previously.

The biting wind did not prevent us from seeing the spectacular view from the castle which stands at the head of a valley which plunges at first vertically and then less steeply to the Dead Sea 6,000 feet below.

In stark contrast to the spartan conditions of the previous fortnight we spent our last night in Jordan being wined and dined by **Col** and **Mrs Hackworth**, while others patiently listened to 'war stories' which became increasingly daring by the minute.

Although given an emotional send-off by our Arab hosts the following day it was not the last time we were to see them. They were among a party of 15 Jordanians, who made a reciprocal visit to Britain, in June.

We are indebted to **Col Hackworth** and the Jordanian Armed Forces for all their efforts to ensure the success of this expedition and, without whose help such a memorable trip would not have been possible. We would also like to thank the Corps for helping to fund the expedition.

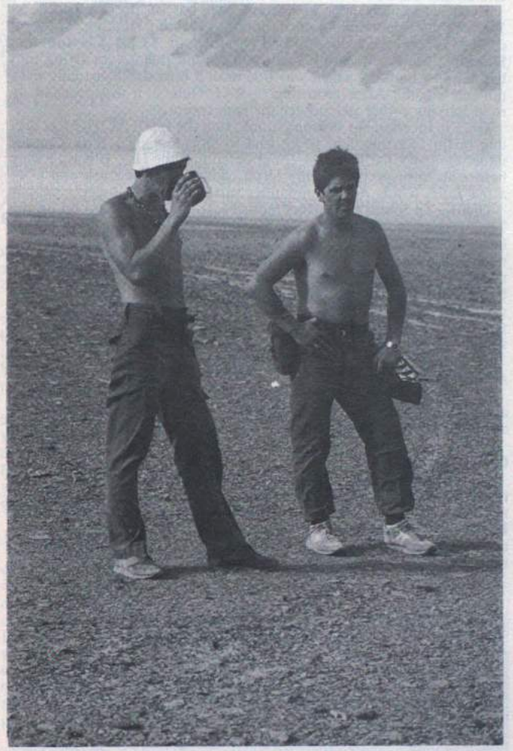


The Desert Police

Ice-Cold in Aquaba



# 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot



LCpls 'Tam' Bennie and Mark Read say it all—not even Heiniken would help

Agony or Ecstasy? Al-Legg on the operating table

## FAREWELL TO MRS PAT SPICER

Earlier this year, a request was made through the columns of *The Wire*, for all ex 216 Parachute Signal Squadron personnel, retired and still serving, who knew **Mrs Pat Spicer**, to contribute a small amount for a farewell gift. A total of £116.00 was realised and the following is a brief account of the farewell luncheon held in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, by kind permission of **WO1 (RSM) Ian Campbell**, (also ex 216) on Thursday 12 July.

**Mrs Pat Spicer** had served as the Parachute Signal Squadron typist from 1958 until the squadron 'folded' in 1977. Then with 6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, followed by 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and finally with 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (now 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), until she was forced to retire, through ill health, in March of this year.

**Lt Col (Retd) Robbie Laing** kindly agreed to come from Newton Abbot to attend the luncheon and make the presentation. Also **Capt Roger Harris** came down from Catterick and **Maj (QM) Harry Meekings** (unfortunately not invited due to an oversight on the part of the author), telephoned and spoke to **Pat**, after the lunch. **Pat**'s husband **Geoff** and her daughter **Jane** both attended the lunch, as did the OC of the Squadron, **Maj John Allan**, the squadron officers, WOs and SNCOs.

Pat admires the tray and goblets

**Cpl Robbie Laing**, in making his speech prior to the presentation said, 'I first met **Mrs Spicer** when I rejoined the Squadron in 1965 as a rather green, newly promoted Captain, having just served three years as a Lieutenant (QM) with the TA. I knew little about the Admin Officers duties or Staff Duties and I was amazed when, very rough and ready letters I drafted, came back from **Pat**, with the spelling and grammar corrected and SD requirements correctly fulfilled. What a contrast it was when I left the Squadron in 1970, on posting to Singapore, where I had an aged Chinese man as a typist, who religiously copied all my errors and added a few of his own, but at least **Pat** had educated me and I was able to put right what was wrong. All these attributes were not confined to me and all our clerks then, who have done so well now, must be eternally grateful for her help and guidance. She also contributed greatly to our excellent relations with our Record Office which served all members of the Squadron so well. Nor were her activities confined to the office. I can gratefully remember the times when she accompanied me on welfare cases when wives and families were in trouble.

Quite rightly, she has been revered by all who worked with her and I was not surprised to get a letter from **Maj Craig Treeby**, at present in the Falklands asking if I was aware of this presentation. When I was leaving the Squadron in 1970, the then SSM, **Gordon Haughie** said to me, 'I know you have done 17 years service with Airborne Forces, but I am going to beat you!' I don't know if he has, but one thing I am sure, he won't beat **Mrs Spicer**'s 25 years service, not that she has not had opportunities to leave for better appointments. I remember trying to persuade her to apply for the post of PA to the Commander, but she would not hear of it, her loyalty to the Squadron was too strong. Not that I wanted to lose her, but I felt her abilities should have been more highly used and rewarded. Finally, may I also say thank you to **Geoff** and **Jane**, who have had to put up with **Pat**'s devotion to the Squadron, which must have been exasperating at times'.

**Cpl Robbie Laing** then presented **Pat** with an inscribed Parachute soldier, an inscribed silver tray with four goblets and a basket of flowers. All the letters sent with the donations were placed in a folder and also presented to **Pat**. In her tearful and emotional reply, **Pat** thanked everybody for their best wishes and kindness and wished everyone that remembered her every good wish.

**EXERCISE *LIONHEART***

It was inevitable that as a regular unit we would be first out and last in—yes Ex *Lionheart* had begun. The QM, **Maj Ray Danells** (congratulations on your promotion, sir) and the RQMS, **WO2 Gordon Air**, set out for Dover with their packet of six vehicles in the small hours of Sunday 9 September. Much chuntering had been heard in the previous weeks—the QM dept were tasked with feeding and accommodating half the Brigade—but now it was underway as they were fed into the mighty move plan. However we all know that mighty things are slow moving!

By the time the Advance Party left Ostend the QM found himself promoted to Convoy Commander and a further 40 vehicles following him eastward at a snail's pace. By the time the Main Party arrived, having suffered a similar fate, the camp was complete. Accommodation was in large marquees and there were facilities for showers, hot water and toilets, all made with buckets, corrigated iron, 40 gallon drums, and miles of hessian. In the coming weeks the QM and his staff were to be seen driving around camp on graders, light wheel tractors, and a three wheel motorbike the Brigade is trialling, all in an attempt to prevent the camp becoming a morass of mud.

**ALPHA TROOP**

Both Rebros were quickly deployed to cover the Corps area. **LCpl Lucas** took RRBI to the Hartz Mountains and **LCpl Lang** parked up next to Commcen Yankee near Stradtoldendorf. This was a quiet period in Sig Ops although **LCpl Santos** and **Sig Rosser** fought in vain to keep the Life Guards Echelon on the Log Net.

During Phase three as Blue Forces mounted a counter attack 5 AB Bde took 5 TA Inf Bn under command and Alpha Tp provided the RLDs. **Cpl Naylor** and his detachment quickly found himself bogged in up to the axle, courtesy of a certain Scottish Regiment, while **LCpls Rowlands** and **Pollock**, (our tame Engineer), wondered if they were the only sane people in their location! Meanwhile **LCpl Lang** had managed to break a half shaft while moving.

**BRAVO TROOP**

**SSgt Toms** ensured that this Troop RATT dets were not bored despite the fact that there was little for them to do initially. However the linemen had plenty to do with DELs and cable all over the country. **Sgt Monk** and his men had to cope with cars cutting cable and what was presumed to be 'undesirable elements' tapping into our DELS. **Cpl Waterston** and his dets were tasked to lay line on Ex *Thunderball* (a para/hel insertion in the Blenberg area) but by the time they had dragged cable through enemy lines the battle had all but ended.

**CHARLIE TROOP**

**Lt Des Moloney** kept his Troop well out of the way until Ex *Thunderball* began doing lots of 'comms tests' and running. The para drop was cancelled due to bad weather so **LCpls Clayton** and **Hawkins**, the Bde Comd's Radio Op, found themselves flying into battle in a Chinnock which was fine until a bird strike virtually took out one engine. After returning to RAF Gutersloh they went in by road looking rather pale under the cam cream.

Once in location **Sgt Wilson** ensured that the Bde TAC HQ was well dug in (in fact they had to be told to stop digging!) With Comms under control Charlie Tp set about defending the HQ. It wasn't long before an unsuspecting enemy ferret came along the track and after a few quiet words, the Commander surrendered.

Charlie Tp found themselves moved east by Chinnock to set up the TAC HQ again. Trenches were dug quickly and several days later a large heliborne force landed only 5Kms away. With minimum manning of staff cells and detachments everyone piled into the nearest trench. Within the hour we were attacked by 2 Coys of 2LI. A fierce battle was fought on the defensive perimeter, led by the Brigadier, but eventually our position was overrun and we were judged 'dead', or most of us were, anyway. This decision, needless to say, was the subject of much debate later on.

**AFTERMATH**

The Squadron was unable to move back to UK for a week after endex so time was spent on R&R with visits to the IGB and Arnhem and the hostelries in Paderborn.

**GOODBYES**

We have already said goodbye to **Lt Keith Whitehead** who has gone to the 'College of Knowledge' at Shrivenham. Also leaving before the next issue of *The Wire* is the 2IC **Capt Peter Day** and **WO1 (FofS) Ken Underwood. Capt Day** is off to Kenya and **WO1 Underwood** leaves the Army to join RACAL. Both have seen the Squadron safely through a period of great change and we wish them the best of luck.

Jumping into Ex *Falcon Strike* with the Leading Parachute Battalion Group



# 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) Portsmouth

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj A. G. Whiddett** |
| **2IC** | **Capt J. W. L. Frost** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 A. K. Harper** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 K. W. Suckling** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 C. D. G. Storey** |

**AN UP DATE**

Yes, we are still alive and transmitting; its been a long time since 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) have featured in *The Wire*. We are currently bidding a fond farewell to our OC, **Andy Whiddett** who, during his time with us, has implemented many exciting new projects for the Squadron and we wish him well in his new posting. 'Haste ye back'. At the same time we extend a warm welcome to **Maj D. M. Martin-Rhind** who, we hope, will have an equally enjoyable spell with us.

The last five years have been extremely busy ones developing and testing the unique brand of communications required for our role and, although modifications are continuous, the system is now fully operational and the men are fully trained in operating it.

Due to the ever-increasing physical demands, the average age of the squadron has been reduced drastically and many of the 'old and bold' have been caught by the age limitations. The valuable job done by these volunteers, many of whom were founder members of the Squadron, shouldn't be forgotten; they saw us through a difficult transitional period.

Recruiting is steady and articles on the Squadron in the Portsmouth area newspapers have produced a good response, bringing in the keen, young, technically-minded men who are required and who are capable of 'hacking' our three months' assessment course. It is a unique feature of this unit that all recruits are trained as B3 radio operators with morse speeds of 12 words a minute before going onto other jobs in the squadron.

**A GOOD WEEK**

Ex *Ice King* last March in Aviemore proved to be a very popular week, not to say an hilarious one, when learner skiers, most of whom were on skis for the first time, came to the end of the Coire Na Ciste chairlift and found a rather large drop; within seconds there was a confused bundle of skis, sticks, arms and legs lying in a heap. However having got over this rather hairy introduction to skiing, most went on to have a good week, by the end of which there were quite a few 'kamikaze' pilots amongst them. Some of the more affluent members of the Squadron had their annual week in Andorra enjoying the skiing, sun and San Miquel (not necessarily in that order)—the prescription to be repeated next year in January.

**ENJOYED BY ALL**

Ex *Lionheart* (you may have heard of it) was our second annual camp. Apart from our normal communications aspect of the exercise, a full military training programme was enjoyed by all, including a full range programme with a few interesting additions by the SSM, CFT and BFT, Gemini boat drills, river crossings which included the flotation of a Landrover across a small lake (the YofS) can have it back now!

Members of the Squadron have undertaken and successfully completed the international long range reconnaissance patrol course in Bavaria and some members a basic parachute course in Denmark, gaining their Danish para wings.

**THE OUTLOOK**

The outlook for the squadron is very exciting and with the advent of a new purpose-built Squadron headquarters, we can only go from strength to strength. Now that the equipment is fully operational we can look forward to devoting more time to our military skills and get more of the Squadron para-trained and much more skilful in weapon handling on a variety of unit weapons.

The Squadron trains recruits in a variety of trades including radio operators, drivers and powermen, or one of the administrative trades such as clerk storeman or cook and ex-regular tradesmen are always welcome and with troops based in Bournemouth, Southampton, Portsmouth and Chichester we are very convenient for anyone living in the south coast area. Other activities enjoyed by the Squadron are shooting, skiing and parachuting. Training is usually every Tuesday night with at least one or two weekends each month.

Squadron personnel who actually took part in the exercise

**FLOATING A LANDROVER**

The photographs show members of the Squadron preparing a Landrover for floatation across a small lake.

A tarpaulin is stretched out in preparation for the Landrover

The Landrover is driven onto the canvas and is then wrapped and secured forming a water-proof base for it to float on

The camera cannot lie! A Floating Landrover

## 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
## RAF, Brize Norton

**WINDS OF CHANGE**

The most dominant thought in the OC Squadron's mind must be 'Why me?' Since we last appeared the winds of change have started to howl, rather than just blow gently around the Squadron. Just in case you find it hard to believe, by the time this contribution appears in print the Squadron hierarchy will read:

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj D. J. McLean** |
| **2IC** | **Capt N. P. Harrison** |
| **OC A** | **2Lt D. G. Halstead** |
| **OC B** | **Capt J. E. Hall** |
| **OC C** | **2Lt N. E. Hogarth** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 M. E. Mutlow** |
| **RQMS** | **WO2 A. J. Thomas** |
| **YofS** | **WO2 A. M. Stokoe** |
| **FofS** | **WO2 J. A. Jones** |
| **ORSQMS** | **SSgt J. N. Morgan** |

The OC, **Maj 'Trapper' John McLean** arrived in July and we bade farewell to **Maj Tony Kimber**, on posting to AG11. The 2IC **Capt Richard** (I love Triumph Stags but wish I had one that worked) **Blum** has moved on to pastures new with 233 Sqn. SSM's quote 'Sir, why are you moving from being a 2IC to Tp Comd and taking over from a WRAC to boot?' 'Well Sarn't Major it's the challenge of commanding a keyboard that appeals'. **Capt Nigel Harrison** joins us from 30 Sig Regt. The **SSM 'Big Tam' Muir** leaves in December on promotion to be RSM of the Jnr Regt, just prior to its disbanding. Do you think RSM&RO are trying to tell him something? Good luck and our congratulations go with the family **Muir**. (That includes you Trooper). **WO2 Mick Mutlow** joins us from the sunny climes of Hong Kong. The RQMS **WO2** (Got a new motor) **John Tope** leaves on posting to ACC Harrogate to count little boys instead of socks. Good luck in the North. **WO2 Tony Thomas** joins us from Belfast UOTC. If he can cope with university students then I'm sure a few shelves of Arctic kit will be child's play.

The Squadron has been as busy as ever, with a full programme of Exercises as well as the occasional jolly. A small contribution is included from Echo Tp (V), our newest addition to the Squadron and possibly one of the only TA Troops officially under command of a regular Squadron, adding yet another link in the Squadron tortuous chain of command.

**ECHO TROOP (V)**

Recently established within the Squadron and consisting of both MAOT and FAC/ALO Detachments the Troop talks to anything fast or slow. Up in the air or on the ground chaos rules and hovering at 2,000ft **Sgt Smellie**, the new PSI, tries frantically to co-ordinate what Sir Said Sir Said. **Maj Alan Burden** in one ear and **Lt Shaun Swithenbank** in the other, with five other Majors only a 'phone call away, no wonder we bid a last farewell, after many years of service, to **Sgt Alan John** (PSI). Best wishes in civilian life **Alan**.

**Sig Barry Condick**, newest recruit to the troop, continues to help with training by getting lost in the Brecon Beacons whilst **Sig Les** (Ostrich) **Condick**, 'I can't find my brother', gives us all a lesson in smoke-screens, without grenades, and saves the life of the OC's Landrover. Better luck next time boys!

**EXERCISE *REDHAND WANDERER***

Ex *Redhand Wanderer* was an adventurous training exercise undertaken by B Tp in the Lake District. The exercise was led by **Capt John Hall** and those taking part were **SSgt 'Trapper' Marshall, Cpl 'Uncle Phil' Stokes, LCpls 'Jolly Olly' Oliver, Steve Slater, Sig 'Follow the Bear' Humphreys** and **'Blue' Nicholson**. Unfortunately the wonderful summer weather departed when we arrived which led to postponement of most of the high walks, and so the first few days were spent walking in the Grizedale Forest. The weather eventually abated allowing the groups to climb the Old Man of Coniston.

On the last day we were lent some canoes by 11 Sig Regt whose assistance was much appreciated. After the instructor had taken us through the safety drills we were let loose on Lake Coniston. **LCpl Oliver** could not understand why he was not getting anywhere until he discovered that persons unknown had tied his canoe to a buoy. **Sig 'Blue' Nicholson**'s attempt to slap for support resulted in an inspection of the Lake bottom. **SSgt Marshall**'s insistance on canoeing in small circles was explained as a desire to take in the Lakeland scenery. Despite the weather the exercise was a success and we hope to undertake further exercises in the area soon.

*From L—R:* Sig Nicholson, Capt Hall, SSgt Marshall, Sig Humphreys, LCpls Slater, Oliver

**A LOOK AT *BOLD GANNET***

**Report by Lt Grimson**

I joined the *Red Hand* Gang (244 Sig Sqn (AS)) in late August to discover I was going on a trip, courtesy UKMF, to Denmark. Alpha troop, under the command of **2Lt 'Baldy' Halstead**, held the fort in RAF Brize Norton while the rest of the Squadron including Bravo, Charlie, Echelon and LSG deployed, in phase 1, to Jutland. Everything went smoothly and we reached a concentration area South of Skive, where 'In Theatre Training' took place.

'The Gang' provided comms for 7 and 33 Sqn RAF at Bde Main and Alt with Bravo Troop. Charlie Troop provided RRB facilities for the RAF with three Dets led by Rebro 'Gonk' Recce manned by **2Lt Neil** (Where's my Horse) **Hogarth** and **Sgt 'Kero' Whitehill**. We then moved on to phase two, the Great Belt crossing on to Zeeland. This threatened underslung RRB Dets, so unfortunately **'Kero'** now has to strengthen the wagons as well as pintle mount LMGs.

In Zeeland the FTX against the nasty Orange forces took place. This proved a hectic time for main and Alt under **SSgt 'Maps' Marshall** and **Sgt Tony Giles**, with frequent moves and trench digging. I am told that **Trapper John** will have them quite experienced at this sort of thing in due course.

Once the Battle was over the Squadron concentrated near Roskilde for a shower and an ogle, before moving all the vehicles (we didn't really leave one behind) back to Jutland and then the UK. After this teetotal exercise, a debrief with our RAF counterparts was held, followed by a 'few' beers. The end result was a few sore heads!

**THE SJAELSO MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION**

This unit was represented by **Capt John Hall, LCpl Dave Oliver, Sig 'Blue' Nicholson,** and **'Stew' Ward**. We arrived at Hoevelte Camp near Copenhagen, the home of the Danish School of Signals and we were greeted by our hosts with traditional warmth and refreshment.

The competition, which took place 26/29 July, was in two parts; a 22Km march and a gallery shoot. We set off on the march at an enthusiastic 6Km per hour. A very welcome halt at a Rastplads came at the halfway point where we were entertained by a Danish Army Band. The shooting competition proved to be more difficult than it appeared at first. We used HK G3 rifles, which as we discovered, were very different from the SLR. Nevertheless, the 'Redhand Representation' (the only UK based unit in the International Competition) achieved a better than average final score.

The competition weekend drew to a close with a formal dinner dance where once again we sampled the excellence of Danish hospitality. For those who have been to Denmark, no more need be said.

## 259 Sig Sqn
## BFPO 53

**SUNSHINE SOLDIERING**

For those elsewhere, the idea that Cyprus is not all lying on the beach soaking up the sunshine whilst keeping half an ear cocked for the faults alarm, may come as a surprise. Certainly, the sunshine soldiering undertaken by the Squadron during August and September came as an invigorating experience to many. August witnessed two short exercises, involving beach landings, patrols, ambushes, section and platoon attacks, as preparation for the annual Battle Camp in September. Ex *Summer Light I* and *II* were particularly noted for the subtle sense of humour exhibited by the crew of the RCT landing ship who assured our assault forces that the water was only four feet deep. Needless to say that initial charge ashore was a sight to see—well, it would have been, except that the four feet of water was in addition to the four feet already mentioned, a mere eight feet total. It's certainly a good job that standard issue beach gear for Cyprus includes snorkel and mask.

Charge!! _ _ _ _ Gurgle Gurgle

How to go out with a bang

**EXERCISE *SUMMER VENTURE IX***

Alias Battle Camp itself had a few surprises in store. After an interesting day of live firing controlled by **Lt Alastair** (Watch and shoot that fisherman) **Harwell** and **SSgt Roy** (Don't point that thing at me) **Habergham** the 259 Sig Sqn platoon of trained killers proceeded to complete a demanding patrol competition finishing off with field rations, a dozen live chickens. Judging from the variety of cook-in-sauces, chinese noodles and tasty extras that mysteriously appeared, someone must have known something! After these culinary delights the troops deployed to do combat with the fearsome LOONS (Liberation Organisation of New SURPYC), recovering a missing missile (courtesy of RAF Akrotiri) annihilitating sundry LOON vehicles, terrorists etc and finally rescuing the General's daughter **Jennifer** from the grip of the fanatical survivors. It is requested that **Sgt Alex Armstrong** please explain why he insisted on rescuing **Jennifer**, alone. Furthermore, will **Cpl Piggins** please confide in us how, after assuring the DS that all were present and correct, **Sig Derek Biddlecombe** appeared complete with Plt HQ radio after a 12 hour nap at the previous night's patrol base! However, after an exhilarating and interesting fortnight, let us now return closer to home for new and views from the Troops.

**HQ TROOP**

August saw quite a few changes in the Troop, with **Capt Mike Jennings** sitting in the Quartermaster's desk and the departure of **Maj Eric Le Quesne**, who by now, will be chatting up the local inhabitants on the Falklands—ie penguins, seals etc. We also say goodbye to **WO2**

Farewell to QM, Maj Eric Le Quesne, from HQ Tp

**John Crooks** who left us, on promotion, for 9 Sig Regt, **Sgt Trev Potter** and **Sig Bob Gamble** who have left for BAOR and all those lovely exercises and sleepless nights spent under a wet cam net to look forward to! Welcome to **SSgt Nick Round** who is our new 'Chiefy' and to **Cpl Dave Thorpe**, working somewhere in the dark recesses of the QM's Department.

**SSgt Frank McAleer** has now become the Sqn Trg NCO and is working full time on which ever course he is going on next, whilst **Sgt Owen Evans** has moved down from Troodos Mountain to take over as Troop Sergeant, (also to get slimmer).

**BATTLE CAMP—WOT AGAIN!**

The day before Battle Camp started this conversation was overheard between the SSM and **Sgt Evans**:

"Any bedding left in the transit store?"

"Yes Sir"

"Good, put a complete bed on the four tonner for me will you".

"Yes, Sir, bad back Sir?"

"No, just getting old".

The SSM was also heard muttering about light duty chits. Quote—'Hope we get a couple of lads with light duty chits 'cause I'm not doing pan bash this year'. Unquote.

Nearly all of the RTG's in the Squadron were employed this year on Battle Camp, with **Sgt Owen Evans** and **Cpl Smudge Smith** up at Troodos working on the rear link to Invicta Camp whilst **Cpl Pat Halfpenny** and **Sig Dave Hall** manned the REBRO on top of the 'Tooty Fruity'.

The 2IC, **Capt Lance Byrne**, has captured the hearts of the Squadron with his infectious sense of fun on the annual Battle Camps. Restaurant nights in the field now consist of 'Chicken a la Bondu'. The Squadron numerals CCLIX apply—Catch, Cook, Lick, Ingest, X-pel.

**Cpl Steve Piggins**, the ORC, managed to impress everybody with his clairvoyant powers and exceptional night vision on the recent Battle Camp, (That's his story and he's sticking to it), by pinpointing all the ambush sites hours in advance. Who was tasked with duplicating the DS guide?

**SSgt** (Chicken George) **Celtel** was noted for permanently re-arranging the ¾ ton, Trailer e/w Water Carrier Pack—we didn't mind but 2 SG were a bit miffed as it belongs to them! . . . and as for that tree that leapt out in front of 'I was only doing four mph, **SSgt 'Beast' McAleer**! . . .?

Finally, **Sig Mark Wadham**, Chief Draughtsman in a one man draughtsman's office, has settled in well in the short time he has been in the Squadron. He can now redirect mail with a flair, disastrously for the OC Sqn, 'Not known at this address'.

**MOUNTAIN TROOP**
**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

The Troop has seen numerous arrivals and departures and has, at this time, only five 'lifers' left. With the introduction of 'Roulement' tours, people with Sigs Bar ties are becoming a rare commodity. Recent Departures include **Sgt Dave Holton** and **LCpls 'Ginge' Willimont** and **Ian 'Dylan' Thorne** to Episkopi, **Sig 'Moff' Moffat** to 3 Div and **Sig Russ Hemingbrough** to 21 Sig Regt.

**SIGS BAR NEWS**

The Sigs Bar recently held a very successful Caribbean afternoon/loud shirt party. The outside wall and area were redecorated by **LCpl Ian Thorne, Cpl 'Fencon' Fendon RAF** and **Cpl 'Des' Desborough**, who replaced the 'Blues Brothers', with a tropical island. The scene was further set on the day, with one of the warmer days up the mountain, and a wide selection of loud shirts and grass skirts. Entertainment was provided by the mountain limbo dancers, and the excellent barbecue for about 70 people by **Cpl Fendon**. Cocktail shakers extra-ordinaire were **LCpl Thorne** and **Cpl Walker**, whose selection of Pina Coladas, Harvey Wallbangers and Tequilla Sunrises (on draught) proved very popular.

**TROODOS FÊTE**

The aim of the Troodos Fête this year was to raise money to buy two ambulances for the local community in Platres. The troop contributed over £60 Cypriot to the fund, through the concerted efforts of those running three stalls. **LCpl Ian Thorne, Cpl 'Des' Desborough, Sig 'Geordie' Reed, Sig Derek Biddlecome** and **John Brennan** served behind the Sigs Bar; **Sgts Bob Knights** and **Bob Cutler**, and **Cpl Kev Walker** supervised the .22 range; and help was imported in the shape of **LCpl Alan Revill** and **Sig Bob Gooch** with the 'Cherry Picker'.

**TECH TROOP (SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY!)**
**259KM CHARITY RUN**

On Friday 20 April, starting at 1030 hrs, Tech Troop set out on a 24 hour, 259Km sponsored run for charity. The idea was first mooted by **SSgt Eugene Dullaghan** and, for several weeks, ideas and plans mulled over. Eventually, a plan was formed and a route decided upon.

It called for all members of Tech Troop to run, in relay, from the ESBA to the WSBA calling at all major Royal Signals units on the way. At each port of call a message of loyal greeting to **HM The Queen**, on the occasion of her Birthday, was to be collected and carried, in a baton, by the runners. On completion the baton containing the messages was to be handed to Commander Communications HQ LFC, **Lt Col M. A. Payne**, and a composite signal then sent to the Master of Signals, for conveyance to **HM The Queen**.

In all, 29 members of Tech Troop ran, their ages ranging from 20 to 47 years. The route had been driven over twice by **SSgt Dullaghan** and **WO2 (FofS) Frank Cashen BEM** and changover points well planned. As the day approached, final clearance was obtained by all agencies involved. Our advertising team, led by **Sgt 'Minnie' Minton**, swung into action and the sponsorship collection began in earnest.

Friday dawned and 1030 hrs saw **Capt (TOT) David Finighan**, OC Tech Troop and our oldest member, start off from Ayios Nikolaos NAAFI carrying the first message from 9 Sig Regt. A few runners later saw a further message, collected by **Sgt Alex Armstrong**, from 262 Sign Sqn in Dhekelia Garrison and then followed a long hard slog to Nicosia. Here we were met at 254 Sig Sqn UN Detachment with a most tremendous reception. A good crowd, led by **WO2 Brian Robjohn**, turned out, despite the late hour, and sustenance was freely provided for all.

Up to this time the weather had been fairly kind to us, with the sun not too strong and, a gentle breeze to keep us cool. Now the runners engaged a lower gear for the climb up to Troodos, which was reached at about 0200 hrs. Here we were met by Mountain Troop 259 Sig Sqn in conditions of snow, hail, rain and fog which made the journey down the Mountain somewhat miserable. Our next port of call was



Airfield Troop of 259 Sig Sqn, based at Akrotiri. Here the final message was inserted into the baton and the run for home began.

Meanwhile in Dodge City, Episkopi, all the runners, who had completed their stint, were gathering to cheer in the final runner, **LCpl Ian Rutherford**, our youngest Troop member. **SSgt Peter Matthews**, assisted by all available hands, was busy relieving the shoppers of their petty cash and, despite the NAAFI being close, a fair crowd gathered to see **Ian Rutherford**, flushed from his sprint up Curium hill, hand over the baton to Commander Communications at exactly 1025 hrs.

The run was more successful than we dared hope and our thanks are extended to **Sgt Martin Drake** for the detailed planning, to the many who used private cars as back up to the runners, especially **Mrs Lynn Bland, Mrs Wendy Habergham** and **Mrs Rosemary Finighan** and, lastly but mostly, to our many sponsors.

Our final tally was C£814 (over £1,000 UK) and charities to benefit include BLESMA, Save the Children Fund and The Theotokos Institute for Retarded Children in Limassol.

**THEOTOKOS INSTITUTE**

As a result of the Squadron Charity Drive, the first of a number of presentations, has been made to a local charity—The Theotokos Institute. The Institute is a home for the severely mentally and physically retarded and relies heavily on charity in order to continue the much needed care and treatment. On 31 July the Squadron, represented by **Cpl Steve Williams, Sig Neil Cain, Bob Gooch** and **Russ Hemingborough** made a £400 contribution to the Institute, thus continuing a tradition maintained by the Squadron for some years now.

Theotokos Institute—Maj Alan Wallace, OC Maj Eric Le Quesne, Cpl Steve Williams, Sig Bob Gooch, Russ Hemingborough, Neil Cain with the Institute Staff

**OFFICERS OLD AND NEW**

The last two months has witnessed quite amazing coming and goings amongst our officers. **Maj Eric Le Quesne** started the ball rolling. Shortly afterwards our TOT—**Capt David Finighan** not only left the unit, but also the Army after 28 year's service, for the delights of Oman. To counter-balance this sad loss we have gained in addition to **Capt Mike Jennings** as QM, **2Lt Bob Parry-Jones** as the new OC Epi Troop and attached for training direct from the flesh-pots of Sandhurst **Lt 'Dunk' Spencer** and **2Lt Duncan Warne**. These changes were the occasion of a mass Dining Out and In on 24 August, a rare Corps occasion in Cyprus.

**AIRFIELD TROOP**
**AIRFIELD COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENTS (ZERO FAULTS!)**

Over the past 12 months several major projects have been initiated and completed, helping to a great extent, to obtain the magic zero on the faults chart.

Special thanks go to **WO2 (FofS) Brian Billsberry** (now **WO1** in 21 Sig Regt), for a great deal of the foundation work and to **Cpls Derrick Tresidder, Jack Parnell, Dave Ryan, Phill Pett** and **Paul Norrie** and their respective crews for all the hard work still being done, and a special thank you to our very own jointing machine **LCpl Graham Thornton**.

**RAF AKROTIRI STATION COMMANDERS CUP**

Having finished third equal last year, we have made a really determined effort this time and, are currently leading the competition, with six events completed. Special thanks must go to our rowers, who, against some really good RAF opposition, won the competition. **Sgt Martin Waclawek, Cpls Derrick Tresidder, Phill Pett, Sig Andy Clayton** and **Cox**, and **LCpl 'Woody' Woodruff** were presented with a trophy by **Gp Capt A. E. Ryle OBE** the Station Commander.

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

We have said farewell lately to **WO1 (FofS) Brian** and **Doreen Billsberry, Sgt Keith** and **Jane Thomson, Sig Colin** and **Bernie Meakin, LCpl Taff Bryant** (all to 21 Sig Regt) and **Sgt Steve** and **Mandy Moore**, shortly to leave for sunny Catterick. Welcome to **WO2 (FofS) Roy** and **Trudi Wilson, Sgt Graeme** and **Diane Hillhouse** and **Sgt Steve and Freda Gerrish.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**Sgt Graeme** and **Diane Hillhouse** on the birth of a daughter **Leah, Cpl 'John-Boy'** and **Julie Walton** on the birth of a son **John, Sgt Andy** and **Frauke Suttie** on the birth of a son **Alexander, Sig Roy** and **Anne Rogers** on the birth of a daughter **Lisa**, and **Sig 'Diddy'** and **Tracy Roberts** on the birth of a son **David.**

**Capt Carol Lee, Sgt Steve Gerrish, Cpls Steve Williams, Ian Rutherford, LCpls Stu Clarkson** and **Lee Kerridge**, on their promotions.

**LCpl 'Ginge' Willimont** on gaining Army Colours in Athletics and winning five firsts and seconds in the Inter-Service and Army Athletics Championships.

**Sgts John Rose** and **Dave Holton** plus **Sig Neil Cain** on gaining Army Colours in Athletics and medals for the 4 × 100m and 4 × 400m relays.

**SSgt Nick Rounds, Cpl Steve Piggins** and the Orderly Room crew on gaining the highest grade possible on the visit of the external Documents Inspection Team—it is believed the best on the Island!

Finally, to **Capt Mike Jennings** and **SSgt Nick Rounds** for completing or is it surviving? the Dhekelia one mile Aqua-dash.

Orienteering—Cpls 'Smudge' Smith, 'Baggy' Bagshaw, Cpl Pat Halfpenny and Sgt John Somerville run in to the finish

**TRAGIC ACCIDENT**

We sadly report the death of **Cpl S. J. Williams** who was tragically killed in a road traffic accident on 26 October in Kolossi. His competence, cheerful, likeable personality commanded respect from all who knew him and we extend our deepest sympathy to his parents in Cannock.

# 266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic)

## WELCOME TO STANLEY

It was the 17th day of July. The year was 1984. A small but intrepid band of men gazed manfully from the deck of one of Her Majesties Ferry Boats at forbidding hills, a windswept landscape and two million seagulls. Yes we had arrived at Port Stanley capital of the Falkland Islands. **Maj Alan Hutt** (OC Designate) was persuaded to remove the life jacket he had been wearing for the last 10 days and was ushered off the boat to receive an emotional welcome from **Maj Bill Lidster** who was, reluctantly having to return to UK, after four glorious winter months in the Falklands. The photograph shows **Maj Alan Hutt** accepting the Signal Squadron from **Maj Bill Lidster** (on the right of the photograph). **Maj Lidster** skilfully hides his sorrow behind a wistful smile. The outgoing Admin Officer **Capt Tony Perkins** greeted his replacement **Capt Pete Kearns** with a warm smile and some cold leg irons, which were removed only after **Capt Kearns** promised to stay. The new team has quickly got to grips with the many

Hello and Goodbye

and varied tasks that awaited them. The absence of any night life, girls, discos, roads, shops and other trifling distractions has allowed them to concentrate fully on their jobs. The management is listed below followed by a few words and pictures from other departments in the Squadron.

## THE MANAGEMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **Maj Alan Hutt** |
| **2IC** | **Capt Bob Williamson** |
| **QM** | **Capt 'Geordie' Gainford** |
| **AO** | **Capt Pete Kearns** |
| **TOT** | **Capt Peter Davis** |
| **Tp Comd Line** | **Capt John Kirkman** |
| **Tp Comd R** | **Lt Ian Condie** |
| **Tp Comd RR** | **2Lt Jon McDonnell** |
| **SSM** | **WO2 Mick Kerr** |
| **FoS** | **WO2 Bruce Wyllie** |
| **YoS** | **WO2 Paul Lockie** |
| **Chief Clerk** | **SSgt John Chapman** |

## RADIO TROOP—DINING OUT

Radio Troop have been their normal busy selves but just have time to drop a few lines about past events. On a cold wintry night in Port Stanley we dined out the infamous Troop Commander **'Acid Bath' Marman**. We were picked up from our floating hotel in a green convertible and driven into the rolling metropolis, Port Stanley. We started at the Globe Hotel (a tasteful little drinking establishment near the sea front), where we met up before moving on to the restaurant. *Emma*'s provided an excellent meal which was served by two very friendly girls (I think!). Our two wine waiters **LCpl 'Geordie'** (give us a fag) **Falls** and **LCpl Dave Lynam** decided to do away with the traditional 'bottle' method of serving wine and decanted the bottles into the water jugs. After dinner the customary farewells took place and **Lt John Marman** said how much he had enjoyed the Falklands and that he couldn't wait for another tour. After a session of humour we left *Emma*'s and headed homeward. The Troop would like to thank **LCpl 'Geordie' Falls** for a well organised and enjoyable evening, **LCpl Dick Hornby** for a great cabaret (nice one Dicky Baby), **Lt Marman** for leaving and making this all possible!

## TROOP COMINGS AND GOINGS

As usual the customary reshuffle has taken place. The Troop wishes to say goodbye to **Lt John Marman** and welcome his lucky replacement **Lt Ian A. J. Condie**. We also say goodbye to **LCpl Dick Hornby, Sig 'Ross'** (Hitman) **Rosney** and **Sig 'Oggie'** (Pizza Face) **Ogden**. Welcome to **LCpl 'Scouse' Cahill, LCpl** (stay in bed) **Beresford, Sig** (Pay chit) **Ward, Sig 'Tubby' Miller, Sig/Gdsm Hogg, Sig 'Georgie' Best** and others too numerous to mention.

## RADIO RELAY TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| **OC** | **2Lt Jon McDonnell** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt Gary Beattie** |
| **Heli Tasking** | **LCpl John Moulding** |
| **Vice** | **LCpl Ian Yates** |

## TALES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

All those posted to the Radio Relay Troop after June 1984 fully expected to be short toured, due to the introduction of FITS (Falkland Islands Trunk System). However due to teething troubles the departure of the Radio Relay Troop has been postponed. This also meant the task of resupplying all the outstations had to continue. This was ably done by **LCpl John Moulding** 'NCO IC Heli Taskings', organising everything from ration supply to 'jollies' around the islands and always trying to ensure **SSM Kerr** was stuck out in a remote location when any inspection was approaching.

Breakfast arriving by air

Many of the outstations felt the effects of the worst winter for a few years (so the locals said!). Some of them didn't receive supplies for long periods at a time. A special word of praise goes to the 'Mountain Men' led by **Cpl George Sheppard**, who had to complete a 16 mile round trip every time supplies didn't get into their location, having to pick them up from their alternate landing site. A note of thanks must surely also go to the only Radio Relay Tech, **Cpl Dave Marritt** who did a sterling job repairing the equipment which the elements and operators did their best to destroy. In one extreme case a land tied antenna was snapped in half by high winds.



## RADIO RELAY TROOP—ICE STATION ZEBRA

The winter months have gone through the Falklands like a snake in the grass, long and slow. The lads on the Mount have met everyday with a new challenge whether it be digging the snow away from the doors to get out of the shack or walking the approximate eight miles for a shower and a most deserved rest in the JSATC. But always thinking of the long and hard slog back into the Det and of carrying the rations up as well.

We would like to thank all the locals for their warm hospitality and a special thanks to **Jen** the tractor driver who brought our water up to us on several occasions when all other means failed (not for the lack of trying).

We would like to say farewell to **Cpl George Sheppard** (Det Comd from 7 Sig Regt) and **Sig Jay Summers** (from 4 ADSR) who should learn how to abseil off a 200ft cliff rather than fall without a rope, and to thank them both for the great jobs they have done.

And congratulations to **LCpls 'Taff' Huzzey** and **'Taff' Burn** on breaking the fastest time for the 'eight miles down', and finally welcome to **LCpl 'Chip'** (I can't make jelly) **Fisher**.

## QM'S DEPT

**Report by LCpl Tunstall**

**PERSONALITIES**
**Capt (QM) 'Geordie'** (Poser) **Gainford**
**SSgt 'Ginge'** (Gizzit) **Doak**
**SSgt Des** (Coffee) **Faherty**
**Cpl John** (Grandad) **Grimshaw**
**Cpl Tony** (Freefall) **Knight**
**LCpl Kev** (Smiler) **Tunstall**
**Sig Darren** (Gopher) **Abson**
**Sig Bill** (Don Maclean) **Edwards**

Having been working in the QM's department of 266 Signal Squadron (SA), since 21 June, I am now in a position to let outsiders know of the goings on, in and around this department, down here in the South Atlantic.

After being here only three days, four members, **SSgt Des Faherty, Cpl John Grimshaw, Sig Darren Abson** and myself, ran in a gruelling half-marathon, with everyone of us finishing in very good times. The following week was spent recovering from this ordeal.

On 27 July, **Capt (QM) 'Geordie' Gainford** left for a week's trip to South Georgia, he said he had to check the (Penguins) equipment. Almost as soon as he had left, work began by **SSgts Des Faherty** and **'Ginge' Doak** on costumes for a Cave Man night in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. They built a car each and went as Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble. The Cave Man night was held the following night and both costumes went down well, even though they did not win any prizes. The first prize was won by a friend of theirs, with kit borrowed from them!

On Saturday 4 August **Cpl Tony Knight** earned his Para wings the hard way. He was helping to clean up Coastel 3 dining room after a farewell party, when he walked through a doorway and fell down an open hatchway to the floor below, luckily he was not too badly hurt.

The following evening, Sunday 5 August, a departmental dinner night was held for the return of the QM from South Georgia, the only absentee being **Cpl Knight**, who was still laid up in his cabin due to his fall. The evening got off to a good start with **SSgt 'Ginge' Doak** forgetting to put on a shirt (did the QM say something to him?), and the waiters didn't turn up. The waiting on was split up between those who were present.

The meal itself was four course with wine, port and plenty of beer afterwards. During the meal **Capt (QM) 'Geordie' Gainford** was heard to mutter that during his short stay on South Georgia he had tried to learn langlauf ski-ing and during his 30 years of playing rugby he has spent less time on his rear end than he did in those two days ski-ing. On 11 August a 10Km road race was held around RAF Stanley and **Sig Darren Abson** and myself took part, our other two departmental athletes, **SSgt Des Faherty** and **Cpl John Grimshaw** backed out of this one. **SSgt Faherty** went to play golf, with whom I wonder, and **Cpl Grimshaw** went for a walk, so he says.

**Sig Bill Edwards** flew into RAF Stanley on 12 August, after spending the night in Brazil and made everyone's day, as no-one has longer to do than he has. **SSgt Dee Faherty** was not too pleased though, his replacement missed the flight.

Farewell drinks were held on 13 August for **Cpl Tony Knight**, and the QM presented him with a brass plate to put on his plaque, when it eventually arrives. Well done again **Cpl Grimshaw**.

QM's Department
*Back Row L-R:* LCpl Tunstall, Cpls Knight, Grimshaw, Sig Edwards, Abson
*Front Row L-R:* SSgt Doak, Capt (QM) Gainford, SSgt Faherty

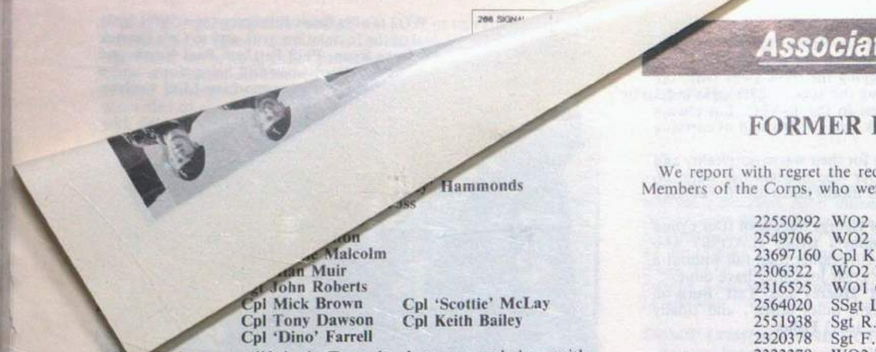
## NOTES FROM TM TROOP

Once more it's time for a quick line from TM Troop. As usual, since our last contribution to this magazine, there has been a 100% change over in personnel. The heirarchy is now as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Bruce Wyllie** |
| **Tp SSgt** | **SSgt 'Paddy' Bovenizer** |
| **IC FITS Maint** | **Sgt Gordon Bennett** (Yes, really) |
| **IC Systems** | **Sgt Ian Dobson** |
| **IC TG Wksps** | **Sgt Jay Allen** |
| **IC Monarch** | **Cpl Phil Jobling** |
| **IC Off Line** | **Cpl Gary Wright** |
| **FATSO** | **Sig 'Stench' Turner** |

The Troop strength remains high, 38 at the moment, and men are scattered all over the islands. Some live in luxury with the RAF, like **Cpl 'Paddy' Phillips**, and others, like **Cpl 'Chis' Chiswell**, live in splendid isolation on top of lonely hills. FITS installation goes on apace, **Sgt Gordon Bennett**'s team are thinking of putting in for flying pay! However all members of the troop have a varied and interesting tour, dealing with a variety of equipment, most of which is very advanced. 'Gozomie' parties, nevertheless, remain popular, particularly with those in whose honour they are being held. Many members of the troop are now on their second tour, and this will undoubtedly be a feature in the future. The Troop now has its own vehicle. **Sgt Jay Allen** has the honour of being the first troop member to utter the immortal words 'It wasn't my fault, the building just hit me'. Fortunately for his pocket, no damage resulted. So, as the sun sinks slowly in the west, we look north, and look forward to rejoining you all soon.

Memories are made of this
*Back Row L-R:* Cpl T. Y. Elliott, Sig 'Stench' Turner, Cpls Dave Leaning, 'Tommo' Tomison, 'Scouse' Kelly, Chris Harvey Harvey
*Front Row L-R:* Cpl Pete Scanlon, Sgt John Harrison RAF, SSgt 'Paddy' Bovenizer, WO1 (FofS) Steve Farrow, Sgts Jay Allen, Ian Dobson, Les Bennett



**Hammonds**

**Malcolm**
**Muir**
**John Roberts**
**Cpl Mick Brown** **Cpl 'Scottie' McLay**
**Cpl Tony Dawson** **Cpl Keith Bailey**
**Cpl 'Dino' Farrell**

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**Col M. Marples, OBE**, Commander 1 Signal Group, accompanied by **Capt (TOT) Brian Gould** paid us a visit in late May. During his all too brief stay in Gibraltar the Commander was able to observe the troop's activities, both military and social. The first CFT to be run on the Rock was followed by an excellent dinner in a local restaurant where **Col Marples** was able to meet all troop members and their families.

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We say goodbye to **Maj (TOT) Iain Morris, Sgt Andy Fullwood, Sgt Steve** and **Irene Winn, Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **Stan** and **Audrey Holden** and finally **Mr Clive Curtis** who after 10 years of sunshine has been redeployed to Plymouth.



# Association News

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|---|---|
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| 23697160 | Cpl K. L. Towle |
| 2306322 | WO2 W. H. Terrell |
| 2316525 | WO1 C. D. Hopwood |
| 2564020 | SSgt L. B. Simnett |
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## 1st AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

**40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION—CAYTHORPE 1984**

More than 60 ex-members of 'Div Sigs' (which includes Sections with 1st and 4th Para Bdes, and indeed 2nd Para Bde who were 'left behind' on our departure from Italy, and also 1st Airlanding Bde, and the 'Support Troops' of the Division) attended the Reunion which has been held annually in the village of Caythorpe, Nr Grantham, each year since the end of World War 2. Accommodation had been arranged in the then 1 Company 'Billet', Caythorpe Court, now an Agricultural College, the students being on holiday allowed us once more to occupy the now modernised buildings.

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Our photo shows Hocker Spivey beside a section of 'Airborne' carpet which is fitted in 'Arnhem Aisle', Caythorpe Church for which we appealed on page 341 May issue of *The Wire*

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**Report by Dorothy Williamson, Chairman/Entertainment Secretary.**

The sunny weather and excellent meal, made our first venture of a Barbecue Dance a huge success, with an attendance of 122. The effort was combined with the 46 Signal Squadron (V) and held on the 18 August at the Kingsway TA centre.

**Maj (now Lt Col) Toby Seymour** 2IC of 38 Sig Regt and his wife deputised for **Lt Col Henwood** who was on leave, and in his speech he praised the associations and was happy to see the close contact with them and serving members.

Home made cake and second hand book stall went very well along with the Wellie 'Wangin' and other fun entertainment which caused much merriment. For the Tug of War volunteers were short, until the WRAC took the matter in hand and challenged the men. This created quite an uproar, and we still do not know who won. The dance, to complete the evening had a happy amiable atmosphere and made the night one to be remembered.

Thanks are due to the PSIs and civilian staff who gave much assistance. We all worked extremely hard before, during, and after the event. The results and the thanks received made it worth our efforts, for it looks as if the Barbecue, like our Dinners, will become an annual function.

**COMMITTEE**

**Cpl R. Ward** and **Sig Bishop** have been co-opted on to the Committee and our membership is increasing. **Capt E. Williams** (Retd) is back in harness again after his operations, **Col Grimwood Taylor** is out of action due to a new hip joint replacement, **Col Haslehurst** we are sorry to say is not well and **Capt P. Veitch WRAC** (Retd) is on the sick list. We wish them a speedy recovery.

## GUERNSEY BRANCH

**Report by Capt John Rudkin, Chairman**

A very successful dinner for members and their guests was held at Guernsey's largest hotel—the St Pierre Park—on Friday 28 September. The Guests of Honour were **Lt Col Ron Murray**, the Association General Secretary, and **Mrs Murray**, who were visiting the island for the first time.

In welcoming the guests, **John Rudkin** spoke of the unfailing help and support the Branch had received from Association HQ ever since the day he had telephoned **Lt Col Murray** to say that he had enough people to form a Branch. Apart from the help given to the Branch as a whole, the welfare cases which had arisen in Guernsey had been handled with speed and great human understanding. Further, those members (including himself) who had been obliged to spend time in UK hospitals—across the sea from family and friends—had been looked after by and had enjoyed the visits of the charming lady welfare officers at Association HQ. **Lt Col Murray** was presented with a Guernsey Branch plaque, which is unusual in that it also bears a reproduction of the Royal Seal used by Guernsey's Royal Court.

Lt Col Ron Murray (left) is presented with a Guernsey Branch Plaque by Branch Chairman John Rudkin

Replying, **Lt Col Murray** thanked the Branch for their welcome and hospitality. He was well aware that he followed a line of very distinguished guests who had dined with the Branch, including the Master. He gave a most interesting account of the work of the Association as a whole.

On 17 October a meeting was held at the Guernsey Northern Royal British Legion Club to hear an illustrated address by **Mr Bob Burns**, the Assistant Curator of the Guernsey Museum, on the archaelogical discoveries in Guernsey during the last 10 years. Apart from the wreck of a Roman ship just outside the harbour entrance, a number of iron age and bronze age sites have been discovered.

The next function is a Dinner and Dance for members and their guests on Saturday 3 November.

## — News from Troops —

### 642 Sig Tp
### BFPO 52

**THE TROOP**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OC** | **Capt (TOT) J. M. 'Wally' Hammonds** | |
| **FofS** | **WO2 (FofS) Paul Cross** | |
| **Projects Sgt** | **Sgt Nick Phillips** | |
| **Admin Sgt** | **Sgt Steve Hilton** | |
| **Techs** | **Sgt Archie Malcolm** | |
| | **Sgt Alan Muir** | |
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**Report by Dorothy Williamson, Chairman/Entertainment Secretary.**

The sunny weather and excellent meal, made our first venture of a Barbecue Dance a huge success, with an attendance of 122. The effort was combined with the 46 Signal Squadron (V) and held on the 18 August at the Kingsway TA centre.

**Maj (now Lt Col) Toby Seymour** 2IC of 38 Sig Regt and his wife deputised for **Lt Col Henwood** who was on leave, and in his speech he praised the associations and was happy to see the close contact with them and serving members.

Home made cake and second hand book stall went very well along with the Wellie 'Wangin' and other fun entertainment which caused much merriment. For the Tug of War volunteers were short, until the WRAC took the matter in hand and challenged the men. This created quite an uproar, and we still do not know who won. The dance, to complete the evening had a happy amiable atmosphere and made the night one to be remembered.

Thanks are due to the PSIs and civilian staff who gave much assistance. We all worked extremely hard before, during, and after the event. The results and the thanks received made it worth our efforts, for it looks as if the Barbecue, like our Dinners, will become an annual function.

**COMMITTEE**

**Cpl R. Ward** and **Sig Bishop** have been co-opted on to the Committee and our membership is increasing. **Capt E. Williams** (Retd) is back in harness again after his operations, **Col Grimwood Taylor** is out of action due to a new hip joint replacement, **Col Haslehurst** we are sorry to say is not well and **Capt P. Veitch WRAC** (Retd) is on the sick list. We wish them a speedy recovery.



### GUERNSEY BRANCH

**Report by Capt John Rudkin, Chairman**

A very successful dinner for members and their guests was held at Guernsey's largest hotel—the St Pierre Park—on Friday 28 September. The Guests of Honour were **Lt Col Ron Murray**, the Association General Secretary, and **Mrs Murray**, who were visiting the island for the first time.

In welcoming the guests, **John Rudkin** spoke of the unfailing help and support the Branch had received from Association HQ ever since the day he had telephoned **Lt Col Murray** to say that he had enough people to form a Branch. Apart from the help given to the Branch as a whole, the welfare cases which had arisen in Guernsey had been handled with speed and great human understanding. Further, those members (including himself) who had been obliged to spend time in UK hospitals—across the sea from family and friends—had been looked after by and had enjoyed the visits of the charming lady welfare officers at Association HQ. **Lt Col Murray** was presented with a Guernsey Branch plaque, which is unusual in that it also bears a reproduction of the Royal Seal used by Guernsey's Royal Court.

Lt Col Ron Murray (left) is presented with a Guernsey Branch Plaque by Branch Chairman John Rudkin

Replying, **Lt Col Murray** thanked the Branch for their welcome and hospitality. He was well aware that he followed a line of very distinguished guests who had dined with the Branch, including the Master. He gave a most interesting account of the work of the Association as a whole.

On 17 October a meeting was held at the Guernsey Northern Royal British Legion Club to hear an illustrated address by **Mr Bob Burns**, the Assistant Curator of the Guernsey Museum, on the archaelogical discoveries in Guernsey during the last 10 years. Apart from the wreck of a Roman ship just outside the harbour entrance, a number of iron age and bronze age sites have been discovered.

The next function is a Dinner and Dance for members and their guests on Saturday 3 November.

## LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

**Report by M. A. White, Esq, Hon Sec**

As the writer previously reported we have recently reformed on an active basis, and the first official monthly branch meeting was held on 6 June. The date coincided with the anniversary of the D Day landings, and to mark that day the meeting commenced with two minutes silence in remembrance of those members of the Corps who gave their lives during the landings.

The photograph, reproduced by courtesy of the *Loughborough Echo*, shows the members who were present. From left to right they are: **David Bentley, Dave Geere, Gerry Kane, Pete Smith, Bill Todd, Dereck Davies, Roy Acton** (Chairman), **Alex Wood, Ben Banyard** (Treasurer), **Ron Ross, John Wesley, Sam Evans, Mike White** (Secretary), **Bill Motion, Trevor Denton, Eddie Harris.**

I would like to remind serving and ex members of the Corps that regular meetings are held at the Greyhound Hotel Loughborough on the first Wednesday of each month. They and their wives will be given a warm welcome.

**Symes**—The Branch reports with regret the death in Salisbury of **ex Sgt E. B. Symes (Ted)** who served with the Corps from 1947 until 1962.

## PALESTINE FORCE SIGNALS

The photograph shows from left to right: **G. Colborne, E. Cardwell, P. Haigh, D. Talbot** and **F. Stockdale** at the Catterick Reunion. The last time they were all together was in 1940 when serving in Jerusalem with Palestine Force Signals.

If any ex 'Palforce Signals' would like to attend the 1985 Reunion, please write to **F. Stockdale Esq.**, 21 Blackstock Close, Sheffield S14 1AE.



## — Sport —

## CRICKET

**INTER-CORPS CRICKET**
**ROYAL SIGNALS WIN INTER-CORPS CRICKET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS**

The Inter-Corps cricket took place at Rheindahlen from 2-5 August 1984.

In the preliminary round the Corps was drawn against the RAPC and the RAMC and two emphatic wins were the result in very poor weather.

R Signals 214—5 Innings Closed
**Maj Steve Coltman** 91 not out
**LCpl Paul Gardner** 82
RAPC 75
**Sgt Robin Gipson** 4—10
R Signals won by 139 runs.
R Signals 161—9 Innings Closed
RAMC 107—7
**Sgt Nigel Scott** 5—17
R Signals won by 54 runs.

In the draw for the semi-final we were paired with the RAC, last year's winners. The weather which had been poor, improved but the outfield of the main Rheindahlen pitch was quite long and slow.

The Corps won the toss and batted. No batsman really established himself against the RAC bowling backed up by fine fielding. This and the effect of the long grass meant that we scored 118 all out in their 35 overs with only two boundaries.

However, when the RAC batted, tight bowling backed by good fielding meant that the RAC were unable to score quickly and collapsed to 58 all out in 27 overs. **LCpl Andy Hill** took 4/12 but three other bowlers also deserve praise for their accuracy:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sgt Mike Kilvington** | 7 overs | 2 maidens | 12 runs | 2 wickets |
| **Sgt Nigel Scott** | 7 overs | 1 maiden | 8 runs | 1 wicket |
| **Sgt Robin Gipson** | 3 overs | 1 maiden | 3 runs | 2 wickets |

A commendable performance.

In the final we met the highly fancied Gunners. The Corps changed their tactics and put the Gunners in first (in the previous matches on winning the toss we had batted (NB Skipper had some uses he won the tosses)).

Again excellent bowling backed by good fielding meant that the RA were unable to score runs quickly. The batsmen got frustrated and then got themselves out. The RA ending with 108 all out. Again special mention should be made of:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sgt Mike Kilvington** | 2/23 |
| **Sgt Nigel Scott** | 2/8 off 8 overs |
| **Sgt Robin Gipson** | 3/9 |

When we batted, we were rewarded by an opening partnership of 76 between **Sgt Robin Gipson** (50) and **Lt Tony Rock** (25) which put the game beyond doubt; the Corps winning by seven wickets. This was as a result of a fine all round professional performance by a highly experienced side leavened with youth.

(Five players ages totalled 203 years led by Comd Comms BAOR at xx (highly secret) years of age).

The following represented the Corps in the final:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** | Comd Comms BAOR |
| **Maj Steve Coltman (Captain)** | 7 Sig Regt |
| **Lt Tony Rock** | 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| **Sgt Robin Gipson** | 641 Sig Tp |
| **Sgt Mike Kilvington** | 28 Sig Regt |
| **Sgt Nigel Scott** | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| **Cpl 'H' Glean** | 7 Sig Regt |
| **LCpl Martin Allwork** | 13 Sig Regt |
| **LCpl Paul Gardner** | 13 Sig Regt |
| **LCpl Andy Hill** | 28 (BR) Sig Regt Northag |
| **Sig Glenn Bailey** | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| 12th man **LCpl Ollie Campbell** | 13 Sig Regt. |

The following were also in the squad:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maj Chris Wright** | 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |
| **Lt Paul Glibbery** | 16 Sig Regt |
| **WO2 John Kirk** | 13 Sig Regt |
| **LCpl Roger Matless** | 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt |



Finally at the end the whole team would like to pay tribute to **Maj John Radford** (22 Sig Regt) the outgoing secretary and former Corps Cricket Captain in the UK for many years, on his last competition in the Army. We wish him well in civilian life.

Thank you **John** for all you have done for Corps Cricket.

R Signals BAOR
Winners Inter-Corps Cricket and the Famous Grouse Trophy
*L-R Back Row:* (The Youth) Maj C. Wright, LCpls P. Gardner, O. Campbell, Lt A. Rock, LCpls A. Hill, M. Allwock, Cpl 'H' Glean, Sig G. Bailey, Lt P. Glibberary
*Front Row:* (The Experience) Sgt N. Scott, Maj Gen A. Yeoman, Maj S. Coltman (Captain), Sgts M. Kilvington, R. Gipson

## GOLF

**BAOR INTER-CORPS GOLF CHAMPIONS**
**Report by Maj W. E. Brewin**

The photograph shows this year's winners of the BAOR Inter-Corps Golf Trophy, presented by Benson and Hedges and held proudly by the team manager **Lt Col (Retd) Sam Wyatt**. This trophy was last won by the Corps in 1975.

This year's event was held in July at Sennelager Army Golf Club and included some of the strongest eight-man corps golfing teams seen in recent years. The REME started as favourites with their team which included six BAOR players, four of whom were ex-professional golfers. True to form, the REME team cruised into the final where they met a determined and experienced Corps side who had had a few close games on the way; winning their semi-final against the gunners by only four holes. The final turned out to be very exciting.

The mood was set when the consistent and experienced **Capt Len Yates**, playing at No 1, came in four holes up against the current Army Champion **Cpl Steve Mariner**. This initial success helped the

Corps side to a three hole lead after the first four matches were in. We had already seen some inspired golf with the skipper, **Col Mike Hales** setting the pace by chipping in from 40 yards on the 18th hole to finish three up against **Lt Crooks**. The REME took the next two games to bring the scores level after six matches and all depended on the last two out on the course.

**Capt Brian Young** won the 18th hole in his match to finish a magnificent six up and it looked as though it was all over. Nevertheless, the drama continued to the end. News came to those waiting around the 18th Green that **SSgt Mick McDermott** had been six down on the 16th Tee. He was now standing on the 18th Tee five down and needing to win or halve the last hole to secure the championship. Playing excellent golf under pressure, **SSgt Mick McDermott** hit a magnificent 7 iron second shot to within six feet of the hole to put the matter beyond dispute and win the match by two holes.

The picture shows the team members on either side of **Lt Col (Retd) Sam Wyatt** who has managed successive Corps teams in this event for as long as anyone can remember (including **Sam!**). The victory was as much due to his enthusiasm and dedication as it was to the performance of the team.

*L to R:* Capt Brian Young, Maj Willy Brewin, WO2 Mick Raybould, Col Mike Hales, Lt Col (Retd) Sam Wyatt, Capt Len Yates, Nigel Scott, SSgt Mick McDermott, SSgt (YofS) Steve Watson

## SHOOTING

### CORPS SHOOTING—SERVICE WEAPON
### THE CORPS SAM

**Report by Maj A. H. Symmons—Captain of Corps Shooting**

The Corps shooting season did not get off to a good start this year. The Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of support. This was a blow, particularly in view of the two year struggle to have the meeting re-instated for 1983. The lack of a Corps meeting was particularly felt by those unit teams who qualified for Bisley. Sad, but in view of Ptarmigan trials and UK support for BAOR exercises, inevitable.

### BISLEY—RASAM

This year's Regular Army Skill-at-Arms meeting held at Bisley during the first two weeks of July attracted eight major and eight minor unit teams from the Corps. UK produced three Major and two Minor plus two Minor from Northern Ireland. BAOR was represented by five Major and three Minor. 259 Sig Sqn from Cyprus made up the only truly overseas team entry as The Queen's Gurkha Signals, shooting as a major unit for the first time, failed to qualify from Hong Kong; they did however send two individuals, **Sgt Krishna Gurung** and **Sgt Yambahadur Thapa**. There was also a lone entry from 9 Sig Regt. Unfortunately some of the prominent Corps Shots were unable to attend.

Despite the lack of a Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting and some difficult weather conditions the standard of shooting achieved was not a disgrace. The elusive silver trophies again eluded us with 16 Sig Regt coming closest by just failing to retain the Southern Command Cup by 1 tile in the Final of the Pistol Tiles Match (entries 100). Their Long Range Target Rifle Team of **Capt Hoole, LCpls Alden** and **Rideout** again came third, a creditable result as **LCpl Alden** had never fired at 900 and 1000 yards before and **LCpl Rideout** had shot this match only once before (last year).

The Army 100 for Rifle and the SMG 75 were without any Corps representation. However, the Pistol 30 had two in **Cpl Evans** of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Capt Hoole** of 16 Sig Regt. **Capt Hoole** just missed out on a medal by finishing fourth with second stage scores of 99 and 101 (aggregate 200 third highest score in 2nd stage).

The only other individuals to win medals were **Sgt Yambahadur Thapa** 42 = in the Henry Whitehead, **Sgt Krishna Gurung** 36 = in the Whitehead and 5 = in the Whittaker, **Sig Compton** of the School 19 = in the Whittaker and **Cpl Simcox** of 249 Sig Sqn also 19 = in the Whittaker.

In the Major Unit Championship (The King's Royal Rifle Corps Cup) (63 entries) 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were our highest placed entry in 45th place followed by 16 Sig Regt in 49th and 14 Sig Regt in 52nd. In the Minor Unit Championship (The Royal Army Service Corps Cup) (37 entries) 259 Sig Sqn came through with a last minute charge to pip 8 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn by one match point to take 10th place overall. 249 Sig Sqn finished in 12th place despite faltering in the SMG Team Match (Para Cup). The final Friday afternoon saw the Methuen Teams of six firers from the various Corps and Divisions of Infantry as well as Naval, Marine and RAF Command teams. The Corps team of **Capt Hoole, Sgt Drake** (259 Sig Sqn), **Sgt Kirshna Gurung, Sgt Yambahadur Thapa, Cpl Batchelor** (School of Signals) and **Cpl Evans**, captained by **Capt Briant**, were unable to overcome the strength and depth of the Royal Engineers who again captured the Woolwich Bowl with the Royal Artillery trailing third. We did however win the after-shoot reception which was very kindly hosted by **Lt Col Yolland** and 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt (V) in the Inns of Court Building. There was a magnificent buffet and the drink kept coming. We were honoured by the presence of our newest Colonel Commandant **Maj Gen H. Hild** making his first ever visit to RASAM and the Methuen. Hopefully next year with a Corps SAM providing useful training and with the co-operation of Commanding Officers in releasing known good shots we may be able to wrest the Woolwich Bowl from the Engineers' grasp.

### THE NATIONAL MEETING

The first Monday of the National Rifle Association 'Imperial' meeting saw the Methuen team less **Sgt Krishna Gurung** but with **WO2 Carter** (8 Sig Regt) taking his place, gather under the captaincy of **Capt Hoole** to shoot in the Service Weapons events. The Service Rifle events attract over 550 competitors not only from the Three Regular Services but also from the Reserves and TA as well as some civilian competitors. A disappointing first day produced only four medals: **Capt Hoole** received two from the prone deliberate shoots the Bisley Bullet (89th) and the Kinnaird (70th) with scores of 32 ex 35 in both cases; **WO2 Carter** produced a 42 Rapid in the Stephens to come in 91st and **Sgt Yambahadur Thapa** had an excellent 47 Sitting which only gave him 76th place in a very high scoring competition.

The Queen Mary on Tuesday (Association conditions) started well with four firers scoring 42 or better, with **Capt Hoole's** score of 44 giving him 82nd place in the BSA (concurrent with practice 1). However the run down produced a different story with only **Capt Hoole's** 41 and 70th place producing a medal. The afternoon practice three and four shoots were disappointing with **Sgt Yambahadur Thapa** producing the only decent scores with a 44 and a 37 to finish on 156 just outside the cut for the second stage. **Capt Hoole** gained 35th place in the Imperial Tobacco Aggregate for his combined score of 108 from Bisley Bullet, Kinnaird and BSA. **Sgt Yambahadur Thapa** also finished 90th in the Service Rifle Championships. Individually the team won a total of eight bars.

Wednesday started late with a creditable 18th place ex 45 in the Roberts (200 yard Snap) with a score of 30 ex 40. The SMG Cup produced a team aggregate score of 449 (AV 112.25 per man) 12th place ex 22 with **Sgt Yambahadur Thapa** 'high man' with 121 just outside the individual medals placings. Later in the afternoon the team of **WO2 Carter, Sgt Yambahadur Thapa, Sgt Drake** and **Cpl Evans** produced our best result with a 7th place ex 46 in the Hamilton Leigh (timed shoot over an obstacle course as Practice 1 Team Snap (Britannia)) with a score of 33½ points: Targets cleared in 42 seconds and 25 ex 40 rounds handed back.

To round off the Service Weapon events **Capt Hoole** was selected, for the first time, to shoot in the Army VIII in the Inter Services Pistol Competition (The Whitehead). Although the Army were beaten into second place **Capt Hoole** made his highest ever competition score of 105 ex 120.

### VALE

Finally, we note with regret the end of **Brig J. R. Burrows'** tour as President of the Corps Rifle Association, and thank him for his support for the last three years. We welcome in his stead **Brig T. H. Wheawell**, whom we wish a fruitful and Woolwich Bowl filled tenancy in the appointment.



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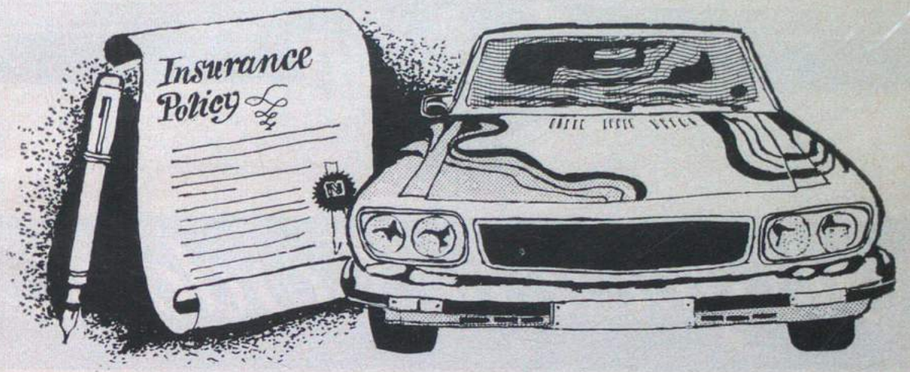


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